

THE EYES and EARS

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

Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Vol 12 No 01 January 2019 No 126

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



Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) awarded to the Detachment and those who served at
The Battles of Coral/Balmoral in South Vietnam, 1968

2019 - 53 YEARS AND THE DETACHMENT 131 SPIRIT LIVES ON 1966 - 1971



A long lost, but, not forgotten mate...

Thanks to a great photo supplied by **Phil Mulgrew**.
Have a look further on for a bit more about it and more...

Just a Quick Note – We’ve made some alterations to the *Eyes & Ears* banner (above) – we’ve put some colour behind the Detachment’s shield and Unit number, plus moved the *Eyes & Ears* information to align with the Newsletter heading and we’ve added a longevity Detachment “Spirit” year notice. Boy, aren’t we getting creative!

. 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

NB: We’ve got an interesting project starting next month in relation to our evolution in SVN.

. Going Forward – A “Lost Locator Project”

The Project isn’t finished by a long shot.

Ed – I guess we’ve covered the years to some effect, but we need to be vigilant and keep our minds active as who knows who, where and how we might stumble on, discover someone etc be it by accident but even more so by design. Paul

. The “Detachment Album Project” – This project is sponsored by the 131 Locators Association and is in need of some photographic and by-line input from our members/Readers.

“The Detachment Album Project”



The main theme that we are trying for is to convey a sense of what the Detachment did in Vietnam. Images of LPs, Arty Tac, Radar, Surveyors on the job, Sound Ranging, Sensors, Detachment H.Q. in particular. Other items of interest could include tent lines / living quarters, dining/mess halls, engineer’s water point, Det. H.Q. resupply from Vung Tau, laundry runs to Baria. Photos of groups of Locators at Nui Dat may not be of particular interest to the STA Regt as they would be to those of us who served with them.

. It is most important that each image includes “who, what, where and when” information.

We have proposed to print images to be placed into the album and we can also create a digital file of the images on a CD/DVD or similar that can be provided as well. This digital collection of images can also be presented to the STA Regt. for suitable display. Not only could the Regt. be interested in the digital collection but also the AWM, the NVVM at Phillip Island and the RAA Museum at Puckapunyal as well.

. Black and white images as well as colour are fine, however higher resolution images are preferred wherever possible for clarity.

. It has been proposed for the printed images that we print a 6x4 image on 5x7 paper, leaving a margin where the caption can be shown, see examples attached. This will ensure that the image and caption are locked together rather than listed separately with a reference number to each image.

Here are a couple of samples to get the thought process in action...



Gnr. Paul Dickson on duty at "Arty Tac", callsign "Three Zero"
1 ATF Nui Dat 1967



"A quiet morning on the Horseshoe" LP / OP Bravo
L to R Gnr. J Reid, Gnr. A Goldsmith, Gnr. R. Gunnell, Lbdr. V Danko
Long Hai hills in background to the south



Lt. Ian Yerbury operating Tellurometer
on survey operation Nui Dat. 1967



L to R Gnr. M Van Driel, Lbdr. Jim Menz, Gnr. P Fuhrmann
Op. Duntroon, FSB Berryman
operating L.P. after completing survey to FSB Jan. 1968



Artillery Tactical H.Q. (Arty Tac) external view
1 ATF Nui Dat 1967
note tarpaulins on roof to deaden sound of heavy rain during wet season



131 Locators in action at Hoa Long sand pits.
L to R Gnr B. Irvine, Gnr R. King, Gnr B. Blink, Gnr. R Retrot, Gnr. H Weber.



Detachment 131 Div Loc Bty Orderly Room & Q Store
1 ATF Nui Dat - mid 1967



L.P. / O.P. 1, call sign 31-A on summit of Nui Dat



Early morning insecticide delivery via "Patches"
USAF - C123
1967



Looking South from LP/OP2 (31-B) towards the Long Hai hills
1967

Email photos with "what, where and when" details to **Ernie Newbold** - ernest.newbold@bigpond.com
Use the subject line – "131 Album Project"
We look forward to getting heaps!



. Here's a continuing story in the series with regards to Locators' "passions" – however, with a bit of a twist.

Well, this yarn has nothing to do with a "Locator", except for the one relating it.

