

Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 4, Issue 6, Xmas 2014

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



MERRY XMAS



WELL DONE BILL PHILLIPS



Above: President Roger Boness presents Bill with his award.

2014/2015 Meeting Dates

Dec 19th, 2014
Feb 20th, 2014
Mar 20th, 2014
Apr 17th, 2014
May 15th, 2014
Jun 19th, 2014
Jul 17th, 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

Recently the Mt Evelyn RSL were very proud to surprise one of our long time members, Bill Phillips, with an 'RSL Life Member Award'. Bill is a foundation member of the Mt Evelyn RSL and has been a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL since its inception. He was always on hand to assist where ever he could and he put much work into the raising of funds to pay off the club's building loan.

On the day the club also took the time to acknowledge Bill's military service. He enlisted in the 2nd AIF in May 1943 at the age of 15. In order to do this he told the military authorities he was 19 and had his younger brother forge his parent's signature on the consent form. Mum and Dad didn't know he'd done this. Dad was in the army himself and Mum had 10 other children to look after and thought he was working in the bush. For his training he was attached to 31st Battalion and was seconded to undertake commando training - running up Mt Erica & Mt Baw Baw. In October 1943 he was sent to Townsville and soon after to New Guinea. He was stationed at Milne Bay & Oro Bay until March 1944 when he was sent to Lae. Here he caught Dengue Fever and Dystenary and was lucky to survive. It was during the time he was in hospital that the authorities found out he was then 17 and as a result he was discharged. Bill re-enlisted in the army in 1945 - when he was 18. He served for 3 years after the war as an infantry instructor with Eastern Command.

Important Dates Coming Up:

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 2015 so come along and see:

- **The Vicar of Dibley**
- **Secret Bridesmaids' Business**
- **Daddy's Dyin... Who's Got the Will?**
- **The Mystery of Edwin Drood**

**Sunday
November 30th
2.00pm
Lilydale War
Memorial**

Unveiling of a plaque and memorial in honour of J D Burns, a Lilydale poet who wrote the famous WW1 poem 'The Bugles of England' He was later killed in action at Gallipoli and is listed on the Lilydale War Memorial.

This is a Centenary of Anzac project by the Lilydale Uniting Church.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When I reflect on the events and projects this Sub-Branch has either initiated, or supported other community groups to do, in 2014 I am amazed. So many events were planned and undertaken by the dedicated and hardworking RSL committee, members and friends of our RSL and they all should be congratulated.

The year was kicked started with the Monash Militia camp ceremony, book launch and unveiling of story boards at Lilydale Lake and Coldstream. We then assisted Upper Yarra museum solve the "Reuben Saxton" mystery i.e.; we always thought Reuben's plaque was from the Mt Evelyn avenue of honour when in fact it was from the Upper Yarra avenue of honour. (Reuben's plaque has since been donated to the museum). Then RSL members and friends enjoyed a memorable outing to HMAS Cerberus. RSL bugler Tom Steele and I assisted the Bimbadeen Heights Primary School with their Anzac Day service. Our Anzac Day march was led by all of our Mt Evelyn emergency services volunteers and the Melbourne cycling club visited our memorial and laid their wreath. John Allwood and I represented our Sub-Branch at the 99th RSL annual conference when Mt Evelyn's Gary Park was presented with his Anzac of the year award. In August we assisted the Montrose Rotary Club with their ceremony to remember the first shot fired in the Great War by Montrose citizen Major Charles Morris. The Outer Eastern Vietnam Veterans Association memorial service and parade was held in Mt Evelyn. The book "A Stretcher Bearer's War", the story of Ralph Goode the first Lilydale man to volunteer for the AIF in 1914 was launched by Major-General Professor Jeffrey Rosenfeld AM, OBE, CstJ in the Athenaeum Theatre in Lilydale. The RSL also assisted the Lilydale Red Cross to commemorate the centenary of the formation of their Red Cross.

