# Mt Evelyn RSL News



Volume 5, Issue 6, Xmas 2015

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



# 4

# Merry Xmas



#### FRONT PAGE ROGER

#### 2015 Meeting Dates

Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# **2016 Meeting Dates**

January, 2015
- No meeting
Sunday Feb 21<sup>st</sup>,
2016 - AGM

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 If you can't beat 'em – join 'em.

Seeing that our local newspapers have decided that more people will read their papers if our illustrious president, Roger Boness, is on the front page, we've decided to do the same thing.

In fact he may have set some sort of record with the amount of front pages he has been on this year, so here are some of the latest ones.

Right: Mt Evelyn Mail 3/11/15

Grant for new book

**Below:** Lilydale Leader 3/11/15 Concerns over Wandin War Memorial **Below Right:** Mt Evelyn Mail 10/11/15 RSL Awards to local music teachers







# 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:

The Vicar of Dibley Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm



Breaker Morant Sunday May 29<sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm



Caught in the Net Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup> @ 2.00pm

Yes, Prime Minister? Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> @ 2.00pm



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

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As 2015 comes to a close and I reflect on all of the projects that the Mt Evelyn Community RSL Sub-Branch has been involved in during the year, the achievements of our members are quite remarkable.

2015 began with the book launch and display of our local VC recipient George Ingram at Mont De Lancey. We then moved on to preparing the concrete slab in the memorial garden in readiness for the arrival of our howitzer, a gun that was widely used in the Vietnam War, that arrived on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The redecoration of the front meeting room and toilets at Hardy House was undertaken. The surprise arrival from UK and presentation of the Albert Pearson bugle in January. We then participated in the inaugural meeting for "Bells of Peace" production. Our next project in conjunction with the Mt Evelyn History Group and Yarra Ranges Council gardeners was the manufacture and placement of plaques in the memorial garden replacing the names of those who served in WW1 whose names were on the former Mt Evelyn Avenue of Honour. RSL members also attended the Ralph Goode mural at Lilydale High School, "Bells of Peace" production, the "Behind the Wire" book launch at Belgrave library, the CWA WW1 exhibition at the Memo Gallery in Healesville and Vietnam talk at Lilydale Historical Society. RSL members were also involved in the Mt Evelyn Street Party, Bush Dance, Ralph Goode Regional Museum exhibition & "Australia will be There" exhibition, and monthly community markets. The RSL also conducted Anzac and Remembrance Day services at Mt Evelyn and Wandin and services at Evelyn Ridge retirement homes, Mt Evelyn Football Netball Club, attended the Birmingham Primary Anzac Day service and the traditional Two-Up at the York on Lilydale Resort. Sadly we remember the passing of our esteemed members Lily Berry, Bill Phillips, Luke Hollier and Peter Henskens.

I would also like to thank our elected representatives Cr/Mayor Maria McCarthy, Christine Fyffe MLA and Tony Smith MP for their invaluable support. Friends of Mt Evelyn RSL Loretta Miller and Emily Hobley from Bunnings Bayswater, Richard Nash-Wildcat Excavations, Garner and Wheeler crane hire, combined Mt Evelyn primary schools choir, music teachers Angela Glennie, Trista Fry and Jenny Barker along with the staff and pupils at Yarra Ranges secondary school and Bill Smart for his ingenious chair trolley.

I wish all Sub-Branch members & their families, and friends of the RSL Sub-Branch a very Merry Christmas, Safe and Happy New Year.

Roger Boness

#### Membership Subs for 2016

**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

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



Teacher asks Johnny what he would like to do when he leaves school. He replies: 'Be a Lollipop man'.

Astounded, the teacher has to ask why.

Johnny replies: 'Because you don't have to start work until you are 65'.

Standing in front of a boutique I noticed an impatient looking young man approach an attractive woman "would you mind talking to me for a few minutes?" he asked her. "why?" she countered suspiciously. "my wife has been in this shop for a long time" the man explained "But I know she'll come out if she see me talking to you"

Two brooms were hanging in the closet.....After a while they got to know each other so well, they decided to get married.

One broom was, of course, the bride broom, the other, the groom broom.

The bride broom looked very beautiful in her white dress. The groom broom was handsome and suave in his tuxedo.

The wedding was lovely. After the wedding, at the wedding dinner, the bride-broom leaned over and said to the groom-broom: 'I think I am going to have a little broom!'

'IMPOSSIBLE!' said the groom broom. 'WE HAVEN'T EVEN SWEPT TOGETHER!'

