

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK YARRA RANGES

MARCH
FREE COPY
2004



Dinkum Assorted



Nobody's Perfect



**Mooroobark
Theatre Group
1978 – 2004**

Lipstick Dreams



Flying Feathers



Inspiring People in our Community

For those of us involved in the publication of this magazine, one of our greatest pleasures comes from the opportunities we have to meet so many encouraging and inspiring people who live, work and serve in our neighbourhood. It would be hard to find a more inspirational person than local identity ... Melinda Smith.

Melinda, who has had to battle severe effects of cerebral palsy all of her life, looks at her disability as the challenge that has given her the opportunity to make her life what it is today. Despite being largely confined to a wheel chair, and dependent on mechanical devices to communicate, Melinda feels no need to change anything.

Many of us, with much lesser battles to fight, can often feel defeated by the difficulties we face, but Melinda has achieved so much despite her circumstances.

She is quick to give much credit to her family for the strong support they have always provided. They have always encouraged her to "seize the day, to fight the odds that each day brings". She was always encouraged with the words, "Set personal goals and go for them with all you've got".

Against incredible odds, Melinda has moved into her own flat in Mooroolbark and travels by train to Box Hill each day for her work. Employed in the Communication Resource Centre at SCOPE, Melinda works with speech pathologists and occupational therapists in mentoring and training others. She feels most fortunate to hold what she sees as "a fabulous job". She communicates most animatedly of the great personal satisfaction she receives from supporting herself 100% and at the same time working to make a difference in the lives of others.

In her spare time Melinda likes to express herself through writing and in art. She has had several books of her personal poetry and prose published and has had opportunities to show her art work. Her artistic talents have been put to good use in her field of employment in providing art-work for magazine covers.

One of Melinda's personal goals, right now, is overseas travel. She hopes to visit Brazil later this year with her work. Another goal is to co-ordinate the building of a self-managed set of flats to provide a stimulating centre for other disabled people.

When asked how she would encourage others to tackle the struggles that life presents each of us with, she replied, "Embrace opportunities that come your way. Go for it! Do the best you can! Don't worry about what you may or may not achieve - just set your goals and go for them!"

Melinda likes to quote the following words from Helen Keller: "Life is either a daring adventure - or nothing at all". Without doubt, Melinda's life is both a daring adventure and a wonderful example to all of us. We salute her for her amazing achievements, her indomitable spirit and the wicked sense of humour with which she approaches life.

If you have a story of an inspirational person in our community that would like to share with us, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Doug Lewis, Editor



Melinda Smith, at home, with one of the magazine covers produced from her artwork.

in this issue

C O N T E N T S

- 1 **Cover Pictures**
Mooroolbark Theatre Group
- 2 **From the Editor**
Inspiring People in our Community
- 3 **Daddy Catch Me!**
A dad I can count on
- 4 **Shire of Yarra Ranges** – Youth Services and Youth Week
Festival 2004 – Celebrate Mooroolbark
A Tireless Worker
- 5 The New **Moo Wine Bar**
Meet Laurie and Gloria Iveson
Mooroolbark Traders and Community Group
- 6 **Mooroolbark Church Scene**
News, Views and Events
- 7 Mooroolbark Theatre Group
Fire Safety Information
- 8 Leo's Club – Mooroolbark
Mooroolbark – A Great Bowls Club

LIVING TODAY in Mooroolbark

Production

'Living Today in Mooroolbark' is produced by a group of volunteers.

Publication

It is published as a community service by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship.

Contact

Office Tel: 9726 8898
PO Box 228 Mooroolbark 3138

Distribution

Distributed throughout Mooroolbark and surrounding district

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

This issue:

