

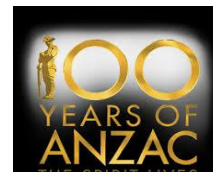
Mt Evelyn RSL News



Volume 8, Issue 6, Xmas Edition A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



THE CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE



2019 Meeting Dates

AGM – Sun Feb 17th
@ 2.00pm

Fri March 15th
Fri April 19th
Fri May 17th
Fri June 21st

*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

Website:

www.mountevelynrsl.com

Postal Address:

PO Box 182
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796



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Above: Kim Fawkes and Gus the Donkey do a great job as Simpson and his Donkey (photo courtesy Casey Neill - Mail Newspaper).

The Centenary of Armistice was commemorated locally in a number of ways. The first event was a special school's commemorative service, held on Friday November 9th, at the Mt Evelyn War Memorial that involved three local schools. Guest speaker was Major (rtd) Ken Mackenzie OAM who told the kids a moving story of his grandfather who was a First World War veteran and how he felt about horses being in the war. There was also a very popular visit by Simpson and his donkey (see above).

On Sunday November 11th, we had our traditional Remembrance Day Service. Our secretary Anthony McAleer OAM told the story of what happened locally on the day the armistice was announced and how Melba rang the fire bell. Afterwards everyone came back to the club for a wonderful afternoon tea and the unveiling of plaques in memory of members Arch Carswell and Kathie Freeman who passed away this year.

At 2.00pm a few members ventured down to the Lilydale High School for the performance of 'Yarra Valley Remembers' which told the story of what happened in this area during World War One. It also included the launch of the website 'War Diary – what happened to the men and women of the Shire of Lillydale in WWI'.

At 5.00pm a good crowd turned up at the Mt Evelyn War Memorial to hear pipers Iain Townsley and Neil Chisholm perform 'The Battle's O'er'. This was being performed at the same time by pipers all over the world as a special tribute to the centenary of the armistice. (more photos inside).

Important Dates

Coming Up:

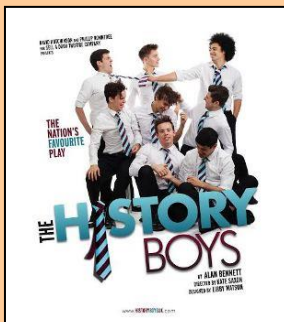
Athenaeum Theatre, Lilydale

Members of the club
enjoy our quarterly
excursions to the ATC.

We will be doing the same
in 2018 so come along and
see:

HISTORY BOYS

November 2018



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

**WWI individual
services @
11.00am**

Dec 14th, 2018
**Mt Evelyn War
Memorial**

**Michael
Hannaford
KIA – Vietnam**

June 20th, 2019
**Mt Evelyn War
Memorial**
Frank Larkins
KIA – WW1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well it has been another huge year for the Mt Evelyn RSL in which we have achieved much, most notably our commemorative services, the centenary of WWI events and the publication of our book 'Yarra Valley Vietnam Veterans'. As a result the members would like to thank the Mount Evelyn community for all their support throughout 2018.

Our Thursday afternoon social for retired members has proven to be a huge hit and recently those RSL members were able to share the Christmas Spirit with those less fortunate thanks to the generosity of one of our local traders. Liam from Bells Best Cuts family butchers donated a Xmas ham to RSL members for their purposes. The members then decided to raffle the ham and donate the funds to the Mount Evelyn Community Spirit Tree. These funds are managed by Anglicare who arranges meals for the needy and last year provided 600 gifts to children of all ages. Should others like to assist this worthy cause they may visit Nicki or Anna at the Mount Evelyn Community House.

As the busy 2018 draws to a close I would to pass on to all RSL members and our community friends my compliments of the Season and hope to see you at the club next year.

Don't forget our 50th anniversary luncheon on Sunday January 20th 2019!!!

Lest We Forget

Roger Boness – President, Mt Evelyn RSL

APPEAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Hi everybody,

Another newsletter - another report, I'm sure these newsletters come around every week nowadays. There is really not much that I can say that wasn't said a month ago. As you all know we had a terrific response to our sales leading up to Remembrance Day, and a quick look at the figures available we appear to have a decent percentage increase on the sales of 2017.

I should have the true figures available for our final committee meeting of the year on December 21st. Anyway once again thank you all for a job well done, just a gentle reminder for those who are interested, we start our Anzac Collections on 1st April 2019.

