

Mt Evelyn RSL News

Volume 1, Issue 5, Xmas 2011 A Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia



MERRY XMAS

AWARD FOR DEREK

The Mt Evelyn RSL's past president, Derek Crittenden, was recently awarded an 'RSL Certificate of Appreciation' for all his efforts over the years. Presented to him by President Roger Boness in front of a large audience at the 'Remembrance Day' ceremony, Roger thanked Derek for all his hard work for the club, for his performance as president for a number of years and for his dedication to the Mt Evelyn community. In receiving the award Derek thanked everyone involved and stated how highly he thought of the Mt Evelyn community.

Derek was president from 2007 to 2010 and during his time as president of the club he was instrumental in negotiations with the Shire to have the RSL take over the lease of the hall and in organising for the club to hold a Dawn Service on Anzac Day.

Below – Alan Martin (new member), Roger Boness (President), Laurie Hollier (Welfare Officer), Derek Crittenden (Past President with certificate), the Rev Richard Schoenmaker (Padre) & Andy Franks (Past President)

2011/2012 Meeting Dates

Dec 11th
No January meeting
Feb 12th
March 11th
April 8th
May 13th
June 10th
July 8th
Aug 12th
Sept 9th
Oct 14th
Nov 11th
Dec 9th

*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

Postal Address:
PO Box 182
Mt Evelyn Vic 3796



Other
Important Dates
Coming Up:

Sunday
December 11th
1.00pm

Mt Evelyn RSL
Xmas Party
Come celebrate
Xmas with friends!!
1.00pm –
BBQ Xmas lunch
2.00pm –
Brief meeting - our
last for 2011



Saturday
December 3rd
1.45pm

Book Launch

The Mt Evelyn
History Group
invites all RSL
members to attend
the launch of their
new book

***'Aborigines of the
Yarra Valley and
Northern
Dandenongs'***

Mt Evelyn Station
House, Wray Cres.

TBA
Wine Tasting –
Jeff Cole, a wine
maker from Buxton,
will be bringing
along a selection of
wines to try and buy
– *great prices on
these wines!*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On Thursday October 27th I had the great honour of being present at the family home of Major Tony Geyer when he arrived home from active service in Afghanistan with the Australian Defence Force. Along with his wife Caroline, his son and daughter-in-law and our secretary Anthony McAleer and his daughter Georgia, I had the pleasure of welcoming our member's safe return after an eventful tour of duty. While he was away students from 'Birmingham Primary School' corresponded with him and a few days after his return Major Geyer visited the school and spoke at a school assembly. It is great to have him home as our thoughts have been with his family during his absence.

The Mt Evelyn RSL community is re-establishing after the recent passing of four of our esteemed members. Our thoughts also go out to those members confined to home who can no longer participate in RSL commemorative services and activities. Please remember our welfare officer Laurie Hollier and our Padre the Rev Richard Schoenmaker are always available to assist members in need.

The Thursday afternoon 'Digger's Café' run by the RSL friendship group has really taking off recently. It is great to see many members making the effort to come along and preserve the spirit of mateship formed in the services as a way of honouring the memory of the fallen. The group have now decided to resurrect the carpet bowls games and the first practice session is programmed for Thursday November 17th at 2pm in the hall – come along and enjoy yourself – you'd be most welcome.

On behalf of the committee and members I would sincerely like to thank the Mt Evelyn and Wandin communities for supporting the welfare of the RSL by purchasing Remembrance Day poppies and by supporting the popular hamper raffle. Similarly I extend thanks to all those who attended our Remembrance service at our rejuvenated memorial garden at the top of Wray Cres. The spring weather was kind to us and our memorable service was enhanced by the involvement of our delightful local school students.

I want to finish up by thanking everyone from the club and the community who have supported me in my first year as president and I want to wish you all a Merry Xmas and hope you can make it to our Xmas party on December 11th.

– Regards – Roger Boness

LADIES AUXILIARY REPORT

A great effort with the poppy sales – over \$2,400 raised for our welfare funds!! Thanks to IGA & staff for their support and to the following who helped man the stall including: Roger, Deanne, Dot, Matt, Joyce, Wendy & Elsa. Our hamper raffle once again proved popular, congratulations to Jason Kennedy, a local, who was the fortunate and grateful winner. We are looking for new members to join the auxiliary and assist with the running of the sub-branch. Contact Roger on 9737 0830 if you can help out. Merry Xmas to all!

- Regards, Dot Ervine

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

WHAT I OWE MY MOTHER:

My mother taught me to appreciate.....

RELIGION

'You better pray that this will come out of the carpet.'

THE SCIENCE OF OSMOSIS

'Shut your mouth and eat your supper.'

WEATHER

'This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it.'

CONTORTIONISM

'Just look at that dirt on the back of your neck!'

