

Living Today

FREE COPY

"Yarra Ranges"

in

MOORROOLBARK

December, 2002



FIRE

**FIRE
ARE
YOU
PREPARED**

CFA

Mooroolbark

ELLA HOLIEN

Australia

Living Today

People - Places - News - Events

From the Editor

Thank You

Dear Neighbours,

Thank you from the Living Today production team for the many congratulatory messages received following our introductory edition of this magazine in September. Your expressions of support and encouragement are very much appreciated.

Please continue to let us hear from YOU, our readers, with feed-back, comments, and suggestions for future editions. Your input will be most welcome. We are looking for information or contributions on the many good things that are constantly occurring throughout our neighbourhood: examples of service, people who are role models for others, opportunities for community participation, young achievers in arts and sports, upcoming community events, etc. We look forward to sharing and celebrating those positive things together with you as we work to build a richer and stronger community for all concerned.

Our topical issue this edition poses the question, "What Makes Healthy Communities?" As our feature writer Randall Bouchier points out so clearly, there is a growing tendency for certain people in our present society to feel cut off, isolated and lonely, often for reasons beyond their control. Do we know of any such people?

As we approach the Christmas season, when so many of us are anticipating the warmth of gatherings of our families and close friends, and all that this encapsulates, perhaps we could give some thought to a neighbour or two who may in fact be dreading the feelings of loneliness that they associate with this time.

Worth considering?

Best wishes for the Festive Season and the New Year

Doug Lewis
Editor.



MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute to, and to help 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.

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Like to Contribute? If you have a good news story or other contribution to offer, please forward these to the contact points listed above, or you may contact the editor directly by email.....

dlewis@cyberspace.net.au

What Makes Healthy Community?

Tragic events in Bali and the shooting at Monash University remind us not only of the fragility of life, but help us appreciate the importance of community in fresh ways. The very best qualities of "community" are often on show when in response to crises, many people swing into supportive action.

As a volunteer fire-fighter, I remember admiring community groups responding to danger by providing volunteers to fight the fires, food and respite for weary fire-fighters, and blankets and shelter for those whose properties were either threatened or destroyed. And of course the Australian public has a record of responding very generously with financial and material aid.



Randall Bouchier

At Monash after the shootings, students and staff supported one another, either by bravely risking personal safety to confine the tragedy, or by supporting one another with comfort, reassurance and understanding. The Bali bombings saw the nation as a whole respond to the needs of those affected by the tragedy.

But our communities are under threat!



Our lifestyles have led to greater personal insularity than our parents remember. Our technology, personal computers, telephones, and other appliances promote isolation by making it possible for us to work from home, shop from home, do our banking and investing from home, be entertained at home, watch sport from home and even communicate from home. In the face of this trend, we need to consciously stop ourselves from becoming increasingly isolated, insular and lonely.

We have witnessed an even greater fulfilment of de Tocqueville's 150-year-old stinging observation when he wrote: "Each citizen is habitually engaged in the contemplation of a very puny object, namely himself." Previous generations have concluded over and over, that our connectedness to one another in families, friendships and community groups provide us with our greatest satisfactions.

Two thousand years ago, the philosopher Epicurus realized that our possessions have little to do with human happiness and fulfilment. His experience showed that our relationships with others bring our greatest satisfactions. The playwright Seneca not only highlighted the importance of human relationships themselves, but of caring for the needs of those we relate to, when he wrote: "Live for another if you wish to live for yourself."

So what?

Each of us can either opt for an isolated existence that weakens our communities or we can choose to commit ourselves to maintaining and strengthening our community, by involving ourselves with others in mutual support.

In Mooroolbark, we are very fortunate to have many vibrant community groups: sporting, cultural, church, elderly citizens, hobby groups, along with many community service groups. You can obtain contact details for these groups by visiting the Mooroolbark Community Centre, or by phoning the Shire of Yarra Ranges or this publication.

Randall Bouchier is well-known as a teacher of music in our area. He has worked in local schools and with many individual students. Recently he was appointed as Senior Pastor at Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship.

We need to consciously stop ourselves from becoming increasingly isolated

Mooroolbark Moments.

If I'd known that my grandchildren were going to be this much fun, I would have had them first.

