



March 1965



March 1966



March 1969



*Keeping the Memory Alive*

Vol 10 March 2013

# THE TRACKERS' CROCNICLE

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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## The Saturn V Lives Again



*Saturn V F-1 Engine Test Stand at  
Edwards Air Force Base 1963-1964*

In January 2013 engineers at the Marshall Space Flight Center began a series of test firings using parts reclaimed from an original F-1 engine, serial number F-6049; an engine which was removed from Apollo 11 due to a malfunction and never used.

These 5.8 metre by 3.8 metre powerhouses launched NASA's Saturn V rockets into Earth orbit and to the moon.

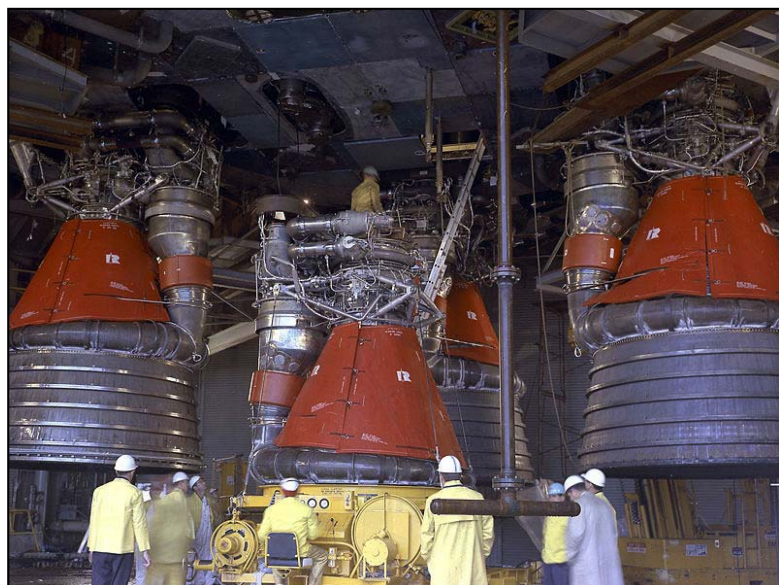
Between 1967 and 1973, a total of 65 F-1 engines were launched, five per flight, on 13 Saturn V boosters.

In order to develop the Space Launch System (SLS), which will be NASA's next generation heavy-lift rocket, engineers are dismembering; refurbishing, and test firing parts from remaining F-1s to get a better

knowledge of how this engine was designed and functioned.

The F-1 is still the most powerful single-chamber liquid-fuelled rocket engine ever developed.

*F-1 Engines Being  
Installed to the  
Saturn V S-1C Stage*



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

*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.

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

## Catch the Buzz



The "Catch the Buzz!" DVD's are now available for sale at the museum. Cost is \$22.00 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>

## Social Club News - November 1969

Page 29.

### THIS MONTH'S FISHING TIP

With the fishing season about to start in earnest, Club member Roy Ducas gave notice of serious intent by landing a 45 lb . mackeral off the jetty - of all places. Also noticed a large Queenfish out there.

A couple that got away and a brand new lure sulking on the bottom brings to mind the necessity of using good knots and line. The improved cinch knot is a good one, but test it before you throw your line into the water . Occasionally the line gets heated when drawing the knot tight and this weakens it. To prevent this happening, lubricate the knot before pulling it tight, by wetting it, or put it in your mouth. Always check the first 30 or 40 feet of line as this is the bit that gets the hiding from runners while casting. Weak line means lost lures at dollars a time. When using those very heavy nylon lines, use the Jancke knot on the swivel. It doesn't come undone and has a breaking point of 100% line breaking strain.

Peter Davies came good with a 21 lb. Queenfish off the jetty. It is an Australian All Tackle record and a State record as well.

## Random Quotes

*"Cayley PLAINS?!? There ain't nothin' 'plains' about this place!"*

- John Young, while bouncing across the lunar surface aboard a Lunar Rover Vehicle

*"By the year 2000 we will undoubtedly have a sizable operation on the Moon, we will have achieved a manned Mars landing, and it's entirely possible we will have flown with men to the outer planets."*

- Wernher von Braun, 1969

*"What the hell was that?"*

- Pete Conrad, seeing lightning flash around his vehicle as Apollo 12 rose into a thunderstorm

*"We are just tenants on this world. We have just been given a new lease, and a warning from the landlord."*

- Arthur C. Clarke, 2010.

*"With all due respect, sir, I believe this is gonna be our finest hour."*

- Gene Krantz, Apollo 13

# The Carnarvon Space Festival

By Hamish Lindsay



FPQ-6 Today  
Photograph Hamish Lindsay

The once smooth sealed road had disintegrated into ragged bits of bitumen, with low scrub crowding onto it. The bare FPQ6 site is now surrounded by Tamarisk trees - somebody must have had thoughts of making CRO a garden site. Garden remains still here, but station gone.

