

Vietnam Veterans' South West NSW and Wagga Inc



Murraguldrrie Veterans Retreat

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The retreat is located in the Murraguldrrie State Forest area. The entry is sign posted and is 7 km east of the Hume Highway on the Wagga – Tumbarumba Road and is only 100meters off the main road.

There is a tree grove adjacent to the shelter shed which provides shade for campers as well as groups of scattered pine where caravans can park around. We have also just cleared and levelled a large area that would suite the larger rigs.

The shelter shed contains a kitchen area with tables, chairs and a bench and sink area.

The shelter shed and the toilet block both have lights; but to operates these you will need to plug a generator into the power socket which is located on the west side of the storage container (1KVA generator for lights).

The toilets and showers have a hot water 'Donkey' system operating on twigs and small pieces of wood which is readily available on site as it only takes about 15 minutes with a small fire to heat it up enough for showers.

Our water supply is from rain water tank so please use it sparingly.

We have provided Fire rings for cooking and a wood heater in the shelter shed for the cooler months; some wood is available again please consider the vets that have to cut and transport the wood.

The retreat is available to veterans and their families and offers good bush camping with basic facilities for both caravans and tents. You can get TV reception and mobile service in most of the area.

We operate on "bring it in – take it out" policy so please clean up the kitchen area and take any rubbish with you as we do not have any garbage facilities.

We also ask for a donation; all of which goes to help to run this retreat; there is a donation box and envelopes on site for you convenience.

Please enjoy the peace and tranquillity offered by our retreat and only leave you foot prints behind.



2011 Christmas Lunch at the Murraguldrrie Veterans' Retreat



Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia

Vietnam Veterans' South West NSW and Wagga Inc

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Established 2002

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To all ESO's, Veteran and Peacekeeping Organisations and Defence Force establishments

The "Murrugldrie Veterans Retreat" in the Murrugldrie State Forest and is managed and operated by the VV South West NSW & Wagga Inc. The sub-branch committee manages the retreat and arranges Working Bees and the general maintenance schedule. The retreat is funded through Visitor donations and at the present time some sub-branch money as well as DVA grants for major projects; so all donations received from those that use the retreat are spent on the retreat.

We are the only Veteran group in the South West NSW and Riverina running a retreat for Veterans, this retreat started as a Vietnam Veterans Retreat in 2005 and we have now completed most of the facilities planned for the retreat now being time to review our achievements and formulated an ongoing strategy for the retreat. The members decided in October 2010 that we needed to extend the retreat availability to the wider Veteran community and also to have an access umbrella that allows all War Veterans including those that have served in the more recent conflicts and peace keeping theatres as well as those who have and are currently serving in the defence forces so to signify this change the retreat name was changed to 'The Murrugldrie Veteran Retreat'. This change was officially launched in December 2010 at our Christmas Luncheon where we were privileged to have the Commandant of ARTC Col Finney and RSM Buster Bettye to unveil the new sign, this special occasion was celebrated by a large gathering of Veterans and their families.

On completion of the shelter shed and toilet block in 2007 the retreat was opened to other than sub-branch members; since then there has been a steady increase of visitors to the retreat.

We have seen visitors from all states and territories and many use it as their preferred stop over when travelling the Hume Highway on their summer/winter migrations as well as a rest spot for a few days between trips.

Its close proximity to the Highway and nestled in the foothills of the "Australian High Country" and only a short drive to the High Country towns and dams with their spectacular scenery has seen many visitors change their previous travelling routes to include the retreat this has seen most of our retreat visitors returning on numerous occasions.

It has been good to see that the younger service personnel from the current conflict using our retreat as we recently had a group of 60 stay for a couple of days and they are planning a return visit later in the year, it's great to see these young guys using this retreat.

To gain access to this retreat you need to contact one of the three designated retreat contacts whose names are listed on our flyer. They will inform you about the retreat and any restriction in force during your intended visit. Since this sub-branch is required to carry the public liability insurance for the retreat we need to record your name in our register if you are not a members of the sub-branch; however all people using the retreat must sign the visitors book and peruse the retreat rules which are located in the shelter shed.

On behalf of the committee

Keith Poole

President