

# Magna Carto

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## EX- FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC NEWSLETTER MARCH 2005

March 14, 2005

Volume 2, Number 14

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# 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Friday 1 July 2005

The Ex Fortuna Survey Association is pleased to be able to host celebrations for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Survey Corps in Bendigo on "Corps Day". Again we have gone for the "All Seasons Quality Resort" a venue large enough to cater for any number attending the dinner. Other activities are planned for the weekend. For any who may have missed out on the big "Back to Bendigo" function, this is now your opportunity to join us. This 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary is likely to be the most significant event to be held by Ex Survey Associations for some years. We are all growing older and our numbers are diminishing added to that is the reality that we are now scattering to the extents of the continent and beyond. This is one of those special opportunities to gather in large numbers. The more that attend, the more significant it will be, and the more catching up with old friends will be possible. Function return slips have been provided at the end of this newsletter and payment must be provided with the return slip by the cut off date for catering reasons. Please use your local grapevines and networks to distribute the Magna Carto and the return slip as widely as possible to anyone who you believe may be interested in attending.

### The Anniversary Dinner

The anniversary dinner is to be held at the "All Seasons Quality Resort", (03) 5443 8166 171-183 Mclvor Road, Bendigo, commencing at 1930hrs. There is ample parking at the venue. Dress for this function is neat casual with some Survey Corps memorabilia if possible. There will be minimal formality at this sit down table service dinner. A seating plan will only be provided for the head table. A two course, two choice meal is to be served with your order being taken at the table on the day. The initial drinks that will be provided on the tables on arrival are included in the meal cost, further drinks are available at bar prices. Please go to our reception table on arrival to collect a name tag and confirm your attendance. Seating will be round table parties of about eight. Cost of dinner is \$40 per head.

Mr Harry Raisbeck has agreed to be our guest of honour. He and his father John Raisbeck had a large impact on the Corps, especially in its early years and it is fabulous that he will be with us to help celebrate this significant milestone. From my perspective it was the early personalities of the Corps such as Harry and his father who helped to establish the personal and professional standards that have been so recognisable over the years, but more so the Esprit de Corps and sense of family that now bonds those of us who have had the privilege to serve with the Survey Corps. The hand drawn "Cowes" sheet prepared by John Raisbeck forms the cover of the "Mapmakers of Fortuna".

## Other Activities

On Saturday morning you may wish to visit the old Post Office that is now the Tourist Information Centre and at no cost you can view an impressive display of exhibits. The nearby RSL Hall contains a Military Museum and it has a large number of exhibits.

### ART GALLERY

For a gold coin donation a visit to the Art Gallery is also a very worthwhile activity. The Art Gallery that opens at 1000 hrs is rightly claimed to be one of the best Regional Galleries in Australia. Many may remember the large painting entitled "Gentlemen the Queen" that was displayed at Fortuna for some years which is currently on display at the gallery. Best of all there is a new cafe at the Gallery, with great views, where those who attend are encouraged to meet for morning tea or a coffee.

### THE BOARDWALK

Others are encouraged to meet at the Boardwalk Cafe/Restaurant for Coffee or morning tea. The Boardwalk is set on the shores of Lake Weeroona and is an idealic setting to watch those who would like to, or need to, walk around the lake first. There is ample parking however those who would like to can arrive in style at the Boardwalk by tram. The Talking-Tram departs the Central Deborah Mine at about 1000hrs and arrives at the Boardwalk a little before 1030 hrs. Tram (03) 5442 2821.

### GOLF

For those of you wanting to get together and have a hit of Golf please ring Phil Smalley on (03) 5448 8713 or Email on phil.smalley@bigpond.com before the day so that the event can be coordintated.

## BBQ Lunch

A BBQ lunch is planned for Saturday 2 July . The venue is still in negotiation at this stage but you will be notified well in advance of the date. A traditional BBQ is planned. Catering is to be provided by the DIGO "Relay for Life" committee as a fundraiser for cancer research. Cost of the BBQ will be \$5 per head. Drinks will be available at very reasonable prices. The BBQ function will commence at 1200hrs with meals available from about 1300hrs. Again please report to the registration table to register your arrival and collect your name tag.

CD's of the photographs taken at the dinner will be available at minimal cost. Other Corps memorabilia such as books, badges, ties and scarves will also be on sale.

It is preferred that those who have ordered the commemorative "Mapmakers" Port that it is picked up at the BBQ.

## Accommodation

Accommodation bookings of all types are being coordinated by Tourism Bendigo 1800 813 153. Let them know that you are part of the Ex Fortuna Function Group. The All Seasons Quality Resort, the function venue, is also offering 10% discount to members attending the dinner.

