

THE EYES and EARS

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Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) awarded to the Detachment and those who served at
The Battles of Coral/Balmoral in South Vietnam, 1968

Enoggera made us ALL welcome, again...



Lest We Forget...



LSTAA 10th Reunion by Allen Morley

Brisbane turned on the weather for the reunion. It rained and rained each day. Fortunately, the weather held off for the Blessing and Dedication of the Detachment 131 Div Loc Bty Vietnam Memorial, that is the AN-KPQ/1 radar at Enoggera. There was a good turnout of former locators, and the Regiment paraded with precision. It was a most impressive performance with four chaplains involved in the proceedings.

At the conclusion of the Dedication we retired to the James Menz Club for liquid refreshments and a BBQ. The conversations flowed readily and the guests fortunately had priority for plate filling before the 20STA Gunners descended on the food. Gunner Dignam (Ret'd) had his photo taken with Brigadier Susan Coyle to prove to that Western Australian sceptic, Barry Guzder, that indeed there is such a rank in the Australian Army. A mounted SLR was presented to the Regiment for installation in the Menz Club. That brought a nostalgic tear to the eyes of many of the Vietnam Locators. And the Coffs Harbour Branch of LSTAA, which had been wound-up, presented a cash gift to the Menz Club. The bar was closed at 2pm and visitors directed to the front gate.

Saturday was an 'explore Brisbane' day. For a few of us the morning was devoted to discussion of the futures of both LSTAA and 131 Locators Association. Dig and I then swam back to our hotel to prepare for the Locators' Reunion Dinner that evening. The table settings were most colourful, and were topped off with 'souvenirs and toys' from the 20STA Regiment storehouse. The dinner numbers were a little disappointing for the organisers, but those in attendance enjoyed a most convivial evening.

Sunday saw the winding up of proceedings at the Ship Inn on Southbank. Those with any energy left ignored the rain and paraded for lunch with umbrellas hoisted. After a final celebration, the diners departed to their local or interstate destinations. The principal organisers, **Terry Erbs and Russ Hamsey**, are to be congratulated on the successful Reunion program.



Master of Ceremonies – WO2 Mel Wood (above)



Some of the “Mature” Locators comfortably seated.



**A good mix of the “Matures” with
Brig Susan Coyle**

BBQ lunch crowd at the Menz Club



Ahhh! time to relax with something cold in-hand.

Brig Susan Coyle and Grahame Dignam (at left)



**Rev Graham Whelan, Allan Harrison, Louise Doyle, Dave Doyle,
Grahame Dignam and Allen Morley**

More relaxing after the ceremony...



The Reunion Dinner at the Kedron Wavell RSL...





Ron Mason – “Paul, good to hear from you & about your African adventures. We are currently in Brisbane & yesterday attended the Dedication of the radar memorial within the Enoggera army base with a good show put on by 20STA – Army band – speeches – and all the frills. All very well done. The whole show was followed by a BBQ put on by the Regiment.

The pioneers seem to have based at the Brook Hotel/Motel.

The snap (at right) is at the BBQ area –from L – R – **Ron Mason, Merv Nairn, Spike Chase, Ged Carol with George Lane** sitting.

I’m sure you will receive more photos of the radar from others that attended the day.
So, that’s all from me for the time - no planned travels this year – apart from keeping the grand kids company during school holidays etc.
Ron M”



WELCOME HOME – 31 YEARS AGO – 3rd October, 1987...



What a great roll-up. How many will turn up in 2037 – 50th Anniversary – we'd only be 90 something or thereabouts! OK, what about 2022?

We'd need everyone in this photo, who is still vertical, to turn up.
Surely, they've got wheelchair access?

. Insights and Recollections...

The series will continue on the receipt of more Insights and Recollections, so if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections –

Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. Oddities – Ed –

It's not often that you go on a holiday and you have to kiss one of the local sheilas and then on top of that you have to share your breakfast with one!



This all happened at Giraffe Manor in Nairobi, Kenya. It was hilarious, plus the rest of the trip was amazing. Hey take note of the 50+ year bush hat – just right for that part of the world. Who said I was a hoarder!!



