

# THE EYES and EARS

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

Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson email: [131eyesandears@gmail.com](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com) Vol 15 No 2 February 2022 No 163  
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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**

**2022 – 56 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971**



**Here's the crew that RTA'd  
in February 1968**

**20<sup>th</sup> February, 1968** – in the photo above we have from left to right – **WO11 Ron “Chalkie” Royal (Late), Grahame Dignam, Bruce Irvine, Roger McDonnell and Ron Webb (Late).**

The others who returned on this date were – **Warwick Brooker, Ron Evans, Nick Proskurin** and on different dates in February '68 were - **Capt Warwick Hamilton (Late) and Sgt Trevor Prideaux** – NO RTA photos of any of you!

## RTA Project for 2022

How about you send me Return To Australia (RTA) photos ASAP, so I can continue on from February?

Just off the top of my head – RTA'd in a February were –

**1967** – Kevin Thornton '67

**1969** - Terrence Hunt, Ron Robards, Garth Nichols, John Brewer, Peter Dealy, Sgt Eric Thompson, Gary Leplaw (Late), David Dougherty, Keven Bush and Lt John Martin

**1970** – James Lockhart (Late), Lt Andrew Overall, Lawrence Farr (Late), William Edward, Hubert Andrews, Torin White and Geoff Price.

**1971** - Roger Holmes, Peter Mackie, Robert Gibson (Late), Eric Williams, Warren Jaenke, Peter Sali (Late), Sgt David Doyle, Barry Williams (Late), Chris Brazier and Lt Michael Boyle.

I've seen some group photos around – I'm sure I may have the odd one – maybe you can send some in so we can add them to future editions?

Then I can publish them in the months you came home – just a bit of memory fun.



Give me a Name?

## The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project is being re-ignited for 2022.

Our current list contains the names of **118** Locators (as at 25.02.00.22) that we have not had contact with since basically commencing communications in 2012, so, we thought this year is as good as any to try and reduce this number.

However, this doesn't mean that we still have contact with the total number of Battery/Detachment members we have Located over time as continuing correspondence has lapsed in a lot of cases.

We regularly check bereavement/funeral notices and this does not locate members in the way we really want to. So, we're appealing for YOUR help in scouring all sorts of sources – local RSL's may be a good starter.

I can send you the total list of names or, if you prefer, by years in SVN to give you a starting point. I will keep an update and publish monthly results in *Eyes & Ears* and the Associations Facebook page on the web site.

Paul Dickson

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

The following data is extracted from the year 1967, that the 9 members began their tour of SVN...

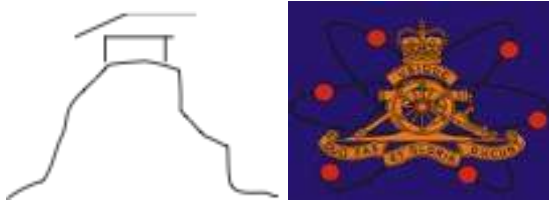
| NAME                     | Regt. No. | BORN | IN SVN     |
|--------------------------|-----------|------|------------|
| WILLIS (BILL) WIGHT 2Lt. | 39136     | 1945 | 12 01 1967 |
| MICK KING                | 216504    | 1948 | 04 05 1967 |
| FRANK HALLIDAY Sgt       | 215105    | 1937 | 02 01 1967 |
| KEITH WHITE              | 2783029   | 1945 | 17 04 1967 |
| JOHN GREENAWAY           | 3790617   | 1946 | 24 10 1967 |

|                 |         |      |             |
|-----------------|---------|------|-------------|
| BOB BRUCE       | 4718049 | 1945 | 11 06 1967  |
| JOHN POLLOCK    | 53860   | 1939 | {17 04 1967 |
| WILLIAM THOMAS  | 16727   | 1944 | {07 01 1967 |
| RONALD SAUNDERS | 38516   | 1947 | 04 05 1967  |

I look forward to hearing from you with regards to the above, plus any other years that you may want to have a look at.

. **Eyes & Ears** – the First edition in the new series – 13 Years ago, it got re-booted! It's just so good to see how it has developed over this time – and a great amount of thanks goes out to the lot of you.

Let's see if we can keep it going for a while longer.



Eyes and Ears

**No.0001 February, 2009**

31A, 31B, 31C and 31D – Are you awake? Over.... (followed by a long pause) Well I warned you that I would start something, so here goes!

I'm not sure of the format to do this in, but along with possible future submissions from all and sundry on any topic that takes their fancy it may develop into something. I was wondering if anyone would care to be a regular or irregular contributor and take a subject / topic and air their knowledge. Perhaps someone might have a talent in electronics, photography, hypnotism, correcting my spelling and grammar, strange smelly growths occurring under the arm-pits or whatever, and may be able to problem-solve for any questions raised – something like a “Dear Dorothy Dignam” – NO marriage counselling though, not that Grahame may not be good at it! However, I believe he is a qualified Grandchild

Tamer! .....

**Ed – crikey, 13 years ago!**

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

## . MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Andrew Gee MP**  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs  
Minister for Defence Personnel  
Federal Member for Calare

13 February 2022

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR 'NASHOS'

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February marks National Servicemen's Day, when we honour the hundreds of thousands of young Australian men who served our nation through compulsory military service after the Second World War. Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Andrew Gee said it was important to recognise those who stood up when called upon to defend our country.

"Australia's 'Nashos', as they are affectionately nicknamed, made a significant contribution to our nation's defence forces and rightfully wear the title with pride," Minister Gee said.

"I encourage all Australians to take time to reflect on the service and sacrifice of these men and ensure they continue to be appropriately remembered.

