

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND SUB BRANCH
PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT
3rd February 2008

Nick Quigley OAM – President

1 of 2

Here we are 2008...and we have a new Government and our new Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd and Minister for Veterans Affairs, Mike Griffin are actually working on a better deal for Veterans, **Empowering the ex-service community**” but only time will tell.

Meetings and Barbecues this year have been attended by VVAA members and families and occasionally visitors. During the hot months we provide salad lunches instead of a BBQ and the rolls have worked out well. At \$4 a head it is good value. Our thanks go to Phil and Pauline Aplin who organize the BBQs and the catering. 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 2007 the Parks and Gardens staff maintained our area and it is always cleaned up for meeting / BBQ days. We thank the Parks & Gardens staff for the care they take and each year a couple of cartons of XXXX are delivered to the depot.



New trees are planted each year in the Memorial area and on the 18th August 2007 a tree was planted in Remembrance of Australians on overseas duty.

You can look at the Kershaw Gardens Vietnam Memorial on the Internet at <http://kershawgardens.tripod.com/kgvm.html> Dates for our meetings and BBQs are on the site.



Each year for the past 21 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. ANZAC Day also brought a special celebration and much happiness to **Samantha Hayter and Barry Collett**. For the second time in three years Samantha has given birth to a baby on ANZAC Day. Kallum was born on 25th April 2004 and Madisyn was born this year 25th April 2007.

During the year a little known group called **Operation Aussies Home** had successfully found the remains of L/C Richard Parker and



Pvt Peter Gillson who were Killed in Action on the 8th November 1965 but not recovered from the contact area. Local identities Harry Mimi and Geoffrey Cave and Trevor Hagan OAM a Life Member of the VVAA and ex President of the CQVVAA were also on that fateful patrol.

The CQVVAA presented OAH a cheque for \$200 in appreciation of the incredible work done by the group of volunteers.

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND SUB BRANCH
PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT
3rd February 2008

Nick Quigley OAM – President

2of 2

The CQVVAA is affiliated with Central Queensland Veteran Support Centre Inc., <http://talk.to/veteransupport> The CQVVAA is a participating organisation ensuring that a consistent service to Veterans is provided in the CQ area. Both Phil Aplin and I attend meeting with CQVSC and recently attended a special meeting with Kirsten Livermore MP to discuss the new Governments approach to the pharmaceutical (RPBS) scheme for Veterans and many other topics in the best interest of Veterans.

CQVSC Inc is into its eighth year of operation. With a very good success rate, Veterans of the Central Queensland should be grateful of Pensions Officers and Advocates who put many voluntary hours into the cases. Veterans may call the centre on phone 49223616 between the hours of 0900 and 1300 Monday to Friday.

WINGS 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**

The VVCS held its annual area meeting in Rockhampton. These meetings are open to all Veterans. And more recently VVCS provided seminars for interested Veterans and partners. 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.

This year we were away getting our new caravan when the **2007 Christmas lunch** was held at the Berserker Tavern. It was well attended and the raffle was won by Dick Odendahl MM, who later decided to split up the contents and share it with all who attended.

Cockscomb Veterans Camp 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 the caretaker now lives in a recently completed extension over a 27 foot caravan. The Dawes Van has also been thoroughly renovated and turned into a very comfortably dwelling. Water tanks are all full and plenty of work such as raking leaves and cleaning keeps the camp in good shape for visitors.



Vietnam Veterans Day 18th Aug 2007 was held at both Cockscomb Veterans Camp and a Remembrance Service was held at the Riverbank Cenotaph in Rockhampton. At Cockscomb it also marked the 10th year of operation.

Leah Cudmore gave birth to this years Vietnam Veterans Day Baby. Talia Khan is the first daughter for Leah Cudmore and Jamie Khan. Talia was born at 0915am on the 18th August 2007 and weighed 3270grams

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.

PS. During the year Jim Drever a long standing member of VVAA left Rockhampton to take up residence and a new life closer to his ailing mother. We wish you all the best