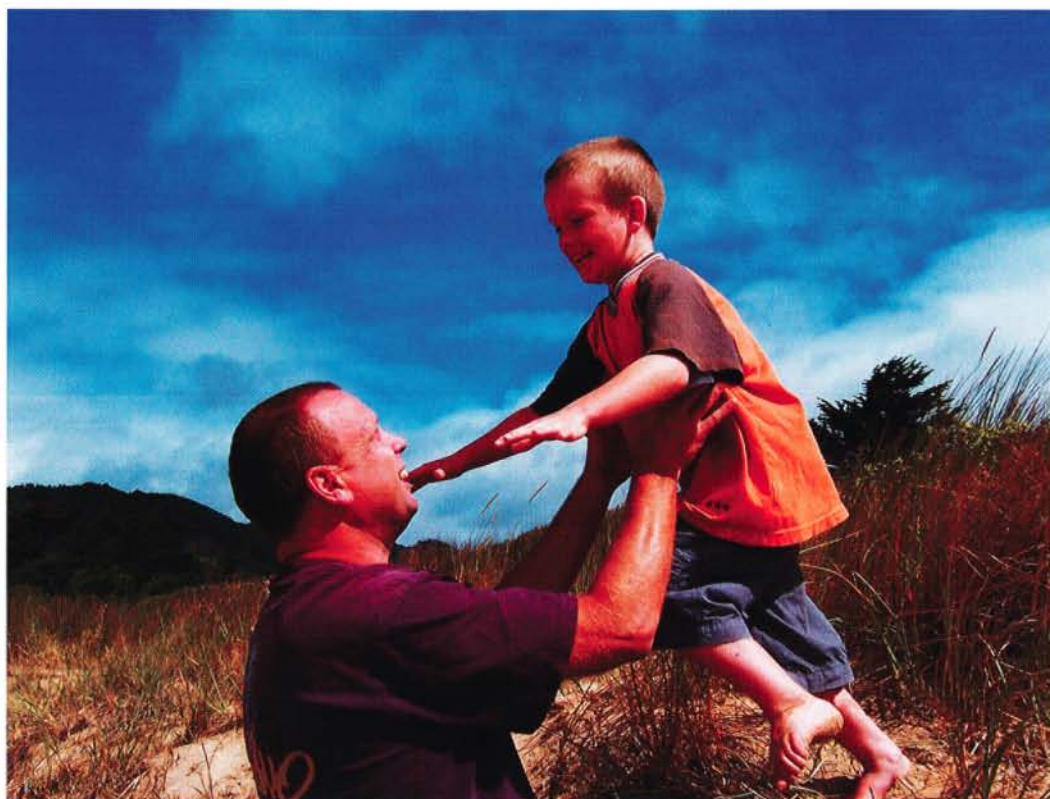
Editor: Doug Lewis
Contributing Writer: Barry Austin
Photos: Barry Austin
Graphic Design: Lyn Eggleston
Printing: Publication Perspectives

MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute to, and 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.



*"Daddy,
Catch
Me!"*

*A dad I can
count on...*

Every father will hear the words "Daddy catch me".

Before we can even begin to answer, our trusting toddler will throw himself from great heights - into our arms. In their early years, our little children demonstrate this total trust in us. Nothing we do or say is questioned. They trust us to provide everything they need in life, the physical necessities, the comfort when things go wrong, the love and security they strongly crave. They especially look to their dads to guard them and protect them from surrounding dangers. They count on that!

For most little ones, dad is their hero. The strong protector. The one who has always been there to deal with problems. His strength is legendary. He's bigger and better than other Dads. He's "My Dad".

**Hero status is a
fragile thing.**

But "Hero Status" is a fragile thing. Children grow and mature. The unquestioned trust of the early years begins to be tested. A 7 - 8 year old no longer necessarily trusts us "just because". He begins to trust us only to the

degree that we demonstrate our trustworthiness. He begins measuring our reliability and dependability by our actions. This is a largely invisible process but it is most assuredly taking place. What do our little ones see in us right now?

Is our own parenting characterised more by promises kept, or by promises broken? Are we usually physically present when we are needed? Are we emotionally available when support is called for? Is there an on-going assurance that we will always be there for them, whatever their needs might be?

We can be sure that enough broken promises, enough harsh words, enough expressions of disinterest and small cracks will assuredly begin to appear in our relationship. That special place we have enjoyed in their lives becomes threatened and may begin to fade.

When this happens, the child will begin to look for other heroes.

The bottom line is this... "If our children feel that they cannot trust us, then their childhood peers and other heroes in their world will shape their lives more than we do!"

A close, trusting relationship is most needed, but also most exposed to testing as our children move into the teen years.

Researchers have found the adolescents who maintain close connections with their families

are less likely to suffer from emotional distress, to exhibit violent behaviour, to experience suicidal thoughts or to resort to drugs or alcohol just for kicks. They perform better at school, they enjoy deeper relationships and they are better adjusted to life.

At all stages through their developing years, and even into adulthood our children need constant reassurance of that special relationship. Assurance that we stand ready always to "catch them" whenever they need us. Assurance, beyond all doubt, that we remain worthy of their total trust. They need to know they can count on us in this way.

