

Mt Evelyn RSL News



Volume 7, Issue 2, Winter 2017

A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



2017 Meeting Dates

Fri April 21st
Fri May 19th
Fri June 16th
Fri July 21st
Fri Aug 18th
Fri Sept 16th
Fri Oct 20th
Fri Nov 17th
Fri Dec 15th

The Mt Evelyn RSL Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month at 7.30pm at the:

Mt Evelyn RSL

Clubrooms

**Behind: Hardy House
49 Birmingham Rd
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796**

Ph: 9737 0767

Email:
mtevrsl@gmail.com

Postal Address:
**PO Box 182
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796**



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SCURRY BOOK LAUNCHED



Above: The Hon Tony Smith MP, Federal member for Casey, Anthony McAleer, Secretary Mt Evelyn RSL, Dr Ross McMullin, historian at the launch. Photo: courtesy of the office of Tony Smith MP

On Sunday February 19th, 2017 a good crowd packed the Silvan Public Hall for the official launch of the Mt Evelyn RSL's new publication – 'Scurry – The Man Who Got Them Safely Off Gallipoli'.

The book tells the story of Major William Charles Scurry MC, DCM, who invented the time release gun that got the Anzacs off Gallipoli without the loss of a life. He later went on to serve with a trench mortar unit on the Western Front before suffering wounds to his hand and eye when a bomb went off in his hand. His wounds meant that he could no longer serve with an infantry unit, so he became an instructor at the Anzac Corps School, although he did see action again in 1918.

After the war he married a war nurse, raised a family of four daughters and took a soldier settler block in Silvan. During World War Two he served again, becoming the camp commandant at the Japanese Civilian internment camp at Rushworth. He died in 1963 and is buried at the Lilydale Cemetery.

On the day many Scurry family members were present including his daughter, Judith Storey, who came down from Bermagui, NSW to be there.

The book was launched by Dr Ross McMullin, author of 'Pompey Elliott', a biography of a person who loomed large in Bill Scurry's life. Other guest speakers on the day included Glenn McFarlane, author of 'The Fair Dinkums', and the Hon Tony Smith MP. Vice-President Jim Hurley spoke on behalf of the club.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all thanks to Deanne Webb, Dot Ervine, Wendy McGowan & Jenny McAleer. John Allwood sold lots of books on the day.

Important Dates Coming Up:

Athenaeum Theatre, Lilydale

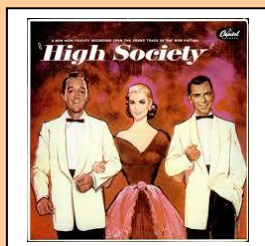
Members of the club
enjoy our quarterly
excursions to the ATC.

We will be doing the same
in 2016 so come along and
see:

**One Flew Over the
Cuckoo's Nest
Sunday May 28th
@ 2.00pm**



**High Society
Sunday August 20th
@ 2.00pm**



**Six Dance Lesson in Six
Weeks
Sunday November 12th
@ 2.00pm**

**Tickets only \$10
for members
Contact Roger on
9737 0830**

Anzac Day Dawn Service

**Starts:
5.45am**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anzac Day is the busiest day in the year for the Mount Evelyn RSL Sub Branch. Commencing with the Dawn Service at 5.45am in the Mount Evelyn War Memorial Park followed straight after by the march back to the clubrooms where we hold our free community breakfast. We then support the subsequent memorial services at Wandin, Evelyn Ridge retirement home, Silvan and the Mt Evelyn Football match. The day then culminates with our traditional 'Two-Up' at the 'York on Lilydale' beginning at 1.00pm and finishing somewhere around 6.00pm.

But that's just on the day - two weeks before Anzac Day, RSL members and volunteers/friends of the RSL bond together to sell Anzac Tokens, raising public money for our primary responsibility, the welfare of veterans and their families in our community. Local schools also assist with this responsibility.

