

Cockscomb Chronicle

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Goooooooooooooooooooood morning Vietnam...

Adrian Cronauer the original American Forces Vietnam radio disk jockey visited Cockscomb on the 15th August. Thanks to our Governments Saluting Their Service Grants – “Grants for activities to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan” and Brett Bullians QLD VVAA and Mal Wheat Qld VVF for applying for funds to tour Adrian through Queensland Vietnam Veterans centres. While visiting Cockscomb, Allan Evans presented Adrian with one of Bruce Wightmans’ original water colour paintings of the campsite in progress. Many Veterans had heard the Gooooood Morning Vietnam call, but Adrian said that disk jockeys that took over from him carried on the tradition until the end of the war.



Adrian Cronauer was welcomed at a morning tea at Cockscomb Veterans’ Camp. Allan Evans Presents Adrian with an original Wightmans water colour
David Anderson ABC Capricornia met Adrian and has placed on the ABC Website this story
<http://www.abc.net.au/capricornia/stories/s1716395.htm>



Leading up to VVDAY I had an interview with **Wayne Carter** and John Gehle at **Radio Nag 91.3FM** in Yeppoon. Waynes 3 hours of broadcast on a Thursday is called Vets Corner. And Wayne does a great job! In fact he makes you feel relaxed and part of the program. We generally

talked about the proceedings that we expected on the 18th. It was a good opportunity to put to air some of the truths & myths of Cockscomb.

On Thursday 17th August in Rockhampton at the **Kershaw Gardens Vietnam Memorial**, 18 weeping



callistemon "Tinaroo" red bottlebrush trees were planted in an open curve facing the flag pole. One tree each for the 18 Australians killed at the Battle of Long Tan. Rockhampton City Council Gardner **Paul Baker** watched the Battle of Long Tan on TV the night before and came up with the idea for the Memorial area. Next year the trees will be flowering and look a special picture.

A further callistemon was planted in the open. The Memorial area is well looked after by the Parks and Gardens Staff and is open to both Veterans and the public.

Photo the two flags are **Pvt Kevin Prior** and **Pvt Jim Cox**, killed in Vietnam and from the Rockhampton area, Vietnam Veterans **Tom Platts**, **Phil Aplin**, **Ron Robertson**, **Nick Quigley** and **Councillor Rose Swadling**

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2006
The 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan
After months of planning, hundreds of hours of voluntary work by a team of dedicated Veterans this years Vietnam Veterans Day was the biggest we’ve seen at Cockscomb.

Again through the “Grants for activities to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of

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Long Tan” Cockscomb applied for \$11,300 to run the day. There is no doubt that having the money there to base our infrastructure on made the day more enjoyable for all the behind the scenes workers.

If you caught a bus to Cockscomb on the day, that was paid for by the Grant. Your lunch was prepared for you by the Grant. Drinks were kept cold and there was no need to have to make several bond store runs to top up supplies, made possible by the Grant. The Grant was sponsored by the **Vietnam Veterans Federation Rockhampton Sub Branch** and Pat Wilson the Federations Treasurer.

The Grant also paid for the once off caps given to each attending Veteran. The excess were sold at half price to keen buyers on the day. Unfortunately there are none left.

It is quite amazing when adding up the food and drinks

downed on the day. 350 burgers, 250 sausages, plus tomatoe, salad, onions, bread buns, 3 full trays of apple slice, 12 litres custard, 100 large jam drops, 1200 cans of various beer, 8 dozen rum & cola UDLs, 4 bottles of scotch, various cartons of GOFFAS, and bottles of water.



That night **Peter Sarina** cooked a feast for all who stayed back. Seasoned Lamb roast done on the spit and foil wrapped baked potatoes. Here is Chef Peter busy carving up the lamb. Melt in the mouth and cooked to perfection, aren't you sorry you had to leave early to

get home before it got dark. For those who don't know, Peter Sarina is ex 106 Field Workshops and was in Vietnam Nov 69 to Nov 70. Peter is spending some time at Cockscomb renovating the Dawes Van.

This year being the 40th Anniversary we tried to make the Remembrance Service one to remember. Our thanks go to **Graham Ivers** from The Salvation Army who has played the cornet for 50 years and the bugle for 30 – 40 years. Graham has attended and played at all Cockscomb serices. Thanks also to **Lester Soblusky** who played the bag pipes. Lester has volunteered his services at every memorial service held in the



Rockhampton district for many years.

Rev Kaye Ronalds was away with a Cadet camp and this year we called upon the **School Chaplaincy** group and **Rev Alan Brown** was able to provide the pastoral services and dedicate four new plaques on our Memorial.

Eade, William 52772 AATTV

Francis, Robert 19622 9 SQN RAAF

Grosse, Colin 11708 6 RAR

Stokes, Richard 1200468 102 FLD WKSP RAEME

Our speaker for the day was **Trevor Hewitt** ex 1 RAR 1965 & 3 RAR 1967 – 68. Trevor addressed those gathered and spoke about 6 RAR in Vietnam and especially about how Harry Smith commanded the operation of 6 RAR D Company in the field at the Battle of Long Tan.