Yarra Ranges "Children's Day"

Mooroolbark Community Centre hosted the Shire's celebration of Children's Week on Wednesday 23rd October. A dreary day greeted us all at 8.00am for set up time. But this did not deter everyone's enthusiasm! A steady stream of excited children and mums enjoyed the variety of activities and the performances of "Grand Fairies Ball" and "Circus in a Suitcase" in the main auditorium. Each performance was presented to a capacity audience. Gymparoo hosted jumping castles and floor activities inside, and was a welcome sight for both mums and children when it occasionally rained. The activities were supported by a fantastic band of volunteers and Shire employees. What a great day!



Planning sessions held in October provided a variety of applications and activities for the Celebration to be held on 29th March 2003. To date, participants include - combined churches service, community market place, circus performers, static display presentation, outdoor stage performers, roving entertainers, interactive activities, and food vendors just to name a few. Community members and groups that could not attend the sessions still have the opportunity to be involved and application forms are available from the centre.

Shire/Community Partnership

Hi! My name is Belinda Gillam and I have been the Cultural Development Officer for the Shire of Yarra Ranges for the past twelve months. I am based in the Council offices in Lilydale, but work with communities all around the shire, including the people of Mooroolbark. My job involves festivals and events coordination, support for community groups who are undertaking cultural projects, networking the shire's artists and coordinating special cultural projects. I spend lots of time on the telephone and talking to people face-to-face, finding out what assistance they need for their events or projects and offering solutions if I can. My job is extremely enjoyable and satisfying because it involves helping people to organise activities and projects which they are passionate about!

You may have seen me here at Mooroolbark on the recent "Children's Day" when I coordinated indoor and outdoor entertainment and activities for hundreds of preschool children. Unfortunately the weather sent people scurrying indoors on numerous occasions, but the children didn't mind! Earlier in the year we held "Celebrate Mooroolbark" and invited the public to celebrate everything which is good about Mooroolbark. We have already commenced planning for the next "Celebrate Mooroolbark" festival, to be held on 29th March 2003. This is an event for everyone in the local community, so I'd strongly encourage you all to become involved. Give the Community Centre a call on 9726 5488 for further information.

Introducing Anne Taylor-Peel



Mooroolbark Community Centre Staff Profile

Anne joined the Shire's Cultural Services Department 2 1/2 years ago and works at both Mooroolbark Community Centre and the Montrose Town Centre, mostly in the evenings. Anne has previous work experience as an integration aid at a local pre-school. She is mum to Jesse 12 years and Zach 10 years, married to Dale and resides in Mt Evelyn. In her spare time she enjoys reading, going to the movies, and meeting people.

Staff, tutors and students love Anne's kind and caring nature. She has a heart of gold and rumour has it that she would (and has) given her last dollar to any person in need. Anne is always reliable and willing to assist with extra workloads. She is a joy to work with, whether at a movie night or catering for a function.

Anne's workmates can vouch for her addiction to chocolate, which she loves with a passion! The most enjoyment Anne gets from her job is the variety of activities, meeting people and being in contact with what is happening in the local community. Involvement in Children's Day at Mooroolbark Community Centre on 23rd October was a highlight.



SOME UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR SHIRE.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| *Music in the Vineyard (Free Entry) | St Huberts Vineyard | 19th January 2003 |
| *Shire Aust. Day Celebrations | Lilydale Lake | 26th to 27th January 2003 |
| *Kilsyth Dance Club | Kilsyth Memorial Hall | 8th February 2003 |
| *Ranges Folk Festival | Nat. Rhododendron Gardens | 28th Jan to 3 March 2003 |
| *Music in the Vineyard (Free Entry) | St Huberts Vineyard | 16th March 2003 |
| *Celebrate Mooroolbark | M'bark Community Centre | 29th March 2003 |

Mooroolbark Newsagency

247365 is not a number Trevor Keogh wore in his years as Carlton's ruck rover (winning 2 premierships!) but a reflection of his dedication to his business - The Mooroolbark Newsagency at 2-4 Brice Avenue.



