



BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS



Contributions can be emailed to the Editor
Jan Durham at: newsletter@boxhillrsl.com.au

Message from the General Manager

Dear Members,

As 2025 draws to a close, I want to extend my thanks to each and every one of you for your continued support and involvement in our club throughout the year. Box Hill RSL remains what it is because of its members, your loyalty, your camaraderie, and the pride you take in this place and what it stands for.

This year has been especially significant as we reached the finalisation of the extensive building works that first commenced back in 2023. While the journey has taken time and patience, the result is something we can all be proud of. These improvements have greatly enhanced the overall amenity of the club, creating more welcoming spaces, better facilities, and a stronger foundation for the future of Box Hill RSL. Thank you for bearing with the disruptions along the way and for the tolerance you've shown throughout the project. Your understanding has meant a great deal, and I hope you're enjoying what we've been able to deliver.



Above: Les and staff at his retirement function.

At the end of November, we farewelled Les Davis after 18 years of outstanding and loyal service to Box Hill RSL. Les has been a huge part of the club's story and success, and his contribution over nearly two decades has helped shape the place we are so proud of today. Les has asked me to pass on his thanks to all members who have supported

the club and made his time here so enjoyable and rewarding. On behalf of everyone at the club, we wish Les all the very best in his retirement, and Les, you are welcome here anytime. We look forward to seeing you around the place enjoying what you have helped to create, a magnificent club that you can be truly proud of.

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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.

**Helen Harrington, Imelda Wootton,
John Woodford, Pam Ferguson, Joan Waters,
Brian Kirwan**

Ronald Campbell
3752351 NS

Stan Brett
317709 NS

Bernice Rees
Affiliate

Gordon Press
DJX698128 RN

Jo Walker
Affiliate

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 Stn

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

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

Message from the General Manager **CONTINUED //**

I'm also pleased to introduce Ben Warden as our new Manager of Operations, who commenced with us on 24th November.

As we move into the Christmas and festive season, I want to take a moment to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful break. On behalf of our team, thank you again for another great year. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2026.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Warm regards,

Ben Myers

General Manager



Above Left: Les with Committee Members, (L-R) Andrew Guest, Arthur Merryweather and President John Haward.

Above Right: Les with present and past General Managers, (L-R) Ben Myers, Denis Fernando and John Romero.





Remembrance Day 11th November 2025

Remembrance Day is a time for us to pause, to stop our busy lives and reflect on those who have shown extraordinary courage, loyalty, and devotion in serving our country. It is a day to honour all who have sacrificed their lives, given their service, and defended our freedom.

Today, we remember the courage, service, and sacrifice of all Australians who have served and continue to serve, in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations around the world.

For many veterans and their families, today carries deep emotional significance. It can stir feelings of grief, pride, and quiet reflection.

As we gathered to pay tribute to those who have fallen and to those who have served, we were reminded that even as summer approaches, the weather can be unpredictable. This year's Remembrance Day was marked by steady rain, with umbrellas and raincoats becoming the accessories of the day. The wet slippery tiled path to the Cenotaph caused dangerous conditions for our wreath layers taking caution as they paid respect whilst laying the beautiful brightly coloured wreaths on behalf of their respective groups, as the piper played a lament for the fallen.

Our President, John Haward, recited The Ode, and the bugler sounded the haunting tones of The Last Post as the Catafalque Party presented arms, and the Australian and New Zealand flags were lowered. A minute's silence was then observed before President John solemnly declared, "Lest We Forget," followed by the playing of Rouse.

Thanks to the dedication of our committee members, Arthur, Judy, Emi, and Brian, along with Ben Myers, Lee-Arne Watson, and Pete, Paul and Jim from the Box Hill Rugby Club, the gazebos, tables, chairs, and wreaths were set up early. Umbrellas and ponchos were also on hand if needed by the 130 or so attendees taking part in the service to make them as comfortable as possible despite the weather. After the ceremony, the same volunteers promptly assisted with packing up and returning everything to the RSL.

