

THE EYES and EARS

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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

2020 – 54 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971



**Welcome Home parade –
33 years – still remembered!**

More than 500 Australian flags, representing every Australian soldier killed in the Vietnam War, were carried by relatives and friends at the head of the Welcome Home parade in Sydney, 1987

On October 3, 1987, around 22, 000 Vietnam veterans marched in a **'Welcome Home'** parade through the streets of Sydney. It was estimated that the parade was watched by a crowd of up to 100,000, including Prime Minister Hawke, and that it stood up to ten deep along the parade route in some places (*Sydney Morning Herald* 5 October 1987, 4). The marchers carried more than 500 Australian flags, each flag representing a serviceman who had lost their life during the Vietnam War. These simple acts represented the reconciliatory nature of the event – the flags, standing for the nation-state, were accepted as a proper symbol for the fallen by the veterans and symbolised their reconciliation with the body politic that they felt had rejected their rightful place in the Anzac narrative after the end of the Vietnam conflict. The large crowd that watched and cheered the parade, including the political head of state, Prime Minister Hawke, demonstrated the sincere regret the body politic felt at the treatment of veterans and their welcoming into the Anzac tradition.

The Detachment Vets – Merv Nairn, Peter Summers, Kevin Browning and Jeff Bassford.

- expected about 120 and 167 blokes turned up.



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



. The “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

Grahame Dignam gets us excited with some **Lost Locators that have been Located** - **Roger Holmes, Philip Conner** ??, Michael Young, Steven Wynn - and that is only in 2020.

Then as recent as last week we found **Peter Whitaker** with a phone call!!!

Check out the website under "Member - All Member details" and see if all your mates are listed and let us know a name so we can get to work?

. Insights and Recollections...

This topic/s have raised so much interest – we’re still in the middle of some really great discoveries with some remarkable memories being brought to life.

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

“Old boys visit 20th Regiment” ...as reported by Terry Erbs –

At the invitation of **Lt. Col. Wade Cooper**, CO 20th Regiment RAA, 4 “old boys” were asked to speak to a professional development program. The day was organised by **Maj. Russ Hamsey**, with due consideration to the age of the attendees and Qld CONVID restrictions. The Regiment’s transport [personal thanks to the drivers] brought **Keith Ayliffe & Eric Marques** from the Sunshine Coast and **Harry Lynas, Phil Sheedy, Ian Board** and **myself** locally to Enoggera for the full but interesting day. We all arrived around lunchtime and because of the warm weather the talks and presentation were done in the shade of the Checkley Annex.

Personally, it was daunting, standing in front of all the officers and NCO’s, and for the first time publicly recalling events and experiences from 52 years ago. Russ commenced the presentations by introducing each speaker with a short bio. Keith spoke first about his service, with particular focus on the Battle of FSB Coral & Balmoral. Next, I spoke about my Nasho’s service with the Det in Vietnam [big memory test!]. Ian followed by recounting his advancement through the ranks, from Gunner to Major and BC 131 Bty. He imparted much “real world” wisdom about service to the young attentive Locators.



Picture 1 & 2 Ian Board addressing Officer's & NCO's

Finally, Harry recounted his very challenging task of relocating 131 Bty. from their old decrepit lines at Holsworthy NSW to new lines at Enoggera Qld. He colourfully described the move by a very large long military convoy, directed by Military Police, and coming down a very steep twisty road via Cunningham’s Gap into Qld with some trucks overloaded!

From the feedback our talks were well received although somebody did ask Russ “had we coordinated our talks as each speaker highlighted similar lessons for leadership”. Russ explained we hadn’t but had independently described similar experiences. And on reflection the Det. Locator’s were well trained, multi skilled, adaptable and worked successfully independently, at LP’s, radars or on survey jobs. And nothing has changed, the Regiment successfully deployed small independent teams using UAV’s to support firefighters during the destructive bushfires earlier this year.

After the talks, with only the 131 Bty. members present, Keith, Phil and Eric, all UCG recipients, presented a series of framed documents & photos, telling the story of the Det. during Battle of FSB Coral & Balmoral and the subsequent

awarding of the Unit Citation for Gallantry. All documents showing the unit's history proud will be displayed in 131 Bty HQ.



Picture 3 Maj Fiona Bruce BC 131 Bty, accepting FSB Coral history from Phil Sheedy, Terry Erbs, Keith Ayliffe & Eric Marques

This has prompted the BSM 132 Bty. to ask LSTAA for similarly support, to help gathering and displaying that unit's history. Fortunately, Craig Cook former BSM 132 Bty, wrote a very detailed unit history up until 1987 but their recent history is yet to be written. It's been suggested we could frame a propeller of the Scan Eagle used in Afghanistan and donate to 132 Bty, to represent their service in recent conflicts.

With **John Dellaca's** permission, I reprinted his iconic photo of the Det. [mainly radar, LP and RAEME, no surveyors!], waiting to fly, on the morning of the 12th May 1968, from FSB Anderson to FSB Coral.



Picture 4 Photo taken at FSB Anderson by Stan Briggs using John Dellaca's camera.

This framed photo will be displayed in the James Menz Club, which incidentally is bare of memorabilia as it's being repainted.

However, the Club's coffee machine was still operating and I understand is a great source of income for the Club [typically the younger generation must have barista brewed coffee!]

After the presentation, the bar was opened and welcome drinks were enjoyed before we "oldies" retired to change for the Regimental dinner.

Again, we were picked and driven to dinner in the Area Officer's Club, arriving in time to enjoy a drink and chat with our host... everyone had a host, mine was WO2 Berger BSM 131 Bty. Because of the Pandemic and social distancing, it was 3 per table, which we appreciated, being able to have a conversation without contending with the usual noisy environment. The food was very good, drinks were plentiful and I enjoyed chatting to recently arrived members and old mates, and learnt that Phil Swinsburg is now Colonel Commandant RAA Qld, and that the Pandemic has helped his drone delivery company!



Picture 5 Area Officer Mess, 20th Regiment RAA dinner with social spacing and 3 per table.

By 10.30 we “oldies” decided to take our leave and were driven home [thanks again to the drivers] weary after a long but enjoyable day. Finally, from the “Oldies”, many thanks to Lt. Col. Wade Cooper and Maj. Russ Hamsey for your great organization and kind hospitality.

