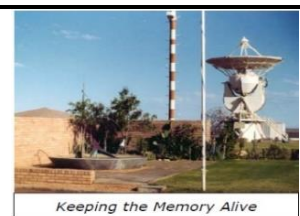




CROnICLE

VOLUME 19 – MARCH 2020



Note from the Editor

By Lauri Glocke



So here I am again with the next CROnicle. I never thought I'd be here putting together a newsletter to CROtrackers instead of being out camping, fishing, kayaking and touring around in my 'Nevie Navara', especially at this time of the year when we have such great weather.

In this edition I must do a "relocation" and a "resurrection" for two of our trackers, so I'm going to do it right here on the front page, so **Ian Squires** and **Roger Glass** don't miss it.

In the last CROnicle I said, '*Ian Squires was living in Esperance and still had his Chiropractic clinic there*'. I have been corrected and am pleased to say that the pickup truck has been to Esperance and moved him back to Albany; his Albany patients will be happy that he has relocated "back to Albany" and they don't have to travel to Esperance for treatment. 😊

I also said, '*I believe Roger Glass has passed*' and asked for confirmation before I put him on the LOS list. Well, I was inundated with emails to say he is alive and well. In fact, Phil Vigilante said he had recently spoken to Roger and his wife Neva in Geraldton. So, glad you're still around Roger, stay healthy!

Thanks to all the trackers who have emailed me to put the record straight.

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Thanks to Paul Linnane (Jnr) for offering to team up with me as co-editor for future editions. Any help, suggestions or submissions from Trackers are welcomed.

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Public Seminar in Perth at National Archives

CRO presentation at National Archive Australia Perth Office by Paul Linnane, (USB Equipment Operator 1969-70)

The 13 February WA Office of National Archives of Australia seminar *One Small Step for Man, One Giant Leap for A Small Western Australian Town*, was attended by about 30 people with approximately a third of the audience being CRO Trackers and families. Many of us were so pleased to see Margaret Burgess, looking fantastic at 93.

The one-hour seminar consisted of two NAA staff presenting a rough chronology of the history of the establishment of the Carnarvon Tracking Station through to its final closure in April 1975. The presentation included photos from the various development stages and correspondence excerpts, particularly from Station Director Ray Jacomb.

Personally, I found the presentation interesting and informative. An hour does not allow for a lot of detail in the presentation and I felt it was a good overview of the ten year period that CRO was fully operational and included snippets about town life and the active role CRO Trackers and families played in the Carnarvon community.

A short question and answer time at the conclusion allowed for some interesting insights from CRO Trackers present.

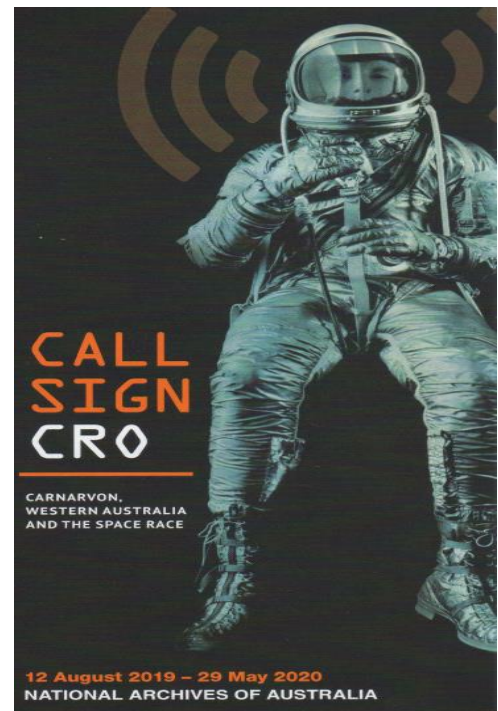
The NAA has over 900 files in one set relating to CRO and are available for anyone to research. Go to the NAA website and search using "Carnarvon Tracking Station".

There is a lot of information on CRO also found on the Honeysuckle Creek website -
www.honeysucklecreek.net

Two books were recommended: -
Carnarvon and Apollo - One giant leap for a small Australian town by Paul Dench and Allison Gregg

Tracking Apollo To the Moon by Hamish Lindsay

A CCN & Sony documentary - *Apollo Eleven* - was also highly recommended by one of our CROTrackers



Thanks to Barrie Heald for asking for a notice to be sent to all CROtrackers, great idea Barrie; it was pleasing to see about a dozen CROtrackers, some with their families, turn up for the event.

