

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2026 ISSUE: #278

26 Nelson Rd, Box Hill 3128 | T: 03 9897 6700 | W: boxhillrsl.com.au



BOXHILLRSL

BOX HILL NEWS



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

18 August 1966: 60 Years On

18 August holds deep meaning for our veterans. It marks the 60th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, a day that demonstrated extraordinary courage, mateship and sacrifice. Each year, it provides an opportunity for Australia to come together to honour those who served in Vietnam.

The Battle of Long Tan was one of the major battles of the Vietnam War. In just a matter of hours, 18 young Australian lives were lost. On Vietnam Veterans Day, we remember not only those who made the ultimate sacrifice, but all who served and returned home carrying the physical and emotional scars of war.

We honour all the veterans for their service, their injuries and their enduring strength. Some came home without visible wounds yet carried scars that could not be seen, and many faced a difficult homecoming. Your courage, your sacrifice and your mateship will never be forgotten.

We could not have asked for a better day for this years' service, with the sun shining as more than 200 people gathered to reflect and pay their respects. A replica of the Long Tan Cross stood proudly in front of the Cenotaph, providing a powerful symbol of remembrance.

The President of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (Box Hill Sub-Branch), Bill Waterman, served as MC for the day. He introduced Robert Webster OAM, who shared his personal journey as a Vietnam veteran and provided important statistics and reflections on the war. We were also pleased to have Box Hill RSL President John Haward recite the Ode.

SAVE THE DATE: NOTICE OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that an Ordinary General Meeting of the Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch will be held as follows:

Date: Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Time: 6:00pm (immediately following Stand To)

Venue: Upton Room, Box Hill RSL, 26 Nelson Road, Box Hill, Victoria

Further details, including the meeting agenda, will be circulated to members on **Friday, 16 October 2026.**

Members are encouraged to save the date and attend.

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The 305 Army Cadet Unit formed the Catafalque Party, and we were fortunate to have singer Tiger Rose perform I Was Only Nineteen, as well as the New Zealand National Anthem, performed in both Māori and English, and the Australian National Anthem.

Welfare & Wellbeing SERVICES REPORT

For all welfare and wellbeing 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

Beverley Verity
Affiliate

Members in Aged Care

PAT CARTER,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

LOIS COMERFORD,
Faversham House, 27
Shierlaw Ave, Canterbury

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,
Vermont Views, 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 rd. Box Hill

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

ARTHUR OWEN,
Vermont Views, 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 29th October,
2026 at 10.30am

The Thursday, October 29, 2026 Movie will be **"The Mouse That Roared."** "The Mouse That Roared" is a 1959 British satirical comedy film on a Ban the Bomb theme, It is rated PG and runs for 80 minutes.

Synopsis: A tiny, impoverished European nation declares war on the United States of America, planning to lose in order to collect post-war compensation, but things don't go according to plan.



Thursday 26th November,
2026 at 10.30am

The Thursday, November 26, 2026 Movie will be **"Hidden Figures"**. "Hidden Figures" is a 2016 American biographical drama film about three female African-American mathematicians who worked at NASA during the Space Race in the 1950s and 1960s. It is Rated PG and runs for 127 minutes.

Synopsis: Three female African-American mathematicians play a pivotal role in astronaut John Glenn's launch into orbit while dealing with racial and gender discrimination.





18 AUGUST 1966: 60 YEARS ON

During the wreath-laying ceremony, we were privileged to hear from Piper Sgt Steve Iverson and Bugler MUSN Andrew Gordon later played the Last Post and the Rouse.

A particularly significant part of the service was welcoming David Sabben MG/MiD, from the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR), who, alongside Paul Beraldo, laid a wreath. Bruce Wilson also laid a wreath on behalf of the 85 Transport Platoon, RAASC (Vietnam), with members travelling from interstate to attend our service. We were pleased to have representation from members of the three arms of the defence forces, Civilian Medial Teams, Victoria Police, Salvation Army, Vietnamese Museum Australia, politicians and councillors. And we thank St John Ambulance for being on hand.

