

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK / YARRA RANGES

No.11

MARCH 2005



tennis



alive & well in mooroolbark



Mooroolbark-
Let's Do It

The Tsunami & Us

Celebrate

Mooroolbark 2005

Mooroolbark - Let's Do It!

Life is fragile. The recent Asian Tsunami underscored our physical frailty in a sad and shocking manner! Global conflict, terrorism, road tragedy, sickness – all serve to remind us of our vulnerability. But in addition such events also remind us of our universal need for comfort, help, support and encouragement from one another. Recently we've all witnessed unprecedented levels of public generosity as Australians have responded to the dire needs of neighbouring countries ravaged by the tsunami disaster. Many have gone without, in order to give financial support to others. Some people have even commented that their faith in humanity has been restored by such outstanding examples of generosity. Communities in affected nations have responded with gratitude.

But financial generosity on its own is powerless to help or to achieve lasting benefits. Rather, financial help only makes a difference in the hands of ordinary people who give of their time to help others. Ordinary people who respond to the challenge and opportunity to care for others. In their hands, financial help is put to work in useful ways -obtaining and distributing food, rescuing stranded people, treating the sick and injured, caring for the homeless, providing emergency clothing or sanitation...

In other words, governments and aid-giving organizations operate effectively only through people!

In December's Living Today in Mooroolbark I wrote about the evidence of fresh energy in Mooroolbark. I highlighted examples of ordinary Mooroolbark residents helping in ways that improve our township through simple, practical activities such as planting shrubs in Hookey Park or removing graffiti from public spaces.

But, in addition, Mooroolbark is continually well served by those who

“... governments and aid-giving organisations operate effectively only ... through people”

voluntary work done each week by the Scouts, Guides, CWA, CFA, SES, Red cross, St John's Ambulance, Elderly Citizens, Disabled People's Company...

And what about the helpful work of those serving on school councils and



Local Guides



Graffiti Clean-Up

give freely of their time on a daily or weekly basis. People whose help and care for others is often unseen and unsung! For example, the Lions and Leos clubs continue to support needy people within the community, and quietly initiate projects that make living in Mooroolbark more attractive. Look around the new playground in the park next to the Community Centre for a fine example of one such recent project!

And I'd need entire issues of this magazine to attempt to describe the

committees, in church congregations, sporting clubs, support groups, trader organizations, hobby clubs, cultural and artistic societies?

We are very fortunate to have so many volunteers committed to our well-being and welfare in Mooroolbark!

I hope that, as residents, we are not only grateful for what others provide for us, but also personally challenged to help others, because of the caring example of such volunteers.

Recently, a group of local residents formed MAP Mooroolbark. This group is committed to collecting information about Mooroolbark, and to promoting our awareness of what is available in our town. That way, future planning can be tailored to better meet our needs by building on existing strengths and planning for eliminating inefficiencies

charge or at very low cost. Celebrations will begin with an under the stars screening of a family movie- 'Around the World in 80 Days' on Friday evening March 18. Tickets can be booked at the Community Centre or by phoning the Centre on 9726 5488.

On the Saturday, events lead off inside the Community Centre at 9am, with a

Army band and local schools and musicians.

During the afternoon local primary school students and residents can participate in a colourful foot parade reflecting this year's circus theme. In the late afternoon, the day will conclude with an outdoor family picnic coinciding with the concluding performances on the community stage.

Starting at 7.30pm, a youth oriented FREEZA concert inside the Community Centre will bring the 2005 Celebrate Mooroolbark to a close.

Thankfully, because so many ordinary people are actively involved in contributing to our community life in such diverse, practical ways, Mooroolbark increasingly reflects vibrancy, energy and optimism. Whoever we are, we can do our part to swell this positive momentum by volunteering personal time to help some of our local community groups.

At the very least, we can support community events such as Celebrate Mooroolbark through our attendance and our encouragement of those working hard on our behalf! Mooroolbark will continue to thrive as a community, when ordinary people – people like you and me – commit to being cooperatively involved in giving our time and talents to one another!

Mooroolbark, let's do it!

