



Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch

Standfast 2023

Issue 260

Aug 2024



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FOR YOUR DIARY:
Next sub-branch meeting Sat
10th August @ 1100 hr.
Followed by a light lunch

Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch Office Bearers

President	John Porter	0477 773 140	All emails to:
Vice President	Robert Wilson JP	0414 708 662	AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au
Vice President	Phil Skinner	0427 291 292	
Secretary	John Gordon	0437 509 790 or 0414 285 812	
Treasurer	Garry Henderson-Smith	0400 474 413	

Dear Members,

This month was relatively quiet with only the Korean War being remembered. We had a small gathering at Elizabeth Ann Brown Park with Ballina Mayor Sharon Cadwallader and Rev Daniel Yang both attending the service and wreath laying.

We now have our Sub-Branch air conditioning fitted thanks to the Vietnam Veterans Association. The Loral Club ladies have given it the thumbs up.

Many thanks to the volunteers who came to assist with cleaning up our stored items of memorabilia in our back shed. All sorted and cleaned.

I sprayed the Sub-Branch lawn for ants and their mounds. Hopefully, that will fix them.

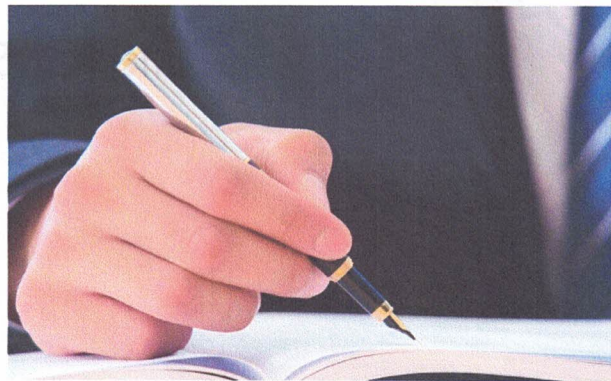
Lastly, our new solar hot water system is working well. What a great initiative.

How do you define wellbeing?

Wellbeing is not just the absence of disease or illness. It's a complex combination of a person's physical, mental, emotional and social health factors. Wellbeing is strongly linked to happiness and life satisfaction. In short, wellbeing could be described as how you feel about yourself and your life.

God Bless!

John Porter



From the President

Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting 13 Jul 2024.

President John Porter declared the meeting open at 10.32 with the wreath laid by member Phil Skinner followed by the Ode and a half minute's silence. Members were asked to Vale Alan Hodge, who passed away recently.

Attendance was 25, with 6 apologies.

MOTION: That apologies be accepted.

Moved – Bob Wilson **Seconded** – Jamie Walton **CARRIED**

Minutes of the meeting held on 08 Jun

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting on 08 Jun, as printed, be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved – Secretary **Seconded** – Mark Quilligan **CARRIED**

Business arising from minutes - Nil business arising.

Correspondence:

Inwards - Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

State Circulars, Legacy invitation and MEAO Day flyer

Outwards – Letter to 4WD re rent

MOTION: That the Inwards correspondence be adopted, and the Outwards correspondence be endorsed

Moved - John Gordon **Seconded** – Michael Letts **CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the Revenue statements and accounts as at 30 Jun 2024 and the Accounts for payment.

MOTION: That the Revenue Statement as at 30 Jun 2024 be accepted, and the Payment of Accounts for May/Jun be approved.

Moved – Gary Henderson-Smith **Seconded** – Brian Partridge **CARRIED**

It is to be noted that the Vietnam Veteran's Association (Far North Coast sub-Branch) have indicated that they will donate the needed amount for the Air Conditioning, this is an unsolicited and very generous offer by them! President will attend their next meeting to thank them personally.

State HQ – Nothing to report

FNCDL –

The next FNCDL Meeting is Aug at Casino.

Welfare & Hospital visits

Bob Wilson reported that visits to St. Vincent's are continuing, 7-8 patients each week. 2 wards have been closed at various times due to COVID.

Hall Bookings

No changes,.

Membership:

Membership is now 75.

Memorabilia

10% stocktake done. Tony Tyler spoke about the need to clean and properly store the items in the shed, a working bee will be held next Friday 19th at 10am.

Fundraising

Secretary is still working on the Quilt Raffle tickets.

General Business

- MEAO Day – Pres stated that there had been two MEAO Days, the official one on Thursday 11th (attended by 6 members plus the Mayor) and one he did on Wed 10th, where he read his speech to a gentlemen sitting on a bench, who then congratulated him on a good speech & went to the pub!!!
- Korean Veterans Day Sat 27th July, local minister served in South Korean forces.
- Hall Memorabilia Rob Fry presented Sid Lewis's medal (donated by his daughter Meredith) and framed by Rob & Kay Fry, to the hall for display in Sid's Corner.
- Gary Henderson-Smith raised the issue about the vandalism at the War Memorial in Canberra and the Green senator's response, stating that he found it offensive and a cowardly act. He has written personally to RSLNSW and the Greens Party to object. Gary then asked if the sub-Branch would support his stance by not inviting any Green politicians to RSL events. The meeting discussed this issue and it was felt that as an apolitical organisation, it is not considered appropriate to do so, but members are free to express their views as private citizens.

