

Magna Carto

EX- FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC NEWSLETTER MARCH 2001

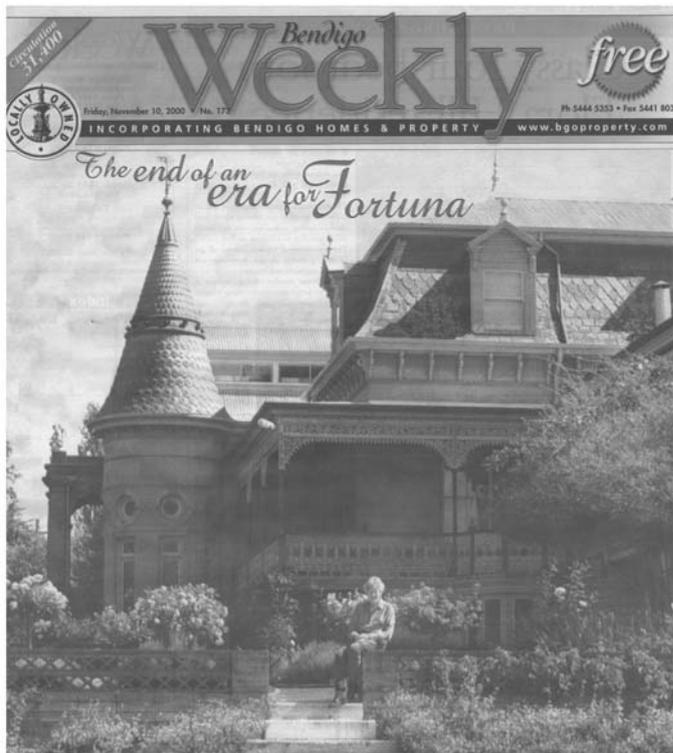
March 4, 2001

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Tours Over at Fortuna!

Sunday 12 November 2000 was a nice sunny day just ideal for an indulging Public to tour the Gold King of Bendigo's Mansion and to step back in time. A great day to also to enjoy a coffee and sample Hayden's hot scones with jam and cream, and soak up the atmosphere amongst the ornate surroundings.



It was however much more than this. Two groups had assembled to start the 1300hrs tours but many more were at the guardhouse to try to get onto what was to be the last tours of Fortuna open to the Public. The Local Bendigo Weekly had carried the story "An end of an era" to signal the end of the weekly tours which had been conducted for years. Unfortunately most that turned up were unable to join the last tours. Such was the interest from the local community that over a 1000 phone calls had been received in the days prior, only to be told that the last tours were already fully booked. All those who had a place on these tours knew they were very lucky. It was with mixed feelings that the tours headed off.

Amongst the groups were members of the Lansell family and their Family historian, Fortuna property neighbours, Ex Fortuna members, local Bendigonians and members of the public.

Hayden and Malcolm Beer, Greta Balsillie and several helpers had over recent years conducted the tours. The Tavern was now closed and Hayden and Malcolm were heading off to Echuca.

It certainly was "an end of an era" Hayden pictured here at the steps to the classic Fortuna Villa again closed to the public. An American tourist was in total amazement that such an asset was going to be closed to the public, a building of such historical significance and in good condition. This also indicated the end to Ex Fortuna Reunions at Fortuna. The newspaper article stated that the reason for the closure of the tours was the departure of the Beer family from Bendigo. We can but hope that this situation will change sometime in the future.



Some of the unfortunate members who missed out on the last tours



Malcolm Beer starts the last public tour of Fortuna



The New BBQ area which replaced the Gardeners Shed, Picquet Hut / Duty Room. Replaced in a style to match the Villa.

I still have some copies of the Corps History in stock at Bendigo, so if you want a copy give me a ring or pick up a copy at the Sunday 1st April Reunion.

The Survey Museum at Morebank has been tripled in size since its original construction. Now designated the Army Engineer Museum the extensions are nearing completion. All the current Royal Australian Survey Corps Memorabilia is currently in store at the Geomatics Wing at Morebank. Once the extensions are complete the Geomatics Wing will desperately need assistance to re-setup the exhibits. If anyone is able to help please get in contact with Major Brian Sloan on (02) 9600 1536, some arrangements with accommodation may be possible.



