

# Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 3, Issue 4, Spring 2013 A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



## 2013 Meeting Dates

July 19<sup>th</sup>  
Aug 16<sup>th</sup>  
Sept 20<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 18<sup>th</sup>  
Nov 15<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 20<sup>th</sup>

*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://moutevelyn.vic.au/moutevelyn-rsl>



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## WELL DONE ANDY FRANKS!!

Members of the Mt Evelyn RSL are proud to learn that one of our past presidents, Andy Franks, was recently awarded an RSL 'Meritorious Service Medal'. The award ceremony occurred recently at the '98<sup>th</sup> Victorian RSL State Conference' held at the Caulfield Racecourse and was presented by Major General David McLachlan AO, State President of the Victorian RSL, and Premier of Victoria, Dennis Napthine.

Andy has been a continuous and active member of the Mt Evelyn RSL sub-branch for over thirty-one years. During this time he has served the club tirelessly and passionately and as a result is considered to be a stalwart of both the club and the community at Mt Evelyn. He has served as president for seven years, vice-president for ten years, has run our Friday night socials for over twenty-five years and has built display cases, honour boards and an office for the sub-branch at no cost.

President of the Mt Evelyn RSL, Roger Boness, stated: *"Andy is well respected by branch members and his outstanding service record with the Mt Evelyn RSL, and with the community, highlights his exemplary work ethic in all RSL matters particularly representing member's interests. It also needs to be acknowledged that during this time his has been well supported by his wives, the late Kath Franks and Marie Franks"*.

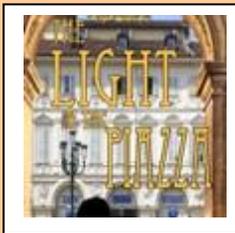
It should also be noted that another branch stalwart, Betty Crittenden, was also awarded an RSL 'National Certificate of Merit with Gold Badge', however due to family commitments she couldn't travel down from Mildura to attend. A presentation ceremony will happen at a later date at the club. Well done Andy & Betty!!!

**Below: (left) Andy receives his award from the Premier of Victoria, Dennis Napthine (right) with Roger Boness at the State Conference (Photos: K Charma)**



**Important Dates**  
**Coming Up:**

**NEXT**  
**EXCURSION TO**  
**THE ATHENAEUM**



***The Light in  
the Piazza***

**Sunday Sept 1<sup>st</sup>**

**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 on:

**9737 0767**

Or sign the notice to  
attend sheet at the  
club

***Yarra Valley  
Vietnam  
Veterans Day***

**Saturday Aug 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Time – 10.30am**

**March – 10.45am**

**Service – 11.00am**

**Venue:**

Healesville RSL  
The Nook,  
Maroondah Hwy,  
Healesville

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Victoria) was held at the Melbourne Functions Centre, Caulfield Racecourse, on Tuesday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. The conference was officially opened by the Honourable Dr Denis Napthine MP, Premier of Victoria.

Victorian Branch elections for 2013/2014 were announced:

**State President** – D J McLachlan AO

**Senior Vice President** Dr R S Webster

**Vice President** G McL Logan

**Treasurer** J F Cullen OAM

A highlight for the members of the Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-branch was the presentation of the 'Meritorious Service Medal' to our past President, Andy Franks, by the State President and the Premier of Victoria. Also the 'National Certificate of Merit' with Gold Badge, was awarded to our Betty Crittenden, who was unable to attend but will be presented with her award at a time to be determined.

Membership Achievement Certificates were presented to six metropolitan and country sub-branches who had significant increases in their membership, ranging from 5% to 48%. Mt Evelyn Sub-branch membership has increased by almost 70% without mention. Perhaps we can find an appropriate time to raise this oversight.

