

THE EYES and EARS

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9 Years have passed, but NOT the friendship...



Above shows the empty plates of Paul Dickson, Ernie Newbold, Grahame Dignam and Bob Billiards.

Then the photo at left from left to right has Bob Billiards, Ian Amos, Grahame Dignam, Ernie Newbold and Nick Proskurin.

Allen Morley reminds us all of a very "special" event – "Gentlemen

It was nine years ago last week (17th March) that a group of former 131 Nashos got together at "Chez Dignam" to talk about various things. Out of that came our Association.

I was just going through some pics when I came across the photos. Look at that food spread! Allen"

...this email did raise some responses...

Grahame Dignam – after all these years these photos have struck an accord with him –
“Who ate the last cocktail frank???? Dig”

Ernie Newbold reflects – “G'day Allen, ah those were the days!!! Regards, Ernie.”

...then Ernie makes the connection with the meeting date – 17th March – and brings in St Patrick with the “Dignam” origin...

Last name: Dignam SDB Popularity ranking: 7894

This is an Irish surname which derives from the ancient pre 9th century Gaelic O'Duibhgeannain. The translation is 'the descendant of the sons of the black-haired chief' (or similar), and it is claimed that the clan were the poets and bards to the leading clans of the counties Leitrim, Roscommon, and Longford. Their principle place of residence was the village of Kilronan, County Roscommon, where they were the 'erenaghs'. This was a hereditary position and can be described as the keepers of the church lands, and collectors of tithes. It is also claimed that the clan maintained a school of bards at Castle Fore, Leitrim, where they were resident in 1636, Peregrine O'Duigenan who died in 1664 being one of the Four Masters. Many of the clan served in King James 11's Catholic Army of 1690 which failed to defeat William 111 of Orange and England at the battle of the Boyne. In consequence, the clan was dispossessed of its lands, the prefix O' was also dropped after the defeat, and in this case, it has never been replaced. The spelling is now usually Duigenan, with the variants Deignan and Dignan or Dignam. Although the clan has produced many members of the Catholic clergy, it also suffered widely during the Irish Famine of 1846 - 1848. Amongst the name holders that emigrated were Catholine Dignan, who is recorded in the shipping registers as 'nought years old' and who left Ireland on July 13th 1846, on the ship 'Charles Humberton of Liverpool', bound for New York. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of Magnus O'Duigenan, which was dated Circa 1415, compiler of 'The book of Ballymote', during the reign of King Henry V of England, 'The victor of Agincourt', 1413 - 1422. Surnames became necessary when governments introduced personal taxation. In England, this was known as Poll Tax. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

Read more: <http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Dignam#ixzz5AQpr1X1x>

Ed – Descendant of the “black-haired chief” or not, who the hell in their right mind would have been able to sign that original name let alone pronounce it!

...finally **Grahame D** owned-up – “Can't tell a lie or the ghost of Patriarch **Seamus Coylm O'Duibhgeannain** will have a word with "St Peter" and I will be in real trouble. It was I that ate the last cocktail F'en"Furter. There was a fair amount left over after that meeting and some things just had to be binned! but not the F'Furters.”

. The month of March in South Vietnam...

- 06 March 1966** . Holt announces the Australian commitment in South Vietnam will be Increased to a 4350-man task force, and will include conscripts.
. The 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) will include two infantry battalions, a Special Air Service squadron, combat and support logistic units and eight RAAF Iroquois helicopters (9 SQN).
. The Task Force will be supported by 1 Australian Logistic Support Group (1 ALSG) to be established at Vung Tau. For the first time, national servicemen will be sent to South Vietnam.
- 10 March 1971** Sir William McMahon replaces Gorton as Liberal leader and Prime Minister.
- 30 March 1971** Prime Minister McMahon announces further cuts in Australian forces in South Vietnam, Including withdrawal of the tank squadron, RAAF Canberra bomber squadron and some Caribou transport aircraft.
- 05 March 1972** The last Australian logistic units leave Vung Tau and Australia's commitment in South Vietnam returns to a training role with the 150-man Australian Assistance Group, Vietnam (AAAGV) and the AATTV.
- 29 March 1973** Last US troops leave Vietnam.
- 29 March 1975** Australian Government responds to urgent requests for transport assistance from Governments of South Vietnam and United States by hastily dispatching a contingent of seven RAAF Hercules and two Dakota aircraft to Vietnam on a humanitarian relief mission The RAAF is utilized in various roles during final weeks of the war, including movement of refugees, transport of Red Cross and UN supplies, and on 4th and 17th April, evacuation of Vietnamese war orphans from Saigon to Bangkok during 'Operation Baby Lift'.

- 29 April 1965** The Prime Minister announces the dispatch of an infantry battalion to South Vietnam, with an Armoured personnel carrier (APC) troop, a signals troop and a logistic support company.
- 07 April 1967** Major Peter Badcoe, AATTV, is killed in action leading two companies of Vietnamese regional forces. For his outstanding heroism in this and two previous actions, he will be posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.
- 22 April 1970** The Prime Minister announces 8 RAR will not be replaced at the end of the year, some support elements will be withdrawn from South Vietnam and the AATTV will be increased by about 120 soldiers.
- 17 April 1975** Phnom Penh, Cambodia falls to the Khmer Rouge
- 25 April 1975** Australia closes its embassy in Saigon, completing withdrawal from Vietnam on ANZAC Day. The final task of Australia's military in the Vietnam War is conducted on ANZAC Day, when the RAAF participates in evacuation of the Australian Embassy and final withdrawal of personnel from Saigon
- 30 April 1975** Communist forces capture Saigon as the last Americans leave in scenes of panic and confusion.

. Insights and Recollections...

The series will continue on the receipt of more Insights and Recollections, so if you would care to contribute, please send your Insights and Recollections –

Paul Dickson at - 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. Here's a continuing story in the series with regards to Locators' "passions"
...we continue "wandering"...



This series continues, combining "Wanderings" which evolves from "Passions" of all sorts – they all somewhat consume us outside families etc and God forbid work!

