

Living Today

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in

MOOROOLBARK

March, 2003

Living Today

Our Community Festival

Celebrate Mooroolbark 2003

Saturday 29th March Community Centre

See inside for more details

From the Editor

Thank You

Dear Neighbours,

In this edition of *Living Today in Mooroolbark* we would like to congratulate and thank all of those generous people who are contributing of their time and energy to produce the second year of our local festival, "Celebrate Mooroolbark". When we look around, we find we certainly do have much to celebrate within our neighbourhood. We look forward to a great day. Thank you for your commitment to building our community.

We are also highlighting a number of individuals who in various ways are 'making a difference' for others and for our community as a whole. They are doing this by providing services, participating in programs, initiating or supporting activities, or by just being there for others when they see a need.

As our lead article "The Power of You" points out, we can all make a difference in some way to those around us and to our local community. Author Aubrey C Warren gives the term "mentoring" a very practical and readily-applicable perspective by showing that it is, at its core, simply about intentionally investing some time to actively support and encourage others. Something we all do to one degree or another, but could each perhaps do just a little better.

Our special thanks to readers who have nominated others as positive contributors to our community. We look forward to receiving your input and suggestions after each edition.

Living Today Contributor Receives - Journalism Award.

Recently, one of our regular contributors to *Living Today* in Mooroolbark, Bob Drane, received a high commendation for Best Reporting of an issue in Australian Sport and won the Best Journalism on Australian Sports Commission-Related Programs Award. Presenting the awards, Australian Federal Minister for the Arts and Sport, the Hon Rod Kemp, said, "In light of the number and standard of entries received, your dual success is extraordinary. I congratulate you". The awards were for Mr. Drane's article, "Black Man's Burden" about initiatives in sport to bridge cultural divides between mainstream society and Aboriginal people in remote communities. The article appeared in *Inside Sport* magazine, for which Mr. Drane is Victorian editor.



Photo courtesy of Australian Sports Commission

Bob freely gives of his time and journalistic skills to 'Living Today' as a service to our community. We are very grateful for his support.

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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Living Today in Mooroolbark

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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

Contributing Writers

Aub Warren, Bob Drane, Barry Austin



The **POWER** of You

By Aubrey C Warren

There are three things we all need to hear in our lives, particularly when we're facing a new challenge (or an old one!) or when we want to change, learn, or somehow move forward in life.

"It can be done..... You're not alone..... I believe in you."*

Think for a moment about the power of those words in your own life. Perhaps you can recall a time when someone offered that sort of support. Or, sadly, when you wish it had been offered. Those three simple but powerful statements are at the heart of one of the most significant ways we can influence others through the simple but life-changing work of mentoring. Mentoring is an age-old art currently being rediscovered in business, education, and community. The name goes back to Homer's *Odyssey*, and the trusted advisor and friend to whom Odysseus entrusted the care of his son, Telemachus.

Most of us have been mentored at some time. Perhaps it was an apprenticeship, or time spent listening to the wisdom of an older person, or being influenced by a colleague, a family member, a pastor, a teacher, or a coach. Mentoring is about influence. It's about encouragement. And it's about support. It's about believing in others enough to tell them so, enough to stand by them as they take on a challenge, enough to invest something of yourself in them.

Being a mentor

There's probably someone in your life you can mentor. Teachers, pastors, and coaches are all mentors in the daily course of their work. But managers, supervisors, parents, grandparents, community workers, neighbours, and friends can also mentor.

It may be done formally or informally. In fact, we're often mentoring unconsciously as people watch us and learn from us: it's called our example, or "modelling". We all learn a lot from simply watching how others do things.

But maybe there's someone whose life can be enriched by your active and intentional involvement. If so, consider the qualities of a good mentor in the box accompanying this article.

Mentoring starts with being available. Maybe it can begin by expressing interest in the hobby of the teenager next door. Or by calling a colleague who's working in a difficult situation. Or offering to help coach a soccer team. Or inviting a young family to share a barbecue.

Mentoring isn't just about helping a person with what they're doing, but with what they're becoming. It's about helping them achieve their potential. It's about encouraging them to excel. It's about investing something of ourselves in others. And there's no doubt that investing in others is one of the best investments we can ever make.



