

# Mt Evelyn RSL News



Volume 7, Issue 6, Xmas Edition

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



## 2017 Meeting Dates

Fri Nov 17<sup>th</sup>  
Fri Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

## 2018 Meeting Dates

AGM Sun Feb 18<sup>th</sup>  
Fri Mar 17<sup>th</sup>  
Fri April 20<sup>th</sup>  
Fri May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Fri June 15<sup>th</sup>  
Fri July 20<sup>th</sup>  
Fri Aug 17<sup>th</sup>

*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](mailto:mtevrsl@gmail.com)

## ROGER BONESS – VICTORIAN SENIOR VETERAN 2017



**Above: Dot Ervine, Roger Boness (with award), Betty Crittenden & Jan Knox at Government House for the award ceremony. (More photos inside)**

A number of Mt Evelyn RSL members, including Dot Ervine, Betty Crittenden, Jan & Tony Knox and Anthony McAleer, were very pleased to be present on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Government House Victoria to see our President, Roger Boness, awarded the 'Veteran Community Award' at the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards.

In his citation it was stated: *'Roger has brought the Mt Evelyn RSL into the heart of the local community by establishing successful partnerships across a range of activities and generational divides. In doing so he has helped young people appreciate the service and sacrifices made by older generations. He has also actively improved the wellbeing of older and retired RSL members through a range of programs which is the means by which many of them stay in touch with other members'.*

In front of a large crowd Roger was presented with the award by the Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau AO. Afterwards everyone had the chance to mingle on the lawn in front of Government House and view some of the larger rooms inside.

On behalf of the membership of the Mt Evelyn RSL we congratulate Roger for

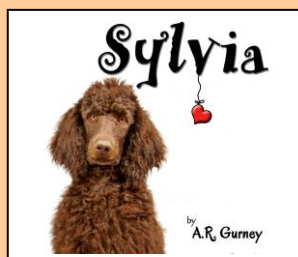
**Important Dates  
Coming Up:**

**Athenaeum  
Theatre,  
Lilydale**

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

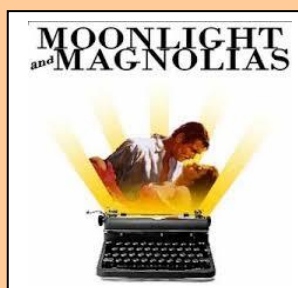
We will be doing the same  
in 2018 so come along and  
see:

**SYLVIA  
March 2017**



**THE  
ELEPHANT  
MAN  
May-June 2017**

**MOONLIGHT &  
MAGNOLIAS  
August 2017**



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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As Christmas decorations start to appear in our local shops it is almost time to reflect on the year that was and how the Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch can maintain their community service delivery standard and where possible improve that standard.

The last few weeks have been hectic for RSL members who assisted with our ongoing welfare work, the rosters of remembrance day poppy sellers, involvement in the planning and participating in the Mt Evelyn Street Festival, hosting an RSL visit by Birmingham Primary School students, the unveiling of a Mt Evelyn veterans name on the Mt Evelyn Honour Board and providing the Mt Evelyn community with another Remembrance Day memorial service.

Other Events included the Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba - The "Chauvel" Oration at Parliament House and the 99th Anniversary Remembrance Day service at Anzac House, all of which I attended.

Mt Evelyn RSL is well resourced and placed to assist all of our community groups with their meetings, and utilize our tables and chairs for their community events. Vibrant communities rely on active community groups working together. Sincere thanks to the Mt Evelyn community for their support in purchasing Remembrance Day poppies; the sale of these poppies is vital for the ongoing welfare work we undertake.

Lest We Forget

Roger Boness – President, Mt Evelyn RSL

## APPEAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Once again we had a huge response from the general public towards our poppy appeal and we still have some counting to go but it still we will have made about \$6000 towards the RSL's welfare funds.

The only thing that stopped us from getting more funds in, were our volunteer numbers – which were low this year. Next year I will be sending out a roster and asking for anyone who can assist to please help us out.

In the meantime I would like to pass on my thanks to all of those who worked hard and manned the poppy selling table, I would also like to thank Mt Evelyn IGA & Mooroolbark Coles for their support and the community for all of their support of our worthy cause. Thank you also to my wife Gladys for all of her hard work and effort.

