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## The 100th Anniversary Celebrations- BENDIGO



Thank you to all those who came and made our 100th Anniversary spectacular. Following the pre reunion big turn up at the Bendigo RSL on the Friday night, the attendance at the **Civic Reception** on the Saturday morning in the Bendigo Town Hall was a great start to the more formal parts of the weekend. Andrew Perryman took the official photographs at the civic reception and Anne Greenwood took the official photos at the other activities.



The Fortuna Pipes and Drums heralded the start of proceedings. Thanks to Pipe Major Warren Matheson and Drum Major Peter Barker.

## From the Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo

*"Welcome*

*On behalf of the Greater City of Bendigo Council I welcome you all back to Bendigo from all over Australia and the UK for the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Survey Corps Celebration weekend.*



*There has been a long and close association of the Survey Corps with Bendigo and the Bendigo Council*

- The Cartographic Company came to Bendigo in 1942 and setup operations at Fortuna Villa. The local community had little knowledge of the significant contribution being made by the unit until after the War. Even then the bonds with the Bendigo community were forming as unit members put on variety shows to raise money for the hospital.*
- Later the Council showed its support of the unit by sending a deputation to Canberra in 1970 to fight to keep the Army Survey Regiment in Bendigo and acknowledged a huge direct financial contribution just in wages to the Bendigo economy not including the multiplier effect.*
- In 1970 the Council granted the Freedom of Entry to the unit that had now grown to Regiment in size. This Freedom of Entry was exercised in 1970, 1977, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995 and finally in 1996 and on each occasion the Council and Mayors were heavily involved with the parades and ceremonies.*
- Many members of the unit were foundation members of local Bendigo organisations and contributed significantly to them and that continues today. The RSL, Legacy, Bendigo Athletics, Bendigo Orienteering, Bendigo Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Rugby, Soccer, Squash, Bendigo Orchids, Bendigo Wood turners, Bendigo Yacht Squadron and Bendigo Table Tennis are current examples. A number of these sports were brought to Bendigo and setup by Survey Corps members. Unit members have also been prominent on Church organising committees with a number of members later serving in Bendigo as Ministers after their army survey service. Even Peter Mansell who is here today served as Mayor of Bendigo after his army survey service. The University and TAFE also sourced lecturers from the qualified and experienced Survey Corps professionals.*



- *The unit closely embraced the Bendigo community and consistently contributed to many local charitable causes over its existence. Over the years many of the Chinese Dragon legs were provided by unit members at the Easter procession.*
- *Many unit members married local Bendigonians cementing strong family connections with the community. Often locals joined the Survey Corps and served at Fortuna, and some where multiple generations served.*
- *Local schools and kindergartens were the beneficiaries of old maps and printing setup sheets with most of Bendigo growing up drawing or painting on the back of old maps.*
- *The guard of honour for the opening of the new Council Offices in 1971 was provided by the Survey Regiment and a number of those in that guard are here today.*
- *In 1983 the Council again partitioned the Commonwealth Government to get an assurance that the Survey Regiment would stay in Bendigo.*
- *All Bendigo Mayors enjoyed the privileges of being members of the Survey Regiment Officers Mess and all that that entailed. That connection helped facilitate a close working relationship between the two organisations.*
- *Bendigo received advantages of having a military unit in the city, a close source of manpower and equipment that could be called on in case of a natural emergency; it supplied contingents for Anzac Days and also as a preserver of the local historical treasure, Fortuna Villa.*
- *That all came to an end in 1996 when the Survey Regiment was disbanded.*

*Bendigo had gained a great deal from the presence of the Survey Regiment, as one of the largest industries in the city, it was tremendously important to Bendigo's economy. On disbandment Bendigo not only suffered an economic blow, but the more intangible loss of its own Regiment and all that it meant to the people of Bendigo.*

*Valerie Lovejoy Mapmakers of Fortuna 2003*

*The civic reception today is to acknowledge that contribution and the close bonds that existed between the Bendigo Council, its citizens and the Survey Corps. Enjoy the rest of your 100th Anniversary Celebrations."*







We were very privileged to have John and Susan Collins join us for the celebrations all the way from the UK.

