Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 3, Issue 3, Anzac Edit 2013 A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



2013 Meeting Dates

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

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

Website: http://mountevelyn. vic.au/mountevelynrsl



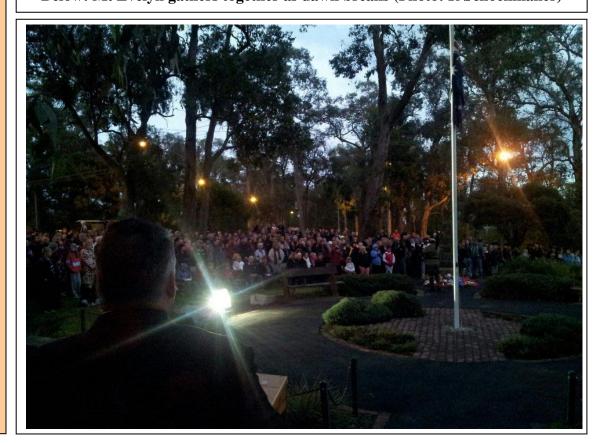
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TWO THOUSAND AT DAWN SERVICE!!

The attendance at this year's Anzac services has astounded everyone. For our Anzac service & march on Sunday April 21st we had a great crowd turn up on what was a beautiful sunny day. Iain Townsley on pipes, Tom Steele on bugle and the wonderful 'Croydon Citizen's Brass Band' all did a superb job, as did our speakers Cr Maria McCarthy, Christine Fyffe MLA, Tony Smith MP and the Rev Richard Schoenmaker. Our speaker guest was Major Russell Kirby who gave a significant talk on the meaning of Anzac Day & told the story of Major Scurry, a local farmer who helped get our men off Gallipoli. This was followed by the march, made special this year by the inclusion of a 1967 Mustang to help carry our veterans, and an afternoon tea and refreshments back at the club.

The crowds at our Dawn Service were really amazing, some estimated two thousand plus and there was hardly any room left in the park. This was the first year we'd held this event at the park and it proved to be a success with the crowd enjoying the unique bush surrounding and the sound of kookaburras, magpies & possums. It was also the first time we had the services of Iain Townsley and his bagpipes and our good friend Karin Meyer once again played the bugle movingly. Special guests this year were four RAAF servicemen, including locals Sean & Justin Starrenburg, who came down from NSW to be at our service. The free breakfast afterwards was wonderful and many got to join Iain's traditional 'gunfire' brew. (*Photos inside*)

Below: Mt Evelyn gathers together as dawn breaks (Photo: R Schoenmaker)



Important Dates Coming Up:

SUB-BRANCH EXCURSIONS

Athenaeum Theatre, Lilydale

Members of the club have enjoyed our quarterly excursions to the ATC this year. We will be doing the same in 2013 so come along and see:

- Laughter on the 23rd Floor
 June 2013
- The Light in the Piazza

 August 2013
- Are you Being Served Nov 2013

NEXT EXCURSION TO THE ATHENAEUM

Sunday June 2nd

1.00pm – BBQ lunch at the RSL 2.00pm – Sherries in foyer + visit Yarra Ranges Regional Museum

2.30pm – Curtain up
Total cost for
members
Only \$10.00

To book your ticket ring club & leave message:

9737 0767

On display at the Yarra Ranges Museum:

Rolling Stone – The Covers (1972-2010)



Free admission

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well it has certainly been a very busy period for the Mt Evelyn RSL recently – the highlight being our Anzac services. On Sunday April 21st a service was held at the 'Mt Evelyn War Memorial Gardens' where the local community and community groups came together to pay tribute to our Anzac heritage. Veterans and community groups then marched down Birmingham Rd accompanied by the Croydon Citizens Brass Band and concluded at the RSL where a delicious afternoon tea was prepared by the RSL ladies and refreshments courtesy CFA.