Also during 2014 the RSL also established a professional relationship with Bayswater "Bunnings" who rejuvenated our memorial garden in front of the RSL Hall and provided the paint to redecorate the front meeting room and toilets at "Hardy House". Congratulations went to Bill Phillips, our last WW2 member who was awarded an RSL life membership. We also remember past members Len Polkinghorne, Ralph Proctor, Arthur and Lorraine Allan. Special mentions are due to Brad Colling and his young team for the remarkable mural in the Mt Evelyn memorial garden and to Annette McAleer for her painting of Flanders Poppies and Joe Clarke portrait.

The RSL would like to sincerely thank the management and staff of the Mt Evelyn Bendigo Bank, the committee and members of the Mt Evelyn Football-Netball Club, Mt Evelyn CFA, Mt Evelyn Rotary Club, Mt Evelyn Township Improvement Committee, management and staff of The York on Lilydale Resort and the Mount Evelyn Chamber of Commerce for their ongoing support. We also thank our elected representatives, Cr Maria McCarthy, Christine Fyffe MLA and Tony Smith MP for their extraordinary contribution to the success of our RSL.

Best wishes one and all for a happy Christmas and safe, prosperous New Year.

LEST WE FORGET - Roger Boness

Membership Subs for 2015

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



GOOD ADVICE~MILITARY STYLE

- *'Aim towards the Enemy'. - Instruction printed on US Rocket Launcher*
- *'Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground.' - USAF*
- *'When the enemy is in range, so are you.' - Infantry Journal*
- *'It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.' - U.S. Air Force Manual*
- *"Tracers work both ways." - U.S. Army Ordnance*
- *"Bravery is being the only one who knows you're afraid."*
- *"If you see a bomb technician running, follow him." - USAF*
- *"Though I Fly Through the Valley of Death ... I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 80,000 Feet and Climbing." - At the entrance to the old SR-71 operating base Kadena, Japan*
- *"You've never been lost until you've been lost at Mach 3." - Paul F. Crickmore (test pilot)*
- *"The only time you have too much fuel is when you're on fire."*
- *"Blue water Navy truism: There are more planes in the ocean than submarines in the sky." --From an old carrier sailor*
- *"If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage, it's probably a helicopter -- and therefore, unsafe."*
- *"When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash."*
- *"What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots? If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; If ATC screws up, the pilot dies."*
- *"Never trade luck for skill."*
- *The three most common expressions (or famous last words) in aviation are: "Why is it doing that?", "Where are we?" and "Heavens to Betsy!"*
- *"Progress in airline flying: now a flight attendant can get a pilot pregnant."*
- *"Mankind has a perfect record in aviation; we never left one up there!"*
- *"Flashlights are tubular metal containers kept in a flight bag for the purpose of storing dead batteries."*
- *"Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it."*
- *"Just remember, if you crash because of weather, your funeral will be held on a sunny day."*

(Courtesy of Kim Parry)

* I used to think the brain was the most important organ. Then I thought, look what's telling me that.

* A farmer in the field with his cows counted 196 of them, but when he rounded them up he had 200.

* If you want to catch a squirrel just climb a tree and act like a nut.

* A magician was walking down the street and turned into a grocery store.

* Why don't you ever see hippopotamus hiding in trees? Because they're really good at it.

* How does NASA organize their company parties? They planet.

* Did you hear about the new corduroy pillows? They're making headlines everywhere!

* My friend recently got crushed by a pile of books, but he's only got his shelf to blame.

* Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like an apple.

* Two fish are in a tank. One turns to the other and asks "How do you drive this thing?"

* Why can't a bike stand on its own? It's two tired.

* What do you call a big pile of kittens? A meowntain.

* I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

* Just went to an emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tiers.

Q: What do you call a fake noodle?

A: An Impasta

Q: What do you call an alligator in a vest?

