

THE EYES and EARS

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

Editor: Paul 'Dicko' Dickson email: 131eyesandears@gmail.com Vol 17 No 06 June 2024 No 191

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

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

Supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs



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

**Detachment 131 Divisional
Locating Battery RAA
South Vietnam 1966 – 1971
2024**

**58 Years and the Detachment
Spirit Remains**



Republic of Vietnam Cross of
Gallantry with Palm Unit Citation
Awarded to those who served
with the Detachment
from 01.04.66 – 19.08.71



Ready & waiting 1967

1969 Surveyors

Horseshoe 1970

RTA Group 1970



The Other War Australians Fought in Vietnam

Thai Dang escaped Vietnam and tells an
amazing story...

The Other War That Australians Fought in Vietnam

Thai Dang escaped Vietnam and settled in the USA where he forged a successful career. He was born in Ba-Ria, South Vietnam and has fond memories of the assistance he was given by Australian soldiers in the 1960's. Thai Dang is currently living on the Gold Coast. In December 2017 he penned a tribute to what he calls:- *The Other War That Australians Fought in Vietnam.*



My name is Thai Dang, a former boat people from Vietnam. Like many other refugees, my trip was full of dangerous and drama but I finally landed in a remote island named Tangjung Uban of Indonesia. I later was relocated to Tangjung Pinang, a larger Indonesia island near Singapore, and stayed there for 7 months.

I came to USA in 1979. First I worked as a janitor during the day at a hospital in Duluth, Minnesota while studying English at night. I later enrolled university and graduated from University of Minnesota with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering. For the past 17 years, I have been working as a Senior Design Engineer for Oldcastle Precast. It is a major corporation based in USA and Ireland with over 50,000 employees worldwide, including Australia. Since my relocation to Brisbane area in Dec of 2016, I have been continued working for Oldcastle in a new office in Heathwood QLD. The plant is operating under the name of CUBIS Systems

I was born and raised in Ba-Ria, Phuoc Tuy Province. I was only 7 when the first group of Australian soldiers came to Vietnam (I later learned the name of that group was The TEAM or AATTV). I am writing this memoir because have much more to thank the Australian soldiers who came to Vietnam. I was one of a few people who witnessed the Australian soldiers fighting hard, not with guns but with shovels, hammers, pens, guitars, and earth moving equipment.

Besides fighting the Communist, the Aussie troops had built many civil engineering projects, organized high-school camping trips and sports activities. My first high-school English teacher was Major Smith. He drove to my high-school on a dark-green Land-Rover twice a week. He improved my speaking and reading skill by providing a more practical way to communicate in English. He even taught me to sing my first English song, "Five Hundred Miles". For over 16 years from June 2000 to December 2016, I had sung that song close to a thousand times for American senior folks who were resting at the nursing homes in California, USA. Along with my volunteer band, I also sang that song for the Wallaby Airlines RAAF members at the 2017 ANZAC Day in Brisbane. What's a tremendous gift that Major Smith had given me!

Sometimes in the late 60s, along with my 9th grade classmate named Cho, we entered a 5K "marathon" run from Long-Dien to Ba-Ria. There was a team of Australian Army with about 10 runners. Cho and I finished first-second in the Vietnamese youth group, 15 minutes after the last Australian soldier finished his run!

Well, I blamed my poor performance on track based on the fact that I did not wear shoes, only with my bare feet. *Bad excuse, I know!*

About high-school activities, not sure how but I was among a few dozen kids that were selected to spend a couple nights at the summer camp organized by the Australian troops in Back Beach of Vung Tau (Bai-Sau). I did not know the troop branch (Army/Navy/Air Force) but the hospitality was first class. I got to sleep on a soft-surface for the first time. I enjoyed swimming on the beach, playing games, and cleaning myself up with fresh running water. I did not like the "canteen" foods much but my first taste of a fresh apple was heavenly delight. My dream was to plant an apple tree someday and that was what I did when I first bought my house in Pomona California in 2000.

