



BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS



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

ANZAC Day 2026

In the stillness of dawn on ANZAC Day, we gathered to honour the courage, mateship, and sacrifice of the Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women who have served our nations, and to remember those who have lost their lives in war, conflict, and peacekeeping operations. Sadly, far too many made the supreme sacrifice, and many more continue to live with the physical and mental wounds, as well as illness, that can follow service.

The crowd seems to grow each year. It is heartening to see such strong community appreciation for the sacrifices made by our veterans, sacrifices that have secured the freedoms we enjoy today. It was deeply moving to see so many local residents, young and old, come together in reflection and remembrance. The crowd stretched up the hill past the cenotaph, fading into the darkness, what I estimate to have been between three and four thousand people.

The Last Post has long marked the end of the day's duty, but in ceremonial services it carries a deeper meaning, a tribute to those who served and sacrificed.

As its final note fades into the morning air, followed by a minute's silence, both the Last Post and Reveille are a call to awaken in the next world for the fallen and summons for the living to return to duty, having paid their respects. It is a moment of renewal, honouring both memory and service. The Requiem then beautifully delivered this year by committee member Chris Gray to honour all Australians who have died or suffered in wars and armed conflicts.

Followed by a moving Dawn Service and Gunfire Breakfast, there were a few firsts for me this year. Having a rum in my coffee at 7am, apparently that means I am one of them now according to the veterans. I also learned to play Two-Up, a proud ANZAC Day tradition. It is not just about chance, but trust, presence and hope in a fair call. President John Haward and I had a bit of fun trying to outdo each other by betting on the coin toss, just some friendly competition to keep things lively. Needless to say, I came out ahead and took home more than John, so I'd like to thank him for his generous contribution. It was also a first for Arthur Merryweather (Senior Vice-President), who stepped in as a spinner during the game.



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Welfare Report.

For all welfare matters telephone: Faye Clark on 9897 6780



BOX HILL NEWS

Stories by Members for Members



VALE

lest we forget



Our best wishes are with those members who are, or have been in hospital since the last issue.

Patricia Keech

Phillip Kinnear – 3135646 CMF
Patricia Calabresi – Affiliate
Alwynne Fairweather – Affiliate
Ian Mitchell – Affiliate
Rene Caldwell – Affiliate

Leon Bloom – 127435 RAAF
John BrownBill - VX700285 3 RAR
Norma Yendall – Affiliate
Sylvia Stacey - Social
David Harrison - 1144738A

Members in Aged Care

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

ERIC DARBYSHIRE, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

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

NEVILLE FROSTICK, Livingstone Gardens, 39 Livingstone Road, Vermont

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

SHARLEE AND LLOYD GOSS, Bupa, 12 Burton Avenue Clayton

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

DOROTHY HOUSE, Estia 428 Scoresby Road, Knoxfield

BETTY ILLMAN, Arcare, 75 King Street, Templestowe

JAMES JAMIESON, Donvale Gardens, 300-304 Springvale Road, Donvale

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

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

GREG MCKIE, Box Hill Views, 48 Dorking Road, Box Hill

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

PATRICK O'BOYLE, Memarock, 982 High Street Road, Glen Waverley

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

FRED PIKE, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Avenue, Canterbury

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

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

MYRA SPENCER, Faversham House, 27 Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

JOAN WATERS, Bupa, 120-124 Maroondah Highway, Croydon

FREE MOVIES FOR MEMBERS Presented by Ray Wall

Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 10.30am

The Thursday, June 25, 2026 Movie will be **"The Gods Must Be Crazy."** The Gods Must Be Crazy" is a 1980 South African comedy rated PG, and running for 109 minutes.

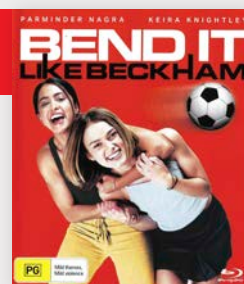
Synopsis: Set in Southern Africa, the film stars South West African San farmer N!xau #Toma as Xi, a hunter-gatherer of the Kalahari Desert whose tribe discovers a glass Coca-Cola bottle dropped from an aeroplane and believes it to be a gift from their gods.



