

# Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 2, Issue 5, Summer 2012

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



## 2012 Meeting Dates

Sept 16<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 21<sup>th</sup>  
Nov 18<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 16<sup>th</sup>

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

**Mt Evelyn RSL**  
**Clubrooms**  
**49 Birmingham Rd**  
**Mt Evelyn Vic 3796**

**Ph: 9737 0767**  
**Email:**  
**mtevrsl@gmail.com**

**Postal Address:**  
**PO Box 182**  
**Mt Evelyn Vic 3796**

**Website:**  
**<http://moutevelyn.vic.au/moutevelyn-rsl>**

 **Follow us on**  
**facebook**

## WELL DONE DOT ERVINE!

As part of her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations, the Mt Evelyn RSL decided to present Dot Ervine with an award for all her efforts over the years. The 'Certificate of Appreciation' is the member's way of saying 'thank you' to Dot for many years' hard work and dedication to the Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch.

Dot has been an active member of the 'Women's Auxiliary', until it folded this year, and is currently the branch's 'Appeals Officer' and gallant hostess of our Thursday Afternoon social club. She is also one of the branch's stalwarts.

On presenting the award the president, Roger Boness, stated: *'Dot has been a long time resident of Mt Evelyn and is a staunch patron of local traders. Being a local identity has put her in good stead as our 'Appeal's Officer' as her support for her community is often returned when she mans our poppy stalls for days on end raising funds for patriotic welfare. Her effort and commitment and her organisational and promotional skills have all helped to increase the amount we raise each year. At the same time her dedication to our senior members, especially those in hospital or nursing homes, and her efforts to create an enjoyable experience for those who attend the Thursday afternoon social is legendary'.*

**Below:** Dot Ervine (centre with award) with Mt Evelyn RSL members at her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party. *From Left: Pat Johnson, Deanne Webb, Ern Johnston, Betty Ford, Ted Fairweather, Dot Ervine, Wendy McGowan, Heather Twyford, Betty Crittenden, Roger Boness, Lloyd Harrington, Lesley Harrington (photo: Deanne Webb)*



## Important Dates

### Coming Up:

### REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

**Sunday Nov 11<sup>th</sup>**



The traditional service will take place at the Mt Evelyn War Memorial Park

**11.00am**

Followed by afternoon tea at the 'Mt Evelyn RSL Hall'

### HERITAGE NETWORK OPEN DAY

Gulf Station  
Yarra Glen



### SUNDAY OCTOBER 21ST

**11am – 3pm**

- Members of the Mt Evelyn RSL are invited to a free open day at Yarra Glen's Gulf Station. Lots of interesting things happening on the day – plenty for kids. Take a picnic! Enjoy!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I would sincerely like to thank all those from the Mt Evelyn community who braved the bleak, bitterly cold conditions to attend our memorable ceremony in the memorial garden on Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the illumination of the Australian National Flag (protocol regulates the display of the national flag requiring it to be illuminated if it is to be displayed at night).

Community members would also be aware of the gradual improvements being made as the memorial garden continues to be developed. In conjunction with Yarra Ranges Council it is proposed to further develop the lower or Birmingham Rd side of the garden to ensure those community members attending our commemorative services will have clear 360 degree vision and access to the proceedings.

Volunteers have been the lifeblood of the RSL since the organisation's beginnings over 90 years ago. The ongoing commitment of volunteers to the mission of the RSL has ensured veterans, war widows and other members of the ex-service community continue to receive assistance and support from people who understand and care about their history and well being. In order to fulfil this mission myself and our welfare officer, in accordance with government requirements, have undergone police record checks and will be attending relevant welfare training to ensure all RSL aged and health support needs are met.

The sub-branch's great stalwart, Betty Crittenden, has once again stepped up to the mark and has volunteered to help our secretary by taking on the role of Treasurer – many thanks Betty!

Also the RSL State Executive has now included an option for RSL funerals for the branch to present the family with an Australian National Flag in honour of their loved one. The centenary of WWI is quickly coming up and we are interested in any ideas from the members or community on how we should commemorate this.

LEST WE FORGET

- Roger Boness

## APPEALS OFFICER'S REPORT

We are in urgent need of volunteer helpers to assist with the POPPY Appeal from **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November**.

