

# LIVING TODAY

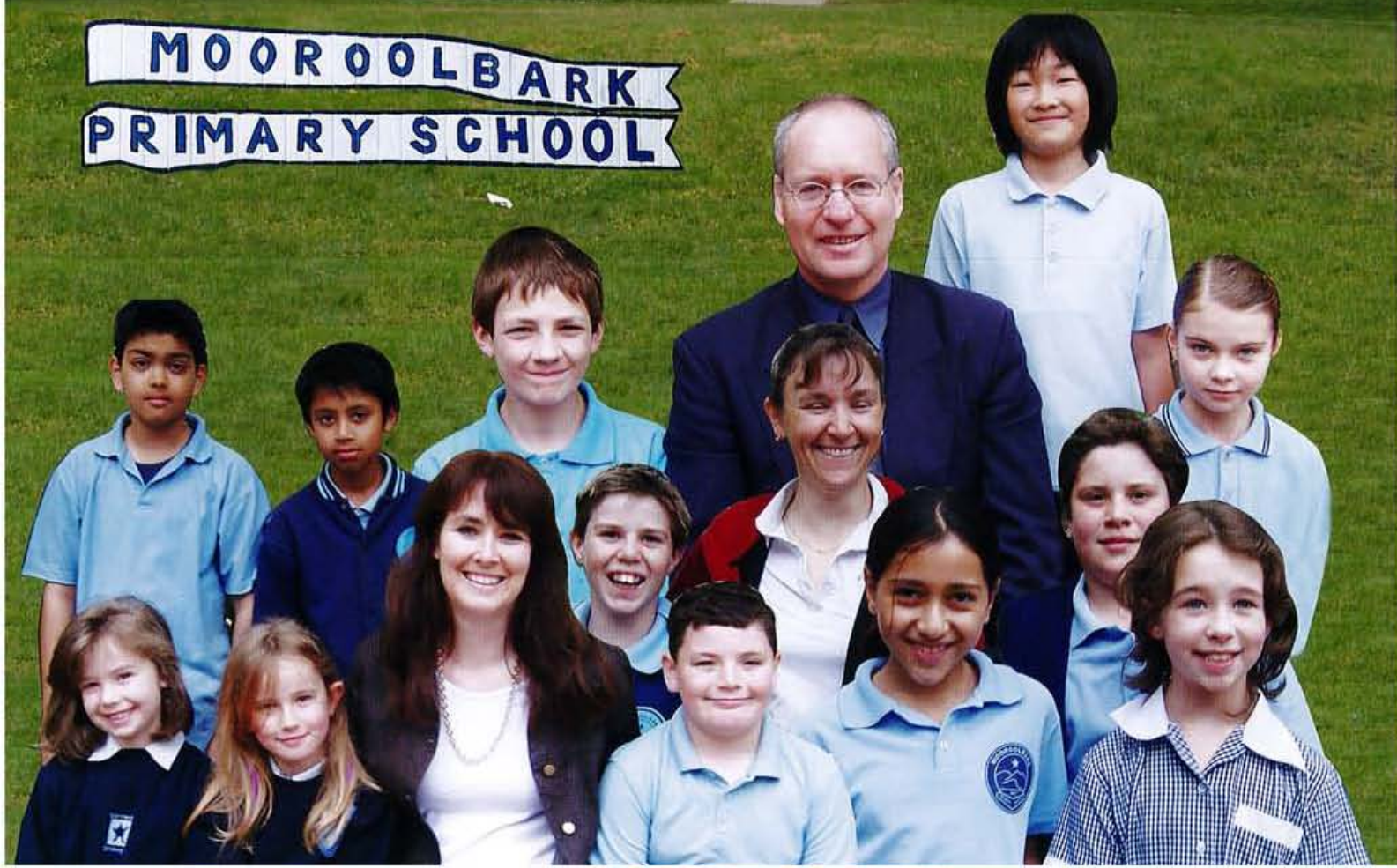
IN MOOROOLBARK/ YARRA RANGES

No.10

DECEMBER  
2004

*Thank you & farewell*

MOOROOLBARK  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Fresh Energy in Mooroolbark

In balmy spring weather on August 1 Mooroolbark's first annual Planting Day occurred!

