

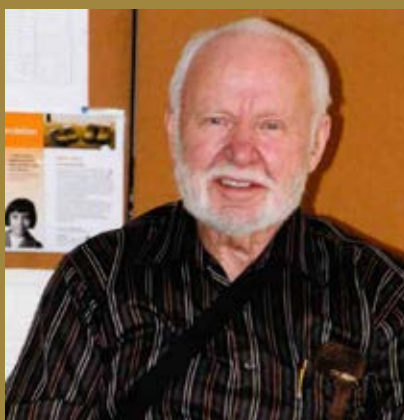
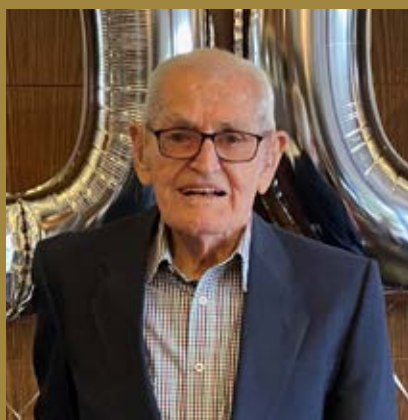


**BOXHILLRSL**

# BOX HILL NEWS



Contributions can be emailed to the Editor  
Faye Clark at: [welfmgr@boxhillrsl.com.au](mailto:welfmgr@boxhillrsl.com.au)



## WW2 Veterans Turn 100 Years Young

Of The 600,000 Australians that served during WW2, D.V.A estimates there are fewer than 3000 living today. Box Hill RSL has seen the same decline over the years as our veterans follow the setting sun and no longer rise with it in the morning. Certainly, when I first came to work here 19 years ago there were many veteran members.

These veterans were a product of their generation with most having nicknames that would be politically incorrect these days. There was a camaraderie that pervaded the bar area and the table designated for the regulars. They were reluctant to speak about their war experiences except that sometimes you heard clips as they joked with their mates. Always it was the funny things that had

happened that seemed to be remembered when with their own, but their wives would tell another story. I have been lucky to have heard some of their stories, experienced their stoicism, grief, humility, and sense of humour.

Today we have approximately 60 WW2 veterans remaining, and they are well into their 90's, in this edition I would like to profile just 3 of these wonderful men as they have turned 100 years young this year. I introduce Alex Mathieson, Arthur Tonkin and Noel Outhred.

**Faye Clark**  
Welfare Coordinator

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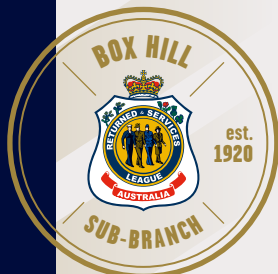
# Welfare Report.

For all welfare matters telephone: Faye Clark on 9897 6780



## BOX HILL NEWS

Stories by Members for Members



Our best wishes are with those members who are, or have been in hospital since the last issue.

