



BOXHILLRSL

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



110
YEARS

SINCE AUSTRALIA'S
GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN





BOX HILL RSL





2025 marked the 110th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli, a moment that forever shaped the character of our nation and the spirit of those who serve it.

On 25th April 1915, young Australians stepped ashore into the unknown. They were ordinary men placed in extraordinary circumstances including clerks, labourers, farmers and students. They all had one thing in common as they answered a call larger than themselves. They endured unimaginable hardship, not for glory, but for duty. In the ridges and gullies of Gallipoli, amid confusion and courage, something enduring was forged. Resilience, mateship, sacrifice, and an unshakeable commitment to one another. Here, on foreign soil, the ANZAC legend was born.

One hundred and ten years later, we do not remember Gallipoli as a military victory. We remember it as the beginning of a legacy.

That legacy lives on at Box Hill RSL in the veterans and families we support, in the commemorations we hold, and in the quiet, everyday acts of service within our community. It lives in the spirit of camaraderie seen across our Sub-Branch and in our commitment to honour those who have served and who continue to serve.

Lest We Forget



BOXHILLRSL

CHAIRMAN:

John Haward President



GENERAL MANGER:

Ben Myers

COMMITTEE:

Arthur Merryweather Senior Vice President



Steve Bennett Vice President

Andrew Guest Secretary

Lindsay Burke Treasurer, Weapons Officer
and Memorials Officer



Judy Coates Committee Member,
Women's Auxiliary,
Welfare

Bep Dawes Committee Member,
Appeals Officer



Russell Keast Committee Member,
RSL Active Coordinator

Brian Tateson Committee Member,
Curator of Memorabilia



Chris Gray Committee Member

Emi Luppino Committee Member,
Women's Auxiliary,
Welfare





OUR MISSION AND VISION

2025-2030 OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide programs of welfare support and wellbeing services for our Veterans, their families and beneficiaries in order to enhance their lives and promote their sense of belonging to community and Box Hill Returned Services League Sub-Branch.

2025-2030 OUR VISION

Our vision is to be recognised as the leading hospitality destination in our community—where members and guests feel valued, welcomed, and inspired to return, time and time again.

A copy of the Welfare and Wellbeing Strategic Plan 2025-2030 is available at reception or via the following QR code link





The past twelve months have been both rewarding and challenging.

At long last all of our building works have now been completed to a very high standard, and I extend my sincere thanks to our builders, Jointly, for their outstanding work.

The year commenced with the committee attending their annual Welfare Budget Meeting, with our Welfare Manager, Faye Clark, also participating. A welfare budget of \$1.2 million was approved for the 2025 year.

In February, we were honoured to host a visit from the Japanese Consul, who officially opened our newly installed Japanese cultural display. This wonderful initiative was organised by Brian Tateson.

The Box Hill RSL Annual General Meeting saw all committee positions filled, with no changes from the previous year ensuring continuity and stability.

As always, April 25 marked a significant occasion with our ANZAC Day Dawn Service and Gunfire Breakfast, both of which were very well attended. My sincere thanks go to everyone involved in ensuring the morning ran smoothly, with special recognition to the kitchen staff who worked tirelessly through the night to have everything prepared on time.

In July, three committee members and I attended the State RSL Conference at the RACV Club. The conference included the election of a new State President, Dr Mark Schroffel, who assumed the role from Dr Robert Webster OAM.

During the year, committee member Judy Coates and I met with representatives from Eastern Health (Box Hill Hospital), including CEO David Plunkett. Box Hill RSL has supported Eastern Health for many years through financial contributions to various research programs and purchase of medical equipment. This relationship continues to be highly valued.

Around the same time, we received a formal request for financial assistance from the President of Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch. Following a meeting and detailed discussions, the committee agreed to support Hawthorn RSL with its building project. It is noted that this sub-branch's membership is predominately post-Vietnam.

On 25th and 26th of July, the Box Hill committee hosted a two-day strategic planning workshop. Facilitated by DNS Specialist Services, the sessions brought together our

committee and leadership team in a spirit of collaboration and forward thinking for the next 3 years and beyond.

On 18 August, Box Hill RSL supported the Box Hill Vietnam Veterans Association in conducting the Vietnam Veterans' Day Service at the cenotaph in Box Hill Gardens. The service was very well attended, and refreshments were provided afterward in the Upton Room.

For the second consecutive year, we also hosted a lunch for our Life Members, which was a thoroughly enjoyed event.

During the year, the RSL conducted two appeals, ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. Our Appeals Officer, Bep Dawes, supported by her dedicated team of volunteers, did a magnificent job rattling tins and visiting local schools throughout our area. Each year the task becomes more challenging due to a shortage of volunteers. It is hoped that in 2026 more of our members will step forward and offer their time to support this important work.

October marked one of the most important events on the RSL calendar, the President's Day Afternoon Tea. Over 200 of our volunteers and representatives from our veteran and sporting groups attended, making it a truly memorable occasion.

Our Remembrance Day Service, although interrupted by rain, had a great attendance and seems to be increasing in numbers each year. Thanks must go to Faye Clark, Judy Coates, Emi Luppino, and Lindsay Burke for their hard work in organising the day.

Over the year, many individuals and groups have given their time and effort to ensure Box Hill RSL continued to run smoothly. While too many to name individually, each knows who they are and how valued their contribution is.

That said, there are a few people, I must single out. Firstly, our General Manager, Ben Myers, for his professional management, leadership, dedication, and unwavering support to me. Ben, congratulations on your outstanding work over the past few years.

To all of our staff in hospitality, welfare, and administration, thank you for your tireless efforts and commitment. Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to both the Executive Committee and General Committee of Box Hill RSL for their outstanding work throughout a long year, and for the continued support they have shown me.

John Haward
HON. PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

It is my pleasure to report on the performance of our Club over the past twelve months. This year has been one of unprecedented growth, following two consecutive years of major redevelopment works.

The final stage of this transformation was completed in early March with the handover from our builder, Jointly, of our outstanding new staff amenities. These facilities include a modern staff lounge and kitchen area, along with new bathrooms and locker facilities. As we continue to position ourselves as an employer of choice, these new amenities support and recognise the fantastic work our staff perform each day in delivering an exceptional hospitality experience to our members and guests.

This year marked an important step forward in the continued professionalisation of our Welfare and Wellbeing services team with the appointment of Lee-Arne Watson as our full-time Welfare and Wellbeing Advocate. Lee's role significantly strengthens the outstanding work that has been carried out for many years by Faye Clark and our dedicated team of volunteers. Together, their efforts ensure that we continue to provide meaningful support to our veteran community and beneficiaries, while also extending our reach through significant community initiatives. The level of care, commitment, and service delivered by the team has been nothing short of extraordinary, and with the addition of this dedicated role, our capacity to support those in need will continue to grow in the years ahead.

Our major commemorative events were once again exceptionally well organised and strongly attended throughout the year. In April, we gathered in the dawn light to reflect on the courage, mateship, and sacrifice of our veterans, and to honour all who have served our nation in conflicts past and present on ANZAC Day, marking 110 years since the landings at Gallipoli. This important milestone is a feature of our 2025 Annual Report and remains one of the most solemn and significant days in our national calendar.

Later in the year, on 11 November, we came together for our Remembrance Day service to honour those who served and died in wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations, as well as those who continue to serve today. Despite the rain, the spirit of the occasion remained strong, with a dedicated crowd gathering in reflection, respect, and gratitude to honour the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform.

In late August, I had the pleasure of attending the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Box Hill Sub-Branch) Black Tie Dinner, held in our Upton Room. The evening featured guest speaker Mark Donaldson VC, whose address was a powerful and inspiring account of courage, service, and sacrifice in the face of extraordinary adversity. His story provided a moment for reflection on the values we uphold as an organisation and the important role we play in supporting our veteran community, something all members can take great pride in.

Earlier in August, I had the privilege of walking in the footsteps of our brave Australian soldiers in New Guinea, completing an eight-day trek along the Kokoda Trail. This personal challenge was undertaken to raise awareness and generate support for our local veterans, with funds directed toward the 2025 Poppy Appeal. I extend my sincere thanks to the Box Hill RSL Committee, our members, groups, and our wonderful staff for their support and encouragement throughout this journey. Together, we proudly raised \$14,727.92 in support of this important cause.

As referenced in my opening remarks, 2025 has been a year of unprecedented growth for our Club across a number of key areas, including Welfare and Charitable expenditure, Sub-Branch revenue, profitability, and member engagement. To illustrate this in numbers, our Welfare and Wellbeing Services Team responded to 3,444 veteran and community enquiries during the year, representing a 22.7% increase on 2024. Across the Club,

GENERAL MANAGER

we also served more than 150,000 meals and welcomed over 250,000 member and guest visitations. Our catering department, led by Head Chef Kevin Wightman, achieved a 20% increase in sales on the previous year, with improved profitability a major highlight. To Kevin and his team, I extend my sincere thanks, this outstanding result is a testament to your hard work, dedication, and commitment, and your efforts are very much appreciated.

This year delivered a record EBITDAR result, increasing by 12.3% to \$4,704,538. Our consolidated Welfare and Charitable expenditure across all three entities also grew significantly, increasing by 20.1% on the previous year to a total of \$1,191,909. During the year, rent paid to the Patriotic Fund increased by \$867,189 on the previous year. This formed part of our ongoing debt reduction strategy, with a further \$1.62 million repaid against our commercial bill, including both principal and interest. I am very pleased to report that a combined surplus of \$1,742,377 for the Box Hill RSL Inc. account and the Patriotic Fund was achieved, a wonderful result.

To all staff across every area of the Club, your professionalism and focus on delivering an exceptional experience for our members and guests each and every day is what sets us apart from our competitors. It reflects what we stand for as an organisation and is something you should all be truly proud of. Thank you for your contributions throughout the year.

In November, we farewelled Les Davis after 18 years of outstanding and loyal service to Box Hill RSL. Les has been an important 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 is now enjoying his well-earned retirement, and Les, you are always welcome here. We look forward to seeing you around the Club enjoying what you have helped to create, a magnificent venue that you can be truly proud of.

We also welcomed Ben Warden as our new Manager of Operations. Ben is a highly accomplished hospitality leader with more than 25 years of experience in multi-site venue management. He brings a strong track record of driving operational excellence, leading high-performing teams, and achieving strong business outcomes within the dynamic hospitality industry. Welcome to the team, Ben.

I would like to acknowledge and thank President John Haward and the entire Box Hill RSL Committee for their continued support and encouragement throughout the year. Your trust and backing not only support me in my role but, more broadly, empower our management team and our staff to deliver the very best outcomes for our members and guests. This level of support is greatly appreciated by all.

Finally, I sincerely thank all members for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you around the Club soon.

Warm Regards,

Ben Myers
GENERAL MANAGER



It was great to begin the year in our brand new, clean, brightly lit admin area, instead of in the claustrophobic, tired and untidy offices that we previously occupied. The new premises were a long time coming, but well worth the wait.

The first Committee Meeting of 2025 was held on the 23rd of January when we set the Welfare Budget for the year. All told, we approved funding of \$1.2

million for a wide range of welfare causes, most of which were veteran related, with some being of benefit to the community in general.

On the 5th of April the completion of our renovation project was celebrated at an event on the deck with the builders, Jointly Pty Ltd, the architects, BSPN Architecture, and many of the subcontractors in attendance. The project in its entirety included a new admin area, library, memorabilia display corridor, toilets, New York style wine bar, boardroom and staff facilities. We can rightly say that Box Hill RSL is now the best RSL in Victoria.

Anzac Day was again a resounding success, with a huge public attendance at the Dawn Service conducted at the First World War Memorial in Box Hill Gardens, and afterwards at the Gunfire Breakfast in the underground carpark of the RSL. The Anzac Day Schoolchildren's Service held two days before Anzac Day was also very well attended, and it was pleasing to see so many young people involved in Anzac Day. Despite the inclement weather, Remembrance Day was also commemorated by large numbers of people at the First World War Memorial.

During the year we engaged DNS Specialist Services to assist us in preparing a strategic plan for how we operate now and in the future. The importance of this cannot be underestimated. With numerous opportunities and challenges in front of us, we must have a roadmap to navigate our way forward, and preparing our strategic plan was a major achievement.

The introduction of BoardPro some years ago (a software program for preparing agendas and doing minutes etc) has been extremely beneficial. We made the decision in late 2025 to transition in 2026 to another program similar to BoardPro, but which allows us to

integrate our meeting proceedings with our strategic plan, giving us greater visibility of it, and measurement of progress toward our goals.

In 2025 we continued to support other RSLs in a range of ways. Many smaller RSLs are unable to provide advocate support for their veteran members, and we have the facilities, the staff and the volunteers to help in this regard. We also responded positively to a request from Hawthorn RSL to fund their heating and cooling improvements and associated works.

Sadly, 2025 saw the National Servicemen's Association of Australia (Whitehorse Sub-Branch) wind itself up. The Box Hill RSL and the NSAA have had a mutually beneficial association for many years, but like a number of other associations, its membership is ageing.

In closing this brief report I would like to thank my fellow Committee Members, volunteers, and the staff of Box Hill RSL, all of whom played a part in making 2025 an enjoyable and successful year.

Andrew Guest
HONORARY SECRETARY



Let me start by saying 2025 was financially an outstanding year for Box Hill RSL ("BHRSL"). This year delivered a record EBITDAR result, increasing by 12.3% to \$4,704,538.

Rent received from BHRSL Commercial Business into the Patriotic Account was \$2,175,055. This amount was an increase of \$867,189 on the previous year. The

additional rent is allowing BHRSL to aggressively pay down the loan from the ANZ Bank for our extensive renovations.

For the year 2025, BHRSL paid \$1,620,000 in principal and interest against the loan for the Stage 3 renovations. The outstanding amount of the loan, at the end of December 2025 was \$8,119,578.

BHRSL's core goals are to provide comprehensive support to veterans and their families through provision of quality veteran services, welfare, advocacy, and social connection. BHRSL also conducts commemoration services throughout the year including Anzac Day dawn service, Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day services.

These goals cannot be achieved, and commemoration cannot happen without a strong business model to underpin the Welfare Budget.

Welfare expenses in the Sub-Branch Incorporated entity for 2025 were \$1,068,242, an increase of \$208,333 on the 2024 welfare spend. The need for veteran welfare and services is ever increasing, BHRSL has stepped up to the challenge and will ensure our veteran welfare and wellbeing program is adequately funded.

NET OPERATING INCOME		
	2025	2024
Gaming	\$5,828,695	\$4,956,566
Bar Trading	721,094	656,596
Sundries	417,327	396,763
Catering	832,874	699,325
Subscriptions	114,474	103,107
Interest Received	265,646	291,342
Investment Property	28,314	14,755
Totals	8,208,424	7,118,454
% Staff Costs to Revenue	24.1%	24.3%

MAJOR EXPENSES INCLUDE	
Salaries And Wages	\$4,234,386
Rent	2,175,055
Welfare And Donations	1,068,243
Depreciation	871,577
Gas And Electricity	294,844
Cleaning	253,970
Repairs And Maintenance	323,349
Fees To ANZAC House	184,953
Security Costs	143,387
Payroll Tax	219,830
Insurance	122,973

APPEALS	
ANZAC Day	\$45,712
Remembrance Day	55,412
Appeal Totals	101,124

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS WERE	
RSL Members	\$7,042
Nashos	12,458
305 Army Cadets	2,767
Bowls Section	3,244
Ben Myers (Kokoda Trek)	14,728

On behalf of the BHRSL President and Committee, I wish to thank our former Appeals Officer, Bep Dawes. Bep has decided to step down and move to be with her family. She has done an outstanding job during her tenure on the committee and as the Appeals Officer. A big shoutout to all of our volunteers who give up their personal time assisting with delivering and collecting merchandise to Schools, Aged Care and other facilities that sell Anzac Badges and Poppies and the volunteers that sell at the various locations.

All Appeal money collected is directly credited to RSL State Branch Victoria. BHRSL are then able to request a transfer of up to 50% of the money raised by our RSL to

be credited back to BHRSL to assist with our own Veteran welfare program. All assistance given is coordinated and approved by our Welfare and Wellbeing Manager, Faye Clark and the Committee.

All Community and Club donations made by BHRSL are listed on the inside back cover of this report.

MAJOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ITEMS

Cleaning Robot	\$34,450
Misting Fans on the Deck	\$13,795
Staff Room Furniture	\$13,017
Cash counting machine	\$26,600
Furniture for Bistro	\$20,060
IT Equipment	\$40,373

CONCLUSION

Financially, 2025 has been a very busy and successful year for BHRSL. Our RSL achieved strong growth last year and the upward trend is continuing. I am grateful to our General Manager, Ben Myers, for his untiring efforts to manage BHRSL. Ben brought an infectious enthusiasm and zeal to BHRSL which is being picked up by our wonderful staff. Ben continues to innovate to keep BHRSL as the number one RSL sub-branch in Victoria. His assistance and guidance to the Committee have been invaluable. As is his positive leadership style to all our staff. My personal thanks to Ben for his assistance and guidance to me has been gratefully received.

Ben and I, along with his staff, work collaboratively on financial matters for the benefit of BHRSL, and I look forward to a long and close association.

A mark of the success of our RSL is the continued growth in revenue. BHRSL keeps breaking records in our various profit centres regarding revenue received and the profit earned. This revenue enables BHRSL to carry out its extensive welfare program.

Thank you to Faye Clark, our Welfare and Wellbeing Manager. Faye assists with the framing of the annual welfare budget, which in 2026 will be \$1,360,000. Veteran welfare and wellbeing will continue to grow and is the main focus of BHRSL. Faye controls this budget on behalf of our veterans and their families. Faye also fills other roles too numerous to mention here and provides a detailed welfare report to the committee every month.

TREASURER

This report outlines what funds have been expended on our veterans and welfare services.

Your committee continues to focus on ensuring our RSL operates profitably so we can achieve the goals of the RSL.

I also wish to personally thank our administrative staff, Kristina Freeman, Rachael Forsyth and Farida Stanley, for their attention to detail regarding the financial management and reports of the RSL. Their duties range from the weekly calculation of the staff payroll to checking and arranging all invoices to be paid in a timely manner. They also complete many necessary administrative duties, such as the RSL-Vic, government and governance returns to various entities and ensure compliance with the many state government regulations. These ladies have been and are an integral part of the BHRSL team. They are an immense help to me personally.

Thank you to all our fantastic staff who make our visits to BHRSL such a pleasure. They make our members and patrons want to return to our club again and again. They are an integral part of our BHRSL family.

In conclusion, our revenue is strong and increasing over time, our debts are well managed with no overdue debts to suppliers.

BHRSL maintains a large cash reserve, to be used as a contingency fund. The cash is invested in bank term deposit accounts earning interest for BHRSL.

BHRSL is in a very strong financial position, our General Manager Ben Myers has proved himself as a great leader with strong business acumen. BHRSL is benefitting from his vast experience in the hospitality industry and his previous employment with RSL-Vic.

Finally, to all of our staff, thank you, it is because of your dedication and friendly demeanor that BHRSL is a well run and managed RSL. We are the number one RSL sub-branch in Victoria because of you.

I commend the 2025 financial report to the members of Box Hill RSL.

Lindsay Burke
HONORARY TREASURER



A change of wind brought a restructuring of the Welfare Department last year and swept the delightful Lee-Arne Watson from reception into Welfare and what a refreshing breeze that turned out to be.

