LIVINGTODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK / YARRA RANGES





MOOROOLBARK GUIDES

Mooroolbark's Own

It's easy to forget that the Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, David Hodgett, is also a citizen of his own municipality — a resident, in fact, of Mooroolbark — until you spot him, in casual sports clothes, picking up his children from a holiday program at the Community Centre.

David values spending time with his family — a pleasant surprise considering the man has his daytime career in the Public Service, and commits many hours to serving our community, during this, his second term as Mayor.

He obviously enjoys people — you sense it in his genial personal welcome, his views on family, and the way he makes himself available to residents of the Shire by attending regular Township Community meetings, holding Saturday morning coffee and chats, hosting Community leader forums and attending diverse community functions. His attempts to engage with



David Hodgett, Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges

residents within the Shire's 43 townships meet with mixed success. Some townships turn out en masse to community meetings; other townships may be represented sparsely.

Musing on the challenges of building community identity and spirit, David is encouraged by the way this year's Anzac Day celebrations in Mooroolbark captured increasing public interest — expanding this year to include a community luncheon and concert.

David believes there is an element of simplicity about activities that bring communities together — activities such as the Hookey Park planting on 1st August, where community groups such as traders, churches, schools and service organisations commit the time and energy of members to enhance part of our township. Such events, along with *Celebrate Mooroolbark* and other Community Centre activities, help to strengthen Mooroolbark by giving us opportunities to celebrate, work and live together. As we work together, we stand a good chance of shedding the negative 'dormitory suburb' description often levelled at Mooroolbark.

"This year our township will be enhanced as Council responds to some of the challenges identified by the Urban Development Framework. We'll see some streetscape improvements, additional pedestrian crossings and access-ways, and some replanted parklands. In addition, we are seeking better ways to constructively engage our young people, attract thriving businesses into our town centre and make Mooroolbark village increasingly clean, safe and attractive".

"We also hope to expand our mapping of Mooroolbark so that cooperatively we can better identify what we do well — or poorly! The information we glean will enrich existing community plans by giving substance to the Shire's Vision 2020. As a community, it's vital that we continue the hard work of describing a Mooroolbark of the future, so that we allocate our resources in strategic and deliberate ways".

David wants to raise the profile of those who contribute to our lives in Mooroolbark without expectation of anything in return — the 'unsung heroes' — volunteers, whose absence would mean "less gets done, community spirit diminishes and our township is much worse off!"

My guess is, that if we were all active volunteers, Mooroolbark would be transformed beyond belief.

Our Mayor wants to engage with Mooroolbark residents in positive ways. Let's respond likewise! Will we do our part to further develop Mooroolbark into a dynamically enhanced township — or will we remain the dormitory suburb?

We wish David Hodgett well for the remainder of his term.

Randall Bourchier

Living Today in Mooroolbark

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

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Like to Contribute?

If you have a good news story about our community to offer, or a suggestion of people who you believe are an example to the community please contact the editor through our church office or by email at dlewis@cyberspace.net.au

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.

Fly Like an Eagle

Sophie Taylor, a year 12 student at Pembroke Secondary College, was recently asked to address the senior school at assembly. Her 'brief' was to outline some of the ways in which she is involved in the local community, with a view to encouraging other students to step out and discover the enjoyment that can result from participation in voluntary work.

Sophie spoke of her first love - involvement with 'Wildline', a voluntary organization associated with Wildlife Victoria. Along with friends she has made in the organization, Sophie takes telephone calls and helps co-ordinate help for native animals found injured on our roads. The stricken animals are transported to the nearest animal shelter where they have the opportunity to be nursed back to health and eventually returned to 'the wild'.

As she speaks of this volunteer work, Sophie's passion for animals is very evident. It comes as no surprise that she plans to begin training as a veterinary surgeon at Melbourne University next year. She emphasises that her plan as a vet is to work for the benefit of native animals as well as caring for farm animals and domestic pets.