But organising the day is a real community effort. The Mount Evelyn Football-Netball Club ladies plan and execute the ever popular free community breakfast, the CFA provide seating for older members and refreshments afterwards, Mount Evelyn Police arrange traffic control and public safety (assisted this year by the Yarra Ranges Council), St John's Ambulance prepare to look after the health and safety of the public, local scouts & guides organise themselves to assist with the service, as does The Mount Evelyn Reformed Church and community guest speakers are prepared. Our bugler, Karin Meyer, is invited to participate in the service along with local singer/songwriter/guitarist Alex Borg and our pipers Iain Townsley and Neil Chisholm set the scene every year with their spine tingling music in the pre-dawn.

Each year the planning and order of service is the responsibility of RSL secretary Anthony McAleer and this year he has organised as our guest speakers - Jim Brown, once a familiar face on TV as a political reporter for Channel 9 & 10, and his good mate guitarist Vince Brophy. They will be performing their famous and moving poem 'The ANZAC on the Wall'.

Later at the 'York on Lilydale' the friends-volunteers of the RSL manage the two-up ring, ably supported by the York management and staff.

This is probably the one occasion when nearly all our community works as one to remember all of those who have served our nation.

Lest We Forget.

Regards,

Roger Boness - President, Mt Evelyn RSL

Membership Subs for 2017 – *Now Due!*

Full Members – open to ex-service personnel who were in the uniformed services for a period of six months or more. **\$25 a year**

Affiliated Members – open to those who have served with the emergency services or whose relatives were service personnel. **\$25 a year**

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Bendigo Bank

Title – RSL Mt Evelyn – General Account

BSB – 633-000 A/C NUMBER – 117020883



BETTY'S JOKE PAGE



Our Les Kennedy has forwarded this **Patriotic Retirement Plan** which he reckons may fix the economy:

There are about 10 million people over 50 in the work force.

Pay them \$1 million each severance for early retirement with the following stipulations:

- 1) They **MUST** retire.
Ten million job openings - unemployment fixed
 - 2) They **MUST** buy a new Australian car.
Ten million cars ordered - Car Industry fixed
 - 3) They **MUST** either buy a house or pay off their mortgage -
Housing Crisis fixed
 - 4) They **MUST** send their kids to School / college / university -
Crime rate fixed
 - 5) They **MUST** buy \$100 WORTH of alcohol/tobacco a week
- and there's your money back in duty/tax etc*

It can't get any easier than that!

As I was getting in bed, she said, "You're drunk."

I said, "How do you know?"

She said, "You live next door".

A golfer visits a fortune teller to ask if there are any golf courses in Heaven.

"I have good news and bad news," the fortune teller says.

"What's the good news?" the golfer asks.

"The good news is that the courses in Heaven are without doubt better than anything you have ever seen on Earth," she replies.

"What's the bad news then?" the golfer asks.

"You have a tee time booked at 8:30 tomorrow morning."

A man goes into a drugstore and asks the pharmacist if he can give him something for the hiccups. The pharmacist promptly reaches out and slaps the man's face.

"What did you do that for?" the man asks.

"Well, you don't have the hiccups anymore, do you?"

The man says, "No, but my wife out in the car still does!"

A doctor is to give a speech at a local RSL ceremony. He jots down notes for his speech. Unfortunately, when he stands in front of the microphone later, he finds that he can't read his notes. So he asks, "Is there a pharmacist in the house?"

On the first day of school, the children brought gifts for their teacher.

The florist's son brought the teacher a bouquet of flowers.

The milk bar owner's daughter gave the teacher a pretty box of chocolates.

Then the liquor-store owner's son brought up a big, heavy box. The teacher lifted it up and noticed that it was leaking a little bit. She touched a drop of the liquid with her finger and tasted it.

"Is it wine?" she guessed.

"No," the boy replied.

She tasted another drop and asked, "Champagne ?

"No," said the little boy... "It's a puppy!"

A woman has identical twins, and gives them up for adoption.

One goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Amal."

The other goes to a family in Spain, and they name him "Juan."

Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. When she sees the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Amal.

Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal."

A little boy was attending his first wedding.

After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?"

"Sixteen," the boy responded.

His cousin was amazed that he had an answer so quickly. "How do you know that?"

"Easy," the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up, like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer."

