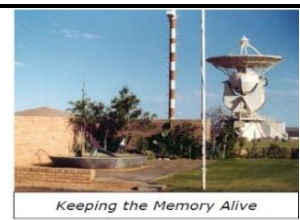


# CRONICLE

VOLUME 21 – 2020



## Note from the Editor

By Lauri Glocke

Hi Everyone

This September edition is coming to you from good old sunny (but windy) Carnarvon. I have been up here since early July and will be heading off home to Collie - hmmm, when I get a good weather report that says I do not have to share my mornings with Jack Frost!

I am at the Carnarvon Space & Technology Museum now but have spent the past ten weeks doing more fishing, crabbing, and camping than I have working at the museum. We have three sets of caretakers here now so between them all, I have been doing more chatting to our visitors and tracker admin work than anything else.

Lorraine Sartori (Rooney) has been here in Carnarvon for a couple of short visits and her and I, with input from other Trackers have looked at doing a revamp of the "Trackers Tribute" room.

Starting with trying to identify pieces of equipment in there, so we can get ID cards to say what they were used for and on what site. Phil Youd has been incredibly supportive of our ideas and has come up with some great ideas to digitalise what we have proposed.

More about that project inside.



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*Still happy to accept any help, suggestions, or submissions from Trackers for future editions.*

Laraine (Lauri) Glocke

Editor – CROTrackers

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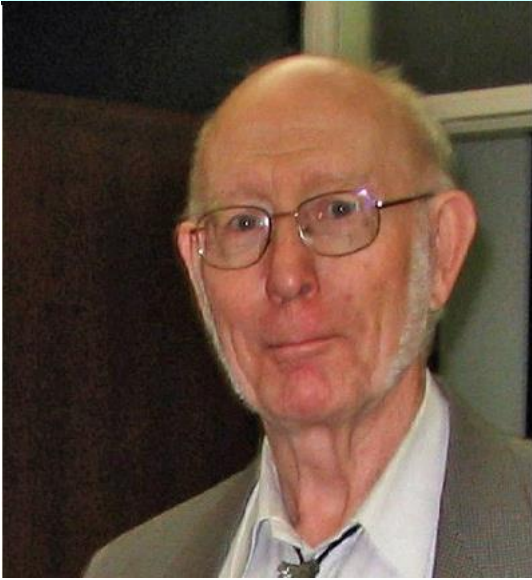
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Sub-editor: Paul Linnane



# A tribute to Paul Dench



Many of you will know by now that (at the same time in June, just as I emailed Vol 20 of the CROnicle), sadly Joan and her son, Alan, were sitting with Paul holding his hands as he peacefully passed away at 9am on Friday 26 June 2020 in Perth.

The timing of Paul's LOS is poignant to me as it was at the same time, I had finished the CROnicle, and was emailing it to our trackers.

There have been many tributes to Paul, some in the newspapers and others on websites; too many to replicate them all in this edition of the CROnicle. Having said

that, I will list the sites/links because they are such moving accolades to a man who was a great chronicler of CRO and its history.

It goes without saying he was an important part of the life and legacy of NASA's Carnarvon Tracking Station; his efforts, along with Terry Kierans and many others, have ensured that the important role of CRO in space history is recorded and remembered.

Paul and the late Allison Gregg wrote a book called, ***Carnarvon and Apollo***, this book is a fitting legacy to their work.

***Condolences are extended to Paul's wife of 64 years, Joan, and the children, Alan, Alison, Phil, Jo and David and Paul's 6 grandchildren and great-grandchild.***

Paul's tributes can be viewed on the following sites.

<http://www.carnarvonspace.com/wiki/index.php?title=Image:Obit.jpg> – this is a lovely Obituary in the West Australian on Thursday 3 September, it is an edited version of the full obituary by David Johns and was edited by Paul's daughter, Joanne Edmondston.

[https://honeysucklecreek.net/news/Paul\\_Dench.html](https://honeysucklecreek.net/news/Paul_Dench.html) - Two tributes to **Paul Dench** – by David Johns (CRO 1970 – 74) and Alan Gilham (CRO 1965)

[www.crotrak.com](http://www.crotrak.com) – Condolences to the Dench Family from CROTrackers.