Teacher: "Kids, what does the chicken give you?"

Student: "Meat!"

Teacher: "Very good! Now what does the pig give

you?"

Student: "Bacon!"

Teacher: "Great! And what does the cow give you?"

Student: "Homework!"

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on."

The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now."

The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Melbourne Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?"

The engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?"

The engineer sits up straight and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it."

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?" Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get

seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

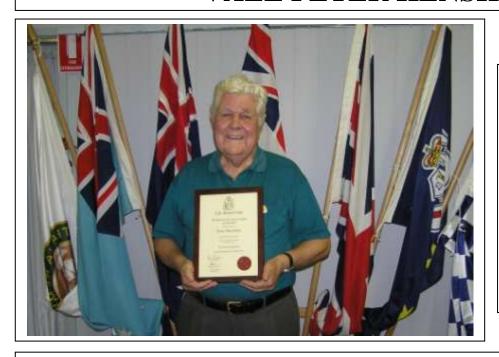
Instead of "the John," I call my toilet "the Jim." That way it sounds better when I say I go to the Jim first thing every morning.

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? - It gets toad away.



www.facebook.com/mtevelynrsl

#### VALE PETER HENSKENS



#### Left:

Peter Henskens on the night he was awarded Life Membership of the RSL.

Thank you Peter for all you did for the club.

We are saddened to report the passing of one of our esteemed colleagues and stalwart of the Mt Evelyn RSL club, Peter Henskens.

Peter grew up in Holland during the war years. As a boy he worked for the Dutch Resistance although he didn't know it at the time. His father often had him delivering packages and notes for him but it wasn't until after the war that he told Peter, much to his surprise, it was for the resistance.

In the 1950's Peter served with the Netherlands Army and spent time serving in the Netherlands Antilles, a group of small islands near the Caribbean off the coast of South America.

In the 1960's he and his wife migrated to Australia. A long time resident in Mt Evelyn he has been a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL since the late 1980's. Mind you the club had to fight RSL headquarters to have Peter as a service member as the RSL weren't recognising service personnel from allied European nations except the UK at that time.

Peter has been a stalwart of the club for decades and was always willing to help out and be involved where he could. In 2011 he was awarded Life Membership of the RSL for his efforts.

A few years ago however Peter was involved in a terrible car crash in Birmingham Rd and lay in a coma for weeks. He slowly recovered but he was not able to walk again. He has spent the last few years at Tullamore Mercy in Montrose.

**Below:** Here's an interesting item one of our members recently acquired that they have kindly shared. This is a World War One 'Camp Pocket Candlestick', patent 1915. On the left is the cover – almost looks like the militia camp held at Lilydale in 1914. On the right is what you found inside.



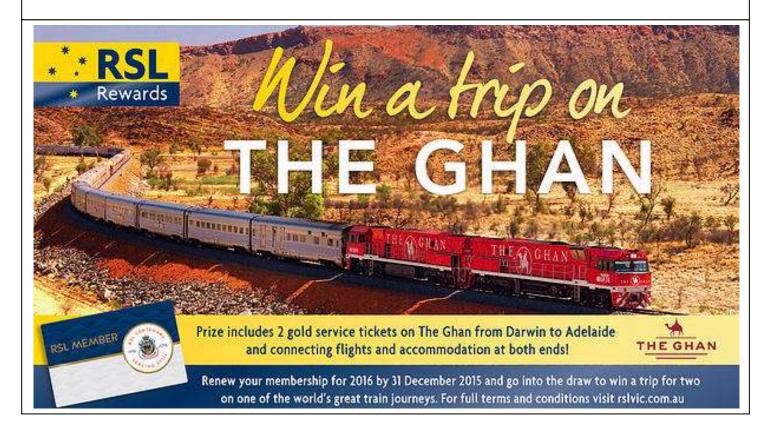


#### **MEMBERSHIP 2016**

#### Just a reminder that your 2016 subs are due now.

However you may be interested to know that there are some interesting changes happening to RSL memberships in 2016.

- If you get your subs in by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 you will go in the running to win a trip on the Ghan (see below). Also see our notice on page 2 on how to pay your subs.
- 2016 marks the centenary of the RSL and as a result all 2016 RSL members will be given a special centenary RSL membership card.
- You can now buy a three year membership at the discounted rate of \$60.00



# Coming Soon SPIRIT OF ANZAC CENTENARY EXHIBITION

This acclaimed Exhibition is the major national touring event for the Anzac Centenary. The Exhibition will run until 2017 and the content is drawn from the collections of the Australian War Memorial.

