

Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 2, Issue 3, Anzac 2012

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



2012 Meeting Dates

May 13th
June 10th
July 8th
Aug 12th
Sept 9th
Oct 14th
Nov 11th
Dec 9th

*The Mt Evelyn RSL
Meetings are held on
the second Sunday
of each month at
2.00pm at the:*

Mt Evelyn RSL
Clubrooms
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/
mount-evelyn-rsl](http://moutevelyn.vic.au/mount-evelyn-rsl)

Anzac Day Special Edition

MT EVELYN HONOUR ROLL PLAQUE UNVEILED

Although there were concerns about the weather for both the service on Sunday and for the dawn service the skies were clear for both events. Great crowds were evident at both events and Jim Hurley reports that the Wandin service, where he represented the Mt Evelyn RSL, also had good crowds. The service on the Sunday was a special event, and made even more notable by the efforts of the Croydon Citizens Brass Band and for the first time a combined choir made up of all the local schools. Jean Morton, sister of Ivan Cruickshank, unveiled the Mt Evelyn Honour Roll on the memorial and Len Polkinghorne OAM, one of the last surviving WW2 veterans from Mt Evelyn, unveiled the re-located 'Avenue of Honour' memorial. Tony Smith MP, Cr Tim Heenan, Christine Fyffe MLA and Major Tony Geyer all made interesting speeches. The march this year was a huge success and included six WW2 vehicles who carried our older and infirmed members in the march, many residents lined the street. A great afternoon tea & refreshments were enjoyed by all.

***Below:** Our men in uniform: Warrant Officer Class 1 Warren Townshend, Major Tony Geyer, Major Russell Kirby, Brigadier Michael Phelps, Ralph Proctor*



Important Dates Coming Up:

SUB-BRANCH EXCURSION

SUNDAY
JUNE 3rd

PRODUCTION OF 'M*A*S*H'

- **12.30pm** – BBQ lunch at clubrooms
- **1.30pm** – Bus leaves for show at Lilydale
- **2.00pm** – Matinee performance at Lilydale's Athenaeum Theatre
- **COST- \$10** (members only)
- To book contact Roger asap on: 9737 0830

MT EVELYN HISTORY GROUP



The RSL has a community partnership with the MEHG and as a result all RSL members are free to attend their talks held in the RSL hall.

SATURDAY
JULY 28th
1.30pm

- Robyn Taylor talking about her grandmother's experiences in the NT.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Mt Evelyn RSL committee and members have been working in the months leading up to Anzac Day to ensure our Anzac commemorative service, parade and dawn service were as memorable for all the individuals, community/community groups, schools and visitors who participated as it was for RSL members.

As a result much work was undertaken including:

- The ongoing development of the memorial garden, courtesy of Rob Sibbing who arranged for the relocation of the World War One 'Avenue of Honour' memorial, from its obscure location in central Wray Cres to the memorial garden.
- The installation of our new plaque purchased through a Department of Veterans Affairs grant, and in memory of all former residents of Mt Evelyn who have died on active service on the cenotaph, by local tradesmen: Tony, Glen, Gary, Chris, Paul and Dean.

In no particular order I would also like to acknowledge those who participated in the services: St John's Ambulance (especially Maree Salter), Croydon Citizen's Brass Band (especially Melina Berger), buglers Tom Steele & Karin Meyer, the music teachers who co-ordinated the marvelous combined schools choir (Jenny Barker, Angela Glennie, Trista Phillips) and all the students who participated, local politicians Cr Tim Heenan, Christine Fyffe MLA, Tony Smith MP, Rev Richard Schoenmaker, Jean Morton, Len Polkinghorne OAM, Brigadier Michael Phelps, Major Tony Geyer, Major Russell Kirby, those who bought the military vehicles along, the gallant ladies who made the afternoon tea (Dot, Deanne, Jenni, Emma, Lauren, Elsa, Lesley), the gallant ladies of the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball club who made the breakfast, Ray Fellows, the Mt Evelyn CFA (especially Jim Armstrong & Ken Reed), the scouts, the guides, Georgina Bennett, Rene Belyus, WO1 Warren Townshend, Colleen Dickson, Kendall Knobbs & Betty Crittenden. The visitors, community, management and staff at the York on Lilydale Resort for sponsoring and facilitating the traditional two-up, the two-up facilitators (Tony, Glen, Paul, Nam, Justine, Wayne E, Wayne T, Scott, Rick, Mark H, Peter, Mark R, Dee), all those assisting in ticket sales and Burden Plumbtec for their sponsorship.

