



Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch

Standfast 2025

Issue 270

Aug 2025



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FOR YOUR DIARY:

**Next sub-Branch meeting 1100
 Sat 9th Aug followed by a light
 lunch.**

Committee Meeting at 0930.

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

For your Calendar – Monday 18th August - Vietnam Veterans Day service at the War Memorial in EAB Park, with medals please.

Dear Members,

I would like to thank the members of Byron Bay Sub-Branch for their visit to our Sub-Branch. We had proposed a games day but in fact it turned into a talk fest. It was so pleasing to witness members in deep conversation with each other, socialising and enjoying themselves. Thanks to Gary, John, Phil and Chris to name a few who made it possible.

A special thank you to Kev Tippett for suggesting such an event.

Thanks to our members who commemorated the Korean War at Elizabeth Brown Park. Australian military sent over 18,000 troops to Korea and suffered 339 killed and 1,260 wounded. A significant number.

Lately, several members have been on holidays. Rob & Kay Fry got back from their outback tours, and Rob supporting a ship's captain's beard, then both came down with the lergy! Rob the 'flu & Kay COVID. Jeff & Carol Vidal were babysitting in Brisbane which we all know is a hard gig.

I would like to remind our members to bring to our attention any member who could do with assistance or just a call. Look after our mates!!

Why is it so!!

American service people are held in the highest regards by their country. It is an absolute honour to serve in the American Military.

Australian service people are hardly acknowledged by our country. Older Australians get it but it appears



From the President

middle aged to younger people don't really care about our military heritage. It annoys me to no end. I will along with you all, keep waving the flag of acknowledgment.

There is no greater honour than to serve your country, in any military capacity.

Your sincerely & God Bless 🙏

John Porter
President

Sub-Branch Meeting Minutes

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting 14 Jun 2025.

The president, John Porter, declared the meeting open at 1105hrs with the wreath laid by Vice-President Phil Skinner followed by the Ode and a half minute's silence.

Attendance was 22, with 4 apologies.

MOTION: That apologies be accepted. **Moved** – Bob Wilson **Seconded** – Phil Skinner
CARRIED

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 Apr 2025

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting on 12Apr as printed, be accepted as a true record of that meeting.

Moved – John Gordon **Seconded** – Kayleen Cooper **CARRIED**

Business arising from minutes - Nil business arising.

Correspondence:

Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

State Circulars

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 31May and the Accounts for payment.

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

Moved – Garry Henderson-Smith **Seconded** – Steven Bryce **CARRIED**

The Term Deposits at NAB have been closed due to inconsistencies in dealing with NAB and be re-investing with Summerland.

Motion: That an amount of \$35,000 be invested in a Term Deposit at Summerland Bank. **Moved** – Treasurer, **Seconded** – John Gordon - **CARRIED**

The President stated that he is prepared to donate \$100 today to help support the ongoing monthly expenses and challenged others to do the same.

State HQ – Nothing to report

FNCDC –

The FNCDC Meeting on 23 May was attended by the Secretary, there was much discussion about the motion submitted re: No Confidence; the motion was seconded, but there was no support and the motion was lost.

Welfare & Hospital visits

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

Hall Bookings

No changes.

Membership:

Membership is now 81 with Auxiliary members.

Memorabilia

10% stocktake completed.

Fundraising

Nothing to report; Quilt raffle question from the Secretary – do we want \$5 per ticket or \$2 & 3 for \$5. The members directed \$2 & 3 for \$5. Secretary will produce the tickets shortly.

General Business

- **Alstonville Market Charity of the Day** -volunteers are still needed, meet at the main entrance to the showground at 0730.
- **Membership Renewal working Paper**
Much discussion about how to attract new members, with the final statement the YOU are the best recruiting tool for the sub-Branch, Ways to attract members still comes down to the number of active members willing to offer support & still hoping on. General discussion ensued.
- **Visit by Byron Bay sub-Branch** – decided 15th or 17th July (now 15th – hall in use on 17th), Byron Bay will be informed.

Meeting closed at 1158.

Next Month – Social Luncheon – 12th July at 1100

Next Meeting: 1100hrs on Saturday 9th August

Committee meetings at 0930 each month.

Signed

John Porter

President

John Gordon

Secretary/Treasurer

Visit by Byron Bay sub-Branch members by Vice President Phil Skinner.

On Tuesday 15th July 10 members from Byron Bay sub-Branch visited our sub-Branch for a meet & greet with lunch and a games afternoon. On arrival at approximately 1030, our President John Porter gave a welcoming speech and our guests were shown around the hall. Many favourable comments flowed. Tea and Coffee followed.

