



BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS



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



A Christmas Lunch to Remember

The Box Hill RSL was filled with the true spirit of Christmas recently when we hosted a very special Social Support Christmas lunch for our members and guests living in residential care. With wheelchairs, walking aids, carers, and plenty of festive cheer arriving at our doors, it was clear this was going to be a day full of smiles, stories, and maybe even a little toe-tapping. This was our way of thanking for their service and community contribution.

Guests arrived by taxi, maxi taxi, and nursing home vans, and were cheerfully welcomed by our well-trained volunteers. Armed with warm smiles and impeccable pointing skills, they guided everyone smoothly to the lifts and down to B2 car park. There, a second team of equally enthusiastic volunteers took over, greeting guests and escorting them along, before a third wave swept in to help park walkers and lead everyone to their tables like VIPs on a red carpet.

Our guests from seven local nursing homes were warmly welcomed by our President John Haward, who thanked all those people who came along and allowed the RSL to share a Christmas Celebration with them. We know it was not easy for some people due to mobility restrictions which made their efforts even more special. Today was about them, their service, their stories, their resilience, and the lives they have shaped. Letting them know they are remembered, respected, and deeply valued.

They were treated to a delicious Christmas lunch that had all the trimmings, no cooking, no dishes, and no one asking who forgot the gravy. The room buzzed with laughter, conversation, and the unmistakable sound of people enjoying being out, and spoiled just a little. To add a personal touch, Lee-Arne (our Wellbeing and Welfare Advocate) lovingly created a special bauble gift for everyone, each one filled with scrumptious shortbread and M&Ms as a sweet little take-home treat.

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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.

Garry Hutchinson
– 3793194 2 Trans. 5 Coy
Harold Veitch – 3786308 NS
Victor Freeman
– 2717000 10th Field Reg

Noel McFarlane – 3779039 NS
Allan Woods – VX138143 @/7 Fld. Coy
Harold Renton
– PM5825 RAN /34652 Army

Members in Aged Care

JOHN BROWNBILL, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

ALWYNNE FAIRWEATHER, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

SHARLEE AND LLOYD GOSS, Bupa, 12 Burton Avenue Clayton

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

FRED PIKE, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Avenue, Canterbury

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEVILLE FROSTICK, Livingstone Gardens, 39 Livingstone Road, Vermont

DOROTHY HOUSE, Estia 428 Scoresby Road, Knoxfield

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

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

ERIC DARBYSHIRE, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

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

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

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

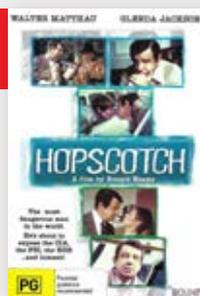
MYRA SPENCER, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS Presented by Ray Wall

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10.30am

The Thursday, February 26, 2026 Movie will be "**Hopscotch**". Hopscotch is a 1980 American Adventure/Comedy rated PG and running for 105 minutes.

Synopsis: Grounded with a desk job by incompetent superiors, a clever CIA agent retires and writes a tell all memoir that will embarrass his bosses, prompting him to go on the run and elude them.



Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 10.30am

The Thursday, March 26, 2026 Movie will be "**Hachi - A Dog's Tale**". Hachi - A Dog's Tale is a 2009 American Drama, inspired by true events, rated G, and running for 87 minutes.

Synopsis: Professor Wilson discovers a lost Akita puppy on his way home. Despite objections from his wife, Hachi endears himself to the family and grows to be Parker's loyal companion. As their bond grows deeper, a beautiful relationship unfolds.



A Christmas Lunch to Remember

CONTINUED //



The entertainment was a highlight of the day, thanks to the wonderful Margaret, who had everyone singing along in no time. From beloved Christmas classics to songs "from yesteryear" (the kind that instantly transport you back to first dances, long car trips, and radio sing-alongs), Margaret struck all the right notes. Margaret even managed to rope the guests into the festivities, pausing mid-chat to speak with Irene, a woman so strikingly like the late Queen Elizabeth II that she could almost demand a royal wave, and who, by all accounts, is frequently mistaken for Her Majesty herself.

