

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO. 28 JUNE 2009



LOCAL YOUNG TALENT

Above: James Hampton Right: Eddy Elder
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CELEBRATE

Perfect weather helped this friendly family festival be the best it has ever been.

In a buzzing marketplace, people obtained information from local community groups, bought good quality food, (apparently the burgers were a hit!) enjoyed a cup of coffee, fresh strawberries, apples and pears, pancakes or the old staple sausage! Yarra Valley FM broadcast live and added extra enjoyment through live interviews throughout the marketplace and Community Centre. The crowd enjoyed many free and low-cost interactive activities, displays, rides, and the Scout rope bridge was continuously active!

MC Yarny kept things moving, letting people know when and where different events were starting. The parade this year was colourful and included the Croydon Citizen's Brass Band along with the Ringwood Pipe Band and an official road closure this year gave the parade greater standing with the public. Winners of the best parade banner with Festival theme (Australian Stories), was Pembroke Primary School.

The crowd favourite award went to Manchester Primary School. Each attracted cash prizes contributed by the Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, Cr. Len Cox, who opened the Festival. In the Community Centre, a display of children's artwork was captivating



and the winners of the writing competition were displayed for people to read!

Prizes were contributed by local MPs Christine Fyffe and David Hodgett, Cr. Terry Avery and Tony Smith MP. The winners were, for Writing 1st price Shannon van Twyver and 2nd price Holly Budge (Pembroke PS) and for Illustration 1st price Elissa Van Schoonhoven and 2nd price Alexander Ungerboeck (Manchester PS).

A short ecumenical church service started the day and included a brief dramatic presentation from St Margaret's. Several other local congregations provided prayers and readings, before the community stage housed the happy sounds of Swing Sound. Following the parade, Gymparoo sponsored a children's concert featuring Blackberry Jam Bush Band. Later in the day, the prize-winners from Friday night's hugely successful talent show performed on the community stage.

Hosted by the Mooroolbark Theatre Group, the talent quest first-prize winners were Clint Eldridge and Ben Zonca on classical guitar, and Melanie Haley, Jay Hamilton, Steph Burt and Chris Nankervis won the People's Choice prize for their a cappella vocal rendition!

Celebrate Mooroolbark 2010 will take place on Saturday March 20. It will coincide with the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Mooroolbark Community Centre and the first Red Earth Festival, the predecessor of Celebrate Mooroolbark. Planning has already begun for a retrospective look at the history of Mooroolbark, capped off with a parade looking back at the hugely popular parades of the Red Earth.

Grateful thanks to Premier sponsor – the Shire of Yarra Ranges, Major sponsors – Fenix Fitness Centre, Bendigo Bank, Mooroolbark Lions Club, Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship and Significant sponsor – The Professionals.

In addition, many thanks to a long list of Mooroolbark traders who provided prizes for the 'lucky envelope' competition on the day! Special thanks goes to the staff of the Mooroolbark Community Centre and the hard-working organising committee. Most particularly, thanks to everybody who attended the festival and contributed to such a relaxed, enjoyable, happy atmosphere! Thanks to local photographer Barry Austin for the accompanying photographs.



A CONSEQUENTIAL Life!

I can remember I was one of those children that Mum would say: 'Don't do that' – and she'd explain the consequence... and I'd say 'No, it won't and immediately the consequence would happen – I'd walk into a pole or whatever...

Such are the memories of long-time Mooroolbark resident, Jean Mitchinson, when recalling her early childhood in post-war London. A similar disregard of the consequences of involvement led her in latter years to be a major player in the establishment of Mooroolbark's community bank. But, more of that later!

Born in 1947, Jean spent her first eleven years in post-war, cold, smoggy London – an environment not conducive to the healthy development of a youngster who'd proven to be prone to pneumonia. Her parents, Ernest (Ern) and Dora, considered several options for providing a healthier environment for Jean's childhood, preferring finally to relocate to Australia, rather than to rural England or Canada.

And the verdict about Australia? "This is the best thing we ever did!"

However, Ern hadn't been so sure following their arrival in 1959, as he watched his family settle into a Nissen hut at the Nunawading immigration hostel – quite a far cry from a two-storied,

semi-detached London dwelling. And, instead of paved footpaths leading to Forest Hill primary school, the children walked to school down a muddy pipeline easement.

Jean still marvels about her parents' courage in immigrating. To travel across to the other side of the world, resettling where you knew nobody! I doubt if I would have been prepared to do that!