To finish off, seeing as this is the Festive Season, a Merry Christmas to you and yours.

John Allwood – Appeals Officer

Membership Subs for 2019 – *Now Due!*

Full Members – open to ex-service personnel who were in the uniformed services for a period of six months or more. **\$25 a year**

Affiliated Members – open to those who have served with the emergency services or whose relatives were service personnel. **\$25 a year**

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



A 80 year old woman was arrested for shop lifting. When she went before the judge he asked her, "What did you steal?" She replied, "A can of peaches." The judge then asked her why she had stolen the can of peaches and she replied that she was hungry. The judge then asked her how many peaches were in the can. She replied 6. The judge then said, "I will then give you 6 days in jail."

Before the judge could actually pronounce the punishment, the woman's husband spoke up and asked the judge if he could say something. The judge said, "What is it?"

The husband said, "She also stole a can of peas."

I swallowed a dictionary. It gave me thesaurus throat I've ever had.

Had a bad mixup at the store today. When the cashier said 'strip down, facing me', apparently she was referring to my credit card.

My wife asked me to pass her lip balm, instead, I gave her super glue by mistake. She's still not talking to me.

A man and woman were on their first date when she asked him: 'Do you have any children?'

'Yes', he answered, 'I have one that's just under two'.

Upset she replied: 'I may be blonde but I know how many one is!'

What do you get when you cross a dyslexic, an insomniac, and an agnostic?

Someone who lays awake at night wondering if there is a dog.

Two gold fish are in a tank.

One looks at the other and says, "You know how to drive this thing?!"

Two soldiers are in a tank.

One looks at the other and says, "BLUBLUBBLUBLUBBLUB."

You know why you never see elephants hiding up in trees?

Because they're really good at it.

What is red and smells like blue paint?

Red paint.

A dyslexic man walks into a bra.

Why aren't koalas actual bears?

The don't meet the koalafications.

A bear walks into a restaurant and say's "I want a grilllllled

The waiter says "Whats with the pause?"

The bear replies "Whaddya mean, I'M A BEAR."

What do you call bears with no ears?

B

Why dont blind people skydive?

Because it scares the hell out of their dogs.

I went in to a pet shop. I said, "Can I buy a goldfish?" The guy said, "Do you want an aquarium?"

I said, "I don't care what star sign it is."

As a scarecrow, people say I'm outstanding in my field.

But hay, it's in my jeans.

Follow us on facebook

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MELBOURNE CUP DAY



Members had a wonderful get together on Melbourne Cup Day. A pool competition was played, a traditional sweep organised and a terrific luncheon put on.

Above: The fellows who battled it out on the pool table.

Below: The ladies in their finery.

Left: Ron Jones attempts a hustle.

Photos: Iain Townsley



NEW MT EVELYN RSL STUBBY HOLDERS

50 1968 - 2018
years

Since the club's
foundation meeting



MT EVELYN RSL

The Mt Evelyn RSL has had some new stubby holders made promoting the club.

Above: Is a brand new one commemorating the 50th anniversary of the foundation meeting in 1968 that created the club.

Below: Is an image of Mt Evelyn's War Memorial at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day.

You can collect your stubby holders next time you are at the club for only five dollars each.

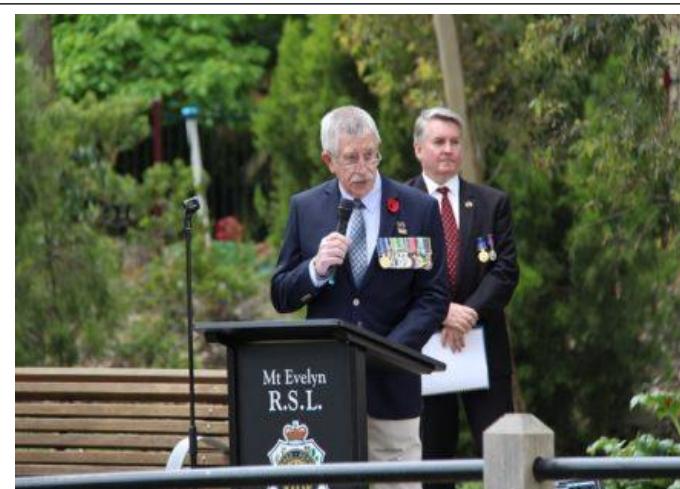
ONLY

\$5



MT EVELYN RSL

CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE





Above: Images from the performance of Yarra Valley Remembers.

