

THE EYES and EARS

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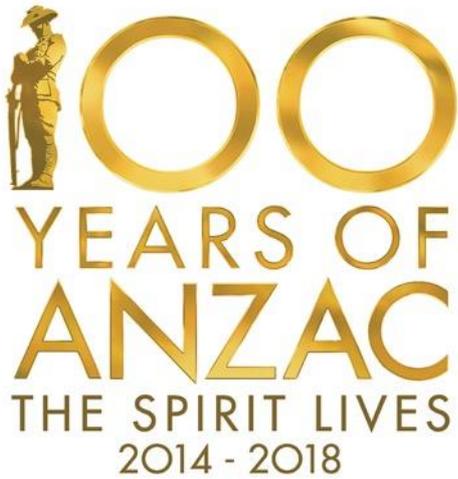


Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

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

Seasons Greetings
and best wishes
to all of our
readers



**100**
YEARS OF
ANZAC
THE SPIRIT LIVES
2014 - 2018

Let's make sure the spirit continues...

A couple of photos taken by a Canadian friend of the Ed's, **David Tarrant**, (from San Miguel de Allende), who just happened to be in Melbourne taking one of his groups on a horticultural tour and was moved by these two scenes -



...then Ed's brother Jim sent in the following two photos taken in Canberra...



Thought you may be interested in the attached taken from about 8 to 9pm on the Saturday night being the eve of Armistice Day. The coloured lights were focussed at the base of the flagpole on Parliament House. Huge crowds there. At night, the *Hall of Memory* a special aura of feel about it - hard to describe but it was different - not eerie but special. Anyway, thought we should share this special evening with you. Cheers, Jim"

Bert Blink sends a report in with regards to the **Remembrance Day in Canberra –**

“Hi. While **Bob Billiards** attended the Remembrance service in Canberra today he took the opportunity to speak to an RSM as regards the protocol for the wearing of a **Unit Citation** (photo attached no prizes for picking which one is Bob focus on the RSM in the picture) after the service a family snapshot shows Bob with the Unit Citation in the right place (photo attached).
Bob – great hat!

Hope you all had a great day. Bert”



The Unit Citation

...and in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico Paul Dickson (Ed) shared the 11th day of the 11th month at 1100hrs, 2018 with a group of Veterans, ex-Servicemen, the congregation at St Pauls and the pastor the Reverend Father George Woodward.



That’s the group, above, alongside the plaque we had commissioned and placed some 5 years ago.



. Veterans Card/s ... you "bewdy"!

WE ARE MAKING A SOLEMN PROMISE TO

We'll have a strong ADF, we'll support veterans, and every day honour the fallen

SCOTT MORRISON



We all say we love our country. What's not to love? After all, we are a nation that is down-to-earth, fair and free. We are the envy of much of the world.

But there is a small band of our citizens who express their love for Australia in a way the rest of us haven't. They have pledged their

lives to our nation by signing up and joining the Australian Defence Force.

We need to do more to respect and recognise our servicemen and women, including those who have been involved in the more recent chapters of our military history, such as the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If we ask men and women to risk all for our country, then it is beholden on our country to do everything we can for them.

There are three ways our government stands with our service personnel and our veterans.

They are a strong ADF, real support for veterans, and honouring the memory of those who have served.

During the past five years, our government has been strengthening the ADF.

The dividends from our plan for a stronger economy mean our defence white paper is fully funded and it outlines how we will invest \$200 billion in Australia's defence capability over 10 years.

We are undertaking the largest regeneration of the Royal Australian Navy since World War II, including the doubling of our future submarine fleet, a fleet of nine frigates and a fleet of 12 offshore patrol vessels to secure our borders.

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program will give the air force unprecedented air capability to combat future threats.

And the army is being backed

with new armoured reconnaissance vehicles and new weapons as well as new body armour and night fighting equipment.

All of this is being done because the best way to keep Australians safe is to give the best capability to the men and women of the ADF.

But our support of our service personnel does not end when they cease wearing our uniform.

Many of our veterans struggle as their lives shift from the frontline to the home front.

We all have a part to play in helping them make that transition.

That's why our government will develop an Australian Veterans' Covenant — to be enacted in legislation — so Australians can better recognise the unique nature of military service and show their support to veterans and their families.

Central to the plan is a new

"THE AUSTRALIAN" THU 1 NOV 18

THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AUSTRALIA

Our support of our service personnel does not end when they cease wearing our uniform. Many of our veterans struggle as their lives shift from the frontline to the home front. We all have a part to play in helping them

Australian veterans' card and an Australian veterans' lapel pin.

The card and the pin will help businesses, government and community organisations identify veterans when they are no longer wearing their uniforms or medals, so they can be offered discounts or additional support more readily.

However, it's not about charity or handouts. It's about educating corporate Australia on the nature of military service and, in so doing, spreading awareness that employing a veteran is good for your business.

These new measures will open up opportunities to start conversations, to learn and to pay thanks and respect to the more than 300,000 veterans and their families in Australia.

This builds on the work we have done to support veterans through fairer indexation of defence force pensions at a cost \$1.4bn; free mental healthcare for all veterans no matter how long you have served; reducing processing times for veterans' claims from 120 days to 33; and putting in place our veterans-to-work program that is supporting our veterans make the transition from their

service careers to civilian careers in our growing economy.

In addition to supporting our veterans who are with us, we must also always honour those who have departed, having served and fought for Australia.

Today, I will announce our government's commitment for a major expansion of the Australian War Memorial to ensure it can tell the stories of our servicemen and women in our most recent engagements, conflicts and peacekeeping missions.

The War Memorial is a sacred place for Australians. Most of the 102,000 men and women whose names are on the Roll of Honour are buried overseas. So the War Memorial is the touchpoint and the place of solemn memory for their families and our country.

Today, alongside War Memorial director Brendan Nelson, we

will be showcasing the architectural plans for the expansion.

We want to tell new stories, in new ways.

During World War II, prime minister John Curtin said: "We cannot measure the cost of this terrible war in money and material things. I doubt if there can be any spiritual assessment of the losses caused."

And so it is within the walls of the Australian War Memorial that we endeavour to come to terms with the unfathomable.

Our service personnel, our veterans and our dead have expressed their love of our country in a way that moves and strengthens us all. Today and every day we will honour their service with practical support and heartfelt thanks.

Scott Morrison is Prime Minister of Australia.

then here's what we could be up for – three different cards (that's different!) – the colours are very DVA.

Then there's the "badge" – I guess we're all excited about flying Virgin from now on too?



None of the above is set in concrete, but I guess it has us all "champing" at the bit. As I said in one of my emails to the Assoc group the "orange" job above will be good after you've paid the doctors bill (as supposedly you're not covered) you can use this one in a pharmacy!

. 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

Ernie Newbold (SVN 1967-68 – 31A / Arty Tac) sent in something very close to this subject (Insights and Recollections) with this following email with regards to the upcoming Festive Season –

"G'day Paul, it may be timely to remember Christmas away from home.

