



Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch



Standfast 2024

Issue 255

March

13 Budgen Avenue

Alstonville NSW 2477

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FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Next sub-Branch meeting
Saturday 9th March.**

**@ 10.00 hr. Followed by a light
lunch**

Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch Office Bearers

President	John Porter	0476 677 626	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	
Treasurer	Garry Henderson-Smith	0400 474 413	

This past month has little to report other than the Bombing of Darwin Commemoration.

Often called 'Australia's Pearl Harbour', the bombing of Darwin by aircraft of the Imperial Japanese Navy began on 19 February 1942, killing more than 230 people and destroying ships, buildings and infrastructure.

Special mention goes to Brian Partridge who has stepped down as a Sub Branch long term Committee Member. Brian wishes to continue as a member of our sub-Branch. Thanks, Brian for your years of commitment.

Another Special mention goes to Bob Wilson who is asking to be replaced as our Committee Fund Raising Member. We are in search of a replacement for Bob.

If any member wants to be either the fund raising or inventory member, please let me know. Big shoes to fill.

Meaning of Comradery

Comradery is a spirit of friendship and community between two people or a group of people. The members of the group are comfortable around each other, and they support each other.



From the President

Let's make this a wonderful year. A year to remember.

Blessings to All.

John Porter 🙏

Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

RSL OF AUSTRALIA (NSW Branch)

ALSTONVILLE SUB-BRANCH

ABN: 99 901 744 239

PO Box 692

ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477

alstonvillesb@rslnsw.org.au Phone: 02 66286156

President: Mr. John Porter 0476 677 626

Secretary: Mr. John Gordon 0437 509 790

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting Sat 10th Feb 2024.

The president, John Porter, declared the meeting open at 10.33 hrs with the wreath laid by member followed by the Ode and a half minute's silence.

Attendance was 21, with 6 apologies.

MOTION: That apologies be accepted.

Moved – Bob Wilson Seconded – Keith Row

CARRIED

Minutes of the meeting held on

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting on Sat 9th Dec as printed, be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved – John Gordon Seconded – A Brown CARRIED

Business arising from minutes - Nil business arising.

Correspondence:

Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

State Circulars

Letter from Laurel Club with a donation of \$200, This was received at the Dec meeting, Thank you very much ladies.

DVA e-News

RSLNSW Dec update

RSLNSW President's Christmas Message

Our President's Christmas wishes

Query from Ballina SB re member.

Emails to/from committee re: back stair repairs.

email from Lismore regarding passing of Tony Olive

Ballina Shire Concert Band – offer to play on ANZAC Day

State Circulars

Outwards

BSC & NSW Police re Bombing of Darwin Day 19th Feb

Headliners re ANZAC Day – their reply is that they cannot assist as they have been retained by Ballina SB to perform for next 3 yrs.

RSM 41st Btn – support for ANZAC Day

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

Moved - John Gordon

Seconded – Phil Skinner **CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the Revenue statements and accounts as at 31st Dec and 31st Jan and the Accounts for payment.

MOTION: That the Revenue Statement as at 31 Dec and 31st Jan be accepted, and the Payment of Accounts for Dec, Jan & Feb be approved.

Moved – Treasurer

Seconded – Phil Skinner **-CARRIED**

State HQ – Nothing to report other than to promotion of the Sport & Rec program

FNCDC –

The next FNCDC Meeting is 18 Feb @ Byron Bay.

Welfare & Hospital visits

reported that visits to St. Vincent's are ongoing, the new liaison is also a member at Lismore SB and is working out well. No other matters.

Hall Bookings

Brainstorm have finished and we're back to normal.

Membership:

Membership is now 72 with the loss of 2 members, Col Perkins and Sid Lewis. New potential Auxiliary Members should help boost the numbers, (we hope!!!)

