

- Long Tan Commemorations Canberra
- Vietnam Vets Re-union Coffs Harbour
- Our First Honorary Life Member

- Reserve Forces Day 2006
- ANZAC Day 2006 (Melbourne)
- AGM 2006

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# LOCREP

## Surveillance and Target Acquisition

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*The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.*

*September 2006*



*Banner erected by Vietnamese villagers thanking Australian Forces after the Battle of Long Tan 18 August 1966  
(Photo courtesy of Ron Mason, Det 131 Div Loc Bty SVN))*



*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/Public Officer

Bob Morrison RFD

### 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, Joe Elkus, Ron Hartmann,  
Graham Johnson, Bob Owens BEM (Mil),  
Phil Paton, Bob Smith

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MANLY NSW 1655

Web Site: [www.locatingartillery.org](http://www.locatingartillery.org)

Email: [info@locatingartillery.org](mailto:info@locatingartillery.org)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings are held regularly and members are cordially invited to attend. General enquiries may be directed to the Secretary, Bob Morrison Tel (02) 4861-6463, Mob 0417 447 504 or by email at [robmor@ozemail.com.au](mailto:robmor@ozemail.com.au)

The 2005-6 AGM took place on Sunday 9 July 2006. Committee meetings will be held on the following dates:

8 October 2006

4 February 2007

6 May 2007

The 2006-7 AGM will take place on 15 July 2007.

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings. These are busy times in the Association with much to report upon in this edition of LOCREP.

We have our very first Honorary Life Member in the person of **Ron Hartmann**. Ron is the subject of our "Locator in Profile" segment in this issue so I will limit my comments to a warm congratulations. Well deserved and well done Ron.

Our AGM has come and gone and as far as elections go, the tent pegs have pretty much gone back into the same holes, with one exception. We welcome **Bob Morrison** (ex S Rg Tp Comd 133 Bty) to the joint roles of Secretary and Public Officer. Some more new faces would make for a more secure future for the Association.

There was much media attention on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. The Foxtel documentary was well worth a look and several Det 131 Div Loc Bty (SVN) veterans were guests of the Prime Minister and DVA at the ACT commemorations. The Association was pleased assist in the process and reports on that and the Coffs Harbour event (well done again **Dave Auld**) appear later in LOCREP.

I am very grateful to members who have sent in photographs and reports of activities involving Locators. This co-operation from members gives real life to LOCREP and hopefully makes for more interesting reading.

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 The Editor, PO Box W43 Abbotsford 2046 or by email to [allan@harrisonsolution.com.au](mailto:allan@harrisonsolution.com.au).

We have received email traffic from a former US Exchange Officer **Barry Vanden Berg**, who would like to hear from his former Locator mates in Australia. Barry's email address is [barryvb@prodigy.net](mailto:barryvb@prodigy.net). Barry specifically mentioned **Peter Jackson and Ron Fulford** but clearly wants to hear from all and sundry.

The name **Bob Buick** will be familiar to many, especially after the Long Tan documentary. Bob has been in touch with us seeking help in locating **Fred Lennon** (Det 131 Div Loc Bty SVN 1966-67). If any member can assist, please contact the Editor (PO Box W43 Abbotsford 2046 or at [allan@harrisonsolution.com.au](mailto:allan@harrisonsolution.com.au)).

## MEMBERS' CONTACT LIST

This list is normally included as a separate insert to this newsletter. Because of space limitations it will not appear this time. 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](mailto:info@locatingartillery.org)

The contact list will be posted onto our website as usual 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	
Woven Beret Badges (New Items, both Logo and Dragon available)	\$10.00	

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 (new item with Logo and Dragon)	\$15.00	(Royal Blue or Light Khaki)

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.

Two new items have been added. Woven Badges suitable for berets or shoulder flashes are now available following the widespread interest in wearing berets in lieu of baseball caps on occasions such as ANZAC Day, Reserve Forces Day etc. Badges depicting both the Association Logo and The Dragon are available.

