

Issue No. 12 – June 2021

ADVANCE



Highett RSL Sub-Branch

1 Station Street

Highett 3190

Ph. 9532 1357

admin@highettrsl.com.au

www.highettrsl.com.au

Highett RSL Managers Message

Dear Members,

We are well into 2021 and back to restrictions and masks are back on. I know these covid rules keep on changing but it's what we must do to remain open. The government still requires us all to register our contact details when entering the club. We have an abundance of QR codes throughout the venue. So, don't forget to scan with your phone. If you don't have a smart phone, ask one of our staff for assistance in registering your contact details. At this stage we don't know how long it will be required.

This year on Sunday afternoons we are having entertainment on once a month. The band LIVING IN THE 70s have been providing members with some great music to dance to. Also get down here on a Sunday for the \$5.00 schooner special. We are giving away a free slab of beer on a Saturday. All you must do is make a purchase over the bar. For those who enjoy a wine. The wine of the month is from SOHO wines. A carton of Soho wine is the prize for May. All you must do is purchase either a bottle or glass of Soho wine to go in the draw.

The footy is back and so is our footy tipping comp. This year we had over 55 entries competing for the prize of champion tipster. The annual Brownlow night countdown to announce the winner is back for 2021. Food and Beveridge will be supplied to the 2021 tipsters. Good luck to all those who entered this year and go Tigers.

This year our function room is getting some major use. The local community organizations are having their monthly meetings upstairs. We have had several birthdays celebrated this year in the function room. Don't forget our room for your next special celebration. All details can be found on the Highett RSL website.

The Bistro is being well patronaged especially on Friday nights. So, get your bookings in early. I'm getting great feedback about how great the meals are these days. Did you know that bookings can now be made via the website? The Friday night raffles are being well attended due to the great prizes on offer. The Big wheel jackpot is over \$4000 at the time of writing this report.

The club has managed to attract new members every month and our total is around 2600. The discounts that all members receive make the Highett RSL Club one of the cheapest venues for a family night out in Melbourne. If you know of anyone who is thinking of joining tell them what great value, the club offers.

The club has been receiving plenty of 2020 birthday vouchers. These vouchers had the expiry date extended to the 1st May 2021 due to lockdown. Birthday vouchers can be redeemed in both the bar and bistro areas. Don't forget to present your calendar vouchers to the bar each month.

It's been great to see all our members return to the club in 2021

Gavin Williams - General Manager

Address from our President

Hello Members,

Well what a year 2020 was and I am sure, like me, you are all glad to be seeing it in the rear view mirror. We started 2020 well, however, with COVID19 came the Lockdowns, shut outs and restricted trading that saw us shut for almost six months of the year.

Since re-opening in October we have had some great patronage from members and guests alike. You have all been patient and understanding to allow us to remain open during the reduced numbers and short term lockdowns.

Since our last Advance was published in September 2019, we have also lost a couple of significant Service members of our club. Firstly, in April 2020 we lost our Past President of some 15 years and last RSL Life member, Mr Kevin Tucker, and because of Restrictions we were unable to commemorate Kevin as we wanted. This was rectified recently when we invited his wife and son, Bev and Craig, and extended family to attend a memorial service at the RSL on Monday 19th of April.

In November 2020, we also lost Mr Frank Holland-Stabback (or Harold to some), a World War 2 POW Veteran, who had only celebrated his 100th Birthday in August. Having been fortunate to have spoken to Frank over the lock down period a number of times I can confirm he was very happy to have achieved a 100% pass mark for living. Both these gentlemen will be missed around the club and at functions. Keep an eye out for their medals and photo boards that we have had made up to hang in the club, Lest we forget.

In March 2020 we finalised the purchase of 24 Station Street and managed to get it tenanted just as the initial lock downs in late March were occurring.

The lockdowns had us looking for new ways to provide support and assistance as required. Our Welfare Officer Roger Hyde and assistant Jim Dale, as well as the Women's Auxiliary stood up when needed and started manufacturing masks and delivering care packages (toilet paper) and the ladies delivered the masks with a smile (unable to be seen due to wearing their own masks) during their exercise window within their walking areas.

They have provided a great service to our Veterans when required and have kept in constant contact by phone directly with our aging veterans throughout the lockdown periods. All of the committee members took up the task to call and ensure members were well or provided assistance where needed.

I cannot thank them all enough for the work they have all done over the remaining months of 2020 and into 2021. Thank you.

With the kitchen back in to full swing and I am sure you have all enjoyed being able to sit in the bistro or club again.

ANZAC Day this year was a significant step forward from last years. Standing in our driveways, balconies or lounge rooms at Dawn, to commemorate in a way never before seen was a very strange and surreal feeling.

