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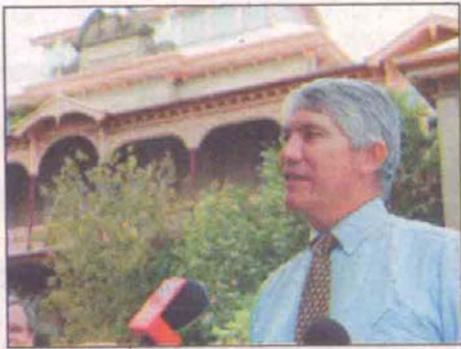
New DIGO site announced and the winner is

“Longlea”

Friday 24 February 2006 ten years since the disbandment of the Royal Australian Survey Corps and the Fortuna based Army Survey Regiment saw the announcement in the Bendigo Advertiser that the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation (DIGO) would relocate to a new purpose built building at Longlea, just East of Bendigo. A number of sites around Bendigo had been considered however it is believed that the Longlea site was preferred because it was already Defence owned land that was originally a Defence WWII storage facility. It has taken about two years for Defence to decide on the site for the new \$10 million dollar building. Part of the site is currently in use for Army Reserve Training by several Army Reserve and Cadet units. The Defence Secretary Senator Sandy Macdonald made the trip to Bendigo to make the announcement and confirm that DIGO is to stay in the Bendigo region, its training program is to remain and the 111 DIGO employees could feel secure that their jobs were secure. There had been some transfers to Canberra but staff were assured that there would be no involuntary redundancies.



VISIT: Sandy Macdonald and Damian Drum.



Senator Sandy Macdonald

Senator Macdonald ended speculation about the future location of the Fortuna based DIGO capability. The 150 positions originally transferred from Army have been reduced to 111 at Bendigo through a combination of position transfers and voluntary redundancies. While the announcement gives certainty for the DIGO staff it opens a whole new question of what will become of the grand old lady "Fortuna Villa"

Senator Macdonald indicated that any decision on the future use of the Villa would be subject to community involvement and take into consideration the historical, social and environmental factors.

It was not long before the President of the Bendigo Historical Society Jim Evans was raising the issue and calling for expressions of interest or ideas. It has been rumoured that the Historical Society is hoping that the site be transferred from Defence to the City of Greater Bendigo council for a nominal amount and that it becomes the future home and museum for the Society. He is contactable on 0437 199 432 or at jimevans@bigpond.com or www.bendigohistory.com

An article by the Bendigo Advertiser on 8 April reads:

Villa could be upmarket hotel

Five stars for Fortuna?

By **STUART MACKENZIE**,
business reporter

Fortuna Villa, the former family home of Quartz Kink George Lansell, could become a five-star hotel and conference centre, says the City of Greater Bendigo.

"There appears to be enormous scope to develop a world-class hotel and conference centre within the Fortuna grounds and this is something that would help Bendigo to compete in the lucrative tourism and events industry," City Futures Director Stan Liacos said yesterday. Historic Werribee mansion could be used as a model for Fortuna Villa, he said.

"Werribee mansion has reinvented itself as a renowned quality boutique hotel and this is possibly one of the many exciting options to explore for Fortuna's future," Mr Liacos said.

However, there appears to be no shortage of tourist accommodation in Bendigo, according to Statistics Bureau figures just released for the December 2005, quarter.

While slightly more people stayed in the region's larger hotels, motels and serviced apartments than in the same quarter in 2004, on average about 43 per cent of the available rooms were unoccupied, which was unchanged from the previous year.

Mr Liacos disputed these figures, saying that most of the major motels in the central areas of Bendigo always seem to be displaying No Vacancy signs.

"Our visitor centre tells me they often find it hard to find people rooms," he said.

There was scope to expand the range of accommodation in the central area of Bendigo.

"Over the next five years it would be good to get more diversity of accommodation in Bendigo, particularly at the higher end of the market," Mr Liacos said.

“As Bendigo continues to grow and prosper we would like to think that the accommodation industry would move in line with that growth.”

Mr Liacos said there was also potential for Fortuna Villa to be used for a variety of public and commercial purposes after the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation moves to Longlea during the next two years.

He said the city would consult with the Federal Government, local and regional members of parliament and the Defence Ministry to achieve the best outcome.

Ed: The above article indicates that the City of Greater Bendigo is considering its options, however one thing is certain, that any proposal needs to factor in the maintenance costs of the magnificent building. What ever the outcome we will watch the story with interest as it unfolds.



Members of the Fortuna Flatfooters gear up for the highlight of their Relay for Life efforts.

