



VETERANS RETREATS OF WA INC

MEENTHEENA

Address: 515 Rowley Road, Forrestdale WA 6112..

Website: www.vrwa-meentheena.org

Incorporated in Western Australia: 9th June 2010

Cert. of Inc.: A1014796U

Email: veteransretreats.wa.inc@gmail.com

ABN: 56922714007

Meentheena Newsletter

During the Holiday Season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit we sincerely say Thank You and Best Wishes for the holiday season and a Happy New Year!



December, 2021.

Welcome to the Veterans Retreats of W.A. Inc. (Meentheena) December newsletter. Well, what a year it has been. Covid 19 has changed all our lives in so many ways.

When the camp was re-opened earlier this year, there was a steady stream of visitors, and we enjoyed a record number of happy campers in July.

Our AGM was held at Bassendean RSL on Sunday 14th November 2021 at 11am.

This was very well attended and a new Committee was elected. We would like to thank everyone for their support & encourage you to attend future meetings with the same enthusiasm.

President: John Schnaars

Vice President: Mark Newnham

Treasurer: Les McGoldrick (is very capable of looking after the finances & has done so admirably since 2015)

Secretary: Barb Whyte (is responsible for correspondence & keeping members up to date with camp events via the newsletter)

Committee: Jarrad Tierney, Warren Jacka, Barry Boyle, Peter Whyte, Graham Smith, Terry Corkhill, Gary Fernihough, (Camp Host Co-ordinator)

Thank you to outgoing Committee and welcome to the new Committee. Despite there being some difficulties in the past year, our organisation is already moving forward and working together.

Our first committee meeting was held on Sunday 21st November 2021

OBJECTIVES OF THE VRWA

1. To assist veterans and para-military veterans who suffer disability, illness, injury, or sickness as a result of their involvement in operational duties.
2. To encourage veterans to become self-sufficient physically, emotionally, mentally and socially.
3. To operate in a non-profit, non-sectarian, non-racial, and non-political environment for veterans for the life of the Association.
4. To conduct sustainable, environmental practices in retreat properties under the direction of the owners/managers of those properties.

We expect to keep our members up to date with regular newsletters letting you know the progress of the Association. If members have any interesting news or articles to share, please send to the Office of VRWA veteransretreats.wa.inc@gmail.com

Depending on the outcome of negotiations with the Nyamal People (Native Title holders) a general meeting would be held to let members know the future of the camp.

Camp Hosts

25th Nov.-20th Dec. –Jarrad Tierney

20th Dec. -10th Jan. –Mark Newnham and Keith Stitt

If you can help us with hosting after the above dates, it would really be appreciated. Contact Gary Fernihough, gary.fernihough@bigpond.com

Camp Hosting

Now members, as you are starting to plan your travels, packing up your caravans, camper trailers, rowing your boats and riding your bicycles, don't forget that you are always welcome at Meentheena. When you camp host at Meentheena, there is free accommodation and lots of things to do. Please contact Gary Fernihough by emailing him and booking your preferred dates. We do suggest that a minimum of 2 weeks or more is required.

As Dick Bligh was very unwell in August, we would like to thank Michelle and Paul for camp hosting at very short notice. They were happy campers who stepped up and took over the running of the camp.

The next camp hosts were Peter and Kandy Green. We thank them for their efforts in managing the camp.

Thank you also to Graham and Robbie who camp hosted subsequently. While they were on site, they cleaned up the area which was very overgrown, behind the disabled shower /toilet where Jason the rickshaw man camped in July. All the dead wood and weeds were cleared. This area was made into parkland and named "Graham's Grove".

Vehicle Maintenance

Anyone with mechanical experience is needed, as Barry Boyle has serviced the vehicles for the camp since the Association began. He is now physically unable to execute this work. If there is anyone who could take on this role, please offer your help and contact Barry. Malbaz100@gmail.com He is very willing to assist with consultation on any issues.

Tree Report

Some years ago, our Vice President, Mark Newnham planted many lines of trees that are native to the Pilbara. Alex from the Marble Bar Nursery supplied some trees, while Mark sourced others and planted them. He also set up a watering system. Camp hosts and campers have been weeding and watering them, so there has been progressive growth along the groves. Well done Mark.

Now we all know that Dick Bligh stands out in a crowd. His latest contribution to Meentheena in 2021 is the box tree standing out in this crowd of eucalypts on the eastern fence line. So like Dicky!

The couch lawn has been extended and top dressed. Hopefully, it survives the summer heat.

Marble Bar Races

The race meeting is always held on the 1st Saturday of July.

In past years, having a hamburger, bacon & egg burger and sausage sizzle food stall at the races (yum!) has been our major fund-raising event, except in 2020, & 2021 when the races were cancelled due to covid restrictions.

We are looking forward to the 2022 Marble Bar Races. Would all members interested, please offer their own skills or of their families and friends, to plan, organise and prepare for the running of this stall? If anyone is at all interested, please communicate with the committee, so we can tell you what we have done in the past and work with you to achieve success in 2022.



It's a fantastic local event and you will be ensured of a great time.

Very Important (The Treasurer is watching).

Membership fees (\$25) per annum are now due for the 2022 year and your continued support by renewing will be very much appreciated.

There is no need for existing members to fill out a membership form when renewing their membership for 2022.

You can direct credit to our bank account referencing your name:

Australian Military Bank BSB: 642170 A/C: 100269533.

Otherwise, payment can be made via a cheque to '**Veterans Retreat**'

Please forward your cheque to:

The Office of VRWA

515 Rowley Road

Forrestdale WA 6112

Please ensure a return name and address is on the reverse side of the envelope.

Please note that email is our preferred method of communication.
If your details have changed, please notify us so we can keep your records up to date and keep you in the loop.

If there is a spouse/partner or friend wishing to join, a membership form will need to be completed. It can be sent via post to the office address (as above) or via email to:

veteransretreats.wa.inc@gmail.com

The new membership form can be downloaded from the website:

www.vrwa-meentheena.org

Thank you to all members for their continued support and hope you continue to do so. We look forward to next year enjoying and promoting the retreat.

We also would like to thank all businesses and donors for the ongoing support throughout the year. Without this support, the facilities at camp could not happen.

It is important that the retreat keeps going not only for us older Vets, but as a retreat for ALL members of all the forces: Army, Navy, Airforce, Police, Fire, SES, Ambulance etc. We would love to see some younger veterans come on board in all areas of the running of the Retreat. Please promote when and where you can.

Finally, on behalf of the committee, I would like to wish everyone a safe and very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

John Schnaars
President

