

THE EYES and EARS

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Detachment 131 Divisional Locating Battery RAA

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

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



**Vietnam Veterans
Honoured...**

Due recognition: State assistant secretary of the Victorian Vietnam Veterans Association Susan McQueen with Goulburn Valley Vietnam Veterans Association treasurer **Ron Mason**, past secretary Jeff Stanyer and current secretary and past president **Peter Dealy**. Mr Mason and Mr Stanyer have been presented with life memberships for their service to the association. Photo by Rechelle Zammit.

Ed sourced and extracted the following from the Shepparton News after receiving Peter Dealy's email (see later in Mail)...

...Vietnam veterans honoured with life membership

SHEPPARTON News

Outgoing GV president **Peter Dealy** presented his annual report, including paying special acknowledgement to the wives and partners of Vietnam veterans for being there to support veterans in their day-to-day lives.

Mr Mason has been a member of the GVVVA since the late 1990s, immediately becoming a willing worker at all ceremonial, welfare and social events.

He was elected treasurer in 2010, remaining in the position 12 years later, and has also been the GVVVA delegate to state council.

A footnote: The meeting also elected its 2023 executive, including incoming president Trevor Begley, vice-president Jeff Swain, secretary **Mr Dealy** and treasurer **Mr Mason**.

...**Ron added** – The Goulburn Valley Vietnam Veterans Association – my involvement. In 2010 I was assistant treasurer, then from 2011 remained treasurer and member of the GVVVA. The GVVVA has 70 plus members spread from the coast of Vic to northern NSW. The Life membership is from the Goulburn Valley branch of VVAA, not the State or National branch.

Ed – well done for your continuing services Ron and Peter.



Give me
a Name?

The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project is being re-ignited for 2022.

Our current list contains the names of **117** 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.

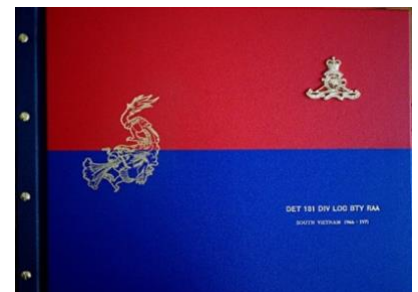
However, this doesn't mean that we still have contact with the total number of Battery/Detachment members we have Located over time as continuing correspondence has lapsed in a lot of cases.

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

. **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

. Unknown Dates of Deaths continues to be updated...

Thanks for details from **John MacGovern** for **Ralph Pearce** and **Jeff Reid**, **Peter Meaney** for **Quentin McNaughton** and **Neill Fawcett-Smith** and **Bruce Irvine** for more details on **Ralph Pearce**.

Plus Marcus Lee Robinson has been added to the list.

Bruce Irvine through great "Detective" work supplied more information on Ted Robinson – see updates in **colour** below.

The **Vale** section contains updates on details.

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	1	2	0	3	0	1	0	10
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	1	11
1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
3	2	2	2	0	3	2	1	2	2	19
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
0	6	4	5	3	9	6	6	6	3	48
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
8	4	5	5	6	7	11	5	0	0	51
Unknowns*										3
Total										148

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 **27.07.2023**.

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

Here are the names and details –

Name	Rank	Regt No	Section	SVN	DoB	DoD
Broadbent, William	Sgt	224024	Sound Ranging	N/a	06.01.57	24.11.08
Fawcett-Smith, Neil	Sgt	17732	RAEME	67-68/70-71	29.06.42	02.02.91
Lempa, Helmut	L/Bdr	38120	Radar	1966-67	18.10.46	Unknown
McNaughton, Quentin	Pvt	615726	Catering Corp	N/a	1947	09.07.07
Pearce, Ralph William	Gnr	214806	Radar	1966-67	16.06.45	20.03.22
Reid, Jeffrey Leonard	L/Bdr	3790495		1967-68	29.03.46	21.10.22
Robinson, Marcus Lee	Gnr	2791229		1970	14.02.48	Unknown
Robinson, Edward "Ted"	WO2	1411329	Radar	1968-69	11.08.49	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.

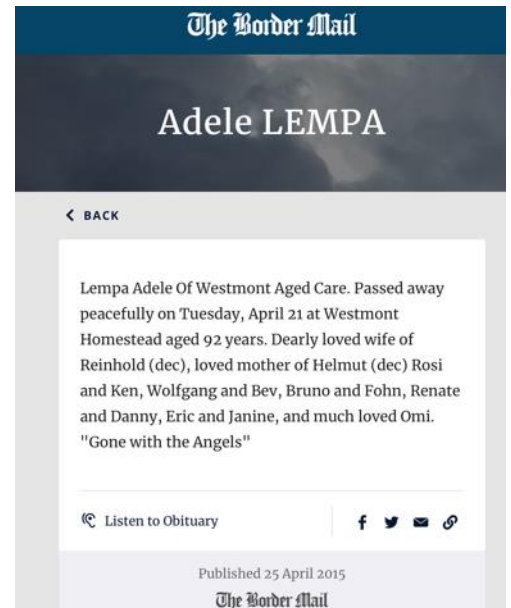
The **“Unknown Hunt”** continues...following on from the ‘Unknown...’ article above the investigation into solving these mysteries proceeds and with some really interesting twists and turns -

From Me to the Detective Group -

Morning ALL, 9th July, 2023

Yes, I'm back with a couple of interesting items - supplied by Bruce Irvine - I've attached two screenshots (not included here **MAYBE I SHOULD**) -

1. Helmut's mum's death notice - it does mention **Helmut as Dec'd**. I went for a wander to see if I could find any family members - I'm assuming that the first name is the "Lempa". I found a **Bruno in Pattaya, Thailand**, plus he'd played footy in Wodonga. However, no other Lempa's currently in Wodonga.



2. Bruce sent me the next piece as well - another screenshot - this time from the **Virtual War Memorial** showing some details of Helmut, but what is interesting is the "Memorials" showing details of sorts in the **Yackandandah War Memorial**. Again, I went for another wander - many names listed - and could find no mention of Helmut. How does that work? I never knew anything about this site. I'm not too sure this is of any help. Paul



Peter Meaney contacted his niece, Claire, who as I called her “A Master Spy”, and supplied her with the short list of “Unknowns” and the following are her “diggings” ...

“Hi Peter, 10.07.23

Sorry I can't find deaths for any on this list.

There is no **William Broadbent** on the **Virtual War Memorial for the Vietnam War**, so I couldn't get any detail that way and I can't find any from the right sort of time period.

Helmut Lempa

-came from Bremerhaven, Germany to Melbourne in 1957.

