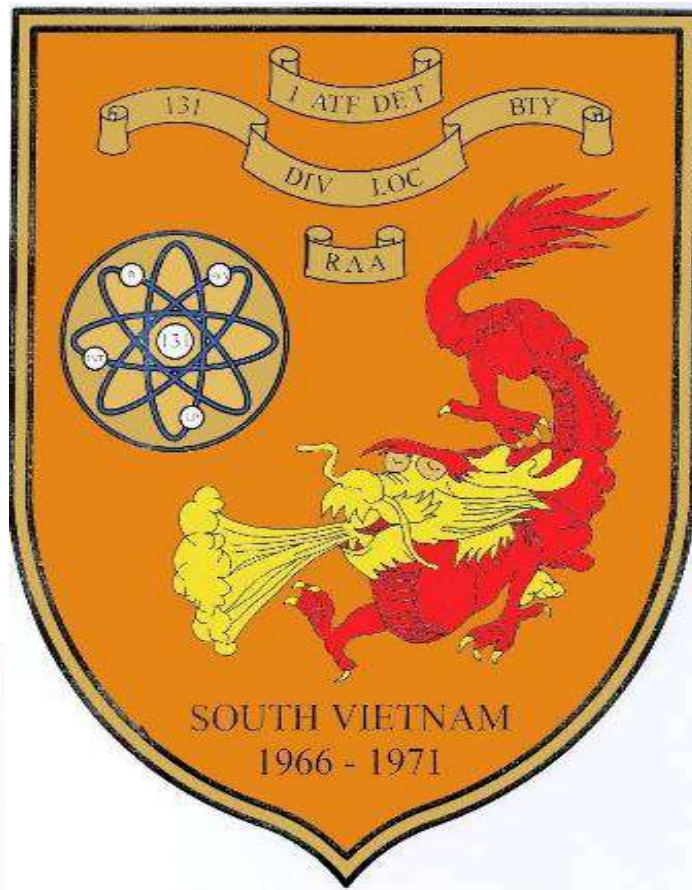
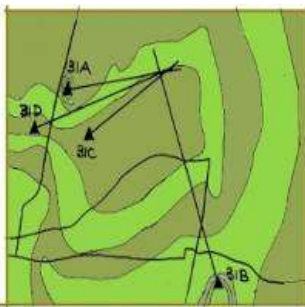
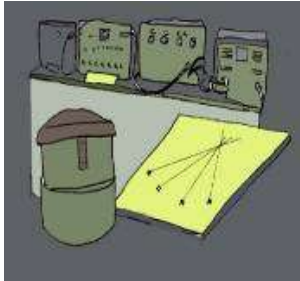


THE EYES and EARS

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in Nui Dat, South Vietnam"

Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: three-zero@hotmail.com

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Official newsletter of the **131 Locators Association Inc**
ABN 92 663 816 973

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. Long Tan Day 18th August - 45th Anniversary

What's happening around the place...?

NSW –

Sydney – sent in by Ernie Newbold...

The following is a summary of the VVA's function in Sydney – the Annual Vietnam Veterans Day function will be held at Bankstown District Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown commencing at 0900 hrs. All veterans and their families are welcome to attend. A generous buffet lunch and live entertainment will be provided after the service, cost \$30/head. Please contact the Granville office on (02) 9682 1788 or call in to 8 Mary St, Granville for tickets and details.

Springwood (NSW) – sent in by Grahame Dignam...

Sunday 14th August, 2011 - Each year on the closest Sunday, Vietnam Veterans gather at the War Memorial for a commemorative service and wreath laying.

Vietnam Veterans and Associated Forces Memorial Day this year will start with the Parade and Service Macquarie Road Springwood 11:30am to 12:30pm.

Later in the afternoon Lithgow Highland Pipe Band will lead with the Beating the Retreat to start at 4pm to 4:45pm.

Event Opening Hours - The Memorial service will commence at 12pm

Vic –

The VVA Victorian Branch advises – **Thursday 18th August, 2011**

.1030-1130 hrs - Marchers are to gather at the Northern Forecourt of the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

.1200hrs Marchers step off.