...Christopher Wishart, Battery Captain, 131st Battery, 20th Regiment adds the following comments regarding what looks and sounds like a great night at the Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera –

On the 9th of October 2020, 20th Regiment was honoured to host previous members of the Regiment back at the official Dining In Night for the year. The day kicked off with an inspiring presentation from veterans of the battle of FSB Coral and Balmoral who relayed to current serving members their account of the battle, as well as of the Regimental move to Gallipoli Barracks. This resonated perfectly with the exciting new developments progressing for the Regiment namely the introduction into service of a replacement for the Shadow 200 UAS due to be announced early next year.

BC 131 Bty, on behalf of the Regt and the Bty, was then extremely honoured to receive an honorary certificate commemorating the Unit Citation for Gallantry awarded to those members who participated in the battle, as well as memorabilia from the association relating to the event. All of this now being proudly displayed in the foyer of 131 Bty. Finally, the members of the association joined the officers and SNCOs of the regiment for lovely evening at the Regiments official 2020 Dining In Night at the Gallipoli Barracks Officers Mess, where they were entertained by a host of 20 Regt seniors and officers keen to leverage of past experience and great stories.

I would like to pass on my personal thanks and that of all those who attended the evening, the atmosphere, stories and value gained by the young leaders in the Regiment from their interactions with previous members that night was excellent.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact me directly,
Best wishes

CAPT CJ WISHART | BATTERY CAPTAIN 131st BTY | 20th Regiment | Gallipoli Barracks Enoggera QLD 4051

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**At left: Ian Board
and Sgt Keegan
Himstedt**

**At right:
Lt Rob Mooy,
Harry Lynas and
Maj Russ Hamsey**





At Right: Phil Sheedy

At left: WO2 Holm, Harry Lynas and WO2 Riley



At left: Keith Ayliffe

At right: MAJ Fiona Bryce, Terry Erbs and LTCOL Seamus Armstrong



At left: WO1 Joe Fabri (Retd)

At right: Phil Sheedy and WO2 Jimmy Thewlis



QANTAS – “Skippy Squadron” -



We continue with this series –this time, thanks to Ted Haselhurst - the Skippy Squadron Association’s President...

Skippy Squadron was formed in 2002 by the volunteer Qantas aircrew and ground staff who operated and supported military charter flights in the prescribed area of operations during the Vietnam war, maintaining the commitment established by their predecessors during the Second World War. Members are eligible for the award of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 with Clasp Vietnam, and the Vietnam Logistics & Support Medal. Eligibility was confirmed by Government Gazette on 23 April 2001. Skippy Squadron organiser, Alan

Kitchen, has made an extensive study of Qantas charter flights to Vietnam from June 1965 to February 1972 and has established that at least 300 flights in/out of Saigon were chartered to the RAAF to carry troops to Vietnam. According to National Australian Archives Inward Customs Register in June 1965, B707-138B VH-EBI operated four flights from Saigon as shown in the following table.

Date	Aircraft	Captain	Flight	Crew	Pax	Route
01JUN65	VH-EBI	Morris	QF120	-	-	Richmond/MNL/SGN/SYD
05JUN65	VH-EBI	Morris	QF120	14	111	Richmond/MNL/SGN/SYD
07JUN65	VH-EBI	Radford	QF120	13	-	Richmond/MNL/SGN/SYD
09JUN65	VH-EBI	Harden	QF120	11	-	TSV/MNL/SGN/SYD

Source	NAA SP9341/1 & 2 Inward Customs Register. K.S.A.
Richmond	RAAF Base Richmond, NSW
MNL	Manila
SGN	Saigon
SYD	Sydney (KSA Kingsford Smith Airport)
TSV	Townsville

The captains shown in the table operated MNL/SGN/SYD. There is no record of captains who operated the Richmond/MNL and TSV/MNL sectors. VH-EBI was the first of the 707s to operate into Tan Son Nhut Airport, Saigon with Australian troops on board on 31 May 1965 arriving back in Sydney the next day as QF120. In mid 1966, the flight numbers for Vietnam charters changed to QF 177/QF178. The Saigon flights were routed via Manila as the Indonesian Government would not permit them to overfly Indonesia with troops on board, especially as they had their rifles stowed in a netted bin at the rear of the cabin. Alan Kitchen has been unable to locate any records of Saigon flights after 1966 although he estimates that access to tech crew log books has provided approximately 20% of the missing data. Accordingly, Alan will be very pleased to hear from any Qantas tech crew who operated flights to/from Saigon. A model of VH-EBI was presented to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra on 30 January 2007. The model is displayed in the post WWII Gallery.



Skippy Squadron, the Red Tail Rats

The Viet Nam Charter flight crews of



This group is made up of the QANTAS crews who flew a total of over 600 charter flights to/from Viet Nam 1965-1972 and who marched last year in Canberra at the re-dedication of the Vietnam War Memorial. They assembled about 45-50 members on ANZAC Day 2003 behind their new banner, just behind the Infantry Battalions who served in Vietnam. photo [John Stanley](#)



The Big Silver Bird



The crews of the Qantas "Champagne Flights" which ferried Australian troops between Sydney and Saigon during the Vietnam War marched together on Anzac Day 2003 for the first time.

Up to 50 former crewmen - Qantas only employed men for the run - reunited in Sydney's 2003 parade under their nickname of Skippy Squadron.

Between 1965 and 1972 Qantas flew more than 600 military charters on its Boeing 707s - about 300 flights carrying fresh troops to Vietnam, and 300 bringing home those whose tour was over.

To the crew members, who volunteered for Skippy Squadron, the Sydney-Saigon-Sydney route was a long trip with a few hours' break for refuelling - but it also changed dramatically from leg to leg.

"It was a nervous flight over, but the guys on the way back were totally different from the guys we'd take in - a total change of personality, they had grown up," said Ray Stephan, 57, a former Qantas Chief Steward from Georges Hall who flew 26 wartime flights.



More than 500 pilots, cabin staff, navigators and ground crew served with Qantas's Skippy Squadron, and are eligible for the Australian Active Service Medal with Vietnam clasp and/or the Vietnam Logistics and Support Medal.

Alan Kitchen, 59, of Blakehurst, was 2nd Steward on six of the flights: "We could carry about 130 soldiers ... and on the way over, you could have heard a pin drop, especially between Singapore and Saigon," Mr. Kitchen said. "We felt sympathy for them. They were about the same age as us, or maybe just a couple of years younger. We'd say to them: 'We'll be here in 12 months-time to pick you up.'

"But then when the returning soldiers got on to come home, it was roll your sleeves up and serve the booze, even before take-off. The aircraft was drunk dry."

