

THE EYES and EARS

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OK now let's see what this edition offers...

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- To have the last word - Bill Taggart** (1/83rd Group) on - Page 14, so settle in and enjoy...



Western Advocate

OAM: Sub-branch pair on the OAM honours list

By SANDRA PARKER

June 10, 2013, 4:30 a.m.

TWO tireless workers for ex-service personnel have been awarded Order of Australia Medals in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Bruce Irvine and Brian Tobin have been associated with the Returned and Services League of Australia for decades.

The OAM is recognition of almost half a century of community involvement by Yetholme resident Mr Irvine and Raglan's Mr Tobin.

Mr Irvine said he was a "bit overwhelmed" by the award.

"It is a great honour – I didn't know what to think," he said.

"I keep thinking of the organisations involved and all the other people pulling together to make things happen. Community is very important to me, and the only way to build and support the community is for people to work together.

"Above all, I enjoy the work I do."

Mr Irvine's decades of public service began when he joined Apex in Engadine in the late 1960s, not long after he returned from service in Vietnam.

Long associated with working to assist ex-service personnel through the RSL, Mr Irvine did not become a member of the organisation until he moved to Bathurst.

"I didn't get involved with the RSL in Sydney as they shunned Vietnam veterans," he said.

"But when I came to Bathurst, the first thing I did was join the RSL – there was a different attitude here and they were very welcoming."

Mr Irvine served two terms on Bathurst council – as deputy mayor in 1994-95, and as a councillor from 1987-95.

"Bathurst is an incredible place to live. There is great diversity and lots of things to do," he said. "I loved being involved in assisting that development."

Mr Irvine cites involvement in the planning stages of raising the Ben Chifley Dam wall as a highlight of his time on council.

Mr Irvine and his family came to Bathurst when he joined TAFE to teach survey drafting.

"The mapping authority had a lot of trainees here at the time," he said.

He went on to become head teacher of civil engineering and retired in early 2000.

He has served in numerous positions in the RSL Sub-Branch, including treasurer, trustee, and president, and was made a life member of the Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) in 2001.

Mr Irvine is the RSL's representative on the Bathurst Bicentennial 2015 committee; a member of the Yetholme Rural Fire Service, and a volunteer in The Salvation Army Store.

Mr Tobin said his involvement with the RSL began after a welcome home parade for Vietnam veterans in 1987.

"It was obvious some of them needed assistance," he said.

"In 1992 I was recruited to assist with the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service, contacting veterans to see if they needed assistance. Now we've covered most of them, but there's still the odd one who rolls up that we don't know about."

In his current role as welfare and pensions officer with the Bathurst sub-branch, Mr Tobin assists veterans with disability pension claims.

He is a life member of the NSW branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia; the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia; and the Bathurst RSL Club Ltd.

Mr Tobin is still actively involved with Legacy.

"We visit widows once a month to have a chat and discuss any problems they may have," he said.

"We currently have 260 war widows in Bathurst and the demand for services will continue while ever we are involved in conflicts overseas. Governments change – the services needed don't."

Mr Tobin said he will continue his involvement for as long as he is able.

"The award came out of the blue – and I was quite surprised and honoured to think I'm held in good standing," he said.

Born and bred in Bathurst, Mr Tobin spent his working life as an apiarist, and still keeps a few bees as a hobby.





Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division (F-L)

Mr Bruce David IRVINE, Yetholme NSW 2795 - For service to veterans and their families, and to the community of Bathurst.

Assistant Welfare Officer, Bathurst Sub-Branch, Returned and Services League of Australia, since 2004; Treasurer, 2003-2009; Trustee, since 2000; President, 1994-2002; Vice-President, 1984-1994; Committee Member, 1981; Member, since 1980. Life Member, Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch), since 2001. Deputy Mayor, Bathurst Regional Council, 1994-1995; Councillor, 1987-1995. Current RSL Representative, Bathurst Bi-Centennial 2015 Committee. Member, Yetholme Rural Fire Service, since 1999. Volunteer, The Salvation Army Store, Bathurst, since 2002. Judge, Bathurst Agricultural, Horticultural and Pastoral Society, from the late 1990s to the early 2000s.



Bruce David Irvine – 2783695 L/Bdr SVN 04.05.1967 - 20.02.1968 DOB 07.06.1945 -was a ? intake National Serviceman who became an integral part of the Survey Section in both Australia and South Vietnam.

An email from Ken Woodbine announced Bruce's Award – "Paul, It has probably been brought to your attention, but just in case it hasn't, Bruce Irvine was awarded an OAM in this year's honours list. He's been a busy chap hasn't he!!" This link will take you to the site -

<<http://www.gq.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/qb/qb2013/Media%20Notes%20-%20OAM%20%28F-L%29%20%28final%29.pdf>>"

Ed contacted Bruce with – "Bruce, I've just heard about your AOM - congratulations.

I would have to look long and far to find someone more deserving - you make me proud to know you.