The Exhibition is free, but bookings are essential.



#### Venue

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre Monday 8 - Tuesday 23 February 2016

Please note bookings need to be made online -www.spiritofanzac.gov.au/book-tickets/reserve-tickets

#### REPORT FROM COCOS ISLANDS

One of our members, Matt Crymble, works for the Custom's Department on active service to the north of Australia. He recently returned from the Cocos Island with an interesting historical find.

'Please find attached a photo that was recently taken on North Keeling Island. Unfortunately because of my duties manning the ship's boat I did not get to go ashore. Only a small number of blokes were allowed ashore with the local Parks manager (she's located on Cocos Island).

Anyway the photo attached is of a boiler from Emden (German ship beached and sunk by HMAS Sydney during WWI). I trawled the internet and found a picture of what could possibly be the same boiler taken in 1922 (although Emden had many).

I believe it was a Japanese company that was contracted to salvage scrap metal from the site? Anything they could salvage was taken from the wreck site to the safest navigable extraction point by the use of small tram bogeys.

I still am yet to get ashore at North Keeling Island although 2-3 years ago I body surfed the island. We did not break the rules and did not step ashore'.



#### **Above:**

Japanese salvage workers in the 1920's with one of the boilers off the Emden.

#### Right:

One of the boilers off the Emden, as it looks today on North Keeling Island.





The Greater Metropolitan
Cemeteries Trust
and
The Lilydale RSL Sub-Branch

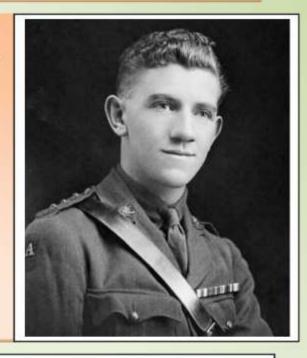


Are pleased to invite you to a:

# GRAVESIDE CEREMONY

TO COMMEMORATE.....

# THE CENTENARY OF THE EVACUATION OF GALLIPOLI



By November 1915 the situation was grim on the Dardanelles Front and those in charge began looking at ways of getting our forces off the Peninsula. All plans estimated a loss of life of up to 30% of our troops. In his trench Bill Scurry thought: 'it occurred to me that if we could leave our rifles firing we might get away safely'. He then set about inventing a time release gun.

What he created was simple yet effective and was set up all over the Gallipoli Peninsula. As a result the troops were secretly evacuated without the enemy knowing and without one loss of life, saving thousands.

A ceremony and the unveiling of a memorial will take place at the graveside of Major William Scurry MC, DCM, the inventor of the gun that got them all off Gallipoli safely.

DATE: Sunday December 20th, 2015

TIME: 2.00pm

PLACE: Lilydale Lawn Cemetery

Cnr Victoria Rd and Nelson Rd, Lilydale

For further details: Don Parsons 0418588360

#### **REMEMBRANCE DAY - 2015**







A great crowd turned out for our Remembrance Day service this year. Once again our schools were involved and did a brilliant job – especially the choir and those that did readings. Our guest speaker was Ben Gorfine, a young local veteran who saw service in Afghanistan. Thanks also to Iain Townsley & Tom Steele.

Photos courtesy of John Allwood















#### TRIBUTE PLAQUES

On Remembrance Day we unveiled four more plaques to members who have passed on the wall in our tribute garden. This year there were plaques for Bill Sibley, Bill Phillips, Luke Hollier & Peter Henskens.

**Left:** Trevor Phillips and his wife, Laurie & Judy Hollier, Agnes Henskens, Trevor & Christine (Bill Sibley's family).

Photo courtesy Greg Carrick

#### WANDIN WAR MEMORIAL

Some of you may be aware of the recent issue around the Wandin War Memorial. The Mt Evelyn RSL is custodian for this memorial so we are supporting the community with their concerns.

It is a tricky situation; the land around the memorial is being sold privately so there is a worry it will be developed on and there will be no where to cater for the crowds at ceremonies.

The only hope at the moment is that someone will buy it and sub divide it, gifting a portion to the community to develop gardens. The shire have been approached but they don't buy land.



#### **NEWS**



#### DR BILL HARDY BIOGRAPHY LAUNCHED

Recently Paula Herlihy, president of the Mt Evelyn History Group and Mt Evelyn RSL member, launched a biography on the late Dr Bill Hardy, WW2 veteran, stalwart of the club and Mt Evelyn legend.

