

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE: #267

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BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS



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

Message from the General Manager

Dear Members,

As the holiday season approaches, I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks for your continued support and patronage throughout 2024. This year has been a time of exciting transformation for our club as we've worked hard on renovations to enhance your experience and create spaces that we can all be proud of. These changes have occasionally disrupted the usual flow of things, and I appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.



I am thrilled to announce the opening of the Lancaster Wine Bar in early November! This stunning new addition to our club offers members and guests a truly exceptional space to relax and unwind. The Lancaster Wine Bar has been meticulously designed to create a warm and inviting atmosphere, where you can enjoy a premium glass of wine, indulge in a creative cocktail, or select from our extensive range of spirits, beers and gourmet bites.

Why not join us for "Cocktail Hour" daily between 4pm-6pm.

Whether you're catching up with

friends, celebrating a special occasion, or simply taking a moment for yourself, the Lancaster Wine Bar promises a memorable experience unlike anything seen before in an RSL.

From all of us at Box Hill RSL, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and a safe, happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2025 to enjoy everything our club has to offer.

Warm regards,

Ben Myers
General Manager

LANCASTER
WINE & BAR

Cocktail Hour

4-6PM DAILY

Sip, savor and celebrate the season in style

COCKTAILS FOR \$15
Specials on select wine, beer, and gourmet bites

BOXHILLRSL Available only during the festive season, Ends 30th December.

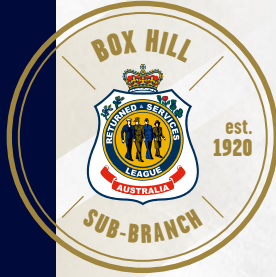
Welfare Report.

For all welfare matters telephone: Faye Clark on 9897 6780



BOX HILL NEWS

Stories by Members for Members



VALE

lest we forget



George Leondas
19130458
Royal Engineers
John Nicholson
3728091 NS

Elizabeth Mills
Affiliate
Richard Stephens
Affiliate

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

Members in Aged Care

GEORGE AGIUS, Blue Cross, Livingstone Gardens, 39 Livingstone Road., Vermont South

JOHN BROWNBILL, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

BERYL BURROWES, Regis, 40 Central Road, Blackburn

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

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

ERIC DARBYSHIRE, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

ALWYNNE FAIRWEATHER, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

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

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

CHARLES JOHNSON, Walmsley Aged Care, 112 Greeves Drive, Kilsyth

FLORENCE KELSALL, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Avenue, Canterbury

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

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

ARTHUR AND LORRAINE OWEN, Blue Cross, Livingstone Gardens, 39 Livingstone Road, Vermont

FRED PIKE, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Avenue, Canterbury

GORDON PRESS, Boronia ACF, 7 Cogee Street, Boronia

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

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

FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS Presented by Ray Wall

Thursday 30th January 2024 at 10.30am

The Thursday, January 30, 2025 Movie will be **"The Good Lie"**. The Good Lie is a 2014 American drama film, based on first hand accounts, rated PG13 and runs for 110 minutes.

Synopsis: "A group of siblings escape after their village is burned down during the Second Sudanese Civil War. A number of Sudanese refugees, given the chance to resettle in the U.S., arrive in Kansas City, Missouri, where their encounter with an employment agency counsellor forever changes all of their lives."



Thursday 27th February, 2025 at 10.30am

The Thursday, February 27, 2025 Movie will be **"Ordinary Angels"**. Ordinary Angels is an American Christian drama film, based on a true story, released in 2024 Rated PG and runs for 118 minutes.

Synopsis: "Inspired by the incredible true story of a struggling hairdresser who finds a renewed sense of purpose when she meets a widowed father working hard to care for his two daughters. With his youngest critically ill and waiting for a liver transplant, the fierce woman single-handedly rallies an entire community to help."



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2024



At the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. Originally known as Armistice Day, it was renamed Remembrance Day to commemorate all those who lost their lives from all wars and conflicts.

