

Mt Evelyn RSL News



Volume 5, Issue 3, CENTENARY OF ANZAC 2015 SPECIAL

Returned and Services League



3000 COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY OF ANZAC AT MT EVELYN



Above: The record crowd at the Mt Evelyn Dawn Service 2015 (photo courtesy of Greg Carrick)

The biggest crowd to ever turn out at Mt Evelyn were at the war memorial gardens on Anzac Day to commemorate the centenary of the landing at Gallipoli. Some estimated the crowd was well over three thousand. All the local ceremonies reported increased numbers this year especially Lilydale where many felt the numbers were as high as ten thousand.

Once again those who were at Mt Evelyn enjoyed the atmosphere of the bush setting and the call of the kookaburras and magpies to make it authentic. This year also marked the first ceremony with our new howitzer standing pride of place in the park.

The ceremony began with the march on of our catafalque party from the 22nd Engineer Regiment from Ringwood, who stood guard of honour at the cenotaph. Our first guest speaker was Major Ken Mackenzie OAM, a local veteran who served with the ADF for over 38 years and who saw service in three campaigns over overseas. Major Mackenzie read out a moving letter written by Mt Evelyn veteran, Donald Fergus Scott, describing his adventures at the landing at Anzac Cove on that first Anzac Day. Our other special guest was local singer/song writing Alex Borg who performed a very moving song he'd composed himself called 'Midnight in the City' that was very well received by the crowd.

Our other guest speakers included Georgina Bennett (1st Mt Evelyn Scouts), Rick Ventrella (Captain of the Mt Evelyn CFA), Geoff Wighton (President of the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club), Piper Iain Townsley, Bugler Karin Meyer, Rev Richard Schoenmaker and Mt Evelyn RSL member and service person Jodie Twidale, who read out Mt Evelyn's Roll of Honour.

The ceremony finished with a march from the war memorial to the RSL clubrooms, this year headed by Major Mackenzie OAM and others who had family members at Gallipoli. Everyone then came back to the hall to enjoy a wonderful breakfast organised by Sue Harty and her team from the Mt Evelyn Football/ Netball Club.

More photos of this special event 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 2015 so come along and
see:

- **Secret Bridesmaids' Business**
Sunday May 31st
2.00pm
- **Daddy's Dyin... Who's Got the Will?**
Sunday August 23rd
2.00pm
- **The Mystery of Edwin Drood**
Sunday Nov 5th
2.00pm

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

Mt Evelyn Community Bush Dance

Saturday May 23rd
7.30pm



Mt Evelyn Public Hall

Mt Evelyn Street FESTIVAL

Saturday
October 24th, 2015

*Stay tuned for
more info.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Anzac Day 2015 was extra special as it marked the centenary of the landing at Gallipoli. This was reflected by record numbers of Mt Evelyn community members and visitors who attended the Mt Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch reflective and moving dawn service.

My sincere thanks to: Anthony McAleer, Iain Townsley (our piper), Major Ken Mackenzie OAM, Georgina Bennett (scouts), Alex Borg singer/songwriter, Rick Ventrella CFA, Geoff Wighton (Football/Netball Club), Jodie Twidale, Rev Richard Schoenmaker, Karin Meyer (bugler), Jim Hurley and the Mt Evelyn Guides, Members of the 22nd Engineer Regiment who provided the Catafalque Party. To all of the community groups and individuals who participated in the floral tributes, St John's Ambulance (on standby for first aid), Rene Belyus (sound system), The Mt Evelyn CFA, Police and Football-Netball Club for their invaluable help and assistance. The march to the RSL club at Hardy House also reflected this solemn occasion in the remembrance of all our fallen veterans with family members of Gallipoli veterans leading the parade. A special thank you to our Mayor Cr Maria McCarthy, who sponsored the community breakfast, Sue Hardy and her helpers, for the preparation and serving of the delicious meal.

