

# THE EYES and EARS

"FIRST PUBLISHED 22nd JULY 1967 in Nui Dat, South Vietnam"



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## Christmas – the best to everyone!!!



Card by Ernie Newbold.

**Let's share time with family and friends...**  
**We wish ALL of you the best for Christmas.**

## . Insights and Recollections –

This is the fifth in the series pertaining to Fire Support Bases (FSBs).

After some 49 years, we are hoping to gather Recollections and perhaps Insights from members of the Detachment who were involved, in some way or another in FSB and other events. We anticipate hoping that these memories will help to broaden our understanding and give us greater insights into the Detachment's involvement in South Vietnam and in this case some lead-up memories undispersed.

These Insights/Recollections are not based on official documentations, but memories which add another dimension other than the factual Reports recorded in the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

Insights and Recollections by **David Dougherty** (Survey, SVN 17.01.68 – 04.02.69) – FSBs Longreach, Kiama and Chestnut and other Memories of that era.

David goes on to add further information, this time closer to home (Nui Dat), which comes in as a response to an *Eyes & Ears* article –

In regard to some of the offerings in the latest newsletter (*Eyes & Ears August 2017*) I make the following observations Re: Ernie Newbold and Listening Posts.

. When the 1/83<sup>rd</sup> moved out 31D remained in this location for some time. A company of infantry was sent to maintain security though not sure from which unit and I suspect with the intention that it may be reoccupied fully at some stage. When 31D finally closed, I am not sure but until it did we had responsibility for this section of the perimeter after the 1/83 had moved out. There are three distinct instances that I can remember during the period after they left, two quite clearly and the other not quite so.

. On the first occasion while I was on shift an ambush went down to the south about 400 metres and on the other side of Route 2 in the rubber. It resulted in a sharp short fight that I could clearly see the fire from and as I understand it one of our blokes was wounded, he later being medivaced after the area was cleared and at least one VC killed. Shortly after the ambush Spooky was brought in and lit up the area to the south of the LP with flares and proceeded to flatten everything around, to the extent I believe that if anybody was there would have been nothing left of them to find. It was supported by two gunships who kept nearer to the ambush site until the medivac chopper came in. It went on for possibly 1/2 hour from memory.

. On another night, I was forced to quickly duck for cover. An H & I mission had been called near the perimeter adjacent to the post. Only one problem, some of the rounds were landing within the perimeter wire and some shrapnel was passing too close for comfort. On contacting three zero I was told that the rounds were landing well away from the perimeter, didn't know what I was talking about and they would not call off the mission. Strike out three zero as I was on the receiving end.

. The third occasion was when on morning shift when I answered a radio check at 4.00 am. But unfortunately, as I said before "remember ----not quite so well". I had missed the 3.00 am radio check, being awake for the 4.00 am one. While the 1/83 were there it wouldn't have been a problem as they occupied the level below us and would have woken anyone on duty in this situation. The end result was front up in the morning, severely reprimanded but no further action as I had just returned from an FSB the evening before, this being considered mitigating. Although actually quite a serious issue what I still find amusing is that although I was required to remove my belt I still retained my rifle. Couldn't hang myself but could have shot everyone else in the room.

I have also previously provided photos where Clive Dreis, Pete Teather and myself were carrying out survey from the top of one of the gun crew's bunker (also ours for most of the period of '68) after the guns had moved and by this time the post closed. I doubt that we would have gone in the casual manner shown in the photos if it had not been occupied by our troops.

A brief outline - On arrival I was briefly attached to Alpha radar for a few weeks as a stand in radio operator, of course never having seen or had anything to do with radar either before or since. I then went to 31D until it was closed. While there we were initially in the main US barrack block then we moved down to one of the gun crew quarters near the LP as seen in the photos of Clive Dreis & Pete Teather carrying out a survey. At times, not such a quiet experience with 2x8" & 2x175mm of gun going off right next to you. Of the names, I can remember at the LP there was Sonny Galloway, Bob Billiards, Stan Briggs, myself and there must have been one other at least. From there it was back to the Survey lines until sound ranging became operational and we moved to the new huts. There were a number of deployments to various Fire Support Bases interspersed with this as well as other survey duties.

Following is part of my Profile edited slightly - Memories of Canungra week 1 stuffed, week two OK, week 3 giving it to new arrivals, Garth Nichols one speed when driving, flat out whether Tianjara or Vietnam, hootchies spread out at Balmoral/Coral to catch water for a wash, report that Loc Rep from sound ranging positive, roof on store folding over when water tanks lifted in by sky crane (don't know where Larry was), blowing apart someone's souvenir mantelpiece cannon loaded with double shotgun charge at 31D (*later reminded that it was Pablo's – Stan Briggs'*), watching from 31D while ambush sprung in rubber and then 2 gunships & spooky stripping area in front of LP, long nights in SR Post playing blackjack for matches, Geoff Jebb "cut that moustache Dougherty", hot & dry or hot & wet, radar being dropped when leaving Coral, on patrol with infantry nerve wracking, 707 touching down at Mascot and on discharge not looking back at gates of South Head.

...and the lead up to SVN...

Canungra - I have always wondered why Canungra is touted a jungle training centre. During my period there, and elsewhere for that matter, there was no jungle training or any other similar training. It was up and down hills, through obstacle courses, water and mud, more water and mud, more physical toughening than anything else. The only military like training I can remember was once trying to crawl through a minefield of smoke mines unsuccessfully, a night ambush, once again unsuccessful and crawling under a barb wire obstacle course with explosions at the sides and a machinegun firing overhead.

...on another Recollection David raises the memory of a “bent” nail on the LP 31D bearing board – and it got the following response from Bob Billiards -

“The “Bent nail” episode was the second night of the TET offensive and relates the story I did about Pablo (Stan Briggs) and I on the berm trying to draw the fire of the VC who nearly took out Behram (Barry Guzder). When the “Noggy” fired through the LP at 31D. Barry was on duty and from the trajectory of the round that hit the nail on the bearing board, I have no idea how BJG is still with us.

I am sure I have a photo of it somewhere but can't seem to find it so far. Maybe Barry will have one, but in the meantime, I will try and find mine in the slides.

Regards, Bob”

**Ed** – Bloody hell! Let's hope the photo is found.

**This series continues next month with more Insights and Recollections and we hope to continue it further, so if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections – Paul Dickson at - [131eyesandears@gmail.com](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)**

**. Hey! Here's another in our Locator's series...**



This series commenced a while back now with extracting “Passions” under the guise of “Grey Nomads” and has developed into “things” that somewhat consume us outside families etc and God forbid work!

It's just so good to discover other sides, be that “outsides” or “insides” of blokes who we begin to get to know through this sort of process.

Now we're going to have a look at what consumes **Tom Lempriere** in an impressive shed out the back at home ...

Converted old shearing shed into a therapeutic woodworking hobby-shop. The “engine” room – a very serious space to have fun in.





How many planes does a bloke need?



Friendship seats produced for my grandson's Primary School "Friendship Project".

Before retiring I worked for a rail company (Aurizon P/L (formerly QR Rail)) as a Senior Logistics Officer (fancy word for rail movement coordinator). Woodworking was a passion I decided to scratch late in life and have been pottering around for a couple of years;

I have carving signs etc., make chopping boards and general cabinetry/carpentry, on an as required capacity for about 5 years now, although I spasmodically dabbled for years prior to establishing a permanent workshop.

I keep threatening to have a work at it as a semi business, but then think there is not enough motivation festering in me at the moment.

