

# Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 1, Issue 3, Spring 2011 A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



## 2011 Meeting Dates

Aug 14<sup>th</sup>  
Sept 11<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 9<sup>th</sup>  
Nov 13<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

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

Mt Evelyn RSL  
Clubrooms  
49 Birmingham Rd  
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

Ph: 9737 0767  
Email:  
mtevrsl@gmail.com

Postal Address:  
PO Box 182  
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

President:  
Roger Boness  
Ph: 9737 0830

## NEEDED!!

We need as many members as we can to attend our next meeting on:

**August 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.00pm**

As a result of the fact that very few members have turned up recently to our meetings we haven't been able to form a quorum and therefore officially hold a meeting.

Some of the important burning issues that need to be discussed include:

- The retirement of James Chapman as our treasurer
- The need for a new Treasurer for the sub-branch
- Do we hold our monthly meetings during the day or of an evening?
- The adoption of procedures & approval of fees for Hall Hire
- The formation of a committee of management for the hall.
- Our new community partnership with the Mt Evelyn History Group
- The Mt Evelyn Festival – ideas for our promotional stall
- The approval of a number of 'RSL Certificates of Appreciation'
- Does the Sub-branch need a 'Restricted Liquor License'?
- Changes in Membership payments for members over 80
- A Mt Evelyn Honour Roll plaque for the war memorial
- Maintenance that needs to be urgently done to the hall – i.e: steps
- Need for a delegate to the District Board
- Sub-branch excursion to Flemington Heritage Centre
- Springvale Memorial Service & donation of war book
- Update on discussions with Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club
- Creation of a key register for the hall

The President urges all service, affiliate & social members to attend. If you can't make it but want to have a say on some of the issues above – email us on [antmca@bigpond.com](mailto:antmca@bigpond.com) or ring Roger Boness on 9737 0830.

Don't forget there will be a **free BBQ lunch** before hand starting at 1.00pm

Members might be interested to know that the committee has applied for Federal Government funding for \$5000 for the sub-branch to purchase a computer, printer, scanner and camera for the production of our newsletters and for a 12" digital frame that we can put on the wall of the clubroom that will display photos from the club's history.

We should hear if we are successful sometime in September.

**Other  
Important  
Dates Coming  
Up:**

**Sunday August  
14th  
1.00pm**

**BBQ Lunch**

The President invites all members to come along and enjoy a free BBQ lunch with friends before the meeting at 2.00pm.



**Yarra Valley  
Vietnam Veterans  
Day**

*All Welcome*

Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup>

At the Lilydale War Memorial in Main St, Lilydale.

**10.15am** – Veterans gather out front of Old Fire Station

**10.45am** – March of veterans to war memorial

**11.00am** – Service at war memorial – guest speaker Jim Bourke AM MG

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would like to thank the RSL committee and members who maintained and managed the RSL whilst I was on extended holidays in Darwin. RSL members and Australians recall when the war came to Darwin and Australia on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 1942 when a large force of Japanese aircraft attacked Darwin with dire consequences to the unsuspecting community. A further 62 air raids were made on Darwin during the war. Visitors to Darwin can be reminded how the service men and women fought against the adversary by visiting the war museum, gun emplacements and listening posts at East Point Road Reserve and the aviation museum on the Stuart Highway at Coonawarra. You can share the horrors of the bombing of Darwin by watching a video recording and stand in awe at the size and capabilities of the B52 bomber on display. James Chapman our treasurer, has had to stand down due to the pressures of setting up and establishing his own business. On behalf of RSL members I thank James sincerely for his time in office and we offer our very best wishes in your new venture. Having said that we expect your ongoing membership and hope to see you at the club when time permits. Work has commenced to rejuvenate our memorial garden at the top of Wray Crescent. Every aspect of the garden will be upgraded with paving, landscaping, replanting and painting. Hopefully this total makeover will be completed in time for the Mount Evelyn Festival on Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 when residents and visitors to the festival can share this sacred, revitalised community asset. Derrick and Betty Crittenden recently visited and passed on their best regards to members. Members are reminded that the next meeting will be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011. *There will be a free BBQ prior to the meeting commencing at 2.00pm.*

Lest We Forget. Roger Boness - President

## LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT

We are in urgent need of volunteer helpers to assist with the Poppy Appeal in early November. Can you give us just an hour of your time? Few will question the merit and value of the RSL's Welfare work and many of you will acknowledge that the need for this work is increasing. Our community is generous in their support of worthy causes, but our fund raising capacity is severely hampered by the lack of volunteers to staff the table.

If you are able to assist in this important work, please contact Dot Ervine over the coming months on: 9736 3638

Regards

Mt Evelyn RSL Ladies Auxiliary

## Membership Subs

**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 ex-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

# *To the forty somethings...*

**Haven't kids today got it better today than in our childhood?  
They wouldn't have lasted a minute back in 1970!**

In our day...

