

THE EYES and EARS

"FIRST PUBLISHED 22nd JULY 1967 in Nui Dat, South Vietnam"



Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: three-zero@hotmail.com

Vol. 8 No. 5 – 31/05/2015

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

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

Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs

The Association Remembers in 2015...



Allen Morley and Grahame Dignam point out the evidence for cameraman Ernie Newbold

Seymour Report: A 131 Detachment Story in 2015

Sunday 3rd May at 7.30am was ETD for this group of three ex-Gunners from Sydney. The day was fine and the direction just a bit west of south. Morning tea was enjoyed at the Bakery on the outskirts of Goulburn, New South Wales. We pushed on and just south of Wangaratta it became obvious the Victorians knew we were coming as per the photo above.

Into Seymour and with no trouble we found our accommodation. The wagons were circled in the motel courtyard, whilst the 131 Pioneers relaxed on the covered walkway, having arrived the day before. This led to introductions all round and names put to new faces. Dinner was at the Royal Hotel where we were fortunate to be assigned a table for 20 plus diners. A great chance to mix and mingle and to attempt to eat the huge meals served. Monday morning 4th May dawned with clear skies but cool conditions. At least the earlier forecast for rain showers was wrong. The Pioneers crossed the road to Maccas, with Ged Carroll claiming that he had healthy breakfasts there. A recce of the Memorial Walk area enabled the dedication ceremony to be positioned. Then shiny shoes and polished medals saw former detachment members wander in – reminiscent of the quote used in each *Eyes and Ears* by Ed – *Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush*.

President Allen Morley then welcomed those at the gathering:

“On behalf of the Committee of 131 Locators Association, welcome all to the Seymour Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk and the dedication of the 131 Div Loc Bty paver. Thank you to everyone here today. Your involvement is important to us. A special thanks to our ladies present. You add a soft touch to the process of ex-gunners swapping war stories on occasions such as this. May 4th is a special day for the Detachment and this year is the 49th anniversary of the arrival in South Vietnam of what we call the Pioneers. It is also the 48th anniversary of the second group of 131 gunners’ departure from Australia to replace the Pioneers.

It is terrific to be able to acknowledge the presence of three former Detachment Commanding Officers today. Namely **Brian Kennedy, Warwick Hamilton and Barry Campton. Tim Ford** is with us in spirit as Warwick will explain.

A special acknowledgement of the presence of **Marianne and Ron Menz** representing the late **Jimmy Menz**, who was known by many in this audience.

Thanks are also due to **Ross Gregson** Secretary of the Walk Committee who assisted with the Walk arrangements. Without **George Lane’s** insisting – nay nagging – and the planning involvement of **Ron Mason** we would not be here today. George will perform shortly. **Grahame Dignam** has put in a huge effort to coordinate the people and travel side of things. To him we owe a significant debt. The design of the paver was by that well known artist, **Nick Proskurin** who for health reasons could not be here.

Tim Billiards, the son of Bob, one of our 131ers, has come along to be our bugler, to reprise a role from Canberra three years ago. Thanks Tim.

Major Russ Hamsey is present today, providing the nexus between the old 131 and 20th Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment. Thank you for your attendance Russ.

Now it is my pleasure to introduce **Lt Colonel (Ret’d) Warwick Hamilton** to provide the Dedication address. Warwick combined his own presentation with that written by **Tim Ford (Maj Gen Ret’d)** as follows:”

DEDICATION CEREMONY SEYMOUR, 4 MAY 2015

“MAJ Russ Hamsey, 2IC 20 Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regt

Fellow members of the Detachment 131 Divisional Location Battery, Artillery and RAEME, Ladies and Gentlemen I am honoured to be asked to dedicate the Detachment ‘symbol of recognition’ at this magnificent and moving Commemorative Walk.

This Walk commemorates and acknowledges ALL 60,000 who played their part in what turned out to be a fairly tumultuous time in Australia’s recent history.