My village, named Phuoc-Hoa, did not have electricity, running water or sewage system. The Australian Army Engineering team (not sure of the official name) came and put a bore, a windmill-powered water pump, and a water-tank next to my cousin's house. For the first time I, along with other kids saw water ran out from a pipe, not in bucket that we normally used to scoop water from an open well. We all got soaked up during the grand-opening celebration in front of many officials and Australian troops in uniform. What's a wonderful fun memory!

Perhaps that same Army Engineering team also later laid a huge pipe that carried fresh water from Ba-Ria to Vung Tau. Not sure if the initial purpose was for the Australian troops stationed in Vung-Tau only but eventually all people in this beach town enjoyed the extra source of fresh water. My older brother who lived in Vung-Tau pointed out to me the different color of the new water since it did not have a trace of stained color that came from the local wells. The pipe, about 2 meters in diameter and 24 kilometers long, was laid above ground along the only highway that connected Ba-Ria and Vung-Tau. As of today, after more than of 45 years, the pipe still is in good shape and works flawlessly.

Although my parents were in Ba-Ria, Phuoc Tuy Province but I spent my high-school senior year in Vung-Tau. By then, in September of 1972, there were only a few Australian soldiers left. But even at the peak of total Australian troops in Vietnam in late 60s, I seldom saw them hanging around bars like the Americans, their counterpart. Perhaps their total troop number was smaller or by default of their hard-working ethic, wasting time or money was not of their nature. Very sure that was the main reason our Vietnamese bar-girls called our Aussie soldiers "Cheap Charlie".

For the past 17 years, along with my life partner and wife named Diamond, we have organized many **Thank You Vietnam Veterans** events in USA from 2000. The 2017 ANZAC Day on April 25th was the first time we had a chance to express our gratitude to the Australian soldiers who served in Vietnam. We since then have done a couple more events in continuing our mission of thanking our down-to-earth soldiers who spent their youthful years protecting us from the Communist. Furthermore, they have made our life better in all aspects like giving us skills needed in school and giving us basic necessities in the real life.

My last wish in life is to meet Major Smith one more time. I would travel anywhere to see him if he is still around.

Continued overleaf

Mission: To assist all veterans and their dependants, in all matters relating to their health, welfare and wellbeing.

Continued from page 14

Thank you very much for reading this memoir but more importantly, thanks for spending your youthful years fighting for us. You had fought two wars at once: the violent one against Communists and the life-improvement one against hardship. To me and all of my classmates, pictured below, ***YOU HAVE WON BOTH!***
Thai Dang



Thai Dang, second from left, photo taken in 1976 at a wedding of a friend (wearing a tie). Most are either living in Australia or USA.

Published with the permission of Mr Thai Dang





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 30.06.2024) that we have not had contact with since, basically, commencing communications in 2012, so, we are going to focus a little more on this programme to try and reduce this number.

Let's have a look at **JULY'S Birthday List**, below, where **Detachment and Battery Members** listed as **Lost Locators** – see the names below for the month of July.

So, we've done some great discoveries with **Members Dates Of Death**, I'm hoping we might muster some enthusiasm for this difficult task. I've added some more details as to full **DoB's** and places of birth according to the **DVA Nominal Roll** for, maybe, some help.

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. **I have 252 recipients (Association)** 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.

Date	Name	Regt No	DoB	SVN In	SVN Out	DVA Location
2	Peter Reginald O'Donnell Sgt.	213115	1941	24 03 1970	05 11 1970	Singleton, NSW RAEME
3	Bruce Alexander Fowler	2795238	1949	16 12 1970	29 07 1971	Sydney
10	Robert William Pelham	55342	1949	16 11 1968	19 11 1969	Wongan Hills, WA
10	Rex Terrance Arnold L/Bdr	424096	1949	16 12 1970	29 05 1971	Loxton, SA
	" "			29 05 1971	16 09 1971	Ind 161 Recce Flt.
22	John Charles Homer	5717596	1949	17 03 1971	02 08 1971	Perth 131
	" "			02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
25	John Stuart Smith T/Bdr	610231	1949	16 11 1968	12 11 1969	Hobart

I will keep an update and publish monthly results in *Eyes & Ears*.

