



Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch



Standfast 2025

Issue 265
Jan/Feb 2025

13 Budgen Avenue
 Alstonville NSW 2477
 Email: AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au
www.alstonvillersubbranch.org.au
 PHONE/FAX 02 6628 6156
 PO Box 692 ALSTONVILLE NSW 2477



FOR YOUR DIARY:

Next sub-Branch meeting 8th Feb @ 10.00 followed by the AGM @ 1100 hr.

And a light luncheon after!!!

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	
Treasurer	Garry Henderson-Smith	0400 474 413	

The books are now open for the Annual Voluntary levy of \$15

Dear Members,

I would like to wish all Members a happy and prosperous year.

This year brings with it new hope for RSL NSW with the opening of the Hub in Tweed Heads.



From the President

Alstonville RSL Sub Branch will now look towards offering a better service to new and existing members, by providing two days a week, an administration support person/s in our hall. It will be most likely, Tuesday and Thursday between 09:00am - 13:00pm.

This year we are looking to introduce a lounge sitting area within the hall and a garden arbor entry at the front of the hall. We feel the arbor will attract people's eye when driving by and it will act as a good place to advertising our up and coming events.

We have our AGM meeting coming up on the 8th February 2025. I welcome any new ideas about our Sub Branch. Don't be afraid to speak up, as our next best ideas always come from within.

I would like to congratulate our members for making our SubBranch a welcoming place for all. There is a real hum in the air, a hum of excitement and companionship.

New Year 2025

What is the meaning behind the new year?

The date was chosen partly in honor of Janus, the Roman god of beginnings and the month's namesake. Though medieval Christians attempted to replace January 1 with more religiously significant dates, Pope Gregory XIII created a revised calendar that officially established January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582.

Kindest regards & God Bless 🙏

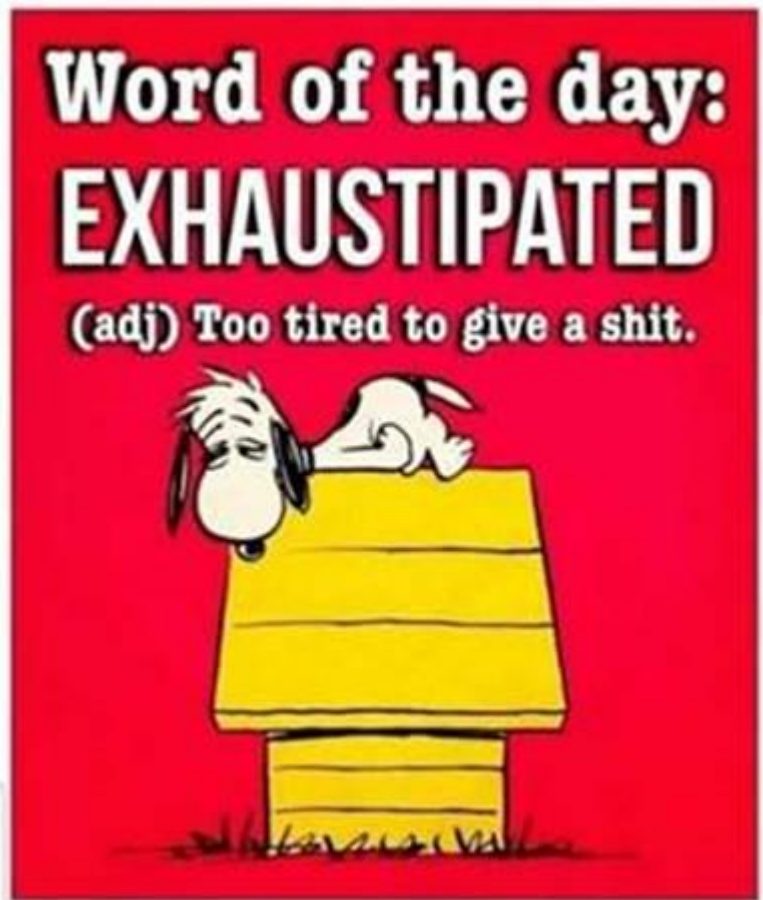
John Porter

President

GREAT MOMENTS IN COMPUTER HISTORY #4



THE FIRST MINIATURE
TRANSISTER



MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting 14 Dec 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. Members were asked to Vale Alan Hodge, who passed away recently.

Attendance was 23, with 3 apologies and 8 guests.

MOTION: That apologies be accepted.

