

THE EYES and EARS

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Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

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



A Radar finds a Permanent Home
at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island
– via South Vietnam and North Head
Formal Opening 12th June, 2018...

Radar Handover at National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phillip Island, Victoria

By Allen Morley

Phillip Island, Victoria is perhaps most famous for its nightly penguin parade where the penguins exit the surf and waddle up the beach to their burrows. My wife Diane and I visited the penguins on the night before the radar, and were amused by the sign, 'Please check under your car before driving off'. Those pesky penguins are everywhere! So, on a cold, winter's day in June a group of former 131 Detachment soldiers attended the National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM), Phillip Island for the official handover of what was possibly radar A8. This radar was the one 'rescued' from North Fort, Sydney last year and which still had some Nui Dat dust on it at that time.

On parade were **Warwick Hamilton**, a former OC of the 131 Detachment, Nasho Gunners **Iain Kennedy**, **Bert Blink**, **Ron Mason**, **Peter Dealy** and **Allen Morley**, with the Gunners escorted by their wives, respectively **Janet**, **Mary**, **Marg**, **Ann** and **Diane**.

So, a small, but specialized group of radar operators from a previous existence was present to provide the necessary radar expertise. One special guest was **Ken Dwight** with his wife **Sue** and their son **Creag**. Ken did time with 131 post the Vietnam era and has been, together with Ron Mason, helping refurbish the radar.

The AN/KPQ-1 radar had been professionally refurbished by NVVM volunteers and our 131ers. Lt Colonel (Ret'd) Warwick added a touch of authenticity to the display with scale models of 82 and 120 mm mortar bombs. Museum staff have undertaken to make some wooden model mortar rounds to form part of the radar display. 131 Locators Association will continue its search for a real mortar.

Following lunch in the Nui Dat Café, we assembled in front of the radar with Museum guides **Peter Watson** and **Laurie Jones** who is a Vietnam Veteran. Our 131-audience heard a bit of radar history before the official handover. This was followed by an inspection of some of the museum artefacts, including a Centurion tank, armoured personnel carrier, plus Huey and Huey-Cobra helicopters.

That evening we headed as a group to the Phillip Island RSL to dine and to celebrate the official radar handover undertaken during the day.

Allen Morley

PS - The 131 Detachment plaque located at the Museum in the Garden of Remembrance is looking as shiny as the day it was dedicated.



Radars boxes including oscilloscope with a lonely Tellurometer on top.



Radars "Gurus" Ron Mason and Warwick Hamilton



"Bombes Hamiltonian", soon to be replaced by wooden mock-ups.



(r-l) Peter and Ann Dealy, Janet and Iain Kennedy, Sue and Ken Dwight, Ron Mason, Creag Dwight and Museum volunteer.



131 Visitors gaze I awe at the restored Radar.

This an APC (l-r) Peter Dealy, Diane Morley, Warwick Hamilton, Marg and Ron Mason, Bert Blink, Iain Kennedy (partly obscured), Sue and Ken Dwight and Museum volunteer Peter Watson.



Lunch at the Nui Dat Café – Ann and Peter Dealy, Diane Morley, Sue and Ken Dwight, Ron Mason, Iain and Janet Kennedy, Marg Mason, Creag Dwight, Mary Blink and Warwick Hamilton.

. Insights and Recollections...

The series will continue on the receipt of more Insights and Recollections, so if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections –

Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. Detachment Locations 1967-71 – Members you can now go to the Members Section on the 131 Locators Association web-site and have a wander through the “**Det Locations 1966-1971**” section. It’s as complete as far as the input submitted, so if you find information that needs to be altered or added etc, then just contact

Paul Dickson 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Hope you enjoy the section.



. Here's a continuing story in the series with regards to Locators' "passions" ...

This series commenced a while back now with extracting "Passions" under the guise of "Grey Nomads" and has developed into "things" that somewhat consume us outside families etc and God forbid work!

It's just so good to discover other sides, be that "outsides" or "insides" of blokes whom we begin to get to know through this sort of process.

Now we're going to have a look at what consumes **Graham Williams** in a world filled with "four-legged-furries"! He and his wife, **Jenni**, have had this "Passion" with Samoyeds for an eternity...

The "tails" begin - You asked about our dogs. Except for my tour of duty 69/70 I have never lived in a house without a Samoyed since 1962, so the breed has been part of my life for a long time.

Samoyeds originated in Siberia and were used by the nomadic tribes there to guard and herd reindeer. They have a double coat.... long course outer coat that protects them from the elements and a soft inner coat which when the coat sheds can be used to make blankets, clothing etc. We have scarves and a blanket made from Samoyed fur and there is a woman in Adelaide who makes and dyes bikinis with it. Have yet to see anyone wearing one!

The Samoyed is a medium sized white dog that always appears to have a smile on its face, is gentle and very good with children and loves people as it considers itself part of the family. Contrary to popular opinion they do well in warmer climates as the double coat acts as insulation. As long as the coats are groomed so the air circulates through it the dogs thrive and we have never had a problem here with the heat.

In 1984 Jenni came home from Brisbane with another baby Samoyed.

The breeder asked at that time if we would like to show him. My initial reaction was "you have got to be kidding!". I was not keen for that at all but we agreed to give it a trial to see how things panned out. That was the beginning of our time with Show Dogs and breeding.

I think it was the camping out and travel that sucked me in initially but we are still at it and as long as the dogs love their time out then why not? Over the years, we have travelled around the country to Royal Shows, All Breed Shows, Breed Championship Shows and Nationals along with a host of country Agricultural Shows meeting many new friends and interesting people and at the same time while on the road catching up with family, friends and acquaintances as we passed through.

We have been fortunate over the years to do very well with our dogs in the show ring winning many prizes and awards including Best in Shows and Runner up in Shows...especially gratifying with a home bred dog when these days they are importing champions from around the world to compete. Every dog we have bred has gained the title "Australian Champion", six dogs have gone on from there to the title of "Grand Champion" (with another two presently closing in on that milestone) and one has gone on from that to "Supreme Champion".

When the dogs are retired from their show careers they

get to remain with us as pets, getting as much if not more attention than the younger generation coming through.



What the future brings is anyone's guess as we are not exactly spring chickens these days. As a result, there have been changes over the years. These days I get to stay home with the older dogs most times while Jenni does the shows with the younger dogs most weekends. We removed the 14 seats from a Toyota Hi Ace Commuter bus and set it up as a camper so she travels with girlfriends who also show so can end up anywhere between Rockhampton and Sydney. Too far to travel for the older dogs in one hit. Through the year there may be what they call 'show circuits'. That is like a run of shows in one area. I can be usually counted on to attend these.

For example, say the Western Circuit. Condobolin has up to 4 shows so you camp there permanently and head off to other shows in the area on the different days. Offhand I think from memory you get something like 12 shows spread over 2 weeks. It turns into a very social event as people attend these shows not only from N.S.W. but also Qld, Vic and S.A.

Of course, every one of these small country towns has a pub with a T.A.B. so I am never bored and look forward to my historical buildings tour wherever we may go. Don't you just love it when a plan comes together?

For the record the dogs actually earn their keep each Christmas. Up until about 6 years ago when the Samoyed Club of Queensland folded the club had a sleigh and was hired by a number of shopping malls in Brisbane and the Gold Coast each year to bring Santa into the mall on his arrival do a few circuits before depositing him at the "Santa Throne."

Our dogs were part of this team which was always very well received everywhere we went. At one of these events in Brisbane with Santa in the sleigh we amazed people by doing a lap of the ground floor, running the dogs and sleigh up the travelator to the 2nd floor doing a circuit of that and so on to the 3rd floor and back down again without the dogs missing a beat. Cue standing ovation. Monies earned from these events went of course to the Club but after it folded we were contacted privately by centre



management and so it came to pass for the last 6 years have attended a mall here on the Gold Coast for what we call "Santa Sittings." It is a well-paid gig where the dogs sit with Santa for 2 weeks prior to Christmas for 5 hours each day and have photos taken with the children. The dogs love it the kids love it, most forgetting the jolly red man and just wanting photos with the dogs. When the shopping centre changed hands 2 years ago the new owners trying to cut costs decided to dispense with the dogs. They had already sent us a letter saying "services no longer required" but got a backlash of complaints from as far away as Brisbane as people had been coming from there each year with their children. And so, it came to pass the dogs still have and love the gig. We now do only one week but more money so as they say everyone is happy.

Of course, there is a downside to everything. In this case if we travel overseas it will usually be separately. Some years back when we went to Vietnam it cost more than our combined airfares to board the dogs. Therefore, any trips together will be short. Unfortunately, in October this year Jenni is booked for 3 weeks travelling in Morocco with her girlfriends. As a result, I must report I am unable to attend the Brisbane reunion due to home and dog duties.

. Here's the next in the "Unknown" series...

These two "pin-ups" were extracted from **Ray Smith's** album and while they may be obvious, we still need their names, time, where and when the photos were taken.

Hey and a final one – "How old are they now?" Plus, name a song from both of them?



. **David Dougherty** had an article in *Eyes & Ears* a couple of months ago titled –

“Accidental Discharge? Does anybody remember who, or more importantly will THEY own up.”

Names I do not remember but a weapons inspection was called adjacent to the Menz Club and there were possibly 15 present. Now we all remember the drill. Don't we?

Remove magazine, cock weapon (so that chamber can be checked to ensure it is empty) and then present for inspection.

After inspection.

Release bolt, pull trigger and replace magazine, or so it should be.

However, transposing this to...

Replace magazine, release bolt and pull trigger does not have the same result and ensures that all on parade are awake.

There were, as I remember, no ramifications for the person who “inadvertently?” carried out this procedure.