- There are electoral roll records of him living in Yackandandah, Victoria in 1968 and 1972 and also

-a German Telephone Directory record for 1973

and then I can't see anything. So, he may have gone back to **Germany***.

Marcus Lee Robinson lived in Milsons Point, North Sydney in 1972 and then in Mount Isa in Queensland in 1977. He has a business registered using his full name as a sole trader. The business was called **Ecologie** and was based in NSW. The ABN was last updated in 2017.

For **Edward William Robinson** I couldn't find anything at all except he was born in Queensland.

There are no death notices as far as I can find for any of these men and none of them are listed on Findmygrave. If they had passed away and were listed in family trees on Ancestry then I would have been able to find them there but if they are still alive I can't see them.

Regards,
Claire."

Ed - *Combine this with Claire's suggestion (above) that he could be in Germany. It raises the next question – Did he die in Germany post 1973?

Harry Lynas – 20th July, 2023 - puts the finishing touches – "G'day there,
Billy Broadbent was born on 06/01/1957 and had no middle name.
Cheers, Harry Lynas

Bill Wight's story (newspaper/video) in April's *Eyes & Ears* – has produced responses as a continuation as to *Returning Home* and the reactions from various segments of people...

VIETNAM VETERAN FOUND RESPECT ON A ROAD TRIP

Blair Jackson

Lieutenant Bill Wight drove his silver grey Datsun around Australia for two-and-a-half months to unwind from his time in Vietnam and get away from anti-war protests.

Mr Wight, 78, marched in Townsville for the third time on Tuesday, having moved north from Victoria six years ago.

Mr Wight was in the first intake of national service for Vietnam and from January 1967 to April 1968, he served in Vietnam.

Towards the end of 1969, the "writing on the wall" was that the Australian Government would withdraw from the Vietnam War, so Mr Wight resigned from the Army and went to university to study data entry.

But the anti-war protests were building, particularly in his home of Melbourne. He could only stand a short time in that environment, so bought



Vietnam Veteran Bill Wight with granddaughter Olivia Wight, 6

his Datsun and drove around the country. "I spent about two-and-a-half months just travelling, getting away from the protests. I also found that in the country, I was very well received. It was only in the cities where the protests were occurring."

He remembers that long drive as a terrific time, meeting many people who were good to him, particularly in the Northern Territory and Queensland.

Bob Billiards – gives a broad spectrum of his service and Returning Home, plus how he developed a vast spectrum of interests based around his family life –

Hi Paul,

I noticed a couple of items in the current *Eyes & Ears* that I found interesting.

The interesting item by Bill Wight about training and RTA, then the other by Graham Williams and Cooley Rocks.

Regarding Bill's item, I travelled to SVN with **Ian Amos, Geoff Holden, Ken Woodbine** and **Scotty McNichol** on 12th September 1967, 12 days prior to my 21st birthday. Ian and I, possibly Woody and Geoff were all 7th intake, so were recruited on 1st February 67.

Ian and I spent all of our time in the army from enlistment to discharge doing something together but in different areas of 131 in SVN. We spent 14 weeks at the School of Artillery doing courses until the 131 Bty BC found us, and we volunteered to go to SVN.

We spent maybe 2 weeks at Holsworthy, then Canungra JTC, one weeks pre-embarkation leave and were on the Qantas 707 to Saigon the day after we got back from leave. That was 7.5 months from enlistment, so only the time at JTC was our preparation for war activities. I was at least previously a shooter before the army so knew how to handle a gun, but I was hopeless with the F1. The only time I hit the target was when I fired using the sights, all other hits were pure luck, so I was very happy to have an SLR in SVN.

On RTA we, as probably all of us past the Pioneers flew back with Qantas and arrived around 11pm.

I wasn't interested in the RSL so didn't get involved. I didn't wear medals or march on ANZAC day until the maybe mid 90's. I did go to the welcome home parade in 1987, so wore medals there for the first time. Never ran into any animosity but I did live in sleepy western suburbs Cabramatta, and I just got into my work, my church, study, sport and hobby and never brought up my SVN service. Of course, my work mates knew I had, but it never was an issue or brought up in conversations.

I now really enjoy the reminiscences of all our stories of what we did during our enlistment and what we are doing now after that time in our lives. It is great that we have the Association, and it still carries on after so many years now and was all generated by you after our meeting at the Liverpool Powerhouse Museum for the Vietnam experience and our lunch at a club/cafe somewhere in Liverpool back when. It is great to see other's photos from the later years in the 131 history's involvement in the conflict.

Bob."

...a continuation -

Bill Taggart (1st/83rd Artillery) –

“Hi Paul,

I read with great interest Bill Wight's comments on his return home from Vietnam and the things he was exposed to. It is such a sad commentary on how many of our comrades both in Australia and the USA faced similar treatment. I find it so ironic that today's Veterans (over here at least) have received parades, escorts, etc. welcoming them home even when they were nowhere close to being in harm's way. I suppose it sounds like sour grapes to say such things. I am very glad they have not received the treatment so many of us got but I have to admit in my darker moments, I harbor some bitterness. I guess the positive is that many have learned to separate the warrior from the war. It was years before I even considered talking about being there when I got home.

One side note of my personal experience. After 13 months, one week and one day (yes, I did keep track) in Vietnam I happily arrived at the 90th Replacement Battalion in Long Binh to begin processing for my return home when I quickly learned that my orders had been lost. I had to wait around for several days before new ones appeared. My original orders called for me to fly to California and to be processed out there. That would have meant flying home to the East Coast on civilian aircraft in uniform where I would have been exposed to the same type of vile treatment so many of our guys experienced. My new orders however, had me fly on a civilian charter from Vietnam to McGuire Air Force base in New Jersey, very close to my home. Attached to McGuire was the Army's Ft. Dix. When we landed we were immediately bussed over to Ft Dix where I processed out the next day. I was met there and driven home by my current wife Ronnie (girlfriend at that time) and never had to put on my uniform again. A very happy ending!

One poignant note. When I spent my one night at Ft. Dix I called home and my Dad answered. I will tell you that my Dad was a WWII Army Air Corp Veteran as well as spending 35 years as a Firefighter for the Philadelphia Fire Department. Stoic as a description is not the best way to describe him but I think you get my meaning. Anyway, he could not speak and this really surprised me, it was so unlike him. I figured he was so glad to hear me. Well he was but not for exactly the same reason that I thought. Turns out he has been watching TV with my Mom. She had fallen asleep in her chair when a news flash broke in about a plane heading in our direction from the West Coast that had just crashed and there were several returning Vietnam Vets on board. I had relayed to my parents that my original orders were to be coming home via California and when he saw the news flash, followed shortly followed by the phone ringing, he feared the worst.