The white-bodied, red-tailed Qantas commercial aircraft stood out among the thousands of warplanes at Saigon airport, Mr. Kitchen said. Skippy Squadron received escorts from United States jetfighters when approaching or leaving Saigon airport, for fear of firing from Vietcong. "The American air traffic controllers affectionately called us the 'Red Tail Rats' or the 'White Rats', Mr. Kitchen said.



"We had kangaroos painted on the planes, but they never called us kangaroos, just rats."

18th March 1968 Tan Son Nhut Airport, Saigon QANTAS QF177.122 after reports of artillery fire to 11,000 ft on descent, having arrived and waiting to board 165 very happy Aussies back to Australia on the return flight QF178.122. For those technically minded: Taxi Weight 326,000 lbs, 92% of runway used or 9,200 ft. 707-338 VH EBV "City of Tamworth" Photo by Hans Smit

Bob Freshfield, 54, of Merrylands, caught a Red Tail Rat to war and back as a national service infantryman in 1971. "We used to call them the 'champagne flights'. I took them twice, because I also flew back on R and R once," said Mr. Freshfield, a member of the Granville Vietnam Veterans Association.

Full dress uniform that QANTAS Stewards wore as they walked on/off the aircraft. Usually changed into bow ties Cummerbund and Eton Jacket (Officers Mess Jacket). Saigon -Australia coats off, ties off, sleeves rolled up and serve as much booze as quickly as you can. Usual cut off place was Alice Springs by O.C. if they took notice of him. There were 7 male cabin crew and the Chief steward had 3 x 1/2 gold bars with burgundy between. 2nd.Steward 2x1/2 gold bars burgundy between. The other 5 crew usually at this stage 1 burgundy bar, until you had been flying 3 1/2 years Technical Crew same uniform only full gold bars with 4 for a Captain etc, full wing on uniform coat and shirt, rest of crew 1/2 wing with S for Steward, N for Navigator and E for Flight Engineer. The tail of aircraft was true to the 707's during 1965-1972.



He remembers the prodigious service of alcohol, "a lot of confusion" and a "long delay" at Darwin en route to Sydney. "A steward told me that they didn't want us at Mascot until midnight to keep us away from the protesters," Mr. Freshfield said. But Mr. Kitchen said planes arrived and departed at night so they could be reconfigured for commercial daytime flights.

Graham Williams - Hi Paul,

Sent on this 4-page PDF to you today so hope you got it ... (always query my computer skills.) Came across this article while doing research on other things and it piqued my interest. It shows a photo of I think a ground surveillance (movement) radar. I never saw one of these during my tour in 1969-1970 but reading through the article it had me wondering that if by late 1970 whether each of the Battalions in Nui Dat had been issued with these radars to run their own L.P.'s or, alternatively, if each of the gun batteries had received a radar for the same purpose. Maybe someone in the "Eyes and Ears" readership may be able to shed some light as to what went on at that time.

Were the Detachment out of the loop by November 1970 with Arty Int operators no longer required for duties in fire support bases and only manning L.P.'s 31 Alpha and 31 Bravo?

Of course, that leaves us with the question of can anyone from Arty Int recall the last deployment to a fire support base after 1969 and not including the Dinh Co monastery? AND, did the Detachment ever get their hands on one of these radars?

Hope this finds yourself and family well. Stay safe. Cheers, Graham.

Surveillance radar deployment

Submitted by [Joseph Riwai \(/user/joseph-riwai\)](#) on February 4, 2014 11:09am



Surveillance radar deployment, November 1970. The equipment was installed at the summit of Long Son Island, southeast of Baria, to support an ANZAC Battalion sweep of the western slopes of the Nui Dinh. A 16-man party, under the command of Lieutenant Rick Williams, deployed to the island for six days to provide protection. Based in FSPB (Fire Support and Patrol Base) Andrea, they had an uneventful time except for one brief incident. Sentries heard noises outside the wire and Williams called in defensive fire from 161 Battery guns at FSPB Cook.

Main image: Awaiting Helo airlift from Nui Dat to Long Son Island. Left to right: Jimmy Bell, Allen Grayling, Barry Hebden, Malcolm Wards, R.W. Gerrard



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

Bob Billiards sent in the following which covers a recent "walk" he did – read on...

Prostate Cancer association – The Long Run.

I have several mates who have had prostate cancer and their prostate removed or treated over the past years. The mate, Dave, that I walk with had his prostate removed late last year and recovered really well and was away from our walks for about 2-3 months before we were back averaging 6 to 6.5 kph on flat walks for at least a 6 KM walk.

