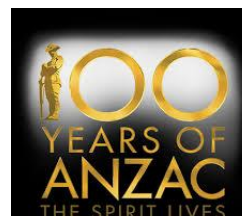


# Mt Evelyn RSL News



Volume 6, Issue 5, Summer 2016

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



## 2016 Meeting Dates

Sept 16<sup>th</sup>

Oct 21<sup>st</sup>

Nov 18<sup>th</sup>

Dec 16<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](mailto:mtevrsl@gmail.com)

### Postal Address:

PO Box 182  
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796



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## SEVILLE WAR MEMORIAL



**Above: President of the Lilydale RSL, Don Parsons, and President of the Mt Evelyn RSL, Roger Boness, each hand over a cheque for \$1000 to President of the Seville Township Group, Sue McMurdie.**

Both the Mt Evelyn & Lilydale RSLs have been long-time supporters of the Seville Township Group's project to get a war memorial built in Seville dedicated to its residents who served and died during our nation's wars including the Yarra Valley's Victoria Cross recipient, George Ingram VC, MM.

Recently both clubs proudly donated \$1000 each towards the cause.

The project has also been assisted greatly by Australian music legend and Vietnam veteran, Normie Rowe, who will be performing a fund raising concert in aid of the Seville War Memorial. He will also be bringing his band, The Playboys, and sixties legend Marcie Jones from the Cookies. Local poet Jim Brown and his mate guitarist Vince Brophy will also perform. *More details inside.*



## Important Dates

### Coming Up:

## Athenaeum Theatre, Lilydale

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

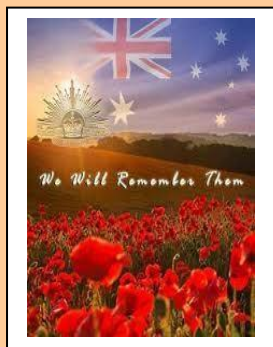
We will be doing the same  
in 2016 so come along and  
see:

**Yes, Prime Minister?**  
**Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**@ 2.00pm**



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

## REMEMBRANCE DAY 2016



**11.00am**  
**November 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**Mt Evelyn War**  
**Memorial**  
**Gardens**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mount Evelyn's best kept secret is the refurbished and redecorated "Hardy House" at 49 Birmingham Road. This public hall is the former home of the Mount Evelyn Senior Citizens and Country Women's Association and is now managed by Mount Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch Incorporated who maintain the hall and lease it to our community groups. Two new tenants are the Yarra Valley Nursery workshops and Karate training. Should there be other community groups looking for a home there are still some time slots available. Contact the RSL telephone number 97370767 and leave a message or via email: [mtevrsl@gmail.com](mailto:mtevrsl@gmail.com) Community programs are also able to advertise their interests in the regular Mt Evelyn RSL News.

Mount Evelyn RSL members and local communities would recall the launching the George Ingram book our local VC recipient "Great Courage and Initiative" at Mont de Lancey Historic Homestead & Museum in 2015. Since the book launch the Seville community with support have been raising funds towards the Seville War Memorial in his honour. Recently the Mount Evelyn and Lilydale RSL's donated \$1000 each towards this major project. On Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2016 Normie Rowe and the Playboys with guest Marcie Jones will be playing at the Discovery Church on Monbulk Road commencing at 7-30 pm. Proceeds will be going to the Seville War Memorial project. Tickets are \$30 and if we can fill the venue the project can be completed. Tickets are available at [www.trybooking.com/222373](http://www.trybooking.com/222373) or telephone number 0412300836 tell your friends.

Mount Evelyn RSL has had preliminary discussions with the sports master at Birmingham Primary School regarding sponsoring football jumpers for the school's football team in 2017. Further discussions on this matter have been arranged.

Under the direction of the RSL State Branch, the Mount Evelyn Returned and Services League Inc will now be known as the Mount Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch Inc. This subtle name change complies with the constitution and bylaws of the league.

