



## Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch

# Standfast 2024

Issue 253

Jan/Feb 2024



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### FOR YOUR DIARY:

Next sub-Branch meeting  
Saturday 10 Feb @ 1000 hr. for  
Morning Tea and meeting at  
1030

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	<a href="mailto:AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au">AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au</a>
Vice President	Phil Skinner	0427 291 292	
Secretary	John Gordon	0437 509 790	
Treasurer	Garry Henderson-Smith	0400 474 413	

# VALE: Col Perkins (16/1/24) and Sid Lewis (26/1/24)

Dear Members,

I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas with Friends and/or Family. We all saw the New Year in and now it's way behind us.

There has been very little activity over December/January all because of holidays.

It is with regret that we lost two of our members in January.

On the 29th January, we attended Colin Perkins funeral at Parkview Goonellabah. Deepest condolences to the Family and Friends. Colin will be missed.

On the morning of Australia Day, Sid Lewis passed away. Sid's funeral is set for 1PM on Thursday 8th February at St Bartholomew's Anglican Church Alstonville. Deepest condolences to the Family and Friends.

I would like to thank all that came to our Australia Day BBQ. We had around 30 people attend. Great Day!!

Congratulations to our very own John Gordon for receiving a Certificate from the Ballina Shire Council, for services to the Local Community. Well done mate.

Thanks to the working bee that fixed our Hall back steps. Job well done.

Don't forget our AGM next Saturday 10th Feb. I encourage all to attend.

2024 will be a Year for us to practice our respect for one another.



## From the President

Treating someone with respect means:

- showing regard for their abilities and worth
  - valuing their feelings and their views, even if you don't necessarily agree with them
  - accepting them on an equal basis
- and giving them the same consideration you would expect for yourself.

Blessings to all 🙏

John Porter

## Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting 10 Dec 2023.

The president declared the meeting open at 1030 hrs with the wreath laid by member Phil Skinner followed by the Ode and a half minute's silence.

Attendance was 25, with 3 apologies.

**MOTION:** That apologies be accepted.

**Moved – Bob Wilson      Seconded – Phil Skinner**

**CARRIED**

### Minutes of the meeting held on

**As there was no November meeting, there are no minutes**

**Moved – Secretary      Seconded – Graham Gooding      CARRIED**

Business arising from minutes - Nil business arising.

### Correspondence:

Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

State Circulars

Annual Budget submitted

Email to Headliners asking to book them for ANZAC Day (after the mix up this year with wrong email address).

**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 30 Nov 23 and the Accounts for payment.

**MOTION:** That the Revenue Statement as at 30 Nov 23 be accepted, and the Payment of Accounts for Nov/Dec be approved.

**Moved – Treasurer      Seconded John Gordon –      CARRIED**

**State HQ** – Nothing to report**FNCDC** –

The FNCDC Meeting was 28 Nov at Evans Head, our motion about SOP4 regarding Auxiliary members was approved and submitted to the DPC. District Council meetings for 2024 were approved, With Alstonville volunteering to host the meeting on 26 May. Concerns have been raised by Lismore SB and expressed to RSLNSW/RSL LifeCare that regional Welfare and Compensation advocates are not being adequately supported. Far North Coast and Tweed Veteran & Family Hub is progressing, there appears to be political pressure to locate it in Tweed Heads, which RSL LifeCare is resisting, watch this space.

**Welfare & Hospital visits**

Welfare team would like a list of members and contact details, secretary will provide it.

**Hall Bookings**

Brainstorm are using the hall from 2Jan-9Feb.

**Membership:**

Membership remains at 75.

**Memorabilia**

10% stocktake completed.

**Fundraising**

.Nothing as yet, ANZAC Day stock will be ordered early next year.

**General Business**

- In the matter of the meeting days/times, we listened, tried something new & then reverted back to a modified 10am start Sat morning, which demonstrates that the Committee does listen and act!
- Rob Fry gave an update on the Darwin print, it is on its way, and the flagpole - just waiting to find out.

- David Anderson commented on attending the opening of a Vietnam memorial at Kokoda Barracks, Canungra. The older memorial is no longer accessible by the public and a new one is now outside the security zone. Very pleased with the memorial.
- Noel Toneguzzi raised an issue about the photos he donated now being relegated to a back corner instead of the prominent position they were in. Rob Fry responded that as they were in the Vietnam War section of the wall, they were relocated. Noel would not accept that and demanded they be put back where they were. President stepped in at this point and stated that in the interest of peace, they would be returned to their original position. Brian Partridge commented that the reason they were with the Vietnam section was because Noel served in 4<sup>th</sup> Btn (?), which had done two tours of Vietnam.

President also commented that Rob Fry is Temporary Memorabilia Officer until Brian feels he can take the position again.

- Les Daley said that he remembers coming to this hall with his father as a child, The men used to play billiards here! Les had his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday last week and he realised how long ago it had been. Congratulations to Les.
- Grahame Gooding made a comment about the number of birthdays in Dec/Jan, 15 members!
- Alan Brown then regaled us with a story about Hare Revival and also informed us that the Hams stolen from Ballina Bowling Club last week have been found – under Missing Ham Bridge!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

Meeting closed at.