Eighty people from diverse community groups – St Margaret's, Swinburne Uni, CWA, Leos, Lions, SPJ, MCF, Police, Traders and Pembroke Primary School – partnered to plant 700 plants in Hookey Park in little over half an hour followed by some well-earned refreshments!

At smaller follow-up plantings, additional groups—residents from St Johns Hostel and the Guides joined with the CWA and MCF again.

Thanks go to Bert Bresser's team from the Shire, who provided and sited the plants for us on each occasion. We look forward to a similar, larger event in August 2005!

Looking around Mooroolbark, I see evidence of fresh energy. Good things are happening!

Have you noticed?

Have you noticed the artwork on your left as you drive into the Community Centre? Community artist – Max – is working with, and mentoring local graffiti artists helping them contribute positively to our streetscape!

And then (on October 16) the first Clean-up Mooroolbark community working bee took place, involving many Mooroolbark residents, community groups and traders – yet another significant example of our community actively and cooperatively working to enhance our township. Well done to the Graffiti Working Group that Greg Carrick facilitates.

Following recent fundraising, the local Traders purchased a high-pressure gurney (available also to community groups) and various paint-removing compounds in a practical attempt to keep local businesses and other areas graffiti-free.



*Randall Bourchier*

In addition, one local businessman has employed some of our young people who have (in the past) contributed to the spread of graffiti. Not only that, but they also now help remove graffiti from Mooroolbark! Their example should send positive signals to local youth.

It's encouraging to see good things happening in Mooroolbark! We'd like the surge of energy to be sustained. We'd like to see stronger community-owned and generated vision emerge to better guide our efforts during the next couple of decades. We'd all like Mooroolbark to increasingly become the community we'd like it to be!

In preparation for further developing our community vision, some local residents have started the process of mapping Mooroolbark – collecting information from community groups, clubs, businesses, organizations and individuals. This is an attempt to systematically catalogue what we do well, where we duplicate one another's efforts, what we don't do as well as we might – and what we fail to do at all.

These are exciting times  
in our community

We need this information, otherwise we have little chance of knowing what initiatives we should introduce or which strengths we'd like to further develop in the next few years.

This mapping process will involve you, or at the very least, some of your neighbours. We'll be contacting groups and individuals and asking them for information about Mooroolbark. We'll collate it and check with them so that corrections, additions and changes can be made in as interactive a manner as we can, so that community networks will grow and strengthen.

The accumulated, up-to-date information will help us develop plans for Mooroolbark – plans that fit in well with the Shire's Vision 2020.

These are exciting times in our community!

Our township will be very different in the years ahead. By working together now, we can ensure that Mooroolbark becomes significantly better in the future!



The Problem...



Ready for action!



Pitching in



A job well done!

# A Master's Tale

Imagine Mooroolbark Railway Station as a busy hub for large rail shipments of produce – fruit from Doncaster and Park Orchards, vegetables, meat and dairy and manufactured goods – tubular steel furniture and spouting from as far away as Box Hill.

Andrew Bell who worked at the Station during the 40s and 50s paints such a picture. During his total of 31 years as Station Master, Mooroolbark was a district centre for freight transit because, unlike nearby suburban Croydon, it was classified as a country station.

At that time, with wife Vera and their eight children, Andrew lived in a station-owned house situated on land that now comprises the northern car park. Still standing is the huge oak tree Vera planted during the forties. Across Manchester Road was the General Store, which also provided postal services for Mooroolbark.

Andrew – whose forbears settled Gulf Station – recounts his memories of our township with good-humoured clarity.

He chuckles frequently as he recounts an amazing range of stories – shooting rabbits for dinner from outside the Station office door; collecting mushrooms from grazing



Andrew and Vera Bell

properties in Manchester Road, or milking the house cow between train arrivals; the messy pan toilet system, and its sheer overflowing inadequacy when Edna Walling hosted crowds at her Open Garden weekends; discarding accumulations of old shoes left by passengers at the station when they changed into better shoes after walking through muddy paddocks; and his humorous tale about leaving Saturday afternoon cricket games in Hookey Park to meet incoming trains whilst on duty... "Excuse me skipper, I'll be back in an over or two..."

