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BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS



Contributions can be emailed to the Editor
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RSL Veterans Ball 2025

The RSL Veterans Ball 2025 was an incredible evening held at Sofitel Melbourne On Collins on 19th July 2025. Committee members Arthur, Lindsay, Russell, Chris, and I, along with our partners, attended the event with more than 400 Veterans and their partners to celebrate, remember, and strengthen the bonds across the veteran community. It was a wonderful evening and a credit to Hawthorn RSL for organising such a successful night.



As guests entered the ballroom, they were greeted by two mannequins dressed in military uniforms, positioned on either side of a beautifully flower-adorned arch generously loaned by Box Hill RSL.

The event was hosted by 3AW presenter Tony Moclair, who skilfully blended humour with his deep passion for military history and service.

Guests were privileged to hear from David Brown, veteran and military history enthusiast, who delivered a deeply moving address honouring the personal stories of Victorians who lost their lives in service on 19 July throughout our history. Doug Baird offered heartfelt reflections on the life and legacy of his son, Cameron Baird VC MG, an inspiring example of courage and selflessness that continues to resonate with Australians. Dr Mark Schröffel, RSL Victoria's new State President, also addressed the gathering. A Cambodia veteran and our first post-Vietnam War State President, Dr Schröffel spoke with

clarity and purpose about the importance of unity within the veteran community as we look to the future.

The evening also celebrated outstanding service, with several awards presented to recognise exceptional RSL Veterans and Affiliate Volunteers who have gone above and beyond in the service of their community. We were especially proud to see two of our own, Judy Coates and Bep Dawes, recognised for their remarkable contributions to Welfare, the Women's Auxiliary, Commemoration, and Appeals. Congratulations to both, this honour is richly deserved.

We were thoroughly entertained by the fantastic Australian Army Band, whose brilliant performance had the dance floor packed and everyone moving.

Emi Luppino
Committee Member

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.

Karen Holt, June Fox

Robert Tregenza – 315 497 NS
John Kelly – 351914 - RAA
Gavin Scrimgeour - PK979565 RAN
William Vennard – 2/751424/366078 NS
Marjorie Turriff – Social
Ronald Kirk – Affiliate

Jeffrey Richards – Affiliate
Max Hayes – A23700 – RAAF
David Handbury – 3787366 7 RAR
Kevin Lake – 1713997 NS
John Hunter – Affiliate

Members in Aged Care

JOHN BROWNBILL,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

BERYL BURROWES,
Regis, 40 Central Road,
Blackburn

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

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

ERIC DARBYSHIRE,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

ALWYNNE FAIRWEATHER,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FRED PIKE, Faversham
House, 27 Shierlaw
Avenue, Canterbury

GORDON PRESS, Boronia
ACF, 7 Cogee Street,
Boronia

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

MYRA SPENCER,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

BEV & MALCOLM FRASER,
Willowbrae, 81-85 Porter
Street, Templestowe

FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS Presented by Ray Wall

**Thursday 25th September,
2025 at 10.30am**

Dave is a 1993 American Romantic Comedy rated PG and running for 105 minutes.

Synopsis: Bill Mitchell is the philandering and distant President of the United States. Dave Kovic is a sweet-natured and caring Temp Agency operator, who by a staggering coincidence looks exactly like the President. As such, when Mitchell wants to escape an official luncheon, the Secret Service hires Dave to stand in for him. However, things don't turn out exactly as planned, and Dave finds himself continuing the masquerade indefinitely.



**Thursday 30th October,
2025 at 10.30am**

Oranges and Sunshine is an English Biography Drama, inspired by true events, released in 2010, Rated R and runs for 105 minutes.

Synopsis: Set in 1980s Nottingham, social worker Margaret Humphreys holds the British government accountable for child migration schemes and reunites the children involved -- now adults living mostly in Australia -- with their parents in Britain.





Day Section

Claire Duberry entertained us in May. As she mingled with our members, she sang some old favourites but also some other songs from the past. We had a good dose of musical therapy as it were. It has now been proved that listening to, and more importantly, participating in singing familiar tunes is good therapy. There was even a chance of some exercise and Martin took full advantage of this opportunity when Claire asked him to dance with her. A first for Martin....well done!

On the 10th of June, team members from Abbey Auctions gave us some invaluable advice about getting ready to move/downsize/declutter. This can be quite a traumatic experience for all age groups but particularly ours as we are faced with having to get rid of memories in the form of objects as well as the items themselves. This company offers several services including valuations, selling, packing for relocation and property clearances. They are a local business based in Burwood and online auctions are held weekly. There are also specialist auctions, some held on their premises. The one quote which resonated with me was "Start with the end in mind."