The evening party, labelled the "Cosmic Cocktail Party" began at 17:30 with 400 guests. My room mate at the hotel had bought a suit especially for the occasion.



Marquee Entrance  
Photograph Hamish Lindsay

Busses brought the visiting guests to a decorated entrance to a large marquee under the old OTC dish antenna.

Closed down in 1987, it's all that's left of the OTC station, apart from the world's last surviving Casshorn antenna, known as the sugar scoop.

While school kids darted about handing out savouries, a jazz band played 1960's and space music, trying to be heard above the roar of chattering

groups. We had trouble enough trying to hear a conversation.

A hoop, looking like a crescent Moon, hung from the roof in the middle of the marquee. A girl perched in the hoop stared down at us staring up at her.



Photograph Kathy Franin

After about twenty minutes bright spotlights suddenly highlighted her, and she performed acrobatics in the hoop.

There were speeches by Brendan Grylls, MLA, leader of the National Party in WA, Professor Lyn Beazley AO, Chief Scientist of WA, Vince Catania, MLA, also a member of the National Party for the North West, and Phil Youd, Chairman of the Space and Technology Museum Committee, with Buzz Aldrin, Apollo 11 astronaut, the last speaker offering us his life story.

He opened his slide presentation with, 'Tonight I would like to tell you about my grand adventure, which never could have happened without the cooperation and efforts of many people including here at Carnarvon,' (loud clapping and cheers from the vociferous audience). Buzz then described the first flight at Kittyhawk, his first flight at age two with his father, and the Korean War in F86 Sabre jets flying 66 combat missions with two 'kills.'

# 8th Picnic Day

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

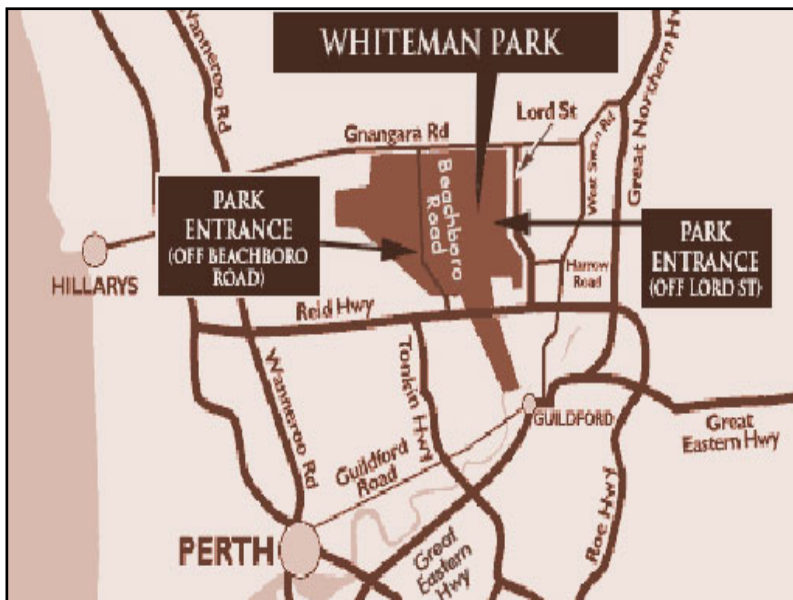
So ...the Perth Chapter of the CRO Trackers will be holding their eighth annual picnic / barbeque at:

Whiteman Park, Mussel Pool,

some 20 kms and 25 minutes from the Perth CBD.

- Date:** Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter)
- Time:** Kick off 11 am WST
- BYO:** Everything

## Look out for the banner at Shelter V

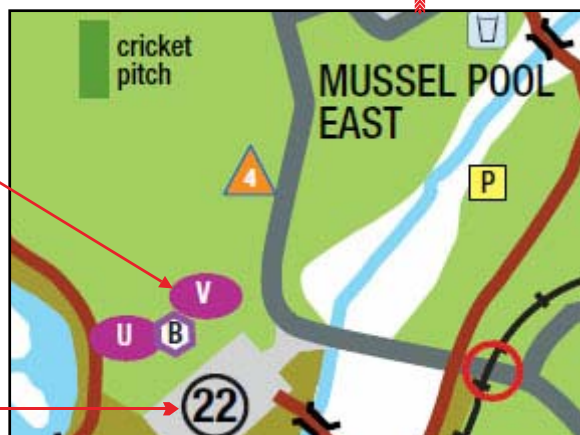


To Village

... and for those who get lost

Shelter V

Car Park



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

## The Fisherman Who Rode a Horse

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

When I returned later, for servicing the VDub, he never commented on the keys so I presumed that somehow he had managed to remove them from the lock.