Many who served with the Detachment at Nui Dat experienced Christmas overseas, there would be quite a number for whom it would be their first Christmas away from home.

I was with 31-A on the top of the hill at Nui Dat for Christmas 1967 and can recall that there was at least one "sleigh-rep" late on Christmas Eve reported over the net.

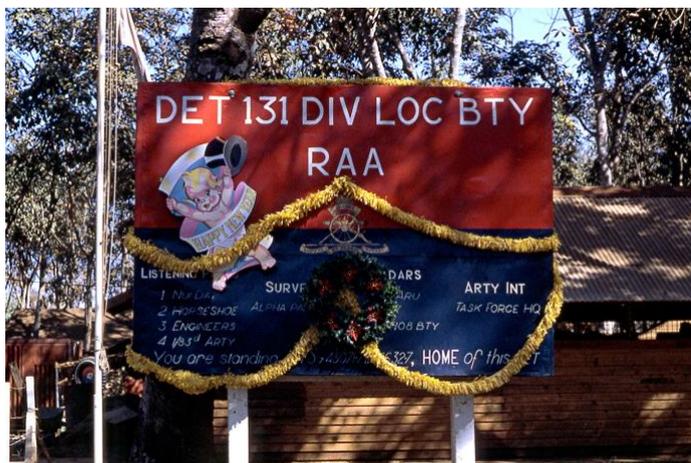
Christmas lunch for those of us at 31-A was in the SAS mess, served by the officers.

It was certainly different to any Christmas day that I had experienced before or since, being away from my family but surrounded by a group of people who have become lifelong friends.

Perhaps you could ask the question in *Eyes and Ears* inviting others to share their memory of Christmas at Nui Dat.

Regards, Ernie."

This photo (at right) was extracted from Ernie's collection – it's a New Year theme.



What a great suggestion, if anyone else has some memory/ies of a Festive theme or maybe a birthday even – it'd be great to hear from you?

. Oddities – Ed – I guess the following is not so much of an “oddy” as a bit of a “revelation” after all this time. As you’ve seen the photo above taken at the Remembrance Day where I live, it is still a mystery to some that that we were involved in the Vietnam War. It’s even more of a “revelation” when you explain that South Vietnam was not only supported by the US but by us, New Zealand, Thailand and the Philippines. Then of course the next surprise to some is that the North were supported by China, Russia and North Korea. Another point of interest is our medals as they swish and clank. A couple of the guys have ribbons, but nothing as “quite in-your-face” as the larger than the old fifty cent piece that we are adorned with. Some of the blokes are threatening to get digging to find “stuff” that they can wear. It’s a great day and something I really enjoy – a sort of substitute for ANZAC Day back “Down Under”.

Rieny Nieuwenhoff reports in on the “131 Locators Reunion in Swan Hill -

On 29th October 2018, former members of **131 DLB (SVN '70 – '71)** and their partners descended on Swan Hill, located on the banks of the mighty Murray in northern Victoria for their annual reunion. They came from all parts of the compass for three days of sharing memories of their time in SVN and putting forward opinions on political, religious and social matters. Naturally these heady topics require appropriate lubrication and the warm weather made this requirement even more necessary. Time was also spent at the Historic Pioneer Museum, the WWII home of the Catalinas and a pleasant cruise up the Murray. Personally, I felt outnumbered by surveyors and radio operators as I was the only one of two Arty Intel. guys there. Lots of laughs and tall stories were shared and everyone enjoyed each other’s company. It was a great few days and we resolved to meet again in Canberra in 2019.

Present were:	Sect in SVN	Wife	Origin
Bdr. Peter Saint	Survey Section	Fran	Canberra
Bdr. Rieny Nieuwenhof	Arty Intelligence	Gaye	Portarlinton
Gnr. Joe Molenkamp	Survey Section	Teena	Wauchope
Gnr. Les Falkai	Radio Operator	Helen	Strathalbyn
Gnr. John Jaggard	Arty Intelligence	Vicki	Adelaide
Gnr. Mick Butler	Survey Section	Michelle	Melbourne



L-R Rieny Nieuwenhof, Mick Butler, Peter Saint, Joe Molenkamp. Seated: John Jaggard, Les Falkai.

. 1967 – A “Lost Locator” Project ... NOW ONTO ‘67

Ed – Yes, I’m continuing on with one of my “Pet Projects” trying to **Locate Lost Locators**. It’s now onto 1967 – this group in the main/bulk replaced the “Pioneers”. I reckon with my, sometimes erroneous accounting, there are about **15 Lost Locators** from 1967. And again, they are a mix of Regs and Nashos, 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 realise I’m clutching at straws, to a large degree, especially after some 50 years. 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 have NOT included the blokes we know that have passed.

I would really appreciate your help somehow or another? Paul

NAME	Regt. No.	BORN	SERVED FROM	SERVED TO	COMMENTS
VICTOR DANKO	2783210	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
PETER HOPPER	3787938	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
PHIL. ENDICOTT	2783419	1945	06 01 1967	27 07 1967	
DON McNICOL	216327	1945	{12 09 1967	17 09 1968	131
RAY HUTCHINSON	37669	1940	17 04 1967	02 04 1968	
GEOFFREY TODD	54254	1943	18 12 1967	10 12 1968	
ALAN ADAMS	3788792	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
ALAN McDONALD	511355	1947	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
ROGER McDONNELL	2784019	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
GEORGE CLARK	2412252	1947	09 01 1967	27 09 1967	
MICK HABBEN	3788307	1945	05 05 1967	20 12 1967	
ROSS GUNNELL	5714499	1945	05 05 1967	27 09 1967	
LEIGH BAKER	3789657	1945	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
ERNEST NEWBOLD	2783771	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
BILL WIGHT	39136	1945	12 01 1967	23 04 1968	
GREG GREEN	2784565	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
GEOFF HOLDEN	2785828	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
RIC. MARQUES	3790008	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
JOE CLENDINEN	17648	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
IAIN KENNEDY	3791023	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
MICK KING	216504	1948	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
JEFF REID	3790495	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
FRANK HALLIDAY	215105	1937	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	RAEME
DES SPENCER	3787905	1945	03 01 1967	13 12 1967	
JOHN McFADDEN	2783243	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
MURRAY SMALE	5411587	1948	27 11 1967	20 08 1968	
GRAHAME DIGNAM	2784745	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
GERALD YOUNG	311460	1926	{06 03 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
" "			{25 05 1967	22 06 1967	RAEME
PETER FUHRMANN	3789807	1946	21 06 1967	02 04 1968	
NICK ARMSTRONG	43316	1944	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
MICHAEL YOUNG	2786087	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
KEN WOODBINE	2786077	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
ROBERT KING	2785420	1946	11 06 1967	23 04 1968	
NICK PROSKURIN	2785002	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
BERT BLINK	3789692	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
ANTHONY EATON	17090	1941	14 01 1969	30 07 1969	Capt.
WARWICK BROOKER	1732289	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
ALLAN MACLEAN	32203	1928	24 05 1967	28 06 1967	RAEME
BRUCE IRVINE	2783695	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
KEITH WHITE	2783029	1945	17 04 1967	13 12 1967	AACC
IAN AMOS	2785676	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
EDMUND DOUST	53111	1939	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	

