

# LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

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## Mooroolbark Auskick



11,500 free copies distributed throughout Mooroolbark & district



# YOLANDE

*Yolande Pickett – the first part-time administrator employed by Celebrate Mooroolbark – was thrown in at the deep end towards the end of 2009.*

Newly appointed to the role, she had never before been involved in one of our festivals, and she faced many challenges. She had much to learn as the preparations for *Celebrate Mooroolbark 2010* got under way. As we celebrated the seventh annual festival a few weeks ago, she was both excited and apprehensive. She said, "Seeing it unfold, I was thrilled! Everybody kept saying: 'Don't worry, it will all work out on the day.'" Yolande admitted that she loved the planning, but became anxious about how things would work out. "It was so hard to visualise it all coming together," she said. "And it was so fantastic on that morning. I thought I was going to be really nervous, but I was very excited. Just seeing everybody arrive and start setting up, and things just happening everywhere. It was great. I was really happy about the way it all came together."

Following the closure of the hugely successful Red Earth Festival, which had been such an important annual event for Mooroolbark in recent decades<sup>1</sup>, *Celebrate Mooroolbark* began as a very small grassroots community celebration. From the outset, the organising committee dedicated itself to long-term oversight of an organically growing community celebration, that would provide people with a chance to enjoy being together, celebrate our region, and engage in many cost-effective activities.

After the 2010 festival, the committee was thrilled to receive a letter of thanks that indicated that the dream is being realised: "I just want to tell you how much my family enjoys your Festival each year,"

<sup>1</sup> See LT article <http://mcf.wcg.org.au/resource/livingtoday/LivingTodayIssue24.pdf> pp. 2-4

the letter began. "We have been attending for three years now, and each time we have enjoyed it immensely. I find the people to be extremely friendly, we love the stalls that are on display with local information and produce, and for a family with three children (aged 6-9) there is plenty to keep them occupied – and if it's not free, it's affordable! The local entertainment you display on the stage is of high quality, with great variety. The parade is great. The best part is how many local people are involved in the day – young and old – and every single one of them appears to be having a great time. Well done, congratulations and thank you for running such a brilliant, local, community-minded event!"

Receiving feedback like this is invaluable to the committee – which, in turn, would like to express its thanks toward the Yarra Ranges Council for its forward-looking policy that has recently provided more secure funding for a number of community festivals.

This year, Mooroolbark received a larger financial grant than in previous years, so that we might employ a part-time administrator to help streamline the organisation of the festival and avoid some of the mistakes and oversights that seem to be inevitable as community events evolve.

In many ways, due to the newness of the role, over the last several months the committee and Yolande have grown together in defining the parameters of the administrator's role, and how it might work better in future years. The committee has particularly appreciated the systems that Yolande has formalised during her work this year – systems that will provide both a better road map for future administrators and for more successful planning in coming years.

Although Yolande contributed very useful ideas and opinions along the way, she saw her role primarily as a facilitator, rather than a contributor of ideas. Yolande said she concentrated on "making sure everything was on track and that things were not falling through the gaps."

## who?

Yolande spent her childhood in the Wimmera, and although her mum's parents lived in Hull Road, her memories of Mooroolbark as a toddler are sketchy at best. But recently she's been looking at it through new eyes. "I love it! I kept going past on the train to this job in the city ... Going past thinking: 'Rocky the Cobbler'? And this old leather shop – and constantly wanting to have time to get off at the station and go wandering because there are things that haven't been touched for so many years ... That's what people are wanting in the city – old-fashioned shops with old-fashioned service and character."

And so, with a background in photography, organising group exhibitions and moving into arts management, Yolande found that the project management side of things really suited her. This background, with her communication skills and personable nature fitted her well to be the first paid administrator of *Celebrate Mooroolbark*, and for working within a committee structure. I for one valued her thoughtful and measured response to challenges along the way.

Yolande loved the diversity of people involved in the planning of the festival. "Sure, there are always challenges with people being so different from each other," she said. "I'd like to see even more diversity within the committee. I like some of the characters that are really passionate. They are the ones that interest me and inspire me the most, really. They can make your work harder sometimes, but that's what makes it! You can't have a community festival without a diversity of people coming together with different opinions and interests. It would be boring if things were otherwise. I like seeing people passionate about things. It's invigorating!"

Yolande found that the process was often not as neat, ordered and linear as she would have liked. However, she discovered that frequently the differences of opinion produced a far better outcome than if only one person's idea had been reflected.

Yolande discovered, too, that there are always a few key people who are "absolutely extraordinary in a group and absolutely supportive."

On the day of the festival, Yolande noticed that people were



really involved in the activities, not just observing. "It was really something interactive. People from anywhere could get involved in it, and you could see that. The variety of things going on – all the different ways that people could share – in the marketplace, at the community stage, inside the centre, on rides and activities."

"And, it was great to see the Parade come together so well! I'd love to see that grow now, too. There are so many groups that could be involved with it."

"Celebrate Mooroolbark was very RELAXED! Really lovely atmosphere, and that's not something that can be forced, but emerges as the festival naturally evolves. It shows that the Festival appeals to so many because it has been produced by the people for the people who are coming to it."

Reflecting on the days just before the event, Yolande revealed, "I was wandering around the site working on the site-plan; trying to picture what it would look like on the day. I had quite a few people looking at me as though I were a loony. Mothers and fathers would steer their children away from this strange woman wandering around the playground."

Yolande hopes to have the opportunity to be involved in the future. "I don't feel I'm finished with it yet! I always want to improve my part of the process and see things grow. I'm tremendously encouraged by the number of participants, new and old, being proactive in planning for 2011."

Despite the success of the festival, Yolande can still visualise some improvements. She would like to see a greater variety of food, and more attention given to the way the stage programme affects the entire atmosphere of the festival. Yolande believes that individual sites could be helped to provide information to create more involvement for festival-goers. She also feels that the layout could be improved, providing better integration between activities inside the community centre and the outside areas.

Yolande is enthusiastic about the location of the festival: "Red Earth Park is such a great site – there are so many areas that have future potential. And what we have already works, because things have developed naturally, have grown out of the community."

About the time this publication arrives in your letterbox, Yolande and partner Leon (head of the Deakin Film School) are expecting the arrival of their first baby. It's a tremendously exciting new chapter for them both!

We wish you well, Yolande. We appreciate the magnificent job you've done this year – and hope to see you back!

