

# THE EYES and EARS

"FIRST PUBLISHED 22nd JULY 1967 in Nui Dat, South Vietnam".

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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

2021 – 55 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971



LEST WE FORGET 🌿🌸

The Digger at Taree, still standing guard at his post.  
No flood will deter him from his duty - 23 Mar 2021

# ANZAC Day 2021

**Last year marked a time of changes. This year the strength remains.**  
The following photos and text have been recorded as at the time they were received or for that matter posted on Facebook -

. **Iain Kennedy (Waverley, Mel, Vic)** – posted the following on Facebook and I've taken the liberty to post it here (for those non-Facebookers) to start our 131 Anzac Day photos and stories –  
“Today's local Glen Waverley RSL March and service. I'm not going to main March due to covid-19. So, supporting local community. Next Sunday they have a Dawn service and will attend that.”



There was a video of the band and parade marching which was really stirring.

**Rieny Nieuwenhof (Port Arlington, Vic)** – (cut and pasted from the Assoc's Facebook) - Tribute to those who served their nation in Vietnam 1962-1972 at the Portarlington Dawn service.

...some additional information from Rieny -

“Hi Paul,

Just a brief report of events in Geelong on ANZAC Day  
ANZAC began with the Dawn Service at Portarlington with a crowd around 1500. Later we had the march through the main street of Geelong. Then we laid wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. We also had our reps at the ANZAC Football Match of the Day for their pre-game service and later with the presentation of ANZAC Medals to the best on court (netball) and best on ground (football). There were other services in our region at which a Vietnam veteran laid a wreath on behalf of the Association - Queenscliff, Ocean Grove, Torquay, Inverleigh, Lara, Anglesea, Portarlington and Leopold.

Meanwhile the rest of us adjourned to the City of Geelong Bowling Club for lunch for veterans and families, there were around 100 in attendance.

Overall the local RSLs had a good turn up, while the main Geelong RSL was down on numbers. The decision to fence off the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne and limit attendance was not well received by the veteran community, especially considering that 80,000 attended the AFL football ANZAC match. We blame the Vic RSL and the Shrine... not happy Jan!!

Rieny Nieuwenhof

Geelong Vietnam Veterans”

...then here are Rieny's photos -





Various wreath laying locations, parades and a well-deserved lunch.

**Mike Butler (Blackburn, Mel, Vic) – “Hi Paul**

As mentioned in my previous note the numbers of veterans marching in Melbourne was well down this year due to balloting, Covid etc. A lot seemed to attend local dawn services which I did myself. I went to the local **Blackburn** dawn service - the organisers expected around 50 people but I estimate there was close to 500!! It was a very good service with lots of young folk attending which was good to see. Attached is a photo of my goodself taken by wife. Cheers, Mike Butler.



**ANZAC Day (Sydney)...**

**Bob King** in his usual style grabbed a great photo before the march capturing the past Governor General of Australia, General Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, CVO, MC who had dropped by for a g'day – he's younger than most of us! With him from left to right – Greg Green, Allen Morley then on the right Grahame Dignam. **A great photo Bob.**





...the photo at left is a TV screen shot (via Mexico) of the Sydney march via the ABC live broadcast—couldn't get a close up.



Also, a special thanks to Brendon Joubert and Sarah Mackin from Intelligence corps training were stalwart banner carriers.





Bob Billiards, Ernie Newbold, Grahame Dignam, Merv Nairn, Ged Carroll, Ross Baker (LSTAA), Allen Morley, Greg Green, Jim Fitzgerald and Bob King.

Former 131 soldiers lined up behind the Detachment banner to the tune of Wright Cyclone engines of a Caribou flying overhead.

Our numbers were down, probably due to Covid fallout. Nevertheless, the enthusiasm to represent our cohort was tangible.

As we prepared our banner, former Vietnam veteran and past Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove wandered by and engaged with us in a brief conversation (see prior photo).

The sun shone from a blue sky. The crowds were reduced compared with past years, but their applause was, as always, very sincere.

Because of the light rail tracks now in George St, we no longer march (stroll?) past the Cenotaph but straight down Elizabeth St for an overall shorter route.

Following the march the group dispersed with the majority heading for our usual venue, Zest restaurant.

Over a meal the tall tales, reminiscences and new stories crossed the table. After a relaxed lunch, we said our goodbyes and headed for home.

Thanks to Bob King (67-68) for the great photos.

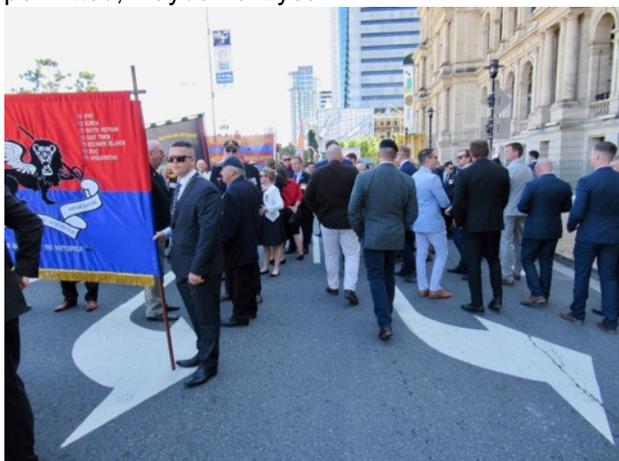
Allen Morley

### Terry Erbs (Brisbane) –

Brisbane's ANZAC Day 2021 march was near normal, unlike other cities, far better the initial plan of marching only the association banners around the RNA showgrounds!

For months prior, the ANZAC March committee had been forced to continually update their program as new Queensland Health Covid-19 directives were issued. Thankfully in the final week the March committee only had to direct all Association's to maintain a list of marchers.

I understand that 20th Regiment did conduct the traditional Dawn Service at their memorial wall but visitors were not permitted, maybe next year.



The LSTAA banner arrived in William St outside the Treasury Casino at 9.30am and was the rallying point for Locators to meet up. Consequently, until step off at 11am, we were able to chat with mates, some of whom I hadn't seen for the past two years [blame the pandemic!]



When I first arrived, the crowd numbers appeared to be slightly down but when we marched down George St into Adelaide St, past King George Square and ANZAC Square, the numbers had swelled, filling the footpaths and vantage points. Luckily, we marched behind the excellent Brisbane Boy's College pipe band, at slow Scottish pace to the steady beat of the drums. Reviewing the TV coverage, all Locators

appeared to be in step and looked very smart!!! We should request to follow the same band next year, was just our pace! However, despite providing a brief history about Locators, sadly the ABC commentators used little [I even provided a photo of banner to help!].



Falling out in Queens St, we then moved onto the GPO steps for the obligatory group photo.



Then It was reasonable walk down Edward St to the Port Office Hotel, 2 blocks further on from our usual hotel, the Stock Exchange [closed because of the pandemic and is being renovated].

Although RAEME also held a reunion at the Port Office Hotel, we were able to spread from the Clancy Room out into the general bar area and enjoy a few beers in very comfortable surrounds.



We ordered several large platters of finger food to share with family & friends, supplemented by the obligatory baskets of chips - good fare to go with welcome drinks. The number Vietnam veterans marching continues to dwindle, but those there enjoyed a few drinks and mingled easily with the younger folk, and we were impressed by their dress and behaviour.

Watching the AFL televised game, with 80,000 crowd at the MCG, many commented about the Melbourne ANZAC Day march restrictions. I hope next year, after we've all been vaccinated, life will return to near normal but not sure if international travel will have.

**Bert Blink (Canberra)** – “Hi Paul

The march was held with greatly reduced numbers and in many cases the units only presence was their banner. You had to register to attend so my family decided on a small change to last year and went to the Club for lunch plus one other veteran who wanted to join us. So a quiet day. Bert.”

**Warwick Brooker** – “My silent vigil (5:30-6:00am) on our suburban street is attached. Temperature was zero and, according to the BoM, apparent temp was - 2c.