"The idea of compulsory military service would seem foreign to many Australians, particularly younger generations, but between 1951 and 1959, and again between 1964 and 1972, it was a reality for many young Aussie men.

"Around 227,000 men completed the compulsory six months' recruit training during 1951-1959, but it was in the second period from 1964 when 'Nashos' were deployed in significant numbers.

"More than 804,000 men registered between 1964 and 1972, with more than 63,000 called up to serve.

"Of these, nearly 19,500 served in Borneo and Vietnam and the remainder in support units in Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and Australia.

"More than 15,000 served in the Vietnam War, where some 200 died and over 1,200 were wounded.

"It is a little-known fact that from 1966 Australian infantry battalions in Vietnam were typically comprised of an equal mix of regular soldiers and National Servicemen.

"At the time, most 20-year-old Australian men were required to register and were then selected for National Service through the infamous 'birthday ballot', in which they were randomly selected by their date of birth.

"My uncle Geoff was a Nasho, who served his country at Nui Dat in 1967. My family and I are incredibly proud of his service, as all Australians should be very proud of our 'Nashos' who answered the call to serve their nation. They personify our Australian value of service above self."

Learn more about the National Service scheme of the Vietnam War era by visiting the Department of Veterans' Affairs Anzac Portal – <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/vietnam-war-1962-1975/events/conscription/birthday-ballot>

## AN INVESTIGATION

181 Days

### . The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM)

This is just a continuing update with regards to the progress being made with the submissions on behalf of Defense Force Members, who for no reasons of their own, were not awarded The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM) –

**An update from Richard Barry OAM –**

"Hi there Paul.

Nothing too much has occurred since last update.

I know the Minister has read the appeal submission and he will be seeking Cabinet response before making any decisions.

There is a heap of distractions in parliament at the moment - politicians misbehaving, looming Federal election, China and the Russian invasion.

I have my fingers crossed.

Cheers Richard."

**Paul Dickson**

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained."



## Mail Call...

**. Peter Bruce - G'day Paul**

As the rain continues to belt down here, I am taking the opportunity to send you some photos courtesy of Larry Bridge. Larry had all the photos copied and asked me to send them on to you. Larry is doing well but like many, he has a few medical issues to deal with. I may have misled you and your readers initially about which Listening Post Larry worked at. It was in fact 31D as I think one of your readers may have pointed out. I catch up with Larry every couple of weeks and we tell lots of lies to each other but have a good old laugh. Larry is a font of knowledge on weapons of all calibres. This I think stems from his time in the Ballistics Section of NSW Police. Larry still gets out to the range occasionally and by all accounts still a bloody good shot. Larry lost his long-time companion dog after 13 years just recently. Anyone who has ever lost a dog after many years will know how it can hurt. A replacement dog is still being considered.

I managed to get into Queensland a week ago to catch up with my son who lives in Brisbane. We had decided to meet over on North Stradbroke Island so I took the camper over and set up on Main Beach. My son arrived about 6.00pm on the Thursday and the Easterly wind started about two minutes' past and never stopped for the three days we were there. Not the most comfortable camping trip I have ever been on but son and I had a good old laugh about lots of issues and managed to keep a couple of cans of 4X cold enough to enjoy. Apart from the wind, rain and march flies, it was a great trip! Wife and I hope to get to WA in May/June but you never know what the WA Dictator will do with borders etc. Still, it will be nice to get away in the van and hopefully South Australia will have dried out by then.

All the very best for now and I hope you and your readers get a kick from Larry's photos.

Best wishes, Peter."



**Alan Robb, Frank Pepper RIP, Mick Bohl RIP and Nev "Bottle" Wortlehook**



**Ken "Bluey" Piesley RIP and yes, he was 21 when I took this shot.**



**Ken Jones and Jim Kruimink**



**Gordon Malcolm**



**Phil Johns and Ken Jones**



**John l'Anson, Col "Bones" Gordon RIP, Wal Franklin, Ian Finlay and "Doc" Sheedy behind.**

### **. Bob Billiards – ANZAC Day and Other Stuff...**

Paul,  
Hope you and Helen are well and keeping safe and enjoying winter. We haven't had a real summer this year so far as it is still raining regularly from the East Coast Low systems that continue until El Nina finishes supposedly this month but maybe next month!!??. We are planning on a camping trip down the south coast for a week to Bournda NP just near Tathra. Not sure we will go if it is forecast to rain all that week 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March.  
The next trip is to Burra, near Canberra for our son's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and then fly from Canberra to Brisbane for the ANZAC get together there. We miss the first day's activities but get to the informal dinner and then the March and get-together on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Here is a link to the ANZAC portal where they have resources that anyone can use. I use the photos for our web and Facebook site when the date gets near.

[https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/anzac-day-kitbag?utm\\_source=Anzac+Portal+subscription&utm\\_campaign=af59aa3c3a-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_8\\_10\\_2021\\_15\\_27\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e0d5672202-af59aa3c3a-161191639](https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/resources/anzac-day-kitbag?utm_source=Anzac+Portal+subscription&utm_campaign=af59aa3c3a-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_8_10_2021_15_27_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e0d5672202-af59aa3c3a-161191639)

We are in another isolation week (my 3<sup>rd</sup> and Cathy's second) after this time my eldest daughter's husband tested positive on Tuesday, the day we left their place in Parkes for home. You may have seen that I was at the Dubbo Speedway on Saturday night from Facebook and it was the first time that I have ever been given something for showing my Gold card to prove I am entitled to the Pensioner discount. The Lady didn't charge me the Pensioner rate \$16.50 but a late entry ticket \$5.50 and smiled when I asked if I she had charged for my grandson who was with me and gave me the tickets. Wouldn't happen here in Sydney. The new Sydney International speedway opens on Saturday evening for the



first events and it looks like it will be raining

Will catch up again soon.  
Bob."



