



March 1965



March 1966



March 1969



Keeping the Memory Alive

Vol 14 March 2017

THE TRACKERS' CROKNICLE

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Memories of the Opening of the 3rd Phase of Museum

By the Editor

"We have also featured on Australian television on shows such as WA Weekender, and either tomorrow night, or next Sunday, and I am not quite sure which it is, we will also feature on the ABC's Surfing the Menu so please tune in.

These shows are helping to spread the word about the priceless asset we have here in Carnarvon, which highlights the huge role in the history of this town. Indeed, basic word of mouth has encouraged a huge number of people to the museum, and they in turn spread the word further. You only have to look at the Visitor's Book to see what people really think of this absolutely wonderful museum.

These premises represent a fivefold increase in display area and a vastly increased number of exhibits including our wonderful Apollo II flight simulator. At that stage we were proud to welcome Andy Thomas, Australia's own astronaut who spent many months on the International Space Station amongst other achievements in space.



Andy Thomas
Photograph - Lauri
Glocke

Now it is 2016 and we have expanded even further with the acquisition of the old Power House on this site, the OTC communications building. This building currently holds a Scitech exhibition valued at over \$600,000

and provides a large number of interactive activities which bring fun and joy to all ages (except me because I can't do half of them), as well as providing a fantastic insight into the science of space travel and as well as vast educational opportunities for all.

It is this Phase 3 which will shortly be opened by Captain Cernan.

The credit for this wonderful treasure



goes to Phil Youd who had a dream to preserve the history of Carnarvon's role in the the space program and followed through to its present form.

It has taken imagination and skill to turn these old buildings into something which gives so much pleasure to so many people from all over the world. We are run totally by volunteers and I'm sure I speak for them when I say that to work here is not a chore, it is an absolute privilege.

Thank you Phil for your tireless efforts and dedication. Carnarvon is so much richer because of your dream and Carnarvon's role in the space program. It has been given the recognition that it now deserves. I believe we are Carnarvon's number one tourist attraction at this point.

Ladies and gentlemen I would now like to introduce our local MLA Vince Catania who will formally introduce Captain Cernan. Thank you."

To be continued

Whereabouts

As 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	Cheryl? Dixon	Ian Jones
Eric Ainsworth	L Donkin	Mike Keen
Gay Albon	John Draper	Jim Keenan
Bill Arbery	Mike Dresser	John Kelman
Allan Barber	Bruce Duff	Roy Mallinson
John (Allan) Barber	I Dunleavy	Bob Marr
Matt Barber	Dave Elliot	Keith Mathieson
Keith Barnard	J Erickson	Alec Matthews
Barrow	Ian Few	K McCarson
Deidre Beaumont	Ian Findlay	Ian McDonald
Elizabeth Beckett	G Francis	S McDonald
Keith Beveridge	Ben Franklin	Frank McGregor
Michael Billings	David Froom	Eileen McLaughlan
G Bond	Jamie Gardiner	Don McLellan
S Boyce	L Gardner	Nola Meiklejohn (O'Byrne)
B Bradley	S Garner	R Miller
Phil Brindley	G Carrick	Ray Mills
Hans Britz	C George	John Mogg
Dave Brooks	Joe George	Sharon Morgan (Todd)
T.F.A Brown	Richard Govern	J Murray
W Brown	Peter Hardwicke	Dennis Naylor
J Burdett	Ron Harmes	Gloria Neal
R Burdett	Anne Harvey (Brookes)	Ellie Nichols
Robert Burns	D Hatch	K Elton Nickerson
Joy Cameron	Gail Heileman	Graham Nielsen
Geoff Cardwell	Stan Hills	John Noble
Brian Clifford	Ernie Hindley	? O'Brien
Keith Clifton-James	Dave Hine	Joan Oats
Barbara Cobcroft	A Holgate	W Oliver
Jim Crossland	Phyllis Hook (Watson)	Denis Owens
Noel Cunningham	J Hopkins	John Paddon
F Dawes	Vivienne Lawer (Hopper)	Diane Pitman (Housley)
Andrew Dempster	Deidre Howard	John Platten
Jean DeVis	B Hughes	Gerry Plummer
Marilyn Dick	B Hunter	D Powell
Olive Dick	D Hutchins	M.J.K Power
Neville Dippell	Vera Kastropil	Wendy Puccinelli
	John Keane	Lorna Quinn

The quest continues; the list has got a bit shorter, thanks to George Allen; Sue van Dongen et al. 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 last Reunion Dinner brought out some missing persons, but there are also a few who do not wish to be contacted. Additions marked with an asterisk.