Paul Dickson

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

. 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

Vietnam War 1962–75 An extract from the Australian War Memorial website...

The arrival of the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) in South Vietnam during July and August 1962* was the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Australia's participation in the war was formally declared at an end when the Governor-General issued a proclamation on 11 January 1973**. The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon, which was withdrawn in June 1973.

The Australian commitment consisted predominantly of army personnel, but significant numbers of air force and navy personnel and some civilians also took part.

Overview

From the time of the arrival of the first members of the Team in 1962 over 60,000 Australians, including ground troops and air force and navy personnel, served in Vietnam; **523 died** as a result of the war and almost **2,400 were wounded**.

The war was the cause of the greatest social and political dissent in Australia since the conscription referendums of the First World War. Many draft resisters, conscientious objectors, and protesters were fined or jailed, while soldiers met a hostile reception on their return home.

Australian support for South Vietnam in the early 1960s was in keeping with the policies of other nations, particularly the United States, to stem the spread of communism in Europe and Asia. In 1961 and 1962 Ngo Dinh Diem, leader of the government in South Vietnam, repeatedly requested security assistance from the US and its allies. Australia eventually responded with 30 military advisers, dispatched as the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), also known as "the Team"****. Their arrival in South Vietnam during July and August 1962 was the beginning of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. In August 1964 the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) also sent a flight of Caribou transports to the port of Vung Tau.

By early 1965, when it had become clear that South Vietnam could not stave off the communist insurgents and their North Vietnamese comrades for more than a few months, the US commenced a major escalation of the war. By the end of the year it had committed 200,000 troops to the conflict. As part of the build-up, the US government requested further support from friendly countries in the region, including Australia. The Australian government dispatched the 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), in June 1965 to serve alongside the US 173d Airborne Brigade in Bien Hoa province.

Ed's notes from above -

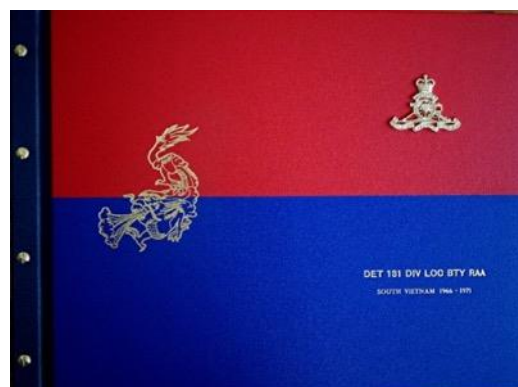
*62 years ago.

** Seems a trifle late?

*** "the Team" matches our "Pioneers"

To be continued in July's *Eyes and Ears*...

. 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.



. Unknown Dates of Deaths continues to be updated...as at 31.06.2024 -

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

										Total
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 ??.??,2024.

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

This following sections have now been updated as of ??.??,2024 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
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

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.



Mail Out



I started this in September, 2017 and have decided to continue running down the alphabet of names and sending some emails to blokes in general to say g’day and just to generally keep in touch. A lot of the blokes I’ve never met, so it’s just to keep some connection alive. Plus, it’s good to keep in touch, even sporadically, it may help to avoid any unpleasant unforeseen surprises.



Mail In - Here are the responses...

John “Kanga” McFadden – a great fun catch-up...

“Ahh Dicko,

Thank you for your contact with wellbeing up date. All in the same boat these days, the endless loop of Drs & Specialists and when you can get an appointment.

By the time you get to them the original concerns have been by passed by more pressing matters. Great getting old & slipping into history.

Got a good laugh with your animal sterilization efforts.

I’ve highlighted “right direction” as it signalled Vic Danko’s recount of our night route march at Singleton recruit training. Vic is so spot on regarding that night!