*Follow us on
facebook:*



SCURRY BOOK LAUNCH



Above: The Silvan Hall
Below: Dr Ross McMullin



Photos
Jenny McAleer

Above: Glenn McFarlane
Below: Jim Hurley



Left:
The Hon Tony Smith MP, Federal Member for Casey, with Judith Storey, daughter of Major Scurry, and her son Keith Storey.

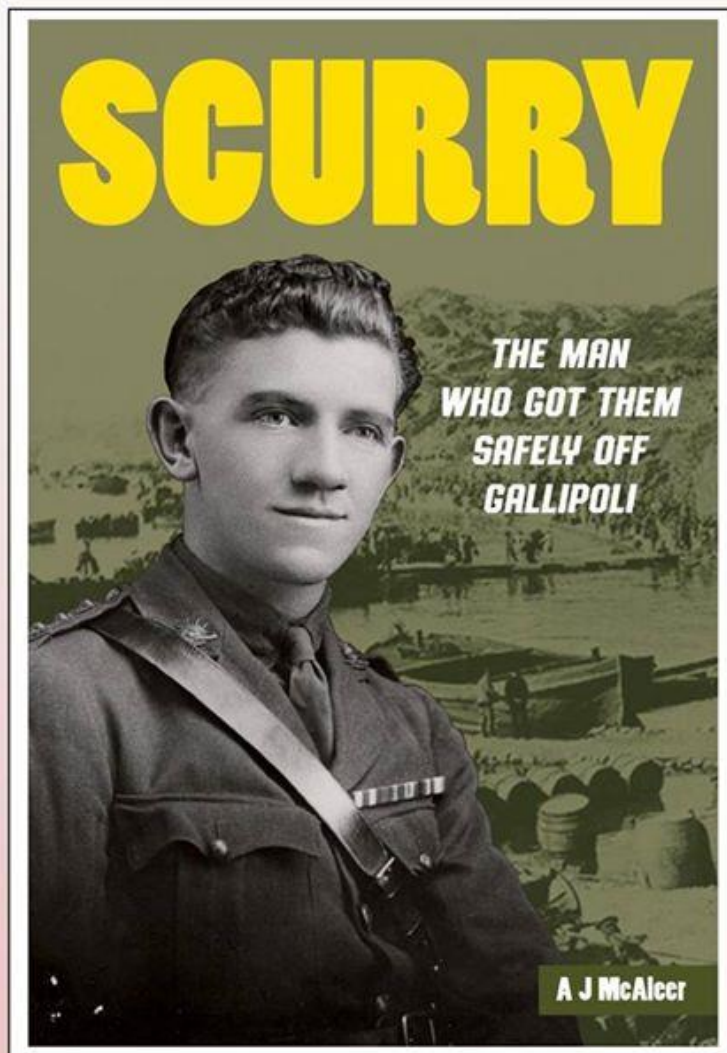
Photo: courtesy of the office of Tony Smith MP.

Below: Scurry's famous Gallipoli rifle



SCURRY

THE MAN WHO GOT THEM SAFELY OFF GALLIPOLI



On December 8th, 1915 there were 38,500 Australian troops occupying trenches on Gallipoli, facing a larger Turkish force of some 80,000. Twelve days later they had all been evacuated from the Peninsula without the loss of a man and without the enemy knowing.

How they did this was helped in no small way by an ingenious invention created by twenty year old Lance-Corporal Bill Scurry, a self-firing rifle with a primitive timer that would convince the Turkish soldiers that the Anzacs were still in their trenches shooting at them when in fact they had long gone. It would earn for him the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the gratitude of those who had got off Gallipoli safely.

But this was only a small part of the Bill Scurry story. From Egypt to Gallipoli and on to the Western Front, where he lost an eye and gained the Military Cross. Then to his post-war days as a soldier settler in Silvan before he was to serve once more in the Second World War.

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NEWS



Our community market is going from strength to strength. Many thanks to all the members who volunteer who run our sausage sizzle – if you can help out on market day please contact Roger on 9737 0830.

Left: Stan Beaumont, Ted Fairweather, Ern Johnston, John Allwood.
Photo: Iain Townsley

CENTENARY SERVICES



Above: Service held at Mooroolbark War Memorial 15/3/17 for Archie Kilfoyle (L Stott).