A record number attended the awe-inspiring & solemn Dawn Service which was held for the first time at the 'Mt Evelyn War Memorial Park' on Anzac Day. It was a fitting tribute to those who served, suffered and died in defence of our nation. At the conclusion of the service everyone was invited back to the RSL where we paid tribute to our late member, Dr Bill Hardy, by having his children unveil his name on a plaque in our memorial garden. Afterwards the community enjoyed a free breakfast funded by Cr Maria McCarthy and wonderfully cooked and organised by Sue Harty & the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club.

On behalf of the Mt Evelyn RSL I would like to thank the following who helped make these events such a success: Melina Bengar & the Croydon Citizen's Brass Band, Tom Steele, Karin Meyer, Piper Iain Townsley, Mt Evelyn Community Schools Choir especially the music teachers Angela Glennie, Jenny Barker & Trista Fry, the students who participated and the parents who got them there, Cr Maria McCarthy, Christine Fyffe MLA, Tony Smith MP, Rev Richard Schoenmaker, the Mt Evelyn Christian Reformed Church, Major Russell Kirby, Major Tony Geyer, the Mt Evelyn Scouts, Guides, CFA, Football/Netball Club, Chamber of Commerce, Rene Belyus (a superb job with the sound system), Rob Sibbing, Siobhan Perry (with her 1967 Mustang), Sgt Sean Starrenburg, AC Justin Starrenburg, Jim Armstrong, Georgina Bennett, Ray Fellows, Tim Heenan, Jim Hurley, St Johns Ambulance, John, Christine & Peter Hardy & Sue Harty.

Anzac Day concluded with the traditional Two-Up at the 'York on Lillydale'. I thank everyone who attended and played in the spirit of the Anzacs. Many thanks to manager Ben Warden, his team & staff for facilitating the game, convenors: Doddy, Dean, Rick, Pete, Tippy, Mark, Cappy, Nam, Mark, Tash, Taylor, Andy & Stacey, also Dot & her team who sold tokens & Wendy McGowan who organised the raffle. — LEST WE FORGET — Roger Boness

APPEALS OFFICER'S REPORT

I am very pleased to announce that Mt Evelyn again achieved another record in our Anzac token sales - \$4238. Once again this is due to the great support from the Mt Evelyn community and the gallant band of volunteers who sold tokens from our stall outside of Mt Evelyn IGA over two weeks. Many thanks to those who helped out: Deanne, Elsa, Geoff, Rod, Julie, Wendy, Ted, Sandra and Rob for counting.

Thanks also to the Mt Evelyn Chemist for their support and to Wandin Yallock Primary School who sold badges for us and to Jenny who sold badges at Reece. Thanks again to the Wandin Traders for their support.

I also want to say many thanks to those ladies who assisted with the catering for our Sunday Anzac service: Wendy, Elsa, Jenny, Deanne, Erin & Sandra.

Regards, Dot Ervine – Mt Evelyn RSL Appeals Officer

The Mt Evelyn RSL always use:

HEWETT'S

Mt Evelyn's

Mt Evelyn's Quality Butchers



27 Wray Cres Ph: 9736 2206 Email: hewettma@gmail.com



BETTY'S JOKE PAGE



Bought the missus a hamster skin coat last week. Took her to the fair last night, and it took me 3 hours to get her off the Ferris wheel.

MAMA'S BIBLE

Four brothers left home for college and became successful doctors and lawyers.

Some years later, they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who lived far away in another city.

The first said 'I had a big house built for Mama'.

The second said, 'I had a hundred thousand dollar theatre built in the house'.

The third said, 'I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her'.

The fourth said, 'You know how Mama loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read anymore because she can't see very well? I met this preacher who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire Bible. It took twenty preachers 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for twenty years to the church, but it was worth it. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it.'

The other brothers were impressed.

After the holidays their mother sent out her 'Thank You' notes.

She wrote: 'Milton, the house you built is so huge; I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway'.

'Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home; I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good though. Thanks.'

'Michael, you gave me an expensive theatre with Dolby sound, it could hold 50 people, but all of my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it but thank you for the gesture just the same'.

'Dearest Bob, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. **The chicken was delicious**'.

A fellow raced into the bar and said to the barman, "Quick, give me four pots before the fight starts!"