Thursday, July 30, 2026 at 10.30am

The Thursday, July 30, 2026 Movie will be **"Bend It Like Beckham"**. Bend It Like Beckham" is a 2002 sports comedy-drama film directed by Gurinder Chadha. It is rated PG and runs for 112 minutes.

Synopsis: Jess Bhamra dreams of playing professional football, but her Sikh parents have plans for her: a law degree and a marriage. Jules, a white female striker, spots Jess playing football and invites her to join the local women's team.



CONTINUED //

ANZAC Day 2026

The service was brought vividly to life with the arrival of Sam Mac from Channel 7's Sunrise, whose crew joined us to broadcast the morning live. From the very first moments of the Gunfire Breakfast through to the final reflections at the cenotaph, they captured the spirit, pride, and community that define the ANZAC Dawn Service at Box Hill RSL.

The cameras followed the action as a lively game of Two-Up drew a crowd, and as members and their families shared stories that carried the true meaning of the day. There were lighter moments too, like a chat with the two Cheryls from our bowling section, while "Happy Jan" (very much living up to the name) kept everyone well fed at the BBQ.

As the crew made their way through the venue, they took time to admire the memorabilia, with Sam describing it as a remarkable museum where each piece reflects a story of service and sacrifice. The broadcast paid tribute to our veterans and acknowledged the dedication of committee members Steve Bennett (Vice President) and Chris Gray, recognising both their service and their role in preserving this legacy. It also highlighted the significance behind the medals they wore, sharing the stories each one represents.

The morning concluded with President John Haward speaking in front of the cenotaph, drawing attention to the heart of what we do, supporting veteran welfare, and the importance of educating future generations, including our efforts to transport school children to a special ANZAC service created just for them.

It was more than a broadcast; it was a powerful tribute to remembrance, community, and the enduring commitment to those who have served.

For the first time this year, we were honoured to welcome members of Bravo Company 5/6 RVR, who held vigil at the cenotaph, played the pipes during the wreath-laying ceremony, and delivered the ANZAC Memorial reading. The 305 Army Cadets also played an important role in attending to the flags. The service was further enriched by a wonderful musical performance from the Box Hill Academy Brass.

Overall, it was a truly successful day, made possible by so many people, the incredible dedication and support of our volunteers, staff, community groups, and family members who generously gave their time. We are immensely proud and deeply grateful for everything you contributed, and we can't thank you enough for your efforts.

Emi Luppino
Committee Member



2026 ANZAC SCHOOL CHILDREN SERVICE



We could not have asked for a more fitting day to commemorate the ANZAC School Children's Service, a day dedicated to honouring those who served for our freedom.

With 500 students, 40 teachers, and around 50 guests in attendance, the community came together to ensure that the next generation remembers.

- Remembers the sacrifice.
- Remembers the ANZAC spirit.
- Remembers what it truly means to serve.
- Through them, that legacy lives on.

The service was attended by Mayor Kirsten Langford, who addressed the children, alongside Vice-President of RSL Victoria, Lynn Mizen. Lynn's ANZAC address was both powerful and deeply moving, sharing a story of youth and determination that resonated strongly with students. She spoke about Private James Charles "Jim" Martin, widely recognised as the youngest known Australian soldier to die on active service, at just 14 years and 9 months old. Having enlisted at only 14 by lying about his age, his story is one of courage beyond his years. Lynn invited the audience to close their eyes and imagine his journey, a young boy not unlike many sitting before her. It was a moment that truly captured hearts.

Continuing the theme of youth, 14-year-old Eli Fernandez from the Box Hill Academy Brass delivered a moving bugle performance, while the Koonung Secondary School Choir beautifully performed the New Zealand and Australian National Anthems. We cannot forget the ongoing support from the young men and women of the 305 Army Cadets who carried out the formal military procedures of the service with meticulous precision.

The service was further enriched by the presence of Senior Sergeant Ron Sinclair from Box Hill Police Station, who played the pipes, and Ministry Assistant, Linh Dang from the Salvation Army, who led the Lord's Prayer.

Together with councillors, politicians, committee members, and RSL members, we shared a strong sense



Above: Children's Service guest speaker Lynn Mizen.