In conclusion, Bill reminded everyone that days such as this do not simply happen. They are made possible through the hard work and dedication of many people behind the scenes. He thanked committee members Emi Luppino, Judy Coates and Lindsay Burke for their tireless coordination, as well as the Box Hill RSL for its ongoing support. And many thanks to St John Ambulance for always being on hand.

Following the service, everyone adjourned to the Box Hill RSL Upton Room for refreshments and, of course, the opportunity to share stories and the occasional tale about their time in Vietnam. A special thank you goes to Bree and her staff.

The service continues to grow each year, with increasing numbers of veterans, not only Vietnam veterans, and some also travelling from other Sub-Branches to join us in remembering and honouring those who served.

We Will Remember Them All.

Emi Luppino
Committee Member

Photos by Simon Peter Fox Photography





VVAA BLACK TIE DINNER 2026

The evening began in style as guests gathered at Box Hill RSL to celebrate the **21st Anniversary of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) Black Tie Dinner**. Guests enjoyed pre-dinner drinks and delicious canapés in the Lancaster Bar, catching up with friends and fellow veterans and setting the scene for a wonderful evening.

Guests then made their way into the Upton Room for the main proceedings, where the evening continued with a special presentation by guest speaker Matt Anderson PSM, Director and CEO of the Australian War Memorial.

VVAA President and Master of Ceremonies, Bill Waterman, welcomed everyone and invited John Haward to recite the "Ode". Bill then acknowledged the evening's special guests, including David Sabben MG MiD and Gabriel Ng MP.

Bill also gave special thanks to Brian Tateson, who has been instrumental in organising the Black-Tie Dinners over many years. Unfortunately, Brian was unable to attend due to ill health. His contribution was warmly acknowledged, with everyone wishing him well and letting him know that he was very much in our thoughts.

Following the main course, Bill introduced Major Steven Bennett, who delivered a stirring and fitting introduction to Matt Anderson PSM.

Matt Anderson became Director of the Australian War Memorial in April 2020, succeeding Brendan Nelson. The interesting thing about Matt is that

he didn't come to the Australian War Memorial as a museum professional.

His background was quite unusual for a museum director. He graduated from **Royal Military College, Duntroon**, in 1988 and served as an Army officer with the Royal Australian Engineers. He subsequently joined **DFAT as a graduate in 1995**. He became a senior diplomat, serving as High Commissioner to Samoa and the Solomon Islands and later **Ambassador to Afghanistan**.

From 2016–2020 he was **Deputy High Commissioner to the United Kingdom**. He also led Australia's **MH17 Task Force** in 2014 and had previously led the humanitarian and consular response to the 2009 Pacific tsunami. He received the **Public Service Medal (PSM)** for that tsunami response.

When Matt arrived at the Memorial in 2020, plans were already well advanced for a major redevelopment. He publicly defended the approximately **\$500 million expansion**, arguing that the Memorial needed to better tell the stories of veterans of Australia's more recent conflicts, particularly Afghanistan and Iraq. He subsequently oversaw the redevelopment through some of its most challenging stages and ultimately its delivery.

Matt spoke about the major changes, including the huge new **Anzac Hall**, which significantly expands the Memorial's exhibition space and provides room for important stories that previously had little or no space. The redevelopment also includes a

completely new main entrance and redesigned galleries.

New galleries covering **Afghanistan, Peacekeeping and the Middle East**, alongside redesigned Second World War displays, are a major part of the redevelopment. This was particularly significant for Matt, given his own experience as Ambassador to Afghanistan.

Throughout his presentation, Matt repeatedly emphasised a simple but powerful message: **the Memorial is not about the objects; it is about the stories**.

Following a fascinating and insightful presentation, Bill Waterman presented Matt with a gift.

Before the evening concluded with cheese and port, special guest David Sabben MG MiD gifted two copies of his book **Mentions in Despatches** which Bill presented to Herman Harberts and Jim Archbold MM, recognising their tireless work behind the scenes as members of the VVAA.

It was a fitting conclusion to another memorable VVAA Black Tie Dinner, bringing together veterans, friends and supporters for an evening of camaraderie, remembrance and reflection.