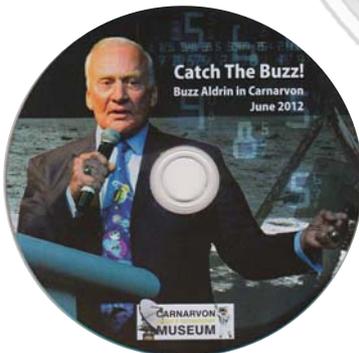
Whereabouts ctd.

Roger Ramsden
A Rees
Dave Rendell
Frank Rice
Doug Richards
D Richardson
Harry Richmond
Ralp Richmond
Dave Rickards
G Riley
Brian Robinson
Lynne Rosser
Ted Rosser
Lindsay Sage
Stewart Sands
Ron Sargeant
Bob Scott
Lorraine Scott-Malcolm (Erlandsen)
Michael Scott-Malcolm
Russell Schwarzer
Dorcas Sefton-Bellion

George Sefton-Bellion
D Selby
Ron Shand
Fred Sharland
? Sheehan
Jeff Shuttleworth
Ray Skender
Lyn Smart (Willis)
J Smith
George Small
P Smith
Roger Smith
Dave Standbury
John Stanton
Bill Smythe
Hazel Snook (Howse)
Barbara Stephenson (Vernon)
Barbara Teahan
Barbara Teasdale
Des Terrill
Alan Thomas

Christine Thomas
Howard Thomas
Don Thompson
Jack Thompson
Patsy Thompson (Nolan)
Larry Tomkins
Frank Toomey
Mike Travell
Ernst Uhl
Tony Vingerhoets
Dave Walker
Mrs B Ward
Tom Ward
N Wardle
A Watermeyer
Irene West
Bernie Wilbourne
Jim Wilcox *
Garnet Wilmott
Brian Wilson
Ray Zatorski

Catch the Buzz



The "Catch the Buzz!" DVDs are now available for sale at the museum. Cost is now only \$5.00 plus postage. It features:

- Carnarvon Airport Welcome;
- Kids Q & A;
- Cocktail Party, which includes Buzz's inspirational speech, and
- Opening of museum

It is a great memento if you were there; if you weren't ...you'll wish you were! But at least now you'll feel part of one of Carnarvon's biggest events.

Please order through our website at:

<http://www.carnarvonmuseum.org.au/buzz.html>



From A Carnarvon Viewpoint - ctd.

Gemini IV

America's first EVA

4 - 8 June 1965 AEST

By Hamish Lindsay

New shifts for tracking stations to cope with long duration missions.

It was a 14-hour day at work followed by a 10 hour break sliding forward one hour earlier each shift for the length of the mission. The passes would begin in the north-east with a short glimpse of the spacecraft for around a minute, peak overhead with longer passes of up to 12 minutes and then fade out in the north-west with short passes again before it disappeared below the horizon to go through the whole cycle again.

Four days in space were planned - longer than all the NASA Mercury and Gemini flights combined at that point. Objectives of the mission were to trial the first American space walk, evaluate the prolonged effects of space flight over four days on the crew and the spacecraft, looking at crew rest and work cycles, eating schedules and real time flight planning. In addition they planned to try station keeping with the second stage of the Launch Vehicle, and in-and-out of plane manoeuvres. There were 11 experiments scheduled.