Below: Our Betty Crittenden selling Anzac tokens out front of Mt Evelyn IGA. (courtesy of Joy Phillips)



Below: Recently our treasurer, John Allwood – seen here with his lovely wife Gladys – visited the Old Country where he decided to show off his knees. Just wondering what our piper will make of this?



BENVENUTI FESTIVAL – KILLARA ESTATE



Above: Piper Iain Townsley started the day's program off.

Below: President, Roger Boness, and Secretary, Anthony McAleer, promote our Scurry book



The Mt Evelyn RSL were very pleased to once again take part in the Benvenuti Festival run by the Yarra Valley Italian Cultural Group at the beautiful Killara Estate Winery in Seville. Once again the organisers arranged for a wonderful multi-cultural program on the day, all kicked off by our Vice-President Iain Townsley on the bagpipes.

This year we increased our stall size and along with our books, we also were selling stubby holders to help raise funds for the Seville War Memorial Project.

We also had the opportunity to promote our new book on Major Scurry up on the stage. Many thanks to the following members who helped out on the day – Roger, Stan, Dot, Betty, Deanne, Les, Iain and Anthony. A day enjoyed by all who were there.



Above: Stan Beaumont and Roger Boness working away at our stalls.

Below: The Mt Evelyn RSL's stall all set up. We raised over \$300 on the day.

Photos: courtesy Deanne Webb





2017 ANZAC DAY
DAWN SERVICE
- *MT EVELYN* -

Tuesday April 25th @ 5.45am

'Mt Evelyn War Memorial Park'
Cnr Wray Cres & Birmingham Rd

- Dawn Service
- March from War Memorial Park to RSL Hall
- Free community breakfast at the RSL Hall

Groups wanting to lay a floral tribute at the Dawn Service
please contact RSL secretary (Anthony) on 9736 4384



Proudly sponsored by:



2017 ANZAC DAY

- THE MT EVELYN RSL -

proudly presents

the traditional Anzac Day game of

TWO - UP

Tuesday April 25th from 1.00pm

**'York on Lilydale Hotel'
Cnr York & Swansea Rds**

- RSL run traditional games of 'Two-Up'
- Raffles & prizes to be won
- York sausage sizzle
- Remembrance service to be held