LEST WE FORGET - Roger Boness

APPEALS REPORT

A fantastic effort again for the sale of our Anzac Tokens. This year we managed to raise **\$3689.00** in Anzac Tokens and **\$4359.85** in raffle ticket sales. All the funds raised go to the welfare of ex-service people and their dependants.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank IGA for their ongoing support of our Anzac Token sales and especially the Mt Evelyn Pharmacy who supplied one of our raffle hampers. My appreciation also goes to all of the volunteers who manned the stall: Rod, Roger, Elsa, Betty, Wendy, Geoff & Deanne.

Regards,

Dot Irvine – Mt Evelyn RSL Appeals Officer

Membership Subs – 2012 – *due now!*

Full Members – open to ex-service personnel who were in the uniformed services for a period of six months or more. **\$40 a year**

Affiliated Members – open to those who have served with the emergency services or whose relatives were service personnel. **\$40 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

RSL's JOKE PAGE

The Perks of being over 60.....

- Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- In a hostage situation, you are likely to be released first.
- No one expects you to run -- *anywhere*.
- People call at 9 pm (or 9 am) and ask, 'Did I wake you?'
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- You can eat supper at 4 pm.
- You can live without sex but not your glasses.
- You get into heated arguments about pension plans.
- You no longer think of speed limits as a challenge.
- You quit trying to hold your stomach in no matter who walks into the room.
- You sing along with elevator music.
- Your eyes won't get much worse.
- Your investment in private health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
- Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the weather man.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.

Warning: NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, under any circumstances take a sleeping pill and a laxative - on the same night!

Some Food for thought....

- My neighbour knocked on my door at 2:30am this morning, can you believe that....2:30am?!
Luckily for him I was still up playing my Bagpipes.
- The Grim Reaper came for me last night, and I beat him off with a vacuum cleaner. Talk about Dyson with death.
- Paddy says "Mick, I'm thinking of buying a Labrador".
"Really?..." says Mick "have you seen how many of their owners go blind"
- I went to the cemetery yesterday to lay some flowers on a grave. As I was standing there I noticed 4 grave diggers walking about with a Coffin.
3 hours later and they're still walking about with it.
I thought to myself, they've lost the plot!!
- I start a new job in Seoul next week. I thought it was a good Korea move.
- There were three men on a hill with their watches.
The first man threw his watch down the hill and it broke.
The second man threw his watch down the hill and it broke.
The third man threw his watch down the hill, walked all the way to the bottom, and caught it.
The other two men were puzzled and asked the third man how he did it.
The third man said, "Easy. My watch is 5 minutes slow!"

PLEASE NOTE



Don't Miss

If you find a white dot on the front of your newsletter it is a friendly reminder that your 2012 membership fees are now due.

APRIL 22nd 2012–UNVEILING –SERVICE -MARCH



Above: Large crowds gather at the 'Mt Evelyn War Memorial Park' for the unveiling & service



Above: Croydon Citizen's Brass Band & the Mt Evelyn Combined Schools Choir



Above: Jean Morton (sister of Ivan Cruicshank) unveils Mt Evelyn Honour Roll plaque & Cr Tim Heenan with Len Polkinghorne OAM unveil the re-dedicated 'Avenue of Honour' memorial



There are a lot more photos on facebook. See: www.facebook.com/mtevelynrs!