I attended the National Service at the AWM via TV and enjoyed lunch and the afternoon with Tuggeranong Valley RSL Sub-Branch members, families and invited guests at our Local Vikings Club (Rugby), which contributed significantly to the event. In fact, I think all four Vikings clubs in Tuggeranong Valley put something on for veterans yesterday afternoon. (We don't have RSL social clubs in the ACT, but other clubs have been generous.) Brooker”



**Steve Wynn (Wauchope, NSW)** – “Hi Paul,

I have attached some pics from our march, and Cenotaph, at Wauchope NSW, you may wish to use a pic for *E&E*. I estimate by ceremony time there was more than 1000 people lining the street around the cenotaph, with a town population around 6000, and Covid.

I eventually got a letter from DoD re my military service, so I sent it to DVA for registering with them, I received a very nice lapel pin, a thank you letter from Oz govt and "Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant" piece of fancy paper, by return mail, fair dinkum.

Hope you all are OK and staying safe, insanity still reigns in Oz.

Cheers,  
Steve Wynn”



**Geoff Blackwell (South Aus.)** - Anzac Day dawn service at **Angaston, Barossa Valley**. It wasn't an official event, just organised by the village townsfolk, because of the uncertainty of the local RSL programs.

It was quite a success with several hundred-people turning out on a pleasant autumn morning.

There may be repercussions from the authorities, but for a guerrilla event it was a humdinger.

Geoff.

p.s. -There seems to be an emerging trend here in South Aus of the Anzac commemorations being organised by groups other than the service organisations. Seems to me a nice way to let the old vets have a stress-free day, especially those who are on RSL committees, etc.

The amount of young people turning out is amazing. Geoff”



**Keith Dean (Newcastle, NSW)** – “Had Anzac Day in our driveway with our friends and neighbours followed by breakfast. All of the kids did a reading and lowered our flag. A great day with great memories. Keith.”

**Paul Dickson (San Miguel de Allende, Mex)** –



Sunrise on the back deck of our place.

## May we remain strong.

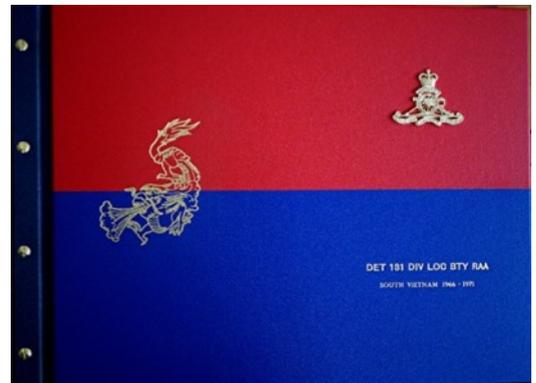
### . The “Lost Locator Project”



**Ed** – The Project continues on relentlessly so, we need to be vigilant and keep our minds active as who knows who, where and how we might stumble on, discover someone etc be it by accident but even more so by design. Paul

Get in touch via [131eyesandears@gmail.com](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)

. The “**Detachment Album Project**” – This project is sponsored by the 131 Locators Association and is in need of some photographic and by-line input from our members/Readers.



### . Insights and Recollections...

This topic/s have raised so much interest – we’re still in the middle of some really great discoveries with some remarkable memories being brought to life.

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](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)

### . Vaccinated – it’s happening...

**Nick Armstrong** –

“Hello Paul,

I received my first ‘Astra Zeneca’ inoculation two weeks ago (17<sup>th</sup> March). There were no side effects other than a certain drowsiness about 12 hours after the injection. I recall a similar drowsiness after an influenza and pneumonia vaccination last year. My elevation up the priority list was courtesy of being a member of the SA Country Fire Service and therefore, an essential service.

I hope all is well with you. Cheers, Nick”

**Paul Dickson** – I got my second Pfizer on 20<sup>th</sup> April – bewdy!



**. Quiz Time.**

**The** following photo appeared in an *Eyes & Ears* a few years back – April, 2010 – 11 years!

**E&Es April 2010**

There's a couple of things the "Quiz Master" wants to know –

1. Where was the photo taken?
  2. When was the photo taken (day, month & year)?
  3. What was the occasion?
  4. Who are the 5 blokes?
- ...now to the curly ones –
5. What's interesting about their names?
  6. Who sent the photo to *E&Es*?



**Ed** – were these blokes shaving at this stage? They look more like "School Cadets" than Vets.

There's a couple of things the "Quiz Master" wants to know – (answers in red)

1. Where was the photo taken? **Coffs Harbour**
  2. When was the photo taken (month & year will do)? **June, 2013**
  3. What was the occasion? **Reunion**
  4. Who are the 4 blokes? Sadly, one of them is no longer with us. **Graham Williams, Grahame Dignam, Graham Greenland (RIP 17.11.14) and Grahame Smith**
- ...now to the curly ones –
5. What's interesting about their names? **Four G's – ok, two of each spell their names the same way**
  6. What do 2 of them have that the other two don't (no, it's not the glasses in hand)? **Moustaches.**



The **First Prize** is a **FREE** subscription of *Eyes & Ears* for 3 months! Don't mess about – get into it! **The photo appeared *Eyes & Ears* June, 2013**

**. Some responses/guesses...**

**John Lucas** – "Hi Paul, I hope you are doing well.

While I don't know the answers to all the questions in the Quiz, *Eyes and Ears* March Edition I believe the pic was taken at the **Coffs Harbour RSL** during an **ANZAC day reunion**. I can't recall the year.

The two gentlemen to the right in the pic are **Graham Greenland** and **Grahame Smith**. **TWO CORRECT OUT OF FOUR**  
Both 16 intake nashos!

It was a great meet up although my liver never thanked me for it! Cheers, Jack (John Lucas)"

...John adds more –

"Hi Paul,

Your records, here is another pic from the Coffs Harbour ANZAC Day Reunion.

I know some of the lads but my memory fails me on others.

The handsome gentleman seated on the right was also the President of the Coffs Harbour RSL and was instrumental in organising the reunion.

Cheers

Jack (John)."



**Now here's a real "brain teaser" – who can give me the names of the blokes in this photo?**



**Yes, it's happened again!!!**

Thanks to **Julie Thornton** (Kevin Thornton's MUCH BETTER half) who sent in the following email, which prompted me to send out a general **Warning Notice** email -

"Hi Paul

Have just received a scam email supposedly sent from you. It says it has a great photograph and to click on the web site address. Please tell your members just in case they do not know that any address with "http" and not "https" is an illegal web site.

Regards,

Julie Thornton

Kevin Thornton's better half."

The email I sent out got the following very informative following responses – **PLEASE TAKE NOTE:**

**Graham Hampton** – "Hi Paul,

What has been stated below is not quite correct.

A "http" website URL is simply that, a website address and as such is not an illegal website, a "https" website URL means that the website is secure and therefore not that likely to be hacked due to the security software that the host has built into their operations to further protect their client's websites.

The Australian Artillery Association's website has only recently become a secure website (https) whereas the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company's websites remains unsecure (http) and is quite legal. To date neither have ever been hacked nor has there ever been an issue with security.

Whilst I do agree that one should always err on the side of caution if they feel uncomfortable with a link that is sent to them especially if they do not know who it came from or were not expecting it, however to associate SPAM and illegality with every "http" URL is incorrect information.

Can you send me the link in question and I will have a look at it? I am comfortable opening these given my security setup.

Regards,

Graham Hampton

Webmaster, Australian Artillery Association Inc."

**Bill Taggart (1<sup>st</sup>/83<sup>rd</sup>)**– "Hi Paul, just wanted to comment on the message below "***Please tell your members just in case they do not know that any address with "http" and not "https" is an illegal web site.***" This is not true, in fact the 83rd site does not have a security certificate thus no https prefix. The https on a website does indicate a higher level of security but the http or https alone does not indicate trustworthiness. Bill"

**Ed** couldn't resist copying the following Facebook post (text/photos) from **Adrien Baker** to share with our readers, especially those who aren't Facebookers...

