

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE: #272

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BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS



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



Vietnam Veterans' Day // 2025

On August 18th the Vietnam Veterans commemorated "Long Tan Day" which is commonly known as Vietnam Veterans Day. The Ceremony took place at the Cenotaph in Box Hill Gardens with around 150 Veterans and their families attending this moving remembrance ceremony.

The proceedings were opened by Bill Waterman President of the Vietnam Veterans Box Hill Sub-Branch. After the

opening address, our Vietnam Veteran member, Barbara Sutherland spoke of her time in Vietnam, and being under fire by the enemy when the single engine failed on their plane and crash landed into a pineapple field. She and her colleagues were picked up by a chinook which was giving cover when the plane crashed.

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Above: Tiger Rose (Singer), Kristen Kirsch (Piper), Rod Burgess, Barbara Sutherland, Gabriel Ng MP, Paul Hamer MP, Bill Waterman, together with members of the 305 Army Cadet Unit, Surrey Hills.

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:

John Haward

Don McKirdy
3741078/373117

Joyce Caldwell
Affiliate

Neville Miles
17010 RAAOC

John Henwood
3787747 118 Signals

Beryl Burrowes
10215 WAAAF

Members in Aged Care

JOHN BROWNBILL,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

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

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

NEVILLE FROSTICK,
Livingstone Gardens,
39 Livingstone Road,
Vermont

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

SHARLEE AND LLOYD
GOSS, Bupa, 12 Burton
Avenue Clayton

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

DOROTHY HOUSE, Estia
428 Scoresby Road,
Knoxfield

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

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

GREG MCKIE, Box Hill Views,
48 Dorking rd. Box Hill

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

VALDA ROSEVEAR, Box
Hill Views, 48 Dorking
Road, Box Hill

MYRA SPENCER,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS Presented by Ray Wall

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.



Thursday 27th November
2025 at 10.30am

The Thursday, November 27, 2025 Movie will be **"Clue"**. Clue is a 1985 American Mystery/Comedy rated PG and running for 94 minutes.

Synopsis: "Six guests are anonymously invited to a strange mansion for dinner, but after their host is killed, they must cooperate with the staff to identify the murderer."



CONTINUED >>

Vietnam Veterans' Day // 2025

Barbara spoke for some time, and I can say all in attendance were moved by her experiences, and her time with the SEATO (South East Asia Treaty Organisation) Surgical and Medical Teams.

After the ceremony, all went to the Box Hill RSL 'Upton Room' to have lunch and the odd chat with their colleagues. The entire day was supported by the Box Hill RSL, and the Vietnam Veterans thank John Haward President of Box Hill RSL and his committee for organising such a wonderful day.

Brian Tateson

Curator of Memorabilia



OAKS DAY AT BOX HILL RSL

6th November | 12:30pm – 5:30pm

\$85 per person

Live entertainment
Sweeps and prizes to be won

Glass of Champagne on arrival
Fashions on the field

SCAN TO BOOK:



BOOKINGS NOW AVAILABLE!

The gates are open and the race is on! Oaks Day bookings are live – don't miss your chance to be part of the action.

To book your tickets scan the QR code or visit our website and follow the booking link to lock in your spot.

Vietnam Veterans' NIGHT OF NIGHTS

In August, Vietnam Veterans Box Hill Sub-Branch not only have Vietnam Veterans Day, but also, have the Black Tie Dinner ("BTD") the night of nights! This year the Vietnam Veterans were privileged to have Mark Donaldson VC as the guest speaker.

Just prior to having pre-dinner drinks, Mark and I went for a stroll through the Memorabilia of the Box Hill RSL. To say he was taken back with the displays was an understatement, and he commented that all this memorabilia was of Museum standard and the RSL should be very proud of this as he has not seen displays of the quality of ours in any other RSL. After viewing the Memorabilia Displays, we went to the "Lancaster Bar" where everyone was having pre-dinner drinks and canapés.

