

- Long Tan Commemorations
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- AGM 2006

LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

June 2006



Brisbane Locators after the March – ANZAC Day 2006

(LtoR): Graham Smith, Blair Shepherd, T.C.White, Ron Boaler, Phil Sheedy, John Bristow, Lofty Hayes & Pete Ravelje
(Photo Courtesy Ron Boaler)



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrons

Mr Rusty Priest AM
COLONEL Don Roach AM (Commander, Land
Command Artillery)

President
Allan Harrison RFD

Vice President/Museum Liaison Officer
Joe Kaplun

Secretary/Merchandise Officer
Diane Wood

Treasurer/Membership Officer
John Saltwell

Minutes Secretary
Tony Foster

Historian
Keith Ayliffe BEM

Web Master
John Posener

Social Secretary
Wayne Nash

Newsletter Editor
Allan Harrison RFD

Committee Members

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Ron Hartmann,
Graham Johnson, Bob Morrison RFD,
Bob Owens BEM (Mil),
Phil Paton, Bob Smith

Postal Address: PO Box 1042
MANLY NSW 1655

Web Site: www.locatingartillery.org

Email: info@locatingartillery.org

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings are held regularly and members are cordially invited to attend. General enquiries may be directed to the Vice President (02) 9774 1473 or mobile 0407 741 473 (6 Apex Ave, Picnic Point, 2213).

The AGM as previously advised, will take place on Sunday 9 July 2006. A schedule of future Committee meeting dates will be determined at the AGM.

All meetings are held at Paddington RSL commencing at 1000 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be the final "Locrep" before the re-scheduled Annual General Meeting. As we approach another year of Association business I thank committee members for their untiring efforts.

I urge members who can make it to Paddington RSL on 9 July to attend the meeting as much as a show of support for the Committee as anything else. We urgently need new blood in the committee if the future of the Association is to be assured. Many Unit Associations are folding due to natural attrition. The Locators are well placed to avoid this situation, but to do so we must have a steady influx of people willing to carry on the work.

The Association has enjoyed a remarkable relationship with The RAA National Museum over the years and this is due in no small part to the Curator, **WO2 Steve Crawford**. Steve's retirement will have occurred by the time you read this report and I want to record my personal appreciation of Steve's efforts in forging the strong bond which exists between the Association and the Museum. Enjoy your retirement Steve.

Following a long wait, the Australian Defence Medal is now rolling out and a number of members have already received their medals. An official form and explanatory notes are enclosed.

I thank **Ron Boaler** for taking up my invitation to report on ANZAC Day events. His front page photo, with others and a detailed report were most welcome.

Co-Patron **Rusty Priest** is recuperating at home after a hip replacement and some plumbing repairs in the heart department. Good to see you back on deck Rusty and we wish you well on your road to recovery.

Speaking of Co-Patrons, COL **Don Roach** is currently on duty in East Timor and we wish him well in handling a difficult assignment
Ubique

Allan Harrison
 President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We are always pleased to publish (brief) reports from Locators far and wide. Your mates are happy to hear about what others are up to and this newsletter is an ideal forum for your short stories and anecdotes. Please send contributions to TheEditor, PO Box W43 Abbotsford 2046 or by email to allan@harrisonsolution.com.au.

MEMBERS' CONTACT LIST

This list is included as a separate insert to this newsletter. To get yourself onto this list, please give written or (preferably) email permission to the Association at PO Box 1042 Manly NSW 1655 or info@locatingartillery.org

This contact list will be posted onto our website and updated as members give permission.

MERCHANDISE

The following items are available:

Stubby Holders	\$ 6.00	ea
	\$11.00	for two
	\$20.00	for four
Car Badges	\$20.00	
Baseball Caps	\$15.00	(two types)
Lapel Badges	\$ 6.00	
Polo Shirts	\$30.00	(Navy or white)
Door Mats	\$65.00	
Plaques	\$25.00	
Woven Pocket Patch Logos	\$10.00	
Bar Coasters	\$ 2.00	for 10
	\$ 5.00	for 30
	\$10.00	for 65
	\$15.00	For 100
Key Rings (2-sided, Assn & Dragon Logos)	\$ 6.00	
Bucket hats	\$15.00	(Royal Blue or

(new item with logo and dragon)		beige)
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For information on size ranges, stock availability, postage costs and orders for current items, please call **Diane Wood** on 02 9774 1473 (H) or 02 9377 2041 (W) and leave a message.