Emi Luppino

Box Hill RSL Committee Member on behalf of VVAA

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Dear Members,

The next few months are always a busy and enjoyable time at the Club, with plenty happening as we head towards the Christmas and festive season. It's also a great time to catch up with friends, family and colleagues so make sure you book early as tables are filling fast.

We have plenty to look forward to over the coming months. Oktoberfest was a huge success, and for those who missed out, the good news is that it will be back in 2027, so keep the Lederhosen handy for next year!

Coming up, we have an evening with former Homicide Squad Detective Charlie Bezzina on Wednesday 14 October, followed by our annual Oaks Day event on Thursday 5 November. We will also be celebrating Halloween on 31st October with our 3rd annual staff dress up, why not come and enjoy the fun as well.

From 12 October through to 16 November, I encourage all members and guests to take advantage of the Shane Warne Legacy Health Check Kiosk, which will be in the Library. The kiosk provides a free, quick and easy self-serve health check, giving you instant information on a range of important health measures. We're pleased to be able to offer this initiative and hope as many people as possible take the opportunity to use it while it is here.

Another important date for your diary is our Ordinary General Meeting, which will be held on Wednesday 4 November at 6.00pm in the Upton Room. Further information regarding this meeting will be provided to members on 16 October.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts through our recent Member Experience Survey. Your feedback is important to us and helps shape how we continue to improve your experience at the club. You told us you would like to see more variety, more regular specials and more promotions, and we are already working on some exciting additions. A new summer menu is coming soon, along with fresh daily specials and a greater range of themed cocktails and drink offers throughout the club. We will also be introducing more regular and enhanced member promotions through our entry kiosks. So, don't forget to swipe your membership card each time you visit, there will be even more reasons to do so!

Looking a little further ahead, I'm also pleased to share an exciting project planned for 2027, the upgrade and enhancement of our upstairs bar and deck. The aim is to make much better use of this fantastic space and create a more relaxed and inviting casual dining and bar experience that members and guests can enjoy more regularly.

As with any project of this size, there will be some disruption while the work is underway. At this stage, we expect the upstairs deck to be closed during February and March 2027. During this period, we'll continue to offer pizzas and drinks every Friday from 4.00pm on the outside terrace, so our regular Friday patrons can continue to enjoy their usual catch up at the Club.

There is plenty happening over the coming months, and I look forward to seeing many of you around the Club.

Warm regards,

Ben Myers
General Manager



**HOMICIDE
UNTOLD**

An evening with Former
Homicide Squad Detective
CHARLIE BEZZINA
Media Commentator & Author

**WED
14TH OCT**

DOORS
OPEN 7PM
SHOW STARTS
7:30PM

**TICKETS
\$40**

As some content
may contain
graphic details,
this is an
18+ ONLY show

A familiar voice on 3AW and regularly featuring on various media outlets, podcasts and documentaries, former Homicide Squad team leader Charlie Bezzina shares his first-hand insights into some of Victoria's most complex investigations over his 17 years at the squad.

**Featuring the murder of underworld figure
Alphonse Gangitano.**

BOX HILL RSL (03) 9897 6700
www.boxhillrsl.com.au



OAKS DAY

AT BOX HILL RSL

5th November | 12:30pm – 5:30pm

**\$95
per person**

3 course lunch
Live entertainment
Sweeps and prizes to be won
Glass of Champagne on arrival
Fashions on the field

**SCAN TO
BOOK:**



BOX HILL RSL (03) 9897 6700
www.boxhillrsl.com.au

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 at 10.30am in the Upton Room.

TAI CHI:

has been suspended for a short time due to renovations in the Sports Bar and will be returning the 1st Wednesday in September at 1pm.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY:

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

PROSTATE CANCER GROUP:

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

MENS DISCUSSION GROUP:

Meets 2nd Thursday of the Month, 2pm-4pm in August in the Poppy Room and from September onwards in the Sports Bar.

This group provides an opportunity for men, over the age of 60, who may have retired, feel at a loss, or simply want some male company to meet one another in a small and friendly chat group.

