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No resolution to Fortuna Villa's Future within sight



The saga continues.... Patrick Thwaites President of the Friends of Fortuna has carried out an enormous amount of work preparing a very detailed Business Case and plan for the future viability and use of the Villa. He presented the plan at a Public Meeting held in Bendigo on 17 November. He had also presented the plan to the City of Greater Bendigo council, Labor's Jacinta Allan and Maree Edwards and Nationals Damian Drum. Labor said that it had a plan for the Villa and called on the Coalition Government to also "make a commitment to ensure the icon's survival." Mr Drum gave no such commitment but thanked the group for preparing the extensive plan. He noted that "the plan included 14 wide ranging assumptions including that the Federal Government would hand over the site after the cleanup which could cost many millions of dollars" he also indicated that he believed that "the ball was in the federal government's court and needed to make its intentions known."



The federal member for Bendigo Steve Gibbons MP later responded by calling on the state government to decide if it wants to proceed with a possible purchase of Fortuna Villa. In a letter from the federal minister of state Gary Gray to the Victorian Deputy Premier Peter Ryan it was apparent that no concessional sale of Fortuna was possible. A concessional sale would have enabled the state government to pay a nominal fee to secure the site. Mr Gibbons said that the federal government was required to sell the land for market value. He indicated that the federal government is asking the Victorian government to exercise the option of negotiating a priority sale which would give it the first priority to buy Fortuna. The Victorian premier Ted Baillieu said that the governments were in discussions but that both governments were facing tough financial times and that there was no “magic pudding “ to fund projects.

The previous Victorian government proposal was for a concessional priority sale of Fortuna (valued at an estimated \$3 million dollars) at no cost and included a Commonwealth contribution of \$10 million to be matched by \$7 million from the Victorian government and \$3 million from the City of Greater Bendigo to refurbish the site into a community village.

The cost to the Australian government under that proposal was \$13 million dollars and under budget rules this cost would need to be offset within the Department of Defence budget or wider budget Mr Gibbons said.

Mr Gibbons said that he was “advised that no offsettings have currently been identified “ and he was therefore unable to support that proposal.



This photo of Fortuna wrapped up in red tape shown by the Bendigo Weekly was quirky but unfortunately fairly correct.

A partition prepared by the Friends of Fortuna was recently presented to the City of Greater Bendigo Council asking them to facilitate “face to face “ discussions between the state and federal governments over the stalled redevelopment proposals for Fortuna Villa.

In the latest announcement the City of Greater Bendigo Director of City Futures Stan Liacos called for patience and said that “whilst the Council had accepted the petition, the reality is it will take time to find a path forward. It’s a big and complex matter and there are many complications, but it’s simply too early for the community to be given any certainty”. He also added that “At this level, this is not something that is done out in the open, and our CEO (Craig Niemann) and our mayor (Alec Sandner) are very active behind the scenes.”

In summary then, the federal government now wants market value for the sale or for Defence to find savings equal to the market value and possibly refurbishment costs from its budget. I could not see why Defence would want to make savings in its budget for the sale of Fortuna Villa when it has many higher priority issues. The state government doesn’t want to pay much out on the redevelopment of the site let alone pay market value. The council has already declared that it will not undertake this project alone, and it is apparent that none of these parties quite knows what to do with the site, despite the planning done by Pat Thwaites and the Friends of Fortuna, even if it was acquired.

Where is all this going?

no where in the short term.....

Coalition Policy on DFRDB Pension Indexation.



Tony Abbott MP the Leader of the Opposition, announced on Monday 5 March at the Bendigo RSL that if elected the Coalition would index DFRB and DFRDB Pensions by the greater of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or Average Total Male Weekly Earnings (AMWE) in line with aged and service pensions. The RSL National President and the RSL Victorian State President both attended.



A number of ExFortuna members were also present to hear the announcement, including Mick Flynn and Gary Warnest

VALE:

We have just learnt that **Trevor David “Dave” King** passed away early in December 2011 in Melbourne.

Although he had been suffering for the last few years with emphysema and had been home bound he continued to keep his good sense of humour. Dave served as a draughtsman at Fortuna and was a SGT on discharge in 1967. Dave was the Melbourne representative for the ExFortuna Association for many years and was an active attendee at Bendigo functions until his health failed.



As we near Anzac Day the whole Survey community this year will be more sensitive to the sacrifices made by many in conflict. In particular we will pay tribute to **Cpl Ashley Burt**, a member of 1 Topo Svy Sqn who was killed whilst deployed on Op Slipper in Afghanistan 29 Oct 2011. Our thoughts will be with his family and his mates.

