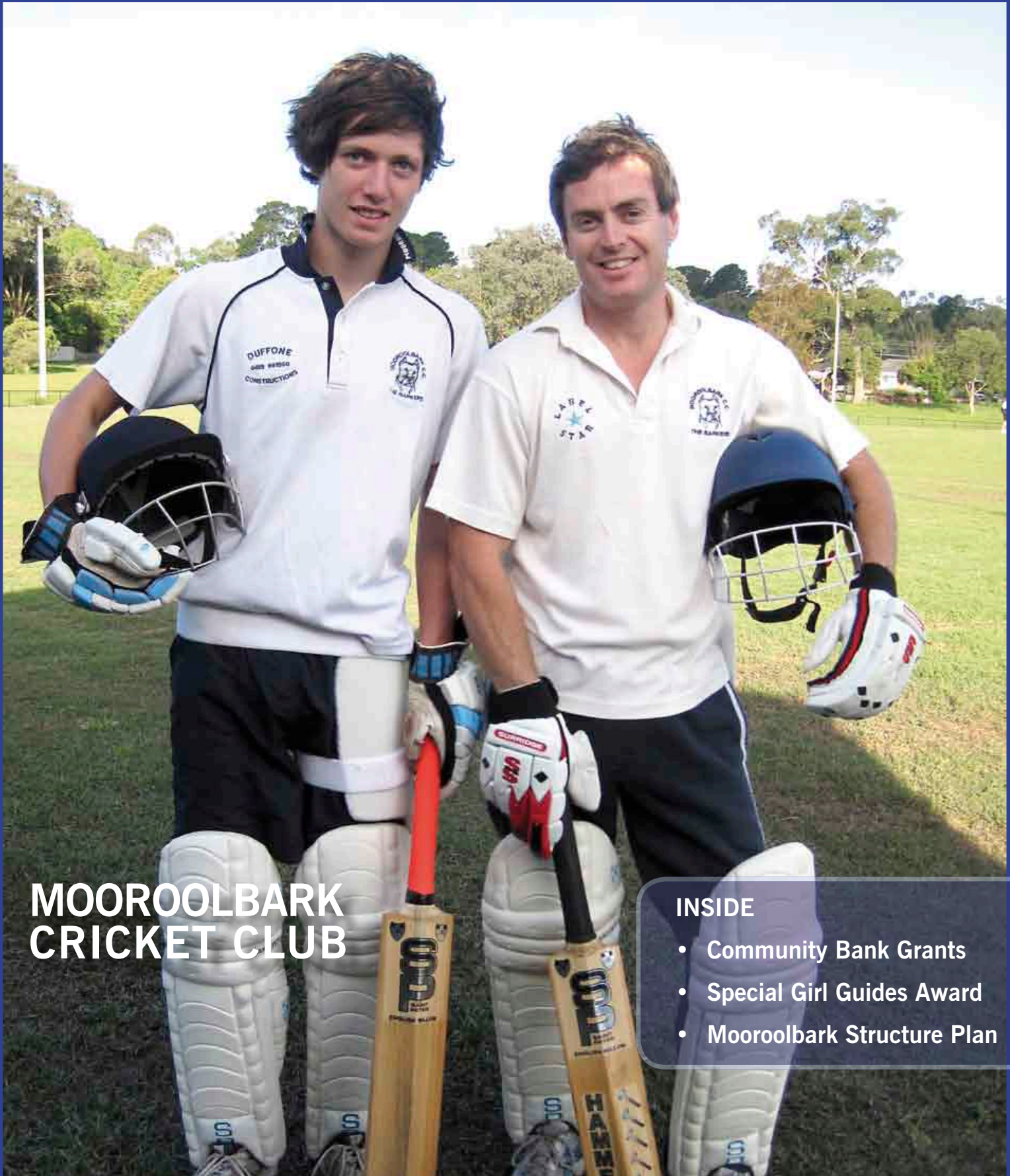


LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO. 34 DECEMBER 2010



MOOROOLBARK CRICKET CLUB

INSIDE

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The Shape of Schooling Today

continued....



This is the second article describing some of the opportunities, accomplishments and challenges in our schools. In the first article, we provided a brief introduction to new ways of teaching and learning contained within a 'developmental curriculum'.

