

# BEARCAT GRUNTS

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

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April 2002 was a busy month. The CQVVAA held a barbeque lunch at the 17 Hawkins Street house for the first time. It was well attended and everyone was able to look through the house, which is destined to become the Rockhampton Veterans Centre. A three-bedroom house, newly painted, functional kitchen, and some rooms with carpet on the floor. Being a low set house, access will be easier for most veterans.



The back yard needs considerable work done to improve the facility and this will get done in time before the next BBQ.

**Jill & Peter Davis** have moved camp to Townsville. We'll still see them in our area for a while, but all the best with your new venture and I hope Townville Veterans look after you.

**Next BBQ will be 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2002.**

**ANZAC Day in Rockhampton** was a credit to all the organisers. A beautiful day, a little humid at times and although we need the rain it all went to Yeppoon. Schools in and around Rockhampton approached the RSL for speakers. It is pleasing to hear that more than twelve Veterans attended schools. Some addressing the assembly while others planted trees. Students are becoming more aware of the reasons why we should remember ANZAC Day and their schools must be commended for the time and the teacher's efforts promoting ANZAC Day.

I attended Gogango State School, 60k west of Rockhampton. A one-teacher school and fifteen students and a community of people who all rallied together to make the day a great success.



From the youngest to the eldest, they all had a part to play. Congratulations to Cameron Eiser for reciting the Ode and to Sophie Black who was Master of Ceremonies.

**CENTRAL QUEENSLAND VETERANS SUPPORT CENTER**

**Pensions & Advocacy Service**

<http://talk.to/veteransupport>

**Open from Monday to Friday between 0900 and 1300 at the Lone Pine Office**

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**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](mailto:vietvets@cqnet.com.au)

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**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

**ANZAC DAY IN ROCKHAMPTON**

At 0428 the lights dimmed and the crowd hushed. And although I'd attended many Dawn Services, this one seemed to have special significance. **Alan Sisley**, a National Serviceman and a Vietnam Veteran who served with 1 RAR in 1968 –1969 was the MC. Superintendent Robert Retrot of the Rockhampton Police delivered this year's address. Robert himself another National Serviceman and a Vietnam Veteran who served with DET 131 DIV LOC BTY in 1967 –1968. Canon John Warby has retired from the position of RSL Chaplin and Chaplin Gavin Brown has filled this roll

**Larry Ivers** from the Salvation Army played the Last Post and Rouse.

After the Dawn Service participants could either go to the **ANZAC Club** or to the **CWA** for a breakfast. Because of tradition, I chose to go to the CWA and they were well attended. From cornflakes to sausages, eggs and ham and a cup of tea, you leave there primed ready for the day ahead.

This year is the **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of Australia's commitment to Vietnam**. At the head of the parade the one hundred strong Vietnam Veterans contingent marched with the pride of the ANZACs. (See page 3)

**Secretary**

**Phil Aplin**

**Phone 4928 6711**

[philpauline@rocknet.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:philpauline@rocknet.net.au)

**Medals, miniatures, badges and stickers**

**Jim Drever**

**Phone 4926 1142**

[angryant@cqnet.com.au](mailto:angryant@cqnet.com.au)

**Bearcat Grunts Editor**

**Nick Quigley CQVVAA President**

**Phone 4928 2554**

[nickq@cqnet.com.au](mailto:nickq@cqnet.com.au)

**Emergency Accommodation**

**Tony Dawes VVF**

**Phone 4922 7555**

**Mobile 0407693317**

[tonydtas@cqnet.com.au](mailto:tonydtas@cqnet.com.au)

**Hospital Visitor**

**Chauncey Jones**

**Phone 4927 9994**

[chauncey@cqnet.com.au](mailto:chauncey@cqnet.com.au)

**VVCS 24 Hour Help Line**  
**1800 011 046**

<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>  
<http://10thintake.tripod.com>



**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.

### **ANZAC DAY continued...**

The ANZAC Day service on the Riverside CBD, with thousands of Rockhampton citizens was a very fitting finale to the Official part of the day.



It was then up to the ANZAC Club to quench the thirst and catch up on old mates. Amid the noise and the smoke everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. Lunch was served and went down well followed by sweets and a game of Two-up.

This years **ANZAC Day Baby is Jake Jamahal Blyth** born at 1037 on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2002 and weighing in at 3990grams (8lb 13ozs). Jake is a brother to Kiel and Breanna and third child to Trish and Jamahal Blyth of Rockhampton.

