

THE EYES and EARS

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



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ABN 92 663 816 973

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

Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs

Calling all Locators, Over!



NEWSFLASH

The ANKPQ/1 has arrived (in crates) at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island...

Work on the ANKPQ/1 Radar is set to commence at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Philip Island on Wednesday 4th October 2017.

If you can spare day or 2 to lend a hand (it is school holidays)

please contact

Ron Mason on 0427 326 410.

and bring a mate if you can.

. Insights and Recollections –

this is a continuation in the series pertaining to Fire Support Base involvements.

After some 49 years, we are gathering **Recollections** and perhaps **Insights** from members of the Detachment who were involved, in some way or another in Fire Support Bases (FSBs). We are starting to see that these memories are helping us to broaden our understanding and giving us greater insights into the Detachment's involvement in South Vietnam.

This is the fourth in this series, which recounts events by **John Dellaca (SVN 29.01.68-28.01.69)**.

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).

John Dellaca - Insights and Recollections – FSB Coral, May 1968

With regards to our Listening Post at Coral, the four of us were gunners there was no L/Bdr, this was the case from the start of the whole Operation.

Our Listening Post locations through the different FSB's firstly, **FSB Hunt, FSB Wattle, FSB Andersen, FSB Coral, and FSB Coogee.**

I wonder if the loss of **Jim Menz** and **Dutchy Vandriel** on operation Coburg left a shortage of Bdrs?

My memory is that we all just did our jobs as required, instructions came from **Sgt. Lawler**.

I do remember at Fire Support Base Hunt Captain Perrin turned up with a visiting senior Arty Officer from Australia, and was probably relieved to see that his 4 Gunners had dug a text book Listening Post set up. Later that day 108 Battery gave a fire demo for the visiting Officer of Splintex possibly the first time an Australian battery had fired it, I remember taking photos of this event.

Hope this give you some further insight to the events of our Listening Posts during the event of Coral etc.

The series continues next month 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

50 Years...really?



At left - These three "adventurers" - Gnr's Geoff Holden, Ken Woodbine and Ian Amos were snapped by Bob Billiards 12 September, 1967 at Singapore airport on our stopover enroute to Saigon



At right, here's how they're fairing exactly 50 years later - Bob Billiards, Ken Woodbine, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm and Geoff Holden. Gordon arrived in November.



They lunched at “The Miss Saigon” (very appropriate) restaurant in Hurstville (Sydney).

Their recommendations – “The Miss Saigon was just a nice Vietnamese typical of the western suburbs (Hurstville). Really nice food and cheap.”



. “Unknowns” - Here’s the latest in the series ...



Now, here’s a photo taken out of some that are archived by **Brian Turner (SVN ’66-’67)**. They’re a likely looking bunch, obviously considering something very serious.

Who are they, where are they and what are they doing?

“Unknowns” - Here’s some responses to last month’s “tester” ...



Warwick Brooker reckons he’s got the answer, though NOT too sure about himself!!

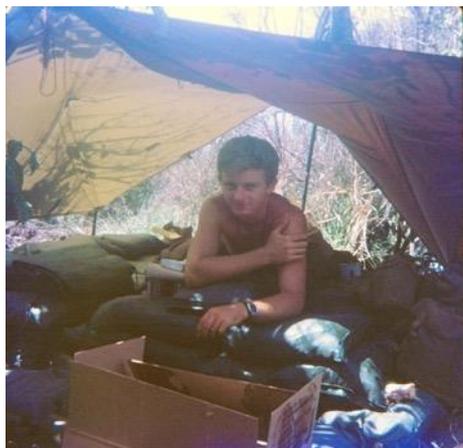
“Thanks again for *Eyes & Ears*, Dicko! I haven’t read it right through yet, but I have a response to one of your questions.

The personalities in the haircut photo at FSB Harrison are...

Happy hackers: Nick Armstrong & Roger McDonnell
Seated reader: Marty Van Driel

Anguished victim: Not sure, but that could be **me**. I can’t remember getting “hacked”, but I guess it was something that no one would wish to remember.

