

THE EYES and EARS

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

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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**

2026

**60th Year 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



Out of Nui Dat '67



Radar Horseshoe '70



31 Delta '67



Out with Surveyors '67



2026
Sydney started it -
let's keep that spirit
alive...



Australia Day 238 years ago...

At left: Captain Arthur Phillip raising the British flag at Sydney Cove, 26 January 1788.
Oil sketch by Algernon Talmage, 1937.

<<<<<<<>>>>>>>

Australia Day - 26th January

Is the official national day of Australia. Observed annually on 26 January, it marks the 1788 landing of the First Fleet and raising of the Union Flag of Great Britain by Arthur Phillip at Sydney Cove, a small bay on the southern shore of Sydney Harbour.



<<<<<<<<>>>>>>>

11th January 1973 - It was officially declared ended - 52 years ago...

By late 1970 Australia had also begun to wind down its military effort in Vietnam. The 8th Battalion departed in November (and was not replaced), but, to make up for the decrease in troop numbers, the Team's strength was increased and its efforts became concentrated in Phuoc Tuy province. The withdrawal of troops and all air units continued throughout 1971 – the last battalion left Nui Dat on 7 November, while a handful of advisers belonging to the Team remained in Vietnam the following year. In December 1972 they became the last Australian troops to come home, with their unit having seen continuous service in South Vietnam for ten and a half years. 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The only combat troops remaining in Vietnam were a platoon guarding the Australian embassy in Saigon (this was withdrawn in June 1973).

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Give me a Name?

The “Lost Locator Project”

This Project continues being re-ignited for 2026.

Our current list contains the names of **66** Locators (as at 31.01.2026) 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 December's Birthday List, below, where there are 6 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	Edward Stacey Henson	2788331	1947	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	United Kingdom
5	Richard Albert Flavell	3791902	1945	23 09 1968	04 06 1969	Melbourne
16	Luigi Lanera T/Cpl	3795443	1947	25 11 1969	12 11 1970	Melbourne, RAEME
16	Terrence Thomas Hunt	3792120	1947	19 02 1968	21 02 1969	Melbourne
17	Adrian Dennis Spencer	3794631	1948	28 10 1969	13 08 1970	Melbourne
26	Ian Bruce McKenzie T/Sgt	3788926	1945	26 02 1968	24 02 1969	E Melbourne RAAOC
27	Donald Stuart Perry WO2	38675	1936	15 04 1970	19 11 1970	Dimboola, Vic
28	Reinhold Norbert Kroll	218285	1948	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	Munster, Germany

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 31.01.2026 –

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 **Norman John Lindroos** to the list below as he recently passed. (See Vale below)

10 Year Detachment/131 Battery Death Periods

1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	Total
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	3	1	19
2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
1	4	4	4	2	9	4	6	5	3	42
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
9	5	5	5	6	8	11	14	10	10	83

Unknowns*

1

Total

169

Please note that these figures represent data provided by Members, from what was, and is stated to be reliable sources (official notices/family/mates etc). Data as at **31.17.2025**.

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

This following sections have now been updated as of 31.10.2025 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 – still one more to find!

...an investigation needing attention –



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

On 15th January I received the following email from Ron Ward -

Subject: **Medals found in Tassie**

Hi mate, saw a Facebook page about some medals found in a salvation army shop.

His name is Bernard Lombardo and a Tassie veterans group are trying to find him or family to return them. Saw him on our Vietnam nominal roll and he was Artillery, 131 locating battery. (Think I did a words twice call to you one night on the Horseshoe)

You mentioned him on your newsletter, if you can contact him and let him know thanks,

Rod Ward

Ex tankie SVN 1971

...then I circulated the following email on 15th January...

I have just received an email from Rod Ward an Ex tankie SVN 1971 who lives in Tasmania.

A collection of Ezio's Medals were found in a Salvos store and then handed into the Veterans & Families' Centre in Burnie Tasmania.

Please see the attachments which contain a photo of his medals, a screenshot of his Facebook page and contact details of the Centre at which these medals are held.

The following is an extract from -

"Eyes & Ears Vol 16 No 03 March 2023 No 176

Diane and Keith Dean ("The Deans") - 'Hi Paul

Just wanted to share something with you.

In 1968 Keith lost track of one of his mates from 131, namely **Ezio "Benny" Lombardo**. They were in Vietnam together and after they returned home were both posted to 1RTB in Wagga. He has searched everywhere but could not locate him.

About 3 weeks ago Keith was scrolling through the 1RTB Facebook page and saw a comment from Ezio Bernardo. So, he messaged him. Lo and behold, it was his mate from 131.

They rang each other and chatted about old times.

We asked him why he was not on the 131 page. He did not know it existed. We got his permission to share his phone number with some of the other guys from the Battery.

He now lives in Perth, although his Facebook profile says he lives in Tasmania.

We hope he has now joined the Locators."

ANOTHER LOCATOR LOCATED!!!!

Maybe this information may help this mystery get solved. Ezio is not listed as a Lost Locator, however, I do not have any contact details for him.

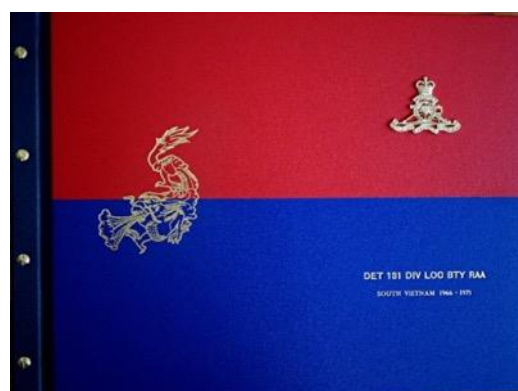
Please keep me in the loop as to any success with this.