Qualities of a good mentor

- Able to see potential in others
- Genuinely interested in others' development
- Encouraging, affirming, and supportive
- Patient, tolerant, and flexible
- Respectful, accessible and available
- Sensitive to how others learn
- Committed to ongoing self-development and learning

* These three powerful statements appear in Lawrence J. Crabb's book, *The Silence of Adam*, Zondervan, 1995).

Aubrey C Warren is 'Communication and Development Manager' with Pacific College of Training & Development, a graduate school teacher in business communication, and a freelance writer.

Aub was managing editor of 'Living Today' magazine (from which 'Living Today in Mooroolbark' grew) from 1997-2001.

Mooroolbark Moments

When I was 16 years old I could not believe how dumb my father was. By the time I turned 21 I was amazed at how much he had learned in just 5 years!

Images from last years Festival



Our local, community-based festival will take place at the Mooroolbark Community Centre on Saturday March 29th. This marks the festival's second year since its inception. Its focus is on celebrating all that is good in our neighbourhood and surrounds. *Come along and join in the fun!* 10.am 4p.m.

Attractions include:- Community market-place, circus performers, roving entertainers, free activities for kids, performing arts projects, musical program, static displays by community groups, art/craft workshops and demonstrations, grand parade of schools and groups and food vendors (selling at family rates). To start the day off, the combined churches of Mooroolbark will conduct a worship service in the community centre commencing at 9a.m. All are welcome. There will be a number of additional activities taking place in the week leading up to Mar.29th.

Please check at the Community Centre for any further details.

DEVELOPMENTS IN MOOROOLBARK

In a recent interview with *Living Today* Cr. David Hodgett referred to three key areas of development currently taking place in Mooroolbark. He encourages us all to take an interest in and contribute where we can to each area, helping in the process of re-invigorating Mooroolbark.



Cr David Hodgett

Our Community Bank. This alternate, local banking facility has received solid support from our community and is off to a good start. As we continue to support it, we can look forward to financial returns to the community as well as the benefits of additional banking services. Last year one community bank, in our shire, returned \$30,000 to the community after just five years of operation. David urges us to get behind the bank for the benefit of the community.

Urban Design Framework. Joint funding by the State Government and our Shire has provided the opportunity for our township to receive a major upgrade. Community participation is central to the process of development of plans. As we go to print, "Concept Plans" have been completed and are on display around the township to allow further input prior to the final "Draft Plans" being developed. We are all strongly encouraged to participate in the process by offering our ideas and suggestions. Response forms are available at our Community Centre and other places where the plans are displayed. For further information you can contact David or speak to Mark Cassidy (Urban Designer) at the Shire.

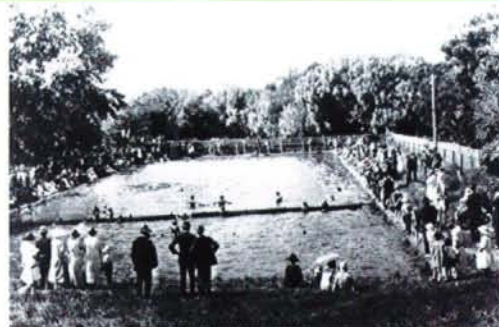
Community Safety Committee. This local committee, involving shire representation, traders and community groups, police, Connex and others interested, is focused on identifying ways to make Mooroolbark a tidier and safer township for us all. It looks at matters such as lighting, safe paving, trimming of trees and shrubs, etc. David pays tribute to the various individuals and groups who are contributing to this valuable work. For more information, contact Annette Archer, tel 9727 4041.

Our thanks to David for his tireless commitment to our community.

LILYDALE SWIMMING CLUB CENTENARY

The weekend of Friday February 28th to Sunday March 2nd was a big one for the members of the Lilydale Swimming Club when they celebrated 100 years since the Club's formation in 1903. Over 100 former members and guests gathered at the International in Lilydale for a reunion dinner hosted by local identity Tom Oliver of "Neighbours" fame.

The evening also saw the launch of the Club's history book written by members Albert Smith and Rosemary Cullinan and titled *From the Creek To the Dome*. The book is available from the Club by contacting the secretary on 9733 4402 or from the Museum of Lilydale in Castella Street. Cost is \$25.00.



100 YEARS OF SWIMMING

The Club organised an Open Day and Swimming Carnival at the Lilydale Pool on Sunday March 2nd. Many local residents participated in races and novelty events and teams from Melbourne's oldest swimming clubs competed for the Centenary Challenge Cup sponsored by Belgravialeisure.