By June 1960, the family had settled in Mooroolbark in their newly built family home in Kipling Avenue. Jean completed her years of schooling at Lilydale High School during her Intermediate year.¹ She recalled that the school community used the off-site Athenaeum Hall for assemblies.²

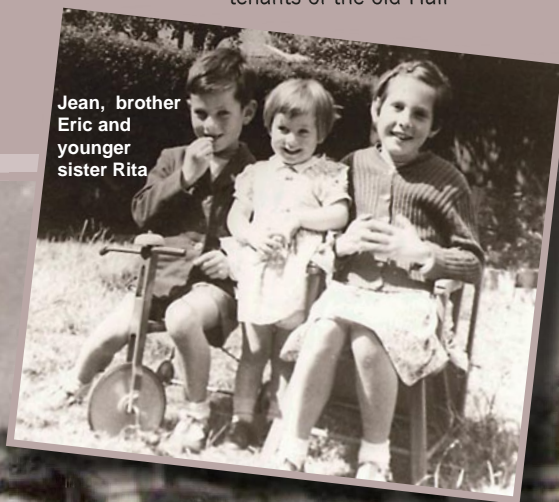
Throughout her childhood, Jean remembers (and obviously learned from) her parent's service to the community. She remembers them organising activities at the Nunawading hostel; a Saturday night 'hop' for kids, her Mum's art classes and occasional film nights for the residents. And, after moving to Mooroolbark, as

members of the Mooroolbark Development Association (MDA), they continued to serve in the community by helping organise regular community dances at the old Community Hall in Station Street. Jean remembers a trio featuring a Mrs Gerrish who made the rickety stage sway as she robustly pounded out honky-tonk dance tunes.

Additionally, Dora and Ern were active in helping clean and maintain the Community Hall, and as MDA members they helped lobby Council to build the Mooroolbark Community Centre (MCC).³ Jean says: *And did we get something better, even if it did flood regularly in early years until the development of the retarding basin improved drainage.* Ironically, some former tenants of the old Hall –



Jean Mitchinson



Jean, brother Eric and younger sister Rita



Ern and Dora



Early Mooroolbark



Mooroolbark in the sixties

¹ Intermediate, Leaving, Matriculation – the names given to current Years 10, 11, 12.

² The C.J. White assembly hall was constructed the year Jean left the school.

³ The old hall was moved to another location for a scout hall.



Community Bank opening



Lions club BBQ at Bank celebrations



Bank 1st birthday



Bank 5th birthday

where Jean recalls rentals were 'peanuts' – couldn't afford the much higher costs of hiring the MCC for their activities and found accommodation elsewhere.

Sadly, the Saturday night dances became a thing of the past. Jean also described some early September school holiday programmes run by the MCC, where her young son enjoyed doing grotty boy things like building outdoor cubby houses, going on possum prowls and cooking damper. Sadly, they were discontinued as they somehow didn't fit the MCC image.

Following Jean's teenage years, when she enjoyed taking the train from Mooroolbark to concerts and dances or spending evenings exploring the city, Jean met husband Bob through the local soccer

bought – it's not surprising that the newly-weds had managed to build their own home before they were married in 1969. After their marriage ceremony on the Saturday of a long weekend, the newly-weds spent their wedding night at a local motel. Sunday night they spent in their new house, prior to leaving for their honeymoon on the holiday Monday. Jean still laughs about the surprise of being woken up early on the public holiday by tradesmen banging on the door wanting to complete the gas conversion occurring across Melbourne at the time.⁵

During the years that followed, Bob and Jean raised their two children, Alan and Linda, who completed their schooling locally.⁶

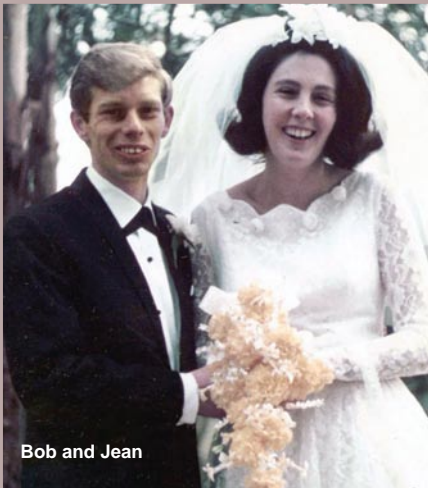
In 2000, Jean received a letter from the Mooroolbark Bank of Melbourne.

*It advised us the branch would close on 8 April 2000 and that from that date all my accounts would be held at the Chirside Park Shopping Centre Branch. I was not impressed. I read the letter. I believe my comment was a very angry 'over my dead body!'*⁷

Jean's determination that there be a community bank in Mooroolbark led to a huge investment of time and energy. Along with local trader Annette Archer, in April 2000, Jean circulated a petition, which read: *We the undersigned respectfully*

request the Mooroolbark branch of the Bank of Melbourne remain open. We do not wish to travel to Chirside Park with its limited public transport and limited close parking facilities. We do not wish to avail ourselves of telephone banking. We just want our local Mooroolbark branch to remain open.

