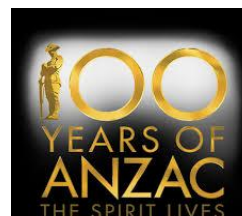


# Mt Evelyn RSL News



Volume 6, Issue 4, Spring 2016

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



## 2016 Meeting Dates

Aug 19<sup>th</sup>  
Sept 16<sup>th</sup>  
Oct 21<sup>st</sup>  
Nov 18<sup>th</sup>  
Dec 16<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**

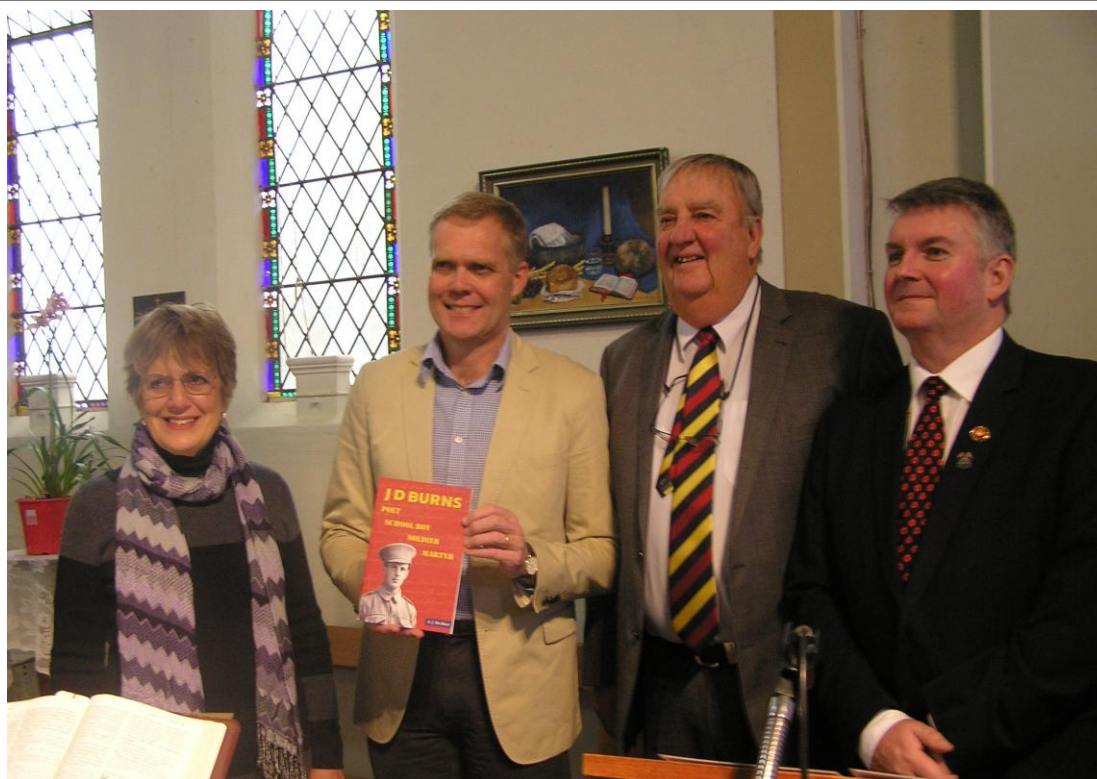
**Ph: 9737 0767**  
**Email:**  
[mtevrsl@gmail.com](mailto:mtevrsl@gmail.com)

**Postal Address:**  
**PO Box 182**  
**Mt Evelyn Vic 3796**



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## J D BURNS BOOK LAUNCHED



**Above: Helen Parkes (niece of J D Burns), the Hon Tony Smith MP (federal member for Casey), Malcolm Scott (nephew of J D Burns) and author Anthony McAleer (secretary of the Mt Evelyn RSL).**

On Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 members of the Mt Evelyn RSL, including president Roger Boness, attended the launch of the Lilydale RSL's latest book 'J D Burns – Poet, Schoolboy, Soldier, Martyr'. This is the biography of a young Lilydale soldier, James Drummond Burns, who was killed at Gallipoli in 1915 and was the author of the poem 'For England'. This poem moved that generation who lived through two world wars and went on to become the most widely read, well-received piece of Australian war verse ever.