#### **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...

**. Ross Gunnell (Mandurah, WA) –** "Kate and Myself are gong ok. Kate had a minor gall op and all's good. It is in the family line and Kate is the eldest to have the procedure, most before their 50's.

We have to wear masks even though we are 2+1 jabs. Other than that, we are mostly free to move about the State. Always those who want their own way hate the Premier here in W.A. We have active cases of 195 so steady, steady. Still register entry to all places, but, must carry proof of ID and 2 vac's jabs. Those who do not comply have no right of entry to a lot of eateries indoor venues - no cafe, no bottle shop and other similar businesses.

Been bloody hot for quite a while so adventures are minimised between cool coooooo spots. Plenty of fire bugs are in full force, so lots are in fear and becoming homeless. The south coastal places are in dire straits especially holiday areas.

I go to a meeting every Friday with a club that started 30 years ago by people going and doing water exercises for health issues. I was, for quite a while, trip organiser for the club, entailing a day out once a month to a different place ever time, included bus trip with morning tea and lunches. Most places I had never been to and a few they had never heard of and never knew the towns existed. About 90 members, consisting of about 80% women and none including men are under 70. Most have out lived their husbands. Being a young feller I am good for a hug on Fridays!

This coming weekend I am off, hopefully, going north to Jurien Bay for a week with dozen others I befriended years ago. Three are Viet Vets after our tour, in Vungers, 1 was with choppers. Catch fish, drink and general bullshit. Kate's cousin has a c/van so all is good. Mind you, they hang out for my birthday spread every year, with various nuts, meats, biscuits etc. a 1 metre design like map of South Vietnam or a slouch hat and so on.

This is the most I've ever typed so to read will make you and I both thirsty.

As will always great to talk to you - Keep well mate

Ross."

**. Ron Mason (Goulburn Valley, Vic)** – "Hi Paul, good morning here but afternoon yesterday at your place I think! I guess you are up with the news, from the 21st Feb no quarantine for double vaxxx entry to Australia.

Yes, we are both double vaxed & boosted, so that must – vaxxx!

Everything goes on much in a fairly normal way at our camp & yes, we get to go out for a meal. Sunday, it was Mt Hotham for lunch with some friends, turned out to be a bit of a convoy - 4 cars & 3 motor bikes so a very social day with the odd refreshment stop on the way home. It was good to catch up with some of our travel friends & talk about a future camping trip.

The way the year is getting away Anzac Day will be here in no time so am putting a bit of thought about the Brisbane reunion, that's just in the think tank as yet, see who else might be going before a final decision is made.

All for this time, might see you at zoom today

Ron M."

**. Russ Jackson (Geelong, Vic)** – "Hello Paul,

Thanks for your latest message and my apologies for the delay in responding.

My health hasn't been all that flash recently and as a consequence my time has been taken up with a series of medical appointments.

I will give you a longer reply when things are on the improve.

Good to hear that you are out and about.

Regards Russ."

**. Iain Kennedy (Sandringham, Melb)** – 'Paul,

Today is both Valentine day and Super Bowl Monday, so this letter will be short as I'm a busy man! Ha-ha.

We both had our third jab (Moderna) earlier this month, Janet had no reaction where as I was crook for couple of days.

Now as good as gold. Still didn't miss a day on the trainer, nearly 600 days without missing a day.

We are back going out to some locations for lunch and dinner, tonight for Valentine's Day it's just the local Hotel. Masks are still mandatory indoors in Victoria, but no one is using QR codes and the word is the Government will drop the requirement this week. The borders open in a week, but I'm not willing to travel as yet. It's not the Covid-19 that is the issue, it the bloody paperwork and PCR testing (costs), along with uncertainty of Governments keeping borders open, or changing rules. Biggest news I have for you this year, is I've changed my car (again) now up to No 46, if memory serves me correct. This is both my first MG and my first 100% Electric car, yes, I've bought an EV. Charge it at home using my solar when I can. It's an SUV so easier for more mature people to get in and out.

On a completely different topic, I've been reading the book "What really happened in Wuhan" by Sharri Markson a very well put together and thought provoking book, with an absolute tonne of backup data, etc to support the argument. It came out of the Wuhan lab, by accident, or deliberate, not sure. What is sure, Chinese are shifty and Americans are gullible.

Now you've got me worked up.

Enough from me as Superbowl is getting interesting. Catch up again soon.

Stay healthy, stay safe.

Cheers, Iain K"

**. Joe Molenkamp (Wauchope, NSW)** – "G'day Paul, Thanks for your note, sorry I'm slow in replying.... just slack I guess. Everything is going pretty well here, I'm keeping fit and healthy and Teena is going reasonably well despite all of her health problems! She had an eye operation last week and its going good so far so that is a real bonus for her. Plenty of Covid cases here in the Hastings at the moment but keeping fingers crossed we've been safe so far...pays to keep a low profile but still busting to get out for a game of bowls and a few beers as soon as I can. Nothing else happening so I'll finish off. Cheers, Joe."