Also Bucket hats in two colours (Royal Blue and Beige) have been added to the list of available merchandise. The hats have both Association and Dragon Logos.

## 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

Working Bee dates have been set as follows:

24 September  
 29 October  
 19 November  
 25 February  
 25 March  
 29 April  
 27 May  
 24 June

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 an AA No.3 Mk 7 radar between the Loc and AD displays, depicting its dual roles. Up until now it was intended to restore a set acquired from a collector, however a set in very good condition has been offered by the Army Museum in Bandiana, much to the relief of the restoration group. Watch this space.

The Association has been provided with a \$3,000 grant by DVA as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (Vietnam) commemorations and this money will be spent on secure display cabinets enabling the display of smaller portable items in a secure environment. Funds will also be applied to restoration projects and lighting for the Sound Ranging Command Post exhibit.

Restoration projects in particular require considerable effort by volunteers and we would greatly appreciate the assistance of anyone available to work on Locating Artillery projects.

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.

**FAREWELL TO MUSEUM CURATOR  
 WO2 STEVE CRAWFORD**

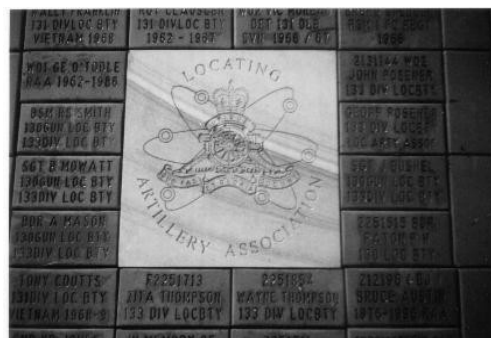
In the last issue of LOCREP we mentioned the farewell dinner held to send off retiring Museum Curator WO2 **Steve Crawford**. We are grateful to official photographer **Ian Taylor** for supplying this photograph.



*MAJGEN Tim Ford AO (former OC Det 131 Div Loc Bty SVN) presents WO2 Steve Crawford with a framed tribute to his service (Photograph courtesy Ian Taylor)*

**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.



*Photograph 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.

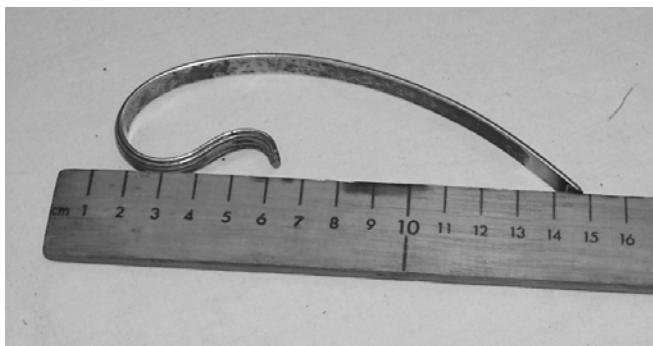
A paver order form can be obtained from North Fort or from the Association website [www.locatingartillery.org](http://www.locatingartillery.org)

**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.

We are still looking for suitable handles for the “Walker” Trophy. The photograph below shows the single handle we have, indicating its size. If you can assist with a pair

of handles of approximately the same size it will be appreciated (call Joe Kaplun on 02 9774 1473)



*“Walker” Trophy Handle*

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

A full contact list normally appears as an insert to “LOCREP” but is omitted on this occasion due to space limitations. It will be a regular feature in future. The updated version will be posted onto our website as usual.

Thanks to **Joe Elkusch** who has agreed to be the contact person for the Greater Blue Mountains district.

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](mailto: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”.

## LOCATOR IN PROFILE

In this issue we acknowledge our first Honorary Life Member, **Ron Hartmann**.

