

THE EYES and EARS

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3rd October, 1987 – “Welcome Home” ...30 YEARS ago.





At long last we were ALL “Welcomed Home” by others, other than our families and friends. This “Welcome” was not only for the Ex-Vets, but for ALL the Regs and Nashos who were in the service of their country and didn’t do a tour, who were “branded” in the same manner.

. Insights and Recollections –

This is the fifth in the series pertaining to **Fire Support Bases (FSBs)**.

After some 49 years, we are hoping to gather Recollections and perhaps Insights from members of the Detachment who were involved, in some way or another in FSB and other events. We anticipate hoping that these memories will help to broaden our understanding and give us greater insights into the Detachment’s involvement in South Vietnam and in this case some lead-up memories undispersed.

These Insights/Recollections are not based on official documentations, but memories which add another dimension other than the factual Reports recorded in the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

Insights and Recollections by David Dougherty (Survey, SVN 17.01.68 – 04.02.69) – FSBs Longreach, Kiama and Chestnut and other Memories of that era.

On looking at your list of FSBs in *Eyes and Ears* I noticed two bases that you have not listed and that I was at, these being **Kiama & Chestnut**.

Therefore, I started trolling through “Fire Support Base Vietnam” and located the following locations of FSBs mainly as noted by you. There are a large number that I have not listed as these do not appear on your list in *Eyes and Ears* and there is also a number that were occupied on repeated occasions and once again I have not tried to list all as I have tried to relate to your dates. In relation to Andersen it shows as being occupied continuously but there is a gap 1st Mar to 1st May though I may have missed something as the book not being an easy one to follow chronologically. Harrison is similar. Others no doubt will add to this info.

Extracts from the book **FIRE SUPPORT BASE VIETNAM**

Picken, Bruce. Fire Support Base Vietnam Big Sky Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Kiama	13 Jun – 3 Jul
Chestnut	Dec1 – 3 Jan 69
Chestnut	13 Jan 69

After **FSB Longreach** was abandoned two of us were choppered in for a survey some time later, by this time the ARVN had set up a base adjacent to our previous area of occupation almost obscuring the bench mark (shell case) we were supposed to be using with their construction of a bund. With much “sign language” to some of the ARVN we were finally able to locate it as I was there when it was placed and well knew where it should be. As this survey was to a Chinook hovering over a FSB that we were taking a bearing to it would not have mattered really if we were a few metres out. In cases where we used this method the US pilots would continually descend for us until they disappeared below the tree line then rise again whereas our pilots were reluctant to come too low while in a hover. Others there at the original FSB will remember that a tunnel complex was found on part of the base and another memory is coming back to my pit one night to find a pool of water in the bottom, some sandbags were enough to soak this up to enable a dry enough hole for some sleep.

Some background –

FSB Chestnut - 18 – 21 July 68

Operation Toan Thang II (Final Victory): 1 ATF 13 June to 18 July 1968

Each company patrolled its own AO and C Company patrolled locally around the FSB area. Boat patrols were conducted on the Song Dong Nai and APC/ infantry operations were launched by the FSB company. For a period of three days, it was necessary to move a section 102 Field Battery RAA (1 RAR support battery) to FSB Hotel from where they were able to provide support for D Company activities in the north-east of AO Birdsville. Operation Toan Thang II concluded on 18 July and the battalion was air-lifted to FSB Chestnut for Operation Merino.

Source: Picken, Bruce. Fire Support Base Vietnam (Kindle Locations 5449-5453). Big Sky Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Operation Merino: 1 ATF 18 to 25 July 1968

3 RAR was given the task of conducting reconnaissance in force operations in AO Yass after insertion into FSB Archer, while 4 RAR/ NZ was to conduct similar operations in AO Wagga to the south after an air insertion into FSB Chestnut. 1 ATF directed that Operation Merino be extended between 20 and 24 July, with D Company 3 RAR deployed into AO David. 4 RAR/ NZ Operation Merino base locations 18 to 25 July FSB Chestnut – YS 228801 set here from 18 to 21 July in AO Wagga for 104 Field Battery RAA in support of 4 RAR/ NZ with W1 Company as the FSB company. The first Chinook helicopter with the battalion, company and battery recce parties landed here at 0755 hours on 18 July.

Source: Picken, Bruce. Fire Support Base Vietnam (Kindle Locations 5574-5578). Big Sky Publishing. Kindle Edition.



At left - FSB Chestnut



At right – FSB Kiama



At left – FSB Longreach.

Below – FSB Kiama – Mortar Platoon



The series continues next month with more Recollections from David as he unearths a few more Recollections.

Hey, in the meantime if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections – they may only have to deal with your service time.