A: An Investigator



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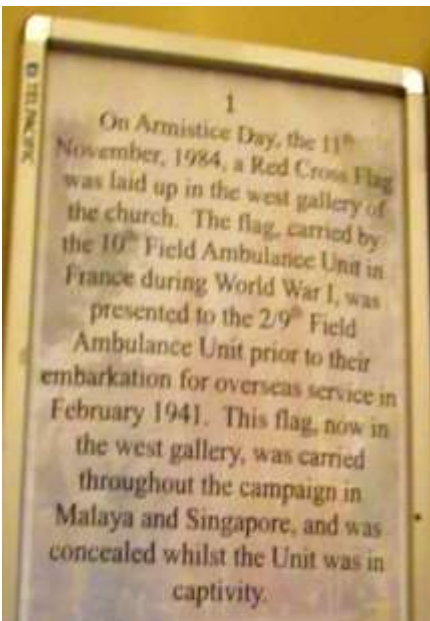
LATEST NEWS



Our hall recently hosted a special workshop day for a local quilting group.

The hall was full of busy people working away on sewing machine and with needle and thread to create crafty works of art.

The group were so happy with our facilities that they have now decided to hire the hall once a month for their workshops.



Our Vice-President Iain Townsley was recently in Scots Church in Melbourne when he came across this interesting piece of military history. Quite a timely find as the Red Cross are celebrating their centenary this year.

Photos: Iain Townsley



AWARD TO BENDIGO BANK



At our Remembrance Day service the Mt Evelyn RSL were very proud to present to the Mt Evelyn Branch of the Bendigo Bank a Victorian RSL Certificate of Appreciation. The sub-branch applied for this award in recognition of the bank's support of not only the RSL but of the whole of the Mt Evelyn community. The President, Roger Boness, was pleased to present the award to David Watt and Jill Rule (left) from the Bendigo Bank.

Photo: Deanne Webb



More photos from our front page story –

Above Left: Bill Phillips with his family including his two sons, Trevor and Mark Phillips.

Above Right: Three award winning members of the Mt Evelyn RSL. Peter Henskens (Life Member) Betty Crittenden (RSL National Certificate of Merit with Gold Badge) and Bill Phillips (Life Member)

Left: The article on Bill's award in the Mount Evelyn Mail. Thanks to Kath Gannaway.

Mount Evelyn Mail

5 Community comes together **7 Fight for Olinda's pool** **18-19 Finals fever**

Tuesday, 23 September 2014 A Mail Newspaper Group publication Phone: 5957 3700 Trades and Classifieds: 1300 666 508

Award of a lifetime for veteran

Soldiering on

By KATH GANNAWAY

WHEN Lilydale boy Bill Phillips enlisted in the Second AIF in 1941, recognition by an organisation dedicated to war veterans was nowhere on his radar.

Bill, a veteran himself of two wars and a founding member of the Mount Evelyn RSL, was presented with Life Membership of the Returned and Services League of Australia (RSL) on Tuesday, 16 September.

It's fair enough to call him a boy; he was only 15 when he joined his father, Jim, in defence of his country in World War II.

"My dad had enlisted and I just wanted to be in it," he said, admitting that he had "night time fear" about his age to get in.

He served in New Guinea but was repatriated and then discharged when the military discovered his real age, then 17, after he came down with dengue fever.

He said age wasn't an issue on the ground, where he was accepted as an equal by the other soldiers.

"I was pretty tough in those days," he said.

"Some might have had a bit of an idea, but I could do what they could do so it was all good."

He enlisted again in 1945 and at 18 became an infantry instructor serving for another three years after the war ended.

When the call went out for returned servicemen to serve in the Korean War in 1950, Bill was a mature 22-year-old and he answered the call again.

He said Korea was hard going and again illness saw him repatriated early.

The Life Membership, presented at Mercy Place Montrose aged-care where 86-year-old Bill is a resident, acknowledges his military service, but it is primarily recognition of his contribution to the RSL, and to veterans and their families in the decades that followed.

Mount Evelyn RSL President, Roger Bowen presented the Life Membership certificate at a gathering of Bill's family, friends and fellow RSL members.

He said there was great respect in the RSL, firstly for Bill, who he said was instrumental in setting up the Mount Evelyn Sub-Branch, but was also a driver behind looking after the welfare of veterans and their families.

He said when he and others were called as a local bank recently to open a long forgotten safe deposit box, they found an official-looking brown envelope tied up with red ribbon.

"It was a deed to set up the Mount Evelyn RSL, Welfare Account and Bill was one of two signatories on it," he said.