We are now able to offer members a personalised service for the embroidery of the Association Logo and Dragon on other (personal) items of clothing. Please call Diane to discuss necessary arrangements.

HISTORY OF LOCATING

The book "*Tracks of the Dragon - A History of Locating Artillery in Australia*" is now freely available.

To order, contact co-authors **Keith Ayliffe** (07) 5443 7102 or **John Posener** (02) 9982 4471.

RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

The final working bee prior to the AGM will take place on Sunday 25 June 2006. Typically, working bees are held on the last Sunday of each month. Future dates will be confirmed after the Association AGM.

Working Bees commence at 0900 hrs and conclude with an Association-funded BBQ at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess.

Work is still progressing on re-establishing the Locating display. The EVA equipment has been recovered from storage and put in place. There is some delay with the arrival of the L5 which will be put in place with the EVA once the restoration of the other (Long Tan) L5 is complete.

It is intended to place a No.3 Mk 7 radar between the Loc and AD displays, depicting its dual roles.

The internal panels from the "graveyard" set at North Fort (see picture below) were removed at the May 06 working bee, together with a very angry possum whose nesting place was disturbed. The rusting hulk will now be cut up and scrapped.



*No3 Mk 7 now a rusty shell
North Head 2006*

Restoration projects such as these require considerable effort by volunteers and we would greatly appreciate the assistance of anyone available to work on Locating Artillery projects. If you are knowledgeable, so much the better!

The Museum is open to the public on weekends, Wednesdays and Public Holidays from 1100 hrs to 1600 hrs. Guided tours are provided. Members wishing to become Tour Guides should ring **Cliff Dodds** (02) 9428 3765, and mention the Association.

NORTH FORT MEMORIAL WALK – DRIVE FOR LOCATOR PAVERS

The drive for a “Locators” area in the Memorial Walk at North Fort continues. The Association’s corporate-sized paver is in place depicting the Association’s name and Logo.



Photo Courtesy Joe Elkusch

Pavers already in place in other parts of the Memorial Walk may be relocated, and members so affected should contact North Fort direct by telephone on 02 9976 6102.

A paver order form can be obtained from North Fort or from the Association website www.locatingartillery.org

TROPHIES AND PRIZES

The Committee continues to work towards the determination of trophies and prizes as detailed in previous editions of “Locrep”, in recognising outstanding efforts by soldiers in 20 STA Regt and STA Wing Courses.

REGIONAL CONTACTS

A full contact list appears as an insert to this edition and will be a regular feature of “Locrep” in future. We encourage members to be in touch with their regional representatives so that local networks can grow and members can take part in nearby activities, especially on significant occasions such as ANZAC Day etc. Similarly, we ask that Regional Contact volunteers maintain contact with Newsletter Editor, preferably by email to allan@harrisonsolution.com.au or at PO Box W43 Abbotsford NSW 2046.

Notifications re local activities will be placed on the website notice board and will be published in “Locrep”.

40TH ANNIVERSARY – VIETNAM VETERANS RE-UNION – 17-20 AUGUST 2006

The Coffs Harbour Branch of the Association is putting together a Vietnam Veterans Gunners re-union to mark the 40th anniversary of 1 ATF Vietnam. The event will be based at the Coffs Harbour Ex-Servicemen’s Club and will include social events, bowls, golf, deep sea fishing, a “Freedom of the City” march, a shopping bus trip for the ladies and appearances by performers who entertained the troops in SVN.

