

MAY / JUNE 2025 ISSUE: #270

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BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS



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

Box Hill RSL ANZAC Day 2025



April is always a busy time in the days leading up to ANZAC Day. Faye Clark, our Welfare and Wellbeing Manager, Judy Coates and Emi Luppino were busy organising council permits, wreaths, the audio team, St John Ambulance and the Order of Service. They are amazingly well organised and never forget any detail. In the lead up I was conducting rehearsals with the Catafalque Guard, liaising with VicPol, ensuring the cadets, bugler and piper were attending. I especially want to mention the cadets in the Catafalque Guard who gave up their own time during school holidays to rehearse for the several services we attended.

0330h 25 April 2025: The alarm went off, I dragged myself out of bed and got ready to get into the car and a quiet drive to the RSL. I arrived at Shipley St behind the RSL. Several volunteers and staff members were already in attendance with Judy Coates, Emi Luppino, Cheryl Ryan, Mary Simpson to name a few. The members of our bowling section, these fantastic volunteers, who were transporting and organising the setting up of chairs, tables and wreaths for our guests at the commemoration service.

CONTINUED PAGE 3 //

Welfare Report.

For all welfare matters telephone: Faye Clark on 9897 6780



BOX HILL NEWS

Stories by Members for Members



VALE

lest we forget



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

**Beverley Fraser, Malcolm Fraser,
Phyllis Knop, Ron Murphy, Don McKirdy**

Lorraine Owen
Affiliate
Ken Turnhan
3790866 RAAC

Geroge Agius
E/KX754121 Royal
Navy
William Galley
3749546 - NS

Members in Aged Care

JOHN BROWNBILL,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

ERIC DARBYSHIRE,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

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

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

HELEN PRICE, Box Hill
Views, 48 Dorking Road,
Box Hill

BERYL BURROWES,
Regis, 40 Central Road,
Blackburn

ALWYNNE FAIRWEATHER,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

JOY JONES, Box Hill Views,
48 Dorking Road, Box Hill

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

MYRA SPENCER,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

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

SHIRLEY GILBERT, Victoria
Grange, 514 Burwood Hwy,
Vermont South

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

FRED PIKE, Faversham
House, 27 Shierlaw
Avenue, Canterbury

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

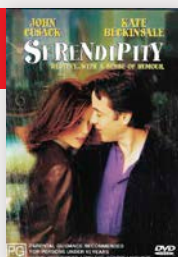
MAX HAYES, Myrtleford
Lodge, 73 Prince Street,
Myrtleford

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

GORDON PRESS, Boronia
ACF, 7 Cogee Street,
Boronia

FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS Presented by Ray Wall

**Thursday 31st July,
2025 at 10.30am**



The Thursday, July 31, 2025 Movie will be **"Serendipity"**. Serendipity is a 2001 American Romantic Comedy rated PG and running for 90 minutes.

Synopsis: "A couple search for each other years after the night they first met, fell in love, and separated, convinced that one day they'd end up together."

**Thursday 28th August,
2025 at 10.30am**



The Thursday, August 28, 2025 Movie will be **"Won't Back Down"**. Won't Back Down is an American Drama, inspired by true events, released in 2012, Rated PG and runs for 121 minutes.

Synopsis: "Two determined mothers, one a teacher, look to transform their children's failing inner city school. Facing a powerful and entrenched bureaucracy, they risk everything to make a difference in the education and future of their children."

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Box Hill RSL ANZAC Day 2025

The Cadets from 305 Army Cadet Unit arrived. I issued them their F88 innocuous rifles. We then conducted three more run-throughs of the Catafalque Guard drill while it was quiet. We also raised the Australian national flag and the New Zealand national flag to half-mast.

The BHRSL Bowling Section had finished setting up the chairs, everything was in place, and we seemed ready to commemorate our living and our fallen and pay homage to them.

