



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS  
ASSOCIATION  
Queensland Branch  
**BULLETIN**

PO Box 5784 Stafford Heights 4053  
Website: [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org)

ANZAC EDITION – No 44

APRIL 2011

**CALENDAR 2011 (outline)**

**25 April (Monday)** – March with your mates on Anzac Day and attend the post-march snacks provided by the Association and conviviality at the Alderley Arms hotel.

**30 June (Thursday)** Colonel Alex Laing Memorial Dinner at the United Service Club.

**3 Sept (Saturday)** Annual Reunion and AGM at the Alderley Arms Hotel.

**November (TBA)** Mapmaker's Dinner and Derek Chambers Award presentation.

Other functions may be advised later, e.g. BBQ sometime. Any volunteers?

**ANZAC DAY**

Join your mates for our Anzac Day celebration on Monday 25 April. Again we start with the Dawn Service at 0500h at the Enoggera Engineer Memorial – always a truly moving event. This year Greg Knight is to place the Association wreath. For those really early birds the traditional gun-fire breakfast will be on during the hour preceding. For the rest of us a good army breakfast (bacon, eggs, baked beans, sausages etc) will be provided in the Sportman's Club afterwards.

There has been a substantial change in march format this year with all WW2 veterans marching 'in block' at the front with those who cannot march following in busses or vehicles. The City parade commences at 1000h with the Navy leading, then Army, then Air Force. RASvy Assn is in the post WW2 group, and is unit # which means we should step off not later than 1030h but best be there by **1000h**. We are positioned immediately after the Aust Water Tpt Assn (#) and before the RASigs Assn (#). FUP is in George St. between Charlotte and Elizabeth Streets. Keep an eye open for our distinctive Banner. Rowan Shipley is confirmed as our leader this year. Bruce Gordon has the honour and pleasure of carrying the great theodolite in a regimental manner immediately behind our leader and in front of the Banner – carried by stalwarts from the Topographical Squadron.

Post-march reunion is confirmed as being at the Alderley Arms Hotel with finger food/snacks being provided (funded by the Association). The bar opens at 1300h. Alderley railway station is very close by and the Council bus route goes past the hotel. Ample parking is available at the rear of the hotel. (enter the hotel from the car park) 1 Topo Svy Sqn members are particularly welcome.

**Please note** - All transport is by private arrangement.

**March Protocol** – Refer back to Bulletin 41 (Mar 2010) to refresh on March protocol.

**Berets:** Don't forget to wear your Association purple beret. Alex Cairney will be carrying beret stock for those yet to make a purchase. (See notice page 3.)

**A MUST READ IN THE ACT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER NOW ON OUR WEBSITE: HELICOPTER CRASH – Op Cenderawasih 1977 by Don Swiney and Peter Jensen.**

The Royal Australian Survey Corps Association (Queensland) acknowledges the generous sponsorship and support of RPS Group

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<b>Note:</b> Refer Veteran's Affairs matters to Peter Bates-Brownsword and Stan Campbell			

### OUR HISTORY PROJECT – WHAT DID WE DO, 1946 – 1996?

Our 'What Did We Do' project remains open for further contributions. Have a look and see if you can fill a few of the gaps. Des Ceruti in New Zealand has submitted through our Website information on E Comd Fd Svy Unit field ops in NSW in 1964/65 on 1:250,000 compilation and field checking and Lunar Occultations. Thanks Des – not on website at present but will be at the next up-date. Also found a hand written submission from John Hogan dated 2004 which I had overlooked – now entered in SA section.

Email your contribution direct to Bob Skitch [bob@skitch.me](mailto:bob@skitch.me) or enter your data on our website – [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org) .

### NOTICES

#### **POST OUT OF BULLETIN**

At our February committee meeting after considering Bulletin mailout costs and the newsletter delivery methods used by other State Associations, the Committee decided that future Bulletins should be forwarded by email to those members with an email address unless they specifically request delivery by Australia Post. The revised delivery method will commence from our next Bulletin, No 45.

#### **BERETS – BERETS – BERETS**

Our stocks of our ever popular beret are now nearly depleted. However, stocks are held at Christie's in Sydney. Be distinctive in the RA Survey Association headdress. Contact Alex Cairney email [alex.cairney@hotmail.com](mailto:alex.cairney@hotmail.com)  
**Note:** Christies can be contacted as follows:  
Unit 4D; 1-7 Unwin Bridge Rd, St Peters, NSW 2044. Phone 02 9519 0784

### MAPMAKERS OF FORTUNA

Copies may be purchased from the Ex-Fortuna Survey Association (PO Box 865 Bendigo 3552) at \$60.00 plus postage of \$11.50 which includes cost of a padded postal bag.

### ASSOCIATION BADGE

Association badges are still available from the Queensland Association. Place your orders with **Barry Lutwyche** and we will try to satisfy them.

### ASSOCIATION TIE or SCARF

Cost is \$ 25.00 plus postage. Place your order with the Queensland Association. Phone or email Barry Lutwyche.

### VIETNAM – A TECHNICAL TOUR by Bob McMillan-Kay.

Copies can be obtained from Bob McMillan-Kay at a cost of \$36.00 including postage. We commend this highly successful book of Bob's Vietnam experience. Bob's address is 14 March Lane, Maryborough, Qld, 4650.

### THE 1 TOPO CHALLENGE COIN

The coins are for sale to members for \$10 00 each. Orders are to be placed via email to CPL Amanda Iglesias in the 1 Topo orderly room. Email: [amanda.iglesias@defence.gov.au](mailto:amanda.iglesias@defence.gov.au).



### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2010 - 2011

In the words of Devey – ***Don't go to sleep on your membership! Keep in touch with your Survey Corps mates by being a paid-up member of your Association.*** We have noted a fall-off of paid-up members and perhaps that is because our Bulletins are freely available to all on our website. But we do need your subscription if only because it is the paid up members who represent the true strength of the

Association and with that can enjoy the privileges of our subsidized functions. Most of our functions are now to some extent subsidized from our sponsorship account and while we will never turn away a past member of the Survey Corps it is very appropriate that those Queensland based past RA Survey persons in attending subsidized functions meet their paid-up obligation. Furthermore there are cash costs involved in running the Association – postage, PO box rental, website hosting, bank charges, printing and stationery, ANZAC Day wreath, occasional donations (Red Cross etc) and presentations and awards with associated engraving.

Our financial year runs from September to September. Subscription is but \$15.00 per year. We encourage you to pay three years in advance (or more if you wish). Subscription is waived for veterans aged 75 years and over who have been standing paid-up members of our Association. Pay-up time was at the AGM 4 Sept 10 but it is not too late now.

### EARTHQUAKE IN TOKYO

**Rock Thistleton** emailed me this a couple of days ago. He said.....This arrived via my work (*Terranean Mapping Technologies*) a couple of days ago. It is from Bill Jones's wife Leigh. Bill is working for a company (in Tokyo) that has some type of working concession with my work. It gives a good insight to the thought processes required when living in different situations and how wide spread the Corps members are. I thought it may find a place in the next bulletin.....Rock

**Ed:** I agree. A brief word about Bill first: Bill came into the Corps about 1974 as a Photo Tech. He rose through the ranks to WO1 and then took one of the last PSO commissions in 1990, leaving the Corps as a Captain in '96.

