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ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION
(WESTERN AUSTRALIA) INC.

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and Jeff Murray.**



“Deciding which way to go – Circa late 1950’s”

Capt Hugh “Squizzie” Taylor, Jo “Film Star” Mazzarol and “Father” Jim Booton.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Again its time to contribute a little to Westlink.

It was good to see Howard (HP) Jones attend the Anzac Day Parade this year and take some photos from the sidelines – some of which have been included in the Magazine. Thanks again Howard – come again. Association membership is showing a little green light, with some new faces appearing. We still need more to rally as we hardly have enough to cast a shadow on the Anzac March.

Personally I have been out and about when I can, with short fishing trips to the Pallinup River and Bremer Bay areas. As well as prospecting (to no avail) near Mt Magnet, Sandstone, Youanmi and Paynes Find.

Brian at Pallinup – 43 cm Black Bream

I would like to say thank you to Major Fred Brown for making himself available to join us as guest speaker for the Corps Birthday Dinner this year. A few hidden truths should arise then !! To all who attend the Dinner – see you there and kind regards to all members and their families.

Brian Firms.

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to everyone for his or her comments in relation to our previous magazine Westlink Issue No 24. Our distribution list has grown, especially with the aid of the Internet – there are now over thirty names on our own Association Group email directory. Several of the articles, that have been included in this Issue - No 25, have been received via this medium, which certainly expedites the compilation of the Magazine.

Special thanks to Jo Mazzarol and Eric Clutterbuck for their contributions. Their offerings of photographs and stories of a bygone era are very readable and should stimulate further input from other members. The old saying that “every photo tells a story” is very true and I am sure there are a multitude hidden away in old photo albums.

Other stories and items of interest have been received and included from other Associations. Noel Sproles, Allan Adsett (**South Australia**), Bob Skitch, Peter Bates-Brownsword (**Queensland**) and Gary Warnest (**Bendigo, Victoria**). A reciprocal arrangement between Associations has existed for many years now and certainly enhances the diversity of content for our Westlink.

Brian Mead

ANZAC DAY - 2004



L. to R.

*Daniel Mazzarol,
Brian Firms,
Bruce Bellette,
Cliff Webb,
Mike Venn,
Brian Mead,
Barry Parker,
Peter Eddy,
Clive Craddon.*

Members assembled on St Georges Tce, adjacent to Trinity Arcade, before the Anzac Day March.



On the move down St Georges Tce, making our way through a large crowd of enthusiastic spectators. Our Banner was carried by Daniel Mazzarol and Nicholas George (Jo Mazzarol's grandsons). The images were provided by Howard Jones.

RAY SARGEANT

A PERSONAL TRIBUTE – Peter Bates-Brownsword

It is with sadness that I write about John Raymond Sargeant, known to most who served with him at Ray or 'Noddy', a nickname he earned during the third field trip to Sumatra with 5 Field Survey Squadron in 1975. Tributes to Ray have been published in both the RA Survey Association (WA) newsletter 'Westlink' and the Survey Ex-servicemen's Association (SA) newsletter. I will talk about a person who really loved the Corps for what it was and what it did for him, although the major part of his ARA career was spent with RAAOC.



*Major Peter B. Brownsword, Major Pat Wood
with Staff Sergeant Ray Sargeant*

I first met Ray at Perth in early 1970 when he was the transport sergeant with the then W Comd Field Survey Unit. By that time he already had a background in field survey operations in the northwest and the remotest parts of Western Australia. He had progressed to that position through A & Q with his early days in the field spent as a driver, tech storeman and survey assistant.

In the early 1970s Ray was encouraged to go back into the Q store as QMS by the then OC,

Clem Sargent of the newly formed 5 Field Survey Squadron. So began an exemplary career in logistic support to units in the field, not only survey units but also some combat supply units of RAAOC. 5 Squadron was involved with overseas operations in Sumatra during the mid 70s. Ray managed the logistic support 'in-country' which was no mean feat for a unit on joint operations with the Indonesians that included attachments from the RAAF and other corps of the army. He built a rapport with the Indonesian civilian personnel giving them typically Australian nicknames when he could not pronounce their Indonesian names. He also had to coordinate our support from ANZUK Singapore and later on from RAAF Butterworth in Malaysia. This included air transport and movements.

It was around this time that Army underwent a rationalisation of trades and corps where smaller corps lost their A and Q people to RAAOC and transport people to RACT. In Ray's case it was very hard for him to change his hat badge to RAAOC, however, the change was meant to provide a greater career opportunity with better chances of promotion. Ray was a happy family man in his beloved Perth, with a Queensland Blue Couch lawn in the background and East Perth on top of the ladder. He was also very involved with junior football development, with unit member's sons including my own son coming under his guidance. (He passed on a pair of his son's football boots to my son

with the quip “these boots have kicked more goals for the Subiaco under 10s than anybody else ever!”)

After ten years in the west Ray was posted to 6 Brigade Field Supply Company at Gaythorne as QMS. Moving a family from one side of the country to the other has its drawbacks but there was a married quarter at St Johns Wood with plenty of blue couch.

Soldiering in a Field Force unit of the Army was a new and valuable experience for Ray with much of time spent away from home at Schoalwater Bay and Tin Can Bay training areas. Nevertheless, Ray kept in touch with all his survey contacts. I had been posted to PNG for three years but somehow Ray found out and on our return to Australia and 1 Field Survey Squadron he was at the airport with our car newly registered which he had taken delivery of at the docks the week before. It was really great having Ray (in a RAAOC unit) only a couple of sheds away at the old Damascus Barracks in Gaythorne.

Even with his family now grown up he still kept active in junior football. We both shared coaching duties with an under12 team at Enoggera between our trips away from our units. In the late 70s we were able to ‘arrange’ for Ray to be posted back to the Corps as QMS of the then 1st Topographical Survey Troop where his contacts and experience with other divisional units proved invaluable in preparing the Troop for its military role with HQ 1st Division. A senior officer at Survey Directorate commented at the time that he wished he had access to same contacts to assist him with his job. Ray continued on for a few more years doing what he liked best out in the bush on survey and mapping operations.