"Welfare is the primary reason and responsibility of the Mount Evelyn RSL, and that's what Bill did for the veterans of Mount Evelyn and their families."

He said the RSL was a national entity and Life Membership was an important award providing recognition and access to all sub-branches around Australia.

"We thank you for a job well done and very, very much deserved," he said.

Of his lifetime of service, Bill said it was something he had just done - much like joining up at 15.

The Life Membership, he said, was a surprise, and an honour.

"I'm very proud to receive it," he said.

Above: Bill in his military days. (12/10/41)
Left: Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Bowen presented Bill Phillips with RSL Life Membership. (17/09/14)
Picture: KATH GANNAWAY

FAREWELL TO THE LAST OF MT EVELYN'S WORLD WAR TWO ENLISTEES

Very sad to hear of the passing of Edna Krutulis (nee Purser) in early October aged 89. Some of you may remember Edna when she came up to Mt Evelyn last Remembrance Day and laid a wreath at the Mt Evelyn War Memorial and then unveiled her name on the Mt Evelyn honour board. Both her and her father's names are on the board as having served in WW2. Edna served in the 'Australian Women's Army Service' for over two years between 1943 and 1945. As far as we know Edna was the last surviving Mt Evelyn veteran of World War Two that was left as this year we also lost Arthur Allan and Len Polkinghorne. Edna's death certainly marks the end of an era and causes us to remember with gratitude a generation that we owe so much too.



Left:
Edna lays a wreath at the Mt Evelyn War Memorial last Remembrance Day

Right:
Edna (WW2) and Barry Brewer (Vietnam) unveil their names on the Mt Evelyn Honour Board.

Photos:
D Webb



HONOURING THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-1918)



MT EVELYN RSL



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 order one email –

mtevrsl@gmail.com

IAIN WALKS FROM BRISBANE TO CANBERRA



Well done to our Vice President Iain Townsley who has just completed a huge charity event. He, along with a number of fellow SAS veterans who call themselves the 'Wandering Warriors', have walked from Brisbane to Canberra to raise funds for wounded service personnel. That's 1300kms!

They arrived at the Australian War Memorial in October after 19 days walking and it was Iain who led them up the front steps playing his bagpipes. Iain did this a number of times along the route as they marched into some 17 towns along the way.

A mighty effort by Iain and the other 'Wandering Warriors'. To donate to their good work you can wander to www.wanderingwarriors.org

Right: Iain leads the way at the Australian War Memorial

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Warrior of walking

By KATHRYN BERMINGHAM

IT WAS a proud moment for Mount Evelyn's Iain Townsley when he donned full uniform, played his bagpipes and marched with a group of fellow SAS veterans into the Australian War Memorial in Canberra last month.

Iain has just returned from the Wandering Warriors 2014 Mega Challenge, a walk from Brisbane to Canberra to raise money for the wounded, injured and ill of the ADF and their families.

The event finished with a ceremony in Canberra and was sponsored by the Defence Force, which provided a cook and medic as well as assisting in transporting baggage and walkers between destinations.

Iain and the walkers covered approximately 20 kilometres per day and stopped in towns along the way to entertain locals and raise extra funds.

Iain is a renowned local piper and his bagpipes became a favourite throughout the journey.

After three weeks of keeping a busy schedule walking and entertaining local crowds at night, Iain piped the veterans up the stairs of the War Memorial on Thursday, 16 October during a ceremony which was marked with a parachute jump by the Australian Army Parachute Display Team and attended by charity patron Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith VC and AWM director Dr



Iain Townsley walked from Brisbane to Canberra to raise money for wounded veterans.

Picture: KATHRYN BERMINGHAM

Brendan Nelson.

During the ceremony, a plaque was unveiled commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Australian Special Air Service.

After joining the Junior Leaders Infantry Battalion of the Queen's Own Highlanders and later the British SAS, Iain became associated with the Australian SAS when he moved here in 1988.

He has served in Borneo and Northern Ireland.

At 66 years old, Iain represented the average age among the group of ex-SAS soldiers, whose mission during the walk was twofold.