FREDERICK KRUI MINK	6708867	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
JOHN GREENAWAY	3790617	1946	24 10 1967	22 10 1968	
BRIAN HACKETT	2783449	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
STAN BRIGGS	1731999	1945	27 11 1967	17 09 1968	
BOB BRUCE	4718049	1945	11 06 1967	13 12 1967	
JOHN POLLOCK	53860	1939	{17 04 1967	24 05 1967	131
" "			{05 02 1971	07 04 1971	12 Fd REGT
JOHN VICKARY	1732218	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
STUART SPORN	4718471	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
MAX TROYNAR	3790244	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
KEN PIESLEY	2787174	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
GORDON MALCOLM	2785906	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
STEVE BOUTLIS	3787962	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
BARRY NUGENT	1411039	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
FRANK IPSA	3786657	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
JOHN BLAKE	1731550	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	
BARRY GUZDER	5714500	1945	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
BOB WILSON	3791425	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
BOB BILLIARDS	2785702	1946	12 09 1967	13 08 1968	
KEN McNAMARA	2783740	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
TERRY BRUCE	2783213	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
MIKE LUFF	2783725	1945	02 01 1967	27 09 1967	
PAUL DICKSON	1732012	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
TONY DODDS	16776	1944	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
WILLIAM THOMAS	16727	1944	{07 01 1967	19 03 1967	1ARU
" "			{20 03 1967	26 09 1967	
JOHN VITKOVSKY	4718271	1945	02 03 1967	12 03 1968	
TREVOR WAGHORN	52837	1936	05 05 1967	06 02 1968	
KEN LONG	2783232	1945	04 05 1967	28 10 1967	
ALLEN MORLEY	3788972	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
WARWICK HAMILTON	235190	1939	17 04 1967	12 02 1968	Capt.
MURRAY POUSTIE	3787941	1945	04 05 1967	14 08 1967	
FRED WALTER	342848	1943	11 05 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
RON SAUNDERS	38516	1947	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
PETER FLETCHER	2783429	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
TOM KING	1411018	1937	12 12 1966	12 12 1967	
TONY GOLDSMITH	1732029	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
JIM HOGNO	2783680	1945	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	
GEOFF BLACKWELL	4718307	1945	20 06 1967	21 05 1968	
BOB RETROT	1731922	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
RON EVANS	3789614	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
CHRIS BOULLY	4717884	1945	17 04 1967	12 12 1967	
LIONEL OUTEN	1732195	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	

...To continue on with the "Locate a Locator" project, here's a completely "out of the blue" email contact to us from John McGovern –

"Hi Paul,

John Stanford sent me an email about "Eyes and Ears", so that is how I got your email address.

My name is John McGovern and I am ex 4 RAR/NZ second tour. I am currently maintaining the Mortality Files for all Vietnam Veterans (www.amvif.info)

[AUSTRALIAN VIETNAM VETERANS MORTALITY LISTINGS](#)

This is not an official site of the Department of Defence This site is maintained by Ex Members of B Coy.4RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalion 2nd. Tour Counter for WordPress. www.amvif.info

After perusing your latest newsletter, I have discovered 2 items you may wish to attend to.

6708462 Michael Campbell died on 20/03/1988 aged 41

36026 John Perry died on 17/10/2016 aged 84

I hope this helps you out.

In return, would it be possible for you to include my email address to the send out for your magazine please?

It is whitepointer4b@hotmail.com

My website has a notification form which you can fill out and send if you are notified of any deaths of your members. Kind regards, John "Mac" McGovern"

Ed – This really got some emotions going as you'll see in **Vale** below where we've added 5 more names from this website. This is an amazing exercise by a bunch of very dedicated blokes. We responded and have placed John on our email list and in doing so we supplied him with a couple of names to add to his expansive list.

NB: If you get on the web site you'll find the Det starts on line 531.

However, it's not the way we want to necessarily Locate Locators, but it does bring closure to some degree.

Ernie Newbold – "G'day Paul.

I have a timely item that you may wish to include.

A long time ago, in late 1966, while we were stationed at Holsworthy **Capt. Warwick Hamilton** set a task for a group of young gunners to undertake in their own time, after work one day.

Capt. Hamilton wanted us to find out who **Saint Barbara** was. Remember that this was in the days before we had computers / internet / etc. so we set off to the local library in Liverpool after work to find the answer and to report in the following morning.

Attached are two images seen at the Artillery Museum in Puckapunyal when we were there in May.

Note the spelling of Barbara (Barbera) on the sign, Barbara seems to be the favoured spelling.

As Saint Barbara's Day is on the 4th December each year it might be an appropriate time to remember her in the *Eyes and Ears*.

You may notice the lightning bolt in the picture and story of Saint Barbara, this is represented on the Artillery Corps dress tie.

Here is a link to Wikipedia, in case you require further information:



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Barbara
Regards, Ernie."

Saint Barbera

Saint Barbera is one of the most well known of the class of military saints of the early Christian church. She is venerated by artillerymen all over the world.

Saint Barbera is generally believed to be the daughter of the Dioscurus, who lived near Nicomedia in Asia Minor (today Izmit, Turkey) in the third century AD. Legend tells us that Barbera converted to Christianity and Dioscurus, a heathen, denounced her and ordered her brutally tortured and killed by beheading in the year 235. After her death Dioscurus was immediately struck dead by a bolt of lightning. Veneration of her as a saint was common since the seventh century. She was later canonized by the Catholic Church and relics of mortal remains asserted to be those of St Barbera are currently housed in churches in Burnao, Italy and Kiev, Ukraine. Due to her reputed ability to draw lightning from heavens she began to be associated as the patron saint of most anything to do with military explosives around the 1400s when gunpowder found its way to Europe.

Saint Barbera today is the Catholic Patron saint of US Naval Aviation Or dance men (AO), artillerists, anti-aircraft gunners, ammunition magazines, ammunition workers, armourers, artillery, artillerymen, bomb technicians, and military engineers - specifically sappers and pioneers. The artillery arms of the Polish, Greek, Croatian, Spanish, Italian, British, Canadian, and Australian, most Latin American as well as many other refer to St Barbera as their patron. In many Latin militaries the magazine of a fort or warship is even referred to as a "Santabarbera" in the Spanish language in honour of the saint and images of her are often found in such places as icons.

. Bank Unravellings (if that's possible!) – accounts and interest from Ed...

My wife and I bank with one of the "Infamous" institutions and have done so for yonks. We have a couple of accounts, credit card etc.