In the early 80s Ray moved on to 4 Field Survey Squadron as QMS at Keswick Barracks; another challenge in a different part of Australia, but in a familiar role. Ray commented to me years later that one of the best things about Adelaide besides the life style was that they still played football and he had the opportunity to go to adult education classes to pursue an interest in woodworking.



Mizmaze 1985 – Ray supervising the loading of stores

It was one of the most comfortable and well organised (Tent City) mapping operations I have ever seen. While there catching up with Ray and other Corps identities the OLWO and EMEWO had arrived from Adelaide in a Falcon Ute. They had been sent up by the

At that time 4 Field Survey Squadron was involved in one of the last big field survey operations covering the remote centre of the Northern Territory. The geoceiver was being used to establish horizontal control for mapping and at the same time trialling the method of translocation that would have application to future GPS operation. The base camp and centre of the operation was Tennant Creek I had occasion to visit for a few days from Canberra to oversee the GPS trial aspects of the project.

Commander 4MD mainly to observe the organisation and operation of 4 Squadron in the field.

Later on Ray and family moved back to his beloved west with a final ARA posting to 5 Field Survey Squadron. I was posted to 5 Squadron in 1985 as OC and Ray was there to help me settle in and clean our car after its trip across the Nullarbor at the end of the train. The unit at that time was completing control acquisition in the Kimberley and commencing field completion of the first 1: 50,000 tactical mapping series in the Pilbarra.

The Commander 5 MD was always keen to visit us in the field knowing Ray's organisational reputation but he was also impressed with Ray's ability to guide the younger soldiers and officers on how to operate efficiently in harsh and remote environments.

When Pat Wood retired as OC, Ray became the oldest soldier in the unit but still nearly the fittest. In 1986 he decided to call it a day to let me become the oldest soldier in the unit (he quipped).



Ray served in the ARES troop of the unit with his much loved Survey Corps badge back on his beret. Ray gained a position at Curtin University where he managed the equipment store of the Survey Department and organised their annual survey camp in the bush. He was also able to pass on his years of field and organisational experience to future survey graduates. I moved on to an overseas posting and that was the last time we were together in uniform.

Old Friends – Bill Kemp, Ray and Lance Barrell

I caught up with Ray again in Adelaide when 4 Field Survey Squadron at Keswick Barracks was disbanded and taken from the order of battle. Ray was then the President of the WA Branch of the RA Survey Association and brought over a group of people including Frank Cohen from the west who had served in the Adelaide survey units. We had quite a time discussing old times together, our families, football, woodworking and the merits of Queensland Blue Couch.

That was the last time we were together enjoying a beer in the transport compound under a 20 x 30 tent. We kept in touch by phone occasionally, mainly discussing the ins and outs of running a Corps Association and maintaining the memory of the Corps he so loved.

Farewell mate – you were the best.

Peter Bates-Brownsword

Survey, Wartime Style, Protem, Pro-forma. By Neville Smith-Ryan WX22563.

(LETTERS TO THE EDITOR – retrieved from Jo Mazzarol's archives).

After basic training at Darby, Victoria, (including skinny dipping on Xmas Day in the cold Lerderberg River) then back to 4 Fd Svy at Irwin Barracks, in due time we embarked on the good ship "Koolinda" to the NW. It was a common belief that the Japs would not attack this ship, as in earlier times the Koolinda had rescued many Japanese fishermen in distress, so we felt reasonably safe.



Cpl. Neville Smith-Ryan

Broome-Port Hedland as passenger in the water truck, not designed for personal comfort. No road, just keep the evening star Venus, due West until you arrive. Hedland generally referred to in those days as the "backside" of the world. Swim only at high tide when there is water in the shark-proof enclosure between the two arms of the jetty. Little did I dream that on April 1st (an appropriate date) 1954 I would land there to open the only bank branch in the town, and be there for 4 years to see it beginning to become a highly profitable branch through overseas exchange business.

One night we were instructed by Capt John Camm to give him the co-ordinates for him to pick up a daylight star for his work the next day. Had our fingers crossed all next day until he came home, only to hear that he had changed his plans during the morning. We then carried on as though we were quite sure he would have found that star.

At Derby our camp was not far from the Leprosarium, handy in case we went troppo. One night when a party of us were camped near the "12 Mile" bridge over the Fitzroy River, I was detailed to fill the water bucket, had just done so when there was a commotion nearby and a croc slithered into the river. I returned to the camp rather hurriedly, spilling a drop. Next morning they looked beautiful basking in the sun on a sand bank mid-stream.

I can honestly say that I walked from Derby to Broome, on one end of a chain as a strat map was made to join up existing maps of the towns Capt John Camm would make our day by taking shots of a large water tank on the horizon and instructing us to let him know the quantity of water it would hold! No hurry, as long as we have the answer in 10 minutes. One day a Salvation Army vehicle appeared out of the dust, stopped to have a chat, gave us a cold drink and some chewing gum. This gesture paid well, each year since I made sure to make a donation to the Salvos.

Onslow, which I think was a shade worse than Pt Hedland used to be! A jetty which is regularly destroyed by hurricanes, a pub and a camp for Americans for re-fuelling their submarines, and a place for the Yanks to send naughty boys who misbehaved in Perth-Fremantle; a fate worse than death.

Canarvon. We set up camp on the bank of the Gascoyne River, only to discover that big red bull ants declared this to be their territory and desired us to move on which we promptly did-to the middle of the sandy river bed (the water flows 14 feet below the sand).

Canarvon-Geraldton After a long hot dusty drive we eventually arrived at Northampton, went into the pub, all-dry as chips, each ordered a beer. Forgot the name of it but definitely remember the taste-it was horrible. Back to the truck and on the rest of the way for a decent drink.

You will doubtless observe that these notes are from a part-time wartime Survey Cpl Computer who enjoyed the out-doors, the need to brush up on the geom/trig, the lasting friendships, before returning to civvy life. I was proud to wear the blue/white triangular colourpatch.

Now enjoy playing bowls at the Claremont club of which I am now an Honorary Life Member, having been the Treasurer.

