

BEARCAT GRUNTS

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND VIETNAM VETERAN COMMUNITY
P O BOX 669 ROCKHAMPTON QUEENSLAND 4700

Volume 6, Issue 1 January 2002 Circulation 198+

News for the local Veteran Community & VVAA, VVF, CQVSC

Rockhampton City Council Australia Day Awards

Citizen of the Year 26 January 2002

GILBERT KEITH JOYCE MM



President, Rockhampton Sub-branch of the Returned Services League
C.E.O. Lone Pine Ltd. Anzac House, Archer St. Rockhampton

In recognition of the service given to the community of Rockhampton and Central Queensland by Mr G. K. Joyce. The service rendered was beneficial to three distinct sections of the community. Firstly, to the Ex-Service community through the continued expansion of the Central Queensland Veterans Support Centre (CQVSC) of which he is the principal officer.

Secondly to the Citizens of Rockhampton through his administration, organisation and attention to detail of the culturally significant commemorations of Anzac Day and Armistice Day, and in conducting the traditional military services for the families of deceased veterans. And thirdly, to the school communities of Rockhampton in regard to the holding of their own Anzac day services, and his development of a computer aided military history program for use in Secondary Schools.

Service to the ex-service community

Mr Joyce was principally responsible for the establishment of the CQVSC in 2000. It saw the amalgamation of several ex-service organisations under the one umbrella with the sole purpose of providing timely and appropriate assistance to all members of the ex-service community and their next of kin. So successful was the Rockhampton centre's operation in their first year, they achieved recognition from Department of Veterans Affairs. Demand in 2001 saw an expansion of the service from 2 mornings a week to 5 and the number of cases being handled grow to over 431 by April. *Continued -See page 2*

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND VETERANS SUPPORT CENTER

Pensions & Advocacy Service

<http://talk.to/veteransupport>

Open from Monday to Friday between 0900 and 1300 at the RSL Office
6 Archer Street, Rockhampton

For appointments phone Gail on 07 4922 3616

E-mail [cqvinc@cqnet.com.au](mailto:cqvsc@cqnet.com.au)

Citizen of the Year Keith Joyce Cont...

In October last year Mr Joyce was personally handling over 67 cases from a total number of 136 currently open. Although a few very dedicated veteran volunteers generously share the duties, Mr Joyce, by virtue of his expertise, is in daily attendance and is always available after hours.

While his personal commitment to the project has been nothing short of dynamic, his selfless and untiring devotion to the betterment of the health and wellbeing of his fellow veterans, has been a beacon of hope for those of them suffering with long term war related injuries and illnesses.

Service to the Citizens of Rockhampton.

Since 1916 Rockhampton has participated in the annual commemoration of Anzac Day and since 1919, Armistice Day. These significant ceremonies have long been considered culturally important community events. For their part, the Rockhampton City Council has always relied on the Rockhampton RSL to administer and control the various services and this arrangement survives today. However, they don't just happen. Every year, despite the apparent duplicity of the functions, enormous attention to detail is required to meet public demand and expectation. Although Mr Joyce has fulfilled the role of principal administrator, spokesman and official comptroller of these ceremonial observances for most of the last 16 years, his efforts in managing the 2001 ceremonies, given the resurgence in public interest, was especially significant.

Additionally, although he has performed this function for the RSL throughout his long involvement, as a consequence of the ageing veteran population, 2001 saw Mr Joyce conduct the traditional RSL funeral service for unprecedented numbers of deceased veterans. The comfort he provided to the families in their bereavement, through his sensitive and sincere approach to the death of a loved one, is an immeasurable community service that carries with it the essence of the Anzac spirit.

Service to the School Community of Rockhampton.

In order to assist the School community to continue to foster the importance of remembrance and the traditions of Anzac day, Mr Joyce has long promoted veteran involvement in the annual school ceremonies. In 2001, renewed public interest in the commemoration brought increased numbers of schools requesting guest speakers and despite his other duties, a shortage of available veterans meant Mr Joyce himself was called upon, more than ever, to honour the commitment.

To assist educators to convey a more accurate depiction of Australia's military role in Vietnam, he has been primarily responsible for the development of a computer-generated presentation for secondary schools. It outlines the history of Vietnam and the sequence of events that led to Australia's involvement, their role in the war and the consequences of that commitment. It has been trialed at both Glenmore and North Rockhampton High Schools.

While the above citation attempts to portray the depth and diversity of Mr Joyce's service to the Rockhampton community throughout 2001, it falls way short of its true dimension. It is impossible to describe the relief the incapacitated veteran feels to find someone as dedicated to their personal wellbeing as Mr Keith Joyce. It is impossible to measure the emotional benefit the public derive from Anzac day and other military commemorations in the same way as it is impossible to measure the appreciation of the families of deceased veterans in their time of grief. And perhaps most significantly, it is an impossibility to measure the lasting nationalistic, patriotic and humanitarian influence his selfless dedication induces on the youth of today.

Signed N.W.Tickner B.A. Hons
Ex 4 FD REGT

NEW COMPUTERS & INTERNET SERVICES COMPUSOUND

Shop 38 & 39 KMART PLAZA

North Rockhampton

Phone 4922 5988

CQNET Internet Service Provider

Phone 4927 9287

www.cqnet.com.au

cqnet@cqnet.com.au

THE VETERAN DROP IN CENTER

The Rockhampton Drop in Center 310 Quay Street (Naval Cadets Unit Building) is operating every Thursday from 1030 to 1330.

