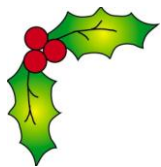


Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 2, Issue 6, Xmas 2012

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



MERRY XMAS



WELL DONE LAURIE HOLLIER!!

2012/2013 Meeting Dates

Nov 18th
Dec 16th
Feb 17th – AGM
Mar 17th
April 14th

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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facebook

In front of a large crowd at our recent 'Remembrance Day' ceremony, President Roger Boness presented one of the club's stalwarts, Laurie Hollier, with a Victorian RSL 'Certificate of Appreciation' award. Laurie has been a long time member of the Mt Evelyn RSL and over the years has often stepped up and taken on positions when no one else would, in order to get the club through, although he readily admits they weren't roles he was comfortable with. Where Laurie's strength has lay is in his dedication and willingness to jump in and help out where ever needed. If ever the club needs some job undertaken or some task performed Laurie is the first one with his hand up. He has also been instrumental in strengthening the club's relationship with other community organisations such as the CFA, the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club and St Mary's Parish. More importantly he has encouraged many of us over the years to become involved with the Mt Evelyn RSL.

President Roger Boness stated: *'Laurie is one of the most colourful characters at the club and always greets every one with a smile. He responds in time of need and is pleased to help out. He is good at organising events for the club, such as grand final BBQ's and outings, and with his relaxed manner is able to recruit others to assist. Mt Evelyn RSL is better served with Laurie's enthusiasm and membership. However it should be remembered that the award is for his commitment to the RSL not for his skills, or lack there of, on the football field!'*



Important Dates

Coming Up:

Sub-Branch CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**Tuesday Dec 11th
12.30pm**

The sub-branch invites all members to come together and enjoy a wonderful lunch with friends.
\$30 per person.

To book contact
Dot asap on:
9736 3638

Venue:

Twisted Vine
Monbulk Rd, Silvan



SUB-BRANCH EXCURSIONS

**Athenaeum Theatre,
Lilydale**

Members of the club have enjoyed our quarterly excursions to the ATC this year. We will be doing the same in 2013 so come along and see:

- **Steel Magnolias**
March 2013
- **Laughter on the 23rd Floor**
June 2013
- **The Light in the Piazza**
August 2013
- **Are you Being Served**
Nov 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As predicted 2012 proved to be a busy year for RSL members and their families as the Mt Evelyn Sub-Branch continued to grow and establish itself as a major part of the Mt Evelyn community. The sub-branch's two main commemorative events; Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, were well supported by Mt Evelyn residents, community groups, local school teachers & students and Mt Evelyn Traders.

I wish to thank our Federal member Tony Smith MP and our State member Christine Fyffe MLA for their continued support of our sub-branch with special recognition to outgoing councillor Tim Heenan for all his support and effort while on council. Many thanks also to Len Polkinghorne OAM, bulgers Tom Steele & Karin Meyer, piper Iain Townsley, the fabulous Croydon Citizens Brass Band and the magnificent Combined Mt Evelyn Schools Choir, the Rev Richard Schoenmaker and the dedicated congregation of the Christian Reformed Church, the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club & the Mt Evelyn CFA, our volunteer Two-Up helpers at the York, the wonderful ladies who make the lunches & morning teas and to Brad Colling and the great kids at the Youth Shed.

Memorable events this year include the visit by Hon Hugh Delahunty, Minister for Vet Affairs, the illumination of the Australian flag at the memorial (with assistance by Lilydale Rotary & Bill & Ian Darvell), the unveiling of the Mt Evelyn Honour Roll Plaque, the accreditation of Deanne Webb as Welfare Officer, Major Geyer's safe return home from Afghanistan, the increase in support for our Thursday afternoon socials and the efforts of volunteer driver Julie Langtip, our joining the Chamber of Commerce & Major Russell Kirby stepping up to be our representative on that group, Peter Hensken's Life Membership and awards to Dot Ervine, the Croydon Citizens Band & Laurie Hollier, our grant from Bendigo Bank and subsequent launch of our book 'The Last Light Horseman' and the success in being allocated a Howitzer for our garden.

In finishing I want to welcome our new councillor Maria McCarthy, we look forward to working with you, and I wish all the members & supporters, along with their families, a merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in 2013.

LEST WE FORGET

- Roger Boness

APPEALS OFFICER'S REPORT

At the time of writing this report we still haven't got all the money in but I can report that so far we have taken in over \$3000.00 which is a **record** for POPPY sales at Mt Evelyn.

