



BOXHILLRSL

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



BOX HILL RSL ANZAC DAY CEREMONY 2024





BOXHILLRSL



Chairman:

John Haward President

General Manger:

Ben Myers



Committee:

Arthur Merryweather Vice President

Andrew Guest Secretary

Lindsay Burke Treasurer, Weapons Officer and Memorials Officer

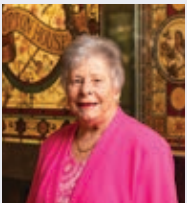
Steve Bennett Committee Member

Judy Coates Committee Member, Women's Auxiliary, Welfare



Bep Dawes Committee Member, Appeals Officer

Russell Keast Committee Member, RSL Active Coordinator



Brian Tateson Committee Member, Curator of Memorabilia

Chris Gray Committee Member

Emi Luppino Committee Member, Women's Auxiliary, Welfare



Our Mission and Vision



“Our mission is to provide programs of welfare support and wellbeing services for our Veterans, their families and beneficiaries in order to enhance their lives and promote their sense of belonging to community and Box Hill Returned Services League Sub-Branch.”

In 2024, a dedicated Sub-Committee was formed to develop a comprehensive plan aimed at enhancing and professionalising our Welfare and Wellbeing strategy for the next five years and beyond. As part of this initiative, we transitioned into a newly built, purpose-designed administration area, specifically tailored to support veterans. This space ensures that veterans, their families and beneficiaries can seek assistance in a private, welcoming environment, guided by understanding and experienced professionals and volunteers. Our mission is to expand our services and strengthen our advocacy efforts in areas such as compensation, wellbeing, financial support, and essential services. Welfare and wellbeing service delivery will grow and will always be Veteran-centred; adaptable to meet the changing needs of new & emerging Veterans whilst understanding that the RSL is part of and has an obligation to our local community.

The new Welfare and Wellbeing Administration area features private offices, shared workspaces, and a dedicated meeting room. This section of our club has been designed to provide specialised support, helping veterans and members lead healthier, more connected lives within our community.

The Box Hill RSL Welfare and Wellbeing team offers comprehensive support, including wellbeing

assessments, general health referrals, assistance with temporary or permanent housing, financial aid, and advocacy for Department of Veterans' Affairs claims. Our goal is to ensure every veteran receives the care and resources they need.

Our commitment goes beyond these services, as we continue to support veterans and members in key areas such as welfare, transport, health and wellbeing check-ins, aged care visits, counselling, and mediation—all delivered with a prompt and compassionate response. Additionally, our team provides bereavement support, assists with funeral arrangements, and facilitates group activities to foster social connections and a sense of community.

Our goal is to continually expand our investment in these services to meet the growing needs of the veteran community and our beneficiaries. We will continue to strive to reach a broader audience, ensuring more veterans and their families have access to a diverse range of specialised support services here at Box Hill RSL.

A copy of the Welfare and Wellbeing Strategic Plan 2025-2030 is available at reception or via the following QR code link.



| President



The year started with our well-advanced building program continuing. There were a number of issues that delayed the project since commencement, but they were overcome with good management.

The project costs were slightly over the projected budget but were well within those expected with a building project of the size undertaken.

January saw the Committee meet to approve our welfare budget which allocates funding for all our welfare priorities and Veteran Groups within our RSL and external community groups i.e. Eastern Health and Nursing Homes etc.

Friday February 2nd, a Special General Meeting of Members was held to approve a number of RSL rule changes required by our State Branch. All rules were duly approved.

March saw our committee meet with Hon Andrew Hastie MP, Shadow Minister for Defence, and our Local Federal Member for Menzies, Mr Keith Wolahan MP. The Shadow Minister for Defence was interested in discussing a range of Veteran issues.

On March 24th Box Hill RSL held its Annual General Meeting with all Committee positions filled.

Our ANZAC Day Dawn Service was held in Box Hill Gardens on April 25th, with a great attendance by our Veterans and general public. As President I was so pleased to be able to invite all those in attendance into the RSL for our traditional Gun Fire Breakfast. Special thanks must go to Faye Clark, Judy Coates and Lindsay Burke for all their hard work and organisation. Thanks must also go to all our Volunteers who assisted on the morning.

It was extremely pleasing to see such a huge turnout for the ANZAC Day School Service held at the War Memorial in Box Hill Gardens on the 23rd of April.

During the year, Box Hill RSL's Building Sub-Committee has tirelessly met each fortnight with our builder and architects to monitor the progress of the building works. Thanks go to Ben Myers, Andrew Guest and Brian Tateson for their hard work and support to me.

May saw Stage One building works that included the new Boardroom, Administration area, Library and male and female toilet block, handed over to us.

On 18 August we commemorated Vietnam Veterans Day at the War Memorial in Box Hill Gardens, which was organised by the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Box Hill) but fully funded by the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch. It was a great success, and from now on it will be a regular annual event at Box Hill.

Stage Two, the new Lancaster Wine Bar Lounge facility was completed on November 8th, and I am sure you will agree with me that it looks wonderful.

November 11th Remembrance Day Service was conducted at our Cenotaph in Box Hill Gardens, with a very good turnout. After the service all attendees were invited back to the RSL for light refreshments and drinks. Our Federal Member for Menzies, Mr. Keith Wolahan MP and our State Member for North Eastern Metropolitan Region, Mr. Richard Welch MP, both attended.

December saw many of our various groups within the RSL hold their Christmas Functions of which I attended as many as I could.

Many thanks to all our hard-working Volunteers, Veteran Groups and Sporting Groups for the assistance they provided the Sub-Branch throughout the year. Without these Groups it would be difficult for our Sub-Branch to provide all the support to our Veterans and their families.

There are many people I must thank for their hard work and dedication. Firstly, to our General Manager, Ben Myers, for his professional management, dedicated service and assistance to me. Also, the supervisors and staff a big well done.

To Faye Clark, our Welfare Coordinator, and her Volunteers, thank you.

Lastly, but not least, to my Executive Committee and Committee of Box Hill RSL, for a great job throughout the year and for the support they have provided to me.

John Haward
HON. PRESIDENT

| General Manager

Dear Members,

I am pleased to report on our club's achievements and activities over the past 12 months—what a busy and exciting time it has been! Members and guests will have noticed our continuous evolution, always striving to enhance our club while keeping an eye on the future. At the same time, we remain dedicated to our core purpose: supporting ALL veterans and their families.



2024 marked the return of our Anzac Day Dawn Service and Gunfire Breakfast. Before dawn on April 25th, a silent procession of people made their way to the cenotaph at Box Hill Gardens, awaiting the start of the service. After the service, we welcomed a large and enthusiastic group back to the club for breakfast, reflection, storytelling, and camaraderie, serving over 1,200 breakfasts, the morning concluding with a very enjoyable game of two-up. Two days prior, the school's Anzac Service was also conducted. Attended by 20 local primary and secondary schools, there were nearly 500 students present on a perfect April day. Later in the year large crowds gathered again at the cenotaph to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day, followed by refreshments at the club which are always very well attended. To our volunteers and committees, these days are simply not possible without your tireless work and dedication, I cannot thank you enough and commend you for your contributions towards our annual commemorative activities.

Throughout 2024, our building works progressed steadily. The outstanding craftsmanship of our builders, Jointly, in collaboration with our architect, BSPN, led to significant milestones. By late May, we proudly unveiled our new Welfare, Wellbeing, and Administration area, Memorial Walkway preserving the memory and records of those who have served, suffered or paid the ultimate price for our nation, the Sweetland Room Boardroom, Library and premium six-star customer amenities. These remarkable additions to our club perfectly align with our

core mission—to serve veterans and their families. They also provide dedicated spaces for commemoration and reflection.

The second half of 2024 presented significant challenges as the building works began to affect the club's operational areas. Throughout this period, our members demonstrated remarkable respect and patience, and together, we navigated the nearly daily challenges associated with such extensive internal construction. It is a testament to everyone's resilience that the club achieved strong financial performance for the year ending 31st December 2024, with growth driven by increased revenues across all departments. Total Sub-Branch revenue grew by 18.1%, reflecting our commitment to enhancing member experiences and expanding operations. This success led to a record EBITDAR of \$4,187,668, marking a 20.7% increase on the previous year. Furthermore, we increased our welfare and charitable expenditure by 8.1% compared to 2023, with our consolidated welfare and charitable expenditure across all three entities totaling \$993,183.

In early November, we completed the internal building works and launched our new bar areas, of particular note the Lancaster Wine Bar was unveiled. This new area is not what you would normally expect to see in a Club. There is no doubt that the Lancaster Wine Bar has resonated so well, so quickly with new and old members alike, and we are seeing growing numbers utilising our Club's premium bar offering.

GENERAL MANAGER



In 2024, our building upgrades successfully delivered on all our promises and for such a significant capital works project I am proud to report that it has been delivered in line with our budgeted forecasts.

Completed project works include:

- Welfare, Wellbeing, and Administration area
- Library, Toilets, and Memorial Walkway
- Sweetland Boardroom
- Upton Room Refurbishment
- Alfresco Dining Area
- Shipley Street Smoking Balcony
- Lancaster Wine Bar
- Staff Room (Construction due for completion in March 2025)

The close relationship and the culture of respect between our Committee and the Management team continues, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank President John Haward and the Committee for their vision, their enthusiasm, their professionalism and their commitment. Box Hill RSL is unrivalled and the envy of the industry. To my management team, thank you for your support and competence, you are a pleasure to work with and play an integral role in the success of our club.

To each and every one of our wonderful staff, whether you are back or front of house, a most sincere thank you. You keep everything ticking over and ensure friendly and professional service to our members and guests day in, day out. You make Box Hill RSL what it is, and you set the benchmark for others to achieve.

Finally, to all of our members, thank you for your loyalty and patronage. Being your General Manager is both an honour and a privilege. Nothing gives me greater joy than seeing you enjoying your club and sharing those experiences with others. This is your second home and your place of friendship and community which is never taken for granted. I look forward to seeing you around your club.

Warm regards,

Ben Myers

GENERAL MANAGER

| Secretary

Every year Box Hill RSL seems to be busier than the year before, but I think 2024 must have broken all records. The redevelopment of the RSL added significantly to the demands on everyone's time on top of all the usual matters we had to deal with.

The Building Sub-Committee met formally every two weeks throughout the year. In addition there were numerous ad-hoc site inspections and discussions to resolve various issues as they surfaced. Thankfully, the building works are now almost complete, and although it has been a long, hard slog, the results are fantastic, and we can truly claim to be the best RSL in Victoria.

In January 2024 the Committee met to discuss and agree on the Welfare Budget for the year, whereby funds are allocated to a very large and diverse range of worthy causes, both veteran related and community related. The Executive (comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and General Manager) came together monthly throughout the year, meeting as the House and Finance Sub-Committee ("H & F"). The H & F Sub-Committee deals with a broad range of issues and makes recommendations to the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Committee. Both committees meet monthly with the Committee meeting eight days after the House and Finance Sub-Committee so it can act on the recommendations put before it. For all meetings except the Building Sub-Committee meetings, your Secretary had to prepare the agendas and do the minutes. Even with the benefit of the wonderful BoardPro app, and with Committee Member Steve Bennett drafting the minutes, these tasks can be complex and time consuming. Additionally, in 2024 there were three Ordinary General Meetings and the Annual General Meeting to contend with, meaning that a total of 30 sets of agendas and minutes were completed for the year.

Since I'm talking about meetings, I should explain what the Committee does, and how it operates. The General Manager is responsible for all operational matters. That is, the day-to-day running of the RSL. The Committee does not involve itself in operational matters. The role of the Committee is:

- to set broad strategy;
- determine future direction;
- direct welfare expenditure;
- deal with issues involving members;
- plan and direct commemorative services;
- interact with other ex-service organisations;
- liaise with politicians at all levels of government; and
- develop and maintain good relations with community groups of all kinds.

In short, the Committee deals with everything outside of operational matters. To do all this effectively the Committee must work as a team, with individual Committee members being responsible for specific matters and other Committee members pitching in to help as required.

All members of the Committee are required to complete Corporate Governance training on first becoming a Committee Member, and thereafter undergo refresher training every two years. Every year the Victorian State Branch of the RSL conducts an audit of the sub-branch to assess our performance in this very important area, and in our observance of legislated requirements generally. It was pleasing to note that the audit in 2024 resulted in an excellent report card for Box Hill RSL. In addition, the Committee receives a six-monthly report on the RSL's performance in terms of its observance of anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing legislation. These reports identified nothing for Box Hill RSL to be concerned about.

In July we attended the State Conference of the Victorian Branch of the RSL, where a remit we had submitted was voted on and approved. The remit sought approval for the Victorian State Branch to in turn seek approval from RSL National for Affiliate Members to be eligible for life membership of the RSL. It remains to be seen whether it is approved at National level.

ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day, and Remembrance Day were all commemorated in 2024, and it was immensely pleasing to see the car park on Level B2 opened once more for the traditional ANZAC Day gunfire breakfast after years of Covid shutdowns. The ANZAC Day Schools Service that took place a few days prior to ANZAC Day was extremely well attended and was a most important reminder to our young people of the sacrifices made by previous generations in protecting our cherished freedoms.

2024 was a hard year, but a very satisfying one, and I thank all our hard-working staff, and our volunteers, for helping make Box Hill RSL a great RSL.



Andrew Guest
HONORARY SECRETARY

Treasurer



Net operating surplus was \$1,944,659. An increase of \$636,253 on last year's profit. Taking into consideration the rent the RSL Inc paid into our Patriotic account and allowing for depreciation, the surplus/profit increases add up to more than four million dollars. A very satisfactory achievement.

Rent received from Box Hill RSL Commercial Business into the Patriotic Account was \$1,307,916. This amount will increase in the coming year as BHRSL starts to pay off the loan for our renovations.

Welfare expenses were \$859,909 an increase of \$67,813 on the 2023 welfare spend.

At the end of 2024 BHRSL has drawn down \$9,065,559 from the ANZ Bank as part of the cost for Stage 3 of our Building commitments. The only building work left is the staff amenities area. This should be finished by the date of the AGM. BHRSL will soon sign the loan agreement to start paying down this loan once this work is completed.

NET OPERATING INCOME

	2024	2023
Gaming	\$4,956,566	\$4,056,773
Bar Trading	656,596	653,117
Sundries	396,763	281,711
Catering	699,325	657,099
Subscriptions	103,107	118,770
Interest Received	291,342	215,028
Investment Property	14,755	11,206
Totals	7,118,454	5,993,704
% Staff Costs to Revenue	24.3%	26.2%

MAJOR EXPENSES INCLUDE

Salaries And Wages	\$3,545,829
Rent	1,307,916
Welfare And Donations	859,909
Depreciation	777,497
Gas And Electricity	269,457
Cleaning	229,154
Repairs And Maintenance	229,709
Fees To ANZAC House	184,517
Security Costs	139,794
Payroll Tax	168,041
Insurance	114,458

APPEALS

ANZAC Day	\$60,764
Remembrance Day	44,403
Appeal Totals	105,167

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS WERE

RSL Members	\$28,834
Nashos	22,456
305 Army Cadets	12,384
Bowls Section	9,241

TREASURER

On behalf of the Box Hill RSL President and Committee, I would like to thank our Appeals officer, Bep Dawes and her many volunteers did a sterling job in coordinating this very difficult task and especially all those who donated to the Appeals. All Appeal money is directly credited to RSL State Branch Victoria. We are then able to request a transfer of up to 50% of the money raised by our RSL back to Box Hill RSL to assist with our own Veterans and their families. All assistance given is coordinated and approved by our Welfare Coordinator, Faye Clark and the full Committee.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ITEMS

Furniture / Plant / Equipment	\$1,192,957
TVs	12,100
Point of Sale (P.O.S) System	38,970

CONCLUSION

I wish to thank our General Manager, Ben Myers, for his untiring efforts to manage Box Hill RSL, especially during building works, which heavily affected the running of the RSL business, over the last 2 years. Ben has taken on his new job as General Manager with enthusiasm, he brought innovative ideas to our RSL which have been well received. Especially, for me at least, modernizing and digitizing our accounting and bill paying system. His positive leadership of our staff and assistance to the Committee over the past 16 months has been invaluable. I personally want to thank Ben and state that I value Ben's advice to me as the Treasurer of our RSL.

Ben took on the role as the project Manager of the Stage 3 works which was an additional task above his job description. Ben's enthusiasm for his new role has been infectious and assisted the RSL to get to where we are now as, I personally believe, the best RSL in Victoria.

Ben and I work collaboratively on financial matters for the benefit of Box Hill RSL, and I look forward to a long and close association with Ben.

A mark of the success of our RSL is the continued growth in revenue. Even during the building works revenue increased and the RSL kept breaking internal records in our various profit centres with regard to revenue received and profit. This revenue enables BHRSL to carry out its extensive welfare program.

