

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO.22 DECEMBER 2007

NEW local basketball
stadium...page 7

LOCAL TRADERS
receive business
awards...page 6

IRENE O'LOUGHLIN

Short listed for the third time in the
Victorian Indigenous Art Awards

HOW 'SQUIZZY' TAYLOR helped the English settle Mooroolbark

For those of us who remember, Squizzy Taylor was a colourful, Melbourne criminal active in the early 1900s. In an article on historic interments at Brighton cemetery, the author comments:

Taylor's criminal career can be divided into that of minor thefts and crime (1906-08), blackmailing and mastermind (1910-16) and cunning underworld figure (1917-27). Convicted eighteen times mainly for minor offences, his efficient and lucrative business in jury rigging was used with great effect and the longest he spent in jail was two years' imprisonment for pick pocketing a watch at Burrumbeet racecourse near Ballarat in January 1908...¹

Kit Macdonald, formerly Kit Ellis recalls her parents discussing a newspaper clipping, not many years after their arrival from England in 1914. According to Kit, the clipping advertised Mooroolbark land being sold by 'Squizzy' Taylor. Her parents discussed the matter: 'May, do you think I should take my revolver with me?' 'No, Joe, you'll end up in jail if you take your revolver, leave it here with me. I'll look after it for you!'

And after travelling to Mooroolbark, her father said of 'Squizzy'; 'He's a thorough gentleman. I thoroughly enjoyed talking to him, and I've bought a block of land'.

May and Joe Ellis, and five children arrived in Melbourne after sailing from England in early 1914. Kitty was born on Christmas Day, 1913. My mum used to tell people that I spoiled her last Christmas dinner in England.

The family first settled in Glenferrie where Joe tried to continue as a fruiterer and greengrocer which had been his former business in England. Unable to succeed in his new surrounds, he started to travel to outlying areas working at various jobs and returning home at weekends.

After Joe built a tin shed on the 5 acre property in Taylor Road, the family moved to Mooroolbark, where the Ellis' had seven more children, a total of 4 boys and 8 girls. (In later years, by buying adjoining properties, her father eventually owned about 20 acres. Kit remembers that Mooroolbark East Primary School was built on some of his land. Ellis Court was named after the family.)

Unlike one of her sisters, Kit loved seeing the stars through the gap between walls and roof of the shed and describes how the ti-tree grew right to the back door and that wallabies and kangaroos were a common sight. Swagmen would call in.

'Make us a cup of tea missus.' Mum'd make a billy of tea and then the swagmen would go up the yard, look for the axe and cut a load of wood. They were very kind like that. And they'd leave a mark on the gate.

Dad said that if there was a good mark on the gate, mum could expect more visitors for cups of tea.

Kit remembers the original property as having two quarry holes; exploratory diggings prior to the establishment of the Cave Hill Quarry, or Mitchell's lime quarry, which was famously portrayed by Australian painter, Arthur Streeton in 1935.

(Streeton's) choice of subject was close to the hearts of the people of Lilydale, the quarry providing a livelihood for many people and contributing greatly to the prosperity of the township.²

Joe Ellis worked at the quarry slogging the stone, using hammer, pick and shovel. At the same time, he had the family home built on the Taylor Road property. Kit remembers him as a great provider. They never went hungry. He was a kind man with whom she could share things with absolute confidence.

The larger of the two quarry holes at the Taylor Road property, was filled with water and out of bounds to the children. But, children being children, Kit and some

of her siblings would occasionally sneak off for a swim until the silence around the house would alert her mum's suspicions and they'd be caught red-handed. After a stick around the legs the children would be sent back to the house, not for a shower but for a strip wash from a bucket, what Kit calls: a lick and a promise.

The second quarry hole was cool in summer and a favourite place for family picnics. Her father built a log cabin in that place, too, which was used conveniently to quarantine a younger brother who contracted scarlet fever at the age of 5-6.

Kit's recollections of childhood are often humorous. I was left with the distinct impression that hers was an active, happy childhood where she was not too afraid to push the occasional boundary!

Dad had a wind-up gramophone. He used to stand by the window listening to music and watching what we kids were up to.

We had an old 4-wheel trolley. We used to go up past the corner of the house. We'd all pile onto this trolley, as many as could get on it.

With the children hanging on to the trolley it would hurtle downhill, gathering momentum. As it neared the quarry hole, the children would clutch low-lying pine branches, moments before the trolley, now minus children would crash into the quarry hole.

Dad would come running out to see where the kids were. I can remember that as plain as anything, and I think the boys got a whack for doing it. Dad was pretty good with his backhand... you dodged those! He was a very caring father. I don't know how he had the time with 12 kids.

She described her allocated jobs at home, such as doing the dishes and making the beds before going to school.

We all had to hop in and help. And we had a cow that my brother Joe used to milk. The boys used to cut the long green grass and lay that in the shade so they'd have an arm full of feed to put in the bale when they'd milk the cow at night.

Mum sent me up, 'you can go and help Joe with the cows tonight.' because there were nearly always poddies as well. And he said to me, 'C'mon have a go at milking, because

when you learn to milk, I'm not going to milk the cow.' And I thought, 'aha, you've played right into my hands fella!' So I mucked around with the bale. I didn't get any milk. And all of a sudden he said 'Get out of there, anyone can milk faster than you.'

So down I go to mum and say 'I'm not going to go and help Joe with the milking.' Told her what he'd said. And she said 'Well, you're not to go up there. Let him milk the cow, you can stay down here and help me.' Well, that suited me fine.

Kit says that the 3½ mile walk, 3-4 of us together to Montrose for school was good fun but that she hated school where she encountered some crabby teachers.

