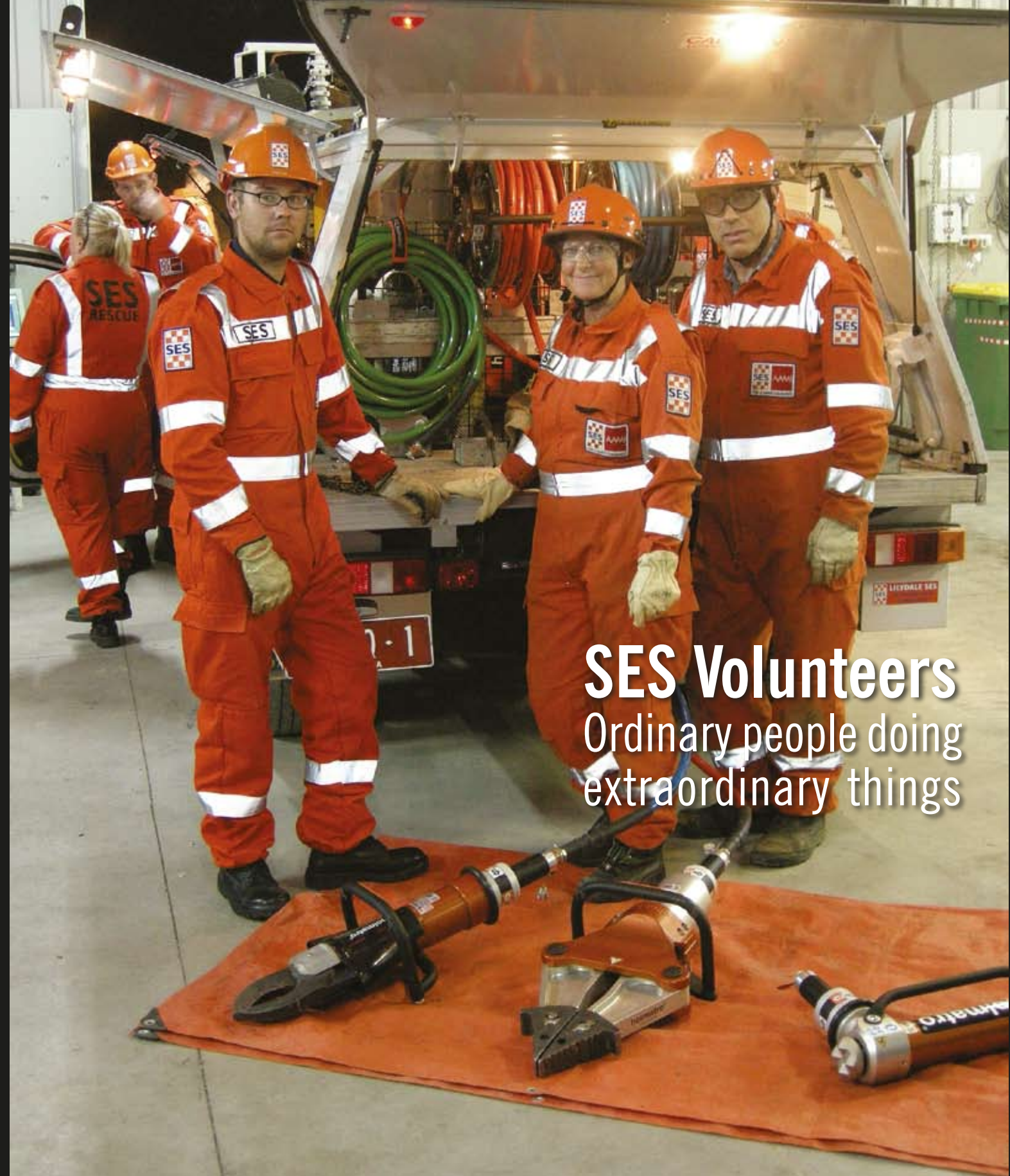


# LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO. 24 JUNE 2008



**SES Volunteers**  
Ordinary people doing  
extraordinary things

# What goes around comes around

You might recall a movie starring Peter Sellers, entitled *Being There*. Sellers portrayed a simple-minded gardener (Chauncey), who'd lived his life sheltered from the wider community. With wonderfully humorous twists, as the movie unfolds, Chauncey finds himself befriended by the US President, and business tycoon (and kingmaker) Benjamin Rand. They regard his childlike observations about gardening as profound commentary...

