

JULY / AUGUST 2023 ISSUE: #259

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BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS



Contributions can be emailed to the Editor Faye Clark at: welfmgr@boxhillrsl.com.au



Stage 3 Redevelopment building works

Stage 3 redevelopment is well underway, and unfortunately, we have lost a large number of car parking spaces during construction.

As a result, we are asking all members, especially those who come to section or group meetings, to offer to pick up their friends and car pool if possible. This would be very much appreciated. We are also asking all sections and groups that are going on excursions by bus or taxi from the RSL, to do the right thing and leave their cars at home.

We still find there are a few RSL members who park at the RSL and then attend nearby hospitals or clinics. Being an RSL member does not entitle anyone to do this. Box Hill RSL

free parking is strictly for RSL members or guests/visitors only for the time they are attending the RSL.

It is going to be a difficult time for everybody, and tempers will get short, but we ask members to please be understanding, and to treat our staff respectfully at all times.

If you are experiencing hardship because of these measures, please contact our Welfare Coordinator, who may be able to help in some way.

Denis Fernando
General Manager

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.

**Patricia Keech, Leon Bloom,
Hilary Stewart**

Barry McVILLY
Affiliate

Garry LEVEY
3752395 N.S.

Kevin TREVARTHEN
311987 RAAF

John CLARKE
SSX908835 RN

Eleanor CARTER-JOHANNES
Affiliate

William DEMPSTER
38061 – 103 SIGS

Graeme TIPPETT
Affiliate

Graeme WOOLARD
3742994 N.S.

Nola MERRYWEATHER
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

JOHN BROWNBILL,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

RENE CALDWELL,
Arcare Surrey Hills,
18 Florence St, Surrey Hills

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

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

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

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

HELEN PRICE, Blue Cross,
48 Dorking Road, Box Hill

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

BARBARA SATCHELL,
Banfields, 192 Thompson
Avenue Cowes

MYRA SPENCER,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

BRENDAN STAFFORD,
Manna Care, 371
Manningham Road,
Doncaster

DAVID TAYLOR,
Blue Cross, 250 Waterdale
Rd, Ivanhoe

MARJ TURRIFF,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

LANCE WARD, Arcare, 75
King Street, Templestowe

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



BILL GRANT 50 YEARS SERVICE

Well done, Bill, there aren't many people who achieve 50 Years continual service.

Bill's service for the RSL began back in 1972 at Ringwood RSL. In 2019 Bill was awarded a "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Victorian Billiards and Snooker Association, as he had been Club Captain on many teams, both at

Ringwood and Boronia RSL's and has worked on their committees from President down.

Bill did lots of work for the RSL's including being the Appeals Officer, organising the selling of Anzac Badges & Remembrance Poppies.

Russell Burgess
Billiards & Snooker

Women's Auxiliary

The first few winter weeks have proven to be just that - very wintery. I think it will be a while before we feel the warmth of the sun on our backs.

After attending the Women's Auxiliary Forum meeting at Pascoe Vale RSL on 15th May, a letter was received from Women's Council thanking Box Hill RSL Women's Auxiliary for our \$200 donation towards the Women's Council 2023 Project which raised \$4,150 from 14 Auxiliaries.

On May 22nd the Women's Auxiliary celebrated our 35th Birthday with a luncheon attended by our members and invited guests from the Box Hill Sub-Branch, John Haward (President), Andrew Guest (Secretary), Arthur Merryweather (Vice-President), Denis Fernando (CEO), Faye Clarke Welfare Manager and Lynese Goldie from Women's Council together with her husband Ian.

Lynese presented three of our long serving members Helen Jones, Rosemary Howden, and Joy Bates with their well-deserved Gold Star recognising them for more than 20 years' service to the Women's Auxiliary. Speeches were given with thanks and appreciation to our Women's Auxiliary from The Women's Council and from John Haward President RSL Sub-Branch. A beautiful lunch was had with delicious Birthday Cake as sweets.

We all had such a lovely day and Mary Simpson got the happy face sticker under her plate which saw her win the door prize.