You don't know what can of worms you have opened by asking for some photo! Attached are a few (just remember you asked).

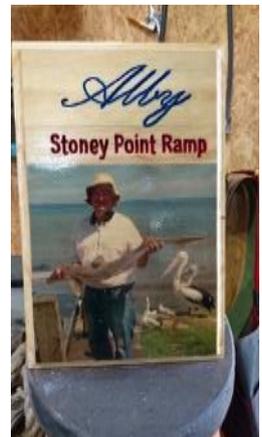
Tom has self-designed, crafted and individually names his "creations" -

**Australian Hardwood Chopping Boards.**



"Get Well"

"Inlay" – at right - photo at Stoney Point



Most of this activity has been brought about this thing called retirement, can't get my head around all of this free time! I have been spending a bit of time in my workshop producing some carvings, cutting boards and the odd piece of cabinetry (as per the above photos), I have threatened to go to the flea markets and flog some off, but tend to produce for family and friends at little to no cost (mainly "No Cost").

Some orders have been coming in through word of mouth, but most people want me to go into full production at no cost this work is a "passion", but, you still have to buy the wood, the finish and the consumables. You also have to recover the inevitable cost of your power, and the ongoing upkeep cost of your tools – ah, retirement is supposed to be stress free!

Anyway, on the health side I'm quite good, some minor problem of late with a knee, but is coming good.

I live near Ballarat Vic. (Mount Doran - about 26 Km south towards Geelong) on a small farmlet (42 acres). I used to run a modest amount of sheep (approx. 150 head - hence the shearing shed).

My wife and I have been happily married for 7 years (the other 40 years have been hell! – 47 years in total), and we have four daughters and 11 grandkids.

I did 20 years in the Army (RAA – 3 years, RACT – 17 years), retiring in 1986. After that I was with - Kraft Foods Ltd as National Transport Manager, then North Queensland Express – State Manager, then moved onto being self-employed 1993 – 2007 (Own Transport Co.), then joined Queensland Rail as Senior Operations Coordinator/Senior Logistic Coordinator and finally on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2017 I retired.

That's about my life in a "nutshell"!

**Ed – well that's another "get to know you" story, discovering a Locator's "Passion", plus get to know Tom more.**

## Let's keep it going – who's going to be next in the series ?

### . "Unknowns" - Here's the latest -

**Ed –** I'm using this response email from Stuart as it contains a group photo of supposedly an "unbeaten" volley ball team (read on) ...

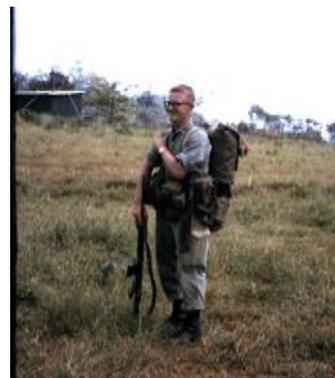
**Stuart Sporn –** "G'day Pablo. Just checked my pulse so I must be alive!!

Where are you living now to have a season called autumn?

Still in Darwin which is now an economic basket case.

Attached are some photos

At right - Me about to head bush on my final fire support base in early January 68



At left - Me in evening wear at Bravo Radar

"Bravo unbeaten volleyball team" (Sporn on camera)  
Cheers."

The "Unknowns" –



C'mon who are they –  
L-R Back row then L-R front row?



**“Unknowns” - Here’s some responses to last month’s “tester” and “tester” it is...**

**George Lane** - ... “Dicko great *E&E* for the month of October.

I think I have the names for the photo on Page 5

L – R back row – **“Big” Bob Ness, Des Bury,**

**Jock White, Andrew Opie** and **“Rat” Davies**

Front Row L-R – **“Shortie” Gow, Paul Jones.**

The last bloke my memory fails me, I hope I have it right. George Lane.”



- L-R
1. BOB NESS
  2. DAVE GOW
  3. VIC MOREAU ????
  4. PAUL JONES
  5. ROB BUCKLEY
  6. JOCK WHYTE ???
  7. ANDREW OPIE

...then **Dave Crowther** adds – the photo on the right with names “implanted”

– Ok can anyone clarify the differences??

**Ron Mason** - “L > R - **Bob Ness, ?, ?, Paul Jones, Sarg Simmons, ?, Andrew Opie**

Most likely taken at “A” radar. That’s my guess. Ron M”

**Rob Tanner** – “Hi Dicko,

You’ll probably get a few responses on this one:

From left: **Bob Ness, “Shorty” Gow, next one not sure, then Paul Jones, John “The Rat” Davies** and the two on the right are familiar but I wouldn’t be confident putting names to them.

Best Regards Bob Tanner”

**Andrew Opie** – “Hi Paul

I believe that the photo shows from left-

**Robert Ness, Robert (Shorty) Gow, Desmond Bury, Paul Jones, John Davies, Robert (Jock) White, and Andrew Opie.**

Lots of Roberts!

Obviously, it was taken after 7 Oct 1966, when Davies arrived in country. Andrew”

**Ed** – OK, below is the original photo with numbers superimposed to make it easier to see what the panel of “Pioneer Experts” think. I’m giving the nod to the **red** answers.



“P E’s Panel”	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
George L	Ness	Gow	Bury	White	Jones	Opie	Davies
Dave C	Ness	Gow	Moreau	Jones	Buckley	Whyte	Opie
Ron M	Ness	?	?	Jones	Simmons	Opie	?
Rob T	Ness	Gow	?	Jones	Davies	?	?
Andrew O	Ness	Gow	Bury	Jones	Davies	White	Opie
Results*	Ness	Gow	Bury	Jones	Davies	White	Opie

\*Judges Decision is final and no more correspondence PLEASE!

## . Oddities continues – in SVN how did we know what unit blokes belonged to?

For example, in the photo below right - this bunch of disorderly dressed layabouts could be “Grunts”/ Ordinance/Armour – just because they’re being photographed outside the HQ 1<sup>st</sup> ATF means nothing – they could be tourists for that matter!

They’ve got the wrong coloured shorts on for RAAF or Navy (Sailors – they possibly wore bell-bottomed versions too!).

Knowing that they belong to Arty, in fact the “Det” and because of the location even possibly means “Artillery Intelligence” (speaks heaps!!), saves us from considering that they could belong to the Manly “Beachbum” Mob – doing weekend rosters after being up at North Head during the week.

Ok, as the photo was taken in 1967 – L to R – **Ron “Mook” Evans, Geoff Blackwell, Bert Blink, Max Troynar, Pete “Fletch”/ “Tube” Fletcher and Paul “Dicko” Dickson.**



However, from the photo you would never know that one of them was an NCO – how the hell would you know – well, maybe he did a replica “hook” on his “hilarious” giggle / bush hat or whatever they were called. The LBr was “Fletch” – you’d think he could have had a tattoo done or something!

**Maybe something like that would have done in black ink!**

He and Bert B even had their names etc on their “dog tags” taped out so you couldn’t even tell their names, blood type or really importantly, their religion! Talk about privacy!

