

Address: PO Box 613 Golden Square VIC 3555

Patron: Don Swiney MBE

President/ Editor : Gary Warnest (03) 5446 3171 (AH), Email grw@netcon.net.au

Secretary: Tracey Phillips (03) 5442 0263 (03) 5449 6330 (AH) phipsys@bigpond.com

Treasurer : Bob Thrower (03) 5442 0280, (03) 5442 5780(AH),

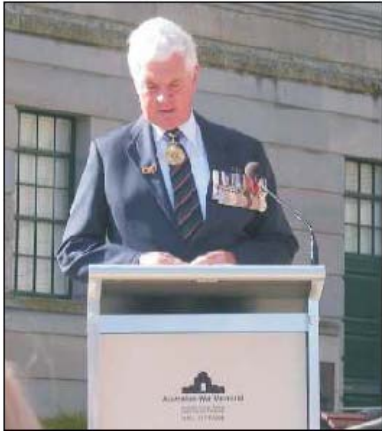
Public Officer : Bob Thrower Committee : Phil Smalley, Stuart Symonds, John Phillips

Melbourne Rep: Dave King (03) 5981 2549

## The Governor General unveils the Survey Corps memorial plaque 9 Jul 2007



His Excellency the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC and Lieutenant Colonel Clem Sargent OAM (Retired) unveiling a Memorial Plaque dedicated to those who served in Survey Units on War Service.



THE ADDRESS BY  
HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL MICHAEL JEFFERY  
AC CVO MC GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA ON THE OCCASION  
OF THE UNVEILING OF A MEMORIAL PLAQUE  
COMMEMORATING THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN SURVEY  
CORPS UNITS WHICH SERVED IN WAR AUSTRALIAN  
WAR MEMORIAL 9 JULY 2007

- Ms Nola Anderson, Assistant Director National Collections, AWM
- LTCOL Clem Sargent, President, Canberra Svy Corps Assoc and Mrs Margaret Sargent
- Distinguished guests all
- Ladies and gentlemen

As one who has been a frequent user of military maps, it is a great privilege to be here this morning at the Australian War Memorial to unveil the plaque commemorating those Survey Corps Units which served in War.

There is an old saying that Engineers build nations, but surveyors plan the world; and when you look over the proud history of the Royal Australian Survey Corps, you quickly realise this to be true.

Though surveyors played active roles in Colonial Australia, the official origin of the Royal Australian Survey Corps can be found in a report tabled by the Chief of the General Staff, Brigadier Bridges. This document effectively established a Survey Section within the Royal Australian Engineers in 1910 and, chartered to map the newly federated nation, they began by producing a one-inch to one-mile scale coloured map of Melbourne's Western Port. Its resulting accuracy and quality of production setting the standard for the next 30 years in the industry.

On the 01 July 1915 the Australian Survey Corps was officially raised as a unit of the Permanent Military Forces. The following year, its members were permitted to join the 1st Australian Imperial Force, and immediately deployed to Europe and the Middle East with survey units of the Royal Engineers. The 1st ANZAC Topographical Section was raised in 1917, becoming the first official Australian Survey Corps unit to see active service.

On 01 January 1918 the Topographical Section became the Australian Corps Topographical Section, and was primarily engaged in the frequent updating of the British General Staff maps together with the production of trench maps. Importantly, much work was done in providing position fixes and accurate bearings for the artillery, as well as interpreting the world's first aerial photos of enemy dispositions.

The Topographical Section also made itself particularly useful by developing techniques for rapid response mapping in support of operational plans. This enabled troops going into action to be provided with up-to-date topographic intelligence on enemy defences - a role to be repeated later in World War Two and Vietnam.

Of note, 17 of the 19 original members of the Australian Survey Corps saw active service with the 1st AIF in France, Belgium, Egypt or Palestine; Lieutenant Murray and SGT Stafford being awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for their service.

At the end of the war the members of the Corps were transferred back to the Survey Section, Royal Australian Engineers, and it was not until 1932 that the Corps was re-raised. Like the rest of the post-war Army, it was significantly short of resources and manpower.