Lunch was expertly overseen by our resident MasterChef Rob Wilson (good to see him back on his feet!) and assisted by John Gordon and myself (Phil Skinner), BBQ duties was Garry Hendersoon-Smith (Hyphen), who was expertly cooking on the back verandah.

I spoke at length to a crew member from Byron Bay who had served on HMAS Jeparit (1967-73) and did many trips from Sydney to South Vietnam and return. Jeparit handled our large Army Tanks, ammunition and other supplies in support of the Vietnam War.

Lunch was very well received, and our guests had a wonderful time chatting with members, although no games managed to be played!! Brazo Zulu to Secretary John who set up tables for cards (Cribbage & Euchre), Uckers (Ludo on steroids!) & table-top ten Pin bowling as well as the two prizes from RSLNSW Sport & Rec.

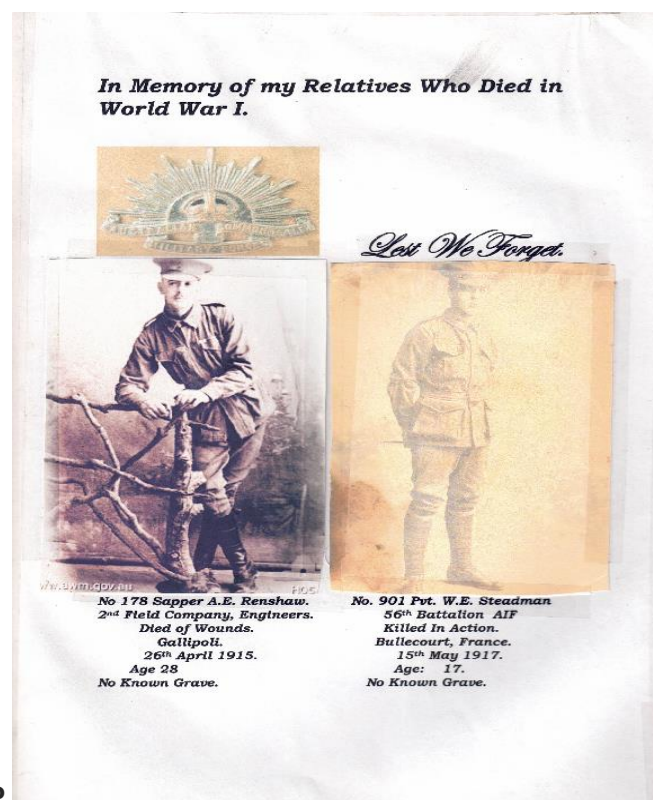
A very big thank you to members who attended to present a welcome to the visitors.

Cheers Phil Skinner

P.S. for all you history buffs! – HMAS Boonaroo was also used for the Vietnam cargo trips in 1967.

Korean Veteran's Day – 27th July

A small service was held at the War Memorial on Sunday 27th July to commemorate Korean Veterans Day . Thank you to the sub-Branch members who attended. Great conversations, stories & coffee was had at Buckley's Chance afterwards.



Can anyone identify these pages???

Sapper A.E. Renshaw and Pte W.E. Steadman are the relatives? Please let the Secretary know!

Bygone Days

I was raised in the 1950's, during a time when most everyone treated others with respect. We didn't eat a lot of fast food because it was considered a treat. We drank milk with our meals and ate sardine sandwiches and hot pies, but mostly homemade meals consisting of meat, and three vegetables with bread & butter, and--if we were lucky--homemade dessert.

We pulled weeds and helped neighbours with chores to earn our own money. Most days were spent outside playing games, riding bikes, running with friends, playing basketball, baseball, and kicking the footy. We drank tap water from a garden hose... bottled water was unheard of.

We watched TV shows like The Mouseketeers, Rawhide, Bonanza, Dobie Gillis, The Real McCoys, Cannon Ball, The Rifleman, The Lawman, The Buccaneers, The Lone Ranger, Have Gun Will Travel, The Texan, Cheyenne and 6 o'clock Rock with Johnny O'Keefe. After school, we came home and did homework and chores before going outside or having friends over. We rode our bikes for hours, but only after telling our parents where we were going, who we were going with, and what time we'd be home--ALL WITHOUT CELLPHONES!!

You LEARNED from your mom and dad, instead of disrespecting them and treating them like they knew nothing. Their word was LAW!!

You had to be close enough to home to hear your mother when she called you home for dinner. And when the streetlights came on, you'd better be there!. We ate around the dinner table as a family unit. At school we sang God save the Queen, standing for the National Anthem. We always respected and listened to our teachers.