At T-35 minutes before launch, the erector stuck at 12° while being lowered. It was raised and lowered again, but still stuck. After an hour of investigation, technicians found a faulty connector in a junction box. It was replaced and after a delay of 1 hour 16 minutes the count continued to launch.

Launch

At 1015:59 USEST on Thursday 3 June 1965 the 27 metre tall GLV Titan II rocket thrust the Gemini IV capsule into the sky from Launch Complex-19 into an initial elliptical orbit of 163 by 282 kilometres. It had the first international television audience, 12 European nations watching it through the Early Bird satellite.

McDivitt reported booster cut-off 5½ minutes after lift-off and waited before backing off, using his thrusters. Then, once in orbit, McDivitt and White tried to catch up with their discarded booster rocket. White saw the rocket venting, with propellant streaming from its nozzles. McDivitt estimated it was 120 metres away, while White thought it was more like 75 metres.



To be continued

Minor Adjustment to December

Courtesy Ed Fendell

Gemini 2 was the first mission where non astronauts CC were used; Lewis CSQ and Fendell RKV.

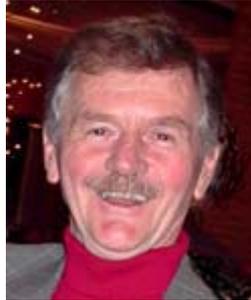
Gemini 3 was supposed to be all non astronaut Capcoms, but the ruckus at CRO was the only deviation, due to a misunderstanding back in Houston.

Gemini 4, as you know, was all sites, and I guess it is time for me to apologize for being so hard on you all.

CROing about Carnarvon

A personal reminiscence by John Ford.

Some were double-storeyed, some self-importantly wearing false frontages and other embellishments, but it had the solid feel of a prosperous rural township.



The light was vivid and bright, and the buildings were mostly creams and light Mediterranean colours, not the greys and browns of other bush towns. To the left, and east, the road we had driven in on last night could be seen winding out of town towards the Great Northern Highway. To my right lay the bulk of the town centre, the broad street and its central plantation spearing straight down to the sea.

The esplanade was defined by a row of tall coconut palms; I later learnt that this palisaded seawall was known as the Fascine. I spent a while



walking around, really liking this place with its mix of maritime and outback atmosphere, and enjoying the undeniably tropical caress of the light breeze blowing in from the estuary.

I wanted to offer myself to the tracking station as soon as possible, so about 10:00 I donned a tie and got the town taxi to run me out there. This also gave me a chance to look over the terrain which had been hidden by the darkness on our arrival the night before.

The feeling of space and light was very strong, and again I could sense the awesome vastness of the inland. The taxi driver was laconic, but he answered my questions readily and he liked a joke.



Road to Tracking Station
Photograp - Alan Gilham

When we arrived at the gates I told the guard that I had a job appointment, and was cheerfully waved through. I was relieved to see that this elderly guard wore no gun, and was genial and friendly.

We drove up to the T & C building, and after filling in various forms and undergoing numerous interviews I was eventually hired as a technician, to my relief.

Though I had had a very high (Top Secret) security clearance in the Navy, it was going to take two or three months to get it renewed, so — while they would hold my job for me, I had to survive in the interim. This posed an interesting problem, but I headed back to town, delighted with it all.

As we drove off I viewed the dispersed high-tech elements of this tracking station with a new interest. I could see several dishes, and some intriguing rectilinear arrays. The same taxi driver was generous in his congratulations, as was the guard on the gate, and I began to feel that glow of Carnarvon warmth.

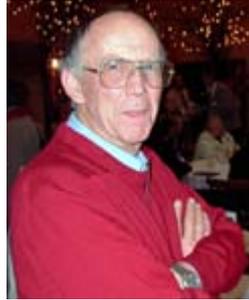
To be continued

Extracts from "Recollections From My Years At Carnarvon"

David Johns

Technology Shock ctd.

Kim Gates was an engineer in the Telemetry Section of the Carnarvon Tracking Station. He told me a story once that I though was very funny and I still tell the same story today at dinner parties.



