

# LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO. 25 SEPTEMBER 2008



## Community Tree Planting Balcolmbe Reserve - July 27th



11,500 Free Copies Distributed Throughout Mooroolbark & District

# Community Tree-Planting Day

Mooroolbark's fifth annual Community Tree-Planting Day, which coincided with National Tree Planting Day, was a great success. Despite the cold and muddy conditions, more than eighty people came along to Balcombe Reserve where 900 new trees were planted in a period of just over two hours.

The voluntary labourers also removed the protective covers from our plantings of two years ago. Many of those plants are now over two metres tall and looking quite lush.

A great community spirit was enjoyed as adults, teens and young children all worked together, with shire staff, to achieve this excellent result. Shire workers expressed particular appreciation for the number of young people who contributed on the day.

A hot "cuppa", delicious scones, jam and cream and a chance to chat rounded off the activity very nicely.

Many community groups supported this annual event. These included our local Scouts and Guides, the CWA, Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, Saint Francis in the Fields, Mooroolbark Lions, the Natural Resources Conservation League, Billanook Primary School and Billanook College. Others responded



A JOB WELL DONE!

personally to local advertising of the event. Tony and Pam Smith's young son, Tom, thought that all the mud was great fun.

An interesting perspective for their particular contribution was pointed out by Billanook College staff who are soon

heading off to a conference in Canada. They explained that, in line with College policy, they were committed to planting trees locally to offset the carbon emissions produced by their planned travels. Thank you for that contribution.

*A big thank you to all who helped out on the day.*

## Yarra Ranges "Vintage Artists" Art Show 2008

St John's Park Social Club is pleased to announce its coming Art Show – to be presented in the "Red Earth Gallery" at Mooroolbark Community Centre (Brice Ave. M/bark). The gallery will be open from 9 am to 5 pm Mon -Frid. & from 10 am to 2 pm Saturdays. Approximately 120 works by local artists will be on display from Thursday Oct.16th to Thursday Nov. 6th. All works of art will be available for purchase and all proceeds from the show will be donated to the Maroondah Hospital.

**Opening night:** "A Taste of Wine & Art" will be conducted on Thurs. 16th of October commencing at 6.30 pm. Admission price \$10 per person. The show will be officially opened by Mr David Hodgett M.P. and Lisa Vermeulen, from Maroondah Hospital, will be a guest speaker. Lisa is unit-nursing manager for the emergency department.

"Music, Art, Cuppa & a Cup-Cake" This special event will take place on Thursday October 23 rd commencing at 1.30 pm. Musical performances will be provided by harpist, Shirley Collins, Peter McDougall (keyboard) and vocalist Carol Inglis. Mayor, Tim Heenan, will open this event and welcome all participants.

*Bookings and tickets for each of the above events may be arranged through Vicki Power on Tel. 9725 9794*

**Art entries:** For anyone considering entering a work of art, entry forms are available from the Mooroolbark Community Centre or from Vicki Power . Tel 9725 9794.

The closing date for entries is Friday 26th September. An entry fee of \$5.00 applies.



Local artists Peter McDougall and Irene Lawrey have entered works in the 2008 Show.

# 30th Anniversary Mooroolbark Theatre Group Inc.



First show – Dec. 1978 “Carry On Mooroolbark”

In July 1978 Arline Myers, who was then president of Mooroolbark high school PTCA and on the school council, suggested to the principal that a performing arts group could be formed with parents and students involved together.

With the help of her husband Tom Myers, who had experience of theatre in England, Arline held the first meeting where 30 people (students and parents) formed the Mooroolbark Theatre Group.

Our first production was “Carry On Mooroolbark” held in the Kilsyth memorial hall in December 1978, followed by 2 more successful productions in that venue.

1980 was significant and memorable year as the **Mooroolbark Community Centre** opened and The First Red Earth Festival celebrated this opening.

As part of the celebration our theatre group performed **The Good Old Days** on stage the day after the opening

During the 80s our group matured and



“It Runs in the Family 1997”

found our niche in comedy. Our purpose is to involve anyone interested in any aspect of theatre in the community, and our home since 1980 has been and I hope always will be **Mooroolbark Community Centre** where our audiences have grown over the years, and we have hundreds of regular patrons come to our twice a year shows.

We now have many talented and experienced people in our group, but always welcome new faces with or without experience.

After 30 years Arline and Tom are still fully committed to the theatre, acting, directing ( Arline has directed over 40 plays), set design and much more, but it does take a team to make it all happen and we have an amazing one.

We are fortunate to be able to support Caladenia Day Centre and a World Vision baby in Ecuador.

“Kindly Keep it Covered 2008”



**Our 30th birthday production in November is called “Surprise Package”**

by Derek Parkes and Duncan Greenwood and being directed by Arline. It is set in the Balearic Islands off the coast of Spain, and involves the very funny antics of a dysfunctional English family on holiday.

This comedy runs from 7th November to 15th November and our audiences enjoy table seating, BYO drinks and nibbles, and a very social atmosphere.

Because of the popularity of our shows it is important to book early to get the night you prefer.

We at Mooroolbark Theatre would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, past members and supporters, and most of all, our audiences -without whom it would not happen.

**Arline Myers**

## WILD ABOUT MOOROOLBARK!



A new township mural is in progress, depicting a topographical view of early Mooroolbark and featuring indigenous plants - particularly orchids that grew in large numbers around extensive wetlands, now the site of the Brice avenue shopping centre.

Local artists, assisted by students from Mooroolbark Secondary College completed the “birds-eye-view” of the landscape, from Fiveways to Mooroolbark Station and beyond, during the first week of the July school

holidays. The next stage will see a series of panels depicting close-up views of individual flowers added to the mural.