The launch was held at the Lilydale Uniting Church (formerly the Presbyterian Church) in Anderson Street. J D Burns' father, the Rev Hugh McLeod Burns was once the minister at this church and it was in that building that the congregation farewelled young James for the last time before he went off to war.

Guest speakers on the day included Cr Maria McCarthy, poet Jim Brown, the Hon Tony Smith MP, president of the Lilydale RSL Don Parsons, the Rev David Kim and bugler Ian Douglas.

Also present were members of the Burns family including his niece and nephew. See order form inside for how to get a copy.

## **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 2016 so come along and  
see:

**Caught in the Net  
Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup>  
@ 2.00pm**

**Yes, Prime Minister?  
Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup>  
@ 2.00pm**



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



### **Healesville Library**

***During the month  
of July***

A great display on the  
Australians in the  
Somme campaign  
from the collection of  
local military  
collector Rod Wilson.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan will be commemorated by the Outer Eastern Melbourne Sub-Branch, Vietnam Veterans Association at the Knox, Tim Neville, arboretum in Scoresby Road on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2016 commencing at 11-00 am. Visitor parking will be available at the adjacent Fairpark Reserve. RSL members are encouraged to attend this well planned community event.

The Returned & Services League of Australia Constitution was adopted at the National Congress on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016; similarly the RSL National By-Laws were enacted by The Board of The RSL on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

In part, The Constitution establishes The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited (RSL) and The RSL is the representative national body of the League. A State Branch may, by granting charters, establish within its jurisdiction the Sub-Branches it sees necessary or desirable and make rules, not inconsistent with the Constitution or the associated By-Laws, for their governance and control. It appears the Mount Evelyn RSL quest for junior members has been successful, as under the By-Laws clause 17 Interpretation, "Other Members" these can include social, junior and community members. Mount Evelyn RSL Sub-Branch may be able now at the RSL Region Two-Forum have The Victorian Branch Inc. Branch By-Law 10B amended to also include junior membership.

The Advocacy Training and Development Programme or ATDP for short is the next evolution of the Training and Information Program, better known as TIP. The ATDP is a partnership with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), Ex-service Organisations (ESOs) and the Department of Defence. From July 2016, the ATDP governance structure will commence managing the delivery of advocacy training and development.

I may be contacted should any member wish to view these new adopted Constitution and By-Laws or to discuss the new training program.

Lest We Forget

Roger Boness

## **Membership Subs for 2016 – *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 woman phoned her dentist when she received a huge bill. "I'm shocked!" she complained.  
"This is three times what you normally charge."  
"Yes, I know," said the dentist. "But you yelled so loud, you scared away two other patients."

A young man is shopping in a supermarket when he notices that an older woman seems to be following him, staring at him in a sorrowful manner. He moves to the next aisle, trying to avoid her, but she follows, still staring. And when he finishes shopping, he ends up behind her in a long checkout line. Her grocery basket is full to overflowing; his contains just a few items.

She keeps staring at him sadly, making him feel most uncomfortable. Finally she speaks up. "Pardon my staring," she says, "but you look exactly like my son, who died just two weeks ago." And she begins to sniffle as she repeats her claim that the young man perfectly resembles her late, beloved son. "I mean, exactly like him," she moans.

As the cashier bags her groceries at the front of the line, the woman asks: "As a favor to a grief-stricken mother, would you mind saying 'Goodbye, Mom' to me as I leave? Somehow, it would make me feel so much better."

The young man gulps and agrees to her request. She gives him a tearful smile, waves and picks up her three heavy bags. "Goodbye, Mom!" he says, waving back. All the scene needs now to make it a perfect melodrama is violins welling up in the background — or maybe a little supermarket Muzak.

The young man, reflecting on his good deed, feels such a warm glow of self-satisfaction that he barely notices the cashier ringing up his own few purchases. Until, that is, the cashier tells him that the bill comes to \$110.

"There must be a mistake," the young man says, pointing at his single small bag.

"Your mother said you'd be paying for hers too," the cashier says.

What's the best thing about Switzerland?  
I don't know, but the flag is a big plus!

**Patient:** Doctor help me please, every time I drink a cup of coffee I get this intense stinging in my eye.

**Doctor:** I suggest you remove the spoon before drinking.

Husband brings the child home from kindergarten and asks his wife,  
"He's been crying the whole way home. Isn't he sick or something?"  
"No," replies the wife, "he was just trying to tell you he isn't our Frankie."