It was supposed to be a map reading exercise for our corporals to led us from Greta to Singleton at night but of course Rank was only interested in racing!

And they all knew shortcuts! A dangerous combination for corporals!

Anyhow we all took off marching at pace passing places that looked suspiciously familiar!
Road junctions were given little consideration. It was just rough direction & speed and getting back to camp first!!!
We churned on like some mindless herd and eventually made it back to Singleton by dawn.
Vic is absolutely correct, rank had little idea of where it was going. Vic's platoon probably got home early because of his direct intervention.
And the truth was, trucks were sent out the next morning to find where rank had led their platoons to on that night!
There was a lot of swearing by higher Rank as strange place like Broke, Warkworth & Jerry's Plains were mentioned!
It was an enlightening night as to leadership in the Army and we knew we were in for more amusing times!
Keep Well
Kanga."

Phil Mulgrew – “Hi Paul.

Nice to hear from you again. I'm glad the operation on your lower eyelids looks to be successful. No pun intended. The weather here in my part of Queensland has been consistently good without any major weather incidents over the past year. Other areas of Brisbane can get hit hard on occasion, notably down the south side around Ipswich and Springfield. The traffic chaos is still with us in Brisbane, as infrastructure that should have been in place years ago is in the consultation process now, at least on the north side of Brisbane. To be fair, as in the 1990's, interstate migration has put many more vehicles and services on the roads here. There is a freeway planned to take the pressure off the Bruce Highway northside, called the Bruce Highway Alternative Route. It will skirt Narangba to the west and end up at the D'Aguilar Highway at Elimbah whilst starting at the Bruce somewhere around Lawton. That 'somewhere' is still a matter of conjecture though.

While on the subject of roads. Helen and I were driving down the Ipswich Motorway not long ago when I noticed some folk in the back of a vehicle in front gesturing toward a white Iveco cab over prime mover traveling behind them in the centre lane. I looked up at the cabin. No driver. I thought it must be a left hooker going to a workshop for a conversion. We moved ahead of it and I looked back through the windscreen. No driver. Then I noticed three fellas wearing safety vests in a white SUV following close behind, not taking their eyes off it. This Iveco was moving along as though it was on rails and didn't appear to deviate an inch from its path. The lane keeping technology, if that is what it was, appeared to be far superior to even the lane keeping assist on our SUV. The prime mover slowed when appropriate and kept a safe distance from other vehicles, but I didn't see it pass any slower vehicles in front. It simply stayed behind them until these vehicles moved to another lane then it resumed its previous speed. I thought that it would have been prudent to have a safety driver on board the truck though, but perhaps he was taking a break with his mates in the SUV.

On a similar note, I believe the ADF is experimenting with a driverless convoy system and has conducted trials along parts of the Hume Highway and the Goulburn Valley Highway around Puckapunyal and Mangalore. There was also a trial set down for the Monash Freeway in Melbourne for driverless trucks last year, but was abandoned due to safety and union concerns. The Monash Freeway trial was to use sensors implanted under the road surface as part of its guidance system.

So, I'm recovering well after the heart valve surgery. My blood pressure is excellent and I can do much more now than before the surgery. It was good to chat with Alan Morley about his upcoming surgery on his heart. Hopefully, he is over it now. The best thing I have done in a long time was to change my General Practitioner who was instrumental in referring me to one of the best heart specialists in Brisbane. I mentioned to him that I had a 'lazy heart valve' diagnosed years ago, which was prompted by reading an article on heart health in the Veterans Affairs newspaper a month before. All the best
Phil."

Peter Creedon – “Hello Paul

Once again I have to apologise for taking so long to answer your catch up.

Pauline and I are doing OK, we are having all the aches and pains we are supposed to expect for a couple in their seventy's. We have made some major changes recently we have sold our caravan and tow car, we feel we have finished with that life-style for now. I am still playing golf twice a week and doing quite well recently, I will keep riding the wave whilst it lasts.