Editor's Note: Annette and I had the pleasure of meeting Neville's wife Dorothy during May 2004. Dorothy very kindly agreed to lend some photos and provide some insight into Neville's life. Neville and Dorothy are pictured together on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1989.



Neville was born in Northam in 1914, the youngest of four children; one of his older brothers became a POW in Changi Prison, Singapore. He was a quiet achiever at school and at sport. He began his career with the National Bank in 1935 prior to the advent of WW2. Neville and Dorothy were married in 1939.

Initially Neville failed his enlistment medical because of his lack of hearing in one ear. He persisted and was accepted into Survey after performing well in a series of aptitude tests.

His involvement with Survey was in WA and then a transfer to North Eastern Australia – construction of the Sydney to Darwin Road.

Returning to civilian life, Neville and Dorothy moved to Port Hedland in 1954 to open a NAB Branch and during this time he captained a N.W. cricket team to play in Perth. Neville's working career continued with the NAB, with a range of Bank transfers throughout WA and he retired as a Branch Inspector.

Retirement was spent in travelling worldwide, pursuing his love of reading and playing lawn bowls. Neville passed away in February 1996, a staunch supporter of his Anglican Church and a caring husband and father of his daughter Margaret.

Plane Tabling

by
Noel Sproles

I imagine that there are still many among us who remember the plane table. Although it had long been replaced by photogrammetry for map production, the Corps still taught it on Basic Courses into the early 1960s. At that time, photogrammetric adjustment by digital means was in its infancy and the analogue slotted-template assembly still held sway. One of the difficulties with this process was its very empirical and subjective nature, making it as much a task for an artisan as for a technician. The thinking was, therefore, that the training given by learning to plane table would still be useful in planning the layout of survey control and resolving problems in the slotted-template process. And, on reflection, the powers-that-be may have had a point there.



*Spr Eric Clutterbuck – Plane Tabling
Basic Course 3/49*

I was one of the multitudes introduced to the wonders of plane tabling on the Basic Course and I must admit that it was all a mystery to me when I started. But learning to plane table is like learning to swim – one minute you cannot, the next minute you are away and wondering what was the difficulty. Unfortunately for me, this revelation did not come until close to the end of that module so my marks did not reflect my level of expertise. That is my story anyway.

I do have pleasant memories of tramping around the Dorman Valley and along the surrounding ridges for days on end. There was one spot where you could do a six-ray resection. Our course instructor, ‘Father’ Jim Booten, seemed very keen that we all visit this spot and complete a resection there. We soon discovered why as we each found our way to the designated spot. Right on the very spot was the most humongous but very dead and stinky ram. Needless to say, we did not linger to wonder at the rarity of a six-ray resection!

But it was in Nui Dat in South Vietnam in 1968 that I was able to bring my formidable plane table skills to the fore. Luscombe Field, the fixed wing airstrip, had been extended and the road running along the Western boundary of the base had been re-aligned around the extension. There was a requirement to re-print the large-scale map of the base to reflect this change. John Bullen called a meeting to discuss the best way of doing this and it elicited all types of suggestions, many involving aerial photography. During a pause, I suggested doing it by plane table as we had a full set of plane tabling kit. This was greeted initially with stunned silence. I then had to push my case against a quite vocal opposition. One of the biggest opposers was Ray Lawson (RIP) who considered this an antique method not fit for the modern surveyor – this despite its having been taught at the School only a few years before. However John Bullen decided to give it a go when I said that I would have it done and finished in an hour. After all, there was

nothing to lose. I said that I would need an off-sider and Spr Lawson, to his disgust, would do just fine!

We drew our gear and set off to Luscombe Field. The existence of the previous large-scale map meant that there was plenty of control in the form of fence lines and buildings and revetments. I showed Ray how we set up the plane table and oriented it. I started to cut in a few features and we ran the chain out to others and very soon the picture of the new road started to appear on the sheet. From disdain, Ray's attitude slowly changed to one of curiosity, then to incredulity, and finally to sheer wonder. He became an instant convert and there are no more ardent followers than converts. When we came back, within the promised hour, he could not contain himself telling his mates about the wondrous thing that he had just witnessed. He did not even blink an eyelid when I told him that he could ink it all up ready for the overlay.

We often learn things along the way and wonder if they will ever be of use. When they are, we feel gratified. Some times, as in this incident, a little gem of knowledge can make us avoid cracking a nut with a sledgehammer. But that aside, I have often wondered if this was the last time that the plane table was used in anger by the Corps. Or will that stir up another hornet's nest?

A Section 1st Topographical Survey Troop, Nui Dat October 1968



*Back Row: Cpl Peter Dew, Cpl Steve Wood, Cpl Mario Apfelbaum, Pte Dallas Leary, Spr John Hunter, Cpl John Rolfe, Spr Peter Smith.
Centre Row: Spr Bruce Wetzic, Cpl Paul Anderson, Cpl Mick Rice, Spr Bill Black, L/Cpl Rocky Camps, Spr Trevor Marsh, Spr Ray Lawson, Spr Mick Sokil.
Front Row: Sgt Eric Clutterbuck, Sgt Grant Small, Capt Noel Sproles, Maj John Bullen, WO2 Spike Jones, S/Sgt Pat Cox, Sgt Ted Morris.*

Editor's Note: The Unit Photo above has been included with the kind permission of R. M. McMillan-Kay;
Author of **VIETNAM** A TECHNICAL TOUR

Alice Springs – 1950

As recalled by Eric Clutterbuck, complete with photos.

A Royal Australian Survey Corps Detachment from the Photo Library at Albert Park was sent to Alice Springs in early 1950, for a period of four months, and attached to 87 Squadron RAAF. Pilots and navigators from 87 SQN were tasked with aerial photography acquisition covering the Northern Territory and part of WA and Qld. Primarily the requirement was small-scale photographic coverage of desert areas, that at this time had scant mapping coverage. During this era, the mapping scales produced by the National Mapping Program were the (1-inch to 1-mile) series and the (1-inch to 4-mile) series.