. 1968 – A “Lost Locator Project” ... NOW WE’RE ONTO ‘68

Ed – Yes, I’m continuing with on one of my “Pet Projects” trying to **Locate Lost Locators**. Now it’s 1968 as an interesting era and to my, sometimes erroneous accounting, I reckon there are about **22** Lost Locators from 1968. Now, they are a mix of Regs and Nashos (as usual), so some of you Regs must have soldiered on with some of them somewhere and the Nashos must have gone back to 131 or at least the same State in some cases. I’m clutching at straws, especially after some 50 years.

NAME	Regt. No.	BORN	IN SVN	OUT SVN	COMMENTS
GRAEME SMITH	6708707	1946	12 04 1968	20 08 1968	
KEVIN BROWNING Sgt	217743	1948	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	
IAN "Scotty" McNICOL	216327	1945	{12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
WALLY FRANKLIN	1411285	1949	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
GEOFFREY TODD	54254	1943	18 12 1967	10 12 1968	
ALAN McDONALD	511355	1947	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
ROBERT GIBSON	2787361	1947	29 01 1968	07 02 1969	
EDWARD HENSON	2788331	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
RICHARD FLAVELL	3791902	1945	23 09 1968	04 06 1969	
TERENCE HUNT	3792120	1947	19 02 1968	21 02 1969	
BRIAN MITCHELL	2412582	1949	14 03 1968	26 03 1969	
GEOFF HOLDEN	2785828	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
GRAHAME LEE	2787457	1947	23 04 1968	23 04 1969	
PETER McKIE	2787728	1947	22 04 1968	23 04 1969	
JOHN (JACK) HEYES	3791085	1945	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
NEVILLE WORTLEHOCK	54941	1947	29 04 1968	30 04 1969	
IAIN KENNEDY	3791023	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
RONALD ROBARDS	216900	1948	21 02 1968	21 02 1969	
DEREK HINDE	2787403	1947	01 07 1968	14 05 1969	
GARTH NICHOLLS	216381	1948	{05 02 1968	11 02 1969	
RICHARD BRISTOW	1733143	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
TERRENCE FOX	1200934	1949	08 07 1968	02 07 1969	
JOHANNES LAS	3792338	1947	23 09 1968	18 06 1969	
KEN WOODBINE	2786077	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
GORDON WILLIAMS 2Lt	2783891	1945	13 05 1968	26 03 1969	
DENNIS DYE	2412366	1945	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
JOHN BREWER (M.I.D.)	16220	1944	05 02 1968	07 02 1969	
PETER DEALY	3411983	1947	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
JOHN I'ANSON	2787424	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
IAN AMOS	2785676	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
LINDSAY MEAD	3790714	1945	27 03 1968	26 04 1968	
FREDERICK KRUMINK	6708867	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
KEITH AYLIFFE Sgt.	217354	1941	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	
JOHN GREENAWAY	3790617	1946	24 10 1967	22 10 1968	
LES SMITHLESTER	1201202	1949	23 09 1968	24 09 1969	
STAN BRIGGS	1731999	1945	27 11 1967	17 09 1968	
PETER BINNS	356367	1947	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
GORDON MALCOLM	2785906	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
PETER WHITAKER	2786848	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
ERIC THOMPSON Sgt.	44153	1948	18 02 1968	18 02 1969	
PHILIP MULGREW	3411756	1948	29 04 1968	07 05 1969	
JOHN DELLACA	3791355	1945	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
GARY BESTER	3411737	1948	08 01 1968	03 12 1968	
LARRY BRIDGE	2786506	1946	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	
PHILIP JOHNS	4719086	1946	16 09 1968	18 03 1969	
VICTOR CLAXTON	4410991	1948	17 01 1968	23 12 1968	
BOB WILSON	3791425	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	