Below: The group gathered to hear the Battles O'er.

Left Above: Images from the special school's centenary service

Left Below: Images from the Remembrance Day Ceremony

Photos: Anthony McAleer, Casey Neill (Mail Newspapers), Greg Carrick, Iain Townsley, Yarra Hills Secondary College



OUR PIPER AT TIDAL RIVER



Once again, our piper Iain Townsley, a former Australian Commando and British SAS Commando, was supporting the pilgrimage to what was in WWII, No.7 Infantry Training School Commando, aka Tidal River. Left: Iain is with Dick Pelling from the Commando Association Victoria who is always pleased to receive our newsletters.



OUR MEDIA STAR

Did you see our president Roger Boness star in this year's Victorian Seniors Festival. If you remember Roger was named last year Victorian Senior of the Year in the Veteran's Category for all the work he does for the Mt Evelyn RSL. The image and story (left) appeared in the Victorian Seniors Festival programme booklet as well as on posters, some of which were spotted on railway stations around Melbourne.



RALPH GOODE RESERVE

The Ralph Goode Reserve and storyboard was unveiled on Saturday Nov 24th, 2018 – the centenary of the day he arrived home. **Below:** Mayor Tony Stevenson with Goode family members.



POPPY SALES



Above: Roger Boness and John Allwood selling poppies
outside Coles in Mooroolbark.

Photo: Iain Townsley

The Mt Evelyn RSL had a great team out over October and November raising welfare funds by selling poppies.

Many thanks to Coles Mooroolbark and IGA Mt Evelyn for all their support – it is greatly appreciated.

See John's Appeals Officer's report for further details.

MT EVELYN RSL's 50th ANNIVERSARY

Mt Evelyn RSL

CELEBRATES

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FORMING OF THE CLUB

With a special

50th Luncheon

Date: Sunday January 20th, 2019

Time: 11.00am – 4.00pm

Place: Mt Evelyn RSL Hall (Hardy House)
49 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn

RSVP Betty Crittenden at bcrittenden@bigpond.com

COMMUNITY AWARDS



Well done to Mt Evelyn RSL members Rob Webb (above) and Les Kennedy (below) who were recently presented with a community award by the Hon Tony Smith MP. Both men were presented with the awards for the work they do for the sub-branch and for other community groups such as the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club and Cricket Club and the Australian Air League. **Photos: courtesy the office of Tony Smith MP.**



SEVILLE WAR MEMORIAL

After five years of fund raising and a lot of hard work from the Seville War Memorial Committee, construction on the magnificent Seville War Memorial has finally been started. The Foundation and steel work will be completed by the end of the year and the George Ingram VC, MM panel will be up in time for the centenary of his welcome home to Seville in May 2018.



50th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE



Over the past 4 years the Mt Evelyn RSL has been marking the centenary of those listed on our local war memorials who died while on active service in World War One with a special commemorative ceremony.

As we are currently looking at the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, the Mt Evelyn RSL has decided to also undertake commemorative services to honour the local men who died in that conflict.

The first of these will take place this Friday to remember Michael Hannaford (left) of Mt Evelyn who was killed in action on that day in 1968.

Details are –

Date - Friday December 14th, 2018

Time - 11.00am

Place - Mt Evelyn War Memorial - Cnr Wray Cres & Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn

All welcome.

YARRA VALLEY VIETNAM VETERANS

YARRA VALLEY VIETNAM VETERANS



A J McAleer OAM

Fifty years after they served Australia in the Vietnam War, sixteen veterans of that conflict from the Yarra Valley sat down with the Mt Evelyn RSL's historian and revealed, some for the first time, their wartime experiences.

Their stories tell of our nation's involvement in Vietnam and spans the period 1964 to 1972. They served with the Navy, with the Regular Army, with the CMF and as National Servicemen. Their backgrounds varied as much as their experiences 'in country' during that time.

It is a story of sacrifice and endurance, bravery and loss, good times and bad times. It reveals the environment they were forced to exist in and the role they played, from the mundane to the terrifying.

Surviving all of this they then returned home to a nation where many people ignored or even condemned them. For most, those decades after the war were an ongoing battle to deal with the physical and mental scars.

