

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND SUB BRANCH  
PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT  
3 February 2002

Nick Quigley – President

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**Barbecues and meeting** this year have been very quiet; however, those attending have been well catered for by **Pauline and Phil Aplin**, who purchase the food.

Our Barbecues have continued to be held at the Kershaw Gardens in the shady area of the Memorial to the right of the entrance off Fraser Street. You can look at the KGVM on the Internet at <http://talk.to/veteransupport> and click on the Kershaw Gardens link. We thank the Rockhampton City Parks & Gardeners Department who maintain this area and provide access on BBQ days.

On **ANZAC Day 2001** Helen & I were away at the Royal Signals Reunion at Twin Towns Resort. We had a GREAT time, meeting Sigs and eating, drinking and generally resting. Twin Towns is a great place for a reunion. Back here (Rockhampton) Phil and John presented a Teddy Bear, Flowers and Certificate to **Linda and Mark Porter** of Rockhampton. **Baby Harlan** was born at 0034 hours 25<sup>th</sup> April weighing in at 3.850k and measuring 49cm. Harlan is a brother to Kisha 6, Keelan 3 and Justice 19 months.

During ANZAC Week the Lest We Forget Run is held at the Gold Coast. A team from Rockhampton CQU carried the names of two Vietnam Veterans. Our thanks go to Chris Gale, Peter Reaburn and Russell Klease for representing Pvt Jim Cox Ex 7RAR and Erica Whittington for representing Jim Geedrick Ex AATTV.

**Vietnam Veterans Day 18<sup>th</sup> August 2001** we presented a Certificate to **KATIE LOUSIE MATHESON**, born at 0548 and weighing 3680 has become a sister to Brittney and Nicklous and second daughter to parents Julie Matheson and Peter Gibb of Mt Morgan

On the Friday before, a Queensland native Tulipwood tree was planted at the Kershaw Gardens Vietnam Memorial. Our thanks go to the **Kershaw Gardens Parks staff** for making this possible. A service was

held at the Botanical Gardens Cenotaph and dinner at the ANZAC Club after.

**The "BEARCAT GRUNTS" Newsletter** continues without a great deal of input from the Veteran Community. But there is always something to write about and it still provides a means of getting information to the Veteran community. Approx 190 copies go via E-mail to other Clubs, individuals and Associations and Phil posts a copy to all our financial members. Copies are available at CQVSC and the Drop in Centre and will be available at the Community Centre once it gets going.

If you have some in-put; by all means either send it to me or E-mail it and it will be in the next newsletter.

The future of the **Central Queensland Veteran Support Center** is well established, however, the Veterans providing the Pensions services would like to see more Veterans volunteering to learn the ropes. You would be required to provide four hours, one day a week to act as an understudy and gather the required knowledge, before attempting to do a case by yourself.

Working out of the Lone Pine building at 6 Archer Street Monday to Friday between 0900 and 1300 there are now eleven (11) pensions officers and two (2) Advocates.

I congratulate **Keith Joyce on being nominated and presented with the Rockhampton Citizen of the Year Award**. Keith has spent many hours both working at the CQVSC and taking cases home in a bid to assist many Veterans in this area. Not only pensions work, but also community such as ANZAC Day, Speaking at Schools and arrangements for military funerals.

The **Rockhampton Drop In Center** has had a steady flow of Veterans both local and visiting. It is not run by the CQVVAA but is part of the Veteran Community. It is a place where you can relax with a cup of tea or coffee and talk over any problem, go

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back in time and tell a few stories or get some help on a subject or just talk about the weather. We recorded 390 visitors for the year. The Drop in Centre will move early this year to the Veteran Community Centre at 17 Hawkins Street, South Rockhampton

**Cockscomb Retreat** has attracted many visitors from outside the Rockhampton area. The CQVVAA has nothing directly to do with the running of Cockscomb. It is managed by the Cockscomb Veteran Community who hold regular working bees on Tuesdays starting at 0900. If you haven't already, you should get a copy of the Cockscomb Chronicle to keep up to date with goings on at Cockscomb. Each month starting on the **24<sup>th</sup> Feb a Family Brunch / BBQ** will be held and I encourage as many Veterans and their families to take this opportunity to visit Cockscomb. Web **site**  
<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>

**The VVCS Heart Health Program** has 16 Veterans taking part in a Gym program at the Central Queensland Community Sports Centre at the University. Recently Aaron Coutts the Instructor took up a career in Sydney. Rob Stanton who is also a well qualified Gym Instructor has replaced him

**Rockhampton Veterans Just Walk It** leaves from 454 Richardson Road at 1730 on a Wednesday only. We walk for approx one hour at a brisk rate and follow no particular path.

The Just Walk It program is supported by the Heart Foundation and walkers are rewarded for their efforts with certificates, caps, water bottles and Tee shirts.

**The Wives Night Out** has continued this year and thanks go to **Robin Bauer** for keeping the group running. Our wives meet on the first Wednesday of the month. Robin can be contacted on 49281152

Last year saw the start of the **COIN ROK** computer classes. Free to all who belong to a non profit organisation. The basic class covers everything from plugging in, turning on and through to operation Windows, Internet and Email. More advanced classes are also available. If you are interested you should **RING the COIN centre on 4923 2561 Monday to Friday between 0900 and 1600**. Classes are day time only.

**Our future is in your hands**, a recent Email from a Veteran friend in the USA said "It is said that only 17% of the veterans will join a military organisation, and out of that 17% only 3% will attend the meetings and that less than a .5% will help the organisation by volunteering their services.

That same 17% will let you know if you say or write something to their dislike. They are the first ones to point out a mistake in your edition or newsletter. If they do attend a meeting it may be their first and last one, they get to speak their mind, but do not fully understand the whys and why nots when they voice their displeasure at the meeting."

**My thanks** go to Helen, my wife for her continued assistance and support.

To Phil Aplin who has made a great job of being the Central Queensland VVAA Secretary.

To Pauline Aplin our Treasurer and to Jim Drever, who looks after the Drop in Center when I'm away and to the Veterans and their families who attend meetings, barbecues and functions.

This year will be different to years gone by. Make no mistake, the help that Veterans require will always be there, but I for one will no longer pander to the whims of the 83% who have no input.

Nick Quigley