Send them to – Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. The Radar Project – National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island

Ron Mason sent the following email – “Grahame (Dignam), the first working bee at the museum has been carried out. The workers – **Ken Dwight, Herb & Roz Ellerbock, Peter & Ann Dealy, Ron & Margaret Mason.**

At the moment, the tripod pedestal & antenna have been assembled & is standing outside at the front of the Museum. The plan is now to move it inside as soon as a Landrover can be moved out to another shed. The ‘boxes’ will require a bit of work to preserve them, the aluminium is corroding & will have to be treated. Regards
Ron M”

L > R - Ken Dwight, Ron Mason, Peter Dealy & John Methven (back to camera)



L>R - Ken Dwight, Peter Dealy (bush hat), Ann Dealy, Roz Ellerbock, John Methven (museum)
Herb Ellerbock & Ron Mason



L > R - Marg Mason & Ann Dealy leveling the site.



Then Ron Mason turns the following up amongst the Radar gear – “Grahame & Paul, the attached snap is of an item that turned up on the antenna pallet. Is it part of sound ranging or what? I don’t recall it as being part of the radar test equipment but I guess it could be.
Ron M”



At right - Laurie Moin is in the photo at right – “monitoring US sound ranging/sensor plotting equipment”



Has anyone got any clues to what the “equipment might be?

. Here’s the next in the “Unknown” series...

This photo is taken from **Jim Fitzgerald’s** archives so it’s got to be SVN sometime during 1966-67. C’mon someone has got to have a shot at this one?



George Lane “Paul the September issue of the *Eyes & Ears* another great read.
The photo at right with the indicator on the 1987 Welcome Home march is **David Crowther** not **Frank Ipsa** who is named, keep up the great work. George.”



Dave Crowther confirms **George Lane's** observation that it him in the photo above with the following -

"Hi Dicko, congratulation on another fine edition.

Allen's (Morley) guess on the welcome home photo definitely incorrect. **The arrow is on yours truly.** I was alongside **Andrew Opie** and "**Deano**" on the other side.

. Here's the continuing story in the series with regards to Locators' "Passions" ...



This series commenced a while back now with extracting "Passions" under the guise of "Grey Nomads" and has developed into "things" that somewhat consume us outside families etc and God forbid work! It's just so good to discover other sides, be that "outsides" or "insides" of blokes who we begin to get to know through this sort of process.

We started with what **Terry Bruce (SVN – '67-'68)** began in the last edition of *Eyes & Ears* with **Vintage Trains** and we now continue with his exposing us to...**Vintage Jeeps** and his and his wife **Judy's** passion for their outdoor life...

My Jeep interest has also been long lived – their ability to travel off-road and their basic construction appeals to me and there is a historical/military connection as well. Although I get to do an amount of off-road driving, mainly using fire tankers with the NSWRFs, we mainly use the Jeeps for taking visitors on trips on and around the property and one is currently road registered so can be used for trips around the area.

The picture at right includes my projects/hobbies – the restoration and use of a couple of Jeep vehicles (I have three, in fact, with another (CJ3B) in a shed on the property awaiting the installation of an engine.) This picture is an earlier photo of two of the Jeeps on the track at the back of the property, above the Werri-Berri creek which forms part of the rear boundary. The front jeep is a WW2 model, the other being a modified CJ5.



In fact, we took the 'GPW' Jeep to the ANZAC Day march in Camden in April – where my son Scott drove and I got to be passenger. The whole family turned up to watch and to cheer us on. It was a great day! We had, as in previous years, already attended the earlier Dawn Service in Camden.

My interest in things of a historical nature extends to our 'collectables' shed which is constructed mainly using timber from the property for the framework and clad with recycled (rusted) corrugated iron for effect.



This shed contains blacksmithing items, horse equipment including saddles, chains, etc. kerosene fuelled lamps, gold panning equipment, shearing equipment including a two-stand portable shearing plant and wool press, railway lamps, signals etc., military gear, old farm and workshop tools along with my old tractor (John Deere 1010 model – at left) which, although old, still starts (with some effort) and does a lot of work on the property.

In conclusion, here is some background to our lifestyle - we have 25 acres of land, mostly cleared of scrub and understory although we've retained quite a few larger trees, with the balance of natural bush running into surrounding bushland owned by others (hence the multitude of visiting wildlife).

We're situated beyond the outskirts of Sydney, in a locality called Orangeville, which is about five kilometres north of the village of The Oaks.

