

THE EYES and EARS

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

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Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

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

2023 – 57 Years and the Detachment 131 Spirit Lives On: 1966 – 1971



As we say farewell to

2023



Let us prepare to welcome

2024

The Year of the Dragon

We wish you ALL
a great 2024...

A Bit of "Fun" History...

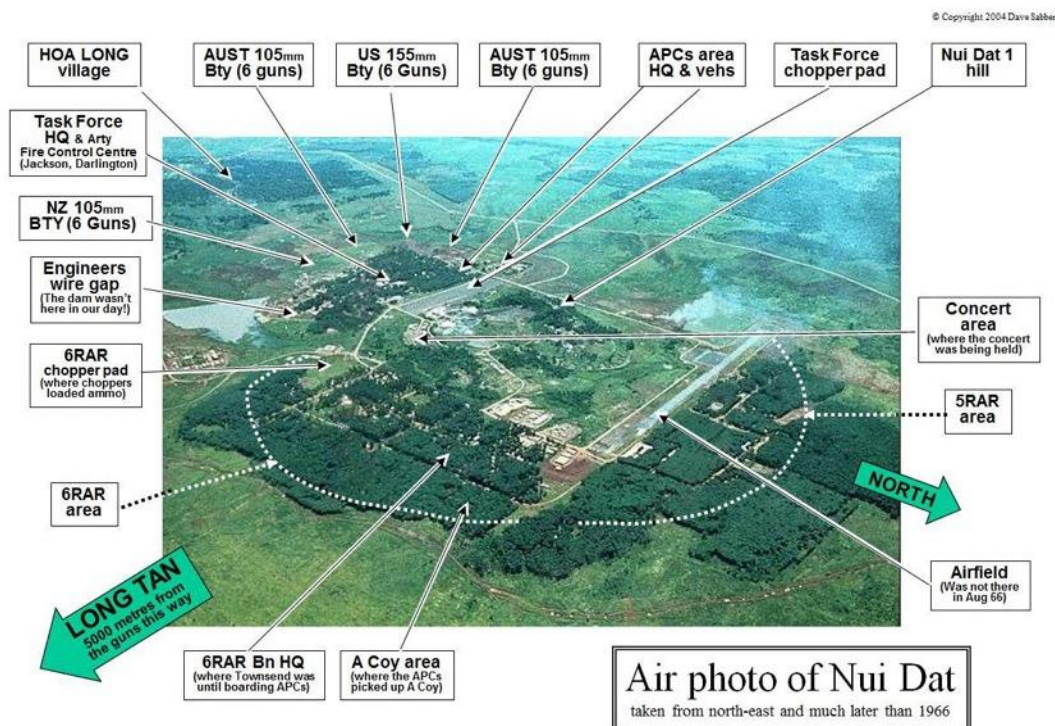
Photos extracted from the AWM Archives...



Nui Dat, South Vietnam. December 1970. The Lorrae Desmond Show...

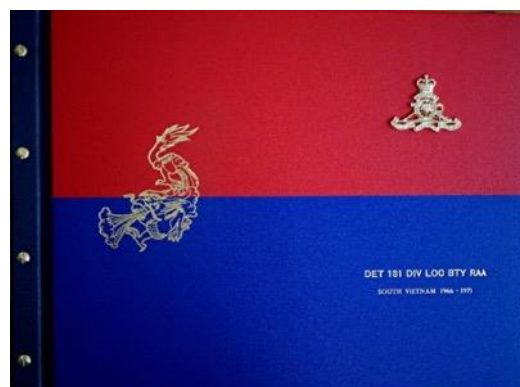


Nui Dat, South Vietnam. 1969-09. Australian entertainer, Lorrae Desmond, gave a welcome kiss to Lance Corporal Tony King of Watsonia, Vic, during a show at the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF) Base, which lasted for ninety minutes and continued through a monsoonal downpour. The 1200 soldiers stayed to the end to shout and cheer Lorrae to sing four encores. The South Australian concert party, sponsored by the Australian Forces Overseas Fund, visited most Australian units during its tour.



The photo at left gives us a general overview of Nui Dat with some great information as to locations.

. **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.





Give me a Name?

The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project is being re-ignited for 2024.