Finding out has not only made my day - I reckon that'll do me for the year! Sincere congratulations. Paul"

...and of course humble as ever Bruce responded with – "Thanks Paul, much appreciated - although I'm not sure about the deserved bit. We all do our "bit" in our own way and that's what counts. Somehow, I just got picked out for a mention - it's the team effort that counts. Bruce".

Ed as a final note (maybe) – Bruce was a bloke I was fortunate enough to meet back in the '60's, but wish I'd gotten to have known more as by reading his Profile and hearing comments from others he is really "fairdinkum" in many aspects and none more in his community (not only Veteran) involvement.

I might also add that he is not alone in these activities as there are numerous other Locators who have made it their focus to get involved, most unnoticed, but the likes of – **Kevin Browning** – OAM, **Dave Doyle** - OAM, **Tim Ford** – AO, **Pat Gowans** – OAM, **Jim Townley** – AM are some that have been recognised.

...Bruce's OAM report has also been recorded on the Association's website at –

<http://www.131locators.org.au/news-events/news.html>

. **Derek Hinde** gives a late update on ANZAC Day in Brisbane where he made a major trek – "Hi Paul, Re Anzac Day...Eyes and Ears...Just wanted you to know that I attended the Anzac March in Brisbane this year and marched with the boys from 131DivLocBty...and my photo is the tall guy standing at front of the steps on RHS...I drove 850kms up from Sydney on the Wed before...picked up Graham Williams at Tweed and stayed overnight with Joe Losiak in Kingston, Bris...easy for a "digger" from 131. Terry Erbs organization on the day was great... Kind Regards.. Derek Hinde. 2787403. 9th Intake.NSM."

. **Grahame Dignam** combines eloquence with “symmetry” in his submission from the Coffs Harbour Reunion with the following photo and words -



“The 4 Gees appeared at the Coffs 2013 Reunion.

From left to right:

Graham Williams, Grahame Dignam, Graham Greenland and Grahame Smith

Note also G1 and G3 have the same spelling and both are RED people while G2 and G4 also have the same spelling and are both “moustachioed”.

Symmetry in all things!!!”

. Thoughts on SVN...in the mid-year musings...Tet Offensive etc

May 10–12, 1968

The Battle of Kham Duc was the struggle for the United States Army Special Forces camp located in Quang Tin province, South Vietnam. The Kham Duc Special Forces camp was occupied by the 1st Special Forces detachment consisting of U.S and South Vietnamese Special Forces, as well as Montagnard irregulars.



The final plane evacuating men after the Battle of Kham Duc.

May 12 – June 6

The [Battle of Coral-Balmoral](#) was a notable series of significant actions fought in May and June 1968 during the [Vietnam War](#), between the [1st Australian Task Force](#) (1 ATF) and communist forces, north-east of Saigon.

May 13

The first US and North Vietnamese delegations meet at the Paris peace talks to discuss American withdrawal.

The **Battle of Kham Duc** was a major battle of the [Vietnam War](#) (also known, in [Vietnam](#), as the "American War"). The event occurred in Khâm Đức, Quảng Tín Province (now part of [Quảng Nam Province, South Vietnam](#)), between 10-12 May 1968. During the [Tet Offensive](#) of 1968, the [Vietnam People's Army](#) (PAVN) 2nd Division tried to capture [Đà Nẵng](#) but their attacks were quickly blunted by elements of the U.S. [1st Marine Division](#), the [American Division](#), and the Korean Brigade that were guarding the city. North Vietnamese General Chu Huy Mân decided to disengage from the fight in the outskirts of the city, and pull the 2nd Division into the mountains where they could rest, rebuild, and prepare for the next major operation. Khâm Đức, a small district in the north of Quảng Tín, was chosen as the next target for the PAVN 2nd Division. Following the defeat of the North Vietnamese in [Đà Nẵng](#), U.S. military intelligence agencies in [I Corps Tactical Zone](#) were confused by the movements of the North Vietnamese 2nd Division, because they could not track down the mysterious enemy unit.

During March and April, U.S. military intelligence began to detect elements of the PAVN 2nd Division moving towards Khâm Đức, but their opponent's true intentions were largely unknown. In response to what could be a major attack, General [William Westmoreland](#) decided to build-up the defences of the Khâm Đức Special Forces, by sending in [U.S. Army](#) engineers to upgrade the local airstrip for sustained use by large transport aircraft, as well as airlifting weapons and ammunition for the U.S.-led Detachment A-105. [Australian-led 11th Mobile Strike Force \(MSF\) Company](#) was ordered to take up positions in Ngok Tavak (Ngok Ta Vak), an outpost serving Khâm Đức, to boost allied intelligence-gathering capabilities in the area. However, unbeknownst to the United States and other allied forces, the Viet Cong (VC) 1st Regiment had been watching the build-up around Khâm Đức for some time, and were preparing to initiate the assault by taking out Ngok Tavak.