The back story is that we were originally looking to purchase a larger property further west (we were living in Campbelltown at the time) that we could use as a 'weekend retreat'. However (being pragmatists) we reasoned that a smaller property closer to facilities, i.e., schools, shops, hospitals, employment, etc. that we could live on and commute from would be a more realistic option (besides I don't classify myself as a skilled enough farmer to manage a larger holding).

The property gives us a semi-rural lifestyle where I can indulge in some farming activities without getting myself in to too much trouble. It turned out to be a good decision in many ways and it was/is especially gratifying to see our kids, and now our grandkids, growing up in this environment. We run a few cattle and, in fact, had a small Poll Hereford Stud for several years (small number of good quality cattle). We currently run a few Angus cattle. We've owned the property for about forty years and lived here for over thirty-five years, owner-building the house as well as various sheds, fences, windmills and so forth.

In regard to our current health situation: Judith is still making a good recovery from the colon cancer with all test results proving to be satisfactory so far. I've recovered from my spinal operation, although I'm still having trouble with the meniscus tear in my right knee and, despite a couple of cortisone injections to try and fix it, we (my medical specialist and I) have come to the conclusion that an operation will be required to properly repair it.

Thanks again for your interest in our collections and lifestyle.

Ed – it is just so good to be able (while we can) connect with each other in this fashion. The 50 years since a lot of our connections began is still alive with the passion that life is all about.

**Next month we're off on a slightly different "Passion" tangent – so keep your eyes glued!
So, let's keep the ball rolling – it's fantastic getting to know you blokes more.**

. Oddities – Gear Supplied...On joining the queue at recruit training we were supplied with clothing which included **socks** amongst an assortment of other items.

Now, the memory has gone, but did we hand the old "holey" pairs in and get new ones? Was there a limit to the number per year?



Mail Call...

Dave Crowther continues on from the “**Welcome Home**” article earlier – “Good to hear **Warwick (Hamilton)** handled chemo ok.

I was undergoing very high dose chemo again, not the mantle cell lymphoma of the bone marrow I suffered, in 2006. I got the 10yr survival in April last year, **the first to survive 10yrs.**

This time I had tumours in jaw, neck and lymph glands. The jaw and neck were low grade but lymph system stage 3 highly aggressive. One of the chemos can cause heart problems. Chemo started end of Feb. 8hrs infusion with 5 chemos plus monoclonal antibody, followed by 2 days of chemo tablets. White cells were extremely slow and I was in hospital all March, with 10 days' intensive care. Heart arrhythmia and nodules on lungs bleeding. Lost 16 kg as they couldn't get feed tube due to no platelets. Next four cycles ok. After the fifth cycle (5 days later I had a heart attack) treatment fucked by district hospital. Transferred to private and angiogram revealed three arteries gone, maybe four. As a non-smoker, this came as a shock. Highly regarded cardiac surgeon (transplant) from St Vincents private drove up to see me. The day after my admission I suffered a massive heart attack. Two days induced I woke on dialysis and other machinery. I was told that normal risk for arterial grafts was 2% but mine 20%.

They had to wait for the stars to align and 5.5hrs on the table saw me with quadruple arterial bypass and a new mitral valve. All going well for a few days then an infection in the heart wires.

The Microbiology prof. was put to work. I then got clots in remaining artery in leg. Angiograph saw me 4.5 hrs on the table, sedated but aware of movement inside my leg as well as all conversation.

After 8 weeks sent to Gosford private for rehab. 2 weeks. I've been home three weeks and a little worse for wear.

My daughter was phoned and told to go urgently to say goodbye to me.

My late wife called to see me, **she passed away four years ago.** I told her only if a double- bed is available ha, ha! Contrary to what some may say about me, I only saw bright light and no, **no smell of sulphur.**

In closing I see surgeon for follow up on Tuesday.

It would have been Bev and my 52nd anniversary, so I know all will be ok.

Best wishes - My kind regards to all remaining pioneers.

D.C.”

Rieny 'Van' Nieuwenhof sent the following really interesting bit of nostalgic info plus some upcoming news – “G'day Paul, looking at the latest edition of the *E&Es* I have located a few images of guys you may know of and who served with 131 in SVN in 1971.



At right - **Barry 'Spink' Fountain** with **Gary Chillingsworth** - 1971

At left - **Barry Fountain** at the ANZAC day march (recent)



At right - **Rod Beasley** and **Gary Chillingsworth** playing cards 1971





At left - **Myself** at the LP on Nui Dat Hill 1971

Also, the 'aerial' pictures of the 131 Q Store (in a previous edition) were taken from a water tower located at Locators Lane.

In November, a few ex-131 mates and partners are gathering at Portarlington (Vic.) for a few days - **Peter Saint, Michael Butler, Les Falkai, John Jaggard, Joe Molenkamp and Russell Jackson** - should be a good few days with bay cruises, wineries, Queenscliff fort and a few other attractions. Will forward images.