Thanks also to our appeals officer Dot Ervine and RSL volunteers who donated their time in selling Anzac Tokens, the proceeds assist the welfare of ex-service men, women and their families in our community and to the Mt Evelyn residents who supported that cause.

To the Management and Staff of the York on Lilydale Resort for the promotion and holding of our traditional "Two up" at their venue and our enthusiastic York clients/ volunteers who managed the event.

Finally to the Mt Evelyn community, who supported and attended all of our Anzac Day events.

LEST WE FORGET - Roger Boness

APPEAL OFFICER'S REPORT

It was a huge effort this year with our Anzac tokens and a record that surpassed all expectations, in fact with **\$11,726** in sales we nearly doubled what we took last year. Many thanks once again to the gallant team who manned the tables out front of IGA, every day and in all weather. Thanks also to IGA, the Billy Goat Hill Café, Birmingham Primary School, Jenny McAleer and others who sold tokens for us.

Regards, Dot Ervine

Membership Subs for 2015 – ***DUE NOW!***

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**

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



An elderly couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. They decide to go to the doctor for a check up. The doctor tells them that they're physically okay but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember. Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair.

His wife asks, "Where are you going?"

"To the kitchen," he replies.

"Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?"

"Sure."

"Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?" she asks.

"No, I can remember it."

"Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. You'd better write it down because you know you'll forget it."

He says, "I can remember that: You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries!"

"I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, so you'd better write it down!" she retorts.

Irritated, he says, "I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Leave me alone: Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream – I've got it, for goodness sake!"

Then he grumbles his way into the kitchen. After twenty minutes the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs.

She stares at the plate for a moment and then asks, "Where's my toast?"

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly."

The other man said, "What is the name?"

The first man thought and thought and finally said, "What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," replied the man.

He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for patients being discharged. However, while working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave the hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator.

On the way down I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

"I don't know", he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown".

Morris, an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?" Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'"

The doctor said, "I didn't say that. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'"

A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlour and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool.

After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, 'Crushed nuts?' 'No,' he replied, 'Arthritis.'

A man was telling his neighbour, 'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but its state of the art. It's perfect.' 'Really,' answered the neighbour. 'What kind is it?' 'Twelve thirty'.



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UPDATES



THE ERNEST PEARSON AMMUNITION BELT

Some you may remember the mystery surrounding the Ernest Pearson ammunition belt (pictured above) that started us down the path to finding his bugle that was lost on the battlefield 99 years ago.

We were contacted by Essendon historian, Lenore Frost, who believed that the belt wasn't WWI issue and may have been a civilian hunting belt. She contacted the Australian War Memorial but they couldn't shed any more light on it.

One of our members, John Keane, contacted us to say he believed it was a Boer War issue belt (see image right). As we know Ernest was too young for the Boer War the mystery continues.



OXFAM WALK 2015

Recently the Mt Evelyn RSL helped sponsor four ladies to undertake a 100km walk to raise funds and awareness for the great work being done by Oxfam. Clare said: *'We all finished the 100km walk, tired and sore but very happy and can now look back and say we enjoyed the experience. It was an amazing journey'.*

They all did a great job and achieved their goal – well done ladies!

Pictured left: Alice Woodberry, Alice Olney, Dymphna Gray and Clare Worsnop (Photo: Clare Worsnop)

SOME IMPORTANT CENTENARY OF ANZAC DATES COMING UP...