And if you're stuck for ideas about how you could help out in our township, please call me at the Living Today in Mooroolbark office – 9726 8898. ■

Written by
Randall Bouchier



Beautification Project

Primary School Mentors



Our
Community
Centre

"We are very fortunate to have so many volunteers committed to our well-being and welfare in Mooroolbark!"

or duplications in services. Another group of residents has been busily planning for this year's Celebrate Mooroolbark to be held in and around our Community Centre on March 18-19. We're looking forward to seeing many Mooroolbark residents enjoying a variety of activities and refreshments that will be presented either free of

combined church service involving Mooroolbark church congregations. Between 10am and 4pm, an outside community market place will host stalls selling local produce, refreshments and handicrafts. Other stalls will promote various community organizations.

Inside, the Community Centre Gymbaroo will celebrate 25 years of educational achievement with special activities and a concert for children. Throughout the day an outdoor stage will host performances from groups as diverse as Pastel Vespa, Blue Turban Percussion, the Mooroolbark Salvation



When it Comes to Tennis Mooroolbark is Well Served



Tennis enthusiasts in Mooroolbark are extremely well catered for by the two vibrant clubs that have been formed in our neighbourhood. Both clubs offer a wide range of competitive and social tennis opportunities for people of all ages. Beginners programs start at around 10 – 11 years of age and every level of competition, as well as social tennis, is offered throughout the year in both junior and senior

ranks. A comprehensive week-night competition serves those who prefer this playing time. Club coaching is available at all levels in both clubs.

Manchester Heights features an annual “Club Round-Robin” involving singles, doubles and mixed groups. It also offers a social evening for all-comers on the last Saturday of each month. A special feature at Mooroolbark is the

strongly active social group in the 45 years and up age-bracket. Members of this group are exuberant about the many benefits of participation in their social games and activities.

Each club extends a warm welcome to anyone wishing to come along and see what their group has to offer. They suggest, “Why not come along and give it a try!”

MOOROOLBARK TENNIS CLUB

MANCHESTERHEIGHTS TENNIS CLUB



Lin Williams with Pat & Des Cumerford

Still playing in their eighties !

Lin travels from Heathmont to play at Mooroolbark because, he says, “It’s the best club around.”

Pat has personally won over 20 flags, including one at the Inaugural Masters, at Melbourne Park in 2001

Des & Pat are life-members at Mooroolbark T.C.



Sean Hart

Sean Hart has served as president of Manchester Heights Tennis Club for 8 years. He approaches it as very much a “hands-on” job - being involved in all aspects of the club.

Having commenced playing tennis himself at eleven years of age - tennis has always been a big part of his life.

update on adam hubble

In our last edition we introduced local 18-year-old rising star, Adam Hubble. Since that time Adam has succeeded in gaining the World Single Title in the Australian Amateur Open. This event was staged at Melbourne Park during the 2nd week of the Australian Open. Congratulations Adam! – Well done!



A Local Auxiliary of
the Royal Children's Hospital

let the children play

Let The Children Play was founded in Mooroolbark on June 3rd 1995. The group consists of young professionals and family members. It's primary focus is that of raising funds to support the play-therapy department. It aims to help make hospitalization a positive experience for children by providing facilities for activity and play.

The materials are selected for their capacity to facilitate and to foster growth and development as well as provide fun. Members involve themselves in a wide variety of

social and fund-raising activities, including running a stall at the hospital. Vital to their success in reaching their goals is the generous support received from within the community. Any contributions of new toys, wooden hand-made articles, knitted garments, etc, are always gratefully received and are always acknowledged by the auxiliary head office.

This year "Let the Children Play" will be holding a stall at our local festival "Celebrate Mooroolbark" on March 19th. On behalf of the local

group, president, Rosalie Panascwycz cordially invites interested persons to come along and "join in the fun". They would love your company.

Rosalie can be contacted on 9726 8889.

Rosalie Panascwycz



Croydon Citizens' Three Bands

Written by Barry Austin

Croydon Citizens' Brass Band

Band No.1, which is now one of three bands, was formed in 1962. At that time it held rehearsals at the Croydon Library and would perform in Croydon on Saturday mornings to publicise the fledgling group. In 1971 the band performed in public on no less than twenty occasions and won its first contest at the La Trobe Valley Eistedfod. The organisation was then expanded by the formation of the Croydon Concert Band.