Regards, David”

...Ed – ok who was it who almost blew off his “Hats Bush”???, not to mention the laundry having to be done with all the stained clothing in the vicinity.

...We cracked it! The “culprit” fesses up!

Ken Jones – “Hi Paul. After reading *Eyes & Ears* on David Dougherty comments who was the “culprit” that had the A D, I suppose I had better own up before others flood you it was me Ken Jones. As things happened according to my memory is that we had a new BSM everyone knows who it was he said “that everyone was SLACK”, so, he decided that everyone not on duty had to attend the parade. So, we all lined up and the practice drills it only lasted a few minutes, when **BANG!!** Drills ended and I was charged

Back to the lines **Jim Lawler** told me to get all dressed up in starched greens that night to front some Colonel. I can't remember his name, but he was from 12th Field. The ramifications were 14 days CB \$20 fine.

So back to the lines we went and I said to Jim “What now?” He said that I had to report to 12th Field. I did, so they told me to “F##### OFF! THAT I WAS 131” - let them deal with it, so back to Jim he said no movies no grog and stay in the lines out of sight.

So, I did a few days. Later we were told we were going bush I asked “Could not go as I was confined to barracks, but that did not work - “pack your gear!” - so it was easy.

Regards Ken. Ps The \$20 was deducted 29/8/68”

Ed - \$20, gee that's a bit stiff – what, that's about two week's pay back then??

. **Oddities – Ed –**

Ok, when lunching with “the blokes” in Sydney a few months back the topic of **Vic Danko** and his “Roses” bloomed! Now, this sent yours truly on a bit of a witch hunt and I came up with the following – all of this was duly recorded in *Eyes & Ears Vol 3 No 19 back in 2010...*the original topic of the discussion was “**What did Happen on the Way to SVN**” ...

Vic Danko -

“Ok, I'll throw in my recollections. We left from Holsworthy. Before departing I went and cut a few rose clippings which I intended to plant in Nui Dat. I wrapped them in a hessian bag and made a carry handle out of a coat-hanger. I wet the hessian thoroughly. We left by Ansett for Darwin. Dickson called these rose clippings our “war of the roses”. I knew it was something in history but I was never that interested in history.

All I remember about the flight to Darwin is that at the rear of the aircraft there was a place where people could sit around a table. I remember seeing Hemming sitting there.

In Darwin, we went to barracks and I went into the ablution block and left the rose clipping in a sink over-night. Next morning, we departed by Hercules with webbing for seating. I remember at one time I found a bunk type resting place and slept for much of the journey.

I do recall vividly flying over the Celebes Islands and they looked just like in the atlas (fancy that!)” –

ED – actually **Grahame Dignam**, I think, has a photo of the islands.

“We landed in Vung Tau. We slept the night in tents near the airport and then the next day to Nui dat.

The rose clippings, which I had tendered all the way, I gave to one of our guys to plant near Arty Tac. But I don't remember who it was. Maybe it was **Pete Fletcher** and maybe Peter told me later they didn't take.

Given that today there is no evidence of our stay at Nui Dat it would have been good if the Roses had taken life.

Regards Vic “

Then Vic continues...“Thanks, all, “Rose horticulturalist” - Does anyone remember me carrying the clippings?

From Vung Tau to Nui Dat we travelled by trucks. Remember the bridge that was half submerged? (we didn't have to use it; it was off to the left heading north).

Yes, we slept in tents in Vung Tau and next day to Nui Dat. I remember vividly lying there in the tent in Vung Tau and thinking “right now there is no one I know who has the vaguest idea of where I am, not even my mother!”

Now a separate note, sorry about this but I'm reading a book which is very close to what happened to my parents in Russia WW2.

In 1966, we were all plus or minus 20yrs of age. Our fathers and mothers had been thru WW2. How tough must it have been for them? We'll never know.

Like many, my father was not one for demonstration (and I didn't like him very much) but I still remember that at the end of that pre-embarkation leave (I came home) he came into my bedroom early, he was off to work, woke me, shook my hand and left. Not a word.
The guy had his issues, he was a Cossack, Nazis and Soviets. But the older I get the more I understand (almost).
Regards Vic"

...OK, Ed did a bit of digging (appropriate with the subject line of this article) and came up with some info on the "roses" in *Eyes & Ears* that were published in 1967 (thanks to **Warwick Brooker** for sending them to me) which shine a bloody great light on this subject...

Bereavement Notice.

The writers and staff extend their deepest sympathy to the O.C. upon the death of the rosebud "Cleo". "Cleo", aged 3 months, died as a result of squeezing by some evil sadist. The O.C. couldnt be contacted to-day for comment and his ADC Pete Fletcher is reported to be under heavy sedation

...and then this piece...

GRASS GALORE

There's no chance of the REC areas' lawn being washed away or growing unnoticed, as WO2 "Chalkie" is doing a fine job of keeping it under surveillance. So great is the attraction of the grass that it had both he and the OC (on all fours), sniffing at it during the week.
cont.

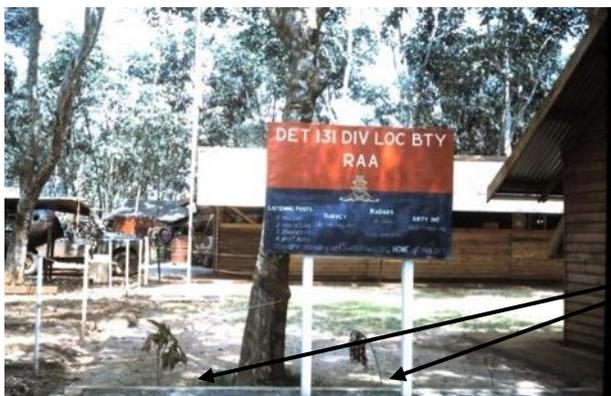
-2-

GRASS GALORE. cont

This just goes to show that the horticultural spirit of the Battery didn't die with the roses.

...sorry about the quality of the print but it was run off an army Gestetner in '67 and **Grahame Dignam's** hadn't been to typing school either, but the story does lay testament to the existence and short life of the Vic Danko's Roses.

...then **Allen Morley** wrote a piece re "The Gunners' Sheds at Nui Dat" – story and photos by Allen Morley, which appeared in *Eyes & Ears Vol 5 No 7 June, 2010* which sort of puts an end to this odyssey – well we, sort of, hope it does!

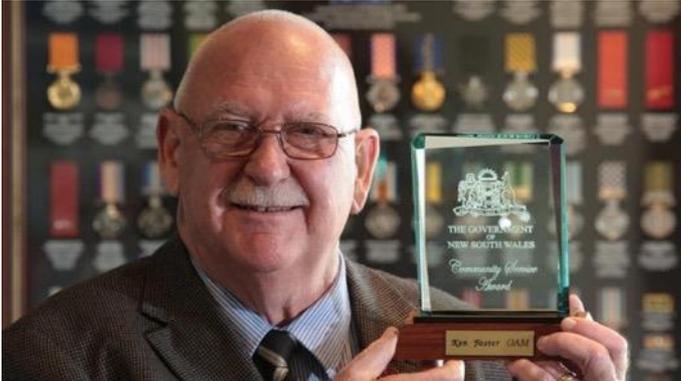


Nearest building is the Res Hut.
The far building is the Det HQ –
Orderly room, R Store with the
Transport Office in the tent to
the rear left.
I wonder if the straggly plants in
the foreground might be Vic
Danko's roses?

. **Jim Dickson** sent in the following link which is an interesting read with an interpretation of the background "mechanics" – Politicians v's Defence Forces - that lead Australia down the path to further involvement in South Vietnam – it really is worth downloading for the insights revealed -
<http://sdsc.bellschool.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/publications/attachments/2016-03/sdsc-horner.pdf>

. **Ken Foster** – let's introduce a pretty special person who has volunteered to help us out with some Advocacy assistance.

The introduction – Ken served in Vietnam in 1968-69 and was at Coral/Balmoral, not with the Detachment – you'll have to read his Profile when it hits the network (won't be long), however have a read of an article which appeared in the Macarthur Chronicle Campbelltown in May, 2016 –



Ken Foster has received a Community Service Award in recognition of his advocacy work and efforts with the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia. Picture: Robert Pozo

“Veterans advocate Ken Foster helps bring men home”

By Luisa Cogno, Macarthur Chronicle Campbelltown May 10, 2016 9:38pm

WHEN the bodies of 25 servicemen killed in the Vietnam War are repatriated to Australia next month, proudly watching the ceremony from the sidelines will be the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia national president Ken Foster.

The Minto resident and tireless veterans advocate was part of the group who convinced the Federal Government it was appropriate to return the bodies, which were buried in Malaya and one in Singapore, home.

Mr Foster, 75, was also adamant no pressure would be placed on the families of the service personnel, who died between 1962 and 1967, and that their wishes would be respected.

A Hercules aircraft will transport the coffins to the Richmond Air Base on June 2 for a proper military burial on Australian soil.

“It's very rewarding. You can't measure the depth of feeling involved with that,” he said.

Mr Foster has also been working on the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan commemorations which will be held in August.

It's with great satisfaction that he says he was part of the group who lobbied the government to award grants to regional Australian cities to host services. One such service will be held in Campbelltown's Mawson Park.



Ken Foster (centre) received his Community Service Award from Campbelltown State Labor MP Greg Warren and Ingleburn RSL Sub-Branch President Ray James.

His advocacy work takes him to Parliament House in Canberra two to three times a month.

Just last week, he returned from Tamworth where he was working with and advocating for veterans.

“It's very rewarding to work with veterans,” he said.

