

IN THIS ISSUE

HIGHLIGHTS

Last Post – Major Karl Doehrmann RAA
FSB Coral DVD Notice Reissued
ANZAC DAY 2009 – Perth WA
ANZAC DAY 2009 – Townsville NQLD
2009 Annual Gunner Dinner
Woolgoolga Chance Meeting
Blast From The Past
Sydney Re-union

ENCLOSURES

Re-union Booking Form

REGULAR FEATURES

Merchandise
Committee Meetings / Diary Notes
RAA National Museum
Presidents Report

LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

Sep 2009 Volume 43



Ross Baker with Maj Gen Tim Ford AO fronting the 131 Div Loc Bty Banner at the Annual Gunner Dinner held at Parramatta RSL on the 8 Aug 2009.



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

Patrons

Mr Rusty Priest AM

BRIGADIER Wayne Goodman AM
Head of Regiment

President

Allan Harrison RFD

Vice President/Museum Liaison Officer

Joe Kaplun CMC, JP

Secretary/Public Officer

Bob Morrison RFD

Treasurer

Wayne Nash

Minutes Secretary

Tony Foster

Historian

Keith Ayliffe BEM

Web Master

John Posener

Newsletter Editor

Ken Clements

DVA Advocate

Kevin Maker JP

Communications Officer

Joe Elkus

Merchandise Warehousing & Distribution

Phil Paton

Committee Members:

Ross Baker, Jim Bushel,
Ron Hartmann, Graham Johnson, Ivan Mills,
Wayne Nash, Bob Owens BEM (Mil), Bob Smith

Postal Address: 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213
Web Site: www.locatingartillery.org
Email: info@locatingartillery.org

Greetings,

I am delighted to report that another Branch of the Association is to be formed shortly.

An approach was made to the Association by Coral veteran Bob Billiards. Bob is involved with a group of 1966-68 Det 131 Div Loc Bty (Vietnam) guys and was seeking assistance in getting an internet web presence for the group. They have been maintaining a newsletter that originated at Nui Dat in those days and was known as "Eyes and Ears".

The Committee warmly received Bob's approach and took it a step further, offering Branch status which has been accepted.

There are about 50 ex-131 guys in the "Eyes and Ears" group and it is not clear how many are already members of the Association. For sure we will pick up a number of new members from the group and I look forward to listing their names in a future issue.

At the suggestion of webmaster John Posener, the offer of a web page has been extended to all four Branches so that they can put up items of specific interest to their own members, subject to editorial approval.

The 2009 (Sydney) Gunner Dinner has come and gone since our last newsletter. It was a successful occasion marked by a presentation by guest speaker Capt Josh Bolton. Josh had recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan and the text of his memorable speech will shortly be available on the Association website. I thank him for giving permission to publish his notes which I commend to you. It is gripping reading.

We plan to have a Locators table (or tables) at next year's dinner, so watch for news of that.

Ubique

Allan Harrison
President

LAST POST - MAJOR KARL DOEHRMANN RAA



VALE

Major Karl Heinz Doehrmann RAA JP Retired.

Karl was born on 15th June 1933 in Freiburg-Breisgam (Black Forrest) Germany.

He was the son of Wilhelm & Margaretha Doehrmann. His father was the Conductor of the Southwest German Philharmonic Orchestra which led to Karl's love of classical music, that remained with him for the rest of his life.

A graduate chemical engineer from Isny-Allgau University in Bavaria, he worked in the oil industry from 1954 to 1958 for an American company in Libya. When he returned to Germany he was employed by American Express in Munich.

Karl married Joan on 3rd July 1959. They migrated to Australia in 1962 with two of their children.

Karl enlisted in the Australian Army in October 1963. His long and distinguished career in the Army included two tours of duty in South Vietnam. He was wounded in action in August 1966, just one day prior to the Battle of Long Tan. He was an Artillery Surveyor beyond renown and an excellent Sound Ranger. During his second tour of Vietnam Karl was recalled to Australia and commissioned as an Officer.

His many postings during his service included the School of Artillery at North Head as an Instructor and also in Development Wing. He was also posted as BK, 130 Gun Locating Battery RAA. He further served as a Staff Officer in Papua New Guinea from November 1970 till February 1974. Karl's last posting was as Officer Commanding, District Support Unit, Randwick NSW.

On retirement he was offered the position as Corrective Services Commissioner for NSW. There would be a lot of prisoners letting out a sigh of relief that he didn't take on this role.