People started arriving for the service and the crowd swelled with estimates of between two to three thousand in attendance. Our President, John Haward, commenced the service. He welcomed our VIP guests and ordered the Catafalque Guard to mount vigil. Captain Karyn Wishart (Salvation Army) lead us in the Lord's Prayer.

The Box Hill Academy of Brass Band performed "Abide with Me". It was a pitch perfect performance from these young people.

The wreaths were laid while the piper, CPL Alex Ross, played a lament.

Lindsay Burke, our Treasurer, read the Anzac Memorial, followed by Arthur Merryweather, our Vice-President, who read out the names of our deceased members.

John Haward, our President, recited the Ode. Then the haunting notes of the Last Post were sounded by our bugler, Lauren Innes. A minute's silence was observed and then Reveille and the flags were raised to full mast.

Chris Gray, a committee member, read the Anzac Requiem.

The National Anthems of New Zealand and Australia were played while the Catafalque Guard presented arms in salute.

The President ordered the Catafalque Guard to dismount, the Cadets in the Catafalque Guard marched off and suddenly the service was over.

John Haward thanked everyone who had made the effort to attend to commemorate our nations' fallen and those who returned. Everyone was invited back to the RSL for a gunfire breakfast which was a fantastic feed.

The arrangements for ANZAC Day involve a huge team effort by our Committee, volunteers and staff. To Ben, our GM, Bree, Justin, Wei Wei, Les and Kevin (our chef), to name a few for organising the Upton Room, the staff and the breakfast. To our fantastic staff, always friendly and smiling. You make BHRSL the best RSL in Victoria. Thank you!

A big thank you to Faye Clark, Judy Coates and Emi Luppino who organised the order of service, the wreaths, council permits, invitations to VIPs and our great volunteers. The ever-reliable Bowls Section, for setting up and retrieving chairs and tables. To Lindsay Burke, who organised the Cadets from 305 ACU, the Catafalque Guard, Victoria Police, the Australian and New Zealand flags, the piper and the bugler and the Box Hill Academy of Brass. Thanks also to our bugler Lauren Innes and our piper CPL Alex Ross from 5/6 RVR, and our BHRSL Committee who worked so hard to make this ceremony happen in 2025.

Lindsay Burke

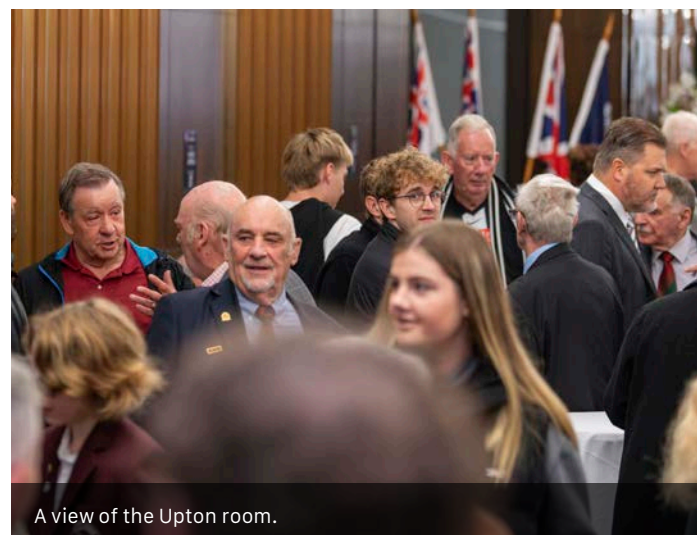
Treasurer



Wreath Laying with Cadets Saluting.



View of the WW1 Memorial after the service with dawn breaking in the sky behind it.



A view of the Upton room.



ANZAC School Children's Service 2025



On April 23rd, 2025, the First World War Memorial in Box Hill Gardens became a poignant gathering place for nearly 600 students from 23 local schools, along with members of the RSL, who came together to honour the sacrifices of Australia's servicemen and women at the annual ANZAC School Children's Service.

