



Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch



Standfast 2024

Issue 261

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FOR YOUR DIARY:

A gathering is planned for 14 Sep @ 1100 for lunch and conversation, wives, partners and friends are welcome

The next sub-Branch meeting will be on 12 October @ 11am

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,

Following our last monthly meeting, we are now changing to Saturday Bi-Monthly meetings. On those meeting days we have new timings. Committee meeting starts now at 10:00am and members meeting will start at 11:00am. Dinner starts 12 noon.

In between our bi-monthly meetings we will now have fellowship luncheons, still on a Saturday starting at 11:00am.

Our next Saturday fellowship luncheon will be on the 8th Sept. At this luncheon we will discuss things like cards, coffee, movies, games and members past career talks and/or talks by an invited guest.
(Getting to know your mates)

This month saw the honouring of our Vietnam Veterans at the Alstonville War Memorial. Wreaths were laid by Members and Ballina Council.

Thank You For Your Service

What is the deeper meaning of service?
It's about walking in another person's shoes, and often means making connections with people with whom you'll stay in touch well beyond the experience. Many of the relationships formed during meaningful service will stand the test of time and distance—spanning international borders and language

Blessings

John Porter



From the President

Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting 10 Aug 2024

Meeting opened at 10.35am

Attending: 20 + 1 visitor – Mrs Wendy Tyler

Apologies:- John Gordon, Phil Skinner, Jamie Walton, Harold Woods, Steve Bryce

Moved by Bob Wilson that apologies be accepted, seconded Rob Fry – CARRIED.

Minutes of the previous meeting (July): Moved by Gary Henderson-Smith that the minutes as printed be accepted as a true record. Seconded Geoff Vidal – CARRIED

Correspondence: Moved by Gary Henderson-Smith, seconded David Anderson – CARRIED

Financial report:- Moved by Treasurer that the financial report be accepted, seconded Brian Partridge – CARRIED.

Reports:-

Welfare: Grahame Gooding reported 5 people visited at St Vincents.

Hall Bookings: Brainstorm only require April next year. SDA are using 12 nights in November.

Memorabilia: 10% stocktake completed.

Fundraising: Quilt raffle ready to start.

Other Business:

Instructions for Air Conditioner to be printed, laminated and displayed at the servery window.

Sub-Branch to reimburse costs for Delegates travel & Accommodation to Congress 2024. Moved Rob Fry, seconded Grahame Gooding – CARRIED

Memorial Days: sub-Branch participation for 2025 to be reduced to 2 days (ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day). Committee to be formed and rehearsal commenced for each function. More publicity required. Moved Geoff Vidal, seconded John Porter – CARRIED.

Monthly Meetings: Meetings to be held bi-monthly, with alternate second Saturdays to be social lunches.

June Scott – notification that June passed away on 8th August at 101yrs old. A minutes silence was observed.

Discussion about re-commencing Beacom Shield Bowls competition as a new sponsor has been found. Watch this space.

Meeting closed at 11.15am.

The Secretary's Wanderings!!

As some of you know, I missed the August meeting as I was away on an Australian Geographic/Eromanga Natural History Museum Megafauna fossil dig in Southwestern Queensland, near a town called Eulo about 150km west of Cunamulla. What a great experience. If you would like to know more about the Megafauna, search ABC iView for MegaFauna! I access these expeditions through the Australian Geographic magazine as a subscriber!

The term 'megafauna' means big (MEGA) animals (FAUNA). When we say big, we actually mean giant! Picture giant kangaroos and wombats, huge birds, snakes and lizards. These 'giants' were at least 30% larger than their modern day cousins. Australian megafauna evolved after dinosaurs became extinct some 66 million years ago. They lived for around 11 million years and died out in a mass extinction about 46,000 years ago.

Eulo Megafauna and Microfauna Fossil Discoveries

Some ten species of Megafauna have been found in the remote southwest town of Eulo. The most common is the Diprotodon, meaning 'two forward teeth'; a giant marsupial resembling a bear. Given the impressive title as the largest known marsupial to have ever lived, its closest modern day relatives are the wombat and koala. They've also found tiny fossils (microfauna) from species of fish, frogs, lizards and small mammals.



At Yowah SW Qld



Dig Site grid



A 'Find' being jacketed ready for removal



At the Lab



Excavated jacket ready to clean?



bone/joint at top & bottom

For more information visit :

Eromanga Natural History Museum (<https://enhm.com.au/>)

Australian Geographic Society (<https://australiangeographictravel.com/>)

Member **David Anderson** attended the Vietnam Veterans Day services at the newly relocated memorial just outside Kokoda Barracks, Cunungra. The original memorial was located within the confines of the barracks and, since the introduction of more restrictive security arrangements, it was recognised that the memorial needed to be relocated.

The relocated memorial, which now sits just outside the entry to the barracks, was consecrated on 1 December last year. A large number of Vietnam Veterans attended this ceremony. (You may notice yours truly in the image accompanying this day).

The Vietnam Veterans Day service featured the laying of 20 unit plaques representing units which deployed to Vietnam.

Canungra Vietnam Memorial

18 AUGUST 2024

The inaugural Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day was held at the newly established Memorial at Kokoda Barracks Canungra where approx. 300 guests observed the laying of Military Plaques and Wreaths of those Units involved in the Vietnam War. This memorial replaced the original which was built in 2000 within the confines of the Army Base. This is now available to public access being located at the main entry to the Canungra base where so many trained prior to service in Vietnam



The "Little Digger"



Members of 4 Field Regiment RAA who attended, David is 3rd from left.

The funny side of life:

A woman and her 12-year-old son were riding in a taxi in Detroit . It was raining and all the prostitutes were standing under awnings.

"Mom," said the boy, "what are all those women doing?"

"They're waiting for their husbands to get off work," she replied

The taxi driver turns around and says, "Geez lady, why don't you tell him the truth? They're hookers, boy! They have sex with men for money."

The little boy's eyes get wide and he says, "Is that true Mom?"

His mother, glaring hard at the driver, answers "Yes."

After a few minutes the kid asks, "Mom, if those women have babies, what happens to them?"

She said, "Most of them become taxi drivers."

An elderly, but hardy cattleman from Texas once told a young female neighbour that if she wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gunpowder on her oatmeal each morning. She did this religiously and lived to the ripe old age of 103. She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and a 40 foot HOLE where the crematorium used to be.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Elizabeth Hill
Geoff Vidal

10 Sep.
30 Sep.



Information:

DVA – Lismore VAN Office:
Suite 8 Level 1 17 Conway Street
Lismore (next to Australian Hearing)
Ph 1300 838 372
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!

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**