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LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

May 2008



Upturned Rifles – Coral/Balmoral 40th Anniversary Memorial Service

Vietnam War Memorial, Canberra ACT, 13 May 2008



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

Acting Treasurer

Allan Harrison RFD

Minutes Secretary

Tony Foster

Historian

Keith Ayliffe BEM

Web Master

John Posener

Newsletter Editor

Allan Harrison RFD

Merchandise Officer

Diane Wood

Committee Members

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Joe Elkusch, 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

1 Jun, at Paddington RSL Club (NB brought forward from 8 June)

The AGM will be held on 13 Jul 2008 in Morpeth (see pages 4 & 5)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings.

Another year in the life of the Locating Artillery Association Inc. draws to a close. This is our tenth anniversary year, the Association being formed at North Fort in 1968.

As indicated in the last issue of "LOCREP" the anniversary will be marked by a dinner to be held on the eve of the 2008 AGM. The Newcastle-Hunter Valley Branch of the Association will host the dinner and VIP invitations have been issued. I am very pleased to announce that the CO of 20th STA Regt **LTCOL Dean Pearce** and **RSM WO1 Joe Fabri** have both indicated that they will attend, operational commitments permitting. Further, the Regiment will provide a Catafalque Party for the Remembrance Service to be held prior to the AGM. Our ties with Regiment remain strong.

I was privileged to be the Locator member of the Planning Committee which put together the Coral/Balmoral 40th Anniversary Commemorations held in Canberra recently. A full report and photographs appears later in this issue of "LOCREP". I would like to place on record my personal appreciation to **Keith Ayliffe** for his tireless work in pulling together a remarkable Locator attendance at the commemorative events. Proportionally, Locator numbers attending were overwhelmingly superior with 30 of a possible 33 making the journey. Thanks Keith.

RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

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

25 May 08

29 Jun 08

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

Museum Management has determined the allocation of floor space in the Loc/AD hangar resulting in a reduction of space allocated to Locating. This is a most disappointing outcome, especially in the light of the fact that The Locating Artillery Association was the trailblazer in "adopting" a display for development and maintenance purposes.

Nevertheless, we will shortly submit a revised display brief which will hopefully recapture the character and appeal of the original display which has been lost in the current configuration of the hangar.

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,

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 | |
| 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 - PHOTO

Roy Clausen unearthed this photo which appeared in the previous issue of "LOCREP". It did stir some memories and our claim that there were no casualties drew a reply from "Spike" Chase claiming that there was at least one broken arm, sustained by "Shorty" Gow.



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

This question was not well answered, even by Roy who now admits he can't remember them all!

Our comment re Lofty Hayes drew a response from June Clunes-Bonser asking if the bloke right front was her late husband. Sorry June, it's Lofty. Now Lofty.....are you hiding something from us?

Bill Finlay had a real go and reckons the people are Brian? Price, Dave (shorty) Gow, Mal Ewart, Ray Minns, Hughy Hoddy, Lofty Hayes and maybe Merv Blair?

NOTHING HEARD - OVER

We appear to have lost comms with a member whose mail has been returned. He is:

Alan Chesterton (last address Ourimbah 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

10TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

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. As we go to press and operational commitments permitting, the CO and RSM 20th STA Regiment have indicated that they will attend the dinner.

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.

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: \$25 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.

Remembrance Ceremony, AGM and BBQ Lunch 13th July 2008

A remembrance ceremony will be held at the Memorial adjacent to the Commercial Hotel at 10am on 13th July. ***A Catafalque Party will be provided by 20th STA Regiment.***

The AGM will follow at 10.30am in the Commercial Hotel, followed by a BBQ lunch.

Drinks will be at bar prices.

Cost for the BBQ will be \$10.00.

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

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

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

Hunter Tennis Resort Morpeth (02 4933 3750) is offering a 20% discount (mention the Locating Artillery weekend) www.huntertennisresort.com.au

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.

A response form is enclosed and it should be completed and returned as indicated on the form.

ASSOCIATION TIE

As indicated in the last issue of "LOCREP", the Committee is considering adding ties to the range of merchandise on offer.

