



## Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch



## Standfast 2024

Issue 257  
Month May 2024

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### FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Next sub-branch meeting  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

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

### Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch Office Bearers

President	John Porter	0476677626
Vice President	Robert Wilson JP	0414708662
Vice President	Phil Skinner	0427 291 292
Secretary	John Gordon	0437509790
Treasurer	Garry Henderson-Smith	0400474413

All emails to:

[AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au](mailto:AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au)



## From the President

XXXXX

Dear Members,

This past month is our busy time of the season. I'd like to thank everyone who assisted with selling Anzac Day memorabilia. This year Alstonville Shopping Centre was particularly good for sales and RSL donations.

Special mention goes to Bob Wilson and John Gordon for their tireless work.

Once again, local schools took a large interest in our Anzac Day memorial. As always, Schools had their own Anzac Day memorials at their School, at which our RSL Sub Branch provided Guest Speakers.

Anzac Day dawn service saw approximately 4-500 people attend. After which a breakfast was served at our Sub Branch. Many thanks to those who assisted with the breakfast. It was lovely. Special mention goes to Hypen and Chris.

We have more important dates coming up this month so keep your medals polished.

Safe Place

What is the meaning of a safe place?

The term safe space generally means "a place or environment in which a person or category of people can feel confident that they will not be exposed to discrimination, criticism, harassment or any other emotional or physical harm."

Blessings to all. 🙏

John Porter

President

## Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting 13 April 2024.

Vice president Bob Wilson 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 22, with 8 apologies.

**MOTION:** That apologies be accepted.

**Moved** – Bob Wilson      **Seconded** – Michael Letts      **CARRIED**

### Minutes of the meeting held on 09 March

**MOTION:** That the Minutes of the meeting on 09 Mar, as printed, be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

**Moved** – Secretary      **Seconded** – Rob Fry      **CARRIED**

Business arising from minutes - Nil business arising.

### Correspondence:

Inwards

Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

State Circulars

Permission for ANZAC Day activities received (Police & BSC)

Replies re ANZAC Day – all schools will be marching & laying wreaths, Tamara Smith will attend Dawn Service, Mrs Hogan and daughter will attend Dawn Service.

Ballina Shire Concert Band will provide music.

Traffic Plan has been approved & relayed to RFS

St Joseph's the only entries in Poetry Competition, secretary read both entries and Eve Aveling's was considered the better of the two (reprinted in Standfast).

Kingscliff planned family day is this weekend coming.

Requests to conduct ANZAC Services from Tibouchina RSL Day Club on 24<sup>th</sup>; St Joseph's on 29<sup>th</sup> and Trinity (an open invitation to members) and Wollongbar Public on 3 May

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

**Moved** - John Gordon

**Seconded** – Brian Partridge

**CARRIED**

### **Treasurer's Report**

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

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

**Moved** – Gary Henderson-Smith

**Seconded** – Alan Brown

**CARRIED**

**State HQ** – Nothing to report

### **FNCDC** –

The next FNCDC Meeting is 26 May at Alstonville RSL Hall.

### **Welfare & Hospital visits**

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

### **Hall Bookings**

No changes, Legacy have requested use of the hall for a garage sale, members approved. Plateau Quilters have a quilt to donate to us for a raffle, President will accept it on Sat 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Membership:**

Membership is still 74. Two more applications for Auxiliary Membership, making a total of 3 – Request approval for Mrs Anita Shepherd, Mrs Ruth Morris and Mrs Louise Lancett be accepted as Auxiliary Members.

Members gave formal approval.

### **Memorabilia**

10% stocktake done. Tony Tyler is in the process of getting a handover from Brian as the new Memorabilia Officer!

### **Fundraising**

Roster sheets for Badge Sales Tables at Plaza (19-24<sup>th</sup>), Wollongbar (19<sup>th</sup>) and Main St (20-24<sup>th</sup>) are now open, please help out, two-hour shifts and any days you can.

Bear Raffle was drawn, winning ticket was Bruce Greenland, he'll be contacted & advised

## **General Business**

- **ANZAC Day**

Working hands still needed in various positions, AHS have been asked if any students would be available for Flag Bearers etc.

Help to install the sound system speakers & cables at Dawn Service

People to supervise set up at EAB from 0700

Parade Marshall – Blue Skimmings has been confirmed.

## **Services at Elizabeth Ann Brown Park**

Dawn Service – 0530

**Main St March** - Form up at the Paddy Bugden Memorial at 0930

Main (or Civic) Service commences at 10 am (after the march)

ANZAC Day – Vintage Cars – please advise Bob W if you would like to ride: Volunteers to lay wreaths – names to Keith or John G please: Noel asked about witches hats for the roadway – they are in the back shed.