Dear family and friends,  
We've survived the worst earthquake ever to hit Japan.

At 2:45 pm, I was in the subway, getting off the train to walk the 100 metres to our apartment

when the earthquake hit. I thought I was going to faint because I couldn't stand up and felt weirdly disoriented. Announcements were being made to stand still. People were trying to brace themselves against walls and pillars. Quickly I swiped my rail card to get through the turnstiles and raced up the 3 flights of stairs into the open. There was no way I was going to stay underground with everything shaking around me. For our "boatie" friends" an earthquake feels like you're trying to brace yourself on a rolling boat.

I tried ringing Bill but couldn't get any mobile reception.

So I walked home to survey the damage. The glass cabinet had swung open and smashed glasses were everywhere. (There were 2 wine glasses intact so that meant we could still have a red wine that night!!) Books had fallen out of the shelves, wardrobe doors had swung open other things had obviously moved, but remarkably nothing else had broken. I was emptying the cabinet and shelves onto the floor when the second earthquake hit. I grabbed a warm coat, my "grab bag"(containing a first aid kit, spare cash, passport and documents) and walked down 5 flights of stairs onto the street and into the open again. I decided that the safest place to be was at Bill and my "meeting place", near our apartment.

Three weeks ago, after the Christchurch earthquake, my Japanese teacher, Suzuki-san, suggested that Bill and I needed to have a "meeting place" . She warned me that mobiles wouldn't work so how would we know each other was safe, unless we had a place to meet after a disaster occurred. She also suggested we have a "survival" grab bag. Only last weekend, Bill and I decided on a safe meeting place, in the open ( so buildings couldn't fall on us) and on ground that wasn't over a subway ( in case the subway caved in).

Meanwhile, Bill and I were frantically trying to call each other, to no avail. Bill was at work. 8 floors up, trying to brace himself and holding a TV so it wouldn't fall on a work colleague. From his office window he could see other buildings swaying alarmingly. Cranes on top of building sites were whipping like willow branches, with men still inside them!! Bill decided it was time to

find out if I was OK so walked home. He's only 20 minutes walk from work)

I was at our meeting place, watching mothers with their little children on bikes hurriedly going home. Everyone was moving purposefully but there was no panic anywhere. Everyone was trying to phone loved ones to see if they were OK. After waiting for out an hour I was never more relieved in my life, than to see my beloved Bill calmly walking across the road.( As I'm writing this, tears are in my eyes because I cannot describe the sheer relief at seeing Bill)

We walked home and started to clean up the mess when family and friends began calling us to see if we were OK. It was just lovely chatting to everyone and it was only then that the enormity of what had happened hit me. I became tearful and very very cold. So after dinner despite the many after shocks we were having, I had a long soak in the bath. Bill found me asleep in the bath!

That night, I slept soundly (from exhaustion) but poor Bill, ever watchful, didn't sleep much at all. There were aftershocks all night. I had laid out warm clothes and the grab bag in case we had to race outside again.

Here in Tokyo, we've been relatively lucky. There is no apparent structural damage to any buildings. Some people have been killed or injured from falling debris. We didn't lose power and only the gas automatically shut off. The building manager came around to each apartment and turned the gas back on. Bill could walk home (one of the reasons we chose this apartment) but many of his work colleagues had to wait until the trains started running again and didn't get home until the early hours of the morning. As you know, it's the tsunami, up north, that has caused massive devastation. People are anxiously waiting to see if friends and family are safe.

Tonight, we're having champagne and a lovely meal. We love Japan and will continue to enjoy our life here. When Bill told me he was taking me to Japan for yet another adventure, I didn't expect anything like this!!!

Thank you for your concern. We really appreciate it.

Love Leigh and Bill XX

## FLOOD AFFECTED MEDALS

Kev Lunny (Maj Retd) is a professional medal moulder of some sixteen years experience. He has a connection with RA Svy through his wife Diane Jenner who served at the Army Survey Regiment for a number of years from 1975 and continued in the Army for 26 years. Ken has had previous involvement with flood clean-up and has a pretty good understanding of the problems faced by all affected. In an email received by Barry Lutwyche via the SSM of 1 Topo, Kev Lunny makes the following offer:

*'If service medals were damaged as a result of the floods, I will polish, re-ribbon and mount all damaged medals free of charge. If Service medals were lost I can replace with high grade replicas at cost price (normally about \$10.00 ea). I will ribbon and mount any replica medal purchased, free of charge. The turn-around time would be about 7-10 days after either receiving original medals or notification of replicas required. From my understanding, lost medals will take about 4-6 months to replace. The only cost to the veteran will be return postage via Yellow Express Bag (\$10.00 approx) and cost price of any replicas required. Should anyone want to avail themselves of my offer, I can be contacted in any of the following ways: Phone: 02 9938 3572 Mobile: 0410 519968 e-mail: [kayel@iprimus.com.au](mailto:kayel@iprimus.com.au) Kindest regards Kev Lunny*

**Ed:** The federal government announced soon after the floods that DVA will replace medals lost in the floods (or cyclone) free of charge. Of course such medals would still require mounting.

## TRAVEL VACCINATIONS COVERED FOR GOLD CARD HOLDERS

The following email of interest to members was received via President Alex Cairney from Gordon Blake, Chairman, QLD State Advisory Council, Australian Veterans' & Defence Services Council.....

*"Earlier this year after submissions had been made to me at an AVADSC meeting in Brisbane I approached the Deputy Commissioner in the*

*Queensland Consultative Forum regarding Gold Card holders being required to pay for Medical Vaccinations prior to overseas travel, I have now received a positive outcome.*

*Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2010 DVA has not provided coverage for medical vaccinations for DVA clients travelling overseas, the approach was that these were privately incurred expenses.*

*DVA has now released a new Business Line where-in it now states that as from the 1<sup>st</sup> Aug 2010 all GOLD CARD holders are eligible for all required vaccinations to be covered under the Gold Card arrangements.*

*Any Gold Card holders that may have incurred charges from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2010 are able to seek reimbursement via DVA. I would expect a fact sheet covering this to be issued shortly.*

*I ask that you make this information widely available to your friends and association membership, I will send you a copy of the DVA Fact Sheet once it becomes available. If you or anyone else has any questions ask them to contact their nearest DVA VAN office.*

## THE PNG PLAQUE – The Best News

**Great news from Masang Bangindo.** Our PNG Memorial Plaque has now been fully installed in the Koki Remembrance Park in Port Moresby. The unveiling ceremony is to be on PNG Remembrance Day, Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2011.

Although I spent December and January contemplating the possible loss – total loss that is – of our PNG Plaque – yes, the foundry, Worsell and Company, had certainly sent the plaque to A.L.Surveys in Port Moresby (attention Masang Bangindo) but there had been no advice of its receipt. It seems that Masang had been on a major survey project 'out in the jungle' and it had not been collected. Unfortunately I had not been able to make contact with anyone over that period – hence my feeling of disquiet. All that is behind me now – the plaque is in place. Here it is – just placed. The concrete is still wet with the forming in place...



