

Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 4, Issue 3, Anzac 2014 A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



2014 Meeting Dates

May 23rd, 2014
June 20th, 2014
July 18th, 2014
Aug 15th, 2014
Sept 19th, 2014
Oct 17th, 2014
Nov 21st, 2014
Dec 19th, 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>



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2500 AT DAWN SERVICE



Crowds were well up again this year for our annual Dawn Service. This year we only had the one service as the Sunday previous was Easter Sunday, so the Dawn Service became a combined service which many appreciated. We had a full agenda as a result including a magnificent Catafalque party from the 22nd Engineer Regiment, the unveiling of a wonderful Anzac Mural in the gardens, a fascinating guest speaker – Fl Lt Shaun Toussaint (a Mt Evelyn lad serving in the RAAF), Tony Smith's announcement of Gary Park from the Mt Evelyn Scouts being awarded 'Anzac of the Year', a march back to the club rooms headed by 'National Emergency Award' winners, the unveiling of new names on the Honour Board & a community breakfast.



Important Dates

Coming Up:

Sub-Branch Excursion:

Athenaeum Theatre Lilydale

2014 Theatre Programme

**We still have
cheap tickets
available to
members for the
following shows:**

**Sunday June 1st
2.00pm**

Drama:

**Twelve Angry
Men**

**Sunday Aug 24th
2.00pm**

Musical:

**The Rise & Fall
of Little Voice**

**Sunday Nov 16th
2.00pm**

Comedy:

Fawlty Towers

Tickets are only:

\$10 for Mt
Evelyn RSL
members

**Contact Roger on:
9737 0830**

**To book tickets
through us for
one of these
matinee shows**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sincere thanks to the community of Mt Evelyn who attended our Anzac Dawn Service to pay respect and remember those who served our country. This Anzac Day memorial service required extensive planning and the involvement of many to make this solemn occasion memorable.

My personal thanks to; Anthony McAleer & Cr Maria McCarthy whose contribution and work behind the scene in the weeks prior to, and on Anzac Day proved invaluable, Rene Belyus who provided the public address system, Sue Harty and those who assisted her in the preparation and serving of the community breakfast, St John's Ambulance, the Mount Evelyn Police.

To those who participated in the service; Pipers David Lord and Rob Mackay, Flt Lt Shaun Toussaint, Rev Richard Schoenmaker; Cr Maria McCarthy, Brad Collings and his young team of artists who created the mural, Jim Armstrong (CFA); Georgina Bennett (Scouts); Tony Smith MP, Gary Park (Anzac Community Award recipient), Ray Fellows (Football/Netball Club); Brigadier (Retired) Michael Phelps AM; Karin Meyer (Bugler); Mount Evelyn Girl Guides, Jim Hurley, the 22nd Engineer Regiment (Catafalque Party), especially RSM Warrant Officer First Class Peter Stanek and Corporal Mathew Poole.

Again we promoted the traditional game of Two-up at the York on Lilydale. Sincere thanks to Rod Clark and his management team for sponsoring this popular event, similarly the York staff and Two-up facilitators Paul, Dean, Glenn, Ryan, Ryan, Nam, Mike, Peter, Wayne, Jo and Mark. Thanks also to RSL members Dot, Elsa, Ted, Wendy, Jenny and Betty who assisted at this event.

LEST WE FORGET - Roger Boness

APPEALS OFFICER'S REPORT

I am very pleased to announce that we have another record 'Anzac Token' sales this year - **\$6060**. This is a magnificent effort by all of those who volunteered their time to man the tables and sell the tokens. A big help this year was the time we spent down at Mooroolbark and our commemorative stubbie holders that sold out within days – we'll get some more done for our Poppy sales.

Thanks also to the Mt Evelyn Pharmacy, York on Lillydale and Jenny McAleer who assisted with sales.

Finally a huge thank you to all the public who purchased the tokens and helped contribute towards the RSL's welfare funds.

Dot Irvine – Mt Evelyn RSL Appeals Officer

Membership Subs for 2014- ***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**

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



Three sisters ages 92, 94 and 96 live in a house together.

One night the 96 year old draws a bath. She puts her foot in and pauses...She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94 year old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see". She starts up the stairs and pauses halfway, "Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92 year old is sitting at the kitchen table having tea listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get as forgetful as you two." She then knocked on wood. She then yells, "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door."