Carers joined in the fun too, singing, clapping, dancing and enjoying the day, celebrating alongside those they support every day. It was heart-warming to see so many smiles, gentle swaying to the music, and the occasional enthusiastic chorus that may or may not have been perfectly in tune but was definitely full of joy. The dance floor came alive with people spinning and swaying to the beat, wheelchair users and their carers rolling and grooving together, while others couldn't resist dancing right there in the aisles.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this day so special, from the organisers Faye and Lee-Arne, Bree and staff, volunteers to the carers who ensured our guests could attend, and, of course, to Margaret for providing such wonderful entertainment. Most of all, thank you to our guests for sharing the laughter, the memories, and the Christmas spirit with us.

If the measure of a successful Christmas lunch is full stomachs and happy faces, then this one was an absolute cracker.

Emi Luppino

Committee Member

WHAT'S ON & WHEN

Keep informed about our latest scheduled activities!

GENEALOGY GROUP

1st Monday of the month at 10.00am – contact reception for details

DAY CLUB

2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the Upton Room

KNITTERS GROUP

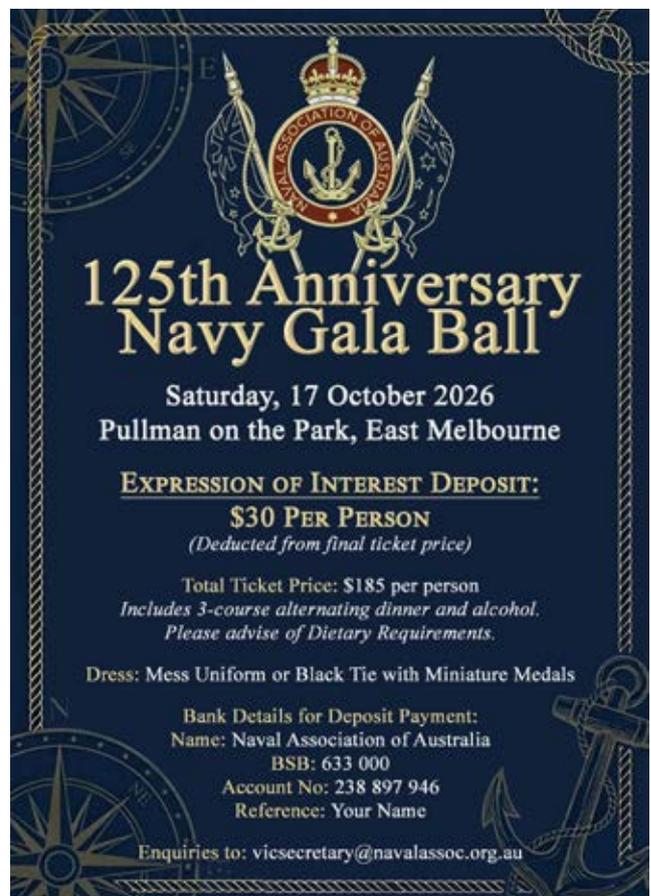
Every Thursday 11.30-1.30 followed by lunch – contact Welfare for details

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

4th Monday of the month at 10.30am in the Upton Room

TAI CHI

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10.30 am – contact reception for details



**125th Anniversary
Navy Gala Ball**

Saturday, 17 October 2026
Pullman on the Park, East Melbourne

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST DEPOSIT:
\$30 PER PERSON
(Deducted from final ticket price)

Total Ticket Price: \$185 per person
*Includes 3-course alternating dinner and alcohol.
Please advise of Dietary Requirements.*

Dress: Mess Uniform or Black Tie with Miniature Medals

Bank Details for Deposit Payment:
Name: Naval Association of Australia
BSB: 633 000
Account No: 238 897 946
Reference: Your Name

Enquiries to: vicsecretary@navalassoc.org.au



JINGLE & MINGLE:

A Magical Christmas Adventure for Kids!

What a magical, merry, and marvellous day it was at Box Hill RSL Children's Christmas Party on Sunday 7th December! Laughter, music, bubbles, and Christmas cheer filled the air as 40 excited children, accompanied by their ever-watchful adults, enjoyed a truly unforgettable celebration.

The fun kicked off with the wonderful Mary Fairy Bubble Lady, who sprinkled the room with shimmering bubbles that had children jumping, popping, and giggling with delight. Two talented face painters transformed little faces (or for some on their arm) into reindeer, grinch, butterflies, princesses, and festive wonders, while our Balloon Lady amazed everyone by twisting balloons into colourful animals and sparkling Christmas ornaments.