Can you give us just an hour of your time? Few will question the merit and value of the RSL's Welfare work and many of you will acknowledge that the need for this work is increasing. Our community is generous in their support of worthy causes, but our fund raising capacity is severely hampered by the lack of volunteers to staff the table. If you are able to assist in this important work, please contact me on: **9736 3638** - to confirm roster times

Regards,

*Dot Ervine* – Mt Evelyn RSL Appeals Officer

## Membership Subs – 2012 – *due now!*

**Full Members** – open to ex-service personnel who were in the uniformed services for a period of six months or more. **\$40 a year**

**Affiliated Members** – open to those who have served with the emergency services or whose relatives were service personnel. **\$40 a year**

**Tell us if you are over 80 years old – you no longer have to pay your subs!**

**Send a cheque or money order to – Mt Evelyn RSL, PO Box 182, Mt Evelyn**

# RSL's JOKE PAGE

**A man asked an American Indian what was his wife's name.  
He replied, "She is called Five Horses".  
The man said, "That's an unusual name for your wife. What does it mean?"  
The Indian answered,  
"It old Indian Name. It mean...  
**NAG, NAG, NAG, NAG, NAG!****

Proudly showing off his newly-leased downtown apartment to a couple of friends late one night, a New Zealander led the way to his bedroom where there was a big brass gong hanging on the wall.

'What's that big brass gong for?' one of the friend's asked.

'It's not a gong. It's a talking Australian clock' he replied.

'A talking Australian clock - seriously?'  
'Yup.'

'How's it work?' the second friend asked, squinting at it.

'Just watch' he said.

He picked up a hammer, gave the gong an 'ear-shattering bash' and stepped back.

His three mates stood looking at one another for a moment in astounded silence.

Suddenly, an Australian voice from the other side of the wall screamed,

'You bloody idiot! It's ten past three in the bloody morning!!!'

An old blind man was describing his favorite sport - parachuting. When asked how this was accomplished he said that things were all done for him: I am placed in the door and told when to jump. My hand is placed on my release ring for me, and out I go. "But how do you know when you are going to land?" he was asked. "Well, I have a very keen sense of smell and I can smell the trees and grass when I am 300 feet from the ground", he answered. "But how do you know when to lift your legs for the final arrival on the ground?" he was again asked. He quickly answered, "Oh that? The dog's leash goes slack!"

## AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES:

1. AVOID CUTTING YOURSELF WHEN SLICING VEGETABLES BY GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO HOLD THE VEGETABLES WHILE YOU CHOP.

2. AVOID ARGUMENTS WITH THE FEMALES ABOUT LIFTING THE TOILET SEAT BY USING THE SINK.

3. A MOUSE TRAP PLACED ON TOP OF YOUR ALARM CLOCK WILL PREVENT YOU FROM ROLLING OVER AND GOING BACK TO SLEEP AFTER YOU HIT THE SNOOZE BUTTON.

4. IF YOU HAVE A BAD COUGH, TAKE A LARGE DOSE OF LAXATIVES. THEN YOU'LL BE AFRAID TO COUGH.

5. YOU ONLY NEED TWO TOOLS IN LIFE - WD-40 AND DUCT TAPE. IF IT DOESN'T MOVE AND SHOULD, USE THE WD-40. IF IT SHOULDN'T MOVE AND DOES, USE THE DUCT TAPE.

6. IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT WITH A HAMMER, YOU'VE GOT AN ELECTRICAL PROBLEM.

A millionaire, a construction worker and an old drunk are at a bar.

When they get their beers, they notice a fly in each mug.

The millionaire politely asks the bartender for another beer, then proceeds to sip it.

The worker spills out just enough to get rid of the fly and quaffs the rest.

It's now the old drunk's turn. He sticks his hand into the beer, grabs the fly by the wings, and shouts,

**"Spit it out! Spit it out!"**



Follow us on facebook:

[www.facebook.com/mtevelynrsl](http://www.facebook.com/mtevelynrsl)



# LAUNCH OF WAR MEMORIAL LIGHT



On Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 a good crowd of local residents, and representatives of local groups, braved the chilly weather to watch Bill Darvell officially turn on the new light for the Mt Evelyn War Memorial. The new light has been a joint project between the RSL, Cr Tim Heenan and Lilydale Rotary. It now allows us to fly the Australian flag 24 hours a day over our war memorial as well as providing extra lighting for members of the public who use the area as a thoroughfare.