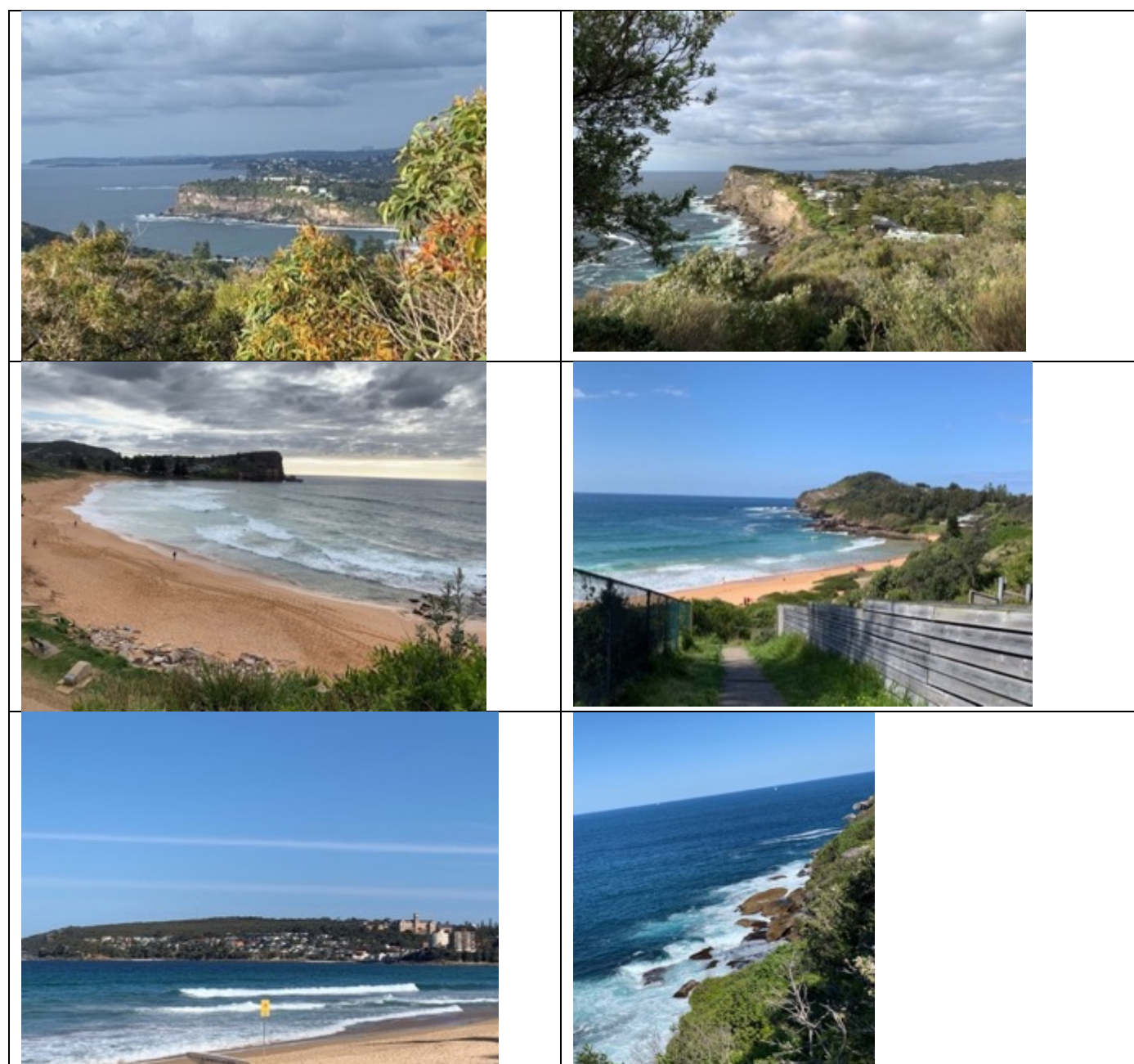
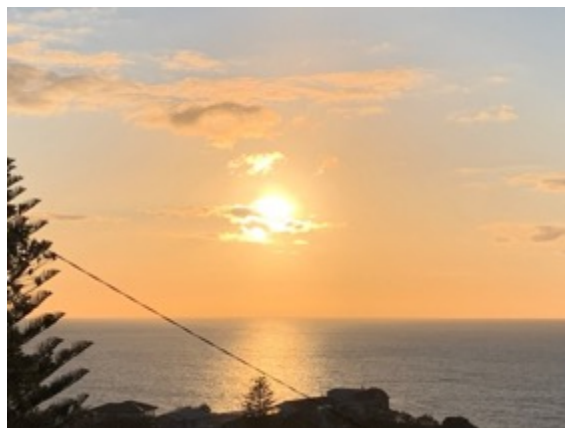
Our mate who is involved in the association asked if we would do the walking – 72KM over the month of September. I ended up walking 181KM for the extended period to mid-October and 151KM for the original task of 72KM for September. Dave did around the same distance. We generally did walks from 7 to 12 km a couple of days a week either here in the Blue Mountains or around Sydney. Our mountain walks and the long walks weren't at 6kph as some of the hills were very steep.

Our first long walk was the Sydney 7 bridges walk which was supposed to be 28km but we did a couple of detours and Strava had us doing 31km. We had a good day for it and enjoyed the walk through a couple of the suburbs that Dave grew up in. The walk starts and ends at Milson Point railway station and we walked clockwise so Harbour bridge, Pyrmont bridge, Anzac bridge, Iron Cove bridge, Gladesville bridge, Tarban Creek bridge and Fig Tree bridge, then a long walk via Lane Cove, Wollstonecraft and North Sydney to the railway station at Milsons Point.



Our second-long walk was the Northern beaches coast walk from Palm Beach to Manly 40Km which they suggest to do in two days but we decided to do it in 1 day but staying in Palm Beach for a night and setting off early in the morning. We could only find accommodation at the southern end of Palm Beach so we cut out 2 Km from the walk. We set off at 6AM and planned to stop at 9am for a bacon and egg roll and a large coffee

This northern part of the walk has some steep climbs with quite a few younger people running up the steps. We were happy to stand aside as it was an excuse to intake a bit more oxygen. Another beautiful cool day and very picturesque. This walk was really worth the effort and a lot nicer than walking in the suburbs. The boring part, was the walk through Newport, as the houses are built right to the beach. We didn't want to beach walk as it just loads your shoes with sand. We had to do a couple of small beach walks and then remove the sand from our shoes and socks. We both agreed that it was easy to the 30Km stage and the last 8Km was hard with just sore feet and the stairs out of Freshwater beach were a killer for me but Dave wouldn't let me rest. (he is 7 years my junior). When we got over the hill and to the path along Manly beach we thought we were home, but it was still 1.6Km to the Ferry. We did the complete walk in 8 hours and had a small nap on the train home from Central.



We are in it for the long run next year walking different tracks. Will try the walk from Bundeena to Wollongong and a couple of the Blue Mountains walks when they reopen some of the longer walks. A lot of the infrastructure was badly damaged in the fires earlier this year.

. A Curiosity from Ed – during this month (October) I made it to the three quarters of a century mark – amazing in itself, as a lot of you would agree having accomplished it, or are going to! However, it got me to thinking or perhaps pondering on various things – well, times have changed and we're living under different circumstances and the mind plays games on us – especially mine, as the following will attest to.

Well, pardon my maths during this meandering –

Days – I've lived for 27,375 days (forget leap years) – 657,000 hours!

Breaths taken – approximately 2,000 per day (according to some bean counter – talk about exciting statistics – how do they keep count?), which equates to 54,750,000 breathes taken, not counting on excesses caused by exercising or other possible human activities. I smoked for a good many years, so to have the windbags still operating is really amazing.

Eyes open – for about 438,000 hours, based on sleeping for about 8 hours a day. OK, I wear glasses and have done so for several years, but they still function.

Internal Parts – without going into any gory details, it is amazing how the plumbing functions and continues to do so with all the strange things having been consumed, imbibed etc. I've had a couple of internal removals but in general the digestive machinery operates.

Walking etc – how the hell did they invent knees/ankles to manage doing these activities for all this time? Hey, don't forget arms, fingers, wrists, elbows, shoulders – if it had been left up to me we would have ended up something like lifeless jellyfish!