Regards, John Allwood – Appeals Officer

## Membership Subs for 2018 – *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**

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**Title – RSL Mt Evelyn – General Account**

**BSB – 633-000      A/C NUMBER – 117020883**



# BETTY'S JOKE PAGE



A blind man was heading to visit distant relatives in Texas. When he arrived on the plane, he was surprised.

*"These seats sure are big!"*

The person next to him laughed.

*"Everything is big in Texas."*

When he arrived at his hotel, he visited the bar for a glass of beer.

*"Wow, this glass is enormous!"* he said. The bartender laughed.

*"Everything is big in Texas."*

A little while later, the blind man asked the bartender for directions to the bathroom.

*"Second door to the right,"* the bartender said.

The blind man headed for the bathroom, but he misjudged the distances and went through the third door, which led to the swimming pool. Not realising where he was, he fell in by accident. Horrified, the man started flailing around in the water.

*"Don't flush!"* he yelled. *"Don't flush!"*

Little Susie had been born with a sunny disposition, and was the most optimistic kid anybody had ever seen.

She loved people and animals, and no matter what happened, she always saw the bright side.

She was also an artistic girl. So one Christmas, her parents got her a big bag of clay for making pottery. They put it on the back porch next to a bag of horse manure for the garden.

On Christmas Eve, dad wrapped the presents. It was a little dark on the porch, and as you may have guessed, he wrapped the manure by mistake, instead of the pottery clay.

On Christmas morning, Susie was so excited to see what Santa had brought her. When she finally got to unwrap her big present, her parents watched with anticipation to see how much she liked her clay.

When Susie opened the package, and then the bag inside containing several pounds of stinky horse manure, the parents were aghast.

But before they could apologize, Susie said, "Oh boy! I got a pony!"

A man answers a phone and hears a female voice on the other end.

"Hello, darling! I saw a necklace in a catalogue and I simply must have it. Do you mind if I use your credit card?"

"How expensive is it?" the man says.

"Only \$1,200."

"That cheap, huh? Get as many as you like! Anything else?"

"Well, there is this one ring... it's \$5,000 though."

"Get one for each hand. Anything else?"

"Well, you know that new car we were eyeing off—" "How much?" says the man.

"It's \$40,000."

"Sure," says the man. "Why not?"

"Oh, darling! You're so generous. I'll talk to you later." The man hangs up and looks around. "Did anyone drop a phone?"

Right before a zoo opens, the main attraction—a spectacular gorilla—dies of old age.

Desperate, the zoo owner tells one of his workers to wear a gorilla suit they have in storage.

"We'll find a new gorilla soon, but we need the money to afford one!" the zoo owner says. "You'll just have to pretend."

Soon enough, people are coming from all over to see the amazing human-like gorilla.

One day, while impressing the crowd, the man in the gorilla suit climbs too close to the lion's den next door and falls in. Terrified, he begins to scream for help. Suddenly, a lion pounces on the man in the gorilla suit and pins him down.

"Shut the hell up!" the lion says. "You're going to get us both fired!"

I was in a cake shop the other day and every cake was \$5 except for one - that was \$8. I asked the baker "why are all your cakes \$5 except that one which is \$8?"

The Baker replied "Ooh, that's madeira cake".

One Christmas, a mother asked her young daughter if she could name two of Santa's reindeer.

"Rudolph and Olive," replied the young girl confidently. "Rudolph and Olive?" said the mother, quizzically. "Are you sure?"

"Yes, mommy, Rudolph and Olive. Like in the song."

"The song?" asked the mother. "What song?" The girl sang, "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer, had a very shiny nose. And if you ever saw it, you would even say it glows. Olive the other reindeer...."

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# VICTORIAN SENIOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



**Left:** The Award ceremony at Government House

**Below:** Roger Boness with Peter Smith OAM, Manager of Appeals for RSL Victoria



**Left:** Roger receiving his award from the Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau AO at Government House.

**Below:** With supporters, Dot, Betty & Jan, there to see him get his award at Government House.







# Mail

## Mount Evelyn

20 McLeod visit

3 Attacks revealed

25-26 Best in local sport

Tuesday, 17 October, 2017

A Mail News Group publication

Phone: 5957 3700 Trades and Classifieds: 1300 666 808

# Veteran top senior

By Peter Douglas

A humble Roger Boness received due recognition on Tuesday 10 October as he accepted the Victorian Community Award at the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards at Melbourne's Government House.