**President:** *Mr. Gardner, do you agree with Ben, or do you think that we can stimulate growth through temporary incentives?*

[Long pause]

**Chauncey:** *As long as the roots are not severed, all is well. And all will be well in the garden.*

**President:** *In the garden.*

**Chauncey:** *Yes. In the garden, growth has its seasons. First comes spring and summer, but then we have autumn and winter. And then we get spring and summer again.*

**President:** *Spring and summer.*

**Chauncey:** *Yes.*

**President:** *Then autumn and winter.*

**Chauncey:** *Yes.*

**Rand:** *I think what our insightful young friend is saying is that we welcome the*

*inevitable seasons of nature, but we're upset by the seasons of our economy.*

**Chauncey:** *Yes! There will be growth in the spring!*

**Rand:** *Hmm!*

**Chauncey:** *Hmm!*

**President:** *Hmm. Well, Mr. Gardner, I must admit that is one of the most refreshing and optimistic statements I've heard in a very, very long time.*

[Rand applauds]

**President:** *I admire your good, solid sense. That's precisely what we lack on Capitol Hill.*<sup>1</sup>

The humorous dialogue nevertheless conveys a universal truism - there will be cycles of life, where things begin, grow and come to an end. Some things that come to an end live on in the memories of those who were involved. One such former institution in the history of Mooroolbark was the *Red Earth Festival*. Its success in capturing popular imagination can be measured by the clear memories that many residents have of the annual event.

Many people justifiably look back at the *Red Earth Festival* with huge fondness, because in its heyday, there were few suburban celebrations anywhere in the world

that had such dynamism and appeal.

I recently spoke again with Elsie Bolwell,<sup>2</sup> whilst we reviewed some of the historic photos and documents from the *Red Earth Festival*. Elsie observed that the Festival had started small, and over the years grew large and successful before eventually declining.

We spent some profitable time looking back at documents and photographs from the nineties. There's much to learn from, and celebrate, in looking back at the *Red Earth Festival*, which commenced on 22 March 1980 - coinciding with the official opening of the Mooroolbark Community Centre.

By using a series of photographs from the eighties and nineties, I'd like to revisit some of the community-oriented features of the *Red Earth Festival* - features that we can hopefully recapture as the emerging *Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival* continues to gain momentum and grow.

## The Parade

At its peak, the all-inclusive *Red Earth* parade took an hour and a half to wend its way through the centre of Mooroolbark. Represented were large numbers of community groups, schools, sports clubs

<sup>2</sup> See article on Elsie - *Living Today in Mooroolbark* - September 2007, pp2-3

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0078841/quotes>



Fun run



Crowd watching performances



School children on stage



Calisthenics



Mini car



Ballet schools



Vintage car



Guides



Fire vehicles

and businesses – all showcased through imaginatively presented floats, costumed groups of marchers and a variety of vehicles, old and new. Up to three marching bands accompanied the participants. Spectators lined the streets!

Elsie remembers the parade assembling in the Terrace carpark, and moving north along Manchester Road before turning into Brice Avenue and concluding on the oval on the corner of Brice Avenue and Hull Road. A judging stand was positioned near the Senior Citizens Hall. She and her husband organised the parade for a time during the eighties. She says that the Pony Club was always placed last, following one memorable year when the Club led the parade. No one had foreseen the inevitable consequences, but fortunately some quick-thinking firemen made fun of the situation by running along behind the horses with a wheelbarrow and scoop!

Take a trip down memory lane with the photographs of parades in the eighties and early nineties (see below).

Wouldn't it be something if the *Celebrate Mooroolbark* parade continued to grow each year – becoming more inclusive, more colourful, more imaginative and creative in scope?

Although schools, kinders, and groups like the scouts and guides have been well-represented in the growing *Celebrate Mooroolbark* parades of 2007-8, we have a way to go before we begin to match the 1982 *Red Earth* parade listing. It included the fire brigade, sporting clubs (little athletics,

netball, basketball, skating, football, horse riding), Mooroolbark businesses (including the Commonwealth bank), theatre groups, ballet schools, scouts and guides, local schools, Lions club, marching clubs, philatelic society, clowns, church youth groups and so the list goes on. Interestingly, some organisations were represented in the parade by up to 100 people.

John Graafmans – a Committee member for the final 5 years of the *Red Earth* commented that the parades were an enormous task, but brought the community together and showcased what we had in the township. In later years the parades dwindled as key community groups lost interest.

**Displays and Performances**

The *Red Earth Festival* programme for 1982 shows a fascinating variety of displays, performances, and competitions spread between Friday evening to Sunday evening.

In addition, people could compete in traditional events such as gum-boot throwing and the egg and spoon race. A well-loved feature on Saturday night was the very popular Talent Show and Variety concert.

Elsie Bolwell remembers a large participatory combined church service in the Community Centre on Sunday evening, followed by the closing fireworks display on the oval sponsored by the local chemist. Thousands of people from around the region would converge on Mooroolbark to watch!

**Organising Committee**

Compared with the very small *Celebrate Mooroolbark Committee*, the *Red Earth* committee of 1983-4 comprised 21 active members who took on a range of responsibilities. Surnames included: McDonald, Bennett, Chandler, Barnett, Bell, Atkins, Bolwell, Brozak, Disney, Duffield, Fuller, Haysom, Jewell, McCrindle, McKenzie, Newman, Spong, Sumner, Timberlake, Wong.

John Graafmans fondly recalls the Junior Red Earth Committee that gave his children a grounding in community life.

In latter years, a committed and passionate committee struggled to maintain momentum. Despite the valiant efforts of committee men like Tony Macdonald (who'd been with the Festival since day one!), Robert Moore, Geoff Willison and others, a combination of circumstances (a run of bad weather over 3-4 years, mounting insurance costs, financial constraints resulting from the 'user-pays' government policies of the day, mounting pressures to discontinue the carnival, and a decline in Shire support) contributed to the demise of the *Red Earth*.