Students from **Koonung Secondary College Choir** delivered stirring renditions of both the Australian and New Zealand national anthems. Two students from **Our Lady of Sion College** respectfully recited the Requiem, while our President John Haward delivered the Ode, all of which reflected the students' deep respect for the ANZAC legacy.

Keith Wolahan MP delivered a heartfelt ANZAC address to the children, his words carrying a quiet strength and deep reflection. The moving sounds of the bugle, Last Post and Rouse, performed by Lauren Innes, along with the solemn tones of the bagpipes played by Senior Sergeant Ron Sinclair, added a powerful emotional depth to the occasion. The ceremony's deep sense of respect and dignity was further enhanced by the presence of distinguished guests who including Mayor Andrew Davenport, Councillor Blair Barker, Richard Welch MP, Gabriel Ng on behalf of Paul Hamer MP, Acting Senior Sergeant Matt McInnes of Box Hill Police, and Major Karyn Wishart from the Salvation Army who also recited the Lord's Prayer.

Organisers **Judy Coates** and **Emi Luppino** praised the students' attentiveness, particularly noting the profound silence observed during the service. It was a powerful testament to their understanding of the day's significance.

One of the most memorable moments of the ceremony was the procession of students laying wreaths, a heartfelt act that fostered a deep appreciation of the ANZAC spirit among the younger generation.

This cherished annual event not only commemorates the past but also instils in our youth the enduring values of peace, gratitude, and remembrance, ensuring that the sacrifices of those who served are never forgotten.

Sincere thanks go to all the volunteers - ladies from the Women's Auxiliary handing out programs and flags, John and Mal from the bowlers for organising the tables and chairs, Lindsay Burke with his cadets, and the staff who all helped make the day possible.

Emi Luppino
Committee Member

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY Commemoration Service

Monday, 18 August 2025 – 11:00 AM

World War One Memorial, Box Hill Gardens

We invite all members and guests to join us for a special service commemorating Vietnam Veterans Day.

This solemn occasion honours the service and sacrifice of all those who served during the Vietnam War.

This year's commemoration holds particular significance as we mark the **50th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon** on 30 April 1975 – an event that signalled the end of the Vietnam War and the reunification of Vietnam.

Your presence will be greatly valued as we come together in reflection and remembrance.

KNITTERS GROUP REMINDER:

WORLDWIDE KNIT IN PUBLIC DAY

WHEN – Saturday, 14th June, 2025, 11am to 1pm.

WHERE – the Lounge area of the Box Hill RSL.

WHY – to participate in this annual global event that encourages knitters to meet together in public spaces
– to share our passion, skills and creativity with the wider community

Please feel free to join us for a chat.

A donation basket will be available for anyone who would like to contribute yarn.

Your generosity is always appreciated.

Joy McKelvey
Joint Coordinator

Naval Association

The Box Hill Sub-section of the Naval Association will hold its next meeting on Friday 16th May 2025 in the Sports Bar at Box Hill RSL commencing at 10 am.

Lunch will follow in the bistro for those who would like stay.

Please contact Joy 0406 349 712 for further information and to book for lunch.

All interested people are welcome - serving RAN personnel, ex RAN or RANR and civilians!

Joy Emmett
Secretary



SIMPLY THE BEST

Recently, Box Hill RSL played host to the 1st Vermont Scout Group. I have to tell you this group was different to any group that I have had before. When asked what was the important date on the calendar this month they all answered ANZAC Day. What did ANZAC Day stand for? Again, without hesitation they all knew.

Admittedly, this group is probably the oldest I have had in one session, and being that much older they all knew the vital dates on our RSL calendar for this year. After trying on some uniforms and hats it came down to my favourite uniform, that being of the Polish soldier.