Winter stay at home time, has some of our members busy making toiletry bags and filling them with all the necessary items, for the Emergency Department at Box Hill Hospital, who are most grateful



Joy Bate, Lynese Goldie, Rosemary Howden, Helen Jones

for what Box Hill RSL Women's Auxiliary donates to them. We do have some very talented ladies willing to spend time contributing.

A few of our ladies attended a luncheon at Upwey-Belgrave RSL on 31st May with the Ringwood RSL Women's Auxiliary. They all said lunch was very nice and a few couldn't resist purchasing some of the lovely merchandise that were on display. One of the highlights of the visit was the amazing Running Rabbits Military Museum and highly recommend as a place to see. The RSL itself is struggling a bit unfortunately with volunteers being hard to find these days, especially around wintertime.

Ringwood RSL were invited to join us here at Box Hill RSL for our movie day Wednesday 12th July watching "Mrs Harris goes to Paris" which was most enjoyable. Our movie director on the day was Welfare Manager, Faye Clark who did a great job and looked very professional with her bow tie. Question time after the movie, about the movie, bought interesting answers with prizes given for the right answers. Three

raffles were run, sweets were handed out and afternoon tea was served with tea, coffee and an array of cakes and sweet treats. Feedback from our guests was they thoroughly enjoyed the movie and the afternoon. A very successful day and thank you organisers. We have a great relationship with the Ringwood RSL Women's Auxiliary which has seen us receive an invite for a Christmas in July lunch at their sub-branch on Wednesday 26th July.

John Storey, Author, was our guest speaker, talking about his book "Big Wars" which is about the history of past wars and the future of warfare. The different causes of war, then, now and in the future, the types of weapons used, produced, made, and the quantity versus the quality of these. He also mentioned the prediction of the next war. Hope I'm not around, and I expect I won't be here if his prediction is accurate. A copy of the book is in our RSL library for those who are interested to read more.

We have a fair bit to look forward to in the coming weeks, more special guest speakers, outings, and the general feeling of good times, when spent with friends at Women's Auxiliary. Take care everyone, keep healthy, stay warm if you can and stay safe.

Contact me Vice President, Helen Harrington 0411 723 072 if you would like to join our friendly, worthwhile Women's Auxiliary group.

All the best, I am spending wonderful times, celebrating my Special Birthday with family here in sunny, warm Darwin.

Helen Harrington
Vice President

LINDSAY BURKE IS OUR NEW TREASURER

On 23 June 2023 Lindsay Burke, a Committee member was elected by our Committee to replace John Sheehan. He will carry out the duties until the next Annual

General Meeting when an election will be held for this position.

Arthur Merryweather
Committee Member



BOX HILL RSL HAS THREE NEW LIFE MEMBERS



John Haward and Neil Brown

At our Ordinary General Meeting held on Friday the 23rd of June 2023, three members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch were presented with their Life Member certificates and badges.

Life membership of the Returned and Services League of Australia is a great honour, bestowed by the national body in recognition of long, continuous and outstanding service to the League.

Neil Brown has contributed to the work of Box Hill RSL in so many ways, over so many years, that space does not allow me to adequately describe all that he has done. He is the quintessential volunteer, pitching in to reform the newsletter mailout, organising the pension office, establishing a gardening group, visiting



Brian Tateson and Andrew Guest

lonely veterans and much more.

Brian Tateson has been a hard worker for the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Box Hill Sub-Branch), having been a committee member, Vice-President and President, and instigator and organiser of the extremely successful Black Tie Dinners.

Brian is best known for his work as Memorabilia Officer, and for his wonderful displays in the entrance to the bistro. He has been a Committee Member and Vice-President of Box Hill RSL. In 2022 Brian was instrumental in obtaining the agreement of His Excellency the Governor General, to come to Box Hill and rededicate the First World War Memorial in Box Hill Gardens.



Arthur Merryweather and Ray Wall

Ray Wall has been Appeals Officer, Committee Member and Secretary of Box Hill RSL for many years, putting his hand up to do demanding and valuable work. He still runs the very popular movies session, and he recently completed the creation of a comprehensive, detailed spreadsheet to enable the accurate recording of our extensive weapons collection.