WORKING FOR THE HOMELESS

"I can't do much but *I do* want to contribute to the community"



Helga & Gunter Launer

With these words, Gunter Launer explains his passion for helping the less fortunate amongst us. Chronically ill for the last 16 years, Gunter is limited in what he can do physically, but despite this he has found a way to "make a big difference" in our community.

It all began when he read a news item about a young homeless boy trying to survive on the streets of Lilydale. His response was to teach himself how to crochet (something he *could* physically do). He then produced a thick, warm, woollen blanket made from unravelled jumpers to send to this young person. The idea blossomed. With the constant support and assistance of his wife Helga and friends from Mooroolbark Baptist Church, Gunter has now produced over 300 similar blankets for needy people all over Melbourne. Migrating from Mainz, Germany, over 30 years ago Gunter brought with him a big heart that is deeply concerned for needy people. Many have personally experienced that loving concern. What a wonderful gift to the community! Well done Gunter and Helga.

If you would like to contribute wool or woollen clothing to help Gunter, please contact Barb Edwards at Mooroolbark Baptist Church.



John & Pat Glover

Leading Our Youth in Mooroolbark

Cubs, Scouts and Venturers-without them we would be a poorer nation. Pat and John Glover have been leading "The Packs" here in Mooroolbark for 15 to 18 years. This means at least 3½ hours a week and a minimum of two-weekend camps per school term, preparation time, committee meetings and their own life to lead as well. Pat is the Scout Leader of the local Scout Troop and John has held the top job of "Akela" (Leader) of the local Cub Pack ("Akela, the great grey Lone Wolf, who led all the Pack by strength and cunning..."). Daughter Rebecca was awarded her "Queen Scout" on October 4th 1997, which was presented to her at Government House.

The words "I have been in scouting" on a résumé can open doors for job seekers. All are welcome to join the Cubs or Scouts and youth leaders are urgently needed. If you would like further information contact Rob Lowe, tel. 9726 8452

Building & Mending

Peter Higgins spends his life building and mending. As a registered builder, Peter works all over Melbourne. But his desire to make his own community a better place has kept him busy with vital activities outside of his business.

A husband and father of two, Peter is a Director of the Mooroolbark Community Bank. He volunteered originally at a public meeting, concerned that only one bank served Mooroolbark. He was impressed by the idea of a bank giving some proceeds back to the community. "Bendigo was the only one who'd give 50% of its profits", he says.

As President of the Mooroolbark Lions Club, Peter develops contacts that enable him to know the community better. The Lions fund needy causes with limited resources. "At the moment, we're looking at youth needs." The Club also runs public barbeques at Red Earth Park, but finds it difficult to publicise these events in local papers. Peter is unassuming about his role. "We live here. It's a chance to get involved", he shrugs. Imagine our community with more people like Peter, building and mending.



Peter Higgins, wife Andrea and daughters Fiona and Kristie

The Spirit of Mentoring

Aubrey C Warren

Author and leadership mentor John Maxwell uses the BEST acronym as a summary of effective mentoring:

Believe in them **E**ncourage them **S**hare with them **T**rust them.

(Developing the Leaders Around You, Thomas Nelson, 1995)

Such a commitment to others is a powerful and practical expression of our faith. It's an effective way of reflecting the love God shows to us, which is what followers of Jesus Christ are called to do: love others as He has loved us. This approach to mentoring is sacrificial, in a sense. It calls on us to sacrifice an often very natural self-ish focus for an other-centred focus. It calls on us to respond to the apostle Paul's call to esteem others better than ourselves. It is a commitment to the well-being of others.

The result of course, is not that we lose so another can gain, but rather that we both gain from the exchange. Indeed, loving others by giving something of our own lives for their development has far greater impact than just enriching the other person's life: it enriches whole families, communities, and societies.

Sometimes the Christian ideals of sacrifice, of putting others ahead of ourselves, of "laying down our lives" for others can seem like wonderful theological concepts that struggle for practical translation into daily life.

Sometimes our Christian ideals can struggle to find practical translation into daily life.

And yet the task of mentoring is one that is both immediately practical and directly reflective of those very ideals to which we aspire.

