Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 3, Issue 5, Summer 2013 A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



2013 Meeting Dates

Sept 20th Oct 18th Nov 15th Dec 20th

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

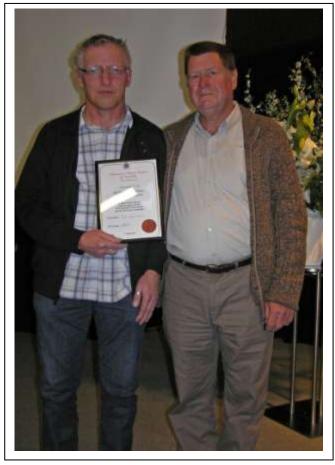
Website: http://mountevelyn.v ic.au/mountevelynrsl

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COMMUNITY AWARDS

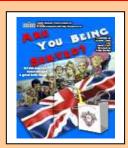
The Mt Evelyn RSL has presented two recently community groups with well deserved 'Certificates Appreciation' for all the effort they put into the Mt Evelyn community and for their support of the Mt Evelyn RSL. At their annual presentation night Mt Evelyn RSL President, Roger presented Boness, Jim Armstrong, Captain of the Mt Evelyn CFA, with the CFA's award (below). In doing so he also recognised the efforts of individual members. Then at their AGM, Roger presented Ian Dubbeld of the 'Mt Evelyn Reformed Christian Church' with their award (**right**). On this occasion Roger acknowledged the work done by parishioners and the support given by the Rev Richard Schoenmaker.





Important Dates Coming Up:

<u>NEXT</u> <u>EXCURSION TO</u> THE ATHENAEUM



Are You Being Served?

Sunday Nov 17th

1.00pm – BBQ lunch at the RSL

2.00pm – Sherries in foyer + visit Yarra Ranges Regional Museum

2.30pm – Curtain up
Total cost for
members
Only \$10.00

To book your ticket ring club & leave message on:

9737 0767

Or sign the notice to attend sheet at the club

Mt Evelyn History Group ~Talk~

Saturday Sept 28th
Time – 1.30pm

Anthony McAleer will be talking about Mt Evelyn's Avenue of Honour & the upcoming centenary of Anzac

Venue:

'Hardy House' 49 Birmingham Rd Mt Evelyn

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-branch is in a cluster of RSL's in the Eastern zone community referred to as Region 2. There are twenty-eight RSL clubs in Region 2 who meet monthly to discuss matters of mutual interest which are then reported to the Victorian Branch for their consideration and/or action. I represent our subbranch at these meetings so if any one has any issues that they want raised through Region 2 please feel more than welcome to contact me.

The Mt Evelyn RSL is also aligned with the Outer Eastern Melbourne Subbranch of the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia and are heavily involved in the Yarra Valley Vietnam Veterans group.

On Saturday August 17th participating Yarra Valley RSL's came together with Vietnam veterans in Healesville to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in South Vietnam. The service Healesville put on was a marvellous occasion and I was very proud to represent the sub-branch and lay a wreath.

It appears more than likely that Mt Evelyn RSL sub-branch will be responsible for hosting the 2014 Long Tan commemorative service. In that regard I would encourage branch members to consider how they may be able to assist with the planning and presentation to remember the sacrifice of those who served their country in Vietnam.

All vibrant communities, and Mt Evelyn is a vibrant community, depend on the goodwill of their voluntary associations who collectively ensure the community remains safe and has access to the services they provide.

The Mt Evelyn RSL has formed long term relationships with our fellow voluntary organisations and often reflects on the ongoing support and service these voluntary groups provide to RSL members. In that regard it was the absolute pleasure of the branch when we were invited to the Mt Evelyn CFA presentation night and the Mt Evelyn Christian Reformed Church at their annual general meeting to present certificates of appreciation for the ongoing support and services these two important Mt Evelyn groups provided to our community.

LEST WE FORGET

- Roger Boness

APPEALS OFFICERS REPORT

Our Poppy sales out front of the Mt Evelyn IGA will start on October 21st and go through to November 9th. This time we will be using our recently donated selling trolley which will help to make our poppies sales look a little more professional. If you are able to assist with selling poppies during that time please ring me on **9736 3638** to go on the roster. Regards –

Dot Ervine, Appeals Officer

Membership Subs for 2013

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

Community Members – open to anyone – just means you don't have voting rights at the club. **\$5** 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



BETTY'S JOKE PAGE



A DOG NAMED 'SEX'

Everybody I know who has a dog usually calls him 'rover' or 'spot. I called mine 'sex'. Now this has been very embarrassing to me, especially when I went to the council to renew the dog license. When I told the clerk I'd like a license for 'sex' he said. "I would like to have one too!". Then I said, "she's is a dog!!". He said he "I don't care what she looks like". I said, "you don't understand. I've had 'sex' since I was 16 years old." He replied, "You must have been quite a strong boy."