Ed – this got me curious - see below.

In the early hours of 10 May, elements of the VC 1st Regiment attacked Ngok Tavak, and they successfully overran much of the outpost. By dawn, the 11th MSF Company was devastated, but they later received reinforcements which

came in the form of the 12th Mobile Strike Force Company. Despite having received assurances that further reinforcements would arrive to relieve the outpost, the commander of the 11th MSF Company decided to evacuate his troops and move towards Khâm Đức. By that time, however, the VC 1st Regiment had already turned their attention to the main target at Khâm Đức, and they only left behind some local force units to destroy allied reinforcements. Meanwhile, elements of the American Division had been airlifted into Khâm Đức as part of *Operation Golden Valley*, to bolster the strength of the Special Forces Camp there. On the morning of 11 May, the North Vietnamese 2nd Division surrounded Khâm Đức, and they gradually forced United States-led forces into their bases after several outposts were overrun. Westmoreland then ordered Khâm Đức to be evacuated, so the 834th Air Division was told to make an all-out effort to extract all the people in Khâm Đức, both military and civilian. By the time the evacuation was completed, nine U.S. military aircraft had been shot down, including two C-130s. On 12 May, the North Vietnamese were in complete control of Khâm Đức. The battle was a major defeat for the U.S. military. The allied forces consisted of - **United States:** 900 soldiers, **Australia:** 3 AATTV advisors, **South Vietnam:** About 500 CIDG soldiers, and 272 civilians. We'll never know how many South Koreans were involved?

The **Mobile Strike Force Command**, or **MIKE Force**, was a key component of [United States Army Special Forces](#) in the [Vietnam War](#). They served with indigenous soldiers selected and trained through the largely minority [Civilian Irregular Defense Group \(CIDG\)](#) and were led by American [SF](#) and [Australian SAS](#). MIKE Force was a force multiplier, operating what is today called a [Foreign Internal Defense](#) mission.

MIKE Force was composed of the persecuted [Degar](#), [Bahnar](#), [Hmong](#), [Nung](#), [Jarai](#), [Khmer Krom](#), and [Montagnards](#). MIKE Force was active under [MACV](#), Army Special Forces, from 1964 to 1970 and under [ARVN](#) until 1974. MIKE Force waged special warfare against the [Viet Minh](#), [NLF](#) (Viet Cong), and [PAVN](#) (North Vietnamese Army) oppressors in various detachments, volunteering in support of MIKE Force missions.

MIKE Force's mission was to act as a country-wide [quick reaction force](#) for securing, reinforcing, and recapturing CIDG A Camps, as well as to conduct special [reconnaissance](#) patrols. [Search and rescue](#) and [search and destroy](#) missions were also assigned. The conventional unit alternative to Special Forces detachments like MIKE was [Tiger Force](#), which was primarily tasked with [counter-guerrilla warfare](#) against enemies from behind their lines that emphasized body-count rather than force multiplication.

MIKE Force had a critical role in the [search and rescue](#) of downed American pilots because they were mobile and often in close proximity to the DMZ. MIKE Force also designated drop zones, landing zones, called in air strikes on high value targets, and collected intelligence during recons, much like the [LRRPs](#).

In 1970 MIKE Force was disbanded after Vietnamization ruined the loyalty of the indigenous personnel when SF were ordered to abandon them to the command of the South Vietnamese. While many Montagnards were Christian, they were still looked down upon by the Vietnamese and referred to as savages. In 1974 what indigenous personnel of the MIKE Forces remained in Vietnam were, along with their tribes of origin, systematically hunted down and murdered by the North Vietnamese when they took over the South. Some Hmong, Nung, Montagnard, and other groups still escape and evade persecution in Vietnam while struggling for independence, much like the people of Burma who were left by [Detachment 101](#) when, like Det. 101, MACV was ordered home by the President.

Ed – I hope I this didn't bore you, but I knew NOTHING about [Australian-led 11th Mobile Strike Force \(MSF\) Company](#).

What happened in June in SVN...a series of calendar month events.

Grahame Dignam found a great link to the AWM which lists happening in the Wars that Australia has been involved in and lists events by calendar month and then by date. So we thought it would be a great monthly event to cut out the relevant SVN dates and list them.

We're starting with June and we'll go on from here and hopefully be around for the next eleven months...

1 June	1963		Advisor, Sergeant William Hacking becomes the first Australian to die in Vietnam when his weapon accidentally discharges after being caught in vegetation
2 June	1967	2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrives in Vietnam	By 1967 Australia's commitment to the war in Vietnam was increasing as the Australian Task Force expanded its control over areas of Phuc Tuy Province.
6 June	1969	Battle of Binh Ba, South Vietnam	Binh Ba, located 6 kilometres north of the Australian base at Nui Dat was the site of a battle between an Australian Ready Reaction Force and a combined force of Viet Cong guerrillas and North Vietnamese Army troops who had occupied the village. The enemy were driven off after more than a day's fighting.
7 June	1968	Australian Prime Minister visits Vietnam	Prime Minister Gorton begins two-day visit to Vietnam against a background of both a growing Australian military commitment to the war and steadily increasing, though not yet overwhelming, domestic opposition.