**Eric Young, Vic Allen, Heather Coombes,  
Eril Browne, Norma Johannesen**

## VALE

*lest we forget*



**Clifford SMART**  
3515082 RAF

**Arthur WHITBOURNE**  
VX139775 58/59 AIB

**Guenther SCHNERRING**  
3166326 – 2 SIGS.

**Laurie BURGESS**  
V186134 – 127. TRANS. COY

**Clive DUNN**  
19047 – RAAF

**Gordon HANG GONG**  
453139 – RAAF

**Mollie CLOUGH**  
111696 – WAFF

**Beulah ANDERSON**  
AFFILIATE

## Members in Aged Care

**GEORGE AGIUS**, Blue Cross,  
Livingstone Gardens, 39  
Livingstone Rd., Vermont South

**COLIN BARRACLOUGH**, Alawarra,  
Inala, 220 Middleborough Rd,  
Blackburn Sth

**GEOFFREY BURRIDGE**, Regis  
Lake Park, 40 Central Road,  
Blackburn

**ERICA CAMPBELL**, Opal Salford,  
100 Harold Street, Wantirna

**ALWYN CHARLESWORTH**,  
Uniting AgeWell, 75 Thames St,  
Box Hill

**ALMA & JAMES D'ARCY**, Blue  
Cross, 48 Dorking Road, Box Hill

**JOHN DONALDSON**, ESTIA  
Health, 879 Plenty Road,  
South Morang

**ALMA GEORGE**, Broughton Lea,  
9-17 Broughton Road, Surrey Hills

**RHODA GORDON**, Faversham  
House, 27 Shierlaw Ave,  
Canterbury

**SUSIE HALL**, Rathdowne Place  
Aged Care, 497 Rathdowne St,  
Carlton

**KATHRYN HOLMES**, Alawarra,  
Inala, 220 Middleborough Rd,  
Blackburn Sth

**NORMA IRELAND**, Eva Tilley,  
110 Burke Road, Balwyn North

**NORMAN JARMAN**, Blue Cross,  
48 Dorking Road, Box Hill

**JOY JONES**, Blue Cross,  
48 Dorking Road, Box Hill

**RON KELSALL**, Regis Shenley  
Manor, 440 Camberwell Road,  
Camberwell

**GEORGE LEONDAS**, Blue Cross,  
48 Dorking Road, Box Hill

**GARRY LEVEY**, Broughton Lea,  
9-17 Broughton Road,  
Surrey Hills

**DON MC DONALD**, Blue Cross,  
48 Dorking Road, Box Hill

**DON McKIRDY**, Alawarra, Inala,  
220 Middleborough Road,  
Blackburn South

**NOEL MC MAHEN**, Faversham  
House, 27 Shierlaw Ave,  
Canterbury

**BETTY MADDOCK**, Faversham  
House, 27 Shierlaw Ave,  
Canterbury

**ALEX MAGNER**, Blue Cross,  
48 Dorking Road, Box Hill

**BERYL MAINON**, Arcare Surrey  
Hills, 18 Florence St, Surrey Hills

**MAURICE MATHERS**, Grand  
Cedar 61-63 High Street Road,  
Ashwood  
**MARGERY MAXWELL**, Newman's  
on the Park, 33 Newman's Road,  
Templestowe

**RHONDA O'TOOLE**, Strathdon,  
17 Jolimont Road, Forest Hill

**NOEL OUTHRED**, BUPA Donvale,  
296-304 Springvale Road,  
Donvale

**FRED PIKE**, Faversham House,  
27 Shierlaw Avenue, Canterbury

**LOIS PRICHARD**, Arcare Surrey  
Hills, 18 Florence St, Surrey Hills

**MYRA SPENCER**, Faversham  
House, 27 Shierlaw Ave,  
Canterbury

**BRENDAN STAFFORD**, Manna  
Care, 371 Manningham Road,  
Doncaster

**BARBARA STRUDWICK**, Nellie  
Melba ACF, 2 Collegium Ave,  
Wheeters Hill  
**EDNA TANDY**, Alawarra,  
Inala, 220 Middleborough Rd,  
Blackburn Sth

**DAVID TAYLOR**, Blue Cross,  
250 Waterdale Rd, Ivanhoe

**KEVIN TREVARTHEN**, Bapcare,  
Karana, 55 Walpole Street, Kew

**JOHN VALENTINE**, Emerald Hill,  
215 Napier Street,  
South Melbourne

**PHIL WALTER**, Regis Lake Park,  
40 Central Road, Blackburn

**LANCE WARD**, Arcare, 75 King  
Street, Templestowe

**ERIC YOUNG**, The Orchards,  
107 Anderson's Creek Road,  
Doncaster East

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

To amend Branch Bylaw 10A:

After each Victorian RSL State Conference Branch Bylaw 10A is updated with any changes that were passed. The Sub-Branch cannot change the amendments but each Sub-Branch has to vote to accept the changes. To view this Special Resolution it can be seen in the Welfare Office during normal business hours. Should you require further information please contact the Secretary on 9897 6733.



### BOXHILLRSL

To be held on Friday evening  
August 27th 2021 at 6:15pm

- Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Upton Room

# SNOOKER/BILLIARDS SECTION

Our "55 and Over" Billiards and Snooker Association competition on Tuesday mornings is thriving this year. One of the reasons is we have two very competitive women playing.

Yvonne Mahoney, who plays for the Burwood (2) Team, has been playing in this comp for over 20 years, and, our very own, Margaret Conomy, who plays for the Box Hill (147) team, has been playing since 2019.

Pictured here for the round 13 clash on Tuesday 25th May down in Box Hill's much utilised billiards room, two games of billiards up to 100 points was the order of the day.

