

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



Seasons Greetings
to all of our
readers



Thanks for sharing
the last 12 months
with us –
Here's to 2020.

. The “Lost Locator Project”

Ed – The Project continues on relentlessly, so, we need to be vigilant and keep our minds 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



active

. 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

. FIRE HAZARDS CONTINUE –

Terry Bruce –

“Paul, thank you for your concern.

The answer to your question is: **yes!**



We have been experiencing a threat from the Green Wattle Creek fire for about seven days now. It's currently well over 100,000 hectares in size, and growing. It started in the Burragorang valley to our west and eventually crossed Lake Burragorang (behind the Warragamba dam). Once on this side of the lake it climbed the escarpment and headed east (towards us).

Thus, far we have been lucky, this time (as opposed to the 2001 bush fire that hit our property) as, even though it came in our direction, our property has not experienced any direct flame impingement (even though some of our neighbours have, losing fences, outbuildings, etc.) although we've experienced some ember attack. There is still some fire in the area, with one fire presently burning in the gully/creek at the rear of the property so is still a threat. That said, we are hoping that, in the current cooler conditions, the fire will slowly move further along the creek and remove a lot of the accumulated fuel (sticks, leaves, fallen trees, etc.) thus giving us an element of protection for the coming summer.

My son Scott's property (about six kilometres north of us on Silverdale Road) also escaped direct flame impingement but suffered a very high intensity ember attack as the fire was close by, in fact it was contained on the property immediately across Silverdale Road from his.

Last Friday afternoon we witnessed a spectacular air attack on the fire, about 250 metres or so from our western property boundary, by water bombing aircraft, including a DC10, Hercules, RJ85 (four engine jet) and several spotter aircraft. That morning Scott and I witnessed a multi-helicopter water bombing attack on a component of the fire from Scott's property, at a similar distance.

Suffice to say that we are not out of the woods yet, but we believe that we are in the as good a position as we can be to defend ourselves from approaching fire. My son Craig is currently living on the property with his family and between us we believe we've set up sufficient pumps, hose lays, etc. and that we have enough water on hand in the dams on the property to support our firefighting efforts. Craig, Scott and I have amassed a good deal of experience in firefighting with our involvement in the RFS (in my case 30 years) so I feel that this experience, combined with our preparedness and being well supported by our better halves, will assist us in our endeavours in defending our properties. Conversely to my above reference to having sufficient dam water for firefighting, due to the drought we are currently having to get water deliveries to our house tank about every fortnight or so, whereas in a 'normal' period we would capture sufficient rain water to fulfil our needs both for the houses and in the dams for stock water.

Living in a semi-rural environment, as we do, has many benefits such as peace and quiet, privacy, abundant wildlife, a great place for our kids to play originally and now for our grand kids, but it does have some downsides including the occasional bush fire, lack of a reticulated water supply, wombats fighting under the house and so forth.

I hope this e-mail goes some way toward making up for my slackness in not replying to your two previous e-mails but, in this case at least, I have something worthwhile to tell you about.

I trust you are keeping well. All the best to you and Helen for the upcoming Christmas and New Year period.

I'll keep you updated as to our circumstances.

Regards, Terry"

...an update from Terry received on 27.12.19...

"I trust you had a safe and satisfying Christmas.

Just by way of an update on our current bushfire situation, things are relatively quiet in our area currently, although the Green Wattle Creek fire has done considerable damage to villages further south, including Buxton, Balmoral and Thirlmere, among others. The fire has now covered an area of over 218,000 hectares and extends northward as far as Silverdale and Warragamba.

There has been extensive helicopter water bombing of the fire that remained in the gully behind our property and it appears that this has been successful. However, the occasional smoke sighting may indicate that there is still some active fire in the gully that is waiting for the right conditions to flare up.

I want to mention the generosity of people from the local area and further afield in donating drinks, food, gloves and funds to the RFS and in particular to our brigade which was a forward staging point for a considerable period of time, supporting personnel and their equipment from various agencies including NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW Fire and rescue, SES, NPWS and so forth.

I've attached a photo (see below) showing some of the donations received, taken from the brigade Facebook page.



This particular donation of food, water, gloves, etc. was received from the employees of a company situated at Casula (near Liverpool) and I'm sure the majority of the employees live even further towards Sydney, i.e. well away from the fire activity.

A truly wonderful gesture.

The photo (from left) happens to include me (Brigade President) Jeremy (Brigade Captain and neighbour) Lucy (new brigade member who has received a lot of firefighting experience in a relatively short time) and Rod (Deputy Captain) as well as our Category 1 and Category 2 tankers.