At the outset of World War Two, the Corps totalled only 51 members, however this soon increased to 1700. Between 1940 and 1946, a staggering 5500 men were engaged on mapping tasks, publishing more than 1400 different maps of the various operational theatres to which our troops were deployed. An even more compelling statistic is the estimated 75 million maps that passed through the machines of the Cartographic Company between 1942 and 1945 - an astonishing figure.

Australian Survey Corps members saw service in the Middle East, Australia, New Guinea, the Pacific Islands and Borneo. Again, as in World War I, members of the Corps displayed initiative, ingenuity and courage to provide Allied commanders information about the battlefield to a standard not before witnessed. Besides its central mapping role in the war, it is also noteworthy that the Corps was charged with the production of the 'Instrument of Surrender' documents that effectively brought the end of the war to the Pacific Theatre.

Eight members of the Corps were decorated for service during the war; whilst Lieutenant Noel "Gerry" Owers was honoured in perpetuity with the naming of "Ower's Corner" on the Kokoda Track.

In 1948 the Australian Survey Corps was granted the prefix 'Royal' in recognition of its service during World War Two. In 1966 the Corps was again called upon to support the Army in operations when the 1st Topographical Survey Troop supported with distinction, the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Task Force in Vietnam until 1971.

Its function was somewhat similar to that of Australian Corps Topo Section in World War One, once more providing rapid topographic response where required. Transparent overlays for combat operations and sketch maps for village cordon and search operations were typical of such responses – sometimes with an hour's notice.

And although none of the 140 members who represented the Royal Australian Survey Corps during its 5 ½ year involvement in the Vietnam War were honoured, 1st ATF unit diaries show the respect for the topo unit of the support is provided as being "better than that enjoyed by any other brigade-sized organisation."

Finally, in acknowledging the tremendous work of Survey units on operations, we must not overlook the gutsy and demanding work of the thousands who played an equally important role in mapping Australia, as well as the island nations to our North and East. These soldiers effectively produced 50% of the entire map coverage of Australia at 1:250 000 and 1:100 000 scale, and achieved complete topographic coverage of Papua New Guinea, including the extraordinary complex task of marking and mapping the PNG / Irian Jaya border.

To quote Lieutenant General John Sanderson, at the integration parade in 1996:  
"Since 1915 the Survey Corps has not just been a major contributor to the tactical success of the Australian Army in two World Wars and other conflicts, it has played an outstanding role in the building of this nation – the Commonwealth of Australia – and the building of other nations such as Papua New Guinea."

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is both timely and fitting that we commemorate those soldiers of the Royal Australian Survey Corps and in particular those survey units which served in War. Although the Corps is no longer, its legacy provides the ethos, the distinguished history and the enduring sense of high professionalism of our military surveyors of today. Adapting to the new challenges of the 21st Century, the men and women of the 1st Topographical Squadron in Brisbane continue to provide integral and essential support to our fighting forces and I am very pleased to see the ongoing connection between the Royal Australian Survey Corps Association and the 1st Topo Squadron.



The group assembling prior to the unveiling of the plaque shown below



Clem Sargent and Charlie Watson shown here and John Bullen did an excellent job of organising the whole occasion and Chaplin Gary Kenny contributed significantly to the success of the day even though he was on crutches

Stuart Symonds marks the site near where the plaque is to be mounted





After the ceremony the gathering inside the Australian War Memorial

L to R:  
Simon Buckpitt, Bob Williams, Peter Jensen, Ross McMillan, Mark Heinrich and Ross Jenkins chat after the ceremony



The evening before at the Olims Motel many gathered to reminisce, seen here are L to R: Bob Thrower, John Hillier, Lloyd Patterson, Mick Bodman, Bill Black and Rocky Camps

John Hillier donated the contents of this A Sect 1st Topographical Survey Troop port crock for an after dinner port for those dining at Olims that evening



Charlie Watson kindly compiled this list of attendees who were at the unveiling.

