

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO. 30 DECEMBER 2009



Our Community at Work

11,500 Free Copies Distributed Throughout Mooroolbark & District

Mooroolbark's World Class Porcelain Artist

Amongst the rich tapestry of people's lives in Mooroolbark, we sometimes uncover wonderfully unexpected talents that enrich our enjoyment of life within our community!

I'd like to tell you of one Mooroolbark resident who quietly pursues her craft with a skilfulness that is world class. Ursula Liebl arrived in Australia in 1956 so that she could marry her fiancé who had migrated

to Australia in 1955¹. Although born in Berlin, Ursula moved to Selb during the war years where she and future husband Franz became sweethearts.

It was in Selb that Ursula began her life-long involvement with porcelain painting. She says: *"I love it still, after many many years"*. And because so many decades of her life have been devoted to learning and practising her craft, watching Ursula paint is a rare privilege – as designs of great beauty take shape from deft and sensitive brush strokes.

Franz and Ursula married in a Collins Street church about six months after Ursula's arrival. For 15 years they lived in North Croydon before moving to their home in Mooroolbark in 1975.

During Ursula's childhood, family members worked in a porcelain factory. Following in the footsteps of an artistic grandfather, Ursula loved to draw – and sometimes was in trouble at school for sketching during class. She hoped to make a future career in dressmaking or hairdressing, but when she left school at 15, post-war employment opportunities were limited, and she found herself undertaking an apprenticeship in porcelain painting. During their first year, the apprentices learnt some of the basics – mixing colours, preparing and using a large variety of brushes, and learning to paint the banding around plates. At times, the preparation of brushes – sometimes involving the rearranging of bristles – could take the better part of a day. One week out of four was devoted to drawing from nature – detailed still-life sketches of flowers and plants – learning the craft of depicting light, shadow and fine detail. In the second year, apprentices were allowed to use gold for the first time and were trained in the art of gilding. They also learned how to hand-paint cups and saucers, dinner plates, vases and coffee sets, using one of the standard company designs.²

¹ Emigrants usually arrived by passenger liner during the 50s

² Ursula was apprenticed at the Heinerich factory in Selb, Bavaria. It was acquired by Villeroy and Boch in 1976, and commenced producing fine bone china in 1980. Also of interest, Franz' father was employed in the Rosenthal porcelain factory.



Ursula and her work

Ursula says: *There was lots of repetition. I can sit down today and do some of the designs with my eyes closed. I learned to have patience in my work, and I loved it!*

We had a very good teacher. There were about 18 of us seated at benches – from first to third years – and behind us was a little room with a window where the boss sat and ensured we kept working.

It was a wonderful development of a craft, so that you learned about what to look for.

In the third year, we were already earning extra money over and above our apprentice wage. We were put in with some of the top painters in the factory and learned from them, working alongside them. We worked with gold work and things like colouring the English hunting scenes of some of the porcelain.

First year we were paid 25 Marks per month, 2nd year – 40 Marks and 80 Marks in 3rd year, plus some extra for the additional piecework we completed.

Ursula learned to paint in the 'Dresden style' – 'a colourful technique characterized by elaborate fanciful design and a profusion of foliage, flowers, fruits, shells and scrolls. The Dresden style was also characterised by a profusion of intricate gold gilding that contrasted beautifully with the translucent whiteness of the porcelain. The result was a literal feast for the eyes, a veritable banquet of brilliant colours and natural forms...'³

After becoming settled in Australia, Ursula resumed employment in the porcelain industry in 1959 as a painter at the newly established Australian subsidiary of *Johnson Brothers* – an English porcelain company situated in Stoke-on-Trent.⁴ A 1959 edition of *Australian Women's Weekly* shows Ursula at work – doing the gilding work in the factory. Ursula remembers how hot the



Australian Women's Weekly – picture of Johnson Brothers factory in Croydon



Ursula working at Johnson Brothers – 1959

³ http://www.antique-china-porcelain-collectibles.com/dresden_style_history.htm

⁴ Details of the Australian factory and kiln can be viewed at <http://riveon.eclipsenet.com/parkstreet/public/ViewFile.aspx?aid=164063>
The Croydon factory was in Lusher Road.

factory became in those days before air-conditioning.

Following the births of their two sons, Ursula devoted her time to raising her children. But when they had grown, Franz suggested she take up her craft again. As a consequence, Ursula was able to introduce the *Dresden style* to local painters – and eventually helped in the early formation of an *Australian Porcelain Painter's Guild*, where groups of painters – some novices – would get together, learn from each other and experiment with various styles and techniques.

Australian porcelain painting had been influenced by the American style of china painting, which uses background shading, and tends to cover the entire surface, compared with the European style, which, through minimal decoration, highlights the quality of the porcelain.

The Australian guild began under the guidance of a parent American organisation, but eventually began to operate independently. In time, the Guild introduced a teacher organisation – *Australian Porcelain Art Teachers Inc.* Membership was open to teachers who had demonstrated a range of proficiencies.