Lee has brought enthusiasm and commitment with her to the newly created role of Welfare, Wellbeing and Compensation Advocate. Lee has become

an incredible asset to the team. Her hard work and organisational skills have made a significant impact, and I deeply appreciate her contributions. She has achieved so much since starting in June, successfully completing her level one training in both Military Wellbeing Advocacy and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Advocacy Services.



Above: Lee-Arne Watson

This change gave me the opportunity to reflect on my role and what it means to work at Box Hill RSL, which gives veterans and their families an opportunity to share a mission to support, socialise and spread happiness and kindness to others by just caring. Every story the veterans' share is a powerful reminder of sacrifice, service, and enduring hope. These stories reaffirm my commitment to standing beside them and advocating for their rights, providing vital support, and ensuring their service is honoured and never forgotten.

However, it's not just the veterans and war widows that make this RSL a great place to work. I also admire the members who make up our sections and groups and who bring their skills, as well as their sense of fun and purpose to share with not only each other but with all of us.

It has also been a true privilege to lead such a compassionate and dedicated team of volunteers, whose tireless efforts have touched countless lives. Together, we have worked with heart and determination to ensure our members receive the dignity, care, and respect they so certainly deserve. It is with this in mind that I congratulate the following **Volunteer of the Year Award Recipients for 2025**.

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. He served with distinction as Secretary and in recognition of his outstanding service, Ray was awarded Life Membership of the League in 2022. 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.



Above: Phil Kinnear presenting Ray Wall with his award.

JAN DURHAM

Jan Durham has been an active and dedicated member of the Box Hill RSL Bowling Section. Jan has consistently demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the club through her involvement, leadership, and tireless volunteer work. Currently, Jan holds the role of Chairperson of the Bowls Section, a position she fulfills with distinction. Jan also 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.

WELFARE

She also served most of the year 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, so much so that she was appointed Editor.



Above: Richard Welsch MP presenting Jan Durham with her award.

GLENYS LEWIS

Glenys Lewis has been a dedicated and valued member of our organisation since 1999. In 2004, she joined the Legacy Ladies Section, with her enthusiasm and commitment quickly recognised, 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 and fostered community, engagement, and enrichment within the membership.

Their dedication, hard work, and generosity have made a lasting impact, making them all truly deserving recipients of the **Volunteer of the Year Award for 2025**.



Above: Richard Welsch MP presenting Glenys Lewis with her award.

FUNERALS

We lost 48 of our esteemed members during 2025, 31 Service members and 18 Affiliate members. All were special, with many adhering themselves to our heart by being dedicated members who put the RSL and our members as a priority in their life. I'm sure you will recognise them in our Vale.

RSL Rituals were conducted by Lindsay Burke, Peter McPhee and Arthur Merryweather. I thank them for the exceptional service they provide for the families of all veterans.

When we are notified of the passing of a member, we ensure that their memory is honoured and that their family receives the support they need during this difficult time. Our first step is to arrange for a Volunteer Celebrant, someone who will conduct a meaningful and respectful ceremony to honor the life and service of the deceased. We also contact the Australian Defence Force Records Department to gather detailed information for the eulogy, ensuring that the service reflects the individual's military history and contributions. Additionally, we place an obituary in the *Herald Sun* to acknowledge their passing and celebrate their life. If a wake is being held at the RSL, we also ensure that we make a partial contribution, helping to ease some of the burdens of the family during this time of mourning. A personal bereavement card is sent to the widow to offer our condolences and let them know that we are available to offer support. We also make a follow-up contact with the surviving partner to ensure they have the support they need at home and we take this opportunity to discuss the possibility of applying for a War Widow(er)'s Pension and/or help them access any other benefits they may be entitled to.

Our aim is always to show our continued care and commitment to the families of those who served, offering them not only practical support but also the emotional understanding that they are not alone during their time of grief.

Letter of Appreciation:

We cannot thank you enough for the most amazing respect and honour you bestowed upon our lovely Neville. You were so caring of everyone on the day, and we truly will not forget. Everyone has called us to tell us how wonderful you were. Very grateful and appreciative of you. Nev's favourite place... Box Hill RSL.

- Kindest regards, Coral.

WELFARE

ADVOCACY

During 2025 our Pension Section also had a structural change with Lee-Arne joining their team as a trainee Advocate, working with Geoff Smith who took on a new role as mentor. Then Geoff's role was changed to that of Claims Support Officer, while Wayne Bastow decided to retire for a sea change. Over the course of the year, they conducted a total of 87 interviews and provided direct assistance to 65 veterans and/or their partners. Their effort led to several significant VEA (Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986) outcomes, including the granting of gold cards and war widow pensions as well as increases in pension rates. There were also a significant number of accepted conditions and compensation payments for DRCA (Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related Claims) Act 1988) and MRCA (Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004) claims. These approvals provide crucial support to veterans in need, ensuring they receive the compensation and care they deserve.

The invaluable work of our Pension Advocates would not have been possible without the dedicated assistance of Neil Brown, who has continued to provide administrative support on a weekly basis.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Lee-Arne, Geoff, Wayne, and Neil for their unwavering dedication to our members, as well as to veterans and war widows throughout the community. Their hard work and commitment make a real difference in the lives of those who have served.

VISITATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

Our visiting program continued throughout 2025, with our dedicated volunteers providing vital support to members in hospitals, rehabilitation centres, and aged care facilities. This ongoing initiative is central to ensuring that our members receive the care and connection they need during times of illness or recovery. The visiting team for the year included Stephen Eno, Cheryl and Michael Frail, Paul Fraser, Mark Hobson and Susan Sims. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of these individuals for their unwavering commitment to the welfare of our members. Their visits bring not only comfort but also a

sense of community and belonging, which is invaluable for those who may be feeling isolated during their time in care.

In addition to the visits, our office team plays an essential role in maintaining contact with members who are in hospital. We make regular phone calls to check on their wellbeing, provide support, and ensure they feel connected. These calls also help us keep our records up to date, ensuring that no member is overlooked or forgotten in times of need.

Once again, I would like to thank our volunteers for their continued efforts in supporting our members. Your dedication is truly appreciated, and it makes a significant difference in the lives of those we serve.

GIFTS As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting our members, we were pleased to provide gifts to those in aged care facilities and hospitals during both Easter and Christmas. These gestures are a small but meaningful way to remind our members that they are thought of and valued, especially during the holiday seasons.

A special thank you goes out to the volunteers who took the time to personally deliver these gifts, spreading cheer and offering a sense of connection to those who may not be able to join us at our regular gatherings. We also want to extend our deepest gratitude to our talented knitters, whose dedication and craft made each gift extra special. Every member received a hand-knitted stocking with small gifts and a hand knitted military doll, representing the army, navy, air force and nursing services. This warm and personal touch was deeply appreciated by all.

For those members who live too far away to receive a visitor in person, we made sure they were still included in the holiday spirit by sending heartfelt cards. These cards served as a reminder that our community is always thinking of them, despite the distance.

Letter of Appreciation:

Thank you to all the team for caring and being in touch with gifts. For your kindness, I do wish you good health
- Helen

SOCIAL GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

TAI CHI

The Tai Chi program continues to flourish, with participants keen to keep up their participation as we move into 2026. Many members regularly share positive feedback, noting meaningful improvements in their mobility, flexibility, and balance since becoming involved in the program. These gains are especially valuable considering the age group of many participants, as maintaining and strengthening these abilities plays an important role in supporting independence and reducing the risk of falls. It is wonderful to witness the positive difference Tai Chi has made to the overall health and well-being of the group.

I would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to Rani Hughes, for her encouragement, patience, and professional expertise which create classes that are both engaging and beneficial for everyone involved. As a Tai Chi Health Master Trainer and Occupational Therapist, Rani offers not only extensive knowledge but also a welcoming and supportive approach that enriches every session. We are truly thankful for the positive impact she continues to have on the group's wellbeing. Thank you, Rani!

Letter of Appreciation:

Thank you for the opportunity of being part of Tai Chi at Box Hill RSL. Such a huge benefit to my life.

- Lois

MEDITATION

A special thank you goes to Helen Nemeth, whose unwavering dedication to the art of relaxation and thoughtfulness has played a pivotal role in keeping me mindful of the value of such a group. So, we are encouraging everyone to embrace the art of relaxation and thoughtfulness as Welfare now has a special space for this group in our Poppy Room.

GENEALOGY

Sue Archbold continues to lead the Genealogy Group with dedication and enthusiasm, holding regular meetings on the 1st Monday of every month from 10am to 12noon in the Poppy Room with lunch in the Bistro afterwards. If you're interested in tracing your family

history, this group is for you. You may be surprised at what you uncover about their family ancestors. It is a fascinating journey for all involved, and we owe huge thanks to Sue for her exceptional work in organising and guiding the group each month. Her commitment to helping others discover their heritage has made a significant impact on everyone involved. Thank you, Sue, for all the time and effort you put into this enriching experience!

Sue's Report

We are a small group who are very interested in Family history and we are all at different stages of research. 2025 has seen us venture into different information online. We ask a question and try to see what is out there on the net. We have had a few good results, but it also gives you an idea of what you can do at home as well. We do try to help each other. We are happy to have new members come along.

I would just like to add our thanks to Faye & Lee for your support, we will try and keep our voices down!!!!

Sue Archbold
Coordinator

TRIPS

Les Davis, our Assistant Manager, organised a great race day at Pakenham Races for a bus load of our members. Our race days have proved to be very successful, so even though Les is retired he will continue to be the organiser of more such trips during 2026. A big thank you to Les.

MOVIES

We are truly thankful to our film expert, Ray Wall, who is known affectionally as 'Mr. Movies' as his dedication and enthusiasm for cinema is infectious. Ray does a wonderful job organising film screenings, carefully selecting movies that appeal to a wide range of tastes. Drawing from his extensive private DVD collection, members enjoy an outstanding variety of films, from timeless classics to contemporary favourites.

At each screening, Ray offers an engaging synopsis along with intriguing behind-the-scenes insights, enriching the viewing experience. His sharp appreciation for compelling storytelling has made these sessions a highly anticipated highlight for many. By encouraging participation through interactive questions and fun prizes, Ray ensures everyone feels involved and

entertained. Whether it's revisiting a beloved classic or discovering something new, his movie days provide not only enjoyment but also a chance for members to connect, unwind, and share their passion for film.

Ray started the year with the movie, *The Good Lie*, then the movies that followed each month were *Ordinary Angels*, *Office Space*, *Miracles from Heaven*, *My Spy*, *Front of the Class*, *Serendipity*, *Won't Back Down*, *Dave*, *Oranges and Sunshine* and finally *Clue* in November.

Movies are held on the last Thursday of each month, and all full members are welcome. A big thank you to Ray and his side-kick Phil Kinnear for their dedication and the enthusiasm they devote to making each movie day such an enjoyable and memorable experience for everyone.

FRIDAY NIGHT RAFFLE

A heartfelt thank you to the amazing volunteers who made Friday night such a fantastic social event for our members! Your hard work and dedication created a wonderful atmosphere where everyone had a great time, and many lucky attendees walked away with fantastic prizes.

A special thank you to Mandy Wallace, Jimmy Douglas and Bronwen Laughlin for their invaluable efforts in making the night such a success. And, of course, a big thank you to Ray Jones, Jan Durham, Laura Durham, Maxine Bennet-Wyatt and Vera Carter for always being there to lend a helping hand whenever needed. Also, thank you Don Wollmer who I believe makes a great Father Christmas.

Sadly, Jeff Richards passed away in July and his commitment to Friday Night will always be remembered with sincere appreciation. Events like these would not be possible without amazing volunteers like him.

Thank you once again to you all for making these evenings so enjoyable for everyone!

KNITTING GROUP

This is a very special group of volunteers who dedicated just over 9,000 hours of their time knitting the most magnificent items for our various projects. A big thank you to all our great knitters who meet every Thursday morning and to all the other unnamed volunteers who donate wool and knitted goods.

A special thank you to Emi Luppino and Joy McKelvey for their coordination of the group and for the following report.

What a wonderful year it has been for our Knitters Group! Over the past twelve months, our needles have been busy, our conversations lively, and our hearts full. It has truly been a year of creativity, friendship, and meaningful community connection.

We were delighted to welcome our newest members, Jeanette McRobb and Rose Marie Power, and look forward to sharing many happy knitting hours together. At the same time, we sent our warmest wishes to Hazel Mournay as she downsized and moved closer to family down the Mornington Peninsula. It was lovely to see Yvonne and Laura returning more regularly, and while we missed the presence of our long-term members Dot Conway and Jane Wang, due to ill health, they were very much in our thoughts, also Carmel Smith, and we hope to see them back with us in 2026.

At the core of our group is a shared love of knitting and a strong sense of belonging. We are proud to be a welcoming and inclusive group where everyone, from beginners to experienced knitters, feels comfortable, supported, and valued. Our sessions are as much about social connection and laughter celebrating birthdays and special occasions, as they are about learning new techniques and sharing skills. It's this mix of creativity and companionship that makes our group so special.

Giving back remains one of our most important values. Throughout the year, our knitted creations have been shared with many wonderful organisations. These include Cottage by the Sea, Box Hill Hospital Emergency Department and Children's Ward, Wantirna Health Palliative and Aged Care, St Kilda Mums, and our own members in care. Each item was made with love, with the hope of bringing warmth, comfort, and a reminder that someone cares.

The dedication of our RSL knitters throughout the year has been nothing short of inspiring. Together, our talented members generously contributed countless volunteer hours, creating an impressive number of handcrafted items with care and compassion. These beautiful creations included beanies, scarves, mittens, blankets, fiddle mitts, baby jackets, toys, teddy bears, and knee rugs, each thoughtfully made and lovingly donated to people in need within our community.

We were also deeply grateful for the generous contributions received from supporters, including crocheted rugs, knitted

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toys, fiddle balls, scarves, beanies, and a remarkable number of knitted squares. A special thank you goes to Joy and Emi, whose skill and patience transformed these individual squares into stunning rugs.

In addition, we were blessed with an abundance of donated yarn and wool, enabling us to continue turning these generous gifts into wonderful handmade items that bring warmth, comfort, and joy to others.

In June, we were once again delighted to celebrate Worldwide Knit in Public Day, setting up our needles and hooks in the lounge area near the entrance of the Lancaster Bar. With an array of beautifully knitted and crocheted items on display, and a welcoming sign introducing our group, we quickly became a talking point.



Throughout the day, we enjoyed many friendly conversations with curious patrons, giving us the perfect opportunity to share our passion and proudly showcase our work. One particularly eye-catching display featured our Vietnam Veteran Medal coloured scarf, alongside a collection of Izzy dolls dressed in military uniform, which sparked heartfelt conversations and genuine admiration for the talent and dedication of our ladies.

One patron even commented that if the items were a raffle prize, he would definitely buy tickets! That offhand remark inspired a wonderful idea. As a result, Jeanette, Robyn, and Emi joined forces to knit a stunning rug in the Vietnam Medal's colours. The Vietnam Veteran scarf and four military-themed Izzy dolls, together with the rug, were generously donated as a prize for the Women's Auxiliary Father's Day Raffle, turning a day of knitting and conversation into a meaningful act of support and generosity.

As Christmas drew near, our members came together for a heartfelt seasonal project. Each lovingly prepared pack included a hand-knitted Christmas stocking holding a compact packet of tissues, an Izzy doll dressed in a military uniform, and a soothing lip balm. These small but meaningful gifts were created with care and kindness, bringing comfort, warmth, and a festive touch to our members living in care during the Christmas season.



We are endlessly grateful to every wonderful member of our knitting group, Dot, Karen, Viti, Hazel, Laura, Yvonne, Jane, Lydia, Emi, Hiliary, Joy, Renée, Carmel, Robyn, Jeanette, and Rose Marie. A very special mention goes to our much-loved mascot supervisors: Kit (Joy's incredible 99-year-young mother) and Banksia (Emi's delightful two-year-old granddaughter), who keep us grounded, and very much in line. With needles clicking, yarn flying, and joy shared across generations, this group truly proves that the best creations are made together.

A special thank you to Faye Clark (Welfare and Wellbeing Manager), Lee-Arne Watson (Welfare and Wellbeing Advocate), and Judy Coates (Committee Member), for their continued support. We also extend our appreciation to Pam Redcliffe from Wantirna Health and Donna Campisi from Cottage by the Sea for their encouragement and valued partnership.

As we wrap up another successful year, we look forward to many more moments of creativity, connection, and community service. Thank you for being part of our knitting group, we can't wait to see what the coming year brings.

Emi Luppino and Joy McKelvey
Joint Coordinators

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Letters of Appreciation:

Thank you for the incredibly thoughtful and beautiful rugs you've knitted for our patients. Each one is a gift of warmth, comfort and compassion. Your dedication and kindness are felt far beyond the stitches, you help create moments of peace and care during difficult times, and we are genuinely grateful.

Last week you donated three large bags of rugs, along with some beanies and scarves. Your generosity is remarkable, and these items will bring real comfort to so many. Thank you for all you do.

- Pam, Wantirna Health

Thank you very much for your colourful and warm rugs (knee rugs). Our patients at Peter James Centre enjoy the special gift. Many tell me that they are surprised by your generosity, and willingness to give to people they will not meet. Thank you for your big heart. Many patients are with us for a long time. Thanks again.

- Lisa, Peter James Centre

Again, a HUGE thank you from all at the Cottage, we appreciate you and your wonderful support for the children. Stay warm and well.

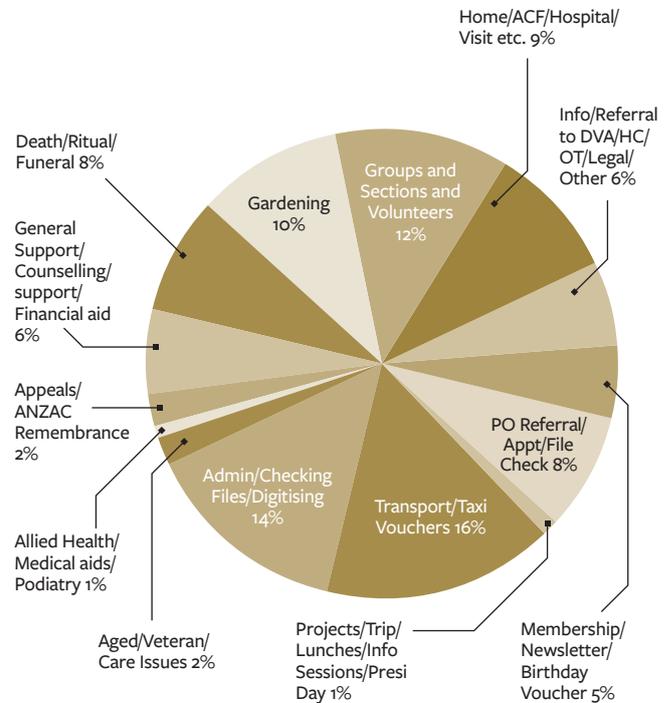
Thank you for the lovely lunch too, it was great to catch up with you all.

- Donna, Cottage by the Sea

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

During 2025, we were pleased to deliver a support program dedicated to serving the varied needs of our members, with a special emphasis on empowering veterans and war widows. This encompassed a broad spectrum of personalised services, all designed to foster independence and enhance the day-to-day lives of those we support. By delivering tailored assistance, we were able to enhance their wellbeing, making sure each person received the most suitable services for their individual needs and circumstances.

The following graph illustrates the specific areas in which our members received support throughout the year, offering a clear overview of how we were able to meet their varied needs and make a meaningful difference in their lives.