When I decided to get married, I told the minister that I would like to have 'sex' at the wedding. He told me to wait until after the wedding was over. I said, "but 'sex' has played a big part in my life and my life revolves around 'sex'." He said he didn't want to hear about my personal life and would not marry us in his church. I told him everybody would like having 'sex' at the wedding. The next day we were married at the justice of peace and my family was barred from the church then on.

When my wife and went on our honeymoon, I took the dog with me. When we checked into the motel, I told the clerk that I wanted a room for me and my wife and a special room for 'sex'. He said every room in the motel is a place for sex. I said, "you don't understand. 'Sex' keeps me awake at night." The clerk said, "me too!"

One day I entered 'sex' in a contest. But before the competition began, 'sex' ran away. Another contestant asked me why I was just looking around. I told him that I was going to have 'sex' in the contest. He said that I should have sold my own tickets. "You don't understand!!" I said. "I hoped to have 'sex' on TV!!". He called me a show off.

When my wife and I separated, we went to court to fight for custody of the dog. I said, "your honour. I had 'sex' before I was married, but 'sex' left me after I was married." The judge said, "me too!!"

Last night, 'sex' ran off again. I spent hours looking all over for her. A cop came over and

asked me what I was doing in the alley at 4 o'clock in the morning. I said, "I'm looking for 'sex'." My case comes up next Thursday.

Well now I have been thrown in jail, been divorced and had more damn troubles with that dog than I ever foresaw. Why just the other day when I went for my first session with my psychiatrist, she asked me, "what seems to be the trouble?" I replied, "'sex' has been my best friend all of my life but now it has left me forever. I couldn't live any longer. So lonely." The doctor said, "look mister you should understand 'sex' isn't a man's best friend. So get yourself a dog."

The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just gotten married — for the fourth time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation.

"He's a funeral director." she answered.

"Interesting," the newsman thought. He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living.

She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she had first married a banker when she was in her early 20's, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40's, later on a preacher when in her 60's, and now in her 80's, a funeral director. The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."



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www.facebook.com/mtevelynrsl

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO MT EVELYN WAR MEMORIAL PARK





Above: New metal & timber railings **Below:** New picnic table & seating

Above: New park bench **Below:** Another new park bench





REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE - 2013

MONDAY NOVEMBER 11TH 11.00AM MT EVELYN WAR MEMORIAL PARK



- Our traditional 'Remembrance Day' service will take place at the 'Mt Evelyn War Memorial Garden' Cnr Wray Crs & Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn.
- Once again our service will involve local school children and our guest speaker will be Amat Binnore, Vice-President of the 'Outer East Vietnam Veterans Association' who enlisted from Mt Evelyn to serve in that conflict.
- There will be an afternoon tea afterwards at the RSL Hall 49 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn as well as a special ceremony where a WW2 veteran & a Vietnam Veteran will unveil their names on the Honour Board.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR HALL



Left:

New steps have been for our stage area. This was constructed by Ted Fairweather and Roger Boness.

Below:

New signage out the front of the building. Dave from Tiger signs made the signs and Roger and Ted put them up on the walls.

We have also had our club honour boards up dated as well.





THE 'LETTER TO THE EDITOR' ISSUE

Recently a letter appeared in the 'Mt Evelyn Mail' that was quite rude to the members of the Mt Evelyn RSL and attacked us for planning to place our memorial howitzer on public view (see below left). This then resulted in a large number of supportive comments from the community on our facebook page. The members were going to draft up a response but when we read the letter that our Treasurer, Sandra FitzGerald, put together we felt this said everything we wanted to say.

Tanks under fire

I NOW see that the Mount Evelyn RSL are placing a dirty big cannon at their RSL soon.

Why do these RSLs with members that have 'little man syndrome' want to continually attempt to prove their manhood by shoving weapons of war in our face?

When will they understand that we don't need cannons and tanks in our face to remember sacrifices of our servicemen and women.

By the way, I never, ever see women in any photographs that are taken with these pieces of crap that are used to kill and destroy!

