

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2024 ISSUE: #266

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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)



## Vietnam Veterans' Day // 2024

**Above (L to R):** Herman Harberts, Brian Tateson, Rod Burgess, Werner Golla and Dave Thompson

On August the 18th Vietnam Veterans commemorate Vietnam Veterans' Day, commonly known as 'Long Tan Day'. The battle of Long Tan took place on this day in 1966.

Usually, the weather is windy and raining but not this time, as the morning turned into a warm, sunny day. This year it was held in the Box Hill Gardens at the Cenotaph.

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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: **Patricia Keech**

**Byron Jury A38518 NS**

## Members in Aged Care

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

## BUILDING WORKS UPDATE

'The Sweetland Room', our premier executive conference suite was officially launched on Thursday 12th September. Those present on the night included local members of parliament, local council representatives, representatives from RSL Victoria as well as Medical, Educational and Business leaders from the City of Whitehorse. Joining these

guests at the cocktail event held on our deck were the full committee lead by President John Haward. John provided a great insight in relation to the strategic decision for creating this amazing working and collaborative space. A truly memorable evening was had by all in attendance.



### NEW WINE BAR, BISTRO BAR, AND GAMING BAR – OPENING SOON!

The completion of our new bar area is fast approaching, and many of you may have noticed the increased activity on site as we move closer to unveiling this exciting addition to our club. I'm pleased to share that the project remains on schedule, and we look forward to opening in early November.

Members and their guests will soon be able to enjoy a truly unique offering, unlike anything seen before in an RSL club. Our new 'New York' inspired wine bar is designed with



**Above:** Bar construction.



**Above:** Concept of finished bar.

meticulous attention to detail, featuring a carefully curated wine selection, an extensive spirit list, creative cocktails, and a diverse range of beers. This exceptional space will also offer an enticing small bites menu, ensuring a complete experience of relaxation and indulgence.

The new bar will be open 7 days a week for your enjoyment, offering an unparalleled setting for socializing and unwinding. We can't wait to welcome you to this exciting new chapter for Box Hill RSL.

Warm Regards,

**Ben Myers**  
General Manager

CONTINUED >>

# Vietnam Veterans' Day // 2024

The MC for the day was the Secretary of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Box Hill Sub-Branch), Rod Burgess. The President Bill Waterman, gave an address on the Navy and the activities it undertook in Vietnam. The Navy formed an integral part of the Australian contingent fighting in South Vietnam, generally in Phuoc Tuy Province. The Box Hill RSL President, John Haward, recited the 'Ode'. The 305 Army Cadet Unit formed the catafalque party, with one of the cadets singing the Australian National Anthem and the New Zealand National Anthem.

During the wreath laying ceremony a rendition of the song 'I Was Only Nineteen' was played. The song is a first-person account of a typical Australian soldier's experience in the Vietnam War. From training at a Recruit Training Battalion in Australia to first hand exposure to military operations and combat, and ultimately his return home, disillusioned and suffering from both PTSD and, it is implied, the harmful effects of Agent Orange.

A replica 'Long Tan Cross' was displayed for all to see in front of the Cenotaph. It was very poignant and made a great spectacle for this special day. The service has become bigger each year with many Vietnam Veterans coming from other Sub-Branches. After the service everyone adjourned to the Box Hill RSL Upton Room for refreshments and, of course, to tell each other the odd story about their time in Vietnam. Box Hill RSL played host by supplying all the food and drinks.

A special thank you should go to the President and Committee of this RSL for organising the day and to Bree and her staff who worked so hard to make sure everyone had a nice time. Everyone present (as the photos show) had a great day.

**Brian Tateson**  
VVAA Committee Member



# Vietnam Veterans' NIGHT OF NIGHTS

The Vietnam Veterans' Night of Nights, known for many years as the 'Black Tie Dinner', was held recently in the 'Upton Room'. This night gives the opportunity for the wives and partners to dress up in evening wear and look immaculate. Even the Veterans look great in their Black Tie evening wear, sporting their miniature medals and citations.

