

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK / YARRA RANGES

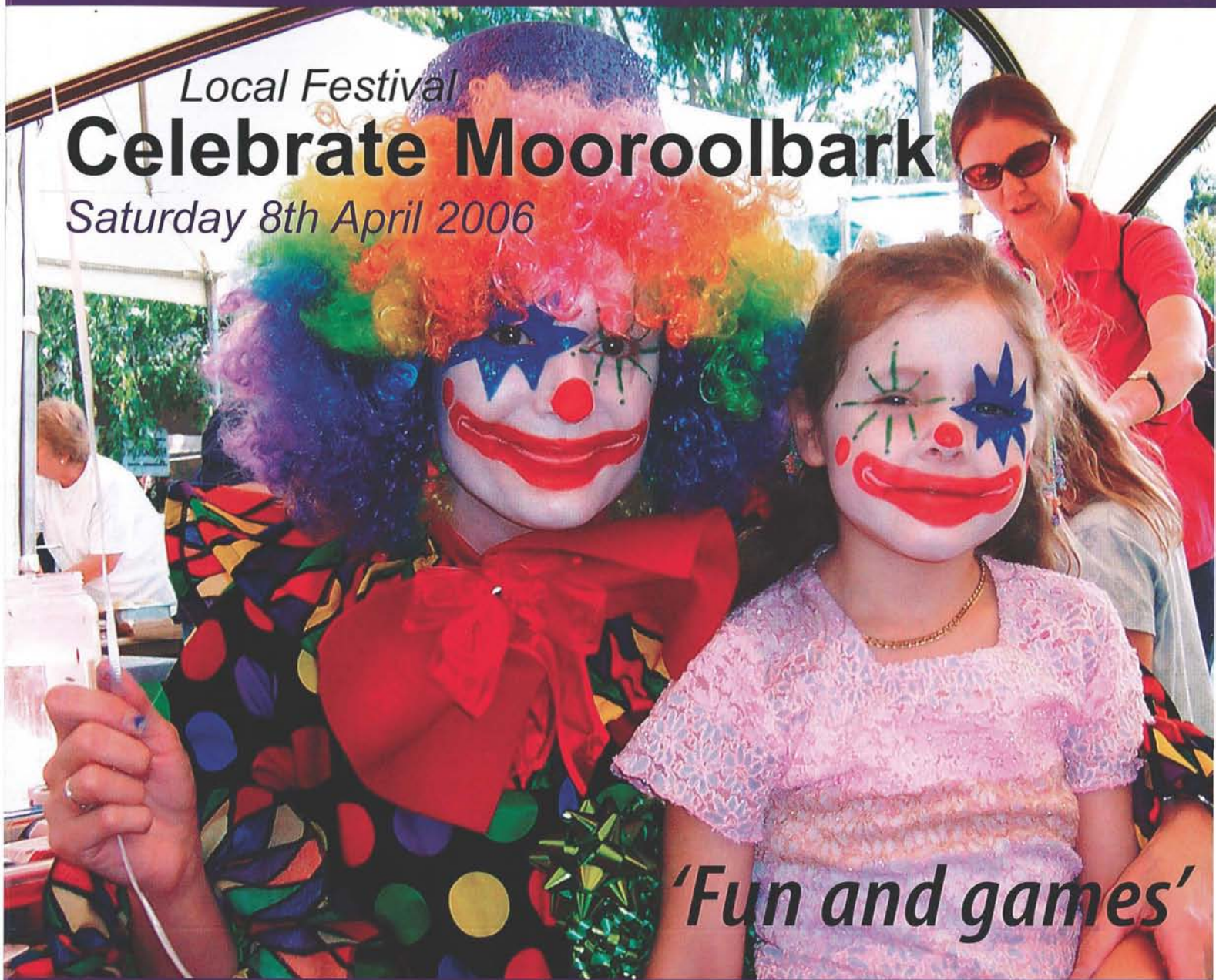
No. 15

MARCH
2006

Local Festival

Celebrate Mooroolbark

Saturday 8th April 2006



'Fun and games'