I remember them saying one day 'Oh, today's the shortest day of the year.' And I thought 'Oh good, we'll get out of school early today.' And I'm waiting for playtime to come and it didn't come. And I thought: 'This is a bit of a farce.' And I didn't realise until I got older that it was the seasonal time variation. And I'm waiting for dinner time, it's a hell of a long time. And as for going home, it was a real drag of a day. Longest day of my life, I think. I've never forgotten that.

When 14, Kit left school and was sent to work for local families needing domestic help. She fondly remembers the Matron of the Winfield Private Hospital offering her 30 shillings a week; very good money in those days. It was there that Kit learned to cook. And for 4 years she worked there happily, until the depression meant that few people could afford hospitalisation.

The Matron was helpful and kind. *They*

took my appendix out whilst I worked there. They treated me like a private patient. It cost me nothing.

Kit met her husband of 62 years, Wally, at a dance in the Atheneum Hall, Lilydale. *I can remember I had a black velvet dress trimmed with green. It was the black velvet dress that attracted him. He picked up the girl in it! And he took her down to a sit down supper in the Atheneum hall and then he asked me if he could walk me home... that was the start of it.*

Before being married, Kit remembers going to the pictures, going to the dances, going for walks. *That's how we spent our years*

before marriage.

Wally, worked as an Engineer on the Silvan Dam, before leaving to work as an engineer in the phosphate fields of Nauru. After they married, Kit joined him in Nauru; happy years, where their first child Mary was born. Douglas and Lee were to follow.

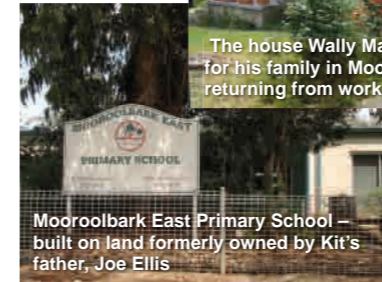
Kit recalls the community in Nauru being particularly rich because everybody was lonely away from their families, so people bonded very well. When they returned to Australia, the local church became their community.

After their return, the family lived for a time with Kit's mother in Mooroolbark before Wally built their house in Bathurst Street. Sturdily constructed, it's still lived in today.

Kit's mother was very active in the Mooroolbark Anglican church; St. Francis in



The house Wally Macdonald built for his family in Mooroolbark, after returning from working in Nauru



Mooroolbark East Primary School – built on land formerly owned by Kit's father, Joe Ellis



Mooroolbark! Have you visited your new community website?

Let us know how we can help your organisation to publicise itself more effectively on this site.



mooroolbark.org.au
an initiative of MAP Mooroolbark

¹ <http://www.brightoncemetery.com/HistoricInterments/150Names/taylorj.htm>

² <http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/museum/Streeton.htm>
(Streeton was a great friend of Dame Nellie Melba, whose father, David Mitchell, owned Cave Hill Quarry.)

Billanook College International Service Project 2007

Community Service plays an important role in the student learning experience in all year levels at Billanook College. Through a variety of service projects, the students are encouraged to develop empathy and compassion for, and a good understanding of, the needs of different groups within the society around us. In addition, through a worldwide network of schools, known as "Round Square" Billanook also fosters a strong international service-arm which reaches out to help those in desperate needs in other parts of the world. The name "Round Square" originated from the site in which the schools' network was founded, in 1967. It was a circular building situated in the administrative square at Gordonstoun School in Scotland.

Every student at Billanook is a member of Round Square and contributes in some way towards the international service projects that take place each year. Throughout the year a number of fundraisers are conducted to support these projects. Senior students apply for opportunities to participate in visits to project areas. As this edition of Living Today goes to print a number of senior students, and Round Square coordinator, Megan Fortington, are planning a November visit to the Orphanage for Poor Children just outside Mae Hong Son, in Northern Thailand. The orphanage provides a home and basic education for about 30 children who are aged between 4 and 12 years and who have no immediate family to care for them.

Prior to the arrival of our students, funds are forwarded to ensure that a supply of building materials is available so that the student visitors can work alongside the local people in constructing improved facilities for the orphanage. Whilst at the orphanage, in addition to construction work, the students will also be involved in helping in the classrooms, teaching English and building relationships and caring for various needs of the children.

As Megan points out, service projects such as this provide not only critical needs for the local people but also offer a life-changing experience for the visiting students. In addition to learning about the culture, history and customs of the local people, the trip provides the students with unique opportunities to develop leadership skills, to face new personal challenges and to develop their own social consciousness. An added benefit for the students is the growth they gain in understanding of global perspectives.



Sarah Miller and new friend

Riannon Carman works on the school's retaining wall

Billanook aims to maintain an on-going community connection between the school and the project areas in which it works. The photographs here are from the last visit to the orphanage in 2006. We wish this year's travel group a safe and most enjoyable and productive experience.

Megan Fortington

opportunities arise In doing so she hopes to inspire others to experience the pleasure of growing more Australian plants
 Recently her property was featured on the ABC TV program "Gardening Australia" and in the Gardening Australia magazine. This was followed by an "open day" under the auspices of the Australian Open Garden Scheme. On that day, over 500 people attended her property and an amount of \$4,000 was raised for charity.
 Cheryl is also associated with the Australian Plant Society - Foothills Group. Her native bushland garden was developed from a former horse-grazing property that she and her husband purchased 23 years ago. Over a number of years it has been landscaped to include a variety of named areas including Everlasting Walk, Correa Corner, Board Walk and Cottage Garden and has a series of ponds which attract many wild birds, frogs and even wood-ducks to the area.
 Over the years Cheryl has developed a passion for propagating and has grown about 80% of the plants herself, from cuttings and growing seedlings. Having recently retired from a career in nursing, Cheryl has now turned her hobby into a small business called "Wild About Natives". Along with her associate, Graeme, she offers a service in landscape design, specializing in Australian native plants. Her company can provide design plans and plant lists, and can also attend to the garden and features construction for you if you wish.
 Anyone interested in seeking professional guidance or in just visiting her garden to gain some ideas and inspiration is invited to contact Cheryl on 0427 283 945.