14 June 1966	6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrives in South Vietnam	The deployment of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, to Vietnam formed part of Australia's build up of forces in Phuoc Tuy province in the mid-1960s. D Company from this battalion became involved in the battle of Long Tan in August 1966.
30 June 1971	Final anti-war rally	110,000 people in Australian cities demonstrated against the war in Vietnam.

. Task Force – first battle death - Between April and June 1966, 1ATF was established at Nui Dat, in the centre of Phuoc Tuy. During operations to secure the area, the Task Force suffered its first battle death on 24 May, when Private **Errol Noack** of 5RAR died of wounds—he was also the first National Serviceman to lose his life on active service.

. Located in Estonia...**Geoff Holden** responded to an email with – “Paul and Grahame, I'm on holiday in Estonia at the mo so give me some time and I'll see what I can do Geoff”

Ed responded with – “Geoff, OK - whenever. However - Estonia - why? Where (Tallinn, Parnu??), how long? where else (before and after)?

We could start a Travel segment in E&Es - "Travels with a Vintage* Holden" - got a good sound to it too. **"vintage" could/would be optional Paul”

...**Geoff** responded with – “Paul I think "vintage" is appropriate.

I am in this part of the world primarily to visit my son who lives in Sweden with his wife and son. He has been there for about 12 years and moved there after he and Maria met at Newcastle Uni (Aust)

I marched in Sydney on Anzac Day and left straight after for UK - spent 2 weeks in Northern England and Scotland before going to France. Went to the Last Post ceremony at Ypres and stayed with friends in Bordeaux.

Then to a friend in Madrid and from there to Stockholm.

At the mo I am on the ferry from Tallinn to Helsinki. I hadn't visited Estonia or Finland before so I'm just having a tourist look.

Really enjoyed Tallinn and stayed in the Old Town - bloody bars and restaurants everywhere!!! Great stuff.

I'm going home in July via UK where son Tony and I are taking in the first Ashes test at Trent Bridge. I hope our blokes pull their fingers out! See you mate Geoff”

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

. Customs – This is a continuing series suggested 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...

Rosemary

Since ancient times this aromatic herb has been believed to have properties to improve the memory. Perhaps because of this, rosemary became an emblem of both fidelity and remembrance in literature and folklore. Traditionally, sprigs of rosemary are worn on ANZAC Day and sometimes on Remembrance Day, and are usually handed out by Legacy and the RSL. Rosemary has particular significance for Australians, as it is found growing wild on the Gallipoli peninsula.



A sprig of rosemary

. Veterans accuse Department of Veterans Affairs of being more interested in saving money than lives...

Special investigation by defence correspondent [Michael Brissenden](#)

Bert Blink.....email 06.06.13

Some veterans have accused the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) of deliberate intransigence and of being more interested in saving money than in saving lives.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-06-06/veterans-speak-out-against-department-of-veterans-affairs/4738088>

. **Peter Ravelje** sent the following article in from the Townsville Bulletin...

First woman in ADF combat role

From Townsville Bulletin

Lieutenant Renata Williams, pictured at High Range yesterday with Troopers Bradley Hawkless, Jarryd Moore and Sean Moran-Ramsay,

is the first woman in the Australian Defence Force to earn a combat role. (Photos: FIONA HARDING) LIEUTENANT Renata Williams was doing what she does best, working shoulder to shoulder with her mates in the Armoured Cavalry Regiment, when she learned she had officially become the first woman in the Australian

Defence Force to serve in a combat role.

The 27-year-old, who had already passed her Regimental Officer Basic Course with flying colours, received the news on Anzac Day while on exercise at Townsville's High Range alongside 340 of her fellow ACR soldiers who

together with more than 100 armoured vehicles, have relocated from Darwin to Townsville as part of a trial.

The ACR will continue at High Range until mid June and remain in the North Queensland area until August as part of an Australian-first trial to change the way army brigades are structured over the next decade under Plan Beersheba. Under the new structure brigades will transition to become Light Multi Role Combat Brigades meaning each will have elements of armour, artillery, communication, engineer, infantry and logistics.

Lt Williams is now a troop commander meaning she is in command of four M1A1 Abrams tanks and 15 soldiers. Up at High Range she was covered in just as much dirt as any of her male counterparts, all of whom seemed to take the new troop commander's status in their stride.

Her commanders are glowing in their praise of the capable young woman who they say was chosen because she was simply the best person for the job, irrespective of gender. Women have been officially allowed to serve in all areas of the ADF, including combat roles, since the beginning of this year.

However as Lt Williams' previous role in Intelligence Corps, where she provided security to the Commanding Officer, illustrates, women have been serving in what are considered "front line" roles for some time.

