

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK / YARRA RANGES

No.17

SEPTEMBER
2006



Brett Murray

Reaching for the top

**MOOROOLBARK Township
Group** A coming event- Page 3

**Community Spirit
IN ACTION**

Pembroke Secondary College- Page 11



Do you know this bloke?

Would a man who served Mooroolbark for thirty years as a CFA volunteer impress you? A man who in that time captained the brigade for twelve years, and helped establish and build the current CFA facility most of us drive past every day?

If we took the time to think about it, most of us would want to express our gratitude for benefits we share from this man's contribution to our lives. Sadly, we don't often acknowledge these things as much as we should. We tend to take for granted the good things we enjoy in Mooroolbark...

When we do take the time to reflect more deeply about the heritage others have left for us, we're hopefully spurred on to look for ways to help maintain – and enhance Mooroolbark as a great place to live.

Geoff Earney grew up in Sassafrass, where his father Jim owned a butcher shop. In his late teens, he completed an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner.

In 1968 his father bought the Methven office in Brice Avenue, and when the family moved to Mooroolbark in 1970, Geoff helped build the family home.

Since 1972 – following National Service, when Geoff joined his dad at Methven in Mooroolbark – he has been a dedicated and creative businessman. During his time at the helm, Methven has won distinguished national, state and shire business awards.

The company now has four branch offices and supports around 65 full and part-time employees.

But there's far more to Geoff than outstanding business success. His record of community service is also striking. Why? You don't have to talk to Geoff for too long before becoming aware of personal core values that have provided the foundation for what he has accomplished.

These are values we all should emulate... If more of us cultivated these personal values, our township – our

relationships – our lives, would be the richer!

Commitment to helping others

Geoff grew up in a family involved in helping others. Although there was family involvement in other community organizations, such as scouting and commercial groups, their involvement in the CFA tells its own story. Their example obviously rubbed off on Geoff.

His father was a member of the Sassafrass CFA – eventually captaining the brigade; two uncles became captains at Olinda and Kallista, a cousin captained Montrose. After his thirty years with the CFA, Geoff was awarded life membership of the Mooroolbark brigade and of CFA Victoria, and has also been awarded the National Medal for service to the community.

But, as Geoff would readily acknowledge – such commitment requires the giving of time, energy, creativity and resources to help others.

Commitment to respecting others

Geoff recounts hearing businessmen in past years telling others that they worked in Mongrelbark.

You just can't ever talk about the place that puts food on your table in a derogatory manner... or the customers or clients that walk in your door...

One aspect of Geoff's uncomplicated business philosophy stems from this core personal value of respect for others: "If people have a problem – and they walk in that door – if they don't leave this office feeling better for having dealt with us, we've mucked it up... It's a very simple thing... they have to feel better for dealing with us."

Commitment to the community

Not only did Geoff give 30 years of service to the CFA, but for many years he was heavily involved in the Red Earth Festival. He's still being helpful – through sponsorships to various community initiatives and Mooroolbark organisations.

But what struck me was Geoff's business philosophy – a philosophy that we could encourage all our Mooroolbark traders to adopt.

Again, speaking about Mooroolbark: "We sponsor lots of community groups in

Geoff Earney





Mooroolbark... This is where we get our bread and butter. If we can't contribute into here, there's something greatly wrong."

He says that businesses should earn their permission to trade, through giving. "When you do things in and for the community, it gives you the right to be part of the community."

And the bonus? If you put in, people tend to recognise your support, and in turn support you.

Commitment to learning

Geoff continues to value learning. The training of his staff takes the highest priority in his business. But he leads through example. On a daily basis, he makes a point of learning from others – in earlier years through books, and more recently, through audiovisual resources. In addition, he regularly attends training courses.

As I speak with Mooroolbark people, I continually hear that Mooroolbark is a great place to live! We want it to remain a great place to live. In fact, most of us would like it

to be an even better place to live.

If we, as individual residents adopted, modelled and taught the values I've just outlined, we would help to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy our community.

Randall Bouchier



Mooroolbark Township Group

I'd like to take the opportunity to let you know in advance that Mooroolbark is on the verge of establishing its very own Township Group.

Mooroolbark is on the verge of establishing its very own Township Group.

This will be a group that will attempt to genuinely represent all of us. We've invited representatives from all key influence groups in Mooroolbark – the Lions, MAP Mooroolbark, Mooroolbark Community Centre, Mooroolbark Traders and Community Group, Celebrate Mooroolbark Planning Committee, Mooroolbark Police, youth, elderly residents, disabled residents and individuals representing education and sporting organisations.

In addition, our two State MPs – Heather McTaggart and Dymphna Beard – and local councillor Terry Avery have agreed to participate.

We're excited by the prospect that this representative group will provide a voice for Mooroolbark, and that the group will help ensure

that our township flourishes in ways that benefit all who live and work within our community by developing, and clearly articulating, the vision for our town.

We are hoping that the Township group will be able to build on the strengths and wisdom of the wider community so that Mooroolbark will thrive.

Growing and nurturing partnerships in learning, family life, environment, development, safety, civic, recreation, arts and us and finding opportunities for cooperation will be key issues for the group. There will be a real focus on listening to, and communication with each other within the group. To help us with our early development, Rod Dungan the Director of Thriving Youth Australia, the Heartmasters Team (an emotional intelligence community), and a member of the consultation and training team at Mt Evelyn Township Improvement Committee will help facilitate discussion.