An elderly Lady called 999 on her mobile phone to report that her car has been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the operator: "They've stolen the stereo, the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator!" she cried. The operator said, "Stay calm an officer is on the way." A few minutes later, the Officer radios in. "Disregard." He says, "She got in the back-seat by mistake."

A little old lady who had lost her marbles was running up and down the halls in a nursing home. As she walked, she would flip up the hem of her nightgown and say "Supersex." She walked up to an elderly man in a wheelchair Flipping her gown at him, she Said, "Supersex." He sat silently for a moment or two and finally answered, "I'll take the soup."

As a senior citizen was driving down the motorway, his car phone rang. Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Vernon , I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on M25. Please be careful!" "Hell," said Vernon, "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"

Broken pencils are pointless.

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day, they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, "How soon do you need to Know?"

Two elderly women were out driving in a large car - both could barely see over the dashboard. As they were cruising along, they came to major crossroad. The stop light was red, but they just went on through. The woman in the passenger seat thought to herself "I must be losing it I could have sworn we just went through a red light." After a few more minutes, they came to another major junction and the light was red again. Again, they went right through. The woman in the passenger seat was almost sure that the light had been red but was really concerned that she was losing it. She was getting nervous. At the next junction, sure enough, the light was red and they went on through. So, she turned to the other woman and said, "Mildred, did you know that we just ran through three red lights in a row? You could have killed us both!" Mildred turned to her and said, "Oh! I thought you were driving?"

I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.

Velcro - what a rip off!



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LATEST NEWS

Connecting people and communities

Mail | starcommunity.com.au

Photos recall 55th

By REBECCA BILLS

TO COMMEMORATE the centenary of the 55th Australian Infantry Battalion (Collingwood Regiment), the Mount Evelyn RSL is putting a framed collage of photos on display.

The frame, filled with century-old pictures, is a pictorial record of the event that took place on 19 April 1914 and shows citizen militia soldiers being presented with regimental and King's colours at Victoria Park in Collingwood.

Mount Evelyn RSL secretary Anthony McAleer said the item has been in the Mount Evelyn RSL's collection for many years and as the centenary of the event is coming up in the next few weeks, the membership wanted to put the frame on public display.

Mr McAleer said in attendance on that day was Inspector-General of the Overseas Forces, General Sir



From left, Gary Freeman and Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness with the 100-year-old photographs. Mount Evelyn Community Bank branch manager Leanne Vaytaufer, right, is holding written history of the pictures. **Picture: ROB CAREW**

Ian Hamilton - one of the British Empire's most distinguished soldiers.

"Earlier in 1914 he had come out

to Lilydale to inspect troops of the 13th Infantry Brigade under the command of Colonel John Monash who

were camped where the Lilydale Lake is today," he said.

"Also present at the Collingwood event was the Governor Sir Arthur Stanley, the Archbishop of Melbourne and a number of officers from the Australian Defence Force.

"There are quite a number of photos in the frame that detail what happened on the day.

The Mount Evelyn Community Bank will be displaying the collage until after Anzac Day.

Branch manager Leanne Vaytaufer said the bank is honoured to have been asked by the RSL to house the piece while it is on display to the public.

"They believed this was the best spot to have it on display as everybody knows where we are," she said.

"It is a wonderful collage and just fantastic to look at."

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Mail | starcommunity.com.au

Connecting people and communities

Saxton puzzle solved in time

By KATH GANNIWAY

THE mystery of World War I soldier Reuben Saxton has come full circle.

For years, Mount Evelyn RSL has had a plaque with his name on it which they believed was from the Mount Evelyn Avenue of Honour - but there was no one by that name on the Mount Evelyn WWI list.

There was, however, a Reuben Saxton from Gidley in the national military records.

"We couldn't understand why it looked different to the only other plaque from the Mount Evelyn Avenue of Honour," said Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness, who last month repatriated the plaque to the Upper Yarra Historical Society for safe keeping and possible inclusion in their military collection.

The discovery couldn't have come at a better time for the UYHS as their plans with Upper Yarra RSL proceed for the replanting of a memorial avenue of trees for the Anzac Centenary.