**Matters discussed included:**

Collective sub-branch welfare funds to derive greater interest income and ensuring consistent auditing occurs across branches / New legislation for veterans has been passed, introducing supplements for aged care in the home / How contemporary veterans, ie: those from recent conflicts, should be recognized and included in the broader RSL / Australia's future defences and applicable conditions of service. Support for the overseas forces fund and to ensure the packages sent contained no items that could offend the country involved – donations preferred to individuals forwarding packages to serving members / The importance of overseas entertainers and how RSL funds retain this benefit long term / Commemoration of the First World War at the local level and how sub-branches can be involved with the travelling exhibition / Understanding mental health issues and how to deal with it for those affected within and outside the service / Budget provision for veterans families while the veterans are on service / Allocation of \$140 million for the Centenary of Anzac / Commonwealth funding for the restoration of the Shrine via \$1 for \$1 from the Lindsay Fox public donations. If you would like more information on these issues ring me.

LEST WE FORGET

- Roger Boness

## **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



# BETTY'S JOKE PAGE



## AAADD-Know the Symptoms...

Thank goodness there's a name for this disorder. Somehow I feel better, even though I have it!! Recently, I was diagnosed with **A.A.A.D.D. - Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.** This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I notice mail on the porch table that I brought up from the mail box earlier.

I decide to go through the mail before I wash the car. I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table, and notice that the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first. But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my cheque book off the table, and see that there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke I'd been drinking.

I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. The Coke is getting warm, and I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cold. As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye—they need water.

I put the Coke on the counter and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill. Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day: The car isn't washed, The bills aren't paid, There is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter, The flowers don't have enough water, There is still only 1 cheque in my cheque book, I can't find the remote, I can't find my glasses, and I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day, and I'm really tired.

Don't laugh — if this isn't you yet, your day is coming!!

*Two Glaswegians, Archie and Jimmy, are sitting in the pub discussing Jimmy's forthcoming wedding.*

*"Och, it's all goin' pure brilliant," says Jimmy. "A've got everythin' organised awready, the fluers, the church, the caurs, the reception, the rings, the minister, even ma stag night".*

*Archie nods approvingly. "I've even bought a kilt to be married in!" continues Jimmy.*

*"A kilt?" exclaims Archie, "That's magic, you'll look pure smart in that. Whit's the tartan?"*

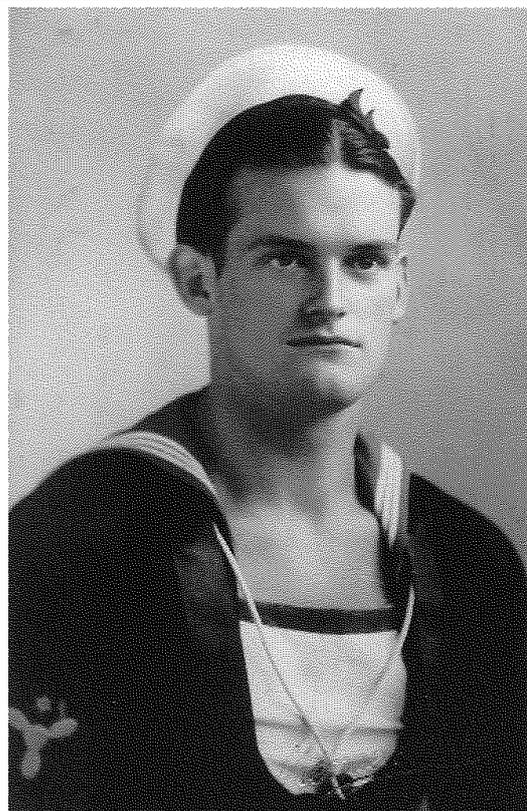
*"Och," says Jimmy, "A'd imagine she'll be in white".*



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# LEST WE FORGET



**Above: Jack Hull during his days with the RAN in World War Two where he served mainly on the HMAS Diamantina.**

**Below: Jack aged 88**

**Photos: Judy Kortekaas**



## JACK HULL

John Cameron Hull, or Jack as he was known, was born in Lilydale and was living in Mt Evelyn when the Second World War began. In 1942, just after he turned eighteen, he was called up to serve with the Militia under the compulsory military training scheme. Allotted to the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion he was sent with this unit to Queensland to conduct garrison duties during the period when an invasion by Japanese forces seemed a real possibility. By late 1942 his training finished and very soon after he enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy.