JIM LAWLER Sgt	28523	1936	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	
ROBERT BILLIARDS	2785702	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
PETER TEATHER	3790242	1945	12 04 1968	06 08 1968	
DAVID LAHORE	3791183	1945	02 09 1968	04 03 1969	
NORMAN LINDROOS	3410957	1939	20 05 1968	24 05 1969	
PETER McGANN	55672	1950	27 11 1969	19 11 1970	
IAN FINLAY	2412363	1948	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
IAN MURLEY	38503	1946	12 04 1968	23 04 1969	
VAUGHAN MILLAR	3411742	1948	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
BRIAN RUDDUCK (M.I.D)	216134	1935	{29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
JOHN BAYFORD	3791019	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
DAVID DOUGHERTY	2786594	1946	17 01 1968	04 02 1969	
KEVEN BUSH	3792069	1946	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
CLIVE DREIS	2785766	1945	05 02 1968	03 12 1968	
ALAN ROBB	5715343	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
LAURENCE D'ARCY	215649	1945	04 03 1968	04 02 1969	
PHILLIP PERRIN Capt.	53105	1936	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
MICHAEL BURGESS Capt.	242895	1938	24 03 1968	26 03 1969	131/RAEME
STEWART McALPINE	2787471	1946	08 07 1968	04 06 1969	
JOHN MARTIN Lt.	43613	1941	25 02 1968	21 02 1969	

Here's the mix – the blokes with coloured background names are knowns, it's the **white** backgrounds we're looking for. I've had a bash at Death/Funeral notices and other online search engines, but of course blokes didn't continue to live in the same city that they were recruited from, let alone a suburb. Searching White Pages is a pain too. I would really appreciate your help somehow or another? Paul

Here's the next in the "Unknown" series...



Here's a bit of a twist on things – the photo at right was extracted from the archives of **Robert Tanner** and yes, he names the blokes, so I know who they are.

So, this month it's a double-edged bayonet as to

- who are they and where are they?

And then

- where are they?

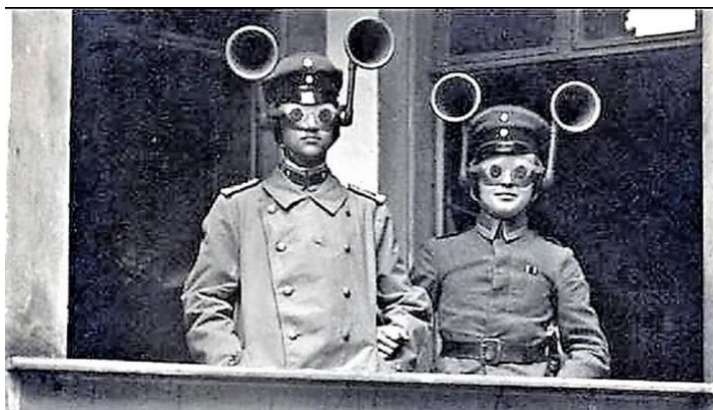


...we get an answer to last month's brain unscrambler...

Keith Ayliffe – puts his stamp on last month's "Unknown" ...



Terry Westerway - Came across this photo
– the very latest in sound ranging equipment –
era 1914



. **Jim Dickson** sent in the following link which is an interesting read with an interpretation of the background “mechanics” – Politicians v’s Defence Forces - that lead Australia down the path to further involvement in South Vietnam – it really is worth downloading for the insights revealed -
<http://sdsc.bellschool.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/publications/attachments/2016-03/sdsc-horner.pdf>

From the Advocate’s Desk...



Our professional Advocate’s contact details: -

OCTOBER - 2018

Well it is time to do my part to help all of us older gentlemen to focus on our body, its aches, pains etc. So, it is never too late to lodge a claim with DVA (use a qualified Advocate) to have disabilities accepted. I have recently been told (not sure how correct it is) that on leaving the ADF during the 2 week exit process they are told do not claim via DVA, IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. What a lot of xxxx!

As stated last month, I had an opportunity to attend the AGM of the Locating Surveillance Target Acquisition Association Inc on Sunday, 8 July at East Hills / Panania RSL, and YES, we talked about what one is entitled to. Great to catch up with the 130 Div Loc lads from Padstow.

NEED TO KNOW CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES:

CLAIM FOR TRANSFER OF PAYMENT OF CENTRELINK AGE PENSION TO DVA

If you receive a disability pension from DVA but age pension from Centrelink.

- By completing a form, you can have your age pension paid by DVA.
- This will help by not having to go into Centrelink office etc.

NON-LIABILITY

DVA has advised in the latest Newsletter that ALL Exiting the ADF from Mid 2018 will receive a WHITE CARD.

- But contrary to some reports it is for NON-LIABILITY Mental Health Drug/Alcohol ONLY

However, consider your own situation OR someone you know. Will assessing Non-Liability be of HELP?