**Well, they were all Nashos, that might explain it – Warwick “Blueleader” Hamilton really had his hands full!**

**There’s more confusion to come on this subject next month.**

**Mail Call...**

## **Darryl Musgrove - sorts out confusion with Malcolm Musgrave – Ed’s mistake yes.....**

“Hi Paul, just reading latest *Eyes and Ears*, surprised to see I was in SVN. Sorry my friend, I joined 130 Battery at Padstow before my twentieth birthday, ticked the box on the National Service Registration, and naturally won a spot in the ballot in the second half of 1966. Six years in the CMF was the alternate to full time service, later reduced to five when I had almost completed six years. I stayed on at various Units until 1983, when the whole organisation was no longer attractive. Did a couple of camps at Holsworthy with 131 during the days of the Gun Loc Bty and would have enjoyed a lot more interaction with the “regular army”, but for some reason that was not encouraged. Anyway, please set the record straight, I did not serve any time overseas. Sorry if I gave you that impression. You have not confused me with a “Musgrave” have you? Cheers Darryl!”

## **Rieny (Van) Nieuwenhof – “G'day Paul, Thanks again for the *Eyes and Ears*... you do a fantastic job.**

I may have had a 'senior's' moment.... Barry Fountain was called 'Sprink' (for obvious reasons), not “Spink”. Apologies Barry!!

For the reunion at Portarlinton we will (hope to have) - Peter Saint, Michael Butler, Les Falkai, John Jaggard, Joe Molenkamp, Russell Jackson, Philip Mulgrew and myself.

Image is of our Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park in Geelong, which is located within the Vietnam Veterans Avenue of Honour, and which now has a Heritage Overlay.

Peter Dealy tells me that the Radar re-assembled is located inside the Vietnam Veterans National Museum. Great work Ron Mason, Peter and others! Rieny (Van) Nieuwenhof”



**Allen Morley – Ed – Allen has sent a few emails with regards to his sojourn into the land of pyramids and the sphinx, but I have meddled (as usual) and have kept them for Allen to put photos and more story line for a later article (“Nomads”) in *Eyes & Ears*. So, all I’m allowing in this instance is –**

“Hi Gunners, Greetings from Egypt. Cheers Allen”

## Warwick Hamilton has been doing some in-depth digging and has come up with –

“Hi Paul, twice in one day...heavens. (Ed – He’s referring to email sent/received etc)

While going through some ancient manuscripts I came across this pro forma letter for troops returning to Aust. I suspect it originated either from a long boring shift in Arty Tac or from an idle Orderly Room. There are a couple of words that have disintegrated at the bottom of the first page, but one gets the drift.

Don’t know whether it is worthy of the E&Es, but it may provoke memories, perhaps even uncover the author(s). All the best, Warwick”

### AUSTRALIAN ARMED FORCES

#### VIETNAM

Dear

As a service to Australian personnel departing the Republic of Vietnam the Command issues to you the following briefing containing some helpful hints that make the re-adjustment easier for your (son, husband, friend, sweetheart) and it is most certain to make your reunion a more enjoyable experience.

After serving his allotted period in the "Garden spot of South-east Asia", will be returning to Australia.

This, as we are well aware, will be an anxious moment for you as it will be for him. However, we feel it is our duty, being totally responsible for his absence, to warn you of certain changes in his mannerisms and behaviour that are likely to make those moments more anxious than you might normally expect.

Therefore, we forward in the interest of all concerned some "do's" and "don'ts" that should be strictly observed.

1. Prepare yourself for the initial shock of that first meeting because the man stepping off the airplane – tho' he may bear a striking physical resemblance to the man you waved good-bye to long ago – will appear out of place, nervous, and prone to look at everyone with suspicion. You may, if you are carrying a handbag or sack, have to empty the contents of the same on the ground for a routine check. Avoid crowds, and if you should celebrate the home-coming with a drink or two, don't question him if he prefers to sit at the table in the rear of the bar with his back to the wall. Also, when the waitress takes your order, it would be wise for you to do ALL of the talking as he may make some embarrassing comment such as "get lost!" "I don't buy you any drinks!"
2. Explain to him that taxi fares are slightly higher in Australia than in Vietnam because when he reads the meter, he may slug the driver. Don't be shocked – this is standard procedure in Vietnam. If he tells the driver to "THOI" he isn't talking baby talk. Don't question him – just politely tell the driver to "STOP". If he says "DEE DEE", he really doesn't want to go to the bathroom, take it in stride and ask the driver if he would kindly go a little bit "faster". If he rolls down the window and starts flapping his arm, explain to him that the taxi has turn signals.
3. HOLD HIS HAND WHEN CROSSING THE STREET !!!!! This may seem absurd at the time but after watching him cross the street alone one time, your nerves will never be the same again. He will expect all drivers to avoid him and will make no effort to dodge them. The sight of a motor scooter or motor bike will infuriate him.
4. DO NOT SERVE ICED TEA AT ANY TIME !!!!!
5. When he pays the bill in a bar or restaurant, he will act nervous and check everyone in the room before he hands the waiter a five dollar bill. The only thing you can do to combat this peculiar behavior is to assure him that there are no C.I.D. agents present. He may ask the waiter what the rate is. If he does, tell him "one-fifty" for one and forget the incident.
6. He will stare at women and probably mumble something about "round eyes". There is nothing personal in this behaviour. He still loves you. If he tends to drool, wipe his mouth with his hand and be understanding – its been a long long time.

7. He may spend much time in the bathroom flushing the toilet. Think nothing of it; he just wants to watch it work! Also, he may desire to take baths in hot boiling water. Check this water before he gets in it.
8. Don't let him order any drinks for you unless you happen to like: Kool-ade, watered down Creme-de-Menthe, or a very small glass of coke.
9. If you want to have some fun with him, say "I love you to much", "Be nice" or "You number one". Don't over do it - he may go berserk.
10. A loud clear clap of thunder may have one of these effects on him. He may dive under the bed and yell "VC" or if he recognises the sound, he will grumble, "those %&+\$ !! monsoons are back again!
11. Above all - remember that he has been in man's closest answer to "HELL ON EARTH" for a too long time. Pamper him and help him forget those months as only you know how.

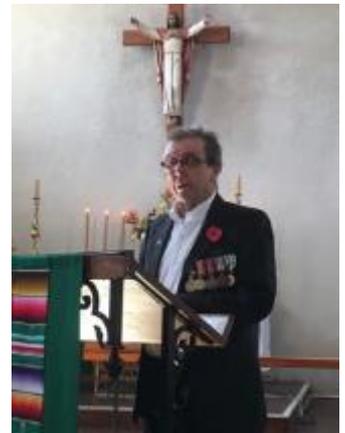
UPON RECEIPT OF THIS LETTER, SEND NO MORE MAIL TO APPO 4 GPO SYDNEY NSW BECAUSE THAT MAN HAS LEFT HELL AND IS EITHER IN PARADISE AUSTRALIA OR HE IS ON HIS WAY.

**Paul "Ed" Dickson** got things going for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row with a Liturgy Service at St Pauls in San Miguel de Allende to mark Memorial / Armistice / Veterans Day on 11.11.17. There was an almost a full house and we also laid a wreath after the service. We had a tenor do a great version of the Byrds' "To Every Season – turn, turn, turn" Plus, there was a 96-year-old WW11 Vet (US), named Milton "Mickey" Cohen, who recited words from one of his poignant poems called "The Boy at Lessay" – 1944 France.



The Vets (all SVN era) from left – **Barry Moyer, Charles Oldfather, Gary Peterson, Self, Karl Rembe, Mike Amici and the Bishop William Gregg**

Yes, and that is yours truly doing my "teary" versions of Lt Col John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields" and ending up with an extract from Laurence Binyon's "The Ode".



**No, the cross did NOT fall off the wall onto me!**

**Dave Crowther – was actually responding to October's Eyes & Ears "Unknowns" article –**  
"Hi Paul, congratulations on another fine edition.