Lest We Forget

Roger Boness

## Membership Subs for 2016 – *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**

**Now available – 3 year membership – only \$60.00**

**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

This year you can pay your subs online through  
Internet banking – *just make sure to key in your name!*

**Bendigo Bank**

**Title – RSL Mt Evelyn – General Account**

**BSB – 633-000     A/C NUMBER – 117020883**





# BETTY'S JOKE PAGE



There was once a sheep farmer who had a French farm hand working with him to help castrate his sheep. As the farmer castrated the sheep, the French farm hand took the parts and was about to throw them into the trash. "No!" yelled the farmer, *"Don't throw those away! My wife fries them up and we eat them, they're delicious! They're called Sheep Fries!"* The farm hand saved the parts and took them to the farmer's wife who cooked them up for supper. This went on for three days....and each evening they had Sheep Fries for supper. On the fourth night the farmer came in to the house for supper. He asked his wife where the farm hand was and she replied, *"It's the strangest thing! When he came in and asked what was for supper, I told him French Fries and he ran like hell!"*

An elderly lady was standing at the railing of the cruise ship holding her hat tight so that it would not blow away in the wind. A gentleman approached her and said, *"Pardon me, madam, I do not intend to be forward but did you know that your dress is blowing up in this high wind?"*

*"Yes, I know,"* said the lady. *"I need both my hands to hold onto this hat."*

*"But madam, you must know that you are not wearing any panties and your privates are exposed!"* said the gentleman in earnest. The woman looked down, then back up at the man and replied, *"Sir, anything you see down there is 75 years old. I just bought this hat yesterday!"*

Presenting my ID to collect a parcel at my local Australia Post outlet (not Mt Evelyn's!!!), the observant girl behind the counter says: "You've worn a bit since this was taken!" "You're dead right," I replied. "I had it taken as I joined your bloody queue!"

Three hard of hearing dudes are standing on a street corner. First hard of hearing dude says, "Brrrrr, it's windy!" Second one says, "No...it's Thursday." Third one says, "Me too, let's go get a drink."

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement centre are sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?' Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.' 'Really!? Like a newborn baby!?'

'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

Four old retired guys are walking down a street in Cooktown. They turned a corner and see a sign that says, Old Timer's Bar – All drinks 10 cents!

They look at each other and then go in, thinking this is too good to be true.

The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, Gentlemen?"

There seemed to be a fully-stocked bar, so each of the men ask for a martini. In short order, the bartender serves up four iced martinis, shaken, not stirred, and says, 'That'll be 10 cents each, please'.

The four men stare at the bartender for a moment. Then look at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round.

Again, four excellent martinis are produced and the bartender again saying, 'That's 40 cents, please.'

They pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity is more than they can stand.

They have each had two martinis and so far they've spent less than a dollar.

Finally one of the men says, 'How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a 10 cents each?'

'I'm a retired tailor from Sydney,' the bartender said. 'And I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery for \$25 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs 10 cents: wine, liquor, beer, it's all the same'.

'Wow! That's quite a story', says one of the men.

The four of them sipped at their martinis and couldn't help but notice seven other people at the end of the bar who didn't have drinks in front of them, and hadn't ordered anything the whole time they were there. One man gestures at the seven at the end of the bar without drinks and asks the bartender, 'What's with them?'

The bartender says, 'Oh, they're all grey nomads from the caravan park, waiting for happy hour when drinks are half price'.

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**HERE'S A LOCAL EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED.**

## **THE CENTENARY OF GINGER MICK**


The Toolangi C. J. Dennis Poetry Festival presents...

