

# Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 1, Issue 4, Summer 2011 A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



## 2011 Meeting Dates

Oct 9<sup>th</sup>  
Nov 13<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 11<sup>th</sup>

*The Mt Evelyn RSL  
Meetings are held on  
the second 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](mailto:mtevrsl@gmail.com)**

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

**President:**  
**Roger Boness**  
**Ph: 9737 0830**

## RSL AWARDS



The Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-branch recently presented 'Certificates of Appreciation' to two worthy recipients within the Mt Evelyn community.

The first was presented by the President before the September meeting to Rob Sibbings, who has done a magnificent job upgrading the Mt Evelyn War Memorial and the surrounding gardens. In the past he has also put in a lot of effort fixing up the RSL Memorial out the front of the clubrooms and has assisted a number of members to make their homes more accessible.

The second certificate was presented to the 'Mt Evelyn Community Link'. Set up at the Mt Evelyn Library under the leadership of Vicki & Gill, this valuable community asset has done much to assist the Mt Evelyn RSL and its members over the years. All the bookings for our hall are undertaken by the 'Community Link' and they have done a great job recently helping the RSL tidy up its hall hiring processes. They are also going to set up a website for the Mt Evelyn RSL over the coming months.

**Photo:** Jan Simmons (CEO Morrisons), Roger Boness (President Mt Evelyn RSL), Gill Bosaid and Vicki Harrison (Mt Evelyn Community Link).

**Other**  
**Important Dates**  
**Coming Up:**

**Friday**  
**November 11th**  
**11.00pm**

**Remembrance Day  
Service**

Mt Evelyn War  
Memorial Gardens  
Top of Birmingham  
Rd & Wray Cres



**Saturday**  
**October 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**8.30am – 3.00pm**

**Mt Evelyn Festival**

The Mt Evelyn RSL  
will have a stall at  
the festival.

We will be set up  
next to the war  
memorial – near  
other community  
groups – with a  
marquee, banner +  
tables & chairs.

We want to use this  
opportunity to  
promote the club,  
the RSL, hall hire &  
some of our  
activities.

We'll also be selling  
some goods &  
poppies.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch committee has finalised 'The Mt Evelyn RSL Hall Hire Guide'. This comprehensive guide contains contact details, checklists, memorandum of procedures, booking form, conditions of hire, schedule of fees and itemised list of contents. I would encourage all members to familiarise themselves with this guide to ensure any requests they receive regarding hall hire can be comprehensively responded to. Thanks to Anthony McAleer for a job well done. Similarly, thanks to Deanne Webb for her efforts in ensuring our sick bay remains fully operational at all times.

Members are also encouraged to attend and participate in the bi-annual Mt Evelyn Festival on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, October 2011 – *see the add in the newsletter*. The RSL stall will be adjacent to the War Memorial and will be the first opportunity for the sub-branch to sell Remembrance Poppies in the lead up to Remembrance Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2011 – *see Dot's call for help below*.

Recently the Minister for Veterans' Affairs Warren Snowdon announced a new program to maintain the graves of our bravest. The program through the Office of the Australian War Graves will provide for the maintenance in perpetuity of the graves of all Australian Victoria Cross, Cross of Valour and George Cross recipients, wherever they may lie. VC graves which are not currently covered by the existing program of official commemoration will be included, as will the graves of one New Zealand and eighteen British VC recipients buried in Australia.

Members are reminded that there will be a **free BBQ** prior to the next meeting commencing at 2.00pm on Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Lest We Forget. Roger Boness - President

## LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT

We are in urgent need of volunteer helpers to assist with the Poppy Appeal from October 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 Dot Ervine to confirm roster times on: 9736 3638

Regards

Mt Evelyn RSL Ladies Auxiliary

## **Membership Subs – due in Dec!!**

**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 ex-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

# The Green Thing.....

In the line at the store the other day, the check out girl told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the green thing back in my day." The cashier responded, *"That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment."*

**She was right, our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.**

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soft drink bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. *But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.*



We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. *We didn't have the green thing in our day.*

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that woman is right. *We didn't have the green thing back in our day.*

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of Tasmania! In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. *But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.*

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. *But we didn't have the green thing back then.*

Back then, people took the train or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mums or grandparents into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 20,000 Kilometres out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because:

***We didn't have the green thing back then?***





## RSL To Apply For A Howitzer Field Gun For Display

The Mt Evelyn RSL recently got word from the Department of Defence that they are disposing of 39 M2A2 Howitzer Field Guns (see photo left). These guns were critical in providing close artillery fire support to the Australian Army in Vietnam.

