

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

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The Shape of Schooling Today

This is the first of several articles describing some of the opportunities, accomplishments and challenges in our schools. My aim is to provide some insights for us all about the shape of schooling today, so that we might be better informed about the ways our children learn, and about how we might contribute in helpful ways.

For me – a bloke who went to school when students were seated at desks placed in rows, and where the dominant teaching style was dubbed ‘chalk and talk’ – it was encouraging and eye-opening to speak with four local primary school teachers. I’d like to thank them very much! I believe that their observations will help us understand something of the direction of present-day teaching and learning.

Carolyn Elliot and Kim Davidson from Pembroke Primary School and Janet Haase and Helen Basham from Manchester Primary School were generous in sharing their enthusiasm for current educational trends. At times throughout this article you will hear their voices; at other times, I’ll summarise some of the points they raised.

Having had the privilege of first-hand experience in schools – both as a teacher and currently as a volunteer mentor, I’ve long been aware that the vast majority of teachers are an enthusiastic, dedicated, articulate lot, who describe their love of teaching in the following ways:

“You’ve got to have the passion to want to make a difference! You have to enjoy being with children and have a sense of humour to take pleasure in the funny moments. And you take great pleasure in seeing the ‘lights come on’ as children learn and discover more about the world.”

“My sister runs an engineering company and she has to do all the things I do as a Principal – accountability, OH & S, performance reviews, financial management and so on – but she doesn’t have little children coming into her office and saying: ‘Look what I can do!’”

“It’s very rewarding. And we tend to derive great pleasure in small things along the way to seeing children on the way to reaching their potential.”

“There’s a very real sense of helping to

mould children – supporting them along the way to them becoming healthy individuals. And it goes beyond the children themselves. You’re often dealing with a whole family.”

“As teachers, we often think we are teaching the children, but we also receive so much from them. Each day we’re rewarded with seeing learning take place – but it’s very much a two-way thing.”

I was particularly interested in hearing about what is described as the ‘Developmental Learning Curriculum’ and how resultant changes in teaching practice have been made in response to a constantly growing understanding of the ways in which children learn.

One of the teachers expressed her appreciation for the developments of the last decade or so:

“We’re seeing some fantastic results. The children are happy and the parents love it. I love teaching that way – I wouldn’t go back to teaching any other way, and the support we’ve have from the administration has been fantastic!”

And another:

“I’ve just had my parent-teacher interviews and was really pleased with how many parents say how happy their children were just to come to school. The parents were just genuinely thrilled that their kids were happy every day and wanted to come to school. They were relieved and thankful. That was rewarding!”

So, what does our developmental learning curriculum look like, and how is it implemented?

For a start, this form of teaching focuses very carefully on each child’s learning and gives children the opportunity to reflect upon their learning. Teachers are still required to meet prescribed standards in student learning, but have dramatically changed the way they engage with each student. And as a consequence, children engage more with their learning as they discover its relevance to their lives.

Classroom learning has increasingly moved away from the traditional ‘one size fits all’ approach – an approach which frequently left itself open to unnecessary behavioural problems due to some children becoming frustrated when learning tasks were either too challenging, too easy, or too repetitive for them.



Kayla, Ellissa and Devlin.
(Pembroke Primary School)

One teacher reflecting on her experience in teaching a Prep class said, "In the last few years, we have introduced a developmental curriculum. The children coming from Kinder are still developmentally at a playing stage. Each morning when they come in, they have the opportunity to work on whatever is their choice, and their learning comes from that. When we draw their learning out from that, it's more developmentally appropriate than coming to school from Kinder, sitting down and being expected to start writing whilst the children are still only four, five, or six years old."

"There are still absolute standards for us to attain – literacy, numeracy – all that's covered, but it's the manner in which we do this that's changed."

"Didactic' teaching, where the teacher stood up in front and either engaged with or failed to engage with 30 students is largely a thing of the past. Children are engaged personally so much more – they become more responsible for their learning. We've noticed that they increasingly want to learn and to want to come to school."

The teachers acknowledged that it has taken some time to iron out various 'wrinkles' associated with the new curriculum:

"In the nineties when the developmental curriculum was first implemented, I don't think children were learning to read as effectively as they are now."

Following annual adjustments, "the improvement over a four or five-year period was astronomical. I think that over a 15-year period, the government was focused on making sure that children were reaching their optimum potential. And due to the Victorian

Essential Learning Standards (which is about what you teach) and the E-5 (which is about how you teach), we now have world-class standards."

Here's an example of ownership and meaningful learning in a Prep class: "I might have child who goes to an area in the classroom devoted to box constructions. He's decided he wants to make a rocket. There are a whole lot of skills employed in making this rocket – thinking, designing, etc. Later on he might write about that rocket, but if his writing is something like, 'I made a rocket,' we might then extend that by asking, 'Where would your rocket take you?' Then there's some more thinking – 'My rocket is going to take me to....?' If the child doesn't know the name of any planets, we might look them up. 'Would you like to design your own planet?' So they would design their own planet. There's meaningful learning taking place because it's what they wanted to do."

"I might have another child who wants to make a vacuum cleaner, and within the process their writing is centred on that. Their writing meets the standards, but their subject matter is more relevant to them. Someone else wanted to make a card for her Mum who wasn't feeling very well. But they're still writing... it's meaningful and purposeful."

I asked about the challenges for teachers in keeping track of the progress of each child within the class:

"You have to know the students very well, and this will mean that you form an understanding about what they can do ... and as a result, you adapt activities to the children's needs. At times they may all be doing similar writing tasks, for example, but we would have different expectations for each child. We would keep in mind what the next challenge is for individual children ... My

expectations for the top group of Preps will be different from those for my lower Preps. And the support given to each child will be different."

"As a result, teachers need to be thoughtful, reflective teachers. It's much more creative. You can no longer teach by handing each child the same textbook. The demands on teachers have significantly increased."

"Throughout the school, teachers are increasingly in the habit of describing the purpose of each task – and also providing children with the assessment criteria at the start of an activity so that they know exactly what they are supposed to be achieving. This compares with past practice, where teachers might correct a whole pile of writing – and students may not often comprehend what it was they were actually trying to achieve with the task. Teachers now make that very clear to the students."

"We're interested in fostering a love for learning in each child – so, for instance, with children out in the vegetable garden doing a bio-diversity unit, they're growing plants, they're looking at bugs; each of them is doing something different in that unit of work which goes hand-in-hand with the learning they've done together in the classroom. It's not that you never teach the class together. It's a real mix, where we're able to create opportunities for the children to showcase their talents and skills, too."

To be continued next issue.



Randall Bouchier



Kim Davidson, Carolyn Elliot, Janet Haase, Helen Basham

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."



LILYDALE & YARRA VALLEY NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Doug Lewis



Back row : Linda Barnes, Eliza Cunningham, Talitha Kooy, Georgia Cunningham
Front row : Molly Taylor, Tiah-Rose Large, Brittany Nicholas

will take place before the end of the 2011 season. The new facilities will include 12 outdoor courts and some use of two indoor courts.

The association currently has over 1,800 registered participants – including players, umpires and coaches. It oversees 18 clubs which field more than 200 teams. With such a large number of participants involved, the improved facilities will indeed be most welcome.

Association President, Toni Madden, gives much of the credit for the on-going success of the Association to the large number of volunteers who “do a fantastic job year in and year out”. Toni herself has been involved for over 20 years and speaks of receiving much pleasure and satisfaction from seeing young ones grow and blossom in this great ‘team sport’.