The original memorial trees were at the Yarra Junction Sports Ground near the memorial gates and featured individual pocket fence guards with plaques presumed to be engraved with the names of the World War I fallen. Reuben Saxton was killed in action at Cape Hallett on Gallipoli in 1915.

The Saxton plaque is the only one known to be in existence.

In an ironic twist, local military historian, Bob Sutherland, told the story at the presentation of how he had found the Saxton plaque when he was just starting out on his military research.

He gave it to a Yarra Junction woman as a more appropriate custodian, explaining that he didn't recognise the significance of the plaque at the time. How it came to be donated to Mount Evelyn RSL is still a mystery.

The "find" is exciting and timely for the UYHS.

"This is our first template for our efforts to recreate the memorial trees and as such is very significant," UYHS president Tom O'Meara said.

The plan now is to replant the memorial trees along the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail.



Mount Evelyn RSL President Roger Boness (centre) presented the Saxton plaque to UYHS members (from left) Colin Kobolke, Rhonda O'Meara, Bob Sutherland and Tom O'Meara. **Inset: The plaque which honours Gallipoli soldier Reuben Saxton.**

Bill's Vietnam war at sea

By DAVID ALLEGRETTI

MOUNT Evelyn resident Bill Smart was just 16 years of age when he left home to enlist in the Royal Australian Navy.

Following advice from a school careers officer and with a family military background, a career in the defence force seemed like a logical step, not to mention a great opportunity for such a young man.

Having left high school at what would be the equivalent to modern day Year 10, Mr Smart spent six months engaged in self-motivated study before embarking on an adventure of a lifetime in July of 1964.

"This is the medal I'm fittest of," said Mr Smart as he gestured to his Vietnam medal, the left-most medal of the four he proudly wears pinned to his chest.

"You had a choice of three paths which you could get into."

"My first choice was photographer actually and the second one was meteorologist and the third was electronics and I ended up getting the electronics one."

After spending two months at sea just off the coast of Vietnam with HMAS Sydney, Mr Smart came back to Australia to continue his electronics training before once again embarking for Vietnam with HMAS Hobart.

"I was one of those injured on Hobart when it got rocketed - I got belted right under the arm," said Mr Smart as he recalled one particularly rough day at the office.

"Then the adrenaline kicks in, you think 'OK, we're being hit' but you don't have time for much else."

He was only 20 metres away when the first round of artillery came raining down on HMAS Hobart.

In this attack he saw two young colleagues killed.



Bill Smart with a flag from his time in the navy, with the centaph behind.

Picture: ROB CAREW

"I just felt like I'd been punched. I turned to the bloke beside me thinking he had just belted me one - I quickly realised it wasn't a punch," he said.

"We were wearing flak jackets with steel plates in them, not like the Kevlar things they have nowadays, big heavy steel plates with a slight gap under the arm, and luckily it hit the base before it went anywhere else."

"They didn't have to stitch it - it was that red hot that the shrapnel just cauterised the wound. They just bandaged it up, it was sore for a week but that was that."

Sadly, Mr Smart believes that some of the spirit of Anzac Day is getting lost.

He speaks of his grandfather serving in Gallipoli and his father's war

unleashed in Australia before serving in England in the Home Guard.

"It's getting lost, you've got to remember what went on. We have to do it not just for us but for the younger generations and they've got to realise what goes on," he said.

"You've got to remember things like that - you've got to make sure that the nasty parts of it just don't happen

Having come to Australia from Wales at just six months old, Mr Smart has no plans to return to the land of his birth.

"They say people die within 15 kilometres of where they were born."

"So I'm not going back - I'm going to stay here and live forever," he said.

COMMEMORATION

Follow the poppies to pay tribute

TILES TO HONOUR THE FALLEN

Kimberley Seedy

THE Lilydale and Mt Evelyn RSLs, and the Lilydale Historical Society, will work together to track down families of World War I veterans so they can be recognised in a unique way.

To commemorate the centenary of WWI, the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust, in conjunction with the Returned Services League of Australia (RSL Victorian Branch), has produced a poppy tile that can be affixed to headstones and cremation niches to indicate that someone served.

Between 1914 and 1918 112,399 Victorians enlisted to fight in WWI, and those who died from causes associated with battle are commemorated by the War Graves Commission.