With this second article, we will reflect a little on changes to school communities over the years – and comment briefly on ways that we might better equip our children for effective learning.

Once again, I have depended upon input from Carolyn Elliot and Kim Davidson from Pembroke Primary School and Janet Haase and Helen Basham from Manchester Primary School – and, similarly to last time, at times throughout this article you will hear their voices; at other times, I'll summarise some of the points they raised.

Schools Within Community – Big Changes!

Within their quest to help children to develop as healthy individuals, teachers are more and more aware that they are impacting and affecting whole families.

It's definitely a reality. Over time, as church attendance has declined, and other groups are not as strongly committed to community any more, I think we've frequently become the first port of call for emergencies, for support, for advice in family crises and for financial assistance. The advent of Chaplains in schools has really helped provide additional help for such needs.

Some families aren't dependant on schools in those ways, but many are! And for many nuclear families there is no extended family and there are often additional stresses for single-parent families.

There are many more families that are moving around... there's more of a transient nature to things as well. Grandparents might live somewhere else, and thus, many don't have that wider family to support them.

I think schools fulfil a very different role in the community than when I went to school.

There was some discussion, too, about changes in family involvement within the school:

I think we involve families in school activities a lot more now. We help them feel a lot more comfortable coming into the school environment - even helping in the classroom. And we actively encourage and value that partnership.

When you foster the idea that families are welcome and needed and you want them involved, many want to get on board, and they feel like they're part of an extended family. So, I see my class as something



Kim Davidson, Carolyn Elliot, Janet Haase, Helen Basham

that the entire family is a part of, and it's just nice that when you mount an activity, there are always parents there, because we've encouraged the development of that culture.

Another commented:

We have children coming to the school, who represent the second and third generation of family involvement. And so, some families have a long association with the school. Many parents have actually been at the school themselves and they have warm memories about their experiences as children at this school. The school community becomes for many a source of reassurance and even comfort.

In spite of the 'experience' of school having been different for parents, they haven't found it hard to adapt. We had a grandmother who was president of the PMC (Parents Committee) and I was just talking to her the other day to ask her if she would serve again. She'd thought her days were over... and now the grandparents love coming back to the school.

I asked how teacher's roles had changed in response to changes in the place of the school in the community.

Teaching has changed over the years. I think our role has changed. The teachers at our school are very capable of handling lots of diverse situations. Students present from a wide variety of family backgrounds. You might have children from parents who range from well-paid professionals to those who are unemployed. And their children are in the same class. I think that teachers respond to, and manage such diversity really well.

I believe the diversity plays an important role in our schools – that it's a very healthy thing to have – whether diversity of race, culture or social standing, because that is what real community is like. We're not all the same. I think that one of the positives about working in our area is that we do have that diversity.

And behaviour?

The skills we've been taught have equipped us to handle challenging behaviours and additionally we receive on the job support from colleagues and coaches.

Coming to school for some children provides their chance of 'getting it right', too. So we take that really seriously, by making a difference for those children. That's what we're about. It's not that children are 'too hard', it's just that we search for creative solutions to help them be the best they can be.

If you teach in an area with a higher socio-economic level - teachers may have a calmer day in some respects, but, in turn, face different challenges.

The Victorian curriculum acknowledges that the social element is really important – communicating well, getting along as a team - all of that is seen as very important. So, we aim to teach kids those necessary social skills not only for the school environment but to equip them for their futures.

Schools use various means to help all members of the school community cultivate an essential respect for one another.

Various programmes make use of a common language across the school. The children learn what different things look like and sound like. They learn what respect looks like, sounds like. They learn what listening

looks like, and sounds like - and the same behavioural language is used consistently right across the school in every classroom so that children don't encounter different rules in different classrooms.

By knowing what attentive listening looks like and sounds like, children can move anywhere within the school, and a teacher can say, 'I'd like you to listen attentively' and the children understand how to respond... there's a language that we all adopt – in the class, in the yard – everyone in the school. All the teachers are trained - it's strategic and explicit.

We've developed 'community circles' and we have 'class meetings' each week to give children a voice. We find ways for members of our community to be better connected – and with a common language, to have opportunities to lead, to be responsible, to be independent, to put into place some of the values that are important to that community, or to raise any concerns they may have.

