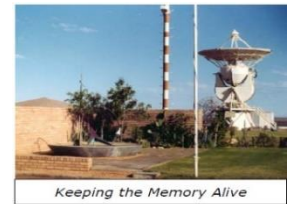


# CRONICLE

VOLUME 18 – DECEMBER 2019



Hello Trackers

Well it has been a while since you last heard from me when I went to Carnarvon for the *Apollo 11 50 Years of Memories* event in July this year.

The Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum did an amazing job of hosting this prestigious event so a big congratulations to Phil Youd and his team.

I spent another 10 weeks volunteering at the museum after the event and during that time have come across quite a few more Carnarvon Trackers and their families. The caretakers at the museum are also now telling visitors who mention they used to work for NASA in Carnarvon about our '*Carnarvon NASA Trackers*' group and "*Keeping the Memory Alive*". I am surprised at how many have left their details there and want to keep in touch.

Since coming home from Carnarvon, I was looking after a friend who had a knee replacement so that put a hold on my efforts to reach out to you all for what was meant to be a September CRONicle!

I will dedicate a page of this edition to disseminating the names of those that have 'come aboard' since the 50th celebrations, including those that have asked about other trackers.

Seems ironic that as we trackers are getting older and the LOS list is growing that our subscriber list is growing. I guess the nostalgia to keep the memories going of such a special time for us all, is evident.

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COLLIE WA 6225  
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# APOLLO 11

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



The Apollo 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held in Carnarvon at the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum was a blast. We started the weekend off on the Friday evening by inviting all past Carnarvon Trackers to the Carnarvon Yacht Club where we enjoyed drinks and a BBQ and catching up with people that hadn't seen each other for decades.

We had trackers come with their family members from the east, from the Northern Territory and even Bob DeWaayer, who used to work at R&RR back in the day, flew from Vancouver, Canada, especially for the occasion; a big call as Bob had only just returned to Vancouver after visiting Australia some weeks earlier. What unity us CROTrackers have!

The Cocktail evening was sell-out and it was a fantastic evening - with plenty of drinking, dancing and reminiscing; we even had stargazing thorough the night.

The evening started off with speeches from a local Indigenous lady welcoming everyone to the country, the Minister for Science, the Hon Dave Kelly MLA represented the Premier, Shire President, Karl Brandenburg and the museum Chairman, Phil Youd also addressed the audience.

This was followed with four Carnarvon trackers being interviewed by the media personality, Greg Pearce. They talked about their time in Carnarvon and working at the Tracking Station. There were a few humorous stories come out of that lot!

We had a video from Gene Kranz, a former NASA Flight Director to mark the occasion and we also had a message from Ed Fendell who was Head of the Communications Systems Section, at the Johnson Space Center when Apollo 11 landed on the Moon. Both gentlemen paid tribute to the Carnarvon Tracking station for the role it played in the Apollo 11 mission. Ed's message is on page 4.

Congratulations must go to Phil Youd and his team for organising such a successful weekend of events to mark the occasion.



The Panel - Tito Teraci, Lauri Glocke, Col Foster and Lorraine Satori with Greg Pearce



Col Foster, Lorraine Satori, Lauri Glocke, Tito Teraci and Phil Youd with Hon Dave Kelly, MLA







# APOLLO 11

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



### Dedication of Monte Sala Fountain

Sunday's event was the dedication of the replica fountain that was designed and built by Monte Sala; it was in front of the administration building at the Carnarvon Tracking Station. This replica fountain was built to the same specifications as the original, the only change being the fabrication of the centerpiece being stainless steel.

The event on the Sunday was well attended and the Sala family were of course in attendance; I'm sure they felt very proud that the replica of the original fountain paid tribute to Monte.

We had a great turn out from the Carnarvon trackers, 34 in total, not a bad turnout for 50 years down the track! Of course, most of the trackers remembered the fountain being called "Fendell's Folly" after Ed put soap powder in the fountain and turning it into a bubble bath, much to the disdain of Monte.



The original Monte Sala fountain



CROTrackers at the replica Monte Sala fountain

The photo below was taken with all the family members who were there to represent CROTrackers who have passed away or were too ill to travel.