**RA SVY HISTORIES**

Bob Skitch

Most of us are familiar with the official Corps history by Dr Chris Coulthard-Clark, even if we haven't read it. There are other Corps histories mostly published during the 1980s and 1990s and of course the better known writing of Brigadier Lawrence Fitzgerald, *Lebanon to Labuan*. One should mention also *Mapmakers of Fortuna*. Not too many would be familiar with the three WW2 unit histories compiled and written by the members of their post war associations, usually under the specific authorship of one of their members.

The three I will mention were printed by the Survey Corps and generally were distributed to their respective Association members. A considerable amount of research went into their compilation and no doubt provided a good deal of source material for Coulthard-Clark's history although an inspection of Coulthard-Clark's website indicates a vast reference to original documents, probably not generally available to lesser writers.

*Puckapunyal to Peacetime* tells the story of the 2/1<sup>st</sup> Corps Field Survey Coy RAE, later the 2/1<sup>st</sup> Aust Army Topographical Survey Coy. The 2/1<sup>st</sup> was the original AIF survey unit that served in the Middle East until its withdrawal in 1942 and re-deployment to New Guinea. The story of the 2/1<sup>st</sup>, it is more a story than a history, was printed by one of its members in the print industry, Jack Holmes (J.G.Holmes Pty Ltd). It is very raconteurial and a great read. In my opinion it is the 2/1<sup>st</sup> to which the Vietnam raised 1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Troop owes its antecedents and from that the present 1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Squadron RAE although the latter likes to think of their origins being with the 5<sup>th</sup> Field Survey Coy of Kilcoy fame.

Then there is the *History of the New Guinea Survey Section (later 8<sup>th</sup> Australian Survey Section)* by Jack Viccars. This is the story of that remarkable unit raised locally in New Guinea in February 1942 at the time of the Japanese entry to the war. Another version of that unit's story is Brian Murray's *'Long way too Much'*, an emotional account of Brian's own experience with the unit. Brian was one of the Colac boys who stepped forward from 3 Fd Svy Coy to supplement the original New Guinea Survey section. A number of Brian's stories have found their way into earlier issues of this Bulletin.

Finally I must mention perhaps the most detailed of these unit histories, that of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Survey Coy, *Soldier Surveyors*. The authorship of that history is ascribed to Heather McCrae and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Field Survey Company (AIF) Association. Heather was a Monash University student who undertook the authorship as a thesis for her Master of Arts degree. 154 pages long, it was published by the Royal Australian Survey Corps in 1996 and printed by the Army Topographic Support Establishment.

I have scanned and converted into 'word docs' and pdf the first two of these (including *Long Way too Much*) with a view to putting them onto the website. Why especially those? The 2/1<sup>st</sup> was the original AIF unit – a 'volunteer' unit – and while all 'AMF' units were redesignated

'AIF' in 1943, nevertheless to have the number '2' attached to your unit designator identified you as an original volunteer AIF unit, the '2<sup>nd</sup> AIF'. As well as that the 2/1<sup>st</sup> was a direct support unit and as such the antecedent of our Vietnam 1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Troop and the Enoggera based 1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Squadron RAE, the unit we know affectionately as '1 Topo'. Arguably all Survey units in WW2 were in direct support once they were deployed to a war zone away from Australia but the 2/1<sup>st</sup> was raised to be just that. It had a full mapping capability that included printing and the lithographic trades, cartographic draughting and field survey – all fully deployed to the Middle East. Only when it returned to Australia enroute to New Guinea did it leave its print facility at Gabinbar, Toowoomba.

OK, but how about the New Guinea Survey Section? It was quite unique being raised voluntarily in New Guinea, not by direction from higher authority but because that 'band of brothers' responded to the perceived need. They were accepted and tasked by the NGF HQ in Port Moresby but were not on the official Order of Battle until augmented from Australia and becoming the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust Field Survey Section, later the 8<sup>th</sup> Aust Field Survey Section. Their unofficial history makes for a great read, both Jack Viccar's version and the shorter version by Brian Murray.

Perhaps I will scan and edit to pdf 'Soldier Surveyors' at a later date. Because it is very well produced with very clear type and well drawn supporting maps without a need for edit it may be acceptable to scan directly into pdf but I will leave it at that for the moment. When will these be on our website? – Soon I hope.

#### CONNECTION TO RE SURVEY

A chain of emails compiled by Bob Skitch

On 16 December Rob McHenry (ACT Association) received this email from **Michael Nolan**, once of Royal Engineers Survey:

*Dear Rob, I stumbled across the web site for the Survey Corps while "googling". I write as a retired RE Survey officer who happened to take*

*a RE Survey Troop to TPNG in 1970, attached to 1 Fd Svy Sqn RA SVY then based at Enoggera Barracks, Brisbane. I doubt anyone in RA Survey, in particular Dan McLuskey will have fond memories of me, being the typically uptight Pom! However, there has been a long association between RE Svy and RA Svy and I wonder if there might be some merit in some sort of link between the two? I belong to the Defence Surveyors' Association (DSA), an association of mainly retired, mainly British Royal Engineers, Royal Artillery and Hydro Surveyors and associated civilians from government mapping organizations, also to the British Royal Engineers Association (Geo) Branch. Details of these can be found at [defencesurveyors.org.uk](http://defencesurveyors.org.uk) and [survey.branch-rea.co.uk](http://survey.branch-rea.co.uk). The DSA produces an annual journal, formerly twice a year, and scanned copies of this may be found on the web site, though this has for various personal reasons become a little out of date. Finally, just to say that your site is most impressive. Yours sincerely, Mike Nolan.*

**Rob McHenry** replied: Nice to hear from you and thanks for the links in your email. I have just looked at your Newsletter No 32, New Year 2009 and noticed Mike Perry being mentioned a number of times. I assume this is the same Mike Perry who was the UK exchange officer at the Army Svy Regt, Bendigo in 92 or 93? I have attached a photo of Mike with Bill Smith (US exchange officer) and myself from this time. I too have worked with Dan McLuskey and also served in PNG in 1972 and 73. Being a slow learner, I went back again in 1979 and 80.

To the business of our ex-RASvy Corps Association – as you may be aware, the Royal Australian Survey Corps was disbanded in 1996 and its duties and role moved to our Corps of Engineers (RAE). For the most part, our association is concerned with ex- RASvy Corps members – those who wore the pineapple hat badge and is organised along State lines. Therefore, we are pretty much a dying breed as obviously there can be no new members of this club. However, the Queensland Branch of ex-RASvy has a very close relationship with 1

Topo Svy Sqn (RAE) in that state and seem more aligned with your Defence Surveyors' Association.

Regarding the possibility of some sort of link between our two organisations, I suggest our Queensland branch would offer the best approach and as such have cc'd this email to them. Please pass my regards to Richard Wardrop and also Tony Vickers if you are in contact with them. Hopefully, they will have many fond memories of their time at the Regiment and in Oz.