Clem Sargent	Margaret Sargent	David Sargent
Margaret Riley	Glyn Sargent	Liz Sargent
Charlie Watson	Barbara Watson	Jen Watson
Bob Purdam	Jenny Purdam	Rob McHenry
John Mobbs	Bryan Henshaw	Mark Heinrich
Peter Demaine	John Bullen	Yvonne Bullen
David Miles	Ray Redman	Colin Cuskelly
Marianne Cuskelly	Allan Adsett	Alex Munro
Joan Munro	Reg Smith	John Yarra
Hugh Sutton	Ross McMillan	Marie McMillan
David McMillan	Bruce Radcliffe	Vivienne Radcliffe
Bruce Williams	Charmain Williams	Bill Montague
Alex Cairney	Barry Lutwyche	Peter Watson
Bill Black	Jan Black	Colin Van Sendon
Margaret Kucharski	Len Bradley	Lorna Bradley
Richard Owens	Geoffery Owens	Megan Owens
Jodie Hodges	Bob Skitch	Wendy Skitch
Bob Williams	Kevin Miles	WO1 Stephen Hill CSM
WO1 Mick McConnell	Gary Warnest	Stu Symonds
Don Swiney	Peter Bates-Brownsword	Bob Thrower
Margaret Thrower	Tracey Phillips	John Phillips
John Hill	Alan Sharrock	Milan Govedic
Graham Baker	Hook Baker	Peter McCurdy
Robyn McCurdy	MAJ Simon Buckpitt	Matt Jackson
Stacey Jackson	Peter Ralston	Gary Drummond
Anne Drummond	Ross Jenkins	Evan Giri
Tony Haseloff	John Hillier	Joy Hillier
LTCOL Brian Sloan	MAJ Judy Friend	Ken Lyon
Howard Jones	Coral Jones	Ian Shepherd
Peter Jensen	Brian Reaby	Betty Dallimore
Frank Fischer	Lynne Fischer	Valerie Lovejoy
Colin Lovejoy	Bob Bruce	Bruce Daniel
Marcia Daniel	MAJ Geoff Ford	MAJ Graham Hales
Ian Miller	Bob Campbell	Phil Bannister
Jane Bannister	Len Kemp	Margaret Kemp
Sue Manner	Rocky Camps	Lloyd Paterson
John van de Graaff	Mary van de Graaff	Owen Moss
Di Chalmers	David Smith	WO1 Bob Hopper
Bob Stedman	Diane Stedman	MAJ Peter Crabbe
Mike Bodman	Matt O'Brien	Heck McMillan
Kevin Gill	Raffe Roche	Ian Gollings
Peter Raue	MAJGEN John Whitelaw	Dawn Laing
Gary Kenney	Jeannie Kenney	Sinclair Whitbourne
Anthony Lark	Julia Coote	BRIG Bill Sowry
Alex Petro	Joy Buckland	Sue Hopman
Greg Goodman	Cathy Goodman	



John Mobbs has produced a fantastic DVD of the whole ceremony. I would personally recommend this DVD to everyone especially for those who were unable to be there on the day. John's production has superbly captured the essence of the whole occasion.

The Canberra Assoc advise that copies can be made for between \$4.50 and \$ 5.50 for 50 or 100 copies respectively. The price includes labels, plastic cover and postage. Basic copying would be a couple of dollars cheaper if you can get the required numbers.

There are obvious savings in a bulk order. Would you please advise the number of copies that your association would like? If you would like a copy please advise the secretary Tracey Phillips.

PNG MEMORIAL The project to place a plaque in Port Moresby to commemorate the activities of our Corps in mapping PNG is progressing slower than the Queensland Association would wish. Bob Skitch has reported that their main contact within the RSL Executive in Port Moresby has been very ill, requiring treatment in Australia, and until he can resume normal duties the project is on hold to some extent. Consequently, the money we have raised to help the project is being held pending the approval to proceed, hopefully not many months away. Our appeal for donations started a little slowly, however, a bit of prompting among members has resulted in \$280 being donated all will be acknowledged.