**Adrien Baker** - An impromptu reunion today to mark the 50th year since our nasho call up. Instigated by **Peter Murphy**, all 4 of us were in 131 Div Loc Bty at Holsworthy '72

Gunners **Peter Murphy, Peter Thomson, Bob Daniels and myself** met up in the Hunter Valley to tell stories (that we could remember) and share photos and other memorabilia.

It was fantastic that so many memories of people and events came flooding back.



...a couple of responses -

**Mal Scott** – “Adrien, probably a few embellished stories as well. Great photos and thank you all for your service. Have a great day tomorrow. UBIQUE.”

**John Lucas** – “Enjoy gentlemen”  
...**Adrien contacted Allen Morley** –

“Hi Allen,  
Not sure if you are the right person to start with.  
I just turned 70 and had been looking at joining the Locators for a few years.  
I went to apply online but it said I need a sponsor and not knowing anyone thought I would reach out to you.  
I was a National Serviceman who enlisted 29/9/71 (4/71) and was discharged 28/3/73.  
Basic training at 3TB at Singleton then corps training School of Artillery.  
That was nice as I was actually a Northern Beaches boy so it was like going to school near home.  
My course ran from 19/1/72 - 23/3/72 and I was awarded Artillery Surveyor Grade 1 and shipped out to 131 Div Loc Bty at Holsworthy with 8 Medium Regt.  
At that point, everyone was being pulled out of SVN so we were given the task of setting up BPs and the like at all the artillery ranges around Australia - Queensland, NSW, W.A.  
Found photos of my group at North Head and old Trade Test and Course Report which made for interesting reading.  
Let me know what I need to do from here.  
Cheers, Adrien Baker.”

## Army service medals misplaced. –

**Grahame Dignam** sent the following correspondence with regards Medals being misplaced -

“Darren,  
I hope you have a good and long memory and are keeping well in this changed world.

On 6 Nov, 2017, we received the following message from yourself:

*G'day 131 Locators Association,*

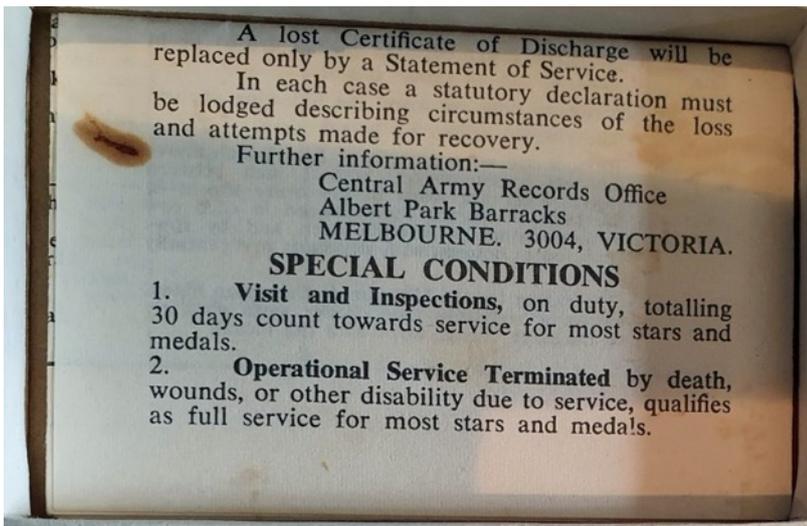
*My purpose of writing this email is hopefully to reunite the Original issued Vietnam Medal & Returned from Active Service Badge with their recipient. These medals have been in my possession for 23 years.*

*I intended to facilitate reunification of the medals after graduation from Royal Military College - Duntroon (Long Tan Company), however due to injury I didn't graduate as a commissioned officer.*

*Could you please assist in the return of these Medals to Gunner Roger Francis Holmes [Service Number: 3795910, Inscription R.F Holmes].*

**Photograph attached:** Original Vietnam Medal & Returned from Active Service Badge in Original box.

Kind Regards,  
Darren Willcox



After 3 or so years, we are now in a position to help as R F Holmes has been located. However, as a former soldier he is in a very fragile state and has some difficulty dealing with "world we now live in".

Firstly, can you confirm you are still in possession of the medals?

If so, I propose to advise Roger of that fact and ask if he wishes to have them returned or what he would like to happen otherwise (maybe a donation to the Australian War memorial or his local RSL).

But first things first and so I await your reply regarding the location of the medals?

The Association would like to thank you for your kind stewardship of retaining the medals awaiting their owner.

Kind regards,  
Grahame Dignam”

...Sometime later Grahame was contacted by Roger and enquired about membership and that issue was dealt with but there was a nagging feeling something was missing. When reviewing outstanding matters he twigged that the new 2021 member, R F Holmes was the same person referred to in a message that had been received from Allen and that the located medals had arrived at Allen's' address in 2017.

After putting the puzzle together Roger was contacted and agreement was reached regarding the delivery of his original medals.

The " Locator " of the medals has moved on and has graduated with a Law degree. We have informed him that the circle has been rounded and the medals are to be returned ASAP."

### Barry Guzder – A Perth Reunion...

“Hi Dicko,

**John Lochore** will be sending you photos for the next *Eyes & Ears* mag.

There were 10 invites but only five made it. One went to wrong bar, one could not get parking, two had medical appointments (Ros Gunnell was one) and two were well out of metro area.

You can but try!

Have a good Anzac Day.

Barry Guzder.

...**John's email/photos** -

“Hi Dicko,

I think you're already aware that a few of us met on Thursday in Perth, courtesy Barry Guzder for making it happen. Just a few of us, but we enjoyed it.

Here are some pictures.

In seated picture, L to R: **John Lochore, Alan Robb, Neville Davis and Barry Guzder.**



In standing picture –  
Standing, L to R: **Neville Davis, Barry Guzder and Joe Librizzi**

-  
Seated, L to R: **John Lochore, Alan Robb**

Sorry the picture quality isn't too great.

Cheers,  
John”

## From the Advocate's Desk...

Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

**Peter Pioro JP** - email contact: [piorowp@ozemail.com.au](mailto:piorowp@ozemail.com.au)

**Ken Foster OAM JP** - email contact: [khfoster1@bigpond.com](mailto: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.**

**Allen Morley** sent in the following extract from the 131 Battery RAA Facebook Messenger –  
**New face book member Chrissy Weekes**

**Chrissy Weekes – Daughter of Tony Dodds** lives in Woodburn NSW

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> 7:28 PM**

**You sent Yesterday at 7:28 PM**

Hi Chrissy, I wish everyone who applied filled in the answers it makes life so much easier.

You sent Yesterday at 7:29 PM

Bonus for you - a link you may already know about but just in case I am giving it anyway. It's the official record for Dad from DVA.

**Chrissy sent Yesterday at 7:29 PM**

It did thank ....

You can now message and call each other and see info like Active Status and when you've read messages.

**Chrissy sent Yesterday at 7:29 PM**

You

**You sent Yesterday at 7:30 PM**

<https://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=1262000&c=VIETNAM#R> ..it can be printed out and looks official.

**DVA's Nominal Rolls** ([nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au](http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au))

**You sent Yesterday at 7:35 PM**

We have a website too you may have already seen but Dad is mentioned in "ALL Member detail" tab which due to security is behind members' area. Details are same as from DVA site. Weekes, Terrill Gnr 3787197 NS 19/05/45 1966 - 67 Vic

**Chrissy sent Yesterday at 7:37 PM**

Thank you so much I really appreciate it i never knew my dad I was young when he died so any information about him is really important and I can't express the words how grateful I am

**You sent Yesterday at 7:42 PM**

Chrissy, sorry to be pushy?? but we have info on your Dad passing. We would like date of Death details so we can list him on our Honour Roll and publicise it in our newsletter which is designed to honour his service to Australia and also advise any of his mates.