As I mentioned previously, because of my knee problems I am currently classed as 'inactive' so I haven't taken part in any direct firefighting activity during the recent period. However, with physio, exercise and, if necessary another operation, I am hopeful of a recovery that will enable me to become 'active' once again in the not too distant future.

Nevertheless, whilst there is no doubt that a hot and dry summer is still ahead of us, it would appear that the worst has passed for us in the local area, as far as this fire goes, at least for the time being. However, as I mentioned previously we believe that we have the property as prepared as we can for any eventuality.

All the best to you and Helen. I'll be in touch. Terry"

**The "wonderful gesture" as you state is a small token of the public's appreciation of the RFS.
Terry – our thoughts continue to be with you, Judy and family. Paul**



The DC-10 Very Large Airtanker, nicknamed Southern Belle, holds almost 44,000 litres of water, which it can drop at the speed of 280km/h

'Mega fire' filmed climbing up cliff over 200 metres high in NSW Blue Mountains.

The relentless Gospers Mountain "mega blaze" has been filmed crawling up the soaring cliffs of the Grose Valley in the Blue Mountains, which reaches heights of over 200 metres.



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

These two photos have been extracted from **Ian Finlay's** archives. Now, even I can have a guess at a couple of them – "Feb 1967", interesting – still in Aus? It also raises the question as to where and what were this lot up to?



Let's call the above one #A and the one at left #2.

. Now to more guesses for November's photo

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?



Ok, here was **Allen Morley's** tentative guess – ?? ??, Hans Webber, maybe Geoff Wood, Ian Amos and Terry Bruce.

Then we proceed with more -

Gordon Malcolm – “Paul, just so you know, the blokes in the photo on page 4 of latest edition are: -
L to R: **Alan MacDonald**, the late **Frank Pepper**, **Ken Jones**, **Ian Amos** and me, **Gordon Malcolm**, sitting as usual.
Gordon”

Murray Smale – Thanks and have a great Christmas

“Hi Paul, have meant to thank you many times over for your efforts in producing the Locator Newsletter, wishing you and all a Very merry Christmas.

As a side issue the mystery photo is one of mine, and features **Alan McDonald**, **Frank Pepper**, can't remember next in line and I should, then **Ian Amos** and **Gordon Malcolm** seated.

This was taken pre-FSB Coral in Bravo Radar Lines. Regards, Murray Smale”

OK, well, we can tick that one off – thanks fellas.

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.



“Boys and their NOW Toys” – “what am I driving now?”

This topic came out of a discussion with **Allen Morley**, then the following communication with -

Ernie Newbold - G'day Paul, somewhere I must have some photos of my earlier cars but I'll need time to find them. Much easier now in the era of digital photography I can file them on the computer and just need to ask the computer to find them for me.

When I was at Holsworthy I owned a “Morris Major Elite” a good car at the time but I wouldn't want to go back there now. It had a heater and windscreen washer as standard equipment, but drum brakes and rather ordinary suspension. British or Australian made cars were much more popular in those days. Ernie”

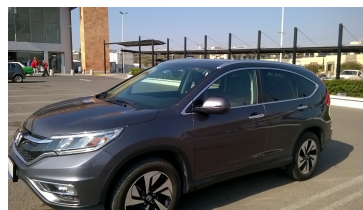
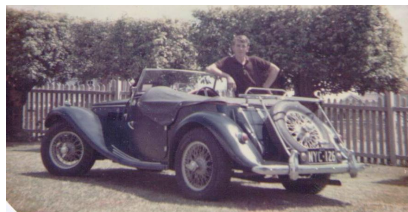
Then as a follow-on from the email I sent out in December re: “Boys and their NOW TOYS” – “Something has clicked in the old “grey matter” as to “TOYS” and “BOYS”.

So, now I ask the question as to **“What TOYS are we driving now?”**

C'mon does the “watchamacallit” you're driving now compare favourably to that '60's/'70's machine you drove around then?

A comparison yarn and a photo would be good to back it up? It'll make an interesting read in January's *Eyes & Ears*. Look forward to hearing from you. Paul.”

Here's my transition from an MG TF 1.5L 1954 model I had in 1966 (sold it on Conscription) to a fairly suburban 2015 Honda CRV AWD which I have now in 2019.



“OK, the Honda's an AWD (I'm not sure why – it just came that way!), it's 4 years old, it's comfy, fuel efficient, can carry a fair amount with the back seats down – we took advantage of this on our recent road trip back from the US. A skylight isn't the same as a soft top. Hey, but it's automatic with aircon and GPS. I wouldn't mind renting the “oldy” just for a weekend, but don't ask me to cope with twin SU's. Paul”

Ok, now that we've covered my transition (mind you with a few others in between – actually, I think I've had about 13 cars over time!), let's get into your diversions – hear from you soon?