**Photos:** (left) Tim Heenan  
(below) Sandra Fitzgerald



Above: Piper Iain Townsley  
Below: Cr Tim Heenan, Shire of Yarra Ranges

Above: Roger Boness, president Mt Evelyn RSL  
Below: Margi Sank, president of Lilydale Rotary





# AMAZING YOUTH SHED MURAL



Recently the president of the Mt Evelyn RSL, Roger Boness, visited the Mt Evelyn 'Youth Shed' and gave them a talk on the meaning of Anzac Day and on his experiences serving in Vietnam. The adults who run the 'Youth Shed' said his talk had a real impact on the kids that day and that they then came up with an idea to paint an 'Anzac' themed mural on the side of the shed (facing the war memorial). The mural was designed to represent a young Roger, in military uniform, with Mt Evelyn in the background. On the door is painted an Australian flag and the words 'Lest We Forget'. The mural was completed by Luke Cooksey, Conner Enright and Brad Colling. Members that have seen it have been very impressed and the sub-branch has presented the 'Youth Shed' with two special 'Kokoda' commemorative tins of Anzac biscuits in appreciation of their efforts. Make sure you check it out when you get a chance!

Later, at the launch of the war memorial lighting, Roger presented two of the artists, Luke Cooksey (below left) and Brad Colling (below right), with books about the landing at Gallipoli. (Photos: Sandra Fitzgerald)





Well done to Mt Evelyn RSL member Ken Reed who recently celebrated an extraordinary 55 years' service with the Mt Evelyn CFA, half of which has been as Captain. As a result, at their recent annual dinner, the Mt Evelyn brigade announced that in his honour they were renaming their Pumper, the 'Ken Reed AFSM Pumper'. Ken is the first person in District 13 to receive such an honour and the Mt Evelyn pumper is now one of only four in the CFA fleet that has been officially named.

Ken has formerly been recognised with the Australian Fire Services Medal (AFSM), the National Medal and is an Honorary Life Member of both CFA and the Mt Evelyn Fire Brigade.

Well done Ken! We're proud of your efforts.



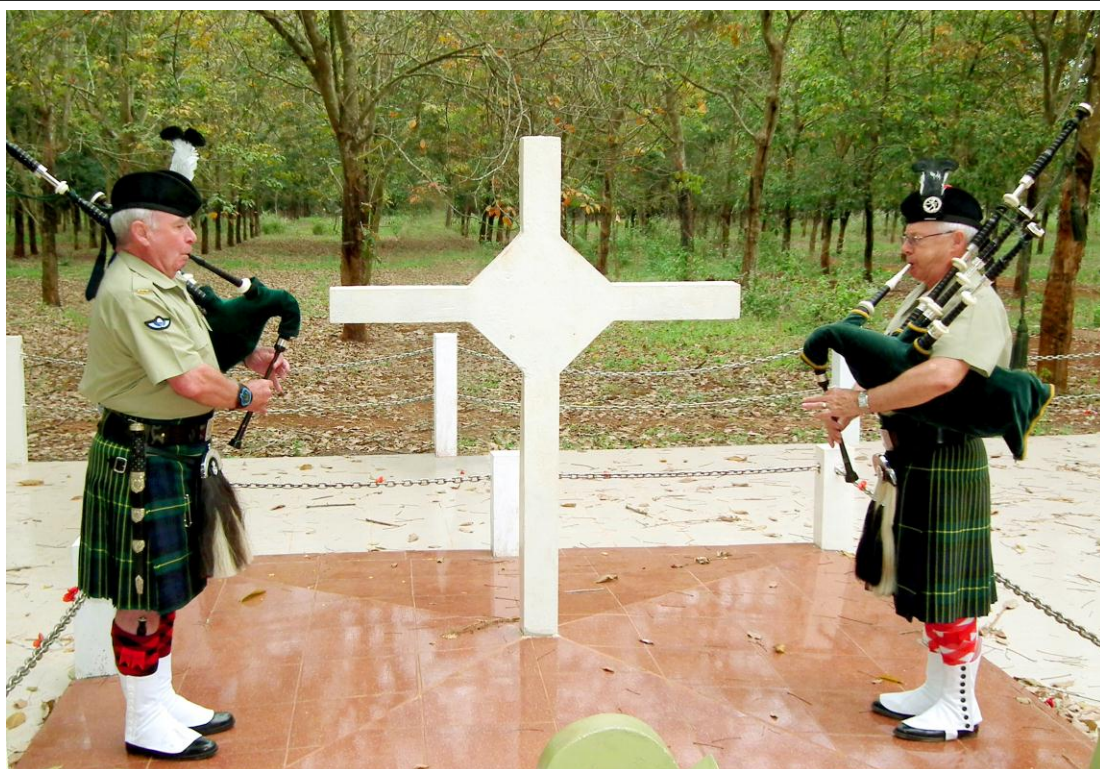
**Left:**  
Mt Evelyn RSL member Ken Reed stands proudly next to the 'Ken Reed AFSM Pumper'.