All three of the above named members are thoroughly deserving of their award, and Box Hill RSL can rightly be proud of them.

Andrew Guest
Secretary

LEGACY WIDOWS

The year is certainly passing fast. Winter has been extremely cold and the winds bitter. However, this has not deterred our ladies from coming to our meetings!

In May we had our Legatee Robin entertaining us with her Ukulele. We sang along to some very old songs, some we had almost forgotten however we did our best, although our memories are not as quick, we did enjoy ourselves.

In June we celebrated Lois Comerford 100th Birthday. Her daughter and son-in-law had surprised her by coming down from Queensland, they attended our meeting. Lois was presented with

flowers and a birthday cake by President John Haward who passed on best wishes from all at Box Hill RSL. Morning tea was shared, and John gave a talk about the Club.



Lois Comerford and John Haward

In July we enjoyed Christmas in July, sharing gifts and having a great time and meal together. The staff in the Bistro really looked after us.

We sadly lost our lovely member Eleanor Carter-Johannes after a short illness she will be sadly missed. A Memorial was held in the Upton room with a very big attendance.

There is still more to come including Morning Melodies at the Springvale RSL.

If you are a Legacy Widow and wish to come along we meet in the Upton Room on the 3rd Monday of each month at 10.30am. You will be made very welcome.

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

Patricia Keech
Secretary



The Rats of Tobruk Exhibition

The Rats of Tobruk exhibition is proudly presented by the Memorabilia Department of Box Hill RSL. This exhibition comprises of nine "Rats" and a portrait of an Italian soldier who fought in the campaign albeit on the opposing side. The paintings you see of the nine Veterans of the Rats of Tobruk, were painted by Peter Wegner, Archibald Prize winner 2021. The same artist who painted the Sir John Monash painting which hangs proudly in our RSL.

The Rats of Tobruk series began around twelve years ago. Peter recently organised additional 'sittings' for some siege veterans he had not yet painted. It was such an honour for Peter Wegner to be able to spend an afternoon with the diggers and be

welcomed into their homes. All the paintings were completed from life with no alterations.

14,000 Australian soldiers were sent to Libya and the last surviving digger is Tommy Pritchard who turned 110 this year.

Peter Wegner's Uncle Les was a Rat of Tobruk, and it was from this that the idea of recording the Diggers came about. Les was Peter's mother's brother who served as a cook throughout the siege. Les died in the early 50's and it was also Peter's way of trying to connect with an uncle he never meet.

These paintings are a link to the past and at the same time connect with the

long-time tradition of recording the human condition. They are homage to the soldiers who came back from the war as well as a reminder of the Western Desert Campaign.

This exhibition is the first shown of the Rats of Tobruk at Box Hill RSL. When our display finishes it will be moved to the Shrine of Remembrance. They will exhibit it for others to see and reflect on what our WW2 Soldiers went through to secure a world free from any aggression and allowing us to live in a free and safe country today.

Brian Tateson
Curator of Memorabilia

Poppy Appeal Box Hill RSL

We need volunteers!

Please give us a few hours of your time, between Monday 30th October to Friday 10th November 2023.

Simply leave your name & contact number at Reception or phone our Welfare Section on 9897 6780.

The success of this Appeal depends on you, the Members of the Box Hill RSL.

Thank you for your support

Donations from the Appeal go towards the welfare of our ex-servicemen and women who still suffer as a consequence of their military service and to their dependants who may be in need. Please Help



Bowling Section

The Bowls Section now has a new committee:

Chairperson Jan Durham, Vice Chairperson Cheryl Frail, President John Woodford, Vice President Phillip Johnson, Treasurer Mal Hams, Secretary Allan Turk.

We would like to thank the outgoing members: Dennis Arnel, Harold Lepp and Judy Smith for their hard work over the previous years.

Thanks also to Cheryl Ryan, Cheryl Frail and Judy Smith for the years of contribution to the catering. They have been replaced by Kat Jones, David Skinner and Lynne Riddell.