Keep up the great work keeping us informed of developments and latest news.

Rieny 'Van' Nieuwenhof - Bombardier (R'td)."

. Un-Vale – after asking around about non-active email addresses in last month's *Eyes & Ears* we received an email that **Keith Holloway** may no longer be with us. So with another prompt email we heard from **George Lane** – "Dicko, "Shotgun" Holloway is still alive and living on the North Coast I exchange Christmas Cards with him. If you want to know more ask Jim Fitzgerald he is in regular contact with "Shotgun". George."

...**Jim Fitzgerald** got back to us with the following –

"Hi Paul, I'm afraid I don't have Keith's new email address as he recently sold his property and now lives close to Newcastle. By the way I have spoken to him **today** and is still around and enjoying the sun. I think the words of Mark Twain says it all. The tales, of "Shotgun's" death, are greatly exaggerated. Jim FitzGerald"

Ed – don't you just love "Un-Vales"?

Bob Billiards drops a line in re: Skiing – snow – another "passion" –

"Paul, had a great time skiing last week, and the previous 2 months. Bought a new set of skis which are really great and have improved my skiing ability.

The weather was very changeable and the effects of global warming seem more evident with extremes in weather all over the world. It snowed constantly for the first three days there so a big dump of white powder but in OZ it comes with wind and low cloud. Last Friday the snow was great but visibility was down to about 50 metres.



Ed – Bob's interpretation of the "weather was very changeable" whose "passion" needs some explaining. Did his Mother know he was out in this??



Sunday was brilliant. There is still a snow base of 2.4 metres (8 feet) and the season officially end on the first weekend in October, but Perisher is staying open until October 8th. I will miss the last 2 weeks this year as we are visiting our youngest Daughter and family in Tassie the next couple of weeks. What will next season be like? I have attached a few photos from my season skiing with the family.



Ed – Now this is a little more like it!



Warwick Hamilton sent in the following after reading **Paul Hobson's** Locator profile.

"Hi Paul (**Ed** not Paul Hobson),

That was a very interesting profile. Thanks for including it.

When Paul was talking about the 'no uniform' period, I was reminded that during that time I was travelling a lot by air, not in uniform, though with my crew cut, clean shaven face, pressed clothes and shiny shoes I must have stood out like a sore thumb. Invariably on a long flight you were asked 'What do you do for a living?'. Rather than risk having to defend myself against 'non-believers' at 30,000 ft. I used to reply that I worked for a World Peace Organisation. I could answer 99% of all questions truthfully and avoided having my drink thrown over me. Interesting times!!

All the best, Warwick"

Ed – I guess this story or versions of it could be retold in many forms by a lot of us.



Mail Out



I started this in September and have decided to continue running down the alphabet of names and sending some emails to blokes in general to say g'day and just to generally keep in touch. A lot of the blokes I've never met, so it's just to keep some connection alive. Plus it's good to keep in touch, even sporadically, it may help to avoid any unpleasant unforeseen surprises.



Mail In Here are some responses...

George Clark (SVN 1967 / '69-'70) - "Hi Paul, I have to say that I was somewhat taken aback when you mentioned that you live in Mexico, and I was unsure as to whether you were having a lend of me. But after reading some of the other e-mails between you and other members, I have now come to the realisation that you have indeed moved. May I ask if this is a permanent thing or will we perchance once again see you on our (and your) friendly shores.

To answer your questions mate, I have been having a little trouble health wise, but nothing too serious. I am heading to China for a few weeks in early November and will be having a complete right hip replacement, when I return. Something to really look forward to.

That is about it for me mate, so I hope that you are enjoying yourselves and keeping safe.

All the very best for now, George Clark."

Russell Jackson (SVN 1969) – “Hello Paul, thank you for the contact email and for your interest in how I am travelling.

At 72 going on 73 I am still upright and mobile and pushing the grass down instead of the reverse.

A constant concern for me these days is the number of skin cancers I am getting surgically removed and the frequency of having to do so.

Apart from that I am enjoying life and have recently returned from a 16-day cruise through Russia and a visit to Sweden (family there with 2 grandkids).

Next year our 131 group will meet in Melbourne for Anzac Day. Last year we went to Canberra and got drowned during the march but had a very successful social catch up.

Greatly appreciate all that you have done and are doing for us.

Hope the cold gets better soon.

Best regards, Russ”

John Lochore (SVN '68-'69) – “Hi there Paul, nice of you to say hello.

You're right, I haven't been in touch for a while.