As you'd imagine, teachers are always learning. This may be via more formal education or through professional development seminars and the like. But much learning occurs informally:

We're able to learn from more experienced teachers. I've been teaching only a few years, but any concerns or queries that I may have, I can take to the Principal or other teachers and ask: 'How would you handle this?' I find that valuable. There's a formal mentoring process for graduates – and also a greater role these days for teachers to be 'coached' by experienced teachers specifically employed by the department for a coaching role.

In addition:

A lot of our classes are team-taught. There are two teachers in the classroom supporting each other. If one of them needs extra time with a child who is being a bit challenging, the other teacher can 'hold the fort' for a while. That's always a good support...

Every school has its own behaviour management plan. We also have a teaching and learning coach who provides teachers with an opportunity to reflect on the teaching and learning taking place in the classroom. And chaplains have been invaluable in our schools in the way they can provide a confidential, helpful ear and take some of the load away from teaching staff in that regard.

Decades ago, when I was a boy, and even when raising my own family, children spent significant daily time sharing conversation around the meal table. It was an invaluable source of general knowledge and of learning to converse with adults. It taught listening skills - and sharpened the ability to discuss a range of subjects in greater depth. Sadly, meal times around the family table seem to occur less frequently these days – often depriving children of the benefits I've described. I asked how parents and other adults might help children be more receptive to learning:

At Prep information nights, we talk to our parents about spending time in conversation with their children. Oral language is a real focus in the early years – as children are coming to school not as orally developed as they used to be. They don't

always speak in full sentences, as they do a lot of passive listening to television. They've not been exposed to a lot of rhymes, nursery rhymes and songs.

Probably the best thing that parents can do is play games - use finger puppets, board games, tell children rhymes, fairy tales – all those things we remember our parents doing with us. You know, Itsy Bitsy Spider and so on!

In the past, children entertained themselves by making up games and creating adventures outside – or they'd visit the extended family and grandparents, do a whole pile of different things.

Read to your kids. Help them develop a love for books! Bounce a ball with them! We need to spend time with our children - and the dialogue will come from just spending time. It doesn't have to be anything that costs a whole heap of money, and a few minutes spent with a child may be the best few minutes of their 24-hour day. Having that child know that you care.

It takes effort, because we are very time poor and for people to maximise their time is challenging.

But there are children in our classrooms who have wonderfully rich developmental time at home. It's very easy to generalise and say that society now is not what it used to be, but I see instances of great things happening with children and their parents. We have many lovely children who are very respectful, intelligent, who are going to move onto secondary school and go on to be wonderfully responsible citizens.

When I started teaching I had 22 children in my grade and 21 mums didn't work and were very keen to come up to the school, so there was a range of activities that I could do with 21 mums at home. These days, with so many mums working, we have to use other ways to provide links between school and home. We send out more letters or arrange night activities. We might have a Mothers Day breakfast. Or use the website to help people be better connected to the school. Parents still want to be actively engaged in their child's learning - it just happens differently.

I'd like to thank all of our teachers for the marvellous service they continue to perform for our children, families and communities, but I'll let one of them have the last word!

Teaching is something you do because you absolutely love it, and I think that to contribute to an environment where kids want to come to school and where teachers are excited about coming to school is a very significant thing.

The shifts in education and changes to the curriculum reward everybody who's involved, especially when we see the willingness of teachers to be involved with new ideas and approaches to learning.

When you have people who are totally connected to their school, who are passionate about their school, it's going to be a great place for people to learn. Teachers and children should see themselves as having a real potential to make a difference in their community - to have a voice and a sense of ownership – and when you get that in a school, it's a pretty powerful place to work and to learn!



Randall Bouchier



Brad Watson & Adam Houghton



Justin Uilderks Sec. Ken Trollope Pres. & Richard Ellisdon V.P.



MOOROOLBARK CRICKET CLUB

Mooroolbark Cricket Club is a vital and active club – currently fielding five senior teams, playing at various levels and also five age-based, junior clubs.

