

THE EYES and EARS

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

Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com Vol 14 No 03 March 2021 No 152

Official newsletter of the 131 Locators Association Inc ABN 92 663 816 973

web site: <http://www.131locators.org.au>

Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs



Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

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

2021 – 55 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971



**As at 31st March, 2021 it's
been 12,233 days since this
photo was taken...**

The above photo (supplied by **Bob King**) was taken at North Head on 3rd October, 1987 in conjunction with the **“Welcome Home Parade”** and, yes, it’s been a long time where a lot of grass has been grown, mowed, burnt and places flooded; all of which leads us to the fact we’ve ALL aged somewhat and hopefully will continue to do so – not necessarily in a “somewhat” manner.

Now, to the crux of this article - **476** Detachment members served in the South Vietnam conflict over the **1,927** days the Detachment was deployed with the 1ATF. The last known member left on 13th August, 1971, (this member was **Sgt John Tickle** who transferred to 12 Fd Regt), which leads me to some statistics which concern me and others to the fact that **126** (26.5%) of us have passed (as at 7th March, 2020 – which we’re aware of, and to add to this **8** of us have passed in the last 12 months) and there are **117 NOT Locateds** (which equates to 33.5%, of the hopefully, surviving Locators as at 7th March, 2021 – according to the Association’s archives). So, if my math is correct we know, hopefully (again), that there are **233** (48.9%) Detachment members keeping contact in one form or another.

I realise I have raised this subject over time, but it is something I would like to see get closer to some sort of closure while we’re all still somewhat active. **Grahame Dignam** has written to the DVA on the Association’s behalf to see if they can be of any assistance spreading some light on this subject. We are approaching the subject from the angle of DVA recorded deaths. It is **NOT** our aim to contact anyone (unless the contact comes from them), but purely and simply to update our **NOT LOCATED** members.

Again, I ask for your help in this quest to us re-connect with members who were more than mates.

...this in turn leads us to the following continuous article -

. 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

. 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...

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

. **School of ARTY** – Here are some sort of interesting memories...

Allen Morley – explains how he **DIDN’T** get to the School –
“Hello Paul.

I cannot provide a tale of my time at the School of Artillery. However, I can tell you why that is the case.

Near the completion of recruit training at Puckapunyal, the rectum of rural Victoria, I was advised that I would be heading for the School located near Manly. Quite an opportunity for a soon to be displaced 20-year-old Victorian who had never heard of the Canopus Room.



So, I joined the School group. "What are you doing Recruit Morley? I was asked. I explained that I was heading for the School. "No, you are not" said the voice of Army authority, "you are going to Holsworthy!" "Where the fxxk is that I naively asked?"

Guess where all my goodies were transported? Of course, I went to Holsworthy and my bits and pieces travelled to the School. Typical Army stuff up, one of many experienced in my two years' service.

I therefore had to endure ten days without my goodies. And 'home' was now an Army hut near the oval between Holsworthy Barracks and the Army prison. Wunderbara!

Consequently, the closest that I have been to the School since was in recovering the AN-KPQ 1 radar from North Fort several years ago. Sad, but true. Allen."

Ed – I cracked an Arty Sigs course there in '67. Even mucking around with the radio (had several warnings) was great just being perched on North Head with the view on 3 sides. For the life of me I can't remember who ran or was involved in the course – the memory is saying WO2 Percy Ovenden (somebody will remember?). The Saturday nights were a bit of a blur though – I do remember Doug Parkinson down at "Can" (Canopus Room) at the Pacific Hotel – not sure how we got back up the hill!



Rieny Nieuwenhof - In conjunction with the above article sent in a copy of his Artillery Signallers "Course Report" from North Head with the following email –

"Hi Paul,

The Course Report comes from my military file. As part of my claim under the Vietnam Entitlement Act (VEA) the DVA had to provide my file to my Advocate. Such records are held by the Defence Department for all military veterans. There were other papers included eg. items from the Q Store given to me - boots, gaiters, rifle, magazines etc. etc. There is also a report of an injury I sustained in SVN and postings whilst in the military.

I haven't looked at these records for many, many years.

Very original to designate the 'school' arty course with 123?? Training Battery.

Regards, Rieny."

...now this, of course made me smile – not a bad result – one A, ten B's and 2 C's. Amazing it went for 8 weeks from April to June 1970.

However, with more thought I'm going to ask if anyone else has obtained any documents regarding their service, not only for service in Australia, but for their tour of duty in SVN?

It was timely receiving Rieny's email and attached report, as I had started to write the following article with a similar thought in mind as to were our movements tracked officially and by whom and are they archived?

Please read on...Question time...? -

AAF - C 35
Revised Nov. 1965

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES
COURSE REPORT

1. SCHOOL School of Artillery
Title of Course 11/70 Artillery Signallers Course ASI Serial Number 70
Duration 8 weeks from 28 Apr 70 to 25 Jun 70
Aim(s) of Course To train students in the duties of an Artillery Signaller (SGH 361)

2. STUDENT
Army Number 3729841 Rank SGT Name W.L. Van De Nieuwenhof
Corps SAA Unit 123 Tng Bty Formation 10 Tg 2 Command

3. RESULTS
* Classification B Position in Class 1 Number attending 13
Qualifications gained including military skills _____

Classification by subject—

Subject	* Classification	Subject	* Classification
Radio Theory	B	Communication Diagram	B
Principles of Electricity	B	Line Laying	B
Regulations	B	Radio and Line Equipments	C
Yellow Procedures	B	Flow Charts	B
Codes	B	Radio and Line Maintenance	A
Communication Security	B	Battery Charging	B
Fire and Control Orders	B		

4. GENERAL REMARKS (to include such personal qualities and characteristics as can be properly assessed)

One Van De Nieuwenhof produced good results throughout the course. He showed interest and should become a reliable signaller.

5. RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SUBSEQUENT EMPLOYMENT

Suitable as an Artillery Signaller.

Initials of Student [Signature]

* Classification
A — Outstanding
B — Above Average
C — Average
D — Below Average
FAS — Failed

(J.O. [Signature]) Senior Instructor
(J.O. [Signature]) Chief Instructor
Date 27 Jun 70

1 of 2 (continued on Page 2)

. Question time...? A follow on from Rieny's above...

The lead up: When we arrived in Nui Dat we had an idea in which section we were going to be serving, be it a Radar etc, so that laid the ground work. Then as time progressed, some if not a lot, of us served time in different locations, sections most times originating from members going on R&C, R&R, Operations etc. Surveyors did end up spending a fair amount of time in an LP or three for instance.

...so, this leads to the...

Question/s: Were our movements tracked? If so, by whom?

We've been able to read OC's reports detailing Operations, in some cases some members arriving, departing – not always by name/s.

Did anyone actually know, have a record of, your serving (coming and going), section etc? Let's say on Fire Support Base Anderson for instance? Records must be somewhere, as how did we get the "Combat Badge"?

What made me scratch my head a couple of months ago was the story of the blokes whose vehicle broke down in Vung Tau. Were they recorded leaving the Task Force Area by time/names, then entering the Vung Tau area in the same manner?

Did no one raise an alarm over them not returning that day?