8,500 Free Copies Distributed Throughout Mooroolbark & District

The fires, the Mayor and YOU

As I write, several of our Victorian communities are facing danger, potential destruction and devastation from the threat of fire. From a distance, we watch not only with concern, sadness in the face of loss and a sense of helplessness, but also with relief and thankfulness when lives and property are spared – sometimes through changes in weather conditions or wind direction, but often as a result of the dedicated work of employees from emergency organisations – and of course hundreds of volunteers. Many of these people not only give up their time, but also put their lives on the line for us! I remember, as a young man, fighting bushfires around Ballarat – experiencing fear, thirst, exhilaration, exhaustion, camaraderie... But the memory that remains strongest – that has inspired and challenged me over the years is of the exceptional community spirit shown by people in the face of shared crisis. Men bounced through rough terrain on the backs of tankers, so that they could mop up embers in devastated farm and bushland – or construct firebreaks in an attempt to tame and arrest the fire's progress. Volunteers lay exhausted on roadsides, snatching a few minutes sleep before being redeployed, whilst others yarned reflectively, and enjoyed a 'cuppa' and sandwich delivered by local women from the tailgates of station wagons. Many other volunteers prepared food. Ordinary people donated clothing, blankets, fresh produce and supplies... Community halls, schools, banks, and other places became centres of temporary refuge for those fleeing endangered properties.

Recently, I spoke with our new Mayor – Councillor Monika Keane. She spoke about an important experience during the fires of '83, when extensive areas within our Shire faced devastation. As a thirteen year old, something she witnessed formed an enduring memory. And even more than that – provided a glimpse of what authentic community could be like. She was making sandwiches with other volunteers long into the night in the Warburton bank building, when she became aware of two women working together – I'll let her tell the story in her own words:

'At the very end of the night, after we'd been wrapping and organising all of this food, we all stopped and looked and there were two women working together cutting up the last rounds and wrapping them – and everyone in that room knew they hadn't spoken for about 20 years, yet, there was this crisis and all of a sudden they were working together... and at that point... I don't know that I have the words for it, but it was like – this is community!

'It's great that when the 'chips are down', we come together, but it would be really good for us to come together without the 'chips being down''

And ever since, I've been trying to find ways to make that happen without the crisis! It's great that when the 'chips are down', we come together, but it would be really good for us to come together without the 'chips being down'...'

As Monika continued, she verbalised one important principle that helps us come together without the 'chips being down' – that helps us be community. As she recounted an

experience she'd had as a councillor, Monika recalled that some Warburton residents contacted her about a planned Shire engineering project in their township. Not only did they express their belief that the proposed plans failed to adequately reflect the character of their township, but they also feared that 'No-one's going to listen to us at the Shire, anyway.'

With Monika's help, their concerned action resulted in a public meeting attended by 300 residents, which saw the start of a cooperative process whereby the community partnered with the Shire in developing alternative plans – plans which better reflected the character of the community, and enhanced the natural Warburton environment. Monika says: 'I think that's when the shift came. From: 'The Shire's just going to do it', to: 'The Shire's actually listening to what we're saying – and we have a say!' And to her credit, Monika says: 'I don't know if I've actually done a great deal, other than give other people a chance to input.'

Real community isn't a place where people live; rather it is people living together within a place.

Through their involvement, a substantial number of Warburton residents moved from merely living in community, to being community. Real community isn't a place where people live; rather it is people living together within a place.

At what point then, do we – as residents of Mooroolbark, begin to move from living in Mooroolbark, to being Mooroolbark? What does it take for us to actively participate in ways that enhance our community in the longer term? First, we need to understand that we can make a difference, and secondly, we need to find ways to help.

What does it take for us to actively participate in ways that enhance our community in the longer term?

I'd like to think that even more of us will respond to our new Mayor's challenge: 'It's great that when the 'chips are down', we come together, but it would be really good for us to come together without the 'chips being down'.'

Are we ready to be community?

If you need contact information – ring this magazine on 9726 8898, or the Mooroolbark Community Centre on 9726 5662, or email me at randmary@tpg.com.au



Randall Bouchier

Have you ever thought of, and then acted on:

- Helping the volunteers who publish this magazine
- Joining the Lion's Club, CWA, SES, CFA, Trader's group, Elderly Citizens, Theatre group, sporting teams, local churches?
- Helping with the many tasks accomplished on our behalf by MAP Mooroolbark?
- Helping to make last year's concentrated clean up of graffiti sustainable?
- Helping out with Mooroolbark's Annual Planting Day?
- Volunteering to help in local schools, Guides or Scouts?
- Becoming part of the group of residents who work hard in planning our Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival each year?
- Helping with our annual Carols by Candlelight?
- Joining in on Clean Up Australia Day?



Mayor - Monika Keane



Celebrate Mooroolbark

Our LOCAL Festival.

Celebrating all that is good in Mooroolbark and District

Celebrate Mooroolbark 2006

Saturday April 8th

10 am – 4 pm

Venue: Our local Community Centre and surrounds.