This year it was a perfect day to commemorate Remembrance Day with over 300 in attendance at the Cenotaph at the Box Hill Gardens for the service.

John Haward, our President, opened the service by welcoming and asking everyone to stand while the Catafalque Party from 305 Army Cadet Unit mounted a vigil at the First World War Memorial.

The Hymn "Abide with Me" was played, followed by Captain Karyn Wishart from the Salvation Army, who recited the Lord's Prayer. A very emotional Brian Tateson recited 'In Flanders Fields' and Ray Wall delivered a Remembrance Day Anthology.

31 wreaths were laid while the piper, Stuart Boghill, played a lament for the fallen. Following the Last Post a minute's silence was observed at 11am where you could hear a pin drop. You could not help noticing that works at the nearby construction site stopped as the workers there also observed a minute of silence.

Our President recited the Ode and our bugler, Nicolas Chiselett, sounded the Last Post. The Australian and New Zealand flags were raised to the top of the flagpole as Rouse ended, followed by the New Zealand and Australia National Anthems being played.

At the conclusion of the service the cadets dismounted. A few photos were taken before moving back to the RSL for light refreshments in the Upton Room. During the reception our President thanked everyone for attending and complimented those who made the day such a great success.

Our Local Federal Member, Keith Wolahan MP, gave an emotional and inspiring talk where he incorporated "Lest We Forget", and we want to remember what it means;

"Lest we forget those families who never saw their loved ones return" "Lest we forget all those tomorrows that

they gave up". "Lest we forget those men and women drawing their last breath and thinking of their families back home", and "let's rededicate ourselves for making this a nation worth fighting for." Those attending were no doubt picturing these thoughts in the minds with the same emotion. Keith also mentioned, "Richard Welch MP went and invited the people doing Tai Chi in the gardens to join the service and are in the Upton Room now. That is the wonderful thing about bringing people together into the story that is Australia."

For this day to come together it would not have happened without the continual support of a number of members starting with Judy Coates and Emi Luppino who organised the guest lists, invitations, the public address system, design and printing of the program, wreaths, St John Ambulance, volunteers and what seemed a hundred emails and phone calls to ensure everything was in place for the ceremony to run smoothly. Many thanks to Mal, Alan, John, and Mick from the Bowls Section who transported and set up the tables and chairs, together with Helen and Cheryl who assisted with wreaths and programs. Also recognising the hard work of Bree Smith and her team who organised the chairs and tables the night before and the reception and catering in the Upton Room on the day. Finally, to Lindsay Burke who organised the Cadets of 305 Army Cadet Unit (and didn't they do a great job), the bugler, piper, the flags and checked to ensure the power was on for the sound.

On closing our President, John Haward, and the Committee of the Box Hill RSL, thanked all our great volunteers and employees for all the tremendous work they do for our club.

We will remember them. Lest we forget.

Emi Luppino-Eddy
Committee Member



BOX HILL RSL BOWLS SECTION 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On 5 October 2024 the Box Hill RSL Bowls Section celebrated the 60th Anniversary of its formation. The Bowls Section was registered with the Royal Victorian Bowls Association in 1964.

In preparation for the event a banner was installed on the rock wall on the western side of the bowling green and a display was placed in the foyer of the RSL in the weeks prior to the event.



The Bowls Section came into existence at the same time as the Box Hill RSL moved from Upton House to the current site. The book – 100 Years in the Making, Box Hill RSL 1920-2020 – records that *"Part of the rationale for the move was the need for a bowling green for the members"*. The house on the land where the green is now, needed to be demolished, and the work done to dig out and level the area for the green and build the retaining wall. The RSL history book has a few interesting stories about that time if you take the time to read it. The work was all done by the veterans bowling volunteers and the green has continued to be rebuilt, replenished and maintained by the Bowls Section volunteers ever since. The first green was grass and opened in 1965 and was refurbished three times before being replaced by the first synthetic green in 2001. There have been two other synthetic greens installed in 2010 and 2022. The lights were installed in 2018 and provide avenues for both daytime and night bowling.