Sophie Taylor

Despite her heavy work load in VCE studies, Sophie is also deeply involved with the St. John Ambulance organisation. This involves weekly training nights and serving at weekends sporting functions and community events

whenever she can find the time. Her interest in first aid stemmed from participation in a school program which connected her with our local CFA over a period of two years.

Sophie's family home is in Monbulk, but during the school week she lives with her grandmother, Mrs. Beryl Taylor, in Mooroolbark. To help make the most of this time with her grandmother, Sophie has recently joined in with Beryl's special community love by becoming a member of the local Country Women's Association.

In her school speech, Sophie encouraged her fellow students to "Fly Like an Eagle". She challenged them to get out and try things, to become involved and to experience the rewards and the friendships that participation in community groups can bring. She certainly leads by her example in this way. Well done Sophie!

Doug Lewis



GUIDES AUSTRALIA



Sandy McElroy (centre) with Belinda Armstrong (left) and Jessica Cookney

GUIDES AUSTRALIA, formally known as Girl Guides, is alive and well in Mooroolbark. Over fifty girls and nine leaders make up the five units that meet each week in our neighbourhood. The girls' ages range from 5 years to upper teens and beyond. The various age-groups meet on different nights of the week in their excellent facility in Marion Avenue.

The aim of Guides Australia is to help young girls and young women to grow into confident, self-respecting and responsible community members. In reaching for this aim, Guiding provides a wonderful opportunity for their members to develop friendships through fun. adventure and learning together. Their programs are age-appropriate and are presented in a relaxed and non-threatening manner.

Activities they enjoy include crafts, travel, hiking, camping out, performing arts, cooking, etc. They also learn life skills such as first-aid. communication skills, teamwork, etc.

Many girls go on to become leaders themselves and to experience, first hand, the very rewarding opportunity to make a difference that lasts a lifetime in the lives of other young girls.

All leaders are taken through a comprehensive, fully accredited training course and participate in ongoing review and training programs to keep abreast of current needs and expectations of the community.

LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

Parents, interested in finding out more about what Guides has to offer, are invited to contact Sandy McElroy - District leader on tel. 9733 4095.

You are most welcome to visit a meeting of your child's age level group to check out all that takes place.

GUIDES AUSTRALIA is part of a worldwide organisation represented in 136 countries with 10 million participants. You can check them out on the web at www.guidesaus.org.au

Doug Lewis





KIDS HOPE ARRIVES IN MOOROOLBARK



Mentors at Mooroolbark Primary School (from left): Robyn, Antoinette, Val, Liz, Adrian and David (front)

Kids Hope Aus has come to Mooroolbark schools this year. Pioneered within the Yarra Ranges under the auspices of World Vision, two primary schools - Mooroolbark and Pembroke - have partnered with two local churches in introducing this new mentoring programme for children in need.

What is Kids Hope?

Kids Hope Aus is an Australianised version of a mentoring programme introduced in the US over seven years ago. Through caring relationships it benefits selected children using the simple formula - one child, one hour, one church, one school. In partnership with the school and parents, a local church provides adult mentors who commit to giving one hour each week to spend with a child nominated by the school, encouraging, supporting and guiding them in their work and development.

Australia is the first, and so far only country outside the US to enjoy this programme. It has taken nearly two years of preparation by World Vision, in drawing up the necessary protocols and safeguards and meeting the necessary standards for its introduction here, for it to reach this stage.

Benefits

Already teachers and parents are commenting on

the positive difference it has made in the lives

of the children involved. Recently, at the end of term 2, Mooroolbark Primary held a pizza party for their mentors from the nearby Mooroolbark Baptist Church, the mentored children, their parents and teachers to celebrate the impact of Kids Hope in the school. It was both a positive and exciting event! Parents were able to meet

and thank the mentors for their effort in making a difference in their children's lives. Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship and their partnered school, Pembroke, are planning a similar social event early in the new term.