One outstanding contributor is Carmel Potter. Carmel was one of the original founders of the Association over 30 years ago. She has held executive roles on the committee for many years and has operated the canteen throughout that whole period. She says, “So many of the young ones know me



Carmel Potter

and I think of them as a very big family that I am fortunate to be a part of.” Carmel was recognised with a Shire Volunteer Award this year. Well done, Carmel!

The local competition provides teams from under – 9 year-olds to open age. In addition, two under – 17 teams play at a higher level at the State Netball Centre and one ‘open-age’ team plays at the Waverley Netball Centre. It is planned that the ‘mixed teams’ enjoyed in the past will be re-started when the new facility, including indoor courts, becomes available. Another program offered is “Fun-net”. This is an activity aimed at younger ones, providing skills development training for those 7-8 years of age

Toni speaks of the very welcoming and social atmosphere that is enjoyed along with many activities such as the occasional BBQ days, and annual camps and trips.

She also points out that the costs involved in playing are minimal and that training programs for young umpires and coaching courses offer excellent development opportunities for young people.

The Association certainly offers a great deal to families in our area and we thank all involved for their commitment to our younger generation.

Interested? Like to know more? Check out the website at Lilydale and Yarra Valley Netball Association or contact Robyn Faram (Sec.) 0418 149 770 or Toni Madden (Pres.) 0407 269 363

Thank You for Our Freedom

Last year, well-known local resident, 90 – year – old Bob Gatherum, returned to France along with other members of The Normanby Veterans’ Association. The occasion was the 65th anniversary of D-Day. Their call was to hold a final reunion of Normanby Vets before the ranks of surviving members diminished any further. “It was a very moving experience!” says Bob. **“The opportunity of coming together once more proved that our comradeship, like our memories, remains as alive and well as ever.”**

Accompanied by some local secondary students who travelled to Normanby with them, the Vets toured various landing areas and participated in a number of ceremonies.

In Bayeux they met HRH Prince Charles. When he realised where Bob was from, Prince Charles asked if he had been affected by the Black Saturday fires. Bob was pleased to be able to reply, “Although I could see the smoke of the Yarra Glen fires from where I live, thankfully I was not personally threatened or harmed in any way.”

In April this year, Bob was asked to participate (as a Normanby Vet) in a digital story-telling workshop at the Australian Centre for Moving Images at Federation Square.

When asked to speak on the topic of ‘freedom’, Bob reflected on the fact that he and his comrades were not very warmly welcomed when they first entered local villages in Normandy. “Not surprising!” says Bob. “After all, our advances had destroyed many homes and villages and had drastically altered the way of life of the local people.”

But time has changed all of that. During their recent visit the Vets met many people who had been deeply impacted by those events, so many years ago. Bob remarked, “Now, many of them came forward to shake our hands or pat us on the back and to thank us for all we did 65 years ago. I realised that they were thanking us for the freedom that they have been able to enjoy since those dark



and trying years. What a wonderful gift to be able to help to bring to them! – Personal and individual freedom!

Along with the passage of time, comments like this have made it easier for me to cope with my vivid memories of all of the suffering we saw and experienced so many years ago. They also make me more conscious of, and thankful for, the freedom we enjoy here in our “most fortunate land.”

BLAIRGOWRIE HOUSE PLAY GROUP

The inauguration of the new playground at Blairgowrie House, Manchester Road, was an affair to remember. This event took place in Blairgowrie's beautiful grounds on Saturday May 10th 2010.

The new playground was opened by Tony Smith MP, federal member for Casey. There were lots of mums and dads present. The children enjoyed playing games, getting their faces painted and participating in freestyle easel painting. A sausage sizzle, tea and coffee and soft drinks for the children were much appreciated.

I spoke to Jenny Lunt, the enrolment officer and secretary, who told me that the play group has been here for 31 years and is run totally by self-motivated volunteers. The group has approximately 75 children registered and 68 families use the facility.

Geraldine Taylor is the current purchasing officer and over the last two years was instrumental in organising the installation of the new playground.

The cost to remove the old playground and complete the installation of the new one was \$10,000. Grants were received from the Shire of Yarra Ranges and Telstra, and the balance of the cost was raised by parents of the children who attend Blairgowrie House. The Bark King Company supplied discounted mulch and Methven Professionals Real Estate supplied all of the signage free of charge. A boat theme was chosen from several playground designs to stimulate the imagination of the children.

If you would like to know more, or are considering enrolling your child at Blairgowrie House Play Group, please contact Jenny Lunt on 9726 5985

Note: Do any of our readers know how "Blairgowrie House" got its name? If you do, please contact Jenny Lunt on 9726 5985 with your information.

Barry Austin



Tony Smith MP (2nd from right) with members of the Blairgowrie committee



Sen. Const. Aden Williams has everyone's attention

P for POLICEMAN

In late July, **Hansen Park Preschool** added much interest to the study of the letter "P" by inviting officers from Nunawading Highway Patrol to visit and talk to the children about road safety and traffic. The visitors, Senior Constable Mark Dunbabin and Senior Constable Aden Williams were a real "hit" with the young audience who particularly liked sitting in the patrol car – and especially hearing the siren.

Two weeks previously, it was the letter "F" and yes, you guessed it, the fire brigade came to visit.

What a fun way to learn the alphabet!

Committee president, Rebecca Cannon, says, "I cannot speak too highly of the very effective program run by our teacher, Debra Anil and her very supportive staff members. Preschool is great fun for our many children enrolled". She noted that there are 60 families connected with Hansen Park, which offers two 3 year-old groups and three 4 year-old groups.

Rebecca is also most appreciative of the work done by the volunteer members of their committee. Two soon-coming activities arranged by the group are the Trivia Night in September and the annual fund-raiser BBQ at Anaconda in October.

Like to know more about Hansen Park Preschool? Please feel welcome to contact Rebecca on mob. 0418 599 249

A Family Affair

2B Brice Ave Ph 9727 0099

Howard and Marion Rice conduct their separate, but complementary, businesses alongside each other in their office premises at 2B Brice Ave. Mooroolbark (cnr. of Manchester Road and Brice Ave.) Howard is a financial planner representing Australian Unity Personal Financial Services while Marion provides a home mortgage brokerage service through "LoanMarket". When they moved into their Mooroolbark offices in December '09, they were both most appreciative of the warm welcome they received from the Traders' Group, other local traders and the wider community. They have greatly enjoyed becoming a part of the local 'Mooroolbark scene'.

Howard began his working life with a chartered accountancy firm, before moving on to a 22-year career with Melbourne Water, where he became heavily involved in establishing their data processing and accounting systems. He then moved to a corporate role as a senior strategic planner involved with the capital works program. During those years he qualified as a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and completed a Masters in Business Administration (MBA). In 1995 as Melbourne Water began to decentralise, he moved into financial planning, gaining his Certified Financial Planner (CFP), the highest accreditation in that field. Last year, he moved from his Croydon office to Mooroolbark. He now conducts regular financial planning and retirement seminars at the Community Centre and his next seminar is planned for Tuesday Sept 14th commencing at 6:00 pm. (Ring for further details).

As a young lady, Marion became qualified in the area of fashion and design, and worked in that field for some years. A change of direction then saw her joining the National Mutual Royal Bank, which was soon bought out by the ANZ Bank. She worked for the bank for 11 years,



rising to the level of branch manager. Her final bank posting, in Lower Templestowe, concluded in 1998. At this time, Howard's business was growing so she moved in alongside him to help out. She soon began helping clients with lending assistance – something she had experience of at the bank. This has led to her setting up of her own mortgage broking company.

Through the years Howard and Marion raised two children. Daughter, Aeron, is now a lawyer and is currently working in London. Son, Stuart, works in manufacturing in Swan Hill and he is married to Jess, an accountant. Howard has spent a lifetime associated with the scouting movement and currently serves on the Monash District Personnel Review Committee. Both Aeron and Stuart were involved in Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers.