Cheryl Southall has created her own beautiful bush sanctuary on an acre of land in the heart of Mooroolbark (on the fringe of the Edna Walling estate). She developed her secluded property primarily for her own enjoyment but enjoys sharing this unique setting with others as

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PUBLICATION PERSPECTIVES

A load of wild bullocks: HOW THE WEST WAS SPUN

...was the title for this year's Revue by fairdinkum entertainment, the SPJE Parish Revue Group. Held at the Mahon Theatre at Aquinas College on Saturday 27th October, the group performed matinee and evening shows. The audience of fellow parishioners, friends and family from around Melbourne was treated to 2 1/2 hours of song and dance and hilarity.
 The cast, ranging in age from 7 years to 60-odd, had rehearsed for many months to bring to the stage a mixture of music numbers and skits, many original pieces, beginning with a version of Paint Your Wagon and finishing with the whole cast and band performing Rawhide. The western theme incorporated both American Wild West, with skits like The Gunfight at the KO Corral, and the Aussie outback with the Cattlelog's Revenge and The Dog Sat on the Tuckerbox and a popular rendition of Chad Morgan's The Wedding.



A feature of the show was the tribute to our struggling farmers entitled "Waiting for the Big One" after which audience, cast and crew were given the opportunity to contribute to the Salvation Army Drought Appeal during the intermission. A total of \$370 was donated.
 At the conclusion of the shows, Fr Andrew Jekot, who to the delight of the audience had made several appearances in the show himself, thanked and congratulated all involved. Flowers were presented to Director, Denise Rash and her chief assistant, Ann O' Connor.
 The group would like to thank all who supported the production, especially their sponsors: First Impressions, Mooroolbark Community Bendigo Bank, Ray White Real Estate, Lilydale, David Hodgett MP, Cr Terry Avery, and the Old Colonial Cookie Co.

Rosemary Cullinan

The Lilydale Billy Cart Grand Prix

The Lilydale Billy Cart Grand Prix on the 26th of August proved to be an exciting and successful day for the students involved in the Mooroolbark East Primary School's mentoring program. After weeks spent in the construction and decoration of their Billy carts, and hours spent in practice, both teams tasted success. The Year three and four students were placed third in their event with the Year Five and Six students finishing first.
 It was a hugely exciting day all round with the results being a reflection of the hard work and certainly the enthusiasm that had

gone into the preparations.
 The mentoring group was established earlier this year with the aim of providing leadership opportunities for a select group of students within the school. They were students selected for their leadership potential. The group was lead by ex-teacher, Neil Preston, who set out to provide opportunities for these students to develop and build skills in this area.
 It has also provided opportunity for students to develop skills in the area of team work as events such as the billy cart grand prix are dependent on the students working

together to achieve success. Each team recruited a number of other students to fill their team of billy cart pushers and set about training them up. They met together, had initial sessions to develop the skills needed and then set about practicing and practicing...
 Congratulations must go to a group of Year Six students, Mitchell, Ben and Jessica, who took on the responsibilities of finding information, registration our teams and ensuring that everyone knew what they needed to do.
 The students have also had the chance to be involved in other wood work activities and recently paid a visit to the Sandown race track where they were able to meet some "real" race car drivers and spend some time examining "real" racing cars. The students had a fantastic day and were very excited about the experience.
 The next event planned is for the group to provide a barbecue lunch for the younger students in the school. This will again require the students to be well organized and will enable them to take on responsibilities.
 Thanks must go to Neil who has given up LOTS of his time to ensure all runs smoothly and to the Lions Club who have provided the funds to make it all possible. The growth in confidence of some of these students and their ability and willingness to take on responsibility has been wonderful to see.

Sandra Mariniella



Back row: Keegan, Katelyn, Tom and Ben.
Front Row: Jai, Jess, Mitchell, Matt and Nathan

Tandoori Plaza



Go Fresh

It has been just one year since Dominic Cuzzupi and his family opened the doors of their new business **GOFRESH FRUIT AND VEGIES** at 5/71 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark.

Dominic reckons the daily 3am starts and the long days are well worth it as he greatly enjoys working together with his



Dominic, Teresa, Tina, Justin and Nicholas

HP and Dolly, the proprietors of Tandoori Plaza, have greatly enjoyed participating in and contributing to community life in Mooroolbark throughout their eighteen years of running their very popular Indian restaurant in the area.

They enjoy a real sense of personal satisfaction in the fact that a large percentage of their business comes from the regular patronage of local people. Also that they have received three awards over recent years for the best Indian Restaurant in the Eastern suburbs.

They first opened their business at the site now occupied by the Moo Bar and operated there until seven years ago when they took up the option to purchase their current premises-the old Post Office building in Manchester Road. They transferred their business to the new site soon after.

HP, who has been in Australia for 25 years has gained a degree in hotel management and is a graduate of Oberoi. Dolly is a fully-fledged accountant. Together they make up a formidable management team who are justifiably proud of their on-going success with the business.

In addition to regular a la carte meals they offer a wide range of very popular takeaway dishes. They also provide a function service, catering for weddings, engagements, birthdays, etc. for up to 100 people. Their facilities include a dance floor and can accommodate bands, D.J's and juke box backing for special nights.

