



March 1965



March 1966



Keeping the Memory Alive

Vol 9 March 2012

# THE TRACKERS' CROCKLE

We ran out of CRO supported NASA manned space flight missions of the sixties and seventies a while back, so until we can come up with a new, suitable and lasting, theme (suggestions still welcomed) the newsletter will a) continue to be somewhat patchwork in content, or b) have to be reduced in size. You will also gather that I am getting desperate for suitable material.

It is out there.

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Terence (Terry) Kierans - Editor  
CRO Trackers  
PO Box 93  
QUINNS ROCKS WA 6030  
AUSTRALIA

Tel: 61 8 9304 6983  
email: tk@crotrak.com  
http://www.crotrak.com

# Lunar Escape Systems

From Wikipedia

## Control - ctd.

As a result the offset thrust would cause the LESS to rotate until the astronaut returned to a neutral position and the center of gravity was again aligned with the engine thrust.

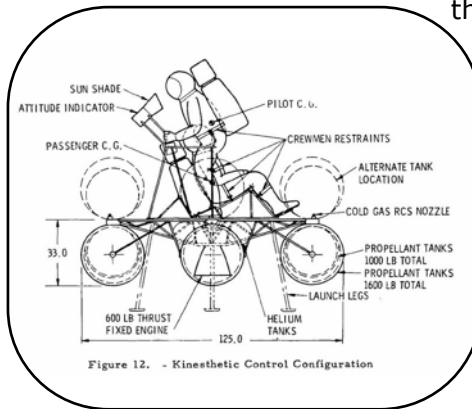
Ultimately, however, this was considered to be less desirable than hardware control, particularly as it imposed significant constraints on vehicle thrust level and inertia... adding gimbaling or relative engine throttling might actually simplify the design.

## Long-Range Flyer

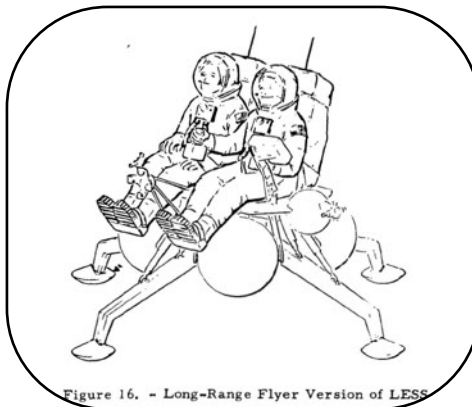
While the LESS was designed primarily as a 'lifeboat' for the LEM crew, a simple rocket which could carry two astronauts would be beneficial in other areas too. The Lunar Rover allowed the astronauts to travel fairly quickly over

a few miles, but an improved version of the LESS could allow rapid travel over much longer distances on rocket thrust.

By adding fixed legs, increasing structural strength to support landing stresses, supporting engine throttling or using a cluster of RCS engines that could be pulsed, and adding a long-range radio relay, the LESS design could be extended to become a long-range flyer (LRF). With around 1600 pounds of propellant from the LEM, the astronauts could travel forty to sixty nautical miles from the LEM to explore a wider area around the landing site. This would, for example, allow reconnaissance trips to potential future landing sites, and the LRF could also be used for orbital flight to return the crew to the CSM in an emergency



LESS variant with attitude control by pilot movement.



Two-man Long Range Flyer.

# Recognition — At Long Last



Photograph - Phil Youd, edited by Terence Kierans

**I**t's been a long time coming... but a new sign has been installed at the entrance to the old-Tracking Station.

Thanks to Phil Youd of Hits Radio, for organising it — together with the generosity of Mick and Sue Coffey's Carnarvon Steel Supplies and W&K Painting.

## Whereabouts

**A**s a result of Paul Dench supplying his "staffing list", augmented courtesy Brian Milne, the "Whereabouts" table of those for whom we have no contact details has expanded to more than one page. Thanks to those who have sent updates.