<https://ecawa.wa.edu.au/2020/07/09/remembering-paul-dench/>

Paul was a Life Member of Educational Computing Association Western Australia Inc (ECAWA)

**RIP Paul – you will be sadly missed and always remembered by  
Carnarvon CROTrackers.**

## From A Carnarvon Viewpoint – ctd.

### **Gemini IV**

#### **America's first EVA – By Hamish Lindsay**

##### White tells of his spacewalk experiences.

At 22:15:23 GET (2331:22 AEST) Houston Capcom Gus Grissom read up the newspapers headlines about their EVA, and White responded, *"It was tough to get in, real tough to get back in. That was sure something out there. Were ya'll reading us? We never knew when ya'll were reading us or not."*

Grissom, *"Yeah, your VOX (voice operated microphone) was keyed all the time... we couldn't get in or try and tell you that your time was up and to get back in. Never could get through to you at all."*

White, *"Oh is that right? I'm glad you didn't."*

Grissom, *"Yeah – I could tell that."*

A few minutes later Grissom suddenly asked, *"Hey, Ed, you were talking about walking on the spacecraft – were you actually walking on it?"*

White, *"Yes, I was. I was using the tether to pull myself down towards the spacecraft and I was right on top of it. The next time I get into a tether type of operation it looks pretty good but is still hard to get any traction on the top. But if you pull yourself down you can get a little bit."*

Grissom, *"You forgot your magnets, I guess."*

At 66:29:10 GET (1945:09 AEST 6 June) over Corpus Christie, Texas, Capcom Grissom asked the pilots, *"Gemini 4, Houston. Can you give us any idea of where you've got some of your gear stored? We're concerned about CG (centre of gravity), Over."*

McDivitt, *"It looks like we're going to end up with ECM on the floor, and we're going to have the cable in Ed's lap. And we're going to have the gun stowed in the centre food box where it was. We're going to have the film in the centre food box. We're going to have the camera equipment in the side food box."*

Grissom, *"Roger - we got it."*

Then, just after passing over Carnarvon, at 67:40:52 GET (2056:51 AEST) 6 June the crew saw a shooting star enter the atmosphere *below* them, White, *"I just saw a falling star trail down not too far in front of us and it burned out considerably below us. The whole tail was quite long, which was actually below our level. It burned up considerably below us."*

McDivitt, *"Yes."*

To be continued

EXTRACTS FROM  
"RECOLLECTIONS FROM MY YEARS AT CARNARVON – ctd.

BY DAVID JOHNS

## 15 Canoeing near the tracking station

I have always owned a canoe or a kayak and although I was not sure that I would be able to use it, I took one with me when I went to Carnarvon.

When I had only been at Carnarvon for a few months, there was a lot of local rain. Most of the rain fell close to the coast and but there was not enough rain inland to set the river running. Within a day or two of the rain, a huge lake of water gathered on the eastern side of the Tracking Station. The water extended north almost as far as the main road out to the bridge and south almost to the intermittent creek on the southern side of Brown's Range. On my next day off from work, I put my kayak in the water and kayaked around the lake for the rest of the day. By pushing my paddle down to feel the bottom I could assess its depth and its deepest part was roughly north east of Q6 radar where I estimated it was about 2 meters deep. The tall grass and weeds in the eastern side of the lake restricted paddling there but there was good deep paddling along the western side of the water where there were also some substantial white barked river gums that are common on water courses throughout Australia. The presence of the trees suggested to me that water often congregated along the western edge of the lake, though on this occasion there appeared to be significantly more water in the lake than was usual after normal rain.

I kayaked on the lake a few more times but within a couple of weeks the water level had declined significantly and all of the water was gone altogether within about two or three months. Over the next three years there were several periods of heavy rain and some big rivers came down but I never again saw so much water on the flat land east of the Tracking station. It had to be substantial local rain to flood that lake.