.1300hrs Formalities conclude.

...Alan Adams sent the following email to Grahame Dignam – “Grahame, I have contacted a couple of Melb boys re-Veterans day for a meet and lunch after the service, maybe in the next edition of Eyes and Ears there could be a notice for Vic boys to contact me – Tel No 03 9598 5245 Mobile 0418 515 621 or via email

Regards Allan Adams”

SA – Geoff Blackwell got this to us – “Dicko, Lo and behold, the VVA have just got back to me with the details.

They are as follows: Held on Sunday 21st August

March forms up (at the War Memorial, North terrace,) at 1030 hrs.

March begins at 1040 hrs. Heads west on North Terrace, turns up King William Street to the Vietnam War Memorial at the Torrens Parade Ground.

A Memorial Service at the Vietnam War Memorial begins at 1100 hrs.

A concert at the Parade Ground begins at 12 noon and runs until 1530 hrs. It features the old time 60's rockers, (and BIG Pretzel).

Drinks and food are available throughout the day.

Sorry for the delay regards Geoff

...and there's more for SA and Geoff -

“Dicko, Payneham RSL Sub Branch will be holding a Memorial Service at 12 noon on Sunday August 14 at their 'Lawn of Solitude', (at the rear of the clubrooms.)

The service is attended by military dignitaries, polities, local identities, etc. Afterwards there is a BBQ lunch and musical entertainment.

The address is: 360 Payneham Road Payneham. Regards Geoff

WA –

THE VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA - WA BRANCH

At - The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Pavilion, May Drive via Saw Ave, KINGS PARK

On - **SUNDAY 14th AUGUST 2011 AT 11.00AM**

Service: The service will follow our standard format with only official wreath layers being called forward as part of the service.

All others are asked to lay their tributes during the poppy laying with the Vietnam Veterans

We would ask that any veteran attending, invite a mate and family members.

Parking: Please note that although there is ample parking in the area, with the popularity of the Western Power Playground parking can be at a premium so allow extra time on the day.

Further Information: Please contact secretary@vvaawa.org.au or Gloria Fox 9339 7367

Qld – Terry Erbs has supplied the following - The forty fifth anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan will be commemorated in Brisbane at Enoggera Barracks on the 18th August 2011. The parade will commence at approximately 0930 hrs and finish no later than 1200 hrs. All former members of 6 RAR (Artillery, Tanks, and RAAF etc.) who supported D Coy on the day are invited to attend. The parade will be followed by a light luncheon in the OR's Mess.

Heard and seen...

. **John Richmond** responds to an article from **Ernie Newbold** relating to a recce he did with **Nick Proskurin** to Mt Pleasant – “Hi Paul the article about the guns and Mt Pleasant - I was posted for my last three months to RMC from January to April 1968 to the College on the Arty Wing.

At that stage we still had 25 pounders as the guns in use at the college.

It brings back memories of going up the mountain when a salute for some occasion was required to be fired, such as Queens Birthday etc. The salute and cleaning of the guns afterwards was the duty of the “Cordies” (cadets).

Just as a side issue I think I spent more time with the infantry wing as a rifleman and storeman.

Regards John Richmond”

. **Keith Ayliffe** – gets back to us with his “Battery History Hat” on with regards to the Battery Birthday Short History bit and the Coral article in last month’s E&Es. What Battery information is in Keith’s head or archives is certainly fascinating, so for as long as I stumble on Keith is always going to be an integral part of this publication –

“Dicko.....

Good read as usual...**History of 131** has been my pet hobby ,ever since one morning I woke up and realised that not only the Army did not know who we were but even the Artillery units were just as baffled. I only mention this as I really do not want to sound "picky" in reference to your history that you presented. I definitely do not want to pull it to pieces as I would rather have knowledge of locating out there and I do not want you print retractions because KA said so. . The paper you are quoting from if I'm not mistaken is/was a unit history from the files of 131....When John and I were coerced into writing a history of Locating, that was one of our starting points.