At 7.15 pm everyone adjourned to the 'Upton Room' where the main part of the evening took place. Again, Bill Waterman President of the Vietnam Veterans welcomed everyone prior to John Haward reciting the "Ode" and Charles Kook saying grace.

Entrée and mains were served along with selected red and white wines, prior to Mark Donaldson VC giving his speech. Mark touched on his early childhood, then onto growing up as a young man prior to joining the Army and being selected in SASR. (Special Air Service Regiment). He did several tours of Afghanistan where he received his VC (Victoria Cross). He spoke of his father, who was also a Vietnam Veteran, and wished he had got to know him better. Everyone was quite amazed with Marks speech, and when he finished asked me if he had gone on for to long. I told him "On the contrary!"

In closing, I had some 12 months getting to know Mark Donaldson VC prior to the BTD. I found, once we had met, it felt as though we had known each other for ages. So ends our 20th Anniversary and I now move on to organising our 21st Anniversary BTD in 2026.

Brian Tateson

Curator of Memorabilia



Book a table for dinner
at Box Hill RSL and
enjoy the **Melbourne
Cup Spring Carnival**

HORSES DRAWN:
7.00pm Sunday 2 November

HORSES AUCTIONED:
7.00pm Monday 3 November
in the bistro

Tickets \$3

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

Raffle tickets for the Calcutta Sweeps are on sale at the RSL reception area. It's a fun way to get involved and maybe even win big!

The horses will be drawn on Sunday, 2nd November, and the auction will start at 6:30pm on Monday, 3rd November in the Bistro.

It's a great night out, so please remember to book your table early. We look forward to seeing you there!

Congratulations to Ben Myers, our esteemed General Manager, for raising the incredible amount shown on the right for our Poppy Appeal during his trek along the Kokoda Trail!

Your dedication and effort are truly inspiring, Ben — what a fantastic way to kick off this year's Appeal. Let's build on this momentum and make it a bumper year for a cause that means so much to us all!

Faye Clark

Welfare and Wellbeing Manager

Poppy Appeal
 Funds raised as at 01.09.2025

\$14,727.92

 Thank you for your unbelievable support!!






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

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025

The traditional Remembrance Day Wreath Laying Ceremony and One Minute Silence will be held at the First World War Memorial, Box Hill Gardens, Shipley Street, Box Hill at 10.30am on Tuesday 11th November 2025. All members are urged to attend this important Service.

POPPY BADGES ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT RECEPTION

THE POPPY LEGEND

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

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR POPPY APPEAL

We need just a few hours of your time to sell badges at Box Hill Centro – between:

Monday 27th October and Friday 7th November

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

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

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

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

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

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



Please find enclosed \$ being my/our donation towards the 2025 Poppy Appeal.

Cheques should be made payable to: 'Box Hill RSL'

Name on Card:

Membership No:

Card Type:

☐

Mastercard

☐

Visa

Card Number:

Expiry Date:

Signature:

Donations can also be made online at www.bboxhillrsl.com.au until 11th November 2025

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

Day Section

Our July entertainer was "a new face" for our group. Philip Joseph sang an assortment of songs and our members enjoyed joining in. A quote I have read twice recently really sums up our musical events — "Music cleanses the soul of everyday dust."

Our Ray Wall (former Secretary at our RSL) was our speaker at the beginning of August. As an active member of Ringwood Field Naturalists Group he was able to give us an insight into the meetings and activities they do on a regular basis. Visits are conducted in all weathers to a variety of places. One female member was instrumental in the building of the Mullum Mullum Tunnel to save the surrounding land.

The diverse range of interests and expertise within the group include moths, butterflies, spiders, insects, shells, flowers, fungi and ferns. Another aspect is geology which influences the species of flora and fauna found in a particular area. Members volunteer to reforest areas, especially Warrandyte State Parks.

Ray suggested that a good place to spot birds is beside sewage treatment works. National Acacia Day celebrated on 1st September is important because this is the first species of tree to regenerate after fires.

A newsletter/magazine called "The Whistler" is produced by the group and is named after the golden whistler bird which is their Club emblem. If you google "rfnc" further information is available. Thank you, Ray, for delivering a very interesting illustrated talk.