It's just so good to discover other sides, be that "outsides" or "insides" of blokes who we begin to get to know through this sort of process.

Now we're going to have a look at what **Allen Morley** was consumed by in late 2017, other than his grandchildren in New Zealand ...

Egyptian Travels Part 2...a continuing journey –

After seeing some more of Cairo and avoiding being run over by the crazy drivers, we headed west to Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast. Our group was small – only 10 people, all Aussies – and amongst our number was a 30-year retired Army MP. But he made no arrests during our holiday.

The outer suburbs of Cairo are growing rapidly around small villages. (incomplete suburb at right) Outside each suburb entry is an army/police presence with 50 cal machine guns to provide security. We had picked up a passenger in Cairo who was well dressed in a suit. When his jacket opened while he dozed on the three-hour trip, it was apparent that the sling over his shoulder supported an Uzi-type sub-machine gun. The Tourist Police were with us. Alexandria is about 100km from El Alamein where Montgomery had begun the defeat of the Afrika Corps. Unfortunately, that stop was not on our itinerary.



However, Alexandria has its own war history, famous for the brief presence of Lawrence of Arabia and General Allenby in WW1 and the bath scene from *The English Patient*.

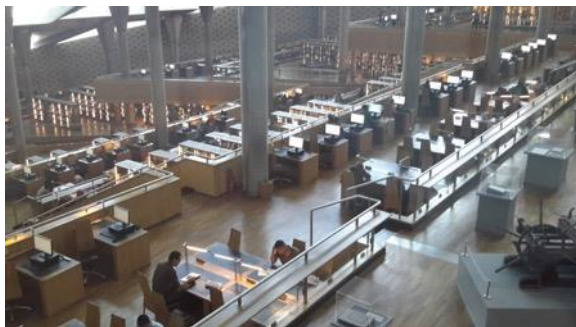
It also has East German Ladas as the local taxis. (Lada Taxi at right)



The Mediterranean was a deeper blue than the clear skies (at right Diane and The Mediterranean).



We had a terrific view of the Harbour from shoreline (Alexandria Harbour). The scenic highlights were the catacombs, Pompey's Pillar amongst ancient ruins, the Quaitbay Citadel and Montazah Gardens.



Nevertheless, the highlight for me was the Library of Alexandria, a modern library built on the site of the Library which was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. (at left Library at Alexandria)

Then it was time for the return journey to Cairo. It was peak hour when we arrived and the uncontrolled traffic was at its chaotic maximum. Next morning our adventure continued at sparrow's. A drive in the dark to Cairo Airport to catch the flight to Luxor. As we approached landing the band of greenery on both sides of the Nile was a huge contrast to the desert further distant. The great Karnak Temple of Amun in Luxor (at right Karnak Temple) was excavated from beneath the desert sands and was previously linked by a Sphinxed pathway (below Sphinxed colonnade) to the Luxor Temple (Luxor Temple at right).

Some figures and hieroglyphs are in bas relief whilst others are carved into the stone. Colouring of the latter, especially in figures, was in many cases amazingly preserved.





Soon after those explorations we were driven to the wharf area and boarded the MV Princess Sarah. This was to be our 'home' for the next week as we sailed up then down the Nile River. Princess Sarah is a fairly standard Nile cruise ship. We at one stage were tied up next to the old timber boat, MV Sudan, on which Agatha Christie wrote *Death on the Nile* (at left MV Sudan).



. Here's the next in the "Unknown" series...



Garry's Smith's archives were plundered this month to come up with this one – OK, the Sherlock Holmes out there, what are the names?



...and here's the last month's head scratcher with some responses...



This photo was extracted from **Greg Green's** collection and is called "Farewell drink '67" ...

Bert Blink – "I can only name two Hamilton & Ruddick."
Ernie Newbold – "G'day Bert, I was going to take a back-row seat and let others have a go but this is how I remember them."



Front Row L to R John Vitkovsky, Bob Retrot, Warwick Hamilton OC, Ian Yerbury Lt, and Ron (Chalky) Royal WO2. The second row is more difficult, L to R Possibly Sandy Saunders or Ray Hutchinson (hairstyle) the last one I cannot place - however there is slight chance it could be Peter Fletcher. Sgt. Ruddick wasn't there in 1967. I do remember one thing in particular from that occasion however, I discovered that I liked smoked oysters although I'd never had one before and didn't really know what they were at the time. I do not recall if any anchovies were on the menu or if **Grahame Dignam** had already eaten them all before I arrived. Regards, Ernie."

Bert responds to Ernie – "Hi Ernie Correct as always, second look, and the person on the far right is Chalky. Agree with your pick of Peter Fletcher."

. **Oddities – Ed –**

On entering and leaving Holsworthy Barracks, say just to go the carpark or out for the night, did we have to sign out and sign back in? Were visitors allowed to come in to say g'day?
If memory serves me correctly it wasn't all that hard to go for a wander over the playing field and saunter off. Yes, I remember doing guard duty, but the shame of it all is that I don't have a photo to scratch my head about it.

Was the place all that secure?

Stan Patterson – the following photo was dug out of Stan's archives and really demands an answer as to when and where it was taken?



Robert Hargreaves – not located

Hargreaves, Robert	0	1	2790343	0	1	1969-70	0	NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Not Located
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. **“Dicko Downunder” - Paul Dickson** – while spending some 48 hours in Sydney a couple of weeks back I managed to catch up with the blokes in the photo for lunch at the Exhibition Hotel – a regular in-town spot. It was fantastic to spend time and pick-up talking as if we'd seen each other last week. Thanks fellas.



L-R – Grahame Dignam, self, Bob Billiards, Allen Morley, Warwick Hamilton and Ian Amos. Vic Danko had left prior to thinking about the photo.

