

Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 5, Issue 1, Autumn 2015

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



2015 Meeting Dates

Feb 15th, (AGM)
Mar 20th, 2015
Apr 17th, 2015
May 15th, 2015
Jun 19th, 2015
Jul 17th, 2015
Aug 21st, 2015
Sept 18th, 2015
Oct 16th, 2015
Nov 20th, 2015
Dec 18th, 2015

*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 IS FINALLY HERE!



After six long years our Howitzer has finally made it to Mt Evelyn, to take pride of place at our War Memorial Park.

This had been a long held dream of many members of the Mt Evelyn RSL. Back in the 1990's Noel Anderson and John Urand had tried but were met with brick walls. Our past president Derek Crittenden then took up the cause and with the help of Brigadier Michael Phelps AM we applied for the gun and in 2011 we received word that we were successful. Sadly Derek didn't live long enough to see it happened.

Then for the next three years paperwork flowed to and fro between the RSL, the Dept of Defence and the US government to a point when we thought we'd never see it! On this note we must thank Anzac House and CEO Brigadier Mike Annett CSC who enabled our sub-branch to purchase and own the howitzer.

Then late last year we received word that the gun had been 'demilitarized' and was able to be picked in February. Local excavator Richard Nash gave of his time and labour to prepare for the base, members Roger Boness and Ted Fairweather then laid down the boxing in time for the concrete base to be poured. At the suggestion of a number of residents we also arranged for the concrete to be coloured an earthy colour. Then we had to negotiate with Ausnet as the gun would sit under powerlines. During this time we had great support from Craig Stewart and his team at the Shire of Yarra Ranges. President John Wells and the Dandenong/Cranbourne RSL helped organise the pickup of the gun and the delivery and a crane then put it all in place.

More photos inside.....

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 2015 so come along and
see:

- **The Vicar of Dibley**
Sunday March 22nd
2.00pm
- **Secret Bridesmaids' Business**
Sunday May 31st
2.00pm
- **Daddy's Dyin... Who's Got the Will?**
Sunday August 23rd
2.00pm
- **The Mystery of Edwin Drood**
Sunday Nov 5th
2.00pm

*Tickets only \$10 for
members*

Mt Evelyn Community Bush Dance

Saturday May 23rd
7.30pm



Mt Evelyn Public Hall

Mt Evelyn Street FESTIVAL

Saturday
October 24th, 2015

*Stay tuned for
more info.*

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 – *DUE NOW!*****

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



A large group of Taliban terrorists in Afghanistan are moving down a road when they hear a voice call from behind a small hill: *"One Aussie soldier is better than ten terrorists."*

The terrorist commander quickly orders 10 of his best men over the hill where upon a gun-battle breaks out and continues for a few minutes, then silence.

The voice once again calls out: *"One Aussie soldier is better than hundred terrorists."*

Furious, the terrorist commander sends his next best 100 troops over the hill and instantly a huge gun fight commences. After 10 minutes of battle, again silence.

The calm Aussie voice calls out again: *"One Aussie soldier is better than thousand terrorists"*.

The enraged terrorist commander musters 1000 fighters and sends them to the other side of the hill. Rifle fire, machine guns, grenades, rockets and cannon fire ring out as a terrible battle is fought.... Then silence.

Eventually one badly wounded terrorist fighter crawls back over the hill and with his dying words tells his commander, *"Don't send any more men.....it's a trap. There's two of them!!"*

Some interesting facts:

- Glass takes one million years to decompose, which means it never wears out and can be recycled an infinite amount of times!
- Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.
- Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.
- If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.
- Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.
- Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.
- The song, Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.
- Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent.
- Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.
- The roar that we hear when we place a seashell next to our ear is not the ocean, but rather the sound of blood surging through the veins in the ear.
- Nine out of every 10 living things live in the ocean.
- The banana cannot reproduce itself.

King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan.

Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it."

"But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!"

Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."

Evidence has been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, all the Swiss league records were destroyed in a fire, and so we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

A man rushed into a busy doctor's office and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day, his supply of the birds ran out so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with-- transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises.

