

# THE EYES and EARS

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

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**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**



**Remembrance Day  
11<sup>th</sup> November 2019...  
photos tell a lot.**

**At the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th  
month, Australians remembered the nation's  
fallen - Canberra**



**MILITARY STEEL:** Newcastle's Anzac Walk, completed in 2015 on the cliffs next to another pathway with a commemorative theme, Memorial Drive, the road running south to Bar Beach.



**Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Wollongong.**

**Paul Dickson** – As luck would have it, we just happened to be in a place called College Station in Texas on the 11.11.19 and I saw an amazing memorial to Veterans and just had to stop and take a couple of photos –



All the flags had name tags, plus details, on them.

The photo at right, in the Vietnam section, shows an amazing 3D image of blokes getting off a Huey.



Also, in my absence, the blokes back “home” did a great effort in carrying out the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service – I was able to entice an Australian ex-Service member (Anne McCotter – RAAF – that’s her 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left) to partake with flag bearing and a reading of “The Ode”.

**A date and time that unites us all.**

## . The “Lost Locator Project”

**Ed** – The Project continues on relentlessly so, 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

Get in touch via [131eyesandears@gmail.com](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)

. **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.



## . 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](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)

## . We continue in the meanderings by Ed...

### DRUNK AND DRIVING IN THE ‘60’S – “BOYS AND THEIR TOYS”

I was looking through the web-site and couldn’t resist looking through “Stories” and re-read “Boys and Their Toys” – the problem from that era was not “How did we survive SVN?”, but “How did we survive driving?”

The cars we wrecked, fines we paid – I can’t remember anyone saying that they were jailed though.

Parents sold our cars when we went overseas (Brookey – funny reason – not returning or coming back rich!) – the people who bought them trashed them – it just goes on. Most of us seemed to fancy ourselves as race drivers, we tampered with engines (some of us knew how to tamper with SU Carburettors), suspensions – some of the cars were amazing!

Peter “Fletch” Fletcher and “Woody”



Keith Ayliffe’s “84  
Camaro Berlinetta



Warwick “Brookey”  
Brooker’s  
“Morrie” Major



Dave Doyle’s FC



Bob Billiards’ “Frog”



John Vickary's "Minor"  
modified Mini

Tony Foley's '57 Austin A30



Nick Armstrong's Series 1  
Landrover

Iain Kennedy  
"racing stripes" Mini



Joe Kaplan's  
"souped up" EJ Premier



My Austin Healy Sprite  
Mk 111A

I know others had heaps more, but we don't have photos – bummer!  
Maybe you could send in some photos out of your archives?

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

**Peter Binns** – "Hi all.

Here is another pic cannot remember sending it before for the mag (*Eyes & Ears*) - I know digger on left of pic is **Alan Macdonald** as for others cannot put names to faces All well up here in **Cleveland** (as far as the fires go). Regards, Pete Binns"



**Ernie Newbold** got in touch and mentions the tarp-type cover these lay-a-bouts are surrounding as possibly being "**one of the covered pallets used to house the AN-KPQ/1 for transport?**"

Can anyone shed some light?

Now, **Allen Morley**, had a tentative guess – ?? ??, Hans Webber, maybe Geoff Wood, Ian Amos and Terry Bruce

. Now, here's are a couple of answers to the question raised in October -

**George Lane** – "Dicko the photo with the Pom in it is **Jock White** who came out with **Tom Checkley** from Malaysia to join us. George"

This photo at right is extracted from **John Vitkovsky's** collection as we were putting together his Locator Profile and for the lives of us we couldn't identify the bloke on the left.

Anyone got any ideas? John thought that he may have been a Pom and ex-Brit army.



**Dave Crowther** – “Hi Dicko. Another great read. Of the two in the photo, the one on the left looks like “**JOCK**” **White**. He was a L/Bdr in Pioneers and joined from the British Army along with **Tom Checkley**. Jock was known to have a short fuse. He had a Listening post alongside the American “Long Toms”.

Take care, Dave Crowther

**Keith Dean** – “Hi Paul.

Just wanted to let you know that the guy in the Unknown Series is Jock White, who as you know has now passed away.

Regards, Keith Dean

Keith responded to an **Ed** email –

“Good morning Paul

Jock White also served with me at Army Apprentices School Balcombe. He left the Army after Balcombe as he was very ill. He was the CQMS in the Motor Vehicle Trades wing.

After his discharge, he went to live in Taree where he married my Apprentice Colour Sergeants mother. I think he died in about 1984. Sorry I cannot remember the exact date.

He was a great mate.

Regards, Keith Dean”

**NB** – “Jock” White is actually – Robert Barnett White, 311537, L/Bdr, DOB 08.12.37 Grangemouth Scotland. SVN In 22.04.66 SVN Out 16.05.67

**Can anyone confirm his DOD with a date?**

**. Important Notice** – This came in from a couple of sources –

“I can advise members that the Veterans’ Recognition Bill received Royal Assent on 30 October and is now legislated as the Australian Veterans’ Recognition (Putting Veterans and their Families First) Act 2019.

I am also pleased to advise that the Minister launched the business benefits component of the new Veteran Card yesterday in Canberra.

To ensure that QCF members are fully informed and able to assist their members I have enclosed a ‘frequently asked questions’ document, an information sheet and a poster to assist you in any discussions on the Covenant and Veterans’ Recognition Program you may have with your members.

While the Department will be sending out an information pack to ESOs, I encourage you to distribute this email to your team in the interim. Should you have any questions or require any further information, then please contact DVA via the [VETSCARD](#) inbox.

Veterans and reservists can continue to apply for the Covenant online using MyService ([dva.gov.au/my-service](https://dva.gov.au/my-service)). If they need help with their application they can call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or visit a Veterans’ Access Network office.

For more information about the Covenant, please visit [recognition.dva.gov.au](https://recognition.dva.gov.au).

Regards,

Tara Hatzismalis

a/g Deputy Commissioner Queensland.”



# Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

P03598

## Information sheet

### Purpose

This Information sheet provides information about the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant and how to apply.

### What is the Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant?

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

The purpose of the Covenant is for the Australian community to recognise the service and sacrifice of the men and women who commit to defend the nation, and pledge their commitment to support veterans and their families.

The Covenant is supported by the Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath.

The Covenant provides employers, businesses, local community, veteran and sporting organisations the opportunity to commit to supporting veterans and their families.

### Am I eligible?

You're eligible to apply for the Covenant (Veteran Card, Lapel Pin and Oath) if you have served in the ADF in a permanent, national service, or reserve capacity. Your service will determine the components of the Covenant for which you are eligible.

### How do I apply?

You can apply for the Covenant using DVA's online portal, MyService, at [dva.gov.au/my-service](http://dva.gov.au/my-service). If you need assistance please call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) for help.

### What is the Veteran Card?

The Veteran Card is a re-design of the existing DVA Health Cards (Gold, White and Orange). The new-look 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.