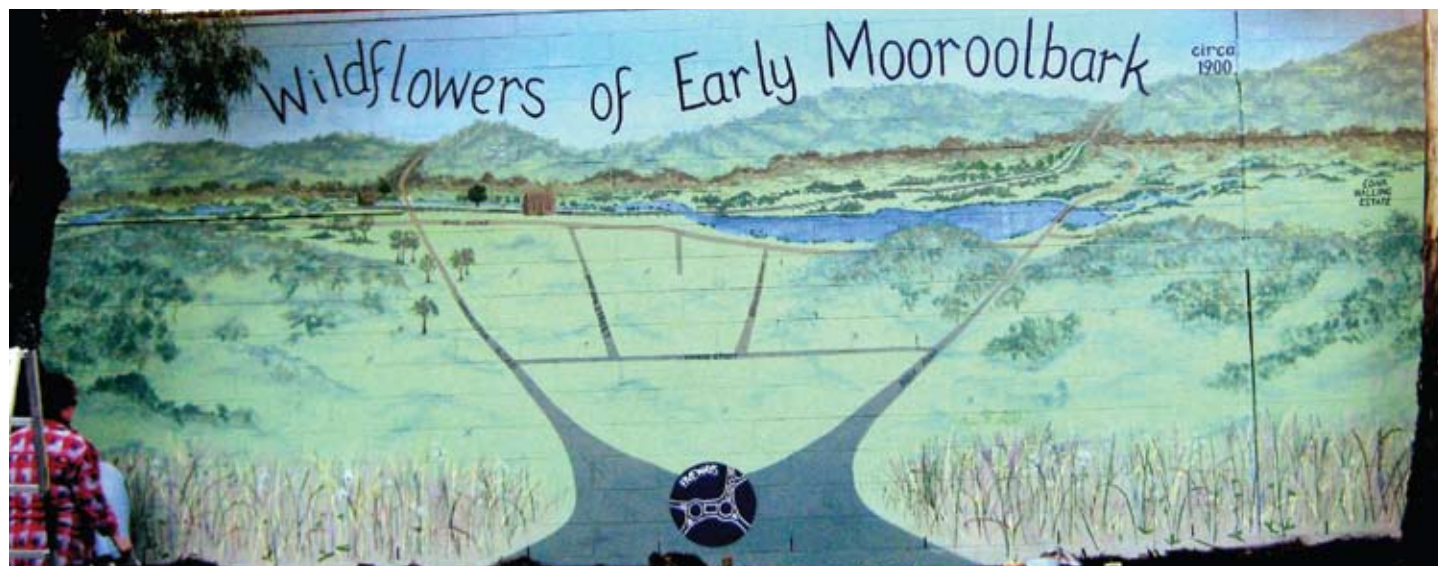
The project was designed by Mary Bouchier, who was inspired both by the natural beauty of Mooroolbark, and the recollections of early residents. Her aim was to decorate one of the brick walls leading into the Community Centre, thus highlighting and celebrating the beauty of our local indigenous plants set into a panoramic view of our landscape.

Such artwork – along with the establishment of Candlebark nursery in Mooroolbark – will hopefully encourage the

conservation and propagation of our local plants.

Thanks go to the Shire of Yarra Ranges Vista Leadership Programme (and Karen Meulemann in particular) for mentoring and guidance. Karen Ellis and students from Mooroolbark Secondary College. Cr. Terry Avery for his help with funding. 3D Paints for donated paint. Marty from the Moo Bar also helped with scaffolding and cleaning. And living legends - Elsie Bolwell and Mr & Mrs Andy Bell contributed their extensive local knowledge and historical resources.

Thanks to for many of you for your enthusiastic support and **encouragement.**



# A Mooroolbark Veteran!

*I know war as few other men now living know it, and nothing to me is more revolting. I have long advocated its complete abolition, as its very destructiveness on both friend and foe has rendered it useless as a method of settling international disputes.<sup>1</sup>*

Many of us would fully agree with these words of General Macarthur. Few who survive warfare remain untouched by what they have seen or experienced. One such man is Bob Gatherum – long time resident of Mooroolbark and, for forty years, a stalwart member of the Mooroolbark Lions Club. Bob recalls the ruinous destructiveness of war:

*Right at the end of the war I was devastated by what happened at the Rhine crossing. Thoughts remain with me to this day... I thought it shouldn't happen. The way it was done... it was absolutely cruel the way they smashed into Germany... those thousand-bomber raids, massed artillery and smashing into towns...*

For Bob, the terrible events he witnessed reinforced his determination to look for opportunities to extend kindness to others he saw in need.

Bob was born 25 miles north of London in Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, in 1919. He describes his mother Annie, a psychiatric nurse, as *a terrific lady, very kindly, a woman who would go out of her way to help anybody.*

His father, David was never called 'David' it was always 'Bob'. He worked as a staff engineer with John Dickinson Stationery Ltd. in the large Apsley factory. Together with brothers Frank, Vic and John, Bob recalls that his childhood was extremely happy giving him a secure platform for the remainder of his life. As a teenager, Bob enjoyed exploring Southern England on pushbike with a group of a dozen or so

friends, sometimes riding up to 100 miles a day.

Bob recalls the late Victorian values of two relatives. *I had two elderly aunts, Lizzie and Rosie who asked me to contact John Dickinson on their behalf. It took some explanation to convince the company that these wonderful old ladies had decided that they had enough money to live on and didn't need the extra money coming to them through the company pension scheme. They simply wanted the pension cancelled.*

Bob commenced his wartime army service with the Hertfordshire Yeomanry and was soon transferred to Fort Torry,<sup>2</sup> where he took infra-red photographs that were designed to penetrate harbour mists. With a wry Dad's Army style of humour, Bob says: *We weren't really accepted very well, like, we were given a darkroom with the bakery. We were made most uncomfortable. Eventually I was transferred up to the observation post. For me, that was good! I enjoyed watching all the coastal vessels coming into the harbour. We had two 6 inch guns... we got thumped a few times, we were bombed a number of times and then after the invasion scare was over I went further north into the highlands to Fort Nigg and then... the British Army are strange*

*creatures, they sent me on a gunnery course and I hadn't quite returned when I learned I was already posted elsewhere which was down to the Isle of Wight into an anti-tank regiment.*

Equipment and fitness improved dramatically as the war years progressed. Bob himself became very fit following a short time in hospital: *What happened was, after I left the anti-tank regiment, I had these tattoos (Bob on one arm, Bette on the other) and they were done with car batteries and very crudely done ink and of course*

