

ADVANCE

Issue No 14 - June 2022



Highett RSL Sub-Branch

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



President's Message

Hi all,

Welcome to our 75th winter! You should all be aware that we are celebrating our 75th year of operations, having had our RSL Charter signed on 23rd of May 1947. We have come a long way from the original 'Tin shed' in Livingston Street.

I hope you are all keeping warm and dry during this record breaking start to the season. Even the club has not been spared from the weather with minor flooding in the gaming room and a Tuesday night dinner service affected by the State Gas shortage causing delays in cooking and heating. In these post Covid lockdown days our staff are doing a great job keeping us open. It can be challenging at times and over the past few months some meal services have been affected due to staff shortages as well. I ask you all to support our staff by remaining calm, courteous and kind at all times but especially when these issues arise.

Our ANZAC Day Dawn Service went extremely well, and the gunfire breakfast of bacon and eggs was well received. Our Veterans and their families and friends were able to catch up and remember in a great environment. The indoor two up was again well attended during the day. A big thank you to all our helpers on the day and especially to those members who spent long hours at Bunnings, Woolworth stores and Southland selling ANZAC Day badges. The funds raised was a record for the club, something you should all be very proud of.

We had a great 75th Birthday Celebration week. We started on our birthday with a Service member lunch that had Mr Kevin Sheedy attend and talk. He was very well received and we cannot thank him enough for his time. On Tuesday night we ran a Trivia Night and all who attended had a great time and we will endeavour to continue them going forward. We then finished the week with a live band on Saturday night. Moving into June it was time to celebrate our Women's Auxiliary's 75th Birthday which culminates in a special lunch on 24 June. They were officially formed in June 1947, although I think they would have been very active in the period prior to our 'Tin Shed' being built! I cannot praise them enough for the tireless work that they have done over the years and continue to do, Thank you.

Stay warm and safe and see you down at our RSL.

Jordie
President

Ordinary General Meeting

There will be an OGM held in the Clubrooms at 9.00 am on Saturday 25th June.

From the Manager's Desk

Dear Members

We are just about at the halfway mark for the year now. The club is now free of all those covid rules and our unvaccinated members are back. The club has had some supplier issues with stock, mostly our wine list has been affected. In May we had a slight increase in our prices, but we remain competitive in the local scene.

The Gaming room has now gone with the TITO (ticket in ticket out) system. We have had a few issues with outages lately but hopefully the service providers are onto a solution.

The club had its 75th anniversary in May which kicked off our service luncheon with special guest speaker Mr Kevin Sheedy. We had well over 100 attend the lunch who all had a great time. The club had its first trivia night in a long time, and we are looking to have it on a regular basis.

The Members draw nights were well attended during the celebrations and congratulations to all 5 winners.

The Highbury RSL Bistro has added a curry night on Saturday. So far, we have had good feedback.

The apartments across the street from us are just about completed and should free up the carpark during the daytime. No more tradies using every carpark in the street. Hopefully we will recruit a few more members when the tenants move in.

The sports bar has been well patronised over the weekends with members enjoying the footy on the big screen. The \$5.00 schooners are still available during 1.00pm and 5.00pm over the weekends. Those members who have downloaded the TAB app don't forget to redeem your \$5.00 bonus bet. You can also redeem a \$5.00 discount on a meal from the sports bar menu.

We are well past the halfway mark in the footy tipping where we have over 80 entrants. So far, we have had a few pick 9 winners in a round. The Tigers are starting to put a few wins together midway through the season.

I hope all our members are enjoying the facilities we offer and don't forget to swipe your card on the kiosk.

Gavin Williams

General Manager

Wellbeing Report



Since my last report the Wellbeing office has seen an increase in Service Members needing advocacy support with DVA claims and wellbeing assistance. Although, we have been successful in supporting our veterans this has been hampered by the ongoing delays in DVA processing claims. I have been advised by DVA that they are seeking to employ more staff over the next 12 months to manage these delays.

Service Members wishing to make a DVA claim should first register into MyService through MyGov and then log in to the MyService portal. Once registered you can then submit your DVA claims online. Should you need assistance please contact me via email.

welfare@highettrsl.com.au.

The Wellbeing office helps our Service Members in several ways, and they include:

- Home maintenance
- Gardening
- Age Care advice through Vasey RSL Care
- Mobility Aides
- Veterans DVA advocacy support
- Mental Wellbeing activities
- Counselling Service through Open Arms
- Free Library Services
- Free Gym Class
- Free Haircuts
- Family Military history research
- Funeral Service

The gym class has continued its success over the last reporting period with an average of 15 members regularly attending the Tuesday sessions. This class is for all our members not just our service members and is targeted at all fitness levels.