Meeting closed at 11.05.

Next Meeting: Committee meeting at 0900 10 Aug

followed by General Meeting at 1000hrs on Saturday 10 Aug and Lunch from 12.00.

Honouring The Anniversary of the Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam Unit

Posted by [Karla Rey](#) on Jul 14, 2024 5:54:57 PM

On 14 July 1967, the Australian Government announced the formation of the RANHFV to support allied forces in Vietnam, serving with the United States Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company.

This year is the 57th year of this announcement and we pay tribute to the pilots, observers, naval airmen and support staff who served in the Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV) unit.

The unit was formed in response to a request for assistance by the United States Government.

To prepare for their tour of Vietnam, in just eight weeks Australian navy personnel trained for a different kind of mission, concentrating on tactical landing and take-off for the insertion and extraction of troops from dangerous land zones flying Huey helicopters.

The first RANHFV contingent arrived in Vietnam on 16 October 1967. Initially based at Vung Tau with the US Army, the unit became officially known as 'EMU' for the Experimental Military Unit.



RAN UH-1 Iroquois helicopter operating in Vietnam

By the time operations ceased, more than 200 personnel had flown hundreds of offensive operations in intense combat.

Sadly, five members of RANHFV were killed and 22 were wounded in action. Today we honour those who lost their lives and pay tribute to all those who served in the Vietnam War.



Patches worn by members of the RANHFV sourced from the Royal Australian Navy

Just to keep you up to date!

Next commemorative Service is:

18 Aug – Vietnam Veteran's Day, followed by

14 Sep – National Peacekeepers Day,

then Remembrance Day

from DVA's Commemorative Calendar there is:-

15 August [Victory in the Pacific \(VP\) Day](#)

18 August [Vietnam Veterans' Day](#) *

31 August [Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day](#)

3 September [Merchant Navy Day](#)

1st Wednesday of September [Battle for Australia Day](#)

14 September [National Peacekeepers' Day](#) *

11 November [Remembrance Day](#) *

We don't necessarily have a service on all the days, but if there is enough interest we can put something together. Let me know so I can start organising!

We conducted services for Middle East Area of operations on 11 July but there appears to be an issue with that date.

Auxiliary :- the Alstonville Auxiliary has been formed with three (3) members so far. Membership is free and open to partners, family & friends who are interested in participating in and organising sub-Branch activities

It will need Two members to propose the Auxiliary membership and also has to be approved at a meeting.

We intend to make the Auxiliary members as inclusive in the sub-Branch as possible, although they cannot hold office (yet) they can be on a social committee and participate in meetings!

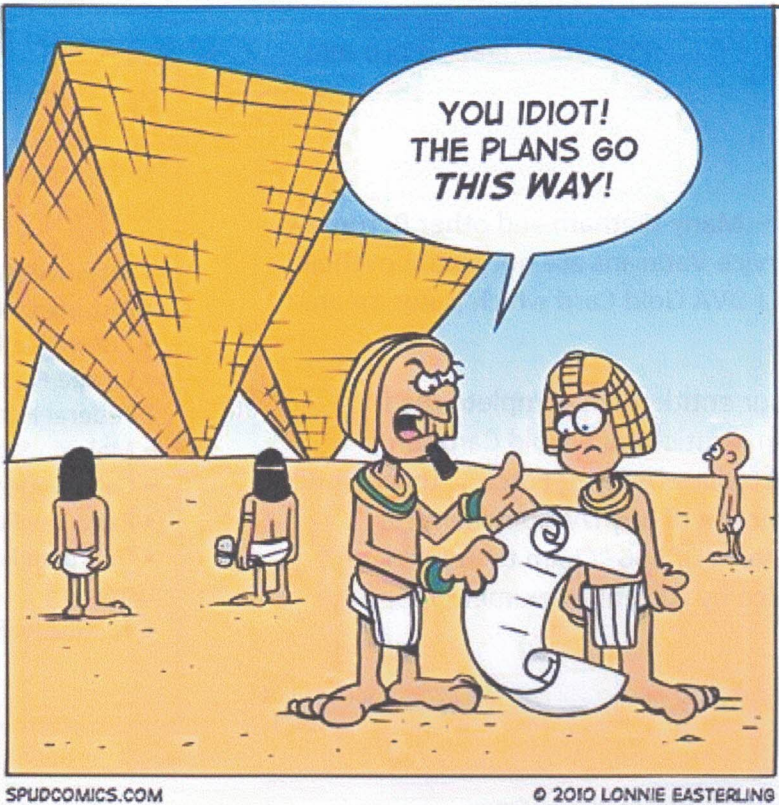
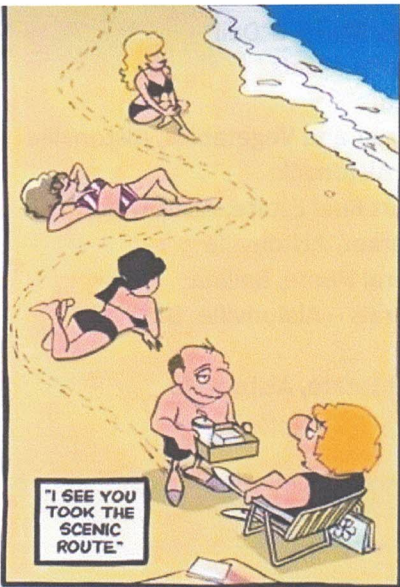
I have attached the application for you to print (or use the Fill and Sign function in Adobe Acrobat Reader to fill it out then email it back to me!)