Spr Eric Clutterbuck, Cpl Alex Pond, Cpl Geoff Hutchinson, WO Barney Hogan and Spr Alex Strahan.

The Survey Detachment, under the control of WO Barney Hogan, was responsible for the cataloging and assessment of photography flown by the RAAF. On site processing of aerial negatives and proof printing was carried out by RAAF technicians, with the Survey Group pinning out the photo strips and checking the photography for satisfactory overlap and coverage of designated map areas.



The WW2 Vintage Mosquito twin engine aircraft were used by the RAAF, with a Fairchild K17 aerial camera fitted into the nose of each plane. The adjacent photo shows a loaded camera magazine being positioned into the nose of the plane prior to commencement of the day's planned photography runs. The camera lens cone can be seen at the base of the nose of the plane.

In-flight navigation was carried out using a combination of small-scale aeronautical charts and other runs, of previously acquired photography, that were fixed together for visual reference. Blocks of adjacent overlapping runs of photographic coverage were progressively built up, after having passed the scrutiny of the Survey Detachment.



The accommodation, provided for the Detachment, was two-man tents, sited at the local airfield. A monsoon deluge flooded the tentage area for four weeks, making life difficult for everyone.



The assessment work was carried out in nearby buildings at the airfield. Long tables and the odd bench were provided for the laying out of photo prints and the cataloguing of completed runs.

“ At Work ”

*Eric Clutterbuck, Barney Hogan, Geoff Hutchinson and Alex Pond.
Alex Strahan is pictured sitting in the foreground.*

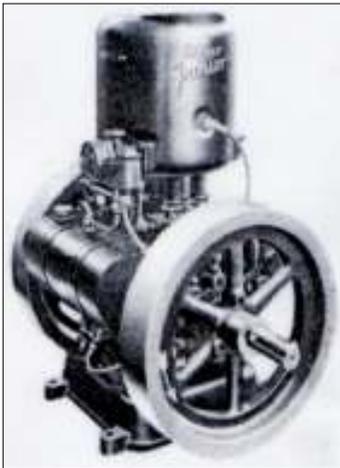


SURVEY ANECDOTES

By **Jo Mazzarol BEM**

FREE DRINKS

I was farting around somewhere along the railway line in a jeep with Bev Uwins, identifying on photos, whatever there was to be identified in the area. It was a stinking hot day and we stopped at a little store near the Redhill railway siding for a cold drink. The lady said she didn't have anything cold and bemoaned the fact that their solitary engine, in a shed out the back, stopped and refused to start and the refrigerator had not been working for days so there was nothing cold. She inquired if we knew anything about engines. We said we knew a bit and where was the engine.



It was a large internal combustion, single cylinder Lister, connected to a generator, the lot bolted to a concrete foundation. Her husband said the engine had just stopped and refused to start. He had stripped it down to the maker's name plate and cleaned it to within an inch of its life but couldn't find anything wrong. Bev and I had a look and there seemed to be nothing missing or broken, so suggested that if we carefully put it all back together again, we might find the problem.

It all went back together satisfactorily; the valve and magneto timing spot on. The husband screwed in the big KLG spark plug and began to connect an old, frayed, HT wire between the spark plug and magneto. I couldn't believe my eyes, there was hardly any insulation wire, and it's a wonder it had run for so long. I pointed out that this was where the problem was. Fortunately we had a long length of new HT wire in the jeep's toolbox, so was able to replace his old stuff. The husband swung the handle, and away she went. It was all very satisfying.

Previously his wife, in desperation, had tacitly offered us anything in the shop if we could get the engine working. With the refrigerator down, all her butter had melted and the meat and other perishables had long gone off. When we returned to the store, with the engine throbbing contentedly in the background, she hastily retracted her promise. We didn't push her around and she gave us a free drink of lemonade each, as cold as she could manage.

THE WHITE RUSSIAN (WR)

One of the helicopter engineers we were saddled with at one time was purported to be a White Russian; whatever that meant. I do not want to remember his name. He was a squat, heavysset bloke with a crew cut. He spoke reasonable English and said he was from somewhere near Russia. It was reported that he had had some bad experiences during the War. Starved, and stuff like that.

He was also easily the greediest guts we had ever come across.

On one occasion when we shifted camp, he travelled by road with Major Springer and some other people to the new site. On the way, they had to go through Warbarton Mission, where they were invited to stay for the evening meal. The WR reportedly making a complete pig of himself, to the embarrassment of all.

Among other delicacies, on the table, was a large cake on a stand, which was not cut because everyone had had enough to eat. When the meal was over and the WR saw that this cake was still there he said, "What will you do with this cake?" The hostess replied that she would put it away for some other time. The WR said, "Can I have it?" The hostess being polite, said he could, thinking he was being very altruistic, carrying a cake all the way to the new camp, to share with us all. That cake never reached us, it was reported that during the trip to the new camp the WR wolfed the lot, all by himself.

He was a monster. He would wait until a meal was served up, and then claim he couldn't eat it for some reason or other. He used this as an excuse to open up a whole variety of tins, of the best stuff, all for himself. During smoko one day when we were in the process of shifting camp, our last packet of biscuits was being handed around; they're being enough for one each. When it got half way around, it reached WR. Without batting an eyelid he took the packet, got up, walked off and wolfed the lot. Because he was the helicopter engineer, he had officer status and as such couldn't be smacked in the mouth.

We were having target practise one afternoon, shooting standing, and WR asked if he could have a go. Someone handed him a loaded .303, with the safety catch off, and pointed out the target, a tin sitting on a stump some distance away. He wasn't used to the two trigger pressures, or any other gun for that matter. He suddenly swung around with the rifle pointing at about waist height saying he had squeezed the trigger and nothing had happened. Figuring that he had already taken the first pressure, blokes leapt in all directions, desperately looking for cover. Some brave soul eventually wrestled the rifle away from him.