The Club played Saturday pennant first in the season of 1965/66 which was the men's pennant day. The first three years were very successful with the teams of 1966/67, 1967/68 and 1968/69 winning 54 games straight and 3 consecutive pennant titles. Ron Hutson investigated the significance of this and found out that it was a then world record for bowls. The women's section was formed in 1974 and played on Tuesday. It was not until the early 2000s that the men first joined in with the women's Tuesday pennant and then a few years later the women started to play in the Saturday pennant. Box Hill RSL was one of the first to embrace the open team concept unlike some of the other more traditional clubs who got caught up in legal action about it at the time. One of our current women bowlers, Hennie Pasveer, was the first woman to play in Saturday pennant with the men. The men's and women's committees were originally separate entities and joined into one management committee in 2015.

The merger with Box Hill Bowling Club in 2009 was a big event for both clubs and our current colours of blue, green, yellow and white reflect the colours of the two clubs when they merged. We have become a united club who have enjoyed success on and off the green.

The Bowls Section carries the values and traditions of the RSL within it. As well as being involved with the Bowls section many members have also spent time on the RSL Sub-Branch Committee – Judy Coates and Russell Keast currently but there are others such as Noel McMahan, Peter Davison and Allan Byron to name a few. One of our current members, Peter Leonard, is a life member of both the Sub-Branch and the Bowls Section for his contributions to both. Our commitment to the Edinburgh Shield competition and to the RSL Bowls Association has been strong over the lifetime of our club. The Bowls Section won the overall State award for the Duke of Edinburgh Shield in 1979. We have also been two-time winners of the State RSL Fours Championship and three

times have won the RSL Diggers' Day Competition.

We also hold dear the RSL welfare philosophy and that carries through in the way we care for and look after our bowls members, as well as the community activity and fundraising we have done for various charities. It carries through to our members also being members of other Sub-Branch groups, the volunteer work many of our members do within the Box Hill Sub-Branch with sales of badges and poppies for Anzac and Remembrance Day and our assistance on those special days. It is a reciprocal arrangement and we have been assisted by the RSL Sub-Branch with grants, payment for buses to take us to bowls events and provision of facilities within the Sub-Branch which we do not take for granted and hope continues for many years yet.

On October 5, we began the day with a photo under the banner on the rock wall. We then played bowls and were joined by some of our former bowlers who came for the day. We then retired to the Sports Bar Room for afternoon tea and sharing of memories by way of a rotating slide show of our history and the telling of many stories at the tables. Many members had provided photos and memorabilia for the slide show which is now a folder on display in our "Green Room". We welcomed back former members who were invited to join us as well as members of the current Box Hill RSL Committee. Our life members – Peter Leonard, Ron Hutson, Bob Denison, Judy Coates, Helen Harrington, John Harrington and Heather Arnel (representing Dennis) – were asked to share a word that reflected their association with the Bowls Section. Peter Leonard proposed a toast to the club and whilst singing Happy Birthday to ourselves the life members cut the cake made by one of our bowlers, Kat Jones.



It was a day for sharing our history, happy memories and also for our newer members to see where we have come from, what we value as a club and how they can continue to help make a new history for the club which is the way it should be.

If you would like to find out about what a great game bowls is please feel free to come down to the green whenever you see us bowling and enquire about membership, free lessons and what we can offer. You can also ask for the details of our membership coordinator at the RSL front desk. We'd love to have you join us.

OTHER BOWLS NEWS

Our Pennant Bowling season has once again resumed.

Side 1 on Saturday is sitting in 5th position with 3 wins and 2 losses. Side 2 is also 5th, but with 2 wins and 3 losses.

Midweek is faring very well, with Side 1 in 2nd position with 2 wins and 2 draws. Side 2 are our stars with 4 wins and no losses, and are in 1st position on the ladder.