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son,  
"You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

*(You're going to love the Dad's reply!)*

"Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking a round with a fly swatter.  
"What are you doing?" she asked.  
"Hunting flies," He responded.  
"Oh, killing any?" She asked.  
"Yep, three males, two females," he replied.  
Intrigued, she asked, How can you tell?  
He responded, "Three were on a beer can, two were on the phone."

Two old men are drinking in a bar. One says,  
"Did you know that Lions have sex 10 to 15 times a day?"  
"Aww, darn!" says his friend, "and I just joined Rotary!"



## WELL DONE GARY!!



On May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Mt Evelyn Football/Netball Club had its annual Life Members, Sponsors, Coterie and VIP function. In front a packed clubroom a very special announcement was made – that the playing oval at Mt Evelyn will be named the ‘Gary Martin Oval’ to recognise Gary Martin’s services to the Mt Evelyn Football and Cricket Clubs which has spanned over 46 years.

Including: President of the Mt Evelyn Cricket Club, coached cricket juniors, played in various cricket premierships sides, life member of the cricket club, the first player in the clubs history to play 250 senior football games, a member of the 1976 reserves premierships side, president of the football club and a life member of football netball club.

His personal and financial contribution has been significant and there is no equal to Gary’s longevity in supporting our clubs which is measured in decades. In terms of his contribution in time and financially it has been enormous.

The sign in Gary’s name was unveiled by Cr Maria McCarthy and guest speaker Stan Alves (past Melbourne, North Melbourne player and St Kilda coach) to Gary and his wife Carol in front a packed clubroom and his family members. Gary is also a member of the Mt Evelyn RSL.

## OUR BUGLER IN FRANCE



Over the past month our bugler, Tom Steele, has been visiting the battlefields and war cemeteries of the Western Front in France and Belgium.

While here he has been taking the opportunity to play the ‘Last Post’. Check out his very moving video on youtube -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtGs8\\_hkp\\_c&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtGs8_hkp_c&feature=youtu.be)

**Photo:** Tom at the ‘Cobbers Statue’ at Fromelles, France.

# BREAKER MORANT AT THE LILYDALE ATC



Members had an enjoyable time recently at the Lilydale Athenaeum's production of 'Breaker Morant', the story of three Australian soldiers during the Boer War who were charged with shooting prisoners. The cast included Jim Unkles as Lord Kitchener. Jim is an historian who is an expert on the 'Breaker Morant' and has been pushing for a re-trial. Also of note – one of the characters in the play 'Mr Robertson' is buried at the Lilydale cemetery.

**Photo: courtesy Lilydale ATC**

## VISIT FROM HMAS CERBERUS

On Tuesday May 24<sup>th</sup> Rev Miles Fagan, RANR Chaplain, from the Mt Evelyn Presbyterian Church hosted a group of training officers from HMAS Cerberus on a visit to the area.

They began with a tour of the Sir John Monash 1914 militia camp site at the Lillydale Lake where they were given a talk by local historian Anthony McAleer and had a chance to view the storyboard at the site.

They then came back to the Mt Evelyn RSL clubrooms where it had been organised for them to meet some local ex-navy personnel, including members Bill Smart and Kim Parry, as well as the executive of the Mt Evelyn RSL sub-branch.

Everyone enjoyed lunch together and a bit of a chat before local poet, Jim Brown, performed some songs he'd written with an Anzac theme that everyone enjoyed.

The whole event had been planned with the idea of bringing new recruits out to the area, to learn more about our local military history and to meet those with experience in the Royal Australian Navy at the RSL.