Children's Service - Committee with guest speaker Lynn Mizen (second left) and Richard Welch MP (second right).

of unity, national pride, and remembrance, honouring the fallen, acknowledging their sacrifice, and expressing our enduring gratitude for their service.

The manner in which all students respected every aspect of the service and conducted themselves throughout, augers well for the future of our community.

Thank you to John, our President, who did an outstanding job in dignifying the importance and memory of our ANZACs. And, to all the volunteers and staff from the RSL and Box Hill Rugby Club who did their part in making this day such a success, thank you.

Emi Luppino
Committee Member

RESULT OF 2026 COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

At the Annual General Meeting of the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch held on Sunday the 12th of April 2026, the results of the Committee elections were announced. The results were as follows:

John Haward was elected unopposed for the position of President, **Andrew Guest** was elected unopposed for the position of Secretary, and **Lindsay Burke** was elected unopposed for the position of Treasurer.

There were six candidates contesting four Committee person positions, and the four candidates elected were

Brian Tateson, Judy Coates, Emi Luppino and Chris Gray.

It should be noted that with the approval of the State Executive of the RSL, Lindsay Burke and Judy Coates volunteered to be elected for one-year terms (for this election only) instead of the normal two-year terms in order to restore the usual situation of having approximately half the committee elected each year.

Andrew Guest
Honorary Secretary

NAVAL ASSOCIATION TO HOST CRESWELL COMMEMORATIVE LUNCH AT BOX HILL RSL

The Creswell Oration began during Navy Week in March 2001 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Australian Navy and the life of Vice Admiral Sir William Rooke Creswell KCMG, KBE, the "Father of the Navy".

It was held during a two-course luncheon, organised each year by the Australian Navy Foundation Day Organising Committee (ANFDOC) and managed by the Navy League in Melbourne.

The Oration was usually delivered by a visiting senior Naval officer, and provided a chance for people associated with the Navy to enjoy fellowship over a meal at a suitable venue.

Regrettably COVID restrictions caused its cancellation from 2020-22 and although held at an alternative venue in 2023 and 2024, it lapsed in 2025 due to various factors, including timing clashes with other Navy Week activities, venue changes and speaker non-availability.

The ANFDOC has decided to reinvigorate awareness of Vice Admiral Creswell's career and important contribution to the formation of the Australian Navy by establishing an annual "Creswell Commemorative Lunch" in Melbourne on the anniversary of his birth.

This will be held in the Upton Room at the Box Hill RSL at 1200 on Monday 20 July 2026.

The Speaker will be Captain Andrew Mackinnon CSC RAN (Rtd), current President of the Naval Historical Society of Australia (Victoria Chapter), supported by Captain Rob Glanvill RAN (Rtd), current Victoria Chairman of the Naval Officers Association of Australia, as Master of Ceremonies.

On behalf of the ANFDOC, you are cordially invited to attend this lunch. Booking and payment details are contained in the attached Poster.

Joy Emmett
Secretary



Creswell Commemorative Lunch

Guest Speaker:

Captain Andrew Mackinnon CSC, RAN Rtd.
President Naval Historical Society
of Australia (Victoria Chapter)

TOPIC: "The Father of the Navy"

Master of Ceremonies Captain Rob Glanvill RAN, Rtd.

MONDAY 20TH JULY 2026

Box Hill RSL Upton Room 12pm
26/28 Nelson Road, Box Hill

2 course lunch with drinks at the bar

**TO BOOK
YOUR PLACE
\$35 PER
PERSON**

Naval Association of Australia
BSB: 633 000
Account: 132655515
Reference: *Your Name*

To register your attendance and all enquiries:
ronevans@live.com.au OR 0421 361 941

Proudly sponsored by:

**AUSTRALIAN NAVAL FOUNDATION DAY
ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

**CMDR. GRAEME
FURLONGER, RAN
RTD. PRESIDENT, NAVY
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
VIC TAS DIVISION**

**RON EVANS
PRESIDENT NAVAL
ASSOCIATION
OF AUSTRALIA -
VICTORIA SECTION**

**CAPT. ANDREW MACKINNON
CSC, RAN RTD. PRESIDENT,
NAVAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA
(VICTORIA CHAPTER)**

**CAPT. ROB GLANVILL
RAN RTD. CHAIRMAN VIC,
NAVAL OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA**

WHAT'S ON & WHEN

Keep informed about our latest scheduled activities!