Over the years, Marion has been involved in the Waverley Arts Society, where she currently holds the position of Secretary. She also attends 'life-drawing' classes when time permits.

We welcome them both to Mooroolbark and wish them every success in their businesses. Both Howard and Marion can be contacted at their 2B Brice Ave. offices or on Ph 9727 0099

NOTE: Australian Unity is one of Australia's leading financial services organisations. The company's records can be traced back to 1840 when Manchester Unity, a forerunner of A.U. was established as a Friendly Society - so it boasts a 160 year record of service. Some will also remember the period of time when it was known as the Australian Natives' Association.



As this issue of *Living Today in Mooroolbark* goes to press, the new dining establishment of Tulky's Café and Bar, in Manchester Road, is preparing to open its doors to our local community. Andy and Nadine Kosma and their family are excitedly looking forward to this event – which they have all been working on for a considerable time. Tulky's Café and Bar will be fully licensed and will provide a casual dining atmosphere "with a Turkish flavour". It will offer light meals, snacks or just coffee – they will be a 'Grinders' outlet. With the whole family in mind, the café will also have a juice-bar and ice-cream selection available. Seating for 50 is being planned and will include booths, tables and a lounge area. Private functions, with a capacity of 120, will be offered in the future.

The Kosma family is very well prepared to tackle this venture, having all been significantly involved in the hospitality industry over the years and at a number of levels. Nadine says that the original inspiration for the cafe stemmed from Andy's mum's "secret Turkish recipes" – the product of the family's years of involvement with special meat supplies and kebab outlets in the western suburbs. Andy was involved in these business ventures before moving to the area of fit-out and supply of commercial catering equipment. Nadine was assistant manager at Stonelea Conference and Resort Centre in Acheron for three years, and has worked closely with her brother who is an experienced chef. Even the younger members of the family are heavily involved in hospitality. Brianna is an arts student at Deakin University and also a crew-trainer at McDonalds. Georgia is a year 12 student

at Billanook who works at Bramleigh Receptions in her spare time.

The whole family has had input into the layout, colours, décor and music – with family friends offering ideas as well. In all, it would seem that Tulky's Café and Bar is in most capable hands. Another indication of Nadine's organisational and management skills is that she is currently employed as personal assistant to the Hon Fran Bailey MP, Federal Member for McEwen.

Right now the family is focused on completing the interior preparations for the café and all of the required formalities prior to opening for business. We wish them every success in completing this work and look forward to their opening date – some time in August.



Andy, Nadine, Bri and Georgia

SAMPLE MENU

Trio of Dips

Choose from our homemade dips of **Kiz Guzell** (Beetroot) **Hummus** (Chick Pea), **Baba Ganoush** (Egg Plant), **Havuch** (Carrot & Garlic) and **Tsatsiki** (Cucumber & Garlic) served with a crusty loaf

Cheese, Dip & Crackers

A selection of cheese, crackers & Tulky's dip of refried beans, guacamole, shallots, tomato, olives, cheese & sour cream

Crispy Fritters served with garlic aioli

Pilich – Chicken, Mushroom, Bacon & Cheese
Misir – Sweet Corn & Zucchini
Bahar – Cauliflower & Cheese

Patates Kizartma

Thick cut fried Russet Burbank potatoes served with Garlic Aioli

Tulky's Sehan Roll Up

Zesty beef patty wrapped in a savoury omelette and served in a roll of your choice, topped with Hummus, Tsatsiki or Natural Yoghurt

Sushi

Select from Avocado, Tuna & Avocado, Salmon & Avocado, Teriyaki Chicken & Avocado, Cucumber, Egg & Avocado, Crispy Chicken & Lettuce & California Roll

Kofta's

Minced lamb & beef, parsley & onion meatballs served with tomato puree and Tsatsiki

Chorba ~ Soup of the Day

Roasted Pumpkin, Lamb Shank, Zucchini & Potato

Turkish Doner Kebabs

Turkish Pide filled with shaved lamb or chicken, your choice of filling including tomato, lettuce, olives, capsicum, eggplant, carrot, onion, cheese and topped with Hummus, Tsatsiki or Natural Yoghurt

Turkish Iskender Kebabs (plated)

Turkish Pide base topped with shaved lamb or chicken, tomato puree and garlic sauce or Tsatsiki

Tulky's Lasagne

Beef Lasagne with Italian sausage, onion, carrot, garlic, basil, oregano, tomato, cheese and béchamel sauce

Baked Fig Ricotta with Vegetables & Feta

Tulky's exclusive fig ricotta, oven baked with feta, vegetables, cracked pepper and basil

Kizartma

Shaved lamb steak topped with egg plant, hummus and tabouli

Side Salads

Patates – Potato, onion & mayonnaise
Barburuya – Red kidney beans, onion, tomato puree
Kizartma – Egg Plant & Carrot topped with Tsatsiki
Tabouli – Parsley, Bulgur, tomato, onion & lemon
Choban – Lettuce, tomato, feta, olives, lemon juice & olive oil
Sade – Lettuce, Tomato & Cucumber with Balsamic dressing

Mooroolbark

CFA

The CFA is Victoria's largest volunteer team and has been a part of community life in our state for over 70 years. Local CFA Captain,

Tony King, takes great pride in the team of volunteers he leads and represents here in the Mooroolbark CFA. He says he cannot speak too highly of the commitment, the work ethic and the teamwork that is expressed in every aspect of the work done by our local unit here in Mooroolbark. He explains that the goal for response to local fire emergencies is to have a unit leaving the station within four minutes of members being paged. The fact that this goal is almost always achieved by our volunteer fire-fighters says a great deal about the way the service operates and the protection it offers to members of our community. This is something we can all be thankful for - not just for Mooroolbark, but all the many thousands of volunteers all over Victoria.

CFA volunteers are typically people who feel very strongly about contributing to community life, but as lieutenant Andrew O'Dwyer points out, there are many personal benefits received as well. Andrew has been a part of the CFA for over 10 years and now thinks of it as his second family due to the significant help and support he receives. He speaks of the close friendships formed, the many social functions that are enjoyed and the opportunities for personal development that CFA life offers. The CFA training courses that Andrew has participated in have helped him with employment opportunities, including opening up options in management that he says he may never had considered without that background. He has also found that the solid reputation



of the CFA "goes a long way" in presenting a personal resumé.

Thinking of volunteering? Some points to consider!

- Volunteers come from all walks of life and with diverse backgrounds, interests and skills.
- It is not just for men – women play a vital role in all aspects of CFA work
- No experience is needed.

The CFA provides all necessary training and all CFA members are fully trained before attending fires or other incidents

- Training is aligned with National Competency Standards – so new skills gained are recognised throughout Australia.
- The job is not all fire-fighting. There are many support roles that help brigades. Such roles include : Fire prevention, community education, brigade administration, schools presenters, community events, fund raising, etc.

Tony King has participated in CFA work for 25 years – being involved in a variety of roles and rising through the ranks over that time. He appreciates the fact that his work in his small engineering business in Bayswater allows him the flexibility he needs to attend to his key role as Captain of Mooroolbark CFA. Tony is quite excited about development plans that are being worked on at the present time. These plans include an extension to their building. The extension will provide a safe area for fire fighters to change into their protective gear and a mezzanine floor which will enhance the training facilities. It will also accommodate a four-wheel drive support vehicle which will assist in their thermal imaging procedures and other important work. All significant improvements!