C Abott	Jim Crossland	Geoff Hammond
Eric Ainsworth	Noel Cunningham	R Hanes
Gay Albon	F Dawes	Bea Hardman
Bill Arbery	Peter Dawson	Peter Hardwicke
Allan Barber	Peter Del Fante	Ron Harmes
John (Allan) Barber	Andrew Dempster	Anne Harvey (Brookes)
Matt Barber	Jean DeVis	D Hatch
Keith Barnard	Marilyn Dick	Gail Heileman
Barrow	Olive Dick	Stan Hills
Deidre Beaumont	Phil Dickinson	Ernie Hindley
Elizabeth Beckett	Neville Dippell	Dave Hine
Beveridge	Cheryl?Dixon	
Michael Billings	L Donkin	A Holgate
Denis Black	John Draper	Phyllis Hook (Watson)
G Bond	Mike Dresser	J Hopkins
S Boyce	Bruce Duff	Vivienne Lawer (Hopper)
Bill Boyle	I Dunleavy	Ted Hopper
B Bradley	Bob Dwyer	Deidre Howard
Phil Brindley	Dave Elliot	B Hughes
Hans Britz	J Erickson	B Hunter
Dave Brooks	Ross Eyre	D Hutchins
Charlie Brown		Ian Jones
T.F.A Brown	Ian Few	S ??? Judd
W Brown	Ian Findlay	Vera Kastropil
J Burdett	G Francis	John Keane
R Burdett	Ben Franklin	Mike Keen
Martin Burgess	David Froom	Jim Keenan
Robert Burns	Don Frost	John Kelman
Joe Cabone	Jamie Gardiner	Joy King
Joy Cameron	L Gardner	M King
Geoff Cardwell	S Garner	L King
G Carrick	C George	Roy Kjellgren
Brian Clarke	Joe George	Gloria Klarie
Brian Clifford	J Gerschwitz	Peter Kloppenburg
Keith Clifton-James	G Goodlace	Henry Larsen
Barbara Cobcroft	L Gore	Russ Leighton
Bill Comstock	Lyn Grant	G Linney
?? Coombs	Claude Granville	F Lippett
Ron Cottis	Bob Halse	Alex Liu

*The quest continues; the list never seems to get very much shorter.*

*I have been given information concerning the possible whereabouts of a few of these, but so far have not been successful in obtaining, or confirming, details. The Reunion Dinner brought out some missing persons, but there are also a few who do not wish to be contacted.*

## Whereabouts ctd.

Gloria Lyon-Roberts	Don Pettitt	Ray Skender
Ross MacDonald	T Phillips	George Small
John Mahaffey	Diane Pitman (Housley)	Lyn Smart (Willis)
Peter Maine	John Platten	J Smith
Roy Mallinson	Gerry Plummer	Mary Smith
Bob Marr	D Powell	P Smith
Keith Mathieson	M.J.K Power	Roger Smith
Alec Matthews	Wendy Puccinelli	Bill Smythe
K McCarson	Lorna Quinn	Hazel Snook (Howse)
Ian McDonald	Roger Ramsden	Dave Standbury
S McDonald	A Rees	John Stanton
Frank McGregor	Dave Rendell	Alex Stevenson
Eileen McLaughlan	Frank Rice	Barbara Stephenson (Vernon)
Don McLellan	Doug Richards	Barbara Teahan
Nola Meiklejohn (O'Byrne)	D Richardson	Barbara Teasdale
R Miller	Harry Richmond	Des Terrill
Bill Mills	Ralp Richmond	Alan Thomas
Ray Mills	Dave Rickards	Christine Thomas
Marilyn Milner (Gobby)	G Riley	Howard Thomas
John Mogg	Brian Robinson	Don Thompson
Sharon Morgan (Todd)	Lynne Rosser	Jack Thompson
J Murray	Ted Rosser	Patsy Thompson (Nolan)
Dennis Naylor	Lindsay Sage	Larry Tomkins
Gloria Neal	Stewart Sands	Frank Toomey
Ellie Nichols	Ron Sargeant	Mike Travell
K Elton Nickerson	Russell Schwarzer	Norma Turner
Graham Nielsen	Bob Scott	Ernst Uhl
John Noble	Michael Scott-Malcolm	TonyVingerhoets
? O'Brien	Lorraine Scott-Malcolm (Erlandsen)	Dave Walker
Joan Oats	Dorcas Sefton-Bellion	Mrs B Ward
W Oliver	George Sefton-Bellion	Tom Ward
Denis Owens	D Selby	N Wardle
John Paddon	Ron Shand	A Watermeyer
??? Mrs Parkinson	Fred Sharland	Irene West
John Parkinson	E Sharples	Bernie Wilbourne
Alan Paterson	? Sheehan	Garnet Wilmott
? Paull	Jeff Shuttleworth	Brian Wilson
Mike Pender	P Sims	Ray Zatorski
Wendy Petersen		