Water was always short, so somewhere in the early sixties, I suggested that twelve 44 gallon drums, galvanized inside and out with taps, be made by Rheem in Fremantle,



which I bolted down, one in each of the front corners of each of the six Studebakers, with the tap sticking forward, out of a specially made hole in the woodwork on each side of the cab, so that anyone could get water as they required it. These drums did not take up much room and gave us 528 gallons, more clean water than we had ever taken away before. The drums did away with the necessity of dragging a suspect, 100-gallon trailer,

which was a heavy bitch, and had to be constantly filled, everywhere we went.

Major Sprenger asked me to ensure that water was not wasted because it sometimes meant using fuel and time, travelling two or more days to get more. So I asked each bloke to take a face washer with him and restrict himself to occasionally having birdy baths out of a bowl, rather than have daily showers.

When the WR first arrived, we were at a remote location in the desert. He decided he did not like the new, clean blankets as issued and insisted on washing them before he would use them. I did not say anything because the helicopter pilot, a regular with us from Helicopter Utilities, had warned him that water was precious and was not to be wasted. Regardless, much to the pilot's embarrassment, our WR got a large tub and filled it with



water and proceeded to do the washing. When he was finished, he got more water to rinse. This used up almost a full 44-gallon drum. Later that afternoon he insisted on having a shower from our canvas bag, even though he had only just arrived. He got all soaped up, and ran out of water. This time he yelled for more water to rinse. So we made ourselves scarce and left him to get the soap out of his eyes as best as he could.

He was always telling me how much he was making as a helicopter engineer, and how much he had saved up. He spoke a lot of dribble about how his money would help him attract some feminine companionship when he eventually got back to civilization.

I **hope** someone, somewhere, did give him a well-deserved smack in the mouth!!!

VALE

Alison Bogumil

On 29 Dec 03, a subdued crowd congregated at St Killians church in Bendigo for the joint funerals of Alison, daughter of Rob and Judi, and her fiancé Damian Thomas. This young couple, tragically killed in a road accident just outside of Bendigo, had almost finalised their wedding plans that had been set for Feb 2004.

A large contingent of ex RASvy personnel, including former Litho Sqn OCS Terry Edwards and Terry Lord, attended in support of Rob and Judi.

Alison and Damian were buried in adjoining graves at Kangaroo Flat cemetery. Many RA Svy members, including Len Thirlwell (Alison's uncle), gathered at the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club to offer condolences, support the family and to reminisce.

Colin Cuskelly - Ex-Fortuna Association

Charlie Kovacs

It is with sadness that I advise you all that Charlie Kovacs passed away on Easter Sunday morning in his home. Unbeknown to any of us Charlie had been suffering from cancer of the bladder. Charlie's son Peter says that Charlie died peacefully in his sleep. He complained only of having a backache and for that reason declined our invitation to lead our Anzac Day march through Brisbane. Charlie had opted not to have treatment and kept it to himself – typical Charlie! His funeral is on Monday 19 April at 1.30 pm at the Albany Creek crematorium (Garden Chapel) with a wake to follow, probably at the Gaythorne RSL.

R.F. (Bob) Skitch – QLD Association

Jan Lampton Young

I am sad to report the passing of Jan Lampton Young (cancer) yesterday; wife of Dave Lampton Young, both saw service at the Regiment. Dave is currently working for DIGO. Jan was in her mid 40's and is survived by a 13yr old daughter.

Gary Warnest – Ex- Fortuna Association

Cec Locke

Cec was known by Frank Cohen and Eric Brook, during WW2, as a member of 4 Fd Svy Coy working in Transport, as a dispatch rider. Cec's passing was acknowledged by our members during our gathering after this year's ANZAC DAY March. As stated in one of the many tributes to Cec in the Western Australian Newspaper – ***“Another old soldier laid peacefully to rest.”***

Brian Mead – Ra Svy Association (WA)

Minutes of the 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN)

Held at Karrakatta on Sunday 25 April 2004

1. Opening of Meeting.

The President declared the Meeting open at 1230 hours.

Present: Brian Firms, Cliff Webb, Frank Cohen, Jeff Murray, Philip Bray, Howard Jones, Bruce Bellette, Kim Johnston, Peter Bowen, Garry & Zoë Ames, Mike Venn, Brian Mead.

2. Apologies.

Bob Bruce, Doug Bath, Frank Lenane, Leo Clifford, Alf Till, Peter Eddy, Eric Clutterbuck, Cedric Clutterbuck.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 25th April 2003

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 25th April 2003 were circulated and accepted.

Moved: Brian Firms

Seconded: Peter Bowen

4. Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

Ra Svy Corps Caps. The Secretary stated that the 2003 order of Caps had run out and a demand existed for more caps.

5. Treasurers Report

The Treasurer advised that the 2003 Audit Report would be circulated in the July 2004 Issue of WESTLINK. He stated that the Association held in excess of \$1000 in its account, which is the normal situation for this time of the year.

6. Correspondence.

The Secretary spoke of the positive impact of the Internet in terms of interacting with Association Members. The group email listing for the Association is growing with about 75% of members on the Internet. The Ex-Fortuna Association was offering the option, to their members, of providing a PDF file copy of their magazine, via the Internet.

7. General Business

a. ANZAC DAY

The President stated that in general terms he was unhappy with certain aspects of this year's Anzac Day March and made the following comments:

- (1) The March itself was too congested mainly due to the new route, brought about by new public works – teething problems that should be corrected by next year's March.
- (2) The ABC commentary was insufficient and members reported no TV vision was seen of those members who had marched.
- (3) The Memorial Service was too long in the warm conditions and there was a lack of room in the assembly area. The large viewing screen was a great addition and the speeches and interviews very well done.
- (4) The attendance of those marching was pleasing with some new faces present this year.

b. CORPS BIRTHDAY FUNCTION

The President stated that the Victoria League Club in Shenton Park was the selected venue for the 2004 RA Survey Corps Birthday Function. The date for this year's function has been set for Saturday 3 July 2004. Once again Mike Venn and Eric Clutterbuck will be taking responsibility for organizing/ liaison with the Club Management. Arrangements were being finalized for a guest speaker.

c. WESTLINK

The Editor stated that Westlink Edition 24 had been distributed in early January 2004 to our Members, as well as to other Associations throughout Australia. A very favourable response had been received with digital copies of Westlink Magazine being sent to the Queensland Association. Articles have been received from Queensland, Bendigo - Vic and South Australia and will included as part of Westlink Edition 25, which is intended to be available in time for the Corps Birthday Function.

d. VALE/SICK PARADE

Frank Cohen reported the passing of Cec Locke during the week before Anzac Day. Cec was a member of 4 Fd Svy Coy during WW2 and worked in Transport as a despatch rider. Frank requested that a letter of condolence be sent to Cec's family.