Throughout the year, a number of band nights offering Jazz, Rock & Roll etc. are conducted.

Having commenced with a purely Indian menu, they have, over the years and by popular request added a variety of western and Asian dishes to the fare they offer.

Why not give Tandoori Plaza a try? You won't be disappointed.



family, building relationships with his many customers in our local community and seeing his business grow.

Following his very early years of living with his parents on the family vegetable farm in Seville East, Dominic moved into the Mooroolbark area where he has spent the rest of his life. All of his working experience has been within the fruit and vegetable industry.

In starting **GOFRESH** he has focused on giving his customers the best deal possible by providing a wide range of products with a close eye to quality and a fair price. With his local background he is also very conscious of the advantage of and the need to support local growers. He does this wherever he can.

Following the market visits each day, Dominic spends a good deal of time attending to deliveries to various restaurants, cafes, reception rooms, child care centres, etc. He also does a considerable number of free deliveries to private homes, finding that many elderly customers and busy families find it a big advantage to have this service available to them.

Customers can ring in orders on Tel. 9726 7186 or fax them on the same number.

We wish the Cuzzupi family every on-going success with their business venture.

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO...

Blooms on Brice who won the Specialty Shops category and employee, Louisa, who received the apprentice award. Well done!

Professionals who won the Real Estate category and are now listed in the Leader "Hall of Fame" after winning for several years in a row. A great effort!



Leader Business Achievement Awards 2007

Coffee For Me
Congratulations to Peter and Anastasia on winning the Leader Business Achievement Award 2007 (Café and Restaurant Category – Yarra Ranges.) This is a great achievement after just three years in this very competitive field.

After opening the doors of their business on June 30th 2004, Peter and Anastasia soon built up a regular clientele of people who enjoy the intimate setting, the warm friendly



atmosphere and 'family feel' that their restaurant offers. Many find it a great venue to meet friends and connect with others in the community.

Six year-old Antoine is very proud of this award for the business that he had a hand in naming. As a three year-old coffee connoisseur, Antoine would often request a baby chino by asking "Coffee for me?"

Services that Peter and Anastasia offer include a variety of home made biscuits, jams and chutneys, and a range of hand made soaps and jewelry and organic teas and coffee

Along with the restaurant, Peter and Anastasia also provide a functions catering service specializing in gourmet finger foods.

Coffee For Me is situated at 11a Brice Ave.

Oxley stadium

Oxley Stadium, a new, local school & community sports centre, will be up and running for the start of the 2008 school year and the local community basketball season.

This very attractive, "state of the art" facility has five full size basketball courts and will offer facilities for BASKETBALL, NETBALL, BADMINTON, VOLLEYBALL and TABLE-

TENNIS. In addition it provides a mezzanine level, multi-purpose / meeting room which is capable of seating up to 300 people. This very functional space will also provide an ideal venue for classes in AEROBICS, GYMNASTICS and BALLROOM DANCING.

When Oxley College first envisioned building a sports stadium for their students they fully anticipated that they would begin with a one-court facility to which they would add extra courts as time went on. However, in 2004 a unique opportunity arose. A local development project led to a significant amount of landfill and a substantial factory building becoming available. Oxley College saw the potential to use the available "fill" to reclaim an area of their property and the factory to provide the "shell" for the proposed stadium.

Oxley students will

The result is... a great win for both the school and the local community.

retain full use of these outstanding facilities during the day and will significantly benefit from all it offers and the extended sports program that is planned around it.

In turn, the community will also benefit greatly by having broad access each evening from Monday to Saturday.

The significance of the value of this additional community use opportunity was graphically borne out by two surprising facts that have emerged:

1. Kilsyth Stadium is home to the largest Basketball Association in Australia with over 1,000 teams (more than 9000 players) participating during the season.

2. The Mooroolbark post code area has more active junior basketball players than any other post code in Australia.

Certainly, this additional local facility has the strong potential to fill a real need and to be of significant benefit to community life in our neighbourhood.

The full cost of building and staffing this magnificent stadium will be met by Oxley College and Life Ministry Centre. LMC Pastor, Graham Nelson, explains that provision for community use of the stadium is an expression of Life Ministry Centre and Oxley College's commitment to

retaining and supporting the wider community, as well as providing for its own needs.

"Living Today" thanks LMC and Oxley College, on behalf of our local residents, for their generosity and commitment to serving the broader community.



New "State of the Art" Facility

Behind the scenes at Emergency Services

Although Mooroolbark could be classified as only in marginal danger of a bushfire emergency, it's most important for all Shire of Yarra Ranges residents to be bushfire aware.

Our local emergency services, the CFA, the Police and the SES perform magnificently during bushfires, saving lives, property and livestock. But the community probably doesn't know much about what these services actually do.

Recently the shire gave Yarra Ranges residents an opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes when the services are fighting bushfires to save homes and keep the community safe. Among the questions they answered were "who does what during a bushfire and after it's over?" and "what can I do to make my home safer?"

The shire's "YES @ work: Local Government and Your Emergency Services @ Work" community events in Yarra Junction on Sunday 14 October and Upwey on Sunday 28

Yarra Ranges Councillor and local CFA Volunteer - Noel Cliff



October gave the local community some good insights into who does what during and after a bushfire.

"YES @ work" was part of the shire's 12 month Bushfire Preparedness Community Development project, in partnership with the Emergency Management Branch of the Department of Human Services.

Yarra Ranges councillor and local CFA volunteer, Noel Cliff said the day helped the community understand what really goes on behind the scenes during and after a bushfire.