Sorry to say that many months I don't get around to opening up the *E&E*, things get busy at home and I don't always find "office time " to open it up.

I don't have anything to report for the newsletter, except I wonder if Barry Guzder will set up another 131 gathering in Perth before long. We enjoyed the last one and appreciated the effort he put into it.

If you're still in Mexico, how did you get on with the recent earthquakes?

Cheers, John”

Brian Killworth (SVN '66-'67) – “Hi Dicko, thanks for the email: at our age, unfortunately most of the reporting is about medical conditions! Of those I have communication with, **Damian McManus (SVN '66-'67)** is in a battle with repeated cancer, Robbo (**John Robertson (SVN '66-'67)**) is apparently on the mend (cancer again) **Bob Tanner (SVN '66-'67)** is well and **Victor Danko (SVN '67)** after receiving a pace maker is fine. Victor, who I went to school with has taken on the role as president of the Mosman RSL and has asked me to fill the position of Honourable Secretary, which I'll do! Oh, yes, my cancer has come back so a new form of treatment follows; must say I feel well enough so while that continues I really don't pay it much attention! Stay well, your health is your wealth! Killa”

Peter Larkin (SNV '68-'69) – “Hi Paul, we are presently cruising the Irrawaddy river in Burma. We have very poor internet here, so will catch up later.

Regards, Peter”

Tom Lempriere (SVN '68-'69) - “Paul, got you email, thanks for contact.

Not much to report from this end, I'm still trying to get used to this thing called retirement! I'm spending a lot of time in my workshop and at the local “Men's Shed”, but still feel as if I'm stealing time from the boss.

Since my retirement my wife has become an Angel! (She never stops harping!) I didn't realize my retirement would be just the ticket she wanted to handball her duties to someone else, I didn't know how domesticated I wasn't! I am re-discovering many skills I haven't had to use since I retired from the Forces in 1986 (eg. Washing, Ironing etc.). I'm keeping an eye out for a small Part Time Job, something to re-establish a little purpose in life and to help get away from the Managing Director of Misery.

Thanks for the contact I keep an eye on things through your e-mails and the *Eyes and Ears*.

Regards, Tom Lempriere.”

John “Kanga” McFadden (SVN 1967) – “Thanks Dicko, yeah things are good. Prefer to keep my head pulled in, save being told. Pleased you're OK and keeping the troops together. Real pleased you've got contact with Terry Bruce. I thought we'd lost him which would've been a terrible shame. Hoping someday he'll re-join us for he was always with us and always decent. Still keep his space when on parade. Keep well. Kanga”

Darryl Musgrave (SVN '69-'70) – “Hello Paul, thanks for the note. Glad to hear you are okay.

Life has its ups and downs. My wife managed to cut the skin under her heel a few months back while I was in Darwin, waiting to catch “The Ghan” back to Adelaide. She did not worry greatly about it, only feeling a little soreness. When she finally went to her doctor she was told it was badly infected. She ended up in Liverpool Hospital for over a week while they surgically removed the dead flesh etc. Seven weeks later she is back in, for intensive antibiotic treatment to stop the infection spreading to the bone. Hopefully they keep her there until it's under control. My daughter is helping me with keeping the house running.

I joined Padstow RSL about two years ago, mainly to take Dad to meetings. He's 95 these days, so driving is a bit out of the question for him. Keep having to dodge getting a job – the old stalwarts who kept up the traditions are falling by the wayside, and there is always a need for someone to help prepare for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Cenotaph at Padstow. The flag operators are passing away. As I live in Campbelltown it can be a bit far to travel so I cannot be sure I will make it. I also belong to the local club and get involved slightly there.

So, keeping busy. Always enjoy the monthly *Eyes and Ears*.

There is a chance our local "Locators" association, whatever we are called these days – "Surveillance and Target Acquisition Association may amalgamate with 131 group at Canley Vale, so we may get together yet. As an aside, have you seen Holsworthy these days? And for that matter, BOD Moorebank is gone, and the Guard House at Bardia Barracks is about all that is left of Ingleburn Camp. Times have changed. Ubique"

Douglas Perry (SVN 1970) – "Paul, G'day to you in return.

All is well with me and I am pleased that you have made contact with me and also others.

I appreciate that there are many who simply need a word now and then.

In my retirement, I keep busy with Legacy and also do a small accounting task at School of Artillery which puts me in touch with a few serving members from time to time.

Keep up the good work.

Regards, Douglas Perry"

George Kijurina – "Hey Paul, nice to hear from you, sorry about the cold buddy, could have always been worse, could have been the flu!!!

