



## Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch



## Standfast 2025

Issue 266

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13 Budgen Avenue

Alstonville NSW 2477

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[www.alstonvillersubbranch.org.au](http://www.alstonvillersubbranch.org.au)

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PO Box 692 ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477

### FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Sat 8<sup>th</sup> March** will be a Social Lunch @ 1100 hr.

The next sub-Branch meeting will be 12<sup>th</sup> April

### Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch Office Bearers

President	John Porter	0477 773 140
Vice President	Robert Wilson JP	0414 708 662
Vice President	Phil Skinner	0427 291 292
Secretary	John Gordon	0437 509 790
Treasurer	Garry Henderson-Smith	0400 474 413

All emails to:

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

Dear Members,

This month was our annual AGM, financial audit and start to our new year. I'd like to thank our Committee members for their support in ensuring we perform and satisfy our RSL NSW statutory obligations.

A Special Thanks to Chris & Hyphen for updating the Sub-Branch female toilets. Thank You!!

A Special Thanks goes to Rob Wilson (food mechanic) for donating the lounge in our new relaxation area. Thank You!!

On March 4th, we are commencing the opening of our sub-Branch for visitors and members to relax and chill-out. Tea & coffee will be provided free of charge to all. At our next meeting in March, we will be discussing sales & marketing initiatives for the promotion of our sub-Branch. All new ideas will be thankfully received and discussed.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> February, we had a small service at Elizabeth Ann Brown Park to commemorate the bombing of Darwin.

Please join with me in wishing Les Daley the very best with his poor health. Les is in Ballina Rehab hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with Les and his beautiful family.

The meaning of ANZAC:

The Anzacs on Gallipoli helped shape the Australian story. Once used to refer to those who fought in World War I, 'Anzac' now represents all men and women who serve



## From the President

Australia. The term also expresses the characteristics that are seen as Australian, including:

- courage
- egalitarianism
- endurance
- mateship

God Bless 🙏

John Porter  
President

**SUPPORT this initiative by Iluka sub-Branch**

## **VETERANS JAMBOREE ILUKA NSW - 02April25 to 06April25**

<https://www.ilukaveterans.com.au/Veterans%20Jamboree.html>



Calling on all Veterans, come to Iluka for our Veterans Jamboree, lots to see, lots to do and lots of activities or just enjoy the Camaraderie and mateship. This jamboree has been put on for the benefit of all Veterans so to make a social connection, lots of fun and memories.

### **Events**

#### **2nd 9:30 Back of Club Iluka – Opening of Veterans Jamboree**

Golf, Bowls, Darts, Croquet / Service Vs Service; Army, Navy & Air Force Vs Locals;

6th April Pass out Parade – in conjunction with the Iluka Markets

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I am also looking for people interested in playing games against other sub-Branches, both home & away games.

I am looking at probably one a month, would a weekday or a weekend be better, there are plenty of sub-Branches around and the District Council may be persuaded to sponsor a Challenge Shield!! Funding may be available through RSLNSW Sport & Rec for things like equipment, like an Indoor Bowls set (estimates are upwards of \$3500) and we could possibly use Ballina's 23-seater bus for the away games!!

What other ideas are there for activities we could get in to? What about vs the retirement villages?

## DVA How to.

### How to get hearing devices

#### Make an appointment

Make an appointment with a hearing provider in your local area.

#### During your appointment

Remember to let your hearing provider know you are a Veteran Card holder. During the appointment do **NOT** pay for a hearing device. We do not reimburse for hearing devices already purchased.

Remember, if there is a cost for a device, ask your hearing provider to seek prior approval from the HSP or DVA. **You will need to wait for this approval to come through before you buy the device.**

If you choose to buy a partially subsidised hearing aid, there may be considerable 'out of pocket' expenses that we will not reimburse.

Also check with your hearing provider if there are any Assistive Listening Devices suitable for your hearing needs.

If your provider has any questions they can use our [hearing services for providers](#) page as a guide.

#### Approval for your device

The hearing provider will talk with you about your hearing needs and provide a quote. If there is a cost for a device, ask your hearing provider to seek approval from us.

You will need to wait for this approval to come through from us before you purchase.

Ask your hearing provider any questions you have about the devices and treatment.

#### Exceptional circumstances hearing aids

If your hearing provider believes your hearing needs are exceptional and cannot be met by the HSP they can email [Health.Approval@dva.gov.au](mailto:Health.Approval@dva.gov.au) with the request and any supporting documentation to us for assistance.

We will review the request, and work with your provider to make sure all options are available to you.