The day will begin with a combined churches Community Church Service commencing at 9 a.m. All are most welcome.

From 10am, as a follow-on from the Commonwealth Games, the theme will be "Fun and Games." This is a day with attractions for all ages including * activities for younger children (some free), *stage presentations by local groups, * a street parade, * a wide variety of stalls, * demonstrations to enjoy, and * food at family-friendly prices. ***A special feature of the day will be the planned community games – providing fun opportunities to join in some healthy fun and activities.

Come along and join in this celebration of all that is good in our community.

ROLLING HILLS Primary School

20th Anniversary

Rolling Hills Primary School was the last school to be built in the Mooroolbark area. It opened in relocatable buildings placed in the corner of Bimbadeen Heights Primary school in February 1986 in response to overcrowding in neighbouring schools.

The school moved to the new building in 52 Landscape Drive on 5th March 1986. This was the first of three new individual architect designed Victorian schools built with input from a local committee of parents interpreting a new progressive building code. For example it featured a school hall, purpose built specialist facilities and interview rooms.

The foundation Principal, Barry Jackson, a Mooroolbark resident since 1981, was appointed in the first round of locally selected principals in November 1985. After 20 years of service at Rolling Hills and 46 years with the Department of Education he has announced his retirement effective from 5th May. The broader school community congratulates Barry on his years of dedicated service and wishes him every health and happiness



in his retirement years.

Today, the school, with a population of 363 (81 Preps this year), enjoys an excellent reputation with wide community participation and an acknowledged curriculum and student support program. The fully air-conditioned facilities nestle into spacious grounds, essentially a parkland setting with attractive shade areas.

Birthday celebrations are planned

for this year, culminating in a special Open Day on Sunday, 5th March from 11.00 am on at the school. All ex-students and staff are invited to attend. Please contact the school on 9727 4454 for details or visit our web-site <http://www.rollinghillsps.vic.edu.au>.

Barry Jackson



SEBC Saints

The 'Saints' Basketball Club began at St Edmonds in Kilsyth in 1973.

From its small start at that time, it has grown to a club of around 500 players participating in 43 boys teams and 35 girls teams. It caters for Under 7's up to under 20's and leads on to Rep. Basketball, Seniors and N.B.L.

The Saints are affiliated with the Kilsyth and Mountain District Basketball Association and draw players from all around our area – Ringwood, Croydon, Kilsyth, Mooroolbark and Lilydale. Games are played at Lilydale and Kilsyth Stadiums. They take place all year round, with the exception of school holidays. Club Committee positions



Meghan Hayley Lily Bethany Tiarne
Amy Georgia Kira Samantha Ariel

are all voluntary – drawn from committed parents and supporters.

Anyone wanting to find out more about the club is invited to ring club president, Mike Marsh on 9723 4804.

Mike sees their club as

offering young people the perfect opportunity to have fun and to make new friends while developing personal fitness and basketball skills. We thank the committee members for their dedication and service to so many of the young people in our local communities.



Matthew Jake Matthew Jack
Rory Carl Jackie Lee Drew Jordan

The Maroondah Rugby Club's youngest team

is set to feature at half time of the Super 14 match between the Western Force (Perth) and Canterbury Crusaders (NZ) to be played at Olympic Park on January 28. The game is part of the build up for the inaugural Super 14 season, with expansion teams the Western Force and Free State Cheetahs (Sth Africa) entering the fray of the world's toughest provincial competition.

The young Maroondah players have been training enthusiastically for their moment of fame and are sure to acquit themselves well. Coaches Colin Alleridge and Daniela Cox see the game as a reward for their players' efforts in 2005 and the ideal start to 2006.

The Maroondah Rugby Club is located in Croydon North and fields teams for all ages

Maroondah rugby to feature in super14match

plus Mens, Womens and Vets teams. The club has grown significantly in recent years with junior numbers in particularly booming. New players, coaches and supporters are welcome.

For further information contact Seniors: Scott Lindblom 0418 775 791; or Juniors: Sheree Falkingham 0402 785 167 and at www.maroondah.rugbynet.com.au.



Maroondah U10s, 2005.



Maroondah Rugby Club Inc

Established 1972 Griff Hunt Reserve Lyons Road North Croydon Victoria 3136
PO Box 256 Croydon 3136 maroondah.rugbynet.com.au 03 9726 8476





Discount Wine Centre

Shop 20 Mooroolbark Terrace (Adjacent to Bendigo Bank)

Many local residents would know Rocky Calvi, who has lived in the local area for over 20 years. Rocky's new store opened in December 2005, offering quality wines at very attractive prices. A range of premium quality cleanskins is priced at up to 60% off R.R.P. Free tastings of this range are offered to ensure that customers are happy with the selections they make. These cleanskins come with special labels, or personalised labels as required.