He undertook his initial training at HMAS Cerberus and spent quite a few months serving at the Naval bases at Moreton Island, Thursday Island and Magnetic Island. In April 1945 he was transferred to the HMAS Diamantina, a river class frigate, and during July and August 1945 Jack served with the Diamantina when it provided fire support to the Australian Army operating in Bougainville.

More importantly, when the war ended, Jack was present when the ship carried officers of the Japanese Imperial High Command to the surrender of Torokina on 8 September 1945. The ship was also involved in the surrenders of Nauru on 13 September and Ocean Island on 1 October; both ceremonies were conducted on the ship's quarterdeck. In 1946 the HMAS Diamantina was based in Sydney but undertook patrol operations in the water off New Guinea. In August 1946 the ship was put into reserve and soon after Jack was discharged from service. Today the HMAS Diamantina is on display at the 'Queensland Maritime Museum'.

In 1994 Jack's name was added to the Mt Evelyn Honour Board for being a resident who served in World War Two. Later his name was also added to the Shire Of Lillydale World War Two Honour Board that today hangs in the foyer of the Athenaeum Theatre in Lilydale.

Jack passed away on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Wantirna aged 88 years old.

# LEST WE FORGET

## BETTY FORD

Betty first became involved with the club through her husband Bill. After Bill passed away, the club encouraged her to become a member of the Ladies Auxiliary and soon after she became treasurer. She did an excellent job in this role for quite a number of years and worked hard with fund raising for the auxiliary and often visited elderly members.

Her organisational skills were renowned; she worked hard with the team that arranged the catering for the club, it was Betty who took responsibility for buying what was required and it was Betty who took herself off to do a course in food handling and preparation so that anything the club did was up to standard.

She also regularly assisted with selling poppies and tokens outside of IGA to raise funds for welfare and on a number of occasions was responsible for organising bus trips and even several weekend trips – always great fun and always enjoyed by many.

Another important task she was involved in was that she and Betty Crittenden regularly attended METIC meetings during the period when that group were organising to create a war memorial park in Mt Evelyn.

She was a great support and a great friend to both Betty Crittenden and Dot Ervine, all of them are considered stalwarts of the club.



Above: Betty Ford  
(photo D Webb)



## WORK DONE ON WAR MEMORIAL PARK

The sloping bank in the war memorial park has been built up and levelled by the Shire to allow a wider viewing area for those attending services. This has come about after consultation with the Shire of Yarra Ranges, the RSL & Rob Sibbing.

Left: the new work



## NEW FRAMES DONATED

Many thanks to our member Steve Deakins from 'Art with Distinction' custom framing in Mt Evelyn who donated two wonderful frames to the club recently, one with the commemorative poppy coin and the other an embroidered art work entitled 'Lest We Forget' by Mrs A Syphers.





Mt Evelyn RSL's Roger Boness and Anthony McAleer are tracking the life of their past president Noel Anderson who befriended Hollywood film star Jimmy Stewart during World War II. Picture: STEVE TANNER

## It's a wonderful link to Hollywood legend

MT Evelyn RSL is searching for information on its past president who had an amazing connection with Hollywood legend James Stewart.

RSL vice-president Anthony McAleer said past president Noel Anderson, a World War II veteran who died in 1991, was serving

with the RAAF in England when he came in contact with Stewart, the star of many great movies, including *It's A Wonderful Life*.

Stewart was the commanding officer of a USAAF bombing squadron nearby. Becoming friends, Stewart swapped his flying jacket for

Anderson's flying helmet. Anderson recalled: "I remember Jimmy Stewart saying 'I wish they let us wear helmets, like you blokes, because you've got your microphone and your oxygen mask and your mike all in one'.