He received the pots and proceeded to 'down' them when the barman asked, 'When DOES the fight start?"

"When I tell you I can't pay for these beers", came the reply.

How Old Is Grandma?

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandmother about current events. The grandson asked his grandmother what she thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general.

The Grandma replied, 'Well, let me think a minute, I was born before: television, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

There was no: Radar, credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens. Man had not invented: pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and man hadn't yet walked on the moon

Your Grandfather and I got married first, . . and then lived together! Every family had a father and a mother! Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, 'Sir'. And after I turned 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, 'Sir.'

We were before gay-rights, computer- dating, dual careers, day-care centres, and group therapy.

Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense! We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions. Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege. We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent! Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins!

This may shock you but by this reckoning Grandma would only be **60** years old!



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ANZAC SERVICE & MARCH - 21/4/2013





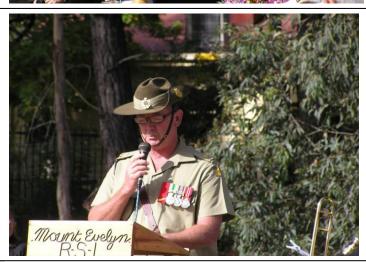












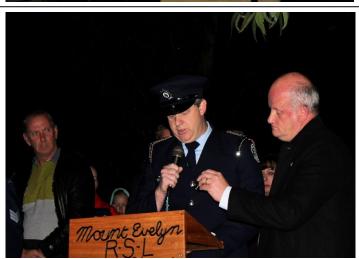


Many thanks to Deanne Webb & Jenny McAleer for these photos. There are a lot more photos from the day available to see on our facebook page www.facebook.com/mtevelynrsl

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE - 25/4/2013

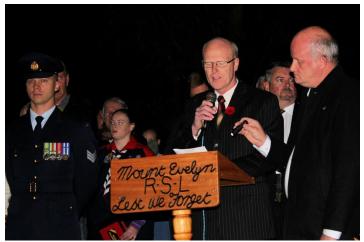


















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Unveiling of Dr Bill Hardy Plaque

On Anzac Day we were honoured to have present Dr Bill Hardy's children; John Hardy (along with his daughter), Christine Hardy & Peter Hardy to unveil their father's name in our Memorial Garden. On the day Cr Maria McCarthy introduced the family and spoke about how highly regarded Dr Hardy was in the community and at the RSL in particular.

Photo: Deanne Webb

Visit by the Melbourne Cycling Club

On Anzac Day members of the Melbourne Cycling Club decided to ride their bikes along the Warburton Trail from Lilydale to Warburton. They had pre-arranged with the RSL to stop at Mt Evelyn and lay a wreath at our war memorial as it was so close to the trail itself. Members of the Mt Evelyn RSL joined with the cyclists for a small ceremony in the war memorial gardens.

Photo: Deanne Webb





Vice-Presidents Our certainly busy were the Anzac over period. Jim Hurley (left) represented the Mt Evelyn RSL at the Wandin ceremony, performing 'The Ode', Iain Townsley (right) played his pipes almost non-stop including at both of our services, at the Anzac Day march in Melbourne and ceremonies at five local schools.

Photo: Deanne Webb

THE NEW KITCHEN & FLOOR



The floor of our hall has just been re-sanded and restained and it looks fantastic (see below). Paul O'Reilly, a great supporter of the club, and his mates did a superb effort and we can highly recommend his work.

Our kitchen has also been completely renovated (see left) courtesy of the Shire of Yarra Ranges and now contains: new cupboards, new bench tops, new lino, new blinds and new tiles on the walls.

New curtains are also being added to the hall as well.

PAUL E O'REILLY TIMBER FLOORING SPECIALIST

- Floor sanding & Finishing
- Cork, Parquetry supplied & laid

Ph:(03) 9728 2281 Mob:0412514650

WANTED

The club is in need of a lockable metal cupboard (see photo) in which our appeals officer can store our collection of Poppies and Anzac Tokens.