For further details please contact

Mt Evelyn RSL President (Roger Boness) on 9737 0830

Veterans Wellness Programs

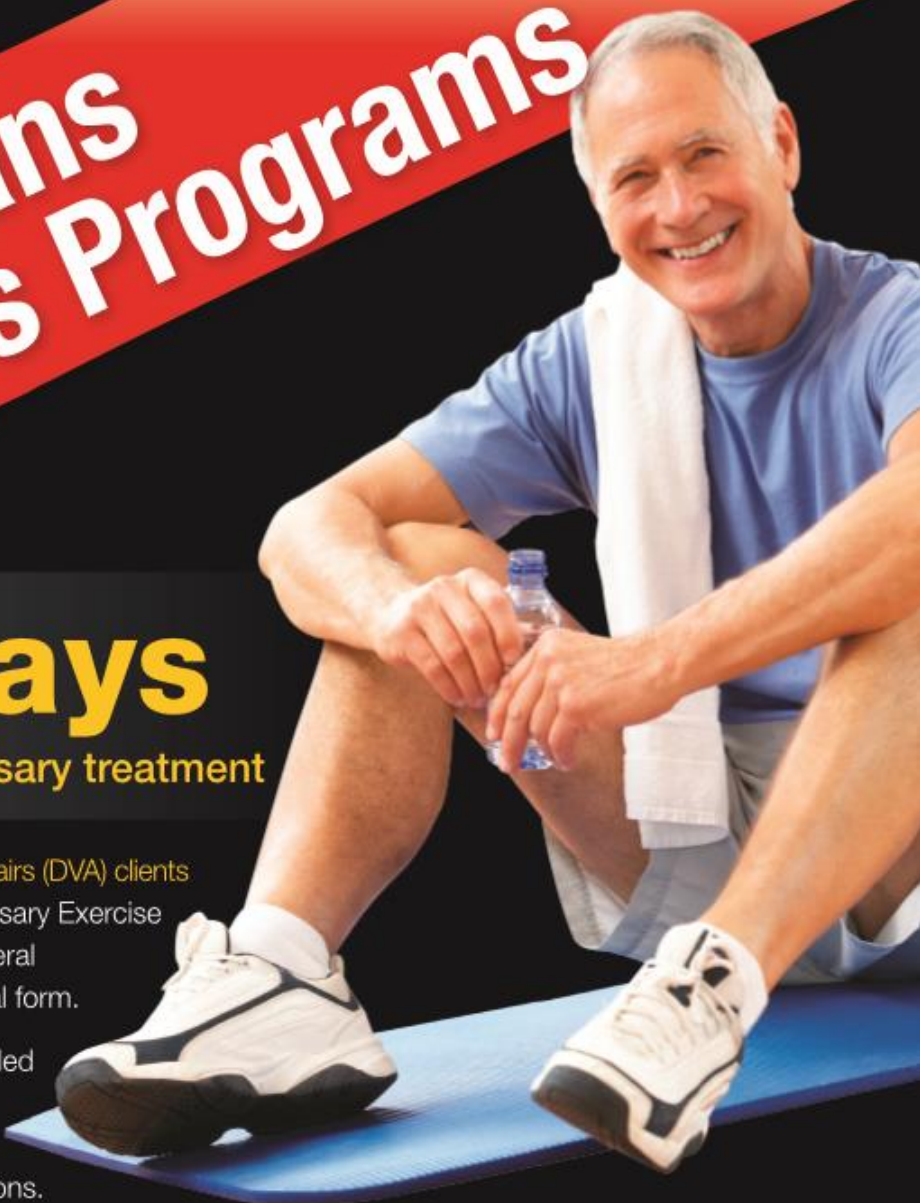
DVA Pays

for the clinically necessary treatment

Entitled Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients may be referred for clinically necessary Exercise Physiology treatment by their General Practitioner on a valid D904 referral form.

Gold Card Holders are entitled to clinically necessary treatment covered by DVA's health care arrangements for all health conditions.

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MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP

LILYDALE - FEBRUARY 1914

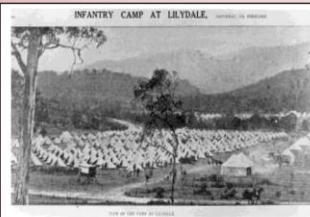
100 years ago John Monash and 3000 citizen soldiers descended on Lilydale and camped for week where the Lilydale Lake is today.

While they were there they were visited by General Sir Ian Hamilton & Richard Williams of RAAF fame and held a huge 'mock battle' near Melba's home in Coldstream.



Why were they there, what did they do, why was the event the most important in Monash's pre-war military career?

To mark the centenary of this remarkable event the Mt Evelyn RSL has published a book that details in words and images the fascinating story of 'Monash's Militia Camp'.



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A STRETCHER BEARER'S WAR

The Story of Ralph Goode MBE



In 1914 Ralph Goode became the first of many men from Lilydale to enlist in World War One when he joined the 2nd Field Ambulance as a stretcher-bearer. Before he left for service overseas his fiancée gave him two small diaries in which to write down his experiences.

Over the next four years he painstakingly recorded what he went through in Egypt, on Gallipoli and throughout the Western Front. What he created on the pages of those little diaries is an extraordinary day to day account of the horrors and heroism of serving as a stretcher bearer in what they called 'The Great War'.

But his life back home in those decades after the war was to be just as heroic. What he did to cope with the trauma of his war experience would benefit his community greatly and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

With a foreword by Dr Michael Cathcart.

ORDER NOW:

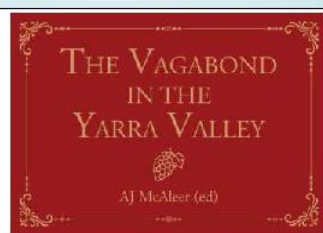
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THE VAGABOND IN THE YARRA VALLEY



Observation of the Yarra Valley by one of the 19th Century's greatest writers and journalists
The Vagabond.

