



Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch



Standfast 2023

Issue 249

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Alstonville NSW 2477

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FOR YOUR DIARY:

Next sub-Branch meeting

Saturday 9th Sep @ 1100 hr.

Followed by a light lunch

Committee at 0900

Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch Office Bearers

President	John Porter	0477 773 140
Vice President	Robert Wilson JP	0414 708 662
Vice President	Phil Skinner	0427 291 292
Secretary	John Gordon	0437 509 790
Treasurer	Garry Henderson-Smith	0400 474 413

All emails to:

AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au

Dear Members

This past month saw celebrations for the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War and 50 Years for the Vietnam War. Both Wars had significant impact on our Brave Members who Served. Lest We Forget.

Our last committee meeting and members meeting was conducted on a Friday. The next will be held on a Saturday. Once again, this is a trial to establish the best possible Day in which to conduct our meetings.

We have a new roof on our Sub-Branch building. It has certainly freshened up the building and fixed some water leaks.

Coming up on 14th September is a Ceremony for the PeaceKeeping Forces Day. A plaque will be unveiled at the Elizabeth Ann Brown Park on the day. The Ballina Council has upgraded the pathways at the Memorial making it more user friendly.

Just a reminder to all Members, our Sub-Branch tradition is a Safe Heaven for all to use. Please Respect other people and their views. Just remember, smiling, laughing and participating are all good for the Soul.

Thank you all.

John Porter

President

047777 3140



From the President

Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting Friday 11th August 2023.

The Chair, President John Porter, declared the meeting open at 12.05 hrs with the wreath laid by Vice President Phil Skinner, followed by the Ode and a half minute's silence.

Attendance was 23, with 6 apologies (Alan Brown, Ruth Campbell, Joy Wicks, Christine & Harold Wood and Stan Green).

MOTION: That apologies be accepted.

Moved – Michael Letts **Seconded** – Phil Skinner

CARRIED

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 Jul 2023

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting on 12 Jul as printed, be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved – John Gordon **Seconded** – Mark Quilligan **CARRIED**

Business arising from minutes - Nil business arising.

Correspondence:

Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

State Circulars;

email from Blue Skimmings – Deferred to general Business (bus trip reschedule);

NSW Energy rebate for Hot Water – to be investigated (Sec);

Invitation from Ballina SB to their Vietnam Veteran Day service & Dinner, along with invitation to their Bus excursion to Stanthorpe.

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

Moved - John Gordon **Seconded** – Rob Fry **CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the revenue Statement and accounts as at 31 Jul 2023 and the Accounts for payment.

MOTION: That the Revenue Statement as at 31 Jul be accepted, and the Payment of Accounts for Jul/Aug be approved.

Moved – Treasurer Gary **Seconded** – Mark Quilligan **CARRIED**

State HQ – Nothing to report

FNCDC –

Nothing to report as yet

Welfare & Hospital visits

Grahame Gooding reported that visits to St. Vincent's still going ahead, averaging about 4-6 veterans. No other matters.

Hall Bookings

Grahame reported no changes. Prospective new renter will visit today.

Membership:

Membership is now 75.

Memorabilia

President stated that we had done wrong by railroading Rob Fry into the Memorabilia job and is declaring the Memorabilia Officer position vacant, this is for discussion and filling at the next meeting. Rob, you have enough on your plate already!

Fundraising

Tickets for the first Bear Raffle are still on sale, \$2 each, with Captain Murray, the wounded Great War Bear as the prize.

Thank you to all the ticket sellers, a great achievement, nearly 500 tickets sold already. We will have another round in Sept, roster sheets will be at the next meeting.

Bob Wilson and Secretary will get an order in to Military Shop for Remembrance Day merchandise.

General Business

- Bus Trip – Blue advised that the Ballina SB Bus is now booked for Tuesday 22

Aug to go to Evans Head Bowlo for lunch, the meal will be subsidised by the sub-Branch by \$10 hd. Names to the Secretary by 18th August please.