The group joining us from New South Wales



From South Australia



From  
Western  
Australia



Braving the Bendigo winter was the Queenslanders

Unfortunately we missed arranging a photo for the ACT Members present, sorry.  
Its alright, we know who you are and where you live...





ExFortuna Members.



Members/Ex members of  
1 Topo Svy Sqn

Ex Vietnam participants







The hard working Ex Fortuna Survey 100th Anniversary Committee

Rear: John Phillips, Stuart Symonds and Bob Thrower.

Front: Don Swiney, Phil Smalley, Gary Warnest and Tracey Phillips.

## Turriff Visit



High tea at Turriff.



We were appreciative of Dale and Belinda O'Meara's help in opening up Turriff for a visit. They are still keen to try to get as much history of the Military times as possible. If you have any photos or other information that you think maybe of interest please contact Tracey. Sherri Burke is shown here presenting our thank you plaque.



## The Dinner



Eric Nicholson shows the way to the dinner using the road sign that was originally on the High and Thistle Street corner.



HRH Lady Dianna, the Princess of Wales

## Some of the Displays

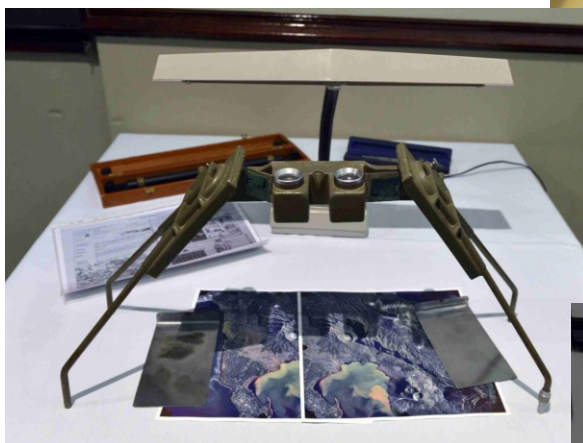


The lenses from the Klimsch Commodore Camera

Practice Scribing?



Stereo images



Bob Campbell won the painting donated by Lloyd Binyon, Lutz Preusche won the RAE Officer's Mess Port donated by Barry Craymer and John Mobbs won the Australian Survey Corps Badge donated by the Ex Fortuna Assoc.







At the All Seasons Dinner

Their sign says it all !!!, the "Arty Farty" Illustrators having a good time



Our Guest Speaker for this significant occasion was appropriately Colonel Simon Lemon (Retired) the last Director of the Royal Australian Survey Corps.

*"Distinguished guests, past members, families and friends of the Royal Australian Survey Corps. It is an honour to speak on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the Survey Corps.*

*Looking around at those gathered here tonight I see that I am in august company. Sadly, many of those who wore the Survey badge are no longer amongst us in person but I sense their spirit is with us. Indeed, we are the privileged few who are left to witness this significant event in Australia's mapping history.*

*I congratulate and thank all those who organised the celebrations this week.*

*I have been asked to speak on the contribution made by RASvy to mapping in Australia. In many ways our contribution speaks for itself. It is already well documented and recognised by the thousands of maps in Australia's topographic data base which bear the Corps badge and some even the Corps motto. I have no doubt that much of the data published by the Corps will survive at least another 100 years!*



*It may be true that from the outside, the Corps was judged by the products it published. If maps were available when needed then we were invisible to the user. In fact I can recall many a senior officer and politician whose eyes would glaze over whenever the technical requirements of map making were explained. They simply were not interested in the science behind the maps. However, if a map was unavailable there was a line up of disappointed punters at the map store which often culminated in a call to the OC even the Director of Survey by someone in authority from HQ or even the PM's Office. Oh and they wanted the map for free too, especially if it was for a fishing trip or that outback camping adventure. However, our published maps do not tell the whole story of the contribution made by the Royal Australian Survey Corps.*