...then another “what the...!” moment -

I just happened to send out some “Catching up to say g'day...” emails, when almost instantly, I got an email from **Stewart McAlpine** – Arty Tac, '68-'69 (photo at right) and bugger me he lives in the small town of Kettering, Tasmania just where we were staying overnight to go over to Bruny Island the next day. He related the story of finding out about *Eyes & Ears* when he ran into **Bruce Irvine** at a funeral in Wangaratta. Small world stuff. It was great to meet him and as a bonus his wife **Barbara** where we had a coffee overlooking a very pleasant marina.

OK, there has to be something about me going to small towns in Australia – last November – **Ron Mason** and his wife **Margaret** (Assoc member) just happened to be in the speck on the map town of Warragul, Victoria at the same time as I was!

You tell me?



...now later in Kettering I meet Craig... (reminded me of Roger “Mac” McDonnell to look at and gentle manner) ...



Craig Gresham manages the family business - “The Cove Suites” at Kettering where we just happened to be staying - and during a conversation I discovered he had been a “Grunt” with 8 RAR and had done a few tours overseas – NOT holidays. The black lab is “Misha” who is an integral part of his life. Have a look at WWW.mishasmates.com and get to see what the young blokes, especially Craig, are doing today to help mates not doing so well.



It did me proud to meet him.

...then there was a “Terry Bruce Moment” at a vintage car show in Hobart...



Two Jeeps and the one below in mint-Bruce condition was being driven by an Ex-SVN Vet and that's his Regt No on the front.



Mail Call...

Kim McGrath – “Hi Paul, Yet another great read.

The blokes sure did a wonderful thing in attending the Jim Menz Service. Congratulations to the organisers and attendees. Lest We Forget.

I also enjoyed Kevin Browning’s article of when he turned 21! I expected it to be written in Latin.

Ubique, Kim”

David Troedel – “Hi Paul, Last night I read in the Newsletter that Bob Miller (RAEME) had passed away, you published a great service history on him.

This morning I had another look at the latest newsletter but it must have been updated as the story was on Tony Foley.

I am not complaining as I served with both. Tony was on the 1/64 Advanced Artillery Surveyors course with me.

I served with Bob Miller in 132 Div Loc Bty in the 1980’s. I was a Survey Section Sgt and Bob was S/Sgt Radar Mech.

My regimental number is 36409 and Bob’s was 36499.

Could you let me know how I can access the newsletter with Bob’s details?

Hope all is well with you, I turn 79 this year and am still reasonably healthy. Regards David.”

...then Dave responded to my email...

“Thanks Paul, I got to read the full article.

I emailed Kim McGrath to let him know that the Dusty Miller he served with in Singapore with was not Bob Miller.

Dusty served in 101 Field Battery RAA/26 Field Regiment RA in Terendak, Malacca, Malaya 1960-1961 as a Cpl Veh Mech.

I was advised that Dusty had passed away by a RAEME Officer in 1987, but do not know when he died.

Also, do not know his Christian names, only his initials S. R. He was an interesting character.

Attached a photo of Dusty to Kim and he recognized him.

I am trying to record an Obituary on all the deceased members that served with 101 Battery in Malaya.

There are 122 on the roll with 22 we have lost contact with out of 225 that served with us.

There were quite a few that had very interesting Army careers as well as civilian lives.

Attended the function at the old Sgt’s Mess at North Head last month, had a great time.

Looking forward to the National Gunner Dinner in August 2019, have attended the last two and had enjoyed them.

It will be 60 years on 18th September 2019 since we sailed for Malaya so we are trying to get as many of our blokes to book tables to celebrate our 60th Anniversary.

Though most of us will have turned 80.

You do a great job publishing the newsletter, I enjoy reading it.

Regards, David”

John Blake – “Dicko, I spent most of my time mostly isolated at 31D and was a limited photographer, taking photos mainly of things rather than persons.

Attached, perfectly randomly but relevant, my serial numbered Canadian Club bottle from Nui Dat PX, still unopened/sealed. Hmmmmm ...someday, before running out of friends with whom to share it or dump it. Hope you are keeping well. John B 1731550”



Grahame Dignam forwarded this email in with some really interesting information for NSW car owners -

"If you had a car registered in NSW last year you should be eligible for a refund of some amount.

If you have doubts call at a NSW service centre with your Green slip documents and ask personally or log in and claim online - I did! Grahame" ...

* Claim a NSW CTP Refund... *

Dear Grahame

It's very rare we send an email outside of our once-a-month newsletter but rarer still is when the government is actually handing out money to NSW motorists!

But that's exactly what's happening...

If you were the registered owner of a private vehicle as at midnight 30 November 2017, the chances are that you can claim a CTP Green Slip refund for insurance policies bought or renewed before 1 December 2017.

Why Are They Doing This?

In simple terms, they've reformed the scheme to better support people who are injured on our roads and therefore reduce the premiums. Bravo!

How to Claim

You just need to log in to Service NSW -

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/claim-ctp-green-slip-refund> and add your bank details.

Let Others Know

Up to 4 million motorists can claim so spread the word by forwarding this email or sharing our Facebook post

- <https://www.facebook.com/PrivateFleet/>

. **Ernie Newbold** - sent the following reflective email - "G'day Paul, the February edition of the *Eyes and Ears* was really special, particularly the coverage of the memorial service for L/Bdr. Jim Menz. After reading it I realised that by a strange and ironic coincidence the two members of the Detachment who were killed in South Vietnam each came from a town called Buxton.

Tom Checkley, killed on 5th August 1966 came from Buxton in Derbyshire, England and **Jim Menz** who was killed on 18th February 1968 from Buxton in Victoria.

I am sure that the service for Jim must have been very special for those who were able to attend and especially for Jim's family to know that the mates with whom he served still remembered him too, half a century later.

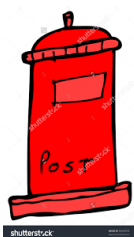
Thanks go to those members who contributed to and reported on Jim's memorial service.

Regards, Ernie."

. **Peter Dealy** - replies in response to **Terry Bruce's** Locator Profile - "Hello Paul, never knew Terry but man has he been busy.