They are only being offered to RSLs & historical organisations and as a result the Mt Evelyn RSL has decided to apply for one. This has been a long held dream of many members, especially Derek & Betty Crittenden.

There is a cost of \$4000 to 'demilitarise' them plus there are other costs associated with transport and site preparation. The committee however is confident of getting funding for this. *Stay tuned....*

## *New Website!!* VICTORIAN WAR HERITAGE INVENTORY

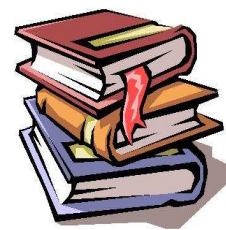
Recently the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Hugh Delahunty MP, launched the 'Victorian War Heritage Inventory'.

The Inventory is a searchable online database containing information and images of sites relating to Victoria's war history including war memorials, avenues of honour, memorial buildings, former defence sites and places of commemoration. It was developed as a joint project between the Veterans Unit and Heritage Victoria. Mt Evelyn's war memorials are listed on here.

The 'Victorian War Heritage Inventory' can be found at:

<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/veterans/veterans-heritage/>

## NEW LIBRARY



Next time you're in the clubrooms check out the RSL's new library – stored under the display cases in the clubrooms.

We have a great collection of books on:

- military history
- Australian military history
- naval history

Feel free to come along and browse through them.

If you have any donations for the Mt Evelyn RSL library or for the club's military history display cases please contact:

Anthony McAleer Ph: **9736 4384**

## Something You Might Have Missed.....

Did you know the Victorian RSL no longer has 'District Boards'? The DB's were abandoned due to the difficulty of attracting sub-branch delegates. These were then replaced by committees and then about 2 years ago these committees were simplified and became 'Regional Forums'.

If you're interested in coming along to the next 'Regional Forum' contact Roger Boness Ph: **9737 0830**

## RSL's new Partnership with the Mt Evelyn History Group

The committee is pleased to announce that the Mt Evelyn RSL has formed a new working partnership with the Mt Evelyn History Group.

The History Group have long been doing a magnificent job in our community and were responsible for the publication of the history of Mt Evelyn called '*Tracks & Trails*'. However they have been a worthy group without a permanent place to hold their meetings and talks. As such the RSL has invited the group to use the hall for their meetings & talks.

As a consequence any member of the Mt Evelyn RSL is invited to come along free of charge to attend the talks hosted by the history group. These usually happen monthly and involve a series of guest speakers and interesting topics. Already this year they have had speakers give talks on Dame Nellie Melba, the artist A M Bale, the Warburton railway & the Mitchells in Mt Evelyn.

The History Group will begin using the hall in January 2012 and their calendar of guest speakers & activities will be published in this newsletter to make members aware. The committee feels that this will be an added bonus for Mt Evelyn RSL members and a great way to offer them an interesting series of activities to enjoy throughout the year. Although the talks won't begin until next year the history group has already invited all Mt Evelyn RSL members to attend their special history walk around the Lilydale Lake on Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup>.

See details below:

### *Historical Tour of the Lilydale Lake*

The Mt Evelyn History Group  
Invites all members of  
The Mt Evelyn RSL to attend

#### **A guided tour of the Lilydale Lake**

Learn about: *the geology, the flora & fauna, the Indigenous connection, the Cave Hill Quarry & tram way, Cashin's Mill, the Sir John Monash military camp, Swinburne University & the lake itself.*



Sat Nov 19th  
1.00pm

Meet at Lake  
Community  
Room  
No Cost

## 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

## HELP WANTED

The Mt Evelyn RSL will be holding a promotional stall at the

### **MT EVELYN FESTIVAL** **Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011**

We have organised for the stall our marquee & an RSL Banner as well as chairs & tables.

We will be promoting the RSL, the Mt Evelyn sub-branch, the hiring of our hall, the Ladies Auxiliary and our activities. We will also be selling some goods and our Remembrance Day poppies.

We need people to help man the stall from 8.30am to 3.30pm.

If you can spare an hour or two on the day please contact:

**Roger Boness on 9737 0830**

## Vale Marjorie Deighton (1917-2011)

The sub-branch is sad to announce the passing of one of its long time service members, Madge Deighton (nee Hunkin) aged 94.

Madge served with the 'Women's Royal Naval Service' as a typist with the Port Division from 1940 to 1942.