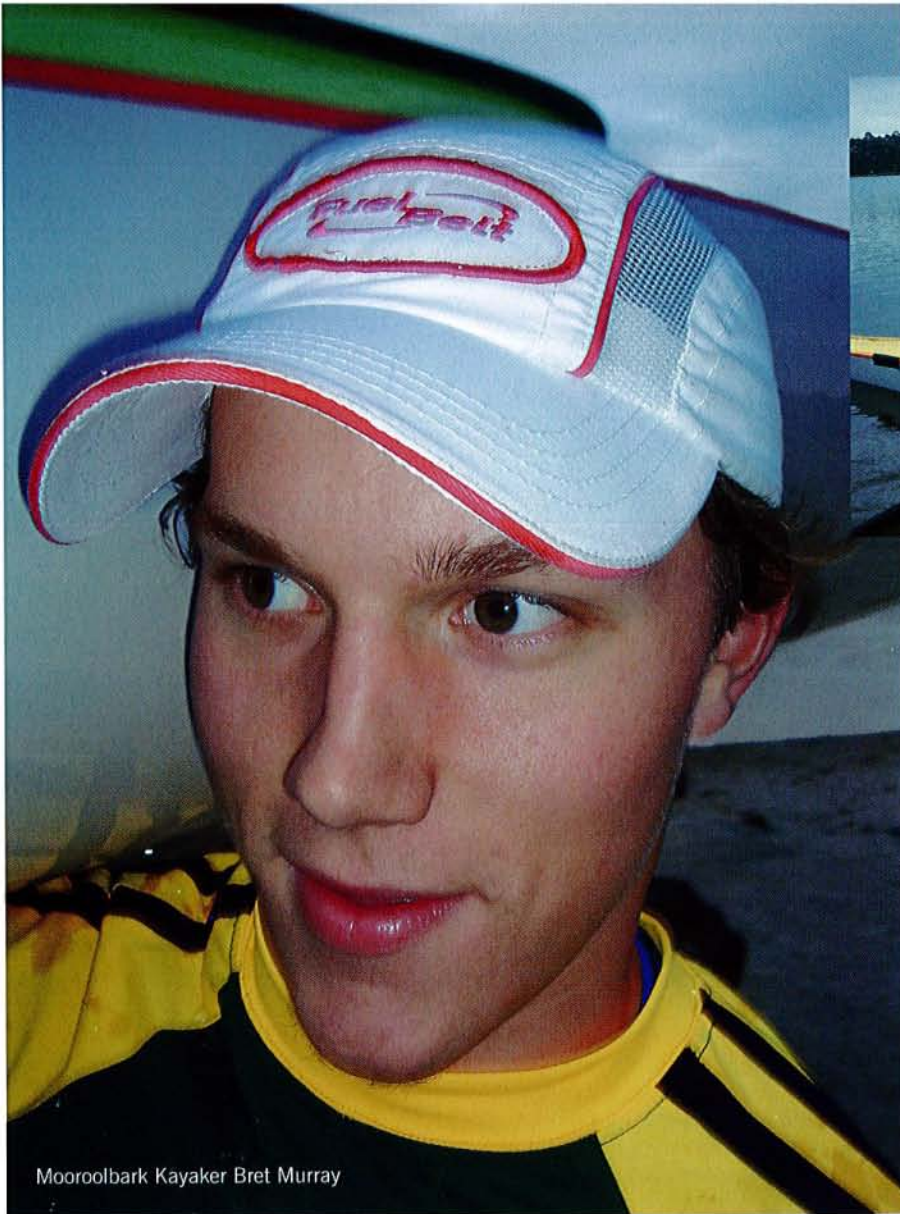
Growing and nurturing partnerships in learning, family

life, environment, development, safety, civic, recreation, arts and us and finding opportunities for cooperation will be key issues for the group.

Rod has been part of the team involved from the beginning in the formation of the very effective township renewal and development in Mt. Evelyn. His services have been used statewide, nationally and internationally in helping townships build their community capacity for growth and resilience.

We're looking forward to the first meeting in mid September. We're thrilled at the prospect of developing better ways to work cooperatively to benefit our township. And we're excited by the representative nature of the group, which will make it possible for those providing services to Mooroolbark to communicate with one central, representative Mooroolbark entity.

For further information, please contact me at randmary@tpg.com.au



Mooroolbark Kayaker Bret Murray



Brett Murray Reaching for the top

Young Mooroolbark kayaker, Bret Murray, is all set to compete in the coming under 18's World Championship Marathon event in France.

He heads off for Europe on September 15th where he will represent Australia for the fourth time.

In recent months he has competed in the world cup event in Spain where he was placed in the top ten in both K1 and K2 categories (singles and doubles events) – an outstanding achievement. He then went on to Portugal to compete in another international event – the Crestuma Marathon (21K's) where he took 2nd place in the K1 – another wonderful success for this very committed sports-person.

Bret first participated in this sport at the age of 9 years – as a sub-junior. The ensuing years have seen him become the under 18 state title-holder in both K1 and K2. He trains three days a week with a squad of about 15 kayakers under the guidance of Liz Hirschhoff, who has herself participated in world championship teams and who has helped a number of other enthusiasts reach that goal.

Bret is a year 12 student at Mt Lilydale Mercy College where he is managing to achieve good grades despite the demands of his sporting pursuits. He hopes to eventually go on to further studies in either engineering or physiotherapy.

He is very conscious of the tremendous support he has received from his parents, Mark and Ann, in helping him to take advantage of the opportunities that have come his way. Bret is the youngest of four children – all of whom are doing well in their chosen fields. The oldest, Trevor, a sports teacher, has also been previously selected to represent Australia in a world cup kayaking team. He now coaches in this sport at school level.

As well as providing constant support for Bret, Mark is active in administration matters relating to kayaking and is a member of the board of Canoeing Vic. – the body responsible for management and promotion of canoeing. He suggests that anyone interested in finding out more about the sport should go to the "Canoeing Victoria web site" for information. One event that he recommends is a "Give it a Try" day held at Westerfolds Park in Doncaster.

We congratulate the Murrays on their family achievements and wish Bret every success in the up-coming events and his future career.

Well done Bret!

Serving Our Seniors

Eight years ago Terry and Jean Charity made what they refer to as a "monumental decision" in their lives. Having lived and worked for 66 years in the same town in Lancashire, England, they decided to pull up roots and move to Australia.

Their decision to come to Melbourne was motivated by their desire to be close to their daughter, Karen Crompton, of Chirnside Park, and her family. The move has proven to be most beneficial to the family but also to many others in the community.

Shortly after arriving here they joined our local Senior Citizens Club in Mooroolbark.

They soon became involved in a number of ways. Terry makes an important contribution to the club in his role as treasurer. Together, they co-ordinate twice-weekly exercise classes where seniors up to 85 years of age enjoy participating in physical routines to music. (Terry recently completed a course centered on ways to motivate seniors to be involved in and enjoy physical activity.) They also co-ordinate regular dance evenings in the club rooms.

Seniors President, Ken Makin, thanks Terry and Jean, on behalf of the members, for their generous contribution to club life.

Terry is also actively involved in badminton, table tennis and also swims daily. Jean is involved with the Greenwood Singers in Ringwood.

Terry says, "It's a very satisfying way of life – being involved with others and helping where you can. You certainly never get bored with life."