*it set up a poison and I couldn't move my*

<sup>2</sup> The Torry Battery housed cannon and protected Aberdeen Harbour from invasion from the Napoleonic war right through to World War 2 (<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?z=9&q=Aberdeen> Aberdeen City AB2)



Bob Gatherum

*arm. I got a hell of a roasting from the RSM.<sup>3</sup> But fortunately by that time they were getting organised for the (Normandy) invasion and they had used Queen Victoria's old home in Cowes as an emergency base hospital – I had to go there for an operation to get rid of the poison, which they did. The home was magnificent. It was quite an eye-opener! I was there three weeks, I think, and then I was sent to a rehabilitation Regiment. (chuckles) ...I shouldn't have done that! It was the Devonshire Light Infantry, where everything was done on the double. For us gunners, that was most difficult. No one was allowed out for the first week. We had training in the morning, PT in the afternoon. No one was allowed in the barrack rooms. It was pretty strict. By the time we finished we were jumping out of our skins!*

*The first time I went in – I couldn't move my arm – they just threw this huge medicine ball... and 'climb up there, Gatherum! Climb up!' And I climbed up, somehow! And there was swimming and the 5 mile runs and 20 mile marches... But it certainly made you fit, anyway.*

Subsequent to the D-day invasion in Normanby, Bob landed as part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Army Group Artillery at Juno in mid 1944, supporting the Canadian forces.

The troops fought their way across France (where Bob's regiment were the first troops into Rouen), into Belgium, Holland, and eventually, Germany itself, where Bob was transferred. *What am I doing in the Military Police, a short bloke like me? I protested to the Major: 'I've been shifted here, and shifted there...'*

Major: 'But you're totally trustworthy, Gatherum! And go, I went!'

*For the first time that I could remember everyone had a bed to sleep in... Many of us were reluctantly transferred to the Military Police, carrying out traffic control, making sure the curfew was observed, and guarding the distillery at Borken. With so many 'Russkies' now free, some weren't hesitant to walk up to the distillery with a jerry can, point a revolver,*

<sup>3</sup> Regimental Sergeant Major

<sup>1</sup> General Douglas Macarthur - Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area during the Second World War

and say: 'Fill her up!'

The saga continues as the Regiment broke up, with a further move to Bocholt where a theatre was operating for the troops and I happened to be chosen as an armed escort for performers, and also acting as a barman at night performances. 'Two shillings a nip, 18 to the bottle – and the rest is yours, Gunner!'

Bob was very moved by the plight of refugee families returning to their homes. Fearful and needy, they would arrive in the early morning hours feeling cold and miserable in trains with no windows. Older Germans employed to assist the allied MPs searching for former SS officers would often meet them. They sometimes cruelly opened suitcases and unceremoniously dumped family possessions onto the ground – pocketing whatever they wanted, and curtly ordering frightened people: 'Clean it up!' Those were desperate, difficult times.

It was while stationed near Aberdeen in the early part of the war, that Bob met his wife Bette. In the latter years of their 65 very happy years of marriage, Bette wrote for the family: *Your dad and I met on a blind date in Aberdeen, Scotland. He was, and is, still wonderful. A few of us went to a dance where this handsome young soldier asked me if I would like a cup of tea. Of course I said 'yes'. And we fell instantly in love. The next day he was sent on a course so I wondered if I would ever see him again.*

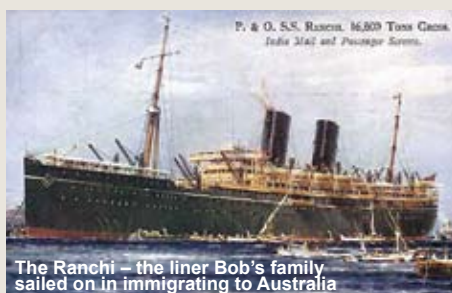
*But I did, and sixty odd years later we are still together and as happy as anyone in the world.*

Bob recalls posting the Banns for their wedding and his meeting with the forbidding Presbyterian clergy. *They were very fierce in their interpretation of the Good Lord's word. Step out of line and you'd get a dressing down in no uncertain terms, especially if you were Sassenach!*<sup>4</sup>

In any event, Bette continues: *We were married in the Presbyterian church in Great Western Road, Aberdeen on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, 1942 – one of the best days in my life. Thankyou, Bob!*

Several years later, now with 3 young sons, Bob, Brian and Ian – Bette and Bob, along with Bette's parents boarded the aging liner *Ranchi*, bound for Australia on the £10 passage.

Apart from a delay when the liner needed mechanical repairs in the Suez



Canal, the family arrived safely in Australia in 1951, and after briefly living in Raywood (near Bendigo), Yarra Glen and Kilsyth, the family moved to Bathurst Street, Mooroolbark, where their fourth child, Pamela was born. At that time, Bathurst Street was an unmade dirt track, with storm water draining onto the edges of the road.

Bob and Bette found Mooroolbark an ideal place to live. It was away from the city – and a great environment to rear their children. The boys attended Mooroolbark Technical school, before completing their studies in Ringwood. Pamela went to Mooroolbark Primary before progressing to Pembroke Secondary College, where one of her brothers had also studied.

Bob had found work as a colour separator with the *Argus* – a morning daily newspaper, and two years later, moved to the *Herald*, where he worked as a camera operator until his retirement, aged 60. Being close to transport for commuting was a big factor in the original move to Mooroolbark.

Of his work at the *Herald*, Bob says: *I had a wonderful time. We were well paid, and extremely well looked after.*

Eventually the *Terrace* was built in Mooroolbark and Bob's house in Bathurst Street and Bette's parent's home in Brice Avenue were both demolished.

Bob and Bette simply moved across the road to another property in Bathurst Street. Nearby neighbours were the Macdonalds<sup>5</sup>, Southwicks and Colemans.