This year also saw the continuation of free haircuts to all our service members, paid for the 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 service members but also to a local business in the area. This has been a huge success over 2020/2021 and now 2022.

ANZAC Appeals. Our ANZAC appeal was amazing this year considering we had Easter and School Holiday in the middle of our appeals. Over 20 volunteers were available and managed to raise over \$35k in just over three weeks. This was a very successful appeal and the club thanks all our volunteers for their time and efforts. We would also like to thank the surrounding community for their generosity.

What are the funds we raise through appeals used for?

All ANZAC 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.



ANZAC Volunteers Bunnings



ANZAC 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 throughout our community along with Hampton and Highett Football Clubs. See all our Beneficiaries on the last page.

Service Members Lunches

The Service Members' 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.

On the 23rd of May we held an additional and special Service Members' Lunch to celebrate our 75th year of the signing of our club charter. The lunch was well attended with around 130

Service Members, volunteers and special guests including the Mayor Cr Steve Staikos and Cr Jenna Davey–Burns from Kingston Council and Tim Holden from RSLVIC.

We were fortunate to have Mr Kevin Sheedy as our guest speaker to address the lunch. Kevin was a National Serviceman who served in the Royal Australian Engineers. Kevin’s speech covered many topics including his playing days at Richmond under coach Tom Hafey. He told us about his experiences while enlisted in the National Service and then moved onto his coaching career at Essendon. He was instrumental in getting the Essendon / Collingwood annual ANZAC Day football match started and it has grown over the years. Kevin is a keen supporter of indigenous players in the AFL and gave many examples of how they have influenced the game.



The lunch was a beautifully prepared 3 course meal and washed down with a drink or two.



Tim Holden representing Anzac House, presented a certificate signed by the National President of the RSL Mr AG Melick AO RFD SC to our president Jordie Burgess celebrating our 75 years. The certificate is located near the Club entrance.

That’s all from me. I hope to see you all in the club very soon. I look forward to working with our committee and wonderful staff and volunteers throughout the remainder of the year.

Roger Hyde (OAM)
Welfare and Appeals Officer, Committee



Anzac Day 2022

It was an early start for volunteers to set up tables and chairs provided by the scouts in the rear car park together with gazebos. Food and coffee stations were established in the Club rooms and in the rear car park. Meanwhile kitchen staff were cooking and preparing breakfast.



The weather was kind to us and at around 5.30am a large crowd began to assemble for the march starting at 5.45am. The Parade Commander was Mr Jim Dale and accompanied by Piper Mr John Houghton. The formation marched and assembled in front of the Club Rooms. The Master of Ceremony; Mr John Decker introduced our President Mr Jordie Burgess, who addressed the assembly. Rev Roger Featherstone delivered the prayers which were followed by some poems from the St Agnes Primary School Captains, Ella Inwood and Sebastian Fordyce.

The following were invited to lay of the Wreaths:

Mr. Jordie Burgess on behalf of Highett RSL.

Ms Jen Glass on behalf of Highett RSL Women's Auxiliary.

Hon. Mark Dreyfus QC, MP Division of Isaacs.

Mr Brad Rowswell MP. Member for Sandringham.

Karen Browne. Laying ANZAC themed book on behalf of Hon.

Tim Wilson, MP, Division of Goldstein.

Cr. Jenna Davey-Burns on behalf of Kingston Council.

Acting Senior Sergeant Robert Dabonde- Victoria Police.

Ms Jen Marr. Womens Veterans Network Australia.

Mr Alan Clifford on behalf of Allied Forces.

Jack Steele Team Captain, St Kilda Football Club.

1st Sandringham Scouts.



The Ode to the Fallen was recited by Mr Jeff Walter and was followed by the Last Post, a minute's silence, and the Rouse.

The New Zealand and Australian National Anthems were sung by Ms Rachel Decker.

The assembly was invited to a Gun fire breakfast both in the Club Rooms and the rear car park. Many volunteers manned the stalls which included the 1st Sandringham Scouts and the Women's Auxiliary. It was estimated that 500 meals were served. There were scrambled eggs, bacon, hashbrowns as well as tea or coffee with a little rum additive for those old enough.

On behalf of the Highett Sub-Branch we thank the Victoria Police who provided Traffic control during the march. We also acknowledge the work performed by the 1st Sandringham Scouts both with provision of tables and chairs and their help with the serving of the gun fire breakfast and the clean up afterwards. Club volunteers and the Woman's Auxiliary who were easily identifiable by wearing their distinctive blue tops were helping out on many of the stalls.