. **Phil Mulgrew (Brisbane)** – “Hi Paul

It's been pretty quiet here for Helen and I since my youngest son and his wife and new bub drove back to Melbourne after staying with us in the early part of February. They holidayed at Port Macquarie for several days then on to Canberra to see the sights. Great for them, except that anti vaxers were holding a series of rallies in Canberra which meant diverting around some areas. He said that the War Memorial's World War One and World War two areas were the only exhibitions open to the public. The majority of the other areas were closed for upgrading. He also managed to see his boss in Army Headquarters for the first time as his section had been working remotely via video conferencing.

Lots of rain is predicted at the moment in the South West region including Brisbane (Wed 23rd). Two drowning fatalities unfortunately so far on as a result of the flooding.

Masks are off for Queenslanders from March 4th except for entry into age care facilities and hospitals. New international arrivals do not have to quarantine or isolate if they are double vaccinated, only if they are silly enough not to be. As a result, the non-vaccinated travellers are incarcerated for two weeks at Wellcamp (Wellcamp????) near the airport outside Toowoomba and is a state government/ commercially run quarantine centre. The Brisbane TV journo's have been trying their best to find the cost of the construction of the 500-bed facility, but the government and the private partners aren't giving anything away, which means it must have cost a bomb.

We have been out and about socially, including eating out more now, which is refreshing and liberating.

That's about it for the moment. Take care.”

## From the Advocate's Desk...

Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

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

**Ken Foster OAM JP** - email contact: [khfoster1@bigpond.com](mailto:khfoster1@bigpond.com)



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

## 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

This isn't "coming up" – it's here...????????????????????????????????

**yourname@bigpond.com** ... this email address @bigpond is STILL causing problems in being received by those of you who use bigpond.

**Ed** – I'm getting about 24 "unable to receive" messages for the last two general emails that I've sent out, including the last *Eyes & Ears*.

The response received:

**"Address not found**

Your message wasn't delivered to **yourname@bigpond.com** because the address couldn't be found or is unable to receive email."

I have been advised it's the "bigpond.com" component that is causing the trouble. **Bob Billiards** has advised me that another association he's involved in has had the same problems.

So, those of you who have ".....@bigpond.com" as your email server may want to check your "Junk/Spam" emails and have a go at correcting the problem.

I hope you can rectify the problem.

**Paul** email: [131eyesandears@gmail.com](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com)

**NB:** "yourname" is a substitute for your actual first part of your email name.



## ANZAC Weekend Reunion Brisbane 23/24/25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

The Locating Association is finally holding its' biennial reunion, a chance for veterans to catch up with mates and families in friendly Brisbane, home to 20th Regiment. Importantly it's also an opportunity for older veterans to meet and support our younger veterans, given the recent withdrawal from Afghanistan, which has strong parallels with Vietnam. Please note, this program is subject to any COVID-19 restrictions and that all to be double vaccinated. Any updates will be circulated via email and appear on the notice board of the LSTAA website [www.locatingartillery.org](http://www.locatingartillery.org) and in 131 Locators Association's "Eye & Ears" <https://www.131locators.org.au/newsletter/latest-edition.html#notice>.

### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April:

10am till 3pm 20th Regiment's family day at Fort Lytton Historic Military Precinct, a 13 hectare national park approx. 30min drive from

CBD. <https://fortlytton.org.au/>

Visitor's bus will leave

the "Royal on the Park" [www.royalonthepark.com.au](http://www.royalonthepark.com.au) at 9.30am, returning approx. 3.30pm. If driving, there is ample car parking at Fort Lytton, which will be closed to the general public.

There will be guided tour of historical Fort Lytton and the Regiment's equipment will be on display.

The Regiment will provide light lunch for a gold coin donation per adult, refreshments also available. [Dress: casual].

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April:

5pm till 8pm Cocktail party Sky Lounge Kedron Wavell RSL at \$60 per person, President's bar tab, then drinks at own cost [Dress: smart casual] <https://kedron-wavell.com.au/> The RSL provided bus will depart "Royal on the Park" at 4.30pm for Kedron Wavell RSL. If attending, please pay \$60 per person to LSTAA treasurer via direct transfer to **Westpac BSB** 032 082 229365 and please include your "**name**" and the word "**Reunion**" on payment as reference.

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April:

All Locators, families and friends are invited to 20th Regiment's traditional 5am Dawn Service to be held at the Regiment's memorial wall in front of HQ building, Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera. Provided the base security status remains unchanged, entry will be via the main gate from 3.30am. Visitor's bus will depart "Royal on the Park" at 4.15am and return at approx. 7.30am. [Dress: coat, tie & medals]

After the service breakfast will be served beside the Menz Club, in the Checkley Annex, from about 5.30am, for the cost of a gold coin per person.

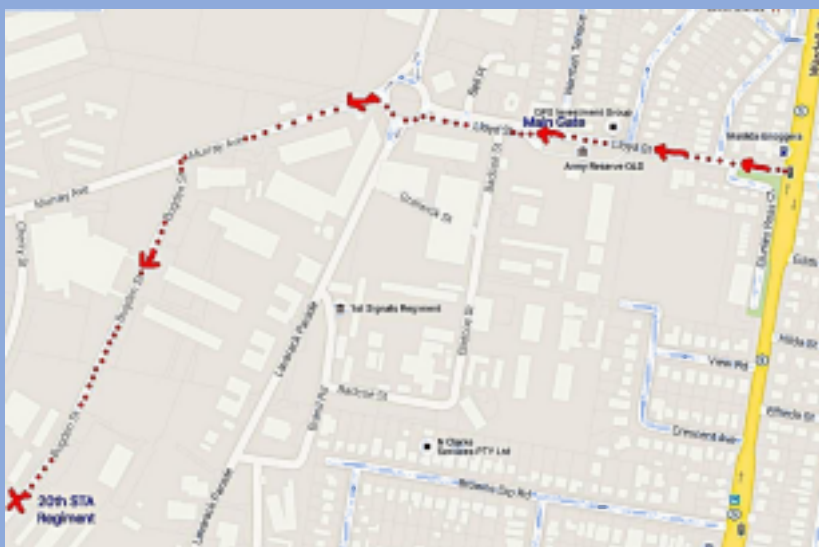
The LSTAA banner will be located on the corner of George & Mary St from about 9.00am and this will be our rallying point. The Brisbane march commences at 10am and our group 5 are required to form up at 10.30am in George St, position 28, behind 2/10 Fld. Regt Assoc and ahead of Air Defence Qld. The march route is similar to last year – start in George St, right into Adelaide St past the saluting dais at King George Square and ANZAC Square, then right into Creek St and down to Eagle St to fallout.

