

Mt Evelyn RSL News



Volume 7, Issue 3, Anzac Special A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



2017 Meeting Dates

Fri June 16th
Fri July 21st
Fri Aug 18th
Fri Sept 16th
Fri Oct 20th
Fri Nov 17th
Fri Dec 15th

*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



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IT WAS WET – *BUT THEY STILL CAME*



Above: Crowds gather in the rain for the Dawn Service (courtesy Joy Phillips)

Almost torrential rain dampened everything but the spirit of those who braved the weather at our annual Dawn Service in the war memorial gardens at Mt Evelyn. Some estimates were between 1500 to 2000. Rene Belyus saved the ceremony by putting up a marquee to ensure that the sound system and the guest speakers remained dry enough to perform their duties.

This year's ceremony was another full of highlights including local poet Jim Brown and guitarist Vince Brophy performing their now famous poem 'The Anzac on the Wall' and singer/songwriter Alex Borg performing his own song 'Midnight in the City'. Others who assisted included the CFA, the Police, Georgina Bennett from the scouts, the Girl Guides, St John's Ambulance, Graham Northey from the Football/netball club, Rick Ventrella Captain of the CFA, local ex-serviceman Jarrod Alston, Kevin Van Leewin from the Christian Reformed Church, bugler Karin Meyer and pipers Iain Townsley & Neil Chisholm. Our annual community breakfast was another huge success thanks to the gallant band of ladies from the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club who cooked and organised everything. This year the warm food and drinks were even more appreciated! We have had many positive comments about the day from the public to our members and on facebook.

Our representative at other local services, Jim Hurley, reported that the crowds were up at Wandin, Evelyn Ridge and Silvan – despite the weather.

The traditional two-up held at the York on Lillydale was another huge success with numbers well and truly up for the day. Our thanks go to the gallant team of volunteers who ran this for us and to the management of the York who did a brilliant job hosting the event.

Important Dates

Coming Up:

Athenaeum Theatre, Lilydale

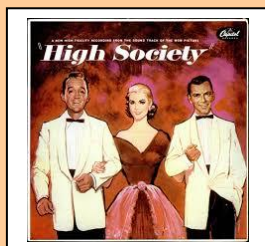
Members of the club
enjoy our quarterly
excursions to the ATC.

We will be doing the same
in 2016 so come along and
see:

**One Flew Over the
Cuckoo's Nest**
Sunday May 28th
@ 2.00pm



High Society
Sunday August 20th
@ 2.00pm



**Six Dance Lesson in Six
Weeks**
Sunday November 12th
@ 2.00pm

Tickets only \$10
for members
Contact Roger on
9737 0830

Centenary service
at
**Wandin War
Memorial**
to honour local
soldier –
Gilbert Hogg

Monday
May 29th, 2017
11.00am
All welcome

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am currently off on a well-earned break visiting many friends and family around Australia and hopefully getting to see the sunshine.

Before I go I want to acknowledge the success of our recent Anzac Day events and begin by patting on the back all of those who braved the wild and wet weather to get up early to attend our Dawn Service – it certainly made me proud to live in a community that were prepared to do that in honour of those who have served, suffered and died for our nation.

Thanks to our secretary Anthony McAleer for putting the program together and thanks to all of those who contributed including Iain Townsley, Neil Chisholm, Jim Brown, Vince Brophy, Alex Borg, Georgina Bennett, Graham Northey, Rick Ventrella, Rene Belyus, the Shire of Yarra Ranges, the Mt Evelyn Police, the CFA, the Scouts, the Girl Guides, Jim Hurley, Jarrod Alston, Karin Meyer, Kevin Van Leewin, Rob & Deanne Webb, Dot Ervine, Betty Crittenden and the gallant band who got up early to help set up including Ron Jones, Barry McCormack and Stan Beaumont. Lastly to the amazing crew from the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club who put together the wonderful community breakfast for us all.

In the afternoon it was another fun community event with traditional two-up at the York on Lilydale. My thanks to all the members who assisted on the day, to the management of the York and to our great group of friends to ran the game. Lest We Forget.