# 100 years of

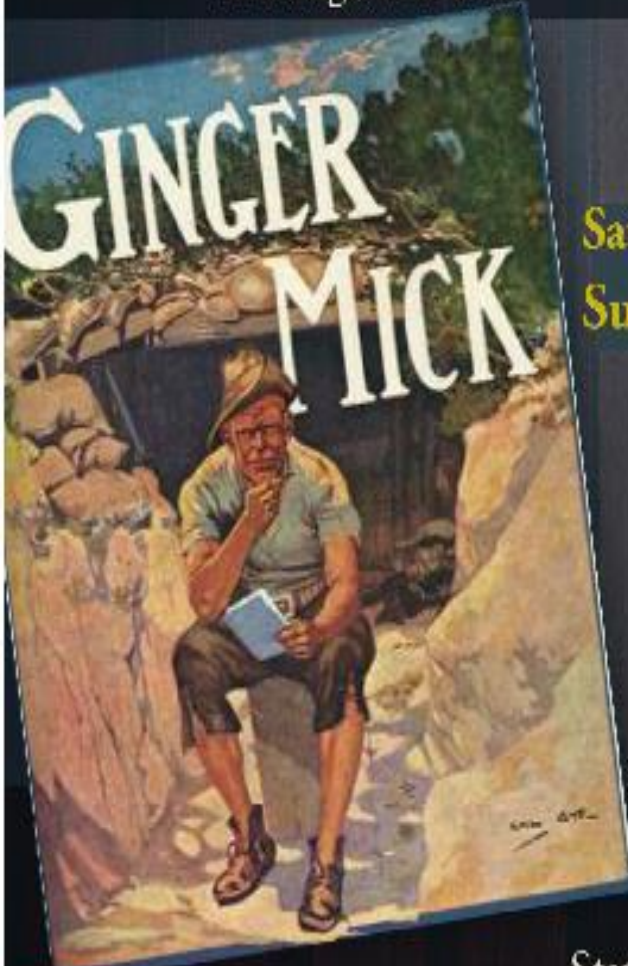
## "THE MOODS OF GINGER MICK"

*"The Sentimental Bloke" & more....*

At *"The Singing Gardens"*  
1694 Healesville-Kinglake Rd,  
Toolangi, Vic. 3777



C.J. DENNIS




**GINGER MICK**

**Saturday 22 October &  
Sunday 23 October 2016**

**Cost:** \$20 per day OR  
\$35 for the weekend  
(meals not included)

**Featuring**  
Poet Geoffrey W. Graham  
great family entertainment  
music and much more!

**Bookings & Contact**  
Jan Williams 5962 9282 or  
Stephen Whiteside 0400 729 780

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# MORE CENTENARY SERVICES



## Cecil Benjamin Farr

On Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Lilydale RSL held a special service at the Mooroolbark War Memorial to honour Cecil Farr, a local soldier who was killed in action during the Battle of Pozieres

Cecil Farr was born at Mooroolbark and grew up at Ferntree Gully. He served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion along with his brother William. He was killed in action along the Bapuame Road by shell fire, he was 23.

Students from Bimbadeen Primary School & Tony Smith MP were in attendance.



## Edwin Poyner

On Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Lilydale RSL held another special service at the Lilydale War Memorial to honour Edwin Poyner, a local soldier who was killed in action during the Battle of Mouquet Farm.

Edwin Poyner was born at Lilydale and enlisted with his brother Frank in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion. On this day they were sheltering in a shell hole when an artillery bomb landed near them – burying and killing Edwin and another soldier. Frank survived but ended up with shell shock.

Students from Lilydale Primary School and Edwin's niece, Jan Poyner, were in attendance.



## Arthur Anderson, Thomas Morton and Andrew Holland

On Monday July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Lilydale RSL held another special service to honour three Lilydale soldiers – all who were killed in action on the same day in the fighting around Pozieres and Mouquet Farm.

Thomas Morton was born at Lilydale and served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was 33. Arthur Anderson worked for the railways and lived in Lilydale, he served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion and was just 19. Andrew Holland lived at Yering and served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, he was 23. The President of the Lilydale Football Club & RSL members were in attendance.



