

**DET 131**  
**DIV LOC BTY**  
**RAA**  
**1ATF**  
**SOUTH VIETNAM**  
**1966 – 1971**  
**Lest We Forget**



131 Locators Association Inc.

Minutes for the General Meeting of the 131 Locators Association Inc.

at

Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club  
 26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176

and via Zoom internet

on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

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

Zoomed members were Kevin Browning, Gordon Malcolm, Ron Mason, Paul Dickson, Ian Campbell, Terry Erbs, Bert Blink, Steve Wynn, and Rieny Nieuwenhof.

Apologies were received from George Lane, Warwick Brooker other State Reps and Jim Fitzgerald

**Comrades, Brothers in arms remembered**

**VALE**

Self, Christopher	Gnr	66981	-	1969 - 70	14/12/49	Unknown
Simmons, Donald Victor	Sgt	212769	-	22.04.66 - 21.12.66	24/11/37	25/04/15
Slape, William	Bdr	44464	LPs/Snd Rg	1969-70	12/07/50	12/05/12
Smith, Garry	Gnr	2792048	-	1970	21/03/47	19/01/12
Smith, Dennis William	Gnr	2789286	Det HQ	1969	01/11/46	13/12/21
Smith, Raymond John	Gnr	3787666	Bravo Radar	1966-67	03/03/45	15/01/23
Staziker, George Stuart RFD ED	Lt Col	2108436	133 Bty	N/A	25/01/38	29/12/12
Szarbo, Peter	L/Bdr	38752		26/03/69 - 25/03/70	18/01/47	07/12/07
Szypulski, Mark	Gnr	313270	-	1971	22/04/1951	03/11/16
Telford, Stuart John	Gnr	279130		20/01/70 - 03/12/70	21/05/48	28/03/72
Thomas, Ean David	Gnr	-	130 Gun Lock Bty	N/A	04/11/45	24/04/03
Thomson, Alan James "Big Al"	Bdr	42308	-	20/5/66 - 22/6/67	12/08/37	07/10/15
Todd, Geoffrey Thomas	Bdr	54254	-	1967-68	18/12/47	2012
Townley, James Harold	Brigadier	17072	Det OC	22/4/66 - 18/8/66	02/03/39	22/10/19

**Lest We Forget**

<b>Item 1</b>	President Allen Morley welcomed those attending and those logged in via Zoom for the first meeting of the new year.
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Item 2	Minutes of the previous General meeting and Correspondence were circulated with the Agenda and are deemed to be read and correct except for items to be covered in General Business below.																																				
Item 3	Matters arising and Recent Correspondence (uncirculated) were Nil.  Moved G Dignam      Seconded Bert Blink      Against Nil      Accepted																																				
Item 4	<p><b>Financial Report.</b></p> <p>The Treasurer advised the current Bank balance from a Statement dated to-day. The Association does have one outstanding payment due for polos ordered from Bluegum Clothing Vic. The delay is due to outsourcing of 4XL sized shirts which have now been delivered for embroidery. We anticipate delivery will be very soon.</p> <p>Financial Membership is currently ..... 131  plus Associates 2  plus Affiliates 15  Total 144  Plus Lapsed as at 1/2/2023 31 members</p> <p>Merchandise as at 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2023</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 958 1425 1182"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Stock now</th> <th>Cost</th> <th>sold</th> <th></th> <th>ROI</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Car Decals (gifted)</b></td> <td>184</td> <td>\$759</td> <td>259</td> <td>\$1275</td> <td>+\$525</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Nasho UCG ribbons</b></td> <td>144</td> <td>\$905</td> <td>155</td> <td>\$755</td> <td>-\$130</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Caps/Hats (12 gifts)</b></td> <td>53/37</td> <td>\$3337</td> <td>193</td> <td>\$3860</td> <td>+\$523</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Polo's (3 gift)</b></td> <td>15</td> <td>\$2750</td> <td>92</td> <td>\$2760</td> <td>+\$10</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tee Shirt (2 gift)</b></td> <td>18</td> <td>\$1310</td> <td>50</td> <td>\$1250</td> <td>-\$60</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Moved G.Dignam      Seconded Merv Nairn      Against Nil      Accepted</p>	Item	Stock now	Cost	sold		ROI	<b>Car Decals (gifted)</b>	184	\$759	259	\$1275	+\$525	<b>Nasho UCG ribbons</b>	144	\$905	155	\$755	-\$130	<b>Caps/Hats (12 gifts)</b>	53/37	\$3337	193	\$3860	+\$523	<b>Polo's (3 gift)</b>	15	\$2750	92	\$2760	+\$10	<b>Tee Shirt (2 gift)</b>	18	\$1310	50	\$1250	-\$60
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Item 5	<p><b>President's Report.</b></p> <p>Allen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noted the passing of our comrades Ivan Mills, John Ianson, Jeffrey Bassford, Ken McNamara, Raymond Smith, Leigh Baker. Allen and Ern Newbold along with a number of other comrades attended the funeral of Ivan Mills.</li> <li>Warned that not all medicos accept the Gold Card for payment. He was denied and asked to pay cash and then make a claim for reimbursement from DVA. It would be wise to confirm Gold Card is accepted before proceeding with treatment.</li> <li>Links to our website on some other Artillery units websites were wrong and not working. After our contact they have been fixed.</li> <li>compared elbow injuries with Grahame and concluded that his was much more serious as he needed metal pins and screws that had to be removed later requiring 2 surgeries.</li> </ul>																																				
Item 6	<p><b>Public Officer Report.</b></p> <p>Gordon reported that he had no item needing attention.</p>																																				
Item 7	<p><b>Webmaster Update.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Webmaster Bob advised Facebook now has 325 members. The link to the Newsletter was last month accessed on 267 occasions. He mentioned the website is now seen as an historical document with most personal interactions happening</li> </ul>																																				