It was quite a moment for all of us to say the least!

Bill.”



. Quiz Time.

This is not necessarily a typical (whatever that means) “Quiz Time” article but one with questions included, so let's get started...

Where, when and who? --- photo



2016 Memorial – Enoggera Barracks – no one knew or had any idea – amazing!

Our blokes left to right – Vic Danko (over Allen's right shoulder), Allen Morley, Leigh Hemming (Late), Stan Briggs, Bob Billiards, Paul Dickson (he's the one Ed's known for 77 years), Roger McDonnell, Rob Retrot (Late), ?, Grahame Dignam, Ross Gunnell and Chris Bouly.

AN INVESTIGATION 181 Days



. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM)

This is continuation of this important subject of those who were not awarded The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM) –

Richard Barry is convalescing after recent medical procedure and will contact when he's up to date with information.

In the meantime we have the from following...

David Dougherty – He's been doing more "researching" and sent in the following as a it more coverage of the RVCM activity...

Report of the Inquiry into Eligibility for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

<https://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/RVCM-Inquiry-Report.pdf>

Conclusions and Recommendations - Summary of Conclusions

116. The Tribunal came to a number of conclusions:

- The RVCM is a foreign medal and is not an Australian campaign medal.
- The RVCM was accepted by the Australian Government because of the special circumstances of the Vietnam War. One key factor in the Government's decision was that the RVCM was sufficiently different from the Australian Vietnam Medal in that it required six months' service rather than the shorter period required for eligibility for the Vietnam Medal.
- To maintain the integrity of the Australian honours and awards system, to keep faith with the intentions of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, and noting that the RVCM was accepted specifically because it had an eligibility requirement of six months, the Tribunal concluded that the criteria for the medal should not be changed. In any case, under its terms of reference, the Tribunal was not directed to consider the actual criteria, but only the application of the criteria.
- The Government in 1966 did not reject the amendment to Article 3 of the criteria, but it did not at the time believe that any Australian units met that requirement.
- In considering cases where the amendment to Article 3 might have applied, the Tribunal concluded that to provide direct combat support it was necessary to provide combat support to combat units on the battlefield. The Tribunal concluded that this did not occur when HMAS *Sydney* was in Vung Tau harbour, or in the case of the RAAF ground personnel at Ubon.
- The receipt of the VLISM does not indicate that the recipient met the eligibility criteria for the RVCM.
- The original criteria concerning wounded-in-action should remain unchanged, but Defence should be consistent in its assessment of psychological casualties caused by enemy action.

Recommendations

117. The Tribunal makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

No action be taken by the Australian Government to change the criteria for the award of the RVCM.

Recommendation 2

The Department of Defence amend its interpretation of 'wounded-in-action' to include psychological injury under the following conditions:

- the injury would need to be incurred as a result of enemy action;
- the injury would need to be noted on the member's medical records at the time; and
- the casualty would need to be evacuated from the operational theatre as a result of this particular injury.

Recommendation 3

The Department of Defence continue to assess applications for the RVCM using the present criteria with the recommended change to the interpretation of wounded-in-action, see Recommendation 2.

Paul Dickson

"Nothing ventured, nothing gained."

. A Curiosity - Australian Passports in the early '60's–

I (Ed) had a conversation, a couple of weeks ago, with an American mate and I'm not sure how the initial subject arose, but we discussed Passports, and I said that my first Australian passport had me identified as a 'Pom' – this startled him!

Now, this passport was issued 1967 - it was never stamped, internally, (even on R&R) and the only additional information it contained was that it was "Not valid for North Vietnam" – that wasn't on the bucket list at the time anyway.

Here are some details concerning passports, back in the time –

. The words "British Passport" were removed from the covers of Australian passports in 1967.

. The legal category of British subject was abolished in 1984 by the Australian Citizenship (Amendment) Act 1984, and Australian passports began to be issued exclusively to Australian citizens, though existing passports held by non-citizen British subjects continued to be valid until each expired.

A question – those who departed after 1967, were you issued with a passport that stated –
"Australian Passport"? Not stated "British Passport" as per mine?

Then, this lead me onto – "When did we actually become Australian Citizens?"

I would have thought in 1901 when we established a Commonwealth Government – **wrong!**

Ok, so now have a read of the following –

. Until 1949 there was no such thing as an Australian citizen. Before that, anyone born or naturalized (made a citizen) in Australia was a British subject. People travelling overseas were issued with British passports.

. Finally, in 1984, there was a further change; we ceased altogether to be British subjects and ever since we have been simply Australian citizens and nothing more. These changes over the past fifty years may seem quite dramatic ones.

. Under the Nationality Act 1920 (Cth), all Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders born **after** January 1, 1921 gained the status of British subjects. In 1949, therefore, they automatically became Australian citizens under the Nationality and Citizenship Act 1948 (Cth).

Now this is fascinating as to why this took so long - As Albert Namatjira's fame gained traction, so too did the call from the public that he should be granted full citizenship. Finally, in **1957**, Namatjira and his wife Ilkalita (Rubina) became the **first** Aboriginal Australian citizens.

I just found **ALL** of the above to be absolutely fascinating, not having the faintest idea about any of it.



David Dougherty – adds a really interesting article that has roused some “controversy”...

Vietnam objects to Australian coin with war-era yellow flag

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-65492576>

Vietnam has urged Australia to halt circulation of the coin

By Joel Guinto & Bui Thu in Singapore and

Bangkok

Vietnam has strongly protested against Australia's issuance of a coin with an image of the yellow flag of South Vietnam.



Vietnam said the coin defies positive trends in bilateral ties and urged Australia to halt its circulation. Australia fought with the losing US-backed South during the Vietnam War, which ended with the nation unifying.

The limited edition two-dollar coin was issued to mark 50 years since Australia pulled out its forces from Vietnam. The yellow flag in the coin design, contained in a ring, is based on ribbon colours awarded to Australian veterans. "We regret and resolutely protest against the Royal Australian Mint's and Australia Post's releases and circulation of items containing the yellow flag with three stripes, the flag of a regime which is no longer in existence," said Pham Thu Hang, deputy spokesperson of Vietnam's foreign ministry.

The coin also features an image of the late Queen Elizabeth II on its obverse side, and a UH-1H helicopter on the reverse. More than 520 Australians were killed in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975.

Vietnam lodged the protest as it concluded a five-day holiday to remember the end of the war. The yellow flag is a sensitive issue for the country.