"I'm pretty proud but it's sometimes a bit overwhelming," Lt Williams said.

"I've had a lot of support from the regiment and the hierarchy as well as from the soldiers.

"Having already worked with the regiment for the three years leading up to this has meant it was an easy transition."

Lt Williams said she had enjoyed working with the 140 soldiers from Townsville's 3rd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment and looked forward to exercising alongside other infantry units.

"It's been pretty good working with the infantry and getting that combined arms environment," she said.

"A lot of the infantry have never worked with tanks before so they're pretty interested too."



. **Nick Proskurin** sent the following email to **Grahame Dignam** who forwarded it on to **Ed** – "Hi Grahame, Check out the following site (if you already haven't) for 131 DLB photos taken by official photographers in Vietnam:

www.AWM.gov.au/Collection/

In the Collection Simple Search page : Click on "All conflicts and periods"– the down arrow and

Click on "Vietnam 1962 – 1975"

In the horizontal line/box, type in: 131 Divisional Locating Battery, and press SEARCH.

4 to 5 pages of photos and text appear.

Hope you like them – good stuff.

Check it out,

Cheers, Nick Pro"

Ed – there are some really interesting photos and worth having a look at.

. **Stand Tall for PTS** – **Ed** a curious start to a serious topic. OK let me start from the beginning...

A couple of weeks ago my brother Jim sent me a link to the "Stand Tall for PTS" site after hearing an interview on the Ray Hadley show on 2GB which lead me to contact **Tony Dell** the founder of the organisation. Now all of this has history as Tony and I completed our senior year at the same school in 1963, then unknowingly both get conscripted – his service number is one digit less than mine, he meets a mate of mine, Dave Hodgetts from recruit training when they both ended up in 2 RAR. Since I've been in touch with Tony it's uncanny what a couple of Brisbane blokes share! However, let me get on with things as said I would mention "Stand Tall for PTS" as it is a shared problem by blokes from our era and may not be fully understood or recognised.

Read on...

The Stand Tall For PTS campaign is an initiative of PTS Foundation Limited. Mastermind of our PTS Foundation

Limited and the movement that is Stand Tall For PTS is Tony Dell.

In 1967/68, he served in Vietnam, with 2RAR, as a National Serviceman. Returning from his tour of duty, from 1970-1975, he enjoyed a brief career in first class cricket as a fast bowler with Queensland. More significantly, he was selected for two Test Matches with Ian Chappell as his captain. Forty years after coming home from Vietnam he was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress.

The persistent and inescapable dark episodes in his life and subsequent marriage breakdown, started to make sense. In 2007 he was invited into the Defence Cricket fold. It was discovered subsequently that he is the only Vietnam Veteran to play Test Cricket.

In fact, it emerged that he is the only person in the world, since 1945, to fight in a theatre of war and play Test Cricket. After his own PTS diagnosis, Tony suspected that there were probably thousands more Vietnam Veterans who remained undiagnosed and were not receiving any help as their lives inexplicably crumbled around them.

Tony's cricket contacts, his newly formed Defence contacts and forty years of Advertising experience spawned the idea to spread the word amongst this group of sufferers.

He then expanded his thinking to disperse the message to include anyone who had been affected by PTS in any walk of life. What started as a mission to help Vietnam Veterans has grown immensely, now that we fully understand the size and scope of this problem.

So Tony rallied his friends and influential contacts to raise the flag for PTS and those who are affected by it. PTS Foundation Limited was incorporated, the necessary ATO charity concessions were officially registered with the statutory bodies and our advertising, marketing and fund-raising programme entitled "Stand Tall for PTS" was created.

Brisbane Launch Event - Time & Date: Tuesday 30th July, 7pm **RSVP** by Friday 12th July

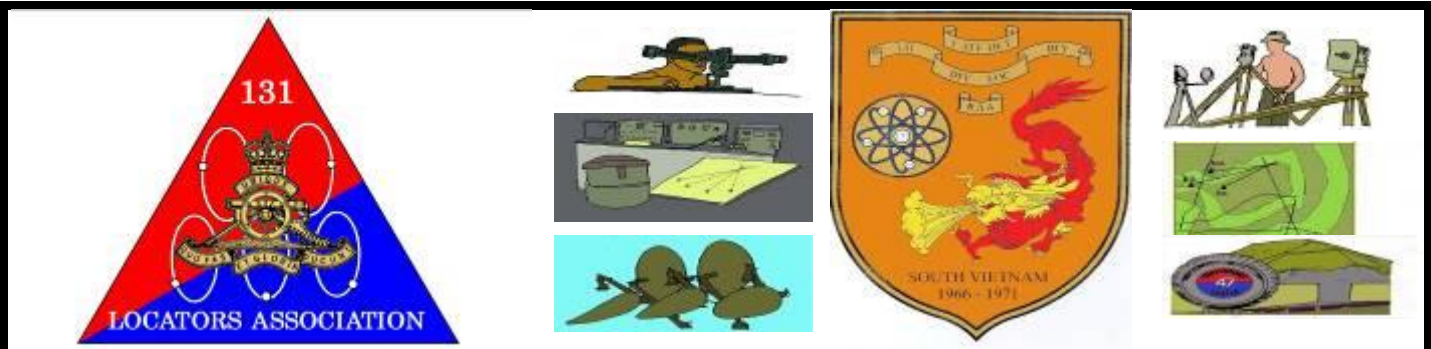
Venue: The Gallipoli Barracks Officers' Mess, Enoggera Tickets: \$180 per individual, \$1600 per table of 10