Designed to acknowledge those who make invaluable contributions to the state, the award pays tribute to the Mount Evelyn RSL president's volunteer work for veterans and their well-being.

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Martin Foley, was among the dignitaries at Government House to present the award to Mr Boness, with Mr Foley saying it was important to recognise the often behind-the-scenes work of many Victorians.

Mr Boness, 71, was conscripted for National Service in 1966 and saw active service in Vietnam.

Since 2011, he has been deeply involved with the Mount Evelyn RSL, playing an integral role in transforming the RSL into a truly community-based organisation.

When he took on the role, Mr Boness said much change needed to happen.

"It was while I was at the Mount Evelyn Football Netball Club that I first heard the concept of the community club," Mr Boness said.

"I thought 'what a great idea' and we applied it to the RSL. We turned around and asked the community, 'What can we do for you?'

"Our major role is welfare and there are many ways that is achieved. It's about ensuring the welfare of our members, many of whom are senior citizens."

Among the many initiatives Mr Boness has helped to implement has been the regular Thursday afternoon tea at the RSL.

Along with a free afternoon tea, they also host activities such as carpet bowls and snooker.

"It's just providing an opportunity to get out of the house, for those who may not get much social interaction," he said.

"We've also arranged excursions and trips to places such as the Athenaeum Theatre."

Mr Boness has also gone above and beyond in lending a hand when required, only too happy to help the community with more personal issues when required.

"We don't always publicise everything we do. A lot of people like to keep it private. But it's not a handout in our eyes, we've got a duty to give each other a hand," Mr Boness said.

During his time as RSL president, Mr Boness has actively sought to engage local youth groups, including Scouts and the Birmingham Primary School.

There also has been a push to involve the community as much as possible, with as many as nine community groups regularly using the RSL.

This is in addition to the traditional role of the RSL, which has seen initiatives such as installing a memorial at Lilydale Lake, a storyboard at Coldstream, and the RSL's work in assisting the development of the Seville War Memorial.

Mr Boness said he was humbled over the award.

"It came out of the blue. I never saw this coming. It's not just my award, but also for the RSL committee, who've supported me and supported many great ideas."

Mt Evelyn RSL Secretary, Anthony McAleer, said it was just reward for some incredible work.

"Roger has really turned the club and hall into a community asset, where it's not locked away from the community, but is part of it," he said.

"He's very dedicated to the welfare of RSL members and the community."

"He had noticed many people in the community were locking themselves away in their homes, so he set this up (the afternoon tea) to help them get out there and mixing with people."

"He's also great at communicating with youth, as well as dedicated to heritage in the area."

The Victorian Senior of the Year Awards took place during the Victorian Seniors Festival, which returned for its 35th year and saw more than 1500 free or low-cost events take place across the state.

"If anyone would like to join in the free afternoon tea sessions, simply head down to the RSL around 1.30pm on a Thursday and join in. You don't need to be an RSL member."



On Tuesday 10 October Roger Boness from Mt Evelyn accepted the Victorian Community Award at the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards at Melbourne's Government House. 1/17/18 Picture: ROB CAREW

**Left:** Mount Evelyn Mail  
October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
**Below:** Visiting Yarra Valley FM  
(courtesy Greg Carrick) and  
Lilydale Leader  
October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017



Picture: STEVE TANNER

## VETERAN HONoured

A YARRA Ranges Vietnam Veteran has been presented with a State Government award for his work with the community.

Mt Evelyn RSL sub-branch president Roger Boness was among 15 older Australians who were recognised during the 2017 Victorian Seniors Festival. The 71-year-old, who has led the sub-branch for six years, said he was "blown away" and very humbled to receive the Veteran Community Award.

Mr Boness said the RSL played an important role in the community, especially taking care of veterans.

He said money raised by the RSL went to improving veterans' lives.

"Most of our members are senior veterans who need a lot of assistance and help," Mr Boness said. He said the sub-branch also helped community groups including schools and footy clubs, helped at festivals, and ran Remembrance Day and Anzac Day services.



# MT EVELYN STREET FESTIVAL 2017

The 2017 Mt Evelyn Street Festival was another huge success – even bigger than last time. Our congrats to all the organisers, especially Deanne Webb who served as the RSL representative on the committee, there was a lot on offer and a lot of visitors.

