

# THE EYES and EARS

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



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Vol 10 No 5 May 2017 No 106

Official newsletter of the 131 Locators Association Inc

ABN 92 663 816 973

web site: <http://www.131locators.org.au>

Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs

## ANZAC Day, Brisbane – we catch up with the blokes -



The traditional combined group photo was taken on the steps of the GPO, ...

...it then was a short quick walk to the Stock Exchange Hotel, the Locator's regular post march venue. As usual, many drinks were enjoyed by the large relaxed crowd, stories were told and retold and mates yarned the afternoon away. It was very enjoyable day and I believe everyone got home safely, although serving members had to work the next day! Numbers were down a little from last year, with a number marching in Sydney & Canberra this year. Notable local absences included Steve Hall, Pete Ravelje, Graham Williams, Lionel Outen, Joe Losiak and Derek Hinde (see Derek's ANZAC Day on page??), maybe next year fellas.

In cool fine weather, the traditional Dawn Service was held at 20<sup>th</sup> STA Regiment's memorial wall in Gallipoli Barracks. Several hundred veterans & serving members with family and friends heard in reverent silence the Regiment's padre read the lesson, and it wasn't the 23 psalm Russ! Maj Russ Hamsey is still in the Middle East on his final deployment. The CO Lt Col Peter Grant gave a moving speech then wreathes were laid, including the LSTAA wreath by Terry Erbs and the 131 Bty wreath by Ian Board.

At the most solemn and very poignant moment of the service, as the Last Post was sounded in the pre-dawn light, the native birds started their early morning chorus –a very Australian Dawn Service!



**Terry Erbs & Ian Board**



**Lt. Col. Peter Grant & Maj. Geoff Meekan**

After the service the Menz Club was opened for drinks, and for those seeking something non-alcoholic the club made great coffee with their newly purchased commercial grade coffee machine! Out in the Checkley Annex, a noisy [challenging for those of us with poor hearing!!] and happy crowd enjoyed a hearty breakfast before heading into Brisbane city for the Anzac Day march. Many thanks to Andrew Wallace for again organising the LSTAA banner and "volunteer" carriers. The banner was again successfully used as our rallying point in George St. [note - next year the march route/assembly point will change due to major construction in the area]. The march officially started at 10am, but we started gathering from 9.30am before finally commencing the march at 11am – the time was well spent catching up with mates!



**At left - Rob Torrissi, Terry Erbs, David Dodds, T.C. White, Phil Sheedy and John Bristow**

**Below - Sgt Andrew Wallace, WO1 Kym Fox, WO1 Sean Voss and Gnr Matika Harvey [background- banner carrier]**



Like last year our position in the march kept changing but we finally stepped off in position “47” – the 131 Bty vehicle “tac” number- how’s that for a coincidence! Led by Lt Col Phil Swinsburg [Rtd] and Lt Col Peter Grant CO 20<sup>th</sup> STA

Regiment, the group was headed by 7 Viet Nam veterans and followed by nearly 70 younger serving and retired veterans of 20<sup>th</sup> STA Regiment. The ABC TV commentary team had done their homework, having read the supplied summary of Locating and gave us good coverage about our history, service and specialised artillery skills.



### ANZAC Day – ADELIADÉ - photos finally surface!



A group of blokes descended on Adelaide for ANZAC Day and a timely reunion – they came from all over the place

The Det group from left are – Bob Billiards, Barry Guzder, Geoff Blackwell, Ric Marques, Grahame Dignam, John Blake and Chris Bouilly.

At lunch and a bit of a “relax” after the strenuous “walk”! - Sally (Geoff Blackwell’s partner), John and Kirsty Blake, Chris Bouilly, Barry Guzder, Cathy and Bob Billiards, Geoff Blackwell, Carol Guzder, Ric Marquis and Grahame Dignam



## **. Insights and Recollections from Geoff Jebb who served with the Detachment in South Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 as WO2 in the Survey section.**

This is the third in this series, which Geoff has meticulously covered not only in word but some great photos. These insights/recollections are recorded on the Surveyors' website and now on the Associations website. This collection covers activities including Operations and other movements undertaken by others in the company of Geoff. These Insights/Recollections, like others we have recorded, are not official documentations, but very succinct recordings which add another dimension other than the factual Reports recorded in the Australian War Memorial (AWM).

### **VISITING THE DMZ OCTOBER 1968**

The Geneva Convention in 1954 established 10k wide buffer zone between North and South Vietnam at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel. From the South China Sea, the 60k long 10k wide zone followed the Ben Hai River then tracked west to the Laotian border.