I thank Faye Clark, our Welfare Coordinator. Faye assists with the framing of the annual welfare budget. This year our welfare budget is \$1,200,500 and Faye manages this budget on behalf of our RSL. Faye also fills other roles too numerous to mention here. Faye provides a welfare report to me and the committee every month. This report outlines what funds have been spent on our welfare services.

I also wish to personally thank our administrative staff, Kristina Freeman, Rachael Forsyth and Farida Stanley for their attention to detail with regard to the finances of the RSL. Their duties ranging from the weekly calculation of the staff payroll to checking and arranging all invoices to be paid in a timely manner. They also complete many necessary administrative duties, such as the RSL-Vic, government returns and governance returns with regard to the many state government regulations. These ladies have been and are an integral part of the Box Hill RSL team. They have been an immense help to me personally as I learned the duties and responsibilities of being your Treasurer.

Welcome to Bree Smith our new functions manager. She has bought innovation and a new style to running our functions which is shown by the increase in revenue. Thank you, Bree, for your hard work.

Finally, our marvelous staff who are our force multipliers. Their enthusiasm and happy demeanor make it a pleasure for our patrons to visit and visit again.

All Community and Club donations made by Box Hill RSL are listed on the inside back cover of this report.

In conclusion, our revenue is strong and increasing over time, our debts are well managed with no debts overdue to suppliers.

BHRSL has a large cash reserve some of which will be used to pay down the ANZ loan while the rest will be used as a contingency fund and stay in investment accounts earning interest for BHRSL.

BHRSL is in a strong financial position and thanks to all of our staff is a well run and managed RSL

I commend the 2024 financial report to the members of Box Hill RSL.

Lindsay Burke
HONORARY TREASURER



As I reflect on my 23rd Annual Report, I marvel at how quickly the years have passed. It feels like just yesterday that this journey began, yet here I am, looking back on more than two decades of an incredibly fulfilling journey filled with challenges where I have been inspired by our veterans and war widows.

Their resilience, courage, and unwavering spirit have been the driving force behind everything I do. Each story is a powerful reminder of why I remain committed to providing essential support, advocating for their rights, or simply ensuring they are never forgotten. It has also been a privilege to lead our team of volunteers who have made such a difference, ensuring that our members receive the support and care they so rightfully deserve.

Volunteer of the Year Award Recipients

Mary and John Simpson, Paul Fraser, and David and Bronwyn Laughlin have each made invaluable contributions through their dedication and service.



Mary and John Simpson.

Mary coordinates the Box Hill RSL Day Section, tirelessly organising speakers, entertainers, and special functions. She chairs meetings, liaises with the RSL executive, and is an active member of the Women's Auxiliary. John plays a key role in setting up presentations, photographing events, and managing logistics, including packing up and locking up after meetings. Together, they play a vital role in promoting and organising trips and events. They also volunteer to sell badges for ANZAC and Remembrance Days.



Paul Fraser with Richard Welch MP.

Paul Fraser, a committed volunteer since 2016, is a quiet achiever and a dedicated member of the visiting team. He regularly visits aged care facilities and hospitals, staying connected even during COVID. He delivers gifts on special occasions and readily assists with the Social Support Program, ensuring isolated community members enjoy social gatherings. He also helps with event logistics, from directing transport to assisting guests.



Bronwyn and David Laughlin.

Bronwyn and David Laughlin have been the heart of the Friday night Members' Raffle for nearly 20 years. Bronwyn stepped in to assist Mandy with ticket sales, while David took on the caller role permanently in 2019. Beyond the raffles, David picked up the prizes, set up, and

ensured a welcoming atmosphere. They build strong connections with attendees and staff, fostering a true community spirit. Both are also active in Bowls and have long supported ANZAC and Remembrance Day fundraising efforts.

Their dedication, hard work, and generosity have made a lasting impact, making them all truly deserving recipients of the **Volunteer of the Year Award**.

FUNERALS

We lost 37 of our esteemed members during 2024, 20 Service members and 17 Affiliate members. The RSL Rituals were conducted by Charles Kook, Lindsay Burke and John Haward, I thank them for the exceptional service they provide for the families of our veterans.

When we are notified of the passing of a member, we ensure that their memory is honoured and that their family receives the support they need during this difficult time. Our first step is to arrange for a Volunteer Celebrant, someone who will conduct a meaningful and respectful ceremony to honor the life and service of the deceased. We also contact the Australian Defence Force Records Department to gather detailed information for the eulogy, ensuring that the service reflects the individual's military history and contributions. Additionally, we place an obituary in the *Herald Sun* to acknowledge their passing and celebrate their life. If a wake is being held at the RSL, we also ensure that we make a small contribution, helping to ease some of the burdens of the family during this time of mourning. A personal bereavement card is sent to the widow to offer our condolences and let them know that we are available to offer support. We also make a follow-up contact with the surviving partner to ensure they have the support they need at home and we take this opportunity to discuss the possibility of applying for a War Widow(er)'s Pension and/or help them access any other benefits they may be entitled to.

Our aim is always to show our continued care and commitment to the families of those who served, offering them not only practical support but also the emotional understanding that they are not alone during their time of grief.

WELFARE REPORT

VISITATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

Our visiting program continued throughout 2024, with our dedicated volunteers providing vital support to members in hospitals, rehabilitation centres, and aged care facilities. This ongoing initiative is central to ensuring that our members receive the care and connection they need during times of illness or recovery. The visiting team for the year included Stephen Eno, Cheryl and Michael Frail, Sue Archbold, Judy Coates, Paul Fraser, and Susan Sims. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of these individuals for their unwavering commitment to the welfare of our members. Their visits bring not only comfort but also a sense of community and belonging, which is invaluable for those who may be feeling isolated during their time in care.

In addition to the visits, our office team plays an essential role in maintaining contact with members who are in hospital. We make regular phone calls to check on their wellbeing, provide support, and ensure they feel connected. These calls also help us keep our records up to date, ensuring that no member is overlooked or forgotten in times of need. I would like to mention Graeme Agnew who was not officially visiting but has been meeting members' needs on their request anyway. Once again, I would like to thank our volunteers for their continued efforts in supporting our members. Your dedication is truly appreciated, and it makes a significant difference in the lives of those we serve.

GIFTS

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting our members, we were pleased to provide gifts to those in aged care facilities and hospitals during both Easter and Christmas. These gestures are a small but meaningful way to remind our members that they are thought of and valued, especially during the holiday seasons.

A special thank you goes out to the volunteers who took the time to personally deliver these gifts, spreading cheer and offering a sense of connection to those who may not be able to join us at our regular gatherings. We also want to extend our deepest gratitude to our talented knitters, whose dedication and craft made each gift extra special. Every member received a hand-knitted knee rug as part of their Christmas gift, a warm and personal touch that was deeply appreciated.

For those members who live too far away to receive a visitor in person, we made sure they were still included in the holiday spirit by sending heartfelt cards. These cards served as a reminder that our community is always thinking of them, no matter the distance.

Thank you to everyone involved in making these gestures possible. Your kindness and generosity have a lasting impact on the lives of our members, bringing them comfort and joy during the holidays.

SOCIAL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

TAI CHI

The Tai Chi program continues to thrive, with members eager to maintain their practice into 2025. Many participants have shared glowing feedback, highlighting significant improvements in their mobility, flexibility, and balance since joining the program. These advancements are particularly meaningful given the age of most participants, as enhancing these areas plays a vital role in improving personal safety. It's truly rewarding to see the profound impact Tai Chi has had on the overall well-being of the group.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible instructor, Rani Hughes, for her exceptional leadership. Her positivity, patience, and expert guidance ensure that every class is both enjoyable and enriching. As a Tai Chi Health Master Trainer and Occupational Therapist, Rani brings not only unparalleled expertise but also a warm, supportive presence that elevates the experience for everyone. We are deeply grateful for her unwavering dedication and the positive influence she has on the health and vitality of the group. Thank you, Rani!

Marilyn's Report:

Another enjoyable year of Tai Chi has ended for 2024. Our class averages around 10 people per session under the guidance of Tai Chi Master Rani Hughes. Tai Chi is a mind/body exercise which can also help with balance, breathing and mindfulness, so it's no surprise that our participants report feeling more relaxed after a session. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 1pm if anyone wishes to join our friendly group.

Thanks to Welfare Manager Faye Clark for her ongoing support of our Tai Chi program and to Rani Hughes. We look forward to seeing you in 2025.

MEDITATION

Meditation is a group that languished in 2024, due to our renovation which resulted in a lack of quiet space. But this group is looking forward to 2025 where they hope to provide a space for a consistent source of calm and mindfulness. A special thank you goes to Helen Nemeth, whose unwavering dedication to the art of relaxation and thoughtfulness has played a pivotal role in keeping me mindful of the value of such a group. So, we are encouraging everyone to embrace the art of relaxation and thoughtfulness as Welfare now has a special space for this group.

GENEALOGY

Sue Archbold continues to lead the Genealogy Group with dedication and enthusiasm, holding regular meetings on the 1st Monday of every month from 10am to 12noon in the Poppy Room and afterwards some of them meet for lunch in the Bistro. If you're interested in tracing your family history, feel free to contact me for more information. The members of the group are at different stages in their research, with some uncovering surprising and previously unknown facts about their family ancestors. It's been a fascinating journey for all involved, and we owe huge thanks to Sue for her exceptional work in organising and guiding the group each month. Her commitment to helping others discover their heritage has made a significant impact on everyone involved. Thank you, Sue, for all the time and effort you put into this enriching experience!



Members of the Genealogy group.

WELFARE REPORT

TRIPS

Les Davis, our Assistant Manager, organised a great day at Pakenham Races for 36 of our members. Our race days have proved to be very successful, and Les will be organising more during 2025. Thank you Les.

MOVIES

We are incredibly grateful for our Movie Guru, Ray Wall, whose dedication and passion for film bring joy to our members. Ray does an outstanding job organising movie screenings, carefully selecting films that cater to a wide range of interests. His efforts ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy quality entertainment in a comfortable and social setting.

Thanks to Ray's extensive private library of DVDs, members have been treated to a fantastic selection of films from timeless classics to modern favorites. His keen eye for great storytelling and engaging cinema has created a much-anticipated experience that many look forward to. Whether it's a nostalgic trip down memory lane or an exciting new discovery, Ray's movie sessions provide not just entertainment but also an opportunity for members to connect, relax, and share their love of film.

Ray started the year with *The Ron Clark Story*, and after being cancelled twice last year, *Knives Out* was again cancelled in February only to be finally seen in March, which is called perseverance Ray! Then came, *Concussion*, *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star*, *Mulan*, *An Unfinished Life*, *The Call of the Wild*, *Stronger*, *The Right Kind of Wrong* and finally in November *Red Joan*.

Movies are held on the last Thursday of each month and all full members are welcome. A big thank you, Ray!

GARDENING GROUP

Our two bowlers Mick Frail, and Kevin Moffatt, who are our resident gardeners, encouraged other bowlers, including Peter and Mark Leonard, Alan Turk, Ian Jennings, Allan Schumer Mal Hams, and Helen and John Harrington to tend to the garden area around the Bowling Green, and I thank them very much for the great work they did during 2024.

FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLE

A heartfelt thank you to the incredible volunteers who made Friday night such a fantastic social event for our members! Your hard work and dedication created a wonderful atmosphere where everyone had a great time, and many lucky attendees walked away with fantastic prizes.

A special thank you to Mandy Wallace, Jimmy Douglas, Jeff Richards and Bronwen and David Laughlin for their invaluable efforts in making the night such a success. And, of course, a big thank you to Ray Jones for always being there to lend a helping hand whenever needed.

Sadly, David passed away in December, and his commitment to Friday Night will always be remembered by me with sincere appreciation. Events like these would not be possible without amazing volunteers like you.

Thank you once again to you all for making these evenings so enjoyable for everyone!

KNITTING GROUP

This group is the most productive group of the Welfare Section. It was led by Laura Yodgee in 2024, and the group members were Dorothy Conway, June Goode, Karen Holt, Lydia John, Viti Keys, Emi Luppino, Joy McKelvey, Hazel Mourney, Robyn Pidcock, Renée Shapero, Carmel Smith, Hilary Stewart, Joy Stewart, Jane Wang, Laura and Yvonne Yodgee. They came regularly every Thursday while Judy Coates, Hennie Pasveer, Carol Calder, Jan Durham, Cheryl Frail, Marselle Foster, Nola Gold, Patricia Keech, Mary Pinjo, Pam Tregear, Lucy Komac, Helen Hare have also donated knitted goods to the cause. A big thank you to them and to the others who have contributed articles, squares and wool but have not left their name.



The knitting group 2024 Christmas.

Emi and Joy Report:

The Knitting Group has enjoyed an inspiring and rewarding year, one that has been filled with creativity, camaraderie, and meaningful contributions to our community. As we reflect on the past year, we're proud to share our achievements, celebrate our members, and look forward to the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

At the heart of our group is the goal of building a strong, inclusive community where everyone feels welcome. Regardless of skill level, every member has a place here to connect socially, learn from one another, and enhance their knitting abilities. Our diverse talents and experiences enable us to share techniques, inspire creativity, and foster a genuine sense of belonging.

One of our most cherished values is giving back to those in need. Over the past year, we've supported several wonderful community groups, including Cottage by the Sea, Box Hill Hospital Emergency Department and Children's Ward, Wantirna Health Palliative and Aged Care, Peter James Centre, St Kilda Mums, and our own members in care. Through these initiatives, we hope to not only spread warmth with our creations but also remind others of the love and care that surrounds them.

Our group continues to thrive, with membership growing by an impressive 35% in just one year! We warmly welcomed three new members Robyn Pidcock, Carmel Smith, and June Goode, and were delighted to see Jane Wang return after a long break. Sadly, we lost June shortly before Christmas. Though her time with us was brief, she left a lasting impact on our group and will be dearly missed. Incredibly, 50% of our members are in their nineties and late eighties, proving that passion and creativity have no age limit.

This year, the dedicated RSL knitters have collectively contributed an incredible 10,700 volunteer hours. Their hard work and generosity have resulted in approximately 1,293 handcrafted items, including beanies, scarves, mittens, blankets, fiddle mitts, baby jackets, toys, teddy bears, and knee rugs, all donated to those in need. These heartfelt creations provided warmth and comfort to so many, especially during the colder months. We also received generous donations of crocheted rugs, teddy bears, beanies, and knitted squares from Levande Wantirna Retirement Village. Joy and Emi skillfully assembled the knitted squares, contributed by the Retirement Village and ladies from other sections of the RSL, into beautiful rugs.

On 8th June, we celebrated Worldwide Knit in Public Day by knitting in the lounge area near the entrance of the Box Hill RSL restaurant. With over 50 knitted and crocheted items on display and a lovely sign introducing our group, we enjoyed engaging conversations with patrons and proudly showcased our work.

In November, five of our members joined the Women's Auxiliary on a memorable bus trip to Cottage by the Sea in Queenscliff. It was heartwarming to hear stories about the children who participate in their programs and how much joy our scarves, beanies and mittens bring them.

As Christmas approached, our ladies took on a project of creating knee rugs as a special gift for our members in care. The Box Hill RSL Volunteers received deeply moving responses from the recipients, some of which brought tears to our eyes and made us feel that our efforts were truly worthwhile.

One member in care, who has no family except a kind lady from the church who checks on him, asked a volunteer why he deserved such kindness from strangers. He was overwhelmed with emotion and said he would treasure the rug, placing it on his bed as a symbol of the care and love he received.

This year also brought transitions within our group. Our proactive and much-loved Coordinator, Laura Yodgee, stepped down to take some well-deserved time for herself. Her mother, Yvonne, a cherished member of our group, has also transitioned into care. While we miss seeing them regularly, we treasure their occasional visits and especially when they joined us for our Christmas celebration.

We are deeply grateful to every member of our knitting group for their dedication, creativity, and kindness. Special thanks go to Faye Clark (Welfare Coordinator), Judy Coates (Committee Member), and Lee-A'rne Watson at reception for their invaluable support. We also extend our gratitude to Pam Redcliffe from Wantirna Health and Donna Campisi from Cottage by the Sea for their incredible partnership and encouragement.

As we close another successful year, we look forward to continuing our journey of creativity, connection, and community service. Thank you for being part of our knitting group's story. Here's to an even more inspiring year ahead!

Emi Luppino and Joy McKelvey
Joint Coordinators

The knitting group received many Letters and Cards of Appreciation, a couple follow:

Dear lovely knitting ladies,

We were so thrilled to receive some more rugs, gloves and scarves. We really do appreciate every piece donated to us.

The smiling faces when we gift a rug or something else is a delight to see.