This year saw Mr John Decker heading up our ANZAC Day committee to ensure an as close to 'Normal' ANZAC Dawn service and gun fire breakfast was conducted. The day was well supported and not a person that stayed for the gunfire breakfast went hungry. Two up was well supported, after a slow start, but once the rules were understood the day went well and I will take this opportunity to thank Kenny, of Kenny's tree and stump removals, for running the two up all day. He did a fantastic job.

We have also designed and released a whole new range of Merchandise and apparel for members to buy either over the bar or online, via our website or phone app. These can be viewed in the Club entrance in a glass cabinet. These include jumpers and Beanie's in preparation for the winter that is now upon us. If in doubt ask at the bar.

I will also congratulate our new General Manager Gavin who, having started as a barman in our club over 21 years ago, has now formally been offered and accepted the vacant position of General Manager.

I congratulate him on the work he has done so far and encourage you all to help and assist him and our great team take our club into the future.

Lastly I would like to thank our staff for coming back with a smiling face and can do attitude. The Club keeps going forward and we, the Committee, staff and Volunteers, will continue to ensure the Club advances in the right direction.

In conclusion Our Sub Branch is in a very good position financially and functionally and I will strive to ensure that our future endeavours advance the Sub Branch reputation and financial sustainability into 2021 and beyond.

See you all down at the Club soon.

Cheers

Jordie

President

Monday Night Members Draw



This Could be Yours!!

When this \$4995 is won, there are at least 2 more to follow.

To win you must be present in the Club for the draw with your member's card

between 7pm and 8pm on Mondays.

If you are not a Member and wish to participate, then get a Members Application Form from the Club

Wellbeing Report

2020 raised several challenges for the wellbeing office with the onset of COVID-19. Like most others, we had to adapt to operate our services from home. We set up a process to ensure we engaged our service members via phone and email to ensure they were safe and well.

We arranged food packages for those that needed them and we delivered them in a COVID-19 safe way.

We also engaged with the Highett Community Centre who delivered hot meals to some of our veterans.

We assisted the Women's Auxiliary in delivering over 300 handmade face masks to our service members and Vasey RSL Care and to the local Highett community. This was a huge effort from both the Women's Auxiliary and the Wellbeing Office.

Maintaining contact throughout the lockdown was challenging as well as rewarding as it allowed us to reach out far and wide across our Service member community.

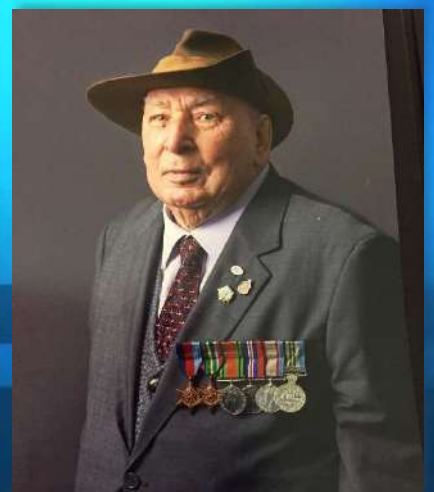
2020 saw a slight decrease by way of Pension, Advocacy and Wellbeing support. The support that we did provide varied from assisting with DVA wellbeing and compensation claims to accessing home support services and maintenance, to providing telephone calls. The primary focus of the wellbeing office is to ensure our veterans get the support they need.

Vale – Lest We Forget



During 2020 we lost our past President and Welfare Officer Kevin Tucker. Due to funeral restrictions many of us were unable to commemorate Kevin in a proper way. However, we were able to farewell him at our recent Veterans lunch followed by a memorial service that was attended by family, friends and members of the club.

The RSL also lost dear friend Frank Holland-Stabback. Frank was a true gentleman who in recent times led our ANZAC Day March with his unit banner. Frank was farewelled family and friends with restricted numbers and his hearse conducted a drive past at our RSL club for members to bid their farewells.



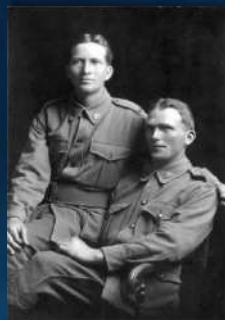
Charitable Funding Activities 2020/21.

Although spending on charitable activities was down in 2020 due to COVID-19, additional activities are planned for 2021. The first of these kicked off in March when 10 veterans and their families attended the Path of The Horse Equine Therapy. This was a huge success and all those who attended gained some benefit from the natural therapy of being with these wonderful animals.



