

LIVING TODAY

in Mooroolbark and the Yarra Ranges

NO. 62 MARCH 2018



- Celebrate Mooroolbark welcomes Paralympian Don Elgin
- Join the festival fun on 24 March
- SES to the rescue

11,500 free copies distributed throughout Mooroolbark and district



PHOTO: JOEL STRICKLAND PHOTOGRAPHICS

One Foot in Mooroolbark

How did Don Elgin—a boy from Tocumwal, an amputee at three—go on to become a world champion athlete, and later manage the Australian team at the London Paralympic Games?

“If I answer this, they might be onto me and they may have made a mistake, so maybe we’ll move to the second question!” Donnie joked.

“No, seriously, when I look back at it...I often think that it’s got more to do with the desire to do something, rather than necessarily having been the best to do it. And that’s something that I’ve been absolutely filled with—that desire to get the most out of life.”

“I think my love of sport certainly played a big role in the kind of opportunities that came my way,” Don continued. “The desire to just grab them with both hands, even though those hands may have been a bit dodgy with a thumb missing and webbed fingers from birth...I think I was able to grab hold of what was presented and make the most of it.”

It’s not the medals that Don recalls as his career highlights. “I think the expectation is that your great achievement will have something to do with standing on the dais. I don’t want to belittle those things—they are amazing—but when I think that they’ve named Tocumwal ‘The home of the Paralympian’ after me! That is such a thrill.”

The support of the community has always been a huge motivator for Don. Without people supporting him financially and his parents keeping him grounded, things may have been different. “When somebody has the desire to have a crack and people get behind them, that’s when we see awesome things happen,” he said.

Before he started achieving success on the track, Don would often cycle down to the local shop to buy the newspaper for the caravan park his family ran. It took him about seven minutes to ride to the shop, have a chat to the paper man and head back. But as his success grew, so did the length of his trip. “You end up in the local paper and there’s a story about Donnie did this and will go on to the state champs and perhaps win a few medals... Well! All of a sudden, the seven minutes would stretch out to fifteen, because the butcher would come out and say g’day, and want to have a chat to me about how I



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

In 2006, Don Elgin appeared with fellow amputee Melissa Noonan on Andrew Denton’s television interview show *Enough Rope*.

was travelling with training... Or the mechanic would stop me and say g'day, or the hardware guy, or Kenny from the motel."

It was that sort of community involvement that Don loved. "It literally made a difference," he said. "Because of it, when you're training in the middle of winter, you know that you're not on your own. You're encouraged to keep going because you genuinely feel that people are sharing that journey with you."

"I credit a lot of the joy from my journey, on reflection, to my family and definitely to the community, to Tocumwal, my home town."

"One of the real beautiful things about the country is that the same people who will give you a clip around the ears, saying, 'Get home, you're out too late' or whatever, are the same people who put their hands in their pockets and buy a raffle ticket, or enter a cow pat competition, or whatever we were doing to raise the funds. That same group of people were saying, 'Yep, we want to see him go well.' Even today, I'm still in contact with some of my school teachers, because they're friends who genuinely care."

Donnie remembers the importance of his first sponsor, the local pharmacist Mr Barnett, twenty years ago. "He gave me a whole lot of tape, talcum powder to help with the sweating on my leg, and the bandages for when I rubbed skin off from running too much...You don't forget, because community support was so significant in helping me believe that I could accomplish something."

"Nowadays, I'm a facilitator in a great organisation called Leading Teams," said Don. "For the best part of 20 years, I've travelled the world playing sport and speaking about sport as a motivational speaker. I remember the very first time I spoke publicly was at the Rotary Club at Tocumwal, and that was followed by an engagement at the Apex Club, and I was moved when both of those clubs joined together to raise funds to help me on my way to representing our country."

One of Don's bios mentions that he's an "all-round larrikin". "I should be careful what I let people write on my bio on my behalf!" he joked. "But when I think about the people that I connect with... your Mick Dundeeds, [of Crocodile Dundee fame] or Steve Irwin ...or the Pat Rafters of the world, head down, bum up—who do OK but who never forget where they've come from. Like me, these people don't mind having a bit of fun where it's to be had! I think most of our decent blokes have got a bit of larrikinism in 'em. We see it on the sporting field. They don't mean any harm, they're out for a bit of fun and that's the way we roll. I think the label fits me pretty well."

Donnie will be a guest at Celebrate Mooroolbark this year, where the theme is

"No Barriers—Future Possibilities..." I was delightfully surprised by his thoughts on the pathways in Australia for people with disability.

"First of all, there has to be an appetite for whatever it is they want to achieve—be it sport, music or whatever. Let's talk about sport, because that's something that I'm really familiar with. My strongest piece of advice for someone with a disability is to get into sport. I'd advise them not to put themselves into the 'disabled' bucket, but to put themselves in the 'athlete' bucket. And if it means that they are competing against an able-bodied athlete, then that's going to give them as good a grounding as they can get for when the time comes to compete against athletes with disabilities. My advice would be 'Join the clubs; don't worry about the disabled pathways, but the sport pathways'."

Don always measured himself against his fit, able-bodied brother and decided that if he was being beaten by his brother in football or other physical activity, he had work to do. "I always thought that if other people can beat me, then I'm not really going that fast. We've both got two legs!"

Don loves Australia's subtle approach to providing pathways for all people. "We like to give people a fair go. We don't really worry if people are black or white or have two legs or one; if they're fair dinkum and having a crack, then we will be able to provide an opportunity for them, and I love that about Australia."

People sometimes ask Don whether he is disappointed that the Paralympic Games receives less recognition than the Olympic Games. "The truth is, no I'm not. I think we've got to keep it real, and that's one thing that I've been very mindful of."

"Think back 20 years. Society wasn't ready to say, 'Yeah, come on out'. If you had a disability, you went off to a special school. We didn't embrace people. But now, the way that we're embracing people with a disability shows that society is changing—we're progressing. Things aren't fixed overnight, nor should they be. The modern Olympic movement has been around for 120-130 years. The Paralympic Games have been held in parallel with the Olympic Games since 1998 in Seoul. It's coming along. I think it needs to earn its credibility, and as we keep embracing it, it will earn it!"

Despite his sporting triumphs, Donnie said he can't go past the birth of his four kids for life's most outstanding highlights.

"I don't speak a lot about the birth of our second child because I fainted in the delivery room, and copped a black eye banging something on the way down... But how fortunate am I to have been given these moments in life that stop you in your tracks. And childbirth does that. To watch the incredible journey your



Don is now an author and a popular motivational speaker

partner goes through, and to see your wife in the most hideous amount of pain—which you've been responsible for—and then when it's all over and the child arrives you know that there's nothing you wouldn't do for this kid from this moment on!"

Completing the Kokoda Track twice was an amazing experience too. "I came to appreciate what humans who called themselves Australians were willing to do to protect the quality of life that we have. On the second trip, I was joined by my wife, our two eldest daughters and some other family members and close friends, and I really enjoyed watching them have the same life-changing experience that I'd had previously. It was a wonderful time in my life—a tough, tough thing to do, but an incredible memory."

I hope you'll take the time to speak with Donnie at Celebrate Mooroolbark on 24 March. He'll be part of the opening ceremony and will have a chat with the MC for a while before he gives a brief presentation, followed by a meet-and-greet in the community centre. And if you're interested in Don's lively life stories, you'll enjoy reading his books, *One Foot on the Podium* and *One Foot Beyond the Podium*.