KNITTERS GROUP:

Every Thursday 11.30 am in the Poppy Room until the Sports Bar renovations are completed.

The meetings allow men to talk about their interests, hear about what is happening locally for seniors and share their thoughts on an interesting topic. All with a focus on wellbeing of the participant with principles that include, respect, acceptance and confidentiality. It also has a non-political, religious, and racial basis.

YOGA: Free Nine-Week Yoga Program will be held every Wednesday evening from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, commencing on 21 October 2026 and concluding on 9 December 2026. Bookings are essential and can be made through Welfare.

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

BOX HILL RSL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 2026

Once again, the Box Hill RSL Children's Christmas Party is coming up!

Join us on **Sunday, 6 December 2026, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm** in the **Upton Room** for a fun-filled morning of Christmas entertainment.

A SPECIAL VISIT FROM SANTA

Santa will arrive at **12 noon** to meet the children and hand out their presents and Christmas lollies.

The party and Santa's gifts are for **children up to 11 years of age**. Older children are very welcome to attend with a carer and enjoy all the festivities.

There will be plenty of entertainment for everyone, including:

- Christmas show
- Face painting
- Bubble Fairy
- Magician
- Balloon entertainment
- Jumping castle
- Ice creams
- And lots more!

Food will be provided, primarily for the children. **Soft drinks will be available free of charge** to all attendees, while other beverages can be purchased from the bar at regular prices.

REGISTRATION & PRESENTS

To help us manage the number of adults and children attending, **please register your group in advance** by:

- Calling Reception on 9897 6700, or
- Emailing reception@boxhillrsl.com.au

Please provide the **names and number of adults and children** attending with your group.

For Santa's presents, please deliver your child's gift to Reception **no later than Saturday 28th November**. Gifts should be:

- Clearly labelled with the child's **first and last name, in block letters**
- Make sure it is well wrapped
- A reasonable size, not too big, please

ON THE DAY

Please park on **Level B2** of the car park and enter the RSL via the **Upton Room entrance through the B2 car park**

Please do not attempt to enter via the ground-floor Reception entrance, as this will be locked until **11:00 am**, when the RSL opens.

CHILD SUPERVISION

Children must be **supervised by a responsible adult at all times**, including when they are going to or from the bathrooms.

Please contact our Welfare Department on 9897 6780 or 9897 6732 if you have any questions regarding this function.

For catering purposes, please let us know as soon as possible whether you will be attending and provide details of any dietary requirements or allergies your child may have

FREE NINE-WEEK YOGA PROGRAM AT BHRSL

Take some time for yourself and enjoy the physical and mental benefits of yoga with our free evening program at BHRSL.

Led by experienced instructor **Geri Griffiths**, these welcoming sessions are suitable for people looking to improve their flexibility, balance and strength while reducing stress and supporting their overall wellbeing. Whether you have practised yoga before or are completely new to it, you are encouraged to participate and progress at your own pace.

Sessions will be held at **BHRSL every Wednesday evening from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm**, commencing on **21 October 2026** and concluding on **9 December 2026**.

The program is completely free, but places may be limited, so early booking is recommended. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a yoga mat and water bottle.

Bookings are essential and can be made through BHRSL Welfare 9897 6780.



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

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2026

The traditional Remembrance Day Wreath Laying Ceremony and One Minute Silence will be held at the First World War Memorial, Box Hill Gardens, Shipley Street, Box Hill at 10.30am on Wednesday 11th November 2026. All members are urged to attend this important Service.

POPPY BADGES ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT RECEPTION

THE POPPY LEGEND

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

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR POPPY APPEAL

We need just a few hours of your time to sell badges at Box Hill Centro – between:
Tuesday 27th October and Tuesday 10th November

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

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

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

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

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

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



Please find enclosed \$ being my/our donation towards the 2026 Poppy Appeal.

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

Name on Card:

Membership No:

Card Type:

☐

Mastercard

☐

Visa

Card Number:

Expiry Date:

Signature:

Donations can also be made online at www.boxhillrsl.com.au until 11th November 2026

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

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY — MAKING THE MOST OF WINTER

There's always something to look forward to when we get together! From fascinating speakers and enjoyable outings to our popular raffles, the past few months had plenty in store.

