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Fortuna Villa Sells at Auction



So much has happened since November 2012 when we last reported on the progress of the potential sale of Fortuna Villa. The Bendigo Advertiser and the Bendigo Weekly have regularly run stories as the tale unfolded. Back in December last year tenders closed for the sale with six potential bidders but three of them submitted their tenders after the cut off date and could not be considered. Defence then in January withdrew the property from sale without selecting a tender.

Then in March former Mayor Daryl McClure and Goldmines Hotel owner Rick Walduck delivered a plan for the ongoing maintenance of Fortuna. They proposed that a Fortuna Commission be formed, appointed by the State Minister for Regional and Rural Development to oversee 40 residences developed on the Southern side of the property near the Barracks built in about 1962. A further 200 lots were proposed on the 14 hectares of Crown land near Chum Street. It called for the rates for the properties to be donated by the City of Greater Bendigo Council for the first 10 years to the Commission Fund. The proposal also called for the Fortuna property to be passed to the Commission from the Federal Government for a nominal sum.

The Council looked favourably on the proposal and resolved to try to facilitate the proposal by arranging meetings of both the State and Federal Governments. In the mix of all this was the resignation of the Victorian Premier and the installation of Denis Napthine into that position. He indicated that it was possible that the Crown Land in question could be transferred if the Fortuna Commission proposal went ahead.

Elise Chapman, a current City of Greater Bendigo Councillor became increasingly frustrated by what she saw as in-action by all parties. She created Australia wide publicity when she announced that she was going on a hunger strike to force the main players into action. After about a day and a half and much criticism she ended the hunger strike announcing that she had achieved her aim of raising awareness to the situation.



In a last ditch effort the Mayor Cr Lisa Ruffell and Council CEO Craig Niemann flew to Canberra in an attempt to broker a deal with the Parliamentary Defence Secretary David Feeney but he was unsympathetic and insisted that the planned auction for Fortuna Villa scheduled for Friday 12 April would go ahead. He said "What we've seen here is a very long and tortuous process, running now for almost five years, where Defence indicated that we no longer required the Fortuna site." And also that "there were ample opportunities in those five years for the City of Greater Bendigo and for the State Government to come up with alternative plans."

The Council also called a Special Meeting to rescind a previous motion precluding it from becoming involved with the Fortuna plan. Although the motion was unanimously rescinded it would only become effective if the property was passed in and not sold at the auction scheduled for 11am at the Capital Theatre the next day.



The stage was set for an auction in more ways than one.

Craig Tweed of Tweed Sutherland conducts the Fortuna Villa auction at the Capital Theatre.

Picture: BRENDAN McCARTHY



ONLOOKERS: About 200 people attended the Fortuna Villa auction, for a sneak peek at the proceedings. Picture: BRENDAN McCARTHY

The Bendigo Advertiser reported that:

YOU could be forgiven for thinking you had accidentally stumbled into the opening night of a much-hyped production and not a property auction at Bendigo's Capital theatre yesterday morning.

The theatre was packed to the brim with members of Fortuna's various action groups, neighbours to the villa, those who'd come for a stickybeak and the occasional prospective buyer. Don Swiney, Doug Carswell and I were circled by a number of the Lansell family descendants. A number of other ExFortuna members were sighted in the crowd.

Visitors were greeted by Terry Davidson, a lone protester earnestly waving his sign at the entrance, urging the buyer of the 1860s estate to protect its heritage.

Inside the great auditorium, it was pandemonium.

The noise escalated as more and more people filed in, everyone asking similar questions of the people nearby them – Is there anyone actually interested in buying it at all or will it be passed in?

Were City of Greater Bendigo councillor Elise Chapman's much-publicised hunger strike and mayor Lisa Ruffell's last-minute flight to the powers that be in Canberra all in vain?

Will a millionaire white knight appear and buy Fortuna to graciously return it to the people of Bendigo?

Only the cheap seats at the back were left empty, as Craig Tweed of First National Real Estate Tweed Sutherland took to the stage like a tenor soloist preparing for his big moment.

The crowd hushed. All those big questions that people had asked just seconds before would be answered in minutes.

"Who will be the sixth custodian of the Villa?" Mr Tweed asked ominously.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. You won't get a chance like this ever again."

As the auction began, it became apparent that there were several serious buyers in the crowd of plenty – five in fact including Woodend's Dale O'Sullivan, who was the only person to publicly declare his interest prior to the auction.

Just when the auction looked like stalling, another bidder would chime in with a sum.