I was, however, very fortunate in being able to interview or had served with many of the people. One of the people who provided me with a great deal of the early information was Eric Nowill one of the original BC's. I had many a pleasant chat with him and as he was old school gentleman, we sat down for afternoon tea also taping the conversations. To give an example - the first line states " 131 Divisional Battery was formed up in 1954 from 31 Locating BTY"

It was called 131 Locating Bty. Not until 1960 when the army reorganised under the heading of the "Pentropic Division" did 131 become known as "131 Divisional Locating Bty".

This is for your information and there is no need for correction” **Ed** – Sorry KA, but I will.

Now, as For **Coral**...

“I have all the names of the locators that were there from the 131. There was no official list. The list I have is now classed as official and was worked out this way

Stage 1. From the unit ration books I worked out the number that were being fed in the field (offhand can't remember exactly)

Stage two. As I was there I compiled a list of the people I remembered.

Stage three. Contacted all the people I could on my list and asked if they could supply a list of people they remembered - they were also asked to recall their method of arrival/departure and who they travelled with stage four. Anybody appearing on three or more of these lists was accepted as being at Coral

Stage four. The final list was compared with ration figures.

I was able to state that Det 131 had in the Field -

1 X Forward TFAIO = 1 Offr- 1 Sgt - 4 OR's

2 X LP's = each with 4 OR's = 8

1 X Radar Section = 1 Offr, 1 Sgt, 11 OR's and 2 RAEME Mech OR's

Total = 2 Offr, 2 Sgt's, 23 OR's

HOWEVER...There were at known count a further 8 OR's as Replacement /Reinforcement over the period.

The thirty Five Names (plus a couple more that we were not sure of because I could not contact them) were then handed to the DVA and 12 Field Regiment and are now officially recognised as official Coral Participants from Det 131 Div Loc Bty and attended the Coral Balmoral 40th Reunion in Canberra. In which we achieved a 95% attendance.

Yes old Black Jack Kelly 'hated' the radars and after the first night placed us in front of his guns in his words "Roughly" ' To give them something else to target.'

The Radar endured Shrapnel through the Antenna (replaced). Shrapnel and bullets through over half the units (many requiring replacement) Shrapnel and bullets through generators (repaired, Nothing vital Hit) Shrapnel and bullet damage to Sect Comd Landrover (replaced)

Shrapnel damage to many of the cables (some repaired some replaced) Plus the Heel shot of Mick Bohl's Boot. Our command post tent fully air-conditioned and used as RAP tent never saw it again.

Then to add insult to injury Loaded awaiting Chinook somebody allowed a section of grunts on our chopper so when it went to lift the radar, It rose 15-20 feet in air realised the weight was too much, SOOO dropped the radar. All I can say is given the situation our LP's and Radars, TFAIO performed well. I was happy to serve with them.

Happy hunting Regards Keith”

Ed – I find all of that to absolutely fascinating – Keith I can't wait for more – the research you and John did is to be commended.

Craig Cook chimes in with a good response from an E&Es article –

“Hello Paul. Just read the latest and was interested to read the birthday listings.

What caught my eye was the Regt number of Ian Earle amongst the others which are quite different. Ian's number 3166824 is from the block issued at Melbourne for 3MD and for the 132Bty then at Lancos St depot. I have the original CMF Nominal Roll book and shows he enlisted with 132Bty on 12-8-1968 giving his DOB as 15-7-1951. Unfortunately the record wasn't updated when he left and doesn't show either DISC or TRANSF to ARA and date.

I can't be sure but thought he may have come back to the battery at some time in the mid seventies for a visit.

I also note the early ref to Sgt Frank PERRY and his mishap in falling into a weapon pit in SVN. Frank was later posted to 132Bty as Trg WO2 and I later caught up with him when he was posted to the cadet Battalion in Ballarat. Wonder if you have a contact for him?

Regards Craig Cook"

Ed – Can anyone help Craig?

. National Servicemen's Reunion, Townsville, 8 - 11 September 2011

There will be a "Reunion" for all NASHOs in Townsville on 8 - 11 September 2011 for those who were conscripted during World War 11, those conscripted during 1951 - 1959 and those conscripted during 1965 - 1972.