Memorabilia

Rob Fry, as Temporary Memorabilia Officer gave his report on the 100% stocktake, 3 books missing – recommended that ANZAC Jack and Soldiers without Borders be written off, anyone knowing the where-a-bouts of Introduction to Topographical Mapping please return it.

A photo labelled Men on Tank not found (it should be in the shed?)

Rob Fry also declined nomination for the position. Brian Partridge is stepping back from Committee and Memorabilia due to health reasons but will assist the new person as necessary.

We have had a donation of Photo's of the Battle of Iwo Jima, and Brian spoke about donations of memorabilia, his view is that they should have some significance to Alstonville, as in members and families in the region. He suggested to the person donating the Iwo Jima items that if we had no place for them, we could donate to the Casino Military Museum on their behalf.

Fundraising

ANZAC Day is fast approaching, orders to Military Shop for badges etc will go in next week and we will also look at what is on offer from Samford RSL SB.

Rosters for badge Sales tables are now available, volunteers please don't be shy!!

General Business

- President gave a tribute to Chef Rob Wilson for his efforts for the Christmas function – Bravo Zulu!!
- President also mentioned that he has been approached about working for a local organisation and hopes members do not think there would be a Conflict of Interest if he

accepts the position – comment from the floor was that the only conflict that would arise was if he left the sub-Branch!!

- The secretary explained the model of an Iroquois UH1 on the table, it is a LEGO model!!
 - Alan Brown spoke about the Beacom Shield, proposed date for this year is 17th April, again, don't be shy, it's a fun day, no previous experience necessary!
 - Keep in mind the need for helpers on ANZAC Day – Wreaths, Parade Marshall, Flag Bearers & Flag Hands etc.
 - The subject of Air Conditioning in the hall was raised by the Treasurer, he proposes that a working group research costs and make recommendations at a future meeting, this also raised the issue of looking at upgrading the Solar Array (to power the AC during the day!). A further suggestion of a Dishwasher for the kitchen (Comment was the Keith is wearing out??). The group can look at all these things
 - Rob Wilson volunteered to look at what grants (if any) we could utilise for these purposes.
 - The meeting agreed to approve investigating feasibility of
 - 1. installing Air Conditioning,
 - 2. upgrading Solar and
 - 3. purchase of a Dishwasher
- Group to report back to a meeting soon.

Michael Letts spoke about a local issue and urged members to familiarise themselves with Council proposals to upgrade areas around Alstonville and the Showground and to voice their opinions.

Meeting Closed at 11.22

Next Meeting Sat 9th March @10.00am

Signed

John Porter

President

John Gordon

Secretary/Treasurer

The RSL LifeCare Story

RSL LifeCare is a public company limited by guarantee, RSL NSW is the sole member of our charity and our Directors are appointed by RSL NSW. The Directors bring to the table decades of experience in key areas – Veterans, RSL, Aged Care, Retirement Living, Finance, Construction, Business. It all began over a century ago in 1911 at Botany Bay...

First, in 1881 the colony of New South Wales began the construction of a fort on Bare Island near the mouth of Botany Bay to the southeast of Sydney. It was designed to protect the city's back door from an attack by the Russian navy or another European force. The bulk of the fortification was completed by 1885, however a Royal Commission was conducted in 1890 into the apparently faulty construction through the use of an inferior concrete mix. The commission led to the resignation of the well-known Colonial Architect, James Barnet, who was blamed for failing to properly supervise the work. Bare Island was manned for years, but by 1902 improved weapon technology meant that the artillery on it had largely become obsolete and it was decommissioned.

The fort was located on a windswept island reached via a wooden bridge at the end of a track running down from the tram terminus for the La Perouse line, which was completed in 1902. It was a long way from any real social contact with the rest of Sydney society.

On 18 October 1911 at a meeting at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, a group of men and women formed themselves into a committee to organise a home for ageing ex-soldiers of the British Empire who were living in poverty. The new home would be located in an old fort on Bare Island, Botany Bay, and was simply to be known as "The Veterans Home". At 3:30pm on 2 July 1912, on the Parade Ground of the Bare Island Barracks, the Governor-General, Lord Denman, officially opened The Veterans' Home. The local press gave the event favourable coverage and reported that seven residents had been gradually settled into the Barracks.