Our thoughts will also be with those members of the Survey Community who lost their lives in WWII. Anean DA, Bangay FW, Berglund R, Frost WG, Keeffe EC, Keeler FT, Markey LC, Meldrum GE, Ryan BJ, Thorpe EJ and White GA.

The Car in the Lake

For those that were posted to the Army Survey Regiment Bendigo, Wednesday 17 September 1986 will go down as a history making occasion for it was the day that the Ted Burgess panel van ended up in the Fortuna Lake. It caused considerable concern and hilarity, generating comments like those shown below:

1. "I can't fathom how it got down there"
2. "It won't start because the engine is flooded" (Maj Weston)
3. "That's the wettest the fishing gear has ever been" (Kevin Quinell)
4. "If this works, we'll try the printing presses next" (Maj Byrne)
5. "Is there anyone in it?" (Tony Spurling)
"We don't know until they pull it out" (Ted Burgess)
6. "That'll teach him to run into my car" (Capt Coote)
7. "Apparently Ted loaned his car to the Commander of HMAS Wollongong"
8. "They could leave it there and turn it into a fountain like in Canberra"
9. "Oh no he left the window open"
10. "When did you notice the car in the lake? Was it when you got your trousers wet while unlocking the door?"
11. "Air Survey have drawn up a new car parking plan for Sgts" (CO)
12. "This will ruin the fishing" (Capt South)
"No it won't..... if you catch a fish, there's so much oil in the lake, you won't need to grease the pan" (Maj Campbell)



THE VAN FROM LAKE FORTUNA

THERE WAS HUMOUR AT THE REGIMENT
FOR THE WORD HAD GOT AROUND
THAT THE VAN OF F.O.T. HAD GOT AWAY

THE LEGEND GOES, OR SO I'M TOLD
THE VAN DECIDED TO ESCAPE
IT LEFT IT'S PARK UPON THE HILL
AND DOWN THE STEPS IT WENT
IT MISSED THE TREE AND LEAPT THE BANK
AND LANDED IN THE LAKE

THE TOW TRUCKS CAME FROM FAR AND WIDE
TO PULL THE BLIGHTER OUT
PRODUCTION CEASED, THE CROWD INCREASED
TO SEE THE RAISING OF THE BEAST

AT LAST THE CABLE TIGHTENED
AND BUBBLES BROKE THE CALM
A CHEER WENT UP, THE CAMERAS CLICKED
AS THE VAN CAME UP FOR AIR

IN YEARS TO COME, AROUND THE CORPS
THE LEGEND WILL BE TOLD
OF THE NIGHT THE VAN OF F.O.T. DID GET AWAY

Anon..



2012 Anzac Day - 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF

An invitation is extended to all members of the Survey Corps to join with the members of 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF for the 2012 Anzac Day march in Melbourne. **Arrangements for the march are considerably different from past years because of road works in the city.** The Survey Coy is arranging for WWII veterans to be in vehicles and others to march. If you are in Melbourne and intend to march then: **PLEASE CONTACT Bill Black on 03 9889 2143** or Email (blakmail@bigpond.net.au) or Pat Hogan 03 9885 3849.

The dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance is held between 0545hrs and 0630hrs.

The march on Wednesday 25 April commences from a new start line at the intersection of St Kilda Road and Southbank Boulevard and proceeds down St Kilda road for about 1 km to the Shrine. The form-up position is with the 1 Corps of 2AIF and is located on the eastern service lane of St Kilda Road opposite the National Gallery. See the map below. The step off time for the Survey Group is thought to be approximately 0900hrs so that anyone wishing to participate should be there well before that.

Directly after the march, 3 Aust Field Survey Coy AIF have a cuppa near the NE corner of the Shrine and then move to the Survey Corps Tree located on the Western side of the Shrine and hold a short commemorative service. Following the service members move to the Survey Corps lunch and (possibly a beer) at the "**Bull and Bear Tavern**" – 347 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, situated between Elizabeth and Queen Streets. Take the steps down to the reserved function room. If there is anyone who is not able to make the march you are more than welcome to join them for lunch, however please let them know of your intention for catering reasons. Lunch will be at your own expense.