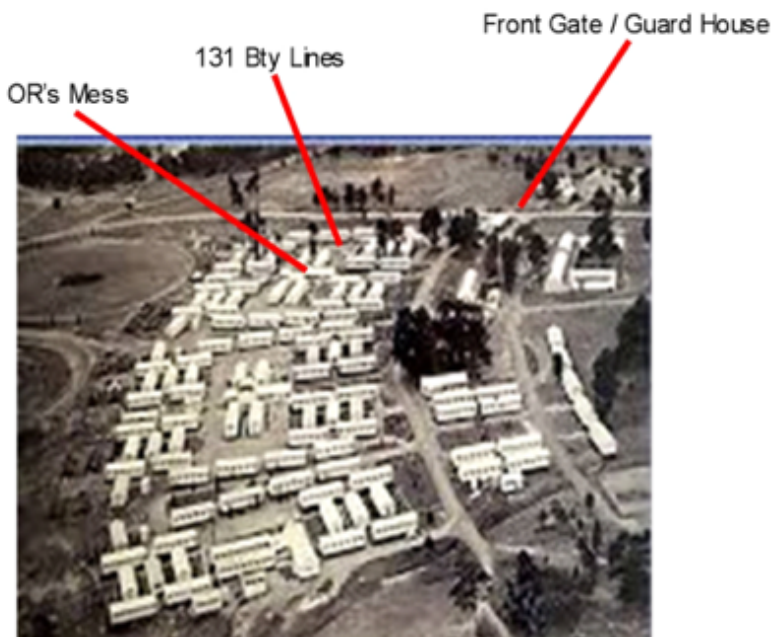
I had a Sunday in the Back-Beach area of Vung Tau with three other blokes (two of them were Terry Bruce and Nick Proskurin) - the two (lousy quality) photos show us parking the Rover on the beach to go for a swim (I don't remember wading in with the SLR?), then we went to the Peter Badcoe Club for a "couple" – did we leave our weapons in the vehicle unsecured? I couldn't see us traipsing in with the SLR over the shoulder.



Now, I'm informed that Army records are pretty freely available and do contain all sorts of relevant information, but I ask to what depth?

**Can anyone enlighten me/us as to what is available and what depths do the documents go to?
I'd really like to hear from you.**

. Holsworthy – a continuance from February's Eyes & Ears....



Bert blink - "Hi Paul. I cannot remember the hut I was in nor do I have photos.

When I returned to Australia in May 68 I still had 4 months of Nasho to go. So, after leave I returned to Holsworthy and was assigned to worked in the Sergeant's mess until I returned home in time to be discharged. I did not have to go on parade in the mornings but if I was not on duty in the Mess I simply went into Liverpool or Sydney. Regards, Bert"

Ernie Newbold – “G'day Paul,

I regret not taking a camera to Holsworthy but the images remain in my mind. The morning parade and roll call outside the orderly room the Q store and the armoury, the showers and the ORs Mess, the barracks we slept in, although old they were comfortable.

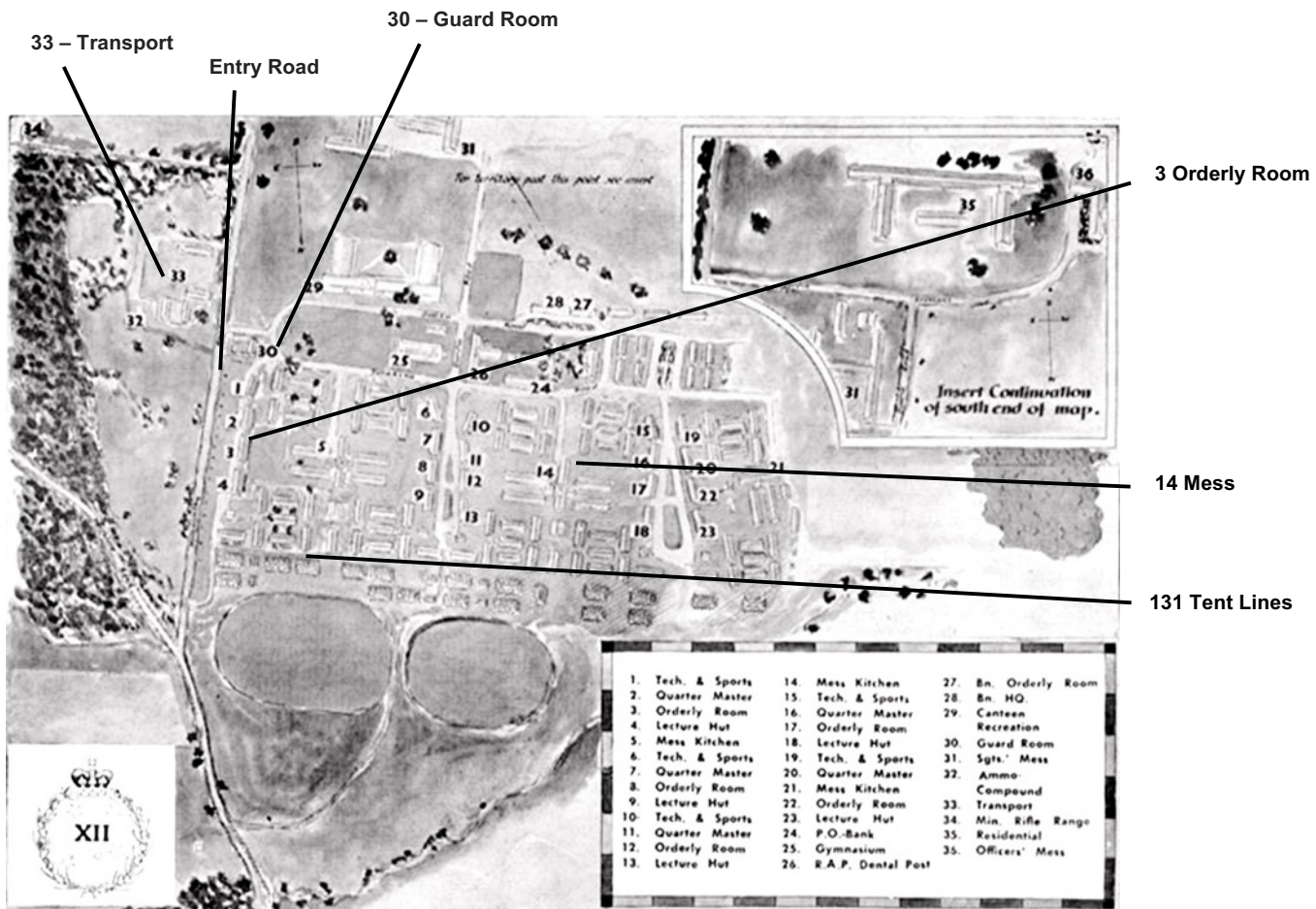
Young men from civvie street learning what it was like to be in the Army....

Regards, Ernie.”

... **P.S.** “I was able to go home most weekends unless on guard duty or away on exercises, an advantage of being a Sydney sider while at Holsworthy.”

Grahame Dignam – “I came across this some time ago ...can't remember where but glad I kept a copy, I have added the original in case someone can clean it up or maybe re-do a clean copy for our website? Maybe a surveyor or a draughtsman?

I have added labels and pointers to the best of my memory, I think the mess I did duty in was the one I marked but I am not sure where I ate? Could be Ernie's one?”



Barry Guzder – “Thanks Ernie,

Never knew all that! Brings back some good, some bad memories!

Sorry no photos of that DUMP! Hated it from the moment I left north head (School of Arty).

I was originally with 130 Gun Loc Bty. Always either on a charge or confined to barracks! Or pulling guard duty.

Had to stay on Fire Piquet during Christmas while “eastern states” boys got leave!! Went AWOL.

Lt. Yerbury had me up for MCE, but Vietnam intervened!

Regards, Barry G. 5714500.”

...**Grahame Dignam had to respond** –

“Excuse me Gunner G, this EASTERN STATE boy was on that bloody fire piquet with you.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

painting white stones WHITE again!

Wonder who it was that had the colour bias?”

Geoff Blackwell – “I spent more time at North Head on various courses than at Holsworthy.

But, I had my 21st, December 19, at the Holsworthy Barracks. We got a bit sloppy as I remember and a bunch of us got charged. As a result, we lost our Christmas leave, being confined to barracks.

There were severe bush fires in the Blue Mountains that year, hence the fire piquet. On Christmas Day, we were let out for a while and a few of us went to **Mick Armstrong's** place at Bondi for lunch. Mick's father was the local butcher and the Armstrong family really made it a merry day.

Guzder was there, who could forget. A few days later “**Wicki**” reinstated the remainder of our leave and we all got home for New Years.