Moved – Rob Fry **Seconded** – Brian Partidge

CARRIED

Minutes of the meeting held on Oct 2024

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting on Oct 24, as printed, be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved – Secretary **Seconded** – Mark Quilligan **CARRIED**

Business arising from minutes - Nil business arising.

Correspondence:

Inwards

Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

State Circulars

Letter from Alstonville Legacy Laurel Club with a donation – thank you very much ladies.

Letter from Eureka Public School re Draw To Remember. Well done Garry.

Certificate of Appreciation for Eureka PS for participating in Draw To Remember

Outwards

Birthday card for Marj Moffat's 100th birthday

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

Moved - John Gordon

Seconded – Michael Letts

CARRIED

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the Revenue statements and accounts as at 30 Nov 2024 and the Accounts for payment.

MOTION: That the Revenue Statement as at 30 Nov 2024 be accepted, and the Payment of Accounts for May/Jun be approved.

Moved – Gary Henderson-Smith **Seconded** – Rob Fry **CARRIED**

State HQ – Nothing to report

FNCDC –

The FNCDC Meeting at Evans Head in Nov was attended by the Secretary. Alstonville was nominated as the venue for Feb 23rd meeting & AGM. DC have re-introduced affiliation fees of 75c per Service Member.

Welfare & Hospital visits

Ruth reported that visits to St. Vincent's are continuing, next week will be the last for the year.

Hall Bookings

No changes, Brainstorm aren't using the hall until April..

Membership:

Membership is now 75.

Memorabilia

10% stocktake done. Full stocktake planned for March.

Fundraising

A Very big Thank You to all the volunteers for the badge & raffle ticket sales throughout the year, it raised much needed funds

General Business

It has been suggested that we create a lounge area with a coffee table in one section and that we possibly open the Hall on a couple of mornings a week for a drop-in style. We will need volunteers to be in attendance & possibly make coffee/tea for visitors! Ruth mentioned that a nice tea set might be found to use! And Rob Wilson has a lounge and coffee table to donate.

2025 Diaries are now available at \$10 each.

We have been presented with 2 lovely, framed photographs of Joyce Wong from her daughter Sonia.

Showground are having their NYE fireworks and they are also having 'Charity of the Day' at the gates on Market days, I'll put our name down for one.

An Australia Day BBQ has been suggested, secretary will advise in January.

The president took the opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and to thank the Committee and our many volunteers for their efforts throughout the year – Be Safe and enjoy!

Meeting closed at 11.47.

Next Meeting: Committee meeting at 0900 14th February 2025 followed by General Meeting at 10.30hrs and the AGM at 11.30.

Lunch will be provided on completion of the AGM, from 12.00.

AGM Meeting Minutes

ALSTONVILLE SUB-BRANCH OF THE RSL (NSW) MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 10th February 2024

OPENING: The President declared the Meeting open at 1123hrs. As this meeting was conducted immediately after the Monthly Meeting there was no Service of Remembrance.

ATTENDANCE: There were 21 Members present as per the Sign-In Register

APOLOGIES: There were 6 apologies from Members as per the Sign-In Register

All attendees re-affirmed the Oath of Allegiance

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 11th FEBRUARY 2023

Moved: John Gordon

Seconded: Phil Skinner

That the Previous Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 February 2023, as circulated be accepted.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES: There was no Business Arising from the Previous Minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: There was no correspondence for the Meeting.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President, John Porter, read his Annual President's Report for 2023 to the Meeting, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer gave a summary of the annual revenue statement and presented the Audited accounts to the meeting.

Moved: Garry Henderson-Smith

Seconded: Phil Skinner

That the Revenue Statement and the Audited Accounts be accepted.

Carried

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

No elections necessary

Committee – The following persons were nominated and accepted positions for Committee Members:-

Rob Wilson - caterer

Tony Tyler

Keith Rowe (Membership Officer)

Immediate Past President – Rob Fry

And others as needed!

Welfare: Hospital visits - Grahame Gooding, Bob Wilson, Rob Wilson & Ruth Campbell

Delegates to FNCDC & Annual RSL Congress – President and Secretary

Honorary Solicitor – Fiona Lomax
Honorary Auditor – Michael Duncan

Advocate AJ Walsh

Trustees remain unchanged – Grahame Gooding, Peter Scanlan and Stan Green

There being no further business

CLOSURE: The Meeting Closed at 1152 hrs.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Returned and Services League of Australia (NSW Branch) **Alstonville sub-Branch** will be held in the Alstonville RSL Hall **on Saturday 8th February 2025 at 1100hrs** or on completion of the February Monthly Meeting, whichever is the later.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:

- Reaffirm the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.
- Receive the annual report of the Committee from the President.
- Receive the audited accounts for the year from the Treasurer.
- Election of Office Bearers: No elections required until 2026.
- Appointment to Other Positions: Committee, Delegates to FNCDC, Delegates to RSL NSW State Congress.
- Appointments: Honorary Solicitor, Honorary Auditor.
- AGM business received in writing by the Honorary Secretary from Members [14] days prior to the meeting and included on the agenda.