**Chrissy sent Yesterday at 8:03 PM**

Hey my mum just sent me through his date of death my mum tried to send me a photo of his death certificate but ill send it once I get a clear better photo but his date of death is 03 September 1996

**Wed 10:56 PM**

**You sent Yesterday at 10:56 PM**

Thanks Chrissy. I will get our web guy to put the details up on the honour Roll probably next week. We also have a newsletter for our guys and if its OK with you and Mum i would like to put this little story in it and send you a copy? You will all be famous!!! 😊

**Chrissy sent Yesterday at 11:05 PM**

Yes, please that would be amazing thank you so much

**7:07 AM**

**You sent Today at 7:07 AM**

OK I will let you know when it is done. Say hello to Dad from Grahame 131 Orderly Room Nui Dat 1967/8.

## “Broken News” not “Breaking News”

**Ian Campbell (Melbournian)** gave us the lead into this story -

### “Wheel shortage forces Melbourne trams off the roads” ...



A shortage of wheels has forced almost a dozen of Melbourne's trams off the rails, and more are expected in coming weeks.

Eleven trams have already been removed from the network temporarily.

It comes after COVID-19 supply disruptions for the wheels for A-Class, B-Class and Z\*-Class trams, which are usually sourced from **South Africa**.

\*\*“Z” class – sounds like the end of the line! (sorry about the pun)

Really, **South Africa???** Maybe they're in quarantine in a Melbourne hotel!

...another Newsy photo –



This photo was sent to me by a mate (ex-USAF) – it seems very appropriate for the “pandemic” that we are going through currently just over a 100 years later -

“Australian nurses ready to battle the **influenza pandemic** in Surry Hills, Sydney in April 1919.”



. **Steve Boutlis** – sent in this amazing story of “close calls and “co-incidences” – it’s an amazing read...

“Hi Dicko.

**What a Small World! Four Degrees of Separation.**

Whilst reading the March edition of *Eyes & Ears*, especially of recollections, I thought that you and our mates may be interested in a coincidence that involved me, my son Craig and a doctor whom I’d met many years ago. During my son’s early career as an Infectious Diseases Physician, he was working at the Cairns Hospital where he met a colleague, David Bradford.

During one conversation between them, David asked Craig whether I (Craig’s dad) had served in Vietnam as Craig’s age would indicate that I would have been about 20 years old at the time of the Vietnam War. David told Craig that he had served as a M.O. in Nam during 67/68 (RAAMC – served SVN 02.05.67-08.05.68 – rank - Captain).

Craig told him that I was a Vietnam Vet but wasn’t sure when I was in Vietnam. Craig phoned me and told me of this conversation and I told him that I was in Nam January–September ’67.

Craig took up the I.D. position at Wollongong Hospital the following year. Later, he was contacted by David and told that David was having a launch of his book, “The Gunners’ Doctor” in Sydney. Craig asked me if I would like to attend the book launch (all of my expenses paid) and meet David.

I met David and we swapped “warries”. David had served with 4FD Reg, arriving at the Dat in May ’67 (what a coincidence!) You must remember how close to our lines the RAP tent was? That’s where David was the M.O.

Afterwards, having read David’s book, Craig and I went to Bowral to look through The Don’s museum. On the way, we stopped for lunch at a roadside cafe. On the way out of the Cafe, I noticed a second-hand bookstall.

Would you believe? The book on top of the pile was the book that David had mentioned in “The Gunners’ Doctor”. The one that a gunner, on the Herc with him heading to Nam, was reading.

The Gunner was Paul Dickerson. I immediately thought that that he was you, Paul! (I couldn’t remember the spelling of your family name).

I bought the book, traced Paul, met him at a cafe in Caloundra, Qld and told him the story of the book finding. He was the fourth degree.

*One up for the 131 surveyors!* In his book, David mentions that he thought that the 131 surveyors were the “most intelligent of the gunners”.

**When I had received my med docs from the army, I sent a copy of one of them to David.**

**Yep, the signature of the treating M.O. was confirmed by him as being his!**

He sent photos of him on Op Ainsley, at the same time I was there.

Cheers, Boots.”

**...then comes another email –**

“Hi, Dicko.

The title of the book that the gunner on the Herc was reading is **Les Misérables**, by Victor Hugo.

Of course, I had to read it, before I gave it to Dickerson with David’s signature.

Cheers. Boots.”

. **31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021 – 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the RAAF** – a couple of interesting emails –

**Bert Blink** – “Hi all.

Mary & I left our trip to the lake shore a little too late. Almost all of Canberra decided to do the same thing and we were moving inch by inch. At the first available turn off Mary & I headed home. Watched it on TV.

Were given some photos by a Nephew, near Government House lookout, and our daughter took some video from her PM&C lake side office. Regards, Bert”

**...then –**

**Ernie Newbold** – “Bert’s story from yesterday reminds me of 26<sup>th</sup> January 1988, the bi-centenary of the First Fleet’s arrival in Sydney Harbour.

There was to be much excitement on the harbour that day, tall ships arriving after sailing from all around the world, Sydney Harbour Ferries “racing” on the harbour, multiple aircraft flying overhead etc.

So, I decided it would be good to go and have a look to see it all, unfortunately so did millions of other people. I knew it would be better to travel via the public transport network and duly set out for Burwood railway station. Train after train arrived and stopped at the platform and when the doors opened it was obvious that the trains were already choc a block and full to capacity. After waiting about 30 to 40 minutes a train stopped and it had just enough space on board for one or two more passengers.

My plan at that stage was to go to Circular Quay for a ring side position to see the spectacle but the city station platforms were still choked with thousands of passengers who had alighted from earlier trains. I then decided on Plan B, stay on the train and get off at Milsons Point to see the spectacle from the north side of the harbour with the sun behind me.

Well it turned out that Milsons Point station was also choked with passengers who had travelled down the North Shore line but I alighted there anyway. A tide of humanity was slowly flowing down the stairs and out onto the street where it ran into a greater tide flowing down the roads and footpaths towards the harbour I was reminded of what it must be like for lemmings when they rush towards the sea.

This wasn’t turning out to be what I had expected and I normally avoid crowds anyway so plan C was the next consideration. Get back on the next train heading North and go somewhere else.

I ended up enjoying a lovely train trip to Woy Woy on the Central Coast where it was so quiet and peaceful and I had an enjoyable day after all without being crushed in a crowd at Sydney Harbour.

So, Bert I empathise with your experience from yesterday and understand how you and Mary must have felt too. I came to realise that I should have stayed at home and watched the “Harbour Show” on T.V. needless to say I have never been back to the Harbour on Australia Day ever since that day.

Regards, Ernie.”

**Bert Blink** – sent the following email containing a link to an “Interesting” story written by Samuel Yang called “Immigrant Town” – it’s a fairly long piece with lots of photos (current and past) – it’s worth clicking on –

“Hi

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-04-17/liverpool-migrants-why-new-australians-choose-this-suburb/100044940>

Bert”

...the following response came in from Bob Billiards -

Bert,

"Interesting" is interesting and not only describes Liverpool, but also the Fairfield, Cabramatta, Canley Vale, Carramar, Smithfield and Horsley Park.

I looked for any of the cars that My family had during the 60's and couldn't see any Zephyr MkII's, Morris 1100's or Goggomobil Darts. ☺ I would have had to go to Liverpool Boys High in 1959, but in 1958 they opened Cabramatta High as a co-ed school. Liverpool wasn't a suburb that we visited regularly but I went to Liverpool Tech. College to start an accounting course. I worked at Liverpool Hospital in 1970 for a year or so pretending to be an accountant but they soon

worked out that I wasn't and fired me then I never looked back 😊.

A couple of miles west of those suburbs at that time was scattered with market gardens firstly many Chinese, then Italian and Maltese and now there are new suburbs and industrial areas.