### If you already have a DVA Health Card

*There are no changes to the DVA services and benefits that you receive with your current DVA Health Card. You can continue to use your existing DVA Health Card to gain access to health services and benefits until you are issued with a Veteran Card.*

DVA Health Cards will gradually be replaced with the new-look Veteran Card, either when your current card expires or as part of the card replacement program, whichever occurs first. Please check that your postal address is up to date to ensure you receive the new card.

### Examples of the new Veteran Gold, White and Orange cards



### Example of current DVA Gold, White and Orange health cards



PAGE 1 OF 2

**Bush Fires Check –** I sent out a general email to everyone (around the 12<sup>th</sup> November) to get a lay of the land with regards to the catastrophic fires that are devastating sections of the east coast, South Australia and inland areas. Here are the responses received –

**Merv Nairn –** “The housing estate where I live – **Engadine** - is surrounded on 3 sides by the royal national park, I am one street from the park. Last night there was a fire in the park but thankfully not close enough to affect us. Merv.”

**Kim Hewitt –** “Thanks. I’m fine after surgery. I am worried for all the fires. Ex 131er Peter Watt is in the thick of it. He lives in **McLean** and is RFS man. Hope they are ALL ok. Kim.”

**John McGovern –** “Hi Paul. Thanks for your concerns.

I live near **Burleigh Heads**, but inland about 10 kms. The only impact on me has been the smoke. The fires are about 50 kms away, so we are safe.

Regards, John Mac”

**Greg Tommasi –** “G’day Paul. Thanks for the kind thoughts.

We live on the top of **Mt Tamborine** in the Scenic Rim Shire (Gold Coast Hinterland). Qld.

All wait and watch at the moment over the next few days. Bit hairy at times.

All good so far. Cheers, Greg and Winnie Tommasi”

**John Vitkovsky** – “Not down here in **Western Victoria** - bloody freezing...John”

**Stuart Sporn** – “NT OK. We are so bankrupt we can't afford a box of matches!!!!”

**Mick Jenkins** – “All good here – **Tea Gardens, North of Foster/Tuncurry**, stay safe everyone. Mick”

**Allan Harrison** – “Hi Paul.

We were evacuated yesterday around 11am. All clear given at around 8am this morning to return home. Closest serious fire is about 50 km north west of us. Just this minute received a fresh warning that it is out of control again. Staying with partner Pam with her broken arm at present at **Woolgoolga** about 12 km South of Arararra. Not planning to go home until she is able to drive and fend for herself.... A couple of weeks away I suspect. Allan.”

**Ken Foster** – “Thanks for caring, all ok here. Ken”

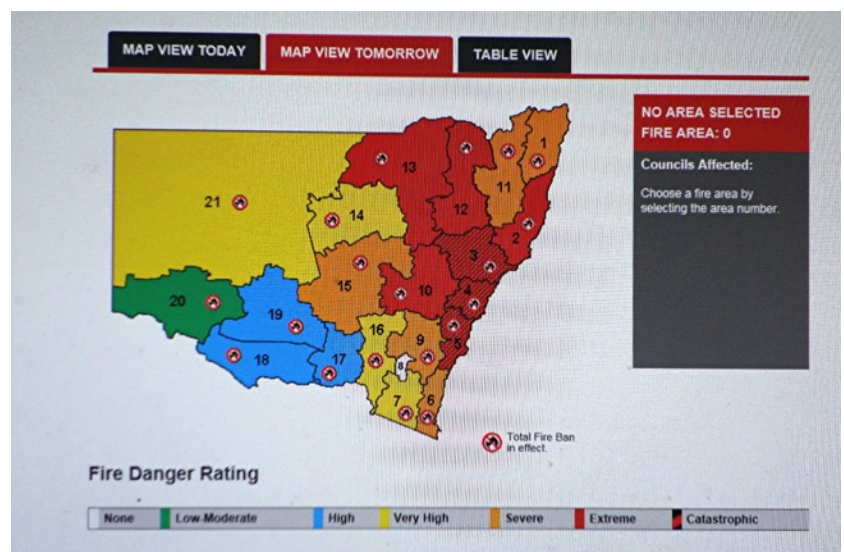
**Ken Dwight** – “G'day Paul. It's really sad to see how Queensland and NSW have turned into a real fire danger states now. We are having lot of rain a snow here at the moment but our turn will come soon enough Stay safe, Ken Dwight”

**Peter Fletcher** – “All ok here. Fletch.” **Central Coast area.**

**Darryl Musgrove** – “Hi Paul, thanks for your concern. **Campbelltown** very quiet, about 38 degrees, North-easterly to North-westerly winds until 1300 hours, then gradual swing to the South which cooled things down. I can see much of Holsworthy range from home - no fires anywhere. Hope everyone else has been able to get through unscathed. Mid North Coast - Myall Lakes to North of Coffs Harbour, and the New England from Walcha to Tenterfield seem to be the trouble spots in NSW, Gold Cost hinterland, the West of Noosa and up to Gympie, and Yeppoon are causing the most worry in Qld. Hope your enquiries find everyone safe. Cheers Darryl.”

**Ernie Newbold** – “G'day Paul, the threat has been quite severe, for three days now there have been total fire bans in place for the whole of NSW. Many home have been lost and three fatalities in NSW so far. Rain and lots of it are desperately needed to end the drought. See screen shot from the NSWRFs website showing “catastrophic” conditions yesterday.

Regards, Ernie”



**Phil Connor** – “Giddy Paul.

Not too bad in my area of the Sunnie Coast (**Maroochydore, Mooloolaba**), however severe fires **Noosaville, Tewantin** and inland from these areas eg. **Cooroibah** with loss of buildings. **The Noosa, Noosaville areas have recently been contained?????** and this follows the suburbs near them (**Peregian**) that had significant fires a month ago with **5,000 homes evacuated**.

Also, fires at **Meridan Plains**, suburbs near Kawana, university hospital etc

There are significant fires further north/west Scenic Rim, Granite belt etc.

Some days ago, we have had small fires (quickly extinguished) here in **Mountain Creek**, mainly along/near Sunshine motorway. Cheers Phil”

...Phil sent the following in on 18<sup>th</sup> November...

## Spoke too soon

“Giddy Paul.

Spoke too soon. We (in **Mountain Creek**) got smashed on Saturday 16/11/2019 and more severely on Sunday 17/11/2019.

A massive storm cell travelled from the south-west up and over the **Sunshine Coast** on the Sunday around 2.00pm and caused excessive damage, particularly in our Mountain Creek area. The storm cell on Sunday pelted us with hail from golf ball to tennis ball size. Trees down (large and small), power out (for us about 7 hrs), some small areas were

still out 24 hrs later, cars battered with the hail and have seen quite a few today on the roads. Excessive damage to all types of buildings, small and large. My Aussie flag got ripped off the flag pole in the back yard, it is either in the Creek or in a neighbour's backyard (or in the Mooloolah river).

A country of many changes given my previous email. Cheers Phil"

**John Blake** – "Paul, I am in Sydney at the moment. Flew down on Monday. Visibility was dreadful. Took 20 minutes to climb above the smoke out of Brisbane airport and another half hour before I saw scenery below the smoke.