RSM Darryl Prizeman and **Cpl McMillan**, **L/Cpl Coulter**, **Privates Kneen, West and Hamilton** provided a ceremonial catafalque party and from

<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>

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the QStore moral support, chairs, tables, tents and transport. Thanks to David Mival and Shorty Irwin for your assistance on the day.



WO2 Dean Schmidt and one of our own Cockscomb Veterans **Mick Stokes** enjoys the good times catch up chat at the Ba Me Ba watering hole at

Cockscomb.

VETERANS PENSIONS & ADVOCACY

If you are new to the system, it is a Pensions Officer that you need to talk to first. He or she will get your case started and will be able to answer most questions asked by you. It should be noted and understood that a Pensions Officer or an Advocate don't make the final decisions on your case, that is a matter for a DVA Claims assessor.

In **Rockhampton** assistance is available through the **Central Queensland Veteran Support Centre Inc** on phone 4922 3616 Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm upstairs at 110 Campbell Street Rockhampton. The new address is well suited with ample parking out the front. Veterans who have difficulty with stairs will be assisted both up & down.

Assistance is also available through the **Vietnam Veterans Federation Rockhampton Sub Branch** operating out of TS Rockhampton Naval Cadet Unit 170 Quay Street. Open Tuesday & Friday 9am to 1pm phone 4922 7031 or 4922 3891

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 Rockhampton. The group organises social outings, guest speakers and has a close tie to VVCS. Contact phone Helen 4928 2554, Kathy 4933 2457

On the **Capricorn Coast Veterans** in need of assistance for Pensions and Advocacy services for service related disabilities can contact the **Cap Coast Veteran Support Service (CCVSS)** on phone Emu Park 4939 6785 and Yeppoon 4939 4933. The

Yeppoon RSL is open every Thursday between 9am and 11am, but appointments are preferred.

COCKSCOMB IS FOR VETERANS

Who does what at Cockscomb, Veterans need to understand one protocol and that is "if you are a ex service Veteran you are automatically entitled to go to Cockscomb, whether you have worked there or not". There are a number of Veterans who are unable to assist with physical help because of disabilities etc and whether they have any input or not to the running of Cockscomb, they are still just as entitled to be there as the Veterans who are able to work.

On an operational front it is very evident that all users of any facility at Cockscomb need to understand that if they don't clean up someone else will have to clean up. So the old saying, use it - replace it, mess it - clean it. On the Veteran side of the operation many hours of dedicated voluntary work has been carried out over the last three months. Visitors to Cockscomb will notice the new driveway, the painted and freshened up look of every flat surface, the gardens mulched, the Dawes van renovations and the Caretakers cottage. On the road in a new sign at the corner of Camms Road and Coorooman Creek Road and a sign at the entrance to the Cockscomb driveway. On the right going into the drive our own letter box - Cockscomb 124 Camms Road Cawarral

Our thanks go to both the Rockhampton City and the Livingstone Shire Councils for assistance with both signs.



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Back page stories are the ones you'll probably remember.

The Central Queensland Military Museum needs your support to assist the committee to convince the local councillors that the old 42 RQR Barracks is the ideal new location for the Museum. It doesn't end there. We need the Governments support in the project too. Funds are needed to assist with the removal of contaminated ground, asbestos, white ant eradication, repairs and painting.

The Save the Barracks Project has reached final decision time.

The councillors are very undecided whether to accept the Archer Street barracks from the Federal Government as they feel there is no community support for the project.

We urgently need people to voice their support to the councillors verbally or by letter to let them know just how important this project is to the community.

For those in Rockhampton please contact your local councillor at Rockhampton City Council. P.O. Box 243 Rockhampton 4700 and express your concerns.

If you have visited the Museum and feel you can contribute with a letter of support, please write to the Rockhampton City Council

Thanks for your support

Bob Butler cqmm@dodo.com.au

CITY DRIVING

During September – October Helen & I headed south to Brisbane. Not being a regular major city driver and knowing how difficult it has been in the past for my wife/navigator, I decided to buy a Mapping GPS. After considering a number of brands I settled for a TomTom Go 710. It just made navigating in Brisbane effortless. Tom talks to you, tells you which lane you should be in, warns you of pending changes of direction, tells you which exit to take off roundabouts. Tom even warns you of traffic camera on intersections. Navigating a night is always difficult, but no longer, Tom will lead you to the theatre and home again without even having to stop on the side of the road and find your bearings. And for those who think they know a better way, if you don't take Toms advice, it will recalculate the route or tell you to do a U turn

So Tom took us from Aspley to the driveway of Twin Towns Resort where we attended the **104 Sig Sqn**

Reunion.

What a great weekend and time to catch up on old mates and some new ones too.



Then it was back to Aspley for a couple of days before my sister arrived from New Zealand. Then along with Melvyn & Carolyn Crook, sister Amanda and Helen & I we visited Government House in Paddington Brisbane for my **OAM Investiture**.



Left to right **Ray Payne OAM, Nick Quigley OAM & John Thompson OAM**

A very special day and one to be remembered for many years. **Governor Quentin Bryce AC** presented the medals and spoke individually with each recipient encouraging each to continue their good work. The pomp & ceremony and culture of the day was enjoyed by all. Following the Investiture a garden party was held for recipients, their families and friends. Champaign, smoked salmon and cucumber sandwiches and delicate lemon butter pastries.