Let's hope we can ALL keep calculating for many years to come. Paul

Another "Memory" – Back in 2010 we ran a series called "**Boys and Their Toys**" (they're on the Assoc's website) and this one in particular made me smile and still continues to do so from **Warwick Hamilton** and he was my boss – no wonder our friendship persevered!

"Hi Paul,

Re the car. It was a light blue 1961 VW, and no it wasn't just a standard 1300, it was used for serious rallying. Hence all the instruments including a second more accurate speedo (Halda Speedpilot for those who really want to know these things) and map reading lights on stalks, mainly for the navigator, plus additional driving and fog lights, a large rear spotlight (in case I really needed to see going backwards!), a huge hand held spot mounted in a bracket inside, and a chrome mesh screen which I could take off for the front. That was the obvious.

Additionally there were full harnesses for driver and nav, though only the seat belt was used for normal driving.

The car had a highly-tuned Porsche Carrera 1800 cc motor and 5 speed gear box, and a modified suspension. It ran on bloody expensive Michelin tyres, though these were changed depending on the rally conditions.

The body was lightened with fibreglass mudguards, bonnet and boot (though you could only tell this by looking at them from underneath). For safety, it had a laminated glass windscreen and the front seats had additional mountings to fix them firmly to the floor.

In rally mode the rear seat was removed and addition wheels and other stuff fitted in depending on the requirement, together with intercom and helmets for the front. Sometime even a second battery for a night rally.

Well, you did ask!!

And to answer the outstanding question, yes, we did quite well until something called SVN came up, where my vehicle changed to a stripped down Landrover.

All the best, Warwick."

Another "Memory" Tester – I discovered this photo amongst my download archives and for the life of me I can't remember "where, what, why..." Can someone give me a hand, please?



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.

Mail Call...



Mail Out

alphabet of



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



Mail In - Here are the responses...

Warwick Brooker – “G'day Dicko.

Good to hear that you're still in good health, apart from those confounded skin cancers.

Nothing much has changed here. Canberra has been COVID19 free for several months and most things are back for normal, albeit with COVID measures in place: social distancing (sort of), hand sanitising, temperature checks at clubs, etc. A few people are donning masks. Gloves are rare. That will change if the dreaded virus reappears here. Victoria is the only state that is still in real 'lockdown' mode.

The rains are here and everything is greening up. The magpies are swooping if they don't recognise you as a 'friendly'. One swooped me a couple of weeks ago, but after I whistled it a pretty decent tune, it flew down next to me for a chat. We're buddies now.

Our national budget was delivered yesterday evening; so the media conversation has shifted a little from COVID19 to Budget, although the budget is very much oriented towards an extremely expensive COVID recovery and assumes the

arrival of a vaccine in the near future! 😞 Stay well. See you on ZOOM... if ZOOM works for me. 😊
Brookey”

Keith Ayliffe – “G'day Paul,

Time certainly seems to be moving fast, October already.

You are still doing a great job in keeping the old boys in touch and passing around fresh information for all to digest. My last few months have not been the best, following a short fall I find myself with a replaced hip and two vertebrae displaced. It is something I would not wish on anyone.

The worst part after the pain, is having to relearn how to walk. Not as simple as it sounds, you seem to have lost your ability to balance. Then start worrying about falling again.

Seem to be on the mend now can now walk with a cane so becoming mobile. Although no driving for around another 6 weeks.

Also, my golf Game seems to have fallen in a heap. Greetings, Keith”

Vic Danko – “Hi Paul,

Thanks for your note.

I feel like I've done nothing since my last contact with you, which must have been early this year. In Feb I made a trip to Nui Dat and Saigon. I wanted to stay a little longer. I like the place and the people.

Then comes March etc and everything closes down. We've not had any serious impact here in my house. Katya continued to work, as she wanted to do. Mainly, telephone contact with patients.

I sort of sat around the house. For a while Manly golf course was closed. But I was more concerned about the “macro” issues, how would we as Australia come out of this etc. And we all at this age, who had planned to travel etc, would that opportunity still come?

I resigned from being Pres. of Mosman RSL sub Branch. It was too much work. But more importantly it was an entity in total decline.

Around April I had a ticket for London. That had to be postponed. Then I was told that an English friend of mine, whose father gave me my first job in London, 1972, had been diagnosed with motor neurone disease. It all happened so quickly, Richard died in July.

Then in August I received a letter from a couple of brothers in the mid-west of US. It just simply said ...” Our parents wanted you to receive this ...” I recognised the surname. A friend whom I met at Harvard.

The letter to me (but it didn't name me alone so it must have been sent to a few close friends of Dick Taylor (the writer) started with “Goodbye”. Full page, steady handwriting, by Dick's own handwriting which I recognised.

And by the final paragraph Dick tells us that his wife has already taken the death pills and he now was taking his and joining her in the “endless sleep” because neither of them wanted to move to aged care etc. So that was a depressing shock.

Rest of the family is fine. Young Katie is kicking arse in the field of Software Engineering. Her grades at Sydney Uni are all “Distinction” or “Hi Distinction”. She's already doing part time work. Right career at the right time.

You know Ross Gunnell is not well? Another year to go with a bag around his waist.

OK, that's about it. All the best to you and Helen.”

Mike Butler – “Hi Paul.

Thanks for the note. Well, it's situation normal here in Melbourne. Still under full lockdown with the only positive thing to note is that the numbers of cases and deaths are steadily going downwards. I think you may have already been told that a yearly get-together that a few of us ex-131ers had organised in Warrnambool had to be cancelled due to Covid (attendees and their partners were to be Pete Saint, Joe Molenkamp, Les Falkai, John Jaggard, Rieny Nieuwenhof and John Beus). We are hoping to reschedule in Autumn next year.

The family is surviving OK but the isolation is starting to wear a bit thin. There are still idiots flouting the Covid rules - one person going to Chadstone when she was supposed to be in isolation has resulted in over 30 being infected - go figure!!

We are just hoping that Xmas will be “NORMAL”.

Melbourne is about to pass its average rainfall for the year in October so hopefully water won't be an issue this summer.

The garden is looking good - plenty of spare time to do maintenance!!

Cheers, Mike Butler.”

David Auld – “G'day Paul, we moved into a new place in March, started Reno's so far have purchased a kitchen off eBay have started painting have half the ceiling done, plasterer coming in around the 19th to plaster the walls prior to putting in the new kitchen. Take care.”