For those who attended the 90th Anniversary BBQ at Fortuna you would have seen some of the hard working Relay for Life team at DIGO. The Relay team headed by Ann Greenwood raised a huge total of more than \$24 000 for cancer research according to the local CV Weekly. They are now at the business end of their activity with the 34 member team entered in the baton relay from 6pm April 7 till 3pm on April 8. This is the fourth year the group has entered the event. Congratulations to all involved.



Rob Bogumil described as a "Good Guy" was nominated to carry the Queens Baton for the Commonwealth Games. He was nominated by the Bendigo Pony Club for his untiring efforts with the Club. He had served as President and on the Committee for 12 years, doing what ever was needed. Bob continues to be very focussed on the juniors in the Club. He was selected to run the Shepparton section between Mooroopna and the Kidstown Adventure Park. The Photo of Bob after the run was not quite as flattering.

Many members of the former Army Survey Regiment continue to be heavily involved in the Bendigo Community as evidenced in these two articles.



Rusty Williams, Mick Flynn, Gunther Ebenwaldner and Barry Hogan at a farewell for Gunther held at Tracey and John Phillips in December 2005. Many ExFortuna Members and friends were there to farewell Gunther on his transfer to Canberra.

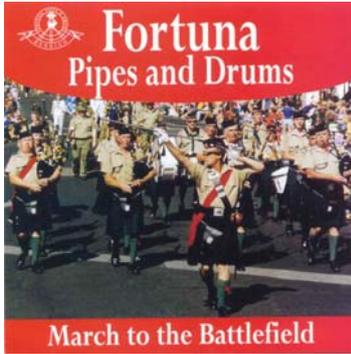
Vale

The Association acknowledges the passing of **Kevin Walsh** in Queensland. Kevin was a former OC Carto Sqn.

Max Skeates a Litho Camera Operator passed away in Canberra recently. Max with his glass eye was definitely one of those "Characters of the Corps" Max spent many years posted to Canberra.



The Queensland Assoc reports the sad passing of their immediate Past President Jim Houston on 22 Dec 2005. Jim is described as "One of Natures Gentlemen". He joined the Survey Corps in 1941 and saw Service at Morotai and Ambon and toward the end of his service was the Orderly Room Sergeant at 5 Fd Svy Sqn. Jim help raise the Queensland Survey Corps Ex-Serviceman's Association in 1947.



The Fortuna Pipes and Drums have compiled and released a CD of their music. The compilation is a professional result that has even been getting local radio airtime. The CD is available from Mathesons Barbers in Abbott Arcade, the Happy Jack store in Lockwood South and Cartridge World in Golden Square for \$15 ea.

The Australian Defence Medal

The Medal is for volunteer service in either regular or reserve for a minimum period of six years, from the period after WWII. It is estimated that 400000 service personnel could be eligible. Despite the 2005 Ministerial announcement date no release date has yet been promulgated.

The South Australian Association meets on the First Friday of each month at the Saracens Head, give Darby a call if you are in the area 08 8277 7074. The QLD Assoc meet at the Gaythorne RSL on the last Friday of the month.

Personalities

Max Colletti has been fighting cancer and is optimistic about the situation. He resumed work back in December, we all hope that it continues to go well for you Max.

Bob Mills at 62 has come in 5th in the World Solar Cycle challenge from Ceduna to Adelaide - impressive.

Don Ridge is still struggling with shingles, hope you're better soon.

Brett Knuckey has spent the last 23 years producing the UBD of Adelaide since leaving the Corps. He has just been made redundant through a takeover. He and his wife Jane now have the time to start enjoying retirement with a trip to New Zealand in April.

Lloyd Patterson is trying to contact **Joseph Alan Tinker** who served in A Section 1 Topo Svy Tp from Oct 70 – Oct 71. Does anyone remember him or have any clues on his whereabouts.

Barry Harms from the WA Association is trying to locate **Dave O'Hara** if anyone has any clues on his whereabouts.

Brian Mead has retired and now finds himself busier than ever, helping out with his son's Pizza business

As expected there are a number of members who transferred from Army into DIGO that will be taking their retirements this year so I suppose it wont be long before they start to hit the roads around Australia or is that a sea course **Doug and Rowan**.

There is a suggestion that the Bendigo Office of Photomapping should be called "The Detachment" with a number of Ex Army Survey types now working for Lindsay Saunders. Besides Phil Smalley as Manager there is Stuart Daniels (Gumby), Andrew Quin, Sherri Burke, Colin Cuskelly, Jim Wells, Gary Warnest and Karen Gloster.



The Association is investigating the production of an **Association Plaque**. The current idea is for a plaque resembling the current Survey Corps Plaques (Antique brass appearance) but using a full size design similar to the Minature Association Badge. The committee is currently seeking expressions of interest for anyone who maybe interested in purchasing one of these new plaques if they are made.

