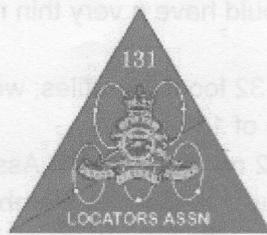


# 131 Locators Association Inc



## President's Report for FY 2019 – 2020

I am pleased to be able to present the President's Report for the financial year 2019-2020. This period represents our ninth full-year of operation and overall shows a continuing trend 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 continues to be our limiting factor. Many of the early Nashos have celebrated their 74<sup>th</sup> birthdays and others will do so within a year or two. 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.

Although not producing any known direct health issues amongst members, in 2020 the corona virus changed significantly our established meeting program. We have adopted zoom as our means of active communication in the absence of physical contact.

The Association website, [www.131locators.org.au](http://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. Bob Billiards has continued as our Webmaster, providing an essential role in doing so, and has been ably supported by Bert Blink. Thank you Bob and Bert.

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 a real scattering. During the reporting period a facebook presence was established. It has become very popular and has directly resulted in some of our unlocated locators being located. Bob, your effort is setting up this communication mechanism is much appreciated.

*Eyes and Ears*, under the editorial overview of Paul Dickson, appears monthly, and still delivers editions of 18-20 pages. I believe that together the size and frequency 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 2020 edition was the 142<sup>nd</sup> in the new series.

Only a limited number of activities, meetings, reunions and events were possible in the latter part of the year's program.

Highlights for 2019-2020 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, as other associations have demonstrated
- production and publication by Dicko of 32 locator profiles; we would appreciate more being submitted to assist our recording of 131 history
- At the end of June 2020 there were 132 members of the Association together with 33 lapsed. This suggests that we are just maintaining membership levels
- Introduction of zoom-based regular Committee meetings to manage the Association and enable the involvement of Regional Representatives to help spread the load
- Solo personal Anzac Day recognitions took place, although social follow up in each State was not permitted

A special mention for those Committee members who made things happen for the Association. Bert Blink continued in the role of Vice-President and is generous of his time in attending our Committee meetings, driving from Canberra each in 2019. Bert has subsequently been a regular attendee at the new format meetings

Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary, has been the 'super glue' for the Association's financial arrangements, records and operation of the membership database. Grahame passed on the Public Officer responsibilities to Gordon Malcolm. Ernie Newbold, Nick Proskurin other Committee Members, Ian Amos, George Lane, Merv Nairn 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 Vice-President), 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  
September 2020