Well, the responses have started and there are some classics – January is going to be fun!

. The 131 Locators Association is commencing a new section on their web site under the heading –

“Veterans Retreats”.

It will canvass and include Retreats, which will include various types of accommodations (Retreats, Hotels, Camp/Caravan grounds etc) that have an orientation for Veterans Australia wide.

So, if any of you have establishments that you have stayed at, or have been told about, send the details in and we'll record them. Plus, we can add comments re: your experiences etc.

Here's a starting point –

Veterans Retreats -

Victoria:

. Macarthur

“Cockatoo Rise War Veterans Retreat”

26 High St., Macarthur, Victoria
(Western Districts between Port Fairy and Hamilton)

Bookings (essential): Contact
Greg on 0409 418 332 or
cockatoorise@wideband.net.au

The Retreat is housed in a 156-year-old blue stone hotel, which won't be in use as a hotel – just a retreat.

The facilities to house and accommodate veterans and

their partners offering in-house rooms – great if you don't have a caravan. The Retreat Museum has room to display the wonderful collection of memorabilia collected over the years.

We look forward to meeting new Veteran Friends and welcoming back those who have stayed or visited our old location in Starsfield in the past.



Please send your responses to me - Paul Dickson – 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. Rieny Nieuwenhof – “Hi Dicko,

In early November, ex-members of the 131 DLB (1970-71) gathered, with partners, in the nation's capital Canberra for our annual get together. Hosted by Canberrans **Peter and Fran Saint**, the group arrived from far away to enjoy the Canberra attractions and catch up on the latest life experiences.

Joe Molenkamp and wife **Teena** were unable to join us this year because Joe, the rev-head, fell off his motorbike and did some serious damage to his head and shoulder. He is recovering slowly in Wauchope. For the rest of the group **Mick ('Butts') Butler**, **Les Falkai**, **John ('JJ') Jaggard** and yours truly **Rieny ('Van') Nieuwenhof** arrived in one piece. It is to be noted that except for John and I, all the other guys were in the Survey section. The survey guys lived in fashionable accommodation whilst in SVN, while the Arty Intel guys lived in tented premises across the road. There is a story there!! All visitors stayed in the Adobe motel in Gungahlin and gathered for our first night at Peter and Fran's place for dinner. It was good to catch up and it seemed only a short time ago that we had met in Swan Hill. The stories just got more exaggerated!

A visit to the National War Memorial Museum was enlightening as we were guided through the Korean, Vietnam and later conflicts exhibits. Our guide was a little nervous because we knew a lot more about the Vietnam War than he did, but we kept our personal insights low key.

During the week, we visited Cockington on Green, a cruise on Lake Burley Griffin, followed by fish and chips at “Snapper”, a visit to old Parliament House and the iconic Canberra round-a-bouts, marvellous traffic management system!

The girls also enjoyed each other's company John's **Vicki**, Butt's **Michelle**, Peter's **Fran** and Les (long suffering) **Helen**. My wife **Gaye** was unable to be with us.

The gathering was again memorable and very enjoyable. We hope to meet again in 2020 in a venue to be determined. Regards, Rieny”



L- R: Mick Butler, Rieny Nieuwenhof, Les Falkai, Peter Saint, John Jaggard. (Absent Joe Molenkamp)



Vicki Jaggard, Fran Saint, Helen Falkai, Michelle Butler, John Jaggard, Pete Saint, Les Falkai, Rieny Nieuwenhof and Mick Butler.



Hilton Holloway – “Hi Paul

It has been quite a while since I have been in touch but I have something that may be of interest to *Eyes & Ears* readers. It is also a major 'brag' on my part!

My son, **Adam**, wrote a book about our family's involvement in World War I. My grandfather, his two brothers and eight of their cousins all enlisted. The book called 'Duty Nobly Done' was launched on Remembrance Day 2018. The book has been selected for the Army's Professional Military Education Reading List.

Adam received advice from the Chief of Staff, Land Warfare Centre, Kokoda Barracks, Canungra, that 'Duty Nobly Done' was selected as the Royal Military College - Australia ('RMC-A') contribution to the Forces Command ('FORCOMD') 'Reading List' for 2020-21. Each formation within FORCOMD had to choose a title that will be used as part of a Professional Military Education ('PME') on 'The Cove' during 2020-21.

