

# 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 3 March 2022 No 164  
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

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



**Another February Depart Nui Dat trio...**

**JOHN LUCAS** – sent in the following with regards to his departure form Nui Dat – **11th February, 1971.**

“Hi Paul,

The picture (above) is a DND (Depart Nui Dat) rather than a RTA.

From left. **Ron Boaler, Warren Jaenke** and **myself** waiting for the C130 with a gang, out of view, ready to rush our stereo purchases on-board.

Cheers, John.”

## 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 – he’s more names who RTA’d in a February were –

1971 - Roger Holmes, Peter Mackie, Robert Gibson (Late), Eric Williams, Peter Sali (Late), Sgt David Doyle, Barry Williams (Late), Chris Brazier and Lt Michael Boyle, Michael Barlow, Graeme Jennion, Albert Jacka, Barry Dyson, Barry Collins, Alasdair Gough, Edwin Lewis (Late), Steven Voss, Russell Hewitt, Ian Bubb, Gregory Tommasi, Arthur Jux, Blair Sheppard, Michael Barlow.

Now, here’s some names for March RTA’s –



1967- Neville Hastings, Ezio Lombardo, Graham Hislop, Ron Mason, Bernard Erica (Late), Brian Killworth, Terrill Weekes (Late), Ken Whittle, Lawrence Sawyer, Mills Buckley (Late), David Gow,  
1968 – Ian Yerbury (Late), Marty van Driel (Late), John Vitkovsky,  
1969 – Colin Gordon (Late), Brian Mitchell, Gordon Williams, Larry Bridge, Philip Johns, David Lahore, Anthony O’Mara (Late), Michael Burgess,  
1970 – Peter Szabo (Late), Paul Butcher, Graham Williams, Pierre Goss (Late), Phillip Wapshot, Gordon Gunn (Late), Paul Tys, Neville Smith, Peter Meaney, Peter Szabo (Late),

I’ve seen some group photos around – 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.

**Peter Meaney – a memory involving Neville Smith with regards to the RTA trip in March, 1970...**

“Hello again Paul,

Unfortunately, I don’t have a photo of our RTA group, although hopefully someone did take a photo.

A couple of things I do recall while waiting at Luscombe airfield.

1. I couldn’t wait to get on the plane and out of there.

2. There was a delay at the airport, because one Neville Smith had injured his knee days before, and a decision had to be made as to his suitability to travel.

3. David Dodd came to see us off at the airport, and there would have been others as well. Unfortunately, of those I recall being on the flight home, the only “possibilities” who may have a photo, would be **Paul Butcher** or **Graham Williams**.

David Dodd has been in a care facility in Brisbane for about 4 years now, and if he did have a photo of us in our “polys”, I’m not sure he could find it, and that’s not being unkind.

Regards, Peter M.”

**Ed** – I managed to get this photo out of **Graham Williams’s** archives -



Self, (Graham), waiting for the “Freedom Bird”, March 1970



Give me a Name?

## The "Lost Locator Project"

This Project is being re-ignited for 2022.

Our current list contains the names of **21 Locators** (as at 01.01.22) 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 not 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 1968, that the 21 members began their tour of SVN...ok, where are they now?

| NAME               | Regt. No. | BORN | IN SVN     | OUT SVN    |
|--------------------|-----------|------|------------|------------|
| EDWARD HENSON      | 2788331   | 1947 | 16 09 1968 | 27 08 1969 |
| RICHARD FLAVELL    | 3791902   | 1945 | 23 09 1968 | 04 06 1969 |
| ROBERT RAMSAY      | 2788108   | 1947 | 16 09 1968 | 27 08 1969 |
| TERENCE HUNT       | 3792120   | 1947 | 19 02 1968 | 21 02 1969 |
| GRAHAME LEE        | 2787457   | 1947 | 23 04 1968 | 23 04 1969 |
| ROGER STANLEY      | 2788155   | 1947 | 08 11 1968 | 27 08 1969 |
| RONALD ROBARDS     | 216900    | 1948 | 21 02 1968 | 21 02 1969 |
| PETER CLARKE       | 3792212   | 1947 | 11 11 1968 | 27 08 1969 |
| LINDSAY MEAD       | 3790714   | 1945 | 27 03 1968 | 26 04 1968 |
| ROBERT PELHAM      | 55342     | 1949 | 16 11 1968 | 19 11 1969 |
| JOHN SMITH         | 610231    | 1949 | 16 11 1968 | 12 11 1969 |
| LES SMITHLESTER    | 1201202   | 1949 | 23 09 1968 | 24 09 1969 |
| ERIC THOMPSON Sgt. | 44153     | 1948 | 18 02 1968 | 18 02 1969 |
| GARY BESTER        | 3411737   | 1948 | 08 01 1968 | 03 12 1968 |
| ERNEST GALLOWAY    | 216708    | 1948 | 08 01 1968 | 22 04 1968 |
| PETER TEATHER      | 3790242   | 1945 | 12 04 1968 | 06 08 1968 |
| NORMAN LINDROOS    | 3410957   | 1939 | 20 05 1968 | 24 05 1969 |
| IAN MURLEY         | 38503     | 1946 | 12 04 1968 | 23 04 1969 |
| GARY STRATTON      | 2788161   | 1946 | 08 11 1968 | 27 08 1969 |
| KEVEN BUSH         | 3792069   | 1946 | 18 02 1968 | 21 02 1969 |
| JOHN MARTIN Lt.    | 43613     | 1941 | 25 02 1968 | 21 02 1969 |

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.