Once I had the VDub Fastback I started to feel more like a townie and less like a bushy or fisherman. It was a very nice looking wagon and very comfortable at high speed.

Judy's boyfriend, Peter, had taken off. He had apparently headed north and Judy took time off from work to chase after him. Before he had left he had made a point of asking me to look after her. Even if Judy was not aware of my feelings he certainly was. Judy arrived back after two weeks and I gave her a couple of days then asked her out to the drive-inn theatre. I was on cloud nine when she agreed to come with me.

We started meeting each other between shifts for coffees on the front veranda of Westfarmers Supermarket and some nights we went to the cafe above Fitz's Newsagency. We became an item at the Tracking Station Balls and I came to meet my future in-laws. Judy's Mum and Dad were two of the most genuine people anybody could ask to meet. Old Reg was a leading hand with the Main Roads Department and had a sense of humour that could only be found in the bush. In thirty years I never heard him repeat a joke that he had already told and yet he could go for hours telling them with all the skills of a professional narrator. Judy's Mum, Kit, was cooking at the Carnarvon Hospital and played the piano with the band at the Carnarvon Hotel.

All the hotels had a resident band and regularly bought in visiting bands and other entertainment, my favourites were the female contortionists. Television had not yet come to Carnarvon and every Friday and Saturday night the hotels would be packed.

Mum, Dad and Judy and I were sitting in the garden of the Port Hotel with the local police sergeant Max Kimber and his wife one Saturday night, there was a commotion and this guy came racing through the crowd. The cook from the take away food van across the road was hot on his heels waving this huge meat cleaver. Max leapt out of his chair and grabbed the cook around the neck as he came past. Max was a very big man nearly as tall as Dad and just as wide across the shoulders. He wrested the cleaver out of the cook's hand and frog marched him out the door. He walked him back to his van across the road telling him that if he was caught on the wrong side of the counter again that night he would spend the rest of the night in the cooler. Back then this sort of behaviour was a common occurrence and miraculously nobody ever seemed to get seriously hurt.

I had made up my mind when I had first seen Judy that she was going to be my future wife so I only waited a short while to give her a chance to know me and then asked her to marry me. I was over the moon when she said yes. I explained what my intentions were about studying to be an engineer and that it would be better if we waited to see how I went with my first year back at school before having the big day. Judy could see the sense in that so we set a date for the wedding to be in December the next year soon after the exams of my first year at WAIT.

*To be continued*



## Social Club News - April 1969

### THE FULL LIFE ctd.

BY BURGEE

Back you come for a wet night's sleep (ha ha) in Teggs Channel, broken only this time by the clank and thud of last minute fishermen, and by the Captain looking at his depth gauge every seven minutes to see if it still works.

At five in the morning the tide is right, the Captain is shaved and civilised looking. You just want to die in your bunk, but no. Rise and shine, it's Monday: You arrive home in time to unpack your washing gear (untouched), have a shower, wake up your wife, kids and the cat, and catch the bus.

"How do you enjoy sailing then?" they will ask you at work.

"Very satisfying indeed" you will say. "It was a full weekend and I'd go again anytime". Your head sinks slowly onto your desk.

--- ooo 00000 ooo ---

### ANNUAL BALL

It is proposed to hold the Annual Ball on 16th August.

A Perth group, the "Silver Platters" have been approached to supply the music and two top line entertainers have been booked. We anticipate a large crowd and have booked the Civic Centre for the occasion. Liquid refreshments and supper will be supplied FREE.

It has the makings of a very good night, so be in it. Tickets will be on sale as soon as they are available (Members will be given first preference).

Dress if formal (Men Lounge suits) and we hope to have some VIP guests present.

Tickets will be \$5.00 a double for Members.  
\$8.00 a double for Non-Members.

As soon as confirmation is received regarding the booking of the band and artists, it will be advertised. It is hoped to be able to have table bookings (i.e. Table for 10-12 etc.), so first in, best tables!!

--- ooo 00000 ooo ---

## Recollections

By Alan Gilham

They then stood by the door jamming a cot mattress around it until the plane landed with some violent skidding before finally coming to a halt. We were delayed some six hours whilst the door seals were fixed and thence on to Perth.

This last leg of the journey was perfect. We saw the North West coast of Australia very clearly and spotted a large dust cloud moving down the coast road obviously caused by a large vehicle, later we came to know and love, the large Gascoigne Trader trucks which were the life line of Carnarvon.