The Survey Museum extensions showing the two new sections added to the rear of the original building



The Entrance to the Army Engineer Museum

Update on the Australian Service Medal for Survey Operations

This is an ongoing saga that we have reported on these pages before. To summarise the situation as we understand it to date:

The 'Review of Service Entitlement Anomalies in respect of South-East Asian Service 1955-75' committee was set up on direction of the On 26 May 99, The Hon Bruce Scott MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence under the chairmanship of Major General, The Hon R F Mohr RFD ED RL. Many of us made submissions before that committee but for the most part many of the overseas survey operations that had not already been recognised by the award of the ASM fell outside the terms of reference for that committee. The committee did comment in their report that :

The Royal Australian Army Survey Corp Association put before the Review a very strong prima facie case for further consideration for recognition of its member's service Particularly in Indonesia both before 1975 and in the years afterwards.

Their main contention was that there should be an award of the ASM with an appropriate clasp for this service.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the matter of recognition of Army survey tasks be referred to Army for consideration.

This was the best really that we could have hoped for under the circumstances. We have been made aware that Army is now reconsidering all the Field Survey Operations and as we understand the situation, the Operation Mandau series in Kalimantan has been approved and the promulgation awaits the Governor General's signature. The others are being considered at the moment. Our concern is that the committee will only be able to refer to post operation reports and at least those for the Cenderawasih series and maybe others were sanitised so they could be widely distributed within the system in an unclassified form and so the true situation on the operations would not be apparent to a committee twenty five or more years later. We have made this point to Army and asked to address the committee but as yet have had no response. This could be either a good sign or a bad one. Good if they have already decided to approve them all and don't need any further advice, or bad if they have put them on the back burner once again. The worst outcome would be (in our opinion) if they decided to approve some and not others. The Mohr Committee alluded to that outcome when they concluded 'The submission also included service in other areas in the South West Pacific but in my view this latter service did not make out as strong a prima facie case as the Indonesian experience' but they did not appreciate was that a strong case was not made because a lot less people were involved and those who did make submissions to the committee could not do so on behalf of those operations because they were not there.

More work to be done yet!

Don Swiney



Doug Carswell, Fred Brown (WA), Mick Flynn Don Ridge, Gordon Haswell, Warren Chadwick and Joe Farrington at Ross Hyde's Funeral at Eaglehawk

The Regiment History

Valerie Lovejoy has completed her thesis and it has been assessed and accepted. Valerie will be presented with her Masters Degree later on in the year. She received excellent feedback from her assessors, congratulations on a job well done.

The Committee is still working on the History, finishing touches with photographs, layout and the completion of the database of Unit member names. The Association currently has enough funds to produce the History through to negative stage ready for print and this is on track to be completed prior to 30 June 2001. The cost of printing and binding is approximately \$20,000 for 1000 copies. The cost for 500 copies is not substantially different. The committee is actively pursuing a number of funding avenues for the publishing. An option will include the pre-selling of some copies, however it is felt that this alone will be insufficient to cover the needed outlay. We will maintain the momentum until the successful completion of the project. I am disappointed that the History is very unlikely to be published before our 1st July 2001 Corps Day Function.

Personalities

Damien Killeen (Killer) has left Fortuna and is back at school studying, now @ d_killeen@hotmail.com

Yvonne Cocker (WA) was over this way at Lockington Victoria whilst our last reunion was on but was unable to get down for it because she had her XXyr Primary School reunion on the same day. I have left the years as XX as I am sure the numbers must have been a typing error. So close but yet so far. Maybe next time Yvonne.

Karen Gloster is still in and around Bendigo, thanks for the note.

Peter Frodsham has confirmed that that the mail can get over Bass Strait. Thanks for the note from Tasmania.

Peter and Sharon Treble in Maryborough are keen to attend the 30 Jun 2001 reunion as is **Bob Bruce** from WA, see you all there.

Natalie McMillan (nee Spry) is back in Australia after a few years in Cambodia. I am sure that she will be looking forward to the winter in Canberra after all that humidity in Phnom Penh.

John Showers has moved from SA to warmer pastures in Robina Queensland.

Scott Fitzsimmins has left the Police Force and has returned to survey work at Intergraph in Bendigo.

Stuart and Nicky Midgley with a new son and heir have moved from Bendigo to Wollongong to work with Hatch and Assoc.

Dave Longbottom was in Bendigo recently for a Table Tennis Tournament and was disappointed that he did not have enough time to catch up with some of his Corps mates. David's sons are both top players in the SA competition. Dave operates a Bobcat/Tipper business in Adelaide.

Terry Windsor has taken his discharge and returned to Bendigo

Pat Graham has just retired from Fortuna, so now after some time to gather there thoughts, she and George can start to plan some more travelling, this time around Australia, anyone want some visitors?

Tavern Closure: Now that the Tavern has closed some members meet on a Friday afternoon at the Golden Square Bowling Club. If you're in the area drop in and see them.