With the bidding at \$2 million, an audible gasp went around the theatre as Mr Tweed announced Fortuna was officially on the market and would sell.

Two were in the running at this stage – Paul Banks, who runs Regional Reach Advertising at Sutton Grange and is a part-time horse trainer, and a mysterious other bidder, a man in a suit flanked by a woman and two men.

Every bid Mr Banks put in, this other man would calmly up.

Many sat carefully with their hands out of sight and resisting any temptation to even scratch an itch.

It raced past \$2.5 million, sometimes in increments of \$10,000, \$2.85million, \$2.86 million, \$2.9 million, until it reached \$2.91 million dollars.

The mystery man put up three fingers with a flourish and announced his killer blow, taking the fight out of Mr Banks.

“For the third and final time, at \$3 million to the man in the front,” Mr Tweed threatened. “SOLD!”

The public filed out after the great show, animatedly asking everyone around them the big question – who was this man?



The successful bid was made by Bendigo property developer Spiros Kolaitis.

Mr Kolaitis, second from the right, was bidding on behalf of a Chinese consortium, and was taking directions from the man directly to his left.

The successful bidders want to remain anonymous, but it is believed they were prepared to pay up to \$5 million for the house and land.

Tweed Sutherland First National auctioneer and director Craig Tweed said the new owners wanted to remain anonymous until they had finalised details about the future of the historic villa. Mr Tweed described the plans as 'very exciting'.

Mr Kolaitis yesterday said the consortium planned to work with the City of Greater Bendigo and hoped to keep the 1860s building accessible to the public. He declined to comment further, preferring to wait until the sale was finalised.

Unconfirmed speculation is that the group plans to develop Fortuna into a hotel and function centre.

The Bendigo Historical Society made the most of the auction by selling Fortuna historical DVDs at the door.

Mayor Cr Lisa Ruffell said Council would seek to work with the new owners of Fortuna Villa to guarantee public access to the iconic seven hectare site. “Council worked hard to convince the Federal Government to stop today’s auction, but at the end of the day, they were the owner and it was their decision whether or not to sell,” she said. “Council will seek to have discussions with the new owners with the aim of ensuring our community can have access to this important part of Greater Bendigo’s history.

City of Greater Bendigo councillor Mark Weragoda said the extensive contract would ensure the developer protected the historic value of the heritage listed-building. “I think it’s going to be a positive outcome,” he said. “The 3000-word document will ensure it receives the best treatment and protection.”

Many questions remain unanswered.....

VALE:



VP31949 / 31066 **WO1 Desmond Roy Moore (Des)**

He served in the Survey Corps from 26 Mar 1946 – 23 Sep 1964

Hazel Moore informs us that Des passed away on 11th September 2012 in Perth after a long battle with cancer. He has often asked that I should let you know when he died so that any old friends and comrades who remember him should know. Des was always so proud to have been in Survey and I think they were some of his most fulfilling and happy years. He thought he may have been the youngest RSM in the Army having taken the post at only 24 (although the Army thought he was 2 years older!) He may also have been Fortuna's longest serving RSM as he was there for 12 years. No doubt all this is in your records anyhow. He was 85 years old and has been very ill for some years but always kept his great wit and his artistic abilities.

As his second wife, we were together for 22 years and spent many of them travelling in our old Coaster bus, mostly between Perth and Cooktown where we met. He has 3 grown daughters from his first marriage.

As you can imagine it all seems very surreal to me at present but I am anxious to write this as it was his wish. In a typical Des way, he has bequeathed his body to the University for research. He said he thought "he'd been such a good customer to the medical profession in the past that they may as well try to learn something from him!"

Des Moore was CSM from 1953 until 1955 when the Cartographic Unit became AHQ Survey Regiment. He held the position of Regimental Sergeant Major for the next eight years until 1963. Des was the PMC of the Sergeants' Mess from 1957-62.

With that sort of contribution to the Survey Corps it is understandable that he features significantly in the "Mapmakers of Fortuna" history by Valerie Lovejoy.

"Fortuna soldiers were pretty ragtag and bobtail as far as a military establishment went, but they were efficient at their mapping." Des Moore.