In 1966, the US Marines established a series of combat bases along Route 9, 10 - 25ks south of the DMZ - Khe San, The Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Cam Lo, Con Thien, Gio Linh and Dong Ha. They were located for mutual support and were heavily contested until overrun in 1972. About the same time the McNamara Line, a barrier of surveillance devices, mine fields and observation posts was being established along the southern edge of the DMZ. This included a sound ranging base controlled by a command post at Gio Linh. Dong Ha was developed into a major supply base and was the HQ for the 3rd Marine Division.

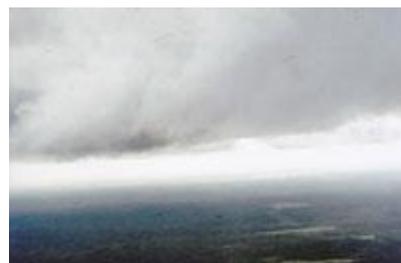
By 1968 the sound ranging base had been established at Nui Dat, and our OC, Phil Perrin, felt we should check out the base at the DMZ, the only other sound ranging base in SVN.

The CO [Jack Kelly] agreed to a party of four going; Brian Smyth, Kev Browning, Phil Perrin and me.

All began well, a Beechcraft Queen Air 65 was provided, much superior to our usual mode of transport. The pilot was surprised that anyone would want to visit the DMZ. The first stop was Qui Nhon for fuel and our first hiccup - there wasn't any - no problem, we could make it to Da Nang and refuel there.



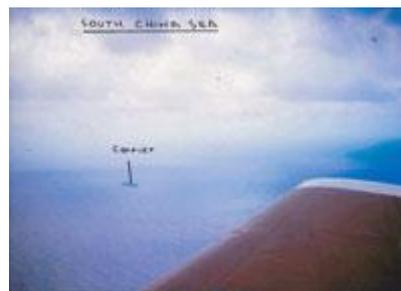
***Beechcraft Queen Air 65, Our Transport***



***Storm Clouds approaching Da Nang***

As we continued the weather began to deteriorate and approaching Da Nang, we flew into a serious storm with very thick clouds. Progress was slow with fuel heading south at an alarming rate and to add to our woes the airport was closed to all traffic.

Then came a break and the airport reopened - at that stage we were over the South China Sea eyeing off an aircraft carrier as a possible landing site. We landed at Da Nang with the gauge on "empty"! After refuelling we continued our journey north. Dong Ha was reached just before dusk, our escort was waiting, a quietly spoken captain who seemed much bemused by our visit.



***Caught in the Storm***



***Fellow Travellers, Brian Smyth, myself & Kev Browning***

The following morning, we were introduced to the base 2i/c. The meeting went something like this: Phil throws a smart salute and we stand to attention, he waves his hand towards his head, 'Who are you and what are you here for? I didn't think you limeys had any interest in this war.' Phil began to explain the difference between us and the Brits, but is pulled up short. 'Makes no difference you're all the same to me.' Then to our escort: 'Look after them and see they get what they came for'. And that was that!

We were given a briefing, then preparations were made for a trip to Gio Linh, situated just below the DMZ, about 10k north of Dong Ha, along Highway One. [The Street Without Joy.] Our escort checked our weapons - he was happy with Brian and Kev's SLR's but when Phil and I pointed to our pistols - 'You will need more than that here.' We

proceeded to the armoury and were issued Garand Assault Rifles which weighed and looked like small canons. With 50 rounds of ammo, steel helmets and flak jackets it was apparent this was a serious place we were in. A mini convoy, jeeps front and rear mounting 50 cal's and two for us in between, set off along a battered Highway One. With rice paddies and hamlets on either side, we were assured under observation for the 15 minutes it took for the trip. The sound ranging command post at Gio Linh was located about 200m north and on the right flank of the line of microphones [unusual.] The equipment used was the US WW2 GR8 system, later used by 131 Bty when the more modern Brit No5 was no longer available, a step back in technology at the time. The fort was sited on a small plateau about 25m above the surrounding area. The size of a couple of football fields it provided good all round observation, Con Thien, Cam Lo and Camp Carroll could be clearly seen and The Rockpile stood out on the horizon. It was manned by marines and some specialists, with mortars, machine guns and a mortar locating radar. With artillery support from Dong Ha plus air and naval support, it was very defensible. It all seemed peaceful quiet but the word was - don't stay overnight. The day was spent being briefed and shown the ropes - nothing was too much trouble but when a look at the microphone positions was suggested it was 'We are not going out there!'