Randall Bouchier





Our cover photo shows students from Melba College participating in last year's street parade. The Melba College Band is a regular participant at Celebrate Mooroolbark and has also been involved in the Melbourne Anzac Day March for the past 27 years. Photo: Rupert Lang.

celebrate mooroolbark inc.

No Barriers—Future Possibilities...

Mooroolbark's premier community festival is just around the corner! The event, now a major attraction in the Yarra Ranges, involves a large number of schools, community groups and businesses from local suburbs.

In 2018, Celebrate Mooroolbark has aimed to make the festival accessible for all community members. We have sought to include differently abled individuals or minority groups, and we are placing a strong focus on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. For children and teens, we are highlighting the fun in learning with robotics, coding, engineering and animation.

The festival begins at 7:30 pm on Friday 23 March at the Mooroolbark Community Centre with Red Earth Unearthed. Entry, which includes a delicious supper, is \$5 each or \$10 per family. This talent quest offers prizes in various categories, donated by the Lions Club, and it's still not too late to enter—check our website for details.

The following day the festival kicks off at 10 am with a parade led by the essential services vehicles. This year, at the request of local traders wanting to be involved, the parade has an extended route: it will leave from Station Street, and then go left into Brice Avenue towards Manchester Road, turning right into the station car park and back onto Brice Avenue before continuing on to Red Earth Community Park.

There is much to see and do this year! We are thrilled to announce a visit from Paralympian Don Elgin, who represented Australia at four world championships and three Paralympic Games. He will be at the festival for three hours, starting on the main stage at 10:30 am.

Fresh on the scene is Dr Hercules E. Dealer, a magician who will entertain you in the parade and welcome you to the Red Earth park, where he will perform his tricks for the next two hours. Our old favourite Tubby the robot and baby will also be there.

The versatile and talented Australian Youth Band is back again, along with Pans on Fire, Parkville Music and many other bands. On the Youth Stage, local bands will perform amazing live music all day long.

Museum Victoria will also be there with a range of objects that can be touched, including dinosaur bones and fossil casts, marine shells, live bugs and a set of Federation Handbells. Inside the community centre, festival-goers can make pottery and observe oil painters at work. Young children will be kept busy on the Gymbaroo play equipment; the Meccano Man will be back; and much more.

Thanks to our sponsors' generosity, most activities are free or low cost. There will be competitions and prizes, as well as a variety of stalls, activities and entertainment. Food stalls include the Lions Club sausage sizzle, pancakes, and vintage ice cream. There will be various community information booths and workshops, rides for children, and an animal farm. Alizarin Tribal Bellydance will have a workshop and also entertain the crowd on the main stage and in the parade.

An environmentally sustainable community festival is encouraged, with stall holders asked to embrace the objectives of zero waste, reduced energy consumption, and environmentally sustainable consumables.. Neil, our new sustainability officer, will have his own marquee where he will sort waste and calculate how much will be saved.

For more information, check out our Facebook page or website—www.celebratemooroolbark.com. If you would like to participate as a volunteer, please call Barbara on 0417 381 542.

Whether you come for an hour or the whole day, Celebrate Mooroolbark offers something for everyone in a fun-filled festival!

Barbara Austin
Chairperson Celebrate Mooroolbark

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TENNIS
for Life

A Great Tennis 'Match' in Mooroolbark Mooroolbark Heights Tennis Club

Mooroolbark Tennis Club in Hawthory Road and Manchester Heights Tennis Club in Croydonale Drive were two well-established clubs that each had a long and proud history of providing venues and facilities for the many tennis enthusiasts in our local community. Recently, the Manchester Heights Club was confronted with a serious challenge to its viability. After 20 years of use, its courts were in urgent need of a total resurfacing upgrade—a very costly exercise that appeared to be well beyond its financial capabilities.

In canvassing the available options with club members, the shire council, and the general community, the idea of combining the two clubs to form just one Mooroolbark club was suggested. This concept had the strong support of the Yarra Ranges Council, which offered to provide the necessary funding for a major upgrade of the existing Kiloran Park courts and the provision of extra courts to accommodate a new combined club.

When this proposal was presented to the Mooroolbark club, it was quickly agreed that amalgamation of the two clubs would be a positive step that would offer significant and worthwhile benefits to members of both clubs.

Each club had its own strong program of competition tennis, and while Mooroolbark had an additional 45-strong social/seniors tennis contingent, Manchester Heights had a strong and vibrant youth membership. Both clubs agreed it would make a 'great match' to combine the two clubs to offer the best tennis facilities and opportunities for Mooroolbark tennis enthusiasts of all ages. It was decided the combined club would adopt the new name of **Mooroolbark Heights Tennis Club** in order to preserve the valued past history of the two original clubs.

David Pitts of Tennis for Life heads up the professional tennis coaching program for the combined club. It offers:

- Tennis coaching for all ages and standards
- Private and group lessons
- Squad sessions
- Health and fitness lessons
- Adult lessons
- Special needs groups

All coaching programs are run by Tennis for Life's enthusiastic and professionally accredited coaches. For coaching enquiries, contact David Pitts on 0400 557 419 or tennis_forlife@hotmail.com.

Construction and redevelopment of the courts is now well under way and is expected to be completed in early 2018. The plan provides

for six courts with a synthetic finish and an upgrade to the two existing en-tout-cas courts. This will provide more than adequate court facilities for the combined club. The upgrading of the tennis facilities will also make a significant contribution to the ongoing development of facilities at Kiloran Park in Hawthory Road. This popular precinct is a delightful community hub that currently includes the Kilsyth Centenary Pool complex, facilities for football, cricket and athletics, and is home to the Mooroolbark and District Railway and Steam Club.

Mooroolbark Heights Tennis Club offers junior and senior competition, night tennis competition, and mid-week social and senior tennis. For all membership and competition enquiries, please contact Cheryle on 0421 817 535.

Doug Lewis



■ Ming Pavilion

When I mentioned to Lee, the owner and manager of Ming Pavilion, that the restaurant would soon be celebrating its 20th anniversary in Mooroolbark, he was quite surprised. Having been there only four and a half years, he was unaware of the history behind the restaurant.

Mary and Peter Wong started the Ming Pavilion on 1 May 1998 when they bought the State Savings Bank building at 42-44 Brice Avenue. Running a restaurant became too much for Mary, so they sold the business to Lee, although Peter remains as cook and he and Mary still own the building.

Lee came to Australia in 2000 as a high school student, then went on to university to study chemical science. While studying he worked in the kitchen and bar of Hofbräuhaus restaurant (HB) in Melbourne's Market Lane. After completing his degree, Lee continued to work at HB until 2012, when he used

his savings to buy his own restaurant in Newcastle and hired someone to manage it. He eventually sold that and bought the restaurant in Mooroolbark. Since then it has gradually undergone renovations, modernising the interior with black panelling and white walls and matching tiles instead of carpet.

Lee explained that when Chinese food first came to Australia, the traditional Chinese method of using cheaper cuts of meat wasn't popular with Australians. Most Chinese cooks now cater for the Australian palate with more meat and vegetables, but there are some who still retain the old traditional recipes. Lee hires two cooks, one for the menu's traditional Szechuan dishes, and one who cooks western-style Chinese food for Australian customers.



PHOTO: BARBARA AUSTIN

Ming Pavilion is fully licensed and provides restaurant and function facilities seven days a week. It also offers a takeaway menu and home-delivery service. There are regular karaoke evenings every Friday and Saturday, and now that Lee knows about the upcoming 20th anniversary, there will be plans to celebrate!