We don't need tanks and cannons on our streets, they are an insult to anyone that yearns for peace and are best used under the sea to protect our beaches from erosion or out of sight in museums.

Phil Measom, Monbulk.

Jl.

Above: Mt Evelyn Mail 20/8/2013 Below: Mt Evelyn Mail 2/9/2013

Return fire

I AM writing in response to the rude comments made by Phil Measom about the hard working members of the Mt Evelyn RSL and the slur he has made on the Mt Evelyn community for planning to place a memorial howitzer in our commemorative gardens (Mail Opinion, 20 August).

What Mr Measom would be totally unaware of, possibly because he doesn't live anyway near Mt Evelyn, was that the Mt Evelyn RSL held community consultation through the local media to allow the community to decide where the memorial howitzer should go.

The response was overwhelmingly for it to be placed in the commemorative gardens where it was felt it would help to raise interest in the other war memorials in the park.

What Mr Measom is too naive to understand

is that the reason the Mt Evelyn RSL originally purchased this particular item was that it was a Vietnam War era howitzer.

Mt Evelyn had 11 residents leave this township to serve their nation in the Vietnam War, three of which paid the supreme sacrifice.

As a point of rule, during that conflict no force went on patrol or into action without air or artillery support.

It was howitzers like these that helped protect those men and it was men like our president Roger Boness who manned them.

Roger served as a forward observer with the 106th Field Battery in Vietnam between 1967-1968. Mr Measom's comments that Roger and other veterans have 'little man syndrome' because they want to place the commemorative howitzer in the park is highly insulting not only to him but to all of us who served our nation.

In 1921 at the urging of John Ellis, a prominent citizen, Mt Evelyn was given a war trophy by the government to commemorate the service of our men.

The trophy was a German machine gun that had been captured by Australian troops at Mont St Quentin in France during World War One. The reason John Ellis wanted this gun was because his son, the popular local footballer John Alexander Ellis, had been killed in action at Mont St Quentin. Mr Measom, would you say John Ellis had 'little man syndrome' as well?

Maybe you need to take a valuable lesson from your employer The Salvation Army, a great organisation that has supported Australian service personnel for over 100 years, and get out there and support returned service people, not just insult them.

Oh and if you're wondering, I am a woman and I proudly served my country for over 10 years in the Royal Australian Ordnance Corps attached to an artillery unit and we were too busy doing important work to have our photos taken!

Sandra FitzGerald, Treasurer, Mt Evelyn RSL.

WELCOME HOME



One of our members, L/Cpl Chris McAleer, recently returned from a tour of service in the Solomon Islands as part of 'Operation Anode' (see reports in our newsletters). previous Photo: (left) L/Cpl Chris McAleer gets a welcome home hug from his daughter Alannah. On hand as part of the

On hand as part of the band for the welcome home parade was none other than our Vice-President Ian Townsley (right).



Just for Phil
Measom's benefit
(see letter opposite)
some of our female
members have
supplied photos of
themselves with
military items.





Above: Our treasurer Sandra FitzGerald (third from left) photographed on a tank at Puckapunyal during her service with the Royal Australian Ordnance Corps.

Left: Georgia McAleer, daughter of our secretary, offered seventeen photos of herself with artillery pieces from over the years, here is just one.

MT EVELYN RSL BUS TRIP – 29/8/2013

On Thursday August 29th members of the Mt Evelyn RSL took a bus excursion out to Nar Nar Goon to visit Bernie Dingle's 'Light Horse Museum'. This museum has been collected and curator by Bernie over a lifetime and is one of the best kept secrets in Melbourne. When members arrived we enjoyed a morning tea and then Bernie gave a talk on his unique collection of honour boards that he has saved from being destroyed over the years. He then gave a tour through the museum and told us some fascinating stories. We also presented Bernie with a copy of our book 'The Last Light Horseman' for his collection. After Nar Nar Goon we headed off to the Belgrave/Upwey RSL where we visited their 'Running Rabbits Museum', dedicated to the men of Kokoda. This again was a wonderful collection especially their diorama of the Kokoda Track. Afterwards we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the RSL before heading home in the comfort of Crown coaches. A great day out so make sure you put your name down for our next bus trip to Seymour! Photos: D Webb













MT EVELYN RSL BUS EXCURSION

THURSDAY November 14th 2013

The Mt Evelyn RSL is organising a bus trip to visit:

- Vietnam Veterans walk in Seymour
- Railway Hotel for lunch
- Tank Museum at Puckapunyal

Only cost is for your lunch!!