As always, there are a few people who make these ceremonies possible, working quietly behind the scenes. We give sincere thanks to Judy Coates and Emi Luppino, who organised the order of service, guest lists, public address system, St John Ambulance, wreaths, council permits, volunteers, and more. Lindsay Burke for coordinating the Cadets of 305 ACU, singer Tiger-Rose, bugler Dave Farrands, and piper PTE Kristen Kirsch. Gratitude as well to Bree and her staff, who prepared the reception in the Upton Room, providing food and drinks for all to enjoy and a warm refuge from the rain and cold.

The courage, sacrifice, and spirit of those who served will never be forgotten.

Lest we forget.

Emi Luppino
Committee



WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



Welcome to the final edition of the Women's' Auxiliary for 2025.

It has been a very busy year for everyone who attends our meetings. However, it has been particularly busy for the Committee and I would like to thank you all, especially our President Judy Coates and the Secretary Emi Luppino. Without strong leadership we would not be such a successful club.

Our September speaker was Barbara Sutherland, a radiologist during the Vietnam War, who talked about her time in Vietnam and also a talk on Vietnamese babies who were fostered and adopted out.

October was a particularly busy month: a group of us who are volunteers along with the rest of the RSL Volunteers attended the President's Afternoon in the Upton Room. This was a very special time for the President John Haward to thank everyone for their service.

Our Women's Auxiliary member Glenys Lewis was one of the recipients of "Volunteer of the Year" award for her work in Legacy.

Twenty members attended The Round for The Music of Broadway.

Claire Lyon, a wonderful soprano, who commenced her professional career with Opera Australia, took us on a wonderful journey of her favourite songs. It was a delightful experience.

Thank you, Therese, for organising the outing for all of us.

Our October speaker was Ophthalmologist Dr Danielle Buck, cataract surgeon, who diagnoses and treats eye diseases including conditions such as glaucoma, cataracts and retinal abnormalities.

Sze Chin, optometrist from Eye Trend Box Hill Central, also gave a very articulate presentation telling us about the main eye diseases of the older members of the community.

Sze also brought along a group of technicians who repaired and adjusted our glasses.

Oaks Day was held in the Upton Room on November 6th. The Women's Auxiliary booked two tables and everyone turned up looking very glamorous. Our ladies took out a few honours in Fashion in the Field with Best Catwalk Runner-up Mary Hodgkinson, Best Fascinator Emi Luppino and Best Sparkly Outfit was Eril Browne.

This was a fun day with lots of great food and a very good entertainer who had everyone singing and dancing!

Remembrance Day: This year we attended Opal Community Care at Box Hill for their service which was run by Mr Brian Moody from the Salvation Army and the residents of Opal Community. Myself, Rhonda Browne and Noel Hatton attended and Noel, along with two other gentlemen, laid a wreath supplied by the Box Hill RSL. It was a very moving service, and we were all very glad we were inside as the rain pelted down outside.

November: 38 members of the RSL boarded a bus bound for Nagambie. The day was run by the Women's Auxiliary but also attended by the bowlers, the Nashos and the Day Club.

The drive across Melbourne early in the morning was what I would call nightmare traffic. Luckily for us we had Ian the bus driver who usually looks after us he did a great job.

We arrived at Nagambie about 10.15am and watched the boat come across the lake to pick us up. Upon boarding the boat most people went upstairs and were able to see all the bird life that our captain Chris told us about. We saw a wedge-tailed eagle nest (a rarity these days). Chris explained that the lake runs into the Goulburn River which eventually flows into the Murray Darling and on to South Australia.

We had a very nice and generous lunch at the Rowing Club and we raised \$194 on the raffle.

We returned to Melbourne a different way down through Whittlesea, Doreen and Greensborough which was interesting and much quicker than the morning trip.

Thanks go to Emi for all the work she put in to make this a fantastic day.