If you have one spare you no longer need or know of one going cheaply please contact Deanne on: **0402 783 849**



HALL HIRE

See back page for details on how to hire our hall.



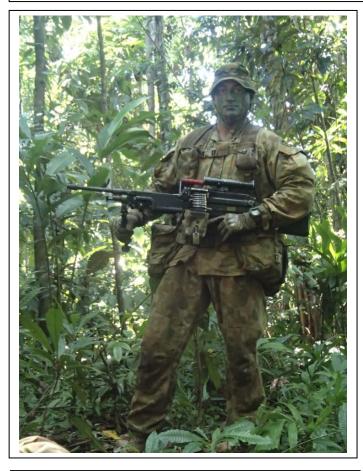
CLUB GETS BUS TRIPS GRANT

The Mt Evelyn RSL was recently successful in getting a grant from DVA to help fund bus trips for our members over the next three years. This is a chance to offer our members the opportunity to get out and visit some great sites around Victoria and enjoy some wonderful day outs.

Details of our first trip to be announced soon. But if anyone has any ideas or suggestions as to where we could go please pass them on.



GREETINGS FROM GUADALCANAL





One of our members, L/Cpl Chris McAleer, is currently on active service in the Solomon Islands as part of 'Operation Anode'. He sends this report...

Hi all! 'Operation ANODE' is the name of the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the Australian-led 'Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands' which has assisted the Solomon Islands Government in maintaining stability, law and justice, economic governance and improving the machinery of government since 2003. I can't talk about our role over here too much other than to say we are here to help with the local police, as well as the Federal police, to assist with bringing about stability to the Solomon Islands.

The base over here is the old Guadalcanal beach resort which is now a base for Army and Federal police from about ten Pacific Island nations. The housing is very good for the Army with two soldiers per room, with air con in every room, and the food is fantastic. There is also an Aspen Medical Centre on base with good staff as well as local people working all over in the kitchen, laundry and gardens.

I did a tour of the local history sites here. I went to some of the big American battle fields such as Bloody Ridge, Alligator Creek and Alston Hill where the US Marines were legendary. I will also be going to see where President John F Kennedy's Patrol Boat (PT109) was during the war and later will be going to Tulagi in the Gavutu Islands to see the Japanese caves and bunker systems that are still there.

You can see remains from World War Two all over the place (see photos below); fox holes, fighting pits, as well as ship wrecks on the beach from where Kawaguchi's men landed when they were getting ready for the attack on Bloody Ridge.

Left: On jungle patrol & at USMC memorial Honiara Below: Relics from World War Two.

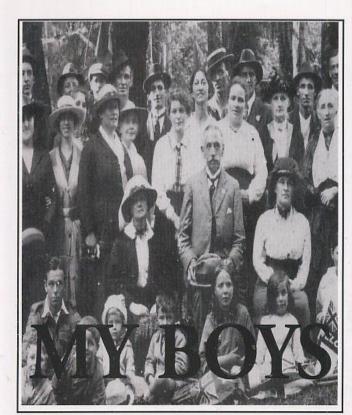




GREAT NEW BOOK FOR SALE!!

"MY BOYS"

MRS AENEAS GUNN



A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

MRS AENEAS GUNN OBE

'MY BOYS – A BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE'
By Mrs Aeneas Gunn

The Mt Evelyn RSL has a number of copies of this wonderful book produced by our comrades at the Monbulk RSL.

The book was originally written by Mrs Aeneas Gunn OBE (author of the classic Australian novels 'We of the Never Never' & 'The Little Black Princess') who presented the manuscript to the Monbulk RSL. The book tells the story of every Monbulk enlistee who served in the Boer War (1899-1902), the Boxer Rebellion (1900) and the First World War (1914-1918), all men she knew and who she helped. An introductory chapter tells the story of this amazing woman's devotion and care for the returned servicemen of Monbulk. Published forty years after her passing the book stands as a testament to one township's sacrifice to Australia's military heritage.

The book is hard cover with a dust jacket, b/w images, 219 pages, all numbered from a limited edition of 1000.