Contact: Roger Boness **9737 0830** asap to book a seat







The Mt Evelyn RSL always use:

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Mt Evelyn's Quality Butchers



27 Wray Cres Ph: 9736 2206

Email: hewettma@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE

Copies of

'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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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



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For more information see:

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http://youtu.be/0d2Rjdt4TCs

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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 idea!!!

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

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?

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.

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 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

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The Mt Evelyn RSL always uses:

TIGER SIGNS

*Computer Cut Vinyls *Digital

Prints *Banners *Signs

Contact Dave – 0419 897 134 or 9737 0888



BILL HARRISON'S STORY – pt 3

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 transfers to the 1st Independent Company

What was the training like at Wilson's Promontory?

The training there was very vigorous, everything at the double. We use to run three miles along the soft sand before breakfast, if you've ever run in soft sand in your boots you know how hard it is. We did as much night work there as we did day work, endurance marches, marches that lasted three days, some were twenty-four hours a day, we did a lot of that. It got to the point where we could march while we were asleep, you can't walk while asleep but you can march while asleep, the rhythm of marching seems to bare you along. It certainly built us up and we were all fit as fiddles.

When did you go overseas?

We were to be the first reinforcements for the 1st Independent Company. They were then in Rabaul with the 2/22nd Battalion. All the shipping was overseas at that time so there wasn't any shipping to take us up to Rabaul for a long time. Eventually we left from Sydney on the 'Macdui' and by the time we got to Port Moresby we heard that the Japs had arrived on Rabaul. Soon after both the 1st Independent Company and the 2/22nd Battalion ceased to exist. Two days after the Japs landed there many of our men were murdered in the Tol Plantation massacre. Later those that were left were put on board a ship called the 'Montevideo Maru' that was sunk in the China Sea by an American submarine. All were drowned there, there were no survivors.

What happened when you got to Port Moresby?

As the Japs had got to Rabaul before we did we had to wait at Moresby for about two weeks. Then they put us all on a small steam launch and we were going to go up to Rabaul, go along the coast to Madang and switch across from there. We only got one day out of Moresby when the bloody thing started to leak so we had to come back and trade it in on another one. But at Moresby they decided to hold us for another week and then we were going to go by submarine to Gasmata, that's a village on the south side of New Britain. While we were waiting for the American sub to come, word came through that everyone on Rabaul had been captured or murdered. There was no longer anyone alive to go and hitch up with. Only fifteen of those originally on Rabaul escaped and survived out of our unit. Our unit then ceased to exist and really for us there was no unit left to join as reinforcements.

What happened then?

We remained the 1st Independent Company and then the 2/5th Independent Company were sent up to New Guinea and we joined them and we were all eventually absorbed into 'Kanga Force'. We were then put on to another launch and sent up the Lakekami River. This is the second largest river in New Guinea and is enormous; so much fresh water comes down it you can still drink the ocean twenty miles off the coast. We went up that river for two days in a small launch and then we went up in double canoes, three of us with twelve natives paddling in each canoe, for another three days.

Next issue: Bill's jungle trek to Wau, New Guinea.

Right: Bill Harrison in 1999

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Thanks to Elizabeth Gibson & Rosemary Cox for donation of ammunition belt of Ernest Pearson MM.
- Thanks to L/Cpl Chris
 McAleer who donated some
 items that he discovered on
 the battlefields of
 Guadalcanal when he was
 on deployment in the
 Solomon Islands recently.
- Best wishes to Andrew & Vicki Walburg who are doing the 'Black Dog Ride to the Red Centre' on their Harley to raise funds for depression prevention.
- Peter Henskens, although still in hospital, was well enough to visit the RSL the other week – it was great to see him after so long.
- One of our members, Kim Parry, is a registered 'Justice of the Peace' and has offered his services to any member who should require it. Contact Kim on: 0418334416
- Should you require any assistance or advice -Deanne Webb (the Subbranch's Welfare Officer).

Ph: **0402 783 849**Or the Rev Richard
Schoenmaker (the subbranch's Padre)
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.

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.

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

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!

All information on how to book the hall see: Steve Deakins at 'Art With Distinction' Shop 7B York Rd, Mt Evelyn Ph: **9736 3033**

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 –

Sandra FitzGerald **Membership Officer** –

Betty Crittenden

Welfare Officer -

Deanne Webb Ph: 0402783849

Padre -

Rev Richard Schoenmaker Ph: 97361087

Appeals Officer –

Dot Ervine Ph: 97363638

Chamber representative -

Russ Kirby