## The Saga Continues - Part 2 ctd.

I'm planning on several fundraising activities leading up to the Buzz visit. I'm looking at a dinner/cabaret with raffles etc and bringing up a band from Perth. These are only ideas at the moment, but I'm working on them. Any assistance is welcomed!

I am planning the first busy bee on site for the weekend of January 21 & 22. Our group of volunteers will be called upon to rake up the weeds and start the prep for the painting. I'll send out further information later. Craig at Mitre 10 is donating the paint, and Mick from W & K Painting and Signs will be donating his services by painting the building, inside and out!

Thanks to those who have started the ball rolling. We'd like to be open for business in April 2012.



# The Saga Continues - Part 1

*From Phil Youd  
Chairman  
Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum Inc.  
Friday, 25 November 2011*

Hi everyone,

Some good news! I've just been advised that our Eventscorp grant application has been successful and will be announced by the Minister for Tourism this afternoon. We have won \$20,000 for the Buzz Aldrin event which I have dubbed "To the Moon and Back Festival". A journalist from the West Australian has just phoned me asking a few questions and advised that we'll have a small piece in tomorrow's West. Perhaps the wheels are finally starting to turn on this great community project.

Now, if we can have some good fortune with some other sponsorship applications such as Rio Tinto, Qantas, and some other funding streams, Buzz will be in Carnarvon next year!

## Proposal to Nominate for a Heritage Recognition Award

*From: Paul Dench [paul@dench.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, 22 November 2011 1:32 PM*