On June 10th we held a very successful day to support MND. A great day was had by all with participation from our neighbors, Blackburn North Bowling Club. A wonderful afternoon tea was provided by our new Catering Committee.

Our new green is a great asset and proving very popular with all bowlers, and we are receiving many compliments from our visiting clubs.

Our thanks to the Sub Branch Committee for their support after the fire which destroyed the garden storage shed and damaged the Bowls Green Room. Thankfully everything seems to be getting back to normal, and our pennant season will be able to be played as normal on our own premises.

Cheryl Frail

Vice Chairperson



Winners of the MND Day
Allan Turk, Cheryl Frail, David Skinner.



Play on the day



Afternoon Tea

STAGE 3 BUILDING WORKS UPDATE

Progress report on the Stage 3 Building works. The builders, Jointly Constructions, are progressing well with the works. The Building Committee has been working closely with the builders to make sure they don't encounter any "hiccups" and can go about their job without any undue interference to our members. The concrete slab has been poured in what was the vacant space above B1 carpark, for the extension of our RSL.

By the time you read this update, the steel columns will have been installed. By the time you read the next update in our newsletter, the progression by the builders will be very significant. In closing, keep your eyes on the construction that is taking place now, you will notice an enormous difference to our RSL.

Brian Tateson

Building Committee



Snooker Section

The 2023 BHRSL Club Billiards and Snooker Championships have just been completed. Run over two consecutive weekends, commencing Saturday 17th June, for the Snooker in a best of 3 frames knockout with handicaps, the 14-player field over 3 rounds produced a final between a newly recruited young gun, Sam Mulholland, and an elder statesman of 20 years to our section, Rick Conomy. Along the way there were many breaks, with the 2022 Champ, Michael Zhang, making the high break of 33 only to be defeated in a 3 framer by Kevin Lawson. Huge effort by Kevin which shows that the handicaps were working. Unfortunately, Kevin was knocked out in the next round by Sam. On the other side of the draw, Rick was working his way to the Final defeating his wife Marg along the way.

The Billiards was played the following Saturday, June 24, with 4 entries. Boz Student, whom we thank for his work with all the handicaps was defeated by Marg Conomy. Jerry Alexander was too good for Rick Conomy whose highlight was achieving the highest break of 23.

Now both Finals were set for the next day Sunday, 25th June.

Table 1. Billiards "300 up"

Marg Conomy v Jerry Alexander

Table 2. Snooker " best of 3 frames"

Sam Mulholland v Rick Conomy.



Pictured from left to right:

- 2023 Snooker Winner Sam Mulholland
- 2023 Snooker Runner up Rick Conomy
- 2023 Billiards Winner Jerry Alexander
- 2023 Billiards Runner up Marg Conomy.

The Snooker Final produced some really good potting and safety shots from both players with Sam coming out on top in a well-deserved victory.

The Billiards Final was a lot more intense and could have gone either way. After nearly 2 hours, the score was Jerry 299 Marg 293 when Jerry produced a fine shot to win the match by 7 points.

We followed this up with lunch in the Bistro.

Special mention to John Sweeney, Rick Conomy, handicappers Boz Student and Roger Buckmaster.

We look forward to next year, 2024, new players always welcome.

John Sweeney

Secretary

Rick Conomy

Treasurer

FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS

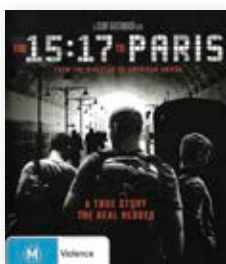
Presented by Ray Wall



Thursday 28th September, 2023 at 10.30am

The Thursday, September 28, 2023 Movie will be "**Knives Out**". This is an American Comedy released in 2019 Rated M and runs for 130 minutes.

Synopsis: "When renowned crime novelist Harlan Thrombey (Christopher Plummer) is found dead at his estate just after his 85th birthday, the inquisitive and debonair Detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) is mysteriously enlisted to investigate. From Harlan's dysfunctional family to his devoted staff, Blanc sifts through a web of red herrings and self-serving lies to uncover the truth behind Harlan's untimely death"



Thursday 26th October, 2023 at 10.30am

The October 26, 2023 Movie will be "**The 15:17 to Paris**". This is a true story released in 2018 Rated M and runs for 94 minutes.