Above: Peter Henskens & Ralph Proctor

Tom Steele

Rob Webb



Above: Tony Smith MP, Member for Casey

Len Polkinghorne OAM & Ralph Proctor



Above: The Mt Evelyn RSL Women's Auxiliary perform their final duty together

Our colleagues from the Monbulk RSL, John Surridge & Ted Beard, lay a wreath



Above: Proof that Roger & Laurie know the words to the second verse of the National Anthem



Members gather together and get ready to march: Rob, Matt, Chris, Roger & Ted



Above: Our currently serving members & ex-servicemen march down Birmingham Rd



Scouts, guides, CFA & school children join the march



Above: Bill Phillips rides in a WWII jeep in the march



Crowds gather in the hall to hear Major Geyer's speech

Thanks to Jenny McAleer & Deanne Webb for all these photos

APRIL 25th 2012 – DAWN SERVICE



Above: Cr Tim Heenan & Ray Fellows, president Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club.
Caitlyn and Georgia lay a wreath on behalf of Tony Smith MP.



Above: Cr Tim Heenan & Jim Armstrong, Captain Mt Evelyn CFA.
The gallant ladies of the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club who made the 'Gunfire Breakfast'.
Below: Members enjoying breakfast. Two-up at the York



Above right: Photo courtesy of Steve Tanner and Leader newspapers

APRIL 16th 2012– Governor's Anzac Luncheon - NGV



Above Left: Ralph Proctor & Roger Boness with Cameron Mansell (winner of 'Spirit of Anzac Award')
Above Right: Cameron & Jim Hurley, Vice-President Mt Evelyn RSL (Photos courtesy Mansell family)

APRIL 19th 2012– Anzac talk at the Seville Scouts



Above: Roger talks to the Seville Scouts (photos courtesy of Major Russell Kirby)



Left: Gary Freeman from the Post Office buys an Anzac Token from the stall out front of IGA.
From left – Gary, Dot, Betty & Rod



Russell Kirby of Enviroblast is a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL. Ring him for a quote –
he will look after any fellow members

Hello,

We are introducing our service to potential customers in the **Yarra Ranges** region.

Enviroblast is launching in **Mt Evelyn** in the next few weeks and we offer a complete environmental solution for hard surface cleaning (Water Blasting) saving water and stopping discharge to the storm water system.

Our wash system provides stand-alone operation with complete environmental responsibility. This total recycle technology means maximum environmental protection, minimum water consumption and the most effective environmental choice.

We currently provide service with this NEW TECHNOLOGY to the Brisbane City Council and the Gold Coast City Council.

We are looking to make contact with Local Asset Service Coordinators, Roads & Drainage Coordinators, Environmental Officers and anyone responsible for cleaning of Assets & Public Areas within council. Some brief information is attached outlining how this technology can help councils and we would appreciate your help by forwarding the information onto the relevant parties.

We would like to provide a FREE DEMONSTRATION in the coming weeks of our system so please give us a call today to reserve a free demonstration on 1300 668 113.

Russ Kirby & Bob Bennett
Enviroblast

Residential Cleaning –

- Concrete, house, roof, tennis court, tile & grout

Industrial & Commercial Cleaning –

- Car parks, cold rooms, commercial bins, concrete, factories & freezers

Government Cleaning –

- Bridges, bus shelters, hospitals, walkways & footpaths

See: www.enviroblast.com.au

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?**



The group uses book study and meditation to help uncover the truth behind these questions and to journey towards self discovery. In an informal way participants are encouraged to really start examining their lives in an endeavour to rediscover true and lasting happiness.

Anyone interested in joining should contact:
Sue Hamilton on **0428829612**.

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

Morning tea is provided.

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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.

Living Longer Living Stronger

(Men & Women over 45yrs)

Tues & Thurs 8am – **Only \$7 per session**

Strong Women

(Women only – all ages)

Mon 6pm, Tues & Thurs 9.30am –

Only \$10 per session

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**

Rock 'n Roll



Dances and lessons
In the RSL Hall
Every Wednesday Night

Call Linda Ph: **9736 1113**

RALPH PROCTOR DISPLAY

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

Mont de Lancey Museum & Homestead

71 Wellington Rd, Wandin

Open: Wed-Sun 10.30-4.30pm

DOT FLENLEY'S STORY – pt 1

I have been serialising the Joe Clark story this year. However with this now being published by the sub-branch later in the year, it was decided not to ruin the launch of the book and to undertake a different story.