Many thanks to all the dedicated sellers who volunteered their time and manned the stall for over two and a half weeks especially Roger, Deanne, Geoff, Wendy, Betty, Elsa, Rod, Kim and myself. Also thanks to the members of the Christian Reformed Church and the Mt Evelyn Pharmacy who also sold Poppies for us. Our heartfelt appreciation to IGA for their ongoing support of our stall. Our hamper raffle also raised around \$350.00 and was won by Dymphna of Lilydale (*see photo later*).

Regards,

Dot Ervine – Mt Evelyn RSL Appeals Officer

REMEMBRANCE DAY – WANDIN

Representing the Mt Evelyn RSL, our Vice-President Jim Hurley, regularly assists the Rotary Club of Wandin by hosting the 'Remembrance Day' ceremony at the Wandin War Memorial. Jim reports that numbers were up there this year although next year he plans to get the schools more involved. Also this year he was ably assisted by another of our members, Karin Meyer, who played the bugle at the ceremony. New councillor Jason Callanan was guest speaker.



BETTY'S JOKE PAGE



I have a 90 year old friend who still drives her own car. The other day I got a letter from her.

Dear Betty,

The other day I went up to our local Christian book store and saw a 'Honk if you love Jesus' bumper sticker.

I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling choir performance, followed by thunderous prayer meeting.

So, I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper.

Boy, am I glad I did, what an uplifting experience that followed.

I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good he is, and I didn't notice that the light had changed.

It is a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked, I'd never have noticed.

I found that lots of people love Jesus!

While I was sitting there, the guy behind started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of his window and screamed, 'For the love of God! Go! Go! Go! Jesus Christ, GO!'.

What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus!

Everyone started honking!

I just leaned out my window and started waving and smiling at all those loving people.

I even honked my horn a few times to share in the love!

There must have been a man from Queensland back there because I heard him yelling something about a sunny beach.

I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stick up in the air.

I asked my young teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant.

He said it was a Darwin good luck sign.

Well, I have never met anyone from Darwin, so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back.

My grandson burst out laughing. Why, even he was enjoying this religious experience!!

A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me.

I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but this is when I noticed the light had changed.

So, grinning, I waved at all my brothers and sisters, and drove on through the intersection.

I noticed that I was the only car that got through the intersection before the light changed again and felt kind of sad that I had to leave them after all the love we had shared.

So I slowed the car down, leaned out the window and gave them all the Darwin good luck sign one last time as I drove away. Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks!!

Will write again soon,

Love, Gwenda.

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit." "And why not, darling?" "You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning."



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REPORT FROM THE COCOS ISLANDS

One of our members, Matt Crymble, works for Customs as a Marine Enforcement Officer where his role is to investigate, board and, if found illegal, apprehend foreign fishing vessels and illegal arrival vessels. Previous to this Matt served for 17 years with the Royal Australian Navy and is still with the Naval Reserve. Some of you may remember his report last year from the waters off Antarctica, recently Matt spent some time on the Cocos Islands – here is his story.

In July I deployed to Cocos/Keeling Islands with my work in the Customs Marine Unit to enforce our Border Protection, specifically illegal refugee boat arrivals. I normally deploy on ships/boats but on this occasion it was very different. The threat level was deemed to be relatively low, too low to station a Customs or Navy patrol boat there. However it was high enough to send 11 x Customs personnel to monitor and apprehend any such arrivals. Eight of this number were there to process and keep watches on any such arrivals with the remainder of the detachment to operate the small Customs boat (6.4m) in and around the islands. This was my role.

There are many islands that make up the Cocos/Keeling Islands group. However only two islands are inhabited (Home and West Islands). Home Island has a population of approximately 450 people with almost all being of Malay descent. This is a result of the islands once being owned and managed by the Clunies-Ross family who used these people as labour for their Coconut industry.

West Island has a population of approximately 150 and is the main tourist destination of the island group. This island has a majority of the infrastructure on it however Home Island also has the essentials, ie: shops, restaurants. On West Island is the airport, golf club, shops, tourist activities and the Cocos Club. A regular ferry service operates between the two islands.

The Cocos Club is the heart of the islands and is a regular spot for the locals and visitors to meet. It was here I met a very passionate cyclist enthusiast, Tony Lacey. During my time on the island the Tour De France was underway. Tony explained to me the Tour De France has only 20 stages. He then boasted the Tour De Cocos has 21 stages and invited me to compete in the competition. Each evening for the following week locals and tourists alike competed in the Cocos Club on bicycles mounted on roller wheels. I can proudly say that I completed the tour undefeated in 3 events over 1km, 5km and 10km stages.