Extract from page 48 of the book reads: Company Sergeant Major Des Moore supported Lockwood in his attempts to raise military standards. Des recalls that Lieutenant Colonel Lockwood was not particularly regimental, but he was prepared to give his CSM the chance to turn the unit into a regimental one. It was a battle to bring the technical unit into line. Moore's philosophy was that they were soldiers who just happened to be doing technical work. It was a basic ideological difference that went right to the core of future problems in the Survey Corps. Moore's argument was that during war mobile lithographic soldiers had to go into battle areas to do their job, so even a working unit had to be responsible for its own defence, withdrawal and protection. He instituted regimental training for officers as well as other ranks and remembers that the soldiers found it very hard at first because they had forgotten even their basic training. Since 1942, the unit contained some unmilitary people who were vital because they were experts at their jobs. They included Tom Chisholm and Cec Burrige in 'G' Office who coordinated the progress of the maps, Fred Kitch, the brilliant RAEME engineer who maintained the machines and Eddie Esposito, the unit electrician, who reputedly rewired the whole of *Fortuna* and some equipment in such a way that only he knew how to fix it. These old hands were excused from regimental training and others used the urgency of their technical work to get out of it. Warrant Officer Moore found his main supporters among those Non-Commissioned Officers who had wartime service such as Neil Rankin who had served in the infantry in Malaya, Keith Barber, who always placed a high value on regimentality and had seen wartime service in Papua New Guinea, and the unit's transport NCO, Harry Wright, who had fought in the Middle East and had been one of the famous Rats of Tobruk. Moore found the most satisfying part of his role as RSM 'seeing young men develop a regimental understanding and become sergeants and warrant officers.'



Des Moore here with Marg Taylor, Hillary Campbell (nee Clarkson) and Barbara Bates-Brownsword (nee Hawkins)

Des had an artistic hand as shown below:



A sincere apology to Hazel for missing his vale in the last Magna Carto. Ed.



313933 Phillip David Boyle (Phil)

Phil passed away on 15 January from a subdural haematoma. He served for a little over 25 years in the Corps (Feb 70 – Jun 95). Phil was farewelled on Friday 1st Feb at Norwood Park Crematorium, Canberra.

Lyall and Cheryl Camp reported that they went to Phil's funeral where there was a mixture of his Bikie, Postie & Army mates together with family members to farewell him. Some of those present were: Roy Morgan, Gary Drummond, Roger & Effe Rees, Paul Baker, Di Chambers, Scheryl Delforce, Mick McConnell, Bob McHenry, Owen Moss, Brian Sloan, Mark Heinrich, Peter Demaine, Danny Galbraith and Charlie Watson. He also mentioned that "Sure as eggs I've forgotten someone".



**38/70 BASIC SURVEY COURSE
SCHOOL OF MILITARY SURVEY, BONEGILLA**

Top: Bill Black (Instructor)
Centre: L to R: Stevo Hinic, Barry Stuart, Rusty Williams, Dennis Marshall.
Front: Peter Osterhage, Bruce Bowers, Phil Boyle, Wally Herbst and Rick Grimshaw.



Phil Boyle using the Carl Zeiss Jena Stereocomparator in the Aerotrig Section at Bendigo with Gary Kenny



In looking for information about Phil, Bob Register came across this 1/84 Subject 4 for WO Poster done by Greg Else. What a good looking bunch of blokes!



**53366 Major John Cattell served in the Corps from 1958 to 1978
(From the SA Assoc)**

John Cattell (pictured in June 2010) died in Queensland on Sunday 24 February 2013. John joined the Corps in the late 1950s, and after completing his Basic Course was posted to the Regiment. He was selected for officer training at OCS Portsea graduating in June 1960. Following a period of civil schooling he served in various appointments in South Australia and in Canberra. In 1966 he was engaged in Aerodist operations along the Sepik Valley and the north coast of Papua New Guinea. He was the Australian exchange officer with Canada in 1969 -71 and subsequently was appointed OC Air Survey

Squadron at Bendigo where he served for several years. During this time he was instrumental in the introduction of semi direct scribing especially for the production of the Papua New Guinea 1:100,000 mapping program. From there he was posted as OC 5 Field Survey Squadron at Karrakatta before retiring to work on mapping in Tasmania. John is survived by his wife, Sally.



IT'S ON – PROBABLY THE LAST HURRAH FOR BALCOMBE

**AND IT'S CALLED
BALCOMBE BARRACKS COMMEMORATION – 2013**

Friday 3 May – Sunday 5 May 2013 see full details at www.austarmyapprentice.org
Or contact the Events Manager Frank Maloney on 0418 728 181



Survey Corps Accommodation



1959 Dedication Plaque Memorial Gates



Photographs courtesy of Howard & Libby Dingle and Richard Jackson-Hope
(From the NSW Assoc)

Not a Plane Table but what is it?



