

LOCREP

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

December 2016 Volume 61



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

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Branch Presidents:

Hunter Valley:	"Wheels" Campbell
Northern NSW:	Dave Auld
South East QLD:	Terry Erbs
131 Locators:	Bob Billiards

MEETING DATES

Sunday 26th February 2017 at Paddington RSL

Sunday 30th April 2017 at Panania Diggers RSL

Sunday 16th July 2017 at Paddington RSL (AGM followed by Committee Meeting)

All meetings commence at 1115 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Welcome to this 'Festive Season' edition of LOCREP thanks to the hard work of our webmaster Allan.

You will read about the great success of our October reunion at Coffs. My congratulations go to the Northern NSW Branch organising committee for their outstanding effort in staging this memorable event.

The culmination of all the hard work put in by members of the SEQ Branch relating to the restoration of the AN/KPQ1 radar and erection of its 'DVA grant' shelter at 20 STA, is also much appreciated.

A very successful year was concluded with the Association sponsored Jnr NCO of the year Award presented to BDR Michael Jackson by SEQ President Terry Erbs at the Farewell Parade for outgoing S7 (Trg and Stds) MAJ Russ Hamsey and RSM WO1 Sean Voss. Their support to the Assn was 'total' and I have no doubt that it will be continued by their successors.

I take this opportunity to welcome to our Committee Allen Morley as Jnr Vice President and Rev Dr Graham Whelan as Padre. I send you all best wishes for the festive season and New Year and a safe and prosperous 2017.

Ubique
Joe Kaplun OAM

President



Vale Norm McManus

Vale Norman Ronald Keith McManus Regimental Number 26202

Locators far and wide will be saddened at the news that one of our best, Norm McManus passed away on 4th Oct 2016.

One of the "old School" Locators, Norm will long be remembered for his prowess as a surveyor and sound ranger. Once a regular attendee at re-unions and the like, Norm has been battling ill health in recent times.



*At the 131 Plaque dedication, Australian War Memorial, on
4th May 2012,
with Kevin Browning, David Doyle and Terry Erbs*

He was born on 18th August 1924 and rose to the rank of WO2. A Veteran of WW2, he also served in South Vietnam (from 11 Nov 1970 until 19 Aug 1971). He was Survey Sgt in 131 Div Loc Bty in the early 1960's and served as BSM in 1965-66.

Norm was a keen sportsman and excelled at both baseball and cricket.

His funeral was held at St Peters Anglican Church at his beloved Shoalhaven Heads on 11th October 2016.

Vale Keith Cossart

Vale Warrant Officer Class One Keith Maxwell Cossart MSM

(26 July 1933 – 25 November 2016)

Keith Maxwell Cossart was the second son of LTCOL Leslie and Isabelle Cossart.



Following in his father's (WWII) and grandfathers (Boar War) footsteps, Keith enlisted in the ARA. Firstly, as an Army Apprentice (1/8506) on 28 July 1949 and then transferred to the RAA (1/2688), North Head, Sydney, for Corps training after which he was posted to 1 Fd Regt, RAA at Georges Heights Sydney on 9 September 1952.

Keith rose steadily through the ranks and was promoted to BDR (Jan 1955), T/Sgt (Sept 1955) and Sgt (Aug 1956). Postings to the Directorate of Artillery at AHQ (1956), 1 Field Regiment and then to the Cadre Staff of HQ RAA 1 Corps (1957) followed.

In 1960, Keith was posted to HQ RAA 1 Div where he was promoted to Staff Sgt in Aug 1961. He was then transferred to 4 Fd Regt, Wacol in Oct 1963 and promoted to WO2 as the TSM of "D" Troop, 105 Fd Bty. It was during this time that Keith deployed with Exercise "Tasman III" with 16 Fd Regt, RNZA as the BG, 105 FD Bty; an appointment that his son, Ian Keith Cossart would occupy some 26 years later. In 1965 he was again posted to 1 Fd Regt

Holsworthy, firstly as the TSM "A" Troop, A Fd Bty and later as the BSM, HQ Bty. Keith was then appointed as the BSM of 131 Div Loc Bty and in 1967 to the ARA Cadre Staff 130 Gun Loc Bty as the ARA BSM where he was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

On 16 June 1970, he was promoted to the rank of WO1 in the Directorate of Equipment Policy. On the 5th April 1971, Keith was appointed RSM Army HQ for which he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in July of that year. He was then transferred to the Directorate of Army Recruiting as a Staff Officer Class 2 before retiring from the ARA on 1 August 1976.

Keith then worked for the NRMA for 14 years as a Claims Officer and as Legal and Touring Officer. In 1990 he moved to the Australian War Memorial and later became Public Events Coordinator. One of the many highlights during his time at the (AWM) was his direct involvement in the Memorial's 75th Anniversary Celebrations, the Entombment of the "Unknown Australian Soldier" and the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War 2, (Australia Remembers 1995).

Not to be left idle, Keith managed to fit in being the first National Secretary of the Australian Defence Force Welfare Association (ADFWA), Hon Auditor of the Canberra Swiss Club and many other local organisations, Hon Auditor of the ACT Artillery Association, the Board of the Woden Valley RSL, a Hospital Visitor for the Woden Valley RSL. He was an active participant of the 105 Fd Bty Association and enjoyed going to various reunions.