Regards, Roger Boness – President, Mt Evelyn RSL

APPEAL OFFICER'S REPORT

I am very happy to report that it looks like we have had another record in our Anzac Token sales with a total of **\$13,683.80** raised. Many thanks to all our volunteer sellers who sold tokens outside of Mt Evelyn IGA and Mooroolbark Coles including: Roger Boness, Stan Beaumont, Dot Ervine, Betty Crittenden, Rob & Deanne Webb, Ron Jones, Barry McCormack, Wendy & Steve McGowan, Lesley Harrington, Ted Fairweather, Jenny Nicholson, Gladys Allwood, Trish Phillips & Agnes Henskens. Thanks also to Dot Ervine who organised everything in those first few weeks when I was away and Rob Webb who counted and banked the money for us. Our thanks also to Mt Evelyn IGA and Mooroolbark Coles for their support.

Regards,
John Allwood – Appeals Officer

Membership Subs for 2017 – *Now Due!*

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**

Now available – 3 year membership – only \$60.00

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BSB – 633-000 A/C NUMBER – 117020883



BETTY'S JOKE PAGE



I was at a local café the other day and while sitting there a young woman came in. She was crying and obviously distraught. I asked her if she was alright and if there was anything I could do for her. She calmed down a little and while fighting back tears she told me that her cat died and that she wished she could have another one just like it. So I asked her..."Why would you want another dead cat?"

An 89 year old woman was arrested for shop lifting. When she went before the judge he asked her, "What did you steal?"

She replied, "A can of peaches." The judge asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches and she replied that she was hungry. Then the judge asked her how many peaches were in the can. She replied 6.

The judge said, "Then I will give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could actually pronounce the punishment, the woman's husband spoke up and asked the judge if he could say something on his wife's behalf. The judge said, "What is it?"

The husband said, "She also stole a can of peas."

When I was a boy, my mum would send me down to the milk bar with \$1 and I'd come back with 5 potatoes, 2 loaves of bread, 3 bottles of milk, a hunk of cheese, a box of tea and 6 eggs.

You can't do that now... Too many security cameras.

So I'm standing at the bus stop, eating a sandwich...and there's an old lady there with a little chihuahua. It's constantly jumping at my leg, begging for some sandwich.

I ask the lady, "Do you mind if I throw your dog a bit?"

"Why no, go ahead", she says, sweetly. So I threw the yappy little thing under a bus.

Carl nips into his local bakery and bumps into Judy.

As they enter the bakery, Judy steals three jam doughnuts and puts them in her handbag.

She says to Carl, "See how clever I am? The owner didn't see anything and I don't even need to lie."

Carl says to Judy, "That is dishonest, and you have displayed trickery and deceit. I am going to show you an honest way to get the same result."

Carl goes to the owner of the bakery and says,

"Give me a doughnut and I will show you a magic trick."

Intrigued, the owner accepts and gives him a doughnut. Carl swallows it and asks for another one.

The owner gives him another one.

Then Carl asks for a third doughnut and he eats that, too.

The owner is starting to wonder where the trick is and asks, "Where's the magic in that?"

Carl replies, "Look in Judy's handbag".

The neighbour asked me why his Lemons never ripen?

I replied because you have a Lime Tree

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LAUNCH OF THE SEVILLE WAR MEMORIAL DESIGNS



On Tuesday April 11th, the designs for the new Seville War Memorial were officially unveiled to the public at a ceremony in Seville to let everybody know what the memorial will look like and the story's that will be on it.

Left – Piper Iain Townsley, Anthony McAleer with Wayne Deklijin from the design team, the Hon Tony Smith MP, Roger Boness.

Below – Derry Aulich from Seville Township Group, Cr Tony Stevenson, bugler Ian Douglas.

Right – What one of the eight panel will look like.