Bob and Bette always lived within their means – and if they could do things themselves, they did... like building the septic tank. *When septic tanks came in we got the concrete set in and we got the Shire health inspector and he happened to be a 'Pom', and he was most helpful, he really was! 'I'll show you how to do it, Bob!' We laid it all out ourselves, we built it and it worked amazingly well! We built it probably two or three times as thick as it needed to be. It was built like a fortress! It was great!*

One of Bob's greatest accomplishments has been his 39-year involvement with the Mooroolbark Lions Club. He's been particularly active in helping publish district newsletters and he's had a long-time involvement with the Mooroolbark newsletter – *The Barker*. He's still asked to judge photographs and publications from time to time. Bette worked for many years at the Lions Op shop, until she became housebound with Parkinson's disease.

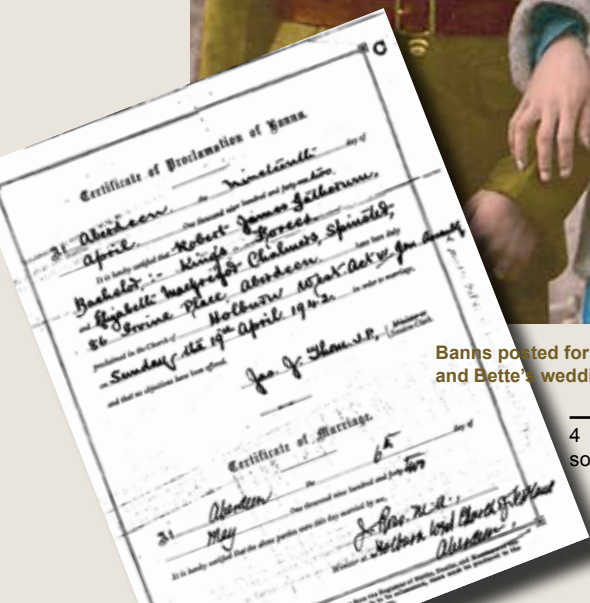
Together, their proudest community achievement was their involvement in the establishment and operation of the *Jim Fuller Community House*<sup>6</sup> in Wynyard Drive. The residence was established to provide accommodation for low-income older people, who share facilities in the house.

Jim Fuller had become a charter member of the Lions Club in 1969, and served as the inaugural Vice-President. Bob recalls that he was a *tremendous personality*



Bob and Bette wedding

Banns posted for Bob and Bette's wedding



<sup>4</sup> an English person – term used by the Scots – sometimes in a disparaging manner

<sup>5</sup> See *Living Today in Mooroolbark*, Number 22, December 2007, pp.2-3

<sup>6</sup> See *Living Today in Mooroolbark*, Number 12, June 2005, p.7

who had the knack of getting things done! He'd ring Dick Hamer.' I said: 'You can't do that, Jim!' And he said: 'Watch me!'

After Bette's death in 2007, Kate Coleman (then secretary of the Fuller house Committee of Management) wrote:

*Bette and Bob Gatherum have been committed and dedicated to the Jim Fuller House for the past 20 years and more. (They) have worked hard in all aspects... they have worked on the committee, offered support to tenants, undertaken small maintenance and contacted trades people when necessary and at the same time promoting the Jim Fuller Community House.*

*Bob has continued to work and be part of the Mooroolbark Lions Club while Bette worked in the Op shop. Although many people participated in the Jim Fuller Community House the house would not have*

*survived, as we know it, without this long-term commitment from these two dedicated people.*

Bob and Bette worked together as a team. The latter years were tough and saw Bob display the same resilience and helpfulness learned long ago as a young man in the latter years of World War 2. Caring for Bette in her final years of life became for him an uncomplaining labour of kindness. He continues to be nothing but grateful for the life he's lived. And, to this day, wonders what it was that Bette saw in him. Their 65 year long teaming saw them successfully and enjoyably raise their family but also serve Mooroolbark in lasting ways.

Bob's resolve as a young man to find ways of showing kindness to others became the pattern for his long life. Now, a spry 89 year old, he continues to help in Mooroolbark, and plans to return to Normanby next year with other veterans

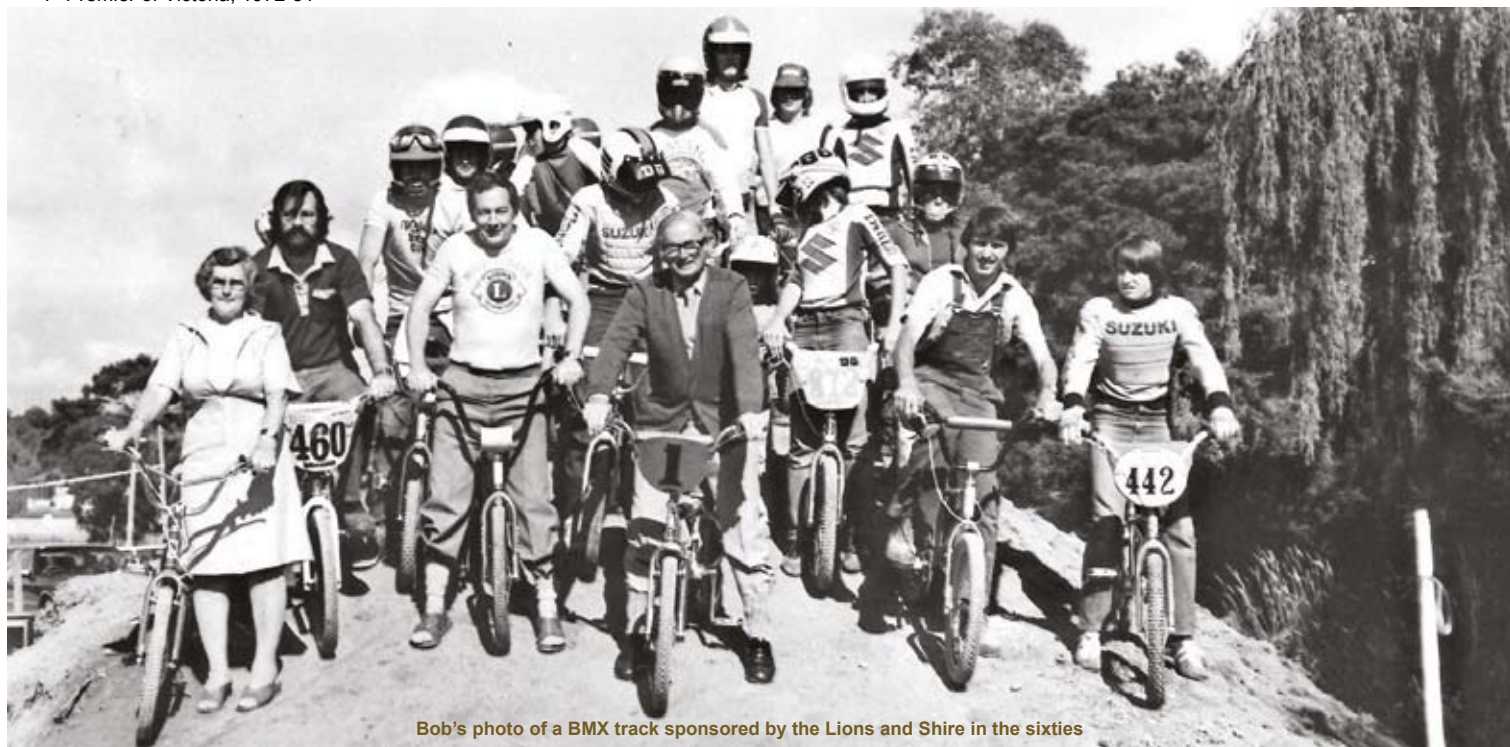
of the services. He loves Mooroolbark, and hopes that more of us will find ways of organising our time and responsibilities in such a way that the entire Mooroolbark community will benefit and continue to become a community marked by care and kindness, respect for others and good humour in getting along.

