

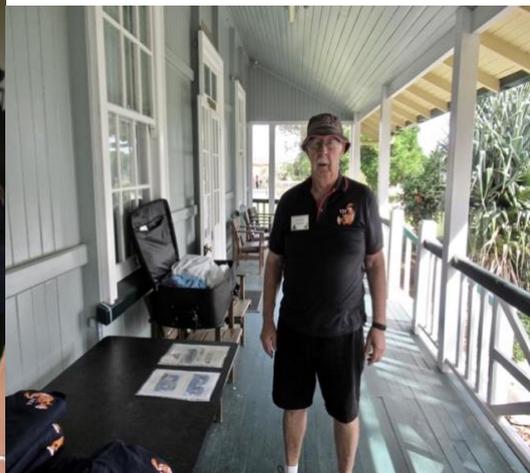
## Locator's Biennial Brisbane Reunion 2022

Over three days, culminating with the ANZAC Day March, Locators gathered in Brisbane for our COVID delayed reunion. Unfortunately, “the weather gods” were against us with gusty heavy showers at Fort Lytton on Saturday and showers during the Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March on Monday.

It all started on Saturday morning with a visit to the Fort Lytton Historic Military Precinct, a 13-hectare National Park. Many visitors arrived on our bus from Brisbane CBD while others drove into the Park. The Regiment displayed the Shadow 200 UAV with vehicles and support equipment but due to limitations there was no flying display.



Many thanks to Harry Lynas, who organised our exclusive use of Fort Lytton for the family day. Very knowledgeable guides took groups for extensive and interesting tours of the historical Fort, built in 1881 to protect Brisbane. For lunch, the Regiment organised soft drinks and a sausage sizzle for gold coin donation to the Menz Club fund. On the veranda, out of the wind and showers, Graham Dignam and Allan Harrison sold lots of merchandise – “Dig” went back to Sydney with a lighter bag!



Visitors returned mid-afternoon to the CBD then had an enjoyable dinner at the Plough Inn at popular South Bank, a great venue with good food but unfortunately despite having at table on the veranda, noise levels made conversations difficult- or is it our hearing failing!?

Sunday night's cocktail party was a big success with mainly older Locators from 131, 132 and 133 Btys, and the "young guns" from 20th Regiment. It was great opportunity to catch up with mates and discuss life, families, retirement and future reunions. It's possible the next reunion may coincide with the reformation parade for 133 Bty. [maybe 2 years away], or when the Army decides how to present 20th Regiment with its Battle Honour for service in Afghanistan.



It was pleasing to see the senior members of the Regiment mingling during the cocktail party.



L- R Phil Swinsburg (first CO 20 Regt and presently COL COMDT), MAJ Shayne Somerville (OPSO 20 Regt), LTCOL Shamus Armstrong (CO 20 Regt), WO1 Mel Wood (RSM 20 Regt), MAJ Simon Sheridan (BC 131 Bty) and MAJ Dean Varian (BC 132 Bty).

Very early next morning we drove through more showers and heavy traffic into Gallipoli Barracks for the Dawn service. The bus from the CBD, with interstate visitors, arrived just as the service started on an overcast morning. Although Allen Morley and Ian Board weren't in their wet front row designated seats, when the RSM called, they stepped smartly forward to lay wreaths on behalf of 131 Association and LSTAA.



L-R Bob Billiards, Stan Briggs, Alan Robb, Grahame Dignam, Allen Morley, T.C. White, Derek Hinde, Keith Ayliffe & Terry Erbs, others missing from photo include Ian Board and Joe Losiak.

After the service, breakfast was cooked by the Regiment in the carpark: tasty cheese, bacon & egg rolls. The Checkley annex was crowded, and the Menz Club coffee machine got a good workout!

The LSTAA banner, our rally point, was initially at Mary St but when the congestion of banners and units were sorted, about 50 Locators started “marching” down George St from Charlotte St. It was a large sodden group marching, many with umbrellas, despite 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment Locator’s required to march in uniform with 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade.



We arrived at the “Stockie”, a little damp, before those marching in uniform later returned in “civvies”, swelling our numbers further. By then the showers had eased and the “barbeque garden” was usable. Phil Swinsburg [COL COMDT], as usual, marched with us and

we all spent the afternoon at the “Stockie”, Locators’ old & new, sharing many convivial drinks and yarning. Unfortunately, some interstate visitors had to leave early to catch flights, thanks for coming fellas, see you at the next reunion.



L-R Gordon Malcom, Alan Robb and John Bristow enjoying a beer or two!



L-R Keith Ayliffe, Allen Morley, Allan Harrison, Ian Board, Russ Hamsey & Terry Erbs.  
[LSTAA committee at the cocktail party, missing Bob Morrison & Mel Wood]

On behalf of the committee, many thanks to LTCOL Shamus Armstrong, CO and WO1 Mel Wood, RSM for 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment’s great support. This meant much to the older Locators and sent a message to younger Locators about their heritage and our continuing comradeship.