In the first game, Marg came out firing to record 100 to 77 points win. The second game went right to the wire with Marg on 97 and Yvonne on 98 and the red ball sitting over the top pocket, using the long rest and cue, unfortunately, Yvonne missed the pot.

Marg, also using the long equipment, came in and potted the red, three points game, set and match, with a bonus



Yvonne Mahoney and Margaret Conomy

point for winning both. A worthy contribution for our team who hold top spot on the ladder.

## Rick Conomy

Billiards and Snooker Committee & Team Captain

Last month we had called in for an AGM especially wanting to have elections and bring in a fresh, new committee, but the attendance was very poor. However, Douglas Stewart (Secretary) has decided to step down after more than a decade of selfless service to our section of the RSL. Doug and his wife Sue continue to render many volunteer hours for the sub-branch. Doug, many thanks for your valuable time in running the place as it should be, many members appreciate your service.

Subsequently, after much scouting and calling out, our long-standing regular player, John Sweeney, has agreed to take over. I am positive he will do his best as his Sparky effort changing our table lighting a few months ago! (I couldn't imagine playing in the darkness). Welcome aboard and I am sure Doug has assured us of his help during transition.

Our Monday night 'Colts' team sadly lost the semi-final in a thrilling shootout like the Euro soccer we just

witnessed. But one of our two Tuesday teams is sitting pretty high on the ladder and hoping to bring in the golden ware.

After months of requesting for new players in successive newsletters by myself, almost as Biblical John and Peter have joined the RSL and have agreed to play in our tournaments. With this, I am very happy to announce we are going to field a second team on Monday nights with a few old businessmen members returning after the virus hit has rubbed off! This season is scheduled to kick off July 26th.

I continue to welcome new players as we are able to field in more teams – please, all old and new, be reminded our Billiard and Snooker room is a 'serene and free' facility not available in many other RSLs. So practice as many hours as you wish!

## Suresh Alphonse

President



## WW2 Veterans Turn 100 Years Young

Faye Clark Welfare Coordinator



**Alexander Mathieson (Alex)** was born in Colac, Victoria on 11 May, 1921, shortly after the family moved to Geelong.

In March 1944, Alex enlisted with the Royal Australian Air Force and spent all his service in New Guinea and Papua. He was a leading aircraftman with the transport division ensuring supplies and support reached their destination. Alex was proud to serve his country.

Alex had been recruited by the Geelong Cats and played seven games before being sent overseas. He kicked a goal with his first kick in the Victorian Football League. He recalls

playing Aussie Rules football while in New Guinea on various grounds, one of which was made of coral. When Alexander returned from New Guinea, he suffered bouts of malaria every three months or so for about two years. This stopped him from playing football with Geelong again, but it didn't stop him from building a house for his family or from helping others.

In Alex's family, there were twelve children (ten boys and two girls), seven of the boys fought for Australia in the Second World War in either the Australian Army or the RAAF and all returned safely.

After the war, Alex was a metal worker at the Ford factory in Geelong before joining the PMG. Prior to enlisting, he was working on naval mines in the Ford munition factory.

Alex credits his long life to good genes, hard work and staying active.

Alex met Norma Sparks early in 1942 at a Friday night dance at the Hall of Honour in Yarra Street, Geelong. When he asked if he could take her home, Norma said no. She certainly didn't

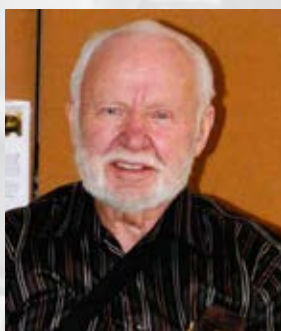
want to tell him that her mum was escorting her home on the 11pm tram!

But once he proved his bona fides to her mother, as they say, the rest is history and so began a four-year courtship. Their relationship was interrupted by the war. Alex enlisted in the airforce in 1944 and they married on the 6th April 1946 just after his discharge. They had 70 wonderful years together. Sadly Norma died on 24 April 2016.

In the early days they lived in Geelong West, close to Norma's family home. They had three children: Denis, Judith and Cheryl, while they lived in Geelong.