Ben Myers (General Manager) gave us a power point presentation about the Kokoda Track following his recent successful adventure. This is an historic trek about 96 kilometres long in Papua New Guinea's Owen Stanley Range known for the bitter fighting between Australian and Japanese forces during WW2. It symbolises endurance, sacrifice, courage and mateship.

All of these qualities Ben most certainly displayed before and during the walk, as became apparent when we saw the pictures. The GPS app on Ben's watch really brought home how unforgiving the terrain was and you were left wondering how people managed to walk along this single-file foot thoroughfare, especially the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels (PNG men) who aided Australian soldiers by carrying supplies, equipment and sick and wounded soldiers during the war.

Ben began training in April and arrived in Port Moresby on 2nd August. Day 1 of the trek lulled participants into a false sense of security but Day 2 was the start of "reality" as the walk became vertical at times. They encountered swamps, rivers, jungle and rainforests. Day 2 provided the most memorable point for Ben when he saw Conn's Rock which is a slab of granite on which surgery was performed and now bears a memorial plaque for the two Bishop brothers, one of whom died in his brother's arms. "Danny Boy" (the Irish folk song written in 1910) was played as a touching tribute.

On Day 5 a Dutch hippy colony was seen. They have lived there for 40 years or so. The trekkers went off trail here

to see some plane debris and saw a crater now filled with water. Children in this area have a 4 hour walk to attend school. I cannot imagine children here doing that.

Day 7, camp was set up in Nauro after a day of heavy rain. In 2019 a local banana farmer discovered a cache of weapons and he now charges \$5 to visit this site. A real entrepreneur! At Ula Ula Creek there were lots of fireflies but the overnight camp gave them a chance to dry out their boots. Wet feet would have been the norm due to torrential rain and 10 river crossings.

Day 8, Owers Corner proved to be the hardest hill on the trek consisting of a one hour climb and then a slippery descent. The Arches heralded the finish of the trek and must have been a welcome sight. The porters who had accompanied the walkers for 8 days carrying all the equipment and provisions needed for camping returned to Kokoda in 3 days to repeat the trek with another group.

On behalf our Day Section I pass on our congratulations to Ben on such an achievement. It was a personal challenge for you and you said you also wanted an insight into how soldiers must have felt under those circumstances and conditions in 1942. Well, we now have a better understanding ourselves thanks to you and have learned a bit about historical events of that time. Thank you most sincerely. (See Ben's report on pages 14-15)

Stephen McGrath, a member of Box Hill RSL was our speaker in September. He has written and published a book titled "Jimmy Sharman's Boxers." Originally, boxing was a noble sport. Jimmy Sharman, from NSW, began tent boxing at age 11 years and developed a lucrative and popular showground fixture. He established a troupe of boxers who travelled the circuit of fairs and carnivals and took on all-comers, for cash, in the ring. Tent boxing was also seen previously at Agriculture shows throughout Australia. In 1910, there was a lot of racism towards First Nation's People but his troupe included White, Chinese and Indigenous boxers and they toured Australia during WW1. He himself was exempt from conscription because he taught boxing. One of his Chinese boxers became his doorman after having to retire through injury.

Jimmy was a real entertainer who used tricks to create atmosphere and theatre. He got the fighter to stand on the challenger to see that he felt comfortable he was in the right category. Sharman himself assessed a fighter's weight by watching how he walked. He trained his troupe to be the most famous of all Travelling Boxing Troupes.

Copies of the book are available for sale directly from Stephen McGrath.

FUTURE DATES:

October 14 and 28, November 25

NB — No meeting on 11th November (Remembrance Day.)

Mary Simpson

Co - ordinator



SUNDAY DECEMBER 7th 2025

Once again, the Box Hill RSL Children's Christmas Party will be held on Sunday 7th December 2025 in the Upton Room from 10am to 1pm.

Santa will visit the children at noon and give out your presents and our lollies to children up to the age of **ELEVEN**. Older children are most welcome to attend with a carer and enjoy the festivities.