Iain Townsley has recently returned from the Wandering Warriors Mega Challenge.

"Obviously the walk was very much about raising awareness.

"We stopped in small towns and spoke directly to locals about the cause of the Wandering Warriors.

"Overall, we aimed to raise funds for our charity partners that could then be used to help injured veterans."

The Wandering Warriors are yet to receive a final figure on their fund-raising efforts, but Iain said the support of local communities was overwhelming.

"The generosity of the people we came across was amazing. People in those small country towns were so

willing to help."

Regularly seen walking around the Mt Evelyn area, Iain has no intention of slowing down anytime soon.

He regularly pipes at private, RSL and ADF events and maintains a connection with the local community.

"I would definitely like to do the walk again. It's a great event for an important cause."

For more information on the walk or to donate to the Wandering Warriors visit wanderingwarriors.org.



HISTORICAL ITEM DONATED

Recently the Mt Evelyn RSL was visited by Kath Heath (nee Rose) along with her husband Jim and son Graeme.

Kath had grown up in Mt Evelyn and her father Bob is listed on the honour board under WW2, he was later a stalwart at the Football Club.

While attending the Mt Evelyn State School during World War Two Kath was awarded a certificate from the Education Department in 1941 for all the gallant effort she had put in to the school's patriotic welfare work. No doubt she was spurred on by the fact that her father was away fighting in the war.

The reason for Kath's visit to the RSL was that she wanted to donate her war time certificate to the club. The members were very happy to receive this and assured her this will go on display for all to see.

Photo: Roger Boness, Jim and Kath Heath with her certificate (courtesy G Heath)

MEMORIAL UNVEILINGS



On Remembrance Day the Mt Evelyn community came back to the RSL clubrooms where a number of special unveilings took place. Frank Allan (left) who grew up in Mt Evelyn and then served in Vietnam in 1969 unveiled his name on the Mt Evelyn Honour Board. We then had the Allan and Proctor families (below) unveil plaques in our memorial garden to former members Ralph Proctor, Arthur and Lorraine Allan. **(Photos: D Webb)**





THE CONGREGATION OF THE
LILYDALE UNITING CHURCH
ARE PROUD TO INVITE YOU TO:

A CEREMONY TO UNVEIL A MEMORIAL
In Tribute To
JAMES DRUMMOND BURNS



A LILYDALE SOLDIER
AND AUTHOR OF THE FAMOUS
FIRST WORLD WAR POEM –
***'THE BUGLES OF
ENGLAND'***

When: Sunday November 30th, 2014

Time: 2.00pm

Where: Lilydale War Memorial
Main St, Lilydale

Further Details - antmca@bigpond.com.au

TO BE UNVEILED BY

Dr Mark Johnston

Head of History – Scotch College

REMEMBRANCE DAY - 2014



Left: Very good numbers again this year

Right: Bugler Tom Steele & Piper Iain Townsley

Remember: there are more photos on our facebook page



Left: The Mt Evelyn Combined Schools Choir

Right: Guest Speaker Ray McAllister, Grade 5 student at Silvan Primary School



Left: The crowd stand to attention

Right: Christine Fyffe MP, Member for Evelyn

Below: our local schools who were involved in the service



They will remember them

A LARGE crowd gathered at Mount Evelyn's memorial garden to pay their respects at the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month on Tuesday.

Residents young and old took part in the service to remember those who were lost and those who returned while fighting for their country.

Mail photographer Greg Carrick was there to capture the action.



RSL member Frank Allan unveiled his name on the Honour Roll Board at Mount Evelyn RSL.



Piper Iain Townsley plays the 'Gardens of Stone' lament.



Deputy Mayor, Cr Maria McCarthy speaks about Ralph Proctor at the Mount Evelyn RSL.



Bill Proctor, Julia Fitz and Clare Proctor were pleased to unveil Ralph Proctor's name plaque.



Silvan Primary School student Ray McAllister spoke to the crowd.



Mount Evelyn Primary School students Matthew and Shas give the Remembrance Day dedication.



Christine Fyffe MP lays a wreath at the Memorial



Mount Evelyn resident and school crossing supervisor Joanne Frandsen pays her respects.