GENEALOGY GROUP

1st Monday of the month from 10am-12 noon in the Poppy Room, with lunch in the bistro afterwards.

DAY CLUB

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

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

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

TAI CHI

Will be every Wednesday except school holidays from 15th July.

MENS DISCUSSION GROUP

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month, 2pm-4pm in the Sports Bar.

KNITTERS GROUP

Every Thursday 11.30am-1.30pm in the Sports Bar, with lunch in the bistro afterwards.

The knitting group will be celebrating **World Wide Knitting in Public Day** again this year on 13 June in the Lounge area. This global event encourages knitters to meet together in public spaces to share our passion, skills and creativity with the wider community. A donation basket will be available for anyone who would like to contribute yarn. Your generosity is always appreciated.

PROSTATE CANCER GROUP

Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9.30am in the Upton Room.

For more details on all groups, contact Faye in Welfare on 9897 6780

CONFETTI AND CHAOS

Ever been to a wedding and found yourself completely bored, watching everyone on their best behaviour? Well, on Saturday 9th May, around 60 members experienced anything but ordinary at the Confetti & Chaos dining experience, a surprise party celebrating the wedding of Will and Stacey.

Held in the Upton Room, the evening combined a brilliant dinner with an interactive comedy show packed full of laughter, improvisation, and complete chaos. Guests became part of the action, caught in the crossfire of a wildly entertaining and highly improvised performance.

Our very own Helen Jones from the Women's Auxiliary took centre stage as the dressmaker responsible for creating the bride's wedding gown. Two other ladies stepped into the roles of bridesmaids, while one gentleman became the unfortunate caterer of the wedding cake. Helen not only fully immersed herself in the experience, but also walked away a winner, receiving a \$200 gift card when her dessert arrived on the lucky plate.

What began as Will and Stacey's wedding reception quickly descended into hilarious pandemonium, with long-buried secrets exposed and uninvited, badly behaved family

members crashing the celebration. It was impossible not to fall in love with this brilliantly executed production, where Lynn and Ray host the surprise wedding reception of a lifetime for their daughter Stacey and future son-in-law, Will.

The two-hour performance delivered nonstop laughs, with four talented performers portraying nine outrageous characters, from an overly friendly mother-in-law and a wildcard best man to an Elton John impersonator, a self-obsessed, serial-blogging aunt, and a function manager sporting a thick Eastern European accent.

Without question, this would have to be the wildest wedding reception I have ever attended, in the very best possible way. Filled with hilarity, outrageous moments, and nonstop comedy, the evening had me laughing to tears from beginning to end. It was truly an unforgettable night.

Another fantastic event organised by our Event Manager, Bree Smith, along with the incredible hard work of the Box Hill RSL staff. Outstanding job all-around.

If you missed this fantastic event, don't worry, Box Hill RSL has secured another production from the same creators. Faulty Towers - The Dining Experience is coming on Saturday 1st August 2026. Don't miss your



Elton John impersonator with our Functions Manager, Bree



Helen Jones as the dressmaker who also won a lucky plate prize



The Bridal table

chance to enjoy another evening of chaos, laughter, and unforgettable entertainment.

Emi Luppino
Committee Member



A big thank you to all our volunteers who generously gave their time and energy to sell ANZAC badges this year.

Together we raised \$51,419.30.

We simply could not achieve this without your dedication and community spirit.

Your efforts make a real difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families.

DAY SECTION

Our March entertainer was Gavin Chatelier, a newcomer for our group at the RSL. He proved a real hit with everyone and sang a varied medley of songs with which we were familiar.

In April, Jeannine started her short talk by asking who had visited the Nicholas Building in the city. Surprisingly, no-one had done so. This Chicago-style skyscraper was built for a pharmaceuticals family and has recently celebrated its centenary. Designed by Harry Norris, it housed Melbourne's last manually operated lifts until 2012. It now houses a community of over 200 artists/studios and other independent enterprises. So, if you ever have a bit of time to spare, why not visit this Art Deco Heritage building on Swanston Street if only to see the impressive interior.