I shared a covered sleeper/bunker with Marty (pic at right), which is one reason I think I could have been the haircut victim. The four of us were probably holding the fort at the time. Best wishes, Brookey”



...Warwick responded to another Ed email...

“Yeah, calm cool and crying collected. 😊

Bruce (Irvine) tells me he picked the victim as me also. I've attached another shot of myself, still holding the fort possibly after the haircut. Looks like the “hackers” did OK. Thanks Nick and Roger! Brookey”



NB – “Brookey” and Co were still out at FSB Harrison, Op Coburg.

David Dougherty adds a few lines with regards to “Unknowns” (August,2017) -

In the photo of Nick’s, I reckon that Nick is on the left and that is most likely why it is in his archives. I have attached another photo of him shearing back in the survey lines.



...Then David continues on with - “Ernie Newbold’s “LP’s – where were they?” ... a tower for what??”

The building that had the roof “folded over” was the Q store. When the crane was lifting in one of the tanks, the side of the roof nearest the chopper lost its fastenings to the rafters and started these long waves rippling along the roof from one end to the other until finally folding along the ridge capping over onto the other side. The attached photo while not good shows the rippling effect before it folded.





. Here's a continuing story in the series with regards to Locators in the "passions" series...

This series commenced with extracting "Passions" under the guise of "Grey Nomads" and has developed into "things" that somewhat consume us outside families etc and God forbid least of all 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.

Let's see what **Terry Bruce (SVN – '67-'68)** has to expose to us... **a Train Carriage and Vintage Jeeps -**

We kick it off with a bit of the property layout and as you might realise from his "collection" it is not your usual suburban block. Terry and his wife Judith share the serene countryside with the "collectables" – here's some photos of their world intermingled in his story...

Following is some background to my interest in railways, Jeeps, collecting historical equipment, etc.

I've had an interest in all things connected with railways, especially steam locomotives, since an early age. This interest may have been contributed to by the fact that my family often travelled to visit relatives in southern Victoria by train and this involved travelling from Sydney to Albury, changing to the broad gauge there for the trip to Melbourne and catching another train to Kilcunda (near Wonthaggi). These trips were interspersed with steam-hauled trips to Gosford for holidays at The Entrance on the north coast. I've been a member of the New South Wales Rail Museum for over fifty years and this enables me to further my railway interest by undertaking various train trips, most often steam hauled, with the RTM and with other railway historical groups.

Separate to this, Judith and I have undertaken several train trips within Australia, including The Ghan (Darwin to Adelaide) The Indian Pacific (Perth to Sydney), The Spirit of the Outback (Brisbane to Longreach and return) The Gulflander (Normanton to Croydon, FNQ) The Savannahlander (Forsyth to Cairns, FNQ) The Sunlander (Cairns to Brisbane) as well as various XPT and other trips within NSW.

At right shows one of our passing visitors
(Yes, that's a goanna on the tree)

And then, below, some more visitors (feral deer).





At left, a group of wallabies taken just outside our lounge room window,

In relation to our guards van project, we selected this particular carriage as it presented the best configuration to be able to restore it for our needs and was in a fairly good condition for its age, parts of it being over 100 years old.

The guards van restoration project is progressing to plan with the internal component virtually complete (we've had a few friends stay in it already). I hope to have the external component completed by Christmas this year (this includes some timber restoration work and painting of the roof, walls and undercarriage in heritage colours).



The above photo is of the carriage with the current 'passenger platform' which will be superseded by a larger platform running **that will be twice as wide** and the full length of the carriage