Veterans and their Family at the Path of The Horse

Donation to the Brothers in Arms Memorial. Highett RSL donated to the Brothers in Arms Memorial Project and some members of Highett RSL attended the pouring of the brass monument that was subsequently shipped to Belgium and placed within the memorial site near Polygon Wood. Please visit the web site for more details: www.brothersinarmsmemorial.org



John and Jim Hunter – Brothers in Arms

Veterans Lunches. The Veterans' lunch is a very successful activity that is run four times per year and provides an opportunity for our veterans to engage with each other in a relaxed and friendly environment. It also provides an opportunity for our volunteers to meet with our veterans as a small group of volunteers are also invited to attend. The first event in April provided an opportunity to commemorate the passing of our past President Kevin Tucker with a tribute from his son Craig. Mates who served with Kevin also provided some words to commemorate his passing. We have on average 110 veterans that attend each complementary lunch.



Gym Class. The free gym class operates out of the RSL function room on each Tuesday of the month at 11-12 pm and from 1-2pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Haircuts. 2021 saw the continuation of our free haircut for our Service Members and discounts for all other members and staff.

Please contact Lesley at Intricut Hairdressing at 282 Highett Rd on 0408564240

Volunteers/Appeals/Ceremonials. We have close to 40 volunteers who regularly support the club by helping with our Appeals, Raffles and our Kids Christmas Party.

The ANZAC Appeal for 2021 was a great success following on from a dismal 2020. Our volunteers raised over \$32,000 that will directly go to supporting our Veterans. The Appeal also included volunteers manning the BBQ at Bunnings. This year's ANZAC Appeal was our most successful ever and thanks must go to our wonderful volunteers who braved many cold mornings and afternoons.

ANZAC Day 2021 The 2021 ANZAC Day service was conducted as per normal unlike 2020 where only our Committee attended. The parade was attended by more than 100 participants and led by Graham Webster (RAAF) and was watched on by more than 500 members, friends, and family. Students from St Agnes' Primary School read poems as part of the Dawn Service. The Dawn Service was followed by a gunfire breakfast and the tradition game of TWO UP.

I would like to thank the Women's Auxiliary and the Sandringham Scouts and all the other volunteers whose efforts ensured the day was a great success.

In closing I would like to thank the RSL Committee and staff who have supported the Wellbeing Office over the past 12 months. I would also like to thank Jen Marr and Jim Dale who both made significant contributions in supporting our Service Members throughout 2020/21.

Roger Hyde (OAM)

Wellbeing Officer, Appeals Office and Committee.



During the Covid-19 lockdown we had the lounge chairs in the Club re-upholstered. The colour scheme for the chairs was chosen to match the new internal paint work.

This work was performed by local Highett business "Ellie's Upholstery" at 354 Highett Road. Pictured is Roger Hyde, Ellie and Mick Bennett with the chairs.



Women's Auxiliary

Please allow me to introduce myself as the new President of the Women's Auxiliary. After a challenging year for all of us our previous President, Angela Irving, has elected to step aside but will continue her service as Treasurer for the Women's Auxiliary. I am both grateful and humbled by my election to President, and I am pleased to present my first report.

Despite the COVID crisis, our Women's Auxiliary continued to meet every month during 2020 via Zoom. Massive thanks are owed to Jen Marr of the Women's Auxiliary for assisting all our Auxiliary members to use this platform.

Fundraising in 2020 was difficult due to COVID-19 restrictions and the closure of the RSL for many months. The Easter raffle was conducted but was required to be finished up early, however the Christmas raffle was able to be held in December 2020 and was a great success. Thanks to all for your continued generous support of our raffles, with special thanks to Jill Saville of the Women's Auxiliary for sourcing the raffle prizes.

Other fundraising initiatives included the sourcing of face masks to which was added the Lest We Forget, Highett RSL wording and poppy logo. These were then sold to veterans, members and friends resulting in the sale of some 350 masks and the raising of over \$1,400. Poppy themed giftware was also added to the online shop, which was moderately successful.

Funds raised by the Women's Auxiliary are used to support a wide range of recipients. Donations made during the year were to organisations such as the Women Veterans Network Australia, The Path of the Horse and Brothers in Arms Project Australia. The Women's Auxiliary was also able to purchase a new computer for the Welfare Officer at the Little House. During Melbourne's lockdown the Women's Auxiliary made 300 fabric face masks and distributed them free of charge to some of our veterans and their partners, for which there was great appreciation.

I would like to thank the Women's Auxiliary Committee and its members for its efforts during a most challenging year. I would also like to thank in particular Roger Hyde, who has recently stepped aside from his liaison role with the Women's Auxiliary, for his unwavering support and guidance during his tenure. We welcome John Vardy, our new RSL Committee Liaison Officer and look forward to working with him.