Geoff Willison comments that when the *Festival* was jumping, it was jumping! *It was brilliant! Thousands and thousands of people would visit over the weekend.* But, he observed *that it all got too hard in the end.*

A year or two after the final *Red Earth Festival*, *Celebrate Mooroolbark* began – largely initiated by staff and user-groups of the Mooroolbark Community Centre. Some years down the track, with encouraging signs of growth and community acceptance, *Celebrate Mooroolbark* would welcome the help of more



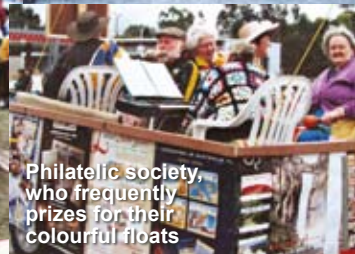
Fireworks



Very different horse-drawn conveyances



Karate exhibition



Philatelic society, who frequently prizes for their colourful floats



Lions Club



Royalty & politicians

committed committee members.

**The Marketplace**

Looking at photographs of the marketplace at the *Red Earth* – there’s not a great deal of difference in the type of stalls attracted to *Celebrate Mooroolbark*.

Historic concerns about the Carnival at the *Red Earth* have led to an absence of big commercial ride operators at *Celebrate Mooroolbark*. Elsie Bolwell recalls the early days when the big ride operators would pack up after *Moomba* and spend a week setting up in Mooroolbark for the *Red Earth* the following weekend.

\*\*\*

I hope you’ve enjoyed looking at some of the photographs from the *Red Earth Festival*<sup>3</sup>. It was certainly a magnificent achievement. It gave residents a sense of pride about our township – as so many groups from the region came

<sup>3</sup> Thankyou to the Mooroolbark Community Centre for access to stored photographs

together to celebrate the diversity of Mooroolbark and surrounds.

Thanks to Elsie Bolwell, John Graafmans and Geoff Willison for sharing their memories - and, congratulations to all those associated in the past with the hugely successful *Red Earth*.

If you’d like to help with organising *Celebrate Mooroolbark*, you could make contact through this magazine, through <http://mooroolbark.org.au> or by leaving a message for the secretary at the Mooroolbark Community Centre.

And, as a community, we extend our best wishes to those working so committedly to bring us our current annual family festival. We hope you’ll set aside Saturday 28 March for *Celebrate Mooroolbark 2009*.

**By Randall Bouchier**



# A 10x10 Unique Performance Event

**10x10 is a unique performance event, bringing together artists with a disability to perform on stage at the Mooroolbark Community Centre.**

The 10 x 10 concept provides ten artists, or groups of artists, with ten minutes of performance time in their chosen art form.

The 2008 performance event will, once again, provide a wonderful opportunity for individual artists, groups and creative arts programs to showcase and promote their skills and talents within a professional stage environment in front of a live audience.

This event will take place on September 12th 2008, commencing at 7pm.

The public is cordially invited to attend and support this program. Tickets may be booked through the Community Centre.

## Film Festival

10x10 is also in the process of developing a Mini Film Festival to be held on 17th October 2008. Its aim is to provide an opportunity for performing artists with a disability to promote their talents through the medium of short films.

The 10x10 Film Festival will showcase ten X 10 minute films developed by people with a disability and we are calling upon individual performing artists, groups and creative arts programs to develop and submit a short film for the 2008 10x10 Film Festival. Films are to be submitted by the end of August and registration forms are available on request.

For these registration forms or for any further information about the 10x10 Film Festival or the Performance Event, please feel free to contact Mark Rogers at the Shire of Yarra Ranges on 9294 6405.

**submit a short film**

# SES Volunteers

**SES is made up of some 5,500 volunteers backed by a team of emergency management professionals and supported by the latest in equipment and technology. Together they provide our state with emergency assistance which would be beyond our means if not for SES volunteers.**

## Who volunteers for SES?

State Emergency Services volunteers come from all walks of life, all backgrounds and all professions. The one thing that they all have in common is a desire to make a contribution to our community.

Volunteers make themselves available for call-outs to emergencies as needed,



Carl, Alexandra, Steven, Gail, Jim

*Ordinary people doing extraordinary things*



Unit Controller Steven Bevens talks with new recruit Mac, Deshpande

according to their individual training and skills. Comprehensive training in emergency related activities and use of vehicles and equipment prepare them for situations they will face. Over the years they have saved the lives and properties of countless Victorians.

Other volunteers work behind the scenes in auxiliary groups, to attend to administrative matters, raise funds and to support the call-out groups as they go about their vital work.

## Personal benefits

Volunteers themselves also benefit significantly from their participation. Although they are unpaid, they have a wide range of opportunities to develop new skills, form new friendships, accept higher levels of responsibility and enjoy the team spirit of working in a tightly knit unit. Participants speak of the excitement, the challenge and the reward of knowing that their contributions makes a real difference to people in need.