The excitement continued as Mrs Claus and her cheeky elf took to the stage, filling the room with music, singing, and plenty of festive fun. Gasps and cheers followed when Dan the Magician wowed the crowd with his tricks.

Outside, the jumping castle was bouncing non-stop, and the ice cream van proved a huge hit, serving sweet treats to happy partygoers, adults and even the Box Hill

RSL kitchen staff enjoyed the treats. And just when the excitement couldn't get any bigger... Santa arrived! With his big bag of presents, Santa made sure every child, "naughty or nice", went home with a smile and a special gift.

A huge thank you to Arthur, our Senior Vice President, for organising this wonderful event. His team of hardworking 'elves' were on hand, making lolly bags, taking photos, and assisting Santa in handing out presents.

And as always, special thanks to the amazing Bree, who worked her magic alongside her wonderful staff. Their care, organisation, and delicious treats ensured everything ran smoothly from start to finish.

If you weren't able to attend the 2025 festivities, don't worry, 2026 awaits. Mark your diary for **Sunday, 6 December**, and enjoy another chance to experience the magic as your child, grandchild, niece, or nephew lights up with joy.

Emi Luppino
Committee Member



Above: Jim Burrowes standing in front of the cenotaph 23 April 2024



Top Left: Jim and Tom circa 1933 **Top Right:** Thomas Burrowes, Jim's twin brother **Above Left:** The Beaufort A9-211 compliance plate identifying aircraft number and manufacture date. **Above Right:** Willie Flinn, the 15 year old who led the expedition to identify the crash site in 2021.

Jim's final question answered but too late for Jim

When former Coastwatcher Jim Burrowes finally 'hung up his boots' on 7 July 2024, he was 101 years old.

Jim was not sentimental in any way but he quietly held on to hope for the answer to one question for most of his life: **Where was the final resting place of each his two brothers, both killed in World War II?**

His older brother Bob had been killed when the Japanese POW ship *Montevideo Maru* was sunk by the USS *Sturgeon* on 1 July 1942, thus killing all 1,053 Australian prisoners of war on board.

And Jim's twin brother Tom was killed when Beaufort Bomber A9/211, on which Tom was a wireless operator and air gunner (WOAG), crashed on Tom's first mission on 14 December 1943.

The location of both wrecks had been a mystery since the war ended in 1945 although Jim was to find out the site where the *Montevideo Maru* rested when it was discovered on 18 April 2023, a year before he died. After an extensive search by the Silentworld Foundation, working in conjunction with other organisations, the wreck of the *Montevideo Maru* was found lying 4,000 metres below the surface of the South China Sea 110 kilometres north west of Luzon in the Philippines.

But what of the wreck of Beaufort A9/211?

With over 1,000 aircraft from World War II and the Korean War still unaccounted for, even the prospects of finding Tom's Beaufort were clearly remote although previous research had confirmed that only a small number of Beauforts were missing in the area of Rabaul.

And while another plane wreck had been identified by

young Willie Flinn in 2021, Jim had learned to be cautious with his optimism. There was no guarantee it was a Beaufort; there was no guarantee it was the plane on which Tom perished even if it was a Beaufort.

Finally, after Willie's father David Flinn had contacted the Historic Unrecovered War Casualties unit of the RAAF, an expert investigative team arrived at the site on 8 October 2025. Led by Group Captain Grant Kelly and including anthropologist Dr Greg Bablis of the PNG National Museum and Art Gallery (NMAG), the nine members of the team spent three days carefully inspecting the site and locating various parts of the wreckage spread across a wide area.

On their return to Australia, and following closer inspection of the evidence acquired during the expedition, a full report was written. This report confirmed that identity of the aircraft is not in doubt: **It is the aircraft** on which Jim's twin brother died.

While it came too late for Jim to know, it has been sobering news for Jim's extended family.

No doubt Jim would have shed a tear or two. Members of his family, including me, have done that on his behalf.

A more detailed account of the discovery of this aircraft can be found at 'Beaufort A9/211 wreck found' on Jim's website 'The Last Coastwatcher'.

