

ADVANCE

Issue No 13 – December 2021



Highett RSL Sub-Branch

1 Station Street
Highett 3190
Ph. 9532 1357
admin@highettrsl.com.au
www.highettrsl.com.au



President's Message

Welcome to the end of 2021!

With most restrictions now lifted, except the requirement to be double Vaccinated, the Club is back fully open.

I thank all our members for your enthusiastic support of the club through these ongoing troubled times and for abiding by the restrictions as the change. We hope the long term lock downs are gone but will no doubt have some one day lockdowns, similar to the one we had on 23 Nov. These will occur at short notice so I ask you all to remain patient and flexible over the coming months. We will always endeavour to re-open as soon as we are able. This will become more stressful over the festive seasons so please be kind and courteous as we get through this pandemic.

In other news the Club has recently hired Mr Colin Gilmour as our new Entertainment and Catering Manager. Colin brings a wealth of knowledge to the club so please ensure you make him feel welcomed.

We also commenced negotiations with Terry, regarding the Bistro, as the agreement finished during the last lock down period. After some eight years in the Bistro Terry has decided to move on and as such, I take this opportunity to thank him and his staff for the service they have provided and wish him well in the future. He said he was looking forward to spending Christmas Lunch with his family for the first time in 38 years! You will also note that some of the regular faces have remained in the Bistro and it will be one of Colin's first tasks to ensure the Standard of our meals remains the same or better and to increase the offerings in the newly renovated Sports bar too.

A big thank you to our Treasurer and all-rounder Mr Mark Sutherland for the Horse Shoe display in honour of all the horses Australia sent to WW1.

Mark was also instrumental in getting the renovations completed, using local suppliers and trades, during the last few weeks of lockdown. If you haven't seen them yet then please head on into club, you will not be disappointed! Our Welfare support continues to grow thanks to our Welfare Officer, Mr Roger Hyde, and our Wonderful Volunteers.

Thanks to them we raised nearly \$25,000 for the Legacy Appeal fund raising during November. What a great result.





Please keep an eye on the socials, TV screens and flyers going around the Club to see what's happening over the next few weeks.

So, on behalf of all the staff and Committee I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Safe and Happy New Year.

See you all down at OUR Club.

Cheers,

Jordie

From the Manager's Desk

Dear Members

Since our last edition the club was in lockdown for about 3 months. During this time, we refurbished the Sports Bar area. We replaced the carpet with laminate flooring and added a benchtop wall. The brick wall at the rear of the club has been transformed into a sports memorabilia display. The centre piece to our sports bar is the handcrafted horseshoe display hanging in the centre. The new 85-inch TV will be great to watch the ashes on this season. So, come on down with your mates to watch the Aussies do battle against the Poms.

When you enter the club proof of vaccination must be shown to the staff. At this stage we don't know how long this procedure will be in place. We have had minimal refusal to show staff correct documentation. The rear members door access will remain closed until vaccination proof is not required.

We were all glad to see the restrictions and capacity limits removed in November. This allowed us to bring back all our weekly events including Meat raffles and the Members draw. A big thank you to Roger Hyde our welfare officer for conducting the Remembrance Day Service. The Service members luncheon was back on in November after numerous cancelations due to lockdowns.

The \$5.00 schooners are now on both days of the weekend between 1.00pm & 5.00pm. We have trialled a losing TAB ticket promo for December. All you must do is place your losing TAB ticket in the box provided and we will draw the winner around 4.00pm. The prize is a \$50.00 TAB voucher. Winner must be present.

The footy Tipping comp has been run and won for 2021.

Results

1st Place Peter Smith – 133

2nd Place Colleen Edwards – 131

3rd Place David Dunlevie, Nicole Trapani,
James Hewlett – 130

Congratulations to our winners

The Highett RSL club has recently employed a Catering Manager. Colin Gilmour brings a wealth of experience from the Restaurant and Catering industry. I would like everyone to make Colin feel welcome and introduce yourself to him. Colin will be looking after all aspects of the food and entertainment side of our club. If you're looking to have a function, have a chat to Colin and he will be able to assist you.

The annual Christmas day lunch at the Highett RSL has been booked out now.

This NYE as usual we have a band to bash out the tunes for you all to enjoy. The action will start around 8.00pm. Those wanting to book a table for dinner make sure you book in early.