## SES responds to many different situations

Flood, Storm-damage, Earthquake, Road-rescue, Cliff-rescue, Search & rescue, Animal-rescue, Emergency planning, Support to other relief agencies.

Volunteers also participate in a range of other activities: Communications; Administration; Training; Public Education, Schools visits; Stores and equipment; and maintaining the "Driver-Reviver" program; etc.

Your local SES unit is situated at Nelson Road, Lilydale. Unit controller is Steven Bevens.

Lilydale currently has 33 active members, supported by an auxiliary group of seven people.

## Like to consider offering your services?

If you are over 18 years and have a desire to assist others within our community, you could be a potential volunteer member of either the response members or the support auxiliary. Extra volunteers are always welcomed.

For further information on your local unit please contact Steven Bevens on 9739 7986, or email [lilydale@ses.vic.gov.au](mailto:lilydale@ses.vic.gov.au).

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## National Day of Thanksgiving - Mayoral Breakfast

On May 10th, at York on Lilydale, more than 300 people participated in our third annual Shire of Yarra Ranges National Day of Thanksgiving Breakfast. This event, arranged by our local church communities, was hosted by Mayor, Tim Heenan. Its purpose is to give recognition and to offer expressions of thanks to the many people who volunteer their time and services for the benefit of others in our local communities.

M.C., Randall Bouchier, introduced a number of volunteers, representing a wide range of service areas and related each of their inspiring, personal stories.

One story was about...

### Foster Parents, Jenny and Steve Taylor

Jenny and Steve became accredited foster carers just over one year ago. Since

that time they have cared for 9 children, aged 6-14 years, including a sibling group of 4 (for which they received only one hour's notice). Currently, they are caring for a 7 year old boy who has been with them for 8 months. Jenny and Steve began by offering short-term respite care of up to two weeks, but as they became aware of the needs that exist and the positive difference they could make in these young lives, they wanted to offer more. Jenny has recently reduced her work commitments to be able to devote more time to their fostering work.

They each talk of their own personal growth as they work together to better understand and learn how to offer unconditional love to troubled and traumatized young lives.

"The natural rewards that comes from the hugs and the expressed feelings of



comfort and security are more than enough to make it all well worthwhile," says Steve.

Our sincere thanks to Jenny and Steve – and our many volunteers who work to make our community a better place.

**For anyone wanting to know more about fostering programs the following comment from Jessica Nosfe-Turner of Anglicare / Lilydale may provide a starting point:**

#### Foster care in Yarra Ranges

We currently have 73 carers who live in the Shire of Yarra Ranges 16 of them live in Lilydale/Mooroolbark

#### Fostering needs

Due to the steady increase in the number of children requiring care and the severe shortage of foster homes, it is becoming more and more difficult and challenging for fostering agencies to arrange suitable placements for needy children. The Yarra Ranges is one area of

Melbourne's eastern suburbs that is severely impacted by poverty and isolation – leading to even greater need for temporary child support through foster care.

#### Opportunities to make a real difference in the life of a child

There are opportunities for people from all walks of life to become involved in making a difference in the life of a child; - all ages, cultural backgrounds, family types including singles, couples, and families with children. Diversity is the key to successful matching of individual children to families.

There is a range of programs and types of care such as the Friends program, Respite Care one weekend per month, Emergency and Short Term care to Long-Term care. For more information please call 1300 889 335.



## Kilsyth Primary School

Lenis Quigg (Assistant Principal)

Kilsyth Primary School began in 1913. It is situated on Durham Road and has undergone a number of different building stages. The last and most recent was because of the fire which devastated the school on August 25 1997. This completely destroyed the buildings and the local community rallied around to ensure that the students continued on with their education. Local schools provided resources and facilities to ensure that the students had minimal interruption to their learning. Within two weeks after the fire, the students moved into portable rooms until the completion of the new modern school buildings two years later.

Over the years, Kilsyth has had additional buildings on site to cater for the variance in student population. The school community takes pride in the school buildings and its surrounds. We have a wonderful school hall which the wider



community can access recreational activities. Our multipurpose room is detached from the school building and is available for hire to our community. Our new classrooms have been designed to allow teachers the greatest flexibility to create the best learning environment for their students with moveable walls and mini computer laboratories.

Our students are actively involved in maintaining the native habitat bordering the playground area. This has been designed in conjunction with the Shire of Yarra Ranges (with sponsorship from Boral) as a Frog Habitat and Butterfly Garden.

Our team of staff is committed to our extensive teaching programs. We focus on developing positive relationships between all members of our school community. We use this investment to provide students with a learning program to meet their own specific needs and to ensure it is engaging and challenging. Our classrooms are rewarding places to learn and teach. Our students learn in a happy, stimulating and positive environment and strive to 'BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE'.

In a world of ever changing digital technologies, Kilsyth Primary School provides a Digital Excellence Program for our students. This program helps prepare students to become computer literate in the 21st Century. All students develop their Information and Communications Technology skills using software such as Kidpix, Kahootz and many Microsoft applications, as well

as, making movies slide shows, digital cameras and scanners. The integrated use of computing programs has proven to be a great motivational tool across the curriculum and has enhanced student's productivity and creativity in their application to class work.