The program is looking like this:

Thurs 17 th	1700	Cocktails, meet & greet
Fri 18 th	0800	Breakfast
	1700	Memorial Service (Cenotaph)
	1900	Dinner and entertainment
Sat 19 th	0800	Breakfast
	0900	Golf, bowls, fishing, shopping
	1600	Freedom of the City March

	1800	Regimental Dinner	
Sun 20 th morning	0800	Breakfast,	free
	1230	BBQ Lunch, Farewells	

Accommodation can be booked through the Coffs Harbour Visitor Info Centre (toll free 1300 369 070). Please quote RAA Re-union Tracking # 97.

Enquiries:

David Auld 02 6652 3561
divloc131@hotmail.com

David Doyle 02 6655 1264
ddoyle@tpg.com.au

David & Jane Gow 02 6658 3355
reunion2006@ceinternet.com.au

The legendary Coffs Harbour re-unions have gone from strength to strength over the years and this special one will be no exception. To avoid disappointment, it would be a good idea to get in early and book your accommodation and travel arrangements.

More information and updates on the Association website: www.locatingartillery.org

 ****SPECIAL NOTE****

Dave Auld is looking for photographs of Locators in action in Vietnam, for a planned montage to be displayed at the re-union. If you have some photos, please let Dave know and get them to him. He assures us that they will be returned in good order after being copied for the montage.

LOCATOR IN PROFILE

Due to the volume of insert material in this edition of "Locrep", this segment will be deferred until the next edition.

KEVIN MAKER – CANCER RESEARCH PROJECT

We repeat this article in the interests of maintaining a focus on a project initiated by Kevin Maker and reported upon in the last issue of "Locrep".

Kevin, who was recently honoured with a local Community Service Award for service to Veterans, continues to work tirelessly in the cause.

He is concerned at the incidence of cancer among ex-service personnel who worked on radar sets, either the No3 Mk 7 or AN/KPQ-1. Kevin is gathering statistical and other data and is anxious to hear from anyone who was involved with these radars and has subsequently suffered from some form of cancer.

Kevin lives in Maitland and can be reached on (02) 4934 2172 or by email at kevinmaker@hotmail.com

He offers his services free of charge as a DVA Advocate.

90TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER – HUNTER VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL - NSW RSL

Locators and their partners were everywhere at this momentous event held at Maitland City Bowling Club on Saturday 17 June, making up about a third of the 200 guests in attendance.

Long distance travellers included **John Wilson** and **Les Frost** from Orange, the ever-present **Kim McGrath** (seen sending emails all night) and four Sydney-siders in **Blue Johnson, Jim Bushel, Bob Smith** and **Allan Harrison**.

Maitland Locator **Kevin Maker** was the principal organiser and turned on a great night. Diners were entertained by elements of the Australian Army Band who played on into the wee smalls to the delight of the diners.

ANZAC DAY REPORTS 2006

Sydney

ANZAC Day (Sydney) dawned overcast and wet and the 0900 contingents had to contend with rain, which had cleared by the time our Post-WW2 group moved off at around midday. 48 Locators marched behind the Association and Det 131 Bty Banners, well down on last year's 70 plus. The early morning weather no doubt kept a number away.



Locators in Sydney – ANZAC Day 2006
(Photo by Jacy Posener)

The Association will arrange for a top brace to be fitted to the 131 Banner which Standard Bearers have difficulty keeping square (see above).

The Gunners assembled at The Sporters Bar (Menzies Hotel) where the stories get taller year by year.



ANZAC Day user trials on Association stubby holders.
Left to right: Blue Johnson, Joe Elkus, Jim Bushel
(Photo by Allan Harrison)

Brisbane

Ron Boaler has provided the following report:

Fourteen marched and a few others who march with their other units showed up to say hello before the Brisbane ANZAC Day procession. The biggest crowd for some time made the day really something else for those who, at the march conclusion, made their way to the Theodore Club in Adelaide Street

along with members of The Artillery Association and enjoyed a feed and a few cold ones.



