

VETERANS RETREATS OF WA INC

MEENTHEENA

Address: 515 Rowley Road, Forrestdale WA 6112..

Website: TBA

Incorporated in Western Australia: 9th June 2010

Cert. of Inc.: A1014796U

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Meentheena Newsletter January 2022



Welcome to 2022 and the first newsy letter for the New Year.

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

Very Important (The Treasurer is watching).

The new committee had their 2nd meeting on 18/1/22 and is functioning very well. We are very excited to tell you that there are works in progress for the cooler months & that we are moving forward positively. What has happened in the past is history. We ask you to support us in our future endeavours by renewing your membership subscription if you haven't already.

Membership subs were due on 1st January for the 2022 year. Thank you to the members who have renewed. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

Membership fees (\$25) per annum.

There is NO NEED FOR EXISTING MEMBERS TO FILL OUT A NEW FORM when renewing your membership for 2022.

You can direct credit 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.

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. Thank you to the members who have done this.

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 new website:

Our new website is up and running with a link to our Facebook page. Thanks to Brodie Banks (our web master), Les McGoldrick and Jarrad Tierney. Google [veteransretreatmeentheena](#) Then click on Meentheena

We look forward to this year enjoying and promoting the retreat.

As most of our members know Meentheena is a retreat where anyone can go for peace and tranquillity. It's relaxing and calming atmosphere influences general wellbeing & mental health for our veterans who suffer with PTSD. Our aim has always been to create a comfortable place catering for the needs of our members.

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.

Jarrad Tierney is one of our younger vets who is on our committee. He spent 17 years in the navy. He is currently at the camp & reported that there was 26mm of rain over night on 22/1/22. It was only enough to settle a bit of dust!

Warren Jacka has been a long standing member and congratulations goes to him as he was runner up on Australia Day for Senior Citizen of the Year 2022. The ceremony was held in Mt. Magnet in Federation Park.

A very big thank you needs to go to Wendy McWhirter-Brooks, who is the Vice President of East Pilbara Shire. She has been helping with phone connections at the camp. The camp uses the Spinifex Ridge Mine tower which is privately owned. Yarrie Station was servicing the generator that runs the tower. Thanks to Wendy, Telstra is servicing the generator fortnightly. In the near future, it is hoped that Telstra will take over the tower or build a new one somewhere, so that the camp & other out lying stations can have a reliable phone & internet service. She is willing to help us whenever we need her.

DBCA Ranger Visit

Abbey Ernst and Mark Ohling (appointed ranger coordinator) & 6 rangers came to the camp just recently for 2 nights to do a mapping exercise. It is hoped that our lease will be renewed so that further improvements can take place.

Camp Hosts

Jarrad Tierney 20th January -1st March

Mark Newnham 1st March -21st March

If you can help us with hosting after the above dates, it would really be appreciated. Contact Gary Fernihough, gary.fernihough@bigpond.com Ph. [0407776318](tel:0407776318)



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, but hosting is a responsibility as there are duties and procedures that need to be followed. Please contact Gary Fernihough by emailing him gary.fernihough@bigpond.com and booking your preferred dates. We do suggest that a minimum of 2 weeks or more is required. Couples are very welcome.

As the camp has no rubbish service, we ask campers to take their rubbish with them when they leave. **NO** rubbish is allowed to be burnt on site.

Thank you also to Graham and Robbie who camp hosted late last year. 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 2021. All the dead wood and weeds were cleared. This area was made into parkland and named "Graham's Grove".

The wattle tree is very lonely in "Graham's Grove". Sadly, it looks like a desert as the cattle had a Christmas dinner picnic on the area. A new electric fence unit has been installed and new fencing is happening soon. Hopefully the grassed areas will recover. Dick Bligh's Box tree hasn't recovered according to inside information coming from the camp. It looks like the space will be having another gap year!



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.

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, but at the moment it's WAIT & SEE what happens in a few month's time. If anyone you know has catering skills, we will need someone who could 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.

However if the races are cancelled again, there are other things to see and do in the area, such as visiting the beautiful Carawine Gorge.

It's a day trip from the camp, so requires you to take a picnic lunch. On the way, you could visit the old mine which is about 9 kms on the left on the dirt road to Telfer.

Upon asking at the camp, there are other places to visit.

If anyone has any interesting news, photos or articles for our newsletter, please send to the office email veteransretreats.wa.inc@gmail.com

In closing it's important that you know the definition of COMMITTEE:
A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

Best wishes to everyone

John Schnaars
President