If you are interested in participating in the fun and friendship that Mooroolbark CFA offers, Tony would love to hear from you. Contact the Duty Officer on 0400 208 209

Lieutenant Andrew O'Dwyer and Captain Tony King



Disabled People's Company Celebrates 21 Years



A most delicious morning tea was offered at the community centre in July to mark the 21st anniversary of the operation of this unique and remarkable group. A number of guests, including Mr. David Hodgett MP, were there to help the members celebrate this special moment.

During the proceedings a thank you plaque, prepared by Ian Conners, was presented to Elsie Bolwell in appreciation of her service to the group throughout those years. A beautifully decorated cake was provided for the occasion by the community centre staff.

Our congratulations to all involved in providing this wonderful service to disadvantaged persons in our local neighbourhood and beyond.



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A Life-Changing Opportunity

I've spent some time over the last couple of years mentoring a lad from a local primary school for an hour every school week. We have been doing an Airfix® model plane kit for a whole term of school, as we have only a half-hour each week, with the other half-hour spent doing school work. He hadn't thought much about these plastic models, let alone done one, so he was quite excited when I explained what the plan was and showed him a video to kindle his interest.

Some of you may have seen Top Gear¹ presenter James May's 'Toy Stories'. It was shown on TV a few months ago. James is a 47-year old man who fondly remembers the toys he had growing up. He regrets that they have had their best years a very long time ago, and rarely get played with like they used to. A few decades ago, practically every boy in the developed world had either Meccano®, Lego®, Airfix® scale models, or train or car sets – or dare I say, all of them, although that was a rarity I'd imagine!

James set out to recreate the excitement and real sense of accomplishment that he remembered from doing those hobbies as a boy in the 1960s and '70s. In the recent

TV series he organised a *life-size* Meccano® bridge that could be walked on and a *life-size* Lego® house with furniture. With the aid of 400 volunteers and train enthusiasts he attempted to rejoin two towns about 10 miles apart with a train set. James used a few other old toys that got many more people involved – the old and young alike. The elderly enjoyed reminiscing and showing off their skills of old, and the youth were intrigued and excited – well, *most* of them were *eventually*!

Are you serious?

But that's the whole point – introducing *old toys* to kids of this entertainment-saturated generation, which is overflowing with a constant stream of new gadgets to desire and play with or things to do online, is asking for an 'are you serious?' response. The toys we speak of take time ... lots of it.

They can be just as addictive as and a lot cheaper than the latest high-tech gadget, and certainly will not go out of date in six months to a year. As a kid I spent hours building model planes in my spare time – there must have been a lot of it then. I had Lego®, and handed-down Meccano® too, but model planes were my favourite.

James had an idea of making a *life-size* kit of a

Spitfire fighter plane of WWII vintage – just like the real Airfix® kits where all the bits were moulded onto a plastic runner. The pieces were carefully separated before being glued together, and then the model was painted with great attention to the smallest detail to retain as much authenticity as possible. Then the decals or transfers (no, they're not called stickers) would be applied. As model enthusiasts, we were often inclined to stage a mock battle scene, arranging the models in attack situations. Sometimes we'd even blow up (gently) some of the old ones.

That's exactly what James did when he got a class of kids to make model tanks. However one of his student model-makers didn't want to have his blown up; he wanted to keep it in one piece. So they took several photos of scenes with the tanks in battle array, and used a few small firecrackers to add effect. They made a short movie from the sequenced photos which really impressed the kids. They were still unaware of his plan to have them build a full-size Spitfire model, but they were warming nicely to the idea of making plastic models, and the fun that could be had with them – not just on their own, but with others too. He took them to the Jaguar factory where Spitfires used to be made, and they set up a production line making the same model Spitfire that my mentee and I built recently.

.....
James May

.....
"For too long now we have regarded the great toys as mere playthings. It's time to use them to bring people together and achieve greatness. And I bet it'll be a right laugh as well!"
.....

¹ British automotive TV show

Boys need toys, but...

I've mentioned a few of the advantages of the old toys – but they were more than toys; they were hobbies! What's a hobby today? Boys, especially, don't seem to have hobbies anymore. Hobbies don't just entertain; they draw out a skill set that can serve as a huge future career indicator. Boys don't get as much of that from gadgets or online games. Boys need to use their hands to make stuff, to explore how things work and to improve, fix, or make them stronger or faster! Things like Meccano® and Lego® develop an understanding of gearing, power, torque, strength of structure and basic building principles, leverage and balance, electrical and mechanical principles, to name a few.

How many of tomorrow's men are going to be able to renovate or repair things in their homes? Already fixing a car is a lost art as they have become so complicated that fixing them is beyond most capable people. But if you really get stuck, the fundamentals still apply – you can check for spark, power,

Can we seek to plant a few seeds in our young children that may well grow into a lifelong pursuit of excellence?

fuel, and air if you have a basic idea of such mechanical things, which is/was supposed to be a boy's domain. Boys still show interest in these things, but any links to a deeper understanding obtained by making things with their own hands is not very common anymore – dare I say it is becoming a bit rare.

Having a hobby can be a definite advantage for a growing boy. The task of trying to work out what career a school leaver will choose is becoming quite daunting these days. There are SO many choices, such a wide variety of occupations and vocations, yet so much competition for what can be a very limited number of places. With many hours of a hobby as part of their personal life experience from an early age, boys will actually know themselves much better than someone who has spent their life on a keyboard or a TV game console. They will know what they are good at, what they enjoy doing — is it using their hands, designing things, fixing or modifying, inventing or devising a new way to do an old task? Unfortunately, there are not many jobs making model planes for a living, but the skills learnt through such

activities are a basis for following that new found passion or dream job — one that can not only pay the bills but will be a source of enjoyment and accomplishment for a long time to come.

I'm one of those people who love their job. I get to design things, make things, fix things, modify things and it gives me great satisfaction every working day. Can we seek to plant a few seeds in our young children that may well grow into a lifelong

pursuit of excellence? A hobby will contribute to that like nothing else I know of. Some kids love to swim and play all sorts of sport. A few of them turn that into a life that rewards them back – not just financially, but in giving to others out of their success. They are able to use their fame as a stepping stone to greater, more meaningful goals not dependent on boundless physical energy – which lasts for but a while. The hobby, on the other hand, can last a whole life – maybe not the same hobby they started out with, but an adaptation of it that grows with them.

There's a future in it

I have referred mostly so far to boys. The gadget age has impacted girls too, but it seems not with the same severity as toward boys. Only you as a parent can know the leanings of your children – their gifts, talents, and abilities – hopes and dreams are a bit harder to ascertain, but they may benefit from trying some kind of hobby, doing it with you at first, and then letting their hearts guide them from there. It's a great goal for saving some pocket money, and the pleasure that will follow once they have settled on their pursuit will be worth every dollar, every hour.

I'm glad that the toys of the '50s, '60s and '70s are still with us, but one has to look a bit harder to find them – they're still there in little speciality nooks, rather than the great shopping plazas full of gadgets. The people who run these stores are only too pleased to help, guide and give a hand to a newbie – especially one who has a whole lifetime ahead of them – a lifetime of hobby!



Steve Steel



MOOROOLBARK'S 7TH ANNUAL TREE-PLANTING

A big thank you to all who braved the very wet and wintry conditions on Sunday August 1st to carry out another most successful tree planting at Balcombe Reserve. Over 70 representatives of local organisations and other interested individuals joined in this event which resulted in 900 trees, shrubs and grasses being planted. The event concluded with a brief social time together over a hot "cuppa" and scones and cream. **Well done everybody!**

CHURCH NEWS

Our Strange Dead God? *John Halford*

My taxi driver was driving me to Kuala Lumpur's airport. From the items adorning his car, it was obvious that he was Hindu. Malaysia is an Islamic nation, and yet it is common to see Hindu and Buddhist temples, even the occasional Christian church. I wondered what my Hindu taxi driver saw in what to me were rather odd symbols of his faith. Like the small statue of a multi-armed goddess on the taxi's dashboard.