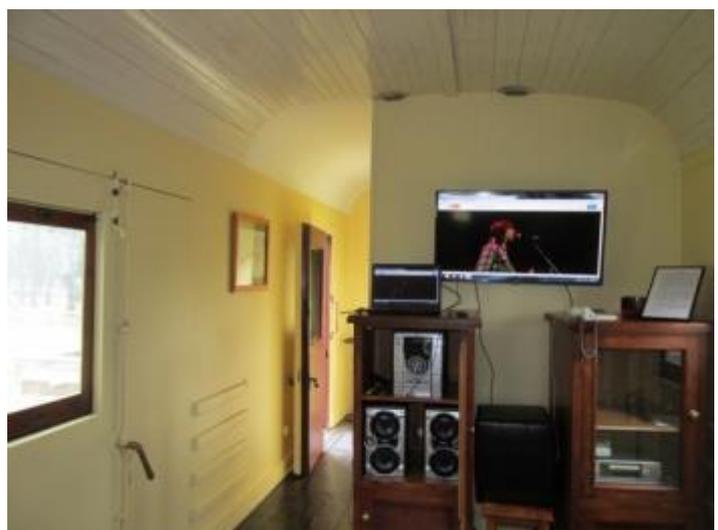


At left is the 'goods platform' or back deck attached to the carriage

The carriage now contains a bedroom with two beds, a kitchen, bathroom and lounge/sitting room with connecting hallways and vestibule.

It's decorated with original brass air gauges, original NSWGR water carafes and drinking glasses, brass suitcase racks and other original railway items including signal lamps, etc.

It is also connected to the house by telephone as well as having a normal land-line and has computer and TV access, so it's a good place for entertainment, for friends and relatives to stay in and for me to play some loud 60's and 70's music, away from the house.



It is our intention to build a 'passenger station' (platform and station building) on the eastern (house) side to match the 'goods platform' already constructed on the western side. This will replace the current small access platform built earlier.



...then we continue with more...

My Jeep interest has also been long lived...**hey, whoa!!**

We're going to have to continue this next month. Hope you're enjoying it?

. Oddities – Ed –

Now my brother, Jim, can be blamed for the following as he has decided to digitalise his vast accumulation of photos etc and sent me the following couple of photos, unseen by me, (amongst others) which possibly gave me a bit of a heads-up with which foot to place after the other when marching, what "Brasso" was, what the hell puttees were etc. The photos show at Cadet Dickson doing the ritual annual Cadet Camp.



Who would have thought that you could train this character??

Even getting out of bed EARLY was an accomplishment let alone using a converted 303 (22 bore) then stepping up to an SLR – all in 5 ½ years!

Did any others of you get involved in cadets??

Mail Call...

. **Locators and Locations** – we received some responses to the table of names/dates/locations. These have been updated and will be included on the web site for a bit of history.

Responses...

Allen Morley sent in some updates – "Dicko, from your list of who was where you can add: HQ John Vitkovsky (Mar 67-Mar 68), Bill Thomas (Mar 67- Sept 67) and Bravo Radar Roger Long (Jun 67 – Dec 67). AM"

Terry Erbs bought us up to date with his Nui Dat location details, but, then added another dimension to Vietnam Veterans and their memories with a link he includes to a DVA series of interviews with Vets. The one he selected is extremely interesting and in fact there are several in the collection that can be both read and listened to. There is one by Barry Heard, whom I had the fortune to meet with Vic Danko several years ago for lunch in Sydney after he'd completed a talk to a school with regards to the book he had written. The link is well worth wandering through and I'd like to hear your comments, please?

"Giddy Paul,

I've just read the latest "Eyes & Ears" and as usual it was a good read – keep up the great work!!

Apologies for not responding to your earlier request for info – for the record I served in survey/sound ranging 68/69 with amongst others, Geoff Jebb, Kevin Browning, Jessie Owen & Mick Quinlan.

I Spotted something for possible inclusion your next issue, an interview done by DVA history unit, as part of the ANZAC Centenary, of recorded interviews with veterans. One in particular caught my attention, it was with Vietnam Veteran Patrick O'Hara, a gunner with 108 Bty, 4th Field Regiment, a Nasho who was probably at Pucka in the 9th intake, the same intake as me.

Unsure of any copyright issues, but given many of us were Nashos it's a worthy watch! His observations and comments reflect many of my own thoughts and experiences, and I suspect that of many others too!

The link to Patrick O'Hara's interview is:

<http://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/history/special-features/veterans-stories/patrick-ohara>

Cheers Terry"

Mitch Millar reckons Ian Amos looks ok in last month's *Eyes & Ears* –

"Congratulations to Ian Amos in completing his triathlon, "an inspiration, bravo and well done". Mitch Millar."