Other recollections are more serious – the local loss of life during World War 2; the wartime internment of local Italian

vegetable growers; changing real estate values – blocks of land in Charles Street for 17 Pounds, shop sites in Brice Avenue for 25 Pounds; or the 'ins and outs' of the bread war in Mooroolbark in the 50s.

Stories of the past – like Andrew's – enhance our understanding of Mooroolbark in the present. And our imaginations are fuelled. After our conversation, it's no trouble at all to imagine Andrew standing on the Station platform looking for those elusive rabbits in the fields of Manchester Road, or sprinting back to Hookey Park to bowl his next over, or busily working maintaining the freight services that once were more important to Mooroolbark Station than our current passenger services!

Randall Bouchier

Mooroolbark Station



## From... 'Pee-wee' to World Ranking

Since he was introduced to the game of tennis as a five-year-old, Adam Hubble of Mooroolbark has nurtured a growing ambition to 'reach for the top' in his chosen sport.

Having first experienced the game while on holidays in Mildura, he immediately signed up with 'Lilydale Pee-wees' as soon as he returned home. Shortly after joining up, he began what was to become a thirteen-year period of tennis training under local coach, Alan Breese.

He participated in his first club competition at 8 years of age, and worked his way up through the various age groups. Now 18 years of age, Adam has many achievements behind him, including winning his last three tournaments and achieving an Australian junior ranking of 33. He also holds a world junior ranking place. He has represented



Adam Hubble

Australia twice in the Pizzey Cup and this year was elected team captain. Following that Cup event, he was named in the Australian Merit Team – a list of the ten best junior boys for 2004. Due to his tournament successes, Adam was invited to train at the Victorian Institute of Sport, where he now trains four days a week.

He currently plays Grade 1 Pennant with Grace Park Club in Hawthorn, but also maintains his membership with Manchester Tennis Club, where he also assists in coaching young players.

Adam, a VCE student at Mooroolbark College, hopes to gain a sports scholarship to a U.S.A. college and to study Physical Education. For now, he is most thankful for the continuing support he receives from his parents, John and Eileen, as he reaches for his special life-goals. He also gives them all the credit for helping him 'keep his feet on the ground' over these formative years.

*Living Today* in Mooroolbark commends Adam for his tenacity and dedication to his personal goals. We wish him every success in achieving all that he has his heart set on.

Doug Lewis

# The Walking School Bus to Bimbadeen Heights Primary School

Remember the 'good old days' when everyone knew who the neighbourhood kids were, when roads were less dangerous and when parents didn't have to think twice about letting their children walk to school on their own?

These days our lives are much more hectic, our roads are busier and we are more aware of the potential dangers our children face when we let them go out alone. Is there a healthy and safe alternative to personally driving our children to school every day?

Enter Bimbadeen Heights Primary School's **Walking School Bus**, the fun solution for safeguarding our children on their way to school, with the following added benefits.

- Increased physical activity, which leads to improved fitness whilst stimulating 'readiness' for learning.
- Elimination of 'stranger danger'.
- Added opportunities to learn practical road safety skills.
- Cars left at home so that we can all enjoy a cleaner environment.
- Less traffic congestion, and potential danger around the school.

So how does the **Walking School Bus** work? Each 'bus' has two adult volunteers to supervise the students. One acts as 'driver' and the other 'conductor' at the rear. Children walk to school in a group along a set route, picking up passengers along the way at designated 'bus-stops'.

These volunteer drivers and conductors complete an induction programme that includes road safety, duty of care and basic first aid. All volunteers undergo a police check.

The walking school bus is benefited when people in the local community support the program –helping to make it a success.

How can community members assist?

- Become a volunteer driver or conductor.
- Encourage children to join their local walking school bus.
- If you live along the route, take special care when exiting your driveway.
- Drive with care and child safety in mind.
- Keep your dog restrained at bus times.
- Say 'hello' to all on Bimbadeen's bus as it goes past.

Like to help? Contact Shire of Yarra ranges Walking School Bus Project Tel.1300 368 333 or Bimbadeen Heights Primary School on 97284079.