His complete collection of articles written on the Yarra Valley from 1877 to 1894. Includes details of the early wine industry, a description of travelling here by coach and then by train, reports on the development of the townships and its residents as well as the Steels Creek gold rush.

With a Foreword by:
Christine Fyffe MLA

Introduction by:
Jim Brown

Fully illustrated with images and photos of the Yarra Valley in the 19th Century - many never seen before!

Right: Deschamps Hill, Lilydale from 'The Towers'



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GREAT COURAGE AND INITIATIVE

*The Heroic Life of
George Ingram VC, MM*



This is the biography of Captain George Ingram VC, MM, the Yarra Valley's only recipient of the Victoria Cross, the Commonwealth's highest award for valor on the battlefield.

From a country boyhood growing up in Seville, to serving with the artillery in Victoria and Rabaul and on to the horror and heroism of the Western Front with the 24th Battalion AIF where he was awarded both the Military Medal and the Victoria Cross.

After the war he spent time as a soldier settler before serving with the Shrine Guard and the Royal Australian Engineers in WW2.

ORDER NOW:

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**Mt Evelyn
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The Mt Evelyn RSL has a community
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RSL members can attend guest speaker
talks for free.

Event Days (guest speakers, tours etc):

Third Saturdays on odd months

1.30pm

'Hardy House' –

Mt Evelyn RSL Hall

The Mt Evelyn History Group
Annual membership - \$15

General Meetings:

every third Monday of even months
7.30pm

'Hardy House' –

Mt Evelyn RSL Hall



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CROYDON KILSYTH MONTROSE MT EVELYN LILYDALE DISPLAY SEVILLE



LILYDALE WEIGHT CLUB

We meet at the Mt Evelyn
RSL Hall every Tuesday
5.45pm-6.45pm

Everyone welcome!



FITNESS CLASSES

At the RSL Hall
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STRONG WOMEN.

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The Mt Evelyn Branch meets every
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The Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce

Les Kennedy

is the RSL's representative on the
Chamber of Commerce

– any ideas or issues for the Chamber
ring Les on: 0418 149 558

RALPH PROCTOR DISPLAY

Make sure you check out the Ralph Proctor RAAF display at the 'Mont de Lancey Museum' at Wandin. Ralph was a long time member at the Mt Evelyn RSL & served with the RAAF in Europe during World War Two. He donated his wartime memorabilia to the museum and it is a fascinating collection. Includes items to do with his experiences at D-Day & Arnhem.



Mont de Lancey Museum & Homestead

71 Wellington Rd, Wandin

Open: Wed-Sun 10.30-4.30pm

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Mt Evelyn Community Market

4th Saturday of each month (Feb - Nov)

9am - 1pm

RSL/Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Rd

Everyone is welcome to join us at the monthly
Mt Evelyn Community Market.

Featuring various stall holders and local businesses.

Fresh produce and an RSL sausage sizzle and devonshire tea.

www.facebook.com/mtevelyncommunitymarket



WILLIAM HAWKEY

In commemoration of the centenary of World War One, the Mt Evelyn & Lilydale RSLs have divided the local war memorials between them and will be holding a service on the centenary date of those listed on these memorials who died while on active service. In connection with this will be publishing their biographies in each of our newsletters.....

William John Hawkey was born at Yering in September 1886, one of four children of William Henry Hawkey and Eliza Hawkey (nee Snell). His mother passed away when he was young and his father remarried, having another three children with his second wife.

William grew up in John St, Lilydale, his father worked at David Mitchell's Cavehill Quarry, and he attended the Lilydale State School. After he finished his schooling he took up working odds jobs in the area and at the time of his enlistment was working as a barman in a hotel in St Kilda.

When the war first started in 1914 he tried to enlist but was rejected because of his short height, he was only five feet, three inches tall. Then later when the casualties starting coming in from the Gallipoli campaign the authorities weren't as fussy and he was then able to successfully enlist in the AIF in July 1915. His medical records show he had brown eyes and light brown hair.