Currently there are 14 children being mentored at Mooroolbark P.S., and 19 at Pembroke. In each of these schools, the day the mentor arrives is eagerly anticipated, with many of the children waiting anxiously at the gate or

the front door of the World Vision school for that arrival moment. Experience in the US has shown that the ongoing relationship of a significant "other" adult, who often continues with the same child through their primary school years and informally even beyond, has a life changing effect. Consistently, improvements in general co-operation, participation, self confidence and self belief, behaviour, academic performance and attendance are reported.



Mentors at Pembroke Primary School (from left): Barbara, Craig, Lindy and Peter

Here already, parents are asking how they can get their children into the programme as they see and hear of how the mentored children are benefiting.

And our special thanks go to the mentors, who continue to faithfully turn up to give their one hour each week for a child in need.

Terry Villiers



Deputy Principal at Pembroke Primary School, Kate Perkins (left), thanked their school's mentors with these words... "Congratulations on bringing a new and rich dimension to our primary school and many individual students. As we begin our journey with KIDS HOPE AUS with mentors and students meeting for the first time this week, we have experienced a new warmth and excitement among students. Children have smiled and happily chatted about the fun time they had. It has been wonderful to see: *E* laughing as she played 'Guess Who' with *H*, *S* having a workout on the basketball court and *J* just beaming as he told us about the new tricks he has learnt. It is such a gift for a child to have a special time to share uninterrupted with a caring interested adult. To all of you, thank you for the way you have embraced KIDS HOPE AUS and the huge commitment you have taken on. I know our partnership will continue to strengthen and grow with each passing week".

"Thank you for an amazing start to KIDS HOPE AUS at our school".

"If you need help, help others. To help others best, let them help you"

This is the GROW secret of success

GROW
WORLD COMMUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH MOVEMEN

Grahame is a quietly spoken man but his enthusiasm for GROW is obvious by his dedication as a volunteer field worker in the Eastern area, which includes Mooroolbark.

Because of his own personal problems Grahame became interested in GROW which provides support for people experiencing problems in all areas of life such as depression, stress, grief, loneliness, mental breakdown, family problems and relationship breakdowns. It gives people the opportunity to make new friends who will support each other in a caring environment. There may be present a mature member of the

community working together with the group but it is not necessary, and in fact the members run the meetings. It is important however, to stress that GROW encourages people to continue seeing their doctor or psychiatrist

The meetings are structured, membership is anonymous and on first name basis only, and any discussions are strictly confidential. There is a members' manual, known as the Blue book, which contains many helpful principles and guidelines, one being 'there is always hope if the person is willing to do something about it' - "I who am the problem person, have to be the solution person."

There are twelve steps of personal growth outlined in the book and they are read at each meeting. The new member is given a practical task, which is to come back for five weeks.

The Mooroolbark group meet every week at 10.00am on Thursday at the Mooroolbark Neighbourhood Church, although there is no association with any religious groups. It lasts for two hours, followed by a cup of tea or coffee.

Other local groups are:

- 10.00am Monday Eastern Access Community Health, John Street, Lilydale
- 7.30pm Wednesday —
 46 Warrandyte Road, Ringwood

GROW is funded by the Department of Human Services and no fee is charged. For further information the telephone number is 9890 9846 or 1800 604 066.

Grahame Davidson Volunteer worker for "GROW"

Sizing up graffiti

The Shire of Yarra Ranges has taken on board community concern over the high incidence of graffiti that assaults our eyes and devalues property.

The Shire's Graffiti Project Officer, Greg Carrick, has been liaising with local groups and traders to link community action with the Shire's Graffiti Strategy.

A local working group has been formed with Shire departments, local police Sergeant Brett Skurka, and representatives from various local community groups. On board are the local traders, the Leos (young Lions) Club, Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, local schools, and our Mayor David Hodgett.

Greg will be guiding the working group to carry out the Shire's graffiti reduction strategy in the Mooroolbark/Kilsyth area.

The strategy says that community involvement is the key to successfully combating graffiti because local people care for their neighbourhood and are aware of what goes on where they live.

The basis of the Shire's strategy rests on three initiatives:

Rapid Removal – graffiti should be removed as quickly as possible.
 This helps negate the 'profile' of the tagger and deters further vandalism.