In order to gain admittance to the Home, applicants were required to have served in the regular naval or military forces of the British Empire before 1 January 1885 (although special cases might also be admitted). They also had to have been a resident of New South Wales, and to present evidence of their honourable discharge from the service and other references as to their good character. They would be expected to help maintain the residence and contribute a weekly sum of 5 shillings (increased to 7 shillings and sixpence by the 1930s) from their pensions. The residents dressed in donated uniforms of a navy blue coat with brass buttons, navy blue pant with a red stripe and a peak cap. They spent time practising their marching and were often in demand as a Guard of Honour on various formal occasions such as ANZAC day, Empire Day and Armistice Day. In 1912 residents only possessed a communal organ in the dining room (owned by the Superintendent), but in the 1920s a piano was added to provide music for themselves as well as for visiting concert performances. Residents during the 1930s were a mixed group consisting of veterans from the Sudan, North-West India, Boer War and Great War plus some who had simply served in the old NSW permanent forces.

From these small beginnings RSL LifeCare has developed over the century to have villages and services throughout NSW and the ACT with retirement living and residential aged care services at Austral (Liverpool), Ballina, Byron Bay, Canberra, Cherrybrook, Dungog, Eden, Galston, Goonellabah, Griffith, Hawks Nest, Lismore, Merimbula, Narrabeen, Narrandera, Nowra, Penrith, Picton, Port Macquarie, Richmond, Tea Gardens, Thirlmere, Toukley, Tura Beach, Wagga Wagga, and Yass. In-home care services are widely available with centres in the far north coast, mid north coast, Sydney, southern highlands, riverina, ACT and the far south coast.

In 2014 RSL LifeCare extended its care for older veterans to young veterans in need of accommodation through our Homes for Heroes service. Sadly, on any given night across Australia, there are many veterans who are homeless. In many ways the Homes for Heroes program is a reflection on the initial impetus for the creation of "The War Vets" back in 1911, when many vets from the Crimean, Boer and Sudan War were homeless on the streets of Sydney. Bereft of support and often with nowhere to turn, these young veterans of their day were given accommodation, treatment and support. And so it is today with our current generation of younger veterans, RSL LifeCare sees his program as a return to its roots.

The funny side of life:

Royal Australian Infantry Rules For Gunfights

1. Be courteous to everyone, friendly to no one.
2. Decide to be aggressive ENOUGH, quickly ENOUGH.
3. Have a plan.
4. Have a back-up plan, because the first one probably won't work.
5. Be polite. Be professional. But, have a plan to kill everyone you meet.
6. Do not attend a gunfight with a weapon whose magazine capacity does not consist of three numerals, the first of which should be 1 or higher.
7. Anything worth shooting is worth shooting twice. Ammo is cheap. Life is expensive.
8. Move away from your attacker. Distance is your friend.
9. Use cover or concealment as much as possible.
10. Flank your adversary when possible. Protect yours.
11. Always cheat; always win. The only unfair fight is the one you lose.
12. In ten years, nobody will remember the calibre, stance, or tactics. They will remember who lived.
13. If you are not shooting, you should be communicating.