As I remember it half a century on...Geoff”

...Another last word from **Grahame Dignam** -

“Aah, the stories that come out with a little teasing of the memory cells....”

Bob Billiards – “OK as Paul said, **Ian Amos** and I spent all of 5 minutes at Holsworthy with 131 but then 5 or 6 weeks when we returned from SVN with 12 Fd Regt. After leaving 2 RTB we made our way to the School of Artillery where we were greeted by the “Black dog” and had to do 2 weeks of the 4-week Corps training. We then ended up on an Arty Sig course for 6 weeks and then went on for another 6 weeks on an Advanced sig course (we came 1st and 2nd on the basic course). Just over half way through the Advanced course and when we were looking at what the next course might be, we were volunteered to go to SVN whoever was CO of 131. We reported to 131 and I lived at Cabramatta so was allowed to live off the base. Reported every morning and did all the stuff for heading to SVN - like inoculations (again), will, dog tags and painting the big tin box with our webbing etc. off to JTC for? Weeks. On arriving back at the Battery, we spent a couple of days, maybe a week doing something, I seem to remember all the battery having to do battle efficiency and one bloke who we did recruit training with fell off the rope traverse and broke his wrist/arm. We had just returned from JTC so no problem for us. Pre-embarkation leave and had to then return from leave to South Head. There was **Ian, Ken Woodbine (Woody)** and me who just turned up in our Pollys and no other kit. The parade was at 9am and the orders were for those going to SVN tomorrow, the buses will be there at? am and yes we were to be on them.

The last 6 weeks at Holsworthy was getting used to saluting 2nd Lieutenants and making morning and afternoon teas for “Pinky Salmon” and the RSM (“Oink”). Did one guard duty and all a bit “what am I doing here” after SVN. They should have just got rid of us as we didn’t add value to our service.

...after a bit more prompting **Bob adds** - Ok **Donaldson** sounds familiar and I think the “**Black Dog**” was **Rawlings**. He did go from the School of Artillery to 131.”

Merv Nairn with another “twist” – “G’day Paul, when we the Pioneers joined the Battery, they were domiciled at the School of Artillery Battery lines were at the North Fort, although we had part of the school building as quarters. We used the CMF unit at Brookvale to do our DP3 course (all things 131). One name that has not been mentioned BSM of the Battery when we marched in was **WO2 Bruno Sneddon** - a hard but fair man. Merv.”

. **Bob King** – here are some Kokoda, Holsworthy classic photos...



I don’t think we need to identify Ric and Bert!
(Talk about mug shots!)



Above: Ric Marques, Max Troynar, Nick Proskurin,
Bert Blink, Self and Leigh Baker



Far left: Max Troynar and Nick Proskurin



At left: Vaughan “Mitch” Millar



Bert Blink, Barry Guzder, Ric Marques, Self, Leigh Baker and Bob Bruce.



?, Max Troynar, Rob Retrot, Leigh Baker, ?, Allen Morley, Ernie Newbold, ?, Geoff Blackwell, and Nick Proskurin

Peter Ravelje – Sent the following link to a great documentary which is really worth viewing as it will bring back memories and some of the are “fun”. As Peter says, “this goes for about 50 minutes, but is definitely worth a look. Goes into the entertainers that were killed in Vietnam including our very own Cathy Wayne. Some great footage.”

<https://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/10371/Entertaining-Vietnam>

Entertaining Vietnam | Watch Documentaries Online | Promote Documentary Film

Entertaining Vietnam - Director: Mara Wallis | **Producer:** Richard E Recker

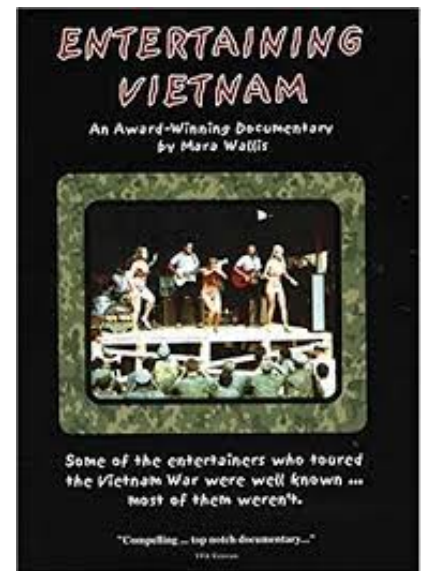
Genre: Documentary | **Produced In:** 2003 | **Story Teller's Country:** United States

Tags: Asia, Conflict, Freewill, Vietnam, War

Synopsis: Many of the entertainers who toured the Vietnam war were well known, but not all.

Filmmaker Mara Wallis belonged to this lesser known group of freelance performers for over 2 years, and returns to the intensity of those times to tell the performers' compelling stories in "Entertaining Vietnam."

The entertainers we meet return repeatedly to Vietnam, hitching rides from base to base and performing on landing zones at remote outposts. There were casualties amongst their ranks. Interweaving rare archival footage and interviews with veteran performers from Australia and the U.S., "Entertaining Vietnam" offers new insight into a tumultuous time by taking us to a place only a few really experienced.



...the following photo and description (thanks to the AWM) as a bit of a continuation from above -



The photos detail –
“Nui Dat, Vietnam. 1969. "The Wild One", entertainer Johnny O'Keefe, on stage, sings in a concert before an appreciative audience of Australian soldiers at Luscombe bowl. Johnny O'Keefe with **Caroline Page** and the "Playboys" staged a two hour “SHOW FOR THE TROOPS” during their tour of Australian and allied units.”



I didn't realise that Johnny O'Keefe toured South Vietnam (or if I did I've forgotten – mind you, I wasn't there then!).

Does anyone remember this show?

. Another SVN bit of humour to follow on from the above...

Graham Dignam forwarded on the following email and attachment which was sent to him by **Peter Binns** -

"Peter Whitaker was the artist haven't seen or heard of him since 1969. Peter Binns."

Wording from Peter Whitaker's "artwork" -

"So, you're a Viet Cong!
You're still welcome at 31Bravo anytime at all!"

Ed - What a classic - is there more?



. Quiz Time.

The following photo appeared in an *Eyes & Ears* a few years back.

There's a couple of things the "**Quiz Master**" wants to know -

1. Where was the photo taken?
2. When was the photo taken (month & year will do)?
3. What was the occasion?
4. Who are the 4 blokes? Sadly, one of them is no longer with us.

...now to the curly ones -

5. What's interesting about their names?
6. What do 2 of them have that the other two don't (no, it's not the glasses in hand)?

The **First Prize** is a **FREE** subscription of *Eyes & Ears* for 3 months! Don't mess about - get into it!



. **Vaccinated** - 19th March, 2021.

It happened a little earlier than expected - we got 24 hours' notice, so we took it! Joined a queue at 0700 and we're cooked by 1300 - that included -
. A one hour wait for a supply to thaw
. ½ an hour wait at the end to see if there were any immediate after effects - all good.

Heaps of people turned up.

We return in 21 days (9th April) for the second Pfizer.

We were given priority as we are considered old - over 65 years!

The "jab" was fine - just a numb/sore feeling 24 hours later.

Can't wait to see what form the evidence takes of the completed vaccinations we are given.

Paul (yes, that is me in disguise!)



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.

. **Grahame Dignam** – forwarded in the following email –

'I had a note from **Ron Mason**, our Shepparton rep, who passed on this piece of news and thought you might like to hear it and share.'

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO
ADVERTISER THURSDAY, 18 MARCH 2021



An artist's impression of the new National Vietnam Veterans Museum: it will be built on a 100-acre site opposite the current museum, with access from the Cape Woolamai roundabout. Construction could start later in the year despite the funding yet to be secured. A letter requesting funds was sent to Premier Daniel Andrews last month.