I have been in touch with Kellie at the National Archives Perth office and asked for any links that I can put in the CRONicle for CROTrackers who have asked for any digital videos etc., with prices.

I have also asked for a digital copy of the seminar PowerPoint presentation

As soon as I have the information to hand I will email everyone so those that are interested can follow up their request with the NAA Perth.



L to R: Martin Burgess, John Preece, John Lambie, Paul Linnane, John Harmsen, Barrie Heald, Kaye Barr, John Ford, Lauri Glocke, Geoff Warner, Jim Gregg

From A Carnarvon Viewpoint – ctd.

Gemini IV

America's first EVA

White tells of his spacewalk experiences.

At 5:59:29 GET (0715:28 AEST) over Hawaii White began to talk about his experience, *“While I was outside I noticed on Jim’s window – he’s got a coating on the outside of it. One time when I brushed up against it with either my shoulder or arm it actually smeared right over on it, and it smeared the upper part of his window so he couldn’t see out. When I look out from this side, I can see that it is rather heavily coated with some type of material. When I was outside looking in it looked like a....it looked like almost a greasy film on the outside of it. My window doesn’t seem to have so much on it.”*

Six minutes later White continued, *“The tether – the location of the tether, or the umbilical restraint on the outside hatch made it rather difficult to do any EVA work as far as from tether aerodynamics out in front of the spacecraft. Whenever I operated in that area the tether would.....when it would come to its end would start me back and the reaction would carry me back up towards the.....over the spacecraft and back towards the adapter section. That’s why I kept going out of sight during my manoeuvring out there up above the windows, and then drifting back towards the back of the spacecraft. I had to continually keep pulling myself to get out in the front of the spacecraft.*

I wasn’t satisfied with the pictures I was getting. It was rather difficult to keep any of the lanyards that I had onI had the lanyard on the gun and the tether and umbilical that I was on and several other miscellaneous type lanyards flailing around and it was difficult to keep them from in front of the camera lens. I kept trying to move them out of the way so I could take a picture. I’d say they were in front of me probably 50 or 60 per cent of the time and the other percent of the time I was not in a good position as I would like to be. I think I took in the neighbourhood of a dozen pictures.

I felt no tendency to bang into the spacecraft. I was able to approach the spacecraft just about from any altitude I came back in.

There was no disorientation whatever. I felt that I could either look down at the ground – I felt perfectly at home looking down at it – and I could roll around on my back and look up and it was not disorienting me in any way. The spacecraft was my best reference. Any time I saw it I immediately had a good reference and, in fact, at times near the end I was using my tether and actually walking up and down on the surface of the spacecraft, using it to hold me down as an anchor.”

To be continued

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

BY DAVID JOHNS

FPQ6 Radar (ctd) - Tony Green, who was a technician at Q6 when this occurred, told another story about the Q6 radar to me.

It was during one of the later Apollo missions, possibly Apollo 16 or Apollo 17. It was normal for the rocket to blast into Earth orbit and stay in Earth orbit while everything was checked and then if everything was OK, the crew would fire the main engines for about thirty seconds and the spacecraft would blast off on a trajectory that would take it to the moon.

On this particular occasion, it was night time in Australia and the Apollo crew was in Earth orbit, an orbit that brought them roughly over Perth and then over Kalgoorlie. Soon after Kalgoorlie, if all was well, the crew was due to fire the engines to go onto a lunar trajectory.

NASA has an acronym for everything. I think the firing of the main engines to enter a lunar trajectory was called a TLI (Trans Lunar Injection). On this particular occasion, Carnarvon's Q6 radar had picked up the Apollo rocket west of Perth, low in the southwestern sky and was tracking it towards the east. As it turned out, the Q6 radar optical telescope was uncovered and the TV receiver was on but it was not planned to be on because it was dark and the rocket would not be visible over such a distance.

The orbit was low and the Q6 radar was pointing only fractionally above the southern horizon when the engines were ignited for the TLI. During the TLI, Tony Green was attracted by something on the TV screen and then he realised that though the capsules could not be seen, the telescope was picking up the flames from the main engines and a distinct rocket flame plume was clearly visible on the TV screen for the duration of the TLI burn.

Given that Kalgoorlie is about 1000 kilometres south east of Carnarvon and that the Q6 radar was pointing almost on the horizon, the light would have travelled through nearly 1000 kilometres of atmosphere before it was detected by the Q6 telescope and video camera.

To many people that may be a ho-hum event, but to me, who has experienced the frustrations battling atmospheric "Seeing" through telescopes, I believe it was a remarkable thing to see a man made flame through about 1000 kilometres of atmosphere.

