

131 Locators Association Inc



President's Report for FY 2020 – 2021

I am pleased to be able to present the President's Report for the financial year 2020-2021, a year that has been personally and collectively challenging for all of us. This period represents our tenth full-year of operation and shows a continuing positive trend in most aspects of the Association's activities.

The Association remains financial, viable and, sustainable for the foreseeable future as the financial report illustrates. Nevertheless, the ageing of our members continues to be the major factor for future limits on what the association may be able to achieve. Many of the early Nashos have celebrated their 75th birthdays and others will do so within a year or two. Our former Regular soldiers are of very diverse ages. Contact with those who served in the Detachment and those who served at Holsworthy remains incomplete, although there has been success with new contacts in the past year.

Although not producing any known direct health issues amongst members, in 2020 and 2021 the corona virus changed significantly our established meeting program. We have continued using zoom as our means of active communication in the absence of physical contact.

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. 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.

A move into social media during the reporting period, again under the guidance of Bob, has seen our Facebook presence outstrip any website progress.

The website statistics and inputs into Facebook 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. As mentioned in my previous annual report Facebook has directly resulted in some of our unlocated locators being located. Bob, your effort in setting up this communication mechanism is much appreciated.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial overview of Paul Dickson, appears monthly, and regularly 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 2021 edition was the 155th in the new series, post the 1960s editions.

Only a limited number of activities, meetings, reunions and events were possible in the latter part of the year's program.

Highlights for 2020-2021 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, as other associations have demonstrated
- Although we have found several new members, this few unfortunately demonstrates that we are just maintaining membership levels
- Introduction of zoom-based regular Committee meetings to manage the Association and enable the involvement of Regional Representatives to help spread the load
- Anzac Day saw the annual march reinstated and the march saw members of the Battery attending in good numbers.

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. Bert has subsequently been a regular attender at the new format meetings

Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary, has been the strong adhesive for the Association's financial arrangements, records and operation of the membership database. The Public Officer responsibilities by Gordon Malcolm saw our regulatory responsibilities effected. Ernie Newbold, Nick Proskurin, Ian Amos, Merv Nairn 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
October 2021