



Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch

Standfast 2025

Issue 271

Sep 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 Sat
12 Sep @ 1000 hr. Followed by
a light lunch.**

Committee Meeting at 0900.

Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch Office Bearers

President	John Porter	0477 773 140	All emails to: AlstonvilleSB@rslnsw.org.au
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	

**VALE – WO1 Kevin Quinnell ,
30 August 1946 – 9 August 2025**

Dear Members,

August winds up winter for another year. I think you will agree, it's been cold and miserable.

On the 18th August, our RSL Sub-Branch honoured our Vietnam Veterans in a ceremony at EAB. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to a GC specialist appointment. I've been told there was a good turn-up. Our Sub-Branch Vietnam Veteran members need to be honoured for their service.

Just a reminder to our members, if you need assistance at anytime please reach out to us.

We are all Mates!!



Socialisation

Socialization is the lifelong process where an individual learns and internalizes the norms, values, beliefs, and behaviours of their society and



From the President

cultural group through interaction with others, primarily through agents like family, friends, education, and media.

I trust you're all well. God Bless.



John Porter
President

Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting 09 Aug 2025.

The president, John Porter, declared the meeting open at 1109hrs with the wreath laid by Vice-President Phil Skinner followed by the Ode and a half minute's silence.

Attendance was 23, with 9 apologies.

MOTION: That apologies be accepted.

Moved – Bob Wilson **Seconded** – Alan Brown **CARRIED**

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 Jun 2025

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting on 14 Jun as printed, be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved – John Gordon **Seconded** – Rob Wilson **CARRIED**

Business arising from minutes - Nil business arising.

Correspondence:

Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

Letter from Alstonville Laurel Club with a donation of \$200, members showed their appreciation.

State Circulars

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

Moved - John Gordon **Seconded** – Rob Fry **CARRIED**

Treasurer's Report

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

MOTION: That the Revenue Statement as at 31 Jul be accepted, and the Payment of Accounts for Jul/Aug be approved.

Moved – Garry Henderson-Smith **Seconded** – Michael Letts **CARRIED**

State HQ – Query about the Hyde Park Inn, what is going on with the sale? Secretary replied that he had heard that the sale had been cancelled to an anomaly with the group wishing to purchase it, but nothing more. It apparently is open for business again.

FNDCD – The FNDCD Meeting is on 23 Aug.

Welfare & Hospital visits reported that visits to St. Vincent's are still going ahead. No other matters.

Hall Bookings No changes.

Membership: New member transferring from Ballina – Dennis McCrorie.

Memorabilia 10% stocktake completed.

Fundraising nothing to report; Quilt raffle has the tickets and will send them out this week. Market dates for charity collection at gates, Sec will contact Chamber of Commerce to see if any available.

General Business

Visit by Byron Bay sub-Branch – on 15th July. A great success for the visit, Secretary had organised various games to be played, but not one got under way, everybody too busy talking!! A big thank you to Angela Bryce for the morning tea cakes. Suggestion is to contact Bangalow and Evans Head to arrange a visit from or to them. Secretary will attempt to get that organised.

Meeting Dates – the trial of bi-monthly meetings has ended, members agreed that it wasn't working as planned and the request is to revert to our normal meetings each month commencing from Sep. The next meeting will be Sat 13th Sep at 10am, committee at 0900. Unanimously Carried

Vietnam Veterans Day 18 Aug – event in hand, Grahame Gooding is organising.

Primary schools – Draw to Remember program fast approaching, Pres & Sec will visit schools.

MOTION: That the accommodation and expenses for delegates to the AGM & Congress in Tamworth this year be approved in principle.

Moved Secretary Seconded Rob Fry CARRIED

Remembrance Day badge sales. Dates proposed for sales are 3-7th Nov, then 10 Sep, It was suggested that a better poppy be available? Joy Wicks offered to crochet some for sale which was gratefully accepted. Kayleen Cooper is also making paper Poppies & will do extra.

Birthday this month – Congratulations too Kayleen Cooper for reaching a significant milestone (OBE!) President and members wishes her all the best with a round of applause.

One thing to remember!! If you're doing it tough, give us a call, that's what we're here for!

- President spoke about committee looking for ways to secure our financial future, ideally an income stream based on the hall's use. We can't just rely on our fundraising efforts and costs are only going up.
- Michael Letts spoke on the National Parks concession, free entry for Gold Card holders and Rob Wilson also mentioned about the Gas Concession from NSW Gov.
- Michael also recounted some interesting highlights from his recent trip to Paris.
- Rob Fry presented a book to the Library on Willie Apiata, VC. A kiwi SAS veteran of Afghanistan, very interesting read.
- President mentioned that an event has just been de-classified about the SAS who were in UK on a training course at the time of the Iranian Embassy rescue, UK decided to co-opt the top twenty from the course, 15 were Aussies! Who carried out the raid!

Meeting closed at 12.01

Next Meeting: 1000 on Saturday 13 Sep

Committee meetings at 0900 each month.

Signed

John Porter

President

John Gordon

Secretary/Treasurer

Looking for volunteers to form a Social Committee!!! All members invited TO BE INVOLVED!!