- Blue Skimmings has submitted a letter resigning from Committee due to commitments on Fridays and weekends.
- Vietnam Veterans Day – 18 Aug @ 1100 in EAB Park. Draft program has been confirmed. Full Medals please.
- Paddy Bugden Memorial – quote for repairs has been received, we missed the cut-off for the NSW War Memorial grant but will have further discussions to get our ducks in a row for the next round. It is intended to include a proposal for the removal of the tree that is causing the damage, with opinions sought from an arborist, and a proposal to Council to garner their support.
- Peacekeepers Plaque – The plaque will be mounted on the side wall of the memorial and dedicated on National Peacekeepers Day 14 Sep. A service will be held at 1100 on that day with invitations to APPVA, Liz Hill, Council & local politicians to attend.
- Drone Pilot training – President will soon complete his Commercial Drone Pilot course & will be qualified to conduct training, he is contemplating offering the training, through the sub-Branch, to interested veterans on the Far North Coast. Watch this space!!
- Many members are aware of people who are in similar professions as us ex-military types! They have similar issues and problems as us, The sub-Branch is a 'safe haven' and it is suggested that we can offer support, understanding and friendship to them. To that end, it was moved That the sub-Branch form the Alstonville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary.

Moved – Secretary; Seconded Gary Henderson-Smith CARRIED

- Free membership to the Auxiliary to be extended to Legacy Laurel Club members, War Widows, families of veterans, NSW Police and Emergency Services, NSW Nurses, Federal Police and any person nominated by members. The Secretary will devise an Auxiliary membership application which will need to be proposed and seconded by a full Service Member and approved at a sub-Branch meeting. RSLNSW to be informed and a register of members to be created.
- Perpetual Wreaths – the wreaths need to be refurbished.
- Rob Fry raised the new benches for EAB Park, they have been finished by the Richmond Valley Woodcrafters and they have been put in touch with Council, who will collect the benches and install them once the slabs have been laid. Rob will arrange the engraving of the Lion's Club plaques.
- It was suggested that members still need to consider the best meeting day/time for our General Meetings as we are still in the trial period, please provide your feedback to the Secretary or Committee members.
- Mark Quilligan thanked everyone involved in the 9 year project for the upgrade to Elizabeth Ann Brown Park, it has been slow to get there, but the end is in sight!!! The Park is looking very good!

Meeting closed at 13.05.

Next Meeting: Saturday 9th Sep 1100hrs. with Committee Meeting at 0900

The story of the beginnings of The Ex-Services Home, Ballina, now RSL LifeCare Ballina, as told by Cyril Wilson, Bob Wilson's father...

Ex-Serviceman Rest Home Ballina

The area which the home is built on belonged to Mrs Price, hence the first wing being named in her honour.

The land was mainly made up of sand dunes which mean hills and hollows. When examined we found that because it being a low area it would take a lot of sand or soil fill to bring it up well above high water level, especially high tide or King tides.

There was a lot of work to be done before any building could be started, so we had working bees on weekends which went on for many months.

I with many other helpers shovelled sand endlessly. Hundreds of yards of fill to get it to the proper level. It took many, many weekends before we had it to the level we needed.

Then after it had settled down the first wing was started. While the first wing was being built we had a break. When it was finished we had to go back again to prepare and get it up to standard for the opening.

To cover the sand we used soil dressing. My father Kelly Wilson and I decided to take a plough down from Inceagle to plough out the grass to cover the soil and sand, as you can see in the photo I did the ploughing of the grass out on Seven road which was being pulled by a tractor driven by Fred Smith.

The Blade brothers did a wonderful job with their trucks also Muggert Saunders and John Johnson which was much appreciated.

I was told they needed a hundred posts so I got to work on my property and put in lots of days getting the posts done, and then the Blade carted them down from Ingeagle to Ballena but I never knew where the posts went to.

All travelling and work was done voluntary the opening of the Price Wing was 1-6-52

The opening consisted of a march from River St- to the home, and I was given the privilege of leading the march and carrying the flag then after a period of time the Wilson Wing was built in 1954 and opened.

I have the original photos of both Price and Wilson Wings which I will Photostat.

Photo of the Price Wing at the finishing stage shows the photo of Cyril Wilson (left) Kelly Wilson near him with cigarette in mouth, Claude Wilson standing in front of the window, don't know who the other two men were.

You may have other information regarding other work which was done.

Claude Wilson

11 Cedar St Goodell Ave
13-5-96



after opening of the first Wing of Rest Home, we were given another task of selling books of Raffle tickets in our local districts. The Raffle prize consisted of a car supplied by Mrs D. Pnatten in Keen St, (Where Best and Less are to-day).

Tickets were sold in the Ingeagle, Warom Creek, Lucki, Wyrallah, Chilcote Grass, and Lendindale areas, we were very grateful for how the people responded in these districts. It was a very large area with only gravel roads those days we would have sold hundreds of books, with only one refusal.

Each book consisted of 12 tickets at two shillings each or a pound a book. 2 tickets in each book were to be retained by the seller but was not taken and left in the book.