**Above:** Training officers from HMAS Cerberus chat with ex-navy personnel including Don Parsons, an ex-submariner.

**Below:** Local poet Jim Brown entertains those on the day with songs he'd written.



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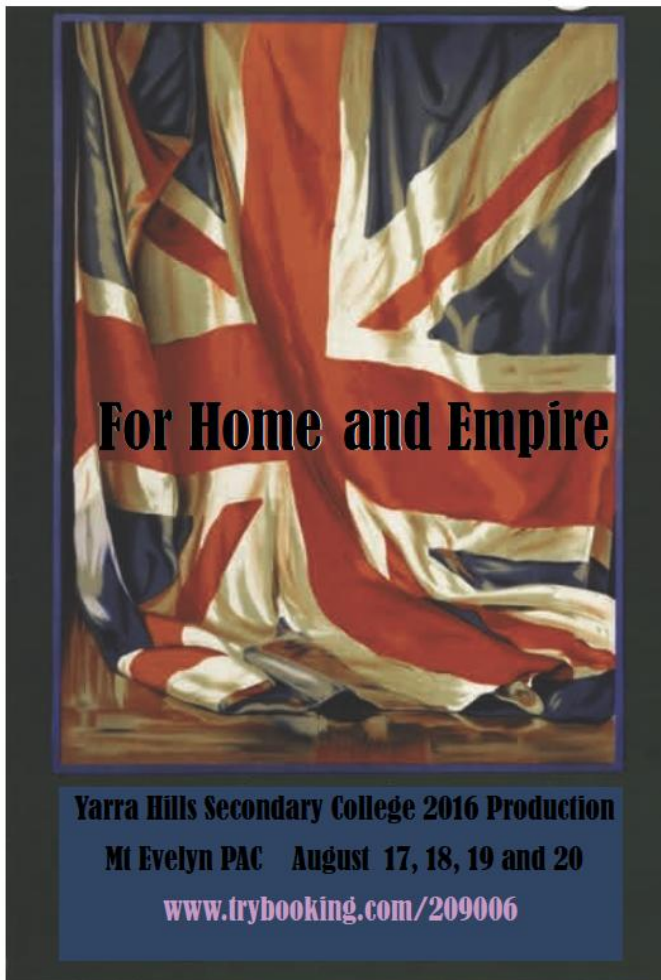
## OUR BUSY PIPER



**Photo:** Iain with the sister of Cpl Avi Avedissian SAS from Melbourne, who died in the tragedy.

On Sunday June 12th our Piper and SAS Veteran Iain Townsley was at the Shrine of Remembrance 20 years on from the Blackhawk tragedy. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1996, during a night exercise near Townsville, 18 men died when two Blackhawk helicopters collided in mid-air and crashed. The Special Air Service Regiment, supported by 5th Aviation Regiment, were involved in carrying out a night-time counter-terrorism exercise in preparation for the upcoming 2000 Sydney Olympics. It was the largest peacetime loss in Australian military history, which claimed the lives of 15 SAS Operators and 3 Aviation Crew. Each year since the tragedy the SAS Association have gathered at their plaque in the Shrine Garden.

## WWI PLAY BY LOCAL STUDENTS



The Yarra Hills Secondary College are putting on a special play entitled 'For Home and Empire' that deals with life in Australia during the First World War.

The play has been written by one of the staff members and will be performed by the students. This will be an event not to be missed and we encourage everyone to go along and see it. Details below – ALL WELCOME.

**YARRA HILLS SECONDARY COLLEGE  
2016 PRODUCTION**

### **FOR HOME AND EMPIRE**

Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday August 18<sup>th</sup>  
Friday August 19<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>

**Starts 8.00pm**

Mt Evelyn Performing Arts Centre  
Burdap drive, Mt Evelyn

[www.trybooking.com/209006](http://www.trybooking.com/209006)

Adults - \$17.60  
Student/concession - \$11.60  
Family - \$46.40



# Yarra Valley & Outer Eastern Melbourne Vietnam Veterans Day March & Service



50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan

## KNOX WAR MEMORIAL

Tim Neville Arboretum, Dorset Rd, Ferntree Gully. Melways Map Ref: 73 K1

**Sunday, August 14, 2016**

**ALL WELCOME**

**10:45 am Step Off**

Veterans assemble at Francis Cres. car park for march

Disabled parking: Dobson Park

**Service: 11:00 am**

The Service will be Supported by  
KNOX CITY COUNCIL, THE KNOX SCHOOL STUDENTS, RINGWOOD PIPE BAND

A Free Family Sausage Sizzle will take place after the March & Service

**Enquiries:**

**Service: Aff Binnoore 0409 365 210**

**March: Alan Tadich 0409 172 912**

**[www.yarravalleyvv.com](http://www.yarravalleyvv.com)**

**[www.oemvvaa.com](http://www.oemvvaa.com)**

An initiative of the Yarra Valley and Outer Eastern Melbourne Vietnam Veterans Assn;

RSL Sub-branches:

Croydon, Healesville, Lilydale, Mt Evelyn, Yarra Junction, Warburton, Yarra Glen;

National Serviceman's Association: Outer Eastern Sub-branch.

# A DIFFERENT APRIL 25<sup>th</sup> – by Max Lamb

Ask an Australian what the 25<sup>th</sup> of April is and the reply will be Anzac day, the anniversary of the 1915 landing at Gallipoli.