\$50m Vietnam Vets museum plans unveiled (Updated March 3, 2021)

Plans for a new \$50 million National Vietnam Veterans Museum will go to Bass Coast Shire this month, with an ambitious target to start construction later this year.

General manager Phil Dressing last week confirmed a planning permit was being sought for a museum, to be built on a 100-acre site opposite the current museum, with access from the Cape Woolamai roundabout.

He said a business case written last year estimated the new building – which will be about three times the current museum's size – would cost more than the previously estimated \$30 million.

"The business case found what we have here is not a nationally unique collection, but a globally unique one and we need to protect and conserve it," said Phil, who is set to retire in November and hand the reins to a new general manager.

"We can only do that effectively and efficiently if we start again."

According to the designs by architects Tract, the building will be incorporated into the landscape, feature a three-acre display hall, retail, café, classroom and function room able to seat 200 people, as well as a conservation area and library. The 100 acres extends to the intersection of Churchill and Phillip Island Roads and was purchased in 2019 for \$2.6 million – paid from a Federal Government grant – after a long search for a new site to house the museum's expanding collection.

Growing

Phil said they had outgrown their current one-acre site, with their Caribou plane, car park and spare parts area housed on land kindly on loan from Phillip Island Helicopters.

"We are getting more and more items and we have little space to store, conserve and display them. There's a Hercules forward section at Pt Cook that we want to relocate and display but it's 5m x 4m."

He said the museum was becoming increasingly popular, with more than a 20 per cent increase in visitation this summer. The current museum site will be retained as a service site.

"But we would be open to selling if someone comes along who wants to buy it."

Funding

Phil said he was confident construction could start later in the year despite the funding yet to be secured. He said they were hoping the Victorian Government would provide \$10 million in the May budget, with a letter requesting funds sent to Premier Daniel Andrews last month, accompanied by letters of support. State Government Veterans Minister Shaun Leane last month visited the museum, later commenting in Parliament he was "looking for ways that maybe we can support them further".

"They have got big aspirations to move the museum to a location across the road and I am seeing what we can do to help them fulfil that aspiration," Mr Leane said.

"It is the biggest Vietnam museum in the world – there is even not a bigger one in America surprisingly."

The museum will approach all the states and territories, as well as philanthropic organisations and individuals in a bid to raise funds.

"Our search will be global, any of the allies who were involved in the Vietnam War. We don't believe it's overly-ambitious to say we'll be sticking a shovel in the earth later this year.

"Ideally we would like to start building within five months after receiving planning approval. But that is predicated on funding. If we can't get support then the cost will be bigger and the timeline will be extended."

Background

Phil said the expansion was in line with the "National Vietnam Museum Masterplan 2025" adopted by the museum board in 2014, adding Phillip Island was considered "the spiritual home" for Vietnam veterans.

"The decision was made to initially look for land on the island, then go within Bass Coast Shire if need be," he explained.

"There were caveats – we needed main road frontage and enough land for future expansion."

After receiving the Federal Government funding in 2019, the museum looked at more than 12 different sites in their search for a suitable location.

In the short-term, residents and visitors will not see any changes to the existing museum, however it is hoped a mural will soon be added to a shed on the new land declaring it as the new home of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

Phil paid tribute to the tireless work and dedication of volunteers, with the museum started in the garage of veteran John and Krishna Methven's San Remo home, transformed into a world-class museum.



. **Phil Sheedy** was in contact during the month and the following is an extract from one part of our correspondence re: Lost Locators –

"The other guy we are concerned about is **Vic Claxton**. "**Fin**" (**Ian Finlay**) used to keep contact with him but we believe he was admitted to a nursing home in Adelaide with dementia. Fin hasn't been able to reach him for some time.

Regards, Phil"

Footnote: The blokes were all part of Alpha Radar in 1968.

If anyone can be of any help it'd be great to hear from you?

. **David Dougherty** – we'd been having some communications re: **Larry Bridge** and I'd given Dave an email address (very old) as a possible contact, anyway read on for more info and fascinating discoveries by David –

"Hi Paul,

The address that you gave me for **Larry** bounced so I am sending the previous info with a bit added, principally regarding **Allan Bensley**, another link that came to light this morning whilst looking at family history.

It would be appreciated if you could put at least the bit about **Larry** in *E&E* in the hope that someone will pass it on to him.

I was talking to the "**THE BITCH**" from the Armoury at NSW Police. When I found out that she had worked there I asked if she knew a Larry Bridge, she remembered him quite well and also that he had been with 131 without prompting and had a good word in respect of him. I was asked to say hello for her if I was able to make contact. She mentioned that Friday nights could be quite memorable with the Armoury and Ballistics getting together and it sounded like remembering the night may have been an issue in itself. All round some fun was obviously had in the two sections, she on one occasion being handcuffed to a chair, put in the lift with no ID, found by a Deputy Commissioner(?) who subsequently paid a visit to the Armoury with a few "suggestions". Another anecdote concerning these interludes was that she had to catch a train at Central and said that she had to leave. She was convinced by the others that she had time for another drink and would still be able to make the train and promptly had a can from the Hazardous Materials cupboard placed in her hand. With only a few minutes to spare she was bundled into a car which proceeded to the station only slowing at lights and promptly delivered to the concourse at the station, lights and siren still blaring.

She noted that now she could make a fortune from work place harassment claims. Her name is Karen but she said that to the Armoury and Ballistics teams she was known as "The Bitch".

The background to this is that she is a cousin of my wife, Carolyn.

More on cousins. I have mentioned before that 3 of my cousins were in Vietnam though I was not aware at the time. To make this world even smaller in doing some family history I was sorting some notes of a deceased cousin and in doing so following the name Bensley. She and Bruce Allan Bensley were cousins although there is no direct relationship to me, it being only by marriage. However, it is another coincidence as we were in Vietnam at the same time during his 2nd tour though at that time no relationship was known. He obviously was a glutton for punishment as shown by the DVA rolls.

32 Small Ship Squadron (AV 1356 Clive Steele)

06 Jul 1966

12 Nov 1966

Detachment, 131 Divisional Locating Battery Workshop

04 Jun 1968

18 Jun 1969

Detachment, 131 Divisional Locating Battery Workshop

27 Jan 1970

30 Jan 1971

It is a small world as at least 2 others of my wife's family, one being her grandfather, were well known to some of my cousins including the one noted above. This same cousin was the CO of one of Carolyn's relatives at Bandiana during WW2. To compound this, this relative of hers (now 96) was later posted to the same Coastal Battery at Stockton as another of my family.

Regards, David"

. **Peter Meaney** – "Hello Paul,

I found this request for info on the Jacka family in our Sunday paper some time ago, but did not have any contact details for Bert. I was in Vietnam with Bert in 1969/70.

Noticed in a previous edition of *E&E*, a letter from Bert, and wondered if you could pass this notice on.

Coincidentally, another vet one **Peter Bremner**, who was also in Vietnam (131) at the same time as Bert and myself, is in Adelaide at present mountain biking from Parachilna to Adelaide (500 plus kms), along the Mawson Trail with 5 other punters from Brisbane. Anyhow, they passed thru Melrose on their journey and Peter mentioned an old brewery in the town bearing the Jacka surname.

If you make contact with Bert, please pass on both mine and Peter Bremner's regards.

Cheers for now, Peter Meaney (Adelaide)."



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...

. **John Vitkovsky** – "Hi Paul,

Just returned from the opening of the Cockatoo Rise Veterans Retreat opening ceremony at Macarthur in Western Victoria. I have never actually see about 300 Harley Davidson motorbikes all in one spot. Most were Iraq and Afghanistan Vets. One contingent from South Australia was about 100 Harleys. Sure, rattled the town up when they all fired their bikes up for the march....

A lot of Vietnam vets and one bloke (who was 61) asked me what unit I was in. On replying 131 Div Loc his comment was "Fuck Me!" So was I. Small world. Anyway, it was a great success. The local caravan park is crowded with Vets staying the night and I would have loved to join them. Obviously, it will turn into a massive pissup. Jackie Lambie gave a speech as did some local minor dignitaries. Had to return home because our resort is chock a block with guests and Naomi is holding the fort. Here are some pix. Cheers, JV."





