

# Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 4, Issue 4, Spring 2014 A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



## **2014** **Meeting Dates**

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Aug 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Nov 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014  
Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

*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>



Follow us on facebook

## WELL DONE GARY!!

At the Dawn Service this year Tony Smith MP announced to those gathered that this year's 'Anzac of the Year' award had been awarded to Gary Park. Each year the federal branch of the Returned and Services League present 'ANZAC of the Year' awards to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to their community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.

Gary was awarded this honour in recognition of his leadership, guidance and encouragement to the youth and local community of Mt Evelyn through the Mt Evelyn Scouts. Gary and his wife Jodie have spent most of their lives working for the scouting movement, in fact it was through the movement that they met each other. Gary joined as a cub at the age of eight and stayed on until he was 25. After getting married and having three children of their own, he and Jodie became involved again as scout leaders at Mt Evelyn at a time when the group was in need of new inspiration. Soon after Gary became Group Leader.

Taking over as leader, Gary made an effort to specifically focus the Mt Evelyn Scouting program to actively engage youth, and their families, with the community they live in by fostering working partnerships within the district.

Testimony to this has been some significant achievements for the group under Gary's leadership including the increase in the numbers of both leaders and scouting youth and the winning of a number of awards for excellence for both the group and individuals members.

Since Gary's time, the Mt Evelyn Scout Group has had a 50% increase in numbers and it has become the largest non-formal educational youth development organisation in the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the second largest scouting group in Victoria.

**Below: Victorian RSL President Major-General David McLachlan, Gary Park and National RSL President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan. (Photo - Anzac House)**



## Important Dates

### Coming Up:

## *Sub-Branch Excursion:*

## **Athenaeum Theatre Lilydale**

## *2014 Theatre Programme*

**We still have  
cheap tickets  
available to  
members for the  
following shows:**

**Sunday Aug 24<sup>th</sup>  
2.00pm**

**Musical:**

**The Rise & Fall  
of Little Voice**

**Sunday Nov 16<sup>th</sup>  
2.00pm**

**Comedy:**

**Fawlty Towers**

**Tickets are only:**

**\$10** for Mt  
Evelyn RSL  
members

**Contact Roger on:  
9737 0830**

**To book tickets  
through us for  
one of these  
matinee shows**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 our treasurer, John Allwood, accompanied me to the '99<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the RSL Victorian Branch' at the Melbourne Function Centre, Caulfield Racecourse.

RSL National President, RADM Ken Doolan, reported that the RSL national constitution was being reviewed and impaired Afghanistan veterans were going to compete at the 'Invictus' London games. Also the senior national conference will to be held in Victoria in 2016, planning for the remembrance of 100 years of service and sacrifice in 2018 was underway and \$10 million had been allocated for a travelling Gallipoli exhibition. RSL State President, MAJ GEN David McLachlan, stated that Victorian RSL Sub-Branches had raised \$5.5 million in the Anzac Appeal, Mitcham and Heidelberg RSL's had closed and Caroline Springs RSL had opened in conjunction with the Collingwood Football Club.

Senator the Hon Ronaldson Minister for Veterans Affairs addressed the conference regarding the Federal Government budget impacts to veterans entitlements; white and gold card holders would be exempt from the \$7 doctors visit, veterans pensions would be subject to CPI indexation which is a lesser amount than the current indexation. The Hon David Feeney Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence said when in government the opposition would reverse these budget imposts and outlined a range of options that would be discussed if the opposition won government.

The Hon Damian Drum State Minister for Veterans Affairs spoke of extensions to mental health services as well as the veterans transition into work when leaving the services, a new DVA you tube for veterans was now available, \$65 million lost to the DVA budget in 2017, \$2 million injected into crisis accommodation, \$125,000 allocated to each federal seat for the centenary of Anzac activities and the centenary of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War planning to commence on the 4<sup>th</sup> August this year.

Thirty eight topics relating to veterans rights and entitlements were introduced for consideration, discussion for the State Branch to raise with government if endorsed at conference. These matters are available to view by asking a committee member.

Saving the best for last, Gary Park, our nomination for a 'Spirit of Anzac Award', which was announced by Tony Smith MP at our 2014 dawn service, was presented with his award and was roundly applauded by all. Well done Gary.