This was during the Battle of Britain and the Blitz, when the whole of England became the frontline and tonnes of German bombs were dropped on cities & docks in the United Kingdom. Madge herself experienced at least one significant bombing raid at the Naval establishment she was posted at. In the late 1960's Madge immigrated to Australia with her late husband Ivan & son Roland (who saw 19 years service in the RAF & the RAAF).



## CAN YOU HELP??

The Sub-branch wants to contact the family members of the following:

- The late **Noel Anderson** – past president Mt Evelyn RSL. *Noel had no children but he did have a number of nephews.*
- The late **Jim Clark** – last WWI veteran Mt Evelyn RSL. *Jim Clark had a daughter named Joan & grandchildren*

If you have a contact for any of these families please call:

**Anthony McAleer ph: 9736 4384**

it is to do with a published history being planned on them.

The Eastern Regional Libraries has a 'Military History Group'.

To subscribe to their very interesting newsletter send an email to:

**[militarynews-subscribe@erl.vic.gov.au](mailto:militarynews-subscribe@erl.vic.gov.au)**

**Saturday Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 2.00pm**

**Mt Evelyn RSL Hall**

## -IMPORTANT EVENT-

Leading Senior Constable & the Crime Prevention Officer for the Yarra Ranges Police, **Linda Hancock**, will be doing an important presentation on the 'Community Safety Register' – a program designed to make senior residents living in the Yarra Ranges feel safe.

Please come along & promote amongst your friends – **all welcome!**

## 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





# History of the Mt Evelyn RSL – pt 4

The following was written by A J McAleer as a chapter in the book *'Tracks to Trails – A History of Mt Evelyn'*. Continuing from last edition...

The big issue for the Mt Evelyn RSL in the late 1980s – early 1990's was to have their own clubrooms. Secretary/Treasurer John Urand recalled: *"The hall we were at had become unsuitable for us, no storage area and such, so we started looking at building our own room somewhere. In the meantime through general hard work we raised money from bingo, street stalls and dances"*.

A building committee was formed and fundraising increased with the help of the Ladies Auxiliary under the leadership of Betty Urand. In 1994 their quest for a permanent home lead to meetings with the Shire Council who agreed to approve two thirds of the funding for an extension to the Senior Citizens building. A number of initial objections were eventually overcome and work began the following year. A ten-year loan was taken to fund the RSL's one-third payment, and this was amazingly paid out some eight years early, thanks mainly to the Ladies Auxiliary and others who ran the weekly bingo.

In February 1996 in front of a large audience, the new Mt Evelyn RSL clubrooms were officially opened by the Chief Commissioner of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, Richard Longmore. It ended the club's nomadic existence of 27 years & gave the sub-branch a home. It also meant the club had come full circle to almost the same building from where they were formed.

On the day John Urand told those gathered: *"Five years ago when I was talking to several members I said 'why don't we try to get our own rooms?' Apart from looking at me as though I had just returned from a trip to Mars, I was told 'no it's not possible'. Well I am here to tell you the impossible is possible. Today we have our own lovely rooms"*. To be continued.....



**Official Opening - Mt Evelyn RSL Clubrooms – February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1996**  
Andy Franks (President), Richard Longmore (Chief Commissioner Shire of Yarra Ranges), Bob Halverson (Member for Casey), John Urand (Sect/Tres)

## MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- A big welcome to new members – Steve Deakins, a member of the CFA, has joined as an affiliate member and Edward O'Reilly, a service member, has transferred from Croydon. Also Robert Webb, another service member, has rejoined us after a few years away. We hope to see you all soon at the club.
- **Found** – in the hall on Anzac Day – a gold label badge with monarchs (King & Queen) on it. Contact: Roger on **9737 0830**
- Arthur & Lorraine Allan have moved into a new home at 'Heritage Gardens' in Bayswater and pass on their best to everyone.
- Laurie Hollier is the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer. Should you require any assistance or advice please ring him on:  
Ph : **9737 0068**
- The sub-branch's Padre, the Rev Richard Schoenmaker from the Mt Evelyn Christian Reformed Church, is also available to assist members in need. Contact him on 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 & Marie have a well stocked fridge and Peter is always on hand to make a brew if you so desire.

Friday night football will be playing on our big screen TV and don't forget we also have a pool table, dart board and indoor bowls.

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.

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



Prompt attention  
to breakdowns  
SWEP &  
private work  
7 Days

**PH: 0400564267**

## **Hall Hire**

The RSL is a great facility for anyone who requires a place for clubs or social groups to gather. Most of the time 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 on an ongoing basis. However no Bucks/Hens or under 25's parties!

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

## **Afternoon Delight**

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.

**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!*