There were 12 submissions across RMC-A as a formation which includes; Land Warfare Centre; RMC Duntroon; and Army Recruit Training Centre. The authors included Stanley Chrystal, James Mattis, and Marcus Aurelius. From a shortlist of four, 'Duty Nobly Done' was selected by RMC-A. The planned date for The Cove PME is 1 Jun 2020, which will be hosted at Kokoda Barracks. The Kokoda Barrack Officers' Mess is a great venue steeped in history.

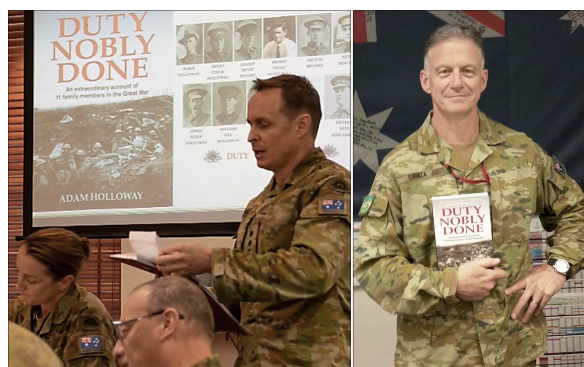
Adam has been invited to attend the PME and give a presentation about the book. There would then be a Q & A and discussion about the issues raised. It will mainly be a discussion about the themes in the book and how they tie into a modern Army. The Army's values of Courage, Initiative, Respect and Teamwork will be prominent as will Leadership, Culture and Resilience.

It will be broadcast live on 'The Cove'. <https://cove.army.gov.au/> All formations across Army will be expected to dial in and they can submit questions via SMS. It also means that it will be live on the open web to anyone who wants to watch it. For those who might be interested in finding out more about the book go to www.adamholloway.com.au. There are also links there to Adam's Facebook page and the publisher's website.

I have attached a pic taken during the selection process and of the Chief of Staff holding the book.

Thank you for all the work you do getting *Eyes & Ears* published each month.

I promise I will be in touch more often. Kind regards, Hilton”



one

Wade Cooper – “Dear Gentlemen,

For those I have not met, by way of introduction - my name is Wade Cooper and I have taken over as the CO of 20 Regt, RAA. For those I know – greetings.

I wanted to drop you, the extended regimental family, a short line to say g'day and where applicable, introduce myself. I also wanted to highlight and thank LTCOL Rod Lang and WO1 Kym Fox for their stellar leadership and development of the Regt during their command tenures. For those that are not aware, WO1 Fox has transitioned to the Army Reserve, with WO1 Reece Hay being appointed as his successor. Additionally, WO1 Mel Wood has recently been promoted and appointed as the Master Gunner/Standards Warrant Officer of 20 Regt.

It looks to be an exciting few years ahead for the Regt. Most notably, the Regt will see the implementation of Land 129 Phase 3 (RQ-7B Shadow 200 replacement) over the next few years. Other possible developments within the Regt include the re-introduction of the Weapon Locating Radar capability, further development of the Small-UAS capability, and potential integration of a Long-Range Precision Fires capability. How/when/if this plays out will be at the discretion of the Chief of Army, but these discussions are occurring in Army Headquarters this very minute. The Chief has made it clear that the focus of 20 Regt is to be *surveillance and target acquisition*.

I'll leave it at that for now. I will aim to provide periodic updates; however, if you ever need any information or assistance, we are but a phone call/email away.

If you are ever in Brisbane, you are always welcome to visit the regiment. Please feel free to pass this far and wide amongst the gunner/locator community.

Warm regards to you and yours for a merry Xmas and festive season,

Respectfully,

Wade

Wade G. Cooper, Lieutenant Colonel, Commanding Officer | 20th Regiment, RAA"

George Clark – "Happy Xmas to you Paul and your family.

I have only just got back in the country after a couple of months in Hong Kong, and I am sorry I have not got back to you sooner. I do not have a tablet or laptop I am afraid, and I more than likely would not know how to use them if I did. My fiancée in Hongers cannot get over the fact that I do not even know how to take photos on my smart phone. I guess you Nasho's were right, Regs are just plain dumb, or this one is anyway. It makes a lot of people wonder how I earned a private pilot's license...eh!

My health has been reasonably good, although both of my hip replacements are playing up a little, but I guess at my age they don't wish to spend too much money on me because I could pop my clogs any time, after all our ranks are starting to thin out a little.

We could do with a little rain here, but I guess that will happen when it is ready, and there is nothing to be done about it, but I hope they catch the mongrels that are starting these fires and throw them into the flames, that will teach them. They are saying that over 60% of the fires in Qld. have been deliberately light.

I am going back to Hongers in March and I am seriously thinking of moving over there on a permanent basis. But I shall keep you apprised of my movements Paul, and I would just like to wish you and your loved ones all the best for health and happiness and fortune.