I'm okay mate, I had a short stay in QLD on business and had the pleasure of driving home to Sydney recently via Coffs Harbour and catching up with **Dave Doyle** after all these years. It was Vietnam Veterans Day and the CEX club had been packed all day with veterans...

I'm looking to restart my business life shortly working in the Aged Care sector, big growth area buddy!!!

Anyway, thanks' for keeping in touch...

Cheers, George"

Murray Poustie (SVN 1967) – "Paul, I am still alive and well and keeping very busy.

This year celebrated 50 years since I was WIA in SVN and evacuated home to Aust.

Regards, Murray Poustie"

Ian McMillan – "Hi Paul, got your email sounds like thing are going well for you that's good to hear. My health is good. I go to the Goodlife Gym as often as i like, thanks to DVA and my golf is still pretty average.

So, all is well other than that nothing to complain about - hope to see you at the next reunion.

Cheers Ian"

John Richmond (4th Intake Nasho) – "Hi Paul, nice to hear from U.

Am currently being treated for prostate cancer and would U believe the specialist has been treating me hormone injections.

Guess I can never be a professional athlete.

Was talking to a former member of 131 on the phone yesterday and it seems that it will be 50 years next April since we marched out for the last time. I don't think u would remember him, **Rod Liddell** (One of the orderly room staff)

One question. I saw reference to your brother Jim somewhere in the recent past. Hope he is still keeping well.

It is well over 40 years since I worked with him in what was Air office (Directorate of Audit and Accounting) as a civvie. Hope to catch up with Bert Blink in the next week or so.

You will notice my nick name is just JR. A little story to go with this goes back to the late 90s. I was working the ACT Chief Minister's Dept. The senior manager admin needed me to go to a meeting with her. Her question being JR "What is your real name?"

I had only known her for several years!

All the best, John Richmond (JR)"

John Roberts (SVN '66-'67) – "Paul, if you call beating cancer with all the associated side effects of chemo and a broken hip over the last couple of years, I'm doing OK because I can now put it all behind me except that I can't play golf yet, but thanks for your enquiry.

Regards, Beau Roberts"

Harry Lynus – "G'day Paul, still here mate, a bit older but not wiser. Since last touched base had a total knee replacement and am now just recovering from a back op to hopefully alleviate some of the pain there and in my legs. Went down to Maitland for ANZAC Day to see **Kev Maker** and "**Wheels**" **Campbell** and had a good time catching up. Did the same at the RAA National Dinner weekend up at Caloundra and ran in to a lot of mates from the past, and thoroughly enjoyed myself.

I am a widower now as Nanette, my wife, passed away last year. Getting on though with help from family and friends. It has been hot here too in Burpengary but we have just had 4 days of rain and it is back to normal spring weather.

Cheers, Harry"

Paul Hobson – "Thanks Paul, and no probs with the delay, no apology necessary, I've been so busy lately I hadn't really had time to notice. How time flies these days...

The trip was fantastic!! Portugal is such a nice place... great people and great food - so relaxing, and the cost of living (food and drink) is so cheap. I went over with my step-son and we got on very well. We stayed a few days in Lisbon and just lapped up the atmosphere (and the food... aahh, the Portuguese tarts...), with plenty of walking to see the

local sights and a day trip to Sintra was just stunning. We then returned to Portimao for five days after the Morocco trip. Portimao is beautiful, and again so relaxing - sun and sand - the whole of the Algarve is just gorgeous, but be warned, a swim in the ocean there is quite cold (I'm a warm water person...) - being the Atlantic. Night life is what you want to make of it, noisy and active or quiet and relaxing, it's all there. Definitely on my list to go back. Morocco was unbelievable!! I love the people and the country - such a land of contrasts - you'll be travelling over miles and miles of barren gibber desert and then come around a corner and over a rise and there in front of you is this most amazing, thriving, green oasis. We were on a small tour (about 12 people) and packed a lot in in the 8 days - our tour guide was a Berber and very knowledgeable, so we got some really good cultural and historical information. We flew in to Casablanca, and our trip took us to Fès, Merzouga, Torda Gorge, Ait Benhaddou and finished in Marrakech. The tour was well organised and we were entertained each evening with local culture and cuisine - simply amazing. One of the highlights was riding a camel out to a Bedouin camp out in the Sahara and overnighing there, and then watching the sunrise on our way back. It makes you think how lucky (or unlucky depending on your point of view) we are to have the conveniences of our society. Paul"

MOTI (Missing On The Internet)

After the last few months of procrastinating I've decided to take some action as to emails that "bounce back" for reasons only explained as the addresses I send them to no longer exist or whatever.

So, the email addresses I have for the following list of blokes (email addresses not listed here for privacy, even though they don't work!! – make sense of that??) are useless.