Paul

...at this stage there has been no responses - can we give it some more thought, please?

<<<<<<< >>>>>>>

. 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.



Kevin Browning - a request involving the photo at right with Dave Dougherty operating a theodolite. He wants to know if people can identify what theo it is. It isn't our standard Wild T2?

John Browne - comes up with an answer to Kevin's question -

"Hi Paul,

Just finished reading the *Eyes and Ears* I received here today at my new home in Thailand.

I refer you to the question asked by **Kevin Browning** re: "Identification of the theodolite Dave Dougherty is operating in Vietnam. He wants to know if people can identify what it is. It isn't our standard Wild T2?"

My best guess name of the instrument is.....

"Watts Microptic No.1 or No.2 Theodolite"

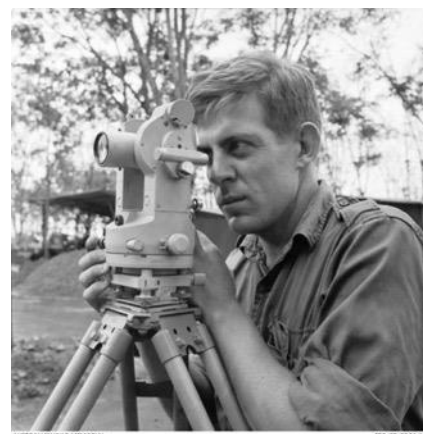
(Transit Altazimuth Theodolite)

They were manufactured by the British Company "Hilger and Watts."

Uses: A Transit Altazimuth Theodolite is a precise surveying instrument that measures both horizontal (azimuth) and vertical (altitude) angles, featuring a telescope that can rotate a full 360 degrees (transit) on its horizontal axis, allowing for the elimination of errors by averaging measurements in different orientations, a design that forms the basis of most modern digital and traditional theodolites.

They are a very specific British military pattern altazimuth theodolite, used by Commonwealth forces (including Australia) from the 1930's through the Vietnam era for artillery, survey, and observation tasks.

I also considered and researched a Hilger and Watts variant called a Non-Transit Altazimuth Theodolite Half Vertical Circle, based on my observation of the Kevins posted photograph, which indicates to me that the Vertical Circle on the instrument may be what is referred to as "Half Circle" that has a vernier table only from 0 degrees to 90 degrees, so that the vertical rotation of the telescope is restricted to a limited arc.



But this type of theodolite was superseded in the 19th century by the more useful Transit type.
But based on what the army paid us poor bastards, I'll bet they bought the cheapest instrument too.
But I'll let the readers use their eyes and make their own call on that.
Regards,
Brownny."

. Odyssey Time.



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

"We called places like this HOME" - Well, I did for about 220 odd days (yes, I mean "odd")...



Good old Locators Lounge , Arty Tac
with a bedroom close by!



Have you got any photos you want to share of "HOME"?

Paul Dickson - another Facebook extract...from December's *Eyres & Ears*...

The extract at right was posted by **Ron Ryan** showing Christmas in 1970 with the Survey section - it's a great memory.

Ron mentions a few names, but can anyone help with the other members?

Here's a good guess from Brian Smythe -

"Paul, One person in centre sitting is **John Las**, others may be L - R **Kev Browning**, **Mick Quinlan** big maybe squatting **Pete Creedon**

I have enjoyed your newsletters for some time - was missing for a while!!!
thanks for your efforts
Brian Smythe ex 131 survey."

131 Battery Royal Austr... ... X
Ron Ryan · 4h · 🌐
Christmas morning 1970 131 Survey Section Can not remember all the names. From the left "Tes Tickle", Arty Int Sargent, **David Doyle** don't remember, Norm Macmanus our BSM, Roger and last yours truly. I don't know how many of us are still here but Merry Christmas to all that are



👍👍 Robert Billiards + 14 3 comments

Terry Erbs - "Gentlemen...As a reminder of our past, I've attached a photo (see below) of several young locators in the Survey lines Christmas 1968... can you name them?
PS - Does anyone recall that after New Years Day celebrations, much liquor was confiscated from our lines!!!!
Merry Christmas
Terry & Lesley Erbs"



..."G'day Paul

It's not a very clear pic, but I believe closest to the camera is **Kevin Browning, Johnny Las** in the middle, and then **Mick Quinlan**. Not sure of the 4th guy squatting down!

With regard to Terry's other query about the liquor confiscation, Terry should already know the answer - i.e. "No Names No Pack drill"

Cheers, Graeme Owen"

"Hi Paul, Not sure if my previous message, and link, worked.

This is the copy with the code attached which is more likely to work -



VIETNAM IN 10 MINUTES (FINAL).avi

Graeme." **PS - don't worry about the "Unknown Error..." message the video will play. Paul**

<<<<<<<<>>>>>>>

Paul Dickson - "Discoveries"...

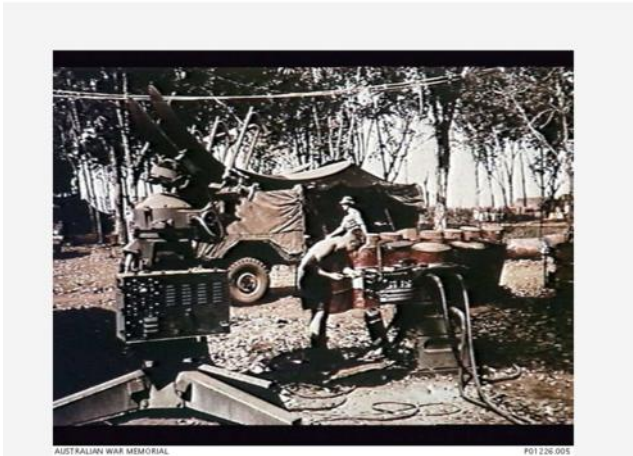
Whilst having a look for some Australian War Memorial connections with 131, I discovered the Plaque which was to be expected...