I'm sure most readers of this newsletter would be aware of the Naval Historical significance of these

islands. It was here HMAS Sydney (I) was dispatched from our first Anzac troop convoy to engage the German raider HIMS Emden in November 1914. Emden had sent a landing party ashore to destroy the radio transmitter station on Direction Island which is part of the Cocos/Keeling Island group. Their party were still ashore when Sydney arrived on scene and engaged Emden. HMAS Sydney defeated Emden overwhelmingly. In the latter stages of the battle Emden beached itself on North Keeling Island to avoid sinking. This was the Royal Australian Navy's first battle honour and did a lot to boost morale both on the troop transports, and the Australian public at home.

Unfortunately I didn't get to visit North Keeling Island as it is approximately 14 nautical miles away. During one illegal boat apprehension however I did manage to sight it. I believe no traces of the Emden remain on the beach. However I understand wreckage has slipped away from the island and is a popular tourist dive site today.

Towards the end of my deployment to Cocos/Keeling Islands the decision had been made to deploy a Customs patrol boat and station it there as the illegal boats had increased in arrivals. I relocated from the comfort of a house to the ACV Hervey Bay in the last week of my time there. The boats arriving at the island originate from Sri Lanka. From intelligence gained from those making this journey we learnt the transit had taken some 17 days and others as many as 21 days. Some of the vessels apprehended had exhausted all food and water supplies with the passengers experiencing dehydration and exhaustion. After bringing the refugees onto West Island they would spend a short period of time accommodated there before being flown to Christmas Island for processing. On some occasions this would be up to 3 days. During my deployment (3 ½ weeks), we received 8 boats with a total of 345 potential refugees. ACV Hervey Bay remains on station as I write this in October 2012. They have been kept very busy with many boats arriving since my departure in August.



Left:

6.4 metre small boat on task
– Matt is behind the wheel.

(photo:
M Crymble)

Right:

Historical signage for the main road on West Island

Below:

ACV Hervey Bay intercepts Suspected Illegal Entry Vessel (SIEV)

(photos: M Crymble)



Many thanks to the **Mt Evelyn CFA** who donated two boxes of military books to our library – including a set of World War Two official histories!



They also donated a WWI service medal, awarded to Pte Allan Battye of Mt Gambier, SA, who served from 1916-1919 with the 11th Field Ambulance and was gassed at Messines & wounded at Ypres.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - 2012

There is no doubt that Rev Schoenmaker put in a good word for us because it was a magnificent sunny day for our 'Remembrance Day' ceremony on Sunday November 11th. Once again our community was there in large numbers and we thank the CFA who organised chairs for many of our guests to watch and enjoy the service. As always a highlight was the 'Mt Evelyn Combined Schools Choir' and Tom Steele's bugle playing. This year we were honoured to have our new member Iain Townsley play the pipes, which really added a special touch to our ceremony. All of the students from our local schools (Mt Evelyn Primary School, St Mary's Primary School, Birmingham Primary, Yarra Hills Secondary College & Mt Lilydale College) who were involved put in a wonderful effort and did us all proud. Many thanks to the teachers and parents who supported them. Much appreciation also to our guest speaker, Len Polkinghorne OAM, who gave a moving tribute to his fellow World War Two veterans. Thanks also to Rev Schoenmaker, Cr Maria McCarthy, David Fyffe (on behalf of Christine Fyffe MLA) and the membership who jumped in and helped. After the ceremony everyone headed back to the RSL Hall and enjoyed a delicious lunch put on by Dot, Wendy, Elsa, Erinn, Jenni & Deanne. **Photos:** Deanne Webb & Jenny McAleer— *more photos on facebook*



Above: India Stevens & Nick Hoskin from Mt Evelyn Primary School.

Below: Ella Harrison from Yarra Hills Secondary College.



Above: Coby Butcher from St Mary's Primary School.

Below: Guest speaker – Len Polkinghorne OAM, the last of Mt Evelyn's WW2 volunteers.



Above: Jack Day from Birmingham Primary School.

Below: Bugler Tom Steele





Above: Wendy, Elsa, Dot, Erinn & Jenni making the lunch. Our piper Iain Townsley

Below: The Mt Evelyn Combined Schools Choir. Olivia & Abby Madigan from Mt Lilydale College lay a wreath on behalf of Tony Smith MP.