PHOTOS FROM THE DAWN SERVICE



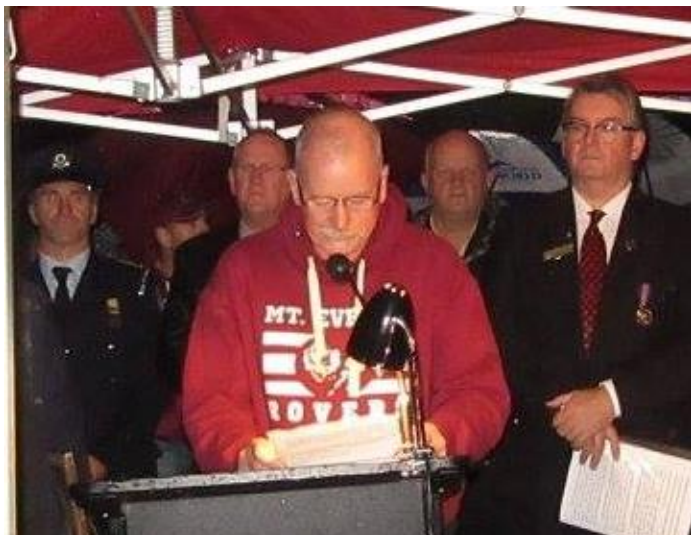
Left:

Local poet Jim Brown, Pipers Iain Townsley & Neil Chisholm, Graham Northey - President of the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club, Ex-Serviceman Jarrod Alston reads the Roll of Honour

Below:

Rick Ventrella – Captain of Mt Evelyn CFA, Georgina Bennett – Mt Evelyn Scouts, Bugler Karin Meyer

Photos: courtesy Jenny McAleer





Left:

Wreaths being laid, Cr Tim Heenan lays a wreath on behalf of the shire, Jim Hurley and the Mt Evelyn Girl Guides raise the flag.

Below:

Local singer/songwriter Alex Borg, the crowd braving the weather.

Photos: courtesy Jenny McAleer



RSL COMMUNITY AWARDS

At the Dawn Service this year the Mt Evelyn RSL took the opportunity to present some Victorian RSL State Awards to members of our community in recognition of their service to the club. This included Georgina Bennett from the Mt Evelyn Scouts and the Mt Evelyn Girl Guides for their long time support of our services.



KIDS SAY THE FUNNIEST THINGS....

Recently a group of grade 5 & 6 students had to write about the meaning of Anzac Day. Amongst them were some hilarious comments. Here are some of the funny ones...

- *Anzac Day means to me 'Anzac Biscuits'they are my favourite thing to eat on Anzac Day because the Anzac Biscuits are delicious and I think they're healthy for you (actually I'm not quite sure on that one) anyway they're great. I also love to watch the marching on the TV, that's always nice. And it's even better with Anzac biscuits – well to me anyway.*
- *If the Anzacs did not fight we probably wouldn't be here. They put their life at risk to keep ours safe! Some people don't even bother to do anything. War isn't 'woopity doo, this is easy' – it is hard. You have to watch where you're walking, look in bushes, scout out areas and pick the right places for cover.*
- *Do you know what Anzac means? It means Australia New Zealand Army Core – don't forget that – it is important.*
- *My great, great, great grandfather fought in the war, he survived. But the next he fell to the ground with a bullet in his heart. My great, great, great grandmother was a nurse for wars. She helped her husband but then fell next to him. They both didn't survive.*
- *Firstly you shouldn't interrupt the minute silence because it's rude. People fought for Australia. Would you like it if you did everything you could, just so your family and friends could live in peace and then everyone was rude.*
- *I throw my hat off to the brave soldiers who saved our proud country that I know today.*
- *It's also sad that most of them died but at least we can remember them. I wish people in the war had a great life and a great time at war, but I bet they didn't.*
- *If there were no soldiers the Germans would have killed all of the Australians and we don't deserve that at all.*
- *If we didn't have soldiers the Germans would have taken over Australia and killed all of us because we weren't all like them. If we didn't fight in the wars we wouldn't have the greatest opportunities like the beautiful nature, schools and homes that we live in. If we didn't fight we wouldn't have discovered any of the little islands that we have now a days. Then we wouldn't have all the food, water and flowers we have right now.*
- *My Poppy and Grandma were in the war but luckily they didn't die. They wouldn't have met each other if they didn't go to war. They actually got married during the war which was common in those days. During the war my Poppy and Grandma didn't get to see each other very much and they were separated by a lake so at night Poppy swam across the lake to meet her, had a glass of water and caught up on all the things that were happening. My Poppy lost some of his medals for doing that because he was told not to but still did it anyway because he loved Grandma.*
- *When I'm at school on Anzac Day (or the day before) I think about the Blackout Hour when my Pa was little his Grandpa (in the blackout) looked out the window when he wasn't supposed to, and that makes me think how lucky he is to be alive because if someone caught him he wouldn't be alive today.*
- *You think – there are people dying so you can have 3 meals a day, dying so that6 you can live safely. Whenever you're sulking because Mummy or Daddy didn't get you a new iphone just remember how lucky you are.*

POEM

The following poem has been sent into us by a member

He was getting old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the RSL,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his mates;
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbours
His tales became a joke,
All his mates listened quietly
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For ol' Jack has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Digger died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Digger died today.