<https://thelastcoastwatcher.wordpress.com/coastwatching-organization/beaufort-a9-211-wreck-found/>

Robert J. Burrowes

Son of Jim Burrowes and Nephew of Tom and Bob

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA TRIP: INVITATION TO BHRSL

On November the 15th last year, myself, my wife Janice, committee person Chris Gray and his wife, Alison, were chosen by the committee of Box Hill RSL to represent the RSL at a special dinner at the Australian War Memorial. This dinner was hosted by entrepreneur Rich Welch. Only 100 were chosen out of 300 applications for this special dinner.

Prior to the dinner all of us had the opportunity to view part of the new extensions to the AWM which will be completed in early 2026. The new exhibitions on show were truly moving and are a credit to the curators at the AWM. At 4.40pm we all attended the Last Post and I was privileged to lay a wreath on behalf of BHRSL. At this wreath laying ceremony I was also privileged to meet the Governor-General of Australia Her Excellency the Honourable Ms Sam Mostyn AC. She mixed freely with everyone and we both met later at the special dinner.

After the Last Post ceremony, we proceeded to the new entrance to the AWM where we had pre-dinner drinks and canapés.

It was time for us to be placed at our respective places for this special dinner. The dinner was to honour our past VC Corporal Cameron Baird VC MG in announcing the Cameron Baird VC MG Foundation. All the proceeds from this foundation will go towards all Veterans in need of support. Box Hill RSL will be committed to supporting this important organisation.

During the dinner, about half a dozen veterans told their stories, including those who served with Cameron in Afghanistan. Some were there the day he lost his life helping his fellow comrades.

Box Hill RSL was known to many at this dinner. Chris and I were talking to veterans who had not only heard of BHRSL



Above: Left to right - Brian Tateson, Janice Tateson, Alison Gray and Chris Gray.

but had also enjoyed a drink and a meal at our club. There was nothing but praise for our RSL.

It was time for the Governor-General to leave. As chance would have it, she had to pass our table on the way out and, of course, she had to say goodbye to me. I then had the opportunity to introduce her to Janice, Allison and Chris Gray on her way out. There is no doubt we may see her in the future at Box Hill RSL.

In summing up, this trip to Canberra proved to be a most constructive trip for Chris Gray and myself. The people we met and the way this dinner was put together by our younger veterans will prove to be of great benefit to the members of Box Hill RSL. It is a pity that I have not a lot of space to tell you of the many more things that happened to us, but this can wait for another story in the future.

Brian Tateson

Committee Person / Curator of Memorabilia

NEW BARBER

On the 19th January we welcomed our new Barber Rocco. He will be available to cut hair every Monday from 9.15am to 2pm.

Appointments can be made with Rocco or through Welfare on 9897 6780 or 9897 6732.



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.



Waiting for the memorial to start.



The woman in black looking out to sea.



The umbrella.



My wreath to be laid, under the umbrella.



The wreath laying area under the umbrella.



The metal bow of the ship.

BOX HILL NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

HMAS Sydney Memorial Service, Geraldton 19th November 2025



On Wednesday 19th November 2025 I attended Geraldton, WA, with two other members of the Box Hill Naval Association of Australia, Graham Thomas and his wife Ros, to lay wreaths in memory of the 84th Memorial Service of the sinking of HMAS *Sydney II* on the 19th of November 1941, with the loss of 645 lives: Australia's largest naval disaster.

The battle took place 120 nautical miles from Dirk Hartog Island off the coast of Western Australia. At approximately 18:30 the Light Cruiser HMAS *Sydney II* approached the HSK *Kormoran*, a German Raider disguised as a Dutch Merchant ship flying a Dutch flag. When the *Sydney* came within range, the *Kormoran* struck down the Dutch flag and raised the German Naval Ensign flag and commenced firing with its hidden guns and torpedoes.

Two torpedoes hit the *Sydney* ripping a large hole in the ship's side. Some of the shells fired by *Kormoran* hit the bridge killing all personnel including the Captain, Joseph Burnett. *Sydney* fired back immediately, but the salvos missed the *Kormoran*. *Sydney* was ablaze but managed to fire some more salvos and torpedoes. Several of the salvos hit and damaged the engine room and, eventually, this caused the *Kormoran* to stop in the water. The Captain, Theodor Detmers, ordered the *Kormoran* to be scuttled and sunk. 82 German sailors were killed and 318 survived to become prisoners of war. The battle lasted 30 minutes and both ships were ablaze. The *Sydney* was last seen heading over the horizon never to be seen again.