Late afternoon after a really good visit it was time to return to Dong Ha. Then came the news that the highway had been breached and would need to be crossed. We joined a convoy of trucks and headed south. It was quite a decent break with water gushing from the rice paddies. The possibility of an ambush crossed our minds but when a few locals began to gather it was considered unlikely. A winching party from Dong Ha arrived and a short time later we were back, just in time for their nightly fireworks.

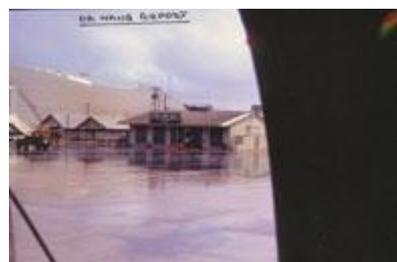
The following morning Phil and I hitched a ride with the resupply convoy to Con Thien where we spent the day taking in the sights, a story in itself - perhaps at another time.

The next morning at Dong Ha as we were preparing to leave the heavens opened and continued non-stop for three days and we weren't going anywhere. When it finally stopped, we made our farewells - even the general saw us off, probably making sure we left!

We then went to the strip to wait for our plane. There was much activity with aircraft of all sizes coming and going. Marine helicopters were taking supplies to outposts much of it slung in cargo nets.

One had to abort its load as it took off, dumping a load of ammo not missing us by much. Our Beechcraft eventually arrived and we were on our way to Saigon. Not to be. The pilot was ordered to Da Nang where our plane was commandeered by the CIA who were answerable to no one.

Out of our depth and with no friends we made our way to AATTV HQ and R&R centre where they reluctantly put us up. Then the rains came again this time causing serious flooding with much havoc and distress, grounding us for two weeks. Eventually we were able to cadge a lift to Saigon on a C123 transport, roped in together with many others. Back at Nui Dat there was much scepticism about our delay - we were having such a good time we'd extended our stay? The CO's response - 'never again,' but I can say on behalf of us all, even though The Dat never felt so good, the trip was very worthwhile and a great experience.



**Da Nang airport**

**Postscript.**

In March 1972 four NVA divisions swept across the DMZ sweeping all before them. By then the Americans had been replaced by the ARVN and they couldn't withstand such an assault. The NVN were finally halted with the help of American Air Power 40k north of Hue where they remained until the 1975 offences ended the war.

**That ends Geoff's "Insights and Recollections" series – a great read.  
If anyone else would care to contribute it would be great to hear from you.**

**. "Unknowns" - Here's the latest in the series...**

The following two are taken from the archive of **John Lucas** (SVN 1970/71) and they contain a couple of mysteries or, perhaps, just no names listed. Well, it's about time we filled the blanks!

John has supplied the titles...

**"Drinks at the Menz Club"**





← “Flower power at the monastery” -  
From left, me (John Lucas), Richard  
Chaplin, Chris Chapple and ??

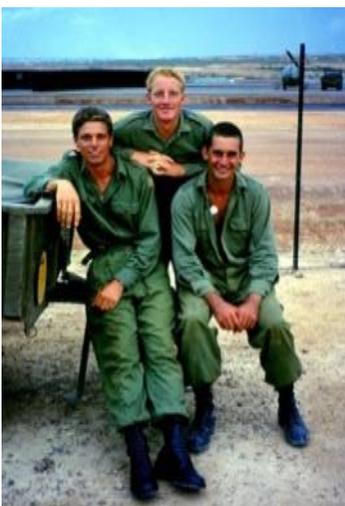
Anyone got any clues – drinking VB’s (above) and  
the flowers, at left, must be a real give-away?

. “Unknowns” - Answers from April’s Eyes & Ears...