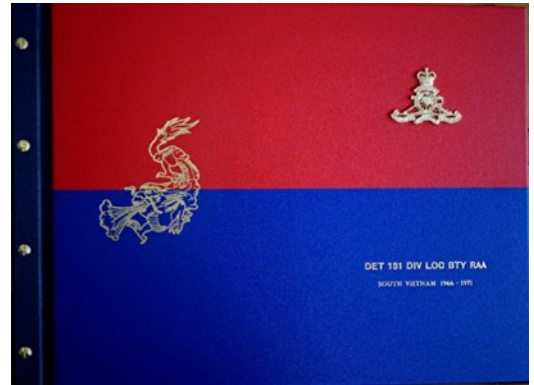
## . Insights and Recollections...

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)

. **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.



## Rain, rain and more rain...

Ian Campbell sent me a copy of the Department of Veterans Affairs e-news and I copied the front-page photo because it depicts “Rain, rain, and more rain...” to a tee.



I sent out an email (4<sup>th</sup> March) enquiring about the above subject line to find out situations and effects with regards to the catastrophic rain situations being suffered. It's been great to get responses, but I guess, the members I haven't heard from may be unable to communicate. If anyone knows of someone who really copped it can you drop us a line?

### Responses...

. **Allen Morley (Sydney)** – “G'day Dicko,

It sure is wet out there. Our place is ok. Unfortunately, I am in NS hospital after a slip with a fractured elbow. Operated on Yesterday. Plate and screws in.

Challenging to type this with one hand

Cheers, A.”

. **Rob Retrot (Brisbane)** – “Hi Paul,

Yes, there has been disastrous rainfall in the last couple of weeks but Jude and I and the black child (poodle) have been high and dry in our house. We have been limited in where we can go, but have not been cut off from any essentials such as grocery stores and medical facilities.

I texted Tony Dodds a couple of days ago but have had no reply. He and his wife Helen live on the North bank of the Richmond River at Woodburn in Northern NSW. It was severely flooded and a number of people have had to be rescued from houses and from the bridge. Maybe someone knows Tony and Helen's current circumstances and could let us know. Meanwhile, as I sit here listening to yet more rain in Brisbane, Jude and I wish everyone affected by the flooding a speedy recovery back to normal life.

Best wishes to all

Rob & Jude Retrot.”

. **Michael Moore (Sydney)** – “Paul,

We are fine where we are, if you google 24 Rivergum Way, Rouse Hill. We are above the creek and all is fine.

There is an add down at the local shopping centre asking for a shipwright and some stock men for an Ark project (just kidding). Thanks for caring, Michael.”

. **Mick Jenkins (Tea Gardens NSW north of Newcastle)** – “G’Day Paul,

Here in Tea Gardens NSW north of Newcastle plenty of rain no wild wind yet, luckily no flooding here as its coastal and sand so soaks in quick. However, we may be cut off soon as one road in and out with a couple of low lying sections prone to water over the road.

Cheers, Mick.”

. **Pete Fletcher (Central Coast, NSW)** – “Hi Paul,

We are getting hammered with rain on the Central Coast but are high and dry.

*We have had a wet spring and very wet summer.*

NSW in parts is underwater as you have seen.

After Covid we are still feeling house bound. The last 2 years have not been good.

We had all hoped 2022 would be a good one for us all.

Take care, Fletch.”

. **Joe Molenkamp (Wauchope)** – “G’day Paul. Here on the Mid North Coast of NSW, I live in Wauchope, we have

been far luckier than those further norths and now some parts of Sydney. This time last year we had a major flood but now we’ve only had minor nuisance flooding. We certainly have had our share of rain.... did get one downpour of 25mm in 10 minutes, must say that’s the heaviest rain I’ve ever seen! We haven’t been isolated at all or had any problems with shortages in supermarkets like other places, so all is good here.

Cheers Joe.”

. **Peter Pioro OAM (Townsville)** – “Hi Paul,

We are okay apart from rain, rain and more rain.

The places under water are mostly near rivers etc.

I am heading to Phillip Island in Victoria where the Vietnam Museum is situated. Third attempt.

No COVID hopefully.

Regards,

*Peter Pioro OAM,”*

. **Ian Campbell (Melbourne)** – “Hi Paul, regarding the rains, we just see the footage on the TV, it’s not a vicious flow, simply unstoppable rising of the water towards the roof lines of the houses.

We have had Queensland humidity for the last month, with no respite. Weather changed on Fri and it is now more do-able.

Yet to read latest *E&E*’s. I prefer a quiet session to consume the whole (magnificent) document in one go, and with family pressures (good pressures, no probs) that ain’t yet happened.

Take care old fella,

Regards, Ian.”

. **Phil Connor (Sunshine Coast)** – “Hi Paul, well rain, flooding, storms, tempest.....could be a movie in that!