2015 Meeting Dates

May 15th, 2015
Jun 19th, 2015
Jul 17th, 2015
Aug 21st, 2015
Sept 18th, 2015
Oct 16th, 2015
Nov 20th, 2015
Dec 18th, 2015

- **Now – early May** – Healesville Library – fantastic & unique display of Gallipoli memorabilia by local collector Rod Wilson – well worth seeing! – entry is free
- **Friday May 8th – 11.00am** – Mt Evelyn War Memorial Park Remembrance service for William Aicher – killed in action 100 years ago on 8/5/1915
- **May 30th to August 23rd** – Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, 35 Castella St, Lilydale – Free Exhibition – 'Australia Will Be There – Victorians in the First World War' (includes Ralph Goode display)
- **Wednesday June 3rd – 12.30pm** – Yarra Ranges Regional Museum – 33 Castella St, Lilydale – Free Talk by Dr Michael Lawriwsky on 'Albert Jacka VC'
- **Tuesday July 14th – 10.30am-12pm** – Yarra Ranges Regional Museum – 33 Castella St, Lilydale – Talk - Perspectives on War – Prof Robin Gerster & Deb Tout-Smith – tickets available from Museum

GALLIPOLI 2015

A good friend of the Mt Evelyn RSL, Leisa Logan, has just returned from attending the Centenary of Anzac services at Gallipoli. Below is her report and images from her trip –

'Well we are back. Wow what an experience Gallipoli was. I honestly have never experienced anything like it. That moment probably 10 mins before dawn and there is silence and all you can hear is the lapping of the waves on the beach and a flotilla of war ships are slowly going past.

One of the most amazing things I have ever done. We have heaps of photos, have finally caught up on sleep. It is amazing how you can go almost 36 hours without sleep. The Kiwi / Aussie rivalry is alive and well.

The Turkish people were amazing. So welcoming. The security was very high. Every 50 metres or so there were military, with soldiers ranging from side arms, rifles, machine guns and sniper rifles. Pretty full on. At no time did we feel unsafe. Istanbul was amazing.

At Lone Pine, it was really nice. At the beginning of the service, they asked all current and previous serving military to stand up and they were all given an ovation thanking them for their service. We met so many amazing veteran'..



Above: Panorama of the Dawn Service at Anzac Cove.

Left: The Lone Pine Memorial

Below Left: Leisa on the morning of April 25th, 2015 at the Anzac Cove memorial

Below: The flotilla of ships off the coast of Anzac Cove.

Photos: Leisa Logan



BELLS OF PEACE CONCERT

It was my privilege to attend the 'Bells of Peace' concert held Saturday April 18th at the Discovery Church, Mt Evelyn. At the very least, 'excellent' does not convey the performance by all who contributed. Every aspect of the show was extremely well done and the story of our service personnel who served our country was an eye opener to many present. It was a very fitting tribute to these brave men and women of our area who answered the call to fight for our country so all future generations are able to enjoy this great country of ours.

I was especially happy to be able to join in the chorus of war songs I remembered so fondly. The entire cast deserve congratulations and thanks for the time and effort they put into a great and memorable show.

- Betty Crittenden



(Above): His Great grandmother's certificate

Sent in by one of our members, John Keane, the image below shows his Great Aunt (left) and Great Grandmother (right) out front of their shop in Camperdown, Vic. Both women were awarded Red Cross certificates (left and right) for work they did for the society during the war.



(Above): His Great Aunt's certificate

OPENING OF GEORGE INGRAM VC, MM EXHIBITION



On Anzac Day Mont de Lancey's centenary of Anzac project, the George Ingram VC, MM exhibition, was officially opened by Lt Col Barry Ingram OAM (left). Other guest speakers on the day included Rosemary Varty (a former MLA & student at Seville PS), Tony Smith MP & curator Barbara Sebire. The exhibition has items on loan from the Ingram family not seen in public before. There is also a great display of items from Wandin WWI soldiers.