Finally, our Christmas raffle is on display in the reception area of the Box Hill RSL and we hope that you will continue to support us in our fundraising to help Veterans and their families.

From the Women's Auxiliary to every one of our members of the RSL, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Stay safe and be happy

Susan Sims

Vice President

FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS

Presented by Ray Wall

**Thursday 29th January
2026 at 10.30am**

The Thursday, January 29, 2026 Movie will be "Dreamer". Dreamer is a 2005 American Sports/Drama, inspired by true events, rated PG, and running for 106 minutes.



Synopsis: Dreamer is inspired by the true story of an injured thoroughbred racehorse. Ben, a horse trainer, always neglects his daughter Cale. However, when he adopts an injured horse, Sonador, the bridges between Cale and him begin to heal as he begins to spend more time with her.



TRI-SPORT CHALLENGE REVIEW

The Tri-Sport Challenge between the Bowls, Darts and Snooker Sports Sections was held on 26 October, proudly sponsored by the Box Hill RSL Exercise and Wellbeing Program. The aim of the event was to encourage cooperation and friendship between our sports sections. A total of 36 enthusiastic participants took part, with players assigned to mixed teams that included at least one member from each sport section. Teams competed in all three sports in a round robin format, ensuring plenty of friendly rivalry and shared skill building.

Although wet weather meant we couldn't get onto the bowling green, the bowls component was replaced with Finska (an indoor sport with similarities to lawn bowls) in the Upton Room. Teams rotated through 50-minute sessions of Finska, snooker and darts, playing each sport consecutively against other teams. Points were awarded based on the number of wins in each session. The competitive spirit was high across all three activities.

After the round robin, the top two teams faced off in an exciting final. Congratulations to Mal Clarke (from Darts), Greg Cates (from Snooker & Billiards) and Robert Lam (from Bowls Section) for winning the 2025 Box Hill RSL Tri-Sport Challenge.

A big thank you goes to Jan Durham and John Woodford from Bowls, Andrew Brown and John Sweeny from Snooker, and Paul and Bernie Tinsley and Ray Jones from Darts for their organisation and support. Special thanks also to Lynn Riddell for her help on the day and BHRSL Function Manager Bree Smith who helped with organisation and the catering.

If you are interested in becoming a member of any of the Box Hill RSL sports sections for social competition, please enquire about membership at the front



desk of the RSL for contact details of club representatives.

Dr Russell Keast
Committee

President's Afternoon 2025

Volunteers took centre stage on Sunday, 12th October, as President John Haward honoured the individuals who make a difference every day with their volunteer work at the RSL. The afternoon was filled with gratitude, camaraderie, and inspiring stories of our volunteers' outstanding contributions, a celebration of the shared commitment that unites our club and its members. President John emphasized that the Box Hill RSL would not be the same, nor as successful, without the incredible dedication of its volunteers. Joining him, Richard Welch MP helped present the **Volunteer of the Year Award** certificates to the deserving recipients.

Emi Luppino

Committee



2026 Volunteers of the Year

GLENYS LEWIS

Glenys Lewis has been a dedicated and valued member of our organization since 1999. In 2004, she joined the Legacy Ladies Section, with her enthusiasm and commitment quickly recognized, leading to her immediate appointment to the Committee.

Over the past two decades, Glenys has played a vital role in the growth and vitality of the group, serving with distinction in various leadership positions, including Vice President and President. Her contributions have been

instrumental in enhancing the experience of our members.

She has successfully organized a wide range of activities, including guest speaker events, social outings, and special interest trips — all designed to foster community, engagement, and enrichment within the membership.

Glenys's ongoing dedication, initiative, and leadership continue to make a lasting impact on the Legacy Ladies Section and the broader organization. She is truly a worthy recipient of the 'Volunteer of the Year Award.'



Glenys with Richard Welch MP



JAN DURHAM

Jan Durham has been an active and dedicated member of the Box Hill RSL Bowling Section since joining in 2007. Over the years, Jan has consistently demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the club through her involvement, leadership, and tireless volunteer work.