We were honoured to be presented a plaque by our Piper John Houghton in memory of his Father T.L. Houghton, a POW on the Burma -Thai Railway. The plaque features a railway spike recovered from the railway. Our President Jordie Burgess accepted the plaque on behalf of the Club and thanked John for it.

Later in the morning the 2 Up got under way. There was a large enthusiastic crowd and plenty of people who took a turn at being the "spinner". Jordie and Mark shared the "ring-keeper" tasks. It was good to see the younger generation becoming involved with our Club.

Thank you to the many lucky winners who donated some of their winnings to the Anzac Badge appeal.

During our Anzac appeal, we had a visit by young Noah and his family. Noah had seen veterans on TV selling Anzac Day badges, and he decided to make his own box and collect donations for this worthy cause.

When Noah arrived at the RSL, he specifically asked to give his donation to our President Jordie Burgess.

We would like to thank Noah and his family (not all in the photos) for their generous donation. What a champion!



Women's Auxiliary



It has been great getting back to some form of normality following the COVID-19 lockdowns of 2021. Our Women's Auxiliary has returned to meeting every month in person (after several months of Zoom), and membership has remained steady at 13 current members.



Fundraising has kicked back off with a bang, as the Women's Auxiliary held raffles for Christmas, Easter and Mother's Day. The Christmas raffle in particular comprised 14 prizes, the major prize being a 30 bottle capacity Hisense wine fridge containing several bottles of wine which proved very popular. The Mother's Day raffle comprised 5 beautiful gift baskets to spoil Mum and the Easter Raffle presented a delightful range of Easter goodies. Each of these raffles were very well received

and resulted in valuable funds that the Women's Auxiliary will utilise in its support of both the Highett RSL and the veteran community. Special thanks are owed to Auxiliary members Teresa Wright and Jill Saville for organising the raffle prizes. We greatly appreciate everyone's continued generous support of our raffles.

In terms of support, the Women's Auxiliary provides financial support to not only the Highett RSL but to a wide range of recipients, including recent donations made to Guitars 4 Veterans and Ward 17. We found Guitars 4 Veterans to be a very worthy organisation, supporting veterans with music – the provision of professional guitar lessons and use of a guitar. Our current collection of donated art supplies for Ward 17 will be delivered in the next couple of weeks, however we will continue to collect donations for Ward 17 as an ongoing activity. Any contributions of art supplies from members of our Club are still gratefully received, but 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.

The Women's Auxiliary continues to be involved around the Club, assisting on ANZAC Day and organising a working bee to clean up the garden at the front of the Little House. It was a pleasure assisting the Committee with the running of its ANZAC Day service and breakfast. Together with the Scouts and our local community, members of the Women's Auxiliary helped to set up, serve breakfast, tea and coffee and assisted with the necessary clean-up. It was a very successful event. In addition to this, in recognition of the Club celebrating its 75th

Anniversary the Women's Auxiliary organised a working bee to start work on the beautification of the garden in front of the Little House. On 14 May, members of both the Committee and the Women's Auxiliary worked to dig up the existing plants from the garden and to prepare the soil by laying fertilizer and spreading Euchi mulch. Native plants have been purchased by the Women's Auxiliary for planting in a couple of weeks' time, including a Cootamundra wattle, Kangaroo Paw and Gin Gin Jewel.

8 of our Women's Auxiliary members were able to attend the Women's Council Metro Forum at Frankston RSL on 10 May, which was great representation for our Club (and we all wore our blue shirts). It was the first event held by the Women's Council in a couple of years given the difficulties of COVID, and the overall attendance was impressive. It was a great opportunity for us to hear from other Auxiliaries about new fundraising methods, as well as to hear from RSL Victoria about current activity.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary were privileged to be invited the Highett RSL Veteran's Luncheon on 23 May in celebration of the Club's 75 Year anniversary, and made sure to also attend a number of the other events hosted by the Club in its birthday week. Having been established one month after the establishment of the Highett RSL in 1947, the Women's Auxiliary is now working to organise its own celebration luncheon for its 75th anniversary in June. We are incredibly grateful to the Club and the Committee for providing us with this opportunity.

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 continuing to work with you to support and further strengthen the Highett RSL.