Ursula began to exhibit her work – winning prizes locally in the Lilydale and Melbourne Shows, and also internationally. In 1988, she won a first prize for her work exhibited in the US. Other awards followed. She was even asked not to exhibit for a year, to give others greater opportunity! In addition to receiving prizes, Ursula has sold much of her work, including some quite large pieces. Australian interest in porcelain work is still in its infancy compared with Europe, where the history of the art goes back for centuries – and public interest in acquiring pieces for private use and collections is well-established.

Travel has also been an enjoyable and useful experience for Ursula. Over the years,

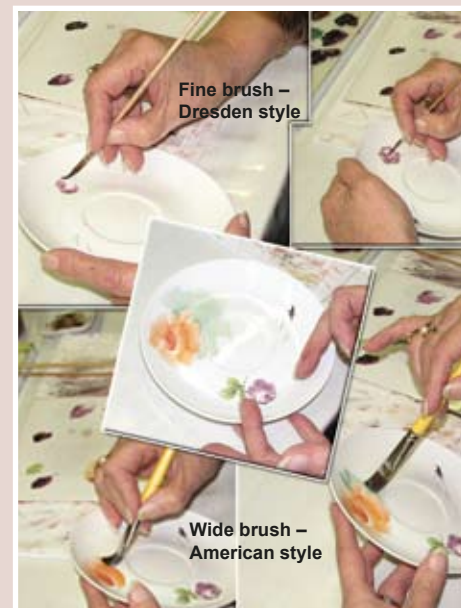
as the family travelled back to Europe, she would sometimes obtain short-term work in established European factories, to gain a greater breadth of knowledge and expertise. For many years, she also travelled to the US to attend the *International Biennial China Painting Convention*. Now, Australia hosts an international exhibition every four years. Ursula continues to be active in the local Guild – and holds occasional workshops for the teachers, where she passes on some of her knowledge and skill. She has continued to specialise in the *Dresden style* because there are no other teachers of the style in Australia.

For Ursula, good porcelain painting has to be cleanly executed, contain fine composition and be pleasing to the eye. When she paints, she first imagines what the design is likely to be, often after being visually stimulated by an image in a book, which she'll develop into a unique and personal design before sketching onto the china and bringing the idea to completion.



Example of Ursula's work

The following pictures help us understand a little of the way a design takes shape, as fine lines are applied, brush pressure is altered, different shapes emerge...



It's a thrill to watch Ursula at work – to appreciate the years of learning and practice that have equipped her for her craft. You can sense her continuing excitement and commitment to her creative work. *"Painting is very important to me, and I am also passionate about my teaching."* And Franz says: *"I've had years of experience watching her paint; it still fascinates me!"*

Thanks Ursula, for sharing your giftedness and your time with our readers, and for bringing so much pleasure to so many through your years of artistic productivity.



Randall Bouchier

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

ALL WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre

**Wednesday
January 20th
"G FORCE"**

Commences at 7.30 p.m
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 7.15, and there is a wait list.



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!

Call Kylie Todd at our Mooroolbark office on 9726 888 today and book the FREE marquee for your next community event

One Team. Four Locations.

The 1st Mooroolbark Scout Group

Barry Austin



This year's annual "Tree Planting" at Balcombe Reserve



A typical games evening in the air conditioned meeting hall at Marion Avenue, Mooroolbark

One of the most effective things we in Mooroolbark can do for our youth, both boys and girls, is to support the local Mooroolbark Scout Group.

Scouting is a worldwide, voluntary, educational movement for young people (aged 6 to 26). The Scout Movement emphasises peace, education and understanding, and transcends all cultural, religious, racial, political, age and gender barriers.

Scouts Australia has around 60,000 members, making it the largest youth movement in Australia. Scout Groups are made up of boys and girls from all age levels. Girl Scouts have equal roles in scouting and can achieve any level or position they may aspire to.

The main aims of scouting are to offer healthy outdoor adventure-type experiences, provide personal support and encouragement

and to present training in becoming responsible citizens - particularly in the area of community involvement. Activities include camping, hiking, bike-hikes, canoeing, swimming and over 60 "Scout Craft" badges that cover many interesting studies and skills.

To become a scout at a young age you first become a "Joey Scout", ages 6 and 7. Next in line are the "Cubs", ages 7 to 10. They are called "Sixers" because they are usually placed in groups of 6. Then "Scouts", ages 10 to 14, then "Adventurer Scouts" at 14 to 17. At this level scouts are eligible to train for an award called "Queen Scout". And if you want to go even further the "Rover Scout" is there for the 18 to 26 year olds.

The local hall at, 36 Marion Avenue, has been the meeting venue for 40 years and has all the required facilities including ducted heating for those cold winter evenings, so no excuses for not turning up! A typical evening starts with a parade and the Australian flag is

honoured by a simple "Flag Break" ceremony which formalises the evening. The Leaders" then hand over to the "Patrol Leaders" who organize the first event or games for the night.