In January last year, Vietnam's national television station aired a football match between Vietnam and Australia with a 10-minute delay as some Australian fans brought yellow-striped flags to the stadium.

In July 2018, a Vietnamese court sentenced three women to four years in prison on charges of spreading anti-state propaganda after they held up yellow flags in public.

Vietnam appeared to have overreacted to the commemorative coins, said Nguyen Van Tuan, a former refugee from South Vietnam who now researches medicine at the University of New South Wales and University of Technology in Sydney.

He said it is common for some local governments in Australia to use the yellow flag since veterans from the former South Vietnam are entitled to benefits from the Australian government.

The yellow flag was also flown by so-called boat people like him who fled Vietnam by boat so that they would be recognized as refugees, he said.

"While the flag no longer represents any country, it remains a symbol of the Vietnamese community in Australia," he said.

The Royal Australian Mint said the design reflected the "colours of the ribbons of the service medals awarded to Australians who served in Vietnam, including the Vietnam Service medal, introduced in 1968".

It added the Australian government "does not recognise the flag of the former Republic of Vietnam".



. **Bob Billiards** - "Hi Paul,

We do remain in contact relatively frequently, but is generally in regard to the website/Facebook and committee meetings. So, I thought I would bring you up to date in what Cathy and I are doing.

As you would have seen we are still very involved with our toy cars and Facebook would have shown you our annual trip to Cooley Rocks festival in Cooley. Over the past 6 years we have been taking the kids from the local special school for rides in the Goggo's on the Friday before the car show, but last year the organisers stopped, including our event, with the complications involving public liability insurance, and it was going to cost around \$40K for the Goggo group to insure the drive, so we cancelled the event.

We saw many of the young people each year at the event and it was a real highlight for them. This year we only had 8 Goggo's attending, 3 being ours, so maybe the event for the Goggo people has run its course. We only went this year because our grandkids, that come along, asked around March "When are we going to Coolangatta?", so what could we do?

We generally drive at least one Goggo all the way and back, but this year we decided that it was just too boring driving on the highway to Coffs Harbour, so we trailered 3 to Woolgoolga for an overnight stop and then drove the 3 Goggos from there to Burleigh Beach, where we stayed for 4 nights. We had just one problem with our little blue sedan in that the starter/generator brushes wore out prematurely, so we pushed and jump-started it over the weekend.

We are now planning a meeting of Goggos and owners in Forbes on the October long weekend, where currently we have about 20 Goggo's turning up from SA, Vic, Qld, and NSW. Cathy is well on the way to having it completely organised. She is also organising a big road trip in 2024 from Darwin to Uluru and onto Adelaide, then on to Sydney via the Murray river route. We have possibly 5 Goggos doing the run including our German friends who came with us for the Perth to Gosford Goggo run in 2018.

Our general daily life is doing what retirees do and like all septuagenarians we suffer from OBD (old body disease). We just sponsored a couple of refugees from Iran as part of a test program where a community group raises funds to support them on the humanitarian visas scheme for 12 months helping them to navigate the bureaucracy and get settled into the community and finding employment and somewhere to live. Cathy still plays in the local tennis competitions in the Blue Mountains area. I am the president of Penrith Electric Model Aircraft club and still try to get out at least 2 days a week. I am still doing work on other people's Goggos and the very occasional model plane repairs. Gravity and my age are unforgiving when flying toy planes. Of course, I will be heading down to Perisher to do some Skiing with my eldest son Adam. They put up the over 70's annual pass by \$20 so had to pay \$219, what a rip off. :-)

That's enough from me so regards to Helen and you and hope that you are going really great health wise. It would be good to catch up again, no promises but possibly in 2025 as part of our final OS trip to the 70th anniversary of Goggomobils in

Dingolfing Germany, then to the US to visit Cousins and a couple of 1/83rd Artillery mates. Might get south of the border who knows? Regards, Bob"

Ernie Newbold – forwarded in the following bit of interesting info regarding an idea...

"G'day guys,

Merv and Ged heard about this idea for framing your Vietnam service certificate and medallion for display purposes earlier today at the T&PI meeting. I have included the rest of you as I thought you might like the idea as well....

Certificate and medallion in the same frame, as soon as I saw it I knew it was the way I wanted to have mine done.

I will try and remember to bring a photo (as per the attachment) to the next meeting on the 8th August.

See attached image.

Regards, Ernie."



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...

. Bruce Irvine – "G'day Paul,

Trust this finds you and Helen well, best regards to you both.

I happened to be doing a bit of research when E&E came in And I found the details of those we have lost rather sad, but interesting numbers.

Thought I'd try a simple check on the list of unknowns and found the attached detail re **Ralph Pearce**. I don't know the bloke but the information fits in with your list (born 1945) and he looks a bit like the rest of us (no comment lol!!). He died on the Central Coast (Funeral Director is in Nelson Bay) by the looks of it – if that's any help.

No joy with the others unfortunately from a quick scan. I find the Ryerson Index can sometimes help locate veterans when I'm looking, other times nothing but it's worth a look.

Also, I apologies for not responding earlier to your newsy emails. I should respond when they come (as I'm doing now to E&E) before they disappear into the blackhole of faded memory.

We're all good here, keeping busy at home and in Bathurst a couple of days a week. We've now got 3 rescue horses on our 10 acres doing a great job keeping the grass down. I copped a dose of pneumonia late last year and this was the solution to mowing the lot, works well.

I guess it's a bit warmer where you are at the moment. It reached about 6 degrees here today and winter is settling in well and truly. Already had a couple of snowfalls and I'm sure July/August will provide some more, just beautiful.

Anyway Paul, I hope this may be of some assistance in getting the records up to date, fingers crossed. You do a great job with all of this and thank you, I appreciate it.

Kind regards,

Bruce."

. John Bayford – "Hi Paul

We're both well and we have regular visits by our sons and their families. We are not golfing as frequently with the cold wet weather and maintenance on the house and garden taking away free time.

Only 2 weeks and we will be leaving for Port Douglas so we are looking forward to warmer days. Thank you for getting in touch.

All the best, John"

. **David Auld** – “G'day Paul, well mate, at present I'm in Hanoi, heading to Ho Chi Min city tomorrow, I'm with my Daughter who is on a work trip, and Sunday have a tour taking in the Long Tan Cross.”

. **Warwick Brooker** – “G'day Dicko.

I saw some of your posts on Facebook. Glad you enjoyed the journey. Looks good.

Really nothing of interest to tell from here.

Cheers to you and Helen. Brookey.”