SEVILLE TOWNSHIP GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS

# **NORMIE ROWE**

**& THE PLAYBOYS**

Featuring special guest

**MARCIE JONES**

**SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER**  
**from 7:30pm**

**Discovery Church Hall**  
**89 Monbulk Rd Mt Evelyn**

**Admission \$30**

**Tickets: [www.trybooking.com/222373](http://www.trybooking.com/222373)**

**ENQUIRIES: 0412 300 836**

OFFICIAL FUNDRAISER FOR THE SEVILLE WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT

# KIM FAWKES NOTES

**In this edition we start up a new column by military historian Kim Fawkes where he will regularly share with us some interesting items of military history.**

LITTLE OLD LADY TO SOLDIER: *"And how often do you get leave to go home to Australia?"*

SOLDIER "Once every war."

## ~ The "Tin Hat" ~

The French were first issued with steel helmets in the Spring of 1915. Samples were sent to Britain and by the end of October 1915 a total of 2500 helmets of an improved pattern had been supplied on the scale of 50 to 1 battalion. Refinements on the original design resulted in the Brodie helmet, manufactured from hardened manganese steel capable of resisting shrapnel at 750 feet per second. Manufacture began in November 1915 (dispelling the belief our diggers at Gallipoli had them) and by March 1916 a total of 140,000 had been issued in France. Delivery of the first million was achieved by July 1916. One and a half million were supplied to American troops. By the end of the war 7,250,000 helmets had been issued.

*"There is much good in the worst of us. And so much bad in the best of us. That it behoves any of us. To find fault with the rest of us".*

The Brigadier gets turkey. The Colonel has his duck. The officers have poultry, they always were in luck. The sergeants get bread and cheese, and mop up all they can. But all the poor privates get is bread and jam and flaming bad luck!

**THINGS WE NEVER HEARD IN THE ARMY -**  
*Officer to soldier: 'Now tell me your idea of strategy'.  
Soldier to officer: "It's when you don't let the enemy know you're out of ammunition and you say BANG! BANG!". 'Did they get the Spirit of ANZAC out of the SRD (Service Rum Distillate or Seldom Reaches Destination) jar?"*

Did you know the 1st AIF officially went out of existence on 1 April 1921? The Great War began officially on 4 August 1914 and ended officially on 31 August 1921. It had a duration of 7 years and 21 days. In May 1918 the Germans stated in their reports that the soldiers most feared and who were the most courageous were Australians, Guards, 51st Highland Division.

## Norman Hooke

On Thursday September 2016 the Mt Evelyn RSL held the first special service at the Montrose War Memorial to honour local soldier Norman Hooke.

Norman's family had an orchard at Kilsyth although they were very involved with the Montrose community. Norman enlisted in 1915 and served on the Western Front with the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

He was killed in action during the last days of the battle for Pozieres, he was twenty years old. He has no known grave and is remembered at the Villers Bretonneaux Memorial in France.

**Below: members of the Mt Evelyn RSL who attended the service. (photo: Iain Townsley)**




## SCHOOL VISIT

On Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup> the RSL was very pleased to host 100 grade one students from Birmingham Primary School on their annual visit. They started off with a talk from Paula from the History Group then visited the war memorial and park. They then came to the club, enjoyed an Anzac biscuit and drink, heard a talk from Roger Boness on his time in the jungles of Vietnam and were wowed by Iain's piping. They finished off with a look at the club rooms and memorabilia on display and were given a free flag courtesy of Tony Smith MP.







# "THE ANZAC ON THE WALL"

## A SPECIAL CONCERT

The 1812 Theatre

3 Rose Street, Upper Ferntree Gully,

**8PM Friday 23 & Sat 24 SEPTEMBER**

**2016**

"THE ANZAC ON THE WALL" has been a sellout in venues throughout Victoria. Vince Brophy and Jim Brown tell our ANZAC story in a unique way.

Drawn from family stories never told before, they use music, verse, and yarnspinning, illustrated with powerful images from those times which changed Australia forever.

To tell the ANZAC story from Lone Pine to the poppy fields of France, Vince will play a unique instrument, "The Remembrance Guitar," hand made for this concert. It is inlaid with timber grown from seeds taken from Gallipoli's famous Lone Pine, and Queensland Maple recovered from a writing desk in Brisbane where General Douglas MacArthur sat and commanded the Allied Forces against the Japanese.