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY – VIETNAM VETERANS RE-UNION COFFS HARBOUR –REPORT

**Dave Auld** reports that the latest Coffs re-union went off very well. There were 210 guests at the official dinner.



*The Cenotaph ceremony was a feature of the Coffs weekend and the Catafalque Party was provided by members of the local Cadet Unit. (Photograph courtesy of Dave Auld)*

Ever quick off the mark, Dave submitted a funding request to DVA under the “Saluting their Service” scheme and received a \$15,000 grant for the re-union. This enabled a much more elaborate function, including hiring the Coffs Harbour Big Band for entertainment, featuring music of the Vietnam era performed by members of entertainment groups which visited Vietnam.

Dave also plans to produce a DVD of the photographs displayed at the re-union, complete with music from the occasion.



*Dave Doyle OAM, Dave Auld and members of the Coffs Harbour re-union Catafalque Party (Photograph courtesy of Dave Auld)*

## 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER – HUNTER VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL - NSW RSL

We reported on this dinner in the last edition of LOCREP, however a classic photo has been sent to us by

**Fran Clements** and we can't resist. Here are three wise (?) monkeys at the Maitland bash.



L to R Jim Bushel, Blue Johnson and Allan Harrison  
(Photograph courtesy Fran Clements)



ANZAC Day Locators – Melbourne 2006  
(L to R) John Delacca (obscuring Pierre Goss), Kev Browning, Jeff Schafer, Russ Jackson, Peter Creedon, Mick Delaney, Peter Larkin and John Henshaw.  
(Photograph courtesy Jeff Schafer)

## ANZAC DAY REPORTS 2006

### Melbourne

**Jeff Schafer** reports:

I notice there was no ANZAC Day report from Melbourne this issue and that the numbers in Sydney were down from last year. One reason the numbers were down was that a number that were in Sydney 2005 went to Melbourne for 2006.

**Russ Jackson** and **Pete Larkin** from Victoria were in Sydney last year and to return the favour this year, **Peter Creedon, Kev Browning, Mick Delaney and Jeff Schafer (Sydney) and Terry Erbs (Brisbane)** went to Melbourne. Also present for the March was **John Henshaw (Victoria)**.

All of these were in the Survey/Sound Ranging contingent in 1969.

It was a beautiful sunny day in Melbourne and there were other Victorian locators there as well, including **John Delacca** and **Pierre Goss**.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006

The AGM was held at Paddington RSL on Sunday 9 July 2006. It was reasonably well attended as AGM's go. One Committee change arose from the meeting in that Diane Wood relinquished the role of Secretary. Bob Morrison is now Secretary and takes on the dual role of Public Officer, a position required as a result of the Association becoming an Incorporated Body.

The President's report and the Treasurer's report are included in this edition of Locrep as inserts. (Please note that those reports were current as at 9 July and subsequent events have overtaken some statements made.

## RESERVE FORCES DAY 2006



12 Locators on Parade - Sydney Reserve Forces Day Parade 2006  
(Photograph courtesy Lynne McDonald)

Locator numbers are dwindling along with other groups such as the Air Defence Associations. These groups have no remaining active Reserve Units to draw on and organisers would do well to address this issue if RFD is to continue.

The Gunners gathered at The Sporters Bar (Menzie's Hotel) for lunch and refreshments after the march.

## LONG TAN COMMEMORATIONS CANBERRA

Locators were well represented at the events organised by the ACT Government and DVA in Canberra 17-20 August.

With **Keith Ayliffe** and **Joe Kaplun's** valuable input, The Association assisted DVA in tracking down several members of Det 131 Div Loc Bty who were serving in South Vietnam at the time of the Battle. Seven were able to get to Canberra for the commemoration weekend.

They are **Spike Chase, Ron Mason, Karl Doehrmann, Terry Westerway, Barry Campton, Grahame O'Toole, and Ian Board.**

The first activity was the ACT Government ceremony at the Vietnam Memorial in the city, on the afternoon of Thurs 17 August. That evening the Prime Minister hosted a reception in the Great Hall at Parliament House, attended by approximately 100 veterans of the Battle, numerous Vietnam Veterans and invited guests including Association President **Allan Harrison**. It was good to see **Barrie Winsor** at the function.

