

THE EYES and EARS

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

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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
2025**

**59 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



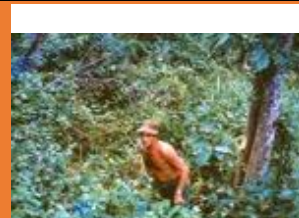
All cleaned up!



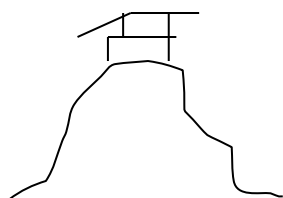
Hard act to follow!



Classic stuff!!



A bit of gardening



Eyes and Ears

No.0001 February, 2009



31A, 31B, 31C and 31D – Are you awake? Over..... (followed by a long pause)

Well I warned you that I would start something, so here goes!

I'm not sure of the format to do this in, but along with possible future submissions from all and sundry on any topic that takes their fancy it may develop into something...

This edition marks 16 Years and 199 Editions since the New series of *Eyes and Ears* came to life and it's still chugging along – thanks to a lot of you for your support. And we celebrate our 58th year since the original was tapped out in July 1967.



Give me a Name?

The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project is being re-ignited for 2024.

Our current list contains the names of **95** Locators (as at 28.02.2025) 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 February's Birthday List, below, where there are 8 Detachment and Battery Members listed as Lost Locators – see the names below.

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
3	Roger Anthony Stanley	2788155	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	Arncliffe, NSW
20	Ronald John Robards	216900	1948	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	Waratah, NSW
21	Michael Gordon King	216504	1948	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	Sydney, NSW
22	Gregory Kenneth Peck	2790401	1948	05 11 1969	04 06 1970	Inverell, NSW
25	Robert Wallace Hargreaves	2790343	1948	05 11 1969	04 06 1970	Tumut, NSW
27	Kenneth Eric Winn	219656	1951	30 05 1970	06 08 1970	Marrickville, NSW 131
	" "			07 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
30	Frank Halliday Sgt.	215105	1937	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	Ballarat, Vic
31	Graham Leslie Hislop Sgt.	15290	1935	22 04 1966	03 03 1967	Casino, NSW

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

Paul Dickson

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

. Unknown/Known Dates of Deaths continues to be updated...as at 28.02.2025 –

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.

Sadly, we've added Peter John Larkin to the list below as he recently passed. (See Vale below)

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	1	2	0	2	8

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	5	5	6	7	10	10	8	1	64
Unknowns*										1
Total										150

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 **28.02.2025**.

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

This following sections have now been updated as of 31.01.2025 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 YOU give some thought to completing YOUR Locator Profile, which do add a personal background and also keeping in touch as it keeps us up to date with you and mates.

Ok, detectives, here’s more homework – I more gap to go!

...a continuing investigation –



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

Detective Inspector Peter Meaney releases documents he uses to dig into case studies, this time in The Advertiser...

The following is what I sent re **Rob Ness**, and got 2 hits immediately, one from Phil his brother, and another Darryl (a veteran), who knows Rob well, and says he is a Salt of the Earth character (a given for any 131 Vet, I would have thought).

“The 131 Locators Association Inc is seeking to contact Robert John Ness, former Radar Operator with Det 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, in South Vietnam 1966/1967.

Contact :Peter(Association Member)
0409 697 865”

Note: Like yourself, I enjoy the challenges of digging and delving into the past.

The Advertiser

CAN YOU HELP?

Hard-to-find items?
Long-lost family or friends?
Arranging a reunion?

REUNIONS

YORKETOWN Reunion. Harry Bowey Reserve, Salisbury Park, March 9, 11am-3pm. Past and present residents of Yorketown and surrounding districts and anyone with a connection to the area are most welcome. BYO everything. **Winston 0403 024 385 or Trevor 0417 824 785**

WHERE ARE THEY?