# MY TIME AT SPAN IN CARNARVON



by Peter Davies (LOS 2019)

At the beginning I was working dawn to dusk but IPS realised this was too much and hired a second observer, Hanz Britz. I used to start work at dawn, the operators would have started a bit earlier and would have loaded the 35mm solar patrol camera, checked the radio telescope charts etc. I would send a quick preliminary report to Boulder. As soon as seeing improved, the operator would take a test strip and print a 12 inch picture of H alpha and also a smaller picture for a 28 day rotation board which I had got the AWA workshop to make for me. By then seeing was good enough to make a sunspot measurement. These data enabled me to produce a morning report for Boulder, transmitted by teletype. The operators also arranged to send the H alpha films and radio telescope charts to NASA (taken up to the comms centre when I went up for breakfast). After that I could relax and go on with observing. I forgot to say that from the daily test print I produced a drawing of the plage regions which I used to help me in producing flare positions and sizes. A midday report was made, and then a closing report. All copies of reports were sent to IPS in Sydney, also notification of major flares by phone, though first priority was given to Boulder and NASA reports. Sometimes if a major flare occurred towards evening I would talk to the Canary Islands by voice link (I spoke to Joe Hirman a long time before I actually met him). It helped a lot to have visited these sites and spoken to the operator.

Later we had a 35mm camera which would fit on to the Razdow in lieu of the eyepiece and for large flares I could take photos which the operator immediately processed so I could send a follow up report. The picture quality was not very good. Jim Gregg was the technician in charge when I first went there and he had good experience in optics and photography, but apparently he fell foul of the hierarchy. I got on well with the technicians but sometimes we quarreled because they wanted to service the equipment during the day, contrary to the rules that nothing was to interfere with observations. After Hans Britz arrived, we worked shifts dawn to normal public service working day, or to dusk, with one operator working dawn to dusk every other weekend.

*(To be continued)*

Crotrak

## Keeping the Memory Alive

### CARNARVON TRACKING STATION

1964 — 1975

This site has been built to honour all those who contributed to the outstanding successes achieved by the Carnarvon Tracking Station; their many friends and associates from those days; and the town that was our home.

As we build our website to include the development history and operational function of each of the sections at CRO, we are seeking your help.

Some of our sections, such as UHF Command, do not have a description of the operation of the site.

If you go to our website and find that there is something that could be added, we hope CRO Trackers can delve into their memory banks, collected documents, and photo albums to assist with this ongoing task of keeping the website updated.

As we put up information, please feel free to send in additional information that you may have to ensure we capture the collective knowledge of CROTrackers across the various operational sections.

Ian Murphy is kicking this off with his recollections of the operation and role of UHF Command. Thank you, Ian. I will add this to the website once I have finished getting any comments/corrections back.

#### **UHF Command**

*Recollection by Ian Murphy (1973-74)*

The UHF Command Van at Carnarvon Tracking Station contained a high-power UHF transmitter which put out approximately 10 kilowatts of RF power into the antennas.

This transmitter was primarily used for all voice communications with the astronauts from both Acquisition of Signal (AOS) to Loss of Signal (LOS).

The transmitter was mainly made up of a massive water-cooled Klyston valve, driven by a 200-Watt moderator. The moderator fed into the Klyston valve which in turn fed 10 Kilowatts of UHF RF energy into the antennas located next to the UHF Command van.

During Skylab, if there was a failure of the Klyston valve, the 200-watt modulated RF was fed directly into the UHF antennas to maintain voice communication.

## **“AT WORK AND AT PLAY”**

**in Carnarvon Western Australia, from November 1965 to February 1972.**

**Snippets of Stories of Geoffrey and Lynette Broom (Dec)**

Ctd...

Paul's Reply

18 Mar 2004

Hi Geoff and Lyn

It was so good to hear from you and to know there are still quite a few of us around and to clear my little mystery as to who was the 'eighth' member of the team in Dallas. I have some photos taken in the flat that four of us occupied and this mystery person never showed a face even though I thought it might be you.

Thanks for reminding me of the 'digital' driving - my old mate, Monte Sala, never let me forget - and now you!

Thanks for the reminder of our Alien task of kidnapping young women! I had forgotten that bit of the story. I still have the parade photos of both those festivals - when the station closed I 'rescued' the autographed versions that used to be in the T&C corridor - and your autograph sits proudly under your feet.

Tell me when you came over to Dallas was that from Australia or did you have to leave the family behind in the UK and collect them later? So you too have joined the Seniors Brigade. I expect you'll find that once you adjust to it you'll wonder how you ever found time to work. Now that the comms link is established I shall look forward to some more tales and don't forget Lyn to add the woman's perspective of what life was like in Carnarvon.