Here's some info on the setup we had –

1. An every-day account to receive incomings (pension etc) and auto pay credit card/s etc. This account (for a better a word) pays no interest, but I suppose costs nothing to operate. We keep minimum dollars in it.

2. Another account which we keep funds transferred from the “every-day” job. This account pays some minimum amount of interest on the balance and a “loyalty” bonus which made it acceptable in this day and age.

Well, where am I leading to with this. It was earlier this month that I realised that the “loyalty” bonus ceased! On phoning the so-called “institution”, I was told that the bonus payments had ceased and how apologetic they were for not informing me! So, after some discussion with no real result I wished the bloke all the best for his life.

Anyway, not to be dissuaded I did some digging and found an account at the same said ‘Institution’ which caters to “Pensioners” (one of which I am) and in the main states DVA as a source!

So, here’s a brief word – the account has no fees and it will pay up to 1.70% interest in a convoluted way.

Then on further “surfing” (thought I’d use that term for Peter Fletcher) I discovered another “institution” that will pay up to 2.80% if you deposit your pension (min \$1,000) per month, take up an offer for a free of fees Visa debit card (can be used overseas with no fees). The account has a maximum of \$100K, but NO minimum amount.

It’s curious that there are some alternatives, but it does take some digging around.

Plus, I’ve had NO luck sourcing a “NO Annual” fee credit card and don’t even think about a “NO overseas Transaction” fee one either, though I think American Express may have something?

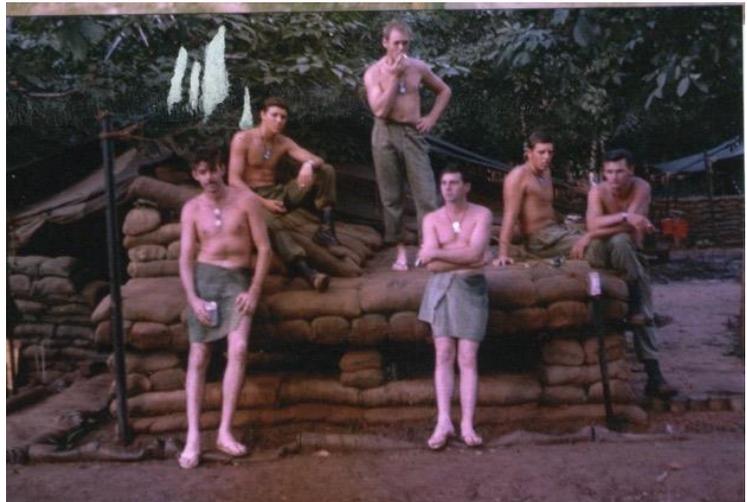
I just thought that this might be of some interest and would welcome any further feedback re: “discoveries”. **Paul/Ed**

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

This “classic” is retrieved from **Kevin Thornton’s** archives. It was only last month that we were talking about “showers” etc.

So, ok, who are these blokes in the group photo and where is it taken?

A couple of them are wearing some sort of strange dress mode and most “fagging” with a can close by.



From the Advocate’s Desk

Our professional Advocate’s contact details: -

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.



. **Bob Billiards** – sent in the following – no, it’s not counter to any Defence secret intelligence, but well worth the read to get one up on the RAAF!

20 STA helping out the RAAF

— AUSTRALIAN —
AVIATION

RAAF USING PHANTOM DRONE TO INSPECT C-17S



That's the "little job" there. I wonder if they get them from Amazon?

The RAAF's 36 Squadron is using the popular DJI Phantom 4 drone to conduct visual inspections of its C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft.

Using the consumer-level drone, which retails for around \$1,100, means 36SQN maintenance personnel can inspect hard-to-

access areas of the aircraft, including its 16.8-metre high vertical stabiliser, for paint and surface damage, without using elevated platforms or having to climb through the aircraft.

The RAAF's 36SQN operates eight Boeing C-17s from RAAF Base Amberley.

Every 180 days each C-17 undergoes a 'home station check', which includes an inspection of aircraft paint and surface damage. Using the drone for those inspections takes as little as 30-minutes.

"This helps the aircraft surface finishers to identify and track paint degradation on the upper surface of the C-17A, triage paint defects and plan remediation work," 36SQN senior engineering officer Squadron Leader Evan Smith said. Using the Phantom drone to capture high-resolution images and video also allows a history of the aircraft's paint and surface damage to be recorded.

"We're bedding down the procedures for these inspections, and will investigate expanding our use of the drone to include other upper surface inspections," SQNLDR Smith said.

"That includes flight servicing or other general unserviceabilities."

Also under investigation is the use of multi-spectral cameras including thermal imagery.

"This would potentially allow us to detect less obvious paint defects, where non-uniform emissivity results from changes in surface roughness," SQNLDR Smith said.

Commander Air Mobility Group Air Commodore William Kourelakos said introducing the Phantom drone was an example of "bottom-up" innovation from within 36SQN under the Air Force Safety Always Program.

"Introducing this drone and these procedures goes further to reducing workplace health and safety risks to so far as reasonably practicable," AIRCDRE Kourelakos said.

The Phantom was introduced into 36SQN service with the aid of Army's **20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment**.

"The Army has extensive experience using this particular model, and managing the information downloaded from it," SQNLDR Smith said.

"We manage the drone through a standalone laptop, and have been able to adapt Army's practices to suit our needs." AIRCDRE Kourelakos said Air Mobility Group is investigating using drones across other aircraft in the Air Mobility Group fleet.

Mail Call...

Kim McGrath –

"Hi Paul, yet another fine Newsletter.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Enoggera Reunion. I was bitterly disappointed however I have just returned from our (Australian Artillery Association) trip to New Zealand to attend the Royal New Zealand Artillery Association's annual reunion.

This year it was in Dunedin - the only part of NZ that we hadn't been to. **Graham Hampton** and I were given the honour of being made Honorary Members, a great surprise. A highlight for me of the trip was the firing of a 25 Pounder in the Octagon in Dunedin as part of a two gun 10 round salute to the end of WW1 and an anniversary of a local Artillery Regiment. Graham will probably have pictures of our trip up on the AAA website by now.

Next week we are off to Canberra to meet up with the Head of Regiment as we plan for the 2019 National Gunner Dinner (23/24 Aug 19) in Caloundra. Our forward planning is also addressing 2021 which will be a significant event as it will mark 150 years of Australian Artillery!!

Anyway, Paul I trust that this email finds you in the best of health and spirit.

Ubique, Kim"

Geoff Blackwell – “Grahame ‘Dig Dignam,

Give my regards to all the Officers and Committee members for a job well done again this year.

The Association continues to thrive and the communication is excellent.

Season’s greetings to all. 4718307 Geoff Blackwell”



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...

Ed – Let me start out with some sort of an apology, because I gave several of you are new “partner/wife or whatever” named “Maggie”! Well as it turns out I must have copied “Maggie” from Al Adams email, because I definitely know his wife is called that. So, I apologise en masse, but if you do know a “Maggie” please give her my best!