**Peter Binns** gets an “A” for effort –  
“Hi Paul, I think I am on the right in the photo as you look  
at it with no shirts on.  
I know the middle person but the name escapes me. I  
was with him at 31c engineers.  
I think the FSBs might have been Harrison or Anderson  
Jan/Feb ‘68  
Pic on page 8/17 could pic be any clearer - damm sure it  
is I.  
Regards Binnsy”  
...after sending Peter a clearer pic, he responded –  
“Hi Paul, yes that’s me I can make out a lucky horseshoe  
charm on my dog tags.  
The other fellow in centre is **Vaughan “Mitch” Millar** (he was at reunion at Coffs last year). Regards Binnsy”



**Derek Hinde continues with more answers** by identifying the blokes in the following photo and lets us  
know what he did on ANZAC Day -



“Paul, just read April Edition No105 E & E... great stories from all our Gunners re their  
ANZAC DAY Services. I attended the Dawn Service at my local TWEED  
HEADS (NSW) RSL memorial park. The RSL allowed us to form up at 5.30am and  
march onto the Cenotaph where we were warmly greeted by nearly 1000 people  
clapping incl many families with children. ("neck hair raising stuff"...Quote Ed.). Us, 90  
Veterans, were made up from WW2, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan. After Dawn  
Service retired to the RSL for a great breakfast with rum in our coffee!  
Also, I can identify the 3 gunners in the photo on page 9... this edition *E&E* No 105...  
(in greens, lower RHS pic) as **Graham Lee** and **Peter McKie (seated)** and “**Blue**”  
**Piesley** standing at back. I was in country with them 68-69.  
Kind Regards. Derek Hinde. L/Bdr! (Rtd)!!!”

**. Oddities – Ed** – I guess we all spent some time, some of us longer for various reasons, at Holsworthy. I guess, no I'm actually sure, it would have been great if 131 was based at North Head permanently. What the hell did we do with our spare time in Kokoda barracks if we weren't out in the scrub down the coast - Tianjara, guard duty somewhere, Christmas "Fire Duty" etc? Yes, I did do the odd very rapid trip to Melbourne (once in the very fast "Nissan" "Datsun" – when did they become "Nissan"??). But before I went to SVN I was "car-less". So at least I could sleep part of the way!

Living from payday to payday was the norm. After payday, we would go and terrorise either the "Sundowner" pub (at right) with the "Millers" sign - do they still make it?) near Punchbowl or "The Three Swallows" circa Bankstown (below) – God knows how we ever got back to the tin sheds.



However, what did we get up to when the money ran out after a week? Ok, there was gear to clean, maybe write the odd letter, but for the life of me I have no idea what I got up to between knock-off time, going to the mess and finally shut-eye?

Anyone got any recollections??

**. We continue in the outback...**



**Paul and Helen Dickson - 90 Days "camping" (read – "some of the time" – see below somewhere) in the USA and Canada...In 2007 – ok, we continue...**

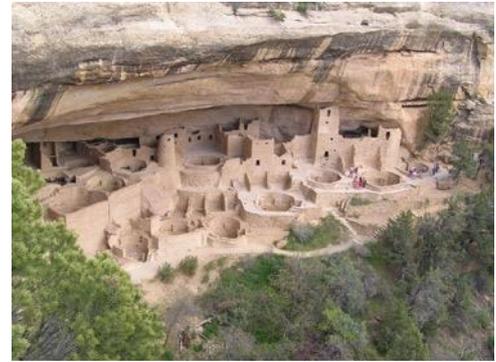
We're still meandering around in Utah...



After setting up the tent we wandered through Natural Bridges National Park (at right) and through Mexican Hat (at left) – a great rafting place.



It was now 1<sup>st</sup> May and we were on our way to Cortez and the Mesa Verde National Park to where the Puebla Indians lived – absolutely inspiring with all the caves and tunnels through and along the cliff faces (at right).



As we were leaving the heavens opened up, with thunder, lightning and winds and arrived back at the camp site where we had already pitched our tent to find it up a tree! Luckily there was no damage – only our morale!  
We decided instantly to upgrade to a log cabin! The cabin was handy to dry the tent and other stuff out.

The next move was to turn south towards New Mexico and another Indian ruin called Aztec National Monument. We made it to Santa Fe (great town) later on which to my surprise is at about 7,000 feet, plus cold and wet, so we opted for a motel – good to be flexible (now you can understand “Dickson Camping”!). The place is full of museums (thought the Museum of International Folk Art was brilliant), arts/crafts stores and heaps of mud brick homes.



We also visited the Santa Fe National Cemetery, which in typical American military fashion as it lays out 1,000's of white headstones listing service details set out so perfectly on a immaculate green grass lawn – it's moving stuff.



Then we headed out on a scenic route to Taos which took us through some green farming valleys, starker rugged

desert like country then mountains and in the distance, you could see snow covered alps. We stopped for coffee at a scenic lookout and a gust of wind blew the thermos off the back of the car and smashed the glass inner – where's the next Wal-Mart?? (we actually found one on Taos). We stopped at an adobe church – Santuario de Chimayo – this place, which is so picturesque, has a claim to fame that the soil in a part of the vestry has the power to cure illnesses – cancer, crippling diseases etc – there is a rack of crutches etc hanging in a side part of the church as evidence.