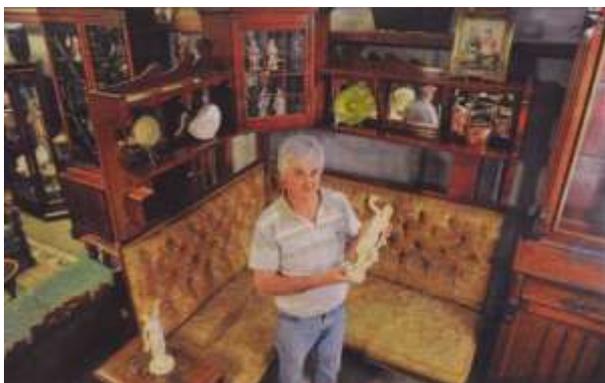
Dress for the march would generally be neat casual or better and include medals. Survey Corps or Survey Association badges/ ties and in particular berets (either purple or blue) are strongly encouraged.



Lost and Found

Karen Cornish contacted us trying to locate **Maxine Davidson** (maiden Name) who enlisted in 1978. She is helping to arrange a WRAAC reunion for the 4/78 recruit course. She believes that Maxine married Stephen Toth and was discharged at Enoggera in 1984, and believes that both were Survey Corps. If anyone can help please contact Karen on callkm@hotmail.com or 0411 067 173

Brett McAlister made contact with us. He was a Spr at the Regiment between 1983 and 1988 and would like to catch up with a few guys that may have been around at that time. We may be lucky and see him on Anzac Day, then maybe not as his Email address is from Canada. He can be contacted on sabreplumbing@live.ca



Fortuna Villa Antiques

An Edwardian walnut modular seat from George Lansell's estate auction has been up for sale again in Bendigo. David Hayes from Bendigo Antique and estate auctions was impressed with how the six seater unit has stood the test of time. The impressive unit has a built-in overhead display cabinet.

Shane Schrodter and his wife Maree were passing through Bendigo early in March and made contact. Shane served at the Regiment in the early 70's and produced grids on the Gerber 1232/ Kongsberg flat bed plotters. He now lives in Townsville where he is the senior design supervisor for the Electricity Authority.





Phil Brookes also made contact with us. Phil was the Chief Clerk at the Survey Regiment during 1982-84. He still has contact with some of the Survey Corps members but usually in Brisbane. He is hoping to be through Bendigo sometime between 22 and 29 Apr.

Phil is running a Tour of Vietnam in Nov 2012 to coincide with Remembrance Day at Long Tan. He has already organised several of these tours.



The Grocers and Gunners Vietnam tour

06 – 28 November 2012

Join me, Phil Brookes (HQ AFV) on our next *Grocers and Gunners* Vietnam tour in November 2012.

This five star, 23 days - no tents or huts this time - all inclusive tour will retrace your service in **Saigon, Vung Tau** and **Nui Dat** and take you as far north as the Chinese border.

You will experience the history, culture and breathtaking scenery of this friendly and fascinating country.

Fly **Singapore Airlines** from any Australian capital city to Saigon via Singapore. Internal travel is by air, rail and air-conditioned coach.

A highlight of the tour will be the visit to **Long Tan** on Remembrance Day, 11 November, the **Long Phuoc** tunnels and **Long Hai**. Our base will be the magnificent **Imperial Hotel** in Vung Tau (built on the site of the **Badcoe Club**).

In Saigon you will wander the famous boulevards, such as the Rue Catinet, now Dong Khoi Street, made famous by Graham Greene and *The Quiet American*. We also visit bustling **Cho Lon** and stop at the Canberra BEQ; explore the **Cu Chi** tunnels and **Mekong Delta**.

You will experience **Danang, China Beach** and historic **Hoi An**. Portuguese, French, Dutch and Japanese traders have all left their mark on this UNESCO classified town. It is a foodies delight and you might like to join the optional cooking class.

We travel by coach to **Hue** over the breathtaking **Hoi Van Pass**; visit the **Imperial City** and its ancient **citadel**, the site of bitter fighting during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

Compare the restrained ambience of ancient **Hanoi**, with its strong French connection, to bustling Saigon. Hanoi is a gracious, seductive city of tree-lined boulevards; an eclectic mix of French and Asian. Hanoi highlights will include a visit to the **Old Quarter** with its bustling cafes and shops, the infamous **Hanoi Hilton** and **Ho Chi Minh's house and gardens**.

Explore the breathtaking World heritage site of **Ha long Bay**, its secluded bays and caves, and spend the night on the Bay on a five star cruise boat.

Travel by train to **Sapa**, near the **Chinese border**. This spectacular area is dominated by the **Hoang Lien Son Range, the eastern extremity of the Himalayas**. Ethnic minority tribes dominate this area. Highlights will be a visit to one of the most interesting and colourful markets in Asia and some easy walks through **H'mong villages**.