In addition Rocky offers an extensive range of commercial labels – also very competitively priced. There are monthly draws for special prizes open to all who make purchases to the value of \$50 or more.

Rocky spent his childhood and earlier years in Black Rock, where he started his first job in the liquor industry at age 14. Since then, he has spent more than 25 years in this industry. He makes the observation that, in recent years, people have become more discerning about wines. "They know what they are looking for" he says. "But they still enjoy a taste before buying, to ensure that they are making the right choice."

Rocky is married to Marlena who has her own accounting services business, in Wynyard Drive. D.C.H. Accounting Services (03 9726 9133) offers all general and business accounting services. The Calvis have two children, Daniel, who attends Lilydale College, and daughter Desiree, who has just begun Grade 5 level at St Peter Juliens Primary School.

We wish Rocky and his family every success in their new venture.

Chris Chamberlain Local Porcelain Artist

China painting is a very versatile art. There is no limit to the pieces that can be painted from plates, beautiful vases and jugs, trinket boxes and tiles that can be framed and hung on the wall. Almost any piece of glazed porcelain can be painted. Paint is applied over the glaze and the piece is then fired in a kiln to 800 degrees. At least three firings are needed to finish each piece, some more intricate pieces taking several more firings. Subjects painted are many and varied from flowers, birds and animals to more modern piece with lustres and pen work.

Chris has been teaching China Painting for 22 years from her home studio in Mooroolbark. She is a member of the Australasian Porcelain Art teachers and the Victorian Guild of China Painters, and has won several prizes at the Royal Melbourne Show and the Lilydale Show. She has also sold paintings at Art Show. In addition to conducting classes at her home studio, she also spends time travelling to country areas and workshops to conduct seminars



Local classes are conducted in small friendly groups and are run weekly during school terms. Beginners are welcome and will find they get a lot of encouragement and inspiration from other students. Most students have not had any art training when they start and are surprised to see what they can achieve in the first term.

Like to know more? Contact Chris on 03 9728 2179.



I'm just so grateful!

This may seem like a strange response from a man who has just seen a large section of his lovely home, in The Basin, demolished by a huge, falling pine tree. However, Greg Carroll (principal of the senior campus at Pembroke Sec. College) and his wife, Jan, consider that they have been most fortunate to have received only property damage and that none of the family were injured.

On Friday 27th January Greg was sitting in his study, when he noticed a strong wind blowing up. He called out to twin 16 year-old daughters, Anna and Megan, to help get the clothes in. That decision, and the girls' response took them out of harm's way. As they were gathering the clothes, they gasped with disbelief when they saw the 50 metre high pine crash through and demolish the very part of the house that they had just left. Meanwhile Jan, and Jacob (11 years old) were sitting



Life Activities Club Croydon

Life Activities Club Croydon, is one of thirty non-profit community clubs in Victoria governed by Life Planning Foundation of Australia Inc. Each club is run by its members on a voluntary basis and operates autonomously. Generally, membership of these clubs is comprised of pre-retired and retired men and women in the 50 and over age group. Membership provides friendship and support to participants as they pursue an active and enjoyable life-style.



Val Kane (Pres) and John Stevens with the Croydon L.A.C. at their picnic in January.

LAC Croydon was formed in 1979. It holds monthly meetings on the first Thursday of February to December, 7-30pm to 10:00pm, at RSL Ringwood, Station Street, Ringwood (opposite the railway station). Visitors are most welcome. Their membership is currently 80/90.

Members may join any of the following activity groups which

meet at various venues. Each group has separate fees to cover the costs of their activities.

Golf at Dorset Golf Club
Thursday morning, weekly
Cards
Monday evening, fortnightly
Cinema at Chirnside Reading
Tuesday morning monthly
Dine-out
Sunday lunch, monthly
Jazz at the Manhattan Hotel
Tuesday evening, monthly
Music Appreciation
Monday afternoon, monthly
Out&About
Tuesday /Wednesday morning, monthly
Rummikin
Tuesday evening, monthly
Walking
Saturday morning, monthly
Water aerobics
Thursday afternoon, weekly

Other groups may be formed in the future at the suggestion and support of members. Annual subscription is currently \$20 per person (this includes an insurance/ registration fee of \$8) At present there is no joining fee.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Secretary on 03 9725 0670, or Membership Secretary on 03 9761 3265.