- Prevention this covers a variety of methods including public awareness and education, urban design principles, auditing and adopting areas.
- Policing keeping an eye on hot-spots, auditing new graffiti, involving the courts and community corrections.

Auditing has been mentioned several times, as it is an important part of the process. Knowing what is happening is the basis for effective action, so the Shire has just completed an audit of graffiti in several areas of Mooroolbark and Kilsyth. The resulting database can be used for the removal process and as a base for the police bringing offenders to court.

The Shire would like to thank all the groups and people assisting in the working group. Your involvement shows the amount of care and commitment you have for your community.

Greg Carrick Graffiti Project Officer



WHAT'S BEHIND KIDS HOPE AUS?

Earlier in this edition, we've noted the introduction of Kids Hope Aus to two schools in Mooroolbark The natural response to this often is "Why are churches involved?" That's a fair question.

Why churches? Apart from being a pool of ready volunteers, there are some solid reasons. For the churches, it provides another way to practise the give way Jesus exemplified. Church members are called upon to live out their Christianity by giving of themselves — their time and energy — to someone in need, someone quite unconnected with their normal circle of life acquaintances.

Each mentor is not only committed to doing the training and preparatory work necessary, but also to commit themselves, along with a prayer partner, to prayerful preparation each week for their time in the school. It can be challenging and not so comfortable at times. But living out our faith and expressing the love that God has given us in a way that makes a difference to the world about us is what core Christianity is all about. As Jesus told us, "Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back - given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way." (Luke 6:38 The Message).

And the School? For the school, it provides another support from the local community, a support area that would otherwise be largely untapped, reaching into generations and demographics that otherwise would be unconnected and uncommitted. And our schools (and children) need every extra bit of help in these challenging times.

The Bottom Line — as one unknown author put it: One hundred years from now, it won't matter what car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much I had in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child.

Terry Villiers

SENIORS' BUS TRIP

Conducted by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship

Wednesday 1st December 2004 - ALL WELCOME

Community members are invited to participate in our up-coming bus trip to the National Aviation Museum at Moorabbin and to 'Black Rock House'. The bus will depart from Mooroolbark Community Centre at 9.00 am, returning by 3 pm COST \$20.00 per person, B.Y.O. Lunch.

For further details and bookings - Ring Marg on 9761 1121

CELEBRATION AT ST MARGARET'S



St Margaret's Uniting Church is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its first church building in Hull Road, Mooroolbark in 1954. Services of the Presbyterian church (later to become part of the Uniting Church) began in the rural township of Mooroolbark in 1926 and were held at the old community hall in Station St. A generous land grant in Hull Road made it possible for a church building to be opened on 4 September 1954. Reports of the time spoke of the little brick church in a rural setting of gum trees and paddocks. The church was named after St Margaret, Queen of Scotland in the eleventh century and well known for her Christian faith and the generosity that flowed from it. As Mooroolbark grew so St Margaret's grew, and the present large complex was completed in 1986. St Margaret's people are involved in a number of community activities including providing breakfast to children at Mooroolbark Primary School, a music therapy program for pre-schoolers and parents, taking a monthly worship service at Walmsley Village in Kilsyth, teaching Christian education in local primary schools, helping to resource Anchor and Wesley community services and assisting a program to help 'street kids' in Kampala, Uganda. A number of community groups use St Margaret's facilities. Worship is at 9.30am each Sunday.

The 50th anniversary will be celebrated over two Sundays. On Sunday 4 September the moderator of the Uniting Church, the Reverend Sue Gormann, will speak at the service at 9.30am. The history of the church will be celebrated at a special service at 10.30am on Sunday 12 September, that will include a lunch and concert. People who have been associated with St Margaret's in past years are most welcome to attend these events. Enquiries 9723 9225.

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT



ALL WELCOME Come along to Mooroolbark Community
Centre on Wednesday 22nd September
to enjoy another free family film night.
The program commences at 7.30pm with
the usual free ice-creams and tea &
coffee being on offer.