I was at a lunch with a few blokes a couple of weeks back now, when asked the usual question – "Are you an Aussie?" by a newcomer, after getting an affirmative he then went on to relate a story which commenced with him saying that he was on a cruise (sound familiar?) and docked in Darwin – ok so far. I asked him where he started and he listed the following – commenced in Los Angeles, then to the following – Alaska, Russia (can't remember the name), China (incl Hong Kong), Singapore, Indonesia (Bali incl), then on to Darwin, then the real shock

MOOLOOLABA (his pronunciation threw me for a start), but he said “Mooloolaba”! No, they weren’t on a river ferry, but a full-blown cruise ship. I was dumbfounded, but he proceeded to tell me that they dropped anchor and got onto lighters to cross into the Mooloolah River – yes, it was a beautiful calm day. I remember there being a wharf there and a great fish and chip shop, but being invaded by a couple of thousand ~~terrorists~~ tourists, I just find that amazing! A hundred years ago I used to stay with mates on Mooloolaba Spit and go surfing etc. Have they cancelled the surf for cruise ships?

His trip then went on to Sydney, Fiji, the Solomons, Hawaii and then LA. They were away for over 8 weeks. Watch out Bob (Billiards) the next thing will be a ski field in the Blue Mountains with imported snow! I Japanese bloke who I know from the golf club is accusing Aussies of buying ski fields/resorts in Japan! I just reminded him that his mob lost the war.

Can anyone match anything similar?

Ed - Hey, I just thought I’d add the following (too much time on my hands) -

Just recently, in the very early hours of one morning, I reflected on a part of my very early times which was, I guess, brought about by the recent Christmas and hearing from quite a few of you and what transpired to a degree.

I remember as a kid our family would go away for the school Christmas break, some times camping etc and Dad would set us up and of course return after work for the weekends. Christmas was always family fun.

Christmas camping, possibly Nambucca Heads, NSW – Mum (with pearls on, brother Jim, self and cousin.



This altered as time progressed as my sister was about 11 years older than me (I say “was” as she passed just over 8 years ago) and my brother is about 7 years older, so they wandered off from the scene. However, with my sister’s family being introduced to the equation and then my brother added to the tribe, the “Christmas” affair became a major production. Then of course the grandkids/nieces, nephews have created their own families to a degree. Then, of course, I wandered off and the functions for me became more sporadic and of course, now, very rare. But the extended family as it has become still has their introduced traditions.

I guess what added to these thoughts was hearing from some of you and what happenings there were last year (and before and hopefully still to come) – I enjoy your tales of your families and the extensions you have – kids, grand kids and grand kid’ kids.



“The Family” looking decidedly relaxed somewhere out bush.

**It’s just interesting how things change, but they don’t change, I guess they adapt. Do they?
Can anyone add to this?**

Here’s the next in the “Unknown” series...

This photo is extracted from **Peter Pettiford’s** archives – Ok, it’s in the ’68-’69 era and it’s in the Jim Menz Club (looking more up-market than in my time too).

So, now to “who are the likely suspects’ in this shot?



. **Grahame Dignam** – initially sent out the following to the Association group and it then gets expanded on – “Did any of you guys see this in the “Vet Affairs”. Might be worth a run in *Eyes & Ears* for those tech enabled.
<https://www.news.com.au/national/anzac-360-virtual-reality-project-takes-you-to-the-heart-of-the-australian-experience-on-the-western-front-and-all-you-need-is-a-phone/news-story/6f69e734f2d03663b84139db5665e746>
...to which **Bob Billiards** responds - “Yep, but I haven’t loaded the app as yet. It rates a link in the next *Eyes & Ears*”

...then **Grahame** responds – “I have taken the first from the DVA website and the second portion is from a news article and has a very comprehensive outline on “how to” Grahame.”

‘Anzac 360’ brings the Remembrance Trail to life



Virtual reality technology and stunning 360-degree drone footage are bringing the Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front to Australians across the world, through an app called Anzac 360 that features interactive videos.

This new app and its videos, developed in partnership with News Corp Australia and produced by Grainger Films, will allow all Australians, including our next generation of schoolchildren, to experience these sites from their classroom or at home.

It will inspire people to travel to France or Belgium to see the Trail for themselves while giving those who cannot visit the sites in person the next best thing.

Eight key sites and battles are explained, highlighting the challenges our troops faced some 100 years ago, from the tactical decisions that had to be made to moments of extraordinary bravery that resulted in a Victoria Cross.

The app is free to download from the App Store and Google Play. Search Anzac 360.

ANZAC 360 virtual reality project takes you to the heart of the Australian experience on the Western Front — and all you need is a phone

TODAY, as we near the close of the WWI centenary, ANZAC 360 takes you to the heart of the Australian experience on the Western Front — and all you need is a phone.

Justin Lees News Corp Australia Network NOVEMBER 10, 2018 6:00AM

ANZAC 360



100 YEARS OF ARMISTICE

Lest we forget

TODAY, as the world prepares to mark the close of the WWI centenary, we take you to the heart of the Australian experience on the Western Front as never before.