Back in the 1800's the Tate's Watch Company of Massachusetts wanted to produce other products, and since they already made the cases for watches, they used them to produce compasses. The new compasses were so bad that people often ended up in Canada or Mexico rather than California. This, of course, is the origin of the expression -- "He who has a Tate's is lost!"



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OUR HOWITZER ARRIVES



Above: The concrete slab is excavated and poured

Below: The howitzer arrives and is moved into place (photos courtesy of Kevin Phillips)



Once in place on the slab the howitzer had to have some moving part wielded, thanks to John Allwood & Bill Smart who arranged for this to happen, and then it was placed on axle stands and secured to the slab to protect it. Well done to Stuart and Roger Boness who built and installed these. Thanks also to Bendigo Bank who supporter the project with a grant.



PLANNED MEMORIAL

The howitzer will be part of a major plan by the Mt Evelyn RSL to create a lasting memorial to all those residents of Mt Evelyn who served in the Vietnam War. This is a fitting tribute as no Australian Army unit went out on patrol in Vietnam without artillery or air support. We are planning on creating a number of plaques to go in front of the howitzer. This will happen sometime later this year.

HISTORY OF THE HOWITZER

This is a M2A2 105mm howitzer. Procured by the Australian Defence Force in 1959 it was introduced into service in Vietnam in 1967 to supplement the existing L5 'pack' Howitzers in use during that conflict. It was a vital component of Australia's arsenal and was critical in providing close artillery fire support to the Australian Army in Vietnam. During the six years they were used in Vietnam, M2A2 Howitzers fired thousands of 105mm rounds. The Howitzer could be towed by truck, lifted by helicopter or moved manually for short distances. Since then the gun has not been deployed on operations but has remained in service.

And for the more technical – The M2A2 105 millimetre howitzer is a general purpose, towed, light field artillery weapon which consists of a barrel, recoil mechanism and carriage. The barrel consists of a tube assembly, breech ring, and locking ring. The barrel is mounted on a recoil sleigh assembly. The firing mechanism is a continuous pull (self cocking) type activated by pulling a lanyard. The cannon barrel is single-loaded, air-cooled and uses semi-fixed ammunition. The carriage is of the single axle and split trail type. The trails are divided during emplacement and are drawn together and locked during travel. A drawbar is provided for attachment to a prime mover. The carriage consists of an equilibrator, shield, elevating mechanism, cradle, gear, elevating arcs, traversing mechanism, top carriage, wheels, and trails. The recoil mechanism is a constant hydropneumatic type shock absorber system which is installed in the cradle of the carriage. The gun is painted olive drab.

A BATTLEFIELD BUGLE FINDS A HOME



Left:
Rosemary
Cox with
Ernest
Pearson's
ammunition
belt,
President of
the Mt
Evelyn RSL,
Roger
Boness,
Eric Smith
with Ernest
Pearson's
bugle.

About 18 months ago Rosemary Cox was doing a big spring clean of her cupboards at her home and came across a long forgotten piece of history, a World War One era ammunition belt. She had purchased this at a stall at the St Mary's School fete about 15 years ago. Thankfully whoever put it there had written some details of its former owner saying: *'Belonged to Ernest Pearson, who put his age up to fight in World War 1. Was gassed. Later owned most of the land between State School and St Mary's (Pearson's Estate). Ran the store next to State School'*.

Further research showed that Ernest Albert Pearson grew up in Ascot Vale and enlisted in June 1916, aged only 16 years old (gave his age as 18). He served with the 37th Battalion on the Western Front. He was wounded at Armentieres, an action for which he was later awarded the 'Military Medal', and at the hospital he was discovered to be underage and was taken out of the army and forced to serve as a hospital orderly. Once he turned the legal age he then enlisted again in the Australian Flying Corps, trained to be a pilot but the war ended before he could go into action in the skies. In the 1930's he moved to Mt Evelyn and lived here on his farm, running the McKillop Store, until he passed away in 1981.

Wanting a good home for it, Rosemary donated the belt to the Mt Evelyn RSL where it was proudly put on exhibition in its display cabinets with an accompanying story of the service of Ernest Pearson.