On 28th April, we welcomed another "new" entertainer called John Carlo Bellotti. Despite being Scottish (born in Glasgow to Scottish and Italian parents), our members had no difficulty in understanding him. John moved to Australia with his family in 2013 and settled on the Mornington Peninsula. He interacted frequently with the audience, and sang all styles of music. When he suddenly burst into an operatic song, everyone sat spell-bound and you could have heard a pin drop. He totally deserved the standing ovation - nobody has ever had that before! He had not divulged the fact that he trained as a professional Opera singer and has worked with the best orchestras in some of the best Opera houses around the world. Never has an entertainer been approached after a performance by so many of our members, to thank him for entertaining us.

At our first May meeting, I spoke about some fire and light festivals and traditions still celebrated in Scotland.

During winter there are not many daylight hours and it can be very cold. Hence, light and heat become very important. Children often must come to school just as it is becoming light and may be going home as darkness is falling. So much so that Prep children used to be issued with fluorescent armbands in Aberdeen.

"Up Helly Aa" is probably the most renowned of Scottish fire festivals, revisiting 800s AD when a group of Norsemen marched into a Shetland village bearing burning torches. Since the 1800s that same sight has been a source of jubilation and joy.

Since 1993 Edinburgh has had a torchlight procession through the Old Town, heralding the official beginning of Hogmanay (celebration of the New Year) on 29th or 30th December. Hogmanay remains the largest and most revered wintertime celebration in Scotland.

Stonehaven, just south of Aberdeen, has The Stonehaven Fireballs to ward off harmful spirits and literally to burn away the bad things accumulated throughout the previous year.

In Burghead, north-east Scotland, there is the burning of the Clavie, a cask split in two and filled with staves. Superstition has it that if you get a piece which breaks off, good luck will follow.

For details about joining our Section call:

Mary Simpson (Co-ordinator)
9077 9784

Allana Kirk (Secretary)
9819 3527

Future Dates:

**June 9 and 23; July 14 and 28;
August 11 and 25**


Mary Simpson
Co-ordinator


CHRISTMAS IN JULY
THE SOUND TRACK OF OUR LIVES
WITH DENIS WALTER

THURSDAY 23RD JULY
12 PM - 3 PM

Travel through the decades with hits from the '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s and today, all while Denis shares fascinating, hilarious stories from his 50+ years in showbiz

Lunch and show
\$70
per person

SCAN TO BOOK: 



★★★★★ SEE DAD EAT BROADWAY BABY

FAULTY TOWERS
Original
the Dining Experience

AUGUST 1ST UPTON ROOM
3 COURSE DINNER & INTERACTIVE SHOW
PRE-DRINKS 6:30PM · SHOW 7PM
DRINKS AT BAR PRICES

TICKETS \$100 PER PERSON

SCAN TO BOOK: 





Dorking Road ANZAC Service.



Helen Price at the Dorking Road ANZAC Service.



Guests at The Round.



Dorking Road ANZAC Service.



Dorking Road ANZAC Service.



Guests at The Round.

Women's Auxiliary

April is one of the busiest months for the Women's Auxiliary as we always support the Box Hill RSL Committee with all the events leading up to Anzac Day.

This year the Schools Anzac Day Service was held on Thursday 23rd April at 1.15pm at the Box Hill Gardens. Fortunately, it was a beautiful autumn day as approximately 600 children from a variety of schools attended. It was hectic getting the children from the buses that all seemed to arrive at the same time, down into the gardens and seated. I have never been to an event where the children were so polite and well behaved. They were a credit to their schools and parents.

Liz Mizen, Vice President of RSL Victoria addressed the children and asked them to close their eyes and then took them on a journey with a story of a 14-year-old boy who was the youngest soldier to be killed on active service. You could see them taking in every sentence and imagining themselves there. This is the way the memory of those who have served and gone before will never be forgotten.

On the 24th of April, myself, Rhonda Browne and National Serviceman, Noel Hatton attended Opal Care Community at Dorking Road for their Residents' Anzac Day Service.