The school runs a very successful transition program throughout the year. Our Prep teachers have established excellent links with the local child-care centres and pre schools. We have ongoing visits from the children who attend story time sessions in our library. In fourth term our Ready Set Go program gives opportunities for prospective Prep students entering our school the following year, to participate in sessions that prepare them in the smooth transition from pre school to Prep.

At Kilsyth Primary School, we promote the importance of personal values which underpin our beliefs and ensure that every child is given full opportunities to succeed.

#### At Kilsyth Primary School we value:

- Excellence in Learning
- Caring
- Responsibility
- Positive Attitude
- 'BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE'

For more information please visit our website: [www.kilsythps.vic.edu.au](http://www.kilsythps.vic.edu.au). Tours can be arranged by contacting the Principal Allan Thatcher on 9725 4320



## Ming Pavilion

When Mary and Peter Wang began their first restaurant business in Cranbourne in 1991 they occupied premises that would accommodate a maximum of 70 customers. After several years they found that potential customers were beginning to be turned away for lack of space. So they began looking for a larger facility to enable them to expand the business.

In 1998 they became aware that the old local State Savings Bank building in Brice Ave. Mooroolbark was available for purchase. This presented the opportunity to create a 150 customer capacity restaurant. At that time, they noted, there were few eating places in the local area and so decided that Mooroolbark was the place to be.

It was a very busy time for them both as it was just before their twin boys (now 10 years of age) were born.



On May 1st, this year "Ming Pavilion" celebrated its 10th anniversary in Mooroolbark.

Congratulations to the Wangs on reaching this 10 year business landmark. Well done!

Mary and Peter speak with much appreciation of the strong support and encouragement they received from the local community when they first opened their business in the area. Mary notes that, "That sense of community support has just grown over the years."

They have made many friends in the local community in those 10 years and have developed a wide customer base for their very successful, on-going business.

Ming Pavilion is fully licensed and provides restaurant and function facilities 7 days a week. It also offers a take away menu with an optional home-delivery service.

Regular Karaoke evenings, every Friday and Saturday night are very popular and a Thursday night Karaoke competition has now been introduced. Well worth a look!

## Zoots Unisex Hair Design

64b Brice Ave Mooroolbark

Congratulations and best wishes to Darryl and Sue Campbell on the completion of 24 years (and one week) of running their most successful, local hair-design business.

Having decided that it is "time for a change in their lives" they have sold the business and intend to move into new fields of work.

After employing more than 30 assistants and training 15 apprentices over the years, they are now more than happy to become employees. They look forward to the benefits of having weekends to themselves and more time to share with their family.

Darryl and Sue have greatly enjoyed their close involvement with the local community and are most appreciative of the many strong personal relationships and life-long friendships they have developed with clients.

They thank the community for the

strong support they have always received.

Over the years they have worked hard to give something back to the community through their support of and involvement in various sporting groups and Mooroolbark East Primary school.

We thank them for their contribution to community life in Mooroolbark and wish them every enjoyment and success in this next stage of their lives.

New owner, Jessica Mirabella, has lived in Kilsyth all her life. Having worked in hairdressing for 7 years, she is now looking forward to the opportunity to operate and develop her own business.

She plans to retain the "Zoots" business name and to offer all the same exemplary services. We welcome Jessica as a local business owner and wish her every success. Jessica can be contacted on 9726 7190



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# Mooroolbark Station

## Magic Wands and Community Spirit

As I walked down the main shopping strip in Brice Ave recently, on my way to my post-office box, my attention was drawn to a conversation between a shop owner and two elderly ladies walking past his shop. It was quite obvious that the experience of the ladies encounter with the shopkeeper had made their day, and it didn't appear to be their first encounter with the shopkeeper.

As I picked up my mail, I pondered what made Mooroolbark different from other places we had lived in. The warmth of the conversation I had just witnessed wasn't an isolated incident; I had seen other such conversations in the supermarkets, in the takeaways, and at local service stations. As the saying goes, 'it doesn't take a rocket scientist' to work out that Mooroolbark is a community – not just a township suburb of Melbourne, but a genuine living, breathing and growing community.

You may by now be asking what my preamble about conversations in Mooroolbark has to do with Mooroolbark Station? The answer to that question is a surprisingly simple yet powerful one - community spirit.

The story starts in 2002 when VicHealth started looking into the effect of environment on health and wellbeing. Over the next two years, local governments looked at how public places including railway stations could be used to promote mental health and wellbeing through art and environment.<sup>1</sup>

This resulted in VicHealth commissioning the scoping paper "Train Stations as Places for Community Wellbeing" in 2006, which looked at 'local and international practice to improve train station environments'.<sup>2</sup>

The response to the scoping paper was very positive and in 2007 a steering group comprising State Government agencies was formed to look at how to move forward and what stations would be earmarked to participate in a trial programme.