There was another military landing of Australian soldiers that had occurred on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April several years earlier. Coming ashore, they faced a barrage of arms. The difference between the two landings could not have been more extreme. At this earlier landing, instead of a hail of bullets, the arms that the soldiers faced were the arms of the loved ones of the Victorian 5<sup>th</sup> Mounted Riflemen. It was the 25 of April 1902. The Boer War was over and the soldiers were returning home from the war in Africa.

Australia's participation in the Boer War was from 1900 until 1902. This is the war where troops from Australia had their first 'baptism of fire', some 15 years before Gallipoli. When the first of the troops left our shores, we were still separate Colonial States. The contingents had various names such as Lances, Citizen's, Bushmen, and Mounted Rifles.

By the time they returned, we had federated and had become the Commonwealth of Australia

In total, over 16,000 men from the various States were sent to South Africa. Of these, 251 died in action or from wounds, but the biggest killer was disease, 267 succumbed to various illnesses.

**Below:** Ballarat Boer War Memorial



## The Victorian Contingents

The first three Victorian contingents consisted of a total of 751 men and 42 officers. The 4<sup>th</sup> contingent was larger; it had 598 men and 31 Officers. Then the largest contingent sent from Australia for the Boer War was raised, the 5<sup>th</sup> Victorian contingent, known as the Mounted Rifles, (5VMR). It comprised of 46 officers and 971 men. The 5VMR left Australia on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1901. It was mobilised at Pretoria on the 24 March 1901 and was mainly used to counteract the Boers that were using guerrilla tactics in warfare.

Lieutenant Leslie Cecil Maygar, (below) a member of the 5VMR was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallant acts during the Boer War. The following is the official report of the deed for which Maygar received the Victoria Cross:-

*"At Geelhoutboom, 23rd November, 1901, Lieutenant Maygar galloped out and ordered the men of a detached post, which was being outflanked, to retire. The horse of one of them being shot under him, when the enemy was within 200 yards, Lieutenant Maygar dismounted and lifted him upon his own horse, which bolted into boggy ground, causing both of them to dismount. On extricating the horse, and finding that it could not carry both Lieutenant Maygar again put the man on its back, and told him to gallop for cover at once; he himself proceeding on foot. All this took place under a very heavy fire."*





Four Australians of other Contingents were awarded the Victoria Cross during the course of the war

In WW1, Maygar was promoted to Captain with the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse. At Gallipoli, he was promoted to Major. He led the 8th Light Horse during the Sinai and Palestine campaigns. While acting Brigadier-General, he came under enemy fire from aircraft and was mortally wounded. He died the next day

In the Boer war, the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles Contingent came into controversy after an attack by the Boers on their camp at Wilmansrust in June 1901. There were heavy casualties with 19 men killed and 41 men wounded. The British Officer in Charge of the column, Major-General Sir Stuart Brownlow Beatson, was not satisfied with the actions of the Victorian Mounted Rifles and made unfair and untrue accusations of cowardice.

When the contingent left Africa to return home, Lord Kitchener who was in charge of all allied forces sent the CO this telegram:

*"11 March 1902,  
Cape Town,  
Please Convey to your Australians my warm appreciation of their gallant and arduous service in this country. In the name of the Army in South Africa, I wish them good luck and God speed."*

Over the course of the war, Australian public support for it waned, mainly due to the British 'Scorched Earth' policy of destroying the homes and farms of Boer families.

A unique 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles Monument is located in St Kilda Road opposite Victoria Barracks that was organised by the members of the 5VMR Contingent in honour of their fallen comrades. One of the names of those that were killed in action is my Great Uncle, Henry Spencer Lamb.

There is another memorial in St Kilda Road that is in memory of all Victorians that served in the Boer War. There are plans to move this memorial to a more suitable place in the Shrine park precinct. Dotted around the State, are various memorials for those that served in the Boer War.

**Right:** 5<sup>th</sup> Vmr Memorial - Melbourne

A new Memorial is being planned for Canberra. It will consist of several sculptured bronze soldiers on horseback, with the largest being 150% life size. The site will be along Anzac drive leading up to the War Memorial building.

An annual memorial service for Boer War is held at the Shrine each year, usually on the last Sunday of May.