Barbara Austin

Ming Pavilion is open for lunch Monday to Saturday, and dinner Sunday to Thursday. Bookings: 9727 0688 or 9727 0899



Welcome to The Rusty Owl Café

The Rusty Owl café in Brice Avenue is a delightful place to while away your time for a meal break or a good coffee.

A great variety of choice is available and special food requests will be fulfilled wherever possible. Ambient atmosphere and a very helpful staff make for a memorable visit.

The name 'Rusty Owl' has been carried over from the previous owners. When Chris and Lisa Middleton were looking around for a career change and an investment opportunity, the owl motif and logo caught their imagination—it seemed that fate was knocking at the door. They took over the café about six months ago, refurbished and updated the kitchen

with a new oven and new equipment, and installed a head chef to be able to cater for larger groups. The Rusty Owl was flying again!

Because of the new kitchen's capabilities the Rusty Owl will now be able to cater, by advanced bookings, for evening events. It is anticipated that new staff will be employed and trained as the business expands.

One of the challenges facing Chris and Lisa has been making the café more 'visible'. It has been in Mooroolbark for several years but has not been known as a café... yet! This has partly been addressed. Chris and Lisa as owner-managers have made a conscious effort to interact with the café clientele, to come out front and



PHOTO: BARBARA AUSTIN

Owners Chris & Lisa Middleton (centre) with staff members Emily (L) and Rachael (R)



talk with the public and make them want to come back again.

An interesting event that illustrates this customer care was when a ladies group could not get a reservation for a get-together at any other café in Mooroolbark. The Rusty Owl offered to close for the day, and 25 ladies were catered for and had their get-together in lovely surroundings.

Chris mentioned that breakfasts can be a testing situation: the difficulty is to get commuters to find the time to stop for breakfast. People on the car-park

side of the train track are sometimes unaware of the shops in Brice Avenue. Location can be a problem as well as a blessing!

A surprise gift—free Wi Fi. "We won't turn anyone away. Come in and enjoy a coffee or a snack and bring your laptop with you as well, and if you don't enjoy the Rusty Owl, please tell us why."

One parting shot: Two owls were courting in the rain... and they were too wet to woo! Don't forget now, owl be seein' ya!

Barry Austin

The Rusty Owl is located at 12 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark. For bookings, please phone 9727 5637.

Napoleon, Nails, and the Value of 'Little Things'

Many people know that Napoleon lost the battle of Waterloo. However, what most people don't know is that he probably would have won except for one thing: nails. That's right, *nails*. You see, an essential element of winning a battle in those days was eliminating your enemy's artillery. And to do this, soldiers would drive long nails through the centre of their enemy's cannon to render them useless. But at the Battle of Waterloo, Napoleon's men forgot the nails, and they paid a price for their mistake.

Whether the outcome is positive or negative, the importance of little things can't be underestimated. And when it comes to our own lives in particular, little things can often have very big results. Even the smallest error can lead to much larger, more far-reaching results. Consider the story of David: a 'little thing', the simple choice to stay at home in the palace while his army was away, led to a disastrous affair with Bathsheba. The same thing can be true in our lives, too. How many times has something small—an aggravation, a doubt, a misunderstanding—taken root and grown into something much bigger over time?

But the reverse is also true. The 'little things' of God can also become much bigger over time. Simple habits like prayer, reading



PLEASE USE THESE IMAGES IN YOUR STUDY AT THE TULLERIES (CROPPED), JACQUES-LOUIS DAVID, 1802. PUBLIC DOMAIN

your Bible, or even adjusting your attitude in moments of difficulty to more closely reflect the character of Jesus, can—by the grace of God and the activity of the Spirit—add up over time to deliver a huge difference in our lives. God can use even the smallest of gestures from us to serve as channels of blessing and reminders of His care for us. Remember, Jesus also started small with only twelve disciples!

So I want to encourage you to look at your life through the lens of the 'little things'. Are there any 'nails' you're forgetting? If there are, don't overlook them, no matter how insignificant they might seem. Give those oversights to God—because we know that in the care of our Lord and Saviour, whatever we do, in word or deed, God can use for His loving purposes in our world.

Joseph Tkach
from *Speaking of Life*

St Peter Julian Eymard Parish



of Church in Mooroolbark

The Parish of St Peter Julian Eymard will celebrate '50 years of Church in Mooroolbark' on 30 March 2018. Because the anniversary falls on Good Friday, the official celebration will be held on 22 April 2018, when we will welcome Monsignor Anthony Ireland to participate in our special Mass.

Our parish priest Father Joseph Lu Xin, Parish Pastoral Council, Finance Council and parish leaders will showcase the cultural diversity of our 50 Years of Church in Mooroolbark with banners, posters and photos (both old and new) to share this wonderful spiritual journey with the wider Mooroolbark community. Our school children will also be invited to participate in displaying their cultural backgrounds with flags and drawings that will be a highlight of our special Mass.

If you have any enquiries regarding our upcoming celebration, please contact the parish office on 9723 4275 or mooroolbark@cam.org.au.

Bernadette Brown
Parish Pastoral Council, St Peter Julian Eymard

Free Family Movie Night



Despicable Me 3

4 April 2018, 7:30 pm
Mooroolbark Community Centre

After he is fired from the Anti-Villain League for failing to take down the latest bad guy to threaten humanity, Gru decides to travel to Freedonia to meet his long-lost twin brother Dru. The reunited siblings soon find themselves in an uneasy alliance to take down the elusive Balthazar Bratt, a former 1980s child star who seeks revenge against the world.

90 minutes; rated PG

Free ice-cream, tea & coffee

This is a joint community service extended to families by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship & Mooroolbark Community Centre

To reserve your tickets phone 1300 368 333 or book online at www.culturetracks.info
Bookings commence from 21 March 2018

If you have not made a booking, please come anyway, as uncollected tickets may be reissued at 7:15 pm — there are usually seats available.



Parish Priest Fr Joseph Lu Xin with Mrs Bernadette Brown, Chairperson Parish Pastoral Council

Nobody's Perfect

You'd be forgiven for sometimes thinking that your mistakes—a careless faux pas, an unkind remark or looking the wrong way at someone—could lead to your condemnation by social media. There's almost always some super-quick, phone-camera person capturing that special (unfortunate or regrettable) moment for all to see—in high definition video, of course, so the detail is sharp and every face recognisable.

Recently, the media has placed increasing focus on the blunders made by celebrities and other well-known people. Then, to add 'context',

are corrupt, immoral and hurtful practises within society that should be stopped. People must be accountable for their actions, words, and attitudes. If guilt is proved by reasonable and reliable sources, then charges and penalties should be incurred.

However, at present, it often seems there is an unhealthy focus on the mistakes of others that deems people guilty unless proven innocent. There's a theme of 'guilty by public opinion', with usually only one side of the matter aired.

actually happened; it's more likely to be what someone says happened. Once an accusation is out there, it can develop a life of its own. The media is meant to have the job of informing, explaining, and inspiring. Now we are often burdened with filtering the real news from the fake news, the important from the trivial.

The Impact

Our society's obsession with other peoples' failures is not helping anyone. It's not helping our country to grow or have a mature debate about important matters.

People are becoming reluctant to take a stand about vital issues for fear of having their history picked apart for any misdeed or mistake. We may end up with our kids not wanting to stand up in class and ask a question, or contribute to discussion, if an attitude of mocking and derision awaits them—it's not worth taking the chance!