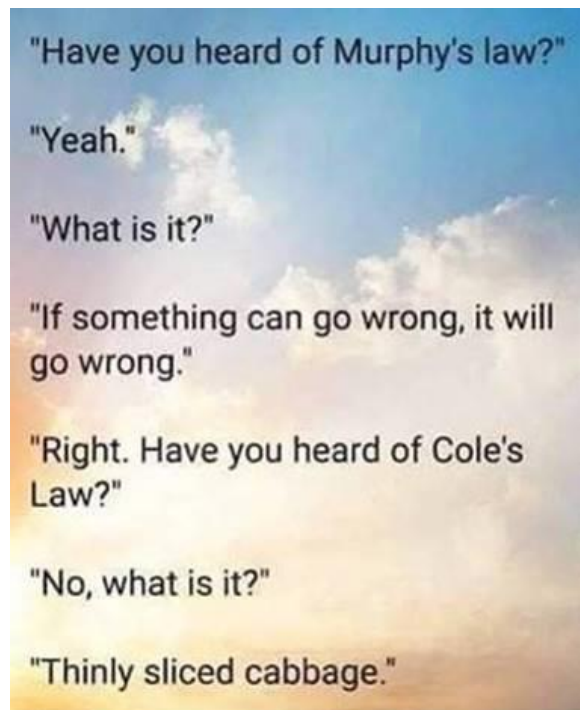
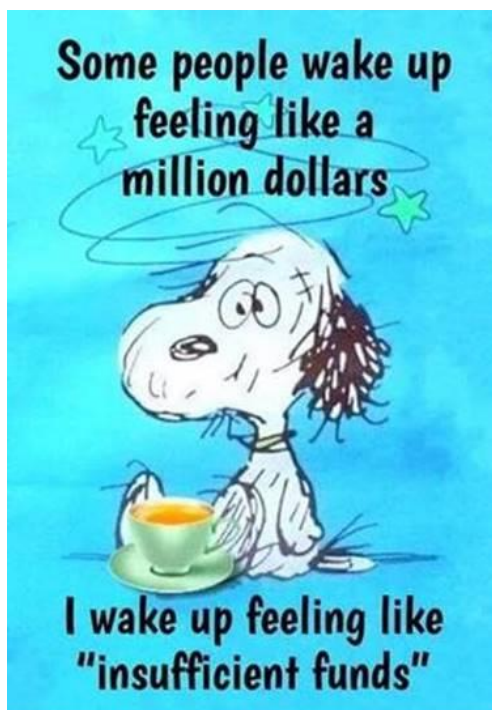
John Gordon
HONORARY SECRETARY

2024 Christmas Party



A colourful array of Christmas shirts!!! It's amazing how much material is there!!!

We had a great time at the Christmas Function on the 14 Dec. As usual, Chef Rob Wilson, with his usual helpers, Phil Skinner, Hyphen and Ollie worked hard to produce a lovely meal, but the highlight was still John Gordon's Christmas Pudding, with custard and ice-cream! YUM!!



Reaching new heights with longest flight

Tastri Murdoch



A RAAF KC-30A receives air-to-air refuelling to enable the non-stop flight from RAAF Base Amberley to Jerez, Spain.

A RAAF KC-30A has conducted the longest non-stop RAAF flight on record. The KC-30A flew from RAAF Base Amberley to Jerez, Spain in 23.3 hours, with two refuelling brackets supplied by a second RAAF KC-30A.