Attended my first official AGM yesterday to meet up with about a dozen of guys. Coffee beer and pizza all very nice. I recognised most attendees but I needed reintroductions for many of the names. Unfortunately for me many of these will not be going to Warwick's day on Friday.

Today going by train into the city to pick up a museum or 2. There has been a southerly change to cool things down a bit after yesterday's scorcher.

Thankfully, no personal involvement in fires where I have been. There has been some fire return in the Sunshine coast and in the Brisbane Hinterland giving us ground level visibility of only one kilometre.

I've heard you are travelling but not here. Bring us up-to-date. John B"

**Bob Billiards** – "Paul, All OK here and we have had very little fires in the **Blue Mountains** this year so far. Regards, Bob"

**Wade Cooper** – "Bloody tragic state of affairs with the fires. We have members of the Regt helping with planning and a possible UAS response to help them. Wade."

**John Browne** – "All good in **Armidale**. John."

**Charles Brewer** – "Thank you Paul...Charles & Helen here ex 133 Div Loc Bty Belmore Sydney...now in **Coffs Harbour**.

We are fine, & family here too. The massive Liberation fire NW of us slowed, & whilst causing damage, did not get close to west Coffs nor close the Pacific Highway north.

Thank God!

Our Rural Fire Service & SES volunteers are amazing, as are the Police & Fire & Rescue.

This fire is 3x the size of the Coffs Council area & is more than 1000km in circumference. About 180,000 hectares.

The battle continues...today conditions are much cooler & calmer.

Appreciate your contact...feel free to share Paul. Charles & Helen."

**David Auld** – "I'm ok where I am Paul but my houses were in the danger area but with the wind now coming from the SE-E instead of NW-W I think they're pretty safe, if it looks like heading this way I'm going to grab a six pack a book and a plastic chair and walk across the rows to the beach and sit in the ocean and read and drink cheers mate."

**Geoff Cowgill** – "Hi Paul. All good at **Mittagong** so far. Geoff Cowgill"

**Peter Pioro** – "Paul, I am okay where I live – **Fairy Meadows (Wollongong)**. Regards, Peter Pioro"

**Ian McMillan** – "All good this end (**Ipswich**). Have a Merry Xmas cheers, Ian"

**Gordon Malcolm** – "Yeah, g'day Paul, I live in **Mooney** on the Hawkesbury north of Sydney, been in the local brigade for 33 years, serving in most positions, Captain, Deputy, training, currently President and resident old fart who sits in the corner telling the young whippersnappers how good they have it.

Seriously, don't turn out anymore but do all the running around, community advice, get truck ready for turn out, etc.

We have CFU's up and down the river, (community fire units) which we support with a bit of training and gear, pumps, hoses etc, and they are first response at any fire event in their community then there's hopefully a response from fire boats, of which Mooney has one.

We haven't had any big fires directly impacting on our communities for some time but we are as prepared as we can be for the inevitable.

Most impact from fires on our community will be ember attack and smoke annoyance, we also invariably lose power so there is an abundance of generators in private homes.

We had crew away last Sunday and standing by on really fire hazardous days, under such conditions, I will remain in our community to help direct and advise local residents.

So far, so good. Gordon"

**Mike Horn** – "Thanks Paul. We are certainly fine and safe, albeit for a lot of smoke, Regards, Mike Horne"

**Peter Bruce** – "Hello Paul. All ok here – **Lake Cathie** - except for the smoke which is still lingering. Think as a Pommy fog in places. We need wind to drive it all away. No rain on the horizon and hotter dry weather forecast for next week. We are lucky in some ways as there is not much left to burn up this way. I haven't heard of any of our old boys in serious trouble at this stage although I think a lot will have smoke issues.

Best wishes, Pete"

**Bob Gibson** – “Dear Paul, we are quite safe in **Ballina**. The smoke is bad but wish the best for anyone effected by the fires. Regards Coral and Bob”

**Kim McGrath** – “Hi Paul, Last Tuesday we were packed and ready to bug out and leave our home to its fate. Things have eased off but there is still a lot of fires in the district - **Rural Residential area of Wauchope known as King Creek**. Thanks for the concern. Ubique, Kim.”



**Nick Armstrong** – “Hello Paul

Regarding your inquiry regarding bushfires, I haven't had any problems with bushfires at home, but I did spend five days with the **SA Country Fire Service in NSW from 13<sup>th</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> October**. In that time, I spent three days working from a staging base at **Glen Innes**. Our group used five NSW Rural Fire Service vehicles to work in the **Ewingar district**. At the time the fire was not active, so we didn't have any serious work to do. The travelling was the biggest inconvenience. To get to our work area, we had an hour drive north to Tenterfield. We then drove about two thirds of the way towards Casino before turning south to Ewingar. Travelling time each way was about 2 ½ hours. The vehicles were a mix of 8t Isuzu 4x4 3000 litre tankers, 3t Mitsubishi Canter 4x4 1500 litre tankers and a Toyota Landcruiser with a 1000 litre tank. I was in the Toyota, so probably had the most comfortable ride. The least comfortable were the Mitsubishi Canter. They are quite capable on the fire ground, but not at their best on long distance driving in hilly country. Not overly powerful, and old enough to have no air-conditioning! Our presence was as much to give the local Brigades a break, while still letting the local population know the fire brigades were still working.

More recently we had a fire closer to home. Last Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November, a fire started in scrub on the SW side of **Port Lincoln**. I live at **North Shields, which is 11km north of Port Lincoln**, so wasn't threatened by the fire. I am a member of the North Shields Country Fire Service Brigade, which was responded to the fire.

The fire rating for the day had been 'Extreme', with the main concern being the wind strengths forecast. At about 4.00pm, a fire started in grassland south west of Port Lincoln and was driven towards the town by strong winds. Port Lincoln, like most Australian small towns, has many small hobby type farms surrounding the town. These farms are difficult to protect. They are spread over quite a large area, have many outbuildings and sheds, and are often surrounded by flammable vegetation.

In recent years, the CFS has stationed two water bombers at the Port Lincoln airport during the fire season. The aircraft were not available initially for this fire because they had been responded to fires on Yorke Peninsula. They returned to deal with the fire, together with additional aircraft, with eight eventually involved.

By the time, we got our truck crewed, mobile and on the fire ground, the fire was threatening properties in Port Lincoln. Fire trucks were responded from Brigades on Eyre Peninsula, up to about two hours away. I am not sure how many eventually arrived, but I would think about 25 trucks were on the fire ground by nightfall.

For the first five hours, we were involved with 'Asset Protection'. That meant moving to any house or shed immediately threatened by fire, to prevent fire becoming established. After about five hours, the fire's advance was stopped, and our task then changed to patrolling the fire perimeter, dealing with any fires which could allow the fire to spread into unburnt vegetation.

To the casual observer, the fire would have seemed to be 'out' after about five hours. The reality is that for several days, crews patrol the entire fire ground to locate and cool any smouldering stumps and other hot spots.