Above: Mt Evelyn Mail 18/11/14

Below: Lilydale Leader 18/11/14

MT EVELYN



Mt Evelyn RSL piper Iain Townsley.

Large turnout honours our war heroes

Kimberley Seedy

A BIG crowd gathered at the Mt Evelyn War Memorial last Tuesday for a Remembrance Day ceremony to remember those who fell in war.

Mt Evelyn RSL secretary Anthony McAleer said it was a great turnout.

"Seeing that it falls during the week, a working day, to get as many people as we did was fantastic," Mr McAleer said.

"What we love about the Remembrance Day service is that we actually go to all the local schools, and we get them involved."

Five locals schools – Silvan, Birmingham, Mt Evelyn and St Mary's Primary School, and Yarra Hills Secondary College – joined together to form a big school choir on the day.

There was an official Remembrance Day ceremony, including a minute's silence at the war memorial, and

then a number of readings.

Mr McAleer said students then read out the names of those listed on the war memorial.

Morning tea at the Mt Evelyn RSL followed the ceremony.

The Victorian Remembrance Day ceremony was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on St Kilda Rd and many others were held across the Yarra Ranges, including at Belgrave and Monbulk.



RSL president Roger Boness and bugler Tom Steele.

APPEALS OFFICERS REPORT

Well we've just finished another year's Poppy sales and it is another record – over **\$4500** raised in poppy sales and \$616 in donations. Our poppy sales were up by **\$1500!!!** from last year.

This is a fantastic effort seeing that the majority of our sales come from the one source – the Mt Evelyn community – so once again thanks to Mt Evelyn IGA for all their support.

Thanks also to Robyn from the chemist, Jenny & Brett who sold them at work and to our great band of workers who manned our table over those weeks. A magnificent effort by all.

Regards –

Dot Ervine, Appeals Officer

A STRETCHER BEARER'S WAR

The Story of Ralph Goode MBE



In 1914 Ralph Goode became the first of many men from Lilydale to enlist in World War One when he joined the 2nd Field Ambulance as a stretcher-bearer. Before he left for service overseas his fiancée gave him two small diaries in which to write down his experiences.

Over the next four years he painstakingly recorded what he went through in Egypt, on Gallipoli and throughout the Western Front. What he created on the pages of those little diaries is an extraordinary day to day account of the horrors and heroism of serving as a stretcher bearer in what they called 'The Great War'.

But his life back home in those decades after the war was to be just as heroic. What he did to cope with the trauma of his war experience would benefit his community greatly and leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

With a foreword by Dr Michael Cathcart.

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Mt Evelyn RSL
PO BOX 182,
Mt Evelyn, Vic, 3796



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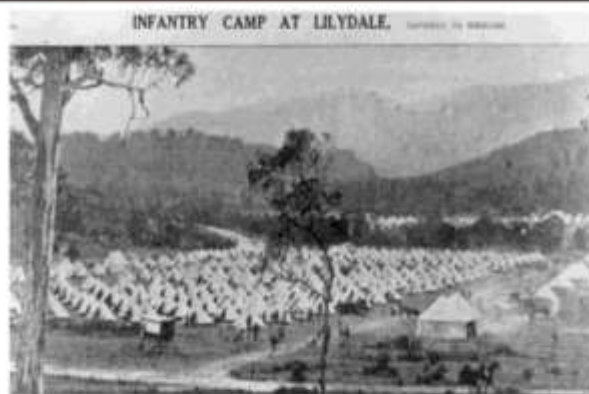
Price: \$30 per copy plus \$2.00 postage

MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP

LILYDALE – FEBRUARY 1914

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

While they were there they were visited by General Sir Ian Hamilton & Richard Williams of RAAF fame and held a huge 'mock battle' near Melba's home in Coldstream.



Why were they there, what did they do, why was the event the most important in Monash's pre-war military career?

To mark the centenary of this remarkable event the Mt Evelyn RSL has published a book that details in words and images the fascinating story of 'Monash's Militia Camp'.