From SA:

The SA Association meet at the Queens Arms Hotel on the first Friday of each month. If you're over that way drop in. Their Secretary is Dave Irving (08) 8364 1736

From Westlink:

Butch Winterflood is operating a courier service on Bribe Island

Graham Dowd is a retired pensioner also on Bribe Island

Barry Lutwyche has bought into an Ice cream sales business in Brisbane

Their Secretary is Phil Bray (08) 9447 9699

From the NSW Association:

They hold lunches at the Sydney Club, Rowe St on the last Thursday of each month commencing at midday. The Secretary, Bill Laferty can be contacted on (02) 6452 3202, Fax (02) 6452 3775

The Queensland Association:

Congratulations. Their Association is again very active with both newsletters and functions. Their Secretary is Mary-Ann Thiselton (07) 3353 1026

The November 2000 Function

As we were no longer allowed access to Fortuna this was the first of the Functions to be held at our new reunion venue at the Eaglehawk RSL. The venue was surprisingly suitable, not quite the same backdrop as Fortuna Villa. There were about 50 in attendance with the sale of the Corps History being the major attraction. Don arranged the catering utilising venison products which were very well received and as a result we will utilise this catering again on some future function. A number were so impressed with the venison in various forms that they purchased extra items to take away with them, the smoked variety was a real winner. Phil Smalley again arranged the usual Melbourne Cup sweep with the following members still to collect their winnings: Judith Charlton \$5, Brian Rogers \$3, Evan Giri \$1 (Refund for scratching) (the horse, not you Evan), Errol Fletcher \$10 and George Timmins \$5.



Glen Swiney and Kevin Boehm (from SA)



Pat Fisk and Judith Charlton review the Photo Albums



Mick Davey, John Phillips, Dutchy (Brett) Van Leeuwen, George Timmins and Don Swiney



Errol Fletcher (Melb) Evan Giri, Pat and George Graham Aulsebrook



Ruth Ridge, Bob Roche, Brian Rogers and Bob

FUNCTIONS...

The CORPS DAY WEEKEND... Saturday 30 June / Sunday 1 July 2001

Five Years since the Survey Corps was disbanded and many things have changed. One thing that has not, is the comradeship and Esprit De Corps experienced by its members. This was very evident in Canberra last year. It is now a very appropriate time, after five years to gather together again and experience that fellowship.

It was always the intention of the Committee to launch the publishing of our Regiment History with a Corps Dinner, and this has been widely publicised. The target of having the book printed by 30 Jun 2001 now appears unlikely, however the interest shown interstate and from overseas means **“that regardless of the numbers there will be a Corps Day Function in Bendigo over the Corps Day Weekend.”** How big this Weekend is, is now up to you...The more people who attend, the better it will be for everyone. All Ex Corps members and partners and including the civilians who worked at the Army Survey Regiment are invited. Honorary Members of the Messes are encouraged to attend subject to room at the venue. Please pass the word...

The Corps Dinner programmed to be at the RSL Servicemans Club in Havalah Road will be on the Saturday 30 June 2001 commencing at 1930hrs. The Mixed Dinner is intended to be run along similar lines to the Corps Dinners run at Latchford Barracks, however the dress will be neat casual, preferably coat and tie. Seating in their banquet room is up to 300. The costings are a little at the mercy of how many respond but be assured cost will be kept as reasonable as possible. A Corps Day Update and costing Newsletter will be circulated as soon as I have your responses (as soon as possible please). Payment will be required in advance. Brian Sloan and some of his team from the Geomatics Wing are intending to be on site with items from the Corps shop.

For those from interstate a request is to be made for a visit to Fortuna on the afternoon of Saturday 30 Jun 2001, however this will be very much up to the generosity of DTA. During Saturday remember that Bendigo has some fabulous attractions including the free entry to the Tourist Information Centre (the old Post Office) and to the fully refurbished Art Gallery both really worth a look. There is also the Chinese Museum among others.

Saturday Evening the Corps Dinner 1930 hrs

Sunday morning a round of golf is offered for those interested, please indicate your intention to play. Kevin (Chuck) Berry has agreed to coordinate this.

Sunday luncheon BBQ at the Eaglehawk RSL Hall and memorabilia display, (Bring some of your own) a photocopier will be on site.

RSVP strictly by Sunday 1 April 2001

Gary Warnest (Wk) Ph (03) 5444 1834 or Doug Carswell (Wk) Ph (03) 5442 0228
Fax (03) 5444 1835 Fax (03) 5444 3630
Email: grw@netcon.net.au (Note: this is a new Email address)

Accommodation...

A large number of Ex Corps members live in Bendigo. I encourage all those in the Bendigo area to invite someone to stay with them, or to let me know that they are willing to host someone.