John Richmond – “Hi Again Paul. Just had a quick yak to Bert Blink.

I think he mentioned Xmas December 1966 and 131. I assume you were like the rest of 2/66 and we spent the day on fire picket. My best recollection was being served by the officers with our meal. The ration of beer for the meal also sticks in my mind in that I was given someone else's quota.

Bert also mentioned you may be interested in the names of some of the officers etc?

- . BC when we arrived he was **Paddy Gowans** (went to become a brigadier) and then **Bob Donaldson** took over
- . BC **John Browne** (I ran into to him in Canberra in or about 1975 - was Major by then)
- . 2nd Lt **William White**
- . 2nd Lt **Jim McKindly**
- . BSM **Keith Cossart** (he lived just down the road from in Weston Creek ACT. Sadly, he passed away in recent years)
- . BQMS **Andy Anderson** (he was not the sort of NCO you would forget. Still going strong at 85 or 86. Again he lives down the road from me and I run into him on a regular basis. Still a very active bloke)
- . Sgt **Hugh Hoddy** - Transport NCO
- . Capt or Lt **Dickey Wickenden** C Troup 130.
- . TSM **Percy Ovenden** C Troup

I suppose after 50+ years I have forgotten quite a few names I could possibly had a few other ranks

Regards, **JR.**”

Steve Wynn – “G'day Paul,

Sorry mate I was going to get back to you but -.

I hope you can get the 'vaccine' OK, is this a case of Mexico starting late to order it, or because of the cost of the vaccine to the Govt? I will have a jab when available. There must be some benefit from being "locked up", I was going to say look at the money you save, but if you are like me, you more than make up for savings with online buying. At least you are eating 'out' that helps keep one sane.

We were mostly smoke affected from the bush fires, although one of our farms got burnt to the ground, probably the only farm in the area to get burnt. There were 2 x 5500 gall plastic water tanks, full of water, completely melted to less than an inch of plastic on the ground. Sheds, tractor tyres, tools, the lot, nothing left but a mess. Media here keeps showing footage of a koala getting burnt, not far from here, it was the road in front of our farm, after the fire went through, Oxley Highway, Ellenborough.

Where I am on the mid north coast of NSW we really have not had any virus hassles, other than complying with ID 'ing at clubs, pubs and entertainment venues. I refuse to use the barcode app so that big brother can follow me around, so I just sign in and out of the RSL club with my member card. I have done the usual shopping runs to Port Macquarie and in town where I live, everything is same as always, as if there is no virus. Even when I eventually went into hospital for my op, (at Christmas) I just walked in, and through the place to register my presence for the op, no masks, no details left at the entrance. Rather slack I thought, after all, everyone else is made to mask up, sign in everywhere, temp taken, wash hands and locked up for weeks at a time, and we are not allowed to do any of it, not fair, got to be discrimination, see if I can get a class action going.

The operation was a success, I was very impressed with the theatre crew, surgeons etc., mate more people in theatre than at a 'state of origin' game. It was only the second time I was awake when wheeled into theatre, all other times I have been knocked out before entering theatre. They actually made me get myself off the ward bed and onto the operating table, fair dinkum, must have something to do with the law here that you can't lift an object weighing more than 25Kgs, ha, ha.

I went into 'recovery' after the op where they connected me up to lots of monitors, this is where the comedy starts, I had an extreme heart rate which is churn time in the heart (called AF) and it is making lots of clots which cause stroke. The nurse was pumping some metallic named stuff into me to get the rate down BECAUSE the ward would not take me unless my bpm were under 120, or whatever it was. They were more concerned about not being able to get me into a ward, and out of recovery, than the possibility of a stroke. Although I was in the right place if I did get a clot. I have to tell

you these days the best people in public hospitals are the cleaners and the ones who bring the food, at least they are regular, consistent and reliable, the rest are too busy crossing 'T's and dotting 'I's. It is not good when the discharge nurse recognises you and rushes your discharge, maybe because I complained about the discharge process last time in. I should add, the surgeon was my choice from available surgeons in the area, he brought his own team, except for the nurses. The hospital was free, but the surgeon was VERY expensive.

Yes, it has been a reasonably cold summer, I blame global warming, rained all the time which was a bit annoying at times but better than drought. The dams are full and there is water everywhere, I seem to recall a lot of 'expert' climate alarmists saying we would never see snow again or ever again get enough rain to fill dams, well they are all overflowing.

I had an hour-long laugh-a-thon with **Joe Kaplun** a week ago, just what the doctor ordered, a good laugh. Joe and I were Gunners in 130 Corps back in the 60s. I was about to explain to Joe that I noticed a piece of paper in your hand at the last 131 meeting with "Mexico" as the heading, when I told Joe that, he said "you thought Paul was in Victoria" I said yes, and had a good laugh. In NSW, we call anyone from Victoria "Mexicans" - south of the border thing.

Your temperatures are what I like these days, our summer was perfect this year except for all the rain, but that is not a complaint about rain. There was mention of the chemical use in VN at the last 131 meeting, I have attached a list of some of the chemicals used and quantities. After being a gunner, I was a rifleman in 4Bn and belong to the 4Bn Association, they have been looking into the issue of chemical use in Nam for a while, the attachment is a copy of "The Fourth Infanteer" page 17, Volume 54, Number 1, Jan/Feb 2021. I don't know if you can publish the attachment, or if it is copyright? I can't see copy protected anywhere in the newsletter.

Sorry for the 'book' mate, I will keep it short next time.

ANZAC day here is, no march, RSL car park to be used for the service and wreath laying, then into the club for lunch and a drink, or ten. Stay safe, Steve Wynn."

Graham Williams – "Giddy Paul, just give us a tick to slip off the goggles, flippers and snorkel and have a quick towel off.

O.K. that's better. As you are no doubt aware Eastern Australia has had a serious rain event (what the "do-gooders" seem to be calling it these days.) Yep life be in it in "OZ". 2019 saw floods, followed by very bad bushfires at the end and into 2020, Covid of course and now floods again in 2021. Throw in a couple of political scandals and brouhas, a couple of cyclones and borders opening and closing like a dunny door after liquorice so it has been quite a ride.

While we are OK here really feel for the many down south who lost everything. Some very bad scenes on the telly. Just watched the local news to hear Qld has received its normal annual rainfall already. Here on the Piggabeen Road "Ponderosa" the usual suspects got all the attention rain wise. Backyard and kennels flooded again so the hounds have been living in trolleys for the past 6 days. They go out for any small break in the weather but then have to be dried before trolley time again. Strange thing is they seem to enjoy watching water run under the trolleys to the usual watching the grass grow. They are telling us we may see sunshine tomorrow but will believe that only when I see it.

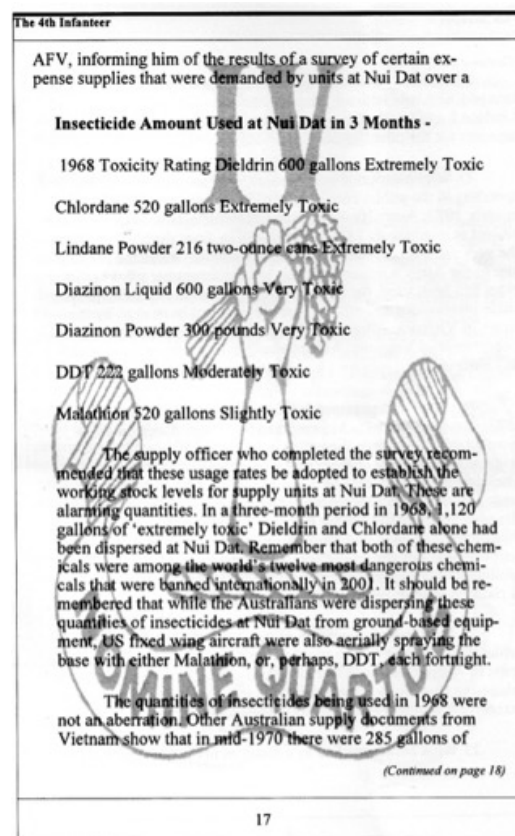
Despite the ups and downs of life we are both presently in good health with Jenni still nursing. Obviously, neither of us are looking forward to the impending clean up but at least we will not be alone in that.