. **Peter Dealy** – “Hello Dicko

Weather report – Cold with intermittent days of rain and partial sunshine in our neck of the woods. Heavy rain in the mountains sees the Hume and Yarrawonga Weirs full to the brim causing high flows of water down the Murray River as the required spillages from these weirs occurs. The Goulburn River has also over flowed its banks in several spots and with that water flowing into the Murray, the barrages at Goolwa SA will get a work out when all this water reaches the mouth of the Murray.

Have just returned from 2 months of travel around OZ. Second time round and Australia is not getting any smaller.

Would have stayed up north in the warmth, but commitments required a return.

The usual abundance of weeds had grown in our absence, so after cleaning out and washing the caravan, gardening was the order of the day. Round Up is very useful.

Not sure if I informed you, but 131 member Ron Mason was awarded a Life Membership of the Goulburn Valley Vietnam Veterans Assoc at our recent AGM.

Very well deserved after many years of dedicated work for the GVVVA. The GVVVA is gearing up for the 50th Anniversary of withdrawal from Vietnam.

Family health OK - touch wood. A blessing.

Thanks again for your work

Cheers and best of health, Peter Dealy.”

. **Ken Foster** – “Good to hear someone is able to get out and about, as for me it is trips to the supermarket for supplies and visits to doctors etc, I am able to spend a lot of time reliving the past but have accepted the fact my days of contributing to the veteran community in particular are ended, goal now is to find an activity that will fit in with my medical restrictions and add some meaning to my future.

Sorry for such a negative response to your positive outline, keep well and stay happy.

Regards, Ken.”

. **Vic Danko** – “Hi Paul ,

Thanks for your note .

I arrived in Bangkok about 3 weeks to play in a 4 game comp down at Hua Hin, which is one of their better golf resort areas. There were 470 participants, both male and female. The comp was segmented into age groups, there were 48 in the over 75yrs, I came 8th .

Then, I went over to Saigon and played there for a few days, and now I'm in southern India, Trivandrum , at a “healing clinic/village. All overseen by quite an outstanding Guru.

I arrived here saying to myself “I'm not going to expect too much, I'm not really a meditation type of guy. But I've paid the money so I'm not going to resist whatever the agenda requires. I'm eating vegetarian and enjoying it I'm enjoying all the classes.

I feel re-charged and tomorrow I return to Sydney .

- 18 August I will be in Canberra with our guys .

- 10 September I return to Da Nang for another golf competition for 2 weeks, then I'm home .

All the best.”

. **Nick Armstrong** – “Hello Paul

Pleased to read of your trip to Canada. Did you fly, or drive? In Australia, I prefer to drive if I have the time. The ‘Hurry up and Wait’ was a standard procedure in the army, but not something I do by choice. I imagine traversing a foreign country (USA) could be daunting, although I expect you are accustomed to it?

I had been wondering if it was my turn to write. It looks like it is me now! The year is certainly passing rapidly. I can't think where it has gone. Robin and I did a trip to Tasmania for about two weeks at the end of April. Apart from that, not too much other news. I have not taken the boat out much, particularly since daylight saving ended. The weather has been quite windy and cold. I think I have become soft since retiring. Wet, cold weather was part of life then. Just dressed appropriately and got on with it. That said, I never liked the windy days. I found a day working in the wind was exhausting.

Bus driving has slowed this year. There seems to be enough drivers now, and charter work has slowed. That can all change if drivers leave. I did most of first term relieving for a driver who had a heart problem. He is back at work now, but it was a slow process getting cleared to return to driving.

I am about to upgrade our solar system. Our current solar panel array is a 5kWh output system. This is the maximum output the Grid operators allow per phase, feed into the grid. When we subsequently added a battery to the system, we were allowed a production capacity of 10kWh, although it could still only supply 5kWh maximum to the grid. At the time of purchasing the battery, it was suggested adding additional capacity, but it was too much for the budget at the time.

One aspect of the solar panels, which is not widely publicised, is the reduction in output during winter, when compared with summer production. With less daylight and sun lower in the sky, winter solar production drops about 30% compared with mid-summer. Between the end of April and early September, our current system struggles to provide much battery input after the water heater is fully charged. I am hoping doubling production capacity will provide more power through the winter. In the summer I will be producing more electricity to put into the grid at 'Give away prices', but that is something I will have to accept. I have not quite understood how my electricity production is not worth the same as the stuff the billing companies sell, particularly when they are on selling my production to my neighbour.

My original idea was to just add an additional 5kWh to the existing system. This could have been done, as the battery is not an integral part of the solar generating system, but just an 'Add on', like any other appliance. Apparently, developments in solar panels have resulted in them becoming smaller, with increased output. By removing the existing panels, I double production with about 20% increase in roof space occupied. I do not like replacing serviceable equipment, but the complete solar array will have a ten-year warranty. My Grandson has a friend who is interested in taking the old system, so I hope they will enjoy some benefit there.

I don't know whether my plans will contribute to the current inflationary trends the Reserve Bank is trying to slow? I hope it reduces the inflationary trends regarding my power bills!

I was in Tasmania for ANZAC Day, but did not attend any functions. My son is a veteran of the 2nd Iraq conflict. He was with the RAAF, Orion Squadron. I did offer to attend a dawn service with him in Launceston, which he declined. He has a back injury sustained while in the RAAF, and suggested a dawn service in Launceston in April would be painful. I am not sure how I would recover from an hour or so standing in a Launceston dawn either!

The Tasmania trip was enjoyable once again. We have been there three times now. This trip was mostly on the North-East, but did include time in Launceston and a couple of days in the North-West, based in Smithton.

Once again, we went on the ferry, which we enjoyed. Wind on the return from Devonport to Geelong was reasonably fresh. The ferry rolling was sufficient to constantly activate a car alarm nearby. Fortunately, it did not start until about halfway across Bass Strait. This trip was the first we have done since the terminal was relocated from Melbourne to Geelong. Travel distance from South Australia is about the same, but has removed the stress of negotiating Melbourne and the Westgate bridge.

We set off from North Shields in our Landrover Discovery 4, but an hour into the journey, 'Reduced Performance' lights appeared on the instrument panel. They could be cleared by re-starting the engine, but after three in less than an hour, I decided to return home and swap to our older Discovery 1. The Discovery 1 is noticeably smaller than the Discovery 4, and has about 1/3rd less power. I was a little tentative as the car had had a complete engine rebuild about 1000km earlier. The engine performed without missing a beat, although struggled with a full load on the hills around Tasmania. It may be my imagination, but Tasmania seems to have more than its fair share of drivers who needed to be somewhere ten minutes earlier.