Rehearsals Tuesdays p.m.
Contact Ian Douglas Ph: 9729 1508

Croydon Concert Band

(Band No. 2) was formed in 1972 as an additional ensemble. By 1973 this Concert Band had been in existence for two years and had a membership of about fifty people. The Concert Band acts as a training group for the Wind Symphony Band and aims to attract younger players. It is particularly interested in hearing from year 12 students at local secondary colleges - looking to continue their music after the school year ends.

Rehearsals Tuesdays p.m.
Contact Phillip Lucas Ph: 9879 5202

Croydon Wind Symphony

The Croydon Wind Symphony (Band No.3) is very well known throughout the country. This second concert band was formed in 1988. It has supported the Brass Band through the years and has been instrumental in keeping the organisation going.

Rehearsals Wednesdays p.m.
Contact David, Ph: 0407 569 803
or Andrew, Ph: 0411 430 885



For further
information, visit the
Croydon Citizens'
Bands website at
www.ccb.org.au

Pictured Left: Croydon
Wind Symphony, 1998

all buffed up



Leanne Smith & Vanessa Chirnside

Leanne Smith is a local girl (ex Mooroolbark College) who has always had a keen interest in Beauty-salon work. After eight years of working in this field, she has now achieved her ambition of opening her own salon. Her good friend and colleague, **Vanessa Chirnside**, has come alongside to help share the challenge of bringing Leanne's dream to a reality. Being a "local",

Leanne felt that she could see a need for this type of business in our area.

Services include nails, waxing, facials, make-up, spray tan, massage & sports massage. (Massage therapist, Jenna Elliot, is welcomed as a new member of the team)

All Buffed Up offers services for

guys as well, specialising in Max's & Peak Body Sports Supplements, B'dazzled Teeth whitening system, etc.

The girls say, "Come along and see Leanne for that special beauty touch, and Vanessa for those nails you've always wanted.

Best wishes girls!

TRADERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Traders' Association is pleased to introduce and welcome the following new business owners in Mooroolbark. We wish them every success in establishing and building their services to our community.

Ray White Mooroolbark

The Ray White office in Brice Ave is a very familiar sight to us all, but as of January 18th the new owner is Keith Beresford. We congratulate Keith on this venture and wish him

well in the process of putting his own special mark on the business. Whilst the ownership has changed, much else remains the same. Keith and the team have all worked in this office for some years. When given the opportunity to keep the team together they all opted to do so.

"The old team – making a fresh start" is the way they see it. They have each lived in Mooroolbark for many years and enjoy working together and the opportunity to work in the local area.

Keith is pleased to be able to offer, "the substantial backing of the Ray White Organisation with the personal touch that his team takes pride in.

Best wishes Keith!



Sue, Keith & Diana. Other members are Robert, Angie & Ruth

Mooroolbark Community Bank™ Branch  Bendigo Bank

Supporting The Local Community.

celebrate mooroolbark 2005

'life is a circus'



Images from
Celebrate
Mooroolbark 2004:
'Hidden Treasure'

CELEBRATE
MOOROOLBARK
(INCLUDING
FREEZA) IS
A DRUG &
ALCOHOL FREE
FAMILY EVENT

Sharon Turner Program Supervisor /Mooroolbark
Community Centre Ph: 9726 5374

FRIDAY
MARCH 18TH

The Launch Off Party

Gather under the stars for a free family film "Around the World in 80 Days" (the remake).

Games & Sausage Sizzle from 7:30 pm.

Screening 8:30 p.m. Ring 9726 5488 to book.

SATURDAY
MARCH 19TH

Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival Day

The festival brings together a fun day of free and low cost activities for an exciting day out.

9:00 AM Combined Church service and community morning tea.

10:00 AM **Community Stage Performances** by talented locals throughout the day.

Festival Market Place: A diverse mix of community orientated organisations giving an awareness of services offered, selling of art/craft items, demonstrations including abseiling by Mooroolbark Scouts.

Gymbaroo celebration concert (25th anniversary)

Free **games** and activities for younger children, **food stalls**, circus theme **foot-parade** ...

and much more!