NESS, Robert John. The 131 Locators Association Inc is seeking to contact Robert, a former Radar Operator with Det 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Royal Australian Artillery, in South Vietnam 1966-67. **Peter (Association Member) 0409 697 865.**

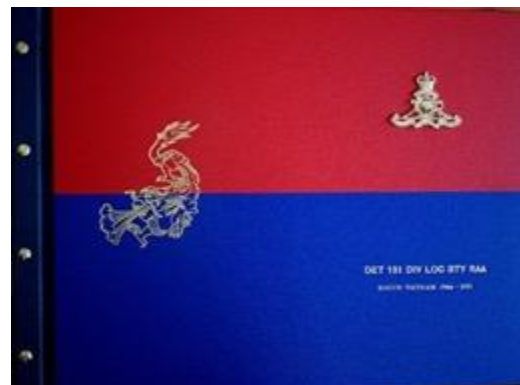
MISCELLANEOUS



I am searching for photos taken at ar **Walter John Whi Gladstone**. The girl, writing on the back have handwritten please conta

We can help. Call service to reader

. 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 has 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

Allen Keeble – Regt No 173 2051 (Qld Nasho) 4th Intake, Served 20.04.66 to 19.04.68.

He served with both 131 Divisional Locating Battery and 130 Sound Ranging battery (CMF)

Allen has supplied the following brief as Chapter 1 of snippets of his service career –

“My Life at Holsworthy 1966 to 1968”

2 years at Holsworthy is an interesting story I would just like to say how disappointed I was and especially how they did it, that I didn’t go with you guys to SVN. Before I start this fckd up story, I must let you know that I have a health problem called C.R.A.F.T. and I will explain that health problem to you at a later date, as some of you WILL have it and you probably don’t know it.

CHAPTER 1...

1966 - I ended up marrying Jean on 12th November 1966, and spent New Year’s Eve working as a waiter in the “fckn” Sgts mess.

1967 - I think that’s when I went to do the B.E. Course at Canungra I was then shipped up to Rockhampton to a NATO Exercise for 3 x months and when I got back to Holsworthy you guys were gone. For the rest of the year all I did was play Rugby for the army and guard duty at Vic Barracks and a stint at the Cenotaph.

CHAPTER 2

1967 - The year started off pretty normal, guard duty, Cenotaph duty at Vic. Barracks Sydney, when, after playing some good rugby and behaving myself (he he he) the powers to be, bless their little fckn hearts, decided to reward me or get rid of me for a while and sent me to (Wait for it) New Zealand yup fckn New fckn Zealand, and (wait for it) one whole fckn month yup 32 days.

I think it was 105 Battery before their trip to the funny place, (where you poor souls were) and we flew over in luxury like when you blokes went overseas, in a borrowed aircraft from the RAAF here’s another wait for it a fckn Herc. Made in 1906. 4 hours I think it took and when we dropped altitude, condensation opened up and it felt like it was raining inside this luxurious aircraft.

Eventually the brains of the battery decided to let the Indians know that they were on a Goodwill Tour with a couple of rugby games to be played. In the end, we played one game and toured all of the North Island. 105 Battery went to the Funny Place, and I went back to Holsworthy.

Jean and I lived outside barracks at Ingleburn, we use to, being young and stupid drive to Brisbane one weekend every month for the rest of the year. I was one forgotten soul at that time and came up with a great plan to annoy shit out of the fckn WO2 whom I can’t name because of C.R.A.F.T. (Did youse remember that word).

Well that’s enough information for you to take in, and there’s good news, there is still more good stuff to come which you will enjoy. I’m hoping that your Research Officer will enjoy it but I don’t think he will read it. G’day Ernie!

The next chapter won’t be the last, but my last year at Holsworthy was lots of fun I was a free soul in training for civvy street and for your info there are 2 chapters to go, the last one is “Welcome Back to Civvy Street” and putting up with all those incompetent civilian bastards again.

One last thing, I’m still thinking of you Jimmy, and still miss you, you will always be one of the best pool players I have ever played.

CHAPTER 3

“My Favourite Flag.”

1968 - This Chapter isn’t very long, as on the 20th April I again became a civilian. January was the start of my training to become a civilian, the army way, firstly I had to hand in all my bush gear, I think I was then told to go back to my

Paint Shop and paint something, at that time I was making some new signs to be installed when needed, so being a qualified Painter/Signwriter I started wearing my white overalls, and for rest of the year that's what I wore, and guess what, I would quit often visit the Orderly Room, wearing my clean overalls to deliver new signs and the WO2 was only concerned with the new signs I made for him, ooh bless his heart, but, at that time it ,as you all know that was "F TROOP ".

For the next 3 months in between making new signs and every day I would go and tell the WO2 that I have only x amount of days to go. However he got even with me, the night before I left Holsworthy, yup he did, he put me on Guard Duty, and he told me with a big smile on his face, bless his little help.

