



President's Report for FY 2024 – 2025

This is the President's Report for the financial year 2024-2025, a year of ongoing operation. This period represents our sixteenth full year of operation and shows a stable, nonetheless positive trend in most aspects of the Association's activities.

The Association continues to be financially viable and sustainable for the foreseeable future as the financial report illustrates. Nevertheless, the ongoing ageing of our members continues to be, without doubt, the major factor for limitations on what the association can achieve. Many of the early Nashos have celebrated their 80th birthdays and others will do so within a year or two. Our former Regular soldiers are of very various ages. Contact with those who served in the Detachment and those who served at Holsworthy and North Head remains incomplete, although there has been significant success with new contacts in the past year.

Although it did not produce any known direct health issues amongst members, in 2024 and 2025 the follow on from the corona virus changed the structure of our meeting program, with a mix of Zoom and physical attendance. We have sought to focus upon inclusivity with zoom as a viable alternative communication medium. We did experience some missed zoom opportunities in the reporting period.

The Association website, www.131locators.org.au continues to provide both a web presence and a defined identity. During the reporting period external access to the website has fallen. However, through establishing a Facebook presence, the size of the Facebook group has showed pleasing growth.

Bob Billiards has continued as our Webmaster/Facebook master, providing an essential role in doing so, and has been ably supported by Bert Blink. Thank you, Bob and Bert.

The website statistics and inputs into Facebook demonstrate the ongoing interest in our activities, albeit at a reduced level. As previously mentioned in my 2023-2024 annual report, Facebook has directly resulted in some of our unlocated locators being located. Bob, your effort in setting up these e-communication mechanisms is much appreciated.

Eyes and Ears, under the editorial overview of Paul Dickson, appears monthly, and regularly delivers editions of 18-25 pages. I believe that together the size and frequency are major measures of our Association's success. Members' contributions illustrate that we are recording more of relevance from our military past for both history and information. The June 2025 edition was the 204th in the new series, post the 1960s editions.

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

Highlights for 2024-2025 were:

- A further twelve editions of *Eyes and Ears*; extremely well-done Dicko and your enthusiasm is infectious. A sincere thanks to all of our contributors for stories, photos and some history, without which we would have a very thin monthly newsletter, as other associations have demonstrated over time
- Despite having found several new members from the 131 cohort, this few in number unfortunately demonstrates that we have a declining membership base

- Anzac Day 2025 saw the annual march take place, but the march saw only a handful of Sydney members of the Battery attending.
- A special mention for those Committee members who made things happen for the Association. Bert Blink continued in the role of Vice-President and is generous of his time and digital skills. Bert has subsequently been a regular attender at the new format meetings

Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary remains the vital tie in for the Association's financial arrangements, records and operation of the membership database. The Public Officer responsibilities by Gordon Malcolm saw our regulatory responsibilities complied with. Ernie Newbold, Nick Proskurin, Ian Amos, Merv Nairn and Ged Carroll are all acknowledged for their ongoing involvement and support.

Our regional representatives provided local overview and contributed to our planning program. I thank Bert Blink (ACT and doubling up as Vice-President), Al Adams (Vic), Geoff Blackwell (SA), Barry Guzder (WA), Stuart Sporn (NT), Terry Erbs (QLD) and forward scouts in rural Victoria, Peter Meaney and Rieny Nieuwenhof, for their collective contribution. A note of appreciation to our Secretary/Treasurer for again keeping us on the financial straight and narrow.

Sadly, the names of more of our number have now been etched onto the Association Honour Roll. Lest we forget them.

Allen Morley

October 2025