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LOCREP

Surveillance and Target Acquisition

The Newsletter of the Locating Artillery Association Inc.

Mar 2010 Volume 44



Cover Photo: BDR Daniel Mark Griffiths, the 2009 JNCO of the year award recipient.
A bio of BDR Griffiths is enclosed in this issue.



The Eyes and Ears of the Battlefield

OFFICE BEARERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Merchandise Warehousing & Distribution

Phil Paton

Committee Members:

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

Branch Presidents:

Newcastle/Hunter Valley: Mick Jenkins
Northern NSW: Dave Doyle OAM
South East Queensland: Andrew Lloyd-Jones
Vietnam Veterans: Bob Billiards

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Greetings.

As always LOCREP vol # 44 covers a lot of ground and I'll keep my remarks to developing issues.

The energetic team at Coffs Harbour Branch are at it again and have gone expansionist in their latest effort. The Coffs Branch has widened its feeder area to take in the New England and northern coastal areas and now has a new name, **Northern NSW Branch**. Well done to the two Daves (Doyle and Auld).

Our last committee meeting welcomed representatives from the newly formed Vietnam Veterans' Branch, namely President, Bob Billiards, and Secretary/Treasurer Graham Dignam. This Branch was formed following an approach from the "Eyes and Ears" (Vietnam Vets) group and has led to the offer to all Branches to have their own page on our website.

News from further North indicates that Andrew Lloyd-Jones (President SEQ Branch) has decided not to levy Branch fees and members who have already paid these fees will shortly receive a refund.

Keith Ayliffe just never stops and his latest (a history of the AN/KPQ-1 mortar locating radar in Vietnam) is now included on our website. Keith was ably assisted by Kev Browning and John Posener in content and editorial roles.

Again in Branch mode, this issue contains advance information on a dinner to be hosted by Newcastle/Hunter Valley on the evening preceding the Annual General Meeting, also hosted by NHV.

Finally, the Association-funded Most Outstanding Junior NCO (20 STA Regt) Award has been made for 2009. It goes to Bdr Daniel Griffiths and I offer my personal congratulations to Bdr Griffiths, who receives, among other things, an honorary membership of the Association for the next twelve months.

Ubique

Allan Harrison
President

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

DIARY DATES

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
4 Dec 10	St Barbara's Day

2009 JNCO OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT

BDR Daniel Mark Griffiths

Daniel Griffiths was born on 13 July 1980 in Brisbane. After completing his secondary education at John Paul College in Brisbane, he commenced his studies at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba with focus on a Degree in Bachelor of Technology. After completing two years of study he joined 16 Air Defence Regiment in 2000 and served with both 110 Battery and 111 Battery in Adelaide. In 2007, BDR Griffiths transferred to 20 Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment.

BDR Griffiths has had two operational deployments to Iraq. The first tour was in 2003 whilst on the HMAS Kanimbla where he was attached to an RBS-70 detachment. The 2nd was in 2007 with Overwatch Battle Group 4 as a Scan-eagle Mission Commander.

His current posting is to 20 Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment where he is fulfilling the role of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Mission Commander within 132 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Battery. Previous postings at 20 Surveillance & Target Acquisition Regiment have included being an Artillery Meteorology & Surveying Operator and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Operator. His leisure interests include Surfing, Water Skiing, and playing the guitar.

BDR Griffiths has also been awarded the Australia Day Medallion this year.

The President and members of the Locating Artillery Association congratulate Daniel on his most deserved award and wish him every success for the future.

NEW MEMBERS

The President is pleased to announce the appointment of three new members to the Association.

Wayne Shapter (131 Bty 1967-69)
Ernie Newbold (131 Bty 1966-68)
Paul Dickson (131 Bty 1966-68)

Welcome aboard and we trust your membership will be informative, entertaining and rewarding.

MISSING PERSON – CAPT Brian Kennedy

Does anyone know the whereabouts or contact details of Capt Brian Kennedy who was the OC Det 131 Locating Bty in SVN from Aug 69 to Aug 70.

Arthur Burke has advised that a number of Capt Kennedy's OCS class mates from 1962 are trying to locate him.

Brian served with 3 RAR from March 65 to November 65 and Det 131 Div Loc Bty from August 69 to August 1970.

If anyone can help in locating Brian with a view to him re-establishing contact with his OCS class mates would you please advise of his details to Arthur Burke via email at <mailto:arthurburke@bigpond.com>

Any assistance will be gratefully appreciated.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY SVN SERVICE STATISTICS

Bert Blink (Ex 131 Vietnam Vet) via Keith Ayliffe has provided the following statistics on Australian Servicemen involved in the Vietnam War. Keith advises that the statistics are authentic.

The statistics are very interesting.

1. Number of personnel who served in SVN with 131 Bty from 1966 to 1971 = 449.

- Number of National Servicemen who served with 131 Bty during this period = 255 which was 58% of unit strength.

Note: Workshop figures are a bit rubbery but it looks like 36-40 with 8 NS personnel.