Cost only \$30.

Call in and collect one or email the RSL for details on how to get one. mtevrsl@gmail.com

Membership Subs for 2013

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**

Community Members – open to anyone – just means you don't have voting rights at the club. \$5 a year Tell us if you are over 80 years old – you no longer have to pay your subs!

Send a cheque or money order to – Mt Evelyn RSL, PO Box 182, Mt Evelyn

The Mt Evelyn RSL is a proud member of

The Mt Evelyn

Chamber of Commerce

Major Russell Kirby is the RSL's representative on the *Chamber of Commerce* – any ideas or issues for the Chamber ring Russell on:

0499475784

PLEASE NOTE

Copies of

'THE LAST LIGHT HORSEMAN' are available for sale through the Mt Evelyn RSL

or at the

Mt Evelyn Post Office, Station St



An environmental solution for hard service cleaning that saves water and stops discharge to the storm water system.

Residential & industrial cleaning

Total recycle technology means the most effective environmental choice.

Call Russ Kirby: (Mt Evelyn RSL Member) on –



For more information see:

0499475784

http://voutu.be/0d2Ridt4TCs

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Ph: **9736 3033** Mob: **0429 183021**

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www.artwithdistinction.com.au

Gift vouchers available - great gift idea!!!

St John Ambulance

St John always needs enthusiastic, willing and capable people - *just like you* - to assist us in helping our community save lives through First Aid.

The Mt Evelyn Branch meets every Tuesday night in the RSL Hall.

Call – Diane Dickson on **9736 2490**



Caring for Life

Academy of Human Development

On a Monday morning a group of philosophers meet at the 'RSL Hall' to discuss life's big questions:

* Why am I here?

* Who am I?



* Is there more to life?

Anyone interested in joining should contact:

Sue Hamilton on 0428829612.

Group sessions begin at 10am and finish at 12 midday.

Morning tea is provided.

FITNESS CLASSES



At the RSL Hall 49 Birmingham Rd. Mt Evelyn

Improve your strength, Balance & Flexibility.

Vicki provides a social One Hour Strength Training Class to suit a wide range of fitness levels. Personal attention provided & program modified as required to suit individual needs.

Beginners most welcome!! Bring a drink bottle & a smile! Bring a friend! Call in & try it – first class is free!! Weights provided.

Contact: Vicki Walburg
Ph: **9736 2980** Mob: **0408 998 045**vickiwalburg-fitness@yahoo.com.au

Rock 'n Roll



Dances and lessons In the RSL Hall Every Wednesday Night

Call Linda Ph: 9736 1113

RALPH PROCTOR DISPLAY

Make sure you check out the Ralph Proctor RAAF display at the 'Mont de Lancey Museum' at Wandin. Ralph has been a long time member at the Mt Evelyn RSL & served with the RAAF in Europe during World War Two. He has loaned 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

STEVE'S WHEELCHAIR & SCOOTER REPAIRS & SERVICE



Prompt attention to breakdowns SWEP & private work 7 Days PH: 0400564267

The Mt Evelyn RSL always uses:

TIGER SIGNS

*Computer Cut Vinyls *Digital Prints *Banners

Contact Dave – 0419 897 134 or 9737 0888



BILL HARRISON'S STORY – pt 1

This is the story of one of our past members, Bill Harrison. Bill served with the 1st Independent Company during World War Two and was a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL for a short time in the 1990's. In 1999 Anthony McAleer sat down with him and interviewed him about his memories of the war. What follows is Bill's story......

Where did you grow up?

I was born on the 10th of October 1920 in Oatley, NSW, the eldest son of Wilfred Henry & Annie Harrison. I grew up mainly in King St, Richmond but just before the war we moved to Blair St, Bentleigh or East Brighton it was called in those days. In about 1932 we also acquired a cottage in Mt Evelyn and I spent a lot of time around there also in my youth.

Two of my younger brothers and I use to play soldiers in the bush there. My grandfather and father had both been in the First World War so we had a German tin helmet and two Australian tin hats and we use to shoot at each other with shanghais and things. Mind you we had a code to always hit each other on the hat so it would bounce off and not hurt anyone in the face.