The Plaque was dedicated on 4th May 2012 at a ceremony held at the AWM. It was commissioned by the 131 Locators Association as part of the AWM's Plaque Dedication Programme.



Then I came across the "Repairing" photo and info I'd never seen before...

131 DIVISIONAL LOCATING BATTERY WORKSHOP, REPAIRING AN ANKPQI RADAR UNIT. THE ANKPQI RADAR WAS ...



Place	Asia: Vietnam ,Phuoc Tuy Province ,Nui Dat
Accession Number	P01226.005
Collection type	Photograph
Object type	Colour
Physical description	Colour
Maker	Unknown
Place made	Vietnam: Phuoc Tuy Province, Nui Dat
Date made	c 1967
Conflict	Vietnam, 1962-1975
Copyright	Item copyright: Copyright unknown

Description
 131 DIVISIONAL LOCATING BATTERY WORKSHOP, REPAIRING AN ANKPQI RADAR UNIT. THE ANKPQI RADAR WAS USED, WITH LIMITED SUCCESS, TO LOCATE ENEMY MORTARS BY TRACKING INCOMING MORTAR ROUNDS.

Can anyone enlighten us on this photo etc?

...wait there's more and it gets confusing -

Then with a bit more "sniffing" I wandered off into the Virtual War Memorial and found the following information which seems to be fairly light-on and I'm not sure how the details were supplied...it lists "People at 131 Divisional Locating Battery", but only 19 of us?

VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL AUSTRALIA		
Home	Explore	Community
Education	Collections	help
Donate	About	
People at 131 Divisional Locating Battery		
Showing 19 of 19 results		
ARMSTRONG, Nicholas Andrew Holt Bombardier, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	ARNOLD, Rex Terrance Lance Bombardier	BILLIARDS, Robert Allen Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)
BOHL, Michael Owen Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	BROWNE, John Lister Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	CHECKLEY, Thomas William Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)
CROWTHER, William David Bombardier, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	DICKSON, Paul Granville Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	ERBS, Terence Harry Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)
HOPPER, Peter Selwyn Sergeant, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	JOSCELYNE, Peter William Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	KENNEDY, Brian William Captain, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)
MENZ, James Leslie Lance Bombardier	NAIRN, Mervyn Douglas Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	OWEN, Graeme Arthur Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)
RYAN, Ronald Victor Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	SADLER, Peter Scott Lieutenant, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)	SCHAFER, Jeffrey Thomas Private
SKELTON, Robert Gibson Gunner, 131 Divisional Locating Battery, Australian Army (Post WW2)		

SKELTON, Robert Gibson

Personal Details	Service History	Personal Stories
Service Numbers: 216890, 2788886 Enlisted: 22 February 1969 Last Rank: Gunner Last Unit: 131 Divisional Locating Battery Born: Cowra, NSW, 21 April 1939 Schooling: Sydney Technical High School Memorials: Sydney Technical High School Vietnam War Honour Board		
Help us honour Robert Gibson Skelton's service by contributing information, stories, and images so that they can be preserved for future generations.		

Then, then, wait for it I didn't recognise **Robert John Skelton (bottom left-hand corner)** as a member. So, it was off to more pages to see our connection...this states that Robert's last unit was us.

I really can't fathom any of this out?

SKELTON, Robert Gibson

Personal Details

Service History

Personal Stories

Vietnam War Service

29 Mar 1967: **Involvement** Australian Army (Post WW2), Captain, 216890

22 Feb 1969: **Enlisted** Australian Army (Post WW2), Gunner, 2788886,
131 Divisional Locating Battery

SKELTON, Robert Gibson		
Personal Details	Service History	Personal Stories
Service Numbers: 216890, 2788886 Enlisted: 22 February 1969 Last Rank: Gunner Last Unit: 131 Divisional Locating Battery Born: Cowra, NSW, 21 April 1939 Schooling: Sydney Technical High School Memorials: Sydney Technical High School Vietnam War Honour Board		

The next step I took was going to the DVA Nominal Roll and found his origins in SVN.

Maybe someone can help me, well maybe a few more, as to Robert's joining the army, 29 March 1967, reaching Captains rank, serving in SVN, then obviously leaving the army and then rejoining as a Gunner in 131 in 22 February 1969?

Does anyone know or remember him or was he assigned to the Detachment to record his SVN tour?

Veteran Details

Name	SKELTON, Robert Gibson
Service	Australian Army
Service Number	216890
Date of Birth	21 Apr 1939
Place of Birth	COWRA NSW AUSTRALIA
Rank	(Temporary) Captain
National Service	No
Corps	Royal Australian Army Educational Corps (Public Relations)
Honours	None for display

Unit History

Unit Name	Start Date	End Date
Headquarters, Australian Force Vietnam (Army Component)	29 Mar 1967	21 Mar 1968

<<<<<<<<>>>>>>>>>>



. Here's a continuing story in the series with regards to Locators' "passions" ...

Bob Billiards has been easily persuaded to share his "love affair and passion" for a little German motor car...