In the groundbreaking ANZAC 360 project, any Australian can travel to the battlefields of France and Belgium in



immersive virtual reality 360-degree vision simply by using their phone or tablet — it's free, simple and stunning. Full surround vision using drone and ground-level footage lets viewers soar over the fields and explore trenches, bunkers and memorials, while period imagery and video, graphics and sound effects transport you back a century. Brought to you by the team behind the award-winning [AnzacLive](#), ANZAC 360 is a collaboration between News Corp Australia and the Department of Veterans Affairs, produced by Grainger Films.

The best way to experience it is to download the free ANZAC 360 app from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#); clips will also be released on [AnzacLive's Facebook page](#).

The app features key sites and events along the Australian Trail of Remembrance — the epicentre of our nation's struggle in northwest Europe — where 295,000 Aussies served between 1916-18.

Viewers will be taken from the shocking encounters at Fromelles and Pozieres in the 1916 Somme offensive, through the heroic slog of Polygon Wood, Broodseinde and Passchendaele a year later, to the desperate turning point of Villers-Bretonneux and push to victory begun at Le Hamel in 1918.

Then there are the places where our Diggers relaxed behind the lines: beautiful French villages, chateaus and the awe-inspiring subterranean city at Naours — where Anzacs created the world's largest collection of WWI graffiti and where the ANZAC 360 crew found an old friend.

Each three-minute film features the stories of some of our most charismatic veterans: from familiar legends like Sir John Monash and many of our Victoria Cross heroes, to lesser-known, yet extremely moving, anecdotes of ordinary men and women who performed their duty in extraordinary times.



Nurse Alice Ross-King. *Source: Supplied*

Familiar faces from the AnzacLive social media project, including WWI nurse Alice Ross-King (Vic), Iarrikin digger Archie Barwick (NSW and Tas) and Queensland's Arthur James Adams also feature. Descendants of Alice and Archie yesterday tested the app at the Hyde Park War Memorial in Sydney.

"It is very, very good," said Elizabeth Barwick, of Sydney, viewing the battlefield at Pozieres where Archie fought.

"I have read my grandfather's diaries several times because they were very exciting, very interesting — but to actually see it come to life in ANZAC 360 brings a whole new dimension.

"It was really lovely to see it. The educational possibilities are very exciting."

Alice's granddaughter Maggie Johnson, her own granddaughter Emily, five, and husband Keith came up from Melbourne for the occasion and became quite emotional when viewing.

"This is a wonderful way for everyone to get on board remembering all those people that fought for our country," Maggie said.

While they used a headset — and you can too if you have Google card-board or similar — no special gear is needed to use ANZAC 360. Just download it from your app store and play it on your phone or tablet.

We recommend headphones for surround audio and standing or sitting still while the intro map scene of each clip plays — then moving your device and body around to get the full immersive experience.

Darren Chester, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC, will launch the project today at the Sir John Monash Centre at Villers-Bretonneux — one of the sites featured.

“While Gallipoli will be forever etched in our nation’s history, it was right here on the Western Front that we suffered our greatest losses during the First World War,” he said.

“Most importantly, it allows those who cannot visit these sites in person the opportunity to feel like a visitor, but at the same time inspiring others to travel over here to France, or across the border in Belgium.”

Anzac Live case study



Originally published as [Experience WWI in virtual reality](#)

. Oddities – Ed – Here’s something, maybe not “Odd”, but more like “Really?”.

Where I live, petrol is about \$AUD1.28 per litre versus the average pump price in Australia of about \$AUD1.40 per litre. So, you might say – “Gee Dicko that’s not too bad.”

Well, I hate to rub salt into the wound – you all know that’s just NOT my style, but for my AUbuck.28 I get someone to say “Hola” to, they show you the “zero” reading on the pump, then fill the tank, clean the windscreen and the back window as well, check under the bonnet and check the tyre pressure. OK, the average wage over here isn’t all that hot, so that is part of the equation, but I give the attendant a tip (propina) of 5 pesos which equates to about 33.6 Aus cents (cash in his/her pocket – and I guess if they serve 53 cars at that measly amount they get about another \$AUD17.81 per day – they possibly serve more and also toss a few “Yanks” into the mix and their tips are far better!) and off I go after, let’s say, putting 53 litres in the tank for \$AUD67.87 + \$AUD0.36.

Maybe next month I’ll ramble on some more just to drive you nuts!

From the Advocate’s Desk...