Our current list contains the names of **96** Locators (as at 31.12.2023) that we have not had contact with since, basically, commencing communications in 2012, so, we are continuing this programme 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.

As post note, 2023 has seen a reasonable reduction of Lost Locator numbers – thanks to those who have helped in this project.

Paul Dickson

Get in touch with me via 131eyesandears@gmail.com

. Unknown Dates of Deaths continues to be updated...as at 31.12.2023 -

A continuing Reflective Thought with regards to Vales as we progress on in years.

The following table reflects Members passings over the years since our 'journeys' into South Vietnam which began back in May 1966.

It reflects on 10 year periods since, and including, 1966. The figures speak for themselves, and if you exclude deaths in SVN, of which there were two, the initial period does show a dark period considering the ages of our mates.

10 Year Detachment/131 Battery Death Periods

										<u>Total</u>
1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	
1	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	7
1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	
0	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	6
1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	
0	0	2	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	10
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
3	2	2	2	0	3	2	1	2	1	18
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
0	4	4	4	2	9	5	6	5	4	43
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
8	4	4	5	6	7	10	8	0	0	52
Unknowns*										2
Total										138

Please note that these figures represent data provided by Members, from what was, and is stated to be reliable sources (official notices/family/mates etc). Data as at **31.12.2023**.

***Unknowns** – Sadly, we have only been advised of the Members' passings only.

This following sections have now been updated as of 31.12.2023 and show a clear picture of Battery/Detachment Members that have incomplete Date of Death details.

Here are the names and details –

Name	Rank	Regt No	Section	SVN	DoB	DoD
Lempa, Helmut	L/Bdr	38120	Radar	1966-67	18.10.46	Unknown
Robinson, Marcus Lee	Gnr	2791229		1970	14.02.48	Unknown

If you can help in any way to update this data it would be greatly appreciated – You can send information to Paul Dickson at email 131eyesandears@gmail.com Subject: Vale update

Ed - As a closing thought, can we give some thought to completing Locator Profiles, which do add a personal background and also keeping in touch as it keeps us up to date with you and mates.

However, as a continuation, this has been extended to cover more Unknow details... such as Rank, Regt No (not an easy discovery), Section, DoB and then day.month for DoD's.

Ok, detectives, here's more homework – 7 gaps to go!

Name	Rank	Regt No	Section	SVN	DoB	DoD
O'Keefe, Michael Francis	Gnr	2787168		1968-69	26.11.46	00.00.80
Self, Christopher	Gnr	66981	Dental Unit	1969-70	14.012.49	28.09.95
Todd, Geoffrey Thomas	Bdr	54254		1967-68	26.01.43	23.04.12
White, Robert Barnett	Sgt	311537	Radar	1966-67	08.12.37	24.01.92

Ed – Michael O'Keefe, sadly, remains as the last Locator to have his details updated. Our thanks go to those that have given more meaning to those "mates" who are no longer physically with us.

...a continuing investigation –



131 Locators
"Cold Case Division"
The Eyes & Ears of the Force

...some correspondence with regards to Lindsay Colin BLACK, who features on our Non-Contacts list –

"Morning Peter, (02.12.23)

Peter, A great piece of mail to start your day - not!

The attached 2 items seem to gel as the date of death lines him up with the Nominal Roll birthdate = 68 years of age.

No major rush, but I think this one cleans up another **Non-Contacts**. Paul."

...Peter's response -

"Hi Paul, Give me a couple of days and I will go to Genealogy Library near me, where I can access newspaper entries re his death.

Also have contacted Centennial Pk Cemetery Pasadena, South Aust, asking if there is a Memorial Plaque installed at the Garden of Remembrance, and if there is a photo available, but as yet have not had a reply.

Worst case I can visit the Cemetery, as it is only a 10 min drive from my house.

Seems Lindsay had involvement with OVRC- (Onkaparinga Valley Racing Club, at Oakbank S.A) which is near Woodside (his place of death).

Cheers, Peter M."

...follow up –

"Hi Paul, These notices suggest we have our man.(RAA, TPI)

Would still like to find a Memorial Plaque at the Cemetery to be triply sure.

Cheers, Peter M."