"Many people wouldn't realise that the shire, Victoria Police and the Department of Human Services play a crucial role in ensuring people's safety during and after a bushfire," Cr Cliff said.

"It's not just about CFA members putting out fires or Victoria Police putting up traffic management points, there are hundreds of people involved in a range of other essential services and activities," he said.

"Services and activities including setting up emergency relief centres, operation points and the Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre all form part of an integrated approach to bushfire

response by shire officers, emergency services and other community organisations support services."

Cr Cliff said despite the serious theme of the day, "YES @ work" involved a range of fun activities to show the community what really happens during and after a bushfire, along with a display of new CFA equipment.

"Not only did visitors learn more about what's involved in bushfire response, they also enjoyed a range of interactive activities, a sausage sizzle and everyone was in the running to win some great door prizes."

Residents attending "YES @ work" went away with a much greater understanding of, and appreciation for, the great work of Yarra Ranges' emergency services.

For more information, contact Kym Neville on 1300 368 333. **by David Ashton**



Mooroolbark Community Bank Branch  **Bendigo Bank**

Supporting The Local Community.

Majors & Minors

"Mom, when can I get my ears pierced?" my 12-year-old son asked. "Mom, I want a tattoo," my 17-year-old daughter declared. Family night is a real learning experience in our household. One of my children chooses the restaurant we will dine in (I rarely create edible and/or tasty food), and my other one chooses our entertainment for the evening—they trade choices each weekend. What I learn during our meal continually amazes me, yet validates my sense that children want parents to care about what the children care about in their developing world.

Curfews, slouchy oversized denims, MySpace, gang affiliation, low-rise-midriff-baring clothing, mobile/cellular phones, afros, skater gear... A lot to digest for a parent attempting to remain somewhat knowledgeable of the social habits that are important to her children.

I have come to believe that King Solomon's words are eternal:

"There is nothing new under the sun, all that has been, will be again..."

Our parents suffered the same angst about the interests and futures of their adolescents that we do as we struggle to manage our parental responsibility with love and morality. It is comforting for me to realize that the stages of emerging adolescent independence are fairly predictable, and as parents we can look for two common signposts on the path of a child's pursuit of personal identity: 1) The child is consumed by what the child wants to do and finds his or her desires fully justifiable, and 2) The parent is disturbed by what the child wants to do, believing it to be a reflection of the parent's skills as a responsible custodian.

By Rose Huff

Remembering that my feelings are normal, but misguided, helps me get over myself and what I perceive others may think of my parenting decisions. Then I am better able to concentrate on morally responsible parenting. For me, it has come down to this:

Majors and Minors.

When my child approaches me with a request for a "personal alteration," I first evaluate it under the scope of major (implications) and minor (implications) of experimentation using the three 'I's: Is it Illegal? Is it Immoral? Is it Immoderate?



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"...The three 'I's: Is it Illegal? Is it Immoral? Is it Immoderate?"

First, Illegal: My child's desire for a piercing is not against federal or state law; however, it may be against school rules for males to have a visible piercing, thereby rendering it "illegal" in his context. Next, would his proposed piercing be Immoral—violating life or liberty for another human being by trespassing right or wrong behaviors? Finally, is the request Immoderate—lacking in balance of energy spent toward the behavior, financial expense to maintain the behavior, or rehabilitative expense to keep the behavior in check?

Once I pass my child's proposition through the three "I's", it is time to see how it passes through my filters of importance. This process allows me both to check my own biases and preferences, as well as to provide my children clear, meaningful, and morally sound guidelines for their conduct while clarifying for them my expectations.

It is a lot like a job description or promotion criteria- we need to know what our employer expects so that we can perform at a level ►

Mooroolbark's Annual Community Carols

Hookey Park Friday 7th of December

5 Local Schools participating, guest vocalists together with the Croydon Brass Band!

Come and enjoy a twilight picnic and Carols by Candlelight in Hookey Park, Mooroolbark (Cnr. Station & Charles Sts. Parking rear of the Terrace Shopping Centre)

6.30pm Food & drinks will be available for purchase at family friendly prices

7.30pm Enjoy listening to the Croydon Brass Band

8.00pm Sharp programme start

BYO chairs and blankets. Mooroolbark Lions will have the following items for sale. Battery operated candle & program- \$1. Lions Christmas Fruit Cakes 1kg & 1.5 kg sizes

COMBINED CHURCHES CAROLS SERVICE

Sunday 16th December

Our traditional "Combined Churches Carols Service" will be conducted at Life Ministry Centre, Old Melbourne Road Chirnside Park, on Sunday 16th December, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

All welcome

Free Family Film Night

Mooroolbark Community Centre on the eve of Australia Day Friday January 25th

RATATOUILLE

Weather permitting, this will be a "movie under the stars" evening. Outdoor movie time - **8:50pm**

B.Y.O. Blankets or Chairs
If the weather is unsuitable then the movie will be shown indoors.



Sausage sizzle in the park

Everyone is invited to come along at 7:30pm for a tasty dinner before the movie.

**** Sausage in bread for \$1:00**
**** Drinks and snacks available**
**** Free tea and coffee**
**** Free ice-creams to follow**

Contact Mooroolbark Community Centre for bookings: 9726 5488

Presented as a service to our community by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship in association with Mooroolbark Community Centre

that is meaningful and choice-driven as an employee. When I know what my superordinates in the workplace expect, I am better able to make positive and useful contributions toward the shared goals of the organization. Most people have experienced the frustration of an ever-changing, ill-defined set of expectations for the employee—it is disheartening and debilitating to human productivity and creativity.

In the same way, children need reliable, definable, and structured guidelines for behavior in their development. Some parents have difficulty maintaining rigid cause-and-effect consequences for their children because they want their children to either 1) like them, or 2) not suffer.