Next Meeting: 1000hrs on Saturday 10<sup>TH</sup> Feb.

Signed

**John Porter**

President

**John Gordon**

Secretary/Treasurer

## COMMENT BY John Gordon:

I served at HMAS Watson 1984-87, which was RADM Martin's favourite dining room at the time, with many lunches, dinners and mess dinners hosted by him. As the Chief of Stewards at Watson, I became very well known to the Admiral, so much so that we were on first name terms, he called me John & I called him Sir!!! Admiral Martin was a thorough gentleman, with a wicked sense of humour! He was the type of officer that you didn't question, you just did as he asked to the best of your ability. He always knew names and would regularly strike up a conversation with lower ranks and put them at ease. I was privileged to know such a fine man. This story is as published on the Victorian Naval Association website under 'Navy Heroes'.

**Rear Admiral Sir David James MARTIN KCMG AO RAN**  
**Commanded H.M.A. Ships Queenborough – Torrens – Supply – Melbourne**  
**Chief of Naval Personnel 1982-1984**  
**Flag Officer Naval Support Command 1984-1988**  
**Governor of New South Wales 1989-1990**

**A Man of Courage and Devotion**

David James Martin was born on 15 April 1933 at Darling Point, Sydney, the only child of Sydney-born parents William Harold Martin, Naval officer, and his wife Isla Estelle, née Murray. His father was killed in action on 1 March 1942 when the cruiser HMAS Perth was sunk at the battle of Sunda Strait.

David was educated at Scots College, Sydney, and in 1947 entered the Royal Australian Naval College, Flinders Naval Depot, Westernport, Victoria, as a Cadet Midshipman. He was studious and an excellent sportsman, becoming Cadet Captain of his division and captaining the rugby union first XV in his final year (1950).

After training in Britain with the Royal Navy, Martin served (1951-52) in the aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney, during the Korean War. In 1953 he undertook further training in Britain and

was promoted to Sub-Lieutenant.

Returning to Australia in 1954, he joined the aircraft carrier HMAS Vengeance the following year as an Officer of the Watch. The ship sailed to Britain to pay off, and the ship's company transferred to the new aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne. Promoted to Lieutenant in 1955, he was posted the following year to HMAS Torrens, a shore establishment in Adelaide.

On 5 January 1957 Martin married Suzanne Milleur at All Saints Church of England, Willaura, Victoria. Later that year he returned to England where, after attending specialist gunnery training, he undertook exchange service with the Royal Navy in the destroyer, HMS Battleaxe participating in the Cyprus Emergency, and the Iceland emergency (also known as the "Cod Wars"), in 1959–1960.

He joined the destroyer, HMAS Voyager, in 1962 as Gunnery Officer and next year was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. Martin left the ship in August - six months before it sank in a collision with HMAS Melbourne on 10 February 1964 - to become weapons adviser on the naval staff at Australia House, London.



In 1966 he trained at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, before returning home to take up an appointment as Executive Officer in the destroyer, HMAS Vampire. Later that year he gave evidence at the second royal commission into the loss of the Voyager. Promoted to Commander in 1967, he was appointed in July as Executive Officer of the Royal Australian Naval College, Jervis Bay, Australian Capital Territory. There he made a significant impression on a cohort of young officers.

In 1969 Martin took command of the training frigate HMAS Queenborough, and the following year he was appointed Fleet Operations Officer, responsible for the movements and activities of all Australian naval units. In 1972 he attended the Joint Services Staff College, Weston Creek, Canberra, and in December was promoted to Captain. He then became Director of Naval Reserves and Cadets. Although it was a low profile position, he approached it with vigour and imagination.

In 1974 Martin returned to sea as Commanding Officer of the destroyer escort, HMAS Torrens, and Commander of the Third Destroyer Squadron. During a successful command, Torrens escorted HMY Britannia from Norfolk Island to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in February during Queen Elizabeth II's tour of the South-West Pacific. From 1975 to 1977 he worked as director, capability review, within the force development and analysis section, Department of Defence, which assessed future force structure options. This civilian-dominated section generally viewed its uniformed members with suspicion, but Martin demonstrated an excellent ability to get on with a diverse range of people. He subsequently served for seven months as Deputy Chief of Navy Materiel.

By this time Martin was being prepared for flag rank. From 1978 he served briefly as Commanding Officer of the tanker, HMAS Supply, before being promoted to Commodore in January 1979 and assuming command of HMAS Melbourne. As a Commanding Officer, Martin was again well liked.



*RADM Martin talking to LSRP Andrew Fleming - 1987*

In 1980 he went to Britain once more, this time as a student at the prestigious Royal College of Defence Studies, London. On returning to Australia in 1981 he was appointed Director-General of Naval Manpower, Canberra, a difficult role in which he excelled. He served as a councillor of the Australian Naval Institute and as president of the Navy Ski Club. Martin was promoted to Rear Admiral and appointed Chief of Naval Personnel in April 1982. This was a particularly demanding job as the Navy had downsized after the government's decision not to

replace HMAS Melbourne. Adding to his burden, he was diagnosed with emphysema.