“Many are out of their depth and don't know how to deal with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“I don't do it for the day-to-day rewards, I do it for the satisfaction of helping veterans, their families and the widows.”

Mr Foster is also the association's Macarthur sub-branch veterans advocate.

He said many Vietnam veterans including those who were called up for National Service simply chose to return home, throw themselves into civilian life, worked long hours and never addressed medical issues including post-traumatic stress disorder until “the wheels come off”.

“What they went through in the training and conditions they faced is never replicated in the civilian world,” he said.

Mr Foster guides veterans through the process of applying for entitlements available including non-liability health care for medical services and cancer treatment.

He urged veterans to come forward, not suffer in silence, register with the department and contact an advocate to help them work through the processes.

Mr Foster, whose sixth great grandchild is due in September, served in the Australian Army for 21 years until 1980, including a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1968-69.

He also recently received a Community Service Award from the NSW Government in recognition of his tireless work.

The award was presented to him from Campbelltown State Labor MP Greg Warren.



Ken Foster pictured during a Remembrance Day service at Campbelltown's Mawson Park

...now that you know him, get to know him better if you need assistance – see later in "From the Advocate's Desks" ...

From the Advocate's Desks



Peter Piro submits the following discussion piece that explains quite a bit in detail and comes with an opener to show some of Peter's history –

JULY / AUGUST 2018 - Let me introduce myself for those who don't know me, I am Peter Piro, who served with 130 Divisional Locating Battery CMF - Padstow when I was called up and as a 13th Intake Nasho with the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery with the Survey Section between 1969 and 70 in SVN. Post the Army I retired from the Insurance Industry after 42 years specialising in claims. It is a good fit for Compensation (Pension) cases.

Having been asked in such a compassionate way by Paul Dickson to do this article I could not say no.

It was never my intention to get involved in "Pensions" however after 5 years in Townsville in the TPI office as a Welfare Co-ordinator I saw to many who were hurting so, I did my first Pension Course in Townsville. Since then Pension Level 1 & 2 and finally the new Advocacy Training and Development Program or ATDP.

The day came to do RPL - Recognised Prior Learning. As I am also Welfare Level 2 I did both RPL's.

The case study(s) and scenarios were a blast but the Interview was something else.

Three on one. They fired questions while I had to give the answers. No reference books nor a cheat sheet.

So here I am!!!

POINTS TO CONSIDER

Do you suffer pain or sustained injuries/trauma or suffer diseases or any conditions listed?:

1. Spinal Issues - Lower Back ... Lumbar Spondylosis, Cervical
- Shoulder, Ankle, Knee injury/pain or other
- These may relate back to service (**NOT** because are getting old)

2. Disease, other type of sickness or condition such as
- PTSD, Major Depressive Disorder
- Drug abuse, Alcohol abuse
- or other

NOTE:

It is important to say your General Practitioner who knows you case is critical to your case. As it is their medical words that support your case.

These may have their beginning in service.

Do not self-diagnose (i.e. I will not win with DVA or It does not relate to service)

Talk to an ESO's Advocate.

DVA HEALTH CARDS (GOLD/WHITE)

Both cards provide the same treatment for your problems.

WHITE - Is based on Specific Disabilities being accepted by DVA ... So, it is time for 2 things.

1. If you do not have either - then seek out an advocate and spill out your aches and pains.
 2. If you do have one - then when was the last time you had a review conducted.
- That is, your disabilities "getting worse". See your advocate.

GOLD - There are several types to be aware of.

* Issued when your case is accepted at 100% of General Rate - This card dies with you. Your wife / partner does **not** automatically get it.

* TPI - issued when you are assessed as unable to work. It is embossed TPI.

Your wife / partner **becomes** a War Widow on your passing and gets a Gold Card in **their** name.

* EDA - is issued for those over 65 who have **serious debilitating conditions**.

Your wife / partner **becomes** a War Widow on your passing and gets a Gold Card in their name.

The GOLD CARD not only applies to your accepted disabilities it also provides for any medical need in Australia.

It needs to be understood that we have three ACTS:

- > SRCA ... Now DRCA
- > VEA
- > MRCA

Each has its own rules. So, do not make the mistake to think because Fred got it so will I.

MEDICATION - SCRIPTS - PBS & RPBS

This plays a considerable part in our daily life and we need to be aware of some things that can save money etc.

With the **GOLD CARD**, you have the benefit of any medical need being covered which includes scripts.

With the **WHITE CARD**, it only applies to your accepted disabilities.

The PBS we all know about. However, some scripts are not on the PBS but may be on the RPBS

* Repatriation Benefits List

- Your GP will or should know about this.

- Get the list on <http://austradesecure.com>

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION

I was fortunate to be able to provide reports on the issues I have either experienced or have seen. Let's hope with submissions from other advocates and those who work in this area a better DVA may be born.

I guess I shall finish at this point.

Peter Pioro

JP NSW JP (Qual) QLD, Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Advocate Level 2
Military Welfare Advocate Level 2, Mentor

Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

Peter Pioro JP - email contact: piorowp@ozemail.com.au

Ken Foster OAM JP - email contact: khfoster1@bigpond.com

Disclaimer: Please note that all correspondence submitted will be treated with the total confidentiality between the sender and our Advocates. Printed submissions and responses that may be published in *Eyes & Ears* will be completely anonymous, just used as examples of help.

Barbara Hemming's - **Something of real importance for ALL of us...**

Eyes & Ears Vol 11 No 5 May 2018 No 118

As you all may recall Barbara sent in an email detailing her, somewhat very pleasantly surprised and unexpected, dealings with a very professional volunteer from her local Caloundra - Sub- Branch RSL, Qld of which her late husband and one of our Detachment Veterans, Leigh, was a Member.

In fact, if I may expand at this point – I know what follows on has all come through from the in-coming correspondence - what has come out of this is almost the basis for a documentary! –

Well, no sooner had May's *Eyes and Ears* hit the web site when we got a great response from **John Stanford**, which possibly says a hell of a lot for many of us (me included).

John Stanford... "Paul. A very informative article from Barbara Hemming (the wife of late Leigh Hemming) on her experiences after his demise. I think she might be spot on when she mentioned that there might be a lot of assumed knowledge out there as to what happens to our loved ones when we move on.

I know we have a few guys amongst us who have been involved RSL/DVA welfare rolls over the years and others with first-hand experience who might be able to pass any advice on to us who are still around.

I wonder if this knowledge/information could be passed on via the *E&E* for us all to learn from.

For your advice. Regards, John Stanford"

Barbara's (Barbara Hemming) response after my sending her a copy of *May's Eyes & Ears* plus a copy of **John Stanford's email** –

"Hello again Paul. I'm so pleased to hear that it wasn't just Leigh and me who were so blissfully ignorant of the workings of DVA. I sincerely hope my experience helps others get the ducks lined up so as not to miss out on anything you are entitled to.

Weather here is just gorgeous at the moment. Today is the coldest so far, this winter but the sun is shining and the days just glorious.

Hope all is well with both you and Helen. I send my very best to you both. Barb"

. VETERAN SUPPORT via the RSL/VVA/DVA or a Qualified Advocate – The following is a project undertaken to try to glean what is actually available/happening in and around Australia with the view in mind to Veteran support. The survey spread, as you can imagine is small being based on the size of our Veterans and responses received.

The object of all of this is to hopefully allow a formulation of activities to initially make results aware not only to our Vets, but to organisations involved in Veteran support/assistance.

I've used correspondence from **Rieny Nieuwenhof** and **Ian Amos** whose responses highlighted two different organisations – a very well-co-ordinated State set-up and a highly motivated RSL Sub-Branch. I hope you find reading them to be of interest and motivating to yourselves...

Rieny Nieuwenhof – "Hi Paul, I am a member of the Portarlington-St. Leonards RSL, Previously, I was a member at the Geelong RSL, wife and I don't go there much.

The Portarlington RSL is much smaller and they have a Friday 'Happy Hour (s)', which I attend regularly. The Club is well respected in the town, especially on ANZAC Day.

There are no pokies, Rieny"

... then Rieny continued with more in another email...

"Across Australia the way welfare, pensions and Advocacy are delivered to veterans, their families and others differs greatly. For example, in Victoria, the RSL and VVAA auspice **Regional Veteran Centres**. These Centres were established over 25 years ago by John Prinz (RIP) and offer welfare support (hospital & home visits, transport etc.) pension advice and work with veterans to obtain entitlements from DVA. Where there are more complex issues or where claims are rejected by DVA the Centre's Advocates represent veterans.

Advocates who are above Level 2, (Level 4 is the top) are the only ones, apart from a lawyer, who can represent veterans at the Veterans Review Board, Administrative Appeals Tribunal or even in the Federal Court. These Advocates must be familiar with the three Acts (VEA, SRCA, MRCA) if they are to represent a veteran successfully. Apart from an Office Manager, who is usually paid, the Centres are staffed by volunteers, including welfare, pension and Advocates. (Incidentally they are ALL called Advocates now).

Nearly all advocates are veterans themselves, so they are more empathetic than a civil servant or lawyer.

DVA encourages younger veterans to make their claims on-line, but this is fraught with danger because if they fill-in forms incorrectly and sign them. the information provided is permanent, and cannot be changed. We have many younger veterans who have been 'caught' in this trap and then come to the Regional Veteran Centres for help.

Sometimes there isn't anything we can do to reverse the mistake. These are often the younger veterans who commit suicide when their legitimate claims are denied or when DVA takes forever to resolve a claim.

STRUCTURE: In many cases the Regional Veteran Centres in Victoria are 'stand-alone' entities and are funded through what is called BEST Funding. The amount of funding depends on the number of clients (veterans, widows, family members) they assist each year.