Above: Kim Parry & Geoff Bailey
The crowd enjoying the sunshine

Below: Our new Councillor Maria McCarthy lays a wreath with the help of Jazzy & Georgia. New member Brian Walshe with his daughter Berna.





EXHIBITION – ‘THE LAST LIGHT HORSEMAN’

During October 2012 an exhibition ran in the Morrison Cafe's exhibition space on the story of Joe Clark – the Mt Evelyn RSL's last World War One member and a former Light Horseman. The exhibition was a joint project between the RSL and our community partners, the Mt Evelyn History Group. It was a great forerunner to the release of the publication of the same name and the exhibition used information from the book. Joe's daughter Joan & granddaughter Tina visited the exhibition and passed on how proud they felt seeing it.

During the exhibition Betty Crittenden (the sub-branch's Treasurer and long time stalwart) visited the exhibition. Betty was a good friend of Joe Clark and her and her husband John looked after his welfare in his later years. When Joe turned 100, Betty organised a special party at the RSL to celebrate the occasion.

Betty thought the exhibition was wonderful and was proud that the story of her friend was put on display.

Photos: (Above) exhibition at Morrison's Cafe. (Right) Betty Crittenden visits the exhibition (photo courtesy of the Mt Evelyn Mail)



‘THE LAST LIGHT HORSEMAN’

AT GULF STATION

On October 21st, 2012 there was an open day at Yarra Glen's 'Gulf Station' to celebrate 'History Week'. On the day the Mt Evelyn History Group hosted a repeat display of the Joe Clark exhibition. This was quite appropriate as the Gulf Station once bred 'Walers' (the horses used by the Light Horse).

Left: Members of the Mt Evelyn History Group including President, Paula Herlihy (right), who is also a long time member of Mt Evelyn RSL.

Riding tall: horseman was no ordinary Joe

BY DAVID SCHOUT

AFTER returning home from the First World War, Joe Clark didn't want to speak of what he had experienced and seen.

When the radio or television made references to war, it re-etched vivid images in his head that he wanted to erase, so he would turn away.

Then 73 years later, in 1991, Mr Clark — then a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL — revealed all to local historian Anthony McAleer, who has now written a book on Mr Clark's experiences, titled *The Last Light Horseman*.

"When I finished speaking with Joe, I asked him if he ever told his family about his story," Mr McAleer says.

"He said 'no', and told me I was the first person he ever spoke to about the war. His way of coping with his wartime experiences was to not talk about them at all."

In the book, Mr Clark describes his horse as "marvellous" and he would ensure it was hydrated before taking a drink for himself in the desert.

When the soldiers were due to return to Australia, they could not take their horses back with them and were forced to shoot them — an experience Mr McAleer says was traumatic for the young Joe Clark.



Penning the past: Anthony McAleer with his book that will be launched on Remembrance Day. Picture: Wayne Hawkins

Mr McAleer, who is also secretary of Mt Evelyn RSL, says Mr Clark was the oldest member of the group, until his death aged 102 in 1999.

He describes Mr Clark as an "ordinary guy in an extraordinary position".

"Every time I meet with others who knew Joe, they would say he was an absolute gentleman,



Younger days: Joe Clark before setting off to Gaza in World War I.

always impeccably dressed," he says. "It's just interesting to see a man who was so lovely who would have been thrown into such tough situations."

The Last Light Horseman will be launched at 1pm this Sunday at the Mt Evelyn RSL hall after the 11am Remembrance Day service.

Details: 9737 0767 or mtevrsl@gmail.com

IN HIS OWN WORDS

THE *Weekly* can share some of Joe Clark's thoughts on World War I from the book *The Last Light Horseman*.

In it, he describes:

■ How he forged his dad's signature to enlist for the war:

"Being young and that, you were all excited about the war. You wanted to go. The quicker you got away the better. Mind you, you learned a lesson when you got there."

■ His opponents during the war:

"I reckoned the Turks were really very good fighters and they were pretty fair. In the few encounters with them, when you met, they were good fellows."

■ Conditions in Egypt:

"Egypt was murder for flies. You'd rake them out of one eye and they'd be in the next. You were continually wiping your eyes."

Book Launch

The Mt Evelyn RSL's first publication 'The Last Light Horseman' was officially launched at a ceremony held in the hall after the 'Remembrance Day' service by Lt Col Michael Kalms, Commanding Officer of the 4/19th Prince of Wales' Light Horse Regiment. Guest speaker on the day was another former CO of that regiment, Colonel John Hoskin BEM, RFD, ED who recalled his time looking after the old 4th Light Horsemen.