A soon-coming major scouting event is the 22nd Australian Jamboree, www.scoutsaj2010.com. This is scheduled to take place on January 4th to 14th 2010 at Cataract Scout Park, NSW.

The 1st Mooroolbark Scout Group has been training and looking after the youth of Mooroolbark for just on 50 years and their "Golden Anniversary" will be celebrated on September 4th 2010. Congratulations to all concerned for a fantastic job, well done.

Our local Scouting Group is experiencing major growth at this time, and if you would like to be involved in any way, as a scout, helper or leader, please contact:

Mr Rob Lowe (Snr. Group Leader)
Tel: 9726 8452 or Mob: 0407 847 662

LINC is a local, volunteer-run program offering vital assistance to migrants and refugees in the challenging process of integrating into life in Australia. It is led by Lois and Tony Baldwin and operates in partnership with the government's Migrant Information Centre.

LINC's weekly meetings are held at Mooroolbark East Primary School. They take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. each Thursday evening during school terms. Current classes average about 20 participants.

The volunteer teachers and leaders offer a sharing and caring environment where individuals and families can come together to:

- * Learn and improve English.
- * Learn about the Australian way of life.
- * Receive practical advice and assistance, and
- * Gain independence and confidence in participating in the wider community.

For families, one very helpful service involves assistance in orientation into schools, liaison with schools and the accessing of notices sent home - so that parents can be helped to understand what the content involves. During the Thursday evening classes the children are often helped with home-work assignments.

In addition to the language classes, other programs include computer skills, Australian culture, news and events, learning about Melbourne and Victoria and how to get about, community services and special interest programs. A highlight for this term will be a group



trip to country Victoria.

Congratulations to all of the volunteers for their generous contributions

Volunteers : There are currently 12 volunteers who provide assistance, to the LINC program but extra helpers are always needed and wanted. A particular, current need is for leaders who are able to offer scholastic assistance to secondary school students and

those attending university.

The Migrant Information Centre offers a three-week training program to help equip leaders.

For those wanting to know more or to get in touch with LINC, Lois Baldwin (coordinator) can be contacted at linc.mm@optusnet.com.au or Tel. 9728 3676



Tony and Lois with (L-R) Abor, Acin, Mercy, Rebecca and Bawi

170 Years Between Them

A great day of celebration took place in Mooroolbark on Sunday October 18th. Over 150 family and friends gathered in the Community Centre to celebrate Elsie Bolwell's 80th birthday. At the same time, a similar number of guests came together in the Senior Citizens building to mark the 90th birthday of Bob Gatherum. With over a lifetime of service, each has been a wonderful contributor and a great gift to our local community.

Bob

Having migrated from England, Bob and his "beloved highland girl", Betty, never forgot the wonderfully warm welcome they received when they came to Mooroolbark in the 1950's. They quickly settled into the area to spend the remainder of their 65 years of marriage, raising their family of four children and enjoying working together to benefit our local community.

A long connection with the Mooroolbark Lions was a major part of Bob and Betty's life together. A key project that they enjoyed sharing was the establishment and support of "Jim Fuller House" - a service providing homes for low income and needy people. Together, Bob and Betty filled the positions of president and secretary of the house committee for 21 years. Bob continues to be actively involved with the Lions - many of whom were present to help him celebrate this special occasion.

A world-war II veteran and not one to let the advancing years hold him back, Bob recently made a trip to Normandy for the 65th anniversary of D-Day. He was accompanied by friends from the Normandy Veterans' Association and also by four students and a teacher from Waverley Secondary College. They all took part in various ceremonies and toured the landing areas. After Normandy Bob enjoyed visiting with family in England.



Bob says that relationships with family, friends and the community have given him his greatest pleasure in life.

He certainly is a great friend to many in our local neighbourhood. **Well done Bob!**



Elsie

On October 18th, Elsie Bolwell enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of celebration with family and friends from near and far. Much fun was had and many stories were told. Stories depicting examples from Elsie's long life of devotion to her family and to the broader community that has become her extended family.

Various speakers referred to her 50 years of commitment to guiding in the local area, her passion for local history, her involvement, over the years in numerous committees and associations working to develop local facilities for our community and in particular, her extremely generous 'heart for the needy' amongst us.

Having experienced the ravages of cancer in her own family, Elsie became involved with a local cancer support group. Over 15 years she was able to help many people.

Then, 20 years ago, the opportunity arose to provide help in a vital support role for local disabled people - offering caring friendship and assistance in dealing with the unique challenges that disabled people face in life.



The "Disabled People's Company" meets weekly at the Community Centre for morning tea, the opportunity to enjoy one another's company and to share their personal hopes and concerns.

On Wednesday Oct 28th a ladies' group from Mooroolbark Christian fellowship provided a luncheon to help celebrate the group's 20 years of living and working together.

Davis Hodgett M.P. Member for Kilsyth, presented the group with a plaque to commemorate the anniversary.

A delightful time of celebration together.