But it is early days yet, as we still have to play all the teams in our sections.

We have played some of the Club Championship games.

The Ladies Singles was a nail biter, with Jan Durham in the lead for quite some time until the tenacious Judy Smith kept crawling her way up shot by shot. In the end Jan clung onto the lead and won by 3 shots. A great game for the 20 or so spectators to watch.

The Men's Singles match was played in a similar fashion, with Peter Forbes and Mark Leonard playing shot for shot. Peter won the match by just nudging Mark's bowl out and thus winning the championship by 3 shots.

We have had a few sickies in hospital, and we wish them all the best.

Get well you lot as we are short of Bowlers!



Jan Durham
Chairperson

Cheryl Frail
Vice Chairperson

ANGLING SECTION

On 14th November, nine members of the Box Hill RSL Angling section set off on a fishing charter.

At 6:45am on a cool, fine, morning, we met at Hastings Marina, on Westernport, for a 07:00am departure, all with high hopes of catching a good feed of fish.

Leaving the channel at Hastings we headed straight across toward Tankerton.

Just before anchoring we had a short stop to distribute some of Keith Moulders ashes on the water. Charles Kook gave a brief eulogy about Keith and Charles distributed the ashes.

As the temperature and wind is always cooler travelling across water, it wasn't long before people started putting on jackets etc.

Anchor was dropped and we started fishing. The tide was running in, and, after a while, we started getting some bites. A couple of keeper fish were caught, (whiting) but were troubled by small toadfish.

A move of 100 metres or so was made and the result was almost the same, only this time Graeme Fernandes landed a very nice flathead and Ian Mitchell with a whiting (best of the day). After being plagued with toadies, we again moved to another area.



Above Left: Neil McAllister & Ian Mitchell distracted for a photo. **Above Middle:** Bryan Merrigan all rugged up and waiting for a bite. **Above Right:** Ove Maddern & Graeme Fernandes casually, patiently waiting for the next big one.



Above Left: Charles Kook saying a few words before spreading Keith Moulder's ashes on the water. **Above Middle:** Charles spreading the ashes. **Above Right:** Ian Redfern & Charles Kook waiting expectantly

At about 10:30am, the boat captain cooked up a heap of sausages, and we all had snags in bread roll as mid-morning snack.

Fish were a bit shy, but we did manage to get a few more, after moving a couple of times. All in all, approximately 22 odd fish were caught, the majority being whiting, but a couple of flathead and a few under-sized leatherjackets (released to fight another day).

Everybody was able to take home a feed of fish, and all enjoyed the day out.

We would like to thank Box Hill RSL for their support, and Westernport Charters for putting us onto the spots where we were able to catch the fish.

If anyone is interested in joining the Angling section, please contact the RSL for contact details.

Graeme Furmston
Event Coordinator

ON BEHALF OF JOHN AND HIS COMMITTEE, BEN, STAFF AND MYSELF - HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR! HOPE TO SEE ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS & MEMBERS BACK NEXT YEAR.

Faye Clark Welfare Coordinator



ANOTHER GREAT NIGHT WITH THE SCOUTS

This year we've had quite a few groups of Scouts and Cubs at Box Hill RSL, and they have all been a credit to the uniform they are wearing. We entertained the 1st Heatherdale Scouts recently, and they were our last group for this year. They were an older group, and they all knew about our Defence Forces going back as far as the Boer War. I think it must be a credit to their Scout Leaders. They answered every question I put to them correctly and I couldn't catch anyone out.

The "Their Service – Our Heritage" award was introduced by Scouts Australia in the year 2000, to help raise the level of awareness on the part of our youth about our veterans. It is awarded once per year – with the year starting on ANZAC Day (25th of April). Three activities are required to be completed by the young person throughout the year. These can include but are not limited to:

- Take part in an ANZAC Day march or ceremony.
- Take part in Remembrance Day.
- Visit a Veterans Home or the local RSL.
- Maintain your local Memorial.
- Visit a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



The badge is worn on the right sleeve as a specialist badge.