SPECIAL NOTE:

- Mental Health Treatment has been extended from 1 July 2018 to RESERVISTS without continuous service BUT with:

- 1. Disaster relief;
 - Border protection;
 - Serious service related training accidents.
 - Getting close but Not There Yet.
- Foot Note:

I submitted a motion via RSL NSW which was voted YES (93%) for RSL NSW to press the Federal Government to provide all Ex-CMF & Reservists with Non-Liability for Mental Health also Cancer. (This is treatment only and does not need to be service related)

WARNING !!!!! - Risks Strong Medication

Disability(s) - PTSD, Major Depression, Lumbar Spondylosis, Disc Prolapsed, Alcohol.

Medication - FUOXETINE, LYRICA, NORSPAN, PRAZOSIN, OXCONTIN, OXYNOR and others.

Side Effects: Insomnia, Dizziness, Weakness, Tired Feeling, Vision Problems, Drowsiness, Trouble Concentrating, Blurred Vision, Trouble Sleeping, Fatigue, Tiredness, Fainting, Feeling Sleepy, Feeling Tired or weak. (plus, others), Alcohol adds to the side effects.

A Veteran had experienced constant episodes of falling, falling asleep at dinner table, injuring himself.

- Was found on the floor of his garage non-responsive. Taken to hospital tests were conducted with no results. A doctor commented we should have carried out a scan on his head.

- On doing this found a hematoma. Rushed to surgery however he died before surgery could be carried out.

1. Have a pain management specialist control your medication.

2. Do not drink or reduce alcohol.

3. Be honest with yourself and be aware of the effects of the medication and side effects on you. Especially driving.

- YES, THIS IS BASED ON A REAL CASE. (He was 40)

One should not die from the disabilities in this case.

Jottings:

May at this time advise that although I have been heavily involved in Welfare & Pensions so has my wife. While in Townsville she worked in with VVCS helping young widows etc.

She is also fully qualified as I am so it is a team effort (no pillow talk - too tired).

Regretfully there are many ex-service personnel seeking help going back to the aged brigade to the younger ones.

If you yourself feel you can contribute or you know of anyone who can please consider it seriously. YES you have to undertake training but what we do is handling some ones hopes and possibly future.

Volunteers are the back bone of Australia and are extremely important in welfare and pensions.

Please take care and if you have a question please send it in to Paul. I will answer in the next article.

So long and hope to see you at the reunion in October. **Peter Pioro**

Peter Pioro JP - email contact: piorowp@ozemail.com.au

Ken Foster OAM JP - email contact: khfoster1@bigpond.com

Disclaimer: Please note that all correspondence submitted will be treated with the total confidentiality between the sender and our Advocates. Printed submissions and responses that may be published in *Eyes & Ears* will be completely anonymous, just used as examples of help.

Mail Call...

Terry Westerway - Hi Paul,

As an aside, a little piece of trivia – Kevin Maker's photo of the gun at the entrance to 8 Medium Battery lines is (I think) a British Rifled Muzzle Loading 2.5-inch Mountain Gun, that was used in Afghanistan. It might be the same gun that was on display at the North Head Museum (God knows where it is now). The brass capped tube that you can see protruding from the trail is the head of a spring that was connected to a drop-down spade underneath the gun (to limit recoil). The gun weighed 7 cwt and fired an 8 lb shrapnel shell.



Oh, and in relation to Billy Finlay's account of showering in the monsoon – we started that before we even went to Nui Dat. When we first arrived, we were camped in a paddock on the outskirts of Vung Tau – they were only able to get one water purifier going, so we were restricted to one gallon, per man, per day, for everything (washing, drinking, cooking etc), so you wound up with about a litre of water in your shower bucket, if you were lucky. The monsoon that used to come over about 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm was a Godsend – we could see the thunderclouds building up to the southwest, so we made for the tents, stripped off, grabbed the soap and ran outside when the downpour began, hoping that “Huey” would not turn off the water too soon. Wish I had a picture – dozens of naked guys dancing around in the pouring rain trying to soap themselves and wash it off before the rain stopped.”



Some photos out of the archives adding some vision to the above account of “bath-times”.



Nick Armstrong – “Hello Paul. Thanks to **Ian Amos** for supplying the photo taken waiting for the QANTAS flight home in 1968. I hadn't seen the picture before, but I do remember the journey. If I wasn't a cynic then, I think the seeds of cynicism were planted at that time! Still working on staying vertical, and cheers to everyone. Nick Armstrong.”