*There are many ways to tell the story and several have been written and published; for that we should be grateful. But as a past Director of Survey I can best provide you with my personal if somewhat biased perspective of the contribution the Corps made to Australia. I saw the effort that went in to making the maps. I shared the good times and some hard times so I saw the Corps as its people; its heart and soul. A body of individuals with a huge collective talent of knowledge and skills which was broader than that required of producing maps: they included illustrators, photographers and projectionists. These people were dedicated to their task, talented in what they did, eager to embrace new technology and proud of their achievements. They were also subject to the frailties of the human condition requiring succour, encouragement, recognition and respect. Their contribution of service and sacrifice is what I see as the unsung history. Collectively, the men and women of the Survey Corps provided Australia with a dedicated and first class military survey & mapping capability for more than 80 years.*

*It is fitting that these celebrations are being held at Bendigo this weekend, for it was here that the Land HQ Carto Coy grew to become the jewel in the crown of the Survey Corps. It was a fortunate decision to choose Bendigo as a home. Here in relative isolation from other Army units the Regiment was allowed to flourish. The people of Bendigo played a vital supporting role in the success of the unit, largely unknown to outsiders but greatly appreciated by those who served here. The respect shown to the Regiment by the citizens of the City of Bendigo is evident by the right of Freedom of Entry given to the unit. Fortuna was to become Australia's premier mapping establishment. Its technicians were at the top of their trade across the entire range of mapping skills. Those who served in the Army Survey Regiment made an outstanding contribution to the Australian Army and Australia's mapping effort for a period of over 50 years.*

*The Regiment may have operated in relative isolation but its achievements were not made alone. Many people and many organisations throughout Australia and indeed the world, supported RASvy in its endeavours. We were privileged to be part of the Australian Army and enjoy the support both it and the wider Defence organisation provided. Also we were well supported by the civilian mapping community; professional bodies, scientific organisations and academia. We were extremely fortunate to have these resources available to our mapping effort which no other mapping organisation in Australia and many others world-wide could boast.*

*Of course there were those who were openly critical of the Corps; they included the "flat earth" people who clearly knew not what they said or did and those who were jealous of the Corps, of its achievements and might I say, even of its existence! It is understandable then that some Directors became prickly to unjustified criticism of the Corps and took it personally - I apologise on their behalf. Fortunately the critics did not detract from our rightful place in history; rather they added to the esteem in which the Corps is held. It strengthened camaraderie within the Corps where lifelong friendships were made. Great times were had whilst working and playing hard. After listening to many stories told this week the good times we shared appear to be bigger and better than I remember!*

*What did the Corps achieve in 100 years? I say we contributed more than just the maps we published; we left an indelible mark on Australia's mapping landscape. Rightly or wrongly let history be the judge.*

*To all those men and women, both soldier and civilian who have wandered the King's Highway over the past 100 years, you have served your country with distinction, you have done your duty and left a legacy which has already become a legend.*

*Videre Parare Est.*

Bob Thrower making a presentation to Colonel Lemon





The response by WO1 WR "Bill" Boyd OAM (Retired) had the attendees spell bound with his cleverly worded and apt verse.



*"Colonel and Mrs Lemon, Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo - Councillor Cox, fellow ex-corps members and your*

*guests. It gives me great pleasure to address you tonight if - for no other reason than - I am having a last say in what might be called a corps forum.*

*I remember a conversation at the School of Military Survey at Bonegilla in 1976. On my appointment to the WO1 instructor position of the school, I moved into a shared office with – Captain - Lemon. After organising my desk and filing cabinet, I sat quietly for a while and eventually said to my officer, office mate, "Well what am I supposed to do?" . Captain Lemon's immediate reply was "Who am I to tell a Warrant Officer Class 1 what to do?" To those of you who may have had some misgivings about my attitude at some time since then, - It was all Simon Lemon's fault!*