*Margaret Goldup*



*Photo: Viv Amos*

## Meet Our Urban 'Country Women'!

I'm impressed with this group of 30 active CWA women (as well as two 'juniors') who are part of the largest womens' organisation in the world (the Associated Country Women of the World).

After having sat through a meeting recently in order to get some idea of what these ladies actually 'do', I came away wondering 'what didn't they do?' As well as contributing to the N.E. Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund, the South Pacific Relief Fund, regularly contributing to the Chernobyl, Guyana and Bangladesh Relief Funds, these women have rolled up their sleeves and gotten stuck into a whole swag of local projects, which include:



Yearly Scholarships given to a Year 9/10 student from both Pembroke Secondary and Mooroolbark Secondary Colleges, supporting the Treasured Babies (SIDS) shop in Mooroolbark Terrace, catering for the Disabled Peoples' Company Christmas Dinner and for the Seniors Week luncheon, active involvement in planning our Celebrate Mooroolbark weekend, liaising with Yarra Ranges Community Health, fundraising for Ovarian Cancer, the S.E.C., the Asthma Foundation and the Mooroolbark Fire Brigade. Their Welfare Fund is available for those in need due to severe crises and hardship (do you remember a very sick little boy called Zac? Our CWA Branch also made a difference to him and his family at this time!)

The Mooroolbark CWA has just celebrated 48 years of active involvement and service to the community, offering a wide range of activities that promote friendships and develop the individual skills and interests of its members. It also supports state and national competitions and fundraising events, and encourages interest in local and international affairs.

So, if you've still got plenty of 'oomph' left, the Mooroolbark CWA would love to see your smiling and friendly face in their midst!

**Meetings:** Second Monday of each month at 1.00pm

**Venue:** Uniting Church Hall, Hull Road, Mooroolbark.

**Craft Group:** Third Wednesday each month from 9.30am–2pm

**Venue:** Uniting Church Hall, Hull Road, Mooroolbark.

*Mary Bourchier*

# Farewell to Mooroolbark



## FAREWELL EVENING 10th December

*Open Invitation to the Community*

**ALL WELCOME**

6.30 pm B.Y.O. Picnic on the Oval

8.00 pm Walk through the School

9.00 pm Fireworks

It was a sad day when the Council at Mooroolbark Primary School took the heavy decision to recommend the closing of the school at the end of this year. Faced with an ageing population in the area, the school's

generations of families that have been part of the life of the school and to the wider Mooroolbark community to join in saying farewell and sharing the inevitable sadness that accompanies any loss.



### The Positive Side

Philip is keen to highlight the positives that have emerged for the children concerned. And much has been done to smooth the transition. First and foremost, it provides them with greater opportunities that come with larger schools such as Manchester PS & Pembroke PS, where most will find their new home – increased staffing, wider programmes and support, extra facilities – opportunities they haven't had before. The staff at Mooroolbark Primary are also focused on the children's emotional needs and the handling of the transition process, with visits and time spent at their new schools before the end of this year. Parents have been able to freely visit the surrounding schools and experience a warm and sympathetic welcome before making a final selection for their children.

difficult location right on one of the busiest intersections next to the business district, and the prospect of an enrolment of only 50 next year, there was little choice but to set the feelings of the heart aside for the good of the children and families involved. So on 14 December, School No. 4417, 'the School at the Five Ways', will say farewell to the last of the thousands of students that have trod its grounds and classrooms over the 76 years from 1928.

As part of the fabric of Mooroolbark's life and history, the absence of what was once Mooroolbark's only school will be deeply felt across the whole community. That is why the Principal, Philip Nye, and the School Council have planned a special Farewell Evening on 10 December (see box for details). The school is extending a warm invitation to the



# Primary School

## And Giving

The many resources the school has accumulated over the years will be largely distributed around the other Mooroolbark schools. For instance, the Education Department's Regional Office is looking at the prospect of moving the historic Charles Allen Room containing the school's Honour Board to a neighbouring school. And in an act of genuine giving, on the 9th December on their trip to Gruyere Primary School in the Yarra Valley, each child will



take a box of books as a present for the children there. Other resources will go to the area's travelling van, which serves eleven small schools in the Yarra Valley. And much of the school furniture will find its way to Yarra Rd Primary School.