The subject was "Companionship". There was some discussion amongst all of us and the origin of the word. As we all know, and most of us can relate, it means helping out our mate and buddy. This was demonstrated by the WW1 famous statue that stands proudly at Fromelles where a soldier carries one of his injured mates from the battlefield. This statue is called the Cobbers Statue and was created by Peter Corlett OAM. So, it is with the Scout group. A lot of them had just returned from a Jamboree in Queensland where they had to help their fellow scouts in doing different chores. On the flying fox, cooking and washing up after mealtimes they all had to help each other.

The night ended with party pies, sausage rolls and soft drinks. But this spread was put out with a difference. All of the group sat down to tables with tablecloths which made a big difference. It added a bit of class to the evening. I have to thank Justin, who was on duty that night, for his thoughtfulness in making this a special night. We all left the evening feeling a sense of satisfaction that we had experienced something different that we will remember. Even the Scout Leaders told me that they were so happy that I conveyed a message to all the scouts as they had been trying for ages to do this. I know I will see them again shortly and I hope we have as good a night as we had this time.

Brian Tateson
Curator of Memorabilia

Bowls Section



Presentation day.



We had wonderful weather for playing social bowls on 3 May prior to our President's Presentation Day lunch on The Deck at the RSL.

Thank you to those members who were able to attend.

Thank you also to Richard Sluggett who attended from Eastern Ranges and to our Bowls Life Member, Judy Coates, who represented the RSL Committee.

After a very nice lunch Richard did the honours of presenting the Super Veteran's badges also known as the OBE badges ("Over Bloody Eighty") to Judy Coates, Alan Turk, Michael Frail, Anne Jones and Bruce Gibbs.

He also presented certificates to honour their achievement of celebrating their 90th birthdays and still being active bowling members to Peter Leonard, Eril Browne, Gordon Lear and Lance Caldwell. Gordon, Eril and Peter should have received theirs a few or more years ago, so we are all looking forward to them being presented with their 100th in the years ahead!

Richard also presented our Club Champions with their medals and prizes. Congratulations to all the winners.

Judy Coates kindly gave the Bowls Section a certificate commending the bowlers for their help with the organising of the chairs for Anzac mornings, Remembrance Days, and numerous other special occasions, over numerous years. Sadly, as our members are getting older and some whose health has declined, we have to pass the "chair baton" over to some of the younger RSL groups. We know Mal Hams and his trusty HiLux Ute will be sadly missed.

The atmosphere at the Presentation Day was very convivial and a good afternoon was had by all.

The AGM of the Bowls Section was held on Sunday 4 May in the Sports Bar Room.

We thank those members who attended.

Elected at the AGM is our new management committee for the period of the next two years:

- Chairperson - Jan Durham
- Vice-Chairperson - Cheryl Frail
- President - John Woodford
- Vice-President - Phil Johnson
- Treasurer - Mal Hams
- Secretary - Alan Turk

Also, appointments were made to the following sub-committees for a period of one year:

- Match Committee - Peter Houghton, Julia McCammon
- Greens Manager - Mark Leonard
- Social/Catering Committee - Cheryl Ryan, Cheryl Frail
- Corporate/Barefoot Bowls - Colin Wirth
- Uniforms - Pam McCormack
- Night Pennant - Bob Jones
- Sponsorship - David Moran, Angelo Fitsioris
- Welfare - Heather Arnel, Hennie Pasveer
- Green Keeper - Mark Leonard

We thank all those who have volunteered their time to these positions.

Our Winter Social bowls is continuing with our neighbours, Blackburn North and Mitcham Bowling Clubs, and is a great way to get to enjoy different playing surfaces. Over Winter our numbers will decline as those lucky ones, me included, will head north to escape the Melbourne winter which will arrive shortly. Don't believe we will keep having the glorious warm days we have enjoyed so far.

Stay warm and stay healthy,

Cheryl Frail
Vice Chairperson

Women's Auxiliary

This newsletter is written with sadness but also with our very best wishes. One of our dear members Nola Gold who has been a long-time member of the RSL and in the Auxiliary for three years is relocating to Wodonga to be near to her family.