Some statistics from the fire are that the eight water bombers dropped about 150t of water on the fire, and the area burnt was about 250ha. The water bombers are generally the 'Air Tractor' turbo prop, fixed wing, crop spraying type. They have a payload of about 3t, and can be filled in less than five minutes. The CFS has an aircraft filling point at the Port Lincoln airport, with two filling points and the ability to have a third aircraft filling simultaneously if needed. The trucks we use are generally built on an 8t 4x4 dual cab Isuzu with a 3000lt water tank. A working area is located behind the truck cab, which provides an area for the crew to operate hoses on both sides. These 'crew decks' are very useful when chasing 'running' grass fires such as in crop paddocks. Some of the older trucks are single cab vehicles with a covered area on the back for the crew. Some of the older trucks have 2000lt tanks while some of the latest have a 4000lt water tank. A crew of 6 is the maximum, and three is probably the minimum a truck would leave the shed. With only three, a truck crew leader would be asking for other trucks to lend people boost their crew.

Since starting to write this, we have had a fire threatening Port Lincoln. The fire began mid-afternoon on the western side of the town, about 2km from the edge of town. Strong winds made the fire very difficult to control and the priority for fire trucks was 'Asset Protection', meaning defending houses and other structures.

Living at North Shields, 11km north of Port Lincoln, we weren't threatened by the fire, but our fire truck was responded to the fire. Brigades up to 2 hours away were also called, together with eight water bombing aircraft. I believe there were about 25 fire appliances eventually on the fire ground.

The fire's advance was eventually halted after five hours, and burning over 200ha. The long slow process of locating and cooling hot spots then began. It is still in progress a week later!

Thanks for your interest and cheers to everyone. Nick Armstrong"

**Derek Hinde** - "Thanks Paul, we have had some terrible fires here in **Forster, NSW Mid North Coast near Taree**. The closest one to my house was **500 meters away** and burnt bushland in adjoin streets and across Wallis Lake. The water firies were great...see photo. Lucky no homes lost here, however just north from here in Tuncurry and Rainbow Flat many homes were lost during the past 2 weeks. Lucky no lives lost here. Regards Derek Hinde. 2787403. NSM."



**Joe Molenkamp** – "G'day Paul, Thanks for your concern about the bush fire situation. I live on the mid-north coast of NSW at **Wauchope** {20k's inland from Port Macquarie} and the fires have been pretty devastating. A lot of homes and outbuildings have been lost but most stock has been saved. There was a real shortage of stock feed around before because of the drought so all feed now is carted here from interstate.

The smoke situation has been very bad...air quality has been up to 5 times over maximum health standards but today has actually cleared up some.... the fire danger has eased the lasted couple of days but still a lot of back burning going on to put in containment lines. It's pretty scary as summer isn't here yet and no decent rain forecast until February next year and still plenty of fuel around to burn. Can only hope for the best outcome! Cheers JOE."

**Mail Call...**

**David Pires** – "Thanks Paul,

Once again, a fantastic read (October's *Eyes & Ears*) and some great stories from many of the older fellows. All the best, Kind regards, David Pires"

**Keith Ayliffe** – "G'day Kev (Browning) would you mind forwarding Des Baily's Email address one of the many things I lost on the breakdown of my PC.

I am not going to make him happy but it is more than possible that he left on Qantas flight on 21 May 68. (not 12th.) from what I can find out 90% of RTA was completed on a Tuesday and I can find no records of a fly out for our people on the 12th which was unlikely because of Mother's Day in Australia and not a good look for soldiers coming from Viet.

Have spoken to a few people on flight and have unconfirmed reports of possibly two RAEME people on Board. still trying to confirm this. Now that I have My PC back I might have Det reports For April 68. There was no report for May. June would have been next report and with luck I may have that.

If you like you can forward this email onto Des so he realises I have not forgotten.

Regards, Keith"

**John Richmond** – "Hi Paul. Thanks for your email.

Little story to go with the day-

I am currently a member of the Executive of the Prostate Cancer Support Group ACT.

Our President was also born on the same date in also in the same year (1945). We consider that I am the elder as he was born in the UK.

All the best, John"

## Hello from RCB127 in Malaysia!

**Russ Hamsey** – sends us a very “Special” email –

“Gentlemen:

I have received permission to pass the following SITREP to you about 131 Bty’s adventures in Butterworth, Malaysia

This can be published in our association newsletters

Enjoy

Russ Hamsey

RW HAMSEY, MAJ, 2IC, 20th Regt RAA, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, QLD, 4051

UNCLASSIFIED

Sir, ladies and gentlemen,

Hello from hot, muggy, rainy Malaysia!

We are now past the half way month for our tour, and so I thought it pertinent to touch base and let you know how everyone is going. We have survived the heat, leeches, monkeys, jungle, snakes, scorpions and giant centipedes, and have met some fascinating people and had some fantastic experiences!

The first month of the tour was spent at Royal Malaysian Air Force Base Butterworth, near Penang in Northern Malaysia. We worked on our skills on the base before deploying to the jungle on a number of different exercises (Exercise Sik, Kulim and Gurun), where we enhanced our existing field skills and learnt plenty of new ones (turns out routine things are a LOT harder in the jungle). The jungle is a challenging environment to live and fight in, and all of our people stood up to the challenge with gusto! We have gained new weapon qualifications (84mm, 66mm, GLA, Mag 58) and participated in live fire activities that we wouldn’t normally have the opportunity to do (pairs, fire team and section attacks).

One of our platoons deployed on Exercise Bersama Lima, which was a combined exercise including soldiers from Malaysia, Singapore, UK, and New Zealand. This was a two-week activity that saw the platoon conduct skills training with the other nations, spend time on a Singaporean ship, and practise non-combatant evacuation operations. The conditions on this exercise were quite confronting for many people, but the opportunity to train with such a mixed group from other Defence Forces proved to be the highlight.

The company deployed to Pulada Army Base, which is in the very South of Malaysia. We have been staying at Camp Burma, which has been maintained and used by British and Australian soldiers for over 70 years. Here we have continued our weapon qualifications, range shoots and firepower demonstration, and in true Aussie style we have been playing plenty of sport and working off all of the lovely Malaysian food at PT! We have had some excellent engagement with the Malaysian Army in Pulada, including a very impressive demonstration of urban operations for the Young Officers Combat Course. We are looking forward to some more interaction with the Malaysians; although we have quite different cultures and backgrounds, it’s great to see that soldiers are the same across the world!

The company spent just over a week in Singapore where we were able to use some world class training facilities, including a custom built urban facility and an indoor live fire range complex. The program allowed some down-time, and we spent a couple of days exploring Singapore, and a day doing a history tour of some of the key locations from World War II.

We are now back in Pulada, and will be undergoing survival training over the next few days. The Malaysian Survival Training is world-renowned, so I’ve no doubt we will learn some very handy skills. The last month of the tour will see the company return to Butterworth where we will have a visit from the Commander of 6 Bde for Remembrance Day, and conduct some final adventure and leadership training before getting ready to return home.

