NOVEMBER.2026

SPRINGVALE RSL

# NEWSLETTER



## MISSION

The Springvale RSL aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for our serving and ex-serving members and their families/dependants.

We strive to provide welfare support, education, social interaction, commemorative service and appropriate contributions to the support of the broader community.

## VISION

To dedicate customer service, offering outstanding facilities and a friendly environment whilst upholding the RSL's values of respect, integrity, mateship, compassion and the responsibilities to all members.

Our goal is to ensure all members, guests, and employees of the RSL are respectively valued at all times


TRADING HOURS
DINNER:
Tuesday 6pm - 8:30pm
Wednesday 5:30pm – 8:30pm
Thursday 6pm - 8:30pm
Friday & Saturday 6pm - 9pm
LUNCH:
Tuesday – Saturday
12pm - 2:30pm
CLOSED
SUNDAYS &
MONDAYS
(03) 9548 4155
springvalersl.com.au
RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE AUSTRALIA
RSL
SPRINGVALE

# WHAT'S ON

## MEMBERS ONLY*




**$5 POTS & $7 SCHOONERS OF ANY TAP BEER**

MONDAY - FRIDAY
5.00PM - 7.00PM

## EVERY TUESDAY

**PARMA SPECIAL**

Members $16 / Non-members $18*

Six options to choose from



## EVERY WEDNESDAY

**T-BONE STEAK**

Members $21 / Non-members $23*

With a choice of sides & sauce

Add prawns $3



## EVERY THURSDAY

**SPRING INTO THURSDAY**

6 dishes $20 each

thursday nights from 6pm - 8.30pm

## EVERY FRIDAY

FRIDAY NIGHTS

**CASH DRAWS**

5pm - 9pm

Swipe your members card and go into the draw to win a share in $350 cash* drawn 7pm and 9pm

PLUS: 8PM MEMBER'S JACKPOT DRAW

STARTS AT $1,000

Jackpots by $50 each week not claimed



## EVERY SATURDAY

**REEF & BEEF**

Members $37 / Non-members $40*

EYE FILLET 1/2 LOBSTER WITH SIDES & SAUCE



(03) 9548 4155

springvalersl.com.au

*Terms & conditions apply

RSL SPRINGVALE

# MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

As we approach the end of the year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been happening around Springvale RSL.

Our food offering has continued to develop, with the introduction of our new Fleming Bistro menu. The name pays tribute to William Henry, Victor Lawrence and Thomas Stanley Fleming, three brothers who served during World War I and returned home to help establish the Springvale RSL Sub-Branch in 1920.

It is important to us that the Club continues to recognise its history, and naming our Bistro after the Fleming brothers is a small but meaningful way of keeping that history alive.

We are also pleased to announce that the renovations and refurbishments presented at our AGM earlier this year have received approval from RSL Victoria, with works now underway. We appreciate your patience and understanding while these improvements take place and will continue to keep members updated throughout the process. We look forward to unveiling the completed works in December!

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events coming up, including Island Night on 12 November, our final Taste of Asia for the year on 26 November, and our New Year's Eve Show on 31 December. We look forward to seeing you there.

We understand that the cost of living continues to place pressure on many individuals and families in our community. As a club, we are always mindful of these challenges and do our best to look after our members and the wider community by providing affordable facilities, value for money and opportunities to come together. Every decision we make is carefully considered, with the wellbeing of our members and the long-term sustainability of the club at the forefront.
I always welcome feedback, suggestions or questions, so please feel free to approach me whenever you have something you would like to discuss.

Finally, I would like to extend a genuine thank you to our staff, committee, volunteers and, of course, our members.

There are many people who contribute to making Springvale RSL what it is, often without recognition or thanks. I sincerely appreciate the time, effort and support everyone continues to give to the club.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy remainder of the year!

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been a busy last few months, with the RSL Victoria State Conference, our Gala Night and advertising for a replacement Welfare Officer.

Our Secretary Brian Davey, Vice President George Lewandowski, and I attended the RSL 111th State Conference held at the RACV facilities in the city, a number of issues were raised and discussed by various delegates from other RSL Sub-Branches, who shared similar concerns about the future of the Victorian Sub-Branches, as some have only 20 or so members and face financial issues.

Betty Crittenden was named the 2026 Anzac of the Year Award. Betty's story, which encompasses 45 years of service to one Sub-Branch, was presented with a well-earned award for her service.

This year's Gala Night, which we held on behalf of the Springvale Benevolent Society, has had some difficult challenges trying to obtain good quality items to put up as prizes and auction items, it appears that most businesses must also be experiencing financial difficulties, compared to last year.

The Gala Night was well attended 13 tables, 162 guests in total attendance. Food was awesome John our Chef has excelled himself, I have been receiving compliments about the night, and some have said looking forward to next, WHAT'S next year?? That's something that needs to be considered.