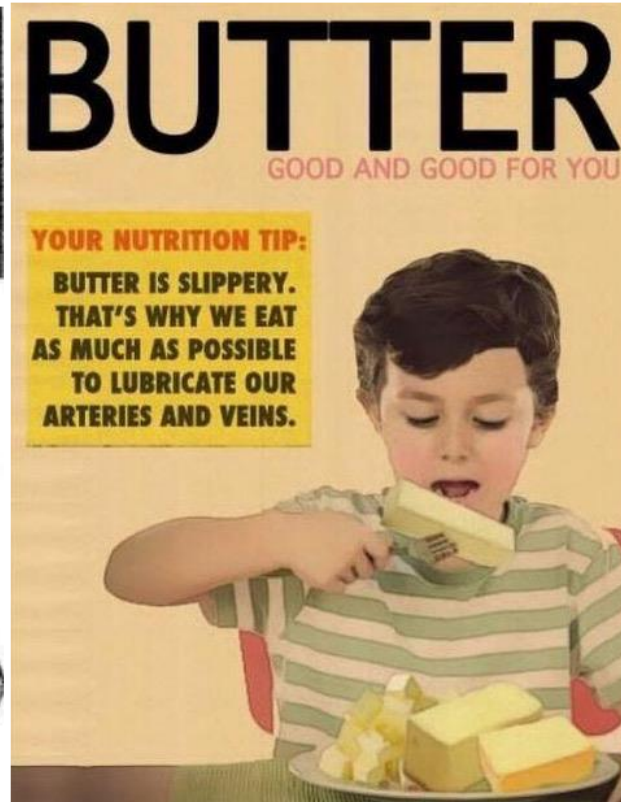
Royal Australian Navy Rules For Gunfights

1. Go to sea.
2. Drink coffee.
3. Watch porn.
4. Send the infantry.

Royal Australian Air Force Rules For Gunfights

1. Have a cocktail.
2. Adjust temperature on air-conditioner.
3. See what's on pay TV.
4. Determine "what is a gunfight."
5. Request more funding from Government with a "killer" Power Point presentation.
6. Wine & dine 'key' Parliamentarians, invite DoD & defence industry executives.
7. Receive funding, set up new command and assemble assets.
8. Declare the assets "strategic" and never deploy them operationally.
9. Tell the Navy to send the infantry.

A new Ensign was assigned to a submarine, a boyhood dream come true. He was trying to impress a knot of sailors with his expertise on trim control and surfacing, all learnt in 'Sub School'. One of them cut him off quickly and said, "Listen, 'sir', it's real simple. Add the number of times we dive to the number of times we surface. Divide that number by two. If the result doesn't come out even, don't open the hatch."



Something for the Lexophiles!!

- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.
- I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.
- I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH



Many Happy Returns!!!