Lounge Lizards

Mooroolbark Community Centre in Brice Avenue Mooroolbark has been instrumental in providing local musicians and bands in an ideal location to perform for the general public.

Lounge Lizards gig nights are held on the last Friday of each month. The evening begins at 7pm and usually concludes around 11pm. Performers donate their time to entertain patrons at the centre and hone their performing skills in a professional environment.

The P.A. system is provided with an audio engineer in attendance to guarantee good quality sound. The audience contribute \$5.00 for their entrance fee which helps Yarra Ranges Shire Council cover the cost of the usage of the centre. Free tea and coffee is provided.

A comfortable lounge room environment is created to entice the audience to kick back, relax and enjoy the night. Light snacks and glasses of wine are available for sale at very reasonable prices.

Budding audio students are invited to gain hands on experience and learn in a live atmosphere under our guidance.

At least 4 acts are organised to perform each night, however other performers are encouraged to bring their gear along to the lounge nights and we endeavour to give them time to perform in between the booked acts.

If you are a local band or musician you should contact either Michael or Jesse on 9726 5488 to organise a night to perform. You can also e-mail us on:
m.gerrish@yarraranges.vic.gov.au; or
j.roberts@yarraranges.vic.gov.au.



Michael Gerrish & Jesse Roberts



Special Award for Marita Hearne

Marita receives her award from Shire CEO Rob Hauser and Mayor Monika Keane

Mooroolbark Community Centre

Well known community-centre personality, Marita Hearne, recently received some much-deserved recognition for a special aspect of her work at our centre.

She received an individual award from the Shire of Yarra Ranges commending her for her contributions to the process of developing a community committee to organise the "Celebrate Mooroolbark" festival in March each year.

While the festival has been organized directly by the shire in past years - this year it was organized by a local committee.

Marita worked in close partnership with the fledgling committee, providing advice and support when required, and demonstrating the highest level of service, dedication and commitment throughout the whole process.

Marita's positive and enthusiastic approach, coupled with her engaging and inclusive communication style, enabled the committee to gather the strength, confidence and experience to take the festival into the future.

Our Festival Committee joins with the Shire in expressing sincere thanks to Marita for her unique contribution to community life in our neighbourhood - not only in this special contribution, but in so many other ways as well.

Many thanks Marita!

Pottery Classes

At Mooroolbark Community Centre, Janet Duncan offers the only local council sponsored pottery classes in our shire. Classes are presented for adults of all ages - with children's classes a special extra service. The classes focus on hand-building, wheel-throwing and glazing for beginners right through to advanced students.

Janet is a most experienced artisan in her craft, having completed her Arts/ Science degree in 1983 and being heavily involved in pottery since that time. She has her own business, "Blue Hills Pottery" in Upwey where she specialises in hand-thrown, functional kitchen-ware.

Classes are conducted during school term weeks. Term 4 commences Wed 4th October and runs through to December. Class details are as follows:

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

- Class A** Wednesday 4pm - 6pm
- Class B** Wednesday 5:15pm - 6:15pm
- Class Fees** \$120 for 12 week term

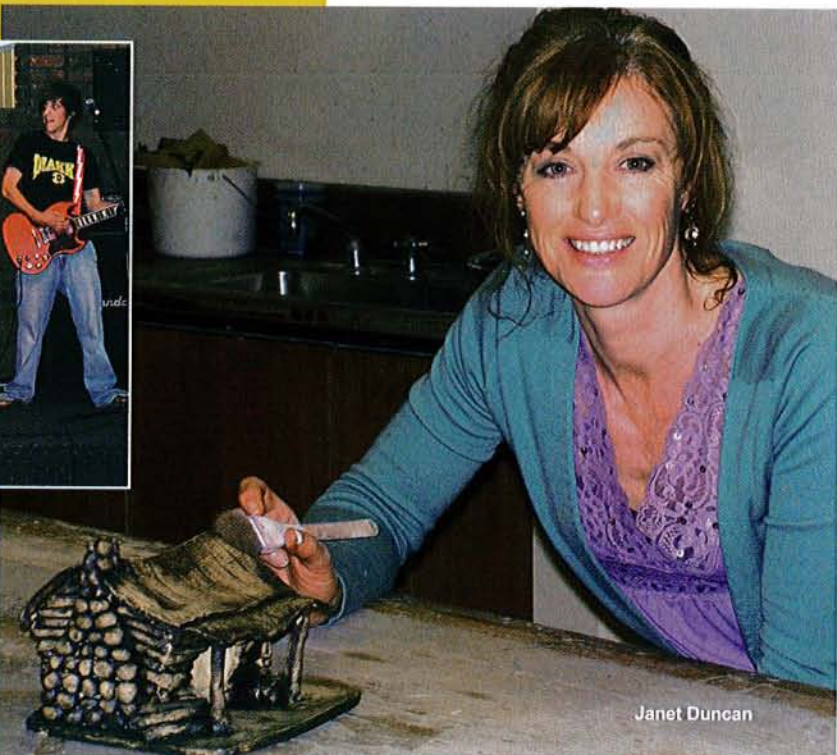
Class fees include all materials kiln-firing costs. All fees are payable in the first two weeks of the term. Please bring along a smock.

ADULT CLASSES

- Class C** Wednesday 1pm to 3pm
- Class D** Wednesday 7pm - 9pm
- Class Fees** \$144 for 12 week term

Class fee includes all glazes and kiln firing costs. Clay is available from \$7 for stonewares.

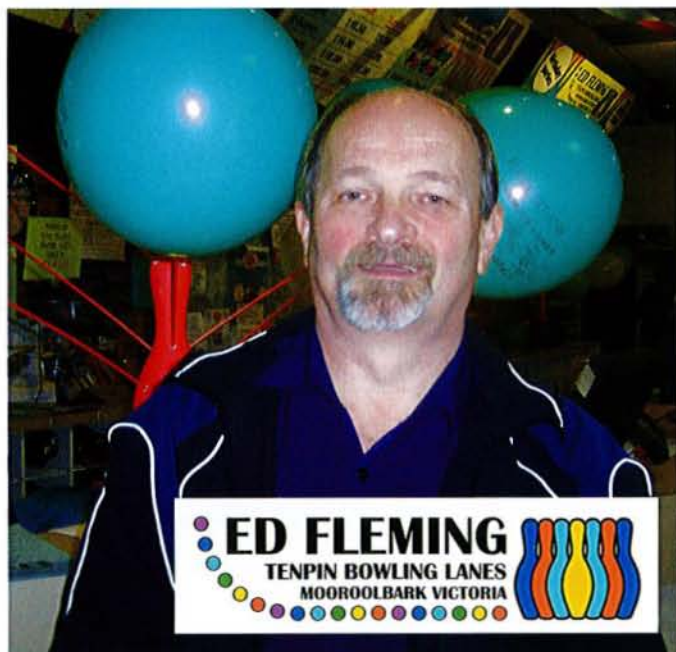
To book a place or to seek further information about the classes, contact our Community Centre on 9726 5488.