At the same time in Newcastle in the North of England, Gordon Kinghorn, a military collector was having the same thoughts about an item he had found in his cupboard. Decades before he had pulled from a former battlefield in France a dented bugle. Cleaning it up he discovered the following engraved on it – 'E A P 37th Batt AIF', an Australian unit.

He then met Eric Smith, an Englishman who lived in Melbourne, and asked him to look into it and see if he could find the original owner's descendants. The friend's research uncovered that there was only one soldier with the initials EAP in the 37th Battalion – Ernest Arthur Pearson.

He then google searched that name and found online an article written in the Mt Evelyn History Group's newsletter about the donation of the belt. He contacted the Mt Evelyn RSL and, discovering that Ernest Pearson had no family, thought the best place for the bugle would be alongside the ammunition belt in the RSL clubrooms.

He informed Gordon and in January the bugle arrived at Eric's place by post. We then organised for a special morning for Eric to come to the RSL and officially donate the bugle, lost for decades on the battlefield, to go alongside the ammunition belt in memory of Ernest Arthur Pearson MM. All this 99 years after a 16 year old put up his age to serve his country.



Above left: Some of the crowd gathered for the presentation
Left: Eric Smith presents the bugle to Roger Boness, president of the Mt Evelyn RSL,
Above: The engraving on the bugle 'EAP 37th Batt AIF' (photo courtesy Kevin Phillips)
Below: The Lilydale & Yarra Valley Leader – 20/1/2015.

MT EVELYN

Precious find to go on show

Thomas O'Byrne

AFTER being taken to a war halfway across the world nearly a century ago, an old bugle has found its way back home to Mt Evelyn.

Last week, the Mt Evelyn RSL branch was presented with the instrument that once belonged to local resident and WW1 digger Ernest Pearson.

The bugle found its way to Australia through Eagle-mont resident Eric Smith via an English collector whose grandfather had acquired the instrument from a battlefield in France.

Still completely intact save for a few bumps and scratches, the bugle bears the engraving "EAP 37th Battalion".

Further research by the sub-branch showed that the only EAP in the 37th Battalion was Ernest Albert Pearson, who lived in Mt Evelyn until his death in 1981.

RSL sub-branch president Roger Boness said members were astounded to hear about the bugle's return.

"It's a remarkable ac-



Rosemary Cox, Mt Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness and Eric Smith with the belt and bugle belonging to a WW1 soldier. Below: historian Anthony McAleer.

Pictures: STEVE TAYLOR

quance of events," he said. "We've got a significant display in the RSL and all of it is treasured, but the bugle is the icing on the cake."

The bugle is the second relic of Mr Pearson's to have found its way to the RSL.

A WW1 ammunition belt

belonging to the soldier was recovered 18 months ago. It will be displayed alongside the bugle. Enlisting at age 18, Mr Pearson fought on the western front and was awarded the Military Medal after he was wounded in action in 1917.

My Pearson grew up in Assoc Vale and moved to Mt Evelyn by the 1950s where he ran the general store.

Anyone with information about Mr Pearson, or with military artefacts, should contact the Mt Evelyn RSL at mtevelynrsl@gmail.com



'Lion' behind bars

CLEANER JAILED FOR GRUDGE ARSON ATTACK

The battered bugle of a decorated WW1 soldier has been returned to Mt Evelyn by Eric Smith after being found on a French battlefield. REPORT PAGE 5



THE AWARD WINNING MT EVELYN RSL



ROGER – LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

On Australia Day our President, Roger Boness, was awarded the Shire of Yarra Ranges Mayoral Life time Achievement Award.

Roger was presented with the award by the Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges Cr Maria McCarthy at a special presentation that included his family and members of the RSL. *(photos - left & above: D Webb)*

Roger received this award for his dedication to the Mt Evelyn community for over forty years including groups like the football club, the tennis club and the RSL.

However it is since he became president of the Mt Evelyn RSL that he has achieved much including welfare programmes for members, making the club a community organisation, creating new memorials and the time he puts into youth organisations.