Continued next page>

WELFARE REPORT

Each item knitted is an amazing gift from you to the recipient. Thank you so much for the time and love you put into everything you donate to the Palliative Care patients.

**Thank you for all you do, Warm Regards,
Pam – Wantirna Health.**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Cottage by the Sea, I express our heartfelt thanks for your support. Your donation of toiletries, knitted items and food goods makes a significant difference in the lives of the children who participate in our programs and has a ripple effect on their families, schools and communities. As stated by a participant, "The knitted items were great." They enjoy these handmade gifts throughout their stay and beyond when they return home.

Yours sincerely Adam Wake CEO, Cottage by the Sea

As mentioned in the above report Laura has passed the banner over to Emi and Joy. A heartfelt and special thank you goes to Laura, who has been an invaluable member of the knitting group since 2017. Over the years, Laura has not only been a dedicated participant but has also taken on the important role of leading the knitting ladies. Since she assumed leadership, her guidance and commitment have truly transformed the group, fostering a sense of community, creativity, and support among them all. Her leadership has been instrumental in the growth and success of the group, and her contributions have made a lasting impact. I am incredibly grateful for her hard work, vision, and the positive energy she brings to everything she does.



In addition to her leadership role, Laura has also been a tremendous help in the administration work for the welfare office. She has dedicated her time at home to logging volunteer hours for those members who were unable to use the computer. Her attention to detail, and willingness to help made a significant difference to my workload.

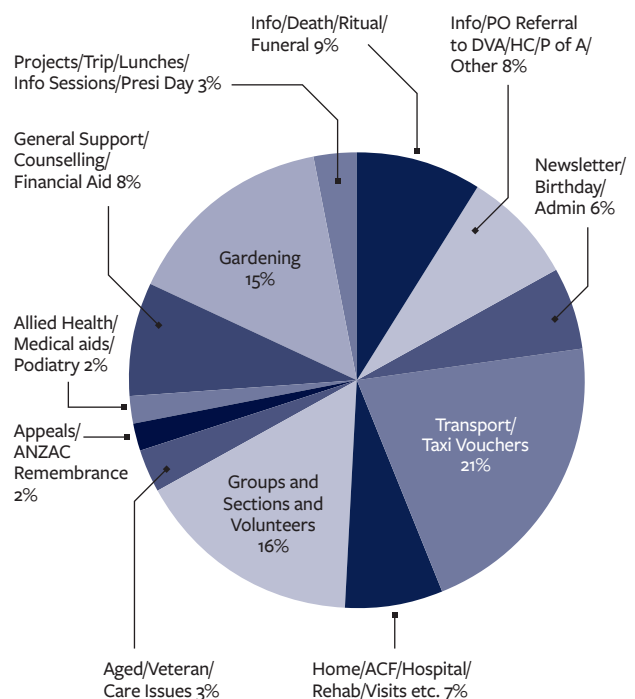
Her contributions have been immeasurable, and I am incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and passion she has devoted to the knitting group and the welfare office. I look forward to continuing this journey with her at some stage in the future

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

In 2024 we proudly offered a comprehensive support program designed to meet the diverse needs of our community particularly focusing on empowering our members, veterans, and war widows. This program provided a wide range of personalised services aimed at enhancing their independence and overall quality of life.

Through tailored support, we addressed various aspects of their well-being, ensuring that each individual received the assistance most relevant to their unique circumstances.

The following graph illustrates the specific areas in which our members received support throughout the year, offering a clear overview of how we were able to meet their varied needs and make a meaningful difference in their lives.



LAWN MOWING AND GARDENING

Our gardening service continued to play a vital role in supporting our members to maintain their independence and stay comfortably in their own homes. Throughout 2024, we were able to assist 23 members who, due to age or health-related issues, found it increasingly difficult to manage their own gardens. These members received services such as lawn mowing, garden tidying, and general maintenance to ensure their outdoor spaces remain neat and manageable.

By providing this service, we not only helped maintain safety around their homes but also contributed to their well-being. Keeping a tidy garden can significantly impact one's mental health, providing a sense of accomplishment and peace of mind. Additionally, for many of our members, the ability to continue living in their homes without the added stress of garden upkeep has been essential to preserving their independence and quality of life.

TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE

To further enhance the independence of our members, we provided a total of 1,250 taxi vouchers to 59 members during the year. These vouchers were specifically given to those who, due to health or mobility challenges, were unable to drive or rely on public transport. With this assistance, our members were able to maintain an active and connected lifestyle. These taxi vouchers enabled them to attend various groups and activities here at the RSL, which are vital for social engagement and well-being.

Additionally, the vouchers allowed members to visit loved ones in hospitals or aged care facilities, ensuring they remained close to family and friends despite transport barriers. The support also extended to helping members attend medical appointments or rehabilitation services that were not covered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), allowing them to access essential healthcare and continue their recovery without the added stress of transportation difficulties.

REMEMBERING BIRTHDAYS

We know that birthdays are important, so we always acknowledge significant milestones like turning 100. We had two members turn 100 during 2024, they were service members Elizabeth Mackenzie and Norman Williamson.



MEDICAL AIDS AND ALLIED HEALTH

To further support the well-being and independence of our members, we took proactive steps to alleviate financial burdens and ensure access to essential healthcare and equipment. One of the ways we did this was by covering out-of-pocket expenses for podiatry services. Recognising the importance of foot health, especially for individuals with mobility issues or those recovering from surgery, we aimed to ensure that our members had the opportunity to receive necessary treatment without worrying about the financial costs.

In addition to providing financial assistance for podiatry care, we also helped with out-of-pocket medical expenses that often arise after hospital stays. Many members face additional costs related to their recovery, whether it's for follow-up treatments, medications, or therapies not covered by insurance. By offering this financial support, we eased some of the financial pressure, allowing our members to focus on their healing process rather than on unexpected medical bills.

We also made several referrals to Occupational Therapists (OTs), who play a crucial role in helping individuals regain independence in their daily lives. These specialists assisted our members in navigating challenges related to mobility, self-care, and home safety, empowering them to live more comfortably and confidently at home.

We also provided practical support by purchasing essential items that are often needed during recovery and rehabilitation. As many of our members regain strength after surgery or health challenges, items like bowling arms and walkers have become increasingly important. These tools not only aid in mobility and stability but also enhance the quality of life by encouraging participation in activities like bowling, which helps with physical therapy and social interaction. With these purchases, we ensured that our members had access to the equipment they needed to remain active, independent, and engaged with their community.

HAIRCUTS

The Free Haircut Program continued to be a valuable program throughout 2024, providing a service to our members. Thanks to Kay's dedication, a total of 742 haircuts for 128 members ensured our members looked and felt their best.

Kay not only provides haircuts but fosters a sense of care and community among our members. Once again, a heartfelt thank you to Kay for her outstanding contribution, as her efforts make a real difference.

GENERAL SUPPORT

We are committed to offering a comprehensive range of support to our members, both in aged care and within the broader community. Our assistance goes beyond just the basic needs, encompassing general, social, emotional, and financial support to ensure our members feel valued, connected, and cared for. Whether through a friendly phone call, a visit, or practical help, we made it clear that no member was ever alone in their time of need, I was always just a phone call away, ready to lend a listening ear or provide guidance.

One of the key aspects of our support was offering help to veterans facing significant challenges. For example, we were able to assist with moving costs for a veteran couple who was at risk of becoming homeless. This intervention not only provided financial assistance but also helped alleviate the stress and uncertainty that comes with such a crisis. By stepping in at a critical moment, we ensured the couple could transition to a safe, stable living situation, preventing homelessness and giving them the peace of mind to focus on rebuilding their life.

We also worked tirelessly to meet the unique needs of each individual, whether they required emotional support during difficult times, social interaction to combat loneliness, or financial aid to manage unexpected costs. Through these efforts, we continued to make a positive difference in the lives of our members, ensuring they had access to the support and resources they needed to maintain their dignity, independence, and overall well-being.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups during 2024 were:

PROSTATE SUPPORT GROUP

This group now meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30am in Upton 2.

SENIOR MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

This group now meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2pm in Upton 2.

WELFARE REPORT

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROJECTS

CUB/SCOUT AND SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our Cub/Scout and School program was active in 2024. Our volunteer Brian Tateson very keen to develop new ways to communicate the RSL message, explain our military history, as well as the role of the RSL in the community to the following Cub Scout Groups - Mont Albert North Cub Scouts, 1/8 Blackburn Cub Scouts, 9th Box Hill Scouts, and 1st Heatherdale Scouts. A big thank you, Brian!

LIBRARY

The library is no longer a hidden treasure, it has become a valuable space in the corridor near the administration offices. It serves as a useful resource for those researching our military history.

A special thank you to our enthusiastic library volunteer, Sue Stewart, for her hard work throughout 2024. She spent countless hours moving books in and out of storage, reorganising, and updating our library system. She was assisted at times by Rohan Gibbs and her husband Doug Stewart. A job well done!

MEMORABILIA

I thank Brian Tateson who again did a superb job of collating and organising the memorabilia display. (See Brian's Memorabilia report)

HERITAGE AND COMMEMORATIONS

I thank Lindsay Burke who has this role which includes Monuments and Armourer Officer. He has also done a superb job. (See his Heritage and Commemorations report)

PENSION ADVICE

During 2024, our dedicated Pension Advocates, Geoff Smith and Wayne Bastow, worked tirelessly to support veterans and their families. Over the course of the year, they conducted a total of 74 interviews and provided direct assistance to 28 veterans and/or their partners. Their efforts led to several significant outcomes, including the successful approval of one Extreme Disablement Adjustment (EDA) application and the acceptance of two War Widows applications.

Additionally, six veterans received recognition for various medical conditions under the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Act (MICRA) and the Defence Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (DRCA). These approvals provide crucial support to veterans in need, ensuring they receive the compensation and care they deserve.

The invaluable work of our Pension Advocates would not have been possible without the dedicated assistance of Neil Brown, who has continued to provide administrative support on a volunteer basis. Neil's commitment to this role has been instrumental in keeping operations running smoothly. However, he has expressed the need for additional help in managing administrative tasks. If you are interested in volunteering and contributing to this meaningful cause, please do not hesitate to reach out.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Geoff, Wayne, and Neil for their unwavering dedication to our members, as well as to veterans and war widows throughout the community. Their hard work and commitment make a real difference in the lives of those who have served.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

We had a very successful Children's Christmas Party which was organised by Arthur Merryweather. Arthur would like to thank the following for their help - Joan Waters, Cheryl Ryan, Cheryl Frail, Phil Peterson, Jan Durham, Emi Luppino, and Graeme Agnew.



DONATIONS

In keeping with our commitment to veteran organisations and the needy, grants were given to our sporting sections, current and ex-service organisations in need, and other not-for-profit organisations in the community. See our Community Benefit Statement at the end of the Annual Financial Report for further details.

COMMEMORATION

SERVICES FOR AGED CARE FACILITIES

Thank you to John Haward, Lindsay Burke, Andrew Guest and Charles Kook who provided services at Aged Care Facilities and local schools to commemorate ANZAC and/or Remembrance Day during 2024.

SERVICES FOR ANZAC, VIETNAM VETERANS' AND REMEMBRANCE DAYS

Remembrance is a key aspect of our annual commemorative services. We begin the year in April with ANZAC Day, which holds deep emotional significance and is widely regarded as a day for national pride. In August, Vietnam Veterans' Day focuses specifically on honouring those who served in the Vietnam War, a conflict that holds a unique place in Australian history. Finally, in November, Remembrance Day takes on a more solemn tone, remembering those who died in all wars, with particular emphasis on World War I, but also extending to all service members who have lost their lives in military service. These days play a vital role in honouring the sacrifices of military personnel, fostering national pride, and encouraging reflection on the costs of both war and peace.

Each of these special days relies heavily on the tireless efforts of many volunteers, both behind the scenes and on the day itself. I would like to express my appreciation for all those involved. A special thank you goes to Emi Luppino and Judy Coates for their work behind the scenes and to John Haward, the President, and the members of all the committees who work diligently to ensure everything goes according to plan. I would also like to recognise the 305 Army Cadet Unit, and Lindsay Burke, for their exemplary role in providing the Catafalque Party. This ceremonial duty, carried out with great respect and precision, is a crucial part of the day's significance.

But most importantly, I would like to offer a heartfelt and sincere thank you to the incredible, dedicated

volunteers who give so generously of their time on the day of the event. These volunteers are the unsung heroes who ensure that everything runs smoothly and seamlessly, making the entire experience enjoyable and meaningful for all involved. Their commitment is evident in every small detail – from the early morning setup to the final clean-up at the end of the day, to simply being there to lend a helping hand whenever it's needed including giving out the wreaths and making sure everyone is able to participate. It's their hard work and dedication that makes these days so memorable.

WHITEHORSE SHOOLS ANZAC SERVICE

This special service was held so that 20 schools could attend a special commemoration of the Anzac service in the Box Hill Gardens. It was a great success. 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 detailed and researched talk that gave all present information of conflicts over more than one hundred years and the sacrifices families suffered during these conflicts. Koonung Secondary College and their choir did a remarkable job singing both the New Zealand and Australian national anthems.



Again, my thanks to all involved, Judy Coates for arranging, Lindsay Burke for arranging 305 Army Cadet Unit, 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 as they also did early on Anzac Day morning and to the volunteer wreath ladies, who again did a terrific job.

The other Volunteers who participated in the above events that I would like to thank but who have not yet been mentioned are Brian Tateson, Rall Wall, Bep Dawes, Phil Peterson, Mal Hams, Michael and Cheryl Frail, Allan Schumer, John Woodford, Helen and John Harrington. Thank You!

APPEALS

Our Appeal volunteers, who sold badges and poppies at their respective spots at Box Hill Central, outside Coles Balwyn East in Belmore Road and Bunnings Box Hill raised a substantial amount for veterans. Volunteers during 2024 were Suresh Alphonse, Stanley Archer, Heather Arnel, Wayne Bastow, Kenneth Boothroyd, Doreen Brooker, Russ Burgess, Lindsay Burke, Ian Carnegie, Kevin Cowling, Bep Dawes, Colin Duck, Jan Durham, Trevor Eddy, Kevin Epps, Jim Farrow, Cheryl Frail, Michael Frail, Malcolm Fraser, Neville Frostick, Bruce Gibbs, Isabel Harkensee, Helen Harrington, John Harrington, Peter Houghton, Joe Ippolito, Katrina Jones, Russel Keast, Denise Kirwan, John Knezevich, Bronwen Laughlin, David Laughlin, Josephine Lessels, Emi Luppino, John MacDonald, Julia McCammon, Pam McCormack, Pauline and Peter McGuigan, Arthur Merryweather, Harry Moyle, Anthony Mulholland, Bryan Neale, Anne Palmer, Hennie Pasveer, Phil Peterson, Mary Pinjo, Lynn Riddell, Alan Rutherford, Cheryl Ryan, Alan Schumer, Judy Schumer, John Sheehan, John Simpson, Mary Simpson, Susan Sims, Geoff Smith, Judy Smith, Doug Stewart, Sue Stewart, Boz Student, Christopher Torr, Richard Tregear, Allan Turk, Ray Wall, Mandy Wallace, Bill Waterman, Lyn and John Woodford and Bob Yendall. With a big thank you to Lindsay Burke and his 305 ACU Cadets and 401 Squadron AAFC. And another big thank you to all, and to those casual volunteers who helped but I did not get your name.

A special big thank you to Bep Dawes who worked so hard to organise participation by schools, businesses, and aged care facilities. Our members also made donations via mail and our website which all helped to make our Appeals successful. Thank you also to

Lindsay Burke and his Cadets, Phil Peterson, Chris Torr, Julie Charenko, Emi Luppino, Cheryl Ryan, Arthur Merryweather, Cheryl Frail, Phil Kinnear, Ray Wall, and John Sheehan, who helped Bep with selling, packing trays and deliveries etc.

The Appeals Program is an integral part of the Box Hill RSL and plays a crucial role in supporting the community and veterans. It is a highly important program that contributes to the overall mission of the RSL by raising funds and providing assistance to those in need. Due to its significance, the program requires a dedicated volunteer who can manage its operations effectively.

Bep has been doing an outstanding job in overseeing this program, but unfortunately, she is no longer able to continue in this important role. As a result, we are seeking a new volunteer who is willing to take on this responsibility and continue the great work Bep has started.

If you are interested in learning more about this role and contributing to the success of the Appeals Program, please don't hesitate to contact me. Your support will make a meaningful difference to the program and the community we serve.

NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL REPORT MAILOUTS

A regular job where volunteers contribute their time is for our mailouts of the Newsletters and the Annual Report during 2024.