Reported by Brian Mead that Jo Mazzarol and Rod Keene were not in good health.

8. Election of Committee for 2004.

All Committee positions were declared vacant and the members present then proceeded to elect a new Committee for 2004

The following became the 2004 Committee:

PRESIDENT

Brian FIRNS

Nominated: Peter Bowen

Seconded: Zoë Ames

CARRIED

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike VENN

Nominated: Cliff Webb

Seconded: Peter Bowen

CARRIED

SECRETARY/TREASURER/WESTLINK EDITOR

Brian MEAD

Nominated: Brian Firms

Seconded: Barry Parker

CARRIED

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Eric CLUTTERBUCK

Nominated: Mike Venn

Seconded: Barry Parker

CARRIED

Frank LENANE

Nominated: Brian Mead

Seconded: Zoë Ames

CARRIED

Jeff MURRAY

Nominated: Mike Venn

Seconded: Cliff Webb

CARRIED

Garry AMES

Nominated: Brian Mead

Seconded: Mike Venn

CARRIED

9. Other Business.**a. Review of Membership Fees.**

Mike Venn suggested that the fees might be raised to \$20 per year. The general consensus was that with the advent of the Internet, administration costs of the Association would be reduced. Therefore it was decided to leave fees at their current rate of - \$15 per year.

b. Ra Svy Corps 90th Anniversary

Kim Johnston commented on the possibilities of a display in the WA Military Museum. The intention being to have a selection of photos and other artefacts for viewing in a prominent area, possibly near the Entrance.

c. Association Membership – Widows of former Members

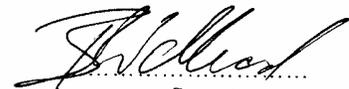
Cliff Webb requested information as to the policy of Association Membership in relation to the widows of former members – and to whether they were expected to pay annual subscriptions. Barry Parker stated that this issue was dealt with several years ago and at that time it was decided that all widows were to remain on the mailing list, with no fees payable. Brian Mead provided a list of the mailing list as a means of verifying this policy.

d. Ra Svy Web Site.

Brian Mead passed on the possibility of the establishment of a Web Site as mentioned in a previous Queensland Bulletin. Peter Bowen offered his expertise to the Association if technical advice was required.

10. Closure Of Meeting.

The Meeting was closed at 1330 hrs.


.....
President
.....
Secretary

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY CORPS ASSOCIATION
(Western Australia) Inc

STATEMENT of INCOME and EXPENDITURE
For the PERIOD ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2003

INCOME:

Subscriptions	270.00
Functions	945.00
Corps Shop Sales	323.00
Corps Birthday Raffle	<u>100.00</u>
	<u>1638.00</u>

EXPENDITURE:

Bank Fees/State & Federal Taxes	6.40
Functions	1192.00
Corps Caps Purchase	321.85
Funeral Notice	<u>163.13</u>
	<u>1683.38</u>

INCOME	\$1638.00
EXPENDITURE	\$1683.38
<u>Excess of Expenditure over Income</u>	<u>- \$ 45.38</u>

STATEMENT of ASSOCIATION FUNDS

Opening Balance (Cash at the Bank) 1 st January 2003	817.17	
Bank Balance as at 31 st December 2003		\$771.79
Add Balance of Unsold Survey Corps Items		<u>\$340.00</u>
<u>Total of Association Funds as at 31st December 2003</u>		<u>\$1111.79</u>

I have examined the Books and Accounts as presented to me and in my opinion the Statement of Income and Expenditure and the Statement of Association Funds are properly drawn up, so as to represent a correct view of the Financial Transactions for the Year ending 31st December 2003.



Signed: A Till Auditor



Signed: B Mead Secretary/Treasurer

Reconciliation of Survey Corps Shop Items as at 31st December 2003

Corps Caps (quantity 11 @ \$15.00)	165.00
Neck Tie (quantity 3 @ \$18.00)	54.00
Corps Badge Gold Collar (quantity 7 @ \$10.00)	70.00
Corps Badge Embroided (quantity 4 @ \$3.50)	14.00
Corps Badge Iron On (quantity 8 @ \$2.00)	16.00
Car Stickers (quantity 17 @ \$1.00)	17.00
Tie Bar (quantity 1 @ \$4.00)	4.00
	<u>\$340.00</u>