VERY OLD PROBLEM... VERY NEW DIMENSION



Steve Steel

Have you ever been bullied? Have your children? I have. I can still clearly remember a couple of incidents – even a few decades later. I can also vaguely recall being a bully – but the details are very faint in my memory. I *can distinctly remember*, as a victim, having a red-hot iron bar placed against my arm; the scar is still there – on my arm anyway. There was a mental scar too, but it seems to have healed.

Bullying gets a daily mention in our newspapers and TV reports – violence toward, and abuse of others without reason seems to be a sickening trend gathering momentum. We hear a lot about the details of who did what and the injuries that were sustained – hopefully injuries that will heal, and the victims, like me, can get on with their lives – but unfortunately, the results of bullying can be so traumatic that they never fully recover and live a very restricted life, or sadly, even take their own life.

Despite the publicity, there are many, many instances of bullying that go unmentioned, not just isolated incidents, but ongoing attacks and constant persecution of the weaker or unfortunate.

In our very digital age, old issues like bullying can present with new and extremely perplexing dimensions

The bully's new weapon is *cyber bullying*; attacking people using cyber or

electronic communication methods such as mobile phone texting, websites, email, messaging, Facebook and other social interaction websites. The bully may be anonymous – you don't know who is behind the hurtful or threatening messages, or it could be people you see every day. A bully may use a fake name, or even have a fake email, MySpace or Facebook account. Cyber bullying can be very public – everyone can know that you are being bullied – perhaps they are bullying as a group. Unfortunately, some people think it's fun to harass and make fun of others – and when they don't stop, it can be quite overwhelming and disempowering for the victim.

Home is No Castle

One of the worst things about cyber bullying is that we can be bullied in our own home – our refuge and safe zone from the world around us. We wouldn't let the bully from school into our house – but with cyber bullying the boundary is removed – there is no boundary. They get in through the 'wires' – they don't even need wires anymore!

A recent startling statistic reveals that roughly a quarter¹ of Australian children report they have been cyber bullied. These days our children can spend a lot of time online. We

need to actively manage that time and monitor what we allow them to have access to, relative to their age. We may need to get some help to set some safety protocols that will protect our children in at least a basic way from some of the nasties out there. If we compare the cyber world with the real world...you wouldn't let them go to the park unsupervised! So how are we ensuring that our children can *play online* without being threatened or attacked – in a social, rather than a physical sense?

Following are some very basic ideas to help us deal with cyber bullying. They are not firm rules, just ideas that some have found useful, and may give you a place to start thinking about your particular situation;

- Ignore the bully – responding to them will draw more attention.
- Block the sender if possible when using email or phone.
- Change child's username, email address etc, and keep track of who has the new details.
- Don't delete any evidence – it can help to track down the culprits (you could remove texts, emails etc from child's view to a better place).
- Report incidents to the school, your Internet Service Provider (ISP) or police if there is a safety issue.
- When adults are involved it isn't called bullying – it's called abuse, and the police, or authorities at the place of concern must be notified.

1 NetAlert Helpline - 16 per cent of young people surveyed said they had been bullied online, and 14% were bullied through their mobile.

Get in Early

It's important to ensure children understand that it's not their fault if they are being bullied; that there is nothing wrong with them. They may be feeling scared, angry, sad, or be having low self-esteem issues. They may even begin to feel that they deserve to be bullied! Left unchecked and without assistance, much harm can be done that may have long lasting effects.

With younger children, start early in guiding them through the maze of modern communications. Strive to develop a very open and candid dialog with them that will help you to be involved in their discoveries, and you'll be better able to provide support and assistance should they get into difficulties.

The last thing we want is for our children to have an issue, and not be able to share it with us as their parents or carers. Chances are – it may be when, not if, an issue arises. Often, a child will not want to share with a parent that they are being bullied. They may feel that it is showing weakness, or that you may take the technology away from them. We must be careful to not blame or penalise them for what someone else is doing wrong. We can't blame the Internet; it's the users of it causing these problems.

We Need to Take Care

A challenge we face as parents is keeping up with the available technology – really, an impossible task for even the savviest of us. This gives us two options; get up to date and stay there (a near impossible task), or be sure we are spending the time with our

child to help them through any possible cyber situations in a loving, understanding and supportive way.

Of course, our child may not be a victim of cyber bullying, but they may be doing, writing or saying things that are actually causing someone harm. Picking on the faults of others in a repetitious way...that's bullying. We mightn't consider them a bully, but the results may be the same. It's not OK to swear or use abusive language in our speech, but people can be very impolite and explicit when typing in a chat room – even some of the abbreviations can be quite offensive.

As it's difficult to always monitor our children's actions online, it's important we set a good example of how to communicate, and if we encounter improper language being used, to take a stand. Just like in the real world, we need to employ the same care and respect for others online too – treating them the way we expect to be treated.

It is very critical in addressing this issue effectively, to ensure that we as parents, educators and carers are taking it seriously and treating requests for help with all due respect and care, and being watchful for mood changes that might indicate that something is not right in our children's cyber world. Take the time to search out the many sources of excellent information that are available.² This will help inform us of the very real and daily challenges our children face during their

² An online search of 'cyber bullying' will yield many useful results, or a phone call to government agencies will provide you with printed material.

school years, and then talking about these issues as a family is a very important first step in dealing with cyber bullying.

