



Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch

Standfast 2025

Issue 274

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FOR YOUR DIARY:

Next sub-branch meeting Sat
13th December @ 1000 hr.
Followed by the sub-Branch
Christmas Party

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	

Christmas Party – 1200 Saturday 13th December, numbers to Secretary please.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Safe and Happy New Year!!

Dear Members,

I wish to thank the volunteers who assisted on Remembrance Day. We had a good turnout, with representation from Kevin Hogans office, Ballina Shire Council, local Primary and Secondary Schools. A special thank you goes to those who worked on our Remembrance Day badge sale tables. The sales were very strong and full credit goes to our very supportive community.

The fallout of the Board resignations is still being felt at RSL NSW. I trust it gets sorted soon as it's damaging the RSL Brand. An interim Board President has been appointed in Brig. Vincent Williams CSC (Retd).

We are fast approaching our Festive Season. We have our last Committee and Members meeting on the 13Dec2025 for this Year. After the meetings we have our EOY Christmas Dinner. Come all come many!!

Benefits of Socialising

Socializing provides significant benefits for both mental and physical health by boosting mood, reducing stress and loneliness, and improving cognitive function. It can also lead to a longer lifespan and a lower risk of chronic diseases.

God Bless 🙏

John Porter
President



From the President

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!!

Don't forget, if you are alone on Christmas Day, come down to the Hall at about 10.30, a few of us are gathering to have Christmas Lunch together, to be around friends.

Bring a plate, nothing fancy, some vege's or salad, cheese or fruit!

MINUTES of the sub-Branch General Meeting 08 Nov 2025.

The president, John Porter, declared the meeting open at 10.09 hrs. with the wreath laid by member Phil Skinner followed by the Ode and a half minute's silence.

Attendance was 23, with 7 apologies.

MOTION: That apologies be accepted.

Moved – Bob Wilson **Seconded** – Steven Bryce

CARRIED

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 Oct

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting on 11 Oct 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:

Secretary read the received and sent correspondence including:

State Circulars

Thank you letter from Wollongbar PS P&C

Notice Keven Hogan not attending Remembrance Day, Karen Hogan attending instead.

DVA 2026 Calendars – Theme National Service

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 30 Oct and the Accounts for payment.

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

Moved – Treasurer **Seconded** – Michael Letts **CARRIED**

State HQ – Nothing about Congress yet.

FNCDC –

The next FNCDC Meeting is 23 Nov at Evans Head.

Motion to be submitted to FNCDC:

That RSL NSW petition the NSW Government to repeal the RSL NSW Act 2019

Supporting Statement : The changes to the RSL NSW Act 1935 (now RSL NSW Act 2019) need to be repealed as those changes made drastic and incompatible alterations to the governance of RSL NSW (The League). These changes were of a corporate nature and altered the traditional method of the League being run and controlled by the members, where they elected a representative from each District, appointed to a State Council, with the separately elected president as ex-officio Chair. The imposition of the corporate model of governance, designated by the NSW Government, was the culmination of the witch hunt created by a particular Minister and assisted by RSL NSW senior officers with personal agendas, that did not want the regular members having the power to make determinations in the running of the League.

The members realized this and refused to adopt the proposed amendments to the Constitution, forcing the resignation of one of the main proponents of the changes, the then President of RSL NSW.

Despite that, the NSW Government Minister continued with the amendments to the Act and the subsequent actions and issues have led to the current situation where there is no clear avenue for members to have their wishes conveyed to the board, and no faith that the board is acting in their best interest.

Moved by Rob Fry, seconded by Jamie Walton CARRIED Unanimously

Welfare & Hospital visits

reported that visits to St. Vincent's are having 6-7 veterans/widows per week. New Hospital Visitors would be welcome, especially with Ruth leaving. 1 additional would mean once per month for each.

Hall Bookings

UPA Lifecare are having a morning tea early Dec, no word from Brainstorm yet..

Membership: Membership less Ruth Campbell.

Memorabilia

10% stocktake completed.

Fundraising

Badge sales are going well with 1 more day to go. Secretary is to thank the Community for their ongoing support, very generous, especially in these tough times. The fundraising wouldn't happen without the volunteers, particularly the Laurel Club, with a special mention for Louise and to Jamie Walton for their help at the Plaza

General Business

- **Christmas Party**

Secretary moved that a budget of \$1500 for the Christmas Party be approved - **Carried**
You will be able to donate towards the cost on the day, Treasurer will happily accept!!
Friday 'Lower Deck' will donate a carton of beer and some wine. Thank you.

