



## Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch



## Standfast 2024

Issue 259

July 2024

13 Budgen Avenue

Alstonville NSW 2477

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### FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Next sub-branch meeting  
Saturday**

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

### Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch Office Bearers

President	John Porter	0476677626	All emails to:
Vice President	Robert Wilson JP	0414708662	<a href="mailto:AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au">AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au</a>
Vice President	Phil Skinner	0427 291 292	
Secretary	John Gordon	0437509790	or 0414285812
Treasurer	Garry Henderson-Smith	0400474413	

**VALE** – Member Alan Hodge passed away on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July. Our sympathy to Lois and family. Information about the funeral arrangements will be forthcoming.

Dear Members,

Where has this year gone? We have pasted halfway and steaming towards end of year.

Big News Item and a very Special Thanks. I have much pleasure in announcing that the Vietnam Veterans Association has offered to pay for our Sub-Branch Hall air conditioning. I would like to thank the Association, on behalf of our members, for this very kind gesture. We will have a plaque made to honour this deed.

If we recall, this isn't the first time the Vietnam Veterans Association has given us money. They donated \$10k to us for the restoration of our hall roof.

Our new solar hot water system has been installed. Another great initiative to control our rising electricity costs. We can now further discuss at our next Members meeting the upgrading of solar panels on our hall to combat all of our electricity costs.

The meaning of "Giving"

**Giving** may refer to:

- [Gift](#), the transfer of something without the expectation of receiving something in return



### From the President

- [Generosity](#), the habit of giving freely without expecting anything in return
- [Charity \(practice\)](#), the giving of help to those in need who are not related to the giver

God Bless 🙏

John Porter

## Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

### MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting 08 Jun 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.

Attendance was 21, with 8 apologies.

**MOTION:** That apologies be accepted.

**Moved** – Bob Wilson      **Seconded** – Mark Quilligan    **CARRIED**

### Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May

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

**Moved** – Secretary      **Seconded** – Gary Henderson-Smith    **CARRIED**

Business arising from minutes - Nil business arising.

### Correspondence:

Inwards

Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

State Circulars

Email thank you from RSLNSW Volunteer Manager Carla Reddy after her visit on Fri 01 Jun.

Reminder of a Memorial Service for Audrey Powell on 26 Jun at 2pm.

Certificates for Volunteering have been received for Rob Wilson, Ruth Campbell, Graeme Gooding and Bob Wilson for their Volunteer work at St Vincents Hospital, Their certificates were presented to each.

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

**Moved** - John Gordon      **Seconded** – Kayleen Cooper      **CARRIED**

### Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the Revenue statements and accounts as at 31 May 2024 and the Accounts for payment.

**MOTION:** That the Revenue Statement as at 31 May 2024 be accepted, and the Payment of Accounts for Apr/May be approved.

**Moved** – Gary Henderson-Smith      **Seconded** – Michael Letts      **CARRIED**

**Motion:** That the smaller Term Deposit is not 'rolled-over' and funds kept to use for Air Conditioning works if needed.

**Moved** – Gary Henderson-Smith      **Seconded** Mark Quilligan **CARRIED**

**State HQ** – Nothing to report

**FNCD** –

The next FNCD Meeting is Aug at Casino.

### **Welfare & Hospital visits**

Bob Wilson reported that visits to St. Vincent's are continuing, No other matters.

### **Hall Bookings**

No changes, A one off clothing sale for a local charity group has been approved for 28-30 Jun.

### **Membership:**

Membership is now 76 with our newest member Gavin Hutchins (not present).

### **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 organised once what and how things need to be done is determined.

### **Fundraising**

Secretary is working on the Quilt Raffle tickets.

### **General Business**

Air Conditioning. – Committee recommended accepting the quote from TJB Air Conditioning and program the installation for mid-August.

David Anderson asked if the quote includes installation – Yes.

Also what are the estimated running costs? Unknown at present, but a suspected increase in rental opportunities due to Air Con are expected.

**Motion:** that the quote from TJB Air Conditioning be accepted and mid-August installation date be approved.

Moved Gary Henderson-Smith Seconded Mark Quilligan CARRIED

Secretary advised that we have been contacted about a FREE upgrade to a Heat Pump Hot Water System at no cost to the sub-Branch. It is due to be installed next week.

The Committee discussed fitting of Whirly Gigs to the roof and recommended that it be considered.