Ticket price includes an official Stand Tall Tie & Lapel pin. (while stocks last)

Celebrity guests include Greg Chappell, Wally Lewis, Andrew Slack & Greg Ritchie with Andrew Courtice as our MC.

The night will include live auctions & raffles with entertainment throughout the night.

...here the link to the website for more information - www.standtall4pts.org



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>

Welcome – The Association has great pleasure in welcoming a group this time – **Barry Fountain, David Pimm*** (see **Profiles below**), **Robert Buzzacott** to the Association fold.

Presidential Perambulations

Winter has arrived in Sydney after a magnificent autumn – fall for our American friends. So that means the end-of-financial-year, tax time, and the question of where did these six months go? As at the end of June there are only seventy-six shopping days until the Federal Election.

Our former Nasho Members are now all in their 60s and hopefully planning for a fishing/bowling/travel/golf retirement. Our Regular Army members are of wide, but good vintages, so many will also be planning retirement. This is a time to get some good financial advice and even a physical health check.

I find it interesting that in post-meeting discussion at our monthly Committee meeting a comparison of health approaches frequently surfaces. I'll swap you a colonoscopy for a retinal injection or a blood glucose test.

I was delighted to read that our country cobbler Bruce Irvine was recognised in the Queen's Birthday honours list as OAM. A good journey from baggy arsed National Service Gunner to Bombardier and then to being a very active participant in his community. Congratulations Bruce.
Best wishes Allen Morley

Our 131st to the 131 Locators Association – as was announced to the Committee by **Grahame Dignam** on 2nd June, 2013 – “Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure that I advise that to-day we have signed **Member #131** to the Association.

The fortunate individual is Mr **Barry Fountain** who served in SVN in 1971 and he will forever remember his Association Member Number.

Barry was lost in the fog of time to most of us but Rieny Niewenhof, aware of the "Locate a Locator " project, left the porch light on and Barry saw it.

Regards Barry , we will be in touch”

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday 16/07/2013 at 11:00hrs

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

<http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome – in fact your being there could add a valuable contribution

The Association's Vice President, **Bert Blink**, penned a letter of support for an article published in The Australian (newspaper), dated 09.03.2013 under the heading - “Minister fights for medics”...it was distributed by Grahame Dignam.

The Honourable Warren Snowdon MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Suite M-1-49, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir

I am writing to you, on behalf of members of 131 Locators Association, with regard to an article, titled “Minister fights for medics”, published in The Australian, dated 09/03/2013. The article outlined a long time fight by the SA Veterans' Affairs Council and the SA Veterans' Affairs Minister, Mr Jack Snelling, in support of volunteer civilian Doctors and Nurses, who served in South Vietnam (SVN) between 1964 and 1972, to receive Gold Card medical assistance.

Our association represents the men who served with Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery in SVN between 1966 and 1971. Our unit operated Listening Posts, Sound Ranging Equipment and Radars in order to locate enemy mortar and artillery firing positions. During our five years in SVN two members of our Unit died and a number of our personnel were wounded, some of whom would thus have been treated by these volunteer Doctors and Nurses. Our association thus wishes to express its total support for the volunteer Doctors and Nurses being made eligible to receive DVA gold card medical assistance; this should be regardless of whether their service was at the request of the Army or of External Affairs.

We thus seek your urgent support in lifting the ban as soon as is practicable. These men and women deserve to have their service in the Vietnam War Zone recognised.

Yours Sincerely

Grahame Dignam
Secretary / Treasurer
131 Locators Assn Inc
ABN 92 663 816 973

. 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.**

Now if you're having trouble logging on get in touch with **Grahame Dignam** at: sectreas131locators@gmail.com

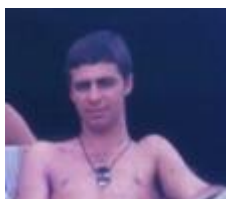
. Birthdays in the Battery...July –

June 10th - Establishment **131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA** in 1954 – HAPPY 59TH!! A belated wish for June!
...then...

July 22nd , 1967- The first **Eyes & Ears** was published - well roneod – HAPPY 46th!

July 31st, 1971 – Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA was disbanded. 42 years ago. Now that makes a lot of us feel really old.