The Benevolent Society were more than thankful to accept a total of just over $42,000. Thank you to all who contributed to this amazing amount.

On Friday, 4th September, we were presented with Brigadier Black's medal collection. It is quite a nice collection, and we have assured the family that the medals will be well cared for at our Sub-Branch.

Our Poppy Appeal is fast approaching Sub-Branch members please make time available to volunteer to sell poppies at either Parkmore Shopping Centre or Bunnings Keysborough.

As you may have observed, we have new furniture in the Fleming Bistro, very nice, we had no trouble disposing of the old chairs and table, people were more than happy to collect the furniture to refurbish. That's all for the moment from me! Hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year ahead!

John Wilson



# MEDAL PRESENTATION

Springvale RSL was honoured to receive a significant donation of military medals belonging to the late Brigadier Denis Victor Black, MC, OBE, generously donated by Mrs Barbi Knott in fulfilment of the wishes of the late Mrs Shirley Black, Brigadier Black's wife.

Brigadier Black had a distinguished military career, serving in the British Army during both World Wars and later with the Royal Indian Army Service Corps. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1919 for gallantry and distinguished service, and appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1937. His service included the Burma Campaign and operations on the North-West Frontier of India.

Beyond his military achievements, Brigadier Black was also an accomplished athlete, representing Great Britain in the 1920 Antwerp Olympic Games as a member of the 4 × 100-metre relay team.

The donation ensures that Brigadier Black's medals and the remarkable history behind them will be preserved and honoured at Springvale RSL for future generations. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs Knott for entrusting our Club with these important pieces of military history and for helping us continue to recognise the service and sacrifice of those who have served. We look forward to displaying these proudly in our new memorabilia display once the refurbishments of the club are complete.






# COMMITTEE:
# MEET WENDELL KELAART

My name is Wendell Kelaart, and I was born in Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, into a family of Dutch ancestry.

I attended St Joseph's College in Colombo, where I excelled in academics and sport. Cricket was a particular passion, and in 1971 I was honoured to captain the college's First XI team. In 1969–70, I represented the 'Ceylon Schoolboys' cricket team on a tour of India, returning unbeaten after winning the five-Test series 2–0. It remains one of the most memorable sporting experiences of my early life.

After leaving school, I joined the Royal Ceylon Air Force, receiving my commission and pilot wings in 1972. After graduating from the Air Force Academy. During twelve years of Air Force service, I accumulated 2,500 flying hours and Commanded Two Detachments.

Following my military service, I pursued a rewarding career in international aviation, travelling the world and working with Four major airlines. My journey included 19 years with AirLanka and Sri Lankan Airlines, Receiving training in Toronto Canada on Lockheed L1011 aircraft. Six years with Singapore Airlines flying Boeing 747 Passenger/ Cargo aircraft and training in Toulouse France on the Airbus A330 and A340. I also spent two years with Korean Airlines in South Korea before briefly taking a different path as a tram driver with Yarra Trams in Melbourne.
However, my passion for aviation never faded, and I eventually returned to Sri Lankan Airlines, where I spent a further nine years before retiring at the age of 65.
With several years of flying behind me, I look back on my career with immense pride and gratitude. It has been an incredible privilege to explore the world, experience the beauty of different countries and cultures, and create memories that I will treasure for a lifetime.

I am a proud father of three married daughters and grandfather of eight.
I also serve as an Elder at Cranbourne Presbyterian Church and remain connected to my heritage through the Australia–Ceylon Friendship Society and the Ex-Royal Ceylon Air Force Club.

My connection with the military has always remained close to my heart. Although my career led me into civilian aviation, I have never forgotten the comradeship, discipline and traditions of military service.
After being a member of the RSL Cranbourne and Dandenong, I joined Springvale RSL in 2023. What began as visits for lunch and the occasional curry night soon became something much more meaningful.
I discovered a welcoming community built on friendship, respect and support for our veterans.
In 2025, I was honoured to accept an invitation from President Mr John Wilson to join the committee, a responsibility I proudly embrace. I also enjoy the club's many activities, particularly Friday night entertainment, Morning Melodies and the Thursday Mobility and Balance group exercise class.
What makes Springvale RSL truly special is its people. The kindness, dedication and warmth of the management, staff and fellow members have made me feel genuinely welcomed and valued.
Having served in the military and enjoyed a rewarding career travelling the world, I am grateful for the experiences and friendships life has brought me.
Today, Springvale RSL is more than just a club, it is a place of belonging, friendship and community. I sincerely thank the President, committee, management, staff and members for making me feel part of the Springvale RSL family.
**My greatest hope is that Springvale RSL will remain my home club for the rest of my days.**
Thank you.