Community Carols at Hookey Park

Friday December 9th 2005

This most successful community event attracted over 500 local residents on a warm December evening - 2005. Our community carols evening was once again sponsored and supported by the Lions Club of Mooroolbark and presented in association with the local churches of our neighbourhood. Participants enjoyed community carols singing led by the Croydon Brass Band and a group of singers from the various churches, delightful items from local primary school students, guest artists and a seasonal drama presented by members of St Margaret's Uniting Church.

The organizers of this event would like to extend a big thank you to all who contributed to the success of the evening. Special thanks to the many students, teachers and parents who represented their schools and served our local community in this way. A great night was had by all. We look forward to this event taking place again in Dec. 2006.

in a lounge room just 4-5 metres from the disaster area. Older daughter Laura, 18 years, was at work at the time. Such an horrific happening – yet they all remained safe.

"The house can be rebuilt. We just feel that God has looked after us and are so thankful," said Greg. In the days following this event the whole family were overwhelmed and greatly encouraged by the sense of community they felt as offers of help and support flooded in from all around them: friends and family; the local community in The Basin; the Pembroke College community; the local shire; the Red Cross; Greg's church community and others. **They have felt greatly supported by this outpouring of help and genuine concern.**

As Greg well knows, the steps that will be needed to get their life back to normal after such a "shattering" event is going to add a great deal of pressure to life over the coming months. However, the over-riding feeling the family has is that of thankfulness for their personal safety.

All the best to the family for the recovery stage.



Greg Carroll, Principal
Pembroke S.C. Senior Campus



In the wake of Cronulla Beach 2005

What about our Neighbourhood?



Terry Villiers

Mooroolbark is a fairly homogeneous community. With most of its development taking place in the early post-war years of predominantly British migration, its makeup largely reflects these origins. If we were to notice differences it would probably be between age groups, neighbourhoods, religious affiliations or countries of origin. But by and large, these don't cause us much pause in our day to day life here. Our irritations with one another tend to be more in the area of the personal or mundane.

On the other hand, December saw more overt feelings of hostility and intolerance in the beach suburbs of southern Sydney.

December 2005 saw overt feelings of hostility and intolerance in the beach suburbs of southern Sydney.

For many of us it was a shock, an unpleasant surprise that such strong feelings could boil over in the way they did in what we like to think of as an open and accepting land. The graphic pictures on our TV news of groups not only verbally abusing one another but openly and viciously attacking the other was something we had not seen before.

When we later read some of the detailed reporting and analysis of what erupted in Cronulla, we were able to see that it was not something that emerged from nowhere. Rather it came out of a longer process that included simmering irritation, offence and lack of understanding of the other. Wrongs and causes of the violence, as is so often the case, rest on both sides, and I'm sure we will hear some considered and thoughtful judgement of the sources of the situation in the months to come.

Whether these events have touched us personally or raised our concerns for the health of our Australian society and way of life, or whether they have largely passed us by as we have got on with our summer holidays and the spells of fine weather we have enjoyed this year, we need to consider if something similar could happen here.

Could something similar happen here - in our neighbourhood?

Would we have felt, thought, or behaved any differently had we been the ones caught up in the Sydney situation - whichever side we found ourselves on? Perhaps not individually. As a community, hopefully not. But again, are we so different as people to those who found themselves caught up in the action there? The essence, I would suggest, is on how much we see both individuals and groups within our community as "other". That is, not of us, not the same as us, not like us - perhaps even that we would prefer not to be around us, or to be part of us.

We all share a common humanity. We breathe the same air, have the same blood. We have the same basic needs - food, shelter, safe environs, good health, pleasant and happy relationships. And we like people who like us, and are like us. But then there are those who are "other", where we notice, feel, are confronted with differences. They may look different, live differently to what we are used to, and we feel, sometimes consciously, more often unconsciously, uncomfortable and disturbed.

When we give voice to these feelings, values are formed. The "other" becomes less than us; we can justify their exclusion and rejection. We may even discover or invent epithets that label them as alien to us, as "other". And so begins the downward spiral that unless broken arrives at where our fellow Australians found themselves on Cronulla beach.

One important part of the solution lies in each of us not allowing others to become the "other".

One important part of the solution lies in each of us not allowing others to become the "other".

This happens in simple ways. Having the courage to greet and talk to our neighbours, to include them in our circle of activity, to actively welcome them into our community.