We passed a Christian church with a large cross on the wall. The cross had a statue of the crucified Christ nailed to it, with bright red blood flowing from its hands, feet and side. Turning to me, the driver asked, "Excuse me, sir, but are you a Christian?" "Yes," I said. "Then could you tell me what you Christians see in that strange, dead god?"

Not Always the Cross

Today the cross is the emblem of Christianity. It wasn't always. In the early years of the Church, the cross was not widely used. The first Christians identified themselves using a symbol of a fish, like the one you see on bumper stickers. However,

when Christianity became the religion of the Roman Empire and crucifixion was abandoned, the cross became the symbol of Christian faith. My Hindu taxi driver is not the only one who doesn't understand "our strange, dead God." In many parts of the world, where the representatives of Christ have not always behaved well, the cross is seen as a symbol of oppression and exploitation.

Core of Our Faith

Even in our society a growing number of people see a cross as nothing more than another kind of jewellery. Yet for Christians the cross continues to represent forgiveness of sin and to remind us of what Jesus suffered as our Saviour. But here's something to think about. Does a cross really convey the core meaning of Christian faith? It might to those who know the whole story. But to many, like my taxi driver, the cross indicates the worship of a "strange, dead God."



Yet Christianity is not primarily about avoiding death. It is not even primarily about forgiveness of sin. It is about love and life. The world is filled with fear, suffering and death. We need reminding that Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

Christianity stands for love and life. The cross will always be a symbol of Jesus' death. But is there an equally recognisable way to represent the new life created for humanity? Maybe there is. Jesus said he would live in and through people who would follow him, their lives transformed, reflecting his love and life like a glowing candle in a dark room. Christian faith is best represented, not when someone looks at a symbol that might have different meanings to different people, but when those who believe it are living symbols of our "strange, living God."

MAGAZINE OFFER The above text is a summary of the article, "Our Strange Dead God" which originally appeared in the June – August 2010 issue of *Christian Odyssey* magazine. *Living Today in Mooroolbark* has obtained a number of copies of this issue and is happy to make them available to interested readers. *Christian Odyssey* is an easy-reading magazine exploring matters of life and faith. If you would like to receive one of these copies, simply contact the Editor at lewisdm@bigpond.net.au or call our office on 9726 8898. We would be pleased to forward a copy to you. Current and past copies of *Christian Odyssey* can also be accessed at www.christianodyssey.org



Mooroolbark's Annual Community Carols

Friday December 3rd 2010

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

Hookey Park
Cnr. Station & Charles Streets

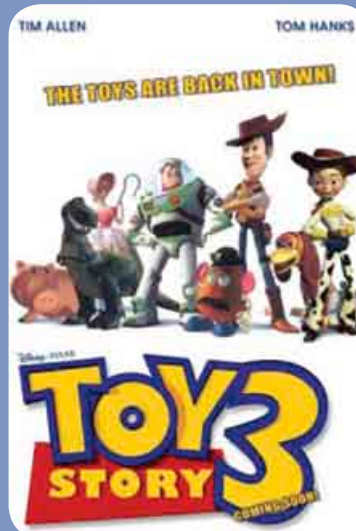
6:30 pm Picnic in the Park
Food and drinks will be available at family-friendly prices.

8:00 pm Carols Program
BYO chairs / rugs

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

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

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT



ALL WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre
Wednesday Sept 29th
"TOY STORY 3"

"The toys are back in town"
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.

Mayoral Breakfast

On Saturday May 29th our fifth annual Mayoral Breakfast, celebrating the National Day of Thanksgiving, took place at The Foothills Conference Centre in Mooroolbark. Once again the occasion was marked by giving recognition to the valuable work being done by a broad group of volunteers who work within our local community. This year, the focus was on honouring those who care for residents struggling to cope with day to day life, or who are unable to care for themselves. Master of Ceremonies, Randall Bouchier, pointed out that the sixteen individuals who were honoured on this occasion were representative of a very large body of volunteers whose vital and generous contributions to community life are a mainstay to our society.



In welcoming all of the guests, Mayor, Cr. Len Cox said, *"It is a privilege and a necessity that we continue to thank our thousands of volunteers within hundreds of community groups for everything they do to contribute to and to enrich our life together."*

Guest speaker Detective Senior Sergeant Ron Iddles spoke of the declining level of meaningful communication with the world around them that many in our society experience today. He encouraged all present to watch out for people around us who may be going through difficult times and to be prepared to reach out a helping hand where we have the opportunity. He reminded us that in our present society many people can feel very isolated and totally lacking in support. We never know when we may be the one contact that will enable a person to get through a difficult time and avoid tragic outcomes.



In his 2010 National Day of Thanksgiving message, Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd said,

"Across Australia women and men of all ages work tirelessly in their families and communities, making quiet contributions, often without reward. There's a simple thing all of us can do to recognise their efforts: say thank you."

"I commend this year's National Day of Thanksgiving to all Australians, and once again: thank you to everyone who makes a difference in our lives."

A Busy Community Life *Barbara Austin*

To meet Sharon Gawronski is to take an instant liking to her. She is friendly, outgoing, capable and always ready with a laugh. It's not hard to believe that Sharon is the Corps Administrator of the Mooroolbark Salvation Army Administration Centre, as her enthusiasm for her job and her concern for people and those suffering hardship is obvious after talking to her for only a few short minutes.



Sharon Gawronski

Sharon has been working in the Admin Centre for 8 years, and her job includes assisting with the financial side, supporting the Corps Officers in their role, general office work, positive lifestyle counselling, out-of-hours pastoral care, taking Bible studies and helping to run the Alpha Course. She has recently taken occasional speaking slots, at Mooroolbark Salvation Army's new 4:00 pm service and as if that isn't enough, she is manager of the Salvation Army thrift shop in Brice Avenue.

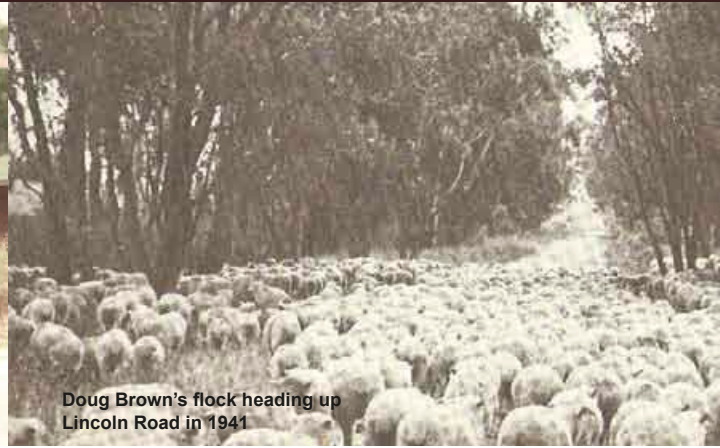
Sharon is also a qualified fire fighter with the CFA and is on call several times a week with an expectation to go at any time. She joined the CFA as a non-operational member four years ago, and her daughter, Chloe, who was then only 16 and a senior member of the CFA, encouraged her to do her training. This involved one night a week of AFAC theory (Australasian Fire Authorities Council) for seventeen weeks,

then the practical training which meant learning to operate the fire pumps, learning about fire safety, personal protection and recognising fire behaviour and the effects of the weather on the fire. Part of the job as a fire fighter is being called out to attend car accidents and at times being called out to find it is a false alarm; not an enjoyable experience if it is the middle of the night.