And in case you missed it, *Celebrate Mooroolbark 2011* is already being planned for Saturday 26 March, 2011. If you'd like to help, contact us at *Living Today*, or make contact through the town website: <http://mooroolbark.org.au/>

**Randall Bouchier**



**Mooroolbark! Have you visited your new community website?**

<http://mooroolbark.org.au>

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





# Celebrate MOOROOLBARK



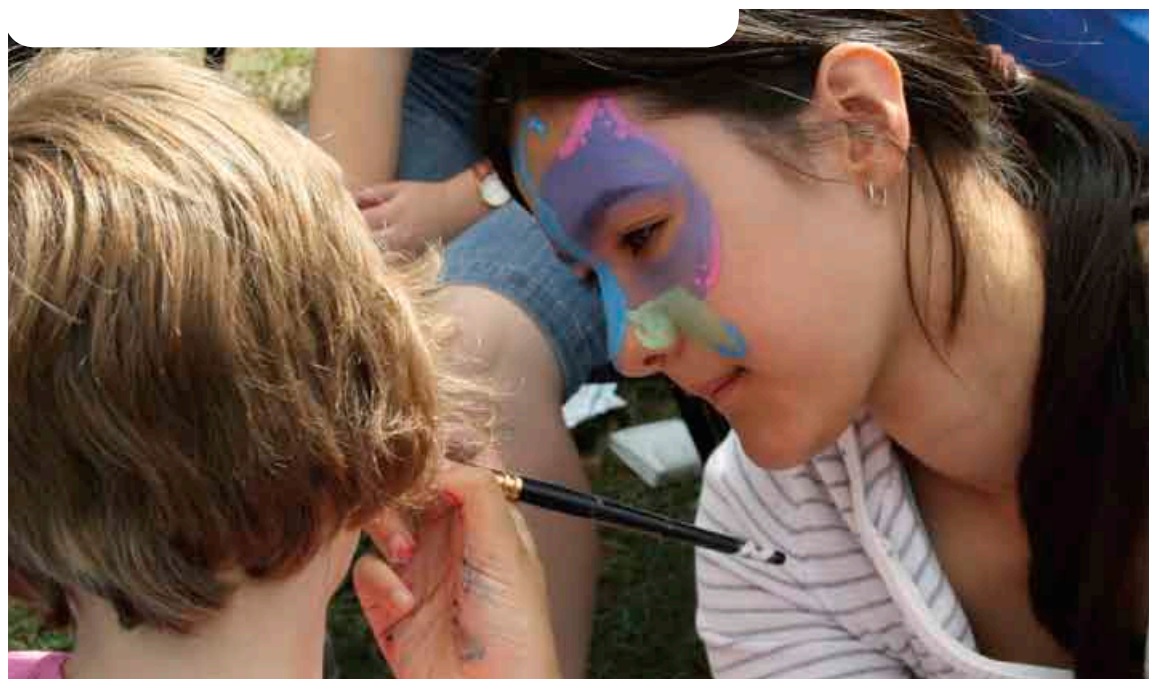
**Celebrate Mooroolbark 2010** was a resounding success. In perfect weather conditions, this year's festival saw greater numbers than ever come along to enjoy the wide variety of activities, stalls and entertainment being offered.

The Friday night talent quest and the Saturday street parade had record attendances and participation, and the extensive stalls, rides, activities and stage presentations drew many expressions of appreciation.

Our thanks to so many members of our community who contributed to the outstanding success of the weekend – the hard-working 'Celebrate Mooroolbark' committee, the community centre staff, the many stall holders and volunteers who all worked together to make it an event to remember and to all who supported the event in such significant numbers. Our very special thanks to our generous sponsors.

The weekend saw a great sense of celebration of all that our local community is and has to offer.

**Well done everyone!**



# Mooroolbark Auskick



Saturday mornings at Mooroolbark Auskick (at Kiloran Reserve – Hawthory Road) are great family occasions with the excitement of the kids, the buzz of conversation and the tempting aroma of the sizzling barbecue filling the air.

The first clinic for the season, on April 10th, saw approximately 130 youngsters participating in the activities and a similar number of enthusiastic parents administering, coordinating, coaching and supporting them.

Mooroolbark Auskick is one of the biggest clinics in the region. Their goal for this year is 150 registrations. Training groups are based on grade levels – Prep to Grade 6. Each group is supported by a team manager, a coach, an assistant coach, and a first aid person.

Committee president, Colin Reymont, explains that the club's aim is to help the youngsters to learn basic skills of the game but with the emphasis on "having fun in the process". There is also a constant emphasis on fairness, respect and recognition of individual effort.

Modified rules, such as limited tackling and prohibition of kicking off the ground help to ensure the safety of all the children participating.

Mooroolbark Auskick has a close

association with Mooroolbark Football Club. Some of the youngsters who participate in the Saturday clinics also play in Sunday junior matches at Mooroolbark. The Preps, grade 1s and grade 2s have opportunities to participate in three "half-time" matches in the Saturday seniors competition in Mooroolbark.

Special highlights during the year are the opportunities the AFL offers to take the ground at half-time at the MCG and at Etihad Stadium.

At Mooroolbark Auskick, every dollar received from their many generous sponsors and other receipts from fund-raisers goes to the kids. A registration fee of \$60 per child covers all costs for the season. For their \$60 each child receives a fun pack which includes a football, a beanie, fun activity books, etc. In addition each child is provided with a free club jumper for the season.

Club activities include inter-clinics (when several clinics came together for

round robin days), a family fun day, a disco night and the end-of-year trip.

Club Registrar Al Dobie is excited about the growth of the club and their strong encouragement for more girls to participate. She also expressed appreciation for the increased contribution being made by additional mums who have volunteered to accept committee membership.

The future of Mooroolbark Auskick certainly looks to be assured. Well done everybody!

**Enquiries: Colin Reymont (President)  
0413 137 275 or Al Dobie (Registrar)  
0430 438 186**



## The Mooroolbark Lions Club Opportunity Shop

Are you into bargains? Or maybe you enjoy a trip down memory lane? The Mooroolbark Lions Club Opportunity Shop in Manchester Road runs a very interesting and fascinating place to visit.

The full-time manager Mr Kenneth Nightingale, a tool maker, arrived in Australia from Peterborough in England over 40 years ago and has been involved with "op shops" for over 20 years. He enjoys gardening and weight lifting and has his own personal gym at home.

Ken is assisted by 20 volunteers who are rostered on for duty during the week and freely give their time in sorting, grading, pricing, hanging and displaying the goods donated by you, the generous people of Mooroolbark.

One of Ken's co-workers is a lovely Dutch lady, Nellie Peters, who arrived in Australia as a child 53 years ago. She enjoys sewing, gardening and Tai Chi for relaxation

and health. She has been volunteering at the Op Shop for 11 years.

One of the major Lions Club projects is the support, funding and sponsoring of "guide dogs for the visually impaired" in conjunction with the Bendigo Bank. The sponsoring of the guide dog project could not be done without the volunteers and the money that comes in through the op shop. Thank you again to the people of Mooroolbark.

In addition to the above projects, the SES, fire brigade and Maroondah Hospital are also given support by the op shop. A special donation of \$20,000 went to the Bushfire Appeal.

The cycle of donating and purchasing at the Lions Club Op Shop allows the needs of many people to be met. For example, a customer recently came in to purchase a school uniform and left the smaller pre-loved one for some one else to buy!

Unbelievably, the op shop has to be very alert for shop lifters! If you are genuinely needy please have a quiet word with Ken who will listen to you and may be able to help out with much more than you realise.

Another problem is the "haggler" who wants an already cheap freely-donated item for below the marked price. The goods for sale are already at a next-to-nothing price and are being sold to raise money for projects like the "guide dogs for the visually impaired". Also rent and rates have to be paid to run the shop.

Then there are the gracious people who, when told the price of an item, will give a greater amount than asked for and don't want the change. "Keep it as a donation" is their response. Thank you again to these caring people.

Ken asks people not to leave donated goods outside the shop when it is closed. The goods may be vandalised or stolen, and what is left has to be removed to the rubbish tip. This costs a great deal of money and reduces funds available for sponsoring the guide dog project and other community aid.