Of course this works best when there is goodwill on both sides. Not everyone wants, at least at first, to be included. There may even be misunderstandings, difficulties in communication, presuppositions. Sometimes these can be allayed by finding some common ground, or simply be just being friendly in a sensitive way. It doesn't always happen easily or comfortably and in the process words may be said that are anything but neighbourly. The challenge is to take such in our stride without taking it to heart.

Within our community, there are many agencies to help - with advice, resources, their good offices. Some of those we can avail ourselves of in Mooroolbark - even just to chat things over - are:

Migrant Information Centre

Contact Judy McDougall (ph. 9873 1666) at 333 Mitcham Rd, Mitcham 3132. MIC is a not-for-profit company that supports the settlement of migrants and refugees in the eastern suburbs.

Mooroolbark Community Centre

Brice Ave. Mooroolbark VIC 3138. Telephone: 03 9726 5488 BH. Email: mooroolbarkcc@yarraranges.vic.gov.au. Services: Quality classes, workshops, arts and lifestyle programs. School holiday program. Home of the Mooroolbark Theatre Group & the annual Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival. Special events, music & live shows on a regular basis.

Chirnside Park Community Centre Inc

Kimberley Dve, Chirnside Park VIC 3116. Telephone: 03 9727 2243 Email: cpccinc@vicnet.net.au. Services: include child care, support groups, educational classes, art/craft classes, domestic violence support for women, meeting place for community residents.

The Neighbourhood Café

101-103 Manchester Road, Mooroolbark - run by Mooroolbark Neighbourhood Church. Ph. 9726 4442. See the article in this issue for more details.

Mooroolbark Terrace Maternal and Child Health Centre

Ph. 9726-7393 and 9727 5645. Provided to all residents FREE of charge and offers information, advice and personal support in caring for babies and children up to six years of age.

Lilydale & District Community Information Service

214 Main St, Lilydale. Ph. 9735 1311. Free legal advice. Information on emergency support, consumer protection,



education, employment, family support, health issues, social security matters, tax returns for low income earners.

Shire of Yarra Ranges - Children's Services Resource Development Office

Ph. 9294 6236, 9294 6365. The Shire of Yarra Ranges provides a support service through Children's Services Resource Development Officers who can assist children with additional needs, and their families to make full use of local children's services.

Shire of Yarra Ranges

Youth Services - Community Development Coordinator, Ph. 9294 6716. Includes mental health programs, general counselling, young mothers group, leadership program. Youth Services provides free counselling to young people 12-25 years and their families, who live, work or study in the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Youth Services provides a free, safe and confidential space for young people to talk with someone and have the support that they need. To make an appointment contact Youth Services and ask to speak to a Counsellor. Appointments are provided Monday to Friday 9am-5pm (evening appointments are negotiable). Also part of the Shire of Yarra Ranges youth program - *Sixteen-Twenty Three* is a young parents' group for 16-23 year olds and their children. *Sixteen-Twenty Three* is a support program that incorporates recreation, support and parenting workshops for young parents. The group runs weekly in Lilydale and surrounding areas depending on the activity. Transport can be arranged if required.

Disabled Peoples Company

Friends and carers meet at Mooroolbark Community Centre for social contact and support from 10am to 12 noon Wednesdays to enjoy morning tea and each others company. Contact Elsie 9726 4004.

Salvation Army

88 Brice Ave, Mooroolbark. Ph. 9727 4777. Email

mooroolarksalvos@bigpond.com. Visit their website at <http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/mooroolbark>. Offers all kinds of family support.

The Ministry Centre

Old Melbourne Rd, Chirnside Park VIC 3116. Ph. 9726 8111. Email: office@lmc.org.au. Internet: www.lmc.org.au. Provides counselling service, life-changing programs and support groups.

Centacare Catholic Family Services

510/512 Whitehorse Rd, Mitcham VIC 3132. Phone: 9873 4344. Email: mitcham@melbourne.centacare.org.au. Services: Relationship counselling for couples, families, individuals, children and adolescents; mediation/conciliation for separated parents. Pre-marriage education. School refusal program; loss and grief programs.

Anglicare Yarra Ranges

47-51 Castella St, Lilydale VIC 3140. Ph. 9735 4188. Email: admin.eryr@anglicarevic.org.au. Internet: www.anglicarevic.org.au. Services: A range of services to residents in the Shire. These include Family Services, Family Violence (men's & women's programs), general and financial counselling, emergency food relief & visiting drug & alcohol service.