For the rest of this year I will serialise the story of one of our past members, Dot Flenley. Dot served with the AWAS during World War Two and was a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL. In 1991 Anthony McAleer sat down with her and interviewed her about her memories. What follows is Dot's story.....

What was your childhood like?

I was born in 1923 in Mildura, my family were fruit growers. It was a wonderful life on the land, very free and easy. I still think it's better for children to grow up in the country than the city. I do think they are more matured in the country, down in the city to a certain extent they are not living with nature. When we were young we were always around fowls and cows and at a young age learned how to handle horses. In fact we learned how to do all the work on the block; pruning, rolling all the new panes, picking, working in the packing sheds. Dad had a tractor and we all learned to drive that. It was part of our growing up – you had to learn to work on the block.

Because I was born and bred up there, I knew all areas of the work. In the early part of the war it was hard getting workers so my sister and I, we were the oldest of the four of us, we went out and did the picking. Very hot work up there – one day it got 116! But I still enjoy the country, I want to go back again.

What are your memories of the war starting?

That was a terrible day – I thought. It wasn't a happy day because we really didn't know what was going to happen and where it would end up. I think we were a bit terrified about it all.

Did the wartime rationing affect you in the country?

We were fortunate in a lot of ways because we had fowls and two cows, so we had our own milk, cream and we use to make our own butter. So that part didn't worry us. We had a tractor so we did get an allowance there for petrol but it was a worry, but you just accepted it. You economised where you could and you just had to work things out over the month as to what you could do with your coupons.

How did the shortage of manpower during the war affect your property?

There was a huge shortage of labour, it got so hard to get men that it got to the stage where they formed the 'Women's Land Army' to go and help on the properties. Dad didn't like employing women on the block, he didn't think it was their place of work. But when it got so hard to get labour he had to change his ideas on that. They would all be sent up here and distributed around to all the blockies who wanted pickers and such. My dad died in 1943 and my younger brother, who was only 17, took over the block. Those girls were a big help to him and they came up in the picking season and worked on the blocks. By the end of the war everyone accepted that women could work as pickers just as well as the men could.

*Next issue:
Dot joins the AWAS*

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Many thanks to Geoff Bailey who recently donated books to our military library.
- Thanks also to Ted 'Pinky' Jenkinson for the donation of a WWI flask.
- Congrats to our raffle winners – Lauren who won the food hamper & Jacinta who won the pharmacy hamper.
- A big welcome to our new members:
- Tpr Chris McAleer
- Avon Falkingham
- Jenny McAleer
- Best wishes to Jim Bentley who is leaving the club & moving to Baranduda in N/E Vic. Jim has been our gardener for many years and we all wish him well – *we hope you enjoy your new shed Jim!!*
- Shirley Rowe from the CWA has donated a number of beanies she knitted herself so that members can keep warm this winter. Just contact the club if you would like one – they're very well made.
- Our recently donated '7RAR in Vietnam' mirror has been framed by member Steve Deakins and is now hanging up in the club.
- Should you require any assistance or advice - Please ring:
Laurie Hollier (the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer). Ph: **9737 0068**
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

Club Opening Hours

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

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

Andy & Marie have 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.

While you're visiting make sure you check out the fascinating display of military memorabilia that members have donated over the years. This has all been exhibited in our new display cases and arranged by an historian from Museum Victoria.

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.

Hall Hire

The RSL is a great facility for anyone who requires a place for clubs or social groups to gather. Most of the time 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 on an ongoing basis. However no Bucks/Hens or under 25's parties!

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

Mt Evelyn RSL Committee

President –	Roger Boness	Ph: 9737 0830
Vice President –	Jim Hurley	Ph: 9876 3750
Secretary –	Anthony McAleer	Ph: 9736 4384
Treasurer –	Anthony McAleer	Ph: 9736 4384
Welfare Officer –	Laurie Hollier	Ph: 9737 0068
Padre –	Rev Richard Schoenmaker	Ph: 9736 1087
Appeals Officer –	Dot Ervine	Ph: 9736 3638

Editor: Anthony McAleer

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