It was now into May and the further north we went the worse the weather got and we were starting to see snow on the ground, so we were taking photos and oohing and aahing at the snow in the trees and fields, but as we were climbing up to and above the 10,000 feet mark, the weather really started to close in.



As we kept wandering on we were overtaken by a couple of 4-wheel drive vehicles and a Mazda MX5. However, within a couple of miles the MX5 had come to grief by spinning out and into the snow along the roadside. We stopped

and luckily a Subaru Outback stopped. The 3 of us then managed to lift and push, at the same, to get the pair of Texans out of the roadside bog. After our good Samaritan act, we continued to drive through snow flurries and fairly treacherous road conditions – the temperature got down to 22f, which is below Zero centigrade. We made it to the valley floor (still at about 7,000+ feet) and pulled into the tourist office in a place called Chama where 2 funny things happened. 1) The girl on duty thought I was Paul McCartney – she actually said ‘McCarthy’ if that means anything – apparently, I said ‘rubbish’ and that bought on the Beatele association??? – now this is getting bloody ridiculous, as the same thing happened to me in San Miguel de Allende (Mexico about a month ago). 2) We met a couple from Ontario – Gary and Liz Waghorn – who lived in Rozelle (above the now Ray White office) 30 years ago, that’s also ridiculously amazing and they were going to Durango tonight as well – we exchanged details and said we would try to catch up tonight. After lousier weather, we crossed into Colorado and not that the weather improved, but the scenery became more farm green, lots of trees and very bearable. In Durango we walked around town, after having a squiz at the old station area we ran into Gary and Liz and planned to catch up at 1800 at the Strater Hotel – a classic old pub with a guitarist and the waitresses wore old western bar girl’s gear. Gary and Liz turned up with a French woman called Mireille, who they had met at the railroad station – they pick up all types including Australians! So, we had a highly entertaining evening starting with a couple of drinks there and ending up with pizzas at a restaurant up the main street. Mireille turned out to be great company (lives in Lyon) and has travelled extensively (yes, Aus included) – she took the piss out of me very well for my off-key humour.

Our wanderings now were taking us into the 10,000 feet territory. The trip wasn’t fast, but the scenery was breathtaking. Hel likened the light powder snow on the fir trees to someone sprinkling icing sugar from a height over the landscape – it’s just so Christmas card perfect. The weather was nowhere near as threatening as yesterday. Some of the passes we went over and the tunnels we went through really added to the whole ambience of the trip. We had a coffee and waited for the train at Silverton, which is an old historic mining town and has been maintained very well. Took some photos of the coal-fired steamer as she chugged in – I don’t think I would have lasted too long in the open carriages.



We then kept on to Ouray, which also is a well-maintained remnant of the mining days where we had a good warming soup for lunch. We pressed on and were descending into another valley where we were going to call it quits for the night at a place called Montrose. We settled on a place called the Country Lodge – we got a room where John Wayne stayed in during the shooting of ‘True Grit’ in 1969 (he actually had our room and the adjoining one) – of course the has the obligatory photo/s etc.



We then took off to have a look at the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park – this was, again, just so spectacular. A deep and amazingly narrow canyon with some magnificent sheer cliffs with an emerald green river flowing through it some hundreds of feet below. Our pass saved us another \$US15. The National Park staff are so friendly and the info offices are great – nothing like having a 0.25c hot chocolate (with marshmallows) while you’re reading the interesting literature and some great coffee table publications.

Because of the weather conditions we had to alter the route I had envisioned taking. There was a rockslide on one of the roads and another hadn’t opened for the season (whatever that means). The trip was filled with changing landscapes from rugged cliffs to very soggy pastures – there was quite a deal of snow on the ground which when melted is making the ground very soggy. Great lake area along the Gunnison River. There was a bit of fun going over the Monarch Pass at 11,312 feet – heaps of snow, however it was pleasant enough to get out take some photos (the pass marks a point that



divides the continent between the Pacific and Atlantic) and have a cuppa.



As we headed further north we were surrounded by peaks in excess of 14,000 feet – spectacular. As we got closer to Vail the weather improved and actually got to about 60F (it had been 3F along the way). Vail was neat, but having a lot of construction work done and was pretty inaccessible – not a lot open either.