Volunteering at the Carnarvon Space & Technology Museum

By Michelle and Luke Lang

We had set up camp one afternoon and while enjoying a glass of red and watching another theatrical Kimberley sunset, the conversation once again turned to 'What are we doing next?' We were more than halfway through our Kimberley road trip and while 'The West Coast was the general destination we had not yet made any solid plans.



That evening we remembered some fellow travelers had previously told us about caretaking at the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum and that the position was highly sought after as it was a great experience.

A quick search revealed a recently placed add seeking a caretaking couple to fill a spot next month. Could it be? What perfect timing! Two weeks later we arrived at the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum and were greeted by big smiles and passionate people.

In no time at all we had set up our home in its new location, we were cohabitating in the OTC building that was built to assist the NASA Carnarvon Tracking Station (located on Browns Range). It was used to send and receive information that helped put man on the moon. We also had a Mercury Redstone Rocket and NASA fountain in our front yard, the 'Sugar Scoop' Antenna out the back, and a huge Satellite Dish next door. How could this not be an amazing opportunity!

The first 2 weeks flew by as we learned our new position and helped the committee set up for the 50th Anniversary Celebration Event being held on site. We threw ourselves into being roadies for the event and somehow managed to help wire and set up power, network cables, lights, projectors, speakers and screens for the audio and visual displays that would entertain 350 people.



Volunteering at the Carnarvon Space & Technology Museum

This is when we first learnt how important the Trackers, NASA employees and OTC staff who ran this station during the 60 and 70s were. These guys and girls got humans to the moon and set in place the technology that we use today, they had high expectations for the event, and we hoped we could pull it off!

We may have been born many years after Neil Armstrong took those famous first steps, but we understood how important that moment was for mankind. What we didn't understand was the important involvement Carnarvon played. As we immersed ourselves over the following 4 months, we were fortunate to meet and spend quality time with several Trackers, who openly and excitedly told us their stories. We spent hours at the museum with them as they shared their experiences and knowledge. We are proud to say we know people and now have friends who were part of an extraordinary team, who through their work helped understand Space as we do today.

We have been lucky enough to caretake in several beautiful locations across Australia and each position has its own unique personality, history and features. Our role at the Space and Technology Museum required us to not only caretake the historical buildings and maintain the grounds, we also helped build and maintain museum exhibits, tour guide patrons through the museum and pass on the knowledge of those who couldn't.

In reflection we now know the Museum site intimately and have a far better insight into the people who called it 'home'. We feel so very privileged to have been a part of this wonderful place and are excited to take our newfound knowledge and help share Carnarvon's stories...**Keeping the Memory Alive!**

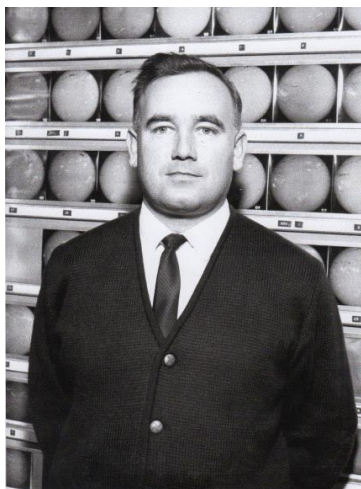


If there are any CROtrackers who would like to volunteer, either as caretakers or even just to 'hang out' at the museum chatting to people, you will be amazed at how rewarding it is.

Most of the people that come through are thrilled to be able to chat to a 'Tracker' about what it was like to work at the Tracking Station and live in Carnarvon during the 'space era'.

The committee and volunteers are not afraid of having the odd 'sundowner' or two either.

MY TIME AT SPAN IN CARNARVON



by *Peter Davies* (LOS 2019)

I was selected as the chief observer for SPAN (the Solar Particle Alert Network) at Carnarvon in October 1966 but could not take up the position until late December, as the Department of Supply would not release me until their Christmas break. After a few days at IPS (Ionospheric Prediction Service) I flew to Boulder, Colorado on New Year's Eve.

I was met by Pat McIntosh who took me under his wing. The person in charge of SESC (Space Environment Services Centre) at that time (and its founder, I believe) was Bob Doeker, an ex AWS

(US Air Force Air Weather Service) colonel. He has since died.

Boulder did not have a solar H-alpha telescope at that time. Pat had a white light telescope of his own in his back yard which he used to record sunspots and he taught me how to draw, measure and classify sunspots. Training consisted of many lectures by people prominent in their field of solar physics.