Many Mt Evelyn people recall Dr Hardy and many were delivered by Dr Hardy. The book is really a must have for anyone interested in the history of the town because the Hardys were so instrumental in the community. The RSL Hall is named 'Hardy House' in his memory.

Copies of the book can be purchased by emailing Paula on: <a href="mailto:pherlihy3@gmail.com">pherlihy3@gmail.com</a>

#### **POPPY APPEAL**

This year's poppy appeal was another huge success.

Although total amounts have not come in as yet our appeals officer, Dot Ervine, believes it should be another record.

Many thanks to all of those who volunteered their time to sell poppies – it is much appreciated.

Thanks to our Appeals Officer Dot Ervine who is retiring as she's done a mighty job over the years,



#### JAMES FRASER TRIBUTE

As has been previously mentioned in the newsletter, Mt Evelyn & Lilydale RSLs have been paying tribute to soldiers listed on local war memorials on the centenary of their death while on active service.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015 there were three services held on the same day for James Fraser, a Coldstream volunteer who served on Gallipoli but returned home ill. He was then accidentally killed by a tram in St Kilda Rd on the way to hospital.

Serves were held at Coldstream War Memorial, Lilydale War Memorial (where he is listed) and the Lilydale cemetery where he is buried.

**Left:** Tom Steele, Don Parsons, Maria McCarthy & David Clayton (nephew) at grave

# MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP

LILYDALE - FEBRUARY 1914

100 years ago John Monash and 3000 citizen spidiers descended on Uludale and camped for week where the Liftydale Lake is today

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 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:

Mt Evelyn RSL PO BOX 182,



Mt Evelyn, Vic, 3796 Addres Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Mt Evelyn RSL

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

1867

Closed Public Holidays Phone: (03) 5964 2088

In commemoration of the Centenary of World War One Mont de Lancey Historical Homestead is proud to present:

#### THE GEORGE INGRAM VC, MM MEMORIAL EXHIBITION



the Yarra Valley's only Victoria Cross recipient and the last Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross in World

George Mawby Ingram VC, MM

Displaying many items not seen in public before!

> **EXHIBITION LAUNCH** SATURDAY APRIL 25", 2015

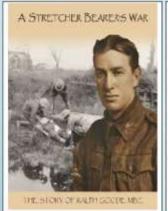
> > 2.00PM

The Exhibition will run from April 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 until June 2016

Cost Included in purchase of

## 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 oversess 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 diames is an extraordinary day to day account of the horrors and heroism of serving as a stretcher bester 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:

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



Address Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Mr Evelyn RSL. Price: \$30 per copy plus \$2.00 postage

## GREAT COURAGE AND INITIATIVE

The Heroic Life of George Ingram VC, MM



This is the biography of Captain George Ingram VC, MM, the Yarra Valley's only recipient of the Victoria Cross, the Commonwealth's highest award for valor on the battlefield

From a country boyhood growing up in Seville, to serving with the artillery in Victoria and Rabaul and on to the horror and heroism of the Western Front with the 24th Battalion AIF where he was awarded both the Military Medal and the Victoria Cross.

After the war he spent time as a soldier settler before serving with the Shrine Guard and the Royal Australian Engineers in WW2.

#### ORDER NOW:

Mont de Lances PO BOX 316, Wandin North, Vic. 3139

Address Telephone Emmo Payment for \$ is enclosed. Copies required Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Wandin & District Historical Museum Society

Price: \$25 per copy plus \$5.00 postage

#### PAUL E O'REILLY

#### TIMBER FLOORING SPECIALIST

• Floor sanding & Finishing

• Cork, Parquetry supplied & laid

Ph: (03) 9728 2281 Mob: 0412514650



## 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:** Joan 97370397 <u>rosemont.townclub@gmail.com</u> **Weight Recorder:** Lesley McKenna 0425624043 *or* 

97391642

#### PLEASE NOTE

Copies of

#### **ALL OUR BOOKS**

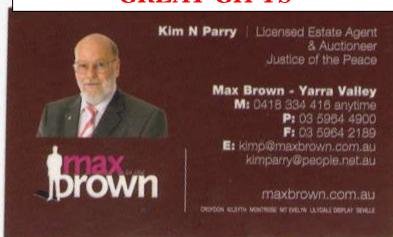
are available for sale through the

Mt Evelyn RSL

or at the

Mt Evelyn Post Office, Station St

GREAT GIFTS



# Mt Evelyn & Districts Community Bank Branch Bendigo Banl 97371833

#### **New Yoga Class**

The Yoga class is Suitable for beginners, intermediate or advanced students.