RSLs may also have their own welfare, pension officers and Advocates

Legacy also has their own Advocates.

There are other ESOs eg. the Naval Association, RAAF Association who may also have volunteer Advocates.

The problem now being faced by Regional Veteran Centres, RSLs, Legacy and other ESOs is the lack of younger people (veterans) who have the time, ability or willingness to become an Advocate. They must undergo training and in the case of Advocates who can represent veterans at the Veterans Review Board, the training required is of a high standard.

The consequence of all of this is that the Fed. Government, via DVA, is embarking on a 'scoping study' (Advocacy and Support Services for Veterans) which will see the creation of an Advocacy Bureau, with paid Advocates. These Advocates may work for the DVA and may not represent veterans as faithfully as the volunteer Advocates have done for so many years.

Finally, DVA tend not to promote the entitlements veterans may be eligible for under the three Acts, Of course there are the DVA Factsheets which people are referred to when they call DVA. As many will know calling DVA is an exercise in great patience!

So, it has been the Regional Veteran Centres, RSLs, Legacy and other ESOs who have been the source of information and have acted on behalf of veterans. If a veteran doesn't access the support services provided by these groups they will find it very difficult to know what they are entitled to as a result of their war service. We often find veteran widows are the ones who are not aware of what they are entitled to when their husband dies. (and DVA won't be knocking on the door to let them know what those entitlements are either)

I hope that helps a little in clarifying the current state of support services for veterans.

Rieny

Chairman of the Geelong Surf Coast Veterans Centre Committee of Management

Ed – Are these “Regional Veteran Centres” or similar set-ups ONLY in Victoria?

Ian Amos – “Paul,

I have been a member of Cronulla sub-branch and memorial club since 1969 although until about 15 years ago I hardly ever went there. My mother even paid my membership fees each year. These days I regularly attend monthly meetings which are followed by a subsidised lunch. There is also a quarterly night meeting to which serving and working members go free. Members are encouraged to bring a prospective member along.

The sub-branch currently has around 400 members, of which half are WW11 vintage in their 90's. There are around 50 current serving members. The president is an Iraq vet and there are two women (vice president- Afghanistan vet, and treasurer-RAAF) on the committee together with a former AF policeman who served in East Timor. The rest are Vietnam vets. I am one of three Trustees who look after the sub-branch investments.

The sub-branch has two pensions officers and a welfare group who visit members in hospitals, nursing homes and sick in their own homes. There are also people who provide the "poppy service" at funerals for families that request it. The club runs a weekly Day club for older vets to socialise and be entertained. Transport is provided for those unable to get there themselves. The club also sponsors a local cadet unit. WW11 vets were not very diligent in seeking out veteran entitlements and now our pensions officers spend a fair amount of their time dealing with them and widows like Barbara Hemming. They are always urging to make an appointment so that claims can be made or pension increases sought.

In the lead up to ANZAC day, the club provides speakers for local school assemblies and organises a very successful Dawn Service.

This all takes up a fair amount of time for a fully voluntary organisation. I think that most sub-branches would be involved in similar activities. Ian.

...Ian added another worthwhile connection - VVPPA is Vietnam Veterans Peacemakers & Peacekeepers Association

...in further communications with Ian the following is extracted from one of his emails -

“Paul, I've had a chat with the Cronulla pensions officer. He is currently dealing with a number of Afghanistan Vets who are not RSL members, so **no** requirement to join. He has 8 years' experience and deals face to face, telephone and email to local and regional clients. He has given me his phone and email details and would be happy to help anyone, anywhere. Cronulla also has the services of an advocate experienced at the VRB and AAT should initial claims be rejected by DVA.

I think the most important thing is that **nobody** should deal directly with DVA in pension matters and anyone on less than TPI should **regularly check** with a pensions person about upgrading, as only TPI and EDA guarantees automatic war widow status of a spouse after a veteran dies.

Gordon Malcolm – “I joined my local RSL, Brooklyn, some 8-10 years ago, a very small sub-branch with no bricks and mortar base. I'm vice president and have made it clear I won't be involved in area meetings and RSL politics. We do local services, particularly with the Brooklyn school and other welfare in the local, albeit small, area. The branch about 4 Vietnam vets. Gordon”

Paul Dickson's response - Thanks Rieny, Ian and Gordon for the early responses.

Before I dissect further and gather some more thoughts, I have had just one initial thought and that's possibly that at the next Committee meeting we discuss the thought of having an upcoming meeting at an RSL, having pre-organised, as Ian states, someone or two/three representatives from pensions/welfare group/s of the Sub-Branch to attend with a small presentation and Q&A time. Maybe with the view to connecting a link for further communications.

I realise there is going to be vast differences between Sub-Branches and the main difference is going to be the number of members. The Club Sub -Branch Ian Amos belongs to - 400 members - I gather is large, if in fact, it could be labelled as huge in comparison to the ones Rieny and Gordon belong to.

Let's not let this subject set with the going down of the sun.

...before I get onto the Survey, let's raise a few other points – some a bit like “Did you know?” -

Bert Blink – sent in what could be labelled as what the different States/Territories entitlements...

For example, the ACT: - here's Bert's achieved “entitlements” -

- (1) I don't pay for my Driver's license
- (2) I don't pay car registration (just the taxes & Third Party Insurance)

- (3) I get a \$333 discount on my rates
- (4) I get a Utilities Discount (Electricity Water & Gas) some \$700 pa
- etc

Grahame Dignam forwarded in the following links for the Department of Veterans Affairs “Factsheets” for information to the Gold Card. If you click on be prepared for a lengthy read and some time’s vague wording...

Gold card - NB – be selective and read what hopefully applies to you.

[Factsheet DP83 - British Nuclear Test Participants and Members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force](#)
[Factsheet HSV59 - Eligibility for the DVA Health Card All Conditions \(Gold\) or Totally & Permanently Incapacitated \(Gold\)](#)

[Factsheet HSV60 - Using the DVA Health Card - All Conditions \(Gold\) or DVA Health Card Totally & Permanently Incapacitated \(Gold\)](#)

[Factsheet HSV65 - Medical Treatment while Overseas](#)

[Factsheet IS01 - Service Pension Overview](#)

[Factsheet IS15 - Health Care Eligibility for Service Pensioners](#)

Do your own thing and have a look at Concessions by state...Google DVA Gold Card Concessions – add your state – there are so many from Council rates, Telstra, transport, gas/electricity/water, vehicle registration, vehicle stamp duty etc.

And maybe it’ll be a Happy 70th Birthday forever!

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES –

I sent out the following Questionnaire titled “RSL/DVA Survey” to some **278** of you on 8th June and received a pretty lack-lustre response of **25 / about 9%** (I’m not sure what to make of it?) from a good cross section of States/Districts and Sub-Branch sizes highlighting the following stats for the present –

72% are **Sub-Branch Members**, some had let their membership lapse over time, but had re-joined,

42% of the **Non-Members** said they are or would consider joining.

38% are or have been involved in some official capacity with the Sub-Branch,

Sub-Branch memberships ranged from **9 to 500+**, some with no Vet assistance being offered, some just “social” groups,

44% of Sub-Branch Members have received some sort of assistance via the Sub-Branch, the other **56%** had used outside Services (DVA/VVA etc)

Comments – these ranged from Members having no problems to some disagreements with other members including Office Bearers,

then of course the comments from the **Non-Members** ranged from some pretty serious stuff very early on (the ‘70’s) to no real interest – the assistance received by these blokes came from other services (DVA/VVA etc).

All the blokes have **Gold Cards**.

16% of All responses had had some sort of problems with a variety of Medical/Dental/Optical service suppliers not allowing the use of the card – most of them changed the service supplier,

NO ONE has/had ever received any post / follow up communications with the DVA.

Blokes, like myself included, were not made welcome many years ago by the incumbent RSL Members – in most cases the Vietnam war, in their eyes, was not perceived to be a “war”. Anyway, that’s half a century ago and a lot of water has been drained from those muddy rivers, thankfully.

From reading responses from the majority of you blokes the Sub-Branch activity with their Volunteers and a hell of a lot of involvement is a place with a heart in more ways than one. I would recommend seeking out a Sub-Branch, dropping in and saying g’day. Email one of our Advocates listed above. But, whatever, if you haven’t made the move I strongly urge you to do it **NOW**.

...**From the Survey Questionnaire, I sent out, I’ve extracted part of a response from Rieny Nieuwenhof**, who, to me and hopefully you the readers, is a real mine of information and makes a real point to the “**NEW VETS**” among us that should be seeking additional assistance navigating the DVA “minefield” –

“Here in Victoria we have Regional Veteran Support Centres, some are associated with RSLs. These RVSCs provide assistance to all veterans in regard to welfare, pension information and application of same to the DVA and Advocacy, when claims are rejected. These Advocates take cases to the Veterans Review Board after all information related to the veteran’s claims have been gathered (this may take time as medical records have to be sought and verified). The RVSC are run by volunteers, usually ex Vietnam vets. The RVSCs are federally funded through the BEST grant, the size of the grant depends on the number of clients (veterans) assisted in the previous year. The amount of the BEST funding has steadily declined over the years as the number of veterans seeking assistance has declined. DVA wants younger veterans to make their claims on-line, but this often leads to claims being rejected because the information provided does not “fit” the Statement of Principles (SOPs). When this happens, veterans may go to a RVSC to get help.

Q - Comments (How you’ve found the experience or why you haven’t joined would be helpful etc):

While RSLs are non-profit organisations and therefore have charitable status, many have pokies and this attracts those who are not veterans (social members). Sometimes it is hard to find a real veteran. The RSLs do provide a

range of services like card groups, painting groups, bowling, etc. Increasingly they provide assistance with Aged Care and accommodation.