All Veterans and their families are most welcome. Phone on Thursdays between 1030 & 1330 **07 4922 3891** vietvets@cqnet.com.au

BEARCAT GRUNTS NEWSLETTER DISCLAIMER

The material in BEARCAT GRUNTS is in the nature of general comment only and neither purports nor is intended to be advice on any particular subject. BEARCAT GRUNTS editorial disclaim all and any liability in respect to anything done or omitted, whether whole or in part. No person should take or use any information contained in BEARCAT GRUNTS, without first considering the facts and possibly checking professionally that the advice is appropriate for their particular circumstances.

WIVES / PARTNERS LADIES NIGHT OUT

In Rockhampton, Ladies Night Out is coordinated by Robin Bauer 4928 1152 and held on the evening the first Wednesday of each month

NEXT - CQVVAA BARBECUE / MEETING Sunday 3rd February 2002

All Meetings /Barbecues will be held at the Kershaw Gardens Vietnam Memorial. Access is from Welch St and then Fraser Street near the Glenmore Railway Crossing UBD Map Telstra White Pages Rockhampton Ref P/Q 12/13. To the right of the entrance gate, a flagpole and our plaque.

Contact Phil Aplin

4928 6711 for catering purposes if you are attending the Barbecues

Nick Quigley compiles BEARCAT GRUNTS. The name **BEARCAT** comes from my posting to Bearcat with the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces and the 720th US Military Police. The word **GRUNTS** is a noise made by a bear. So you could say that the newsletter / website is a voice, a way of communication, a means of getting information and to the masses.

EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION & VETERAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tony Dawes now has possession of the House keys, but before we can use the houses, we must rally behind them and have a working bee on both. The Houses need painting internally, furniture and security measures installed. Both yards need a good clean up and the trees a prune.

Your assistance will be gratefully appreciated. Tony Dawes can be contacted on Phone **4922 7555**

Secretary

Phil Aplin

Phone 4928 6711

philpauline@rocknet.net.au

Address all correspondence to

Secretary CQVVAA

P O Box 669 Rockhampton Qld 4700

Hon Treasurer

Pauline Aplin

Phone 4928 6711

philpauline@rocknet.net.au

Medals, miniatures, badges and stickers

Jim Drever

Phone 4926 1142

angryant@cqnet.com.au

Bearcat Grunts Editor

Nick Quigley VVAA President

Phone 4928 2554

nickq@cqnet.com.au

Emergency Accommodation

Tony Dawes VVF

Phone 4922 7555

Mobile 0407693317

tonydtas@cqnet.com.au

Hospital Visitor

Chauncey Jones

Phone 4927 9994

chauncey@cqnet.com.au

VVCS 24 Hour Help Line 1800 011 046



FUTURE PLANS

Recently brought to my notice, by a minority group that Bearcat Grunts and I “peddle an immature and biased line “

Since Bearcat Grunts was first published in March 1998, I have had nothing but praise. This is the reason I have continued. And more recently was asked to produce the Cockscorn Chronicle.

Whilst sitting at my desk, I can look at the developments in the Central Queensland District and I can see only a handful of Veterans doing some Voluntary work. It seems that the same ones who regularly frequent and volunteer their time and expertise to the Central Queensland Veterans Support Centre are the same ones again who organise the social outings.

The two Veterans who have made an all mighty effort to get the Emergency Housing on the road are also strong supporters of the CQVSC.

There are a few Veterans who volunteer their services to the welfare of other Veterans and provide Pensions assistance. I take my hat off to them, they are going alone without the assistance of the CQVSC and the infrastructure available.

The same few Veterans are trying their hardest to keep the TPI Association afloat.

There are two Veterans who visit the hospitals. This voluntary service takes a special type of person. Caring, understanding and loyal and most of all discrete. Their voluntary service should be admired by all; there is no discrimination and plenty of patience.

You may ask where all this is leading. Well I'll enlighten you... It is time you took a look at what you could put back into the Veteran Community. Something positive that will assist and help our community to survive. As our Veterans get older they seem to be coming down more often with illnesses and the need to retire, the need for direction, assistance and someone to lean on.

The CQVSC is looking for Veterans to train to continue the Pensions work. You don't have to be a lawyer or a scholar, nor any particular rank in the services, all you need to do is volunteer

your spare time and be willing to learn and help your fellow Veterans.

You will not be thrown in at the deep end and expected to swim; you'll be given as much assistance as you need to provide the service.

For more information contact Gail on 49223616

HOW'S YOUR FITNESS LEVEL

I recently read in “Men's Health – August 1998” an article titled *Military Madness*. An Army cannot be gauged by the physical fitness of its soldiers alone. After all, a good soldier is more than an athlete. So it is unfair to make qualitative judgements about an elite unit, or indeed the country they defend, based solely on the physical requirements of joining. So we won't say that, judging from the figures below, Australian soldiers are a lot tougher than their American counterparts. You be the judge...

The US Marines – Conducted on Day 40 of basic training the minimum standard required is 3 pull-ups, 40 sit-ups and run 4.8 kilometres in 28 minutes.

Royal Australian Army – 15 push-ups, 45 sit-ups and run an increasingly fast shuttle-run along a 20 metre track, which roughly equates to 1200 metres in six and a half minutes finishing in a sprint

US Navy Seal – These are the minimum physical training standards for acceptance 6 pull-ups, 50 sit-ups and run 2.4 kilometres in 11 minutes and 30 seconds wearing boots and fatigues.

Australian Commando Unit – 100 sit-ups in two minutes, 60 push-ups and swim 200 metres plus tread water for two minutes.

While on fitness and well being the **HEART HEALTH PROGRAM** is again looking for Veterans who have not taken part before, to register with the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service in Brisbane phone **1800 011 046**

You will be required to attend twice a week for 12 months. While under the guidance of a well-qualified instructor your health and well being will be monitored and you should expect your relative mobility and exercise tolerance to improve within the first 6 months. If you continue after the 12 months you could look forward to a better lifestyle.