"Our Goggomobil Obsession"



Goggomobil Adventures and Events. Journeys in the Dart and Celebrating Australian Models Memorable Adventures Across Australia

Over the years, we have embarked on a series of memorable journeys in our Dart, as well as with our complete collection of the four Goggomobil models produced in Australia. These trips have provided countless opportunities to display these distinctive vehicles and foster connections with fellow enthusiasts. Among our most significant undertakings, two major travel events stand out.

Perth to Sydney – 60th Anniversary Drive

In 2018, we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Bill Buckle Goggomobils by driving from Perth to Sydney, a substantial journey spanning 6,200 kilometres. During this event, our Dart accompanied Bill Buckle's Coupe, which was driven by our German friends, Bernhard and Sabine Bergman. This milestone drive marked an important chapter in our history with these Australian classics.



G-O-G-G-O not the dart,
the coupe and the Dart

The Finish



Darwin to Nuriootpa – A Cross-Continental Journey

Last year, we undertook another major adventure, travelling from Darwin to Nuriootpa in South Australia, and then onward to Sydney. Our Dart made the journey alongside the Bergmans, who drove our Sedan. In total, this trip covered 5,100 kilometres, further cementing our commitment to celebrating and sharing the legacy of Goggomobil vehicles.



The Group without David's
Caryall

Leaving Alice with all
four cars



Future Plans for Exploration

Looking ahead, we are planning to circumnavigate Tasmania next year. Beyond that, we are considering an ambitious 20,000-kilometre drive around Australia, sticking exclusively to sealed roads. Each new journey reflects our passion for these unique Australian models and our enthusiasm for exploring the country behind the wheel of a Goggomobil.

Winter Sun and Cooley Rocks On Gatherings

For many years, we've taken our Goggomobils to the Winter Sun/Cooley Rocks On festival at Coolangatta. Cooley Rocks On has become the premier event for '50s cars and fans of that era, drawing plenty of Elvis impersonators and providing a fantastic concert venue. The festival features a diverse array of vehicles from the period, alongside more recent models, making it a perfect setting for the Goggos. We're always given a prime display spot along the beach at Cooley, where our cars fit right in and attract plenty of attention.

Establishing a Central Goggo Event

A few years ago, several of us decided to organise a Goggo event at a more central location for enthusiasts from the southern states and Queensland, as most attendees hailed from those regions. The inaugural event was held in Forbes, in partnership with the Forbes Car, Truck and Tractor Vintage Show, which was mainly sponsored by McFeeters Motor

Museum. The second muster took place in Nuriootpa, South Australia, marking the end of the Bill Buckle Memorial Drive from Darwin, which included two Darts, a sedan, and a carryall. This year's gathering was in Avenel, Victoria, and ran alongside the Euroa Car Show.

Travelling to the Event with Our Goggos

We made plans to bring all four of our Goggomobils to the event, provided we could recruit enough drivers. Two vehicles were loaded onto trailers, while the remaining two were driven. The trip was set for Holbrook, but we found a quiet and affordable pub just a bit further on in Woomargama, a small town bypassed by the old Hume Highway. The journey from our house to Woomargama covered 501 kilometres. We departed at around 6:30 AM with the Carryall and Sedan on trailers, the Dart driven by Adam (our eldest son), and myself driving the Coupe. Marty handled the Carryall towing, Cathy was in charge of the Sedan, and Marty's youngest son joined us as a fellow car enthusiast.

Heading off on Thursday



Our journey south began smoothly, with the first day passing without incident. We set off early and made a series of pleasant stops along the way. Our first break was for morning tea in Goulburn, allowing us to stretch our legs and enjoy a cuppa. Continuing on, we reached Gundagai in time for lunch, taking the opportunity to relax and refuel before getting back on the road. In the late afternoon, we stopped in Holbrook for a quick afternoon tea, making the most of the daylight and keeping spirits high. By evening, we arrived at the Woomargama Hotel, where we settled in for the night after a satisfying and uneventful day of travel.



Dog on
Tuckerbox,
Gundagai

Lunch on the
park bench



Friday's Route: Woomargama to Glenrowan via Beechworth

The following morning, our group prepared for a shorter stretch of travel, planning to cover a distance of 280 kilometres. Acting on Adam's suggestion, we opted to follow the route through Beechworth, making a conscious effort to stick to the old Hume Highway as much as possible. This decision proved worthwhile, as it allowed us to avoid the busy traffic and heavy trucks typical of the main highway. Instead, we enjoyed a much smoother and quieter journey along the well-maintained old road, which enhanced the overall experience and made the drive far more pleasant.

Our first stop for the day was in Albury, where we took the opportunity to have breakfast and recharge for the hours ahead. Continuing on, we reached Beechworth, only to be met by a fierce and chilly wind that felt as if it had blown in directly from Antarctica. Despite the cold, we quickly checked our fuel levels before setting off once again. Our next destination was Glenrowan, where we paused for lunch and took some time to explore the town's rich history before resuming our travels.



Beechworth
was freezing



Holbrook

Arrival at Rusty Springs and Saturday Activities

Our next destination was Rusty Springs in Avenel, the site of the main event. Upon arrival, we reunited with our fellow Goggonutter enthusiasts and shared a relaxed afternoon together, highlighted by a classic Aussie Barbeque. The gathering provided an ideal opportunity to catch up, swap stories, and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with a shared passion for Goggomobils.