Fond Regards

Paul & Joan

*Next Edition is CRO 02*



## “CHIT CHAT” – From our Trackers

While at the Museum this week the brother of one of our Trackers called in for a visit and happened to mention his sister used to work at the Tracking Station, turns out it was Helen McPhail who worked in teletype in 1966 and 1967.

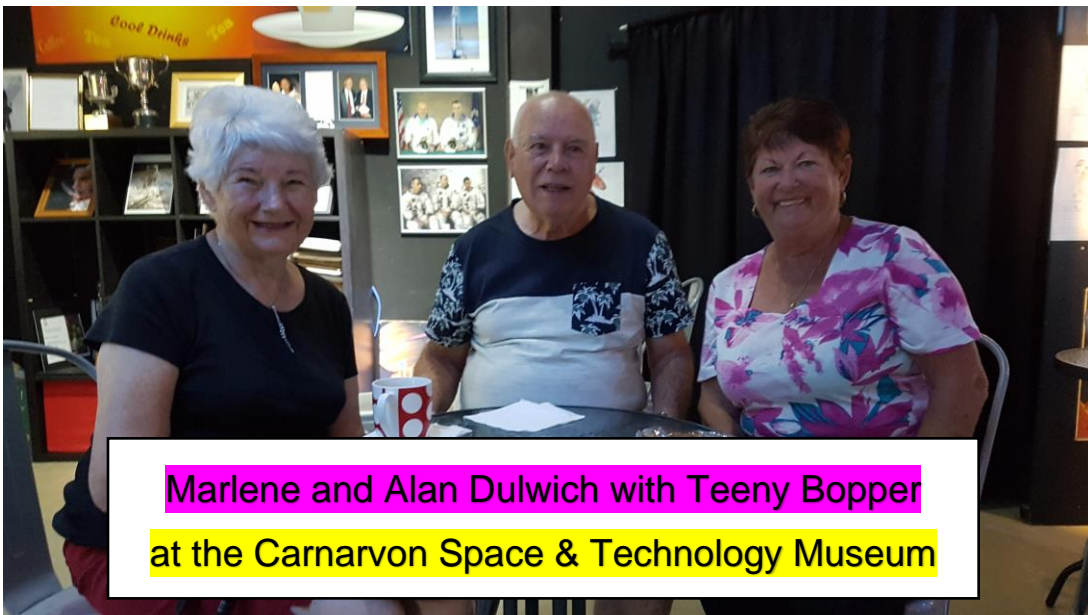
Helen was at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing but unfortunately, I did not get to meet or talk with her.

Happy to say that Helen is now on back on the Tracker email list (after somehow being dropped off some time ago).

Alan Dulwich and his wife Marlene called in to the museum and just happened to mention that he used to work at the Tracking Station.

Coincidentally it was the same day Helen’s brother was there.

Peter, one of the caretakers called me over to talk to them and we had a lovely afternoon tea together and a bit of a catch up. Lucky me, I scored two more Trackers for our email list in one day.



Marlene and Alan Dulwich with Teeny Bopper  
at the Carnarvon Space & Technology Museum

Many thanks to Ian Murphy for his email with a description of the operation of UHF Command (see above).

Ian sent an email and in it said *“When I first arrived at Carnarvon I, along with Peter Camelleri were assigned to UHF Command and we maintained its operation during each of the Skylab Missions. Whilst 47 years have now passed since I worked at Carnarvon, I can nevertheless give you a brief description of its operation and why it performed a valuable function during US manned space operations”.*

Ian said he still keeps in touch with some that worked at Carnarvon but sadly many are now deceased. He also has many coloured and black/white photos of the Carnarvon Tracking Station taken in 1973 & 1974. Too many to send via the WEB.

Keep those photos safe Ian, they are all part of the history of the NASA Carnarvon Tracking Station!

And interestingly Ian also told me that his Mother was from my old hometown of Collie. He said *“Incidentally my Mom was born at Lyalls Mill just outside of Collie and told me many stories about her time in Collie during the 1920's & 1930's. She passed away in late 2017 at the very advanced age of 101.5. Her father was the School Master at Lyalls Mill and eventually purchased a dairy farm about 9 miles outside Collie”.*

A big thank you to **Paul Linnane** who has come on board as my sub-editor – I should mention that I didn't really give him much of a choice.

When he did the article for me on our visit to the National Archives of Australia, I thought, hmmm... he is good, I'll offer him a paid position on the CROnicle.

How it really went down was....