Phil Connor – “Hi Paul. How are you?

Thanks for sending the emails (and link to newsletter/s). Congratulations, the newsletter is very well done. I enjoy reading it and it is great to see an occasional (old) face, for example, Alan Harrison (Capt in our Unit).

When I lived in Sydney I would catch up with him at the Sydney March under the 130 Gun Loc Bty banner, although that is some time ago now. We have now been in QLD (Sunnies Coast) for some 10 yrs now.

I am not sure if I gave you my info background, although I was a NS I did not serve in Vietnam.

I am a member of the Maroochydore Sub-branch. Attend dawn ceremony at Cotton Tree, then march later on either at Maroochydore (Cotton Tree) or Buderim.

Some family history:

1. Alexander Douglas AULD Pvt, Great Grandfather (mother), KIA Oct 1917 (aged 40), 2nd battle Passchendaele. Buried-Buttes New British cemetery, Polygon Wood. His only child was my grandmother.

2. Gordon Andrew CONNOR Pvt, Grandfather (father), gassed 1916 – repat home.

3. Edward SYKES, Cpl, Grandfather (mother), WW1 1917 – 1918 and WW2 1942 – 1944.

4. Leonard Owen CONNOR, S/Sgt, Father, WW2, 1941 – 1946 New Guinea campaign and other areas in Pacific. After cessation of hostilities sent in 1946 to Liverpool NSW to guard Italian POWs before demob.

5. Dorothea May SYKES, Mother, WRAN was at base (onshore) at HMAS Kuttabul when Jap midget sub sank training vessel (ferry) in Sydney Harbour with loss of life.

6. Phillip Owen CONNOR – as above.

7. Matthew Phillip CONNOR, Son, Capt – USA Army Reserve Medical Unit. Lives and married in America and works in medical field, Neurosurgery and Spinal surgery.

I know I have raved on a bit, Paul, but I am very proud of my military ancestry.

UBIQUE, Phil Connor.”

Chris Chapple – “Hi Paul. I am pretty busy these days and recovering from the odd health issue. Dr told me yesterday now all good and will be back to normal in a couple of months which I am looking forward to. I have a yacht in a pen waiting for my return.

Wife Marg passed away in March, cancer.

Keep up the good work!! Chris”

Mike Butler – “Hi Paul. Thanks for the note.

The trip to Africa sounds great. Michelle and I have confined our wandering to Australia this year as we have a new granddaughter born in March (Sophie). Took the caravan to Mallacoota in April and attended ANZAC ceremonies which you included in *Eyes and Ears* (thank you again). Then did a couple of small trips in Victoria.

Got together with the usual troops in Swan Hill over the past week. You should get an article and photos from **Rieny Nieuwenhof** to include in *Eyes and Ears*. Others attending (all from 70/71) were **Peter Saint, Les Falkai, John Jaggard and Joe Molenkamp** (with wives). But wait for the note from Rieny before you put anything in *Eyes and Ears* if that's OK with you.

My health is pretty good - no major issues - hope you are the same.

Good to hear from you. Cheers, Mike Butler”

Ian Amos – “Hi Paul. I was at the gym last week and one of the instructors asked me how was Pam. And then the question you ask me what's new with me and Maggie. If my wife Sue finds out about Pam and Maggie I'll be in big trouble. Seriously though, I guess you both have me confused with other people.

What's happening with me at the moment? Not a great deal worth mentioning although I am looking forward to Christmas when my two O/S resident children will be visiting Oz. No major trips planned but I am hoping to organise trips to Singapore and New Zealand to visit said children next year.

Still trying to keep fit with regular walking and gym classes. Unfortunately, I have had to abandon my short and inglorious triathlon career due to arthritis preventing me from swimming without considerable discomfort and poor eyesight making it unsafe to ride my bike, particularly after landing on the road a couple of times recently. Such is life. I don't have much to complain about medically compared to other 131ers, some of whom appear to be doing it tough. The photos in E&E of your trip to Africa are fantastic. Obviously from your enthusiastic description an amazing experience. Everyone I know who has been there has the same reaction. Anyway, Paul Feliz Navidad to you and your wife and all the best for 2019. I look forward to many more editions of *Eyes & Ears*. Ian"

Warwick "Brookey" Brooker – "G'day Dicko. Yes, it's hard to believe it's three months since we touched base. It's not so hard to believe that nothing much of note has happened in my world during that time. I'm pleased to hear of your adventures and that you didn't kill any protected wildlife! It all sounds very exciting. Thanks for sharing it.

As I said, nothing really exciting on here, but I'll mention a nearby bushfire (about 8km from our suburb) that has had the whole of Tuggeranong Valley on 'Watch and Act' alert. The fire was ignited by one of a series of car thefts. It seems the latest craze for some dimwits in Canberra is to steal a car and set it alight. They lit this one up in bushland to our west. After some very challenging days in difficult terrain, twenty-three fire crews, six water-bombing choppers, a LAT (Large Aeroplane Tanker) dropping retardant over the site, three dozers and two graders finally brought the fire under control. Ground crews are still patrolling the area extinguishing hotspots detected by a helicopter-mounted Forward Looking Infrared Radar camera.

Centenary Remembrance Day tomorrow.

Thank you for your service!

All the best to you and Helen, Brookey. PS. Please don't tell Nancy about 'Maggie'! 😊"

Ed...now here's the proof I've my lack of computer skills – Brookey returned this to me with his wife's name in red...

"From: Paul Dickson <131eyesandears@gmail.com> **Sent:** Wednesday, 7 November 2018 2:59 PM **To:** Warwick Brooker **Subject:** Just catching up to say g'day...

Brookey,

Well, where did the last 3 months get to? So, I thought was about time to say g'day again and find out what's news with you and **Maggie Nancy?**"

John Bayford - "Hi Paul. If we do catch up at some point don't mention Maggie's name to Annette.

After returning from Port Douglas we went on tour for 14 days in China. What an eye opener that was. The speed of development is really staggering. The schedule was quite demanding as we were out early in the day and it was non-stop all day. The accommodation was quite good and the people very friendly although a little standoffish. Some of the highlights were the Shaolin Temple and the Kung Fu training camp which has 30,000 students over 3 campuses, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. The tour operator was Tripadeal and you have probably seen their ads in the papers; great value.

We are back home and back to the golf and all the really interesting people that are our neighbours and fellow club members.

Great to hear from you and have a great festive season. John"

Peter Meaney – "Hi Paul. Since last corresponding with you, we have had two awful family tragedies.

In June this year, my youngest sister Trish lost her husband of 45 years, to a heart attack.

Greg was a career soldier and retired a Brigadier. Funeral was held at Duntroon Chapel.

In the evening of the funeral, I had to tell Trish that our daughter Sarah was terminally ill with liver cancer. Sarah subsequently died on 15 July which was unbelievably sad,

and it was very sudden, so a real shock. (Sarah was 43 and never had children)

We are slowly getting our lives back together, and have been offered counselling.