I've been co-opted by Engineers Australia (WA) to help a panel of three of their members prepare the case for an 'Engineers Australia Heritage' recognition resulting in the erection of commemorative panels. This would recognise the roles of the NASA Carnarvon Tracking Station in space research and of the OTC Satellite Earth Station in communications. When successful they would likely be the first of a new award category - Engineer Heritage International Marker (EHIM). We are in the early stages at the moment but tentatively are planning the CRO marker in town somewhere and the OTC marker out on the OTC site. ...

~~~~~

From copies of e-mail correspondence this proposal is proceeding nicely and Paul has prepared a number of documents, including "Historical Summaries" in support.

The final drafts of these were forwarded on 16<sup>th</sup> January for the "Heritage proposal meeting" held on 17<sup>th</sup> January. We look forward to the outcome.

## The Saga Continues - Part 2

From Phil Youd  
Chairman  
Carnarvon Space and Technology  
Museum Inc  
Sunday, 18 December 2011

Hi everyone,

I thought I'd advise you of our progress at the new museum.

Our group has now signed off on the lease for the smaller building at the OTC site which will house "Phase 1" of our museum. The power is on and water connected.

Over the past few days there has been the beginnings of the initial clean up of the site. First newly elected Shire President Karl Brandenburg got his guys in a Bobcat to clean up the driveway giving us vehicle access. Karl is arranging for a better surface to be laid in the not to distant future. Over the last couple of days we've had Andrew Alston with his ride-on mower and tractor mowing down all the weeds.

This has given us the biggest visual change to date, as at least now from the road you can see the building. Today Andrew was back with a whipper snipper and the kids in tow! Stephen Lyall also arrived with his whipper snipper to finish off the bulk of the weed cutting.

My wife Deborah (who has come up from Perth for the weekend) and I have been working inside the building removing years of dirt and getting the place secured. The toilets are in a hell of a state!! I'll leave the description at that!! I've changed a few locks and added padlocks to chains, so it is a lot more difficult to enter the site and building. Just need a few new pieces of glass and we'll be all secure.

I've asked Mick Coffee from Carnarvon Steel Supplies to build us a mock-up of a Gemini Capsule. I found the plans

and a photo on the internet, so he's getting me a price to build it so kids can sit inside.

Linda Lyall is donating \$1,000 to go towards the materials. The Neil Armstrong Museum in Ohio has already built one...so it should be easy!! Ha Ha! I will look at building an Apollo Capsule for when we move to the much larger site (hopefully late next year) to compliment the Gemini one.

Doriana from Vince Catania's office in Carnarvon has the contact details of who has the original fountain that was at the Tracking Station. I will be chasing them up this week to see if we can get it back for the museum. It will be a nice piece to have. Speaking of Doriana, thanks go to her and Karl Brandenburg's partner Donna for immediately donating back the door prizes from the Hits Radio Xmas party on Friday night. These will now be auctioned or raffled at one of our upcoming functions.

Now...the buzz about the Buzz Aldrin visit.

As you know we have been granted \$20,000 from Eventscorp. Last week I met with Maurice the Shire CEO regarding possible Shire funding. He indicated that they may be able to provide our group with \$10,000, and on Friday I got word that Rio Tinto Dampier Salt will donate \$5,000. Vince Catania called me on Friday afternoon and says he's confident that he can find an underwriter for the Buzz visit. I won't go into the details, but it sounds very good! I have a meeting scheduled with him at Parliament House on Jan 13. So I hope to have some good news from that meeting, but I am getting more confident each day that we will pull this off.

*Continued on p4.*

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

*"Five years is still a long time between drinks."*

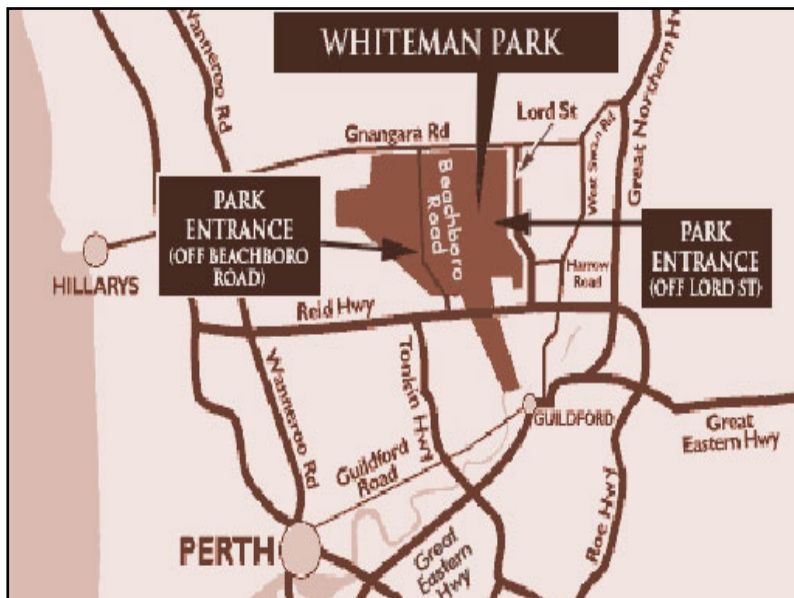
So...the Perth Chapter of the CRO Trackers will be holding their seventh annual picnic / barbeque at:

Whiteman Park, Mussel Pool,

some 20 kms and 25 minutes from the Perth CBD.

- Date:** Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter)
- Time:** Kick off 11 am WST
- BYO:** Everything

## Look out for the banner at Shelter V



...and for those who get lost:



## The Fisherman Who Rode a Horse

*Continuation of an extract from the autobiography of Ken Watters.*

"I have never heard of them."

"I have some brochures and paper work that they have sent to people like us and you can take them home and have a good read before you make up your mind."