I thank the Volunteers who helped on the day of the mailouts - Sue Archbold, Maxine Bennett-Wyatt, Neil Brown, Lindsay Burke, Brenda Burr, Judy Coates, Bep Dawes, Cheryl Frail, Kaye Garrett, Rohan Gibbs, Helen Harrington, Josephine Lessels, Emi Luppino, Arthur Merryweather, Hennie Pasveer, Phil Peterson, Glenys and Anthony Pickup, Mary Pinjo, Rose-Marie Power, Cheryl Ryan, Mary Simpson, Judy Smith, Marilyn Vella and Joan Waters.

I would also like to thank Marilyn Vella, Jan Durham, Bep Dawes and Ray Wall who edited and proofread each newsletter and annual report, so they were ready for publication. Without all these volunteers the mailout would not have happened.

VOLUNTEERS

The Welfare Department once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment by providing an extensive array of services to our members throughout 2024. We were fortunate to be supported by an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers who worked tirelessly to serve our community.

In total, 24,743.5 volunteer hours were graciously contributed by 168 volunteers across all facets of the RSL in 2024. Of this, more than half of the hours were devoted directly to the welfare of our members and the broader community. Notably, our knitting volunteers alone contributed an impressive 10,700.5 hours, while those involved in the appeal efforts dedicated 997 hours. Some of these contributions are highlighted within this report, while others reflect more intermittent efforts. Regardless of the nature of their involvement, each volunteer's dedication is deeply appreciated.

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to everyone who continues to support the Box Hill RSL Welfare Section. Your dedication and generosity are crucial to our success. I am incredibly grateful to Judy Coates for her consistent and unwavering support in the Welfare office. She has always been there, stepping in to assist with a wide range of tasks whenever needed, no matter how big or small. Her dedication and willingness to help made a significant difference in ensuring everything runs smoothly. I truly appreciate her reliability and the positive attitude she brings to every task. Thank you, Judy, for your continued hard work and invaluable contributions. Also want to extend my thanks to Cheryl Frail and Laura Vodjee for their invaluable administrative support in the Welfare space. Thank you to Bep Dawes and Emi Luppino for capturing photographs of the many special events we held in 2024. Finally, I am also grateful to Karen Wightman, my administrative assistant. Karen has been an incredible asset to the team, providing unwavering support every Thursday. Her hard work and organisational skills have already made a significant impact, and I deeply appreciate her contributions.

Finally, thank you to John Haward and Committee, and to Ben Myers and his Staff, especially reception, for all your support during 2024. I am looking forward to working with you during 2025.

Faye Clark
WELFARE COORDINATOR

Memorabilia Report

As Curator of Memorabilia, 2024 has been one of the most significant years in my career. Reflecting on the year, I feel a mix of nostalgia and pride for the many accomplishments achieved.



Boer War display.



Edward 'Teddy' Sheean VC display.

A notable event was the final exhibition in the old Memorabilia cabinet, featuring copies of the uniform and medals of General Sir John Monash. This display was a fitting end to the old cabinet which had hosted 86 exhibitions over the years. Among them was the memorable Fromelles exhibition, during which our RSL was broken into with items being stolen, a traumatic event that marked a difficult chapter in our history.

In 2024, the new building began to take shape, and it took six months to prepare the new Memorabilia displays. We now have what is recognised as one of the largest memorabilia exhibitions anywhere in the RSL. Highlights include a Boer War display featuring a rare complete uniform and medical kit, full representations of our Armed Forces, and tributes to significant figures like Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean VC, and nurses from WW1 to the present.

Another standout was the Bomber Command display, which included a WW2 Flying uniform, boots, and a rare photo of 460 Squadron. A Vietnam and Afghanistan display was also unveiled, showcasing the history of these wars through mannequins, weapons, and a portrait signed by Brian Woods detailing the key political figures during these conflicts.



Bomber Command display.



Box Hill RSL Memorial Walk.

A personal favorite of mine is a Changi flag signed by WW2 POWs. This was a deeply meaningful acquisition stemming from a chance conversation with a veteran. I will always cherish its historical value. I also added a collection of medals, Corp badges, and decorations, showcasing the esteemed awards presented to members of the Australian Defence Forces.



Changi flag display.

Our new building also features a replica of the Long Tan Cross inspired by the original at the Australian War Memorial. It is a beautiful piece now proudly displayed in the Memorabilia Walk.

The year wasn't without its challenges. A major storm caused water damage to some of our memorabilia. We were able to minimise the damage and restore the displays thanks to the quick action of Jointly Construction and their staff. Additionally, a book on the Memorabilia collection was created by Emi Luppino and received great praise, with 62 copies ordered to date.

The final exhibition of the year honored Private Richard Norden VC, the latest recipient of the Victoria Cross which was awarded posthumously for his actions in Vietnam. His story, alongside that of Teddy Sheean serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by our service men and women.

I would like to express my gratitude to President John Haward, the Committee, and all who assisted in making 2024 such a successful year. Special thanks to Ben Myers for his guidance, Glen Bartlet for our years of collaboration and Renato Del A Costa, whose framing expertise has been invaluable. Thanks also to Harry Hiolos for his outstanding printing work and to all the RSL members and members of the public who donated memorabilia this year.

As we look ahead to 2025, I'm excited for the continued growth and challenges that lie ahead. It's an honour to curate this collection, and I remain deeply grateful for the support from everyone involved.

Brian Tateson
CURATOR OF MEMORABILIA

Section Reports

ANGLING SECTION

During 2024, we were fortunate to go on five successful charters, where members enjoyed good catches of snapper, whiting, and flathead. However, with the rising costs of these charters and a decline in membership, we are finding it increasingly difficult to remain a sustainable and valuable part of the Box Hill RSL Community.



Also, during the year our President, Keith Moulder, of six years, sadly passed away unexpectedly. On our last charter, before anchoring, we honoured him with a brief eulogy and then scattered his ashes. Keith will be missed by all.

Charles Kook
SECRETARY

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER SECTION

Last year we had a new Committee line-up with Roger Buckmaster, Russell Burgess and our new President Andrew Brown who has formed a good working relationship with the new Box Hill RSL General Manager, Ben Myers.

We ended up having five competition sides in 2024 which is a good result for the Section. Congratulations to all players involved for their efforts. A special thank you to the captains for organising and overseeing their teams throughout the year. In May last year our section also participated in an RSL Active Event with myself, Rick and Margaret Conomy, overseeing our participation.

Congratulations also to all those who participated in making our Championships such a successful event.

Billiards

Winner Boz Student
Runner up Adrian Gough

Snooker

Winner Greg Cates
Runner Up Michael Zhang

In conclusion, I would like to thank our Committee and the volunteers who keep our section running so successfully, with a special mention to Roger Buckmaster, Anthony Mulholland, and Boz Student.

All RSL members are welcome to drop by the Snooker Room for a friendly game.

John Sweeney
SECRETARY

BOWLS SECTION

The Box Hill RSL Bowls Section has had another successful year of bowls activity.

We are currently in the final stages of the 2024-25 summer pennant season with our two Saturday and two Tuesday pennant teams in a good place to play in the finals. The 2024-25 pennant season has therefore been a successful one in circumstances where illness, hospitalisation and other issues have affected availability of players each week. All players have contributed to our being in good positions to play finals at the time of this report:

- Saturday Pennant - Division 4, Section 4 - 4th and Division 6, Section 6 - 5th;
- Midweek Pennant - Division 3, Section 6 - 3rd and Division 5 Section 4 - 1st; and
- Eastern Ranges Night Pennant Division 2 - 5th.

Selection committees are a difficult task at the best of times. Thank you to the following for their input every week: Cheryl Frail and Judy Smith (mid-week), Jan Durham and David Skinner (Saturday pennant) and Bob Jones (night pennant).

Apart from pennant, the Bowls Section has a vibrant social bowls program that runs all through the year. We also have several annual events that are very successful.

The annual pre-season Kieser Challenge Day against our neighbours from Blackburn North Bowling Club is keenly fought out. We again won the challenge shield which was presented by Alex Bussell, clinic leader/exercise physiologist at Kieser Mont Albert. A great day was had by all and we look forward to the rematch in September 2025.



Above: Alex Bussell presents the shield to Jan Durham and John Woodford.

The annual Memorial Day, which incorporates the Jim Burrowes Rising Star Award, is played in good spirit as we remember the members of the past year who have left us. The 2024 Rising Star Award was presented by the late Jim Burrowes to Robert Lam who was recognised for his talent and improvement as one of our newer bowlers. Well done, Robert.



(L-R) Robert Lam with Jim Burrowes.

Other presentations were made by our sponsor Bethel Funerals.

In June we host the annual MND Charity Day where bowlers from Blackburn North and Mitcham join us for bowls which is followed by a sausage sizzle lunch and raffles. All funds raised go to the MND Freeze campaign as a donation on behalf of all three clubs.

The Bowls Section joined with the Snooker and Darts Sections to host a RSL Active Day where visitors could choose to have a go at the three sports. Volunteers were on hand from all three sections to help participants enjoy their time having a go.

The Bowls Section continues to coordinate the sale of badges for ANZAC Day and poppies for Remembrance Day at the Coles storefront in Belmore Road and our members are committed to its success in raising much needed funds to assist veterans' welfare.

The Bowls Section also participated in the 2024 RSL Duke of Edinburgh Shield played at the Yarrowonga/Mulwala Bowling and Golf Club in April 2024. We looked sensational in our new tops especially commissioned for our participation in that event from now on (see photo below).



We thank the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch for their continued assistance by way of a grant toward our participation in this annual event. We were very competitive and finished equal second in our section. We hope to go a step further in April this year.

Our Club Championship program is still in progress. The following Club Champion titles have been decided:

Men's Singles

Champion Peter Forbes
Runner up Mark Leonard

Women's Singles

Champion Jan Durham
Runner up Judy Smith

SECTION REPORTS

Open Pairs

Champions Peter and Mark Leonard,
Runners up Peter Forbes and David Moran

Arms

Champion Harold Lepp
Runner up Peter Leonard (photo below)



Men's Singles Champion
 Peter Forbes, with Runner up
 Mark Leonard



Women's Singles Champion
 Jan Durham, with Runner up
 Judy Smith



(L-R) Open Pairs Champions Peter and Mark Leonard, with
 Runners up Peter Forbes and David Moran.



Arms Champion Harold
 Lepp, with Runner up Peter
 Leonard

The 100-up, President's
 Cup and Club Triples are
 yet to be decided.

All trophies will be
 presented at our
 annual President and
 Presentation Day to be
 held in May.

Prior to the beginning
 of pennant season in
 October, the Box Hill RSL



Bowls Section commemorated the 60th anniversary
 of its formation. The occasion was worthy of a display
 in the foyer of the RSL and a banner on the rock wall
 flanking the bowling green.

The celebration day was attended by some 80 bowlers,
 past bowlers, members of the Sub-Branch Committee
 and supporters. After a session of bowls, there were
 many stories told and a slide show commemorating
 the 60 years of the club as we shared an afternoon tea
 together. Our life members were present to cut the cake
 (see photo).



(L-R) Heather Arnel representing her husband, Dennis, John
 Harrington, Bob Denison, Ron Hutson, Judy Coates, Peter
 Leonard, and Helen Harrington.

The Bowls Section works with the Sub-Branch to host
 corporate and barefoot bowling events during the year.
 We have had some 400 plus visitors use the green during
 this summer for various group bookings.

To all of the sub-committees this season, we thank
 you all for your input. The Greens Committee, under
 the guidance of Mark Leonard in his first year as
 Green's Director, have kept the greens and surrounds
 in excellent condition which allows us to enjoy our
 bowling all year round. Thank you to Kat Jones and
 David Skinner (catering) and helpers, Peter Houghton
 (match committee), Pam McCormack (uniforms) and
 Phil Johnson (corporate bowls). We cannot forget our

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle CEO John Knezevich. We know we would be unable to operate as we do without your combined contributions and hours of work. To all of our other members who have volunteered to assist the club in any way and who have given volunteer hours to the RSL in various capacities, we thank you.

To all of our sponsors whose boards flank our green, we appreciate your continued support and contributions to our bowling club.

To those members who are not in good health, we wish you all a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you back at the club soon. To the families of those members who passed away during the year, we offer our thoughts and condolences.

Personally, I thank the members of the Bowls Section committee for their continued efforts and contributions in making this club the envy of many of our opposition clubs. We look forward to building our player numbers and need to keep our new member count going. If you have any friends or relatives or know anyone interested, social bowls is a great introduction. Enquiries made at the RSL front desk will be forwarded on to us.

On behalf of the Bowls Section, I take this opportunity to again thank the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Committee, and Box Hill RSL General Manager, Ben Myers, and his staff for their guidance and assistance this past year.

John Woodford
PRESIDENT

DARTS SECTION

The philosophy of the Darts Section is to have a social game of darts in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Games are organised on the night depending on the evening's attendance.

We meet every Monday evening in the Sports Lounge and start at 7:45pm and finish about 10:00pm.

Throughout the year we hold a number of competitions where trophies are awarded.

We also organise social events for members and partners.

During 2024 we have held two major social events that were very well supported by members.

The winners of our in-house competitions were as follows:

Drawn Doubles - (partners picked randomly)

Winners: Sandi Rosu & Fred Tinsley
Runners Up: Bernie Tinsley & Peter Page

Hugh Doyle Trophy - (Start and finish on a double number)

Winner: Edith Baker
Runners Up: John Jones & Ross Fraser

Selected Doubles - (Select your partner)

Winners: Sandi Rosu & Wendy Hindhaugh

Club Championship Trophy

Winner: Bernie Tinsley
Runner Up: Ross Fraser



(L-R) John Jones, Ross Fraser, Bernie Tinsley, Edith Baker, Sandi Rosu, Peter Page

All are welcome whether experienced dart players or throwing darts for the first time. Just drop in and we can provide darts and tuition. For further information contact Paul on 0414 756 478 or Ray 0419 114 126.

Ray Jones
TREASURER

DAY SECTION

We experienced only one "hiccup" in 2024 when no meetings were possible due to the refurbishment of the Upton Room, the venue for our Tuesday meetings. Everyone was accepting of this and, at the end of the day, we cannot stand in the way of progress. It was to our own advantage after all, and we have such a superb RSL of which we can be really proud.

SECTION REPORTS

LEGACY WIDOWS SECTION

Following a familiar format, we had speakers on a wide variety of topics, some invited speakers and some of our own members willing to share life experiences. Thanks go to Jeannine Nolan for organising this. As I keep saying, everyone has a story to share. Our entertainers lightened everyone's mood, and it is great to be able to sing familiar songs. Music has been proved to be great therapy. Our chew'n'chat meetings proffered the opportunity to catch up with fellow members and all of their news. Thanks go to Helen Nemeth for helping with our special events.

Footy Day was a day of friendly banter as members barracked for their own team and wore team colours. Our Christmas lunch was well attended, and the traditional turkey dinner was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Attendance has been somewhat sporadic since many of us had medical appointments/operations over the year, probably exacerbated by a backlog following lockdowns due to Covid. And yes, this dreaded virus came back to haunt us in 2024. Has it ever really gone away, I wonder? Several members fell victim following an enjoyable bus trip run by the Women's Auxiliary. Thanks to the ladies from the Women's Auxiliary for allowing us to join them. Because of declining numbers in our groups, I think it would be beneficial to amalgamate at times e.g., for trips. Helping each other might prevent some activities from cancellation. Times like this remind me of the motto of the kindergarten which I ran in Scotland - "We share, we care."

Thanks to the continued support of our members and willing band of helpers and committee, 2024 proved successful once again. Even short notice of a change to our program is never a problem.

Many of our members look forward to the interaction with RSL staff and it's great to witness intergenerational banter. Old age so often leads to social isolation and loneliness and attending our meetings and going for meals helps alleviate this. A friendly face and a few kind words can make such a difference to us all.

We are all eagerly awaiting June 2025 when our Section celebrates its 25th birthday.

Lastly, and most importantly, we are grateful to the RSL Committee for their unfailing support, both financial and advisory. Thank you.

Mary Simpson
COORDINATOR

In the last couple of years, we have started our year off by having lunch together on the 3rd Monday in January. This is so the ladies could catch up as they found the beginning of December to the middle of February a bit too long, especially as everything closes down over Christmas.



Above: The members of Legacy Widows

We had interesting speakers over the course of the year:

- Rosemary Perry, who spoke on 'The Author in Me.'
- Jenny and John Preston who told us of their work in Zambia.
- Rosalind Kentwell, who spoke on one of her trips to Antarctica.
- Chris and John Burley who spoke and showed slides of their walk across Spain.
- Arthur Merryweather in May to keep us up to date with all the new building work happening at the RSL.

We are incredibly grateful to all our speakers as they give up their precious time to come to talk at the meetings.

Our Treasurer/Secretary went into hospital in May and ended up having a long and extended time and recuperation. We are all very glad to see Patricia able to return to the club.