2015 & 2016 are important years in our ANZAC history as our nation commemorates the centenary of epic battles at Gallipoli and on the Western Front where young Australians served their country in amazing and inspirational ways.

### Theatre Bookings

phone (03) 9758 3964

or on line

<http://www.1812theatre.com.au/purchase-tickets/>

[www.theanzaonthewall.com.au](http://www.theanzaonthewall.com.au)



# MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP

LILYDALE – FEBRUARY 1914

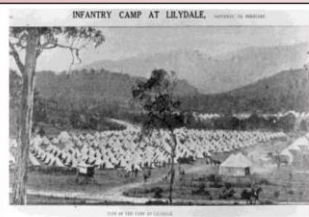
100 years ago John Monash and 3000 citizen soldiers descended on Lilydale and camped for week where the Lilydale Lake is today.

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'.



## ORDER NOW:

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Price: \$20 per copy plus \$2.00 postage

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

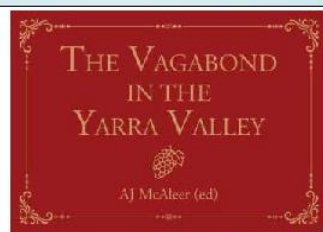
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Price: \$30 per copy plus \$2.00 postage

# THE VAGABOND IN THE YARRA VALLEY



Observation of the Yarra Valley by one of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> Century – many never seen before!

Right: Deschamps Hill, Lilydale from 'The Towers'



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Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Mt Evelyn RSL.

Price: \$20 per copy plus \$2.00 postage

# 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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:

Mont de Lancey  
PO BOX 316,  
Wandin North, Vic, 3139

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Post code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Copies required \_\_\_\_\_ Payment for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Wandin & District Historical Museum Society

Price: \$25 per copy plus \$5.00 postage

# Mt Evelyn & Districts Community Bank<sup>®</sup> Branch Bendigo Bank

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**Dr Binay Kumar MRCP MRCGP  
FRACGP**  
*General Practitioner & Cosmetic Physician*

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## Take Off Weight Naturally

*Do you want to lose weight  
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friendly group of people,  
and not have to pay a fortune?*



Rosemont T.O.W.N Club is now  
meeting on Tuesday at the  
Mt Evelyn RSL Hall, between 10:45am & 12:30pm.  
You can just drop by during one of our meetings, or you can  
ring one of the following numbers to get more details.

**Leader:** Joan 97370397 [rosemont.townclub@gmail.com](mailto:rosemont.townclub@gmail.com)

**Weight Recorder:** Lesley McKenna 0425624043 or  
97391642

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## PLEASE NOTE

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### ALL OUR BOOKS

*are available for sale through the*

**Mt Evelyn RSL**

*or at the*

**Mt Evelyn Post Office, Station St**

**GREAT GIFTS**



## Mt Evelyn History Group

The Mt Evelyn RSL has a community  
partnership with MEHG which means  
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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[kimparry@people.net.au](mailto:kimparry@people.net.au)

[maxbrown.com.au](http://maxbrown.com.au)

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  
49 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn



## STRONG WOMEN.

Vicki provides a social One Hour Stretch & Strength 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)

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Mob: 0429 183021

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*Gift vouchers available - great gift idea!!!*

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Mob: 0427100818

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Mt Evelyn

[www.jjsphotography.com.au](http://www.jjsphotography.com.au)

# 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**

The Mt Evelyn RSL always use:

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



27 Wray Cres

Ph: 9736 2206

Email: hewettma@gmail.com

**The Mt Evelyn RSL is a proud member of...**  
**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

## STEVE'S WHEELCHAIR & SCOOTER REPAIRS & SERVICE



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Contact Dave –

[tigersigns@gmail.com](mailto:tigersigns@gmail.com)

0419 897 134 or 9737 0888



# 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](http://www.facebook.com/mtevelyncommunitymarket)





# FRANK ALLEN DIXON

**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.....**

Frank Allen Dixon was born in March 1894 at Castlemaine, Victoria, the son of Henry and Kate Dixon. Frank grew up at 18 Aberdeen St, Auburn although he spent much time in Wandin where his uncle and aunty, James and Edith Wilkin, owned an orchard and he often went to stay with them there and helped out.

