

JULY / AUGUST 2022 ISSUE: #253

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**BOXHILLRSL**

# BOX HILL NEWS



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

## BATTLE OF FROMELLES

On the 19th of July 2022, the 106th anniversary of the Battle of Fromelles, I had the honour of laying a wreath at the foot of the 'Cobbers' statue in the Shrine precinct near the corner of Domain and St Kilda Roads, on behalf of the 58th/32nd Infantry Battalion Association. Those two battalions and many others which made up the Australian 5th Division suffered 5,533 casualties, including over 1,700 killed or missing, during that disastrous battle.

My great uncle, Lieutenant Eric Chinner, aged just 22 at the time, was one of those killed. A wood-framed portrait of Eric is in the WW1 display behind the bar in the back part of the bistro. Eric's family worshipped in the little Baptist Church in the South Australian town of Peterborough (about halfway between Adelaide and Broken Hill), and about 15 years ago the church was put up for sale. A cleaner who was getting it ready for inspection had a look in a cavity below the floor and found Eric's portrait along with similar ones of three other members of the small congregation who had been killed in WW1. The cleaner got in touch with Chinnners in the Adelaide phone directory, and one of them contacted my (now deceased) brother John in Camberwell, and he made a trip to Melbourne to give John the portrait, which I now own and treasure.

**Andrew Guest**  
Secretary



# Welfare Report.

For all welfare matters telephone: Faye Clark on 9897 6780



## BOX HILL NEWS

Stories by Members for Members



## VALE

*lest we forget*



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

**Max Hayes, Karen Holt**

**Maurice Mathers**  
Affiliate

**Thalia Kinsman**  
Affiliate

**Jacqueline Anderson**  
Affiliate

**Edward Snell**  
3751159 NS

**John Sallows**  
31772115 2CDO

**Noel McMahan**  
Affiliate

**Vic Allen**  
42236 3RAR

**Eric Young**  
1280045 RAF



### Vale Vic

3 April 1940 -  
9 July 2022

The Welfare Section lost a valued member of our team in July, Vic Allen, (who with his mate Charles Kook), was a dedicated volunteer who for many years conducted RSL's Rituals

at funerals for our veterans and their families. He will be sadly missed.

**Faye Clark**  
Welfare Coordinator

## Members in Aged Care

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

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

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

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

**ALWYNNE FAIRWEATHER**,  
Faversham House, 27  
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

**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

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

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

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

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

**BETTY MORTON**,  
Blue Cross, 48 Dorking  
Road, Box Hill

**JOHN NICHOLSON**,  
Arcare, 75 King Street,  
Templestowe

**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,  
Wheelers Hill

**EDNA TANDY**,  
Alawarra, Inala, 220  
Middleborough Rd,  
Blackburn Sth

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

**MARJ TURRIFF**,  
Faversham House,  
27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

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

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

**IAN WARD**, Alawarra, Inala,  
220 Middleborough Rd,  
Blackburn Sth

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

**RALPH WEATHERELL**,  
Uniting Agewell,  
75 Thames Street, Box Hill

# RAAF Air Training Corps

This group photo is of old past members of the RAAF Air Training Corps, which was established in 1941, as a continuation of the former Empire Air Training Scheme.

The original purpose of the scheme was to train aircrew as pilots, navigators etc. which were in dire need during the earlier stages of the war. Eventually, when the numbers required urgently were attained, it was considered there still had to be a form of reserve from which a regular supply of aircrew would be available. So the Air Training Corps to which this group belonged was born.

On the first Friday of each month, many of this branch of the RAAF Association and their wives/partners gather for lunch in the Box Hill RSL bistro and enjoy a great affinity with its management who always make the group most welcome.

## Brian Tateson

### Memorabilia



**Group L to R:** Murray McBain (Past President), Albert Linder (Past Squadron Leader of Air TC and 4 Wing AAFC), Graham Garret, Laurie Bell, (President) Peter Johnson in front. Tony Synhur (Treasurer), Norman Wright at rear, Victor Stewart in front, John McDonald (Branch Delegate) and Graeme Smith.

## DAY SECTION

After W.W. II, Mrs Jessie Vasey set up Vasey Housing to support young widows and children. In 2004, RSL Care Victoria and Vasey Housing Victoria became Vasey RSL Care. At our first meeting in June, Michelle from Vasey gave us some useful information about the diverse variety of services available. These included personal, nursing, household and in-home respite, to name but a few. These services facilitate people's independence while still being able to reside in their own home, an important factor meantime with Covid and all its related issues. Although priority is given to the ex-service community, everyone can access these services. Michelle and her 3 colleagues answered a multitude of questions at the end of her presentation so it was obviously good to get advice about this Home Care Service. Very few of those present actually knew of its existence.