Saturday Drive to MOVE

On Saturday, we set off for MOVE, taking a scenic route through lush, green countryside along minor roads and winding lanes. The trip offered picturesque views and a relaxed driving experience away from the hustle and bustle of the main highways. During this leg of the journey, we encountered our first mechanical hiccup: John's Sedan, a treasured vehicle he has owned for nearly half a century, suffered a tyre failure. The 10-inch scooter tyres on both rear wheels had their tread peel away, but thanks to the preparedness of our group, we were able to fit a spare—an original 1968 Dunlop. After the quick fix, the dark green sedan ran smoothly for the rest of the day, allowing us to continue enjoying the drive and the company.



The gaggle of
Goggos at Rusty
Springs, Avenel

How many people
does it take to
change a Goggo
wheel?



The MOVE
carpark and the
big Furphy

The Junkyard
Artist





Sunday Car Show at Euroa

Goggomobil Display and Community Engagement

Sunday marked the highlight of the weekend with the big car show held in the streets of Euroa. Our group proudly showcased ten Goggomobils in the designated Special area, attracting considerable interest from passers-by. The event sparked a multitude of conversations, including friendly exchanges with members of the local constabulary. Despite the number of visitors and the impressive turnout at our display, all prizes were awarded to other vehicles. The Holden HSV group ultimately took out the prize, although their display appeared to draw little attention, with few people lingering around their cars. Notably, there was no people's choice award presented at the event. 😞



John arrested at the car show for bald tyres!



The lineup



Monday Departure and Journey Home

Farewells and Plans for the Next Muster

Monday saw everyone packing up and heading home, with goodbyes exchanged until the next muster in Bundaberg, QLD. The upcoming event is scheduled for late May, just before the Cooley Rocks On festival during the first weekend in June, allowing for back-to-back car show weekends. Before departing, we swapped out the Coupe, and Cathy took the Sedan home, accompanied by Lachie, who had made the trip from Oran Park BP.

The Return Trip

The trip back home followed the same route in reverse, with one exception—a brief detour to Seymour to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Our first overnight stop was at the Woomargama Hotel. The following day, we continued home, stopping for lunch and refuelling the Goggo at the Ettamogah Pub. Refuel and another enjoyable afternoon tea in Jugiong before making the final leg home. The only hiccup along the way was the Dart's stainless-steel muffler, which developed a crack after thirty-five years of service.



A Long-Awaited Dream Realised

Reflecting on my passion for cars, I remember one ignited my imagination above all others. Back in purchased my brand-new **Renault R10**, I spotted sitting in the showroom. Although I was instantly was far beyond my reach at the time. It remained a In 1993, I finally managed to make that dream a car for \$3,000. Fifteen years ago, I did a complete \$23,000. It was a significant investment, but one worthwhile. Every component underwent a thorough entire structure was dismantled to its bare metal and Reflecting on it, the time and money invested were take great pride in what was achieved.



vehicle that genuinely
October 1966, when I
this particular car
taken by it, the price
dream for many years.
reality, acquiring the
restoration which cost
that I felt was truly
restoration, as the
then completely rebuilt.
truly worthwhile, and I

Bob - a great "Passion" adventure! We need more!

<<<<<<<>>>>>>>

Geoff Blackwell - I contacted Geoff after seeing his camping photo on Facebook and gave me some more relevant info -

"Hi Dicko,

Yes, use it by all means. I went camping for 6 days at Kingston SE, South Australia on shores of Lacepede Bay (about 240 kilometres southeast of Adelaide and 138 kilometres north-west of the centre of the city of Mount Gambier) to beat the heat wave we had here. Temperatures in the 40's in Adelaide but low 30's in the south east. Over 80 and still stuffing around in a tent, who would believe, although I do get comfortable with my set up. Hope this finds you healthy and hearty
Regards Geoff."

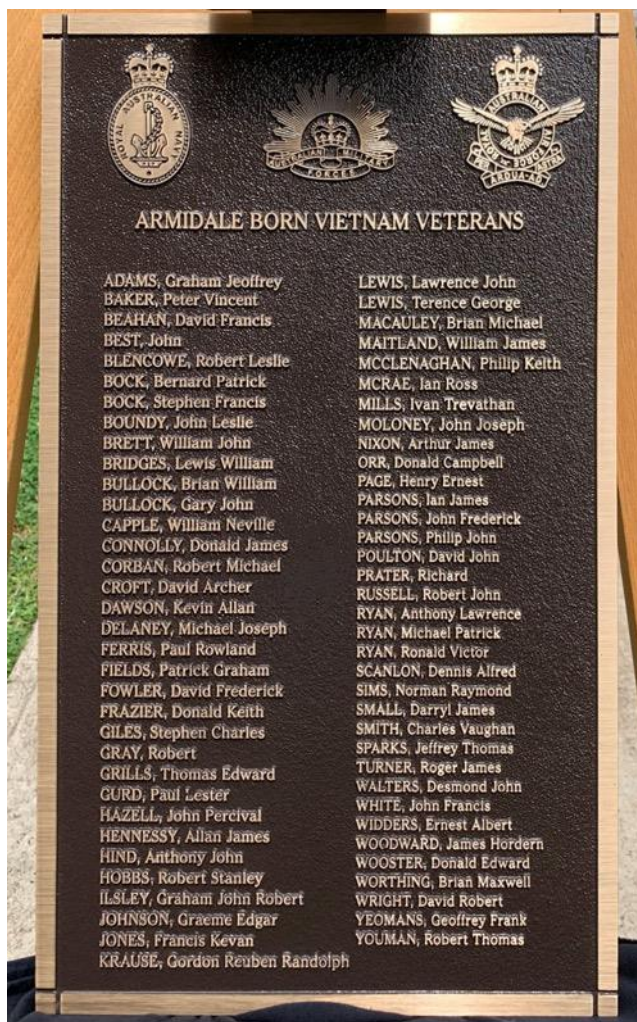


Mail Call...