This school holidays activity is presented by Mooroolbark Christian fellowship in conjunction with our Community Centre. For bookings, contact the Community Centre on Tel 9726 5488.

Separation & Divorce Recovery Program

This program gives you the opportunity to 'grow through' rather than 'go through' your disappointment and hurt.

'High Five' Divorce Recovery Program for kids (6-12 years) specifically for children who are struggling to come to terms with the enormous changes due to a break up of their family. Commencing on Thursday 14 October at 7.30pm for 7 weeks. Cost \$60 adults / \$2 children. These programs are conducted at LMC, Old Melbourne Road, Chirnside Park. Enquiries: 9726 8111.

Boundaries

Sometimes in life, issues arise and changes happen that we don't expect. Sometimes we need to learn new ways to deal with them. Is your happiness dependent on how others see you? Is your life out of control? Do people take advantage of you? Do you have trouble saying No? 'Boundaries' is for you. Commencing on Thursday 14 October at 7.30pm for 8 weeks. Cost: \$60.

Traders and Community Group News

Coffee for Me

We warmly welcome Peter and Anastasia into Mooroolbark as new Traders



They are local owners, with extensive experience in both hospitality and gift services, The doors to their new business opened on June 30th. The name, 'Coffee for Me' was derived from their three year old connoisseur son, who when he wanted

to ask for a 'baby chino' would say 'coffee for me', and so they made a promise that if ever their dream of opening a café came true, they would use that name.

If you are looking for a relaxed, serene environment with a selection of home-cooked meals, gourmet sandwiches, cakes and biscuits, make your way to shop 11A Brice Avenue, (situated near the Golden Pastry Bakery) and while you are sipping that wonderful cup of coffee, you can also peruse the small range of gifts and plants which have been beautifully presented.

Graffiti Meeting

Annette Archer

We first met together on this topic in May when we were introduced to Mr Greg Carrick who has been appointed by the Council to put into place a graffiti programme aimed at cleaning up and reducing graffiti in both the Mooroolbark and Kilsyth areas.

Over the next twelve months, Greg will co-ordinate this programme for our area. Further meetings involving various community groups have followed in July and August, and some strategies to address the problem are emerging.

The Traders and Community Group is committed to assisting with the removal of graffiti in order to help promote our township in a more positive way. We have begun to organise events which we hope will assist us to raise the money to pay for a general clean-up throughout the Mooroolbark shopping centre. The first of these was a fund-raiser held at the Bowling Club in August. Funds raised at that event will be used for this purpose. Once the general clean-up has taken place, each trader will be given a small "graffiti-removal pack" and it will then be up to the individuals to keep their own shop front clean.

We look forward to achieving a cleaner, brighter neighbourhood as we work together to solve this community concern.

disabled peoples company

Did you know we celebrated our 15th Birthday in July?

We meet at Mooroolbark Community Centre, every Wednesday morning from 10.00am till 12 noon, just enjoying each other's company, and solving some of the problems we encounter in our daily living. 'Frits' is our President and one of our original members.

We welcome you and your carers to come and join us over a nice morning tea and chat.

If you would like to receive more information, just contact Elsie on 97264004.



ONCE LOVED



When Bev Tewkesbury returned to Australia after living in the United Kingdom for 28 years, she decided that she would like a change of direction. Having worked in schools for 25 years, she always had the ambition of owning a ladies recycled clothing shop where she could offer the community a service providing the best product at an affordable price. This ambition was realised when the Jayne Anne's business at 54 Manchester Road, Mooroolbark, became available in 2002. She promptly purchased it and renamed it 'Once Loved'.

Since that time the business has grown from strength to strength and last year was very proud to win the Clothing Section in the Yarra Ranges Business Awards and is a finalist again this year.

'Once Loved' carries a vast range of good quality ladies' clothing and accessories at very reasonable prices. It caters for all sizes from 8 to 26 and offers a friendly and helpful service.