Nola has spent a lifetime knitting and has been one of our ladies who has knitted numerous squares, beanies, blankets and scarves for us as a club to give to people in need. Thank you Nola for your service and we sincerely hope that you enjoy your new life near family. We will miss you.

Once again, the Auxiliary has been very busy. We are proud to continually support Vasey RSL Care and have donated \$2,000 to assist in purchasing bedding and small household items to help furnish the six apartments within the V Centre. These items will support veterans as they transition in and out of the facility. In recognition of our contribution, we were honoured to receive a Certificate of Appreciation from Vasey RSL Care.

The Women's Auxiliary supported and helped the ANZAC Children's School Service held on Wednesday, 23 April 2025, at the First World War Memorial in the Box Hill Gardens. A total of 23 local schools attended. The children

were bussed in and as they arrived our ladies gave them a program and an Australian flag. Thanks to all those that helped make this a service for the children to remember.

A couple of ladies from the Women's Auxiliary also participated in the Anzac Service that was held at Opal Health in Dorking Road, along with the Salvation Army's Mr Brian Mooney.

The Box Hill RSL gave a wreath which was laid by Noel Hatton, a National Serviceman and Day Section member and Nathaniel Sims, an Air Force Cadet from Melbourne High School, along with Rhonda Browne and Susan Sims. The residents participated in the service with Helen Price reciting 'In Flanders Field' and Alma D'Arcy reciting 'For The Fallen'. The Service concluded and we all had coffee and talked. The Air Force Cadet was a great hit, and the ladies all wanted photos taken with him in his uniform!

Our April Guest Speaker was Jenani Therone who is an Artist, Author and Producer.

Jenani took all the photographs for the book 'Of Service'. She shared her insights and reflections on her transformative journey, meeting veterans from all over Australia.

Throughout her journey, Jenani met with over 100 vets talking about their personal stories. and dedicated over 3000 hours to connect with each veteran.

The book was launched at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne on 20th June 2024, with a foreword written by the Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson AO.

One of The Vets that Jenani spoke about with tears was Fred Cullen, who was over 100 years old and how his story encouraged her to keep writing.



Mr Cullen's daughter Maria Garry attended the presentation. Jenani was accompanied by Dave Cox, a Veteran featured in her book. Dave wrote and sang the special song he had written for Veterans called "Silver Leaves". It was beautiful. The morning finished with a special morning tea and time for talk and reflection.

The Mother's Day Raffle raised \$2332.15, which was slightly less than last year. However, it was a wonderful effort on everyone's part and a very big thank you to all who supported us by purchasing tickets. We are proud to announce the winners.

- 1st prize Helen Harrington
- 2nd prize Maxine Bennett-Wyatt
- 3rd prize Maria Gerry (The daughter of Fredrick Cullen)
- 4th prize Kerry De Lacy
- 5th prize Fiona King
- 6th prize Vera Guster

Our thanks to you all for supporting the Women's Auxiliary.

It has been a very busy two months since the last newsletter and the coming two months are even busier. If anyone would like to join us, please contact reception, we would love to have you join us.

Until next time, take care, stay safe and be happy.

Susan Sims
Vice President



1st prize
Helen Harrington.



2nd prize Maxine
Bennett-Wyatt.



3rd prize
Maria Gerry.



4th prize
Kerry De Lacy.



5th prize
Fiona King.



6th prize
Vera Guster.

DAY SECTION

Clive Jones revisited us in March as our entertainer. There was a very lively atmosphere in the Upton Room as we joined in with old favourites, the words of which we still remember. It's amazing how we can still recall these but forget many other things so easily.

The Day Section welcomed our April speaker, Mr Barry Minster OAM, a worldly Melburnian who contributes so much to the life of this community. His subject was "OVERSEAS CRUISES."

