

THE EYES and EARS

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Here's what we're up to in this edition and some things to search out...

- . **ANZAC Day** – we get our first lot of photos Seymour Pages 2 /3
- . **Bob King** - gets back with a reminder of a photo/print deal Page 4
- . **Jill Nieglos** – relives the Fall of Saigon with a personal story of a friend Page 4
- . **4th Annual ANZAC Friendship Match** at the Vung Tau Dog Track Page 8
- . **John Brown** responds to an **Ed** rant Page 9
- . **Did you know - Blokes and Associations...** Rieny Niewenhoff responds Page 9/10
- . **Grahame Dignam** has an interesting DVA note Page 10
- . **Warbirds Over Wanaka 2014** gets a mention Page 11

There is heaps more plus some thoughts from Bill Taggart and the 1/93rd Group on Pages 15/16 , so settle in...

ANZAC Day...2013



The Sydney Crew –lined up and rearing to go!

Allen Morley dutifully sent in the following on what looks like a good turn out on a good Sydney day –
Anzac Day 2013 in Sydney

A crisp autumn morning segued into a beautiful sunny day in Sydney. I kept warm under my doona for the 4.30am Cenotaph Dawn Service, but stood proudly for the local Anzac Service at 7am. It was delightful to see the fresh faces of the kids paying their own tributes early on a Thursday morning.

Talk about the impact and degree of Defence cuts. We had to carry our own banner. Thanks Merv for volunteering. The line up for 131 Detachment was in O'Connell Street of the CBD. While we waited we were treated to a HARS flyover comprising a Catalina, DC-3 and a Caribou. Once the banner was unfurled our veterans seemed to come from all sides in this now crowded part of Sydney. Neville Smith was down from Townsville, Ken "Major" McNamara, Brian "Wirey" Hackett from Queensland-NSW border country and Jim Hognio from Coffs. The Sutherland Shire mob comprising Ian Amos, Geoff Holden, Mick Holden, Gordon Malcolm and Ken Woodbine strolled in. Bob Billiards failed to venture out from the mountain mists. But locals Bob King, Barry Collins and Myself plus Peter Fletcher from the Central Coast built our numbers. Others – too many to identify through the mists of time - joined our contingent and away we marched.

Lunch was at Zest Restaurant at City Tattersall's. The dozen stalwarts drank toasts to absent friends in Coffs Harbour. A delightful repast, some good stories and one major question. Where is **Sgt 'Rat' Davies**? He was an identity at Holsworthy in the late 60s, but no one has heard of him since.

Allen Morley

. **Pablo Briggs** got in first with this from the far north – "Great roll up for the dawn service at Wowan.60 or more. Lovely breakfast organised by the mpc* and cooked by the SES members."

*mpc stands for multi-purpose centre - a local place where the doctor can run a clinic twice a week and people go to for help

. **Merv Nairn** reflected after the March and lunch – "G'day mate. Am on the train on the way home from a great day, lunch & good company. Many photos coming your way from our official photographer. Can report although we were down in numbers due to the Coffs Harbour do a good time was had by all who attended the Sydney gathering. If you can't read this it's because "I talking Swahili". Best of luck look forward to your next visit."

. **David Dougherty** did a local thing with Family – "Hi Paul, Mittagong, with grandkids obviously, 1st time all together for Anzac Day. Had intended to go to city but as family decided to come down had to delay that idea.

Sub-branch put on usual well organised service with good attendance from local schools and a most excellent address by a local student. Local aero club (ex RAAF pilots?) put on low fly past with 4 planes in tight formation (Yaks ?) with smoke trails that woke up those not expecting it.

Regards,
David"



. **Kevin Browning** had the following sent to him and passed it on -

"Paul, Just in case it hasn't already been sent to you. John Lochore sent this. Regards Kevin – the following was to him from

John Lochore – "Hi guys - I trust all has gone well in Brisbane.

You might be interested in this picture. Cheers, John
131 guys at the Perth march - Barry Guzder, Peter Hopper, Joe Librizzi, Chris Chapple, and John Lochore in front.

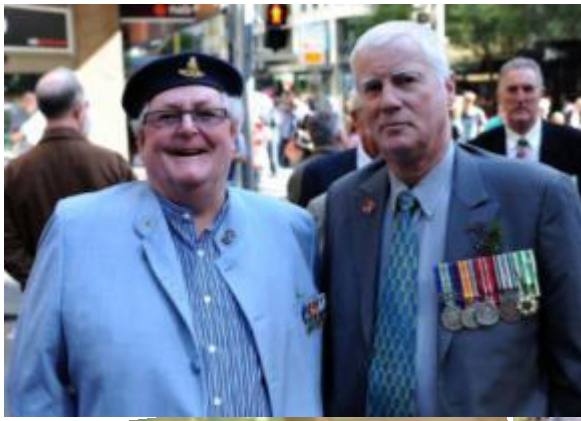
Amazing the pictures you can get from a phone!

Good to meet you this morning, John"

. **Barry Guzder** sends in a cheerful report from the West and great to hear about the continuation of catching up with the group of blokes on occasions on top of ANZAC Day – "Hi Paul, It was a good day and we all agreed to meet for a 131 lunch before next Anzac Day. I shall try and get Ralph Mitchell from Bremer Bay, Alan Robb and Ross Gunnell up for it as well (they are all in the country). Will get hold of Joe for your files. It is great feeling to have some of your own to be with, in the far flung west. This year myself and another fella (from RAASC) ran the Vietnam Vets memorial service in Kings Park, will send photos in a week or 10 days time. Barry G.5714500."