Thanks Bob, for an afternoon of warm reminiscing. May our community of Mooroolbark learn from your qualities that so impressed me – care and kindness for others, deep respect for other people, and also, some of your genial, self-effacing humour that is such an endearing personal hallmark!

**Randall Bourchier**



7 Premier of Victoria, 1972-81



Bob's photo of a BMX track sponsored by the Lions and Shire in the sixties

## FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

### Wednesday October 1st

ALL WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre Wed. Oct 1st

\*\* The filming of "Kung Fu Panda" commences at 7.30 pm

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 Tel. 9726 5488 See Ya There!

Please Note : The Community Centre advises that due to the popularity of this program, bookings are essential.

If unable to attend, please advise the centre so that tickets can be released for others to use.

**Tickets not claimed by 7.15 p.m. may be released for others.**



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



## Congratulations Kristie!

Nineteen year-old Kristie Higgins is one of a number of local young people who recently received recognition for their volunteer work in our community. She was presented with a special award by representatives of Maroondah Council at an awards night held during **National Volunteer Week**.

Kristie volunteers for the "Youth Referral and Independent Person Program" YRIPP is funded by the Victorian State Government and partners with legal centres and care agencies to provide support for young people in police custody.

The law requires that an adult be present during formal police questioning of a young person under 18 years of age. When a parent or guardian is unavailable, an adult independent person is required to be in attendance.

YRIPP provides trained representatives to fill this important role.

They assist in a variety of ways; by providing personal support and helping

to reduce apprehension, by ensuring that the rights of the young person are upheld, by helping to facilitate communication and by ensuring that all processes are followed through in a fair manner. They also help connect the youth with other appropriate support agencies as needed.

YRIPP volunteers work through a 25 hour training and assessment program to prepare them for this work. Several of the units covered are aligned with units from Certificate III in Youth Work.

Kristie is currently a second year university student studying for an Advanced Diploma of Justice at RMIT. She is on call once per week, in twelve-hour blocks, to



Kristie Higgins

attend local police stations, as required. Kristie says,

*"It is very rewarding to be able to assist young people who are going through a difficult experience. It certainly opens your eyes to the*

*problems some people face and helps develop compassion for others."*

Well done Kristie!

For further info about this program please contact Joanna Nicholson on Tel 9340 3777 or visit the YRIPP website [www.yripp.org.au](http://www.yripp.org.au)

## Homelessness - It's closer than you think!

We often think of homelessness as an issue confronting people living closer to the city. But sadly the Yarra Ranges has a large number of people, who through a range of circumstances have found themselves homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless.

The Shire of Yarra Ranges, in partnership with Anchor Community Care and the Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service, is working to help raise funds to assist people who are homeless and to create a greater awareness of their plight.

On Saturday October 11, starting at 4.30pm the shire, Anchor Community Care and Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service will be hosting a sleepout at Melba Park in Lilydale. People of all ages are encouraged to join us under the stars as we experience first-hand the conditions many people face on an ongoing basis.

For those people who can't make it to Melba Park on the night, we are asking them to consider hosting their own event to help promote awareness and raise much-needed funds to assist Anchor Community Care and Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service in delivering their outstanding services to homeless people and people experiencing financial hardship.

Schools, businesses, churches, community groups and individuals can all play an important part in helping those who are less fortunate. For example primary schools may wish to run a pyjama dress up day for students, with a gold coin donation going to the charities. Secondary schools, scouts and guide groups may consider hosting their own sleep-over or alternate fund raising activity. Church groups and individuals may consider hosting their own gathering, or simply make a donation.

### Melba Park Sleepout

The shire, in partnership with Anchor Community Care and Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service is hosting a 'Sleepout for Homelessness' on Saturday October 11 from 4.30pm until Sunday October 12 at 9am. The event will feature entertainment, music and information about homelessness. Security will be provided on the night.

Participants are asked to pre-register. Entry is via a tax deductible donation, and can range from as little as \$10 to as much as you can afford.

To find out more visit [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au) or contact: Roxann Jenkins 9294 6370.

Tim Heenan  
MAYOR



# WHY DO CHILDREN LIE? ●●●

Terry Villiers



**New research shows some fascinating facts. How can we best deal with this challenge?**

**W**e all know children who are amazing fabricators. We also know children who fib their way out of trouble. But is that all there is to the phenomenon? Is it just a matter of childish imagination and avoiding punishment?

Some fascinating recent research has shed new light on the problem. It shows things aren't quite the way we often assume. It challenges our assumptions as to when and why children lie, and tells us how they master the techniques.