It is hard to believe that *on this date* 49 years ago, 49 years, the whole of the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery arrived in South Viet Nam.

We are honoured to recognise our first members, ‘The Pioneers’ some of whom are here today.

It is perhaps fitting that, while not able to make it in person, we have a note from the Last Officer Commanding, now Major General Tim Ford. Tim rose from Captain Officer Commanding to become a General, so some of you must have had a good influence on him!



Association President: Allen Morley

He also became the Director of Artillery and the Artillery Representative Colonel Commandant...only in the Army could you have a General as the COLONEL Commandant.

So with your permission ...

Comments by Major General Tim Ford, AO (Retd)
(Previous OC131 Det, D Arty and RAA Representative Commandant)

Please accept my apologies for not being with you today. I wish you a wonderful Commemorative Service and associated activities. The 131 Locators Association Committee has requested me to provide some words for the occasion. I do so with pleasure.

Firstly I congratulate the President and Members of the 131 Locators Association for the wonderful work that they are doing in maintaining the history and heritage of 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA and its service with the Detachment in South Vietnam from 1966-1971.

I also commend the close links that they have been established between Locators through the various activities of the Association including through its website and its newsletter "*Eyes and Ears*". Well done.

It is great to see that, in addition to the Detachment 131 Commemorative Plaque at the Australian War Memorial which was dedicated on 12th May 2012, the 131 Locators Association has now arranged for the Detachment 131 Paver to be included in the Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk in Seymour. This paver will most appropriately recognize the service and sacrifice of all Members of 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA.

I remember my service with the Locators with pride, both while at Holsworthy and as the last Officer Commanding the Detachment at Nui Dat from August 1970 to August 1971. Locators always add a special dimension to the Gunnery equation. They served with great distinction in South Vietnam as part of the 1st Australian Task Force for over 6 years providing very professional artillery intelligence and listening posts, mortar locating radar, sound ranging, artillery survey, sensor and workshop support. All Locators, Gunners and Veterans can be most proud of their achievements. I am pleased to see that the paver being dedicated today is based on the original 131 Detachment plaque, designed I believe by "Chalky" Royal and Warwick Hamilton in 1967. The Chinese "Lung" Dragon, symbolizes the great virtues of the Locators, and the Atom, represents the many activities of the Locators rotating around the artillery core. It is a most appropriate paver design to commemorate the fine service of so many regular and national servicemen with the Detachment.

I continued to follow the fate of the Locators throughout my 40 years in the ADF and afterwards as RAA Representative Colonel Commandant for 7 years. I noted how they were always able to "move with the times". They continue to this day to provide critical information to the offensive fire support capability of the Australian Army and the ADF.

Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery, RAA and its members served the nation with dedication during the Vietnam War. It is most fitting that a Paver for the Detachment be included in this Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Walk. Lest We Forget!

Warwick continued:

While I am not sure about Tim's attribution of our plaque design I must second his sentiments, particularly the recognition of the great work by the President and members of the association.

Today we stand by this wall where names are *individually* shown in alphabetic order, not by unit. We are laying a paver dedicated to a *unit*, the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery. This will symbolically recognise and link the individuals shown on the wall and the unit. This represents more than 500 Artillerymen, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and others who served in the detachment from April 1966 to August 1971.

We *need* to link the individuals and the Unit as we were different – some might say VERY different – in that while other units rotated as a whole entity about every 12 months, we rotated *people*, individuals, while our unit name remained operational in country.

The unit was in fact an individual too. It was more individual than most in that we were an independent unit (though some senior officers had difficulty with that), with individual sub units and survey detachments spread far and wide. Additionally, because we operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, usually in another unit's locality, a lot of responsibility was placed on individuals... all of whom rose to the occasion.

I have used 'individual' a lot, though I do suspect that after hearing a radio call finish with "Man other means, out" a more collective discussion was about to take place!