Thanks to Ian Fenselau

The item shown is a **WW1 “Field Sketching Board”** it’s a hand-held version of the surveying plane table. The piece was manufactured from boxwood by instrument maker J Hicks of London in 1909 and measures 24cm high by 17.5 cm wide. Two metal rods at either side hold a roll of paper that can be pulled over the board surface for field sketching. A compass, straight-edge and rulers on either side assist the sketching on the top surface and a protractor was mounted underneath to

assist with bearings. The wrist strap underneath the board was initially intended to secure and stabilise the board upon the operator’s arm for use on horseback. The board was initially designed in 1880 as a “Cavalry Sketching Board” however over the next forty years it found more general use. The directions for horseback use made quaint reading some one hundred years later in this technological age.

1. “Turn the horse exactly in the direction of the object.
2. Revolve the board on the wrist until the meridian line corresponds with the [compass] needle.
3. By moving the arm to the right or left, bring the point from which the line is to be drawn on the sketch opposite the centre of the body. Now turn the ruler in the required direction, its edge corresponding with the point and draw the line.”

It is a little optimistic to think that the horse would stand still long enough to allow such drawing in pencil (especially on active service) however; apparently it was used effectively during the Boer War. The designer stated that the board was intended to simplify the performance of rapid sketches on active service where a high degree of accuracy was unnecessary. Almost identical boards were regularly used as chart holders in WW1 by solo aviators. Many of the pilots had cavalry experience and adapted the sketching board strapped to their arm or leg for this new purpose. A recent visit to the Australian War Museum identified a similar Field Sketching Board on display.

The illustrated board was part of training equipment used by John Charles Douglas at the Hawley Army Training Camp near Aldershot in Surrey prior to his active service in WW1. Major Douglas died in the conflict on Saturday, 18th December 1915 aged 39 years and his body lies in the Bailleul Communal Cemetery in France.



Mick Flynn turns 60

About 50 people gathered at the Andrew Quinn owned “Manchester Arms” on the 12 March to help Mick Flynn celebrate his 60th birthday. Many of the usual suspects were present and it was a good excuse for us all to get together. It was great to see Sue Spath there and the recently retired Phil Smalley.

Survey Corps Badges



Thomas Cavanagh served with 33 Dental Unit SVN and is putting together a collection of Australian Ex-Service Organisations (ESO) membership badges and membership cards.

He has a copy of this Survey Corps badge that I have not seen before. The heritage of the badge is very apparent.

Don Swiney has recently acquired several badges as well.

The badge in black is the usual original Theodolite Survey Corps badge but the one in brown has not had the background removed.

On close examination, the 'non void' one is rougher and still has 'dags' on it.



Also shown is a photo of two 'kings crown' corps badges but one is blackened. The only explanation that he has been able to come up with is that the blackened one was for use during the Korean War as all badges were blackened at that time.

He is aware that a number of corps members served in Korea but does not know of any who actually served there as RASvy.

Don would be interested to hear from anyone with more information about these badge anomalies.

2013 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 2013 Anzac Day march in Melbourne. 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.