MT EVELYN RSL –

COMMUNITY GROUP OF THE YEAR 2014

At the Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce annual dinner in December last year, members of the Mt Evelyn RSL were pleasantly surprised by being awarded Community Group of the Year 2014.

On hand to receive the award was president of the Mt Evelyn RSL, Roger Boness, and the RSL representative on the chamber, Les Kennedy.

Roger thanked the Chamber for this honour and congratulated them on all their good work this year.

(Photo below- Roger Boness & Gary Freeman with the award – courtesy Leanne Vaytaufer)





DEANNE WEBB

In December last year members of the Mt Evelyn RSL were pleased to attend a special community thank you morning tea hosted by the Federal Member for Casey, Tony Smith MP, at his offices.

On the day Mt Evelyn RSL member Deanne Webb (left) was pleasantly surprised to receive an award for all her hard work and effort for our sub-branch.

Deanne has served as our welfare officer for a number of years and has undertaken countless tasks during that time that have benefitted members and the club. She also received it for all the work she did for the Mt Evelyn Football Club over 20 years.

KATHIE FREEMAN

Also receiving a community award on the same day was another member of the Mt Evelyn RSL, Kathie Freeman (*right – photos courtesy of Tony Smith MP*).

Kathie received her award for all the fantastic work she has achieved while president of the Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce.

Kathie, along with husband Gary and daughter Natalie, also run the Mt Evelyn Post Office and have been a huge support to the RSL by selling our books for us.



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



MT EVELYN RSL



COMMEMORATIVE STUBBY HOLDERS

~

Our special Mt Evelyn Centenary of World War One stubby holders are now available.
Cost is

\$5.00

If you want to order
one email –
mtevrsl@gmail.com

THE BATTLE OF THE WASSIR – *100 YEARS ON – April 2nd, 1915*

The Battle of the Wassir describes a riot that took place during World War One on April 2nd, 1915 in Cairo, Egypt by 2500 Australian and New Zealand troops. The Wassir was a 'red light' district with plenty of bars and began as a result of complaints by Anzac troops of high prices and poor quality drinks, amongst other things, and was ignited when a rumour went round that a digger had been stabbed there by a bar owner.

One who witnessed it was Major Dick Radclyffe, then an officer in the NZ Army Service Corps who had previously seen service in the Boer War and the Natal Rebellion. He lived in Mt Evelyn for a time in the 1930's serving as president of the Lilydale RSL and as a Shire of Lillydale councillor. The following was an article he published in 'Mufti' in November 1940.

'One evening, I was walking past Shepheard's Hotel in Cairo with an Australian officer, when I saw a huge crowd in the distance. Investigating, we found a large number of troops assembled in the Wassir. Some men had set fire to a brothel, and the crowd was enjoying the sight. We hurried back to Shepheard's and reported the incident to the British Staff Officer, but, as he received the news very casually, we went back to the scene and joined the spectators.

The brothel had been fired on the ground floor. While the bottom of the house was burning, some of the troops went to the upper storeys and threw the furniture into the street below. Down below there were willing hands to help in building a pile for a bonfire. Soon came the Gyppo fire Brigade, which got its engine to work and its hose out in record time, gleefully assisted by the troops.

When all was ready, the leaders lifted the nozzle of the hose, and stood poised, waiting for the water to come. Nothing happened. The Diggers had cut the hose in a dozen places and the precious water was flowing down the gutters. The fire brigade retired sheepishly. They had come at a trot ready to show the Australians and New Zealanders how fires were handled in Cairo. It was a pity to have disappointed them.

An Australian picket arrived. The officer halted his men in the middle of the road and walked over to the burning building, but the crowd immediately jostled him. We went over and suggested that he could do

Nothing single handed against so many. We had, we told him, reported the occurrence to headquarters staff, so that the best thing to do was to stand by until reinforcements came. Like a sensible man he accepted the advice and became an onlooker, with his men.

The fire blazed away merrily. As soon as the fire got too hot in one house for the furniture throwers, they would proceed to the next, mostly by way of the roof. Altogether, about six brothels were burnt in this way. The crowd below continued to swell, and the raiders were given increasing encouragement.