My best wishes, George Clark."

****A Special request** -**

"Hello! I'm Mellisa Bohl, one of GNR 1411182, Michael Owen Bohl's children.

I was just wondering if anyone has any memories or stories heard about him. He passed when I was 17. Being naïve, I thought there would be plenty of time for us to chat about things.

It would mean a lot if you could reach out to anyone who might know anything about my Dad!

Thank you for your time. Mellisa".

Ed – Ok, here's something for you 1968 blokes to have a think and look about. You can reply to me at –

Paul Dickson – 131eyesandears@gmail.com



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...



We sent out a Seasons Greetings email and here's the responses -

Peter Suckling – "G'day Paul,

Just read the November edition. Another excellent read which left me with a little nostalgia so have decided to use this medium to wish all the fellows that I had the pleasure of serving with in 131 and other units during my time in the RAA. A very merry Xmas and a prosperous 2020.
Keep up the good work. Peter”

Merv Nairn – “Thanks Paul and the same to you and yours. Merv”

Pete Summers – “And a Merry Christmas to you mate. Thanks for all the work you and the committee do
Pete Summers.”

Joe Molenkamp – “Thanks Paul, the same to you and your family...and may 2020 keep you in good health!!! Cheers,
Joe Molenkamp.”

Peter Saint – “Thanks Paul and the same to you and your family. Regards, Peter Saint.”

Rieny Nieuwenhoff – “Affirmative Paul. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Rieny”

Phil Connor – “And the very same to you, Paul. Enjoy the Christmas break. Have a great time. And return in the New Year full of zest as Editor to a fabulous newsletter. Cheers Phil.”

Brian Campbell – “Same to you. Brian.”

Peter Dealy – “And the same to you Dicko – Peter D.”

John Lucas – “Thanks Paul...and thank you for all your efforts during 2019.
Merry Christmas to you and your family. Cheers, John”

Kim Hewitt – “Hi Paul. Thank you for the Xmas wishes...and the same to you and yours with knobs on.
I have just spent a whole day putting titles to my Viet photos. Hard yakka. I am struggling health wise but I am determined to make these available to ANYONE who wants a copy. A lot of the pics are rubbish and some picture quality is poor and I have forgotten a lot. This was my apprenticeship in photography leading to a short but reasonably successful career. Going thru these memories brings me to realise that this was the adventure of a lifetime. All these guys were great mates and I miss them.
Paul, maybe these will give you a giggle if you get time to look at them b4 Xmas. Cheers...Enjoy...Gunna Hewey.”

Bruce Irvine - “And Best Wishes to you and Helen Paul. May your Christmas be merry and bright and the New year a happy and healthy one. And thanks for *E&E* Paul, you do an incredible job with it every month. Just want you to know I appreciate it. I will try and find a photo of my old car and tell you the story too. Last seen as a practice target on Holsworthy firing range!!! Kindest regards, Bruce”

John Dean – “Same to you Paul. Regards, John Dean”

Wade Cooper – “Merry Xmas to you and yours as well, Paul. Wade.”

Geoff Cowgill – “Hi Paul, same to you and your family. Regards, Geoff Cowgill”

John McGovern – “Thanks Paul. I hope your sentiments are returned to you twofold.
Regards, John “Mac” McGovern.”

Graham Ryland – “Paul, I thank you for your thoughts and may Ros and I convey our very best wishes also to you and yours. Merry Christmas, Graham Ryland”

Barry Guzder – “Dicko, same to you and yours. Don’t forget to send wishes to the Cartels ...might keep you safe!!
Barry Guzder. 5714500”

David Negus – “Thx Paul, and a very Merry Xmas and New Year to you and yours. David”

Steve Boutlis – “Hi, Dicko.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and a safe and healthy 2020.

Thanks for all of the work that you do in keeping the 131 Family in touch.

Speaking of which, I have lost all of the 131ers’ E-mail addresses. Would you take a little of your valuable time and send a message to all of the 66-67 Detachment members and ask them to send me an E-mail so that I can add them back to my contacts list?

We and a couple of our kids and a sister in-law are having a very relaxed Christmas Day. No preparing, cooking, or cleaning-up!!!! We start the day with an Orgasm! Get your mind out of the pants! It’s a drink with equal measures of Cointreau and Baillies over ice. Follow up with “pressies”, accompanied by Christmas music and more drinkies. Then we are off to a buffet lunch at a nearby resort, followed by an arvo nap. Looking forward to it.
Cheers, Boots.”