Our second meeting in June was the Section's 22nd Birthday. At last we were able to celebrate a birthday as the last two went unmarked because of lockdowns and restrictions. Flashback Duo entertained us while we enjoyed light refreshments. Music certainly cheers everyone up, especially when we know the songs from days gone by.

On 12th July, one of our own members gave us an insight into his working life/career. Raymond Reaburn had worked

for IBM with computers. It was fascinating seeing how computers have evolved during our own life-time. It's a good job they are no longer the size they once were, considering so many people have had to work from home over the last couple of years. Very few homes would have been able to accommodate the machines in their original size. These days, you are left wondering how something so small can hold so much information. Even our mobile phones are constantly changing, up-dating us on where we have travelled to/been, to the very last minute/kilometre. Where does this information come from and, more importantly, where does it go, I'd like to know! Technology certainly rules our lives these days. Thank you, Raymond for your illustrated talk.

Martin Dickenson has relinquished his role as Secretary meantime due to health issues. Thank you for your contribution to the running of our Section, Martin.

### To find out about joining our Section, contact:

Mary Simpson (Co-ordinator) 9077 9784 or 0434214941  
Allana Kirk (Secretary) 9819 3527

### Future Dates:

July 26, August 9 and 23, September 13 and 27.

## Mary Simpson

### Co-ordinator

## SWIMMING SECTION

Back in town, back in the pool and finally a carnival!

Yes, after several false starts, we were able to run a carnival at our new pool, the Croydon Aquahub. It was a great day for the Box Hill RSL Swimming Team.

This was our first carnival since Albury in January 2020 and we were looking forward to the event, even if we were going to be a little rusty.

In addition to actually being able to compete against other teams, we were the Overall Carnival winners of the Ted Knyvett Memorial Trophy. The 10x25 metres relay team won the Caroline O'Connell Memorial trophy, and individual overall winners were Liam O'Connell in the 50 metres and Michelle Robinson / Lauren Bergin in the Braced Pairs, 2x25 metres Relay.

It was great to see our youngest swimmer, Sean Ware-O'Connell (at nine years old on the day after the carnival) teaming up with Steve Russell to tie for second overall in the Braced Pairs, 2x25 metres Relay, with Liam and Steven O'Connell. Steve Russell also took the silver medal in the 100 metres.

It was great to see swimmers as young as nine years and in their eighties competing in the pool, noting that our races are handicapped and you can swim as fast or slow as you like and still be a winner.

We had a great day with our friends in teams from Albury and Bentleigh and headed back to the Box Hill RSL for a magnificent dinner in the Upton Room for our presentations. Our immense thanks to Wei Wei and her team for setting up and accommodating our function.

For our next Victorian carnival, we will be hosted by Bentleigh RSL (likely to be in October 2022) and then up to Albury on 21 January 2023. This will be our first carnival since Albury in January 2020 and we are all looking forward to the event.

Our next swim nights 5.15pm for 5.30pm start are set for Sunday 14th August and will generally follow fortnightly until mid-November.



Croydon Aquahub just before the carnival.

All Box Hill RSL members are welcome to join us at our fortnightly Sunday evening swims at Croydon Aquahub, please contact Steven O'Connell at [soconnell@soccal.com.au](mailto:soconnell@soccal.com.au) for details.

We would love to see more Box Hill RSL members to enjoy the benefits of swimming and join our social atmosphere at the pool. We cater for all ages and abilities and all our events are handicapped which means you don't have to be as fast as Ian Thorpe to enjoy yourself.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- 1. Despite rumours to the contrary, our pool is only 25 metres long (but sometimes feels further!).**
- 2. Swimming burns about 30% more calories than running per hour.**
- 3. Swimming strengthens the heart and lungs.**
- 4. There is no age or speed limit on swimming section members.**
- 5. Breast stroke is the oldest known form of swimming stroke.**
- 6. Australia is known as the country that is most passionate about swimming.**

**Steven O'Connell**

Secretary / Treasurer

# WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Apart from everybody freezing their little butts off lately, members of the Women's Auxiliary have been attending meetings and social gatherings, one of which was held on the 8th June. It was a display of women's clothing by Kay's Fashions. A great modelling job was done by a few of our ladies, who paraded on the catwalk, displaying the garments. It was quite a success with clothing being bought and sold, some bargains, and latest fashions were picked up, with a small percent of these sales going to Women's Auxiliary, so, thank you ladies. Kay's Fashions has been coming regularly to Box Hill RSL – unfortunately, due to COVID, not so for the last couple of years. It turned out to be a great success and catchup.