After the orgy of destruction had been going on for about an hour, General Maxwell, General Commanding Officer Egypt, arrived and took charge. All officers in the vicinity were called upon to serve and asked to form a line in front of the burning building to keep the crowd back. The fire brigade returned, and, with new hoses, protected by the line of officers, put out the flames.

Orders were then issued to clear everybody out of the surrounding buildings. The owners of the houses and rooms did not relish this intrusion. Many of the rooms were locked, and the doors had to be battered in. On one floor, some troops were found locked in – in a building next to the fire. The Battle of the Wassir might have been their one and only battle, had the fire not been put out when it was.

After the hubbub had quietened down, and most of the crowd had been dispersed, a troop of yeomanry commenced to clear the scene. Another troop advanced from the other direction. In the middle of the street, riding a donkey, was a Digger. Realising that there was no escape, the Digger waited until the yeomanry troop reached him, and then he placed himself at their head and gave the order to charge! Even the generals could not help joining in the laughter.

Hardly anybody regretted the destruction of a few houses in the Wassir. The authorities had reason to be grateful to the Australians for helping towards clearing an area which was as much a disgrace to the army as it was to the civil authorities'.

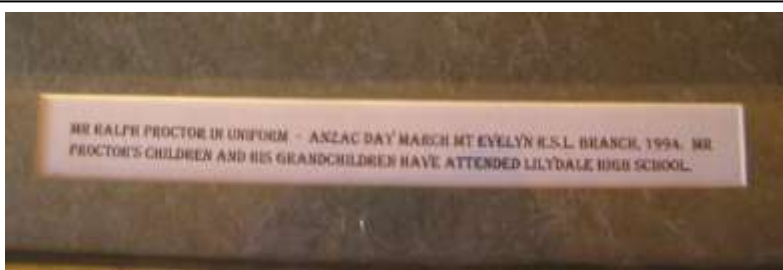
Below is an extract from Ralph Goode's diary on this event –

Friday 2/4/1915 – Big riot in Cairo this evening

SOME IMPORTANT CENTENARY OF ANZAC DATES COMING UP...

- **Tuesday March 10th – 10.00am** – Yarra Hills Secondary College, Mt Evelyn
Special service to mark the centenary of Anzac – *all RSL members invited.*
- **Sunday March 29th – 2.00pm** – Mont de Lancey Museum, Wellington Rd, Wandin
Book launch: 'Great Courage and Initiative' – The Heroic life of George Ingram VC, MM by A J McAleer
The biography of the Yarra Valley's WWI Victoria Cross recipient.
- **Saturday April 18th – Evening** – Mt Evelyn Discovery Church – Monbulk Rd, Mt Evelyn
Spectacular 'Bells of Peace' centenary of Anzac concert for the Casey electorate.
A marvellous production written especially for the Dandenong Ranges Music Council with music, songs and drama telling local stories of what happened in this area during World War One.
- **Saturday April 25th – 5.45am** – Mt Evelyn War Memorial Park
Dawn service, march back to clubrooms, free community breakfast.
This year relatives of Gallipoli veterans are invited to head the march
(*must wear their medals or carry their photo*)
- **Saturday April 25th – 9.00am** – Wandin War Memorial, Cnr Hunter & Beenak Rds, Wandin
Anzac Day service
- **Sunday April 26th – 11.00am** – Wandin War Memorial, Cnr Hunter & Beenak Rds, Wandin
Remembrance service for Frank Nichols – killed in action 100 years ago on 26/4/1915
- **Sunday May 3rd – 2.00pm** – Lilydale Lawn (old) Cemetery
Special service to mark the centenary of the loss of the WWI submarine, AE2, at Gallipoli.
Grave side service and plaque unveiling at the grave of Geoffrey Haggard, 2IC on the AE2.
Hosted by the Lilydale RSL
- **Friday May 8th – 11.00am** – Mt Evelyn War Memorial Park
Remembrance service for William Aicher – killed in action 100 years ago on 8/5/1915
- **May 30th to August 23rd** – Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, 35 Castella St, Lilydale
Exhibition – 'Australia Will Be There – Victorians in the First World War' (includes Ralph Goode display)

A MYSTERY – CAN YOU HELP?