Jim Yeo

03 Mar.

Peter MacRae

09 Mar.

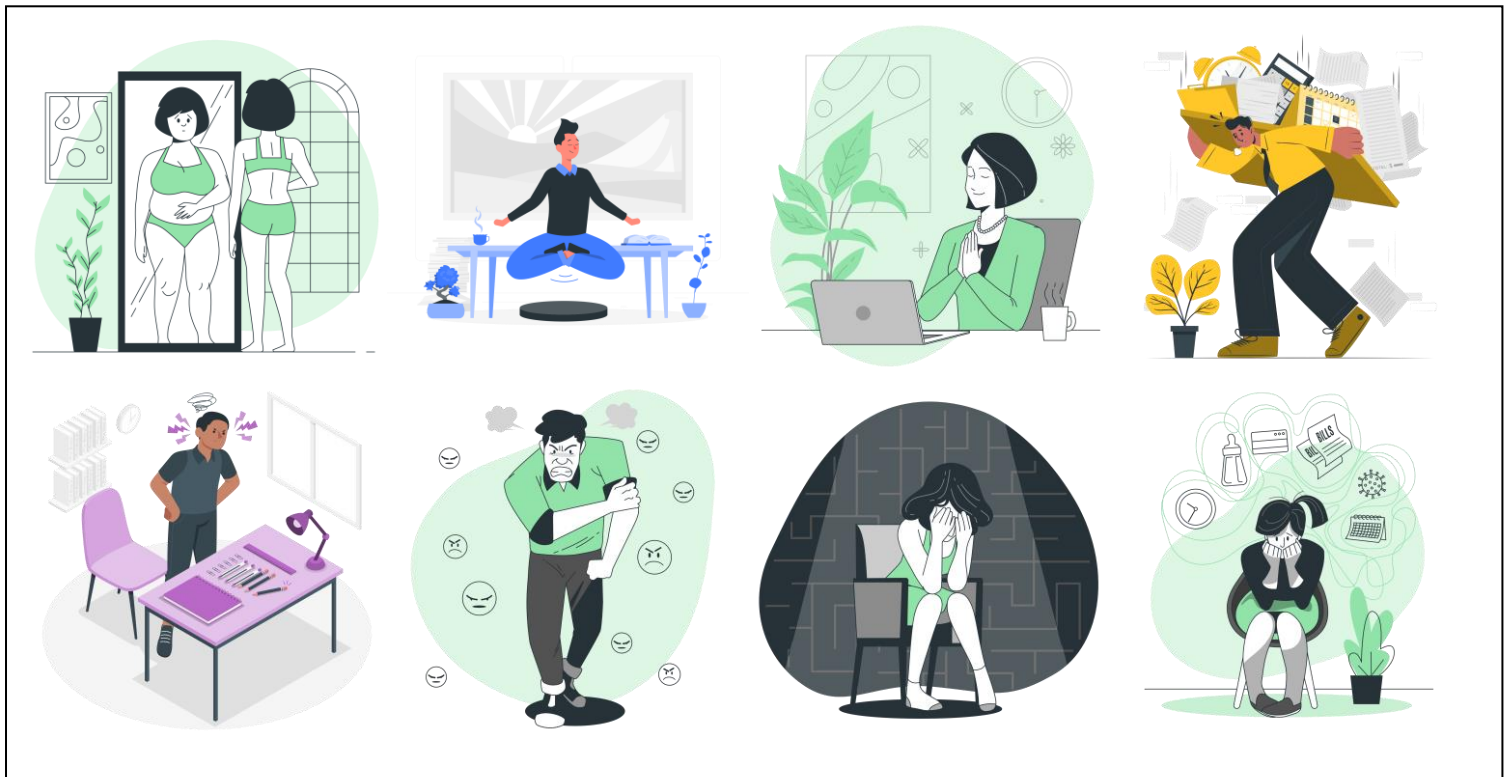
Secretary's Musings!!!

ANZAC Day is fast approaching, and we need some helpers to run it effectively! I am after volunteers to:

- manage the wreaths (Many thanks to the Laurel Club for their assistance with refreshing the wreaths!) and wreath-laying order at the main service,
- Parade Marshal.
- Sound Supervisor.
- Photographer.
- Kitchen hands (for breakfast)
- Set-up hands for EAB Park (from 0800) to lay out Tarps, get flags ready, etc.
- Flag Hands (raising & lowering flags)

On another note, we will possibly be starting the Auxiliary next meeting, with about 5 ladies that are interested, all are ex- Police, Ambo's & Nurses etc. who are looking for a safe & welcome place to relax. Please make them very welcome, they may not be specifically military, but we are all tarred with the same mental health brush, (whether you admit it or not). We offer the understanding, acceptance and the support that the average civvie can not.

Does one or more of these come close to being you??? I see me in there a few times!



We can become a haven for people with similar issues (and boost our membership & pool of volunteers at the same time!!!)

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”.

Many are also not aware that if you receive a Disability Compensation Payment from DVA, and you are AGE Pension age, you can have that paid by DVA as well! A simple request to transfer the payment from Centrelink! And your partner as well!

You can request a review of your Disability Pension due to all accepted conditions having become worse, but talk this over with your Doctor first, because DVA will come to him to confirm the worsening of your conditions. This can even be because your medication has increased (i.e. now on insulin injections for Diabetes) or double the dosage of specific tablets! This can be enough to raise you from a White Card to a Gold Card (if you are under the VEA legislation).

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 Marette for more details: **0421 272 643**

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

Jo Jo’s Coffee & Sandwich Shop in the Plaza

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

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