My eyes are not the best after a rare eye tumour in 2006 saw the cutting of the top of my left eye nerve during biopsy. The biopsy revealed the mantle cell lymphoma of the bone marrow. It proved lucky as I wouldn't be here now without the biopsy, it would be vale Dave Crowther 2006.

I am certain other pioneers would be able to identify the lot decisively.  
Keep well, Dave C."

**Allan Harrison gives us the background to the "objects" in the photo at right –** "Hi Dicko,

Ref the latest *Eyes & Ears*, the equipment top left hand corner page 5 is a – Sound Ranging Recorder No 5. Brit equipment last used operationally by us in the "Cross Base" method at Nui Dat. It was a very reliable piece of kit, replaced by a dreadful (US) device known as the GR8. It lasted no time at all and the No5 was re-introduced until the supply of microphone grids ran out. Cheers"



**Bob Billiards – sent the following interesting email and attachments to Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm and Ed –**  
"Ian et al,

I went to the Sydney meeting for the inquiry into the **UCG for Coral/Balmoral** last Thursday. The first one was in Brisbane and last week, the second in Sydney and today in Canberra. From the Brisbane one they were trying to determine what constitutes a Unit as in some cases there was only one person from an army designated "unit" at FSB Coral/Balmoral and secondly if we thought we had been trained for that type of action. The

speakers for the day were generally from the main units and relevant associations. I asked if it was too late to make one and the convenor was happy to still accept from those who were there. I submitted one last Friday along the lines of Unit and training. They are hoping to make their decision well before the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

### Now two 6 degrees of separation!

As 2RTB "C" company was behind us and they wore Green flashes where we had red ones. When we came from Coogee to Coral our LP was in HQ Company lines and there was a bloke in the adjoining weapon pit who was at 2RTB with us. At the meeting on Thursday a bloke from Cavalry did a verbal presentation from his submission and when he introduced himself he gave his name Adrian Buckley and number 2785724 and also went to 2RTB from Sydney. I recognised 7<sup>th</sup> intake as my number is 2785702 and going to Pucka he had to be in 4 Platoon "A" company. It dawned on me at the lunch break that we were even possibly in the same hut. I spoke to him and we were definitely at recruit training together. I have attached my submission and remember it is just for what I think 131BTY was there and also the breadth of my training (and Ian's as we did the same training). I spoke to a couple of blokes there and the infantry man from 3RAR Major General BW Howard AO MC ESM Retd. Said that we were luck Coogee was left alone as they would have walked through it no problems. I really can't remember much about Coogee, except for the APC that caught fire and the blokes I was with. Even FSB Coral is a bit of a blur but it was 50 years ago. I am just glad that the NVA left us alone and all I saw was the fireworks. The bloke from "C" company 2rtb is the one with the pants on. I thought I had a photo scanned of Pablo and John Bayford on the top of the burnt-out APC but can't find it.  
Bob"



### UNIT CITATION FOR GALLANTRY

*Unit recognition for service at the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral.*

*Tribunal Members,*

*My name is **Robert Billiards (2785702)** and I was involved in the operation at FSB Coogee and subsequently Coral.*

*I attended the Sydney review last Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 as I was informed of the review after the Brisbane event as this was the first that I had heard of the review being advised by Keith Ayliffe.*

*I was conscripted as a National Serviceman in 1966 and commenced my military service on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1967 (7<sup>th</sup> intake). My service up to my SVN tour was at 2RTB in Puckapunyal and then posted to the School of Artillery at North Head where I spent three months doing a basic Arty Signallers and then the advanced course. Towards the end of the advanced course three of us who were being posted to 131 Divisional Locating Battery (131DLB) were volunteered to go to SVN (I presume we must have agreed to it). From here we spent around 2 week at Holsworthy with the battery for medicals and other admin stuff, then off to Canungra jungle training centre for 3 weeks and then a week pre-embarkation leave. Two days after the completion of that leave we were in "Camp Alpha" Saigon 12<sup>th</sup> September 1967 and 1ATF the following day.*

*Detachment 131 DLB was a small contingent of specialists providing counter bombardment information for 1ATF and every fire support base where artillery was deployed. Other specialised areas were Surveyors, Radars and Artillery intelligence. My posting with 131 DLB was in a listening post which was call sign "31D" so the fourth listening post at the 1ATF area (Nui Dat and the Horseshoe). I was stationed in the 1<sup>st</sup>/83<sup>rd</sup> compound which was about 500 metres down from the southern entrance to the 1ATF entry gates. The detachment 131DLB was around 70 soldiers (Arty and RAEME) but in small groups and housed in 8 areas within 1ATF. Our Listening post was supposed to be manned by an NCO and 4 diggers, but many times due to operations we would only have 4 to staff the 24-hour post. On operations, because we didn't have a large group of diggers to call on, we would only have 4 for each LP and during FSB Anderson 31D had only 3 staff for several days. Although Artillery we were an independent battery and not attached to any particular regiment. In my tour, I believe there was 4 Field Regiment followed by 12 Field Regiment Batteries.*

*Fortunately, I was not thrown into this operation as my first operation in country as I had been in a combat situation several times, including the TET offensive, but from this experience FSB Coral was a real war and nothing like I had experienced in the hit and run tactics prior to this battle. It was a "Battle" and very scary. I was originally at FSB Coogee with 161 Battery, 3 RAR and some APC's. When Balmoral was put in place we moved to Coral. I was glad that I was at the Coogee LP as the action really affected my mates at Coral during the first two major actions. When we moved to Coral we were placed with Infantry HQ Company where we spent the rest of the operation until*

chopped back to Nui Dat. I also mention that the guns were accurately surveyed in by members of our Survey group who provided this service for the initial locating of the guns at all fire support bases. My ramblings are to support our Battery as being a separate "Unit" throughout it's time in SVN and being a continuing battery in the current 20 STA regiment now being 131 STA. We didn't have the luxury of calling diggers from other units because of the specialist nature of our Battery even to LP's where many of us (diggers and NCO's) called artillery fire missions on suspected targets. Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery was a fully operational and autonomous "Unit" in SVN and the battle of Coral and Balmoral. My details of training are to show that we had never been trained for a full-scale battle as at FSB Coral. I was fortunate that I was already a shooter prior to the army and was confident in my rifle skills and had already used it to return fire in two previous combat situations. At Coral being in the infantry lines gave us (my listening post) some sense of security in that we had blokes around us with all the fire power at their disposal that we never had and were hopefully trained for these situations and a frontal attack which fortunately didn't eventuate as they hit Balmoral rather than us. I also would expect our RAEME unit would be recognized as their soldiers were integral to keeping our radar set at Coral in working order under severe situations. I feel that all units there should receive the citation no matter how small as all played a part in the success of that operation. Kind regards Robert Billiards

**Rieny (Van) Nieuwenhof** – sends in a heads-up on a recent mate's Re-union at Portarlington - "Hello Dicko, this the first of a few photos on our 131 reunion at Portarlington.

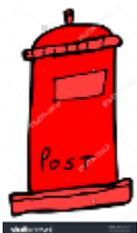


Members attending are **Bdr Peter Saint, Gnr. Michael Butler, Gnr. Les Falkai, Gnr. John Jaggard, and the fat guys in front of Bdr Rieny Nieuwenhof.** Sharing morning tea with our partners at Queenscliff. Unfortunately, we didn't get a photo of **Russell Jackson** and **Philip Mulgrew** who joined us for dinner the night before. Rieny"

...and the Re-union continues with this update...