Janet Duncan



Ed Fleming Tenpin Bowling Lanes Mooroolbark



Joe Tomasinski has been the manager at our local tenpin bowling lanes in Mooroolbark for two years now. He considers himself to be most fortunate to be able to work in an area that he has participated in and enjoyed for much of his life.

More than just a keen and accomplished bowler himself, Joe has been a state level coach involved with juniors, youth and adult teams and has also contributed to the sport at state committee level.

His work background includes extensive experience in business administration and in the coaching of basics of tenpin bowling at various centres in Melbourne.

Joe is committed to providing the best possible service to all groups within our community but is particularly focused on doing all he can to promote the "family aspect" of our local lanes. He sees tenpin bowling as a great family activity. A number of special group deals, family passes and shopper-docket deals encourage and promote the idea of family bowling. Kids birthday deals are also a popular family activity.

The regular "DJ" NIGHTS at the centre are very popular. These are held every 4th Saturday night (the next one is Sept 30th). The music is 60's through to today's music. A number of competitions and prizes are offered on

these special family nights.

Amazingly, over 900 competitive bowlers participate in team games each week in Mooroolbark. These bowlers consist of 200 juniors and 700 adults. Participants say that these weekly team games provide for a great social night as well as the thrill of the competition.

Tournament bowling also takes place at Mooroolbark with teams from all around the country and from overseas participating at our local venue from time to time.

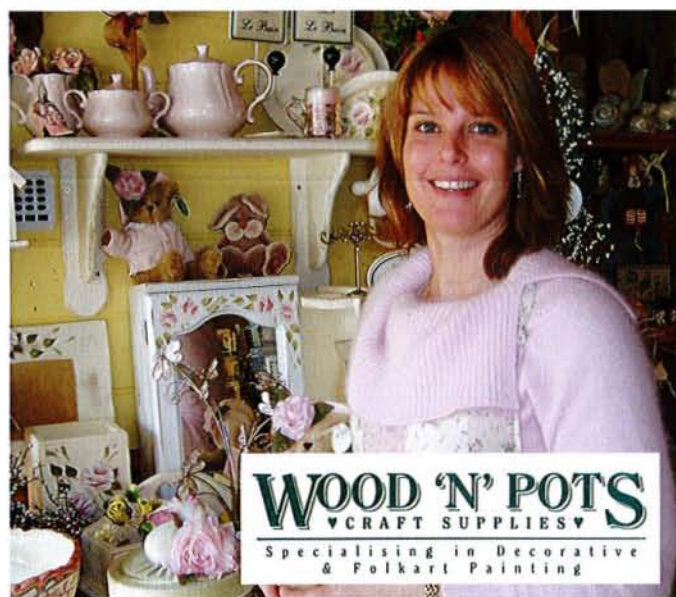
Special programs are offered for seniors groups, disabled groups, schools, sporting clubs, etc. Opportunities to use these events as fund-raisers prove to be a boon to many community groups.

A recent federal government subsidy scheme has helped in providing opportunities for a "Porta-Bowl" programs to be offered in "after school care programs." Schools just need to contact the center to arrange this.

In secondary colleges many students are involved in organised competition through their school sports programs and have coaching opportunities available to them.

We congratulate and thank Joe and Ed Fleming Lanes for their commitment to fostering 'community life' in our neighbourhood.

Wood 'N' Pots Craft Supplies & Giftware*



Sue Williams has owned this unique country craft business, situated in Paul Street Mooroolbark, for just over one year now. During that time she has created a delightfully warm and relaxed atmosphere where one can feel at ease whether just visiting, participating in the many craft classes offered, enjoying a chat or simply browsing for that special gift.

A wide range of craft classes are presented by talented teachers, with many years of experience. The classes include folkart painting, jewellery-making and a variety of other crafts. Various artisans are invited as guests to conduct workshops and to provide students (both adults and children) with a variety of teaching styles and techniques. Many hand-made samples are on display for student inspiration and to demonstrate both traditional items and current craft trends.

Popular classes include the 'After School Painting for Children' program, and the school holidays programs in 'Painting and Jewellery-making'. Details of the many classes

provided are available at the shop.

WOOD 'N' POTS offers the art student or enthusiast, and the general public a huge array of raw timber products, paints, brushes, beads, material and other craft supplies for purchase - all at reasonable and competitive prices. It also offers the service of providing timber pieces made to order, to individual designs.

The giftware aspect of the business provides a place to buy that one-off special gift.

Many original works by talented artisans are displayed, on consignment, and are available for purchase.

WOOD 'N' POTS is a traditional, yet modern business that provides not only the local, but the broader community with skills and products to meet their wide and varied painting and crafting needs. The friendly staff and teachers offer a high quality of service and knowledge to meet the needs of individual students and customers alike.

Why not call in and have a look? You'll no doubt be pleasantly surprised at the wide range of gifts, art products and activities on offer.

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ONE OF nine BROTHERS...

Let me introduce you to a man who's something of a rarity... He's a man who grew up in Mitcham as part of a family of eleven - mum, dad and nine brothers.

His name is Greg Box - and we welcome him to the Mooroolbark Community Centre, where he has commenced employment as the Regional Cultural Officer serving Mooroolbark and Montrose, but based at the MCC.

From his childhood and youth, he recalls the nightly family mealtime around the kitchen table - a time of vigorous and energetic conversation between ten men and a woman... a time for the exchange of viewpoints and ideas.

From that background, as you may anticipate, four of Greg's brothers joined their father in the teaching profession. And Greg obviously learned to be articulate and personable. You'll enjoy him.

Greg's career interests have centred more in public art and he has had wide experience within local government and RMIT. He believes passionately that the arts and culture have a pivotal role in not only helping to improve communities, but also in helping to raise our perceptions of the value of our community.