By the 6th April 2000, we had 1,000 signatures. We decided to present the petition to the bank at a public meeting at Mooroolbark Senior Citizens Hall on Wednesday the 19th April. Wednesday 19th April, I was worried. It was pouring with rain, would anyone come to a meeting on a night like this? In all, about 100 people turned up. We had collected 3,500 signatures, the petition was tied with a yellow ribbon. It was fairly obvious, despite our efforts, that the Mooroolbark branch would close. Someone called Les suggested that Jean Mitchinson



Bob and Jean

club, at that time known as Mooroolbark United.⁴ Her father had been involved with soccer all his life, and it was only natural that Jean accompanied him. She remembers her enjoyment at watching the young men play soccer in their tight shorts.

As both Bob's and Jean's parents were part of a generation that preferred to save their money and pay cash for whatever they

4 The club eventually dropped the 'united' from its name; Jean always found the club mascot of a small 'scottie dog' as somewhat incongruous. She said that her father-in-law – a Sunderland supporter – chose the red and white colours of the 'Barkas'.

5 The conversion of Melbourne and surrounding areas to Natural Gas commenced in 1969.

6 Bob and Jean will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in 2009; both sets of parents are still alive; Jean's parents have been married for 63 years. Jean remembers things being financially difficult for them in London – and that her parents gave one another a lump of coal for an anniversary present during one London winter.

7 All quotations regarding the closure of the Bank of Melbourne and the establishment of the Mooroolbark branch of the Bendigo Bank are from Jean's essay: The History of Mooroolbark and District Financial Services Limited.

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arrange for Bendigo Bank to take over the Bank of Melbourne premises. Oh dear! I closed the meeting by thanking all those involved and 'stating', 'I hear what you say, but I can't do this on my own.' A small working group of six people was formed: Annette Archer, John Conner, Peter Higgins, Judy Mason, Jean Mitchinson and Marlene West.

As previously reported in Living Today, the steering group had to raise capital by selling 630,000 one-dollar shares.⁸

The Bank website encapsulates the process thus:

A group of interested community members was briefed by Bendigo Bank on 20 July 2000 in relation to the proposal to establish Mooroolbark Community Bank® Branch and a committee was formed to evaluate the proposal.

A preliminary public meeting was held on 19 April 2000 to discuss the Community Bank® concept and the steps required to establish a Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank at Mooroolbark. As a result, the committee engaged an independent consultant to conduct a feasibility study in relation to the proposal.

The results of the study were presented to the committee at a meeting held on 27 August 2001 and it was unanimously voted to proceed towards the establishment of the Mooroolbark Community Bank® Branch.

The branch in Mooroolbark was officially opened for business on 23 May 2002.

You'd think that Jean might consider a well-earned retirement at that point, but

since then, Jean has been very active as a founding member of MAP Mooroolbark Inc. – the group that brought us our township website: <http://mooroolbark.org.au/>

She has been passionately involved in Celebrate Mooroolbark – our increasingly popular annual family Festival, the fledgling Township Group, the Acheron region Guides as publicity officer and the local Miniature Railway and Steam Club with husband Bob.

One of the great loves of Jean's life has been the Healesville Sanctuary where she has served as a guide for 18 years, helping at times with committee and coordination roles.

A year or two ago, I asked her why she contributes so much.

Why? I'd be bored out of my brain, this is my form of housework avoidance. I want to be helpful. There's enjoyment in the sense of achievement. I enjoy the sanctuary work with the opportunity of meeting and talking with people and I'm excessively proud of my bank!

I think you'll agree that Jean's contribution to our township and region has been, and still is, remarkable!

Jean – thanks so much!

Randall Bouchier



Jean and friends

⁸ Living Today, #26, December 2008, p.3

Community Events Calendar

June 11th – 20th	Mooroolbark Theatre Group production "The Curious Savage" Adults \$15. Bookings Tel 9726 4282
Frid May 31st & Aug 28th	MCC Lounge Sessions Local musicians/original music 7pm start. Entry \$6 Free tea & coffee. Light refreshments available.
Frid June 26th & Aug 14th	FREEZA (Youth) Music Events Battle of the Bands/etc. For program details contact Amanda Anthonisz at the Shire offices Tel. 9294 6716
Sun Aug 2nd	Annual Tree-Planting Day Balcombe Reserve Commences 1pm. All welcome.
Wed July 1st	Free Film Night Mooroolbark Community Centre Film – "Bolt" Commences 7.30pm. Ring the Centre on Tel 9726 5488 to book seats.
Sat June 27th	Suicide Prevention Workshop Mooroolbark Baptist Church 10am – 4pm Cost \$25 (inc lunch). Tel. B/H 98790812 or A/H 0433897892 to register.
Sun Aug 30th	Sunday Afternoon Organ Concert 2.30pm St Frances Anglican Church Guest – Christopher Trikilis, Director of Music, St Patrick's Mentone. Adults \$15 / Conc. \$10.