4:00 PM **Party Time:** Community celebration in the parklands around the Community Centre. Entertainment by **Pastel Vespa** - a Brazilian Gypsy Band, and **Blue Turban Percussion** - from West Africa. Bring your picnic meal or support the Lion's Club BBQ.

7.30 PM **Freeza Event:** An all-ages gig featuring some of Melbourne's hottest alternative bands. Phone Shire Youth Services on 9726 6716 for more info.

The Museum of Lillydale

The Museum of Lillydale, in Castella St., is one of Victoria's premier small museums. As well as offering exhibition on a variety of different themes the Museum also has a great collection of local history and photographs from communities across the Yarra Ranges including, of course, Mooroolbark.

The Melba exhibition includes some of the Museum's most precious items and treasures from private collections. They include an exquisite hand painted silk scroll, letters from the diva herself and an enormous hat box she used in her travels.

Exhibitions at the Museum change regularly and current exhibitions include Hilton Hunts for A Home - an exhibition about Victoria's state bird the helmeted honeyeater, and Bedrooms and Backyards - a glimpse of Australian childhood from the 20s to 50s. As well we have an Arthur Streeton painting of the Cave Hill Quarry at Lillydale and unusual crafts and embroidered works such as a wildflowers picture made completely of postage stamps nearly 100 years ago.

Visitors to the Museum include tourists and Melba buffs as well as local people researching their family

history or the history of their house. There are always new items being brought to the attention of the museum matters of historical interest that we find out to add to our archives.

Elizabeth Downes.



Why not pay us a visit?

The Museum is open from 11-4pm Wednesday to Sunday. There is no charge.

The Tsunami and Us



By **Terry Villiers**

The overwhelming tragedy of the Boxing Day tsunami that spilled across our TV screens touched us in a unique way. Whether it was a tragedy like no other we have seen before, or our utter helplessness before such a force of nature, or that it touched such a variety of peoples and places, it has certainly reached into the hearts of peoples across the globe as no other in living memory.

The enormity of the devastation is mind challenging – so many countries, so many communities, so many people. Just one more eye witness account from a locally based volunteer in Indonesia early on in the piece, that highlights the early difficulties in providing appropriate help.

“We met with many volunteers who

had great spirits. They mostly came by themselves or without carrying the name of institutions. But like us, they were surprised by the facts they met on the scene of the tragedy. They practically could do nothing: no cars to take them to Aceh, no trucks to go to the refugees, and soon their own supplies ran out. They then became the same as the refugees, sleeping at the airport waiting for their turn to fly out and asking for logistics from the crisis centre at the airport...

“The difficult situation caused many people to come without preparation for leaving again. Many came back again, many went home overwhelmed by a sense of helplessness. This actually caused the

refugees, military and some volunteers to

be annoyed. While they are sad, tired and trying to restore the city with limited ability, some people come to look, take photos and then leave. They cannot be blamed, some of them are really trying to gather information on the situation in Aceh, then coordinate so that they may enter the field prepared – entering unprepared is actually dangerous. But we also can understand the feelings of the people in Aceh that these people seem to be just doing a tour of the disaster area. This is why many now say not to come unless you have heavy equipment transport and facilities that at least are enough for ones-self.” And later on:

“What you see here on the ground is unbelievable. Even though we had heard the death toll in Aceh was 95,000 before



Tsunami Survivors



Remains of a Sri Lanka School



Survival Aid - Indonesia

coming, it has to be much more. It is now 15 days since the quake & tsunami and there are still many, many thousands of bodies everywhere. We see mass graves being dug and bodies put in 3 deep.

We saw them pull up the body of a pregnant woman. She was caught under a truck. This was 5km from the coast. Just nearby are several large boats. One boat maybe 60 ft long. And there are several more ‘parked’ around the city.

“I am overwhelmed at what we can see, but what we can’t see is so much worse. We can see where 10,000 lived in one town - it is gone, wiped clean. Inland, spread out over several kilometres, it looks

like a swamp with twisted cars, shattered houses, mangled electricity poles and hidden bodies yet to be retrieved and counted. This scene is repeated in hundreds of other places. When you see this you know a death toll of 100,000 is far too small. It would have to be 200,000. Or even many more.