Bob King's collection in Sydney – well most of them...





. **Warwick Hamilton** has snuck off-shore again for ANZAC Day and reports in with – “Hi Paul, out of interest Kate and I are currently in Crete. There wasn't any service where we but we did visit the Australian-Greek memorial in Rethymno. It is in memory to the 1941 Battle for Crete, and the Aussies played an important part here. All the best, Warwick”

. **Bob Billiards** did a local thing with family at Springwood up near the Blue Mountains – “Paul, I did the march in Springwood and represented 131 with pride as one of the only members to march here. Had one of the grandkids marching with the school. Bob”

. **Bert Blink** did the March in his hometown in Canberra – weather looked great – “Hi Paul, This year was slightly different in that Mary& I had lunch with a varied group of Vietnam Veterans rather than just the two of us plus daughter. One group were Peter Saint (a 70/71 Det 131 member) and family, Peter McCann (8 RAR) and family plus Wal and Kay Brewer (Wal was with RAEME and coincidentally in 131 Holsworthy Workshops prior to serving 69/70 in SVN with 106 Field Workshop). Bert”



. **Bruce Irvine** sends in another local report and as he says it was a "perfect" and "complete" day –
"Dicko,

Had a great ANZAC this year at Yetholme (photo right) and Bathurst. Arty Surveyors were well represented.

We had over 90 people attend our village service at Yetholme in perfect weather and Bathurst also had big crowds for the Dawn service at 4.30am and Citizen's service at 10.30am.

Special thoughts were with all of our mates and meeting and spending time with a young Afghanistan veteran made our day complete. Bruce"



. **Phil Sheedy** spent some quality time with a couple of mates in a very special place – "G'day Dicko

John Bristow (L), John I'anson (C) and I (R) spent Anzac Day in Kanchanaburi Province in Thailand this year attending the Dawn Service at Hellfire Pass and the Memorial Service at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery later in the morning.

My father was a prisoner of the Japanese on the Thai Burma Railway and worked under Weary Dunlop, so it was a great to finally get up there and pay due reverence to all those who died and persevered the atrocious conditions they endured under their captors.

We also commandeered the Kiwi Ambassador to Thailand during the post Service refreshments to complement him on the quality of the Kiwi beer provided!

Regards Phil Sheedy"



. **Bob King** has been touch with me forwarding the ANZAC Day photos and reminded me about an offer he made some time back and of course I gave it a run then promptly forgot about it!
So, apologies aside here is Bob's very kind offer to his group of LOCATORS and it is going to be hard to pass up!

Bob with his expertise and NIKON scanner is offering for Members a **FREE OFFER** to scan your black and white film or colour slides, negatives and photos of your Viet Nam memories onto a CD

All you have to do is send your slides, negatives or photos to Bob at:

Bob King PO Box 3 Baulkham Hills NSW 1755

– Please enclose return postage

Ed – that's bloody brilliant! Do it before it's TOO late!

. **Jill Nieglos** continues on with her accounts of life as a Pan Am "hostie" during the late '60's and '70's. In this article she details another involvement with the uncertainty of events - involving luck, knowledge and animal cunning when dealing with life threatening occurrences as the Americans frantically pull out of Saigon...

Saigon is falling...Pan Am is involved

It was April 1975 and I was working out of Honolulu. On the 22nd I flew to Tokyo with Tu, a Vietnamese friend of mine. She was one of only two Vietnamese stewardesses Pan Am had hired. We arrived at our hotel in Tokyo about 4 pm the afternoon of the 23rd. While checking in, Tu was given a telex from her husband, Bob, which read, "Saigon is falling. Come back to Honolulu immediately. Must leave for Vietnam right away to try to save your family." I knew Bob well; he and I were the only non-Asian students in our Japanese class at the University of Hawaii. Tu immediately called PanOps and they secured a seat for her on the next flight back to Honolulu. Waiting for the crew bus to take her to the airport, we discussed her options. When the crew bus arrived we said our good-byes and I watched her board, with no idea when I would see her again. When Tu landed in Honolulu, it was the 23rd again because of the date line. She and Bob were going together to Vietnam to rescue her family. They had precious little time to gather money to buy tickets for her family and get ready to leave for Vietnam that night, for who knew how long. Not knowing how much money they needed for tickets, they withdrew their life savings and borrowed even more money from their credit cards, \$6,000 in all. They hoped it would be enough to cover the cost of the tickets to get her family out of Vietnam on Pan Am, the only commercial airline still flying there.



On evening of the 23rd, after a hectic day of preparation, they boarded Flight 841 to Saigon by way of Guam, carrying all the money they had in the world. That flight turned out to be the last commercial flight leaving for Vietnam. Bob decided Tu had to stay on Guam since she was Vietnamese, because even though she carried an American passport, it was too risky for her to return now. He continued on alone out of Guam.

While Tu was in Tokyo, Bob had negotiated a deal with Al Topping, Pan Am's Station Manager in Saigon, to reserve five seats on a return flight – four for Tu's family and one for himself. He had to get the whole family out, as they all had ties with American. Her sister Trinh worked for USAid, and her sister Khanh worked at the US BX at Tan Son Nhut. There also was a brother, Nhat, and her mom. The father, who had been the Postmaster General of South Vietnam, had been killed in the war not long before.