Don't worry yes I did get even, perfectly, during my 4 months in MY Paint Shop, I made a nice flag for the lovely person, "F TROOP FOREVER" so morning tea the next day, I hoisted my new flag up the Battery Flagpole, got in my car and proceeded to drive to Brisbane. I found out a few years later, that the flag stayed up there all day.

Well guys that is my story of my life at Holsworthy, however I would like to write one more chapter if you want, "My Life after Holsworthy" I don't know why but it took me at least 2 to 3 years to get back into Civvy Mode I even did some time in the Army Reserve (CMF), but that is another story.

Allen Keeble.

Mail Call...

Peter Ravelje shares a memory of Kevin Heenan (Eyes and Ears December 2024 Vale)

"G'day Paul,

I recently came across an article that mentioned the passing of Goulbourn Valley V.V. Assoc. Kevin Heenan. I googled his name on this



website <https://frontline.asn.au/category/news/army/> and came up with the details of his passing.

I served with Kev in 69-70. R.I.P. good bloke.....

GV Vietnam Veterans award first ever life membership

By John Lewis
Dec 6, 2021



First life member: Goulburn Valley Vietnam Veterans Association president Peter Deary (left) presents the group's first ever life membership to long-serving contributor Kevin Heenan, as Mr Heenan's wife, Dawn, watches on.

Vietnam veteran Kevin Heenan has been awarded the first ever life membership of Goulburn Valley Vietnam Veterans Association.



Mail Out



Ed - I started this section in September, 2017 and have continued to write to Locators based on a year quarterly basis, by breaking down the names alphabetically into groups of one third of the then available list. The list has diminished over time, but, in general, there is a good core of blokes who communicate regularly 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.

Total Mail Out Members = 222 & Total Quarterly "Catch Up" Member Responders = 55

Mail In



- Here are the responses...

Wade Cooper – "G'day Paul,

"Good to hear from you.

Festive season done and dusted – seems a while ago now. Back into the swing of things.

Uganda... wow... that will be interesting. 2025 is a big one with work – lots of travel.

Do take care!

Kind regards, Wade"

David Auld – "G'day Paul not much going on like overseas trips, looks like we are still babysitting in Armidale, Best thing to happen is our new granddaughter Lucy born on the 26/11/24, At present we are visiting her now on the Gold Coast visiting Nic and Michael and Lucy she is their first it's also Michael's birthday, big do coming up in June the 100th anniversary of Locating will be happening in Brisbane, take care mate."

George Clark – “Hi Paul, thanks for the heads up. I am happy to learn that you have a clean bill of health. At our age we cannot afford to drift down to the sick side of life .

I was interested why you would venture into Uganda, it is a country that has been, in the past, less than friendly to Caucasians. I have been to Uganda, and although I was a child at the time, I do not have fond memories .

Spain, Portugal and Italy are all the same to me, the noisiest places on the planet, everyone tries to talk at the same time, and depending on what time of the year you go, you could be killed by a stampede by angry bulls, or have rotten tomatoes chucked at you .

For me - My plans are a lot more sedate, I shall be returning to China later this year and I am booked on a 15 day river cruise through Europe in August next year. The boat stops in Vienna and gives the opportunity to take in a show by the world renown Viennese orchestra. I really enjoy classical music .

That's it for me Paul, take care of yourself and your little lady and whatever you do, I hope you have a great time .

Best wishes,

George Clark.”

Nick Armstrong – “Hello Paul.

Thank you for your recent email. I am pleased to hear you have a good medical report. Your planned trip to Uganda sounds interesting, although I am intrigued how your planned route will take you through Spain and back through Portugal? I assume you will cross the Mediterranean by ferry, but how do you get to Uganda once you are in North Africa?

Christmas here was reasonably quiet, although most of the family got together for about two weeks. My son and daughter-in-law did not travel from Tasmania. He works for a farmer near Cressy, near Launceston. The farm was busy harvesting various high value crops. We plan to visit them after Easter. Nephews and nieces from SA and WA were able to spend some worthwhile time together. It was somewhat ‘Squeezy’ finding bed space for them all, but good to see them all getting along together. I can’t deny it has been nice to get back to our normal pensioner lives!

I have been fine medically, but my Cardiologist has informed me that my bedside cardiac monitor has reported my Atrial Fibrillation (AF) has begun to increase in length and frequency. It seems my pacemaker is struggling to control the AF. I am preparing for an AF Ablation procedure on Monday 24th February. As usual, with these medical matters, the specialists advise a proposed procedure. The dire consequences of not agreeing are emphasised, so we do not really have grounds to disagree.