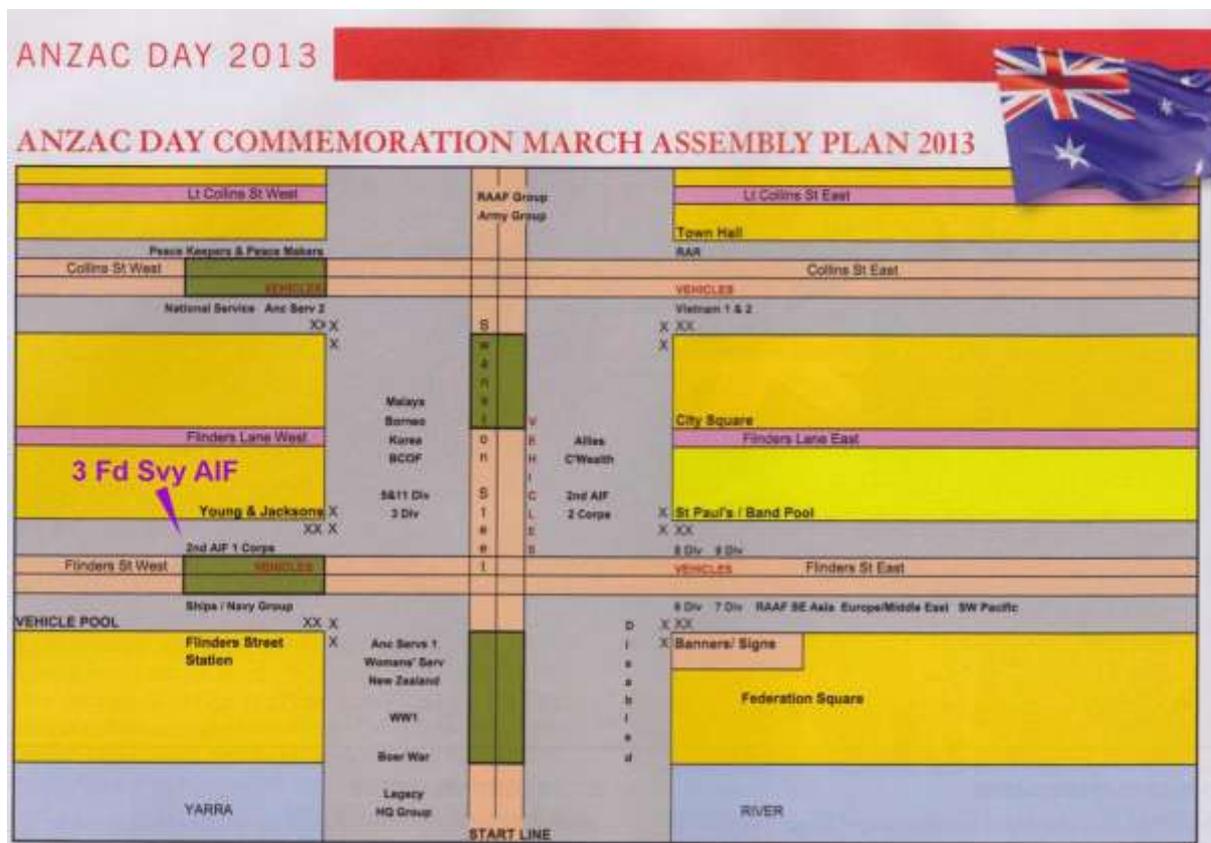
The march on Thursday 25 April commences from the form-up location and proceeds down St Kilda road for about 1 km to the Shrine. The form-up position is with the 1 Corps of 2AIF and is located on Flinders Street West near Young and Jacksons. See the map below. The step off time for the Survey Group is thought to be approximately 0945hrs so that anyone wishing to participate should be there by 0915hrs.

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.



Melbourne Survey Reunion

Norm McMurtrie is working on a Survey Reunion in Melbourne over the weekend of 25th - 28th April, Ken Jeffery, Rob Langley, Greg Grace and a couple of others are making the annual pilgrimage to Melbourne (42 years now).

As this year for the first time, this annual event occurs near Anzac Day, we thought it would be nice to catch up with all those people we talk about a lot, but never do anything with.

To rectify this situation, we hope to have a small reunion of ex-Survey Corps people on the Friday night the 26th. Wives/partners are welcome and it will be at the Montmorency RSL in Petrie Park Montmorency commencing around 6:00pm. They have a great family oriented bistro, and the food is great.

Anyone interested should contact Norm

Mobile: 0427 123 008

Email: norman@mcmurtrie.com.au

Retirements

As previously mentioned Phil Smalley has joined the retirement ranks early in the New Year. Others taking packages and retiring are Noel McNamara (Macca), Ian Belmont, Lance Hillier, Tracey and John Phillips, Harald Mai, Bob Garritty and Anne Greenwood.

2013 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 2013, this time in order as Group C behind the Post 75 veterans. **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 Thursday 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 re-deploy to the **Gold Mines Hotel** (Ed's pub) where snacks and Lunch will also be available this year. **Please come and join us even if you are not marching, and pass the word around.** Some may wish to then move onto the RSL at Havilah Road.



Anzac Day in Bendigo 2012

L to R: Rowan Gillies, Doug Carswell, Stu Thaxter, Jeff Willey, Terry Danger, Harald Mai, Paul Davis, John Phillips, Terry Edwards, Brett Treneman, Tracey Phillips, Rod Skidmore, and Bob Thrower (Stu Symonds took the photo.)



The crowds at the Bendigo Anzac Day Service continue to grow.



At the Goldmines

Jim Ash, Roy Hicks, Gary Warnest, Harald Mai, Rowan Gillies, Dennis Learmonth, Stu Symonds, Rod Skidmore, Jeff Willey and Brett Treneman.



Paul Davis, Brett Treneman and John Phillips

Magna Carto Postal Distribution

The Magna Carto is no longer distributed largely by post.
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.

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