This 23 day tour is exceptional value. It is fully escorted, all inclusive (all western buffet breakfasts, international and internal travel, most lunches and dinners, entrance fees, Vietnam visa fee and quality tour polo shirt) and is designed with flexibility and your comfort in mind. There is time for your own leisure, exploring and optional cooking classes.

Tour price: \$5,860.00 per person in twin share
Single room supplement: \$1960.00

Tour Price includes government airport taxes, airline fees and fuel surcharges in the amount of \$470.00 and is valid as at 19th September 2011. This is subject to change without notice.

If you are interested in this tour please contact

Phil Brookes: 0418 719 166 Email: brookes1@bigpond.net.au

Imperial China Tours: 1300 303 101 or 02 9221 0266 Email: tony@imperialchinatours.com

2012 Anzac Day - Bendigo

The dawn Service commences at 0600hrs at the Bendigo Cenotaph. For those wishing to march at that service, form-up is at 0550hrs at the Memorial Hall. This is followed by a limited "Gunfire breakfast" back at the Memorial Hall.

We will again march in Bendigo behind our Association Banner in 2012, this time in order as Group 3 behind the National Servicemen. **If you intend to march this year then please let the secretary, Tracey Phillips know.**

As usual 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 Wednesday 25 April. Members are requested to wear medals and some form of Survey Corps apparel. You are encouraged to wear a beret.

Following the march and service it is planned that the group would reassemble at the **Gold Mines Hotel** where snacks and Lunch will also be available this year. Some may wish to then move onto the RSL at Havilah Road.



Anzac Day in Bendigo 2011

Harold Mai, Peter Swandale, Doug Arman, Darryl Hockings, Gary Warnest, Bob Thrower (rear), Tracey Phillips, Gordon Lowery, John Collins from the UK

Last years Bendigo Anzac day was particularly special with John and Sue Collins coming out from the UK and joining us. It was both a great opportunity for John to catch up but also for a number of us to catch up with what they were doing. It was the first time that we adjourned to the Gold Mines Hotel and it was such a success we have decided to go there again. The venue was particularly suitable for wives and partners with the ladies also making themselves feel at home in the Courtyard. This time lunches and snacks will be available. **Please come and join us even if you are not marching, and pass the word around.**



John Collins with Terry Edwards
after the march

Rob Bogumil and
Jeff Willey



Peter Swandale, Roy Hicks, Brett van Leeuwin, Jim Ash and Darryl Hockings

Stu Thaxter, Bob Rogister and Terry Danger



Surprise drop in from Mary-Ann and Rock Thiselton from Brisbane

Gordon Lowery chats to Rocker and Yvonne Forrest at the Bendigo RSL



Vietnam Map Request

I'm hoping you might be able to help me. I am involved with a volunteer group in Seymour, which is building the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk, an enormous project which will result in a series of walls which will list the names of every veteran and civilian who served in the Vietnam War. Stage One was finished in April of 2011, pictured below. We are a very hard-working group of volunteers, making this happen with the assistance of various government entities and many wonderful sponsors. If you would like to have a look at further details, the website is www.vvaavic.org.au/mitchell.asp.

I am currently working on signs for Stage Two, with which I am hoping you may be able to help me. I have been unable to find a map which details the layout of Vung Tau and where the various military units were located during the Vietnam War. Survey would have made these maps but I haven't been able to find one to date. Would you or your members have anything stored away which would be of help to me in my endeavours? Any assistance would be greatly appreciated as I currently have so little to work with. This project is very important to me, to the other volunteers, to the many veterans already following our progress. If you'd like to have a chat, or if you have any queries, please feel free to give me a call.



Kind regards,
Carolynne Burgess
burgess.signs@bigpond.com

Bendigo Happy Hours

Happy Hours are held on the First Friday of each month at the Gold Mines Hotel Marong Road, Bendigo. (03) 54436175 Meals are available if you wish. See you there.

Magna Carto Postal Distribution

The Magna Carto is no longer distributed largely by post. If you have not already contacted us to arrange Magna Carto in hard copy form through the post then we request that you advise the secretary as soon as possible. Please confirm your desired postal address.

The Secretary, Tracey Phillips
ExFortuna Survey Association
PO Box 613 Golden Square VIC 3555

(03) 5449 5689 or (03) 5449 6330 (AH) or phipsys@tpg.com.au

The Magna Carto is available through the ExFortuna Survey Association Homepage. www.exfortunasy.org.au If you haven't visited the site yet, go and have a look. It includes previous Magna Carto and photos.

Membership Remains at \$10 per year and we are able to accept Internet Banking Transfers
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