Once again the Mt Evelyn RSL had a stall which was a success – we sold \$240 worth of stock and \$140 worth of poppies as well. Thanks to volunteers – Betty, Dot, Wendy, Roger & Anthony.



**Above** – Betty & Dot manning our stall at the festival and enjoying a coffee – this was before they got started on their double decker ice creams!

**Left** – Gary Freeman enjoying his double decker ice cream.

**Right** – President Roger Boness, nursing his war wounds after injuring his leg and shoulder after a fall near the road.





## RSL COMMUNITY AWARD

The Mt Evelyn RSL were very pleased to recently present an RSL 'Certificate of Achievement' to Tom James, teacher at Birmingham Primary School.

For nearly 10 years now Tom has been bringing students up to the RSL to learn about the club and its members and has also done a great job teaching them about our Anzac history.



## VALE - EDWARD O'REILLY

We are very sad to report that we have just received the news recently that one of our members, Edward John O'Reilly, passed away back in March 2015.

Eddie was a service member who had previously served with the British Army. He rarely attended the club or our events, which is why we lost contact with him, but for many years he was part of the magnificent team who ran our two-up down at the York on Lilydale each Anzac Day.

He passed away in hospital after a short illness.



**Renew your membership before  
22 December 2017 for your  
chance to win a Hyundai i30!**

Visit [rslrewards.com.au](http://rslrewards.com.au) or  
your local RSL for details





## CENTENARY SERVICES - 2017



The local centenary services honouring those men listed on war memorials in the area who died during WWI, on the anniversary of the day they died, has continued throughout 2017.

There have been –

- Lilydale – 12
- Mooroolbark – 1
- Coldstream – 1
- Wandin – 4
- Montrose – 1
- Mt Evelyn – 1

The photo (left) is from a recent service held to commemorate two mates from Lilydale, George Allen & Thomas Goodall, who were killed together on the same day. The crowd included local students and family members.

## NEW MT EVELYN RSL STUBBY HOLDERS



**MT EVELYN RSL**

The Mt Evelyn RSL has had made a batch of stubby holders advertising the club. The design has come up really well and includes an image of Mt Evelyn's War Memorial at the Dawn Service on Anzac Day.

You can collect your stubby holder next time you're at the club for only five dollars.

**ONLY**  
**\$5**



# VISIT BY BIRMINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



Once again the Mt Evelyn RSL hosted grade one and two students from Birmingham Primary School on their annual visit to the club. This year they were slightly pressed for time so didn't get a talk from the history group but still started off their morning by visiting the Mt Evelyn War Memorial Gardens where our secretary, Anthony McAleer, told them the story of Ernest Pearson and his famous bugle and president, Roger Boness, enthralled them when he taught them how to use the howitzer.

Back at the club they all enjoyed a drink and an Anzac biscuit from Dot Ervine and heard more about the RSL and what it does in their community. Ex-sailor, Matt Crymble, entertained them with stories of life at sea on a warship and showed them how to spell out the school's name using semaphore while Roger's story of being bitten by a snake in the jungles of Vietnam was a huge hit.

They then split into two groups – one visiting Stan Beaumont and his collection of model cars and the other the club rooms to have a look at what was on display and try on some uniforms. They finished their day by being given a National flag, courtesy of the Hon Tony Smith MP.



**Right:** is a photo of the grave of Alfred Noble, a Mt Evelyn resident who died while a prisoner of war on the Burma – Thailand Railway during World War Two.

Recently members, Peter Paterson and Anthony McAleer, visited his grave at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand and placed a memorial poppy on his grave in remembrance.

He is listed on the Mt Evelyn War Memorial.





# REMEMBRANCE DAY 2017



It was a beautiful day as the community turned out for our annual Remembrance Day Service. Our thanks for the support we got from St Mary's Primary School and Yarra Hills Secondary College. Also our thanks to photographer **Greg Carrick** for the images on this page which have come from M.E. & You the Mt Evelyn Newsletter. To subscribe to this great newsletter email- [info@mtevelyn.news](mailto:info@mtevelyn.news).