The PM and The Leader of the Opposition both spoke at length, underlining the shabby treatment which Vietnam Veterans had initially received on their return to Australia after service in the Vietnam War.



*Locators at the PM's Reception  
Rear L-R Ron Mason, Ian Board, Barrie Winsor, Allan Harrison  
Front L-R Terry Westerway, Karl Doehrmann, Barry Campton,  
Graham O'Toole (missing Spike Chase)  
(Photograph courtesy Liz Campton)*

At 0630 Friday morning there was a "stand to" ceremony at the War Memorial, followed at 1000 hrs by the principal Memorial Service at the Vietnam War Memorial on ANZAC Parade. This was a most moving and emotional event for all present. Both the Governor General and the Prime Minister addressed an assembly of over 2000 veterans, their families and other guests.

A battery of guns sited at Lake Burley Griffin provided a background of simulated fire support as former Capt Morrie Stanley (FO with 11 Pl D Coy 6 RAR) and former 2Lt David Sabben (Comd 12 Pl) read the Roll of Honour of those killed in action in the Battle. The reading and the fire mission was interrupted by a check fire to allow two Iroquois Helicopters to approach the memorial, hovering over our heads in simulation of the daring ammunition resupply which enabled 11 Pl to continue the fire fight. This was a sight and sound like no other.

The ceremony concluded with a march past of a tri-service guard followed by three M113 APC's.



*M113's bring up the rear of the march past at the conclusion of the Long Tan Memorial Service, ANZAC Parade Canberra 18 August 2006  
(Photograph courtesy of Ron Mason)*

A number of social events and a concert featuring entertainers from the Vietnam era concluded commemorations.

## 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 Vice President, 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213, by phone on (02) 9774 1473 or by email to [info@locatingartillery.org](mailto:info@locatingartillery.org) . We appreciate the interest shown by members in tracking down others who have moved.

Peter Wertheimer  
Peter Karras

## GUEST SPEAKERS AT STA WING

The SI STA Wing (MAJ Russ Underwood) has suggested that members of the Association may have significant contributions to make to STA Wing Courses by appearing as guest speakers from time to time.

The Committee considers that there is real value to both the Association and STA Wing students in this suggestion. There are several matters of detail to be ironed out but in the meantime we are seeking expressions of interest from members who feel they have something to offer.

Please let us know if you'd like to be considered, including topics on which you consider yourself qualified to speak. In the first instance you should notify the Secretary, 63 Highland Drive Bowral NSW 2576 or by email to [robmor@ozemail.com.au](mailto:robmor@ozemail.com.au) .

## LOCREP DESPATCH METHODS

The Executive Committee of the Association is looking (as always) at ways and means of containing and reducing costs.

The cost of printing and distributing LOCREP continues to increase and we seek your co-operation in assisting us to reduce the impact of these increases.

As you are aware, the Association maintains a website for the interest of members and others and we post each new edition of LOCREP onto the website.

There are three options open to you in respect of the way LOCREP gets to you:

1. Tell us that you want to receive a PDF copy of LOCREP by email, or
2. Tell us that you want an email advising you that the latest LOCREP is up on the website, so that you can log on and read or download LOCREP yourself, or
3. Do nothing and you will continue to receive LOCREP by post.

If you are willing to take up option 1 or 2, please send an email to the newsletter editor to let us know which option you'd prefer. The email address is [allan@harrisonsolution.com.au](mailto:allan@harrisonsolution.com.au)

Please keep in mind if you choose options 2 or 3, that you will need to update changes to your email address as they occur.

## 79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GUNNER DINNER 2006



*Locators at the 2006 Gunner Dinner*

*L-R Vic Rae, Joe Elkus, John Posener, John Fairless, Kel Crozier, Allan Harrison, Pamela Nicholas, Ross Baker, Lynne McDonald, MAJ John Gallagher RACT (Mgr RAA National Museum and Honorary Locator)  
(Photograph Courtesy Suzy Gallagher)*

The 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Gunner Dinner was held at Club Willoughby in Sydney on Saturday 5 August 2006. Two Locator Banners (The Assn Banner and the Det 131 Div Loc Bty (SVN) Banner) were on display among an impressive array of Regimental and Association Banners.