Paul Dickson (Ed) got heaps of mail with regards to the Mexican earthquake and the following was his general response – "Thanks for the thoughts - luckily we're about 1,400km NE of the epicentre. It was way down near the Guatemalan border. However, there have been two subsequent quakes causing more damage including Mexico City which is about 400km south east of where I live.

The magnitude of the quakes varied from 8.1 to 6.2, which are pretty severe and it looks as though there were in excess of 300 killed in the latest one.

We've heard from friends in NZ and they have been given a tsunami warning after the first one!

Though not affecting us directly is "Irma" (before that "Harvey") and now "Katia" - thankfully, again, all over to the east. This is a pretty severe hurricane season for all those in the areas.

Being quite a distance from both of the coasts and well above the high-water mark, and not an earthquake area, we feel reasonably safe on those fronts. We're getting some rain as an offshoot which is always welcome.

So, to sum up, the Dickos are ALL well. Paul"

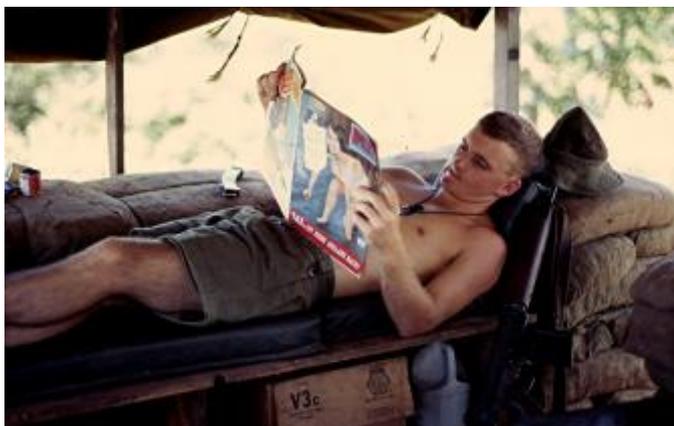
NB – the email had to be updated as the earthquakes continued, but the response was very similar as they were ALL way south of the place he calls home.

Ernie Newbold (who does proof reading of *Eyes and Ears*) – sent the following photos in of **Terry Bruce** to help identify him to those of you who may not know him by sight (well at least 50 years ago!). In fact, he goes on to say a few words – "For me, possibly the greatest news in this issue was the item from **Terry (Spider) Bruce** and I know that there will be others who will also be pleased to see his item published. I have taken the opportunity to attach a couple of photos of Terry taken at Nui Dat, 67 – 68 for those who may need to put a face to the name. Ernie"

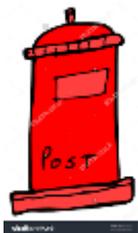
Going RTA with the group on 31.01.68 and there are a few other well-known faces in the group from L to R -

John Vickary, Lionel Outen, Bob Retrot, Allen Morley, Terry Bruce, Stuart Sporn, Joe Clendinen, Max Troynar, Ernest Newbold and Ron Saunders.





Then relaxing with a “Train” magazine.



Mail Out – during the month I sent 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 some responses...

Ian Campbell (SVN 1971) – “Hi Paul, Good to hear from you.

Did you mention Mexico to see if I read the email or do you really live there? Interesting times, especially after another ‘quake today.

I’m fine. As long as the pills keep doing their job!

Just bought a 35mm slide scanner and one day I’ll get off my backside and scan the SVN slides onto my computer, one day!

A couple of mates and I went (back) to the Tank Museum at Pucka last month. One was a well-read journo and the other served in the South African air force in the Angolan war. I visited it a couple of years back at the dedication of the 131 Pavers at Seymour. Remind me...were you there for that??

The museum is a grand place to spend an hour or two. Unfortunately, they were short-handed so couldn’t/wouldn’t fire up a Centurion which was a pity.

Anyhow the two mates had not seen the Seymour Walk so we dropped in for a look, showed them my name on the Wall (and they both found names of mates they knew had served) then headed off for a coffee and sandwich. A great day in all.

Anyhow... Thanks for the email.

I look forward to the next E&E.

Regards...Ian”

Bill Edward (SVN 69-70) – “Hi Paul,

I am still alive and kicking. Just had my 70th Birthday, surprised I lasted this long.