Bloody good read and well done Terry

All the best for Easter, Cheers, Peter Dealy"



Mail Out



I started this in September, 2017 and have decided to continue running down the alphabet of names and sending some emails to blokes in general to say g'day and just to generally keep in touch. A lot of the blokes I've never met, so it's just to keep some connection alive. Plus, it's good to keep in touch, even sporadically, it may help to avoid any unpleasant unforeseen surprises.



Mail In - Here are the responses...

Derek Hinde - "G'day Paul, I'm enjoying retirement life here in Tweed Heads, NSW.

I will be going to the 20th STA Regiment in Enoggera for Dawn Service this Anzac Day 25th April 2018 and marching with the 131 blokes in Brisbane. Hope to see you again. Kind regards, Derek Hinde. (LBr "Grinde") 68-69. Derek"

Kim Hewitt - "Hi Paul, Nice to hear from you. I'm very happy for your golf, but mine has dropped a tad as my son has only just returned my clubs to me. The fact that I only capable of playing at the practice range has a little to do with that. Good old IBS keeps me pretty close to the bathroom. I have to go have an op in a fortnight.

I avidly read *Eyes and Ears* every time it comes in. The only 131 boy that I have contact with is Vic Moreau who lives not far away. I try to keep in touch with Pete Mackie but his injuries still give enormous grief. I do communicate with Dave Doyle...a great guy. I was there in 1970 with Peter Saint, Bob Butler, Les Saurine, Ole Asmanis (who taught me about table tennis - and prickly heat rash) Charlie O'Neill, Ronnie Ryan, Billy Van Zetten, Barry Dyson, Roger Reg (Whitaker)...and his favourite pop duo...Jeanette McDonald and Nelson Eddy!!! We were going with Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young et al. I have heard NO mention of the great music played by our TWO groups..."The Homotones" (Peter Sali and Blair Shepard...with Ole on the drums) and "The Rumbled Fourskins"... (Les Saurine, Charlie Brown and Petey pie ?????? with Ole on drums).

I now live on the beautiful Central Coast and love it with my son and four dogs. They keep me busy and entertained ...and broke.

They played fantastic music. I went to Honkers with Pete Sali and we had an awesome five days. Where is he now??

Better go, no I better rush...Cheers...Hewey”

George Kijurina – “Paul, Good to hear from you as always - great to see you’re getting around and enjoying what life has to offer. You may want to look up Paul Standen whilst you’re in Tasmania, the last I heard us he moved there and bought an acreage. Paul and I started at 131 together and served with Moe Marsden, Dick Bradley, Max Crane, Harry Lynus, Tony Holm, Ron Jones, Ian Errington, Jock Gunn, Neil Karpowitz, Eagle Martin and the list could go on -

Thanks buddy, enjoy your stay in Tassie

Cheers, George”

Ron Mason – “Paul, good to hear from you, trust you are enjoying Hobart. Tassie is a great place to have a poke around – a few 131ers in Tas – the only one I have an address for is in Launceston. It is always good to catch-up with old colleagues.

I’m just back from Warragul once again – Margaret is still down at Trafalgar with our son – his wife is far from well at the moment so Margaret is on kiddie minding duty. Looks like we will be spending a good bit of time down that way for some time to come. I will most likely be down to Warragul again next weekend.

Apart from that we have both been keeping well (just as well) but not getting away to do any travelling around.

Good travelling, Ron Mason”

Damian McManus – “Hello Paul, Thanks for the news and your interest, I’m going okay on fortnightly infusions of “Nivolumab” immunotherapy. Gone from trial to full treatment, and going by last scan it’s working, the 2 tumours had shrunk. So, we continue till the next scan. It’s the treatment “Roughhead”, the Hawks captain, had and it worked for him, so with my rough-head I have to have a good chance.

As they say, onwards & upwards.

Cheers Paul, my best to all. Damian Mc”

“Scotty” McNicol - “Hi Dicko. Nice to hear from you.

Although Donald is officially my given name for birth certificate & passport purposes, everyone still calls me “Scotty”. Not even my family calls me Donald. I never did find out why, as I can’t find anything wrong with the name Donald.

All’s well with me. Apart from the usual aches & pains that seem to be a chronological thing associated with us old timers. 73yo & still hanging in there. In fact, your email appeared while I was on my daily, early morning 5km walk. My doctor said I should lose a bit of weight. (Best to obey doctors’ orders).

I enjoy 2 main activities these days. Fly Fishing & Photography. I have at least one trip a year to the Island of Kiribati, (pronounced Kiribus, & is about 1200kms Sth of Hawaii). My target fish there is the Bonefish & Giant Trevally. I usually manage 2 trips a year to Gore on the Sth Island of New Zealand to fly fish for both Brown & Rainbow Trout. Other times could see me wading Victorian high country, or NSW Snowy Mountains streams. I camp in my 2002 Landrover Defender which I’ve converted into a camper. It’s been through the Kimberley in WA, & Cape York a number of times, & still going strong. This August, I’ll be fishing with Gary Worrall in a Saltwater Fly Fishing tournament at Lucinda on the Hinchinbrook Channel, Nth of Townsville.

My passion for Photography is mainly chasing Birds & other wildlife. I regularly enter a monthly Wildlife photographic competition on a US website called nikonians.org. I’m known there as Scotty45. I’ve made the finals 3 times & look like winning the February contest with my shot of a pair of Crimson Rosellas (at right). The theme for the February contest was ‘Seeing Red’, & I’m way ahead of any of the other finalists in the voting. So, I’m pretty excited about that.



That’s about it mate. I’m just trying to live life to the fullest while I still can. It’s sad to learn that so many locators are passing on these days. So, we just have to make the best of it while we can. The trick is to make the best of life, & try not to let anything get you down.

Take it easy mate, & thanks for getting in touch. Your work on the *E&E* newsletter is commendable. Well done.

Regards...Scotty.”

Brian Killworth – “Hi Dicko, Nice to hear from you.

Thanks again for your very kind interest and good will which I’m happy to give you in return.

Cheers, Killa”

Ian McMillan - “Hi Paul sorry I took so long to reply, but have been away. Good to hear all your news.