LEST WE FORGET - Roger Boness

## Membership Subs for 2014- ***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**

***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



Dear Son,

Just a few lines to let you know I'm still alive. I'm writing this letter slowly because I know you can't read fast. We are all doing very well.

You won't recognise the house when you get home - we have moved. Your dad read in the newspaper that most accidents happen within 20 miles from your home, so we 30 miles away to be safe. I won't be able to send you the address because the last family that lived here took the house numbers when they moved so that they wouldn't have to change their address.

This place is really nice. It even has a washing machine. I'm not sure it works so well though: last week I put a load in and pulled the chain and haven't seen them since.

Your father's got a really good job now. He's got 500 men under him. He's cutting the grass at the cemetery.

Your sister Mary had a baby this morning but I haven't found out if it's a boy or a girl, so I don't know whether you are an auntie or an uncle.

Your brother Tom is still in the army. He's only been there a short while and they've already made him a court martial!

Your Uncle Patrick drowned last week in a vat of whiskey in the Dublin Brewery. Some of his workmates tried to save him but he fought them off bravely. They cremated him and it took three days to put out the fire.

I'm sorry to say that your cousin Tony was arrested while riding his bicycle last week. They are charging him with dope peddling.

I went to the doctor on Thursday and your father went with me. The doctor put a small tube in my mouth and told me not to talk for ten minutes. Your father offered to buy it from him.

The weather isn't bad here. It only rained twice this week, first for three days and then for four days. Monday was so windy one of the chickens laid the same egg four times.

We had a letter from the under-taker. He said if the last payment on your Grandmother's plot wasn't paid in seven days, up she comes.

About that coat you wanted me to send you, your Uncle Stanley said it would be too heavy to send in the mail with the buttons on, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets.

John locked his keys in the car yesterday. We were really worried because it took him two hours to get me and your father out.

Three of your friends went off a bridge in a pick-up truck. Ralph was driving. He rolled down the window and swam to safety. Your other two friends were in back. They drowned because they couldn't get the tailgate down.

There isn't much more news at this time. Nothing much has happened.

Your loving Mum

P.S. I was going to send you some money but I had already sealed the envelope.

My friend's bakery burned down last night. Now he sells toast.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.

Have you ever tried to eat a clock? It's very time consuming.



Follow us on facebook:

[www.facebook.com/mtevelynrs1](http://www.facebook.com/mtevelynrs1)



# LATEST NEWS

## AWARD FOR ROGER

On May 31<sup>st</sup> members of the Mt Evelyn RSL were pleased to attend the annual Shire of Yarra Ranges 'Mayoral Breakfast' on what was the 'National Day of Thanksgiving' at the 'Foothills Conference Centre' in Mooroolbark. On this occasion our President, Roger Boness, was one of a select deserving few from our community who were presented with an award in appreciation of the commitment and effort they put into our community. **WELL DONE ROGER!**



**Left:**

Julie and Roger  
Boness at the  
Mayoral breakfast



**Above:** Roger  
Boness with his  
award.



**Left:** Some of the  
RSL members who  
attended the  
breakfast – Jim  
Hurley, Betty  
Crittenden, Gary  
Freeman, Dot Ervine

**Photos:** Deanne  
Webb

# RSL AWARD TO THE MT EVELYN FOOTBALL -NETBALL CLUB

In May our President, Roger Boness, and our Welfare Officer, Deanne Webb, attended the Mt Evelyn Football – Netball Club's annual award night where they made a special presentation to the club. For many years now the Football-Netball and the RSL have had a close relationship and we have supported each other where we can. As a result the membership of the Mt Evelyn RSL voted to give the Mt Evelyn Football-Netball Club a Victorian RSL 'Certificate of Appreciation' award.

In presenting the award Roger acknowledged the work the club does within the Mt Evelyn community, especially with the youth, and highlighted the support the club has given the RSL over the years, most notably with the community breakfast at the Dawn Service which the club cooks and distributes. He also stated he hoped that the relationship between our two community organisations will continue and that we look forward to working with them on Mt Evelyn projects in the future.