Sharon was a volunteer at the Black Saturday fires in the Integrated Communication Centre (ICC) manning the radio and communicating with the fire fighters, and found it a very sobering experience. She says that if you want to join the CFA for an adrenalin rush, think again. It's not exciting seeing people lose their home and sometimes their livelihood, or loved ones. It can be hard work, and heart breaking, but being able to stop the fire from spreading or saving someone's home gives one the satisfaction of doing something for the community.



Allen's father, Doug, with trotter "Carl Redmond"



Doug Brown's flock heading up Lincoln Road in 1941



A Colourful Life

In 1941, Allen Brown arrived in Mooroolbark from Birchip, aged two. At that time, Mooroolbark was still bush and open paddocks, and everyone knew one another.

Prior to 1941, Allen's father, Doug, worked as a farm hand for a timber and pastoral company – Sharp and Taylor¹. He and his wife Freda lived and worked in Birchip, but in the late 30s the area experienced severe drought. Pasture was non-existent and Allen recalls that "you couldn't sell, or give sheep away. So, the company sent Dad and the sheep to Mooroolbark. Dad worked for three or four months on his own, and then he got Mum to pack up their belongings in Birchip and she came down. On the corner of Diane Crescent and Manchester Road, you'll see an old homestead called 'Wunderbar', and next door to that was the house where we lived, which was owned by Sharp and Taylor. They owned all the land extending from Brushy Creek, to the former Salvation Army hall and back across to the Croydon Golf course. And on the other side of Manchester Road, they owned the land right up to the railway line."

"When the drought broke in Birchip, Dad said to Mum, 'Right! I'm going back.' Mum said, 'No'. So they stayed here, and then, either Sharp or Taylor died (I don't remember which one) and the company was all sold up."

Allen recalls that his parents built their house in Mooroolbark not long after Sharp and Taylor sold many of their assets.² He comments, "Tom Fountain was the manager of Taylor's at the time and Dad and Mum got on very well with

him. They were selling all the Mooroolbark land and he said to Dad, 'Pick out one you want' - which he did, and at the auction – Tom Fountain did the auction – as soon as Dad put his hand up, Tom said "Sold". The house is still there. Walk up Station Street and you walk straight into Mum's front door, next to the kindergarten, which was built in 1947. I lived there till I got married."

Allen has rich memories of Bill Elms clearing the trees from his parents' block with his horses, and in post-war years when there were many commodity shortages and infrequent transport to Mooroolbark, the builders pitched an army tent on the block of land whilst they built the house.

Allen started school at Mooroolbark Primary School when he was four – staying on to boost numbers after headmaster Jack Hookey had 'baby sat' him for a day whilst Freda had unavoidable business to attend to in the city.

The school was situated on Five Ways, and Allen remembers the intersection being sometimes two feet under water during winter. He acknowledges that he was 'a mischievous little chap' at school – sometimes being sent home early in the day for misbehaviour.

He recalls that Jack Hookey used to drive a horse and cart to school down Manchester Road. "Every Friday was nature study day. It often consisted of us picking up sticks and bits of wood, which we put into his cart so he could have fuel for his fire."

"Mr Hookey was the most gentlemanly man I've ever met in my life", Allen continues. "He was a man who went to church, he didn't swear, he didn't smoke, he didn't drink - he was a thorough gentleman."

Allen recalls much childhood mischief outside school hours. "We made our own fun. We were never home in those

days. We'd go out with a shanghai³ at night, shooting possums and whatever along the Brushy Creek. And we had billy carts. We'd race down Hull Road to Five Ways. We had some nasty spills. We lost some skin!"

Allen has memories, too, of losing more skin from accidents whilst being 'dinked' on friend Jack Grant's bike. On one occasion, "we got the bright idea that we'd lie under the railway crossing at Manchester Road whilst a steam train crossed the road. At that time, the crossing included a cattle grid. We overlooked the fact that steam trains drop bloody hot water out of them, don't they? We never ever did that again!"

"George Jamieson was the local butcher. They lived in Manchester Road for years. Well, he and Dad were into trotters. Dad used to drive them and I used to go as a strapper. Dad got me out of school one day to take a trotter to the Croydon blacksmith to have it shod. It was a pretty strong horse and I wasn't very big. I walked the horse to the blacksmith's shop at the corner of Kent Avenue and Croydon Road. Bill Baldwin was the blacksmith and when he'd finished shoeing the horse, he said: 'Go on, I'll buck you up.' I didn't want to say 'no' so he bucked me up onto the horse's bare back. All I could do was to hang on like grim death until the horse pulled up in our back yard in Mooroolbark."

"Sometimes we'd shoot the lights out at Five Ways with our shanghais. They got smart in the end and put wire shields over them. But by the time they got the shields, we had air guns."

Saturday night entertainment was varied. "The shop would open at 7 o'clock on Saturday nights when the Herald train arrived. We'd buy a shilling's worth of mixed lollies and everybody would go home and listen to Bob Dyer's 'Pick a Box' on the radio".

There were occasional Saturday night dances at the old Mooroolbark Hall, and Allen remembers helping polish the dance

¹ Friday 21 October 1938 Sharp and Taylor prizes for merino fleeces at Birchip show. <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/12518318?searchTerm=sharp+and+taylor>

² <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/imageservice/nla.news-page629996/print> Auction of Sharp and Taylor English Leicester stud stock. In the same classified section was an advertisement for the sale of several large land holdings in Mooroolbark (The Argus – Saturday 14 October 1944) This roughly coincides with Allen's estimate that his parents bought their Mooroolbark house block 'in about 1945'.

³ (a slingshot) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slingshot#Construction_and_use



Allen Brown



floor with sawdust soaked with kerosene on some Saturday afternoons. At other times he remembers riding their horses down to where his father's friend Andy Bell owned a block of land near the shop.

“We’d ride his calves and pelt one another with cow-dung. Other times we’d pinch apples and gooseberries from some of the local farmers.”

On other Saturdays Allen and his friends would go to the pictures at Croydon and catch the train home. “We never, ever, had a train ticket. Andy Bell was the Stationmaster and he used to chase us every Saturday night. He knew we were coming. I think the bloke in Croydon rang and said we were coming, but Andy didn’t know where we were. We’d either get off the wrong side of the train, or get out at one end of the train and run to the other end of the platform. I don’t know what he would’ve done if he caught us, but he chased us one night. We ran over to where the tavern is now and lay down in the long grass. He came over looking for us. We could hear his footsteps as he looked everywhere round the long grass but he never found us. He knew who we were and where we were, but he never got us.”

Allen also recalls Andy attending the Saturday night dances: “He’d be at the dance and he’d arranged with the train driver to blow the whistle fairly hard as he approached the Station. And Andy would take off, and he could run! He could run like you’d never believe, and he’d be at the Station by the time the train pulled in. He’d do what he had to do with the train and then return to the dance.”

“Once or twice a year the community would run stalls and a BBQ to raise money for the community, and they had a wheelbarrow race, which would start at the Croydon Hotel (on the corner of Main St and Hewish Road) and finish at Five Ways. Andy Bell pushed my father in the barrow and they won it for four or five years straight. He was a fit man, Andy Bell. He’s over 90 now.”

Allen remembers another resident from those early days: “Roy Slater used to

go away pig shooting every year and they brought home these little piglets. He had some at home and they got out and finished up living in the scrub along Brushy Creek. I think Roy thought he’d go down there and shoot them when they grew up a bit more. You could do those things in those days!”

Back then, Allen was surprised that the Croydon shops would be open until 9 or 10 o’clock at night. “In Mooroolbark the single shop was open for five and a half days a week”, he comments. “It opened for an hour for the Saturday night paper and that was it. There was no Sunday trading or anything.”