We have been having a lot of rain recently and the weather is turning very cold, we are a little reluctant to turn the AC on as our government is taking us down a path of very expensive electricity. I am sure they really feel that they have it in their power to save the world.

Enough for now regards,
Peter"



Terry Erbs has forwarded a follow up on his ANZAC Day visit (E&Es May 2024) with an extract out of Army News –

“Hi Paul,

I mentioned an Australian medical team was at Bomana for ANZAC Day service in my story from PNG, Interesting this article was published in the latest Army News. Might be an interesting follow up for “Eyes & Ears” Cheers Terry. PS – the coincidence is that i met them on ANZAC Day.’

Scientific team surveys infectious diseases in PNG



Capt Joanne Kizu, from the ADF Malaria and Infectious Diseases Institute team, takes blood samples from a PNGDF member at Murry Barracks, PNG. Photo: Cpl Samuel Miller

ADF and PNGDF personnel have been working together to improve the health of people in remote communities of Papua New Guinea. **Flt-Lt Claire Campbell** reports.

BRINGING science to the heart of Papua New Guinea, the ADF Malaria and Infectious Diseases Institute spent several weeks conducting health surveys across the country.

Supported by the Defence Pacific Air Program (DPAP), the institute travelled to Manus and Port Moresby to conduct blood sampling and analysis of PNG Defence Force personnel and their families.

The triservice team comprised clinicians, scientists and operational staff, including scientific officer Capt Joanne Kizu, who said without DPAP airlift support, travelling across PNG would have been near impossible.

“We screened the PNGDF personnel and families for a number of infectious diseases including malaria, chikungunya, Ross River, Barmah Forest, dengue and Japanese encephalitis,” Capt Kizu said.

“To run a project like this takes a fair amount of equipment and consumables. The RAAF personnel in PNG have been amazing at assisting us get to Manus.”

In countries with a higher prevalence of malaria and other infectious diseases, such as PNG, the surveys are important to support local health clinics to inform clinical management of patients.

CO of the institute, Lt-Col Brady McPherson, said the survey results were also provided to the PNGDF Director Health Services to better understand the health status of their force and guide population health programs.

“Our work helps us to understand the risk of infectious diseases in our region, and informs ADF force health protection policies,” Lt-Col McPherson said.

“This is a partnership between



The ADF Malaria and Infectious Diseases Institute team and personnel from the PNGDF board a C-27J Spartan at Port Moresby airport for a flight to Manus Island.

the PNGDF and ADF, and we have worked closely to achieve the outcomes of the survey.”

The institute’s team uses a substantial amount of laboratory equipment to determine the presence of parasites in the blood, including microscopes and polymerase chain reaction machines.

Nursing officer Leut Donna Nabure said she was able to put theory into practice from her university

studies, and engage closely with PNGDF personnel.

“I’m originally from Fiji and have been assisting with cultural liaison within PNG and any public engagement,” she said.

“It’s a rewarding and fulfilling experience; an honour to build the regional partnership and strengthen our relationship with the PNG Defence Force.”

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

Ernie Newbold forwarded in the following link – copy paste and read -

SALUTE

Official Journal of the Totally and Permanently
Incapacitated Veterans’ Association of New South Wales Limited
Winter 2024

The link below will take you to the TPI NSW’s latest Newsletter – It’s a worthwhile read as it contains information from DVA and some great stories...

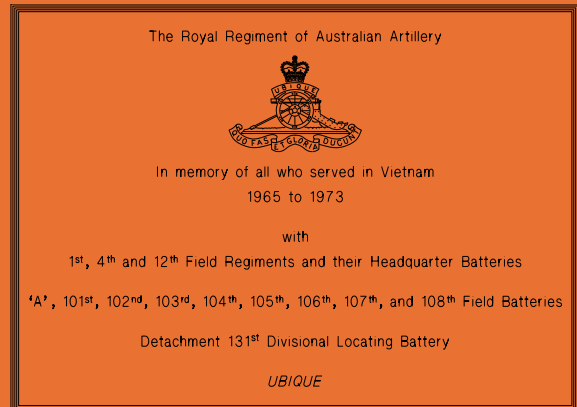
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=55f192afee&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1802742395713089188&th=1904a0a85603eea4&view=att&disp=safe>

RAA Plaque for Vietnam War Memorial Canungra

An update on the combined RAA Plaque for the Vietnam War Memorial at Canungra.