Trevor is at work at 2:45am every morning of the year to keep Mooroolbark "in the know" What a work load! That's a 24-hours-a-day , 7-days-a-week, 365-days-a-year job! Trevor sees Mooroolbark revitalizing with new estates and more people in the area, and feels the support of local shoppers will continue to make local businesses like his stronger. Shop locally says Trevor and support the community. Trevor was coach of Mooroolbark Football Club and remains a sponsor of the team as well as the Mooroolbark Cricket Club.

A Community Profile



This is Hazel... one of our unsung heroes doing a vital job for our community. Her job is Road-crossing Supervisor at the dangerous, Mooroolbark end of Hull Road. Hazel is out in all weathers, twice a day, five days a week during school time looking after our children going to school. When driving to work several years ago your reporter remembers seeing Hazel with her little boy in his pusher and several children animatedly clustered round talking to him while Mum manned the crossing. Hazel has notched up nine years doing this job for our community and loves working with the children, mothers and various adults she meets. Hazel has completed an Integration Aid Course helping children with reading and schoolwork problems. Hazel has two children and her "little boy", now 10, goes to a local primary school and her daughter now 16, attends a local high school. She likes walking her dog, gardening and reading.

Thank you Hazel, for your dedication in doing an essential job in our community.

STOP PRESS Congratulations to our editor, Doug Lewis and his wife Marg. They are one of just three finalists in the Boystown Award "Family of the Year 2002". The winner will be announced Dec.2nd. **WELL DONE DOUG & MARG !!!!!**

A Seniors Legend

Many clubs and groups have stories about people who serve their members or club special projects in ways that deserve much credit. Bill Sweetapple stands very tall amongst such "givers".

He is a LEGEND amongst Mooroolbark Seniors.

Bill is Vice President of the Seniors group and helps in many ways, but in the area of catering he stands supreme. He is a tireless worker in this area of service to his fellow seniors group which has a membership list of 200 plus.

On the club's recent 33rd birthday celebration Bill, who is in his mid seventies, provided a sumptuous meal for over 90 people. As always, he did this for the cost of the materials only. He prepares all of this at his home where he has installed commercial equipment to enable him to provide this highly valued service. What a great contribution. We salute you Bill!

In addition to all this Bill, and his wife Dot, contribute to the valuable work of the Schizophrenia Op-shop in Kew. In his 'spare time' Bill is a keen gardener specialising in roses, orchids and vegetables. His advice to any lonely seniors in the area....

Come on down and join in the friendship and fun that is found in activities such as indoor bowling, line dancing, exercising, social days, concerts, art classes, etc. For more information ring the Club Tel. No. 9726 7095.

Sounds like a good suggestion.



What Makes Healthy Community?? A Christian Perspective

In an environment where advertisers challenge us to evaluate their products with the constant question "What's in this for me?" we find ourselves spending much of our time and energy looking after "number one". But when "looking after number one" becomes our primary focus, life can become a treadmill, which somehow fails to deliver the contentment we'd like. Too often, our minds wrestle with vague desires for something more.

In our cover article, I quoted Seneca, who understood that **true personal satisfaction comes from caring for the needs of others**. It is within "community" that we care for one another and live life together. When someone celebrates, we share the joy! When someone hurts, we respond compassionately. We learn to trust and encourage one another as we share the journey. And so, many of us become involved in community groups where we contribute to one another's lives. As with any human relationships, such involvement has its "moments", but those who embrace and are embraced by a caring community wouldn't have it any other way! The most harmonious, productive and healthy groups are inevitably those where members bring with them attitudes that want to contribute to the greater good. Unfortunately, we've all witnessed groups that self-destruct because of selfish in-fighting.

So, whatever community group we join - a baseball club, a group of CFA volunteers, a church, a school council or whatever - we enhance healthy community when we bring an attitude of wanting to work for the betterment of one another ; we will inevitably detract from dynamic community when we bring an attitude of "what's in it for me?"

Like to read further??

For a copy of our free article - "Living in Spiritual Community" Please write to : Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship P.O. Box 228 Mooroolbark, or Telephone on 9726 8898.



COME LET US ADORE HIM!