Generally, with life, I adopt an approach that when things are going well, enjoy it because it will all turn to ‘crap’ soon enough. To balance this approach, I also know that the bad times won’t last too long. With medical issues, I assume the experts know more than me. It has worked for me this far, so I will stick with it this time.

Most of South Australia has had well below average rainfall during the last twelve months. I expect the news reports are covering floods in Queensland and New South Wales, but anytime they would like to stop ‘hogging’ all the rain, they can send some our way.

Following a serious bushfire in 2000, local building rules require we have 15,000lt of water storage per bedroom, and 10,000lt for firefighting. Our 3-bedroom house requires 55,000lt storage. We only have 50,000lt, but the water tank police haven’t ‘Sprung’ us yet. For two people, we would normally have enough water to run the whole house on rainwater, and have enough to water the garden for much of the summer. We have a Mains Water supply passing the house, so rain is not essential. There are many rural 2Ha blocks in the district who do not have a ‘Mains’ supply and they have been carting water for several months.

CFS has been relatively quiet through this fire season, and my bus driving has been quiet since Christmas. With the present medical issues, it is convenient. A spell with no driving might help convince DVA my bus driving really is ‘relief’ rather than permanent.

I think that is about all for now.

Cheers,

Nick.”

John Bayford – “Hi Paul

Thank you for your email. The family are all well and dealing with all that comes their way.

Annette and I are still golfing at the National which has been putting on some well patronised club tournaments.

This winter we have booked our annual holiday at Port Douglas to escape the worst of the Cape Schanck weather.

Best wishes

John.”

Phil Connor – “Giddy Paul and Helen,

Good to hear from you and your survival from the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

We have had a good festive season with numerous family and friends over the period and following, with some coming up to the Sunnie Coast from Northern Mexico in the next week.

Weather has been up and down over the period, some hot, steamy days and nights with a few thunderstorms in the mix, a part of the territory.

That is amazing voluntary work that Helen does, well done.

The upcoming trip sounds great. My brother and Sis in Law did something similar with Spain and Portugal so much so they did a similar trip a couple of years later, liked it so much.

Year '25 plans, atm, are on hold as Miriam has had a further cancer situation advised and we are in early stages as to treatment so cannot plan anything at this time. Our intention was to go over to the States to see Son and family around Fall '25. That may need to go on hold until all, any, resolution with Miriam. Wait and see!

Cheers to you both.

Miriam and Phil."

Warwick Brooker – "G'day Paul. Sorry I didn't make it to the meeting. Busy preparing for family visitors.

Good to hear you're still very fit and preparing to travel again. Hope you enjoy Uganda!

We enjoyed a family gathering over Christmas and two weeks ago a baby girl was added to the clan. So, Nancy and I have three grandchildren now. The first one (boy) turns four next week. Hope I'm still around to celebrate his decade, but God only knows!

No exciting plans yet for 2025.

Safe travelling!

Warwick."

Diane and Keith Dean – "Hi Paul,

Thanks for the catch up message.

Not much happening in the Dean household so far this year. We are off to Singapore in a few weeks and cruising back to Australia via Darwin, Port Douglas and Airlie Beach. So looking forward to getting away after having such a dreadful 2024 with Keith's health.

We love Singapore and have been back three or four times since our 2 year posting there in 1971-1973. And we miss cruising.

Hope all is well with you and your family

Dianne and Keith Dean."

John Richmond – "Hi Paul

Am a bit slow these days in catching up with my mail

Have been very much out of action from late October till last few weeks.

Had a dose of double vision. This was caused by some form of infection behind my left eye and as a consequence couldn't go anywhere without an eye patch and my wife walking behind me making sure I didn't go off the track.

Am much better, but still not allowed to drive. See the specialist again in April.

I wonder if other members can beat this - I must have the oldest piece of my 1960s uniform that is still in constant use.

My service issue nylon rain coat (dated 1964) is my prime wet weather rain gear.

How's that?

Excuse my typing errors

Regards, John."

Mike Butler – "Hi Paul

Thanks for your note. Africa sounds interesting - Uganda was once a basket case but I believe things are on the improve.

We went to Spain in 2016 - a fantastic country but it was stinking hot when we went in the month of August, especially in the south of the country - we naively thought it would be mild !!

