

Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 2, Issue 4, Spring 2012

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



2012 Meeting Dates

July 15th
Aug 19th
Sept 16th
Oct 21th
Nov 18th
Dec 16th

The Mt Evelyn RSL Meetings are held on the third 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/moutevelyn-rsl>

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RSL SIGNS FIVE YEAR HALL LEASE WITH SHIRE

The Mt Evelyn RSL has just signed a new lease with the Shire of Yarra Ranges to be trustees of the 'Hardy House' Hall that our clubrooms are attached to. Although we have had an ongoing lease with the Shire for some time this is the first time the lease has been exclusive to the RSL and hasn't included other groups. The new lease gives clearer demarcation as to who looks after what maintenance in the hall and the role and the responsibilities of the RSL as hall trustees.

As a result this then paves the way for the RSL to create a 'Hall Committee' amongst the regular hall users and hirers as a way of creating better communication between groups & the RSL and to quickly identify any maintenance issues in the hall. This along with our new 'Hall Hire Guide' will hopefully create an easier and more pleasant experience for the community partnerships we've established with our hall users.

In signing the new lease Mt Evelyn RSL President, Roger Boness, thanked Shire employees Michelle Danks, Bob Martin & Ken Sanderson as well as Cr Tim Heenan for all their assistance.

Below: Mt Evelyn RSL President, Roger Boness, signs the new lease with Michelle Danks, the Shire of Yarra Ranges Property Leasing Officer, looking on.



Important Dates Coming Up:

NOTE:

**THE MT EVELYN
RSL'S MONTHLY
MEETINGS ARE
NOW THE THIRD
SUNDAY NOT
THE SECOND
SUNDAY – see
dates on front page.**

EXCURSION **Sunday Aug 26th**

Lunch at the RSL
then off to the
Lilydale Athenaeum
Theatre to see the
production of
**'A WOMAN IN
BLACK'**

**Lunch – 12.30pm
Show - 2.00pm**

Cost - \$10

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

On Wednesday July 4th, 2012 I attended the 97th State Annual Conference of the Victorian RSL, held at the Caulfield Racecourse. Following is an abbreviated list of matters that were discussed and adopted:

- The annual minimum subscription fee payable by service and affiliate members will be set at \$25.00 from January 1st, 2013.
- That a specific aged care facility with high and low care be provided within the development planning at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.
- That the State Government be requested to re-introduce a 'Gold Travel Medallion' for the benefits of returned veterans over 80 years of age and their partners.
- That the Rules of the Branch be amended by the adding of two new definitions. 'Community Member of a Sub-Branch' means a person admitted as a community member of a sub-branch under Branch Bylaw 10A. 'Social Member of a Sub-branch' means a person admitted as a social member of a sub-branch under Branch Bylaw 10A or 10B.
- The minimum subscription fee for Service, Affiliates and Social Members is to be determined, from time to time, by the Annual State Conference. Social and Community members of a sub-branch is to be determined, from time to time, by the State Executive.
- That the Victorian RSL Branch and collective National RSL re-affirms support towards the Australian Peacekeeping Memorial to be built on Anzac Parade in Canberra by September 14th, 2014.
- That the RSL Victorian State Branch lobbies the Victorian Government in particular the 'Department of Transport Victoria' and 'Transport Safety Victoria' to: a) include the provision of exterior safety handles at all carriage doorways as part of the standard contract for the purchase of new passenger trains; b) Retro fit at least one exterior handle at one doorway at each carriage of every metro passenger train currently in service.
- That the Victorian State Branch lobbies the Victorian Government in particular the Department of Health Divisions of Hospital, Health Service and Wellbeing, Integrated Care and Aging to develop auditable policy and procedures that require all Victorian hospitals to liaise with aged care facility staff on an individual patient/resident basis to agree on a plan for his/her return to the aged care facility at a time when all his/her care needs can be met without risk to the person being returned or other residents.

Veterans Health Week will be held from Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th October, 2012 under the theme of 'Social inclusion-participate, connect and influence'. That is **participate** by learning something new through employment, volunteer work or education and training. **Connect** by linking in to local community resources and engaging with new acquaintances, friends and family. **Influence** by having a voice, influencing decisions that effect you and speaking up for those who can't for themselves.

LEST WE FORGET

- Roger Boness

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

You know you're Australian if....