As a bowler, Jan has shown great skill and sportsmanship, winning both the Ladies Singles Championship and the Ladies Pairs – achievements that highlight her talent and dedication to the sport. She is also a dependable and enthusiastic Pennant player, regularly representing Box Hill RSL in both the Tuesday and Saturday teams.

Jan contributes far beyond the green. She serves as the official proofreader for the Box Hill News, meticulously reviewing each edition and correcting errors before publication. Her attention to detail ensures the newsletter maintains a high standard of professionalism and clarity.

Currently, Jan holds the role of Chairperson of the Bowls Section, a position she fulfills with distinction. She prepares and distributes comprehensive weekly reports, along with timely reminders about upcoming events, ensuring members are well-informed and engaged.

In addition, Jan serves as a Selector, helping to manage team placements with fairness and care. She is always willing to volunteer her time to support a wide range of club activities, including:

- Assisting with Corporate Bowls events
- Volunteering at the Bunnings sausage sizzle fundraisers
- Selling ANZAC and Remembrance Day poppies and badges

Remarkably, much of Jan's extensive volunteer contribution was carried out while she was working full time – a testament to her exceptional



Jan with Richard Welch MP

commitment and time management. Jan Durham is a most deserving recipient of 'Volunteer of the Year Award.'

RAY WALL

Ray has been a long-standing and dedicated member of the Box Hill RSL, actively volunteering in Welfare and playing a key role in the Appeals Program.

From 2015 to 2021, he served with distinction as Secretary, contributing significantly to the Sub-Branch operations and RSL members. In recognition of his outstanding service, Ray was awarded Life Membership of the League in 2022.

Among his many contributions, the most cherished has been his role as the beloved 'Mr. Movie Man,' bringing joy to members each month by presenting films from his own remarkable personal collection. His efforts have created lasting memories and a strong sense of community among our members who attend.

Ray is a worthy recipient of the 'Volunteer of the Year Award,' as he has demonstrated exceptional dedication, selflessness, and a genuine commitment to our members.



Phil Kinnear presenting the award to Ray Wall

OAKS DAY

6 NOVEMBER 2025



Best Catwalk - Donna Fryde



Best Dressed - Phillippa Rye



3 winners of the Oaks - Dale, Arthur and Michelle

Colour, fashion, hats, fascinators and plenty of happy faces entered the Upton Room on Oaks Day. Around 100 guests were greeted with a glass of bubbly and a delicious selection of bites, setting the tone for a day of indulgence and fun.

The chatter and laughter flowed as friends caught up and admired each other's outfits. It was lovely to see more men joining the festivities this year, adding a touch of extra charm and good cheer to the already lively crowd.

The day kicked off with everyone poring over the racing guide, making their selections for Races 2 to 8 before diving into the excitement of the three big Oaks Day sweeps. Pat was all set for the stream of eager punters keen to test their luck.

As the races played out, cheers and applause echoed through the room, as wins were celebrated, near misses laughed over, and everyone embraced the spirit of the day.

Who needed to be at Flemington when there was so much action at the Box Hill RSL? The Fashions on the Field, of course, was a highlight, with bold colours, floral prints, and statement accessories made the Upton Room feel like a runway of its own. The ladies dazzled in every shade imaginable, while the two men who participated looked sharp in their suits and ties.

It was truly a tough decision for the judges, with many strutting the catwalk with confidence, charisma, sass, sparkle, and pure delight. The **Best Dressed** award went

to **Phillippa Rye**, **Best Catwalk** to **Donna Fryde**, **Best Catwalk Runner-Up** to **Mary Hodgkinson**, and **Best Fascinator** to **Emi Luppino**, each taking home some lovely hampers and a bottle of rosé. Special mentions went to **Pam, Eril, Lindsay, Cheryl, Emily**, and **Paul**, who all received a bottle of champagne.