Our new "**Community Events Calendar**" offers a service to local clubs and organizations.

To include entries for your group's community events in future issues please contact the editor on Tel. 9761 1121 or lewisdm@bigpond.net.au

Note - Living Today is distributed quarterly – In the first week of March, June, September and December. Calendar entries need to be lodged 6 weeks prior to the distribution date.



James on CD Cover



James and Carl

Great Young Talent

Many, in Mooroolbark, first heard James Hampton perform at our local Talent Quest in March, as part of our community Festival "Celebrate Mooroolbark 2009". He was a member of the judging panel for that night but also delighted the audience with an excellent piano / vocal performance as guest artist, at the close of the program.

James is a young, local musician who has recently recorded his debut album – "Land or Sea". Press reviews have been outstanding, referring to the "fantastic musical journey of jazz, funk, pop and soul" that this collection of songs offers. All ten tracks are originals. They clearly demonstrate the remarkable talent in original compositions and arrangements that this young Box Hill Tafe music graduate puts to such good use. They also highlight his impressive ability on piano and above all showcase the fresh, youthful 'vocals' that make listening to this debut album such a great pleasure. He is currently working on his second album which many will be looking forward to with eager anticipation.

James gives much of the credit for initiating the production of this album and making it possible to another young, local talent – his good friend, Carl Schubert. Carl is a freelance sound engineer who did much to encourage James to meet the challenge of producing the album and provided the necessary technical expertise in mixing & production procedures. James personally arranged all of the accompaniments and backing vocals, etc. himself. The two guys, James and Carl, got to know each other when their families met through their association with the Mooroolbark Theatre Group.

For information on how to buy or download the album and some details relating to production go to James' website. jameshampton.com.au Carl has his own website carlschubert.com.au Carl can also be contacted on Tel 0408 520 084 or Email carlieboy@hotmail.com.

We, at Living Today, wish James and Carl every success in the future and look forward to hearing much more from them in the future.

Well done Guys!

Pursuing a Sporting Dream

Thirteen year old Eddy Elder, of Kilsyth, has his eyes set on some very specific sporting goals. He dreams of soon pulling on an "Australian shooting jacket" to represent his country in his chosen sport of skeet shooting and to ultimately win a place in the Commonwealth Games or Olympics shooting teams.

Based on the impressive start he has made, you'd have to give him every chance of achieving those lofty goals. In Feb 2008, at just twelve years of age, he won the overall handicap event at the American skeet Victorian State Championships event. In doing so he triumphed over more than 100 contestants of all age groups. At his local club, Melbourne Gun Club – Victoria Road – Lilydale, members believe that Eddy



is the youngest shooter ever – to achieve this highly valued award.

Right now, Eddy is focused on achieving a qualifying ranking which would give him a place in the finals of the 2009 "Australia Cup". Australia-wide rankings are calculated on results gained through participation in a number of events leading up to this major event. Recent scores see him well placed at this stage.

Skeet shooting is very much a family affair for the Elders. It all began when Dad (Rodney) was introduced to the sport by a friend. Soon Rodney and Eddy's older brother, Robert were competing and Eddy was helping out as "trap boy" (preparing the targets for shooters). Mum, Stephanie, soon found herself busy with all the supportive work that enables the family to travel around and participate in events all around the country. Along with the guys, Stephanie has greatly enjoyed the social life that participation in the club offers. The family has a bus which is fitted out for family travel and which is often the social hub at shooting events.

Stephanie talks about the value of the various character qualities, such as personal discipline, concentration, and responsibility that the sport demands and the Australia-wide friendships that the family have developed. Talking with the Elders, the family bonding that their common interest has brought to them is readily apparent.

When Eddy first began shooting (a junior permit can be obtained at age 12) he was coached and mentored by older brother, Robert. These days both boys regularly travel to Frankston for coaching sessions



with Valeriy Timokhin – Australian Olympic Shotgun Coach and world skeet shooting record holder. For those with shooting experience or knowledge, Eddy's gun is a Beretta 682 GoldE.

Local Sporting Champions Program

Just recently, Eddy and the family were most encouraged to learn that an application for a sports grant was successful. Eddy received \$500 to help him pursue his dreams. He will use this money to help cover costs of ammunition and travel to events.

The Local Sporting Champions Program is an Australian Government initiative designed to provide financial assistance for junior sports persons to assist with equipment, travel, and accommodation when competing at official national sporting organization (NSO) endorsed state or national sporting events. Applications may be made for both individual and team grants.

Further information and application forms can be obtained on the government web-site @ "Local Sporting Champions"

Living Today congratulates Eddy on his achievements to date and wishes him every success in the future.