NOMINAL ROLL 1915 to 1996 Peter Jenson (still living in Canberra) has set himself the massive task of compiling a list of all who served in RASVY from 1915 to 1996 and possibly back to 1910. Our Association has prepared the lists of corps members from 1977 and 1988 as well as the database and member lists (with amendments) from the "Mapmakers of Fortuna" Other Associations are also forwarding information. Peter hopes to have the roll completed by 2015 in time for the Corps centenary.

ACT STREET NAMES -MILITARY SURVEYORS Peter Jensen has also written to us with the following request: You may know that street names in the ACT are named after notable Australians, who may or may not have a direct link to the ACT. Some of you may also know that there have been occasions when the Directorate of Survey -Army (DSVY-A) and some of the Corps historians were involved in the early stages of identifying military surveyors and mappers who might be included in a submission for recognition by the ACT Place Names Committee (PNC). To the best of my knowledge the latest work done was in 1995/96 when the ACT did offer to consider names of military surveyors and mappers for street names in the suburb of Taylor. (Note that normal ACTPNC protocol is that only those deceased for at least 12 months are recognised in this way.) The main reason that a proposal was not pursued at that time was simply that with the Army restructure, including the RASvy/RAE integration, the staff effort needed to complete the proposal was not available. Clem Sargent and John Hillier did provide very valuable input at that time. I have always regretted that we couldn't follow through with the proposal of 1995/96 and that individuals who warrant recognition have been denied such an honour. I recently wrote to the chair of the place names committee seeking advice as to whether a revived submission would be considered favourably by the committee. The response that a submission would be gratefully received is attached (a transcript as I do not have a scanner at the moment). Information about proposed development in the Molonglo valley downstream from Schrivener Dam and before the confluence with the Murrumbidgee River is at [http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/programs\\_projects/planning\\_studies/molongolo\\_planning\\_study](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/topics/programs_projects/planning_studies/molongolo_planning_study) In relation to timings I did mention the Corps centenary in 2015 in my letter. More info on the ACT place name process is at

[http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools\\_resources/maps\\_land\\_survey/place\\_names/place\\_name\\_processes](http://www.actpla.act.gov.au/tools_resources/maps_land_survey/place_names/place_name_processes) and [http://apps.actpla.act.gov.au/actlic/places/search/originsSearch\\_new.htm](http://apps.actpla.act.gov.au/actlic/places/search/originsSearch_new.htm)

What now, and the purpose of this email. I believe that such a submission should have national input from all RASvy Associations with the blessing of Army, probably through Head of Corps Royal Australian Engineers. The work behind the submission would need to be coordinated for the various phases such as: scope and selection criteria, research of names against the criteria, research of biographical information required by ACTPNC. Most of this by volunteers, perhaps through a working party of Association members, with Army endorsement for some phases, perhaps scope and selection criteria, list of names. I am now asking for your comments, suggestions and advice on this proposal including whether your Association would endorse the project and indeed if there would be any volunteers for a working party if such was to proceed. I look forward to your replies. Peter Jensen <peter.jensen3@bigpond.com

## Personalities

**Peter Jensen** Peter's last Corps posting was in capability development Knowledge System as Deputy Director Imagery and Geospatial Intelligence. In that capacity he sponsored new capability acquisitions -everything from the national/strategic level to the tactical level -through the government/defence approval process ie. getting the money. After hogging that job for 5 years he was posted to help establish a new office of the Inspector-General ADF (IGADF) to provide the Chief of the Defence Force with an independent view of the health and effectiveness of the military justice system. Peter was posted as the reasonable person amongst a bunch of lawyers. There he project managed the development of a performance measurement system and developed and ran a unit audit program where a small team would visit units of all types and Services for a day or two to look at unit arrangements for military justice including discussions with CO's, ADJT's, RSM's etc, focus groups with all ranks and document audits. Of course the justice system is very different to what it was 20 years ago, but sailors/soldiers/airmen still see the need to exercise their right to complain, much as they have since the Articles of War in 1752. Peter transferred to the Standby Reserve in April 2006 and in that capacity has been working from time-to-time with IGADF mainly on performance measurement and unit audits. Peter is a Queenslander and Jenny is a Victorian, so Canberra is where they will stay, at least for a while. No real plans for other employment as it would not fit with their travel plans.