It was largely due to a tragedy, which took place three years earlier that Mooroolbark found itself on the shortlist of 11 stations. On Saturday April 3, 2004, an 18-year-old young man was thrown onto

the railway tracks during an altercation with another youth and was hit and killed instantly by an inbound train.<sup>3</sup> There had been concerns for some time about the increased requirement for police presence around the station as well as the general cleanliness of the station environment.

Four years on, the Mooroolbark community has been given an opportunity to turn that tragedy into a chance to make our railway station a vibrant, safe and attractive hub of the community. Only three railway stations were selected out of the 11 shortlisted – Laverton, North Shore (Geelong) and Mooroolbark. With this opportunity, Mooroolbark was given a real chance to demonstrate its community spirit, working together to create a new vision for Mooroolbark Station.

Preparations to consult the community about what we would like to change about the station got underway in February this year and you may have already received one of 6000 information postcards that were

distributed throughout the community entitled "If I had a magic wand, how would I change Mooroolbark Station?" There were editorials in local newspapers and you may have even noticed plastic question marks potted around Mooroolbark.

Lots of activity could be witnessed throughout February as Shire of Yarra Ranges staff got right in behind the project, consulting commuters at the station, and distributing "ideas postcards" at the station for commuters to complete and then drop in at the station. Shire of Yarra Ranges Coordinator for the project, Mandy Black, commented that it was exciting to see how many staff members from different departments within the Shire volunteered their time to get involved in the project.

Schools in the area were also notified and some of the schools even put an article in their school newsletter to highlight the project. A video was made at the station of interviews with commuters and other residents about their views on what they would do if they had a 'magic wand'.

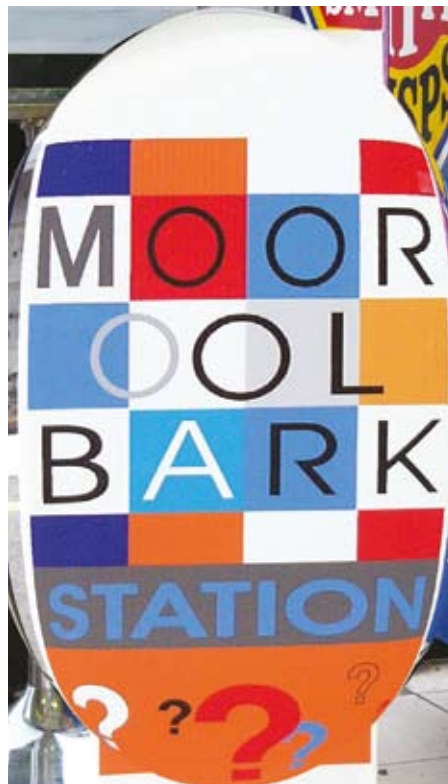
All of the ideas from the community were gathered together and were presented at a community workshop held over the morning of March 3 at the Mooroolbark Community Centre. The workshop was attended by Shire employees, interested local residents and traders and was facilitated by Melbourne comedian, coach and mentor Trent McCarthy.

There was also representation by both local and state government with the Mayor of Shire of Yarra Ranges Cr Tim Heenan, Councillor Terry Avery and State Liberal MP for Kilsyth David Hodgett adding their insights and support to the venture.

Over 600 comments were presented at the workshop from a variety of sources including email, phone calls and communication through the two websites linked to the project for information and feedback. (The two websites are listed at the end of this article).

Mr. McCarthy said that he was impressed with the level of community involvement, and the high quality of ideas. He said that the wide mix of people brought a keenness and freshness to the debate.<sup>4</sup>

All the comments collected from the railway station, off the websites, through emails and telephone calls were divided into



1 From briefing paper "Train Stations as Creative Community Hubs" provided by Mandy Black

2 From briefing paper "Train Stations as Creative Community Hubs" provided by Mandy Black

3 Police to get tough with station gangs, from article in The Age By Kenneth Nguyen, Mark Russell. April 11, 2004

4 Website article "Plans for Station" from website www.mooroolbark.org.au





six key themes.

- 1. Access and Movement
- 2. Amenity and Aesthetics
- 3. Traffic and Transport
- 4. Perception of Safety
- 5. Sense of Community
- 6. Physical Place

The great thing about our community

responses was that constructive solutions were offered along side the comments that were made about what people believe are problems associated with the station. Participants at the workshop spent time reviewing all these responses and making recommendations for short, medium and long-term opportunities to improve the station.

It was determined that a taskforce be set up to move forward with the ideas and on April 29th, the first taskforce meeting was held to set up a governance structure and appoint a chair to oversee proceedings. Also at this meeting, it was also decided how often the taskforce will meet and where.

If you would like to be involved in the community taskforce, it's not too late to join in and add value to the taskforce. If you are one of those people, who like those I

have witnessed, enjoy having a chat with the locals and you are passionate about Mooroolbark, Mandy Black would love to hear from you. You can contact her at the Shire of Yarra Ranges offices on 9723 8924.

If you are interested in viewing some of the ideas put forward at the workshop on March 3rd, they will be published in future articles online at [www.mooroolbark.org.au](http://www.mooroolbark.org.au), so be sure to check the website at regular intervals.