Penny Farthing was due to come in November but at the last minute had to cancel as they came down with Covid.

We are thankful to Pam Whitfield and Robyn Weir, who are our Legatees, for the help they give us especially at

the Christmas lunch, and to Faye Clark who makes sure our members are able to get to the meetings. A few of our ladies are not able to come now because of ill health but still stay connected.

Glenys Lewis

PRESIDENT

SWIMMING SECTION

We were again fortunate to avail ourselves to more swims in 2024 at our wonderful facilities at Croydon Aquahub in Civic Square, Croydon. However, we still missed plenty of Sunday evenings throughout the year due to lower-than-average attendees for varying reasons.

Unfortunately, we were able to hold only one carnival in 2024 and it was the final carnival held by Albury. At the carnival held in January, Box Hill finished ahead on overall points from Bentleigh and Albury. A great start to the year for the Swimming section.

At the Albury Carnival we had no luck in the relays other than the Braced Pairs Relay which was won by Steven and Liam O'Connell (juniors Alice O'Connell and Sean Ware-O'Connell finished third overall). On an individual level, Steven O'Connell gained first overall in the 25 metres event (David O'Connell finishing third) and Austin Hernaut was third overall in the 100 metres event.

That is where the year ended insofar as carnivals were involved. Much of our swim nights did not eventuate as we struggled with numbers across swimming sections in the Association following the exit of the Albury club and competing interests of members of the remaining two Melbourne-based clubs.

We are hoping that the swimming carnival hosted by Box Hill RSL Swimming Section or Bentleigh RSL Swimming Section will be able to be held sometime this year and a Committee is discussing options. As our members grow older and our younger members disperse around the world and to other interests, we are struggling to attract sufficient numbers to our swims.

We express thanks to the RSL for its continuing support and assistance during the year, which helps to promote membership and more enjoyment for swimmers.

We wish everyone a safe, healthy, and successful year in 2025.

All Box Hill RSL members are welcome to join us at our fortnightly Sunday evening swims at Croydon Aquahub. Please contact Steven O'Connell at soconnell@soccal.com.au for details.

We note that the swimming section has been operating within the Box Hill RSL for 40 years and some of our members were born into the club. Lifelong and new friendships have been made across the club and the AIF Swimming Association, and we continue to enjoy this healthy pastime with friends and family.

Steven O'Connell

SECRETARY / TREASURER

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY SECTION

The Women's Auxiliary wrapped up 2024 on a high note by raising a record-breaking \$3,517.85 from our Christmas Raffle. We are deeply humbled and sincerely grateful for the incredible generosity of our members and the wider Box Hill RSL community, who supported our major raffles throughout the year, including those held for Mother's Day and Father's Day.

We celebrated the addition of four new members and experienced unprecedented fundraising success, securing a strong financial foundation.

This year, we are proud to have supported Box Hill RSL and our community, with total donations amounting to \$7,940.41.

1. Vasey RSL Care Veteran Centre

- A total contribution of \$2,911.63, comprising \$1,000 in monetary support and \$1,911.63 worth of manchester, kitchen, and bathroom items.
- Our ongoing partnership with Vasey RSL Care's Veteran Empowerment Program (VCVEP) continues to support the program to empower veterans, helping them thrive, contribute to their communities, and lead fulfilling lives.

2. Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch

- A donation of \$2,681.28 was made to fund the purchase of an iPad and the framing of the King Charles' portrait.

3. Box Hill Hospital Emergency Department (ED)

- A monetary donation of \$2,000 and \$147.50 in toiletries supported critical services for patients who come through ED.

4. Travellers Aid

- A contribution of \$200 was made to assist their efforts.

In addition to these financial contributions, our members generously donated numerous hand-knitted items to support organisations such as Cottage by the Sea, Box Hill Hospital Emergency Department and Children's Ward, Wantirna Health - Palliative & Aged Care, Peter James Centre, and St Kilda Mums.

Furthermore, seven boxes of non-perishable groceries, toiletries, stationery, and pyjamas were delivered to Cottage by the Sea, an organisation which runs activities and programs for disadvantage children.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this year's efforts a success! Together, we've made a meaningful impact on the lives of many in our community.

It was an exciting start to the year, marked by numerous awards celebrating the incredible contributions of our members. Isabel Harkensee OAM was honoured with the prestigious Order of Australia for her remarkable community work spanning more than three decades. President Judy Coates presented Judy Rosevear with the Gold Star Award in recognition of her 20 years of dedicated support to the Women's Auxiliary at our 2024 AGM.

During our Christmas lunch, Helen Jones received the Returned & Services League of Australia Women's Auxiliary Life Membership, a well-deserved acknowledgment of her outstanding service and commitment to the Women's Auxiliary. We were delighted to see our member, Mary Simpson, and her husband, John, honoured as recipients of the 2024 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Our members had much to celebrate this past year, with many reaching significant milestone birthdays. Notably, three members celebrated their 90th birthdays, while four marked their 80th birthdays, including our President, Judy Coates. The average age of our members now stands at 80.6 years.

The year kicked off with a myriad of activities, beginning with a memorable trip to the Ballarat Begonia Festival on March 13. A delightful day was shared with Day Section

members, Committee members, and friends as we explored the festival. Our day began with a guided tour of the historic town, known for its expansive streets and rich heritage, before enjoying a leisurely lunch at the Golf Club. The highlight of the festival was undoubtedly the begonia display, which many agreed was even more impressive than last year.

The State Women's Council Metropolitan Forum 2024 was held at Box Hill RSL on May 13th. There were sixty-four people in attendance with the RSL State Branch President Robert Webster OAM, State Women's Council Committee members, 10 Women's Auxiliaries from other RSLs made up the numbers. Guest speaker was Chris Gray, Executive General Manager Veteran Services Vasey RSL Care. Lynese Goldie OAM, Women's Council Secretary, said it was the best forum to date.

June was a busy month with two memorable outings. On the 12th, we enjoyed a delightful lunch at the Lynbrook Hotel. The day began with a scenic drive along the bay, through the Albert Park precinct, crossing into St Kilda, and continuing along Beach Road, through to Frankston and finally arriving at our destination, ready for a relaxing meal.

Later in June, we joined members from the Rosebud, Dromana, and Rye Women's Auxiliary for a wonderful afternoon filled with laughter and lively conversation at Rye RSL. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow Auxiliary members from the Peninsula and strengthen bonds within our community.

A delightful celebration of Christmas in July brought us to the charming Old England Hotel in Heidelberg, where festive cheer filled the air.

Those of us who attended the Oaks Day event in the Upton Room had a fabulous day. Everyone dressed to impress, creating a vibrant atmosphere of style and sophistication. We had lots of sweeps and fun with not too many wins for some, and plenty for others. Our very own Helen Harrington (also part of the Bowlers) won Fashion on the Field.

A memorable bus trip to Cottage by the Sea Queenscliff, brought together forty-five attendees, including members of the Day Section, Bowlers, Nashos, and the Knitters Group. Roslyn and Tony, along with their dedicated volunteers, welcomed us warmly with a lovely morning tea. They shared insights into the organisation's rich history, the impactful programs they run and the process behind selecting children to



Above: Oaks Day.

participate in their programs and camps. It was a truly inspiring day for all.

Our monthly meetings have been conducted as usual, and we welcomed some great guest speakers over the course of the year. These included Mikaela Faggis from Eastern Health Foundation and Dr Philip Wu and James Campbell from Hospital in The Home, Greg Lanyon Business owner of a Post Office, Madison Sloan's Lawyers Melisa Sloan and Louise Aitken, Jodie Bateman from Travellers Aid, Samantha Ross and her colleague Beth from Ambulance Victoria in Nunawading, George Fishlock, Justice of the Peace at Box Hill Police Station, Box Hill RSL Memorabilia Curator, Brian Tateson, and Maree Water a poet and Secretary of the Ringwood RSL Women's Auxiliary.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our members for their unwavering support, active participation, and generous contributions to the Women's Auxiliary. Your dedication, whether attending meetings, engaging in activities, selling raffle tickets, or donations of goods or handmade items is deeply valued. Your efforts in supporting the Box Hill RSL assisting with the ANZAC Day Children's Service or selling badges at Box Hill Station for ANZAC and Remembrance Days makes a meaningful difference, and we are sincerely thankful for everything you do.



Above: Women's Auxiliary Committee.

The success of the Women's Auxiliary would not have been possible without the dedication, commitment, and support of its outstanding committee members. Maxine Bennett-Wyatt and Kaye Garrett worked tirelessly on the trade table and assisted wherever needed. Therese Streets organised functions, Isabel Harkensee OAM managed the raffle table, and Doreen Brooker handled lucky numbers whilst also helping as needed. Susan Sims played a vital role by contributing significantly during Judy Coates' recovery from surgery. She wrote newsletter articles, assisted with meetings, and took on various other tasks. Emi Luppino, as Secretary and Treasurer, ensured smooth operations, and finally, Judy Coates, our President, provided the leadership, guidance, and commitment that shaped the Auxiliary into what it is today.

Finally, the Women's Auxiliary is enormously grateful to the Sub-Branch Committee, the General Manager Ben Myers, Event Manager Bree Smith, and the entire staff for their unwavering support.

Judy Coates
HON. PRESIDENT

Emi Luppino-Eddy
SECRETARY/TREASURER

War Memorial & Heritage Report

For the past 18 months Steve Bennet and I have been working on behalf of Box Hill RSL together with the Whitehorse City Council to rejuvenate the WWI War Memorial in Box Hill Gardens with a Grand Memorial Landscape (“GML”) plan.

In conjunction with Whitehorse Council, we have applied to the State Government for a \$30,000 grant to assist with some of the work. Whitehorse Council has agreed to look at undertaking some works within its own umbrella and Box Hill RSL has allocated \$18,000 for a professional landscaping plan to define how the memorial will grow into the future. Part of this plan is to relocate the South Africa (Boer) War Memorial from Whitehorse Rd to Box Hill Gardens adjacent to the WWI Memorial.

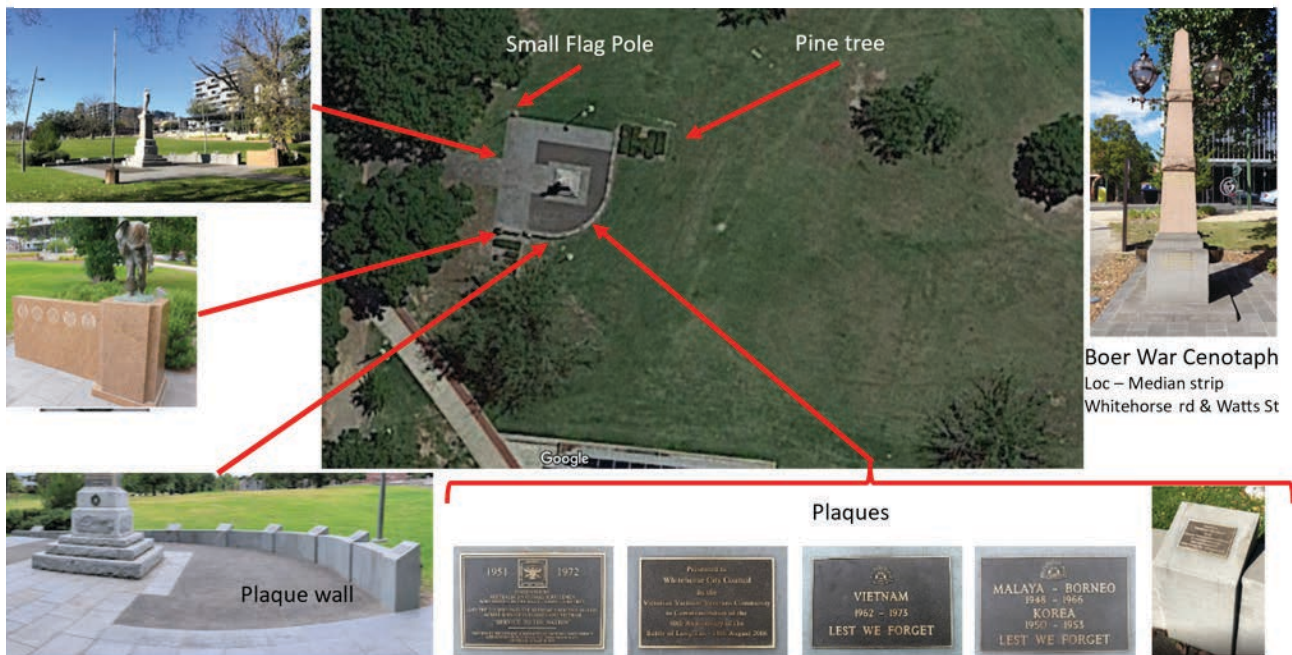
We are hopeful the local Community and other stakeholders commit their support to the GML plan. Understanding what it means to veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The GML will have a broad appeal, using technology (QR codes), lighting/

speakers that will enable the memorials, plaques and bordering gardens (inc. Lone Pine Tree) to have a live history and meaning. Whilst remaining relevant and useable by the community in ways that appeal to them and above all else remembrance of those who fell in service to our nation.

We are keen to see the GML reach out to people and tell them a story. It should establish meaning to the community so they can see themselves as part of the cultural value created by memorials. Schools and other public events would be able to use the GML for approved activities leveraging the technology to host those activities.

Lindsay Burke
MEMORIAL OFFICER

Current Box Hill Cenotaph and Memorial Site



| Associate Organisations

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, WHITEHORSE SUB-BRANCH

Upon originating this report, I would like to quote a line from The Ode: "As we that are left grow old". That is what is happening to our sub-branch: age, stamina and health are quickly creeping up on all of our members. Our average age is now about 87 with me, and one other member. The youngest is 75, committee member, Peter Norman (our Constitution Officer).

The State and Federal secretary of the NSAA has advised me that at their recent meetings it was decided that both the Federal and State branches would close on 31/12/2026. I am also our sub-branch delegate on the State Branch and witnessed the discussion and the State branch decision. As there will be no governing bodies, all sub-branches will close. Therefore, the Whitehorse sub-branch will close on that date as well.

"From 1/1/2027 the NSAA will become a National Direct Members Association led by a light Executive Committee. Existing state branches and sub-branches may continue as social groups without the formalities of Committees we have at present. Our Constitution Officer Gerry Thomas is currently compiling a new "light" constitution which may be used by sub-branches if they so wish." Copied from State Presidents report

During the year, sadly, five NASHO's and one Nashette passed away.

They were: Philip Badger, 2/4/24, Ralph Weatherall 17/6/24, Herminia Harrison (Boothroyd) - Nashette 17/6/24, Ralston Wood (Ex Vice President) 30/12/24 and Don Mathews 31/12/24.

We have 42 service members still

with us, exactly half of 10 years ago.

Thank you to Box Hill RSL President, John Haward and his committee for helping us achieve our goals during 2024.

Ian Carnegie
PRESIDENT

TPI EASTERN SUBURBS SOCIAL CLUB

2024 was a very busy year for the TPI Eastern Suburbs Social Club.

We started the year with a luncheon at the Knox Club in January followed by a luncheon at the Lilydale on York in February.

In March we decided to have a trip around the Bay travelling from Box Hill RSL by bus to Sorrento, across from Sorrento by Ferry to Queenscliff (bus and all), did a small tour of the sights around Queenscliff before arriving at the Geelong RSL for lunch around 1.00pm. We left Geelong RSL around 2.30pm for our trip home and, after navigating the roadworks down Geelong Road, we arrived back at the Box Hill RSL around 5:00pm.

In April we had a luncheon at the Kilsyth Club which was organised by Glenda, one of our very hard-working committee members.

In May we were to take a trip to Caldermeade Farm but as we were unable to hire a bus for the day, we put that on hold and organised a last-minute luncheon at the Shoppingtown Hotel.

In June we decided on something entirely different for a change and organised the group to attend a concert at The Round Function Centre in Nunawading. The artist was Australian operatic soprano

Antoinette Halloran. The concert went for approximately 95 minutes and was extremely well presented.

July saw the group hold its Combined luncheon at Box Hill RSL. Thanks to the President, staff, and a number of visitors we all had a great day with a number of raffles to be won and door prizes to be handed out.

In August we took a bus trip to the T'Gallent Winery on the Mornington Peninsula followed by lunch at the Rosebud RSL before returning to Box Hill RSL around 4:30pm.

September saw a self-drive trip to Warren Glen Nursery in Warrandyte with lunch in their café. Everyone enjoyed the day so much that we organised another trip on January 25 with lunch again at their café.

During Veterans Health Week in October, we arranged to take the group by bus to the Healesville Sanctuary for the day with lunch at the Healesville RSL. The following photo depicts Neil getting pecked by an eagle at the Sanctuary (he was first in the pecking order!).