Veterans, their partners and families can access information about pensions at an RSL. They have volunteer Advocates as well. The trend in larger RSLs, is for paid Advocates (and this will become the norm as **fewer** volunteers step up).

Q - Would you use an approved Advocacy service (not necessarily an RSL Sub-Branch aligned) – we now have two fully qualified Advocates aligned with us: As indicated I use the Regional Veteran Support Centre for its pension and advocacy assistance.

We suggest that you seek help/assistance/clarity via an organisation or an Advocate regarding most things if you are considering contacting the Department of Veterans Affairs as their website is helpful to discover things, BUT can be vague on detail.

While the DVA suggests that claims completed on-line are more efficient and less time consuming this is not always the case. Some veteran claims can come under three Acts – VEA, SRCA and MRCA – and require a very good understanding of these Acts. Most veterans would not have this knowledge; therefore, it is always recommended that a veteran seek the advice of an accredited Advocate (Level 2 and above)

In my experience, many veterans do not know the other entitlements they may be eligible for eg. Bereavement Grant, Education scholarships for children and grandchildren, Travel cost re-imbusement to attend medical appointments, and many more.

As you have indicated the DVA has many Factsheets about what is available and how to apply, BUT one needs a Pension Officer and/or Advocate to find the appropriate Factsheets and THEN how to fill it in correctly.

Again, DVA claims that they becoming more client focused and less confusing take that with a grain of salt.”

It is the held belief that if you want to or NEED to liaise with the Department of Veterans Affairs do it somehow face to face with the Department or via an RSL Sub-Branch or an Advocate – it may only be a simple phone call or two and some patience to organise.



Mike Horne sent the following in –

“Hi Paul, I am Mike Horne ex 131 76 - 97. Met Tp and RDR TSM, instructional positions at Loc Wg. Could I be included on your mailing list please. Regards, Mike Horne”

Bob King got in touch with an investigative query – “Hi Paul, I have been looking at the *E&E* file on the website & I have found that Vol 11 No 2 has Vol 11 No 4 in its place. Am I correct?”

...yes, **Bob K was correct, however**, at the click of fingers **Bob Billiards** had the re-arrangement corrected.

Bob Billiards – “Paul, yep all is well so far. Just spent from last Thursday to yesterday at Coolangatta and travelling back and forth in the two Goggos. We are planning to meet a couple of German friends in Perth in August and driving two back from there to Sydney and then the 60th Anniversary celebrations of Bill Buckle Goggomobils in Australia. 6,100KM over 28 days.

The trip to ‘Cooly’ was a test run to ensure both cars are fit for the trip. I have just rebuilt both engines and done a quick restoration on our Dart. Just a couple of cosmetic fixes on the Coupe and another patch on the fuel tank of the Dart.

Regards, Bob”



Ulmarra (just north of Grafton) for morning tea at the pub on the Clarence on the trip, north.





“Cooly Rocks-On Goggomobil” display area with a little girl who loved Tommy the Turtle. She was really upset when Granny tried to move her on J



It is at the end of the trip and on the footpath strip in front of our house.

We’re actually heading off to Perth on 18th August and then leave Perth on 27th for Sydney via the coast. Two German friends will be driving the Coupe and we will be driving the Dart. Why are we doing it? – it is the 60th anniversary of the Bill Buckle Goggomobil in Australia so we are

heading to Gosford for the Labour Day long weekend and Cathy wants to drive it around Australia. She is talking about continuing on after Gosford but not sure that is practical at that time. Maybe go to Brissy for the LSTAA do at Enoggera in October.”

Ed – Keep an eye out for an up-coming “Passion” story from Bob sometime after August!!

Grahame Dignam – in response to looking for Locators Locations in Nui Dat the late **Merv Dart** came into focus and this is what Grahame supplied, including the photo -

“I must have been annoying Chalkie (W02 Ron Royal) 'cos WH (OC – Capt Warwick Hamilton) seconded me down there (31D) for about 1or 2 weeks to give him a rest.

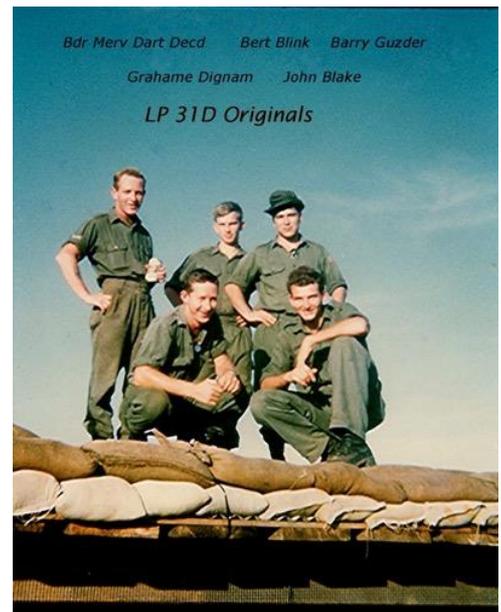
We were under canvas with no sandbag side protection. The spot we occupied might have been a US of A post that was later modified to OZ OH&S living conditions.

First night sleeping on stretchers and gear on the ground - flash flood and all was saturated.

I remember the food was great and the Chocolate milk "to die for" metaphorically speaking. I can still remember the grunts burning off the shit pits/drums just after breakfast. Grahame.

To help with the names on the photo – back row l-r –Merv Dart, Bert Blink, Barry Guzder then to the front row – Grahame Dignam, and John Blake.

Now, let’s have a crack at possibly completing the puzzle – does anyone else have any recollections of where Merv may have been located?



Mike Burgess – “Hi Paul, A **UCG** arrived today. Thanks for your assistance.

As to personal profile, the only time I had the privilege of serving with RAA was my year in SVN.

Outside of that I served for another 25 years in a number of RAEME and staff appointments with names and acronyms that would probably not be decipherable by most.

If you really want a profile I will provide.

Once again thanks. Mike”

Ed – My response to the “personal profile” gave Mike **NO** escape route!



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...

Ken Foster – “The 50th anniversary of the Battles of FSB Coral & Balmoral was certainly a memorable occasion and topped off with the announcement of the award of the unit citation for gallantry. The appreciation of the crowd did not distract from the seriousness of the commemoration. I have recently completed the last segment of the recognition of prior learning under the Advocacy Training and Development program run by veterans but paid for by DVA, an almost perfect balance. I have now been certified as competent not only in Welfare but also Compensation advocacy to the highest level, that is, to appear before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, if you want to get more background on this go program to www.atdp.org.au and look for the newsletters. Still travelling back and forth to Canberra dealing with DVA meetings etc but it's only a 3-hour drive and I can do it, in most cases, in the one day. End results usually make it worthwhile. Trying to keep healthy by walking as much as possible, aim is at least 45 minutes a day and watching the diet, seems to be working but I must admit weight has stabilised over the past months no matter what I do. Winter has set in and over the past 24 hours had the best rain in over six months, possibly 20mm but that is better than nothing, hope it keeps up for a few more days. That's about it for now. Stay well. Regards, Ken Foster”

Russ Jackson – “Hello Paul, thank you for your email and for the great work you continue to do with *Eyes and Ears*. We've certainly had some bumper issues recently. Cold mist coming through our valley as I write, with winter now upon us. The back fence mounted thermometer has shown some low digit temperatures over the last couple of mornings. Nothing like you have at the moment and although our days have brought welcome sunshine, the air has still been cold. Big Anzac Day for us this year and Graeme Owen and I had the pleasure of organising a fiftieth anniversary event in Melbourne. Great turn up with 21 in attendance (partners included) for the three days of festivities. Michael Quinlan penned a very good piece about this event which you included in the last *Eyes and Ears*. Next year our group will meet for Anzac Day in Sydney having done a very wet Canberra in 2017. We are both well with a trip this year to the US West Coast planned for late August with a stopover in Hawaii on the way back. That is if the Volcano has not taken over the Big Island. Next year we are looking at a trip to the Northern France Battlefields followed by a visit to our son and his family in Stockholm. Still indulging my lifelong interest in motor cars with a recent purchase of a new Golf R. 310hp and all-wheel drive makes for an interesting road experience in what is a smallish car. Keep up the good work, including the golf course, and thanks again for the contact. Regards Russ”

...Ed couldn't help himself as usual so sent this question – “Russ, Ok, how about a photo of the "R" - and what made you get one?”

...Russ's response and photo -

“Hello Paul,
In its element on a “running in” drive along the Great Ocean Road. Why did I buy it? Well, Porsche performance at about a quarter of the cost was one of the attractions. Regards Russ”



Peter “Fletch” Fletcher – “Hi Paul, Good to hear from you and that you are fit and well. All good here. Venice and I are in good health and mobile. I didn't get to Sydney for the Anzac Day March. I attended a dawn service locally at Terrigal. Had a good day. Maybe I will get to Sydney next year and see the boys. Travelling to Sydney is a chore. We have not long been back from a cruise. Flew to Tokyo, picked up the ship in Yokohama. Made several other stops including Hiroshima in Japan. Then onto Taiwan, Hong Kong and Vietnam. Visited Hanoi, Da Nang and Saigon. Visited the War Museum in Saigon-very interesting. Brought back lots of memories, Aussies get a big mention. Didn't get to Nui Dat or the tunnels. Saw Vung Tau. Lots of changes have taken place since we were there in 67. Still pretty dirty in the streets and water ways. Busy place. We sailed onto Bangkok and then flew home. Last year we did a cruise from Venice to Athens. I may have mentioned this to you previously. Cruises are great. My golf has suffered a little, although I had a good game last Saturday. I ran second with 35 stableford points. I'm on the way back! I am not surfing yet but am hopeful I will make a comeback this summer. All the best, Fletch”

Tony Goldsmith – “Hi Paul, Good to hear from you again and that you are both well and enjoying life. It was interesting reading the last *Eyes & Ears* in relation to what Barb (Hemming) had to say about DVA benefits etc. That has prompted me to see about joining the RSL and having a talk to a Case Manager about possible benefits. I would like to think that Chris could get a Gold Card when I've departed this life (not that I plan to anytime soon).