**Trust is the glue that
holds relationships
together.**

Trust is the glue that holds our relationships together. It is the bridge that links our child's needs to be loved and accepted with the assurance that such love is unreservedly and unconditionally offered. Unquestioned trust is central to a lasting and intimate relationship, a bond for life, with our children. Seeking ways to ensure that he remain a trustworthy father is assuredly worthy of any loving Dad's focused attention and effort.

Shire of Yarra Ranges – Youth Services

The Shire of Yarra Ranges has planned a week of events for National Youth Week – 27 March to 4 April, under the theme, “My Place My Space”. The week will kick off with a launch at Mooroolbark set to include a skate competition, youth market, youth performance and live music.



During the week, young people can also take part in a tree planting day, youth summit, youth arts exhibition, a “race” around the shire and an open microphone night.

The shire’s youth programs and events coordinator Tim Dakin said the idea behind the week was to provide young people with the chance to express their views on living in the Yarra Ranges.

National Youthweek 2004

“We want young people to enjoy themselves during the week but it is also helpful for us to identify issues that are most important to local young people, celebrate young people’s strengths and connect them in their community,” Mr Dakin said.

The week will also aim to encourage active participation, build confidence and provide young people with the chance to meet other young people.

The aims of NYW are:

- Ensuring youth participation in planning and development of all NYW activities;
- Showcasing young people’s talents, contributions and achievements;
- Promoting a positive image of young people;
- Acknowledging the interests of young people as well as their backgrounds and circumstances; and
- Enabling young people to express their ideas and giving young people a voice.

For more information regarding National Youth Week 2004 and other term programs and holiday events please contact the Youth Services Team on 9294 6716.

Festival 2004 – Celebrate Mooroolbark

It’s on again! This year, the theme of the Festival is ‘Celebrating a Hidden Treasure’, and will be held on Saturday 27 March 2004.

Growing strong in its third fantastic year, our festival will celebrate your local community in a day of performance, a great variety of free and low cost activities, the ‘Celebrate Mooroolbark Community Market Place’, treasure hunt and a fantastic Foot Parade featuring local Primary Schools and Community Groups. This year’s theme for the Foot Parade is ‘Pirates’. Prior to the festival children will participate in workshops to create an array of ‘pirate paraphernalia’.



Tai chi in the park at last year’s festival

This year, **Celebrate Mooroolbark** coincides with National Youth Week with special youth-oriented activities planned throughout the day, including live music, performance and a skate ramp.

Join us to celebrate a fantastic community in a day of festivities! All enquiries can be directed to Mooroolbark Community Centre on 9726 5488.

A Tireless Worker

All at Mooroolbark Primary School consider themselves to be most fortunate to enjoy the many wonderful contributions that Liz Bailey makes to their local school community. She is described as a truly remarkable lady who serves the community in countless ways.

Currently holding the position of school council president, Liz is very “hands on” in the way she goes about her responsibilities. She will often be seen helping out at car-boot sales, assisting the Parents & Friends on special days or events, planning and supervising working bees, or conducting fun-filled fund-raising events such as the annual bowl-a-thon.



Liz, who is the owner of Marby School Supplies, takes time out of her very busy schedule to help out at school functions during the day so that the children do not miss out on any opportunities. Inter-school sports days would not be the same without Liz. In addition to all of her work at the school and in her business and looking after her two children, Liz and husband Steve run the Manchester “Aus-kick” program. Liz is Secretary/Treasurer of that organisation.

Whether offering a shoulder to cry on or brightening up someone’s day with her cheery “hello” Liz always manages to “make a difference” wherever she goes. All at MPS thank Liz for her tireless contributions to community life.

'The Moo' wine bar

A great new addition to life in Mooroolbark is the new **Moo Wine Bar**, opened in January 2004. Situated right near the entrance to the Mooroolbark Community Centre, the wine bar caters for up to 80 people with its indoor tables plus a delightful outdoor area set in landscaped gardens. **The Moo** offers everything from a casual drink to a full breakfast or a sumptuous lunch, with Yarra Valley wines and cappuccinos, in a delightful café setting.



In the evenings **The Moo** is transformed into a funky wine bar serving tapas and great wines till late. Sundays will see live jazz bands providing entertainment. As well as providing another great option for our 'social gatherings', **The Moo** is serving our community by offering employment to some of our local young people.