Within his own township, he volunteered to take on the role of public officer for the Friends of Ferny Creek. He opted not to take the following view: "When I get my own garden in order, then I'll join the friends of Ferny Creek..." Instead: "Well my garden's not in order either but there are more important things than my little plot of land..."

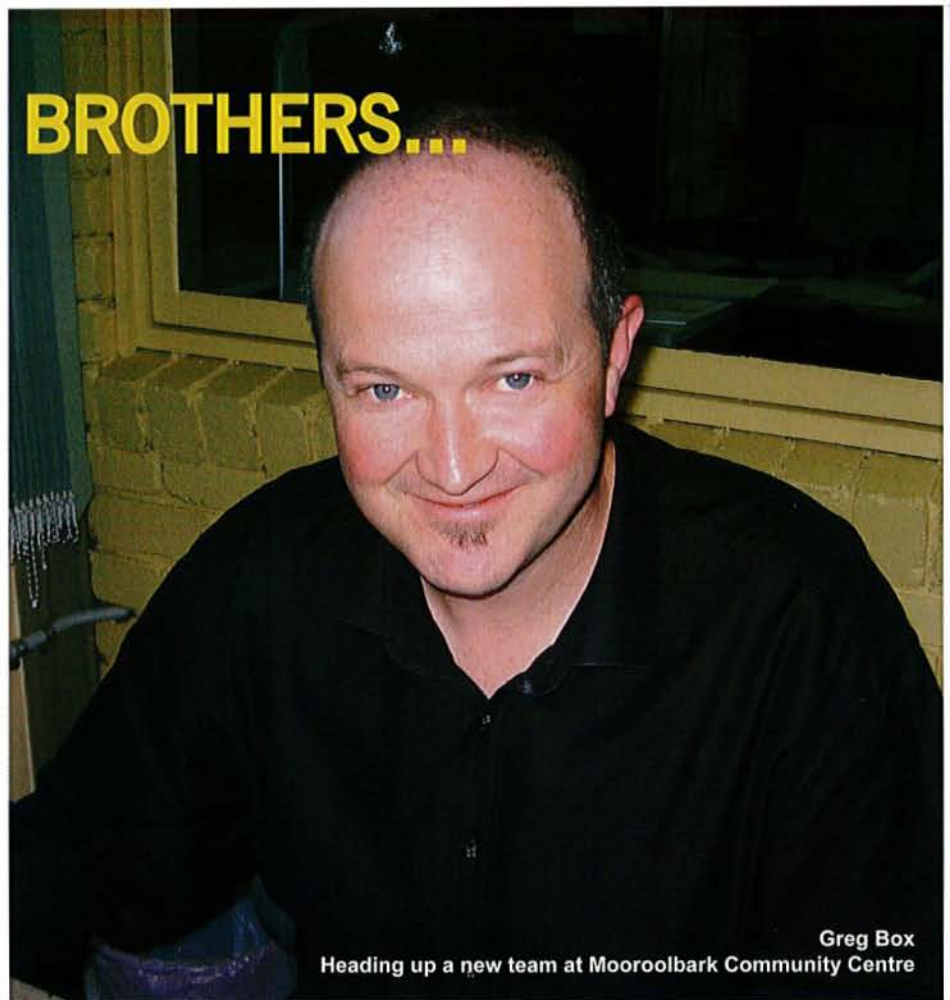
"Well my garden's not in order either but there are more important things than my little plot of land..."

There's a greater need within the community for us to be participating outside the bounds of our blocks.

When we're involved with things in our community - and that includes kinders, schools and all that, we should be actively engaged rather than merely paying for these things to happen.

Greg's position at our Community Centre will range from managing staff and facilities, reviewing programmes, encouraging improvements in marketing and the sustainability of an expanded cultural programme, as well as responding to other regional Shire requirements.

He speaks about how the MCC can



Greg Box

Heading up a new team at Mooroolbark Community Centre

be engaged, as a Shire-funded facility with projects that are already occurring within the community. In fact he's happy to work in local government because he believes that it provides a vehicle for working with communities in making them better places to live.

He's excited about the potential reinvigoration of the MCC through the recent Council review of MCC staffing structures. He's looking forward to building - and being a part of a strong team which will help create a place that is incredibly important to this community - that people know (and increasingly visit)... a place that helps create a living connection between life and the arts and culture, thereby improving community.

I asked him about his intention to build on what was already here, and was reassured when he said:

"I'm not a conflict person - I'm not here to turn the place upside down and place my view of the world on this Centre... I'm a consensus person, I hope... I'd be asking how can we work with one another to make things better?"

In his role at the MCC, Greg hopes to be a person who Mooroolbark people feel can be

approached directly - personable, accessible, available.

Greg has been struck by the friendliness and easy-going nature of Mooroolbark and looks forward to the Community Centre becoming the central place for connecting with and fostering community partnerships. He says:

"I'd see myself being strongly involved with groups that are pushing Mooroolbark ahead... I'd see my role as bringing the arts and culture to that. I'd like to contribute helpful lessons learned from my extensive project management experience."

We're looking forward to working alongside Greg as we continue the lengthy process of building and enhancing our community. He's already expressed his willingness and readiness to be a part of the Township group at its launch in mid-September.

We're looking forward to the exchange of viewpoints and ideas within that group. Perhaps it will be reminiscent for Greg of the vigorous and energetic conversation enjoyed around the family table in Mitcham!

Greg - we'd like to welcome you to Mooroolbark!



FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT ALL WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre

Tuesday Sept 19th

'ICE AGE 2- The Meltdown' Commences'

7:30 pm

The usual free ice-cream, tea & coffee will be on offer.

This school holidays program is presented by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, in partnership with our Community Centre as a service to young families in our neighbourhood.

For bookings - contact the Community Centre 9726 5488

See ya there !

Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship - Serving our
Community



The view from the top

We live in a world bounded by different horizons. Have you ever looked up into the sky on a dark, clear night at the tiny dots of light we call stars, many of which are in fact whole galaxies whirling through space? And those tiny pinpricks of light that strike our eyes have travelled unimaginable distances for aeons of light years, some almost as long as time itself.