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

To manage the number of adults and children who wish to attend we require you to do the following:

- Call or email reception and give us details of the number and names of the adults and children with your group who will be attending. Email address is reception@boxhillrsl.com.au and phone number 9897 6700.
- Please deliver your presents to reception **clearly labelled with the child's first and last name in block letters** by no later than Sunday 30th November, well wrapped and not too large a gift please.
- On the day of the party, please park on **B2 carpark level and enter the RSL at the UPTON ROOM entry on the B2 level**. Please do not try to enter the RSL at ground level (reception) as it will be locked until 11am when the RSL opens.
- Children must always be supervised, especially when heading to the bathrooms.

Please call our Welfare Department on 9897 6780 or 9897 6732 if you have any questions regarding this function. Please let us know as soon as possible details of your attendance for catering requirements.

CLOSURE OF ANGLING SECTION

At a meeting of the membership of the Box Hill RSL Angling Section on 19 March 2025, it was decided by a vote of the members to close the Angling Section, effective from the date of the meeting.

Andrew Guest
Honorary Secretary

Introducing Lee-Arne Watson, our Welfare, Wellbeing and Compensation Advocate



We are pleased to share that Lee has recently stepped into the newly established role as a Welfare, Wellbeing and Compensation Advocate.

Many of you will know Lee from her years at reception, where she has been a friendly and familiar face, always ready with a warm welcome and a kind word. Since joining us seven years ago, Lee has become an integral part of our team, forming strong connections with members and gaining a deep appreciation for the values and traditions that define our RSL community.

This new role is a natural and well-deserved progression in Lee's journey. It reflects not only her personal commitment to growth but also her dedication to supporting the wellbeing of our veterans and their families. We are thrilled to see Lee bring warmth, passion, and dedication to this important work.

Please join us in congratulating her on this exciting new chapter!

Faye Clark
Welfare and Wellbeing Manager



Christmas in July Social Support Lunch

Box Hill RSL hosted our Christmas in July Social Support Lunch on July 29th. Our Social Support Lunch is a special event held to bring together members of our community, particularly those now living in nursing homes, for an afternoon of connection, celebration, and appreciation.

It is also our way of saying thank you to those who have given so much to the community in their younger years whether through service, volunteering, or simply being a part of the fabric of our shared history. It's a chance to reconnect, honour their contributions, and remind them they are still a valued part of our community.

Guests from local nursing homes and our trusty volunteers together enjoyed a Christmas feast. It was heartwarming to see everyone, guests and volunteers

alike, come together to drink, dance and be merry.

Margaret, our fabulous entertainer, truly brought the magic of Christmas to life. With her warm presence and beautiful voice she serenaded the crowd with a delightful mix of Christmas jingles and classic singalongs. The performance had toes tapping, hands clapping, and even a few brave souls up dancing. Margaret had everyone joining in, creating a joyful experience that was a highlight of the day.

Our incredible volunteers, some easily spotted in their high-vis vests, were stationed throughout the club and carpark, directing buses, taxis, and guests with care and efficiency. They guided drivers to the correct drop-off points and ramps, walked visitors from

lifts to entry points, helped them to their tables and made sure no one was left behind. Every effort was made to ensure arrivals were as smooth, welcoming, and accessible as possible.

In true Box Hill RSL fashion we even had our own internal "valet parking" service for walkers! Volunteers cheerfully collected walkers once guests were seated and ensured they were ready and waiting when it was time to head home which added a thoughtful and practical touch that didn't go unnoticed.

A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers whose dedication and festive spirit made the day such an enjoyable success!

Faye and Lee
Wellbeing and Welfare Section

DARTS SECTION

Red Hot and Ready to Throw: Monday Night Darts Hits the Bullseye!

The dartboards weren't the only things seeing red on Monday 21st July. Our players were proudly kitted out in their brand-new, red polo shirts for the Hugh Doyle (double start – double finish) Competition.

Let's just say, the only thing sharper than our darts were the shirts.