# 2026 GALA NIGHT

RSL SPRINGVALE

SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY





















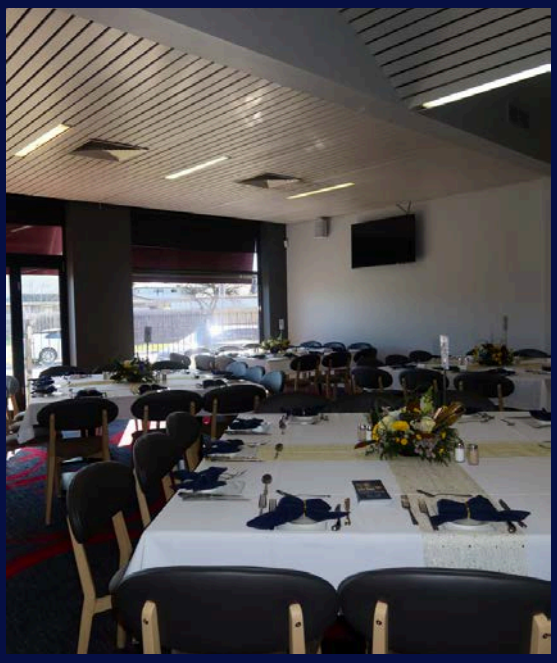


A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS, DONORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED AND HELPED MAKE THIS WONDERFUL NIGHT POSSIBLE.

TOGETHER, WE PROUDLY RAISED $42,049.65 FOR THE SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT.








PROUDLY SUPPORTING
SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT S ETY
RSL
SPRINGVALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY









# WELFARE:
# MEET STEPH MILL

Hello,
My name is Steph Mill, and I have recently been appointed Welfare Coordinator at Springvale RSL Sub-Branch, taking over from Janet Arnold. I'm excited to have joined the Springvale RSL community and to become part of such a welcoming organisation.

I am a Registered Nurse with 20 years' experience in mental health, with a professional background spanning psychiatric triage, telehealth, community support, and working with people experiencing a wide range of challenges. Most recently, I have worked in an education setting, supporting young people with complex needs and their families.

There are several valuable programs that already exist and I intend to continue these while also establishing regular contact with our service members, widows and community groups.

I will work closely with other RSLs and aged care facilities across the district to help ensure that our veterans, their families and carers receive the support and services they need. I will soon be arranging visits to members in their homes and aged care facilities, as well as other activities aimed at strengthening connections and promoting an inclusive, caring and supportive approach to welfare within the Springvale RSL community

My working hours are:
Tuesday: 10.00 am – 4.30 pm
Wednesday: 8.00 am – 2.30 pm
Thursday: 8.00 am – 4.30 pm

I am based in the house next to the RSL car park. Please feel free to ask for me at reception if you would like to get in touch or phone 03 9562 4104.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the coming weeks. Together, I hope we can continue to support one another and ensure the needs of veterans and their families remain at the heart of our community.

Warm regards,
Steph Mill
Welfare Coordinator
Springvale RSL Sub-Branch

# NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM











# BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

# $20

per calander year

## Benefits include:

Discounts on drink & meal purchases

Earn points on all transactions

$20 drink & meal voucher for your birthday

Entry into:

- Member's Draw
- Cash Draws
- Statewide competitions
- Promotions

Simple kiosk swipe for venue entry

## Speak with one of our friendly staff for more information!

21-23 Osborne Avenue
Springvale 3171

Springvale RSL

# WHITE EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT

Springvale RSL President John Wilson, Vice-President George Lewandowski, with their respective Wives, Emmie and Maria, accepted an invitation to attend the White Eagles Football Club Presentation Night. Springvale RSL was a sponsor for the 2026 season.

The evening was an enjoyable and exciting event where all teams, juniors to seniors, males and females, were recognised for their skills and successes in the 2026 season. The members were very congenial and ensured that we were made very welcome.

John and George were called to the stage, where John was presented with the Sponsor's award by the White Eagles Club President, Drazen Ninkovic.

John then announced that the RSL had voted that morning to present White Eagles with a sponsorship of $12,000.00 for the 2027 season. This was met with great applause from its members. John further added that the decision was based on the club's focus on its Juniors program and developing a larger female participation in the sport.

John went on to say that the RSL had received great return assistance during ANZAC and Remembrance Appeals in selling badges and assisting with volunteers.
White Eagles have also been strong supporters of the RSL's annual Gala Charity Fund-Raising efforts by selling Gala raffle tickets and attending on the night. Again, Club President Drazen thanked John for the RSL's generosity.

Of course, George had to point out that Springvale RSL was prominently displayed on the White Eagles Sponsor Board!

All in all a great night was enjoyed.






# WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!




# FROM THE SPRINGVALE RSL TEAM

# NEW YEARS EVE

**31st December 2026**

**6pm - 1am**

**$100 p.p**

**Live show & Buffet**

GYPSY
THE AUSTRALIAN
FLEETWOOD MAC
TRIBUTE SHOW





**join us for the count down**

**Springvale RSL**