I live on 5 acres at Kyogle, NSW which is a little country town, with my wife of 48 years. We are both well and enjoying life. I do a bit of volunteer work.

I was pensioned off 11 years ago, (DVA) - best thing to have happened.

Three kids and 5 Grand kids.

I might have to consider doing a Profile????

Cheers, Bill.’

Peter Fletcher (SVN – 1967) – “Hi Paul,

It’s good to hear that you were not affected by the earthquakes. I was thinking about you when they happened and said to Venice that I should get in touch with you but you beat me to it. Thanks for that mate.

All is good with me. I have had cataracts removed from both eyes recently and I can see again! Awesome.

We have just completed a cruise from Venice to Athens. Great trip. Looking to go to Japan when the issues with North Korea settle down.

I’ve been playing golf and hope to resume surfing again now that I can see the waves coming!

Thanks again Paul for your contact, stay well.

Best wishes, Fletch.”

Frank Ipsa (SVN – 1967) – “Hi Paul. Thanks for all your emails glad to hear you are safe and well. All going great in my life with Margaret – now married 48 years.

We got burned out in 2009 and have rebuilt in beautiful Marysville, recently I built a bocce court and now minigolf.

Next month we are going on a cruise from Rome to New York, life is good.

Great that you take so much interest. Take Care F I”

Warwick Hamilton – “Hi Paul, Glad to hear that you haven’t been “earthquaked” or “hurricaned”; it has been a terrible time for the people who have been caught up in them. We have been suffering from a really long dry spell, and there isn’t any immediate relief in sight, but compared to what has been happening in your neck of the woods this is nothing!

Kate and I are well, and I am still in remission from the leukaemia, though we both caught the flu bug that is rampant in Oz at present. Fortunately, it was a relatively minor dose and didn’t get down into what remains of my lungs. I see an exercise physiologist twice a week, plus walk and exercise at home. My range of upper body movement is nearly back to normal and am feeling a lot stronger; in fact, I think that I am feeling really good, bordering on being dangerous... well just a bit!!

We did manage a 3 week trip out to Broken Hill area specifically to see three National Parks. Really good. I am on a chemo regime of 2 weeks’ daily injections then 4 weeks off. We have 18 days in this 6-week cycle where I don’t have chemo or to see doctors, so we try to escape somewhere interesting during this break. Only in Aust at present, though I finish the whole course in Jan 2018 and we shall see what the prognosis is and whether we can venture overseas again. The travel bug hasn’t been cured!!

So, life is good at present.

Thanks for your thought, and I hope that you and Helen are enjoying Mexico...before the Great Wall of Trump seals you off from the North.

All the very best, and keep up the good *E & E*’s work,
Warwick”

Leigh Hemming – “Paul, Glad to hear all is well with you both and have survived the dramas in your region.

I start my Chemo therapy this week after a period of recovery from the radiation treatment.

Unfortunately, I have been suffering from nausea since then and as a result have been unable to eat much and of course the weight disappears very rapidly which is the last thing I need before the chemo therapy. It is an unknown quantity as this stage as to how I will react to the chemo. Anyway, I will soon find out.

That’s where I’m up to at present which is a bit disappointing that I was unable to gain some condition over the past two weeks.

Poor Barb is finding it hard. I think sometimes it is more difficult for the carer than the patient.

Glad to hear you are both well.

Regards, Leigh.”

Ed with reference to both Warwick and Leigh – I included both these emails with the personal health notes, not to be intrusive, but as there are no doubt other Members undergoing treatments of various kinds, it’s strengthening for those blokes and their families who have gone through similar processes with varying results.

Both Warwick and Leigh are so positive and that in itself is a strength for others.

Plus, the strength of partners is also a story of unsung heroes - t’s not all about the patient.

Keep in touch.

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.