**Above left** – President Roger Boness

**Above right** – Cr Tim Heenan, Yarra Ranges

**Left** – Maria McCarthy on behalf of Christine Fyffe MLA

**Below** – Bugler Tom Steele and Piper Iain Townsley





# REMEMBRANCE DAY – SPECIAL EVENTS

Also on Remembrance Day the RSL had a number of other special events happening.

## Right: Front page of Mt Evelyn Mail

We were pleased to add the name of Charlie Stewart to our honour board under Vietnam. Charlie grew up in Mt Evelyn, his house was where the RSL is today, and served in Vietnam with the SAS. His niece Shae Sandri and good friend Barry Lazarus were on hand to unveil his name. Iain Townsley, who is with the SAS Association, introduced the event.

## Below Left: Lucy from Mt Evelyn IGA with Roger Boness

Also on the day we were pleased to present to the Mt Evelyn IGA an RSL Certificate of Appreciation Award in recognition of their long time support of our poppy and Anzac Token appeal.

## Below Right: the new plaques

We also took the opportunity to recognise members who had passed away recently – Julie Boness, Lloyd Harrington & Henrik Zimmerman – by having family members unveil plaques in our tribute garden.





# Veterans Wellness Programs

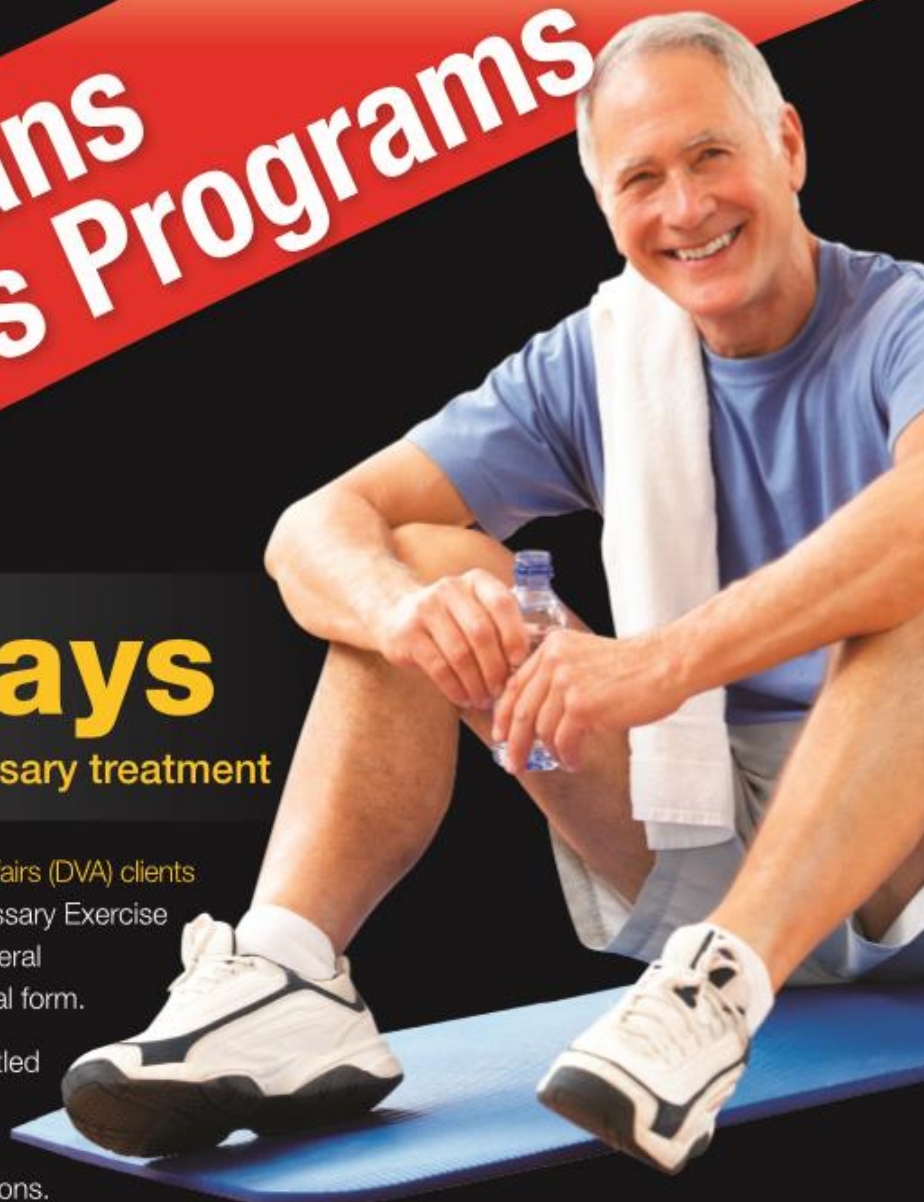
## DVA Pays

for the clinically necessary treatment

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.