Yes, I'm still avoiding commemorations and Anzac Day marches; although I did come close this year as my 6-year-old granddaughter's school joins the local march, but, she didn't – so I didn't. Maybe next year.

Haven't been up to too much – had another overnight stay with now almost 4-year-old and 2-year-old (took me 2 days to get over it – they have way too much energy). Had a weekend away at Binna Burra recently to practice our hiking in preparation for Three Capes Walk in Tasmania end September.

Currently looking forward to our 8 day visit to Hawaii end of this month for our 25th wedding anniversary.

Glad to hear that you're warming up in your part of the world – we're getting bloody cold over here.

I suspect that with the *Eyes & Ears* and keeping in touch with all the guys, you're keyboard skills are far superior to mine (one finger job – when I find the right letter.)

Don't go drinking too much coffee. Tony"

Ron "Mook" Evans – "Lovely to hear from you Paul.

All is very well with me. I am as engaged with life as much as ever. Health and finances are excellent and I can indulge, pretty well, my every whim. Current American politics are the greatest soap opera ever devised anywhere on Earth. Hate to admit this Mate, but I will actually miss Trump and his circus when they are gone.

I waste some time creating and promoting www.Ratecap.net.au It is, alas, a lost cause but it's not the winning but the fighting. I am also in the process of simplifying my affairs so that my executor will have an easy time of it.

Now tell me please (in confidence of course) why you had to flee Australia. I won't blab, honestly.

Hasta la vista Baby, Mook, El Hombre Mal"

Ed – No esta mal Espanol el Mook!

John I'Anson – "G'day Paul well things have not changed much for me since we last chatted. I am still in Thailand and cannot see me returning to Australia permanently as there is not much for me there anymore and besides I really love Thailand. The weather, food and beautiful women keep me going and of course the cheap cost of living.

However, like you I chase the little white ball around the course about once a week but not too successfully at times the game of golf can be very frustrating at times. You can play a hole like Tiger Woods then the next hole like you have never held a golf club! And for some reason golf is one thing that is not cheap in Thailand. It is more expensive here than Australia

Like where you are ANZAC is just another day but there are some services held at different places where Aussies live but I don't usually attend but I have been up to Hellfire Pass for the ANZAC Day service twice. It is very moving as they hold the service in Hellfire Pass where the POW's worked and died.

I did not attend the Coral 50th commemoration, I attended the 40th and in Canberra it was ~~fucking~~ freezing plus I would have had to fly Bangkok to Singapore then Singapore to Sydney then on to Canberra. Fin and the boys sent me some of the photos and on seeing them I sort of regretted not attending. Keith Ayliffe submitted my name to DVA so I will get my citation in the mail.

At present, I am up north in Udon Thani celebrating my birthday in my lady's village with her family. Lovely people but of course not much English spoken, although she can speak it quite well.

Well mate that's my update but I will be going to Australia for 2 weeks in August spending time on the Gold Coast and Sydney just catching up. I find 2 weeks is plenty long enough for me. Thanks Paul"

Russ Hamsey – "Paul, it is very good to hear from you. I am back from my round-the-world trip and back at work at 20 STA. I will transfer to the reserves at the end of the year and finally start slowing down.

I spoke with Keith Ayliffe and Terry Erbs and they were very happy about the Coral/ Balmoral Commemoration in Canberra. I am so pleased to see the Coral lads receive the Unit Citation for Gallantry. We are now working on the legacy issue for the Regt.

I am pleased to see that life still agrees with you and look forward to your continued work on *Eyes and Ears*.

Look after yourself mate. Russ Hamsey"

Terry Erbs – "G'day Paul, all well in Brisbane, busy preparing for the reunion with much added interest following the awarding of the UCG to Locators at FSB Coral & Balmoral. As you are probably aware, Keith is pursuing the legacy issue on behalf of 20th STA or at the very least for 131 Bty. If he is successful it would wonderful to have it presented to current Locators during the open day Friday 12th Oct. Will you be back for the reunion? Cheers Terry"

Peter Joscelyne – "Hi Paul. Nice to hear from you and that all's well with you and the family.

I gather from your comments that you are not in Aussie. I believe it's cold and wet over there.

I am currently in Japan backpacking with my brother. Yep, a couple of old blokes following the youngsters around.

We are here for a month and are already halfway through our time. We finished a Cruise around the Southern Islands of Japan on Sunday and have now hit the streets. Interesting place and soooo many people. Seen lots of Temples, Palaces and gardens. Now heading for Tokyo and even bigger crowds, it makes home feel rather empty.

Starbucks seems to be one of the only places that you can get a decent coffee  over here.

I joined the Anzac Day Service in Port Macquarie. There was a large attendance, with a number of people succumbing to the heat. Thanks for your update. Peter.'

Albert "Bert" Jacka – "On Thursday last (7th) I suffered a Stroke, it was in late afternoon/evening, it was very strange, I was on my deck having just returned from paying a bill at my local Council, I mention this as I did drive there and back without a problem.

I did resume reading my book, a James Patterson Thriller, the actual title was "Honeymoon".

I could not focus on the words or make sense of the story, things fell apart quickly, I could not control my left hand, I needed to take a piss so I staggered inside to my bathroom, the light bulb had blown, I could not see, so I staggered back outside, it was dark by now, so I pissed on my lawn.

I was unable to pull up my pants zipper, in fact, I could not control most body movements. I managed to get back to my deck chair

Things did get worse, I could not think or talk in a reasonable manner, I had minimal body control. Ana, my wife did notice my problems and did try to calm me down and get me to talk, my utterances were rubbish, she called our son Scott (lives close by) when he arrived he took one look at my useless, being and called an Ambulance!

They arrived and started tests on me, simple stuff, like touch your nose, raise your right hand, then they left, I failed all but did manage to walk assisted, to the Ambulance.

They wheeled me into the Redlands Hospital on the Ambulance gurney, process was quick and I was soon in the emergency section, naturally they, the Doctor did quiz me, and finally I was able to talk some sense, but not much!

They sent me for tests, Scans, Blood tests, and more, I had tests that night and more in the morning. I had a sleepless night, noise, confusion and anxiety on my part, probably confusion in my mind as well. My son did accompany me to the Hospital, and I was later joined by my wife and daughter.

I did survive this and was discharged the following afternoon, with additional medication scripts.

The result is, I had a Mini Stroke, I have stopped smoking (I did enjoy cigars), I cannot drive for two weeks, I respect and will obey, I have Nicabate patches (change daily) The urge is still there, but the desire to live, does remain stronger.

What more can I say, perhaps near death without the help of others, family, loved ones, and I thank them. I hope to hang around for a while yet, but I can tell you a scare (like this) does change your life!

You are free to print this, if you so desire, If I can help others by my stupidity (well, make that addiction) then please do so. Enjoy your evening, Seeya, Bert"

Gary Lovell – "Hi Paul. I'm going fine I have sold my farm and bought one and a half acres closer to the beach at Byron Bay so only ten minutes till I'm in the surf, I try to surf at least 4 or 5 times a week. I still miss the farm but not all the work that goes with it, but I was made an offer I couldn't refuse. I have built a brand-new house on the one and a half acres which is a big change from the old farmhouse we lived in for over forty years. The house was 130years old. I'm still rocking and rolling singing and playing in two bands one surf music and one 60 and 70 rock so still having a great time but the late nights don't get any easier, but that's rock and roll, I'm trying to travel as much as I can so I'm doing month on month off with the bands.

Anyway, I had better go keep up the good work always look forward to the *Eyes and Ears*. Gaz el. Lovell"

Just an Observation – why hasn't someone/company/DVA given some thought to a -
"Veterans Cruiseline/Travel Booking Agency"?

Notice Board...hey! see what's coming up?

. An Invitation ...for 4th August, 2018 –



An invitation is extended to you and your partner or guest(s) to attend the **91st Annual Gunner Dinner**, to be hosted by the RAA Association (NSW) Inc.

2018 Dinner will include Dining-in-atmosphere and Awards Presentations
Theme: 50th Anniversary of the Battle of CORAL

Location: City of Parramatta Returned Ex-Servicemen's Club
Macquarie St., Parramatta

Timings: 1900 hrs for 1930 hrs

Dress: Mess Dress, Black Tie, Lounge Suit or Uniform with miniatures,
Ladies – After five

Cost: \$75 per head

In conjunction with the RSL, a courtesy bus will be available to transport diners from the Holiday Inn to the club and return.

Enquiries about the dinner should be directed to:-
Christine Dunand
Mo: 0423 552 699
or email:
acdunand88@gmail.com

Please note: All bookings for the dinner are to be made with payment by 20th July 2018. Receipts with seating information will be issued on arrival at the venue.