Clive Dreis, Michael Fowler, Les Frost, Kevin Geoghegan, Keith Holloway, Warren Jaenke, Ken McNamara, Damian McManus, Brian Mitchell, Bob Sealy, Ken Taylor and George Wearn

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

Terry Erbs sent in the following with regards to a series called “The Vietnam War” by Ken Burns -

“Paul,

it might be worthwhile to mention the release of this quality history TV series via “*Eyes & Ears*”

https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2017/sep/25/the-vietnam-war-terror-heartbreak-and-helicopters-ablaze-in-an-epic-documentary?CMP=share_btn_link

Ed - The series can also be viewed on youtube – just go and look for “Ken Burns Vietnam”. Set aside heaps of time as it goes for hours over many episodes.

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

Calling all Locators, Over!

NEWSFLASH

Work on the ANKPQ/1 Radar is set to commence at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Philip Island on Wednesday 4th October 2017.

If you can spare day or 2 to lend a hand (it is school holidays)
please contact

Ron Mason on 0427 326 410.
and bring a mate if you can.



Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Grahame Dignam
Secretary / Treasurer
131 Locators Assn Inc
ABN 92 663 816 973

Just thought we'd get in early – 12 months notice – for any one who might be planning a trip over the big pond. San Antonio, Texas is an interesting history and art filled place with a great downtown waterway setting – see below...

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery, United States of America.



The next Reunion for the 1/83rd will be in San Antonio, Texas
from September 23, 2018 to September 26, 2018
at the Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk Hotel. More details will follow at a later date.

If you have any questions, please contact Mike Reetz at ADCPorter64@yahoo.com.

[Here is a link to the hotel's website.](#)

Bill Taggart 856-228-5614(H) 609-417-2615(C)

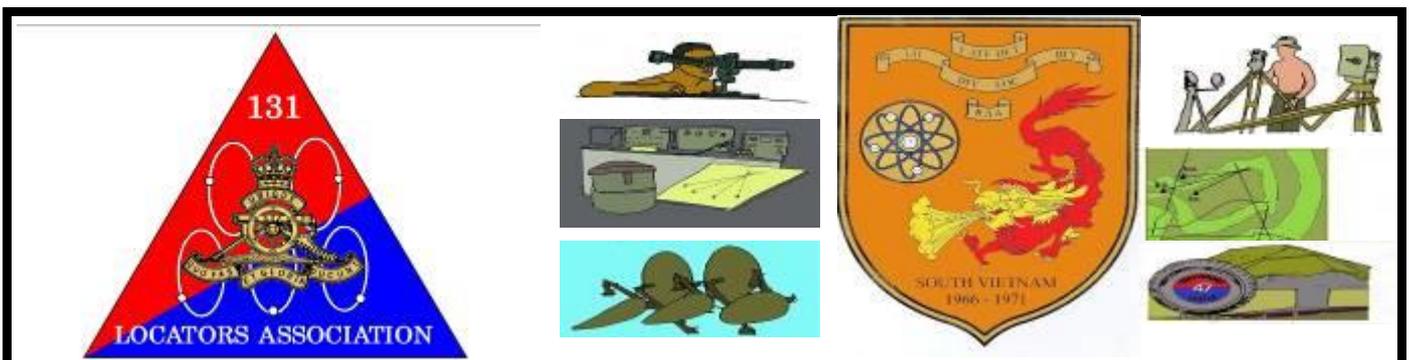
Email... artillery_83rd@yahoo.com 1/83rd Website link... www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com

Reminder – October 3rd – 1987 Welcome Home Parade – 30 years



Some of the faces are recognizable – don't let the Memory be Forgotten.

Allen Morley is having a guess with the following – “**Frank Ipsa** after a long period of silence, and if I am not mistaken there is Frank Ipsa in the front row behind the 131 Banner? Allen Morley”



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>

“Before we get into the Christmas festivities and you get totally distracted just make sure your 131 Locators Assn membership is up to date?

Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check. Grahame”

Presidential perambulations

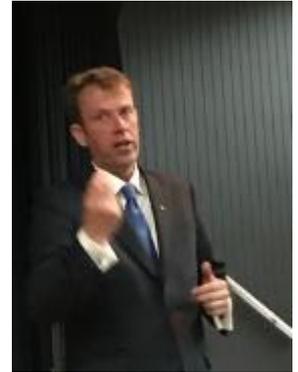
Spring seems to have arrived suddenly in Sydney after a dry and not so cold winter. Melbourne on the other hand seems to have copped plenty of rain and cold wintry days. Canberra’s winter weather is probably not worth mentioning. The major football seasons – both AFL and NRL - will be over by the time that you read this. And Mexico has had two major earthquakes, but Editor Dicko is OK, being far enough away from the epicentres.