Golf Section

Finances:

From a financial perspective, the Golf Section is travelling reasonably well in 2022 and we are starting to raise funds at the Monday night members draw, which has been popular with RSL members, many thanks to John Parsons. In a normal year, this raises ~\$5,000 for the Section, which allows us to fund our annual Presentation night/dinner, amongst other events. But against that, members have stuck with the Section which is fantastic, and we have even picked up a few more, which is great, including Colin Gilmour. We have been able to keep our charges to a very reasonable charge of \$45 per game (which includes entry to a raffle

Report to the Sub Branch Members:

The Golf Section is in its 62nd year and it remains a well organised and functional group for those members/guests who want to play golf in a very friendly environment. Like a lot of social sporting groups, in 2022, we are starting to get back to a "new normal", and in March we had our annual trip away to Howlong (NSW). In 2022, we have had a few new faces on the

Committee, which is always a positive in my view. New people challenge the status quo and have new ideas. Our highlight this year has been a Hole-in-One by our Deputy Chairman (and Highett RSL Vice President), Alan Tonks.

In closing, I welcome anyone wanting to play golf to give us a try and tell your friends. We play early on a Sunday morning, usually every fortnight (Your first game is on us!)

Regards

John McKenzie (Chairman)

Your Golf Section contacts are:-

Ralph Stewart

Secretary

[0408 562 986](tel:0408562986)

Dean Waterston

Club Captain

[0419 004 051](tel:0419004051)

John McKenzie

Chairman

[0428 719 010](tel:0428719010)

Angling Section

Hi All,

The Angling Section holds a regular, meat tray raffle every Saturday lunch time between 12pm and 1.00 pm we have been exploring an additional raffle of which includes a Roast dinner and vegies pack, tickets are still \$1.00 each. So far it has been successful.

Just a reminder, all Angling Section fees are now due. As of the 22/2/2022,
\$50.00 Membership. \$30.00 Pensioners.

Fishing Trip:

\$25.00 per member per Trip.

\$15.00 per pensioner member per trip.

\$40.00 for an invited visitor per Trip.

Fees include Fuel, Bait and Breakfast.

Fishing gear can be supplied providing 24hrs notice is given.

Fees can be paid to Ben Tagell at the Club. Bens contact Number is M: 0430 463 483.

Please note that these fees have not increased over the last 4 years.

Look forward to seeing you on board.

Regards and tight lines

Greg Warren

Chair

Highett RSL Angling Section

M: 0429037124

E: revolution.deal.14@gmail.com

Darts Section

After a couple of interrupted years, Darts has returned as a regular feature on a Wednesday evening. For the first time, both our teams (Highett Vipers and Highett Bears) competed in Division 1. With the first Season of 2022 over, The Vipers (pictured below) consolidated their position in Division 1, whilst The Bears were unfortunately relegated to Division 2.



We held our Club Drawn Doubles Championship in May 2022. Well done to Nic Short and George Triantafillidis (pictured above) for taking out the Championship. We will be holding the Club's Singles Championship in July.

We would like to thank the Highett RSL and all staff members for their continued support. We are always looking for new players, if anyone is interested feel free to pop in on a Wednesday night and chat to any of the teams.

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



Highett RSL Sub-Branch has worked collaboratively with Music and the Brain Foundation

Button Harp

There are 450,000 paid carers/nurses nationally throughout Australia. There are 760,000 unpaid Victorians carers caring for someone with a disability, mental illness, chronic health issue or an age-related condition in private homes. Carers Victoria reports that these home based carers save the Australian economy \$15 billion per year.



Over a six week period, Highett RSL Sub-Branch has worked collaboratively with Music and the Brain Foundation on an exciting new project to recognise and support home based carers in its immediate neighbourhood.

The initiative engaged residents in surrounding streets as instrument makers and by “paying it forward”, they have established a pathway and platform to encourage carers to stay socially connected through music.

During the six weeks the “apprentice luthiers” forged new friendships as they shared laughter, cheese, red wine and crackers whilst crafting six exquisite Button Harps. These instruments (handcrafted with love) will now be passed on to carers in the neighbourhood who will have the opportunity to learn to play in a welcoming small group setting.



Should a carer wish to keep their harp, they can, so long as they commit to building an instrument for another carer in the community ... and so the neighbourhood continues to: “pay it forward”.

Music and the Brain Foundation is grateful to the Highett RSL Sub-Branch, White Room Studio, Hunter Seeker and Buttonmania in Highett for their encouragement and support in the successful pilot of this special project. The six Luthiers enjoyed a celebratory

meal at the RSL at the conclusion of the sessions.

If you are interested in this project and would like to know more, please contact Monica Cashin from the Foundation either at monica@mbf.org.au or 0417 216 187.



Vale



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

Keith Webb	Service	August 2021
Geoff Parsonage	Service	27 December 2021
Joyce Lomas	Service	February 2022
Donald Cameron	Service	February 2022
Bruce Bird	Service	April 2022
Kenneth Ewin	Service	2 May 2022
Graham Webster	Service	4 May 2022



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



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