There are no easy or ready answers to this growing concern of cyber bullying.

As families and as a community let's all be cautious of how we engage with this exciting and challenging age and take care, pay attention and we'll get through these challenging times together. The way our children handle stress and deal with conflict now, and their ability to respond in positive and practical ways that unite rather than divide, will fundamentally shape their adult lives, and those of their peers.

Next issue... How we turn out as adults depends, in part, on how we learn to handle stressful situations. Anger, distress, sorrow and lots of other feelings are part of the symphony of life. It's easy to handle being happy, but how can we understand what's going on, and learn to manage and even grow, when things don't go so well? We'll take a look at EQ...otherwise known as **Emotional Intelligence**.



OUR COMMUNITY AT WORK

6th Annual Tree-Planting Day

A big thank-you to the many local organizations and individuals who contributed to another most successful tree-planting day at Balcombe Reserve on Aug 2nd. Over 90 local volunteers planted 1,500 young trees and grasses in just over two hours. A great effort! Well done!



Station Developments

On Tuesday Sept. 15th, students from Mooroolbark College, Manchester P.S. and Bimbadeen Heights P.S. were supported by members of the local station consultative group, community volunteers and Shire staff as they re-planted the gardens on the Brice Ave. side of the station. Many thanks to our student volunteers! The planting was a first step in the planned developments for our station under the Vic. Govt. project "Train Stations as Community Hubs"

Special thanks to Mooroolbark Lions Club for supervising the day's activities.

CHURCH PAGE

inner emptiness filled



In his book, *Emotional Intelligence*, author Daniel Goleman observed that each generation suffers from a higher risk of depression than their parents. And famed psychologist Viktor Frankl lamented that more than half of American college students felt they lived in a state of "inner emptiness."

In 1968 in the US, twice as many beginning college students wanted to develop a meaningful philosophy of life as wanted to make a lot of money. By 1997, the pattern had almost flipped on its head, with 75% of freshmen wanting to be very well off financially, and only 41% putting their priority on having a meaningful philosophy of life. Today, it seems that most in our developed world have material wealth as their primary goal and primary concern.

But watching the television news, we see a parade of people who have achieved the goal of abundant wealth, yet are revealed to suffer

such emptiness effects as deep depression, failed relationships, substance abuse, addiction, domestic fighting or public outbursts. Material wealth hardly seems to assure us of a happy, peaceful life.

Yet if we take the time to look in the Bible for the meaning and purpose of our lives, we encounter a God who brought us into being, who passionately loves us and wants to share his life with us. We can read there how, in Jesus Christ, God was willing to sacrifice everything to bring this to pass.

At this moment, you may not have a clue as to what God wants to accomplish through your life. But the closer you get to him, the more you come to see his love for you, and the more you see and understand *yourself*. When we live in such a relationship with God, we find our focus changing from one of pleasing ourselves to caring about others. This relationship with God is an intimacy that brings clarity to our lives, and that clarity produces change.

The more we know Jesus Christ, the perfect revelation of God the Father, two things happen. We begin to understand who we really are as God's own children, and that haunting sense of inner emptiness is replaced by a sense of belonging and being loved – by the one who made us and cares for us.

Adapted from the Joseph Tkach. "Speaking of Life" program - a series of short videos addressing various Christian issues. Additional programs in this series can be accessed at www.speakingoflife.org



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - MOOROOLBARK
 Friday Mar 5th 2010 Commencing 10 a.m.
 St Francis in the Field - Hull Road Mooroolbark
ALL WELCOME



Mooroolbark's *Annual Community Carols* Friday Dec. 4th 2009

Come along and enjoy a **twilight picnic & community Carols by Candlelight**

Hookey Park
 Cnr. Station & Charles Streets

6.30pm Picnic in the Park
 Food and drinks will be available at family-friendly prices.

8pm Carols Program
 BYO Chairs / rugs

Featuring the Croydon Citizens' Band and performances by children from six local primary schools

Sponsored by the Lions Club of Mooroolbark
 Supported by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship



Dave, Taya and Helen

the GROOM ROOM

Barry Austin

Dad and daughter, aka Dave (the Assistant) and Helen (the boss) Macdonald care for and love their 2 cats, 2 dogs and a rabbit very much. So 6 months ago they decided to extend that concern to all the Shire of Yarra Ranges animal lovers by opening "The Groom Room" to make your pets even lovelier. Helen, who is highly qualified in animal care, has worked with animals for many years, starting at the Veterinary Clinic in Lilydale as a dog groomer which included 18 years as a dog trainer. During this time she qualified as a veterinary nurse and can

advise on all aspects of your animal's health. Helen is also a Golden Retriever breeder, a senior dog instructor and a life member of the Croydon and District Dog Club.