Synopsis: "In the early evening of August 21, 2015, the world watched in stunned silence as the media reported a thwarted terrorist attack on Thalys train #9364 bound for Paris, an attempt prevented by three courageous young Americans traveling through Europe."

DAY SECTION

Some of our members had offered to be our speakers for 23rd May. Terry Stacpoole spoke about a particular song then gave us a rendition of it. John MacDonald recited a poem and Richard Tregear told us about a life experience he had had. He went to Karkar on the North Island of PNG, some 100 miles from Medang where he worked for 2 weeks as a labourer/painter, helping to build a hospital. This worthwhile work he did as a Rotary Club member. The current population of this town is 70,000, no doubt an increase from when Richard visited. Well done, Richard, Terry and John.

Our speaker for 13th June had to cancel so Jeannine Nolan kindly took her place. She spoke about her experiences as a young teacher in Western Australia during the early 1960s. If you attended school then in WA, you would probably have had an Aboriginal student in your class. The reason for this is that half of the whole Aboriginal population in Australia then, lived there. Her first posting was to Carnarvon, a coastal town about 1200 kms from Perth, on the estuary of the Gascoyne River which is the longest in the State and with a population of some 3,000 people. About a third of the student population of some 300 were Aborigines. That State school had Years 1-10.

Pastoralists had moved to the North-West from the 1860s seeking to take up 99-year leases for grazing sheep for wool. All the main coastal towns had developed port facilities, so bales of wool were brought in on drays, pulled by donkeys, camels or horses. We now know that the grazing by hoofed animals changed the nature of the vegetation after some 30 years. The Europeans weren't aware of this and that the diet of the Aborigines couldn't be maintained as it had been. The beginnings of malnutrition had set in.

In Carnarvon, there was an Aboriginal Reserve and a Mission (Uniting Church.) Both were about 300 acres in size and located about 15kms from the town. The Reserve had a highly-respected Head Man who interceded with the State School/Convent to discuss any problems. The Mission had a Superintendent with a staff of about 30 missionaries. The cluster of WW2 buildings were used as the dormitories etc. The Native Welfare Patrol Officer and a nurse brought the sick-malnourished children who were weak and dying into the District Hospital. When they had recovered, they were returned to family. If no-one wanted to take care of them, they were handed over to the Mission. Diseases and illnesses were rife.

Teachers there were "learning on-the-job" that the Aboriginal language had only nouns and verbs, only singulars and no plurals, always monotone and no stressed syllables. Those Aboriginal pupils did well to cope with a "foreign" language viz. English/Australian and several went on to achieve great success academically and in other fields of expertise.

Thanks Jeannine for a very interesting and informative talk. There is so much more to learn about other cultures.

Our Day Section celebrated its 23rd Birthday on 27th June. Tony Diamond certainly livened up the room and had us all joining in with lots of familiar "oldies." Isn't it great when you actually know the words and can sing along? Good to see that Edward and Mirella haven't lost their touch – they had a wee twirl on the floor. Everyone enjoyed the light refreshments and was delighted that Justin (Function Manager) opened up the bar for a short time. Thanks, Justin, it was much appreciated. Many lingered well past our usual finishing time, an obvious sign they had enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere in the Upton Room on this special occasion.

On 11th July, Raymond Reaburn, another of our members, showed us a video of a Safari he and his wife had done in 1988. They had had quite an arduous journey to get to Kenya. They had been to Edinburgh in the UK, so flew from there to Kenya, returned to UK to fly back to Australia as there were no direct flights from Australia to Kenya then. In Kenya, they travelled in a van with a driver and another couple but there were other groups with whom they met up. To see the wildlife, you often needed to be up at dawn to get the best sightings. Thanks Raymond for sharing this with us.

As you can see, "we all have a story in us."

New members welcome. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday each month.

For further details, contact:

Mary Simpson (Co-ordinator) 9077 9784

Allana Kirk (Secretary) 9819 3527

Mary Simpson

Co-ordinator



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