This unit and personnel individuality was certainly recognised by others. Senior officers often remarked that "your soldiers don't understand discipline – they act like individuals", to which the answer was 'YES SIR' while standing rigidly to attention: or a little less threatening was a US artillery officer who asked "Say, is it true that a Listening Post commander is equivalent to a US Army Second Lieutenant?", the answer to which was "errr, well sort of".



Warwick Hamilton presents his Paver Dedication speech with LAC Tim Billiards and a centurion Tank in the background.

So I feel that it is really important that we have this paver, as it draws together the individual “members” shown on the wall into a symbolic recognition of their service to an individual “unit”, the Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery.

I am honoured to dedicate this paver to our unit. Thank you.

Warwick received a standing ovation, which was not too surprising since everyone was already standing.



The Memorial Walk, Seymour at night.



Seymour (contd)

The Association's Secretary/Treasurer, Graham Dignam led the Ode ceremony, which was the introduction to Leading Aircraftsman Tim Billiards' wonderful rendition of the Last Post and Rouse. Thanks Tim.



**Major Russ Hamsey (20STA) and
LAC Tim Billiards**



**Centurion tank seconded to 131 Detachment
for the day**

**The 131 Detachment Commemorative Paver,
designed by Nick Proskurin**

In much the same way as they had arrived the 131ers wandered away to destinations local. Grahame Dignam and Ernie Newbold on inspecting the Memorial Walk discovered an MGV (manned ground vehicle) that would have been suitable for Pete Fletcher to transport "Blue Leader" Warwick Hamilton around Nui Dat and to Vung Tau.

Monday evening was our celebration dinner. A quiet evening, with SVN slides and videos displayed on the screen, and convivial conversations abounding.

Tuesday was scheduled as the Puckapunyal visit. Many things at Pucka have changed since the 60s, but not the way things happen in this Army. Grahame Dignam had gathered all the information re our attendees as requested by the Tank Museum Manager. But nothing is straightforward, so at the security gate the civilian security man denied Grahame's list, insisting he could not use the details because they were 'not official'. So the slow process of individually recording by hand those visiting the Museum began. And the queue of vehicles got longer and longer and longer.

Eventually the Museum curator arrived and wanted to know what we were doing there. It seems that Grahame's list had been sent but the recipient was in Thailand and he added, the Museum was closed! So through security we all went, and were told that now the total group would have to pass individually through security again. 'That's the procedure,' we were told emphatically. However, sense prevailed and our 131 convoy headed for the Tank Museum.



**Part of the car queue at Puckapunyal
security gate**

The Museum was most interesting to a mob of old diggers, with tanks of many vintages and from a wide range of countries. Including Russia, Czechoslovakia, Britain, America and even Australia. The Museum conditions preclude us including photographs here, so you will just have to imagine what it looked like. Even their website provides no information. The small and almost hidden away Artillery section of the Museum was limited in scope, with, probably not so surprisingly, no locating material except for one sound ranging microphone. Again readers' imaginations will have to be utilised.

A group of the Pioneers wanted to have their lunch (at Maccas) so departed from the site despite the requirement that we had to convoy out. Our Canberra travellers got lost temporarily. The remainder hitched up their wagons in convoy and headed back to Seymour. The afternoon was free for winery visits, poker machines or resting.

Dinner on Tuesday night saw us descend, in a group of 26, upon a recommended Chinese restaurant. Again despite advance notice we were unexpected arrivals. Not a good move, as they were short of staff and the take-away service was busy. So, Warwick and Bob were the sommeliers, Allen the bowl and napkin provider and Kate the (finally) food orderer. Some extra staff turned eventually up so all ended well.

...off to Phillip Island...

Wednesday morning 7am. Perhaps surprisingly everyone was there for our early departure to Phillip Island. Ray the bus driver guided us toward Melbourne and through the heavy traffic in the north eastern suburbs. There was a high pucker factor event at one corner when a power pole came awfully close to the bus. Tooradin Bakery was the location for morning tea and then we moved on toward Phillip Island via the bridge from the mainland.