Ken's philosophy in life is: *"Yesterday is gone, tomorrow nobody can see... so live and enjoy life today."*



Nellie Peters and Ken Nightingale





## Mooroolbark Picture Framing and Art Supplies

Shop 12, 91 Brice Ave. Phone: 9727 3312

At the age of 16 Terry Meddings responded to a job advertisement in his local newspaper. The position called for an assistant in a picture-framing shop in Blackburn. As Terry says, "I never really *planned* to go into this sort of work but I had always enjoyed working with my hands and thought I would enjoy the challenges involved in the picture-framing work". He did, and it soon developed into his lifetime career.

Terry worked with his boss in Blackburn for many years and helped the business grow from a very small beginning to become one of the biggest in Melbourne – with a factory, five shop outlets and over 30 staff. Eventually the frantic pace of the work, the long hours and a young family made Terry begin to ask himself if this was the way he really wanted things to be for the rest of his life. Having helped the Blackburn business grow from a very small beginning to such a significant organisation, he felt prepared and ready to step out on his own. From his home in Bayswater North, Terry looked around for a place to establish his new business. For a number of reasons, Mooroolbark seemed to be the obvious place – so **Mooroolbark Picture Framing and Art Supplies** was established in 1993.

Terry has greatly enjoyed working in our neighbourhood and getting to know so many local people. He does, however, have many clients who come to him from other areas as well. He has never advertised his business and is a firm believer that as long as one's work is of high quality and prices are reasonable, 'word of mouth' does it all for you. His clientele includes artists, people involved in various craft activities, clubs and organisations and the general public. He offers a wide range of framing materials and his professional advice on the most appropriate type & colour of frame to complement the particular 'work' presented is always appreciated and valued. All of his framing work is personally carried out on the Brice Avenue premises with his very much up-to-date equipment.

Terry gives much credit for the success of their business to the fact that his wife Julie has provided invaluable support by managing all of the associated book-work over the years. He is also deeply indebted to his part-time shop assistant, Lynne, who has worked for him for over 10 years.

Terry reflected on his early life when his Dad ran the Heathmont Timber Yard and was a great handyman. He vividly remembers the distinctive aromas of timbers and paints as he worked alongside his Dad. This early life experience gave Terry a love for working with timber and doing all sorts of 'hands-on' work. This is still a part of his make-up today.

Over the years Terry and Julie have generously supported a number of local clubs and organisations by contributing some of their products for prizes, auctions, etc. in fund-raising activities. We thank them both for their contribution to our community and wish them continued success in their local business.



## frederick.j.eakins & associates

ACCOUNTANTS AND TAX AGENTS



Fred Eakins and his family are well known and respected local residents who have lived in the area for many years (Mooroolbark for 16 years and Lilydale for 21 years).

Fred first set up his accountancy business in 1975 in what is now the Methven building in Brice Avenue. He continued working at that business for 14 years. In 1989 he decided to sell his practice and accept a position as an employee with a clothing manufacturer in South Yarra. Fred says he took this step in search of a more

balanced life-style, anticipating that there would be fewer work-hours involved and more time for his growing family. However as time went on he found that he was working as hard as ever, up to 14 hours per day, and for less reward. This led him to re-establish his business from his home in Lilydale in 1992 before moving his practice to Mooroolbark in 2001. He began at 12 Brice Avenue before moving to his current premises at 2 Brice Avenue. He believes that he has now found the answer he was looking for by being prepared to share the work-load with a number of associates. There are now four full-time and three part-time personnel involved in the business, including Fred's wife Christine.

Fred's Brice Avenue office is open five days per week and after-hours appointments are offered during the week as required. As practicing Seventh Day Adventists, Fred and his family have always looked forward to keeping Saturday as a rest day – so the office is closed Saturdays.

Fred is a current member of the Board of the Mooroolbark Community Bank where he is a director and treasurer. His deep appreciation for the

community support that the bank provides prompted him to accept a place on the board. He enjoys participating in and contributing to that community focus.

Fred and Christine have three children. Sarah, who is also a qualified CPA, Justine, who is a trained nurse and Travis, who works in manufacturing. Currently, Sarah works part-time in the business and the 'family succession plan' will see her, one day, take over Fred's role. For now, she and her husband James have their hands quite full with two very young boys to care for. Fred spoke very excitedly about recent developments in the life of his two-year-old grandson, Jack, who has just received cochlear implants to help overcome a profound hearing deficit. Fred says, "This has totally changed his life – allowing him to begin to communicate in the normal way. The family is most thankful for this development". Sarah and Jack featured on the cover of a recent Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital publication.

We thank Fred and his family and associates for their contribution to life in Mooroolbark and wish them continuing success.

**frederick.j.eakins & associates** offers taxation and GST services to individuals and small businesses.

Office: 2 Brice Avenue Mooroolbark Ph: 9727 5811





# College Captains Mooroolbark College

Just a few minutes in discussion with college captains, Katherine Smith and Timothy Neumann gives a very clear indication as to why these two Year 12 students were selected to represent their college. They are two very enthusiastic and passionate ambassadors who undoubtedly feel that the college has much to be proud of and who thoroughly enjoy communicating that message when they have the opportunity.

High on the list of qualities they like to talk about is the college's emphasis on positive relationships and respect for others. They describe their college as a warm and welcoming student environment. They talk of a strong emphasis on unity and the recognition of every individual in the college community — be they student, staff-member, parent, guardian, visitor or a member of the broader community. They also speak of social programs and activities designed to provide links between different year levels, to build social networks, to offer peer support, and to ensure that all individuals are treated equally.

In their words, "In this area of college life, as in all others, a high standard is set and there is a high expectation that this standard will be met!"

A Student Representative Council, headed by Ms Robyn Cooper, brings together student representatives from all year levels to help ensure that these goals are kept clearly in focus — a significant challenge in a college with an enrolment of over 1,200 students. The process for selection of college captains begins with nominations from the students. Those nominated are asked to submit a written application for the position. Finally, applicants are interviewed by the college's leadership team and the successful candidates are appointed.

Katherine describes herself as "a local through and through". On her father's side she is a direct descendent of the Smith family who were some of the original orchardists in Croydon and the Brice family who settled in Mooroolbark. Next year, Katherine hopes to attend Deakin University to begin studying teaching at both primary and secondary levels. She also has a great interest in politics, which she would like to



Katherine Smith and Timothy Neumann

pursue later in life. Ballroom dancing is a major hobby and passion for Katherine.

Tim plans to study in the fields of nutrition and sports medicine with the possibility of becoming a medical practitioner. He spoke of enjoying some work-experience at Healesville Hospital, gaining helpful insights into the areas of nutrition and rehabilitation.

A major highlight for Tim was the opportunity he had to be involved in the corporate dining kitchen at the last three Australian Opens. He speaks of healthy life-styles and fashion as personal interests. He is most proud of his mother who, despite extreme health setbacks, completed her psychology degree and a Bachelor of Applied Science, just five years ago — in her 40s.

Qualities that were looked for in the captains' roles, were personal initiative and "willingness to go above and beyond". Katherine and Tim have proven themselves in these areas by their commitments to helping the disadvantaged. Tim expressed this commitment through his recent work to raise funds for the Red Cross Black Saturday Appeal. Katherine believes very strongly in all the little things that make a difference to the world. "You may be one person, but to one person you are the world," she said. Both have further plans and ideas for additional contributions to the college and the greater community.

We congratulate Katherine and Tim on their selection as college captains and on their commitment to doing their very best in these roles. Well done!

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# developing your EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

Last issue we looked at Emotional Intelligence — known as EQ or Emotional Quotient. How we understand our feelings or emotions and learn to develop our EQ will greatly influence our ability to cope with the stresses and twists of life. As parents, we'll be able to help our children join the dots between conscious thoughts and seemingly abstract feelings.