Kevin Browning - "Paul,

Quite by chance I came across this plaque commemorating Vietnam Veterans born in Armidale. Photo taken by Graham Wilson in 2021. I believe it now resides inside the Armidale War Memorial Library. Three 131 members are named, **Michael Delaney, Ivan Mills and Ronald Ryan.**

Regards,
Kevin."



Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA (Inc), RAA Historical Society of WA (Inc)
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December 2025



The Master Gunner St James's Park, Lieutenant General M R Elviss CB MBE, extends his greetings and best wishes to all ranks, serving and retired, of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and of the Commonwealth Royal Regiments of Artillery, on St Barbara's Day 4th December 2025.

Barry Guzder - "Dicko,

Might be of interest to the eastern states boys as to what is happening in the west !

Barry G. 5714500."



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...

John Richmond - "Hi Paul

Nice to hear u had a different Christmas,.

We had a regular lunch no different to other years. the two of us with one of the kids home. The younger one took off to Melbourne for the week.

Like u we seem to have had a quiet New Year's Eve other than some idiots with crackers down the local park down from us.

Must admit that is different if my father had been alive. Being a Scot by birth New Years Eve was the big night of the year. I notice you mention low minimums below 10 C I wish our winter only got that low . Only in the last week or so we have had temps well below 10 and as high as 25C in the morning

Have just sold a unit I own in Mawson. The amount work that goes into to such project. Any how the big pay day is on in a week or so

All the best for 26

Ist' 60 years on 20 April since they caught up with us,

Regards

JR."

Vic Danko - Hi,

And thank you for the birthday wish.

If I use the metaphor that birth dates are rather like turning the pages of a large book. For me turning 80 has often felt like turning the back cover and taking another book off the shelf .

I've invested in a Hi-tech AI company and am a director.

Don't know where I want to travel too. Except Vietnam.

Health wise etc I'm fine. Had Hernia surgery. Now OK .

Keep up the good work.

All the best to you guys!"

John Vitkovski - "Hi Paul, great to hear from you as always. Happy new year to you and Helen. Not much to report from sunny Victor Harbor. Quiet Christmas lunch and celebration here with just the family, for a change.

With the warm weather, everything is changing from green to brown - has been a good season with our water tanks still full. BOM is predicting 41 degrees here on Wednesday... Last year held the record for lack of rain in the Fleurieu Peninsula since records were kept. Still catching up with mates in South Coast Veterans, a bit of fishing, weekly pistol shooting, trying to keep 2.5 acres of garden under control, and

following car and motorbike events. And planning our next caravan trip away up

north. Pics attached of one of our local Vietnam vets Indian motorbike (he is still riding!) and my restored 1951 Vincent (which I don't ride, as I value what is left of my life).

All the best from John & Naomi."



Graham Williams - "Hey Paul,

Not much of the way in news from here. No doubt you have kept up to date with current events in Oz and seen the year has not started well. Torrential rain then floods in far north Queensland followed by a cyclone and no doubt further flooding. Severe bushfires throughout Victoria, 40 plus degree temperatures in Sydney, worse in Adelaide, welcome to 2026.

On the strength of all that I can't complain about our weather here in Tweed. We have had a run of hot weather here and while certainly not extreme has been somewhat uncomfortable. Having no air con at home have taken up the old person syndrome so spending a lot of time at the mall, one of the clubs or the gym availing myself of their air con systems. That said the cast of 1,000's posing as tourists are certainly making the most of the good weather here and on the Gold Coast.

I have not been up to much since my heart attack. Went through the cardiac rehabilitation program as an outpatient at John Flynn Hospital and then got the daily double following that up with the Respiratory reconditioning program due to asthma and emphysema. It is what it is so simply put the coping systems to work as required.

We both enjoyed the recent trip to France. Found many places like Eze and around the Cote D'Azur enchanting also spending time in Nice, Cannes, Monte Carlo, St Tropez. From there went onto Arles touring there before joining our Emerald Cruise for the 7-day trip to Lyon and from there, train to Paris for 7 days. Highlights there were dinner on the first floor of the Eiffel Tower and the dinner and show at the Moulin Rouge. Unbelievable!.....Obviously with breathing problems I struggled with much of the touring side of things, especially the places with hills, steps, cobblestones and the like so we decided to take a break in 2026 from world touring to take stock of the health situation and see what the future may bring. On that note our only sally forth for 2026 will be to the Maldives in April for 9 days. No touring, just one big relax is the plan so looking forward to it.

A Christmasy Chinese you say? Have never tried the Chinese meal for Xmas lunch Paul so glad you were able to enjoy it. We had the usual quiet Christmas and New Year here. I am not a crowd person really so we tend to go out as little as possible in the busier times of year like Xmas or Easter. Simply sat out the front with 2 kg of prawns and a bottle of wine enjoying the peace and quiet of the valley.

That's about all from here so hoping this finds you both well and making the most of life.....stay safe.

Graham."

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

SALUTE

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

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

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>

58 Years



April 1966 – April 2024



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

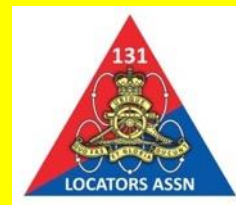
Why not give it a go, if you haven't already, just click onto the Association's
Facebook via the link below, then let us know what you think...

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE...

“The fork in the road” (appropriate for Surveyors)



As mentioned in the November and December 2025 Minutes, the 131 Locators Association Incorporated is looking at its horizon located over the hill.