We have had everything up here on the Sunnie Coast, although not as bad as other areas in QLD like parts of Brissie and the Goldie. We have had a few scares as we back onto Mountain Creek Conservation area and Mountain Creek itself.

The levels have been the highest since moving here 12 years ago. An example is with the lake over the road and there are a number of 3 seater aluminium council seats around the lake and the water rose above the top of the backrests. We were OK. But, sadly a lot of people, families have been badly affected.

Cheers, Phil.”

. **Peter Creedon (Sydney)** – “Hi Paul.

As you say rain, rain and more rain as a matter of fact it is still raining here in Sydney as I write. The forecast is for it to clear up on Wednesday, here’s hoping because we are taking the caravan down to Nowra for a four-day jazz festival.

My son lives in Lismore and had to be rescued during the flood there, he was in a rental property but everything he owned including all his work tools have been destroyed. But he is OK which is to main thing.

Everything here is fine just super soggy.

Regards, Peter.”

## ...Australian Army invests \$650 million in uncrewed aerial systems

. **Terry Erbs** shares with us a Media Release –

**11 March 2022 - Joint media release: The Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Defence and Member for Brisbane, the Hon Trevor Evans MP...**



Twenty-four new uncrewed aerial surveillance systems, manufactured in Brisbane, will be acquired by the Australian Army as part of a \$650 million investment announced today.

Defence has selected Boeing's Insitu Pacific Pty Ltd to supply the Australian Army with 24 of their signature 'Integrator' platform, associated ground systems and integration services.

Minister for Defence, the Hon Peter Dutton MP said the platform will provide Army with enhanced abilities to gather intelligence, undertake reconnaissance and surveillance missions, and acquire targets for weapons systems across the Australian Defence Force.

"This is just one example of the way the Morrison Government is growing our sovereign capability," Minister Dutton said. "This project will enhance the Australian Army's capabilities by harnessing the innovation and cutting-edge technologies being developed right here in Australia.

"Insitu Pacific Pty Ltd will manufacture the new platform at their facility in Brisbane and integrate components provided by suppliers from around Queensland and across Australia.

"To support the delivery of this capability, the Morrison Government will also invest \$56million in facilities at Gallipoli Barracks in Enoggera.

"We will also see an upgrade to a number of our Bushmasters, and associated sustainment over the next decade."

"In total, this project will commit 80 per cent of its \$650 million budget to be spent in Australia using Australian companies and technology to manufacture, maintain and operate the platform throughout its life.

The acquisition and initial contract period with Insitu Pacific Limited is worth \$307 million alone, and Member for Brisbane, Trevor Evans, said the investment by Defence would see local advanced manufacturing jobs grow in Brisbane and across Queensland.

"This contract is supporting 130 new and existing jobs here in Brisbane and across Australia," Mr Evans said.

"People may not have always associated Brisbane with defence industry in the past, but projects like this demonstrate the real opportunities advanced manufacturing can offer now and into the future."

Production has already commenced, with delivery expected in 2023 and 2024.



. **Steve Boutlis** sent in the following request – can you help him out?

"Hi, Paul.

I hope that you and Helen are keeping safe.

Would you please, in the next edition of *E&E*'s, ask our 131 mates (those who care to), to send me their E-mail addresses? I have lost them all, again!

Live Mail tells me that I do not have any contacts, and to see my contacts, sign in with my Live Mail password. When I do that, it tells me that to protect my account, I need to sign in again, and again, .....ad-infinity! My address

is: [steveboutlis@iprimus.com.au](mailto:steveboutlis@iprimus.com.au)

Cheers,  
Boots."

. **John I'Anson** – sent the following link to an amazing eye-opening video – "Mars in 4K" - from NASA's "Spirit", "Opportunity" and "Curiosity" Rovers on Mars which were in operation in 2004 and onwards about a year after being launched. It's well worth the time to just take in the spectacular barren landscape and as I said to John is this a precursor of things in store for Earth.

<https://youtu.be/ZEyAs3NWH4A>



**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 (Rocklands Reservoir, near Balmoral, Victoria.)** – "G'day mate,

Unseasonably cool February and so far for March. Actually, lit the fire today to boost our hot water when overcast for a few days (Wetback inside the combustion heater), otherwise the solar hot water is sufficient. Will have to get into gear and start cutting wood again. The pain goes after a few days of cutting and splitting...

The only other news is that we have signed contracts for the sale of the Resort and our adjoining property where we live - subject to the sale of the purchaser's property. Fingers crossed, After being here for 25 years, we will have to relocate (groan). My wife Naomi is making noises that she would like to go back to S.A. So, we are looking for a place in the Adelaide hills on a small landholding - don't think I can live in a subdivision with shoulder to shoulder houses, after living on 230 acres.

Still having fun with cars - Hill climbs etc. Photo attached of my mate's 55-year-old Zephyr Zodiac which he restored (better than new) with big V8 engine and Volvo axles and brakes - engineered and street legal. All inside trim is still available in the UK. Six coats of 2-Pack paint and stripped back to bare metal. Stops people in their tracks... All the best, John."



. **John Richmond (Canberra)** – “Hi Paul

Nice to hear from you again

We are certainly starting to get out and about.