Above: Neil Brown in the pecking order at Healesville outing in October.

20th November was another cancellation. We were supposed to attend Caldermeade Farm and go on a tractor ride around the farm

befriending the animals on the way. Due to unforeseen circumstances, this trip had to be cancelled and instead we had three days to organise another get together. We decided to have a luncheon at the Kilsyth Club to ensure the group had something to look forward to.

In December we had our Christmas Luncheon at the Box Hill RSL. We had 52 people in attendance, and we all had a great day again thanks to the President and staff of Box Hill RSL.

If anyone would like to join us on our bus trips (we have three each year which are heavily subsidised by the TPI Social Club) we can be contacted in person on the 1st Wednesday of each month at our committee meeting at the Box Hill RSL or alternatively contact Jane on 03 9833 4519 or Glenda on 0425 791 136. As the bus has limited seating it will be first in best dressed, so book early so you don't miss out.

Ziggy Ziogas

PRESIDENT

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, BOX HILL SUB-BRANCH

The question being asked at the start of 2024 was "Will we get the support the Sub-Branch needs to survive another full year and beyond?" Well, we are pleased to report that the level of support we, the committee, received was beyond expectations, our members gave their Sub-Branch what was needed in 2024 and gave us a feeling of future planning for 2025 and beyond.

Our Honour Board was updated at

the end of 2024 as the years on the board ended in 2024. The board had to be made larger to fit more years of services and the board now goes to 2030. We mentioned this to our State Executive and their response was "We hope the VVAA Victorian Sub-Branch is still operating in 2030."

The latest VVAA Sub-Branch to hand in the charter was the education team. This is a real blow to the ongoing education of the involvement of Australians in the Vietnam War. The main reason it closed was that the veterans running it could not continue the workload due to their health and age. Not dissimilar to other Sub-Branches. All the education team equipment, including the mobile museum van, has been donated to the Vietnam Veterans National Museum at Phillip Island.

The 2024 Vietnam Veterans Commemorative service held at the cenotaph at Box Hill Gardens was again a wonderful service and the attendance was larger than 2023. This day will be high on our agenda in 2025. Our thanks must go to the management and staff of the Box Hill RSL and Lindsay Burke who helped enormously to put the day together. Planning is well underway for the 2025 Commemorative Service.



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

The Black Powder Shoot in 2024

Our dedicated committee member James (Jim) Archbold (MM) spent a large amount of time planning this day at the Seymour Black Powder Gun Club. We also visited the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Wall as part of Veterans' Health Week.

The VVAA Victorian State Sub-Branch is currently negotiating with the local Shire, State and Federal governments on applying for grants to refurbish the Wall / Walk which is in disrepair. The VVAA Vic Office has already contributed approximately \$20,000 to give it a facelift, mainly painting the displays.

We were greeted by a very enthusiastic group of Gun Club members headed by Jim Archbold. We quickly broke up into groups to shoot and others got the BBQs ready. It was an exceptionally good day and the weather was exceedingly kind to us. Our thanks for the day must go to Sue and Jim Archbold (MM), Bill and Carol Waterman, Kim Burgess and her offsider and Wayne Bastow who arranged and organised the DVA grant for the bus costs, and other committee members who helped.

Last Wednesday of the Month VV Lunch has been rolling along with an enthusiastic group of members. This is always an effective way to relax and enjoy our fellow members' company and listen to the way they won the war. This day will continue in 2025. We may look at changing the venue, possibly back to Charles Kook's motorcycle club for a BBQ lunch. Any suggestions from the members on how we could improve the event please advise the secretary.

Black Tie Dinner

It can only be said to be a very successful evening. A big thank you must go to all those involved in setting up the event, particularly the management and staff of the Box Hill RSL who set up the venue where the service and meals were exceptional.



Above: Rod Burgess, Mike Charenko and Bill Waterman

The presentation by our guest speakers Andrew Moon and Dennis Frank from “Fallen Diggers” gave an eye-opening report on how the organisation finds the remains of missing soldiers from WW1 and WW2.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle (BBQ)

This was an extraordinarily successful fund-raising event. Thanks to those who volunteered to devote their time to help at the BBQ site at Bunnings Box Hill. We raised over \$1700 on the day which goes towards running the Sub-Branch and welfare issues. The committee is planning the 2025 BBQ late in the year when the weather is better.

Boo Coo News

Despite being a little down in circulation in 2024, the issues that were published were great, with good stories and photos. Congratulations go to Bill Waterman and Ziggy Ziogas for their continued magnificent work in putting together Boo Coo.

Ziggy Ziogas received his Life Membership to the VVAA Box Hill Sub-Branch at the 2024 Annual General Meeting for the time he has put into publishing Boo Coo News over the past 23 years.

Membership

The VVAA Box Hill Sub-Branch is one of the few Sub-Branches that can say our numbers are holding and growing. Each year our numbers increase by about one or two and we are one of few who can say our committee numbers are not reducing. Thanks go to our past membership officer Mike Charenko and currently Jim and Sue Archbold who took over from Michael in 2024.

The VVAA State Council Meetings

held every 4 months at Bendigo continue to look after Veterans and their families. It is quite noticeable at the meetings that numbers have been dropping off. It is recognised that as time goes on more Sub-Branches will close due to the age factor, health and the end of their tour. Box Hill is one of the few Sub-Branches that seem to be holding its Sub-Branch together.

The 2024 Christmas Party on the 15th of December saw the year out. The party took a different direction. For the first time we had a live band which added to the atmosphere of the day and yours truly got up and sang a Tom Jones song, “The Green,

Green Grass of Home”, that brought the house down. The afternoon went well. We will stick with the live band in 2025.

Our thanks go to our president Bill Waterman and the committee members for their continued commitment during 2024 and to the Box Hill RSL committee and management for their continued support to the VVAA Box Hill Sub-Branch.

Rod Burgess

SECRETARY

NAVAL ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA, BOX HILL SUB-BRANCH

The Box Hill Sub-section of the Naval Association meets quarterly (Feb, May, Aug & Nov), generally the 2nd Friday of the month, at the Box Hill RSL Upton Room at 10.30am. After each meeting we enjoy lunch in the bistro.

The membership of our sub-section is small but has grown during 2024 as we welcomed several new members during the year. We enjoy the opportunity to gather together to talk of anything related to the Navy, the RSL and the military. Our membership includes retired Navy personnel, ex Naval Reserves and non-service members who have an interest in the Navy. Partners are also welcome to join.

In October we organised a day for Veterans' Health Week. The day was enjoyed by many veterans. A speaker from Bolton Clarke provided information on Healthy Aging. Delicious food for lunch and afternoon tea was provided by the RSL catering team. Great entertainment was provided by Brendan Scott with a highlight

being the participation of two Naval Association Members, Wayne Bastow and Greg Emmett, who joined in a performance of the 'Great Pretender'.



Our President Ray Gill, his wife Dorothy, and our Treasurer Wayne Bastow enjoyed the Box Hill RSL's Volunteers thank you afternoon tea. They thoroughly enjoyed the delicious food, and the excellent entertainment provided.

We enjoyed a great Christmas lunch at the bistro in early December. Unfortunately, invited guests from the Box Hill RSL Committee were unable to attend this year due to a conflict in events (we are sure they had a great time on their river cruise!). However, we enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate Christmas and end of the year together.

Thank you to Box Hill RSL for the support that is provided to us, in allowing us to use the RSL facilities for our meetings and for the contribution to our funds, especially for their assistance with the Veterans' Health Week function.

The Naval Association Australia has five pillars:

- **Care** (welfare) for the diverse and crucial support of Navy and ex-Navy men and women,

- **Commemoration** by maintaining the legacy of past service and sacrifice.
- **Cadets (ANC)** by assisting youths to become better citizens through support to the ANC.
- **Camaraderie** to meet and socialise with like-minded Navy and ex-Navy men and women.
- **Community** (engagement) How we interact with and support our local communities.

The aim is to be a dynamic and contemporary organisation supporting the Navy fraternity in a wide range of different ways with Mateship at the core of our ethos.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Joy 0406349712 or via email etri1008@hotmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you. Further information is also available on the website <https://navalassoc.org.au/>

Joy Emmett

SECRETARY

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION, BOX HILL SUB-BRANCH

For several years now, our group of past service members and associated members of the Air Force Association has gathered for our monthly luncheons and meetings on the first Friday of each month at Box Hill RSL. We are grateful to the management of Box Hill RSL, with whom many of us have formed strong connections over the years.

As part of the Box Hill RSL's Air Force Sub-Branch, Secretary Hugh Tank and Vice President Peter Wilson were invited to lay a wreath at the Anzac Day Dawn Service, a privilege we deeply appreciate in honouring those

who made the ultimate sacrifice. Hugh Tank also had the honour of representing us by laying a wreath on Remembrance Day.

We value our ongoing association with Box Hill RSL and always welcome new faces. If you ever feel like having a casual chat with our members, please join us at one of our Friday luncheons in the bistro.

If you are interested in joining, feel free to contact me at 0407 533 716.

Hugh Tank

SECRETARY



Vale 2024

LEST WE FORGET

Rhoda Gordon

Maureen Leonard

Willi Gabriel

George Tulloch

Graeme Green

Brian Clancy

Dennis Arnel

Brian Allen

Noela Wallace-Gibb

Alexander McGavin

Lloyd Owen

Robert Edmonds

John Tyrrell

Kay Nasser

Noel Moore

Herminia Harrison

Ralph Weatherell

Roy McDonald

Suzanne Williams

Jim Burrowes

Norma Ireland

Byron Jury

Lance Ward

John Gaze

Elva Maroney

Graham Foard OAM

John Nicholson

George Leondas

Richard Stephens

Elizabeth Mills

Marjorie Hughes

David Laughlin

Gary Pickering

Bert Scarborough

Geoffrey Palmer

Llewellyn Gwyther

Ralston Wood



Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue	2	17,828,182	15,095,545
Raw materials and consumables used		(1,856,392)	(1,722,674)
Bar expenses		(653,886)	(512,624)
Gaming expenses		(6,402,428)	(5,279,820)
Catering and restaurant expenses		(1,773,106)	(1,565,855)
TAB expenses		-	(3,394)
Welfare expenses		(859,909)	(792,096)
Administration and operating expenditure:			
Employee benefits expense		(999,528)	(992,895)
Depreciation		(397,865)	(296,442)
Occupancy expenses		(1,608,390)	(1,550,420)
Administrative expenses		(941,405)	(819,233)
Investment property expenses		(23,916)	(17,474)
Other expenses		(366,698)	(234,212)
Surplus before Income Tax Expense		1,944,659	1,308,406
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus after Income Tax Expense		1,944,659	1,308,406
Other comprehensive income for the year (net of tax)		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year attributable to the members		1,944,659	1,308,406

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	14	7,005,986	6,779,955
Trade & other assets	3	135,428	195,141
Inventories	4	81,470	43,318
Related party loans	5	100,000	100,000
Total Current Assets		7,322,884	7,118,414
Non Current Assets			
Related party loans	5	3,648,762	3,748,762
Plant and equipment	6	3,133,507	2,006,185
Gaming licence entitlements	7	2,896,172	3,275,804
Investment property	8	2,726,466	1,382,602
Other intangible assets	9	23,133	28,916
Total Non Current Assets		12,428,040	10,442,269
Total Assets		19,750,924	17,560,683
Current Liabilities			
Trade payables & other liabilities	10	1,211,131	1,127,457
Provisions	13	517,252	439,223
Other liabilities	11	98,445	74,040
Borrowings	12	745,603	704,560
Total Current Liabilities		2,572,431	2,345,280
Non Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	12	1,959,268	1,948,012
Provisions	13	28,210	21,035
Total Non Current Liabilities		1,987,478	1,969,047
Total Liabilities		4,559,909	4,314,327
Net Assets		15,191,015	13,246,356
Equity			
Gift fund		907,121	907,121
Retained surplus		14,283,894	12,339,235
Total Equity		15,191,015	13,246,356

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Gift Fund	Retained surplus	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2023	907,121	11,030,829	11,937,950
Surplus attributable to members		1,308,406	1,308,406
Balance at 31 December 2023	907,121	12,339,235	13,246,356
Surplus attributable to members		1,944,659	1,944,659
Balance at 31 December 2024	907,121	14,283,894	15,191,015

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash receipts from customers		17,595,358	14,863,822
Cash payments to suppliers and employees		(14,962,066)	(12,905,488)
Interest received		291,342	215,028
Net cash inflow from operating activities	14(b)	2,924,634	2,173,362
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of investment property and repairs		(1,343,864)	-
Proceeds from disposal of gaming machines and associated hardware		-	-
Purchase of licenses, gaming machines and other fixed assets		(1,454,739)	(2,293,566)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(2,798,603)	(2,293,566)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of loan to the Patriotic Fund		100,000	100,000
Net cash inflow from financing activities		100,000	100,000
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		226,031	(20,204)
Cash at beginning of financial year		6,779,955	6,800,159
Cash at end of financial year	14(a)	7,005,986	6,779,955

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the Sub- Branch to fulfil the Association's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Act, and are, in the opinion of the committee, appropriate to meet the needs of members. The policies comply with the measurement and recognition requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations, and other professional reporting requirements, do not have mandatory applicability to the Sub-Branch, except to the extent required by the Act, because it is not a "reporting entity".

No other Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The following is a summary of the material policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value basis. Costs are assigned on a first-in first-out basis.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful lives (commencing from the time the asset is ready for use). Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciable amount is the carrying value of the asset less estimated residual amounts. The residual amount is based on what a similar asset of the expected condition of the asset at the end of its useful life could be sold for.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate, at each statement of financial position date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

- Gaming machines - 14%
- Computer software - 25%

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (cont'd)

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Gaming Licence Entitlements

The Sub-branch has elected to account for its gaming entitlements on a cost basis.

Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that economic will flow to the Association and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Gaming revenue

Gaming revenue is the net amount received after deducting the difference between gaming wins and losses. Gaming revenue is recognised at a point in time, which occurs on the outcome of the game in question.

Food and beverage revenue

Revenue from sales of food and beverages is recognised at a point in time, being when goods are provided to a customer.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Sub-Branch is entitled to it.

Income Tax

The Sub-Branch is not liable for income tax. The ongoing Income Exempt Charity status is subject to the Sub-Branch meeting the terms of the Deed of Settlement with the Commissioner of Taxation of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Significant accounting judgments

The Committee evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. In the current financial year, all such estimates are deemed to be 'normal' estimations in the ordinary course of business.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (cont'd)

2 REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

Included in operating surplus are the following items of operating revenue:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
- bar trading income	1,899,721	1,707,790
- gaming income	11,358,994	9,336,593
- catering income	3,739,584	3,403,579
- investment property income	38,671	28,680
- other income	778,846	656,137
- Profit / (loss) on disposal of fixed assets	12,366	(37,234)
	17,828,182	15,095,545

3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Current

Receivables	53,433	82,966
Provision for impairment of receivables	-	-
	53,433	82,966
Other receivables	28,620	33,200
Prepayments and other assets	53,375	78,975
	135,428	195,141

4 INVENTORIES

Stock on hand at cost	81,470	43,318
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5 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The loan to the Box Hill RSL Sub Branch Patriotic Fund is non interest bearing and is unsecured. It has repayment terms of \$100,000 per annum.

The following table provides the total amount of transactions that have been entered into with related parties for the year:

- Rent paid from the Sub-Branch to the Patriotic Fund	1,307,916	1,320,001
- Contribution towards Welfare Co-ordinators wages paid from the Patriotic Fund to the Sub Branchh	67,000	67,000
- Honorariums paid	37,500	30,000

6 PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Entertainment rooms, machines and plant and equipment - at cost	5,060,878	3,804,748
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,983,292)	(1,868,464)
	3,077,586	1,936,284

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (cont'd)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
6 PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (cont'd)		
Motor vehicles - at cost	(a) 90,342	90,342
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(34,421)	(20,441)
	55,921	69,901
Total Plant and Equipment	3,133,507	2,006,185
(a) A motor vehicle is retained for the use of the General Manager of the Sub-Branch.		
7 GAMING LICENCE ENTITLEMENTS		
2022 Entitlements at cost	3,796,262	3,796,262
Less: Accumulated Amortisation	(900,090)	(520,458)
	2,896,172	3,275,804
	2,896,172	3,275,804
8 INVESTMENT PROPERTY		
Investment property - at fair value	2,726,466	1,382,602
9 OTHER INTANGIBLES ASSETS		
<i>Computer software</i>		
Cost	183,172	183,172
Less: accumulated amortisation and impairment	(160,039)	(154,256)
	23,133	28,916
10 TRADE PAYABLES & OTHER LIABILITIES		
Current		
Trade creditors	850,309	685,943
Sundry creditors & accruals	360,822	441,514
	1,211,131	1,127,457

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (cont'd)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
11 OTHER LIABILITIES		
Current		
Subscriptions in advance	80,744	53,850
Gift cards	12,519	19,327
Other income in advance	5,182	863
	98,445	74,040
12 BORROWINGS		
Current		
Bank Loan	45,710	-
Hire purchase agreements	188,458	218,726
Payable – Gaming entitlements	511,435	485,834
	745,603	704,560
Non-Current		
Bank Loan	729,475	-
Hire purchase agreements	51,916	240,374
Payable – Gaming entitlements	1,177,877	1,707,638
	1,959,268	1,948,012

The 'Bank Loan' is with ANZ, secured with interest payable at 6.51%.