Afternoon tea and cake was enjoyed after sales were made. All went home happy with their purchases. We'll just have to be careful some don't wear the same garment when next they meet!

On 27th June Claire Harrison from Eastern Health came and gave a very informative talk on the work being carried out at Eastern Health Hospitals. She also spoke about the need for clothing and toiletries for patients who arrived without these items in the Emergency Department.

On behalf of the Sub-Branch and Women's Auxiliary, a cheque for \$2,000 was handed to Claire by Judy Coates, President of Women's Auxiliary, which will go directly towards these ongoing needs. The staff in these hospitals do amazing work, and, with the expensive equipment needed to care for the many people in need of help these days, it all costs money, so it's great to help where we can.

On a brighter note, on Wednesday 13th July, entertainer, 'Frank Lee Darling' entertained the ladies with his music man performance. He was very friendly, and the music was knowledgeable. Those who attended were able to sing along with the old numbers and enjoyed the afternoon. Nothing like an old-time singalong, to make you feel good.



Frank Lee Darling

We now have our Movie Day to look forward to on the 10th August. There is still deciding which one of the 2 movies available to show, will let you know asap. If you haven't already done so, and would like to go, put your name down at the next meeting, or contact Therese. Closing date 6th August. Cost is \$20. This includes lunch.

To those unwell, and those that may have contracted the dreaded COVID, get well, stay well, keep safe and stay warm. Of which I hope you all are.

I must say it is beautiful where I am at the moment sitting poolside at my son's house in rural Darwin, quiet and very peaceful. May get home sometime in the future.

**Helen Harrington**  
Vice President.

## Legacy Widows

We have had very pleasant times so far this year. Some of our members have been affected with COVID that have been able to return to the meetings. Our July meeting was enjoyable with Blooms Fashions. Money quickly changing hands as we all took to the availability of bargains. The Upton room was quite crowded with racks of clothes and tables of other gear. Everyone went home happy with purchases as discount prices.

July we travelled to the Doncaster Tavern for Christmas in July we all enjoyed ourselves and the conversations continued on.

Our August meeting on the 15th will be with the Fire Brigade. We all think we will be okay, but what you do in

case of a fire? I recently had a fire but luckily my son was on hand. It is so important to keep up with procedures.

Our group is open to all war widows. We meet on the third Monday each month at 10:30 am and you are all welcome.

Please all keep safe and well.

If anyone needs to contact myself or the president Glenys Lewis I have attached our phone numbers.

**President: Glenys Lewis 0427 307 434**  
**Secretary: Patricia Keech 9807 3779.**

**Patricia Keech**  
Secretary

# 100th Anniversary of the RAAF

**This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), and our new display in the main Memorabilia Cabinet commemorates this.**

From its modest beginnings in March 1921, the RAAF has grown into a potent, world-class air force, which Australia relies upon in times of both conflict and peace. The men and women of the RAAF have achieved remarkable success in serving Australia and its national interests over the past 100 years.

Our display shows a colourful background of blue (the colour of the RAAF) with a jet plane streaking across the skies. Our first mannequin is dressed in an original bomber crew outfit, complete with leather flying jacket, boots, and survival life jacket. These uniforms were worn by the flight crews of 'Bomber Command' during WW2, and the photo is the famous one of 460 Squadron. You may have heard of 'G for George' (the Lancaster Bomber of the Squadron) which is on display at the Australian War Memorial for all to see. Our second mannequin is also dressed in a WW2 fighter bomber outfit (again, all original).

During WW2, Bomber Command lost a total of 4,100 airmen. There were many more wounded, and the total number of casualties is the greatest the RAAF has ever suffered.

From here, we move on to Korea, the next conflict Australia was involved in. The photos in this display show men working on their aircraft, which were used throughout this conflict. After Korea, our display features the Vietnam conflict. The RAAF began its involvement in Vietnam in 1964, when a flight of Caribous began flying transport operations around South Vietnam. RAAF Iroquois helicopters (known as 'Hueys') began operations the following year, and in 1967 a squadron of Canberra Bombers arrived in the country. All ground operations in South Vietnam were supported by the RAAF and the Huey helicopters. These choppers saved many lives with evacuations and fire support from the sky. At the battle of Long Tan, the choppers saved the day, dropping much needed ammunition in tropical rain while under enemy fire.