"Thank you. I certainly appreciate the job offer. It will make a big difference if I can earn money to help pay my way. Uncle Max has told me that there may be some scholarships, that I can apply for as well, that would be a big help."

"I am sure there will be and if you need any references just let me know."

"Thank you, I had better get back to work we have a satellite to track in 15 minutes."

I left the T&C building with a large envelope full of information on the Institute of Technology tucked under one arm and a spring in my step. It seemed my life was falling into place.

I talked it over and over with Mum and Dad and Uncle Max and decided that I would apply for a Government Mature Age Scholarship and if I was successful I would apply for entry to the West Australian Institute of Technology. I had decided to stay on at the Tracking Station until I at least knew the outcome of my application for the scholarship so either way I was going to miss the coming prawn season.

I noticed that Bub had not been going in to town lately. I asked if he would like to come in to have a couple of games of pinball and a coffee at the Greasy Spoon.

"No thanks Ken, I think I'll just hang around here for the day", he replied.

"What's the problem you haven't been into town all week?"

"One of the Mallard boys is waiting to punch my head in", Bub replied.

"What have you done to upset him?" I asked.

"Nothing, he thinks I'm messing around with his girlfriend."

"Are you?"

"No way, she's got the hots for me but I haven't touched her."

"I'll come with you and we'll sort it out."

"No way, he's got a dozen mates just waiting to get me alone."

"You won't be alone, I'll be there."

"I don't want my head bashed in."

"You can't spend the rest of your life on Babbage Island. Let's go and sort it out."

Reluctantly Bub agreed to come with me in the Landrover and when we arrived in town we spotted the Mallard boys with about a dozen of their mates in front of Fong's Drapery.

"There they are across the road", said Bub.

"OK I'll go around the block and drive past them", I said.

*To be continued*



## Social Club News

APRIL 69

### SUPERVISORS' SEMINAR

The Station's Boss' name is Ray,  
 Be's newly arrived in our ranks,  
 We'll give him a little more time  
 To get used to the fools and the cranks.

Col. is the ramrod of this spread,  
 And the way that these things to  
 Of, cricket and golf and fishing,  
 He's really in the know.

Next on the list is Brian,  
 Ops Super he's known to all,  
 He's always glad to get the help,  
 Of a chap by the name of Paul.

Paul Dench is a tracking man,  
 So folks around here tell,  
 USB, Nitsville and all  
 Have fallen under his spell.

Of a Comms section rather large.  
 Max B. we find in control,  
 And ensuring that it's smoothly run,  
 Makes him a hard working soul.

Computers are bossed by a guy called Frank,  
 As a mathematician he's great,  
 But if he runs his machines or vice versa,  
 We can only speculate~

Big Barry's in charge of Facs.,  
 Poorhouse, garage and garden,  
 With his side kick by name of George,  
 He's quite an effective warden.

Milton's the editor of this rag,  
 He agreed to print this poem,  
 Any grievances aroused,  
 Should be settled before he leaves home.

The Bard from Carnarvon-upon-  
 Gascoyne.

## The Saga Continues - Part 3

*From Phil Youd  
Chairman  
Carnarvon Space and Technology  
Museum Inc  
Friday, 13 January 2012*

Hi everyone,

I thought I'd advise you of what's been happening with the museum etc.

Firstly, the building has been prepared for painting. It has been high pressure washed with all of the old flaky paint coming off. There's still a couple of minor jobs to do, but should be sorted out in the next couple of weeks.

Next weekend will be our first Busy Bee on site. We'll be cleaning up the garden, trimming a few trees and getting ready to plant some lawn. I'll call our volunteers next week and work out a schedule.

Tickets are now on sale around Carnarvon for our first fundraiser. We need to sell over 100 tickets to earn money for the museum. I'm aiming for 150!!! So if you're in town...buy and sell as many as you can!!

In case I hadn't informed you, Buzz's people have been in contact with me again, and have stated that he is now unable to come to Australia in July. The ONLY time he has available is the last 2 weeks June. I have gone back to them with June 22 & 23. They said they CAN do that. But I need to sign the contract ASAP and transfer them the US\$25,000 deposit so we don't miss the boat again.

I have just come from a meeting with Vince Catania at Parliament House. Things are looking REALLY good in obtaining enough sponsorships to get Buzz out here and all of our ex-Trackers & OTC staff on a plane to Carnarvon.

Virgin has verbally said **YES** to sponsoring Buzz's flights from the US

to Perth. Just waiting on the paperwork, which should be early next week.

The Bendigo Bank looks like they will underwrite the "event" to \$30,000. They have given **verbal approval**, but meet at the end of the month and we should get the go ahead in writing then. Vince's father is the Chairman. I have asked another party to lend us \$25,000 for the Buzz deposit for the short term, which would be repaid within a month from the Bendigo Bank money. This will enable us to sign the contract and we're and Buzz are committed.