**Photo:**  
JJ Photography – Shop 7b York Rd, Mt Evelyn

In January this year the new 'Worldwide Arms Museum' was opened in Vung Tau City in Vietnam. Taking part in the opening was Mt Evelyn RSL member and renowned local piper Iain Townsley, who played his bagpipes on the opening night from the museum's tower. The following day he was given special permission from the Vietnamese Government to play at the cross at the site of the former Australian battlefield at Long Tan. In a very significant gesture on this occasion officials gave him permission to wear his 'VSR' uniform and medals and to play 'The Company's Lament' for D Coy 6 RAR who fought at Long Tan.

**Right:**  
Mt Evelyn RSL member Iain Townsley (left) and Roy Gilmour (right), both members of the VSR Pipes and Drums, playing the bagpipes for the first time since 1969 at the 'Long Tan Cross' in Vietnam. They later marched off to the tune of 'When the Battle is Over'.

**Photo:** Iain Townsley







## Don't Miss PLEASE NOTE

*If you find a white dot on the front of your newsletter it is notice that your 2012 membership fees are now over due – please pay asap.*

**The Mt Evelyn RSL**  
*is now a*  
*proud member of*

## The Mt Evelyn Chamber of Commerce

### **RALPH PROCTOR** **DISPLAY**

Make sure you check out the Ralph Proctor RAAF display at the 'Mont de Lancey Museum' at Wandin. Ralph has been a long time member at the Mt Evelyn RSL & served with the RAAF in Europe during World War Two. He has loaned 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



Two interesting photos have been loaned to the Mt Evelyn RSL recently by Lyn Edwards (daughter of Percy Matthews who owned the Hardware Store in Mt Evelyn 1949-1965).

**Above:** Standing at the back (left) is Percy Matthews when he was serving with 7<sup>th</sup> Division HQ during WW2. In front of him (with moustache) is Lawson Glassop – author of the classic Australian war time novel: *'We Were the Rats'*.

**Right:** The Lilydale Express, April 24<sup>th</sup> 1964 – before the Mt Evelyn RSL was formed.







An environmental solution for hard service cleaning that saves water and stops discharge to the storm water system.  
**Residential & industrial cleaning**

*Total recycle technology means the most effective environmental choice.*

Call Russ Kirby:  
(Mt Evelyn RSL Member)  
on –

**0499475784**



For more information see:

<http://youtu.be/0d2Rjdt4TCs>

## *Art with Distinction* **Custom Framing**



Custom Picture Framing

- Custom Mats
- Restoration Work
- Art Supplies

Steve Deakins  
Ph: **9736 3033**  
Mob: **0429 183021**  
Shop 7B York Rd  
Mt Evelyn

[www.artwithdistinction.com.au](http://www.artwithdistinction.com.au)

*Where your work is treated with special care*

## **Academy of Human Development**

On a Monday morning a group of philosophers meet at the 'RSL Hall' to discuss life's big questions:

**\* Why am I here?**

**\* Who am I?**

**\* Is there more to life?**

The group uses book study and meditation to help uncover the truth behind these questions and to journey towards self discovery. In an informal way participants are encouraged to really start examining their lives in an endeavour to rediscover true and lasting happiness.

Anyone interested in joining should contact:  
Sue Hamilton on **0428829612**.

Group sessions begin at 10am and finish at 12 midday.

Morning tea is provided.



## **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.

**Living Longer Living Stronger**

(Men & Women over 45yrs)

Tues & Thurs 8am – **Only \$7 per session**

**Strong Women**

(Women only – all ages)

Mon 6pm, Tues & Thurs 9.30am –

**Only \$10 per session**

*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**

## *Rock 'n Roll*



Dances and lessons  
In the RSL Hall  
Every Wednesday Night

Call Linda Ph: **9736 1113**

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



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

*The Mt Evelyn RSL always use:*

**HEWETT'S**  
**Mt Evelyn's**  
**Quality**  
**Butchers**

27 Wray Cres  
Ph: 9736 2206  
Email: [hewettma@gmail.com](mailto:hewettma@gmail.com)





# DOT FLENLEY'S STORY – pt 3

**This is the story of one of our past members, Dot Flenley. Dot served with the AWAS during World War Two and was a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL. In 1992 Anthony McAleer sat down with her and interviewed her about her memories. What follows is Dot's story.....**

*Last issue:*

*Dot decided to enlist*

**What were your reasons for joining the 'Australian Women's Army Service'?**

In those days I only had one love, and that was driving. Dad had taught me to drive when I was 14, his idea was – living in the country you never knew if it was needed for you to drive a car, in case something happened to him or Mum. I just loved driving and therefore there was only one thing I was going into, and that was the 'AWAS', and there was only one thing I wished to be, and that was a driver.