Ryan and Sascha Barrington are very excited about their new business in their bright and attractive premises at shop 3 / 191 Hull Road (near Cellarbrations and the Paint Shop).

They are most pleased with the local response to the range of kebabs they offer – falafel, lamb, chicken and meat-plate (mixed meats). They also have hot-dogs, Kransky (American hot-dogs) and fish and chips. Traditional Turkish sweets – *turkish delight* and *baklava* are also available.

“Wot a Kebab” is open 11am – midnight seven days a week. Free home delivery is offered for orders over \$25.00.

Ryan and Sascha are no strangers to Mooroolbark. Ryan lived in the area for some years – his parents are still in Chirnside Park. They previously owned and ran “Cellarbrations Mooroolbark”. Seven years ago they sold that business and opened a “Cellarbrations” store in Wantirna.

Then, less than a year ago, Ryan and his brother, Shane, opened “Wot a Kebab” in Boronia. Following their success in that venture, and less than a year later, they have opened in their Mooroolbark premises.

Kebab Vs Souvlaki ??? Ryan explains that he and Shane had lived in Sydney for some years and enjoyed the “kebabs” available in their neighbourhood. When they came to Melbourne they noted that locally this product is called “souvlaki” (kebabs being more likely to be meat and vegetables on a skewer). However they decided to retain the Sydney name as they set about offering the meal that they had previously enjoyed so much.

The Barrington family came to Australia from the Middle East in 1990 when Ryan was 9 years old. He and Sascha have known each other since they were kids at school. They now have two young sons aged 2 years and 6 months. Sascha has managed to learn how to balance up her responsibilities – spending some time most days in the shop. No doubt having parents who assist with the baby-sitting is a big help in finding that balance.

We wish Ryan and Sascha every success in this welcome addition to the wide range of good take-away foods available in Mooroolbark.

Café Twenty Seven is situated in the centre of the Terrace Arcade, Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark. Well known, long time resident of Mooroolbark, Anne Toleman, took over this business in December 2008. She followed on from Heather Shearer who had run the business there for the previous two years.

Anne’s many years of experience in the hospitality industry – working at York on Lilydale and Chateau Wyuna prepared her well for her current business venture. Not to mention her annual employment at the Portsea store over many years, where she laboured each Xmas holiday to provide her children with an opportunity to have a break at that delightful sea-side resort.

Café Twenty Seven is open from 9am to 5pm week days and 9am to 1pm Saturdays.

A range of coffees, teas, soft drinks and juices are offered along with sandwiches, foccacias and toasted sandwiches. A variety of cakes, slices and biscuits are also available. Some of Anne’s regular customers look forward to the Thursday lunch specials she offers – schnitzel, hamburgers, lasagna or quiche.

Anne’s daughter, Stephanie, likes to help Mum out whenever she can. “She is, after all, my best friend,” says Stephanie.

Anne first came to Mooroolbark, with her parents, in 1968 and has lived here ever since. Many local residents know Anne well due to her long association with both Mooroolbark and Manchester Heights tennis clubs. (She is still playing on Monday nights) and with netball and basketball “on and off” for the last 30 years. Along with partner, Ian, she has also long supported the Mooroolbark Mustangs Football Club. Four of their boys have played for the club. Their youngest, Shane, is currently in the under 14’s. Ian has been made a life member of the club.

With her five children, three step-sons and eight grandchildren, Anne’s life is pretty full and by the way she speaks – very satisfying.

Best wishes with **Café Twenty Seven** Anne.



Quotable Quotes

Caring about others, running the risk of feeling, and leaving an impact on other people brings happiness in life.

Harold Kushner.



A hand from the top left is dropping a coin into a clear glass piggy bank. The piggy bank is filled with various coins, including pennies, nickels, and quarters. The coin being dropped is a quarter, and it is captured in mid-air just above the piggy bank's opening.

A POCKET-MONEY STORY

The disaster

I remember a time when I must have been about 12. I'd saved up my pocket money to buy my first LP... yes, it was a long time ago, and no, I'm not telling you what it was! I was shopping with my parents on their usual weekly shop where we all went out in the car and spent about 2-3 hours getting all the things we needed, like waiting in the bootmakers for someone's heels to be done, the grocers for the honey to be filled into the jar we'd brought back, and of course the general chat with at least a half dozen people we met along the way and in all the others stores as well.

Anyway, I went off on my own to buy my first LP record. That was after picking out an Airfix model plane kit at a different shop... no, actually, it was before. I'd bought the record and went back to put it in the car – it was unlocked, as was the custom for our family anyway, as we were all off doing our own things we would get back to the car at different times and wait for dad who was the driver. So I'd gone off to buy my model plane kit and this must've taken a while (so many to choose from) as when I got back to the car the second time it was very hot inside. The back of the car was now in the sun, including the parcel shelf... and my brand new record – well I didn't want anyone sitting on it!

