

Camp Andrew Russell Opening Ceremony 28th October 2005



The Dedication

Camp Andrew Russell is opening today because of the vision, work and generosity of many people. We dedicate this campsite to an ongoing vision and spirit of generosity. May many benefit from being here.

Like many before him Sergeant Andrew Russell made the ultimate sacrifice in the field of duty. This campsite is dedicated for the use of the veteran community who live their lives with memories of their own fields of duty.

This place is dedicated as a place of peace, a place to "get away from it all". It is a place to appreciate silence, the birds, and the feeling of being 'out in the bush'.

It is dedicated as a place of relaxation and healing for members of the Vietnam Veteran Federation, veterans of all conflicts, and their families and friends.

The Blessing

Loving God,

We thank you for this place.

Here in the mallee country we can draw aside from the busyness of life, to be in the starkness and beauty of the bush.

We acknowledge our need for spiritual places; places of refreshment and renewal.

We dedicate this place, for the use of veterans and their loved ones. May it be a centre of relaxation, healing and inspiration, for all who come here.

We thank you for the generosity of those who made the land available, those who built the facilities, and those who contributed resources toward the campsite.

We thank you for Andrew Russell and ask you to bless his family.

Thank you that we can use his name for this place, and ask that all that happens here would be an honour to him, to all those who lost their lives in war, and to you the divine inspirer of universal life