He died in the North Gosford Private Hospital on Monday 10th August 2009. He is survived by his wife Joan and his three children, Bianca, Michael and Margrit.

Major Karl Doehrmann was well known throughout the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery. His comrades will miss him and we are poorer for his loss.

To Joan and his family we extend our sympathies for the loss of your husband and father.

"LEST WE FORGET"

Kevin R. Maker JP, Kevin Browning OAM & Margrit Dutton compiled this tribute.

FSB CORAL DVD

At the request of the Secretary of the 12 Fd Regt RAA (Vietnam) Association this article is being re-run (This time with the correct email address – sorry about that troops Editor).

We are pleased to announce the availability of the first release DVD detailing the battle of Fire Support Base Coral in South Vietnam in August 1968.

Whether you are a Gunner or a military aficionado or just someone who appreciates stories of men fighting for their lives and their country, you must have a copy of this DVD.

The DVD contains real time footage and photos from 1968 and today with each man telling his own story plus interviews with a senior North Vietnamese officer who fought at FSB Coral.

Cost per unit is \$25 plus \$3 for postage.

To order, either send a cheque to 12 Field Regiment (Vietnam) Association, PO Box 468 Ingleburn NSW 1890, or

By EFT to NAB BSB 082 225 Acc No 83 654 6425.

Please ensure you include your name and postal address in the transfer.

Enquiries can be made to the secretary on (02) 9975 5537 or 0407 672 849 or jallen@datamasteranz.com

ANZAC DAY 2009 – PERTH WA

The following photo was provided by Peter Hopper of the contingent that marched in Perth on Anzac Day 2009.

All members pictured are ex 131 Div Loc Bty members who served in Vietnam and are from L to R Ken McNamara, Barry Guzder, Bert Blink, Bob Billiards (face partially obscured), Joe Librizzi, Peter Hopper (wearing cap-only eyes and nose visible), Geoff Blackwell, Graeme Dignam (wearing dark glasses), Eric Marquis(wearing cap), Ross Gunnell, Unknown.

Peter advises that the photo was taken by John (Kanga) McFadden who drove from NSW to Perth for the occasion.

Thanks for the photo Peter, and if anyone can put a name to the unknown member in the photo I would love to hear from you.



ANZAC DAY 2009 – TOWNSVILLE NO

The Following three photo were provided by Ron Boaler on the Anzac Day 2009 Activities in Townsville.

Ron's contact number is 0409 487 756 and he informs me that the Townsville based guys would love to hear from any other 131 vets living in North Queensland.

Many thanks for the photos Ron.

Picture 1 shows Ron flanked by Peter Piro and Nev Smith. Ron and Nev were originally from Townsville during the Vietnam era and Peter has recently moved to Townsville.

Picture 1



Picture 2
Peter and Anne Piro with Ron and Ron's son Ken who also marched.



Picture 3
Townsville Cenotaph



2009 ANNUAL GUNNER DINNER (SYDNEY)

This photo is of the locators who attended the 2009 Annual Gunner Dinner held on 8 August

From L to R are Vic Rae, Assn President Allan Harrison, Joe Elkusch, Ross Baker, Maj Gen Tim Ford AO and Lt Col Schon Condon.

See the President's report for more information.



WOOLGOOLGA Chance Meeting

John Dean and his wife Ann represented Asquith in the state finals of the grade 3 lawn bowls competition in late July 09 which were held in Woolgoolga (Near Coffs Harbour).

They stayed at the Beach Motel Woolgoolga which, much to John's surprise, was being run by Coffs Harbour Branch identity Dave Auld and his wife.

Both John and Dave, pictured below, were able to enjoy a couple of cold ones and a chat at a BBQ arranged by Dave at the Motel.

Thanks very much John.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Kevin Grime initially sent us this photo which has stirred Bob Ward's interest.

Many thanks to Bob for providing this enhanced photo of that AN KPQ-1 Radar course held at the School of Artillery in August 1968.

Some of the names of those who attended the course are shown, however if anyone can help identify the others it would be greatly appreciated.

We know from Kevin that he is 2nd from left, back row.



MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM



MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM (please print clearly)

Name:

Address:

State: Postcode: Best contact number:

MERCHANDISE	QUANTITY	COST
Bar Crestsers (\$4 for 10, \$7 for 30, \$15 for 65, \$20 for 100)		
Baseball Cups (\$23 ea)		
Beret Badges (Woven, Dragon) or Assn Logo, \$10.50 ea)		
Bucket Hat (Royal Blue or Light Khaki, \$20 ea)		
Car Badge (2009 style \$36 ea, \$44 if posted)		
Key Rings (\$6.50 ea)		
Lapel Badges (\$6.50 ea)		
Plaques (2009 style \$36 ea, \$44 if posted)		
Pocket Patches (Woven, \$10.50 ea)		
Polo Shirts (Navy or White, sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, \$40 ea)		
Stubby Holders (new style, price TIBA)		
Ties Association regular style (\$30.00 ea)		
Ties 10 th Anniversary style (\$25.00 ea)		
	TOTAL:	\$

Above prices include postage and handling except for car badges and plaques. Where options are shown, please circle your choice (eg size). Please send the form and your cheque/MO payable to "Levelling Artillery Association Inc." to the Association at 6 Apex Avenue Picnic Point NSW 2213

Photographs of all items are available on the Association website together with an order form

HELP PLEASE – AN/KPQ-1 HISTORY

Keith Ayliffe has put together (in his usual style) an excellent history of this equipment's use during the Vietnam conflict. He has run into an information void from May 1969 onward.

He is particularly keen to know if the radar was used in any FSB's in 1969-70 and to obtain photographs and any interesting stories or information relevant to the period.

He has some information on the return of the equipment to Australia and seeks collaborative evidence of its packing and return.

If you can assist, please contact Keith direct on aylif@westnet.com.au.

SYDNEY RE-UNION

This annual event will take place at North Fort on Sunday 15 November 2009, commencing at 1230 hrs. A brief Committee meeting will be held at 0900 hrs and Committee members will spend the rest of the morning setting up and preparing.

A booking form is enclosed which details costs etc.

DIARY DATES

25 Oct 09	RAA National Museum Work party
15 Nov 09	Annual Reunion/Committee Meeting
29 Nov 09	RAA National Museum Work party
31 Jan 10	RAA National Museum Work party
7 Feb 10	Committee Meeting Paddington
28 Feb 10	RAA National Museum Work party
28 Mar 10	RAA National Museum Work party
18 Apr 10	RAA National Museum Work party
16 May 10	Committee Meeting Paddington
30 May 10	RAA National Museum Work party
27 Jun 10	RAA National Museum Work party
18 Jul 10	(AGM) Hunter Valley TBA

RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

Work Party dates prior to our 2009 AGM have been set (See Diary).

Work Parties commence at 0900 hrs and conclude with an Association-funded lunch at 1400 hrs at the North Fort Mess.

The current focus is on re-building the Locating display in the floor space allocated by Museum management.

Restoration projects in particular require considerable effort by volunteers.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meetings are held regularly and members are cordially invited to attend. General enquiries may be directed to the Secretary, **Bob Morrison** Tel (02) 4861-6463, Mob 0417 447 504 or by email at robmor@ozemail.com.au

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

The Committee has decided to create a special position to be known as Communications Officer. This was suggested by regular committeeman Joe Elkus (ex 20 Loc Regt and 130 Corps Loc Bty). On the basis of "*if you see a need you are elected*", Joe has accepted the position.

Basically the role will involve keeping in touch with members who, through ill health or other reason, are not able to attend functions, re-unions, ANZAC Day etc.

Joe will initially be in touch with Branch Presidents to set up lines of communication to him. Watch this space for further developments.



LOCATING ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION ATTENDANCE FORM – 2009 SYDNEY RE-UNION

The Annual Sydney Re-union will be held at North Fort on Sunday 15th November, at 1230 hrs (BBQ served at 1330). Cost will be \$15 per head, kids under 10 Free.

Drinks (beer, wines and soft/water) will be at subsidised bar prices.

Please complete the form below and return to Joe Kaplun as indicated below, not later than 1st November.

I will be attending the above function.

SURNAME:.....

GIVEN NAMES:.....

TELEPHONE:.....

SIGNATURE:.....

(*)Names of attendees @ \$15 ea

.....
.....
.....
.....

(*)Names of children under 10 YOA (free)

.....
.....

Total enclosed: \$.....

Please make cheques /money orders payable to the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

(*) Includes escorted tour of North Fort Museum exhibits and tunnel tour

***Please return to
Joe Kaplun
6 Apex Ave Picnic Point 2213
(Tel 02 9774 1473
Mob 040 774 1473)***