Keith fully retired in August 1996 spending his time in Canberra coupled his annual pilgrimage to Golden Beach, Caloundra where he and his wife Monica (the daughter of the late LTCOL Hal Hartnett MBE, also a Gunner) would beat the Canberra winter.

He passed away peacefully in Canberra Hospital surrounded by his close family. He leaves behind a very full and successful life of duty, camaraderie, and devotion to everything he undertook. Keith was a gentleman and tribal elder of the Canberra Gunners with strong

values, who was held in high esteem by all who served with him. He always showed a fond interest in the RAA happenings and to those who would follow in his footsteps.

He will be sadly missed.

RAA Junior NCO of the Year

Members will be delighted to read that the RAA Junior NCO of the Year Award for 2016 has gone to a member of 20th STA Regt.

Pictured below is BDR Aaron Bamford receiving his award at the School of Artillery, Puckapunyal.

The Association sends its warmest congratulations to BDR Bamford on his outstanding achievement.

Thanks to retiring RSM Sean Voss for sending us this information and photo.



St Barbara's Day at 20th STA Regt

On a typically hot humid Brisbane summer's day, 20th STA Regiment formally paraded on St. Barbara's Day to farewell long serving and respected Locators, MAJ Russ Hamsey and RSM WO1 Sean Voss.



For the parade and to honour both Locators, MAJ Russ Hamsey was Reviewing Officer and RSM WO1 Sean Voss was Principal Guest while LT COL Peter Grant was Host Officer.



Following the parade the CO, in front of family and friends, pinned the stripes on newly promoted OR's and announced various awards including the Champion Battery, which was CSS Bty. The Champion Soldier award, sponsored by LSTAA, was then presented by Terry Erbs (President SE QLD Branch) to BDR Michael Jackson 132 UAV BTY.



Before a very large appreciative crowd of family, friends and guests, who were able to sit in the welcome shade, the Regiment under the command of Parade Commander MAJ Geoff Meekan and RSM WO1 Ian Carmichael paraded the Queen's Banner, which was carried by LT Forner.



Afterwards everybody headed for the shade of the Checkley Annex and much needed refreshments at the James Menz Club. A well-organised family day with many activities kept the children occupied. Everybody enjoyed the generous barbeque and cool drinks while a band kept up lively music.

Coffs Re-union Report



Festivities got under way on Friday evening 30th Sept with the usual meet and greet at Coffs Harbour Ex-Services Club (CEX) where the traditional back slapping and ribald remarks about grey hair and balding were the order of the day. There were banners galore which gave the Blue Room a festival atmosphere.



Russ, who is currently S7 {Trg and Stds} and before that 2I/C of the Regiment, does ultimately plan to retire but not before a final deployment to the Middle East followed by Long Service Leave with a long family holiday.

However Sean, after a long and distinguished service as a Locator and at the apex of his career, has been posted as RSM ,Queensland University Regiment and will continue in the service.

After an early breakfast next morning (Saturday) at the Club, we set off for Bellingen where we visited the old Norco Butter Factory, now given over to a restaurant and arts/crafts centre where the local alternative lifestyle folks sell their stuff. Shuttle buses ran back and forth to Bellingen township where we were able to stroll around the old style shops/pub etc. and soak up the local laid back "Byron/Nimbin" style of life.



On return to Coffs we spruced up and attended an Association Service at the cenotaph adjacent to CEX, where the guest speaker was David Doyle OAM, CEX President and Association member. The service was presided over by our Padre, Association member Rev. Dr Graham Whelan DD, PhD.

Many thanks to Terry Erbs for the story and pics.



On the way we stopped off at the Bowraville Racecourse to view a very interesting display of vintage military vehicles including a Vietnam era APC which roared around the infield to the delight of all present. Not sure how the course curator took to the impromptu ploughing however.

Also of interest was a WW2 Stuart Tank in working order.

Then off to the Club for pre-dinner drinks and our Regimental Dinner.



Next morning we boarded a luxury coach and headed for Bowraville to visit the Frank Partridge VC Military Museum, a must see if visiting that part of the world.



WW2 Blitz Wagon



WW2 British SAS Desert Jeep

After the museum visit we were treated to lunch at Bowraville RSL where the locals took a fancy to our spectacular re-union shirts.



The Doyles, reluctant models!

It was then back to Coffs for the Buffet dinner where we said goodbye to some of the 88

attendees who were making an early start next morning.

Monday morning saw the final good byes at the farewell breakfast.

A big thank you to the Boys and Girls of the Northern NSW Branch who put the show together, **especially Lois Doyle** who carried most of the organisational burden.

Remember, this was the last of a memorable series of Coffs Re-unions dating back many years. 20th STA Regiment has graciously agreed to host future events, starting with the next in 2018 to coincide with the Regiment's Birthday. Watch this space!

(Thank you to Terry Erbs and Allan Harrison for the pics)

Changes of Address and Email Address

We harp on this subject endlessly but still continue to lose contact with members who move house and/or change email address.

For very obvious reasons, it is critically important that we keep our database up to date.

Please keep the Hon Sec (Bob Morrison) informed of any changes at robmor47@ozemail.com.au

Similarly, if you know of mates who have moved or changed email address, please encourage them to keep Bob in the loop.

Directions for our Website

Please send your stories and photos to Allan Harrison at allan@harrisonsolution.com.au

The website address is www.locatingartillery.org and Allan would be pleased to get your feedback on how the website is shaping up, at his email address above.

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