Afterwards, it's an easy 5min walk to the Stock Exchange Hotel at the corner of Edward and Charlotte St. Early entry to Locator's family and friends, using tickets issued by RSM Mel Wood, Russ & Terry will have tickets too available. It's a gold coin for sausage sizzle, or order own meals from bar, drinks at own cost. Hope to see you all at the Stock Exchange Hotel, to catch up with mates, family and friends and have a few convivial drinks! If attending, please complete the Online Registration Form ASAP:-

<https://lstaasnapforms.com.au/.../brisbane-lstaa-reunion...>

## ANZAC DAY Brisbane 2022

All Locators, families and friends are invited to 20th Regiment's traditional 5am Dawn Service to be held at the Regiment's memorial wall in front of HQ building, Gallipoli Barracks at Enoggera. If the base security status remains unchanged, entry will be via the main gate from 3.30am [see map].



After the service, breakfast will be served beside the Menz Club, in the Checkley Annex, from about 5.30am, for the cost of a gold coin per person. For visitors, a bus will leave the "Royal on the Park" at 4.30am and return approx. 8am. Note: On ANZAC Day, there is free public travel for veterans, either via QR to Gaythorne railway station or BCC council buses to and from CBD.

The LSTAA banner will be located on the corner of George & Mary St from about 9.00am and will be our rallying point for veterans. The Brisbane march commences at 10am, our group 5 are required to form up at 10.30am in George St at position 28, behind 2/10th Fd. Reg. Assoc.

The march route is similar to last year – starting in George St, right into Adelaide St past the saluting dais at King George Square and ANZAC Square, then right into Creek St and down to Eagle St to fallout. Then an easy short walk to the Stock Exchange Hotel, at the corner of Edward & Charlotte St.

<https://www.stockexchangehotel.com.au/> There is early entry for Locator's & family using tickets issued by RSM Mel Woods – Russ & I'll have few spare tickets too! A gold coin for the sausage sizzle or order meals from the bar, all drinks at own cost.

Covid restrictions require all attendees to be double vaccinated. Please use the link below to register for reunion.

<https://lstaasnapforms.com.au/form/brisbane-lstaareunion-2022>

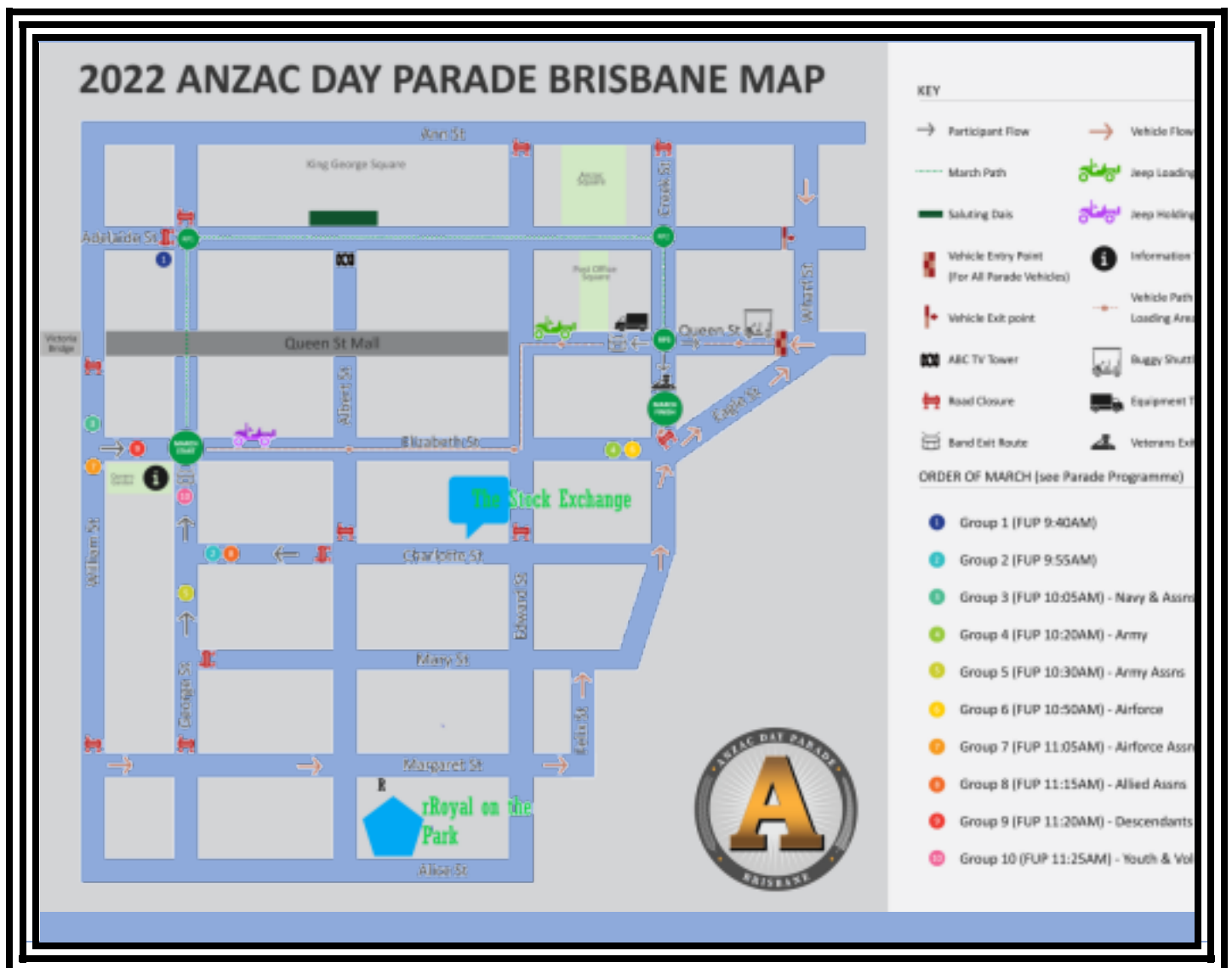
Terry Erbs VP LSTAA  
[terry.erbs@gmail.com](mailto:terry.erbs@gmail.com)  
MOB 0403 500 642