The current “firsts” are reigning premiers adding to the club’s proud record of six premierships in the last 25 years. They have also won the 20x20 competition in the last two years. The second eleven is also a strong side, playing at the next level but competing against a number of ‘firsts’ sides. Over the years, a number of Mooroolbark Juniors have gone on to play at District level with Ringwood C.C.

Games are played at four different ovals – Mooroolbark Heights Reserve (Longfellow Ave.), Brice Avenue and two ovals at Kiloran Park. Up till now training sessions were, of necessity, conducted at different venues to allow all teams access to a pitch. However, with the imminent completion of a cluster of practice nets at Mooroolbark Heights Reserve, it is planned to consolidate the training at this main venue. It is anticipated that it will be a significant morale-booster for the club to be able to train together. (Game days will still involve the four ovals). Club president, Ken Trollope, expresses the Club’s appreciation to the Shire of Yarra Ranges and particularly to the Mooroolbark Community Bank for the generous support provided for this project.

In his opinion, the new practice nets and the recently upgraded club-room facilities combine to make Mooroolbark Heights Reserve the best facility of its kind in the Yarra Ranges.

During the season, players and families gather at the club-rooms on Saturday evenings for match reviews, canteen meals or BBQ meals and fun times for everyone. Regular social nights, throughout the year, the presentation night and the big Christmas function all contribute to the great family atmosphere that Mooroolbark C.C. is well known for.

Ken points out that, along with the family focus, the emphasis on providing the best possible conditions and opportunities for juniors players has had a marked effect

on the on-going success of the club. One key aspect of this focus is the strong degree of involvement by senior players in working with their ‘up-and-coming’, young players. The matter of development of Junior players is very much on the committee’s minds as they strive to maintain the momentum at a time when more and more alternatives are being made available to our youth.

Justin Uilderks, Club Secretary, has been involved with the club since he was a young child and has played at various levels over the years. He joined, enthusiastically with Ken as they spoke about their plans for 2010-2011 - to continue focusing on the development of junior teams and their coaches. The club encourages junior coaches to complete a two day coaching clinic made available by Cricket Victoria. This earns them a level one coaching certificate. The aim is to provide an accredited program which trains and empowers coaches to provide consistency in training programs – at the best possible standard - for all age levels.

An important aspect of the junior program is the **MIL0 in2 CRICKET Program**. This is Cricket Australia’s official entry-level program for 5-10 year old children. It is a fun way for kids to gain cricketing skills, learn sportsmanship and develop physical fitness in a safe and carefully structured environment. The emphasis is on fun and involvement. Mooroolbark C.C. runs a 12 week program from November through to February – providing another great family participation opportunity for younger girls and boys.

Darren Bersy is the club’s senior coach. Darren has played at District and Sub-District levels and has experienced leadership roles for over 20 years. His role at MCC is to oversee all levels of club development.

Lincoln Grigg is assistant coach with the specific role of captaining the ‘Firsts’ and managing development of elite players. Lincoln came through the ranks, from the Juniors, at Mooroolbark.

Ken Trollope has a long history of family involvement with the club as he follows in the footsteps of his father, Lindsay. Lindsay began

playing with Mooroolbark in the 1960’s and played in 380 games. After that he went on to hold the post of Secretary at M.C.C. for 22 years. Still wanting to contribute more, he spent a further 17 years as secretary of Ringwood and District Cricket Association. In honour of his long years of service to the club and to the sport of cricket in general, the name of the competition was changed, just this year, from the “Chandler Shield” to the “Lindsay Trollope Shield”.

Ken and the committee are very conscious of the need to be proactive in maintaining the strength of the club by looking for new and more appropriate ways to promote its family focus. This will involve an on-going commitment to providing the best possible conditions and opportunities for junior players as they move ahead.

One new trend that the men spoke of is the move towards playing of junior matches on Friday evenings. They see this as the way of the future as it allows young people to continue their cricket connections whilst allowing them to take up other opportunities available on the weekends. Currently, one of the junior teams has adopted this option.

At the other end of the age-range, plans are afoot to introduce a veterans team to the list of sides fielded by MCC. A great deal of interest has been expressed in this planned development which is expected to commence in the 2011-2012 season. No doubt this will provide additional momentum to the family atmosphere of the club.

Talking with executive members of the committee it is clear that the future of the club is in good hands. We wish them every success in their on-going work.