Some parents have difficulty maintaining rigid cause-and-effect consequences for their children because they want their children to either 1; like them, or 2; not suffer.

Neither of those sentiments is a responsible position for a parent to take.

Children test us to know they are safe. Think of it this way: When you get on a roller coaster, what is the first thing you do? You fasten the safety harness, then vigorously jiggle it to ensure that it has you reliably fastened! Children "jiggle" our guidelines and rules to ensure that they will be secure for the roller coaster ride that is adolescence. It is easy to succumb to their whinings, complainings, and "I hate you's," but the bottom line is, as a parent, you are their authoritative sentry.

On the other hand, if my child's request is not illegal, immoral, or immoderate, then I grow as an individual attempting to understand an ever-changing world. The meanings of specific haircuts, denim styles/lengths, piercings, etc. and what they symbolized in my adolescence have changed, and so should my awareness. I don't have to agree with it or like it, but I need to be informed in order to make meaningful and rational decisions for my children's best interests in their ever-evolving world. •

Dr. Rose Huff lives and works as an educational psychologist in Southern California. ■

<http://www.christianodyssey.com/children/majors.htm> June/July 2006



Good Things

Melanie was going through a time of serious stress. Amidst family and financial problems, she still had to find the energy to go to work and take care of her children and household chores. It all seemed just too much.

Her friends noticed the change. Once talkative, funny and creative, she grew withdrawn and discouraged. Normally cheerful, she became impatient and began grumbling at the people and circumstances in her life. She wanted to change, but how?

One day Melanie heard on the radio that each night writing down three good things that happened that day, and being thankful for them, could make a difference. At this point she was desperate enough to give it a try.

After a week, she was amazed. After a month, she was convinced. Something as simple as taking the time to think about good things that had happened each day instead of letting her mind replay negative and frustrating things had changed her focus. And pausing to give thanks for those things reoriented her thinking. "It changed my life," Melanie said.

According to Dr. Martin Seligman, Professor of Psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, considerable research confirms the simple truth: gratitude is one of the most, if not the most significant attitude, directly connected to happiness and life satisfaction.

Ironically, our fast-paced, busy lives often leave us with little time to contemplate the good things we can be grateful for. The next task, the next chore, or the next deadline, always seems to demand our immediate attention. In such a frenzied quest for the "perfect" job, house, car, television, stereo, even wife and family, we will always find disappointment.

Gratitude is the antidote to the anxiety and frustration of life in the "give me more" culture. True life satisfaction involves filling our minds with constructive, healthy emotions and attitudes.

"True life satisfaction involves filling our minds with constructive, healthy emotions and attitudes."

Instead of pushing on for the ever elusive "more", instead of rushing off to the next project, instead of waiting to be grateful until things finally turn out as we wish, we could choose to pause right now.

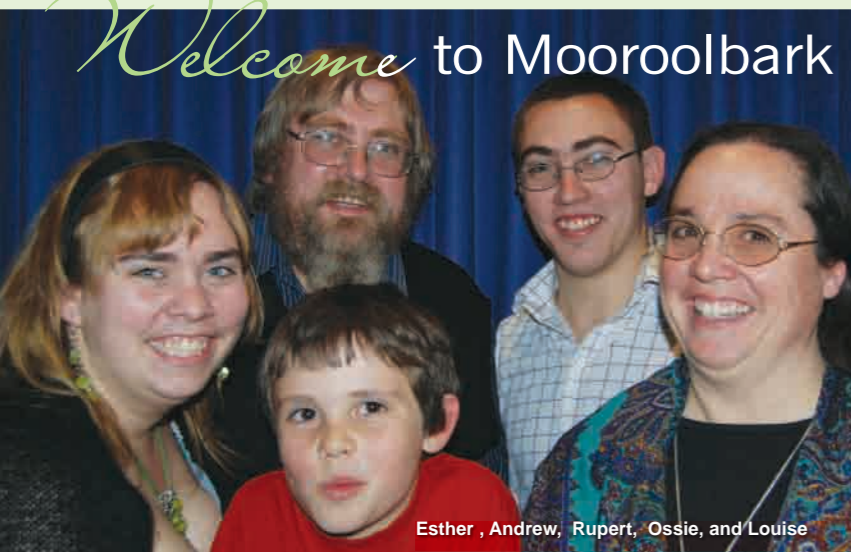
Just take a moment to think about what you have to be grateful for. Need a hint? Consider something you can express gratitude for in three areas: 1) your family and friends, 2) your work or school life, and 3) your local community. You might also want to try a gratitude journal, like Melanie, in which you list three good things each day to give thanks for.

This is a great place to start. But it is just a beginning. As we continue, our whole life becomes an expression of thanks. And that's a really good thing.

Adapted by Terry Villiers from the article by John McLean, as featured in the latest edition of Christian Odyssey magazine. A copy of the full article can be accessed at www.christianodyssey.com Or if you prefer, you can request a printed copy from the editor. (P.O. Box 228, Mooroolbark 3138 or phone 9726 8898)



Welcome to Mooroolbark



Esther, Andrew, Rupert, Ossie, and Louise

Our local family of churches is pleased to welcome Father Andrew Lang and his family into the Mooroolbark community. Andrew was recently appointed as the vicar of St. Francis' in the Fields, Anglican Church in Mooroolbark.

Prior to this appointment Andrew served for three years as Rector in Horsham, Victoria. In his earlier years Andrew held a number of industrial positions in the fields of chemistry and computing before becoming more focused on ministry.