LAUNCH OF RALPH GOODE MBE WEBSITE

On April 17th another ceremony was held at the Lilydale High School, following on from the unveiling of the Ralph Goode mural earlier that month. On this occasion a website was launched that the history teachers, Kirsty Ann Mays & Darren Strachan, put together with the students. It includes films they have made where the students read out extracts from Ralph's diary. See: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0Ff10sbJOjE4lao0halOzg>



UNVEILING OF AE2 MEMORIAL



On Sunday May 3rd, Roger Boness and Anthony McAleer were pleased to attend a special ceremony to honour the centenary of the loss of the submarine AE2 at Gallipoli. The Royal Australian Navy were out in force at Lilydale Cemetery, at the gravesite of Lt Cdr Geoffrey Haggard DSC who was the 2IC of the AE2. Here his two children, Jenny Smyth and Geoffrey Haggard, unveiled a memorial plaque next to his grave to commemorate the centenary. It was a joint project between the Lilydale RSL & Great metropolitan Cemeteries Trust. **(Left: Geoffrey Haggard lays a floral tribute on his father's grave. Photo: A Ford)**



**In commemoration of
the Centenary of World War One
Mont de Lancey Historical
Homestead is proud to present:**

THE GEORGE INGRAM VC, MM MEMORIAL EXHIBITION



**This exhibition will detail the story of
the Yarra Valley's only Victoria Cross
recipient and the last Australian to be
awarded the Victoria Cross in World
War One:**

George Mawby Ingram VC, MM

*Displaying many items
not seen in public before!*

EXHIBITION LAUNCH

**SATURDAY APRIL 25TH,
2015**

2.00PM

The Exhibition will run
from April 25th 2015
until June 2016

Cost Included in purchase of
Museum Ticket

Mont de Lancey Historical Homestead
71 Wellington Rd, Wandin North

Open: Wednesday to Sunday 10:00am to 4:30pm
Closed Public Holidays
Phone: (03) 5964 2088

Mt Evelyn RSL would like to applaud the efforts of our two local papers, the Mt Evelyn Mail & the Lilydale Leader, for what they achieved with their centenary of Anzac editions. Specially liked the portrait of Ralph Goode on front cover (below).



THANKS BAYSWATER BUNNINGS!!



Left: Vice-President of the Mt Evelyn RSL, Jim Hurley, with the team that worked miracles – Loretta Miller and Loretta Hobley.

They have certainly done a magnificent job and the members of the Mt Evelyn RSL are extremely grateful for what they have achieved. They have even donated a new bird bath!

← **From This....**

.....To This↓

Recently the Community activities team from Bayswater Bunnings volunteered their time, labour and gardening supplies to help bring the Mt Evelyn RSL's Memorial Garden back to life.



GREAT COURAGE AND INITIATIVE

The Heroic Life of George Ingram VC, MM



'GREAT COURAGE and INITIATIVE'
The Heroic Life of George Ingram VC, MM

A. J. McAlister

This is the biography of Captain George Ingram VC, MM, the Yarra Valley's only recipient of the Victoria Cross, the Commonwealth's highest award for valor on the battlefield.

From a country boyhood growing up in Seville, to serving with the artillery in Victoria and Rabaul and on to the horror and heroism of the Western Front with the 24th Battalion AIF where he was awarded both the Military Medal and the Victoria Cross.

After the war he spent time as a soldier settler before serving with the Shrine Guard and the Royal Australian Engineers in WW2.

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Price: \$25 per copy plus \$5.00 postage

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF THE PASSING OF LOCAL SOLDIERS

LEONARD LAWLOR - COLDSTREAM



On April 25th around twenty-five people gathered at the Coldstream War Memorial to honour the centenary of the passing of Leonard Lawlor, who was killed in action soon after landing on the beach at Anzac Cove. There was a good contingent from the Coldstream CFA and Leonard's niece was present. Anthony McAleer read out a biography of Leonard and a wreath was laid by the Lilydale RSL.

Earlier that day, at the Dawn Service, a wreath was laid in his memory at the Lilydale War Memorial, where he is also listed. A similar wreath was laid at the Mooroolbark war memorial for John Metcalf who was also killed at the landing.

FRANK NICHOLLS - WANDIN

On April 26th about 20 people gathered at the Wandin War Memorial to honour the centenary of the passing of Frank Nicholls, who was killed in action on the day after the landing. Roger Boness & Anthony McAleer led the service.