Paul Butcher, Clive Dreis, Michael Fowler, Kevin Geoghegan, Kevin Grime, Keith Holloway, Warren Jaenke, Jim Kruimink, Dennis Malloy, John Maloney, Alan McDonald, Ken McNamara, ~~Damian McManus~~, Robert Miller, Brian Mitchell, Robert Owens, Frank Perry, Roger Pryke, Bob Sealy, Ken Taylor, Brian turner and George Wearn

NB – Paul Butcher =s we have had it updated – thanks fellas.

If you have a working email address for any of them could please send it to me – 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Notice Board...hey! see what's coming up?

11.11.2017 at 1100hrs – Armistice Day – marks 99 years since the cessation of hostilities on the Western Front of World War I, which took effect at eleven o'clock in the morning—the "eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918.

Grab a poppy and remember for a minute.

Lest We Forget



131 Locators Association's – Annual General Meeting



Tuesday, 21st November, 2017 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>

**You're all welcome to come to the AGM – no prior notice required
– just come along, catch up and join in.**



Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,
 Public Officer – Victor Danko, Webmaster – Bob Billiards, Research Officer – Ernie Newbold,
 Designs and Development Officer – Nick Proskurin, Eyes & Ears Editor – Paul Dickson
 General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane.
 Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell,
 Vic – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas - "Well 2017 is coming to a close fast so now, possibly, is the time to check your 131 Locators Assn membership is current.

Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check. Grahame"

Presidential perambulations

Have you noticed the latest terminology indicating great enthusiasm? It seems to have crept up over recent years, but now is pretty universal. When we were kids Christmas or our birthdays seemed so far distant and it was almost painful waiting for the calendar to click over. But we just had to wait.

Now the indicator for excitement seems to me to be, "I can't wait", even though that is exactly what has to happen. When the gormless on television are, for example, talking about a pop star coming to Australia for a concert series six months out, they express their enthusiasm by exclaiming, "I can't wait". I'm not sure what will happen over the six months, but wait they too must.

I was recently in New Zealand visiting the Kiwi part of the family. It was after the election and into the uncertainty period of who would form government. A bit like the 'phoney war' that England experienced in 1939-40, when not much happened war-wise. The Kiwis have an electoral system called MMP (Mixed-Member Proportional representation), where voters have two votes, one for the candidate of their choice, the other for their party of choice. This MMP model was copied from the Germans who introduced it to avoid another Hitler situation in the Bundestag. In New Zealand, the government changed because a bloke who lost his electorate vote but who was at the top of his party's 'list' is now the Deputy Prime Minister after a deal with the Kiwi Labour party.

I suspect that before long many Kiwis will be saying, "I can't wait for the next election."

Best wishes

Allen

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date:

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, 21st November, 2017 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>

You're all welcome to come to the AGM – no prior notice required – just come along and join in.

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 17th October, 2017 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Bert Blink, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Nick Proskurin, Vic Danko, Merv Nairn, Ian Amos, Gordon Malcolm and Terry Westerway

Financial Membership is currently ...129, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 7. Total 138. Lapsed **24** members

Presidents report.

Bert advised Allen was in hospital having a pin removed from his shoulder.

Radar Moves.

Update...refer correspondence attached to this meetings' Agenda AND late news.



The Radar crew attending consisted of Ron Mason and wife Margaret, Peter Dealy and wife Anne, Hugh Ellerbock and wife Roz, Ken Dwight assisted by John Methven from the Museum staff.

The Radar was put together with the combined minds displacing the 50 or so years of mist to achieve the feat. There were some missing items that may not have been at the North Fort Museum and so were not on forwarded. They were "the long cables, generator cables and cover plate from the side pedestal. Ern Newbold commented that the spring clip that extends around the girth of the pedestal will need to be locked in some fashion to secure the top section to the base assembly securely.

Besides the missing pieces mentioned above a piece surplus to requirements was forwarded but the item is not part of the normal Radar equipment. We will attempt to identify it and seek it rightful owner

This Assn will look to acquire a CURTA mechanical calculator for inclusion in the general Det 131 DLB display. Also check out a revolving photo display showing the radar in various FSB positions.

. **web Performance...** Bob has supplied website stats via email to each of the committee members.

General Business

. **George Lane** advised the meeting that Damian McManus, a Det 131 "Pioneer", has contracted cancer and is not well.

. **Nick (Proskurin)** unveiled the new 131 Locators Association Inc. banners (pic at right) – a photograph will be attached to the message delivering the Minutes. The meeting unanimously agreed that they were very impressive and will prove useful at future gatherings and formal functions. As the project had prior approval the amount of \$184 will be reimbursed to Nick who did the design work and placed the order on the Associations behalf.



