

Cockscomb Chronicle

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<http://veteranretreat.tripod.com>

Allan 07 4934 4941

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY 2003

Tony Stepney 2781795, first intake National Service 1965-1967, served with 6 RAR D Company at the Battle of Long Tan.



Tony went to Vietnam on the 8th June 1966 and returned to Australia on the 14th June 1967. Tony laid the first wreath at the Cockscomb Veterans Camp Vietnam Veterans Day on behalf of his mates and 6 RAR D Company.



Numbers grew as cars filled the parking areas, buses rolled up and a general buzz of Veterans meeting old buddies and mates grew louder and louder, an estimated 180 – 200 Veterans and families took part in this years service at Cockscomb.

Calling together the service **Tony Dawes Ex 104 Sig Sqn.**, took control of the morning. The Catafalque party mounted the Memorial at 1055 and at 1100 the sound of a helicopter could be heard. Not just a coincidence, but a special flyover by **Pilot Officer Ryan Marr of 162 Recce Flight Townsville**. The Kiowa made several circling passes over Cockscomb and brought back some incredible memories for those on the ground. Hairs raised on the neck, tears in the eyes and incredible smiles on the faces of Vietnam War Veterans. No doubt the highlight of the morning and something our Veterans will remember for weeks to come.

Our thanks to Range Control Shoalwater Bay, Task Force Head Quarters 1 Brigade Darwin, 162 Recce Flight Townsville and Pilot Ryan Marr - mission accomplished

As the Service unfolded, Tony spoke of Australia's involvement and of the ongoing 10year war, of the casualties and the cost in human life. Why we recognise the 18th August as our Day of Remembrance and then he read out the names of the ten new plaques for the Cockscomb Memorial (see page 3).

Chaplin Kaye Ronalds, a Major with 11th Brigade and a serving member of the Uniting Church told us that she was at primary school while the Vietnam War unfolded and that a member of her family was drafted for National Service.

Tony recited the Ode to the Fallen, a chilling reminder that has sent many a man to remember his mates at war.

The last post echoed though the campsite and surrounding bush; played by **Graham Ivers Salvation Army**. A minute of eerie silence and then Rouse.

Piper Lester Soblusky played the Lament and out.



Left to Right - **Graham Ivers Salvation Army, Piper Lester Soblusky, Tony Dawes Ex 104 Sig Sqn and Chaplin Kaye Ronalds**



Kiowa circling Cockscomb from **162 Recce Flight Townsville**

Our thanks to **42 Battalion** for providing the **Catafalque party** and tents and chairs. 42nds efforts on the day make our day more enjoyable and provide some comfort for our older visitors.

NEW GENSET FOR COCKSCOMB

Robroy MacGregor Ex 104 Sig Sqn and now **Generator Management Systems Mt Gravatt Brisbane** has donated a 6KVA Onan Genset to Cockscomb. Rob drove up from Brisbane especially to install the Genset. Not only that, but he took away for repairs our 3KVA Genset and the Meadows.

Our heartiest thanks to Rob and Generator Management Systems. This new Genset means that we can now weld, have a variety of lights at night, charge the batteries and pump water all at once. With push button Start and Stop,



Cockscomb has moved ahead to a new era.



Working Bees have been very productive and thanks to extra time put in by Darryl, Graham, Ray and Allan the new Power House is taking shape.



Travellers

While on their way north, we have seen many southern Veterans staying overnight at Cockscomb, some well known faces and some new ones too. Most on their way up to Pandanus Park.



Bill has the gardens looking good, all mulched to save on water and a good selection of plants that don't need much water. Bill has planted flowering plants between the palms at the entrance and with the

recent rain they'll get off to a good start.



Baby Kerry Nyree Missingham became our first baby born on the 18th August 2003 at the Rockhampton Base Hospital. 2910Grams at 0629am a sister for Tyler and second child for Lesley Schembri and John Missingham.



Thank you Ladies with your assistance our BBQ lunches have become well known in the Veteran world. You all work well together and we can't thank you enough for the quality and quantity.



42nd Battalion Catafalque Party

Service at Kershaw Gardens Vietnam Memorial on Friday the 15th August



Left **Phil Aplin Ex 1 RAR, Robert Busch Ex 1 Fld Regt, Des Soley Ex 42 RQR**, and not in the photo **Rockhampton City Councillor Rose Swadling** and **Nick Quigley Ex 104 Sig Sqn** planted an **Australian native Harpulia tree** at the **Kershaw Gardens Vietnam Memorial**. The new tree is well established and in a prominent position. **Our thanks to the Parks & Gardens Staff for their assistance.**

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 VIETNAM VETERANS DAY
 Monday 18th AUGUST we added the names of 10 new Veterans to our memorial.
Lest We Forget

Surname	First	Second	Serial	Unit
BECKMAN	John	Reginald	112643	2 SQN RAAF
GRIFFITHS	Darrel	Charles	93088	HMAS HOBART
GUY	John	William	16044	7 RAR
LIEBICH	Ulf	Dieter	1200818	2 RAR
MCINTYRE	John	Alistar	1410993	HQ AFV
MICHAIL	Ivan	George	1200033	17 CONST SQN
RAMSDALE	Desmond	Stephen	61672	12 FD REGT 102 BTY
SAWERS	Ronald	Whitney	13588	7 RAR
THOMAS	Kerard		1735446	2 RAR
WOOLER	Gordon	Edward	1731963	85 TPT PL (TIPPER)

2003 BBQs at COCKSCOMB

The is on at 11am On **SEPTEMBER Sunday 28th Spring Roast BBQ \$3 each**

Then our **Christmas BBQ on NOVEMBER Saturday 29th Combined Christmas Party**



One of the raffle prizes donated by **Gene**



Owens Ex 21 Sup Pl was won by **Brian Abrahamson Ex 7 Sig Reg** seen here being presented with

the watch by **Tony Dawes**



Phil Aplin (left) and **Harry Mimi** Both Ex 1 RAR 1965-66



Mick Beeston (left) and **Pat Wilson** both Ex 104 Signal Squadron 1968 - 69



Now this is the way to go, fill your own... **Dan Connolly** Ex 17 Const Sqn



This photo of Ronald (Bindi) Yow Yeh in Vietnam (at the back hands on hips. From http://www.bobbuick.com/viet_nam/vietnam.index.htm) and below at Cockscomb



A young Lad laying a wreath



Left Harry Mimi (hat), back to us unknown, Ronald Bindi Yow Yeh facing Harry



Grahan Ivers Salvation Army plays the Last Post



Nadeane Curnuck and Edna Goodwin agents for Veterans Affairs Network Rockhampton operating from the Centrelink Office in Musgrave Street . For all enquiries please Phone Edna or Nadeane on 4938 5406



Phil Aplin, Dan Connelly, Nick Quigley and Des Soley

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