## Message from Ed Fendell (CRO Capcom)

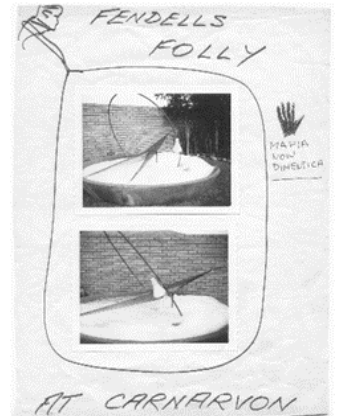
**From:** : Ed Fendell <>  
**To:** [rlglocke@westnet.com.au](mailto:rlglocke@westnet.com.au)  
**Sent:** 16/7/19 8:15 pm (GMT +08:00)  
**Subject:** Request from Carnarvon Trackers

My first of three trips to Carnarvon as a Capcom started with Gemini 4. As all of you know on Gemini 3 a circus went on between Col. Conrad and Dan Hunter reference the Capcom position. I was given pre-deployment instructions to proceed to CRO and solve our Houston differences between the Capcom and the visiting observer Astronaut. As you all know after my arrival, I made it very clear to everyone including the observer Astronaut, who was the Capcom and who was in charge. You also probably remember that several days prior to the mission, a message arrived to open Flight Plan X. I had those hidden in my luggage, and I had been part of a team back in Houston, who had worked in secret planning for the possible EVA. No one on my team, including the Astronaut Observer was aware of the possible EVA, or that we had worked in Secret writing the flight plan for that operation. Carnarvon was selected in the flight plan to give the Go/No-Go for the EVA. As you all know we gave a Go for the operation.

As part of my method of healing the effects of the Gemini 3 mess, we ran an incredible amount of confidence checks on all positions. Everyone got irritated with me over this, but in my usual tough manner, I didn't really care, as long as everything got back up to perfect.

Monty Sala (DCS) and I got to be real adversaries on all of this, but we also got to be very good friends. He acted like the DCS was his child, and he had given birth to it, so we could support Manned Spaceflight. He also felt the same way about the fountain that he had designed, and I believe (Not Sure) had built. One day after a very long workout at the site, I slipped outside and spiked his fountain with soap powder.

The reaction was unbelievable, and my team actually decided that I required protection from possible attack. It never occurred, and we remained good friends forever. I am thankful that Phil and his gang have decided to build a replica fountain for the museum, as an honor to what it really meant to everyone whoever went to CRO, worked there, or to Monty. After meeting Phil recently, I am sure that he and his gang will do an excellent job.



The other day after a long meeting on our MOCR restoration Gene Kranz and I were sitting down having a couple of cold ones, and we got to talking about the old days of Mercury and Gemini, prior to Apollo. The programs that no one talks about, and the things that were accomplished during those programs that enabled us to proceed on to Apollo and eventually land on the moon. Things like how we do launches, EVA, Rendezvous, Docking, Multi Vehicle operations, landing procedures etc. We both mutually agreed that if we had not accomplished all of those many items, we could never proceeded on to Apollo and eventually landed on the moon. Some where in the matter of time, we have all neglected thanking all of the people who did so much on those early programs, and we have never given them their due as to what they did, how hard they worked and their contributions to our Lunar Landing Program.

**With that said, Gene and I would like to thank all of the Trackers from CRO for all they Did, for all of their Hard Work and Dedication from all of us who participated in NASA JSC/Flight Operations for their work back in Gemini pre-Apollo, and for their work during the Apollo Program and for their participation in the Worlds First Lunar Landing and many others that followed.**

Ed Fendell

CRO Capcom



## Farewell to Terence (Terry) Kierans - LOS

As many of you know the (former) editor and facilitator of the CRONicle, and the [www.crotrak.com](http://www.crotrak.com) website was instrumental in "Keeping the Memory Alive" and also kept many of the Carnarvon CROTrackers together and in touch with each other. Terry passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Terry was remembered at the event (held on Sunday for the dedication of the *Monte Sala Fountain*) with a lovely tribute given by John McCloy, celebrant; Terry's wife, Valerie, then laid his ashes around a Kurrujong tree that was planted the day before to honour Terry and his dedication to the CROTrackers.



Valerie Kierans after planting 'Terry's Tree'



Terry Kierans and Monte Sala plaques on the Remembrance Wall

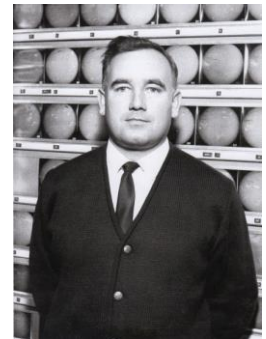
Phil Youd has very thoughtfully offered to use the wall around the fountain as a place for plaques to honour Carnarvon Trackers and Veteran OTC members. The plaques, as displayed above, will have the NASA logo along with the logo for the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum.