YWCA - Mature Women's Group Mooroolbark

Location: Mooroolbark Community Centre, Brice Ave, Mooroolbark VIC 3138. Phone: 9726 9222. Services: Friendship, company, interesting speakers and outings for women in need of contact. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month except January.

The Life Activities Club

Provides support and activities for the 50+ age group. For full details see the accompanying article in this issue.

Mooroolbark Community Bank Branch  **Bendigo Bank**

Supporting The Local Community.

From the local churches

Terry Villiers

Responding to 'others' around us The Challenge to the Christian Community

I was particularly struck this year by the nativity tableau I came across in one shopping centre I was visiting. It was different to the normal nativity scene. This one featured the visit of the wise men in a simple scene that included Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a cradle. Of course, the wise men, the Magi, held their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and all, including Mary & Joseph, were royally garbed.

There was no hint of the stable, manger, or shepherds – which was quite correct. As Matthew tells the story in his account, the visit came quite some time after Jesus' birth and found the family by that time in a house. The fascinating thing is that Matthew largely bypasses the actual birth and begins his account of Jesus' life with the journey of the Magi from the east.

I couldn't help wondering how many who saw this different nativity scene caught the significance of Matthew's message. Writing to his own Jewish people he immediately confronts them with the arrival, with God's miraculous help, of outsiders – Gentiles – to honour the newborn king of kings. At the same time, he shows how he was largely ignored by his own people. In fact Herod, the ruling monarch, tried to destroy this potential rival by putting to death all the infant males in the region. Again, Matthew tells us how God intervened and the family fled ahead of time to Egypt as the wise men found their way home by a different route.

...Jesus' earliest years were spent as a refugee among people different in language, culture and history.

So Jesus' earliest years were spent as a refugee among people different in language, culture and history. As an outsider in a foreign land. Many early Christians struggled with what this pointed to and only later became clear – that Jesus should have a place for the outsiders while also sharing their experience. Yet the writers of the New Testament – Paul and Matthew in particular – just couldn't get over it – that Jesus came for all peoples, not just the insiders. To them it was the best of all news.

The question that challenges us today is much the same. Do we identify with the outsiders as Jesus did? Do we feel for, and treat them as our brothers and sisters, as if they were indeed part of our family? Or are they still "others" to us? Those peoples who find their home among us from different lands, cultures and languages, whether they have fled here for refuge, moved here for a better life, better opportunities, or are just waiting here until things change so they can go back – as Jesus and his family did from Egypt, in a way represent him among us. Likewise, those who are less acceptable socially, morally, who are indeed needy people who can add nothing to us but certainly demand a lot. As Jesus said to his followers, again as recounted by Matthew, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did (or did not do) for the least of these brothers of mine, you did (or did not do) for me."¹

That challenge is part of his gift to us.

¹ Matthew 25:40-45 New International Version

RIC THORPE

Baptist Youth Pastor

The Mooroolbark community of churches congratulates Ric on his recent appointment as full time youth pastor at Mooroolbark Baptist Church. Ric grew up in Mt Evelyn and Silvan where he attended Mt Evelyn Church of Christ. He now resides with his wife, Nicole and baby Kayla at Lilydale Lake Estate.



A trained nurseryman and a qualified secondary school teacher, Ric recently completed a bachelor of Ministry at Tabor College to qualify and further prepare him for the work he loves most- helping young people to find meaning and purpose in their lives. Fifteen years of service as a youth leader at Careforce Church has provided a wealth of experience which he brings to his role in Mooroolbark.

Our community of churches welcomes Ric and his family and wishes them every success and happiness in their work.

Free Family Film Night

Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship
Serving Our Community



Wednesday March 22nd
7.30pm

(film 'Valiant' commences at this time)

Free ice-cream, tea & coffee!

ALL WELCOME

This school holiday programme is presented by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, in conjunction with our community centre as a service to young families in our neighbourhood. For bookings contact the Community Centre on 9726 5488.

see ya there!

A New Name for Mooroolbark's Best Kept Secret

In 2002, Mooroolbark Neighbourhood Church embarked on an ambitious new venture. Although the Church's main emphasis is building healthy and godly relationships, the leaders felt that 'normal' church routines failed to offer opportunities for people to do more than briefly make one another's acquaintance. They felt that a venue was needed which would allow people to sit, relax and enjoy each other's company in a more informal setting. Such a venue would also enable them to offer their special brand of hospitality to the local community.