We soldiered on and went through Glenwood Canyon, which is a piece of road through the canyon which has tunnels and weaves its way between some picturesque gorges and river areas as it follows the Colorado River (there's a great cycle path alongside which we might do tomorrow).



In Glenwood Springs Hel took a photo of a war memorial in town and it had some frightening facts – the US sent 9.2 mill troops to Vietnam (59k killed), 6.8 mill to Korea (55k killed), 16.5 mill to WW11 (406k killed), 4.7mill to WW1 (116k killed) – the numbers are scary, but I can't believe they sent 9.2 mill Americans to Vietnam.



Next up we headed for Aspen – great drive out through the valley – no snow (still at about 7,000 feet), but lots of green everywhere and if you didn't live on a golf course questions might be asked! We had a look at Snowmass Ski Resort Village; this place has such a great setting with several slopes – which look so different now having been covered with new grass, obviously for summer activity. The strange thing we had to get used to was that the place was almost a ghost town – re-opens in earnest in June. We then went on to

Aspen – now this place is a town, not just a resort, so there was activity going on, though as one local told us, the place really jams-up when the ski season is in full swing.

**We keep going next month into more interesting weather the further north we went...**

**. Editorial** – Please bear with me as I regress to last month's opening article, which was highlighted by the photo below. It shows **Bruce Irvine** at right and **Warwick Brooker** at right marker accompanied by 6 other Vets, maybe not



Vietnam I'm guessing, making a total of 8 blokes who some 50 plus years ago would not have envisaged this happening.

Here they are, on an autumn coloured day in the country village of Yetholme (population as at 2011 was 253 – it was situated on the old main road from Sydney to Bathurst back in 1836). It's a bit less than 180km from Sydney. This event has possibly been happening every 25<sup>th</sup> April for 90 plus years – it would be a shame to see it fade away completely.

We (us Vietnam Vets) are slowly being given the mantle of becoming the "elder Citizens" of the Veteran world, and we are becoming elder citizens. Initially, and for some time, we were not welcomed home as were others before us or those who followed after us. Our welcome/acceptance has become more apparent as those who rejected us have matured and today's children make us feel proud as they smile, wave and cheer at these occasions.

I guess, the point I'm trying to make is, that we individually or more importantly as a group have an ever-increasing role to maintain what those

blokes, both Australians and New Zealanders, established on the beaches at Gallipoli which was, and is, a very proud tradition which should never fail.

Let's make an effort to contact a mate and see if it's possible to connect on these events, or just join others who make the effort. Later this year on the 3rd November we were welcomed home and those of us who didn't return were honoured at a parade in Sydney – that's 30 years ago.

In a way, I'm privileged to be able to write to you all – I only wish there were more of you, but thanks for helping me keep this small connection alive. Paul "

**. Stuart Sporn** – responds with regards to the article from **Allen Morley** (in last month's *Eyes & Ears*) with regards to the signed flag at right –

"I have to own up to this. Probably done in late 67 at Bravo Radar. I donated this to the museum at North Fort to a bloke who had helped me with transferring old photos to a CD etc amongst some other stuff. Don't know where I got the flag from. Think I had all of the 32 Bravo signatures on it.

I have very little memorabilia left as most of it was donated to the East Point Military Museum as I got sick of carting gear around for nearly 50 years and many moves. Cheers, Stuart Sporn GNR RET"



...then **Stuart responded** to an email from **Ed**, following the above information, in regards to what did he get up to on ANZAC Day this year, and it's great to hear what he has to say especially after what I wrote in the **Editorial** earlier (Page ??) –

"I don't do ANZAC DAY anymore. For over 5 years.

The march and Darwin dawn service are well supported by the public but I find it boring!

The march is very basic led by RSL & VVAA who I can't stand. The rest is filled in by current serving members from the services and now the US marines who have 2500 here!!!!

Instead I go to the bush schools for their ANZAC ceremony, close to ANZAC Day, and then talk to them about all things military including Vietnam, my grandfather in the Light Horse in Palestine WW1 and Jan's 2 uncles killed in WW2.