Carols In The Park

Presented by
The Salvation Army Mooroolbark
BRING FAMILY & FRIENDS ENJOY AN EVENING OF CAROLS SINGING & MUSIC
7:30pm at each venue, weather permitting
TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER
Country Club Drv. & Woodpecker Pass Chirnside Park
WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER
Elizabeth Bridge Res. Durham Rd. Kilsyth.
THURSDAY 19th DECEMBER
Billanook Way & Goldentree Drv. Chirnside Park

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS-EVE SERVICE

A Christmas-Eve Service especially for children will be held at
St. Margaret's Uniting Church
219 Hull Road Mooroolbark
7pm on Tuesday 24th December
EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Carols under the stars
(indoors)
Sunday December 15
7.00pm
L.M.C. Old Melbourne Rd. Chirnside Park. 3116.
Enquiries: 9726 8111

St Francis Welcomes New Vicar



The Reverend Stephen Morrisy has been welcomed as the new vicar of St Francis in the Fields Anglican Church, Mooroolbark. Stephen comes from the Newborough: Yallourn parish of the Anglican church. Stephen has a particular interest in how our culture has reached a fundamental turning point and exploring the ability of Christian theology to respond to this changing reality. He sees the "family" as a symbol of where this critical dialogue occurs.

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHTS

Celebrate and enjoy the school holidays.
Thursday 19th December.

STUART LITTLE 2.

Thursday 23rd January

LILO & STICH



Bookings essential at the Community Centre
Provided for your family enjoyment by
Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship
in association with our Community Centre

KIDS DAY OUT

SATURDAY MARCH 1st 2003

At L.M.C. Old Melbourne Rd. Chirnside Park
11am to 4 pm.

Supported by the Shire of Yarra Ranges

FREE CARNIVAL RIDES

Hot & Cold Food Available

\$10 per car or \$3 per person

Phone 9726 8111

Kids Day Out is a drug and alcohol free event

Mooroolbark Church Scene



CFA Mooroolbark News & Safety Tips.

If you're thinking of Christmas and that scent of authentic pine filling your house once more, enjoy the added benefit this year of doing it for a great cause. Buy one from your local CFA. Mooroolbark CFA, which is 100% voluntary, has 40 members, but always needs more resources and volunteers.

John Rodger has worked there for 25 years. "It's a great life that demands commitment. We do intensive training. If you put in, you get the reward. We have hard times, but we have good times."

The CFA is an active part of the community, and works extensively with community groups. Advice for the coming summer? "Evacuation plan, smoke alarms. Since people are more prepared, the number of house fires has lessened."

"This year we've got a green drought. It won't take long for the ground to dry out. If you live in fringe areas, have a plan. Decide if you'll stay at home on TFB days. Clear up rubbish. Wear adequate clothing, not thongs and shorts."

If you're interested in volunteering, literature on fire safety, or buying a tree, call John on 9726 9483.

Mooroolbark Traders & Community Groups

★ After being nominated several times in previous years, "Blooms on Brice" has finally taken out the "Yarra Ranges Business Award" in the Floristry Category. Congratulations Kerry and Staff. We all appreciate the effort and time Kerry puts into the decorating and presentation of her windows, they are always a crowd stopper. Kerry, you certainly deserve this Award.



Sarah

Kerry

Megan

★ Have you noticed how Mooroolbark is being given a "short back and sides" along Brice Avenue? Not only does it improve the appearance of the areas, but the safety aspect looks a lot brighter. Thank you to those generous people who have given hours of their time to assist with this on-going project. On the 24th of September a group of volunteers arrived with rakes shovels and brooms in hand to attack the area next to the deserted petrol station. The end result was fantastic and all within a few hours. Thank you all very much, just another example of what can be achieved when we all work together. In March of next year we will be organizing another "Clean-up Mooroolbark" for clean-up Australia Day.

★ We could not let this opportunity pass without wishing Theo and Kathy Hart of "Theo Hart Watch Repairs and Jewellers" all the best in their approaching retirement. Thank you both for over 22 years of wonderful service, and the numerous hours helping out with the clean-ups around Mooroolbark.

★ Yes we are still accepting donations towards our Christmas decorations. In the last news letter, we mentioned that we were asking a once-a-year only donation of \$40.00. However, any contribution e.g. \$5.00 or \$10.00 would also be gratefully accepted.

Volunteers at Work



In Mooroolbark



Happiness is Being a Volunteer

This was the headline in a recent news item that reported on a survey conducted by researchers at Deakin University. The research showed that volunteers are significantly happier with most aspects of their lives, including work, community relationships & spirituality. They also have higher satisfaction with their health, leisure pursuits & contentment in life.