- You believe that stubbies can be either drunk or worn.
- You pronounce Melbourne as Mel-b'n.
- You can translate: *'Dazza and Shazza played Acca Dacca on the way to Maccas.'*
- You believe it makes perfect sense for a nation to decorate its highways with large fibreglass bananas, prawns and sheep.
- You call your best friend *'a total b@stard'* but someone you really, truly despise is just *'a bit of a b@stard'*.
- You think 'Mooroolbark' is a perfectly reasonable name for a place.
- You believe it makes sense for a country to have a \$1 coin that's twice as big as its \$2 coin.
- You understand that 'Wagga Wagga' can be abbreviated to 'Wagga' but 'Woy Woy' can't be called 'Woy'.
- You believe that cooked-down axle grease makes a good breakfast spread.
- You've also squeezed it through Vita Wheats to make little Vegemite worms.
- You believe all famous Kiwis are actually Australian, until they stuff up, at which point they again become Kiwis.
- You only eat Beetroot with your Hamburger.
- You know that certain words must, by law, be shouted out during any rendition of the Angels' song *'Am I Ever Gonna See Your Face Again?'*
- You know that the Wagon Wheel (confectionery) has become smaller with every passing year.
- You wear ugg boots outside the house.
- You believe that every important discovery in the world was made by an Australian but then sold off to the Yanks for a pittance.
- You believe that the more you shorten someone's name the more you like them.
- Whatever your linguistic skills, you find yourself able to order takeaway fluently in every Asian language. (*We're having Pad Mud Muang for dinner!!!!*)
- You understand that the phrase *'a group of women wearing black thongs'* refers to footwear and may be less alluring than it sounds.
- You understand that *'excuse me'* can sound rude, while *'scuse me'* is always polite.
- You know what it's like to swallow a fly, on occasion via your nose.
- You know it's not summer until the steering wheel is too hot to handle and a seat belt buckle becomes a pretty good branding iron.
- Your biggest family argument over the summer concerns the rules for beach cricket.
- You shake your head in horror when companies try to market what they call 'ANZAC cookies'.
- You still think of Kylie as *'that girl off Neighbours'*.
- When at a bar, you understand male customers will feel the need to offer an excuse whenever they order low-alcohol beer.
- You know how to abbreviate every word, all of which usually end in 'o': arvo, combo, garbo, kero, metho, milko, muso, rego, servo, smoko, speedo, righto, goodo etc.
- You know that there is a universal place called *"woop woop"* located in the middle of nowhere...no matter where you actually are.
- You know that none of us actually drink Fosters beer, but we let the world think we do.
- You have some time in your life slept with Aerogard on in the summer. Maybe even as perfume.
- You've only ever used the words - tops, ripper, sick, mad, rad, sweet - to mean good. And then you place 'bloody' in front of it when you really mean it.
- You know that the barbecue is a political arena; the person holding the tongs is always the boss.
- You say *'no worries'* quite often, whether you realise it or not.
- You've drunk milo through a Tim Tam.
- You own a Chesty Bonds. In several different colours.
- You know that some people pronounce Australia like "Straya" and that's ok.



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RSL AWARD FOR 'OUR BAND'



Above: Roger Boness, President, Melina Benger, Conductor, and the 'Croydon Citizen's Brass Band' On June 19th President Roger Boness attended a rehearsal of the 'Croydon Citizen's Brass Band' to surprise them with an RSL award. The band's award was a 'Certificate of Appreciation' for all their efforts over the last few years, playing at our Anzac services and leading our march. Members of the Mt Evelyn RSL and the Mt Evelyn community have always appreciated the band's involvement and individual members such as Tom Steele, Karin Meyer and Jenny Barker have assisted the sub-branch on other occasions as well.



APRIL 19th Anzac talk at the Seville Scouts

Left: Roger Boness, president, and Major Russell Kirby with members of the Seville Scouts after they spoke to the group about Anzac Day.

The group are proudly showing off the Anzac biscuits they'd made.

(Photo: Russell Kirby)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The President and members of the Mt Evelyn RSL would like to congratulate our fellow member:

Brigadier Michael Phelps (*right*)

on being awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours:

MEMBER (AM) IN THE MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

His award is:

For exceptional service in the fields of acquisition and sustainment of land capability for the Australian Defence Force. Brigadier Phelps has been responsible for a diverse and important range of capabilities that have helped Australian service personnel to achieve success on extremely complex and demanding operations. Brigadier Phelps' focus has been on developing and delivering the best available equipment. His exemplary leadership, professionalism and vision in creating solutions to emerging issues are the hallmark of his exceptional service and bring great credit upon himself, the Defence Materiel Organisation and the Australian Army.