Bob planned to get into Saigon, get the family, and leave on the next flight out. This would give him about twenty-seven hours to get to the house in the suburbs of Saigon and back to the airport, thru immigration, and onto the Pan Am plane. Nothing, however, went as planned. Vietnam had just been declared a war zone (as if it wasn't already); as a result, an all-volunteer crew was required to fly in and out of Saigon. Flight 841 was rerouted to Manila so a crew could be assembled. Some of the existing crew volunteered to stay with the plane, but they needed a captain, as he was bowing out. Enough volunteers were found including a captain who was vacationing in Manila. He had to be located and brought to the airport and there was very little time to get this done. This was a very dangerous mission and the crew of that plane was brave to even attempt it.

While they were en route to Manila, the government issued a statement, which had been radioed to the cockpit crew and then announced to the passengers. Civilians were no longer allowed into Saigon! When the impact of these words became clear, the passengers became so upset that it nearly caused a riot in the cabin, and for a short time, the crew thought the airplane might be commandeered. 100% of the passengers were on this flight to rescue their families and they had to get to Vietnam and get them out! Bob went into action by helping the crew calm everybody down. While on the ground in Manila, Bob used the aircraft radio and arranged a deal with the Department of Defense whereby those on the plane who wanted to continue to Saigon would have to sign a hold-harmless agreement before leaving Manila. It had to be signed before the aircraft could take off. After much discussion in high-pitched Vietnamese, all signed it. While Bob was trying to get to Saigon, events there had taken a serious turn for the worse. Al Topping had gotten a telex from Pan Am headquarters in New York informing him of a new FAA ruling stating all commercial aviation was cancelled in and out of Saigon, effective immediately. The FAA had just cancelled the last flight out of Vietnam! Impossible! This was horrifying news for Al; he knew the communists would kill his people. Not knowing what to do, he called the CEO of Pan Am in New York City, who then called President Gerald Ford, telling him of their plight in Saigon. President Ford reinstated one last flight out on the 25th, but it had to be flown as a MAC charter and by an all-volunteer crew. It was a miracle that flight ever left Saigon.

Bob was able to get to Tu's house in the suburbs and back to the airport with her family in tow, despite the confusion and gridlock caused by the panicking citizens of the city. The TV was showing scenes of chaos on the roads, adding to the general panic. They arrived at the airport after hours on the congested roads, frazzled and frightened. Military men were everywhere. Tu's sisters and mother were lucky and made it out on that last plane. Trinh was helped by one of the famed heroes of the evacuation, Jim Eckes, who facilitated her exit by bribing the security police with \$50.00. Khanh was able to get to the military side of Tan Son Nhat airport because she worked on that side, but unable to get to the Pan Am plane, as it was parked on the commercial side. The cabin crew was made aware of her plight and Katie, one of the stewardesses, got a ramp agent's white uniform and put it on. She gave her uniform and wig to another ramp agent saying "take this to house 23 on the military side. The Vietnamese girl's name is Khanh and she is waiting there." He was able to get these articles to the military side for her to wear. Disguised as a Pan Am stew, she made it to the plane. Ingenuity and a great deal of luck played a major part in her escape.

As it turned out, Bob did not make that last flight out on the 25th as planned because as Bob and Tu's brother Nhat were going through Immigration at Tan Son Nhut, Nhat was detained because he was 25 years old and of military age. Bob, who spoke fluent Vietnamese, tricked the Immigration officials and got Nhat away from them to safety on the military side of the airport. A few days later they got out on a MAC charter to Guam. Bob's language abilities were critical during those few days as he helped the American military by volunteering as a translator. Only because he helped the military in their time of need, the ten-person limit of how many Vietnamese an American could sponsor was lifted for Bob, and when they asked him "how many folks do you need to get out of here?" He answered "thirty." They accommodated him. All and all, Bob got thirty-three of Tu's relatives out of Vietnam. Thankfully for Bob, Pan Am and the U.S. military flew the last flights out gratis, so Bob and Tu got to keep their life savings. Pan Am had done this sort of thing in these sorts of circumstances, all over the world.

Al, our station manager, had always told the sixty-odd employees in Saigon, "Don't worry, Pan Am will get you and your families out when the time comes." Well, a Vietnamese "family," unknown to Al, included aunties, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and grandparents. When the list of potential passengers was presented to Al, it included about seven hundred people. Al was put into the uncomfortable position of playing God, as the plane just could not hold that many people, even with the rule of "no luggage" and the tanks only one-fourth full. He solved this dilemma by telling his employees how many seats they could have and let them decide among themselves who would go and who would stay. Al's job was agonizing those last days in Saigon. He didn't want to pull Pan Am out of Saigon too soon and start a panic, but he had to make sure his people got out. Not all of them made it out, unfortunately.