As usual, the chef at our RSL put on a special meal. The dinner has been held every year since 2005, missing only a few during covid, however it is making a big comeback. Prior to the dinner, guests gathered in the sports bar to have canapes and drinks. This year the total number of guests was around eighty, just the right number! They were seated at round tables of eight, with candelabras, white tablecloths, and white chair covers with black bows.

This year, the MC for the evening was Rod Burgess who introduced two tables of VIP's including the State Vietnam Veterans President Bob Elworthy AM, and his wife Lyn. Other VIPs were the State RSL President Rob Webster OAM and his wife Jenny and, Box Hill RSL General Manager Ben Myers. Past President of the Vietnam Veterans Box Hill Sub-Branch John Haward recited the 'Ode of Remembrance,' and Vietnam Veteran Charles Kook said grace before the evening got underway. The two guest speakers were Dennis Frank and Andrew Moon. Both gave a collective talk on the 'Fallen Diggers' with a PowerPoint presentation explaining to guests what they were doing.

Another important event during the night was the induction of two Vietnam Veterans, Bill Waterman, and Michael Charenko as life members of the Vietnam Veterans Box Hill Sub-Branch for the work they had done for the Sub-Branch over many years. As the photos show, everyone enjoyed themselves at this special dinner. Since its inception, this dinner has become the 'Dinner to be seen at' and it is also special for Box Hill RSL.

Again, Bree the Box Hill RSL Events manager and her staff, were all dressed in 'Black Tie' wear and are to be congratulated on how well they all worked during the night waiting on all the guests present. With this dinner now out of the way, the Vietnam Veterans are now working on next year's dinner, and you can bet that they will have a great guest speaker organised, and probably as has happened before, something special will also be organised.

**Brian Tateson**  
VVAA Committee Member



Speakers – Dennis Frank and Andrew Moon



Bill Waterman



Bep Dawes and Emi Luppino



Alison and Chris Gray



Mike and Julie Charenko



Herman Harberts and John Haward



Brian Tateson, Barbara Sutherland and Val Harrison



Rod Burgess, Mike Charenko and Bill Waterman



# OAKS DAY

## AT BOX HILL RSL

7<sup>th</sup> November | 12:30pm – 5:30pm

### \$75.00 per person

Champagne & canapes on arrival | Fashion on the fields | Sweeps  
3 course meal | Prizes to be won throughout the day  
Entertainment/live music | MC to host

**Bookings essential via reception**



**BOX HILL RSL**  
BOX HILL R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH INC.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2024

The traditional Remembrance Day Wreath Laying Ceremony and One Minute Silence will be held at the First World War Memorial, Box Hill Gardens, Shipley Street, Box Hill at 10.30am on Monday 11th November 2024. All members are urged to attend this important Service.

**POPPY BADGES ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT RECEPTION, AS WE ARE NO LONGER SENDING THEM BY POST.**

### THE POPPY LEGEND

The Poppy legend originated in China. A white flower from which a potent drug was distilled was called the flower of forgetfulness. Genghis Khan brought some of the seed westward, but after a battle, the flower became red, in the centre was a cross.

### WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR POPPY APPEAL

We need just a few hours of your time to sell badges at Box Hill Centro – between:  
**Monday 28th October and Friday 8th November**

If you can help please leave your name and a contact number at reception or phone **Faye Clark on 9897 6780** – thank you.

**The success of the Box Hill RSL Poppy Appeal depends on you - the members of the Sub-Branch**

It was found that on many battlefields, when everything else had been laid to waste, the landscape was soon ablaze with blood-red blooms. On the Somme battlefield in 1917 after thousands of Allied casualties, the land again burst forth in a blaze of scarlet with patches of yellow charlock and white camomile.

Lord Macauley drew attention to the strange link to the Poppy with battle and put forward the suggestion it should be regarded as the flower of sacrifice and memorial.

The artificial red poppies worn on Armistice Day are more familiar to Australian and New Zealanders than the real flower.



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO OUR POPPY APPEAL PLEASE RETURN THIS SECTION WITH YOUR DONATION**



Please find enclosed \$ ..... being my/our donation towards the 2024 Poppy Appeal.