Warwick Brooker – “Thanks Dicko! And thanks for the considerable time and extraordinary effort you’ve put into keeping the Eyes & Ears rolling through 2019.
Our very best wishes to you and Helen for a blessed Christmas Season and a happy, healthy and safe 2020!!

Brookey & Nancy.”



Keith Ayliffe –

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

“G'day Paul,
Best wishes from
Keith and Pam”

David Dougherty – “Giddy Paul,

From days, long past a photo knowing that this coming year can only be better, though the “cells” dim the memory with the passing of time.

Have a good one but not too good that you trip over the front step.
Best wishes, David”



Ian Finlay -

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

“Best Wishes and Good Health,
Ian and Dallene”

Thanks to ALL of you for your Season's Wishes replies – let's do it again in 2020!

Sharing our photos, stories – Bob Billiards brings us up to date with some new 131 Locators Association Facebook information –

Several months ago, we set up a Facebook page and found that there was already one set up by someone in Queensland so we didn't advertise our one until we reviewed the traffic on that site. A couple of us believe that we should continue with our site to help us easily share stories, photos and to give a medium which is more relevant to the younger modern day soldiers who might be interested in our stories and even our association. The group is a closed membership group and when you join there will be a couple of questions to answer and then one of the group moderators will vet the answers and accept the membership.

The site is currently “Public” so anyone can see it, but membership is restricted by us vetting the membership requests. To access the group, you must have –

. A Facebook account

and

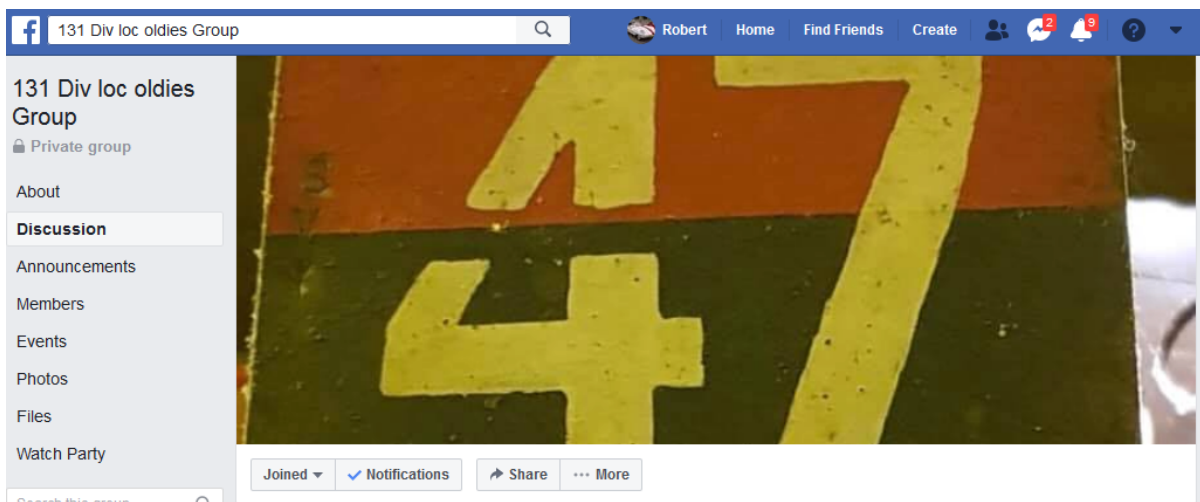
. then search for the group “131 Battery Royal Australian Artillery”

and

. then select the “Join” button just under the banner.



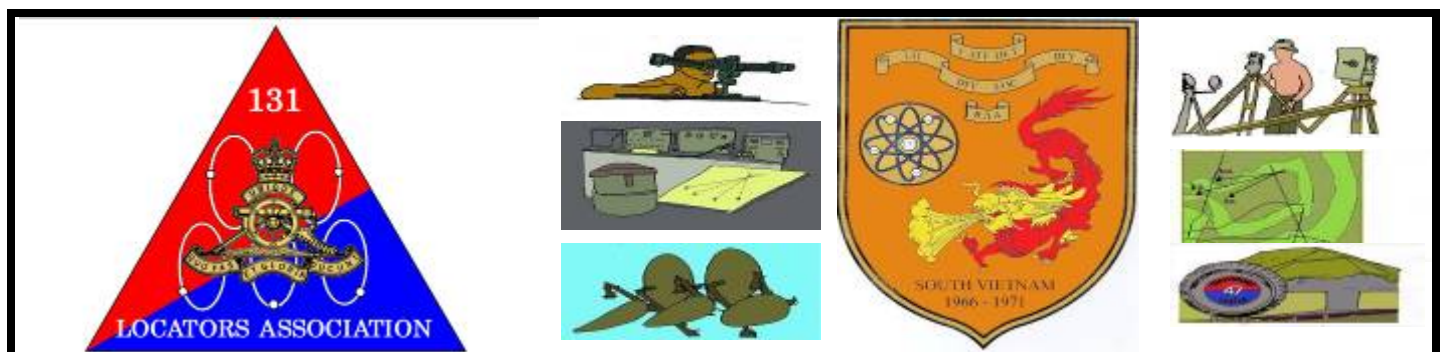
The other group you should also join is “131 div loc oldies group” which allows access to the members of that group who are generally those who served later than the SVN conflict from my observations.



