

### Brisbane ANZAC Day 2023

Much like last year, it was a wet and overcast ANZAC Day morning when we drove into Gallipoli Barracks for 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment's traditional Dawn service. Unfortunately, last year our interstate visitors, due to unforeseen circumstances, arrived as the Dawn service was starting, so this year we were instructed to arrive by 4.30am, and the Menz Club coffee machine got a very early work out!

Fortunately, two marques had been erected for guests so we didn't have to sit on wet seats however most of the large crowd of the Regiment & families stood outside in light showers. During the solemn service wreathes were laid on behalf of the LSTTA and 131 Bty Associations by Ian Board and myself. The wreathes were laid reverently but carefully due to the gloomy damp conditions. On reflection we both moved slower due to aging and Ian's recent hip replacement!



As usual after the service, breakfast was provided by the Regiment in the carpark, tasty cheese, bacon & egg rolls, the Checkley annex was crowded and the Menz Club coffee machine continued to get a good work out! In the city, the LSTAA banner was again used as the rallying point on the corner of George St and Mary St. The new larger replacement the 131 Banner couldn't be included in this year's march but will be next year!



Harry Lynas met us in the city but didn't march but Stan Briggs, Johnny Bristow, Phil Sheedy, John Blake and TC White were part of the dwindling group of Vietnam Vets who did. There was the normal congestion around the March start time of 10am, as banners and units were sorted out by parade officials. Although we were near the front of the march, we still didn't start on time nor

were we accompanied by a band so it was more of an “amble down” George St into Adelaide St and past ANZAC Square in front a very large appreciative crowd.



As the photos & TV coverage showed we were probably the largest association marching with numbers increased by serving members [thanks to the CO for encouraging the “boys & girls” to march]. Our group was only briefly mentioned during the TV coverage despite a precis of the Locator’s history being provided to ABC.



We arrived early at the renovated “Stockie”, with its great outdoor barbeque area and all enjoyed many convivial drinks before further showers forced a rapid retreat from the barbeque garden.

On behalf of all Locators, many thanks to Lt. Col. David Hickey C.O. and WO1 Mel Wood RSM for 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment’s great support. This continues to mean much to the older and dwindling number of Vietnam Locators and hopefully reinforces to younger Locators their long and distinguished heritage.

*Qld Rep Terry Erbs*