We have just bought a caravan, so we plan on being away for a while. I wish I had bought one twenty years ago. Anyway, keep up the good work - talk to you again cheers. Ian"

Iain Kennedy – "Paul, Good to hear from you.

Don't understand the sneaking bit, it's actually not a crime anymore to visit Tasmania. Its where Victorian's go when our state is too hot in summer.

I'm assuming from what you're saying and the way you are saying it, is that you now live outside Australia? Am i right or did I read that incorrectly?

My wife and I were in USA last August for a convention in Greensboro, NC.

Are you involved in the Battle of Coral/Balmoral anniversary in Canberra this May?

We will be heading to Malaysia again next month for a follow up and to attend South East Asia Convention (we were there in January). Before heading to Canberra for anniversary to catch up and then Sydney for the Australian Convention.

Stay safe and keep in touch. Cheers. Iain K"

Harry Lynas – "G'day Paul, Sorry for the delay but better late than never. I'm still hanging in as well, getting older and slower as time goes by.

Still getting down to Fort Lytton and we have finished all our research on the 10 soldiers who went through the place before WW1 and then ended up as generals. You will have to have a look at our website in approx. 3 months when we release it. That is if you are in to history.

Other than that, I now have to get the history of the Met Section down before Kev Browning gets up me again. It's only been 11 years but you can't hurry things.

Stay well and have a good trip home. Cheers Harry"

Notice Board...hey! see what's coming up?

ANZAC DAY Brisbane 2018



All Locators and families are invited to 20th STA Regiment's traditional Dawn Service to be held at our memorial wall in front of HQ building. If base security status remains unchanged, entry will be via the main gate from 3.30am [see map below].



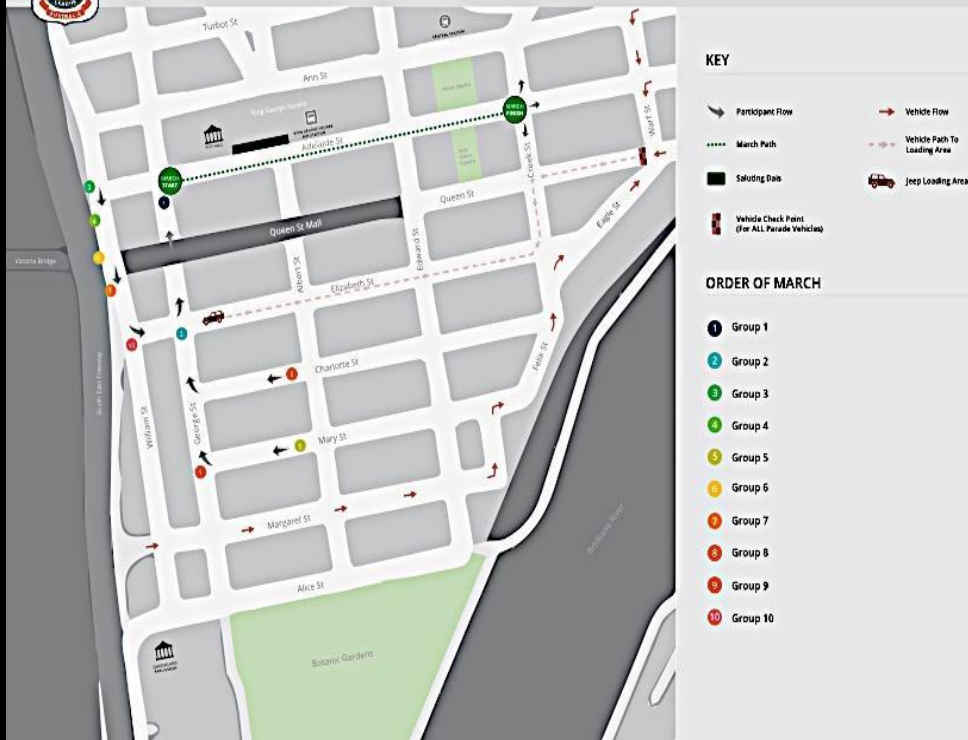
The traditional Gunfire breakfast [biscuits, coffee & rum] commences at 4.30am in front of HQ building, followed by the Dawn Service at 5am in front the Regiment's memorial wall. After the service, breakfast will be served beside the Menz Club, in the Checkley Annex, from about 5.30am for the cost of a gold coin per person.

The usual free travel is available for veterans on public transport, either via Gaythorne railway station or BCC council

buses into the CBD. The LSTAA banner will be located in Mary St by about 9.00am and will be our rallying point. The Brisbane march commences at 10am but it's planned that our group [5] will be stepping off at 10.55am, after forming up in George St behind 108 Field Bty. Assoc. and ahead of Air Defence Qld Assoc.



ANZAC DAY BRISBANE MARCH MAP



The march route is the same as last year - down George St, right into Adelaide St past the saluting dais at King George Square and ANZAC Square, right into Creek St and Queens St then fallout near the GPO [with a group photo opportunity on the GPO steps]

Then it's an easy short walk to the Stock Exchange Hotel, at the corner of Edward & Charlotte St, with early entry via tickets issued by RSM David Nutini or RP Sgt Rodney Alchin. It's become a Locator's tradition for family and friends join us for a few convivial drinks and catch-up, hope to see you there!

TerryErbs

President SE Qld Branch LSTAA MOB 0403 500 642

terry.erbs@gmail.com



April 24th and 25th, 2018 in Sydney...

We have located a group of Locators heading to Sydney around Anzac Day. So, our current plan is to move our April General Meeting to Tuesday 24th April in anticipation of a good visitor turn-up. Our initial plan is to have lunch on 24th at Granville Diggers *Star Buffet* where the food is good. And maybe we may convince some partners/friends/ex-wives etc to join us.

On Anzac Day, we will assemble in or near Bent St Sydney (not a reflection upon Sydney tastes) around 10am, then march down Elizabeth St. Lunch will be at noon at Zest Restaurant in City Tattersalls Club.