With a Foreword by Neville Clark MC, OAM

An Introduction by The Hon Tony Smith MP

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MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP

LILYDALE – FEBRUARY 1914

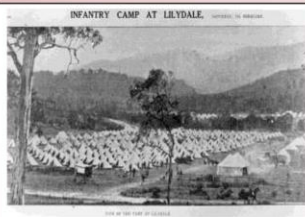
100 years ago John Monash and 3000 citizen soldiers descended on Lilydale and camped for week where the Lilydale Lake is today.

While they were there they were visited by General Sir Ian Hamilton & Richard Williams of RAAF fame and held a huge 'mock battle' near Melba's home in Coldstream.



Why were they there, what did they do, why was the event the most important in Monash's pre-war military career?

To mark the centenary of this remarkable event the Mt Evelyn RSL has published a book that details in words and images the fascinating story of 'Monash's Militia Camp'.



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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 overseas 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 diaries is an extraordinary day to day account of the horrors and heroism of serving as a stretcher bearer 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.

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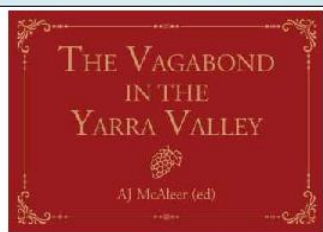
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THE VAGABOND IN THE YARRA VALLEY



Observation of the Yarra Valley by one of the 19th Century's greatest writers and journalists
The Vagabond.

His complete collection of articles written on the Yarra Valley from 1877 to 1894. Includes details of the early wine industry, a description of travelling here by coach and then by train, reports on the development of the townships and its residents as well as the Steels Creek gold rush.

With a Foreword by:
Christine Fyffe MLA

Introduction by:
Jim Brown

Fully illustrated with images and photos of the Yarra Valley in the 19th Century – many never seen before!

Right: Deschamps Hill, Lilydale from 'The Towers'



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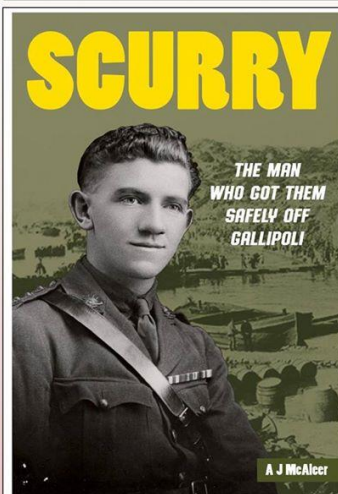


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SCURRY

*THE MAN WHO GOT THEM
SAFELY OFF GALLIPOLI*



On December 8th, 1915 there were 38,500 Australian troops occupying trenches on Gallipoli, facing a larger Turkish force of some 80,000. Twelve days later they had all been evacuated from the Peninsula without the loss of a man and without the enemy knowing.

How they did this was helped in no small way by an ingenious invention created by twenty year old Lance-Corporal Bill Scurry, a self-firing rifle with a primitive timer that would convince the Turkish soldiers that the Anzacs were still in their trenches shooting at them when in fact they had long gone. It would earn for him the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the gratitude of those who had got off Gallipoli safely.

But this was only a small part of the Bill Scurry story. From Egypt to Gallipoli and on to the Western Front, where he lost an eye and gained the Military Cross. Then to his post-war days as a soldier settler in Silvan before he was to serve once more in the Second World War.

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 7pm – 9pm
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 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
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Leader: Wilma 0488776294
rosemont.townclub@gmail.com

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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

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CROYDON KILSYTH MONTROSE MT EVELYN LILYDALE DISPLAY SEVILLE

LILYDALE WEIGHT CLUB

We meet at the Mt Evelyn
RSL Hall every Tuesday
5.45pm-6.45pm

Everyone welcome!



FITNESS CLASSES

**At the RSL Hall
49 Birmingham Rd, Mt Evelyn**



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.

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

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Mt Evelyn

www.jjsphotography.com.au

St John Ambulance

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

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

Call – Diane Dickson on **9736 2490**



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for Life**

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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**

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

The Mt Evelyn RSL always uses:

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Entitled Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients may be referred for clinically necessary Exercise Physiology treatment by their General Practitioner on a valid D904 referral form.

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For further information, contact
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njfwellness.com.au

WILLIAM THOMPSON

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.....