It has been so fantastic to see everyone push themselves outside of their comfort zone and try new things. I am so proud to see some of our quieter members jumping in and taking charge, and to see the amazing level of teamwork and mateship amongst all members. Everyone is missing home, but overall, I hope they are enjoying the experience of living and training in a foreign country. Unfortunately, we have had a couple of our members return home due to medical and family reasons. They are missed here, but we are glad to know they are home safe where they need to be.

On behalf of RCB127, I send all my best back to everyone at home and hope all is going well as the year starts to wrap up. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

Warmest regards, Alex

MAJ Alexandra McDonald

Officer Commanding  
Rifle Company Butterworth 127  
Malaysia”



**RCB -  
Demo**

**RCB – Sic**



**RCB - Singapore**



**RCB – Soccer**



**RCB – Weapons**



**RCB - Zukov**

**RCB127 - Kulim**





## 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...

### Allan Harrison – “G'day Paul.

I wish I could report a successful caravan trip (my first) but alas not so.

We set out on Thurs last to attend a caravan driving and reversing course in Taree. That done we were heading back to a riverside campsite near Jackadgery. Approaching Coffs Harbour the gearbox gave out. NRMA flatbed carried my car with van in tow to my partner (Pam's) daughter's farm where we had agreed to feed her animals. Pam's car was there and she was to follow on to the NRMA depot where my car is maintained. On my arrival, she called to say that she had fallen in the dark and needed help. Fortunately, the NRMA mechanic was working late and drove me back to the farm where we found Pam with a broken arm and needing hospital help. Ambo called, off to hospital ER and they discharged her at 3am next morning. I am now her full time carer until she is able drive and look after herself again etc.

Now waiting with bated breath for the car repair estimate. 😞 Such is life. Allan.”

### Iain Kennedy – “Paul,

Good to hear from you. Good news after 15 months we have finally moved back into our new Knock down rebuild in Wantirna, Victoria. Still a lot to do, side fence and security doors happening today and so much more. Lay me down grass made getting garden looking Ok, quickly is not hard, but everything costs. Every time you make a payment on the house, or sneeze, you need to tell DVA. They are quick to take a \$1 away, but slow to give any back. As the most photographed locator 1968, you know I have a lot of pictures and trying to find spots to hang them up, that is acceptable to all. Is not easy, had to put some in the garage. Which is looking all the better for them (I must say). Also just had solar put on, the Victorian Government is giving a subsidy and along with the Federal government already contributing. Makes it worthwhile doing.

Still working but only for a reduced number of agencies. This year with the economy a bit on the tight side, revenue has been down and with the house, expenditure up. Next year will see that turn around. Changed my car again, I guess I'm just not a Mazda kind of guy. So back to a Merc again, this time in Mountain Grey. Coincidentally the same colour as my wife's. I've got to stop being a John Dellaca and stop buying cars every year. Last count over the years there has been approximately 47 cars and I'm not that old (really). Maybe an electric car will be the next option, or an E Bike?

I'll include a couple of photos for you, it will jog your memory, both of me at work and at play, as well as a couple of the house and tidy garage.

Hope we find you happy and health, enjoying another coffee. Reminds me, time for lunch.



Chat again soon.  
Regards,  
Iain Kennedy.”

**Bruce Irvine** – “Hi Paul,

All good here and ready for Remembrance Day next week. Still a bit cool but yes, spring is a lovely time and warming up.

Sounds like a good trip you're on. Hendersonville was Roy Orbison's hometown for many years - bit of useful trivia just in case you didn't know!!

Enjoy your stay. Bruce”

**Russ Hamsey** – “Paul, I finally have a moment to sit down and write. The few weeks have been very busy. Deb and I returned from our overseas trip. It took 11 days in Portugal, 11 days in Morocco and four days in Hong Kong to recover from a four-day family wedding in Canada. It is good to be Australian.

The Regt is undergoing some change. First, the RSM, Kym Fox has retired. He received the job offer that really sets his family up well for the next several years. Too good to pass by. Reece Hay will replace him; a very passionate man about the Regt. We are also going through a change of command. Rod Lang is headed to Canberra. He is being replaced by LTCOL Wade Cooper. I took Cooper to Iraq in 2005, when he was a LT. Back then I was very impressed by him and expect he will command the Regt very well.

131 Bty is in Butterworth Malaysia at the moment. They have done very well over there jungle training and a lot of light infantry stuff. Excellent training for the junior NCOs. 132 Bty is in Wide Bay flying for the next few weeks.

I give up my position as 2IC soon to lead a small team to prepare the Regt for \$400M in new kit to replace Shadow.

Recently, the Head of Regt (RAA) announces the intent to acquire Weapon Locating Radar again and house it in 20 Regt. So, we may end up with another Bty in a few more years. We could be looking at a unit of 400-450 people!

As I said earlier, it has been a busy few weeks and looks to remain busy for a while yet.

Good to hear all is well with you. Take good care and talk to you again soon

Russ Hamsey”

**Ron Mason** – “Hi Paul, will get a bit of a story about our trip to the Birdsville races eventually, in the meantime a comment about an item in Vol12 #10 *Eyes & Ears*. Was just looking through that volume, saw a picture & thought - that's Jock White! Then read the note that someone thought it might be a Brit, so that fitted. Has anyone else commented.

How is the travelling in the US going?

All for the minute Paul. Typing on my phone is not the best way to put a long email together. Remembrance Day over and done, being the MC for the day is not my place by choice - sometimes you can't dodge the short straw.

Regards and good travelling, Ron”

**Tony Goldsmith** – “Hey Paul. Good to hear from you as usual.

Winter woollies didn't see much daylight and now it's hot and smoky. Thank goodness for A/C.

The road trip sounds great, I loved driving in the US - great roads good speed limits (I was probably the only one who stuck to them), great hotels, great breakfasts, great scenery. All in all, you could say that we had a GREAT trip. Loved our last one cruising around the Greek Islands - came back about half a stone heavier.

Received another pin type medal depicting that I had served in Defence Forces, which I proudly stuck in my coat that I took away with me. Get back home and can't find it. Mystery?? Anyway, got on line to DVA and I see that I can get a range of pins etc - (need a bigger coat!)

Everything else is pretty much the same. Grand kids to school- grandkids home - Chris helps with homework - Grand kids go to their home - Friday night family dinner - Gardening Saturday - Bacon & eggs breakfast Sunday - Then back to Grand kids to school Monday. God!! what a boring life. I think I need a holiday.

Well - apparently, I've got more washing to hang out and then I get lunch - (sounds like a deal). Tony”

**Peter Meaney** – “Hello Paul,

Thanks for keeping in touch.

Annie and myself are choofing along nicely at present and we hope this continues.

Your trip to the USA went well by all accounts, very adventurous I would have thought.

Personal safety can be an issue on road trips, as we know, but you managed to avoid any “nasties”, which is good.

In August, we visited our son and his family in Darwin, which was great.

I am still in contact with a number of 131ers from the 69/70 era - it's always good to catch up in person - they are all solid citizens and genuine friends.

I keeping being involved with “Meals on Wheels”.