Most of us, parents or not, would guess that kids start lying to avoid the consequences of something they know or assume to be wrong. Just putting it that way confronts us with how complex a skill lying is. Not only does it involve an awareness of guilt and its connection to punishment, but also the difference between truth and falsehood, and the difference between effective and *ineffective* falsehood.

So who provides the practice and instruction (if anybody)? Do they work it out all by themselves? When and where does practice in getting it right take place? Well, in brief, we now know that:

- The smarter the child, the sooner, more likely, and better they are at employing deception.
- Most children are practising at lying by the time they turn four.
- It isn't just to avoid punishment, but for all sorts of reasons.
- We – the parents – are the main

educators.

- Most parents aren't good at picking their children's lies.
- Virtually all kids know when they are lying and that it is the wrong thing to do.
- Children don't inevitably "grow out of it". In fact they become more and more adept, continuing to develop the skill well into their teens.

Children in an environment of consistent punishment don't lie less – they learn to lie sooner and better – to avoid getting caught.

Lying is indeed a more complicated skill than truth telling. To lie, a child must recognise the truth, think of a reasonable alternative, and sell the idea to another, usually an adult. So if your child is a good liar by age four (some start as early as two or three), it's a kind of backhanded compliment. It shows they're smart and intellectually advanced. The advantage these children have is their parents assume they're too young to understand what lying is or to realize that it's wrong.

## By Four

Observational studies found that four year olds are lying about every 2 hours. At six they're lying about every hour and a half – not just to avoid getting trouble – they've worked out more reasons to lie. To tease classmates, to brag to their peers, or to get into the good books of parents or other adults. It is part of a strategy of coping with the more challenging social environment.

## And parents?

Children don't lie just to cope at school. First and foremost they practise on their parents. But if parents follow up closely, with punishment, it has the opposite effect. Children then become extra alert to the punishment and less aware of the impact on others of their lying. They are driven towards *better* lying to avoid the consequences.

Unwittingly, parents also encourage lying in their children – by example and instruction. Unwittingly – because most of us don't recognise our own "lying". If we do, we call them "white lies". Like telling someone who's baked a special cake it's terrific when it is anything but. Or that a new hairstyle is stunning when you really think it's awful. Children not only hear the white lies but also the candid comments in private.

Parents also teach their children to tell white lies. "Don't you dare say anything about Aunt Flo's size?" So when the child instead says to her, "I really like your new dress, Auntie," (when in fact they don't), they are then praised and congratulated for being polite.

"Encouraged to tell so many white lies and hearing so many others, children gradually get comfortable with being disingenuous. . . . They learn that honesty only creates conflict, and dishonesty is often an easy way to avoid conflict. And while they don't confuse white-lie situations with lying to cover their misdeeds, they bring this emotional groundwork from one circumstance to the other. It becomes easier, psychologically, to lie to a parent."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Po Bronson "Why Kids Lie" The Weekend Australian Magazine" May 3-4 2008







this as a sign their parents no longer care, that they want out of parenting. The domineering, rule enforcing parent is a rarity. But those few who are this way don't tend to provoke rebellion as one would expect. Instead their teens turn out to be submissive – and depressed. Parents who have a few rules, explain and enforce them, have the best relationships and communication with their teens. Their kids lie to them the least of all.

### Dobbing

Researchers have also spent a lot of time looking at kids playing. They noticed when children report some wrong to an adult, nine times out of ten it is quite true. To adults it often seems kids are always telling tales, but the researchers noted they suffer wrong 14 times without asking for help, for each time they do. So when we respond, "Don't tell tales!" or "Don't dob!" they soon learn that dobbing (truth-telling) is only done by little kids who don't know better. This quite apart from the consequences they reap from their peers. They quickly learn honesty is *not* the best policy.

Thus begins the art of withholding information from parents and other adults. Which feeds into the teen years when parents wonder why they are no longer privy to the details of their children's lives and relationships. This couples with the growing desire for independence and the desire to assert self autonomy. Again, interestingly, the research shows us this peaks at age 14-15, then tails off so that at 18 it is less strong than at 11.

Unfortunately most parents handle this by taking a more permissive position, by lessening the rules. The result? Teens read

This didn't mean there weren't arguments. Often teens test the boundaries to see if they're real. The resultant arguments gave them the opportunity to communicate truthfully. Teens saw this as healthy & not diminishing their respect for their parents, while parents, especially mums, saw such arguments as negative - stressful and destructive. So it helps to see both sides of the fence!

### What Does Work ?

What then is the best way to cultivate honesty in our children? By honesty, we're not talking about a naivety characterised by social blunders and unawareness of the way others seek to manipulate and take advantage by playing with the truth. Rather we are talking about humility, readiness to admit mistakes, and the ability to give and receive confidences. To be a person whose word is good.

One researcher set up a situation with young children that gave them an opportunity and an incentive to lie. For some she would read a story beforehand. One story was *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, which ends with the boy and the sheep being eaten because he kept telling lies. For others she read *George Washington and the Cherry Tree*, which

ends, after George confesses to chopping the tree down, with his father telling him he would rather have lost a thousand cherry trees than hear him tell a lie.

A survey of adults showed 75% thought the first story would be more effective in reducing lying. In fact, those who had that story read to them lied a bit more than the average. On the other hand, the George Washington story reduced lying by 43%. Using positive examples proved to be far more effective than the threat of punishment. So parents need to consciously teach young children the value of honesty as well as declaring lying wrong.

We also need to be alert to situations where we set children up for lying. Po Bronson, in his article on the subject, related how his young son came home from school having learned to say "I don't care" to just about everything. So his dad asked if he'd learned that from someone at school. His son hesitated. Then he realized he had set him up to either lie to his dad or dob in a friend. So he quickly reassured him that if he had picked it up at school he didn't have to say who'd taught him. His son admitted he'd got it at school, gave his dad a hug, and no longer repeated the phrase.

On the other hand, Po found himself doing the opposite with his little daughter. He noticed she'd scribbled on the table with her marker. So he asked her if she'd done it – in a voice that indicated trouble. (He realized too late he needn't have made a big deal of it.) "No, I didn't," the three year old replied. Her first lie!