Alex was working with the PMG in Geelong and opportunities for promotion in Geelong were limited. So, Norma encouraged Alex to seek opportunities elsewhere, even if that meant leaving her family back in Geelong. Tenterfield was first stop on the journey, followed by Newcastle, then Canberra and Box Hill in 1964, where he still lives.

Alex has four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.



**Arthur Tonkin** was born in Warrnambool on 9th January 1921. The family lived in Cobram, and when Arthur was five, to Surrey Hills. It was here he attended his first church service at Surrey Hills Methodist Centenary Church, a church that

would become a major part of his life for 95 years. In 1976 the church joined with others in the district to become the Surrey Hills Uniting Church.

He married Nancy there in 1944 and their three children, Thomas, Helen and Ted were baptised there. Arthur has been a lay preacher for more than 75 years, preaching at services throughout Victoria. He particularly liked his work as a leader of youth groups during 1950 and '60s.

Arthur joined the CMF on 5th August 1941 and then transferred to the AIF on 30th July 1942 and served until discharge on 20th November 1945. Most of this time with the 147

Australian General Transport Coy. transporting goods, people, and war supplies to Alice Springs and Darwin.

Arthur is a noted historian and was president of the Surrey Hills Historical Society. He was an artist and singer and was the church choirmaster for 30 years. He also managed a Theological Book Shop in Melbourne for many years but still found time to help others in the wider Surrey Hills Community. This was recognised in 2001 when he received the Surrey Hills Citizen of the Year Award.

Sadly Nancy died in September 2003. Arthur has two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



**Noel Outhred** was born 24th April 1921 in Brighton, Victoria. The family moved to Essendon where Noel spent his school years. After leaving school he worked as a Property Manager for a Real Estate Agency before joining the Army in 1942.

Noel commenced his military training at the Blairgowrie Camp and transferred to Seymour in the 58th Battalion. From there he moved to Casino in NSW, Charters Towers, Esk and Wondecla Queensland. In 1944 he was transferred to 6th Division HQ, where he served in Cape Wom, Papua and New Guinea, which was the location of the unconditional surrender of Lieutenant General Hatazo Adachi, Commander of the Japanese 18th Army in September 1945. At the rank of Sergeant, he was discharged from the army in April 1946.

While on leave before his transfer to New Guinea, Noel married Edna Draper

on 29th July 1944. Edna travelled to Charter Towers from Melbourne for this happy occasion. After the war they settled in Moonee Ponds and had 2 Children Judy and Sue, Grandchildren Stephen, Kylie, Chris, & Jen and a Great Grand Child, Ella. Sadly, Edna died in February 2007.

On his return to Civilian life Noel worked as a Public Accountant until he retired. His passions are his family, painting and gardening and he loves to just potter in his shed and listen to music.

# One Hundred Years in the Making

**BOX HILL RSL CENTENARY 1920-2020**



**\$20**

**AVAILABLE AT RECEPTION**

In March this year we had our Centenary Book Launch. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we were limited to the number of members we could invite. Since the book launch, we have sold more than 400 copies at just \$20.00 each. The cost to produce the books was more than double what members can purchase them. We have donated more than 50 books to the local primary and secondary schools plus RSL sub-branches in the surrounding areas.

For those who can't understand the relevance of the front cover of the book, it illustrates the three places we have called home over the century. First the Rotunda in Whitehorse Road, opposite the Box Hill Town Hall. This was built by the members just after the end of WW1 when the sub-branch received its charter. Second, Upton House, purchased shortly after the end of WW2, now part of the Box Hill Public Hospital. The third photo is where we are today in Nelson Road, Box Hill.

We still have Books for sale and encourage members and their friends to purchase a copy when next in the RSL. They are on sale at our reception any time the RSL is open.

**Arthur Merryweather**  
Treasurer





## ANGLING SECTION

On the 18th of May, nine enthusiastic members of the Box Hill RSL Angling Section departed Hastings, Victoria, anticipating another challenging day fishing the waters of Westernport.

With the weather overcast and on the coolish side, a great day's fishing was expected. A north wind with the runout tide made for smooth conditions as we made our way to the first fishing hotspot. Unfortunately, someone neglected to tell the fish to show up. One small (I mean very small) flathead was caught and mercifully released. Oh well, move on to the next location as we always manage to land a few there; but the same result. Additional locations were also worked with no reward. Nevertheless, new friendships were made and the fellowship of like-minded individuals more than compensated for the lack of our target (or any) species.