MEMBERSHIP**ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEYCORPS ASSOCIATION (WESTERNAUSTRALIA) INC**

AMES	Garry & Zoë	40 Parker St	BASSENDEAN	6054	9377 0770
BARRELL	Lance & Sandy	10 Welch Way	WARNBRO	6169	9593 2661
BATH	Doug & Betty	50 Frankel St	BUNBURY	6230	9721 3498
BELLETTTE	Bruce & Eileen	12 Healy St	MUNDINGBURRA QLD.	4812	(07) 4779 3618
BLOOR	John & Deirdre	25 Twickenham Dve	KINGSLEY	6026	9309 9663
BOULTER	Bob	223 Scott St	CLOVERDALE	6105	9277 1036
BOWEN	Peter & Bev	8 Rosea Close	MAIDA VALE	6057	9454 6219
BRUCE	Bob	2905 Needham Rd	WOOROLOO	6558	
BROOK	Eric & Gwynne	6 Binns Court	NORTH FREMANTLE	6159	9336 4324
BRAY	Phil & Judy	33 Nalpa Way	DUNCRAIG	6023	9447 9699
BROWN	Fred (Major)	Officers Mess, Larrakeyah Bks.	LARRAKEYAH. NT.	0830	(08) 8935 8320
CLIFFORD	Leo & Ann	41B Kittyhawk Gve	BUSSELTON	6280	9754 3748
CLUTTERBUCK	Cedric & Nan	18 Glennon Way	ROSSMOYNE	6148	9457 4651
CLUTTERBUCK	Eric & Jane	4 Carob Place	GREENWOOD	6024	9342 2181
CLUTTERBUCK	Noel & Fiona	357 Hardey Rd	CLOVERDALE	6105	9277 7072
COCKER	Yvonne	151 Calais Rd	WEMBLY DOWNS	6019	9341 5257
COHEN	Frank	121 North St	SWANBOURNE	6010	9384 7094
COOK	Alex & Lori	92 Nolan Ave	UPPER SWAN	6069	9296 1297
CRADDON	Clive	U19/7 Bronte St	EAST PERTH	6004	9221 2319
DIXON	Chris & Linda	15 Orchid Drive	ROLEYSTONE	6111	9397 5280
DARCH	Colin & Ester	27 Muirhead Way	KINGSLEY	6026	9309 9823
EDDY	Peter & Anne	112 Keightley Rd	SHEINTON PARK	6008	9381 2616
FIRNS	Brian	59 Thompson Rd	NORTH FREMANTLE	6159	9335 6825
GILLHAM	Mick & Leisa	3 Penny Place	KELMSCOTT	6111	9495 2214
GRIFFITHS	Leon & Pat	10 Hogg Ave	SALTER POINT	6152	9450 8373
HALL	Warren	PO Box 298	TOODYAY	6566	9574 4484
HOCKINGS	Daryl & Heather	3 Vincent Place	KENSINGTON VIC.	3031	(03) 9376 7621
JOHNSTONE	Kim & Deirdre	52 St Andrews Way	DUNCRAIG	6023	9448 9517
JONES	Howard & Coral	66 Trowton Way	LANGFORD	6147	9451 4261
LENANE	Frank & Kate	12 Mackay Cres	GOSNELLS	6110	9398 5815
LOCKE	Margaret	35 Arnos Way	GIRRAWHEEN	6064	9342 6098
MAZZAROL BEM	Jo & Betty	52 Cleveland St	DIANELLA	6062	9276 6170
MEAD	Brian & Annette	8 Barridale Dve	KINGSLEY	6026	9409 8292
MURRAY	Jeff & Anne	100 La Grange Rd	STONEVILLE	6081	9295 2469
PARKER	Barry & Helen	41B Jefferson Dve	MARANGAROO	6064	9342 7245
PRESSER	Peter & Lesley	RMB 8140 Benetook Ave	MILDURA VIC.	3500	(03) 5025 7419
ROBERTS	Jim & Noela	8 Waxberry Close	HALLS HEAD	6210	9582 9857
SARGEANT	Dora	29 Bouvardia Way	GREENWOOD	6024	9448 5787
SAWYER	Tom & Pauline	5 Mandoon Close	DARLINGTON	6070	9299 7039
TAYLOR	Margaret	22 Callistemon Ave	GREENWOOD	6024	9447 0465
TAYLOR	Olive	39/18 Albert Rd	CLAREMONT	6010	9384 4431
TILL	Alf & Lesley	21 Cromarty Rd	FLOREAT	6014	9387 5113
UWINS	Bev	12 Kexby Street	BALCATA	6021	9344 4375
VENN	Mike & Annette	29 Waitara Cres	GREENWOOD	6024	9448 0407
WEBB	Cliff & Dianne	8 Nalpa Way	DUNCRAIG	6023	9448 3176
WILLIS	John & Shirley	“Ngauruhoe” 40 Walkington Way	EDEN HILL	6054	9379 9486
WILSON	Bryan	69A William Rd	NEDLANDS	6009	9386 4729

QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATION

Last Friday of the Month Drinks

This regular informal event continues at the Gaythorne RSL.

On the 28th May, the Association was extended an invitation to 1 Topo Svy Sqn, by the OC Major Adrian Harding and the SSM WO1 Barrie Craymer, at the Squadron's Murray Bar.

What did we do over all those years – 1946 until 1996?

by
Bob Skitch

Believe it or not – we don't really know. There is no composite record of what the Field Survey Sections/Units/Squadrons did from year to year from 1946 onwards. The Corps history makes occasional passing comment on a particular operation undertaken by a particular operation by a particular unit of the Corps and lists all overseas operations, but without any detail. It seems that the only record we may have is that locked up in the memories of those individuals who participated. Most of us if we think back can remember what we did and where we went from year to year in the unit in which we were serving. Further, we can remember who the principal persons were taking part, officers, warrant officers, NCOs, perhaps our mates.

To address this historical deficiency I propose to compile a matrix of field survey units from 1946 through to 1996 and against unit and for each year a brief statement of the principal activity (project, operation) for that year a brief statement of the principal activity was (e.g., 1:250,000 mapping using 3rd order astro control or EDM traversing from X to Y), principal persons taking part (e.g. Capt Tom Chinstrap OC, WO Dick Bloggs, Cpl Harry Goodenough etc) and any particularly significant event that may have happened (e.g. base camp wiped out by tsunami).

To do this I need help in the form of input from anyone who served in any field unit and who went anywhere.

Alex Cairney is already working on his years of service and Clem Sargent in Canberra has undertaken to reflect back on his years. At some point in the future it may be possible to publish the outcome or put it on the website that Kym Weston has promised to create. Of course, I can make my own contribution. I am forwarding this request to survey associations in the other states and hopefully they also will pick up the challenge.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA SURVEY ASSOCIATION

First Friday Drinks

Held each month on the first Friday between 5-6pm (or later) at the **Saracen's Head Hotel, Carrington Street, City**. If you are in the area, or even if not, plan to drop in for a casual round or so with the regulars.

Just for a laugh

by

Noel Sproles

If lawyers are disbarred, and clergymen defrocked, does a podiatrist become defeated, does a coward become defunct, a novelist detailed, a sailor deported, an airman deflated, flat beer distilled, a beer tankard disputed (subtle one), a banker dispersed, a celebrity demobbed, a politician devoted, Helen destroyed, Samson distressed, or Saddam debunked?