To remember the 645 killed aboard the *Sydney*, the people of Geraldton built a memorial that can only be described as wonderful, magnificent and emotional.

First: it consists of a metal umbrella made of 645 seagulls for every person that died. Second: a large metal structure in the form of the ship's bow that eventually tore itself off from the rest of the ship. Third: a statue of a female dressed in black looking out to sea waiting for the ship to return, which it did not. The statue represents every wife, mother, daughter, sister or girlfriend who had a connection onboard. I did see a few female visitors with tears in their eyes when they visited the statue. Fourth: there is a water well with a large seagull flying above the water facing the direction of the last sighting of *Sydney* with the latitude and longitude of that position.

The ceremony started at 18:30 and about 300 attended. These included people from Geraldton, dignitaries from Canberra, senior officers from all three armed services, senior police officers, politicians, the Mayor and Councillors, secondary and primary school students, Naval and Air Force Cadets, service organisations, Naval Historical Society, other NAA organisations, the Geraldton RSL and the Geraldton Symphonic Orchestra.

There were speeches, songs and a minute's silence. Then wreath laying: Graham laid a wreath on behalf of the Victorian NAA, and I laid a wreath on behalf of the Box Hill Naval Association, Victoria. After the wreath laying the Naval Cadets fired a six-gun four-volleyed salute, followed by the firing from a large cannon and then flares fired at sea. It was the greatest, naval memorial I have ever attended.

Wayne Bastow

Box Hill Naval Association of Australia

THE BIGGEST FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLE OF THE YEAR

The final Friday Night Raffle of 2025 proved to be a festive and fitting send-off to the year, with around 150 people coming together to celebrate in true Christmas spirit. Every table was beautifully decorated, each one striving to outshine the next with imaginative and eye-catching displays. From miniature trains running along tiny tracks to dancing and singing snowmen, metre-tall Father Christmas figures and a dazzling array of ornaments and tinsel, the room was transformed into a joyful Christmas wonderland.

The raffle prizes were just as impressive. A generous selection of hams, turkeys and prawns was on offer, alongside Lions Christmas cakes, and sparkling wine. Laughter, cheers and plenty of Christmas goodwill filled the room as everyone soaked up the festive atmosphere.

Our President, John Haward, officially opened the evening with a few words of thanks and Christmas cheer, before wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and commenting on how great it would be to see such a strong turnout at every raffle night.

Our fantastic hosts, Mandy Wallace, Bronwen Laughlin and Ray Jones, added even more cheer by donning matching Christmas shirts, with Jan Durham also lending a hand to ensure the night ran smoothly. A heartfelt thank



you goes to them for their continued dedication every Friday night.

As always, excitement built as the numbers were called. Some lucky winners went home with their Christmas lunch well and truly sorted, carrying one or more hams, turkeys or prawns, while others left empty-handed, comforted only by their Christmas spirit and fond memories of a wonderful night. It was a perfect ending to 2025.

Emi Luppino
Committee Member

Snooker & Billiards Section

Well, that's another year that has flown by. The years certainly seem to be passing more quickly these days, but we're having plenty of fun along the way!

Since our last update, the Snooker Section held its inaugural Christmas dinner, with 19 members in attendance (see photo). The event was held on the RSL's alfresco deck and proved to be a fabulous night enjoyed by all.

During the evening, we recognised the teams and individuals who claimed trophies throughout the year, including two team champions and several individual winners from the annual Club Championships. A free raffle also added some excitement, with a number of mystery prizes presented on the night.

It was a terrific way to close out what has been a very successful year for our section. We would like to



sincerely thank the RSL Board and Committee for their continued support, with special thanks to Ben Myers for his assistance as our key contact. We are proud, in our own small way, to be part of such a supportive RSL community.

Wishing everyone a happy, safe, and prosperous 2026.

Andrew Brown
President



DARTS SECTION

The Darts Section completed the last competition of the year combined with our end-of-year function.

The Club Championship competition was conducted as a round robin event played on three boards. The competition was enthusiastic with everyone keen to have their name engraved on the trophy. Peter Page played consistently but Duncan Symonds was in brilliant form and leading on board one with no losses and three wins.

Midway through the tournament we paused to partake in a sumptuous spread of a selection of dishes catered for by the Box Hill RSL staff.