Do you wish to have a breakfast (**Gunfire Breaky**) at the hall after the Dawn Service! The resounding response was YES. We will make it so!

Chocolate Tins – Military Shop have given us 72 chocolate tins (without the chocolates!) to do as we wish.

Need people to help with handing out programs at both the Dawn Service and Main Service.

**Dawn Service** – prayer readers – Prayer for Peace – Kayleen Cooper; for Nation – David Anderson; for King – Michael Letts.

For the **Main Civic Service** :

Ushers for VIPs

Guides for the schools at EAB

Prayer of Thanksgiving – Phil Skinner; Nation – Bob Wilson; Commemoration of the Fallen – secretary.

Michael Letts raise the issue of the NZ Anthem – do we have music with singing? It will be arranged.

Brian Partridge asked about the Flags, they need to be ½ mast at Dawn Service, then raised to full after the main Service, Brian will hoist flags at the Hall and at Paddy Bugden Memorial after breakfast and lay the wreath at the cemetery. Someone will need to collect them and the sub-Branch wreaths, in the evening.

President's Wreath – To be ordered from Florist.

Rob Fry mentioned that the **Historical Society** have asked for several RSL members to speak on their service on Sunday 21/4 at 2pm. Volunteers names to Rob Please.

Phil asked about the donation of the **flags and flag pole**, flags have been received (in cupboard in office) but no word on the flagpole yet. Letter has been sent thanking the lady for her donation.

Framing of Bombs Over Darwin print – President has this in hand.

**Air Conditioning of the hall** – Rob Wilson is investigating possible grants to do this. Gary Henderson-Smith (Hyphen) volunteered to get some estimates & quotes.

Michael Letts asked to speak regarding a commemoration of persons who have died outside of War – Secretary interrupted Michael and advised him the new memorial is precisely for that purpose.

Meeting closed at 11.25.

Next Meeting: Committee meeting at 0900 11 May

followed by

General Meeting at 1000hrs on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May.

## Winning entries from St Joseph's Primary.

### ANZAC POEM By Eve Aveling

They were soggy they were tired  
They had barely any energy left.  
Stepping in squelchy mud  
Standing in cold water  
Sweating everywhere  
Friends on the way, carrying the load  
Unsafe  
Distressed  
Anxious  
Terrified  
Friends beside them every day Foggy in the forest  
Trying to find their way They felt disgusted  
Burning hot sun  
On this mission trying to stick together  
but they already lost a friend.  
Our soldiers fought for our country so we could be safe.  
Thank you for a wonderful place to call home.

**Note\*\* Eve is a Year 2 student!!!\*\***

**Tyler Webster St Joseph's Alstonville**

Buildings injured and torn, smoke filled the sky painting it black, debris swallowed the ground. Rain falls filling the trenches that were dug by soldiers. It used to be perfect here till they came. They came with tanks, they came with planes, they came with men. We stood no chance. Our men fought with great honour. Through storms and heat they tried to protect our country, but it was worthless. Every time we drove them off they came back with double the reinforcements still our men fought. Soon they had eradicated our defences and they claimed our land. But we still didn't give up. We eventually gained the help of other countries and swore that we'd fight for our country if it's the last thing we do. So we led our allies to the battlefield and it started all over. It began to rain making it hard for the men to hold onto their weapons. Gunshot echoed around the battlefield and men fell. The chaos that was brewing between the countries began to seize and the countries agreed to end the war. Men were cheering and celebrating at the sound of the bugle. The war was finally over.

## New RSL Commemorative initiative

‘Postcards of Honour’ is a creative learning activity for primary and high school students, coordinated by RSL NSW sub-Branches to educate young Australians about the importance of the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) commemoration.

The inaugural MEAO commemoration will take place on 11 July 2024 to honour those Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel who served in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan between 2001 and 2021. The commemoration marks the date the Government announced there were no more troops in Afghanistan, bringing Australia’s longest military engagement to an end.

Throughout Australia’s military history, postcards and letters have offered vital support to those on active duty. ‘Postcards of Honour’ invites students to learn about the importance of the MEAO commemoration and write and decorate a postcard to show a past/present service person that they support them and appreciate their service.

Participating schools will receive the following to help students create their own postcard:

**A visit from a veteran:** A local [RSL sub-Branch representative](#) will speak to students (between 20 May – 7 June) about the MEAO commemoration. Once the postcards are completed, the veteran will return for a postcard ‘show and tell’ (between 1-5 July).

### A ‘Postcards of Honour’ pack, containing:

- Information/instruction booklets (each with sketchpad section)
- Blank postcards (with space to draw on the front and write on the back)

We recommend giving students one blank postcard and booklet each.

For privacy reasons:

- No recipient address is provided, but each postcard will be given by RSL NSW to a veteran in the community.
- Sender details can be limited to first name and age.