Monday Darts line-up-L-R: Sandii, Cheryl, Edith, Ray, Paul, Bernie, Steve, Bruce, Peter, Fred and Ross.

The atmosphere was electrifying from the moment the first dart was thrown. Maybe it was the competitive edge or maybe it was the confidence boost from looking like a team of professional dart assassins — either way, the games were on fire. Players who usually came for a casual throw were suddenly laser-focused, strutting to the oche (the throwing line in darts from which a player must stand) like they'd just

stepped off a televised championship stage. Simon Whitlock would have been proud!

The turnout was fantastic and the competition was fierce (but friendly). There were high scores, wild misses, dramatic comebacks and enough banter to rock the Upton Room — exactly how darts nights should be. Edith Baker won the night with Paul Tinsley a close runner-up.



Winner – Edith Baker, and Runner up– Paul Tinsley.

We're already counting down to the next competition night — now that everyone's looking the part they have no excuses!

Monday night is our darts night. Anyone interested, drop in on a Monday evening 7:45pm to the Upton Room and have a throw.

Sandii Rosu Member of Darts Section

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER SECTION

It's been a busy time in the Snooker and Billiards Section, with the highlight being the annual Club Championships. Entry numbers were on par with last year which we'll take as a sign that our charm hasn't worn off yet!

The preliminary rounds were held over the weekend of September 6–7, with the finals played on Sunday, September 14. Both finals delivered plenty of excitement and drama. In snooker, Graham Lewis edged out John Sweeney in a tightly contested 2–1 victory. In the billiards final, I managed a narrow win over Peter Reid – by just a few points, as he took it easy on me!

Below is a photo of our finalists (from left to right): Graham Lewis, John Sweeney, Peter Reid, and myself. Thanks to all participants for making it such a successful and more importantly enjoyable tournament.

Looking ahead, we're thrilled to be taking part in the inaugural Tri-Sports Challenge on August 26, alongside our fellow darts



and bowls Sections. It's shaping up to be a fun day and a fantastic way to see what the other sporting sections of the RSL are up to. Who knows – you might just discover a hidden talent or make a few new mates along the way.

See you around the tables!

Andrew Brown President

NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY - 29 SEPTEMBER 2025

"We shall remember them" – Each year on the 29th of September Australia honours the lives and service of fallen Police Officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty or as a result of their duties. At today's service at the Box Hill Police Station, Box Hill RSL was represented by Steve Bennett Vice President and Bep Dawes Committee member. On this day the names of 24 police service members were read out. They fell in the line of service over the last 12 months in the Southeast Pacific region including members from the PNG, New Zealand and Australia Police services.

National Police Remembrance Day is a solemn occasion to pay tribute to the courage, commitment, and dedication of police officers who protect our community. Since its establishment in 1853 Victoria Police has lost 178 Police Members whose service has done justice to their motto "Uphold the Right". "We shall remember them".

The Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation perpetuates the memory of members of the Victoria Police who have died in the line of duty through the support of worthwhile community projects within Victoria. Their aim is to encourage the public of Victoria to remember the sacrifice of officers who have fallen in the line of duty and to show all serving members of Victoria Police that their work and commitment are valued by a caring community. Please offer your support of their purpose by accessing the link below:

<https://remember.org.au/donate/>

Steve Bennett

Vice President



FAREWELL TO WAYNE

The Pension Section formally farewellled Wayne Bastow, our esteemed Pension Advocate, for a second time. Wayne Bastow initially served in the role from 2004 to 2009 before making a sea-change. In 2021, we were fortunate to welcome him back, and he has since served with dedication and professionalism.

Once again, Wayne has chosen to return to the sea-change lifestyle, and we extend our sincere thanks for his valued contributions. We wish him every success and happiness in his future endeavours.

Faye Clark

Welfare and Wellbeing Manager



Above: Wayne (centre), being farewellled by his colleagues in the pensions space, Neil Brown and Geoff Smith.

Bowls Section

During our Winter bowls program, we have had a very successful time with our neighbours, Mitcham and Blackburn North Bowling Clubs. This format has been in operation for at least 3 years.