Our professional Advocate’s contact details: -

Peter Pioro JP - email contact: piorowp@ozemail.com.au

Ken Foster OAM JP - email contact: khfoster1@bigpond.com

Disclaimer: Please note that all correspondence submitted will be treated with the total confidentiality between the sender and our Advocates. Printed submissions and responses that may be published in *Eyes & Ears* will be completely anonymous, just used as examples of help.



Just spotted and reported by Allen Morley –

inbox

I have nothing but disdain
for those non-indigenous

people who have already
climbed Uluru or are in a
rush to do so before the ban
comes into effect. Most of
these people spend an
incredible amount of time
and money ticking off "must
do" experiences without any
thought for the sensitivities
of interested parties – in this
case the traditional owners,
for whom Uluru has special
spiritual significance. Is
there nothing sacred to
these people?

John R Vickary
Westcourt, Qld

Those 131 newshounds will do anything for some publicity. John Vickary (1967-68) weighed in on the climb Ayres Rock (Uluru) debate in the *Weekend Australian* letters to the Editor.



Bob Billiard's' (1967-68) wife Cathy was interviewed sitting in their Goggomobil Dart in Sydney. If you look carefully you can see Bob giving the Goggo a bit of a hidden push. Cheers, Allen

Mail Call...

Phil Connor – “Paul Hi, thanks for the latest edition of *Eyes and Ears*, December edition. Excellent reading. Good to see Alan Harrison (Capitano) enjoying holidays and the like after stepping down from the number of things he committed to over all these years with our Unit and now getting some personal time. All good here on the Sunnie Coast, although full of visitors, tourists and the like at this time of year. Had a good Chrissie with family and friends. Fed and State Govts are upgrading the Bruce Highway from Caboolture to Sunshine Motorway to 3 lanes (at last), together with expanded entry/exits at major links and suppose to finish 2019/2020. The Sunshine Coast airport expansion is also in full swing with new runway to accommodate larger aircraft (Dreamliner, etc) and planned for 2019/2020. Not so much a ‘sleepy hollow’ now!

Paul, to you and Helen, have a wonderful New Year, enjoy and keep up the good work. Cheers Phil”

...and then Phil sent the following – “Paul, greetings. Thought you might be interested in this latest from DVA website. <https://www.dva.gov.au/benefits-and-payments/australian-defence-veterans-covenant>
Hope all is good, mate, UBIQUE. Cheers Phil”

Here's the DVA link expanded -

Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

The Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant was announced by the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Darren Chester MP, on 27 October last year.

The Covenant encourages Australia to recognise and acknowledge the unique nature of military service, and support veterans and their families.

The Covenant includes an oath, which the Australian people will be encouraged to take at community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day.

The new Veteran Card and an Australian Veteran Lapel Pin and a Reservist Lapel Pin underpin the Covenant.

The intention of the Covenant is to provide employers, businesses, local communities, and veteran and sporting organisations the opportunity to commit to supporting veterans and their families.

Veteran Card

Veteran applicants, **new to DVA**, can apply for the new Veteran Card by creating a [MyService](#) account and, there, request a Veteran Card.

Please note -

This is the commencement of the implementation of the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant.

Registration is aimed at applicants **new to DVA**.

Current DVA health card holders will be issued with the new Veteran Card over the coming months.

Registration includes the following:

As a veteran, you are eligible for free treatment under the [Non-Liability Health Care \(NLHC\)](#) arrangements for mental health, should you ever need it

During the application, you will be asked to provide your bank details, as you may be eligible for a fortnightly payment supplement, associated with the NLHC arrangements

Applications received prior to 18 February 2019 may receive an interim physical card by post, with the new physical Veteran Card following a few weeks later.

The Government is working with Australian businesses and community organisations to discuss tangible recognition and services for Veteran Card holders.

More information, including a list of participating businesses, will be available on this website over the coming weeks.

The Veteran Card will make it easier for Australians to recognise and respect the contribution that veterans have made to Australia and for our veterans to connect with the broader Australian community.

The Veteran Card is available to anyone who has served in the Australian Defence Force with at least one day of continuous full-time service.

Eligible Reservists, including those engaged in Disaster Relief Service, Border Protection Service, or involved in a serious service-related training accident, will also be able to request a Veteran Card.

The card will help Australian businesses, service providers and community organisations to identify veterans so they can offer their acknowledgement and respect. For example, the card could provide a platform for businesses and community groups to provide tangible recognition and service to holders of the card.

It is important to note that the respective business or organisation determines what concessions, if any, they choose to offer to a veteran and their family. There is no obligation for a business or organisation to offer a concession.

The appearance of the Veteran Card is a rebadging and redesign of DVA's current health treatment and concession cards (Gold, White and Orange).