I remember we waited for about four hours looking at the aeroplane parked about 100 metres away! My thoughts were why couldn't we just get on and head home. Arriving in Sydney at midnight, I guessed it was planned to have us arrive to avoid demonstrators? Arriving in Sydney wasn't the end of the saga. I was travelling on to Adelaide, so I found myself at ECPD, South Head, in transit. By the time, I arrived at ECPD, it was about 0100hrs. I was issued with bedding and allocated a bed for the remainder of the night. After about four hours, I was back at the Q Store, returning said bedding, before returning to the airport for the flight to Adelaide. Given a choice, I would have been happy to just cool my heels at the airport.

The said photo (E&Es Sept 2018) - “The photo (at right) was taken 17 September “**Waiting for the Bird**” at Saigon airport while we waited for the flight home. L-R are unknown (perhaps one for a future unknown segment), **Gordon Malcolm, Ken Woodbine, Geoff Holden, Bob Billiards, Nick Armstrong.**”



Grahame Dignam – sent in the following sitrep after an enquiry from **Ed** re an update on **Ken McNamara** and **Brian “Wirey” Hackett** –

“Earlier today I called “**Lance Brig**” **Ken McNamara** - and here's the story: Kens' email will be up again in 2/3 Weeks - he is not sure about “Wirey's”?? Doesn't think “Wirey” worries about it!!!! They meet every week or so for coffee and Ken will say “Hello” to “Wirey” from me and give him a kiss (things you have to do to get some comms going!!!) from you.

Both guys have had heart issues and at the same time I think. Both were in the John Flynn Hospital where “Wirey’s” daughter is Head Nurse or similar so they were very well looked after and I can’t go into more intimate details ‘cos it will be censored.

Brian Hackett had stents inserted while Ken was a more complex valve replacement - had a hard time finding a pig who would volunteer to give one of theirs up though!

Brian elected to go home soon after surgery and is OK while Ken had no care giver at home so he elected to go to rehabilitation which he reckons was GREAT! It got him moving again and they worked all his limbs to the point where, while he has a stick to walk, he now attends 3 days per week in the gym doing work with an exercise physiologist and is feeling much better. He is in contact with **John McFadden**, **Bruce Irvine** and **Warwick Brooker** regularly.”

Ed – It’s good to be kept in the loop with some of our reluctant Locators. Now I can sleep more easily at night!



Mail Out

→ I started this in September, 2017 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 the responses...

Warwick Hamilton – “Hi Paul, things have been going very well here. Our ever-changing government and political wranglings have kept everyone amused, and at last Sydney has had some rain.

My health has been good. I have just finished another dose of ‘maintenance’ chemo and am starting on a 10-week gap before the next (it was a 6-week gap before). And, since you mentioned NZ, we are off to New Zealand for 2 months next Wed. It is not far away if I need to rush back, and I believe they do speak a form of English, so it’s a good trial run for later, hopefully longer, sorties overseas. We have a rough plan of about a month in the North Island and a month in the South. Our only fixed plan is to do the 70Km Queen Charlotte Sound walk in mid Nov.

Somehow Kate and I seem to be very busy, with the odd weekend away visiting people, dog sitting for neighbours, having the kids (and 2 grandkids) from Canberra up for the school hols, and a dozen and one other things. This retirement business is tiring!!!... but I wouldn’t change it for quids.

The ‘blonde bloke’ over the border seems to have gone a bit soft lately with a new trade agreement between them, Mexico and Canada. Perhaps this is to allow the Mexican economy to improve so they can pay for ‘the wall’? Great to hear you are both well.

All the very best from us both, Warwick”

Diane Dean on behalf of her other half, Keith – “Hi Paul. Just wanted to let you know Keith and I are travelling to England and France in November. We were lucky enough to get accepted for the 100th Anniversary of the ending of WW1 at Villers-Bretonneux, Somme France on 11th November 2018.

I actually found the site on DVA Overseas Commemorations. As I had 2 great uncles die in this war along with another great uncle who was awarded the Military Medal for this war, it is a very special event for me. Hopefully I will get some photos to send you for *Eyes and Ears*.