In 1984 Martin became Flag Officer, Naval Support Command, Sydney, the Navy's fourth most senior position. In addition to the heavy administrative load, the job entailed a substantial social dimension, the pinnacle of which was his organisation of the shore-based activities of the RAN's 75th birthday celebrations. With his communication skills and experience, he was ideally suited to this post and did much to rebuild the Navy's post-carrier standing and morale. In 1985 he was appointed AO for his contributions as Chief of Naval Personnel.

Martin, who retired from the Navy in February 1988, possessed a ready smile and a sparkle of the eye that left a lasting impression on many he met. He was one of the most admired and respected naval officers of his era and his rapport with sailors was exceptional. Later in 1988 Martin received the New South Wales Father of

the Year Award and in August he accepted the Government's offer to become the State's 34th Governor. Sworn in on 20 January 1989, he was the first RAN officer to hold the position. In December he was appointed KCMG.



His Governorship was marked by less formality but retained the pomp and ceremony. Handsome and charismatic, Sir David became hugely popular and was dubbed the people's governor by the media.

During his time as Governor of NSW, Sir David Martin witnessed many young people caught in the destructive world of drugs, alcohol, homelessness and abuse. Whenever he met them, he sought to encourage them to develop their undiscovered potential so they may better their lives.

In a speech to the Australia Day Council of New South Wales, Sir David expressed his concern for the young people of Australia.

*"...All those youngsters living away from their homes, in the back streets, the tunnels and the gutters, existing on a diet of drugs, violence, sickness and disease, cold, hopelessness and loneliness. That's a big mess to clean, but we shouldn't have let it get so fouled up. Every one of us has to try harder to bring all children up properly and prepare them to inherit Australia from us. These children are our most important assets for Australia's future, yet we are carelessly squandering those assets...."*

Martin's sense of humanity, his deep concern for the less fortunate and his awareness of the need to provide practical ways to help improve their circumstances were recognised in the establishment of the Sir David Martin Foundation, (<https://martinfoundation.org.au>) which assists disadvantaged youth in NSW.

In 1990 David was diagnosed with pleural mesothelioma, a rare form of lung cancer caused by asbestos, to which he was exposed during his Naval career. He engendered much respect and sympathy when seen struggling for breath during the final days of his service as Governor. In a public announcement in August, he revealed his condition and impending resignation.

In early August 1990, Sir David, accompanied by his wife Suzanne, announced his retirement

On 7 August 1990 he and Lady Martin left Government House intending to retire in Sydney. Survived by his wife, and their two daughters and son, he died at Darlinghurst three days later, on 10 August, aged 57, and, after a State funeral, was cremated.



State Funeral for Rear Admiral Sir David James Martin KCMG AO RAN



At his funeral the Premier of New South Wales Nick Greiner noted:

*With the sad passing last week of Sir David Martin, Australia lost one of its most distinguished citizens. After a proud career of public service with the Royal Australian Navy, Sir David made the Office of Governor of New South Wales extremely accessible.*

After his death, Woollahra Council named the former site of HMAS Rushcutter in Rushcutters Bay as the "Sir David Martin Reserve" in his honour.



Sir David Martin Reserve, Rushcutters Bay



**Happy birthday**

Denis Byrne	01 Feb.
Geoff Harris	03 Feb.
Len Small	07 Feb.
Grahame Gooding OAM	12 Feb.
Fozzie Milnes	14 Feb.
Ruth Campbell	16 Feb.
Michael Letts	16 Feb.
Joy Wicks	21 Feb.

**Many happy returns to all!!!**

## The funny side of life:

Everyone seems to be in such a hurry to scream 'racism' these days.

A customer asked, "In what aisle could I find the Guinness?"

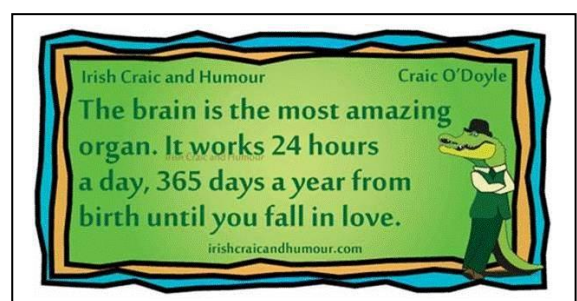
The shop assistant asks, "Are you Irish?"

The guy, clearly offended, says, "Yes I am. But let me ask you something, if I had asked for Italian sausage, would you ask me if I was Italian? Or if I had asked for German Bratwurst, would you ask me if I was German? Or if I asked for a kosher hot dog would you ask me if I was Jewish? Or if I had asked for a Taco, would you ask if I was Mexican? Or if I asked for Polish sausage, would you ask if I was Polish?"

The shop assistant says, "No, I probably wouldn't."

The guy says, "Well then, because I asked for Guinness, why did you ask me if I'm Irish?"

The clerk replied, "Because you're in Bunnings!"



Laughing at your own mistakes  
lengthens your life.  
Laughing at your wife's mistakes  
shortens it.

## 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

#### 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!

#### 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**