You do not have to have served overseas. ([Newsletter](#))

Ed – the Newsletter link above gives you more details about the Reunion – it could be worthwhile checking out.

.Joe Kaplun's "Pandora's Box" continues with a couple of really great photos... **Ernie Newbold** takes up the story with this email –

"G'day Paul,

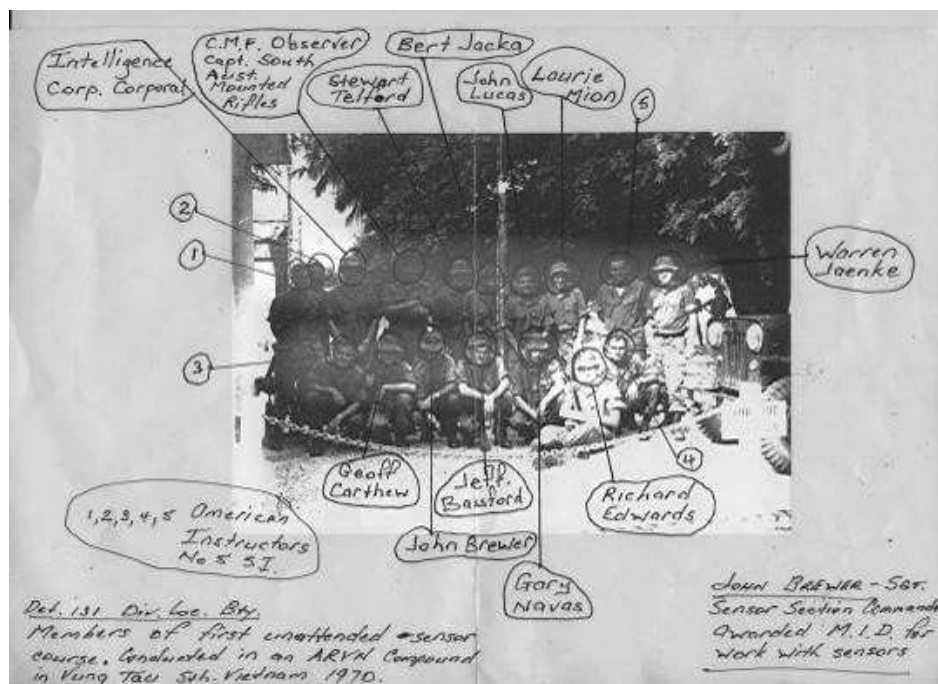
In amongst the items received from Joe Kaplun were two images (right & below) of the first "UNATTENDED SENSOR COURSE" held for Australian troops in South Vietnam in 1970.

Please note that the course was for learning about "Unattended Sensors" and not that the course was unattended.

Jeff Bassford was one of those in attendance and if you should require more information than what is shown in image #2 then perhaps Jeff could assist you.

It is another integral part of our history so I have scanned it to a digital format for you.

Regards, Ernie."



From June's issue about the "Short History of 131 Div Loc Bty in South Vietnam" – Joe Kaplun's "Pandora's Box" **Ed** received the following email from **John Dean** which throws another prospective on the early roots of the Battery –

"G'day Dicko,

This is just a little comment to add to the short history of 131 DIV LOC BTY which appeared in the *Eyes and Ears*.

When the Battery was formed in 1954 most of the gunners were probably national servicemen. This was certainly the

case at West Pymble when I was posted there from 26 September 1957 to 30 June 1960 to serve CMF duty in the survey section after completing full-time training with E Coy 13 NS Battalion at Ingleburn 11 July to 25 Sept. 1957.

Regards - John Dean"

Ed – Have we got any other thoughts on the subject? We'd like to hear from you.

. Another oddity from our Resident Archivist **Ernie Newbold**...

"G'day Paul, I came across this interesting item today and thought that I'd better pass it on to you, can you see your marble in the photo?

My marble would be number #45 and I suspect that it is in the third tray.

The ball/marble out of the box looks like it is "164" -

http://www.myplace.edu.au/TLF_resources/R11064/description.html Regards, Ernie."