Our Day Club (now called Section) celebrated its 25th birthday on 24th June. Everyone was in good spirits on arrival. Thanks to Bree, the RSL function manager, who made it a special day by ensuring everything ran like clockwork. The kitchen staff also did us proud with the catering, so thanks Kevin and others involved. Brendan Scott kept our toes and fingers tapping with his performance. He is a man of many talents and it's little wonder he participates in a NSW Outback Music Tour and a SA Music Cruise to name some other bookings he gets.

A friend of Allana's had made us a lovely cake for the birthday celebration so it was a real pity Allana was unable to attend our meeting because of the untimely passing of Ron, her husband, that morning. Our kindest regards go to Allana at this sad time.



A member of another group within the RSL, Suresh Alphonse, was guest speaker in July. He told us about his past life experiences after being born in India and coming to Melbourne in 1989 to do a Business Degree. He travelled worldwide through his work and gave us an insight into some of the companies he worked for and some he established himself. Jeannine was quite right in calling his presentation "Life's Rich Tapestry." One quote he gave us was "When an elderly person dies, a library burns down." How true.

As you can see, we cover a variety of topics so if you would like to join us, you can get further information from:

Allana Kirk (Secretary) 9819 3527
Mary Simpson (Co-ordinator) 9077 9784

FUTURE DATES:

August 12 and 26, September 9 and 23

Mary Simpson
Co-ordinator

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Welcome to the winter edition of the Women's Auxiliary newsletter. This winter seems to have been particularly cold. However, this has not stopped the ladies from raising money for the Veterans.

The Women's Auxiliary works tirelessly to raise donations in support of many deserving veteran groups. Their dedication and efforts have a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of those who have served.

Recently, Chris Gray from Vasey RSL Care presented a Certificate of Gratitude to the Women's Auxiliary in recognition of their ongoing support. The certificate was accepted on behalf of the Auxiliary by Judy Coates, acknowledging both their recent donation and their continued commitment to veterans' welfare.

The Women's Auxiliary had a very active couple of months in June and July. On the 2nd of June we joined Les and went to the Pakenham races where most of us managed to lose some money but had a very nice lunch and a lot of fun.

On the 4th of June we hosted a lunch for the Rye RSL Women's Auxiliary at Box Hill RSL where we had lots of fun and fellowship.



On July 14th the Box Hill Women's Auxiliary hosted a dinner with the newly formed Greensborough RSL Women's Auxiliary. Once again, it was an evening of fun and fellowship, with Emi taking our visitors on a tour of all the renovations to the club.



On the 16th of July, 17 members celebrated Christmas in July at the Old England Hotel. Cheryl and Emi looked very Christmassy in their tiaras. A very enjoyable day. Thanks to Therese who organised the day.



Our latest fundraiser will be the Father's Day Raffle with lots of great prizes. The table with the tickets and prizes will be placed just inside the sliding doors to the lounge. We hope you will support us and buy plenty of tickets!

This month the Women's Auxiliary have asked our members to support Ward 17 by donating personal items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, body wash, slippers, PJ's and herbal tea. These will be collected by Robert Winther OAM when he attends as our guest speaker in August.

Our guest speaker for June was Lynn Mizen. Lynn is ex-Army and is now on RSL Victoria State Executive (STEX) Board. It is the first time the STEX has had women on their board. There is now a second woman on the board.



It was at the age of 29 that Lynn decided to join the Army, much to the dismay of her mother. She was accepted into Kapooka 32 Platoon D Company where Lynn was the oldest in the class.

There was a particularly hard sergeant who seemed to single her out for more of everything. One day in the pool after many laps, it was time to get out, because she was exhausted, Lynn said she could not do it. They were not allowed to use the steps or shallow end and after a huge effort she finally got out. As Lynn lay like a "beached whale" (her words) the sergeant came over and said "There is NO such word as can't". This was a lesson for life.

Out of the 36 enrolled only 18 graduated and Lynn was sent to Watsonia Barracks School of Signals where she was top of the course. From there it was off to Brisbane School of Signals where they encouraged Lynn to do an Information Technology degree, but it became too difficult, so she left the Army to complete the degree.

Lynn then worked in some of the biggest computer companies in the world.

In 2004 Lynn joined the Warragul RSL and joined the committee, from there she was elected the first woman president.

To finish the presentation Lynn said "Remember one person and one decision can change your life and there is NO SUCH WORD AS CAN'T".

Make sure you stay safe and well.

Until next time.

Susan Sims
Vice President

SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS SECTION

We are thrilled to announce that the Box Hill Tanks have won our first trophy of the year! The team played in the Thursday night RSL Bayside Snooker league and won 5-2 in the final. Join us in celebrating their achievement! The team can be seen celebrating their trophy win in the picture below. Team from left to right are Chris McCartin, Kevin Lawson, Terry Duckworth and Adrian Gough. Special mention to Greg Cates who also helped out a couple of times when the team was short during the season.



EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

The Snooker and Billiard club championships are tentatively set for Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September, with the Grand Final scheduled for Sunday 14th September. The same format as last year will apply. Any Snooker Section member can nominate and participate, so please look out for any updates on the snooker chat forum. If you are not a member, but would like to be, please contact John Sweeney or Andrew Brown (contact details on the snooker subsection of the Box Hill RSL website). Don't miss the chance to compete!

The inaugural Intra Club Sports Day with the Bowls and Darts Sections will be held on 26th October. This is a great initiative from the Box Hill RSL and will give all RSL members a chance to participate and have a try at all three sports on the day in a team format, with a mix of players from different sections to make it more fun. Come and try your hand at bowls, darts, and snooker!

We're eagerly planning a Christmas lunch or dinner for our members, so again stay tuned to the WhatsApp group chat for details on this over the next few months.

Andrew Brown
President



The Beaufort Bomber WWII

Our latest display in the south walk memorabilia cabinets is dedicated to the Beaufort Bomber. Many of you may not be aware but this aircraft was built in Australia at Fisherman's Bend. In the late 1930s Australia began an ambitious program to mass-produce bomber aircraft for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). The chosen design was the British Bristol Beaufort, a twin-engine machine for a crew of four that could carry either a torpedo or bombs. A fleet of the Beaufort Bombers would patrol Australia's vast coastline and fly far out to sea to strike at an invasion fleet. Seven hundred bombers were constructed between 1941 and September 1944.

One of our members, Tony Clark, heads a crew of enthusiasts who are reconstructing a Beaufort Bomber in Queensland. I am led to believe this is one, if not the very last, of these bombers.

Everything that you see in this exhibition is original, right down to the joystick that was presented to one of the association's members, RAAF Flight Lieutenant Wally Dalitz. The banner of one of the Beaufort's Squadron shows the areas where the Beaufort's saw action. Places like the Southwest Pacific, Milne Bay, Rabaul, Darwin and the Indian Ocean.

A good RAAF member would easily name and identify the mechanical engineered parts in the exhibition which include altitude devices and aerial photographic equipment. Would you believe that each Bomber needed 39,000 carefully manufactured parts. The DAP (Department of Aircraft Development) needed seven large factories in three states. DAP had 8,500 employees of which one-third were women. In 1941 the Beaufort was pressed into service and the plane became the RAAF's main bomber type in the Pacific War.

The restoration team have a big job ahead of them putting all these parts together to form the Beaufort Bomber. We wish them all the very best and look forward to seeing the end result.

As a footnote, this Beaufort display would have to be one of the best RAAF displays I have done. I didn't realise where they were made, how successful they were in WWII and were one of Australia's front line in defending our shores from the enemy.

Brian Tateson

Curator of Memorabilia

**REMINDER: VIETNAM VETERANS
DAY COMMEMORATION SERVICE**

**Monday 18th August, 11.00am at the
Cenotaph, Box Hill Gardens, all welcomed.**



Honouring Heroes: A Special Lunch for WWII Veterans

Our committee, in collaboration with the Wellbeing Staff, recently hosted a special lunch for local World War II veterans as a gesture of gratitude and respect. Held in our Bistro, the event was a momentous occasion that brought together not only veterans but also their families to celebrate their incredible contributions and sacrifices.

We were honoured to be joined by our remarkable WWII veterans Phyllis Knop, Elizabeth Mackenzie, Janet McDonald, Bruce Cave, Bill St Aubyn, Ian Gillies, Norman Williamson, Harold Renton and Fred Pike. Your presence made the day incredibly special and we thank you for your service. The youngest was 98 and the eldest an inspiring 102. These remarkable individuals represent a living testament to the bravery and resilience that defined a generation.

President, John Haward, addressed the veterans with heartfelt thanks and admiration. He was followed by Phyllis Knop who thanked John, the committee and the RSL for the luncheon on behalf of the Veterans.

The lunch was more than just a meal—it was a celebration of the enduring spirit of these men and women who served in one of history's most pivotal times. It also ensured them we know of the importance of preserving their stories for future generations and that their courage is still remembered and respected today.



Thank you to the families who brought their loved ones, it was so special to have you there. And to the veterans who made the effort to come along themselves, we are truly honored by your presence.

A special thanks to Faye and Judy for organising such a lovely lunch. And a shoutout to Bree for all the tireless effort you put into making these events run smoothly.