As any golfer or bowler knows, mastery of a correct grip is an important part of your chosen sport. For anglers, one is expected to launch the hook, line and sinker towards your chosen location whilst retaining control of the fishing rod within your grasp. Oh well, our member managed the first three ok, however, rod and reel are now forming a part of an artificial reef adjacent to Davy Jones' Locker.

**Neil Mc**

## BOWLING SECTION

On Friday 21st May, 27 members from the Box Hill RSL section ventured to Lakes Entrance to compete in the Duke of Edinburgh Shield.

On Saturday we arrived at the bowling green at 9am to start our campaign to win as many games as possible. The weather was magnificent with very cold mornings, so cold the greenkeeper needed to scrape the dew off the green to expose the lines before we could start.

We had stand to at 9.30am, then commenced our first game. The lunches were huge and very tasty, from roast beef one day to lamb the following, with yummy deserts as well. On Saturday Box Hill won one overall game of three and Sunday one of two.

It was a great effort by our players as most of the clubs were local.

On the last night 21 of us dined at the hotel - a great bonding weekend.

We did represent Box Hill RSL with pride and are very grateful for their support.

Mal Hams needs to be acknowledged for his magnificent effort in organising everything.

Peter Houghton assisted Mal with the selection of our five sides (each played four games). In all, it was a great event and everyone who attended enjoyed the experience.

On Sunday 18th July, we have four members representing our club in the Annual National BPL Cup Tournament. This is a first for our club and we wish the team of David Skinner, Russell Keast, Sean Cathie, and Helen King all the best.

Thanks again to North Blackburn and Mitcham Bowling Clubs for allowing us to join in Social Bowls at their respective clubs for a few weeks after lockdown.



We are now playing our Social Bowls on Thursdays and Saturdays back on our home green.

Once again Peter Houghton continued to do a great job coordinating with the other clubs.

Anyone considering taking up bowls with our club, please inquire at reception.

New members are most welcome.

Thanks to Dennis Arnel for the report on the Edinburgh Shield.

**Judy Smith**  
Vice Chairperson

# WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Hello Ladies

May 24th, we had a meeting which 33 people attended, and had our 39th birthday lunch. I would like to thank John Haward, President, Ray Wall, Secretary, and Arthur Merryweather, Treasurer, for making the time in their busy schedule to be with us. Thanking them also for all the support they give the auxiliary during the year. We also want to again thank Chantelle and staff for catering a lovely lunch and the beautiful birthday cake from Top Taste Cakes.

During the day we have a \$5 scratchies in an envelope and on each table, there is a plate with a lucky star sticker, so we had four lucky winners. We also give a Wish Voucher to the oldest lady in the room – this went to Shirley Edwards – she is 94 and still makes beautiful cakes for afternoon tea.

Well, we were lucky to get our function in before lockdown. We had to move things around, so we came up with fun bingo and afternoon tea on 11th July.

Most of all, the day was about trying to get our members together and out of the house. Many seemed to enjoy the bingo and, of course the lovely afternoon tea. I need to thank all the ladies who bought goodies to share but I would like to mention some of our members specifically, the three amigos: Bonny, Shirley, and Bev. Three of the oldest members who come to all our meetings and

functions (all over 90) and bring lovely goodies for afternoon tea, so extra big thanks.

Also, it was lovely to see Michelle Novelli looking great. She has been sick for quite a while but, with a positive attitude and swimming every morning, has come along in leaps and bounds. Well done, Michelle, you are an inspiration to us all.

Speaking of sickies, another one of my fantastic past committee members (she stood down due to her health), ex-treasurer Pat Calabresi, joined us looking much better; lovely to see you Pat. It was good to see all our members. There were about 20 just to have a cuppa and a chat.

Thank you to the committee for donating the prizes for the bingo, they never fail me. Thank you, Helen Jones, for sharing the calling of the bingo with me. It was nice to see the ladies from Day Section (they are new members). Mary, that was a lovely grazing board, thank you so much.

I won't put meeting dates or function dates in as no one knows what's going to be happening. Just to say, at this stage we will keep in touch. So, for now, keep safe, warm, and well. Hope to see you all soon.