We need new members and the Auxiliary is the best way to get people with some new idea and viewpoints.

New Legislation:

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel, Matt Keogh, introduced the legislation to "simplify and harmonise the veterans' rehabilitation and compensation framework. More information is available on DVA's website at <https://www.dva.gov.au/news/latest-stories/new-veterans-legislation-introduced-parliament>

The funny side of life:



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

David Anderson	03 Aug.
Alan Brown	04 Aug.
Robert Wilson	13 Aug.
Ron Nowland	18 Aug.
Harry Wood	24 Aug.
Alanna Luvisi	28 Aug.
Mel McGoldrick	29 Aug. (101!!!!)
Kevin Quinell	30 Aug.

Information:

DVA – Lismore VAN Office:
Suite 8 Level 1 17 Conway Street
Lismore (next to Australian Hearing)
Ph 1300 838 372
Mailing address
DVA
GPO Box 9998
Brisbane QLD 4001

DVA Gold Card – Many Vietnam and other Returned from Active Service Veterans are not aware of their entitlement to a DVA Gold Card which is not means or asset tested.

To check for your entitlement complete the DVA form D3057 "Application for a Gold Card for Veterans of Australia's Defence Force". Those under 70 and not in receipt of any DVA payment can complete DVA form D0506 "Claim to determine Qualifying service by current or ex-member of the ADF".

SPONSORS – THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT

- Alstonville Plaza Meats & Deli
- Alstonville Quality Meats
- Alstonville Cellars
- Village Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, Alstonville
- Federal Hotel, Alstonville
- Melanie Stewart Real Estate, Alstonville
- Coles Supermarket, Alstonville
- Parkview Funeral Home, Ballina
- Guardian Funerals – Alstonville, Ballina, Lismore
- McGraths Real Estate, Alstonville

Heart Foundation Walking Group

Alstonville Health Warriors

A heart Foundation Walking group meets on Sunday mornings at 9am for a walk through Alstonville, come along to find & explore the Alstonville surrounds!

Moderately paced, suitable for older persons and very pet friendly.

WHERE: Outside Alstonville Post Office at the Plaza

WHEN: Sunday mornings 9am

What: explore the highways & byways of Alstonville

NOTE!

We could start our own group for a walk during the week! Anyone interested contact John GORDON

RSL Tibouchina Day Club

When: Wednesdays @ 10:00am

Where: Rous Mill Hall

What: Enjoy good company, live entertainment, light exercise (suit for the elderly). Mental stimulation activities, morning tea, lunch. A bus will pick you up and return you to your home within the Alstonville / Wollongbar villages for a \$10:00 contribution.

Who: For members of our community who are looking for social interaction in a friendly welcoming environment.

Contact Marett for more details: **0421 272 643**

Alstonville RSL AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ALSTONVILLE



ALSTONVILLE

Full Name:

Address:

.....

Phone: Home: Mobile:

Email:

D.O.B: ____/____/____

Signature of Applicant:

Date signed: ____/____/____

Proposer: Date: ____/____/____

Seconder: Date: ____/____/____

Next of Kin Name: Relationship:

Contact Phone:

Contact email:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY*Please circle as appropriate below:*

Date received: ____/____/____ Secretary Initials:

Application: ACCEPTED, DECLINED at Meeting dated ____/____/____

– Reason:

Date recorded in register:

Date added to Membership Portal: ____/____/____

Hon. Secretary Signature:

Date submitted to RSLNSW: ____/____/____ Date Badge received: ____/____/____