Spending a few days in Perth we purchased a VW Kombi in which we explored Perth and the surrounding countryside. After this we headed north through places like Midland and New Norcia until we got to Geraldton some 300 miles from Perth. I used to joke that Geraldton, situated some 300 miles south of Carnarvon, was where you had to go to get your hair cut. The haircut wasn't bad but it was the tar they dabbed on if they nicked you with the shears that stung.



Heading north from Geraldton to Carnarvon was through a much more desolate landscape made memorable by having a petrol station called the Billabong some 150 miles along the way. There was a very small weather beaten sign a few miles from there

indicating that Shark Bay was down the track to the left, if you cared to take it. There was also a sign at the 26th Parallel so that you knew where you were.



We spotted the antennas of the tracking station on Brown's Range from quite a distance away having crossed over the dry river bed of the Wooramel River.

We called in at the tracking station to find where we were going to live and then on to 4 West Street which we were going to call home for at least a few weeks.

At West Street we had pigeons nesting in the roof but with the aid of a broom I gently eased them over the edge and into free flight, nest and all. Later we were infested with cockroaches which caused us to move to a new house in Babbage Island Road

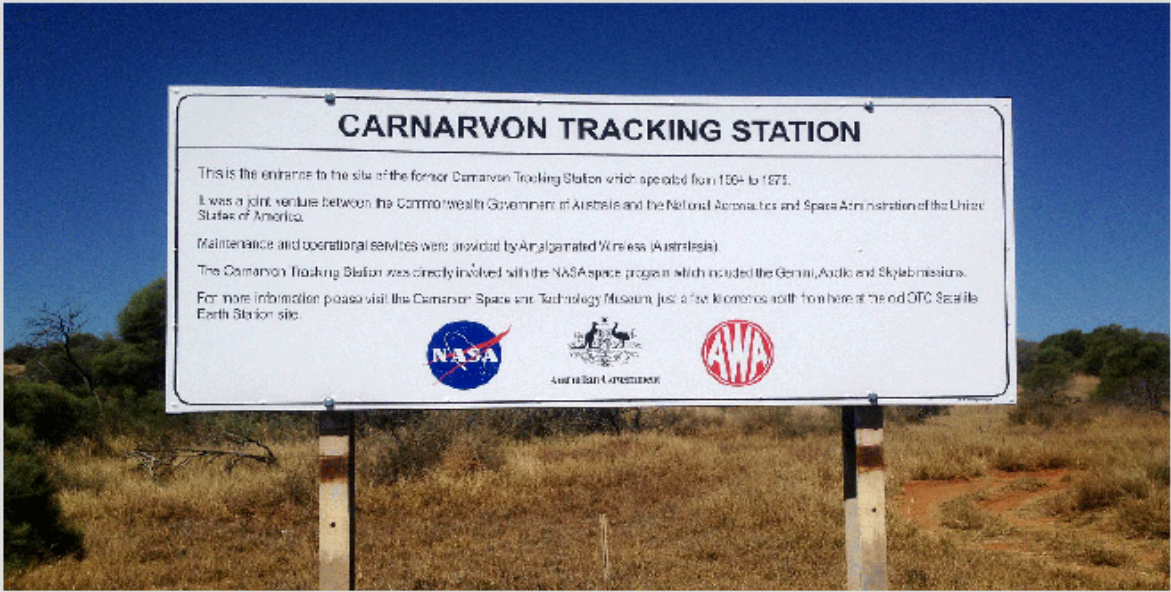
The next few months were hectic; an American team had arrived to commission the equipment. We had problems on the angle sensors on the antenna and had to wait until there was very little wind at night whilst the antenna was pointing to set star positions. The angles were then set to correspond to the star positions.

If I recall correctly at the end of that period the antenna was .0023 degrees out on the X axis and about .004 degrees on the Y axis, but to all intents and purposes it was "spot on" since any corrections were to be undertaken by Houston during actual missions. The memory of those clear star filled nights was brought to the fore when having a meal outdoors at Ayers Rock some 38 years later.

# 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](#)

**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) .

At long last I have included some more photographs from the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Dinner, courtesy Joan & Tito Teraci. Plus a few sites have been updated with photographs from Hamish Lindsay.

A call goes out, yet again, for material. I can arrange copying, scanning, whatever, so as to get them uploaded to our website, or published in The CRONicle; you need have no fears regarding their safety.

## 45th Anniversary Reunion Dinner

Mark your diaries and start saving

Bridgeleigh Reception Centre, Wanneroo, WA

**Saturday, 19th July 2014** — It's closer than you think.

# Keeping the Memory Alive

## Guess Who



No prizes for guessing this Country and Western performer's name.

You can hear his Tamworth Country Music Festival great audition video on YouTube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEGq5e-EMjU>

If undelivered, please return to:

**CRO Trackers**

PO Box 93, Quinns Rocks, WA 6030