Cheques/Money Orders should be made payable to: 'Box Hill RSL'

Name on Card: .....

Membership No: .....

Card Type:  Mastercard  Visa

Card Number:

Expiry Date:     Signature: .....

**Donations can also be made online at [www.boxhillrsl.com.au](http://www.boxhillrsl.com.au) until 11th November 2024**

**ADDRESS TO: The Secretary, Box Hill RSL - PO Box 1318, Box Hill VIC 3128**



## 'They Shall Not Grow Old'

My new exhibition in the vertical memorabilia cabinet, in the far east of the RSL, is based on two figures from the east window in the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial representing the fighting qualities of youth and enterprise. The two figures are made of glass ceramics and were created by Mervyn Napier Waller CMG OBE.

The first figure is 'Coolness', an infantry officer in a trench coat. The prism and the shield of the Greek goddess of War, Athena, represents 'Coolness' and confidence in the face of adversity.

The second figure is 'Control', an infantryman in a great coat. The measuring devices (ratchet wheel, callipers, right-angle ruler) represent ways to control one's environment and oneself. The shepherd's crook is a biblical reference to the Good Shepherd, and the crossed sword and baton of high-ranking officers suggest a military equivalent.

The two images I have had made are of the two I've just described and are glass mosaics, as the attached photo shows. Creator Napier Waller CMG OBE went to war in 1916 as a Bombardier in France and was wounded, necessitating the amputation of his right arm. Born right-handed, he learnt to use his left arm while in recuperation.

Napier Waller was best known for his artistic works with glass and ceramics. His best known works are in the Hall of Memory – Stained-Glass Windows at the Australian War Memorial that overlook the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. There are fifteen figures in the Hall of Memory and the glass images displayed represent two of these figures. The half-size bronze statue in front of the images is of a World War II Infantryman holding a Bren gun.

All of the feedback since I have completed this exhibition is so positive. I encourage all of our members to have a look at this display and take the time to reflect on the sacrifices many paid in all conflicts of war. 'Lest We Forget'

**Brian Tateson**  
Curator of Memorabilia

## FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS Presented by Ray Wall

Thursday 31st October, 2024 at 10.30am

The Thursday, October 31, 2024 Movie will be **'The Right Kind of Wrong'**. This is a 2013 Canadian romantic comedy film Rated MA15+ and runs for 97 minutes, based on the 1987 novel Sex and Sunsets by Tim Sandlin.

**Synopsis:** "In this romantic comedy Leo Palamino is a failed-writer-turned-dishwasher made famous for his many flaws and shortcomings in a blog called "Why You Suck," a huge Internet success written by his ex-wife. Then Leo meets Colette, the girl of his dreams... on the day she is marrying the perfect man. And so, the ultimate underdog story begins as Leo, a fearless dreamer, risks all to show Colette and the whole wide world all that is right with a man famous for being wrong."



Thursday 28th November, 2024 at 10.30am

The Thursday, November 28, 2024 Movie will be **'Red Joan'**. This is an British action/drama film, based on a true story, released in 2018 Rated M and runs for 101 minutes.

**Synopsis:** "English-born Joan Stanley (Dame Judi Dench), a Soviet and Communist Party sympathiser, becomes employed as a British government civil servant, and gets recruited by the K.G.B. in the mid 1930s. She successfully transfers nuclear bomb secrets to Soviet Russia, which enables them to keep up with the west in the development of atomic weapons, and remains undetected as a spy for over a half a century."





**BOX HILL RSL**  
BOX HILL R.S.L. SUB-BRANCH INC.

# Childrens Christmas Party

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 1st 2024

Once again, the Children's Christmas party will be held in THE UPTON ROOM from 10am to 1pm.

Santa will visit at 12 noon and give out some lollies and your gifts to children up to age **ELEVEN**. Older children may attend and enjoy the festivities.

The food, mainly for the children will also include fairy floss and ice creams. Soft drinks will be made available free of charge to all. Other drinks may be purchased at the bar at bar prices.