Please contact Grahame Dignam 0437 361 602 or Allen Morley 0411 962 510 if you are planning to attend either of both events.

Coral / Balmoral – Events, Canberra **– May, 2018**

There are several events taking place over the weekend of 12th /13th May, 2018.

Here's a brief – courtesy of **Keith Ayliffe and Bert Blink** –

Further to my last on the official Agenda for Canberra I found it a bit overwhelming as I would believe many of you. For your benefit and mine I decided it is best to look at it in a different way.

There are actually **Three separate functions** being conducted over the weekend.

1. RAA functions If you wish to attend these functions you will be required to pay. there is no onus on you to attend. These functions;

A. The Friday night Meet and Greet at \$10.00 per person to be paid. Your choice to attend. (I will not be at this function)

B. Saturday. Mt Pleasant RAA ceremony. FREE. Suggest All attend.

C. Saturday Night RAA Commemoration Dinner at \$20.00 Per Person. to be paid. Your choice to attend.

2. DVA functions: There are Three Controlled Functions conducted by DVA.

A. Sunday The Memorial Parade Conducted in Anzac Parade /Vietnam Memorial. This a must. Open to the Public. FREE

B. Sunday DVA Luncheon Restricted to invited Guests and Coral Veterans. Another must attend. FREE

c. Australian War Memorial Last Post Ceremony. **FREE**. Your choice to attend

3. Sunday Night (The important one) 131 Div Loc Bty Reunion and Memorial Dinner. Cost \$60.00 per person. Majority have PAID \$60.00 Per Person for this so I would hope you will be there

Should you wish to attend the RAA Paid functions you will need to place the cost of those functions into our account.

To clarify things

If you attend the RAA Meet and Greet on Friday it will cost you \$10.00

If you attend with a guest (partner) it will cost you \$20.00 (Ten Dollars each.)

To attend the RAA dinner at the Golf club it will cost you \$20.00

If you attend with a partner or guest it will cost you \$40.00 a double

To attend both events as a single it will cost \$30.00

To attend both events as a Double it will cost \$60.00

REMEMBER IT IS YOUR DECISION WHETHER YOU ATTEND BOTH, ONE OR NONE OF THESE RAA FUNCTIONS

Should you decide to attend Further Payments to be Paid and please notify myself and Bert and Grahame of your intentions so we can keep our records straight.

2018 RAA FUNCTIONS CANBERRA

Include your name and number attending ie "RAA (your Last name only) (2) " The (2) or (1) representing the number of events you will be attending. If attending with a guest add "+1" After your name

EG. "RAA (your last name only+1) (2) "

Any questions feel free to contact me

and pay correct amount by:

Direct Deposit to:131 Locators Association Inc. **Bank:** Westpac, Kingsgrove NSW **BSB No:** 032 166 **A/c No:** 264133

Thank you for your time

I hope this makes it clearer

Keith - aylif@westnet.com.au,

Bert - bblink@pcug.org.au

Grahame - sectreas131locators@gmail.com




Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,
 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 – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas - "If you have read the Meeting Minutes closely and think you might be one of the "LAPSED 131 Locators" send him a note and he will get you back on track and confirm the password access to the "Members area of the website."

Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check and subscribe. Grahame"

Presidential perambulations

Have you had any recent interactions with a tradie, or even more than one tradie? I have been trying to get one to do some heavy timber work in the garden. Too much for this 72-year-old. The result of many calls may elicit a positive response but a negative attendance. And the cash price is always quoted.

No wonder the local black economy is estimated to be \$A 23 billion or so. (But wasn't GST supposed to eliminate this sector of the economy?) Not all of that is by tradies of course, but a lot must be money in the pocket for a job, especially as home renovation work is currently so popular. So many of them drive expensive Toyota Hi-Luxes too. Their trade training seems to include advanced parking, that is to park as close to the job location as possible and ignore any parking or other restrictions.

I did engage one brickie to sort out some damaged brickwork. He turned up on time, did a great job and charged exactly the amount he had quoted.

However, the AFL football season is due to start very soon, so there is no real reason to feel down in the mouth about tradies. Unless that is, your team is doomed to be a cellar dweller for another season.

Cheers, Allen

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 24th April, 2018 at 1100hrs

**Venue: Granville Diggers RSL Club – 5 Memorial Drive Granville NSW 2142 –
 Ph. (02) 9637 7500**

You're all welcome, especially you!

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13th March, 2018 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Bert Blink, Nick Proskurin, Ian Amos, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, George Lane, and Bob Billiards.

Financial Membership is currently ...115, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 8. **Total 125.**

Lapsed 36 members Deceased Members: 7

Presidents report.

Allen advised:

. He attended LSTAA meeting along with Ern Newbold and they report they have 160 members with 130 being financial.

. News on the 2018 reunion in Enoggera will be available after the CO arrives.

. Major Russ Hamsey RTA from OS duty in May and will assume President role of SE QLD LSTAA

. 20STA are seeking a later model radar unit for display on base

. ANZAC DAY will follow the new route down Elizabeth St and a table has been booked at the Tatts club for 20 – please advise Allen or Grahame via email to ensure your seat if you haven't done so.



. There has been mention of the tellurometer that accompanied the Radar to Philip Island and was to be included in the display. A request for a tripod though was attached so a search begins again.

. Dates for the Coral reunion in the ACT on May 11-13 and the opening of the Radar display on May 5th are only 1 week apart and may impact on numbers appearing at both events. (Repeated info on notice).

Radar Moves.

. Refer to correspondence attached to this meetings' Agenda between NVVM Phillip Island and Sec/Treas for the current position of Radar ANKPQ1.

. An 82mm mortar tube would make the Radar display more realistic and investigations have commenced along those lines.

. The Museum has provided a loose timeline of activity with a view to having the Radar display ready for weekend 4/5th May 2018

General Business

. George advised that Jim Fitz has suffered another heart attack but is home and rehabbing well.