As with the other groups, when the party pies and sausage rolls came out there was a race to them, and they all had a good supper. Because this is the last group for the year, I take this opportunity to thank Bree, our events manager, and Justin, for all the work they've done in setting up the room for the Scout and Cubs night during the year. I also thank the staff for preparing the party pies, sausage rolls and the soft drinks. They all did a great job and now we look forward to next year and having the groups once again at Box Hill RSL.

Brian Tateson
Curator of Memorabilia

BOX HILL RSL

CHANGES TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

BIRTHDAY VOUCHER

Starting January 1st 2025, you must swipe your membership card at the kiosk in-venue during your birthday month to collect your voucher

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!

Day Section Report

Several members came sporting their team's colours to celebrate our Footy Day in September and you could hear friendly banter/rivalry in the room. Tony Diamond was our entertainer and "footy fare" provided by the RSL was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to all RSL staff involved. Congratulations to the winners of the Sweep.

On 8th November when our speaker cancelled, Jeannine gave a talk about shipwrecks. The Victorian coastline still presents dangers and large ocean-going vessels require a pilot to guide them in and out through a deep channel in Port Phillip Bay and through The Rip both in and out of Bass Strait. During the early days of our colonial settlement, many ships came to grief on the rocks sailing in from Portland and near the whirlpool in the Bay of the Corsair Rock near Portsea. Her interest in our dangerous coastlines was sharpened by having been posted to both Portsea and Queenscliff and having conversations with an elderly retired pilot at Queenscliff.

Jeannine said WA 's long coastline - some 13,000 kilometres - with which she is familiar, has drawn the more adventurous tourist since the 1960s when diving equipment was developed and diving on the old shipwrecks is really popular. Conditions and tides need to be right and there are some 1,600 wrecks to choose from. European seafarers often left materials to mark their presence on these distant shores e.g. the Dutch VOC trader, Dirk Hartog, left an inscribed pewter plate on Dirk Hartog Island in 1616. The small protective enclosure made of rocks left by survivors from the VOC trader "Batavia" which left Amsterdam in 1629, still remains on Beacon Island. Another Dutch ship, the "Gilt Dragon" was shipwrecked in 1656 carrying a cargo of trade goods valued at 106,400 guilders and 8 chests.

Terry, Jeannine's husband, has dived on the "Macedon" and "Denton Holme" off Rottnest Island, which foundered in the 1890s. At the time, the island housed a low-security prison and prisoners were free to fish and go where they please. Those vessels had carried wines, spirits and other

alcoholic drinks. Reports indicated that they were drunk for months and were happy to stay there!

Wayne, who was in the Australian Navy, rounded off Jeannine's talk and reminded members of expressions still used today which derive from the days of sailors' work on sailing ships. The rhythm and singing in unison of sea shanties helped crews carry out chores e.g. operating sails. Thankyou Jeannine for a really interesting talk and for stepping in at such short notice.

Jacinta Hudson, a familiar face in the staff at the RSL, showed us the presentation she had produced as part of her Bachelor of Film degree at University. This film only lasted 12 mins (the required length) but had taken a great deal of time to produce and it began with a clip recorded at one of our meetings. Some Committee and RSL members spoke of memories, recollections and insights as to what the RSL means to them. Jacinta answered questions from the floor so we learned a bit about her two-year course. We look forward to Jacinta's return with a longer presentation which she is currently working on and wish her well in her chosen career. Incidentally, our RSL looks good on film.

On 12th November, we welcomed Piper Iain Townsley, dressed in his kilt and holding his bagpipes tucked under one arm. Stepping forward to where he could be seen and heard by our large audience, Piper Iain introduced himself. The kilt he wore reflected the colours of the district where he was born viz. Ayrshire, Scotland. He had followed several generations of his family in joining the British Army where he served for many years on operations and peacekeeping before he and his family moved to Australia. Once here, he served in the Australian Army Reserves.