Existing DVA health cards (Gold, White and Orange)

All existing DVA health card holders (Gold or White) and concession card holders (Orange) do not need to apply. Your existing services and entitlements are maintained. Health providers and participating businesses will recognise your existing card.

The new-look card will be issued to you automatically over the coming months, along with a Veteran Lapel Pin and Oath as part of a phased roll-out. Orange Card holders will also receive their new-look card in due course.



The Oath

A key objective of the Covenant is recognition and support of the Australian community for veterans and their families.

The Oath is a declaration on behalf of the Australian people to give an enduring and formal recognition of the valued contribution that current and former members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families make today, and have made in the past, to our country.

The Oath is not intended to replace the Ode, but is an additional commitment of respect to Australia's military veterans.

The Oath may be said at special events such as community commemorative events, such as Remembrance Day.

Veteran Lapel Pin and Reservist Lapel Pin

The Veteran Lapel Pin and Reservist Lapel Pin provide a way for the public to recognise and connect with veterans and acknowledge their service to the nation. The pins will help identify veterans when they aren't wearing their uniform or medals.

The pins will be available for distribution in the first half of 2019.

...read another great email from Phil in the "Mail Out – Mail In" section following...

Phil Mulgrew – "Hi Paul. Hope you got through Christmas and New Year okay.

At right is a photo of some of the guys in my Anti-Aircraft course in July/ August of 1966 at North Head. The posed gun crew is **Robert Jacka** pointing. The layer is unknown. **Vic Claxton** is the loader. **Mick Bohl** with the next clip of rounds. **Dennis Henry**, then **John Free** next to the Training Sergeant.

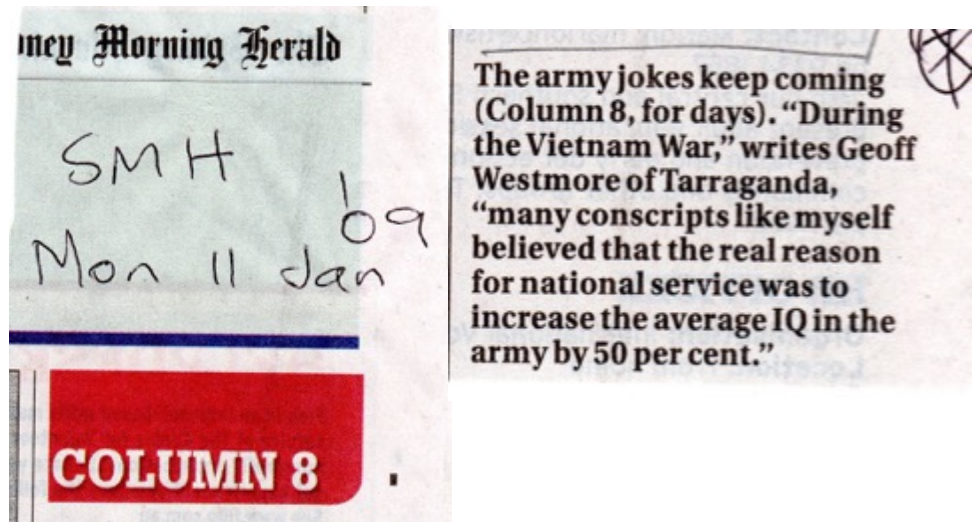


The second photo (at left – which we used as our intro photo in this edition of *Eyes & Ears*) is one of **Jim Menz** and mates rowing a boat on a lake near Albury /Wodonga. Probably Lake Hume from the look of the hills behind them, speaking as a former local of the area. Jim is on the left oar. It was taken on a day off from Recruit Training by **John Free** (102 Battery. Coral/Balmoral) who went through Kapooka with Jim. They travelled to the area by bus apparently. John supplied both photographs.

All the best. Phil Mulgrew."

...**Phil added some more interesting info** – "I hope that you will be able to include those photos in the next edition of *Eyes and Ears*. The photos literally came out of the blue. **Johnny Free** was a good mate of Jim Menz and contacted me through **Grahame Dignam** via the *Eyes and Ears* seeking information about Jim. He knew that some of the fellas he had known at Kapooka and North Head went to 131 Div Loc Bty. He also knew **Vic Claxton**, **Gary Bester** and **Mick Bohl** very well and I filled him in on what I knew of them since he saw them last in SVN and sent I him some photos of fellas we both knew and he responded in kind. He has lived in Thailand for the last twenty years but gets back to Australia now and again. He told me he got together with some expats army mates in Vietnam for the anniversary of Coral /Balmoral and a few drinks in May last year. Regards Phil."