Any dog, whatever breed or temperament, is welcome at "The Groom Room" for clipping or shampooing. Cats are also catered for – if they are easy going and passive. A free pick-up and drop off service is available for all animals and a 10% discount for seniors. Up to 10 dogs a day can be handled at "The Groom Room" so a discount is available for multiple dog make-over's.

Another speciality of "The Groom Room" is dog training. This can be for aggressive or timid dogs, dogs that won't come to heel or dogs that just need training like puppies.

A future goal of "The Groom Room" is to offer luxury kennels. As Helen said "A cat or dog is a member of the family. If the family go on holiday they want their animal(s) to be given the same high quality treatment that they would receive at home". The luxury kennels would still include the grooming and training facilities.

A final comment from Dave, "We choose to do this because of our love of animals – all animals. I don't think we could do it otherwise. I suppose you could call it a passion"

**"The Groom Room" can be found at 19
Abraham Drive, Croydon 3136
Tel: Helen 9722 9212
Mob. 0402419104 or David 0414972640**



Holding cages and warm air drying units

The Lowry family are well known and highly respected in Mooroolbark for their 25 years of dedicated service to the very successful Mooroolbark Football Club. John, Margaret, Vince and Jenny have all made significant contributions to the club over those many years.

When it was decided it was time to move on in some areas of their lives – typically it was to become another "family affair". It was a dream that came to fulfillment with the 30th September opening of their Succulent Café at 207 Main Street, Lilydale.

Jenny, who has had many years of experience in managing a café, and Margaret with her years of catering work for MFC had long harboured the dream of combining their talents in opening a unique café, together. They say that they had talked about it for years

When the time came, Vince's professional shop-fitting skills came to the fore in creating the very homely and welcoming atmosphere that greets customers as they enter the café.

Jenny has created a most attractive "Hills tea-room" type setting with lots of cottage homewares, gift items, jewellery, soaps, cosmetics, greeting cards, etc., and various rustic products on display and for sale.

The wide range of delicious food offered for breakfast, lunch and for snacks and sweets is all home-made (prepared on the premises).

They serve the very popular "Jasper" organic and Fair-trade coffee and "Tea Leaves" quality teas, along with a wide range of juices, smoothies, milk drinks and soft drinks

Jenny's husband, Marty, is a station officer with the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. He helps out in the shop whenever he can.

John is happy to be the "gofer" which he says keeps him very busy. No doubt John's and Margaret's executive experience as secretary and



www.succulentcafe.com.au

a FAMILY AFFAIR

treasurer at MFC for so many years has also well prepared them to assist in management and financial matters.

Some special evening activities are planned for the run-up to Christmas and "Succulent Café" offers a special private events service.

For further details go to www.succulentcafe.com.au.

On behalf of the Mooroolbark community we wish Jenny and Marty, and all the family the very best in this new venture and thank them for their many years of service to our community.

a passionate Life!

You can't help but notice Marion Stott's passion for family, children in general and community when you speak with her. I've known her for 30 years, and I've always been impressed with her curiosity and her zest for life.

Life hasn't always delivered the easiest of experiences for Marion and her family – but she is one of those people who has learned to see the up-sides to things. As an example – in spite of continuing grief from losing a very young daughter in a car accident, Marion speaks with real thankfulness about the circle of friends she met at the time in a support group – *Compassionate Friends*. She found them to be the most inclusive, non-judgemental group of people she'd ever come across, even though many in the group were struggling with circumstances and losses of monumental proportions.



Marion as a cowgirl

Marion grew up on a sheep farm 5 miles from Terang. She enjoyed the happiness and freedom that living on a farm brought, but also recalls the impersonal nature of her Grade 6 class of 53 students that made her determined that things would be otherwise for her

children.

It was good, farm life – watching the seasons of nature and the animals... what had to happen when and so forth. There was a rule that you never closed the slow combustion door. If the oven door was ajar there might be a lamb wrapped up in a blanket inside... You walked between big water tanks when you went to the laundry or the toilet, which was way down the path, and you'd go out and back in the dark without batting an eyelid!

Following her marriage to Lloyd – who she'd met whilst he was studying electronic engineering at RMIT¹ – they moved to Mt Evelyn where Marion particularly enjoyed the bush setting. Beginning their family with two boys Marion helped establish a Montessori playgroup. Eventually, the family made the move to Mooroolbark to be closer to public transport.

Marion recalls taking their eldest boy from a class of 35 students when the *Village School* opened – a small private school with

a farm environment that Marion and Lloyd believed would provide smaller class-sizes and more personalised educational opportunities for their children. Thus, began 24 years of continual involvement at the *Village School* with our five children. And, we've enjoyed 32 years in Mooroolbark.