Mooroolbark Station is a big part of the history of Mooroolbark, having been central to our township for over 120 years. We as a community have been given a unique and exciting opportunity to input into how we would change our railway station 'if we had a magic wand'. If you had a magic wand, what would you change?

For further information on this project and to see what else is happening in your community, you can go to the following websites: [www.yarrarangeslearning.net.au](http://www.yarrarangeslearning.net.au) and [www.mooroolbark.org.au](http://www.mooroolbark.org.au).

Chris Gough



Chris Gough



[www.methven.com.au](http://www.methven.com.au)

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SINCE 1964

**Christian Odyssey** is an easy reading magazine exploring matters of life and faith.

The following thought-provoking items on – Hell? and Getting Real - are each a synopsis of articles in the current issue. The full articles can be accessed on the magazine website: [www.ChristianOdyssey.org](http://www.ChristianOdyssey.org)

Alternatively, you can receive a free copy of this issue, or the particular articles by contacting "Living Today" at P.O. Box 228 Mooroolbark 3138 or by phoning 9726 8898.



Terry Villiers



## Getting REAL

By Mike Fezell

## Hell?

You probably won't hear a hell-fire and brimstone sermon in church today. A growing chorus of scholars have voiced opposition to the traditional view of hell. They, and a growing number of others, "consider the concept of hell as endless torment in body and mind an outrageous doctrine."<sup>1</sup>

Ultimately, a person's belief about hell comes from the Bible but the problem is that a lot of misinformation has been mixed in with that biblical teaching. The New Testament testifies that God has no intention of condemning people to "hell" out-of-hand. His goal is to save us and heal our brokenness.

No one need ever go to hell, except by their own choice. Hell is not a jail or a place into which God tosses people he hates. Rather, it is a state of denial of who God is and who he created us to be. Hell is refusing to accept the love of God, preferring instead a world of our own making.

People in hell are there in spite of God's will for them, not because of it. They have what they want, not what God wants for them. Hell is a dismal, tragic, gloomy and unnecessary disaster. It is in total contradiction to everything God wants for us.

By Paul Kroll Copyright 2008

1. Christopher W. Morgan and Robert A Peterson, Hell Under Fire (Zondervan, 2004), p. 34.

Most of us go to great lengths to look good in the eyes of others, but life has much more to offer than the frustrating rat race of "keeping up appearances."

We can trust God to give us everything we need for life. And more than that, God does what he does for us because it is his good pleasure to do so. He is for us.

We don't have to be prisoners of "keeping up appearances." We don't have to carry around anxiety. We can live carefree before God, casting all our anxieties, all our cares, upon him, because we know he cares for us.

With God, we can "get real." We can be perfectly honest with ourselves and with him. We don't have to hide anything. We can unload all our failures, all our fears on the One who loves us and gave himself for us—and who makes all things new.

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## FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre Wed. July 9th  
\*\* The screening of **"Horton Hears a Who"**

commences at 7.30pm

The usual free ice-cream and tea & coffee will be offered. A snack-bar is open during the intermission with "goodies" at great prices.

This school holidays program is a joint community service extended to young families in our neighbourhood by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, & Mooroolbark Community Centre.

To reserve seats please contact Mooroolbark Community Centre in person, or ring on 9726 5488. See Ya There! Please Note: The Community Centre advises that due to the popularity of this program, bookings are essential. Tickets not claimed by 7:15 pm may be released for general distribution.



An excited group, enjoying the free school -holiday movie (and ice-creams) together

Wednesday  
July 9th

ALL WELCOME

# Beat 87

## Mooroolbark Community Centre Branch

Sarah Bowling's dance classes are offered in association with our community centre as a service to aspiring young dancers in our local neighbourhood.

It offers jazz classes for 4year-olds to open age and tap classes for ages 4-14 years.

Sarah has been providing this service for the past 13 years.

Classes are conducted in the Mooroolbark Community Centre on Wednesdays between 4:30 and 8 p.m.

Each group works throughout the year to prepare items for the school's Christmas concert for family and friends.

Sarah sums her classes up as providing:

- **opportunities for expression**
- **lots of fun**
- **no pressure**
- **no exams &**
- **reasonable costs**

These days, Sarah is assisted in the areas of teaching, choreography and costume organization by her Mum, Vicki. Both Sarah and Vicki hold qualifications from the Commonwealth Society of Teachers of Dancing. Younger sister, Claire and Dad (Andrew) help with the annual concerts and with organizational matters - making it a real family affair.

For more information or to arrange to participate in the classes, call the community centre on 9726 5488.



The Performing group at "Celebrate Mooroolbark"



Sarah & Vicki Bowling

## GymbaROO Parents & children "Learning Together"



Marg Tull, Ros Holz & Marion Stott



Nikita Stock



Luke Tull

Parents and Children enjoying a fun, learning experience TOGETHER, is the main aim at Mooroolbark GymbaROO.

While the children are learning through play, both exploratory and structured, the parents are seeing the individual development of their child through the natural mile-stones from...

BabyROO, 6 weeks to 6 months, and up in 6 monthly or yearly age groups to our Pre school and School Readiness programs.