The Museum building, Phillip Island



A Grumman Tracker, probably ex-HMAS Melbourne, outside the Museum

Despite previous communication on numbers, purpose and ETA, we were still a surprise to staff when we trooped into the Museum. That was soon overcome, and CEO John Methven gave us a run down on the Museum history, and led us on a quick tour of the facilities. In the Museum's Garden of Reflection there was a brief dedication of the Detachment Plaque and again Grahame Dignam led the Ode service. Next was time to let the troops loose to explore the Museum individually. Bob King's photograph is present on a main wall and acknowledged, whilst the names of those fallen in SVN provide the foreground to the photograph.



Grahame Dignam (rt) explains to Museum CEO John Methven exactly who we are



The Detachment Plaque, designed by Nick Proskurin and funded by the 131 Association

Unfortunately, the 131 Detachment display of photographs was not functioning at the time but we were promised that it would soon be operational again. **Bert Blink** had donated his SVN Detachment plaque which was exhibited. The pies from the canteen were popular for lunch. Bert Blink bought out the bookstore, much to the chagrin of his wife Mary. We departed the Museum a little before scheduled ETD, so that we could stop at Pannys Phillip Island Chocolate Factory. At this stage the rain had set in and as we journeyed back to Seymour it continued.

Dinner that evening saw us descend on The Winery Kitchen in Seymour for a great evening of food and wine, but no song. The pizza devotees stuck to their guns, while the remainder enjoyed the excellent meals. Thursday morning

saw many 131ers wander back into the bush, with the stalwarts collecting for a leisurely breakfast before heading home.

Our few days in Seymour and environs had been a terrific opportunity for fellowship and celebration. And remembering absent friends.

Ernie Newbold managed these couple of snaps on the way to Seymour – “G’day Paul, well we’re back from Seymour and attempting to return to normality.

It was a great event and there was a great turnout by the locating fraternity from our Assn.

to quote an old saying “A good time was had by all who attended”, many thanks for your good wishes it was a pity that you were unable to attend but we’ll have some good photos for you later on.

Meanwhile, here is a crop from the photo appearing in the article by **Allen** that you might be able to use with the report in the *Eyes & Ears*.

While travelling from Sydney to Seymour the eagle eyed Allen Morley sighted a suitable sign along the way

and we thought that it might be most appropriate for the occasion.

Regards, Ernie.”



. Rieny Nieuwenhof sent in a couple of photos of his memorable time in Seymour – “Hello Dicko, No doubt you will get a number of photos and reports about the Dedication at Seymour.

Here is a photo of 4 Victorian 131 members who served together in 1971.

At right they are R - L **Kevin Bevens, Rieny (Van) Nieuwenhof, Ian Campbell and Rod Beasley**. We were hoping **Barry Fountain** might also come, but he didn't arrive. I also have a photo (below) of **Peter Summers**, who lives in NSW.



It was a great four days meeting other members of the 131 Ass. Rieny”



Russ Hamsey made a really quick trip to Seymour and fired this off to us afterwards – “Paul: Thanks mate Just returned from the paver dedication in Seymour. A great time. A really likeable bunch of rogues showed up and there must have been about 50 people. A few people even mentioned your name to me and were not surprised to find out that we are already corresponding. Take care Russ Hamsey”

Ron Mason sent in a photo from Seymour of a group of Pioneers – “Hi Guys, snap from Seymour. Hope everyone had a good trip home. The photo at right is of 5 the pioneers that made it to Seymour (but not the only ones). Ron Mason”



Ron Mason, Ray Smith, Spike Chase, George Lane & Ged Carroll.