**Rene van den Tol** After retiring from the Army, Rene studied at a Lutheran Seminary and is now a Pastor at parish in Naraweena in Sydney.



Coming back from the Plaque dedication ceremony Alex and I dropped into the Albury City Council to catch up with **Jim Jefferies** and met **Russ Milton** an ex Detachment member. Russ now runs their GIS and mapping section

**Mark Heinrich** Mark retired from the Army a few years ago after working in Materials Branch in Canberra for a number of years and has taken up a civilian position in the same area.

**Bill Black** Bill joined the Victorian Lands Department after taking his discharge and spent some 30 years working there. He specialised in Survey Records in the later years. Bill now splits his time between travel and part time surveying. The gas company sends a sophisticated robot along the pipes and it analyses the pipe quality and identifies potential weak points. From the data gathered by the robot Bill and his partner survey in those weak points for the repair crews. Bill recently passed through Adelaide calling in to catch up with old friends.

Bill Baker was recently heard of running a B&B near Launceston in Tassy.

**Phil Smalley** has recently taken up a new position as the GIS Officer at Goulburn Murray Water Horsham. Here is Phil and **Lindsay Saunders** at his farewell. Phil had been the manager at Lindsay's Photomapping Services Bendigo office

**John South** who has been the Anglican Minister for Lockington in Victoria for the past few years has recently retired back to his home in Bendigo.







If you have been posted to Bendigo then you will probably have been aware of **Colin Cuskelly's** Morris Minor. Colin who is the president of the Bendigo Morris Minor Club keeps his car in top condition and takes it on local rallies. When asked recently how it was going, he indicated that it was going just like "clock work."

## Vale

It is with regret that I report on the Passing of **Major Edward (Ted) Laker** on 18th August 2007. His funeral service was held on 23 August. Ted joined the Survey Corps on 20th November 1941 and worked his way up through the ranks until 5th November 1976 when he retired as a Major in 2 Field Survey Squadron.

The WA Assoc inform everyone that both **Cedric and Eric Clutterbuck** have passed away in the early hours of this morning. Eric Clutterbuck - aged 82 died at 12.30 am Sat 3 Nov 07 and Cedric Clutterbuck - aged 87 died at 3.40 am Sat 3 Nov 07. Both gentlemen were very proud of their period of Service with RASvy Corps. Cedric (WW2) and Eric (Vietnam). "Young" brother Noel is quite devastated at this time and our thoughts are with him and all the Clutterbuck families and relatives.

## Anzac Day 2008

The Ex Fortuna Survey Association is planning a combined Anzac Day 2008 with the members of 3 Fd Svy Assoc. It is planned that we would join them for their Melbourne march and their luncheon reunion. It is currently anticipated that travel from Bendigo to Melbourne and return would be by train. There will still be a march in Bendigo for those not wishing or able to go to Melbourne. Could anyone interested in attending the Melbourne Anzac Day please notify the Secretary Tracey Phillips.

## Defence Announces additional Funds for DIGO

In October it was announced by the Liberal candidate for Bendigo Peter Kennedy and reported in the Bendigo Advertiser that funding for extra communication and IT infrastructure would be made for the new Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation facility at Longlea. The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, Peter Lindsay confirmed that \$4.6 million dollars would be spent on the complex. Mr Kennedy said, "The facility had a growing importance to provide imagery and geospatial intelligence in modern combat."

## Monthly Happy Hours

The South Australian Association meets on the First Friday of each month at the Saracens Head, Carrington St in the CBD, give Darby a call if you are in the area 08 8277 7074. The QLD Assoc meets at the Gaythorne RSL on the last Friday of the month. The Ex Fortuna Association meets at the Bendigo RSL on the third Friday of the month and bar snacks are provided. **(Note our AGM will be held at this month's happy hour.)**

# New Association Plaque



The New Assoc Plaque has finally been finished and is ready for distribution. The cost of the Plaques is \$50 plus postage (if necessary) from your own Association.