The Queen's Banner was paraded, escorted by a party supplied by 23 Fd Regt.

The theme of the dinner was The Battle of Long Tan.

Locators were well represented at the dinner which was addressed by MAJGEN John Whitelaw AO CBE, who spoke on historic aspects of the Gunner Dinner, artillery in general and artillery involvement in Vietnam.

COL Allan Hutchinson (at the time of the battle, an FO with the relief Company) then spoke in graphic detail with regard to the conduct of the battle and the role played by artillery.



## LOCATOR IN PROFILE – RON HARTMANN

### FIRST HONORARY LIFE MEMBER, LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

Ron Hartmann, now an octogenarian, had his first taste of military life in 1938 when aged 16, he joined 54 Bty, 14<sup>th</sup> Field Brigade Cadets. At that time he was employed at Caldwell's Wines as a Trainee Industrial Chemist.

Australia went to war and in October 1939 and Ron, falsely declaring his age as 20, enlisted in 2/1 Fd Regt, 6<sup>th</sup> Division, where he was variously the Adjutant's Clerk and the RSM's Driver. In January 1940 the Regt embarked for the Middle East where he saw action in Libya, Greece, Palestine and Egypt. While hospitalised in Greece, Ron was to be evacuated on a hospital ship which was bombed in a Luftwaffe raid on Piraeus Harbour. He survived the sinking, scrambled ashore and ultimately made his way back to his unit only to be charged with desertion. Somehow, he successfully defended that charge.



*Ron relates his hair raising escape from a sinking hospital ship in Piraeus Harbour*

In April 1941, Ron was transferred to 1 Aust AA Bde HQ, 1 Corps where his brother Campbell was Brigade RSM. He saw further service in Egypt, Palestine and Syria.

March 1942 saw Ron's return to Australia where he was posted to HQ, NSW Lines of Communication Area as the Commander's Driver. In November of that year he was transferred to 111 Aust LAA Bty as a Gun Number and embarked for New Guinea with the Bty in December, seeing action in Buna. In February 1944, Ron was posted to 12 Bty, 2/4<sup>th</sup> Aust AA Regt (9 Div), again as a Gun Number and saw action in Finschafen. In May 1944, now a Bty Signaller, he returned again to Australia and took discharge in November 1945 on conclusion of WW2.



*Coffee in a Tel Aviv café (1941)*

*L-to-R WO1 Campbell Hartmann, Dr Phillip Joseph (Palestinian Government Official) and 19 year old Gunner Ron Hartmann*

Returning to civilian life, Ron worked as a highly successful company representative with Fordigraph, Behr-Manning, Norton, The Roberts Company and Gunnerson Nosworthy, during the years 1946-1984. He married his wife Patricia in 1949 and they have 5 children, 9 grandchildren and a single great-grandchild.

Part time Army life beckoned Ron in March 1957 and he enlisted in 30<sup>th</sup> Mdm Regt (QLD) as a Bdr Gun Number. In May, he transferred to 11 LAA Regt QLD as a Gun Sergeant. Now fully qualified for First Appointment, Ron was denied Officer status by a Brigade Commander who refused to allow First Appointment to soldiers over 25 years of age.

In January 1960 (now a WO2) Ron accepted Sydney-based civilian employment and was posted to the composite ARA/CMF 131<sup>st</sup> Divisional Locating Battery as BSM (CMF). He retired as BSM 133<sup>rd</sup> Divisional Locating Battery, with the rank of WO1, in October 1970.

Ron's medals include 1939/45 Star, Africa Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Australian Service Medal, Australian Efficiency Medal, Australian Defence Medal and the Greek Medal.

Since attending the Locators' Re-union at North Fort on 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 1998, Ron has been a constant servant on the Committee of the Locating Artillery Association and frequently attends Locator working bees at the RAA National Museum, North Fort. At a Locators re-union held in Coffs Harbour, Ron forged a firm friendship with WO1 Danny McGinley (then BSM 131 STA Bty) and the members of the Catafalque Party supplied by 131 Bty. Ron subsequently attended a 131 Bty Dinner at Enoggera, as guest speaker.

At the Association Committee meeting held at Paddington RSL on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006, his nomination for Honorary Life Membership was carried with a standing ovation.

## **President's Report to The Locating Artillery Association Incorporated**

## **Inaugural Annual General Meeting**

**9 July 2006**

### **Introduction**

This is the first Annual General Meeting since incorporation. There are specifically a number of matters I would like to address and of course, people to acknowledge.

### **Incorporation**

This meeting has been deferred for six months in order to keep its schedule in step with the end of the traditional financial year, at which time we are required to report in terms of the relevant legislation. Incorporation has been the most significant organisational change which the Association has seen since its inception. The change has been seamless and I am grateful to John Saltwell in particular for his hard work in bringing incorporation to a successful conclusion.

### **Patrons**

I thank our Patrons Mr Rusty Priest AM, the former Commander Land Command Artillery, COLONEL Steve Goltz, and his successor COLONEL S (Don) Roach AM, for their continued support of Association affairs. They do us a great service by their Patronage.

### **Royal Australian Artillery National Museum**

Our relationship with North Fort continues unabated and I particularly want to express my appreciation to former Manager MAJOR Mike Laurence, his successor MAJOR John Gallagher, Curator WO2 Steve Crawford and Staffers WO2 Steve Noakes and Bdr Ross Kolhagen.

Curator Steve Crawford retired on 30<sup>th</sup> June last and a number of our members accompanied me to his farewell dinner on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Our commonly held belief that Steve had done a great job as curator was underlined as speaker after speaker gave glowing accounts of his career in the RAA. Principal speaker was MAJGEN Tim Ford, recently appointed Colonel Commandant Eastern Region and former OC Det 131 Div Loc Bty (SVN).

I know all members will join me in wishing Steve and his wife Teresa a long and happy retirement.

Vice President and Museum liaison Officer MAJOR Joe Kaplun continues to represent the Association on the Museum Advisory Committee, ensuring that the Association's views and interests are represented in the decision making processes of the museum.

Our program of monthly working bees continues.

The restoration of the second AN/KPQ-1 radar has been seriously delayed due to the need to dismantle and store the Locating display while concreting and sealing of the hangar floors took place. Rebuilding the display in a different configuration has been a time consuming operation which is nearing completion.

A further project, the restoration of a No3 Mk 7 Radar, has commenced with the stripping of the internal components of the set on site at North Fort, in anticipation of the arrival of a second set. The cannibalised parts will be used to replace any missing parts in the second set, once it is brought on site.

### **Memorial Walk and Association Paver**

The Association paver has been put in place since our last General Meeting and an impressive collection of personal pavers now surround the large paver.

### **Liaison with 20<sup>th</sup> STA Regiment and STA Wing, School of Artillery**

I am grateful in particular to Commanding Officer-elect LTCOL Phil Swinsburg, BC 132 TUAV Bty-elect MAJOR Russ Hamsey and RSM Danny McGinley for their continuing interest in and support of the Association.

These are extremely busy times for the fledgling regiment with commitments in Iraq and other global pressure points putting enormous strain on the regiment at a time when it is striving to establish its new status. By way of example I was informed by Danny McGinley that the Regiment could boast only 10 soldiers on the ground on ANZAC Day.

Members may be assured that we will continue to foster links with the Regiment and STA Wing, especially aimed at keeping the Association uppermost in the minds of the younger soldiers. Trophies and prizes are in planning and we have been assured that the Association will be involved in activities surrounding a planned inaugural Regimental Parade and Dinner at Enoggera in 2007.

### **Regional Liaison**

I can report that we now have representation in Tasmania, with former BC 133 Bty Barry Sonter volunteering to take on that role. Barry is also President of a regional group of the National Servicemen's Association in Tasmania.

The Hunter Valley Locators batting average goes from strength to strength. Locators predominated at the recent 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner of the Hunter Valley District Council of the NSW RSL.

Preparations are well in hand for the (Gunners) 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of 1 ATF Vietnam, being organised by our Coffs Harbour Branch.

### **General Contacts**

This list continues to grow as more and more members give permission for their contact information to be publicised in "Locrep". We can't measure the success of this move in terms of contacts renewed, but the fact that the list continues to grow is evidence of the popularity of the move.

### **Locator Recognised**

The recent Queen's Birthday Honours list included former BC 133 Bty (Later CO 23 Fd Regiment and Commander 2 Div Artillery) Tony English. Tony was awarded an AM and I offer congratulations on behalf of all members.

### **Merchandise**

The range of merchandise available to members continues to grow and Diane Wood is doing a great job. The new bucket hats are already proving popular and reflect Diane's constant search for new stock items. We are currently looking at adding berets to the stock list and I took a quick poll on Reserve Forces Day, which showed

100% support for the new item. We need to look at badging because several different opinions were expressed. The Committee will look at this issue.

### **Website**

The website continues to attract much attention, with the hit rate in the lead up to ANZAC Day exceeding all previous records. On average we receive more than 1000 hits per month.

### **Commemorations (Long Tan)**

The Association has been approached by DVA to allocate 10 places as official guests representing Det 131 Div loc Bty (SVN) at the Long Tan Commemoration Ceremony to be held in Canberra in August 2006. Thanks to Keith Ayliffe we have a nominal roll of 131 Bty personnel serving in Nui Dat at the time of the prelude to the battle and the battle proper. Through our newsletter and by telephone, we have asked for applications to represent 131 Bty. We have received six applications, all of which have been passed on to DVA.

### **Commemorations (Fire Support Base Coral)**

Former members of 12 Fd Regt organising a re-union in 2008 to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle for Fire Support Base Coral, have sought Locator representation on their organising Committee. They have specifically asked for representation from the Hunter Valley and Kevin Maker and “Wheels” Campbell have volunteered to work on the Committee and I thank them both. Plans for the re-union will be reported in “Locrep”.

### **Executive Committee**

Arising from the decision to incorporate, the position of Secretary has been expanded to take on the role of Public Officer.

I wish to thank all members of the Executive Committee, Joe Kaplun, Diane Wood, Tony Foster, John Posener, John Saltwell and Wayne Nash and general committee people Ron Hartmann, Graham Johnson, Phil Paton, Ross Baker, Bob Morrison, Jim Bushel and Bob Smith. I also wish to record my appreciation to Keith Ayliffe who is ever ready to lend a hand despite the distance factor, whenever we need to tap his knowledge or need his help.

Finally, Committee Member and Paddington RSL President Bob Owens hosts our quarterly committee meetings and has again made the facilities of the Club available to us for our AGM. Thank you Bob.

Ubique

*Allan Harrison*

President  
9 July 2006

## **LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION** **ATTENDANCE FORM – 2006 SYDNEY RE-UNION**

The Annual Sydney Re-union will be held at North Fort on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November, at 1200 hrs (BBQ served at 1330). Cost will be \$15 per head, kids under 10 Free.

Drinks (beer, wines and soft/water) will be at subsidised bar prices.

Please complete the form below and return to Joe Kaplun as indicated below, not later than 13<sup>th</sup> November.

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I will be attending the above function.

SURNAME:.....

GIVEN NAMES:.....

TELEPHONE:.....

SIGNATURE:.....

(\*Names of attendees @ \$15 ea

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(\*Names of children under 10 YOA (free)

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Total enclosed: \$.....

**(\* Includes escorted tour of North Fort Museum exhibits and tunnel tour**

**Please return to  
Joe Kaplun  
6 Apex Ave Picnic Point 2213  
(Tel 02 9774 1473  
Mob 0407 741 473)**