The Association fees remain at \$10 per year, with the currency year printed on your newsletter. Some of the Magna Carto newsletters were distributed as pdf documents but unfortunately some of them did not get through. If you are able to accept your Magna Carto distributed digitally in pdf format then please Email grw@netcon.net.au and let us know what Email address you would like it sent to. The pdf viewer called acrobat reader can be downloaded free from <http://www.adobe.com>

There are only a few Association ties left and there is about a dozen 90th Anniversary Mapmakers Port left for sale. Ties and scarves are available at \$20 ea, Port is available at \$12 and "Mapmakers of Fortuna" books are available at \$60. Badges are still available so if you are interested contact the Secretary.



At the memorial in Perth L to R Brian Mead Sec Survey Assoc , Brian Firms Pres Survey, Geoff Simpson COL COMDT RAE WR and Bob Gianatti Senior VP RAEA WA . Site inspection on 14 Feb, RAE are giving the Surveyors their old plinth for their memorial in the precinct. The precinct will now have a RAE Memorial (with new blk granite plinth with hat) , a 32 Small Ships/RAE TN memorial , a 22 Const Sqn and a Survey memorial.



The Memorial Plaque is to be ordered from Sheridan's of West Perth.

The plan is to have the Plinth Memorial in place for this coming Anzac Day. Our Members are to attend the Dawn Service at 13 Fd Sqn, Karrakatta and then enjoy the hospitality of the Sqn.

The Queensland Assoc is looking for help with their history, please help if you can.

OUR HISTORY PROJECT – What did we do over all those years – 1946-1996?

I continue to canvass support for this worthwhile project. Our collective memory can fill in many gaps but it is fading with the passing of years. In 2006 it will be ten years since the disbandment of the Corps we as individuals served, the Corps that gave such outstanding service to our nation for eighty-one years. We need to record what each of the units did over the fifty years following the end of WW2. It really is a simple exercise. I have had excellent responses from Clem Sargent, Noel Sproles, John Bullen, Charlie Watson, Alex Cairney, Percy Long and Ted Laker. Ross McMillan has sent an account of one of the more unusual jobs undertaken by N Comd Fd Svy Sect in 1962 – Operation Blowdown – a simulated atomic explosion in rainforest country. I have had promises from a number of others and the major gap area is after 1980. The following is a sample of the preferred format but I am just as happy to receive your input listed down the page – pen and ink is OK. Please give this matter some thought. Every bit helps

YR	UNIT	OPERATION PROJECT	DURATION	LOCATION	NATURE OF WORK UNDERTAKEN	PERSONS TAKING PART	OTHER INFORMATION
1956	N Cmd Fd Svy Sect	No name	On-going	Qld – Macrossan, Charters Towers,	Control for 1" to 1 mile mapping - 4th order triangulation, Intersection, resection, (plane table) baro heighting	Capt EU (Ed) Anderson OC, WO2 Blue Hunter, Sgts Snow Ralston, Jeff Lambert, Garney Cook, Cpls Ted Miller, Geoff Helsham, Sprs Sam Chambers, Brian Berkery, Bob Skitch.	Arrived May at Macrossan. Sect had not returned to Brisbane since sometime in 1955. Xmas in the field.....

The Bendigo RSL has again invited members of the Ex Fortuna Association to march as a contingent at this year's Bendigo Anzac Day Procession. The form- up point is the same as last year opposite the Bendigo Regional TAFE in McCrae Street and members are asked to be at this location by NLT 1030hrs on Tuesday 25 April. Members are requested to wear medals and some form of Survey Corps identification. You may wear the standard blue Survey Corps Beret if you wish.

About 25 members marched last year behind our new Corps banner, so that I ask you please to see if we can better that number. The Havilah Rd RSL is currently being extended but will still be the venue for lunch and refreshments following the march. See you there!! Please let the secretary know if you will be available to march. If you can't make the march then try to join us afterwards at the RSL.

Many of you attend the Bendigo Dawn service. It is a 0630hrs start at the Cenotaph followed by a gunfire breakfast at the Pall Mall RSL Hall.

The Queensland Association has started wearing berets with Survey Corps Badges for their Anzac Day marches. This year they have commissioned a new purple beret that they hope to be ready for their members this Anzac Day.



Members of the Association proudly displaying the banner

The Secretary
 Ex Fortuna Survey Association
 PO Box 613
 GOLDEN SQUARE VIC 3555

Name:

Contact Details:Ph.....Email

I / we wish to march on the Anzac Day March:
 Friday 25 Apr 2006, 1030hrs Opposite Bendigo TAFE McCrae St Number Attending.....

I / we wish to attend the Post Anzac Day March get together:
 Friday 25 Apr 2006, 1200hrs RSL Havilah Road, Bendigo Number Attending.....

I /we are interested in purchasing an Association Plaque if one is produced: Yes / No



If undeliverable return to:
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