**Joan Clarke**  
Honorary Secretary

## Day Section

These uncertain times of on/off lockdowns and restrictions certainly play havoc with our lives in oh so many ways. Our last three meetings have all had to be cancelled, as number limitations necessitated this decision and unfortunately, it looks as though our next meeting at the end of July will follow the same path. It was a real disappointment having to miss our June 22nd meeting as we were celebrating the 21st birthday of the Section. Sorry folks.

In May, Senior Constable Brendan Gogarty of Proactive Policing from Box Hill Police Station gave us a talk about residential security. It was most reassuring to hear that our area has a low incidence rate of crime generally. 70% of home burglaries occur because doors are left unlocked and 80% of car break-ins and theft, for the same reason. The moral of the story is LOCK UP! Makes a change from lockdown! His colleague, First Constable Emma McConchie also gave us tips on how to lessen the chance of our being burgled. Because she has worked in other suburbs, she

was able to make comparisons and gave an insight into different facets of their work. Another topic covered was scams, an all-too-frequent occurrence these days. At last, I now know why we sometimes hear helicopter activity late at night. It's the Airwing Department at work. All in all, it was a very interesting morning and I am sure many of us slept more soundly that night.

At our last meeting in May, Richard Costello very kindly agreed to come out of semi-retirement (partly due to Covid restrictions.) He has entertained us before but is always a pleasure to listen to. His music is nice and relaxing, just what we need right now. Old favourites gave us a chance to sing along, something we all enjoy.

Hopefully, things will improve and we shall be able to meet up soon. In the meantime, take care and stay safe.

**Mary Simpson**  
Co-ordinator

## THE KNITTING GROUP WELCOMES A NEW MEMBER

Earlier this year the Knitting Group welcomed a new member to our group. Lydia John saw one of our articles in the newsletter and decided to join us as she had been knitting items for charity via a local chemist for many years.

Originally from Switzerland, Lydia has many stories of living through WWII. She spent some years in England before migrating to Australia. Until recently she had been living on a five-acre sheep farm in Ecklin South near Warrnambool. Lydia has also shown dogs for over 57 years. Sadly, her age has meant having to leave her farm and move to Melbourne.

Lydia is a wonderfully talented knitter and has already made many items and put in over 150 volunteer hours with our group. We wholeheartedly welcome her to our team of knitters.

The Knitting Group would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have donated yarn to us recently. We've had a number of donations since the beginning of the year and every ball of yarn helps us to keep making beautiful items for charity. While 8-ply acrylic yarn in any colour is preferred any yarn is welcome.

New members are also welcome. Contact Faye in Welfare on 9897 6780 for details.

**Laura Yodgee**



(L to R) Hazel Mourney,  
Lydia John and Dorothy Conway

## FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS

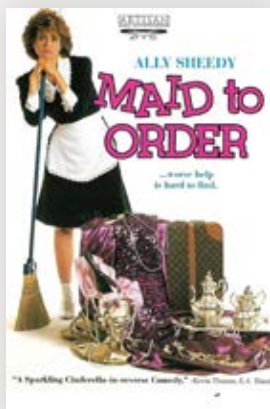
Presented by Ray Wall



**Thursday 26th August, 2021 at 10.30am**

The Thursday, August 26, movie is "**McFarland**" a 2015 Disney movie that runs for 129 minutes.

**Synopsis:** This is a true story about Jim White (Kevin Costner) who moves his family after losing his last job as a football coach. At his new school, he turns seven disappointing students into one of the best cross-country teams in the region. The movie is truly good and sometimes moving. It's an inspirational story like you have seen many times actually, but it is made so well that this movie never drags and is involving from start till finish.



**Thursday 30th September, 2021 at 10.30am**

The Thursday, September 30, movie is "**Maid to Order**" a 1987 comedy that runs for 93 minutes.

**Synopsis:** After a night of partying lands the spoiled heiress Jessica (Ally Sheedy) in jail, her millionaire father wishes he had never had a daughter, and he just happens to be overheard by genuine fairy godmother Stella (Beverly D'Angelo), who makes it so. Now, without Daddy's name or money, Jessica is forced to get a job as a maid in one of the mansions where she used to live. The supporting cast is made up of wily and likable characters. "Maid to Order" leaves you smiling and that means it has done a good job.



**Box Hill R.S.L. Sub-Branch Inc. trading as Box Hill RSL**  
26 Nelson Rd, Box Hill 3128 Victoria.

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