Parking: Free parking is available in the RSL car park opposite the club (on approach, move into the right-hand lane)

Dining President: LTCOL Schon G Condon RFD
Guest and Dinner Speaker: COLONEL Ian Ahearn, (RETD)
Colonel Commandant Eastern Region

Holiday Inn Parramatta Welcomes Gunner Dinner attendees



It is conveniently located near to the dinner venue
\$190.00 including buffet breakfast for up to 2 people.
\$17 for onsite security car parking

Holiday Inn Parramatta
18 – 40 Anderson Street, Parramatta, NSW 2150
To book your accommodation please call (02) 9689 9947
or email reservations@hiparramatta.com and remember to quote: "Gunner Dinner"

Note that accommodation at the Holiday Inn this year is dearer and limited (approx. 10 rooms) and must be booked by July 13. This is due to a large concert that is being held in Sydney. First in best dressed.

Please return this form with your payment to the address below
Or you can pay by EFT and email the RSVP Form found at:
http://www.artillerynsw.asn.au/files/641_Gnr_Din_RSVP.pdf

I/We will be attending the 91st Annual Gunner Dinner –4 **AUGUST 2018**
and attach my cheque in favour of the **RAA Association (NSW) Inc**

_____ Diner(s) @ \$75 per head	\$ _____
Total:	\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone Number _____

Email Address: _____

Names – Partner / Guests

NB: If more than 8 diners, please attach a list

Do you prefer to be seated with a certain group or individuals?

Please state which group: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

For planning information:

Do you anticipate using the courtesy bus from Holiday Inn and return? Yes / No

RSVP by 20th July 2018 to:

Gunner Dinner Bookings
PO Box W1034
WEST CESSNOCK NSW 2325

Booking enquiries:
Contact Vic Rae: 0423 205 083
or email:
editor.gunfire@optusnet.com.au

Gunfire 2/2018

NB – There is a real sense of urgency and commraderiere in the air now as the following **Commemoration** event being held in **Brisabane this coming October** is going to be something that will stir the strongest hearts. It will be one of the major post-South Vietnam commemorations as it will basically be heralded in by a combination the “oldies” being on parade under the Detachment Banner, complete with the Unit Citataion of gallantry (UCG) being followed by the “youngies”.

This is not to be missed by ANYONE and that includes ALL members of the Detachment, not only the Coral/Balmoral participants, plus Locators and services linked to of any description – RAEME, RAASC etc – everyone made it possible for us to function.

Don't think we're forgetting 20 STA Regiment Veterans either – make us all proud.

This is being arranged to enforce the link between the “Old” and the “New” – maintain the tradition. In other words, to enforce and establish the **Legacy** being sought to hand on a hard fought for honour, the Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG), and not to see it just disappear into Military annuls. It is **OUR Legacy** and we need to turn up in force with numbers to highlight the fact.



Locators Reunion Program 12/13/14th October 2018 “50th Commemoration of the Battle of FSB Coral & Balmoral”

Friday 12th Oct:

9am – Visitors’ tour of training facilities, view latest equipment with opportunity for hands-on drone flying.

11am - AN/KPQ-1 A12 “Long Tan” Radar dedication service conducted by both LSTAA and Regiment’s padres & supported by the Army band. Dress – For radar dedication - men jacket & medals

Noon – Barbeque lunch provided by the Regiment at James Menz Club. Please pay for own drinks – profits to the Menz Club

2pm – End of Regiment visit, guests to depart base.

The Regiment will facilitate base entry, details will be issued beforehand to those attending the reunion. **If base security status remains unchanged, car and pedestrian entry will be via the main gate.**

Saturday 13th Oct:

Daytime - free to tour Brisbane and environs. **Evening** - **Locator’s Reunion Dinner at Kedron Wavell RSL, 21 Kittyhawk Dr, Chermide.**

The dinner is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of FSB Coral & Balmoral in May 1968 and the Regiments’ birthday. Drinks at 6pm, dinner 7pm, cost \$65 per person with free beer or wine until our bar credit is reached. Dress - men jacket & tie with miniatures, ladies after 5pm.

Sunday 14th Oct:

Noon – farewell drinks/lunch at Ship Inn Hotel at South Bank, Stanley St & Sidon Street, South Brisbane QLD 4101. Drinks & meal at own cost – see menu - http://www.theshippinn.com.au/shipinn_restaurant.html

Accommodation: Interstate visitors may wish to stay in or near Brisbane CBD, where there is a wide range of accommodation available with good public transport to Enoggera and Chermide venues. The best option for comparing and booking accommodation is to visit [wotif.com](http://www.wotif.com). Alternatively there are several motels/hotels near Enoggera and Chermide, which may suit visitors: - <http://www.essenceapartments.com/>

Transport:

<https://www.chermidecourtmotel.com/>

<http://www.questapartments.com.au/properties/gld/chermide/guest-chermide-on-playfield/overview>

<http://www.brookhotel.com.au/>

For caravanner’s the only suitable nearby location is the Newmarket caravan park, 2km SE of Enoggera and 5km NW from Brisbane CBD and with good access to public transport.

<http://www.newmarketgardens.com.au/>.

For all public transport trip planning use - <https://translink.com.au/>

Brisbane airport Domestic & International terminals - trains every 15min to Central Station, Brisbane CBD, a trip of 20min/\$18.50.

Kedron Wavell RSL - 10km north of Brisbane CBD, buses from King George Sq & Roma St Rail Station to Chermide bus station every 10minutes - No 333/330/340 – 25min/\$1.98 concession fare, then an easy 5 minute walk to RSL.

Enoggera - Ferny Grove line train, from Central Station to Enoggera rail station 8km /19 minutes/\$1.98 concession, or No 390 bus - 26 minutes/\$1.98 concession and city taxi fare approx. \$25[*note - Taxis have no access to base due to security restrictions*].

Activities for visitors:

visitbrisbane.com.au/information/articles/activities/30-things-to-do-spring?sc_lang=en-au

Costs and Payment: **A RSVP form will be circulated after Anzac Day, seeking your response before the next committee meeting in late May.** For info, the commemoration dinner cost is \$65 per person, payment preferably by direct transfer to SE Qld LSTAA, Defence Bank BSB 803205 Acc 20400195.

Otherwise by personal or bank cheque posted to SE QLD branch LSTAA, treasurer Sgt Rodney Alchin or secretary Major Colin Sharp c/o 20th STA Regiment RAA, Bugden St, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Qld. 4051.

This Anzac Day enjoy the company of mates, support those who are struggling and remember the fallen.

“Lest we forget”

Terry Erbs, President, SE QLD LSTAA.



...and the Invitation to the event follows...

Invitation to the Locator's Reunion



Brisbane 2018

Full details of the re-union program appear on the LSTAA website www.locatingartillery.org or are enclosed in hard copy if this notice has been sent by post. This form indicates your intentions, day by day,

Dedication of "Long Tan" Radar A12, 9am Friday 12th, October

and associated activities at Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera.

Yes/No

Names of those people attending.....

Vehicle Registration for base entry.....

50th Commemoration dinner for the Battle of Coral & Balmoral, 6pm Saturday 13th Oct. at Kedron Wavell RSL

Yes/No

Names of those people attending..... Farewell lunch/drinks noon Sunday 14th Oct. at the Ship Inn South Bank (own cost)

Yes/No

Names of those people attending..... Payment for Commemoration Dinner of \$65 per person - direct transfer to Defence Bank 803205 20400195 - please include your name as reference or by cheque to Treasurer SGT Rodney Alchin c/o 20th STA Regiment RAA, Bugden St. Enoggera Qld 4051. Please complete details below and cross out whichever does not apply.

- My cheque/money order for \$..... is enclosed with this RSVP form
- I have sent \$..... by direct transfer, RSVP form enclosed

Please attend to this ASAP so that we can begin to assess numbers. A final closing date will be announced later.

Terry Erbs, President SE Qld Branch LSTAA MOB 0403 500 642

terry.erbs@gmail.com

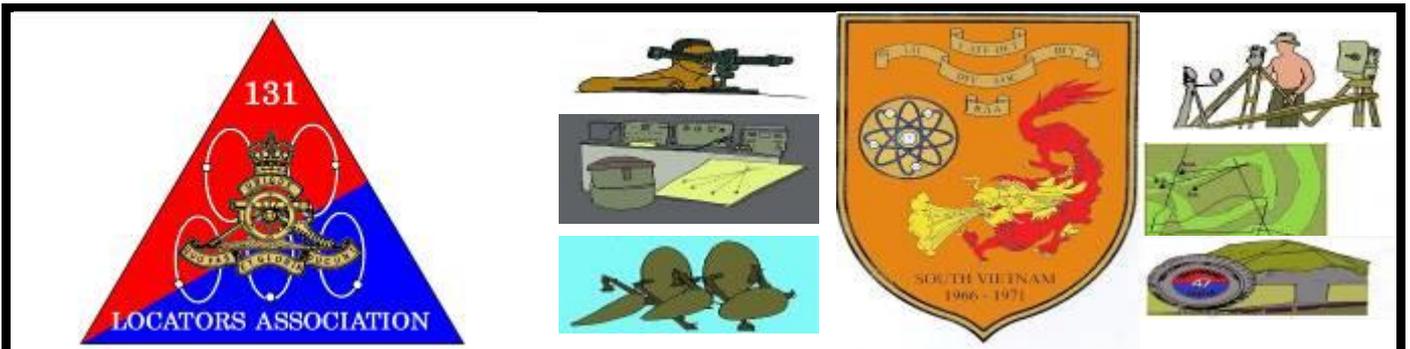


A reminder to those of you who are entitled to wear the Unit Citation for Gallantry please submit your applications as notified in last month's *Eyes & Ears* – it can be done via this link -

<http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Content/AwardsOnlineForm.asp>

Anybody who receives a negative result and who are on that list are to contact Keith Ayliffe at this email address - aylif@westnet.com.au

DON'T PROSCRASTINATE!!!



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** - "We're half way through this year, yes, hard to believe and the question now arises as to "Did I renew my membership?" Just check, please, and you may have overlooked it!