The plaques will have the name, the year of birth and date of passing and underneath that is a 'one liner'. This can be the position and site name, or whatever the family feel is appropriate to honour their loved one. The cost of a plaque is \$50 and this can be paid into the CSTM bank account. Please email me at [CROTrackers@gmail.com](mailto:CROTrackers@gmail.com) if you would like to have a memorial plaque on the remembrance wall.

It was also sad to hear that after our reunion Peter Davies passed away. Peter worked in SPAN and unfortunately was too ill to travel at the time of the 50th celebrations. His two daughters, Jenny Fitz and Meridith Davies, travelled from the east to Carnarvon to attend and represent Peter.

***RIP Peter and condolences to the family from the CROTrackers.***

Before he passed Peter had written "My Time at SPAN in Carnarvon." I will be publishing his story in each CRONicle, starting with the next one. Ross Eyre has also written his memoirs of his time there and that will be also hitting the CRONicle soon.



So pleased both Jenny and Meridith have asked to come on board and be part of our CROTrackers group and keep in touch with other trackers. I've had quite a few trackers that have asked to be included; many have not had any contact for years, hence the reason there are so many more on the email list now.

# LOS (Loss of Signal)

I am going to put the LOS in this edition – it is available on our website [www.crotrak.com](http://www.crotrak.com). Having received many messages and emails since the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I have added another LOS, Ron Burgess, who worked at FPQ6 with Monte Sala, George Allen and Doug Beaney. Ron worked at the Carnarvon Tracking Station from 1964 to 1974 and passed away in 2014.

It would be appreciated if you do know of any of our trackers who have passed and are not on the list, a quick email to me at [CROTrackers@gmail.com](mailto:CROTrackers@gmail.com) and I will add them to the LOS page.

Len Algate	Ernie Freeman	Stan Parkes
George Allan	Max Garth	Frank Pettit
George Armitt	Dave Gibson	John Pettit
Ron Ashford	Vida Gibson	Lou Pinelli
Arthur Biscaya	Dick Gilbert	Les Price
Dick Baker	Bill Graham	Ralph "Harry" Richmond
Maria Batty	Olly Gravdel	Peter Roberts
Doug Beaney	Frank Grundy	Jack Roney
Marcia Bird	Harry Hermans	Geoff Ruck
Denis Black	Bill Herrington	Ben Ryan
Fred Brandenburg	Sid Hills	Gloria Ryan
Phil Brinkley	Bill Hoare	Monte Sala
Charlie Brown	Don Holder	Alan Sanderson
Joe Cabone	Ted Hopper	Jack Dempsey Scott
Ron Cameron	John Horn	Adella Shardlow
Peter Castlehow	Ray Jacomb	Ian Shardlow

Jan Castlehow	Jimmy Judd	Ernie Sharples
Tom Cates	Bill Kempees	Richard (Dick) Simons
Ruth Cates	Don Lindsay	Neil Sims
Colin Clark	Elizabeth Lindsay	Phil Sims
Ernie Cook (Cookie)	Paul Linnane Snr.	Mary Smith
Chris Cooper	Vic Mankelow	Jack Stewart
Gythea Cross	Bill Maxwell	Nim Thomas
Carlene Curran (née Brooker)	Ruby Maxwell	Don Thompson
Ron Cuthbert	Col McAtee	Bob Tompkins
Bob Davies	Hugh McColgan	Dot Tonkin
Peter Dawson	Frank McGregor	Dave Troup
Bert Day	Shirley McLaughlin	Reg Truelove
Col Death	Ivan McLean	Derek Trushell
Bill de Lacey	Col McNish	Jack Turner
Peter Del Fante	Frank McRae	Norma Turner
Marjorie Dench	John Milliner	Larry Vague
Al Deramus	Brian Milne	Lewis Wainwright
Phil Dickinson	Fred Mitchell	Norm Warner
Andrew Drummond	Ian Mitchell	Oscar Watzl
Arch Durie	Gillian Oats	HarryWhitworth
Merv Epple	Peter O'Meagher	Maggie Whitworth
Gene Fagan	Wes Oke	Nora Wilbourne

Martin Fenney	Leo Overington	Ernie Wilbourne
John Fletcher	Rosemary Williams (Moran)	Kevan Westbrook
Terence (Terry) Kierans	Wally Steckis	Bill Boyle
Peter Davies	Ron Burgess	Don Cheney

Last updated 1 December 2019

Just as I was about to send this edition out, I got the news that Don Cheney passed away yesterday. Don was my supervisor at STADAN and one of nature's real gentleman. Condolences from all Carnarvon Trackers go to Jackie, Jan and Alan and families. RIP Don.