...there's more – (04.12.23)

"Hi Paul, I have been in touch with Centennial Park Cemetery Adelaide, and was told Lindsay was cremated and the ashes collected, so no Memorial Plaque.

Pretty safe to say he's our man though, I reckon. Peter M."

See Vale below. May He be Remembered and Never Forgotten.

...and there's more updates -

John McGovern joins the Detective ranks with the following discoveries –

“Hi Paul

Going through your last *Eyes and Ears*, I was able to identify the Date of death of the following:

33981 SELF died 28/09 1995

54254 TODD died 23/04 2016

311537 WHITE died 24/01/1992

Hope this is of some help to you.

John Mac McGovern.”

Ed - Updates have been marked in **RED** above

Diane Dean has helped with follow up information after communications with **Peter** with regards to **Locating a Locator – Darryl Jenkins**, Regt no 46634. Darryl joined the Army in 1972 and was posted to 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA in 1973 and worked as a Gunner in Artillery Intelligence. He was posted to 16 AD (Woodside) as a Lance Bombardier in 1975. In 1977 he was promoted to Bombardier. His health isn't the greatest at the moment.

. Quiz Time.



This is not necessarily a typical (whatever that means) “Quiz Time” article but one with questions included, so let's get started...what are we doing, ah, yes this could be of interest to the mob that owned “taxi” conversions...just enough coverage for our time in SVN -

The Holden HR range starting in 1966 -

The Holden HR range was released in April 1966, replacing the Holden HD series which had been in production since 1965.



...then followed -



Holden HT Belmont, Kingswood and Premier models were introduced in May 1969, replacing their Holden HK series equivalents which had been in production since 1968.

When the **HQ** was released in July 1971, Holden had an uncomplicated long-term plan for its mainstream range of family sized sedans, wagons and commercials. The HQ would be followed by a mid-1973 styling update, the HV, and another facelift in 1976



Now for a question – “Did anyone ever own one of them or don't tell me you owned a Ford?”

Mail Call...

. Bob Billiards posted the following on the 131 Battery's website -



131 Battery Royal Australian Artillery

Robert Billiards · 19 h · 🌐

40th anniversary of "I was only 19" rerecorded in September. Some very good footage accompanies it.



youtube.com

John Schumann and The Waifs - 'I Was Only 19' - 40th Anniversary...

The following is an extract from Wikipedia with some background on the song –

Nd

"I Was Only 19" (also known as "Only 19" or "A Walk in the Light Green") a song by the folk group Redgum. The song was released in March 1983 as a single, which hit number one on the national Kent Music Report Singles Chart for two weeks. It was also recorded for Redgum's live album Caught in the Act (Epic Records) released in June, which stayed in the top 40 of the Kent Music Report Albums Chart for four months. **Royalties for the song go to the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.** It is in the Australasian Performing Right Association's Top 30 Australian Songs of all time. "I Was Only 19" became the most widely recognised song by the band."



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...

. **Phillip Connor** – "Greetings Worldly Wanderers.

Hello to both of you and hope you have rested from you holiday sojourn.

Well, for the first time, a few weeks back, we both 'enjoyed' having Covid. Bought exclusively to us by our neighbours on their return from a Cruise. Geez, it certainly knocks you at our age. I've noticed with the Cruises, as a bonus, you get free Covid, the runs or Influenza A. Miriam suffered because of her auto-immune system, but the 'tough as old boots' kicked in for her.

On the Sunnie Coast we had some heavy rain on different occasions over the last week or so, however, hot, muggy days since, with a new cyclone, Jasper, forming out in the Coral Sea and heading for Qld coast. With recent news about the Commonwealth games falling off the perch, Vic then Goldie, it seems as though it is on its last legs.

This time of year, same old, same old the cement pond is getting a workout which has been great for my spine ops.

No golf now due to the spine, however, I am back at bowls.

Our son and family in the States just had their first dump of snow.

We wish you and Helen a wonderful, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. Feliz Navidad.

Cheers

Miriam and Phillip."

. **John Bayford** – "Hi Paul

Nice to hear from you. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with the family last month as well as a few minor milestones. This time of year we have a few birthdays come around so we have family time together.

You had a nice holiday. We had some time in Port Douglas over winter and have no plans to travel overseas for now. We mostly plan our weeks around golf and associated activities.