Also being trained were two NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Officers, the first to join SESC. As part of the training, I was sent to various observatories around the USA, including Sac Peak Observatory (New Mexico), the McMath-Hulbert Observatory near Detroit, the Lockheed Observatory in Los Angeles (their telescope was in the car park, for good seeing). I also went to Houston. The OIC (Officer In Command) was Don Robbins. They had the Razdow (a hydrogen-alpha telescope) set up there but they did not seem to run a proper solar patrol. I think, but am not certain, that their telescope was transferred to Boulder. I finished my training run with NASA in Washington DC, where I met the people to whom the data would be sent.

My first trip to Houston was a bit of an adventure because I was given my plane ticket and a voucher for car hire. The plane arrived at Houston after dark and I had to travel many miles to my hotel halfway between the city and the base via the freeway, the first time I had driven in the States. Like David Johns I cashed in my first-class ticket to tourist so I could visit family in Wales (strictly a no no). Don Robbins got to hear of this and asked me to visit the station at Canary Islands to report on the situation there. It seems Boulder had sent their observer Frank Recely out there without informing the station director and so he was a sort of persona non grata. This was sorted out to everyone's satisfaction.

I arrived at Carnarvon in early April 67. *(To be continued)*



“CHIT CHAT” – From our Trackers

I have had quite a few emails from CROtrackers that are happy to keep in touch with their colleagues from the Tracking Station; some just to say Hi!, some who would like to have their stories printed in the CROnicle, and some who have not had contact with our group for years.

At the CRO presentation at National Archive Australia Perth Office we ran into the nephew of Phil Dickinson. Phil worked in STADAN and has now passed away and his nephew, Paul Hulley, has all Phil's certificates and memorabilia from his time in Carnarvon. When he is ready, Paul has registered his interest to pass Phil's NASA belongings onto the Carnarvon Space and Technology Museum where it will be placed in the “Trackers Tribute” room.

There has been a lot of interest in reprinting Alison Gregg and Paul Dench's book “Carnarvon and Apollo – One giant leap for a small Australian town”. If anyone is interested in obtaining a copy, Jim's daughter would like a list of how many people are interested. Please email me if you are interested and I will pass the information on.

Bill Boyle - has emailed me to say he is now in his 82nd year, hard of hearing and is registered blind. Despite this, he obviously still has a wicked sense of humour because he adds “So you'll have to shout and mind where you put that suitcase”. (Message in very large font).

Bill worked in STADAN and recalls when he was sighted, he did a bit of woodcarving. Bill is happy to submit some reflections he has if I am happy to edit them. He uses an iPad and says, “*sent from my iPad with difficulty*”. There is that sense of humour again!

I did have to send Bill an email and ask him if he was the only William (Bill) Boyle at the Carnarvon Tracking Station. He assured me he was. This prompted me to take his name off the LOS list; it had apparently been there some time as it was halfway up the list. I don't know how it got there - but like another CROtrackers – Bill has been ‘resurrected’. Bill has sent me one of his reflections and I will put that in the next edition, space permitting. Do any CROtrackers know of another Bill Boyle working at the station?

WANTED....

A good quality photo of UHF Command Systems!

John Harmsen - is working on a movie project of the old CRO site but some of the

pictures he has tracked down are small and of an inferior

quality. Any chance one of our CROtrackers have some images that are of a better quality that they would be happy to pass on to John. The attached photo is the only image copy of the UHF Command systems to illustrate the poor quality once it is zoomed in to normal viewing size for a movie application.



If anyone has any images of good quality that they are happy to pass on to John for his project they can be emailed to me and I will forward them on to him.

Geoff Broom – says: Hi Lauri, at last I've got most things done and can now send you the info I said I would. First off, I sent TK a msg as soon as it happened when my beautiful Lynette passed away, but it appears he forgot to put it into the CRONicle. I see that Gloria Ryan gets mentioned, so I would like to see Lynette mentioned too, especially as she actually worked one of the early Apollo missions as switchboard operator in T&C. She was Lynette Rosemary Broom and she had LOS on 31 JUL 2018.