In another message u mentioned the big rains. It would seem that Canberra (ACT) has missed out in the main. We kept getting BOM reports that indicated over the past week we would get some half decent falls. In the week, less than 1 inch.

I have my own rain gauge. The readings across the territory vary quite a lot. I must admit that summer was our wettest for a number of years.

What a way to start the week...

Had my quarterly medical check-up, walked out with so many referrals ie I keep the Canberra specialists and GP from going broke -

(a) neurosurgeon - back injury

(b) oncologist - prostate cancer

(c) GP - heart monitoring. Had a quad bi-pass in 2004.

(d) GP- sugar diabetes monitor.

I agree with u on the problems in Europe and floods in Aussie. I mentioned above the ACT has missed out on the terrible rains over the past week.

Just a quick question how's Jim these days, is he still in Canberra?

See you, JR."

. **Rieny Nieuwenhof (Portarlinton, Vic)** – “G'day Paul,

Thanks for your recent email. It is always good to hear what you are up to in Mexico.

Life in Geelong, Portarlinton more specifically, is good. While various ailments and stiff muscles make, high intensity training out of the question we are both doing well despite these limitations. (We have lost two Geelong Vietnam vets already this year).

My wife teaches print making each Tuesday at the Art Centre and when not doing that works in her studio here at home. I spend at least one hour in the gym 3-4 times a week when I can, trying to keep fit and lose weight (which has stacked on in recent years).

We are now into Autumn and the tourists (terrorists) have departed so it is much easier to find a park at the shops.

Geelong and the Bellarine are experiencing pretty phenomenal growth with buildings going up everywhere. We have a new build on both sides of us, this has meant we have lost our sea view on the western side of the house. We now have a sea 'glimpse'.

Floods up north are classified as disasters and many thousands of people have been made homeless. No doubt everyone's insurance will go up. I might add the Federal Gov't has been very slack in their response to the disaster, as they were with the Covid pandemic. The sooner that media tragic in Canberra moves on the better. That's all for now. I look forward to the next edition of *E&Es*.

Cheers, Rieny Nieuwenhof."

. **Russ Hamsey** – “Paul:

My humble apologies for not contacting you sooner. To say it has been busy is a mild understatement.

You will have heard about the Minister's announcement about Project Land 129-3, the replacement of the Shadow Tactical Uncrewed Aerial System with \$650M in new capability (**see earlier “Joint Media Release” article**).

The new system will be based on the Insitu Pacific Ltd Integrator TUAS. Integrator has been around for a few years but ours will be state of the art. The Ground Control Station will be integrated into the Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicle to give our soldiers an unprecedented level of security. The main payload will be the CM234 Spitfire which combines day

and night imaging sensors with laser capabilities to accurately range and designate targets. Both of these innovations are Australian and promise to provide a world class capability. 20 Regt will expand and 133 Bty will be re-raised to provide a third STA Bty.

Training on the new system begins soon with equipment to follow next year.

. The really interesting bit to this is the fact that Insitu Pacific got their start working with 20 Regt, flying ScanEagle in Iraq and Afghanistan from 2006 to 2012. It will be good to work with them again.

. As I write 131 Bty is deployed to Op Flood Assist. They are working in the area around Tweed Heads, NSW, assisting with the clean-up.

. The Regt is planning exercises in Townsville and Shoalwater Bay in a couple of months and is working to adjust artillery fire with 1 Regt, RAA.

We are really looking forward to the upcoming reunion around the ANZAC Day weekend. Covid has prevented us from getting together for a long time and finally we are optimistic that this one is going to come off.

I hope all is well with you. Take good care of yourself and talk again soon.

Russ Hamsey."

. Allen Morley forwarded in the following information forwarded to him via the Veterans Benefits Australia.



VETERAN BENEFITS AUSTRALIA

## MARCH NEWSLETTER



### Mission

Our mission is to provide more connection and awareness for veterans to create a closer and well informed Australian veteran community.

Our featured services are all **FREE** for Gold and eligible White card holders. These services have got extremely good feedback from veterans currently participating. You can apply for as many of these services as you like and to see more simply visit our website.



### Exercise Programs

We've partnered with qualified exercise physiologists nationwide to provide you with the best care possible. Exercise physiologists (EPs) analyse your fitness to help improve or maintain your health and can help with heart disease and other chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and lung disease to regain your health. They not only help with chronic conditions but can be there to keep you on track, motivated and provide expert assistance to help you build or maintain fitness and strength. This service is free for gold and eligible white card holders, simply click the button below and enter your contact details and one of our friendly team will reach out to you with more information and help you get started.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR FREE EXERCISE PROGRAMS](#)

#### Some benefits of exercise physiology include:

##### Evidence-based

Exercise physiology strategies are research - based and only proven scientific reasoning is used to develop plans for clients. Unlike other training, exercise physiology puts you in control of the body and based on your needs and requirements, EPs help put together your exercise programs.

##### Experience

Exercise physiologists are trained university qualified health professionals who have often undergone a number of internships which provide a wealth of practical experience and knowledge.

##### Education

While working with an EP you will get to know and understand your body parts and how to maximise them. EPs teach you the skills to move efficiently and effectively. They are not personal trainers who are orking for you towards getting you to your goal instead you will be the leader and the EP provides you direction and support to achieve your personal fitness goals.