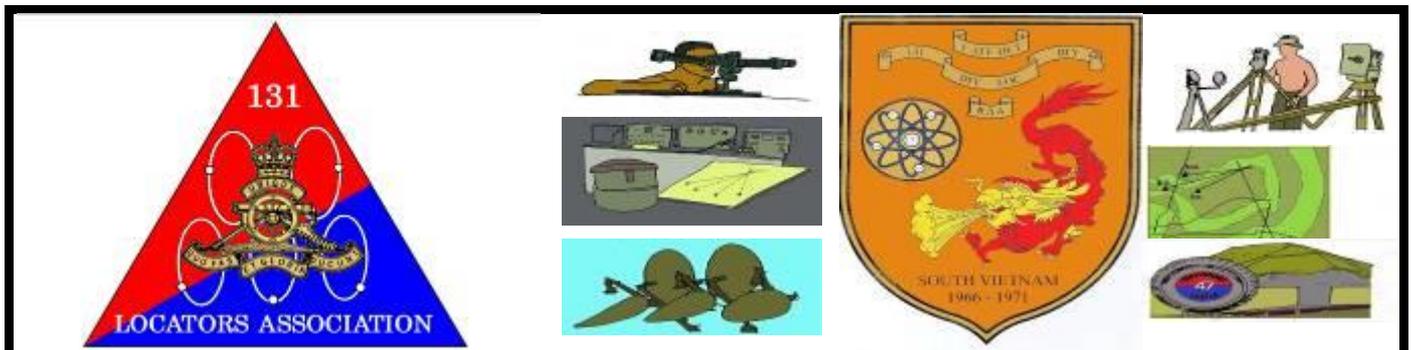
It is very rewarding and the longest round trip of around 400kms. WHY? Because nobody goes there and no politicians!!!!

After living in the NT for around 45 years we are getting pissed off with Darwin and its decline and lack of medical services.

We were at the Sunshine Coast, Qld recently and that is too busy. Next is Cairns so I will still be warm!

Next April we are going to France where the village school is renaming after Jan's grandfathers cousin who was killed ANZAC day 1918 on the Somme - **Arthur Clifford Stribling**.

There are a few military graves of Ozzies in their village cemetery looked after by the War Graves Commission  
Adieu"



**Committee members:**

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,  
Public Officer – Victor Danko, 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 (Melb) – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder

<http://www.131locators.org.au>

**A few well chosen words of wisdom form the Sec/Treas -**

"**LOOKING FORWARD** - I will be sending out renewal notices in the middle of JUNE to members whose Fees fall due on 1 JULY 2017. Please put this in your diary or tell "your secretary" to remind you. As a last resort pin this page on the 'fridge! Email [sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) to check. Grahame"

**Presidential perambulations**

As we age, it seems fairly normal to at times be more introspective. This can even involve a new interest, or a new hobby, or even a total sea change. Maybe we are just adding up the years and seeing our future shrinking, or just looking for a bit of a change.

Over the last couple of years, I have been looking back at my family lineage. A most interesting endeavour and some wonderful 'finds' have been made. One discovery was a first cousin twice removed (we have a common great grandfather) who turned out to go to school with my wife. The consequence of that find was a get together in Melbourne last weekend with some of my wife's old student mates combined with us two family branch members meeting for the first time.

The family tree information coordinator I use is MyHeritage. They offer a DNA service to identify what that says about your ancestry. So, after spending a few dollars I now know there is a big slab of British ancestors, which is not surprising, a slab of Scandinavian, which is surprising, plus 4% or so from Italy, which maybe coincides with my liking of real Italian food.

The only downside of this family history task is that I have become overwhelmed with 'matches' from other families. Each new find seems to open up the connections, both real and imaginary. So, sorting the heritage wheat from the chaff is especially challenging. But it is fun. Allen

**. Upcoming Events Calendar –**

31 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 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, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at 1105hrs...  
Attendees were: Allen Morley, Bert Blink, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, Nick Proskurin and Vic Danko.

**Financial Membership is currently** ...128, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 7. **Total 137.**  
Lapsed 24 members

**Presidents report.**

**Allen** advised:

. Anzac Day Sydney had a good roll up with 12 Locators attending the Luncheon with a good number more marching behind our Banner. George Lane moved a vote of thanks in appreciation to Vic Danko for marking the arrangements at Zest Restaurant who looked after us with their usual great fare and service.

. LSTAA meeting attendances are declining. Allen will invite Joe Kaplan to our June meeting to discuss our joint futures.

. Following the successful WA reunion in March, a proposal to provide the WA branch of the 131 Locators Assn with their own banner was put forward for discussion to establish if it was considered warranted. We will seek feedback from **Barry (Guzder)** on the matter.