The 2022 membership renewals have been sent out recently which remain at \$30.00 for 12 months or \$70.00 for 3 years. The subscription fees have remained the same over the last 20 years. In previous years the calendars have had a voucher for you to enter monthly prize draws. This has now changed, and vouchers will be on the kiosk. So, don't forget to swipe your member's card. The 2022 Highett RSL calendars are now available from the Bar.

The Club has been lucky to retain most of our staff during the past few lockdowns. Many other venues are now experiencing staffing issues which have affected them greatly. I thank all our staff for not abandoning the hospitality industry in its time of need.

I would like to thank all our members for their continued support over the last 12 months during these difficult times.

Merry Christmas

Gavin Williams, General Manager

Catering and Entertainment

Colin Gilmour, our Catering and Entertainment Manager



Wellbeing Report

Well! what a year it has been since my last Advance Report. How great it is to be out of lockdown once again.

2021 obviously saw a decrease in visits to the Veterans and Community Support Centre (Little House) due to Covid19. However, pension, advocacy and welfare support provided after phone contact varied from assisting with DVA wellbeing, compensation claims, accessing home support services to aged care. The primary focus for the Wellbeing officer is ensuring our veterans and their families receive the support they need. I have now completed my Level Two Welfare Advocacy Training. This means I can now provide Wellbeing (Welfare) support independently without the need of a mentor overseeing my work. I am available for Wellbeing support via appointment so please email me at welfare@highettrsl.com.au or call the Club.

Unfortunately, 2021 saw the closure of the free Gym class for most of the year. This activity has been an outstanding success, with an average of 15 people regularly attending the Tuesday sessions. This class is for all our members not just our service members and is targeted at all fitness levels. The class returned on the 30th November.

This year also saw the continuation of free haircuts to all our service members, paid for by the Club and provided by Intricut hair salon in Highett. Intricut also provide discounted hair services to all our non-service members. This not only provides support to our veterans but also to a local business in the area. This has been a huge success over 2020/2021.

Veterans Lunches

The veterans' free lunch is a very successful activity that is run 4 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 veterans' lunch. This event also enables our welfare officers the opportunity to promote the Welfare office and its services. Approximately 110 veterans attend these lunches each quarter. We invite guest speakers to address the veterans on these days, such as Normie Rowe who once spoke to the group about mateship. The November lunch was welcomed back by attendees with over 80 service members enjoying the day.

Appeals/Commemorations

Our Remembrance Day Service was well represented by our members, staff, and the local community and even the tradies working on the units across the road. Jeff Walter gave the presidents opening address and talked about the 100 year Anniversary of the

Remembrance. I was MC for the day and introduced students from St Agnes to read two poems.

We had special guests lay wreaths and attend our Remembrance Day service; they included Kingston Council Mayor Cr Steve Staikos, Cr Jenna Davey-Burns and a representative for Mr Brad Rowswell MP Member for Sandringham.

Our Remembrance Day appeal effort was amazing considering the minimal time available to organise everything after the city 'opened up'. Consequently, there was a reduction in poppy stand selling locations and the number of volunteers. The 19 volunteers that were available managed to raise over \$20,000 in 7 days. This was truly wonderful and the Club thanks them for their time. We would also like to thank the surrounding community for their generosity.

Poppy Volunteers Bunnings

What are the funds we raise through appeals used for?

All Poppy Appeal donations go directly into assisting veterans and their dependants in need, whether that be with financial matters, mental and physical health issues or transitioning into the civilian world. The provision of specialist services like crisis accommodation, health and wellbeing programs also occurs.



Poppy Volunteers Southland

Community Support

Highett RSL each year proudly sponsors local sporting clubs and local primary and secondary schools together with individuals needing assistance. St Agnes' Catholic Primary School and Cheltenham Secondary College are two of several schools we sponsor.



Highett RSL Sponsoring our local Schools

I look forward to working with our wonderful staff and volunteers in the New Year and catching up with our members throughout 2022. Please have a safe and happy festive season.

Roger Hyde (OAM)
Welfare and Appeals Officer, Committee

Note: In 2022 the Little House will be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 1–4pm.