## NSW Association ANZAC DAY 2004



Centre, far back – Chris Luschwitz (Tack Dallimore's son-in-law), Jack Devery, Rob Campbell.  
Back row, from the left: Brian Jackson-Hope, WO1 Steve Winner, Bob Hunter, Maj Peter Crabbe , Sgt Charlie Tran, Sgt Kim Baker, John Siddons, Jim Macdonald, Cpl Brenton Bailey, Cpl Cameron Gee, Sgt Matthew Arnold, Bill Lafferty.  
Front row, from left: Peter Watson, Dick Owens, Noel Fletcher, Ted Hunter, John Monteath, Geoff Foxall, John Cavill, Ian Foxall, Norm Brady, Noelene Lafferty and Cpl Ingo Weinrauch.

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 1030hrs. Members are requested to wear medals and some form of Survey Corps identification.

About 30 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 the venue for lunch and refreshments following the march. See you there!! Please let the secretary know if you will be available to march.



Members of the association at the 2004 Anzac Day Parade



Tuesday 1 Mar saw a few old and bolds get together at the Rifle Brigade to welcome back Ian Thiselton to Bendigo. Ian has just started with Photomapping Services. Ian Marner and Alan Swift from Geoscience Australia were also in town that day. Rob Jones just missed the photo. From left to right John Phillips, Phil Smalley, Colin Cuskelly in his new Aspect North apparel, Ian Belmont, Mick Flynn, "Rock" Thiselton, Ian Marner, Gary Warnest and Alan Swift.

## Vale - Harold Trist

While writing the history of the Army Survey Corps, I was fortunate to meet many wonderful people. Among them were Harold (Ras) and Joy Trist who were welcoming and warmly interested in the *Fortuna* story. When I heard the sad news of Harold's death last week, I rang Joy. She told me that many *Fortuna* memories were raised in the eulogy and family members of old friends from *Fortuna* attended the service. Harold and Joy never forgot their time in Bendigo. Harold is a special person in the Regiment's history. He was the first member of the Cartographic Company at Fortuna and the first President of the Officers Mess This story commemorates that connection.

Harold Trist, an architectural draftsman, joined the army in June 1941, but he worked for the Cartographic Company as a civilian for six months before that, at Mitchell House, and then with Bert Cooper setting up the photo-litho section. Late in 1941, WO1 Harold visited Bendigo with Major Sarll, Lieutenant Bert Cooper, Lieutenant Ralph Westgarth and Lieutenant Guy Hills to see if *Fortuna* could be turned into a mapmaking facility. They decided it could, but the battery building was a disaster. Although the wall structures and roof timbers of the old battery building were sound, it had an earthen floor littered with old machinery. Harold designed the fittings and equipment for the photo-litho area which was then made in Melbourne. While the equipment was being manufactured Harold moved up to Bendigo and set up a drawing office at Fortuna. At first he lived with the owners, Mr and Mrs Nott but one night, coming home during a storm, as he climbed the stairs a flash of lightning lit up the windows "East, west, home is best", the Nott's black spaniel dog, Darkie, who later became an institution at Fortuna, started barking and Harold had had enough. He moved out into a boarding house until his wife Joy came to join him. Joy and Harold were married on 18 April 1942 and moved to Bendigo two days later. Joy immediately began work at the Ordnance Factory where she worked until her first baby was due.

Harold made all the preparations for the Cartographic Company to move to Fortuna. He designed the photo-litho building with toilets and ablution block at the back. He supervised the establishment of the hutment area, put a fire escape into the main building, concreted the floor of the print room, and put in spoon drains to take the water away from the building. In the grounds, three small lakes and the big lake were all dry and the big lake was like a mullock heap. To the right of the front entrance was another dry lake. Mr Nott used to cyanide the area and he showed Harold the lumps of gold he had extracted. Harold made an arrangement with the ranger of the reservoir at the bottom of Victoria Hill who fed some water via a pipeline and aqueduct into the big lake. The smaller lakes were all filled in and the lake at the front was used as a rubbish tip.

Harold designed the Sergeants' Mess and he was the first president. He remembered the formal messes being very well done. Once the rest of the Company arrived Harold settled into his job as 2IC to Lieutenant Bert Cooper. Apart from paper work, Harold worked in the retouching room where there were about twenty light tables. When they had urgent work to get out, Harold remembered working up to sixteen hours a day in the war years. At the end of the war they printed a lot of leaflets on ricepaper that were dropped on the Japanese telling them to surrender.