On a brighter note, some of the trackers that have just recently re-joined us after many years of no contact, have asked about getting back issues of the CRONicle. After Terry passed and left me "holding his baby" I had to get the CROtrak website recreated and in doing so have included every CRONicle that Terry published; his last one was March 2019 Vol 17. So, for anyone that wants past editions, just go to [www.crotrak.com](http://www.crotrak.com) and they will all be there.

*(On that note, the cost of running the website is now being paid for by voluntary contributions from CROTrackers, Terry previously paid for it through his business).*

Of course, when it comes to the CRONicle, because Terry was so passionate about his "Keeping the Memory Alive," he was a champion at the job. I know I don't have his expertise and I certainly don't have his technical knowledge about all things manned space flight. However, I will attempt to keep my promise to him and keep this going in his honour. If any trackers out there have any ideas you would like to see included in the CRONicle, please feel free to send them to me.

This edition will not have the *Memories of the Dedication of the Redstone Rocket - ctd.* As I'm not able to find it in Terry's files at this time, I'll ask my 'IT Guru', Kathrine Hall, to help find it so we can continue with it. Also still looking for 'SOCIAL CLUB NEWS April 1967 ctd'.

I've been in touch recently with Joan Dench and she has arranged for her son, Phil, to email me all the stories that were given to Paul Dench for his tracker stories. They will be appearing in future CRONicles.

I'll also do a "Chit Chat" page with messages I have received to date and would be happy if anyone wants to send me any information that they are happy to have publicised on this page to other CROTrackers, just send it through.



## From A Carnarvon Viewpoint – ctd.

### *Gemini IV*

### *America's first EVA*

#### Carnarvon Fourth Pass.

Gemini IV came up over our horizon at Carnarvon at 5:32:04 GET (0648:03 AEST), the crew anxious to tell somebody about their status. It had been an exciting long night and early morning for us on the ground. Author, "I had 20 centimeter speakers to listen to the astronauts' voices and will always remember clearly sensing the tension and excitement in their voices as well as the atmosphere of the confined cabin that came through those speakers."

McDivitt: *"Carnarvon. Carnarvon. Gemini 4."*

Fendell: *"Gemini 4...Gemini 4...this is Carnarvon Capcom."*

McDivitt: *"Gemini 4. I read you loud and clear. It's nice to have somebody to talk to again."*

Fendell: *"Roger - it's good to hear you. How are thing's going?"*

McDivitt: *"Okay. We're back inside the spacecraft; we are re-pressurised to 5 psi. We are not...I say again, we are not going to depressurise the spacecraft again."*

Fendell: *"Roger. Understand. How are you feeling?"*

McDivitt, *"Everybody's fine.....feeling great."*

Fendell, *"Roger. Can you give me battery readouts please.?"*

And the rest of the pass over Carnarvon followed a technical exchange on updates and spacecraft status, with not a word about the big event just experienced. Discussions about the event began over Hawaii.

To be continued



## CROing About Carnarvon – ctd.

A personal reminiscence by John Ford



This was a delightful period for us: we were assigned a house, yes- a whole house with three bedrooms! (In Woomera, our Australian politicians had been delighted to offer all the married accommodation to USAF personnel, so we had been unable to get anything other than single accommodation, Eloise in the ELDO women's quarters and me in the Senior mess, not even the same buildings! Guess who was doing most of the work?)

Anyhow, happily back in Carnarvon, we moved into the house on the Pony Club corner, just a sea of weeds and double-Gs on our arrival, but we had a wonderful time converting it to lawn and vegetable gardens, also planting a lot of trees and shrubs. Amazing soil, even more so when helped by pony poo! It still looks ok; we always check on our sporadic visits. We were nesting of course; we were pregnant with Piers, who was born a few months later, and we loved the sense of being in a small community that cared about us- a village. We could potter around and please ourselves what we did, and where we went. Pelican Point, inland along the river, up to the blowholes, and so on - all the lovely places where you can play in Carnarvon belonged to us.