Best wishes, John."

. **Nick Armstrong** – "Hello Paul

Thank you for your Christmas greetings. You must be glad to be home after your 'Globetrotting'. I imagine everyday life in those countries is not as dire as the news reports suggest. What is international air travel like now, particularly availability

and costs? I am not a keen user of aircraft. I am not so much concerned at the actual flying, but all the marshalling, screening, and waiting is tedious. Obviously unavoidable for international travel.

Here on Lower Eyre Peninsula, we seem to be in a parallel universe, regarding weather. We are into summer, but daytime temperatures are still only mid-twenties. 200km north, temperatures are reaching the forties. The eastern states seem to be doing their own thing, with localised storms and flooding in places.

Bus driving has reduced somewhat during the last few months. There have been fewer charters, so I have not been asked to drive for drivers who have to do the charter work. Unfortunately, I have not been able to get out on the boat. We seem to have had weeks of continuous strong winds.

Eyre Peninsula is now in Fire Season, with aircraft based at Port Lincoln Airport. The aircraft will be here until about the end of March. Aircraft resources have been increased this year. An additional 'Airtractor', bomber, and a Blackhawk helicopter. There is a total of three bomber, one Blackhawk helicopter, all dedicated to water attack, and two smaller reconnaissance helicopters. The use of aircraft on dedicated standby with the CFS has been developing over the past twenty years. I am unsure how many aircraft are chartered throughout the state, but they are placed strategically across the State. It is comforting to have them here, but if a fire is active in a nearby region, our aircraft will be deployed there. It can take a while for the aircraft to return to support a fire commencing closer to home.

Aircraft obviously have the advantage of identifying the position and direction of travel of the fire, another big advantage for the firefighters is slowing and limiting the extent of the fireground. A large fireground can require many days of constant patrolling by fire trucks identifying and tackling hot spots, well after the fire has been contained and effectively extinguished.

This fire season has been predicted as potentially high risk. Spring here was very dry, and generally, harvest was about a month earlier than normal. I have been active with the local CFS since retiring about ten years ago. I have not been involved in any major fires here during that time. The law of averages would suggest a bad fire is due soon!

This Christmas, our three children and their families will visit us. It is always tricky assembling everyone at the same time. One son will be travelling from Tasmania, and another from WA. Our daughter lives an hour up the road, so we see her reasonably often. Owing to travel timetables, our sons will only be here together for three days just before New Year's Day.

I think that is all for now.

Best wishes from

Nick and Robin."

. Keith Dean – "Hi Paul

Well the hot weather has finally hit us with heat waves for the next few days. Expected 41C tomorrow. Hate the heat.

We are off to New Zealand on Tuesday for an 11 night cruise. It is so good to be cruising again we just love it.

Had a trip to Canberra last week to attend our great grandson's dance concert and to catch up with some PTI mates for lunch. Our main point was to catch up with Darryl Jenkins (an ex 131 friend) who also was a PTI. However Daryl was admitted to hospital by his oncologist and we did not get to see him. Here's hoping we can make it down early in 2024.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2024.

Fondest regards

Dianne and Keith Dean."

. David Auld – "G'Day Paul, currently in Armidale for a couple of days babysitting our youngest granddaughter, I don't know if you know about 2025 and the get-together for the centenary of locating in Brisbane July 2025.

We are thinking of contacting a few locators for Anzac Day '24.

Just spent 48,000 on Reno's and starting Saturday repainting. Well she and I may get to do some as well as Xmas decorating,

Take care and have a very merry Christmas and a fabulous new year."

. Peter Bruce – "Hello Paul

Great to hear of your recent travels. We were fortunate to visit Turkiye some years ago and visit the Gallipoli Peninsula. Some wonderful memories of people and places from that visit. We really loved staying in the old part of Istanbul as well. I catch up with Larry Bridge fairly regularly and we got together for Remembrance Day service and luncheon with our local RSL Sub-branch. Larry got me to scan some photos he had of various 131 guys. I will send them under separate cover.

As you get colder over there, we of course get warmer. Some beautiful days here recently with highs of around 30 C. The surf is a bit of a mess at the moment with the dreaded red weed which seems to materialise each year about this time.