Lee-Arne Watson

Welfare & Wellbeing Advocate

BUS TRIP TO **ALOWYN GARDENS** 1210 MELBA HIGHWAY, YARRA GLEN

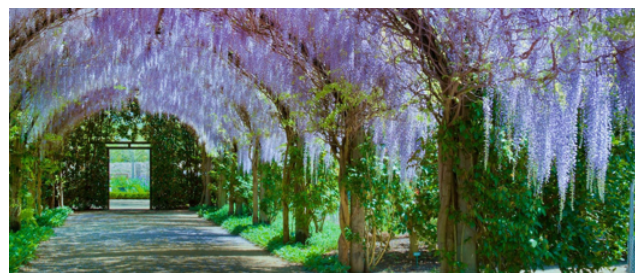
We will be leaving Box Hill RSL, 26 Nelson Road, Box Hill at 9:30am sharp and making our way to Yarra Glen arriving around 10:30am.

Upon arrival you will be invited to view the gardens or purchase plants. At 12:30pm we will make our way to the Yarra Valley Grand Hotel 19 Bell Street, Yarra Glen for lunch (at our your cost) before returning to Box Hill RSL around 4:30pm.

The cost of this trip will be **\$25.00 per person to be paid in advance.**

PLEASE NOTE: We need to pre-pay admittance to the gardens prior to arrival so there are NO REFUNDS.

DEPARTING 17 SEPTEMBER 9:30AM FROM BOX HILL RSL



Please RSVP to Jane Underwood at jane@acatravel.com.au or 03-9833-4519 and Glenda Sargent at glendasargent581@gmail.com or 0425-791-136 to show your interest in attending the bus trip.

Brought to you by TPI Eastern Suburbs Social Club

CONGRATULATIONS TO RAY GILL

On Saturday 12th July 2025, Mr Ray Gill was congratulated for his 60 years of membership and service to the Naval Association of Australia (NAA). Ray was presented with a certificate to honour his dedicated and honourable service to the NAA by the current State President Mr Ron Evans.

Ray joined the Melbourne Sub-Section of the NAA in 1965. Since that day and over the past 60 years, Ray has held many and varied positions in the NAA. He has been the State Council President for 11 years, has served as State Council Secretary, as the National Vice President for 13 years and as the National Secretary.

In 1997 Ray was one of the founding members of the Box Hill Sub-section Naval Association and is the current President. He has also been Treasurer of Box Hill NAA. He is a life member of the Naval Association of Australia, and a member of the Box Hill RSL.

After the presentation Ray's friends, State Council Committee and the Box Hill NAA membership enjoyed a lovely meal in the Box Hill RSL Bistro. Unfortunately, the

invited Box Hill RSL Executive were unable to attend due to other RSL commitments.

The Box Hill Sub-section NAA wishes to thank the Box Hill RSL for their assistance with organising the presentation and lunch.

The next Box Hill Sub-section meeting will be held in the Upton Room at 10am on Thursday 7th August. Faye Clark will talk to us about how the Box Hill RSL can assist members and veterans. Lunch will be held in the Bistro after the meeting. Please RSVP to Joy 0406 349 712.



Joy Emmett
Secretary

HOSPITAL BEARS, A HEARTFELT STORY OF THANKS

This story is dedicated with heartfelt gratitude to the incredible knitters of the Women's Auxiliary and the Knitters Group whose hands and hearts have warmed more lives than they'll ever know.

"When our son was 3, he had to go to Box Hill Hospital for Ear, Nose and Throat Surgery.

Our older son had previously had surgery at The Children's Hospital, but that was day eye surgery and not an overnight stay. So, we were a little unaware of what was going to happen. We arrived at the hospital early in the morning and everything was ready to go. We sent our son into surgery with his special blanket and everything was a success. When he was transferred to his room from recovery I noticed a teddy bear on his bed. I took the bear to the nurse's station thinking the previous patient had left their beloved bear behind. The nurse informed me that volunteers made each child a special bear for being so brave in surgery, I could not believe the kind generous gift. My son loved hugging his bear in the hospital because it made him feel safe and also doctors would also use the bear to explain to my son what happened in surgery using the bear as a patient which helped my son understand what he had done in surgery a lot better and he also could not

wait to bring him home. This bear was named 'Hospital Bear' by my son and since bringing the hospital bear home he has become an important member of the family. Everywhere my son went, Hospital bear went. To kinder, the dentist, on holiday, anywhere and everywhere. My son is now a few months off turning 11 and Hospital Bear is still in his bed every night. He also still travels with my son when he stays overnight with family. I cannot thank the amazing people that put in so much of their own time and effort making hospital bears. This helped our son so much and became so important to him. The volunteers that do this are not given enough credit for the good that they are doing and the safety a child receives from these bears. We couldn't thank the people involved enough."

By an anonymous patient at the Box Hill Hospital