Every Monday was market day in Croydon. “Generally you’d ride a horse, and you’d go to the market. They sold everything – pigs, goats, cattle, sheep, horses – all that, and then they’d have an auction. Allan Brown, (no relation to me), was the auctioneer. If people wanted to sell stuff, he’d charge them a percentage of what he sold. It was a big day out. No matter what you wanted you could buy it at the Croydon Market every Monday.”

Before building their Mooroolbark house, Allen’s family rented a house from Bill Elms. “There was no power, no refrigeration,” recalls Allen. “The butcher came along once a week to deliver the meat⁴ that you ordered the week before, and the baker came every day, and I remember old Mr Drewett used to come and deliver the groceries. After the war, when butter was rationed, he used to have a little pair of folding scissors to cut the required number of coupons from your ration book.”

When refrigeration finally came to Mooroolbark, the Drewetts -- who were running the local store -- put in a refrigerator and customers could purchase iceblocks for a penny each. “We’d never ever seen them before”, reminisces Allen. “Little square ones in a cone. I remember one of the Pitt boys went in there and Albert Drewett’s wife asked what colour he’d like. He asked for pink with purple spots. She didn’t have one, but next time he went in there she made sure she did!”

After leaving school shortly before turning 14, Allen worked in a variety of

jobs. His first job was at Brown Gouge, the drycleaners in Camberwell where his father worked. He recalls, “I used to turn trouser legs inside out and iron those flat all day long. I soon quit and worked for a plumber in Croydon for about a year. I didn’t like that so I started work labouring⁵ for Ron Hall who owned the garden supplies at Five Ways.” After that, Allen worked for the Nunawading council. At 16 he had a licence and was driving a truck, until the day he was caught by the local policeman, who knew he wasn’t 18. “He took my licence off me and I had to behave myself. Once I was 18, I bought a truck, and worked trucks all my life!”. As a reminder, a beautifully-preserved 1970 International truck (which we hope to see in the 2011 Celebrate Mooroolbark parade) stands proudly adjacent to Allen’s home.

In later years, Allen and wife Margaret, whom he’d met at a dance in Ringwood, bought seven acres of land east of Cambridge Road. Much was eventually subdivided and sold, but the couple, who’ve celebrated 51 years of happy marriage, live there still on a three-quarter acre block in the house they built themselves. They love the location – quiet, beautiful views, and wonderful neighbours. They’ve successfully raised three daughters and now have five grandchildren. They’ll be great-grandparents in September.

Allen remains active in his shed, tinkering with stock cars and other machinery. He’s maintained his lifetime interest in racing cars and boats. Two of his grandsons have inherited his interest and are ‘into’ racing now, and Allen is building a racecar for them.

Allen’s active life continues. He’s a man who laughs a lot – and recalls the memories of his very colourful life with great clarity, mirth and passionate enjoyment!

Thanks, Allen, for sharing!

Randall Bouchier



⁵ “You’d use a pick and shovel to dig any foundations. And then the truck of screenings arrived and a truck load of sand and 100 bags of cement and you mixed it up in the concrete mixer, whirled it around and poured it in. That’s how you did the job in those days.”

⁴ In those days the meat was then kept in a Coolgardie safe: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coolgardie_safe

Celebrate Mooroolbark 2011 – Saturday, March 26

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOUR FESTIVAL?

Celebrate Mooroolbark 2011 has been launched.....

This eighth festival promises to be bigger and better in 2011. Over the years the festival has grown each year in both size and patronage, reflecting the greater involvement of the community in this event. Working hand in hand with the Mooroolbark Community Centre, a small group of volunteers from local schools, organisations and churches has put on an annual family festival for our community which is now part of the Mooroolbark calendar and is a positive gathering of the community of Mooroolbark and surrounding areas.

The festival will continue to emphasise a family-friendly gathering. We are committed to the family dimension of the event and are looking for new and exciting activities for our visitors. In these hard economic times for families, we are seeking to keep the costs for young families down. We are inviting local organisations to join in and provide free or low-cost activities for families and children.

This coming year, we want to expand the parade. Formal closure of the road means that we can have floats with the marchers and other groups like the emergency services and vintage cars. The street parade is a wonderful way to start up the festival atmosphere and the kids who participate always have fun.

The festival also showcases the local community – organisations and businesses can put in a stall in the market place to connect with local residents. It is a great place to recruit new members and to show the locals what you have to offer. Some groups trade, and food for the festival is provided by many volunteer groups. We have identified new food marketing opportunities and are looking for volunteer organisations to supply these.

With the increasing size of the festival it has become necessary to change the way things are done. In 2010, we had sufficient funding to hire an administrator and welcomed Yolande Pickett to our team. We now have a sub-committee structure to cope with the increasing size of the event. To date, we have been auspiced by MAP Mooroolbark, but now the festival has come of age, it is time to stand alone. Celebrate Mooroolbark will be formally established through incorporation.

Our message is simple: WE WANT YOU.....

We want you to put the date in your diary and plan to come with family and friends. *We want you* to talk to the organisation you belong to and encourage them to get involved. *We want you* to talk to your school and get them into the competitions and the parade. *We want you* to volunteer either on the day or as part of the team that is setting up the festival.



This is our Mooroolbark festival. Let's make it an event to be remembered.

**Andrew Lang
Festival Chairman**

We can be contacted at
celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com
or phone Jean on 9726 7037

Mooroolbark's New History Group

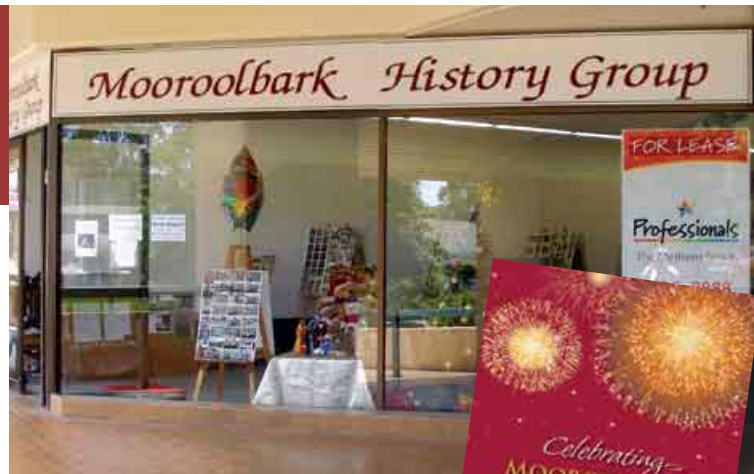
Marion Stott

Thirty years ago, the official opening of the Mooroolbark Community Centre was celebrated by holding the very first Red Earth Festival. In 2009 it was proposed that we commemorate the upcoming 30th anniversary by seeking input from all who had contributed to our community, in the years since that beginning, to produce a book **ABOUT the community FOR the community and BY the community**

Unfortunately when research began it was discovered that the first 20 years of documents and photo albums relating to the community centre and also 12 years of the of the Red Earth Festival records were unable to be located in archives and are feared destroyed. It was noted that Mooroolbark actually has the largest population base in the Shire but had no actual history contact point for residents. A concerned group of people compiled a wide list of local residents and invited them to the inaugural "interest" meeting. That evening was well supported and the attendees moved to establish the Mooroolbark History Group.

Meetings were held at the Red Earth Room until a benefactor allowed us to set up a display in Shop 2 at the Terrace. This gives us the opportunity to be more visible and accessible as we seek the public's assistance in replacing as much local memorabilia as we can. Earlier this year, at the Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival, we proudly hosted local history groups plus the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum in a very enlightening display. A key item in the display was Joe Byrne's suit of armour from the Ned Kelly gang/Glenrowan siege.

