

President's Report for FY 2025 – 2026

This is the President's Report for the financial year 2025-20256, a year of major change for the Association. This period represents our seventeenth full year of operation and shows a flattening trend in most aspects of the Association's activities.

However, the Association continues to be financially viable and sustainable for the foreseeable future as the financial report illustrates. Nevertheless, the ongoing ageing of our members continues to be, without doubt, the significant factor for limitations on what the association is able to achieve. Many of the early Nashos have celebrated their 80th birthdays and others will do so within a year or so. Our former Regular soldiers are of very various ages. Contact with those who served in the Detachment and those who served at Holsworthy and North Head remains incomplete, although there has been significant success with new contacts in the past year. At the same time subscription renewals have fallen mainly due to structural changes that have taken place in the leadership.

The format of our meeting program, with a mix of Zoom and physical attendance has seen a decline in attendances. We experienced some missed zoom opportunities in the reporting period due to technical and external factors.

The Association website, www.131locators.org.au continues to provide a web presence, but this has diminished during the year with external access to the website falling. However, through the Association's Facebook presence, the Facebook group has showed pleasing growth.

Bob Billiards has continued as our Webmaster/Facebook master, providing an essential role in doing so, and has been ably supported by Bert Blink. Thank you, Bob and Bert.

The website statistics and inputs into Facebook demonstrate an interest in our activities, albeit at a reduced practical level. As previously mentioned in my 2024-2025 annual report, Facebook has directly resulted in some of our unlocated locators being located. Bob, your effort in setting up these e-communication mechanisms is much appreciated.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial overview of Paul Dickson, formerly appeared monthly. The size and frequency were major measures of our Association's success. However, Editor Paul Dickson advised that he was stepping down from his role after more than 210 editions. So far there has been no one to take on the editorial role, hence *Eyes and Ears* have been passed into archives.

Only a limited number of activities, meetings, reunions and events were possible in the year's program due to ageing and geographic distribution of members.

Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary has been the vital tie in for the Association's financial arrangements, records and operation of the membership database since we began in 2009. Grahame has indicated that he will not stand for re-election at the AGM. His loss will be huge, and as yet no one has advised of their interest in taking on this Association vital role. The Public Officer responsibilities by Gordon Malcolm saw our regulatory responsibilities complied with. 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), Terry Erbs (QLD) and forward scouts in rural Victoria, Peter Meaney and Rieny Nieuwenhof, for their collective contribution. A note of appreciation to our Secretary/Treasurer for again keeping us on the financial straight and narrow.

With the loss of seemingly irreplaceable Editor and Secretary/Treasurer the Association's future is now dire. In practical terms there is no realistic future for 131 Locators Association. That will be an important item for discussion at the upcoming AGM.

Sadly, the names of more of our number have now been etched onto the Association Honour Roll. Lest we forget them.

Allen Morley

September 2026