##### Exercise as medication

Exercise is recommended as medicine in the treatment of 26 different types of diseases such as psychiatric, neurological, metabolic, cardiovascular diseases etc. EPs are trained to develop exercises based on every client's needs and requirements.

This service is free for gold and eligible white card holders, simply click the button below and enter your contact details and one of our friendly team will reach out to you with more information and help you get started.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR FREE EXERCISE PROGRAMS](#)

## Physiotherapy Programs

We've partnered with qualified physiotherapists nationwide to provide you with the best care possible. What does a physiotherapist do? Physiotherapists diagnose and manage a broad range of conditions affecting the bones, muscles, cardiovascular system, nerves and other parts and systems of your body. They can help manage chronic diseases, give lifestyle advice, prescribe exercises, and get you feeling great again!

A physiotherapist will assess your condition and help you with many physical problems. Some common things a physio can treat include:

- ▶ Back and knee pain
- ▶ Arthritis
- ▶ Sport injuries
- ▶ Chronic diseases
- ▶ Rehabilitation after surgery
- ▶ And so much more!

This service is free for gold and eligible white card holders, simply click the button below and enter your contact details and one of our friendly team will reach out to you with more information and help you get started.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR FREE PHYSIOTHERAPY](#)

**Below are some contacts we suggest noting, they are here to help if needed.**



**1800 142 072**



**1800 011 046**



**1300 789 978**



**1300 224 636**



**1800 628 036**



**1800 551 800**



**1300 659 467**



**1800 737 732**



**13 11 14**

The following link could be worthwhile to investigate for further information:

**[Veteran Benefits Australia https://veteranbenefitsaustralia.com](https://veteranbenefitsaustralia.com)**

### From the Advocate's Desk...

Our professional Advocate's contact details: -

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

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

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



## 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



## ANZAC Day 2022

It's getting close and looks like some normality is returning.  
So, take your camera and a note pad to wherever you get to  
and send some memories in?

**Bob Billiards** made the following post on  
our Association' Facebook site –

### Anzac Day 2022

For the first time in two years, Australians can  
attend Anzac Day commemorations in  
Australia and overseas.  
Contact your local RSL for details of the  
commemoration in your local area or capital  
city or the DVA website



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

The Locating Association is hosting it's biennial reunion in friendly Brisbane, the home of 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment RAA. A great opportunity for Locator's to catch up with mates & families and importantly for older veterans to meet and support our younger veterans. It has been noted that recent withdrawal from Afghanistan has strong parallels with Vietnam service. Please note, this program continues to be subject to COVID-19 restrictions, which requires attendees to be double vaccinated. Updates, when needed, 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

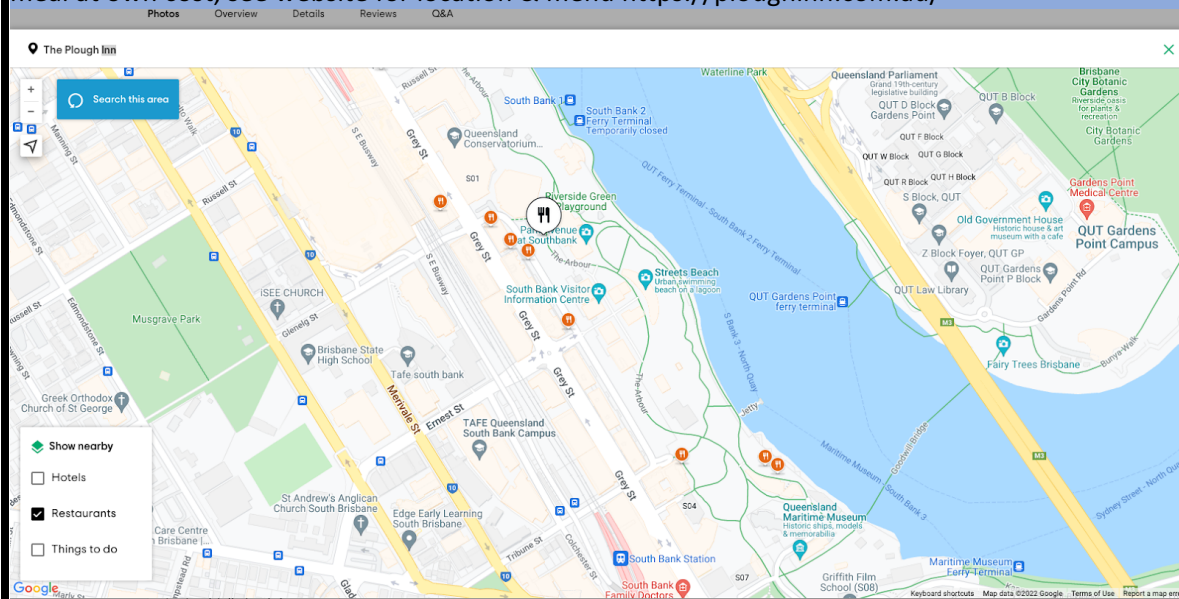
CBD. <https://fortlytton.org.au/>

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].