Our Veterans who live there are very much part of this service and Alma D'Arcy, Helen Price and Father Bob all had a reading to do and makes them a part of the service.

Joy Jones' son, who had flown down from Queensland, attended the service with her.

Noel Hatton laid the wreath on behalf of the Box Hill RSL.

It was a lovely service and so good to catch up with so many residents.

THE ROUND

A group from the Women's Auxiliary attended the Round on April 22nd to see the Anzac Day Musical Show. First of

all, we had a huge morning tea, there was so much food and then we were entertained with songs mainly from the Second World War era. There was laughter and some tears, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Thanks to Therese for arranging a wonderful morning.

THE GUEST SPEAKERS

In March was Pelagia (Pela) Markogiannakas a member of the STEX RSL Vic and was an engineer in the Australian Navy. Her father's family came from Crete and decided to immigrate to Australia after he witnessed Australian and New Zealand soldiers in the battle of Crete.

Her career started at Williamstown Naval Yard removing asbestos.

They had to build a shower and toilet for her as she was a woman and there were no facilities for women back then.

Her career has been amazing: a Royal guard for the Bi-Centenary, at sea for six months as crew of the Tobruk, visited family in Crete for four days and was put in charge of all fit outs and repairs for the fleet, she had 70 ships in the fleet and had to learn to adapt, change and fit.

Also, she had to prepare three ships to go to the first Gulf War in five days. No one complained, they just did what was asked of them.

Pela was then made Comp de Aid to NSW Governor Peter Sinclair for two years, attending approximately 50 functions a week.

Pela then went into the corporate world with Shell, AGL, Tenix shipyards, Melbourne Airport, Vic Veterans Council and now the STEX role since 2003.

What an amazing woman and a job well done.

The Guest Speakers for April were Michelle Hagerty and Vicki DeSouza from FaPMI (Families where a Parent has a



March guest Speaker Pelagia (Pela) Markogiannakas with Judy Coates.

Mental Illness) who we have supported. They support families and parents of veterans who have mental illness. It is run by Eastern Health and supports kids' programs, mainly primary school age: a wellness program for kids struggling with mental illness and distress in their families where children have to take on added responsibilities that interfere with school etc.

They run a kids' club which provides socialisation and recreation with outings that give support and friendship to children who may not get this in their home. They have family days and outings; FaPMI is primarily funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Health.

It has been a very busy time for everyone in the Women's Auxiliary, and I would like to thank Maxine, Kaye and Carol who do such a good job month after month preparing the trading table and selling the goods. They help to bring quite a substantial amount of money into the club so we can support the Veterans and their families.

Winners of the Mother's Day Raffle are:

- 1st Prize:** Heather Robb
- 2nd Prize:** Josie Palmucci
- 3rd Prize:** Susan Jackson-Martin
- 4th Prize:** Dolly Robin
- 5th Prize:** Valerie Glenn

Thank you to all of those who supported us. The money goes towards helping the Veterans and their families.

Stay safe, happy, healthy and warm until next time.

Susan Sims
Vice President



Box Hill RSL Committee Members and Women's Auxiliary Committee Members.

FORTY YEARS OF THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Upton Room at Box Hill RSL was filled with laughter, friendship, and plenty of 1980's flair on Monday 25 May as the Women's Auxiliary proudly celebrated its 40th Birthday.

Members and guests gathered for the special milestone occasion, including President John Haward, Secretary Andrew Guest, Senior Vice-President Arthur Merryweather, Welfare Manager Faye Clark, and Cheryl Congram, Vice-President of the Women's Council. Together, they joined in celebrating four decades of dedication, camaraderie, and community spirit.

Adding a nostalgic touch to the festivities, members were encouraged to wear something from 40 years ago or arrive in true 1980s-inspired fashion. Bright colours, vintage outfits, and classic styles brought the era to life, while a fun photo quiz featuring pictures of members from past decades sparked plenty of smiles, stories, and good-natured guessing.

The quiz kept everyone entertained as they tried to identify familiar faces from years gone by. Table 2 — consisting of Susan, Rhonda, Chresley, Helen H, Doreen, Maxine, Mary P, Margaret, and Kaye — were declared the winners, correctly identifying 20 out of 23 photos.