The following is the explanation from the National Archives of Australia.

Description

This is a colour image of the ballot balls that were used by the Australian Government as part of the National Service Scheme between 1965 and 1972. The four trays contain wooden marbles, each measuring approximately 1.5 cm in diameter, individually numbered from 1 to 366. Each marble represents a day of the year and the birthday of 20-year-old men who were potentially to be balloted into the Australian Regular Army (ARA).



Educational value

These wooden balls were used to decide which men would be required to undertake two years of compulsory service in the ARA as part of the National Service Scheme between 1965 and 1972. In a process that was similar to a lottery, the balls were chosen randomly with the number on each ball representing a birth date. If the number picked corresponded, for example, to 5 February, all men who turned 20 on that date of that year were required by law to present themselves for national service.

The balls (also known as marbles) were part of the operation of a scheme of selective conscription known as national service.

The scheme was introduced by the Menzies government under the National Service Act in November 1964, and was designed to create an army of 40,000 full-time soldiers. The government believed Australia's strategic position had deteriorated and that

it had inadequate defence personnel to deal with communism in Asia.

Two birthday draws a year were held to determine who would be called up. The marbles were placed in a barrel and a predetermined number were drawn individually and randomly by hand. Marbles representing the days in the year from 1 January to 30 June were placed in the first ballot, and marbles representing the days from 1 July to 31 December were placed in the second. Within a month all those affected by the ballot knew if their birthdays had been 'balloted in' or 'balloted out'.

Almost all Australian males were required by law to register with the Department of Labour and National Service in January if their birthday was in the first half of the year and in July if their birthday was in the second half of the year. Indigenous Australians were not required to register. If balloted in and not granted an exemption, the men were required to perform two years continuous full-time service in the ARA or, after 1971, 18 months full-time or three years part-time.

Just over one-quarter of the men balloted in were called up. Indefinite deferment was granted to men married before call-up, and to those with a serious criminal history. Temporary deferments were available on the grounds of hardship or compassion, and to students, apprentices and trainees at university, teaching or technical colleges. Exemption based on physical or mental disability, occupation and conscience was considered after the ballot.

This method of selection was widely regarded as inherently unfair and strengthened opposition to conscription, which escalated as the government announced that troops were being withdrawn from Vietnam. Early opponents included the federal opposition, religious groups, trade unionists, academics and men affected by the scheme. Coordinated mass protests, known as moratorium marches, were conducted across Australia throughout 1970 and 1971.

Acknowledgements:

Credits From the collection of the National Archives of Australia

Creator Unidentified

Identifiers National Archives of Australia number MP1357, 63/1
TLF resource R11064

Source National Archives of Australia, <http://www.naa.gov.au/>
From the collection of the National Archives of Australia

Ed – Those trays look like a board game! How the hell did they pull out 314 – that was my birth date in 1966!

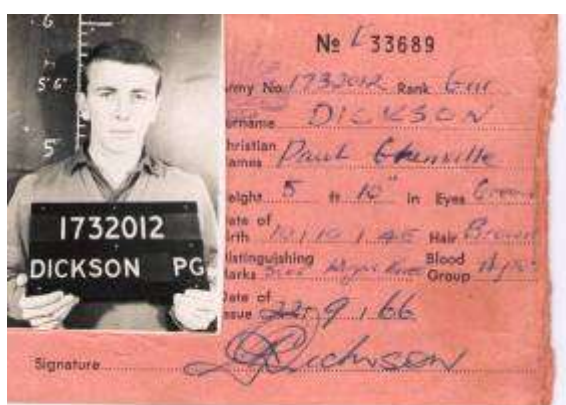
However, how curious is the number drawn out, "164" in the photo above, as it is the 13th June and what is really

ironic is that **NO ONE**, not even ARA blokes, in the Detachment was born on this date!! Maybe that was a “Grunt” day!!

. **Ed**...Here are some more curiosities following on from **May's E&E's**...

