

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

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Meentheena Newsletter August 2022



Welcome to our August newsletter.

Membership fees (\$25) per annum.

You can direct credit using internet banking to our bank account making sure you put your name on the bank transfer:

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.

If members don't do internet banking, please send a cheque, because we are charged \$6.50.

Website & Facebook

It has been brought to our attention that there is confusion as to which Facebook site is relevant to our retreat in Meentheena. Our Facebook site is run & managed by Jarrad Tierney who is a very valued member of Meentheena Veterans Retreat WA Inc.

Our website has been updated and running with a link to our Facebook page. **Meentheena Veterans Retreat of WA Inc.** Go to www.vrwa-meentheena.org or Google: Veterans Retreat Meentheena, then click on Meentheena.

You can go through the web page or do Facebook search.

Special Events



Last year some people may remember that Dick Bligh planted a special tree in the magnificent camp boundary tree line that was originally planted by Mark Newnham. The tree unfortunately died so it looked like there was another gap year. Another tree was planted in the gap on 12th July.

The East Pilbara Shire hosted a BBQ in the RSL Park on Friday 15th July which started at 4.30pm. Residents and visitors to the town were invited as well as people from the retreat. It was well organised and enjoyed by all who attended. For me it was a great way to meet Wendy McWhirter-Brooks (vice president), Ronice and Brent from the Shire who were cooking the meat. It was so nice to meet Amy Pfizner from CRC, Emma & Lee, (owners of the general store & travellers rest) who I speak to on the phone.

On 23rd, 24th & 25th July, we were fortunate to have a couple of professional musicians from Victoria visit the camp. They entertained us while we were around the campfire. It was very special & we were so lucky to hear their own compositions.

More Rain in the Pilbara

On Wednesday 10th August, our camp experienced 4.5mm of rain.

Camp Hosts

Mick & Gabby Ryan 9th August-15th September

Barry Stokes & Marie Grayson 15th September-15th October

There are still vacancies after this date.

If you can help us with hosting, it would really be appreciated. Contact Gary Fernihough, gary.fernihough@bigpond.com Ph. 0407776318

We are still looking for someone younger with mechanical skills to takeover this job. 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.

The Meentheena Cup Race Meeting

Due to the cancellation of the Marble Bar Races, Meentheena ran their own race meeting.

On Friday 1st July at 4.30pm, the Meentheena Cup was run.

There was a full field registration of 16 horses. We catered for all types of horses in the field. No entry was rejected. Those unable to ride a broom, mop, rake or hoe, participated on a ride on mower and a bicycle with a banister broom strapped onto the handlebars. These last 2 entries were suitably handicapped.

At big expense, we engaged an official starter from Dongara (Margaret Colley) who briefed the starters on race rules.

She then allowed the fun to begin!

Down the back straight the heads fell off 2 rakes and 1 broom, so those horses were eliminated. Craig Stevenson and Barb Whyte passed these poor horses but were still running stone motherless last. On consulting each other, they decided to take a short cut in front of the roundabout, hoping that it wouldn't be noticed. However, Margaret saw the cheats and were subsequently disqualified. The rest of the field galloped up the straight to the finish line. Those on foot were unable to beat the bicycle. Yola Krebs had a sweeping 2nd on her broom.

The whereabouts of the ride on mower with Barry Wynne aboard is still unknown. The SES is investigating a possible missing person. The only evidence of travel is the mown vegie patch on his exit!

The Meentheena Perpetual Trophy and the takeaway trophy were presented to the winner (Lyra Binnewitt) by our steward & judge (Margaret Colley).

The SP Bookie left soon afterwards licking his wounds!!

Peter Whyte's protest was dismissed as being frivolous.





The after-race celebrations went on until midnight.

Next year's race meeting will be held in the first week of July with a date to be advised.

After seeing the production of Everything Outdoors on Sunday 31st July, there are rumours that Baz Luhrmann from Hollywood is head hunting Margaret Colley to star in his next Australian Outback movie, with Bazza Wynne as supporting actor.

Veterans Day

On the evening of Thursday 18th August 2022, our camp hosts Gabby & Mick Ryan along with the many visitors to Meentheena Veterans Retreat held a sunset commemorative service to mark Vietnam Veterans Day and the Battle of Long Tan.

The Australian flag was lowered earlier in the day and then raised again after the service.

Ian Armitt opened the ceremony. Gabby Ryan read the prayer. Kevin Tangney recited the Ode. Mick Ryan controlled the audio system. After the service, everyone participated in nibbles, a few drinks and the pizzas that were made by the ladies.



Tom Watson 1915-16

Ian Armitt is our historian for Meentheena Veterans Retreat. Over many years he has researched and written the history, many stories and taken many photos of the area. He promised to mark this grave of an early stockman who worked for Meentheena Station. The grave was near some old cattle yards near the eastern boundary with Warrawagine Station. Tom Watson died of fever 1915-16.

Ian is on the right without the hat. Mitch Bradstock was Ian's helper.

Ian intends to mark several other graves on Meentheena as well. It is a very honourable task that he has undertaken.



Best wishes

Barb