The ExFortuna Assoc is covering production and freight costs to other Assoc and the profit is staying with your own Association. So support your own Association and order one through them.

40 plaques were initially produced and all have been sold. Replacement stock has now been received



There are still several original Royal Australian Survey Corps Plaques left so that if you are after one, please contact Tracey. Please note the current Postal address on this Magna Carto as it is incorrectly reported in some Association newsletters.

The Association fees remain at \$10 per year. Magna Carto newsletters can also be distributed as pdf documents. If you would like Magna Carto distributed digitally in pdf format then please Email Tracey at phipsys@bigpond.com 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>

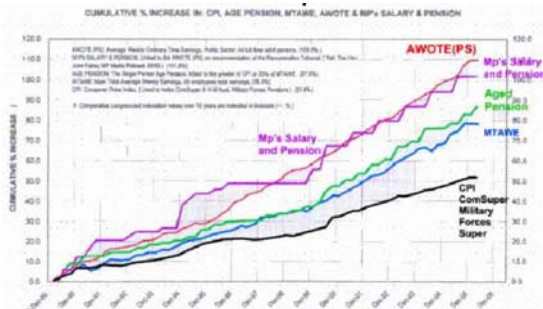


We are pleased to announce that the replacement stocks of both the Association ties (\$20) and Miniature Antique Gold Association Badges (\$10) have now arrived. Scarves are still available at \$20 ea and "Mapmakers of Fortuna" books are available at \$60.

Lloyd Patterson and the Defence Welfare Assoc have been canvassing for years for the need to

change from the current method (indexing our superannuation pensions solely by the CPI) to the Government benchmark method used for age/service pensions etc, that is by the CPI with reference to the movement of MTAWE to maintain relativity and ensure we share in the improvement of general living standards along with the rest of the Australian community.

Since Dec 1989 our DFRDB pension has risen by 50%, the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings by 80%, the old age pension by 90% and MP's pensions by over 100%.



They are also concerned by the DFRDB commutation issue and support a push for reversion to the full pension payment once a DFRDB superannuant has reached life expectancy age.

**Approach your local candidate before the election and canvass to have these inequities rectified!**

Mick Bodman was wearing one of these shirts at the Canberra unveiling and has provided the following details about them. Anyone interested in following up on these please see Tracey so that we can co-ordinate a response.

## SURVEY SHIRT



**POLO Neck or FLEECY**



**RASVY BADGE**

<b>SIZE</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2XL</b>	<b>3XL</b>	<b>4XL</b>	<b>5XL</b>
Half Chest (HC)(in cm)	60.0	62.5	65.0	67.5	70.0	72.5	75.0	77.5
Body Length (BL) (in cm)	72.0	74.0	76.0	78.0	80.0	82.0	84.0	86.0
<b>COLOURS</b>	<b>BLACK</b>			<b>NAVY</b>				

**Tops**

American Style 1/2 Zip Sweater	\$28.30
Unisex Polar Fleece Vest	\$24.56
Trekka Jacket	\$79.23
Torque Jacket	\$79.23
Pique Knit Polo with Pocket	\$18.08
Rugby Knit Jersey	\$37.58
Mens Polar Fleece Jacket	\$35.56

Plus:- \$12.00 to have RASVY Badge put directly on the above ARTICLE. Batches of 6 items

**Badges**

Embroid RASVY Badges	100	\$6.22ea
Embroid RASVY Badges	200	\$5.12 ea
Embroid RASVY Badges	300	\$4.60 ea
Embroid RASVY Badges	500	\$4.25 ea

**Badges without Text**

Embroid RASVY Badges	100	\$5.20ea
Embroid RASVY Badges	200	\$4.40 ea
Embroid RASVY Badges	300	\$4.10 ea
Embroid RASVY Badges	500	\$3.80 ea

Quotation does not include freight CHARGES

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Our AGM will be held during the Third Friday Happy Hour 16 Nov 2007 at the Havilah Road RSL.**



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Volume 2 Issue 21



# "Magna Carto"

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
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