

LOCREP

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

July 2017 Volume 62



*Former members of 133 Div Loc Bty Det Chief Insp Jenny Hayes, Kim McGrath and MAJ Jenni Jiear OAM,
pictured with Head of Regiment BRIG Craig Furini AM, CMC at the 2017 National Gunner Dinner.*



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Patrons

LTCOL Peter Grant CO 20th STA Regt
Phil Swinsburg (Inaugural CO 20th STA Regt)

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Joe Kaplun OAM, CMC, JP

Padre

Rev Dr Graham Whelan OAM, DD, PhD

Committee Members:

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel, Joe Elkus, Ivan Mills, Bob Owens BEM (Mil), Phil Paton, Bob Smith

Web Site: www.locatingartillery.org

Email: info@locatingartillery.org

Branch Presidents:

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

MEETING DATES

Sun 3 Dec 2017: at Panania RSL, also Christmas Reunion after the meeting.

Sun 11 Mar 2018: at Paddington RSL.

Sun 8 Jul 2018 and AGM: at Panania RSL

All meetings commence at 1115 hrs.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings

Another AGM has come and gone to find last year's Executive and Committee re-elected unopposed.

I thank all those who voted for their expressed confidence and all those who stood for re-election for their ongoing commitment.

Alternating meeting locations between Paddington RSL and Panania Diggers was well received in the last year and it was agreed that this style would continue. See this edition of LOCREP (above) for meeting dates and locations for the coming year.

Our South East Queensland Branch has been working hard to organise and coordinate a Reunion Dinner with an Open Day at the Regiment at Enoggera in Oct 2018. I encourage your replies to requests for expressions of interest (see later in LOCREP) and your support and attendance.

Ubique

Joe Kaplun OAM, CMC, JP
President

BRISBANE (provided by SEQ Branch President Terry Erbs)

In cool fine weather the traditional Dawn Service was held at 20th STA Regiment's memorial wall in Gallipoli Barracks. Several hundred past & serving members with family and friends heard in reverent silence the Regiment's padre read the lesson, and it wasn't the 23 psalm Russ! Maj Russ Hamsey is still in the Middle East on his final deployment. The CO Lt Col Peter Grant gave a moving speech then wreathes were laid, including the LSTAA wreath by Terry Erbs and the 131 Bty wreath by Ian Board.

At the most solemn and very poignant moment of the service, as the Last Post was sounded in the pre-dawn light, the native bird's started their early morning chorus – a very Australian Dawn Service!



*Top Terry Erbs & Ian Board
Bottom LTCOL Peter Grant & MAJ Geoff Meekan*

After the service the Menz club was opened for drinks, and for those seeking something non-alcoholic the club made great coffee with their newly purchased commercial grade coffee machine! Out in the Checkley Annex, a noisy [challenging for those of us with poor hearing!!] & happy crowd enjoyed a hearty breakfast before heading into Brisbane for the Anzac Day march. Many thanks to Andrew Wallace for again organising the LSTAA banner and "volunteer" carriers. The banner was again successfully used as our rallying point in George St. [note - next year the March route/assembly point will change due to major construction in the area]. The march officially started at 10am, but we started gathering from 9.30am before finally commencing the march at 11am – the time was well spent catching up with mates.



*Rob Torrisi, Terry Erbs, David Dodds, T.C.White, Phil Sheedy
John Bristow*



Sgt Andrew Wallace, WO1 Kym Fox, WO1 Sean Voss and Gnr Matika Harvey [background- banner carrier]

Like last year our position in the march kept changing but we finally stepped off in position "47" – the 131 Bty. Vehicle "tac" number-how's that for a coincidence! Led by Lt Col Phil Swinsburg [Rtd] and Lt Col Peter Grant CO 20th STA Regiment, the group was headed by 7 Vietnam veterans and followed by nearly 70 younger serving and retired veterans of 20th STA Regiment. The ABC TV commentary team had done their homework, having read the supplied summary of Locating and gave us good coverage about our history, service and specialised artillery skills.

Stock Exchange Hotel to enjoy the customary few refreshing drinks with mates, family & friends.



Phil Swinsburg, MAJ Brin & MAJ Gledhil



*BDR Clint Hodgetts (RTD), WO2 Phil Grieve
& WO1 Sean Voss.*



As usual, many drinks were enjoyed, stories retold and mates exchanged news. It was very enjoyable day and I believe everyone got home safely, although serving members had to work the next day! Numbers were down a little from last year, with a number marching in Sydney & Canberra this year.

Notable local absences included Steve Hall, Pete Ravalje, Graham Williams, Lionel Outten, Joe Losiak and Derek Hinde, maybe next year fellas.