Soon after they were married in 1984, both Andrew and his wife Louise, became involved in youth work and in various mission activities and each completed a Christian Workers Certificate. In 1987 they traveled to Kumasi in Ghana (West Africa) where they attended the Christian Service College. In 1989 they both graduated with diplomas in Theology and Biblical Studies.

Back in Tasmania, Andrew was ordained a priest in 1995. His first subsequent appointment was in Cressy.

Throughout their ministry together Andrew and Louise have served in a number of areas and responsibilities within the Anglican Church and have been deeply involved in a wide range of broader community activities. They look forward to continuing their community work in our local neighbourhood.

We warmly welcome the whole family and wish them every happiness and fulfillment in the years that lie ahead.

Congratulations Irene!

Mooroolbark artist, Irene O'Loughlin has been short listed for the third time in the Victorian Indigenous Art Awards conducted by Arts Victoria. In 2006, Irene's pencil drawing of an Aboriginal elder was highly commended – and this year, her work is one among 47 art works selected from over 360 entries. Short listed works are on display at the Koorie Heritage Trust in King Street, Melbourne.

Irene was born amongst the Nunga¹ people at the Point Pearce Mission located in Yorke Peninsula, South Australia. Originally established by the Moravian church, the Mission was taken over in 1915 by the South Australian government and operated as a pastoral station. By 1972, the government had relinquished its management of the settlement, in favour of local residents.

Prominent AFL footballers came from the area – Narungga country. Think Wangeneen, Varcoe, Goodes and O'Loughlin for starters! Irene would like to write a book in the future about some of these marvellous players and their families.

Irene received her primary school education at Point Pearce, before continuing with secondary school whilst living in hostel accommodation in Adelaide. Apart from the occasional ridiculing she received from some teachers, she enjoyed school but left when 15, to work in the Point Pearce Co-op store before moving to Melbourne in 1962.

Of her childhood, Irene has rich memories. Some are sad, involving difficulties within the community – or the discrimination the aboriginal women faced at the nearby hospital where they and their babies were accommodated

¹ Irene O'Loughlin is a Nunga, whose tribe is the Narungga people of Yorke Peninsula in South Australia. Victorian aboriginals are known as Koories; South Australians as Nungas.



on the hospital balconies rather than with other women within the hospital.

Others point to the richness of family and community life. She recalls the men of the community working on surrounding farms shearing, wheat bagging or breaking in wild brumbies.

One of eleven children she recalls her mother: "My mum was ahead of her time. She made a meal out of nothing when we had nothing and it wouldn't have been easy with eleven kids... she'd send us down to the killing house. They used to throw out the offal. She'd make lovely soup out of the sheep's head and offal."

We used to go fishing – that was part of our staple diet. And we used to go out to a little island called Rocky Island - when the tide was out you'd walk across, and you'd get all the shag eggs – but we never took the whole lot, we never stripped it. It happened once a year. It was like an annual festival. The government stopped it, so now we can't have those, but I still crave for shag eggs. They were not as strong in flavour as a duck egg. They were a lovely blue and speckled with brown and the yolks were very orange and when we boiled them, instead of the whites being white, they were transparent – a pale blue – like soft jelly.

We never went to school bare-footed like a lot of kids. Mummy used to go down to the local dump... and we'd collect old sandshoes and bring them home and she'd cut the canvas off and boil the shoes up and then she'd stitch new canvas on and that was our shoes!

There were Government Issue blankets and when they'd wear out and become thin she'd cut them down and make skirts and trousers for us. She was very industrious. She was one of the few to get a new kero fridge and she used to make pink and green iceblocks and sell for threepence a cone. She made money that way.

It was hard work with a copper out in the yard for the washing. We went to the sand dunes and trucked spring water to the Mission, as we had no running water."

Irene didn't stand still after moving to Melbourne. Working in a hairdressing salon, she completed her VCE in her early forties, and subsequently enrolled at Monash University through the Monash Orientation Scheme for Aborigines, where she completed an Arts degree in Australian history and a Law degree.

Before retiring as a result of burnout and resultant poor health, Irene worked for the Aboriginal Legal Service – work, which she found difficult, stressful, and frequently upsetting. Being a member of the indigenous community meant that it was virtually impossible for her to maintain a buffer between her work and leisure.

Later, she worked for a short time as the Native Title Solicitor for the Mirimbiak Nations Aboriginal Corporation, followed by a time of employment with the Monash Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies. In 1999 Irene moved to Mooroolbark – and loves the fabulous neighbours and the friendliness she experiences in the shopping precinct.

Since retiring, painting has become a full-time preoccupation, having been taught to paint by her mother and aunt, whilst learning her cultural stories from an early age. Along the way, though, Irene has been influenced by favourite painters such as: Van Gogh, Emily Kngwarreye and John Olsen.

In 2005, she had her first exhibition. Held at the Walker Street Gallery in Dandenong, it was very successful, with most of the displayed works being sold. She has also completed some commissioned works – with logos for Eastern Health and the Mullum Mullum indigenous community among them.

Irene finds time, too, to contribute to the community. From time to time, she donates a painting to help groups fundraise. Examples are the 2000 Paralympics, and local boy Zack – helping to fund his expensive medical procedures. She regularly helps out in a supportive role at Toor-rong – a community food bank in the Healesville area set up by one of the Taungurung elders, Aunty Glenys Merry. Her continued commitment to helping others no doubt stems from a deeply held personal value about community:

"Community – it's working together and helping one another out. Treating people how you'd like to be treated. Community is being there for someone in need."

Thankyou very much, Irene, for your inspiring story – for your warmth of welcome – and for the encouraging example of achievement and friendly care extended to so many over so many years!



