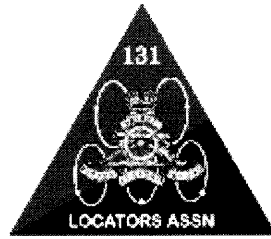


131 Locators Association Inc



President's Report for FY 2011 – 2012

It is with pleasure that I present the President's Report for the financial year 2011-2012. This represents our first full-year of operation.

The Association remains financial, viable and, sustainable for the near future. The age of the members is the limiting factor, something about which we can do nothing. Perhaps just too little was done, too late. That is no-one's fault, more a reflection of the circumstances of our original coming together some 42 to 46 years ago under the 131 Detachment banner.

Our website, www.131locators.org.au has given us both a presence and a defined identity. Bob Billiards has done a sterling job as our Webmaster, despite holding down a full time position. The site statistics illustrate the ongoing interest in our activities.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial guidance of Paul Dickson, continues to appear monthly. Amazingly, each edition is 10-15 pages, which demonstrates that our collective grey matter has not totally forgotten our past.

Without question, the highlight for the reporting period was the unveiling and dedication of the Detachment 131 plaque at the Australian War Memorial on May 4, 2012. This event directly generated a new degree of interest in the Association.

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

Highlights for 2011-2012 included:

- thirteen editions of *Eyes and Ears*, including a special which focussed on the plaque dedication; well done Dicko
- attendance by members at the Coffs Harbour reunion
- presence at the 60th anniversary celebrations for 131 Battery
- production and publication of forty locator profiles
- regular Committee meetings and election of Regional Representatives to help spread the load
- national Anzac Day march attendances and social follow up
- attendance at Vietnam Veterans' Day marches, and
- a significant growth in material, photos and stories on the website.

Special recognition goes to Committee members for making things happen for the Association.

Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary, has been outstanding and persistent with the Association's financial arrangements, and managed the operation of the membership database. Bob Billiards, as webmaster, was responsible for our functioning web site. Ernie Newbold, in his roles of Research and Projects Officer, has provided a wealth of information for our monthly newsletter, *Eyes & Ears*, and has been instrumental in sourcing relevant detail for the Association in general.

Nick Proskurin's work with Ernie Newbold as Designs and Development Officers for the Association lapel badge and our Memorial Dedication Plaque has led to the success of these projects. The other Committee Members – Vic Danko (Public Officer), Ian Amos, George Lane and Ged Carroll are to be thanked for their ongoing involvement and support.

Our regional representatives provided regional overview and contributed to our planning program. I thank Bert Blink (ACT), Al Adams (VIC), Geoff Blackwell (SA), Barry Guzder (WA), Stuart Sporn (NT) and Terry Erbs (QLD) for their collective contribution.

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

Allen Morley
November 2012