If we continue in this way, our society will be increasingly diminished. We often hear of home-grown entrepreneurs leaving our shores for other countries because they have trouble getting backing here. Let's each do our bit to put an end to negativity. Let's encourage the risk-taker, the one who thinks outside the box, the one with the big idea that can help change the world for the better.

Our society's obsession with other peoples' failures is not helping anyone.

further errors from ten or twenty years ago, or even longer, are dredged up to remind society of additional past mistakes that these unfortunate individuals may (or in fact may not!) have made. Our society seems to be bent on looking for misdeeds and using these to define a person. Any good the person may have contributed is overshadowed by some slip-up which has become the emphasis and then magnified beyond all reason and sensibility.

Don't get me wrong: some things certainly merit careful enquiry and investigation. There

For example, when people put themselves out there for public office or service to the community, the trolls¹ often emerge—somewhere, someone is looking for dirt! The person's whole life comes under scrutiny (a great reason to be very selective about what you post online, including what you post about others). The media flurry is rarely about what

¹ Defined by Wikipedia as "Someone who posts inflammatory, extraneous, or off-topic messages in an online community, such as a forum, chat room, or blog, with the primary intent of provoking readers into an emotional response or of otherwise disrupting normal on-topic discussion."



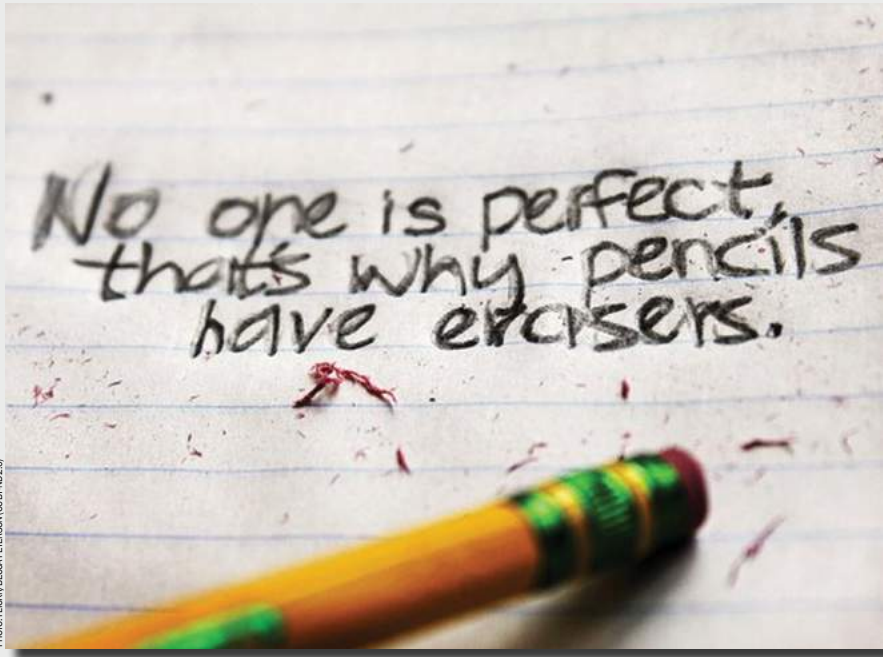


PHOTO: FLOREY/BECCA PETERSON (CC BY/ND 2.0)

Where to from here?

As parents, it's our job to remember the good; to rehearse the stories of triumph; and to celebrate good risks taken and the lessons learnt. Any lesson is a good lesson—even the ones that really hurt!

You have probably noticed how many things gain traction and get better with each new generation, each new version, each new edition. Our kids are no different. They are a new generation carrying our hopes for them to do well, to build onto what we may have

Which one of us has never done the wrong thing, never said something that was cruel, mean or objectionable? We all have to admit there are times that we make mistakes and errors in our judgement. Unfortunately, no matter how hard we try, we are bound to make mistakes in our future. How should we address those faults when they occur? How do we approach the mistakes of our past that have caused others some hardship or grief?

Let's be honest about who we are and develop empathy for people and how they

As parents, it's our job to remember the good; to rehearse the stories of triumph; and to celebrate good risks taken and the lessons learnt.

accomplished, to remember and incorporate what we have learned over our whole lives. They are able to take forward the principles we know work, the values we know are important, the core basics that help us to be content, happy and thankful for what we do have—and in Australia we have a lot!

I'm sure that schools strive very hard to create an environment for everyone to have their say and contribute. However, once kids leave school they may find it totally different as they pursue their next challenge in the adult world. We need to create opportunities to discuss things that people disagree on, and seek to share a common ground—that's part of being grown up. When we are able and willing to look past the differences to find the things that are shared, our society will make real progress.

are affected by others' mistakes, words and actions: how we are affected by others' mistakes, words and actions.

While we can't fix what has already been done, we can certainly address issues with dignity and honesty and move forward with more unity than we have had. It's unlikely that we will be able to fix what has happened, but we can apologise, offer to make amends, and show a sincere desire to move forward. The best way to get rid of enemies is to turn them into friends!



● Steve Steel

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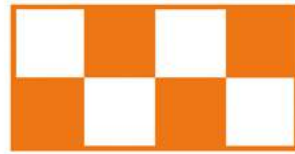
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PUBLICATION PERSPECTIVES PTY LTD
29B Glenvale Crescent, Mulgrave VIC 3170
Phone + 61 3 9561 1800 Fax + 61 3 9561 1855
Email reception@publicationperspectives.com.au
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PHOTO: AULICH HARRIS

Bob Mackay and Owen Stevens join the Celebrate Mooroolbark street parade.



SES to the Rescue



Rescuing a prize sheep from a mud hole might not have been exactly what Louise Andrews had in mind when she joined the State Emergency Service not long after moving from New Zealand to Victoria. “The funny thing is that it was two Kiwis who got the sheep out,” she laughed. Animal rescue has been an interesting and sometimes amusing part of Louise’s time with the Lilydale SES. “We’ve had a horse in a creek, a dog in a hole, a horse stuck in a tree, and a sheep in the mud!” she said.

Being part of the SES volunteer force has helped Louise meet new people after arriving here with her husband and 4-year-old twin daughters in 2002, and fulfilled her goal of doing something to make a difference to the community. “I haven’t looked back,” she said. “I’m a firm believer that everyone should volunteer at something.” Louise has now been with the SES for 15 years, and is currently the Deputy Controller Operations.

Louise’s colleague Peter Crew also joined the SES 15 years ago and, like Louise, has had a variety of experiences with the SES, from road rescue to helping children with fingers stuck in plug holes or rescuing a goat from a water tank. “The road accidents are very testing,” he said. “They can be very rewarding if things go well, which most of the time it does. Our focus is on doing the best that we can do.”

Working with flood and storm damage can also be challenging, and the safety of SES members and the residents they are helping is always a priority. “No two jobs are the same,” said Peter. “You have to have your wits about you, especially when it’s wet, the wind’s blowing and you’ve got big trees down.” Peter recalled one job where a tree had gone through the side of a house in Mt Dandenong. “Another member and I were standing there, looking up to see where it had come from, and I watched another one come down beside us. I said, ‘That’s it, we’re out of here.’ It was actually coming down as I looked up.”

The SES is trained to handle emergency temporary repairs for damage caused by events like flood and storm, and also works with other emergency service agencies on search and rescue, traffic accidents, and fire support. However, not every incident is appropriate for an SES callout, and part of maintaining an efficient service is helping the public understand what the SES is equipped to handle, and what constitutes an emergency.