In order to manage the number of adults and children who wish to attend we require you to do the following,

- Call or email reception and let them know the number and names of adults and children attending with your group. 9897 6700 reception@boxhillrsl.com.au
- Drop your present/s to reception **clearly labelled with child's first and last name in block letters** by no later than Sunday November 24th. - Wrapped, labelled and not too large a gift.
- On the Day, please park **on B2 carpark level and enter the RSL at the UPTON ROOM entry**. Please do not try and enter The RSL at reception as it and all other doors are shut until 11am.
- Children must be supervised at all times, including when heading to the bathrooms.

### IMPORTANT TIMES

- UPTON DOORS OPEN – 10AM
- SANTA- 12 NOON
- EVENT CLOSED- 1PM

RECEIVE 3  
MONTHS MEMBERSHIP

# FREE

WHEN YOU UPGRADE FROM  
COMMUNITY TO A \$40 SOCIAL  
MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025\*

#### Additional Social Member Benefits:

- 3 MONTHS FREE MEMBERSHIP**
- 2 entries per visit to all our promotions
- 2 entries per \$20 spent during promotional periods
- \$30 Birthday meal voucher
- \$5 Birthday drink voucher

**AND MORE...**

**PLUS** upgrade before the 31<sup>st</sup>  
of December to be in the draw to  
win a \$250 Box Hill RSL gift card\*

\*Terms & conditions apply

BOX HILL RSL

(03) 9897 6700  
www.boxhillrsl.com.au

### CAR PARKING AT BOX HILL RSL

Members are reminded that parking your car in our car park is strictly for members and guests who are enjoying the club's facilities.

Membership is not an entitlement for free parking while you are attending the hospital, medical appointments or any other purpose.



# Day Section Report

We had a variation in our entertainment in July. Allana Kirk provided a DVD of Pam Ayres, a British poet, comedienne, songwriter and presenter of radio and television programmes. She was awarded an MBE in the 2004 Birthday Honours for services to literature and entertainment. She has done a fairly recent television series (second one) travelling around the Cotswolds, the area she calls home. Our members enjoyed the DVD despite maybe occasionally struggling with the dialect/accents which is typical of rural Berkshire in England, but she does speak quite slowly which helps. Thanks Allana and all our other helpers on the day as, once again, John and I were absent, following his second eye operation.

On 13th August, Brian Tateson was our speaker. As a curator, he has just completed the biggest Memorabilia Exhibition now on display in our magnificent new and enlarged Welfare area. Everyone listened intently to all he had to say, covering only a fraction of all the memorabilia he has looked after in his 23 years as curator. Despite admitting he has no absolute favourite pieces, he did single out the Boer War uniform which is a very valuable item. What an assortment there is in the collection – many donated by past and present members. Artwork alone consists of over 3000 photos. The only 'copies of the real thing' are Sir John Monash's medals, for obvious reasons. The Flying Boat (Catalina) which hangs from the ceiling towards the back dining area was made by Bruce Hearn of Hearn's Hobbies, a favourite CBD haunt of my husband, John. The story

behind the acquisition of the Long Tan Cross was fascinating of how current-day technology helped produce it. After having made a 3-D image a plaster mould was made. After 4 - 5 months, they had the end product identical to the original Cross. Another favourite exhibit of everyone is the panel of Stained Glass Windows from the original Upton House. I know I speak on behalf of all RSL members when I say thank you to Brian and others involved with these, and previous displays and say we are proud of what has become our 'Private Museum' at Box Hill RSL.

My abiding memory of all the displays is when the knitted and crocheted poppies were on display in open showcases. Our youngest granddaughter Evanna, aged under 5 years at the time, had asked what they were and upon being told "They're Poppies" began to gather them up. She assumed I meant her cousin Poppy so she was going to return them to her!

Claire Duberry entertained us in August. Once again, it was lovely to sing along to favourite oldies. Everyone was in good voice and had a distinct spring in their step on leaving the meeting.