So while Mooroolbark Primary's presence will be surely missed, its heritage will linger long in the life of the Mooroolbark community.

*Terry Villiers*

## A Brief History of Mooroolbark PS

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1868    | Mooroolbark's first school (No. 958) opened at Black Springs.  |
| 1878    | School moved to Brushy Creek (No. 1992) - later called Croydon Nth.  |
| 1928    | Mooroolbark State School No. 4417 opens on Oct 1st. Mrs Jean Duff Head Teacher. 19 students.                         |
| 1930-36 | Mr George Bailey, permanent Head Teacher. Student numbers between 20 and 43.   |
| 1935    | Dec. - School building completed & occupied at present site.   |
| 1936    | Feb 18th Official opening.   |
| 1954-64 | Years of expansion. Mr David Melven, Head Teacher. Enrolment rises from 120 to 640. School grows from 3 rooms to 15. |
| 1969    | Enrolment peaks at 788.  |
| 1971-72 | More classrooms and library added.   |
| 1973    | Enrolment begins to decline with the expansion of other schools in the area.   |
| 1982    | Sept 29th School fire destroys original building.  |
| 1983    | Enrolment below 400.   |
| 1989    | Enrolment below 300.   |
| 1993    | Enrolment below 200.   |
| 2004    | School closes with enrolment in the 70s.   |

# Coping with Loss and Change

As Mooroolbark faces the loss of one of its historic schools, many will struggle with the change and the grieving that accompanies it. At some stage of our lives, all of us will struggle with grief. It can come with a deeply traumatic loss. It can strike over apparently insignificant changes. Even seemingly positive events can evoke feelings of grief.

Grief is, in fact, a normal and healthy response to the loss of any significant person, object, or opportunity. It's about how we react to and deal with loss and change, regardless of whether it's positive or negative.

The most common kind of grief is what we simply call disappointment. This can be deep and intense over a single issue, or can be felt dozens of times a day over a whole range of events or circumstances.

So when we experience grief, are we prepared for it and are we allowed - by those around us or ourselves - to express the feelings and emotions that are part of our working through grief? Are we expected to mourn briefly and quietly and not to make others feel uncomfortable? Are we thought of as coping well when we show no emotion and pretty much get on with things as usual?

Jesus knows what it's like to suffer and grieve, to be overwhelmed by emotions and to need the love, comfort and support of loved ones. The

Bible reveals Him as a man well acquainted with suffering and sorrow - his own and others. He doesn't want us to endure our losses, pain, fear and agony alone.

"Cast the whole of your care - all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all - on Him; for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully." (1 Peter 5:7. Amplified Bible)

We need that care because all of us at some time will struggle with grief.

"Grief is not something that we seek or grasp eagerly," notes Gary Collins, psychologist and counsellor. "It comes without warning, is received reluctantly, and can only be conquered when it is faced honestly with divine help and with the support of other human beings."

The sharing and the expressing of our grief is both helpful and healthy. Just a shoulder to lean or cry on is often all we need. We should feel free to seek or offer that shoulder in times like these.

*Adapted from "Facing Grief" by Simone Worthing, originally published in The Plain Truth (Australasian Edition) July-August 1997.*



Terry Villiers

## HOLLYWOOD AWARDS S.P.J.E. REVUE

Hollywood Awards was the title of the recent St Peter Julian Eymard Parish Revue at the Karralyka Theatre. Both the matinee and evening performances of this variety show on Saturday 23rd October were greeted with popular and critical acclaim.



The Sheik

The three hour spectacular showcased the talented performers from the SPJE community as well as a few friends who joined in the fun. Cast, band and crew numbered in excess of sixty, as well as a very popular contingent from SPJE School who performed four numbers from their recent hit show 'To Become a Musketeer'.

Able directed by Ann O'Connor, this year's revue saw a revival of the extremely popular shows held annually in the 80's and early 90's. Ann praised the dedication, creativity and enthusiasm of her production team and the entire cast and crew who had worked so hard for the past 5 months, rehearsing and building very professional-looking sets to bring the show to fruition.