After finishing school he went to work as a clerk in a government office and before joining the AIF he served for two years in the militia with the 48<sup>th</sup> (Kooyong) Battalion. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1915 he walked into the recruiting office at the Melbourne Town Hall and enlisted in the AIF. His medical records show he was 5 feet, 9 inches tall, had light brown hair and brown eyes. He was engaged at the time of enlisting.

In June he was in camp at Seymour where he was allotted to the 8<sup>th</sup> reinforcements of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, his regimental number was 2575. His experience in the militia must have helped him because soon after he was promoted to Lance Corporal. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1915 he left with his unit aboard the HMAT Anchises and a month later they landed in Egypt.

In November 1915 he went with his unit from Alexandria in Egypt to Mudros Island in preparation for being landed at Gallipoli. However when he arrived at Mudros he contracted mumps and was sent to hospital and by the time he'd recovered from this a month later the military authorities had decided to evacuate the troops from the Gallipoli Peninsula.

In January 1916 he was in camp at Egypt. During this time the AIF was reorganised and Frank was transferred to the 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion and promoted to the rank of Corporal. In June 1916 the 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion was sent to France arriving in the Fleurbaix area and in early July he was promoted again to Lance Sergeant.

One soldier who served with him, Private A E Crockett, later wrote of Frank: *'He was the Corporal of the section I was in and we were good pals, he was a fine fellow and was just made Sergeant about a week before he was killed'*. The 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion weren't in France very long when they were sent to Fromelles. On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1916 they were ordered to attack. A Lieutenant Hackworthy later recalled that he said goodbye to Frank just before he went over the top and that was the last that was ever seen of him. He was listed as missing soon after; he was aged just 22 years old. Sadly on the same day his cousin, Private E F Wilkin of the 29<sup>th</sup> Battalion, was also killed in action.

Not long after his parents received a telegram saying he had been reported missing. This was the first of many frustrations for his family. In the coming months none of Frank's items were returned to the family, even after numerous enquiries to the authorities. Secondly a court of enquiry was held into his death and the court ruled he had been 'killed in action'.

However the authorities failed to inform the family of this and the first they heard about it was when it was published in the Argus newspaper that Frank was now 'killed in action'.

Then the worst of all. In February 1917 the family were informed by the YMCA that Frank was being held as a prisoner of war in the Hotel de La Paix in Leysin, Switzerland. The family and his fiancée all wrote letters to him however three months later the military authorities confirmed that this report was false and that he had in fact been killed in action at Fromelles the year before. He is listed on the memorial at VC Corner in Fromelles, France.

## MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Military historian Kim Fawkes tells us that Frank Dixon is remembered on the family's tomb stone in the Box Hill Cemetery. Sadly the grave is falling apart and needs repairs in fact some of the letters have fallen off Frank's name.

- We welcome Peter Dunstan and his karate group as new users to our hall.

- **Paula Herlihy** tells us that our war memorial in the gardens and the memorial out the front of the RSL have become 'pokemon stops' in the new game that has become a craze called 'Pokemon Go'.

- Well done to the staff and students at Yarra Hills Secondary College who recently put on a performance of an original play on like during WWI called 'For Home and Empire'.

- Best wishes to **Geoff Bailey** who has been unwell.

- Should you require any assistance or advice -

**Deanne Webb** (the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer).

Ph: **0402 783 849**

Or the **Rev Richard**

**Schoenmaker**

Ph: **9736 1087**



**Above: Frank Dixon**

*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

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**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**

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](mailto: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