

# LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.  
October 2010 Volume 46



*Cover Photo: The Past and the Present.*

*Former Battery Commander of 131 Divisional Locating Battery Major Jeff Evans presenting the current Battery Commander of the 131<sup>st</sup> Surveillance and Target Acquisition Battery, Major Michael Van Tilburg with an Association plaque at the AGM Dinner held at Telarah in July 2010. Story in this issue.*



**The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield**

## OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Patron

Mr Rusty Priest AM

### President

Allan Harrison RFD

### Vice President/Museum Liaison Officer

MAJ 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 Elkus, Ron Hartmann, Graham Johnson, Ivan Mills, Wayne Nash, Bob Owens BEM (Mil), Bob Smith

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

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

### Branch Presidents:

**Newcastle/Hunter Valley:** Mick Jenkins  
**Northern NSW:** Dave Auld  
**South East Queensland:** Andrew Lloyd-Jones  
**131 Locators:** Bob Billiards

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

### Greetings

The year moves on with the AGM now a thing of the past. This edition of LOCREP carries a full report on the dinner staged by the Newcastle-Hunter Valley Branch as a prelude to the AGM.

Most members will be aware of the emergence of a new Association, known as the 131 Locators Association Inc. This initiative has come from Paul Dickson, a member of the Locating Artillery Association Inc. (Locarty) and editor of the popular "Eyes and Ears" newsletter. The move has generated considerable debate. Paul has maintained close liaison with our Committee throughout the formative stages of the new Association. It's a free country (thankfully) and while Paul's move has been opposed in some quarters, the fact is that the new Association is a reality.

Paul requested that the Vietnam Veterans Branch of Locarty be renamed the 131 Locators Association Inc., underlining a desire to retain close links with Locarty. This move was defeated in Committee. A compromise motion was passed that the Branch be renamed the 131 Locators Branch.

The Association was afforded a very real courtesy recently when I was invited to a meeting with Executives of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (SHFT) in company with Brigadier Vince Williams; the Manager, Australian Army Artillery Museum, Maj John Gallagher; and Laurie Manning representing the Armco Team, to discuss the Trust's Management Plan for North Head. This issue has been the source of considerable concern to some members.

SHFT accepts that Australian Artillery is a fundamental part of the heritage of North Head, and has recently come to the view that the "gateway" to North Head is in fact North Fort. It seems clear that a museum featuring the Artillery heritage will be part of the ultimate redevelopment of the North Fort precinct. The composition of this museum will be the subject of negotiation with SHFT. Brigadier Williams has offered his services to SHFT in an advisory role in this process.

Allan Harrison (President)

## VALE GEOFF LOCK

Members will be saddened to learn of the passing of popular ex-131 Bty member, Geoff Lock.

Geoff's widow Suzanne has requested that the Association maintain contact with her through LOCREP and we are pleased to agree to that.

A message of condolence has been sent to Suzanne on behalf of the Association.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The President of the Locating Artillery Association is pleased to welcome three new members to the Association and hopes their membership will be rewarding and enjoyable. The new members are Mr **Ken Long**, Newcastle/HV Branch, ex 131 Div loc Bty, Mr **Graham Dignam**, 131 Locators Branch, ex 131 Div Loc Bty and Lt **Catherine Waite**, 20<sup>th</sup> STA Regiment

## NATIONAL SERVICEMENS SCAM

The following warning was provided by Warwick Brooker on advice from John King of a scam targeting National Servicemen and others with a view to obtaining bank account details which are subsequently emptied. Thanks Warwick for the heads up and members please be aware and cautious:

*I have just been advised by DVA Cairns that some people are scamming mainly ex National serviceman. The ex serviceman is initially sent a letter advising them that they are entitled to Service pension and to contact the author. Once they do this they are then sent a letter with AMF (not used for many years) headed paper asking for bank details to put the service pension into, date of birth and other personal information. Their bank accounts are then cleaned out. Please advise as many others as possible of this scam.*

*Cheers*

*John King JP (Qual) Advocate | Pensions, Advocacy & Welfare Services RSL (Queensland Branch) [John.King@rslqld.org](mailto:John.King@rslqld.org) / [www.rslqld.org](http://www.rslqld.org)*

The following information was received from Andrew Lloyd Jones. Thanks to you also Andrew:

*Confirmed by DVA and advised that National*

*Servicemen are being targeted, also veterans, national servicemen and anyone remotely connected with the Australian Defence Forces – **BE AWARE & WARNED!***

*A timely warning indeed and you can check it out at*

*[http://www.dva.gov.au/news\\_archive/Documents/scams.pdf](http://www.dva.gov.au/news_archive/Documents/scams.pdf)*

*Check out scams etc at*

*<http://www.scamwatch.gov.au/content/index.phtml/tag/scamwatch/>*

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## 2010 AGM AND DINNER

The following report is provided by the President, Locating Artillery Association Newcastle & Hunter Valley Branch.