The Plough Inn at South Bank has been suggested for visitors as a suitable venue for Saturday evening drinks & meal at own cost, see website for location & menu <https://ploughinn.com.au/>



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

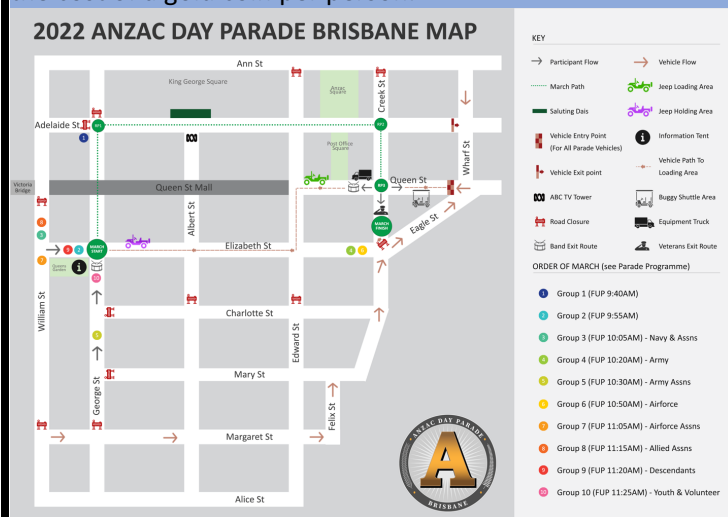
5pm till 8pm Cocktail party Sky Lounge Kedron Wavell RSL at \$60 per person, President's bar tab, then drinks at own cost [Dress: smart casual]

<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.

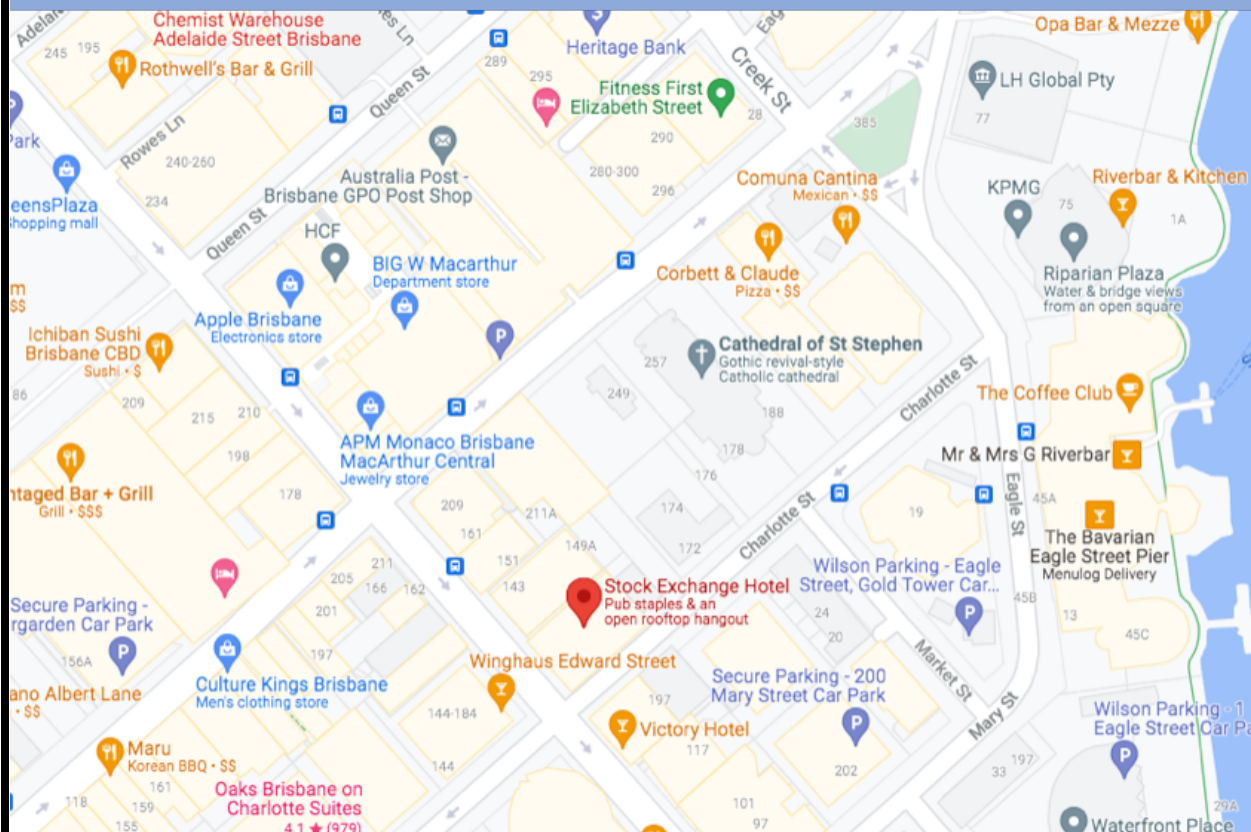
### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April:

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 catchup with mates, family and friends and have a few convivial drinks! If attending, please complete the Online Registration Form ASAP:-

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

#### . Perth, WA – Barry Guzder reports in on the prospect of an event -

"Hi Dicko,

Up here in the Perth hills, (Chidlow RSL) we are having (hopefully), a full Anzac service: Gunfire Brekky (provided by Bushfire Brigade), a Memorial Service, with shire and local polly speakers.