About five hundred passengers boarded the last flight out. It was a 747, which we normally ran on this flight. As the plane was readying to leave, armed officials from Immigration raced to the plane in jeeps and boarded the plane demanding to check the travel papers of all the passengers. This presented a terrible problem because in the last minute panic, many didn't have exit papers. The captain tried to bribe the head official, and it was touch and go for several minutes – looking like he would not take the bribe – until he finally gave in to the captain's pleading and said "give the money to my men" and walked back down the airplane stairs. The stewardesses collected the passengers' money in pillowslips taken from the pillows on the plane, and pillowslip after pillowslip full of soon to be useless piasters, was whisked down the airplane stairs to a score of waiting men on the tarmac with machine guns. With that done, they let the plane go. The engines roared to life, the noise deafening. Inside the cabin, no one spoke. What was there to say? They were being torn from their homeland in the most final and irrevocable way imaginable. The plane taxied onto the runway. Many were standing or holding onto seat backs or other people. Were they really going to make it? The captain pushed the throttles forward and seconds later the plane was airborne.

When the plane cleared Vietnamese airspace, the captain announced, "Welcome aboard Pan American's Jet Clipper Freedom." Everyone cheered. Tears ran down the faces of the exhausted passengers. Their first stop was Manila, a two-hour flight; after refueling, it flew on to Guam, where the lucky escapees were housed in refugee camps, processed and resettled. America was lucky to get these enterprising people. The last flight out was loaded way beyond capacity with grateful people. Besides the Pan Am families, the plane was carrying many Vietnamese who had worked for the Americans for years and would be slaughtered by the new regime for their collaboration. Also, a number of military wives and unaccompanied children, kids of American GI's, were on board.

The final signal to leave Saigon was when the American radio station played "White Christmas." That was a laugh – it was April 29, 1975, 105 degrees with 95% humidity. The North Vietnamese army was coming on fast, and everybody knew they had to make their way to the American Consulate immediately, and take those stairs to the helicopters from the rooftop which took them to the evacuation planes. All knew in advance that when this song was played, the time to evacuate was now; the fall of Saigon was imminent and Pan Am had already gone. Go now or stay and probably be killed. Panic consumed everyone.

This story is based on my memories of those days, now thirty-eight years ago, and what Bob and Tu told me after their return from this harrowing adventure. Other details came from the "coconut wireless" at the Pan Am base in Honolulu and a movie, which was made about this event, which is called "The Last Flight Out." Tu is still working as a flight attendant.

My connection to Vietnam did not end that day. Pan Am flew Vietnamese refugees into Honolulu for several years. I still remember the day my entire section of the 747 I was working was filled with people whose last name was Nguyen. I later returned to Vietnam to do volunteer work for two months, but we will talk about that in a later episode.

As a foot note – have a look at **Jim Eckes** – Google him in connection with Vietnam and Jill's adaption is the basis for a movie "Last Flight Out" so have a look at that too. Interesting to note that the movie used a Lockheed Tri-Star and not a Boeing 747!

...come back in May for the next and possibly the LAST instalment...

Who's that with...? This is going to be a new section to have a crack at identifying blokes with blokes and so on.



Peter Meaney comes in with response – “Hi Paul,
Re the first photo in the Who’s that with...? section of the latest edition of *Eyes & Ears*, the guy on the left is Ian Menzies who was with 4 Field Regt. in SVN 1969/70. Ian used to often visit our “boozier” for the odd “bevvie” and chat. Ian was in my group at Pucka in May 1968 (12th intake Nashos), and was a promising jockey in Adelaide before the Army decided he should swap his saddle and whip for an SLR!!

About 6 or 8 months ago I tried to “locate” Ian, having not heard from him since SVN days, and thought I’d struck pay-dirt when I found an I.D. Menzies in the Adelaide directory.

I rang the number but it turned out to be a different Ian Menzies!

Sorry, but I can’t identify the other person in the photo-hope someone else can.

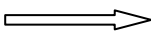
Regards, Peter Meaney.

P.S. Something I’d forgotten was that Ian and I arrived in SVN on the same day. (Probably excusable after almost 44years)”

And a follow up – “Hi Paul,

Just a minor amendment to the dialogue re Ian Menzies, website lists him as a member of 1st field Regt, not 4 field Regt. Sorry about the faux pas!! Peter Meaney.”



And then Ken Taylor found this pic and asks 
“Can’t place it to time when taken. Can you help Paul?”

OK you Radar blokes give us some info?



. **Ed** – I received the following and thought it was worth a run in the sake of interest –

PHOTOS etc “Hi from Neil Mangels. FYI. The **ANZAC Friendship Match** poster has just been unveiled. Artwork is by [Ross McRae Design](#). Ah McRae, you’ve done it again!

The Vietnam Swans will host the Jakarta Bintang on 27 April, 2013 for the 4th Annual ANZAC Friendship Match at the Vung Tau Dog Track.

The match, an official EAAFL Match, will also see the Kainey Cup being played for the 5th time between these two teams where, Dave Kainey enjoys Official Legend status in both camps (how does that work??).

Admission to the ground is free for Vietnamese and children. For all others, there will be a \$5 entry fee.

Funds raised at the 2013 ANZAC Friendship Match will be used to support Swim Vietnam and the Vung Tau Orphanage.

ANZAC Friendship McMillan Dinner, Imperial Hotel, Vung Tau

The McMillan Dinner includes buffet, beer, wine, soft drinks, Middleton Address and live band (cash bar after 3hrs).

Price: Advance purchase VND1million / \$50. At Match VND1.2million / \$60 (if available).

Book now! Email nationalpres@vietnamswans.com

For further information, [click here](#).