DUR VOLUNTEER CFA SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Our Mooroolbark CFA Fire Station is not just the local 'Bush Fire Brigade'. It has evolved over the years, along with what was the tiny 'Red Earth' hamlet known as Mooroolbark, to



Mooroolbark Fire Station

be the fully fledged fire station it is today. Its resources and response capabilities have grown as Mooroolbark has grown. Currently there are 45 volunteer members (both male & female) at the Mooroolbark CFA who give freely their time and their commitment for us — the local community.

Our local volunteers are all proud to be a part of the CFA in Australia — the largest volunteer emergency service of its kind in the world.

How the CFA serves our community

The CFA not only handles fires but comes to our aid in other types of emergencies as well. One of the most common non-fire incidents is the motor vehicle accident. There are also hazardous materials incidents such as chemical spills etc. and special needs such as children locked in cars or people locked out of their homes. Other key agencies supported by the CFA are the police and the State Emergency Services.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are various areas in which volunteers can help - apart from fire fighting. Assistance is needed in areas such as community education, administration, office duties etc. All potential fire-fighters undertake formalized tertiary qualifications at Swinburne University. They are also required to participate in a C F A training program to develop a set number of minimum skills for safety purposes. The brigade holds training sessions on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings. As volunteers, members are not expected to be at all sessions but a reasonable attendance is required to develop and maintain work skills. A healthy balance between family-life, work commitment and brigade time is of paramount importance to the CFA.

Fire Trucks

There are three fire trucks at Mooroolbark . These are generally known as Big Red —The Pumper Truck, The Tanker and The Salvage:

- Big Red, which is brand new, is the main urban truck taken to all building fires and is worth about \$300,000.
- The Tanker truck is the support vehicle for all urban calls but its prime role is for grass fires as it can go off-road. It has a 3000L water capacity and can operate without a hydrant.



'Big Red' the Pumper Truck

 The Salvage truck carries additional equipment that can't be carried by the other trucks.

Maintenance

The volunteers perform all the station maintenance such as station cleaning, hose repair etc. The fire trucks are maintained by paid professional mechanics.

Funding

Surprisingly the major part of CFA funding, a huge 78%, comes from insurance companies. This is paid from the fire services insurance levy on our insurance premiums. The other 22% comes from the State Government. Additional local fund raising is used to enhance the brigade's fire- fighting capacity. In recent times donations from the local IGA Supermarket 'Community Chest', the Lions Club of Mooroolbark and from others in the community have financed the purchase of additional equipment. Items purchased include a Salvage truck, High Volume exhaust fans and additional protective clothing.

One of the major highlights in the brigade's year is transporting Father Christmas around on the fire truck at Christmas time. This is one of the enjoyable ways in which the CFA maintains a bond with the local community.

Chris Wyborn is the Brigade Support Officer for Montrose and Mooroolbark. His passion for the work of the CFA is clearly evident when



Chris Wyborn

you speak to him. He refers to his posting as the most rewarding job in the world. We salute and thank Chris and all our volunteers for their service to our community.

Barry Austin

The ROAD TRAUMA SUPPORT TEAM invites you to attend our annual fund-raiser

The 9th Annual Open Rose Garden Weekend

at Nieuwesteeg's Rose Nursery, 4 Tarrawarra Road, Coldstream (off Maroondah Highway, 12 km out of Lilydale – Melways Ref 276B6)

13th & 14th November 2004 (9am - 4pm each day)

Enjoy hundreds of roses on display • Refreshments — Sausage sizzle/ Devonshire tea & Entertainment • Admission \$5 adults \$2 children \$3.50 Pensioners • All proceeds to the Road Trauma Support Team Vic Inc. The Road Trauma Support Team provides much needed help to people involved in road crashes — injured travellers, bereaved relatives, witnesses and those working with emergency services, through the provision of counselling and other volunteer services.

The Nieuwesteeg family were personally affected by road trauma in 1992. This led them to become members of the support group and to the opening of their delightful property each year to support the team. Your support will be greatly appreciated.