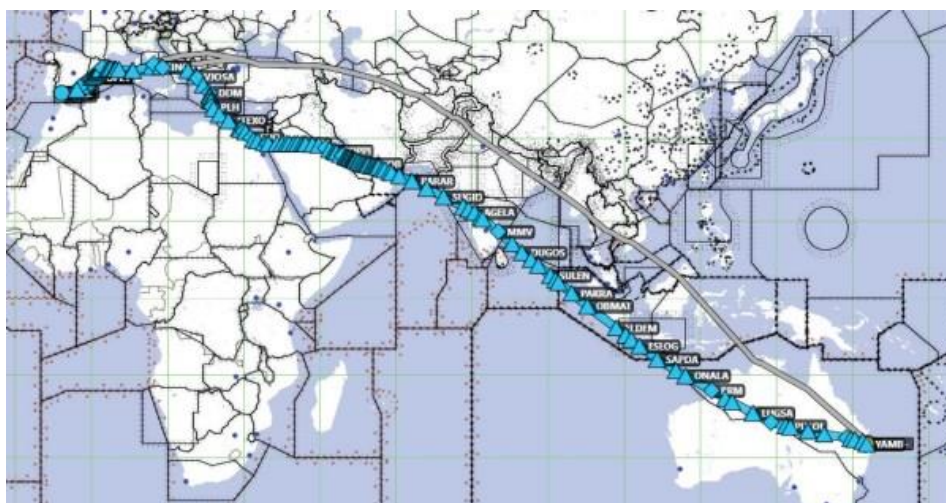
The feat was supported by 21 Air Force personnel, with FLTLT Elliott Hyder being one of five pilots who rotated to share fatigue load. “We were able to successfully manage both flight endurance and aircrew fatigue to achieve the maximum result,” FLTLT Hyder said.

As part of a week - long interoperability exercise with French Air and Space Force’s (FASF) 31 Aeronautical Technical Support Squadron, RAAF’s 33SQN travelled to Istres, France, to participate in air to-air refuelling and maintenance exchange activities. “Myself and one other pilot, 33SQN’s FASF exchange pilot, SQNLDR Kevin Theatre, flew the local flight with the FASF Eurofighters,” FLTLT Hyder said. “Other than that, our role was to support the maintenance and logistics crews on deployment, which was the main focus.” 33SQN aviation technician CPL Anthony Everitt said the exchange was a valuable experience.

“RAAF 33SQN maintenance, logistics and quality specialists worked alongside their French counterparts to understand each other’s processes, share lessons learnt, and build the friendship initially started during Pitch Black 2024 earlier in the year,” CPL Everitt said “We operate under a similar regulatory structure, which makes understanding the training and authorisation of each other’s maintenance procedures much easier. “Once the process is fully developed, it will be great to see our respective maintenance staff working with each other all over the world,” CPL Everitt said.

Enhancing interoperability between the two nations on the return journey to RAAF Amberley, the RAAF KC-30A was refuelled by both a RAAF KC-30A and a FASF Multirole Tanker Transport. FLTLT Hyder said it was a beneficial experience. “The highlights for me were the successful spare parts and logistics exchange, the knowledge sharing to increase both the RAAF and the FASF processes – and the cuisine, of course, which the locals gladly helped us explore,” FLTLT Hyder said.

Map indicating a RAAF KC30A’s record-breaking flight from RAAF Amberley to Jerez, Spain, in October.



The funny side of life:



A college class was told they had to write a short story in as few words as possible. The instructions were: The short story had to contain the following three things:

- (1) Religion
- (2) Sexuality
- (3) Mystery

Below is the only A+ short story in the entire class.

"Good God, I'm pregnant; I wonder who did it."



MY ABILITY TO REMEMBER SONG LYRICS FROM THE 80S FAR EXCEEDS MY ABILITY TO REMEMBER WHY I WALKED INTO THE KITCHEN.



On the Lower Deck



Darts??



Great conversation & cards



The clean-up

We had a great time on Australia Day, lots of laughter and interesting conversations, with some fun & games (Quoits, Darts & Euchre), so much so that we will try to challenge other sub-Branches to an afternoon sports event, keep watching!!





Congratulations Anita Shepherd 27/2

Many Happy returns

May all your chooks turn into Emus and.....<grin>

Bruce Crawford	01 Jan	Denis Byrne	01 Feb
Taylah Wallace	12 Jan	Geoff Harris	03 Feb.
Tony Tyler	12 Jan	Len Small	07 Feb.
Mark Quilligan	24 Jan	Grahame Gooding	12 Feb.
Ian Welch	24 Jan	Fozzie Milnes	14 Feb.
Irvine Sproule	31 Jan	Ruth Campbell	16 Feb.
		Michael Letts	16 Feb
		Joy Wicks	21 Feb.
		Anita Shepherd	27 Feb.

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

Interested in playing cards????? Euchre or Crib?? Contact Secretary John to find out more!!!!

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**