Hopefully, I've attached the complete set of my stories, any of which you may use in the CRONicles. If you have the stuff from Paul C Dench you will have got some of it already, but not all of it. At the time he asked if anyone had any pictures of the outstanding decor at The Court of Camelot Ball. Years later I found that I had some slides of it which I recently scanned, so I will send you a couple separately, Paul would probably like to see them - he made the knights standing by the fireplace. – (*See end of Chit Chat page – Editor*)

Geoff's stories will feature in future editions of the CRONicle

**Condolences from the CROtrackers to Geoff and family on the passing of Lynette - RIP.*

Milton and Jan Turner - Also news of Hamish Lindsay (ex CRO and HSK), now in hospital in Canberra [which comes from John Saxon's HSK email of 19 Dec:](#)

"Betty and I called into see Hamish yesterday at his home. He looked better than we had seen him in years - a much better colour. He said he was feeling a lot better even if his Physio Therapist was giving him the run around (Literally I think). I'm beginning to think he will outlast us all".

*Thank You Milton for the update on Hamish.

Chris Todd Hi Lauri thanks for keeping me in the loop.

I must admit I have not been following the efforts of the group in any detail, I went off and made my own dream / nightmares.

I after leaving CRO worked with Monte Sala in Perth for a while, then came east to try farming. in South Australia. Currently retired in Adelaide. My memory is fading ... I only recognised about 20% of the LOS list.

Does anyone know where Alan Irving is?

Ian Murphy - I have attached just a few of the many photo's I have of my time at the Carnarvon Tracking Station between 1973 & 1974. Many are Monochrome however I probably have about 50 colour slides of personnel, CRO parties, the site and surrounding area which I have now digitized to my computer. I have only sent you low resolution images as I am unsure of your Internet speed or download capacity.

I have also attached two personnel lists of that time which contains the names, addresses and even phone numbers of those that worked on the tracking station. Sadly, many of these people are no longer with us. I have also included a Memo that was circulated on the station that Paul Dench was purported to have written however this was probably not correct.

Over the years I managed to keep in touch with Terry and Shirley Newman (nee Temple), Hans Lemmens, Bill Brennan, and a variety of others that passed through Adelaide or I visited whilst in Western Australia.

As my wife Tanya worked in SPAN she has many photos of the sun, Comet Kohoutek etc which I am happy to scan and forward to you.

Terry Newman - I was in the telemetry and command section at the end of station life. Started in 72 and was there until the gates were closed. After Carnarvon, I was at Tidbinbilla (Canberra) and then at Pine Gap (Alice Springs). Now living in Queensland very close to Hervey Bay. Quite a few ex trackers here and we meet up occasionally for a chat etc. Prior to Carnarvon I was at Cooby Creek.

The Court of Camelot Ball Photos

Below are the photos Geoff has scanned and sent in for Paul Dench, so hope you see them Paul and they bring back great memories for you.



LOS - Loss of Signal

Sadly, there has been a mention on our "Chit Chat" page in this edition of the LOS of Lynette Broom; I have had Lynette added to our LOS page. This page is updated as regularly as I get the information in and can be accessed on our website 'CROTRAK Keeping the Memory Alive' website page - <http://crotrak.com/index.php/los>

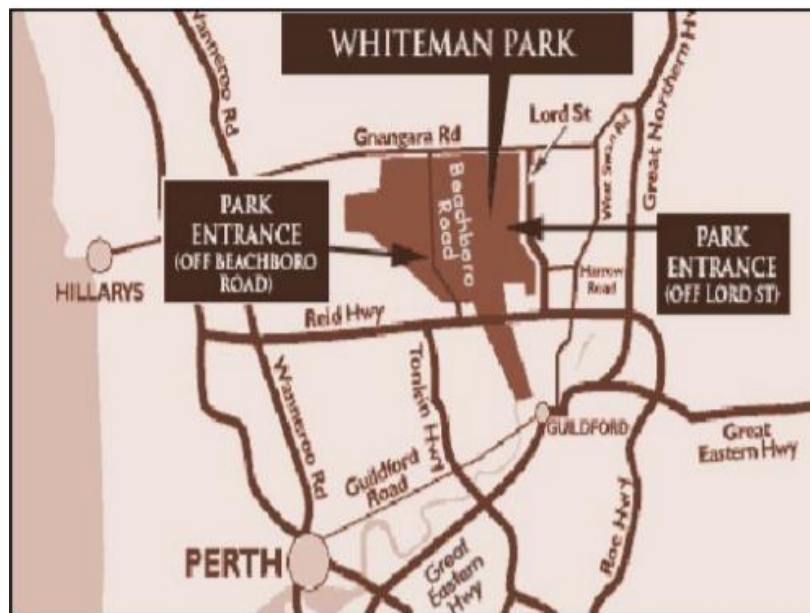
CRO Trackers 14th Picnic Day

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.

Time: Lift-off 11 am WST

BYO: Everything

Look out for the banner at Shelter V



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



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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Please return to:
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