In 1967 the mob in charge obviously became concerned that I might get lost (maybe Mum got in the PM's ear!) – could you imagine “Chalky” Royal fronting up to “Blueleader” Warwick Hamilton after being informed that Grahame Dignam had “misplaced” me somewhere!

So at great expense they produced this little pink number below (no laminating in those days!) – hey, I used to be 5 ft 10in, now I'm struggling at 5 ft 8 in + in the old measurements. I wonder if I can make a DVA claim based on that! “Nasho Gunner shrinking and putting on weight” – there must be a claim there somewhere! I've still got green eyes, the hair's not as brown as it used to be and I've still got the scar on the right knee!



Point 3 on the card (above right) would have put the fear of bringing the might of the Australian Task Force to bear - can you really imagine anyone being “punished” by impersonating me – I would only hope they'd at least get a laugh? Plus there's **Point 4** - I'd wish anyone all the best being able to return it to a British Military Unit in SVN if I had lost it. On losing it, I wonder what I would have been charged with – would it have been the same as giving the wrong co-ordinates for a fire mission and wiping out half of 2 RAR!

What would “Fletch” have received if he'd starched “Blueleader's” underwear - jungle green for the use there of?



Hey, then they started to get really serious with issuing me a Passport.

I was not curious then, but as an Australian I had a “British Passport” and even signed by a one-name only “Casey”, the then GG confirmed it. I wonder what his parents called his sister or brother – Casey A, Casey B - maybe he didn't have siblings.

The issuing of the passport sort of made sense as I was off on a trip, but it never did get stamped, even when I went on R&R!



They used that “old Mr Surly Face” photo and my shirt looked as though it hadn't been ironed (Mum would have been furious – she was a stickler for that sort of thing). Plus I'd shrunk a ¼ of an inch already!



But what I've found to be disturbing is that on Page 4 there is a stamp stating - **“NOT VALID FOR NORTH VIETNAM”**

Lucky for the mob in charge we weren't that adventurous, because I would have had to stay behind while possibly the rest of you went north to finish it all off!



Ed – I've got a couple more pieces I've dusted off for next month...

. **Paul Butcher**...Further to **David Troedel's** enquiry on finding **Tom King** I think New Zealand may be where Tom headed to upon discharge.

I knew Tom as a good mate at the School Of Arty prior to him marching out to the Battery, (about 1965) he could really knock back a lot of rum and cokes in those days.

Anyway a very good looking kiwi lass took a shine to him and her daddy grew tobacco in New Zealand, I'm fairly sure they became engaged so he would have moved over there to settle down.

I hope this helps David; at least the NZ telephone book is smaller than the Aussie one.

Just by the way Dicko I was looking forward to a good read about the Radar at Coral and all I read was criticism

. **MG Felton** has a request to find an old mate – **Len Batten** – “Good afternoon, has anyone heard of the whereabouts of Len Batten? He and I were fellow students on a Loc Gny Staff Cse at Larkhill in '80 – '81. MG Felton”

...**John Posener** responded – “Allan or Bob I have not heard of Len, can we help whoever is MG Felton? John”

...**Bob Morrison** emailed – “Hi Allan/John, Len Batten was a Lieutenant with 131 in the late 70s – he and I did our Sound Ranging Troop Commander's course (ARA) together at the school in Feb 1978. Try some of the 131 members, they might know where he is – I remember talking about him up at the museum not so long ago and someone telling me he was still around, working in Sydney.

The SRg Tp Comd course was combined with the Subj 2 Sgt (ARA) course and 4 of the 133 NCOs were on it – I've attached a photo of the course members, it might bring back a few memories. Capt Peter Donnelly, who was 133 ARA Cadre, was also on the Tp Comd course. Cheers Bob”

...then **Keith Ayliff** – “G'day All A request from a MG Felton to locate the current whereabouts of Len Batten was a Lieutenant with 131 in the late 70s – If you have a contact for him could you forward to originator please. See story below Best Regards Keith”

...**Dave Auld** – “can any of you blokes help DAVID 🤔🌹”

...then **Kim McGrath** – “Hi Guys – I haven't seen Lenny “Fat Bat” Batten since the uniform days. – Kim”



The photo left has **Len Batten** as first on the left in the front row. It also has some recognisable names looking somewhat younger!