Yet when we look at our immediate physical surroundings we find ourselves with much more limited and, by comparison, diminutive horizons. A person standing at ground level is limited to an horizon of less than 5 kms. If he were to climb a tall building or hill 100m high, his horizon would multiply to some 36 kms. Or looking at it from the opposite direction, a person of average height would be able to see the top of that building or hill from 41 km away. Flying at just 3000m (approx 10,000 ft) his horizon would expand to 200 km (visibility permitting).

All this, we well know, is the product of our size and earthbound nature – faced with an earth surface that curves away from us. On the other hand, if we were on the face of a smaller globe, the moon for example, the horizon would shrink to just 2.3 kms away.

So, in one way we can look out into the vastness of space, and in another way we are restricted to a very limited horizon which is just the faintest fraction of the other.

Horizons of time

Surprisingly we find the same parameters applying when we move into another dimension ...“time”. There are horizons there too. We are capable of looking back through the aeons of history

to the beginnings of the universe and time itself. We can equally look forward into the vastness of future time and observe when and how the earth, even the whole universe itself, will come to its finite end. And yet, as study after study has shown, we also live in a clearly limited time horizon as circumscribed as the visible one around us. Our average limits? Just about 12 months each way.

For most of us, events over 12 months ahead just don't appear on our radar, and events over 12 months ago have mostly disappeared from our conscious memory. Now, of course, if we make the effort, just like climbing the 100m hill or tower, we can extend our horizon well beyond. But that is not our natural world, nor the one we default to as we get on with our day to day lives.

As our society has prospered and our ability to do and have things has expanded, so we have become more focused on what we can have or achieve 'in the now'. That is, in the two year time bubble of what we've done and won or what we plan to experience or obtain.

Sociologists and commentators have thus dubbed us the “me” or “now” generation. We'll happily borrow from the future to bring something worthwhile into the now, or annually repeat the pleasurable experiences of the past.

Horizons limited by personal effort – A lesson from nature

There is nothing new about the human desire to seek to do what appeals most to us in the here and now. Even 3000 years ago, people were being admonished to be more forward looking and to be willing to sacrifice the pleasures of the present for the needs of the future.

People who didn't do so were not simply regarded as unwise but branded as slackers!

Consider this quote from “The Book of Wisdom” (Proverbs 6: 6-9):

“Idler, go to the ant; ponder her ways and grow wise: no one gives her orders, no overseer, no master, yet all through the summer she makes sure of her food, and gathers her supplies at harvest time. How long do you intend to lie there, idler? When are you going to rise from your sleep?”

Financial horizons & the ideal retirement

Today, our government forces us to save for our future retirement by means of compulsory superannuation. Outside of that, few of us have long-term financial plans apart from paying off the family home. We run our lives on the assumption tomorrow will be as today – unless pressed to peer into the uncertainty of the world future, or if something happens in the here and now to disturb that unrealistic model. Even those of us for whom retirement has arrived or looms large on the horizon still act as though the first few years will be the pattern of the future.

Recently, the developer of one of those architecturally magnificent residential towers (in this case on the Gold Coast) proclaimed how ideal its apartments were for retirees. In the face of this he was challenged by a questioner on how much store we should put on our possessions – the things we gather around us here and now – and also asked, “How much do people, at the end of the day, have to face the reality that we're all going to die, we can't stay here forever, this isn't heaven on earth in a permanent sense?”

To which he replied, “We see buildings such as this as being places where people should come and retire to - should come and live the quality years of their lives. Come here, get revitalised, be exposed to beautiful restaurants, go and buy a nice bottle of wine. (So, you can't





drive any more? - Just go downstairs in the lift and get one.) Go to a good bookshop, go to a good cinema, have your family come and stay. Enjoy being active 24 hours a day - if this is your wish.

"So... to answer your question... use your assets wisely. Yes, why not end up living a full life here, as opposed to living in a social desert somewhere." And in the process, have "a wonderful piece of real estate" to leave to your children." (At \$1.8 million for the average apartment through to \$16 million for a penthouse one would certainly hope so!)

Apart from projecting his present desired lifestyle onto the retirement years, he simply affirmed the importance of having it all as our 2 year bubble slips along the spectrum of life, whenever the here and now may be, all based on the assumption that what is now will always be.

What is also noticeable is how he reflects our self centred view of the world around. What is there to serve us, our needs and whims, and we interface and involve ourselves with others on our terms, while we always have our paradise apartment to retreat to.

Community means people?

What is equally fascinating is his belief that this is really community living. As he declared:

"Surfers, when it started, perhaps in the 1920s, was a place where people came and had beach houses. We see it returning back to a place where people come to live, where they buy an apartment in a building like (this), and they come and live here, perhaps not full time, perhaps part time, but they can then come out of their apartment down to a whole new

revitalised commercial precinct . . ." Which lifestyle he contrasts with that of his parents, being "far better than living in a retirement village 20 minutes drive west of Surfers Paradise, where they had no social infrastructure whatsoever, they had no relationship with restaurants, no relationship with movies, no relationship with going downstairs and buying a good book, (where) they had a relationship with people who were old and dying . . ."

His definition of a community is thus one in which we essentially have a relationship with ourselves and things rather than people, even if they are "old and dying" as he chooses to portray them.

No doubt he is genuinely trying to argue a case for integration of the older generation in the life of the wider community, rather than retreating to the sort of isolated enclave that some retirement villages and homes can become. However, his natural perspective

reflecting that of the "now" and "me" generation overwhelms these positive objectives and ends up with an even more isolated enclave, even though it is much more luxurious.

Distant horizons - The view from the top

What is the message from the skies above us, from the wisdom of the ages, from a realistic assessment of what life is really about? Is it not... to lift our time eyes above the immediate, the short term time horizon, and contemplate the really important and lasting things that life has to offer? To lift and prioritise our life toward the things that really matter and are of lasting importance?

Such matters as our relationship to one another, our community of friends, neighbours and family, the mutual help and support we can give one another - no matter which stage of life we find ourselves in. These are the infinite, the truly powerful and the significant aspects of life that stand the test of time and circumstance.

Catching a clear view of these greater horizons will make our place of residence (Mooroolbark or wherever - even Surfers) a great place to live.

Terry Villiers



Mooroolbark Community Bank Branch  Bendigo Bank

Supporting The Local Community.

Different horizons

How many of us would love to enjoy a \$1.8 million apartment on the Gold Coast? ¹

Tastefully furnished, uninterrupted vistas of sea, sand and sky, access to the best of city life. It sounds just great, especially if you also have the means to afford it. And I guess that's why those apartments will sell, not just for the real estate but for the life style.