If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos
131eyesandears@gmail.com – BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.

. Birthdays in the Battery...November –

Date	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	DENIS SMITH	2789286	1946	15 04 1969	17 12 1969	
1	VAUGHAN MILLAR	3411742	1948	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
1	WAYNE JEFFERY	2794772	1946	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	
2	TREVOR PRIDEAUX (WAGHORN)	52837	1936	05 05 1967	06 02 1968	
2	KENNETH HALLIGAN	2788319	1946	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOHN HENSHAW	3793057	1945	20 01 1969	28 11 1969	
4	HAROLD LITTLE	2789038	1945	21 02 1969	28 11 1969	
5	DAVID DACRE	5716803	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
6	PETER WERTHEIMER	355747	1941			Ares 132 '60-'88
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd REGT
10	BARRY UREN	214715	1940	28 10 1966	02 05 1967	
11	BILL TAGGART		1946	00.10.1966	00.11.1967	US 1st / 83rd
12	JOHN RICHMOND	2784289	1945			
12	THOMAS LEMPRIERE	3412000	1949	02 12 1968	21 01 1969	
13	MICHAEL CAMPBELL	6708462	1946	05 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 1984
16	KEN LONG	2783232	1945	04 05 1967	28 10 1967	
16	ALLEN MORLEY	3788972	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
17	WARWICK HAMILTON Capt.	235190	1939	17 04 1967	12 02 1968	
17	TERENCE (LOFTY) HAYES	214973	1939	{04 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 14.12.2011
	" " "			{10 12 1968	10 12 1969	
17	JORG KIENE	3797963	1947	09 11 1970	05 08 1971	
17	BARRY WILLIAMS	3796729	1947	16 12 1970	08 02 1971	
18	DESMOND BURY	1411072	1946	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
19	JOHN PERRY WO2	36026	1932	22 04 1966	07 09 1966	
20	MICHAEL FLETCHER	352778	1945	29 04 1969	16 04 1970	

20	LESLIE BATES	218053	1950	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
22	MURRAY POUSTIE	3787941	1945	04 05 1967	14 08 1967	
22	BRIAN RUDDOCK (M.I.D)	216134	1935	{29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
	" " Sgt.			{03 02 1970	04 02 1971	4 Fd REGT
24	DONALD SIMMONS Sgt.	212769	1937	22 04 1966	21 12 1966	† 25.04.15
25	STANLEY TODKILL	1201908	1946	04 11 1969	17 06 1970	
25	JIM TOWNLEY	3793586	1946	20 01 1970	27 05 1970	AACC
	" "			28 05 1970	14 01 1971	1st Amoured Regt
26	MICHAEL O'KEEFE	2787168	1946	08 01 1968	14 01 1969	AACC † 1980
26	FRED WALTER Sgt.	342848	1943	11 05 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
26	JEFFERY SCHAFER	2788886	1946	12 02 1969	17 12 1969	
27	PAUL HOBSON	2799714	1951			
28	JOHN BAYFORD	3791019	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
30	RON SAUNDERS	38516	1947	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
30	GARY STRATTON	2788161	1946	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	

*Above colour background coding explanation – Red – financial Locator, Yellow – located Locator, Black – passed Locator, Blue – honorary Member, White – NOT Located Locator.

Ed – 12 blokes not highlighted is way too many and certainly not acceptable! There's some work to still be done here fellas!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **147** and we've sent out **146**. **Ed** – how about **3** more **NOW!**

. Located...

Have a look at the Association's web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au> – you might find some lost mates or get in touch with us and see if we can for you.



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the establishment of the web site we continue to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

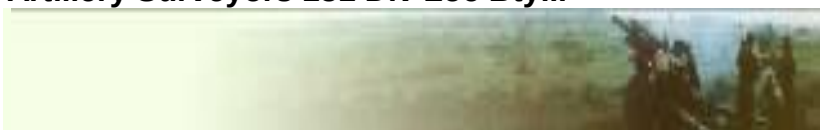
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam: sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add your name) to the associations account at "A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133"

Hope we hear from you?

Website: <http://www.131locators.org.au>

. Other related sites...

Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush" (A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield

Meetings: - Sun 3 Dec 2017: at Panania RSL, also Christmas Reunion after the meeting.

Sun 11 Mar 2018: at Paddington RSL. Sun 8 Jul 2018 and AGM: at Panania RSL

All meetings commence at 1115 hrs



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>

Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit www.at-ease.dva.gov.au

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much.

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: <http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

<http://www.rnzaa.org.nz/>

Editor contact email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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