The other day we got a phone call from a very nice gentleman from Box Hill called Nick Grigg. Nick had just walked past an Op Shop in Vermont and had seen in the window a framed collage of photos detailing the life and WW2 service of RAAF pilot, Ralph Proctor.

On the back of it Nick noticed an address 49 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn. He searched the address and discovered it was the Mt Evelyn RSL. He then rang the club and spoke to President Roger Boness and asked him if we had ever heard of Ralph. 'Yes of course', Roger said 'he was one of our valued members who was held in high regard at the club and had passed away recently'. Nick then told Roger of what he'd seen but neither Roger or any of the other members recall seeing this before. Within an hour Nick turned up at the club and presented the frame to the sub-branch. He had paid for it himself and then handed it over to the Mt Evelyn RSL for safe keeping. Does anyone know more about it?

COMPUTER COURSE TO BE RUN AT MT EVELYN RSL HALL

Mt Evelyn

Mt Evelyn RSL
49 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn

Course Commences
Friday 6th March 2015
10:00am to 3:00pm

Certificate IV in Small Business (iPad Training)

Opportunity for those who have left school, mums, dads and grandparents to get the skills they need to navigate an iPad, build their own website, Facebook page, email and trade products and services online.

The course is delivered over 17 weeks, comprising one session per week from 10:00am to 3:00pm. During this time participants complete a series of assessment tasks that culminate in the development of a Business Plan, with website, email, Facebook site, business cards and letterhead. Everything you need to work effectively within the computer age.

Cost for eligible* participants is \$105.00 or \$21.00 with Concession.

[*Eligibility criteria applies for government subsidised training]



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training and
education from



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Facsimile: 03 9639 5600
Email: info@computrain.edu.au
Internet: www.computrain.edu.au



Real Skills and Real Experience

The Certificate IV in Small Business (BSB40407) includes training and assessment in the following units of competence:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| • BSBSMB401A | Legal and risk management requirements of small business |
| • BSBSMB402A | Plan small business finances |
| • BSBSMB403A | Market the small business |
| • BSBSMB404A | Undertake small business planning |
| • BSBMKG414B | Undertake marketing activities |
| • BSBEBU401A | Review and maintain a website |
| • BSBMKG412A | Conduct e-marketing communications |
| • BSBMKG413A | Promote products and services |
| • SITXICT401 | Build and launch a small business website |
| • PSPGOV407B | Provide a Quotation |
| • BSBSMB306A | Plan a home-based business |
| • BSBITU305A | Conduct online transactions |
| • BSBSMB307A | Set up information and communications technology for the micro business |

Course Inclusions

The enrolment fee for eligible participants includes all training, assessment and:

- An Apple iPad which is yours to keep
- Register and build your own website that ranks high on search engines
- Capture, edit and upload your own photos
- Set up and link your own email to your iPad
- Register and set up your own Facebook account and fan page
- Conduct online transactions
- Learn how to market and sell your products, service, skill or home business idea online, via the internet
- Business cards and letterhead templates
- Workbooks and Certificates
- Create your own Business Proposal

Eligibility

Eligible persons pay \$105.00 enrolment fee or \$21.00 with concession. An eligible person is a school leaver, who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident and has not completed a qualification higher than Certificate III previously. There is no age restriction. Mature aged and Pensioners are encouraged to apply.

To enrol or find out more call **1300 659 557**, or visit **www.computrain.edu.au/mtevelyn** today!

Melbourne Training Centre
Level 6, 250 Collins Street
Melbourne 3000 VIC
(250m up from Flinders St. Station)

Sydney Training Centre
Level 6, 770 George Street.
Sydney, NSW 2000
(500m from central station)

 **COMPUTER TRAINING**
AUSTRALIA

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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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 Lillydale 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.