On 10th September we heard about a long-gone Box Hill from Ian Broadhead. His family have been residents in the area since the beginning of the 1900's. His grandfather Percy had emigrated from Leeds in England as a 14 year old and went on to be a founder member of our RSL in the 1920's. The design of the original building - hexagonal – may have been based on a field- tent shape. Percy was a local councillor, mayor and president of the RSL in 1930. In 1939 he

established the family hardware/timber business which was amalgamated with Frank Jeffrey in 1974 as Box Hill was fully developed for that time. In the 1950's the area had changed from rural to commercial and residential. It was classed as 1 of 5 'Provincial areas' of Melbourne. Whitehorse Festival began in the 1950's and as a white horse is the symbol of the area, a procession was led by Lady Godiva on a horse as a publicity stunt. It was a great success. Surrey Dive got a mention as his father Alan had swum there along with Andrew 'Boy' Charlton. Funnily enough, that name was the answer to a recent 'Who am I?' quiz we did. Surrey Dive is now the venue for a Model Boat Club of which John, my husband, is a member. Whitehorse Plaza was where the shops were before the railway was moved underground. Today, yet more work is happening underground for the Suburban Rail Loop and there are redevelopments occurring all the time. It was good to go back down memory lane for many of our members and interesting for relative newcomers such as myself. How times are a-changing. I wonder what the next 100 years will bring to Box Hill?

## **For details about joining our Section call:**

**Mary Simpson**  
(Co-ordinator) 9077 9784

**Allana Kirk**  
(Secretary) 9819 3527

**Future Dates:**  
12 and 26 November; 10 December

**Mary Simpson**  
Co-ordinator

## NAVAL ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA

The Box Hill Sub-section of the Naval Association Australia meets quarterly at the Box Hill RSL Upton Room on the 2nd Friday of the month, commencing at 10.30am. **Our next meeting is Friday November 8th.**

Lunch at the bistro follows the meeting. Please contact Joy at: [etri1008@hotmail.com](mailto:etri1008@hotmail.com) or **0406 349 712** if you wish to attend as bookings are required for lunch.

**Further information on membership is available at:** <https://navalassoc.org.au/membership/naa-membership-types>





Proposed National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

## VIETNAM VETERANS' MUSEUM - PHILLIP ISLAND

Maintaining a globally significant collection of Vietnam War memorabilia in second hand Bellman aircraft hangars was always going to be problematic. Main risks to such a collection are light, heat, humidity and dust. Getting these risks in the wrong composition is likely to result in mould and irreversible degradation and loss.

Our National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM) Board adopted a Master Plan in 2016. A purpose-built museum was a major foundation block to ensure the collection would truly represent a generational legacy of the 60,000 service personnel who served and their families. It was an audacious plan by any measure.

It should be noted there are very few museums on our planet dedicated to Vietnam Veterans. There are two in Vietnam (both somewhat propaganda orientated) and a smaller museum in the United States.

With crucial research and Federal Government funding, 100 acres of land was purchased across the road from the existing museum in 2019. Town planners and an architectural firm were appointed to lodge a Development Approval with the Bass Coast Shire. Councillors voted unanimously in 2022 to provide the approval.

However, a number of entities objected to the development including the people who sold the 100 acres to the museum in the first place.

In early 2023, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) heard the matter, finding against the council and declining to issue the museum with a construction permit.

Legal and planning advice lead to the lodgement of a new planning permit directly with the Victorian Minister for Transport and Planning under the significant economic development clause of the Victorian Planning Provisions, which prioritises projects that will make a "significant

contribution to Victoria's economy and provide substantial public benefits, including jobs for Victorians".

This was the first use of these provisions by the National Vietnam Veterans Museum. A precedent has been struck.

An economic impact analysis written by Bass Coast Shire accompanied the planning permit application and stated that a total of 223 jobs will come from the project, including construction and ongoing operation of the museum. It is expected the museum will contribute a total of \$34 million to the economy. The planning permit application stated: "With an additional one million tourists forecast to visit Phillip Island annually over the next 10 – 15 years, additional investment in modern attractions such as the National Vietnam Veterans Museum is required to cater for growing demand and to enhance Phillip Island's status as a key tourist destination."