	on Facebook which is more immediate and responsive.
<i>Item 8</i>	<p><b>Health.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordon advised he has joined the Prostrate club with his Prostrate treatment journey ahead.</li> <li>• Ron Mason advised he was as well as can expected and was keen to hear the associations view on the appeal sent out by the Vietnam Vets National Museum.</li> <li>• All elbows are healing well and in normal use.</li> </ul>
<i>Item 9</i>	<p><b>General Business and around the grounds.</b></p> <p>Discussions ensued on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bert link forwarded a letter of appeal from the Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans National Museum which was distributed to the meeting group earlier. The letter revealed that the previous owners of the NEW museum site had lodged an objection to a Development Approval previous issued the museum being built in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The museum has appealed for financial assistance to cover the expected \$140,000 solicitors costs. The appeal letter was circulated widely to the Locator community and is available on request.</li> <li>• A vote of those attending the meeting agreed that we contribute \$2000.00 to help in keeping our museum functioning and telling our story to future generations</li> <li>• A catchup group gathered for lunch at Canley Heights RSL for 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and discussed the way forward for the photo album project deciding to develop 2 versions one social for the website and one practical for the Regiment.</li> <li>• The extra 4XL polo order appears very close with the balance due early April.</li> <li>• Geelong will host a Coral/Balmoral event on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023.</li> <li>• The only information regarding August 2023 anniversary reunion in Canberra is this link from DVA and detailed information is scant. <a href="https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/commemorating-all-who-served/commemorative-services/commemorative-services-australia-3">https://www.dva.gov.au/recognition/commemorating-all-who-served/commemorative-services/commemorative-services-australia-3</a></li> <li>• Reiny is standing down from official duties with Geelong Vietnam Vets Assn and seeking greener pastures but is still searching. We thank him for his service over a long time.</li> </ul>
<i>Item 10</i>	<p><b>Next General meeting</b> will be on: 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 11.00 AM Venue to be advised (Club preferred) And available via Zoom link to be advised.</p> <p>Sec/Treas 0437 361 602</p>
<i>Item 11</i>	Meeting Closed 11.56AM
	Signed Allen Morley Meeting Chairman

## Addendum A

### 131Locators Meeting Action Items Dec 2023 Prior Action Items

#### Active Items

1. Foster the 131 Battery Face Book sites
2. Continue working on the Photo Album Project (selection process has commenced).
3. review Banner scenarios for State City Marching groups.

Updates **Completed** on Prior Action Items