- **Secretary asked a question? - Is there anyone who will be home alone on Christmas Day?**

He proposes that on Christmas Day we hold lunch at the hall for those without family around, a Bring-a-plate type do, no formal catering, just a get together. This met with general support, and we will go ahead with it!

- **Defence Service Homes Insurance**

Michael Letts raised the issue that DSH Insurance have opened their House Insurance to anyone who served one day in uniform

- **Showground Memorial Gates**

Grahame Gooding mentioned that at the Show BBQ stand a question was asked about the plaques from the Memorial Gates at the Showground. After some discussion it was suggested that the Show Society look at some way to put them back as the Gates are without any plaques. It was suggested that possibly a combined grant request be looked at.

- **Remembrance Day**

Assistance at EAB at about 9.30 would be appreciated for the set-up (speakers, programs, poppies etc.)

Meeting closed at 10.51.

Next Meeting: 0900hrs on Saturday 13th December followed by the Christmas Party.

Be on the lookout for scams this festive season

What to watch out for this Christmas

As holiday shopping, bank transactions, and parcel deliveries increase, here are some of the key scams to be on the lookout for:

1. **Bank-related scams:** These include fraudulent texts, emails, or calls that claim to be from your bank. Scammers may tell you there's a problem with your account or that you need to verify a transaction. If you receive an unusual message or phone call claiming to be from your bank, contact them directly using a verified phone number or visit a branch.
2. **Postal and courier scams:** With the spike in parcel deliveries, scammers are sending fake notifications that claim you owe delivery fees or need to reschedule a package. These messages often include links to malicious websites where scammers attempt to capture your personal and payment information. Always verify with the delivery service through their official website or app.
3. **Fake online stores:** These sites can lure holiday shoppers with deals that seem too good to be true. Always check the store's reputation through reviews and contact details, and avoid making purchases if the store requests payment via wire transfer or cryptocurrency.
4. **Facebook Marketplace scams:** Scammers may pose as buyers or sellers on Facebook Marketplace, using fake profiles and deceptive payment methods. Always meet in a safe location and use secure payment options to minimise risk.
5. **Social media shopping scams:** Be cautious of advertisements and sponsored posts on social media offering huge discounts or limited-time offers. Many of these posts link to fraudulent websites designed to steal your payment details. Always verify the retailer's authenticity by checking reviews and looking for a secure payment process.

Top tips to stay scam-free this December

1. **Stay sceptical of unexpected messages:** If you receive a message that appears to be from your bank or a delivery service requesting urgent action, be cautious. Don't click on any links or provide your details. Instead, visit the official website or call using a verified number.
2. **Monitor your bank accounts closely:** Keep a close eye on your bank statements and set up alerts for unusual activity. If you spot a suspicious transaction, report it to your bank immediately.
3. **Verify before you buy or donate:** Only shop from reputable online retailers and research unknown sellers. Be equally cautious with holiday charity appeals, checking the charity's legitimacy on the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website before donating.
4. **Support vulnerable people:** Help protect family members, friends, or neighbours who may be more at risk. Assist them with online shopping and discuss common scams to watch out for.
5. **Use strong passwords and enable two-factor authentication:** Ensure your bank and shopping accounts are secured with strong, unique passwords and, if possible, enable two-factor authentication. This adds an extra layer of protection to your accounts and makes it harder for scammers to gain access.

If you suspect that scammers have targeted you, report it promptly to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) via [Scamwatch](#). Additionally, if you've made payments to suspicious entities or shared your bank details, contact your bank right away.

Mathematics:

This comes from 2 math teachers with a combined total of 70 years of experience.

It has an indisputable mathematical logic. It also made me Laugh Out Loud.

This is a strictly mathematical viewpointit goes like this:

What Makes 100%?

What does it mean to give MORE than 100%?

Ever wonder about those people who say they are giving more than 100%?

We have all been to those meetings where someone wants you to give over 100%.

How about achieving 103%?

What makes up 100% in life?

Here's a little mathematical formula that might help you answer these questions:

If:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26.