**Below: John Stroud, Mt Evelyn Football-Netball Club, Roger Boness, President of the Mt Evelyn RSL and past player with Mt Evelyn, and Ray Fellows, President of the Mt Evelyn Football-Netball Club.**  
(Photo: D Webb)



## ~ **COMMEMORATIVE STUBBY HOLDERS** ~

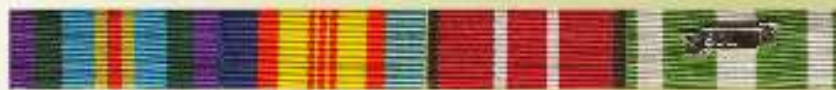
All of our WWI commemorative stubby holders have all sold out in a matter of weeks. As a result we will be looking at doing another by August. Cost is **\$5.**

If you want to pre-order email –  
[mtevrs@gmail.com](mailto:mtevrs@gmail.com)





# Yarra Valley Vietnam Veterans Day Combined Service



**Mt. Evelyn**  
**Sunday August 17, 2014**  
**ALL WELCOME**

Service: 11:00 am  
at Mt. Evelyn Memorial Gardens  
Cnr Birmingham Rd. & Wray Cr.

Following Commemorations,  
Veterans will march to  
Mt. Evelyn RSL where  
Luncheon & Fellowship will be held.

Enquiries:

**Roger Boness 9737 0830**

**Dennis Reeves 5966 2667**

**[www.yarravalleyvvv.au.com](http://www.yarravalleyvvv.au.com)**

An initiative of the Vietnam Veterans Community, Outer Eastern Melbourne  
Sub-branch - Vietnam Veterans Association; Healesville, Lilydale, Mt Evelyn,  
Upper Yarra, Warburton & Yarra Glen RSL Sub-branches  
and the National Serviceman's Association.