**Mike Nolan** replied: *Thanks for the immediate and helpful response. I was aware of the demise of RA Svy. Having been retired for many years I am out of touch regarding any links between British and Australian 'Survey' or 'Geo'. I had simply thought that a link to your site/s on our own DSA, and perhaps REA (Geo), web sites might serve as a means of keeping contacts going between individuals. To this end I am copying this email to relevant addresses. Mick Perry is indeed the same Mick Perry and Tony Vickers is still active in the Newbury area. I am not in touch with Richard Wardrop. We also suffer from the 'dying breed' syndrome since conventional 'survey' has withered and the later generations have embraced the digital fields. Geo does not seem to offer the long term continuity of employment and experience anymore and they seem to move between Geo and the Corps of Engineers postings. I will see if anything materialises from Queensland.*

**Bob Skitch** Since Rob McHenry cc-ed his email to me I replied directly to Mike Nolan reflecting my own involvement with RE Survey.

I served with 84 Survey Squadron RE in Singapore in 1969 and 70. Tom Farmer was the OC and other officers I recall were Dixie Dean, Dick Ellis and Phillip Robinson. I have maintained a close friendship with Phillip over the years through his Oman period and in his involvement with the Durand Group in opening, exploring and making safe the WW1 tunnels of northern France. He has published in one of the mags you mention. Tommy Tomlinson was AD

SVY FARELF, also the exchange officer to the Army Survey Regiment Bendigo in 1960/61. In Singapore Mike Richards took over from Tom Farmer and then with the demise of 84 in 1980 became AD SVY in FARELF (Tanglin barracks). I moved into FARELF as DAD Survey. I witnessed the handover of 84 Sqn to the Singapore Defence Force for the payment of one Singapore dollar – passed across the table. Dick Ellis commanded the British contingent to Op Mandau in West Kalimantan based at Pontianak. This was the first of our Indonesian operations that went on for many years.

I have also maintained a close friendship with Iain Whittington who was the Brit Exchange officer to the Regiment (ours) in 1978 to 1980. I was CO at the time. Iain went on to a very full career (to Brig I think) in RE. Wendy and I have stayed with Iain and his delightful wife Evaline a couple of times in their beautiful 400 year old thatched roof home in Devon; also with Phillip and Mary Robinson at Andover.

Our Queensland Association has a close relationship with the 1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Squadron at Enoggera. That Squadron's heritage lies not so much with the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Survey Squadron other than location but more with the 1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Troop that served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1971. If one moves back before then the Squadron's heritage lies with the 2<sup>nd</sup>/1<sup>st</sup> Topographical Survey Squadron AIF of WW2 that served in the Middle East and New Guinea. One can stretch it back to WW1 in 1918 but it is a bit of a stretch. A couple of the Squadron's members have joined our Association but they had earlier service in RA Svy. I passed the two RE magazines over to the 1 Topo (as we call it) but got no feedback. They need educating! 1 Topo is of course a 'direct support unit'. They have had a presence in Iraq, Afghanistan, Timor Este and the Solomons.

I could go on but won't – I have a Christmas dinner to go to. Glad to make your acquaintance....Merry Christmas...Bob

I emailed the forgoing to our webmaster Kym Weston – *I thought this may be of interest. I*

think a hyperlink to the Brit 'Defence Survey Association' and or the REA (Geo) websites would be a great idea. I have seen some of their magazines and they are excellent. What do you think? Kym has replied that he will take it up.....Bob

**Mike Nolan** replied: *Thanks for those memories. Tom Farmer lives about a mile from me in Highclere and I am running him into Basingstoke Hospital tomorrow. Dixie has recently moved into sheltered accommodation, I believe Dick, unfortunately, died some years ago. Iain was at an ESRI Seminar at Hermitage only a week or two ago and we chatted. Philip still going strong in Durand Group etc and gave a very good talk at our annual DSA Seminar at Hermitage a year ago. Mike Richards sent me some notes on the move of FARELF to Hong Kong. Colin Price wrote an article on the sale of Dover Rd to Spore. It is in one of the recent Rangers which can be found on the DSA site. I am hoping the DSA will purchase shortly a second-hand copy of (title from memory) "Australia's Map-makers the Royal Australian Survey Corps 1915 - 1996", or some such title, to be made available in RSMS Library at Hermitage and would like to put a review in the 2012 Ranger. A copy is apparently in the Bodleian Library and I hope to see it shortly. Anyhow, finally, thanks very much for taking up the idea of hyperlinks on our relevant web sites. I hope it comes to fruition if only to keep old acquaintances in touch. With best regards for a happy Christmas and New Year. Yours, **Mike Nolan**.*

#### ARE PAPER MAPS A THING OF THE PAST?

Watching an episode of *Helicopter Rescue* on ABC 1 the other night a rescue flight from Townsville to the western extremity of Dotswood Station was featured. It was a relatively short flight and what was the chopper pilot using to locate the accident scene? No less than a 1:50,000 topo map that looked remarkably like a RA Svy production. Oh yes – he had a GPS nav system, but to find the spot on a bush track he used a standard topo map printed on paper! It was probably a conversion

of the old Dotswood 1:63,360 map that the N Comd Fd Svy Sect was working on when I hit the Section off basic Course in April 1956, updated of course but not much changes in that part of the country.

#### PERSONALIA

**Ed Anderson** our patron continues to live on Buderim Mountain. I had a telephone chat to Ed recently and he assured me he is fit and well and very satisfied with life. He is well looked after by his family who all live within a half hour drive of Ed's home. Ed has bought another new car, a VW Golf – top of the range – supercharged and fitted out in leather. Ed is an inveterate driver and he tells me that from the time he acquired his first driving license at the age of 18 to this present day he has an unblemished record. Not bad Ed!

**Ed;** Our Association Bulletins get picked up by many on our website; often unexpectedly. The chain of emails above initiated by Mike Nolan of RE Survey is an example. Here is another:

**Robert (Bob) Thompson** emails.... While undertaking some research for a paper that I was writing today I had cause to Google the word 'Geociever'. Imagine my amazement when up came your Bulletin No 33 of April 2008 and an article by Jeff Turner that mentioned the name Eddie Schultz. I was on that trip in 1974 and part of Eddie's team.

Who am I? My name is Robert (Bob) Thompson and I was the RAEME tech on that trip. I had completed the first Geociever course at the School of Survey at Bandiana in 1974 (run by the intelligent American fellow that Jeff mentions in his letter) and then we took the two (American) Geocievers to PNG for trials. We completed a number of survey sites over about a three month period starting at Daru and ended up at the main base in Goroka.

Some more history regarding the Geociever. After that trip I went to the USA in 1975 to work with the US National Mapping Agency. My task was to receive the six Geocievers that had been purchased for the Australian Army, test them and return with them to Australia. On return to

Australia I was posted to Sydney Workshop Company as a Staff Sergeant to set up the Survey Support Section, a group of some 15 tradesmen dedicated to the maintenance of survey equipment and providing support on Survey operations.

In 1976 I went to Irian Jaya in Indonesia (Operation Cenderawasih I think), for the first of the operations using this new technology. Unfortunately this was the only other field trip that I completed as I spent the rest of my time training staff and running the support section. In 1978 I went to Canungra and completed the last A and T course and there ended my involvement with the Survey Corps.

Great to read the article by Jeff Turner. It certainly brought back some very old memories. Regards: Major Robert R Thompson (Retd) [rr.thompson@bigpond.com](mailto:rr.thompson@bigpond.com)

**Ed:** *In fact the April 2008 Bulletin number 34. The issue was incorrectly numbered 33 – editor's mistake!*

**Terry Starr** Checking through some 2009 emails the other day I came across this one from Jim Gill that I had clearly overlooked at the time.....