"I had a flying helmet

made of kangaroo hide, so I swapped it for his leather jacket," Anderson said. "I've still got it hanging up in my shed in Mt Evelyn."

The RSL is putting together the story of Anderson's life and are trying to find his family members. If you can help, phone 9736 4384.

## NOEL ANDERSON

The RSL is currently working on putting together the war diaries of a past president of the Sub-branch, Noel Anderson.

Noel served with Bomber Command in Europe and later flew bombers in the Pacific. His diaries cover his time in the RAAF from 1940 to 1943 and describe some dangerous missions over Europe.

As part of the story we are hoping to add details on Noel's life before the war and after the war. We have already spoken to a number of people who knew Noel during the years in lived at Mt Evelyn but would like to hear from more.

If you knew Noel or know of any stories about Noel please contact

Anthony McAleer:

9736 4384

[antmca@bigpond.com](mailto:antmca@bigpond.com)

## The new 'Vietnam Veterans Walk' – Seymour, Vic



The recently opened 'Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk' in Seymour is well worth a visit. It starts with a replica of Luscombe Bowl where volunteers are on hand to assist – they tell me a Huey helicopter is going there soon. You then walk past a Centurion tank, a memorial to families of Vietnam veterans and a replica of the 'Long Tan' cross, the original was created by a serviceman from Seymour. This then takes you to a memorial to those killed in the conflict and the long series of wall panels – each of which is made of glass and carries images from the conflict and the list of all those who served.

# RSL HALL HIRE



We have recently had a major change in the procedures for hiring our rejuvenated hall.

The 'Community Link', who have been gallantly looking after our hall bookings for a number of years now, have had their days cut back and work load increased and unfortunately are unable to look after this for us anymore – *many thanks to Vicki & Gil & others for all their efforts!!!*

One of our members – Steve Deakins – who runs 'Art with Distinction' at Shop 7B, York Rd, Mt Evelyn – has kindly offered to take this role over.

For any information on how to hire the hall, pricing or even to inspect the hall call in and see Steve – they are open Monday to Saturday – or ring him on 9736 3033

## \$6000 GRANT TO PUBLISH BOOK

The Mt Evelyn RSL were very pleased recently to received a grant from the State Government's 'Local History Grants Program' to publish a book on the history of the 'Monash Militia Camp' at Lilydale. This is the story of how in February 1914, just before the First World War started, Sir John Monash organised a camp of instruction for the 13<sup>th</sup> Brigade at Lilydale on the site of where the Lilydale Lake is today. During their time here they also held a mock battle at Coldstream near Dame Nellie Melba's 'Coombe Cottage' that was inspected by General Sir Ian Hamilton, who was later Commanding Officer of Allied troops on Gallipoli. The RSL is confident that with this amount of funds we could expand the book to include the history of this district during World War One as well. A fitting tribute for the centenary of World War One events starting next year.

**Below: Mt Evelyn Mail – 12/6/2013**

MEM Connecting people and communities Mail | starcommunity.com.au

# Camp uncovered

By EMMA SUN

THE Mount Evelyn RSL will produce a new book about the Monash Military Camp in Lilydale after receiving a \$6000 grant recently.

The book will detail then-colonel Sir John Monash and his 13th Brigade in the lead up to World War I and will be put together by RSL secretary and historian Anthony McAleer.

The grant was provided by the State Government as part of the Local History Grants Program.

Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness said it was a wonderful opportunity to document another piece of history.

"It's a fabulous outcome - we're ever so grateful to our local MP Christine Fyffe as it was through her actions that we've been able to access this grant," he said.

"We're hoping through this grant we can enhance the community and make them aware of the local history.

"Monash Camp was probably the biggest war activity in our area."

Mr McAleer said it was an important event in the history of Lilydale and the pre-war history of Victoria, as the camp was where Lilydale Lake is now.

