

MAY / JUNE 2024 ISSUE: #264

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BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS

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

BOX HILL RSL

Anzac Day Dawn Service 2024

Once again, the community were brought together for our annual 2024 Anzac Day Dawn Service in the Box Hill Gardens where the WW1 Cenotaph is situated.

Our Welfare Manager, Faye Clark, and Committee member, Judy Coates, were responsible for organising the wreaths, Order of Service, guest lists and the many volunteers who were needed to make the day a success. Lindsay Burke was responsible for the conduct of the ceremony including the bugler, Lauren Innes, the piper, Will Arundel, the Box Hill Brass Band Academy, plus arranging 305 Army Cadet Unit, Surrey Hills, for the Catafalque Party.

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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.

Michelle Butler, Trish Sheehan

Alexander McGAVIN
4090 Navy

Lloyd OWEN
Affiliate

Members in Aged Care

Our wishes go to our members in aged care, and apologise for holding the list until next issue.



We're going DIGITAL!

Starting July 1st, simply come into the venue and swipe your membership card in the month of your birthday to receive your birthday voucher.

FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS Presented by Ray Wall

Thursday 27th June, 2024 at 10.30am

The Thursday, June 27, 2024 Movie will be **'Mulan'**. This is an American fantasy action drama film produced by Walt Disney Pictures. Released 2020, Rated PG13, 115 minutes.



Synopsis: "Mulan is an inspirational female role model in a story about girls' rights to shape their destinies. To keep her ailing father from serving in the Imperial Army, a fearless young woman disguises herself as a man and battles northern invaders in China. The ballad of Mulan is in the form of a folk song, which was compiled in an anthology dating back to the Northern Dynasties in China (386–581 AD)."

Thursday 25th July, 2024 at 10.30am

The Thursday, July 25, 2024 Movie will be **'An Unfinished Life'**. This is an American action drama film released in 2005 Rated PG13 and runs for 103 minutes.



Synopsis: "It is the story of a gruff Wyoming rancher (Redford) who must reconcile his relationship with his struggling daughter-in-law (Lopez) and previously unknown-to-him granddaughter after they show up unexpectedly at his ranch and ask to stay with him and his disabled best friend and neighbor (Freeman)."

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE 2024

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More than 30 wreaths were laid, including by our local Member for Box Hill, Paul Hamer MP, the local Member for Eastern Metro Region Victoria, Richard Welch MP, our local Mayor, Denise Massoud and Councillors, Tina Liu, Blair Barker and Andrew Davenport from the City of Whitehorse.

At the conclusion of the Dawn Service our President, John Haward, invited all present back to the RSL for a Gunfire Breakfast. Now that the COVID restrictions are over we could allow the community to join us. The staff estimated that approximately 1,400 meals and drinks were consumed by all who attended. Following the breakfast many Veterans boarded a coach which took them into the city for the Anzac Day March to the Shrine of Remembrance. Back in the Upton room we followed the old tradition of Two-Up. Les Davis, our assistant General Manager, supervised the running of the famous game, and all profits went to the Welfare account.

I laid a wreath on behalf of Max Hayes, who sent a lovely photo of himself participating at the service in Bright

The weather was very good for all who attended. "LEST WE FORGET"

Arthur Merryweather

Vice President



Day Section

Chris Newman was our entertainer on March 26th. He can always be relied upon to get our feet and fingers tapping along to familiar melodies. Some new songs were added to his repertoire but we were still able to recognise these, many of which were also old favourites. It's good to see how music really does make everyone 'come to life' and you hear a buzz in the room.

On 9th April Faye from Welfare came along to give us an update/reminder of services available through the RSL. Some people had expressed concern that these might have been affected by the current work in progress at the Club and seeing as the Welfare Department is due to relocate. Fortunately, Faye was able to allay these fears. It's 'Business As Usual' thanks to a very dedicated Welfare team.

At that same meeting I formally introduced Ben Myers, our new General Manager. Several members had seen him around the venue and did not know who he was. No excuse now – they can put a face to the name at last. It was fortuitous that he was present later that day as we had 'technical issues' with our laptop when we proceeded to try to use a DVD. Ben came to the rescue but the problem was not resolved in time to show the DVD, so we shall use it at a later date.