The Sub-Branch executed an 'Offer Deed Poll', where it would acquire 103 gaming entitlements at a cost of \$38,079 each for the period 16 August 2022 to 15 August 2032.

13 PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for annual leave	240,759	212,022
Provision for long service leave	276,493	227,201
	517,252	439,223
Non-Current		
Provision for long service leave	28,210	21,035

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (cont'd)

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
14 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW		
(a) Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
Cash at bank and on hand	1,980,449	2,573,137
Short term deposits	5,025,537	4,206,818
	7,005,986	6,779,955
(b) Reconciliation of Net Cash used in Operating Activities to Operating Surplus / (Deficit)		
Operating surplus after income tax	1,944,659	1,308,406
<i>Non Cash Flows in operating surplus:</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	777,497	674,034
(Profit) / Loss on disposal of non current assets	(12,366)	37,234
<i>Change in Operating Assets & Liabilities:</i>		
(Increase) / Decrease in trade receivables and other assets	59,713	(58,685)
(Increase) in inventories	(38,152)	(3,605)
Increase in trade creditors and accruals	108,079	238,039
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	85,204	(22,061)
Net cash from / (used in) operating activities	2,924,634	2,173,362
15 REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL		
Total key management personnel remuneration:	1,144,765	1,260,603

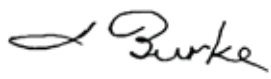
DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Members of the Committee ('the Committee') of Box Hill Sub-Branch Inc. declare that in the Committee's opinion:

- a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Regulation 2013.

President: 
John Haward

Treasurer: 
Lindsay Burke

Dated 30/1/2025

**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Inc**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Inc ("the Sub Branch"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the statement of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the Committee's declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of the Sub Branch is properly drawn up, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Sub Branch's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibility under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Sub Branch in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the Sub Branch is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the ACNC Act. The Committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Sub Branch's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the Sub Branch or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Sub Branch's financial reporting process.

**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Inc (cont'd)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Stannards Accountants and Advisors



James Dickson
Partner

Date: 30th January 2025

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income - Operating	6,812,357	5,767,470
Income - Non-Operating	306,097	226,234
Total Income	7,118,454	5,993,704
Operating expenditure	(4,313,886)	(3,893,202)
Welfare expenses	(859,909)	(792,096)
Net Operating Surplus	1,944,659	1,308,406
EBITDAR	4,187,668	3,469,177
% Staff Costs to Revenue	24.3%	26.2%

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Operating Income		
Bar trading - Net	656,596	653,117
Gaming room - Net	4,956,566	4,056,773
Catering - Net	699,325	657,099
TAB - Net	-	(968)
Subscriptions	103,107	118,770
Sundry Income	384,397	319,913
Profit (loss) on disposal of gaming machines	12,366	(37,234)
	6,812,357	5,767,470
Non-Operating Income		
Interest received	291,342	215,028
Investment property - Net	14,755	11,206
	306,097	226,234
TOTAL INCOME	7,118,454	5,993,704

BAR TRADING STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Income		
Sales	1,899,721	1,707,790
Less cost of sales	(589,239)	(542,049)
Gross Profit	1,310,482	1,165,741
Less Expenses		
Bar expense	49,381	36,561
Superannuation	59,845	45,406
Wages - Bar	536,984	426,053
WorkCover premiums	7,676	4,604
	653,886	512,624
Net Operating Income	656,596	653,117

GAMING STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Income		
Gaming revenue	11,358,994	9,336,593
Gross Profit	11,358,994	9,336,593
Less Expenses		
Gaming on-costs	989,105	1,016,937
Gaming expenses / promotions	233,907	187,428
State gaming tax	4,486,461	3,417,547
Superannuation	70,941	63,335
Wages	612,189	587,685
WorkCover premiums	9,825	6,888
	6,402,428	5,279,820
Net Operating Income	4,956,566	4,056,773

CATERING STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Income		
Revenue	3,739,584	3,403,579
Less cost of sales	(1,267,153)	(1,180,625)
Gross Profit	2,472,431	2,222,954
Less Expenses		
Other catering expenses	81,820	71,943
Superannuation	173,093	143,187
Wages	1,494,803	1,336,471
WorkCover premiums	23,390	14,254
	1,773,106	1,565,855
Net Operating Income	699,325	657,099

TAB STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Income		
TAB commission	-	2,426
Gross Profit	-	2,426
Less Expenses		
TAB on-costs	-	3,394
	-	3,394
Net Operating (Deficit)	-	(968)

OPERATING EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Accounting fees	21,500	23,500
Advertising	4,947	4,833
ANZAC House operating support fees	18,442	15,649
Bank charges	89,840	48,866
Cleaning	229,154	196,920
Committee Expenses/Honarariums	72,517	47,031
Computer expenses	55,018	58,786
Consulting and professional fees	28,030	22,018
Depreciation	397,865	296,442
Entertainment	5,688	4,200
Fees and permits	2,791	2,663
Fringe benefits tax expense	9,959	12,538
Fund raising expenses	41,199	42,284
Gas and electricity	269,457	199,721
Insurance	114,458	97,929
Keno	-	740
Miscellaneous expense	96,131	41,442
Motor vehicle expenses	16,094	8,501
Payroll tax	160,513	141,987
Payroll services	8,509	9,452
Postage	2,629	2,206
Printing and stationery	40,871	25,431
Provision for annual leave	28,737	(55,335)
Provision for long service leave	56,467	33,273
Rates and taxes	31,017	30,698
Rent	1,307,916	1,320,001
Repairs and maintenance	229,709	181,027
Security	139,794	133,146
Staff Training	1,942	1,544
Subscription expenses	7,736	5,215
Superannuation	82,155	77,895
Telephone	27,471	24,086
Uniforms	7,519	10,090
Wages - Administration	512,002	650,471
Wages - Reception	137,321	124,015
Waste disposal	46,114	45,886
WorkCover premiums	12,374	8,051
Total Operating Expense	4,313,886	3,893,202

WELFARE EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Welfare Expenses Community		
Donations	30,415	22,736
Funeral expenses	391	823
Gardening expenses	730	790
Medical Expenses	165	90
Miscellaneous	688	1,040
Room hire cost	15,368	16,455
Subsidised meals	119,947	144,998
Taxi Services	7,697	10,457
Total Welfare Expenses Community	175,401	197,389
Welfare Expenses Veterans		
Administration fees	29,728	27,330
ANZAC House League support fees	166,075	167,524
Funeral expenses	105	1,584
Gardening Expenses	-	1,251
Grants to sporting bodies / Ex-Servicemen	113,189	47,660
Miscellaneous / Memorabilia / Other	36,536	41,935
Payroll tax	7,528	7,552
Postage	16,913	12,158
Printing and stationery	12,688	8,225
Remembrance of sacrifice	40,913	16,076
Room hire cost	27,441	20,786
Subsidised meals	32,176	38,239
Superannuation	18,105	17,542
Telephone	1,599	1,593
Taxi Services	5,421	3,200
Volunteer expenses	20,183	11,599
Wages	155,328	168,655
WorkCover premiums	580	1,798
Total Welfare Expenses Veterans	684,508	594,707
Total Welfare Expense	859,909	792,096

INVESTMENT PROPERTY STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

Income		
Rental Income	38,671	28,680
Gross Profit	38,671	28,680
Less Expenses		
Insurance	3,975	2,094
Property Management Fees	2,074	1,538
Rates / Water	5,782	3,021
Repairs & Maintenance	4,123	6,355
Sundry Expenses	7,962	4,466
Total Rental Expense	23,916	17,474
Net Non-Operating Income	14,755	11,206

BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH PATRIOTIC FUND ABN 44440 882 245

Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue	2	1,336,644	1,345,509
Expenses		(1,876,150)	(1,149,809)
Surplus / (Deficit) Before Income Tax Expense		(539,506)	195,700
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) After Income Tax Expense		(539,506)	195,700
Other comprehensive income for the year (net of tax)		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year attributable to the members		(539,506)	195,700

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	6	158,508	882,826
Trade & Other Receivables	3	47,283	95,658
Total Current Assets		205,791	978,484
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	30,945,062	27,088,959
Total Non Current Assets		30,945,062	27,088,959
Total Assets		31,150,853	28,067,443
Current Liabilities			
Trade payables & other liabilities		31,887	521,628
Related party borrowings	5	100,000	100,000
Bank loan		995,299	475,000
Total Current Liabilities		1,127,186	1,096,628
Non Current Liabilities			
Related party borrowings	5	3,648,762	3,748,762
Bank loan		8,070,260	4,377,902
Total Non Current Liabilities		11,719,022	8,126,664
Total Liabilities		12,846,208	9,223,292
Net Assets		18,304,645	18,844,151
Equity			
Retained surplus		18,304,645	18,844,151
Total Equity		18,304,645	18,844,151

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Retained surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2023	18,648,451	18,648,451
Surplus attributable to members	195,700	195,700
Balance at 31 December 2023	18,844,151	18,844,151
Deficit attributable to members	(539,506)	(539,506)
Balance at 31 December 2024	18,304,645	18,304,645

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash receipts from customers		1,356,291	1,230,783
Cash payments to suppliers		(124,155)	(105,770)
Interest received		28,728	25,508
Interest paid		(528,042)	(89,379)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	6	732,822	1,061,142
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Property, Plant and equipment acquired		(5,569,797)	(5,551,592)
Sale proceeds from fixed assets		-	-
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(5,569,797)	(5,551,592)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of loan from Box Hill RSL - Sub Branch		(100,000)	(100,000)
Commercial loan from bank		4,212,657	4,852,902
Net cash inflow from financing activities		4,112,657	4,752,902
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		(724,318)	262,452
Cash at beginning of financial year		882,826	620,374
Cash at end of financial year	6	158,508	882,826

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

“This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the Sub- Branch to fulfil the Association’s financial reporting requirements under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 (the Act). The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Act, and are, in the opinion of the committee, appropriate to meet the needs of members. The policies comply with the measurement and recognition requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations, and other professional reporting requirements, do not have mandatory applicability to the Fund, except to the extent required by the Act, because it is not a “reporting entity”.”

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The following is a summary of the material policies adopted by the fund in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are included at cost or at valuation.

All assets, excluding freehold land and buildings from which rental income is derived are depreciated over their estimated economic lives. The carrying value of property, plant and equipment is reviewed regularly such that it does not exceed its recoverable amount.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

- Buildings and improvements	2.50%	Straight line
- Plant and equipment	9% to 50%	Diminishing value

Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that economic will flow to the Company and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Rental income

Rental income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term, in line with the contractual agreement between the Fund and the customer.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Fund is entitled to it.

Income Tax

The Fund is not liable for income tax. The ongoing Income Exempt Charity status is subject to the Fund meeting the terms of the Deed of Settlement with the Commissioner of Taxation of the Commonwealth of Australia.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (cont'd)

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Significant accounting judgments

The Committee evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. In the current financial year, all such estimates are deemed to be 'normal' estimations in the ordinary course of business.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
2 REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME		
Included in operating surplus are the following items of operating revenue:		
- rent received	1,307,916	1,320,001
- interest received	28,728	25,508
	1,336,644	1,345,509
3 TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Current		
Prepayments and other assets	47,283	95,658
4 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Land and buildings		
Freehold land	792,143	792,143
Club rooms - at deemed cost	2,060,000	2,060,000
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,029,298)	(977,657)
Capital structure improvements - at cost	40,633,769	29,180,386
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(12,506,717)	(11,516,904)
Work in progress	-	6,451,963
	29,157,754	25,197,788
Total land and buildings	29,949,897	25,989,931
Plant and equipment		
Plant and equipment - at cost	4,576,313	4,497,677
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(3,581,148)	(3,398,649)
	995,165	1,099,028
Total plant and equipment	995,165	1,099,028
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	30,945,062	27,088,959

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (cont'd)

4(b) PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movement in the carrying value for each class of property plant and equipment between the beginning and end of the financial year is as follows:

	Land	Buildings	Plant and equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 31 December 2024				
Balance at the beginning of the year	792,143	25,197,788	1,099,028	27,088,959
Additions	-	5,001,419	78,637	5,080,056
Disposals - written down value	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(1,041,453)	(182,500)	(1,223,953)
Balance at the end of the year	792,143	29,157,754	995,165	30,945,062

5 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The loan from Box Hill RSL Sub Branch Inc is non interest bearing and is unsecured. It has repayment terms of \$100,000 per annum.

The following table provides the total amount of transactions that have been entered into with related parties for the year:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
- Rent paid from the Sub-Branch to the Patriotic Fund	1,307,916	1,320,001
- Contribution towards Welfare Co-ordinators wages paid from the Patriotic Fund to the Sub Branch	67,000	67,000

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (cont'd)

6 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash at bank	158,508	882,826
Represented by:		
Patriotic Fund	158,508	882,826

(b) Reconciliation of Net Cash used in Operating Activities to Operating Surplus (Deficit)

Operating surplus / (deficit)	(539,506)	195,700
<i>Non Cash Flows in operating surplus (deficit):</i>		
Depreciation	1,223,953	954,660
<i>Change in Operating Assets & Liabilities:</i>		
Decrease / (Increase) in trade debtors and other receivables	48,375	(89,218)
Net cash from operating activities	732,822	1,061,142

Change in trade and other payables are not relevant as operating liabilities due to balances being financing activities.

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Members of the Committee ('the Committee') of Box Hill Sub-Branch Inc. declare that in the Committee's opinion:

- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- (b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Regulation 2013.

President: 
 John Haward

Treasurer: 
 Lindsay Burke

Dated: 30/1/2025

**Independent Audit Reports
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Patriotic Fund)**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Patriotic Fund) ("the Fund"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the statement of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the committee's declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of the Fund is properly drawn up, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibility under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the Fund is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act. The Committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.



**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Patriotic Fund) (cont'd)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Stannards Accountants and Advisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Dickson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

James Dickson
Partner

Date: 30th January 2025

DETAILED SURPLUS OR DEFICIT STATEMENT

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Rent received	1,307,916	1,320,001
Interest received	28,728	25,508
Total	1,336,644	1,345,509
Expenses		
Administration Expenses	750	1,036
Consultancy and professional fees	1,200	1,843
Depreciation	1,223,953	954,660
Interest expense	528,042	89,379
Repairs and maintenance	50,023	35,891
Welfare expenditure	72,182	67,000
Total expenses	1,876,150	1,149,809
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(539,506)	195,700

**BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH AGENCY APPEALS FUND
(AGENT FOR RSL VIC BRANCH GENERAL APPEALS FUND)**

Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024



STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue		53,998	59,112
Expenses		(61,092)	(59,151)
(Deficit) Before Income Tax Expense		(7,094)	(39)
Income tax expense		-	-
(Deficit) After Income Tax Expense		(7,094)	(39)
Other comprehensive income for the year (net of tax)		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year attributable to the members		(7,094)	(39)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	2	4	28,710
Receivables		22,000	-
Total Current Assets		22,004	28,710
Total Assets		22,004	28,710
Current Liabilities			
Trade payables & other liabilities		3,374	2,986
Total Current Liabilities		3,374	2,986
Total Liabilities		3,374	2,986
Net Assets		18,630	25,724
Equity			
Retained surplus		18,630	25,724
Total Equity		18,630	25,724

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Retained surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2023	25,763	25,763
Deficit attributable to members	(39)	(39)
Balance at 31 December 2023	25,724	25,724
Deficit incurred by members	(7,094)	(7,094)
Balance at 31 December 2024	18,630	18,630

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash receipts from appeals and donations		31,996	59,110
Cash payments in the provision of welfare		(60,704)	(58,283)
Interest received		2	2
Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities	2	(28,706)	829
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		(28,706)	829
Cash at beginning of financial year		28,710	27,881
Cash at end of financial year	2	4	28,710

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the Sub- Branch to fulfil the needs of the members. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Act, and are, in the opinion of the committee, appropriate to meet the needs of members. The policies comply with the measurement and recognition requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations, and other professional reporting requirements, do not have mandatory applicability to the Fund, except to the extent required by the Act, because it is not a "reporting entity".