Phil Connor – “Giddy Paul,

Yep, starting to warm up here on the Sunnie Coast, mainly late 20s and a couple of 30s. We are used to the saying ‘fall’ with our Yankee son living in the States and the States don't go by the season solstice for change of season. The Son and the Daughter in Law both being in Medical are up to their necks working with the Virus and that will be compounded by the incoming winter season Flu. Our Premier is still resisting totally opening the border to NSW because of the ‘clusters’ that come and go down there. Still recouping from the right knee replacement so bowls and golf are on the backburner ATM. Except for going out for shopping, appointments we are basically staying quiet.

Supposed to have a wet Spring/Summer this year however nothing has started yet and we need the rain. Within QLD there have been a lifting of restrictions and people are enjoying the opening up of a lot of things and increasing numbers of people.

With the recent knee replacement and the older hip replacement (2007) I remember you asking as to post operation process. I can advise now that the knee replacement takes the cake in terms of recovery, physio, pain relief, exercise. However, I will say that if anyone is contemplating a knee replacement (or hip replacement) then do not dwell on it as a doctor said to me one time that the longer you leave it the worse the surrounding bone structure becomes and increases a more intricate repair. I was told if I had left my hip replacement any longer they may have had to ‘harvest’ bone from other parts of the body to infill.

That's about it, mate. Stay well. Cheers Phil.”

Diane and Keith Dean – “Hi Paul, thanks for the catch up. We have both been well under these trying Covid circumstances. We have noticed that less and less people are wearing masks here in Newcastle. I think people are feeling less threatened by this virus.

Keith has had some contact in the last 2 weeks with some old PTI friends we have not seen or heard from in over 35 years. He has just enjoyed the chin wag with them, catching up on their lives and news. As you may know Keith changed to PT in 1969. It is always great to catch up with friends. Keith has had some contact in the last 2 weeks with some old PTI friends we have not seen or heard from in over 35 years. He has just enjoyed the chin wag with them, catching up on their lives and news. As you may know Keith changed to PT in 1969. It is always great to catch up with friends.



Keith has asked me to attach an old photo of the team which played in the 1965 Grand Final at Victoria Barracks Sydney. They played SME. The team was the North Head side mainly made up of 131 guys. He wants you to put it in the next *Eyes and Ears* to see if anyone can name the guys in the team.

Good to catch up on behalf of us both. Dianne and Keith Dean."

That's Keith – who are the rest?
Ed, I think I can pick one!

Ken Foster – "Thanks for the update. Things are very quiet here, still restricted and small outbreaks of Covid that keep us all on our toes

Trying to get a trip to Qld to see family but dates keep being put back.

Not doing VVAA administration now but still some remote service advocacy

Unfortunately, when things are quiet there isn't much to report but keep in touch. Ken."

John Bayford – "Hi Paul. There is no letup here by Dan. He has us by the short and curlies and he won't release us. My oldest son and his wife are back at work; working from home that is; and Annette and I are babysitting their 10-month old daughter. We drive to Kew on alternate days for three days of the week.

The neighbours in the golf estate organise picnics. It's really getting together for a drink and a nibble and we are limited by Dan to five people and the venue must be outdoors. Nevertheless, we have some contact with humanity. Golf is still verboten. Well it feels like the Stasi are running the state.

Glad to hear that you and the wife are well. It sounds like you have a wonderful lifestyle. Bye for now, John"

Allan Adams – "Hi Paul. Here we are still in lockdown, everyone is getting past it by now. The state Government is under pressure to ease the restrictions. We are still limited to travel only within a 5K radius and non-essential trader are still closed. A disaster for the economy and traders and Vic borders are closed. Hopefully the restrictions maybe be eased next week.

I have started my radiotherapy, 1 week down and another 3 weeks to go. I go every day (5 days during the week- no weekends). I go to the Peter Mac Centre which is a part of the Monash Centre in East Bentleigh which is handy otherwise it would be at the Alfred. The actual process only takes 10-15 minutes so I'm only away for an hour or so.

All sporting is closed so I haven't played golf for a couple of months, I'm looking forward to getting back to the swing, whenever that will be.

No plans for travel as who would know when the restrictions are lifted, so plenty of walks with the dogs.

Apart from all of the above we are both well and coping. Hope all is well with you. Al"

Nick Armstrong – "Hello Paul

My apologies for the slow reply. Robin and I had a couple of trips away from home. We drove to Port Augusta to collect Robin's brother for a few days' visit with us, and then took him back to Adelaide. Robin and I don't make too many trips to Adelaide, so we were able to visit various members of our extended family. The journeys were during the school holidays, but I was surprised at the heavy holiday traffic, given we are still under some Covid 19 restrictions. It was almost all SA vehicles, with the NSW borders still closed into SA.

I am still bus driving for the local Catholic school, although this is the last term. The owner of the bus company is retiring at the end of the year and relinquishing his contracts. The bus route is from Tumby Bay to Port Lincoln in the morning, and return in the afternoon. Each journey is about 50km, with between 15 and 20 passengers. The bus seats 35 passengers, but not everyone on the passenger list travels. Quite a few people commute from Tumby Bay to Port Lincoln, so their children don't use the bus.

The bus owner provides a Toyota Corolla to allow the bus to be left at Tumby Bay overnight. I particularly appreciate the car on windy days. For some reason, the Chinese seem unable to build a bus which isn't severely affected by cross-winds. I don't think the problem is due to air suspension. In the late 1980's I drove Domino and Denning three axle buses on Intra-State routes. They were on full air suspension and were very stable.

The extra income is quite nice, but the weekdays are somewhat disjointed. I have six hours free during the day, but I am reluctant to start things I can't finish, so things don't get done. Like replying to emails, perhaps! It will be good to get back to casual, relief driving next year.

Covid 19 seems to be staying away from this part of the world. We are still unable to get to WA to visit family at the moment. I think WA only agreed to federation in 1901, to get a railway to the east. Now the railway has been built, finally, I think they are ready to secede? If WA re-opens the borders, we probably won't travel until Easter at the earliest. Bushfire season is nearly here. The garden needs care through the summer, and if a fire starts near home, I would like to be close.

I am still active with the local Country Fire Service. Today I did my annual refresher course for 'Air operations support'. It isn't anything too technical, pumping water and additives into the 'Air Tractors', about 2000lt at a time. It isn't too strenuous, and away from the hot stuff. I still respond to our truck first, when the pager calls, so the air ops are a secondary role now.