Kim was working in the Telemetry room one day during one of the Apollo moon missions, possibly Apollo 16 but I am not sure which mission it was. The Lunar Module had landed and the astronauts were preparing to descend and walk on the moon's surface.

As was the normal work practice, the net was turned on at normal volume in the Telemetry room and everyone present, and probably hundreds of workers in other tracking stations all around the world, could hear the astronauts going through their checks.

During the Apollo missions, there were hundreds, maybe thousands, of hours when workers at the tracking stations had the net on and could hear the astronaut conversations but the workers would develop a familiarity with the process and only listen for what they needed to hear and disregard the rest of the astronaut babble as they went through their procedures and read back check jargon to Houston.

On this occasion, the astronauts descended their ladder and walked on the moon and one of their first tasks was to walk away from the Lander and put a TV camera and transmitter on a tripod so the camera could film the action and send the picture direct to Houston as the astronauts rigged up other experiments.

The camera was soon rigged up but Houston was not receiving a picture. Houston had experts at hand and the controller consulted with them and then made suggestions to the astronaut and he

read back meters and twisted dials at Houston's direction.

The TV picture was not a part of the Carnarvon Station's work and the Carnarvon worker's attention drifted to other matters as Houston and the astronaut exchanged data and ideas about what might be wrong and how it could be corrected.

Like background music in the supermarket, the technical babble droned on and on for maybe ten minutes and as Houston and the astronaut worked on the problem and Kim and the other Australian staff were not listening at all.

Suddenly there was excitement in the Houston voice and it was receiving a "beautiful beautiful" picture and the excitement attracted the attention of Kim and the other staff and their concentration focused on the exchange between Houston and the Astronaut.

Houston was exclaiming satisfaction that its diagnosis had been so successful and Houston sought the astronaut's confirmation that he had indeed achieved the good picture by implementing Houston's last suggested adjustment.

Radio waves travel at 300,000 km per second and it was normal that every time Houston spoke to the moon, there would be a nearly three second delay before the astronaut's voice began to reply.

Everyone waited the customary three seconds for the reply but there was no reply. After a ten second wait, Houston repeated the question, but there was still no reply. By now everyone was 100% focused on the exchange of comments but there was still no response from the astronaut.

Then after another Houston query and a long delay, the astronaut was back on the air and with typical laconic drawl he said, "Weel Houston, ah was walkin' around the tripod and was about to apply yer last suggestion when ah accidentally hit the leg of the tripod with my foot and the picture came real real good".

To be continued

Manned Spacecraft: Where Are They Now?

Thanks to Tony Sala for providing this. One of his hobbies is to see as many as he can, first-hand.

<http://www.live555.com/misc/CapsuleLocations.html>

Mercury

<http://www.live555.com/misc/CapsuleLocations.html>

MR-3 "Freedom 7" (Shepard) *

[John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum](#), Boston, MA (temporarily on loan from the National Air and Space Museum (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, DC)

MR-4 "Liberty Bell 7" (Grissom)

Sank after splashdown in the Atlantic Ocean; [recovered from the sea floor](#), July 20, 1999; [currently on tour](#); will be eventually displayed at the [Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center](#), Hutchinson, KS

MA-6 "Friendship 7" (Glenn) *

[National Air and Space Museum](#) (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, DC

MA-7 "Aurora 7" (Carpenter) *

[Museum of Science and Industry](#), Chicago, IL

MA-8 "Sigma 7" (Schirra) *

[Astronaut Hall of Fame](#), Titusville, FL

MA-9 "Faith 7" (Cooper)

[Space Center Houston](#) ([NASA Johnson Space Center's](#) Visitor Center), Houston, TX

* Visited by Tony Sala

QUOTATIONS

"After Apollo 17, America stopped looking towards the next horizon. The United States had become a space-faring nation, but threw it away. We have sacrificed space exploration for space exploitation, which is interesting but scarcely visionary."

~ Gene Cernan

"Here I am at the turn of the millennium and I'm still the last man to have walked on the moon, somewhat disappointing. It says more about what we have not done than about what we have done."