After much research, planning, generosity and renovations, "Granny Smith's Coffee and Tea House" opened in February 2003. Over the ensuing three years it has opened its doors six days a week for those wanting a quiet cuppa or light meal. Regular patrons speak highly of its relaxed atmosphere, great décor, excellent food and drinks, and friendly service. Last year, a host of new items were added to the menu, and group bookings began to be a common occurrence. Many people, on their first visit, expressed surprise that such a venue existed in their community without their knowledge. More than one person has commented, "You must be Mooroolbark's best kept secret."

At the end of last year, its name was changed to **The Neighbourhood Café** so as to more closely align itself with the local community and the Neighbourhood Church. The Café is situated at 101 Manchester Road, on the corner of Kalimna Street, and is open Monday to Friday between 9:00am and 4:00pm, and on Sundays between 12:30 and 2:30pm. Enquiries and bookings can be made on 9726 4442.



Our Children Our Future Shire of Yarra Range

The title of the Shire's new 3 year Family and Children's Strategy and Action Plan is **Our Children, Our Future**. For me, Our Children My Future may be more accurate as I have recently taken on the role of Executive Officer Family and Children's Services for the Shire. My role includes responsibility both for the day to day management of the services we provide and for taking forward the commitments we have made in the plan.



The role brings together the management of a wide range of services and programs currently provided for families and children throughout the Shire including:

Maternal and child health services; Centre based day care (Upwey and Kilsyth) Family day care; Early childhood intervention services; Support to childcare services and preschools to enable the inclusion of all children; Preschool central enrolment; Best Start projects (currently Yarra Valley).

The Shire has a significant role as a provider of services, but we also have important roles in advocating and lobbying with both State and Federal Governments on behalf of early childhood services, and in strengthening community connections.

Of particular interest to Mooroolbark residents will be the relocation of the Shire's Family Day Care coordination unit to the Rolling Hills site. Family Day Care operates throughout the Shire and provides an additional choice for parents looking for child care options. Family Day Care providers are independent contractors providing quality care within their own homes. We are currently recruiting family day carers, and if you are interested in looking at this worthwhile employment option, we can provide you with comprehensive information and support.

Details of all of our programs and services are listed on our website (www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au). If you do not have access to the internet, and would like further information, please contact the Shire on 1300 368 333 and ask for the specific service. If you would like a copy of "Our Children, Our Future" or you if would like to discuss any aspect of it, you can call me on 9294 6155 or contact me on c.brown@yarraranges.vic.gov.au.

I've got big shoes to fill!

These were the words of new Mooroolbark Cr. Terry Avery, reflecting on his predecessor, David Hodgett. Terry, who grew up in Mooroolbark, attended Mooroolbark schools, married and raised his children here, still works within the Shire, and plans to eventually retire here with his wife, is one of five new Shire of Yarra Ranges Councillors.

Our incoming Mayor – Cr. Monika Keane, clearly remembers her own challenging learning curve when she was first elected to Council in 2000. She recognises that her current leadership responsibility lies in helping the new Councillors 'learn the ropes', because as Terry expresses:

They actually don't teach you how to be a Councillor... How to start things... how to bring things up... No one teaches you to be a Councillor.

Monika's primary Mayoral ambition is refreshingly centred on others: *I don't see it as being about me... It's the leadership, or at least my style of leadership... which is helping the other eight councillors be the best, or do the best, that they can...*

Introducing...

And she succinctly summarises the helping role of Councillor in this way: *So many times people will talk to me about great ideas or things that they can do or want to do, but really need to be told that they can... Sometimes people need to be given an opportunity (to) be the best that they can be.*

Cr. Avery and I talked about how effective Councillors have that knack of listening to the community, and then lending support to good things that are already happening.

It obviously resonated: *What am I trying to do? Reinvent the wheel? I'm not trying to do any of that... There are people doing good jobs, doing good work... and if I can help, that's what I want to do. There's some good community-minded people out there – and if they need assistance, I want to be able to give it! 'I would like to be accessible... this is my community... this is where I live...*

So, I'm sure Terry would echo Monika's question: *What's the community of Mooroolbark prepared to do – and how can I help them do that?*

Congratulations Terry and Monika on your election! We're looking forward to your time in office. We look forward to the help (and partnership) you'll bring as you support new and existing community initiatives in Mooroolbark!

Randall Bouchier

LIVINGTODAY
in Mooroolbark

Production
LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark is produced by a group of local volunteers



Editor
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Publication
Published quarterly as a service to our community by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship

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Distribution
8 500 copies distributed throughout Mooroolbark and the surrounding district

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Printing
Publication Perspectives
Mulgrave, Victoria

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

MISSIONSTATEMENT

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



Cr. Terry Avery

Mayor Cr. Monika Keane