While keeping in mind our limitations, at home we start perusing the many trips presented in the tourism brochures. Our members found Barry's preparatory hints very interesting. For Example:

- Qantas passengers needing assistance can wear a Travel Lanyard
- Carry a second credit card separate from your main wallet for emergencies.
- River cruises are shorter, follow the coast, navigate waterways and low bridges. They travel slowly, offering travellers chances to enjoy local cuisines and histories. They can be affected by varying water levels due to heavy rainfall or drought, which may lead to changes in itineraries.
- On an ocean cruise, missed ports can occur due to poor weather, although this is uncommon during summer travel.

- Many people travel with cameras to capture memories and will choose from various types of presentations now available.

We enjoyed and thanked Barry for his informative and colourful slide presentation of European scenery and indicated by the enthusiasm to share their experiences at the end.

Thank you, Jeannine, for this report and thanks to all who assisted at that meeting in John's and my absence.

We celebrated a belated Easter at our April 22nd meeting by having some chocolate eggs. Our entertainer, Marcia Rae, did a sterling job, considering she had undergone surgery on her shoulder just a few days previously. Fortunately, her doctor gave her the go-ahead to come. Once again, we all enjoyed her repertoire and she included several different songs.

Wayne Bastow, one of our own members, was our May speaker. He told us about his self-published book which he wrote really for his family. It recalls memories/experiences from his lifetime and he shared some of these with us. He called the first one "The Stupidity Of War" and gave an account of an event while he was onboard HMAS Hobart during the war in Vietnam in June 1968. The ship came under attack from friendly fire from American aircraft, as it turned out, because of incorrect information. What lasted a mere 20 minutes has left a lifetime of memories.

Wayne has an interest in horseracing and is part of a syndicate which has had great success with some of the horses they co-own. Jamie Melham (nee Kah) is a rider for him. Now we know who to see for tips for Les's Race Day in June!

Andrew, Wayne's son, told us about his business venture. Along with an American company, he produces honey which is sold online. Honey hunters in Nepal climb tall trees in the Himalayas tying ropes made with bamboo and vines to the tree trunks. Honey produced by giant honeybees is collected by squeezing it out of the honeycomb by hand. The villagers used to collect it only for themselves but now have lucrative employment. Andrew set up the business in Nepal and appointed a manager so things run smoothly. The bees get pollen from the rhododendron bushes which grow locally, so the honey has a distinct flavour. Other countries are also involved viz. Turkey and Georgia. Thanks to Wayne and Andrew for such interesting talks.

Once again, it is amazing to discover what stories there are in our midst, proves that everyone has a story to tell.

Anyone interested in joining us can call:
Mary Simpson (Co-ordinator): 9077 9784
Allana Kirk (Secretary): 9819 3527

Future Dates:
June 10 and 24, July 8 and 22

Mary Simpson
Co-ordinator

BUS TRIP TO WERRIBEE OPEN RANGE ZOO | 20 AUGUST 2025 DEPARTING 10:00AM

We will be leaving the Box Hill RSL, 28 Nelson Road Box Hill sharp at 10:00am and making our way to the Werribee Open Range Zoo

Upon arrival we will board the Explorer Bus after we partake in lunch (sandwiches, cakes, tea and coffee will be provided by TPI) This bus will take us for a 45-minute tour of the Werribee Open Range Zoo.

After the tour you can walk around the zoo if you wish at your leisure or alternatively sit and watch the meerkats at play from the comfort of the Food Hall. At around 3pm we will then board the bus for our return to Box Hill RSL around 4:30pm

If anyone is interested, please contact Jane Underwood, Secretary TPI Eastern Suburbs Social Club for the price per person.

PLEASE NOTE: As we need to pre-pay the entrance and explorer bus there can be NO REFUNDS.

Please RSVP to Jane Underwood at jane@acatravel.com.au or 03-9833-4519 or Glenda Sargent on glendasargent581@gmail.com or 0425-791-136 no later than end of business on 5 August 25 as we need to pre-pay our entrance, the explorer bus and the bus line



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