His niece, Jenny, later wrote: *'It meant a great deal to us that Frank's death at Gallipoli should be acknowledged as it was today. Our grandchildren may not remember the details of the occasion but their parents will tell them about it and although Frank's life was far too short he will be remembered for many more years. Thank you from me and on behalf of the rest of the family'.*

Photo: Matt Crymble



WILLIAM AICHER – MT EVELYN



On May 8th, 2015 a small group gathered to pay tribute to Cpl William Aicher, Mt Evelyn resident who was killed in action at Cape Helles at Gallipoli one hundred years ago on that date.

Present on the day were Christine Fyffe MLA, Tony Smith MP, Brigadier Michael Phelps AM, Marion Stott (president of the Mooroolbark Historical Society), Roger Boness (president of the Mt Evelyn RSL) and Mt Evelyn RSL members Lloyd Stott, John Allwood (Treasurer) and Vicki Walburg. On the day local military historian, Anthony McAleer, read out a biography of Cpl William Aicher and Roger laid a wreath.

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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Price: \$30 per copy plus \$2.00 postage

ANZAC DAY – DAWN SERVICE 2015





Photos courtesy of Greg Carrick, Deanne Webb and Georgia McAleer

*This event is to celebrate our
wonderful community*

SATURDAY MAY 23RD MOUNT EVELYN COMMUNITY **BUSHDANCE**

*featuring **Blackberry Jam Bush Band***
Mt Evelyn Public Hall - Mt Evelyn

Polish your dancing shoes or pull on your boots
and get ready for a fun family night

6:30PM - 11:30PM

Ticket Prices

Single - \$8 / Couple - \$15 / Family - \$20

On sale at Event Organiser:

*Mt Evelyn Community House
50 Wray Crescent - Mount Evelyn
Ph: 9736 1177*



VICTORIAN RSL AWARDS TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS



Recently the Mt Evelyn RSL applied to RSL Victoria for recognition awards for a number of members from our community who have contributed greatly to both the club and the success of our Anzac Day services. We took the opportunity to present these at our Dawn Service. Recipients included **Iain Townsley** (left), for all his efforts as our piper.



Karin Meyer (above) who for many years has been our bugler at the Dawn Service. **Rene Belyus** (below) who has done a brilliant job with the sound.



Gary Freeman
(left)
Kathie
Freeman
& Natalie
Freeman
from Mt
Evelyn
Post
office



BIRMINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL



Recently the Mt Evelyn RSL were very pleased to once again host Grade 2 students from the Birmingham Primary School to the RSL (left). Here they enjoyed an Anzac biscuit (thanks to Dot & Deanne), heard John Allwood perform the 'Ode to the Fallen', listened to Anthony McAleer give a talk and were blown away by Iain Townsley playing the bagpipes. As they left they all got flags thanks to Tony Smith. MP



On April 23rd Roger Boness, Iain Townsley and Anthony McAleer were very pleased to attend a special Anzac service held at Birmingham Primary School (right). The students and teachers organised and ran the service that was held in front of the entire school. It was an excellent event that we are sure the students attending would have appreciated.

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Rosemont T.O.W.N Club is now
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
ring one of the following numbers to get more details.

Leader: Joan 97370397 rosemont.townclub@gmail.com
Weight Recorder: Lesley McKenna 0425624043 or

97391642



PLEASE NOTE

*Copies of
ALL OUR BOOKS
are available for sale through the
Mt Evelyn RSL
or at the
Mt Evelyn Post Office, Station St
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New Yoga Class

The Yoga class is
Suitable for
beginners,
intermediate or
advanced students.

Suitable for all ages.



If you're curious come and try a class, it may
be the best decision you've ever made! Yoga
will help keep the joints mobile and muscles
supple, but most of all it will provide you
with a sense of calmness and relaxation as it
helps to quieten the mind.

Wednesday evenings from 5:30 - 7pm.