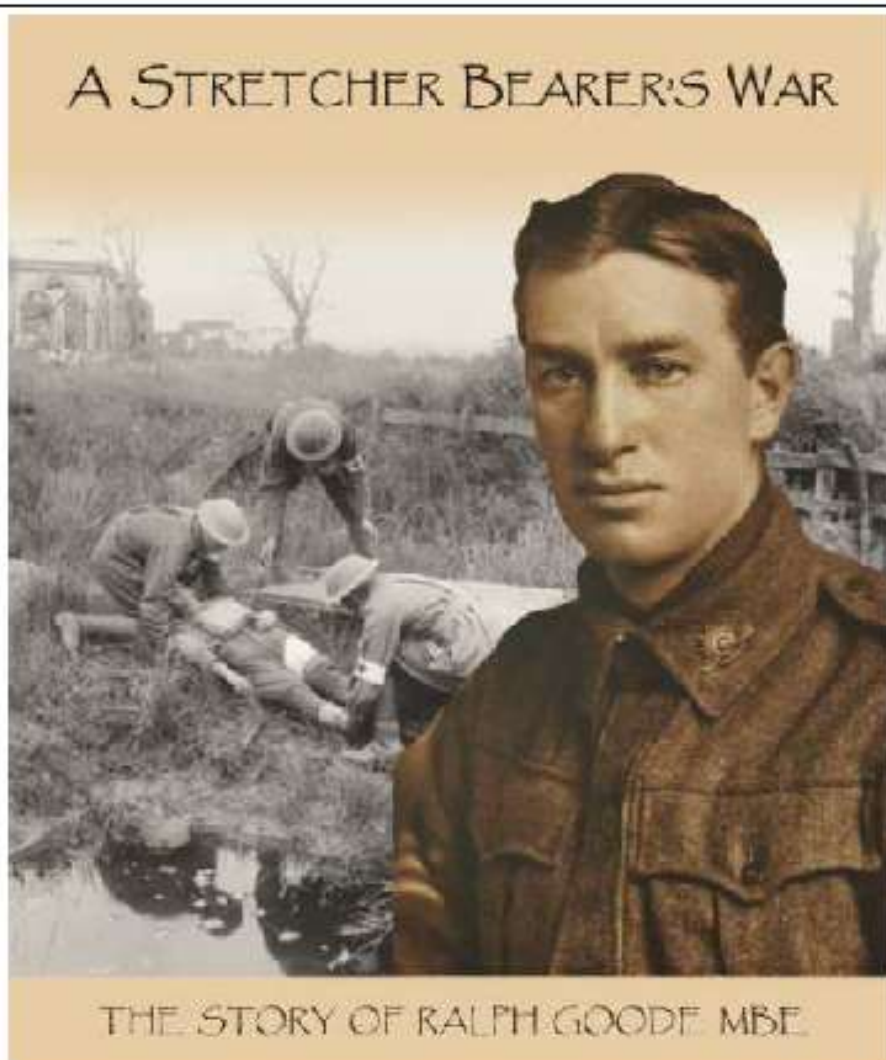




# THE MOUNT EVELYN RSL

IS PROUD TO INVITE YOU

## *TO THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW BOOK*



This is the biography of Ralph Goode MBE, the first man from Lilydale to enlist in World War One and who after the war contributed greatly to the Lilydale community.

The main part of the book is his war diaries and letters that give a personal account of the horror and heroism of serving as a stretcher bearer in Egypt, on Gallipoli and throughout the Western Front.

*To be launched by*  
**A Special Guest  
from the  
Australian Army  
Medical Corps**

**When:** Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
(the Centenary of the day Ralph Goode enlisted in the AIF)

**Time:** 2.00pm

**Place:** The Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre,  
39-41 Castella St, Lilydale

**Guest Speakers:**

Tony Smith MP, Federal Member for Casey  
Roger Boness, President Mt Evelyn RSL  
Don Parsons, President Lilydale RSL

# RIP LEN POLKINGHORNE

The President of the Mt Evelyn RSL, Roger Boness, is sad to report the passing of one of our esteemed colleagues - Len Polkinghorne OAM - a man who was one of the last World War Two volunteers from Mt Evelyn and a man who has devoted an enormous amount of time and effort into helping others. For the past two years the Mt Evelyn nominated him for a Shire of Yarra Ranges Mayoral Lifetime Achievement Award but each time, for whatever reason, he wasn't found eligible.

Leonard James Polkinghorne was born May 6th, 1923 at Woods Point, Vic where his father worked as a miner. When the gold ran out there the family left Woods Point and over the next few years they lived a fairly nomadic existence as his father tried to get work where ever he could and was forced to go rabbit trapping in the bush whenever he couldn't.

In 1927 the family settled in Mt Evelyn when his father got a job working on the Silvan Dam. Len and his siblings attended the Mt Evelyn State School, in fact Len's father started up the first school band and paid for their instruments with money he made from building a tennis court with pick and shovel for a local businessman. Len himself remembers marching up and down Bailey Road in bare feet practising with the band. During their time in Mt Evelyn his family lived in a number of houses including one on the legendary 'Billy Goat Hill'. During holidays Len would help the family out by working on local farms and by picking strawberries at Silvan.

During World War Two Len enlisted in the army and was allotted to the Second 17th Anti-Aircraft Battery. He was lucky in way because many of those who enlisted around the same time ended up as prisoners of war of the Japanese. In fact at one time Len tried to transfer to his cousin's unit but was unsuccessful and in the end talked his cousin into coming into his section. The unit he tried to go to was eventually sent to Malaya and were nearly all captured.

Len's unit however was sent to New Guinea and had the important job of defending Port Moresby from Japanese air attacks. In 1942 this was a daily occurrence and on one occasion he witnessed the ship the 'Mac Dui' being sunk by Japanese bombers in the harbour. He would later go on to see action in Milne Bay, Buna and some of the islands in the Pacific. His two brothers, Harold and Les, also served in uniform during World War Two.

Len name appears on the Mt Evelyn Honour Board and the Shire of Lillydale World War Two Honour Board. He was one of the last of Mt Evelyn's World War Two volunteers.

In the years after the war Len found it difficult to adjust to civilian life and suffered much both physically and mentally. He moved to Ringwood, married and raised a family. During this time he became a member of the Ringwood RSL but wasn't active in the club. In the late 1970's he retired from working life and moved to Mooroolbark where he lived ever since.