Hello Bob and Barry, While tidying up my office I found some details for a chap named Terry Starr who served in the Corps for a short time 63 to 69 in Sydney. We met up with Terry (he remembered John Hook) at the Digger's Bowling competition in Dubbo last August but I had lost his details until now. Terry's contact details are:

4/1 Teviot Ave, Abbotsford NSW 2046, email [burwoodbookexchange@dodo.com.au](mailto:burwoodbookexchange@dodo.com.au).

Terry would look forward to catching up with anyone who might remember him. Regards Jim Gill

**Des Ceruti:** *This is an old one that I found in my collection of out-dated emails – 2003 – but I thought it is of interest....* Des writes:

Hi Bob....Many thanks for sending me a copy of the Association's Newsletter covering last Anzac Day, it was much appreciated. I have just been going over an old field journal which

covered the job I was on when I contacted you in Singapore. I was about to commence a traverse along the N.W. coast of Sumatra with a Dutch surveyor from Decca Navigation. We arrived in Singapore and Qantas managed to mislay half of our equipment which was eventually found in England some weeks later. It included half of the Tellurometer, Facit computer, tripods and tables. We attempted to replace the gear with backup from Sydney hence the call to see if a spare Almanac was available. We eventually discovered Motion Smith and restocked.

Your Newsletter was quite informative and it was a pleasure to see old familiar names. It seems as though the Queensland Branch is quite a resilient organisation which is excellent. Please pass my compliments to Stan Campbell, Alex Cairney, Les Wellins and Denis Duquemin when and if you see them. Best regards. Des Ceruti.

**Marty George** emails....G'day Bob, I have just discovered this website after a visit from Pete Demain and have enjoyed reading past Newsletters. I served from '77 to '86, starting at 5FD and finishing at 2FD. Whilst at 2FD ('82-'86), I was involved in survey ops in Indo. and Western Pacific, and APR ops in WA, NT and NQ.

Wolfgang Thun was with me on many of these and he may have photo's and info. He is still in Brisbane I think. Regards Marty George, *Engineering Surveyor*, Shoalhaven City Council, Southern District, ph.44298904 or 0407920714, Email: [GEORGE@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au]

**Bill and Ann Boyd** have sold their matrimonial ware business. I must say the sight of Bill in that shop always seemed a little incongruous. Bill warns...

"I will be off line as from today because I am relocating my computer from the shop which is closed down, to home. Please do not send any emails, because I expect it will take me a couple of weeks to get organised from this huge upheaval in our daily routine, not to mention

having to find places to put things that have never had a place at home.

Sorry I did not send out any Christmas letters. Our feet haven't touched the ground since late August." All the best.....Bill

**PS:** Bill is now back on line and is attending the 'Man from Snowy River Bush Festival' at Corryong, Victoria from 31 March to 3 April. Bill has entered a swag of his poetry some of which he is reciting as well as a Banjo Paterson poem with a distinctly military flavor – 'The last parade'. As they say – "You can't hold a good poet down".

**Len Davies** has left Bendigo and moved to Toowoomba. Len is not in tip-top condition. He suffered a stroke last July – he was in hospital at the time of the 95<sup>th</sup> RASVY reunion but has made a limited recovery. In Len's words 'he is not very mobile'. He has cancer in several sites and simply has it under medical observation. It is dormant and his doctor has told him that it will be the cause of his death – sometime. Len lives with that. Len is in a rented house next door to his son Peter's residence at Gowrie Junction on the western side of Toowoomba.

A few words about Len,s career: Len was on a Basic Course in 1950 with such luminaries as Jeff Lambert,, Jock Campbell and Denis Cox. Most years they have a get-together in July although Len has not been able to attend the last couple. He looks forward to doing so again in the future and also some of our Association events. He says son Peter will drive him. Len had a full career in RASVY finally retiring in 1984, some 34 years. His final appointment from 1981 to 1984 was OC I Fd Svy Sqn in Brisbane. In retirement he bought a strawberry farm outside Caboolture but finally gave that away for the quieter retired life back in Bendigo.

Len has an email address. It is [leonard-davies@bigpond.com](mailto:leonard-davies@bigpond.com) and his phone number is 07 4637 0482

**Darby Munro** from South Australia achieved his OBE on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Congratulations Darby;

well deserved. I wouldn't give you a day over 60....Bob

**Barry Lutwyche** (a Taswegian by birth) has a hide-away in Tassy on Arthurs Lake. Initially built as a fishing shack by his father it has been added to and now has three bedrooms – no longer a 'shack'. Barry had a month there over Christmas, arrived back in Brisbane late January having towed his boat to the Lake where it will remain. Visited by Alex Cairney they drove across to Queenstown (Barry wonders why anyone would want to live there). "Are there fish in the lake Barry?" "There are eleven less fish than when I arrived."

**Postscript:** Barry had planned to head off to Arthurs Lake for another few weeks on 26 February returning mid April. However, about two days before he was due to leave he suffered the symptoms of a heart attack and was admitted to the Prince Charles hospital in Brisbane. After a few days of observation and investigation he was sent home but within an hour of arriving he was hit by intense pain in the left leg and groin and this time the ambulance took him to the Royal Brisbane. Blood clots were removed from both leg and groin and Barry is home again with a medication list as long as his arm.

Barry is thankful that the event occurred before he left for Tassy and not when he was in a remote hide-away in the mountains.

**Graeme Dowd** has had a struggle with cancer of the esophagus with secondaries in the liver and lymph glands. Graeme was given 12 months to put his affairs into order and went on to chemo-therapy. After six applications a CT scan indicates that the liver and lymph glands are back to normal and the primary sire has reduced from 10cms to 1.5 cms. Graeme is to undergo further chemo and maybe radiation but it is all looking good. Graeme's business went on the market at the onset of the cancer but in Graeme's words Marilyn is at the helm.

## VALE

**Harry Wright** – Gary Warnest emails: It is with sadness that I report the passing of the youngest "Rat of Tobruk" our very own Harry Wright. He had been the secretary of the Rats Association in Melbourne for the last some years. His passing is reported through his daughter to Stu Symonds. Details unknown although Harry had become more frail over the last few years. Harry had a distinguished military (Rat of Tobruk, Vietnam Training Team) and Survey Corps career. Harry retired as a Transport WO2 in 1975. His service record is from 1948 but not sure how his Tobruk service fits in with this date. Harry is pictured on Page 61 of the Mapmakers of Fortuna loading fuel onto a RAAF aircraft and not exactly in military uniform. Will publish an account of his Tobruk service in the next Magna Carta Regards Gary Warnest.