Although it’s natural for people to turn to the SES when something unexpected—and possibly frightening—happens, an incident is only considered an emergency when there is danger, or potential danger, to life. A fallen tree that has caused structural damage to a house or vehicle, or is preventing residents from safely leaving a property, would be considered an emergency. However, if a tree or branches have

simply fallen across the backyard, it’s time for a call to the insurance company or a professional tradesperson. The SES website has some guidelines to help people decide when to call the SES.¹

The Lilydale SES is a road rescue unit, trained to extricate people from vehicles after a crash. In such situations, the SES is just one part of a combined emergency services team that has fine-tuned the art of working as one. “We’re all working toward the same result,” Louise said. “It’s not SES here and CFA over there. We work together to get the job done as quickly as possible.” Peter Crew explained the roles of the various emergency services units when they are working on a road accident. “The ambulance is there for the patient, and the SES is there to get the patient out of the car for the ambulance guys. The ‘fireys’ are there for fire suppression and to make sure that nothing else happens while we’re cutting the car, and the police are there for safety, and to investigate.”

The Lilydale SES Controller, Shaun Caulfield, said that the SES started out as part of the Victorian Civil Defence Organisation. The role of the organisation, which was originally established as a volunteer-based civil defence agency that could be utilised in the event of war, was expanded in the 1960s to include the management of peacetime disasters. In 1975, the organisation was renamed Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES). The Lilydale unit has been serving the residents of Lilydale and surrounding suburbs since 1963, and celebrated its 50th year of operation in 2013.

The Victorian SES serves the people of Victoria 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The vast majority of its workforce—95 percent—are volunteers. What sort of people are these more than 5,000 volunteers, who willingly give so much of their free time for the benefit of the community?

According to Peter, the 40 or so people at the Lilydale SES come from all walks of life and have various occupations, from tradies to office workers. “They’ve all got different skills, and that gives us a great range of talent that we can put out there to go and do the jobs.” Each year the unit has a recruitment drive for new members, and is especially looking for people who are available during the day. With every intake, some people drop out along the way. Sometimes the experience is not what people thought. “They think, ‘Oh, I’ve got to train that much before I get to play with the jaws of life?’” joked Louise. Despite the fact that not everyone stays for the long haul, the Lilydale SES has members who have been a part of it for 15 years, 25 years, and even 42 years.

¹ www.ses.vic.gov.au/what-we-do



Brett White, Lisa Rumsey and Nick Witnish with some of the tools they use during a rescue



Each week, the Lilydale crew checks vehicles and equipment to make sure they are in excellent operating order.

Lisa Rumsey, an SES member since late 2015, said joining the SES has changed her life. "I just love it—I'm addicted. I can't recommend it enough. I've learned things about myself, and I've gained a family." Viewing the SES as family is common among the members of the Lilydale unit, who clearly share a close bond. Peter talked about the satisfaction of watching the unit grow: "...the growing of members; the growing of friendships; the trust you have for each other". That strong trust is especially important on the job, when team members need to look out for each other's safety and wellbeing. However, said Louise, "Even coming here for training is working on your teamwork; it's being a part of something important. I think that's the thing that has drawn us, and the thing that has kept us here."

The team meets each Monday night for training and equipment inspection, and at other times they are on call. When the call for a rescue comes in, the unit has just eight minutes to get the first vehicle on the road. Each member responds to the job depending on where they are and what they are doing. "If we can, we drop whatever we are doing," Louise said.

This year, the Lilydale SES crew will once again be at Celebrate Mooroolbark, taking part in the street parade and talking to residents. They will open up the truck to display the wide range of tools and talk about what they do. Peter commented, "People are always really interested in the road rescue tools, a.k.a. the jaws of life."

Road rescue is a job that requires skill and precision, but also the human touch. Louise explained that someone always talks to a person trapped in a car, whether they are conscious or not. "As soon as we can, we put someone into the car with them ...reassuring them, calming them down, letting them know what is about to happen. When you're in a car that's about to be cut, it's very loud and there are some large bangs."

Louise said that her focus is always on getting the patients where they need to go, "whether that's the ambulance, the air wing, or wherever. We've had some doozies over the years. There have been some jobs that are hard. But I get them where they need to go, then I go home and give my girls a cuddle and tell them to drive carefully."

While the job is confronting at times, there is plenty of support for members, who always debrief among themselves in the hours and days following a difficult job. There is also a state-wide peer support program, and access to a clinical psychologist for those who want it.

Louise manages a skydiving company at Lilydale Airport and is sometimes frustrated that people perceive skydiving as dangerous, but many don't seem to have the same concern for road safety.

"Prior to last year there had only been two tandem skydiving fatalities in 30 years. People always panic when they hear about deaths in aviation, but people have become so blasé about road crashes. They're not road accidents, they're road crashes. Someone is at fault somewhere. We have nearly 300 road fatalities just in Victoria every year." One man rode his motorbike to the airfield dressed in just shorts and a singlet. When Louise commented that his clothing was inappropriate for a bike ride, he said, "Oh, I live just down the road." Louise responded, "Do you want me to tell you how many people live just down the road from their deaths?"

Wanting to help others is the driving force for SES volunteers. While some people who have been rescued come to the SES to thank the crew, neither Peter nor Louise think it's necessary. Peter said that he gets a lot of happiness just from doing what he can to help. "I was looking to put something out there and get something back. There's a lot of satisfaction—that I've actually done something and I've helped others." SES crews also appreciate the gratitude from the residents they help with storm or flood damage. "You do have the ones where you turn up for something after hours on other jobs and they say, 'we called four hours ago, where were you?'" said Peter. SES crews also find it puzzling when people say, "I pay your wages", since the SES is overwhelmingly an unpaid workforce.

"You have to take the bad with the good," Louise said philosophically. "You think about rescuing the sheep and you have a bit of a laugh. This is what we do. This is why we volunteer, to help people."

■ Janet Van Dijk

If you are interested in volunteering with the SES, please phone 9256 9000 or check out the SES website: ses.vic.gov.au/volunteer/become-a-volunteer. The Lilydale SES will also be holding a new members' information night on 7 March at 7:30 pm. For more information: facebook.com/LilydaleSES/

If you need the SES's help for flood or storm emergencies, call 132 500. For life-threatening emergencies, always call 000

A Long Way from Bamawm

Last November, the Mooroolbark Umbrella Group hosted the seventh annual town forum. Our guest was former Australian netball captain Sharelle McMahon, who worked with local secondary and primary school students throughout the day, before speaking at the public forum in the evening.

Sharelle was inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame in 2016. The story of how a girl from Bamawm—a small farming community not far from Rochester in Victoria—ended up as an inductee in the Hall of Fame, is not a short story, according to Sharelle.

“It took a long time! Mum and Dad loved sport and were both very good. For us, growing up in the country, sport was a very important social occasion. My older sister and younger brother and I loved playing sport competitively, but we’d also play together in the backyard—shooting netball or kicking the footy, or whatever. We were always outside, doing something.”

Playing netball in Rochester gave Sharelle the chance that began her rise to netball fame. “There were some great people who gave us young people lots of opportunities to participate, which is what I loved doing,” said Sharelle. “On one occasion when I was away at one of the tournaments with the Rochester Association, I was tapped on the shoulder and asked to come down to Melbourne and trial for a state team. It took me a couple of years to get into a team, but when I was 14, I finally made it into the under-17 state side.”

Two years later, at 16, Sharelle was granted a netball scholarship with the Victorian Institute of Sport in Melbourne. Sharelle remembers that as being quite daunting. “But I took the chance, jumped in, and I guess the rest is history. Four years after that I was in the Australian team, and I was lucky that I had some amazing people around me, teaching me and guiding me and at times making me look good. And I guess from there I was fortunate to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. It was a huge shock, really. With so few netballers inducted, it was a massive shock to have that honour, but I’m very proud and thankful.”