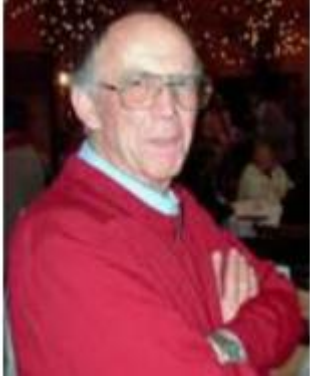
By September 1973 it was all coming to an end though, with the imminent closure of CRO, and we had to make a decision. On the basis of my Nurrungar experience, I had been offered a job as an IBM mainframe engineer in Canberra, and we agonised for quite a while about what we should do. Eloise was reluctant to leave the comfortable and easy life we had in Carnarvon, and I too was very tempted to stay and find a local electronics or computer job. In the end, though, the Canberra offer was flattering, promised several months training in the US (again!), and would enable us to live near Eloise's brother, who we knew was also transferring from New Guinea to Canberra with his young family. We finally left Carnarvon in September 1973, with some sadness, but with hopes buoyant.

Life moves on...

## Extracts from

### "Recollections from My Years at Carnarvon – ctd."

David Johns



FPQ6 Radar – The Carnarvon Tracking Station was on a local hill, Browns Range. The range was probably no more than 200 ft above sea level but it had a commanding view in all directions. All of the country to the north, east and south was flat and was used for sheep and cattle grazing. Most of the land was sandy with sparse grasses, frequent acacias and other small trees. Wedge tailed eagles inhabited the flat land and it was not uncommon to look out from Browns Range and see eagles orbiting in their territories.

In the early years of Australia's rural development, many graziers believed that wedge tailed eagles killed and ate young lambs. In sheep grazing areas, it was common to see shot wedge tailed eagles strung out on farmer's fences.

Sometimes Q6 was very active and sometimes between missions, there would be quiet times. Dave Gardiner, a Q6 technician, told me the following story. The CSIRO had an open mind about the eagles and some CSIRO scientists arranged to do some experiments with the Q6 radar during one of its quiet times between missions. It was known that eagle pairs had defined territories and they also had preferred roosting trees.

The scientists used the cover of darkness and snares and nets to catch some eagles and put a metallic reflecting leg band on them. Next day the Q6 technicians would scan the radar and find the eagle by the reflection from the leg band. The radar would lock onto the eagle and follow it all day and inside the control room would be a very precise three-dimensional printout of the eagle's every move. Also, when the atmosphere was not too hot and shimmery, the telescope could display a picture of what the eagle ate or carried back to its nest. As the experiments proceeded the technicians found that the Q6 radar was so sensitive that it could detect reflections from the eagles bodies without the need for a metallic band, but the power had to be turned up a bit and there was concern that if it was turned up too high, it may damage the eagle.

As a result of the work that CSIRO did at Carnarvon and other sites, the CSIRO established that eagles on occasionally ate sick lambs, but their main diet was rabbits, which was plus for the farmers.

While tracking eagles, the Scientists would sometimes follow a single eagle's every move for several days. The Q6 technicians soon observed that all of the eagles were early to bed and late to rise. At first the eagles were thought to be lazy but then it was realised that thermals do not start until the Sun has been up for a couple of hours and the thermals cease well before sunset so if an eagle got up too early, it would have to flap and flap to gain height - much better to rest a bit longer and then rise effortlessly on the thermals. The CSIRO scientists commented that on heavily overcast days when there are no thermals, an eagle has to go hungry or flap for height. If there is a week of overcast weather, the eagles become so exhausted that the old and sick may die.



## “CHIT CHAT”

*By the Editor – with stories and information from other CROTrackers*

Some CROTrackers who have recently been to visit the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum have left their contact details and asked if they can be added to the CROTrackers list. Even some family members who have had a partner or parent pass away have asked to be included.

I find it interesting that as time passes and more of our trackers pass away, the list is now growing; I counted those on the list and last week I had 97 email addresses. This list is made up of CROTrackers, wives, sons and daughters who want to keep the connection we all had back in the day. As one person said to me, “we are not ‘ex trackers’, we are Trackers – once a tracker always a tracker.” Hence the term ‘Carnarvon Trackers’ is now being used instead of ex trackers.

Margaret Burgess, wife of Ron Burgess (LOS), and her daughter Alison and son Martin have asked to be included.

As has Ian Clifton. Ian was an electrical fitter in 1973 and now lives in Dunsborough.

From Rob and Sue Frost:

Rob and I worked at Carnarvon Tracking Station on Apollo 7 to 14. Rob came to the station in 1967 and worked in Telemetry and later as an engineer in the computer room. I came to Carnarvon in 1968 and worked as a teletype operator - my maiden name was Sue Hobson. We both left after Apollo 14 to go travelling.