He undertook his initial training at the army camp at Ascot Vale but it wasn't until November 1915 before he was sent to the training camp at Broadmeadows, Victoria where he was allotted to the 12th reinforcements for the 8th Battalion and given the regimental number 3796. He embarked with his unit from Port Melbourne on the HMAT Ceramic on September 23rd, 1915.

The following month he was in camp at Egypt and was here until the AIF was reorganised. In March 1916 he was moved with the 8th Battalion to the Somme Valley in France, arriving here in May.

The 8th Battalion's first major action on the Western Front was at the battle of Pozieres that started on July 23rd, 1916. On the night of July 25th, during this battle, William was with 'C Company', who were moving up the Pozieres road between 10.00pm & 11.00pm to reinforce the front line. The Germans were shelling the road and a shell landed killing William instantly and wounding twelve others. He was thirty-one years old.

One witness to the event, Private Lionel Miller, claimed: *"I saw Hawkey killed on July 25th near the chalk pit at Pozieres village. It was not a regular advance; we were just going up to the front line. He was caught by a splinter of a shell. Two shells came along one after another and caught him. We managed to get out of the way but he was blown to pieces. We could not bring in his body, I saw the body several times the next day lying in the open".*

He was later buried at the Pozieres British Cemetery in France.

LEST WE FORGET

Right: Don Parsons, president of the Lilydale RSL, with the nephew of William Hawkey at the ceremony.

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Welcome to new member **Barry McCormack.**
- Best wishes to **Geoff Dawson** who is on the mend after injuring his leg.
- Another member who has been in hospital, getting a hip replacement, is **Paula Herlihy.** Wishing her a speedy recovery.
- Our **Les Kennedy** is taking a well-earned holiday at Mildura.
- **Montrose Anzac Service** – Sunday April 23rd, 2017 5.00pm @ the War Memorial in front of the Town Centre on Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Montrose.
If the weather turns bad it will be held in the Montrose Public Hall.
- The Mt Evelyn RSL are this year going to help sponsor the Birmingham Primary School Football Club by providing much needed football jumpers.
- The Yarra Valley Vietnam Veterans annual service will be at Warburton this year.
- Should you require any assistance or advice - **Deanne Webb** (the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer).
Ph: **0402 783 849**



If undeliverable return to:

The Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch
PO Box 182
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

The Digger's Café

The social club operates the club rooms
every

***Thursday afternoon
from 1.00pm to 4.30pm.***

If you're looking for something to do of a
Thursday afternoon in Mt Evelyn
why not call in for a chat or
a game of pool or indoor bowls.

Club Opening Hours

***Every Friday Night
7.00pm – 10.30pm***

Celebrate the end of the week with a visit to
the clubrooms.

We always have a well stocked fridge and
there is always someone on hand to make a
brew if you so desire.

Friday night football/cricket will be playing
on our big screen TV and don't forget we
also have a pool table.

Editor: Anthony McAleer

Ph: 9736 4384

Email: antmca@bigpond.com

*Send me an email me if you want to receive the
newsletter faster via email – it also saves the club
on postage costs!*

RSL Hall Hire

As you would have seen from recent publicity, the
membership of the Mt Evelyn RSL have voted to no
longer hire out our hall to one-off users for functions,
mainly because of the issues we've had with them
have made them more trouble than it's worth.

However we will still hire the hall out to members
for functions and at a discounted rate.

Contact the Secretary at:
mtevrsl@gmail.com

Mt Evelyn RSL Committee

President –

Roger Boness

Ph: 9737 0830

Vice Presidents–

Jim Hurley

Ph: 9876 3750

Iain Townsley

Ph: 9777 1276

Secretary –

Anthony McAleer

Ph: 9736 4384

Treasurer –

John Allwood

Ph: 9736 1551

Welfare Officer –

Deanne Webb

Ph: 0402783849

Padre –

Rev Richard Schoenmaker

Ph: 97361087

Appeals Officer –

John Allwood

Ph: 9736 1551

Chamber representative –

Les Kennedy

Ph: 0418 149 558

Justice of the Peace –

Kim Parry

Ph: 0418334416

Committee:

Betty Crittenden, Bill Smart, Ron Jones