The combined RAA Plaque is currently being cast. Sincere thanks to 'A' Bty Association (\$56.30), 107 Bty Association (\$100.00), and 108 Bty Association (\$100.00) for their donations. The cost of production has now been met and the 4th Field Regt (SVN) Old Boys Association will cover costs of installation and any ongoing maintenance costs. Wording for the plaque is in the attachment.

Our plaque, along with perhaps 11 others will be unveiled on **Sunday 18 August 2024 (Vietnam Veterans Day) commencing at 1100 hours**. Following the unveiling of plaques, a service and wreath laying, there will be BBQ and refreshments organised by the Canungra RSL Sub-branch. I will be attending and welcome any other Gunners to join me. To aid with catering etc, would anyone wishing to attend, please let me know and I will advise the organisers. The memorial is at the entrance to the current Land Warfare Centre just out of the township of Canungra.



250x180mm

Photos, at right, depict the memorial and the opening plaque and were supplied by David Anderson.

Happy to take any questions or comments re the plaque or the event on 18 August 2024.

Best wishes

Peter

Peter Bruce, OAM

President

4th Field Regiment (SVN) Old Boys Association.

pjbruce8@bigpond.net.au



Committee Members:

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



Presidential perambulations

Are we becoming a mob of weather whingers? Inspection of the free-to-air weather predictions (guesses?) shows that usually there is a general teaser, then next a bit more information and finally at the end of the news session some five minutes of expected temperatures, likely rainfall and finally a prognosis of these parameters for the coming week. The actuality for Sydney is that the last six weekends have all been very wet. And the seventh weekend approaching looks like making it seven wet weekends in a row. That means school sport cancelled, outdoor events either brought inside or cancelled, family BBQs postponed and other activities curtailed. What alternative choices do citizens have?

As predicted, it has been a warmer than usual start to winter. However, in the first six months of 2024 Sydney has experienced more rain than the average annual precipitation total of about 1200 mm. I presume that sales of umbrellas and raincoats will have been maximised. The water in drinking water source Warragamba dam has overflowed again, despite the earlier prediction of Tim Flannery that it would never do so again due to climate change. Looks like time to keep the gum boots at the front door still.

Regards
Allen

57 Years
April 1966 – April 2024



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

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 11 th June 2024**

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

Attendees were:

Present were Grahame Dignam, Gordon Malcolm, Merv Nairn, Ian Amos.



Zoomed members were: Allen Morley, Paul Dickson, Bert Blink, Brian Campbell,

Apologies: were received from Ron Mason, Bob Billiards, Rieny Nieuwenhof, Terry Erbs, Ernest Newbold. Steve Wynn, Ged Carroll, Nick Proskurin, George Lane, Jim Fitzgerald and other State Reps

Financial Membership is currently ...**126**, plus Associates **2**, Affiliates **16**. Total **144**. Plus Lapsed as at 1/06/2024 **33** members

Presidents report.

Allen referenced.

. An offer from DVA of 50 more DVDs of the National Commemoration of the 50 th Anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. A side light was the bonus inclusion of the documentary series "Our Vietnam War" on the DVD. We considered our supply was sufficient at this time.

. NSW RSL is training "Assistance dogs" for soldiers with needs in this area. The training regime is over 12 months and is personalized to the individual.

. Allen expressed his disappointment at the early decision of the trustees to proceed with the Canungra plaque.

Webmaster Update.

. **Grahame Dignam** advised Facebook members to be 467. We are attracting some who want to market non sponsored "Pride in service" tee shirts with exotic designs.

Health Report:

. Most present reported that things were OK with them.