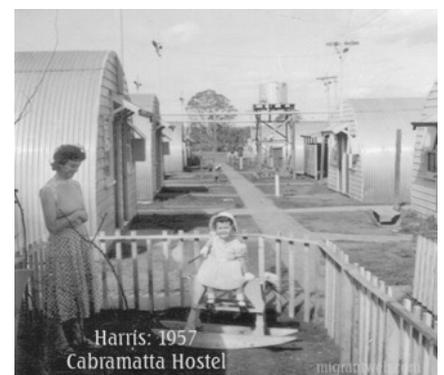
Cabramatta was a focal point for migrants after WWII as we had a migrant hostel there in the old military base. They had those tin-can barracks which they converted into various sized living quarters.

Cabramatta High bordered the hostel so we had very mixed European nationalities and in my 5th year (leaving) class of 55, there were 6 Anglo's. Fairfield/Cabramatta had the Austrian/German club, Croatia Club and the Marconi club all of which I think still exist today. When I was growing up it was called Little Italy and you would generally see Rocky Gatalari in his large red soft top yank tank. Now it has a large ethnic and Chinese Vietnamese community and a great place to shop. Fairfield has a large Middle Eastern population now. When I started work at Fairfield Municipal Council in 1965 there were over 100 different language groups working for the council which had a staff of around 1200 at that stage.

Regards, Bob”

...more responses -

**Barry Guzder** – “These photos like ones taken in Perth seem to suggest a much calmer climate and way of living. Barry G.”



**Bert Blink** – “Hi Behram, I thoroughly agree.  
Have a great ANZAC Day you and everyone else.  
Regards, Bert”

**Graham Williams** – “Hi Paul,

Your brief article in *Eyes and Ears* re friendly fire got the grey cells kicking along...can find very little on Google and I guess much would not be recorded to the masses but can tell you one thing. In August 1969 Baria reported incoming mortar, rocket or artillery fire. Subsequent investigations found that fire was 105mm and came from 161 Battery. Can't be certain but I think crater analysis may have been done by Det 131 Div Loc Bty. I could find nothing about this on the internet then again, my technology skills are sadly lacking.

Will take this opportunity to wish you the very best for Anzac Day and your celebrations in Mexico. Here at chez Williams Jenni and I will be doing the same as last year. A driveway Dawn Service with the neighbours. Nothing is happening in Tweed Heads/Coolangatta this year so Jenni will drive me into town anyway where I can bow my head at the Memorial in Chris Cunningham Park and then walk across the road to the Dolphins Hotel. It opens at 6am so will be starting with the “big breakfast” with midday chaser and going on from there. All the Vets I do gym with are meeting there at 10am...they are a good crew and mix of Army, Navy and Air force with both younger veterans and the well advanced like myself. Not sure what condition I will be in by the time they arrive but shall soldier on regardless and raise a glass or ten to absent friends.

Hoping this finds yourself and Helen well and coping with the vagaries of Covid...stay safe.

CHEERS,  
Graham W.”

**Steve Wynn** – “Hi mate,

Yes, a great ANZAC Day and very appreciative crowd. Sun was shining all day. This is typical of a country town where people are thankful and show it, and only 10 kms from the fastest growing town in the State.

I did not go into the RSL dinner, my family won't allow me to go into confined spaces with lots of people, not yet anyway, besides I had to get home to raise my Oz flag back up to full mast.

I should have had my Covid jab by now but no one has contacted me, yippee, and I am not in a hurry either, I will wait for all the side effects to manifest before putting my arm out, that means some more staying home. You realise this not going anywhere is costing me a fortune in 'online' purchases, I sit at the computer all day looking for things to buy, sob.  
Stay safe over there. Steve”



**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...



**As of this edition, on the suggestion of Ian Campbell, we're going to add suburb/town to your incomings so readers can get an idea of where you're situated and more locale understanding.**

**Ken Foster (?) – Please give some thought to Ken during this time –**

“Weather wise we are sitting regularly in the high 20s regular rain after a week of torrential rain that flooded large areas of NSW and the Sydney main water supply dam overflowed, fairly dramatic week or so.

Covid wise most restrictions lifted in the Sydney area with some regional restrictions applied as cases appear, in all not too bad and allows regular social visits and meals in restaurants.

On 25 Feb, I had major surgery for bowel cancer, my third occurrence, this time they removed more than I could spare so I finished up with a colostomy bag on my side, not a real problem to manage.

They did not get all the cancer as some had spread outside the colon so after a visit to the local cancer clinic and confirming that chemo or radiotherapy are not appropriate I am waiting for a visit to a new surgeon on 22 April to decide if he will operate again the remove the last bits?

As you can imagine it has restricted my social life and travel, main restriction is on any lifting, but I am still able to contribute with video conferencing and advocacy by phone and internet, next month or so will decide for me where I go from here but I do expect more surgery.

Keep in touch.

Regards, Ken”

**Warwick Brooker (Canberra)** – “G'day Dicko. Yes thanks, we enjoyed the Easter weekend with family members, including one new member – a grandson (at last).

Good to hear you're having your jabs and doing your part to keep the Mexican economy alive.

I think only frontline workers and some nursing home residents received Australia's limited supply of the Pfizer vaccine. The rest of us are 'testing' the AstraZeneca vaccine. I'm booked for my first shot on Sunday 11th, then have to wait twelve weeks for the second shot. Very few masks around here and not a great deal of social distancing either, but these

things can change quickly. We're now required to use the 'Check In CBR' app to enter social venues and some cafes, and we have to temp check as we enter some establishments. One of our local clubs now has check-in technology that combines face recognition and temperature check, thus eliminating the need to scan the 'Check In CBR' QR code as we enter.

I won't be travelling out of the ACT for ANZAC Day – again! – because if a COVID19 case were reported in any area I might enter, I'd have to quarantine upon return to the ACT. So, Nancy and I will attend the main service at the AWM and hope that things look better for VV Day in August.

So, you're gradually changing into summer gear and we're doing the opposite. Yes, our weather has certainly changed since the 2019-20 bush fires – warmer winter and cooler summer. I think the Bureau has said that we could expect a warmer winter again this year.

I enjoyed the 100-year RAAF celebration (via ABC TV, not at Yarralumla).

With best wishes, Brookey."

**Ron Evans (Adelaide)** – "G'day Paul, lovely to hear from you. Have you heard of this? <http://www.nashoaustralia.org.au/Nominal%20Roll.htm>

Honestly, I haven't given any thought to this Covid bizzo. Not the slightest. No-one in Norwood gives a rat's about it. Bah, humbug, fake news.

I have been thinking that thanks to you I will leave a historical trace of myself greater than that of many Roman generals. Greater even than some of the mightiest warriors of Genghis bloody Khan. Greater than all those Viking Berserkers.

Crikey!

When the history of the fall of Communism is written, we of the 131 Divisional Locating Battery will be remembered. Our contribution to history could never be underestimated.

Hasta la vista amigo. Take care.

Mook."

**Bryan David Auld (Sandy Beach, NSW)** – "Living up here in Sandy Beach. It hasn't been so bad re COVID we were unable to visit pubs or clubs for a while but everything is open now, I'm marching in Brisbane this year seeing as NSW has limited numbers."

**Terry Bruce (Orangeville, NSW)** – "Paul, Thanks for your communication.

We did, indeed, have a very enjoyable Easter break, what with children and grandchildren visiting, Easter egg hunts, etc. As I think I said the last time I wrote to you, we are somewhat removed from the Covid-19 threat by virtue of where we live, although precautions have to be taken when attending hospitals, surgeries, shopping centres, etc.

Judith and I have moved back in to the 'big house'. Craig and family having moved to their new dwelling on the outskirts of The Oaks village. The 'foldable house' (engineering marvel) has been sold and is awaiting collection by the new owner.

There has certainly been a change in the weather situation here, with all of our property dams full, all paddocks well grassed and the livestock looking like barrels. It doesn't seem that long ago that we were threatened by a passing bushfire. Now, of course, the grass and scrub regrowth is setting us up for more bush fires in the coming seasons – it goes with the territory!

I am not long out of hospital after having a knee replacement operation (currently undergoing six weeks of Physiotherapy /Rehabilitation (twice each week for two hours) at Campbelltown Private Hospital) whilst Judith is working toward undergoing a couple of operations during the coming months related to her recent bout of colon cancer.