What was the attitude in your family as to what was happening in Europe in the years before the war?

We were very much English conscious, I still am actually – I still think England was the most wonderful country the world has ever seen. My father was the only one of his family not born in England so I had grown up on a diet of the British Empire. But I would say that anything to do with European politics ceased to have any interest for us after 1919, the end of the First World War. The prime opinion was the British opinion in our consciousness; well that's what I believe anyway.

What are you memories of hearing war was declared?

I was at 'University High School' then but at the time I was recovering from polio, I was almost over it, it was more a state of mind by then. When we heard that war was declared we marched through the house singing 'Rule Britannia' and things like that, even though I was still a little bit feeble at the time. My brother went along to the local newsagent and made a few bob for himself selling special newspapers that had been produced to announce the outbreak of war. In those days there use to be about five editions of the paper everyday but this was a special edition produced for the start of the war.

Once war was declared, what was the attitude to the Germans?

Germans were always closer to us than most foreigners, in fact we scarcely thought of Germans as foreigners. We knew some German people, it was like we had our English connections and they had their German connections. They were completely Australianised Germans so I don't think the war affected them. We had so much in common with them, they are pretty much like us, in fact with a bit more luck they could have been English. I think that's the reason why there was more anti-Japanese sentiment than anti-German. Well the Japanese were barely human I think.

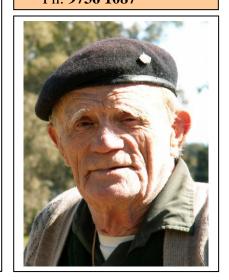
What was the attitude then to the Italians when they came into the war? Remember in the First World War the Italians were on our side, they were one of the Allies, and they suffered probably the worst percentage of casualties of any of the Allies. They did a darn good job too within their limitations. When they were all patriotically inclined, they fought like tigers, really admirable. I think we really thought of them as good guys who had slipped off the track a bit. I believe that the Italian people's hearts weren't in the war; I really believe that the ordinary Italians weren't in favour of it. This is why they put up such a poor performance. (Left: Bill Harrison)

Next issue: Bill enlists and soon becomes a Commando!

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Our best wishes go out to club stalwart Peter Henskens who in March was involved in a serious car accident in Mt Evelyn. Although still very unwell in hospital he is showing signs of improvements. Get well soon Peter.
- Our thoughts are also with Betty Crittenden ♥
- Welcome to new members – Andrew Walburg, Adrian Brewer & Rob Miller.
- Many thanks to Bev
 Watkins who donated a
 complete collection of
 Time/Life books Australia War series for
 our library.
- One of our members, Kim Parry, is a registered 'Justice of the Peace' and has offered his services to any member who should require it. Contact Kim on: 0418334416
- Should you require any assistance or advice -Deanne Webb (the Subbranch's Welfare Officer).
 Ph: 0402 783 849

Or the Rev Richard Schoenmaker (the subbranch's Padre) Ph: **9736 1087**



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.

Andy has a well stocked fridge and Peter is always 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!

Hall Hire

The RSL is a great facility for anyone who requires a place for clubs or social groups to gather. Most weekends this facility lies idle and the RSL could be making (albeit a small amount of) money from hiring it to interested parties. We would greatly appreciate your input if you know of anyone who might be interested in hiring the hall for a night or on an ongoing basis. However no Bucks/Hens or under 25's parties!

The Mt Evelyn Community Link is in charge of administrating hall bookings and can be contacted directly on 9736 1177.

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 –	
Sandra Fitzgerald	Ph: 9736 4918
Membership Officer –	
Betty Crittenden	Ph: 9728 3065
Welfare Officer –	
Deanne Webb	Ph: 0402783849
Padre –	
Rev Richard Schoenmaker	Ph: 97361087
Appeals Officer –	
Dot Ervine	Ph: 97363638
Chamber representative –	
-	

Ph: 9736 4918

Russ Kirby