After he retired he became more active with the Ringwood RSL and was charged by the notion of helping his fellow veterans as best he could. He took on the role of 'welfare officer' and 'pensions officer' and did an extraordinary amount of work for the welfare of his comrades in the RSL. He also played the trumpet at commemorative services for many years.

He has been active in passing on the heritage to future generations. He created a museum for the Ringwood RSL displaying the military memorabilia for the members and the general public, he regularly speaks to schools and was guest speaker recently at the Mt Evelyn 'Remembrance Day' service. A number of years ago he led a group that stopped the Department of Transport from removing Ringwood's war memorial. Another role he has undertaken is to perform the RSL service at the funeral of ex-servicemen and women. Len estimates he has done this at over 300 funerals.

For his dedication and efforts to his fellow veterans he has been made a life member of the RSL, been listed in the RSL Hall of Fame and in 2001 was awarded a 'Centenary Medal'. More importantly in recent times he was awarded an 'Order of Australia Medal'.





**Above:**

Len Polkinghorne with a photo of himself in uniform and standing in front of his name on the Mt Evelyn WW2 Honour Board.

**Above Right:**

Len and Cr Tim Heenan unveil the 'Avenue of Honour' memorial at the war memorial park.

**Right:**

Len receives his 'RSL Hall of Fame' award from Victorian RSL President Major General David McLachlan AO.



## ***CENTENARY OF WORLD WAR ONE PROJECTS HAPPENING LOCALLY***

**Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> at 12.15pm**

**Montrose War Memorial –**

**Cnr Swansea Rd & Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd**

The Rotary Club of Montrose will be unveiling a plaque in memory of Montrose resident, Major Charles Morris, who ordered the first shot to be fired in World War One at Point Nepean. Date and time will be the same as when the event happened.

**Wednesday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm**

**Athenaeum – Castella St, Lilydale**

Unveiling of plaque to commemorate the centenary of the Lilydale branch of the Red Cross being formed.

# **MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP**

## **LILYDALE – FEBRUARY 1914**

500 years ago (1491 Monash and 3000 citizen soldiers) dominated an Llyfalyd and conquest for much where the Llyfalyd lake is today.

While they were there they were visited by General Sir Ian Hamilton & Richard Williams of RAAF Force and held a huge 'mush battle' near Monash's home in Colindale.

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:**

Name  
 Address  
 Telephone  
 E-mail  
 Postcode  
 Payment by ☐ in cash ☐ by cheque

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

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

**Mt Evelyn RSL**  
**PO BOX 163**  
**Mt Evelyn, Vic, 3796**



*An interesting story sent by Bill Smart.*

A few weekends ago, British artist Jamie, accompanied by numerous volunteers, took to the beaches of Normandy with rakes and stencils in hand to etch into the sand 9,000 silhouettes representing fallen people.

Titled **The Fallen 9000**, the piece is meant as a stark visual reminder of those who died during the D-Day beach landings at Arromanches on June 6th, 1944 during WWII. The original team consisted of 60 volunteers, but as word spread nearly 500 additional local residents arrived to help.

Sadly, it lasted only a few hours before being washed away by the tide.

**9,000 Fallen Soldiers Etched into the Sand on Normandy Beach to Commemorate Peace Day on September 25, 2013**



## HMAS Sydney and its Role in the Indonesian Confrontation



Another interesting story sent through by Kim Parry who recently attended a special ceremony in Sydney...

50 years ago HMAS SYDNEY transported a sizable contingent of Australian Army personnel and equipment to Borneo in support of the confrontation in Borneo.

A half century has elapsed and this was marked by a commemorative service where many members of the Ships Company posted to SYDNEY and escort destroyers at the time assembled to reflect on their experience and the significance of the occasion. SYDNEY, converted for such a job was put through her paces in what proved to be a fruitful role.

**Left:** HMAS Sydney leaving Sydney Harbour in 1964.



# GALLIPOLI LETTER

The letter below was sent to us from Margi Sank, former President of the Rotary Club of Lilydale. It was written by her grandfather, Robert Calder Crowther, to the editor of 'The Swan' (Guildford Grammar School WA) Sept 2 1915. Robert Calder Crowther served with the 10<sup>th</sup> Light Horse which performed the charge at the Nek, made famous by Peter Weir's film 'Gallipoli', which he describes the after effects here.