The Auxiliary currently has 50 members, and special recognition was given to longest-serving member Joy Bate, who joined the Auxiliary in 1999.

As members reflected on 40 wonderful years together, the celebration highlighted the warmth, support, and sense of belonging that continue to make the Women's Auxiliary such a valued part of the Box Hill RSL community.



Above: Joy Bate attended the event, who is the longest serving member of the Women's Auxiliary.

Emi Luppino

Secretary / Treasurer, Women's Auxiliary



Above: Bowls Section Presentation Day.



Above: Lance Caldwell and Doreen Brooker presented with their Over 90 certificates.

Bowls Section

April has been a very busy month for the Bowls Section.

We attended the RSL Bowls Duke of Edinburgh Shield tournament on the weekend after Easter, but more about that elsewhere.

President/Presentation day was the following week. This is an acknowledgment of and thanks for, the great job our President, John Woodford, has done throughout the year.

We combine this with the presentations of trophies and money to the winners of our championship matches:

- **Men's Singles champion** was Russell Keast – Runner-up David Skinner;
- **Open Pairs winners** were Bob Jones and PT Desai with Robert Lam and Yoke Peng-Kong runners-up;
- **Mixed Pairs winners** were David Skinner and Kat Jones with Peter Houghton and Pam McCormack runners-up;
- **Arms winner** was Bob Jones with Alf Maglitto runner-up;
- **100-up winner** was Philip Johnson with Alf Maglitto runner-up; and
- **President's Cup winner** was Robert Lam with PT Desai runner-up.

Our Treasurer, Mal Hams, was announced to be receiving his "OBE" badge ...Over Bloody Eighty.!!! It's actually the "Super Veterans" badge, but we prefer the OBE.

Also we presented two of our bowlers with an Over 90 certificate. No acronym for them...as yet! We are so proud we have these tough people, Doreen Brooker and Lance Caldwell, who are still playing like teenagers.

Prior to Anzac Day the bowls section manned our badge-selling table outside Coles at Belmore Rd, Balwyn East. We had a successful 10 days of selling the Anzac badges, and a lot of hilarity watching people park their cars.

Anzac Day was attended by many bowlers, as well as several of us helping with the service, such as presenting a wreath and cooking snags for the two-up players. As



well, we had a few ladies "starring" on Channel 7's Sunrise program with Sam Mac at the barbecue. What a fabulous promotion the whole day was for not only our bowls section, but the entire Box Hill Sub-Branch.

We held our AGM in early May and our management committee is still the same as they are half way through their two-year term. Most of our sub-committee positions were filled and we thank our members who are prepared to put up their hands to do a necessary job so that we can continue to thrive. However, the Selection positions are vacant. These positions need to be filled if we are to play Pennant, so fingers crossed we will have some takers shortly.

Our winter social days on Wednesday and Saturday with our neighbouring clubs, Blackburn North and Mitcham, are being enjoyed by approximately 40-plus players each week. The rotation around each club is giving us great experience of playing on the different surfaces.

We are now preparing for our charity MND day. This is held in conjunction with the Big Freeze footy day. All money collected on the day from playing, food and raffles from the three clubs are presented to the Neale Daniher Fight MND charity as a donation.

Some of our members will be heading off on holidays shortly. Safe travels, stay healthy, and keep warm...or cool.

Cheryl Frail
Vice Chairperson

71ST RSL VICTORIA DUKE OF EDINBURGH SHIELD BOWLS COMPETITION

The Duke of Edinburgh Shield is a prestigious annual lawn bowls tournament for the Returned Services League (RSL) Victoria community. More than 1,600 bowlers in 92 teams compete across 16 regional locations across Victoria and border NSW. This year it was held on the weekend of April 11–12.

Originally established in 1955 to support WWII ex-servicemen, the Shield competition has fostered camaraderie in a friendly sporting environment for 71 years. That is still the same ethos today and the tournament is stronger than ever. Now, this friendly lawn bowls competition is more than just a game; it is a much-anticipated annual tradition that brings the RSL community together, fosters camaraderie, and promotes a healthy and active lifestyle. The competition is a major fixture on the Victorian RSL calendar.