But what if we look beyond? Is this really the epitome of the good life? If we're honest with ourselves, most of us would jump at the opportunity – at least to try it out. There's something embedded in our nature that happily resonates with such a prospect. And yet??

The Good Life

It's interesting that Jesus addressed this very issue with his followers – back then, 2000 years ago in a very different place and time.² It happened like this: A man approached him to sort out a difference between him and his brother over the family inheritance. Undoubtedly he felt he was getting some sort of raw deal and who else but Jesus would be better equipped to sort it out properly. (I would probably feel the same if Jesus was walking around today.) But Jesus sent him packing without even addressing the question. He bluntly refused to get involved. "Watch out," he told those around, "for the good life is not made up of how much you have."

To illustrate this he told them about a man whose business did better than his wildest imaginations and suddenly found himself wealthy enough to retire early and live in comfort. So the man says to himself, "This is great! Now I can really relax and enjoy life from here on out." Enter God – who says, "How stupid can you be? Tonight happens to be your last night on earth, so what good is all that wealth going to do you?" Then Jesus turns to the crowd and sums it up, "If you think accumulating things and enjoying them is what life is all about, then you're equally stupid. Be rich toward God."

An Enigma

As with many episodes like this in Jesus' life, he leaves us

with as many questions as answers. Does this mean it's wrong to prepare for and enjoy a comfortable retirement? (Not necessarily.) Is being well off intrinsically bad? What does he mean, "Be rich toward God"? Put all my savings in the collection plate? (It sounds a bit like it.)

Well, Jesus does go on to explain more fully. It's investing in "things" with little more than passing value that is the problem. Things are there to be used, not be an end in themselves, or a security blanket, or a means of self indulgence.

Such things are to be used generously, to be shared, particularly with those less well off, to be vehicles of love and caring without discrimination.

In another place, using the example of our response to people who are in such dire circumstances that there is no way that they could ever return a favour (the starving, the destitute, the refugee, the seriously ill, the prison inmate) Jesus says, "As you did it to one of the least of these, my brothers (our fellow humans), you did it to me." This is being rich toward God.³

Being well off can be a problem – There is a genuine seductiveness in what it seems to give to us. The ability to take control of our lives, to run it more to our own liking, to not have to be at others' beck and call, to not have to worry about even tomorrow's bills. As our Gold Coast developer put it: "I think (being) spiritual is finding yourself . . . spending more time thinking about you, your life, and the people in your life, . . . and I think that's why this building has that ethos to it." And it certainly provides the means to do just that.

Unfortunately those values inhabit a different world, a different order than the one God holds out for us – a truly richer, happier and more real life open to all, not just the fortunate few. They open up vast horizons which dwarf the diminutive ones we otherwise find ourselves drawn to and imprisoned by.

¹ See article on page 8-9 "The View From the Top"

² Luke 12 13-21.

³ Matt 25: 31-40

'Secondhand Heaven' Community Op Shop

St Francis in the Field, 224 Hull Road Mooroolbark

A recent innovation at St Francis in the Fields Anglican Church, Mooroolbark is their new op-shop located in the church grounds.

"Secondhand Heaven" is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 3 pm, and from 10am to Noon Saturdays.

Elizabeth Ridgway spoke for the 18 or so volunteers who "man" the shop each week, in expressing the enjoyment they've all experienced in meeting many local people and helping the needy where they are able.

Secondhand Heaven offers a wide range of good quality clothing for men, women and children – all at bargain prices. Also available are children's toys, books and magazines, bric a brac and glassware, linen and curtains, some small items of furniture, LP's and CD's.

The second Wednesday of each month is "Sale Day" with many great bargains to be had.

These sale days also incorporate a special morning tea and cake stall which set out to raise funds in support of a number of outreach projects.



Volunteer worker Elizabeth Ridgway

Every Wednesday sees a second op-shop open right next door to Second Heaven. This is St John's Park (retirement village) op-shop. If you have some needs – call in and check out what the stores hold.

Items donated for sale will be much appreciated.

All proceeds go towards the work of the church in our local community and beyond.



Boundaries with Kids

A practical and hope filled program for parents struggling with the task of raising children. No two children are the same but the issues underlying behaviour problems are. Avoid the punishment process and challenge with consequences. Get out of the nagging trap, stop the control battle, tame the tantrums and regain self control!

Being able to set limits lovingly and develop character in your child is the parent's role.

It is NEVER too late to begin boundaries.

The aim is not to raise kids; it is to train healthy adults.

NEW COURSE DATES

26th October – 23rd November 2006
(5 Thursday nights)

Time: 7.30 – 9.30pm

Venue: Oxley College, Old Melbourne Road
Chirnside Park 3116

Cost: \$40

Contact: Life Ministry Centre on 9726 8111 for inquiries

Community spirit in action

Pembroke Secondary College – Senior Campus

The Year 11 students at Pembroke Secondary College expressed a keen desire to participate in several community service projects, both at home and overseas.

Blood Donations

The Senior Student Representative Council firstly identified the Australian Red Cross Blood Service as a worthy cause that the students of our Senior Campus could actively assist with. The SRC, with the help of Wendy Gilbert (SRC Coordinator) organised the visit of a Youth Coordinator, from the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, to give a presentation to Senior campus students, detailing the blood donation process, the use of donated blood, as well as the science of blood. Following this presentation, a large number of students expressed interest in donating blood – and so our 'Pembroke Blood Donation Drive' was born!

Our first group of students, who wished to donate, volunteered to do so on the last Thursday of the mid-year school holidays. In total, we had 13 students and two staff kick off our 'Donation Drive'. These students, since returning to school for term 3, have enthusiastically reported back to their peers and we're now in the process of organising another group to donate blood. We are aiming to have students donating blood on an ongoing basis, either at the Mooroolbark Community Centre or at the Ringwood donation centre.

Sponsoring Ugandan Orphans

Our Year 11 students have also taken on the admirable challenge of sponsoring two Ugandan children, orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. As part of our weekly Tutorial sessions with the Year 11 students, we had a guest speaker, David Livingstone, from an international support aid organisation FDLM, speak to the students about the plight of these children he cares for.

The students responded by committing to regular donations to enable the children to receive food, clean water, shelter, education and other basic necessities. Since then, students have written letters to both children and look forward to continued communication with them.