- Total Australian Servicemen in Vietnam (Army) = 41,791
- Total National Servicemen in Vietnam (Army) = 18,586 or roughly 45%.
- Total Number of National Servicemen = 63,735
- Some 30% of National Servicemen served in SVN.

2010 AGM / DINNER HUNTER VALLEY

The President and Committee of the Newcastle Hunter Valley Branch of the Locating Artillery Association have finalised details for this years Annual General Meeting and Dinner.

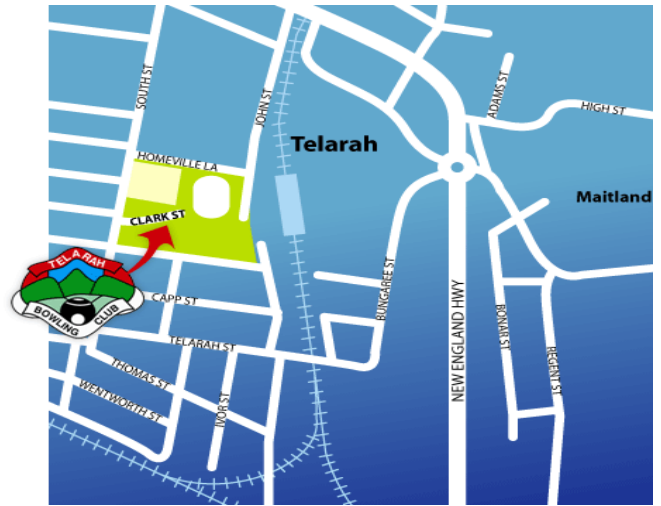
The Dinner will be held at the Telarah Bowling Club on Saturday the 17th July commencing at 1800 hrs. Dress is Gentlemen, Jacket and Tie with medals and decorations – Ladies, After 5. The cost is \$30 per person.

The AGM will take place at the same venue on Sunday 18th July and will be followed by a BBQ lunch at a cost of \$15 per person.

A booking / acceptance form is enclosed in this issue and tickets can be obtained by contacting Kevin Maker.

Accommodation in the Maitland area is fairly limited however if members wish further details regarding accommodation they are welcome to contact Kevin Maker on Tel 02 4934 2172.

A map on the location of the Telarah Bowling Club follows.



2009 SYDNEY REUNION

These incriminating photos were taken at the 2009 Re-union held at North Fort.



Vice President Joe Kaplun preparing a delicious culinary delight for attendees ie: BBQ



This is Wayne Thompson (left) enjoying some of Joe's cooking. Can you identify the other bloke? (Hint: You will find him at S 31 deg 29' 6.25" E 152 deg 45' 24.5")

BLAST FROM THE PAST

How many of you can name all of the faces of this photo of the 1/76 Subject 1 for BDR Radar Course.



RAA NATIONAL MUSEUM

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 and we would greatly appreciate the assistance of members, especially (but not exclusively) with a trade background.

A recent audit of museum exhibits and procedures has revealed a need to make some minor modifications to the Loc display.

ANZAC DAY 2010

The following information is provided for the information of members and has been obtained from sources we believe to be reliable:

Adelaide: Assemble at Grenfell Street East at 0930. Afterwards at Griffins Head Tavern.

Brisbane: Assemble at Cnr George & Elizabeth Streets at 1030. Contact Lofty Hayes for afters.

Darwin: Assemble at Knuckey Street end of The Esplanade at 1000.

Hobart: Assemble between Trafalgar Place and Murray Street at 1100.

Melbourne: Assemble at Swanston Street opposite Town Hall at 0900.

Perth: Assemble at St George's Terrace at 0900.

Sydney: Assemble Cnr Phillip and Bent Sts at 1030.

General: For more information, telephone contacts and re-union details, please visit the Association Website www.locatingartillery.org

MERCHANDISE

The following items are available

Stubby Holders	\$6.00 \$11.00 \$20.00	Each For 2 For 4
Car Badges *	\$28.00	
Baseball Caps	\$23.00	
Lapel Badges	\$ 6.50	
Woven Beret Badges (Logo and Dragon available)	\$10.50	
Polo Shirts	\$40.00	(Navy or white, sizes S to XXL)
Plaques *	\$28.00	
Woven Pocket Patch Logos	\$10.50	
Bar Coasters	\$ 4.00 \$ 7.00 \$15.00 \$20.00	for 10 for 30 for 65 For 100
Key Rings (2-sided, Assn & Dragon Logos)	\$ 6.50	
Bucket hats	\$20.00	(Royal Blue or Light Khaki)

*Above prices include postage and handling except for Car Badges and Plaques which incur an additional \$8.00 for postage because of weight.

Enquiries, please call **Joe Kaplun** on 02 9774 1473 and leave a message.

An order form is available on the website www.locatingartillery.org or you can order by simply writing to Joe at 6 Apex Ave Picnic Point NSW 2213 and enclose your cheque/MO payable to the Locating Artillery Association Inc.