We are planning our first trip in the caravan in April as we didn't do any trips last year. Going to Warrnambool to see our son then maybe South Australia a bit later. Just maintaining the garden at the moment as we haven't had any decent rain for a while. I've finally succumbed to family requests to getting some help in the garden as getting down on ones knees to do things like weeding is becoming too much of a chore - getting up is the hard part as most of us know !! We are not even thinking about downsizing as we love the garden and we have plenty of space in the house for grandkids to visit.

Our VVAA monthly lunches are starting up again at the Box Hill RSL next week. At the moment our membership numbers are 80 plus but many groups have closed down due to lack of members and nobody to fill committee vacancies. Our group is still viable at the moment with a committee and we have the support of VVAA headquarters but our secretary reckons we will be a social club/gathering by 2030.

Not a lot more going on at the moment.

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

ANZAC Day 2025 ...Getting close!

Can we get details on Marches/Gatherings so we can publish details in the March (next month) edition of *Eyes and Ears*?

Please send them to Paul Dickson 131eyesandears@gmail.com

National Vietnam Veterans Museum update...

Watch this space for more as information comes to light.



58 Years
April 1966 – April 2024



Have you tried to source us or your mates via Facebook?

Why not give it a go, if you haven't already, just click onto the Association's Facebook via the link below, then let us know what you think...

Hey, you don't have to have a Facebook page of your own...

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

Ernie Newbold forwarded in the following link – copy paste and read February's edition -

SALUTE

Official Journal of the Totally and Permanently
Incapped 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>



Committee Members:

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Bert Blink

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Vic Nth: Ron Mason, WA – Barry Guzder

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



Presidential perambulations

Two months into 2025 with January and February now both in the rear-view mirror.

And already there are some interesting aspects.

I was mentally taken back to a Nui Dat tent in 1967 by news of the death of Marianne Faithful. Bill Thomas, one of the residents of said tent had one of the famous Akai reel to reel tape recorders. For the first time I heard Marianne singing 'As Tears Go By', a song that Bill played frequently.

Then I enquired whether my existing five-year passport would get me home from Athens when my return would be several days over the six months of currency required for international travel. Bad luck, No. My question was if the government issues a five-year passport why is it effectively only a four and a half year passport? No real answer to that, it just is.

My National Service was two years duration covering part of 1966 and into 1968. However, whilst a DVA letter indicated the correct dates three additional years of service were added to the Operational period. So I enquired why this was so – Oh, that was your Reserve time. My memory was totally ignorant on that I was in the Reserve.

Our daughter lives in Auckland. She flew to Sydney earlier this month for a training course. On her arrival here her tracker indicated her case remained at Auckland airport. As she soon discovered the Q people had also failed to load 45 other passengers' baggage! She borrowed some clothes from my wife and bought a few essentials. Seventy-two hours post her Sydney arrival time her case arrived. I remain unsure what became of the baggage of those passengers who flew on to international destinations.

I wonder what the rest of the year will offer in surprises.

Regards

Allen"

58 Years
April 1966 – April 2024



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

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

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

Canley Heights RSL & Sporting Club

26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW 2176

and via Zoom internet on Tuesday 11 th February 2025

Attendees were: Allen Morley, Grahame Dignam, Ged Carroll, Bob Billiards, Gordon Malcolm, Ernest Newbold
Merv Nairn, Nick Proskurin and Ian Amos.

Zoomed members were: Terry Erbs, Bert Blink and Rieny Nieuwenhof,

Apologies were received from George Lane, Paul Dickson, Steve Wynn, War Brooker, Ron Mason, Jim Fitzgerald and other State Reps

Financial Membership is currently ...**120** plus Associates **2** plus Affiliates **16** Total **144** Plus Lapsed as at 1/2/2025 **38** members

Presidents report.

Allen referenced:

. In the last contact with DVA they referred to his service as "5 years". He understood that included (for the first time) the 3 years deemed to have served as a "Reserve".

. A loose link to the past: AKAI tape recorders were popular, and the first tune Allen heard was Marianne Faithful singing "As tears go by". She had unfortunately just passed away this week.

. Advised that he was an apology for the June 2025 Qld celebration of 100 Years of Locating as he will be Overseas.

. Webmaster Update.

Robert advised Facebook members are now 506. We are attracting some who are not entitled but are targeting non-sponsored merchandise and are barred.

Health Report:

. Ron Mason is currently in hospital receiving treatment.

. Sean Voss was returning from a bicycle ride when he suffered a heart attack. He was given immediate assistance and is recovering.