World Vision 40 Hour Famine

Students have also listened to a presentation given by a representative from World Vision, during their weekly Tutorial sessions. Again, the students expressed a keen desire to become involved in additional community service activities with many signing



up for the World Vision 40 Hour Famine, held in August.

We also had a student, Bree Forster, attend the World Vision Global Leadership Convention, which was held on the 5th July, at the Melbourne City Conference Centre. The aim of the Global Leadership Convention was to educate students, from various Secondary schools in Victoria, on current global issues, particularly the plight of the people of East Timor. Bree reported back to the students this week and stated that it was a worthwhile experience that "was educational in a different way to school. It was interactive and meaningful. I felt as if I was doing something good and life-changing just by being there."

With only half of the year gone, I have no doubt that the students will continue to actively involve themselves in many other community service activities throughout the remainder of the year. As one of their teachers, it makes me feel incredibly proud to see their initiative and enthusiasm for helping others who are less fortunate and I look forward to following them on their future community service journeys, wherever they may lead.

Lauren Munday (Year 11 Coordinator)

Music together

A Music and Movement Program for Young Children and their Families

FOR * Infants * Toddlers
* Pre-schoolers * Parents and care-givers

Songs Movement
Instrument-play Dancing
Relaxing

Facilitated by a Creative Arts Therapist

St. Margaret's Uniting Church Conducted each Thursday in term time.
219 Hull Road Mooroolbark
9:30 am

As well as offering young children this low cost, developmental experience in music and creative play, the program also provides opportunity for young mothers and other carers to spend some time together, make new friends and enjoy a simple morning tea while the children participate in the activities.

Contact Yvonne on 9726 9347 for registration details or any other information.

Mooroolbark East P.S. welcomes new principal

The Mooroolbark East school community warmly welcomes Debbie Nelsson who took up the position of school principal at the beginning of Term 2. Debbie comes to Mooroolbark East from launching Place, where she was principal for the past three and a half years. Previous appointments have been at Lalor Park P.S, Bayswater North P.S. (when it was on Canterbury Road), Ayr P.S, Millgrove P.S, Mooroolbark P.S, Wattleview P.S, and Upper Ferntree Gully P.S.



Throughout her career, her wide experience has included grade teaching at all year levels and specialist roles in the areas of library, drama, art and special needs.

Married to John, a police officer, and with two children, the family lives at Warranwood. Daughter, Catherine, 19 years, is undertaking International Studies at Deakin University and Adrian, 16 years, is in year 11 at Box Hill High School.

Among her favourite activities, Debbie lists reading, travel, water sports, dinners with friends and meeting new people.

She says, "I am very excited to be at MEPS with

the opportunity to meet and work with a whole new community. My major focus will be to help in the further building and enriching of a community where all members are committed to supporting our children and their families to reach their full potential. I hope to be here for a good while."

The wider community of Mooroolbark welcomes Debbie and wishes her every happiness and success in her important role in community life.

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

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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)

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

Ranges Community Health Service

Your local community health service
is Ranges Community Health Service
located at 17 Clarke St, Lilydale. Low cost,
accessible health services are provided to eligible
people in the community.
Some of the services we provide include:

- Community Dental program
- Community Health Nursing
- Counselling
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry
- Child Allied Health (Speech Pathology and
Paediatric Occupational Therapy)

Aims

The Family and Community program
aims to work with families who are experiencing
hardship or are parenting in difficult
circumstances. Our mission is to build stronger
local communities and we will partner with local
services in Mooroolbark to provide increased
access to support and services.

Some of the groups offered to families
include:

Hopping not flopping – A fun exercise
program for primary school age children who
may experience difficulties with regular sporting
activities.

Social Skills group – A program for
primary school aged children who experience
difficulties with social skills.

Parenting group – A group to support
people who are parenting in challenging
circumstances. You may be alone, socially
isolated, or finding your parenting role
overwhelming.

Sing Play Create – A program especially
for families with children aged 6months to 3 years
who are experiencing a difficult situation. You may
have a multiple birth, feel isolated, experiencing
Post Natal Depression, financial hardship or other
similar situation.

Invitation to Parenting Tips – Join us
to watch a DVD on how to manage your child's
challenging moments.

If you are interested in any groups or
services offered please contact us on 9739
4577.

Who is eligible for Ranges services?

- Pensioners and Health Care Card holders.
However people who are experiencing difficulty
finding a service within the community are
welcome to call us as they may be eligible.
- For dental services – all Concession Card
holders, or their dependents who live in Victoria.

If you would like more information please
contact Jenni Wing on 9739 4577.

Jenni Wing

Elsa Rees receives special 't.o.w.n.' award

Twenty-seven years as club graduate.

September 2005.

The other graduates who have maintained their
graduate status are, Pat Johnson 12 years, Maureen
Johnson 12 years, Lily Bushnell 6 years, Pat Robb 3
years, and May Smith 3 years.

The acronym "t.o.w.n." refers to the goal of
taking off weight naturally. Members strive to achieve
their weight loss without resorting to the use of drugs,
injections or other unnatural means of weight reduction.
They help and encourage each other to lose weight
through weekly support meetings, weighing in times and
group therapy.

Maroondah town club began in 1972 and
currently meets each Thursday evening at St Margaret's
Uniting Church hall, Hull Road, Mooroolbark.

Weigh in commences at 6.15 pm and is followed
by group therapy activities and a short meeting.

We welcome new members - both men and
women. The weekly fee is \$2.50 per week and \$35.00 a
year. We look forward to meeting with anyone interested
and helping you to lose those unwanted kilos.

For further information contact leaders: Ken
Barrett on 9733 4660; or Lorraine Boyes on 9726
7813; or club secretary Beth Dummelow on 8704 0630.

Twenty two of the Maroondah Town Club (take
off weight naturally) members celebrated the
year's weight loss achievements on the 2nd of June at
Melrose Reception Centre Tullamarine. Pictured from
left to right are Ken Barrett, leader, Raleigh Mickie, this
year's Queen - having lost the most weight, Elsa Rees
graduate for twenty seven years, and eighteen year mini
graduate, Marcia White.

Elsa Rees joined Maroondah Club in October
1975 and graduated in May 1978 with a weight loss
of 35 kilos. She has maintained graduate status ever
since, and this year received her 27 years graduate
award. Elsa was the first recipient of the State
Honour Board Graduate Award. Her achievement was
recognised at the state annual general meeting held in