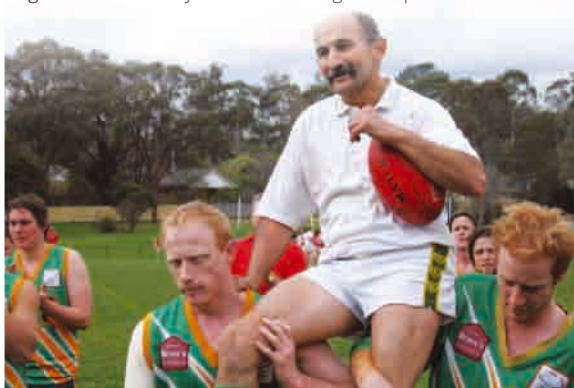
A great club man at MFC

Denis 'Butch' Robinson epitomises the 'great' local sports club man. A committed player, a long time club volunteer, a worker and a family man – all the ingredients of a Great Club Man.

As a 15 year old kid, Butch started playing football with Diamond Creek. He recalls that back in those days, you had to be 15 before you could play footy. He went on to play with King Lake for a number of years, including a year as Captain/Coach.

It was 1976 that bought Butch to the Mooroolbark Football Club. Having married the year before, Denis and his wife were looking for a home and were visiting an Uncle in Croydon for a BBQ. They liked the area and proceeded to purchase a house in Mount Dandenong Road. It was then that Butch saw an advertisement in the local paper "Players Wanted for the Mooroolbark Football Club". This was the start of a very successful, long term partnership between the Robinson Family and the Mooroolbark Football Club.

Butch went on to play 204 games for the club with his wife and three daughters coming to every game to cheer him on. Butch says they had no choice, but admits his wife was his most adamant supporter. It stretches the memory, but Butch says he hung up the playing boots around 1990/1991. It was then however that he volunteered to run the boundary line for the reserves and went on to perform the task of Reserve Grade Boundary Umpire for the next 17 years. Asked about this



voluntary service, Butch quickly states, "Once I commit to something, I make sure I do it! That's my way of thinking". He's even hard on himself, expressing disapproval for missing one year when he had to undergo an operation.

Butch Robinson has been involved as a player in Local Aussie Rules Football for over 600 games, 204 of them with the Mooroolbark Football Club, and many more as the Reserves Boundary Umpire. It was the end of the 2007 Home and Away season, Mooroolbark's last game at home, that saw Butch retire from running the boundary line. He said the legs were telling him "It's time to give it up".

Butch says the Club has been good to him. He has made some terrific friendships and is proud of the people he has met around the club. He reminds everyone that he will continue to support the club, but is looking forward to relaxing Saturday mornings and will take the time to see his three Grandsons play football - one 14, one 12 and one

8 in AusKick.

And finally, after knowing Butch for many years, I asked where the nickname 'Butch' came from, to which he replied, "My Dad starting calling me Butch because I use to smash up all of my toys, so he called me a butcher and the name Butch stuck".

We congratulate and thank Denis 'Butch' Robinson on being a tremendous clubman and serving the Mooroolbark Football club for all of those years.

by David Hodgett

One year ON



Terry Spottiswood reflects on her first year as principal at Rolling Hills Primary School

This time last year I was writing my first newsletter as Principal for Rolling Hills Primary School. I was very excited, incredibly nervous and somewhat overawed. My predecessor was the founding principal of the school and was much loved by the community. These were big shoes to fill.

Rolling Hills is a vibrant school, embracing change at an exponential rate. The opportunity to employ new staff has enhanced our school profile, with the addition of staff who bring additional passion, energy and new skills to the solid foundation that is Rolling Hills. This complements the great social rapport which was a significant factor of the team in the past and continues to thrive even at the busiest times in the school calendar.

Staff and students continue to develop their Information and Communications Technology skills (ICT) through the introduction of innovating technologies such as interactive whiteboards. The school maintains a strong focus on Sustainability, ensuring our students are aware of their responsibility for using resources wisely now and into the future.

Student leadership has been a significant focus of our new direction. This year saw the introduction of inaugural School Captains and a House system. Four houses were established, named in honour of Australian sports people: Bradman, Thorpe, Rafter and Freeman. Our house captains and vice-captains have ably led our students through the course of the year and have developed leadership

skills that will aid their transition to secondary school.

The school has been successful in many grant applications including the Community Water Grant, a Chaplaincy Grant and the Investing in Our Schools grant which will be used to source a multi-purpose facility to house our OSH Care and other specialty programs. We have introduced a range of engaging programs including Instrumental Music, Circus Skills, a staff aerobics program and even ventured to the Teacher Games for the first time.

We have achieved many amazing things in my first twelve months. Our students have participated in a number of programs both at the school and in the wider community. We offer a range of exciting extension programs introduced for students from Prep – 6. We have introduced fortnightly Friday assemblies, led by our House Captains, where students celebrate their many achievements.

I am encouraged by the wonderful home-school partnership that exists at the school. It is truly one of my greatest pleasures to greet parents and children in the mornings and welcome them to the new day. Our parents are informed, active and know what they want for their students. Our Parents and Friends Association and School Council support so many of our programs and we could not achieve the success we have without their valued input.

One year on and I can assure you that I have as much enthusiasm and passion for our future directions as ever. The job is challenging, but thoroughly enjoyable. I have the honour and privilege of working with wonderful teachers, parents and students. Every day brings new and exciting moments that make me realise what a wonderful position I am privileged to hold and how much I am enjoying my learning journey.

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



Editor
Doug Lewis

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

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Distribution
11 500 copies distributed throughout
Mooroolbark and the
surrounding district

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Like to Contribute?
If you have a good news story about
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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