We need some strong southerly currents to wash it all away. There is always the odd clean spot on the southern side of a headland but the rest is covered in weed. It actually looks like red cornflakes and its local name is cornflake weed.

At the moment we are all doing the rounds with various Christmas Parties and end of school events for the grandkids.

Our Legacy staff and Legatee Christmas party was to have happened last night (6 Dec) and was to be a sunset cruise on a charter boat out of Port Macquarie. Unfortunately, the boat had a bit of a mishap the day before on a lunch time cruise and all passengers had to evacuate. The boat was repaired easily enough but getting the tick from Government officialdom could take some time. So, that's one party that could turn into a New Year party.

Paul, all the very best for the Festive season to you and yours. I hope Santa is kind to you – he should be because of all the great work you do for your readers and members.

Best wishes,

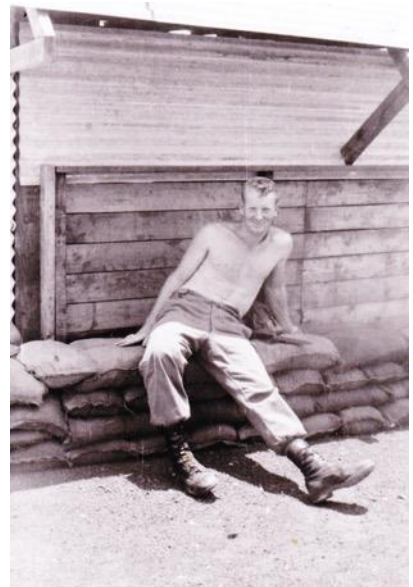
Peter."

The following photos are from Larry Bridge who has them as hard copies...



Ian Robb, Frank Pepper,
Mick Bohle and
Nev Wortlehook

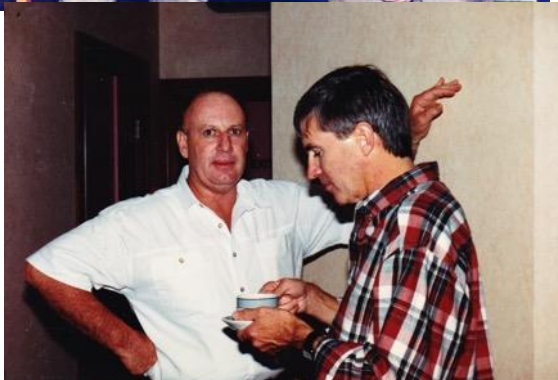
Ken "Bluey Piesley



Ken Jones and
Jim Kruimink



Gordon Malcolm



Doc Sheedy and
Ian Finlay



John Ianson, Col "Bones"
Gordon and Jim Kruimink



Phil Johns and Phil Jones

Warwick Brooker – "G'day Dicko.

Thanks for sharing your recent tour via Facebook. Interesting part of the world.

Nancy and I travelled to Melbourne a few weeks ago to welcome our second grandchild into the world. So we now have two grandsons - one in Canberra and one in Melbourne.

Our best wishes to you and Helen for a joyful Christmas Season and a safe, healthy and happy 2024!
Brookey & Nancy."



Mike Butler – “Hi Paul, Apologies for delay in replying. Haven't been doing a lot except household maintenance and family matters. Planning to take the caravan out after Xmas probably to South Australia but staying at home at the moment to avoid the crowds.

The local VVAA group had their Xmas party at the Box Hill RSL on Sunday 17 Dec - it was a good get together, probably 50 veterans and their partners for a light lunch. We also went on a bus trip to the Yarra Valley with the TPI social club that we belong to - visited a great public garden had lunch at the Healesville RSL.

The weather has been quite reasonable with plenty of rain to keep the garden going - not quite as much as Queensland where you have probably already seen they have major flooding due to cyclone Jasper.

Now getting ready for the Xmas chaos - we have two of our three children and their families coming - total of 10. There are 4 kids at 5 and under so that will keep us busy !!

Have a good Xmas and New Year. Cheers for now. Mike.”