Our mini reunion on the Bellarine Peninsula (Vic.) is going really well, great company (lots of stories about recruit training, our induction into the ways of artillery, our final posting to 131 DLB and time in SVN - not much bulls.it!) Beautiful food and wine. Here we are on guard duty at the most dangerous entrance to a bay in the world, the famous 'Rip' entrance to Port Phillip Bay Victoria. The first shot of WWI was fired from this location. Shown are **John Jaggard, Michael Butler, Rieny Nieuwenhof, Peter Saint and Les Falkai.** (Apologies from **Joe Molenkamp** who couldn't make it this time) We could stop a Russian invasion if called upon. (Fort Queenscliff was built to protect Australia from a communist invasion) although we might be a bit slower on the gun line! Rieny"



**Mail Out** →

I started this in September and have decided to continue running down the alphabet of names and sending some emails to blokes in general to say g'day and just to generally keep in touch. A lot of the blokes I've never met, so it's just to keep some connection alive. Plus it's good to keep in touch, even sporadically, it may help to avoid any unpleasant unforeseen surprises.

← **Mail In - Here are the responses...**

**Joe Librizzi** – "Hello Paul,

Thank you for your email in regards to getting in touch. I apologise for not replying earlier, though I must admit that I have been a little lazy lately in replying to several emails that I have received. Hopefully you have recovered from your cold, not sure whether it is to do with age, I have also had one, and it is spring over here. I thought I would fly to Sydney, to attend the yearly AGM, Once again thanks for your email, and cheers. Joe"

**Andrew Straume** – “Paul, I am doing just fine thanks. Still living the dream at Bargara and doing a bit of Reserve work for those tax-free dollars. Regards, Andrew Straume”

**Denis Smith**- “Hi Paul, Good to hear from you. It gives me the opportunity to thank you and the other guys that put together this great newsletter. I look forward to it each month.

As for me I'm like most 71 year olds with some aches and pains.

But, on the good side I'm on the right side of the grass.

We have lived at Lake Macquarie since 1974 and I am a member of Wangi Wangi RSL Sub Branch, which is located on the waterfront of the lake. During the second world war Wangi Wangi had a number of Bofors guns set in gun emplacements out on the point. This was to protect the Catalinas coming and going from Rathmines base.

William Dobell's house and studio, where he painted a lot of his pictures is on Wangi Wangi waterfront not far from the RSL.

The area is very scenic and an interesting place to visit.

After retiring in 2009 I've kept busy, if only a bit slower than before things seem to take that little bit long than before (which is good). Golf on Thursday.

We have a small holiday property on the upper Chichester river which we visit every 2 to 3 weeks for a few days. It has some fruit trees and a small veggie patch that needs attention from time to time. We don't get a lot of fruit. By the time the flying foxes, possums & birds get their share there's not always much left (if any). But it's great to get away for a few days and play happy farmer.

Hope all stay happy and well. Denis Smith (1969 SVN Admin Clerk & Pay Rep.)”

**Peter Suckling** – “Paul. Thanks for the concern but I'm going ok.

Just got back from a cruise around Malaysia and back to Fremantle. During the cruise, we ran into an ex Locator. His surname was Dean, forgotten his first name, but he was with the LP's. A Regular with probably 1 or 2 stripes. We chatted over breakfast near the end and did not see each other again. He knew Hughie Hoddy, Lofty Hayes and more of that era.

There was something else regarding the move of the ANKPQ1 to Mornington, “Scrooge” Osborne lives in Portland and was a whiz on the Radars at Woomera. For technical nous he would fit the bill.

I am getting back to reality in Narembeen which, at this time of the year, is Harvest and Bowls.

Read the *Eyes and Ears* avidly. Cheers Peter.”

**Raymond Smith** – “Hello Paul. Yes, things are OK here in Launceston. This will be the first year for a while that I have not been out of Tasmania. Still I went to Canada and USA last year so I am thankful for that. Have some back problems that affect me occasionally and have to handle with kid gloves but that is all part of the business. Am losing weight to somewhat counteract it but am starting to feel the cold here in Tassie that I didn't before. Never mind. Cheers, Raymond”

**Andrew Opie** – (responding to a question as to how his health is?) “Stupid question! Just released from hospital. third visit in 6 weeks! They are thinking of naming a ward after me. Nothing terrible, just infections.”

**Robert Tierney** – “Hi Paul, thanks for the email. I'm still here, essentially on listening watch as I get all your emails. Currently, deployed to Afghanistan for the third time this time in a Kabul HQ role (first two times was BC UAV Gp 3 & Gp 8). I continue to serve and remain interested in unit command of **20 STA**. I shortlisted this year but Rod Lang got the nod for the job after Pete, hopefully next time.

Interesting factoid, Rod Lang (the next CO) is one of the last locating officers, there are only two of us left after Rod. I mean 'Locators' as in Field Artillery guys with training and experience on weapon locating radars and in artillery intelligence/counter-battery tactics. I suggest 2018 & 2019 would present a good opportunity for the association to engage with 20 STA to ensure the Locator history is passed on to the younger generation. Just a thought.

Thanks for checking in, Rob, Robert Tierney, LTCOL, Resolute Support HQ Kabul”

**Greg Tommasi** – “Hi Paul, all is well this end; we now live on Tamborine Mountain in the Gold Coast hinterland.

Enjoying a bit of country and a bit of city living.

Keep up your good work, regards Greg and Winnie.”

**Rob Torrisi** – “Hi Paul. All well at this end. Been retired for almost four years now and loving it. My wife and I spend most of our time planning overseas trips. We go away at least twice a year. We try to keep April free as we both go to the dawn service at 20 STA Enoggera and then go to the city march. Occasionally catch up with Blair Sheppard, Steve Voss, Ron Boaler, Graeme Smith and Chris Brazier at Maroochydore on Long Tan day. Don't know if you got this information but Peter Sali passed away early last year.

Like most people of our age we spend a lot of time with our children and grandchildren which is something we love and is never a chore.

Always look forward to your newsletter.

Regards, Rob Torrisi’

**Jim Townley** – “Hi Paul. Thanks for keeping in touch. Nothing really to report. Although we could do with a bit more rain. In another month, I'll probably regret saying that. Where are you that you are wandering through autumn? Regards, Jim’

**Des Spencer** – “Hi Paul

Such a surprise to hear from you. I think you may have sent me a birthday wish a year or two ago so I apologise for not getting back to you.

I am still alive and kicking and in my 73rd year. Hard to believe Vietnam was all those years ago.

I am in really good health and training six days a week in the gym and boxing training. Certainly, don't feel my age.

I still live in Thailand (eleven years and counting) although I miss Australia and in the future, I may spend a little more time there.

You were living in Mexico a while back; do you still spend time there?

The weather is always good here, although at certain times of the year it can still get bloody hot.

I haven't spoken to my old mate "Fletch" Peter Fletcher in years so maybe I will give him a call sometime.

I hope you are in good health and life is good to you. You do a good job from what I see on *Eyes and Ears* so keep up the excellent work.

Memories are a wonderful gift. Lovely to hear from you Paul. Des”

**Peter Saint** – “Hi Paul, all well here, we had a mini reunion last week at Port Arlington, **Rieny Nieuwenhof, Mick Butler, Les Falkai and John Jaggard.** Great couple of days. Enjoying retirement, and the grand kids. Keep up the great work. Best Regards Pete”

**Phil Sheedy** – “Thanks Dicko. Still kicking!”

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE – HELP REQUIRED**

Hello Gents,

The 131 Locators Assn has received the following email and as some of you have mentioned a "GNR Holmes " in your profiles we are starting our search.