A quick email to me at sectreas131locators@gmail.com will give you a definitive answer and only take 2 minutes and 11 seconds. Grahame"

Presidential perambulations

In last month's *Eyes and Ears*, we learnt from Barbara Hemming's experience that as a collective group we don't really know enough about what our Gold Card could deliver.

So, I did some investigative work. For example, were you aware that DVA has supposedly helpful factsheets? In actuality, there are 33 pages listing them all, each with about 35 fact sheets per page. That is of the order in total of 1100 factsheets. Not all of the fact sheets in this total are relevant to all of our members. For example, concessions in South Australia (CON04) are not germane to those residing in other states, British Nuclear Test Participants and Members of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (DP86) does not involve our members and factsheet HSV10 - Financial Support for Former Prisoners of War and Victoria Cross Recipients Accessing Aged Care Services is very specific to a small group.

DVA's disclaimer reads, inter alia, *The data contained in DVA Factsheets is only an interpretation of Departmental policy, and is designed solely to assist users. It is not authoritative and does not indicate the Commonwealths position with respect to any matters, nor does it indicate how the Commonwealth will act in any specific situation. All matters dealt with by the Commonwealth are treated solely on their individual circumstances and the appropriate application of the law.*

DVA Factsheets, and the information it contains, is not binding in any way.

That disclaimer reads to me that the factsheets are far from factual. The kicker lies in the bureaucratic interpretations.

Our cohort is ageing and facing such a knowledge challenge is daunting for many of us. That is why we have to rely upon others (advocates) to try to guide us through the challenges offered by DVA. However, that does not always work. One personal experience is illustrative. DVA claimed that I had not worked past 65. I showed that their view (position?) was incorrect. Quick as a flash the response I received was that I had not worked 'enough'!

This issue is critical for our members, dependants and families. Your Association is continuing to try and unravel the relevant complexity for members. Allen

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 10th July, 2018 at 1100hrs
Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome.

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 19th June, 2018 at 1105hrs...

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



Financial Report:

. The Treasurer circulated the Current Bank Statement showing the balance at the bank and noted that A Term Deposit had been renewed x 6 months

. The balance of our accounts continues to be healthy

. The receipts and payments pertaining to the Coral/Balmoral events in Canberra have been accounted for accurately with no loss to our association's balances. Those transactions will be part of the Association's normal audit procedures.

Financial Membership is currently – **119**, plus Associates **2**, plus Affiliates **8** = **Total 129**

Plus Lapsed **33** members (down from **37**), Deceased **7** Members **TOTAL = 169**

Presidents report. Allen advised:

. The tellurometer that accompanied the Radar to Philip Island has been placed on top of the Radar set boxes and the tripod used in the field has not been sighted.

. The next LSTAA meeting will be the AGM and held at the **Panania/East Hills RSL Sunday 8th July 11.15AM.**

. RSL/DVA Advocates. We need to organize our approach on how we advise Vets to approach Advocates who need assistance in accessing RSL/DVA services. Further Guidance will be gathered to be published on the website and in *Eyes & Ears*.

Radar Moves.

. The Radar was unveiled on the 12th June in the presence of 14 Det131 personnel and family during a tour of the Museum which was followed by a luncheon. A dinner later that evening was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed.

. Due to the haphazard placement of 131 items around the Museum a proposal will be formulated to better co-ordinate the display to make an accurate depiction of our role at that time.

. As mentioned in the correspondence a paint process would enhance the appearance of the Radar Set. The cost of \$500 has been approved to meet that cost.

. Radar ops to be canvassed for suggestions how/what should be included in Radar display. So far a theodolite was suggested and it will be investigated. Also a 82mm mortar tube and inert bombs would make the Radar display more realistic and investigations have commenced along those lines.

. A story board linking the various aspects of the use of the radar might be produced.

. The recently donated Curta is being held until the proposal for the updated Museum display has been resolved.

General Business.

. Confusion reigns around the wearing of the UCG and clear guidance is being sought and will be published in the *Eyes & Ears*. Also, Unit Banners will need to be updated to reflect the new award.

. **Treasurer:** A merchandise message and update/order request will be sent to gauge interest in which merchandise items our members prefer to wear and display.

**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...July –

	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	STEPHEN FOWLER	217186	1948	16 09 1968	17 09 1969	
2	PETER O'DONNELL Sgt	213115	1941	24 03 1970	05 11 1970	
3	BRUCE FOWLER	2795238	1949	16 12 1970	29 07 1971	
4	GEORGE WEARN Capt.	2251140	1937	05 08 1968	20 08 1968	133 Div Loc CMF
7	PETER JOSCELYNE	2792023	1945	03 06 1970	17 12 1970	
12	NEVILLE ATKINSON	1733449	1947	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	† 14.12.96
13	DEREK GRIFFITHS					† 02.04.05
10	BILL FINLAY Sgt.	37818	1944	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
10	ROBERT PELHAM	55342	1949	16 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	REX ARNOLD	424096	1949	16 12 1970	29 05 1971	
	" "			29 05 1971	16 09 1971	Ind 161 Recce Flt.
11	JOHN JAGGARD	4721862	1949	03 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
12	HARRY LYNUS	176377	1942			
13	ALASDAIR GOUGH	2105130	1947	27 03 1970	04 03 1971	
14	EDMOND DOUST Sgt.	53111	1939	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	† 26.12.14
14	FREDERICK KRUIMINK	6708867	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
15	IAN EARLE	3166824	1951	19 08 1970	10 12 1970	131 / 4 Fd Regt.
	" "			11 12 1970	23 06 1971	33 Dental Unit
16	GEORGE ADDISON WO2	2410040	1930	16 04 1969	16 04 1970	† 27.12.12
18	KEITH AYLIFFE Sgt.	217354	1941	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	131
	" "			08 07 1971	24 07 1971	HQ AFV
18	ALAIStAIR McLEAN	312524	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
18	JOE KOCKA	1202703	1951	20 08 1970	29 07 1971	
19	MAXWELL McPHERSON	3795560	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
21	GRAHAM WILLIAMS	2789698	1947	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
21	WILLIAM SLAPE	44464	1950	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	† 12.05.12
21	WILHELMUS Van ZETTEN	3794919	1947	17 03 1970	17 12 1970	
21	PETER SUMMERS	3796803	1948	09 11 1970	09 06 1971	
22	JOHN HOMER	5717596	1949	17 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
23	DAVID DODD	2790139	1947	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
25	WILLIAM DOYLE	4719912	1947	17 12 1968	04 01 1969	4 Fd REGT
	" "			05 01 1969	28 11 1969	131 † 05.09.78
25	JOHN SMITH	610231	1949	16 11 1968	12 11 1969	
25	PETER BARRY	2794949	1949	17 03 1971	04 08 1971	131
	" "			04 08 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
28	MALCOLM MUSGRAVE	214359	1943	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
29	RICHARD EDWARDS	218595	1949	03 06 1970	14 05 1971	
30	KEITH HOLLOWAY	15851	1943	20 05 1966	10 10 1966	

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

Ed – 9 blokes not highlighted is still a concern as the where the hell are they? Surely someone must know where at least one of them is?

. Locator Profiles – we've received **155** and we've sent out **155**. **Ed – 160** is just begging to be written! Just another thing to try and get some identification and completion. We try to get recent "head'n'shoulder" photos when Locator Profiles are submitted – it puts a real (as in "real-life") touch to a human story. So, could I get recent "head'n'shoulders" from the following – **Alan Adams, Paul Angel, David Auld, Steve Boutlis, Charles Brewer, Robert Buzzacott, Brian Campbell, Graham Campbell, Barry Campton, Ged Carroll, Don Chalmers, George Clark, Craig Cook, David Dougherty, Ian Finlay, Les Falkai, Jim Fitzgerald, Tony Foley, Barry Fountain, Mick Habben, Geoff Holden, Peter Hopper, John l'Anson, Peter Jackson, Russell Jackson, Geoff Jebb, Michael Jenkins, Peter Josceleynes, Ted Jux, Robert King, Iain Kennedy, John Lochore, John Lucas, Harry Lynus, Ron Mason, Ian McMillan, Donald McNicol, Joe Molenkamp, Robert Morrison, Andrew Opie, Roger Pryke, Jeff Reid, John Richmond, Kevin Salter, Neville Smith, Ray Smith, John Stanford, Andrew Straume, Peter Suckling, Kevin Thornton, David Troedel, Wayne Whitehead, Graham Williams, John Wilson, Robert Wilson and Ken Woodbine.**

...I went for a bit of a wander through the archived photos looking for anything resembling a "head'n'shoulders" of the above blokes and came up with some really interesting ones for the following and forwarded them to **Bob Billiards** to post on the web in **Member Profiles** – so if any of you don't think to much of the photos (remember this is how you're going to be remembered) then send me a new one. **Paul.**

So, here's the list of "force" added photos - **Al Adams, George Clark, Anthony Foley, Geoff Holden, Geoff Jebb, Peter Jocelyne, Bob King, Ian McNicol, Andrew Opie, Kevin Salter, Neville Smith and John Stanford.**

Ok, now you've been named and shamed let's get 'em in, please?

. 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.

John Lochore made a connection from a long time ago with **Wayne Whitehead** – great news.



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

So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add your name) to the associations account at "A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133"

Hope we hear from you?

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

. Other related sites...

Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY "Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush" (A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield

Meetings: - Sun 8 Jul 2018 and AGM: at Panania RSL

The meeting will commence at 1115 hrs



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.au/>

Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit www.at-ease.dva.gov.au

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much. It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: <http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

<http://www.rnzaa.org.nz/>

Editor contact email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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