Anyone who served in Vietnam remembers the sound of the Hueys flying overhead. Our two Mannequins (sitting) are in an original flying suit of a Vietnam RAAF pilot, and the other is in RAAF dress uniform.

The last mannequin is dressed in the camouflage uniform of today's RAAF. These uniforms were worn by the flying squadrons in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are still worn today on both peaceful and warlike operations. It is with immense pride that Box Hill RSL presents this RAAF display to its members, guests and visitors.

There are many true stories that can be told about the RAAF. I remember listening to our WW2 RAAF servicemen telling their stories at the Box Hill RSL. One of those men was a pilot with Bomber Command, Earl Buttfield. Everyone just loved him and his stories, and those who heard them will never forget them.

## Brian Tateson

### Memorabilia



## FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS

Presented by Ray Wall

Thursday 29th September,  
2022 at 10.30am

The Thursday, September 29, movie is **"Gifted"** Rated PG13+ an American Drama 2017 movie that runs for 101 minutes.

### Synopsis:

Screenwriter Tom Flynn offers a well-considered and genuinely moving story about how we deal with gifted children – and adults.

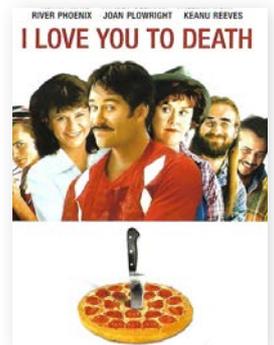
GIFTED is also about family connections and the impact on children whose parents are lost to them by separation whether in death by natural causes, suicide or desertion. Marc Webb who has gathered an impeccable cast to enact this touching drama directs his sensitive story with aplomb.



Thursday 27th October,  
2022 at 10.30am

The Thursday, October 27, movie is **"I Love You to Death"** an American 1990 drama comedy movie Rated M based on a true story that runs for 97 minutes.

**Synopsis:** Loosely based on the true story of Frances Toto and her four unsuccessful attempts to kill her cheating husband, Anthony Toto, in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 1984.



# BOWLING SECTION

Exciting times are ahead for our Bowls Section as we look forward to the completion of our NEW GREEN by the end of July. It will be great to be back bowling at the BHRSL and allow members time to get used to the green prior to the commencement of the 2022/23 Pennant Season.

With the new green and the overhead lighting, it will provide an opportunity for Businesses, Organisations, and the public to organise groups to come and enjoy Barefoot Bowls, Corporate Bowls etc. Anyone interested should contact: Phillip Johnson (0431 271 805) or Dennis Arnel (0403 520 750)

I think going forward all is looking very positive for the Bowls Section, but we will all need to work together as a lot of work is involved and it cannot be left to just a few if we are to grow our membership.

Thank you must go to Peter Houghton who has helped organise Social Bowls for our members at Mitcham and North Blackburn Bowling Clubs over the past few months.

On Sunday 29th May, three of our Members, Sean Cathie, Russell Keast and David Skinner represented the BHRSL Bowling Section in the Bowls Premier League Tournament at Vermont South.



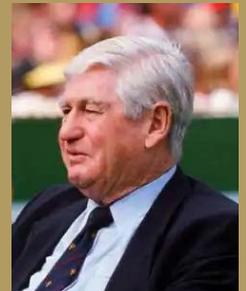
L to R: Sean Cathie,  
David Skinner,  
Russell Keast

The guys outperformed themselves doing very well on the day winning all four games and now advance to the Regional Section which will be played at Narre Warren on Sunday 4th September. Congratulations, great effort and we wish you all the best in the next round.

# Vale Noel McMahon

- 30 October 1926 - 10 July 2022 -

The Bowls Section was saddened to learn of the passing of our much-respected Life Member Noel McMahon on the 10th July, 2022. Noel was an outstanding leader of our Club and guided our Club over many years with his great knowledge during his lengthy terms as President and then Chairman.



Noel McMahon

Being a very talented sportsman, it was therefore no surprise to learn Noel was Singles Club Champion as well as Pairs Champion.

He was also President of the BHRSL Golf Club for several years, while it was in existence, as well as serving 15 years on the Box Hill RSL Committee.

Noel had a list of sporting achievements and no doubt some of his proudest ones would have been in football. After joining the Melbourne Football Club in 1946, he was part of their winning Premiership team in 1948. He was Captain when they won two more Flags in 1955 & 56.

He then left the city for the country town of Rochester where he was playing coach for several years, once again snaring a couple of Premierships before returning to the city where he was appointed coach of South Melbourne.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Noel on Monday 1st August at 11am in the MCC dining room.

Vale Noel.

## Judy Smith

Bowls Vice Chairperson