Thanks again for keeping in touch and stay healthy.

Regards, Peter Meaney.”

## A Fond Memory...

**Ernie Newbold** – “G’day Allen & Grahame,

I have scanned the memorial brochure “A life well lived” from Warwick’s Memorial Service so that we have a digital copy. Regards, Ernie.”



*“Blue Leader heading for the wild blue yonder”*

*“Warwick leaves to all of us the privilege of having known him  
and the gift of our memories of him.”*

Representing the 131 Locators Assn. on the day were: **Barry Guzder**, **Geoff Blackwell**, **Vaughn Millar**, **John Blake**, **Roger McDonnell** and a few Sydney locals, **Tim Ford**, **Allen Morley**, **Grahame Dignam**, **Victor Danko** and **Ernest Newbold**.

### Allen Morley –

#### **Celebration for Warwick Hamilton: Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery, OC 1967-68**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November, the life of Warwick Hamilton was celebrated at the Sergeants’ Mess, Chowder Bay, Sydney.

Warwick’s former 131 soldiers attended to pay our respects to our much-admired Blue Leader.

**Barry Guzder** travelled from Perth, **Geoff Blackwell** from Adelaide, **John Blake** from Brisbane, **Vaughan ‘Mitch’ Millar** from Melbourne and **Roger McDonnell** from Newcastle. The Sydney-based former 131 attendees were **Tim Ford**, also a former Detachment OC, **Grahame Dignam**, **Victor Danko**, **Ernie Newbold** and **Allen Morley**.



Those present heard about Warwick’s Duntroon time plus that in Nui Dat and some of his more recent army and civilian adventures.

**Frank Lehman** was a contemporary of Warwick’s at Duntroon. But many of us thought he was in fact Grahame Dignam’s long lost twin. Judge for yourself from the photo.

The time of the event passed quickly and all those present learnt much more about Warwick than had previously been known.



We heard from Warwick’s brother Peter, his sister, Toni. Warwick’s daughter Chandra, son Iain and granddaughter Jorja (see photo), who painted Warwick as the clever and adventurous child, then family man and special grandpa.

Allen Morley

On behalf of ALL Locators, we would sincerely like to thank Kate Moppett (Warwick's partner) and the rest of Warwick's family for organising such a wonderful service to celebrate the life of Warwick Hamilton. Again, **Ernie Newbold** felt that during and after the service he was reminded of Rudyard Kipling's poem "If". The poem seems to reflect Warwick's life and character so well.  
**...here are a couple of verses –**

*If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
 To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
 And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
 Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'*

*If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
 With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
 Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
 And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!*

**Warwick Brooker** – "Many thanks, Ernie.

Great memorial brochure with a very interesting history of Warwick's life and exploits. He certainly lived a very adventurous and fulfilling life and will be sadly missed by many. R.I.P. Warwick.  
 With best wishes to all, Brookey."

**Please Note that the memorial brochure is now posted on the 131 Locators Association website under the "Notice Board" heading. It is a fascinating read of a great character.**

## From the Advocate's Desk...

Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

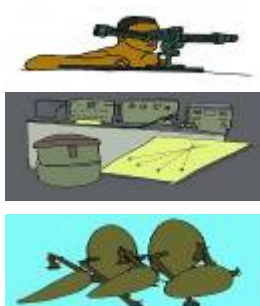
**Peter Pioro JP** - email contact: [piorowp@ozemail.com.au](mailto:piorowp@ozemail.com.au)

**Ken Foster OAM JP** - email contact:

[khfoster1@bigpond.com](mailto: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.



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>

# 131 Locators Association Inc. – Annual General Meeting



## President's Report for FY 2018 – 2019

I am pleased to be able to present the President's Report for the financial year 2018-2019. This period represents our eighth full-year of operation and overall shows a developed growth in most aspects of the Association's activities. The Association remains financial, viable and, sustainable for the foreseeable future as the financial report illustrates. The ageing of our members remains as our limiting factor. Many of the early Nashos have celebrated their 73<sup>rd</sup> birthdays and others will do so within a year or two. Contact with those who served in the Detachment and those who served at Holsworthy remains incomplete, although there has been some success with new contacts in the past year.

The Association website, [www.131locators.org.au](http://www.131locators.org.au) continues to provide both a web presence and a defined identity. During the reporting period, external access to the website has grown quite significantly. Bob Billiards has continued as our Webmaster, providing an essential role in doing so, and has been ably supported by Bert Blink. Thank you, Bob and Bert.

The site statistics are regularly reported in *Eyes and Ears* and demonstrate the ongoing interest in our activities. The international list of countries where searches of each *Eyes and Ears* edition are made represents a real scattering. *Eyes and Ears*, under the editorial overview of Paul Dickson, appears monthly, and still delivers editions of 18-20 pages. I believe that together the size and frequency are major measures of our Association's success. Members' contributions illustrate that we are recording more of relevance from our military past for both history and information. The June 2019 edition was the 130<sup>th</sup> in the new series.

A range of other activities, meetings, reunions and events were part of the year's program.

Highlights for 2018-2019 were:

- . A further twelve editions of *Eyes and Ears*; extremely well done Dicko and your enthusiasm is infectious. A sincere thanks to all of our contributors for stories, photos and some history, without which we would have a very thin monthly newsletter
- . Production and publication of 5 locator profiles; we would appreciate more being submitted to assist our recording of 131 history
- . At the end of June 2019 there were 132 members of the Association together with 37 lapsed for some reason. This represents a slow decline in membership. regular Committee meetings to manage the Association and the involvement of Regional Representatives to help spread the load
- . National Anzac Day march attendances and social follow up in each State

A special mention for those Committee members who made things happen for the Association. Bert Blink continued in the role of Vice-President and is generous of his time in attending our Committee meetings, driving from Canberra each month. That is, unless a meeting falls on his birthday.

Grahame Dignam, Treasurer/Secretary, has been the 'adhesive' for the Association's financial arrangements, records and operation of the membership database. Grahame also took on the Public Officer responsibilities. Ernie Newbold, Nick Proskurin other Committee Members, Ian Amos, George Lane, Merv Nairn, Gordon Malcolm and Ged Carroll are all acknowledged for their ongoing involvement and support.

Our regional representatives provided local overview and contributed to our planning program. I thank Bert Blink (ACT and doubling up as Vice-President), Al Adams (Vic), Geoff Blackwell (SA), Barry Guzder (WA), Stuart Sporn (NT), Terry Erbs (QLD) and forward scouts in rural Victoria, Ron Mason and Rieny Nieuwenhof, for their collective contribution. A note of appreciation to our Honorary Auditor, Jim Fitzgerald, for again keeping us on the financial straight and narrow.

Sadly, the names of more of our number have now been etched onto the Association Honour Roll. Lest we forget them.

Allen Morley  
October 2019

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 131 Locators Association Inc.

Held at Canley Heights RSL at 11.00 A.M. on 12th November 2019.