This financial report related to the Box Hill RSL Agency Appeals Fund which was created under Branch Bylaw 7A to facilitate the administration and management of designated appeal funds received by Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch as agent for the Returned & Services League of Australian (Victorian Branch) (ANZAC House). This was undertaken in order to preserve the Designated Gift Recipient status of the fund represented by the Agency Fund.

The bylaw specifies that if the funds are not spent within one year of the initial receipt, they must be remitted back to the RSL General Appeals Fund administrated by ANZAC House.

Basis of Accounting

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations:

- AASB 107: Statement of Cash Flows
- AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors;
- AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date;
- AASB 1048: Interpretation of Standards; and
- AASB 1054: Australian Additional Disclosures

No other Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The following is a summary of the material policies adopted by the fund in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Revenue

Rental and all other sources of income are accounted for on an accruals basis, such that revenue is recognised when contract conditions are fulfilled.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024 (cont'd)

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Income Tax

The Fund is not liable for income tax. The ongoing Income Exempt Charity status is subject to the Fund meeting the terms of the Deed of Settlement with the Commissioner of Taxation of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Significant accounting judgments

The Committee evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. In the current financial year, all such estimates are deemed to be 'normal' estimations in the ordinary course of business.

2 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash at bank	4	28,710

(b) Reconciliation of Net Cash used in Operating Activities to Operating (Deficit)

Operating (deficit)	(7,094)	(39)
<i>Change in Operating Assets & Liabilities:</i>		
Increase in trade creditors and accruals	388	868
(Increase) in trade receivables and other assets	(22,000)	-
Net cash from / (used in) operating activities	(28,706)	829

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

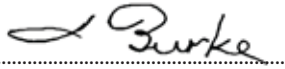
The Members of the Committee ('the Committee') of Box Hill Sub-Branch Inc. declare that in the Committee's opinion:

(a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and

(b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the members.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the committee.

President: 
John Haward

Treasurer: 
Lindsay Burke

Dated: 30/1/2025

**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Agency Appeals Fund)**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Agency Appeals Fund) ("the Fund"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the statement of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the committee's declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of the Fund is properly drawn up, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibility under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting responsibilities of the Returned & Services League of Australian (Victorian Branch). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the Fund is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Returned & Services League of Australian (Victorian Branch). The Committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

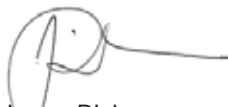
**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Agency Appeals Fund)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Stannards Accountants and Advisors



James Dickson
Partner

Date: 30th January 2025

DETAILED SURPLUS OR DEFICIT STATEMENT
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Income		
ANZAC Day Appeal	29,631	28,000
Donations	2,365	4,510
Interest	2	2
Poppy Day Appeal	22,000	26,600
Total	53,998	59,112
Expenses		
Administration expenses	-	264
ANZAC Day Appeal - Wreaths	3,140	3,456
Death notices	5,538	9,427
Funeral Expenses	900	2,240
Gardening service	12,148	12,548
Medical equipment and doctors fees	1,398	1,084
Poppy Day Appeal - Wreaths	2,500	2,576
Taxi services	18,592	17,014
Wages & salaries	12,100	8,800
Other welfare services	4,776	1,742
Total Expenses	61,092	59,151
Net (Deficit)	(7,094)	(39)

BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH

EBITDAR

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Profit	\$13,478	\$476,859	\$718,179	\$643,305	\$573,293	\$821,412	\$624,651
EBITDAR	\$1,641,913	\$2,263,957	\$3,037,541	\$2,913,160	\$2,782,743	\$3,158,324	\$3,110,740

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Profit	\$428,852	\$427,804	-\$9,620	\$1,101,022	\$1,599,030	\$1,308,406	\$1,944,659
EBITDAR	\$2,925,300	\$2,628,939	\$671,673	\$2,057,824	\$3,060,487	\$3,469,177	\$4,187,668

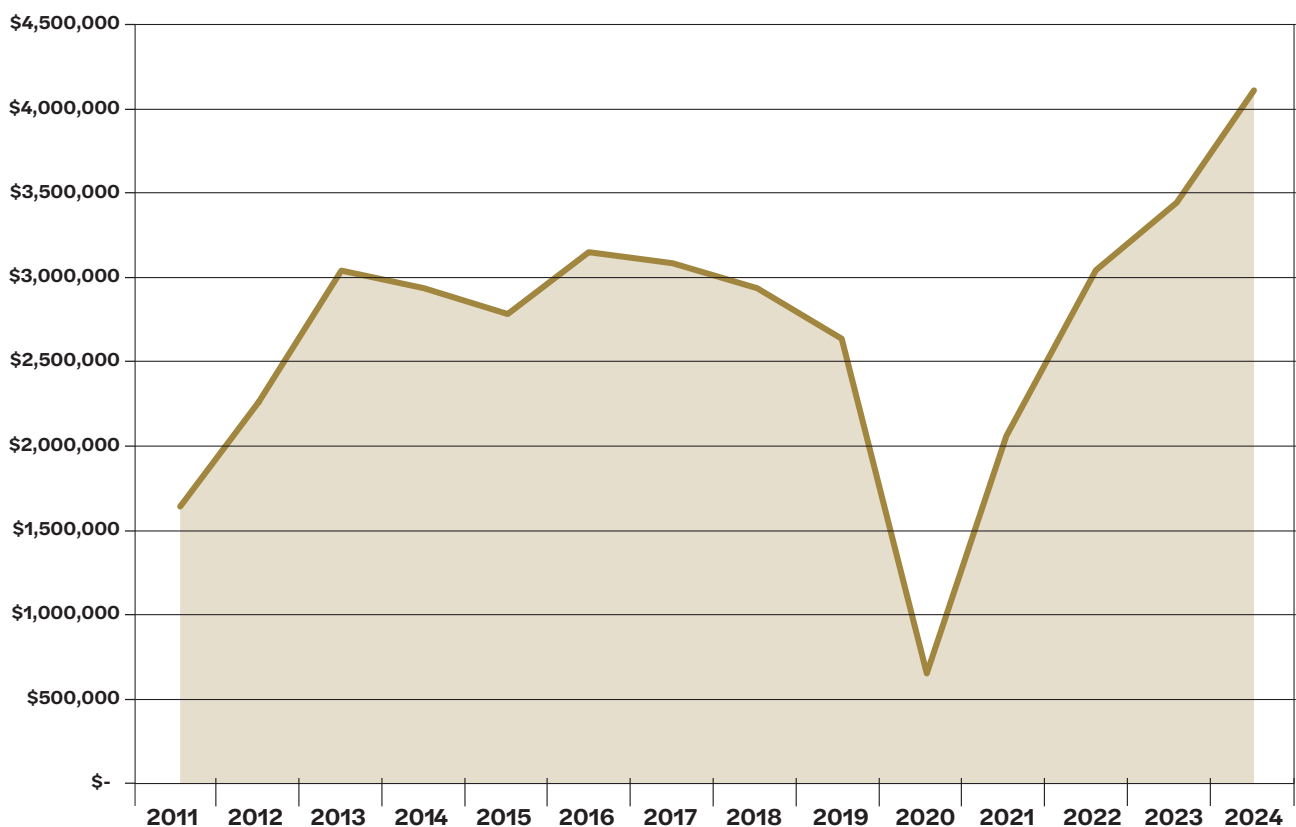
NOTE - EBITDAR represents **Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation, Amortisation and Rent**

EBITDA offers a clearer reflection of operations by stripping out expenses that can obscure how the company is really performing.

Interest and rent are ignored as they are a function of the financing model and not operational performance

Taxes are left out because they can vary widely depending on past performance leading to variations that can distort net income.

Depreciation and amortization are removed due to the arbitrary and subjective judgments that can go into the calculation, such as useful lives, residual values and various depreciation methods.



NB - Donations to the Patriotic Fund have been added back to the profit figure in the years they were recorded
 - 'Loan forgiven after related income tax expense' has not been included from 2002.

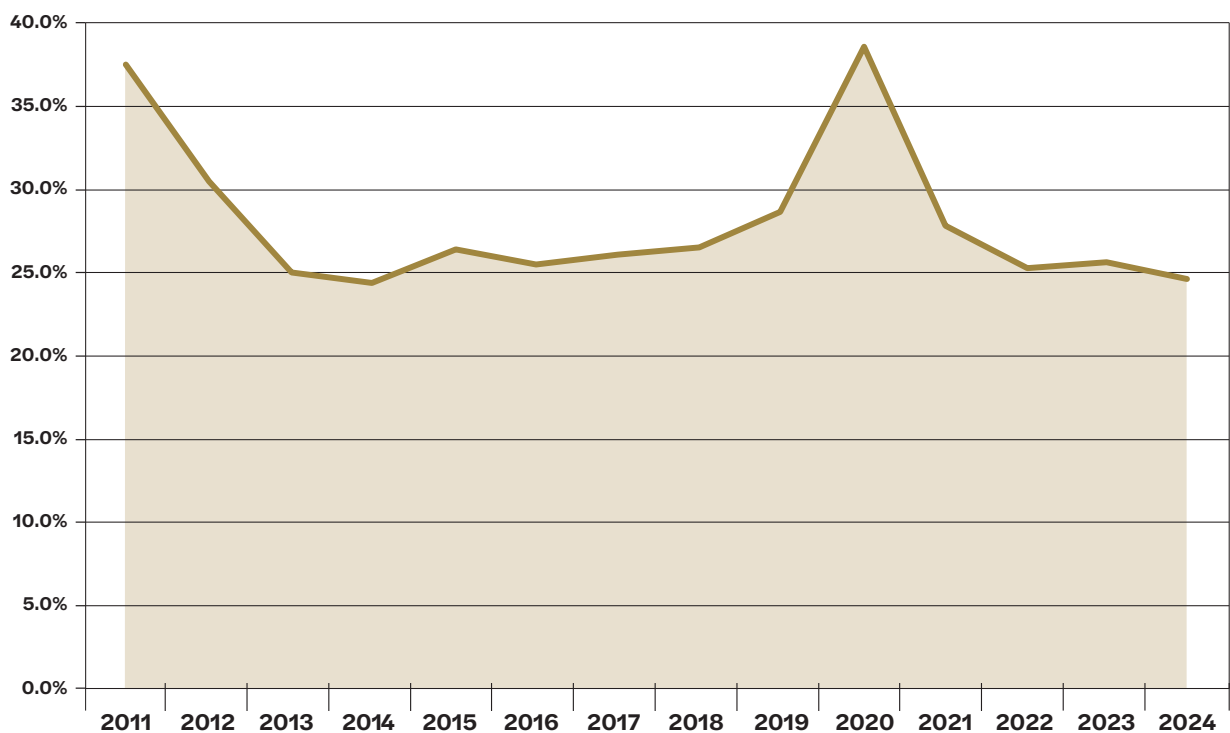
BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH

Percentage Staff Costs to Revenue



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Revenue	\$6,435,966	\$8,147,386	\$10,757,227	\$11,029,374	\$11,374,092	\$12,405,608	\$12,873,016
Adjusted Revenue	\$6,192,983	\$7,895,115	\$10,489,792	\$10,748,342	\$11,084,713	\$12,109,128	\$12,549,585
Total Staff Costs	\$2,316,033	\$2,394,328	\$2,622,921	\$2,669,455	\$2,944,056	\$3,113,686	\$3,306,450
% Staff Costs to Revenue	37.4%	30.3%	25.0%	24.8%	26.6%	25.7%	26.3%

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Revenue	\$13,120,321	\$12,962,622	4,369,050	\$8,100,109	\$12,925,843	\$15,095,545	\$17,828,182
Adjusted Revenue	\$12,750,366	\$12,625,013	4,095,985	\$7,727,548	\$12,546,422	\$14,722,245	\$17,265,919
Total Staff Costs	\$3,430,960	\$3,597,885	1,568,889	\$2,111,885	\$3,210,514	\$3,861,411	\$4,187,822
% Staff Costs to Revenue	26.9%	28.5%	38.3%	27.3%	25.6%	26.2%	24.3%



BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH

Community Benefit Statement



An Explanation

The largest amount in this report is for the support given to ANZAC House. Thereafter the next largest amount in this report is "Subsidised Meals", this sizable amount is essentially the cost of the Free Meal Vouchers we provide to our members on their birthdays, combined with the small discount built into the cost of providing a senior's meal, which the Sub-Branch absorbs.

The next highest cost was the Box Hill RSL Newsletter, which keeps our members updated with all the latest club news.

Some of the other listed amounts are for:

- Funding to various groups
- Taxi vouchers for those members who are unable to drive or catch public transport
- Gardening for members who for age or health reasons are no longer able to do their own gardens.
- Room Hire which is where we provide the use of rooms free of charge to in-house groups and various Ex-Military groups.
- and Tributes to members who have passed.

Should you have any questions relating to any item on this statement you can contact our Treasurer, Lindsay Burke

2024

Veterans Room Hire

Anglo Boer War Study Group
305 Army Cadets
4/19 Prince of Wales Light Horse Regiment
Box Hill Legacy Widows
Bravo Coy 5/6 RVR
Naval Association
Navy League
NSAA
RAAFA
Returned Nurses
TPI Association
Vasey Care
Vietnam Veterans Association

Community Room Hire

Prostate Cancer Support Group
Box Hill Rotary
Gentlemen's Support Group
Scouts
Seniors Men's Discussion Group

Social Groups

Genealogy
Meditation
Movie Morning
Tai Chi Class
The Knitting Group

BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH

Community Benefit Statement (cont'd)

305 Army Cadets	\$10,329	Rotary Whitehorse	\$100
401 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets	\$5,000	Royal Victoria Regiment Association Inc	\$2,500
ANZAC Day Dawn Service-ceremony & gun fire breakfast	\$18,063	RSL Active	\$1,093
ANZAC Day-Schools Program	\$11,024	Scouts	\$668
Box Hill Academy Brass	\$6,000	Subsidised Meals-Community	\$119,947
Box Hill Burwood Rotary Club	\$100	Subsidised Meals-Veterans	\$32,176
Box Hill North Football Club	\$3,000	Tai Chi Exercise Classes	\$3,230
Box Hill RSL Air Force Sub Branch	\$1,000	TPI Eastern Suburbs	\$6,400
Box Hill RSL Angling Section	\$1,000	Transport for Community-Taxi Vouchers	\$7,743
Box Hill RSL Billiards & Snooker Section	\$3,765	Tri Services Dinner Cadets	\$4,545
Box Hill RSL Bowls Section	\$10,644	Trip-Race Day	\$1,061
Box Hill RSL Darts Section	\$1,400	Upwey Belgrave RSL	\$1,000
Box Hill RSL Day Club	\$2,511	Vasey Care V Centre	\$23,750
Box Hill RSL Womens Auxiliary	\$7,769	Veterans Motorcycle Club	\$4,000
Children's Christmas Party	\$8,662	Vietnam Veterans Association	\$11,100
Doreen RSL	\$2,000	Vietnam Veterans Day	\$2,745
Eastern Health	\$20,000	Women's Council	\$1,182
Everymans Welfare Service	\$500	TOTAL	\$650,378
Funeral Expenses/Wakes	\$496		
Gardening Services Community	\$730	Agency to RSL Vic Branch	
Haircuts for veterans and others-male and female	\$11,130	Death Notices	\$5,538
League Support Fees	\$166,075	ANZAC Day	\$3,140
Legacy Widows	\$1,000	Remembrance Day	\$2,500
Medical Aids/Doctors-Community	\$165	Funeral Expenses	\$900
Medical Aids/Doctors-Veterans	\$817	Gardening Service	\$12,148
Melbourne Firefighters Stair Climb	\$1,000	Medical Expenses	\$1,398
Membership paid by RSL	\$840	Miscellaneous Welfare Costs	\$4,776
Memorabilia	\$14,416	Transport for veterans and family-Taxi Vouchers	\$18,592
Miscellaneous Welfare	\$5,869	TOTAL	\$48,992
MLC	\$200		
Movie Days	\$389	Volunteer Hours 24,743.5 @ \$20 per hour	\$494,870
Naval Association	\$1,250		
Newsletter Expenses-Scuttlebutt	\$39,144		
NSAA-Whitehorse Sub Branch	\$2,000		
Path of the Horse-Therapy Program	\$3,000		
Pipes and Drums Association	\$1,000		
Police Pedal Wandering Warriors	\$2,000		
Presidents/Volunteers's Afternoon & Expenses	\$11,284		
Remembrance Day Ceremony	\$8,758		
Room Hire (foregone Income)-Community	\$15,368		
Room Hire-(foregone Income)-Veterans	\$27,440		
		Grand Total	\$1,194,240



BOXHILLRSL



2024 ANNUAL REPORT