Thankyou Faye and Ben for attending our meeting that day.

On 23rd April Marcia Rae entertained us. She is always a very popular choice and is willing to do requests. Several members took to the floor and we all joined in with the songs. Isn't it great when you can do this because you actually know the words? Jim Burrowes gave us a rendition of his favourite 'Wooden Heart' and Marcia said she was amazed that someone who is now 101 years old is still word-perfect and sings in tune. Good for you Jim!

I'd like to thank our members for being really co-operative on 23rd April by starting and finishing earlier to give RSL staff time to prepare the Upton Room for guests after the Anzac Service for local school pupils at Box Hill Gardens.

New members always welcome. For further details contact:

Mary Simpson (Co-ordinator): 9077 9784

Allana Kirk (Secretary): 9819 3527

Future Dates:

June 11 and 25; July 9 and 23; August 13 and 27

Mary Simpson

Co-ordinator

PAKENHAM RACECOURSE "MEMBERS RACE DAY"

CHANGE OF DATE: MONDAY 24th JUNE

Contact: Les: 9897 6700 Les@boxhillrsl.com.au

**BUSES LEAVE
BOX HILL RSL
AT 11AM**

**\$40
PER PERSON**

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER SECTION

On Tuesday 14th May our Over 55's teams played off in the 2nd local derby for this year.

Box Hill 2 was the host team this time. Congratulations to Peter Reid and George Shi for winning both snooker frames with Roger Buckmaster scoring a win in one of the billiards.

As for their opponents Box Hill 147, well done to John Sweeney for scoring the other billiards game against Roger, and captain Rick Conomy for winning both his snooker frames preventing a loss to the BH 147 team. The final result was 7-4 in favour of Box Hill 2.

After the match we headed upstairs for the traditional Bistro lunch. Unfortunately, unlike previous luncheons the numbers were down with seven of us attending on this occasion. A special thanks to Anthony Mulholland from Box Hill 2 who didn't play on the day but came for lunch and to Juliana

Burgess for attending to watch her husband Russell play and joining us in the Bistro to enjoy a lovely meal.



Pictured in the Bistro: from the left side down the table then to the right are: Roger Buckmaster, John Sweeney, Rick Conomy, Juliana Burgess, Russell Burgess, Frank Thornton and Anthony Mulholland.

Our third and final Derby clash for the year will be on Tuesday 16th July where Box Hill 147 hope to turn the tables on the Box Hill 2 team and we look forward

to a bigger gathering for our Bistro luncheon.

Apologies already from Box Hill 147's new husband and wife recruits, Andrew and Marie Brown, who are holidaying overseas for a few months (pictured here in the Philippines just the other day). Enjoy guys, can't wait to have you both back.



Rick Conomy

BHRSL Snooker Section Committee

BOWLING SECTION

Over the weekend of April 12 to 14 the Bowls Section represented the Box Hill RSL in the annual Edinburgh Shield competition played at Yarrowonga/ Mulwala Golf and Bowls Club. We all looked amazing in our new Edinburgh Shield shirts and thank the Box Hill RSL for the grant to purchase them for the wearing at this and successive competitions.

We were very competitive over the weekend and managed second place to the much larger composite Clayton RSL side.

At the end of April we concluded all of our official functions with a very happy President's Presentation Day. We started the day with a game of bowls and then retired up to The Deck for lunch and the formalities of the day. Jan Durham, our Chair, acknowledged the great work our President John Woodford had done throughout the past 12 months. Our guest was Neale Dalrymple, CEO of World Bowls, who gave a brief talk about the work his group does for bowls throughout the world and he presented Jan and John with two commemorative World Bowls jacks.

The winners of our various club championships were presented with their trophy and prize money by Judy Coates, our Life Member and RSL Committee Member, and Maria Giramondo, representative of Eastern Rangers Bowls Association.

We now have four new Super Veterans in our midst: Helen Harrington and Robert Houghton received their "OBE" badges from Maria and I'm sure they will have them prominently displayed.

Dennis Bannan and Dennis Arnel were also recipients this year.

