

131 Locators Association Inc



President's Report for FY 2018 – 2019

I am pleased to be able to present the President's Report for the financial year 2018-2019. This period represents our eighth full-year of operation and overall shows a developed 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 73rd birthdays and others will do so within a year or two. 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, and has been ably supported by Bert Blink. Thank you Bob and Bert.

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 a real scattering.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial overview of Paul Dickson, appears monthly, and still delivers editions of 18-20 pages. I believe that together the size and frequency 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 2019 edition was the 130th in the new series.

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

Highlights for 2018-2019 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
- production and publication of 5 locator profiles; we would appreciate more being submitted to assist our recording of 131 history
- At the end of June 2019 there were 132 members of the Association together with 37 lapsed for some reason. This represents a slow decline in membership.

- 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

A special mention for those Committee members who made things happen for the Association. Bert Blink continued in the role of Vice-President and is generous of his time in attending our Committee meetings, driving from Canberra each month. That is, unless a meeting falls on his birthday.

Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary, has been the 'adhesive' for the Association's financial arrangements, records and operation of the membership database. Grahame also took on the Public Officer responsibilities. Ernie Newbold, Nick Proskurin other Committee Members, Ian Amos, George Lane, Merv Nairn, Gordon Malcolm 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 Vice-President), 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 2019