#### Assistive Listening Devices (You do not need to have Hearing Aids to access ALD's!)

Your hearing device can be combined with an assistive listening device (ALD). when combined they can:

- provide superior performance in noisy environments
- increase the distance of your hearing device
- improve your phone call communication

Your hearing provider will work with you to assess suitable ALDs. These can be used alone or in combination with a hearing device.

Available ALDs include:

- induction loops
- headsets for watching the television
- microphone/FM listening systems
- doorbells with signal lights
- smoke alarm packages for the hearing impaired
- wireless streaming devices to transmit sound from multiple devices to a hearing aid
- some telephone accessories supplied through your telecommunications provider
- tinnitus devices

There is no cost to you for:

- ALDs
- repairs
- parts and replacements

#### How to access an ALD

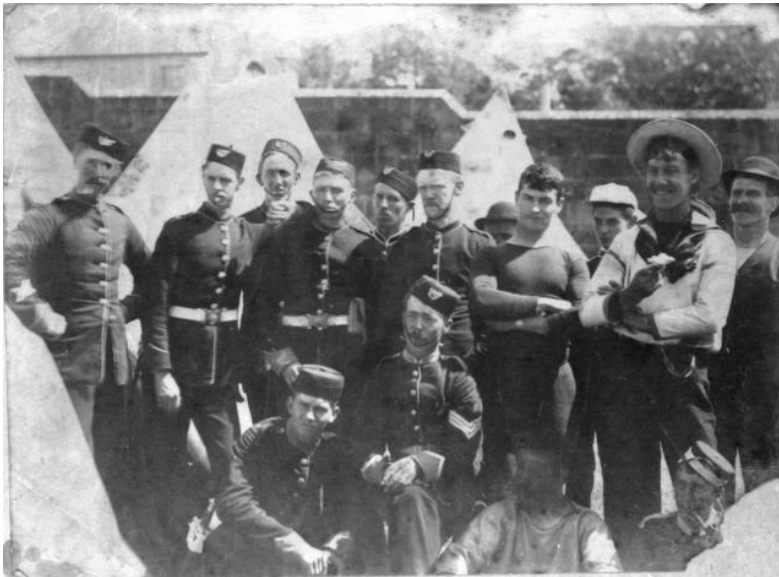
To access ALDs and hearing aids talk with your hearing provider. Your hearing provider will prescribe the appropriate ALDs for your condition. They will seek approval through us.

Who would like to play Euchre one night a week at the Hall??? Please contact Garry on 0400 474 413 to register! Watch out for more information about this!!

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## Sudan (New South Wales Contingent) March-June 1885

In the early 1880s the British-backed Egyptian regime in the Sudan was threatened by an indigenous rebellion under the leadership of Muhammed Ahmed, known to his followers as the Mahdi. In 1883 the Egyptian government, with British acquiescence, sent an army south to crush the revolt. Instead of destroying the Mahdi's forces, the Egyptians were soundly defeated, leaving their government with the problem of extricating the survivors. The difficulties of evacuating their forces in the face of a hostile enemy quickly became apparent, and the British were persuaded to send General Charles Gordon, already a figure of heroic proportions in England, to consider the means by which the Egyptian troops could be safely withdrawn. Disregarding his instructions, Gordon sought instead to delay the evacuation and defeat the Mahdi. Like the Egyptians, Gordon failed and found himself besieged in Khartoum. The popular general's predicament stirred public opinion in England, leading to demands for an expeditionary force to be dispatched to his rescue. The relief force was sent from Cairo in September 1884, but it was still fighting its way up the Nile when Gordon was killed in late January the following year. Gordon's exploits were well known throughout the British Empire, and when the telegraph brought word of his death to New South Wales in February 1885 it was met with recriminations against the Liberal government led by William Gladstone for having failed to act in time.



Volunteers for the NSW Infantry Contingent for the Sudan at Victoria Barracks, Sydney, shortly before the contingent's departure on 3 March 1885.

With news of Gordon's death and the Canadian government's offer of troops for the Sudan, the NSW government cabled London with its own offer. To make its proposal more attractive, it offered to meet the contingent's expenses. London accepted but stipulated that the contingent would be under British command. Similar offers from the other Australian colonies were declined. The British government's acceptance of the contingent was received with enthusiasm by the NSW government and members of the armed forces. It was seen as a historic occasion, marking the first time that soldiers in the pay of a self-governing Australian colony were to fight in an imperial war.