Norma Plummer, who coached the Australian team between 2003 and 2011, described Sharelle as “probably the most athletic player of natural talent” to have played the game.¹ In addition to this natural ability, Sharelle speaks of “having the fire and the drive” to push herself to meet her high expectations—occasionally

trying something repeatedly in the face of failure, indecision or discomfort.

Speaking to the secondary students at the Mooroolbark forum, Sharelle highlighted the relationship between motivation and discipline. She explained that during her playing career, she occasionally felt motivated to get up early for her morning training run. Many other times, when she would rather have given the early morning track work a miss, it was crucial that she used self-discipline to drive herself to do what needed to be done to maintain playing fitness. “You learn to push yourself,” she said, “and not sit where you’re comfortable.”

Throughout her career, Sharelle has benefitted from the guidance of many people, including her “number one fans”, her supportive parents. “Early on Mum was often the one who had to drive me all over the place to give me the opportunity to trial or to participate at a higher level, or whatever it was. They really did help consistently throughout my whole career.”

Sharelle is also grateful to Marg Caldwell, the

situation.”

Sharelle also remembers every player that she has ever played with and what they brought to both her netball game and her personal life. She particularly remembers Nicole Cusack, who was goal attack for Australia when Sharelle first joined the team. “She just took me under her wing and taught me so much about playing netball. I was very young; I was the youngest by five years...The other players had played together for a number of years and knew each other well. I was a bit out of place in a way, but Nicole had a huge influence in helping me feel comfortable being in the team and kind of giving me wings to play well.”

Like Nicole, Sharelle also played goal attack, but Nicole didn’t show any resentment of the newcomer. “The first year that I was in the Australian team, we went to the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur,” Sharelle recalled. “It was the first year netball featured in the Commonwealth Games. I went along with the team, wide eyed, thinking ‘How did I ever make

it here?’ And by the final game of the tournament, I started and played the whole gold-medal match. There would be absolutely no doubt that part of her thinking might be that this isn’t fair—or whatever you think when that sort of thing’s happening—but I wouldn’t have known that. I wouldn’t have known that at all.”

Sharelle explained that she wanted “to have a bit of fun” when working with the primary school students at the Mooroolbark forum. “I wanted the kids to see someone who had started off in a situation similar to theirs, someone going through primary school

with a bit of a dream; and how sometimes—not always, but sometimes—with a bit of perseverance and hard work, dreams can come true.”

Sharelle told the children about a short but significant time in her mid-teens, when she was part of a small group Debbie Flintoff-King took to the Australian Institute of Sport for some athletic training. Sharelle knew the Australian athlete had courageously won the 400 metres hurdles gold medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, despite a family tragedy just before the Games.²

“As I got to know her, I began to realise how



Since her retirement from netball, Sharelle is enjoying spending more time with son Xavier (pictured) and daughter Ruby.

current Australian Diamonds’ specialist goaling coach who “plucked her out of Bamawm” when she was 16 and invited her to take up a scholarship with the Victorian Institute of Sport. “She taught me a lot in those first few years. I was very homesick when I first moved ... she was incredibly supportive but also pretty tough, which she had to be, otherwise I would have been scooting home probably every night, if I could.”

Another positive influence on Sharelle was Joyce Brown, who coached her when she was in the Melbourne Phoenix team. “She’s just a legend. I’ve never heard anyone command a room like she does, no matter where she is when she speaks. She’s got a presence about her and a real empathy for people and their

¹ theage.com.au/sport/basketball/humbled-mcmahon-ponders-future

² Flintoff-King won the gold medal despite having received the tragic news of her sister Noeline’s sudden death just three days before leaving Australia for the Games. Her winning time of 53.17 seconds stands as the Australian record.



PHOTOS: RANDALL BOURCHIER

normal she was," Sharelle recounted. "That was a real shock for me, because after the Seoul Olympics I thought she was a real superhero. It was a real 'wow' moment for me: here was a person who is pretty normal and down to earth and who just worked towards what she wanted to do. I wanted the primary kids to see me as someone who'd done similar things and hopefully be down to earth for them, too."

When working with the secondary students, Sharelle involved them in some self-reflective questions: "What do I do well?", "What do I stand for?" and "What is my value system?" as well as encouraging the teens to think about areas where they may not be productive. Sharelle said, "I wanted them to think about those things, and how they might impact their lives and what they want to do. And that they do have control over their situation and their

direction in a lot of ways, and that they can make some choices that inform that, positively or negatively."

During her own secondary school years, Sharelle enjoyed the support of her local community. "I grew up in a small dairy-farming area. The closest town is probably about five minutes away and Echuca about 20 minutes. The community would come together, and you'd feel a real part of that. As opportunities came along for me, uniforms were required; there were travel expenses and other costs, and so my Nan—my Mum's mum, who was in the CWA—along with others, got together and created this amazing cake stall and made a lot of money."

"To this day, I still feel the community support," Sharelle continued. "I moved out of home 24 years ago, but as I drive up the highway towards Bamawm, it still feels like I'm

coming home. I still say 'I'm going home!' I have always felt really embraced by the community."

After retiring from her playing career, at first Sharelle found it a difficult transition away from the immersive atmosphere of being an elite athlete. "It's something you live and breathe, whether you're at work or not," she said. "A lot of what you do, you do publicly. And in netball we had some particularly positive crowds, so you enjoy the really positive experience of being out on a court with people cheering! It's a pretty amazing feeling, and when you cut that off, when do you ever get that feeling again? Probably never!"

One of the things Sharelle missed most was the connection with like-minded focused people, all pulling in the same direction toward a common goal. And after 20 years of a highly organised lifestyle, she found the absence of structure both liberating and challenging. "No longer were there people telling me where to be, what to do, and what to wear. You feel a bit lost. And then also, as a new mum, the daily rhythms are very different. I had a lot of time. What I struggled with most was that it's OK not to be busy, after living my life rushing from one thing to the next."

Sharelle is comfortable with her change of lifestyle now. "I get a lot of satisfaction from the work I'm able to do, and of course having a family means you're always busy—but it's a different kind of busyness, that brings enormous value to our children."

The reports from locals about Sharelle's visit to Mooroolbark last November have been invariably positive. Thanks for being with us, Sharelle, and best wishes for the future—raising your family, coaching, broadcasting, and mentoring the next generation of Australian netballers!



Randall Bouchier

Mooroolbark Umbrella Group—Community Group of the Year

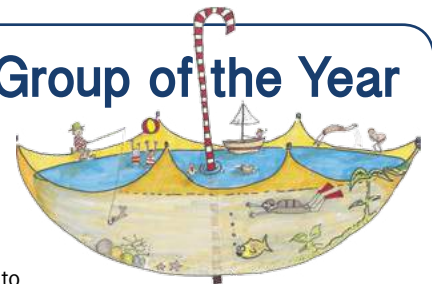


MUG representatives with the group's Australia Day award

Congratulations to the Mooroolbark Umbrella Group (MUG) on being awarded "Community Group of the Year" at the Yarra Ranges Council Australia Day awards. The citation on the award reads: "For outstanding dedication and commitment to the Yarra Ranges Community."

MUG's purpose is to offer a voice for, and to bring benefit to, all in Mooroolbark by partnering with and supporting Mooroolbark's organisations. MUG's ethos derives from the values embedded in Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD), and the closely related notion of Appreciative Inquiry. Both ABCD and AI focus on a 'glass half full' approach, and help to identify, celebrate, connect and support what is already happening at the grass roots level in our community.