*Much of the information for this article was drawn from Why Kids Lie, by Po Bronson© with additional reporting by Ashley Merryman, which appeared in The Weekend Australian Magazine May 3-4, 2008. It previously appeared in The New York Magazine and can be accessed at [nymag/po-bronson](http://nymag/po-bronson)*

**PUBLICATION  
PERSPECTIVES**

General Printing  
Technical Documentation  
Desktop Publishing & Design

Quality and reliable service  
Call us on 9561 1800

Proudly supporting Living Today  
in Mooroolbark.

Mooroolbark **Community Bank**® Branch  
Shop 19, 66-74 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark  
Phone 9726 5388

 **Bendigo Bank**

# Our Childrens Heroes

by Jeb Egbert

I waited anxiously for my father to come home. I was 11 years old at the time, and I knew he'd be home in a few minutes. Dad always came home within the same 15-minute window, and he always had the same routine. He would walk through the door, hug each of his kids, and then go find mom.

None of those parts of his routine were of interest to me. My anticipation was directly linked to the fact that after he had finished greeting us, he would change his clothes and we would cross the street to play basketball. Something we did every day.

I cherished that time with my dad. It wasn't what he said to me, and it certainly wasn't the level of basketball training that stands out most. It was the fact that he spent 45 minutes a day with me, in something I loved.



**"I don't know when my dad became my hero, but over the years, I've given a lot of thought to how he showed his love."**

I don't know when my dad became my hero, but over the years, I've given a lot of thought to how he showed his love. When we first played together, he gave me a point advantage to keep the score close.

He was so much better at the game than I was that I would have been discouraged if he hadn't. But as

the years passed, my skills passed his, and I needed to give him a point advantage. I remember how much it meant to me as he would gush over my improvement during our walk back to the house.

I don't know when he became my hero. Perhaps it was only after I had children myself that I began to realize what he had sacrificed, and what it meant to me. Over the years, I've given a lot of thought to how my dad showed his love. Here are the ways he did this:

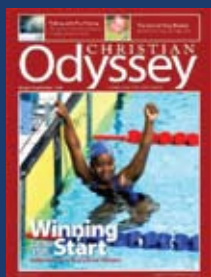
**Time.** Dad gave his time. Not just leftover time. Dad sacrificed his prime time for me. Every day. When I became a dad, I realized what that meant. He had as many commitments as I have tugging at him to stay "and get the job done." Yet they weren't as important as spending time with me, or my two sisters, or my mom.

## MAGAZINE OFFER

The above article, "Our Children's Heroes" is a condensed version of the original which appeared in the June-July issue of *Christian Odyssey* magazine.

*Living Today in Mooroolbark* has obtained a number of copies of this issue and is happy to make them available to interested readers. *Christian Odyssey* is an easy reading magazine exploring matters of life and faith.

If you would like one of these copies, simply send your name and address to the Editor at [lewisdm@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lewisdm@bigpond.net.au), or P.O. Box 228, Mooroolbark 3138, or by phone 03 9726 8898.



**Sharing something I loved.** Dad enjoyed basketball, but it wasn't the obsession that it was with me. He never let me know that. His real love was tennis. But he came out to play basketball, night in and night out, because it was what I loved.

**Conversation.** Dad spent an enormous amount of time conversing with me. When we were playing together, it was easy to discuss the issues of life. This wasn't lecture time, not some stilted, artificial, "Son, we need to have a talk" type of encounter. It was just part of the basketball.

The things he did in becoming my hero were quite simple and ordinary, but I know it couldn't have always been easy. Who are your children's heroes? You might be surprised. One of them could be you!

## Mooroolbark Baptist's ..... Community Kitchen

On Monday evenings, the happy buzz of conversation and the aroma of the coffee-pot add to the delightfully warm and welcoming feeling that greets you as you enter the Baptist hall, in Hull Road, **where free community meals are offered every week.**

Good, wholesome meals, accompanied by warm friendship and lively conversation, provide a most pleasant community experience for all involved. As well as appreciation of the well-presented meals, patrons often speak of the friendly, non-threatening atmosphere as something that makes the evening so enjoyable.

Meals are offered free of charge and "with no strings attached" to all members of the community. Some participants find this service to be a great help to them in hard, financial times. Others simply enjoy the friendly companionship and personal acceptance that is expressed around the meal table as life's experiences are shared together. Renewing those friendly ties each week is an uplifting experience for many.

**Over 100 people avail themselves of this opportunity for a community meal each week.**

The "Kitchen" has been operating for over 4 years and is manned by up to 30 willing volunteers each week. Their work involves attending to the setting up, the cooking, the serving of the meals, the cleaning up, the provision of child-minding (where needed) and just "being there" to provide a sympathetic ear for any lonely, concerned or troubled person.

This community program is funded, as part of a "Care and Share Ministry" by voluntary donations from church members.

Program coordinator, Keith Smith, makes the observation that since its inception over 4 years ago, the volunteer workers group has never had to ask the church leadership for funds. "Thankfully, there is always enough money to cover our needs from the voluntary giving each week," he said.

Team members express the enjoyment they receive from their participation in this program. The fact that they are never short of volunteers is sure testimony to that sense of satisfaction and enjoyment being realized. Anyone who would like to enjoy community meal is invited to come to the church hall at 6 pm on any Monday evening. You will be made most welcome.



Janette, Laura and Dale.  
Happily serving in the kitchen



## The Pink Frangipani Day Spa

**M**elissa Gambino has been a qualified beauty therapist for 10 years. For eight of those years she has been running her own businesses, first in Dorset Road Croydon and then in Boronia.

In March this year she opened her new salon:

**The Pink Frangipani at Shop 2, 91 Brice Avenue.  
TEL. 9727 3656**

Melissa grew up in Mooroolbark and has now purchased her own property here. Her family has a history of participation in retailing in Mooroolbark. Some readers may remember "Tony's Cakes and Delicacies", a business run by Melissa's father, Antonio Gambino, in what is now the Golden Bakery premises.

The Pink Frangipani offers a wide range of services including waxing, eye services, manicure & pedicure, facials, make-up and spray-tanning. Nail technician, Lydia Beker has recently joined Melissa and provides full nail services.