We also had some light-hearted awards. Mal Hams' very trusty HiLux Ute received a Gold Cup for the significant work it does for the club, while Phil Johnson, our amazing Can and Bottle Recycle collector, received some new items for his use in the very serious recycle program.



Edinburgh Shield Team 2024



Neil Dalrymple addressing Presentation Day.



Helen Harrington, Robert Houghton 'OBE', Maria - Eastern Ranges and John Woodford.



"The Ibis" - Phil Johnson with Cheryl Frail.



Hilux Appreciation Award.

As our Pennant season and our Club Championships are all completed, we are now concentrating on our Social Bowls.

During the winter we now join in with Blackburn North and Mitcham Bowls Clubs. Each club has a weekly turn, both Saturday and Wednesday, of hosting the other two clubs. This is a great way of getting to know our closest neighbours and we also get the use of and practise on different bowling surfaces.

Anyone interested in becoming a bowler or playing socially, please contact reception.

We will welcome you with open arms.

Cheryl Frail
Vice Chairperson

Local Schools Anzac Day Commemoration

TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2024

At least 20 schools attended the special commemoration of Anzac Day in the Box Hill Gardens. Major Steve Bennett, our current Committee member, and Army Reserve member of the Defence Force gave the Anzac address to the schoolchildren. It was a well detailed and researched talk that gave all present information of conflicts over more than 100 years and the sacrifices families suffered during these conflicts.

Our Mayor, Denise Massoud, City of Whitehorse, gave a speech that helped all schoolchildren appreciate the reason we celebrate Anzac Day.

Wreaths were laid by Keith Wolahan MP, Member for Menzies, Denise Massoud, our mayor, other dignitaries, and each school that attended the day. All schools were given a book 'The Art of Sacrifice' written by our good friend, George Petrou, and they also received a copy of our BHRSL Centenary book.

The Ode was read by John Haward, our President. Lauren Innis the bugler played The Last Post and Rouse.

The Anzac Requiem was read by Tommy Auwardt, School Captain and Hamish Westcott, School Vice- Captain Camberwell Grammer School.

Koonung Secondary College has 1,150 students and their choir did a remarkable job of volunteering to sing both the New Zealand and Australian national anthems. The weather was also perfect.

Our thanks go to Faye Clark and Judy Coates for arranging the function. The cost of buses and wreaths were paid for by our Welfare Department. We must also thank Lindsay Burke for arranging 305 Army Cadet Unit, Surrey Hills, as the Catafalque Party plus being overall responsible for the conduct of the ceremony. Finally, to our bowlers who set up the chairs and returned them at the end of the school Anzac function and early on Anzac Day morning. Many thanks to the staff and all who were present and made the day a great success.

Arthur Merryweather

Vice President





BOX HILL RSL BOWLERS' ANZAC WEEK IN TOWNSVILLE

Julia McCammon, a bowler with the Box Hill RSL Bowls Section spent Anzac Week in Townsville, Queensland with her son and family. Julia's son is Brigadier David McCammon DSM and Bar, who is the Commander of the 3rd Brigade, Australian Army, situated at the 3rd Brigade army base in Townsville. He is the most senior Defence Officer in Queensland.



Julia's account of her interesting week is below:

"On Sunday the 21st it was 'Run Army' which is a fundraiser for Legacy. Over 2500 people were participating in the 10-kilometre and 5-kilometre run, including David and his children. The run raised over \$100,000. It was a fun day with the army band playing and many large, interesting army vehicles on display.

On Anzac Day I attended the Dawn Service, a very different Dawn Service to what I had been to before. It was a warm, balmy morning and people were seated and standing around in the park and many were sitting on the road and on the hill. What made it special was the sun rising over the sea and the time to reflect on the many services people who were stationed in Townsville during World War II waiting to be sent to the Papua New Guinea area. After the service, I had the pleasure of meeting the President of the Townsville RSL, Mr Wayne Preedy DSM, and his wife Libby.