As an organisation of organisations, committed to greater community wellbeing, MUG's successes frequently come from behind-the-scenes influence and support. The playful MUG logo—an upside down umbrella cradling all kinds of activity—seeks to paint a picture of a non-controlling group, that derives its greatest satisfaction from seeing Mooroolbark organisations thrive in ways that bring greater richness to the fabric of our community.



When it's Time to Say Goodbye

The death of a loved one is a difficult time for us all, particularly when children are affected by the loss. Talking about death is confronting for many parents, especially if they are grieving themselves. While contending with their own raw emotions, they are expected to provide comfort to their children and help them make sense of what has happened. It can be hard to know how much or how little to say, and parents may be concerned that talking about death will make children anxious.

Although we may prefer to shield children from negative experiences, the reality is that children are often more aware of what is happening around them than we know, and may have a better understanding of death than we imagine. Most primary-school-aged children will have seen the death of a bird or native animal, or have experienced the death of a loved pet.

When a close relative or friend has died, children are likely to notice that something fundamental has changed in the household. They will see that their parents and others in the family are upset, and will want to know what is happening. Without the correct information, children may draw their own conclusions and become anxious or even blame themselves

Talking to children about death

In her book *Questions Children Ask and How to Answer Them*, Dr Miriam Stoppard encourages adults to be open, responsive and frank when children ask questions about death and dying. Dealing with their questions openly

helps the whole family cope with a bereavement.

As a guideline, Dr Stoppard recommends that parents be clear about the subject of death from the very start. For clarity, use the correct terminology and avoid using euphemisms such as “Grandpa has gone to sleep”, as it can make children fearful about bedtime.

According to the Bereavement Advice Centre¹, when someone has died children benefit from simple and honest information.

Keep answers brief and uncomplicated, and try to use language children will understand. Children will often only require a short explanation, but if they continue to ask questions, try to keep answering as best you can. Share your beliefs about what happens after death, but keep religious explanations short. Also understand that at this point children may believe something different to what you do, or have difficulty accepting your explanations, which might not make sense to their ‘childhood logic’.

Should children attend the funeral?

Parents are often unsure about whether children should attend a funeral. They may worry that it will be stressful for the child or put additional pressure on other mourners. While there is no right or wrong answer to this question, it can be helpful to consider whether, in the future, the child might value having been there. If the person was significant in your child’s

life, they may later regret not being included.

Sam, now ten, only remembers fragments of his grandfather’s funeral, which he attended when he was five—but he is glad he was there. He remembers the slideshow pictures and his grandfather’s woodwork on display. “I was able to say goodbye to him with everyone else,” he said.

Fiona Garrivan, a civil celebrant who supports families planning a funeral, said that whether children attend is very much a personal decision based on a range of factors including the child’s age, the nature of the funeral and the child’s relationship to the deceased. Fiona generally encourages families to include children where possible: “Like adults, children need funerals to be able to grieve for someone they love, and say goodbye.”

However, it’s important not to make children feel pressured to attend if they really don’t want to. Instead, consider some alternative ways to say goodbye: creating a photo album of special memories, going on an outing in honour of the person, or planting a memorial tree.

Preparing children for a funeral

Funerals are often formal, sombre and quiet occasions, which can be at odds with the nature of most children. Talk to your children in clear, simple terms about what to expect. Explain what you know about the plan for the day and consider taking them to the cemetery or funeral home prior to the event so they can feel more comfortable in the environment.

Fiona suggests letting kids know that they may see adults crying. “Reassure them this isn’t a bad thing—it shows kids that it’s OK to express emotions. But at the same time prepare them that there may also be laughter. And this is OK too.”

Involving children in the service

There are ways children can express their feelings and thoughts about the person who has died: drawing special pictures of their loved one for the slideshow or making a craft item to be placed on the coffin. Older or more confident children may want to share some words or read a poem. It is important not to pressure children to stay for the whole service. It may be helpful to have an adult the children know and trust who will be able to take them out for a time and distract them if they become restless or uncomfortable.

Most children, like adults, will value the chance to say goodbye when a loved one dies. Attending the funeral service can be uplifting and life affirming for both the children and others attending. With adequate information, care and preparation, sharing in this significant family occasion can provide positive, lasting memories.

■ Kate Chivers



PHOTO: PINKAWAY/GETTY IMAGES

A Great Start to Culture Tracks 2018

The new Culture Tracks program is out—we hope you've had a look and are enjoying all it has to offer. Maybe you've already started that new class or booked an afternoon out with your family or friends.

Royal Australian Navy Band



We are pleased to announce that the Royal Australian Navy Band Melbourne, famous for wowing audiences with its wide variety of music styles from marches and swing to Broadway and film, is coming back after a popular visit in 2017.

Performing under the musical direction of Lieutenant Andrew Stokes, the band has 33 full-time members and provides musical support for Navy ceremonies, events and deployments. You will be delighted to see this extremely versatile group of talented musicians perform in the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Navy Band.

Mooroolbark Community Centre, Sunday 25 March, 2 pm

A Story of Forbidden Love

Extraordinary theatre is coming to your doorstep with *All My Love*. Uncover the poignant story of the forbidden love of two of our nation's literary heroes, Henry Lawson and Mary Gilmore. Storytelling at its most

subtle unveils the secret betrothal and thwarted romance of two of Australia's most loved writers.

All My Love is a tale of commitment, creative passion, and devastating deception, woven from the couple's surviving letters. Be captivated by the personal vulnerability, literary power and poetic passion of one of the nation's favourite writers, Henry Lawson, and the literary heroine and radical socialist Mary Gilmore.

Mooroolbark Community Centre, Wednesday 4 April, 2 pm

Trash Test Dummies

Looking after the kids—or simply just young at heart? Laugh your way through a family favourite with Trash Test Dummies. Everyone put your bins out as this is bin night, and the Trash Test Dummies are on duty! This award-winning, sidesplitting, slapstick comedy circus routine takes the household wheelie bin to new heights, and delivers a dump-truck full of hilarity.

Jamie Bretman, Jack Coleman and Simon Wright are highly skilled circus performers who can trash talk with the best of them. These dexterous dummies take the audience on a journey into their playful imagination, where they invite them to take a fresh look at the humble household wheelie bin.

Mooroolbark Community Centre, Wednesday 11 April, 2 pm

Montrose Movie Club

To the delight of movie buffs, Montrose Movie Club is back up and running. Come along and join with your neighbours at Montrose Town Centre. Join us on the third Monday of the month at 2:30 pm or 6:30 pm from February to November for film, discussion and refreshments. The theme for this year is 'books that have been made into films'. Presented in partnership with Eastern Regional Libraries; yearly membership is \$20 or \$15 for ERL members. Bookings are essential as places are limited. Call 9761 9133 for more information.

Brook Powell

Australia Day Awards

Passion for the Yarra Ranges community recognised

More than 150 years of community service were recognised at Yarra Ranges Council's annual Australia Day Awards at Montrose Town Centre on 26 January.

Mayor Len Cox said the awards were a chance for council to recognise the people and groups across the municipality who give their time to help others.

Community Group of the Year was awarded to Mooroolbark Umbrella Group (MUG), an incorporated township group made up of members from Mooroolbark organisations who advocate to council and the state government to meet the needs of the community. MUG recently helped the Mooroolbark Men's Shed request funding from the state government, and also secure a 12-month land lease from the Yarra Ranges Council. The group started about 15 years ago and has formed a representative community voice, providing solutions and getting existing projects over the line to completion. President Randall Bouchier said the group had helped ensure disability access to venues, installed sculptures in Hookey Park and initiated an annual community forum.