When corporate bosses leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

The Media tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Digger
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Some smoothie who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow
Who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country
And offers up his life?

The corporate CEO's stipend
And the style in which they live,
Are often disproportionate,
To the service that they give.

While the ordinary Digger,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the corporate bosses
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Digger
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Digger,
Who would fight until the end?

He was just a common Digger,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Digger's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the corporate bosses start.

If we cannot do him honour
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A DIGGER DIED TODAY."

Veterans Wellness Programs

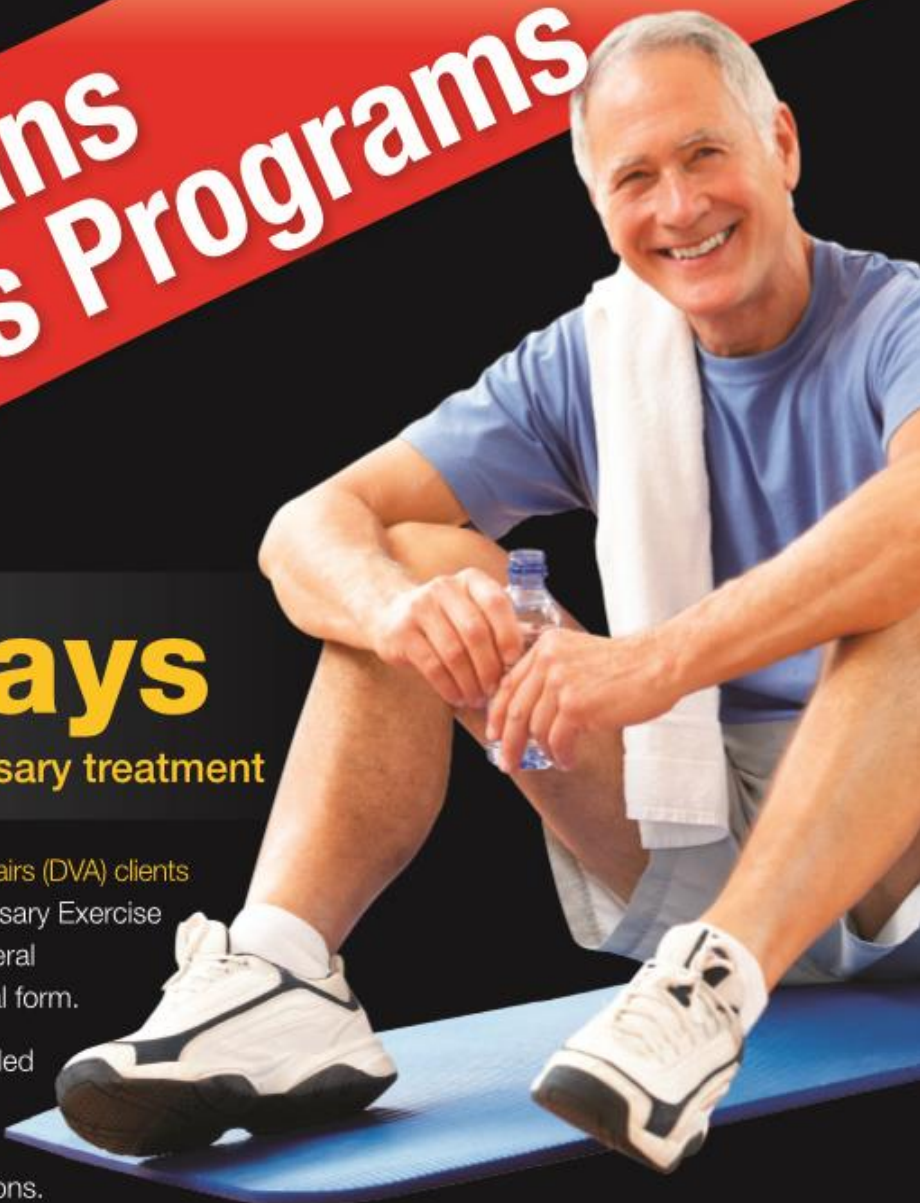
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MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP

LILYDALE - FEBRUARY 1914

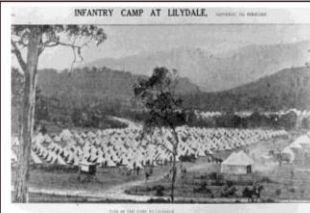
100 years ago John Monash and 3000 citizen soldiers descended on Lilydale and camped for week where the Lilydale Lake is today.

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'.



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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.

ORDER NOW:

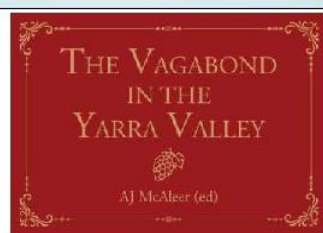
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THE VAGABOND IN THE YARRA VALLEY



Observation of the Yarra Valley by one of the 19th Century's greatest writers and journalists
The Vagabond.

His complete collection of articles written on the Yarra Valley from 1877 to 1894. Includes details of the early wine industry, a description of travelling here by coach and then by train, reports on the development of the townships and its residents as well as the Steels Creek gold rush.

With a Foreword by:
Christine Fyffe MLA

Introduction by:
Jim Brown

Fully illustrated with images and photos of the Yarra Valley in the 19th Century - many never seen before!

Right: Deschamps Hill, Lilydale from 'The Towers'



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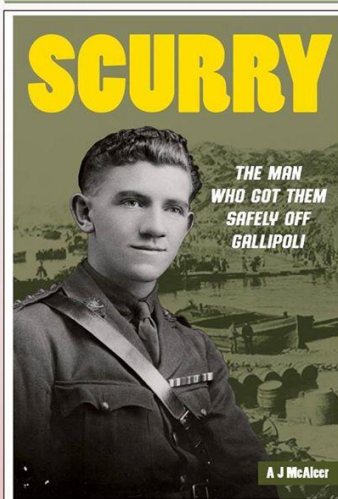


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SCURRY

*THE MAN WHO GOT THEM
SAFELY OFF GALLIPOLI*



On December 8th, 1915 there were 38,500 Australian troops occupying trenches on Gallipoli, facing a larger Turkish force of some 80,000. Twelve days later they had all been evacuated from the Peninsula without the loss of a man and without the enemy knowing.

How they did this was helped in no small way by an ingenious invention created by twenty year old Lance-Corporal Bill Scurry, a self-firing rifle with a primitive timer that would convince the Turkish soldiers that the Anzacs were still in their trenches shooting at them when in fact they had long gone. It would earn for him the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the gratitude of those who had got off Gallipoli safely.

But this was only a small part of the Bill Scurry story. From Egypt to Gallipoli and on to the Western Front, where he lost an eye and gained the Military Cross. Then to his post-war days as a soldier settler in Silvan before he was to serve once more in the Second World War.

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**Mt Evelyn
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The Mt Evelyn RSL has a community
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Event Days (guest speakers, tours etc):

Third Saturdays on odd months

1.30pm

'Hardy House' –

Mt Evelyn RSL Hall

The Mt Evelyn History Group
Annual membership - \$15

General Meetings:

every third Monday of even months
7.30pm

'Hardy House' –

Mt Evelyn RSL Hall



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CROYDON KILSYTH MONTROSE MT EVELYN LILYDALE DISPLAY SEVILLE



LILYDALE WEIGHT CLUB

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The Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce

Les Kennedy

is the RSL's representative on the
Chamber of Commerce

– any ideas or issues for the Chamber
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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

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Mt Evelyn Community Market

4th Saturday of each month (Feb - Nov)

9am - 1pm

RSL/Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Rd

Everyone is welcome to join us at the monthly
Mt Evelyn Community Market.

Featuring various stall holders and local businesses.

