

131 Locators Association Inc



President's Report for FY 2012 – 2013

It is with pleasure that I present the President's Report for the financial year 2012-2013. This represents our second full-year of operation and shows a growth in all aspects of the Association activities.

The Association remains financial, viable and, sustainable for the near future. The age of the members remains the limiting factor. Additionally we have not been able to contact all those who served in the Detachment, whilst some we have made contact with do not wish to be involved.

The reporting period saw another anniversary for the Pioneers, that is the first group to be sent to SVN – 47 years ago they paved the way for others who followed in the Detachment.

The Association website, www.131locators.org.au continues to give us both a web presence and a defined identity. Bob Billiards has continued as our Webmaster, and provides a crucial role in doing so. Thank you Bob. The site statistics which are reported in *Eyes and Ears* demonstrate the ongoing interest in our activities.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial guidance of Paul Dickson, continues to appear monthly. Each edition is 12-14 pages, showing that we are recording for history and information more of relevance from our military past.

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

Highlights for 2011-2012 included:

- twelve editions of *Eyes and Ears*; well done Dicko, and thanks to all contributors
- attendance by members at the Coffs Harbour reunion over Anzac day weekend
- production and publication of forty locator profiles
- at the end of June 2012 there were 134 members of the Association
- regular Committee meetings to manage the Association and election of Regional Representatives to help spread the load
- release of the 131 Locators Association decal
- national Anzac Day march attendances and social follow up in each State
- representation at the unveiling of the Vietnam Memorial at Seymour near Puckapunyal
- an active *Locate a Locator* program under the direction of Vic Danko saw more contacts made with previous unlocated locators.

- attendance at Vietnam Veterans' Day events on August 18th, and
- a significant growth in material, photos and stories on the website.

A special mention for the Committee members for making things happen for the Association. Bert Blink accepted 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 '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 thanked for their ongoing involvement and support.

Our regional representatives provided regional 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) 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
October 2013