. Harry Lynas has been ill for 9 weeks and is "sick of it".

General Business and around the grounds:

Discussions ensued on the following:

- . The Association has a number of copies available of "Action ! Action ! Action!" for sale \$15.00 ea. It could be an appropriate gift to secondary school libraries/careers advisors, if attending ANZAC DAY activities?
- . The son of Hilton Holloway, Adam Holloway is the operator of A Battlefield tour site in Europe and has been permitted to place a post on our Facebook site see here <https://www.facebook.com/groups/131divlocbtyraa>
- . Terry Erbs mentioned that 20 Regiment is celebrating its 20th year of formation in 2026 and activities will be forthcoming.
- . Rieny Nieuwenhof gave an "ad hoc" update on the progress of the MVV museum where work is continuing. A more in-depth item will be sought for a future item.

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 –

Next General 131 Locators Association Committee Meeting meeting will be on:
11th March 2024 at 11.00 AM

At: Canley Heights RSL and Sporting Club
26 Humphries Rd, Wakeley NSW
Also, available via Zoom link to be advised



. Birthdays in the Battery...March –

Date	Name	Regt No		SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	Ezio Bernard Lombardo	216284	1946	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	
2	Geoffrey Holden	2785828	1945	12 09 1967	17 09 1968	
2	James Harold Townley Brig.	17072	1939	14 06 1963	22 06 1963	103 Fd Bty
	" "			22 04 1966	19 08 1966	131
	" "			30 04 1970	28 05 1970	HQ AFV † 10.02.1970
2	Peter John Bennett	3794060	1948	26 08 1969	04 06 1970	† 22.11.2024
3	Eric Henry Marques Lbdr	3790008	1946	10 06 1967	21 05 1968	
3	Raymond John Smith	3787666	1945	20 05 1966	02 05 1967	† 15.01.2023
3	Grahame Alfred Lee	2787457	1947	23 04 1968	23 04 1969	
3	Roger Anthony Stanley	2788155	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	Arncliffe, NSW
3	Ralph Bruce Mitchell	2788073	1947	08 11 1968	27 08 1969	
4	Joseph James Clendinen	17648	1945	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
6	Garry Warren Luscombe Temp/Sgt	243144	1942	22.04.66	09 05 1967	RAEME
8	Russell Andrew Jackson Temp/Bdr	3793090	1945	24 02 1969	28 11 1969	† 04.02.2024
8	Barry Cooke Sgt.	54886	1946	16 09 1968	24 09 1969	† 13.03.1999 RAAOC
9	Lawerence John Gallop	5713642	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
8	Desmond McGuiggan Sgt.	214722	1944	20 01 1970	21 01 1971	† 24.02.2021
11	Robert Scott Tanner	6708362	1945	21 05 1966	28 04 1967	
11	Peter John McKie	2787728	1947	22 04 1968	23 04 1969	
12	James Joseph Fitzgerald	2782044	1945	04 05 1966	29 04 1967	
13	John (Jack) Veronon Heyes	3791085	1945	05 12 1967	03 12 1968	† 09.09.2021
13	Allan James Campbell Sgt.	18257	1946	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 19.06.2009
	" "			05 02 1968	31 03 1968	
13	William Ross Bullen Temp/Cpl	243083	1942	20 05 1966	18 11 1966	RAEME † 13.08.1983
14	Neville Charles Worthehock LBdr	54941	1947	29 04 1968	30 04 1969	
17	Geoffrey William Lock	2782439	1945	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	† 09.09.2010
18	Victor Alan Moreau	1200577	1939	22 04 1966	23 01 1967	† 09.02.2019
18	Roy Grayden Clausen	214873	1941	20 05 1966	11 12 1966	
20	Brian Douglas Campbell	2781310	1945	22 04 1966	30 04 1967	
20	Barry Griffin Follington	2783144	1945	12 12 1966	27 09 1967	
20	Iain Michael Kennedy	3791023	1945	27 11 1967	19 11 1968	
20	Ronald John Robards	216900	1948	18 02 1968	21 02 1969	Waratah, NSW
21	Garry Kenneth Smith	2792048	1947	15 04 1970	17 12 1970	† 19.01.2012
21	Michael Gordon King	216504	1948	04 05 1967	02 04 1968	Sydney, NSW
21	Warren John Jaenke	1735584	1946	20 02 1970	11 02 1971	