Mount Evelyn-based CFA volunteer fire fighter of 45 years Geoff Brown was awarded a Certificate of Recognition. Geoff has worked with community events such as the Mount Evelyn Street Party, worked as a volunteer repairing trains in Seymour. He was recognised for his honesty, integrity and dedication to helping others. He has represented the CFA through displays at community events.

Talented bagpipe player Iain Townsley of Mooroolbark has volunteered his services for more than 30 years for his local RSL in Mount Evelyn, and numerous other RSL and veteran organisations. Iain talks to school groups about the ceremonial importance of the bagpipes. He has performed in Vietnam and around Australia, including annual performances at dawn



Maureen Halit, Lynn Hannam, Cr Len Cox, Geoff Brown, and Iain Townsley

services and Remembrance Day services. He also organises walking groups to support fellow veterans—in 2014 he completed a 1300 km walk from Brisbane to Canberra to raise funds and awareness for wounded, injured and ill ADF soldiers. Iain received a Certificate of Recognition.

Millgrove Resident Action Group President Maureen Halit was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the council. Town newsagent Maureen is known for supporting local events and embodies the slogan, "Millgrove, a place we are proud to call home."

Lynn Hannam of Warburton also received a Certificate of Recognition for her contribution to the Yarra Ranges community. Through Yarra Valley Care Bags, Lynn creates care bags for people in the Yarra Valley who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in need of assistance.

For more information on the awards visit www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

**Anna Chisholm & Jesse Graham
Yarra Ranges Council**

Community Events Calendar

First Sunday of each month	Farmers Market: Bellbird Park, Swansea Road, next to Lillydale Lake. Combined Rotary Clubs. All proceeds to local and overseas projects. Contact Bill Sutherland: 9727 0037.
Friday nights during school term	Fridays@Kids Domain: Activities for primary school age kids. 4-6 pm. Oxley College stadium. Details: phone 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au
Monday evenings each week	Scottish Country Dancing: Mondays 8 pm (except public holidays). Beginners and experienced. Minimal charges. St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. Enquiries: 9725 9074.
Second Monday of each month	Mooroolbark Country Women's Association: 1 pm at St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. New members always welcome. Contact Helen Linnie: 9726 0477.
Thursdays during school term	Music Together at St Margaret's: 9:45 am. \$10 per family. Contact: Yvonne Spicer 9726 9347.
Thursday evenings each week	Maroondah TOWN Club: (Take Off Weight Naturally). Weekly, starting at 6:30 pm. St Margaret's Uniting Church. Hull Road. For more information call Kaye: 0414 984 062.
Wednesdays during school term	Kilsyth Primary School Playgroup: Painting, story time, activities and games for children 0 - 3½ years. 9:15 am. More info: 9725 4320 or kilsythps.vic.edu.au
Tuesdays & Thursdays	Mooroolbark Men's Shed: 9 am-3 pm. 91 Swansea Road, Montrose. For more information please contact President John Lowry on 9726 9970 or 0419 366 939, or via Facebook.
Tuesdays - Thursdays during school term	GymbaROO: Formative Sensory Perceptual Motor Program for babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers. Mooroolbark Community Centre. Ph: 9726 8740 mooroolbark@gymbaroo.com.au
19 March 16 April 14 May	Montrose Movie Club: 2:30 pm & 6:00 pm. Montrose Town Centre, third Monday of the month February - November.
23 March	Red Earth Unearthed: Talent quest. Mooroolbark Community Centre; commences 7:30 pm. Entry \$5 per person. More information and how to enter: celebratemooroolbark.com/competitions/red-earth
24 March	Celebrate Mooroolbark: Your local community festival. 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Red Earth Community Park, Brice Avenue.
25 March	Royal Australian Navy Band: Mooroolbark Community Centre, 2 pm.
24-25 March	ARKFest Short Play Festival: 31 x Ten Minute Plays, across two days. Lilydale Heights College PAC, 17 Nelson Rd. Tickets from \$10. Package details at www.arktheatremelb.com
30 March 1 April	Easter Services at St Margaret's: Good Friday: 9:30 am. Easter Sunday: combined sunrise service at Lillydale Lake.
10 March 14 April 12 May	Urban Harvest: Backyard fruit and vegetable growers—swap your excess produce. Red Earth Community Park, second Saturday each month, 10-11:30 am. Enquiries: Claire Coutts, 0425 700 280.
4 April	'All My Love': Mooroolbark Community Centre, 2 pm. Uncover the poignant story of the forbidden love of two of our nation's literary heroes, Henry Lawson and Mary Gilmore.
April 6-14	YouthARK Theatre presents musical <i>Next to Normal</i> . Lilydale Heights College PAC. Tickets \$15 concession & \$20 adults, available at the door or online: youtharktheatre.weebly.com/
11 April	Trash Test Dummies: Mooroolbark Community Centre, 2 pm.
25 April	Anzac Day Service: noon, War Memorial, Hookey Park. Refreshments by Mooroolbark History Group. The history group's book <i>Celebrating Mooroolbark</i> will be available.
15-17 June 21-24 June	Mooroolbark Theatre Group presents comedy <i>Respecting Our Piers</i> . Mooroolbark Community Centre. Matinee Sunday 17 & 24 June. Tickets \$20/\$18 concession. Bookings Arline: 9726 4282

Our Community Events calendar offers a free service to local clubs and organisations.

To include entries for your group's community events in future issues please contact Doug Lewis on 9761 1121 or email calendar@livingtoday.org.au

Note: *Living Today* is distributed quarterly - in the first week of March, June, September and December. Calendar entries need to be submitted one month prior to the distribution date.

LIVING TODAY in Mooroolbark

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Editor
Janet Van Dijk
Associate Editor
Doug Lewis
Sub-Editor
Kate Chivers
Proofreader
Terry Villiers
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Contact
Phone 03 9726 8898
Mail PO Box 228 Mooroolbark VIC 3138
Email editor@livingtoday.org.au

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Contributing Writers for This Issue
Barbara Austin, Barry Austin, R. Bouchier, B. Brown, A. Chisholm, K. Chivers, J. Graham, D. Lewis, B. Powell, S. Steel, J. Tkach, J. Van Dijk

Photographs
Barbara Austin, Barry Austin, R. Bouchier, J. Graham, A. Harris, Joel Strickland Photographics, A. De Leo, J. Lund, R. Lang, D. Lewis, B. Peterson, Pezibear, D. Pitts, M. Symonds, J. Van Dijk

Cover Photograph
Rupert Lang

Graphic Design
Carolyn Glennie, Publication Perspectives

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Publication Perspectives
Mulgrave, Victoria

Like to contribute?
If you have a good news story about people or groups who are an inspiration to the community, please contact the editor on our church-office phone number or by email (details above)

PDFs of this issue and all past issues of *Living Today* can be accessed at livingtoday.org.au

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MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute towards and to help to foster a **growing community spirit** within our neighbourhood.

We seek to achieve this by:

- highlighting the many positives within our community
- encouraging partnership in community initiatives
- contributing to the process of identifying and addressing community needs and concerns

OUR SPONSORS

Living Today greatly appreciates the valuable contributions made by several businesses which partner with us in serving our local community through this magazine. Their financial sponsorship makes the magazine possible, and we gratefully acknowledge those partners in each issue.