Firstly, we were deeply saddened to hear that one of our members, Marcia Cartright, lost her battle with cancer and sadly passed away on 4 August. Our heartfelt thoughts and condolences are with Marcia's family and loved ones during this very difficult time.

As mentioned in our previous update, several of our members have not been travelling well and continue to face health challenges as they battle through. Our thoughts are with each of them, and we wish them all a speedy and full recovery.

We must be doing something right! Our Auxiliary has welcomed three new members over the past couple of months. We are delighted to welcome Barb McPhee, Glenys Pickup, and Cheryl Frail, and we will endeavour to make their time in the auxiliary as interesting and enjoyable as possible.



Our July speakers were introduced by Stuart Stephens, a member of the RSL who, through his work, has connections with many members of the medical profession.

Stuart was fortunate to secure **Associate Professor Raphael Hau**, an **Orthopaedic Surgeon specialising in hip and knee surgery** at Box Hill Hospital, Eastern Health and Adeney Private Hospital, and **Yolanna Lee**, a **Physiotherapist from Kieser Mont Albert**, as our July speakers.

Both speakers provided informative and engaging presentations on joint pain and joint replacement, topics that resonated with many of those in the room and I would imagine the broader RSL family.



Osteoarthritis is common. One in three people get it. Prof. Raphael's talk covered, non-surgical options, physiotherapy being useful, injections, radiofrequency ablation, joint and knee replacement and the results that follow these treatments.

Yolanna spoke about hip and knee osteoarthritis, physiotherapy-led strengthening. Over 2 million Australians are living with osteoarthritis. The Problem: Underloaded, Unguided Rehab; Bodyweight vs Loaded Strength Training; Rehab vs Rehab; Why do we lose muscle? Realities of rehab/prehab; First-line Treatment for osteoarthritis; The Role of Prehabilitation; Exercise – What works; and take-home hits. It was a topic that most would like to hear more about.

In August we heard from **Rob Olifiers** a volunteer from the **Whitehorse State Emergency Service (SES)**.

Whitehorse SES is one of Victoria's largest and busiest units, with around 80 volunteers aged 26–80. The unit responds to approximately 800–1,400 callouts each year, mainly for storms, fallen trees, traffic hazards and damage to homes and vehicles. Search and rescue is the second most common type of callout, often involving large teams working with Victoria Police and other emergency services.

Rob emphasised the importance of every household having an Emergency Plan Kit containing essential and precious items in a box or bag that can be quickly collected during an evacuation.

He also discussed the Unit's temporary Operations Centre in Blackburn, which has needed major improvements for almost 30 years. Although supported by Whitehorse Council, Bendigo Bank and Bunnings, further State Government funding is still needed.

SES volunteers spend around 50% of their time training, 35% responding to incidents and 6% on community education, helping ensure they are prepared to support the community during emergencies.

Bus Trip to Portarlington - One of the many things that makes Box Hill RSL so special is the way it brings people together, and the bus trip to Portarlington was a perfect example of that community spirit in action.

Members from across so many sections of our RSL, including the Nashos, TPI, Bowlers, Day Section, Women's Auxiliary, Knitters, Newsletter Mailout volunteers, and

Friday Night Raffle group, came together to share a day of friendship, laughter and connection. It was heartwarming to see 45 members enjoying each other's company, strengthening the friendships that make our club such a welcoming place.

Despite the rain, cold and windy weather, spirits remained high as we departed the RSL at 8.15am. In the reliable hands of our attentive bus driver, John, we travelled safely to Docklands, where we boarded the ferry to Portarlington. While members relaxed and enjoyed the journey across the bay, John expertly navigated the peak morning traffic to meet us on the other side.