*Dear Sir,*

*I received 'The Swan' yesterday, sent on by my mother, and it was a source of great enjoyment. I passed it on to Billy Brede, who is with us, and will let it go round to all the Old Boys I come across, although I do not see many now that we are scattered about among different other units, and nearly all our regiment are killed or wounded or away sick.*

*I will not worry about mentioning names, as you will know just as well as I who they are. It is sufficient to say that one and all died or received their wounds in a manner of brave and fearless men, and that most of them lost their lives under such circumstances that each man knew pretty well that he had hardly any chance of getting through. I speak at present of Verney Piesse, the Harpers, and Bob Lukin, and the world and their friends are poorer for their loss.*

*I have been fortunate up to date, unwounded so far, although I had a month with measles. Being a machine gunner, I have not taken part in any charge, hence my immunity to date. We have had our fair share of work, and have been in the trenches since we landed, nearly 19 weeks ago. On one occasion I was on duty for 104 hours without a break and no sleep in a trench which our regiment recently captured and which was full of dead Turks, who had unfortunately for us, not died too recently. It was pretty awful, and I was nearly dead when we finished; but one can stand a good deal when it has to be done, and when it is necessary no one growls or minds.....*

*.....but what give us most pride is the way the Old Boys are responding to the call of the Empire and rolling up to join the colours. One thing, we can never have too many of them - you never can of a good thing.....*



Margi's father wrote the following about his Dad: *'He embarked for overseas on 8.2.1915 and after time in Egypt arrived on Gallipoli on 15.5.1915. He told me how he was blown along the trench and invalided from Gallipoli on 18 July 1915 and after hospitalisation at Lemnos and Malta was returned to Australia embarking 28 January 1916. He, during that time suffered influenza, jaundice and cardiac irritability. He told me also of incidents on his return that he suffered severe shell shock. He returned to the Middle East disembarking at Suez on 20 June 1917 to join the 3rd Machine Gun Regiment. Ill health dogged his service and was invalided home 15 February 1918 with sciatica. He arrived back on crutches and as far as I can remember he always walked with a stick. Eventually, as medical science developed, he was found to have had a broken back'.*

Margi says *'he married Edna Harwood. They had three children, my father, the eldest. Grandpa Calder, became an accountant and auditor, was a pillar of the Church, School and Community, and was a Councillor and Mayor and a keen sportsman. He died of cardiac arrest in 1961. He was a true gentleman and a lovely Grandpa'.*



**MANY THANKS TO BUNNINGS  
BAYSWATER FOR THEIR SUPPORT –  
THEY RECENTLY DONATED PAINT  
TO REFURBISH THE  
HALL'S MEETING ROOM.**

## Take Off Weight Naturally

*Do you want to lose weight  
with the help of a supportive,  
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:** Sue Harding 0421 225 827 or 97370106

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

## PLEASE NOTE

*Copies of*  
**'Monash's Militia Camp' &**  
**'THE LAST LIGHT HORSEMAN'**  
*are available for sale through the*  
**Mt Evelyn RSL**  
*or at the*  
**Mt Evelyn Post Office, Station St**



## 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 - \$10*

**General Meetings:**  
every third Monday of even months  
7.30pm  
'Hardy House' –  
Mt Evelyn RSL Hall

### GUEST SPEAKERS 2014

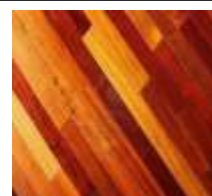
**26/7/14** – Anthony McAleer  
– tour of Lilydale  
Athenaeum


## PAUL E O'REILLY

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kimparry@people.net.au

**max brown**

maxbrown.com.au

ORIGIN: KILBY MONTROSE MT EVELYN LAYDALE DEVELLE



## LILYDALE WEIGHT CLUB

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

*Everyone welcome!*



## 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!!!*

## 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)

## JJ's Photography



Ph: **9736 1822**  
Mob: **0427100818**

Shop 7B York Rd  
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](mailto:hewettma@gmail.com)

**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**

## 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



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 \*Signs

Contact Dave –

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

**0419 897 134 or 9737 0888**



# Mt Evelyn Community Market



Saturday July 26

10am - 3pm

RSL/Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Rd

Everyone is welcome to join us at Mt Evelyn's new monthly market,  
featuring various stall holders and local business.  
Fresh produce and an RSL BBQ lunch and devonshire tea

<http://www.facebook.com/mtevelyncommunitymarket>





# BILL HARRISON'S STORY – pt 6

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.....