The energy never dipped for a moment, laughter filled the air, cameras clicked nonstop, and that joyful buzz of people simply having a great time was everywhere. The dance floor came alive as the brilliant and bubbly Alicia kept everyone moving with her fantastic renditions of hits from the '40s to the '80s.

Another fantastic event that left everyone saying how much they enjoyed themselves and promising to return next year!

The success of the day wouldn't have been possible without Bree Smith (Functions and Events Manager) and her amazing team Tyrone, Millie, Riley, another Millie and Joel, our wonderful Master of Ceremonies, Trevor Eddy, and Pat Walters at the betting table, who monitored all the tips race by race to come up with the overall results. Three lucky punters tied for the big prize of the day - congratulations to Arthur, Dale and Michele who shared the spoils and to everyone else who won a sweep in Race 8 - The Oaks.

Emi Luppino
Committee

DAY SECTION

Our ever-popular Footy Day took place on 23rd September. We had to improvise as our entertainer was unavailable at the last minute but this did not deter us from having fun. We sang a medley of footy songs together, aided by technology viz. mobile phones!

John and I did an impromptu power point presentation on a recent trip to the Adelaide Hills. We stayed in Hahndorf, a heritage-listed town, known as Australia's oldest surviving German settlement. It was established in 1839 by Lutheran migrants from Prussia. Many of the buildings have been preserved and are examples of German-style architecture. The whole area was bustling with tourists and we were there at a "quieter time" according to locals.

To celebrate Footy Day, Richard Tregear ran a sweep, the results of which were:

FIRST – Kit Robertson

SECOND – Mary Simpson

THIRD – Trish Hogan

Congratulations to all and, as you can see, "ignorance is bliss" on my part anyway!

As usual, Footy Fare (pies and sausage rolls) was distributed and enjoyed by all.

Our meeting on 14th October also had to change as our speaker was unable to attend because of illness. Patricia MacLaren kindly offered to bridge the gap. She spoke about her experiences as a child evacuee during the Second World War in the UK. She was sent from London to Lancashire where she was not really welcomed, being an "outsider". This was despite her father originally coming from there. He had moved from Lancashire during the strikes in the mills and had become a policeman in London. Pat was sent to live with an aunt in Accrington

and did not return to London until the end of the War. Once back there, she struggled to fit in because once again she was viewed as an outsider. In an effort to be accepted while up North, Pat was desperate to get a pair of clogs (wooden shoes) as that is what all local children wore.

Thank you, Pat for giving us an insight into what children went through during those troubled times. Everyone sat enthralled, listening to your account.

Rob Foenander entertained us in October and what a star he turned out to be. He really had everyone singing and clapping with his repertoire. This was his first time at our Day Section and I am sure he will be back by popular demand. He also does a Buddy Holly tribute so we may have him do that next time.

There was no meeting at the beginning of November as the date clashed with Remembrance Day. May I say thank you to all those who took an active part in the service on such an inclement day. Despite the weather, people did attend to pay tribute to those past and present who sacrifice/d so much in order that we can live the lives we do. Thanks too to the staff of our RSL who looked after us so well.

We shall be well underway into the festive season when this Newsletter is distributed, so here's wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. May it be peaceful and happy.

Our first meeting of the Day Section in 2026 is on 27th January.

FUTURE DATES:

February 10 and 24

Mary Simpson

Co-ordinator

FAREWELL TO KAY

It is with heartfelt appreciation that we acknowledge the work done by our very special hairdresser, Kay, who has been an integral part of our team since 2006.

For 19 years, Kay has provided an exceptional haircutting service, with skill, and care for our members. Her professionalism, warm personality, and unwavering commitment have made a lasting impact on everyone.

As she embarks on a well-deserved retirement, she will be truly missed, and we extend our deepest gratitude for her years of outstanding service and wish her every happiness and fulfillment in the next chapter of her life.

Thank you for two decades of excellence.