Our local North Sydney Federal PM, Trent Zimmerman, organised a forum with Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Dan Tehan. Dan Tehan holds the Victorian seat of Wannon, formerly held by the late Malcolm Fraser. Fraser was the parliamentarian and Minister for the Army who sent us Nashos into the Army, and for many, a trip to South Vietnam. Vic Danko and I attended representing the Mosman RSL sub-Branch and 131 Locators Association respectively.



Tehan spoke about changes to the Department, especially the upgrading of the Department’s computer system. At question time the audience was able to provide ‘advice’ on problems within and dealing with DVA. It was an interesting event and seemed to clarify some of the Minister’s understanding regarding the standard of glasses and hearing aids available to Veterans.

Regards
Allen



. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date:

Tuesday, 17th October, 2017 at 1105hrs

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, Terry Westerway, Ged Carroll, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Merv Nairn, Nick Proskurin, Vic Danko and Bob Billiards

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 19th September, 2017 at 1105hrs...

Financial Membership is currently ...**128**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **7**. Total **137**. Lapsed **24** members



Presidents report.

Allen advised:

. He attended a Vets forum and Morning tea at North Sydney to hear Dan Tehan, Minister for Vet Affairs and Trent Zimmerman, Federal MP for North Sydney speak. He was joined by Vic Danko who is a local constituent from Mosman NSW.

. He advised that he had received an invitation to the Birthday celebration of 20STA on 13th October 2017 and unfortunately had to decline.

. He had reviewed the status of his pension application after the recent change to qualifying conditions. He again applied under the new rules but has been denied leave to proceed which he has appealed – more to follow.

Public Officer Report: Vic outlined his recent travels and experiences when travelling through the golf courses of northern England and during his visit to South Vietnam including Nui Dat, on his way home.

Webmaster Update: Bob has supplied stats via email to each of the committee members.

Most popular days for viewing are at the end and start of the month – we all must be hanging out for a fix (as are a multitude of people around the world).

General Business:

. **Nick Proskurin** will proceed with ordering and paying for 2 x Association banners previously approved (1 x \$49 1 x \$99) and he will be reimbursed.

. **Ron Mason** noticed Port Pirie RSL had an artillery notice board which had no information on Det 131 DLB’s involvement in SVN. The meeting resolved to provide the club with the “Historical timeline” appearing on our website which can be edited down to suit their format.

. **Bert Blink** noticed that a website www.ausvets.com.au which contained very detailed accounts of operational activities of Australian involvement in SVN has ceased to function at its original level. It would be a shame to lose this resource and we shall seek the website owner's approval to keep the information available in some form. An approach will also be made to the owners of the Surveyors website to again see if we can assist keep their site alive.

Additional information:

The Association is open to new suggestions for projects that would benefit other Association member individually or collectively.

Active Items

- . North Head Flagstone paver dedication date
- . 131 Bty flag project
- . Photo Album Project

Photo Album project. This major undertaking will represent all Locators who served and to achieve its aim we require the help of all vets. Unlike the photos that appear in Eyes & Ears which are reduced in size, we will require BEST POSSIBLE QUALITY photos that will make the final cut. This project will represent the entire period of 131's involvement in the SVN conflict and will be a heritage item so each photo will need a full description.

The committee is requesting the BEST pictures you have of Orderly Rm, Tpt Office. RAEME and Radar and LP sites (showing different modifications over time): Equipment used- Bearing Boards, Sound Ranging, Sensors etc. incl. details of how, when, where and why. (Radar. Starlight scopes, firearms, Transport modes {vehicular, airlift by chopper}: Aircraft used for deployments to FSBs and in close support roles bird dogs, etc
Pics of the US Arty guns in support units 1/83rd and 2/35th: pics of liaison with ARVN personnel and positions.
We will be looking for help from Personnel from each year/Corp to help with names and position identifications to ensure accuracy. **We need YOUR INPUT!**

. web Performance...