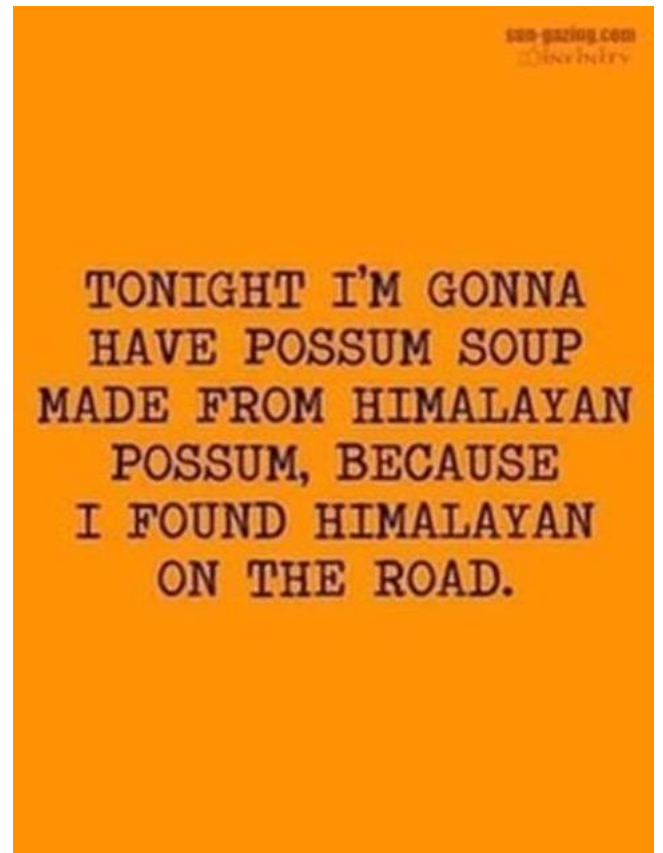
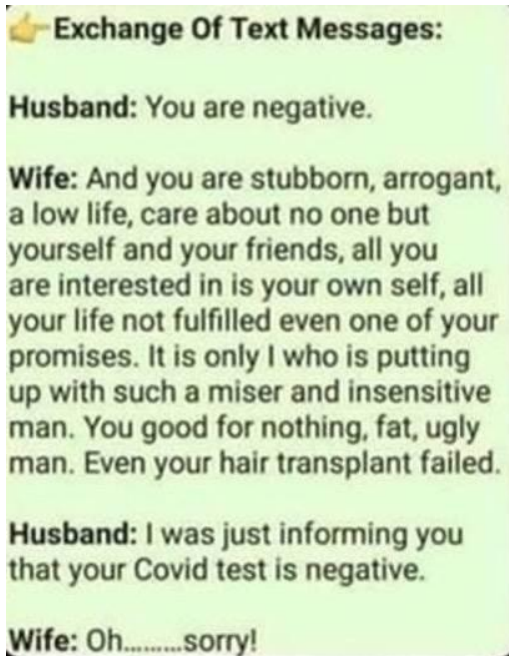
We watched what we said around elders because if we disrespected ANY grown-up, we'd be in BIG trouble. It wasn't called abuse, it was DISCIPLINE!

We held doors open, carried groceries, and gave up our seats for older people without being asked.

And you didn't hear curse words on the radio in songs or on TV. If you cursed and got caught, you were in a world of trouble. Please and thank you were part of our daily vocabulary!

Last, but not least, you grew up to respect our Nation and the Australian flag, **Wouldn't it be wonderful to return to a time like that?**

The funny side of life:



This is what irony means. You buy an electric car to save the planet and a tree kills it!

Do you ever wake up, kiss the person sleeping beside you, and feel glad that you are alive? I just did and apparently will not be allowed on this airline again....



A man brings his best buddy home for dinner...unannounced at 7:30 pm after work.