Our cat responds differently to the four people in our house. Perhaps she remembers being patted, chased, teased, cuddled, or fed by different people. She has a learned behaviour as a result. We too all have a life full of learned behaviours, but at least we can choose to unpack those behaviours and discover the reasons for them and adjust accordingly ... that's why we need to explore our EQ, especially when we might think some emotions are good, and some are bad.

Let's go behind the scenes a bit more to see how developing our EQ can make a difference in our lives and in others lives too.

## Can't live without 'em, hard to live with 'em

Our emotions are an essential part of who we are — we just can't be separated from them — unless you're from the planet Vulcan! We take them everywhere we go, we reveal them in the words and actions we use, our posture, and the expression on our face. Just spend a few moments observing the expressions of people around you and try to interpret their current emotion.

When waking in the morning, we are feel something. Perhaps it's more than just

tiredness; it could be an *effect* of a feeling of worry, anxiousness or frustration with something that we will have to face today or sometime soon. We may also wake energetically because we are looking forward to something or someone. Our feeling of joy or happiness is presented in our energy, or our ability to brush off hard words or negative attitudes from others we may encounter. Our drive to or from work will be a product of how we feel — we may get really annoyed at every red light, or we may just sit there waiting patiently for the traffic to move again — all depending

Maybe we're not used to 'understanding' our feelings... it doesn't mean we should ignore them.

on the emotion driving us.

You may have heard or even been taught not to trust your emotions. Our feelings shouldn't

be ignored or dismissed — they are there for a very good reason. They are uniquely ours and no one else feels exactly what we feel. Our challenge is to discern our feelings, then accept and be comfortable with them — think of them as energising or de-energising.

## It all starts with a feeling...

As adults, we can mask our feelings with attitudes. We can make a habit of it our whole life — never really taking the time to think about what is causing our gruffness, impatience or a hundred other attitudes we express to families and friends.

If we can identify and explore how our

feelings affect *us*, we can be more useful helping our children decipher their feelings and follow-on attitudes. There is a flow-on effect from even the smallest inputs to our lives. We respond to everything that happens to us with feelings. These translate into attitudes, and are then often expressed as actions, which are quite easily recognised by everyone around. Coming to understand the *causes* of these actions is the key to having better relationships with those who will be recipients of our actions, or at least of our attitudes.

Think about friendly flight attendants or others in similar vocations — who are expected to maintain a professional and calm response to the most demanding situations. Every day they are required to keep in check their normal human reactions and maintain a pleasant and dignified approach no matter what they would *like* to do or say. Their training helps them to manage and contain a situation and not further agitate people involved.

Our feelings or emotions are generally initiated by external influences that we may have little control over, but we need to have control over how they *affect us*, and what they might cause us to think, feel or do.

## Stay in charge of YOU

I remember once hearing, 'Don't let someone else spoil your day'. The idea was to remain in charge of 'you', and not relinquish that emotional control to anyone else.

'Remaining in charge of you' can be expressed in several ways — let's make a list!



1. Tune into positive influences instead of focusing on the negative ones. I know a group of golfers who practise being encouraging to each other – they attract new players to their group because of their purposeful, positive influence – they're good to be around. Be proactive in being a positive influence.

2. Be intentional in what we're doing, rather than just going along with the crowd. When we're out of our personal space, we need to think about how we might best respond to situations that could eventuate.<sup>1</sup>

3. Be willing to forgive. Carrying around a burden of 'getting even' is not helping anyone – especially us.

4. See challenges and even failures as learning opportunities. Can we avoid this unpleasant situation by doing ... or not doing ... next time?

5. Another golfing analogy – treat each hole as a new opportunity to do well. We don't need to get upset about a '6 over par' and ruin the rest of the game/day/week/year!

6. Avoid using inflexible words like 'never' or 'always'. They are not helpful in exploring positive emotional outcomes with others.

7. We all make mistakes, accidentally or carelessly. We should act responsibly to express our sorrow or regret to those affected. This will do much to alleviate guilt or shame and free us to move forward without such feelings lingering and causing some distant sense of unease or anxiety. If we have been affected by others mistakes ... calmly raising the issue with them may initiate a peaceful resolution. (See point 3)

When we *remain in charge of "us"* and retain ownership of ourselves, our emotions and feelings will be appropriate and useful. Everyone will benefit, but perhaps especially, ourselves. We have every right to our feelings, and every responsibility to manage them wisely. Have fun exploring and expanding the Emotional Intelligence of yourself and those in your care.

<sup>1</sup> If you would like to experience a beautiful and well-crafted song that echoes this principle, do a web search for a music video called 'Caught in the Crowd' by Kate Miller-Heidke, a very gifted young Australian singer and songwriter.

### Ideas to help develop your EQ

1. Discern and note your feelings, 'I feel scared', instead of your thoughts, 'I feel like running away'.
2. Label your feelings, 'I feel annoyed', rather than people, 'You're an idiot', or situations, 'this is stupid'.
3. Take responsibility for your feelings, 'I feel angry', instead of 'You are making me mad'.
4. Validate others' feelings by listening with acceptance and empathy, rather than expressing judgment or criticism.
5. Don't allow others to invalidate your feelings – they are entirely valid because you are feeling them – you just need to be able to explain why.
6. Take time to reflect on periods of intense emotions. Exploring the cause will help you make good use of the experience as a learning, growing opportunity.
7. Identify what causes you to feel tense, irritated, angry, happy or relaxed. Perhaps the triggers for these things can be avoided or reduced.

### Five key skills for improving your EQ

1. Rapidly reduce stress – learn to quickly calm yourself down when you're feeling overwhelmed. This will develop resilience and help you stay balanced, focused, and in control. Realise when you're stressed, identify your response to stress, and find out what helps you keep your cool.

2. Connect to your emotions – learn to not hide them away or distract yourself from fully realising what you are feeling. In order to be emotionally healthy and emotionally intelligent, you must reconnect to your core emotions, accept them, and become comfortable with them.

3. Nonverbal communication - a wordless form of communication is emotionally driven. It asks the questions: "Are you listening?" and "Do you understand and care?" The way we listen, look, move, and react with our nonverbal messages will produce a sense of interest, trust, excitement, and desire for connection. Or, conversely, they will generate fear, confusion, distrust, and disinterest.

4. Use humour to deal with challenges - Humour, laughter, and play are natural antidotes to life's difficulties. They lighten our burdens and help us keep things in perspective. A good hearty laugh reduces stress, elevates mood, and brings our nervous system back into balance. We can smooth over differences,

express creativity, endure hardships, relax and re-energise.

5. Resolve conflict positively - Successfully resolving differences is supported by the previous four skills of emotional intelligence. We can defuse issues before they escalate. Try to stick with the present situation, wisely choose your arguments and remember you can always agree to disagree.

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Steve Steel



## IS OUR BRAIN ALL THERE IS TO WHO WE ARE?

Nobel Laureate Francis Crick, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA, declared we “are in fact no more than the “behavior” of a vast assembly of nerve cells and their associated molecules... nothing but a pack of neurons.”<sup>1</sup> Vilayanor S. Ramachandran, renowned neuroscientist, claims: “All the richness of our mental life — all our feelings, our emotions, our thoughts ... our religious sentiments ... [our] own intimate private self — is simply the activity of ... our brains. There is nothing else.”<sup>2</sup>

Neuroscientists find no evidence of a distinct mind or “soul” when they do their research. They only witness the firing of neurons when we think, feel or create. Further, when one’s brain is injured, the ability to reason, relate and create can be impaired. On such evidence, scientists naturally conclude that this is all we are — brain, neurons and body.