My wife and I travelled to Brisbane in October for the Radar dedication at Enoggera, which was a very impressive event. It was good to catch up with **Peter Bremner, Peter Pioro, Dave Dodd, TC White, Derek Hinde, Ian Brignell, and Joe Losiak.**

We were unable to attend the activities Saturday night and Sunday due to other commitments.

Health wise I am chugging along nicely, so hope that continues. Have recovered well from hip replacement last January.

Regards, Peter Meaney."

Pete Fletcher – "Hi Paul. Nice to hear from you. All is well with Venice and I.

It's pleasing to hear you survived your trip to Africa. Venice went to St Africa with a girlfriend in 2016. I stayed home. I can view the wild animals from my lounge room on tv with greater safety.

We have booked a trip to Canada and Alaska doing the Rocky Mountain train trip and then the cruise to Alaska 18 days. We are looking forward to it.

My eldest son Adam, has just been promoted to Warrant Officer in the RAAF. His wife Kim, is a RAAF flight Sgt. I have a nephew in the Army, he is a crunchie also a niece who is a captain in the Army.

My father was Lt in the Army in Darwin in WW2 as was my mother who was a nursing sister. So the tradition of military involvement of my family continues on. Venice calls us the 'Fighting Fletchers', not that I did much fighting whilst in Vietnam. I was glad to get out of the place. All the best for Xmas. Stay well my friend. Pete.
PS - It's good to hear that Brian Hackett and Ken McNamara are recovering well from their illnesses."

Kevin Browning "Hi Paul. Your African Safari sounds fantastic and can only imagine what the great migration experience would be like having been amazed over a number of years when films of the event are shown. All is well with Lynne and myself, although your mentioning other women's name might get me into trouble. 2018 has been a difficult year with a number of family issues but life goes on.

Arrived home this morning from a cruise where all we had to do was eat, sleep and be entertained. Would you believe it but it was an Elvis Cruise and we were entertained with 13 shows with some really top class entertainers. We were at sea for Armistice Day and a special well attended service was held to commemorate the event. It would be the last place I would have expected to be some four years ago.



I continue to work on the Artillery Register and am nearing a satisfaction point. I say satisfaction rather than the end as we know there will be new ones to find. Have been doing this for several years and on a number of occasions struck support from ex Det 131 members. The work would not be possible without the assistance of locals and organisations as it is physically impossible to visit every site.

In fact, maybe some of the Nomads out there can look out for old artillery pieces in their travels and let us know about them, a photo is always welcome.

The task involves a lot of work but it is satisfying, especially when it results in a piece being restored or finding ones of particular interest. Have also been able to provide many councils with historic details on the guns they have/had. Amongst the guns 'found' is one that was captured during the Battle of Hamel. Have found a photo of the gun on a parade held a week after the battle and the battle damage to the gun can be confirmed when you compare it with the gun today. Burra in South Australia had two guns allotted to it following WW1. One was transferred to the Army Museum in South Australia in very poor condition. The Council recovered it last year and contacted us to seek information on the gun.



They have restored it and returned it to its original place in the town. It was unveiled on the 11th and today I received some photos of the gun today. Copy of one is attached as well as one of it when in the Museum.

Keep up the good work, Regards, Kevin"

John Dicks - "Paul, life goes on quietly. In the last 12 months, we have made several trips to Camden NSW for grandchildren's birthdays and had the pleasure of their company last Christmas. This year it is our turn to visit them. We have managed to get away for several 4-5-day camping trips locally this year and are thinking of the same next year plus possibly a longer adventure.

Early in the year I was asked to assist my old Army Cadet Unit with their Q store. This kept me busy for the first school term and I am now back helping to finish off the year.

All the best for Christmas and the New Year. John."

Ken Foster – "All fairly quite here, waiting for results of three government enquiries into DVA /Defence operations that will probably have an effect on services, they are all due in the next 2 months.

Remembrance Day services went off without a hitch or drama and things are starting to slow down, a bit, as we wind up to Christmas, a chance to recharge the batteries.

Your trips sound like a real adventure, outside the normal comfort zone?

Stay well, Ken Foster"

Tim Ford – "Hi Paul, thanks for the update. I've been busy also with a trip to England and Jersey in October to catch up with various friends, continuing to "close down" the Australian Peacekeeping memorial Project and various RAAHC matters. We just had the final "Firepower Seminar" in our RAAHC series which went very well. I hope you are getting your updates on RAAHC issues via "airburst" and the RAAHC website (see [here](#)). Thanks again for your continued support to Gunner heritage through *Eyes and Ears*.

Where about Overseas are you actually living now?

Ubique, Tim"

John Blake – "Paul. I am a very good procrastinator as you have probably noticed. I very much appreciate your efforts at keeping stuff rolling.

I haven't been doing much 131-ish, missing out on a few functions over the past year. I hope to be more on top of that as I accept retirement. I went to the Enoggera show this year. While I enjoyed it and my wife, Kirsty, got to handle the tricky new training rifle, we were not given as good access to equipment as in the past when we could touch, taste and smell the stuff. We did get to see some of the overhead equipment from a distance but I prefer to be immersed in it. At that time, I think we were lucky to have come as close as that with immediate operative requirements limiting our access. Next time. Oh, I attended the local Armistice Day event at Moggill. Very simple affair and out of the way in just a few minutes. I would have rather been to the Brisbane City one but that was closed for refurbishment supposedly in preparation for the event but we were warned not to be there. Really poor organisation. (Here I go whingeing again.) My intellect has been stretched a bit this year with some choir functions and trying to learn or rather re-learn some of my Japanese writing. I have no idea what I'm reading but it sounds a bit like Japanese so that will do me the moment. I guess that as time goes on a bit of it will stick. I would love to have a Japanese speaker to work with me all but I tend to be too shy; afraid of making mistakes. When I was at uni I did a couple of semesters of conversational Japanese, just scraping through. I am hoping that next semester I will be able to enrol in cheap or even free classes through the University of the Third Age.

I've been back to walking and riding a bike bit. Monday and Friday, I meet up with some friends and walk up from Chapel Hill to Mt Coot-tha for coffee and a bit of brekkie then later in the day off to the gym. Just trying to keep things ticking over: you know how it goes.

Unfortunately, nothing in the way of photos. Whenever my Sony phone gets hot after carrying it in my pocket, it decides not to take piccies so I have missed out on a lot of opportunities. Any pictures I take you to be well-planned. Well Dicko look after yourself and hopefully catch up next round. John B"

Allan Adams – "Hi Paul. Eventually found time to say hello, just got back from morning golf. I usually play once a week but have also playing every couple of months with old school friends - (in fact we go back to kindergarten days). The golf isn't improving but there is always next week.

We have been busy over the last couple of months, Hugh and James had their house on the market so we spent a lot of time to bring it up to scratch. They were pleased with the result.