"There were rows and rows of tents lined the area and all the soldiers arrived by train and marched through Lilydale, the town was decorated for the event," he said.

"For the week the soldiers were here they undertook field and drill training, musketry instruction and route marches around the district.

"Seven months later the First World War started and many of those who attended this camp enlisted to serve overseas."

Ms Fyffe, Evelyn MP, said she was proud to support such a worthy project.

"I think the RSL should be highly commended for ever looking at ways to retain the knowledge, the history of what our forbears did and the bravery," she said.

"It's very important for future generations to know of this and I'm looking forward to seeing the book when it's published."

Evelyn MP Christine Fyffe presents Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness with the grant for a new book. 100435

Picture: EMMA SUN

## WELL DONE TO OUR MEMBERS!!

~ Wendy Steele ~

Wendy was recently presented with an award for all the work she performed for the Red Cross during the 'Black Saturday' fires.

~ Sandra FitzGerald ~

Recently started a new career with 'The Good Guys'.

~ Dot Ervine ~

Our 'Appeals Officer' was recently congratulated by Anzac House for all her efforts in organising our Anzac Appeal. Peter Smith OAM stated *'I wish to express my appreciation and grateful thanks for your fine effort'*

# 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! Well it is almost pack up time over here, the come home phase has started and all the jobs are done. Stability has come back to the Solomon Islands and it has been that way for a couple of years now so it is time to hand over to the local police force.*

*The locals are very friendly and also very thankful for the job we have done over here. I have found the children to be very friendly and more than willing to talk and play games with us as well as help us out when they can. We had a three day survival training course to do in the jungle and three children from the local village showed up. They then helped us set up a shelter and collect food as well as show us where to find it - they seemed to have more fun than we did.*

*Since I've been here I have also had a chance to see some of the historical battle sites from WWII. I've been to Bloody Ridge, Alligator Creek, as well as Talagi Island, where the Marines first landed. This was also the main base at the time for Japan with their sea planes operating from a small bay in that area, they then moved on to Guadalcanal. I have also, with the help of some local children, found a US underground hospital not far from Henderson Field, the main reason for all the fighting in the area.*

*The weather over here is great most of the time with an average temp of 35 in the day and a low of 18 at night so not to bad at all. But there is always a but! The humidity is a killer of around 65-100% some days, so it may be a shock to most of us when we get home to a cold Melbourne winter.*

Signing out, LCPL Chris McAleer 4/19 PWLH

**Photos: (Left) View from Bloody Ridge, a Hell Cat aeroplane from Henderson Field, a sneaky pic with berets in front of WWII Landing Craft.**

**(Below) A great dinner we had one night at a local village, fishing with some new friends.**



# MT EVELYN RSL BUS EXCURSION

**THURSDAY AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup> 2013**

The Mt Evelyn RSL is organising a bus trip to visit:

- Light Horse Museum at Nar Nar Goon
- Belgrave/Upwey RSL for lunch
- Running Rabbits Military Museum, Belgrave

***Only cost is for your lunch!!***

Contact: Roger Boness **9737 0830** asap  
to book a seat



*The Mt Evelyn RSL always use:*

**HEWETT'S**  
***Mt Evelyn's***  
***Quality***  
***Butchers***



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

## **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**

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**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**



An environmental solution for hard service cleaning that saves water and stops discharge to the storm water system.  
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Call Russ Kirby:  
(Mt Evelyn RSL Member)  
on –



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For more information see:  
<http://youtu.be/0d2Rjdt4TCs>

## Art with Distinction

### Custom Framing



- Custom Picture Framing
  - Custom Mats
- Restoration Work
  - Art Supplies

Steve Deakins  
(Mt Evelyn RSL Member)  
Ph: **9736 3033**  
Mob: **0429 183021**  
Shop 7B York Rd, Mt Evelyn  
[www.artwithdistinction.com.au](http://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](mailto: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 & Amhem.