Also, we are surprising our grand-daughter with a visit whilst in London. She has been working there for 18 months and does not know we are coming her way.

Regards, Dianne and Keith (aka Keith’s secretary)”

John “Kanga” McFadden – “Hello Dicko. Thank you for your most affable contact.

I was amazed at your trip into Africa. The safari into Kenya & Tanzania. The “East African Massage”, the great migration in the Masai Mara region and the Giraffe Manor in Nairobi. It must have been so enlightening, so satisfying. I commend you on your continued efforts holding our lot together through your “*Eyes & Ears*”. Like **Jimmy Hogno** I was saddened when you listed the passing of **Leigh Hemming**. He was part of our 2nd deployment mob. I was fortunate to meet him again at a Sydney Anzac a few years back. My sadness was compounded when I read his wife’s account, for in it rested to an undignified truth. Leigh having accepted & shouldered his conscripted lot with typical Australian good humour, seemingly slips through the cracks when accounts are rendered. He fulfilled what his country asked (Kennedy) but his country hid when he was in need!

My Camp OK.

Keep Well, Kanga”

Ron Mason – (extract from Ron’s email with regards to the Brisbane reunion earlier) - “Paul, good to hear from you & about your African adventures.

So, all from me from for the time - no planed travels this year – apart from keeping the grand kids company during school holidays etc. Ron M”

Rieny Nieuwenhof – “Hi there Dicko. Thanks for your email. All is good in Geelong.

Next week I travel to Swan Hill for a 131 Reunion event with - **Peter Saint**, **Michael Butler**, **John Molenkamp**, **John Jaggard**, **Les Falkai** - and their partners. Last year the reunion was held in Portarlinton. Should be really good to

catch up and share stories. We are in regular communication via emails, mostly the sharing of jokes and questionable videos, mostly featuring naked ladies.

We had a very successful Geelong Vietnam Vets day in August and then onto Melbourne for the main memorial service at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Minister for Veterans (State Government) also invited Vietnam Vets, who had been at Coral and Balmoral FSBs, for a special Morning Tea at Parliament House. I was invited as President of G & DVVAA, although I was never at Coral or Balmoral.

Our house here in Portarlington is progressing along. The painters are doing the inside and this should be followed with the tiler and then the flooring. We hope to be in around Christmas, all things going to plan.

The Geelong Vietnam Veterans Ass. is in a healthy state with close to 300 members. We are the second biggest Sub Branch (Outer Eastern Melb. is the biggest). We have our drop-in centre and main Office in Belmont. They are very comfortable digs, but not big enough for larger functions. These are held at the North Geelong Cricket/Football Clubrooms. We have a 'Pay Day' Lunch each fortnight. Two other 131 vets - **Phillip Mulgrew** and **Russell Jackson** - live in Geelong, although I don't see them very often.

That brings you up to date of things happening with me.

Regards and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Rieny Nieuwenhof"

Peter Larkin - "Hi Paul. Great to hear from you. Guess it's about time I responded!!!

This year has been another busy one, travel wise (as usual).

We started the year with 3 weeks caravanning at lakes entrance. **Peter and Pauline Creedon** joined us there - we persuaded them to visit Victoria, and they really loved it.

We spent Anzac Day in Melbourne this year with our usual 131 crew, and had a very special time celebrating our 50 years since we were there! We left from Melbourne, with caravan and tinny, and headed north to our winter home of the last few years - Karumba. We spent three months there, catching lots of fish and having happy hours with our Karumba mob. **Peter and Pauline** also joined us there for a few weeks.

From there we headed to Kinchant dam near Mackay - caught a couple of Barra! We then headed home a little earlier than usual to have a hernia repair.

Late September we spent a couple of weeks in Bali with the family (10 in the party) for a fun time.

Next adventure is off to China for 3 weeks during November.

Suddenly it is almost another year gone - and looking forward to doing much the same again next year.

We also have had 4 trips back to Vietnam - one being for the complete stuff up of the celebrations for the 50th Long Tan anniversary (apparently caused by channel 7). We did make it into the site of the cross, luckily, with a bus load of 6 RAR fellows. **Russell and Margo Jackson** joined us on this trip. We were probably one of the last group into the site for the day, very fortunate there. Anyway, Vietnam is a great place these days to TOUR!!!