“The stench is sickening but the teams pulling out the bodies are heroes. How can they keep doing it? But they must. For the sake of the living they must.”

Here in Mooroolbark although we are in one sense “a world away” from this, globally this is next door. So we are not untouched by the unfolding scale of the tragedy. It

has been moving to see an outpouring of genuine, world wide generosity and caring – itself a tidal wave that has pushed governments and corporations to rise to the occasion and meet the expectations of their communities. It is a unique testimony to the good in the human spirit, that so many from so many nations have given with a deep felt desire to see those affected helped and comforted in effective ways.

Spontaneous Generosity

From the time the various aid agencies such as Red Cross International, World Vision, Care, Oxfam and others responded with special appeals, it has been both amazing and heartwarming to see the

ongoing spontaneous giving across the board. A community spirit has emerged in a way that has hardly been seen since the dark days of World War II – a time well beyond most of our memories.

“While we contemplate on the one hand the awful loss of life and suffering as well as the vast destruction the tsunami brought, we cannot help but be moved by the giving, the helping hands, the ready response it generated”

Here in Mooroolbark, the Bendigo Bank has provided a collection point for giving, while local churches, schools, clubs and other organisations have conducted their own special fund-raising efforts towards the enormous need. Many individuals and families have also added their own personal gifts.

The Amazing Caring Effect

Personally I was struck by a report from a Canadian branch of one of the world aid agencies. Within the first few weeks they had received from the Canadian public the maximum amount they felt they could



Julie Hion at the Community Bank Mooroolbark

handle for the tsunami affected areas. So they closed their tsunami appeal. When people continued to call to donate after that, the agency immediately told the caller that the appeal had raised enough, and any more donations would be applied to other areas of need – not the tsunami. But virtually every caller continued to give just as generously!

The spokesperson for the agency couldn't help contrasting this with a special nationwide appeal for the Darfur region in the Sudan, conducted just a few months earlier with a modest target of \$500,000 (Canadian) – which they hadn't even reached. Now on top of the tsunami appeal, they had multiplied that several times over! The tsunami seems to have provoked a need to give to those in need – wherever, whenever – quite above and beyond the crisis of the moment.

The Giving Response

So while we contemplate on the one hand, the awful loss of life and suffering and the vast destruction that the tsunami brought, we cannot help but be moved by the giving, the helping hands, the ready response it generated. It is heartening that out of so much devastation, so much good should flow.

Tsunami Photos are courtesy of US Navy



Devastated Sumatra Coast

FROM THE CHURCHES ...

The Tsunami & Giving

Whether we are Christian or something else, we have all been moved by the dramatic event of the tsunami. It has been great to see people around the globe responding spontaneously to the enormous need for help.

We can readily see in that response, the blessing that living the way of giving brings with it – especially in relationships with one another. When we actually practice giving, good things happen –

Giving brings people together.

Giving says, “I really care about you.”

Giving reduces feelings of threat, danger, hostility and fear.

Giving makes friendships.

Giving puts us on the same wavelength as the great God who gives us everything good.

Giving to those who can't give back brings us even closer to that great and loving God.

Of course, true giving is not something we do in order to gain these good things. As Jesus himself said, “Ask yourself what you want people to do for you; then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? ... If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? ... If you only give for what you hope to get out of it, do

you think that's charity? A tall order?” Well he went on to say, “Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never – I promise – regret it. Live... the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst. Our Father is kind; you be kind.” [Luke 6:31-26 The Message]

Giving is the way God is, the rule by which He lives – epitomised in the person of Jesus Christ.

For the Bible-based articles on giving: “The Grace of Giving” & “Poverty and Generosity,” visit our web-site at mcf.wcg.org.au (Click on the “articles” icon on the Home Page).

Written By **Terry Villiers**

CELEBRATE MOOROOLBARK...

COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES

Come along and join in this special worship service conducted by the combined churches of Mooroolbark as an introduction to our local festival day.

VENUE: Mooroolbark Community Centre
TIME: The service will commence at **9.00am** and will be followed by a community morning tea.

free family film night

WED APRIL 5TH



Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre for our next free family movie night.