*Ed: many of us would remember with affection Harry, the versatile transport NCO who accompanied Topo Squadron on many, if not all of its field operations in northern Australia and Papua New Guinea.*

**Ted Hunter:** Ted's funeral notice appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald as follows:

*2<sup>nd</sup> Field Survey Company*

**HUNTER, Edward Francis (Ted)**

*Passed away peacefully aged 89 years. Husband of Doris Joan (Dot) (deceased), much loved father of Phil, Rob, Greg and Jenny and their families.*

*In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day.*

Teds funeral took place on Tuesday 21 December 2010

Richard Jackson –Hope commented: Ted will be missed in NSW he was a wonderful person and a strong supporter of the Association

**Ed:** Teds Moratai story was recently re-published in the ACT Association Newsletter. It is a great read. Ted was very prominent in having a plaque commemorating the service of

the WW2 survey units in the grounds of Victoria Barracks, Paddington, Sydney.



**Ted Hunter at the unveiling of the commemorative plaque at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, 1 July 2008.**

**Bernhard (Bernie) Henry McDonald** passed away at the age of 89 after an extended battle with cancer on 29 June 2010. His funeral service, well attended by family, friends and past work colleagues took place at the *Star of the Sea* Catholic Church Cleveland.

Bernie was born in the Melbourne suburb of Preston in 1921. He enlisted in the Army on 26 July 1940 at the age of 19 and after initial



training in the Light AA Training Regiment he was allocated to 3 Fd Svy Coy in Victoria based at Colac. It was in Colac that Bernie with a number of others enjoyed some home hospitality with a local family.

It was here that he met the daughter of that

family, Margaret MacDonald, who was later to become Bernie's wife.

Referring now to Jack Viccars history of 8 Aust Fd Svy Section (the New Guinea Survey Section).....

*'in May 1942, the notice board of 3rd Field Survey Company, at Colac in Victoria, promulgated a Routine Order calling for volunteers to join a new section to be formed and sent overseas to an operational area where the bombs are falling There was an enthusiastic response and on 30th May 1942 the final list was posted'. Corporal Bernie McDonald was one of those.*

On 5 July 1942 the 3 Coy contingent of 3 officers and 50 other ranks augmented the strength of the NG Svy Sect at '15 Mile' camp out of Port Moresby. The immediate task of that unit was to attempt to locate a vehicle route to Nauro on the Kokoda Track. Owers Corner, established by Lt Jerry Owers and a survey section became the limit of vehicular access and remains so today. Bernie was promoted to sergeant soon after arriving at 17 Mile and later to Warrant Officer Class 2. 8 Fd Svy Sect served extensively throughout New Guinea undertaking mapping of the Markham Valley as part of Kanga Force and numerous compass traverses along native village tracks. The unit was returned to Australia in October 1943 to become a section of the 6 Army Topo Svy Coy located at Toowoomba. WO2 McDonald was transferred to the Headquarters NGF for duty with the Aust Army Photo Interpretation Unit. Commissioned to the rank of lieutenant in 1944 Bernie attended a Military Intelligence School in Australia and during that time he married Margaret MacDonald. He returned to the Photo Interpretation Unit in Port Moresby and was involved in intensive photo interpretation work prior to the Balikpapan beach assault. It has been held that the success of that assault was to a large measure due to the photo intelligence

work undertaken by Bernie's unit in Port Moresby.

It was from the Photo Intelligence Unit that Lieutenant McDonald was demobilised on 13 Nov 1945.

Bernie returned to Melbourne and entered articles graduating as a Licensed Surveyor through the Surveyor's Board of Victoria. From 1950 to 1954 he ran his own private practice in Shepparton Vic then took a position with the SEC at Taralgon where he was elected as a councilor for the City of Taralgon. In 1964 with his growing family he moved to Brisbane to a senior position in the Department of Irrigation and Water Supply. In 1965 his wife Margaret tragically died. In 1967 Bernie married Angela Keogh who undertook the mothering of his large family.

In 1979 he transferred to the newly formed Department of Mapping and Surveying as Director, Division of Surveys where he continued to retirement in the 1980s.

In retirement Bernie involved himself in community work and up until he entered hospital, a week before his passing, he was volunteering at the Cleveland Magistrates Court helping people find their way through the court system.

Bernie's wife Angela died in 2000. Bernie had ten children and he is survived by eight of these, 32 grand children and 11 great grandchildren. He was a much loved patriarch of the McDonald family.

**Brian Redston:** Charlie Watson reports ...Sadly I have to report the death of our esteemed friend Brian Redston. Brian was a WO2 Printer who worked for many years in the JIB/JIO /DIO printing Detachment in Canberra. A service for Brian was held at the Chapel of the Norwood Park Crematorium, Sandford Street Mitchell at 1030h on Wednesday, 19 Jan 2011.

I first met Brian in 1969 when I joined the Beach Survey Team in Canberra (attached to DSVY) but tasked by JIB. I can't say more – spooksville!!! I found Brian to be very friendly, a relationship which has lasted for many years, although we did not meet often in later years. Sadly most of the Detachment of those years has now passed on.

I hope that those who knew Brian can find the time to attend the celebration of Brian's life.

Regards *Charlie Watson*

**Graeme Priestley** passed away in Singapore on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at the age of 57. Danny Galbraith reports that Graeme had been living the past few years in Singapore and Cambodia teaching English. Graeme was a carto tech who served twenty years from the mid 1970s to the mid 1990s in several of the field survey squadrons including 1Fd Svy Sqn and the Regiment. He spent the last years of his military career in Canberra.

**Kit Strunks:** Noel Sproles emails – I noticed in the latest edition of the ADF Welfare Association magazine (*Camaraderie*) a notice of the death of a Mrs Strunks in the ACT. He asks ....Could this be Pat Strunks wife?.

**Ed:** It is of course Kit who was the delightful Irish wife of Patrick who most of us knew as Paddy. Paddy passed away a number of years ago and Kit remained living in Canberra.

<b>MACABRE, BUT .....</b>	<b>Bob Skitch</b>
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I guess this might be called 'black humour' – one could not help having a chuckle at it.

Not infrequently on survey operations something out of the ordinary would take place. Such was the case in 1975 on *Operation Sandy Hill*. 1 Field Survey Squadron Group had been based at Cooktown undertaking an Aerodist control operation covering Torres Strait, Cape York and the eastern side of the Gulf out to and including the Wellesley Island Group. It was a big five month operation and as it turned out the

last of the Aerodist ops that technique succeeded by Doppler Satellite control in 1976. For Sandy Hill we had in support a substantial air contingent that included six Kiowa helicopters, each capable of carrying four passengers.

During our five months in Cooktown we had become part of that rather strange Cooktown community – many fine people but also many that one might wonder about. Anyhow, we certainly had a good relationship with the police sergeant who was a gentlemanly sort of bloke. He had a French sounding name – 'De-something' and seemed to appreciate the better things of life.

In about October I was approached by him as to whether we could helicopter him and his constable to a small island south of Lizard Island. I discussed it with the 1 Avn Regt det OC, Capt Brian Sullivan and he agreed that the Avn Regt's allocated 'continuation' flying hours could cover it and he gave the job to one of his younger lieutenant rotary wing pilots. It was a beautiful sunny day and the young fellow accepted the mission with alacrity, little knowing what he was in for. The flight was carefully planned to avoid flying over long water stretches – island to island or reef to reef and there are plenty of them north of Cooktown so without reference to higher authority I acceded to the police sergeant's request.