Hugh and his partner Cle-Ann have had their baby a few weeks ago (Olive) and now have 2 girls. Maggie and I have been helping out to give them some free time.

Most weeks we also help with Kirsten's 2 boys, pick up after school and take to soccer practice. This year has been tight for free time but we did manage to get up to the NSW coast for a couple of weeks, which was good to get away. I'm still doing some design work, I've had a couple of big projects on the go and another to finish. I don't look for work, only if someone contacts me, then only if it suits me. It keeps the brain active.

It sounds if life is good to you with your travels, why not if you have the opportunity.

Hope all is well at your end. Cheers, Al"

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>

131 Locators Association Inc



President's Report for FY 2017 – 2018

Herewith the President's Report for the financial year 2017-2018. This period represents our seventh full-year of operation and overall shows a continuing growth in most aspects of the Association's activities. The Association remains financial, viable and, sustainable for the foreseeable future as the financial report illustrates. The ageing of our members remains as our limiting factor. Many of the early Nashos have celebrated their 73rd birthdays and others will do so within a year or two of this meeting. Contact with those who served in the Detachment and those who served at Holsworthy remains incomplete, although there has been some success with new contacts in the past year.

The Association website, www.131locators.org.au continues to provide both a web presence and a defined identity. During the reporting period, external access to the website has grown quite significantly. Bob Billiards has continued as our Webmaster, providing an essential role in doing so. Thank you, Bob.

The site statistics are regularly reported in *Eyes and Ears* and demonstrate the ongoing interest in our activities. The international list of countries where searches of each *Eyes and Ears* edition are made represents an international scattering.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial overview of Paul Dickson, appears monthly, and still delivers editions of 18-20 pages. I believe that the size and frequency together 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 2018 edition was the 118th in the new series.

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

Highlights for 2017-2018 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
- . An excellent turnout of 131 Veterans for the unveiling of an AN/KPQ-1 radar at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island, Victoria
- . The Tellurometer that accompanied the Radar to Philip Island now has an appropriate tripod for its display production and publication of ten locator profiles; we need more to be submitted to assist our recording of 131 history
- . At the end of June 2018 there were 169 members of the Association, which represents a slow, but still meaningful growth. There was a significant number of lapsed memberships included in this total.
- . Regular Committee meetings to manage the Association and the involvement of Regional Representatives to help spread the load

. National Anzac Day march attendances and social follow up in each State
. New 131 Locators Association banners, designed by Nick Proskurin, were printed and displayed at 131 events and meetings

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

Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary, has been the 'adhesive' for the Association's financial arrangements, records and operation of the membership database. Ernie Newbold, Nick Proskurin other Committee Members – Vic Danko (Public Officer), Ian Amos, George Lane 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 a Committee member), Al Adams (Vic), Geoff Blackwell (SA), Barry Guzder (WA), Stuart Sporn (NT), Terry Erbs (QLD) and forward scouts in rural Victoria, Ron Mason and Rieny Nieuwenhof, for their collective contribution. A note of appreciation to our Honorary Auditor, Jim Fitzgerald, for again keeping us on the financial straight and narrow.

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

Allen Morley
November 2018

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 11th December, 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, 13th November, 2018 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Ernest Newbold, Grahame Dignam, Merv Nairn, Bert Blink, Allen Morley, George Lane, Nick Proskurin, Gordon Malcolm and Ian Amos.

President Allen Morley welcomed those who had travelled to be with us to-day.

The Election of office-bearers for the 2018/19 year. Allen Morley declared all positions vacant and election proceeded.

The Chair was handed to Grahame Dignam during this portion of the meeting.

Nominations for the positions of President (Allen Morley), Vice President (Bert Blink), Public Officer and Secretary/Treasurer (G Dignam) were received and as all were prepared to stand again and were unopposed were duly elected for the new term.

The committee namely George Lane, Ged Carroll, Ian Amos, Bob Billiards, Ern Newbold and Nick Proskurin also elected to run again as a group and also being unopposed were duly elected for the new term.

The chair of the meeting was passed back to the new President-elect Allen Morley for the balance of the meeting.

The regional Representatives who were appointed and are not elected and so continue in their roles.

President-elect Allen Morley expressed his appreciation to Paul Dickson especially, for his continued efforts in publishing the *Eyes & Ears* regularly. Mr. Morley also expressed his appreciation for the committee who actively assisted during the year

Appointment of Auditor - Jim Fitzgerald has indicated that he would be available to act as Auditor for the Association for the 2018/2019 financial year.

Moved Grahame Dignam Seconded Bert Blink Against Nil Accepted Jim Fitzgerald was duly appointed.

Financial Membership is currently ...We have issued forms to 2 new prospective members and have received renewals request from 1 lapsed member.

Financial Membership is currently ...117 plus Associates...2 plus Affiliates...9 Total... 128

Plus Lapsed as at 2018...38 members Deceased...7 Members

New member - Tony Turner – "G'day Grahame, just read the recent *Eyes and Ears* and decided to become financial. Could you please send me the relevant form/s? Cheers, Tony Turner"

Presidents report.

Allen advised that he and the Sec/Treas G Dignam, attended the Qld reunion over the 13-15th October and also attended a meeting on Saturday 14th to determine "a way forward" for the various Artillery associations – LSTAA SEQ LSTAA new and 131 Locators Association Inc.

The meeting was chaired by Maj Russell Hamsey who is President designated of the SEQ association. The meeting covered a lot of ground and sought to acquire information to allow that association to draw up a plan to bring all



parties together under the one umbrella. It also sought to accommodate and integrate the current serving personnel and emphasise to them the worth of the Association to members later in life when membership of the association would be most valuable.

The position of the 131 Locators Association Inc hasn't changed since the conversation we had with the LSTAA NSW President Joe Kaplun some time ago. As we have a strong membership, are financial and have the website and the *Eyes & Ears*, we don't propose to cede these advantages to anybody in the short term.

Presidential perambulations

Yesterday was so called 'Black Friday', where bargains were there for the asking. So were scams. It is interesting how local retailers jump onto American ideas as if they were their own.

Around the end of October, the Aussie kids have picked up on Halloween, with the name derived from the term 'All Hallows' Eve or similar. Despite the many local claims/criticisms at that time that we are just Americanising another event, the festival in fact has Celtic origins. Must have been all those Irish who emigrated to the US as a result of the potato famine in Ireland.

The catchphrase is Trick or Treat, although tricks seem to be in the minority, if they still exist. Chocolates and other good edibles are what the kids look for.

And now Christmas is just around the corner timewise. Christmas in the 21st century is both a sacred religious holiday but especially a worldwide cultural and commercial phenomenon. Historically, before Christ's birth, it celebrated the winter solstice and new life.