Then to the pub (circa 1890), lunch and two up!

Wife to drive me home.

Regards, Barry."

#### . Sydney – here's what's happening...

**Allen Morley** informs us that that a number of members sre going to Brisbane for the March and Reunion this year, so, there will be no banner to march behind, unless enquiries are made. The members who will be marching in Sydney should gather and march behind the Artillery banner as a group.

For more details read and possibly contact the RSL NSW for more information – see the following -



## ANZAC Day Update No.3

We ask that people keep an eye on the RSL NSW website at [rslnsw.org.au](http://rslnsw.org.au)

A reminder that there are three ways by which an individual can participate in the March:

### As an Australian veteran

Veteran eligibility to march is based on anyone who has served in the ADF. Veterans should assemble with one of the service units of which they were/are a member. The choice of where to march is a personal one however it is recommended that those who served together should march together as an act of remembrance and mateship.

### Order of March & Map

The Order of March and Map can be found on the RSL NSW website using the following links: • [March Map](#)

• **Order of March:** updated to include Navy and Air Force orders and inclusion of bands.

### Form up areas

It is important to note that the locations on the March map are your form up locations and not the march start point (which is on Elizabeth Street at Martin Place), and therefore there may be a start-stop pattern happening between your form up location and the start point.

This year there will be two information locations on Hunter Street to assist with finding form up locations. In addition, there will also be QR signage around the streets to assist you with accessing key information about the march.

### COVID-19

RSL NSW is planning for a normal ANZAC Day March and will be monitoring the announcements from the NSW Government in the lead-up to the day to ensure the March complies with the latest Public Health Order. We will continue to provide the latest information through these updates. Please note plans may be changed or cancelled at any time.

### ANZAC Day website and information

Reminder that information for ANZAC Day 2022 is on the RSL NSW website and will be updated as the day approaches.

Please head to [rslnsw.org.au](http://rslnsw.org.au)

ANZAC House

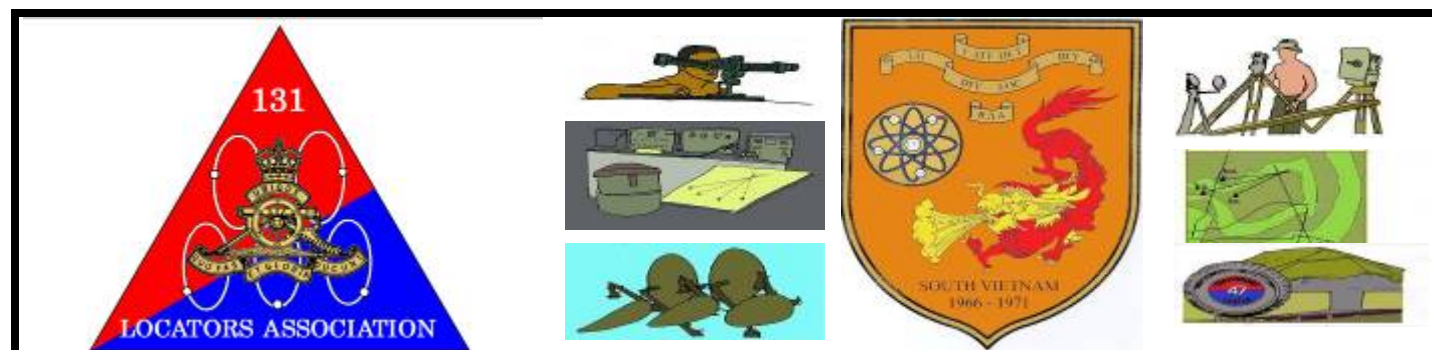
Should you have any questions in relation to ANZAC Day, this update or information provided on the website, please get in touch with ANZAC House on the below details:

• Phone: 1300 679 775

• Email: [support@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:support@rslnsw.org.au)

Phone 02 9264 8188 Email [support@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:support@rslnsw.org.au) [rslnsw.org.au](http://rslnsw.org.au) RSL NSW Level 11, 175 Pitt St, Sydney NSW 2000

**...We're looking forward to getting photos and yarns with regards to what you got up to on one of our most memorable annual ceremonies.**



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, Vic Nth – Ron Mason, WA - Barry Guzder

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

### Presidential perambulations

A couple of personal observations suggest to me that the “Chicken Little” phase of the Covid pandemic has passed. If accurate, that is good news.

The first relates to a Saturday dinner in our local village. Japanese was the cuisine of choice. Service was a little slow and perhaps the window sign seeking part time staff was a clue. Along a strip of half a dozen or so restaurants all were buzzing and well patronised. Spanish, Chinese-Malaysian, Pizzas (twice). Intending diners were trying to get a table, but those already seated were relaxed and in no hurry to move on.

Compare that with previous conditions encompassing restrictions, lock downs, compulsory mask wearing and QR code check-ins and it was obvious that eating out was back in.