Minister Sonia Kilkenny approved granting of a permit on Friday 7th June 2024.

Work now begins in earnest to raise \$50 million to build the museum and provide a foundation to ensure the ongoing sustainability.

**Phil Dressing**  
Deputy Chairman  
National Vietnam Veterans Museum

**Why not have your Box Hill Group visit us at our present unique Museum location on Phillip Island?**

**Our package includes a guided tour of our spectacular Museum, lunch and gift.**

**Call Julie to arrange a date!**

Ph: 5956 6400  
or email: [jwaters@vietnamvetmuseum.org](mailto:jwaters@vietnamvetmuseum.org)  
[www.vietnamvetmuseum.org](http://www.vietnamvetmuseum.org)

# WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Welcome to Spring and hopefully a lot warmer weather. Winter is usually a quiet time. However, the Women's Auxiliary have had quite a busy time.

Our July speaker was Jodie Bateman who has worked with Travellers Aid for 18 years. Travellers Aid has been operating for over 100 years and was first established to help women and children during the war years. Later it assisted men coming home from the war with their travels and housing.

Now it has a number of different services for people travelling to Melbourne.

These are connection assistance, assisting people with disability, passengers from the suburbs, emergency crisis travel and aid for people impacted by domestic violence and showers to freshen up. Buggies to transport passengers from one end of the station to another platform or to the coach services, one service which really helps older people who are travelling. They are situated at Southern Cross Station. Those needing more information contact 1300 700 399 or Travelleraid.org.au.

Our August Speaker was Samantha Ross and her colleague Beth from Ambulance Victoria in Nunawading. They spoke about cardiac arrest and what we should do: Call 000 who will walk you through what to do, push hard and fast in the middle of the chest - CPR shock – use the defibrillator.

Usually with an accident, the Fire Brigade arrives first: they are all trained in CPR. Sam and Beth demonstrated on a dummy how to perform CPR and use a defibrillator, also how to roll a body over with one finger!

Jocelyn and Joy had a go and practiced CPR. It was a very informative talk.

Our Father's Day Raffle did really well this year and our thanks go to all those who donated goods and helped with the setting up and selling tickets. We would not be able to help the organisations we help without your help.

We raised \$1,299.34 after deducting costs.

**1st prize:** winner was Ray Jones (Helen's husband)

**2nd prize:** winner was Chris Merunovich.

A member who comes over from St Kilda)

**3rd prize:** winner was Jeff G (A regular Friday night person)

**4th prize:** winner was Bobby Streets (Therese's son)

Our Trading Table, run by Maxine and Kay, has had a really good year and this helps us to make donations to organisations that we support.

We donated \$2,000.00 to the Box Hill Hospital emergency department, to help those people who turn up at emergency and have very little or need to have their clothes cut off to get the basic clothing of tracksuit pant and top. A very worthwhile effort. We have had many thank you letters from the hospital.

Also, a donation of \$200 was made to Travellers Aid who have also sent letters of thanks.

We have sent knitted blankets and other items to Cottage by the Sea where approximately 1,700 children a year attend. The CEO, Adam Wake, has sent a letter of thanks to all the ladies who did this wonderful knitting.

Vasey RSL Care received three new doonas from the Women's Auxiliary, as three people had left the facility and three new people moved in. Chris Gray and Kylie Dick sent a thank you email.

Wantirna Health sent thanks for the knitted rugs they received.

The knitting ladies have been very busy.

Finally, our President, Judy Coates, celebrated her 80th birthday with family and friends and all her RSL friends in the Upton Room. So many people helped to make Judy's day very special. We all wish Judy a very happy birthday and many more to come.



Until next time, stay healthy and happy,

**Susan Sims**

**Committee Member**

**BOX HILL RSL**

**• FRIDAY NIGHT •**

# CHOOK RAFFLE

**IN THE UPTON ROOM**

**Tickets on sale from 6.00pm**  
**Start time 6.30pm**  
**Finish 7.15pm (in time for dinner)**

Great night! Bring your friends  
or meet some new ones!