This activity is designed to be flexible and encourage students’ artistic and writing skills. You’re free to adapt the activity for your students’ age/s and required learning outcomes.

## PART 1: ART

Encourage your students to get creative! Use whatever style or materials you prefer – paint, crayons, coloured pencils, or collage.

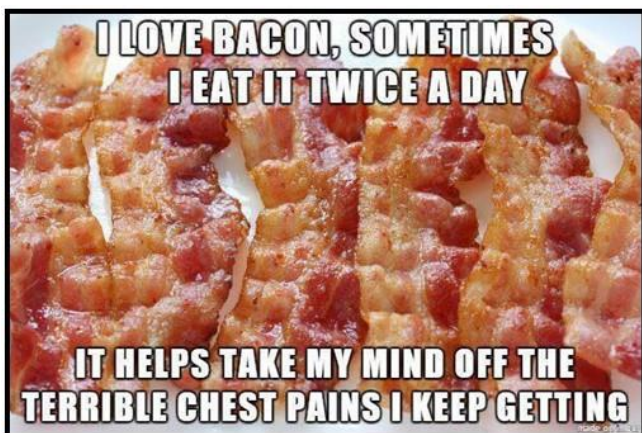
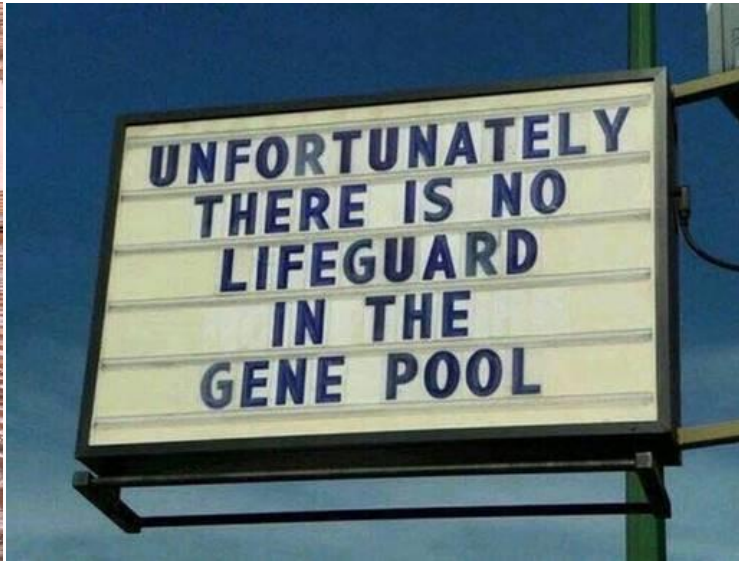
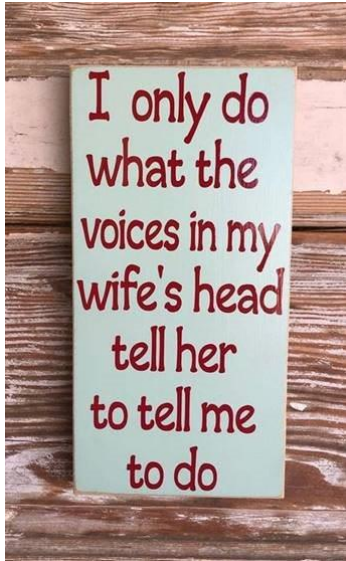
Students can draw/create whatever they like, but we’ve included some idea prompts in the activity booklet provided.

## PART 2: WRITING

This part of the activity allows students to practise their handwriting or compose a letter. Suggestions for students:

- Write a short note such as ‘*I honour the service that you have given*’.
- Tell the veteran about themselves.
- Share personal or family stories about military service.
- Reflect on what the MEAO commemoration means to them.

The funny side of life:





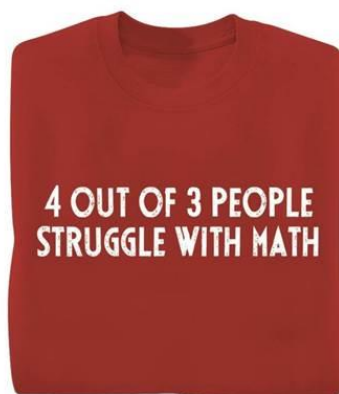
**BIRTHDAYS**  
THIS MONTH

*Many Happy Returns!!*

Mr Dick Moxey	12-May-45
Mr Brian Snart	18-May-30
Mr Vic Anderson	19-May-46
Dr Jamie Walton	23-May-46
Mr Keith Row	27-May-45
Mr Graham Hellyar	30-May-46

**The most expensive vehicle to operate  
in 2024 will be a grocery cart**

**T-Shirts that make a statement!!!**



## Information:

### 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

### *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**