For more information about the club, you are invited to call Ken : 0419 889 540 or Justin : 0438 021 974

Gifting Keeps Growing for MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY BANK® BRANCH

The latest grants round from Mooroolbark **Community Bank®** Branch is set to put smiles on the faces of Mooroolbark residents.

Through Bendigo Bank's Community Enterprise Foundation™, Mooroolbark **Community Bank®** Branch has returned more than \$62,000 to assist vital community projects including a soup kitchen for the homeless, improvements to local kindergarten and play equipment, and an upgrade to the local train station.

Gifting through the Mooroolbark Community Grants Program has made charitable giving more accessible to the Mooroolbark community, says Mooroolbark **Community Bank®** Branch, Branch Manager, Rowan Alexander.

"We're pleased the Community Grant scheme has continued to grow year on year, with the Mooroolbark **Community Bank®** Branch gifting more than \$42,000 in 2008 and more than \$51,000 in 2009," Mr Alexander said.

"It's great that we are able to return profits to our community through the Mooroolbark Community Grants Program, which makes a real difference to our community.

"These grants are made in addition to the sponsorship funding the Mooroolbark **Community Bank®** Branch provides to support local sporting clubs, aged care projects, arts & crafts, festivals and other valued community groups."

Mooroolbark & District Financial Services Limited, the company that operates the Mooroolbark **Community Bank®** Branch, received 21 applications for funding and approved 13 applications.

"The Board is happy to support projects that are valuable and worthwhile for the Mooroolbark community," he said.

At the Mooroolbark **Community Bank®** Branch 2010 Annual General Meeting on October 25th, local organisations were presented with certificates and cheques to assist in a variety of projects, including:

\$8,000 Mooroolbark Station Consultative Committee – Artwork & beautification project for Mooroolbark Train Station.

\$5,800 Bargeong Reserve Kindergarten – Replace pin up boards & install air conditioning to a new room.

\$5,500 Dementia Foundation Spark of Life – Upgrade website.

\$5,000 Croydon Model Railway Club – Provide landscaping works around new club rooms.

\$5,000 Mooroolbark & District Miniature Railway & Steam Club – Upgrade club amenities

\$5,000 1st Mooroolbark Scout Group - Install disabled access ramps to their front and rear entrance points.

\$5,000 The Dining Room – Provides a weekly meal to persons who are experiencing poverty, homelessness, mental issues etc. The Grant will help purchase new kitchen equipment.

\$3,380 Mooroolbark Bowls Club – Purchase a Cardiac Science Defibrillator.

\$3,100 Manchester Preschool – Upgrade outdoor play equipment. The Pre School is also applying for grants to extend their building and if this project is successful, a further \$7,730 has been approved to assist furnish the new rooms.

\$2,971 Mooroolbark Lions Club – Computer equipment.

\$2,753 Lilydale Seniors Computer Club – Apple Mac computer equipment.

2,153 Manchester Primary School – Computer equipment for their Speech Therapy Assistance program.



\$900 Red Earth Ghawazee – American Tribal Style belly dance performing and teaching group, seeking funds to run a weekend event. Mooroolbark Community Grant Program payments are funded by the Mooroolbark **Community Bank®** Branch, and reviewed through the Community Enterprise Foundation.™

The Community Bank® network has returned more than \$40 million to communities across Australia.



Grant recipients ... with David Hodgett MP, Peter McGowan (Chairman) & Rowan Alexander (Branch Manager)



Mooroolbark Station Consultative Committee
Lisa Whitehouse & Chris Gough

Keogh's Brycee's Tavern / Hotel

30-32 Brice Ave Tel 9727 0600

Brycee's Tavern provides a great local spot for a social drink or two, a family meal or for any of those special occasion functions - such as birthdays, engagements and weddings.

With its large open fire place, Brycee's provides a warm and cozy atmosphere during the winter whilst the beer garden, 'out the back' is perfect for those pleasant, warm afternoons and evenings throughout the Summer months. The bistro operates Tuesday through to Friday for lunches and dinners and for dinners on Saturday nights. The public is invited to call in and check out the great value menus on offer. Live music adds to the atmosphere on Friday and Saturday nights and also on Sunday afternoons. On the first Tuesday of each month an "open microphone" provides opportunities for local musicians to display their talents with the possible prospect of "paid gigs" to follow.