LAWN MOWING AND GARDENING

Our gardening service continued to play a vital role in supporting our members to maintain their independence and stay comfortably in their own homes. Throughout 2025, we were able to assist 21 members who, due to age or health-related issues, found it increasingly difficult to manage their own gardens. These members received services such as lawn mowing, garden tidying, and general maintenance to ensure their outdoor spaces remain neat and manageable.

By providing this service, we not only helped maintain safety around their homes but also contributed to their well-being. Keeping a tidy garden can significantly impact one's mental health, providing a sense of accomplishment and peace of mind. Additionally, for many of our members, the ability to continue living in their homes without the added stress of garden upkeep has been essential to preserving their independence and quality of life.

TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE

To further enhance the independence of our members, we provided a total of 1,254 taxi vouchers for 69 members during the year. These vouchers were specifically given to those who, due to health or mobility

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challenges, were unable to drive or rely on public transport. With this assistance, our members were able to maintain an active and connected lifestyle. These taxi vouchers enabled them to attend various groups and activities here at the RSL, which are vital for social engagement and well-being.

Additionally, the vouchers allowed members to visit loved ones in hospitals or aged care facilities, ensuring they remained close to family and friends despite transport barriers. The support also extended to helping members attend medical appointments or rehabilitation services that were not covered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), allowing them to access essential healthcare and continue their recovery without the added stress of transportation difficulties.

REMEMBERING BIRTHDAYS

We know that birthdays are important, so we always acknowledge significant milestones like turning 100. We had eight members turn 100 during 2025, they were Service members Herbert Cave, Phyllis Knop, Beryl Mainon, June Fox, Bill St Aubyn, Bart Morris, Harold Renton (Dec), and Affiliate member Shirley Gilbert.

Letter of Appreciation:

I wish to thank the RSL very sincerely for the beautiful bouquet of flowers presented to me for my 103rd Birthday. I was overwhelmed by the occasion and send my best wishes and thanks to the arrangement for this kindness and thoughtfulness. Yours sincerely, Ruth

Thank you for arranging the lovely flowers and chocolates. They are lovely and mum was so pleased to receive them

- Kerry

MEDICAL AIDS AND ALLIED HEALTH

To further support the well-being and independence of our members, we took proactive steps to alleviate financial burdens and ensure access to essential healthcare and equipment. One of the ways we did this was by covering out-of-pocket expenses for podiatry services. Recognising the importance of foot health, especially for individuals with mobility issues or those recovering from surgery, we aimed to ensure that our members had the opportunity to receive necessary treatment without worrying about the financial costs.

We also made several referrals to Occupational Therapists (OTs), who play a crucial role in helping individuals regain independence in their daily lives. These specialists assisted our members in navigating challenges related to mobility, self-care, and home safety, empowering them to live more comfortably and confidently at home.

We also provided practical support by purchasing essential items that are often needed during recovery and rehabilitation. As many of our members regain strength after surgery or health challenges, items like bowling arms and walkers have become increasingly important. These tools not only aid in mobility and stability but also enhance the quality of life by encouraging participation in activities like bowling, which helps with physical therapy and social interaction. With these purchases, we ensured that our members had access to the equipment they needed to remain active, independent, and engaged with their community.

Letter of Appreciation:

Thank you also to Welfare for providing me with the walker and toilet seat. Trust me, all was greatly appreciated and very welcomed.

- Helen

HAIRCUTS

The Free Haircut Program continued to be a valuable program throughout 2025, providing a service to our members. Thanks to Kay Cameron, a total of 776 haircuts for 123 members ensured our members looked and felt their best.

Sadly, for us, Kay retired at the end of the year. It is with heartfelt appreciation that we acknowledge the work done by 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.

Our new Barber is Rocco Pompei who will be available on Mondays for appointments during 2026.

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GENERAL SUPPORT

We are committed to offering a comprehensive range of support to all veterans, to our members, to those in aged care and to the broader community. Our assistance goes beyond just the basic needs, encompassing general, social, emotional, and financial support to ensure our members feel valued, connected, and cared for. Whether through a friendly phone call, a visit, or practical help, we made it clear that no member was ever alone in their time of need. I was always just a phone call away, ready to lend a listening ear or provide support.

One of the key aspects of our support is offering help to veterans facing significant challenges. For example, we liaised with mortgage brokers on behalf of a veteran who was homeless and needed not only finance for food and emotional support but a voice in the negotiations. We also played the intermediary between a veteran without internet or email access and the Advocate at ANZAC House who was negotiating his DVA claim. These interventions not only provided financial assistance but also helped alleviate the stress and uncertainty that comes with such a crisis. By stepping in at a critical moment, we ensured the veterans could manage their stress which gave them peace of mind.

We worked tirelessly to meet the unique needs of everyone, whether they required emotional support during difficult times, social interaction to combat loneliness, or financial aid to manage unexpected costs. We also pay for the membership for our members in aged care facilities and for those who have turned 100 years of age. Through these efforts, we continued to make a positive difference in the lives of our members, ensuring they had access to the support and resources they needed to maintain their dignity, independence, and overall well-being.

Letters of Appreciation:

*Thank you for all your information
- Allana*

*Mum showed me a letter you kindly sent her outlining the ongoing support of Box Hill RSL, including paying for mum's ongoing membership. As you can imagine, mum was delighted to receive this and asked me to thank you
- Robert*

SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups during 2025 were:

PROSTATE SUPPORT GROUP

This group now meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:30am in Upton 2.

SENIOR MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

This group meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2pm in the Sports bar.

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY PROJECTS

CUB/SCOUT AND SCHOOL PROGRAM

Our Cub/Scout and School program was active in 2025. Our volunteer, Brian Tateson, was very keen to develop new ways to communicate the RSL message, explain our military history, as well as the role of the RSL in the community to the following Cub Scout Groups - 1st Vermont Scouts, 1st Mont Albert and 9th Box hill Cubs, and 1/8 Blackburn Cub/Scouts. A big thank you, Brian!

LIBRARY

A special thank you to Sue for her hard work throughout 2025. She spent countless hours organising and updating our library system. A job well done Sue and her report follows.

The library at Box Hill RSL is a hidden gem. We have reference books that can be viewed in comfort in our seating area in the library, and books for borrowing to be read at your leisure at home. The borrowing time is 4 weeks, and you must be an RSL member.

Our collection relates to conflicts that Australian Service Men and Service Women have been involved in since World War 1.

I'm usually in the library from 10am until 12pm on Tuesdays, but if you would like to borrow books outside this time, please go to reception and ask for Faye.

Sue Stewart
Librarian

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MEMORABILIA

I thank Brian Tateson, who with the help of Harry Moyle did a superb job of collating our collection of memorabilia and organising the memorabilia displays. (See Brian's Memorabilia report)

HERITAGE AND COMMEMORATIONS

I thank Lindsay Burke who has this role which includes Monuments and Armourer Officer. (See his Heritage and Commemorations report)

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

SOCIAL SUPPORT LUNCH

We had two Social Support Lunches during 2025 which brought festive cheer to the residents of nine Aged Care Facilities. Box Hill RSL volunteers guided taxis and buses, ensuring smooth arrivals and even the valet parking of walkers. President John Haward thanked attendees for their service and resilience. Guests enjoyed a traditional Christmas feast, gifts, and lively entertainment from Margaret Dennis, whose classic singalongs filled the room with laughter and dancing. Carers and volunteers joined the fun, creating afternoons of connection, appreciation, and joy. It was a heartfelt celebration honouring valued community members. Full hearts and happy faces all around.



I thank the following volunteers, who helped make both days a success - Neil Brown, Steve Bennett, Brenda Burr, Carol Calder, Judy Coates, Bep Dawes, Stephen Eno, Cheryl Frail, Paul Fraser, Kay Garrett, Emi Luppino, Joy McKelvey, Arthur Merryweather, Cheryl Ryan, Susan Sims, Geoff Smith and Laura Yodgee.

Letters of Appreciation:

On behalf of our residents and staff, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone at Box Hill RSL for your incredible generosity in hosting our residents for your Christmas Luncheon.

The beautiful meal, festive entertainment, and welcoming atmosphere made the day truly special and created wonderful memories for our residents. We are also extremely grateful for your kindness in covering the cost of two maxi taxis to transport our residents safely to and from your venue. This support made the day possible and stress free for everyone involved.

Your thoughtfulness, hospitality and ongoing commitment to supporting our community are deeply appreciated. Our residents returned full of smiles and gratitude, and the day will be fondly remembered by all who attended.

Thank you once again for your generosity and for making this Christmas celebration so meaningful.

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with you in 2026 and thank you once again for making this Christmas celebration so meaningful.

- Jade, Mannacare

Thank you so much. Our residents had a wonderful time and were so impressed with the food, the service and loved the music. Thank you for organising this.

Looking forward to the next event!

- Victoria, Regis Aged Care Pty Ltd

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Box Hill RSL's Children's Christmas Party on Sunday 7 December was a joyful celebration filled with laughter, music, and festive fun for 40 children and their families. Highlights included Mary Fairy Bubble Lady, face painting, balloon creations, performances by Mrs. Claus and her elf, and magic tricks from Dan the Magician. Kids also enjoyed a jumping castle and ice cream treats before Santa arrived with gifts for everyone. The event was made possible thanks to Senior Vice President Arthur, his team of helpers, and the dedicated staff led by Bree. Those who missed out can look forward to this year's celebration.

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Above: Children's Christmas Party.

DONATIONS

In keeping with our commitment to veteran organisations and the needy, grants were given to our sporting sections, current and ex-service organisations in need, and other not-for-profit organisations in the community. See our Community Benefit Statement at the end of the Annual Financial Report for further details.

COMMEMORATION

SERVICES FOR AGED CARE FACILITIES

Thank you to John Haward, Lindsay Burke, Andrew Guest, Brian Tateson and Susan Sims who provided services at Aged Care Facilities and/or local schools to commemorate ANZAC and/or Remembrance Day during 2025.

SERVICES FOR ANZAC, VIETNAM VETERANS' AND REMEMBRANCE DAYS

Across the year our community has come together in solemn remembrance to honour those men and women who served, those who sacrificed, and those who never returned. Special thanks to Emi Luppino and Judy Coates for their tireless dedication, both behind the scenes and during each commemoration. They are the driving force that ensures these ceremonies are seamless, meaningful, and memorable. Their attention to detail, unwavering commitment, and passion for honouring these events make a profound difference, and we are truly grateful for all that they do throughout the year.

Emi's report of these great days on behalf of Judy and herself follows.

ANZAC Day Dawn Service began as the first light touched the sky. Cadets from the 305 Army Cadet Unit mounted vigil with quiet dignity as the Australian and New Zealand flags were lowered to half-mast. Nearly three thousand people gathered in silence as President John Haward opened the service, joined by honoured guests and the Catafalque Guard. Prayers were offered, hymns played by the Box Hill Academy of Brass, and wreaths laid as a lone piper's lament echoed through the stillness. The Anzac Memorial and names of fallen members were read, followed by the Ode, the Last Post, a minute's silence, and Reveille as the flags were raised once more, a powerful tribute to service, sacrifice, and enduring remembrance.



Above: ANZAC Day 2025.

On **Vietnam Veterans' Day (Long Tan Day)**, around 150 veterans and family members gathered at the Box Hill Gardens Cenotaph. The service was opened by Vietnam Veterans Box Hill Sub-Branch President Bill Waterman, with a deeply moving address by Vietnam veteran Barbara Sutherland, whose reflections on service, survival, and resilience left a lasting impression on all present. Veterans and families later shared fellowship at the Box Hill RSL, with heartfelt thanks extended to President John Haward and his committee for their ongoing support and respect for our veterans.

Remembrance Day called us once more to pause and reflect. Despite steady rain, wreaths were laid with care as a lone piper played and the Cenotaph stood as a silent witness.

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The Ode was recited, the Last Post sounded, flags were lowered, and a minute's silence united us in gratitude and remembrance. For veterans and families, the day carried deep emotion, a quiet blend of grief, pride, and honour.

Services such as ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day do not come together without an enormous team effort, and we are truly grateful to everyone who contributes to making these occasions so meaningful. Our heartfelt thanks go to our President, John, his dedicated committee, and the many volunteers and staff who consistently go above and beyond. Your warmth, friendliness and welcoming smiles truly make our club the best RSL in Victoria.

A very special thank you to Ben, our General Manager, and the wonderful Bree, our Function Manager, along with Justin, Wei Wei, Les and Kevin (our incredible master chef) for preparing the B2 Car Park and the Upton Room, coordinating staff, and delivering such a superb ANZAC Day breakfast, as well as refreshments for the other services. Your professionalism and care are deeply appreciated.



Above: Remembrance Day 2025.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Lindsay Burke, master of the flags, coordinating the Cadets of 305 ACU, and for organising the talented singer Tiger-Rose, buglers Lauren Innes and Dave Farrands, our pipers CPL Alex Ross and PTE Kristen Kirsch, and Box Hill Brass Band. Your efforts added great dignity and meaning to each service.

A heartfelt thank you to our extraordinary volunteers who so generously give their time on these important occasions. We especially acknowledge the bowlers, Mal Hams, Mick Frail, John Woodford and others, who have faithfully set up tables and chairs over many years. While 2025 marked the bowlers' final year in this role, much to the RSL's sadness, we warmly welcome Pete, Paul and Jim from the Box Hill Rugby Club, who have generously stepped in to continue this valued support.

Our thanks also to Arthur Merryweather and Trevor Eddy, who can always be relied upon to assist wherever needed, as well as Helen Harrington and Cheryl Frail for their continual assistance at the wreath table. Your willingness to help is sincerely appreciated.

ANZAC School Children's Service

On April 23, 2025, the First World War Memorial in Box Hill Gardens became a place of reflection and remembrance as nearly 600 students from 23 local schools, alongside RSL members, gathered for the annual ANZAC School Children's Service. The Koonung Secondary College Choir performed stirring renditions of the Australian and New Zealand national anthems, while students from Our Lady of Sion College respectfully recited the Requiem. Our President, John Haward, delivered the Ode, and Keith Wolahan shared a heartfelt ANZAC address, echoing the day's solemn significance.

The poignant sounds of the bugle, Last Post and Rouse, played by Lauren Innes, and the bagpipes of Senior Sergeant Ron Sinclair, Box Hill Police Station, added a powerful emotional depth and Major Karyn Wishart, Salvation Army, who recited the Lord's Prayer, further honoured the occasion.

Organisers Judy Coates and Emi Luppino praised the students' attentiveness, noting the respectful silence observed throughout the ceremony. A highlight of the event was the wreath-laying procession, fostering a deep appreciation of the ANZAC spirit among the younger generation.

This cherished annual ceremony not only commemorates the sacrifices of Australia's servicemen and women but also instils in our youth the enduring values of peace, gratitude, and remembrance.

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Above: ANZAC School Children's Service 2025.

Sincere thanks are extended to all volunteers, including Susan Sims, Kaye Garrett, Isabel Harkensee, Doreen Brooker from the Women's Auxiliary, John Woodford and Mal Hams from the bowlers, Faye Clark, Welfare and Wellbeing Manager, Bep Dawes and Lindsay Burke Committee members, the 305 Army Cadet Unit, and Bree and all her staff supporting to help make the day possible.

Emi Luppino Committee Member

I would also like to offer a heartfelt and sincere thank you to the incredible, dedicated volunteers who give so generously of their time on the day of the event. These volunteers are the unsung heroes who ensure that everything runs smoothly and seamlessly, making the entire experience enjoyable and meaningful for all involved. Their commitment is evident in every small detail, from the early morning setup to the final clean-up at the end of the day, to simply being there to lend a helping hand whenever it's needed, including giving out the wreaths and making sure everyone can participate. It's their hard work and dedication that makes these days so memorable.

APPEALS

Our Appeal volunteers, who sold badges and poppies at their respective spots at Box Hill Central, outside Coles Balwyn East in Belmore Road and Bunnings Box Hill raised a substantial amount for veterans. Volunteers during 2025 were Suresh Alphonse, Heather Arnel, Alan and Judy Baker, Wayne Bastow, Kenneth Boothroyd, Maurice Brodie, Eiril Browne, Russ Burgess, Lindsay Burke, Ian Carnegie, Kevin Cowling, Patricia Di Virgillo,

Colin Duck, Jan Durham, Trevor Eddy, Alan Epps, Jim Farrow, Cheryl Frail, Michael Frail, Annette and Bruce Gibbs, Mal Hams, Herman Harbets, Helen and John Harrington, Noel Hatton, Mark Hobson, Peter Houghton, Joe Ippolito, Katrina Jones, Russel Keast, Bronwen Laughlin, Todd Logan, Emi Luppino, John MacDonald, Julia McCammon, Pam McCormack, Peter and Pauline McGuigan, Arthur Merryweather, Harry Moyle, Anthony Mulholland, Neville Nash, Bryan Neale, Anne Palmer, Hennie Pasveer, Steve Polgar, Joseph Polesz, Lynn Riddell, Alan Rutherford, Cheryl Ryan, Alan and Judy Schumer, John and Mary Simpson, Merv and Susan Sims, David Skinner, Judy Smith, Stuart Stephens, Doug and Sue Stewart, Boz Student, Christopher Torr, Richard Tregear, Adrian Wain, Ray Wall, Mandy Wallace, Bill Waterman, Lyn and John Woodford and Bob Yendall. With a big thank you to Lindsay Burke and his 305 ACU Cadets and 401 Squadron AAFC. A big thank you to all, and to those casual volunteers who helped but I did not get your name.

A special big thank you to Bep Dawes who worked so hard to organise participation by schools, businesses, and aged care facilities. Our members also made donations via mail and our website which all helped to make our Appeals successful. Bep would particularly like to thank Lindsay Burke, Chris Torr, Trish Di Virgilio, Jim Farrow, Emi Luppino, Judy Coates, Phil and Jocelyn Kinnear, Ray Wall, Cheryl Ryan, Arthur Merryweather, and Cheryl Frail who helped Bep with selling, packing trays and deliveries etc.

The Appeals Program is an integral part of the Box Hill RSL and plays a crucial role in supporting the community and veterans. It is a highly important program that contributes to the overall mission of the RSL by raising funds so that we can aid those in need. Due to its significance, the program requires a dedicated volunteer who can manage its operations effectively. Bep has been doing an outstanding job in overseeing this program, but unfortunately, she is no longer able to continue in this important role. As a result, we are seeking a new volunteer who is willing to take on this responsibility and continue the great work Bep has started.

If you are interested in learning more about this role and contributing to the success of the Appeals Program, please don't hesitate to contact me. Your support will make a meaningful difference to the program and the community we serve.

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NEWSLETTER AND ANNUAL REPORT MAILOUTS

A regular job where volunteers contribute their time is for our mailouts of the Newsletters and the Annual Report during 2025.

I would like to thank Marilyn Vella, Jan Durham, Bep Dawes and Ray Wall who edited and proofread each newsletter and annual report, so they were ready for publication. I would particularly like to thank Jan Durham who took over the role as editor of the Box Hill News for which I am extremely grateful.

I also thank the Volunteers who helped with the actual mailouts, some putting address labels on thousands of envelopes and then others stuffing the same thousands of envelopes with the newsletter, they are Sue Archbold, Maxine Bennett-Wyatt, Neil Brown, Judy Coates, Bep Dawes, Cheryl Frail, Kaye Garrett, Rohan Gibbs, Helen Harrington, Emi Luppino, Arthur Merryweather, Hennie Pasveer, Cheryl Ryan, Glenys and Anthony Pickup.

Without all these volunteers the mailouts would not have happened. Thanks to you all!