But those who returned

and then lived out their lives in the community, and are buried in cemeteries, are not recognised unless their family has recorded this fact in their inscription.

Historical society member and Mt Evelyn RSL secretary Anthony McAleer said local groups had identified the graves of 20 WWI veterans at the Lilydale Lawn Cemetery.

Mr McAleer said they would now try to contact their families to let them know of the poppy project.

At this stage only family members can buy a tile for their loved ones.

Details: poppytile@gmail.com.au, poppytile.com.au or phone 9355 3180.

Do you have a family member who has not been recognised? Email lilydale@leadernewspapers.com.au



Lilydale RSL president Don Parsons, Mt Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness and Lilydale historian Anthony McAleer with the poppies for soldiers' gravestones.

Picture: TANYA FR

Medals lead the way

By REBECCA BILLS

RECIPIENTS of the National Emergency Medal are preparing to lead the Mount Evelyn Anzac Day March this year. Mount Evelyn RSL President Roger Boness said the membership of the Mount Evelyn RSL voted for these recipients to lead the march to acknowledge and support those in our community who volunteer with emergency services groups to protect us. Vice-president and award recipient Jim Hurley said the award was given to community members for the role they played in the 2009 Black Saturday Fires. From left, Roger Boness, Rob Sibbling, Wendy Steele, Tom Steele, Jim Hurley, Maree Salter, Diane Dickson and Bill Smart. For the full story, see Page 3.

Picture: ROB CAREW



Morning service warms heart

MORE than 2500 people are estimated to have attended the 2014 Mount Evelyn Anzac Dawn Service last Friday. In the bitterly cold early hours the large crowd gathered to pay respect and show gratitude to those from the area and across the nation who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the country. For full story, see page 2.

Picture:

GREG CARRICK



Left:

On Anzac Day Eve members of the Mt Evelyn RSL, Roger Boness and Major Russell Kirby, visited the Mt Evelyn Scout Hall to give the variety of scouting volunteers – cubs to venturers – all of whom were sleeping over night to be up in time for the Dawn service – a talk on the meaning of Anzac. Rumour has it that Major Kirby's 'ration packs' went down a real treat.

The mists of time

By REBECCA BILLS

IN THE cold and misty early hours of Friday morning, the silhouettes of locals made their way through the streets to the Memorial Gardens.

Gathering to pay respects to the fallen Diggers, Mount Evelyn and neighbouring residents gathered for the 2014 Anzac Day Dawn Service to pay respect to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness said the crowd of an estimated of 2500 people made it the town's largest ever service.

Mr Boness said the RSL is overjoyed and overwhelmed at the number of people who attended.

"It is very much appreciated," he said.

"This year was extra special with the unveiling of our new mural and Mount Evelyn resident Gary Park being the recipient of one of only five 2014 Anzac Day awards.

"I think the ambience of the bush setting and the presentation of the garden also helps in making the Mount Evelyn ceremony extra special."

Community leaders and servicemen attended including Mount Evelyn Flight Lieutenant Shaun Toussaint who described what Anzac Day means to him.



Left:
Flight
Lieutenant
Shaun
Toussaint.
119384

Pictures:
GREG
CARRICK

Below:
Brigadier
(retired)
Michael
Phelps
AM reads
the Roll
of Honour.
119384



Pipers David Lord of Ringwood and Rod McKay of Mount Evelyn, with Mount Evelyn Scouts Dylan (11), Henry (15) and Liam (11) lead the march. 119384



~ COMMEMORATIVE STUBBY HOLDERS ~

All of our WWI commemorative stubby holders have all sold out in a matter of weeks (see below). As a result we will be looking at doing another run soon. Cost is **\$5**.

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

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



CLAUDE PITT
Killed in action 4/10/1917 in France
Remembered on the Mt Evelyn War Memorial



MT EVELYN RSL



WILLIAM AICHER
Killed in action 8/5/1915 at Gallipoli
Remembered on the Mt Evelyn War Memorial

ANZAC DAY - 2014





There are lots more photos on facebook – www.facebook/mtevelynrsl

RIP Arthur Henry Allan (1926-2014)

We are sad to report the passing of one of our long time members, Arthur Allan, only a few months after his wife Lorraine passed away.