ORDER NOW:

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

Leader: Joan 97370397 rosemont.townclub@gmail.com

Weight Recorder: Lesley McKenna 0425624043 or
97391642



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

PLEASE NOTE

Copies of

ALL OUR BOOKS

are available for sale through the

Mt Evelyn RSL

or at the

Mt Evelyn Post Office, Station St

GREAT GIFTS FOR XMAS

The Mt Evelyn History Group
Annual membership - \$10

General Meetings:

every third Monday of even months

7.30pm

'Hardy House' –

Mt Evelyn RSL Hall

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ORIGINATOR KIMBLY MONTRUSE MT EVELYN LAYDALE DISPLAY SEVILLE

LILYDALE WEIGHT CLUB

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

Everyone welcome!



FITNESS CLASSES

At the RSL Hall
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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.

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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:

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27 Wray Cres

Ph: 9736 2206

Email: hewettma@gmail.com

The Mt Evelyn RSL is a proud member of...
The Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce

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

0419 897 134 or 9737 0888



Mt Evelyn Community Market

4th Saturday of each month (Feb - Nov)

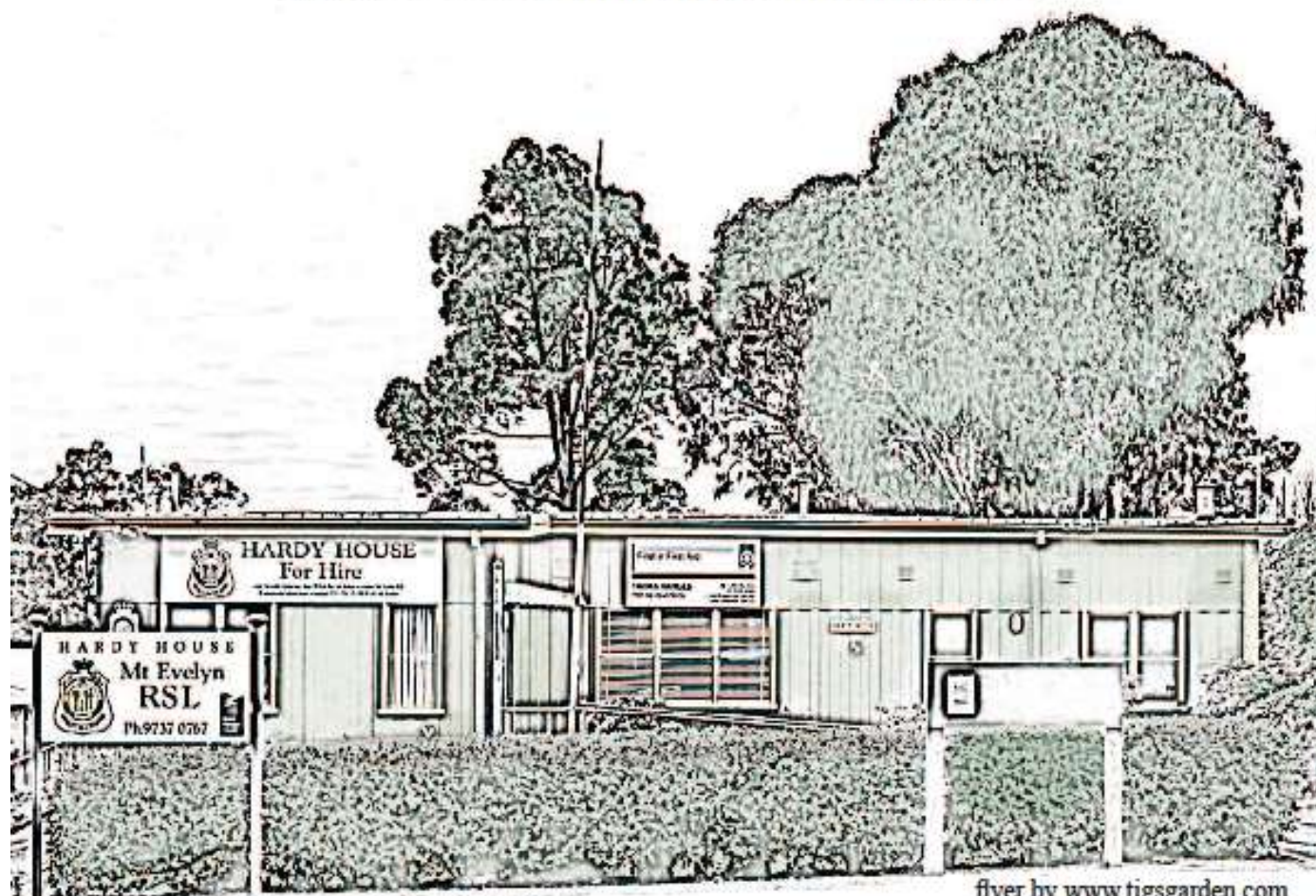
10am - 3pm

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 sausage sizzle and devonshire tea

www.facebook.com/mtevelyncommunitymarket



flyer by www.tigsgarden.com

BILL HARRISON'S STORY – pt 7

This is the story of one of our past members, Bill Harrison. Bill served with the 1st 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.....

Last issue: Bill is involved in the Battle of Wau

When did you come out of this area?

Well at this stage we had been in the area for about fourteen months. I was in the Markham Valley at the time and I was having a little bit of trouble. I had had fourteen attacks of malaria; we didn't have any quinine or anything when we were cut off all that time, I also had dengue fever and endemic dysentery. I was certainly a sick girl. I was so sick I had to be brought out of the Markham Valley tied on to the back of a mule. Well that was for four days, then we ate the mule, and from then on the natives carried me.

I ended up coming out of Wau with a lot of the Seventeenth Brigade's wounded. They had me walking up the ramp on to the plane and I got half way up, fell back and rolled all the way down again. Two Yankee nurses who were on the plane rushed down and picked me up and said 'Oh Pinky! You poor boy', Americans call red heads 'Pink'. They really mothered me; one picked me up in her arms and carried me like a baby. Inside, the plane had aluminium seats that folded up on to the sides of the planes, they put me in a seat and strapped me in but I fell out of it so they gave me a mattress on the floor.