VOLUNTEERS

The Welfare Department once again demonstrated its unwavering commitment by providing an extensive array of services to our members throughout 2025. We were fortunate to be supported by an enthusiastic and dedicated group of volunteers who worked tirelessly to serve our community

In total, 22,966.5 volunteer hours were graciously contributed by 154 volunteers across all facets of the RSL in 2025. Of this, half of the hours were devoted directly to the welfare of our members and the broader community. Notably, our knitting volunteers alone contributed an impressive 9,029.5 hours, while those involved in the appeal efforts dedicated 965.5 hours. Some of these contributions are highlighted within this report, while others reflect a more irregular commitment. Regardless of the nature of their involvement, each volunteer's dedication is deeply appreciated.

I would like to take a moment to express my sincere thanks to everyone who continue to support the Box Hill RSL Welfare Section. Your dedication and generosity are crucial to our success. I am incredibly grateful to Judy Coates for her consistent and unwavering support in the Welfare office. I truly appreciate her reliability and the positive attitude she brings to every task. I would also like to extend my thanks to Cheryl Frail and Emi Luppino for their administrative support in the Welfare space, especially their valuable work last year in the digitisation of our files.

I'm also grateful to Karen Wightman, our administrative assistant, who has also been working on the digitisation process and has provided unwavering support throughout the year. I would also like to say a special thank you to Lee for being the best Welfare, Wellbeing and Compensation Advocate ever!

Finally, I thank John Haward and his Committee, Ben Myers and his Staff, for all your support during 2025. I am looking forward to working with you during 2026.

Faye Clark

WELFARE & WELLBEING MANAGER



We started the year with a new display in February, when we opened the Japanese Art Exhibition.

This exhibition showed a Japanese soldier's uniform, some 600 years old. Next to it was a Japanese soldier's headpiece again very old. To the right of these pieces were Japanese soldiers swords. These swords were 700 years old. The whole exhibition went worldwide on the web.

The Japanese exhibition was opened by the Consul General to Japan Mr Tokuro Furuya, and he said a few words of how important this exhibition was. He assured us that many would visit the exhibition which they did. The Memorabilia department was so proud to have this distinguished person open the exhibition, for which we are indebted to Mark Whorlow and Colin McDonald for their time and assistance. This exhibition went for nearly 12 months, with slight changes over that period. In September of this year, there was an International Japanese Art Exhibition held in Melbourne and many of the delegates visited Box Hill RSL to view this most important exhibition.

Early in 2025, our General Manager Ben Myers introduced me to a person he deals with at the RSL, Mr Theo Toklis. Theo told me of his great uncle who was a Greek partisan during the Second World War and asked if would I be interested in doing a display on him. I love a challenge and this display could prove to be one. Captain Miltiadis Antoniadis was with the Greek Partisans during WWII and he proved to be a great soldier and leader amongst his people. At the end of WWII he was

awarded the Greek Resistance Medal by the then Prime Minister of Greece, Andreas Papandreou. On doing the research, I also discovered that he was entitled to three more medals which I applied for and received them. I had the idea that I would unveil this display with the family present and it was a very emotional day. I was very proud of this display as it took a lot of work and the AWM did not have material on the Greeks during WWII. To end a great story, an article was published in the Greek newspaper Neos Kosmos and many of the Greek community visited Box Hill RSL to see this exhibition.

During the year, we were given two very rare WW2 nurses' uniforms. The first one is a 'Walking Out' uniform donated by Col Jan McCarthy which was on display with the person's medals. The uniform was in pristine condition and will remain this way as we will take very good care of it. The same applies to the other uniform, which is a physiotherapist uniform. This is a uniform I have not seen before, and I guarantee that many of our members have not either. It was also accompanied by a nurse's duffle coat. These uniforms are not only out of the ordinary but are also very special to our Memorabilia Department.

The last exhibition I did for the year was based on the Beaufort Bombers. We were fortunate to have one of our members loan us many artifacts for this display. I know everyone has heard of the Beaufort Bomber, but did you know they were built in Fisherman's Bend? I did not until I started to do my research. There was a Banner for the backdrop in this exhibition, showing where the Beaufort's were deployed during WWII, and various original artifacts

MEMORABILIA

like the joystick of Flt. Lt. Wally Dalitz, a British course and speed calculator, an aerial camera for taking photos of hot spots and enemy. This exhibition again proved to be very successful. I must thank Tony Clarke for his input and expertise with the Beaufort Bombers.

On November 15, 2025, Chris Gray and his wife, Alison, my wife, Jan, and myself were elected by the Box Hill RSL to represent Box Hill RSL at a special dinner at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. Before the dinner, we attended the Last Post at the AWM where I laid a wreath on behalf of all at our RSL. The dinner was organised by young veterans, and it would have to be one of the best dinners I have been to. Perhaps it was the younger veteran who spoke just magnificently or meeting up with old friends and making new ones.

After a severe thunderstorm, the Memorabilia Room was completely flooded, and a large number of uniforms were affected. So, our first objective was to get all the uniforms cleaned and recovered in an appropriate covering. Harry Moyle and I went through each uniform, catalogue them and prepared them to be moved to a new area, which is still a work in progress. I must thank Harry for helping me with this work.

To conclude my report for 2025, there are many people who I must thank, but space won't allow me. Having said that, there are a few who I should mention. Firstly, I thank the Box Hill RSL Committee in assisting me with Memorabilia, it has been a big year. I must take this opportunity to thank our General Manager Ben Myers. Since he has grown to be a big part of this RSL, he has also grown to be a big part of Memorabilia, passing on his comments where required, thanks Ben. As always, Ben Doyle Cox came to my rescue when I needed him. He has played a large part in Memorabilia. The material that he loans me is out of this world and Ben, I can't repay you enough. David Garner, again without him some of our exhibitions would not have been completed. Even when he was in Germany, he was giving me advice. Two people so dedicated to their profession of collection of rare material and artifacts are Mark Whorlow and Colin McDonald. They have worked tirelessly during the year to keep the Japanese Art Exhibition up to standard, thank you for a great job.

One person I have worked with for 25 years in doing Memorabilia is Renato Del Acosta. Renato has decided to retire from the framing business. Everything that you see in this RSL was framed by Renato. He has done wonderful and, at times, some very difficult work, but he always came through for us. Although Renato is retiring, he is keeping one or two companies that he supplies to give advice to, and fortunately we are one of them.



Above: Beaufort Bomber display.

Thanks for your help, Renato, and especially for putting up with me. Buongiorno!

They say one shouldn't leave the best to last but, in this case, I am doing just that. Glenn Bartlett, my right-hand man, and I have worked together now for about 12 years. Over that period, Glenn knows what I am thinking and I know what Glenn is thinking when we both put an exhibition together. We talk about three months before an exhibition goes on display, and when it does, it looks pretty good. Only the comments from our members tells us how good the display looks, thanks everyone.

And speaking of our members, I once again thank the members and public for their generosity in giving me such wonderful memorabilia. This donation goes from uniforms to actual artifacts. Remember: DON'T throw anything out, just ask me before you do. Again, thank you so much.

Many thanks to Faye Clark who has assisted me over many years with the sorting out of photos I receive going into various displays. Faye also assists me with various emails and computer work that I need doing.

In closing, I thank everyone. I know I have left someone out, so please forgive me. Next year will probably be my biggest year in Memorabilia since I started this job 25 years ago. Doesn't time fly when you are having fun? I love my job in Memorabilia. It is, to me, the most rewarding job within this RSL. Until next year.

Brian Tateson

CURATOR OF MEMORABILIA

BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER SECTION

The 2025 season was an exceptionally successful year for the Snooker and Billiards Section, highlighted by championship success across multiple competitions.

Early in the year, the Box Hill Tanks claimed the Bayside Snooker League title. This was followed by an outstanding performance from the Box Hill Scorpions, who went on to win the RSL Billiards State Final. In addition, the Box Hill Tanks finished as runners-up in the State Final. With a growing collection of trophies, shields, and team photographs, we may soon require additional space to showcase the club's achievements.

In August, the Section participated in the inaugural Tri-Sports Day alongside the Bowls and Darts sections. This highly successful initiative provided members with the opportunity to experience different sports and engage with other sections of the club. Due to its popularity, the event will now become a permanent fixture on the annual calendar. Special thanks are extended to Dr Russell Keast for his leadership in coordinating the event.

September saw the conduct of our annual intra-club Snooker and Billiards Championships which was held over two consecutive weekends. Once again, the championships were very well supported and proved to be a great success. Congratulations to all winners and sincere thanks to Boz Student for managing the handicaps, and to Marie Brown for her assistance with event organisation and results collation.

In December, the Section held its inaugural end-of-year Snooker and Billiards Christmas celebration. This event provided a relaxed and social opportunity to recognise the year's achievements and was very well received by members. We look forward to even greater participation at the December 2026 event.

Significant progress was made during the year to ensure the ongoing financial sustainability of the Section. This was primarily achieved through the introduction of a \$5 per game competition fee. As a result, the Section was able to fully fund the Christmas celebration, update equipment within the snooker room, and schedule the re-clothing of the tables in January 2026.

Finally, the Section extends its sincere appreciation to the Box Hill RSL Board and Committee for their continued availability, guidance, and support throughout the year. We would not be able to re-cloth the tables as often without the support of the Box Hill RSL and this is critical to enable us to compete in all of our competitions.

We look forward to a strong and successful 2026 and warmly welcome new members. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to contact a member of the Section Committee or enquire via the RSL Reception.

Andrew Brown

PRESIDENT

BOWLS SECTION

I start this report by thanking the Bowls section Committee, Sub-committees and volunteers for their contributions over the last year.

This year we started the pennant season with some new members, some returning members and some social members who took the next step and played in pennant competition. To those new players we welcome you to our club and hope you enjoy your association with us.

The winter social bowling program was once again played in partnership with Blackburn North and Mitcham Bowling Clubs playing mid-week on Wednesday and on weekend Saturdays rotating at the three clubs.

The MND Charity Day was once again played at Box Hill RSL with Blackburn North and Mitcham taking part as a fundraiser for The Neil Daniher MND appeal. A donation from the day was forwarded on to the value of \$1500-00 on behalf of all three clubs. Thank you to Blackburn North and Mitcham Bowling Clubs for your support.

As part of our pre-pennant program we once again played Blackburn North Bowling Club in our Keiser Shield challenge where the two clubs play each other in a head-to-head competition. This year Box Hill RSL came out the winner.

During the winter break we were involved in the RSL Tri Sports competition, a day with the three sporting sections (Darts, Pool/Snooker and Bowls) playing a round robin with teams selected consisting of one member from each discipline into teams of three. It is a great concept. A great day was had by all including a great opportunity to meet other club members.

We once again ventured to Yarrawonga /Mulwala for the annual RSL Edinburgh Shield Bowling Competition. It is a very competitive competition often playing sides well above our level. We once again should be proud of our results. This year's Edinburgh Shield we have been drawn to play at Deniliquin and look forward to a competitive competition.

SECTIONS

Thank you to those players who entered our club championship events. The winners for this year were:

Men's Club Champion: Russell Keast with David Skinner runner-up.

Arms Champion: Bob Jones and Alf Maglitto runner up.

Open Pairs Champions: Bob Jones/PT Desai with Robert Lam/Yoke Peng-Kong runner up.

Mixed Pairs Champions: David Skinner/Kat Jones with Peter Houghton/Pam McCormack runner up:

Triples Champions: Mark Leonard, David Moran and Peter McGuigan with Judy Smith, Nick O'Leary and Lance Caldwell runners-up.



L-R: Arms Championship - Alf Maglitto (runner up) and Bob Jones (winner).



L-R: Men's Singles runner up David Skinner, with winner Russell Keast.



L-R: Triples Champions Mark Leonard, David Moran, Peter McGuigan.

Our pennant season has concluded for this summer season. We were very pleased to have four out of our five sides in the finals. Saturday Division 4 Section 4 finished 3rd bowing out in the preliminary final. Tuesday Division 6 Section 4 finished 6th. Tuesday Division 3 Section 4 made the grand final and were runners-up and will go up a division next season. Tuesday Division 4 Section 3 finished 4th bowing out in the elimination final. The Tuesday night team



L-R: Open Pairs Winners Bob Jones and PT Desai, with runners up Robert Lam and Yoke Peng-Kong.

finished 4th bowing out in the elimination final. Congratulations all.

On behalf of all the Bowling Section, congratulations to our Chairperson, Jan Durham, on your Volunteer of the Year Award. Jan was a very worthy winner. We also thank all of our bowls section members who contribute their volunteer hours not only to the Bowls Section but to many other avenues within our RSL.



John Woodford, President, being presented with the Kieser Shield by Alex Bussell of Kieser, Mont Albert

On behalf of all our members I take this opportunity to thank the Committee, Management and staff at the RSL for your assistance over the year, it has been much appreciated. To our sponsors, we thank you for your continued support which allows us to continue to provide and run a wonderful facility for the playing of the sport we love. To those members who are presently sitting it out due to bad health or injury, we wish you a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing you back on the greens soon. To the families of those that have passed away over recent times, we offer our thoughts and condolences.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who contribute to the running of our bowling club as your input is gratefully appreciated.

John Woodford
PRESIDENT

SECTIONS

DARTS SECTION

Finishing the Year Right on the Double

The Box Hill RSL Sub Branch Darts Section wrapped up the final competition of the year with a night that hit the bullseye, combining our end-of-year function with the always competitive Club Championship.

Played as a round-robin across three dart boards, the



Above: The Darts team.

Championship saw plenty of sharp darts, steady nerves, and a strong desire to see one's name engraved on the trophy. Peter Page showed consistent form throughout, but Duncan Symonds was simply unmissable on Board One, remaining unbeaten with three wins and no losses.

Midway through proceedings, play was paused for a well-earned break and a generous spread of food, expertly provided by the Box Hill RSL staff. Refuelled and refreshed, players returned to the oche for the business end of the night.

The final saw Edith Baker, winner of Board Two, take on Duncan Symonds. Duncan completed a clean sweep to claim the Club Champion title for 2025, proving once again that doubles really do win matches.

Trophies collected throughout the year were presented by our



Scrumptious selection of food

President, Paul Tinsley, with Competition Director Bernie Tinsley distributing prizes, including a selection of Box Hill RSL gift vouchers. Every member also received a Christmas gift, because no one should leave empty-handed.



Club Champion: Duncan Symonds

We extend our sincere thanks to the RSL Sub Branch Committee for their continued support, and to the staff in general for always looking after us. Special thanks also to Russell Keast for organising the popular Sunday Tri Sports Challenge, a great addition to this year's program.

A big thank you to Bree and the Box Hill RSL staff for setting up the room and keeping everything running smoothly on the night.

Good darts, good company, and a great way to close out the year, now that's a proper finish!

COMPETITION WINNERS

Drawn Doubles Trophy (random partners: all games tied)

Paul Tinsley & Edith Baker
Ray Jones & Lisa Breen
Steve Carter & Bernie Tinsley

Hugh Doyle Trophy (start & finish on a double)

Winner: Edith Baker
Runner-up: Paul Tinsley

Selected Doubles Trophy

Winners: Ralph Baker & Edith Baker

Club Championship

Winner: Duncan Symonds
Runner-up: Edith Baker

Sandii Rosu

SECRETARY

SECTIONS

DAY SECTION

The support of our members was truly demonstrated during 2025 when, on a couple of occasions, improvisation proved necessary. At short notice, an entertainer, then later a guest speaker, was unable to come because of health issues. Some members stepped forward and saved the day by doing impromptu talks. Health problems are an everyday problem of life in all walks of life.

A selection of topics was covered by our speakers to cater for different interests and thanks go to Jeannine Nolan for arranging these. We introduced some new entertainers and rebooked some favourites. It can be difficult finding new entertainers but our old favourites are always eager to return because of the warm welcome they always receive. They say they enjoy the friendly atmosphere and appreciate the audience participation.

One member said to me that our meetings were about the only chance to socialise apart from attending funerals which I thought was a very sad statement. This brought home to me the realisation of the importance of our Section. In view of this, we shall continue to have some “chew’n’chat” days so there will be the chance to simply catch up and have a good old blether. (A Scottish term for gossip, I think.)

We plan to trial a new initiative in 2026 - “man behind the badge.” It could be a woman of course so there are no sexism accusations! Members will be encouraged to “take the mic” and give a short talk about an interest, hobby or something else of interest. This will be an opportunity for more interaction, hopefully. Recent medical research has found that exercise and nutrition are important as we age, but more important is conversation. A U.S. neurologist has stated that social connection is powerful because it stimulates many parts of the brain simultaneously - memory, empathy, attention and language and this protects the brain chemically and structurally. I am mindful that several of our members live alone so cannot converse daily and one of the most important aims of our Section is to alleviate social isolation and loneliness. Pastoral care is offered and emotional support is given if /when necessary. It’s good to note that several members dine upstairs after our meetings so the socialisation continues. We really appreciate the friendliness and



assistance from the staff and again, there is the chance for intergenerational banter.

We shall continue with our “Who am I?” and fun/general knowledge quizzes. These are always good for a laugh and keeps us on our toes. We

celebrated Australia Day (had Lamingtons), Valentine’s Day (chocolate hearts) and I was able to give an insight about the origins of these annual customs. For Footy Day, Richard ran a sweep just as he did for the Melbourne Cup, but the highlight of the year was the Section’s 25th birthday in June. 2025 rounded off with a beautiful, traditional Christmas meal in December in the Upton Room. Congratulations to Kevin and his kitchen staff for providing us with a memorable end to the year. Thanks go to Helen Nemeth for her help with our special event days.



SECTIONS

The trips organised by the Women's Auxiliary were really enjoyed by our members who went, so thanks go to them for allowing us to join in. It certainly has become more apparent that all groups have declining membership numbers so it makes sense to amalgamate for activities such as trips.

We wish Ben and Lee-Arne success in her new ventures. All staff are a credit to the RSL for their patience, friendliness and co-operation with our members. It seems unfair to single out one person, but I must really say a huge thanks to Bree who goes over-and -above to ensure the smooth running of our Section meetings.

Finally, thanks to the support and generosity of the RSL committee, our Section has had a very successful year. We hope to build on this success in 2026.

Mary Simpson

CO-ORDINATOR

LEGACY WIDOWS SECTION

This past year 2025 we had quite a few discussions as to our role in 2026. Blackburn folded and the members came to us which brought ours at Box Hill to ten. Since then, two have passed away, one moved to the country to be near family and one to a nursing home. We still have five who are in retirement homes that keep in touch, but generally not well enough to come to meetings, so we have decided to close as a formal Legacy Section. However, we plan to have a social group meeting for lunch on the same day as our meeting was and discuss anything to do with Legacy over lunch.



Above: Legacy Ladies at their last meeting

We have been privileged to have several interesting speakers even though we are a small group.

In February we had Janet Kearne, Occupational Therapist and her assistant Sarah Leow. On our 41st Birthday we were lucky to have John and Chris Burley show us slides of their holiday. Then we had Brian Tateson talking about the memorabilia on show, Arthur Merryweather telling us what is happening at the RSL, Helen Comport spoke on "Quilts of Valor". Others were Rosalyn Kentwell, Isabel North and John and Jenny Preston.

We finished the year with our Christmas lunch in the Upton Room with members of the RSL Committee joining us.

Our thanks to Faye Clark for her help to our members. Also, to Pam Whitfield, Robyn Weir and Merv Sweeny, our legatees, and to the committee Patricia Keech, Secretary/Treasurer, Kit Robertson, Val Glenn, Pam Ferguson and Joy McKelvey for their help during the year.

