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LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

March 2008



*131 Bty Drivers course 1966
See "Blast from the Past" feature inside
(Photograph courtesy of Roy Clauscen)*



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Patrons

Mr Rusty Priest AM

BRIGADIER Philip Winter CSC
Head of Regiment

President

Allan Harrison RFD

Vice President/Museum Liaison Officer

Joe Kaplun

Secretary/Public Officer

Bob Morrison RFD

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Minutes Secretary

Tony Foster

Historian

Keith Ayliffe BEM

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John Posener

Newsletter Editor

Allan Harrison RFD

Merchandise Officer

Diane Wood

Committee Members

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Joe Elkus, Ron Hartmann,
Graham Johnson, Ivan Mills, Wayne Nash,
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 Secretary, **Bob Morrison** Tel (02) 4861-6463, Mob 0417 447 504 or by email at robmor@ozemail.com.au

Committee Meetings for 07/08 will be held commencing at 1000 hours on the following dates:

2008

6 Apr, at Paddington RSL Club

8 Jun, at Paddington RSL Club

The AGM will be held on 13 Jul 2008 in Morpeth (see pages 5-6)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings

2008 marks the tenth anniversary year of our Association. We have come a long way since those early days and our tenth year will be marked with a dinner in July on the eve of the AGM. The dinner will be held in Morpeth, organised by our energetic Newcastle and Hunter Valley Branch. More details later in this issue of LOCREP.

We are earnestly seeking new blood in the Committee which has seen few changes other than re-shuffling roles for the last ten years. Re-arranging the deckchairs on the Titanic didn't work and it cannot continue indefinitely in our case if we are to survive. The AGM is your opportunity to come forward and share the load.

I am grateful to **BRIG Doug Perry** for bringing to our attention the award of an OAM to former 132 Bty member **Peter Wertheimer**, for services to the Army Reserve and Reserve Forces Day. Congratulations Peter.

Members will recall that the inaugural 20th STA Regt "Most Outstanding Junior NCO" award was announced at the Regiment's formal dinner held in November last year. That award is sponsored by the Association and the winner (**Bdr Michael Marsh**) is the subject of our "Locator in Profile" in this issue.

On a sad note, I have to report the passing of **LT COL Eric Nowill OBE**. Eric was the trailblazing Locator of the post WW2 era. A tribute to his service appears later in LOCREP.

Ubique

Allan Harrison

President

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	\$20.00	(two types)
Lapel Badges	\$ 6.00	
Woven Beret Badges (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 (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.

HISTORY OF LOCATING

The book "*Tracks of the Dragon - a History of Locating Artillery in Australia*" is readily available.

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

RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

Working Bee dates prior to our AGM have been set as follows:

- 30 Mar 08
- 27 Apr 08
- 25 May 08
- 29 Jun 08

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

Museum Management is currently looking at space allocations within the hangar in which the Locating and Air Defence displays are located. Once that is determined the Loc display will be revamped.

The AA No.3 Mk 7 Radar referred to in previous "LOCREPs" has been tidied up courtesy of the "Armco" restoration team at North Fort and will be included in the display in a position which will enable its dual AD and Mortar Locating roles to be explained.

The resto has been completed in record time and the result is simply outstanding as you will see.



*Radar No3 Mk7 now on display at North Fort
(Photograph courtesy of John Posener)*



*Radar No3 Mk7 Interior
(Photograph courtesy Allan Harrison)*

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.

GENERAL & REGIONAL CONTACTS

A contact list appears in each issue of "LOCREP". To get onto this list, please give written or (preferably) email permission to the Association at PO Box 1042 Manly NSW 1655 or info@locatingartillery.org

The list only contains the names of people who have given permission for their details to be published. It is not a full list of members.

The contact list will be posted onto our website as usual and updated as members give permission. The regional Contact List is also included.

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 3043 Abbotsford NSW 2046.

CORAL/BALMORAL BATTLES – 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

The Committee chaired by **Don Tait** (President, RAA Association, NSW) continues to work towards commemorations to be held in Canberra in May 2008 to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Battles for FSB's Coral and Balmoral.

The program is pretty well set and looks like this:

- 12 May 08 - National Reception (Parliament House)
- 13 May 08 – Joint Service, Vietnam War Memorial (*)
 - 12 Fd Regt Plaque dedication (AWM)
 - Informal Group Dinners
 - National Gunner Dinner (Federal Golf Club)
- 14 May 08 - Coral Artillery Ceremony (Mt Pleasant) (*)

- Remembrance Dinner (Federal Golf Club)

Events marked with an asterisk are open to the public. Other events are by invitation to Coral/Balmoral Veterans, as indicated in previous LOCREPS.

Applications from Veterans to attend have now closed.

There has been a very good response by Locators and we have over 50 people (incl partners) on the invitation list.

Keith Ayliffe has done a magnificent job in tracking down and contacting Veterans. This has been a mammoth task and has assisted the Association immeasurably in its role as representative of Locator Veterans of the battles, on the Planning Committee.



Bdr Keith Ayliffe examines shrapnel damage to a radar dish in the aftermath of the battle for Fire Support Base "Coral" 1968

(Photograph courtesy of the Keith Ayliffe collection)

RESERVE FORCES DAY (SYDNEY) 2008

2008 marks sixty years since the formation of the Citizen Military Forces in Australia. The RFD Council is looking for the men and women who joined the CMF between 1948-1950, to honour them for their service to the nation.

The council's plans provide for these people to:

- Be Guests of Honour at the RFD Parade
- Attend a Government House reception (with partners) and
- Have their military histories recorded in a special RFD publication.