The show included opening and closing production numbers, musical acts, comedy skits and recitations, song and dance routines and a good old-fashioned melodrama, complete with villains and heroes, booing and hissing. The audience however will have to return next year to see how Spy Cam and Undercover Girl fare in their quest



A couple of swells

to solve the Mystery of the Missing Plant and whether Doctor Yates' evil plan can be foiled.

Parish Priest, Fr Andrew Jekot, who had a small but stand-out role in the production, congratulated everyone involved in a fantastic show and a wonderful community-building exercise.

Rumour has it that ideas are already being tossed around for next year's show!

Rosemary Cullinan

### Carols Services

#### St Margaret's Uniting Church

7.00 pm Christmas Eve  
Children's Service

9:30 am Christmas Day



Life Ministry Centre  
Chirnside Park

Combined Churches Carols Service

7.00 pm Sunday 12th December



## FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

IT'S ALL ABOUT  
**ME-OW!**

**GARFIELD**



All welcome. Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre Friday 21st Jan 2005 for our next free family film night.

### **GARFIELD The Movie**

Our plan is a 'movie under the stars' event (weather permitting) so the scheduled movie-time is after 8:30pm.

### **BBQ in the park.**

Everyone is invited to come along at 7:30 to share in our 'family budget' BBQ meal.

- Sausage in bread and cordial or tea/coffee \$1.00
- Free ice-creams to follow

### **See ya there!**

Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship  
– Serving our community

## World Junior Champion

### – Teams Pursuit



*Simon Clarke, with his  
World Champion jersey and medal*

Simon Clarke, a year 12 student at Billanook College, has recently been making his mark in the world of international bike-racing. Simon's results in the Australian National Championships

this year earned him a place in Australian team for the World Junior championships. Having made the team, he was given the opportunity to compete in both the 'track' and the 'road' events.

His participation in these events began with three weeks of training in Sydney, a further two weeks in Los Angeles and then on to Italy where he stayed at the Australian Institute of Sport facilities for a period of eight weeks. He was one of a team of four who won the Junior Teams Pursuit event. He also came 13th out of a field of 180 in the road-racing championship.

Simon's intense interest in cycling was initially aroused when he took part in 'The Great Victorian Bike Ride' when he was in year 7 at school. His goals for the immediate future include gaining a place in the A.I.S for next year and working towards earning a place in the under 21 Squad – returning to Italy with that group in 2005. In the future, he would like to complete a Bachelor of Commerce degree, majoring in Sports administration and Sports Reporting.

We congratulate Simon and wish him every success in his endeavours.

*Doug. Lewis*

## Social Planning

### Shire of Yarra Ranges

Hi, my name is Alison Williams. I am the Social Planner at the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

At the moment I am working on a Housing Strategy and Action Plan. The Shire developed a Housing Policy back in 2000, and now we need to work out how we are going to achieve the objectives outlined in this policy. We also have to plan for the current and future population in the Shire. The State Government estimates that even if we have no population growth in Yarra Ranges, we will still require an additional 11,000 houses by 2030. We need to know where we are going to put all these extra houses.

We have done a fair bit of work on the Housing Strategy, including public consultations, but there is still opportunity to have your say by providing feedback on the Housing Issues Paper.

If you are interested in shaping the face of housing in the Shire in the long term and you want to have a say on where housing is located, what it looks like, who it is for and how affordable it is then this is a real opportunity to have your say.

#### *How do you do this?*

Look up the Shire's website – the Housing Issues Paper will be online under 'News & your views' during December, January and February. Read it and provide feedback on it in a short letter or email or a full-length submission.

If you don't have access to the internet, your can get a copy from your nearest Shire of Yarra Ranges service centre, or phone the Shire for a copy.



*Alison Williams*

If you belong to a group that has a particular interest in this topic, and you want to have your feedback included in the Housing Strategy, call me to talk about how.

For more information on how the Housing Strategy and Action Plan is being developed, who has been involved so far, what the Shire's Housing Policy is or any other questions you have, please look up the Shire's website at [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au), or contact Alison Williams or Graham Bower on 1300 368 333.