Born in 1926, Arthur was living in Mt Evelyn when World War Two began. Soon after turning 18 in 1944 he was drafted into the Militia but was only with them for three months before enlisting in the Second AIF and being allotted to the 103 Transport Platoon. His unit was all set to go to Bougainville when Arthur injured himself and had to be hospitalised. He was never able to join his unit overseas and spent the rest of the war in Australia, something that he always deeply regretted.

Arthur continued to serve his nation, even after the war ended. He remained with the Second AIF until 1947, then served with the Australian Army until October 1948. His son Frank served in Vietnam.

His name is listed on the Mt Evelyn Honour Board under WW2 and on the Shire of Lillydale Honour Board.

NEW MEMORIALS



Last year Brad Colling, a youth co-ordinator with the Shire of Yarra Ranges, organised for a team of young artists from the community to paint an Anzac themed mural on the side of the former 'Youth Shed'. There was such a positive reaction to their work that Brad then decided to do something with the blank wall of the toilet block that faced our war memorial garden.

Brad then worked with seven young artists over a number of days before Anzac Day to create this marvellous mural of a Digger looking at the rising sun over the Yarra Ranges hills. The mural was then officially unveiled at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day by Brad and Cr Maria McCarthy, a great supporter of the project.

Photos: Kevin Phillips & Jenny McAleer



Once again in recent times, the Mt Evelyn RSL has discovered four names of Mt Evelyn servicemen who had been mistakenly left off the Mt Evelyn Honour Board under Vietnam.

As a result we have added the names on to the board and on Anzac Day Tony Smith MP, the federal member for Casey, introduced two of the four men who were present, Bill Smart & Rob Webb, to officially unveil their names in front of a packed crowd in the hall.

Photos: Deanne Webb

The Names Added to Honour Board

- M J O'Shannessy – RAN, 1966-1969, HMAS Sydney
- W A O'Shannessy – RAN, 1971, HMAS Derwert
- W J Smart – RAN, 1965 – HMAS Sydney
1968 – HMAS Hobart
- R G Webb – Army, 1969-1971, AVF Detachment, 1st Communications Zone Postal Unit.

Right: Bill Smart, Tony Smith MP, Roger Boness & Rob Webb



Sun rises for forces mural

By REBECCA BILLS

A NEW mural at the Mount Evelyn Community RSL Memorial Gardens created an extra special ambience at this year's Dawn Service when unveiled.

Located on the toilet block wall facing the gardens, the artwork features the rising sun, the symbol of the Australian armed forces, and a silhouette of a soldier with his rifle upturned in respect for the fallen.

Local youth worker and artist Brad Colling said he and a group of seven local youths completed the mural over a day and a half after being asked by Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness.

"I used to run the Youth Shed and we did the mural on the side of the shed for Anzac Day a few years ago," he said.

"Through that we formed a relationship with Roger and he came and spoke to me about getting some of the young guys to do this one."

"The mural is tribute to all those who served and those who gave their lives - I feel honoured to have been asked by the RSL to do this project."

Mount Evelyn youth Jesse Nicholas helped in the painting of the artwork and said it means everything to him to be a part of



Jesse Nicholas with artist Brad Colling and Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness in front of the new mural with the previous Anzac Day mural in the distance. 11/30/14

Picture: MELISSA MEEHAN

a project like this.

"I'm from Mount Evelyn and it means a lot to finally give back to the community," he said.

"It was heaps of fun and it looks amazing so I hope everyone else loves it - which I'm sure they do."

The mural was unveiled at the Dawn Service by Yarra Ranges Deputy Mayor Maria McCarthy who said the piece will be a constant visual re-

minder of the fallen soldiers from all wars.

"Unveiling this mural is a fitting tribute," she said.

Mr Boness said the positioning of the mural could not be more appropriate as it attracts the western sunset.

"I could not of asked for anything better, it is absolutely spot on," he said.

"I hope the community respects the work and takes pride in this community asset."

RSL fumes over memorial theft

By REBECCA BILLS

A SECOND assault on the Mount Evelyn RSL Community Memorial Garden in five months has left RSL members outraged.

Three specially cultivated Returned and Services League rose bushes were stolen last week - just days before the 2014 Anzac Day Dawn Service.

Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness described the attack as a desecration of a community memorial garden.

"When the Shire of Yarra Ranges and memorial gardener Aaron Roberts called me to tell me the news he was devastated and I was bitterly disappointed," he said.

Just before Remembrance Day last year, the Mail reported that all six bushes had been stolen and Mr Boness said that those who were responsible were disrespectful.

"I'm not sure if it is the same people or person offending but at last year's Remembrance Day service a lady gave me a letter in which she spoke about our stolen roses and that she had a huge rose display at her house that was stolen as well," he said.

"So it's not just us, I suspect there is someone going around."

"My message to the culprits is for goodness sake leave the community assets alone because it is not just time and effort, it's expensive as well."

Mr Boness said the Shire of Yarra Ranges has again had to foot the bill as a result of the thefts which is estimated to be around \$15 a bush.

The sales of the regal burgundy and soft amber rose bushes helps the RSL to promote and sustain service to veterans and their families across the nation.

"If anyone in the community has got any information at all, could you kindly bring it forward as we will report it to the police - no ifs or buts about it," he said.

"It is disappointing and as I say, I don't know what the person or persons are thinking as it is one thing to take a cutting, but to come and dig the whole plant up and take off with them is just not on."

everything to him to be a part of

will be a constant visual re-

in this community asset

Scout chief shows the spirit

By REBECCA BILLS

MOUNT Evelyn resident Gary Park has been awarded one of five 2014 Anzac of the Year Awards for his efforts and achievements in the community.

The Mount Dandenong Scouting Victoria Region Commissioner said he is humbled, honoured and proud to receive such a prestigious and notable award.

"On Anzac Day we recognise those men and women who have and continue to serve in the defence of our country and way of life," he said.

"I stand as a passionate member of the Scout Association where our goals are to develop young people both as individuals and responsible citizens and also promote the avoidance of conflict and wars."

"Young people build our future communities and there is a need, now more than ever,

to promote the care and respect for each other and acceptance of different cultures."

The Anzac of the Year Awards are made annually to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.

Casey MP Tony Smith awarded Mr Park the accolade at the 2014 Mount Evelyn Dawn Service last Friday.

"Since Gary's time at the Scouts, the group has increased by 50 per cent and become the largest non-formal educational youth development organisation here in our community and the second largest in Victoria," Mr Smith said.

"Anyone that knows Gary will know he would be the first to tell us that he didn't achieve this all by himself and that he

has always worked with a committee and team.

"But every successful team needs a leader who can inspire and direct them in the right direction and Gary has certainly done this."

"As far as this community is concerned, he has qualities of Anzac through his service and spirit of community and comradeship."

Mr Park joined the Scouts as a Cub at the age of eight and stayed on until he was 25.

During this time he met his wife Jodie through the movement and the couple have now returned to the movement - spending the majority of their time working for the Scouts.

Mount Evelyn RSL president Roger Boness said the club was fortunate to be able to nominate someone outside of the RSL who has contributed to the success of the community.



Left:

Winners of the Mt Evelyn RSL hamper raffle – Peter and Marie O'Connor of Mt Evelyn.

Photo: Bill Smart



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

GUEST SPEAKERS 2014

17/5/14 – Mick Woiwood –
'Paradise Lost'
26/7/14 – Anthony McAleer
– tour of Lilydale
Athenaeum

Take Off Weight Naturally

*Do you want to lose weight
with the help of a supportive,
friendly group of people,
and not have to pay a fortune?*

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: Sue Harding 0421 225 827 or 97370106

Weight Recorder: Lesley McKenna 0425624043 or
97391642



PLEASE NOTE

Copies of
'Monash's Militia Camp' &
'THE LAST LIGHT HORSEMAN'
are available for sale through the
Mt Evelyn RSL
or at the
Mt Evelyn Post Office, Station St

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kimparry@people.net.au



maxbrown.com.au

ORRONGA KILBYN MONTROSE MT EVELYN LILYDALE DEERVALE

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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Shop 7B York Rd

Mt Evelyn

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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...
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



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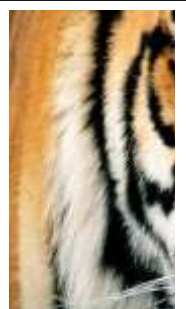
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MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP

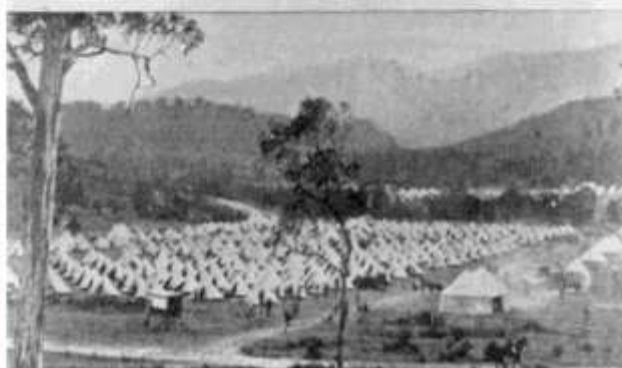
LILYDALE – FEBRUARY 1914

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. COURTESY OF MONASH



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'.

ORDER NOW:

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Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Mt Evelyn RSL.

Price: \$20 per copy plus \$2.00 postage

BILL HARRISON'S STORY – pt 5

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's guerrilla war behind the lines in New Guinea

How did you get along with the natives who worked with you?

The natives were alright providing you watched them. They didn't work for us because they liked us, it was because if they didn't we threatened to burn their villages or cut down their betel nut trees. You'd go into a village and you'd say to the chief 'I want twelve carriers' and he'd say 'oh no I haven't got any, they're all sick'. You see the men didn't usually do the heavy work in the village, it was the women. They often wanted us to take the women but we didn't want to take them because they'd want to bring their babies along. Of course they were also worried if you took the men away from their village, the natives in the next village would come and try and pinch their things.

I spoke pretty good 'pigeon'. Whenever we were having a rest I wouldn't lie around, I'd take a feed line out so that I got use to handling the native carriers. Each of us had our own boy who use to carry our cargo, our pack and food and what not. The others would carry things like the wireless, if we had any, or spare food or ammunition. When you were moving about in a party, one of us would be well out in front as scout, then you would have three or four of them and then a white man, and then three or four of them again and so on. Otherwise as soon as they came to a patch of bush they'd take off, and with the cargo.

They were the biggest thieves that ever existed. They'd be walking along with a fifty pound bag of rice, remember that they were vegetarians because there wasn't any meat for them to eat, whenever they could they'd be putting their hands in the bags and shovelling it into the little bags they carried themselves. They'd steal anything that's not red hot or nailed down. I mean the first time I heard the expression 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels' was in the 1950's. We never used it, it was something some journalist had cooked up.

One time we were on patrol and suddenly this native disappeared into the bush. I ran after them to discover it was a 'Mary' and one of the other boys came up and told me she was going to have a baby. We then had to hold everybody and stop everything and wait up to an hour until she came out of the bush with her piccaninny. Mind you she just picked up her fifty pounds and away she went up the hill.

But admittedly we couldn't have got by without them, I know we would never have managed without them.

What sort of weapons were you using?

We had automatics; in fact we had five times more automatics than an infantry battalion. Every second man had either a Bren or a Tommy gun. Originally we had 45 calibre Thompson sub machine guns, American ones, and they were useless. The ammunition was made for a police force, so in the jungle it was always ruined by the moisture, they were also too complicated, too much could go wrong with them. Later on we got the Owen guns which were just about the perfect weapon because they were simple, nothing to go wrong.

Next issue: Bill's in the Battle of Wau

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Many thanks to **Reuben Nieuwesteeg** from the 'Billy Goat Hill Cafe' who recently purchased Dr Hardy's old house and donated all of **Doc Hardy's** collection of war books to the RSL.
- Also many thanks to **Bill Smart** for his donation of Naval items for our collection
- Our condolences to **Laurie Hollier** who recent lost his mother.
- May marks 50 years since the newly transformed troop carrier HMAS Sydney first sailed into hostile areas of operations. Our **Kim Parry** will be amongst a number who will be travelling north to attend commemorative services in connection with the anniversary.
- Our Vice-president **Jim Hurley** reports that numbers were up at services at Wandin & Evelyn Ridge on Anzac Day where Jim represented the club.
- We have a new dishwasher & stove in our kitchen.
 - 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

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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