**Attendees were:** Ernest Newbold, Grahame Dignam, John Blake, Merv Nairn, Bert Blink, Allen Morley, Ged Carroll, Geoff Cowgill, Terry Westerway, Vic Danko, Gordon Malcolm and Ian Amos,

**Apologies were received from:** Paul Dickson, Bob Billiards, Nick Proskurin George Lane, State Reps and Jim Fitzgerald.

The meeting began at 11.05 AM. chaired by President Allen Morley

. **President Allen Morley** welcomed those who had travelled to be with us to-day with special mentions for John Blake Qld, Geoff Cowgill, Mittagong and VP Bert Blink.

. **The Election of office-bearers for the 2018/19 year.**

Allen Morley declared all positions vacant and election proceeded.

The Chair was handed to **Grahame Dignam** during this portion of the meeting.

Nominations for the positions of **President (Allen Morley)**, **Vice President (Bert Blink)**, **Public Officer (Gordon Malcolm)** and **Secretary/Treasurer (Grahame Dignam)** were received and as all were prepared to stand again and were unopposed were duly elected for the new term.

The committee namely **George Lane, Ged Carroll, Ian Amos, Bob Billiards, Merv Nairn, Ern Newbold and Nick Proskurin** also elected to run again as a group and also being unopposed were duly elected for the new term.

The chair of the meeting was passed back to the new **President-elect Allen Morley** for the balance of the meeting. The regional Representatives who were appointed and are not elected and so continue in their roles.

President-elect Allen Morley expressed his appreciation to **Paul Dickson** especially, for his continued efforts in publishing the *Eyes & Ears* regularly. Mr. Morley also expressed his appreciation for the committee who actively assisted during the busy year.

**Appointment of Auditor: Jim Fitzgerald** has indicated that he would be available to act as Auditor for the Association for the 2019/2020 financial year.

**Statement of the Association to the Dept of Fair Trading:** Completion of the report required by the Dept of Fair Trading under section 49 of the Act was tabled regarding the operation of the association and our ability to continue operations as required by Constitution was tabled. Payment of costs to cover this item was proposed.

**Meeting closed at 11.20AM AEST.**

...continuation with the 131 Locators Association General meeting -



### . **Upcoming Events Calendar –**

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 10th December, 2019 at 1100hrs  
Venue: Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd., Wakeley.

Ph (02) 9604 9975 and for directions - <http://www.canleyheightsrsl.com.au/contact-us/> You're all welcome

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 at 1121hrs...

**Attendees were:** Ernest Newbold, Grahame Dignam, John Blake, Merv Nairn, Bert Blink, Allen Morley, Ged Carroll, Geoff Cowgill, Terry Westerway, Vic Danko, Gordon Malcolm and Ian Amos.

**Welcome: Chairman President Allen Morley** welcomed those travellers from afar - **John Blake**, QLD: **Geoff Cowgill**, Mittagong and **Bert Blink** ACT. He then opened the meeting and thanked all those most recently re-elected committee members and thanked them for their generous nature and continued service.

**Financial Membership** is currently ...119, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 9. Total 130. Lapsed 38 members

### **Presidents report.**

131ers

**Thanks** - Yesterday the 131 Committee was sort of re-elected without rancour. But, we now have a new Catering Officer - thanks **Ged (Carroll)** - and a new Public Officer - thanks **Gordon (Malcolm)**.

Personally, I want to thank all for the contributions made this year. The 131 Locators association continues to progress, albeit in small steps.

I extend special appreciation to stalwarts **Grahame Dignam** and **Bert Blink**, and of course to **Ed** all those miles away. However, all of you should take a bow for what you did to help and contribute. Thank you for the confidence in electing me as President. I will try to live up to your expectations. Regards, Allen

Allen also advised that -

. Work on the DVA Grant had been put on hold due to other pressing issues.

. He had been advised that his protracted claim will be reviewed in the short term hopefully with a better outcome but has his fingers crossed.

. Kevin Browning has submitted his position paper to the Honours and Awards board on the exclusion of Det 131 DLB from being included in the UCG nomination group. This is a fresh approach from those previously submitted and provides examples to support his argument for inclusion of the Det. in the Award. We wish him success.

**Public Officer Report (G Dignam)** - The new Public officer **Gordon Malcolm** will take the reins from to-day however there are no other changes or developments that will have any effect on our association that I am aware of.

**Health.** See Presidents report above.

. **Terry Westerway** reported that he had 5 disc removed and is feeling ok anyway.

. **Merv Nairn** provided a report on his new hearing aids which he advised were excellent but they were provided by his audio supplier not the DVA.

A reminder that the Federal Government initiative "the Australian Defense Veterans covenant" has been passed into law. Designed to increase awareness and appreciation for those who served their nation it also provides for discounts from various vendors around the country.

**Photo Album Project.** Ernest Newbold is awaiting a reply from **Ted Jux** regarding his promised contribution to the project.

**General Business.** Discussions ensued on the following:

. A suggestion that a donation to the RAAHC to support the restoration of the unique 12 Pounder (Armstrong) gun would be very gladly accepted. A close contact and association member has advised the work is being undertaken at Werribee Vic. The project had been moving along steadily but has lately stalled due to a lack of funds. A donation of \$600 was moved and the motion was carried.