. An approach will be made to the Singleton Infantry museum re a mortar for display in the NVV Museum Phillip Island

. Bert submitted an account for \$100 for a wreath laid at the commemoration ceremony at Marysville for the 50th anniversary of passing of Jim Menz KIA 18th Feb 1968. The ceremony largely organized by the Survey comrades of Jim was attended by 11 fellow vets from Det 131 Div Loc Bty.

. Grahame submitted that the Constitution be amended to bring the conditions for application for new membership into line with current standards and that we change –

application parameters for membership should be updated to meet current community standards. The meeting concurred and a draft will be prepared.

Also, that once members have been granted access to the website (by becoming a financial member) that privilege should continue unhindered (currently requiring ongoing financial membership).

If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – web Photos

131eyesandears@gmail.com– BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.

. Birthdays in the Battery...March –

Date	Name	Regt No	DOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	DES SPENCER	3787905	1945	03 01 1967	13 12 1967	
1	IAN MORRIS Capt.	243062	1941	10 03 1970	09 07 1970	RAEME
	" "			09 07 1970	11 03 1971	106 Fd Wkshp
2	HILTON HOLLOWAY	1736606	1949	16 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "			03 05 1971	26 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
4	KEVIN MAKER	2251507	1949	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
4	WILLIAM LAUGHLIN	2788465	1945	13 01 1969	27 08 1969	
7	JOHN McFADDEN	2783243	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
7	DAVID MARTIN	2781662	1945	22 04 1966	29 04 1967	
8	RICHARD BRISTOW	1733143	1945	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
8	LEON DJATSCHENKO	312532	1949	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
9	TERRENCE MYERS	217798	1950	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
11	MICHAEL McDONNELL	2781377	1945	04 05 1966	11 04 1967	
11	TERRENCE FOX	1200934	1949	08 07 1968	02 07 1969	
12	KEVIN BEVANS	3798316	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
15	Martins Van De Nieuwenhof	3798241	1947	10 02 1971	05 08 1971	
19	RON ROYAL WO2	23552	1929	02 03 1967	20 02 1968	† 01.05.02
19	PETER CLARKE	3792212	1947	11 11 1968	27 08 1969	
19	BARRY DYSON	3795956	1947	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
20	ANTHONY TURNER	1202849	1946	27 01 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			01 07 1971	15 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
21	JEFFREY BASSFORD	2792419	1949	29 04 1970	14 04 1971	
21	NEVILLE DAVIS	5716997	1949	11 02 1971	12 08 1971	
22	BARRY CAMPTON Capt.	61270	1937	{14 07 1963	22 07 1963	
	" "			{13 08 1966	28 04 1967	
22	MARK SZYPULSKI	313270	1951	19 08 1970	17 03 1971	4 & 12 Fd Regt.
	" "			18 03 1971	29 07 1971	131
23	MURRAY SMALE	5411587	1948	27 11 1967	20 08 1968	

24	JOHANNES LAS	3792338	1947	23 09 1968	18 06 1969	
25	KEVIN BANKS	3794366	1948	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
25	QUENTIN KNIGHT	2412578	1949	09 12 1968	24 09 1969	
26	GRAHAME DIGNAM	2784745	1946	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
26	WILLIAM CROWTHER	215416	1946	22 04 1966	02 11 1966	
27	GERALD YOUNG Maj.	311460	1926	{06 03 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
	" "			{25 05 1967	22 06 1967	RAEME
28	GARY LOVELL	218160	1950	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
29	RON MASON	3787154	1945	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
29	KEVIN THORNTON	2781420	1945	04 05 1966	02 02 1967	
29	BERNARD ERICA	3787334	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 23.11.16
29	PETER FUHRMANN	3789807	1946	21 06 1967	02 04 1968	
30	IAN McMILLAN	215117	1945	15 07 1970	09 09 1970	

*Above colour background coding explanation – Red – financial Locator, Yellow – located Locator, Black – passed Locator, Blue – honorary Member, White – NOT Located Locator.

Ed – 10 blokes not highlighted is just pretty average, but still not a great result! C'mon fellas there's got to be a "Lost Locator" you might have an idea where he may be secreted!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **150** and we've sent out **150**. Ed – wow, that's some sort of a kilometre/mile stone, so let's keep the pedal to the metal and get going to 160!

Now, here's the depressing news – I sent out sent out **161** Locator Profile blanks in January, this year, and to date have only received **ONE** response so far! Really?

. 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.

Vale

Name	Regt No	Rank	SVN	DOB	DOD
Hemming, Leigh Graham	1732039	Gnr	1967	04.10.45	02.03.18

Barbara Hemming (Leigh's wife) –

"Dear Paul
03.03.18
I'm sorry to have to let you know that Leigh passed away yesterday afternoon.
We feel relieved his struggle is now over and he is peaceful at last. Love, Barb"

Locator Profile

Surname: Hemming **Given Name:** Leigh **Nickname:** "Hambone" **DoB:** 04.10.45 **State of Origin:** Qld

What did you do before the army: After I was thrown out of school by my father before I was ready, I worked in a shipping company in Brisbane during which time I started flying lessons.

Service dates from: 20/04/1966 **to:** 20/04/1968 **Intake No:** 4th **Recruit training centre:** Singleton

Dates in Nui Dat: 05.05.1967 to 12.12.1967 **Location/s in Nui Dat:** 31A, 31B, 31C (All LP's except Horseshoe)

I was there with: Paul Dickson, Tony Goldsmith, Vic Danko, Pete Fletcher, Ross Gunnel, Nick Proskurin, Ernie Newbold, Bob King, Barry Nugent, John Vitkovsky, Graham Dignam, Ric Marques, Warwick Hamilton, Trevor Waghorn, John Blake, Ron Evans, and Des Spencer.