...and here's more from Seymour and Phillip Island – May 2015



At left: Ken Woodbine, Kevin Heenan and Peter Dealy

Below: Ron Mason & Grahame Dignam



Below: Ged Carroll and Spike Chase



Below: George Lane , Ray Smith, Ged Carroll and Spike Chase



Below: Ross Stewart and Ian Warren 102 FLd Bty – Coral Vet



At right: Brian Kennedy



At left: Marion Menz with father Ron Menz and Geoff Holden



At right: Warwick Hamilton, Barry and Elizabeth Campton



At left: Cathy and Bob Billiards with their son Tim Billiards (RAAF Bandsman)



At right: Ernie Newbold with Ron Menz



At left: Peter Bennett and Brian Kennedy



At left: Kevin Thornton and family



Above: Part of the Group



A couple of samples of the pavers that are adjacent to the Detachment paver.

. **John Vitkovsky** sent us in the following as an apology for not being able to attend Seymour this month – good to catch up with an email and photo – “Hi Guys, unfortunately a false alarm, as circumstances have overtaken me. Would love to catch up, but can't do anything until after the 5th. So have a good time and if anywhere near western Vic., please drop in.

See attachment (at right) - I am on the right and daughter Suzie who was in 5 Aviation Regt and in Timor.

Cheers,
John Vitkovsky.”



...Phillip Island -



The Detachment plaque that was laid.



At right: Grahame Dignam and Allen Morley.



This plaque which speaks for itself...

Ed – It's hard to believe that 49 years have passed since our Pioneer group set foot in South Vietnam. Many stories have been told, some archived, of the initial days and there on after. It's truly fantastic when a group of mostly strangers can meet, endure good times with the not so good, then after that interlude most parted and went their separate ways to be reunited at a later date through a common bond – “mateship”. 49 years has seen us age, we're the lucky ones to have experienced that, some of our mates haven't been so lucky. It took some of us a long time to realise that we were not alone with our thoughts as most of us travelled a similar road. The blokes who in 1987 and earlier recognised “mateship” are to be congratulated, for it was their effort that started this ball rolling.

It's not been a singular effort, but one of groups over time and at present the 131 Locators Association continues on the tradition and will continue to do so as long as you're here to support them.

...Then more memories flow as we remember ANZAC Day 2015...

. ANZAC Day Lord Howe Island - Scotty McNicol

gets some late mail into us – it was worth the wait –

“Hi Dicko,

This year I visited beautiful Lord Howe Island, where **Garth Nichols** resides & is the president of the local RSL club. I have been a member there for about 20 years, & ventured over from Victoria to commemorate the 100th year of the Gallipoli landing as well as celebrating 50 years since Garth & myself, along with Vic Moreau met on Wagga Wagga railway station in 1965. Although we trained in different platoons, by sheer co-incidence the three of us ended up at the School of Arty, completed the same 40mm Bofor course, & ended up in 131 Bty at the North Fort.

For the first time ever, Lord Howe Island had a dawn service. It was held on a grassy knoll on the eastern side of the island surrounded by cliffs which could easily have replicated the shores of Gallipoli. The weather gods gave us a perfect morning for the service which was conducted by the one & only Police constable on the island. With a lone piper & a bugler from the NSW Police band, the service went off without a hitch. Only about 20 people were expected to attend, but over 200 turned up. A pretty good effort from a community with a total population of around 350. The service was followed by a gunfire breakfast at the bowling club.

Later a group of about 20 returned service men & women (Locals & tourists) from different conflicts marched from the Islands museum to the war memorial where another excellent service was held. The local school children sang a hymn plus the national anthem, & a number of speakers did their thing, which all made for a memorable & moving ceremony Ian (Scotty) McNicol. PS. Sorry for the delay in compiling this report. The island has very limited & unreliable internet service, & I only arrived home this morning (8th May).”



Myself and Garth Myself and Garth

PS. Sorry for the delay in compiling this report. The island has very limited & unreliable internet service, & I only arrived home this morning (8th May).”

...ANZAC Cove – Peter Ravelje...