Phil Johns, National President, Vietnam Swans, Hanoi, Hoi An, Saigon, Vung Tau, Ph (+84) (0) 933 032 296

...and continuing one more thing – Ernie Newbold’s discoveries.

. **Customs** – This is the continuing series by **Ernie Newbold** from the AWM site

<http://www.awm.gov.au/commemoration/customs/recitation.asp> - they’re not totally peculiar to the Australian Armed Forces, but they are deeply rooted traditions which we identify with...

Flags at Half Mast

The tradition of lowering flags to half mast as a sign of remembrance is believed to have its origins on the high seas. As a sign of respect or honour for important persons, sailing ships would lower their sails, thus slowing the vessel and allowing for the VIP’s own vessel to come alongside and for him to board if so desired. Lowering of sails was also used to honour VIPs who were reviewing a naval procession from the land. In time only the ship’s flags were lowered in a symbolic gesture. This practice was also adopted on land.

For information about Australian national flag protocol, please visit *It’s an honour*, a web site managed and maintained by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Flag at half mast at the cenotaph in Ulladulla, NSW. ANZAC Day 1999. Rifle volleys and gun salutes



. **Grahame Dignam** uncovered this item in the - **Shepparton News** AUGUST 18, 2012 4:01am – and it covers two Locators who are deeply involved in local activities -

Paying tribute to the fallen

Bad weather did not deter veterans and well-wishers alike from turning out to pay their respects at a Vietnam Veterans' Day Service in Shepparton yesterday.

By John Lewis

Wet and chilly weather did not deter old soldiers and young people from remembering the fallen at yesterday's Vietnam Veterans' Day Service in Shepparton.

A crowd of about 80 veterans, students, dignitaries and family members shielded by umbrellas stood in silence as the Last Post drifted poignantly across the Cenotaph marking the 50th anniversary of the first deployment of Australian troops at Ton San Nui in south Vietnam on August 3, 1962.

Earlier, Goulburn Valley Vietnam Veterans Association president **Kevin Heenan** reminded people of the sacrifice made by the 500 Australians who died, and the more than 3500 who were injured in the conflict from 1962 to 1975.

"We remember those who paid the supreme sacrifice, then and since," Mr Heenan said.

Mr Heenan introduced Notre Dame Secondary College Year 11 students Demi Costa and Matthew Cassidy, who spoke about the heroism of Victoria Cross recipients Australian servicemen Peter Badcoe and Kevin Wheatley.

Warrant Officer Wheatley, 28, died on November 13, 1965, in Tra Bong while defending a wounded comrade.

Major Badcoe, 33, rescued a US medical adviser under heavy fire and a few weeks later he led his company in an attack turning what seemed to be certain defeat into a victory.

He was killed on April 7, 1967, while attempting to lead his company against a more powerful opposition.

Mr Heenan also introduced wreath-layers, including Member for Shepparton Jeanette Powell, and representatives of Member for Murray Sharman Stone, Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell, and Member for Northern Victoria Kaye Darveniza, the Shepparton RSL, and Greater Shepparton City Council.

After the ceremony former GV Vietnam Veterans Association president **Peter Dealy** said the service was about remembering mates past and present.

"We also remember those who are serving in Australia and overseas at this point in time," Mr Dealy said.

He said the association had about 115 members, but he believed there were many more Vietnam veterans across the Goulburn Valley who preferred to remain anonymous.

"Some did their job and just carried on with their lives," he said.

. **John Brown** comes back to us with regards to Ed's ramblings in March's *E&Es*..."Paul,

In regard to the VCM issue, the bureaucracy has in the past been quite adamant in sticking to the original 181 days in country criteria.

An advocate mate of mine here in Armidale recently took the fight to the govt on this matter. A client of his was in country some 170 days and was medivaced due to some illness he contracted whilst in the bush in S Vietnam. The case was unsuccessful. If he had been wounded, then he would have been awarded the VCM.

Is this wrong ??? Heck yes !!!

Just think about it for a moment. The client contracts some illness like Malaria or Encephalitis or similar, diseases that are quite the norm in Vietnam. Diseases which we wouldn't have contracted in Australia. Diseases which we contracted because we were bothered to go fight THEIR war.

The govt's attitude in this matter is unjustifiable and just plainly stinks.

My opinion is that anyone from the Australian Army who was there for no more than a day, should be awarded the CM.

And why ???

Because of the simple fact that it was a theatre of war, and those who were there were subject to danger every single day of their operations.

Whether it's an Ordinance guy counting blankets for 365 days in Vungers or an Infantryman getting malaria on his first day and all of those in between, the awards and accolades should be the same. We were in THEIR war, we all did the best we could in whatever time we were there. Brownny"

. **Did you know - Blokes and Associations**...this was the start of a question type article in last month's *E&Es* and the following is the first in the series of responses we're hoping to continue with -

Rieny Nieuwenhoff – "In response to the request to identify former Locators who are also in other associations.

People get confused about who I am because I changed my name back in 1972. Here's the story: I turned 20 in 67 and my father (bless his soul) said I had to register for conscription using my legal name, which was Martinus Hendricus Van De Nieuwenhof. After being deferred to finish my teaching qualifications I entered the army in Jan.