So, all that money you are going to spend on family, especially grandkids for our cohort, and friend, colleagues and the postman for Christmas gifts has a long history. And the fat fellow in the red suit has definite and a more recent commercial heritage. The red suit is attributed to the work of Thomas Nast for the US *Harper's Weekly* magazine. It is opportune to wish all our readers a Merry Christmas, enjoyable festivities and a healthy as possible new year. Best wishes, Allen Morley

Public Officer Report.

There are no changes or developments that will have any effect on the association that I am aware of.

General Business.

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . On-going arrangements re Jim Menz Book prize prior to payment of 2018 instalment of \$200
- . Design and appearance of "new Veterans Card"
- . Renewal of Association Term Deposit due shortly
- . Add website links to support of searches for information for family histories as per Ministerial Media release on 7 November 2018.
- . Sec/Treasurer G Dignam proposed that he forsake the re-imbusement of \$340 of 2017/18 costs in lieu of taking possession of the ASUS laptop computer purchased in 2011 and since been depreciated to nil. The proposal was accepted by the committee as the newer HP laptop is a better machine and was purchased in May 2016.

. web Performance...

Bob Billiards supplies a larger more detailed verison of our web site activity, but thought I'd extract the following section for curious interest – it shows "hit" activity from various countries (October, 2018). Much to the Committees amusement is the activity from Mexico and then of course the question is raised is to what are the "Ruskies" up to? The list below has been cropped to show the major "hitters".

Locales			
Locales		Pages	Hits
Australia	au	4,684	20,655
Mexico	mx	465	630
United States	us	316	652
Russian Federation	ru	216	241
France	fr	164	169
China	cn	138	274
South Korea	kr	49	63
Ukraine	ua	39	39
Germany	de	33	79
Hungary	hu	32	32
Great Britain	gb	22	87
India	in	20	116
Canada	ca	13	42

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...December –

Date	Name	Regt No	YOB	Svn In	SVN Out	Comments
1	DAVID DOUGHERTY	2786594	1946	17 01 1968	04 02 1969	
1	KEVEN BUSH	3792069	1946	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
1	NEVILLE SMITH	1734352	1946	01 07 1969	25 03 1970	
3	RAYMOND MINNS	4410744	1941	20 05 1966	28 02 1967	† 24.05.97
3	CLIVE DREIS	2785766	1945	05 02 1968	03 12 1968	
6	ALAN ROBB	5715343	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
7	ANTHONY O'MARA	38334	1940	15 03 1968	18 03 1969	RAEME † 01.01.85
7	TERRY WESTERWAY	215818	1945	04 05 1966	07 05 1967	
8	ROBERT WHITE	311537	1937	22 04 1966	16 05 1967	† 1992
9	ANDREW OPIE 2Lt.	43611	1944	04 05 1966	06 01 1967	
10	HANS WEBER	3789591	1945	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	† 12.07.16
12	MICHAEL DAVIS	4720736	1948	20 01 1970	30 01 1971	
12	CHRISTOPHER BRAZIER	2792185	1948	24 02 1970	25 02 1971	
13	JOHN STANFORD	217765	1949	29 01 1969	21 01 1970	
13	LAURENCE D'ARCY	215649	1945	04 03 1968	04 02 1969	12 Fd Regt.
13	" "	215649	1945	20 05 1971	05 08 1971	131
14	PETER FLETCHER	2783429	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
14	CHRISTOPHER SELF	66981	1949	1969	1970	† UNKNOWN
14	THOMAS KING	1411018	1937	12 12 1966	12 12 1967	
15	GEOFFREY PRICE	5715931	1947	08 05 1969	25 02 1970	
16	PHILLIP PERRIN Capt.	53105	1936	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
17	TONY GOLDSMITH	1732029	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
18	JIM HOGNO	2783680	1945	03 01 1967	27 09 1967	
18	TOM CHECKLEY	311534	1938	22 04 1966	05 08 1966	† 05.08.66 KBA
19	GEOFF BLACKWELL	4718307	1945	20 06 1967	21 05 1968	
19	PETER GAULT	2783644	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	† 24.05.14
19	RODNEY BEASLEY	3797746	1948	04 03 1971	05 08 1971	† Unknown
19	MICHAEL FERRIS	1733794	1945	23 12 1968	28 03 1969	1st Armoured Regt.
	" "			30 03 1969	03 12 1969	131-RAEME
21	ROBERT RETROT	1731922	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
21	MICHAEL BOYLE Lt.	217004	1946	17 02 1970	11 02 1971	
21	BLAIR SHEPPARD	1735563	1948	01 04 1970	04 03 1971	
22	JOHN McGREGOR	3787376	1945	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
22	MICHAEL BURGESS Capt.	242895	1938	24 03 1968	26 03 1969	RAEME
22	PETER MEANEY	4719804	1947	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
22	RONALD RYAN	2793176	1948	19 08 1970	09 06 1971	
24	RON. EVANS	3789614	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
25	STEWART McALPINE	2787471	1946	08 07 1968	04 06 1969	
25	ROBERT HOLDSWORTH	3793058	1945	04 01 1969	03 12 1969	AACC
25	PETER BREMNER	1734544	1947	16 04 1969	16 04 1970	
26	CHRIS BOULLY	4717884	1945	17 04 1967	12 12 1967	
26	DAVID BILLINGS	2793071	1946	19 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
28	GEOF. MACAULAY WO2	35753	1936	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	† 27.04.13
28	LIONEL OUTEN	1732195	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
28	JOHN MARTIN Lt.	43613	1941	25 02 1968	21 02 1969	
29	BRIAN HAWKEY	1200572	1946	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	AACC
29	FRED LENNON Sgt.	29712	1927	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 25.07.13

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

Ed – 9 blokes not highlighted is looking limp! Ok, somebody must a have a clue to one or two of the blokes!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **158** and we've sent out **155**. Ed – where still itching to crack 160 for starters!

. **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. The following Vale is not the way we need to find "Locateds" – it's too late.

. **Vale** – It is with sadness that the following names have to be added. It was earlier this month that we were sent a link to an extremely comprehensive web site (<http://www.amvif.info/>), via one of their members – **John McGovern** who is an ex 4 RAR/NZ second tour and is currently maintaining the Mortality Files for all Vietnam veterans for this website – see earlier in this edition. It is an amazing exercise and well worth the visit.

Name	Rank	Service No	SVN	DOB	DOD
Arch, Maurice Leonard	Bdr	43350	1967	17.09.37	26.08.17
Aurisch, Raymond Arthur	T/Bdr	2212243	1969-70	26.03.44	25.03.70
Beasley, Rodney James	Gnr	3797746	1971	19.12.48	Unknown
Holmes, William John	SSGT	61040	1969	09.02.37	Unknown
Leslie, Graeme Benjamin John	Capt	18614	69-70	11.01.42	Unknown

...and later we were informed by **Kim McGrath** and confirmed by **Kevin Maker** that **Les Bates** passed a couple of years back ...

Bates, Leslie John Gnr 218053 1969-70 20.11.50 Unknown



Kevin Maker and Les Bates in SVN

May They Rest in Peace



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>



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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