*This is a celebration! The bugler has not blown retreat!  
Survey's halls of memory - echo to many feet.  
We mapped for all Australians - army, air force and the navy,  
The black and red of cities - contours brown and wavy.  
Shorelines blue - black mud and rocks and where the rivers flow,  
Names and notes with symbols - so they'd all know where to go.*

*Our corps - saw the light of day in last century's fifteenth year.  
World War 1 was raging. Dire need of maps, was clear.  
In 1996 we combined with Engineers.  
The loss of our identity caused - perhaps - some tears.*

*In the nineteen years that's followed, there's still something left to see  
Of our corps that was. - Our members – left a treasured legacy.  
The vastness our nation, we – surveyed, we - drew, we - printed.  
From that basic information, untold fortunes have been minted  
We paid our way with service, in war time and in peace.  
Integrity of product meant demands would never cease.  
Battle maps and azimuths, Snowy River's feasibility,  
Mapping ours and other sovereign states, demonstrated our ability.*

*The world has changed in our time - my friends. We were - in a front row seat  
To view the digital changes - to our lives – and of others we meet.  
The technology of each era is the stuff of history made,  
But - the calibre of our people - is the starch that made the grade.  
To be brief – The older we get - the better we were.*



*It's a long way to come for a feed you know - it's a long way to come for a feed!  
 Did you come so far just to eat - my friends - or - to fill a much deeper need?  
 The need to relive the feelings - that spark when youth's trappings are nigh.  
 To again be eighteen or twenty - with that same bright fire in your eye.*

*We all had our heroes - and villains lurked too – they shaped us in some way - or more.  
 The hindsight of age - perhaps tempers our views of events - and relations of yore.  
 To relive the trials of your youth - to enjoy again your success - to feel at home with the friends of the days  
 When you walked tall and straight – looked out for a mate - and met life in so many ways.*

*We have scattered since leaving the corps - my friends. Most of us, live far away.  
 We've all journeyed on with our lives since then - but we've come back - together - today.  
 So - a toast - to all those who've travelled – who have driven and flown from afar,  
 And a toast to us all who are travellers - who still follow our own guiding star.  
 To the travellers!!!*

Gary - I ask for your indulgence for a related item.  
 To quote myself "We all had our heroes..".  
 One of my six corps heroes was Ken Shaw. I know that many of you share my sentiments. Ken died on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April this year. I would like to read a message from Ken's family-



*The Survey Corps - was a huge part of Dad's life, both professionally and personally. Survey Corps - was who he was. A career soldier of 33 years, all of Dad's major life experiences revolved around Army life. He carried those experiences, memories and many friendships into his retirement years which he spent at Umina on the Central Coast of NSW with his beloved wife, our mother, Nancy. The two of them were a formidable duo and were an enthusiastic part of the social life at Fortuna. The friendships formed during his time there were to last the rest of his life.*

*Kens family wish to fondly acknowledge the huge impact that his time at Fortuna had on us all, and to thank his colleagues and many friends for their continued contact and support.*

*Congratulations on the Corps' 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary .... Have a wonderful weekend. (Sue Allen)*

*A toast to our heroes!!!*

## Presentations



Don Swiney makes a presentation to Peter Jensen for his significant contribution in compiling the Survey Corps Nominal Roll



Rob McHenry makes a presentation to John Mobbs for his efforts in preparing the "Faces of the Corps"

Paul Hopes, Peter Biorac and Peter "Jack" Elverd and the stories just keep getting better and better.....



Sherri Burke presents Tracey with flowers as a token of our appreciation for all her work with the Reunion.



The "Fortuna Fumblers" some of the Regiment's Aussie Rules Premiership players



Right: The Premiership  
Volleyballers



Below: The girls who also served  
in the Survey Corps



And of course..... "Litho"

*(Magna Carto Part B Follows)*