1970. For the next two years I was called either 'wheelbarrow' or 'VD'. That gets you down after a while so when I

completed my two years Nasho I wanted to revert to the name everyone had called me BEFORE National Service - Rieny (pronounced 'reny') Nieuwenhof. On the Nominal Roll and on the Seymour Wall, and in various publications

including "Tracks of the Dragon", I am listed with the legal name. SO I hope that clears up all the confusion!

There are very few of the guys I served with in 131 who I've met since 1971 when I got out of the Army. I met one ..

Mike Butler...recently when we caught up with Dicko and Al Adams in Melbourne. I did bump into Ron Mason at the State Vietnam Veterans Congress and with Rod Beasley at the opening of the Seymour Wall, but apart from these

chaps I haven't been successful in locating others. But I am in contact with many through the 131 Locators Association, however mostly these Locators served before me. These days I am the President of the Geelong & District Vietnam Veterans Association. We are a band of about 270 members, both regulars and Nashos, who served in Vietnam at some stage. All three services are represented.



The first photo was taken at the Maitland dinner in 2012, here I am with my CO in Vietnam Tim Ford. The second photo is me presenting Life Membership to one of our members, Nigel Wilson. Rieny Nieuwenhof (incidentally it's a Dutch name)"



Ed – Now that's a great start and Rieny is living proof that that a Locator can get involved in the Vet community like a heap of others that I know are part of our group – so c'mon, don't hold back lest ALL us know about your involvement.

. **Grahame Dignam** brought up the following topic with regards to a DVA electronic newsletter called – **e-News** and thought that we need to publicise the publication as it contains information relevant to Veterans with regards to all sorts of topics.



You have to go to the web site at: http://www.dva.gov.au/news_archive/e%20-%20News/Pages/DVAeNews.aspx

Here's some of the detail I cut from the site -

DVA *e-News* is a regular service provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

To **unsubscribe** to *e-News*, send an email to e-news-unsubscribe@dvalists.aaa.net.au with the word UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject field.

To **subscribe** to *e-News*, send an email to e-news-subscribe@dvalists.aaa.net.au with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject field. You will then receive a confirmation email.

Please send your comments and **feedback** on DVA *e-News* to DVAMedia@dva.gov.au

So why not give it a try and see what it contains.

. **Ed – You call that a photo?** This can't be right! It's hard to believe but the following two photos have been taken from our website –



131 Locators Association – and it's amazing how much easier it is to recognise **Michael Butler** (on the left) as opposed to **Ged Carroll** (on the right).

OK, all kidding aside - we've got 107+ Profiles on the website, so now can we get **51** recent head and shoulder photos for the Profiles that don't have photos.



The photos can be sent to **Bob Billiards** at - billiard@pnc.com.au

. Warbirds Over Wanaka 2014

We are now only a bit over a year out from the 2014 Warbirds Over Wanaka (WoW) event. Hence the update below. More information <http://www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com/home.html>

Tickets are now available. The 131 Locators' excursion is now GO!

WoW

The program runs from Friday 18th to Sunday 20th April 2014. The sequence is:

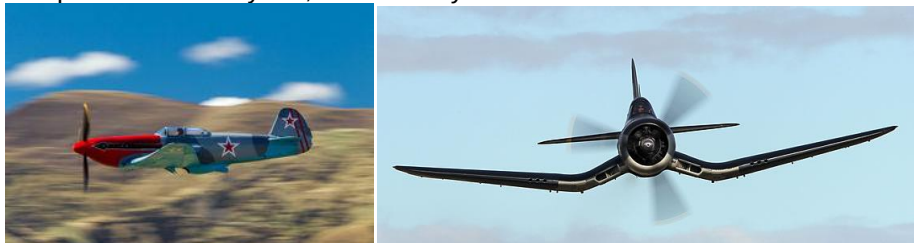
Friday 18th Practice

Saturday 19th Airshow

Sunday 20th Airshow (Saturday and Sunday programs are essentially the same)

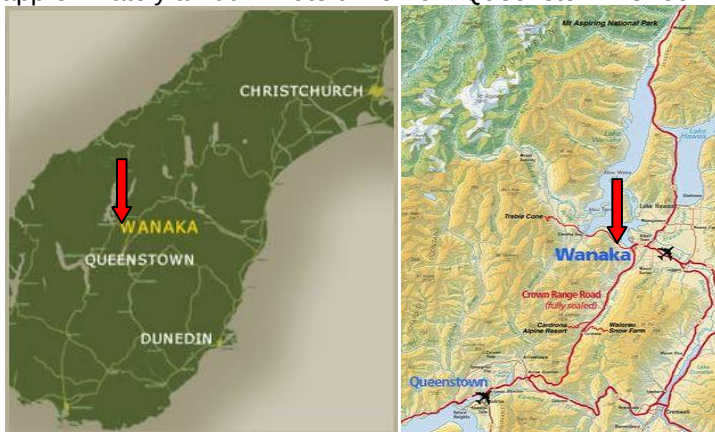
NB that Sunday 20th will mark the 48th anniversary of the 4th National Service intake.

My suggestion is that maybe Friday and Sunday are the days we might target. Of course the weather is unpredictable a day out, let alone a year out from WoW.



Where is Wanaka?

Wanaka is a small town on the shores of Lake Wanaka, in the South Island of New Zealand. It is approximately a 100 minute drive from Queenstown. Check out the WoW website to see



what transport options are available. Grahame Dignam has WoWed before and suggests that a rental car is the best way to travel between Queenstown and Wanaka and return.