The benefits of the Tri bowls are meeting and befriending new people and practice bowling on different greens. Blackburn North has a synthetic carpet which is different to ours and Mitcham has grass. A great rapport is now established with our local friends. Thank you to Peter Houghton, our Match Committee member, who has coordinated the program with Gary and Ern from the other clubs.

As I have been in Port Douglas for close to 2 months, I have enjoyed bowling in 28 degrees under a huge roof over the green. I didn't envy our Box Hill friends in the bleak winter conditions they had to endure.

Our Pennant season starts in late October, and we are in pennant practice mode at present.

The first important bowls date will be the Opening of Season Day to be held on 18th October and we hope to have as many of our playing, life members and social members attend on this day.

In the past, most bowling clubs had grass greens, which were replaced or repaired during the winter, so the Opening day was the first time the club members were able to play on the new greens. It is now more of a tradition held by most clubs.

We recently had two groups from Box Hill TAFE, who are new immigrants to our country, come over to our club. We showed them how to bowl, which was a lot of fun. In the process we also helped them with their language skills by conversing with them. That proved a bit tricky for our visitors and also for our members. It was a lovely day, and we hope it will be the start of a great relationship with the Box Hill TAFE.



Above: Our visitors with the helpers.



Above: Our very experienced bowlers being thanked by one of our guests.

We have several new members who have joined us from several local clubs for this coming season. We welcome them and hope they will come to love Box Hill RSL Bowls Section as much as the rest of us do.

Happy Bowling for the 2025 -2026 season to all

Cheryl Frail

Vice Chairperson



Women's Auxiliary

Welcome to the Spring Edition from the Women's Auxiliary. It is so good to feel the warmer weather coming once again.

The Women's Auxiliary is always busy and our first event for this period was to help Faye and Lee-Arne with the very special event for the Veterans and Members in residential care. As the buses arrived volunteers helped everyone inside and to their tables. They celebrated Christmas in July, with a fabulous Christmas Lunch prepared by our wonderful staff and their helpers. A special entertainer, who sang all the songs that everyone remembered from their younger days, where we all sang along with her and then after lunch some of the brave got up and danced. The lovely people whom I visit out at Opal Care in Dorking Road, Alma and Jim, Helen and Father Bob all said they had the best time and hoped the RSL would do it all again in the future. Especially Dennis who was brave and got up and danced with Sam.

Our July speaker was Financial Planner Ilya Ergorov from Financial Balance Group and spoke on Transition into Aged Care. He gave us general information and said to remember that any changes to your assets and savings, if you are receiving a pension, the onus is on you to report it to Centre Link. With aged care, he said stay in your own home as long as is possible, however when the time comes to find suitable accommodation, please check what are the care payment options and what deposit is needed. This is sometimes the time to seek professional advice. This talk made us all sit up and think, have we got an up to date will. Are my Power of Attorney's up to date. Something we should all think about as we age.

On the 4th August, our President, Judy Coates along with Emi Luppino, Kaye Garret (our representative) and myself attended the Women's Auxiliary AGM in at Anzac House. Reports were read out by the President and Secretary and then Sue Cattermole gave a short talk. Also, Rob Winther OAM gave a short talk and accepted a cheque for the amount \$4,300.00 from Lynese for ongoing support for Ward 17.

On the 6th of August, Emi organised a bus trip for members of the Day Section, Bowlers, Nashos and the Women's Auxiliary to visit the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island.

We set off in beautiful sunshine and enjoyed a very pleasant journey down the freeway. Upon arrival, we were treated to scones with jam and cream in the museum café, just as heavy rain swept in. Unfortunately, the downpour meant we were unable to explore the planes and displays outside in the grounds.

Inside, however, there was so much to see. The museum is extensive, and we were given a fascinating talk by a Vietnam veteran who explained how the museum came to be, an enormous undertaking, made possible by the hard work and dedication of many veterans.