INFANTRY CAMP AT LILYDALE, FEBRUARY 1914



VIEW OF THE CAMP AT LILYDALE

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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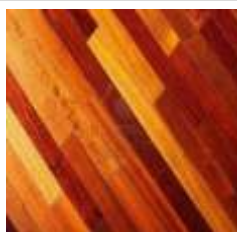
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You can just drop by during one of our meetings, or you can
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Leader: Joan 97370397 rosemont.townclub@gmail.com

Weight Recorder: Lesley McKenna 0425624043 or

97391642



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

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If you're curious come and try a class, it may
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Wednesday evenings from 5:30 - 7pm.

**Casual classes \$15 or Concession \$14 . 10 class pass
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Contact Lilly on **0425 769 443**



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

The Mt Evelyn History Group
Annual membership - \$10

General Meetings:

every third Monday of even months

7.30pm

'Hardy House' –

Mt Evelyn RSL Hall

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
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.

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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**



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The Mt Evelyn RSL is a proud member of...
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Les Kennedy

is the RSL's representative on the
Chamber of Commerce

– any ideas or issues for the Chamber
ring Les 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

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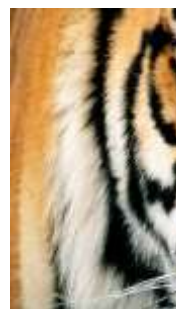
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Mt Evelyn Community Market

4th Saturday of each month (Feb - Nov)