After the war, when the establishment was reduced Harold had his rank reduced to WO2. When the war was on everything seemed to be important but afterwards it didn't seem to matter so much and Harold remembered the pace being much slower. The social occasions were memorable though especially the dances in front of the lake on the lawn with the lights of Fortuna behind and lights in the trees. Families would visit on Sunday afternoons and picnic around the lake. Harold and Joy had bought a house in Flora Hill and two sons were born during their stay in Bendigo, firstly Max in 1946 and then Geoffrey in 1949. Their third son Stuart, was born after their return to Melbourne.

With the advent of national service, the Survey Corps had a drill hall on the corner of Powlett Street and Victoria Street in East Melbourne to train their national service contingent. In 1951, Harold was transferred to Melbourne as CSM of 2 Topo Svy Coy. (Captain John Nolan was in charge.) The work being fairly unrewarding, after eighteen months Harold decided to leave the army and return to civilian life but Harold and Joy never forgot their Fortuna connection, especially their many friends who kept in touch afterwards. Special friends like Bert and Kath Cooper, Ralph and Stella Westgarth, Albert and Marj Paganetti, Gwen and John Oldham. Joy has heard from many old friends since the funeral and remembers their time in Bendigo with great affection. Vale Harold Trist, one of the *Fortuna* family.



Minature Association "Antique Gold" Badges are still available at \$10 each.

**Roger Pearson** is after a Ulano swivel knife. Anyone who has one or knows where to get one please let him know on [debrogerp@hotmail.com](mailto:debrogerp@hotmail.com) or Ph (03) 5447 8693



If only this table could talk! The original full size billiard table that “lived” at Fortuna for many years. Many wondered what ever happened to the table that was for many years one of the focal points of certainly some of the social activities at Fortuna. A magnificent full sized slate table fashioned from Tasmanian Oak. Space and rationalisation meant that the room was needed and the full sized table was replaced with a smaller version in the “Tavern” during the early 90’s. The table was dismantled and stored at the Golden Square Drill Hall for years until finally it was put up for tender amongst the members of the Army Survey Regiment.

Colin Cuskelly was the highest bidder and it was moved in pieces to his place where it sat in storage for a few more years. Colin eventually succumbed to the relentless bagging about the table being in pieces and re-erected the table in a purpose built room. He had a missing panel fashioned from matching timber and as the picture now shows it, now in excellent condition and pride of place at the Cuskelly household in Bendigo. Well done Colin.

Unfortunately there is probably not enough time for all of us to fit in for a game during the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend.



### **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Map Makers Port”**

The Association has commissioned a limited port bottling to commemorate the occasion. The limited commemorative port at \$12 is guaranteed to be drinkable (selected and tested by the committee) and the rear label describes a brief history of the Corps. No such guarantee can be issued about its suitability to act as roundup or grow hair on bald patches. It is preferred that it is picked up at the BBQ.

### **Survey Corps Ties and Scarves**

As previously notified there are no more original Survey Corps ties available for sale and the Engineer Corps shop does not intend to have anymore produced. The Ex Fortuna Association has therefore contracted to have 100 Corps ties produced with the new Survey tri badge emblem, using the same colours as the original ties. In the past there has not been anything similar suitable for the ladies who served. We have as a result also commissioned the production of 100 matching Corps scarves, 24cm x 130cm in soft fine polyester. Both made in England are available at \$20 each. Ties and or scarves can be posted to prior to the dinner. Unfortunately it looks as though they will not be available in time for Anzac Day this year

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](mailto: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>

### Some of those who have given an indication of attending the function so far...

Send off your return slip and be part of this great weekend.