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

Grahame Dignam sent the following info and link to the **CONTACT Newsletter** – click on the link – good diversified read... There are a couple of firsts for the OZ military in this edition link here

<https://4t09p.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/mr/sh/SMJz09SDriOHVbl9NaFW54QhHJ22/J7EPnse5U7De>

Ed – 2023 A year in reflection through *Eyes and Ears*...

2023 saw our readers, and no doubt others, emerge from an unpopular enforced cocoon; rediscovering hobbies, travelling, catching up with mates by returning to a somewhat normal life. However, Covid has left a scar and a continuing problem for many of us. The sub-variants that continue still need us to maintain healthy considerations.

With most of us being born in the 1940's, age has taken, and continues to take, its toll with us losing (well, to the best of our knowledge) 138 Battery Members over time, with 8 passing in 2023 alone, plus we were able to update our Honour Roll with Members whose details were Unknown, thanks to the vigilance of Members who became involved in this exercise. We still have two members with no details of their passing dates, and one with incomplete details. All of this keeps our archives alive and mates remembered -

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE AND NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.

My communications with members revealed a lot of fun and interesting information, but included reports on illnesses, recoveries and some continuing scenarios amongst ongoing DVA difficulties, problems living in more isolated areas etc. Where I live is a haven for “retirees” and one question I try to avoid, after mentioning the weather (it’s always mentioned) and the value of the dollar, is asking the question – “How are you?” - as this conversation can last for hours!

The subject of “Gatherings” comes to mind, as during 2023 there appeared to be a continuation of a decline in attendance numbers to Anniversaries ie. ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day, Remembrance Day etc in major cities. Was it COVID, maybe? But it was great to see suburban, country town activities very much alive with involvement with extended families and mates.

Plus, add to that the efforts put in by Members to organise re-unions – they were absolutely amazing as noted by the photos, stories, number of attendees that were submitted to *Eyes and Ears* for us ALL to share. You know who you are and your “efforts” will never be forgotten – thank you.

Eyes and Ears was also lucky enough to be able to share several travel wanderings via photos/stories etc – this, along with mail, Quarterly “Catch Up’s” / general write-ins keeps us ALL in contact and up to date with all sorts of goings-ons. There are some classic communicators which are always great to hear from. Let’s keep in touch, it’s vital.

From Ed’s end it has been a great year, thanks to ALL of you and as we enter 2024, our 14th year of publication of the current *Eyes and Ears* comes up in February (188 Editions). I look forward to keeping the spirit alive.

Again, thanks everyone, Paul Dickson.

2024 - Here we come, together!




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:

It's hard not to notice that covid remains everpresent. Sources seem to include cruises, airport terminals, game venues, existing covid sufferers and Christmas parties. However, the human situations no longer create emotive headlines in newspapers nor "breaking news" on tv.

The experts have come and, fortunately, have largely gone. And none of those experts ever put their hands up and said 'sorry, I got it wrong'. Media reporting always emphasised the extremes and has not escaped blame for their mistreatment of the public over covid.

My personal view is that the Australian people faced with a similar situation would, in future, generally disregard similar draconian big stick controls established by politicians and health bureaucrats.

Unjustified estimates of 150,000 deaths from covid and warnings not to touch a football kicked into the game crowd would be laughed at, as they should be.

Nevertheless, I sympathise with any covid sufferer, whether their symptoms be mild or more severe. In its many forms it is a nasty virus.

Regards

Allen



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

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

Minutes for the General Meeting of the 131 Locators Association Inc.

Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club, 26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176 and via Zoom internet on Tuesday 12 th December 2023 at 1105hrs...

Attendees were:

Present were Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Gordon Malcolm, Ernest Newbold and Ian Amos.

Zoomed members were: Ron Mason, Paul Dickson, Terry Erbs, Bert Blink, Brian Campbell, Ian Campbell, Bob Billiards, Barry Guzder and Steve Wynn,

Screenshot supplied by Ian Campbell



Apologies: were received from **Rieny Nieuwenhof, Geoff Blackwell, George Lane, Jim Fitzgerald, Ged Carroll, Merv Nairn, Nick Proskurin and other State Reps**

Financial Membership is currently...**126**, plus Associates **3**, plus Affiliates **16** Total **144**
Plus Lapsed as at 1/12/2023 **36**

Presidents report.

Allen referenced.