Then:

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K is $8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$

And

K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E is $11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$

But ,

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E is $1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$

B-U-L-L-S-H-I-T is $2+21+12+12+19+8+9+20 = 103\%$

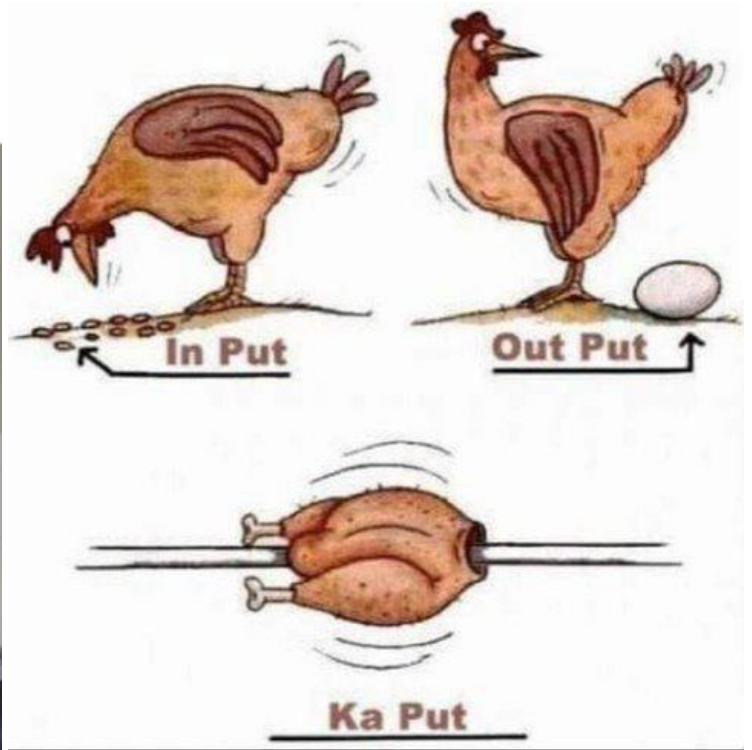
AND, look how far ass kissing will take you.

A-S-S-K-I-S-S-I-N-G is $1+19+19+11+9+19+19+9+14+7 = 118\%$

So, one can conclude with mathematical certainty, that while Hard work and Knowledge will get you close, and *Attitude will get you there, it's the Bullshit and Ass Kissing* that will put you over the top.

Now you know why some people are where they are.

A pure-bread



Over 100 years ago 2 brothers announced they could fly. Turns out they were Wright...



Kevin 'Dasher' Wheatley VC MG

There are moments in history that do more than define a person; they define a nation's values. Sixty years ago, in a flooded rice paddy in the Tra Bong valley, one Australian soldier was faced with an impossible choice. His decision, and his sacrifice, became an immortal benchmark for courage, mateship, and the very essence of the Digger spirit. His name was Warrant Officer Class II Kevin Arthur 'Dasher' Wheatley, VC, MG.

Dasher was the quintessential Australian soldier. Enlisting in 1956, he was a professional infantryman, forged in the jungles of Malaya with 3RAR. He was also, by all accounts, a "larrikin", a man with a "rough, wild" reputation who played as hard as he fought, and who was fiercely loved by his mates.

In March 1965, he arrived in South Vietnam, posted to the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV). "The Team" was Australia's first footprint in the war, its members dispersed in pairs or small groups across the country, embedded in the most remote and perilous outposts. Wheatley was assigned to advise the Civil Irregular Defence Group (CIDG) at Tra Bong, a camp cut off by enemy forces, accessible only by air.

His VC action on 13 November was not an isolated burst of bravery. It was the culmination of a character already proven. On 28 May 1965, during a heavy fire fight, a three-year-old Vietnamese girl ran terrified into the crossfire. With "complete disregard for his own safety," Wheatley ran into the open, shielded the child with his own body, and carried her to cover. Less than three months later, on 18 August, his unit's assault on a Viet Cong village stalled. Wheatley "took the lead and inspired" his allied troops by charging up the hill alone, routing the enemy. These actions, overlooked for decades, were finally recognised with the posthumous award of the US Silver Star and, in 2024, the Australian Medal for Gallantry.

This was the man who, 60 years ago today, embarked on a search and destroy mission with his mate, WO2 'Butch' Swanton. At 1340 hours, their platoon was ambushed by a superior Viet Cong force and, under devastating fire, it "broke... and began to scatter". In the chaos, Swanton was mortally wounded, shot in the chest while, in his own act of selfless heroism, he was attempting to carry an injured Vietnamese CIDG soldier to safety. Wheatley rushed to his side. A medic reached them, bandaged Swanton, and pleaded with Wheatley to save himself, telling him his comrade was dying. He refused.