I was never good at essays at school - so this is probably enough!

Regards, Peter and Kay Larkin"

...Peter got back to Ed with the following really interesting photo and description –

"Hi Paul, thought we would send a photo taken on August 18th, 2016 at the **Det131 Unit** site. We went there before heading to Long Tan.

Front left to right in photo - friend **Barry (non-veteran)**, **myself**, **Hai** (our Vietnamese guide we have used on each of our visits - he was a former ARVN soldier who worked with the Americans as an interpreter during the war, in Phuoc Tuy Province), **Russell Jackson**, and **Russell's wife Margo** in the background.

Regards, Peter - (2 essays in 2 days is a bit much!!!)



Ted Jux – "Sorry it's taken so long to reply to you.

My excuse is that my short-term memory is shot after my subdural hematomas back in 2001. Spent a lot of time in ICU John Hunter Hospital. I'm well now and enjoying life.

Just had my 70th birthday and caught up with **Al Gough**. Interesting enough my long-term memory is fabulous. I was telling Al about somethings at the Horseshoe and Xuyen Moc and he couldn't or wouldn't remember.

My wife is my carer now and driver and we like to see as much as possible of this beautiful country of ours in our Motorhome.

We have travelled a lot overseas as well as our youngest daughter Tegan lived and worked in Sri Lanka and the UK as an environmental scientist.

It was great to have a base in both those countries to travel further abroad.

Our son Naemon is just about to head off around Australia with his naturopath wife for who knows how long. Our eldest daughter Cass has worked for councils and the Qld government is now a teacher at the local school. (Pissed off with bureaucratic people). She and her husband Tim have two beautiful children who keep Sharon and I on our toes.

Still in contact with a few of the crew and trying to get a few to join the association.

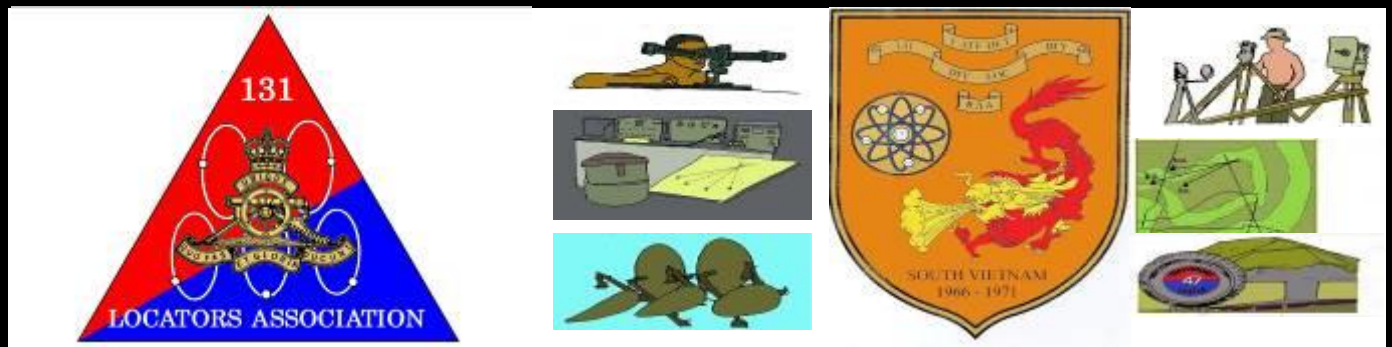
Love reading the monthly and seeing a few familiar faces and memories.

Keep up the good work. Ted JUX"

Iain Kennedy – "Paul, since Canberra have been concentrating on a new agency I picked up for Rossini printing sleeves. A very good product that has a lot of acceptance in our Flexible packaging printing industry in this country. So hopefully it will be a good earner for me. As well we are in the process of doing knock down rebuild on our house in Wantirna. But it isn't going according to plan as the electrical disconnection (a job you would think was easy) is still not done some two months on. Now have called in the Ombudsman and the local member to try and get it done. Then we can move on to the real task of knock down.

Have plans to go to New Zealand for Business, as I am Rossini agent for NZ as well as Aussie. Also, haven't been back to Malaysia since May, so once house is underway and all the technical part is done. Will head over to see wife's relatives and enjoy the food and weather.