The March route showing the "Stock Exchange Hotel" and the "Royal on the Park"

See Map below –





. **Grahame Dignam** forwarded the following link to a YouTube film called –  
**“Then and Now Tour Nui Dat Australian Vietnam Base Long Tan Horseshoe”**  
 Here’s the link to a great “watch”; <https://youtu.be/4qaupiCp4GI>

. **Peter Ravelje** sent in the following info which is worthwhile investigating if it can be any help to anyone wanting services to the relevant airports...

# SkyBus

Free travel for TPIs & EDAs, and  
Companion Card friendly.

Airport. Express.

## SkyBus

### TPI & EDA FREE TRAVEL

SkyBus operates to and from the following airports: Melbourne Tullamarine, Melbourne Avalon, Hobart and Brisbane. SkyBus also operates the following services (*temporarily subject to disruption*): St Kilda Express, Southbank Docklands Express, Peninsula Express, Eastern Express & Western Express. SkyBus also provides airport shuttle services from the Gold Coast Airport to various hotels and to Byron Bay.

- **Free travel** – is available to holders of a Veteran Gold Card embossed with TPI (Totally and Permanently Incapacitated) or EDA (Extreme Disablement Adjustment) issued by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA).
- **Companion Cardholders** – are issued with a second ticket for their companion to travel at no charge.

Source:

SkyBus FAQs: <https://www.skybus.com.au/faqs/>

. **Keith Ayliffe** forwarded on the following info with regards to "CORAL" Memorial plans for this year.

## Commemorations, Ceremonies and Reunions 2022

### Notices of Coral Reunions 2022

#### . Canberra

Message from Ray Curtis

[coral-reunion-group@googlegroups.com](mailto:coral-reunion-group@googlegroups.com) <[coral-reunion-group@googlegroups.com](mailto:coral-reunion-group@googlegroups.com)> on behalf  
of [coralreu...@gmail.com](mailto:coralreu...@gmail.com) <[coralreunionlist@gmail.com](mailto:coralreunionlist@gmail.com)>

*I am organising a commemoration in Canberra this year for those in the local area. Can you please pass on the info below...*

*Notice to all Coral Vets in Canberra, the surrounding area and indeed other parts. All welcome.*

*We will be meeting at the National Vietnam Memorial on ANZAC Ave at 1045h, for a short commemorative service commencing at 1100h, on Friday 13 May 2022.*

*The service will be along the same lines as last year. Following the service you are invited to relocate to the Ainslie Pub on Limestone Ave for a refreshing Beveridge and lunch at own expense.*

*Until then, keep your head down and your powder dry.*

*Lest We Forget, Ray Curtis*

#### . Perth WA.

There will be a ceremony at the Perth RSL similar to last year.

This will be on Friday 13th May for our courtyard at 11am, followed by lunch in the restaurant for 30 guests.

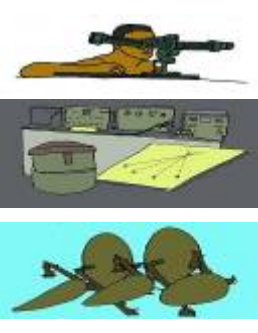
Organised by Bill McLellan

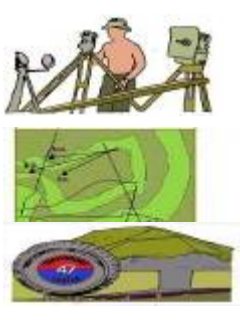
#### . Forbes NSW.

There will be a ceremony and a mini-reunion at the Forbes RSL Club organised by the 1RAR Signals Platoon. This will be a similar format to last year at the same venue.

Details will be provided when they are finalised.

Could I ask that if you are organizing a gathering then please forward the details to me ASP so I can distribute the message. Thank you and Rest Easy! Jack P.



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>

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

"The last couple of weeks have certainly been wet in NSW - this assists Covid isolation procedures and provides time to check out computers. Laptops that perform well at home don't always travel well and the ambient noise in the clubs don't help the ZOOM production processes even with extra speakers and mics.

We will persist and hope to jag a working scenario soon. Just letting you know that it is disappointing and frustrating for us too."