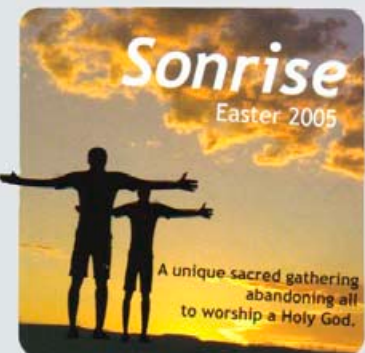
Racing Stripes will commence at **7:30 p.m.** The usual free ice-cream and tea & coffee will be offered.

This school holidays program is presented by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship in conjunction with our Community Centre. For bookings contact the Community Centre on 9726 9225

See ya there!
 Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship
 – Serving our Community

EASTER SONRISE

A unique opportunity for people of all ages, cultures and churches to gather together as one body to praise and worship our great God. A time to be refreshed in our faith, taking time out to hear God's voice in our lives. A time to break down barriers.



DATE: Easter Weekend, Friday 25th
 - Sunday 27th March
VENUE: Life Ministry Centre, Old Melbourne Rd, Chirnside Park

Camp out, from lunchtime onwards, or come for the day. Car parking on site. Huge oval and gathering area with outdoor stage.

Register now at www.sonrise.com.au
 Enquiries to (03) 9726 8111 or Email: enquiries@sonrise.com.au

thank you & very best wishes

Two couples who have made their mark in Mooroolbark and whose presence will be greatly missed are **Bram & Jean Cassidy** and **Jim & Margot Foley**. The combined churches of Mooroolbark extend their grateful thanks and best wishes to these two couples who served so willingly and effectively in our community.

Every best wish for the future.

Jim & Margot Foley completed five years of pastoral service at St Margaret's Uniting Church in January of this year. Together, they have served in ministry for a total of 13 years following Jim's earlier career in the field of journalism. Reflecting on their time in Mooroolbark Jim and Margot draw much pleasure and satisfaction from the many developments that have taken place in recent times. These include an increased involvement in community matters and the growing participation of younger families. For those that know them well, an identifying aspect of their dedicated work amongst us was the generous encouragement and affirmation they readily offered to all around

them. We wish Jim and Margot good health and every happiness for their retirement years in their quiet and peaceful little corner of South Gippsland

Every best wish for the future.



Jim & Margot Foley. St Margaret's Uniting Church

Bram & Jean Cassidy - Mooroolbark Salvos



Bram and Jean Cassidy, who led the Mooroolbark Salvos for seven years, have been transferred to serve in the Waverly area – beginning in January this year. Their energetic and enthusiastic contributions to the life of our local community have been very much

appreciated. They have touched the hearts and lives of people from all walks of life - in many different ways. Mooroolbark will continue to reap the benefits of their years of service in our community for a long time to come.

Whilst finding it hard to leave this community which has been "home" for so long, Bram and Jean are pleased that they have remained close enough to be able to keep in touch with local friends and for their children to be able to continue in their present schools.

We wish Bram and Jean every happiness and success in their new leadership position at Waverly Salvos.

when disaster strikes

Thankful for his life, Frank Carmody tells his eye-witness account of the 1987 Queen St Massacre.



One local resident who well understands just how vulnerable we all are and how fragile life can be, is local resident Frank Carmody. Frank, who lives in Mt Dandenong Road and attends Mooroolbark Baptist Church 'was impacted for life' by what became known as the *Queen St Massacre*.

On December 7th 1987, a disturbed young man carrying a carbide semi-automatic weapon entered the Australia Post building in Queen Street, Melbourne. He was looking for one particular person he had determined to kill. He stepped into a lift which took him straight to the top (12th) floor. As he exited the lift he began shooting at all in sight. He killed seven persons on that floor and the floor below.

Frank was one of four who were wounded. He received six bullet wounds including one that put a furrow in his scalp. Amazingly none would prove to threaten his life. When one of the employees managed to tackle and wrestle the intruder to the floor, Frank, despite being weakened by loss of blood, was able to muster the necessary strength to take the gun away from the immediate area.

Remarkably, Frank was able to return to work just one month after the incident – but with these events vividly and permanently etched into his mind.

He is most thankful that he does not carry any on-going, deep emotional scars from this horrendous experience. He gives much of the credit for this to his extended family who were most supportive and helpful as he worked through the aftermath of this nightmare.