# From Mooroolbark Traders Association *Annette Archer*



## LA'RENE FOR NAIL AND BEAUTY

Irene, salon owner and therapist, has lived in the Mooroolbark area for over 35 years. In the last 12 years she has operated her business in several locations but has now been situated at shop 2 / 91 Brice Avenue since May this year.

Irene's salon specialises in make-up for weddings, 'debs' and other special occasions and also offers solarium and spray-tanning. Nail-technician, Donna specialises in 'New-age gel nails', manicures and pedicures. Irene's daughter, Megan, provides massage therapy – relaxation / sports therapy, etc.

La'Rene' for Nail and Beauty is open 5 days per week and promises a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Tel 9727 3656.

## From Kent to Mooroolbark

Warren Tewkesbury, who was born and raised in Kent, England, enjoyed a number of visits to Australia with his family as he was growing up. When his parents moved to Mooroolbark in 1996 (where his mother, Bev, established her clothing business *Once Loved* in Manchester Road), Warren and wife Julie began to think about making a similar move.

Last year, they decided the time was right and Warren resigned from his job in the shares department of Rothschild's Bank to head for Australia. His plan was to take a new work-direction in his life, setting up his own business as Mum had done.

Warren's love for dogs led him to establish his mobile dog-grooming service – *Distinctive Dogs*. He enjoys combining his life-interest with earning a living. His colourful trailer contains all of the very latest accessories associated with the dog-grooming trade. Warren is always contactable on 0405 550 000.

We wish Warren and Julie every success in their new life in our community.



Warren Tewkesbury  
and his dobermann Zeus

## Update on Paul Smith – our intrepid cyclist



Local resident and nurse at Maroondah Hospital, Paul Smith continues his amazing work for sufferers of cystic fibrosis through his marathon bike-riding feats.

Three years ago, Paul set out to ride to Mooroolbark from every state and territory capital. As this edition of *Living Today* in Mooroolbark goes to press, he is completing the last challenge – Perth to Mooroolbark.

We heartily congratulate Paul and his supporters on this amazing effort and their total commitment to helping people who are going through difficult times with cystic fibrosis. Well done Paul!

To make donations to this cause, please contact Gary Paddock at 'Spokes' bicycle shop on Manchester Road or contact Gary on Tel 9726 5224.

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

Supporting The Local Community.

## Mooroolbark Community Cops



*Sergeants Rod Luke and Glenn Harris*

Our local police provide services which extend well beyond our immediate Mooroolbark area. The work of day-shift officers reaches as far as Seville and Kalorama whilst the night-shift staff also covers the Yarra Valley as far out as Warburton and Donna Buang.

In addition, the night-shift supervises co-ordination of services throughout the Yarra Ranges area. A big job indeed.

With such a large and diverse area being covered, it can be quite difficult to avoid the provision of policing services becoming quite impersonal – a concern often expressed.

To help address this matter, specific response groups, known as 'Community Cops Scene' have been assigned to Mooroolbark, Kilsyth and Lilydale. This allows, where possible, for the same officers to be assigned to whatever needs may arise within their designated community area. Part of their brief is to get to know members of the local community on a personal basis.

Where possible they also get involved in local activities to help in the work of building relationships. A good example of this involvement was the attendance of local officers at our recent community tree-planting day in Hookey Park. After the event, three of the 'community cops' spent some time kicking a football around with some of the children present. The experience was greatly enjoyed by all.

We thank our local police officers for the high level of commitment they demonstrate to our community and to their vital role within it.

'Community Cops Scene' can be contacted on our local police number. Tel. 9725 9999

(Having a celebration at home? Ask about the police 'party safe register').

For all emergency situations – please ring "000".

*Barry Austin*

## Australian Red Cross – Serving our Community

Ask Ted Clarke how he became involved in the Red Cross and he will tell you with a twinkle in his eye that he 'got conned' by his wife who had been attending meetings in the Hoddles Creek unit. Retired from the Gas and Fuel Company where he had been a plumbing inspector, not quite 60 and with time on his hands, he became so involved with the Red Cross that he was eventually elected as chairman of the Hoddles Creek Unit for seven years and the Energy Services Liaison Officer (ESLO). He has now trained someone else to take over this position and he is the deputy ESLO.