- . LSTAA Sydney Xmas gathering will be at the Panania Diggers RSL on 17th December commencing at 11.45AM.
- . The Vietnam War musical theme for Aussies "I was only 19" has had a refresh video release. John Schumann joined with "the Waifs" to re-do the anthem – recommended.
- . Allen thanked the entire committee for their efforts over the year- those appearing in the flesh – those magically joining on the ZOOM and those who joined in spirit. Merry Christmas to all!

Public Officer Report. Gordon has dealt with the AGM report to Fair Trading as well as a change to the Associations address to The Secretary/Treasurer 8 Barlett Street

Webmaster Update. Grahame advised Facebook members are 398. We are attracting some who want to market non sponsored merchandise to our members- these are barred if they contravene the Local rules.

Health Report: No new health concerns were reported. All are coping with the usual aches etc.

General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . **Terry Erbs** advised and provided vision of the building progress for 133 Bty at Enoggera however much more to be done yet. ANZAC day in Brisbane 2024 - LSTAA will march behind A BTY banner. A plan is in place to re-organise the order of March for 2025.
- . **Dicko** reported that Keith Osborne advised his wife had passed recently. We wish Ken all the best and he is in our thoughts in this demanding period.
- . **Bob** has supplied copies of invoices he had paid to VentralP for 2 services they provide. The major cost of \$792.00 covers the site for 3 years (CPU, and 200GB disk space). The second is Domain name renewal for "131 Locators Assn Inc" for 3 years \$47.85.
- . For those in the Sydney area and are available a Pizza "nostalgia day" has been set for Thursday 11 th January 2024 at the Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club.
- . **Ian Campbell** voted this the funniest meeting of the year!

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.

. Upcoming Events Calendar –

131 Locators Association Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 13th February, 2024 at 1100

Venue: to be advised

Also, available via Zoom link to be advised



. Birthdays in the Battery...January –

DAY	NAME	Regt. No.	IN SVN	OUT SVN	COMMENTS
1	VICTOR DANKO	2783210	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
1	JOE LIBRIZZI	5716081	23 09 1969	04 06 1970	
1	CHRIS CHAPPLE	5716208	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
1	RICHARD CHAPLIN	2791166	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	
2	JOHN BROWNE	218367	27 08 1969	13 08 1970	
2	KEVIN "KJ" SALTER Cpt	51470	N/A	02 01 1938	† 25.03.2020
3	GARY NAVAS	2793162	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	† 10.07.2022
4	PETER PETTIFORD	3792038	08 11 1968	04 06 1969	
5	GRAEME SMITH	6708707	12 04 1968	20 08 1968	
6	ARTHUR DOVE	217348	13 01 1969	28 11 1969	