Suitable for all ages.

If you're curious come and try a class, it may be the best decision you've ever made! Yoga will help keep the joints mobile and muscles supple, but most of all it will provide you with a sense of calmness and relaxation as it helps to quieten the mind.

Wednesday evenings from 5:30 - 7pm.
Casual classes \$15 or Concession \$14 . 10 class pass
\$140 or Concession \$135

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

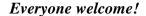
The Mt Evelyn History Group *Annual membership - \$15* 

#### **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





## Art with Distinction

#### **Custom Framing**



- Custom Picture Framing
  - Custom Mats
  - Restoration Work
    - Art Supplies

Steve Deakins (Mt Evelyn RSL Member) Ph: **9736 3033** 

Mob: **0429 183021** Shop 7B York Rd,Mt Evelyn

www.artwithdistinction.com.au

Gift vouchers available - great gift ideal!!

#### St John Ambulance

St John always needs enthusiastic, willing and capable people - *just like you* - to assist us in helping our community save lives through First Aid.

The Mt Evelyn Branch meets every Tuesday night in the RSL Hall.

Call - Diane Dickson on **9736 2490** 



Caring for Life

The Mt Evelyn RSL always use:

#### HEWETT'S

Mt Evelyn's Quality Butchers



27 Wray Cres Ph: 9736 2206

Email: hewettma@gmail.com

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

Les Kennedy is the RSL's representative on the

Chamber of Commerce

– any ideas or issues for the Chamber

ring Les on: 0418 149 558

## FITNESS CLASSES



At the RSL Hall 49 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn

#### STRONG WOMEN.

Vicki provides a social One Hour Stretch & Strength Class to suit a wide range of fitness levels. Personal attention provided & program modified as required to suit individual needs.

Beginners most welcome!! Bring a drink bottle & a smile! Bring a friend! Call in & try it – first class is free!! Weights provided.

Contact: Vicki Walburg

Ph: **9736 2980** Mob: **0408 998 045** 

vickiwalburg-fitness@yahoo.com.au

# JJ's Photography



Ph: **9736 1822** Mob: **0427100818** Shop 7B York Rd Mt Evelyn

www.jjsphotography.com.au

#### **RALPH PROCTOR DISPLAY**

Make sure you check out the Ralph Proctor RAAF display at the 'Mont de Lancey Museum' at Wandin. Ralph was a long time member at the Mt Evelyn RSL & served with the RAAF in Europe during World War Two. He donated his wartime memorabilia to the museum and it is a fascinating collection. Includes items to do with his experiences at D-Day & Arnhem.



Mont de Lancey Museum & Homestead 71 Wellington Rd, Wandin Open: Wed-Sun 10.30-4.30pm

## STEVE'S WHEELCHAIR & SCOOTER REPAIRS & SERVICE



Prompt attention to breakdowns SWEP & private work 7 Days PH: 0400564267

The Mt Evelyn RSL always uses:

#### TIGER SIGNS

\*Computer Cut Vinyls \*Digital Prints \*Banners \*Signs

Contact Dave -

tigersigns@gmail.com 0419 897 134 or 9737 0888



# Mt Evelyn Community Market

# 4th Saturday of each month (Feb - Nov) 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







#### JOHN ATKINSON METCALF

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.....

**John Atkinson Metcalf** was born at Windsor on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1895, the eldest son of George Rupert Atkinson Metcalf and Lilian Maud Metcalf. He grew up in the family home 'Indi' at 53 Horace St, Malvern and attended the Malvern State School. While here he volunteered to enlist with the Senior Cadets, serving with them for two years.

When he finished state school he studied for a time at the agricultural college at Longerenong near Horsham. While here he continued to serve with the Senior Cadets, firstly at Horsham and then at Shepparton. When he moved back to Malvern he joined the militia, serving firstly with the 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion and then with the 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He would have more than likely attended the Monash militia camp at Lilydale in February 1914.

This may have influenced him getting a job because for most of 1914 he worked as a farm labourer in Mooroolbark.

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1914 he walked into the drill hall at Rippon Lea and enlisted to serve in the First World War, he was nineteen of age. His medical record shows he was 5 feet, 7½ inches high, had black hair and brown eyes. He was also a Presbyterian.

He was sent to Broadmeadows, the AIF's training camp, where he underwent his initial training and was allotted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, regimental number 899. He left Australia on the first convoy, sailing on the ship HMAT Oriveto.