The Australian Red Cross provides over 60 community services in Australia ranging from blood supplies and disaster services to first aid training and tracing refugee services. Internationally, there is a wide range of development and emergency programs run by the Australian Red Cross. They assist and help to alleviate the suffering of victims of conflict and disaster.

The Red Cross is our prime agency charged with providing food needs, should a disaster occur. They have a carefully prepared and detailed plan which springs into action whenever they are asked (usually by police) to respond. The plan, which involves a number of fast-food companies and supermarket stores, calls for food to be gathered and ready to transport to the disaster site within one hour of receiving notice. They can usually do this within half an hour. An amazing response indeed!

The Red Cross is also noted for its First Aid training sessions. Teams are currently being trained for the 2006 Commonwealth Games and a sign of the times is that First Aid Teams are being trained for potential terrorist attacks.



*Ted and Joan Clark*

Ted's area is Region 13, which covers the Shire of Yarra Ranges, the City of Knox and Maroondah. A large area to cover and all voluntary. When asked why he does it, his answer is simply, "I wanted something to keep my mind active and it is very satisfying and rewarding being able to help someone in need."

Like to know more? Tel. Freecall 1800246 850 / Web: [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

*Barbara Austin*

## 6th Annual Billy-Cart Grand Prix



Getting Ready for the Start

This year 56 teams (504 competitors) took part at the Lilydale Academy Grand Prix. It was a grand affair indeed with a huge crowd in attendance.

This very popular day is designed to be a fun occasion for all ages. Competitors this year ranged from three years of age to an open (adult) section. The 'local services race' involving Police, SES and the Fire Brigade, was a highlight.

As well as prizes for the races there are awards for the best dressed competitors. During the lunch-break there was a special performance by local band – *Mayday*.

All interested schools are invited to participate in next year's event. The Grand Prix is sponsored and supported by the Lions Club of Mooroolbark.

*Peter Higgins*



Rolling Hills Primary School Team, The Ghost Busters

## Celebrate Mooroolbark



Exciting plans are now underway for the fourth year of **Celebrate Mooroolbark** on March 19, 2005. The Festival aims to celebrate all that is good about the Mooroolbark Region and it's people through a day of community focused activities and events. The theme for **Celebrate Mooroolbark** in 2005 is 'The Circus'.

The Committee is currently seeking applications from Community Groups, Schools, Artists, Musicians and Trader groups in the Mooroolbark-Kilsyth-Lilydale region who wish to contribute to and participate in the day. Celebrate Mooroolbark will be launched on Friday March 18 with a free Family Film Night from 7.30 p.m.

On Saturday March 19, the Festival day will feature the popular Community Marketplace, a Combined

Church Service and the Mooroolbark Community Bank Stage with performances from many of our wonderful local schools. The annual Foot Parade, with its Circus theme will be colourful and exciting, and will involve several of our local schools.

The day will conclude with a Community Picnic complete with performances from David Cassel and Abigail Collins in *'All That Glitters'* and *'Circus Ethiopia'* from 5.00 pm onwards.

**Celebrate Mooroolbark** is proudly supported by the Shire of Yarra Ranges, the Mooroolbark Community Bank and the Lion's Club of Mooroolbark.

Please contact Sharon Turner at Mooroolbark Community Centre on 9726 5488 or [s.turner@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.turner@yarraranges.vic.gov.au).

*Sharon Turner*

## Christmas Carols In Mooroolbark

Presented by the Lions Club of Mooroolbark

7.30pm Friday 10 December 2004

Hookey Park Rotunda

Compere: Mr Andrew Conway

Supported by the Combined Churches of Mooroolbark



Featuring:

- The Croydon Citizens Brass Band
- Rolling Hills Primary School Choir
- Bimbadeen Heights Primary School Band & Choir

## Living Today in Mooroolbark

### Production

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

**Editor:** Doug Lewis

### Publication

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### Distribution

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**Printing** – Publication Perspectives

### 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](mailto: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.