Can you imagine my – let's call it panic, when I took it out of it's now rather oddly shaped cardboard sleeve to see that the record was the shape of a potato chip – the really curly kind! Needless to say there were tears. I was still on my own, and decided to go back to the record store – not really sure why, or what I was going to do or say, but that's where I went... to show them what had happened to my prized first LP.

Good habits

It had taken a while to save enough to buy it and the plane. After getting my daily jobs and homework done, I could do

whatever I wanted with my time, so there was never a time constraint – only a financial one. We were a ‘normal’ family... dad worked, mum kept home, we kids walked or rode to school. Oh, when I say ‘normal’ family... except we had no TV (no black and white TV) so I had heaps of time to pursue hobbies, or muck around with the tools and stuff in dad’s shed as he was a carpenter and cabinet maker. There were pets to play with too, and feeding and cleaning up after them was my responsibility.

I wonder how all those years influenced *my* spending habits – and *my* saving habits. I don’t remember being *paid* to do my jobs, they were just my part of the families chores. Everyone had things to do, and when they were done, we could do our own thing. (Just make sure they were done right – or you’d be doing them again!)

What principles or values are our children learning through pocket money?

Do we pay them just because they are part of the family, or for doing (successfully – or not) their jobs – assuming they have their own chores to do? Perhaps we don’t pay them at all unless they *earn* it by their own efforts. There are a wide variety of family practices, but they all share similar goals... to help our children establish good money practices. Paying a ‘useful’ amount each week is a practical way to help them get used to allocating their income – setting aside certain amounts for different purposes.

Several life principles may be learnt through the practise of giving pocket money;

1. To budget and save for the things they’d like.

2. To discern between wanting and needing.

3. The difference between good value and cheap.

4. The difference between good quality and expensive.

5. Waiting patiently for a buying opportunity.

It’s easier to learn with small amounts of money early in life, than much larger amounts later, when serious harm can be done by using important money carelessly. From about 6 a child should be able to grasp some basic guidelines with money.

Pocket money may be earned. This can teach the value of labour and connects effort with reward. Yet this can be a very flimsy connection for a child or young adult to make, with so much of our world seemingly ‘free!’ Think about what people *can* get for nothing in this digital age – free music, free movies, free stuff on their phone, free internet, free entertainment, etc. It’s always nice to get a freebie, but when it almost becomes a lifestyle, our kids can easily get misled. Even schoolwork can be a matter of copy/paste from the endless material on the

web. No more trips to the library, no more books to buy or borrow, not much thinking about how to solve a problem – just Google® it!

Money is a vital part of the ‘system’, and the money values we impart will influence our kids spending/saving style. As parents, we might consider that we get ‘pocket money’ too, and how we spend it can send very loud messages to our watching and learning children – often it’s what we do, not so much what we say that can have the biggest impact on their developing money habits.

Save some...

Some parents encourage their kids to save some of *their* pocket money. This can really help with understanding the difference between important, long term goals and daily spending. We can let them spend a portion on snacks, but if it *all* goes that way, then we might be also paying the dentist’s pocket money! Hopefully they will learn (with your help) that the short-term ‘gain’ from a lolly is really... a very short-term gain. They can get to see the benefits of ‘assets’ that last much longer than 60 seconds... things that they may even be able to *sell* later on to fund a grander dream.

If they can deposit some savings for a period of say 3 months, or a year, there will be some growth in their savings – growth apart from just their contributions. Perhaps, we can reward their saving with a matching or percentage top-up if they reach a target over a time period. For example, if they save \$2 from their pocket money of \$5 a week, and reach \$26 after 6 months, then we might round it up to \$30, or add 10% to whatever they have saved over a specified time. The principle of saving will have more than half a chance if we start them young, and they actually get a lot of fun and satisfaction from spending *their* money

thoughtfully and profitably after it has had a chance to accrue for a while.

Little money-Big lessons

When I got back to the store, I showed the man who served me initially my horribly buckled LP. He must have thought I would be a lifelong customer, as he gave me another brand new record to replace the one I’d ruined. I don’t remember what he said to me, but I do remember learning to look after my stuff. This turned a very sad (and short) experience into a very pleasant long one. As parents, we can also make good the ‘sad’ stories of our kid’s experiences with money. We need to weigh up when to show them the kind tender heart, or a fairly firm one when it comes to teaching values that will help them to use money wisely and appropriately for a whole lifetime.

There are many ways our kids can learn about money – regular pocket money is one way that many parents have used for a very long time. With a few sound money concepts to make sure they get on OK, they’ll be able to look after us one day!