Covid injections have started now on the Tweed but I am yet to make any appointments in that regard. My vet mate (32 small ships) had his first injection at Banora Point surgery on Monday (Pfizer vaccine) with the second jab in 12 days. He has been trapped here??? For over 12 months and seems to think that once he's had these injections he will be able to finally return immediately to his home in Vung Tau. I have decided I do not wish to be the bearer of bad news on that front so say nothing though I believe International travel may not come back until 2022. However, let us hope it is sooner. I could use a quick escape overseas if only to use up trips already on hold because of Covid.

So, mate you get to play with a caddy and don't drive a V8 golf buggy. Next time we catch up remind me to tell you a story about my 4 caddies.

Time now to venture back outside for another check on things. Hoping this finds yourself and Helen well.

Cheers, Graham."



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



The 131 Locators Association has decided to go ahead with its' usual Luncheon at **ZEST Restaurant** in Tatts Sporting club our usual venue at **12 Noon on 25th April 2021.**

Spread the word that if you are in Sydney on the day **JOIN US but PLEASE TELL US by 16 April** so we can update the booking at the club.

Contact G Dignam on - Sec/Treas sectreas131locators@gmail.com or via SMS on 0437361602

Venue details:

City Tattersalls Club, 198 Pitt St, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Grahame Dignam
Secretary / Treasurer
131 Locators Assn Inc
ABN 92 663 816 973



Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

ANZAC Day 2021...?

Here are some responses to possible plans for AD this year –

. **Bob Billiards** – Bib lives up close to the Blue Mountains in NSW –

“Paul, I will be going to a local dawn service, if there is one, and then off to the Sydney march if my application to attend is accepted. I will go to the Zest lunch either way. Bob”

...**Bob added a little later** -

“Just checked the Penrith RSL and their dawn service starts with a march -

“The march will take place commencing at 4.45am followed by the dawn service in Memory Park at 5am. Form up on Castlereagh St, by 4.30am.” Not sure I will make that one 😊

. **Steve Wynn** – can be found in Wauchope - “G'day Paul,

It is still up in the air for regional NSW although looking good for a dawn service at the Cenotaph and a march through town in Wauchope. State Govt keeps changing the 'rules' for gatherings so, **Wauchope Sub-Branch** is planning for a **Cenotaph Service** and town march but also ready for the alternative, which is a **ticketed service at 10:30 in the RSL car park and a ticketed lunch in the club.**

All we need now is for more rain and flooding and nothing will happen. We have had well over 800mm of rain in Wauchope since rain started last week, with massive flooding, blackouts and evacuations.

No mate, I am OK, my little acreage is high although not very dry, and I have setup an alternative power source for the house, separate to the grid connected solar system that has produced no power for a week. A separate set of panels, batteries and a generator keep our house powered. Yes, we live 'in town' but have a history of a 'crook' transformer nearby that insists on failing in wind, rain or if you don't hold your mouth the right way.

Cheers, Steve Wynn.”

...**a later email from Steve** -

“Hi Paul,

Just received the latest ANZAC Day details from the RSL for NSW. Cheers, Steve Wynn”

The following is just an extract – I would suggest contacting the links below for any further clarification -

“Restrictions eased for NSW ANZAC Day commemorations 25 March 2021

The March cannot proceed ‘as normal’ this year. The good news is that up to 10,000 people can participate including:

Current serving members and veterans of the Australian Defence Force

Descendants of veterans of the Australian Defence Force

Veterans of a Commonwealth Force and their descendants

Bands (Invites to be extended by RSL NSW)

Veterans and descendants can march with their relevant unit, ship, squadron, or association and behind their banners.

If you have any questions about ANZAC Day commemorations, please contact the Member Support Team on support@rslnsw.org.au 1300 679 775 or visit the [RSL NSW website](https://www.rslnsw.org.au)."

. **Graham Williams** – "In respect to your email, I presently have no plans for Anzac Day. The major ceremony at Currumbin's Elephant Rock was cancelled some time ago as was the Dawn Service, gunfire breakfast and march here in Tweed Heads at Twin Towns. Several of the smaller communities in the area will be going ahead with the Dawn Service but things are very uncertain still. Guess for us another Anzac Day on the front driveway is on the cards. Graham."

. **Diane and Keith Dean** – "We did Anzac Day at our letter box last year and will do the same this year. We have a multi-cultural street and last year our South Korean neighbours joined us for their first Anzac Day. We had South African and other Australian neighbours join in too. Our neighbour is a school teacher and had the service and music on her phone. We had the kids lay a wreath, say a prayer and lower and raise the flag. They loved being a part of our Anzac Day. So, same thing will happen this year.
Regards, Dianne and Keith Dean."

. **Peter "Fletch" Fletcher** – "Thanks Paul,
At this stage I will be attending the Dawn Service March at Terrigal Beach and then at 11.00am attend the service at the Wamberal Memorial Club.
Enjoy your day and the sunrise coffee.
Cheers, Fletch."

. **Bryan David Auld** – "At this stage as we already had accommodation booked we decided to still go to Brisbane, so at this stage I'm marching in Brisbane."

. **Bert Blink** – "Hi Paul
As far as I can tell the Anzac Day march in Canberra is a seated event, i.e. no march. So, my 1 RAR mate and our families will have lunch at our club to celebrate.
Regards Bert."

. **Barry Guzder** - "Hi Dicko,
Well I am involved with the Chidlow sub branch RSL (in the Perth hills) and we are conducting a full Anzac Day. Bands, school choir, big march (probably about 500 to 800 attending).
Will get Carol to send pics.
Regards, Barry."

. **Ron Mason** – "Covid19 rules - What next, looks like Anzac Day at **Dookie** will go ahead this year most likely without a march so we can keep numbers down to less than 200. More than that & the book work starts to mount up, not fond of book work!
All for the moment
Stay safe everyone
Ron M"

. **Terry Erbs** – "G'day Paul, because of your deadline and to let everybody know that there will be a march in Brisbane, please publish the current program [with the dodgy 2019 parade map!]
As you'll glean from my notice, it's subject to updates by the overworked/understaffed/stressed Brisbane March committee, who I suspect will still be issuing updates/amendments to the program up until ANZAC Day. Thanks for all your efforts during Covid -19 [I still haven't had the jab, maybe will get it early/mid-April!!]
Let's hope our next zoom meeting is better than last!
Cheers Terry...

ANZAC Day March 2021 in Brisbane is on but the Reunion is delayed again!!!!

Due to ongoing Covid issues, the LSTAA committee have decided to delay the biennial Locator's reunion until October 2022.

20th Regiment's Dawn Service:

Unfortunately, due to current Covid-19 restrictions, only serving members will be able to attend the Regiment's traditional Dawn Service, conducted at the memorial wall in front of HQ building, Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera. Disappointingly, neither families nor veterans can attend!