A delicious lunch at the Portarlington Golf Club was enjoyed by all before the afternoon raffle brought even more smiles. There was no better way for our much-loved Women's Auxiliary member, Eril Browne, to celebrate her 94th birthday than by sharing the day with friends and taking home first prize, a \$50 Box Hill RSL Gift Voucher. Congratulations also to Marilyn Vella, who won second prize a \$30 Box Hill RSL Gift Voucher, and Val Ziggos, who received the ever-popular Mandy bag.

Days like these are a reminder of what being a member of Box Hill RSL is all about. Beyond the outings and activities, it's the genuine care, friendship, and sense of belonging that make our RSL such a special place. Bringing veterans, their families and our members together is at the heart of everything we do, creating lasting memories while supporting each other's wellbeing every step of the way. The perfect ending to the day was a picturesque view of the Geelong Marina.

Lastly, our **Father's Day Raffle** was drawn on Friday 4th September, and I would like to congratulate the following winners:

1st Prize: Paul Carroll

2nd Prize: Graeme Edgoose

3rd Prize: Marge from Friday night raffle

4th Prize: Kerrie Sheldon

5th Prize: Heather Smith

We are pleased to announce that we collected \$2,086.35 in ticket sales and after expenses raised \$1,944.80 to support our veterans and their families.



We understand that times can be challenging for many, which makes the wonderful response from the members and patrons of the Box Hill RSL who supported our raffle even more meaningful. We are truly grateful to everyone who participated and helped make this fundraiser such a success. **Thank you for your generosity and continued support.**

Emi Luppino

Women's Auxiliary Secretary and Treasurer

BOWLS SECTION

The Bowls Section has been busy in preparation for our new pennant season which begins on October 17 for Saturday pennant and October 20 for Tuesday pennant.

Some renovation work has taken place on the eastern and southern sides of the green to re-screed these sections and relay the underfelt and carpet.



New rink markers have been installed to make the edges around the green free of items on the bank.



Our new line marker has been put to good use doing new markings on the green following the relaying of the carpet.



With many members returning from their winter time away, we have now returned to social bowls on Thursday morning and are gearing up for practice matches against Bennettswood Bowling Club and our annual Kieser Challenge against Blackburn North Bowling Club.



The Bowls Section also offers Corporate and Barefoot Bowls opportunities for groups and organisations in the Box Hill area. If you are interested in organising a Christmas or work get-together on our green please enquire at reception for details.

MEMBERS RACE DAY AT KILMORE

On Monday 28 September members took the opportunity to join the bus trip for the Race Day at Kilmore Racing Club. The day was organised by Les Davis, former RSL employee, who has returned to this duty following his retirement earlier this year and it was great to see Les looking so good.



It was a most enjoyable day where we were looked after very well by the Racing Club with a delightful lunch of two courses and then treated to scones, jam and cream for afternoon tea before our journey home. Many of us took on the task of picking the winners of each race, with mixed results, and others took the opportunity to walk to the wonderful facilities there to take a look at their favourite horses up close. We even had Race 5 named after us - the Box Hill RSL Class 1 Handicap. Les ensures us he is going to organise another one in the near future and it is a very entertaining day to attend.

Jan Durham

Editor, Box Hill News

GOODBYE GEOFF AND NEIL

In late July, we had a Goodbye lunch for Geoff Smith and Neil Brown our two valued Pension Officers, who have dedicated over twenty years to the welfare of our veterans and war widows.

Geoff has served as a Volunteer Pension Officer since 2009, dedicating one day each week to assisting veterans, war widows and members with Service, Aged, Disability and War Widow pension matters. His patience, compassion and advocacy have helped countless people navigate complex applications and access the support they deserve. Geoff has also willingly supported wider RSL activities, including the Isolated Persons' Lunch.

Neil has likewise made an enormous contribution over many years. Since joining the RSL in the early 1990s, he has been instrumental in organising the newsletter distribution system and was the chief coordinator until recently. Since joining the Pension Office in 2002, Neil has maintained files, prepared statistics and helped ensure the office operates smoothly. Often the first friendly face greeting veterans and war widows, his warmth and compassion have made a lasting impression.

Neil has also established the Gardening Group, visited isolated veterans and played a major role in the successful Isolated Persons' Days, helping elderly veterans and war widows enjoy these important occasions.