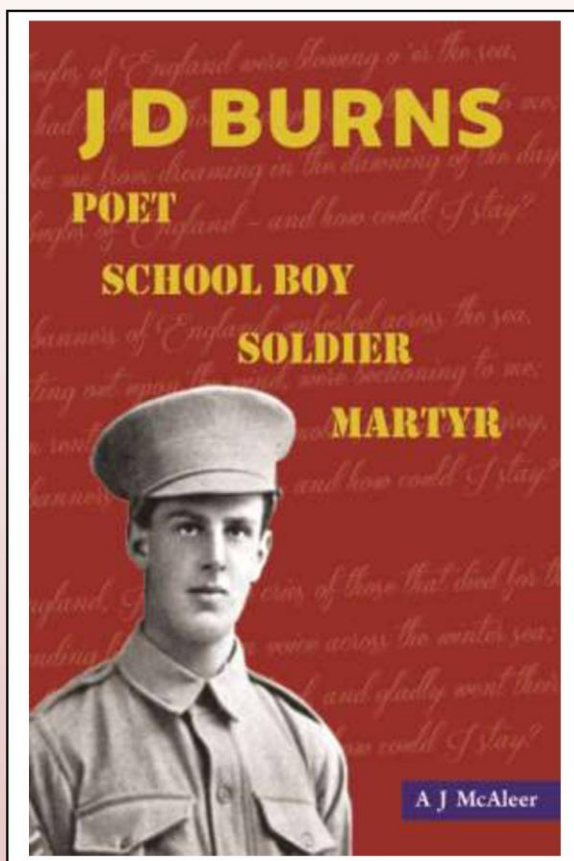
Breaker Morant, who was executed by the British for the killing of Boer prisoners, was originally from Scotland and lived in South Australia. At the out break of the war, he joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Australian Contingent. Later in Africa he transferred to the British unit of the Bushveldt Carabineers and promoted to Lieutenant. Lieutenant Handcock who was executed along with Morant, originally was with the NSW Mounted Rifles before joining the Bushvelt Carabineers. Lieutenant Witton whose life was spared, was with the Victorian Bushmen before joining the Carabineers.

**Below:** Mounted Riflemen in the Boer War



# J D BURNS

## POET, SCHOOL BOY, SOLDIER, MARTYR



A week before he was due to go overseas with the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion in 1915, nineteen year old Private James Drummond Burns of Lilydale sat down and wrote a poem entitled 'For England' for his old school magazine 'The Scotch Collegian'. It was a poem that summed up the reasons why he enlisted and would let everyone know, in an emotive way, what he saw as the important rationale for why Australia needed to be in the war.

For many the poem would express just how they felt about the conflict and about imperial identity. Notable Australian author Hal Porter claimed it *'declared with intensity, the attitude held by hundreds of other selfless young men not articulate enough to declare, except by action, their fervent beliefs'*.

The poem's author had come from a family of Presbyterian ministers who had forged a strong reputation for selfless community service. James himself was a talented and impressive young man who had achieved much as a student at Scotch College and had endeared himself to all who knew him.

But when this young man with so much talent and potential was killed by a sniper's bullet in the trenches at Gallipoli, it gave his poem an added weight of importance and meaning and forced upon it a strong message of duty and sacrifice. It would go on to be published and re-published hundreds of times across Australia and the Empire and be used as a recruiting tool in two world wars.

His death would cast a dark shadow over his family and friends but to others he became the symbol of a 'school boy martyr' for a noble cause and Australia's answer to Rupert Brooke. In the end what J D Burns gave us was the most well received and widely read piece of Australian war verse to ever be written.

**ORDER NOW:**

Lilydale RSL  
52 Anderson St,  
Lilydale, Vic, 3140



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Copies required \_\_\_\_\_

Payment for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Lilydale RSL.

**Price: \$20 per copy plus \$5.00 postage**



# CENTENARY OF THE HMAT WANDILLA

*Hon. John Howard OM AC*

## DEPARTURE OF HMAT WANDILLA

I am sorry that I cannot be present at the event to commemorate the departure of the HMAT Wandilla on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. On that day it will be exactly 100 years since my own father, Lyall Falconer Howard sailed with his unit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneer Battalion. He trained in England with other members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division and then saw active service on the Western Front, in both France and Belgium. Although he was gassed in Belgium he recovered and later returned to live a happy life in Australia. The sacrifice of Australia in the Great War was immense. It should never be forgotten.