After the traditional group photo on the steps of the GPO, it was a short quick walk to the

COFFS HARBOUR (provided by Immediate Past President Allan Harrison RFD)

The Weather Gods were on our side or perhaps our Association Padre, Coffs resident Rev Dr Graham Whelan OAM, DD, PhD had inside influence.

It was a perfect day beginning with the Traditional Dawn Service presided over by Graham.

A small but keen group of former Locators gave the old Association banner its annual airing.



Pictured before the march, L-R Dave Auld and Jim Hogno (131 Bty) Charles Brewer (133 Bty) and Allan Harrison (130 and 133 Btys) flanked by banner bearers supplied by 27th Aust Army Cadet Unit

A feature of the Coffs march and main service was a low level flypast of choppers from 725 Sqn RAN. The Sqn was given Freedom of the City of Coffs Harbour in the "adopt a city" program in 2016 and was well represented in the 2017 march.

The Squadron is equipped with the latest Sikorsky MH-60R Seahawk "Romeo" Naval Combat helicopters.



Sikorsky MH-60R Seahawk "Romeo" Naval Combat helicopter.

BALLARAT (provided by Ross Baker ex 131 Bty)

Ross had travelled to Ballarat this ANZAC Day to visit the honour wall which contains the name of his second cousin who was shot and killed while escaping from Stalag 8 in WW2. Thanks Ross and Lynn for some beautiful pics:



Field of Poppies



Memorial Walk and Honour Wall, Ballarat Vic.



Melbourne Locators on the march in Swanston St

Melbourne (Provided by John Dellaca with photos by Annette Bayford)

John reports "We wound up with 7 locators from 131 Vietnam on a really miserable wet day in Melbourne. Nevertheless it was great to see, Damian McManus back after several years of illness."

SYDNEY (Provided by Jim Bushel and Association President Joe Kaplun OAM CMC)

Here's the post-march photo showing President Joe Kaplun (3rd from right) with the Sydney push. Joe led the LSTA detachment in the March. (Ed: I know some of the faces but not all. Assistance appreciated to allan@harrisonsolution.com.au)



L to R: John Dellaca Al Adam Damian McManus John Bayford and Mitch Millar at the Melbourne FUP



2017 National Gunner Dinner - Caloundra

Another resounding success story as this event cements itself into the Gunner world. An even bigger rollup than in 2014, the National Gunner Dinner is clearly accepted by increasing numbers of serving and former Gunners.



President of the Australian Artillery Association, Kim McGrath and the Head of Regiment BRIG Craig Furini AM, CMC, are piped into the Dining Room.



Peter and Rhonda Binns on arrival



President of the Australian Artillery Association, Kim McGrath, greets former 133 Bty colleagues Det Chief Insp Jenny Hayes and MAJ Bernadine O'Shaughnessy in the foyer.



Rhonda Binns, Bob Smith, Zeta and Wayne Thompson

Changes of Address and Email Address

It is critically important that we keep our database up to date, e.g. If we lose contact with you, you won't get your membership renewal notice.

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

When paying dues on line, PLEASE identify yourself by name. FYI, the BSB # is 032 082 and the account # is 229365.

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

2018 LSTAA Re-union

After many successful reunions at Coffs Harbour, the next reunion will be sponsored by our SE Qld Branch.

It's planned to be held in conjunction with the Regiment hosting an Open Day for visiting Locators at Enoggera on Friday 12th Oct 18. We are seeking expressions of interest from members about



Banner Party entering the Dining Room

attending the Open Day and preferred venue for the 'Locators' Dinner', either after the Open Day on Friday 12th, or Saturday 13th.

There are two possible very suitable venues for the dinner (both with varying accommodation/travel cost issues) being:

- Maroochydore RSL, Sunshine Coast or
- Kedron Wavell RSL, near Ennoger

Subject to possible DVA funding, the dinner will be approx. \$65 per head.

So please check your diary and travel plans, looking forward to seeing you all and don't forget when replying re attendance to indicate your preferred dinner date & venue.

.....
Name/s:.....

.....

I/we plan to attend the Open Day at the Regiment on Friday 12th Oct YES/NO

I/we plan to attend dinner YES/NO

Our preferred date for reunion dinner Friday 12th Saturday 13th (circle one)

Our preferred location for the dinner is Maroochydore Kedron/Wavell (circle one)

An early reply by 1st Oct 2017 will be appreciated to enable further planning.

Please copy and paste this notice to a separate page, complete and return to:

Terry Erbs
President SE Qld Branch LSTAA
terry.erbs@gmail.com

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Merchandise

Full details of available merchandise is on our website www.locatingartillery.org

To order, enquire re prices, mailing costs etc., please contact Joe Kaplun:

Mobile 0407 741 473

Home 02 9774 1473

Email joekaplun@optusnet.com.au

6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213

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.

If sending group photos **PLEASE** include the names of people in the group.