*Well done Mike –
we're all proud of your efforts and achievements!*



Materiel reward

By EMMA SUN

A MOUNT Evelyn defence force officer became one of eight Members of the Order of Australia (AM) in the Military Division as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Brigadier Mike Phelps, 53, has been with the Australian Army for nearly 36 years and is currently working as the Director General Integrated Soldier Systems within the Defence Materiel Organisation.

Brigadier Phelps was very modest in receiving the AM and credited those around him for contributing towards his recognition.

"I am very delighted and honoured and a bit humbled to have been considered for and receive the AM," he said.

"I find it very personally satisfying to receive the recognition for the



Brigadier Mike Phelps from Mount Evelyn has been named a Member of the Order of Australia in the military division. 82913

award but it's also a reflection of the many people I worked with and their efforts."

He labelled the prestigious award as the "bonus" for a job that he already enjoyed immensely.

"You do the job because it's worthwhile and it's a wonderful career," he said.

"(The AM) is not something you should expect but it's certainly what you might call a bonus that is very welcome as recognition of the efforts you put in over the years."

Brigadier Phelps started in the artillery and moved up the ranks before working behind the scenes for the military.

He said it was quite a change, from being trained to participate in combat operations to now providing support for soldiers.

His current role sees him looking after all the equipment used by a soldier on operations, which includes

clothing, armour and weapons. Prior to this position, Brigadier Phelps was Director General Land Manoeuvres Systems with the DMO.

All up he has about 20 years' experience in material acquisition and providing supplies.

"It's intensely rewarding to listen to the service personnel on what their concerns are on the battlefield and provide them with solutions that they need and that they have a significant part in developing," he said.

"Everyone aspires to move up in any organisation and I've been very privileged to get up to brigadier in the Australian Army and I get a lot of satisfaction out of the job I do in providing materiel support to service personnel."

Brigadier Phelps is currently a member of the Mount Evelyn RSL and enjoys attending ceremony days

organised by the RSL and helping out where he is required.

RSL president Roger Boness congratulated Brigadier Phelps on his honours.

"Well done to Mike – we're all proud of his achievements," he said.

Despite his passion for his career, Brigadier Phelps said he be retiring in the coming months to allow for future talents to bloom.

"I'm in the twilight of my career and I anticipate that I'll probably be separating from defence within the next 12 months," he said.

"After 36 years on the job, it's time to move on and pursue alternatives."

"I've had a long and fulfilling career and it's time for me to look for other careers and to clear the way for others to be given the opportunity to move up in the defence force."



Don't Miss **PLEASE NOTE**

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

Welfare Officer

Due to work commitments Laurie Hollier has had to give up his role as the sub-branch's Welfare Officer for the time being
– many thanks to Laurie for all his efforts in that role.

Deanne Webb has kindly stepped into the role of the sub-branch's Welfare Officer.

If anyone has any welfare issues they would like to discuss with Deanne you can call her on:

0402 783 849

SUB-BRANCH EXCURSION

Sunday August 26th 2012

THE WOMAN IN BLACK

A drama/thriller by Stephen Malatratt

Directed by Loretta Bishop

At the Athenaeum Theatre, Lilydale



12.30pm – Lunch at the RSL

2.00pm – Pre-show sherries

2.30pm – Matinee show

Cost only \$10

(members only)

To book contact Roger on:

9737 0830



Left:

Members enjoy lunch at the clubrooms before we headed down to the Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre to watch their excellent production of 'M*A*S*H'. A great day had by all – don't miss our next one in August.

(Photo: D Webb)

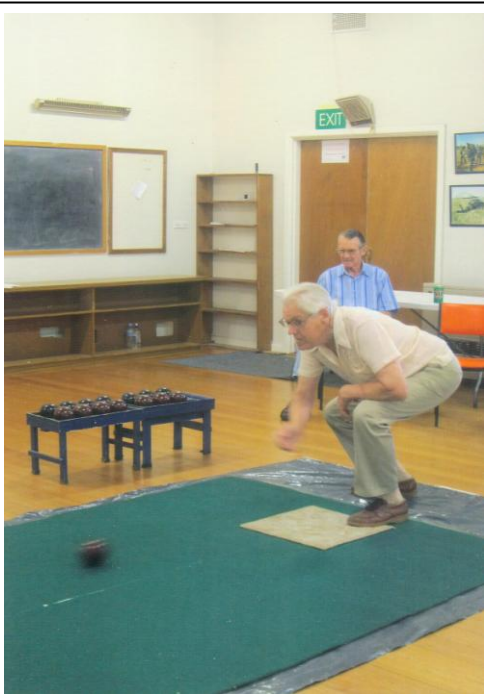
THURSDAY AFTERNOON SOCIAL CLUB

Our Thursday afternoon socials have this year become pretty popular amongst our retired membership.