"It was a great pleasure for our branch to host the Dinner and AGM on the weekend of 17/18 July 2010. Although the number of members present was down on our last occasion we still had an enjoyable night.

We had members travel some distance to attend and one member ensured his job in Africa allowed him to be present. Our photographer for the night Mr. Paul Hanley has sent a CD of photos that will be sent to the Sydney Branch so they can be posted on the Association Web Site.

I thank Mr. Chris Sinclair from **Sign Action** Kingsgrove for his company's very kind donation of the table ports for the various toasts. Without his generous donation it makes it just that much harder to fund these events.



*(N&HVB Secretary and Association DVA Advocate Mr Kevin Maker JP welcomes guests to the Dinner)*



*(Major Retd - Graham (Wheels) Campbell – the Master of ceremonies for the night competently directing proceedings).*



*(The assembled group pose for a photo at the Telarah Bowling club at the 2010 AGM Dinner).*

I take the opportunity to thank all the various donors of the raffle prizes which resulted in a moderate profit on the night, Joe Kaplun's ticket selling was greatly appreciated. A lot of people work hard behind the scenes to organise these events and I take the time to thank Fran Sinclair & Gail Maker for all the administration they carried out.

In conclusion my special thanks and appreciation to Major Michael Van Tilburg and WO2 Red Skelton for their valued attendance from Brisbane at the dinner and the AGM. The first rate and professional presentations given by Michael and Red at the AGM were both informative and interesting into 20<sup>th</sup> STA Regiments roles and involvement in Afghanistan and the future of the Regiment.

I hope that you are all available to attend should the N&HVB host another dinner."

*Michael Jenkins,*  
President  
Newcastle & Hunter Valley Branch.

### TRACING THE DRAGON

In a follow up to our request for information on the origin of the Dragon artwork in the last issue of Locrep, many thanks to Keith Ayliffe for providing the following information which sheds a great deal of light and clears up any doubt as to the artworks origin:

#### *Arise the Dragon*

*Amidst the rattle of war in the year of 67, with the company spread from 'A' to breakfasttime, Da boss (Warrick Hamilton) pulled his foreman (The Late 'Chalky' Royal) aside and said "Chalky we need a permanent presence here for our boys to come and socialise (drink!)" (and face charges where necessary) So the empire builders began. An orderly room, Q-store, and of course the "locators lounge" (a small binge drinking den come night club. Later to become 'James Menz Club') With the empire taking shape Da boss said to Chalky "we need to be recognised - do something about it". So Chalky immediately sat down to pen a letter to his loved ones in the great southland down under, when he noticed the map of Vietas on the airmail envelope and in a flight of fancy*

thought "that looks like a dragon, maybe we should have a dragon as our company motif". So after a search (without the help of google – not yet invented) the image of an asian sky dragon was chosen as the model for the company motif. But wait there's more!!! A gunner (one of the highly intelligent breed that abounds in this company) suggested an atom to represent the bits and pieces of the unit revolving around a nucleus be included. "what a great idea" Said Chalky. "Fantastic" said da boss. "But we need someone to draw a design". "Not a problem, we have many 'B' artists in our company and some may be able to draw, we will run a competition for the best design. The winner can have a weeks rest at Delta LP and dine with the septics." And so it came to pass, a competition was run, a design selected and into history. So on the completion of the buildings of the new empire came the Company Dragon and Atom that so readily identified the brave and bold and others.



Photo of Original Drawing accredited to the late Ron Webb

Photo Taken by Grahame Dignam 1967

Story by Keith Ayliffe from information obtained from the 1967 contingent.

### RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

Work Parties commence at 1000hrs and conclude with an Association-funded lunch at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess. The current focus is on rebuilding the Locating display in the floor space allocated by Museum

management. 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 Sundays, Wednesdays and Public Holidays from 1100 hrs to 1600 hrs. Guided tours are provided.

Members wishing to become Tour Guides should ring **Joe Kaplun** on 02 9774 1473 or 0407 741 473

### DIARY DATES

31 Oct 2010	Work Party	North Fort
28 Nov 2010	Work Party	North Fort
5 Dec 2010	Ctee meeting/re-union	North Fort *
27 Feb 2011	Work Party	North Fort
6 Mar 2011	Ctee Meeting	Paddo RSL
27 Mar 2011	Work Party	North Fort
17 Apr 2011	Work Party	North Fort
25 Apr 2011	ANZAC Day	
29 May 2011	Work Party	North Fort
5 Jun 2011	Ctee Meeting	Paddo RSL
26 Jun 2011	Work Party	North Fort
10 Jul 2011	AGM	Paddo RSL

### SYDNEY RE-UNION

This annual event will be held at North Fort on Sunday 5 Dec 2010 following the Committee Meeting mentioned above (\*).

Full details are as shown on the enclosed booking form.