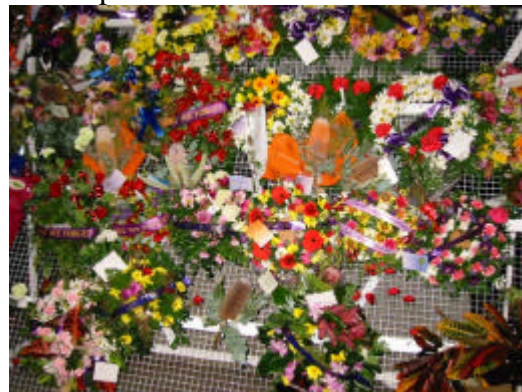


The Central Queensland Vietnam Veterans presented a Teddy Bear and Certificate to Jake and to his proud mum at bouquet of flowers.

Mum wasn't too good on ANZAC Day when Phil Aplin & I visited, so we arranged to go back next day for a picture of the family. Of course the Mr Ted E Bear was an immediate hit with Kiel and I dare say he'll keep him safe and well looked after until his baby brother is old enough to take Ted over.



Vietnam Veterans forming up to lead the Rockhampton ANZAC Day march and below the floral tributes and wreaths placed at the Cenotaph at the Dawn Service



**Gene Owens** organized a large quantity of Theatre tickets to see "We were Soldiers" and the funds from the sale of tickets went to Cockscomb. It was a full house and I'd say it will be a popular movie for theatre goers. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Robert Frew and collected on his behalf by Assistant



Back – Graham Jensen, Mick Murphy, Nick Quigley, Tony Dawes  
Front – Allan Evans, Jim Drever, Mrs Kerlin

Manager Mrs Kerlin for the assistance given by BCC to see the movie.

**COCKSCOMB VETERANS** are proud to say the least. Now that our monthly BBQs are set in place and successful too and we look forward to visiting Veterans and their families coming down to enjoy a restful day.

**FAMILY BRUNCH / BARBEQUE**

The next is on the **26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2002** at **COCKSCOMB** at 11am with entertainment provided by Kerry Whelow and his guitar.

We'll provide everything except spirits and wine. The cost to you will be steak burgers **\$5**, GOFFAS (Good Old Free From Alcohol)

**\$1** and Heavies **\$2**

*Please contact Allan 4934 4941 if you are attending for catering purposes.*

**HOW TO GET THERE**

**Camms Road** is an all weather gravel road, leading up from the township of Cawarral.

From **Rockhampton**, follow the signs to get onto the road to Yeppoon. At approx 21 kilometers you will find **Dairy Inn Road** on your right. This takes you to Cawarral. Be sure you stop for the rail crossing and proceed down the hill past the school doing 60 Kilometers. The Police are regular users of Dairy Inn Road. At the "T" intersection near the school turn left. Cross a little one-way bridge, and just past the 100 zone turn left into Camms Road. Follow the road up the hill & along the flat to a "no gate" fence. Take the road slightly to the right through the gate and follow it to the end.

You'll be pleasantly surprised and welcomed to Cockscomb during your stay.



Some future dates to put in your diary. BBQs are held on the last Sunday each month, except for AUGUST

**26<sup>th</sup> MAY, 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 28<sup>th</sup> JULY, 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST.** On the 18<sup>th</sup> August a special 40<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary Remembrance service will be held at Cockscomb at 11am followed by a luncheon.

Then on the **29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER** a Water Colour Art Exhibition will be part of the September luncheon.



Paintings by Bruce Whitchurch of the day-to-day work carried out at Cockscomb will be available for sale at the end of the day.

**27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 24<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER** and the **DECEMBER** date is yet to be set.

**Cockscomb now has Caps and Polo shirts for sale.** The new logo stands out well on the **Australian made green polo shirts.**



Caps @  
\$20  
And Most  
Sizes in  
polos at  
\$30  
Available  
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**Vietnam Veterans Day (Long Tan Day)** will be held at Cockscomb as above at 11am. It is hoped that this day will in the future continue to be held at Cockscomb. Veterans and their families are invited to make arrangements to stay the night and enjoy an extended anniversary. However, those intending to stay are advised to book early by phoning Allan Evans on 4934 4941.

In **Rockhampton on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST** at the Kershaw Gardens Vietnam Memorial at approx 10:30am a short service and tree planting will take place. All Veterans, their families and the public are invited to attend.