As Deanne Webb reports –

We all love our Thursdays at the RSL and have a lot of fun and many humorous conversations. At the moment our group consists of.... Roger (our President), Dot, Betty, Deanne, Lesley (alternate weeks), Geoff, Ted, Ern, Lloyd, Archie and Laurie when he can get away from work. We try our hand at Pool, under Geoff's direction, and we currently have two teams for carpet bowls (very amateur), but what is assured is lots of fun and laughs. It is great to see many of our 'senior' members with a spring in their step and having a go. Would love to see more there. We also put on a great afternoon tea as well.

At the moment Roger and Deanne are investigating the possibility of getting a mini bus to drive around of a Thursday to pick up & drop off members so that they can attend. If you would like to be involved or need a lift to get there please ring: **Roger on – 9737 0830**



Above: Afternoon tea and a friendly chat
Left: The indoor bowls games are popular
Below: Geoff and Ted enjoy a game of pool
(Photos: Deanne Webb)





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Where your work is treated with special care

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.

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**

STEVE'S WHEELCHAIR & SCOOTER REPAIRS & SERVICE



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



DOT FLENLEY'S STORY – pt 2

This is 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 1992 Anthony McAleer sat down with her and interviewed her about her memories. What follows is Dot's story.....

Last issue:

Dot talked about her childhood in Mildura & the early days of WW2

How valuable were the 'Land Army' girls to your family's property during the war?

During the war labour was so hard to get at picking time, I don't think we could have coped without the 'Land Army' girls, there just wasn't the pickers in the area to do it. They had to get help and it use to get very tedious at times trying to get people. But we were lucky in a way because Dad had a group of pickers who'd come back to him year after year until he died, he'd have practically the same gang. Well those from that group who hadn't enlisted they continued to come and help my brother. That meant that Mum didn't have as great a worry on her shoulders of getting extra employment. And these were mainly local pickers so we didn't have to house them and that made it a lot easier as far as the household was concerned. The 'Land Army' girls were a big help to us in the picking season. We had a lot of girls up there and they were good workers, many had come off the land, off farms, themselves. You had to look after them and give them their meals. Mum had a big caravan in the yard so the girls who came to us, they used to sleep in there. I think that women came into their own during the war, we had to do a lot of men's work and we coped with it very well.

Was it noticeable when the local men enlisted?

When the war started a lot of local men went and joined up. When the fighting began overseas you worried about the boys from home, especially the ones you knew, who had gone over there. We had relatives in England as well and we always looked forward to the mail coming to find out how they were. Thank God my brother's were too young. I mean Keith was 17 when Dad died in '43 and he had the block to attend to. Even when he did come of age to join the army they made him exempt from joining up when they were doing the call up. Poor Keith, it was a big thing for him to take on but he managed very well.

How did you come to join the 'Australian Women's Army Service'?

Everyone thought in those days, if you could join up and help your country – then do it. I wanted to join up when I was 18 but Dad wouldn't let me. My sister also wanted to join and Dad said I had to wait for her, she was 12 months younger than me, so I had to wait until I was 19 – I wasn't happy about it. So when she turned 18 we both went off together and enlisted. Beryl and I both had the same idea – that we felt we could do something to help out and we did. I think the family just accepted it, I know Dad was thrilled. His attitude was that we were helping and really that's what the war was all about – everyone pitching in to help each other or another country that needed it.

Next issue:

Life for Dot in the AWAS

***Make sure you check out the 'Ned Kelly' exhibition: AMBUSH
On at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum until 16th September 2012***

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Congrats to Trooper Chris McAleer who has recently been promoted to Corporal.
- Best wishes to Roger Boness who recently underwent open heart surgery and is feeling much better for it.
- Our sympathies to Ralph Proctor who recently lost a good friend in England, Alec Dixon. Ralph towed Alec's glider full of British Paratroopers to Normandy on D-Day.
- Our Vice-President Jim Hurley is heading off to Europe in July for a well earned holiday and our Padre, Richard Schoenmaker, has just returned from visiting family there.
- Still no news on our Howitzer – the ADF expect it will be ready later in the year or early next year.
- Should you require any assistance or advice - Please ring:
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**

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

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 –	Deanne Webb	Ph: 0402783 849
Padre –	Rev Richard Schoenmaker	Ph: 9736 1087
Appeals Officer –	Dot Ervine	Ph: 9736 3638

Editor: Anthony McAleer
Ph: 9736 4384

Email: antmca@bigpond.com

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