2021 will see the Women's Auxiliary continue its efforts to support the club and its veterans. New members are always welcome and if you are interested, please contact the Secretary Jen Marr on 0414 584 179.

We Also Serve

Jen Glass
President - Women's Auxiliary



Golf Section Report

What a challenging year 2020 was (and continues to be) for all of us, including the Golf Section members. After playing only 6 out of what was meant to be 24 games in 2020, we stopped, paused and then finally pulled the pin on the year in August, due to Corona Virus. Whilst members were keen to get out and start playing once restrictions softened and then lifted, the easy (and right) decision was to just cancel the year and move on. The potential risks weren't worth it.

Whilst we didn't have our Presentation night, we managed to have our AGM on the 26th of November and start planning for 2021. Our 2021 season kicked off at Brighton on the 17th of January and it was great to see friends in person.

This year, we decided to have our post game BBQ and drinks at the Highett Bowls Club, which was a fantastic venue and I'm sure that we'll be back there. It worked out very well for both parties and we even rolled down (mostly badly) a few. In a few weeks, restrictions permitting, we have our annual trip away to Howlong (NSW), which is always good fun for all involved.

As always, we are always on the lookout for new members, so if you're keen for a game (we'll throw in the first one for free!), have a chat to either Mark Flahive, Al Tonks, Peter Stewart or me (John McKenzie) about it. Here is a copy of this year's itinerary. It is normally \$40 to play, except for those in Blue, where it's determined by the Match Committee.

Angling Section Report

Over Covid period the boat sustained some damage to the front and rear sides because of the strong winds and breaking a rope on the mooring. Also, the leg was removed and was fully reconditioned.

Currently the boat is on a slip and receiving all the repairs that are required. We expect the leg and other repairs to be very costly.

The Bayside fishing comp with our fellow RLS's was not held due to Covid.

We Looking forward to getting out fishing again.

Darts Section Report

We are back playing darts on a Wednesday evening. Both teams (Highett Vipers and Highett Bears) are in Division 2 this season and are competing well at the half way mark.

We will be holding our Club Singles and Doubles competitions in June and July. Anyone is welcome to participate. We are also looking to establish a third team from next season. Please let us know if anyone is interested.

I would like to thank the Highett RSL and all staff members for their continued help and support.

HIGHETT RSL - ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS 2021



HIGHETT RSL - ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS 2021



Kevin Tucker Memorial Service

A memorial service for our past President, Kevin Tucker was conducted by the Highett RSL after the Service Members Lunch.

Such a service at the time of Kevin's funeral was not possible due to the COVID restrictions. Many of Kevin's family, friends and RSL members including some he served with in Vietnam attended.



During the service Wyn Roper from "Quilts of Valour Australia" presented a quilt to Kevin's wife Bev. The quilt was beautifully made by Helen Heimann, one of our members.

A framed medal display including photos, medal replicas and Duty of Service was revealed to Bev and is on display in the clubrooms.

VALE



It is with regret that we record the passing of the following service & affiliate members since our last Advance.
LEST WE FORGET

June Smith	Affiliate	24 September 2019
Mark Fox	Service	25 September 2019
Alfred Hayes	Service	13 November 2019
Barbara Main	Affiliate	25 November 2019
Daryl Lyons	Affiliate	2020
Margaret Urwin	Service	12 March 2020
Kevin Tucker	Service	24 April 2020
Jessie Condon	Affiliate	30 April 2020
Richard Rice	Affiliate	20 May 2020
Graham Woodroffe	Service	26 June 2020
James Johnston	Affiliate	28 June 2020
Alister McClure	Service	30 June 2020
James McNally	Service	4 July 2020
James Tatterson	Affiliate	11 July 2020

VALE continued

Keith Roly	Affiliate	10 August 2020
Ruth Browne	Affiliate	11 August 2020
Bruce Moulden	Affiliate	21 September 2020
Keith Rolls	Service	26 September 2020
Joy Box	Service	21 October 2020
Norman Watson	Service	28 October 2020
Henry Simpson	Affiliate	1 November 2020
Frank Holland-Stabback	Service	15 November 2020
Dorothy Woolcock	Service	20 November 2020
Margaret Cullen	Affiliate	22 December 2020
Raymond Saunders	Service	17 January 2021
Ronald Carter	Affiliate	2 February 2021
Anthony Quinn	Affiliate	4 February 2021
Desmond Kealy	Service	19 April 2021
Ronald J. Marshall	Service	19 April 2021
Ronald Rafferty	Affiliate	15th May 2021
Norman Griffiths	Service	31st May 2021



SPONSORS

The Highett RSL would like to acknowledge the generosity of the following contributors