**Casual classes \$15 or Concession \$14 . 10 class pass
\$140 or Concession \$135**

Contact Lilly on **0425 769 443**



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 - \$10

General Meetings:

every third Monday of even months
7.30pm

'Hardy House' –
Mt Evelyn RSL Hall

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ORRONGA KILBYN MONTROSE MT EVELYN LAPOINTE DEVEREAUX

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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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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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: 0418148558

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
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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



BILL HARRISON'S STORY—pt 10

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: The Landing at Balikpapan

Once you landed what was the situation like at Balikpapan?

It was just a walk over. Where we were, there were still more Nips than us because we were always working in these small parties. But in New Guinea we would do contact patrols; we'd just walk around until someone fired at you. But here the planes would go out, have a look at the place first, if they thought there was anything there they'd just take it out. Then if you walked along the track and if a Nip glared at you, you'd fall back and call in for an air strike, gee it was beautiful.

We also had a battery of twenty-five pounders attached to us and we had Douglas Dive Bombers on call. We also had a half share in a rocket ship. When we needed them they'd just steam up along the coast, look at a hill, push the button and then put a cross where the hill use to be. I mean rockets were notoriously inaccurate but the sheer volume of them was such that they took out everything.

What are your memories of hearing that the war had ended?

We were on what they called 'Vasey Highway', which was out forward, and were always out doing the scouting, acting as Divisional Cavalry. Each night we would make a perimeter and this one time we were in an area where it had been blasted by planes, there was timber lying everywhere, so it was easy to make a perimeter, we didn't have to do much digging because there were all these fallen trees to hide behind.

That night the boss had called all the section leaders up to his hole for orders for the next day and he was using a torch to show us. Next thing there was a gun went off from outside the perimeter. Well we naturally thought it was the Nips but it was most usually because the Nips don't move at night, they lie low. We all went to ground and the boss dropped his torch and jumped the other way. There were about seventy of us and we all started cocking muskets.

What it ended up being was somebody coming up from the next group along to tell us that the war was over. But he'd slipped and his pistol had gone off. He was a clerk or something, he wasn't a field bloke. He was walking along with a cocked pistol in his hand, he was naturally dubious because you just don't go to anyone else's perimeter, once you close down for the night, you close down, but he slipped and fell over.

The miracle was that he lost the track, if he'd been on the track he would have tripped a signal wire which would have dumped two grenades on top of him, he was very lucky. But he thought he'd try because he had this message that the war was over. He certainly frightened the devil out of everybody, half the fellows were asleep.

Next issue: The War Ends

Right: Bill Harrison in 1999

MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Well done to **Gary Park**, former Scout Leader at Mt Evelyn, who has recently been made Regional Commissioner, looking after 22% of the Victorian membership - that is 74 groups and 6000 members. All of this is done in his spare time!!
- Our best wishes to **Julie Boness** who is undergoing treatment at the moment.
- Welcome to new members **Bruce Watkinson** and **Catharina Nyenbrink**.
- The Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, Cr Maria McCarthy, is hosting a civic reception for all RSL members. Date: 28/5/15 – 1.45pm @ the Lilydale Athenaeum.
RSVP 9294 6370 if you would like to attend.
- Thanks to **Geoff Brown** and the Montrose Men's Shed who made our new tables to go in our meeting room.
- Bon Voyage to **Ted Fairweather** on his trip back to visit the UK.
 - Should you require any assistance or advice - Deanne Webb (the Sub-branch's Welfare Officer).
Ph: **0402 783 849**
Or the Rev Richard Schoenmaker
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.

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: 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

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 –

Rev Richard Schoenmaker Ph: 97361087

Appeals Officer –

Dot Ervine Ph: 97363638

Chamber representative –

Les Kennedy Ph: 0418 148 558

Justice of the Peace –

Kim Parry Ph: 0418334416

Committee:

Betty Crittenden, Bill Smart, Ron Jones