Frank also speaks most highly of the support and help given by the Australia Post administration of the time. As well as providing ample personal and group counseling they moved quickly to transfer people and departments involved in this frightening experience to other floors in the building. They also totally refurbished the upper floors to help eradicate the scene that was such a stark reminder of the event. Within three months they had transferred the whole Australia Post center to a totally new building.

"Above all," Frank says, "I give thanks to God. It was my faith in Him and the awareness of the prayers on my many friends that helped me through this very difficult period of adjustment." He adds, "After an experience like this you no longer take life for granted. You know full well that disaster can and does strike when least expected."

We thank Frank for his willingness to share his story with us.

U3A LILYDALE

AN ADVENTURE
IN LEARNING

By Barbara Austin



Joan McDonnell - U3A Publicity Officer Lilydale

October 2004 saw the Lilydale U3A (University of the Third Age) celebrating its 10th birthday. In October 1994 a local identity named Arthur Weetman (Weety) approached the Chief Librarian of the Lilydale Shire and suggested starting a local U3A. He was a champion scrabble player and wanted to share his passion for words. The librarian, Louise Rockne, relayed his message to the Director of Human Services, Ruth Carson, and both were keen to start a U3A in Lilydale as they could see the potential for the welfare of the Shire's residents. The inaugural meeting was held in the old Shire council room, and various places have been used to accommodate the classes over the years.

Two of the venues currently being used are :Janet Campbell Centre, Tower St, Kilsyth; and 5 George St, Lilydale. Subjects offered include art & crafts, computers, genealogy, languages, creative writing, music appreciation, current affairs, yoga, walking group, line dancing, scrabble and table tennis and many others. There is something for everyone, as well as a variety of enjoyable social

opportunities. Current membership fees are \$35.00 per single and \$60.00 per couple. There are no entry requirements for membership, no assessment of learning and no exams - so nothing to fear. In order to keep fees at a minimum, all work is carried out voluntarily. Membership gives you the opportunity to participate in as many classes as you like and is available to all mature age persons.

During Seniors week on Saturday 5th March between 10am - 3pm there will be an open day at the Janet Campbell Centre with demonstrations of lead lighting, line dancing and a genealogy/computer display, so if you want to know more and see some of the classes in action keep this date in mind.

For further information contact 9739 7605 or email dotsdesk@swiftdsl.com.au

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

Part of "Ready to Start" at
Manchester Primary School

Mooroolbark is fortunate to have many great schools. Manchester Primary is one of them. Manchester is proud of the opportunities it provides for students to develop their unique talents and abilities.

One of the programs Manchester offers is the innovative 'Ready To Start School', which helps Prep students make the transition from pre-school to primary a positive experience and enables the Preps to start the school year with confidence.

The 'Ready To Start' program is beginning its seventh year. Designed to familiarize pre-schoolers with the school environment, it is run by the Prep teachers, senior students and current Preps. Parents bring their future Preps to school once a month and they explore arts, music, drama, information technology and language in the Prep room and school surrounds. Parents have the opportunity to become more aware of a school in action (including curriculum and student management) that is run by the school's leadership team and various teachers with expertise in particular fields.

A well established 'buddies' system linking newcomers to senior students supports the transition process. Grade Five students regularly



Getting started with the "Buddy System" for 2005

visit our local pre-schoolers and delight in the opportunity to revisit the kindergarten environment and be part of its activities. By the time the new Preps start their primary school life they are familiar with the new Grade Six students with whom they have been paired as 'buddies'. The buddies spend time together in the playground, on the computer, in the art room and library and wherever buddies can help each other to be happy and relaxed in the school environment.

Another innovative program at Manchester Primary involves the Grade Three students who visit a nearby elderly citizens' home. Along with the kindergarten visits and 'Ready To Start', these programs help to develop a sense of community awareness and responsibility for those students who participate.

Manchester Primary School is on Monomieth Street, Mooroolbark. Phone 9726 6931

Written by **Helen Higgins** (Prep. teacher)

Production
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produced by a group of local
volunteers

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Like to Contribute?
If you have a good news story about
of people who you believe are an
example to the community, please
contact the editor through our church
office number or by email (as above)

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