John Bristow relaxes at the Theodore Club
Photo Courtesy Ron Boaler

Usual attendees **Blair Shepherd, Phil Sheedy, John Bristow, Steve Hall, Pete Ravelje, Lofty Hayes, Graham Smith and T.C. White** were joined by **Grant Perrins, Ron & Ken Boaler** and **Joe Losiak** with his daughter **Michelle** and her husband **Michael Wallace**.

Unfortunately the banner did not arrive on time which must be attended to for next year. LTCOL (ret) **Arthur Burke** has offered to have it brought in with the other battery banners in the restored Studebaker and 25 pounder that leads the Arty contingent each year. We do need it there early as a rallying point as some members are unable to find us and consequently we miss catching up with them.

Blair Shepherd has volunteered to assist in organising the march for 2007.

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

The Association's database was recently corrupted in an unfortunate hard disc failure. The restoration process produced some inaccurate renewal dates in some cases, resulting in incorrect renewal notices being sent out in a limited number of instances. We are grateful to members who brought this to our attention and a review of all available renewal forms has been carried out by membership officer **John Saltwell**.

We are confident that the matter has been rectified and if any member feels that a renewal date is still not

correct, we would like to hear from you (addressed to the membership Officer at PO Box 1042 Manly, 1655). We apologise for any confusion which may have been caused by this malfunction.

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MEDAL

The long-awaited medal is a reality, several members reporting that they have already received theirs.

If you have not already applied, a form and explanatory notes is available on www.rfd.org.au . Follow the links.

There has been much confusion over the application process and if you have applied and have received an acknowledgement you will receive the medal in due course.

If in doubt you can request acknowledgement by email at dpe.honoursandawards@defence.gov.au .

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

The Association AGM will take place at 1000 hrs on Sunday 9 July 2006 at Paddington RSL, Oxford Street Paddington NSW.

Written notices of motion and written nominations for Executive Committee positions (President, Vice President, Secretary/Public Officer, Treasurer and at least two (2) ordinary members) should reach the Secretary, 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point not later than 7 days before the meeting.

The position of Secretary/Public Officer has been created to meet incorporation requirements.

Existing Executive Committee members seeking re-election must also nominate.

For the benefit of members, Rule 16 re the election of Committee members is quoted below:

16. Election of members

- (1) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as ordinary members of the committee:

- (a) must be made in writing, signed by 2 members of the association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of the nomination), and
- (b) must be delivered to the secretary of the association at least 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.

RESERVE FORCES DAY 2006

RFD 2006 will be commemorated in various locations around Australia in late June/early July 2006. For the latest information, go to www.rfd.org.au and follow the links.

LONG TAN COMMEMORATION EVENTS

Co-incident with the planned Coffs Harbour Vietnam Veterans' re-union (August 17-19) DVA is planning a specific series of events in Canberra to commemorate the Battle of Long Tan.

The Canberra program will be as follows:

Thurs 17 August

1500-1545 ACT Govt Service (Ainslie Ave)

Friday 18 August

0630 hrs Stand To Ceremony

0745-0930hrs Gunfire Breakfast (Reid Oval)

1000-1100hrs Commemorative Service, National Vietnam War Memorial

1300hrs Barbecue Lunch, Canberra Services Club, Manuka

Other commemorative activities are planned involving 6 RAR at Enoggera Barracks.

The Association has been informed by DVA, that invitations will shortly be issued (by The Prime Minister's Department) to Veterans of the Long Tan Battle to participate in these activities as official guests, representing the various units involved (incl Det 131 Bty). At this stage it is not clear how many invitations will be allocated to Det 131 Bty.

With Keith Ayliffe's valuable assistance we are able to identify the personnel from Det 131 Bty who were serving in Vietnam at the time and we will allocate the invitations by ballot if necessary.

If you consider yourself eligible and want to be included in the ballot, please inform the Secretary, 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213, in writing.

NOTHING HEARD, OVER

We appear to have lost comms with the following people. If you are one of them or know where to reach them please let us know c/- The Secretary, 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213, by phone on (02) 9774 1473 or by email to info@locatingartillery.org . We appreciate the interest shown by members in tracking down others who have moved.

Peter Karras

Peter Wertheimer