~ Gene Cernan

ACROBITS '73

BARBECUE, NORTH-WEST STYLE

I wandered out to see how the pig was progressing on the spit. The setting sun glowed warmly on this rustic scene as the sunburned, rugged Australian slowly turned the spit with one hand, Swan draught in in the other. The cooling ocean breeze softly rustled the nearby leaves and caressed the body, hinting at the pleasant evening that was in store for us.

The table was stacked, literally, with fresh crays, leg ham, numerous salads and plate after plate of juicy pig which was chopped up on the old cable drum, ideal for this purpose.

We wine and dined and danced till after midnight then piled into cars and headed for the beach. The moon was full and glistened on the water. Several went for a swim, some strolled along the soft sand and others went fishing in a small boat. Back into the cars, back to the homestead, and then to bed - where you could find it: shearers' quarters, bunks, cars, under tables, etc.

Morning - a queue for the bathroom; a general clean-up; chickens in the oven for lunch; a quick breakfast of sausages and eggs, then down to the beach with the keg for a few more leisurely hours. Some, again, swam whilst others simply enjoyed the beauty of these isolated, clean and seemingly endless beaches that fringe this beautiful coastline.

Lunch on Sunday was almost a repeat of the feast the night before, with fresh crays, chicken, and salad and wine. In the afternoon we adjourned to the courtyard, part of the original homestead which was built in 1902.

It was very relaxing sitting amongst overhead plants and vines, with the old flagstones underneath our feet and still in good condition, and imagining what it was like in those days. They ran more than 26 acres to a sheep then when times were not so good. It must have been pretty hard going to reach the town and I don't suppose the journey was made very often.

Sunday afternoon the plane with a few of the guests took off and buzzed the station. The few remaining guests prepared for the journey home, completely satisfied and so relaxed. It seemed as though the hosts were sorry to see us go, for they do not have many people visit them and at times they must feel quite lonely up there.

We looked back over our shoulders as we turned for home and still the sun shone, the ocean glistened and the white, old homestead of Gnaraloo reflected the brilliance of the sun. It was good to have been there.

11th Picnic Day

"No more Reunion Dinners ..."

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

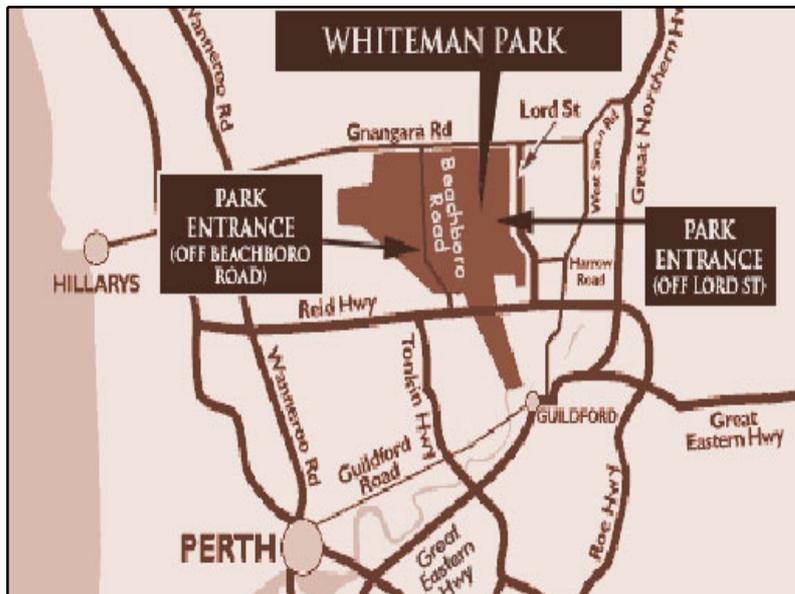
Whiteman Park, Mussel Pool, Shelter V

(it's under cover)