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.

The article in the last "LOCREP" drew only 17 positive replies. This is 23 short of the required target and we will abandon the idea unless the magic number of 40 is reached.

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Association will be held on Sunday 13th July at 10.30 am in the Commercial Hotel Morpeth, following a Remembrance Service nearby at 10am.

Notices of motion to be considered at the AGM should reach the Secretary 63 Highland Drive Bowral NSW 2576, not later than 22nd June 2008.

Nominations for 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.

CORAL/BALMORAL BATTLES – 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS

After more than a year of planning and preparation by a Committee chaired by **Don Tait**, President RAA Association (NSW), the Commemorative events took place in Canberra on 12-14 May 2008.

The opening event was a Prime Ministerial Reception in the Great Hall at Parliament House attended by over 2000 people. The PM and Leader of the Opposition both spoke at length regarding the battles and specifically the poor treatment of veterans in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.



*Terry Erbs and Keith Payne VC at the PM's Reception
(Photograph courtesy of Allan Harrison)*

Next day saw the Memorial Service at the Vietnam War Memorial, (see cover Photo) followed by a plaque dedication at the Australian War Memorial.



*Gordon Williams and John Dellaca with the Det 131 Div Loc Bty
Banner
in the March Past after the memorial Service.
(Photograph Courtesy of Allan Harrison)*

That evening saw a number of dinners take place, notably the National Gunner Dinner at the Federal Golf Club and the Locators' Dinner, hosted by **Keith Ayliffe** at Rydges Eaglehawk Resort. Highlight of that evening was Keith's brilliantly presented DVD depicting both the serious and funny side of life in Det 131 Div Loc Bty at Coral in particular and in Vietnam in general.

Day three began with an emotional memorial service at Mt Pleasant featuring the firing of two minute guns in memory of the two Gunners KIA at Coral, and a flypast of one of the few remaining Hueys still flying.



*The Gunner Memorial, Mt Pleasant
(Photograph courtesy of Allan Harrison)*

Commemorative events concluded with the Coral Memorial Dinner at the Federal Golf Club on the last evening.



*Phil Perrin (OC Det 131 Div Loc Bty at Coral) with Keith Ayliffe
at the Memorial Dinner.
(Photograph Courtesy of Allan Harrison)*

Terry Erbs has volunteered to cull and compile some hundreds of photographs taken at the Coral commemorative events. He will assemble them into a CD and the Committee of the Association will look at making copies available to all attendees. Thank you Terry and “*Watch this Space*”.

ANZAC DAY 2008 (SYDNEY)

Early rain cleared and we had a dry march. That changed at the Menzies Sporters Bar, where the Gunners gathered at the traditional watering hole.

This year the Locators were separated into two groups, the Det 131 Div Loc Bty group marching behind the 12 Fd Regt party in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral (SVN 1968).

Numbers were up this year with a combined total of 52 Locators taking part in the Sydney march.



*Association members after the Sydney March
(Photograph courtesy of Tahlia Benson)*

ANZAC DAY 2008 (BRISBANE)

Peter Piro and Terry Erbs sent photos of the Brisbane March, which was well attended. Peter’s photographs were taken from his position of privilege in his personal jeep limmo.



Det 131 Div Loc Bty Banner at the head of the Locators in Brisbane. Post-march celebrations were held on a river cruise where the Locators joined forces with 105 Bty. Sydney and Melbourne Locators visited Brisbane this year and Canberra is the target for 2009 for the travelling 68/69 Vietnam Veterans.



*Locators on the March – Brisbane 2008
(Photograph courtesy of Terry Erbs)*

ANZAC DAY 2008 (COFFS HARBOUR)

ANZAC Day at Coffs Harbour was a wet affair and umbrellas (or a ride in a jeep for Dave Auld) were the order of the day. Space doesn't permit us to publish all of the photos Dave sent to us, but he does look good in a Macarthuresque pose in the back seat of his personal jeep.

The photo below shows Dave Doyle laying a wreath at the Coffs Harbour Cenotaph, while local schoolchildren look on.



(Photograph courtesy of Dave Auld.)