## How were you getting supplied?

Our supplies were to have been via the Wau airstrip but the DC3's, Dakotas or 'Goonie Birds' as the Americans called them, that were to fly in our supplies had either then been destroyed on the ground or were being used in the Kokoda campaign that had also begun then and was considered to be a priority. So Wau was cut off and we didn't get any supplies at all for a long time. Most of our supplies came from what we took off the Japanese or we lived off the land. We ate bananas, if you could find any, sugar cane and there was this swamp grass you could eat. I think we went for seven months without eating European food at all. Even most of our clothes ended up being Japanese, I had two-toed sandals, a lap-lap around my waste, as my boots and pants had worn out, and I had part of a shirt left. I still had my beret though.

## How did you communicate with headquarters?

The radios didn't last long at all, they quickly folded, any electrical stuff did because of the high humidity, and they had a very limited life. One time we got a radio off a mob of Nips we did over and then got some more bits out of an American aeroplane that had crashed. Eventually our sigs made some sort of a set so that we could make contact with Moresby. But remember Moresby was only seventy odd miles away but in between was this seven thousand feet high mountain range that was covered in cloud and this acted as a screen and you couldn't get through. The only way to get Moresby was via way of an Allied plane flying in the Coral Sea, because there were no mountains in between them, and we could get onto the plane and the plane would relay our message through to Moresby, which is a bit complicated. Usually you'd just send a runner back to Wau.

## What happened when the Japanese did move inland towards Wau?

After the Nips were chased out of Sanananda, they concentrated at Lae and Salamaua and their numbers went up to about twenty thousand there. You may remember that New Guinea use to be German, well they gave their old maps to be Japanese and they had a map of a track that went from Salamaua up to Wau. We didn't know it existed, we just thought it was unexplored country. Before we realised what had happened the Japs had moved overland on this track and into the Wau Valley and then into Wau itself.

## Were you involved in the Battle of Wau?

They decided to fly the Seventeen Brigade into Wau and some of those blokes went back wounded in the same planes they'd landed in. They were straight from the desert; I think they'd had four days leave in Australia. They just arrived in Australia from the Western Desert, given four days leave and then were sent straight up here. They weren't acclimatized and they weren't trained for jungle warfare. I was there for about four weeks after the Brigade arrived and we scouted for them as we knew every crack around there. I recall one time this bloke was a Sergeant, and he'd had a bit of experience in the desert, but here he was out of his depth. He was almost in tears saying 'but you can't see the bastards'. Of course you can't – he'd been use to looking out for about three weeks in any direction in the Western Desert but up there you can't see any more than ten yards in any place. However once the brigade learned how to use the tracks and how to use the natives they were awe inspiring.

## MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Many thanks to **Frank Roche** and **Jim Hurley** who recently donated items to be hung on the walls and for our library.
- Well done to our secretary, **Anthony McAleer**, who has put his hand up to run as an Independent in the next State election – he is campaigning about the lack of higher education facilities in the outer east. To see more of what he is on about see: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Anthony-McAleer-Independent-Candidate-for-Evelyn/814224508610400?ref=hl>
- Sad to hear of the passing of Lorraine Elliot, former MLA for Mooroolbark, who was always a great supporter of the local RSL's.
- The **Holliers** have been enjoying another great holiday overseas.
- We hear **Rob Webb** does a great impression of Darth Vader nowadays.
  - 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**



*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.

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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 –**

Dot Ervine Ph: 97363638

**Chamber representative –**

Russ Kirby Ph: 0499475784

**Justice of the Peace –**

Kim Parry Ph: 0418334416

**Committee:**

Betty Crittenden, Sandra FitzGerald, Bill Smart