Below: Lt Col Michael Kalms



Colonel John Hoskin, left, and Lieutenant Colonel Mike Kalms with author Anthony McAleer launching "The Last Light Horseman". Pictures: GREG CARRICK

PLEASE NOTE!!!!

New **CHEAPER** membership prices!!!!

At the last state conference members of the RSL voted to lower the price of membership to the RSL.

See *below* for new price of RSL membership.



Membership Subs for 2013

Full Members – open to ex-service personnel who were in the uniformed services for a period of six months or more. **\$25 a year**

Affiliated Members – open to those who have served with the emergency services or whose relatives were service personnel. **\$25 a year**

Community Members – open to anyone – just means you don't have voting rights at the club. **\$5 a year**

Tell us if you are over 80 years old – you no longer have to pay your subs!

Send a cheque or money order to – Mt Evelyn RSL, PO Box 182, Mt Evelyn

SPECIAL OFFER!!

Become a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL and get a free copy of –

'THE LAST LIGHT HORSEMAN'.

For only \$25 – you will become either a service or affiliate member of the RSL, get 4 copies of the RSL magazine 'Mufti' a year, get an 'Ambassador Card', receive our newsletter, be entitled to enjoy RSL facilities around Victoria, be entitled to special offers and discounts & be a member of a national organisation committed to selfless service –
as well as a copy of our book.



However this offer is only available until the end of December 2012!!

Great idea for a Xmas gift!!

Go to: http://www.rslvic.com.au/customdata/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_main&ItemID=557&OrgID=195

Download a membership form, fill it in and sent it to the Mt Evelyn RSL with your \$25.

Or contact the Mt Evelyn RSL

Post – PO Box 182, Mt Evelyn, Vic 3796

Email – mtevrsl@gmail.com

Phone – 9737 0767

CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE MT EVELYN RSL!!

Pay your 2013 subs before December 2012 and you will -

- receive a free copy of 'The Last Light Horseman' *plus*
- go in the draw to win a gold service trip for two people on board the Indian Pacific, valued at \$3000, courtesy of RSL Victoria.



Left – President Roger Boness with Dymphna from Lilydale who won the Mt Evelyn RSL's Remembrance Hamper.

NEW BOOK

By our
New member
Marion Stott



'Celebrating Mooroolbark' 1980-2010

By the Mooroolbark
History Group

Only \$20 email –
stotthq@bigpond.com

A Big Welcome to all of our new members...

Julie Boness
Alan Price
Rosemary McCallum
Brian Walshe
Chris Loew
Tim Herlihy
Cr Maria McCarthy
John Stroud
Janette Sutton
David Ausling
Brett Stevens
Marion Stott
Joanne Gooren
Peter Paterson
Grant Thompson (NZ army)

PLEASE NOTE

Copies of

'THE LAST LIGHT HORSEMAN'

are available for sale through the
Mt Evelyn RSL
or at the

**Mt Evelyn Post Office,
Station St, Mt Evelyn**
GREAT XMAS IDEA

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9737 0888



NEWS

Below: Yarra Ranges Weekly – September 5th, 2012

An artistic salute to the lives of Diggers

BY CLAIRE THWAITES

THOSE attending the Mt Evelyn Youth Enterprise Shed were so inspired after a talk from the town's RSL president, they came up with a novel way to commemorate the nation's Diggers.

The group of young people decided to paint the shed with a special mural depicting a soldier standing in front of the Mt Evelyn hills with 'Lest We Forget' written around an Australian flag.

Completed earlier this year, the mural took a week and a half to finish with four young artists coming up with the design and doing the painting.

Mt Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness said he was chuffed when he discovered the mural had been painted.

"We had no idea they were painting it. The RSL members were absolutely delighted."

Mr Boness had spoken to the group about the meaning of the word Anzac and the tradition of Australia's involvement in war.

An artillery forward observer in the Vietnam War, Mr Boness also shared personal experiences with the group, who age from 15 to 18.

"I hadn't realised we were going to get such a

reaction. But evidently they appreciated what I told them."

He said the mural enhanced the soldiers' memorial gardens, because the youth shed was next to the memorial site.

"It's a lovely gesture. We are very, very pleased that we have formed a relationship with the shed group. They are a fantastic bunch of kids."

Mr Boness said the shed members have also been asked to keep an eye out on the memorial garden for them, as previously it had been a target for vandals.

YES co-ordinator Brad Colling agreed the relationship between the two organisations was a positive one.

"We didn't expect them [RSL members] to react so strongly at all," Mr Colling said.