Christians believe that the essence of our being — the mind, self, or “soul” — survives the death of the body and brain. Jesus said, “Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul” (Matthew 10:28), distinguishing between physical

body (including the brain) and our conscious being.

Scientist Gerald L. Schroeder (*God According to God*) and best-selling author on Christian topics, Dinesh D’Souza (*Life After Death: The Evidence and What’s So Great About Christianity*) provide analogies to help us think about a parallel existence of brain and mind — our consciousness.

Think of the brain as a radio, and radio waves as the mind. If the radio is turned off, one might conclude that radio waves don’t exist. But turn on the radio and tune it in, and radio waves suddenly become evident. Smash it, and again radio waves appear not to exist. The radio doesn’t create the radio waves, but they can’t be heard without it on and working.

Look at the analogy of a DVD. For the contents of the DVD to be seen, it must be played through a DVD player. Smash the player and the movie disappears as though it didn’t exist. But the DVD contents do still exist and can be played on another player.

In a similar way, the mind is impaired if the brain is impaired, and the mind disappears from our view if the brain dies and decays.

But a mind could be “played” again if given a different body by the God who created us in the first place.

Dr. Schroeder explains what the real conundrum is: “The puzzle of the mind-brain interface is not in the recording and biochemical storage of the incoming sensory data. That is brainwork ... the puzzle is in the replay. There is no hint in the brain of how you hear or see what you have heard or seen ... The location of that perception is the puzzle.”<sup>3</sup>

Christ’s promise is that a person’s mind or soul will be “brought back” by the power of God, despite death and decay of the body. God will provide a new and glorious body for us in the resurrection.

<sup>1</sup> Francis Crick, *The Astonishing Hypothesis: The Scientific Search for the Soul* (New York: Touchstone, 1994), p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> V.S. Ramachandran, *A Brief Tour of Human Consciousness* (New York: Pearson Education, 2004), p. 3.

<sup>3</sup> Gerald L. Schroeder, *God According to God: A Physicist Proves We’ve Been Wrong About God All Along* (New York: Harper One, 2009), pp. 151-152.

## Mooroolbark Salvos

Welcome to the New Leadership Team



Majors Peter and Margaret Collins



Captain Deborah Smith and children

Majors Margaret and Peter Collins, together with Captain Deborah Smith, have recently been appointed as the officer team for The Salvation Army at Mooroolbark. They replace Captains Clint and Karen Castley who have been transferred to Adelaide.

The Collinses have previously served in Tasmania and South Australia and have had experience in training, administration, pastoral and youth work. They have three married daughters and two grandchildren.

Margaret was raised in Adelaide and was previously a stenographer and nursing sister. She enjoys music, craftwork and supervises the finances for the Mooroolbark Corps. Peter spent most of his earlier years in Victoria and worked as a teacher. He is an accomplished musician and enjoys woodwork. Peter has administrative responsibility and pastoral oversight for the corps.

Deborah was born in Sydney and has spent most of her adult years in Melbourne. Prior to officership she was employed as a business data analyst. Her previous appointment was at Wonthaggi, and at Mooroolbark she has responsibility for the children’s ministry in the corps. Her interests include craft, reading, walking, movies and

relaxing at a good café. Deborah teaches Religious Education at Manchester Primary School and is involved in pastoral counselling, Mainly Music and Sunday school. She is blessed with three children, Connor, Cassandra and Dillon.

These officers are delighted to be appointed to the Yarra Valley and over these past three months there has been an emphasis on pastoral visitation and establishing community networks. Over the coming year there will be considerable focus on a building program for the Army’s site on the corner of Manchester and Fletcher Roads, Chirside Park. A worship and community centre is to be constructed with plans for a 300+ seat worship auditorium and additional rooms for community and welfare use, together with provision for 120 cars.

The new centre will be adjacent to the OZ-10 bowling alley which is presently under construction.

In April 2010 a Sunday afternoon worship event has commenced entitled “Church@4” and is held at the Pembroke High School Hall senior campus off Reay Road. The format is informal and includes a light meal. For further information ring Major Peter on 0407 393 312.

## French-Speaking Church

The Melbourne French-speaking church (*Eglise Francophone de Melbourne*) is a Christian group that gathers men and women from various French-speaking backgrounds and cultures to worship and share together.

Over 20 years ago, a group of French-speaking people started gathering together to have French-speaking church services on a monthly basis. They were known as the "Association Chrétienne Francophone" (ACF in short) and met at Wattle Park Chapel, in Box Hill.

In 2007 David and Laurence Hernandez were asked to take over

the leadership of the group. David and Laurence are both French and have been living in Australia since 1997. They have two young boys, Damien and Breandan.

Last May the group moved from Wattle Park to Chirnside Park.

We have a vision to welcome among us all French-speaking people living in Melbourne or just visiting the area. Whether French is your mother tongue or you are learning French, you will enjoy being with us.

Our services are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at 3pm at the Life Ministry Centre chapel in Chirnside

**l'église**

francophone de melbourne  
(melbourne french-speaking church)

Park. Meals, picnics and other events are organised throughout the year.

If you are French-speaking or are just learning French, we would love to have you join us.

To learn more about us and to find out when we meet, visit our website at [www.eglise.org.au](http://www.eglise.org.au).



## HOPE CITY MISSION

101 Manchester Road Mooroolbark



Each year, Hope City Mission assists thousands of local people in need. Our aim is to connect the isolated, bring hope to those without, feed the hungry, and clothe those in need.

Hope City Mission has moved into new premises located at 101 Manchester Road Mooroolbark, due to the increasing demand in its emergency relief program. The new premises houses Hope City Mission, the emergency relief programs, and food bank, as well as the Community Café and an op shop, with the profits helping to fund Hope City Mission's programs. The new premises will enable Hope City Mission to assist on a larger scale, as public transport is close at hand. (Mooroolbark train station is within a kilometre, and there is a bus stop right outside the front of the building.)

**The Community Café** is currently open from Tuesday to Friday, from 9:00am – 4:00pm. The café provides a breakfast and lunch menu, Devonshire teas and a fantastic selection of home-made cakes. For individual or group bookings please call **9726 4442**. Payment by EFTPOS is available.

**The op shop** is now open and operates Monday to Friday, 9:00a.m. - 4:30p.m. The op shop provides good quality items at extremely low pricing. Items available include bric-a-brac, with lots of new giftware, and clothing in all sizes from infants' wear to women's and men's wear. EFTPOS is available.

**Services provided:**

**Food Bank** - the primary purpose of the food bank is to provide immediate assistance to those enduring financial hardship, by providing free food and hygiene hampers. Some clients may need assistance only once, whereas others may need assistance for several weeks or months if there is no immediate solution to their current situation. We accept current Health Care card holders, or those in need residing in the municipalities of Maroondah, Knox and Yarra Ranges. Phone for an appointment on **9761 6778**

**Pamper Days** — these are offered free of charge to those with a current Health Care card. We offer a range of services including facials, massages, hand treatments, and manicures.