Due to strict security precautions, the Anzac Cove memorial was closed on the days I spent ashore, due to many preparations & seating still to be completed before the Dawn Service 2 days on. Despite what we were told before sailing, no cruise ships were allowed to anchor in A. cove. We weighed anchor about 20 miles away, had a shipboard dawn service, then watched the ceremony on the big screen on the ship.

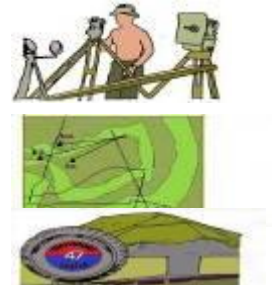
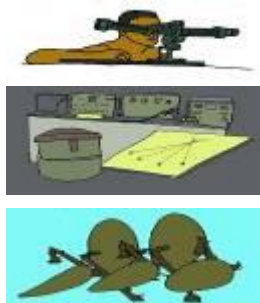


ANZAC Cove

Australian War Graves



Simpson's grave



Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, **Vice President** – Bert Blink, **Treasurer/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 **Gary Navas and Des McGuigan** to the Association fold.

. Upcoming Events Calender –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 23rd June, 2015 at 1100hrs

Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Canley Heights Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 26th May, 2015...

Presidents Report - Allen opened the meeting at 11.05 AM by welcoming all the attendees especially Gary Navas who is our newest Member.

He also expressed Birthday wishes for Bert Blink, who is celebrating at home (Bert does not travel on his birthday).

.Allen reported that the Seymour and Philip Island events went off very well and an enjoyable, though eventful time was had by all despite military intervention.

.Reported no advice yet re: the DVA Grant decision covering the Seymour and North Head events.

.Allen attended the LSTAA meeting on Sunday last where Joe Kaplun took delivery of the new military styled photo album made by David Newbold.

.Reported the details of a meeting in Seymour with 2IC 20STA Regt, Russ Hamsey, who is keen to host all Locators in April 2016 for ANZAC DAY march and a ceremonial plaque dedication in the Enoggera grounds. More information will be provided when a detailed programme has been drawn up for the event. **KEEP THESE DATES CLEAR.**

.Major Hamsey also discussed the "bond between Locators" and is actively seeking to establish a record of the links between the early (pre 1970 Locators) and the currently serving soldiers. This is designed to record the story of Locators throughout history. A number of suggestions were received during discussion of this item which requires some follow up.

Public Officer Report.

Vic has requested feedback re: ZEST function on Anzac Day. Most agreed that we were warmly welcomed and royally treated. He also raised the bi-monthly meeting schedule again - it was pointed out that the next 18 months will be particularly busy and monthly meetings will be required to process all the information.

Webmaster Update.

Bob is currently in GDR – getting his "Gogomobile" tank filled.

Daughter – Mother website item reminder

Due to the lack of confirmed links on the RAAHC website "ON THIS DAY" banner item our Committee members will begin to capture relevant dates in the history of 131 DLB which can be passed on to Maj Gen Tim Ford to populate the feature.

Other Matters.

.George Lane suggested that Long Tan Day 2016 which is to be officially recognized by the government in Canberra should be a featured event worthy of a 131 Reunion and Official Dinner. A programme will be developed to cover the event.

.Des advised of the Gunners Lunch, which takes place in Canberra yearly, is also an event worthy of our participation. More info to come.

.Ern Newbold enquired if maybe Seymour might have a significant event on Long Tan Day 2015 – more to come.

.Vic mentioned that an opportunity for vets to anonymously tell of their experiences, however painful, could be a welcome addition to the website. It would provide a cathartic exercise which might be helpful for the vet and very informative for the reader.

Addendum A

.131Locators Meeting Action Items May 2015

Prior Action Items

.Projects worthy of Support of 131Locator Association Members. Ongoing - details of proposed and current projects and their status to be identified.

.George Lane suggested 2 x \$500 scholarships be offered to a Locator's family annually.