*John Howard*  
(John Howard)  
25 May 2016

GPO BOX 36, SYDNEY NSW 2001  
TEL: 61 2 9221 2577 FAX: 61 2 9221 2677  
HowardJW@aph.gov.au

On Monday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 members of the Mt Evelyn RSL joined with Tony Smith MP, Michael Danby MP, Mayor of Port Phillip- Cr Bernadene Voss and the St Kilda RSL at Station Pier, Port Melbourne to commemorate the centenary of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pioneer Battalion leaving on the HMAT Wandilla.

Tony's great grandfather was on board as was the father of former Prime Minister John Howard who wrote a letter (left) for the occasion that Tony has kindly donated to the Mt Evelyn RSL for our display.



# CENTENARY OF THE START OF THE SOMME



**Photo:** Bill Smart, Max Lamb (whose grandfather was killed on the Somme), Cr Maria McCarthy, Piper Iain Townsley, Bryan McCarthy (whose great uncle served on the Somme) (courtesy B Smart)

On the evening of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, Iain was at the Mt Evelyn War Memorial to mark the centenary of the start of the Somme offensive. The Somme campaign was the largest battle of the First World War on the Western Front where more than one million men were wounded or killed on both sides, making it one of the bloodiest battles in human history. Iain's grandfather served on the Somme with the 6<sup>th</sup> Cameron Highlanders and in tribute to him he played a special tune 'The Battle of the Somme'. Others were also there to commemorate.



# CENTENARY OF THE SOMME CASUALTIES



## Frank Allen Dixon

Following on from our centenary ceremonies we had last year at the local war memorials in honour of the local soldiers who died in WWI, we have been continuing this year to mark the 1916 deaths.

First was Frank Dixon from Wandin who was killed in action on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 1916 at the battle of Fromelles. (left): Jim Hurley, Bill Smart and Roger Boness ran the service at the Wandin War Memorial and laid a wreath in his memory.

**Photo** courtesy of Iain Townsley



## John James Purcell

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Lilydale RSL also held a ceremony at the Lilydale War Memorial to honour former Lilydale resident, John James Purcell, who was killed in action at the Battle of Fromelles one hundred years ago.

President Don Parsons (right) ran the service which was attended by students from Bimbadeen Height Primary School and Lilydale Primary School.

**Photo left** – courtesy of Jesse Graham



## Stanley Robinson

On Wednesday July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Lilydale RSL held another special service to honour Stanley Robinson, a local soldier who died of wounds received during the Battle of Fromelles.

Stanley Robinson was a teacher at the Lilydale State School when he enlisted so it was nice to have students from his former school present to commemorate him.

The Hon Tony Smith MP, federal member for Casey was also present to read out the biography of Stanley Robinson.

**Photo:** the office of Tony Smith MP



# CENTENARY OF THE SOMME CASUALTIES



## William Hawkey

On Monday July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Lilydale RSL held another special service to honour William Hawkey, a local soldier who was killed in action during the Battle of Pozieres. William Hawkey was born at Lilydale and grew up at Yering and served with the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was killed by shell blast while advancing up the Pozieres road to the frontline. He was 31 years old.

The Hon Tony Smith MP, federal member for Casey was present to read out the biography of William and his great nephew was present.

**Photo:** the office of Tony Smith MP



## William Chauvin & Ralph Noden

On Tuesday July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Lilydale RSL held another special service to honour two local soldiers who died during the Battle of Pozieres.

Both men grew up together in Lilydale, played football together, enlisted on the same day, serve in the same unit and were killed in action on the same day.

The Hon Tony Smith MP, federal member for Casey was present to read out their biographies.

**Photo:** the office of Tony Smith MP



## Leopold Muir

On Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Mt Evelyn RSL held a service to honour Leopold Muir, a Wandin soldier who killed in action during the Battle of Pozieres.

Leopold Muir was a farmer at Wandin when he enlisted in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was shot by a sniper while trying to rescue his wounded friend in 'no man's land'.

Students from the Wandin Yallock Primary School were present to hear the story of Leopold Muir.

**Photo:** Iain Townsley



# MONASH'S MILITIA CAMP

LILYDALE – FEBRUARY 1914

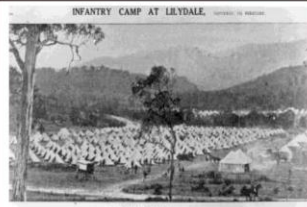
100 years ago John Monash and 3000 citizen soldiers descended on Lilydale and camped for week where the Lilydale Lake is today.