We had to go into Mildura and collect the forms at the army depot there, fill them in and send them away. Then you just waited until you were called in, have a medical and wait until you got the word you were accepted.

**Where did they send you first?**

We went and did our rookie training at Darley, which to me is the coldest place in Australia, it was terrible, never ever would I want to go and live there! But apart from that it was the most wonderful six weeks, I thoroughly enjoyed it. It was adventurous, totally different to what our life was about up to then and you made many friends. Mind you the routine of army life took a little bit of getting use to, early rising and roll call before your eyes were open practically. And coming from home and straight into barracks where you slept on beds with straw mattresses and everything. But no it was wonderful. There was nothing in the army that I'd disliked to the extent that I wouldn't try it again. In fact I'd do it all over again. My sister Beryl and I were both at Darley but in different parts. We used to see each other although we shouldn't have, but we found a way in which we could. Once that was finished the girls went off to different areas, some went into Ack-Ack or into signals, they went everywhere. I applied for the driving school.

**Where were you sent after Darley?**

After rookie training we were given leave for the first time and I went home. I then had to go to Melbourne to await my posting to the driving school. We were six weeks at the driving school, three weeks at Bonegilla and three weeks at Bandiana, and that was just wonderful, I really enjoyed that. We were trained on trucks and utilities, no sedans, and they used to take us out on the bitumen roads, which was good. The roads were fairly quiet, there was not a lot of traffic. Much quieter in the country, it was only when we came back to the city we had traffic to contend with. The male instructors were wonderful, they were very good to us girls, if you graded the gears they didn't scream their heads off at you or anything like that. It was mainly a matter of learning the co-ordination between your feet and your gear stick and getting it right.

That was a very happy time, it was wonderful up there. You really felt like you were doing something, you felt good in yourself. Everybody I think felt that way – helping out the country. All the girls had the same attitude to being in the army and were proud to be helping out where we didn't have the men to help out.

*Next issue: Life for Dot after training*

**Photo Right: Dot Flenley in the early 1990's**

## MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Welcome to new members:  
Karin Meyer (who has played the bugle for our Dawn Services over the past few years) and Iain Townsley, a renowned local piper and former WO2 SAS.
- Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Dot Ervine.
- Our thoughts are with Andy & Marie Franks at the moment. Sadly Marie's health has deteriorated to the point where she now needs specialised care and has moved into a nursing home.
- Our Life Member, Peter Henskens, and his wife will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in November!
- Should you require any assistance or advice - Please ring:  
Deanne Webb (the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer).  
Ph: **0402 783 849**  
Or the Rev Richard Schoenmaker (the sub-branch's Padre)  
Ph: **9736 1087**





*If undeliverable return to:*

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

## **Club Opening Hours**

***Every Friday Night  
7.00pm – 10.30pm***

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

Andy has a well stocked fridge and Peter is always 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.

*While you're visiting make sure you check out the fascinating display of military memorabilia that members have donated over the years. This has all been exhibited in our new display cases and arranged by an historian from Museum Victoria.*

## **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.

## **Hall Hire**

The RSL is a great facility for anyone who requires a place for clubs or social groups to gather. Most weekends this facility lies idle and the RSL could be making (albeit a small amount of) money from hiring it to interested parties. We would greatly appreciate your input if you know of anyone who might be interested in hiring the hall for a night or on an ongoing basis. However no Bucks/Hens or under 25's parties!

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

## **Mt Evelyn RSL Committee**

President –	Roger Boness	Ph: 9737 0830
Vice President –	Jim Hurley	Ph: 9876 3750
Secretary –	Anthony McAleer	Ph: 9736 4384
Treasurer –	Betty Crittenden	Ph: 9728 3065
Welfare Officer –	Deanne Webb	Ph: 0402783 849
Padre –	Rev Richard Schoenmaker	Ph: 9736 1087
Appeals Officer –	Dot Ervine	Ph: 9736 3638

**Editor:** Anthony McAleer

**Ph:** 9736 4384

**Email:** [antmca@bigpond.com](mailto: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!***