We start off this section of Birthdays with an **oops** made in *May's Eyes & Ears* which was pointed out by **George Lane** – we managed to use a photo of John “Beau” Roberts instead of Ged Carroll – so here’s what they looked like cut from the same photo.



Now let's get it right – if that's “Beau” on the left it HAS to be Ged on the right.



OK let's try another one for this month – **John Jaggard** in 1971 when he was 22 – **HAPPY BIRTHDAY “JJ”!**



Now let's pick the youngster out for the Month – hey let's split it with **Ian Earle** and **Joe Kocka** - Happy 62nds to the both of you!

July	Name	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN out	Comments
1	STEPHEN FOWLER	217186	1948	16 09 1968	17 09 1969	
2	PETER O'DONNELL Sgt.	213115	1941	24 03 1970	05 11 1970	
3	BRUCE FOWLER	2795238	1949	16 12 1970	29 07 1971	
4	GEORGE WEARN Capt.	2251140	1937	05 08 1968	20 08 1968	133 Div Loc CMF
7	PETER JOSCELYNE	2792023	1945	03 06 1970	17 12 1970	
12	NEVILLE ATKINSON	1733449	1947	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	† 14.12.96
13	GRIFFITH DEREK	310867	1927	1970	1971	† 02.04.05
10	BILL FINLAY Sgt.	37818	1944	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
10	ROBERT PELHAM	55342	1949	16 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	REX ARNOLD	424096	1949	16 12 1970	29 05 1971	
	" "			29 05 1971	16 09 1971	Ind 161 Recce Flt.
11	JOHN JAGGARD	4721862	1949	03 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
13	ALASDAIR GOUGH	2105130	1947	27 03 1970	04 03 1971	
14	EDMOND DOUST Sgt.	53111	1939	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	
14	FREDERICK KRUMINK	6708867	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
15	IAN EARLE	3166824	1951	19 08 1970	10 12 1970	131 / 4 Fd Regt.
	" "			11 12 1970	23 06 1971	33 Dental Unit
16	GEORGE ADDISON WO2	2410040	1930	16 04 1969	16 04 1970	† 27.12.12
18	KEITH AYLIFFE Sgt.	217354	1941	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	131
	" "			08 07 1971	24 07 1971	HQ AFV
18	ALASTAIR McLEAN	312524	1947	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
18	JOE KOCKA	1202703	1951	20 08 1970	29 07 1971	
19	MAXWELL McPHERSON	3795560	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
21	GRAHAM WILLIAMS	2789698	1947	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
21	WILLIAM SLADE	44464	1950	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	
21	WILHELMUS Van ZETTEN	3794919	1947	17 03 1970	17 12 1970	
21	PETER SUMMERS	3796803	1948	09 11 1970	09 06 1971	
22	JOHN HOMER	5717596	1949	17 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
23	DAVID DODD	2790139	1947	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
25	WILLIAM DOYLE	4719912	1947	17 12 1968	04 01 1969	4 Fd REGT
	" "			05 01 1969	28 11 1969	131 † 05.09.78

25	JOHN SMITH	610231	1949	16 11 1968	12 11 1969	
25	PETER BARRY	2794949	1949	17 03 1971	04 08 1971	131
	" "			04 08 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
28	MALCOLM MUSGRAVE	214359	1943	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
29	RICHARD EDWARDS	218595	1949	03 06 1970	14 05 1971	
30	KEITH HOLLOWAY	15851	1943	20 05 1966	10 10 1966	

Ed – 11 blokes not highlighted is **4** better than this time last year – a 15% improvement! Let's go for another 20% this year.

. Locator Profiles – we've received **113** and we've sent out **109**. **Ed** – we can always do with a few more though ***David Pimm** – scored the quinella by being Located, joining the Association and completing the Locator Profile pro-forma and to top it off he was in RAEME!!! Maybe we should have been 131 Div Loc Bty RAEME? His promptness and "completeness" got the following response from **Grahame Dignam** – "David Thanks for the complete package - you are the first in about 120 to send it all together. Usually it's like pulling teeth!

I spoke to Joe McNeill earlier to-day and have to sent him an email about what we are doing as well.

I have forwarded the Profile to Paul Dickson and you will see yourself in an email shortly as a recent re-Located Locator.

I had forgotten about the go-cart!!!! (do yourself a favour and have a look at David's photos on the website)

More to come on the website access...Regards Grahame Dignam"

. Located (had to update the heading from "Found")...

Locate a Locator Project – the Project took a pretty serious direction in June with an email going out to the "Locateds" looking for more Locators to Locate. We started the project off looking for "200 Not Located Locators" and we came up with the following list of blokes (35 so far, which equates to 273 Vets Located) with more being Localised...