So, get onto it and start posting some stories and post some photos. Remember though that this is in a public arena and we will be vetting all posts to ensure they comply with our code of conduct for the site.

If you require any help or have any questions/suggestions then email me. billiard4@bigpond.com

Happy new year,
Bob



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

A few well chosen words of wisdom from the Sec/Treas –

"Hope you had a great Xmas and, by now, you will know if you had a good, a great or a "balltearer" of a New Year's celebration - hope you had enough Berocca handy! Anyway you have 360 odd days to prepare for the next one!!

I will be back in touch in February."

Email sectreas131locators@gmail.com to check. Grahame"

Presidential perambulations

Another year's end and perhaps it's time to look at a few aspects of 2019 in retrospect.

We lost two of our Vietnam OCs plus several others from our dwindling number during the year. However, we did find a couple of 'lost' locators to sort of balance the books.

The rubbish that arises from what I term 'anti-social media' continues to amaze me with its vitriol and volume. It seems that every idiot with a keyboard and mouse has their views and wants to let everyone else with an internet connection know what those views are. And should you deign to disagree with them, then clearly you are in the wrong and will be 'shouted' down. Coal mining, bush fires, climate change, and Prime Ministerial holiday breaks are all subject to individual and media opinions these days. When it is a 12-year-old girl in Sydney or a weird Swedish teenager being used as dupes for the anti-brigade and telling everyone older than them that they are wrong, I believe that it is time to circle the wagons and defend.

A change of leadership at the Australian War Memorial, a Veteran's Covenant, much criticism of DVA which continues on its negative, paper-warfare way, a change of Federal Government, Clive James' passing, tattoos, # hashtag anything, both ongoing and new health issues among our 131 cohorts, all received some airtime in 2019.

I hope that our readership has a positive 2020, in health, relationships and enjoyment of life. May the extra day in this leap year provide something new and different.

Best wishes to all

Allen.



. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday, 11th February, 2020 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, 10th December, 2019 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Ernest Newbold, Bob Billiards, Ian Amos, Nick Proskurin and Ged Carroll.

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

Presidents report.

Allen advised that -

. He was not able to attend the LSTAA Xmas function on Sunday last.

. Asked if we any luck in tracing Robert Ness who is listed as passed on our Honour Roll, but was seen by a 1RAR vet who is a neighbour near Macclesfield SA recently. Enquiries are continuing.

. Whilst browsing the "Pinot Noir" display at Dan Murphy's Allen noted a particular selection "created by "**Sally Blackwell**". Enquiries reveal that Sally is closely related to our SA Rep **Geoff Blackwell**. Maybe we could have "Wine of the Month" item in future editions of *Eyes & Ears*.

. **Geoff Blackwell** and **Barry Guzder** drove home to SA following the recent Celebration for Warwick Hamilton. On the journey the idea of a memorial to our particular OC SVN germinated and was passed on to Allen for discussion at the meeting. The meeting agreed with the principle however, agreed that a memorial to each of the Det OC's would be appropriate. The proposal was agreed to by the meeting and would be further developed and the result advised at a future meeting.

Public Officer Report.

The PO was absent due to his priority duty serving with the Rural Fire Service during our current crises.

Webmaster Update.

Bob provided stats for the past 3 months which showed a consistency of use of the website.

General Business.

Discussions ensued on the following:

. The resurrection of Robert John Ness continues with the current listing on our Honour Roll to be deleted. This to be followed by a listing of the original Robert John Ness on the living version of 131 Locators Members. Contact has been established and conversation via Lima Lima is expected shortly.

. A suggestion for an *Eyes & Ears* item covering the various Retreats around Australia favoured by Grey Nomads of the SVN variety will begin shortly.

