



President's Report

131 Locators Association Inc

Annual General Meeting – 10th November, 2011

Welcome all - firstly, let me say how proud I am to be able to present the initial President's report for the Association.

The first period of operation since our incorporation in August, 2010 to the end of June, 2011 has seen the Association begin and achieve some monumental goals. In my saying this and before I innumerate some of our achievements let me firstly thank my fellow board members for their work ethic and time consuming efforts in helping us achieve the goals that we set.

Without the professionalism of –

Allen Morley, who as Vice President set the standard by organising the Association's incorporation and was instrumental in achieving the grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs - Allen was also involved in many other tasks and is to be commended in for his efforts.

Grahame Dignum, in the role of Treasurer / Secretary developed Association's financial arrangements and has maintained a database system for our financial transactions which set the standard for the official audit and managed the operation of the membership database.

Bob Billiards, as webmaster, has established a working base which will see by November's AGM a functioning web site.

Ernie Newbold, in his roles of Research and Projects Officer, has been immensely successful in providing not only a wealth of information for our monthly newsletter, Eyes & Ears, but has been instrumental in sourcing relevant detail for the Association in general.

Nick Proskurin's work as Designs and Development Officer for the Eyes & Ears banner, Association lapel badge and our Memorial Dedication Plaque has been more than pivotal to the success of these projects.

The other Committee Members – Vic Danko (Public Officer), Ian Amos and George Lane are to be thanked for their ongoing involvement and support.

For their help I will be forever thankful.

The period saw –

1. Membership grow to – 62 Financial, 7 Affiliate, 2 Associate along with another 101 Locators (not only Veterans) regularly receiving emails/mail for items such as the Eyes & Ears, Locator Profiles and general correspondence. There was also a marked increase in involvement from newer Locators with contributions and seeking possible contacts with mates thought long lost.
2. The continuing of the monthly Eyes & Ears newsletter with regular and new contributions has the publication exceeding 12 pages on a most editions. A distinct ownership has been displayed by a majority of the group through their involvement.
3. A positive balance of the Association's bank account is a welcome evolvement through new memberships, renewals, member donations and even with the remnants of the DVA grant awaiting payment.
4. The successful acceptance and production of the Association's lapel badge, the cost of which is included in the initial Financial Membership joining fee.
5. The application and successful receipt of a Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) grant for the establishment of a web site, procurement of equipment and the payment of incurred related costs.
6. The Association's first official Audit, which was in accordance with our constitution and the DVA grant.
7. The design and acceptance by the Australian War Museum (AWM), Canberra of a plaque to be dedicated to the memory of members of the 1ATF Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA who served in South Vietnam 1966 - 1971.
8. The continuance of the Battery's personnel history archive exercise by acquiring Locator Profiles which contain individual histories and photos. We'd received 54 (not all complete) and had distributed 51.
9. The 16th June Association meeting the position of Regional Representative was discussed and agreed upon. The position can be filled by at least one Financial Member in a State who will become an addition to the Committee and an active member of the group representing a geographical area of the country. These blokes

will be involved in Committee activities by being able to add meeting agenda items. When we get the web up and going they will have contactable email addresses for further input from outside the Committee. The programme was advanced by **Alan Adams**, in Victoria, and he became our first Regional Representative (RR) and the following list details all Representatives - **ACT** – Bert Blink, **Qld** – Terry Erbs, **SA** - Geoff Blackwell, **Vic** (Melb) – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder, **NT** – Stuart Sporn

10. Record numbers attended ANZAC Day and other ceremonies details of which have been archived in photos and reports.

Committee and Financial Members, I believe that the Association has had a very successful financial period to the 30th June, 2011 and the basis has been established for a great 2012 and beyond with major projects that are currently in progress include –

- The completed establishment of the Association's web site. This completion will allow for and cater to greater involvement and communication by Members and also by being open to the public will attract more Locators to the Association.
- The manufacture of the Associations Memorial Plaque and finalisation of the details, including proposed funding, for the Dedication ceremony in Canberra
- An expansion and continuing development of our personnel archival history through Locator Profiles, photos and written memories. This programme also includes the updating and maintenance of our Roll of Honour, which sadly continues to increase.

In closing, it is with some sadness that I am vacating the role of President, which I've enjoyed for the period, but my location has made it untenable to continue by not being able to physically attend meetings. However, I will gladly continue as a Committee member in absentia and plan to continue growing our flagship newsletter as editor and the Locator Profile Project.

Let us continue in the vein which was as established with the formation of the Association and that is to foster mateship amongst a group of blokes who shared a common period of time where that thread was everything.