22	Gregory Kenneth Peck	2790401	1948	05 11 1969	04 06 1970	Inverell, NSW
23	Derek John Hinde	2787403	1947	01 07 1968	14 05 1969	
23	Martin Kryntjes	5715291	1947	26 08 1968	04 06 1969	† 27.12.2017
25	Garth Peter John Nichols	216381	1948	05 02 1968	11 02 1969	
	" "			05 11 1969	28 11 1969	1 Fd REGT
25	Robert Wallace Hargreaves	2790343	1948	05 11 1969	04 06 1970	Tumut, NSW
26	George Edward Lane	2781630	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	
27	Kenneth Eric Winn	219656	1951	30 05 1970	06 08 1970	Marrickville, NSW 131
	" "			07 08 1970	05 05 1971	4 Fd Regt.
29	Jeffrey Leonard Reid	3790495	1946	26 09 1967	17 09 1968	† 21.10.2022
30	Frank Halliday Sgt.	215105	1937	02 01 1967	13 12 1967	Ballarat, Vic
30	Edward George Chase	2782043	1945	04 05 1966	11 12 1966	† 12.07.2024
31	Leslie James Cahill	2412281	1947	20 05 1966	30 04 1967	† 30.07.1974
31	Graham Leslie Hislop Sgt.	15290	1935	22 04 1966	03 03 1967	Casino, NSW
31	Philip Allen Sheedy	4719418	1947	29 01 1968	21 01 1969	

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

Ed – 8 blokes not highlighted is looking decidedly better, but still not acceptable! Ok, let's get into it and actively get out there locating a few more!

. Locator Profiles – we've received **181. 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

Graeme Owen was informed by Peter's wife, Kay, that he had been in hospital for the past 4 weeks with a very aggressive cancer. And passed on 15th January, 2025...



Name: Larkin, Peter John

Service No: 3793067 Rank: Temporary Bombardier

SVN In: 09.11.1968 SVN Out: 19.11.1969

Section : Survey

DoB: 29.10.1946 DoD: 15.02.2025

Lest We Forget



Date: Thursday February 27th

Time: 11.00am

Location: Nielsen Funerals - Corner of 'Bona Vista' and 'Korumburra' Roads, Warragul VIC 3820 / Then to Trafalgar Cemetery.

The service will be live streamed and can be accessed via the Nielsen Funerals website

<https://www.nielsenfunerals.com.au/larkinpeter>

Graeme Owen - Peter and I were the only ones in our group who travelled to Vietnam together and returned home together, 12 months and 11 days later.

In fact we arranged for our wives (yes we were both married), to travel together from Melbourne and Trafalgar in

Gippsland, by bus, to meet us at the Sydney Airport on our arrival home.





Photos extracted from Graeme Owen's archives - Enjoying The Surroundings at the Badcoe Club. L to R - Kevin Browning, Peter Larkin, Terry Erbs (Others I Have A Mental Block!)

At right: Jeff Schafer, Russell Jackson (Late), Brett Rainsford, Peter Creedon, Peter Larkin, Michael Quinlan, Graeme Owen



Bill Taggart (1st/83rd US Artillery – “Please pass along the condolences of the 1/83rd to Peter's family. Lest We Forget. Bill”

Wade Cooper – “Lest We Forget.”

Michael Quinlan – “So, so sorry to hear the bad news on Peter. Fond regards, Michael.”

Wesley Hindmarsh – “Condolences to Kay and family. I'm sure he will be sorely missed.”

The following collage is made up from a vast collection of photos supplied by Graeme Owen...



May He Rest in Peace, and Never be Forgotten.



Vales and Locator Profiles...

This is just a request to all and general, that we need to complete, and perhaps, update Locator Profiles, because as of times past and as time moves forward we have lost and will continue to lose mates.

Let's keep a memory alive.



The Vale section in *Eyes & Ears*, can at times be very scant of personal and service details, yes, there is the DVA Nominal Roll which contains tour dates, but supplies nothing for those who did not serve overseas, and contains no personal details.

Is it possible that we can have Locator Profiles completed with photos, where possible, and/or updates to make this section more honouring to those mates who pass and may be unknown to others to help make the Unit and Detachment archived history have more heart?

Take 10 minutes, please, to complete a Locator Profile as it is important to all of us.

For a blank Locator Profile contact Paul Dickson at 131eyesandears@gmail.com



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.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com](http://www.1stbn83rdartyvietnam.com)



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

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