To mentor is to give. And as Jesus Christ said, it is more blessed to give than to receive. When we give of ourselves as mentors, we truly can give someone our very BEST by

Believing in them, **E**ncouraging them, **S**haring with them, and **T**rusting them.

Like to read further??

For a copy of our free article - "Mentoring in Discipleship" please contact : Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship P.O. Box 228 Mooroolbark, or telephone on 9726 8898.



CHURCH NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS at ...

LIFE MINISTRY CENTRE (Chirnside Park)

- * Bereavement & Grief Seminar
Monday nights Mar. 24,31/ Apr. 7,14
- * Drug-proofing Your Child.
Tuesday nights May 6th to June 10th.

Ring 9726 8111 for information or registration

On-going Programs

- * Separation & Divorce Recovery
- * Boundaries * Cleansing Stream



The Salvation Army, Mooroolbark has relocated. The new address is 88 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark
Tel 9727 4777 Fax 9727 4797
Email: mooroolbarksalvos@bigpond.com

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, in conjunction with the Community Centre, will present its next free family film night on **Wed 16th April** (in the first term holidays)



LIKE MIKE

(Family Basketball story)

Bookings are required for this function

COMBINED CHURCHES COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

The upcoming festival in Mooroolbark (Sat 29th Mar.) will begin with a combined churches worship service from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. All are welcome to participate in this community service



Megan Spinks has taken up the role of salvos youth ministry assistant in Mooroolbark. We look forward to her contributions to the youth scene in this area.

The combined churches welcome you, Megan.

Seniors' Bus Trip Wed 26th March 2003

All are welcome to join in this short trip, taking in a visit to the Lilydale Museum for a video and guided tour and a chance to view the Melba Biographical exhibition, and then on to the beautiful Maroondah Reservoir. We will depart from Mooroolbark Community Centre at 10 a.m. and arrive back around 2 p.m. Full cost is \$18 per person. B.Y.O. lunch. (Morning tea and drinks provided.)

For bookings please contact Marg. on 9761 1121.

SOME UPCOMING SHIRE EVENTS.

22nd 23 Mar.
4th 6th April
7th-13th April

Relay for Life
Trailwalkers
Youth Week

Healesville
Ferry Creek to Marysville
Various venues

Healesville Rotary Club
Oxfam Community Aid abroad
Shire of Yarra Ranges

Tel 5962 1020
Tel 9829 9486
Tel 1300 368 333

“Caladenia” DAY CENTRE



Caladenia day centre, in Mooroolbark, has been caring for people with dementia and offering support and respite for their carers since 1983. A recent innovation gives the opportunity for couples (where one has dementia) to spend valued, quality time with their loved ones and with other couples experiencing a similar challenge in their lives. This opportunity comes in the form of a formal dinner prepared in the centre's kitchen and presented with all the trimmings. The meal is followed by some musical entertainment, providing a most memorable occasion for all involved. Carers forget their responsibilities for a short

while and become dinner guests in the company of an understanding, empathetic group. The evening has been much appreciated by all concerned. This program is continuing. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Sarah Yeates on 9727 2222.

Boystown "Family of the Year"

Congratulations from all the *Living Today* crew to founder and editor, Doug Lewis and his wife, Marg. On December 2, 2002, at the MCG Long Room, Governor John Landy awarded them the Boystown Family of the Year award.



Boystown, the biggest non-government agency serving young people in Australia, is run by the De La Salle Brothers and assists over 500,000 young people and their families each year. Doug and Marg received the award in recognition of a lifetime of helping needy, mostly young people. Included in this valuable, often unheralded community service has been a decade of fostering children from broken or troubled homes. The application was submitted by Doug and Marg's daughter Jenny, and was a compilation of comments by all five of their kids - Jenny, Debbie, Greg, Geoff and Brad. At the ceremony, Doug and Marg set a precedent, bringing thirty kids with them into the hallowed room. This was the first time children had participated in any function at the venerated venue. And they all got to be on the telly, as the 'Current Affair' cameras were also there! On behalf of everyone, here and overseas, that the Lewis' have loved, we extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

Our Community

Mooroolbark Traders & Community Group

You're invited !!!

COMMUNITY SOCIAL EVENT

A special social evening has been organised by our group for Sat. 17th May at the Community Centre. You are all invited to participate.