As you can see, nothing 'Earth shattering' here at the moment. Best wishes, Nick"

Steve Wynn – "Hi Paul,

My apologies for not responding mate, I have been going through a lot of medical testing, which after years of hassles has finally been sorted to the stage that I now know what has been causing me problems for the past few years, found out this week but it took many GPs and tests, even an unnecessary operation, to get there.

I will be tied up with finding a surgeon and arranging for an operation in hospital this week, most surgeons here are booked up til 2021 just for a first visit, then wait 3 months for the hospital surgery. Meantime I have to try not to get hooked on Endone/Oxycodone while I wait.

The good news is we know what to do to rectify the problem, just have to wait for it to happen.

Take care and keep up the great work. Steve Wynn."

Notice Board – Hey, see what's coming up?

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

Locating Surveillance Target Acquisition Association Incorporated Annual Christmas Reunion 2020 Panania Diggers RSL Club, NSW

1. It is planned to have the normal informal Annual Christmas Reunion at the Panania Diggers Club, Childes St, Panania, 2213 on Sunday, 29 Nov 2020, commencing at 1145 am.

**All members are invited to attend.
The normal finger food will be provided.
The new banner will be displayed.**

2. An update and report on current activities of the Association and Regiment from the President will also be presented.

3. **RSVP re numbers to Joe Kaplun by phone/email as shown below, by 15 Nov 2020.**

M: 040 774 1473 or Email: joekaplun@optusnet.com.au

Joe Kaplun OAM, KSJ, CMC, JP
6 Apex Ave
Picnic Point, NSW, 2213

11TH NOVEMBER, 2020 – REMEMBRANCE DAY
PLEASE LET US KNOW VIA A STORY AND PHOTOS OF WHAT YOU DID?
Email me: Paul Dickson 131eyesandears@gmail.com



Australian Gunners

(Serving or Retired)



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
CELEBRATE THE**

150th Anniversary of Australian Artillery in 2021



Mark Your Diary

National Events

Where: Canberra, Venues - RAA National Memorial & AWM

WHEN: SUNDAY 1ST AUGUST 2021

Where: Sydney, Venue - Victoria Barracks

WHEN: SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER 2021

**Note: More detailed information including timings will be
provided when available throughout 2020 and 2021**

Unit & Association Events

**Throughout 2021 as advertised by those individual
coordinating organisations.**

CANBERRA

1st August 2021

**Commemorative
Service at RAA
National Memorial
Mount Pleasant**

**Synchronised
National Ceremonial
Fire Plan**

**Mount Pleasant & all
RAA Unit Locations**

**Last Post Ceremony
Australian War
Memorial**

SYDNEY

6th November 2021

**Formal Parade & Drum
Head Service**

**Incorporating the
presentation of a new
Queen's Banner**

Followed by

**150th Cocktail Party
Victoria Barracks**

FURTHER INFORMATION

**Contact
RAA HOR Staff
via email at
raa.hor@defence.gov.au**




Committee members:

President – Allen Morley, Vice President – Bert Blink, Treasurer/Secretary – Grahame Dignam,
 Webmaster – Bob Billiards, Research Officer – Ernie Newbold, Designs and Development Officer – Nick Proskurin,
 Eyes & Ears Editor – Paul Dickson
 General members – Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane.
 Regional Representatives: ACT – Bert Blink, Qld – Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell,
 Vic – Alan Adams, WA - Barry Guzder
<http://www.131locators.org.au>

Presidential perambulations

The Australian football season is now over after a Covid-crazy year. Time now for repairs to injuries that have been carried with the assistance of pain killing injections. Shoulders, knees, elbows, backs, legs and arms. It is amazing that a footballer can get to see a specialist the day after an injury occurs whilst 'Fred Citizen' has to wait for weeks/months to visit the specialist. And for our cohort the specialist may not honour our Gold Cards.

Our wheaten terrier, Bess, recently began to limp a little in her left back leg. So, it was off to the vet who certainly doesn't honour my Gold Card. Mmmm, maybe arthritis or a cruciate ligament. That sort of diagnosis is the scourge of the football world as it usually takes a year to recover after a ligament operation.

Dr David said that it looks like cruciate ligament which will be expensive to fix. Then, two questions from the vet:

How long has it been like that? A couple of weeks only with no apparent pain

Do you have pet insurance? Yes, that's good because you will get 80% back for the claim.

First came an x-ray to find out what was wrong. \$430 thank you.

Bess came back home tonight with the ligament diagnosis. It will be expensive, so I'm looking at a go-fund-me approach for the repair. That sort of thing seems to work for the young and frivolous anti-social generation.

Stay Covid safe.

Allen



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131divlocbtyraa>

The latest edition of *Eyes & Ears* is now on the Association's Facebook!
 We're getting OUR word out there.

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Annual General Meeting and Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 10th November, 2020 at 1100hrs

Venue: **Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway**

Street Address: Killoola St, Rhodes Park, Concord 2137

ZOOM link will be advised

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee **ZOOM**

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13th October, 2020 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were: Left to right from top row down...

Bob Billiards, Paul Dickson, Grahame Dignam, Bert Blink

Ian Amos, Allen Morley, Ian Campbell, Kevin Browning

Terry Erbs, Gordon Malcolm, Ernie Newbold



Apologies: Jim Fitzgerald, Ged Carroll, Warwick Brooker, Merv Nairn, George Lane, State Reps.

Chairman President Allen Morley opened the meeting and thanked those who had logged in to join the conversation particularly **Kevin Browning** and **Ian Campbell**. **Warwick Brooker** apologized due to a late commitment.

Financial Membership is currently ...**115**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **12**. Total **129**.

Lapsed **43** members (as at 1.10.20)

Grahame Dignam, Secretary/Treasurer, adds - Lapsed members have reduced from 43 to 41. If you are unsure of your financial position

SMS 0437 361 602 or email me for a quick check up sectreas131locators@gmail.com

Presidents report.

Allen advised that -

- . The AGM would go ahead on the 10 November 2020 at the Kokoda Track Memorial Walkway at Street Address: Killoola St, Rhodes Park, Concord NSW which has the appropriate facilities including parking.
- . Joe Kaplun advised that the local LSTAA Xmas do would be held at the Panania RSL on a date to be advised.
- . North Head SOA site is to open up to various activities including some military items. More to come on this.
- . LSTAA website has been updated and carries information regarding the Brisbane ANZAC DAY agenda. (See our website under events Calendar.

Public Officer Report.