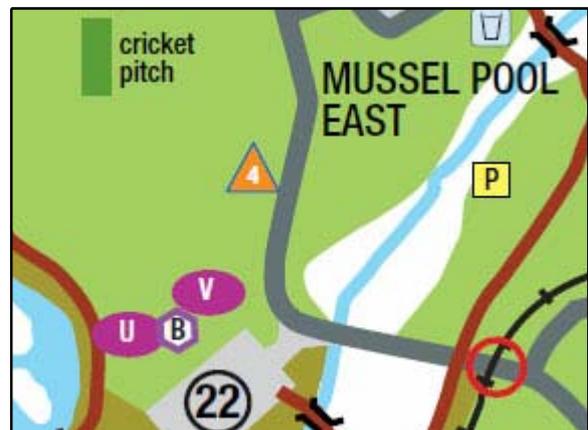
some 20 kms and 25 minutes from the Perth CBD.

Date: Sunday April 23rd 2017 (1st Sunday after Easter)
Time: Lift-off 11 am WST
BYO: Everything

Look out for the banner at Shelter V



... and for those who get lost

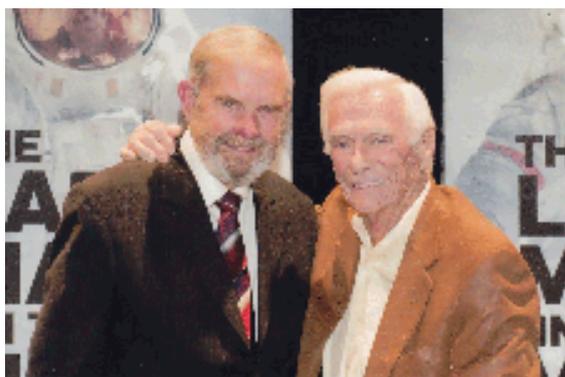


Please note: Donations to defray the cost of hiring will be accepted, gratefully, on the day. Thank you.

Where Are They Now

There will always be a special place for Hamish Lindsay. Without his dedicated journals we would have lost any record of the heydays of CRO.

The editor



Hamish Lindsay with Gene Cernan

By Hamish Lindsay

2016 has been a busy and successful year for me. These are some highlights.

The year began in January when I was invited to a 60th birthday party in Sydney for the yacht *Malohi* which had brought me from Hobart to Sydney to meet my wife and do the Apollo thing (and we came third in the 1960 Sydney/Hobart race).

Quite a few famous yachtsmen were there, but I was the star of the evening as Maurie Evans, the owner, played my movie of the Hobart/Sydney trip. I handed over *Malohi's* log of her first voyage to Fiji and Noumea. Maurie then read out of my log of the 1960 Hobart race where I climbed the mast at night in Bass Strait.

In May I had the privilege of meeting the last man on the Moon, Gene Cernan, twice. I was invited out to Tidbinbilla

for lunch with him, where there were photos of us with the big 72 metre dish which was brought down specially to point at us.

He gave me a DVD of his movie "The Last Man on the Moon." Then I had a great photo with him in the Canberra Theatre. As he put his arm around my

shoulders he said to the audience, "*This man followed me every step of the way.*"

Then I went out to the Honeysuckle Creek site three times, first for the ACT Heritage Council function and made the TV news and newspaper.

Another time was for the Google Earth photos which will be available on line in March next year. Then out again for an interview on Honeysuckle Creek for the ABC TV show *Curious Canberra*.

I am now busy organising Honeysuckle Creek's official opening day 50th anniversary party next March. It will be held on the old site, and then at Tidbinbilla, with movies and talks to the public in the lecture room in the Visitors' Centre.

In November I finished a two year chemo program for my cancer, now diagnosed 15 years ago. Results are very good and the oncologist said we now just sit and keep an eye on it, which' is good to hear, as I am 80 next year.

I went to a lecture by two Cassini scientists from the USA on the Saturn mission, which is ending next year. It should be a stunning finale with the spacecraft looping around Saturn, between the planet and the rings 22 times before burning up in the atmosphere in September 2017.

Keeping the Memory Alive

KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE



Carnarvon Tracking Station 1964 - 1975



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](#)

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