Both Geoff and Neil represent the very best of volunteering — quietly getting on with the job, always willing to help and putting the needs of veterans and members first. Both received well deserved 'Volunteer of the Year' awards, Neil in 2002 and Geoff in 2017.

They will be greatly missed by all of us as their decades of dedicated service have made an enduring contribution to Box Hill RSL and the wider veteran community.

Faye Clark

Welfare and Wellbeing Manager

THE DARTS SECTION - A BRIEF HISTORY

The original Darts Section commenced in 1959 and operated for 12 years and ended in 1971 and included a very respectable attempt on the Guinness Book of Records for the most points thrown in one eight hour period.

Around 1995 a group of interested members started to have friendly darts games in the top room on Friday nights while the Upton Room jumped with rock and roll dancing. New interest, and competitiveness of players, prompted Dave Porteous (who passed away in July, 2026) and a few members to reform the Club's Darts Section in 1996. A call was made for new players and about 15 interested members came to a meeting in the Upton Lounge. Membership quickly grew to 30 enthusiastic members.



At the time the first building stage was in progress and the only place available to set up a regulation dart board was in the downstairs foyer (now the present entrance to the Upton Lounge). An official from the Eastern Districts Darts League came to help set up the area to regulation requirements and, Rueben Schultz, a South African Darts Champion, attended our practice night to give us valuable tips on how to throw and score. We gained two team entries in the EDDL and competition started in February of that year. After the initial shock and some hard practice, improvement was noticeable and by the end of the season both teams had represented Box Hill RSL proudly.

Once the building works were completed, the Darts Section moved into the Sports Lounge. The inclusion of three dart board cabinets provided by Box Hill RSL with, we believe, the best facility in the EDDL and provided a great venue for both internal and invitation competitions in the future.

By 2013 we had 4 teams in the EDDL and two teams in the Eastern Suburbs Darts Association. Today the Darts Section is still alive and well and we look forward to enjoying the benefits of the recently modernized Sports Lounge.

If anyone is interested, they could just turn up on a Monday night or contact Ray on 0419 114 126.



For further information about how to join or become involved with the sporting sections please enquire at reception for details or look up the details in the Sub-Sections tab of the Box Hill RSL website.



**FRIDAY
NIGHT RAFFLE**
ALL WELCOME

Held in the Upton
Room every Friday from
5.30pm to 8pm

BOX HILL RSL (03) 9897 6700
www.boxhillrsl.com.au



**QUAD-SPORT
CHALLENGE**
AT BOX HILL RSL

NOVEMBER 1ST 11AM – 5PM

Twelve teams of four players will compete across
**Lawn Bowls • Snooker
Darts • Chuck-Wood (Finska)**
Open to members and non members

MEMBERS CONTACT:
Bowls Section: Jan Durham Snooker Section: John Sweeny
Darts Section: Ray Jones

NON MEMBERS CONTACT: newsletter@boxhillrsl.com.au

**SNACK FOODS AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE
SERVED DURING THE EVENT.**

The Quad-Sport Challenge is a free event proudly sponsored by the
BHRSL Health and Wellbeing Program.

**PLACES ARE LIMITED TO 48 PARTICIPANTS, SO
REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT.**

SCAN FOR MORE INFO: 

BOX HILL RSL (03) 9897 6700
www.boxhillrsl.com.au

LET'S TALK FALLS

Prevention starts with awareness. Physiotherapist lead event.

Host: Prostate Cancer Support Group Box Hill

Enquiries: Welfare, Box Hill RSL - 9897 6780
<https://prostateboxhill.org>

When: Tuesday 20 October 9.30am to 11.30am

Where: Box Hill RSL, Upton Room 26/28
Nelson Road, Box Hill

Booking Required.



Box Hill R.S.L. Sub-Branch Inc. trading as Box Hill RSL

26 Nelson Rd, Box Hill 3128 Victoria.

T 9897 6700 **E** secretary@boxhillrsl.com.au

General Manager: Ben Myers

Sub-Branch Secretary: Andrew Guest

Association Registered No: A0057903U