Does a cricketer become detested (Steve Waugh, of course, excepted), a baseball player debased, love birds despaired, a farmer distracted, or a horse decanted? Does a magician become disillusioned, a gunner get discharged, or puritans demoralized? While some lawyers are disbarred, others are distorted (a very civil punishment for their wrong doing!).

But what happened to us all when the Corps (that happy band) was disbanded? Did the old GD draughtsmen become typecast or even delineated? No doubt cartographic draughtsmen became described. However, there is no doubt that the surveyors just pegged out.

How the times have changed

by
Allan Adsett

When I retired from the Corps in the late 1980's, survey control was being established using "Geociever" satellite tracking equipment. This was approximately the size of a medium to large suitcase. Modern technology has reduced the size of hand held GPS equipment to no bigger than a mobile phone.

In May 2000 the US Government ordered the unscrambling of satellite signals that drive GPS technology thus reducing the error factor from 100m to 10m. Within 2 days of unscrambling, a 'cache', a bucket of goodies was hidden near Portland, Oregon and the location posted on the Internet. Three days later it was found and a new recreational activity called "Geocaching" was born. Less than 4 years later, there are an estimated 70,000 caches hidden in more than 200 countries spread across 7 continents. The official web site—www.geocaching.com—list the trademarked slogan, "The sport where you are the search engine."

As with most new technology, Australians have enthusiastically embraced this hide and seek world of electronic orienteering. There are 108 caches hidden within 10km of the Adelaide GPO and 539 hidden in South Australia from the Adelaide CBD to near the NT border. The geocaching premise is simple. A member hides a cache, a waterproof container that contains a logbook and some other (usually token) items. The location, in latitude and longitude along with some cryptic hints, is posted on the WWW. Each cache is graded between 1 and 5 in difficulty and terrain. Using the coordinates and hints you follow your GPS to track down the cache. It sounds easy, many of them are, but there can be complicating factors. Caches have been hidden high in trees, on cliffs that require climbing equipment and in ocean locations accessible only to divers. It all depends on the imagination of the person who placed the cache.

Returning home, geocachers log their finds on the web and their tally grows, status coming with the number of caches found and placed by the individual or team. Some have registered hundreds of finds. A part of the art of geocaching is concealment to ensure that non geocachers (known as muggles) don't stumble across the cache. There are three rules:

1. Take something from the cache.
2. Replace it with something of similar value.
3. Write about your visit in the logbook.

Apart from SA, we have found caches around Bendigo and Canberra and intend to pack the GPS for use in our forthcoming holiday in Qld.

EX – FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION

CPI or MTWAE

For those members who are recipients of DFRDB Pensions or MSBS Preserved benefits you have undoubtedly felt comfort in the fact that your pension although not large would keep pace with inflation and the rising cost of living because it was indexed to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). That was a reasonable expectation and the way the schemes were originally setup, however the Government has changed the way that it calculates CPI and surprise, surprise its value has now been decreased. The information below is provided for your information.

In 1997 the government legislated to index Social Security pensions and veterans affairs service pensions to male total average weekly earnings (MTAWE) or CPI, whichever is the greater. Our pensions on the other hand have remained Indexed to CPI that was what was legislated for in 1972. In the six years since 1997 the increase in the wages index as compared to CPI is 14%. Furthermore since 1985 the wages index has increased by 23% compared to the CPI.

In December 2002 the Senate Select Committee on Superannuation in reviewing Commonwealth funded pensions recommended the government index Superannuation Benefits to MTAWE or CPI whichever is higher. The same committee in 2000 made a similar recommendation as to the inadequacy of the CPI as a measure of preserving living standards. Despite these recommendations the government's latest advice (Dec 2002) is that the government is not considering any change to Military Superannuation indexation arrangements, even though defence accepts that the CPI is not a measure of community living standards.

You and the 60,000 retired servicemen and women who served in the armed forces for 20 years or more, and their widows/widowers, are therefore being significantly discriminated against. Commonwealth parliamentary pensions are wages indexed (rather than CPI) and the Commonwealth Bank has recently moved to wages-based formula. Moreover research by authorities such as the Reserve Bank reveal that Wages will remain ahead of the CPI for the foreseeable future.

It is also believed that while the RSL is aware of this issue they have not as yet raised any concerns with the Government. Maybe it is worth checking with your local MHR or Senator prior to the election as to their party's views on this matter.

DIGO'S FUTURE IN BENDIGO ASSURED

The Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation's capabilities in Bendigo will be enhanced following a comprehensive review of the work being undertaken at the Fortuna complex, Defence Minister Robert Hill announced today.

Senator Hill said a new purpose-designed facility would be constructed for the Geospatial Analysis Centre and the Government would further invest in new technologies and new print capabilities to meet changing customer needs.

In addition, a training program will be established in Bendigo to Recruit and train at least five new trainees each year with vocational qualifications in geospatial information systems.

The Geospatial Analysis Centre is an important part of the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organization, providing geospatial products and services including maps, charts and digital topographic support for Australian Defence Force operations and activities.

"The historic Fortuna building, a local Bendigo landmark, is listed on the Register of the National Estate and should be accessible to the people of Bendigo and to all Australians," Senator Hill said.

"The new facility for the Geospatial Analysis Centre will provide a new workspace for staff conducting high-tech, sensitive geospatial tasks for Defence and national Government customers.

"Bendigo will remain the centre of production of geospatial data and hard copy maps for the ADF, while classified work will be moved to Canberra over the next three years as the new facility is being built.

"DIGO's role in providing imagery and geospatial intelligence is of growing importance in the modern battlefield and in Australia's complex security environment.

"The construction of a new Defence geospatial facility is proof that the Government is committed to providing the most cutting edge technologies for the defence and security of Australia and its interests. This decision provides for the long term future of DIGO's capability in Bendigo."

Senator Hill said site selection for the new purpose-designed facility and the future of the Fortuna complex would be made after consultation with the local community, ensuring local involvement in the project.

"With a possible value of \$10 million, construction of the new facility will deliver significant economic benefits to the community and an ongoing commitment to the region," he said.