AGM correspondence has been prepared for distribution. All existing committee members have indicated that they are willing to serve another term. Nominations for positions received prior to the AGM will trigger a vote for any contested position.

Webmaster Update.

Bob provided website stats. He also advised the Face book page now has 180 members and that postings have been building.

Health.

No new concerns have come to our attention apart from the usual aging aches and pains. NO reports of COVID19 which indicates we are alert but not ALARMED.

General Business and around the grounds.

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . A discussion ensued around an approach to the Surveyors group regarding the process of hosting their website on our webpage depending on their approval to do so. We await further advice once any issues have been resolved.
- . The future of websites generally was raised with the likelihood that in the middle-distance future technology would have moved on leaving websites redundant. We need to plan for that eventuality and Instagram is a likely contender. More to come.
- . A bunch of pictures have been received for evaluation for the Photo Album project. Also, another is "in the post".

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...November –

Date	Name	Service No	YoB	SVN in	SVN out	Comment
1	DENIS SMITH	2789286	1946	15 04 1969	17 12 1969	
1	VAUGHAN MILLAR	3411742	1948	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
1	WAYNE JEFFERY	2794772	1946	04 11 1970	29 07 1971	† 26.10.17
2	TREVOR PRIDEAUX (WAGHORN)	52837	1936	05 05 1967	06 02 1968	
2	KENNETH HALLIGAN	2788319	1946	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
4	JOHN HENSHAW	3793057	1945	20 01 1969	28 11 1969	

4	HAROLD LITTLE	2789038	1945	21 02 1969	28 11 1969	† 02.04.18
5	DAVID DACRE	5716803	1948	20 08 1970	20 08 1970	131
6	PETER WERTHEIMER	355747	1941			† 23.11.19
	" "			20 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd REGT
10	BARRY UREN	214715	1940	28 10 1966	02 05 1967	
11	WILLIAM TAGGART		1946	00.10.1966	00.11.1967	US 1st / 83rd
12	JOHN RICHMOND	2784289	1945			
12	THOMAS LEMPRIERE	3412000	1949	02 12 1968	21 01 1969	
13	MICHAEL CAMPBELL	6708462	1946	05 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 1984
16	KENNETH LONG	2783232	1945	04 05 1967	28 10 1967	
16	ALLEN MORLEY	3788972	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
17	WARWICK HAMILTON Capt.	235190	1939	17 04 1967	12 02 1968	† 26.08.2019
17	TERENCE (LOFTY) HAYES	214973	1939	{04 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 14.12.2011
	" " "			{10 12 1968	10 12 1969	
17	JORG KIENE	3797963	1947	09 11 1970	05 08 1971	
17	BARRY WILLIAMS	3796729	1947	16 12 1970	08 02 1971	
18	DESMOND BURY	1411072	1946	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
19	FRANTZ JOHN PERRY WO2	36026	1932	22 04 1966	07 09 1966	† 17.10.2016
20	MICHAEL FLETCHER	352778	1945	29 04 1969	16 04 1970	
20	LESLIE BATES	218053	1950	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	† 07.08.2013
22	MURRAY POUSTIE	3787941	1945	04 05 1967	14 08 1967	
22	BRIAN RUDDUCK (M.I.D)	216134	1935	{29 01 1968	21 01 1969	
	" " Sgt.			{03 02 1970	04 02 1971	4 Fd REGT
24	DONALD SIMMONS Sgt.	212769	1937	22 04 1966	21 12 1966	† 25.04.2015
25	STANLEY TODKILL	1201908	1946	04 11 1969	17 06 1970	
25	JIM TOWNLEY	3793586	1946	20 01 1970	27 05 1970	AACC
	" "			28 05 1970	14 01 1971	1st Amoured Regt
26	MICHAEL O'KEEFE	2787168	1946	08 01 1968	14 01 1969	AACC † 1980
26	FRED WALTER Sgt.	342848	1943	11 05 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
26	JEFFERY SCHAFER	2788886	1946	12 02 1969	17 12 1969	
27	PAUL HOBSON	2799714	1951			
28	JOHN BAYFORD	3791019	1946	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
30	RONALD SAUNDERS	38516	1947	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
30	GARY STRATTON	2788161	1946	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	

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

Ed – 11 blokes not highlighted is not all that great! S, c'mon, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **163** and we've sent out **163**. Ed – Anyone just about finished theirs?

. 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

The following is great news (a change for this section). After last month's *Eyes & Ears* where we had received major updates of "passings", readers have given us some fantastic news allowing us to make reductions on our Honour Roll –

1. John Lucas – "Hi Paul, I hope you are well. I just read the September edition of *Eyes and Ears* and discovered to my surprise that I had died in 1984.

I am still reasonably healthy for my age unless you know something I don't. It was some surprise and I'm now wondering who my wife is living with these last 36 years. I might come as a surprise to my youngest son who is 35.

Warm (as in alive) Regards, John

John Lucas No 3796256"

2. Brian Mitchell – from Grahame Dignam – “I had a call from **Keith Ayliffe** who just finished a call on the golden telephone - collect!!

He advised that we have another error on our Honour Roll - **Brian Leslie Mitchell** who just incidentally appears in this edition of *E&E* albeit with the incorrect spelling of his surname.

Mitchell, Brian Leslie	Gnr	2412582	-	1968-69	26/11/46	09/11/15
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KA said Brian was alive and well living in Tweed Heads. He was slightly amused that he made an appearance but again the Honour Roll was an exaggeration and his DOD should be noted "TBA"

I called Brian later in the day and had a chat and it transpired that we had been to a number of reunions at the same date & time but had not crossed paths. He is in contact with a number of 131 Vets in the SE Qld area but was unaware of our Website or Face book page. I repaired that error pointing out the Eyes & Ears newsletter tab. Grahame.”

Grahame Dignam sadly advised the following information with regards to the passing of Mark –

“I just received a messenger note from Brett, son of Mark Szypulski, who advised that he passed 3 November 2016.”

	Name: Szypulski, Mark Service No: 313270 Rank: Gunner SVN In: 18 03 19671 SVN Out: 29 07 1971 DoB: 22 04 1951 YoD: 03 11 2016 Lest We Forget	
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The Association Locators Honour roll is now reduced to 122 (as at 30.09.2020)

	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 <i>Eyes & Ears</i> 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
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. Other related sites...

Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...this is not accessible.



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



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

www.artilleryhistory.org



Website link - <http://www.vvaa.org.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>



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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