A special thanks to the RSL for allowing us to use their rooms during all these years for our meeting.

Glenys Lewis

PRESIDENT

SWIMMING SECTION

Whilst we were again fortunate to avail ourselves to more swims in 2025 at our wonderful facilities at Croydon Aquahub in Civic Square, Croydon, nonetheless we still missed plenty of Sunday evenings throughout the year due to lower-than-average attendees for varying reasons.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold any carnivals in 2025 given low numbers in the respective swimming sections of the two remaining competing teams in Victoria, being Bentleigh RSL and ourselves.

Importantly, we have scheduled a regional carnival at Leongatha on Saturday 24th January 2026 and will later attend a presentation / celebration evening at Leongatha RSL.

This is likely to be the final carnival for the Victorian swimming sections, although there is the opportunity to attend the Australian carnival in March 2026.

SECTIONS

As Secretary / Treasurer, I would like to thank the Box Hill RSL for providing the opportunity to its members to participate in swimming and those swimming team members involved in the inaugural set up of the swimming section in late 1983, being Bob O'Connell, Pat O'Connell, Bob Charles, Trevor Knyvett, Neil Warnock and many others. During the halcyon days of the 1980s and 1990s we were a thriving and successful team with many members who enjoyed the social side of swimming and great friendships were made. We were still going strong in 2019 but, unfortunately, like many other community activities, our swimming suffered greatly to Covid and we have not been able to regain sufficient numbers to continue our team.

We also express our thanks to the RSL for its continuing support and assistance from day 1, and in particular Arthur Merriweather who has been a great supporter of the swimming section.

We wish everyone a safe, healthy and successful year in 2026.

Steven O'Connell

SECRETARY / TREASURER

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY SECTION

The Women's Auxiliary exists to serve, support, and strengthen Box Hill RSL and our community. This year, that mission was brought to life through the dedication of our members and the broader Box Hill RSL community. From volunteer efforts to fundraising initiatives, every accomplishment reflects our shared purpose for the wellbeing of our veterans, their families and the community we serve.

It has been an extremely busy 2025. Through our three major raffles (Mother's Day, Father's Day and Christmas) and other fundraising activities, we raised \$11,691 and we are proud to announce that \$9,951 was donated to support various veteran groups which included Vasey RSL VCentre Empowerment Program, Austin Health Ward 17, ANVAM (Australia National Veterans Arts Museum) supports the mental, physical and social wellbeing of veterans through community-based facilitated Arts engagements. We also support the Eastern Health "FaPMI" initiative helping children whose parents suffer mental health issues.



Above: The Women's Auxiliary committee

In addition to monetary donations, our ladies contributed much-needed toiletry items, knitted teddy bears and toys, blankets, beanies, and scarves to support these groups and others, Cottage by the Sea, Box Hill Hospital Emergency Department and Children's Ward, Wantirna Health - Palliative & Aged Care, and St Kilda Mums.

Since our last report, we are saddened to note the passing of Jo Walker and the relocation of Nola Gold to Wodonga, both much-valued members of the Women's Auxiliary. On a brighter note, we are delighted to welcome nine new members, bringing our total membership to 52.

Our monthly meetings were held as scheduled, and throughout the year we were fortunate to hear from a diverse range of outstanding guest speakers who informed, inspired, and entertained us. Highlights included: **Sarah Bartels** (Eastern Health) - insights into supporting children of parents with mental health challenges; **Jenani Therone** (Author of "Of Service") - a moving blend of storytelling, music, and lived experience; **Lynn Mizen** (Vice-President of RSL Victoria and President of Warrigal RSL) - her powerful reflections on service, resilience, and personal journeys; **Ilya Egorov** (Financial Planner) - practical guidance on ageing, pensions, and aged care; and fascinating glimpses into veterans' wellbeing by **Rob Winther OAM** (Ward 17), medical history and eye health by **Sze Chin**, therapeutically endorsed optometrist, and **Dr Danielle Buck**, ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon. We also heard compelling stories from **Barbara Sutherland**, former radiographer, of her service in Vietnam (1966-67); creative healing through the arts by **Kat Baldwin**, Deputy Director of the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM); and the personal challenge of walking the Kokoda Trail from **Ben Myers** GM, Box Hill RSL.

SECTIONS

Our President, Judy Coates, and Emi Luppino (Secretary/Treasurer) proudly represented the Women's Auxiliary and the Box Hill RSL at the **International Women's Day 2025** event on 5 March at ANZAC House.

A handful of our auxiliary ladies assisted with the **ANZAC Day School Children's Service**, where approximately 25 schools, 600 students, and 50 teachers were welcomed. In addition, a few Auxiliary ladies lend a hand at two **Welfare Social Support Programs** held in July and December.

In May, a group of members travelled down the peninsula to attend the Women's Council Metro Forum at Rye RSL, where representatives from 11 auxiliaries were in attendance. Following this event, we were delighted to host the Rye RSL Women's Auxiliary for lunch in June and the Greensborough RSL Women's Auxiliary for dinner in July at Box Hill RSL. Both groups were extremely impressed with our club, and these visits beautifully highlighted the strong bonds of fellowship, friendship, and camaraderie shared among our auxiliary groups.

Another highlight was a couple of social outings. Firstly, in July, when 17 members gathered to celebrate Christmas in July at the Old England Hotel in Heidelberg, followed in October by 20 attending "The Music of Broadway", a show at the Round in Nunawading.

The year also included three enjoyable bus trips joined by members of the Day Section, the Nashos, the Bowlers and our friends from Friday night raffle, visiting **Bruno's Sculpture Garden in Marysville** in March, experiencing 197 imaginative sculptures followed by lunch at a local cafe. In August, the group travelled to **Phillip Island** to visit the National Vietnam Veteran's Museum, followed by lunch at the Phillip Island RSL. Another memorable outing in November was a cruise on **Lake Nagambie** followed by a generous lunch at the Nagambie Rowing Club.

Fourteen of our auxiliary ladies attended the Oaks Day event in the Upton Room, where they looked truly glamorous in bold colours, floral prints, and eye-catching statement accessories. We were delighted to see three of our ladies recognised in the Fashion in the Field awards: Mary Hodgkinson was named Best Catwalk Runner-Up, Emi Luppino won Best Fascinator, and Eril Browne took out Best Sparkly Outfit.

We are extremely proud of our President, **Judy Coates**, who was awarded **Outstanding Affiliate Volunteer** at the **2025 RSL Victoria Veterans Ball**, held at the Sofitel on Saturday 19 July. Judy was recognised for her exceptional service to the Women's Auxiliary, Welfare and Commemoration Services, her strong relationships with community groups, and her contributions to the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Committee.

The continued success of the Box Hill RSL Women's Auxiliary would not be possible without the dedication, commitment, and teamwork of its exceptional committee members - Judy Coates (President), Susan Sims (Vice-President), Emi Luppino (Secretary/Treasurer), Kaye Garrett, Isabel Harkensee OAM, Therese Streets, Maxine Bennett-Wyatt, Doreen Brooker and Carol Calder and the support of all our members. Thank-you to you all.

Overall, 2025 proved to be a truly inspiring and rewarding year, filled with meaningful connections, strong community involvement, and committed service. We are deeply grateful to John Haward and his committee, along with Ben Myers and his team at the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch, for their continued and invaluable support of the Auxiliary. We look ahead with enthusiasm to another successful and fulfilling year.

Judy Coates
PRESIDENT

Emi Luppino
SECRETARY/TREASURER

BOX HILL RSL SUB BRANCH INC

WAR MEMORIAL & HERITAGE

REPORT

Over the last two and a half years I, along with Steve Bennett, have worked with the Whitehorse Council to reimagine the WWI War Memorial in the Box Hill Gardens.

The Whitehorse City Council and Box Hill RSL collaborated to successfully apply for a \$30,000 grant to assist with some of the work. This work includes building two plinths at the entrance to the Memorial, which will have plaques attached, commemorating the original dedication of the memorial in 1922 by the then Governor General of Australia, Lord Henry Forster GCMG, and the rededication 100 years later in 2022 by the Governor General of Australia, General David Hurley, AC, CVO, DSC, FTSE.

Whitehorse City Council has undertaken some works in house, repairing the pavement and erecting the plinths. Box Hill RSL allocated \$20,000 for a professional landscaping plan to define how the memorial will grow into the future. This plan has now been finalised. Part of this plan is to relocate the South Africa (Boer) War & China War Memorial from the Whitehorse Road median strip to Box Hill Gardens adjacent to the WW1 Memorial. Although the majority of the Council agree with moving the memorial there is some opposition from the Box Hill historical society.

In conjunction with Whitehorse City Council, work has commenced on the replacement of the Brass Plaques which have weathered and look unsightly. All new plaques will look the same with a bronze finish.

We now plan to conduct the project in small bite size chunks so we can progress the project to reimagine and refurbish the memorial. This is so Box Hill RSL can apply for grants to fund the works.

Lindsay Burke

MEMORIALS OFFICER



Above: Brass plaques to be replaced with Bronze plaques similar to the above



Above: Front of the WW1 War Memorial showing the newly installed plinths on which the plaques commemorating the dedication in 1922 and the rededication in 2022 by the Governor Generals of Australia.

NATIONAL SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, WHITEHORSE SUB-BRANCH

Closure and Christmas Lunch

Like all organisations, clubs and associations, there comes a time when our journey must come to an end.

On 17 December 2025, the Whitehorse Sub-Branch of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia came together for a special Celebratory Christmas Lunch. This gathering not only allowed members to enjoy each other's company during the festive season but also served as the formal occasion to mark the closure of the sub-branch. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for everyone to reflect on the history and achievements of the sub-branch, sharing memories and celebrating the friendships and milestones reached over the years. It was a time to express gratitude for the collective journey and to say farewell as the group's activities drew to a close.

The closure of the Whitehorse Sub-Branch symbolises the end of an era that began when young men, aged 20, were selected by ballot for compulsory National Service. During this period, those who were called up included some individuals who remained in Australia, providing essential logistical support, while others served overseas in Vietnam, Malaysia/Borneo (during Indonesian Confrontation) and Papua New Guinea or advanced their leadership at the Officers' School.

Following their service, the National Servicemen's Association of Australia was established on 14 December 1994 to provide ongoing support and connection for former servicemen. Subsequently, on 2 December 1995, the Victorian State Branch Charter was granted by the National Executive, officially recognising the branch's role within the broader organisation. Over the years, however, advancing age, ill health, and the passing of members have contributed significantly to the decision to conclude the activities of the Sub-Branch.

Established in 2001, the Whitehorse Sub-Branch's current committee will finish its term on 16 December 2026. All activities will cease on that date for this and all other Sub-Branches, as well as the States and the National body.

Heartfelt thanks are extended to the organising team for their careful planning and effort in making the lunch

a memorable one, with particular appreciation to Vice Secretary Bryan Neal for his dedicated service and commitment in bringing the event together.

We are grateful for the unwavering support, guidance, and spirit of cooperation shown to us by **Box Hill President John Haward**, as well as the committee members and all administrative staff at Box Hill RSL. Their dedication and willingness to assist have greatly contributed to the successful functioning of our Sub-Branch throughout our association with them. The strong organisational partnership and collaborative efforts have been essential to our achievements and sense of community.

Retirement of Key Members

During this important period, several key members of the sub-branch made the difficult decision to retire from their positions. These choices were influenced by a variety of factors, including advancing age, health challenges, and the increasing difficulty of fulfilling ongoing responsibilities. The contributions of these individuals over many years have been deeply valued, and their dedication has played a critical role in shaping the success and spirit of the Whitehorse sub-branch. Their efforts and commitment will always be appreciated by all members.

Acknowledgement of Our Patron

It is fitting to take this moment to acknowledge and honour the outstanding service and commitment demonstrated by several members of the sub-branch.

Patron Brigadier Graeme Standish (Retired) AM, RFD, ED, RL, has provided steadfast support, commitment, and wise counsel have been invaluable to our Sub-Branch over the years. Brigadier Standish's enduring guidance and patronage have played a significant role in shaping our direction and fostering a sense of unity within our group. We are deeply appreciative of his ongoing involvement and contribution.

Whilst **Emeritus Chaplain, Padre Lieutenant Colonel Barrie Sutton (Retired)** and **Welfare Officer John Boyson** have shown unwavering dedication to the welfare and well-being of members.

Padre Sutton's commitment to the well-being and unity of our community has been outstanding. His unwavering compassion, guidance, empathy, care and dedication have helped foster a strong sense of togetherness within

our group. Over the years, he has officiated at numerous funerals for past members, providing solace and support to their families and friends. We are deeply grateful for the significant role he has played in shaping our Sub-Branch and for his enduring contribution to our collective spirit.

John Boyson's significant contributions will be recognised by awarding him Life Membership at the upcoming AGM on 18 February 2026.

Acknowledgement of Peter Norman and Richard Tregear

Peter Norman has been a cornerstone of our organisation, serving not only on the Whitehorse Committee but also as the current State and National Secretary. In addition to these key roles, Peter has taken on the responsibilities of membership officer, and constitution officer, demonstrating remarkable dedication and a broad commitment to the smooth running of our activities. As Peter concludes his tenure as State Secretary at the end of this year, we recognise the invaluable nature of his contributions and the positive impact he has had on our community.

We also extend our thanks to Peter's wife, Anne, for her support and involvement. Together, Peter and Anne are now embarking on a new adventure, setting off with their caravan to explore and enjoy well-deserved travels.



Peter and Anne have also made significant contributions by producing and posting the RISE-N-SHINE newsletter over the years, keeping members informed and connected through regular communication.

Richard Tregear is the current Sub-Branch, State, and National Treasurer, and is the key CPI Accountant keeping the NSAA's finances in good hands

Thank you both for your exemplary service. Both Richard and Peter are members of the National Executive and will continue in these roles for the foreseeable future.

Acknowledgements to Key Contributors

Our Vice President, **Malcolm Fraser**, has proven himself an invaluable right-hand man throughout the year. Malcolm has consistently stepped in to represent me at meetings whenever I was unable to attend, ensuring continuity of leadership and support for our Sub-Branch. This year, however, both Malcolm's health concerns and those of his wife, Bev, have weighed heavily on my mind. Their well-being remains a priority, and at this stage, I am uncertain about Malcolm's intentions regarding his role for the coming year.

John MacDonald, our dedicated Sub-Branch Secretary, has been my left-hand man and an indispensable support. John's outstanding efforts in diligently recording the minutes at each meeting, typing and printing them, and quietly guiding me through proceedings have been nothing short of magnificent. His timely reminders during meetings have been instrumental, allowing me to stay on track and avoid confusion. Without John's assistance, I would have struggled to manage the flow and order of our meetings effectively.

Subcommittee Support During Closure

The efforts of **Bryan Neal, Barrie Sutton, Rhonda Ward**, and **Faye Clark**—the subcommittee responsible for finalising the closure of our Sub-Branch—have been exemplary, especially while I have been on sick leave since June. Their commitment to keeping me informed about all matters relating to the celebratory luncheon has been deeply appreciated, ensuring that important tasks were managed seamlessly in my absence.

Special Thanks – Bryan and Margaret Neal

A special acknowledgment is due to **Bryan Neal and his wife, Margaret**, for their significant contributions. Their dedication to producing and organising the celebratory luncheon, as well as their work on the calligraphy of the special edition of RISE-N-SHINE, has been crucial to the success of these events and the preservation of our Sub-Branch's legacy.

Committee Support and Personal Acknowledgements

Jim Farrow, Kevin Cowling, and **Bob Yendall** have made significant contributions to the success of our fundraising and community engagement initiatives. Their efforts in organising past sausage sizzles were

ASSOCIATE ORGANISATIONS

instrumental in bringing members and the local community together, fostering camaraderie and raising vital funds. In addition, they have taken responsibility for setting up and closing the badge-selling point at Bunnings Box Hill, ensuring that our fundraising activities ran smoothly and efficiently. Their dedication also extended to managing the roster system for the Good Friday and Remembrance Day appeals, coordinating volunteers and ensuring that each event was well-supported. Their commitment and teamwork have been invaluable assets to our Sub-Branch. Jim and I have represented Whitehorse as delegates at the State Council meetings.

Jim Farrow has also organised the annual Navy Nasho Day at Cerberus for the past few years, on behalf of the NSAA Victorian State Committee.

John Boysen has served as our Welfare Officer, stepping into this important role following the passing of Max West in September 2018. John's compassion and unwavering commitment to the welfare of our members have not gone unnoticed and are deeply valued by everyone in our Sub-Branch. In recognition of his exceptional service, a formal motion was presented at the September 2025 General Meeting: I had the honour of moving that John be considered for Life Membership, with the motion seconded by John MacDonald. This proposal was met with unanimous agreement from all members present, a testament to the high esteem in which John is held throughout our community. As a result, John will be awarded Life Membership at the 2026 AGM, marking a fitting acknowledgement of his many contributions and the respect he commands among his peers.

Committee member **Alan Rutherford**. Alan consistently volunteers for various assignments. In 2025, with membership so low, he volunteered to work double shifts selling Poppies for Remembrance Day. Well, done

Other notable achievements by members:

- **James Jamieson was awarded the OAM medal in 2022**
- **Richard Tregear, volunteer of the year 2022, current Sub-Branch, State and National Treasurer.**
- **Peter Norman, former Sub-Branch committee member, is retiring from the State Branch as Secretary. Still National Secretary until the end of 2026.**

- **Bob Yendall, Volunteer of the Year 2023**
- **Stephen Eno, volunteer of the year 2024**

Fundraising Achievements for Box Hill RSL

Over the years, our dedicated efforts have resulted in raising approximately \$300,000 for Box Hill RSL. This substantial sum reflects the commitment and hard work of our members, who have contributed their time and energy to ensure the success of our various fundraising events and initiatives. Every dollar raised has played a vital role in supporting the RSL's ongoing projects and community services, strengthening our ability to make a meaningful impact in the lives of veterans and their families.

Assistance to Legacy Victoria

Over many years Whitehorse Sub-Branch assisted Legacy Victoria with their annual student's day at the Shrine.

Transition of Appeals and Responsibilities

At the monthly committee meeting held on 3 February 2026, it was resolved that the responsibility for organising both the ANZAC appeal and the Remembrance Day appeal would be transferred to our home base welfare officer, Faye Clark, at the Box Hill RSL. Faye will now be responsible for managing essential aspects such as the Nashos' tablecloth, badge display, acting as the primary contact at Box Hill Bunnings, and maintaining the roster. Going forward, the Whitehorse sub-branch's involvement in these appeals will mainly be limited to manning the stall. The future status of other events, including Navy Day, remains undecided at this stage. As Jim Farrow succinctly put it, "I am cooked", indicating his intention to step back from further duties after many years of valued service.

Subsequently, the last Annual General Meeting and General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 18 February 10.30 am at the Box Hill RSL. After these meetings, our regular gatherings will come to an end, and decisions will be made regarding our future as a group. Those members who are financial for 2026 will be transferred into NSAA Direct National Membership in 2027, funded from state reserves. Some will integrate into other associations, while some will continue their commitment by volunteering for charity. Some will completely retire. If you wish to volunteer for charities, see Faye Clark, please.

Personal Reflections and Future Commitment

As my eyesight continues to deteriorate, I have found that preparing these reports has become a more demanding and difficult task. Despite these personal challenges, my dedication to the sub-branch remains steadfast. I am willing to continue supporting the sub-branch, provided there is enough interest from members to sustain its activities through to 17 February 2026. Even if this means reducing the number of meetings to just a few each year, I am committed to serving the sub-branch and its members for as long as I am able.