David Dougherty – “Hi Paul. If you want to upset 50% of the unit I have attached an extract from Column 8 back in 2009. They refer to it as a joke, but maybe “truth”? I know what side you’ll be on, should get some talking. For those wondering Tarraganda is a locality next to Bega NSW. The writer according to DVA Rolls was originally from Melbourne and served with 7th Bn RAR from 8 Apr ‘67 to 26 Apr ‘68. David.”



Ed – As David suggests, this “old adage” will raise a few, if not many, responses! For a start the “IQ” factor could be questioned with regards to the “Nasho” component – what were we doing turning up (not even qualified to vote) and then, later, agreeing to go on the SEA “adventure” trip. The first intake could be excused because of “blind” acceptance of a Government directive, but after that, if we (me included – 3 NS Intakes later) were sober enough to read newspapers, watch TV etc; we possibly could have said “You’ve got to be bloody joking!” Getting married, going to jail, going to Uni for some 10-year course etc might have been a reasonable alternative. Though having said all of the above I wouldn’t have met a great bunch of blokes and doing this now some 50+ years later! Phil did mention later on that the “Nasho” thing was always a semi-contentious issue with “Regs” from way back when, especially the recent “civvie-street” officer. But, I guess, if we weren’t around some of the “Regs” may have clocked-up numerous flight miles going to and from SVN.



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...

Warwick Brooker – “G'day Dicko. It's only two months since we communicated, so there's not much to talk about except Christmas/NY and the weather!

Good to hear that winter isn't a problem for you. We'd like to have your in-floor heating when the cold returns to us. We wilted a little in a recent heatwave, although it wasn't nearly as severe as in other parts of the country. When we moved into our present rental seven months ago, we were promised a reverse cycle air conditioner and a security screen at the rear entrance, but they never eventuated. So, we froze in winter and now have to put up with pedestal fans blowing hot air. We're enjoying a cool reprieve at the moment though. Sunday only got to 24C and Monday to 23C, cooler than that warm 26C you reported, but we're heading up into the mid-thirties again next week. The Christmas and New Year period was quiet and enjoyable and seemed to be over very quickly. We didn't go anywhere, as usual. Probably better to stay off the roads during this period anyway. Canberra usually becomes very quiet at this time of the year as people head out on holidays, but I thought it wasn't as quiet this year. The shopping centres have been very busy.

Hope you and Helen are well and enjoy a great 2019.

Looking forward to some more newsy 'sights and sounds' from the official *Eyes and Ears* office!

With best wishes, Brookey”

David Auld – “All well here in Coffs as far as I know, no news is good news, Happy New Year Paul”



Phil Connor – “Paul Hi, how are you mate? Thanks for the update.

It sounds like your winter Christmas was great. Miriam and I love that type of Christmas as we have had a few Christmases with our son and family in USA. He lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana, just south of Lake Michigan and, generally, they are up to the knees in snow at this time of year. His household snow-plow (we call the monster) gets a workout every morning to clear the lengthy driveway and only takes a short while, whereas years ago he used the hand-held snow shovel. A great place to live where they are and we thoroughly enjoy our holiday time there. I try to mix the visits up to be there in different seasons and I would rate Fall the most spectacular, aside from the snow. My son, minus Julie and the grandies, came out in August for my 70th. Boy, that was a blur. He also caught up with his surfing, although he had to borrow a board.

Funny thing about Chrissie over there. There is no Boxing Day, so, Christmas Eve (European style) is the time for pressies, etc with Christmas day ‘a stay in PJ’s’ type of day. They are all back to work the next day, our Boxing Day. My son married into a great (big) Mid-West American family with the old traditions and we are looked after very well over there. He is still a Captain in the Army Medical Reserve, although I don’t know how he does it as he does massive hours per week with his boss in surgery (Neuro/spine), mainly trauma cases.

As for our Aussie Christmas, my next-door neighbour and I plan every year (sometimes secretly) what we will do on the day. Always with rels from both families attending. In his backyard, this year we had a pig on the spit (hired) and I moved my ‘smoker’ in and had chicken wings, drummies and veg on the smoker. Naturally with copious amount of liquid. A big day and slept well that night.

As you have said “claiming the streets” and that won’t occur here until end of January (Chrissie school hols). Going down to our fav spots (5mins away), like Cotton Tree, Alex Head, Mooloolaba can be a nightmare.

Warm and muggy here with a sprinkle here and there, with no rain to speak of. Cyclone ‘Penny’ (Ex) has recently moved back onto the coast around Townsville and is expected to ‘venture’ down the coast.