STAMINA

'You'll sit there until all that food is eaten.'

BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION

'Stop acting like your father!'

ANTICIPATION

'Just you wait until we get home.'

RECEIVING

'You are going to get it when you get home!'

TIME TRAVEL

'If you don't behave, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!'

LOGIC

'Because I said so, that's why.'

FORESIGHT

'Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident.'

HUMOUR

'When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me.'

HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT

'If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up.'

My mother taught me to appreciate.....

A JOB WELL DONE

'If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning.'

HYPOCRISY

'If I told you once, I've told you a million times. Don't exaggerate!'

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

'I brought you into this world, and I can take you out.'

ENVY

'There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do.'

MORE LOGIC

'If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not coming shopping with me.'

IRONY

'Keep crying, and I'll give you something to really cry about.'

MEDICAL SCIENCE

'If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way.'

ESP

'Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?'

GENETICS

'You're just like your father.'

MY ROOTS

'Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?'

WISDOM

'When you get to be my age, you'll understand.'

JUSTICE

'One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you'

Vale - Bill Allen OAM JP

The sub-branch is sad to announce the passing of one of its long time members, and the club's former Padre, Bill Allen aged 83. President Roger Boness described Bill as *"a respected member of the community who was always willing to help and did much for Mt Evelyn"*. Bill instigated the 'Walking Stick Club' in Mt Evelyn and through this group he supported many older RSL members. He regularly organised a bus for Mt Evelyn's Anzac Day parade so that older members could still be a part of the ceremony. Over the years he officiated at many RSL ceremonies & funerals. Our thoughts are with his wife Faye and his family.



Mt Evelyn Festival – October 22nd, 2011



The Mt Evelyn RSL was once again involved with the Mt Evelyn Festival, this time having a promotional stall. Beforehand ANZAC House gave us quite a lot of promotional material and we printed up some of our own info sheets to hand out. The committee organised a great spot for us next to the war memorial, just a pity they couldn't organise good weather as well, as poor Roger set most of it up in the rain! We also had a second hand book sale going as well, which raised some funds, and we used the event to kick start our poppy sales. It was great to see many members call in and say giddyay on the day.

Above & Right:

Dot Ervine and Peter Henskens manning the stall on Festival Day.

Below:

Gary Freeman doing a great job selling to customers



Many thanks to the following members who helped out during the day: Roger Boness, Dot Ervine, Jim Bentley, Peter Henskens, Andy & Maree Franks, Anthony McAleer & Gary Freeman.

Also thanks to Ken Atkins who lent the club a tarp to put over the marquee when the rain came down.



Mt Evelyn RSL featured on two Front Pages recently

Right –
Mount Evelyn Mail
October 11th 2011
Below Right –
Mount Evelyn Mail
November 1st 2011

COMPETITION

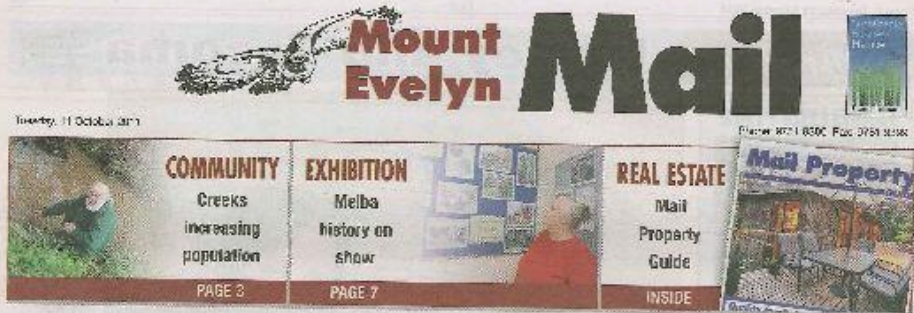
Create a caption for
the photo (below)
and win a **bottle of Red wine!!**

At the Mt Evelyn Festival our
President Roger Boness got to
meet 'Dorothy'
who was getting right into the
'Wizard of OZ' theme.

Come up with a caption for the
photo and drop your entry into the
club or email to:
mtevrsl@gmail.com

*(remember to be nice and keep it
clean!! – that means you Laurie!)*

Entries close January 15th, 2012
The best caption will be published
in the next newsletter.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 2011

We had a beautiful sunny morning for this year's Remembrance Day service and an excellent turnout with over 200 people in attendance.

Our local schools: Mt Evelyn Primary School, Birmingham Primary School & Yarra Hills Secondary College were all there on the day and were involved with the ceremony. Paula Herlihy, president of the Mt Evelyn History Group, was guest speaker and spoke about what happened in Mt Evelyn when the war ended.

Everyone commented on how great the gardens looked which was thanks to Rob Sibbings efforts and Jim Bentley who mowed the lawns.