Brisbane ANZAC Day March 2021:

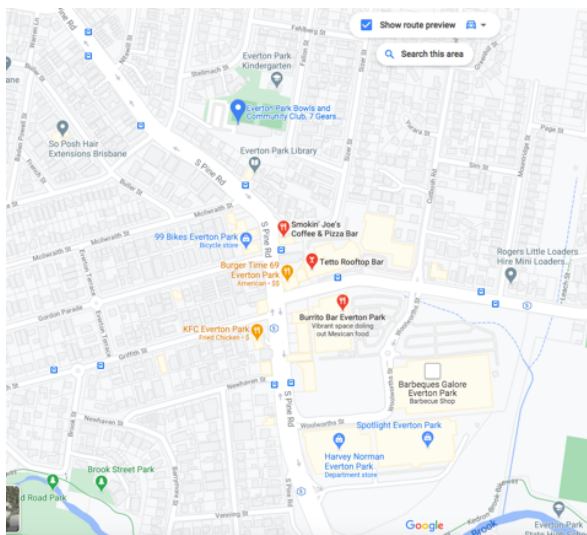
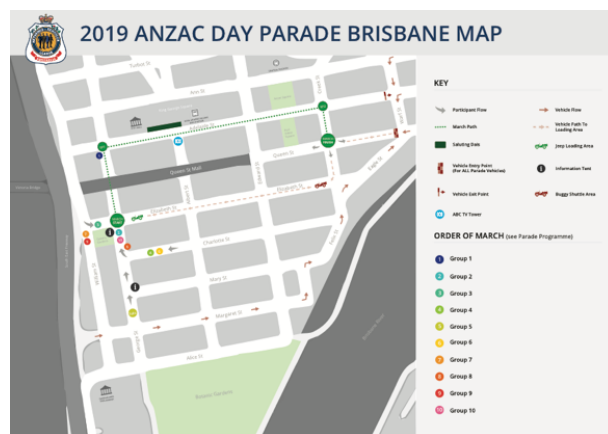
The Regiment are required to provide a large marching contingent, in uniform and carrying weapons, for the Brisbane ANZAC Day march. These soldiers will not be able to join us for usual post march drinks and will return to Gallipoli Barracks immediately after the march.

All Locators are invited to march behind the LSTAA banner, which will be carried by members of the Regiment {thanks RSM}. The banner, our rallying point, will be located at 9am in Williams St, beside the Casino facing North Quay. The march begins at 10am, our group [7A] are required to form up by 10.45am in William St at position 43, behind 2/10th Field Regiment Assoc. {details to be updated if March committee revise plans again and I'm waiting for their 2021 parade map!}



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

Post march drinks: With smaller numbers marching and unable to meet at the Stock Exchange Hotel, we'll leave the city and meet at the Everton Park Bowls Club from midday onwards... catch bus No 350 from Stop 59 Queen St [to be confirmed] to Stop 37 South Pine Rd Everton Park, then 200m walk to Bowls Club to catch up with mates for convivial drinks.



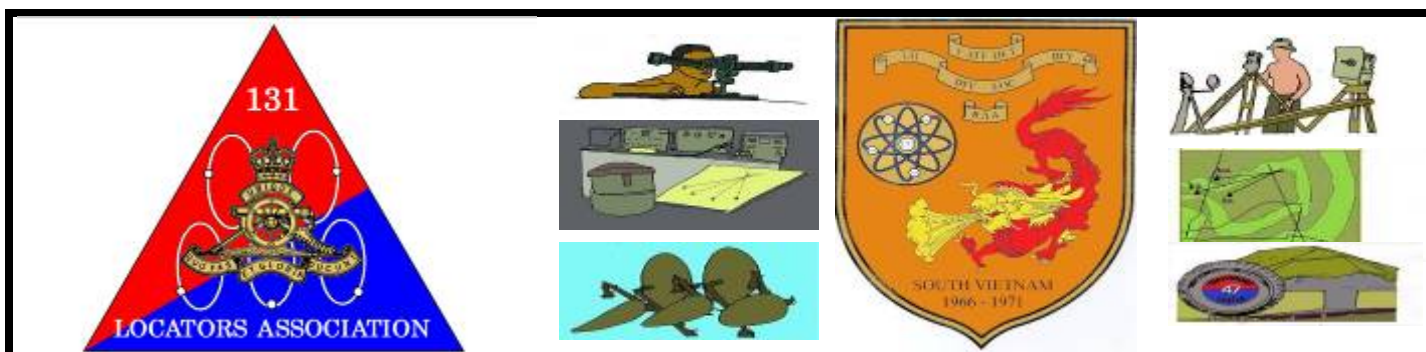
Could those planning to attend please notify me as LSTAA are required to provide a list of marchers as per Qld Health Covid-19 requirements by the 19th of April.

Regards Terry Erbs VP LSTAA
 terry.erbs@gmail.com"

This could be a precursor to what I'll be getting up to at dawn on ANZAC Day this year. Anyone care to join me for a coffee and breakfast? Paul



**Have a Memorable day and we look forward to photos and comments of your day.
 May whatever we do, and with whom, strengthen our resolve for life.**



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 two big topics of conversation in Australia currently are the East Coast floods and the timing for individual Covid vaccinations.

The State Emergency Services in New South Wales are doing a terrific job, and mostly their people are volunteers. On the news, this week they have demonstrated effective sandbag filling. They use a yellow device which holds up the sandbag and has a chute at the top for entry of the sand. That would have been useful for sandbag filling at Nui Dat was my first thought. Then I remembered that in '67-'68 we just drove to the sandbag point where the filling job had been done by the locals. And these sandbags were essentially for safety rather than keeping floods out. Although in the wet season, that was an ancillary task at times.

The Covid vaccine is an interesting study. Currently we have no active community Covid cases, merely the virus cases are among those arriving from overseas. The Melbourne based CSL is producing the AstraZeneca vaccine under licence, with the federal Government footing the bill. Some EU countries have placed controls on the vaccine coming to Australia, an action which has slowed down the planned vaccine program here.

Many of our 131 Veteran cohorts are scheduled to receive their first injection early in the program. I received an email from my Federal member this week advising of the plan for vaccination. His email request was that we not panic over the timings, but rather to wait for advice from our GP of the availability and suggested timing to attend for the first vaccination. Stay safe and enjoy the jab. Allen



find us on
Facebook

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

. Upcoming Events Calendar – 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: **Tuesday, 13th April, 2021 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

Members are invited to join in person or ZOOM – contact Grahame Dignam sectreas131locators@gmail.com

. Pertinent Points – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting Date: **Tuesday, 9th March, 2021 at 1105hrs...**

Attendees were: Ernie Newbold, Ian Amos, Nick Proskurin, Vic Danko, Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam and Merv Nairn.

Zoomers: Ian Campbell, Terry Erbs

Paul Dickson, Barry Guzder, Steve Wynn

Bert Blink and Ron Mason



Financial Membership is currently ...**125**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **12**. Total **139** Plus, Lapsed as at 1/3/2021 **33** members.

Presidents report.

Allen advised that -

. Regardless of the outcome of the NSW ANZAC DAY March fiasco we would gather as usual at the ZEST restaurant in the City Tatts club for a luncheon. If anyone is in town on 25th they are welcome to join us but please advised us as numbers will need to be supplied to ZEST beforehand.

. We recommend that you register for the Sydney ANZAC DAY March if attending as Covid19 protocols will apply.

. QLD have announced that a full March will be held with normal crowds expected.

. WA has advised the same.

Webmaster Update.

Bob apologized for his absence. Grahame D advised face book now has 216 members and activity is picking up but we need more variety of input.

Health.

. No new concerns have come to our attention

. A member related his experience with alcohol addiction. His GP referred him to St John of God as a rehabilitation facility. He entered the facility was treated well and the centre was very effective in its treatment of his group. If any assistance is needed contact your GP

or;

Our professional Advocate's at: -

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

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

General Business and around the grounds:

- . During this section of the meeting serious sound deficiencies were experienced with the ZOOMERS. A summary of the subjects follows with details omitted.
- . Privacy of information on the website and in *Eyes & Ears* with some measures completed and others to be adopted after further consultation.
- . A funeral for Des McGuiggan has taken place with the Engadine RSL providing Military adornments EG Australian Flag etc.
- . Concern was expressed regarding the slow-moving Merchandise for the Association. A placement of adverts will be made in *Eyes & Ears* and on Face book to stimulate interest.
- . Suggestions to purchase a remote microphone to aid the ZOOMers hearing our comments during the meeting were made. A motion to cover the cost was unanimously carried by a show of hands and nods.