Ed – Please send me any contact details and I'll pass them on.



Committee members: President - Paul Dickson, Vice-President – Allen Morley, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam, Webmaster – Bob Billiards, Research Officer – Ernie Newbold, General members – Ian Amos, George Lane.
Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell,
Vic (Melb) – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder

. **The Association Committee** in July actually got to see some coloured layout roughs for the web site and it's starting to take on a real shape. Plus **Allen Morley** got our first 6 month's report of the progress we're making to the DVA. There was also a report on the Plaque with regards to funding and possible interested Locators who might attend – over 30 plus possible attendees and we've cracked the \$1000 mark for donations. Work is continuing on the DVA funding assistance for the Dedication as well.

. **The Association** welcomes a couple of new financial members - **Graeme Owen** and **Brian Killworth**.

Coffs Harbour October Reunion –

DON'T let this opportunity slip – not “Hey, I reckon we should turn up this year!” – look who could make it (new ones in bold)- Dave & Rosemary Auld, Keith Ayliffe, Nick & Robyn Armstrong, Charles Brewer, John Browne, Ged Carroll, Spike Chase, George Clark, Vic Danko, Jim Fitzgerald, Peter (Pappy) and Carol Gault, Dave (Shorty) & Jane Gow, Peter Joscelyne, great news Sue Lock (wife of the late Geoff Lock) could be a starter, George Lane, Ken & Doreen Long, Ralph Mitchell, Ian “Scottie” McNicol, Merv Nairn, Ernie Newbold, Graeme Owen (plus his better half).

. Birthdays in the Battery...now who do we send a birthday g'day to in August?

Aug						
1	PHILLIP ROSS	3794468	1947	06 05 1969	30 04 1970	
1	JOSEPH LOSIAK	218302	1950	04 11 1969	05 11 1970	
1	JOHN LUCAS	3796256	1948	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
2	JOHN GREENAWAY	3790617	1946	24 10 1967	22 10 1968	
3	LES SMITHLESTER	1201202	1949	23 09 1968	24 09 1969	
3	GRAHAM GREENLAND	2792441	1948	15 04 1970	29 07 1970	
4	ANDREW OVERALL Lt.	235330	1946	22 02 1969	21 02 1970	
7	MARTY VAN DRIEL	38954	1944	27 11 1967	13 03 1968	† 08.08.98
7	RANDALL JONES	2788775	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
8	ARTHUR LUXFORD Sgt.	212803	1939	20 01 1969	28 01 1970	† 01.01.08
8	EDWIN LEWIS Sgt.	53909	1935	18 03 1970	11 03 1971	† 26.08.92
9	TERRY WELSH	4721779	1949	03 03 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GARRY GRIMWOOD	2795771	1949	24 03 1971	01 07 1971	131
	" "			01 07 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
12	ALAN THOMSON	42308	1937	20 05 1966	22 06 1967	
13	BRIAN HACKETT	2783449	1945	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
13	STAN BRIGGS	1731999	1945	27 11 1967	17 09 1968	
13	BOB BRUCE	4718049	1945	11 06 1967	13 12 1967	
15	JOHN POLLOCK	53860	1939	{17 04 1967	24 05 1967	131
	" "			{05 02 1971	07 04 1971	12 Fd REGT
15	KEVIN TAYLOR	2791357	1945	29 07 1969	23 07 1970	
15	NORMAN McMANUS WO2	26202	1924	09 11 1970	19 08 1971	
17	PIERRE GOSS	213990	1936	24 03 1969	25 03 1970	
20	PETER BINNS	356367	1947	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
21	NORMAN JONES	5717611	1950	04 05 1971	01 12 1971	12 Fd Regt / AACC
22	JOHN VICKARY	1732218	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	STUART SPORN	4718471	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	ANTHONY COUTTS	1733291	1946	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	† 1988
23	ROBERT ETHERINGTON	66962	1946	04 11 1969	19 11 1970	
24	JOHAN MOLLENCAMP	2795074	1948	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			02 07 1971	09 08 1971	12 Fd REGT
25	LES FROST	215230	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	
25	KEN JONES	2786931	1946	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
25	COLIN WEST	2152525	1947	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
26	MAX TROYNAR	3790244	1945	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
26	STANLEY PATTERSON	38451	1947	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
27	LAWRENCE FARR	1734257	1947	27 08 1969	25 02 1970	† 2009
27	KEN PIESLEY	2787174	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	GORDON MALCOLM	2785906	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
27	PETER WHITTAKER	2786848	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	PETER CREEDON	2790207	1947	31 01 1969	28 01 1970	
27	GRANT PERRINS	1734509	1947	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
29	TIM FORD Capt.	235300	1945	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	
31	STEPHEN PALMER	18820	1946	12 04 1968	30 04 1969	RAEME † 03.12.72