In the afternoon I was invited to play bowls in a special Anzac Day game at the Suburban Bowling Club in Hyde Park, Townsville. The bowling club is situated near the RSL. The afternoon started with a cuppa and Anzac biscuits and some formal ceremonies due to Anzac Day. Because I was a special guest and the Commander's mother, they presented me with one of their club shirts. I was quite touched by such a lovely gesture. I was lucky enough to be put in a strong team and we won. My team consisted of all retired Defence people, one from each of the services. The club invited me to bring a team up in October to play in their Anzac Cup. "

Julia proudly wore her Box Hill RSL Bowls Section uniform and is pictured at top, fourth from the left, with other bowlers who participated on the day.

Julia McCammon

Bowler

Women's Auxiliary

What a busy couple of months. Greg Lanyon was guest speaker at our April meeting. Greg previously owned a Licenced Post Office (LPO) and spoke about how Post Offices are actually three businesses: Australia Post Outlet, TattsLotto Agency and a Personal items general store i.e. cards, magazines, etc. He also spoke about parcel deliveries, letters, banking, compliance, and legislation as well as the number of Post Offices there are now. The majority of letters delivered are from corporate bodies e.g. banks, government, utilities, etc. Personal letters only make up 20% of mail. During elections more than 2.3 million letters go out and at Census times around 60 million forms.

Congratulations to the winners of our Mother's Day Raffle - 1st Prize, Geri McGrath-Kelly (coffee machine). Geri has been coming to the RSL for 45 years and this is her first win. 2nd Prize Rosemary Matthews (hamper); 3rd Prize Julie Wee (bathroom, perfume, etc); 4th Prize Heather Arnel (cushion, throw and candle); and 5th Prize our member, Helen Jones (tea, teacup, tea towel and chocolates).

Thank you to all those who supported us, donated items and purchased tickets raising a record \$2,480 which will allow us to help our veterans, their families, and the community in need.

The State Women's Council Metropolitan Forum 2024 was held at Box Hill RSL on May 13th. There were 64 people in attendance with the RSL State Branch President Robert Webster OAM, State Women's Council Committee members, 10 Women's Auxiliaries and guest speaker Chris Gray in attendance. Executive General Manager Veteran Services and Kathy Hawkins, Home Care at Vasey RSL Care, made up the numbers.

The State Branch President spoke about this year's ANZAC theme of Peacekeeping, recognising the active role played by those in service across critical humanitarian zones. There were 40,000 at the Melbourne Dawn Service. Although numbers were down there seemed to be an increase in the number of children attending. He also spoke of his meeting with Minister Keogh regarding the Harmonised Bill and the impact on DRCA and Veteran entitlements as well as matters related to Advocacy and the Royal Commission final report.

Yvonne Dent, Women's Council President, and Lynese Goldie OAM, Women's Council Secretary, updated us on the current situation with auxiliaries and acknowledged three of our members who were recognised for the Order

of Australia in this year's Australia Day Honours. They were Lynese Goldie OAM, Lois Congram OAM, and Isabel Harkensee OAM.

Our Guest Speaker, Chris Gray, spoke about the history of Vasey RSL Care, their services, goals and the Veteran Centre Empowerment Program. After lunch Lynese closed the forum advising that the next Women's Forum is to be hosted by Rye Women's Auxiliary on 19th May, 2025.

We welcomed three new members this year and we would love to see more ladies joining us. Upcoming events include lunch at Lynbrook Hotel, Melbourne Recital Centre, visit to Cottage by the Sea, lunch at Geelong RSL, and some interesting speakers from Travellers Aid, Law Firms and Ambulance Victoria, just to name a few. To become a member of our Auxiliary, you must be a paid-up RSL Service Member, Affiliate, or full social member. Please enquire at reception if you are interested.

Finally, please spare a thought for our members who are having health issues or are in care and are unable to join us.

Emi Luppino
Women's Auxiliary
Secretary/Treasurer



1st Prize Mother's Day Raffle
Geri McGrath-Kelly.



5th Prize Helen Jones member
of Auxiliary presented by
Judy Coates.



Mary Pinjo, Maxine Bennet-
Wyatt, Emi Luppino, Isabel
Harkensee OAM.



Yvonne Dent, Kathy Hawkins,
Chris Gray, Judy Coates, Robert
Webster OAM, Lynese Goldie OAM,
Ian Goldie.