**Gold Card Holders** are entitled to clinically necessary treatment covered by DVA's health care arrangements for all health conditions.

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# MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP

LILYDALE – FEBRUARY 1914

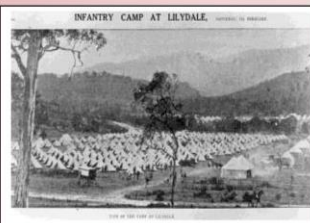
100 years ago John Monash and 3000 citizen soldiers descended on Lilydale and camped for week where the Lilydale Lake is today.

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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**Price: \$20 per copy plus \$2.00 postage**

# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**ORDER NOW:**

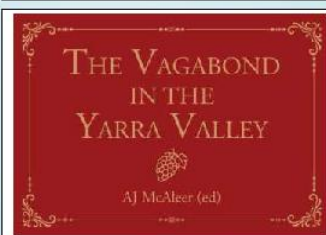
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# THE VAGABOND IN THE YARRA VALLEY



Observation of the Yarra Valley by one of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> Century – many never seen before!

Right: Deschamps Hill, Lilydale from 'The Towers'



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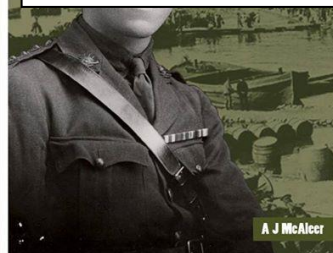
# SCURRY

*THE MAN WHO GOT THEM  
SAFELY OFF GALLIPOLI*

## SCURRY

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, 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

## SOLD OUT!



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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## MT EVELYN CHESS CLUB

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 RSL Hall  
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*General Practitioner & Cosmetic Physician*

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## Mt Evelyn History Group

The Mt Evelyn RSL has a community  
 partnership with MEHG which means  
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 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



**Kim N Parry** | Licensed Estate Agent  
 & Auctioneer  
 Justice of the Peace

**Max Brown - Yarra Valley**  
**M:** 0418 334 416 anytime  
**P:** 03 5964 4900  
**F:** 03 5964 2189

**E:** [kimp@maxbrown.com.au](mailto:kimp@maxbrown.com.au)  
[kimparry@people.net.au](mailto:kimparry@people.net.au)



[maxbrown.com.au](http://maxbrown.com.au)

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.

Contact: Vicki Walburg

Ph: 9736 2980 Mob: 0408 998 045

[vickiwalburg-fitness@yahoo.com.au](mailto:vickiwalburg-fitness@yahoo.com.au)

## Art with Distinction

### Custom Framing



- Custom Picture Framing
- Custom Mats
- Restoration Work
- Art Supplies

Steve Deakins  
(Mt Evelyn RSL Member)

Ph: 9736 3033

Mob: 0429 183021

Shop 7B York Rd, Mt Evelyn

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

*Gift vouchers available - great gift idea!!!*

## JJ's Photography



Ph: 9736 1822

Mob: 0427100818

Shop 7B York Rd

Mt Evelyn

[www.jjsphotography.com.au](http://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



**Caring  
for Life**

The Mt Evelyn RSL always use:

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



**27 Wray Cres**  
**Ph: 9736 2206**

**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 & Arnheim.



Mont de Lancey Museum & Homestead

71 Wellington Rd, Wandin

Open: Wed-Sun 10.30-4.30pm

The Mt Evelyn RSL always uses:

**TIGER**  
**SIGNS**

\*Computer Cut Vinyls

\*Digital Prints \*Banners \*Signs



Contact Dave –

**tigersigns@gmail.com**

**0419 897 134 or 9737 0888**



# Mt Evelyn Community Market

4th Saturday of each month (Feb - Nov)

9am - 1pm

RSL/Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Rd

Everyone is welcome to join us at the monthly

*Mt Evelyn Community Market.*

Featuring various stall holders and local businesses.