Manager, Marion Stott says " Every song sung, every game and activity played at GymbaROO is specifically designed to increase your child's capabilities for learning."

Parents receive weekly information sheets and the GymbaROO magazine, " First Steps," each term. We believe that the more information a parent receives, and acts upon, the more interesting, exciting and successful parenting will be throughout the formative years and beyond.

"The pure joy of working with the parent's and their children, by providing this program that nurtures each natural stage of development, is just so rewarding." staff say.

GymbaROO offers an Introductory Trial for new families, plus Video Visit Excursions for New Mothers Groups or Playgroups.

Mooroolbark GymbaROO was the second centre established. We are currently celebrating 24th year of operation. Classes are conducted in the Mooroolbark Community Centre.

All inquires welcome. Please ring Marion on 9726 8740 or check us out at [www.gymbaroo.com.au](http://www.gymbaroo.com.au). Email address: [Mooroolbark@gymbaroo.com.au](mailto:Mooroolbark@gymbaroo.com.au)

## New Shire programs

Two local groups – young mothers-to-be and members of our indigenous community – will benefit from separate programs recently introduced by the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

### Young mothers' resource

"Hey Babe...what if you're pregnant?" is a resource for young pregnant women aged 15-21, who may not otherwise have access to ante-natal education or support.

Young mums Jess Feltham, a participant in Young Parents and Kids Playgroup in Mooroolbark and Chloe Bygott, a peer support worker with Connections Starting Out Program, were involved in the development of the resource.

At the recent launch of the program, Jess and Chloe shared their experiences and joined Mayor Tim Heenan in launching the resource, which includes a poster, information card and CD.

"Hey Babe...what if you're pregnant?" was developed in partnership between the Shire, Eastern Health, Women's Health East and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Yarra Ranges Mayor, Tim Heenan said the resource was easy to read and accessible. "It provides essential information on pregnancy, and ante-natal and post-natal care options, as well as information on the development and management of children in the early years," he said.

ABS Census data from 2006 revealed there were 423 young mothers in the Yarra Ranges, accounting for 4.9% of the age group. This figure was higher than the Eastern Metropolitan statistic of 2.7%.

"Based on these figures and the information from local care providers, there was obviously a need for more support and information for our young mothers-to-be," Cr Heenan said.

### Firm focus on areas of indigenous disadvantage



An example of indigenous art displayed at the Burrinja Centre

The Shire of Yarra Ranges' Reconciliation Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2010, launched in April, provides a firm commitment to developments in a number of key areas of concern to our Indigenous community.

These areas include improving standards of health, supporting young people, protecting cultural heritage, maintaining an Indigenous voice on Indigenous issues, and building better relationships and partnerships with the wider community.

Mayor Tim Heenan said the strategy and action plan was developed in close consultation with the Yarra Ranges Indigenous



Advisory Committee (IAC), both traditional and community elders, community members and Shire staff.

"The consultation highlighted the areas of Indigenous disadvantage which need to be addressed, helped us to come up with strategies for addressing those areas of concern, and identified the people or groups who need to be involved in order to bring about that improvement.

"I'm confident that the strategy and action plan will provide a comprehensive framework to help the Shire address issues of disadvantage in our Indigenous community."

The plan had its origins more than 10 years ago, when the Shire endorsed the Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Australians in 1997, as part of the national reconciliation process. The statement acknowledged the historical and cultural value of Indigenous Australians, and recognised the principles of equity and access for Indigenous communities to their heritage.

The Reconciliation Strategy and Action Plan was developed in 2006/07, as an important part of the Shire's Vision 2020, in particular the Shire's Statement of Apology and Statement of Reconciliation.

David Ashton

**MOOROOLBARK THEATRE GROUP INC.**  
By special arrangement with Connections Ltd

Presents:  
 the hilarious comedy by **Dave Freeman**  
 directed by **Fiona Hough**

**Kindly Keep It Covered**

**MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY CENTRE**  
 BRICE AVENUE, MOOROOLBARK  
 JUNE 2008

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| THURSDAY 12  | Tickets \$15 and Conc. \$13 |
| FRIDAY 13    |                             |
| SATURDAY 14  | Doors open 7.30 pm          |
| WEDNESDAY 18 | Curtain up 8.00 pm          |
| THURSDAY 19  |                             |
| FRIDAY 20    | (Table seating + BYO)       |
| SATURDAY 21  |                             |

**Bookings 9726 4282**

## LIVING TODAY IN MOOROOLBARK

### Production

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark is produced by a group of local volunteers



### Editor

Doug Lewis

### Publication

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### Contact

Phone 03 9726 8898

Mail PO Box 228 Mooroolbark VIC 3138

Email lewisdm@bigpond.net.au

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### Contributing Writers for This Issue

Randall Bouchier, Lenis Quigg  
 David Ashton, Chris Gough  
 Terry Viller, Marion Stott

### Photographs

R Bouchier, B Donnini  
 L Quigg, M Black  
 Mooroolbark Community Centre

### Graphic Design

Brigitte Donnini

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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