However, I have made the decision to step down from my position as sub-branch delegate. While I will no longer hold this role, I remain available to represent the sub-branch at significant events by laying wreaths at both the Dawn Service and Remembrance Day Service.

Ideally, committee meetings would be held on the agreed dates, commencing at 10.00 am, followed by the general meeting at 10.30 am. This arrangement would provide clarity and structure during this period of transition for the sub-branch.

Closing Remarks

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their support and dedication throughout my tenure. It has been a privilege to serve as President, and I sincerely hope I have fulfilled the role to the best of my abilities.

Ian Carnegie

PRESIDENT

TPI EASTERN SUBURBS SOCIAL CLUB

The start of 2025 was a very busy year for the TPI Eastern Suburbs Social Club. We started the year with a trip to the Warran Glen Nursery and Cafe in January followed by a luncheon at the Ringwood Club in February.

In March we decided to have a bus trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne but this had to be cancelled at the last minute due to fire restrictions. The day we chose for this venture was the 19th March and a couple of days prior to our departure it was declared a total fire danger day and when we contacted them, they stated that we could attend the café in the gardens. However, we would not be permitted to venture out into the gardens due to the high risk of fire.

In April we had a luncheon at the Glasshouse Restaurant at the Caulfield racecourse which was arranged by our hard-working Treasurer John Knights.

In May we arranged a bus trip to HMAS Cerberus. This turned out to be a very interesting day (once we got through all the security to enter the site) which started in the Museum where we were given a tour by one of the members and ventured into the grounds around the museum. They had a number of plaques to different ships along with two cathedrals which we were allowed to view.

In June we had a trip to the Ringwood Club where we had lunch. The lunches were very reasonably priced and we all enjoyed ourselves.

July saw the group hold its Combined luncheon at Box Hill RSL. Thanks to

the President and Staff of Box Hill RSL and a number of visitors we all had a great day, with a number of raffles to be won and door prizes to be handed out.

In August we took a bus trip to the Werribee Open Range Zoo where we had lunch and then took the Explorer Bus around the Zoo where we saw a number of animals roaming free.

September, we took a bus trip to Allowyn Gardens in Yarra Glen with morning tea in their café. We then made our way to the Yarra Glen Hotel where we had lunch. This hotel is not really disabled friendly as our older members had to navigate a number of steps to get into the hotel and then more steps to get to the restaurant where lunch was served.

In December we had our Christmas Luncheon at the Box Hill RSL. We had 49 people in attendance and all had a great day again thanks to the President and staff of Box Hill RSL.

If anyone would like to join us on our bus trip (We have three each year which are heavily subsidised by the TPI Social Club) we can be contacted in person on the 1st Wednesday of each month at our committee meeting at the Box Hill RSL or alternatively contact Jane on 03 9833 4519 or Glenda on 0425 791 136. As the bus has limited seating it will be first in best dressed so book early so you do not miss out.

Jane Underwood

SECRETARY

ASSOCIATE ORGANISATIONS

VIETNAM VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA, BOX HILL SUB-BRANCH

Our membership - The VVAA Box Hill Sub-Branch would have to be one of the very few Sub-Branches that can say our membership numbers continue to grow in both Service and Affiliate members. Just recently there have been several Vietnamese join our Sub-Branch. This must be contributed to our extremely diligent membership officer Jim Archbold and his wife Sue. Jim reported at our last committee meeting that membership renewals for 2025 are better than expected in that almost every member has renewed their membership and paid their membership fees without being reminded.

Our Last Wednesday of the Month Veterans / Partners Lunch - This monthly event continues to get reasonable numbers. However, a drop off is noticeable as we get a little older and health issues are now influencing the numbers turning up, but we will continue to give our members a lunch so those who turn up can have a good time with their veteran mates and chew the fat. If any member has any suggestions about improving this lunch, please drop me a line. One idea was to have the lunch at a different venue at least once per year. Your opinion would be appreciated.

VV Day Commemorative service on Tuesday 18th of August 2025

- The commemorative address was given by Barbara Sutherland, a Radiographer who was sent to Vietnam as part of the Australian SEATO commitment. Bárbara was very lucky not to be injured when her aircraft crashed on its way to

Saigon. Barbara was one of many who volunteered their services to help look after the troops in Vietnam. 2025 was also the 50th anniversary of Operation Baby Lift where thousands of babies were air-lifted out of Saigon before it fell to the communists. A few of those babies, now ladies, have joined our Sub-Branch.

2026 is the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. This will be a very special day for most of the remaining Vietnam Veterans. The service at the Box Hill RSL Cenotaph will start at 11.00am followed by refreshments in the RSL.

The Black-Tie Dinner 2025 - was a night to remember. The guest speaker, Corporal Mark Donaldson VC, delivered an excellent speech on his involvement leading up to the action where he was awarded the Victoria Cross and his tours of duty in Afghanistan. Special thanks must be given to Brian Tateson for organising the guest speaker and his involvement in the arrangements for the night, a job well done.

Seymour Black Powder Shoot and BBQ on the 26th of October 2025,

went off okay except for the weather. I am told the rain and the wind did not stop for most of the day, and it put a damper on the shoot. However, again I was told that those who turned up for the event still had a good day with their mates/partners and friends. However, the afternoon at the Tahbilk Winery went off really well and that put a smile on the members who attended. It will be on again in 2026.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle BBQ - was on Saturday 8th of November. Again, this day was basically destroyed by

the weather. It rained just about all day, everybody got wet and cold, the food got wet and the customers were few and far between. No one turned up at Bunnings to do some shopping, so Bunnings saw that it was not going to be a good fundraiser so they donated 10 x \$50.00 vouchers as raffle prizes at our future events. My name was MUD (jokingly) as I normally would have been on the stand. I was holidaying in Europe with my lovely wife.

This will be discussed at committee level. Due to the lack of support/volunteers which is getting less each year due to age and health reasons, this could be our last Bunnings BBQ unless we get a big turnaround in support.

Welfare: Barry Minster OAM - our welfare officer continues to lend support to those who require it. If you have a welfare or DVA concern, contact Barry for his advice.

Boo Coo News - Bill and Ziggy continue to put out a wonderful newsletter on a regular basis. The last two (2) issues have been just great highlighting the events and news of the Sub-Branch. The Wayne Bastow report in the last issue was really well put together. I know Wayne had some input and also it's a good way to inform the members about what is instore for the following year. Thanks to Mike Charenko's calendar of events.

Our Christmas Party was held on Sunday 14th of December 2025 at 12.00pm on the top floor of the Box Hill RSL and again was a wonderful way to end the year. 50+ turned up to see the year out with their mates and friends.

One surprise for the day was Mike

ASSOCIATE ORGANISATIONS

Charenko and Barry Minster OAM receiving their 50-year membership award to RSL Victoria. Well done guys, not many of us will receive this prestigious award. Geoff Smith was awarded his life membership to the Box Hill RSL. This is a well earned award. Geoff has done a mountain of work supporting veterans and their families with their welfare entitlement's. We must thank our loyal workers on the day for helping on the door and running the raffle and helping where they could. Thanks to all of you.

Bill, Mr President, thanked the Committee for their tireless service throughout the year and thanked the Box Hill RSL for their support to the VVAA Box Hill Sub-Branch throughout 2025.

Mr John Haward, the President of the Box Hill RSL thanked the Veterans and their families for their continued support to the RSL and wished everyone all the very best for Christmas and the new year.

Rod Burgess

SECRETARY

**HONOUR THE DEAD BUT
FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING**

NAVAL ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA, BOX HILL SUB-BRANCH

The Box Hill Sub-Section of the Naval Association meets quarterly (Feb., May, Aug. and Nov.), generally the 2nd Friday of the month, at Box Hill RSL. After each meeting we enjoy lunch in the bistro.

In April we had the opportunity to visit HMAS Cerberus Open Day, where we were invited to a brief viewing of the Officers Mess followed by morning tea. We viewed the fire training and the sea rescue demonstrations as well as other displays at the base. Thank you to the Melbourne Navy Committee (Inc.) for funding our transport to Cerberus.

Some members were also able to attend The Premiers Anzac Day lunch at the Sofitel with veterans from all services. The speeches were very informative and moving, especially those given by the Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize winners. Lunch was enjoyed by all.

We were able to sell Anzac Day badges on behalf of the Box Hill RSL raising approximately \$300.

The Melbourne Sub-Section invited Box Hill Sub-Section members to join them on a trip to Williamstown for lunch and a tour of the Seaworks museum and photographic exhibition. Both were very worthwhile.

In May a few members joined the Eastern Suburbs TPI Social Club trip to HMAS Cerberus to visit the newly refurbished museum, now known as the Heritage and Learning Centre, and the Chapels with lunch at the Frankston RSL afterwards. This was a wonderful opportunity to get to know other RSL members.



Naval Association at HMAS Cerberus.



Two serving Navy personnel with Wayne Bastow (R) at HMAS Cerberus.

In July, our President Ray Gill was presented with a Certificate to mark 60 years of continuous service to the Naval Association Australia. The occasion was celebrated with lunch in the Bistro. After so many years of service, Ray is stepping down from his roles in the NAA. Thank you Ray for all your time and efforts devoted to the NAA.

The Sub-section appreciated the invitation to the Box Hill RSL's Volunteers' Thank You afternoon tea but unfortunately the Sub-section was unable to attend.

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Ron Evans presenting Ray Gill with his 60 year certificate.

We enjoyed a great Christmas lunch at the Bistro in early December. Unfortunately, invited guests from the Box Hill RSL Committee were again unable to attend, due to a conflict in events. Hopefully for 2026 we can coordinate a date that suits the RSL Committee.

Thank you to Box Hill RSL for the support that is provided to us, for allowing us to use the RSL facilities for our meetings and for the contribution to our funds.

2026 marks the 125th Anniversary of the Royal Australian Navy. The Victorian Section of the NAA is organising a Gala Ball at the Pullman on the Park, Melbourne in October 2026. Details will be published in the Box Hill RSL newsletter.

During the year many members attended various commemorative services including those at the Shrine of Remembrance. We enjoy the opportunity to gather together to talk about anything related to the Navy, the RSL and the military. Our membership includes retired Navy personnel, ex Naval Reserves and non-service members who have an interest in the Navy. Partners are also welcome to join. We welcome new members at any time.

The Box Hill Sub-Section follows the five pillars of the Naval Association Australia:

- **Care** (welfare) for the diverse and crucial support of Navy and ex-Navy men and women;
- **Commemoration** by maintaining the legacy of past service and sacrifice;
- **Cadets** (ANC) assist youths to become better citizens through support to the ANC;

- **Camaraderie** to meet and socialise with like-minded Navy and ex-Navy men and women; and
- **Community** (engagement) how we interact with and support our local communities.

We aim to be a dynamic and contemporary organisation supporting the Navy fraternity in a wide range of different ways with **Mateship** at the core of our ethos.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Joy 0406 349 712 or via email etri1008@hotmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you. Further information is also available on the website <https://navalassoc.org.au/>

Joy Emmett

SECRETARY

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION, BOX HILL SUB-BRANCH

Our group of past service members and associated members of the Air Force Association have, for quite a few years now, held our first Friday of each month luncheons at the RSL with thanks to the Box Hill RSL's Management with whom we are now well acquainted.

As an Air Force Sub-Group of BHRSL we would welcome anyone who is interested in Air Force affairs, 'past' and 'present', to join us at any of our Air Force Sub-Branch luncheons, held in the Bistro at 11-30 to 12, on the first Friday of each month.

Best Wishes for a happy and healthy 2026.

Laurie Bell

CO-ORDINATOR



KEEPING THE CAMARADERIE ALIVE

After 25 years in regimental, staff and training appointments, Cameron Lane moved into a Capability role. Keen to keep the camaraderie alive, he joined the Box Hill RSL in 2023 and anticipates becoming more involved in the years to come.

A life in service was a logical choice for Cameron. He grew up in a service family; his father and mother were both in the Air Force, and he was used to moving around. In 1992 he joined the Army Reserve – and he hasn't looked back.

Cameron has worked at platoon, company and battalion level in various command and leadership roles within units. He has also worked in planning and operational analysis and in the training environment and has served on two overseas operations.

In 2014 Cameron and his wife, Rebecca, settled in Mont Albert North. Cameron joined the Box Hill RSL in 2023 and regularly brings his whole family along.

His daughters (aged 12, 14 and 15) enjoy pizza on the deck on a Friday night, and the sense of a home away from home.

For Cameron, becoming a member is also about retaining active links to the army life and sense of brotherhood that has been one of the highlights of his career.

"I'm an infantryman by trade. I joined the Army Reserve in 1992, so I was a part-time soldier at first, then I decided I wanted to do this for a full-time job," says Cameron.

He went to East Timor in 2003 with Operation Citadel, part of UNMISSET – the United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor which ran from May 2002 to May

2005, after East Timor (Timor-Leste) formally gained independence from Indonesia on 20 May 2002.

"I went to East Timor for the first drawdown of UN forces. We were the last battalion level rotation to go through that operation. We took over a force of just under 400 people and were responsible for an area that had had several thousand UN peacekeepers in it. We didn't see any combat action, but we were involved in domestic riots and patrolling the Tactical Control Line (soon to be the border) and responding to reports of ex militia and criminal gang activity."

Then in 2016 Cameron was part of Operation High Road in Afghanistan – a NATO Train, Advise and Assist (TAA) mission that ran from January 2015 to August 2021.

"I was with the Kabul Garrison Command Advisor Team. We were a small team of 12 advisors, 12 local interpreters and a 30-strong platoon of infantry who provided a force protection element. We were directly embedded with the Afghan Army, where I worked very closely with Afghan police and National Army officers. It was a humbling experience; they had seen a lot of people like me and had been fighting for a very long time."

After his return home, Cameron was ready to settle his three children down for the high school years and move into a more strategic role with the Army. For the past decade or so, he has been working with the Capability



Acquisition and Sustainment Group (formerly the Defence Materiel Organisation) in Melbourne.

“I’m focused on analysing and understanding the Army’s requirements for material and equipment and then supporting that capability through contracting, acquisition, delivery, support systems and so on. I work alongside engineers and scientists, bringing my on the ground experience to the table. The people in uniform help to convert innovation and creative developments into systems that can be employed by soldiers in the reality of combat.”

This is a way that I can continue to contribute; I provide the capability and equipment that soldiers need to be able to go and do their job overseas, to keep safe and win and then come home safely. And that’s got some meaning for me, because not everyone that I know has come home safely.”

Joining the Box Hill RSL has been both social and strategic. After 34 years of service – including sustaining a serious injury that almost saw him lose his arm during

a training exercise in 2006 – Cameron wanted to explore what was available outside of service and anticipates being a member for life. He is looking forward to the time when he can take advantage of a bit more of what the RSL can offer and says he knows himself well enough to know that he’ll probably find retirement a challenge. He is also keen to give back.

“I’m limited in how often I can come along as I’m working in a fairly demanding full-time role, am studying an MBA, and I have a family with three teenage daughters, but in future, I’d like to be able to do a bit more for the organisation as well. That might be advocacy, that might be DVA liaison...time will tell.”

When we’re no longer in the Army, this will be the place where we can find a similar sense of camaraderie or bonhomie that we might struggle to find elsewhere, with people who will understand some of the experiences that you’ve had. There’s a lot to be said for that.”

by Vanessa Murray

VALE

LEST WE FORGET

Donald Matthews

Muriel Pickering

Rodney Frank

Florence Kelsall

Barry Woodhouse

Rodney Miller

Barrie Grigg

Daryl Bunting

Robert Roberts

Lorraine Owen

Phyllis Carr

Beryl Pittman

Ken Turnham

Ronald Courtis

George Agius

James Young

William Galley

Marjori Turriff

Robert Tregenza

Maxine Pettingill

Robert Waldron

John Kelly

Gavin Scrimgeour

Ron Kirk

Beth O'Toole

Joy Caldwell

Kevin Lane

Jeff Richards

Max Hayes

John Henwood

David Handbury

John Hunter

Don McKirdy

Neville Miles

Kay Kirkwood

Jim Vennard

Walter Wilson

Beryl Burrowes

Stanley Brett

Ronald Campbell

Jo Walker

Gordon Press

Bernice Rees

Harold Veitch

Ian Sharpe OAM

Garry Hutchinson

Victor Freeman

Richard Briggs



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025



STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	2	21,066,010	17,828,182
Raw materials and consumables used		(2,340,408)	(1,856,392)
Bar expenses		(969,042)	(653,886)
Gaming expenses		(7,429,007)	(6,402,428)
Catering and restaurant expenses		(2,088,327)	(1,773,106)
Welfare expenses		(1,068,243)	(859,909)
Administration and operating expenditure:			
Employee benefits expense		(1,018,930)	(999,528)
Depreciation		(491,945)	(397,865)
Occupancy expenses		(2,517,813)	(1,608,390)
Administrative expenses		(1,138,194)	(941,405)
Investment property expenses		(30,802)	(23,916)
Other expenses		(438,177)	(366,698)
Surplus before Income Tax Expense		1,535,122	1,944,659
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus after Income Tax Expense		1,535,122	1,944,659
Other comprehensive income for the year (net of tax)		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year attributable to the members		1,535,122	1,944,659

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	14	7,803,620	7,005,986
Trade & other assets	3	254,702	216,705
Inventories	4	80,689	81,470
Related party loans	5	100,000	100,000
Total Current Assets		8,239,011	7,404,161
Non Current Assets			
Related party loans	5	3,548,762	3,648,762
Plant and equipment	6	3,966,250	3,133,507
Gaming licence entitlements	7	2,516,554	2,896,172
Investment property	8	2,726,466	2,726,466
Other intangible assets	9	18,519	23,133
Total Non Current Assets		12,776,551	12,428,040
Total Assets		21,015,562	19,832,201
Current Liabilities			
Trade payables & other liabilities	10	1,962,805	1,292,408
Provisions	13	520,965	517,252
Other liabilities	11	117,909	98,445
Borrowings	12	848,258	745,603
Total Current Liabilities		3,449,937	2,653,708
Non Current Liabilities			
Borrowings	12	801,007	1,959,268
Provisions	13	28,481	28,210
Total Non Current Liabilities		829,488	1,987,478
Total Liabilities		4,279,425	4,641,186
Net Assets		16,736,137	15,191,015
Equity			
Gift fund		917,121	907,121
Retained surplus		15,819,016	14,283,894
Total Equity		16,736,137	15,191,015

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Gift Fund	Retained surplus	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2024	907,121	12,339,235	13,246,356
Surplus attributable to members		1,944,659	1,944,659
Balance at 31 December 2024	907,121	14,283,894	15,191,015
Funds donated	10,000	-	10,000
Surplus attributable to members		1,535,122	1,535,122
Balance at 31 December 2025	917,121	15,819,016	16,736,137

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash receipts from customers		20,785,134	17,595,358
Cash payments to suppliers and employees		(17,954,501)	(14,962,066)
Interest received		265,646	291,342
Net cash inflow from operating activities	14(b)	3,096,279	2,924,634
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of investment property and repairs		-	(1,343,864)
Purchase of licenses, gaming machines and other fixed assets		(2,408,645)	(1,454,739)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(2,408,645)	(2,798,603)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of loan from the Patriotic Fund		100,000	100,000
Bequests received for Gift Fund		10,000	-
Net cash inflow from financing activities		110,000	100,000
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		797,634	226,031
Cash at beginning of financial year		7,005,986	6,779,955
Cash at end of financial year	14(a)	7,803,620	7,005,986

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the Sub- Branch to fulfil the Association's financial reporting requirements under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Act, and are, in the opinion of the committee, appropriate to meet the needs of members. The policies comply with the measurement and recognition requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations, and other professional reporting requirements, do not have mandatory applicability to the Sub-Branch, except to the extent required by the Act, because it is not a "reporting entity".