Email [sectreas131locators@gmail.com](mailto:sectreas131locators@gmail.com) to check.

Grahame"

### Presidential perambulations

A sad and soggy Sydney has experienced its wettest summer for 31 years. This has been indeed the summer we didn't experience. Even Victoria has had a warm and sunny season.

In the post Covid thrall of borders opening again we decided that an overseas trip was again due - in 2023! First thing to do was to check out the options of destinations. Not Europe and not USA. Certainly, not Russia or China. So, Japan it was to be, although not at cherry blossom time.

The first task was to check out our credit card associated travel insurance. Mmm, looks ok. But the exemptions listed made me think that I was dealing with DVA in another guise. Surprisingly, the insurer's policy dated March 2020 did not mention Covid or pandemic in either the definitions or the body of the document. Better check that's the latest version? Indeed, it is, with the virus covered in the general medical area. And this insurance covers us until the last day of our 80th year.

A suitable tour was being offered by a reputable organisation, so a deposit was made. The strong suggestion was then indicated that all required personal details must be submitted within 48 hours. While trying to ignore that directive I went on line to input passport numbers, home address etc. Bugger! Their system wouldn't let me in. So, it was back to the old-fashioned telephone call to Customer Service - what a misnomer - so the representative could enter our data.

All done. Now it will remain only to pay the remaining amount a couple of months out and enjoy Japan for the first time.

Cheers

Allen.

50 Years  
April 1966 - April 2016



The Memories Remain  
1966 - 1971



find us on

Facebook

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

### . Upcoming Events Calendar –

**131 Locators Association Committee Meeting** Date: Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 at 1100hrs

Venue: To be advised, You are all welcome. And available via Zoom link to be advised.

. **Pertinent Points** – extracted from the 131 Locators Association Committee Minutes for the General Meeting of the 131 Locators Association Inc. held at Bankstown Sports Club and via Zoom internet on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**Attendees were:**

In Person were: Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Ged Carroll, Ernest Newbold, Bob Billiards, Gordon Malcolm, Merv Nairn and Ian Amos  
 Zoomed members were: Ron Mason, Paul Dickson, Bert Blink and Steve Wynn,

**Apologies:** Nick Proskurin, George Lane, other State Reps and Jim Fitzgerald

**Financial Membership** is currently ... **132** plus, Associates **2** plus  
 Affiliates 15 Total **145**, plus Lapsed as at 1/02/2022 **36** members

**Presidents report.**

Allen referenced:

, The change of venue due the availability of Pizzas as is customary after our meetings and the venue assessed for the future.

. The 2022 reunion in Queensland over the ANZAC Weekend and the agenda published re events and costs. Details are available on our Facebook Page and will be attached to the email accompanying this document. 4 members present will be attending.

**Public Officers Report:** Nothing to report however the receipted Yearly Return A 12 to Fair Trading was delivered for safe keeping.

**Webmaster Update.**

- . Bob advised the number of face book members was now 261 and activity was revving up with more interactivity.
- . Indications are that Facebook members are using that link to access the Newsletter in preference to the website link.
- . Some Face book members are stretching their limits and their behaviour has been limited.

**Health Report.**

. In a snippet of info Paul Dickson and Steve Wynn exchanged a comment on his current condition. Due to the Zoom turmoil details were not conveyed. He appeared in good spirits. We wish him well.

. A general discussion about health ensued and the writer noted how fortunate he was in the health he enjoyed.

**General Business and around the grounds.**

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . An event to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of SVN conflict was mentioned and suggestions will be sought for something significant to the occasion in 2023. Any suggestions will be canvassed
- . Details of future meeting to be discussed via email.

**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...March –**

| Date | Name                 | Regt. No. | SVN In     | SVN Out    | Comments          |
|------|----------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1    | EZIO LOMBARDO        | 216284    | 20 05 1966 | 03 03 1967 |                   |
| 2    | GEOFF HOLDEN         | 2785828   | 12 09 1967 | 17 09 1968 |                   |
| 2    | JAMES TOWNLEY Brig.  | 17072     | 14 06 1963 | 22 06 1963 | 103 Fd Bty FARELF |
|      | " "                  |           | 22 04 1966 | 19 08 1966 | 131               |
|      | " "                  |           | 30 04 1970 | 28 05 1970 | HQ AFV † 10.02.70 |
| 2    | PETER BENNETT        | 3794060   | 26 08 1969 | 04 06 1970 |                   |
| 3    | RIC. MARQUES         | 3790008   | 10 06 1967 | 21 05 1968 |                   |
| 3    | RAY SMITH            | 3787666   | 20 05 1966 | 02 05 1967 |                   |
| 3    | GRAHAME LEE          | 2787457   | 23 04 1968 | 23 04 1969 |                   |
| 3    | ROGER STANLEY        | 2788155   | 08 11 1968 | 27 08 1969 |                   |
| 3    | RALPH MITCHELL       | 2788073   | 08 11 1968 | 27 08 1969 |                   |
| 4    | JOE CLENDINEN        | 17648     | 04 05 1967 | 30 01 1968 |                   |
| 6    | GARRY LUSCOMBE T/SGT | 243144    | 22.04.66   | 09.05.67   | RAEME             |
| 7    | RODOLFO MARSANI      | 3796861   | 20 08 1970 | 20 08 1970 | 131               |
|      | " "                  |           | 20 08 1970 | 05 05 1971 | 4 Fd Regt.        |
| 8    | RUSSELL JACKSON      | 3793090   | 24 02 1969 | 28 11 1969 |                   |
| 8    | BARRY COOKE Sgt.     | 54886     | 16 09 1968 | 24 09 1969 | RAAOC             |
| 8    | DES McGUIGGAN Sgt.   | 214722    | 20 01 1970 | 21 01 1971 | † 24.02.2021      |
| 11   | BOB TANNER           | 6708362   | 21 05 1966 | 28 04 1967 |                   |