If you've got more photos that you want added, just send them to: - Paul Dickson – Subject: web Photos
131eyesandears@gmail.com– BUT DON'T FORGET TO ADD TITLES/NAMES ETC.

. Birthdays in the Battery...April –

Date	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	DES SPENCER	3787905	03 01 1967	13 12 1967	
1	IAN MORRIS Capt.	243062	10 03 1970	09 07 1970	RAEME
	" "		09 07 1970	11 03 1971	106 Fd Wkshp
2	HILTON HOLLOWAY	1736606	16 12 1970	03 05 1971	131
	" "		03 05 1971	26 10 1971	12 Fd Regt.
4	KEVIN MAKER	2251507	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
4	WILLIAM LAUGHLIN	2788465	13 01 1969	27 08 1969	
7	JOHN McFADDEN	2783243	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
7	DAVID MARTIN	2781662	22 04 1966	29 04 1967	
8	RICHARD BRISTOW	1733143	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
8	LEON DJATSCHENKO	312532	26 08 1969	13 08 1970	
9	TERRENCE MYERS	217798	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	
11	MICHAEL McDONNELL	2781377	04 05 1966	11 04 1967	
11	TERRENCE FOX	1200934	08 07 1968	02 07 1969	
12	KEVIN BEVANS	3798316	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "		07 06 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
14	RONALD ARTHUR HARRIS	5510968	18 06 1968	17 01 1969	† 07.01.69 2nd SAS Sqd
15	RIENY NIEUWENHOF	3798241	10 02 1971	05 08 1971	
19	RON ROYAL WO2	23552	02 03 1967	20 02 1968	† 01.05.02
19	PETER CLARKE	3792212	11 11 1968	27 08 1969	
19	BARRY DYSON	3795956	03 06 1970	04 03 1971	
20	ANTHONY TURNER	1202849	27 01 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "		01 07 1971	15 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
21	JEFFREY BASSFORD	2792419	29 04 1970	14 04 1971	
21	NEVILLE DAVIS	5716997	11 02 1971	12 08 1971	
22	BARRY CAMPTON Capt.	61270	{14 07 1963	22 07 1963	
	" "		{13 08 1966	28 04 1967	
22	MARK SZYPULSKI	313270	19 08 1970	17 03 1971	† 03.11.16
	" "		18 03 1971	29 07 1971	131
23	MURRAY SMALE	5411587	27 11 1967	20 08 1968	
24	JOHANNES LAS	3792338	23 09 1968	18 06 1969	
25	KEVIN BANKS	3794366	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
25	QUENTON KNIGHT	2412578	09 12 1968	24 09 1969	† 18.01.20
26	GRAHAME DIGNAM	2784745	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
26	WILLIAM CROWTHER	215416	22 04 1966	02 11 1966	† 14.01.20
27	GERALD YOUNG Maj.	311460	{06 03 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
	" "		{25 05 1967	22 06 1967	RAEME
28	GARY LOVELL	218160	08 05 1969	30 04 1970	

29	RON MASON	3787154	04 05 1966	03 03 1967	
29	KEVIN THORNTON	2781420	04 05 1966	02 02 1967	
29	BERNARD ERICA	3787334	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 23.11.16
29	PETER FUHRMANN	3789807	21 06 1967	02 04 1968	
30	IAN McMILLAN	215117	15 07 1970	09 09 1970	

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

Ed – 7 blokes not highlighted is too many! Ok, let's go find several of them, please?

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **165** and we've sent out **165**. Ed – Ok, who wants to be **166**?

. **Located...**

Have a look at the Association's web site - <http://www.131locators.org.au> – you might find some lost mates or get in touch with us and see if we can for you.

Vale

. **Coral Gibson** informed me of the passing of her husband, **Robert Martin GIBSON** in the Lismore Base Hospital after having a massive stroke on 2nd March, 2021.



	Name: Gibson, Robert Martin		
	Service No: 2787361	Rank: Gunner	
	SVN In: 29 01 1968	SVN Out: 07 02 1969	
	DoB: 03 02 1947	DoD: 02 03 2021	
Lest We Forget			

Phil Sheedy – “G’day Dicko,
Some photos from 1968 of “Gibbo” for you, God rest him, Philip Sheedy”



A Classic one of Bob

In the original Lines, near 17Construction, early in '68 -
Bob on Left, with Tony Coutts (late) (C) and Doc Sheedy (R)



With the bulk of the Alpha Crew, late '68 -

L To R: Bob, Johnny Bristow, Bones Gordon (late)(behind the pole),
Doc Sheedy, Bubs Mitchell, Tony Coutts (late) and Martin Kryntjes
(late)

...Phil Sheedy continues...

"G'day Dicko

Johnny and Maureen Bristow, Bubs Mitchell and I were able to join with Gibbo's family and friends to farewell him off in a beautiful ceremony in Ballina this morning.

Back in the sixties when we joined, voluntarily or otherwise, Bob was living in Hurstville, but had spent his high school years at Farrer Agricultural College near Tamworth. He had a love of country life, and following his discharge ended up pursuing a career as a State Fisheries Inspector, a career which saw he, Coral and their family posted to a series of locations throughout rural NSW. His final posting was Ballina, where the family became involved in a range of community activities and forming many friendships and where Bob eventually retired.

He and Coral had a love of travel, both at home and abroad and saw much of Australia and the planet.

May he Rest in Peace

Regards, Philip Sheedy"

Bill Taggart – 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...

"May he rest in peace.

Your brothers from the 1/83rd honour the memory of Robert. Bill."



Charles Brewer – "Appreciate your commitment Paul, to this sad but vital part of your role.

Charles here, Coffs Harbour ex 133 Div Loc.

Many will value knowing about another Veteran's passing. Ubique Paul. Charles."

David Auld – "I met Bob at a reunion here in Coffs, where we tried to get him on the committee but to no avail.

Bryan David."

Ken Dwight – "Thanks Paul, my condolences to his family and his mates from the unit, another sad loss.

Ken Dwight."

David Doyle – "My apologies to Coral and the family from the Vets at Coffs please accept our deepest sympathy at this great loss to your family. Lest We Forget."



. **Ray Payne** – “Sadly, I inform you of the death of **Russell John Grigg**, late of Lorne NSW and past member of the Veteranweb Network. Russell passed away in the early hours of Saturday 27 Feb 2021 after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was a National Serviceman who served with 131 Div Loc Battery, RACS. A private funeral is planned to take place on Monday the 8th of March in the Chapel of Mark G. Hammond Funeral Services, 59 Hastings River Drive, Port Macquarie 2444
Ray Payne OAM
Veteranweb Network
raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au / www.veteranweb.asn.au

The Veteranweb Network provides information to Australian veterans, ex-service, and service personnel. Reaching more than 13,060 readers daily and growing.

All service and ex-service personnel may subscribe to the Veteranweb Network cost-free, simply provide your service number and unit. All information is provided via email from various reliable sources. Veteranweb is an information service, while it is not a forum you are welcome to contribute.”

Ed – I replied to Ray informing him that the Association has no record of Russell, so I’m asking if anyone can help spread some light on his being with us?

May They Rest In Peace



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

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

Hope we hear from you?

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

. Other related sites...

Artillery Surveyors 131 Div Loc Bty...this 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 Det 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/>

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>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

All material that is included in *Eyes and Ears*, official Newsletter of the 131 Locators Association Inc remains the property of 131 Locators Association for its sole use. Prior written authorisation for the use of any material whatsoever contained in the Newsletter must be sought from 131 Locators Association Inc. Any material approved for use by third parties must acknowledge 131 Locators Association Inc as the source. No responsibility is accepted for unsolicited manuscripts, illustrations or photographs, or for the accuracy of information contained in the text of Eyes and Ears.