As a postscript, the Discovery 4 has not displayed the fault light since. Maybe Artificial Intelligence has infected the computer and it just decided it was not in the mood for a trip to Tasmania!

I think that is about all for now. I seem to have strayed onto page 2, so I will get out of the way.

Cheers to everyone from.

Nick and Robin."

. Phil Connor – "Giddy Paul and Helen,

Paul, sorry for the late reply.

Could I hold off ATM having some health problems (recovering from 3rd spine op in 14 mths- different areas of spine plus a new cancer check- different area)

Cheers Phil UBIQUE."

Ed – our condolences and thoughts were sent to Phil.

Mike Butler – "Hi Paul,

First of all - apologies for late reply. Been away and other stuff got in the way - that's my excuse anyway !!!

Good to see you are getting out and about. The weather here has been rather dreary so we haven't done much since last correspondence except to take the caravan to western Vic and SA.

Got to Warrnambool and Robe, SA between 5 - 22 May. Celebrated son's and granddaughters birthdays in Warrnambool, who live there, then went on to Robe in South Australia. Robe is a very pretty coastal town with lots of fishing history - mainly prawning and lobsters. Had a great meal of steak topped with garlic prawns at the local Caledonian Hotel. The town has many sandstone historical buildings that we walked around for half a day.

Took a drive up the coast to a place called Kingston SE. It is another similar town to Robe that is based on the lobster industry - lots of big houses and gated communities all financed by lobster fishing!!!. They have a huge life like statue/sculptor of a lobster in the town that must have cost a fortune to make (called Larry the lobster !!!).

Left Robe after a week and stopped off at Warrnambool for a couple of days on the way back to Melbourne.

Still going to the local Box Hill RSL for VVAA monthly lunches when we can - VVAA is organising a service at the local cenotaph on the 18th August given that there is no more ceremony in the City. Now looking forward to the small reunion, that I have mentioned previously, in Bendigo with half a dozen ex 131rs from 70/71. We are meeting in early September and staying a few days in cabins at a local caravan park.

All for now.

Cheers Mike."

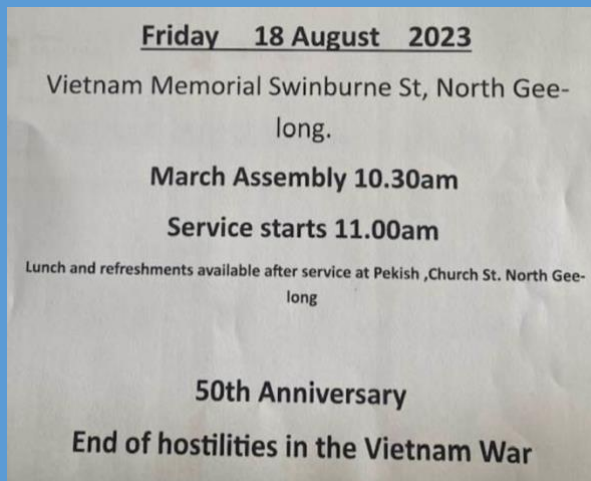
Notice Board – Hey, see what's coming up?

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

18th August Vietnam Veterans Day, 2023 – 50th Anniversary since cessation of hostilities.

We hope the Day is remembered by all of us and for those of you who will be attending services or just connecting with mates, it would be great if you could share that time with photos and comments. Photos and stories can be forwarded to Paul Dickson at 131eyesandears@gmail.com

Rieny Nieuwenhof – this notice was extracted from his Facebook page.



Our numbers may be diminishing, but our memories must not..

If you're heading to Darwin...and other areas let me know to make it easier.

I have worked and lived in the beloved Territory most of my working life

Regards to all, Stuart Sporn 0412070125

When you're in Darwin visit - Darwin Military Museum



The Darwin Military Museum (DMM) was founded in the mid 1960s by Lieutenant Colonel Jack Haydon and members of the Northern Territory branch of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (RAAA)



Check the following link: <https://www.darwinmilitarymuseum.com.au/#/>

**Peter Ravelje has forwarded the following
Extracts from varying sources...**

DVA Pharmacy Rebate (VPRS)

We may reimburse you some pharmacy costs (VPRS) | Department of Veterans' Affairs (dva.gov.au)

How it works

Under this scheme, you may get back some of the money you have spent on prescriptions throughout the year. Eligible veterans and their dependants will only spend up to a certain limit on their prescriptions each year. Once you reach this limit, you may not have to pay for certain pharmaceuticals.

The amount you spend on your prescriptions is called the concessional co payment. The limit is called the safety net threshold.

You may also receive a pharmaceutical allowance to help you with the cost of your prescriptions.

If you are eligible under the VPRS, we may reimburse you the difference between how much you spent on your prescriptions and the amount of pharmaceutical allowance you received.

You may receive the pharmaceutical allowance as part of the:

[Pension Supplement](#)

[Veterans' Supplement](#)

[MRCA Supplement](#)

[DRCA Supplement](#)

We can only reimburse the amount you actually paid. This does not include any other costs related to the item.

Check with your general practitioner (GP) that items they prescribe are on the RPBS or PBS.

Who can receive it

For us to reimburse you, you must have qualifying service under either the [Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 \(VEA\)](#) or the [Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 \(MRCA\)](#) and hold either:

A [Veteran Gold Card](#)

A [Veteran White Card](#), and the pharmaceuticals are for an accepted condition.

One of the following **must** also apply to you:

You receive a disability pension.

You receive Permanent Impairment compensation under the MRCA, either paid on a regular basis or paid as a lump sum.

We assessed you under the [Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation \(Defence-related Claims\) Act 1988 \(DRCA\)](#) as having a permanent impairment.

[Contact us](#) if you're unsure if you have qualifying service.

How much you can receive

If you are not partnered, we will pay you the difference between:

your concessional co-payments throughout the year, up to the safety net

any Pharmaceutical Allowance (PA) you receive

If you are partnered, we will pay you the difference between:

your combined concession co-payments throughout the year, up to the safety net

your combined PA

Example 1 – Single veteran

John is a single veteran who paid \$302.40 for his prescriptions in 2016. The PA he received in his Veterans' Supplement was \$161.64 for the year.

The difference between what John paid for and the PA he received is \$140.76 (\$302.40 less \$161.64). John will therefore receive a VPRS reimbursement of \$140.76.

Example 2 – Married veteran

Bill is a married war veteran and he and his wife receive a combined PA of \$166.86 for the year in their Pension Supplement.

In 2017, Bill paid a total of \$318 for his prescriptions. Bill's wife paid a total of \$60 for her pharmaceutical scripts.