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...January –

Date	Regt No	Regt No	YOB	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	VICTOR DANKO	2783210	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
1	JOE LIBRIZZI	5716081	1947	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
1	CHRIS CHAPPLE	5716208	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
1	RICHARD CHAPLIN	2791166	1948	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
2	JOHN BROWNE	218367	1949	27 08 1969	13 08 1970	
3	GARY NAVAS	2793162	1949	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
4	PETER PETTIFORD	3792038	1947	08 11 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GRAEME SMITH	6708707	1946	12 04 1968	20 08 1968	
6	ARTHUR DOVE	217348	1950	13 01 1969	28 11 1969	
6	ALLAN ROBOTHAM	6709864	1950	25 05 1971	18 11 1971	
9	PETER SADLER	15138	1941	20 05 1966	28 04 1967	† 2008
9	ROBERT NESS	4717755	1945	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
9	(GERARD) DAVID PIRES	5717069	1949	03 03 1971	12 08 1971	
11	PAUL TRAVERS Maj.	47027	1940	{09 09 1965	19 09 1965	VISIT
	" "			{25 02 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
11	GRAEME LESLIE	1861 4	1942	1969	1970	† Unknown
11	PETER PIORO	2790931	1948	27 11 1969	04 05 1970	
12	PETER HOPPER Sgt	3787938	1945	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
12	DAVID REILLY	3794901	1948	24 03 1970	13 08 1970	
12	BRIAN JOHNSON	4720991	1949	29 05 1970	05 05 1971	AACC
	" "			14 05 1970	27 05 1970	1st Armoured Regt.
12	LASZLO FALKAI	4721836	1949	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
13	ROGER HOLMES	3795910	1948	22 07 1970	25 02 1971	
15	GEORGE STAZIKER Lt Col	2108436	1938	14 04 71	01 05 71	† 29.12.12
15	PHIL. ENDICOTT	2783419	1945	06 01 1967	27 09 1967	
16	KEN OSBORNE WO1	48543	1937	18.04.67	02.04.68	RAEME
16	EDWARD COOPER	44231	1950	26 08 1969	21 01 1970	
16	LESLIE SAURINE	2791863	1947	24 03 1970	17 12 1970	
18	PETER SZABO	38752	1947	26 03 1969	25 03 1970	
19	BARRY HEARD	3788324	1945	02 04 1967	25 10 1967	Honorary 131
19	PETER FIELDEN	3797872	1949	25 11 1970	12 08 1971	
21	PETER SUCKILNG SGT	55141	1943	05.02.1971	15.11.1971	
22	KEVIN BROWNING Sgt	217743	1948	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	131
	" "			05 04 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "			30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
22	MICHAEL BARLOW	2792252	1949	19 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
23	DONALD CHALMERS	3793171	1945	01 07 1969	03 12 1969	
	IAN "Scotty" McNICOL	216327	1945	{12 09 1967	17 09 1968	131
	" "			{09 04 1970	02 05 1970	VISIT
24	TERENCE ERBS	3791713	1947	28 10 1968	04 06 1969	
24	DAVID NEGUS	3794728	1947	24 02 1970	13 08 1970	
25	WALLY FRANKLIN	1411285	1949	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
26	RAY HUTCHINSON	37669	1940	17 04 1967	02 04 1968	
26	GEOFFREY TODD	54254	1943	18 12 1967	10 12 1968	
27	WADE COOPER	5805611/ 8216682	1984	IRAQ/E.TIMOR/ AFGHANISTAN		20STA
27	ALLAN ADAMS	3788792	1945	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
28	ROBIN TORRISI	1735572	1948	20 08 1970	12 03 1971	
29	PETER MACKIE	2184557	1949	20 08 1970	08 02 1971	
30	ALAN McDONALD	511355	1947	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
31	COLIN GORDON	16975	1945	15 03 1968	26 03 1969	† 28.03.10

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

Ed – 10 blokes not highlighted is a bit of a disaster and needs attention. Ok fellas let's put on our "Locate a Locator" berets and get into search mode.

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **160** and we've sent out **160**. Ed – let's see if we can get **20** more in 2020!

. **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.

Un-Vale – Robert Ness...

Ness, Robert – SVN 1966-7. Because of a mistaken identity and an email way back, and us not being in touch over time we farewelled Rob. However, after another contact and some serious digging around via **Grahame Dignam** Rob's son confirms that he is alive and well.

So, it's great to be able to reverse a Vale, as we have done in the past and be able to reduce our Honour Roll. Even our Birthdays in the Battery (above for January) has been cleaned up!



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

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

Hope we hear from you?

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

. **Other related sites...**

Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...



ARTILLERY SURVEYORS 131 DIV LOC BTY

"Elements of 131 came wandering in from the bush" (A quote whose origins are lost, yet the sentiments expressed will not be lost on many who served with 131 Div Loc Bty SVN.)

. **Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...**



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield



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

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