6	WILLIAM BROADBENT Sgt	224024	N/A	N/A	† 24.11.2008
6	ALLAN ROBOTHAM	6709864	25 05 1971	18 11 1971	
9	PETER SADLER Lt.	15138	20 05 1966	28 04 1967	† 2008
9	ROBERT NESS	4717755	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	
9	(GERARD) DAVID PIRES	5717069	03 03 1971	12 08 1971	
11	PAUL TRAVERS Maj.	47027	{09 09 1965	19 09 1965	† 18.02.1990
	" "		{25 02 1967	04 04 1967	RAEME
11	GRAEME LESLIE	18614	1969	1970	† Unknown
11	PETER PIORO	2790931	27 11 1969	04 05 1970	
12	PETER HOPPER Sgt	3787938	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	
12	DAVID REILLY	3794901	24 03 1970	13 08 1970	
12	BRIAN JOHNSON	4720991	29 05 1970	05 05 1971	† 31.01.2012
	" "		14 05 1970	27 05 1970	AACC/1 Arm Reg/Det 131
12	LASZLO FALKAI	4721836	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "		30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
13	ROGERMY REMY (HOLMES)	3795910	22 07 1970	25 02 1971	
15	GEORGE STAZIKER Lt Col	2108436	14 04 71	01 05 1971	† 29.12.2012
15	PHIL. ENDICOTT	2783419	06 01 1967	27 09 67	
16	KEN OSBORNE WO1	48543	18 04 67	02 04 68	RAEME
16	EDWARD COOPER	44231	26 08 1969	21 01 70	
16	LESLIE SAURINE	2791863	24 03 1970	17 12 70	
18	PETER SZABO	38752	26 03 1969	25 03 1970	† 07.12.2007
19	BARRY HEARD	3788324	02 04 1967	25 10 1967	Honorary 131
19	PETER FIELDEN	3797872	25 11 1970	12 08 1971	
21	PETER SUCKLING SGT	55141	05.02.1971	15.11.1971	
22	KEVIN BROWNING Sgt	217743	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	131
	" "		05 04 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "		30 06 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT.
22	MICHAEL BARLOW	2792252	19 08 1970	11 03 1971	4 Fd Regt.
23	DONALD CHALMERS	3793171	01 07 1969	03 12 1969	
	IAN "Scotty" McNICOL	216327	{12 09 1967	17 09 1968	131
	" "		{09 04 1970	02 05 1970	VISIT
24	TERENCE ERBS	3791713	28 10 1968	04 06 1969	
24	DAVID NEGUS	3794728	24 02 1970	13 08 1970	
25	WALLY FRANKLIN	1411285	29 01 1968	28 01 1969	
26	RAY HUTCHINSON	37669	17 04 1967	02 04 1968	
26	GEOFFREY TODD	54254	18 12 1967	10 12 1968	† 2012
27	WADE COOPER	5805611/8216682	IRAQ/E.TIMOR/AFGHANISTAN		20STA
27	ALLAN ADAMS	3788792	04 05 1967	27 09 1967	
28	ROBIN TORRISI	1735572	20 08 1970	12 03 1971	
29	PETER MACKIE	2184557	20 08 1970	08 02 1971	
30	ALAN McDONALD	511355	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	
31	COLIN GORDON	16975	15 03 1968	26 03 1969	† 28.03.2010

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

Ed – 6 blokes not highlighted is looking decidedly better, but still not acceptable! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. **Locator Profiles** – we've received 175 and we've sent out 175. 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.

Vale

Peter Meaney provided the following information (as previously noted in Unknowns above) –

“Lindsay died at Onkaparinga Valley Residential Care, Woodside(OVRC), same initials as Onkaparinga Valley Racing Club, which is very close to Woodside in the Adelaide Hills. (Beautiful countryside up there).
Peter M.”



Name: Black, Lindsay Colin

Service No: 213794 Rank: Sergeant
SVN In: 30 04.1970 SVN Out: 12 03 1971

Det 131 Div Loc Bty & 4th Fd Regt RAA
DoB: 07 02 40 DoD: 02 06 08



Lest We Forget

Bob Billiards has a memoir to share – “I was just looking at Brian Black as well as he was in the 7th intake like me but arrived in SVN in November 67 and left November 68 with 12 months in country. 2.5 months after I got there. He didn't have to spend 6 weeks back at 12 Fld Regiment like Ian (stretch) Amos, Kenny (woody) Woodbine and Geoff Holden. I met him only once after our RTA as we both were buying fuel in a cheap garage on Victoria Road, Ryde. We had a good discussion and we never saw each other again. He was a really nice bloke and sad cancer took him before we had this association. Bob.”

Vale

Grahame Dignam – notified us of Kevin's passing. Kevin was an Associate Member of the 131 Locators Association. Grahame verified the Vietnam Veterans Granville newsletter as the information source.



Name: Taylor, Kevin James

Service No: 2791357 Rank: Gunner
SVN In: 30 07 1969 SVN Out: 23 07 1970

DoB: 15 08 45 DoD: 03 08 23



Lest We Forget

Bill Taggart (1st/83rd Artillery) – “Paul, please pass along the condolences of the 1/83rd to Kevin's family, may He Rest in Peace. Lest We Forget. Bill.”

Ken Dwight – “Thank you Paul, another sad loss. Ken.”

Phillip Connor – “Rest easy, good warrior for you have done your duty.”

Wade Cooper – “Lest We Forget.”

James “Zeek” Ritchie – “Paul,
Thank you, another one to the gun park in the sky.
Cheers, Zeek.”

May They Rest in Peace, and Never be Forgotten.



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

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

Hope we hear from you?

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

. Other related sites...

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION

The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam.

We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much. It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: <http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

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