Box Hill RSL has competed in this competition at least since the 1970s but maybe earlier. A record in our archives lists our sub-Branch as winners of their section in 1979 and 2002.



Although initially for ex-servicemen, the competition now incorporates both men and women service and affiliate RSL members who are bowlers and selected to represent their sub-branch.

Box Hill RSL Bowls Section travelled to Deniliquin in New South Wales for this year's competition. We played five games over the two days against teams representing sub-branches from Kyabram, Deniliquin, Colac, Sale and Shepparton. The bowls is of exceptional standard including bowlers who play Premier League and also represent Victoria. This provides a big challenge to those who participate. Although we lost more games than we won, we enjoyed the competition and the challenge of the games. Kyabram RSL won the sectional pennant for play at Deniliquin. Over the 16 venues a state winner is decided on games won and percentage margin and this year it was Bairnsdale RSL first side who took out the honours.



Top: Deniliquin RSL with visiting bowlers.

Above: Box Hill RSL Duke of Edinburgh Shield Team.

The weekend was not all just about the bowling, but the excellent camaraderie formed by the whole group who travelled and with our opposition and host club members, both on and off the green.

Jan Durham

Chair, Box Hill RSL Bowls Section

NSAA HONOUR ONE OF THEIR OWN

One of our longtime members at **Box Hill RSL** has recently been awarded a **Barry Vicary Fellowship** by the **National Servicemen's Association of Australia (the NSAA)**. Barry Vicary was the founder of the NSAA in 1987. The fellowship recognises outstanding service and commitment to the Association at many levels. Nominees are considered and voted on by the NSAA National Council which has representation from all Australian states.

The latest recipient is **Peter Norman**, who will be well known to many of you around the Box Hill RSL, often

seen with his Nasho mates from the **Whitehorse SubBranch**, which is proudly headquartered at Box Hill RSL.

Peter served as a committee member of the Box Hill SubBranch for over 15 years and has held a number of significant leadership roles within the wider NSAA. Concurrently, he undertook the roles of **State Membership Officer**, followed by Victorian **State Secretary** and as National **Secretary** since 2023.

Peter's longstanding dedication and service to the NSAA make this recognition thoroughly well deserved.



Only 13 fellowships have been awarded in the 39-year history of the Association and only three from Victoria.

Faye Clark

Welfare and Wellbeing Manager

FRIDAY NIGHT MEMBERS RAFFLE *All Welcome!*

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

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

AUSTRALIA HONOURS RICHARD NORDEN VC.

On the 14th May 2026 (the anniversary of the battle of Coral-Balmoral) an important event took place in the NSW Countryside of Gundagai, and that was the unveiling of a statue of our latest VC recipient Private Richard Norden VC. The memorial features a striking bronze statue depicting Private Norden rescuing his Section Commander, Joe Kelly, under intense enemy fire during fighting in May 1968.

Box Hill Vietnam Veterans was represented by Jim Archbold MM, and after talking with Jim, he has filled us in on the event:

The Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, who presided over the ceremony to invest the late Private Norden with the Victoria Cross in Rockhampton in July 2025, attended the Gundagai commemoration and delivered the keynote address. Also present were past Governor Generals, the Honourable General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK AC (Mil) CVO MC (Ret) and His Excellency the Honorable General David Hurley AC CVO DSC (Retd). Richard's family were also present, and, hundreds of current and ex-service military, and hundreds of children from the local schools.

As many of us might not be aware, Private Richard Norden VC received his Victoria Cross during the battles of Coral and Balmoral in South Vietnam 1968. The Governor General also thanked all the representatives of Gundagai RSL and Cootamundra, Gundagai Regional Council for their commitment to realising this work to recognise Richard Norden VC.

For all those who are interested in Richard Norden VC, there are framed photos and medals in the Vietnam Gallery on the



first floor near the deck. I can also tell you, that all Vietnam Veterans are so proud to have another veteran from South Vietnam, as a VC. Coral-Balmoral was the largest battle Australian soldiers fought in during the Vietnam War, and I have to say the most costly in the lives lost.

Brian Tateson
Curator of Memorabilia