Any additional information any/ each of you may provide will be of great help. Have a read and a think and let us know what if anything you may recall or even names of other vets who served at the same time or place that we may be able to contact for further info.

You may want to refer to your profiles on the website and I can provide that info if you need it to jog your memory- just ask.

We have received the medal package and are holding it in good faith -

**Holmes, Roger Francis**

**Regt No 3795910 DOB 13.01.48 Rank Gnr Place of Birth Melbourne Corp RAA National Service Yes**

**SVN DET 131 23.07.1970 – 25.02.19716**

**“6 Nov 2017**

***G'day 131 Locators Association,***

***My purpose of writing this email is hopefully to reunite the Original issued Vietnam Medal & Returned from Active Service Badge with their recipient. These medals have been in my possession for 23 years.***

***I intended to facilitate reunification of the medals after graduation from Royal Military College - Duntroon (Long Tan Company), however due to injury I didn't graduate as a commissioned officer.***

***Could you please assist in the return of these Medals to Gunner Roger Francis Holmes [Service Number: 3795910, Inscription R.F Holmes].***

***Photograph attached: Original Vietnam Medal & Returned from Active Service Badge in Original box.***

**BBBBBBBBBBB  
BBBBBBBBBBB**

*We appreciate your help.*

*Regards*

**Grahame Dignam**

**email: [sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com)**

Secretary / Treasurer

131 Locators Assn Inc

ABN 92 663 816 973



Supported by the Department  
of Veterans Affairs.



## MOTI (Missing On The Internet)

After the last few months of procrastinating I've decided to take some action as to emails that "bounce back" for reasons only explained as the addresses I send them to no longer exist or whatever.

So, the email addresses I have for the following list of blokes (email addresses not listed here for privacy, even though they don't work!! – make sense of that??) are useless.

~~Paul Butcher~~, Clive Dreis, Michael Fowler, Kevin Geoghegan, Kevin Grime, Keith Holloway, Warren Jaenke, Jim Kruimink, Dennis Malloy, John Maloney, Alan McDonald, Ken McNamara, ~~Damian McManus~~, Robert Miller, Brian Mitchell, Robert Owens, Frank Perry, Roger Pryke, ~~Peter Saint~~, Kevin Salter, Bob Sealy, Ken Simpson, Geoff Sobey, Ken Taylor, Allan Thompson, Brian Turner, Norton Verran, Steven Voss and George Wearn

**NB – Paul Butcher =s we have had it updated – thanks fellas.**

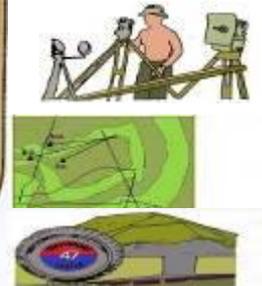
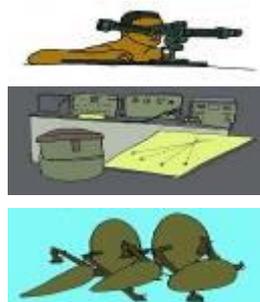
If you have a working email address for any of them could please send it to me – [131eyesandears@gmail.com](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)

## Notice Board...hey! see what's coming up?



**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER THE TREE,  
PLUS BUY PRESENTS\*.**

\*Very Important – ask your partner



### Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,  
Public Officer – Victor Danko, Webmaster – Bob Billiards, Research Officer – Ernie Newbold,  
Designs and Development Officer – Nick Proskurin, Eyes & Ears Editor – Paul Dickson  
General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane.

Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell,  
Vic – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder

<http://www.131locators.org.au>

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas - "Christmas is on the horizon and that means about a week later we're into 2018, so possibly now is the time to check your 131 Locators Assn membership is current.

Email [sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) to check. Grahame"

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the

### 131 Locators Association Annual Gneral Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2017 at 1105hrs...

**Attendees were:** Allen Morley, Ernest Newbold, Grahame Dignam, Bert Blink, George Lane, Ged Carroll, Nick Proskurin, Ian Amos, Merv Nairn, Terry Westerway and Joe Librizzi

**Apologies were received from:** Gordon Malcolm, Warwick Hamilton, State Reps (Rieny Nieuwenhof, Terry Erbs, Ron Mason, Stu Sporn, Geoff Blackwell, Alan Adams, Barry Guzder), Paul Dickson, Jim Fitzgerald, and Bob Billiards.

A Proxy was lodged by Bob Billiards.

President Allen Morley extended a warm welcome to all especially **Joe Librizzi** who travelled from WA to join us today.

50 Years  
April 1966 - April 2016



The Memories Remain  
1966 - 1971

## Presidents report.

# 131 Locators Association Inc



## President's Report for FY 2016 – 2017

I am pleased to present the President's Report for the financial year 2016-2017. This period represents our sixth full-year of operation and generally shows a continuing growth in all aspects of the Association's activities.

The Association remains financial, viable and, sustainable for the foreseeable future as the financial report illustrates. The ageing of our members continues to be our limiting factor. Many of the early Nashos have celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays and others will do so within a year or two of this meeting. Contact with those who served in the Detachment and those who served at Holsworthy remains incomplete, although there has been some success with new contacts in the past year.

The reporting period saw a highlight anniversary for the reinforcement group, the *secondi*, the second group to be sent to SVN 50 years ago. These Gunners continued setting the pace for others who followed up to 1971, as part of the 131 Detachment operational status.

The Association website, [www.131locators.org.au](http://www.131locators.org.au) continues to give us both a web presence and a defined identity. During the reporting period, external access to the website has grown quite significantly. Bob Billiards has continued as our Webmaster, providing an essential role in doing so. Thank you, Bob.

The site statistics are regularly reported in *Eyes and Ears* and demonstrate the ongoing interest in our activities. The days of access are interesting, with peaks about the release time of each *Eyes and Ears* edition.

*Eyes and Ears*, under the editorial overview of Paul Dickson, appears monthly, and still delivers editions of 16-18 pages. I believe that the size and frequency together are major measures of our Association's success. Members' contributions illustrate that we are recording more of relevance from our military past for both history and information. The June 2017 edition was the 106<sup>th</sup> in this new series.

A range of other activities, meetings, reunions and events were part of the year's program.

Highlights for 2015-2016 were:

- . A further twelve editions of *Eyes and Ears*; extremely well done Dicko and your enthusiasm is infectious. A sincere thanks to all of our contributors for stories, photos and some history, without which we would have a very thin monthly newsletter
- . The 'lost' *Eyes and Ears* editions from 1967 were found
- . A major turnout of 131 Veterans at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at Enoggera in combination with our descendants 20<sup>th</sup> Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment around Anzac Day 2016
- . We dedicated a 131 Locators Association plaque celebrating the Detachment role in SVN along with a plaque listing all those who served in the Detachment in the Enoggera barracks area; the Surveillance and Target Acquisition Association unveiled a restored radar
- . The radar held at North Fort was packed up and delivered to the National Vietnam Museum on Phillip Island in Victoria
- . Production and publication of ten locator profiles; we need more to be submitted to assist our recording of 131 history
- . At the end of June 2017 there were 151 members of the Association, which represents a slow, but nevertheless meaningful growth. There was a significant number of lapsed memberships
- . A 131 paver was installed on the Memorial Path at North Head
- . The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion was held in Coffs Harbour, with future reunions to be held and coordinated in Queensland
- . Regular Committee meetings to manage the Association and the involvement of Regional Representatives to help spread the load
- . Contributions from former Detachment OCs setting out their recollections of their time in SVN were published in *Eyes and Ears*
- . National Anzac Day march attendances and social follow up in each State
- . New 131 Locators Association banners were designed by Nick Proskurin
- . A national Vietnam Veterans' Day event and dinner was held in Canberra, and
- . Barry Guzder organised a most successful social dinner in Perth.
- . A special mention for the Committee members for making things happen for the Association.
- . Bert Blink undertook the role of Vice-President and is generous of his time in attending our Committee meetings, driving from Canberra each month.
- . Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary, has been the 'super glue' for the Association's financial arrangements, records and operation of the membership database.
- . Ernie Newbold, Nick Proskurin other Committee Members – Vic Danko (Public Officer), Ian Amos, George Lane and Ged Carroll are all acknowledged for their ongoing involvement and support.