Steve Steel

Professionals - Supporting the community since 1964



You may have noticed our marquee at various community events; supporting charity fund raisers, sporting events, school fetes and even at local RSL’s. Methven Professionals is proud to be associated with local community offering our versatile 11X 7.3 metre marquee, FREE of charge for your community event – delivered and erected by our expert team!

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CHURCH PAGE



My Mother's Prayer

Adapted from the article by Jeb Egbert in Christian Odyssey April – May 2009

I had my first love affair when I was just 6 years old.

At 6, I had a marvellous kite that was the love of my life. That kite meant everything to me. When my father arrived home from work, he would take me out the front and get it started. As the kite soared into the sky, I would watch with amazement as it bobbed and weaved in the breeze. How could life get any better?

One day as I was flying the kite in our front yard, my mother knocked on the window to get my attention. It was time for dinner. Disappointed I would have to put my kite away, I began to reel the string in.

But then the line went limp. The kite was no longer coming towards me. As a 6-year-old, it took a while to register what was happening. When it finally dawned on me, I did what most 6-year-old boys would do... burst into tears.

My mother saw this and quickly summoned my father. I can still see Dad rushing out of the house. "Son, I can't promise anything. But I'm going to go after that kite." With car window rolled down and his arm slung over the driver's side door, I saw him poke his head out to guess the direction the kite was heading. And he was off.

Twenty minutes later, he returned with the sad news. He was unable to retrieve the kite.

At the same time, unknown to me, my mom was experiencing a new love of her own. And because of this love she suggested something that we had never done before. "Jeb," she said. "Why don't we pray about it?" So before bed that evening, I knelt down next to my mother. I don't recall what she said, but I know she was praying



that some way the new love of her life... God... would restore the kite to me.

The next morning I heard a knock on our front door. I was still in a foul mood, but as the closest to the door, I answered it. A neighbour I had never met was standing in front of me. "Son," he said. "I saw what happened yesterday and I felt so badly for you I decided I would get you a replacement."

A couple of hours later, our next-door neighbor, whom I did know, knocked. He hadn't witnessed the tragedy of the prior evening but announced, "Jeb, I was cleaning out my garage and found a kite. I thought you might like it."

Finally, my dad came home with, you guessed it, another kite. Of course, this sudden wealth of kites left me feeling euphoric. But I also remember clearly, in my 6-year-old way, thinking that this new love of my mom's – the One she prayed to – was awesome.

That's why I like to encourage parents and grandparents to intentionally spend time with their children and grandchildren in prayer. It made a difference for me.

MAGAZINE OFFER The above article, "My Mother's Prayer" is a condensed version of the original which appeared in the Apr-May 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, or P.O. Box 228, Mooroolbark 3138, or contact us by phone on 9726 8898.

World Day of Prayer – Mooroolbark 2009



St Margaret's Uniting Church was the host church for this most enjoyable, ecumenical service held on Friday March 9th 2009. Approximately 100 people from seven different local denominations joined with worshipers all around the world in marking this special annual occasion.

The service for this year was prepared by the churches of Papua New Guinea. In Mooroolbark we heard from guest speakers who had spent time working in PNG speaking on the particular challenges the church faces in the Islands.

Our thanks to St Margaret's for their warm hospitality and the great morning tea that followed the service.

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT



All WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre

Wednesday July 1st
"Bolt"

Commences at 7.30pm
The usual free ice-cream, tea & coffee will be available.

This school holidays program is a joint community service extended to young

families in our neighbourhood by...

Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship & Mooroolbark Community Centre

Please visit or contact Mooroolbark Community Centre to **reserve your seats phone 9726 5488**

Tickets may be reissued if not collected by 7.15pm, and there is a waiting list.



Four-time Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges

I enjoyed the simple candour of Len Cox, Mayor of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, when I asked him how he'd like to be remembered following his years on Council. He

answered: *I'd like to be remembered fondly. Like everyone else, I'd like some of the good things to be remembered rather than some of the mistakes.*

Len has lived in a total of three houses during his life the first in Hampton, where he was born, then Bentleigh and finally Montrose, where he settled in 1973.

He likes Montrose. There are almost six acres of bush and semi-bush around him. He enjoys the quiet, the peace, the birds and possums that visit regularly and loves growing things in his small on-site wholesale nursery. His enjoyment of nature extends to concern about the damage brought to our environment since European settlement.

He laments that we don't have a lot of bush left and is saddened by the number of native animals caught in bushfires. He muses about the continuing battle for animals surviving the fires, due to the on-going threat of starvation as habitats regenerate. I spoke with Len whilst our most recent fires still raged. As Mayor, he was full of quiet but enthusiastic praise for the efforts of Shire employees during the crisis. "Staff responses have been outstanding. I admire them for the long hours worked, their devotedness. Some of the staff are walking around here with their eyes hanging out! Our Council Chambers became a centre of operations. I was amazed at how quickly things clicked into operation. Everything was set up within an hour of fires breaking out within the Shire and 20 people were sitting in the Chambers, each with a job to do with phones and computers making their work possible. All the agencies are represented here: DHS, fire agencies, State and Federal governments along with eight or so of our staff.