**Bookings can be made by calling 9761 6778** from 10:00am on the Monday prior to each Pamper Day.

**Remaining dates for 2010 are:**

28 May, 25 Jun, 23 July, 27 Aug, 24 Sep, 22 Oct, 26 Nov  
The Pamper Program is located at 2/34 Research Drive, Croydon South, and is partly funded by Maroondah City Council.



Mooroolbark 1949



Digging foundations 1949



Putting in stumps 1949

# MORRISON OF MOOROOLBARK

How many people have left an imprint on our suburb, and yet whose stories remain untold? How much of Mooroolbark's history is simply unknown? How many enriching, fascinating memories are tucked away in the minds of many residents? I discovered a few of these wonderful memories when I recently enjoyed a conversation with long-time resident Jim Morrison.

Jim and his wife Christine arrived in Australia on the *Orontes*<sup>1</sup> on January 26th, 1949. Jim says, "They call it Australia Day now; I thought they just celebrated because we'd arrived!" After a short stay in Sandringham – where "rental housing was as scarce as hen's teeth" – the couple bought land on Sherlock Hill in Mooroolbark, having made the trip to this "green, country place" by steam train.

Jim recalls that the financial arrangements for the purchase were interesting. Unable to obtain a loan in a very cautious banking culture, he approached Sherlock Hill landowner Alec Gordon. With savings of only £50, Jim and Christine were disappointed to learn that Alec had recently increased the price of each block from £50 to £100. Jim recounted, "We told Alec we didn't have £100. Alec responded: 'Well, you can't live on one block, it would be inhuman; you'd have neighbours too close to you. You must have two blocks.' And we asked, 'Well what should we do, we don't have £200?' ... Alec said, 'That's all right; give me what you can now, and divide the rest by a year or two and pay me each year.' There was no interest."

Jim has very fond memories of Alec Gordon. "He was a wonderful man – a Father Divine<sup>2</sup> – what I thought a rather unusual religion, but a very good person. He lived in a tin humpy with a concrete floor; it must have been bitterly cold in winter. And he had goats in another humpy. He'd have a cold bath (in a tin bath) at 6 a.m. every morning and then we'd hear the mournful sounds of his violin playing. But he was a marvellous man. He helped me with my carpentry."

To solve their accommodation needs whilst they constructed their house, Jim and Christine built a small prefabricated hut which they transported to Mooroolbark and

assembled on their land.

Jim described how difficult it was to obtain timber and nails in those early post-war days. "The price of timber was controlled, but you didn't get timber like that – you didn't get timber unless you bribed the man that sold it. And nails – you could only get the factory sweepings and there again you had to bribe. And the currency of bribery was beer, but that was like hen's teeth, getting bottles of beer in those days." In the days before power tools, their prime construction tools were hammer, saw and chisel.

Jim and Christine had been attracted to Melbourne by a talk given by distinguished Australian scientist Ian Wark<sup>3</sup>, later Sir Ian, whilst they both studied at Glasgow University<sup>4</sup>. Jim was well on the way to completing his PhD in X-ray crystallography. After finishing his doctorate, and on the advice of a friend who had already moved to Melbourne, Jim accepted employment with the CSIR<sup>5</sup>, as it was then called.

For a time, Sherlock Hill was the site where a group of Melbourne scientists built their homes. Neighbours were Dr Boutakov (Mines Department), and Graham Hercus, John Cowley, and Bob Croft of CSIR. "Further down the hill lived Jim Knight, who I think was an official of the Carpenters Union", recalled Jim.

When Jim started work for the CSIR on his arrival in Australia, Ian Wark asked him to investigate whether Australia's newly-acquired mass spectrometer<sup>6</sup> would be of any use in chemistry. The mass spectrometer (one of 14 in the world) was reluctantly sold to Australia following correspondence between President Truman and Prime Minister Curtin. The Americans were fearful of the use of the machines in proliferating atom bombs. According to Jim's calculations, their fears were ill-founded as, using the machine

provided, "it would take 500,000 years to separate enough Uranium 235 to make us a decent bomb."

As a consequence of his successful work in mass spectrometry, Jim said, "I was very lucky to be awarded a marvellous fellowship to go to America for a year. That was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. You had to go alone for nine months to one place to work, and then they paid for three months to bring your wife over as well. They gave us a car and told us to visit every state of the union and find out what makes America 'tick'. It was a wonderful experience, and I managed to visit every one of the mass spectrometrists in America before coming back here and rising up in CSIRO. We began to find many more things that we could do with mass spectrometers."

Having spent 1964 at Princeton University as a visiting professor, Jim was curious about whether he'd do well as a teacher. In 1967, having departed the CSIRO, he became Foundation Professor of Chemistry at LaTrobe University.<sup>7</sup> He retired from LaTrobe when he turned 65, but continued to travel and teach at the University of Utah as an honorary professor until he was almost eighty. Whilst at LaTrobe, Jim was asked by the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. David Myers, to head a team responsible for building Chisholm College. The resultant building broke away from the usual mould of university residential colleges, by providing for clusters of 10-12 private bedrooms in units along with shared bathrooms, kitchens and common areas.

As a student at Monash University during the late '60s and early '70s, I well remember experiencing the well-documented student unrest at the time. It was during this period that Dr Myers phoned Jim at Utah, asking him to take on the headship of Chisholm College. Somewhat reluctantly, Jim and Christine agreed to take on the role with its expectation of residency on campus. It was a challenging six years, living alongside 360 Chisholm students generally aged between 18 and 21. This was at a time when the university was known for its radical obstreperous students, its sit-ins, riots and occupations.

Of further historic interest to

1 For a photo of the passenger liner: <http://www.shipsandharbours.com/picture/number2916.asp>  
2 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father\\_Divine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Father_Divine)

3 <http://www.unisa.edu.au/iwri/aboutthewark/ianwilliamwark.asp>

4 Glasgow was Jim's birthplace but Christine had arrived in Scotland in 1940 as a Polish refugee.

5 At that time known as the CSIR – Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) established in 1926. <http://www.csiro.au/org/CSIROHistoryOverview.html>

6 The instrument used in an analytical technique that uses a magnetic field to separate ions according to the ratio of mass/charge, and so identify a material by its "mass spectrum" <http://www.greener-industry.org.uk/pages/glossary.htm> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass\\_spectrometry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_spectrometry)

7 The LaTrobe website lists him now, as Professor Jim Morrison AO, DSc Glasgow, PhD Glasgow, FAA, FRSE, FRACI, FRSC, Emeritus Professor Department of Chemistry

Mooroolbark is that, at the time of building St. Francis Anglican church in Hull Road, the church was pastored by a 'Colonel Gray' who had left the army to become an Anglican priest.<sup>8</sup> The Colonel invited Jim to serve in his first vestry when the church was built – and according to Jim, it was he and his wife who suggested the name 'St Francis in the Fields' due to the similarities between the beautiful, green landscapes and wildflowers of England and Mooroolbark.

I asked Jim what community meant to him, and he described how things had been when he and his wife had known everyone in Mooroolbark in the early days of their residence. The community celebrated an annual Christmas party in the old Mooroolbark hall. "In the old days, community was community," Jim declared. "All the farmers attended the Christmas party – they used to have a competition. They'd lower a curtain to shin height and all the farmers would take off their socks and shoes and you saw a row of legs and bare feet ... you had to guess which one was which." Jim continued, "Christine

or I got sick one time and the farmers came round with food and soup and stuff and it was quite different from the way it is now, where you're lucky if you know your next door neighbour."