|    |                              |         |             |            |                  |
|----|------------------------------|---------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| 11 | PETER McKIE                  | 2787728 | 22 04 1968  | 23 04 1969 |                  |
| 12 | JAMES FITZGERALD             | 2782044 | 04 05 1966  | 29 04 1967 |                  |
| 12 | GREGORY LUCAS                | 1735725 | 20 08 1970  | 20 08 1970 | 131              |
|    | " "                          |         | 20 08 1970  | 29 10 1970 | 4 Fd Regt.       |
| 13 | JOHN (JACK) HEYES            | 3791085 | 05 12 1967  | 03 12 1968 |                  |
| 13 | ALLAN CAMPBELL Sgt.          | 18257   | 20 05 1966  | 11 12 1966 | † 19.06.2009     |
|    | " "                          |         | 05 02 1968  | 31 03 1968 |                  |
| 13 | WILLIAM ROSS BULLEN<br>T/CPL | 243083  | 20 05 1966  | 18 11 66   | RAEME † 13.08.83 |
| 14 | NEVILLE WORTLEHOCK           | 54941   | 29 04 1968  | 30 04 1969 |                  |
| 17 | GEOFF LOCK                   | 2782439 | 20 05 1966  | 29 04 1967 | † 09.09.10       |
| 18 | VIC MOREAU                   | 1200577 | 22 04 1966  | 23 01 1967 | † 09.02.19       |
| 18 | ROY CLAUSCEN                 | 214873  | 20 05 1966  | 11 12 1966 |                  |
| 20 | BRIAN CAMPBELL               | 2781310 | 22 04 1966  | 30 04 1967 |                  |
| 20 | BARRY FOLLINGTON             | 2783144 | 12 12 1966  | 27 09 1967 |                  |
| 20 | IAIN KENNEDY                 | 3791023 | 27 11 1967  | 19 11 1968 |                  |
| 20 | RONALD ROBARDS               | 216900  | 21 02 1968  | 21 02 1969 |                  |
| 21 | GARRY SMITH                  | 2792048 | 15 04 1970  | 17 12 1970 | † 19.01.12       |
| 21 | MICK KING                    | 216504  | 04 05 1967  | 02 04 1968 |                  |
| 21 | WARREN JAENKE                | 1735584 | 20 02 1970  | 11 02 1971 |                  |
| 22 | GREGORY PECK                 | 2790401 | 04 11 1969  | 04 06 1970 |                  |
| 23 | DEREK HINDE                  | 2787403 | 01 07 1968  | 14 05 1969 |                  |
| 23 | MARTIN KRYNTJES              | 5715291 | 26 08 1968  | 04 06 1969 | † 27.12.17       |
| 25 | GARTH NICHOLS                | 216381  | {05 02 1968 | 11 02 1969 |                  |
|    | " "                          |         | {05 11 1969 | 28 11 1969 | 1 Fd REGT        |
| 25 | ROBERT HARGREAVES            | 2790343 | 04 11 1969  | 04 06 1970 |                  |
| 26 | GEORGE LANE                  | 2781630 | 04 05 1966  | 11 12 1966 |                  |
|    | RAY AURISCH                  | 2212243 | 1969        | 1970       | † 25.03.70       |
| 27 | ERIC WINN                    | 219656  | 30 05 1970  | 07 08 1970 | 131              |
|    | " "                          |         | 07 08 1970  | 05 05 1971 | 4 Fd Regt.       |
| 29 | JEFF REID                    | 3790495 | 26 09 1967  | 17 09 1968 | † UNKNOWN        |
| 30 | FRANK HALLIDAY Sgt.          | 215105  | 02 01 1967  | 13 12 1967 | RAEME            |
| 30 | EDWARD CHASE                 | 2782043 | 04 05 1966  | 11 12 1966 |                  |
| 31 | LESLIE CAHILL                | 2412281 | 20 05 1966  | 30 04 1967 |                  |
| 31 | GRAHAM HISLOP Sgt.           | 15290   | 22 04 1966  | 03 03 1967 |                  |
| 31 | PHILIP SHEEDY                | 4719418 | 29 01 1968  | 21 01 1969 |                  |

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

**Ed – 14** blokes not highlighted isn't great and still needs attention! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

**. Locator Profiles** – we've received **171** and we've sent out **171**. Ed – 172 could be a lucky number?

**. Located...**

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



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

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

Hope we hear from you?

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

**. Other related sites...**

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



**LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION**  
*The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield*



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



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

[www.artilleryhistory.org](http://www.artilleryhistory.org)



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

Website link - <http://www.dva.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx>

## . VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

The Dept of Veteran's Affairs has launched a new mental health initiative to assist veteran's experiencing the affects of mental illness and their families. Providing information and fact sheets about understanding mental illness, links and contact information for accessing support, and online resources for health professionals, this website focuses on helping veterans identify early warning signs of mental illness to effectively manage their mental illness and seek treatment. For more info or to access, please visit [www.at-ease.dva.gov.au](http://www.at-ease.dva.gov.au)

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



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much.

It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: <http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



**The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association**  
<http://www.rnzaa.org.nz/>

Editor contact email: [131eyesandears@gmail.com](mailto:131eyesandears@gmail.com) Ed – Paul 'Dicko' Dickson

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