How to Get to Wanaka

The most common access point is Queenstown. There are direct flights from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. But, these are few in this period before the snow season, and generally are expensive.

Two alternative options are international to Auckland or Wellington and then domestic to Queenstown.

We cannot book until a year out, ie April but I have had a look at some fares.

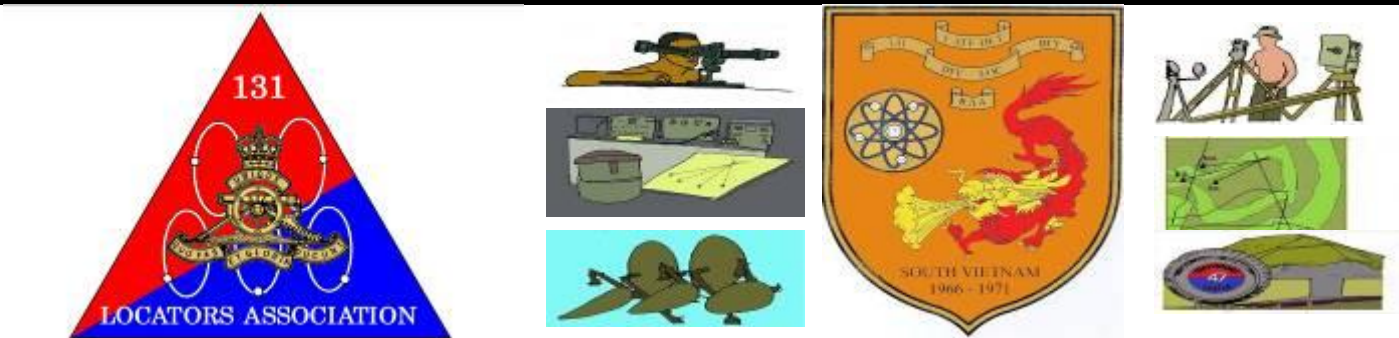
Airline	Date to	Date from	Route	Return
Qantas	April 18, 2013	April 23, 2013	Syd – Mel - Auck-Qtown; Qtown – Auk - Syd	\$A887
Air NZ	April 18, 2013	April 23, 2013	Syd – Auk – Qtown; Qtown - Auk - Syd	A\$799

I also looked at webjet and they have plenty of variety. However, if you leave home too late you will have to overnight in Auckland. My Air New Zealand contact may be able to help us, so I will follow up on that. In the meantime check out

http://www.skyscanner.com.au/?qclid=CO_QgeWFprYCFcdYpQodoR8AtQ for the most options on the one site.

Queenstown

Queenstown is a winter playground but pleasant in the non-snowy months. There are lots of accommodation choices. Some are reasonably priced. Others require the proverbial arm and a leg.



Committee members:
President – Allen Morley, **Vice President** – Bert Blink, **Tresurer/Secretary** – Grahame Dignam,
Public Officer – Victor Danko, **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 (Melb) – Alan Adams, **WA** - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

Presidential Perambulations

Hi Readers.

Your Committee suggested that the president should write a column for each edition of Eyes and Ears. Ed was not consulted but will acquiesce I am sure.

Anzac week was again special. A good group marched in Sydney on Anzac Day (see earlier story) and I know that turnouts met or exceeded expectations. For those Nashos in the fourth intake (April 1966) April 20th was the 47th anniversary of the commencement of our two-year break from the real world. I seem to recall that it was day 2 before we were subjected to the shears to attack those civvy hair creations. Not much choice of Army 'style', just short all over. Now many of us would still like to have even that much hair. Sic transit Gloria.

Our membership numbers are slowly increasing. Let's hope that Anzac Day may have been an incentive for some to join the association. Neville Smith all the way from Townsville signed up on the 25th in Sydney.

Our website is the principal means of communication – <http://www.131locators.org.au> . But not every member or potential member wants to be electronically connected. So make a 'phone call (02 94283275) or mail a letter (119 Riverview St Lane Cove NSW 2066) and I will respond. Brian "Wirey" Hackett accused me on Anzac Day of not answering his e-mail. Not true, but I am now very much on notice.

Cheers

Allen

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming **John Jaggard** to the Association fold.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 21/05/2013 at 11:00hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL& Sporting Club - 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights for directions -

<http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/>

"We buy the first beer or tomato juice, but NOT a Decaffeinated Latte Coffee with skimmed milk, for new attendees and lunch is usually Pizza (other selections are available). GD"

Come along and get involved even if it is only for the great array of pizzas (don't mention colonoscopies to George) – Contact Grahame Dignam and let him know you're coming at: Sectreas131locators@gmail.

. web Performance...

If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos three-zero@hotmail.com – **BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.**

. Birthdays in the Battery – May...

Now let's pick the youngster out for the Month – **Roger Pryke** - Happy 62nd where ever you are?



Here's what **Nick Armstrong** looked like on his 24th birthday (cake and all) some 45 years ago in May 1968! Nick's comment – "There is only a week between a good haircut and a bad haircut!"