William Theodore Thompson was born in July 1895 at Mitcham, Victoria, the eldest of six children to Walter Thompson and Catherine Letitia Thompson (nee McMillan). His father had grown up at Seville and worked as a blacksmith. In his youth young William spent time living at Launching Place, Warburton, Wandin, Wangaratta and Fitzroy, where ever his father could find work. While the family lived at Wandin he attended the Wandin State School, in fact just after the war started the family moved back to Wandin, to a property called 'Paradise' in Wandin North.

After he finished his schooling William obtained an apprenticeship as an electrical mechanical engineer with the Excelsoir Electrical Company in Latrobe St, Melbourne, at the time he was living in Barkly Street, North Fitzroy. During this period he also served with the militia, serving four years with the Senior Cadets of the 54th (Merri Creek) Infantry Battalion and six months as a member of the 54th Infantry Battalion. His soldiering skills must have impressed those in charge as he served as a Lieutenant for most of the period he was with the militia.

Soon after the war began in 1914, William's father Walter tried to enlist but being just five feet, three inches tall he was rejected as a result of his height. Later, when the casualties starting coming in from the Gallipoli campaign, the authorities weren't as fussy and he was he was accepted on his second attempt in June 1915 at the age of forty-four. Because of his blacksmithing skills and work with horses he was assigned as a driver with the 2nd Field Company Engineers and left Australia in October 1915. He would go on to serve in Egypt, France, Belgium and England.

With his father enlisting in the AIF, young William was inspired to join up as well and on March 8th, 1916, he walked into the recruiting depot at the Melbourne Town Hall and signed up. His medical records show he was five feet, nine inches tall, had brown eyes and black hair. Being aged just nineteen at the time he had to obtain written consent from his parents in order to be allowed to serve overseas. He undertook his initial training at a AIF training camp at Castlemaine and soon after was transferred to Bendigo and allotted to 'A' company of the 38th Battalion, he was given the regimental number 405. Here his soldiering skills must have stood out again as he was promoted to Corporal in April and then Sergeant in May. He embarked with his unit from Port Melbourne on the HMAT Runic on June 20th, 1916.

Two months later he was in camp at Salisbury in England, undergoing further training before proceeding to the front. In November 1916 the 38th Battalion crossed the channel to France and soon after had begun to occupy trenches on the Western Front, just in time for the onset of the terrible winter of 1916-1917. During Xmas 1916 William's battalion was moved to Armentieres in France and in the first few weeks on the new year were regularly subjected to artillery, machine gun and sniper fire. On January 6th, 1917 he was commissioned once again as a Second Lieutenant.

On the night of January 16th, 1917 William was on duty in the front line trenches when he was suddenly shot and killed by enemy machine gun fire. He was just twenty years old at the time and had only been in action a few weeks.

His body was later buried at the Cite Bon Jean Military Cemetery in Armentieres, France. A parcel of his belongings were later sent home to his family in Wandin. The family's notice in the newspaper simply stated 'One of

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Welcome to new member **Heidi Ramsey**.
- Best wishes to **Tom Steele** who has been in hospital.
- Well done to our member **Tony Stevenson** who was recently elected the Mayor of the Yarra Ranges Council.
- Should you require any assistance or advice - **Deanne Webb** (the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer).
Ph: **0402 783 849**

the best'.

In September that year a golden cypress tree was planted in the grounds of the Wandin State School just opposite us in his memory.

His death created great hardship for his family though. Still in France in early 1918 his father applied to return home to Australia stating: 'Upon the loss of my son, the sole support of my wife and five children has fallen upon my shoulders. My wife at present is greatly worried owing to the loss of our son and financial difficulties and my absence'. Backed by his commanding officer he was given permission to return home in April 1918 and the family lived for a number of years at another property in Wandin North called 'Kooloonong'.

Sadly though this wouldn't be the only war time casualty this family would experience. In December 1943, during another World War, William's brother, Henry Victor Thompson, died of illness while a prisoner of war of the Japanese on the Burma-Thailand Railway. Both brothers' names are listed on the Wandin War Memorial.

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: mtevrsl@gmail.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 –

Appeals Officer –

John Allwood

Ph: 9736 1551

Chamber representative –

Les Kennedy

Ph: 0418 149 558

Justice of the Peace –

Kim Parry

Ph: 0418334416

Committee:

Betty Crittenden, Bill Smart, Ron Jones, Stan
Beaumont, Rob Webb, Dot Ervine