**Fabulous prizes:**  
Venue and Coles Myer Vouchers, alcohol and  
the famous Mandy Surprise Bag.

*Look forward to  
seeing you there!*



**Above (L-R):** Michael Zhang, John Sweeney, Greg Cates, Andrew Brown, Boz Student, Rick Conomy, Adrian Gough.

## BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER SECTION

The BHRSL Club Championships 2024 have been completed. The Snooker event attracted a field of 17 players and was played as a handicap event on Saturday 31st August. The format was a best of three frames knockout competition until only two players remained and automatically entered into a spot in the Final on Sunday 8th September. Next, came the Billiards on Saturday 7th September, with a field of 13 players. This was also a handicap event to allow all players a good chance to compete. The format was 300 points up, in other words first player to reach 300 points wins and progresses to the next match. Once again, the field was reduced to two finalists by the end of the day.

On Sunday 8th September, we held the two Finals. On one table, the Billiards final was held between one of our newest members, Adrian Gough, and one of our regulars, Boz Student. After a very steady match, it was a win to Boz who became our BHRSL Club Billiards Champion for 2024. Concurrently, the Snooker final was played on the other table and was held between Michael Zhang and Greg Cates. Greg played strategically and very well to win as Michael couldn't overcome the handicap gap. Michael could console himself with winning the highest break prize in the snooker competition over the tournament with a break of 31, whilst Roger Buckmaster took out the Billiards highest break of the tournament with a break of 30.

This year's event had a large increase in participation overall and a number of players who were eliminated in the earlier rounds came down to watch the finals which was pleasing and continues the growth of our snooker and billiards community. We look forward to further growth in participation next year. Thanks especially to Rick Conomy and John Sweeney for their organisation and execution of this successful event and to Boz Student for working tirelessly on the handicaps and format for the event.

We welcome any new members, so please contact us via the reception desk at the Box Hill RSL if you are interested in joining our section.

**Andrew Brown**  
President



**Above (L-R):** Michael Zhang, Greg Cates.



**Above (L-R):** Michael Zhang, Greg Cates, Boz Student, Adrian Gough.



**Above (L-R):** Boz Student, Adrian Gough.

# Bowls Section



As bowlers we are all welcoming Spring and looking forward and planning for the coming pennant bowls season. Hopefully, warmer weather will be on the way soon, as evidently it has been extremely chilly playing bowls in Melbourne.

Your scribe has enjoyed lovely warm conditions in Far North Queensland, i.e. Port Douglas, so her bowling conditions were perfect!!

Our club had a very successful Winter playing social bowls where we combined with Blackburn North and Mitcham Bowling Clubs. The playing venue rotated around the three clubs for Wednesday and Saturday, thus giving bowlers experience in playing on three different surfaces. We have made new friends and hope to continue the association.

October will be a busy month for the Bowls Section.

On the 5th October we had the Opening of the Season and our 60th Anniversary celebrations. The Box Hill RSL Bowls Section was formed and registered with the Royal Victorian Bowls Association (now Bowls Victoria) in 1964. Thanks to the Sub-Branch for their support of our anniversary and for the lovely display in the club foyer promoting the event, which was celebrated with a game of bowls, then afternoon tea shared with players, committee, and past players.

Thanks to Jan Durham who has spent a huge amount of time collating photos, getting past players addresses, organising invitations, and numerous other jobs all concerning our 60th and to Kat Jones for coordinating the catering and set up for the celebration.

In mid-October Pennant resumes, with us fielding two teams for Saturday play and two on Tuesday for Mid-week competition. In November we will also have a night pennant team which plays on Tuesday evenings.

We have assisted with several Corporate bowls events. However, with the inclement weather some had to be cancelled at the last minute. No doubt the bookings will be frequent once the summer months arrive, and people are looking for a fun event for their group or organisation. If any group wishes to organise a day or evening event and include bowls, please contact the front desk, and ask for Bree who will assist you to organise the event.

Our members will be once again assisting with the selling the Remembrance Poppy badges this coming November.



## Cheryl Frail

Box Hill RSL Bowls Section