Andrews, Hubert; Bevans, Kevin; Bridge, Larry; Bristow, Richard; Bullen, Norman; Clausen, Roy; Clendinen, Joe; Dodds, Anthony; Dye, Dennis; Earle, Ian; Elzinga, Sytse; Geoghegan, Kevin; Gibson, Robert; Greenland, Graham; Halligan, Kenneth; Hastings, Neville; Heenan, Kevin; Jones, Kenneth; Jones, Randall; Kennedy, Brian; Knight, Quenton; Las, Johannes; Mills, Ivan; Negus, David; O'toole, Graham; Overall, Andrew; Reilly, David; Sheldrake, Anthony; Smith, Denis; Tommasi, Gregory; Troynar, Max; Thwaites, Geoffrey; Voss, Steven; Waghorn, Trevor (Prideaux); Weekes, Terrence; Whittle, Kenneth; and Worrall Gary. Plus we Located the following blokes who have passed on – Bensley, Allan and Fawcett-Smith, Neil (see **Vale** below)

Ed – I guess as an aside, but notionally linked to the "Locate a Locator" project was something I noted in **Bruce Irvine's** comment to the Western Advocate's reporter, Sandra Parker, I guess when she asked him something along the lines of "When did you initially get involved with the RSL?" or whatever, and Bruce's response is rather poignant when he is quoted as saying -

"I didn't get involved with the RSL in Sydney as they shunned Vietnam veterans," he said."

Now I don't think that that would be an isolated comment/remark/response if most of us had been asked the same question, especially those of us who lived in larger cities at that time. I've recounted my story when **Al Adams** and I, in the '70's, went to an RSL in Bentleigh, Melbourne and were treated in a similar manner – I NEVER stepped into another RSL for a very, very long time – except at Tweed Heads to play the pokies if I was going out with friends. I didn't go to the Welcome Home Parade in '87, mores' the pity on reflection, though I did do a couple of ANZAC Day Marches when I lived in Townsville in the late '80's but didn't reconnect with anyone.

Prior Locator Associations suffered the same fate from lethargy, blokes too far apart, small groups of blokes in larger cities doing their own thing etc. Isolated blokes and even the ones in the larger centres who didn't reconnect for one reason or another missed out on something that I believe is special and that is the look on someone else's face and the depth of look in their eyes that said "g'day" on recognition. Not everyone needed it so they think/say, but to experience it is something else. My last shiver down the spine came when I said "g'day" to Rob Retrot in Canberra last year and only this month to receive an email from Trevor Waghorn (now Prideaux). It's like finding the correct piece to fit into a jigsaw puzzle.

Anyway, as long as the Locators we have located and don't want to be contacted, know how to contact us or a mate that's what matters.

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 –

Name	Regt No	Rank	Section	Served in SVN	DOB	DOD
Bensley, Allan Bruce	243104	Sgt	RAEME	04.06.68 – 18.06.69 27.01.70 – 30.01.71	19.12.42	Unknown

May they 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.

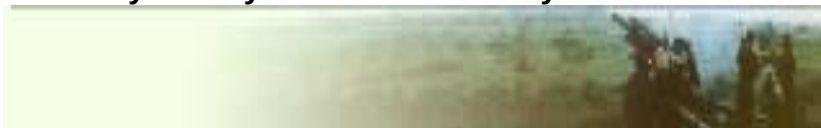
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam**: Sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join.

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 – The next Meeting will be held at Paddington RSL commencing at 11.15am on **14 July 2013** and it is the **Annual General Meeting**. Members are cordially invited to attend.

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



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org





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

"Paul, I just added the latest edition of E&E to the 1/83rd website. As soon as I get your notice each month I read the latest edition. I have come to look forward to this very much, it is very interesting to see how much we all have in common.

I have particularly enjoyed the articles that Jill Nieglos has sent in. I remember going on R&R to Japan in Feb 67 and that was on a Pan Am flight from Tan Son Nhut to Tokyo. I still remember the nice Stewardess's (as they were known at that time) and how kind they were. They even gave out blue knitted "slippers" for us. I have been reminded of that journey as I have read Jill's stories. Please pass along to her how much myself and others appreciate what she and others did for us. It brought a few hours of sunlight to us at a very dark time.

Also, as I hope you and your guys are aware, I have added quite a bit of Australia specific info to the 1/83rd site. If anyone has any suggestions for additional content, please let me know. Here are a few of the places to check out... http://home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/Australia_New%20Zealand/Aussie_Kiwi.htm

http://home.comcast.net/~83rd_artillery/Websites_of_Interest/Military_Units_Vietnam_Websites.htm

Okay, time to review the latest edition!

Regards, Bill

Email... artillery_83rd@yahoo.com

1/83rd Website link... http://83rd_artillery.home.comcast.net/ PS. When I get the Camp Everett layout updated, I will be sure to send it along."

Jill Nieglos responded replied to Bill with the following – "Please tell Bill I was very happy to share happiness with all onboard.

We use to laugh and laugh with the Aussies, and their accents.

We loved having you all on board! We were all young then, and it was good to help one another.

I hope the article about my return helped you Bill. Hugs to all the wonderful men and women who served in Vietnam. From my heart. Jill"

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

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