I am hopeful of a smooth recovery from my operation so that I can get some work done on the property, not the least of which will consist of burning the deadfall and slashing the grass in the aforementioned paddocks, not to mention attending to other property maintenance matters plus restoration work on my railway carriage and related items (signals, signs, etc).

Nevertheless, once we have recovered from our most recent ailments and attended to some of the more pressing maintenance items, we are planning to take a couple of train trips (normally covering three of four days each) around NSW, Victoria and Queensland. These trips are usually along infrequently used branch lines and are often steam hauled or, if not, consisting of two car diesel sets and stopping at various country towns for the night.

We've just had our 1944 Jeep undergo re-registration and, if the ANZAC day march goes ahead in the local area, we'll take her for a run in the march if my knee is up to it (although one of my sons will be driving).

That's enough from me for now.

My regards to Helen.

Kind regards, Terry Bruce."

**John Bayford (Cape Shank, Vic)** – "Hi Paul.

Nice to hear from you. We are starting to slip into colder days after a short burst of warm weather. The golf is relentless as it is our way of staying in touch with our neighbours. The residents of Cape Schanck have managed to avoid any Covid contamination and a number including ourselves have had our first AZ shot. The Chinese have a lot to answer for in spreading the virus and they are now running a trading embargo on a number of our exports because we called them out.

My wife and I are keeping well, neither of us are taking any medication.

I do hope that Mexico is able to get on top of the virus this approaching summer.

Glad to hear you are well.  
John.”

**Peter Dealy (Numurkah, Vic) – “Hello Paul**

Great read as usual last edition.

All well here at Numurkah. Did have a good Easter. Went up to the Beechworth Festival, plenty to see.

Coping with Covid, no problem. Have not got a clue when will get the job the way supplies of it are going.

Naturally the weather is starting to cool down here (the lawn has stopped growing). Whether we get away to warmer climate is dependent on the Covid situation.

Our local RSL had a small ceremony for the 100 years of the RAAF with a couple of blokes who served in the RAAF giving their account of their Service. One was a 34-year veteran who served in several areas and the other, a 6-year stint, one of which was in Vietnam.

**Some comments School of Artillery -**

Had 2 trips there.

Being a Reg, recruit training was at Kapooka Oct 66. When asked what Corp I would like to go in, well the “old man” (Dad) served with his brother in Artillery (Ack Ack) during WW 2 (5 years 3 months and 19 days – Middle East, North Africa, Darwin and Bougainville). So, Artillery it was.

1<sup>st</sup> trip School of Artillery - They didn't have enough numbers to conduct a 40 MM Bofors Anti-Aircraft Course when I arrived so was involved in other activities until sufficient numbers were gained. Mess duties, Guard etc. I was also assigned to the Orderly Room where one of my main tasks was running off various Course Notes using the Stencil machine. Love a \$ for every box of A4 paper I went through. Black ink everywhere. Several polyester shirts replaced after being stained.

No great discipline at that stage, used to knock off early. Did not have a car, so catching the Bus at the Main Gate was the go. Down to the surf and then back for dinner. (Manly Beach was where I really learnt to swim or drown).

Finally started Course and the polishing of Brass Knobs and the floor came into play (about 6 weeks).

On completion, of Course I was posted to 110 Anti-Aircraft Battery Woodside SA next to the 3 RAR lines. Very good Unit and good times.

Jumping ahead 110 Bty had a sister Bty 111 which was stationed at RAAF Butterworth Malaya. They used to swap round every 12 -24 months I think. I was quite looking forward to this prospect. Anyhow, the powers to be said NO, not going to continue that. Well, I decided, I needed to get out of there and asked for a posting to any unit going to Vietnam. Hence 131 Holsworthy.

Enough has been said about that location.

2<sup>nd</sup> trip to School of Artillery for Locators Course. Had not changed regards polishing etc. Course went smoothly for me except for one episode. Was given a job to be the off-shore Radio man (C45 set) for a Mortar shoot out to sea off North Head. Civilian craft had to be warned to stay clear of area. At breakfast (spaghetti) looked out to sea and noted smooth as glass. Boarded Army Duck, can't remember just where and boated out through the Heads. Then the seas started to get bigger and bigger. Could not get Radio contact with on shore personnel, was not feeling too good, seas got bloody big, you know where that spaghetti went – fish bait. Given the weather, shoot was called off and we headed home with me as pale as a ghost.

Jokes were at my expense for the next few days.

While I was at School of Artillery for this Course, I purchased my first car. An EJ Holden ute – purchased at Gold Star Motors Parramatta Road. \$900.00. Served me and others very well over many years, but that is another story. So, to get down to Manly and back, I would have about 8 blokes sitting in the back along with 3 in the front. Naturally the run down was easy, making sure I missed the bumps to ensure the ute didn't bottom out, but coming back up the hill was hard yakka. Then back to Holsworthy and off to Canungra (another story).

By the way, I wished I still owned that EJ Ute as they are worth a bloody fortune now.

All the best to all

Peter.”

**Bob Billiards (Mt Riverview, Lower blue Mts, NSW)– “Paul,**

We catch up at least twice a month, generally on web and Facebook stuff so it is good to hear how you and Helen are going in the Americas. We are going well and OZ is still, as Donald Horne wrote, “the lucky country” in that we seem to have the virus under control now to such an extent all business spaces can move to full staffing – if they are still in business. Amazing that a Liberal (private enterprise) government has and is spending a great deal of money with “Jobkeeper” payments to large and small businesses. Some of course have experienced a boom in sales and a couple even paid a million or so each back to the government. The housing market in Sydney and major country towns has gone crazy with payments in Sydney for houses going thousands to millions over the expected selling price. We bought a new car in the height of the pandemic and got \$12K off a \$47K car as we bought at the right time. You could only travel at that stage to purchase something. (I checked with the dealers beforehand) so they were pleased to see us. Restrictions are now nearly all gone except for the 1.5 metre social distancing (unless you are going to a movie/play theatre or a footy match. Maybe we should all live in footy stadiums 😊)

We haven't had our “jabs” as yet but are booked for May sometime at a local medical centre. We will be having the Astra Zeneca vaccine which they now won't give to people under 50. Maybe they think if you are over 50 then you can expect an embolism anyway 😊.

Weather is now cooling for us even though we haven't had a hot summer, but it has been very humid. As you would know we have had severe flooding on the Hawkesbury/Nepean river system and many places are still not back to normal. Our place on the Hawkesbury is fine as it is 9.9 metres above MHW and the flooding there was up to 7.9 metres. Many sites in the low end of the park were totally inundated and we spent Easter helping several of them clean up. The only bright side for us is that the river dumped a couple of million tons of clean river sand in front of our place and we now have a very large sandy beach as you may have seen from my Facebook posts.

Cathy is off on Tuesday and Thursday to help in the disaster recovery centre in Richmond from Tuesday to Thursday. Both my model flying clubs are still inoperable because of flood damage. The Emu plains field was over 5 metres under water and the club grounds at RAAF Richmond still have water over the entrance roadway, but both fields have been top dressed with great soil/mud.

We support the local restaurants about once a week and are considering doing a road trip around a couple of parts of the state. And have a couple of car club events interstate in the next few months. Our Goggomobil Carryall is going into the Sydney Powerhouse Museum I think in June for 7 or 8 months in a display of "Microcars". We head up to Coolangatta in June long weekend for the "Cooly Rocks On" festival as long as the borders remain open. Haven't booked accommodation as yet until a bit closer to the event.

Will talk on Tuesday  
Bob."

**Bill Taggart (1<sup>st</sup>/83<sup>rd</sup>) New Jersey, USA** – "Hi Paul, we are doing okay, both my wife and I are now fully vaccinated. Our daughter who is a teacher is also and my son and his wife as well. My son-in-law has not yet been vaccinated as he does not yet fall into any of the eligible groups.