The Pink Frangipani specializes in massage and facials. Special "pamper packs" are popular. Gift vouchers are available. You are invited to call in and pick up a pamphlet listing all services and prices.



Lydia & Melissa



## First Aid and Community Services Training

After starting his training business in 1999 from a home office, Greg Annand moved Training Unlimited into its' current offices in Winyard Drive Mooroolbark in 2002. This was partly to accommodate additional staff and partly to provide a training venue for their growing clientele in Melbourne's east.

The business has now evolved into one of the largest Community Services and First Aid training providers in Victoria with offices and training venues in Mooroolbark, Heidelberg and Maidstone with more expansion planned during the next year.

"The business has two distinct but complimentary departments catering to a wide variety of clients," notes Greg. Many of the largest Disability and Aged Care service providers in Melbourne look to Training Unlimited to manage their training needs. These include certificate courses, traineeships, short courses and induction sessions. "We also have Government training funding available to assist those wanting to gain employment in the Aged / Disability Sector".

The First Aid department caters for individuals, clubs and groups right up to the largest of companies. The team can tailor a program specifically for a group or company and deliver it on site. "This means that you get the right program for your staff at a time and venue that suits your business" adds Greg.

As a way of contributing back to the community, Training Unlimited supports many local and not-for-profit organisations such as Safety House, local church and volunteer groups as well as football and other sporting clubs. One of their most innovative programs was a CPR / Health Awareness program for Eastern Outsource in Lilydale which involved teaching basic First Aid and health and hygiene principles to people with disabilities. The participants enjoyed the program immensely whilst gaining valuable life skills.

**For further information about their many programs you can call Training Unlimited on 9727 1566 or visit their website: [www.trainingunlimited.com.au](http://www.trainingunlimited.com.au)**



## Thank You ... "Professionals"

The "Professionals" (Mooroolbark) have the motto ... Proudly Supporting the Community Since 1964. As just one of the grateful recipients of that support, Living Today in Mooroolbark thanks Geoff Earney and the team for their most generous assistance in the distribution of our community magazine.

Each quarter 9,000 copies of our publication are distributed to households throughout the Mooroolbark post-code area by the Professionals. Their most valuable contribution helps make it possible for us to continue to provide this free service to our neighbourhood.

A big thank you to the Professionals for their on-going support and partnership in serving our community.

Behind the scenes, there is a very hard-working and most helpful "young professional" who makes it all happen for each edition.

Lauryn Davis has willingly accepted the extra tasks, on top of her already crowded work week, to co-ordinate the necessary arrangements for the distribution of the magazine. This involves organizing distribution areas and getting the correct quantity of magazines to each of the personnel who do the household deliveries. Quite a lot of extra work each time.

**Many thanks, Lauryn, for your cheery and efficient contribution to the whole process.**



Lauryn Davis



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

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1964

# RecLink OuterEast



**RecLink is a not-for-profit charitable organization dedicated to advocating for and improving access to sporting and recreational opportunities for disadvantaged people and the benefits which flow from this - such as community connectedness and improved health and well being.**

The organization was established by Peter Cullen, at Sacred Heart Mission, in the early 90's. Peter found that people coming to the mission seeking meals and accommodation would gradually join in a "kick to kick" footy activity that was offered. This proved to be a good way to break down barriers, to get to know people and to give them something to look forward to. It was then decided that it would be good to form a footy team - and the RecLink Footy Competition was born.

This competition continues to be one of the best known RecLink activities and this year, there are 14 teams competing for a place in the finals. Finals are played at Junction Oval and Windy Hill and are umpired by retired AFL umpires. These games are broadcast on community radio and are well supported by ex and current AFL players. Each final is a *big day* for all concerned.

## Eastern Volunteer

# Resource Centre

Eastern Volunteer Resource Centre is located at Suite 1a, 36 New Street, Ringwood, with an office at Box Hill and also at Lilydale. EVRC is unique in that we



A recent EVRC Fun-run event

## ---A Branch of RecLink Australia Supported by Mooroolbark Lions

Footy, however, is just one of a wide range of activities supported by RecLink Australia.

in the OuterEast area. Others include weekly gym, lawn bowls, 10 pin bowling, and cricket. (Statewide competitions are offered in football, cricket and lawn bowling). Golf is commencing soon and plans for a choir are well under way.

Currently, over 130 individuals participate in these RecLink OuterEast programs.

In most areas, RecLink activities are coordinated by recreation workers employed in health service organizations. However, participation has grown considerably since a number of volunteer coordinators began assisting this program in 2006.

RecLink Australia approves all activities, negotiates with organizations to obtain reduced or free access to facilities, arranges and funds all of the competitions and provides some equipment. They have strong working relationships with (and receive some sponsorship from) the AFL, VAFA, Cricket Victoria, and the RVBA.

Additional funds are needed, however, and **RecLink OuterEast is most grateful to the Mooroolbark Lions** for their help with additional funding to assist needy people in accessing these life-building opportunities.

RecLink notes, "The positive impact on people's lives through participation in such group activities and competitions is quite amazing. We see people gain confidence, develop self esteem and begin to feel a real part of the community. The percentage of RecLink participants who move on to full-time employment would rival the record of any employment agency."

*Marilyn Hage*

# LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

## 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

## Contact

Phone 03 9726 8898

Mail PO Box 228 Mooroolbark VIC 3138

Email lewisdm@bigpond.net.au

## Distribution

11 500 copies distributed throughout Mooroolbark and the surrounding district

## Contributing Writers for This Issue

Randall Bouchier, Terry Villiers, A.Myers, M.Bouchier G.Annand, M.Hage

## Photographs

Randall Bouchier, B.Austin, P.Higgins, A.Myers

## Graphic Design

Publication Perspectives  
Mulgrave, Victoria

## Printing

Publication Perspectives  
Mulgrave, Victoria

## Like to Contribute?

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

## MISSIONSTATEMENT

To contribute towards and to help to foster a Growing Community Spirit within our neighbourhood.

We seek to achieve this by:

- Highlighting the many positives within our community
- Encouraging partnership in community initiatives
- Contributing to the process of identifying and addressing community needs and concerns