The contingent, an infantry battalion of 522 men and 24 officers, and an artillery battery of 212 men, was ready to sail on 3 March 1885. It left Sydney amid much public fanfare, generated in part by the holiday declared to farewell the troops. The send-off was described as the most festive occasion in the colony's history. Support was not, however, universal, and many viewed the proceedings with indifference or even hostility. The nationalist *Bulletin* ridiculed the contingent both before and after its return. Meetings intended to launch a patriotic fund and endorse the government's action were poorly attended in many working-class suburbs, and many of those who turned up voted against the fund. In some country centres there was a significant anti-war response, while miners in rural districts were said to be in "fierce opposition".

The NSW contingent anchored at Suakin, Sudan's Red Sea port, on 29 March 1885 and were attached to a brigade composed of Scots, Grenadiers, and Coldstream Guards. Shortly after their arrival they marched as part of a large square formation – on this occasion made up of 10,000 men – for Tamai, a village some 30 kilometres inland. Although the march was marked only by minor skirmishing, the men saw something of the reality of war as they halted among the dead from a battle which had taken place 11 days before. Further minor skirmishing took place on the next day's march, but the Australians, now at the rear of the square, sustained only three casualties, none fatal. The infantry reached Tamai, burned whatever huts were standing, and returned to Suakin.

After Tamai, the greater part of the NSW contingent worked on the railway line which was being laid across the desert towards the inland town of Berber on the Nile, half-way between Suakin and Khartoum. Far from the excitement they had imagined, the Australians suffered mostly from the enforced idleness of guard duties. When a camel corps was raised, 50 men volunteered immediately.

On 6 May they rode on a reconnaissance to Takdul, 28 kilometres from Suakin, again hoping for an encounter with the Sudanese, but the only action that day involved two newspaper correspondents who had accompanied the patrol before leaving the cameleers to file their stories in Suakin. They soon found themselves surrounded by enemy forces, and one was wounded as they fled. The camel corps made only one more sortie – on 15 May, to bury the bodies of men killed in fighting the previous March.

The artillery saw even less action than the infantry. They were posted to Handoub where, having no enemy close enough to engage, they drilled for a month. On 15 May they rejoined the camp at Suakin. Not having participated in any battles, Australian casualties were few: those who died fell to disease rather than enemy action. By May 1885 the British government had decided to abandon the campaign and left only a garrison in Suakin. The Australian contingent sailed for home on 17 May 1885.

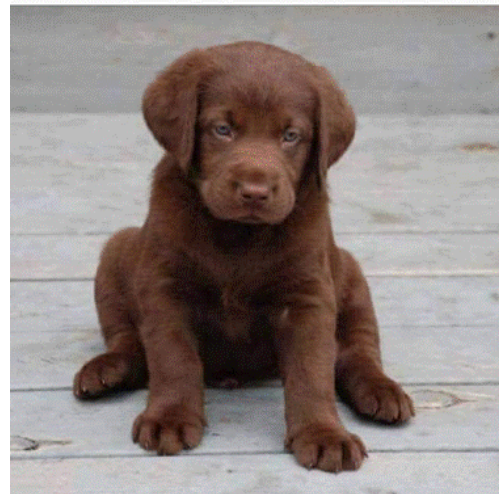
The contingent arrived in Sydney on 19 June. They were expecting to land at Port Jackson and were surprised to disembark at the quarantine station on North Head near Manly as a precaution against disease. One man died of typhoid there before the contingent was released. Five days after their arrival in Sydney the contingent, dressed in their khaki uniforms, marched through the city to a reception at Victoria Barracks where they stood in pouring rain as a number of public figures, including the Governor, Lord Loftus, the premier, and the commandant of the contingent, Colonel Richardson, gave speeches. It was generally agreed at the time that, no matter how small the military significance of the Australian contribution to the adventure, it marked an important stage in the development of colonial self-confidence and was proof of the enduring link with Britain.

## The funny side of life:

It's been months since I bought the book, "How To Scam People On-Line". It still hasn't arrived?



This is Buddy , I bought him as a surprise present for my husband but it turns out he's allergic to dogs . So unfortunately I'm going to have to find a new home for him , and I'm just wondering if anyone out there can help ? . His name is Alan, he's 61, great at DIY, drives a nice car and plans wonderful holidays.





**Breaking news.  
Guy shot with a  
starting pistol.  
Police think it's  
race related !!!**



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

Jim Yeo	03 Mar.
Peter MacRae	09 Mar.
David Keppie	10 Mar.
Annette McDonald	24 Mar.
John Denman	29 Mar.

## Information:

DVA – Lismore VAN Office:  
Suite 8 Level 1 17 Conway Street  
Lismore (next to Australian Hearing)  
Email: [generalenquiries@dva.gov.au](mailto:generalenquiries@dva.gov.au)  
Ph 1300 838 372  
Mail:- 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 from age 70, 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 Murette for more details: **0421 272 643**