The difference between what Bill paid for and the PA he received is \$151.14 (\$318 less \$166.86). Bill will therefore get a VPRS reimbursement of \$151.14.

How this impacts your tax or health care safety net

VPRS payments are not means-tested or taxable.

Your pharmacist may give you a discount on your co-payment. The amount added to your yearly safety-net threshold will be the amount you actually paid.

How you claim

You do not need to make a claim. We will pay you automatically in March each year.

Show the pharmacist your Veteran Gold Card or White Veteran Card when you make a purchase. We will use records from these purchases to figure out how much to pay you back.

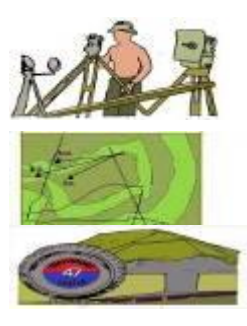
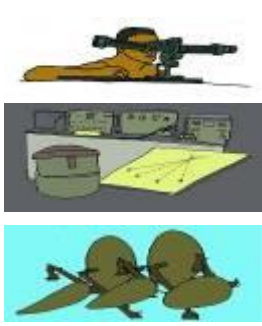
You can ask your pharmacist for a prescription record form (PRF). The form can help you track of how much you and your family spend on medicines. This will also help you track when you have reached a Safety Net threshold.

...another great item –

Magnificent film on the scandalous award of General Angus Campbell's DSC

<https://www.michaelsmithnews.com/2023/07/magnificent-film-on-the-scandalous-award-of-general-angus-campbells-dsc.html>

Ed - An eye-opener of a film – worth the watch to explore an investigation into a somewhat unwarranted award.



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

When you read this note I will be enjoying a US break in the State of Wisconsin. I'm told the weather is unseasonably warm, so enjoying a cold Coke is suggested for balancing my liquid intake. But, not a Diet Coke containing aspartame as the sweetener I am warned.

It seems that one World Health Organisation committee has recommended that aspartame should be added to a list of potentially carcinogenic substances. Not so good then.

However, another United Nations expert committee disagrees. It suggests that there is no reason to change the Committee's guidance that aspartame was OK. In fact the 'average human' could safely drink up to 14 cans of Diet Coke (containing aspartame) a day. As a non-Coke/can drinker I would really struggle to consume 14 cans of anything a day. That would have me toilet visiting on a very regular basis.

I am now looking forward to finding out whether red wine is good or bad this week. One study comes out in red wine support, then the next one says no, it's not good this week. And even if it was an all right week, I'm not sure I could safely consume an equivalent of 14 cans of red wine a day and stay upright.

Regards

Allen

50 Years
April 1966 - April 2016



find us on

Facebook

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

ASSOCIATION MEETING: Date: Tuesday, 11th July, 2022 at 1105hrs...

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

Attendees were:

Barry Guzder, Paul Dickson, Terry Erbs – Group photo - Grahame Dignam, Allen Morley, Nick Proskurin, Nick Proskurin, Gordon Malcolm, Ernest Newbold, Ian Amos and Ged Carroll (not in group photo)

Bert Blink, Bob Billiards,
Laurie Sawyer, Rieny Nieuwenhof

Steve Wynn, Ron Mason and
Warwick Brewer



Apologies: Merv Nairn, Kevin Browning, George Lane, Jim Fitzgerald, and other State Reps

Financial Membership is currently ...127, plus Associates 2, Affiliates 14. Total 143. Lapsed 33 members

Presidents report:

Allen referenced -

- . The Sydney Anzac Memorial has asked for volunteers to assist visitors to their site. Up to 6 Hour shifts would be required from those successful.
- . The LSTAA AGM will be held on 27/7/2023 at 7.00PM and zoomed.
- . The Centenary of Artillery Locating will be celebrated in Qld in July 2025 when a reunion was also proposed.
- . Nominations for a full-time position for the Veterans Review Board are being sought by the DVA. Details are available from contact@vrb.gov.au
- . We have been offered (and accepted) a free wreath for laying at the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War ceremony in Canberra.

Webmaster Update.

- . **Bob Billiards** advised Facebook now has 325 members and that the Newsletter had been accessed on 140 occasions. As screen times were short, it appears the newsletter was downloaded and read later.
- . **Bob** also mentioned that we had a couple of problem posters who are being "managed".

Health Report:

- . **Dicko** advised he had confirmed Helmet Lempa had passed some time ago as he was mentioned in his mother's obituary obtained from Germany. The reference to Helmet Lempa was located in a virtual War memorial in Yackandandah (he also observed the spelling also changed around a bit).
- . Removal of SB and SC cancers were reported in the group and **Bert Blink** and family were now Covid positive and have received drugs and are in recovery.
- . Geelong is organizing its own Vietnam Vets day event and has commissioned a history of their organization. The proposed DVA welfare hub will also be sited in the city with a satellite at Torquay.

General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . **Terry Erbs** reported the RAAHC has confirmed the 100th Anniversary of Locating is set for 1/7/2025. Full details will follow when advised.
- . **Terry Erbs** also reported that 133 Bty is being reformed and the BC has been appointed. A history of the unit has been produced by Keith Ayliffe and others.
- . Our Association has been approached to cover the cost of a Plaque for those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. A problem is the names of those who served have not been recorded. This idea deserves more development.
- . No further movement or news on the use of the Phillip Island Museum site but other ideas are being investigated.
- . Ian Amos shared information from a friend on late life care options to confirm that once you move out of your home into a public care position you lose DVA cover and come under Centrelink provisions.

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, 8th, 2023 at 1100hrs Venue: to be advised