"They really liked it and we are happy that happened. It also means the young people now appreciate what the memorial garden is all about."

Mt Evelyn Youth Enterprise Shed is open Wednesday to Friday and offers young people a place to chill out, play music or do art and engage in various community activities.

Details: 9736 3091.



Smart art: Mt Evelyn Youth Enterprise Shed facilitators Brad Colling and Kristen Beaton with mural painters Jacob and Brandon.

Picture: Rob Carrow



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For more information see:

<http://youtu.be/0d2Rjdt4TCs>

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 - Custom Mats
- Restoration Work
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Steve Deakins
(Mt Evelyn RSL Member)
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Mob: **0429 183021**
Shop 7B York Rd, Mt Evelyn
www.artwithdistinction.com.au

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**

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

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DOT FLENLEY'S STORY – pt 4

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 finishes her initial training with the AWAS

Do you remember when Japan came into the war?

That was frightening. That was much worse than when we first heard the war had started because Japan were so much closer to us. And then they bombed Darwin, that was terrible. That had a very frightening effect on us because up until then the war was overseas, it was over there, but when Darwin was bombed that was too close. We really didn't know how far they were going to come down or what was going to happen. Would they take over Australia? Soon after they brought in blackouts but being so far inland we didn't have

Where was your first posting?

I was posted for a short time to the ambulance depot in South Melbourne. My job was as an ambulance driver and I would pick up patients and passengers during the day from one hospital and ferry them to another, mostly to the Repat or Caulfield. We were on call all the time.

What was life in Melbourne like for you?

Very different. Coming from the country, I really needed eyes in the back of my head to take it all in. Melbourne seemed that much faster and a lot more active. It was a big step to come down to Melbourne from the country, where there was only a man and his dog on the road. Mind you I didn't mind driving in the city, I had a lot of confidence, it didn't worry me. I suppose being taught to drive on trucks, well that gave you confidence right away, it didn't worry me down here. The traffic worries me more now than what it ever did, I don't go into the city, I decided you're better out of it!

Did you notice the American Troops in Melbourne then?

There were a lot of Yanks around but I don't know how many, I didn't see a great deal of them. Many of the girls went out with Americans, I never went out with any, I preferred our boys. You heard quite a lot about that from our soldiers. Because they were better dressed than what our soldiers were and their wages were a lot higher, they would flaunt their money around. Our poor fellows didn't have as much to spend. Mind you any Americans I met were very down to earth, they were always good to me.

Where was your next posting?

I wasn't in Melbourne that long before I was transferred up to Seymour. There was a big transport depot up there and a number of army training camps including Puckapunyal, a lot of men up there. Seymour was good, I enjoyed being back in the country again. The camp was a lot better than Darley and not as cold! Our rooms were better, single rooms instead of all being in the one hut, very nice. We also had a rec room and facilities there while we were on stand by. The girls were nice, I didn't come up against any who were nasty or anything like that, a lovely lot of girls.

Next issue: Life as an Ambulance Driver

Right: WW2 advertisement for the AWAS

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Well done to our member Lance Corporal Chris McAleer, who recently was awarded a 'Soldiers Medallion for exemplary service'. He also has just got word he is to be deployed to the Solomon Islands next year for a six month tour.
- Many thanks to our community partners at the 'Christian Reformed Church' whose parishioners recently spent a day doing some much needed gardening work for some of our members in need.
- Major Russell Kirby is the RSL's representative on the Chamber of Commerce – any ideas or issues for the Chamber ring Russell on:
0499475784
- Wendy McGowan has donated to the club a collection of records & CDs for members to have. Plenty of classical, instrumentals, Bing Crosby, 70's crooners, box set and jazz box set. Come along any Thurs afternoon or Fri evening and help yourself.



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 has a well stocked fridge and Peter is always on hand to make a brew if you so desire.

Friday night football/cricket will be playing on our big screen TV and don't forget we also have a pool table.

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 weekends this facility lies idle and the RSL could be making (albeit a small amount of) money from hiring it to interested parties. We would greatly appreciate your input if you know of anyone who might be interested in hiring the hall for a night or on an ongoing basis. However no Bucks/Hens or under 25's parties!

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 –	Betty Crittenden	Ph: 9728 3065
Welfare Officer –	Deanne Webb	Ph: 0402783 849
Padre –	Rev Richard Schoenmaker	Ph: 9736 1087
Appeals Officer –	Dot Ervine	Ph: 9736 3638

Editor: Anthony McAleer

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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!