Cheers Phil”

Ken Foster – “Paul, the focus of attention within the leadership of the veteran community at present is the draft report by the government productivity commission into the Department of Veterans Affairs, a copy of the 704 page draft report is available on the internet under “productivity commission”

Secondly, we are waiting for a report to be released by the Department of Veterans into a scoping study into veteran’s advocacy, this may well direct the future of how veterans can deal with the department and how they can be assisted by the ex-service community.

Other than that, it is business as usual and after a brief break in activities over Christmas things are getting back to “normal” at a pace.

Stay well and enjoy your trip to India. Regards, Ken Foster”

Bill Edward – “Hi Paul. All well here, very hot and dry like most of Aust at present.

Helen and I took a X’mas cruise this year out to Vanuatu and back, great weather.

Our kids could not make up their minds what they were doing so we said Cruise time.

It was our 50th wedding anniversary as well. (1968 I remember it well.)

Off to Canberra soon for grand-daughter’s birthday - 7th, I think. Cheers, Bill.”

Mike Butler – “Hi Paul. Thanks for the note - apologies for the delay in replying.

Well - happy New Year!!! We had a relatively quiet Xmas with children and grandchildren and an even quieter New Year’s Eve - just a few drinks at a friend’s place. He is an ex-Provo who was at Coral/Balmoral (a really nice bloke). The weather hasn’t been very kind to us since Xmas (as you may have heard from others) - virtually no rain and hot days. It is 38 degrees C here today and temperatures have been in the 30’s for over a week. The garden is starting to feel it and although we have water tanks to store water and can divert water off the roof of the house it is still a challenge to keep things alive.

Haven’t been doing a lot (too hot !!) but went down to Michelle’s sister’s holiday house for her sister’s birthday - only stayed a couple of days but it was nice to get away. The house is at Apollo Bay. People were jammed in like sardines at the various camp grounds at Lorne and Torquay. But the ocean and the views are spectacular as you know.

I had a call from Kim Hewitt who served with me for a while in 70/71- he got my number via Dave Doyle and then Pete Saint. I sent Hewey a few photos which he appreciated. Small world isn’t??

Hope you are well - we are travelling OK - no major issues. Cheers for now. Mike (Butler)”

Allan Adams - “Hi Paul. I got your email last week but have been flat out trying to finish of a big job. It’s been going on for a few months now and is getting close to the end. Then it will be onto the next project, a closure lid for powdered milk for the Chinese market. The Chinese can’t get enough of it.

Our Christmas break was fairly quiet, family and catching up with friends. We are in the process of looking at a trip to Japan within the next couple of months and probably in June - July we may be up at Sunshine Beach as Kirsten has a project that she may need project managed. We seem to spend a fair amount of time looking after Kirsten’s boys during the school weeks, picking up after school, taking to soccer practice etc. They have been on holidays but the school starts again next week.

It’s good to hear that you are enjoying travelling and India sounds exciting. Do you travel local?

Oz is much the same, a lot of talk and no action. We will see what happens after the next elections. Probably much the same. It could be worse I guess.

Hope all is well at your side of the world. Cheers, Al”

**There's plenty of room for notices – has anyone got or getting any events planned?
Just send an email and I 'll post it. Ed**

February – 10th Anniversary of *Eyes & Ears* in the current format.

- A questionnaire (in *Eyes & Ears*) on the development of the Detachment, with special attention to the expansion and reduction of certain activities that took place from 1968 onwards.

What have you got planned for March / April? Anything on the offering for ANZAC Day yet?

131

LOCATORS ASSOCIATION

LET IT BE

SOUTH VIETNAM
1966-1971

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>

Presidential perambulations

During January Sydney was visited by a number of summer storms. One storm featured a lot of lightning, one bolt of which hit a power pole at the bottom of our driveway. Our dog, who was sleeping in the kitchen seemed to levitate off the floor and immediately began barking, even before the associated burst of thunder had ended.

Our Optus Foxtel (cable TV service) was consequently kaput. This required a call to their service department, which went something like this.

Me(M): Our Foxtel service has gone out

Optus(O): What is your name, account number and DofB

M: I provided these vital bits of information

O: What is your problem

M: Problem was explained

O: Is your TV working, is your Foxtel box working

M: Not sure and no respectively. Both are blank

O: Have you got the box turned on

M: Yes

O: Have you tried to disconnect all leads to the box and reconnect them

M: Yes

O: Mmmm. What about your HDMI?

M: What about it

O: Try changing the HDMI connection to the other position

M: Eh?

O: Try putting the HDMI connection cable to the other HDMI position on the back of the TV

Voila! The picture was there. Thanks mate.