Iain moved around the Upton Room, in that slow swagger that we have come to recognise called "perambulating," swishing his kilt. Pipers use it with great effect when being judged in bagpipe competitions.

Bagpipes need to be tuned to the current atmosphere which at this time for us, was indoors and they are susceptible to any changes in it. They are a simple instrument. His pipe is made of black African wood and although his is a basic set, they play just as well. More expensive components are available in ivory, silver and gold. The reed, made of Spanish cane, is encased in a pipe and is protected when not in use.

Bagpipe music has only 9 notes and is written specifically for the instrument. Pipers really need to know the tunes by heart as there are no embellishments for timing and rhythm and, besides, there is nowhere to hold the music score.

Knowing a bit more about the bagpipes made us appreciate hearing Iain play some familiar melodies. "Amazing Grace" was followed by my personal favourite, "Highland Cathedral" which is a relatively new tune. Some other well-known tunes rounded off a most enjoyable day at the club. Thank you, Jeannine, for organising this.

For details about joining our Section call:

Mary Simpson
(Co-ordinator) 9077 9784

Allana Kirk
(Secretary) 9819 3527

Mary Simpson
Co-ordinator

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

As we are now coming into Summer and the hot weather, this is a timely reminder for you to look after yourselves in the heat. Drink plenty of water and stay in the shade.

Spring has once again been a very busy time for the Women's Auxiliary with guest speakers and functions.

Our September guest speaker was George Fishlock, Justice of the Peace at Box Hill Police Station. He gave a very informative speech on the history of this public facility which can be traced back as far as 1195 when Richard the Lionheart commissioned certain knights to preserve the peace in unruly areas.

There are about 580 documents that need to be witnessed by a JP. About 25,000 to 30,000 documents are witnessed each year at the Box Hill Police Station. This is a voluntary position and can be operated either from the home or a Police Station.

A question-and-answer time was held at the end of his talk and we all found this very informative.

Our guest speaker for October was the RSL's own Memorabilia Curator, Brian Tateson. What a treat we were in for. Brian was both informative and very entertaining. The old Memorabilia Room was an old room behind the Upton Room, and it had three uniforms and not much more. It now has 250 uniforms, 100 weapons and many other items. Every wall in the Club has some of the collection on it. Brian's favourites are a medical case from the Boer War full of the original small bottles and an Australian Flag from Changi, signed by all the men who were in the same group as the man who donated this item. His most favourite is a WW2 nurse doll in the exact copy of the nurse's uniform.

I could go on forever, but the last thing I want to mention is that Sir Peter Cosgrove told Brian that his displays were as good as those displayed at the War Memorial in Canberra. What could follow that!

We also had an outing to the Melbourne Recital Centre to hear the students from the College of the Arts and guests perform. Fourteen of our members went into the recital centre by taxi and enjoyed a very nice morning tea before the performance, which was enjoyed by all.

Although not a Women's Auxiliary event, a group of us attended the Oaks Day Event held in the Upton Room by the Box Hill RSL. Everyone dressed up and looked fabulous. There are not too many places we can go in our glad rags anymore. We had lots of sweeps and fun with not too much winning for some and a lot of winnings for others. Our very own Helen Harrington (also part of the Bowlers) won Fashion on the Field, and Ray Jones was one of the runners up, while Helen Jones won the door prize. A big thank you to the staff for putting on a great afternoon for the ladies and a few brave men.

Besides all the frivolities, our knitting ladies have been very busy and a couple of bags of beautiful knitting is ready to



Helen Jones won the door prize.



Helen Harrington won Fashion on the Field.

be given to those who need it. A photo of the lovely ladies who do a lot of this work is shown. Thank you everyone.

A group from our Auxiliary also went up to the Box Hill Station to collect and sell badges for Remembrance Day at different times.