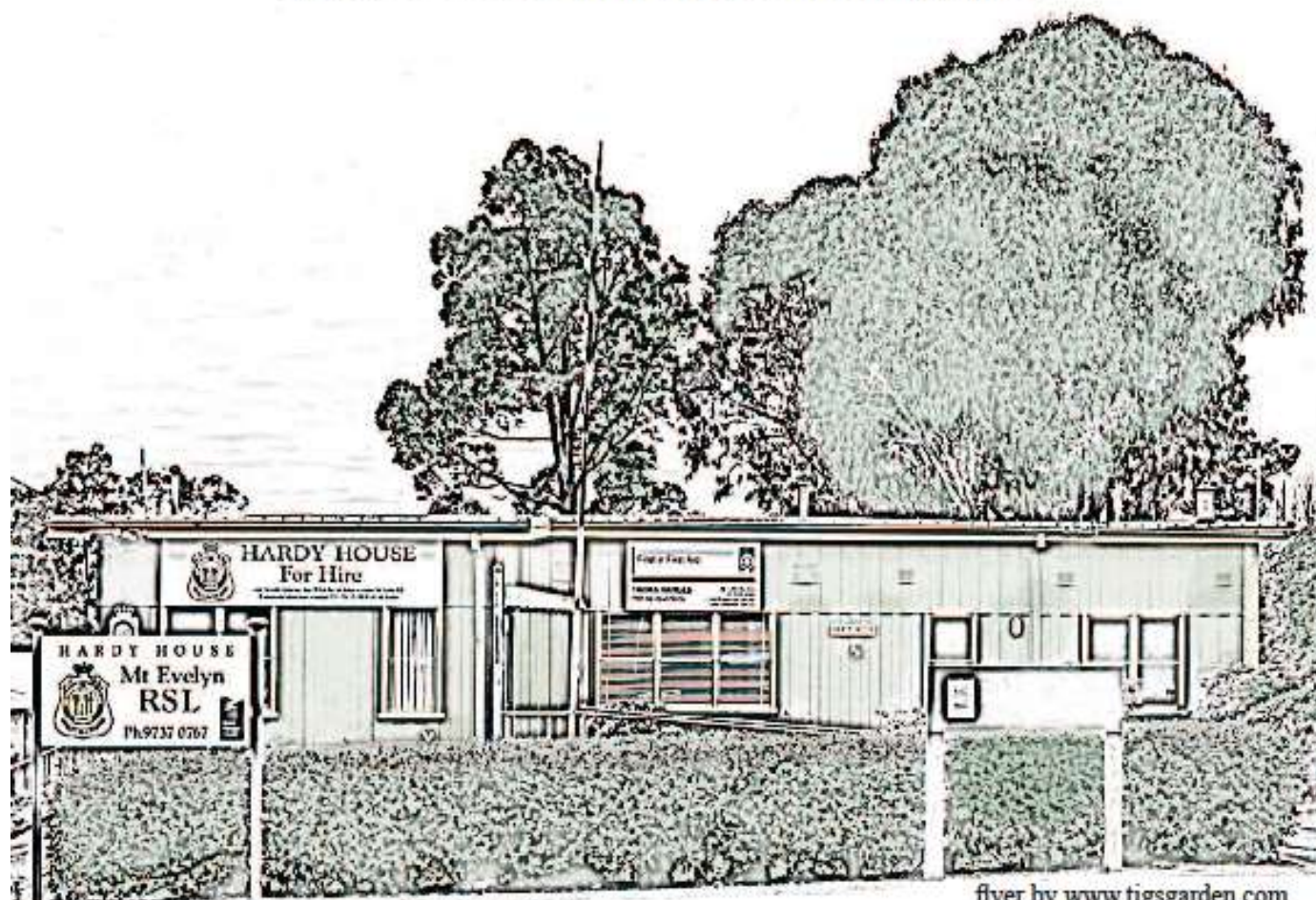
10am - 3pm

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 8

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 finally comes out of the jungle

When did you rejoin your unit again?

Well they made me 'B' class, in fact the whole unit was made 'B' class because we'd been so long in the jungle with no food and no medicines, everyone was in a mess, nearly as bad as me. Eventually, because of the losses with our numbers and what had happened to the unit on Rabaul, they decided to disband the 1st Independent Company altogether and it was abandoned. We were then put into the 5th Independent Company and because of our jungle experience they sent us to Canungra in Queensland.

What was your role at Canungra?

They'd just opened Canungra as a jungle training school and sent me up there for six months as an instructor. The first mob that came through that I had to train were the officers of the 1st Brigade of the Chindits, they trained with us and ending up using a lot of our ideas in Burma. The second mob were American Officers, cavalry.

Where did you go to from here?

From there I went to the Atherton Tablelands, by that stage the unit finished leave and such. They then had this bright idea we were to go to Java, to land there. The idea was there were so many Australians and English in POW camps there they thought we could get into the camps, free them and start up an Independent force to fight the Japanese. Fortunately they changed their minds.

What was your role in the Atherton area?

Well I was on the Atherton Tablelands for seven months all together and while we were here they changed our set up all together. Instead of now being Corps troops, the Independent Companies were divided into groups of three and each group of three was then attached to one of the divisions and called 'Cavalry Commando Squadrons'. The division cavalry no longer existed, because they were useless in the jungle, so we took their place. So for the rest of the war instead of being the 5th Independent Company we became 5th Cavalry Commando Squadron. We also changed from brown berets to black berets; the black beret is what the divisional cavalry use to wear.

Did you stay in the Atherton area the whole time?

Actually I was posted to an 'Officers' Training School' in Newcastle. There were three of us, three Sergeants from the unit. We were there for a while and we only had a week to go before we would have got our commission when word came down that the unit was to be posted to Morotai, an island to the north of New Guinea that the Yanks had taken it three months before. So we went back and caught up with the unit at Townsville as they were going on board the ships. Mind you all this cost me £10 as I had left all my gear back in Newcastle at the 'Officers Training School' so I got charged for that. But I couldn't let them go without me.

Next issue: Bill is off to Borneo

Right: Bill Harrison in 1999

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Best wishes to **Dot Ervine**, **Kathie Freeman** and **Gladys Allwood** who have all had hospital stays recently.
- **Deanne Webb** has volunteered to be the RSL representative on the Mt Evelyn Street Festival committee. This is looking at being a big event this year. Anything you want to know about the festival or any ideas for it see Deanne.
- Lilydale High School have a funding grant to produce a mural on the life of **Ralph Goode** on a wall at the school. **Brad Collings**, who has produced the murals at Mt Evelyn will be the artist. It sounds like a great project and we will keep you all in touch when there is an unveiling date.
- The 'Bells of Peace' WWI concert sounds fantastic and something you won't want to miss – Sat April 18th @ Mt Evelyn – tickets on sale soon.
 - 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

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Roger Boness Ph: 9737 0830

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Jim Hurley Ph: 9876 3750

Iain Townsley Ph: 9777 1276

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