The wifi also went during the lightning strike, but that is another and much extended story. Allen

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting

Date: **Tuesday, 12th February, 2019** 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

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...February –

Date	Name	Regt no	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	JIM MENZ	38838	1946	10 10 1967	18 02 1968	† 18.02.68 KIA
2	ROGER McDONNELL	2784019	1945	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
3	ROBERT GIBSON	2787361	1947	29 01 1968	07 02 1969	
3	EDWARD HENSON	2788331	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	OLAF ASMANIS	3796272	1947	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
5	IAN YERBURY Capt.	43129	1944	{05 05 1967	05 03 1968	131 † 1989
	" "			{05 02 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT
5	RICHARD FLAVELL	3791902	1945	23 09 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GEORGE CLARK	2412252	1947	{20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
	" "			{09 01 1967	27 09 1967	1 ARU/131
5	STEPHEN HALL	4720327	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
6	WAYNE WHITEHEAD	3791969	1945	N/A		
6	MICK HABBen	3788307	1945	05 05 1967	20 12 1967	
7	LINDSAY BLACK Sgt.	213794	1940	30 04 1970	04 08 1970	131 † 2009
	" "			05 08 1970	12 03 1971	4 Fd REGT
8	ROBERT RAMSAY	2788108	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
8	IAN CAMPBELL	3798378	1949	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "			07 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	WILLIAM HOLMES	61040	1937	1969	1969	† Unknown
9	GEOFF WOOD	2783898	1945	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 26.04.07
9	CHRIS ARMShAW	2781291	1945	04 05 1966	27 10 1966	† 10.02.70
9	GARY WORRALL	43796	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
9	NEVILLE HASTINGS	1730813	1945	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
10	ERIC WILLIAMS	1735449	1948	13 02 1970	04 02 1971	
10	GRAHAME SMITH	2792939	1947	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
11	DENNIS MALLOY	3795057	1948	22 07 1969	16 07 1970	
12	ROSS GUNNELL	5714499	1945	05 05 1967	27 09 1967	
12	LEIGH BAKER	3789657	1945	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	
12	ANTHONY SHeLDRAKE	5716358	1948	04 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	ERNEST NEWBOLD	2783771	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
14	KEVIN HEENAN	3794777	1948	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	MARCUS ROBINSON	2791229	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
16	DAMIAN McMANUS	3787689	1945	20 05 1966	29 05 1967	
16	LUIGI LANERA	3795443	1947	25 11 1969	12 11 1970	RAEME
16	TERENCE HUNT	3792120	1947	19 02 1968	21 02 1969	
17	ADRIAN SPENCER	3794631	1948	28 10 1969	13 08 1970	
18	TERENCE McMANIS	44277	1950	30 05 1970	09 10 1970	
21	WILLIS (BILL) WIGHT 2Lt.	39136	1945	12 01 1967	23 04 1968	
23	GEOFFREY JEBB WO2	24660	1930	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
23	GRAEME SALTER	3792618	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
23	GRAEME JENNION	3796241	1947	24 03 1970	04 03 1971	
24	GREG GREEN	2784565	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	

24	ALBERT JACKA	39856	1950	16 12 1969	11 03 1971	AACC
25	ROBERT MILLER	36944	1939	05.11.69 & 08.4.70	28.11.69&02.08.70	† 29.12.17 RAEME
27	DONALD PERRY WO2	38675	1936	15 04 1970	19 11 1970	
28	NORBERT KROLL	218285	1948	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
28	BRIAN MITCHELL	2412582	1949	14 03 1968	26 03 1969	
28	KIM MCGRATH	2795249	1950	N/A	N/A	

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

Ed – 12 blokes not highlighted looks pretty shabby and what's of real interest is that quite a few of these blokes are listed as being in SVN 1969 onwards! This is a real era of interest as **Ed's** working on a 1968+ 1ATF deveolpment project (keep your eyes out for it in February). Anyway, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – We've received and sent out **157. Ed** – let's see what 2019 produces?

. 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.

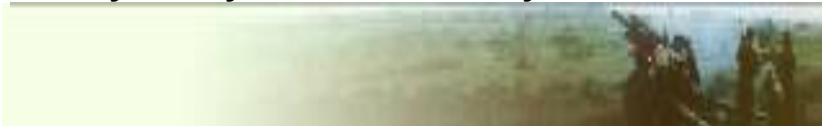
So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com and he could forward you the relevant forms to join - Memberships are available for 1 year or longer deposit a DONATION direct (add 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... This site is not functioning at present.



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



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: 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

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*.