- We didn't have the Internet. If we wanted to know something, we had to go to the damn library and look it up ourselves, using a card catalogue!!
- There was no email!! We had to actually write somebody a letter - with a pen! Then you had to walk all the way across the street, buy a stamp and put it in the letterbox. And it would take a week to get there!
- Child Protective Services didn't care if our parents beat us. As a matter of fact, the parents of all my friends also had permission to kick our bums! Nowhere was safe!
- There were no MP3's or Napsters or iTunes! If you wanted to steal music, you had to go to the record store and shoplift it! Or you had to wait around all day to tape it off the radio, and the DJ would usually talk over the beginning and muck it all up!
- There were no CD players! We had tape decks in our car. We'd play our favourite tape and "eject" it when finished, and then the tape would get caught rendering it useless.
- We didn't have fancy things like Call Waiting! If you were on the phone and somebody else called, they got a busy signal, that's it!
- There weren't any mobile phones either. If you left the house, you just didn't make a damn call or receive one. You actually had to make a call on at a public phone box or heaven forbid, be out of touch with your "friends".
- And we didn't have fancy Caller ID either! When the phone rang, you had no idea who it was! It could be your friend, your parents, your boss, your bookie, the collection agent.... you just didn't know!!! You had to pick it up and take your chances!
- We didn't have any fancy PlayStation or Xbox video games with high-resolution 3-D graphics! We had the Atari 2600! With games like 'Space Invaders' and 'Asteroids'. Your screen guy was a little square, you actually had to use your imagination!!! And there were no multiple levels or screens; it was just one screen... Forever!
- There were no remotes! You had to use a magazine called TV Week to find out what was on! And if you wanted to channel surf! You had to get off your bum and walk over to the TV to change the channel!
- There was no Cartoon Network either! You could only get cartoons on Saturday Mornings. We had to wait ALL WEEK for cartoons!
- And we didn't have microwaves. If we wanted to heat something up, we had to use the stove!
- And our parents told us to stay outside and play... all day long. Oh and no electronics to soothe and comfort. And you knew if you came back inside... *you were doing chores!*



**Grade Ones & Twos from  
Birmingham Primary School  
Visit the Mt Evelyn RSL - June 2011**



**All Photos courtesy of  
Steve Tanner &  
the 'Lilydale & Yarra  
Valley Express'**



# Lilydale & Yarra Valley Leader



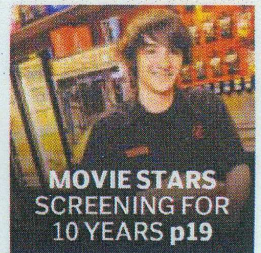
[lilydaleleader.com.au](http://lilydaleleader.com.au)

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2011

\$1 incl. GST



**FAMILY FIGHT**  
CALL FOR ROAD  
POSTS p5



**MOVIE STARS**  
SCREENING FOR  
10 YEARS p19



**AUSSIE PRIDE:** Year 2 students Ashlyn and Jacqui at Birmingham Primary School learnt about their community's history during a visit to the Mt Evelyn RSL last week. And while talks from RSL members and a historian imparted a sense of place, it was the old war hats, Australian flags and Anzac biscuits that stole the show.

► More photos, p14

Picture: STEVE TANNER NSOLE460

## NEWS

[whereilive.com.au](http://whereilive.com.au)

# Hats off to our rich history

Students enjoy trip that brings the past to life

THE history of Mt Evelyn, a veteran's experiences in Vietnam and Anzac biscuits all featured in Birmingham Primary School lessons last week, as the school looked into the past.

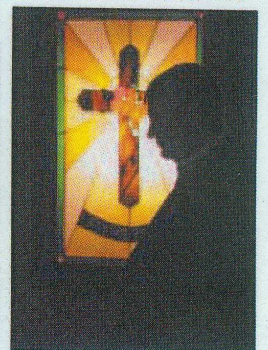
Ninety-four grade 1 and 2 students enjoyed the history trip, learning about the origin of their school's name (taken from Birmingham Rd, once known as Zigzag Rd) and Mt Evelyn's past names (Evelyn and Olinda Vale).

Teacher Dallas Gidley said the excursion aimed to teach the youngsters about the community in which they live.

At the Mt Evelyn RSL students learnt about the flag, what the RSL meant and the experiences of a Vietnam War veteran, before enjoying its display cabinets and an Anzac biscuit.

Clockwise from top: Corbin, Olivia, Mackenzie, Maddy and Caitlyn during hands-on lessons in Australian history; Natasha stands to attention during the national anthem; with bowed head Mt Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness marks a minute's silence; Mr Boness talks to students about his experiences; Birmingham Primary School students proudly wave their Australian flags during the excursion.