May	Name	Regt No	DOB	SVN in	SVN out	Comments
1	DENNIS FORSTER	39992	1949	30 04 1969	16 04 1970	
2	NICK ARMSTRONG	43316	1944	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	MICHAEL YOUNG	2786087	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	BRETT RAINSFORD	4719790	1946	18 12 1968	28 11 1969	
4	BRIAN KILLWORTH	2782129	1945	04 05 1966	02 03 1967	
4	PETER ROBERTSON	15543	1936	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
5	DAVID CORNELL	5713808	1945	07 08 1966	30 04 1967	
8	JOHN ROBERTS	3787005	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
8	GRAEME OWEN	39453	1948	08 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	KEN WOODBINE	2786077	1946	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
10	MICHAEL QUINLAN	2788865	1946	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	
11	BOB KING	2785420	1946	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	MERV NAIRN	2781450	1945	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
12	GORDON WILLIAMS 2Lt	2783891	1945	13 05 1968	26 03 1969	
13	DAVID KEECH	311588	1947	04 06 1970	10 06 1970	131 † 1999
	" "			11 06 1970	26 05 1971	AATTV
15	LESLIE CONNELL	6709098	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	† 2011
17	PAUL ANGELL	2790740	1948	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
17	KENNETH SANDERSON	3794846	1948	23 09 1969	13 08 1970	
17	LAURENCE MION	3795762	1948	01 04 1970	03 12 1970	
18	PETER COLMAN	2791655	1948	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
19	DENNIS DYE	2412366	1945	27 11 1969	26 11 1968	
19	TERRY WEEKES	3787197	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
19	JOHN TICKLE Sgt.	214000	1942	03 03 1971	13 08 1971	131
	" "			14 08 1971	09 09 1971	12 Fd Regt
20	NICK PROSKURIN	2785002	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
21	PETER RAVELJE	3794461	1947	16 12 1969	04 06 1970	
21	STUART TELFORD	2791930	1948	20 01 1970	03 12 1970	
21	SIMON WILLIS	3797687	1948	02 12 1970	29 07 1971	
22	BRIAN TURNER	2412230	1947	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	
22	ANDREW CSIVINCSIK	2790320	1947	02 12 1969	04 06 1970	
23	JIM SELLWOOD	1731045	1945	04 05 1966	30 04 1967	
24	JOHN BREWER (M.I.D.)	16220	1944	05 02 1968	07 02 1969	131
	" "			12 03 1970	25 02 1971	4 Fd Regt
26	KEN WHITTLE	2781996	1945	20 05 1966	27 03 1967	
26	BERT BLINK	3789692	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
26	RAYMOND MITCHELL	218731	1951	30 05 1970	10 12 1970	† 24.09.11 - 131
	" "			10 12 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt
28	SYTSE ELZINGA	3787318	1945	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
28	FREDERICK MARWICK	45285	1948	10 03 1971	28 06 1971	131
	" "			28 06 1971	20 12 1971	12 Fd Regt
29	CHARLES O'NEILL	1735063	1946	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	

29	ROGER PRYKE	312827	1951	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
30	ROGER LONG	3788775	1945	05 06 1967	12 12 1967	† 22.05.90
30	RON WEBB	1411172	1943	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	† 29.03.77
30	ANTHONY EATON Capt.	17090	1941	14 01 1969	30 07 1969	
30	WARWICK BROOKER	1732289	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
31	STUART PHILIPSON	3799990	1950	27 04 1971	17 12 1971	12 Fd Regt

Ed – 21 blokes not highlighted is 2 better than this time last year – a 9% improvement! Let's go for another 25% this year.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **108** and we've sent out **107**. **Ed** – one new received is a bit light on!

. **Found...**

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.

.Vale – Memorial Service

Russell Jackson sent the following in with regards to the Memorial service held for **Mick Delaney** in Sydney – “Paul,

Thanks for the contact.

The service for Mick was held on a very warm Sydney morning in an impressive hall at Sydney University.

Claudia Chan-Shaw, one of Mick's ex students was the MC and speakers from Mick's school days, his army service (Michael Quinlan) and his business and community contacts spoke along with his brothers and sisters.

His large contingent of nieces and nephews also took to the stage to recite “Around the Boree Log”

It was a most fitting and moving tribute to Mick and one we were very pleased to have had offered by the family.

Nine of his Vietnam mates were in attendance.

Graeme Owen, Don Chalmers, Russ Jackson from Melbourne, Brett Rainsford from Brisbane, Ric Mahoney from Perth(who flew in that morning and was flying back that afternoon), Michael Quinlan, Jeff Shafer, Jim Merchant, Peter Creedon from Sydney.

One of Mick's pleasures was Chinese food so we all adjourned to Chinatown after the service and had Yum Cha in memory of our great mate. Russ”

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?

Web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au/131locators/>

. **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>

. Locating , Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes And Ears Of The Battlefield

...notes taken from the LS & TAA website – Committee meetings are held regularly with most held at Paddington RSL commencing at 11.15am.

The next Meeting will be held at Paddington RSL on **19 May 2013**. Members are cordially invited to attend.

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

<http://www.locatingartillery.org/index.htm>



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

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://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/

. **Bill Taggart** took the time to send in the following – “To all of our Aussie and Kiwi mates,
On behalf of the entire 1/83rd family, I want you to know that our thoughts and prayers will be with you again on April 25 as you commemorate this solemn occasion for all Australians and New Zealanders, particularly the Veterans. We will say a prayer for all the brave souls who sacrificed so much. Please know that you will always have our love and support.

Lest We Forget!

Bill

Email... artillery_83rd@yahoo.com “

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