We're looking at chartering a Skywest F-100 jet to fly everyone up to Carnarvon from Perth. To offset the cost of this, Vince will be selling tickets to large companies (10 each) that he has contact with. He's convinced he can sell up to 60 tickets at \$1,200 each. (We only need 30 to cover the cost of the jet). The package will include flight, 1 nights accommodation and ticket to the Buzz evening. This allows for 40+ "freebies" to come aboard! So the flight will be promoted as "Meet Buzz Aldrin - A Once in a Lifetime Experience". It will be a great PR experience for Carnarvon and our museum. We do want to provide everyone with a "show bag" of for the event. It could include brochures on Carnarvon, museum, Buzz photo, perhaps a stubby holder or T Shirt. All of this will depend on \$\$.

For the ex-Trackers, I think I will have to charge you for a room and ticket to the function as I won't have enough money left over in the budget. The cost is yet to be finalised, but I think we will be able to discount where possible, but you'll get a free plane ride!

*Continued on p11.*

## KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE



### Carnarvon Tracking Station 1964 - 1975



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**M**y sincere thanks to all of those who have contributed to the website so far; listed at: [http://crotrak.com/thank\\_you.htm](http://crotrak.com/thank_you.htm) .

There is a lot to come including more photographs from the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Dinner, courtesy Trevor Housley, Tito & Joan Teraci, Margaret Hall and Max Garth. Just wish I had more than two hands, and more free time - I need to get them done before the next dinner

I can arrange copying, scanning, whatever, so as to get them uploaded to our website; you need have no fears regarding their safety.

## The Saga Continues - Part 3 ctd.

Accommodation in Carnarvon is/will be extremely tight. Next week when I'm in Carnarvon I will be visiting EVERY motel etc to book as many rooms as possible. We may need up to 100 rooms just for our plane load! I have 25 booked at the Fascine Lodge already, but I'm hoping some may be able to bunk together if we run short. Of course this doesn't include "other punters" that may want to visit Of course this doesn't include "other punters" that may want to visit Carnarvon.

For those that are into "Facebook" we now have a page. Please have a look at Carnarvon Space and Technology

Museum, and "like us" whatever that means!!

I have sent a sponsorship request letter to Telstra through a "friend of a friend", to see if they may come on, since OTC became Telstra, so there is a synergy. Wait and see!

I have also set up a meeting with Lotterywest to see what avenue's of funding are available to us. I meet with Michelle on Feb 6.

I am feeling very confident we will now pull this event off.

Mark those dates in your calendar...

**June 22 & 23.**

# Keeping the Memory Alive

## Tracking Station Tours

*From the memoirs of Ted Cockram*

Keith and Terry told me that during the 1966 school holidays the Tracking Station was being overwhelmed with demand for visits by tourists. So at their suggestion I approached the Station with a proposal that the Tourist Bureau take over the running of the tours.

Whilst for security reasons at first they would not let me run the tours they did agree that the Bureau would take over all booking arrangements except VIP and that I would charge a booking fee of 40c.

This initially caused complaints from some visitors and one tour operator who had previously not had to pay, but that soon dissipated.

At that time, visitors assembled at the gate and were escorted in their own vehicles to the various points of interest by Station security staff.

When I took over the tour bookings the Station supplied 16mm films of the various NASA programmes in the

USA. In the beginning the Headmaster of the Carnarvon High School, Max Piggot, loaned the school's 16mm projector and we rented a room upstairs in the RSL building where the films were screened prior to the tours. The films were very interesting and informative, and added an extra dimension to the tours.

Some twelve months later the Bureau was able to purchase its own 16mm projector that was also used to screen films for the Prawning Station that showed underwater footage of different types of trawl nets.

I also screened films that came from Yugoslavia, for the Slav community. These were very old black and white and in their language. Some of the reels were well worn and I recall one night when an old reel with virtually no centre bearing jumped off the projector and rolled down the tiers of the theatre floor laying out the film as it went.

*To be continued*

If undelivered, please return to:

**CRO Trackers**

PO Box 93, Quinns Rocks, WA 6030