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  
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7 Days  
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The Mt Evelyn RSL always uses:

**TIGER SIGNS**

\*Computer Cut Vinyls \*Digital

Prints \*Banners \*Signs

Contact Dave –

**0419 897 134 or 9737 0888**



# BILL HARRISON'S STORY – pt 2

This is the story of one of our past members, Bill Harrison. Bill served with the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.....

*Last issue: Life for Bill in the early part of the war*

**What was the attitude then to the Italians when they came into the war?**  
Once the fighting did start in the desert they were pretty much of a joke and no one ever took them seriously. If you'd seen the newspaper photographs of two Australians escorting about 7000 Italians that had been taken prisoner in the desert, that was on the front page of 'The Sun', nobody could take the Italians serious as soldiers.

Beside many of our neighbours were Italians and there wasn't any harsh feelings for them. The ones who were Australianised were all okay. I mean it's hard to resent a family that you've grown up with, kids you went to school with and shared your play lunch with and when you come home you end up spending as much time in their house as you do in your own.

**When did you enlist?**

October 1941, just after my twenty-first birthday, well everyone else was in it so I wanted to be. My father had re-enlisted in the army again in May 1941 and with a lot of other First World War veterans was sent to serve with a Garrison Battalion in Australia throughout the war. It was hard on my mother at home with Dad & I in the army and soon after my next younger brother Norman enlisting as well. She had to cope at home with three smaller children, two boys and a sister who was a babe in arms, very much an 'after thought'. So she was pretty much limited but I do know when things got hairy with the Japanese she moved for a time up to the cottage in Mt Evelyn as it seemed safer.

**Where was your training?**

I trained at Puckapunyal, in the artillery, that's where I was when the Japs came into the war.

**What are your memories of hearing we were at war with Japan?**

Well we thought it was a bit of a joke actually, nobody took the Japanese seriously. They said they had bad eyes and because of that they couldn't shoot straight and couldn't fly their planes properly. Today it would be like the Hottentots declaring war on us, nobody took them seriously. I mean anything made in Japan was synonymous with junk. 'Made in Japan' was an expression we used long before the war to describe absolute rubbish, poorly made toys and cheap household items and the like. 'Made in Japan' cloth probably wouldn't get past the first washing. If you bought something and the wheels fell off it two days later you'd say 'oh what do you expect, made in Japan'. This is what we believed. We regarded them as civilized savages and when they came into the war nothing happened that changed anyone's opinion, except that they were organised civilized savages.

**How did you come to be in the 1<sup>st</sup> Independent Company?**

I was still at Puckapunyal and I was on a path to Malaya but that was cancelled when it was obvious the Nips were going to beat us there, they would have arrived before we did. So that draft was cancelled and the next day four mates and myself volunteered for the 'Independent Company – Commandos'. So within three days we were whizzed down to Wilson's Promontory and we did training down there.

*Next issue: Bill is sent to New Guinea*

**Right: Bill Harrison in 1999**

## MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Our thoughts are with the Hollier family at the moment, who have had to deal with a number of sad events recently.
- Our friend Peter Henskens is now out of hospital and in rehab at the William Angliss – Ferntree Gully.
- Congrats to Tony & Caroline Geyer with the arrival of a new grandson Lachlan. His birth made news headlines when he was born outside of a police station on the way to hospital.
- Welcome to new member Donna Donovan, John Keane, Ray Donovan.
- Many thanks to the Ford family for the donation of a lockable metal cabinet.
- 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 Sub-branch's Welfare Officer).  
Ph: **0402 783 849**  
Or the Rev Richard Schoenmaker (the sub-branch'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](mailto: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

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!

All information on how to book the hall see:

Steve Deakins at '*Art With Distinction*'  
Shop 7B York Rd, Mt Evelyn Ph: **9736 3033**

## **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 –**

Russ Kirby Ph: 9736 4918