Our 4 grand-kids are scheduled to start 5-days per week in-school learning as of today. It will only be half-days for now but it is the first they have been able to go into school for 5 days since this whole virus things began.

Some things are gradually allowing more people to gather but it has been slow and New Jersey, where I am, is one of 5 states currently experiencing another surge in cases. This sure has been unlike anything any of us have ever experience, let's hope 2021 brings better news for everyone.

Are you in Mexico now, how are things there? Good to know you are almost fully vaccinated. My wife and I both got the Pfizer with very minimal problem. Our daughter got Moderna and had a very bad couple of days after her second shot. We had our kids and grand-kids for Easter. The kids are 7, 8, 9 and 10 and it always a lot of fun (and a bit crazy) when we are together.

Mostly quiet days is our life. Between shopping and Doctor visits it has been quiet. our one Grandson just started his baseball season last Saturday (he is 9) and his sister, who is 7 will be starting softball (off a batting tee) shortly so that will give us a chance to be out a bit. Stay safe and well. Bill."

**Ian Campbell (Melbourne, Vic)** – "Hi Paul,  
Ian from Melbourne here.

Easter was great, the birth of our first grandchild, a she, is now only 1 week away, and the whole family is so excited. We are so keen for her birth in these "unprecedented" COVID times and so nervous for my daughter that only the successful birth will belay our concerns.

I just thought, when we read the replies to your "How Are You" emails, I have no idea where the respondent is from, so why not include their home state/town in the opening sentence?

The summer fire threat is over replaced by a huge rain event that has hit Sydney and southeast Queensland that has caused flooding in these communities.

Our vaccination program has hit a small speed-hump with conflicting reports from the federal and state government's that are just plain confusing for a simple Gunner like me. Why they can't be truthful and honest is beyond me! I'm thinking about voting for the Commies in 2022.

In Melbourne life is returning to "normal", restaurants, pubs and cafes are now fully open, and we are mask-free except for on public transport. In my view, we are out of it until some bastard sneezes, and it kicks-off all over again.

ANZAC day is on/off/on/limited attendees/off/blah blah blah: with 75,000 at the MCG for the Footy I don't see what the problem is with an open-air march???

Well Paul, probably enough from me, please don't think I am just a whinging old bugger (well probably am) so some cheery news...

The family bought me an electric bike for my birthday, it is GREAT. I can pass all those lycra clad wankers (delete this if you wish) along Beach Road without breaking into a sweat!

Take care Paul, hope all is well with you in your adopted hometown.  
Regards, Ian."

**Ed – even the photo is blurred by the speed Ian's travelling at!**



**Mike Butler** – “Hi Paul.

Apologies for late reply. Have had a fairly busy few weeks. Took the van down to see one of my sons who lives in Warrnambool - weather was a bit cool but it has been for most of Autumn - but had a great time. My other two children and families also came so we had a family get together. Have had my first Astra Zeneca shot - next one is in June. Also, the flu shot as the medics are telling us it's going to be a flu season.

ANZAC Day has been completely stuffed up by the government and the RSL hierarchy. The Melbourne march is balloted and the local Box Hill RSL is also having ballots for the dawn service - a lot of vets that I have talked to are boycotting and some are going to their smaller local branches - I might go to the local Blackburn dawn service at the local cenotaph but otherwise it will be a very quiet day for most. They did increase the ballots after they had very little response. Of course, this is all happening when they are allowing 85,000 people to sit on top of one another at the MCG ANZAC Day match - go figure!!

Now that restrictions are pretty much lifted the local VVAA which is affiliated with the Box Hill RSL has restarted their monthly get together lunches which Michelle and I have started to attend. Good chance to have a chat with other vets. All in all, Michelle and I going well - no major issues so I'll sign off.  
Cheers, Mike Butler.”

## Notice Board – Hey, see what's coming up?

There's plenty of room for notices – has anyone got or getting any events planned?  
Just send an email and I'll post it. Ed

**A Notice forwarded in by Grahame Dignam with reference to a Commemoration for Coral Balmoral...**

**Fellow Coral Balmoral Veterans, Commemorations on 13 May 2021**

This is a follow-up to my notice of 2 days ago when I encouraged all to conduct some form of commemoration on May 13. I asked for people to advise me of their activity even if it a one-person event. I have already been advised of a number of these which is great. Now I am having a go at taking this to the next step. It will only work with your support and involvement. I am setting up a **CORAL BALMORAL VIRTUAL REUNION site (and Group) on Facebook**. The address is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/457514848692179>

**This is a PUBLIC group meaning anyone can view it. When you click on the address above it will take you to the site.**

Click on the JOIN GROUP box and you will be added to the member list. (You will need a Facebook/google account) **NOW you won't be able to POST to the group until you have approval from the administrator (me).**

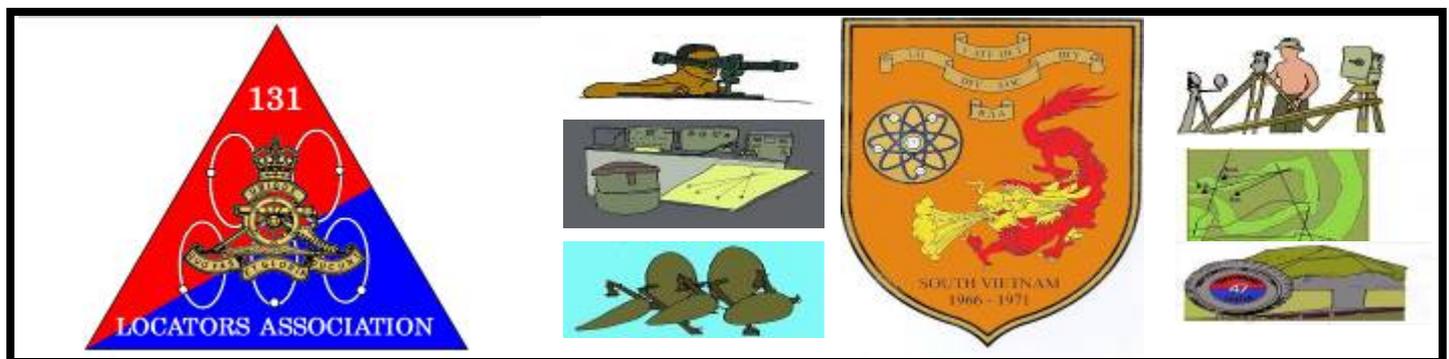
This is what you do... Compose a POST and send/press enter. It won't be visible until you are APPROVED. Facebook will send me a PARTICIPATION REQUEST. As soon as I approve it your post will become visible to all.

As I wish to collect your Coral Balmoral Commemoration info for 13 May I would like you to put the following information.

1. Your Name (and please) include the UNIT you were in at Coral Balmoral.
2. Place of CB Commemoration: City/Town and the exact venue.
3. Time and Date.
4. Contact person and phone number.

Those of you who have already sent me info via email I would ask you to please send this again to the FB site.

**Thank you for your participation, Jack Parr.**



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>

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas –  
Is your Locators Assn membership current?

"Around Anzac Day we usually get a few new member enquiries and so this year we have been found by 3 Locators with maybe a couple more "gunners" to come.

If you want to check how you stand simply email me and I can let you know if you are financial."

Email [sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) to check.

Grahame"

### Presidential perambulations

Australia's military has been more in the news of late. Some good, with some not so. The major issue, apart from the economic aspects of the French submarine purchase, was the announcement of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans' Suicide.

The real shock is that the Department of Veteran's Affairs has been given responsibility for coordinating submissions and establishing draft terms of reference. Considering that DVA is likely to be the target for a considerable amount of criticism in this Royal Commission, that aspect is beyond comprehension. A bit like complaining to your mother-in-law about your wife.

On a more encouraging note, it was excellent to see the positive turnout of our cohort of members and Eyes and Ears readers on Anzac Day. The reports above demonstrate the commitment to both large and small Anzac Day marches, dawn services and other events.

