

Roger's gift to aid Vietnam Veterans

A decade of work nears end at Camp Gregory

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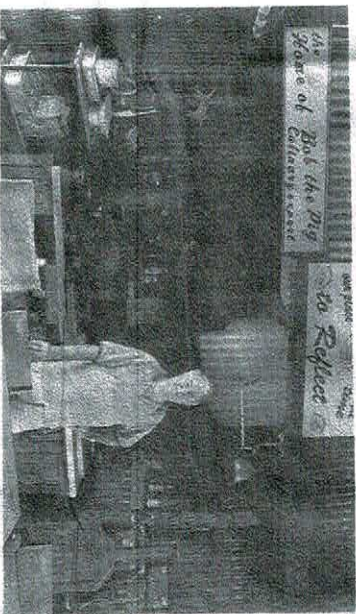
CADDYING for the Shark, Greg Norman, at his first Australia Open in 1973 is a memory Roger Dwyer holds close to his chest.

The memories of his business life flooded back to him as he sat on the banks of his Gregory River property this week.

As a shareholder of Cobra Golf Australia Mr Dwyer said he helped sales go from \$2 million annually to \$16 million in the 80s.

Which in turn helped him secure the property now known as Camp Gregory.

Mr Dwyer is proud of his life experiences and as Vietnam veteran hopes to leave a legacy and Camp Gregory is it.



Roger Dwyer at Camp Gregory veterans retreat.

Photo: Mike Knott BUN16049VET1

A decade ago he had a dream to convert the banks of his Gregory River property into a retreat for veterans especially those affected by post traumatic stress disorder.

The vacant land was covered in scrub but Mr Dwyer knew it had potential to be something more.

After 10 long years the 40 acre bush retreat has taken shape, with donga accommodation, a full kitchen and solar powered hot water in the showers.

It's a place that comes at no cost for veterans to find peace,

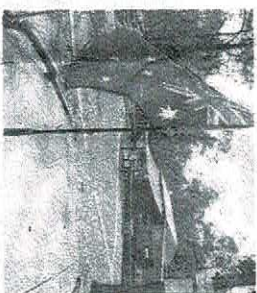
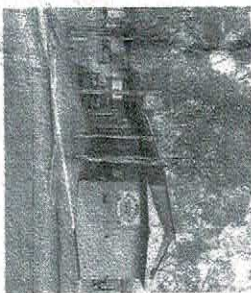
purpose and a place to talk.

The isolated retreat spans along the bank of the Gregory River and is an ideal place to step away from the hustle and bustle of life.

Caretaker Kit Carson said the retreat was used by returned servicemen and women from all around the country.

It's touted as an ideal place to sink a line, or throw out a crab pot or two, and hundreds of thousands of dollars have gone into the project.

It's not completed yet, there are plans to build a jetty along



the river front to give safe access to the water for those with disabilities.

But the project has come to a stand-still as Mr Dwyer is calling for help from the federal government.

The jetty would allow access to the river from the camp area for all abilities.

At the moment campers have to traverse uneven ground and small cliffs, which



puts them at risk.

Mr Dwyer says it's "well documented that veterans required rehabilitation and support to reintegrate back into society".

"The benefits of the camp are astronomical," he said.

"It's prime purpose is to look after veterans and their families."

Mr Dwyer said the camp would remain well after he had gone and future generations would benefit.

That's why he has approached a number of federal ministers, including Veterans Affairs minister Darren Chester and Hinkler MP Keith Pitt. "I have businesses on board with support and time offered