

# LOCREP

*The Newsletter of the Locating Surveillance & Target Acquisition Association  
Inc.*

October 2013 Volume 54



Vale Rusty Priest AM



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

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**Web Site:** [www.locatingartillery.org](http://www.locatingartillery.org)**Email:** [info@locatingartillery.org](mailto:info@locatingartillery.org)**Branch Presidents:**

Hunter Valley:	"Wheels" Campbell
Northern NSW:	Dave Auld
South East Queensland:	Phil Swinsburg
131 Locators:	Bob Billiards

**Meeting Dates**

24 Nov 2013	Ctee mtg and re-union Paddo RSL
9 Mar 2014	Ctee mtg Paddo RSL
20 July 2014	AGM Paddo RSL

All commence at 11.15 am

## Greetings

Welcome to my first report as your newly-elected President.

Firstly let me express the sadness felt by us all on the passing of our Patron, Rusty Priest AM. He was indeed a great man and he will be sadly missed by all. I have personally passed condolences to his family on behalf of the Association.

Secondly, I would like to thank Allan Harrison and his outgoing Committee for his outstanding management of the Association under his stewardship for the last eleven years. This includes other behind the scenes people in non-elected positions (and their partners) for their untiring efforts.

In particular I would like to thank Fran Sinclair for her much appreciated devotion and effort in ensuring the timely electronic distribution of newsletters and notices.

In past years we have become increasingly involved with 20<sup>th</sup> STA Regt and I am determined that this will continue (see article on SEQ Branch later in this edition).

In conclusion, I have been given the reins of a viable and progressive organisation and intend to see it continue to evolve as an instrument by which all past and present Locating and STA personnel can maintain contact with each other and a significant period of their lives.

To this end I plan to institute a segment in LOCREP where members can contribute stories and photographs from their past or present experiences, which others may find interesting. Please send these to me for inclusion.

In a spirit of inclusion, may I remind you that the Association belongs to us all and I invite members to contact me with any ideas or suggestions for the improvement and betterment of our Association.

Ubique

Joe Kaplun  
President

## Tribute to The Late Rusty Priest AM

Rusty was the inaugural patron of the Association and remained as co-patron until his recent passing.

He was unusual in the role of Patron in that he took a genuine interest in our affairs, attended Committee Meetings regularly until his failing health prevented that and was ever ready to offer wise counsel and assist wherever possible.

Rusty was a long term Locator, serving in 20<sup>th</sup> Locating Regiment, later 130 Corps Locating Battery in the 1950's and 60's. In 1965 he was posted to Holsworthy where he trained C Troop, 130 Gun Loc Battery for service in South Vietnam.

On promotion to Warrant Officer Class One, he was posted to the Directorate of Artillery at Army Headquarters in Canberra until his retirement in 1967 to settle with his family at Revesby NSW.

He joined the Revesby Heights Ex-Servicemen's Club and became its President in 1987. In 1993 he was elected NSW State President of the RSL and worked tirelessly, determined to make the RSL relevant for younger generations of Australians.

Notable among his achievements are the naming of the ANZAC Bridge, the placement of statues of an Australian and a New Zealand soldier on the approaches to the bridge and the construction of the Kokoda Track Memorial at Concord.

Rusty was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1997 for his service to the Ex-Service Community.

The calibre of the man was recognised by the granting of a State Funeral.

Our sincere condolences are offered to his family.

A Gunner through and through, he will be sorely missed.



## Our New Banner



Well here it is in all its glory! The maker has completed the task and sent us this photo to prove the point. At the time of going to print the new banners and standard had not landed in Australia but they won't be too much longer. The Committee is as frustrated as members no doubt are, at the amount of time taken to produce the new banner but by the look of the finished item, it seems that the wait will be worth it.

Watch this space!

## Sydney Gunner Dinner 2013

The Sydney Gunner Dinner was held at what is becoming its traditional "home" these days, Parramatta RSL on Sat 3 August.

Not unexpectedly, numbers are down on the halcyon days of this magnificent event when it was held at the (former) School of Artillery at North Head.

The function soldiers bravely on despite the fact that although a Gunner presence remains, Artillery units as such are disappearing from Sydney.



## South East Queensland Branch

During the last few years we have become increasingly involved with 20th STA Regt with the aim of centralising the leadership of the Association in the South East Queensland area.

Such a move would enable us to be closely located with the Regiment thus creating a vehicle through which all serving and past STA members can maintain contact and thus ensure the future of the Association.

To this end our Senior Vice President (and past CO of the Regiment) Phil Swinsburg is looking for interested people to assist in achieving this aim.

Any members wishing to assist should contact Phil on 0425 000 370 or by email at [phil.swinsburg@unmannedsystems.com.au](mailto:phil.swinsburg@unmannedsystems.com.au)

## Sydney Re-union 2013

This year the Sydney Re-union will be held at Paddington RSL on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov.

The re-union will be preceded by a brief Committee Meeting commencing at 1115 hrs. The Re-union proper will start at 1230 hrs.

Finger food plus hot and cold snacks will be served and drinks will be available at bar prices.

The cost per person will be \$10. Payment will be required on the day however for catering purposes those wishing to attend should contact Joe Kaplun on 040 774 1473 or email [joekaplun@optusnet.com.au](mailto:joekaplun@optusnet.com.au) before 12 Nov 2013.