***“Paul, I think you should come on board and be my sub-editor and it pays zero dollars. When can you start”?***

Thanks Paul you have made the task so much easier.

I must also thank **Valerie Kierans** for proofreading the CROnicle. This was her job every time Terry produced an edition and I didn't see the need to take the job off her. Thank you so much Val!

Another Tracker, Kathy Franin, (SPAN) was going to come up for a month and work as a volunteer for the Carnarvon Space & Technology Museum mid-September to mid-October.

Kathy was up here last year and did an awesome job sifting through all the NASA and CTS memorabilia and helping the caretakers.

Unfortunately, Kathy had to cancel her trip due to ill health.

The CS&TM and the Trackers all wish Kathy a speedy recovery.

Any CROTrackers that are in Carnarvon and would like to come and volunteer, even just for a short while, Phil Youd and his committee would make you very welcome.

Even if it is just for a day or two walking around talking to the visitors – they love hearing the stories of Trackers that worked at the Station back in the day.

## LOS – (Loss of Signal)

Since our last CROnicle, sadly we have had the LOS of Terry Newman and Paul Dench. Both gentlemen will be acknowledged on the LOS web page.

This can be accessed on our 'CROTRAK Keeping the Memory Alive' website page - <http://crotrak.com/index.php/los>

### e-mail from Ian Murphy on Terry Newman

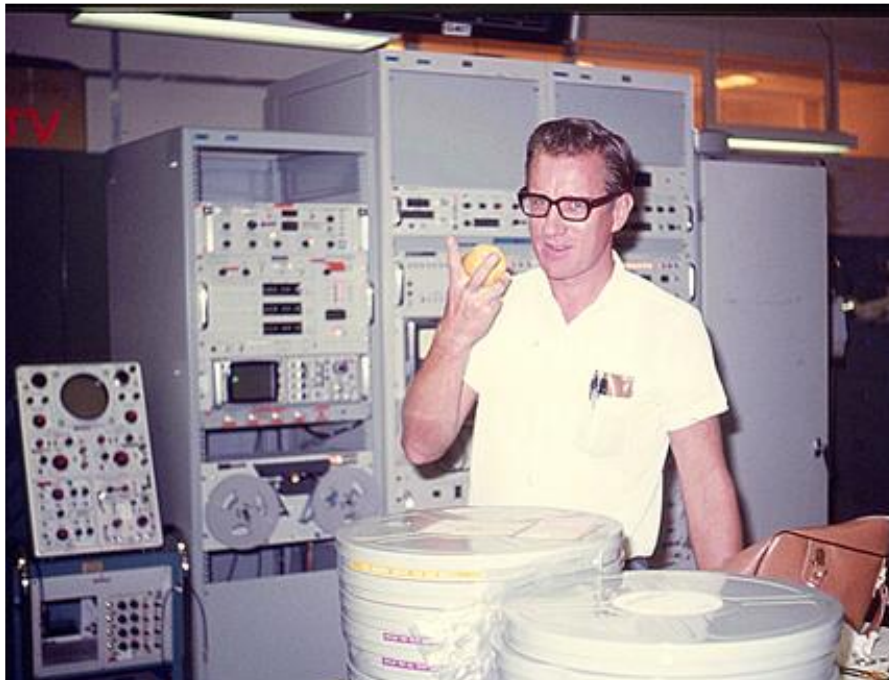
*"I had further sad news today of the passing of Terry Newman in Hervey Bay Queensland who had been suffering a brain tumour for a number of years.*

*"Terry Newman worked at Carnarvon on the Skylab Project in 1973/1974 but prior to that I believe he worked at Cooby Creek in Queensland, Honeysuckle Creek in ACT and the Pine Gap in the NT".*

*"I suspect his wife Shirley Newman (nee Temple), who also worked at Carnarvon in telemetry may contact you in near future to advise you of his passing".*

Terry's Wife Shirley (nee Temple), also worked at the Carnarvon Tracking Station in telemetry

*A picture taken of Terry Newman in Telemetry in early 1974.*



## BUSH LEGENDS – Steve Butler, West Australian Newspaper

I recently received a message to phone Steve Butler, journalist with the West Australian. He is currently running a series entitled ***Bush Legends*** in the Saturday's edition of the West Australian newspaper and wanted to interview 'Trackers' for an article on Carnarvon before and after the Tracking Station came to town.