Fresh produce and an RSL sausage sizzle and devonshire tea.

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





# GEORGE STEWART BROWN

**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.....**

George Stewart Brown was born in 1883 at Vermont, Vic, one of three children to John and Jane Elizabeth Brown. His father died when he was young and his mother later remarried to Thomas Fincham. The family then moved to Eltham where George attended the Eltham State School.

After he finished his schooling he became a qualified fitter and turner. Then just before the war began he took up a position in Lilydale and moved there, living at a property called 'Hillcrest'. His mother and step-father came to live there also.

On January 28th, 1915 he walked into the recruiting depot at the Melbourne Town Hall and enlisted in the AIF. His medical records show that he was five feet, four inches tall, had dark brown hair and brown eyes. He undertook his initial training at the AIF training camp at Broadmeadows where he was allotted to 'D' Company of the original 21st Battalion along with two Lilydale soldiers, Thomas Eales and James Burns, and he was given the regimental number 802. He embarked with his unit from Port Melbourne on the HMAT Ulysses on May 8th, 1915.

The following month he was in camp in Egypt and then on August 30th the 21st Battalion boarded the troopship HMAT Southland bound for Gallipoli. On the way over however they were torpedoed by a German U-Boat and, with a hole in the side of the ship, all personnel were quickly ordered off and into the water. After a number of hours though, the ship still hadn't sunk and a skeleton crew was able to get the engines going again. A call was then made for volunteers to man the ship and to stoke the engine to get her into the nearest port. George Brown was one of a handful of soldiers who volunteered to do this and they were later mentioned in a special order by the Commander in Chief for doing so.

They managed to sail the ship into the harbour at Mudros Island where the 21st Battalion were being regrouped to be landed on Gallipoli. In September the battalion went ashore at Anzac Cove and were moved into the frontlines at Courtney's Post. George was there a few days later when his friend from Lilydale, James Drummond Burns, was killed in action.

George remained in the front lines at Gallipoli until the 21st Battalion were evacuated with the rest of the Anzac force in December 1915. He was eventually sent back to Egypt where a few months later the AIF were reorganised in preparation for being sent to the Western Front. It was at this time that George had a pleasant surprise when his younger brother, John Leonard Brown, who had enlisted a few months after him, arrived and was seconded into the 21st Battalion alongside George.

In March 1916 the 21st Battalion was sent to France arriving in the Somme Valley area in May. On July 23rd, 1916 the 1st Division attacked the village of Pozieres and over the next few days the 21st Battalion acted as a carrying party for them, moving food and ammunition up into the forward area.

On August 4th, 1916 the 21st Battalion were ordered to attack Pozieres Ridge. The following day George was sheltering in a shell hole not far from Mouquet Farm when an artillery shell burst just near him. He sustained horrific injuries from the blast including the loss of both his legs and most of both arms.

One witness, Lance Corporal Percy Mortimer, later said: *'I spoke to him as he was conscious. He called out 'I'm a Blighty case'. He was lying there some time before the stretcher bearers came and carried him away. I never*

## MT EVELYN FURPHYS

### •Mt Evelyn RSL Xmas Lunch

Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup> @  
Rose Cottage, Monbulk.  
If you would like to attend  
contact Betty on **9728 3065**

- Well done to **Gary Freeman** who won our Remembrance Day Raffle.
- Welcome to new member **Michael Och.**

- Historian **Michael Veitch** will be giving a free talk at the Mt Evelyn Library on Friday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 2.15pm on a new book he has written on an RAAF WW2 hero.

### • **CENTENARY SERVICE**

Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Wandin War Memorial  
Cnr Hunter & Beenak Rds,  
Wandin

In memory of Samuel Rouget, who died on that day 100 years ago while on active service with the Royal Australian Navy in Fiji.

- Should you require any assistance or advice -  
**Deanne Webb** (the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer).  
Ph: **0402 783 849**

*heard anything more about him'.*

George Brown was carried back to the nearest casualty clearing station but he died there soon after of his wounds. He was 33. He was buried at the Becourt Military Cemetery in France. Sadly George's death wouldn't be the only tragedy the family would experience in the war. His younger brother, John Leonard Brown, was killed in action with the 21st Battalion at Villers Bretonneux in August 1918.



*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](mailto: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](mailto: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