Remembrance Day at the Shrine



Our veteran Jen Marr had the honour to be invited by the Shrine of Remembrance to lay a wreath as the Melbourne Coordinator for the Women Veterans Network Australia. Good work Jen



Women's Auxiliary



Despite the ongoing lockdown in Victoria due to COVID-19, our Women's Auxiliary has continued to meet every month via Zoom, and membership has remained steady at 13 current members. Big thanks again to Jen Marr of the Women's Auxiliary for coordinating meetings and continuing to support our auxiliary members with the use of this technology.

Fundraising for the period was difficult due to COVID-19 restrictions and the continued closure of the RSL. The Women's Auxiliary looks forward to launching its Christmas raffle as restrictions are eased, and the RSL has its Grand Reopening on Friday, 29th October.

Thanks to all for your continued generous support of our raffles, with special thanks to Teresa Wright and Jill Saville of the Women's Auxiliary for organising the raffle prizes.

Jen Glass – President Women's Auxiliary



The Women's Auxiliary has continued to provide support to not only the Highett RSL but to a wide range of recipients, including recent donations made to PTSD Dogs and the Young Diggers. A collection of donations of art supplies for residents of Ward 17 has also commenced, and we would love to see contributions from members of our club. If you'd like to contribute, please check with the Executive Committee or Meg Ryan as to the type of donations requested, as the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital has quite specific needs.

I want to thank the Women's Auxiliary Committee for their continued commitment this year and our RSL Committee Liaison Officer, John Vardy, for his support. I look forward to working with you all in the New Year and renewing our efforts to support and further strengthen the Highett RSL.



Golf Section



Whilst we somehow managed to squeeze in 12 games, 2021 has been a very tough year for all of us, probably tougher than 2020. Sadly, we lost 3 dear friends of the Golf Section, being Debbie STEWART, Terry O'KEEFE & Shirley STANTON.

Congratulations to Leo O'KEEFE who won both the Club & Club Handicap Championships. A fantastic effort. But we quickly move onto 2022, with our first game scheduled for Brighton on the 16th January. We are always looking for new members, so if you'd like to play very reasonably priced social golf with a great bunch of people every fortnight on a Sunday morning, then give our Secretary (Ralph Stewart 0408 562 986) or me (0428 719 010) a call.

Best Wishes and good health for 2022.

Regards

John McKenzie

Chairman

Highett RSL Golf Section

Angling Section

The Angling Section invites any members of the RSL to join and go fishing in their boat which is moored at Mordialloc. The boat has had its 3year survey. During this year with the weather, repairs and lockdowns trips have been limited. The Bayside RSL Clubs fishing competition this year was postponed again due to the COVID restrictions.



In 2022, the Angling section is proposing to conduct a ladies versus men's fishing competition. More details will become available next year.

Membership fees are now due.

The Angling Section would like to thank all RSL members and their guests who have supported the meat tray raffles held at the RSL on Saturday lunch times during the year.

Stay Safe.

Enquiries to Greg Warren 0429 037 124.

Vale



It is with regret that we record the passing of the following service and affiliate members since publication of the last Advance.

Graham Jones	Service	March 2021
Peggy Andrews	Affiliate	9 June 2021
Lyn Grace	Affiliate	13 June 2021
Brian Edmunds	Service	13 June 2021
Les Brewster	Affiliate	26 June 2021
Victor Maguire	Service	28 July 2021
Michael Kell	Affiliate	30 July 2021
Brian Paige	Service	20 August 2021
Francis Gill	Service	26 August 2021
Sue Hardiman	Affiliate	September 2021
Ken Connellan	Service	22 September 2021
Angelo Virgona	Service	28 September 2021
Graham Robinson	Service	28 September 2021
John (Bobby) Gleeson	Service	1 October 2021
Bill Kilsby	Service	4 October 2021
Roy Watts	Service	26 November 2021



Beneficiaries

The Highett RSL Sub-Branch supports the following organisations:

Sandringham East Primary	Berrendale School
Cheltenham Secondary	1st Sandringham Scouts.
Moorabbin Primary	Everyman's Welfare Service
St Agnes Primary	Moorabbin Kangaroos
St Catherine Primary	Hampton Football Netball Club
Southmoor Primary	East Sandringham Cricket Club
Bayside Special Development	Highett FNC

We also sponsor groups/individuals with certain needs when deemed appropriate.

RAFFLE SPONSORS

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

