

Cockscomb Chronicle

Vol 2 Issue 9 November 2003

<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>

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Maybe the last Newsletter for the year, so I thought I'd go back over the year as it was. Cockscomb would have to be one of the driest parts of Queensland. We've had to buy drinking water on several occasions through the year. Our water catchment area encompasses every roof area on site. Even the wood box water is stored in a 44gal drum to water the plants. So conservation of water is a primary concern.

Thanks to Rob MacGregor ex 104 Sig sqn we now have a 6KVA Onan Genset. Wiring has been installed to ELCBs and a fuse box attached to the Camp wagon. The Onan came with remote start, however Cockscomb decided that it would be safer not to use that feature, so stopping and starting are done at the powerhouse.

Our Amenities are well looked after by one of our volunteers, Di Stanley. Di you've got to be congratulated for the work you put into keeping the hygiene section in such good order.

While we are on the Stanleys, lets talk about the work Ray Stanley has put into the bottom camp-site. This site has been established aimed at Veterans who don't like camping near others. The site boasts a campfire BBQ, Table & Chairs and a permanent "A frame" tent-fly. Access, through Cockscomb and down the bush road, across the creek and you are there. NOT a good place to be if it rains. The track is Black Soil.

Now who should we pick on next... Allan Evans. Allan I think everyone at Cockscomb would agree that you have done a mighty job as our quiet leader. You've ensured that all construction is carried out correctly. Just look at the new roof over the rotisserie, it's a professional job.

What about Allan's 2Ics, there is about 25 of them and they have all put in a mammoth year of work on the site. We've got tradesmen and apprentices that cover all aspects of life at Cockscomb. Our resources are our Veterans and when you think about Cockscomb, it was built by Veterans For Veterans

Relatively new on the staff is Bill our gardener. If you've got a problem with the green running out of the plants – see Bill, he'll get the answer. The palms out the front needed a dose of Epson salts he told me. Bill has been to Tom Wyatt for advice, so Bill thanks for the great job. Now Bills had a bit of help spreading the mulch, but you'll see Bill tending the plants, nurturing them to grow in our arid climate.



The kitchen gained a new appliance and this was bought with your help. The raffles run at Cockscomb have allowed items to be purchased as the necessity occurs. The new refrigerator, running on gas, provides continuous safe storage for food items. Beside the refrigerator you will see the newish stove. The old one was well out of its safe use-by date and was replaced by a new second-hand gas upright. The kitchen will soon have reticulated generator powered lighting. BBQs could become 24hour events, save the thought.

2003 BBQs at COCKSCOMB



Our Christmas BBQ is on
NOVEMBER
Saturday 29th at 11am
Combined Christmas Party

Phone Allan 4934 4941 or
Nick 4928 2554 if you are coming
We'll tell you what you need to bring

Bruce & Liz are always in the background, if I can say it like that. Bruce especially provides unquestionable assistance both at Cockscomb and as one of this regions consulting Psychologists. You have to ask yourself... "where would you be now if it weren't for the solid professional support we get from our psychologists and psychiatrists"? Bruce has encouraged Veterans to take part in the activities at Cockscomb. The Camp provides a worthwhile, meaningful place for Veterans to go to chill out, mix with other Veterans and do something that they can be proud out. **A round of applause please for Bruce & Liz !**

The CENTRAL QUEENSLAND VETERAN SUPPORT CENTRE

For appointments please ring 4922 3616
<http://talk.to/veteransupport>

The ROCKHAMPTON DROP IN CENTRE is open every Thursday at 310 Quay Street at 1030 – 1330

WORKING BEES at Cockscomb are held every Tuesday at 9am

Partners of Veterans Assoc Australia
www.pva.org.au

On behalf of the Cockscomb Veterans Camp I'd like to thank all Veterans, their families and their friends who have assisted us at Cockscomb. We'd also like to thank the professional contractors who have carried out work at the Camp. You are most welcome to visit Cockscomb for any of our through the year BBQs. Don't bring anything, we have it all at Cockscomb.

Cockscomb has now been in operation since July 1997. When you visit make sure you look at the photo albums, they tell the story from day one through to today. It is hard to believe that what we have now started out looking like this



and grew to look like this



Mind you there has been a lot of man-hours spent getting there. Since this photo was taken the crew have tidied up the timber beside the camp-wagon and built a blue lattice screen at right-angles beside the garden.

For more information on Cockscomb visit our website at <http://veteranretreat.tripod.com> a new site map giving directions has been uploaded. Giving you more guidance from Yeppoon, Emu Park and Rockhampton. So there is no excuse now to say that you couldn't find the place.

Christmas brings a new dimension to kids, but for adults sometimes it is just another day. Some tend to drink too much, eat too much and pay the consequences next day. A message from our your Editor - if you are going to **Drink Don't Drive**, don't chance it, we need you at Cockscomb next year
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year