Now, what was the purpose of the trip? A quite well known but highly controversial lady – author I think – had disappeared at sea some weeks before attempting to travel from Cooktown in a very unsuitable craft (something approaching a coracle with a make-shift sail I was told) to somewhere; just where no one knew. Her missing had been a newspaper story at the time but gradually it fell away and the papers lost interest. Anyhow, a light charter aircraft coming into Cooktown had reported seeing something that looked like an upturned dinghy on the beach of this islet surrounded by an assortment of clothing and other objects one such object resembling a body. Our police sergeant accompanied by his constable duly arrived at our campsite – the Cooktown air strip

– and after a few preliminaries, off they went. They had with them lunch packs put up by the police sergeant's good wife as was common practice at that time.

To appreciate this story a few words about the constable are necessary. He was a locally recruited braw north Queensland lad of solid build. At the time in Queensland police sergeants assigned to the State's outposts were able to recruit locally one or two constables and train them on the job to serve locally – nowhere else. This young fellow was well known around Cooktown's few streets partly because he rarely wore shoes with his uniform. He had feet the size of dinner plates and perhaps no issue police boot would go anywhere near fitting him. Apparently he was good at maintaining law and order on the streets of Cooktown. Anyhow, off they went and our ops officer, Captain Andy Strachan kept a listening watch on our base AN/GRC 106 set.

Our Avn lieutenant reported in soon after landing. They had found the wrecked dinghy and there was a body lying a short distance away from it along the beach. Nothing more was said on the radio so I assumed that all was proceeding smoothly and the rest of the story unfolded on the subsequent de-brief at Cooktown.

It seems that the body was in appalling condition having been part eaten by wild pigs. Our police sergeant had had the foresight to take with him a body bag in which to bring back the remains. Both the sergeant and our admirable aviation lieutenant had lost the contents of their stomachs on the beach after their first look at the deceased lady. The stench was beyond belief, even more when disturbed. But did it worry the young locally recruited constable – not at all. He had been brought up on disposing the carcasses of cattle found dead in water holes and human remains were no different. He somehow got the poor lady into the body bag and the next problem was how to bring it back to Cooktown – in the chopper of course but where to put it? The Kiowa could take three passengers, four at a pinch. Our police sergeant occupied the passenger's seat

next to the pilot and the constable the rear seat – next to the body bag slumped next to him! Body bags are built to retain the contents but apparently not the stench and that was considerable. Heading back the flyer reported in to the AN/GRC 106 and any of us who have listened in to radio scheds from a flying helicopter would be aware of the strangely wavering quality of the receiving voice – almost a drunken sound. But this time it was especially so, to the extent that I asked Andy to ask the lieutenant if he was OK. Yes his wavering voice replied. On arriving at Cooktown the body bag was quickly removed and plonked into the back of the police utility and after a few quick words with the sergeant off it went. Our quite green looking aviation lieutenant then told his story. Apparently on the way back he had glanced over his shoulder at the constable sitting in the rear seat next to the body – he was eating his cut lunch! It was almost too much!

I don't think he appeared for dinner that night and I doubt that he could have ever dined out on that story.

There is a post-script to this account. I became aware that some of our young chopper pilots were dropping into the hippy colony at Cedar Bay for whatever purpose on their return trip from Cairns. I passed that bit of info on to Avn OC Brian Sullivan who put an end to it.

A year later in 1976 our esteemed Cooktown police sergeant was in charge of the early morning police assault from the sea on the residents of Cedar Bay, destroying all their hootchies and belongings. It was a highly contentious action and I suspected that Sergeant 'De- something' would have found it somewhat distasteful. Perhaps his young locally recruited constable enjoyed it immensely. One year later when I was at the Bendigo Regiment I was asked by way of telephone call or signal (I can't recall which) what I knew of the Cedar Bay 'drop-in' practice. I responded that I had become aware of it and put an immediate end to it. I had left any disciplinary action to the Aviation Regiment. Nothing more was said.

## BEACH SURVEY – a reflection by Jim Cullen

*Ed: Jim (Blue) Cullen was a crew member on the HMAS Madang during the time it was involved in the Beach Survey project. In naval lingo Jim was a EM/WE which means Electrical Mechanic – Weapons Electrical. Some may remember him. This is his story and how he made contact with us.....*

Bob...I was searching on 'Return to Wewak 1970' and came across [http://rasurvey.org/Field\\_Ops/PNG.pdf](http://rasurvey.org/Field_Ops/PNG.pdf) then I decided to contact you. The beach landing survey was what we were doing. For this our 40/60 Bofor gun was removed and in place we had two 17ft De-Havelland boats and a beach buggy and water ski's and surf board. We used to leave Manus Island and survey for about one month then return to Manus on Friday and sail on Sunday. We named our self '**USS Madang**' – Usually Sail Sundays.

We started at the border of West Irian near Vanimo and followed the coast. While at sea I felt sorry for the Army crew. They were totally bored as their work didn't begin till we got to some point of land then it was four weeks solid work. We also had a Navy photographer with us. He took Polaroid pictures in a complete pan of the beach. We used to help him seal the pics when they got back on board. We had a crew of 17 Navy and 2 Army. Jock (Kay) used to say to me – "give me a drive of your boat when it was my turn on the wheel". I told him he would have to ask the Officer of the Watch.

Small boat crews had a pretty good relationship with all on board. We used to call the Skipper 'Boss'. (*Ed: from my own NS naval experience this is most unusual!*) The two officers we had were clearance divers and we had two other clearance divers. We came across many WW2 unexploded mines see picture attached. I was onboard for two years. My first captain was Terry Jones and then Ken Heynatz. Ken in retirement disappeared off the coast of Madagascar in a yacht with a British woman. He and the British woman and the yacht were never found. Pirates were suspected. (See attached story. <http://www.rescue.clara.net/report.htm>)

Ken was a very experienced Vietnam veteran and was a naval lieutenant when Captain of *HMAS Madang*. Bloody great bloke!

I was born in Glasgow Scotland and arrived in Australia in 1959 – 11 years young. I joined the Navy in April 1967. *HMAS Sydney*, the 'Vung Tau Ferry',

was my first ship. I was an Ordinary Seaman then I was commissioning crew of *HMAS Stalwart* as Ordinary Seaman. In 1968 I did my basic electrical course as EM/WE. I was initially posted to *HMAS Derwent* then *HMAS Madang* for 2 years. It was the best two years of my life. We went to places you can only dream about. From there I was posted to *HMAS Warratah*. In the USA I did a Mk 118 Tartar Missile Computer Course. In 1974 I was promoted to Petty Officer and served 5 years on Guided Missile Destroyers. I was on *HMAS Hobart* for the 1976 circumnavigation of the world for the American Bi-Centennial then 2 years on *HMAS Brisbane* which took part in the 1977 Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee Spithead Review. In total I did 12 years in the RAN.

Following discharge I had 11 years with Telecom Australia as a Broadcasting/Radio Tech working in remote communities in the Northern Territory.