We also viewed a moving video that told the story of Australian soldiers in Vietnam. Around 60,000 Australians served during the war, fighting alongside South Vietnamese Government troops against the North Vietnamese Army. Of those who served, 521 were killed and more than 3,000 wounded.



After leaving the Museum, we enjoyed a lovely lunch at the Phillip Island RSL, where we also took the time to explore the interesting exhibits on display. A very special thank you goes to Mary Pinjo for her care and support in helping many of us on and off the bus, as well as throughout the day. Your kindness and assistance contributed greatly to making the outing such a smooth and successful experience.

Our guest speaker for August was Robert Winther OAM from Ward 17, who shared insights about his dedicated work there. Ward 17 provides 20 beds, which are always in use, primarily by veterans from Iraq and Iran. Many of the police and emergency service personnel who come through have also served in the Army.

Robert explained that there is a waiting list for admissions, with an intake period of 3–4 weeks depending on circumstances. All admissions are triaged, and Vasey RSL Care works closely in partnership with Ward 17 to support these veterans. Robert Winther has given an extraordinary 60 years of service, for which we extend our heartfelt thanks.

On behalf of the club, Judy Coates presented a cheque for \$600.00, together with boxes of donations including toothbrushes, toothpaste, soaps, shampoos, slippers, and other essentials, generously donated by the ladies of the Women's Auxiliary.

Father's Day Raffle Results

We are thrilled to announce that our **Father's Day Raffle** raised **\$1,936**, a fantastic result that will go a long way in supporting veterans, their families, and community groups close to our hearts. A huge thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and contributed to this success!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS:

1st Prize: Lily Wolman

Ryobi 18V Line Trimmer and Blower Kit

2nd Prize: Dylan Ng

Esky 38L Wheeled Performance Hard Cooler with Wine & Beer + \$50 Bunnings Voucher

3rd Prize: Valerie Glenn – Men's Grooming Pack with Wallet, Belt & Tie

4th Prize: Paul Kean

Nashos Blanket, Scarf & 4 Military Dolls knitted by the Box Hill RSL Knitters Group

5th Prize: Ray Jones

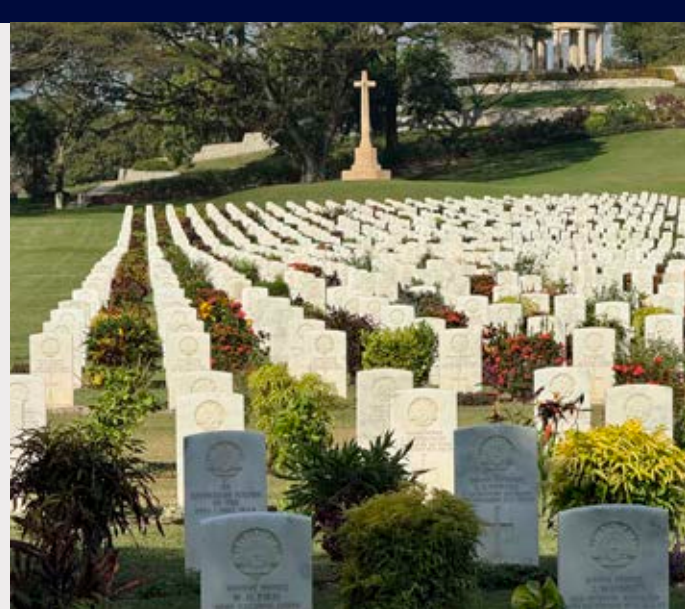
Men's Bathrobe

Thank you again for your support, and congratulations to all our winners!

Stay safe

Susan Sims

Vice President Women's Auxiliary



MY KOKODA JOURNEY

BEN MYERS
GENERAL MANAGER

WALKING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HEROES — MY KOKODA TRAIL JOURNEY

In 2020, I travelled to the Western Front in France and Belgium to retrace the significant World War I battlefields. Together with my colleague Ricky Cole, General Manager of Geelong RSL, we visited every key site on the Western Front. On our journey home to Australia, we stopped in Turkey and spent four days at Gallipoli — an experience that left a lasting impression.