We are so pleased to announce that member Mary Simpson and her husband John were the recipients of a Volunteer of the Year Award for 2024. These were presented during the Presidents Day afternoon held in the Upton Room in October. Our sincere congratulations on a very worthy achievement to you both.

We have more guest speakers and outings that are organised by Therese for next year. If anyone would like to join us, please contact the RSL. We would love to have you.

Our Christmas Raffle is on display in the foyer of the RSL. Don't miss out, purchase a ticket or two to be in the draw to win one of five great prizes.

Until next time, stay safe and happy.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Susan Sims
Committee Member



Ray Jones was Fashion on the Field runners up.

PRESIDENT'S AFTERNOON

If you happened to be walking along Nelson Rd on Sunday 13th October you could be drawn into thinking that there was a pop concert given how much noise was coming from the Upton Room. The roaring sound you would have heard was coming from the President's Afternoon where more than 160 volunteers enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of presentations, lots of loud chatter, laughter, and catching up with fellow volunteers.

John Haward, our President, spoke of the value of volunteers. Richard Welch MP, and Councillor Blair Barker joined John where they honoured and presented 'Volunteer of the Year Award' certificates to three sets of special volunteers.

THEY WERE:



Mary and John Simpson

Mary is the co-ordinator of the Box Hill RSL Day Section and works tirelessly organising speakers and entertainers for our fortnightly meetings in the Upton Room. She also liaises with the RSL executive and arranges food etc. for our special functions. She chairs all our meetings leading with our song and introducing guest speakers and entertainers.

John assists with setting up the computer at each meeting including the song and photos of recent outings. He is the meeting photographer, photographing speakers, entertainers and members who win various raffles, quizzes etc. He also assists with putting away our Trade Table material and locks up after meetings.

Both Mary and John volunteer with the selling of badges leading up to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day at Box Hill Central.

Mary is an active member of the Women's Auxiliary who always contributes and supports fund raising activities which go towards assisting our various community groups.

If it were not for the efforts of John and Mary promoting and rounding up

people for various trips and events many of these would not have been successful.

They are both worthy recipients of the 'Volunteer of the Year' Award.



Paul Fraser with Richard Welch MP

Paul Fraser has been an outstanding volunteer since 2016. Paul is a quiet achiever who has been an enthusiastic member of our Visiting Team. He dedicates his precious time to visit our members in aged care facilities and hospitals on a regular basis, even keeping in touch during the COVID period.

He delivers gifts on significant occasions such as Christmas and Easter. He has always been an eager volunteer, responding to any request for help and would generously give his time and make himself available for our Social Support Program, where members of the community and aged care facilities who are isolated are invited to enjoy a social lunch.

He helped by directing cars and taxis to the Upton Room. He also helped the participants to their table and with any special requirement during the lunch.

Paul is a worthy recipient of the 'Volunteer of the Year' Award.



David and Bronwen Laughlin

David and Bronwen Laughlin have been regular attendees of the Friday night Members Raffle for close to 20 years.

Bronwen began assisting Mandy with ticket sales when the previous co-ordinator was unable to continue duties.

David occasionally would stand in as caller until 2019 when he took on the role permanently. They are both stalwarts of the Friday night raffles and an integral part of the night. It is not just about the things they do on the night - David would assist with the picking up of the meat raffle prizes and vouchers on a Friday afternoon, and then be at the club to set up so that all was in readiness to start.

They have made it their job to know the regular attendees, meet and greet and share news about attendees when it has been necessary, both good and not so good news. They also get to know the staff who work the raffles and acknowledge the work that they do.

Both David and Bronwen have also been active members of Bowls. As a member of the Bowls Section, David was involved in various duties and also competition.



CONTUNUED //

David and Bronwen volunteer at Belmore Road Coles selling badges for Anzac Day and poppies for Remembrance Day. They have done this since its inception. Pre-Covid, Bronwen also assisted with the gunfire breakfast after the Dawn Service on Anzac Day.