. Our regional representatives provided local overview and contributed to our planning program. I thank Bert Blink (ACT and doubling up as a Committee member), Al Adams (Vic), Geoff Blackwell (SA), Barry Guzder (WA), Stuart Sporn (NT), Terry Erbs (QLD) and forward scouts in rural Victoria, Ron Mason and Rieny Nieuwenhof, for their collective contribution.

. A note of appreciation to our Honorary Auditor, Jim Fitzgerald, for again keeping us on the financial straight and narrow.

Sadly, the names of more of our number have now been etched onto the Association Honour Roll. Lest we forget them.

**Allen Morley, November 2017**

#### **The Election of office-bearers for the 2017/18 year.**

Chairman Allen Morley declared all positions vacant and election proceeded. The Chair was handed to Grahame Dignam during this portion of the meeting. All positions were declared vacant.

As the past committee were all eligible for re-election and having consented to stand in their past positions, all were nominated and on the voices, were duly elected unopposed.

The Chair was handed back to Allen Morley and the meeting proceeded.

#### **Appointment of Auditor for the following year.**

**Jim Fitzgerald** FCPA has indicated that he would be available to act as Auditor for the Association for the 2017/2018 financial year.

**Moved:** Grahame Dignam      **Seconded:** Bert Blink      **Against:** Nil      **Accepted**

Jim Fitzgerald was duly appointed.

#### **Statement of the Association to the Dept. of Fair Trading.**

Completion of the documentation required by the Dept. of Fair Trading under section 49 of the Act was tabled regarding the financial affairs of the Association.

Payment of lodgement costs of \$45 to cover this item was proposed

**Moved:** Ern Newbold      **Seconded:** Grahame Dignam      **Against:** Nil      **Accepted**

Meeting closed at 11.20 AM AEST

Signed by Allen Morley Chairman

#### **. Upcoming Events Calendar –**

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>

**You're all welcome**

**Attendees were:** Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Ged Carroll, Ian Amos, Nick Proskurin, Bert Blink, Terry Westerway, Merv Nairn and Joe Librizzi.

Allen opened the meeting at 11.25 AM by welcoming all the attendees especially **Joe Librizzi** who travelled from WA.

#### **Issues arising from All Correspondence and the previous minutes were:**

. We were notified of the sudden passing of Wayne Jeffrey by his widow Jean, after a short severe illness.

. An investigation to locate Gnr R F Holmes continues following a request to return Medals located by Darren Willcox

. WO2 Geoff Jebb has confirmed to Bert Blink that the Curta model used in SVN was the small #2 15-digit display version. Now efforts will be made to locate and acquire an example for display at the NVVM Phillip Island.

. Bert Blink reported that Geoff Jebb expressed his concern that the first website relating to Det 131 DLB in SVN was now lying dormant and not available to the public. The website contained detailed information of the duties and tasks performed by the Survey section of Det 131 whose processes improved the accuracy of the survey results produced at Battery level of the US army at the time in SVN. The meeting resolved that we should again approach the Survey Website Principals with a view to having their website resurrected in some form to offer a complete picture of the Detachments' scope of operation while involved in the conflict. It would also enhance the understanding of the evolution of the role of Det 131 Div Loc Bty during the course of that period.

**Financial Membership is currently ...125, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 9. Total 136.**

#### **General business**

. Discussion ensued regarding the Surveyors website - the meeting was unanimous in requesting that we approach the Surveyor group with a view to returning their website to public access. We will follow up this important item.

. Following a number of requests over a long period of time the Association will investigate the production of a fresh version of the original DET 131 DIV LOC BTY shield in its' original form. More information as the plan evolves.

. Allan Morley mentioned that a proposal was made some time ago to attend a ceremony at Marysville in 2018 to honour the late Jim Menz. More to follow.

. A suggestion to alter the meeting schedule of the Association to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday monthly was made and after a robust discussion the meeting adopted the motion. The change will be implemented beginning 12 December 2017.



. web photos - If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos  
131eyesandears@gmail.com– BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.

**. Birthdays in the Battery...December –**

Date	NAME	REGT NO	YOB	SVN IN	SVN OUT	COMMENTS
1	DAVID DOUGHERTY	2786594	1946	17 01 1968	04 02 1969	
1	KEVEN BUSH	3792069	1946	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
1	NEVILLE SMITH	1734352	1946	01 07 1969	25 03 1970	
3	RAYMOND MINNS	4410744	1941	20 05 1966	28 02 1967	† 24.05.97
3	CLIVE DREIS	2785766	1945	05 02 1968	03 12 1968	
6	ALAN ROBB	5715343	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
7	ANTHONY O'MARA	38334	1940	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	RAEME † 01.01.85
7	TERRY WESTERWAY	215818	1945	04 05 1966	07 05 1967	
8	ROBERT WHITE	311537	1937	22 04 1966	16 05 1967	† 1992
9	ANDREW OPIE 2Lt.	43611	1944	04 05 1966	06 01 1967	
10	HANS WEBER	3789591	1945	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	† 12.07.16
12	MICHAEL DAVIS	4720736	1948	20 01 1970	30 01 1971	
12	CHRISTOPHER BRAZIER	2792185	1948	24 02 1970	25 02 1971	
13	JOHN STANFORD	217765	1949	29 01 1969	21 01 1970	
13	LAURENCE D'ARCY	215649	1945	04 03 1968	04 02 1969	12 Fd Regt.
13	" "	215649	1945	20 05 1971	05 08 1971	131
14	PETER FLETCHER	2783429	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
15	CHRISTOPHER SELF	66981	1949	1969	1970	† UNKNOWN
14	TOM KING	1411018	1937	12 12 1966	12 12 1967	
15	GEOFFREY PRICE	5715931	1947	08 05 1969	25 02 1970	
16	PHILLIP PERRIN Capt.	53105	1936	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
17	TONY. GOLDSMITH	1732029	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
18	JIM HOGNO	2783680	1945	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	
18	TOM CHECKLEY	311534	1938	22 04 1966	05 08 1966	† 05.08.66 KBA
19	GEOFF BLACKWELL	4718307	1945	20 06 1967	21 05 1968	
19	PETER GAULT	2783644	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	† 24.05.14
19	RODNEY BEASLEY	3797746	1948	04 03 1971	05 08 1971	
19	MICHAEL FERRIS	1733794	1945	23 12 1968	28 03 1969	1st Armoured Regt.
	" "			30 03 1969	03 12 1969	131-RAEME
21	BOB RETROT	1731922	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
21	MICHAEL BOYLE Lt.	217004	1946	17 02 1970	11 02 1971	
21	BLAIR SHEPPARD	1735563	1948	01 04 1970	04 03 1971	
22	JOHN McGREGOR	3787376	1945	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
22	MICHAEL BURGESS	242895	1938	24 03 1968	26 03 1969	RAEME
22	PETER MEANEY	4719804	1947	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
22	RONALD RYAN	2793176	1948	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	
24	RON. EVANS	3789614	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
25	STEWART McALPINE	2787471	1946	08 07 1968	04 06 1969	
25	ROBERT HOLDSWORTH	3793058	1945	04 01 1969	03 12 1969	AACC
25	PETER BREMNER	1734544	1947	16 04 1969	16 04 1970	
26	CHRIS BOULLY	4717884	1945	17 04 1967	12 12 1967	
26	DAVID BILLINGS	2793071	1946	19 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
28	GEOF. MACAULAY WO2	35753	1936	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	† 27.04.13
28	LIONEL OUTEN	1732195	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
28	JOHN MARTIN Lt.	43613	1941	25 02 1968	21 02 1969	
29	BRIAN HAWKEY	1200572	1946	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	AACC
29	FRED LENNON Sgt.	29712	1927	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 25.07.13