The view of the committee is that we need to make some changes to our operations to maintain contact with our Locator brothers and families as we face our advancing years. We feel we can continue for another 3 years with these changes.

The proposals are:

. The **Monthly Meeting including zoom will change to bi-monthly** beginning with 10th Feb 2026. This works as the major events of our year ANZAC DAY in April: VIETNAM VETS DAY in Aug and October prior to REMEMBRANCE DAY in November and December to close out the year. The AGM may become a stand-alone event and a good excuse to get together once again.

. The **Eyes and Ears Newsletter** will change from its present form to a bi-monthly edition but will still be available on the website and as a link posted on Facebook (and for some a printed version posted). As this has been one of the **MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS** of our success in lasting so long, we are looking to find a **generous person** to act as coordinator/compiler for the 2 monthly “bulletin. What form this takes is negotiable and the committee will assess all suggestions from anyone interested. **DON'T hesitate**, be first in line, as we will be swamped with volunteers for this position with huge prestige and fantastic salary and travel opportunities!

Referrals and Entries can be sent to the committee via "sectreas131locators@gmail.com"

As a consequence of our decision **memberships will be restricted to 1-year terms with a maximum of 3 years**. We only have a small number of projects that required modest financial commitment. We do have to continue to fund the 5-year hosting and monthly costs for the website.

Included in this will be the proposed return of the original “Locators-Survey” website produced by the “131 SURVEY SECTION” members John “Kanga” McFadden, Bruce Irvine, Peter, Hopper and a number of others including Geoffrey Jebb AO.

We ask for your thoughts and suggestions regarding the changes. We also urge you to contact the Sec/Treas on the link above with your expression of interest if you ever wanted to edit a newsletter and influence people. It is very rewarding and you will be supported by your active hands on but aging committee.

Grahame Dignam
Secretary / Treasurer
131 Locators Assn Inc
ABN 92 663 816 973



Supported by
the Department
of Veterans Affairs.

February 14th, 2026 - 75th Anniversary - National Service Day

Ernie Newbold - sent an email and an extract of the contents follows -

"February 14th is commemorated as National Servicemen's Day and this year is the 75th anniversary. National Service for young men commenced in 1951.

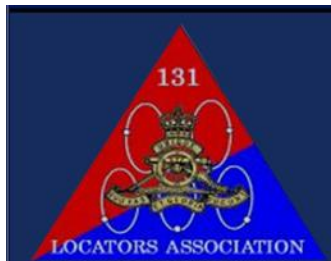
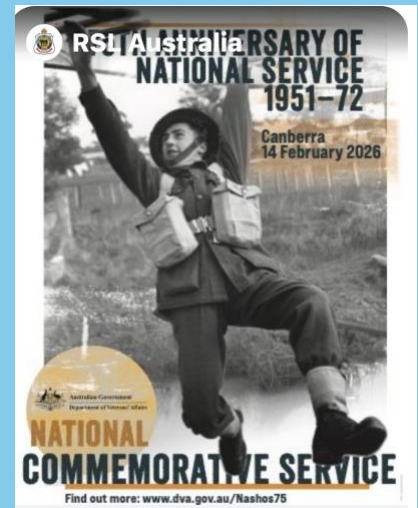
Some of our group are attending a commemoration service at **Government House in Canberra on the day.**

Those I know of are **Merv Nairn, Ged Carroll and George Lane.**"

If you have any interest in attending, then copy and paste the following link -

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://newshub.medianet.com.au/2026/01/media-alert-national-commemorative-service-75th-anniversary-of-national-service-1951-1972/137392/&ved=2ahUKEwiaq6ekpa-SAxXKI0QIHQq4AEYQFnoECCcQAQ&usq=AOvVaw0vpi-WwHEXfV8LxO2NjLK>

PS - It'd be great to get some photos of your attendance.



Committee members:

President: *Allen Morley*

Vice President: *Bert Blink*

Treasurer/Secretary: *Grahame Dignam*

Public Officer: *Gordon Malcolm*

Webmaster: *Bob Billiards*

Research Officer: *Ernie Newbold*

Designs and Development Officer: *Nick Proskurin*

Eyes and Ears Editor: *Paul Dickson*

General Members: *Ian Amos, Ged Carroll, George Lane, Merv Nairn*

Regional Representatives: *ACT - Bert Blink, Qld - Terry Erbs, SA - Geoff Blackwell, Vic - Alan Adams, WA - Bary Guzder, Shepparton Area (NSW) - Peter Dealy*

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



Presidential perambulations

It must be Australia Day. A F-35 Lightning II just flew over in a cloudy sky in Sydney. Followed soon after by two more pairs of jet aircraft.

I'm sure that Sydney Harbour is awash with small boats of all descriptions. The waft from beach BBQs fills the air. People wrapped in Australian flags and wearing clothes carrying the flag motif are everywhere.

In the background televisions are set to the Australian Tennis Open which frequently shows Australia Day symbols.

Usually, the two events are at separate times, but because of Melbourne's weather extremes in summer, the tennis was delayed by a week. However, the day before yesterday was 42C for the tennis.

Polls suggest that Australia's younger people still want Australia Day to be celebrated on January 26 th. Most older Australians agree with that. There will no doubt be protests in some areas of the country, although the significant majority will be celebrating this important National Day.

Today is a big day for citizenship ceremonies. People both young and old will be holding their citizenship certificates and verbalising their commitment to Australia. Citizenship ceremonies began in 1949 and now take place nationwide. They represent a key focus for many on Australia Day.