The competition resumed with Edith Baker, winner of board two, and Duncan playing off in a final match. Duncan made a clean sweep and was declared the Club Champion of 2025.

Trophies gained throughout the year were presented by our President Paul Tinsley.

Above Left: Competing in the Darts Club Championship.
Above Right: Trophy Winners.

Competition Director, Bernie Tinsley, distributed prizes which included a number of Box Hill RSL gift vouchers. At the close of proceedings all members were presented with a Christmas gift. A great night was had by all.

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

Drawn Doubles Trophy: (partners picked randomly)

Winners Paul Tinsley and Edith Baker
Ray Jones and Lisa Breen
Steve Carter and Bernie Tinsley
(all games tied)

Hugh Doyle Trophy: (start and finish on a double number)

Winner Edith Baker
Runner-up Paul Tinsley

Selected Doubles Trophy: (select your partner)

Winners Ralph Baker and Edith Baker

Club Championship Trophy:

Winner Duncan Symonds
Runner-up Edith Baker

Many thanks to Bree and the great RSL staff who set up the room and looked after us during the evening

Ray Jones

Treasurer and Acting Secretary



Christmas lunch raffle winners.



Judy Schumer, Anner Palmer, Carol Calder & Marcia Cartright.



Kat Baldwin & Ben Myers



Christmas lunch

Women's Auxiliary

Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to 2026. We look forward to a very busy and productive year.

The November guest speaker was Kat Baldwin Deputy Director of The Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM). This organisation was established in 2013 in response to the growing need for an innovative model of care in Veterans wellbeing. It supports the mental, physical and social wellbeing of current and former Australian Defence Force Members and their families through community based facilitated Arts engagements. Kat was an actor, writer, director and also a Navy veteran whose transition three times which she calls the Art Navy Rhythm and said she was very proud of her Art and the Navy and that the organisation understands both the Arts and the Navy and she found her place. A place where you are heard, seen and valued. A charity run by Vets for Vets. At the conclusion of Kat's talk, our President Judy Coates presented her with a cheque for \$2,000.00.

In December we held our annual Christmas lunch for the Women's Auxiliary, and RSL manager Ben Myers gave a presentation of his recent trip to Papua New Guinea, where he completed the Kokoda Trail. It was a gruelling journey he found himself adjust to as he climbed up and down hills and valleys. They had the guides accompanying them and carrying the heavy equipment and food etc. Ben said he was glad he did the trip and would like to do it again and encouraged Emi who showed interest to take part as well. As they raise money for the RSL, it is a very good time to dig in our pockets and support them.

The committee visited the Greensborough Women's Auxiliary in late November. We sat in on their meeting and heard what they were doing and hoped to do in the future which was interesting and gave us some ideas. They are a very young club, and we wish them all the very best for the future. At the conclusion of the meeting, we all went for a very nice dinner at the Greensborough RSL Club.

The Women's Auxiliary Christmas Raffle was drawn at the last Friday night raffle and the winners were:

- 1ST PRIZE:** 55" TV. Me!! **Susan Sims**
- 2ND PRIZE:** Pizza Oven and a \$50 Bunnings Voucher - **Mary Coeoy**
- 3RD & 4TH PRIZE:** Officeworks gift pack, and Dan Murphy voucher, glasses and decanter pack - **Phil and Rosa Taylor**
- 5TH PRIZE:** Electric Wok - **Gail Lewis.**

Thank you to all who supported us, we made a profit of \$2,642.36. What a wonderful effort!

We look forward to seeing our members when we resume in February.

Our first bus trip this year will be to Bendigo on Wednesday March 11th 2026, and payment is needed at our February meeting on Monday February 23rd 2026.

Stay safe and happy.

Susan Sims
Vice President



DAY SECTION

Welcome back to one and all. Let's hope that 2026 brings good health and happiness to everyone in our "RSL family." An additional wish would be for safety in light of the disasters experienced over the festive period. I now have a better understanding and empathy for fire/flood-affected people in Victoria. As a CFA volunteer, our son has spent 14-hour days fire-fighting whilst also trying to protect his own rural property from which they have had to evacuate at times. As I write this article, our daughter is caught up in flood-affected areas whilst holidaying with her family. No half measures for us!