As the children grew up, Marion says that she was always on the lookout for opportunities that would benefit them. Swimming classes at that time were a novelty, as were the Kodaly music classes for pre-schoolers that I conducted in the mid-70s, where I first met Marion. And, as the children became involved with activities – school, swimming, cubs, *Red Earth Festivals* etc., Marion found herself involved. *You just offered, you saw a need and put out a helping hand.*

Marion had grown up watching her parents lend a helping hand to many people around Terang, her mother through the church and her father as



Red Earth Festival - clown float

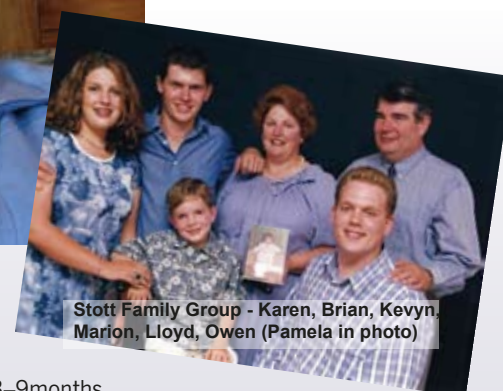
a Rotarian busy in small-town life. Marion was drawn to nursing – and worked in elderly care on moving to Melbourne.

She clearly remembers attending some lectures in Box Hill with a parent from kindergarten, and being impressed by a presentation from Margaret Sasse² who was passionate about providing more opportunities to help children who may have had some interruption to their normal course of development. Marion recalls that she *sounded terribly logical and practical* and spent some time speaking with her on several occasions.

Following the birth of their third child – Karen, Margaret contacted Marion – congratulating her on the new arrival and inviting them to attend the new class that Margaret had organised for mothers – some with underachieving babies from



Marion



Stott Family Group - Karen, Brian, Kevyn, Marion, Lloyd, Owen (Pamela in photo)

3–9 months

Marion recounts:

The babies were all on a row of mats, Margaret was talking to us and we were doing exercises... one day I had to pop Karen in the room for a moment and take some things to the car, when I returned everyone was laughing and clapping, and Karen was right down the other end of the room. She had used all the babies as an obstacle course and had crept over all of them. Margaret said: 'Just call her back to you' – and she did the same all the way back, and Margaret said: 'And this is a perfect example of how a normal child moves and your children will eventually get there too.'

We may have had stars in our eyes when we said: 'this should be for everybody' and Margaret's reply 'You find the hall out at Mooroolbark and Harry (Margaret's husband) will make you the equipment.' Now after 26 years later, I'm still apologising to Harry!

So, began Marion's long-time involvement with GymbaROO, which she still runs with her team several days a week at the Mooroolbark Community Centre (MCC), helping parents by providing activities that will assist with their children's

¹ Lloyd worked for the Hewlett Packard during university holidays. When they became engaged, HP employed 27 people in Melbourne.

² <http://www.gymbaroo.com.au/margaret.sasse.php>

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Marion and Margaret Tull upon receiving the first 25 year GymbaROO awards

motor development, which in turn can have a significant impact on future academic achievement.

Mooroolbark became the second centre, and now, GymbaROO has over 100 centres worldwide. The majority of centres are in Australia and other countries include New Zealand, Singapore, Korea, USA, Turkey and Germany. Margaret Tull from Mooroolbark helped establish the first centre in China in 2004 and now there are over 20.

Marion's life-long curiosity "I like finding out the stories behind all those closed doors!" and her growing relationship with other user-groups of the MCC have led to her participation in *Celebrate Mooroolbark*, the *Township Group*, and latterly the formation of the *Mooroolbark History Group*, which

itself was prompted by Marion learning of personal and organisational collections of historical documents being destroyed instead of archived.

People have been here a long time from when Mooroolbark was farmland, and they talk about it – stories of unmade roads, red mud, shoes at the station...we have it easy – we have footpaths, made roads, good drainage, lighting etc. The Community Centre was built as a result of the community seeing the need for a new meeting place and involved many volunteers raising money. There weren't the grants that you can apply for these days. The MCC has evolved and changed, as schools built their own halls, for instance.

In the town centre, we don't have a grand heritage of buildings like Lilydale, Belgrave, Healesville or Warburton, but we do have our history. And we should find out about that history and hold on to it!

We know that people out there have memorabilia from the Red Earth Festivals and photos of events that happened around the MCC... so we decided to establish a group so that there'd be a point of contact locally. We have the largest township population in the Shire and yet we didn't have a history group. Much of the population is aging, and we don't want to lose our history.

The Mooroolbark History Group's initial focus will be on a Book Project to celebrate the 30th Anniversary, from the opening of the MCC and the very first Red Earth Festival. We are seeking stories about the community, by the community, for the community. We also hope to produce a DVD of the thousands of photos of events which people in our township have already either donated or had

scanned – and we are looking for more.

We will be holding many sessions where we're inviting people in the community to come along with items of interest. Facilities will be available to copy photos and documents so that people don't have to part with them. So far we have been successful in applying for some financial assistance but of course will need much more.

Anyone who wishes to offer what they believe to be items of historical interest should contact *Living Today* (details on back cover).

Thanks Marion for the way you've shared your passionate and caring interest in education, community and history – and continue to contribute to community projects that benefit us and enhance our lives together.

As a final question I asked Marion about her best memories of Mooroolbark:

Well! I just don't think you can beat a good festival – where everybody gets together with a like-minded aim of enjoying themselves and being part of something together.