Sue and Bob now live in rural NSW and have asked if anyone would like to contact them, let me know and I'll pass on their email address.

Lloyd Browne (I think they called him Charlie Brown) lives in Darwin and recalls living in the house that Max Beresford lived in. They lived next door to Roger Glass and Tom (LOS) and Ruth Cates.

He also recalls an expedition to the shipwreck (1712) site of the Dutch East Indiaman Zuytdorp that included Terry Kierans, Ian Squires, Brian Milne, and Jim Wilcox.

Ian is living in Esperance and still has his Chiropractic clinic.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Jim Wilcox please?

I believe Roger Glass has passed; can anyone tell me if he was a tracker please? If so, I will put him on our LOS page.

More to come in the next addition - and please don't forget to send me any stories, snippets, messages, or enquiries about other CROTrackers for future editions.

Meanwhile, a very Merry Christmas to all CROTrackers and families and hoping for a safe and prosperous 2020 for everyone.



# 14<sup>th</sup> Picnic Day

“No More Reunion Dinners....”

So ...the Perth Chapter of the CRO Trackers will be holding their 14th annual picnic / barbeque at:

## Whiteman Park, Mussel Pool, Shelter V

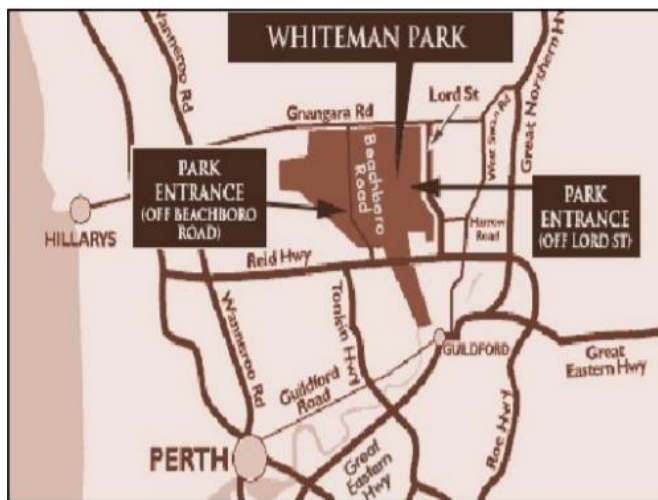
(it's under cover) some 20 kms and 25 minutes from the Perth CBD.

**Date:** Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (1st Sunday after Easter). *I'll remind you all again in the March edition*

**Time:** Lift-off 11 am WST

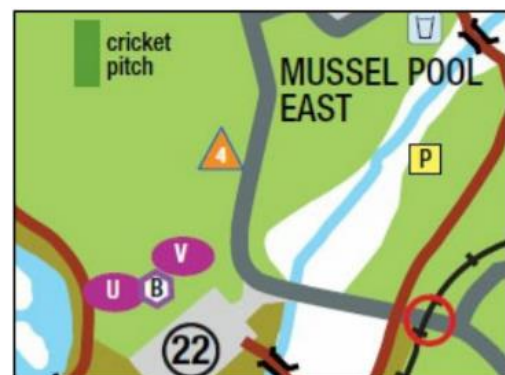
**BYO:** Everything

**Look out for the banner at Shelter V**



CROTrackers at the 13<sup>th</sup> Picnic Day  
(Sadly, Terry passed away only 2 days before)

And if you get lost




**Please note: Donations to defray the cost of hiring will be accepted, gratefully, on the day. Thank you.**

# Keeping the Memory Alive



## KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE

### Carnarvon Tracking Station 1964 - 1975



**CARNARVON TRACKING STATION**

This is the entrance to the site of the former Carnarvon Tracking Station which operated from 1964 to 1975.

It was a joint venture between the Commonwealth Government of Australia and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States of America.

Maintenance and operational services were provided by Airsign and Winkler & Associates.

The Carnarvon Tracking Station was directly involved with the NASA Space program which included the Orbiter, Apollo and Skylab missions.

For more information please visit the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum just a few kilometres south of here on the end of the Old Road.

**Present Day** [Click for full size](#)

*Mick and Sue Coffey's Carnarvon Steel Supplies of Cornish St Carnarvon fabricated and donated the sign*  
*Signwriting generously donated by W&K Painting of Egan St, Carnarvon*  
*Photograph by Phil Youd - Edited by Terence Kierans*

[Click here to commence entry to the original station](#)

If undelivered  
Lease return to:  
CROTrackers  
98 Ogden Street  
Collie WA 6225