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

. Birthdays in the Battery...October –

October	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	IAN BRIGNELL	2789405	1946	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
2	TERRY BRUCE	2783213	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
2	PETER TEATHER	3790242	1945	12 04 1968	06 08 1968	
2	LESLIE ROBINSON	217662	1949	09 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	LEIGH HEMMING	1732039	1945	04 05 1967	11 12 1967	
4	MIKE LUFF	2783725	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
4	DAVID LAHORE	3791183	1945	02 09 1968	04 03 1969	
5	JAMES MERCHANT	2788817	1945	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
7	GARY CHILLINGSWORTH	313477	1951	29 11 1970	05 08 1971	
8	JOHN O'NEILL	243505	1949	09 11 1970	11 11 1970	RAEME
	" "			11 03 1971	12 05 1971	102 Fd W/shop RAEME
9	BRIAN SMYTHE	1201484	1946	02 09 1968	03 12 1969	
10	BRIAN KENNEDY Capt.	213488	1942	02 03 1965	11 03 1965	3 RAR
	" "			26 08 1969	27 08 1970	131
10	PAUL DICKSON	1732012	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
10	BARRY BONSER	37661	1941	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	† 03.09.98
11	PAUL JONES	216324	1946	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† 09.09.68
11	JEFFREY EVANS Maj	3789164	1945	10 02 1971	02 06 1971	131 † 23.12.11
	" "			02 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN CLEASBY WO2	36053	1937	02 12 1968	10 12 1969	131
	" " "			11 06 1972	20 11 1972	AATTV
12	BARRY FOUNTAIN	3798485	1949	03 03 1971	20 08 1971	131
	" "			21 08 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
13	PETER SALI	1735560	1948	24 02 1970	18 02 1971	
13	DENNIS AVERY	4720906	1948	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt.
14	ANTHONY DODDS	16776	1944	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	NORMAN LINDROOS	3410957	1939	20 05 1968	24 05 1969	
14	PETER McGANN	55672	1950	27 11 1969	19 11 1970	
16	WILLIAM THOMAS	16727	1944	{07 01 1967	19 03 1967	1ARU
	" "			{20 03 1967	26 09 1967	

17	TORIN WHITE	218372	1945	21 02 1969	25 02 1970	
18	HELMUT LEMPA	38120	1946	20 05 1966	06 12 1966	† Unknown
18	ARTHUR JUX "TED"	2792371	1948	29 04 1970	18 03 1971	
19	IAN FINLAY	2412363	1948	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	ROBERT HARRIS Sgt	213514	1942	10 02 1971	29 07 1971	
23	JOHN VITKOVSKY	4718271	1945	02 03 1967	12 03 1968	
23	NORMAN BULLEN	214545	1944	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
22	IAN BOARD	213879	1943	22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
25	MICHAEL DELANEY	2789205	1947	17 02 1969	28 11 1969	† 17.02.13
28	MICHAEL BOHL	1411182	1948	08 02 1968	17 12 1968	† 15.06.93
28	DAVID DOYLE Sgt	17760	1943	{22 04 1966	11 12 1966	
	" "			{24 09 1970	08 02 1971	
28	IAN MURLEY	38503	1946	12 04 1968	23 04 1969	
28	PAUL TYS Lt.	235362	1946	17 03 1969	18 03 1970	
29	JAMES "ZEKE" RITCHIE Sgt	2411899	1940	21 05 1969	09 04 1970	
29	PETER LARKIN	3793067	1946	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
30	GRAHAM O'TOOLE	61497	1943	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	

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

Ed – 10 blokes not highlighted still doesn't look good! Maybe by next year we may have **LOCATED** a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **146** and we've sent out **145**. Ed – we're getting closer to the magic milestone of **150**?

. **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.



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...



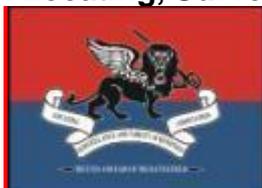
ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"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.)

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand 131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the [contacts page](#) for details:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160227015930/http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>

. **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



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



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

. 1st Battalion 83rd 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/>

Editor contact email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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