That trip inspired our next great adventure: walking in the footsteps of Australia's brave soldiers by taking on the legendary Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea.

WALKING FOR A CAUSE

To raise awareness and support for local veterans, I launched a fundraiser in July, with all proceeds going to the **Box Hill RSL 2025 Poppy Appeal**. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members, groups, colleagues, business partners, friends, and family. Your encouragement and support drove me every day — I can't thank you enough.

PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGE

Undertaking the Kokoda Trail requires dedication, training, and resilience. My preparation began in April with hikes in the Dandenong Ranges, progressing to heavy-pack hikes every Sunday from May, often carrying over 18 kg. We completed four group training treks along the Great Ocean Road and in the You Yangs, building camaraderie with fellow trekkers. In the week before departure, I trained every night with a full pack — even my dog loved it!

THE TREK BEGINS

On **Saturday 2 August**, we flew from Melbourne to Port Moresby via Brisbane, swapping winter's chill for 33°C heat and near 100% humidity. Meeting my fellow trekkers at the Hilton Port Moresby was inspiring — everyone had their own reason for taking on this challenge:

- A personal test of endurance
- A lifelong dream to walk Kokoda
- Paying tribute to those who fought in 1942
- Honouring family connections to the campaign



From Port Moresby, we flew to Popondetta and travelled by truck to Kokoda Village to begin our eight-day trek. Over 113 km and 6,000 m of vertical climbing, we followed the path of the 39th Battalion and other Australian forces through dense jungle, rugged mountains, and sacred memorial sites.

REMEMBERING THE BATTLES THAT SHAPED OUR NATION

Along the trail, we paused at key locations that shaped the Kokoda campaign:

- **Kokoda Village & Deniki** — Where the 39th Battalion first faced the Japanese advance.
- **Isurava Memorial** — Honouring Courage, Endurance, Mateship, and Sacrifice, where fierce fighting claimed 75 Australian lives.
- **Templeton's Crossing** — A vital defensive and offensive point for the Australians.
- **Brigade Hill** — Site of a devastating battle in September 1942, often called "Australia's Gallipoli of the Pacific."
- **Ioribaiwa Ridge** — The furthest point reached by Japanese forces before retreat.

- **Imita Ridge & Bomana War Cemetery** — Where the tide turned, and where thousands of Australians who fought in New Guinea now rest.

Walking these paths was humbling. Every step reminded me of the courage and sacrifice of the young men who defended Australia in 1942 under unimaginable conditions.

A JOURNEY OF GRATITUDE

This adventure was not only a physical and emotional challenge but also an opportunity to honour the service and sacrifice of our veterans. I'm proud to share that together we raised **\$14,727.92** for the 2025 Poppy Appeal — a testament to the strength of our community and its ongoing commitment to supporting those who served.

A heartfelt thank you to the **Box Hill RSL Committee, Members, Groups, and our dedicated staff** for your unwavering support and encouragement. Your belief in this journey helped make it possible.

Ben Myers
General Manager

BOX HILL RSL 2026 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW OPEN

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

PLEASE TICK MEMBER TYPE:

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

Membership Number:

Name:



PAY BY CREDIT CARD:

Name on Card:

Card Type: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Card No:

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Expiry Date:

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Signature:

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PAY BY CHEQUE: Cheque Enclosed: ☐

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

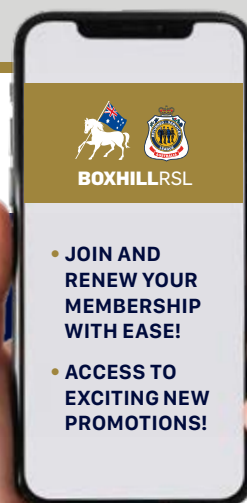
SERVICE MEMBERS:

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

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

DIGITAL MEMBERSHIPS COMING SOON!

You'll soon be able to join and renew your membership with ease through our new digital platform. Keep your membership card in your digital wallet for easy access and exclusive promotions. Keep an eye out for more information and the official launch date!



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