I was flown out to Moresby and then to a hospital. In Moresby they weighed me and I weighed four stone six, mind you I was starting to get better then. I then left a few days later on the hospital ship 'Centaur'. That was the trip before that ship was sunk. The very next trip going back to New Guinea it was sunk by the gallant Japanese bastards. I mean who would sink a hospital ship? At night they had spot lights on the Red Cross and they could be seen for twenty five miles away.

When you arrived back in Australia where did they take you to?

We bailed off at Brisbane. All the locals went off to 'Greenslopes Hospital' and the New South Welshmen and Victorians, we all headed south in an ambulance train. We travelled on the inland road and when we came to Woolangra, and they divided the train into two halves. Now I think somebody got the wrong message and pulled the wrong switch because all the New South Welshmen went down to Heidelberg and all the Victorians went down to Tamworth where they had these special hospitals for people just back from New Guinea. At that time they were still learning about tropical diseases and things, in fact they were learning as well as treating us.

How long were you in hospital?

I was three months in the hospital in Australia. I use to get low fever, it was a mild form of malaria, you use to get that every three weeks, that was the reason it took me so long to get better. Once they'd killed all the wog out of me, I was mainly put on a diet of egg and milk, it was a matter of trying to build me up. They got me up to about eight and a half stone again, which is my normal weight, I was only ever a little bloke.

Next issue: Bill joins the Commandos

Right: Bill Harrison in 1999

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Our best wishes to **Dot Ervine** and **Gary Freeman** who have recently had to spend time in hospital.
- We have had news that our Howitzer for the War Memorial Garden will be ready to be picked up over Summer, so it should be in place in time for the Anzac Day Centenary.
- The Mt Evelyn History Group have recently had some good news. The funding they sought to recreate the WWI Avenue of Honour has been approved. They are looking to form a community committee to come up with plans on how this will look.
- Plans are currently underway with the Mt Evelyn Community House to hold a community Barn Dance next year. More to come.
- Our Treasurer **John Allwood** has just returned from England where he has celebrated his mother's 100th Birthday.

• 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.

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!*

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

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