Stay safe, Cheers, Iain Kennedy"



Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,
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>

Presidential perambulations

News of the weekend was that the Federal Government has proposed issuing a Veterans' Card, although no specific colour was indicated. White and Gold Cards are already present, so another colour would be required. The idea was that, non-compulsorily, various suppliers would provide discounts to holders of this 'Diggers' Discount' card. The services to be discounted the Government said could encompass energy costs, airline flights and supermarket purchases.

One media report noted that one of the challenges to its introduction would be finding those eligible. Another DVA disaster could be one outcome. My pessimistic view is that this scheme is likely to be unsuccessful.

Sydney supermarkets are coming to grips with the so called 'single use' plastic bags. Other Australian states introduced bans on their 'free' distribution by supermarkets and other stores at various times in the past. The supermarkets have pulled a real con job as a consequence. You can buy plastic bags, either branded or plain. But buy is the key word. The supermarkets have jumped on the environmental plastic bag bandwagon to 'show' their environmental credentials, but the fact that they are now charging for the one-use plastic bags replacements will no doubt be helping their bottom lines.

Regards, Allen

The Jim Menz Book Prize

You may recall that the Association resolved to provide a yearly Book Prize to a number of students in the school where Jim actually attended as a child.

We have been advised by the Marysville Public School Executive that the following students were awarded the inaugural **Jim Menz Book Prize for 2017**.

The students selected were: **Matthew Thompson, Stuart Thompson and Xavier Cowell**.

The Association is committed to continuing the donation again this year to honour the memory of Jim in his home town. **Grahame Dignam**

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13th November, 2018 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.

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 9th October, 2018 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Bert Blink, Bob Billiards, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, Gordon Malcolm, Ged Carroll, Nick Proskurin, and George Lane

Financial Membership is currently ...**113**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **8**. Total **122**. Lapsed **42**



Presidents Report.

Allen advised he had recently returned for abroad and was refreshed.

He also mentioned: He had been occupied doing some research prior to the October Qld. Reunion and meeting with the SEQ LSTAA.

Public Officer Report.

The AGM is looming ever closer and will be held on 13th November 2018 at the usual venue – see email notice. That meeting will be followed by a General meeting and an Agenda for that will be forwarded prior to that date.

Webmaster Update.

Bob has reported that the Website software is in need of an update which may require some expenditure. He will investigate and inform the committee in due course.

131 NVVM display update

Arrangements are being made to move the TRIPOD to the museum and added to the display at a time to be advised.

General Business

Jim Menz Book Prize. We have finally been supplied with the names of the Marysville PS students who were selected to receive the initial Book Prizes for 2017. An article will be placed in the Eyes & Ears newsletter and a copy sent to the School.

A further suggestion was offered where we try to arrange for a MENZ family member to be available to present the prize on behalf of JIM and family at the School when the prize giving ceremony is held. This will be addressed.

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 –

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	† 26.10.17
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	† 02.04.18
5	DAVID DACRE	5716803	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
6	PETER WERTHEIMER	355747	1941	20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd REGT
10	BARRY UREN	214715	1940	28 10 1966	02 05 1967	
11	WILLIAM TAGGART		1946	00.10.1966	00.11.1967	US 1st / 83rd
12	JOHN RICHMOND	2784289	1945	n/a	n/a	
12	THOMAS LEMPRIERE	3412000	1949	02 12 1968	21 01 1969	
13	MICHAEL CAMPBELL	6708462	1946	05 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 1984
16	KENNETH 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 RUDDUCK (M.I.D)	216134	1935	{29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
	" " Sgt.			{03 02 70	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	n/a	n/a	
28	JOHN BAYFORD	3791019	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
30	RONALD 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 still not great! Ok, so maybe with a little more effort we can colour some of their name backgrounds!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 157 and we've sent out 155. Ed – we've really slowed down in getting them in and finalising a couple - how long is it going to take to get to 400?

. 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.

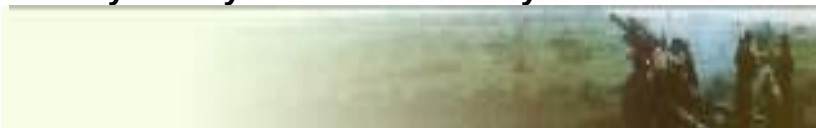
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam: sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add 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



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](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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