\*Above colour background coding explanation – Red – financial Locator, Yellow – located Locator, Black – passed Locator, Blue – honorary Member, White – NOT Located Locator.

Ed – 12 blokes not highlighted is looking **bloody horrendous** and **not acceptable!** Ok, you December-ites start getting active!

. **Locator Profiles** – we’ve received **148** and we’ve sent out **146**. Ed – I wonder if we’ll get to **150** before Christmas??

. **Located...**

Have a look at the Association’s web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au> – you might find some lost mates or get in touch with us and see if we can for you.

. **Vale**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>DOD</u>
Sali, Peter	Gnr	1735560	Radar	1970-71	13.10.48	02.03.16

“SALI, Peter Late of Brisbane formerly of Gold Coast and Sydney passed away peacefully on 2nd March, 2016 Aged 67 Years Much Loved Son of Frieda. Loving father of Rebekah, Matthew, Jade and Frazer, cherished grandfather of Carter and Lincoln, brother of Elke, Hus and Roy.” (Extract form Funeral Notices – Brisbane Courier Mail)



The photo at left was extracted from **Ted Jux’s** Locator Profile -

**Xmas 1970 – James Menz Club (SVN)**

**L to right-** Ron Boaler, Blair Sheppard, **Pete Sali**, Graeme Jennion, Al Gough, Mick Davis and Ted Jux.

Seated: Chris Brazier.

Ron Boaler’s Locator Profile provided the “grainy” photo at right.



**Rear:** Blair Sheppard, Ron Boaler, Graeme Jennion, Mick Davis, Al Gough.

**Lower:** Pete Sali, Chris Brazier & Ted Jux



Rob Torrissi also sent his in as well (at right)

"Left to right - Al Gough, Blair Sheppard, **Pete Sali**, Rob Torrissi regards, Rob."

**Rob Torrissi** sent in the photo at left -  
 "Taken at the Horseshoe.  
 Bottom right **Pete Sali**, on his right is Mick Davis and Al Gough above. regards, Rob T"



## . Vale

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Regt No</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>SVN</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>DOD</u>
Jeffrey, Wayne	LBdr	2794722	Sensor/Sound Ranging	1970-71	13.10.48	02.03.16

*"Thank you for sending all this information to my husband Wayne. Unfortunately, Wayne passed away on the 26<sup>th</sup> October from advanced liver cancer. Wayne was only diagnosed at the end of May and unfortunately the treatments he received were never going to save his life.*

*Regards, Jean Jeffery"*

### Locator Profile

**Surname:** Jeffery      **Given Name:** Wayne      **DoB:** 1/11/1946      **State of Origin:** NSW

**What did you do before the army:** Survey Draftsman – Registrar Generals Dept. [now Land Titles Office]

**Army service dates from:** 22/04/1970 to 9/12/1971      **Regt No:** 2794772

**If National service, then Intake:** 20<sup>th</sup>

**If served in SVN, then dates: from** 5/11/1970 to 29/07/1971

**Battery/s Activity/s (Bty/s served in, Sections of Bty/s worked in, locations, dates etc):** 131 Div Loc Battery, [worked with Sensor & Sound Ranging]

**Who were you in the service with:** Dave Doyle, John Tickle, Peter Summers, Maj Gen Tim Ford, Jeff Evans, Peter Saint, Kevin Geoghegan, Garry Chillingsworth, Roger Whittaker, Jeffrey Bassford, Roger Pryke, Gary Navas, Norm McManus, Tony Turner and Ian Campbell – others I have forgotten over the years.

**Last Rank:** Lance Bombardier

**What did you do after the army:** Returned to public service, Registrar Generals Dept., couldn't stand being 'locked up' so left.

Went to work for AMP, then Combined Insurance Co of America, then a firm that sold housing renovations, then Norman Ross [all in a couple of years]

I worked for Norman Ross for 11 years, started as a salesman & finished as a Store Manager then left & worked for Rayco, at Punchbowl [2 years], then Clearlite Plastics for 2 years. Had 'heated' discussion with General Manager [Clearlite] & told him to stick it were the sun doesn't shine, couldn't work for dickheads.

Went on holiday to friends' place at Byron Bay, for 2 weeks, dropped in to see relative in Bellingen [near Coffs Harbour] & bought 3ac, then sold house in Baulkham Hills.  
I've been living in "Bello" for the last 23 years.

**Anything else of interest:** Married 38 years, 1 child

**What city / town do you live in now:** Bellingen, NSW 2454  
Very peaceful place, no close neighbours, only 10min to town & 30min to Coffs Harbour. Play heaps of golf & I am involved with the Australian Plant Society.



I-R. = Gnr. Bevans, L. Bdr. Stanford, Capt. Jansen, Sgt. Campbell, WO2 Liddell, Gnr. Campbell, Gnr. Fountain, Wayne Jefferies, L. Bdr. Kearns.

**Ian Campbell** – “Hi Paul, Wayne is the second of my time over there to pass, that I am aware... It reminds me that we are all getting a bit older, but let's not dwell on that immutable fact!!  
See pic attached (above) from our OP course at North Head in mid 1970.  
Men in this pic are...Kevin Bevans, Greg Stanford, Training Staff: CO, Sgt, WO, Ian Campbell, Barry Fountain (“Sprinkle”) **Wayne Jefferies** (“**The General**”), Phil Kearns “The Canadian” or “The Yank”.  
Wayne was a Reg I recollect and I did not move in his circle... I remember him being a bit more focussed than us Nasho's but that's about all. Regards, Ian”

**“At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”**

**MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the establishment of the web site we continue to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame [Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct ( add your name) to the associations account at "A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133"

**Hope we hear from you?**

**Website:** <http://www.131locators.org.au>

**. Other related sites...**

**Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...**



**ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY**

“Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush” (A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

## . Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



### LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

*The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield*

Meetings: - Sun 3 Dec 2017: at Panania RSL, also Christmas Reunion after the meeting. Sun 11 Mar 2018: at Paddington RSL. Sun 8 Jul 2018 and AGM: at Panania RSL All meetings commence at 1115 hrs



**Australian Artillery Association – [www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)**



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

**[www.artilleryhistory.org](http://www.artilleryhistory.org)**



**Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia**

Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living



Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>

Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

## . VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit [www.at-ease.dva.gov.au](http://www.at-ease.dva.gov.au)

## . 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 83<sup>rd</sup> Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much.

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: <http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



**The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association**

<http://www.rnzaa.org.nz/>

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