They are both worthy recipients of the 'Volunteer of the Year' Award.

Emi Luppino-Eddy
Committee Member

COMMITTEE MEMBER BEP DAWES STEPPING DOWN AS APPEALS COORDINATOR AFTER ANZAC DAY 2025

After many years of doing an outstanding job as Appeals Coordinator for the Sub-Branch, Committee Member Bep Dawes intends to step down from the role after Anzac Day 2025.

Bep's contribution has been huge, having overseen the raising of many hundreds of thousands of dollars for the RSL on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day each year, with every cent raised going towards veterans welfare.

Bep will remain in the role until after the 2025 Anzac Day Appeal so that her replacement can understudy her and continue the work of coordinating the many volunteers involved and liaising with the Sub-Branch Committee and with Anzac House.

If any member of the RSL would like to volunteer to be Appeals Coordinator for Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, The Secretary, Andrew Guest, would love to hear from you. It should be noted that being a Committee Member is not a requirement of the position.



Andrew Guest
Secretary

Knitting Group

The Knitting Group has continued to meet each Thursday in the Sportsman's Bar from noon – 2pm, welcoming three new members since September. June Goode, Robyn Pidcock and Carmel Smith have joined our friendly and supportive group and have helped boost our production of hats, scarves, beanies, toys, babies' clothes and knee rugs for our necessary groups. The groups include Cottage by the Sea, Eastern Health, Wantirna Health, St Kilda Mums and Box Hill Hospital. We have a total of fifteen very talented members. We welcome anyone else who shares the same interest or might like to learn a new skill.

Thanks indeed go to all who contribute, including knitters from LeVande Knox Community and members of Box Hill RSL Women's Auxilliary and their friends. A remarkable number of items have been distributed this year and the quality and variety has been inspiring.

Thanks again to all for your contributions, which we know are



greatly appreciated by those who receive them and who send us lovely emails, cards and letters of thanks and appreciation. A very happy Christmas and safe holidays, and we will resume on **Thursday, 16th January, 2025.**

Joy McKelvey
Knitting Group Co-ordinator

NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch members are advised that in accordance with Rule 13.9B (Vol. 3.9) of the Victorian State Branch of the RSL, notice is hereby given of an Ordinary General Meeting to be held in the Upton Room at 6:05pm on Friday the 20th of December 2024, for the sole purpose of having the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch approve amendments to

the Rules of the Victorian State Branch of the RSL that were approved on 27 July 2024 at the State Conference of the Victorian State Branch of the RSL.

Andrew Guest
Secretary

BOX HILL RSL 2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW OPEN

IF YOU HAVE RECENTLY RENEWED OR HAVE A TRIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP STILL VALID, PLEASE DISREGARD THE RENEWAL REQUEST BELOW AND BIRTHDAY VOUCHERS ONLY ISSUED TO FINANCIAL MEMBERS.

PLEASE TICK MEMBER TYPE:

- Service \$40**
 Affiliate \$40
 Social \$40
 Community \$2
 3 years (\$40 membership) \$105

Membership Number:

Name:



PAY BY CREDIT CARD:

Name on Card:

Card Type: Mastercard Visa

Card No:

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Expiry Date: Signature:

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PAY BY CHEQUE: Cheque Enclosed:

ONLINE: To renew online please visit our website
www.boxhillrsl.com.au

PLEASE NOTE:

If you have recently renewed or have a three year membership please disregard.

SERVICE MEMBERS:

As per the new RSL State Branch Rule V4.0 2024 – 5.17 (a)(3). A service member who is still serving, whether in the regular or reserve Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army or Royal Australian Air Force, is not liable to annual subscription payments and their membership fee is waived.

If you are actively serving please email memberships@boxhillrsl.com.au so we can update your records as you are no longer required to pay any membership fees during your term of active service.



Box Hill R.S.L. Sub-Branch Inc. trading as Box Hill RSL
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Sub-Branch Secretary: Andrew Guest
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