Fresh produce and an RSL sausage sizzle and devonshire tea.

www.facebook.com/mtevelyncommunitymarket



W CHAUVIN & R NODEN

In commemoration of the centenary of World War One, the Mt Evelyn & Lilydale RSLs have divided the local war memorials between them and will be holding a service on the centenary date of those listed on these memorials who died while on active service. In connection with this will be publishing their biographies in each of our newsletters.....

William Chauvin, or Bill as he was known, was born in 1892 at Lilydale and was the eldest of ten children to parents Jean Guillaume Chauvin and Emily Amy Chauvin (nee Duvouisin). His father had been born in Bordeaux, France and had immigrated to Victoria in 1885 while his mother's parents had immigrated from Switzerland to the Yarra Valley in 1860. The family all lived in John Street, Lilydale and attended the Baptist Church. Ralph Noden was born in Richmond in 1891, the second eldest of eleven children to parents William John Noden and Rachel Murray Noden. The family lived in Main Street, Lilydale and attended the Methodist Church.

Bill and Ralph both grew up in Lilydale and attended the Lilydale State School. After Bill finished his schooling he took up a job as a wagon driver, carting goods for the Lilydale Cordial Factory. Ralph worked as a leather dresser at the Lilydale Tannery. Both men were involved in the community playing football and cricket for Lilydale and volunteering with the Fire Brigade. Ralph's brother, Charles, had been one of the first men from Lilydale to enlist in 1914 and went on to serve at Gallipoli with the engineers.

On July 21st, 1915 both men were part of a group of Lilydale Football players who marched through the town behind a sign that read 'Lilydale Football Club. Come and help us to win the final in Gallipoli'. They all got on the train together and headed into Melbourne where they enlisted.

Both soldiers undertook their initial training at the army camp at Seymour where they were allotted to the 7th reinforcements for the 24th Battalion, Bill had the regimental number 3044 and Ralph 3208. During this time the people of Lilydale held a social for them and others who had enlisted at the Olinda Hotel and a few months later also gave them a send-off function just before they left for overseas. Both embarked with their unit on the HMAT Commonwealth on November 20th, 1915

The following month they were in camp at Egypt where the AIF was being reorganised. As a result Bill and Ralph ended up being transferred into the 8th Battalion and in March 1916 were sent to France, arriving in the Somme Valley area in May. The battalion's first major action on the Western Front was at the battle of Pozieres and on July 23rd, 1916 the battalion was moved into the forward lines and ordered to advance on the village of Pozieres.

At about 9.00am on July 26th, during this battle, Bill was with a group of men about 360 metres away from the German lines at an area known as 'Casualty Corner'. They were trying to take shelter in a poorly constructed trench when they came under sustained artillery fire from the enemy.

One witness to the event, Private Clark, later wrote: *'Several shells had fallen when one landed right in our trench, in the middle of nine of us. Five were buried as a result of the shell explosion and Chauvin was one that was never seen again'*. His friend from Lilydale, George Allen, who he had enlisted with him and Ralph, tried in vain to dig for him but couldn't find any trace of him.

Ralph was also in the front line on the same day and was also reported to have been buried by a shell explosion and killed. Like Bill, his body was also never recovered. Both men were twenty-four years old. They are remembered on the memorial at Villers Bretonneaux in France.

Right: William Chauvin in uniform.

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Welcome to new members **Neil Hutchison** and **Paul Allwood**.
- Best wishes to **Rob Webb** who recently sliced open his after an altercation with a knife and to **John Allwood** who has been dealing with some health issues.
- Congrats to **Jarrold Alston** and his wife on the birth recently of his first child.
- The annual Bush Dance on May 19th proved popular again and **Deanne's** scones once again were a huge hit.
 - **Stan Beaumont** represented the club at the recent Community Planning Day and reported it was an interesting event with some great ideas being put forward.
- Our Scurry book has now sold out!
 - Recently a number of members caught up with **Andy Franks** for lunch at his nursing home and report he is doing well.
 - Our president **Roger Boness** is off around Australia over the next few months visiting friends and family.
 - Should you require any assistance or advice - **Deanne Webb** (the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer).
Ph: **0402 783 849**



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 –

John Allwood

Ph: 9736 1551

Chamber representative –

Les Kennedy

Ph: 0418 149 558

Justice of the Peace –

Kim Parry

Ph: 0418334416

Committee:

Betty Crittenden, Bill Smart, Ron Jones