And topping it off with a good fireworks display doesn't go astray!

Although – the night I was brave enough to take my children on the Ferris wheel, and me not liking heights at all – and the fact that when it stopped and we were stuck up the top to let people off at the bottom, that had never occurred to me!

Randall Bouchier



CELEBRATE MOOROOLBARK

March 20, 2010

Planning is well underway for next year's Celebrate Mooroolbark as we remember the 30th Anniversary of the Community Centre and the history of all the many different organisations that make up our Mooroolbark community. All the usual attractions will form part of the day. The marketplace and parade, the schools competitions and rides and community stage and the welcome to country and the ecumenical church service.

Celebrate Mooroolbark offers a great day out for all the family. This family festival will offer many free and low cost entertainments. The Scout Bridge will be there and a kite flying competition. Many groups will offer activities for children and families as well as a wide variety of entertainment on the stage. There will be a diversity of food and drink from various stalls and produce and craft from the Red Earth Market.

The festival will kick off on the Friday Night with the Mooroolbark Talent Quest run by the Mooroolbark Theatre Group. Entry is free and the winners will be invited to perform on the community stage during the festival. Call Arlene on 9726 4282 for more information.

Community groups are invited to join the fun – either run a fundraiser in the market place or an information table or a recruiting booth or put an entry in the parade. Local businesses can get involved as well; the marketplace offers excellent exposure

for your business and there is always the option of sponsorship. If we haven't contacted you can contact us either through Matthew <mgudze@gmail.com> or ring Jean 9726 7037 or myself 0417 556 848.

Celebrate Mooroolbark is our festival, so why not get involved to make a great day out even better?

Andrew Lang
CelMoo10 Chairman



Community Events Calendar

Tues 1 st & Wed 9 th Dec	Shire Immunisation Sessions. For details Tel. 1300 368 333
First Sun of each month.	Farmers' Market "Bellbird Park". Swansea Rd. Next to Lilydale Lake. Combined Rotary Clubs - All proceeds to local and O/seas projects. Contact. Bill Sutherland 9727 0037
Thurs. Dec 3 rd	Chalk & Cheese Performance and Exhibition. Coincides with International Day of People With Disabilities. Commences 6pm. Details Mooroolbark Community Centre Tel 9726 5488
Frid 4 th Dec	Community Carols – Hookey Park Picnic in the Park. 6.30 pm Picnic and Carols commence at 8 pm *Croydon Citizens' Band. * Items by local primary schools. *BYO chairs & rugs
Sat Dec 5 th	Chirnside Market. 9.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m. At the LMC/Oxley Stadium carpark 15-49 Old Melbourne Road, Chirnside Park Ph: 9726 8111 Lots of market stalls, handcrafts, food, jewellery, and more, plus a cafe on site for hot food snacks.
Sat. Dec 5 th	Jazz & Tap Dancing Concert. "Beat 87" Bookings 9726 5488
Frid Dec 11 th	Belly Dancing Concert by Montrose Town Centre Group. Bookings 9761 9133
Sun Dec 13 th	Combined Churches Carols Service. Commences 7pm Light show and refreshments available after the service. Life Ministry Centre, Old Melbourne Road, Chirnside Park. Tel 9726 8111
Wed 20 th Jan	Free Film Night . Mooroolbark Community Centre Film – "G Force" Commences 7.30 pm. Ring the Centre on Tel. 9726 5488 to book seats.
Friday nights / school term	Fridays @ Kid's Domain Activities for Primary School Age Kids. 4pm – 6pm Oxley College Stadium. For details: Tel. 9726 8111 or go to www.lmc.org.au
Dec. 19 th – Jan 11 th	Community Centre closed (for Christmas break).
Wed Jan 27 th	Next meeting of Mooroolbark Umbrella Group "MUG" Formerly M/B Township Group

Our new "Community Events Calendar" offers a service to local clubs and organisations. 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 one month prior to the distribution date.



**Victims Of Chernobyl
National Relief Fund Inc.**
Registered Charity Number: A0021916X

Vic Headquarters – Sommerville Rd Brooklyn Tel 9314 1784 Email vocnrf@bigpond.com.au

On Apr. 26th 1986 the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant exploded spreading nuclear contamination over large parts of the old Soviet Union. Some areas are considered to be uninhabitable for 600 years. Some graphic images of the area can be seen at www.kiddofspeed.com/chernobyl-revisited

Visit the Community Centre (Up to Dec 19th) to view a display of information on Chernobyl.

Local support. A group of ladies regularly knits woollen garments for on-going victims of this disaster. If you would like to find out how to help visit the display or contact Marg Lewis on 9761 1121. Alternatively, the National Relief Fund may be contacted directly on 9314 1784

Contributions of wool are always welcomed. A wool basket is located next to the display.

**Proudly supporting Living Today
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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)**

MISSION STATEMENT

To contribute towards and to help to
foster a **growing community spirit**
within our neighbourhood.

We seek to achieve this by:

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