Moved that the installation of Whirly Gigs be investigated, and a report be presented to the meeting.

Moved Mark Quilligan Seconded John Gordon

No Smoking signs be purchased for the front verandah, meeting approved the expense

Discussion about upgrading the Solar Panels to a 10kW system, then it would cover the running of the Air Con during the day! TBA

Middle East Area of Operations Day (MEAO Day) be commemorated with an RSL service in EAB Park at 10am on 11 July. Advertising in media & radio if possible.

Ruth Campbell suggested a Certificate of Appreciation be presented to Jo-Jo's Café & Sandwich Bar for their continued support to our fundraising table in the Plaza. Also for the News Agency and LJ Hooker. Secretary will arrange.

Meeting closed at 11.07.

Next Meeting: Committee meeting at 0900 13<sup>th</sup> Jul

followed by General Meeting at 1000hrs on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> Jul and Lunch from 12.00.

## NEW MEDAL ENTITLEMENT APPROVED FOR AUSTRALIAN SERVICEMEN

### The UK Nuclear Test Medal

In July 2023 the UK Government announced the Nuclear Test Medal to recognise the UK's nuclear test programme during the period 1952-67.

Veterans who served in the specified theatres are eligible to apply for the medal, and next of kin may apply for deceased members.

On 6 November 2023, Government House advised that the Governor-General has given his approval of the UK Nuclear Test Medal to be added to the Schedule of Approved Countries and Awards. Australians awarded the commemorative United Kingdom Nuclear Test Medal are now approved to wear it alongside their other medals. For more information about the UK award, details of eligibility criteria and application forms are available at [Nuclear Test Medal – Eligibility Criteria](#).

In our part of the world, the theatres included:

- **Montebello Islands**

(Apr52-Jun56 incl)

- **Emu Field**

(Aug53-Aug67 incl)

- **Maralinga Range**

(Aug55-Aug67 incl)

- **Christmas Island**

(Jun56-Jun64 incl)

- **Malden Island, Kirabati**

(Oct56-Jun64 incl)

- **RAAF Pearce**

(May56-Aug56 incl. [This was for personnel engaged in cloud sampling to the west who were based at RAAF Pearce])

- **RAAF Edinburgh**

(Aug56-Nov60 [This was for personnel engaged in cloud sampling over Maralinga who were based at Edinburgh]).



The Nuclear Medal ribbon colours, shown in the illustration above, are white and yellow for the flash of the explosion, black to represent the particle fall out, red for the fireball and blue to represent both the sky and Pacific Ocean where the majority of testing took place.

If you served in any of the areas above during any of the dates indicated, you can apply for the medal. See here for further details <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-test-medal-eligibility-criteria> and complete the application form <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-for-medals>.



## The funny side of life:

I could swear he is doing it wrong,  
but since I don't own a boat, I'm  
going to keep my opinion to myself!



PhotoGrid

Always make sure your  
loved ones are buckled up.



### LIFE BEFORE THE COMPUTER

- \* Memory was something that you lost with age
- \* An application was for employment
- \* A program was a TV show
- \* A cursor used profanity
- \* A keyboard was a piano
- \* A web was a spider's home
- \* A virus was the flu
- \* A CD was a bank account
- \* A hard drive was a long trip on the road
- \* A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
- \* And if you had a 3 1/2 inch floppy  
....you just hoped nobody found out





"Now, if you can find the power switch, flip it on."



**BIRTHDAYS**  
THIS MONTH



*Many Happy Returns!!*

Gavin Hutchins – 2<sup>nd</sup> July

**Joyce Wong – 99 on 4<sup>th</sup> July – Congratulations Joyce!!!!**

Anthony Luvisi – 15<sup>th</sup>

Rob Fry – 22<sup>nd</sup>

John Sewell – 15<sup>th</sup>

Kayleen Cooper – 28<sup>th</sup>

Mal Tolson – 21<sup>st</sup>

Ron Whittaker – 29<sup>th</sup>

Blue Skimmings – 21<sup>st</sup>



## Information:

DVA – Lismore VAN Office:  
Suite 8 Level 1 17 Conway Street  
Lismore (next to Australian Hearing)  
Email: NSWVANLismore@dva.gov.au  
Ph 6625 8300  
DVA  
GPO Box 9998

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
- Jo-Jo’s Café & Sandwich Bar

### *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**