What did you do after the army: I made the mistake of resigning from my job at the shipping company before I went into the army as I had intentions of continuing my flying training once I got out. I had applied for army aviation while I was in the army prior to my posting to Vietnam but they didn't think I was smart enough. They were probably correct. After my discharge, I worked on the waterfront in Brisbane driving a truck for a while so I could continue to pay for my flying lessons. I then got a job working for National Mutual for a few years where I met my wife Barbara and we were married in 1970 and have been ever since. We have two children, a son Christopher and a daughter Ainsley. After National Mutual I then was employed by P&O (a shipping company) working in an operational capacity at the shipping container terminal in Brisbane until 1980. We then shifted to Caloundra on the Sunshine Coast and opened a retail store which we operated for sixteen years. In 1996, we started a manufacturing business making wool doonas. The

company name is “Didgeridoonas” and we now manufacture a range of products made from oilskin and insulated with Australian wool mainly for keeping food and drinks cold or hot. (www.didgeridoonas.com.au). I retired in 2012.

Anything else of interest: In April 2008, I returned to Vietnam with Barb and Ainsley (our Daughter) and travelled throughout the country for three weeks. The highlight was attending the dawn service on ANZAC day at Long Tan and after a visit to Nui Dat. It was a very therapeutic visit and of course many memories came flooding back while standing on what was the runway and looking up at SAS hill where I spent the major part of my tour. I did try to send some photos to everyone on the *E&E*’s address book but managed to bugger that up somehow and have even managed to delete them from the file.

I now live in: Kawana Island (north of Caloundra).



From left, Roger Mac, Me, Al Adams, Pete Fletcher, can’t remember –sorry, Vic Danko, The Ed



Pappy Gault, Peter Fuhrmann, Des Spencer, me, Bob King.

Paul Dickson – This is a hard task, but one I’m proud to recount. I met Leigh (along with Tony Goldsmith) on the 20th April, 1966 – the commencement of our National Service stint and then proceeded to wander through the next 2 years onto 131 and then the Det in SVN. Our relationship continued on after National Service. Later we drifted through work etc, but remained in contact. I saw Leigh at ANZAC Days and the the memorial at Enogerra. I, like others no doubt, find it hard to come to grips that someone, who was an integral part of your life, is and will no longer be there. I knew Leigh longer than I knew my parents. I’ll miss him. Paul



Tony G, Leigh & me



“Underwear” at Singleton
me & Leigh at right



Through Singleton to
Holsworthy.
Above Al Keeble, me,
Roger McDonnell and
Leigh



Roger Mc, Leigh, me and
Tony Goldsmith

Pre-embarkation time...



Tony, Leigh and me on Sth Molle Island airport, then above with families in Brisbane, then the final "farewell" at right with Al Adams, a friend of Pete Fletcher, Pete Fletcher,



Leigh, Roger McD, me and Tony Goldsmith



At left - Me, Pete Fletcher and Leigh in Canberra – 1992

At right Leigh in Brisbane - 2016



John Blake – “Dicko, thanks for that old cock. I had been meaning to get in touch with Leigh after we had a long talk about DVA disability stuff and his experiences and advice. I was of course hoping that the cancer had gone away and was expecting to catch up when next convenient.

Planning on being up for the funeral. (My daughter's birthday.) John B”

Bill Taggart (1st/83rd) – “Hi Paul, please pass along my condolences and those of the 1/83rd to Leigh's family. He will be in our prayers.

These notices are the down side of what we do to keep our brothers connected but an unfortunate result of where we are in our lives. Bill”

Charles Brewer - “Hi Paul – Charles here, ex 133 Div Loc. Being ARES I'd not known Leigh – however, we still understand how family would be feeling now.

My thanks for what you do – it is appreciated by so many – and is probably the hardest part of your role. Take care, Charles.”

Grahame Dignam – “The Melbourne show 1967. L-R Bob Retrot, John Vickery, Miss Patti McGrath, Tony Goldsmith, Leigh Hemming. Photo supplied by: Kevin Browning”



John Blake – “Giddy Dicko

Funeral came and went. Lovely service after being able to get a lift up from Bris to Caloundra with Old Collegians through the association. I wish I had recorded the service – so many good feelings memories and reminders of those of others.

Leigh and I were in the same grade at the same school. He was a rower having already been at the school for the earlier grades but I being a late-comer and a day-boy was too shy to join in. I remembered him as one of the really nice kids who managed to be cool at the same time. I was so pleased to discover that he, a proven good guy was posted to 131 out of rookies. We were in the same hut at 131 though I suspect we may have been in and out of courses with different timings and he certainly left Viet Nam some months after I did.

The only photo of Leigh I could find was on that occasion when we hosted Patti McGrath and Denise Drysdale and I think everyone has a copy of that. I have pasted a copy in case. I spent most of my time mostly isolated at 31D and was a limited photographer, taking photos mainly of things rather than persons.

Attached, perfectly randomly but relevant, my serial numbered Canadian Club bottle from Nui Dat PX, still unopened/sealed. Hmmmmmm ...someday, before running out of friends with whom to share it or dump it.

Dicko, I thought I had sent this but again swallowed up by drafts.

Hope you are keeping well. John B 1731550”

Service in Loving Memory of

Leigh

Gregson & Weight Chapel, Caloundra
Saturday, 10 March 2018 at 11.00 am
Officiated by Tim Goessling
Followed by a celebration at Rumba Beach Resort.

Order of Service

Violin Music from Caroline Campbell

*Opening Song: "My Cup Runneth Over With Love."
By Barbi and her sister Elizabeth Ann Sacre*

Welcome and Introduction

*Tributes from Leigh's family:
Brian
Chris
Ainsley*

*Photographic Tribute
"Sham-a-ling-dong-ding" By Jesse Winchester*

Tribute from Leigh's friend: John French

Closing Tribute from Barbi to be read by Howard Sacre

1945 RSL Service 2018
Leigh's immediate family and ex service personnel to lay a poppy on Leigh's coffin.

Committal

*Closing Songs: "Maori Farewell" By Hayley Westenra & "Hallelujah" by K.D Lang
Friends to lay a poppy and say a personal farewell if you wish.*



May he rest in peace.

RIP



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.)

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield

Meetings: - Sun 8.07.18 and AGM: at Panania RSL Meetings comm: 1115 hrs



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: www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com](http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com)



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

<http://www.rnzaa.org.nz/>

Editor contact email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson
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