Pictures: STEVE TANNER NSOLE600





## A message from Afghanistan

As some members may be aware the Mt Evelyn RSL currently has a member on active service in Afghanistan. Major Tony Geyer (pictured right) was instrumental in the organisation of our first 'Dawn Service' in 2009. Both he and his wife Carolyn are residents of Mt Evelyn even though he has been stationed in Brisbane for the past year. He has been on active service in Afghanistan since April and in his report in our last newsletter he was about to catch up with Carolyn in Europe for some well earned R&R. Recently Roger Boness organised for the local primary schools to write to Major Geyer. Here is his latest report:

**Got my first letters from the Grade 1-2 students at Birmingham Primary School. I'd forgotten about how curious children are at this age. Some of the questions... The classic, "Have I been bitten by a python?" I'm in the process of contacting the teacher with a view of finding out the best way to respond.**



**Carolyn and I had a wonderful time in Europe together. To be able to walk around without boots on was a sensational feeling. We did all the things you shouldn't do, spent too much money, drank too much and ate everything in sight. I think I'm 48 kg's heavier. It was extremely difficult saying goodbye in Athens. My first week back at Kandahar was very depressing, so much so that my Boss took me aside, concerned about my welfare.**

**I'm now over the hump and on the downhill side. Work is now back in routine albeit a little slower than when I first arrived. The current US HQ's is about to rotate back home and as a consequence no new work will be done until the replacement HQ's settles in. By that time I'll only have a couple of weeks to go. The frightening part though is that when all the movement is complete, I'm the only one left.**

## Thanks James

James Chapman has retired as Treasurer of the Mt Evelyn RSL. James has been in the position for a number of years now and stepped up to help the club at a time when it was really needed. In fact at one time he was serving as Treasurer and editing the club's newsletter as well! Many will remember the great job he did organising the bus trip to the Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island. As James' professional life has become extremely busy of late he has had to retire from role as Treasurer but will still remain as a valued member. Roger Boness will cover the Treasurer's role until we can get someone to step and take on the role.

# History of the Mt Evelyn RSL – pt 3

The following was written by A J McAleer as a chapter in the book *'Tracks to Trails – A History of Mt Evelyn'*. Continuing from last edition...

In the early eighties V Fitzpatrick became president for a few years before Noel Anderson, former 455 Squadron Bomber Command pilot, took over (1984-1991). Throughout the eighties fundraising continued, especially the weekly street stalls, and the Ladies Auxiliary remained an extremely active group. In 1985 John Urand joined the club and the following year was made treasurer and was soon given the secretary's role as well, a double position he held for over a decade.

In 1986 long-time member Keith Smith began to lobby the Shire Council on the sub-branch's behalf to commemorate the former WWI Avenue of Honour that once stood in Mt Evelyn. Noel Anderson also pushed for a war memorial to be built in front of the Public Hall that would pay tribute to those who served in both World Wars as well as the Korean, Malayan and Vietnam conflicts. The following year the memorial was erected by Council using Noel's design and soon after they granted Keith's wish by placing a plaque and a sign in Wray Cres to commemorate the Avenue of Honour. The branch sponsored an Australian flag to be presented to Mrs Willoughby in recognition of her son Gary who was killed in Vietnam and during the 'Australia Remembers 1995' programme Andy Franks, Keith Smith, Avon Falkingham and Anthony McAleer worked on creating an Honour Board that listed all those from Mt Evelyn who served their country in time of war.

In 1992 a Lighthorse veteran, Joe Clarke, became the branch's final WWI member and was a popular figure up until his death in 1999 aged 102. Also in 1992 Andy Franks became the club's first Vietnam veteran to serve as president, and in partnership with John Urand began the long process of working towards relocating the group to their own clubrooms.

*To be continued.....*



Above: Anzac Day March – Wray Cres Mt Evelyn – late 1970's

## MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- With James Chapman retiring, the club is in desperate need of a Treasurer. If you think you could do the job or if you know of someone who would be good in the role please contact Roger Boness on 9737 0830
- Laurie Hollier is the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer. Should you require any assistance or advice please ring him on: Ph 9737 0068
- The sub-branch's Padre, the Rev Richard Schoenmaker from the Mt Evelyn Christian Reformed Church, is also available to assist members in need. Contact him on: Ph: 9736 1087
- Congrats to the Mt Evelyn Scouts who have just become the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest scout group in Victoria.
- Don't forget the Mt Evelyn Festival – **Sat Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>** – The Mt Evelyn RSL will have a promotional stall at the event. Any ideas as to what we could have at the stall?

*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 will be playing on our big screen TV and don't forget we also have a pool table, dart board and indoor bowls.

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.

## **STEVE'S WHEELCHAIR & SCOOTER REPAIRS & SERVICE**

Prompt attention to breakdowns  
SWEP & private work  
7 days



**PH: 0400564267**

## **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 birthday parties for the under 21's!

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

## **Afternoon Delight**

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.

**Editor:** Anthony McAleer  
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*Email me if you want to  
receive newsletter faster via  
email – and save the club on  
postage costs.*