We wish **The Moo** every success in its very welcome addition to life in Mooroolbark.

Meet Laurie and Gloria Ireson

Local retired Mooroolbark couple, Laurie and Gloria Ireson have seven grown-up children and a rough haired terrier named "Flash".



Originally from England, Laurie arrived here in 1973 with broad engineering experience. He has worked in the fields of electro-mechanical design, traffic control systems and, more recently, computer programming. A very active retiree, Laurie enjoys the hobby of designing and creating lead-lighting for doors and windows. Locally, he has been involved with coaching work at the Mooroolbark Soccer Club. He also enjoys a regular game of golf.

Gloria is a "dinki di" from way back, having been born in Carlton of an English mum and an Aussie dad. Her interests in life have included ice-skating, ball-room dancing and horse-riding. She has always enjoyed sketching and painting and has worked in the capacity of a women's counselor for some time.



Laurie and Gloria Ireson, and at left, Flash, their dog.

Today they are happily enjoying their retirement years in Mooroolbark, participating in the community and working to do whatever they can for their children. Their philosophy "Live and enjoy life. Make the effort to enjoy the view from wherever you may be."

We wish them many more years of good health to "Enjoy the view."

Mooroolbark Traders and Community Group

DAMIEN MEEHAN 1947 - 2003

It is difficult to find words which can express our feelings at the death of one of our fellow traders. Damien's sudden death has left us empty and with heavy hearts. His ever ready smile and sense of humour is greatly missed by those of us who were fortunate enough to be able to spend the occasional minute here and there with him, just having a chat.

To Norma and family we pass on our heartfelt sympathy and thank you for sharing Damien with us.



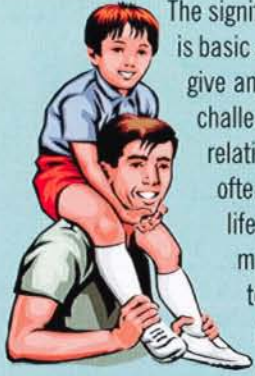
Damien Meehan

VAL THOMPSON

Another special person who will be sadly missed by the Mooroolbark Traders is Val Thompson (the Leader Newspaper). Over the past ten or so years many of us came into contact with Val, either through advertising our businesses or just helping out with different community events.

We would like to forward on to her family our deepest sympathy and prayers. Val was a very special lady and her thoughtfulness and generosity was appreciated by us all.

The Trustworthy Father – a Christian Perspective



The significance of trust in human relationships is basic and self evident. Learning to effectively give and earn trust is a significant key to the challenge of establishing lasting and fulfilling relationships in life. It is an important, but often neglected, aspect of learning in family life. When a father, along with other family members, makes the effort to teach and to model the "mechanics of trust" in human relationships he helps his children to develop a healthy disposition

towards relationship building. He helps to equip them with practical life skills which will serve them well in the future.

A Christian father however, will seek to do more. He will strive to build family relationships based not just on human trust and human wisdom alone but also firmly grounded in the word of God.

Relationships which not only respond to God's direction but which also bring personal awareness of His presence.

The mandate of a Christian father is to rightly reflect God's way, His values, His character and His desire for us to enter a close relationship with Him now and into all eternity. The Christian father will be concerned not only with quality of trust his children are developing in him and others, but also their growing personal trust in God. He will be helping them to enter into the special relationship God offers to us now and to experience the part God plays in each of our human relationships when we invite Him into our lives. He will also be helping them to understand and to joyfully anticipate the eternal relationship God has in mind for us as His plan of salvation for mankind unfolds.

Yes, a Christian father will be endeavouring to foster both close and trusting human relationships and an emerging faith and trust in God our heavenly Father.

Celebrate Mooroolbark 2004 Combined Church Service

Our 2004 festival "Celebrate Mooroolbark" will commence with a worship service presented in the Community Centre by the combined churches of Mooroolbark.

Date: Saturday 27 March, commencing at 10.00 am.

All-welcome; for further details contact your local church or the Community Centre.



Community Forum: Oxley College
Sunday 4 April - 6.30pm to 8.30pm. *123 Magic*, presented by Parentzone, is a strategy taught to help stop certain behaviour in your pre-school aged child.