. Dicko Remarked that Steve O had been through the wringer with various medicos but was still around and cheery however his health had not improved to any great extent.

General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions here were truncated due to the reduced zoom time.

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, 9th , July 2024 at 1100hrs

Venue: to be advised

Also, available via Zoom link to be advised



. Birthdays in the Battery...July –

Date	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Cpmments
1	Stephen Fowler	217186	16 09 1968	17 09 1969	
2	Peter Reginald O'Donnell Sgt.	213115	24 03 1970	05 11 1970	RAEME
3	Bruce Alexander Fowler	2795238	16 12 1970	29 07 1971	
4	George Arthur Wearn Capt.	2251140	05 08 1968	20 08 1968	133 Div Loc CMF
7	Peter William Joscelyne	2792023	03 06 1970	17 12 1970	
12	Neville Ross Atkinson	1733449	08 11 1968	05 11 1969	† 14.12.1996
10	William Joseph Finlay T/Sgt.	37818	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	
10	Robert William Pelham	55342	16 11 1968	19 11 1969	
10	Rex Terrance Arnold L/Bdr	424096	16 12 1970	29 05 1971	
	" "		29 05 1971	16 09 1971	Ind 161 Recce Flt.
11	John William Jaggard	4721862	03 03 1971	02 08 1971	131
	" "		02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
12	Harry Lynus	176377			
13	Alasdair Gough L/bdr	2105130	27 03 1970	04 03 1971	† 03 12 2023
14	Edmond George Doust Sgt.	53111	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	† 26.12.2014
14	Frederick Stefan Kruimink	6708867	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
16	George William Addison WO2	2410040	16 04 1969	16 04 1970	† 27.12.2012
18	Keith Roy Ayliffe Sgt	217354	18 12 1967	03 12 1968	131
	" "		08 07 1971	24 07 1971	HQ AFV
18	Alistair McLean	312524	21 02 1969	21 02 1970	
18	Joseph Robert Kocka	1202703	20 08 1970	29 07 1971	
19	Maxwell Duncan McPherson	3795560	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	†19.05.2016
21	Graham Arthur Williams	2789698	03 06 1969	25 03 1970	
21	WILLIAM SLAPE	44464	22 12 1969	17 12 1970	† 12.05.2012
21	Wilhelmus Jacovus Van Zetten	3794919	17 03 1970	17 12 1970	
21	Peter Maxwell Summers	3796803	09 11 1970	09 06 1971	
22	John Charles Homer	5717596	17 03 1971	02 08 1971	
	" "		02 08 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
22	THE EYES & EARS		1967	1967	57 Years!!!
23	David Rees Dodd	2790139	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
25	William Francis Doyle	4719912	17 12 1968	04 01 1969	4 Fd REGT
	" "		05 01 1969	28 11 1969	131 † 05.09.1978
25	John Stuart Smith T/Bdr	610231	16 11 1968	12 11 1969	Hobart
25	Peter Barry	2794949	17 03 1971	04 08 1971	131 † 03.10.2002
	" "		04 08 1971	02 11 1971	12 Fd Regt
28	Malcolm John Musgrave Sgt	214359	03 06 1969	04 06 1970	
29	Richard George Edwards L/Bdr	218595	03 06 1970	14 05 1971	
30	Keith Meadway Holloway Bdr	15851	20 05 1966	10 10 1966	
31	Wayne Nash	2251242	N/a	N/a	130GLB/133DLB † 17.11.2014

*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 needs attention to clean up! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. Locator Profiles – we've received 176. Ed – Maybe we need to draw in a deep one so as to hold our breathes for a while longer.

. Located...

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



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

So, if you're a non-financial Associate receiving emails and the *Eyes & Ears* regularly you could bite the bullet and email Grahame Dignam:sectreas131locators@gmail.com 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

Website: <https://www.locatingartillery.org>



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARTILLERY HISTORICAL COMPANY

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.1stbn83rdartvyvietnam.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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