Jim Hurley represented the club on the day by hosting a ceremony at the Wandin War Memorial. Jim reported a good turn out there and mentioned two of the local schools attended that ceremony.

Most people came back to the hall afterwards to enjoy a morning tea.



Photos by Geoff Brown



Students from Yarra Hills Secondary College (above) & Birmingham Primary School (below) laying wreaths on behalf of their schools at the memorial.



Above – The three school principals lay a wreath on behalf of Tony Smith MP.



Below – Our bugler Tom Steele catches up with Betty Crittenden



Vale – Joyce Clough



The sub-branch is sad to announce the passing of another of its long time members, Joyce Clough, aged 84.

Joyce served with the 'WAAAF' during World War Two, enlisting only a few days after her 18th birthday. Joyce's wartime service was short; she was discharged only a few months into her enlistment because the war suddenly ended. In fact recently at an RSL meeting she told us it was her enlistment that ended the war – once she signed up, the enemy knew they had no chance! But her length of service makes no difference – Joyce's wartime service is still one of bravery, self-sacrifice, endurance and devotion. She was proud to say 'I served' and we were proud of her for doing so.

For many years she was the only female service member amongst the males at Mt Evelyn RSL meetings and she was a keen worker with the 'Women's Auxiliary' and selling poppies. Our thoughts are with her family.

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

Below:

John Urand (Secretary/Treasurer), Bill Phillips (President) and Betty Urand (President of the Women's Auxiliary) at the opening of the Mt Evelyn RSL War Memorial in 2001.



History of the Mt Evelyn RSL – pt 5

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

One of the first projects the club undertook when they moved into their new home was to create a 'Memorial Garden' that would carry the names of Mt Evelyn RSL members who had passed away. It was dedicated in December 1996 with 25 names and over the years the ashes of a number of members were interred there, although this is a practice which has since ceased. Inside the club the tribute to members continued with a display wall of photos of the RSL members in uniform.

Throughout the 1990's the club made best use of its new clubrooms and the adjoining 'Hardy House' hall to host social functions. Bingo afternoons & dance evenings continued and a tradition was started with socials on Thursdays & Fridays, some of these nights even offered dinner to patrons. In fact the chief ingredient to the success of these socials was the work done by the Women's Auxiliary, a stalwart of which was Betty Crittenden who in 2009 was awarded a life membership.

In 1998 a new president was elected, Bill Youngs, a 34 year veteran of both the Royal Navy & the Royal Australian Navy who had served in five conflicts including World War Two, Korea, Malaya, Borneo & Vietnam. Bill was also part of a committee who organised for an RSL memorial to be built at the front of the hall, this was unveiled in 2001 by two stalwarts of the club; Bill Phillips & Ralph Proctor. In the following years the club also supported a number of community groups who developed a new memorial gardens at the top of Wray Cres where, in 2003, the original RSL war memorial was moved to.

Around the same time Andy Franks built an office for the clubrooms using materials that his employer had donated, both Andy and long time secretary John Urand were later made Life Members of the RSL. Also during this period two other long time members, Bill Sibley & Laurie Hollier, became active in the club with Bill to later take over as President and Laurie as Treasurer/Secretary after the passing of John Urand in 2005. Another important fund raising tradition started during this time was the 'Two-up' held at the 'York On Lilydale' on Anzac Day.

In 2007 Derek Crittenden took over as President at a time when the 'Senior Citizen Group', who shared the hall with the RSL, were folding. Derek led the club through the important negotiations with the Shire to have the RSL take over the lease of the hall and he started off the club's popular annual 'dawn service'. Derek also recruited a number of stalwart members such as James Chapman, who became treasurer, Richard Schoenmaker, who became the club's Padre, and Brigadier Michael Phelps & Major Tony Geyer.

In 2010 the club received a grant from the Bendigo Bank to help finance the creation of glass display cabinets to exhibit the club's important collection of military and historical memorabilia. At the AGM of 2011 Derek retired and handed over the presidency to Roger Boness, a Vietnam veteran and member of the club since the 1970's.

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- **VALE** – Betty Parker, a long time member of the Mt Evelyn RSL's 'Women's Auxiliary' and widow of Ian Parker of Silvan.
- **VALE** – Mavis Horsley, a long time affiliate member of the club who has been troubled by ill health recently. A detailed account will follow in the next newsletter.
- All the second hand books left over from the Festival stall were donated to the Birmingham Primary School for their car boot sale.
- Unfortunately we missed out on the govt grant we applied for recently to get a computer, scanner, printer & camera for the clubrooms.
- 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!

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

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.

Editor: Anthony McAleer

Ph: 9736 4384

Email: antmca@bigpond.com

*Send me an email if you
want to receive the newsletter
faster via email – it also saves
the club on postage costs!*