Ed – 27 blokes in the white spaces is still too many not accounted for! Here's a real curiosity – Robert Etherington served 380 days in SVN!!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **54** and we've sent out **51**. **Ed** – If we received a few more it'd make us a lot happier!

. Found...

Jeff Reid sent the following email in –

"Paul, My name is Jeff Reid (3790495) and was a member of 131 Div Loc Bty in Vietnam.

I have just read an article on 131 and have noticed Ernie Newbold's name. I served with Ernie at Nui Dat and have several photos of him that I am sure he has not seen.

I have attached them, could you please endeavour to forward them to him.

Kind Regards, Jeff Reid'.

Ed – Jeff, no sooner said than done. Hey, the photo on the right shows a side of Ernie opposing his very calm demeanour!



...Ernie responded with -

"G'day Paul and Jeff,

Wonderful news! I have often wondered what happened to Jeff after Vietnam and after he would have gone back home to Mooroopna.

Jeff, have you come across any other former Locators around Mooroopna or Shepparton? I was going through a list of names for Paul the other day and came across another guy from Mooroopna but I didn't take a note of his name.

I'll have to go back through the list now to see if I can find him again.

From memory I think he was there around 1970 so we certainly wouldn't have known him back then.

I'm sure that you will remember the great holiday we had out at the Horseshoe with Vic Danko, Tony Goldsmith, & Ross Gunnell, I have a photo of you there somewhere. I'm sure that you will remember Nick Proskurin who took over from Vic at Nui Dat 31-A when Vic came home to Australia.

Do you remember Allen Morley, I believe that you took over from Allen in the Q Store when he came home; we have regular contact with Allen who lives in Sydney now.

Again, it's wonderful news to hear that you have been "found" at last. Thanks for getting in touch.

Regards, Ernie."

.Vale –

Ian Amos took the time to send in the following sad email – "Gents,

I notice from the Last Post page of Reveille today the passing of a 131 Div Loc Bty Gunner. **Leslie Phillip Connell**, 6709098 served in SVN 24/9/69 – 13/08/70 and was a Nasho from Tasmania, according to the nominal roll.

Anybody know this gentleman of the Artillery? Ian"

Ed – Any help in this matter would be gratefully appreciated.

May he rest in peace



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the upcoming establishment of the web site we are going 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 or 5 years. Hope we hear from you?

. Other related sites...

. Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush"

(A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

This website seeks to make contact with the Artillery Surveyors of 131 Div Loc Bty. We welcome

your relevant contributions of photos, insights and observances so we might endeavour to expand 131 Artillery Surveying Vietnam record, beyond this window. Please use the contacts page for details:

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/>

<http://www.artillerysurveyors131.com.au/operations/coburg.html>

Ed – it's worth having a look at the Surveyors' websites above as they cover Operation Coburg in some very interesting detail.

. Locating Artillery Association...



LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LAA website –

Committee meetings are held regularly with most held at Paddington RSL commencing at 1115 hrs.

The next Committee Meeting will be held at the Paddington RSL on **21st August 2011**.

Details of scheduled Committee meetings will be available in the next issue of the *Associations* Newsletter LOCREP.



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 1/8rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

Editor contact email: three-zero@hotmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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