The same sense of mutual community care is captured in an account featuring former stationmaster Andy Bell in what Jim described as a 'unfortunate occasion':

"I'd never touched alcohol before I came to Australia. At the CSIRO lab, they used to adjourn every Friday evening to a pub in Bourke Street at 5:06 p.m. when the government finished. If four people went, you each bought four beers and lined them up on the counter in front of you. If five people went, you all bought five beers... if six people went, that was a bit of a disaster – and you had to get them all down by six o'clock. And then, they finally extended it – you'd stop buying at six, but you could go on drinking until 6.15.

"On one occasion I'd gone there and had six beers. My colleagues got me to the station and put me on the train to Mooroolbark. Andy Bell got me off the train at Mooroolbark and pointed me up the hill. I came across the plank bridge across the creek and up to the house ... and the next thing I recall was sitting over a bowl feeling very miserable and my wife's voice saying, 'You brought it all upon yourself!' Which was undoubtedly true, but it wasn't much comfort."

Other names featured in Jim's recollections were 'The Duchess' (a former English actress from Edwardian times), Edna Walling (the landscape designer who planned Bickleigh Vale, and who helped Christine

in planning their garden), Albert Drewett (who owned the Mooroolbark store that sold everything from cartridges to the evening paper), the Brookmans, Jack Easton, Wystan Widdows, and an old friend of mine, Ian Hide. "He was a character," smiled Jim. "He was a plasterer; he had a lot to say for himself. He built a little shack down the bottom end of Newman Road."

During their time in Mooroolbark, Jim and Christine raised three sons – Richard, Gordon and Alan – all of whom are prominent in their fields.

Over the years, Professor Morrison has received a large number of awards, including the Order of Australia for his teaching and scientific work. Unfortunately, space doesn't permit a discussion of each of those awards, but they can be found by following this link:

<http://www.anzsms.org/Awards/MorrisonCitation.pdf>

Thanks very much, Jim, for sharing fascinating memories that enrich our enjoyment of Mooroolbark and its history. We continue to be amazed by the stories we hear from behind the doors of Mooroolbark!

<sup>8</sup> St. Francis records confirm that the first Vicar was the Reverend Christopher Thomas, assisted by the Reverend C A Grey. The 1954 Vestry comprised Mr Alf East, Mrs Linda East, Mr Laurie Miller, Dr Richard Morrison, Mrs Rotha Perriman, Mr Bill Williams, Mr Wystan Widdows, Mrs Ruth Widdows, Mr Rex Wyatt. St Francis in the Fields was approved as a name in December 1953.

The Parish became a separate entity in 1966, so the first true Vicar of Mooroolbark was the Reverend Albert Bellamy. Previously, Mooroolbark had been served from Croydon. Grey was an assistant at Croydon and would have regularly served in the outlying centres.



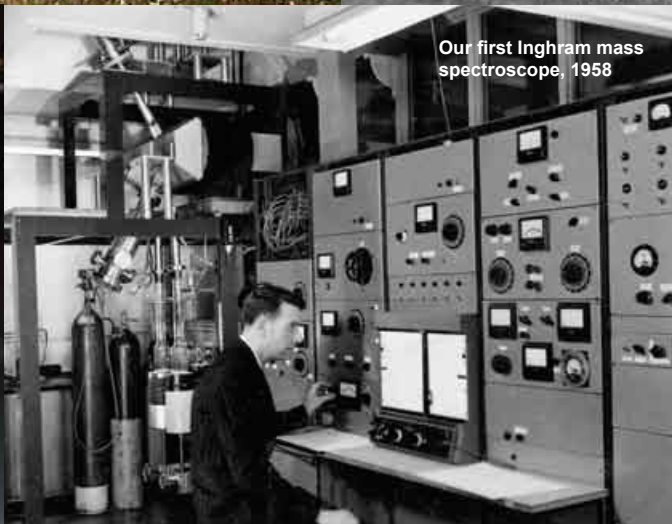
Randall Bouchier



Mooroolbark view north



Mooroolbark house frame



Our first Inghram mass spectroscope, 1958



MORRISON MEDAL FOR SIGNIFICANT RESEARCH  
 PRESENTED TO PROFESSOR JAMES S. MORRISON IN RECOGNITION OF HIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE TO AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE  
 PALMER ST. STONY - JAN. 1971 1970

# Young Planner Award — Rachel Hughes

In the immediate aftermath of the Black Saturday fires, Yarra Ranges council's staff jumped into action to help support fire-affected communities. Staff from across the organisation worked with communities, individuals and state agencies to assist with recovery efforts.

One of the highest priorities for communities and for council was to fast-track the rebuilding of homes and lives affected by the devastating fires. Council's planning department was at the forefront of this work, immediately introducing a free streamlined planning approval process along with a range of measures to assist residents and eliminate red tape. These included the waiving of fees for copies of construction plans for damaged or destroyed properties and the fast tracking of planning permits.

Residents applying for a planning permit were provided with a case manager whose role was to assist them through every aspect of the planning approval process. The planning officer who attended the first meeting with the resident continued to manage the request from the pre-application advice stage through to the application lodgement and final decision. Yarra Ranges' planning officer Rachel Hughes was one of a number of staff

working exclusively on the rebuilding efforts. The officers developed close relationships with many of the affected residents and were instrumental in helping pave the way for rebuilding to recommence. Rachel's work following the fires and her contribution to planning and local government was recently recognised when she was awarded the prestigious Maddocks Young Planner 2009 Award.

Rachel was nominated by her team leader, Andrew Fuaux. According to Andrew, Rachel was one of the first to volunteer for the council's rebuilding team. "From the start she took a leadership role in the team, developing processes and information kits that both Yarra Ranges staff and community members have found invaluable," Andrew said. "As much as her 'in-house' leadership has been valuable, Rachel's hands on case management and support of fire-affected property owners has been extraordinary to see in a person so young. She has sat with many landowners and listened compassionately to their stories of grief, survival and hopes for the future. She has authorised more than 40 rebuilding approvals and spent time with many more property owners developing plans to meet their family and business needs."



Team leader Andrew Fuaux with Rachel Hughes

Typically modest, Rachel said she was grateful for being nominated for the award. "I was honoured when I got the award and very grateful to have been nominated in the first place," she said.

"I like dealing with planning issues unique to the Yarra Ranges, including landslip, wildfire risk, native vegetation and heritage."

"It's especially gratifying when you are able to get good outcomes for residents from difficult challenges."

Rachel's involvement with the rebuilding process is ongoing, as is the council's commitment to helping support people and businesses affected by the fires.

## ARTS & CRAFT WORKSHOPS Mooroolbark Community Centre

The Mooroolbark Community Centre offers a diverse and inspiring program of visual arts and craft activities in an informal and supportive environment. All workshops are high-quality and affordable, and are conducted under the guidance of experienced and highly-skilled local artists.

### For the Adults:

The ever-popular painting, pottery and clay sculpture classes are up and running again, and will continue into and throughout the year. In addition, semester two will see the introduction of a new pastels class, taken under the direction of distinguished local artist Janet Hayes.

Exploring Art is a new class starting in semester two for young adults, emerging artists and art students who want to come together to explore ideas, discuss art events, issues and exhibitions whilst creating a body of work within a supportive environment.

The centre also plays host to the Mooroolbark Craft Group, which meets weekly to share knowledge, skills and stories. This friendly group is always on the look out for new members wanting to share different stitching, embroidery and needlepoint skills over a cuppa!