Faye Clark

Welfare and Wellbeing Manager



Kay with Michelle Butler.

In 2026 we will need a new barber/hairdresser. Anyone interested in the position, please contact Faye Clark from Welfare

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

Faye Clark Welfare and Wellbeing Manager

COMMITTEE ELECTIONS 2026

Nominations are requested for the positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer and four committee positions. **Nominations will open on Thursday February 5th 2026 and close on Thursday February 19th 2026 at 5.00pm.** Application forms are held by the Secretary. Please note to nominate for the positions of President or Secretary, the applicant must have served on the committee for a minimum of 12 months.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch inc will be on **Sunday 12th April 2026, in the Upton Room at 11.00am.** Agenda items must be received by the Secretary, Andrew Guest by close of business on Thursday 2nd April 2026. Please note that only paid-up service, affiliate and life members of the Box Hill RSL are eligible to vote.

Bowls Section

It has been a long wait but Pennant season has once again started for 2025. We have two teams playing in both Saturday and Tuesday mid-week Pennant. It has been a mixed start to the season with a couple of washouts and some successful and not-so-successful days bowling.

Prior to the season starting we had a program of practice matches against Blackburn North, Mitcham, Bennetswood and Fairfield Bowling Clubs which helped us tune up for the season after our social program over the winter.

The culmination of our pre-season was our annual Kieser Challenge Day against Blackburn North sponsored by our sponsor Kieser, Mont Albert. This challenge day is in its third season where we play for the Kieser Shield in pennant conditions. It was a very competitive day. Kieser physio personnel were on hand to speak to our members about any niggles we may have and they gave some helpful tips about keeping strong so that we can enjoy a longer time on the green.

We won the Kieser Shield and Russell Keast, Graeme Moore, Alf Maglitto and David Moran were rink of the day.



Above: John Woodford, President, receiving the Kieser Shield from Alex Bussell, Manager of Kieser, Mont Albert.



Above: Rink of the Day - David Moran, Graeme Moore, Alex Bussell (from Kieser) and Alf Maglitto.

About 14 of our the members took part in the Tri-Sports Day held in the Sports Section and Upton Room in late October. It was a great day and a wonderful way of getting to know the other members of those sports.

Unfortunately we were unable to play bowls because of the dreadful weather but in the new year we hope to have a come and try day at Bowls for the Darts and Snooker Sections as there were several disappointed players wanting to get out on the green.

Eight of our ladies had a wonderful time at the Oaks Day Luncheon. What a fabulous day it was, and some of us did come home a couple of dollars lighter in our wallets.

We congratulate Jan Durham, our current Chairperson, on being awarded a Volunteer of the Year at the recent President's Afternoon function.

We are hosting 10 Corporate Bowls Christmas functions in the next couple of weeks. So it will be all hands on deck for us bowlers and also for Bree our lovely Function Manager.

Christmas is coming way too quickly. Enjoy your family time.

Merry Christmas from the Bowls Section

Cheryl Frail
Vice Chairperson

SNOOKER & BILLIARDS SECTION

The Snooker and Billiards Section has been busy over the past couple of months, with the standout event being the inaugural **Tri-Sports** Day held in late October. The concept behind the day was to bring members from different RSL sections together to compete across three sports played at the club: snooker, darts and lawn bowls.

A special thank-you goes to **Russell Keast**, who did a fantastic job organising the event and chairing the planning meetings. His efforts made the day an enormous success. Due to the constant rain, lawn bowls had to be replaced with an indoor game of **Finska** — and what a hit it turned out to be! If you haven't heard of it, do yourself a favour and look it up. It created plenty of fun, friendly tension and lots of laughter. I suspect our next event may well become a quad-sports day with Finska included officially.

The Snooker Section had 11 members participating and a few others volunteering on the day in the snooker room. Congratulations to **Greg Cates**, who was part of the winning team, and to **Sue Stewart**, who played in the runner-up team, showing her husband Doug how it's done on the snooker table!