No other Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The following is a summary of the material policies adopted by the Association in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

Inventory

Inventory is valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value basis. Costs are assigned on a first-in first-out basis.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over their useful lives (commencing from the time the asset is ready for use). Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciable amount is the carrying value of the asset less estimated residual amounts. The residual amount is based on what a similar asset of the expected condition of the asset at the end of its useful life could be sold for.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted as appropriate, at each statement of financial position date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

- Gaming machines - 14%
- Computer software - 25%

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (cont'd)

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Gaming Licence Entitlements

The Sub-branch has elected to account for its gaming entitlements on a cost basis.

Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the Association and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Gaming revenue

Gaming revenue is the net amount received after deducting the difference between gaming wins and losses. Gaming revenue is recognised at a point in time, which occurs on the outcome of the game in question.

Food and beverage revenue

Revenue from sales of food and beverages is recognised at a point in time, being when goods are provided to a customer.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Sub-Branch is entitled to it.

Income Tax

The Sub-Branch is not liable for income tax. The ongoing Income Exempt Charity status is subject to the Sub-Branch meeting the terms of the Deed of Settlement with the Commissioner of Taxation of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Significant accounting judgments

The Committee evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. In the current financial year, all such estimates are deemed to be 'normal' estimations in the ordinary course of business.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (cont'd)

2 REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

Included in operating surplus are the following items of operating revenue:

	2025 \$	2024 \$
- bar trading income	2,455,662	1,899,721
- gaming income	13,257,702	11,358,994
- catering income	4,496,083	3,739,584
- investment property income	59,116	38,671
- other income	830,398	778,846
- Profit / (loss) on disposal of fixed assets	(32,951)	12,366
	21,066,010	17,828,182

3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Current

Receivables	75,867	53,433
Provision for impairment of receivables	-	-
	75,867	53,433
Other receivables	40,880	28,620
Prepayments and other assets	137,955	134,652
	254,702	216,705

4 INVENTORIES

Stock on hand at cost	80,689	81,470
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5 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The loan to the Box Hill RSL Sub Branch Patriotic Fund is non interest bearing and is unsecured. It has repayment terms of \$100,000 per annum.

The following table provides the total amount of transactions that have been entered into with related parties for the year:

- Rent paid from the Sub-Branch to the Patriotic Fund	2,175,055	1,307,916
- Contribution towards Welfare Co-ordinators wages paid from the Patriotic Fund to the Sub Branch	67,000	67,000
- Honorariums paid	36,000	37,500

6 PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Entertainment rooms, machines and plant and equipment - at cost	5,800,923	5,060,878
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(1,933,554)	(1,983,292)
	3,867,369	3,077,586

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (cont'd)

		2025 \$	2024 \$
6 PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (cont'd)			
Motor vehicles – at cost	(a)	107,864	90,342
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(8,983)	(34,421)
		98,881	55,921
Total Plant and Equipment		3,966,250	3,133,507

(a) A motor vehicle is retained for the use of the General Manager of the Sub-Branch.

7 GAMING LICENCE ENTITLEMENTS			
2022 Entitlements at cost		3,796,262	3,796,262
Less: Accumulated Amortisation		(1,279,708)	(900,090)
		2,516,554	2,896,172
		2,516,554	2,896,172
8 INVESTMENT PROPERTY			
Investment property - at fair value		2,726,466	2,726,466
9 OTHER INTANGIBLES ASSETS			
<i>Computer software</i>			
Cost		183,172	183,172
Less: accumulated amortisation and impairment		(164,653)	(160,039)
		18,519	23,133
10 TRADE PAYABLES & OTHER LIABILITIES			
Current			
Trade creditors		1,233,226	850,309
Sundry creditors & accruals		729,579	442,099
		1,962,805	1,292,408

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (cont'd)

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
11 OTHER LIABILITIES		
Current		
Subscriptions in advance	96,977	80,744
Gift cards	16,387	12,519
Other income in advance	4,545	5,182
	117,909	98,445
12 BORROWINGS		
Current		
Bank Loan	207,155	45,710
Hire purchase agreements	122,286	188,458
Payable – Gaming entitlements	518,817	511,435
	848,258	745,603
Non-Current		
Bank Loan	-	729,475
Hire purchase agreements	141,950	51,916
Payable – Gaming entitlements	659,057	1,177,877
	801,007	1,959,268

The 'Bank Loan' is with ANZ, secured with interest payable at 5.76%.

The Sub-Branch executed an 'Offer Deed Poll', where it would acquire 103 gaming entitlements at a cost of \$38,079 each for the period 16 August 2022 to 15 August 2032.

13 PROVISIONS		
Current		
Provision for annual leave	270,301	240,759
Provision for long service leave	250,664	276,493
	520,965	517,252
Non-Current		
Provision for long service leave	28,481	28,210

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (cont'd)

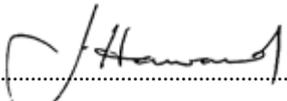
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
14 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW		
(a) Reconciliation of Cash		
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
Cash at bank and on hand	2,570,095	1,980,449
Short term deposits	5,233,525	5,025,537
	7,803,620	7,005,986
(b) Reconciliation of Net Cash used in Operating Activities to Operating Surplus / (Deficit)		
Operating surplus after income tax	1,535,122	1,944,659
<i>Non Cash Flows in operating surplus:</i>		
Depreciation and amortisation	871,577	777,497
(Profit) / Loss on disposal of non current assets	32,951	(12,366)
<i>Change in Operating Assets & Liabilities:</i>		
(Increase) / Decrease in trade receivables and other assets	(37,997)	59,713
(Increase) / Decrease in inventories	781	(38,152)
Increase in trade creditors and accruals	689,861	108,079
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	3,984	85,204
Net cash from / (used in) operating activities	3,096,279	2,924,634
15 REMUNERATION OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL		
Total key management personnel remuneration:	1,310,725	1,144,765

DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Members of the Committee ('the Committee') of Box Hill Sub-Branch Inc. declare that in the Committee's opinion:

- a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Regulation 2013.

President: 
John Haward

Treasurer: 
Lindsay Burke

Dated 29/1/2026

**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Inc**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Inc ("the Sub Branch"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the statement of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the Committee's declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of the Sub Branch is properly drawn up, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Sub Branch's financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibility under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Sub Branch in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the Sub Branch is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and the ACNC Act. The Committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Sub Branch's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the Sub Branch or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Sub Branch's financial reporting process.

**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch Inc (cont'd)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Stannards Accountants and Advisors



James Dickson
Director

Date: 29th January 2026

SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Income - Operating	7,914,464	6,812,357
Income - Non-Operating	293,960	306,097
Total Income	8,208,424	7,118,454
Operating expenditure	(5,605,059)	(4,313,886)
Welfare expenses	(1,068,243)	(859,909)
Net Operating Surplus	1,535,122	1,944,659
EBITDAR	4,704,538	4,187,668
% Staff Costs to Revenue	24.1%	24.3%

SUMMARY INCOME STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Operating Income		
Bar trading - Net	721,094	656,596
Gaming room - Net	5,828,695	4,956,566
Catering - Net	832,874	699,325
Subscriptions	114,474	103,107
Sundry Income	450,278	384,397
Profit (loss) on disposal of fixed assets	(32,951)	12,366
	7,914,464	6,812,357
Non-Operating Income		
Interest received	265,646	291,342
Investment property - Net	28,314	14,755
	293,960	306,097
TOTAL INCOME	8,208,424	7,118,454

BAR TRADING STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Income		
Sales	2,455,662	1,899,721
Less cost of sales	(765,526)	(589,239)
Gross Profit	1,690,136	1,310,482
Less Expenses		
Bar expense	62,554	49,381
Superannuation	91,186	59,845
Wages - Bar	802,869	536,984
WorkCover premiums	12,433	7,676
	969,042	653,886
Net Operating Income	721,094	656,596

GAMING STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Income		
Gaming revenue	13,257,702	11,358,994
Gross Profit	13,257,702	11,358,994
Less Expenses		
Gaming on-costs	1,062,483	989,105
Gaming expenses / promotions	34,495	233,907
State gaming tax	5,569,835	4,486,461
Superannuation	72,973	70,941
Wages	678,766	612,189
WorkCover premiums	10,455	9,825
	7,429,007	6,402,428
Net Operating Income	5,828,695	4,956,566

CATERING STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
Income		
Revenue	4,496,083	3,739,584
Less cost of sales	(1,574,882)	(1,267,153)
Gross Profit	2,921,201	2,472,431
Less Expenses		
Other catering expenses	113,987	81,820
Superannuation	205,027	173,093
Wages	1,741,235	1,494,803
WorkCover premiums	28,078	23,390
	2,088,327	1,773,106
Net Operating Income	832,874	699,325

OPERATING EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Accounting fees	18,200	21,500
Advertising	8,729	4,947
ANZAC House operating support fees	18,878	18,442
Bank charges	117,666	89,840
Cleaning	253,970	229,154
Committee Expenses/Honarariums	82,693	72,517
Computer expenses	131,785	55,018
Consulting and professional fees	68,679	28,030
Depreciation	491,945	397,865
Entertainment	9,385	5,688
Fees and permits	3,134	2,791
Fringe benefits tax expense	11,322	9,959
Fund raising expenses	43,914	41,199
Gas and electricity	294,844	269,457
Insurance	122,973	114,458
Miscellaneous expense	71,155	96,131
Motor vehicle expenses	20,707	16,094
Payroll tax	208,179	160,513
Payroll services	6,639	8,509
Postage	5,655	2,629
Printing and stationery	32,355	40,871
Provision for annual leave	29,543	28,737
Provision for long service leave	(25,558)	56,467
Rates and taxes	47,914	31,017
Rent	2,175,055	1,307,916
Repairs and maintenance	323,349	229,709
Security	143,387	139,794
Staff Training	5,103	1,942
Subscription expenses	8,883	7,736
Superannuation	89,553	82,155
Telephone	26,925	27,471
Uniforms	7,012	7,519
Wages - Administration	540,812	512,002
Wages - Reception	154,035	137,321
Waste disposal	45,195	46,114
WorkCover premiums	11,044	12,374
Total Operating Expense	5,605,059	4,313,886

FINANCIAL REPORTS

WELFARE EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Welfare Expenses Community		
Donations	35,205	30,415
Funeral expenses	825	391
Gardening expenses	3,685	730
Medical Expenses	70	165
Miscellaneous	4,354	688
Room hire cost	18,845	15,368
Subsidised meals	82,612	119,947
Taxi Services / Trips	10,136	7,697
Total Welfare Expenses Community	155,732	175,401
Welfare Expenses Veterans		
Administration fees	24,318	29,728
ANZAC House League support fees	166,075	166,075
Funeral expenses	927	105
Gardening Expenses	600	-
Grants to sporting bodies / Ex-Servicemen	250,745	113,189
Miscellaneous / Memorabilia / Other	45,788	36,536
Payroll tax	11,651	7,528
Postage	9,153	16,913
Printing and stationery	9,234	12,688
Remembrance of sacrifice	62,395	40,913
Room hire cost	33,479	27,441
Social support program	5,328	-
Subsidised meals	12,542	32,176
Superannuation	25,674	18,105
Telephone	816	1,599
Taxi Services / Trips	5,062	5,421
Volunteer expenses	25,206	20,183
Wages	220,048	155,328
WorkCover premiums	3,470	580
Total Welfare Expenses Veterans	912,511	684,508
Total Welfare Expense	1,068,243	859,909

INVESTMENT PROPERTY STATEMENT

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

Income		
Rental Income	59,116	38,671
Gross Profit	59,116	38,671
Less Expenses		
Insurance	4,743	3,975
Property Management Fees	3,471	2,074
Rates / Water	6,274	5,782
Repairs & Maintenance	1,371	4,123
Sundry Expenses	14,943	7,962
Total Rental Expense	30,802	23,916
Net Non-Operating Income	28,314	14,755



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue	2	2,183,698	1,336,644
Expenses		(1,976,443)	(1,876,150)
Surplus / (Deficit) Before Income Tax Expense		207,255	(539,506)
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) After Income Tax Expense		207,255	(539,506)
Other comprehensive income for the year (net of tax)		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year attributable to the members		207,255	(539,506)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025	2024
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	6	91,615	158,508
Trade & Other Receivables	3	199,880	47,283
Total Current Assets		291,495	205,791
Non Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	30,036,290	30,945,062
Total Non Current Assets		30,036,290	30,945,062
Total Assets		30,327,785	31,150,853
Current Liabilities			
Trade payables & other liabilities		47,545	31,887
Related party borrowings	5	100,000	100,000
Bank loan		1,153,124	995,299
Total Current Liabilities		1,300,669	1,127,186
Non Current Liabilities			
Related party borrowings	5	3,548,762	3,648,762
Bank loan		6,966,454	8,070,260
Total Non Current Liabilities		10,515,216	11,719,022
Total Liabilities		11,815,885	12,846,208
Net Assets		18,511,900	18,304,645
Equity			
Retained surplus		18,511,900	18,304,645
Total Equity		18,511,900	18,304,645

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Retained surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 January 2024	18,844,151	18,844,151
Deficit attributable to members	(539,506)	(539,506)
Balance at 31 December 2024	18,304,645	18,304,645
Surplus attributable to members	207,255	207,255
Balance at 31 December 2025	18,511,900	18,511,900

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash receipts from customers		2,022,458	1,356,291
Cash payments to suppliers		(192,225)	(124,155)
Interest received		8,643	28,728
Interest paid		(550,847)	(528,042)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	6	1,288,029	732,822
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Property, Plant and equipment acquired		(308,941)	(5,569,797)
Sale proceeds from fixed assets		-	-
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(308,941)	(5,569,797)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of loan from Box Hill RSL - Sub Branch		(100,000)	(100,000)
Commercial loan from bank		(945,981)	4,212,657
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from financing activities		(1,045,981)	4,112,657
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held		(66,893)	(724,318)
Cash at beginning of financial year		158,508	882,826
Cash at end of financial year	6	91,615	158,508

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the Sub- Branch to fulfil the Association's financial reporting requirements under the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 (the Act). The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Act, and are, in the opinion of the committee, appropriate to meet the needs of members. The policies comply with the measurement and recognition requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations, and other professional reporting requirements, do not have mandatory applicability to the Fund, except to the extent required by the Act, because it is not a "reporting entity".

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The following is a summary of the material policies adopted by the fund in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are included at cost or at valuation.

All assets, excluding freehold land and buildings from which rental income is derived are depreciated over their estimated economic lives. The carrying value of property, plant and equipment is reviewed regularly such that it does not exceed its recoverable amount.

Depreciation rates are as follows:

- Buildings and improvements	2.50%	Straight line
- Plant and equipment	9% to 50%	Diminishing value

Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that economic benefits will flow to the Company and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Rental income

Rental income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term, in line with the contractual agreement between the Fund and the customer.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Fund is entitled to it.

Income Tax

The Fund is not liable for income tax. The ongoing Income Exempt Charity status is subject to the Fund meeting the terms of the Deed of Settlement with the Commissioner of Taxation of the Commonwealth of Australia.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (cont'd)

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Significant accounting judgments

The Committee evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. In the current financial year, all such estimates are deemed to be 'normal' estimations in the ordinary course of business.

2 REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

Included in operating surplus are the following items of operating revenue:

- rent received
- interest received

	2025 \$	2024 \$
	2,175,055	1,307,916
	8,643	28,728
	2,183,698	1,336,644

3 TRADE & OTHER RECEIVABLES
Current

Prepayments and other assets

	199,880	47,283
--	----------------	--------

4 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT
Land and buildings

Freehold land

	792,143	792,143
--	----------------	---------

Club rooms - at deemed cost

	2,060,000	2,060,000
--	------------------	-----------

Less: Accumulated depreciation

	(1,080,798)	(1,029,298)
--	--------------------	-------------

Capital structure improvements - at cost

	40,923,566	40,633,769
--	-------------------	------------

Less: Accumulated depreciation

	(13,511,412)	(12,506,717)
--	---------------------	--------------

	28,391,356	29,157,754
--	-------------------	------------

Total land and buildings

	29,183,499	29,949,897
--	-------------------	------------

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment - at cost

	4,595,457	4,576,313
--	------------------	-----------

Less: Accumulated depreciation

	(3,742,666)	(3,581,148)
--	--------------------	-------------

	852,791	995,165
--	----------------	---------

Total plant and equipment

	852,791	995,165
--	----------------	---------

Total Property, Plant & Equipment

	30,036,290	30,945,062
--	-------------------	------------

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (cont'd)

4(b) PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movement in the carrying value for each class of property plant and equipment between the beginning and end of the financial year is as follows:

	Land	Buildings	Plant and equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Year ended 31 December 2025				
Balance at the beginning of the year	792,143	29,157,754	995,165	30,945,062
Additions	-	289,798	19,143	308,941
Disposals - written down value	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(1,056,196)	(161,517)	(1,217,713)
Balance at the end of the year	792,143	28,391,356	852,791	30,036,290

5 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The loan from Box Hill RSL Sub Branch Inc is non interest bearing and is unsecured. It has repayment terms of \$100,000 per annum.

The following table provides the total amount of transactions that have been entered into with related parties for the year:

	2025 \$	2024 \$
- Rent paid from the Sub-Branch to the Patriotic Fund	2,175,055	1,307,916
- Contribution towards Welfare Co-ordinators wages paid from the Patriotic Fund to the Sub Branch	67,000	67,000

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (cont'd)

6 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	91,615	158,508
Represented by:		
Patriotic Fund	91,615	158,508

(b) Reconciliation of Net Cash used in Operating Activities to Operating Surplus (Deficit)

Operating surplus / (deficit)	207,255	(539,506)
<i>Non Cash Flows in operating surplus (deficit):</i>		
Depreciation	1,217,713	1,223,953
<i>Change in Operating Assets & Liabilities:</i>		
Decrease / (Increase) in trade debtors and other receivables	(152,597)	48,375
Increase / (Decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	15,658	-
Net cash from operating activities	1,288,029	732,822

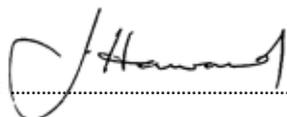
Change in trade and other payables are not relevant as operating liabilities due to balances being financing activities.

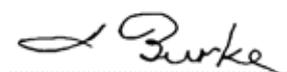
DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Members of the Committee ('the Committee') of Box Hill Sub-Branch Inc. declare that in the Committee's opinion:

- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- (b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Regulation 2013.

President: 
John Haward

Treasurer: 
Lindsay Burke

Dated: 29/1/2026

**Independent Audit Reports
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Patriotic Fund)**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Patriotic Fund) ("the Fund"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the statement of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the committee's declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of the Fund is properly drawn up, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibility under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the Fund is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act. The Committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.