I managed to convince Keith Deimel, Sue van Dongen and Lorraine Sartori to join me and we met with Steve and his photographer Jackson Flindell at the Carnarvon

Space & Technology Museum on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September.

We each told our story of what Carnarvon Tracking Station brought to Carnarvon and the things that changed Carnarvon in the early 1960s along with the role we played at the Station.

Steve was also keen to hear about our CROTrackers and how we all band together in "Keeping the Memory Alive", so I told him how I was "nominated" by Terry Kierans for the job.

I have to say Jackson Findell had us all in the museum posing



like models.... chin up, turn to the right, left foot forward, lean forward – just a bit, not too much, tilt your head to the side, hand on hip. It was absolutely hilarious to see us in there with all the museum visitors watching this "photo shoot" of all us oldies. It was a sight to behold!

This story is in the West Australian today, (Saturday 26 July, pg 40). The two stories Steve has already published in the last two Saturdays - the Grand Hotel at Kookynie and 'Jack the Ripper' at Southern Cross are well worth a read!

# Trackers Tribute Room



Lorraine Sartori (Rooney) has been here in Carnarvon for a couple of short visits and her and I, with input from other Trackers have looked at doing a revamp of the "Trackers Tribute" room.

Starting with trying to identify pieces of equipment in there, so we can get ID cards to say what they were used for and on what site. Phil Youd has been incredibly supportive of our ideas and has come up with some great ideas to digitalise what we have proposed.

"I feel one of the most important things our "Trackers Tribute Room" should have is a list of every single person that worked at the Carnarvon Tracking Station (CTS). Each person should be acknowledged and be recognised for the part they played in the history of space exploration and the integral role the Carnarvon Tracking Station played in the space race era.

This is our opportunity to entrench, into history, a lasting memorial to those who worked there. We need to "Keep the Memory Alive" for present and past Trackers and for the future generations of our CROTrackers". - LG

Our aim is to place a list of every single person who ever worked at the Carnarvon Tracking Station in the "Trackers Tribute Room" of the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum. The attached list has been compiled by Lorraine Sartori & Lauri Glocke with input from various trackers plus Joan Teraci and Paul Dench's lists. We are now seeking input from all Trackers and look forward to your assistance with the following: -

- Correct spelling of names, where they worked, names of anyone not on the list, people on the list who did not work at C.T.S. and any other suggestions at all!

I have attached to this Edition of the CROnicle the 'work in progress' Staff List to send out asking all Trackers for their input.

**Please do not amend the attached list**, any comments, corrections or additions should be emailed directly to Lorraine Sartori (Rooney) at [sartorial@westnet.com.au](mailto:sartorial@westnet.com.au)

Crotrak

**Keeping the Memory Alive**

**CARNARVON TRACKING STATION**  
**1964 – 1975**

This site has been built to honour all those who contributed to the outstanding successes achieved by the Carnarvon Tracking Station; their many friends and associates from those days; and the town that was our home.



— CRO nicle —



*The **CROnicle** was published for years by Terry Kierans and posted on the **CroTrackers website**, [www.crotrak.com](http://www.crotrak.com). The costs associated with the website was borne by Terry through his private business.*

*For the CROnicle, Terry asked for a small annual subscription to help offset the cost of production, printing, postage etc.*

*Since Terry's passing Lauri Glocke has stepped up to continue to build on Terry's work with the CROnicle and pays for the domain and updating the website.*

*Lauri has ensured all the issues of the CROnicle, from Terry's first through to the present are available on the website; it is important that the CroTrackers website is maintained and its stories retained.*

*The website domain costs are due in December and we collectively will need to fund this.*

*If you are able to make a donation towards the website and newsletter (and every little bit helps), it would be appreciated. **The payment details are:***

**LA Glocke - BSB: 126574 – A/c: 22011097**

**Ref: Your Name**

### **CRO Trackers 14<sup>th</sup> Picnic Day**

*Well... looks like we are all okay now to have our next "annual" Picnic Day after not being able to host it this year due to COVID-19. We will stay with the status quo and have it, as we usually do, on the first Sunday after Easter in 2021.*

***More details in the next edition.***

# 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](#)

If undelivered  
Please return to:  
CROTrackers  
98 Ogden St  
COLLIE WA 6225