<b>Surname</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Partner</b>
Ash	Jim	Tracy	Ian		Bootland
Austin	George		Jeffery	Ken	
Barrett	Peter		Johnson	Jenny	
Barwald	Dick	Mary	Justin	Janet	
Belmont	Ian		Kellet	Craig	
Biorac	Peter	Marg	Labouchardiere	Ken	
Black	Bill		Lambton-Young	Dave	
Boath	Andy		Learmonth	Dennis	Cheryl
Boehm	Kevin		Leskovec	Paul	Jenine
Bootland	Ian		Lucas	Andy	
Bowes	Ian	Vicki	Lutwyche	Barry	
Brodie	Russ		Mai	Harald	
Brown	Fred		Main	Peter	
Burgin	Briana		Marnar	Ian	Sue
Burke	Steve	Sherie	McMillan-Kay	Bob	
Cairney	Alex		Miles	Dave	
Camp	Lyll	Cheryl	Minelli	Bronette	
Carswell	Doug	Chris	Nicholson	Eric	
Cocker	Yvonne		Partridge	Brian	
Commons	Doc		Pattison	Judy	
Cook	Jim		Pearson	Roger	Debbie
Cook	Alex		Peters	Ken	Jenny
Cosford	Brian		Peterson	Peter	Joanne
Coulson	Steve		Phillips	John	Tracey
Cowie	Fred		Purdy	Terry	
Dean	John	Joy	Raisbeck	Harry	
Derby	Al		Ridge	Don	Ruth
Dixon	Verity		Rogister	Bob	Kathy
Ebenwaldner	Gunther		Rothwell	Wayne	Karen
Edwards	Chris		Saunders	Lindsay	Kath
Ellis	Mick	Margaret	Shilton	Faye	
Ellis	Steve		Sievers	Gary	
Elverd	Jack	Julie	Skidmore	Rod	Kristin
Fauth	Carmel		Smalley	Phil	Donna
Fitzgerald	Ian		Stone	Neville	Dianne
Flynn	Mick	Carol	Straube	Rob	Santina
Gallagher	Kerry		Sutton	Laurie	
Gilbert	John		Swiney	Don	Glen
Gill	Jim	MarieAnn	Talbot-Smith	Ken	Lorraine
Graham	Pat	George	Thaxter	Stu	
Grayland	Donna		Thistelton	Ian	Mary-Ann
Hancox	Al		Thrower	Bob	Marg
Haswell	Gordon	Dot	Thun	Wolf	Jo
Hill	Graham		Timmins	George	
Hinic	Stevo	Pauline	Venn	Mike	Annette
Hockings	Daryl	Heather	Warnest	Gary	Judy
Hogan	Barry		Webb	Cliff	Diane
Hogan	John		Wilkinson	Darren	
Hook	John	Cheryl	Willey	Jeff	
Hopes	Paul		Williams	Bob	Ros
Hunter	Paul	Sharon	Williams	Rusty	Mary

# IMPORTANT: RSVP for Catering by Friday 17 June 2005

Tracey Phillips (Wk) Ph (03) 5442 0294 (Ah) Ph (03)5449 6330, Email: phipsys@bigpond.com  
 Or  
 Gary Warnest (Wk) Ph (03) 5441 8311, Fax (03) 5441 4711, Email: grw@netcon.net.au

## 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUNCTION RETURN

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



Name 1: .....  
 Name 2: .....  
 Name 3: .....  
 Name 4: .....

Contact Details: ..... Ph ..... Email .....

I / we wish to attend the following Function:  
 Friday 1 Jul 05 Anniversary Dinner 1930hrs Number attending..... x \$40 ea **COST \$** .....

I / we wish to attend the following Function:  
 Saturday 2 Jul 05 Art Gallery Coffee 1030hrs Number attending..... own arrangements

I /we wish to attend the following Function:  
 Saturday 2 Jul 05 Boardwalk Coffee 1030hrs Number attending..... own arrangements

I /we wish to attend the following Function:  
 Saturday 2 Jul 05 Golf early hit off by agreement Number attending..... own arrangements

I /we wish to attend the following Function:  
 Saturday 2 Jul 05 BBQ 1200hrs Number attending.....x \$5 ea .....

I wish to purchase association minature badge/badges..(while stocks last).....x\$10 ea .....

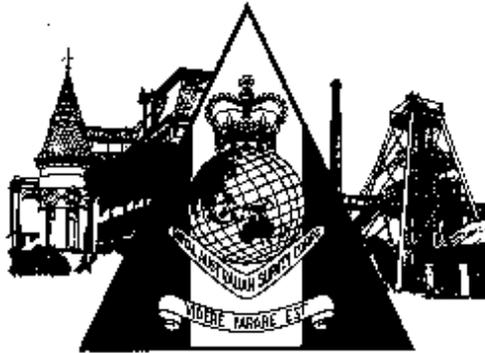
I wish to purchase association tie.....(while stocks last).....x\$20 ea .....

I wish to purchase association Ladies Scarf..... (while stocks last).....x\$20 ea .....

I wish to purchase 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "Mapmakers Port".. (while stocks last).....x\$12 ea .....

(Pick up at the BBQ)  
 Postage for Ties and or Scarves (if required) ..... x\$7 .....

Please find enclosed my cheque/money order payment.....TOTAL \$.....



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If undeliverable return to:  
EX FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC  
PO BOX 613  
GOLDEN SQUARE VIC 3555

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Volume 2 Issue 14



# "Magna Carto"

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
EX FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC