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The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc. June 2009 Volume 42



*The Boys from the Branches at the Coffs re-union
Andrew Lloyd-Jones (SEQ), Dave Doyle (CHB) and Ken Clements (NHV)*



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrons

Mr Rusty Priest AM

BRIGADIER Wayne Goodman AM
Head of Regiment

President

Allan Harrison RFD

Vice President/Museum Liaison Officer

Joe Kaplun CMC, JP

Secretary/Public Officer

Bob Morrison RFD

Treasurer

Wayne Nash

Minutes Secretary

Tony Foster

Historian

Keith Ayliffe BEM

Web Master

John Posener

Newsletter Editor

Ken Clements

DVA Advocate

Kevin Maker JP

Merchandise Warehousing & Distribution

Phil Paton

Committee Members:

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Joe Elkusck,
Ron Hartmann, Graham Johnson,
Ivan Mills, Bob Owens BEM (Mil),
Bob Smith

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings

Another ANZAC Day has come and gone and we have some stories and photos later in LOCREP.

Unfortunately, a small minority of people seem to think that the ANZAC Day March is an excuse to see how much they can drink **before** the March. A few turned up at the Sydney March very much the worse for wear, an insult to the very essence of the occasion. I remind those people that as we salute the Cenotaph on the March, we salute those who gave their lives in time of war. If you cannot march with pride and dignity, you are not welcome to join our ranks and will be asked to leave in future. The party happens afterwards.

Still in a serious tone, we have lost our hard working Treasurer/Purchasing Officer Diane Wood. Thanks for your sterling efforts Di, you leave a big gap.

Since our last LOCREP went to press, we have received confirmation from BRIG Wayne Goodman AM of his acceptance of our invitation to join Rusty Priest as Joint Patron. He joins an impressive list of senior Gunners who have accepted the role. In the same post, I received a most gracious letter from outgoing Joint Patron, BRIG Phil Winter CSC, wishing the Association well for the future.

We have held this edition of LOCREP open until after the Coffs re-union, so that stories and photos can be included. Thanks to the contributors.

Veterans of the battles for FSB's CORAL and BALMORAL will recall that the production team for the TV documentary depicting the battles were active at the 40th Anniversary commemorations. The DVD is now available and details appear later in LOCREP.

Ubique

Allan Harrison
President

SEQ Branch – PRESIDENTS Re-enlistment Experience

Well I made it ! I survived a second stint at Kapooka, its great to be home after a month on late nights, early mornings, eating meals in 4 minutes, 2 minute showers and getting yelled at by people that were on average only about 6 years old when I left the army. With that said, the course was really good and on the whole was a lot of fun. The place has not changed in many ways, same mess, same lines, same basic objectives (being break you down and re build you into a soldier) but things like women in the platoons, being able to use mobile phones (at selected times of course) and in some ways the manner in which you are treated being more politically correct – takes a bit of getting used to.

For someone who last served 20 years ago, the army has definitely moved forward (which it had to – let's face it) and it is really pleasing to see so many young people lining up to serve, I spoke with many 18 & 19 year olds while I was there, something I haven't done for a long time, many were very excited about serving (including reservists) and quite a few indicated that they would be going fulltime. The army is very high tech now and as a result new jobs have been created which offer members the opportunity to become qualified in areas that years ago would not of been possible.



Andrew Lloyd – Jones (Centre) SEQ Branch President at his march out parade.

CHANGE OF OFFICE BEARERS

The President is pleased to announce the appointment of Wayne Nash to the Committee as Treasurer to take effect immediately.

The President also extends his sincere thanks to the outgoing treasurer Diane Wood for her outstanding

efforts as Treasurer and wishes her well in her future endeavours.

HUNTER VALLEY BRANCH ANZAC DAY

Anzac Day in the Hunter Valley was a very low key affair with members attending the March and Cenotaph Service in Morpeth.

After the March and Service, participants adjourned to the local hotel and sent a few cold ones down range.

The March and Service were very well attended and appreciated by the civil community.

ANNUAL GUNNER DINNER SYDNEY 2009

The Annual Gunner Dinner (Sydney) is to be held on 8 Aug 2009.

Details of the event are as follows:

Venue: Parramatta Ex Services Club Macquarie St Parramatta

Timings: 1900 for 1930

Dress: Black Tie or lounge Suit with miniatures

Cost: \$60 per head or \$55 if booking a table of 8.

Parking is free in the club car park opposite the venue.

Dinner Bookings: Vic Willey, 8 Mahnken Ave Revesby 2212. (tel 02 9773 9623). Include a list of names.

Cheques payable to the RAA Association (NSW) should reach Vic not later than 24 July.

Marriott Hotel special for overnight accommodation including breakfast: \$150 per couple (tel 02 9891 1277). Bus transfer is available.

When booking, please Inform Vic if you intend to use the Marriott accommodation and if you intend to use the bus transfer.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Association will be held on Sunday 12th July 2009 at 11.15 am at Paddington RSL, Oxford Street Paddington NSW.

Notices of motion to be considered at the AGM should reach the Secretary, 63 Highland Drive, Bowral NSW 2576, not later than 28th June 2009.

Nominations for the four positions on the Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary/Public

Officer and Treasurer) should also reach the Secretary by the same date. A nomination form is enclosed. **Please note the order in which the form is completed:**

Section 1 is completed by the member PROPOSING a member for election.

Section 2 is completed by the member SECONDING the nomination.

Section 3 is completed by the member being proposed for election, ACCEPTING the nomination.

All three must be financial members of the Association.

FSB CORAL DVD

We are pleased to announce the availability of the first release DVD detailing the battle of Fire Support Base Coral in South Vietnam in May-Jun 1968.

Whether you are a Gunner or a military aficionado or just someone who appreciates stories of men fighting for their lives and their country, you must have a copy of this DVD.

The DVD contains real time footage and photos from 1968 and today with each man telling his own story plus interviews with a senior North Vietnamese Officer who fought at FSB Coral.

Cost per unit is \$25 plus \$3 for postage.

To order either send a cheque to 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association, PO Box 468 Ingleburn NSW 1890, or

By EFT to NAB Account 082 225/83 654 6425.

Please ensure you include your name and postal address in the transfer.

Enquiries can be made to the secretary on (02) 9975 5537 or 0407 672 849 or jallan@datamasteranz.com

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

DIARY DATES

28 Jun 09 RAA National Museum Work party
12 Jul 09 (AGM) Paddington RSL 1115 hrs

MERCHANDISE

The following items are available

Stubby Holders	\$ 6.00	
Car Badges *	\$28.00	
Baseball Caps	\$23.00	
Lapel Badges	\$ 6.50	
Woven Beret Badges (Logo and Dragon available)	\$10.50	
Polo Shirts	\$40.00	(Navy or white, sizes S to XXL)
Plaques *	\$28.00	
Woven Pocket Patch Logos	\$10.50	
Bar Coasters	\$ 4.00	for 10
	\$ 7.00	for 30
	\$15.00	for 65
	\$20.00	For 100
Key Rings (2-sided, Assn & Dragon Logos)	\$ 6.50	
Bucket hats	\$20.00	(Royal Blue or Light Khaki)

*Above prices include postage and handling except for Car Badges and Plaques which incur an additional \$8.00 for postage because of weight.

Enquiries, please call **Joe Kaplun** on 02 9774 1473 and leave a message.

An order form is available on the website www.locatingartillery.org or you can order by simply writing to Joe at 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213 and enclose your cheque/MO payable to the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

Work Party dates prior to our 2009 AGM have been set (See Diary).

Work Parties commence at 0900 hrs and conclude with an Association-funded lunch at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess.

The current focus is on re-building the Locating display in the floor space allocated by Museum management.

Restoration projects in particular require considerable effort by volunteers.



131 Div Loc Battery and Locating Artillery Association forming up prior to this years Anzac Day March in Sydney with Association President Allan Harrison in the foreground.

(Photo was taken by Tahlia Benson, grand daughter of Jim Bushel - 130 Bty



Locators in Melbourne marching this Anzac Day are from L to R John Bayford, John Dellaca, Paul Dickson, Iain Kennedy, Terry Hunt. NB The two Johns and Iain are all proudly wearing their "CORAL" Association caps.



L to R Damian McManus, John Roberts, Bernard Erica (all 66/67 Vietnam originals) behind the 131 Banner (Melb 2009)

The Melbourne photos were taken by Andrew Ludlow

COFFS HARBOUR LOCATORS RE-UNION 2009

Things got going on Friday evening as people arrived in town by car, bus, train and plane. The meet and greet was peppered with many a back-slapping greeting as old friends renewed acquaintances. Recognition was not always easy as the years have a habit of changing how we look. The many photos of dashing Dave Doyle in Vietnam, shown over and over on big screens throughout the weekend, were testimony to that.

Saturday breakfast was followed by a free morning and afternoon and revellers took advantage of the opportunity to explore the city and nearby tourist attractions.

The memorial service at the City Cenotaph took place at dusk on Saturday and was hosted by Dave Doyle and Rev Dr Graham Whelan. The Catafalque Party was provided by 27 Army Cadet Unit, the young men and women of the unit doing a fine job. Their versatility was on display as they turned up time and again over the weekend to serve meals. What a great young team!

After the Service, visitors adjourned to the adjacent Ex-Services Club for pre-dinner drinks before heading to the auditorium for a sumptuous dinner. Entertainment was provided by a band led by former 131 Bty member, Gary Lovell. The irrepressible Ross Baker and partner Lynne led rush to the dance floor as usual and they were soon joined by many couples, including the cadets who found dancing in army issue boots no problem at all.

The banners on show attracted the usual parade of re-union groups taking photo opportunities and the photo flashes went on and on.



The Vietnam 1968 contingent

Plaques were presented to the cadets and the Club Functions Manager, among others, in appreciation.

Sunday morning breakfast was slow getting off the ground and late arrivals were the order of the day. Bowls teams were organised and this proved to be one of the highlights of the weekend as diverse teams were put together ensuring that new friendships were formed.

We all had a whale of a time. Jim Bushel, Bob Smith and Paul Greer took the "play in socks" offer literally and turned out in a dazzling array of footwear. Ivan Mills won the prize for the most wrong bias bowls.

New members' badges were handed out at dinner on Sunday night and more at breakfast Monday, 10 in all.

The weekend drew to a close with a bus trip organised by Wal Franklin on Monday. Well done Wal, you did a wonderful job getting the 1968 Vietnam Veterans together again.

Dave Auld.....another magic weekend.



130 and 133 Bty Revellers

Hard working merchandise manager Phil Paton did a roaring trade to the tune of almost \$1500 in sales over the weekend. Well done Phil and thank you members all.

In addition we welcome no less than ten new members, namely:

John Blake	(131 Bty)
Nev Hastings	(131 Bty)
Ken Taylor	(131 Bty, SAS & 3 Cav)
George Wearn	(20 Loc Regt, 130 Bty, 133 Bty)
Nev Smith	(131 Bty)
Rev Dr Graham Whelan	(7 Fd Regt)
Nick Armstrong	(130 Bty, 131 Bty)
Barry Crank	(130 Bty, 131 Bty, 12 Fd Regt)
Garth Nichols	(131 Bty)
Ken Jones	(131 Bty)

ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF LOCREP

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If you have an email address and would prefer to have electronic delivery, please let the Secretary know at robmor@ozemail.com.au

By doing so you will be conserving Association funds and getting more value for your membership \$.