Please advise the Secretary (contact details on page 2) if you are eligible or if you know someone (not necessarily a Locator) who may be eligible.

LOCATOR IN PROFILE - (BDR MICHAEL MARSH)

See separate article.

COFFS HARBOUR RE-UNION 2009

Evergreen Locator **David Auld** has been in touch and tells us that the next Coffs Harbour Locators' re-union has been scheduled for 5-6-7 June 2009.

The Coffs re-unions are legendary and we will keep you informed as the program unfolds.

BLAST FROM THE PAST – COVER PHOTO

Roy Clausen has unearthed the cover photograph which will stir some memories for sure. Miraculously, there were no casualties.



The question is, who are the people in the photo?

Roy took the shot and he assures us that he knows all of their names. How many can you identify? If you are in the photo, please let the Editor know, at PO Box 3043 Abbotsford 2046 or by email at allan@harrisonsolution.com.au

There is no prize for picking (a young) Lofty Hayes.

NOTHING HEARD - OVER

We appear to have lost comms with a couple of members whose mail has been returned. They are:
Terry Wilson (last address Essendon Vic)

Paul Kearns (last address Miller NSW)

If you can assist in any way please let Secretary **Bob Morrison** know. Tel (02) 4861-6463, Mob 0417 447 504 or by email at robmor@ozemail.com.au

AGM & 10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Kevin Maker and the Hunter Valley boys continue to show huge support for the Association and have come up with another great notion.

2008 is the 10th Anniversary Year of the Association. Recognising this, the Committee has gone along with the Newcastle and Hunter Valley Branch suggestion that the AGM be held in the Hunter Valley on the morning after the 10th Anniversary Dinner, also to be held in the Valley.

It will form part of another Hunter Valley Locators Weekend which will comprise the 10th Anniversary Dinner on the Saturday evening, a Remembrance Ceremony, prior to the AGM on Sunday morning, and a BBQ lunch.

The Minister for Defence, local MP Joel Fitzgibbon has indicated that he will attend the dinner subject to Parliamentary commitments.

Here is the program:

Dinner 12th July 2008

Venue: Commercial Hotel Morpeth
Timings: 6.00pm for 7.00pm
Dress: Jacket, Tie with medals, Ladies after 5
Cost: TBA (approx \$20 pp)
Drinks: Bar prices

The Proprietor will provide (free of further charge):
The venue, a local band (60's/70's music) and a free shuttle bus to and from local motels, until 1am.

AGM, Remembrance Ceremony and BBQ Lunch 13th July 2008

A remembrance ceremony and wreath laying will be held at the Memorial adjacent to the Commercial Hotel at 10am on 13th July. The AGM will be held in the Hotel at 10.30am, followed by a BBQ lunch.

Drinks will be at bar prices.

Cost for the BBQ will be approx. \$10.00.

Kevin advises that the closest motel accommodation to the dinner venue is:

Molly Morgan Motor Inn East Maitland 02 4933 5422
www.mollymorganmi.com.au or

Endeavour Motel East Maitland 02 4933 5488
www.endeavourmotel.com.au

Hunter Tennis Resort Morpeth (02 4933 3750) is offering a 20% discount if more than three rooms are booked. www.huntertennisresort.com.au

Final details re costs etc and a response form will be included in the next "LOCREP".

Morpeth is an historic inland Hunter River port town and partners who may not be interested in attending the AGM will find the historic art and crafts style of the town well worth exploring on Sunday morning after the Remembrance Ceremony.

ASSOCIATION TIE

The Committee is considering adding ties to the range of merchandise on offer.

A mockup of the body of the tie appears below, in navy blue with four red diagonal stripes beneath the Association Logo.



Experience in other Associations indicates that ties sell slowly if offered for general sale. We have to buy a minimum of 50 ties and will only do so if we get 40 firm commitments from members up front. The ties will sell for \$25 (a little less if we get substantially more than 50 firm offers to buy).

Therefore, we need to get an idea from members regarding their interest in buying a tie (or three).

Please let us know if you are prepared to commit to buy (max price \$25 ea) by email to allan@harrisonsolution.com.au or by post to the Association at PO Box 3043 Abbotsford NSW 2046.

Don't send money yet. If we don't get sufficient numbers we won't go down the "ties" track.

VALE ERIC NOWILL, OBE

Sadly we have learned of the death of LT COL **Eric Nowill, OBE** (rtd). Eric died on 10th Feb 2008, aged 89 years.

He was a distinguished Locator, commanding a Sound Ranging CP in Korea while posted to 61 Light Regiment RA. He subsequently commanded 131 Div Loc Bty RAA in the 1960's.

A detailed account of Eric's career appears in "*Tracks of the Dragon*" (see page 3 of this edition of "LOCREP").

One of his more colourful exploits while serving in Korea was to extend the range of a 4.2 inch mortar by the addition of a small quantity of avgas into the tube before releasing the bomb. The resultant extension of range caused the withdrawal of the Chicom mortar crews to a more respectful distance.

Eric was always interested in the activities of the Locating Artillery Association and will be sadly missed.

ANZAC DAY 2008 (SYDNEY)

The President of the RAA Association (NSW), **Don Tait** has contacted the Association regarding the order of march in this year's ANZAC Day Parade in Sydney.

He advises that, in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the battles for Fire Support Bases "Coral" and "Balmoral" and the role of Locators in the battles, it is proposed that the (Det) 131 Div Loc Bty (SVN) Banner parade immediately behind the 12 Fd Regt Banner and contingent this year. Former 131 Bty members should note this change.

The Association Banner will take its normal place ahead of the Air Defence contingents in the post WW2 section of the parade.