

131 Locators Association Inc



President's Report for FY 2013 – 2014

It is with pleasure that I present the President's Report for the financial year 2013-2014. This period represents our third full-year of operation and shows a pleasing growth in all aspects of the Association's activities.

The Association remains financial, viable and, sustainable for the near future. The age of the members still remains our limiting factor. We have still not been able to contact all those who served in the Detachment nor with those who served at Holsworthy.

The reporting period saw another anniversary for the Pioneers, that is the first group to be sent to SVN – 48 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 regularly reported in *Eyes and Ears* demonstrate the ongoing interest in our activities. Some of the contact source countries are unusual.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial guidance of Paul Dickson, continues to appear monthly. Each edition is 12-16 pages, showing that we are recording more of relevance from our military past for both history and information. The June 2014 edition was the 70th in this new series.

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*; extremely well done Dicko; and thanks to all of our contributors
- attendance by members at the 20STA reunion at Enoggera, with the opportunity to meet the new 131ers; we donated a copy of *Tracks of the Dragon* to their library
- production and publication of twelve locator profiles
- at the end of June 2014 there were 140 members of the Association, a slow but regular growth
- regular Committee meetings to manage the Association and election of Regional Representatives to help spread the load
- laying of the 131 Locators Association paver at the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk at Seymour, Victoria

- national Anzac Day march attendances and social follow up in each State
- attendance at national 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 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 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 2014