**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Patriotic Fund) (cont'd)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Stannards Accountants and Advisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Dickson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Dickson
Director

Date: 29th January 2026

DETAILED SURPLUS OR DEFICIT STATEMENT

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	2025	2024
Income		
Rent received	2,175,055	1,307,916
Interest received	8,643	28,728
Total	2,183,698	1,336,644
Expenses		
Administration Expenses	658	750
Consultancy and professional fees	60,947	1,200
Depreciation	1,217,713	1,223,953
Interest expense	550,847	528,042
Repairs and maintenance	74,148	50,023
Welfare expenditure	72,130	72,182
Total expenses	1,976,443	1,876,150
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	207,255	(539,506)

BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH AGENCY APPEALS FUND

(AGENT FOR RSL VIC BRANCH GENERAL APPEALS FUND)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025



STATEMENT OF SURPLUS OR DEFICIT AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Revenue		55,492	53,998
Expenses		(51,536)	(61,092)
Surplus / (Deficit) Before Income Tax Expense		3,956	(7,094)
Income tax expense		-	-
Surplus / (Deficit) After Income Tax Expense		3,956	(7,094)
Other comprehensive income for the year (net of tax)		-	-
Total Comprehensive Income for the year attributable to the members		3,956	(7,094)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2025

	Note	2025	2024
Current Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	2	25,965	4
Receivables		-	22,000
Total Current Assets		25,965	22,004
Total Assets		25,965	22,004
Current Liabilities			
Trade payables & other liabilities		3,379	3,374
Total Current Liabilities		3,379	3,374
Total Liabilities		3,379	3,374
Net Assets		22,586	18,630
Equity			
Retained surplus		22,586	18,630
Total Equity		22,586	18,630

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Retained surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 January 2024	25,724	25,724
Deficit attributable to members	(7,094)	(7,094)
Balance at 31 December 2024	18,630	18,630
Surplus incurred by members	3,956	3,956
Balance at 31 December 2025	22,586	22,586

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		\$	\$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Cash receipts from appeals and donations		77,490	31,996
Cash payments in the provision of welfare		(51,531)	(60,704)
Interest received		2	2
Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities	2	25,961	(28,706)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held			
Cash at beginning of financial year		4	28,710
Cash at end of financial year	2	25,965	4

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the Sub- Branch to fulfil the needs of the members. The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Act, and are, in the opinion of the committee, appropriate to meet the needs of members. The policies comply with the measurement and recognition requirements of Australian Accounting Standards.

The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations, and other professional reporting requirements, do not have mandatory applicability to the Fund, except to the extent required by the Act, because it is not a "reporting entity".

This financial report related to the Box Hill RSL Agency Appeals Fund which was created under Branch Bylaw 7A to facilitate the administration and management of designated appeal funds received by Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch as agent for the Returned & Services League of Australian (Victorian Branch) (ANZAC House). This was undertaken in order to preserve the Designated Gift Recipient status of the fund represented by the Agency Fund.

The bylaw specifies that if the funds are not spent within one year of the initial receipt, they must be remitted back to the RSL General Appeals Fund administered by ANZAC House.

Basis of Accounting

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations:

- AASB 107: Statement of Cash Flows
- AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors;
- AASB 110: Events after the Balance Sheet Date;
- AASB 1048: Interpretation of Standards; and
- AASB 1054: Australian Additional Disclosures

No other Accounting Standards, Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, and financial assets and financial liabilities for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The following is a summary of the material policies adopted by the fund in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Revenue

Revenue from donations is recognised upon receipt.

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS for the Year Ended 31 December 2025 (cont'd)

1. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)

Income Tax

The Fund is not liable for income tax. The ongoing Income Exempt Charity status is subject to the Fund meeting the terms of the Deed of Settlement with the Commissioner of Taxation of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Comparative Figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Significant accounting judgments

The Committee evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. In the current financial year, all such estimates are deemed to be 'normal' estimations in the ordinary course of business.

2 NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash at bank	25,965	4

(b) Reconciliation of Net Cash used in Operating Activities to Operating Result

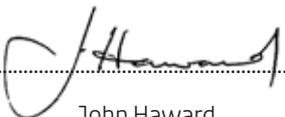
Operating surplus / (deficit)	3,956	(7,094)
<i>Change in Operating Assets & Liabilities:</i>		
Increase in trade creditors and accruals	5	388
(Increase) / decrease in trade receivables and other assets	22,000	(22,000)
Net cash from / (used in) operating activities	25,961	(28,706)

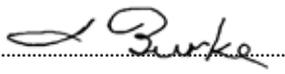
DECLARATION BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Members of the Committee ('the Committee') of Box Hill Sub-Branch Inc. declare that in the Committee's opinion:

- (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- (b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the members.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the committee.

President: 
John Haward

Treasurer: 
Lindsay Burke

Dated: 29/1/2026

**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Agency Appeals Fund)**

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Agency Appeals Fund) ("the Fund"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, the statement of surplus or deficit and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the committee's declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of the Fund is properly drawn up, including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 31 December 2025 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibility under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee's financial reporting responsibilities of the Returned & Services League of Australian (Victorian Branch). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the Fund is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Returned & Services League of Australian (Victorian Branch). The Committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Committee is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intends to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

**Independent Audit Report
To the Members of Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch (Agency Appeals Fund)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Stannards Accountants and Advisors



James Dickson
Director

Date: 29th January 2026

DETAILED SURPLUS OR DEFICIT STATEMENT

for the Year Ended 31 December 2025

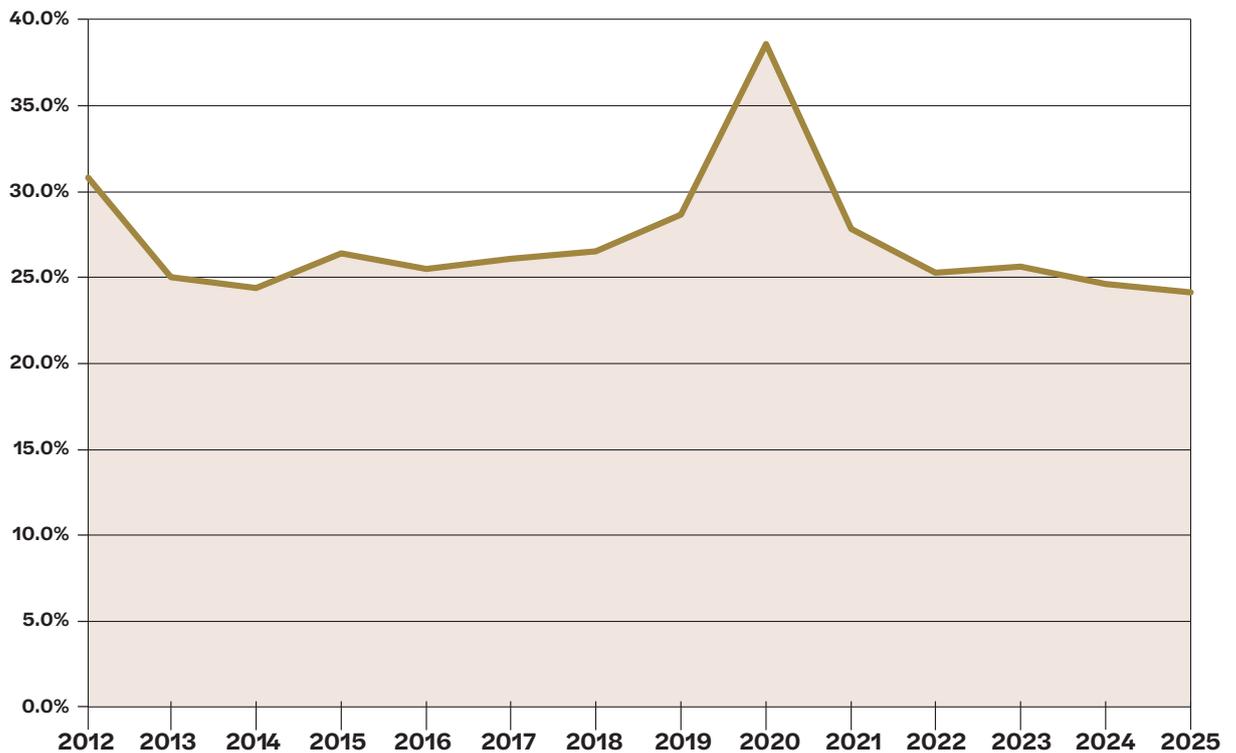
	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Income		
ANZAC Day Appeal	22,498	29,631
Donations	5,992	2,365
Interest	2	2
Poppy Day Appeal	27,000	22,000
Total	55,492	53,998
Expenses		
ANZAC Day Appeal - Wreaths	3,310	3,140
Death notices	6,201	5,538
Funeral Expenses	3,000	900
Gardening service	11,743	12,148
Medical equipment and doctors fees	340	1,398
Poppy Day Appeal - Wreaths	2,265	2,500
Taxi services	19,005	18,592
Wages & salaries	5,500	12,100
Other welfare services	172	4,776
Total Expenses	51,536	61,092
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	3,956	(7,094)

BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH

PERCENTAGE STAFF COSTS TO REVENUE

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Revenue	\$8,147,386	\$10,757,227	\$11,029,374	\$11,374,092	\$12,405,608	\$12,873,016	\$13,120,321
Adjusted Revenue	\$7,895,115	\$10,489,792	\$10,748,342	\$11,084,713	\$12,109,128	\$12,549,585	\$12,750,366
Total Staff Costs	\$2,394,328	\$2,622,921	\$2,669,455	\$2,944,056	\$3,113,686	\$3,306,450	\$3,430,960
% Staff Costs to Revenue	30.3%	25.0%	24.8%	26.6%	25.7%	26.3%	26.9%

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Revenue	\$12,962,622	4,369,050	\$8,100,109	\$12,925,843	\$15,095,545	\$17,828,182	\$21,066,010
Adjusted Revenue	\$12,625,013	4,095,985	\$7,727,548	\$12,546,422	\$14,722,245	\$17,265,919	\$20,526,817
Total Staff Costs	\$3,597,885	1,568,889	\$2,111,885	\$3,210,514	\$3,861,411	\$4,187,822	\$4,947,681
% Staff Costs to Revenue	28.5%	38.3%	27.3%	25.6%	26.2%	24.3%	24.1%



BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH

EBITDAR



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Profit	\$476,859	\$718,179	\$643,305	\$573,293	\$821,412	\$624,651	\$428,852
EBITDAR	\$2,263,957	\$3,037,541	\$2,913,160	\$2,782,743	\$3,158,324	\$3,110,740	\$2,925,300

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Profit	\$427,804	-\$9,620	\$1,101,022	\$1,599,030	\$1,308,406	\$1,944,659	\$1,535,122
EBITDAR	\$2,628,939	\$671,673	\$2,057,824	\$3,060,487	\$3,469,177	\$4,187,668	\$4,704,538

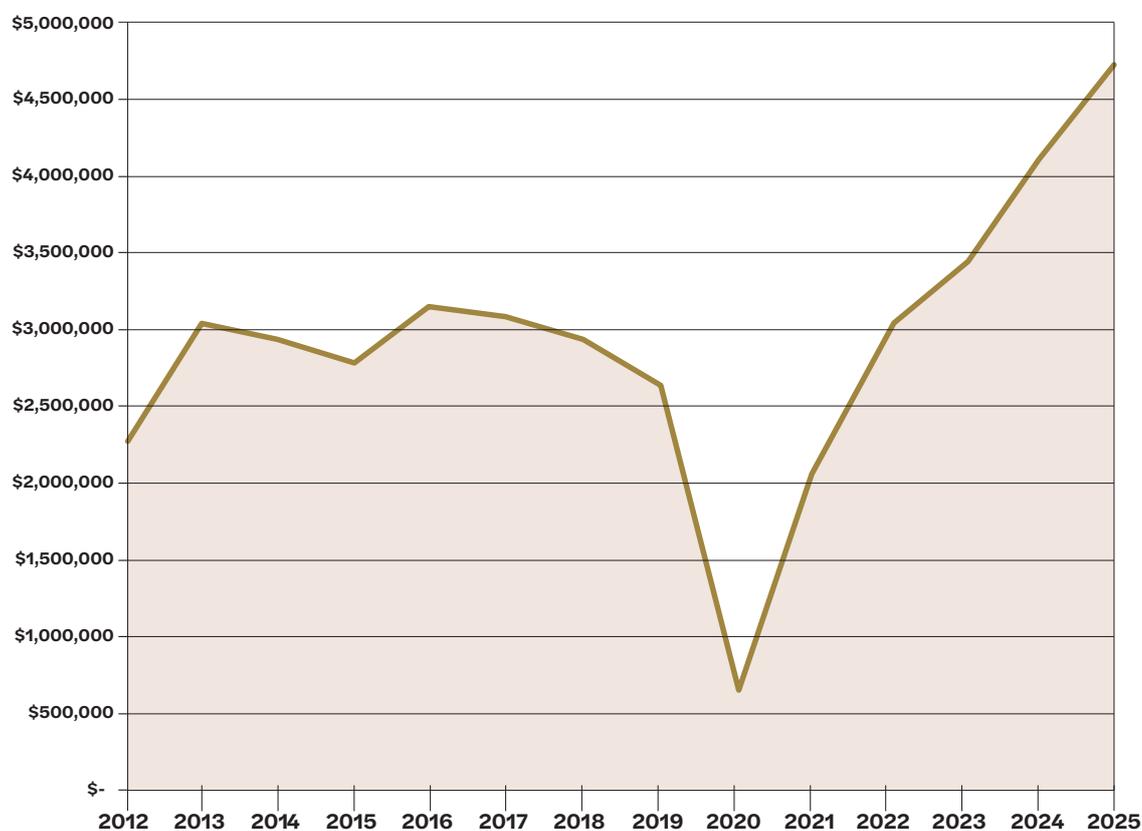
NOTE - EBITDAR represents **Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation, Amortisation and Rent**

EBITDA offers a clearer reflection of operations by stripping out expenses that can obscure how the company is really performing.

Interest and rent are ignored as they are a function of the financing model and not operational performance

Taxes are left out because they can vary widely depending on past performance leading to variations that can distort net income

Depreciation and amortization are removed due to the arbitrary and subjective judgments that can go into the calculation, such as useful lives, residual values and various depreciation methods



NB - Donations to the Patriotic Fund have been added back to the profit figure in the years they were recorded
 - 'Loan forgiven after related income tax expense' has not been included from 2002.

BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH

COMMUNITY BENEFIT STATEMENT

An Explanation

The largest expenditure in this report relates to the support provided to ANZAC House. The next most significant cost is Subsidised Meals. This amount largely reflects the cost of the free meal vouchers issued to members on their birthdays, together with the modest subsidy applied to seniors' meals, which is absorbed by the Sub-Branch.

The next highest expense was a donation to the Hawthorn RSL, achieved by covering the cost of trades to purchase and install new air conditioning and solar in their venue. This is followed by Room Hire, which represents the provision of rooms free of charge to in-house groups and various ex-military organisations.

Other listed expenditures include:

- ANZAC Day ceremony, including the Gun Fire Breakfast
- Funding provided to various community and veteran groups
- Taxi vouchers for members who are unable to drive or use public transport
- Gardening assistance for members who, due to age or health, are no longer able to maintain their gardens
- Production of the Box Hill RSL Newsletter, which keeps members informed of the latest club news

Should you have any questions regarding any item in this statement, please contact our Treasurer, **Lindsay Burke**.

2025

Veterans Room Hire

Anglo Boer War Study Group
305 Army Cadets
Airforce Cadets
Box Hill Legacy Widows
Naval Association
Navy League
NSAA
RAAFA
Region 1
RSL Victoria
Tour De V Centre
TPI Association
Vasey Care
Vietnam Veterans Association

Community Room Hire

Prostate Cancer Support Group
Box Hill Rotary
Gentlemen's Support Group
Scouts
Seniors Men's Discussion Group

Social Groups

Genealogy
Meditation
Movie Morning
Tai Chi Class
The Knitting Group

BOX HILL RSL SUB-BRANCH

COMMUNITY BENEFIT STATEMENT (CONT'D)

305 Army Cadets	\$15,363
401 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets	\$5,000
5/6 RVR Bravo Coy	\$5,000
ANZAC Day Dawn Service-ceremony & gun fire breakfast	\$22,268
ANZAC Day-Schools Program	\$13,844
Australian Navy Cadets	\$5,000
Australian Sports Foundation	\$505
Box Hill Academy Brass	\$6,000
Box Hill Burwood Rotary Club	\$300
Box Hill North Football Club	\$3,000
Box Hill RSL Air Force Sub Branch	\$1,000
Box Hill RSL Billiards & Snooker Section	\$2,378
Box Hill RSL Bowls Section	\$9,288
Box Hill RSL Darts Section	\$2,436
Box Hill RSL Day Club	\$4,000
Box Hill RSL Swimming Section	\$1,000
Box Hill RSL Womens Auxiliary	\$8,055
Box Hill Rugby Union Club	\$3,000
Children's Christmas Party	\$8,105
Commemorative Costs Other	\$12,327
Doreen RSL	\$2,300
Eastern Health	\$20,000
Everymans Welfare Service	\$1,000
Funeral Expenses/Wakes/Death Notices	\$1,750
Gardening Services Community	\$3,685
Gardening Services Veterans	\$600
Gallipoli Youth Cup	\$5,000
Hands off Foundation	\$1,100
Haircuts for veterans and others-male and female	\$11,640
Hawthorn RSL	\$74,050
Isolated Persons Programme	\$7,600
Kokoda Scholarship	\$7,000
Korea Veterans of Aust	\$6,321
League Support Fees	\$166,075
Legacy Widows	\$2,485
Medical Aids/Doctors-Community	\$70
Membership paid by RSL	\$760
Memorabilia	\$14,360
Miscellaneous Welfare	\$10,600
Mitcham Thunder Basketball Club	\$200
MLC	\$100
Movie Days	\$428
Naval Association	\$1,500
Newsletter Expenses-Scuttlebutt	\$29,349
NSAA-Whitehorse Sub Branch	\$10,500

Path of the Horse-Therapy Program	\$2,000
Pens for the Troops Organisation	\$105
Robert McCubbin Primary School	\$200
Presidents/Volunteers's Afternoon & Expenses	\$12,498
Region One	\$1,767
Remembrance Day Ceremony	\$8,110
Ringwood Highland Band	\$1,000
Room Hire (foregone Income)-Community	\$18,845
Room Hire-(foregone Income)-Veterans	\$33,479
Rotary Club of Mont Albert and Surrey Hills	\$500
Royal Victoria Regiment Association Inc	\$30,000
RSL Active	\$5,000
Scouts	\$450
Subsidised Meals-Community	\$82,611
Subsidised Meals-Veterans	\$12,541
Tai Chi Exercise Classes	\$3,570
TPI Eastern Suburbs	\$6,300
Transport for Community-Taxi Vouchers	\$8,935
Transport for Veterans-Taxi Vouchers	\$1,392
Tri Services Cadets	\$6,006
Trip-Race Day	\$1,070
Vasey RSL Care	\$30,000
Veterans For Fishing	\$2,000
Vietnam Veterans Association	\$9,788
Vietnam Veterans Day	\$6,899
TOTAL	\$791,408

Agency to RSL Vic Branch

Death Notices	\$6,201
ANZAC Day	\$3,310
Remembrance Day	\$2,265
Funeral Expenses	\$3,000
Gardening Service	\$11,743
Medical Expenses	\$340
Miscellaneous Welfare Costs	\$172
Transport for veterans and family-Taxi Vouchers	\$19,005
TOTAL	\$46,036

Volunteer Hours 22,966.50 @ \$20 per hour \$459,330

Grand Total **\$1,296,774**



BOX HILL RSL





BOX HILL RSL