There was some excitement when Richard announced the winners of the Melbourne Cup Sweep which he ran in October. Congratulations to our two winners: Wendy Epps and Jocelyn Kinnear.

Tony Diamond was our entertainer on 25th November. Unfortunately, he was not quite up to his usual standard but, on chatting later, he disclosed that he is currently having health issues. We wish him a good recovery. Nevertheless, we still enjoyed a good old singalong. "Music cleanses the soul of everyday dust" is a good quote I read recently.

We closed 2025 with our celebratory Christmas meal which was well attended. Thanks to all staff involved, a most enjoyable meal was had by all. Through the generosity of our RSL Committee, we had a 'bumper crop' of door prizes. Congratulations to Joy McKelvey, winner of our special 1st prize. I'm sure mum (Kit Robertson) got to share it with her. Well done, Joy. Santa Kevin made a return appearance to distribute presents to everyone, aided by his faithful elves.

A big thank you to all our members and volunteers who made 2025 the success it was. There were a few hiccups along the way, but it's great how people are prepared to step-up and bridge the gaps, often at very short notice. Thanks go to RSL staff for their willingness and co-operation to see our group flourish. Lastly, and most importantly, thanks must go to RSL Committee for their unflinching support and generosity without which we could not run so smoothly.

Plans are in hand for this year and we hope to include a few sessions of "chew'n'chat" where we can include the novel idea of "Man (or woman) Behind The Badge." Recent research has shown that "the sharpest ageing brains tend to be in those who stay connected to other people." Exercise and nutrition remain important but staying socially-connected is also very important, because it stimulates many parts of the brain at once - memory, empathy, attention and language. So, chat away folks!

New members are welcome so if you are free in the morning on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the month, come along.

For further details, contact:

Mary Simpson (Co-ordinator) 9077 9784

Allana Kirk (Secretary) 9819 3527

Future Dates:

February 10 and 24, March 10 and 24

Mary Simpson

Co-ordinator

BOWLS SECTION

The Bowls Section has had a quiet time since finishing Pennant the week before Christmas.

Thanks to Peter Houghton's efforts, Social bowls continued between Christmas and the early part of January and was enjoyed by all. We had good attendances as most members avoided going away on holidays.

Prior to Christmas we had quite a lot of companies have their break up parties at our club and hosted some 220 visitors on our green. These sessions incorporated learning how to play Lawn Bowls and enjoying the dining and food facilities at the RSL. Colin Wirth, our Corporate Bowls Co-Ordinator, did a sterling job with these bookings, along with the help of Bree from the RSL and our volunteer bowls members who gave of their time to assist with the events.

John Woodford, our president, organised a coffee morning for some of our retired male members who have devoted years of volunteering to the Bowls Section. Jobs they were involved in were gardening, helping to keep the bowling green maintained, Committee positions for years, and selling badges for both Anzac and Remembrance days. The fellas thoroughly enjoyed their morning.



L - R: Mal Hams, John Harrington, Harold Lepp, Ian Jennings, Peter Leonard, John Woodford, Bob Denison, Bill Leonard and Kevin Moffatt.

Our Club Championship matches are partly completed. The Club Men's Singles Championship was a close contest and was won by Russell Keast with David Skinner runner-up. The Arms Championship was won by Bob Jones with Alf Maglitto runner-up. The Open Pairs Championship was won by Bob Jones and PT Desai with Robert Lamb and Yoke Peng-Kong runners-up. Congratulations to all who made the finals.

Pennant has now resumed after the Christmas break and we conclude the season in late February. Currently one of our Saturday teams and both of our Tuesday teams are in the four, so we hope we can continue on to finish the season playing in finals.

Cheryl Frail
Vice-President



Above: Men's Singles Champion Russell Keast (R) with David Skinner runner-up.



Above: Alf Maglitto, runner up and Bob Jones, winner of the Arms Championship.



Above: Bob Jones and PT Desai, winners with Robert Lam and Yoke Peng-Kong, runners up in the Open Pairs Championship.

**FRIDAY NIGHT
MEMBERS RAFFLE**
All Welcome!

**Every Friday night
in the Upton Room:
9 draws of 4 prizes!**

**Tickets on sale from
5.30pm and draw
begins at 6.30pm.**



Box Hill R.S.L. Sub-Branch Inc. trading as Box Hill RSL
26 Nelson Rd, Box Hill 3128 Victoria.

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