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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PO BOX 182,  
Mt Evelyn, Vic, 3796



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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 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.

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With a foreword by Dr Michael Cathcart.

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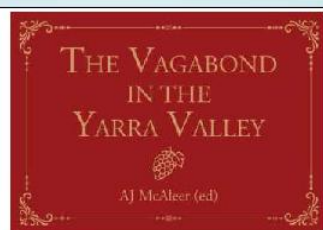
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**The Vagabond.**

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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George Ingram VC, MM*



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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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*or at the*

**Mt Evelyn Post Office, Station St**

**GREAT GIFTS**



## 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  
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We meet at the Mt Evelyn  
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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  
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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

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



# JAMES EDWARD FRASER

**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.....**

James Edward Fraser was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 1892 at Lilydale. He was the second eldest of four children to Scottish migrants, James and Polly Fraser, and he grew up on his parent's property, Yeringa (now Yering Farms), off St Hubert's Road in Yering.

He attended the Yering State School and then worked as a vigneron at the family's winery on their property. His parents were successful wine makers having taken over the vineyard first planted here in the 1880s by the Deschamp family. He was also a member of the Lilydale branch of the MUIOOF and the Lilydale Presbyterian Church.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1915, at the age of 23, he walked into the Victoria Barracks on St Kilda Road and enlisted to serve in the AIF. He undertook his basic training at Seymour Military Camp where he was given the regimental number 1715 and allotted to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. In July he left Melbourne on the ship HMAT Demosthenes and arrived in Egypt.

Soon after he was landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula but was only here a few days when he was struck down ill. He started having severe pains in his abdomen, so much so he couldn't walk or eat. He was soon evacuated off Gallipoli and sent to hospital back in Egypt. Here the doctors diagnosed that he had a renal stone in his kidneys and advised that he be returned back to Australia for an operation.

In mid-September he returned home on the ship 'Beltana' and arriving back on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1915. Back in Australia he still had trouble and he could not walk around without experiencing pain. He reported to the No 5 Australian General Hospital set up in St Kilda Road, Melbourne where he was examined and booked in to have an operation. In the meantime he returned home to his parent's property and even attended a farewell function for some Coldstream volunteers heading off to war.

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1915, he was travelling by train from Lilydale to attend the hospital in the company of another injured soldier, Private James Sheehan, who had been wounded by shell blast on Gallipoli and had returned on the same ship as James. They got out at Flinders Street Station and proceeded to board a cable tram on St Kilda Road near Princes Bridge to take them to the hospital.

According to the 'Lilydale Express' newspaper – 'the deceased was boarding a tram in St Kilda Road towards the hospital, when a tram coming in the opposite direction caught them, Private Fraser being knocked down and badly crushed, sustaining a fractured skull and other injuries'. He was rushed to the hospital but sadly passed away that night; he was 23 years old.

The local paper lamented that 'to reach the shores of Gallipoli, to be invalided back, to pass through many dangers, and illness, and then to meet a tragic sudden death amidst peaceful surroundings, close to his home, seems indeed a cruel and mysterious stroke of fate'.

James Fraser's body was returned back to Lilydale from the hospital on the following Monday and was buried at the Lilydale cemetery. The local paper reported it was one of the largest seen in the district for some time.

## MT EVELYN FURPHYS

- Apologies from our last edition, we failed to mention that two other great community supporters – **Mt Evelyn IGA & Mt Evelyn Post Office** - also contributed to the Anzac Day community breakfast – *thanks for your support!*

- Well done to our Vice-president, **Jim Hurley**, who recently retired from the CFA after 17 years service.

- Happy 50<sup>th</sup> birthday to our secretary Anthony McAleer.

- Welcome to new member **Sandra Pitt**.

- I can now confirm the Normie Rowe concert will go ahead on Saturday Sept 17<sup>th</sup> at Mt Evelyn's Discovery Church as a fundraiser for the Seville War Memorial.

- Stand by for some interesting news coming up of a piece of WWI militaria that was dug up in the backyard of a Mt Evelyn home.

- 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**



**Above: His grave at the Lilydale Cemetery**



*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  
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Celebrate the end of the week with a visit to  
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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](mailto: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](mailto:mtevrsl@gmail.com)

## **Mt Evelyn RSL Committee**

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**Vice Presidents–**

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Iain Townsley

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