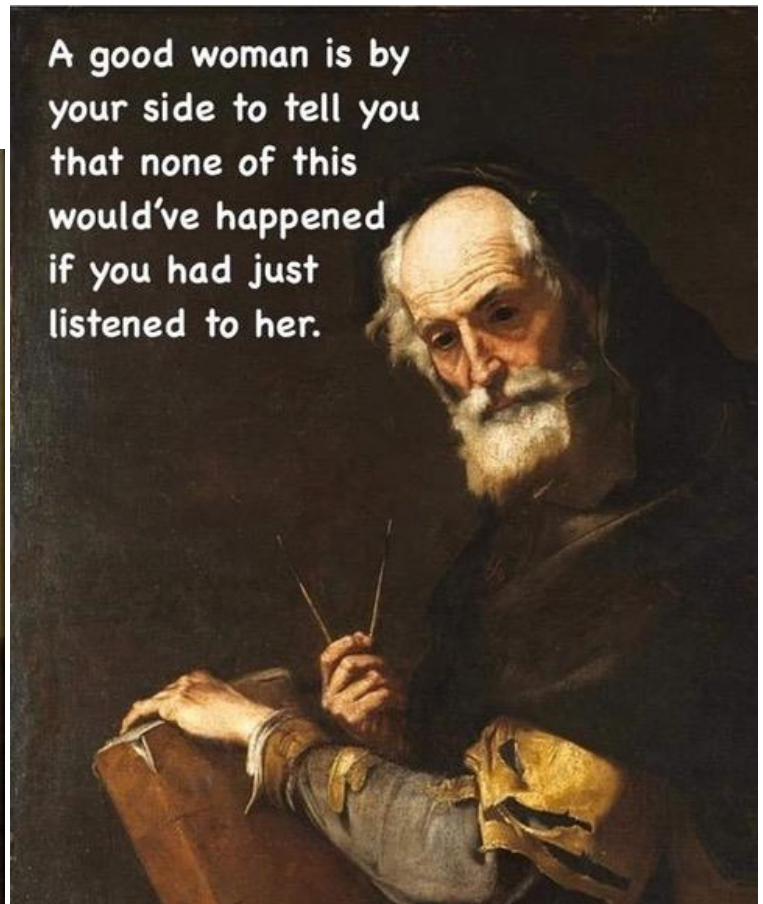
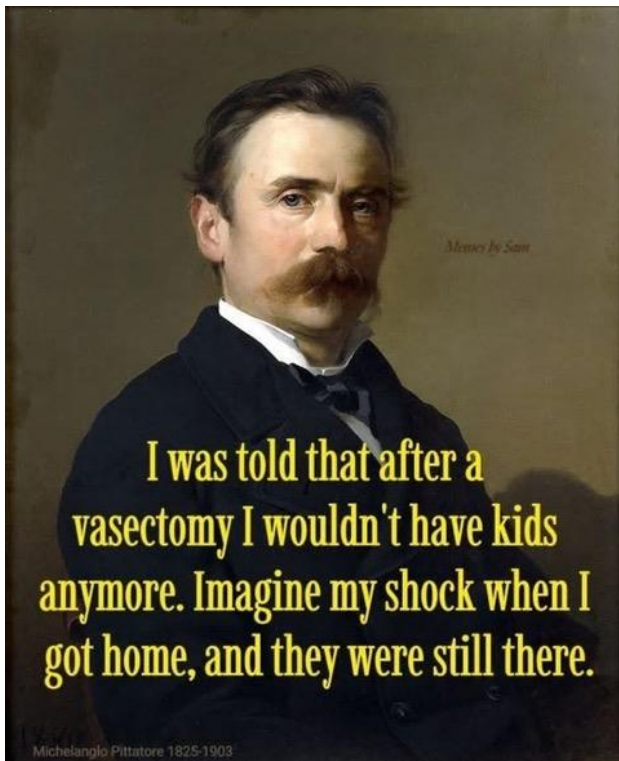
His wife begins screaming at him and his friend just sits and listens.

Wife: "My hair and makeup are not done, the house is a mess, the dishes are not done, I'm still in my pajamas and I can't be bothered with cooking tonight! Why the hell did you bring him home?!?"

Husband: "Because he's thinking of getting married and I promised him a demo!"

The three hardest things to say are:

1. I was wrong
2. I need help
3. Worcestershire Sauce



Police have confirmed that the man who tragically fell from the roof of an 18th floor Nightclub Was not a bouncer

Finland has just closed their borders.
No one will be crossing the finish line.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|-----------------|---------|
| David Anderson | 03 Aug. |
| Alan Brown | 04 Aug. |
| Robert Wilson | 13 Aug. |
| Ron Nowland | 18 Aug. |
| Harry Wood | 24 Aug. |
| Alanna Luvisi | 28 Aug. |
| Mel Mc Goldrick | 29 Aug. |
| Kevin Quinnell | 30 Aug. |

Congratulations to you all!

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
- Terry White Pharmacy

RSL LifeCare Veteran and Family Hub

Helping veterans in the North Coast

Our office is now open, and is located at **Level 3, 145 Wharf Street, Tweed Heads Ph. 1300 232 564**. This Hub has been made possible thanks to a grant from the [Department of Veterans’ Affairs](#), and in partnership with [RSL NSW](#).

Team Update – Veteran and Family Hub Team

We are pleased to announce that we have a new North Coast Veteran & Family Hub Manager, who joined us in February 2025 to help all local veterans and family members. Our Veteran and Family Hub Claims Advisor also joined in March 2025, and our Engagement and Community Officer has also joined the team.

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**