Also, available via Zoom link to be advised



Birthdays in the Battery...August –

Date	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	PHILLIP ROSS	3794468	06 05 1969	30 04 1970	
1	JOSEPH LOSIAK	218302	04 11 1969	05 11 1970	
1	JOHN LUCAS	3796256	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	
2	JOHN GREENAWAY	3790617	24 10 1967	22 10 1968	
3	LES SMITHLESTER	1201202	23 09 1968	24 09 1969	
3	MICHAEL BUTLER	3796958	04 06 1970	09 06 1971	
3	GRAHAM GREENLAND	2792441	15 04 1970	29 07 1970	† 17.11.14
4	ANDREW OVERALL Lt.	235330	22 02 1969	21 02 1970	
7	MARTY VAN DRIEL	38954	27 11 1967	13 03 1968	† 08.08.98
7	RANDALL JONES	2788775	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
8	ARTHUR LUXFORD Sgt.	212803	20 01 1969	28 01 1970	† 01.01.08
8	EDWIN LEWIS Sgt.	53909	18 03 1970	11 03 1971	† 26.08.92
9	TERRY WELSH	4721779	03 03 1971	29 06 1971	131
	" "		30 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	GARRY GRIMWOOD	2795771	24 03 1971	01 07 1971	131
	" "		01 07 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt.
10	DAVID JOHN TROEDEL	326409	N/A		132DLB † 13.05.21
12	ALAN THOMSON	42308	20 05 1966	22 06 1967	† 07.10.15
13	BRIAN HACKETT	2783449	03 01 1967	12 12 1967	
13	STAN BRIGGS	1731999	27 11 1967	17 09 1968	
13	BOB BRUCE	4718049	11 06 1967	13 12 1967	
15	JOHN POLLOCK	53860	{17 04 1967	24 05 1967	131
	" "		{05 02 1971	07 04 1971	12 Fd REGT
15	KEVIN TAYLOR	2791357	29 07 1969	23 07 1970	
15	NORMAN McMANUS WO2	26202	09 11 1970	19 08 1971	† 04.10.2016
17	PIERRE GOSS	213990	24 03 1969	25 03 1970	† 06.08.2011
20	PETER BINNS	356367	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
21	NORMAN JONES	5717611	04 05 1971	01 12 1971	12 Fd Regt / AACC
22	JOHN VICKARY	1732218	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	STUART SPORN	4718471	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
22	ANTHONY COUTTS	1733291	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	† 1988
23	ROBERT ETHERINGTON	66962	04 11 1969	19 11 1970	
24	JOHAN MOLENKAMP	2795074	03 03 1971	30 06 1971	131
	" "		02 07 1971	09 08 1971	12 Fd REGT
25	LES FROST	215230	22 04 1966	28 04 1967	† 26.03.14
25	KENNETH JONES	2786931	27 11 1967	26 11 1968	
25	COLIN WEST	2152525	20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
26	MAX TROYNAR	3790244	05 05 1967	30 01 1968	
26	STANLEY PATTERSON	38451	29 01 1969	28 11 1969	
27	LAWRENCE FARR	1734257	27 08 1969	25 02 1970	† 2009
27	KEN PIESLEY	2787174	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	† 26.03.14
27	GORDON MALCOLM	2785906	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	
27	PETER WHITAKER	2786848	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
27	PETER CREEDON	2790207	31 01 1969	28 01 1970	

27	GRANT PERRINS	1734509	27 11 1969	04 06 1970	
28	DAVID PIMM	215746	17 04 1967	23 04 1968	RAEME
29	TIM FORD Capt.	235300	19 08 1970	05 08 1971	
31	STEPHEN PALMER	18820	12 04 1968	30 04 1969	RAEME † 03.12.72

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

Ed – 9 blokes not highlighted is looking marginally okay, but still not great! 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

Updates – these Updates come as a result from the **Unknowns** article above –

John Mac McGovern – supplied the following update information on **Jeff**.



Name: Reid, Jeffrey Leonard

Service No: 3790495 **Rank:** L/Bdr

SVN In: 26 09 1967 **SVN Out:** 17 09 1968

DoB: 29.03.1946 **DoD:** 21.10.2022

Lest We Forget



Peter Meaney – supplied the following information for both **Neil** and **Quentin...**



Name: Fawcett-Smith, Neil

Service No: 17732 **Rank:** Sergeant (RAOC)

SVN In: 21 04 1967 **SVN Out:** 12 03 1968
08 07 1970 08 07 1971

DoB: 29.06.1942 **DoD:** 02.02.1991

Lest We Forget





Neil's cemetery plaque.



Name: McNaughton, Quentin John

Service No: N/a **Rank:** Private (RAAMC/AACC)

SVN In: N/a **SVN Out:** N/a

DoB: 00.00.1947 **DoD:** 20.03.2022

Lest We Forget



Peter Meaney - Published notice in Hobart Mercury states he died 9 Jul 2007

...Ed found this article of interest with regards to Quentin as to his involvement in the Launceston, Tasmania Council in 2002

Candidates at the 2002 elections

Mayor		Councillors (Aldermen)	
★ DICKENSON, Janie*	Trevallyn	BROOKES, George*	Waverley
		BUTLER, Debbie	South Launceston
		CALVERT, Cindy	Summerhill
		★ CAMPBELL, Jodie	Ravenswood
		COLEBROOK, Katie	West Launceston
		COURTNEY, Grant	Turners Marsh
		★ DEAN, Ivan	Forth
		McNAUGHTON, Quentin John	Newstead ←
		NEIL, Rex	Launceston
		NOBLE, Michael	Underwood
		★ NOTT, Frank	Newstead
		PARTRIDGE, Ken	Launceston
		★ PECK, Tony*	Norwood
		RODRIGUEZ, Stella	Lilydale
		SEYMOUR, Terence	Kings Meadows
		★ SMART, Margot*	Launceston
		SOWARD, Rob	Blackstone Heights
		★ WADDLE, Annette*	Newnham
		WILKINSON, Rob	Mowbray

Launceston City Councillors following the 2002 elections

Harry Lynas supplied us with the following update information for William “Billy” Broadbent –



Name: Broadbent, William

Service No: 224024 **Rank:** Sergeant

SVN In: N/a **SVN Out:** N/a

DoB: 06.01.1957 **DoD:** 24.11.2008

Lest We Forget



John Mac McGovern – John along with **Bruce Irvine** supplied the following information with regards to **Ralph**



Name: Pearce, Ralph William

Service No: 214806 **Rank:** Gunner

SVN In: 22 04 1966 **SVN Out:** 30 04 1967

DoB: 16.06.1945 **DoD:** 20.03.2022

Lest We Forget



Bruce Irvine – added the following - He died on the Central Coast (Funeral Director is in Nelson Bay).

Surname	Given Names	Notice Type	Date	Event	Age Other Details	Publication	Published
PEARCE	Ralph	Funeral notice	30MAR2022	Funeral	(born 1945)	FD - France Family Funerals (Nelson Bay)	31MAR2022



Ralph Pearce
1945 - 2022

May They All 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



Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

Honour the dead, but fight like hell for the living



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

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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



Dedicated to the men of the 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery who served in Vietnam from 1966-1971. We left Fort Sill in October 1966 for Vietnam. We originally were at Bear Cat, Nui Dat and Xuan Loc. We later were in many other locations in Vietnam. We also welcome our Australian and New Zealand Allies to whom we owe so much. It is also dedicated to those members of the 1/83rd who did not return. We will never forget their sacrifice. Website: <http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com>



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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