Suggestions for opportunities for activities

- Cooling for One or Two course – does not need a Chef to run, 8 week course, costs of food borne by participants each week. Facilitator and Assistant to run. Tues or Thurs from 11-1 including lunch?
- Coffee morning
- Walking Group – gentle paced walk around town
- Cards (Euchre, cribbage, etc.) mornings
- Sunday Family BBQ & Movies afternoons.
- Fishing group
- Community Link program – liaise with Primary Schools
- RSL ANZAC Art competition – Both Primary and Secondary Schools
- Trivia night
- Sports afternoons? Darts, indoor bowls, bowling, putting,
- Welfare Support Officer duties – who would like training to do Hospital and/or Aged Care visits?
- Drivers to pick up members to attend meetings/activities.

ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME!!!

Pesky & Confusing recycle rules!

Keep out soft plastics - ALL plastic bags, even if they have a recycling, degradable or compostable symbol, and other soft plastics such as plastic film, chip packets, bread bags and biscuit trays and bubble wrap, go in the Landfill bin .

Meat trays - **PLASTIC:** You can recycle many **plastic meat trays**, especially if they are rigid plastics with identification codes #1, #2, #3, or #5, but you must remove food residue and the absorbent pad first.

FOAM trays: NO, into the Landfill (Red Lid) bin.

Keep it Safe

None of these go into the yellow recycling bin - strapping, hose, netting, wires, building materials, broken glass, chemicals and other hazardous materials that can harm the MRF workers or damage the machines.

- Put items smaller than a credit card in your landfill bin.
- Larger lids such as lids off yoghurt tubs or jam jars can go into your recycling bin on or off the container. Place aluminium bottle tops or can tabs into the can or bottle before putting them in the recycling bin.
- Drop off small problem waste including household batteries, mobile phones & accessories, reading glasses, printer cartridges, smoke detectors and x-rays to our Community Recycling Stations at *Council's customer service centre or local library*.
- You can also drop-off household problem waste such as car batteries, fire extinguishers, gas bottles, oil and paint free of charge at the [Community Recycling Centre \(CRC\)](#) located at the [Resource Recovery Centre](#). There is a 20kg / 20-litre limit after which fees apply.
- Large e-waste such as computers, laptops, TVs and electrical cords can also be dropped off at the [Resource Recovery Centre](#) free of charge.

Commemorations this month – September

Wed 3rd Sept – Merchant Navy Day

Battle for Australia Day

Mon 14th Sept – National Peacekeeper's Day

WWII Merchant Navy

We commemorate Merchant Navy Day each year on 3 September. This is the anniversary of the first attack on an Allied merchant ship in World War II. The attack happened only hours after the United Kingdom declared war on Germany in 1939.

Today we know that nineteen (19) merchant ships were sunk by torpedoes, gunfire or mines off the NSW coast during 1941-1944. A further ten (10) were damaged but managed to limp into port for repairs. Approximately 214 merchant seamen and military personnel were killed in these attacks and the wrecks today serve as memorials to the war dead.

Japanese submarines were responsible for 18 ships between 1942-1943, with one accredited to a German submarine in 1944.

There is an excellent Fact sheet at

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/maritimeheritageapp/resources/Maritime/documents/243ec81269c406b45e1b4adeac4f524aaa7.pdf>

Battle for Australia

On the first Wednesday of September, we commemorate the battle for Australia. This day reminds us of the sacrifices of those who served on Australia's home front and in crucial battles to the north during World War II.

“Just as Dunkirk began the battle for Britain, so does Singapore open the battle for Australia ... The protection of this country is no longer a question of contributing to a world at war but of resisting an enemy threatening to invade our own shore ... What the battle for Britain required, so the battle for Australia demands. That meant service and struggle and complete devotion for Britons in the defence of Britain. It means the same thing for Australians, for the defence of Australia ... It is now work or fight as we have never worked or fought before, and there must not be a man or a woman in this Commonwealth who goes to bed to-night without having related his or her period of wakefulness to the purposes of war.

[John Curtin's statement, quoted in 1942 '[SINGAPORE, "AUSTRALIA'S DUNKIRK"](#)', The Sydney Morning Herald, 17 February, p 5.]”

National Peacekeeper's Day

On 14 September each year, we observe National Peacekeepers' Day. It's the anniversary of the day Australia became the world's first peacekeepers to deploy into the field, in the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) in 1947.

Since 1947, tens of thousands of Australians have served as members of a peacekeeping force and 16 have lost their lives. This day is a time for us to recognise and remember their service and sacrifice.

The funny side of life:



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Elizabeth Hill	10 Sept.
Geoff Vidal	30 Sept.

Many Happy Returns

Information:

DVA – Lismore VAN Office:
 Suite 8 Level 1 17 Conway Street
 Lismore (next to Australian Hearing)
 Email: NSWVANLismore@dva.gov.au
 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

In 2024, Australians lost **\$2.03 billion** to scams.

Scams target people from all walks of life and come in many forms – like fake emails, unexpected phone calls or online schemes.

Scammers are always **finding new ways** to gain your trust and steal your money or personal information.

These **3 simple steps** can help keep you safe from scammers:

1. **stop** – don't give your money or information to anyone if unsure
2. **check** – make sure the person or organisation you are dealing with is real
3. **protect** – act quickly if something feels wrong.

If you do spot a scam, [report it](#).

www.scamwatch.gov.au

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**