Discarding his radio to free his hands, Wheatley began to half-drag and half-carry Swanton 200 metres across the open paddies, under relentless fire, towards the jungle. As they reached the tree line, another CIDG soldier urged him to flee, warning that the enemy was only ten metres away. For the second time, Wheatley refused to abandon his mate. He was last seen, his rifle ammunition exhausted, pulling the pins from his last two grenades and "calmly" awaiting the enemy.

The official citation for his Victoria Cross concludes: "He had the clear choice of abandoning a wounded comrade and saving himself... or of staying... and thereby facing certain death. He deliberately chose the latter course. His acts of heroism, determination and unflinching loyalty... will always stand as examples of the true meaning of valour."

But this defining sacrifice created another, profound legacy.

In 1965, Australian policy was to bury its war dead overseas. Wheatley's body was only repatriated after a "public outcry" when it was revealed his return had to be paid for by private funds. Spurred by this case, the government announced on 21 January 1966, a complete reversal of this policy. This is the "**Wheatley Precedent**". The sacred promise that Australia now makes to every serving man and woman, that if they fall, they will be brought home, was bought by Dasher's sacrifice and the nation's refusal to let such a hero be left behind.

On this 60th anniversary, we honour a man who not only showed us the meaning of valour, but whose legacy ensures his nation honours the sacrifice of all who follow him.

Lest we forget.

The funny side of life:



"THANKS TO YOUR SON'S HELP, I WAS ABLE TO GET THE JOB DONE IN TWICE THE TIME."



One big difference between men and women is that if a woman says "Smell this", it usually smells nice.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Christine Miller	01 Dec.
Ray Johnston	04 Dec.
Noel Toneguzzi	06 Dec.
David Ryan	06 Dec.
Georgina Sewell	13 Dec.
Bob Crosthwaite	14 Dec.
John Gordon	15 Dec.
John Porter	17 Dec.
Phil Skinner	18 Dec.
Bob Wilson	21 Dec.
Luke Stewart	23 Dec.
Jeremy Tyler	27 Dec.
Carter Naftzger	27 Dec.
Bruce Crawford	01 Jan.
Taylah Wallace	12 Jan.
Tony Tyler	12 Jan.
Mark Quilligan	24 Jan.
Ian Welch	24 Jan.
Irvine Sproule	31 Jan

HERMAN®

by Jim Unger



“Why don’t you listen? I said, ‘Send over a can of glue.’”



You are only young once, but you can stay immature indefinitely.



Rest Your Mind

I know you have been laying awake at night wondering why baby diapers have brand names such as "Luvs", "Huggies," and "Pampers", while undergarments for old people are called "Depends".

Well here is the low down on the whole thing.

When babies crap in their pants, people are still gonna Luv'em, Hug'em and Pamper' em. When old people crap in their pants, it "Depends" on who's in the will!

Glad I got that straightened out so you can rest your mind.

Be grateful that no matter how much chocolate you eat, your earrings will still fit.

THE LAST 1%

If you were born between 1930 and 1946, you belong to an incredibly rare and extraordinary group —only 1% of your generation is still alive today.

You are the quiet keepers of a world that no longer exists, a bridge between candlelight and smartphones, handwritten letters and instant messages, ration books and digital wallets.

You were born into resilience.

You came from the Great Depression — when every scrap of cloth, every tin can, every drop of milk mattered.

You watched the world rebuild itself after war, not through noise or complaints, but through sweat, dignity, and belief in tomorrow.

You remember when the milkman's whistle meant breakfast was coming, when discipline came with love, and when neighbours truly knew each other's names.

Your imagination was your greatest gift.

Without screens or gadgets, you built castles in your minds, played with marbles and sticks, and listened to the radio as families gathered close, hearts warmed by stories that painted pictures without colour.

You witnessed the birth of modern technology —the first black-and-white televisions, the first commercial flights, the first men to walk on the moon.

You saw the world move from horse-drawn carts to highways, from handwritten letters to the hum of the internet.

You were taught to fix things — not throw them away.

To mend socks, to patch roofs, to repair hearts.

You learned that work wasn't punishment; it was pride.

And now, at 77 to 93 years old, you carry stories that the world should never forget —stories of patience, strength, and quiet courage.

So today, if you are one of them —one of the few still walking this earth from the years 1930 to 1946 —hold your head high.

You lived through the best of times and the hardest of times, and your wisdom is the thread that still holds our world together.

You are not just history —you are living proof that grace, gratitude, and grit never go out of style.

✦ Moral:

The world you came from may be gone, but the values you left behind — honesty, kindness, and hard work — will always be the foundation of every generation that follows.

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”.

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- 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**