Regards

Allen

59 Years
April 1966 – April 2024



find us on

Facebook

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

. Upcoming Events Calendar –
131 Locators Association Committee Meeting
Next General meeting will be on:
10 th February 2026 at 11.00 AM
Venue and format to be advised.



Sec/Treas 0437 361 602

. Birthdays in the Battery...February –

Date	Name	Regt No	SVN In	SVN Out	Comments
1	James Leslie Menz L/Bdr	38838	10 10 1967	18 02 1968	† 18.02.1968 KIA
2	Roger Graham McDonnell	2784019	04 05 1967	20 02 1968	
3	Robert Martin Gibson	2787361	29 01 1968	07 02 1969	† 02.03.2021
3	Edward Stacey Henson	2788331	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	United Kingdom
4	Olaf Asmanis	3796272	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	
5	Ian Michael Yerbury Capt.	43129	{05 05 1967	05 03 1968	131 † 01.01.1989
	" "		{05 02 1971	18 11 1971	12 Fd REGT
5	Richard Albert Flavell	3791902	23 09 1968	04 06 1969	Melbourne
5	George Donald Clark T/Bdr	2412252	{20 01 1969	21 01 1970	
	" "		{09 01 1967	27 09 1967	1 ARU/131
5	Stephen Keith Hall T/Bdr	4720327	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
6	Wayne Whitehead	3791969	N/A		
6	Michael William "Mick" Habben	3788307	05 05 1967	20 12 1967	† 26.12.2022
7	Lindsay Colin Black Sgt.	213794	30 04 1970	04 08 1970	131 † 02.06.2008
	" "		05 08 1970	12 03 1971	4 Fd REGT
8	Robert Vincent Ramsay	2788108	17 09 1968	27 08 1969	
8	Ian Richard Campbell	3798378	10 02 1971	07 06 1971	131
	" "		07 06 1971	30 10 1971	12 Fd REGT
9	William John Holmes	61040	11 06 1969	19 12 1969	RAEME † 08.06.1900
9	Geoffrey Paul Wood	2783898	04 05 1967	13 12 1967	† 26.04.2007
9	Christopher William Armshaw	2781291	04 05 1966	27 10 1966	† 10.02.1970
9	Gary William Worrall L/Bdr	43796	20 05 1966	29 04 1967	
9	Neville Stanley Hastings	1730813	20 05 1966	03 03 1967	† 10.04.2023
10	Eric Clive Williams	1735449	13 02 1970	04 02 1971	
10	Grahame Arthur Smith T/Bdr	2792939	30 05 1970	26 05 1971	
11	Dennis John Malloy T/Bdr	3795057	22 07 1969	16 07 1970	
11	Desmond John Bailey Sgt	18687	13 05 1967	14 05 1968	RAEME - Radar
12	Ross Gunnell	5714499	05 05 1967	27 09 1967	
12	Leigh Kingsley Baker L/Bdr	3789657	10 06 1967	23 04 1968	† 26.05.2022
12	Anthony George Sheldrake	5716358	04 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	Ernest George Newbold	2783771	04 05 1967	30 01 1968	
14	Kevin Lewis Heenan	3794777	27 11 1969	13 08 1970	
14	Marcus Lee Robinson	2791229	20 01 1970	13 08 1970	† Unknow
16	Damian Percival McManus	3787689	20 05 1966	01 05 1967	† 05.06.2025
16	Luigi Lanera T/Cpl	3795443	25 11 1969	12 11 1970	Melbourne, RAEME
16	Terrence Thomas Hunt	3792120	19 02 1968	21 02 1969	Melbourne
17	Adrian Dennis Spencer	3794631	28 10 1969	13 08 1970	Melbourne
18	Terrence William McManis L/Bdr	44277	30 05 1970	09 10 1970	† 20.12.2024
21	Willis (Bill) Stephen Wight 2Lt.	39136	12 01 1967	23 04 1968	
23	Geoffrey Alwyn Jebb WO2	24660	12 04 1968	16 04 1969	
23	Graeme Stuart Salter L/Bdr	3792618	16 09 1968	27 08 1969	
23	Graeme David Jennion	3796241	24 03 1970	04 03 1971	
24	Gregory Norman Green	2784565	04 05 1967	12 12 1967	

24	Albert Jacka Bdr	39856	16 12 1969	11 03 1971	
25	Robert Urquhart Miller Sgt	36499	05.11.69 & 08.4.70	28.11.69&02.08.70	† 29.12.17 RAEME
26	Ian Bruce McKenzie T/Sgt	3788926	26 02 1968	24 02 1969	E Melbourne RAAOC
27	Donald Stuart Perry WO2	38675	15 04 1970	19 11 1970	Dimboola, Vic
28	Patrick Thomas Francis Gowans Brig	57036	09 09 1965	19 09 1965	† 26.06.2022 Visit
	" "		11 03 1971	04 01 1972	AATTV
28	Reinhold Norbert Kroll	218285	27 11 1969	05 11 1970	Munster, Germany
28	Brian Leslie Mitchell	2412582	14 03 1968	26 03 1969	
28	Kimberley McGrath	2795249	N/A	N/A	

*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

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

May They Rest in Peace, and Never be Forgotten.



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

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

Hope we hear from you?

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

. **Other related sites...**

. Locating, Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association...



LOCATING, SURVEILLANCE & TARGET ACQUISITION ASSOCIATION
The Eyes and Ears of The Battlefield

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



Australian Artillery Association – www.australianartilleryassociation.com



www.artilleryhistory.org



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

. VETERAN'S AFFAIRS WEBSITE

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

. 1st Battalion 83rd Artillery...



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



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



The Royal New Zealand Artillery Association

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

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

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