**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...December –

| Date | Name                  | Regt No | YOB  | SVN In     | SVN Out    | Comments           |
|------|-----------------------|---------|------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1    | DAVID DOUGHERTY       | 2786594 | 1946 | 17 01 1968 | 04 02 1969 |                    |
| 1    | KEVEN BUSH            | 3792069 | 1946 | 18 02 1968 | 21 02 1969 |                    |
| 1    | NEVILLE SMITH         | 1734352 | 1946 | 01 07 1969 | 25 03 1970 |                    |
| 3    | RAYMOND MINNS         | 4410744 | 1941 | 20 05 1966 | 28 02 1967 | † 24.05.97         |
| 3    | CLIVE DREIS           | 2785766 | 1945 | 05 02 1968 | 03 12 1968 |                    |
| 6    | ALAN ROBB             | 5715343 | 1946 | 29 01 1968 | 21 01 1969 |                    |
| 7    | ANTHONY O'MARA        | 38334   | 1940 | 15 03 1968 | 18 03 1969 | RAEME † 01.01.85   |
| 7    | TERRY WESTERWAY       | 215818  | 1945 | 04 05 1966 | 07 05 1967 |                    |
| 8    | ROBERT WHITE          | 311537  | 1937 | 22 04 1966 | 16 05 1967 | † 1992             |
| 9    | ANDREW OPIE 2Lt.      | 43611   | 1944 | 04 05 1966 | 06 01 1967 |                    |
| 10   | HANS WEBER            | 3789591 | 1945 | 04 05 1967 | 02 04 1968 | † 12.07.16         |
| 12   | MICHAEL DAVIS         | 4720736 | 1948 | 20 01 1970 | 30 01 1971 |                    |
| 12   | CHRISTOPHER BRAZIER   | 2792185 | 1948 | 24 02 1970 | 25 02 1971 |                    |
| 13   | JOHN STANFORD         | 217765  | 1949 | 29 01 1969 | 21 01 1970 |                    |
| 13   | LAURENCE D'ARCY       | 215649  | 1945 | 04 03 1968 | 04 02 1969 | 12 Fd Regt.        |
| 13   | " "                   | 215649  | 1945 | 20 05 1971 | 05 08 1971 | 131                |
| 14   | PETER FLETCHER        | 2783429 | 1945 | 04 05 1967 | 12 12 1967 |                    |
| 14   | CHRISTOPHER SELF      | 66981   | 1949 | 1969       | 1970       | † UNKNOWN          |
| 14   | THOMAS KING           | 1411018 | 1937 | 12 12 1966 | 12 12 1967 |                    |
| 15   | GEOFFREY PRICE        | 5715931 | 1947 | 08 05 1969 | 25 02 1970 |                    |
| 16   | PHILLIP PERRIN Capt.  | 53105   | 1936 | 29 01 1968 | 21 01 1969 |                    |
| 17   | TONY. GOLDSMITH       | 1732029 | 1945 | 04 05 1967 | 12 12 1967 |                    |
| 18   | JIM HOGNO             | 2783680 | 1945 | 03 01 1967 | 27 09 1967 |                    |
| 18   | TOM CHECKLEY          | 311534  | 1938 | 22 04 1966 | 05 08 1966 | † 05.08.66 KBA     |
| 19   | GEOFF BLACKWELL       | 4718307 | 1945 | 20 06 1967 | 21 05 1968 |                    |
| 19   | PETER GAULT           | 2783644 | 1945 | 04 05 1967 | 27 09 1967 | † 24.05.14         |
| 19   | ALLAN BENSLEY         | 243104  | 1944 | 04.06.68   | 18.06.69   | † 20.12.11         |
|      | " "                   |         |      | 20.01.70   | 30.01.71   |                    |
| 19   | RODNEY BEASLEY        | 3797746 | 1948 | 04 03 1971 | 05 08 1971 |                    |
| 19   | MICHAEL FERRIS        | 1733794 | 1945 | 23 12 1968 | 28 03 1969 | 1st Armoured Regt. |
|      | " "                   |         |      | 30 03 1969 | 03 12 1969 | 131-RAEME          |
| 21   | ROBERT RETROT         | 1731922 | 1945 | 05 05 1967 | 30 01 1968 |                    |
| 21   | MICHAEL BOYLE Lt.     | 217004  | 1946 | 17 02 1970 | 11 02 1971 |                    |
| 21   | BLAIR SHEPPARD        | 1735563 | 1948 | 01 04 1970 | 04 03 1971 |                    |
| 22   | JOHN MCGREGOR         | 3787376 | 1945 | 20 05 1966 | 30 04 1967 |                    |
| 22   | MICHAEL BURGESS Capt. | 242895  | 1938 | 24 03 1968 | 26 03 1969 | RAEME              |
| 22   | PETER MEANEY          | 4719804 | 1947 | 03 06 1969 | 25 03 1970 |                    |
| 22   | RONALD RYAN           | 2793176 | 1948 | 19 08 1970 | 09 06 1971 |                    |
| 24   | RON. EVANS            | 3789614 | 1945 | 04 05 1967 | 20 02 1968 |                    |
| 25   | STEWART McALPINE      | 2787471 | 1946 | 08 07 1968 | 04 06 1969 |                    |
| 25   | ROBERT HOLDSWORTH     | 3793058 | 1945 | 04 01 1969 | 03 12 1969 | AACC               |

|    |                           |         |      |            |            |            |
|----|---------------------------|---------|------|------------|------------|------------|
| 25 | <b>PETER BREMNER</b>      | 1734544 | 1947 | 16 04 1969 | 16 04 1970 |            |
| 26 | <b>CHRIS BOULLY</b>       | 4717884 | 1945 | 17 04 1967 | 12 12 1967 |            |
| 26 | <b>DAVID BILLINGS</b>     | 2793071 | 1946 | 19 08 1970 | 05 05 1971 | 4 Fd Regt. |
| 28 | <b>GEOF. MACAULAY WO2</b> | 35753   | 1936 | 27 11 1969 | 05 11 1970 | † 27.04.13 |
| 28 | <b>LIONEL OUTEN</b>       | 1732195 | 1945 | 05 05 1967 | 30 01 1968 |            |
| 28 | <b>JOHN MARTIN Lt.</b>    | 43613   | 1941 | 25 02 1968 | 21 02 1969 |            |
| 29 | <b>BRIAN HAWKEY</b>       | 1200572 | 1946 | 20 05 1966 | 29 04 1967 | AACC       |

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

Ed – 9 blokes not highlighted is a reasonable result – depending on your meaning of “reasonable” – it’s still not a great result! So we still have a way to go. Can we start raiding the internet or whatever?

. **Locator Profiles** – we’ve received **160** and we’ve sent out **160**. Ed – we’re waiting for the next 10! Time is ticking away.

. **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 | DOB      | DOD      | Served                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|------------------------|
| Wertheimer, Peter William OAM RFD | 355747  | 06.11.41 | 23.11.19 | 132Div Loc Bty 1960-68 |

Peter Bruce, Obituary Resource Officer, RAAHC sent us the following -

“Doug Perry has advised me of the following, for our information.

It is my sad duty to advise of the passing of Captain Peter William WERTHEIMER OAM RFD who died at 1936 hrs on Saturday 23 November at the age of 78 years after a short battle with cancer. At the time of passing, he was surrounded by his immediate family and his pet dog Sadie.

Peter was a well know Reserve Officer who served with 10 MDM Regt, 2/15 Fd Regt and 132 Div Loc Bty. He is survived by his partner of 25 years Christine Taplin and his three daughters Sally, Sue and Viv.

His civilian career with AMP saw him as manager for AMP in Shepparton, Geelong and Frankston, which in turn saw him parade at Geelong, Colac, Brighton and St Kilda. Following his success at AMP he resigned to enter a manufacturing business associated with carpet laying in which he achieved significant financial success.

During his active Reserve service and his subsequent inactive Reserve service he was a mentor to many both Regular and Reserve and is fondly remembered by all who served with him. Throughout his adult life he supported the entire defence community and in 2008 was awarded OAM for his support of the DRA and the Defence Community and in particular his stewardship of the annual Reserve Forces Day commemorations.

Peter was associated with Freemasonry for over 50 years of which a large part was with the USI lodge of Melbourne. Following his retirement to Paynesville he joined the Paynesville RSL Club which was in a parlous state and with his “salesman’s skills” took the membership from 18 to 280 and transformed the building and grounds into one of the best in Victoria if not Australia.

Peter Bruce, Obituary Resource Officer, RAAHC, [pjbruce8@bigpond.net.au](mailto:pjbruce8@bigpond.net.au)



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](mailto: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*



Australian Artillery Association – [www.australianartilleryassociation.com](http://www.australianartilleryassociation.com)



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

[www.artilleryhistory.org](http://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](http://www.at-ease.dva.gov.au)

## . 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 83<sup>rd</sup> 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>



**The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association**

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

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