Our fourth series of "intensives" will begin in semester two and will include another collection of inspiring one-day workshops. This series has been designed to engage people wanting to refine their craft, explore their creative side or

who just don't have time to commit to regular workshops! People of all ages and experience are invited to try jewellery casting, decorative arts, or expressive watercolour. Our pastel and painting excursions are also a great way for people to explore their creativity in an inspiring outdoor context.

### For the Kids:

The kids' pottery, jazz and tap dance classes continue through the year. 'Art for Kids' also continues on Thursday afternoons and aims to develop students' confidence and creativity through the exploration of different drawing, sculpting and painting techniques. Places for all children's classes are nearly full, so be quick and sign up now!

The 'Creative Capers' school holiday program is happening again from 28 June to 9 July and offers another exciting program of art and craft activities for kids. During the school holidays, the centre, in partnership with Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, will also host a free family film night offering the best in film, free ice-cream, and tea and coffee.

*Find out more, and sign up to any of our fantastic activities by contacting the Mooroolbark Community Centre on 9726 5488 or via the Yarra Ranges website [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au)*

Lisa Whitehouse

# A Community Servant and a Good Friend

**Deep sadness mingles with intense pride as Noel and Elza Greaves talk about the life and work of their much-loved son, Dallas.**

Dallas was well known to many in our neighbourhood as his school years were spent in Mooroolbark. He first attended Mooroolbark Primary School before going on to Mooroolbark Tech. In those years, the Greaves family home was situated in Lincoln Road Mooroolbark.

During his teens, Dallas was an industrious young lad who devoted his spare time to working at "Ted's garage", caddying at Croydon Golf Course and delivering advertising pamphlets.

At 16 years of age he arrived home from a day at the Melbourne Show and announced to his parents that he was going to join the police force. On 1/2/72 he was accepted as a police cadet and began what was to become a 38 year career with Victoria Police.

During his long career there were brief appointments at Croydon and Mooroolbark but the majority of his working life was spent in the Camberwell and Mordialloc areas in general policing and in the crime car squad. In 1983 he began four years of service in the Caulfield Community police squad. It was at this time that his appointment as sergeant was confirmed.

In 1987 he was appointed to Mordialloc where he remained for the rest of his working life. Noel and Elza reflected on the fact that, although he received recognition as suitable for further promotion he always said he did not want to move to a "desk job". He greatly enjoyed his personal contact with the community and took a special interest in working with children and older people – helping and supporting them wherever he could.

Early in his career, as a recently graduated constable, Dallas was asked to visit his old school, Mooroolbark Tech., as part of a police recruitment drive. One student who was very

impressed with what Dallas had to say was a young lad named Gary Bowden. Surprisingly, their paths crossed again, just one year later, when Gary began dating Dallas's younger sister, Andrea. As time passed, Gary went on to join the police force and to marry Andrea. In November 2009, at a Police Association testimonial dinner for Dallas, Gary spoke proudly of him as a really fine brother-in-law and a lifelong friend.

Gary and Andrea have two children as does Dallas's eldest sister, Carol. All four children have always enjoyed a close relationship with their Uncle Dallas whom they referred to as "Dal".

Dallas is survived by his much-loved partner of nine years, Sue, and his two children – Dean, 25, and Lisa 23. He always enjoyed a very special and close relationship with his children and will be greatly missed by them.

It was in February 2009 that Dallas was first diagnosed with melanomas on his back. At that early stage he had no indication at all that only one short year of life now lay before him.

Despite painful and aggressive surgery and intense medical treatments he passed away on February 28, 2010.

Hundreds of mourners gathered at the Victoria Police Academy funeral service to farewell this dedicated police officer and good friend of so many. In the eulogies that were presented he was spoken of as a most highly respected officer in the Mordialloc community—one who had developed a unique knowledge of the area and built a wonderful rapport with the local people.

In their deep grief, Noel and Elza take much comfort in the fact that Dallas was such a loving son and family member, a great father



**Dallas Greaves**  
24<sup>th</sup> November 1955 ~ 28<sup>th</sup> February 2010

and a dedicated servant of the community. Noel commented, "His policing work became his whole life."

Noel's father, Walter Douglas Greaves, also had a distinguished police career. The family takes great pride in the fact that Dallas followed in his grandfather's footsteps in such a capable and committed way.

**Our deep condolences are extended to family members and close friends of Dallas as they struggle to deal with their personal loss.**

## FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

### ALL WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre

Wednesday  
JULY 7<sup>th</sup>

### "How to Train Your Dragon"

Show 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

There is a wait list.



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## Community Events Calendar

June 1, 9; July 6, 14; August 3, 11	<b>Yarra Ranges Immunisations Sessions.</b> Information 1300 368 333
First Sunday of each Month	<b>Farmers' Market.</b> "Bellbird Park". Swansea Road, next to Lilydale Lake. Combined Rotary Clubs. All proceeds to local and overseas projects. Contact Bill Sutherland on 9727 0037
Friday Nights School Term	<b>Fridays @ Kids Domain.</b> Activities for primary school age kids. 4-6 p.m. Oxley College Stadium. Details: Ph 9726 8111 or <a href="http://www.lmc.org.au">www.lmc.org.au</a>
June 7, August 2	<b>Speaker Series.</b> A taste of award-winning author Hazel Edwards, author and illustrator Sally Rippin. Montrose Town Centre 12 noon. Tickets are \$15. Includes light lunch 9761 9133
June 8	<b>Sunday Afternoon Organ Concert.</b> St Francis in the Fields. Hull Road. Featuring Kieran Crichton. Commences 2:30 pm tickets \$15 (concession \$10)
June 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 & 26.	<b>Mooroolbark Theatre Group</b> presents the comedy, "A Foot in the Door." 8pm start. Tickets \$15 (concession \$13) Bookings 9726 4282. Table seating and BYO
June 26, July 31 August 28	<b>Montrose Concert Series.</b> 'The Light Quartet,' 'The Pianist and the Diva,' and 'Sugar Blue.' 8pm Tickets \$30/\$24/\$18. Montrose Town Centre. Subscriptions available. 9761 9133
June 28, July 9	<b>Creative Capers</b> School holiday fun for kids. Art & craft, dance & movement, movies, live performances, programs available at Mooroolbark Community Centre. 9726 5488
July 5 & 6	<b>Red Cross Blood Bank</b> Mooroolbark Community Centre Bookings 131 495
July 7	<b>Free !!! Family Film Night.</b> "How to Train your Dragon." Contact Mooroolbark Community Centre for bookings on 9726 5488. Starts 7:30 pm. All welcome.
July 10	<b>Wandin Players</b> presents 3 one-act comedies plus the band 'Swing Sound.' 2pm and 8pm Wandin Public Hall. Tickets \$8 – includes refreshments. Bookings (Arline) 9726 4282
July 12	<b>Term 3 Workshops commence.</b> Contact Mooroolbark Community Centre to request a copy of our current arts workshops and events program. 9726 5488
August 1	<b>Community Tree Planting Day.</b> Balcolombe Reserve. Commences 1:00pm. All welcome. For additional information please contact Peter Higgins on 9726 4851

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 9761 1121 or [lewisdm@bigpond.net.au](mailto: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.*

# LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

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



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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 phone number or by email (as above)

## MISSIONSTATEMENT

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

We seek to achieve this by:

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

Proudly supporting Living Today  
in Mooroolbark.

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