Mooroolbark History Group is now part of the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network, which includes groups from right across the Shire. To showcase all these groups further, during the Royal Historical Society of



Victoria's History Week, MHG will host an **Antiques and Collectables Appraisal Day on Sunday 24th Oct.** at the Mooroolbark Community Centre. Also on this day we will celebrate the 30th birthday of the Mooroolbark Community Centre and the first birthday of the Mooroolbark History Group. MHG wishes to express appreciation to the Bendigo Bank for the community enterprise demonstrated in its grant of \$10,000 to assist with the publication of the book which is now underway and is available for pre-sale purchase at a discount price.

We are always delighted to see and to hear about any memorabilia (from all decades) that you feel may be of interest to others. MHG is in the process of setting up a number of sub committees to research specific areas of interest.

Do become a member ! EVERYONE is most WELCOME! Contact Marion on 9726 8740

GAME

Members of the travelling public and the Mooroolbark community had the opportunity to see giant dice, tetris, snakes and ladders and Pacmen adorning their station during July.

The station hosted a temporary art exhibition as part of the Mooroolbark train station as a Creative Community Hub project, one of three pilot projects funded by the Department of Transport. The project was undertaken by Helen Pollard, artist, and a team of a dozen junior artists from years 8 and 9 at Mooroolbark and Billanook Colleges. It was supported by Mark Smith, Customer Services Manager and station staff from Metro Trains Melbourne as well as staff from Yarra Ranges Council's Arts, Culture and Heritage department.

The project took two terms to plan with workshops every Friday after school at the Mooroolbark Community Centre and an installation day during the school holidays.

Students visited the station to take photographs and designed a large number of installations which they then short-listed to the final seven with input from the Consultative Committee. The exhibition was opened, in somewhat damp conditions, on Wednesday 14th July at 3pm by Brian Tee, Parliamentary Secretary for Public Transport and Upper House Member for Eastern Metropolitan. Over 50 people, many of them students, braved the conditions to see the works.

The Consultative Committee working on the train station as a Creative Community Hub project was delighted with the outcome. The resulting installation demonstrated what is possible to achieve when working with young people creatively, and allowing them the opportunity to engage with the station and respond to their view of the space.

Lisa Whitehouse



SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2010

Steamrail Victoria invites you to come and ride historical steam shuttles between Mooroolbark and Mitcham.

Departing Mooroolbark 10:55am, 11:25am, 2:12pm, 3:12pm, 4:12pm* (*does not return to Mooroolbark)

Fares: Adult \$10; Under 16 \$5; Family \$25

www.steamrail.com.au

NEW STATION PRECINCT

The committee invites you to come along to see plans that have been developed for your station ... discuss the designs for the new community facility with members of the committee ... enjoy a free BBQ sausage and free art activities for children, **12:00–2:00pm**

MOOROOLBARK STRUCTURE PLAN

Have your say on the Draft Structure Plan for the Mooroolbark Activity Centre. Council staff will be there to listen and record your feedback, **12:00–2:00pm**

In Progress

A MASTER PLAN FOR HOOKEY PARK

Gary Bateman

A meeting attended by Cr Terry Avery, Shire officers and interested parties from the local community was held at the rotunda in Hookey Park earlier this year to discuss council's intention to prepare a master plan for the future redevelopment of the park, and key issues that need to be considered. A reference group was formed from those present to assist with the preparation of a master plan, and a process was outlined with wider consultation of the local community being the first priority. It is essential to identify the value and benefits of the park and the role it should play in the community for the future.

The Hookey Park Master Plan is an outcome of the Mooroolbark Structure Planning process, its purpose being to provide council with a long-term strategy for improving the open space areas and built infrastructure at the park.

The consultation for the master plan supplements the consultation conducted as part of the structure planning process, which identified the following key development principles for Hookey Park:

- **A desire for a "village green" style park that offers a range of social recreation activities including a play space, picnic/barbeque area, shade, trails and informal play area**
- **A park that is sustainable and within council's capacity to maintain**
- **To respect the historical value of the site**
- **Integrates with the township centre, residential strip, community centres and connects with the residential areas and other open spaces.**

The most recent consultation process included sending out surveys to residents within 400m of the park; seeking submissions at the Mooroolbark Community Centre and via council's website; and conducting workshops with key community stakeholders including the Mooroolbark Umbrella Group. A great response was received, with over 150 individual responses recorded. Council staff are presently reviewing the findings of the consultation process and will prepare an issues report and draft design brief by the end of August 2010.

A draft master plan which is informed by the consultation findings will then be developed in liaison with the Hookey Park Reference Group. An initial sum has been allocated to Hookey Park for 2010/11 out of council's Public Open Space Fund to commence a first stage of works on the site.



Community Events Calendar

Sept 7 & 8, Oct 5 & 13, Nov 10	Yarra Ranges Immunisations Sessions. Information 1300 368 333
First Sunday of each Month	Farmers Market. "Bellbird Park". Swansea Road, next to Lilydale Lake. Combined Rotary Clubs. All proceeds to local and overseas projects. Contact Bill Sutherland. Ph 9727 0037
Friday Nights School Term	Fridays@Kids Domain. Activities for primary school age kids. 4:00-6:00 p.m. Oxley College Stadium. Details – Ph 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au
Sept 19	Steam-train rides and celebration of Mooroolbark station developments
Sept 20 - Oct 1	Creative Capers – School holiday fun for kids. Art & craft, dance & movement, movies, and live performances. Programs available at Mooroolbark Community Centre. Ph 9726 5488
Sept 29	Free !!! Family Film Night. "TOY STORY 3" Contact Mooroolbark Community Centre for bookings Ph 9726 5488. Starts 7:30 p.m. All welcome.
Oct 4	Speaker Series. A taste of ... Author Lisa Evans. At Montrose Town Centre 12 noon. Tickets \$15 Includes light lunch Ph 9761 9133
Oct 24	Yarra Ranges Heritage Network display. PLUS Antique and Collectibles Appraisal Day. Café, music ... Mooroolbark Community Centre. 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Entry \$2.00
Oct 24	Also 30th anniversary – Mooroolbark Community Centre / 1st anniversary History group
Oct 30	Montrose Concert Series. Damian Callinan in "The Cave to the Rave – The Story of Dance" Montrose Town Centre 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$30 / \$24 / \$18. Ph 9761 9133
Nov 4-6 & 10-13	Mooroolbark Theatre Group Comedy Production "Busybody" by Jack Poppellwell, directed by Fiona Carter, at Mooroolbark Community Centre. Tickets \$15 & \$13 (Conc.) Call 9726 4282. http://tinyurl.com/7u4fn for more details
Dec 3	Annual Christmas Carols & Picnic in the Park. Picnic commences 6:30 p.m. at Hookey Park.
Dec 4	Chirside Market 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At the LMC/Oxley Stadium carpark, 15-49 Old Melbourne Road, (opposite Bunnings). Ph 9726 8111 Lots of market stalls, handcrafts, food, jewellery, gifts and more. Café on site for hot food snacks. Great Christmas shopping.
Art & craft Activities	Intensive Workshops – Oct 16 Candle-Making / Nov 13 Bookbinding Art Excursions – Sept 4 Landscape Painting @ Nat. Rhododendron Gardens – Sept 14 Pastel Landscapes @ Lilydale Lake Antique Series – Oct 5 Lester De Vere Antique Evaluation / Oct 19 Daryl Mills Art Deco – Nov 16 Kevin Arendse Clocks and Watches / Nov 30 Ann Dixon, fashion & accessories. Enquiries: Mooroolbark Community Centre Ph 9726 5488

Our "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

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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Doug Lewis

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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 telephone 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

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