.....Sound like Good Medicine???





Ella Holien - Pitching for Success

On September 8th this year, at the Tropicana Dome in Tampa Bay, Florida, the Australian Women's Baseball Team pulled off a remarkable feat: they won the World Series, beating Japan's Team EnerGINE 8-6.

The most notable story to come out of that victory is that of local girl, Ella Holien. In the final, the Japanese used four pitchers. Ella carried our pitching workload throughout the entire game. She did better than that: in the final inning, the Japanese needed three to win, and Ella, ignoring the pain in her arm, pitched seven or eight mph faster than she had all game, as the parting words of her father at Tullamarine Airport rang in her ears: "just remember, it's all in your head."

It always has been. It's taken a remarkable degree of determination and passion for Ella to become a champion, as it did for her entire team. The

Australian Baseball Federation was unable to fund the trip. The complete lack of funds meant that only raw dedication and family support would get each girl to the tournament. At the urging of the Japanese and American bodies, they individually scraped together the money to get to the World Series. The first time they'd played together was when they reached American soil three weeks after they'd decided to form a team! The key to their extraordinary achievement was friendship. Says Ella, "we had to bond together and become friends and it really worked out well."

At 21, Ella still doesn't drive. In fact, she doesn't own a car. The money she saved to buy one, and some generous sponsorship from local business Stockdale and Leggo, in Croydon helped to get her to the World Series. "I'd never have got there if I'd had to pay." Spending her hard-earned cash "was a hard decision", but ultimately, her childhood ambition and the thrilling prospect of a gold medal demanded fulfilment.

Ella had put in the hard yards only someone passionate about their sport would do. Growing up, she played baseball all year round summer and winter - and never missed a year. After she'd put paid to the Japanese comeback in Florida, she recalled the efforts of her devoted father, and her mother, who's an MS sufferer. Her dad got involved in playing the game and coaching juniors just so he'd be closer to his daughter as she progressed from T-ball through the ranks of junior and senior baseball. Her parents were there for her the whole time. The titanic efforts of Ella and her family are living testimony to the truth that it takes more than mere talent to get to the top.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
 Presented by the
LIONS CLUB OF MOOROOLBARK
 Friday 13th December 2002 7.30 p.m.
HOOKEY PARK ROTUNDA

Featuring :- The Croydon Citizens Brass Band.
 Rolling Hill Primary School Choir.
 Bimbadeen Heights Primary Band & Choir.
 Soloist - Ruth Dalton Baptist Youth singers
 Croydon Brass Band
Compere: Mr. Andrew Conway
 Supported by the Combined Churches of Mooroolbark

Young Achievers

Ruth Dalton and Sarah Kean are young local artists who have been performing together for two years and recently formalised their act as the..... **"Strange Little Earthquakes"**.

They perform with guitar, keyboard, vocals and selected backings. Some of their items are original works that the girls have produced. This year they participated in the Billy Hyde "2002 Melbourne School Contemporary Music Festival" where they performed two original pieces and a cover item. They carried away three awardsBest original composition - "Burning Leaves", Best Keyboardist (Sarah) and Best Vocalist (Ruth). They also won a days recording opportunity at Hot-House Studios in St. Kilda. We will keep our eyes on these two young talents.

Best wishes girls!

You will have an opportunity to hear Ruth perform at the Lion's Club Xmas Carols in Hookey Park on Friday Dec. 13th where she is a guest artist.

P.S. The girls are looking for gigs and can be contacted on 9728 8949 Mob 0408 137 274



Starting School in 2003 ?
 A tip for parents - from Pembroke Primary School

"Try to avoid drawn-out, emotional farewells"

Naturally, many parents of new 'Preppies' will experience some pangs of anxiety at the prospect of leaving little ones at school for the first time. Children quickly sense these "parental anxieties" For the child's sakeavoid projecting anxiety.

Put on a brave front.

Tell them confidently that you know that they are going to have a real 'fun time'. Give them a big smile and a cheery "I'll see you after school" and..... **leave promptly.**

Hard to do? Probably!
 But best for the child.

My Mum is happy.