Regards, Allen



Click on the following link and enjoy some of the posts and maybe post something yourself.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131divlocbtyraa>

### . Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2021 at 1100hrs.

And available via Zoom link to be advised.

### Minutes for the General Meeting of the 131 Locators Association Inc. Held via Zoom internet:

**Venue:** Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Wakeley.

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, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 at 1105hrs...

**Attendees were:** Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Ged Carroll, Merv Nairn, Ernest Newbold, Nick Proskurin, Bob Billiards, Ian Amos and Gordon Malcolm.

**ZOOMers:** Paul Dickson, Ian Campbell, Bert Blink and Terry Erbs.

**Apologies:** Jim Fitzgerald, George Lane and State Reps.

The photos below show a collage of the attendees. With a combination of two laptops and a a central microphone the meeting was great!



Financial Membership is currently ...**125**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **12**, Total **139**. Lapsed (1/4/21) **33** members

**Presidents report.**

Allen advised that -

- . The Anzac DAY march will go ahead with each entity being responsible for Covid requirement of recording the names of those marching with the group.
- . The proposal submitted by Maj Gen Tim Ford Retd that we give the RAAHC access to the library of the *Eyes & Ears* newsletter was supported. This was on the basis that we retain the right to decide the eventual repository as the Australian War Memorial. The RAAHC is collating as much recorded information through various publication as possible for heritage reasons.

**Public Officer Report.**

No item of current interest to report.

However, the Association was advised that the Annual return for the 2019 Financial year had not been reported. Searches disclosed that the return was completed and due to an oversight was not submitted. The report has now been submitted and the issue resolved.

**Webmaster Update.**

- . Bob advised the Face book page now has 221 members and activity is picking up.
- . A "Back to the School of Artillery" page has appeared on face book
- . Also, an item "Return to Mt Pleasant ACT" was also noted.

**Health.**

- . 5 Committee members have received the **Covid Jab** with no ill reactions reported. **WOT ABOUT YOU?**
- . **Gordon Malcolm** treated the meeting to a viewing of his new shoulder scar and reported that his baritone singing voice has not been affected.

**General Business and around the grounds.**

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . Merv Nairn has located a long-misplaced photo album which has been passed to **Ern Newbold** for evaluation of entries for the Photo Album project.
- . **Ern Newbold** commended **Bob Billiards** on his support for charitable items via his love of the outdoors by taking part in various "Walks" to raise funds for worthwhile causes.
- . **Terry Erbs** mentioned an item "Return to Mt Pleasant ACT" also appeared on a Face book page as mentioned above
- . **Rob Billiards** had submitted invoices for the periodic cost of maintaining the ISP for \$187.02 to Sept 2021 and also for the \$104 cost of the new microphone for use at the Zoomed meetings. An amount of \$291.02 was unanimously agreed to be reimbursed Bob for his outlays.

## 131 Locators Association Inc Merchandise sale.

### Pole and Tees

Polos \$30 each + \$10 postage per item  
and Tees \$25 each+ \$10 postage per item  
(call Grahame 04137 361 602 for cost of posting multiple items)

Please refer to our size chart below.

Figure 1 Polo



Figure 2 Tee

sm polo	5	Med Polo	2	Large Polo	11	XL Polo	4	2xl Polo	3	3XL Polo	8
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Current stock of available items and Sizes

Small Tee	4	Med Tee	4	Large Tee	11	XL Tee	4	2XL Tee	4	3XL Tee	5
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## TAKING YOUR MEASUREMENTS - SOME PRACTICAL TIPS

**1** Ask for help, taking your own measurement can be tricky.

**2** Wear only a light layer of clothing, to ensure a true measurement is taken.

**3** Use a tape measure, keep it flat against your body.

**4** When the tape is around you it should feel comfortable, not too tight or too loose.

### MEN'S SHIRTS / POLOS / T-SHIRTS / JACKET / JUMPERS / VESTS \*

SIZE	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
To Fit Chest (cm)	88-95	95-102	102-109	109-116	116-123	123-130
To Fit Chest (Inches)	34.5-37.5"	37.5-40"	40-43"	43-45.5"	45.5-48.5"	48.5-51"
Specification neck size (cm)	38	40	43	45	47	50

\*\*\*\*\*

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...May –

Date	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	DENNIS FORSTER	39992	30 04 1969	16 04 1970	
2	NICK ARMSTRONG	43316	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	MICHAEL YOUNG	2786087	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	BRETT RAINSFORD	4719790	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	BRIAN KILLWORTH	2782129	04 05 1966	02 03 1967	
4	PETER ROBERTSON	15543	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
5	DAVID CORNELL	5713808	07 08 1966	30 04 1967	
8	JOHN ROBERTS	3787005	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 20.11.18
8	GRAEME OWEN	39453	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	KEN WOODBINE	2786077	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
10	MICHAEL QUINLAN	2788865	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	
11	BOB KING	2785420	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	MERV NAIRN	2781450	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
12	GORDON WILLIAMS 2Lt	2783891	13 05 1968	26 03 1969	
13	DAVID KEECH	311588	04 06 1970	10 06 1970	131 † 1999
	" "		11 06 1970	26 05 1971	AATTV
15	LESLIE CONNELL	6709098	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	† 04.04.11
17	PAUL ANGELL	2790740	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	KENNETH SANDERSON	3794846	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	
17	LAURENCE MION	3795762	01 04 1970	03 12 1970	
18	PETER COLMAN	2791655	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
19	DENNIS DYE	2412366	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
19	TERRY WEEKES	3787197	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
19	JOHN TICKLE Sgt.	214000	03 03 1971	13 08 1971	131
	" "		14 08 1971	09 09 1971	12 Fd Regt
20	NICK PROSKURIN	2785002	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
21	PETER RAVELJE	3794461	16 12 1969	04 06 1970	
21	STUART TELFORD	2791930	20 01 1970	03 12 1970	
21	SIMON WILLIS	3797687	02 12 1970	29 07 1971	
22	BRIAN TURNER	2412230	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
22	ANDREW CSIVINCSIK	2790320	02 12 1969	04 06 1970	
23	JIM SELLWOOD	1731045	04 05 1966	30 04 1967	
24	JOHN BREWER (M.I.D.)	16220	05 02 1968	07 02 1969	131
	" "		12 03 1970	25 02 1971	4 Fd Regt
26	KEN WHITTLE	2781996	20 05 1966	27 03 1967	
26	BERT BLINK	3789692	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
26	RAYMOND MITCHELL	218731	30 05 1970	10 12 1970	† 24.09.11 - 131
	" "		10 12 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt

28	SYTSE ELZINGA	3787318	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
28	FREDERICK MARWICK	45285	10 03 1971	28 06 1971	131
	" "		28 06 1971	20 12 1971	12 Fd Regt
29	CHARLES O'NEILL	1735063	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	
29	ROGER PRYKE	312827	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
30	ROGER LONG	3788775	05 06 1967	12 12 1967	† 22.05.90
30	RON WEBB	1411172	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	† 29.03.77
30	ANTHONY EATON Capt.	17090	14 01 1969	30 07 1969	
30	WARWICK BROOKER	1732289	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
31	STUART PHILIPSON	3799990	27 04 1971	17 12 1971	12 Fd Regt

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

Ed – 13 blokes not highlighted is horrendous, and not acceptable – well, it needs a lot more attention! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 167 and we've sent out 166. Ed – Just contact me and I'll send you a blank ready for completeing!

. **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.

## Vale

The following update of one of our Locators, **Terrill (Terry) Weekes**, passing is extracted from the article on page 13. Terry served in the Detachment's Orderly Room 1967 – 68.



**Name: Weekes, Terrill John**

**Service No: 3787197    Rank: Gunner**

**SVN In: 20 05 1966    SVN Out: 03 03 1967**

**DoB: 19 05 1945    DoD: 03 09 1996**

**Lest We Forget**





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](mailto: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...this is not accessible.**



**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 Det 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](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

[www.artilleryhistory.org](http://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](http://www.at-ease.dva.gov.au)

## . 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 83<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com) Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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