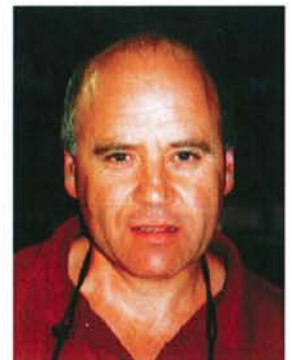
There will be a **live band, dancing, entertainment & food** at the cost of \$30 per head. **B.Y.O. drinks** So gather a group of friends and make up a table for what will be a fantastic night.

For bookings please contact Diane of "Sweet Welcome".

Thank You

Special thanks to all who helped make our Xmas decorations possible through their donations. Unfortunately two were stolen this year. Maybe someone can help us to locate them.

Rocky the cobbler



Our group wishes to give much-deserved recognition to the great community contribution work carried out by one of our committee members, "Rocky". Rocky & his wife Ellie have lived in this area since 1981. They have two teenage children, Nicholas and Larissa.

Rocky's valuable service of shoe & leather repairs, key cutting, engraving, watch batteries etc are only the beginnings of his service to our community. He is also involved with the Lion's Club, the Traders & Urban Design Committee, Clean Up programs, the Footy Club etc. Rocky believes that working together to help one another is what builds a strong community. His life demonstrates just that. **Our thanks to Rocky & his family.**



Vicki Bowling's dance classes are offered, in association with our community centre, as a service to aspiring young dancers in our local neighbourhood. It offers Jazz Classes for 4 - 5 year-olds and Tap Classes for 4-8 year-olds.

Vicki and family have been providing this service for the past 15 years. The classes are conducted in the community centre on Wednesdays between 4.30 and 8 p.m.



Each group works, throughout the year, to prepare items for the academy's Christmas concert for family and friends.

Vicki sums up her classes as providing :-
 * **lots of fun,** * **no pressure,** * **no exams,** and * **reasonable costs.**

These days, Vicki is assisted in teaching, choreography and costume organization by her 15 year-old daughter, Sarah. Both Vicki and Sarah hold qualifications from the Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing. Younger daughter, Claire, and Dad (Andrew) help with the annual concert and with organisational details making it a real family affair.



**For more information, or to arrange to participate call the community centre.
 Tel 9726 4588**

Partnership in Mentoring

Everyone speaks most highly of the mentoring program that is available to senior students at Rolling Hills Primary School.



Lions Club Pres. Peter Higgins and teacher Neil Preston with some happy "mentorees"

It is an activities-based program initiated and co-ordinated by teacher Mr. Neil Preston. It is funded and supported by Mooroolbark Lions. The program provides students with unique opportunities to participate, with adults, in a wide range of activities both during and outside school hours. Some of the recent activities provided were a visit by the Police Air Wing, attending motor-racing with Peter Brock, playing pool, rock climbing, constructing billy-carts, visiting local factories, cooking, wood work and contributing to a Lions' BBQ for local charity. The following comments by participating students indicates the benefits they feel they gain.

Brad: "Lots of new opportunities." Sam: "New skills which will help in later life." Harley: "Learning to work co-operatively in groups." Matt: "Self confidence and decision making." Sean: "Importance of trust and co-operation." Emma: "Challenges in developing relationships."

Principal Barry Jackson believes that the program has significantly benefited senior students. He is warm in his praise for the generosity and personal support of the Mooroolbark Lions Club.

Serving our Youth..... at Mooroolbark Cricket Club

It's often said that any organisation is only as good as its leader. So when people admire the achievements of the Mooroolbark Cricket Club, they're also remarking upon the talent and dedication of its current President, Kevin Dawson. Kevin has been with the club as a player and administrator for ten years. For the last six, he's co-ordinated the junior development program. For the last three, he's been club President. But these titles don't really do him justice.



Kevin understands that the future of a club is its youth. But he also sees the bigger picture. Active and happy youth mean a healthier, more vibrant tomorrow for the community. But children, particularly today's boys, also need role models, and Kevin doesn't only actively mentor boys and girls who come to the club; he hopes to bridge the troublesome generation gap by encouraging as many parents as possible to be involved as well. As he also conducts MILO coaching on Sunday mornings, Kevin's weekends are extra-busy. But he wouldn't have it any other way. To him, the best measure of success is a healthy, happy and involved kid.

