

**VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND SUB BRANCH
PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT
4th February 2007**

Nick Quigley OAM – President

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Here we are well into 2007...where have the years gone? We still talk about Vietnam which was 40 years ago, but what happened yesterday?

... Meetings and Barbecues this year have been attended by VVAA members and families and occasionally visitors During the hot months we opted to have salad rolls instead of a BBQ and the rolls have worked out well. My thanks to Phil and Pauline Aplin, who organize the BBQs and the catering. Pauline has it down to a fine art and very little is wasted. Fund raising per the wheel has kept the meeting costs just showing a profit

Our Barbecues are held at the Kershaw Gardens in the shady area of the Vietnam Memorial. During 2006 the Parks and Gardens staff have upgraded our area. The seats and table are now concreted in and the actual BBQ area has had a new BBQ built. You can look at the Kershaw Gardens Vietnam

Memorial on the Internet at

<http://kershawgardens.tripod.com/kgvm.html>

New trees are planted each year in the Memorial area and on the 18th August 2006 a number of trees were planted in Remembrance of the 18

Australians who were killed at the Battle of Long Tan.



Each year for the past 20 years the CQVVAA has presented flowers to mum and a Teddy and certificate to the first born child on both ANZAC Day and Vietnam Veterans Day. This year the **ANZAC Day baby** was **Koby Lee Hamilton** 8lb 5oz. born at 02:25am to mum Laucinda Bourke and dad Reece Hamilton. Mum was also presented with a bouquet of flowers and a certificate. In this photo left to right Reece (Dad) Tom Platts (US Military Police) Laucinda (Mum) and Baby Koby

Our 40th Anniversary Battle of Long Tan, Baby was **Lachlan James Manning** born 0825 18 Aug 06 7lb 12oz (3.53Kg) 51.5cm brother to Paddy and proud parents Nadene & Nick Manning of Rockhampton here being presented with flowers and certificate by, on the left, Pauline Aplin (Treasurer) and Helen Quigley (Presidents



Wife)

The CQVVAA has since its inception been affiliated with Central Queensland Veteran Support Centre Inc., <http://talk.to/veteransupport> The CQVVAA is a participating & affiliated organisation ensuring that a consistent service to Veterans is provided in the CQ area.

CQVSC inc is into its seventh year of operation. With a very good success rate, Veterans of the Central Queensland region should thank the Pensions Officers and Advocates who put many voluntary hours into the cases.

On the 14th August 2006 CQVSC Inc were evicted from ANZAC House during the settlement between the RSL Qld branch and Lone Pine Ltd. This created considerable duress to the volunteers. CQVSC Inc is now working from the Trade Union building at 110 Campbell Street on phone 49223616 between the hours of 0900 and 1300. A few



months after the sudden move VVAA President Bret Bullians and Secretary Rosie Thorne visited for a couple of days. A few CQVVAA Members met at the Kershaw Gardens and Brett and Rosie also visited the CQVSC Inc to see if they could provide assistance and answers for the sudden eviction.

Our **CQVVAA numbers** have stayed the same for a number of years and when you look around you will see the same members here that are also members of the TPI Central Queensland Group. We suffer from a small town syndrome, so many individual groups of Veterans with similar aims laying claim to the same members who spread their time in many directions.

Of recent the **Central Queensland Military Museum** has been moving out of the 156 Bolsover Street into temporary storage areas and it has been a very small group of people including a couple of CQVVAA members who have been assisting with the move. It is incredible what has been done and if you get a chance to assist in the next move you'll be astounded at the quantity of stuff in storage.

The TPI Central Queensland also moved out into storage and a temporary office at Suite 6 Corporate Business Centre 214 Quay Street. Again the CQVVAA members assisted in their move.

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WINGS girls Back row Ann Evans & Kathy Jensen front row Denice Donnelly, Helen Quigley, Pauline Aplin and Robin Bauer.

Women In Need Group Support (is a group for Vietnam

Veteran wives & partners) meet at 10am on the first Tuesday of every month at the North Street Annex at the corner of North and West Streets Rockhampton. The group organises social outings, guest speakers and has a close tie to VVCS. Contact Number Helen 4928 2554 or Kathy 4933 2457

Rockhampton Veterans Just Walk It on a Wednesday at 1730. We walk for approx 60min and cover around 6-8 kilometres depending on the weather. If you would like to join this group call Nick Quigley on 49282554

The Heart Foundation supports Just Walk It and walkers are rewarded for their efforts with less chance of a heart attack.

During the year the June Queens Birthday honours revealed a new **OAM** in our midst. I was quite humbled to find that I had been nominated by members of



the CQVVAA and after a process of 3 years was awarded at an Investiture at Government House in Brisbane with my OAM. For those who have never been to Government house, it is

quite a posh occasion. On our day Governor Quentin Bryce AC presented 26 medals to recipients from many fields. Two other Vietnam Veterans were presented on the same day; John



Thompson OAM and Ray Payne OAM, both providing voluntary services to fellow veterans.

A very proud moment in my lifetime witnessed by my wife Helen and my New Zealand sister Amanda and long time friends Barney & Carolyn Crook from Yeppoon.

The VVCS held its annual area meeting in Rockhampton. These meetings are open to all Veterans. And more recently VVCS provided two one day seminars for interested Veterans and partners. Both days were well attended. VVCS hold a number of very good programs for Veterans and their partners. If you haven't attended a Lifestyle course, I can recommend this particular course as one of the best I have attended.

The VVCS provides 12 months Gym program for Veterans and if you haven't attended a program before and would like to call VVCS 1800 011 046 and register your interest.

The **2006 Christmas lunch** was well attended by members



at the Kalka Hotel. Tony & Dal Harris won the raffle and our thanks go to Phil & Pauline again for chasing everybody up for the lunch.

Each year I ensure that the activities of CQVVAA are written up in Debrief the VVAA newsletter. If you don't get a copy of Debrief talk to Phil Aplin, maybe your dues are overdue.

Cockscomb Veterans Camp has a couple of completed tasks that are worth visiting. Remember Cockscomb is there for ALL Veterans and you don't need an invitation to visit. <http://veteranretreat.tripod.com> all the information you need to know before your visit is on this web site.

Gene Owens one of the caretakers now lives in a recently completed extension over a 27foot caravan. The Dawes Van has also been thoroughly renovated and turned into a very comfortably dwelling.

A Grant was applied for through DVA to purchase a new 17KVA generator. This is now installed on site and proving to be well worth while.

Although it has been very dry growth can be seen on the trees planted on site and reticulated drippers have been installed to assist. Gene keeps the water up to all greenery including the fruit trees planted on the southern side.

So another year ends and again I'd like to thank my wife Helen, John Elson our Vice President, Phil Aplin our Secretary and Pauline Aplin our Treasurer, and you our members for participation and support through the year.