John spent a number of months garrisoned in Egypt, undergoing further training, and then the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion were shipped to Lemnos Island in preparation for the landing at Gallipoli.

On the morning of April 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915 Private John Metcalf was with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion as they landed at Anzac Cove. He followed them as they charged into action up the cliffs and gullies before them. The following is a statement received at the court of enquiry held six months later.

#### L/Cpl S V Kirwood (5<sup>th</sup> Battalion) –

'Metcalf was killed on the day of the landing. I was near him at the time and word was passed along that Metcalf had gone. This occurred at the top of Monash Gully in the advance. At the Roll Call a few days later various men made statements to the effect that they had seen Metcalf killed. Amongst those was Pte Arthur Hughes and Pte Harold Booker. Metcalf was of dark complexion, a lively, popular fellow'.

Because of the confusion of that morning the authorities informed his parents he was 'missing in action' rather than 'killed in action'. They didn't find out until after the enquiry that he had been killed. At Gallipoli that night his mates carried his body down to the beach where he was buried with other war death.

In 1921 the war graves commission finally found his remains buried on the beach and informed his family, also sending back his identity disc. His name was later listed on the memorial at the Lone Pine Cemetery at Gallipoli. A few months after his death his brother, George Metcalf, enlisted and survived throughout the rest of the war as a stretcher bearer on the Western Front with the  $14^{th}$  Field Ambulance.  $\rightarrow$ 

#### MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Welcome to new member
   Stuart Fraser, Geoff
   Dawson, Gladys Allwood,
   Ben Gorfine and Graeme
   Northey.
- Our condolences to **Tom Steele** who's mother recently passed away.
- Recently Mt Lilydale
  Mercy College held a
  writing competition the
  subject WW1 & WW2. We
  are proud to say that the
  daughters of two of our
  members, Matt Crymble
  and Anthony McAleer,
  were winners.
- Well done to **John Allwood**'s mother who recently turned 101 years young.
- Great news about Box Hill Institute taking over the old Swinburne campus in Lilydale. It seems they will be having a community centre there that will be taking over the Lilydale library and doing great things for our community.
  - Should you require any assistance or advice Deanne Webb (the Subbranch's Welfare Officer).

Ph: **0402 783 849**Or the Rev Richard
Schoenmaker
Ph: **9736 1087** 

He is remembered on the Mooroolbark War Memorial and the Shire of Lillydale Honour Board

His friends later wrote the following tribute in The Age:

He fought the fight, he stood the test, All his life long, he was one of the best. If undeliverable return to:

The Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch PO Box 182 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

#### The Digger's Café

The social club operates the club rooms every

> Thursday afternoon from 1.00pm to 4.30pm.

If you're looking for something to do of a Thursday afternoon in Mt Evelyn why not call in for a chat or a game of pool or indoor bowls.

#### **Club Opening Hours**

Every Friday Night 7.00pm - 10.30pm

Celebrate the end of the week with a visit to the clubrooms.

We always have a well stocked fridge and there is always someone on hand to make a brew if you so desire.

Friday night football/cricket will be playing on our big screen TV and don't forget we also have a pool table.

**Editor:** Anthony McAleer

Ph: 9736 4384

Email: antmca@bigpond.com

Send me an email me if you want to receive the newsletter faster via email – it also saves the club

on postage costs!

#### **RSL Hall Hire**

As you would have seen from recent publicity, the membership of the Mt Evelyn RSL have voted to no longer hire out our hall to one-off users for functions, mainly because of the issues we've had with them have made them more trouble than it's worth.

However we will still hire the hall out to members for functions and at a discounted rate.

**Contact the Secretary at:** 

mtevrsl@gmail.com

#### **Mt Evelyn RSL Committee**

President -Roger Boness Ph: 9737 0830 Vice Presidents-Jim Hurley Ph: 9876 3750 Iain Townsley Ph: 9777 1276 Secretary -Anthony McAleer Ph: 9736 4384 Treasurer -

John Allwood Ph: 9736 1551

Welfare Officer –

Deanne Webb Ph: 0402783849 Padre -

Rev Richard Schoenmaker Ph: 97361087

Appeals Officer –

**Dot Ervine** Ph: 97363638

Chamber representative -

Les Kennedy Ph: 0418 149 558

Justice of the Peace –

Kim Parry Ph: 0418334416

**Committee:** 

Betty Crittenden, Bill Smart, Ron Jones