

131 Locators Association Inc



President's Report for FY 2017 – 2018

Herewith the President's Report for the financial year 2017-2018. This period represents our seventh full-year of operation and overall shows a continuing growth in most 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 remains as our limiting factor. Many of the early Nashos have celebrated their 72th 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 Association website, www.131locators.org.au continues to provide 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 international list of countries where searches of each *Eyes and Ears* edition are made represents an international scattering.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial overview of Paul Dickson, appears monthly, and still delivers editions of 18-20 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 2018 edition was the 118th in the new series.

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

Highlights for 2017-2018 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
- an excellent turnout of 131 Veterans for the unveiling of an AN/KPQ-1 radar at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island, Victoria
- The Tellurometer that accompanied the Radar to Philip Island now has an appropriate tripod for its display

- 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 2018 there were 169 members of the Association, which represents a slow, but still meaningful growth. There was a significant number of lapsed memberships included in this total
- regular Committee meetings to manage the Association and the involvement of Regional Representatives to help spread the load
- national Anzac Day march attendances and social follow up in each State
- new 131 Locators Association banners, designed by Nick Proskurin, were printed and displayed at 131 events and meetings

A special mention for those Committee members who made 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 'adhesive' 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 2018