We're currently maintaining two relief centres at Healesville and Yarra Glen. When the Upwey fire broke out, we set up another centre in Kilsyth within about half an hour. Fortunately our preparations weren't required, and we were able to close the Kilsyth centre a little later. We also set up a temporary relief centre at Lilydale Showgrounds. The Army pitched tents for temporary accommodation, as 300-400 people migrated from Warburton when it was under threat. I've never seen anything organised so quickly. At 3pm there was nothing. By 6pm it was operating like a little town. Shire staff came out of the woodwork. Local government works very well in these situations.

I've also appreciated help with staff from neighbouring shires, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah and Whitehorse, and the supportive phone calls have been very encouraging. Apart from a two-year break from council during the mid-nineties' Kennett re-structuring, Len has served on Council since 1982. He's enthusiastic about local government being more relevant now than ever.

Once, local government's primary function was to maintain roads and collect garbage, but now it's so interesting. We're involved in the delivery of so many services relevant to everyday life! When people have problems, they ring their Councillor, or the Shire offices,

because we're accessible at the local level. The first thing I learned as Councillor was that you'll lose more things than you'll win. You have to learn to take it and get on with things! Try to maintain a smile... keep on trying... never take things to heart! Although Len can point to several major contributions to life in the Shire, including his ideas for the degraded and wasted land that subsequently became Lilydale Lake, he derives most enjoyment and satisfaction from having been able to help many people with issues regularly affecting their lives.

Healthy communities according to Len, are places where people are willing to help one another and where people are prepared to get up and have a go. "Many people don't tend to get involved, but when something 'big' happens, all sorts of people get involved."

Julie MacDonald's idea for a community playground in Montrose was one such example. Over five days, a thousand people contributed to its construction. People were cooperative, keen and happily involved. It's the same thing we see with these rotten fires! Something bad happens and we see the best emerge – fighting and holding fires, back up services, relief agencies, generosity of giving. We see the best! Len applauds the grassroots ideas and initiatives spawned at the local level: it's very important for Council to support interest groups and volunteer groups in the community. There are a lot of good people doing volunteer work, and we need to support them as much as is humanly possible. I've always thought that was important. Everybody needs an occasional pat on the back, everyone needs some support if they're struggling a bit, and it's important that Council always be there for back-up and support. People should see Council as a friend, rather than an enemy. Len's looking forward to his fourth term as Mayor. It's his first four-year term! Although he's noncommittal about retirement, he is looking forward eventually to enjoying more touring throughout Australia and sailing. You sense that he'd like to spend more time than he already does with his three daughters and eight grandchildren, all of whom live in Victoria.

Recently, Len completed a four-week trip to Antarctica. *It's about as alien as you could ever get. It's like another planet. Although you see periods of blue sky, often everything is white – sky, sea, ice. It was a unique experience to visit near Mawson's hut, walk among half a million penguins, return to the ship at 1am with the sun still shining bright, and watch it meander across the horizon before rising once again in the sky! But it was lovely to see green again!*

Like Cr. Cox, we look forward to seeing our fire ravaged State transformed to green quickly – while he's still Mayor!

U3A Croydon

University of the Third Age

University of the Third Age is a worldwide organization that provides opportunities for groups of like-minded people to join together in sharing knowledge, skills and social experiences as they seek to keep active in body, mind and spirit in the "third age of life".

Croydon U3A was founded in 1992. Today it has over 650 members participating in a wide variety of classes including Arts & Crafts, Dance, Music, Literature, Languages, Computers and Personal Well-Being... to name a few.

In term two, 2009, over 70 different classes are offered in the local area. The **Croydon U3A** website provides a profile of each course offered and details of dates, times and venues. It also outlines costs and procedures for participating in U3A activities along with other items of interest including some details of social activities.

Carina Harding, a member of Croydon U3A says "People who join U3A often speak of the enjoyment they experience in making new friends, and participating in activities which give them new interests to pursue". She lists the following three classes (pictured below) as of particular interest to her.

Looking for new interests, and friendships? Why not ring the Croydon U3A Office from 10:00am to 12:30pm, weekdays on 9724 9544 (Note: Office closed during term holidays)

Or check out the website @ **Croydon U3A**

Term 3 classes and programs commence on Monday, July 13th 2009



Furniture Restoration



Craft



Leadlighting

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

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Like to Contribute?

If you have a good news story about people or groups who you believe are an inspiration to the community, Please contact the editor through our church-office tel. number or by email (as above)

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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