Watoto Children's Choir Concert of Hope Thursday 13 May at 7.30pm. The choir is from Kampala, Uganda. These children are among the more than 2

million children in Uganda that have had the tragic and life-altering experience of losing one or both of their parents to the AIDS virus or to war. Through their lively and inspiring performances, the Watoto Children's Choir share their unique experiences as well as their newfound joy and hope.

Oxley College Open Day Saturday 15 May 11am to 4pm.

Separation & Divorce Recovery Program - commencing on Thursday 20 May. This program gives the opportunity to "grow through" rather than "go through" your disappointment and hurt. Also running in conjunction with this is the High Five Program, designed especially for children struggling to come to terms with enormous changes due to a break up of their family. Enquiries for all the above: Phone: 9726 8111 Life Ministry Centre, Old Melbourne Road, Chirnside Park 3116.

Free Family Film Night

Looney Tunes Back in Action

Our next free family film night will be screened on Wed. 7th April. The usual free ice-creams and tea & coffee will be offered.

Presented by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship in partnership with the Mooroolbark Community Centre.

Contact the community Centre for bookings Tel. 9726 5488.



MUSIC TOGETHER

A Music & Movement Program for Young Children & their Families

Infants ♪ Toddlers ♪ Pre-schoolers ♪ Parents ♪ Care-givers

Songs ♪ Movement ♪ Instrument Play
Dancing ♪ Relaxing

Facilitated by a Creative Arts Therapist

St Margaret's
Uniting Church
219 Hull Road
Mooroolbark



Program is held
each Thursday
in Term time
9.30am to 11.00am

This community based program
is very popular in many churches.
Registration Forms are available from the church.
The fees are \$50 for a 10 week term.
Enquiries ring 9726 9347 or 9723 9225

Mooroolbark Theatre Group 1978 - 2004

When Arline Myers, as President of the Mooroolbark High School Parents and Citizens Association, suggested that perhaps a Theatre Group could be an activity for the school involving parents and students, she never thought that 25 years later the Mooroolbark Theatre Group would be active and still growing. Thanks to Tom, her husband, and many others, over 40 productions have been presented in Mooroolbark, and Arline and Tom are still very active.

Our group is amateur and rehearses and performs at Mooroolbark Community Centre. We rehearse on Thursday evenings 7-10pm, and our productions are held over 7 nights in June and November each year.

Membership of the Group is available to anyone 18 and over, with or without experience, and

we have seen members make their debut with us and go on to professional work.

We are an incorporated company and are run by an elected Committee of Management, and our purpose is "to promote participation and interest in all aspects of live amateur theatre in the local community".

Some years ago we surveyed our audiences and asked their opinion on choice of plays etc. Ahead of all other choices were comedy and farce and now we believe that this area is our speciality. Sometimes, as in 2003 with "Dinkum Assorted" we diverge and enjoy the results, especially the musical side. We have a resident band, "SwingSound", and our audiences (now just on 1000 for each production) enjoy the social atmosphere of the table setting, BYO and music.



"Nobody's Perfect" 2002 with Carol Thomas, Andrew Jones, Anna Radford, Tom Myers

We are looking forward to 2004 when we will present the comedy "One O'clock from the House" by Frank Vickery, to be directed by Gary Rens. The play has a cast of 14, who play various members of a dysfunctional family. We welcome new members, on and off-stage. Lots more information can be found by phoning Arline on 9726 4282. OR on our website:

<http://tommyers.customer.netSPACE.net.au/MTG.htm>

Fire Safety Information



Chris Wyborn, CFA Brigade Support Officer for Montrose and Mooroolbark Website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

BARBEQUES

Many fires attributed to barbeques are usually caused by **gas leaks** due to the incorrect connection of hoses. It is highly recommended that all hose connections are checked before use and are firmly tightened prior to lighting the barbeque.

1. Have a connected water hose handy any time you have a barbeque.
2. **Do not** have the barbeque set against the house or timber pergola, if there is a fire it may spread to the house or adjoining buildings.

Move the barbeque away from the house wall into the middle of the patio or a safe area while the gas is on.

3. If a gas bottle does catch fire, use the water hose to keep the cylinder cool and call the Fire Brigade on 000.

LAWN MOWERS and MACHINERY

When lawn mowers and machinery are in use and hot **do not** refuel inside the shed. Always fill up outside in case of flashback.

CIGARETTE BUTTS

Do not throw cigarette butts out of **any** window; your car or home! A carelessly disposed of lit cigarette has the potential to destroy your life... or your neighbours.