These books were sold between 1952-54 and it was all done Voluntary, I was the seller and my father opened the gates and kept check of the books & numbers.

Clara Wilson
11 Cedar St Jannell St
2480

The funny side of life:

- An 8 year-old boy was boasting about his Army father to a friend of a similar age whose father was in the Navy.
"My dad is an engineer. He can do everything. Do you know the Alps?"
"Yes," said the son of the Navy man.
"My dad built them."
Then the naval kid spoke: "And do you know the Dead Sea?"
"Yes."
"It's my dad who killed it!"

An officer on an aircraft carrier was cutting through the crew's quarters of his ship one day and happened upon a sailor reading a magazine with his feet up on the small table in front of him.
"Sailor! Do you put your feet up on the furniture at home?", the officer demanded.
"No, sir, but we don't land airplanes on the roof either."

Did you know that camels aren't indigenous to Australia?
They were shipped there by the British. Oddly enough, so were the Australians.

- What is it called in Australia, when they need to restart the song from the beginning at the club?
A DJ redo.

The immigration official questioned a man about his criminal history when he traveled to Australia. Confused, he replied, "Oh, is that still required?"

- A gecko lizard is traveling through the Australian bush, heading for a drink in the river. On his walk, he comes across a koala smoking a joint in a gum tree and stops to chat.
"Giddy, mate. What exactly are you doing?"
The koala adds, "Come up and join me as I smoke a joint. It's bloody awesome gear!"
So the gecko goes up and sits next to the koala, sharing a joint. After a while, the gecko says his mouth is really dry and he's going to drink from the river.
The gecko is so stoned that he leans too far over the riverside and falls in. He begins to float away as the current becomes pretty strong. When a crocodile notices this, he swims over to the stoned gecko and helps him to return to the beach.
"What's the matter with you?" he asks the lizard.
The gecko reveals to the crocodile that he was sitting in the tree with his new koala friend, smoking a joint. He then told how his mouth became dry and how he was so stoned that he fell into the river when he tried to get a drink!
The curious crocodile insists on seeing the stoned koala for himself. He walks into the jungle and finds the koala, who is sitting at the fork of a gum tree, smoking a joint.
"Hey, Koala, do you have any more of that grass?" says the crocodile.
The koala looks down and says "Hey! Dude, ... how much water did you drink?"

**Threw out my back sleeping
and tweaked my neck
sneezing so I'm probably
just one strong fart away
from complete paralysis.**



**Riding Lawnmower
\$300**

I Think it should read 'Ride On'

Did You Know!

By replacing your potato chips with grapefruit as a snack you can lose up to 90% of what little joy you still have left in your life.



Happy birthday

Elizabeth Hill – 10 Sep

Geoff Vidal – 30 Sep

Many happy returns!!

KINGS COLOURS

On 28 Oct, 8RAR are being presented with their Kings Colours in Brisbane at 0830am. They will March up the Mall in Brisbane to exercise their Key to the City, they will be challenged by Brisbane City Mayor, then allowed to pass over to the Brisbane City Square and ceremonially presented with their new colours. There are other activity's on as well.

Bus Trip – We had a great time on the trip to Evan's Head, a lovely drive on a warm winter's day, Garry missed most of the potholes!! A scrumptious lunch and a nice drive back!! We're planning the next on for about Mon 18th Sept. Names to Secretary by the 14th please.

Information:

DVA – Lismore VAN Office:
Suite 8 Level 1 17 Conway Street
Lismore (next to Australian Hearing)
Email: NSWVANLismore@dva.gov.au
Ph 1800 838 372
Mail to
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



ESP Contracting Services

- NDIS & DVA Support work
- Concreting
- Handyman
- Pressure wash cleaning
- Yard maintenance

Please call:

Ross - 0488078987 or Kim - 0400 983 113

(Image by macrovector/freepress)

RSL Tibouchina Day Club

When: Wednesdays @ 10:00am

Where: Rous Mill Hall

What: Enjoy good company, live entertainment, light exercise (suitable 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**

Recommended Coffee Shops in Alstonville Main St.

Miles & Henry Coffee Shop

86 On Main?? Buckley's Chance??

ESP

The Crossing

All have great coffee and friendly, helpful staff.

Jo Jo's Coffee & Sandwich Shop in the Plaza

Great coffee, scrumptious hamburgers, with friendly and helpful staff.

Jo Jo's supports our badge sellers with coffee and is a favourite of the Lower Deck as a lunch order!