Been a long time; say G'Day if you are in touch with any of my old Army mates....**CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE Kindest Regards Jim (Blue) Cullen**

*Ed: Jim recalls the following RA SVY blokes on Beach Survey - Capt James Bounds (OIC) Capt Charlie Watson, Sgt Chris Dahlberg, Sgt Jock Kay & others. I emailed Jim that Jim Bounds had died in about 1970 and Jock Kay just a few months ago.*

*The period of the Beach Surveys is little written about and perhaps a more detailed account of how they were carried out would be a valuable contribution to our corporate record. How about it Charlie? – Charlie's reply below....*

*Jim Cullen's contact demonstrates the value of our [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org) website. It is sometimes surprising who chances across it in all sorts of ways. See also Michael Nolan's story this issue.*

*Jim Cullen's email address is: [jimcullen39@gmail.com](mailto:jimcullen39@gmail.com).*

PS – Charlie Watson has emailed an outline of the Beach Survey operation – for our next Bulletin



## FROM THE OTHER STATE ASSOCIATIONS

All newsletters/Bulletins are available on our website – [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org)

### Westlink No 35 – Dec 2010

Very informative publication with attractive new front page.

Pres Fred Brown, VP Mike Venn, Sec/Treas/Ed Brian Mead

Articles:

- Berets – a skin cancer risk?
- Toodyay bush fires – Warren hall's account
- 'Trigano' – An Indonesian friendship by Chris Dixon
- Cliff & Dianne Webb – a Collingwood tragic!
- Gary and Zoe Ames – WAAFL
- Brian Mead – Applecross (multi-cultural) Pizza Shop: Proprietor Brian's son Matthew
- Fred Brown in Kathmandu, UK and Fromelles
- Report on PNG Plaque
- Balcombe

### South Australia Newsletter – Dec 2010

(Note: now the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association of South Australia)

Sec Ken Jeffery Treas Peter Elverd, Anzac Day org Ken Talbot-Smith, BBQ/Picnic John Harrison, Newsletter Noel Sproles, Jim Dunn

Articles

- 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration – Alex Munro
- Anzac Day parade
- A nostalgic trip – Noel Sproles
- AGM report

### NSW Newsletter – May 2010

Pres & Editor Richard Jackson-Hope

Articles

- Anzac Day – photos and support from the Geomatic Wing
- AGM
- PNG Plaque
- The Last Post – a history
- Dungog Plaque – John Hillier
- Survey Corps Ops with early Army Aviation – Major Charlie Miller AAAn (RL)
- 95<sup>th</sup> birthday Celebration at Bendigo
- Museum report

- Balcombe photos
- George Constable – AAAn

### Canberra Survey Association Newsletter – Nov 2010 & Mar 2011

Pres Rob McHenry, Sec/Treas Charlie Watson  
Articles

- Surveying for the Army in Vic 1960/61 – Darryl Parker, map and excellent photos
  - SNAGA Trophy – for excellence?? in golf – Rob McHenry, excellent photos, an amusing account
  - Tall Tales and True – Don Swiney, photos
  - *A Code of Morals – Rudyard Kipling* (about a heliograph and an errant wife) an amorous Colonel
  - What Azimuth you Got? – Peter Jensen, Fd in New Britain
  - Photo Gallery
- (Mar 11) The Helicopter Crash – Op Cenderawasih – 1977 – Don Swiney & Peter Jensen**

### Magna Carto – Oct 2010

Ex Fortuna Association website

[www.exfortunasvy.org](http://www.exfortunasvy.org) hyperlinked to [www.rasurvey.org](http://www.rasurvey.org)

Patron Don Swiney MBE, Pres/Ed Gary Warnest, Sec Tracey Phillips, Treas Bob Thrower, Melb rep Adrian Rynberk

Articles

- 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration – many excellent photos
- What of Fortuna?
- The WRAAC Barracks 'Turiff' an historic homestead.
- Gold Mines Hotel – Eddie (Mootes) Espesito
- Museum report
- PNG Plaque report
- 'Gentlemen, the Queen' restoration
- AGM report

## AIRLINE LUNCHES

**Did this really happen – it would be nice to think it did...It has circulated the RSLs for some time. It is a little sentimental but perhaps it says something. It was sent to me by a Corps colleague, John Van de Graaff, one time sergeant in RA Svy.**

I put my carry-on in the luggage compartment and sat down in my assigned seat. It was going to be a long flight from Perth. 'I'm glad I have a good book to read. Perhaps I will get a short sleep,' I thought.

Just before take-off, a line of diggers came down the aisle and filled all the vacant seats, totally surrounding me. I decided to start a conversation.

'Where are you blokes headed?' I asked the digger seated nearest to me.

'Puckapunyal. We'll be there for two weeks for special training, and then we're being deployed to Afghanistan'.

After flying for about an hour, an announcement was made that lunches were available for five dollars. It would be several hours before we reached Melbourne, and I quickly decided a lunch would help pass the time. As I reached for my wallet, I overheard a soldier ask his mate if he planned to buy lunch.

'No, that seems like a lot of money for just an airline lunch. Probably wouldn't be worth five bucks. I'll wait till we get to Pucka'. His mate agreed.

I looked around at the other soldiers. None were buying lunch. I walked to the back of the plane and handed the flight attendant a fifty dollar note.  
'Take a lunch to all those soldiers.'

She grabbed my arms and squeezed tightly. Her eyes wet with tears, she thanked me.

'My young bloke was a digger in Iraq, it's almost like you are doing it for him.'

Picking up ten lunchboxes, she headed up the aisle to where the diggers were seated. She stopped at my seat and asked,  
'Which do you like best - beef or chicken?'

'Chicken,' I replied, wondering why she asked.

She turned and went to the front of plane, returning a minute later with a dinner plate from first class.  
'This is your thanks'.

After we finished eating, I went again to the back of the plane, heading for the rest room. An old bloke stopped me.

'I saw what you did. I want to be part of it. Here, take this.'

He handed me twenty-five dollars..

Soon after I returned to my seat, I saw the Captain coming down the aisle, looking at the aisle numbers as he walked, I hoped he wasn't looking for me, but noticed he was looking at the numbers only on my side of the plane. When he got to my row he stopped, smiled, held out his hand, and said,  
'I want to shake your hand.'

Quickly unfastening my seat-belt I stood and took the Captain's hand.

With a booming voice he said, 'I was an army pilot a long time back. Once someone bought me lunch. It was an act of kindness I never forgot.'

I was embarrassed when applause was heard from all of the passengers. Later I walked to the front of the plane so I could stretch my legs. A kid who looked about 18 was sitting about six rows in front of me reached out his hand, wanting to shake mine. He left another twenty-five dollars in my palm.

When we landed I gathered my belongings and started to depart. Waiting just inside the aeroplane door was a man who stopped me, put something in my shirt pocket, turned, and walked away without saying a word. Another twenty-five dollars!

Upon entering the terminal, I saw the soldiers gathering for their trip to up to Puckapunyal. I walked over to them and handed them seventy-five dollars.

'It will take you some time to reach Pucka. It will be about time for a sandwich – God Bless You Blokes.'

Ten young blokes left that flight feeling the love and respect of their fellow Aussies.

As I walked briskly to my car, I whispered a prayer for their safe return. These soldiers were giving their all for our country.

I could only give them a couple of meals. It seemed so little. A digger is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank cheque made payable to 'AUSTRALIA' for an amount of up to and including my life.'

That is Honour, and there are way too many in this country who don't understand it.'