.Victor has suggested a website tab where vets anonymously tell their stories

Current Meeting Topics

Ongoing: Arrange for Meeting Minutes to be placed in Members Only area of Website (Sec/Treas to arrange pdf files for webmaster).

Review website tabs to accommodate OCs recollections plus suggested others.

Updates Completed on Prior Action Items

OCs recollections project is close to fruition with 1 to be beaten into shape and 1 outstanding.

. 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...June –

June	Name	Regt No	YOB	In SVN	Out SVN	Comments
1	GEOFFREY SULLIVAN	3798292	1949	02 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "			03 05 1971	20 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
3	ALLAN MACLEAN Capt.	32203	1928	24 05 1967	28 06 1967	RAEME
5	PETER DEALY	3411983	1947	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	
5	JAMES LOCKHART	6709144	1947	03 06 1969	21 02 1970	
5	VITO CICCOLELLA	2791669	1947	16 12 1969	17 12 1970	
6	JOHN I'ANSON	2787424	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
7	BRUCE IRVINE	2783695	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
8	EDWIN FIELD Sgt.	242577	1934	22 04 1966	31 07 1966	† 20.07.96
10	KEITH WHITE	2783029	1945	17 04 1967	13 12 1967	AACC
12	IAN AMOS	2785676	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
12	LAWRENCE SAWYER	3787393	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
14	PAUL BUSS	2781443	1945	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 28.09.11
15	KARL DOEHRMANN Sgt.	38119	1933	{20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 10.08.09
	" "			{28 01 1970	27 08 1970	
15	EDWARD WEBB	29964	1941	27 01 1970	21 01 1971	
16	RALPH PEARCE	214806	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	† Unknown
18	ROGER WHITTAKER	2184592	1949	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	† Unknown
20	JOHN CHILTON	215855	1946	09 12 1968	03 12 1969	
23	WILLIAM PRENTER WO1	64258	1933	22 04 1966	07 06 1967	† RAEME 01.10.97
	" "			20 08 1970	09 06 1971	4 Fd Regt
25	PAUL BUTCHER	3411454	1946	01 04 1969	25 03 1970	
26	LINDSAY MEAD	3790714	1945	27 03 1968	26 04 1968	
26	GERRY CARROLL	2781311	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
28	BARRY COLLINS	2793213	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
	" "			20 08 1970	07 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
	" "			08 03 1971	09 06 1971	12 Fd Regt.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 128 and we've sent out 128. Ed – we can always do with a few more though!

. Located...

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.



131 Locators Association is always on the lookout for new financial members. With the establishment of the web site we continue to be burdened with the ongoing cost of maintenance etc and we need to be able to support this effort equally.

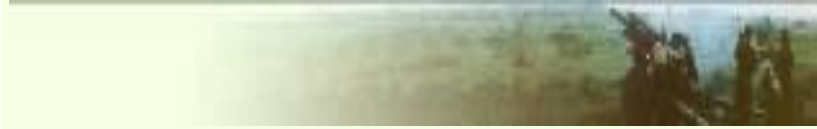
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the Eyes & Ears regularly you could bite the bullet and email **Grahame Dignam** sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add your name) to the associations account at "A/c Name: 131 Locators Association Inc. Bank: Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW BSB No: 032 166 A/c No: 264133"

Hope we hear from you?

Website: <http://www.131locators.org.au>

. 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

...see the LS & TAA website for up to date information – <http://www.locatingartillery.org/>
Future Committee meeting dates – Sun 19 July 2015 AGM at Paddington RSL.



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



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/

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

All material that is included in *Eyes and Ears*, official Newsletter of the 131 Locators Association Inc remains the property of 131 Locators Association for its sole use. Prior written authorisation for the use of any material whatsoever contained in the Newsletter must be sought from 131 Locators Association Inc. Any material approved for use by third parties must acknowledge 131 Locators Association Inc as the source. No responsibility is accepted for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographs, or for the accuracy of information contained in the text of *Eyes and Ears*.