IF CAUGHT ON THE ROAD IN A BUSH FIRE

Always U-turn to safety, if you have the option but if you are caught on the road, your car offers the best protection from radiant heat as the fire front passes. **Do not get out and run!**

1. Pull to the side of the road into a clear area - dirt track or road is best. Try not to park the car in a place where it is surrounded by fuel for the fire - long dry scrub for example.
2. Put the car hazard lights and headlights.
3. Cover your exposed skin as much as possible with clothing. **Not synthetic.**
4. Ensure windows and vents are closed.
5. Get down in the vehicle as low as possible below window level and cover up with a woollen blanket until the fire front has passed. You will feel a reduction in the heat and then it will be time to leave the vehicle and move to safety. If travelling in the country always carry woollen blankets in your car for this purpose.

Mooroolbark **Community Bank**™ Branch  **Bendigo Bank**

Supporting The Local Community.

“Leos Club” Mooroolbark By Haley Doyle

Our Leos Club (Young Lions) is sponsored and supported by the Lions Club of Mooroolbark. LEO stands for LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE & OPPORTUNITY.

The club is made up of 15 community-minded teens who enjoy seeking out tasks and opportunities which will benefit our neighbourhood. We enjoy social activities together, such as pool-parties, pizza & video nights, etc., but we get our greatest satisfaction from the work we do in the community.

Although our club is quite new, we have already participated in a fund-raising luncheon for visiting Lions Clubs, some clean-up activities in the community and have competed in local youth activities as a club team. Recently we attended youth forum meetings with Ranges Community Health Services. (It is pleasing to be able to have our voice heard). We are currently collecting unwanted spectacles and manual type-writers to be sent to East Timor and are working in the Lions Club op-shop and collecting

aluminium cans and selling Lions' Club mints to raise money for future club projects. Our club members agree that it is the opportunity we have to help others which provides our greatest motivation and source of enjoyment and, but we do gain many benefits for ourselves as well. Participation in the club

Natalie, Ashlee and Jaidyn



Leos Club members enjoy some social time in the pool with Lions club leaders and mentors, Bob Hovendon and Neil & Carol Preston.

gives us opportunities to meet new friends, it helps us develop life skills which will benefit us in future job-seeking, it enables us to meet with community leaders to discuss future developments in Mooroolbark and helps us to learn to work as an effective team in serving our community.

Sure, we are giving of our time, but we are receiving much in return. We thank the Mooroolbark Lions for their commitment to helping us - especially the members who give of their time to personally support and sponsor our projects and help us with our social activities.

We also thank Rolling Hills Primary School for their support in providing meeting facilities and use of office equipment.

Any young people interested in finding out more information about Leos are invited to contact Mr Neil Preston at Rolling Hills Primary School.

Mooroolbark - A Great Bowls Club!

The briefest visit to Mooroolbark Bowls Club leaves you with the feeling of a warm welcome and no doubt that its members and visitors enjoy a great facility and a wonderful spirit of friendship. To current president, Joe Belli, “just being amongst good friends” is what it's all about. Admin Director, George Hume, particularly enjoys being involved in a club which is always quick to give help where needed, whether it be a club member or someone in our community.

The Club began with a meeting of 43 local people in 1980. With the help of the Shire, the current site was leased and plans for the very comfortable facilities, now enjoyed, were prepared. These include large club-rooms, bistro and bar.



President, Joe Belli and Admin Director, George Hume

By March 1981, 221 foundation members had signed up. The first two greens and the club-house were completed by late 1983. A third green was added in 1986. Through careful fiscal management, the club will own the freehold within three years. A point they take much pride in. Today M.B.C. has 315

members. It employs a green-keeper and a cleaner. All other services are provided by volunteers. The club has had notable success on the greens. The men field seven sides and the ladies five, with both ladies and men reaching Division One.



From left: Hans Nyhuis, Joe Belli, Margaret Gibb, Colin Huggins

The ages of bowlers ranges from teens to the nineties (at 92 years, Ron Sutton is still playing pennant – well done Ron!) It also holds indoor bowls competitions.

There is an active social calendar which includes four dance nights each year. A bingo evening is held each Tuesday. All are welcome to these functions. M.B.C. also makes its mark on our local community with contributions and assistance to needy groups and individuals.

Thinking of joining in? Why not come down and give it a go? New members are most welcome. No experience needed! Beginners are loaned equipment and given personal coaching.

Certainly worth a look!