**Public Officer Report:**

Vic delivered 2 DVD discs he had been given by the North Fort Museum. One was the digital copy of the Emerson Electric company built ANKPQ1 Radar and the other DVD is still to be assessed.

**Radar Moves:**

. Update...refer correspondence attached to this meetings' Agenda between NVVM Phillip Island and Sec/Treas for the current position of Radar ANKPQ1...

. Radar Display Phillip Island – the proposal appears to be for the Radar to be positioned outside in the elements as a draw card for the Museum. If this transpires, a cover will be required to protect it from the elements which can be severe in that location. A DVA Grant may also be required to allow a suitable cover to be built.

. Radar ops to be canvassed for suggestions how/what should be included in Radar display.

. This Assn will look to acquire a CURTA mechanical calculator for inclusion in the general Det 131 DLB display. Also check out a revolving photo display showing the radar in various FSB positions.

**Photo Album project:**

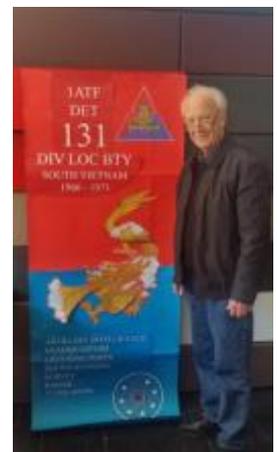
We have been supplied 2 DVD's by the North Fort museum which will be investigated and have been promised more from individuals. (see Public Officer's Report above)

**General Business:**

. Nick provided the meeting with a full mock-up of the Banner we had proposed (a picture of the banner accompanies these minutes). The project will proceed to final draft stage.



Nick Proskurin at right with the "mock-up" Banner and at left some of the group of "considerees" – from left – George Lane, Bert Blink, Allen Morley, Nick Proskurin and Ernie Newbold



. Grahame gave a short summary of the Adelaide Reunion which was a gathering of 11 people with apologies from Nick Armstrong who was to join us for the Anzac March but was delayed in Port Augusta. (A pic of the marchers appears earlier).

**. web Performance...**

If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos [three-zero@hotmail.com](mailto:three-zero@hotmail.com) – BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.

**. Birthdays in the Battery...June –**

JUNE	NAME	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	GEOFFREY SULLIVAN	3798292	1949	02 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "			03 05 1971	20 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
3	ALLAN MACLEAN Capt.	32203	1928	24 05 1967	28 06 1967	RAEME

5	PETER DEALY	3411983	1947	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
5	JAMES LOCKHART	6709144	1947	03 06 1969	21 02 1970	
5	VITO CICCOLELLA	2791669	1947	16 12 1969	17 12 1970	
6	JOHN I'ANSON	2787424	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
7	BRUCE IRVINE	2783695	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
8	EDWIN FIELD Sgt.	242577	1934	22 04 1966	31 07 1966	† 20.07.96
10	KEITH WHITE	2783029	1945	17 04 1967	13 12 1967	AACC
12	IAN AMOS	2785676	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
12	LAWRENCE SAWYER	3787393	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
14	PAUL BUSS	2781443	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 28.09.11
15	KARL DOEHRMANN Sgt.	38119	1933	{20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 10.08.09
	" "			{28 01 1970	27 08 1970	
15	EDWARD WEBB	29964	1941	27 01 1970	21 01 1971	
16	RALPH PEARCE	214806	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† Unknown
18	ROGER WHITTAKER	2184592	1949	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	† Unknown
20	JOHN CHILTON	215855	1946	09 12 1968	03 12 1969	
23	WILLIAM PRENTER WO1	64258	1933	22 04 1966	07 06 1967	† RAEME 01.10.97
	" "			20 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt
25	PAUL BUTCHER	3411454	1946	01 04 1969	25 03 1970	
26	LINDSAY MEAD	3790714	1945	27 03 1968	26 04 1968	
26	GERRY CARROLL	2781311	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
28	BARRY COLLINS	2793213	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	07 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
	" "			08 03 1971	09 06 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 – 8 blokes not highlighted is in need of a “clean up”, so, let’s roll the sleeves up and get into “Locating” a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we’ve received 139 and we’ve sent out 139. Ed – how long is it going to take to get to 140?

. **Located...**

Have a look at the Association’s web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au> – you might find some lost mates or get in touch with us and see if we can for you.



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the establishment of the web site we continue to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

So, if you’re a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame [Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto: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.)

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand 131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the [contacts page](#) for details: <http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>  
<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>

## . 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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