Ascot Holiday Park 15 Heinze St White Hills (near the Bendigo Racecourse) has Cabins/Units for two ranging from \$50 -\$90 extra persons \$11 linen is extra. They have a number of 6 and 4 berth Units ranging from 2.5 to 4.5 star rating. (03) 5448 4421 Fax (03) 5448 3162

Alexandra Place Motel 200 McCrae St Bendigo (a brand new Motel next to the Lake View Hotel) 18 rooms, 4 star rating \$90, undercover parking. (03) 5441 6088 Fax (03) 5441 8073
<http://www.alexandra@hitech.net.au>

Lake View Motor Inn 286 – 288 Napier Street (opposite Lake Weroona) 3.5 star 33 rooms, 16 deluxe and family ranges \$88 -\$130 (03) 5442 3099 Fax (03) 5443 4309 lakeviewmotorinn@bigpond.com

Accommodation cont...

National Motor Inn 186 High St Bendigo (opposite the Central Deborah Gold Mine) 3.5 star 25 units \$89 dbl +\$16 per extra person. (03) 5441 5777 Fax (03) 5441 5890 bendigo_national@bigpond.com

All Seasons International Hotel 171- 183 Mclvor Road, 4 to 5 star rating, single \$115 dbl \$125 to \$180
(03) 5443 8166 Fax (03) 5441 5221 www.allseasonsbendigo.com.au

Other Visitors to Bendigo



Bill Jones (Bris) visited the weekend of the last reunion . At the RSL Serviceman's Club with Bill are Bob and Dianne Aulsebrook, Gary Warnest, Colin Cuskelly, Roger Pearson and partner Debby.



Mike Perry (Major) was the UK exchange officer during 1991-2 at the Survey Regiment. He has just retired from the UK Army and now has more time to spend at his golf. He and his wife Pat were out in Australia again on 29 Nov 2000 and caught up with Gary and Judy Warnest and Colin and Mazz Cuskelly at the Foundry Arms (in between games of golf with John South)

FUNCTIONS...

The next Survey Reunion function... Sunday 1 April 2001

The next reunion function will be a BBQ on Sunday 1 April 2001, 1230hrs at the Eaglehawk RSL, High Street, Eaglehawk, opposite Fitzpatrick's Hammer Hardware. Food and Drinks will again be provided at moderate cost utilising the Hall and the grounds to the rear. There are some copies of the Corps History (\$40) still available in stock so if you're after a copy drop in say hello and pick one up. Coffee and sweets including Pavlovas will again feature.

For the early arrivers and those wishing to go out for an evening meal there is the Bistro Meal at the "RSL Servicemans Club 73 Havalah Road Bendigo (03) 5442 2950 (near the show grounds) on Saturday 30 Mar 2001 commencing at 1900hrs, pay as you go.

RSVP for Catering by Friday 23 Mar 2001

Gary Warnest (Wk) Ph (03) 5444 1834 or Doug Carswell (Wk) Ph (03) 5442 0228
Fax (03) 5444 1835 Fax (03) 5444 3630
Email: grw@netcon.net.au (Note: this is a new Email address)

APRIL FUNCTION RETURN

The Secretary
Ex Fortuna Survey Association
PO Box 865
BENDIGO VIC 3552

Name/s

Will be attending the following Functions: (Tick for attendance)

Saturday 30 Mar 01	Bistro Meal "RSL Serviceman's Club"	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number attending	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sunday 1 Apr 01	BBQ at the Eaglehawk RSL	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number attending	<input type="checkbox"/>

CORPS DAY WEEKEND RETURN

The Secretary
Ex Fortuna Survey Association
PO Box 865
BENDIGO VIC 3552

Name/s am interested in attending the Corps Day Weekend 30Jun/1 Jul 01

(Circle appropriate)

I wish to attend a Saturday afternoon Fortuna visit (if one is approved) Y / N Number attending

I wish to attend the Saturday evening Corps Dinner at the RSL Y / N Number attending

I wish to play a round of Golf on Sunday morning Y / N Number attending

I wish to attend the Sunday Luncheon BBQ Y / N Number attending

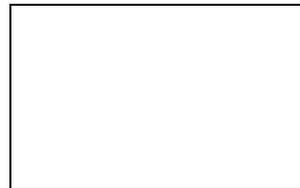
Contact me with further details by Phone: Fax: Email:

I require some assistance with accommodation (please provide details)

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If undeliverable return to:
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"Magna Carto"

NEWSLETTER OF THE
EX FORTUNA SURVEY ASSOCIATION INC