Secondly, we have a break to the Kimberley via Broome set down for late winter. Our airline of choice advised that they had cancelled our return direct flight home and asked us to accept an indirect flight. The airline indicated that a change could be made online. No, it couldn't for what we wanted – two extra nights in Broome waiting for the next direct flight. What now seems post-Covid common was that a telephone call was very actively discouraged. But try I did. It seemed that many others who wanted to travel were using the phone too because the wait time advised was 1-2 hours. So, 3.5 hours later holding on the phone I gave up. Next morning it was time to try again. This time the airline offered a call back option which was taken. The requested change was made, but the airline person sorted me out and left my wife off the change for reasons unknown. The next morning, I asked for another call back but it never eventuated (later advice was that their system went down).

The third morning call back worked after three hours. The change was made and we are now flying back direct to Sydney on the same aircraft.

Cheers,  
Allen."



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

## . Upcoming Events Calendar –

**131 Locators Association Committee Meeting** Date: Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 at 1100hrs

Venue: **To Be Advised**

**Notes from the ZOOM MEETING:** Date: Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 at 1100hrs...

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

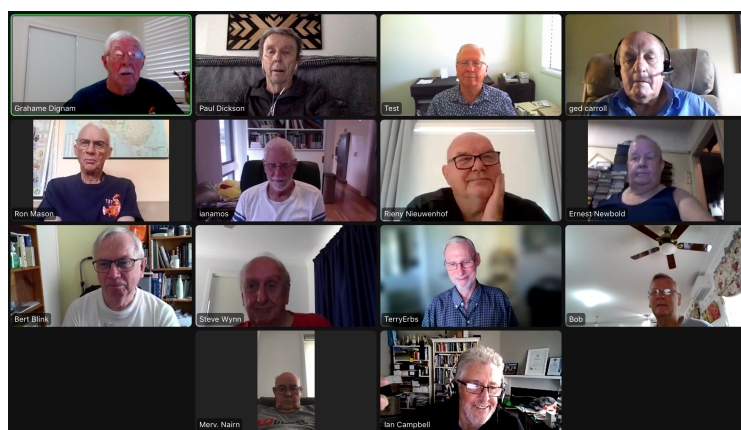
**Attendees were via ZOOM:**

**Grahame Dignam, Paul Dickson, Laurie Sawyer, Ged Carroll**

**Ron Mason, Ian Amos, Rieny Nieuwenhof, Ernie Newbold**

**Bert Blink, Steve Wynn, Terry Erbs, Bob Billiards**

**Merv Nairn, Ian Campbell**



**Allen Morley left early for a Medical appointment**

**Apologies were received from:** Nick Proskurin, Gordon Malcolm, George Lane, other State Reps and Jim Fitzgerald.

**President Allen Morley** welcomed those present in our virtual ZOOM. He was obliged to leave the meeting temporarily and handed the meeting to Grahame Dignam as stand in chair.

**Financial Membership** is currently ... **128**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **15** Total **145**. Lapsed 31 members Plus, lapsed as at 1/03/2022 36.

### **Presidents report.**

In Allen's' absence the meeting was advised that a number of the executive would be attending the Reunion in Qld over the coming ANZAC DAY. Our Banner is available for the Sydney March but if it not used our members should assemble on the usual Bent and O'Connell St corner at 10.00 AM ready for step off at 10.25AM.

Information on the order of the March is available from the Sec/Treas.

### **Public Officer Report.**

Gordon (Malcolm) apologised for missing the Meeting as the internet conditions in his location were terrible in the severe weather conditions. He also mentioned "Nothing to report".

### Webmaster Update.

Bob (Billiards) advised the number of Facebook members was now 264 and activity was revving up with more interactivity.

### Health Report:

. In a general around the grounds health discussion aspects were discussed. It included a report that **Ian Board** had a pacemaker installed and was going OK.

, At a state council meeting in Vic there was a report that a campaign was to be mounted to extend the Gold Card to the spouses of Vets. It will be followed up with a view to supporting the issue in due course.

. **Rieny (Nieuwenhof)** also noted that "Agent Orange" had been accepted in the USA as "Presumptive Evidence" as the cause of cancer in their soldiers and no further proof was required in health claims including intergenerational transfer claims

. **Terry (Erbs)** mentioned that a report of a claim for a new unit citation from the Vietnam era is being considered.

### General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions ensued on the following:

. **Rieny (Nieuwenhof)** shared that **Bernard Clancy** has passed on 5 March. Bernard was a Vet who authored a couple of books "Foxholes of the Mind" covering effects of PTSD and another "Best we Forget" regarding conditions affecting SVN vets.

. **Ged (Carroll)** reported that the Georges River down the end of his street has flooded but he is not in danger.

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...April – Happy Birthday fellas!

| Date | Name                 | Regt No | SVN In      | SVN Out    | Comments               |
|------|----------------------|---------|-------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1    | DES SPENCER          | 3787905 | 03 01 1967  | 13 12 1967 |                        |
|      | 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 "Soul" MAKER   | 2251507 | 26 08 1969  | 13 08 1970 | † 24.05.2020           |
| 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 looking marginally better, but c'mon fellas lets have a crack at finding a couple! Some of you '68 lot must have known **Peter Clarke** – he was from Warracknabeal, Vic?

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received **171** and we've sent out **171**. Ed – Maybe we need to draw in a deep one so as to hold our breathes for a while longer.

### . 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)



[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](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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