We also hosted a snooker table at the recent **Annual Volunteers Day (President's Afternoon)**, which was a

wonderful occasion. Thank you to the RSL Committee for the recognition, and congratulations to all winners of the Volunteer of the Year awards.

Our **Over 55s Snooker** finals series has just wrapped up. The Box Hill 147 team unfortunately exited in the first week of finals, and the Box Hill 2 team very narrowly missed qualifying. Well done to all players — it's a long season with 33 matches plus finals, and everyone represented the section proudly.

Looking ahead, we are excited to hold our **first Snooker Section Christmas Dinner on December 3rd**. This event is free for all fully paid snooker subsection members, with partners attending for just \$20. Details have been shared via WhatsApp, text and email. We've already had an excellent response, so if you haven't RSVP'd yet, please do -- it's shaping up to be a great night among friends, with recognition of achievements from the past season.

See you all on the snooker tables soon.

Andrew Brown
President

BOX HILL RSL CELEBRATES THE VASEY RSL CARE TOUR DE V CENTRE'S INCREDIBLE SUCCESS

The inaugural Tour de V Centre has been hailed as a resounding success, and we at Box Hill RSL are proud to have played a major role as a financial contributor and sponsor of this remarkable event. Over four days, riders covered 500km from Warrnambool to Box Hill, raising awareness of veteran homelessness and suicide prevention while showcasing the life-changing work of the V Centre Veteran Empowerment Program.

The journey culminated in a spectacular final dinner at Box Hill RSL on Thursday, 16 October, where our community came together to celebrate the riders' achievement and reaffirm our commitment to supporting veterans. Guests enjoyed a superb two-course meal in our elegant dining space, complemented by heartfelt conversations and camaraderie.

The evening was enriched by inspiring guest speakers who shared powerful stories and insights:

- Kevin Sheedy AO – AFL Hall of Fame legend and advocate for community resilience.
- Sian Diddams – Sister of SAS Sergeant Blaine Diddams MG, who was killed in action in Afghanistan, speaking with courage and grace about service and sacrifice.
- Kahlil Fegan DSC AM – Repatriation Commissioner, whose leadership and dedication to veteran welfare resonated deeply with all in attendance.

Their words reminded us why events like the Tour de V Centre matter: they unite communities and shine a light



on the challenges veterans face, while celebrating the strength and support networks that help them thrive.

Box Hill RSL was proud to stand behind this initiative, not only as a venue for the closing celebration but as a major sponsor ensuring the ride's success. Our contribution helped provide essential logistics, rider support, and community engagement opportunities throughout the event.

The Tour de V Centre was more than a cycling event; it was a movement to foster understanding, build connections, and create tangible change for veterans in need. We are honoured to have been part of this journey and look forward to continuing our support for programs that make a real difference.

Chris Gray
Committee

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 BELOW AND BIRTHDAY VOUCHERS ONLY ISSUED TO FINANCIAL MEMBERS.

PLEASE TICK MEMBER TYPE:

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

Membership Number:

Name:

PAY BY CHEQUE: Cheque Enclosed:

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

PAY BY CREDIT CARD:

Name on Card:

Card Type: Mastercard Visa

Card No:

Expiry Date: Signature:

PLEASE NOTE:

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

SERVICE MEMBERS:

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

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

BOX HILL RSL
MEMBERS FRIDAY NIGHT

Monster Christmas Raffle
FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER

IN THE UPTON ROOM
Tickets on sale from 5.00pm

- All members welcome!
- Prize for the best decorated table.
- Women's Auxiliary Raffle will also be drawn this night.

Look forward to seeing you there!

GO DIGITAL TODAY

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

Sign up **OR** renew your membership and download your new digital card

Scan the QR code, sign up or renew and go into the draw to win

1 of 4 \$400 JB Hi-Fi vouchers*

* Terms & conditions apply
 Promotional dates: 1/11/2025 - 31/12/2025 Draw date: 5/1/2026




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