



Eyes and Ears

No.0001 February, 2009



31A, 31B, 31C and 31D – Are you awake? Over..... (followed by long pause)

Well I warned you that I would start something, so here goes!

I'm not sure of the format to do this in, but along with possible future submissions from all and sundry on any topic that takes their fancy it may develop into something. I was wondering if anyone would care to be a regular or irregular contributor and take a subject / topic and air their knowledge. Perhaps someone might have a talent in electronics, photography, hypnotism, correcting my spelling and grammar, strange smelly growths occurring under the arm-pits or whatever, and may be able to problem-solve for any questions raised – something like a "Dear Dorothy Dignam" – NO marriage counselling though, not that Grahame may not be good at it! However, I believe he is a qualified Grandchild Tamer!

Nui Dat Manning - Al Adams called recently (see later for the latest on him!!) and amongst other things we were trying to work out the number of Locators that were in Nui Dat, including the Horseshoe, at any one time. Now, other than Warwick Hamilton and Trev Waghorn there were no other ranks above Bombardier in HQ (ok, so there was "Chalky" Royal) where there? Other than Pete Fletcher and Vic Danko there weren't any other Locator NCO's? Morrie Arch and Merv Dart were the only other NCO's – I think!!

As support there was Pete F and the Pay clerk (John Vitkovsky – he drew a bloody moustache and goatee on my pay book photo!!), then Arty Tac x 4 and the 4 LP's x 16. So that adds up to about 24. Was that all of us, excluding the couple of hundred Surveyors? I haven't clue about the Radar mob – was there actually anyone there? I think I remember someone holding an umbrella over the ears one day and swearing.

Now don't start on me, as I had to ask Nick P what the bloody call sign for Arty Tac was! Because other than Al A, I think I was the only one who was in Arty Tac! (Well, at least someone took photos of me sitting at a desk – now, why was I sitting there?) I even think someone dug my foxhole out the front of Locators' Lounge, because there were empty beer cans in it when I looked in one day. Anyway, can someone shed some light on who was where and when?? Sounds like that Abbott & Costello routine!!

Car Insurance – I got a reminder notice that my insurance is due on 6th March. I'm currently with AAMI and have just received my comprehensive renewal for the princely sum of \$960 on the internet and \$1017 over the phone!! So I thought I'd shop around – Seniors - \$658.66 (I had to up my age) Real Insurance (rate can depend on usage) \$662.15 and then I stumbled on Budget Direct for \$592.

We've got a 2003 Subaru Forester – please Bert, Bob or whoever – are there any other options??

What's been happening - To add to Nick P having a shock last year, Al A called recently and announced that he'd had a heart attack and was now the proud owner of a stent!

Have there been any other dramas or even good news out there for that matter?

Lorrae Desmond – Went to the Royal Pub in Leichhardt with Vic D on Sunday to meet Lorrae D and listen to some jazz. It was an interesting night – we found out that the pub owner is an ex-2RAR nasho and has had no connection with past mates since SVN. Lorrae is amazing (77 years old) and thinks we're her "boys". She marches on ANZAC Day. She, plus Little Patti etc, may join us for lunch after the march this year. I'll keep you posted. Some of you guys may have seen her at Christmas '67.

Casula Powerhouse – Tue 25th Feb – Bob Billiards, Ernie Newbold, Grahame Dignam and I (see photo on right) met at the Casula Powerhouse to see the "**Viet Nam Voices – Australians & The Vietnam War**" art exhibition, which runs from now until 15th March – 1000-1700hrs daily. It's well worth the visit and was great to catch up.