Your friendly staff at Brycees
Chrissy, Duree, Shane, Amy, Kate, Alanna

The weekly program includes:-

- Mondays** A Free Poker Night – Join in a game or begin to learn the skills
- Tues/Thursdays** Special priced meals for lunch and dinner.
- Wednesdays** A "Pot a Parma" night
- Fri/Saturdays** Live Entertainment.

Proprietors, Trevor and Sheryl Keogh and son Shane are very well known in the area. Many will know them from their management of the local newsagency for 18 years (1988 -2004). Others will know Trevor very well through his long and very successful record of playing football for Carlton. Trevor played as a ruck-rover (on-baller) from 1970-1981. He participated in two winning premiership matches in 1972 and 1979 and won the club's Best and Fairest in 1976 and 1978. He also coached the Carlton U/19's for 3 years

time.

Shane is well known in the area due to his years of schooling at S.P.J. and at Mt. Lilydale. He assisted in the newsagency work for some years and, along with Trevor and Sheryl, is now committed to offering the best service possible in all that Brycee's Tavern offers.

The Keoghs took over Brycee's Tavern in 2006 and have enjoyed the challenge of developing the business over the years since.

If you haven't had a meal at Brycee's for some time, right now might be a good time to remedy that.

For more information on the Tavern and Function service provided you are invited to go to their web-site www.bryceestavern.com, Email: enquiries@bryceestavern.com or ring on Tel. 9727 0600 Cheers!!!!

Doug Lewis



"Eastern Heating & Air-conditioning" and "Discount Lighting"

Steve Wadley's Eastern Heating and Air-conditioning and George Jones' Discount Lighting have each run as separate businesses in Mooroolbark for over 20 years. Because of the similar nature of their businesses, Steve and George had come to know each other quite well in the earlier years. In 1999, they decided to "join forces" in a number of ways.

These days they continue to run the businesses quite separately but now they operate out of the one shop – at 58 Brice Ave. This arrangement allows them to share many of the typical business costs between the two companies. It also enables them to share the valuable shop assistant services of family friend Irene Ballagh. Irene looks after the shop 4 days per week. In addition, they find that the two businesses complement one another by bringing business opportunities to each other.

Steve Wadley and wife Jenny moved to Mooroolbark from the Doncaster area over 20 years ago – looking to buy a property. Steve says that quite a few of his footy mates at that time were moving to this area for the same reason. They have two daughters, Sarah 21 and Danielle 20 years old, who attended Pembroke Primary School and Pembroke Secondary College for their entire school careers. Sarah is now an office manager whilst Danielle works in hospitality and tourism.

Jenny works one day per week at the shop and attends to all of the "paper-work" for their business. Steve's main business is in sales, installation, service and repair of air-conditioner units, but he also offers a range of electrical and plumbing services. Over the years he has trained a number of apprentices. Two of them remain with Steve today. Steve enjoys weekly basketball games with a group of his friends. He has been involved with the Mooroolbark Traders group for some years.

George Jones' business provides a full range of domestic,

commercial and industrial electrical services. After many years in the business, George says that most of his work comes from referrals and recommendations. He also carries a range of light fittings, globes and fans in the Brice Ave. shop.



Steve and George

George has also trained a number of apprentices – one of them being his son, Matthew who is now fully qualified and continues to work with his Dad. Matthew plays football for South Croydon Seniors and George enjoys a role with the club as team manager. He also has a daughter, Rebecca, who works in administration at the Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre.

After many years of working in the local area both men spoke of their close connection with a number of older residents. They talk of the pleasure they get in helping some of our seniors with the little jobs that are needed around the home and sharing a "cuppa" together with them.

**Need any help with electrical services / heating / air conditioning? Contact Steve or George to avail yourself of their free advisory service.
Eastern Heating and Air-conditioning – Tel 9726 5834
Discount Lighting – Tel 9726 5832**

Doug Lewis



Special Guides Award for Sandy McElroy

At Mooroolbark Community centre on October 3rd, a meeting was held to celebrate the international centenary of the Girl Guides movement. During the proceedings a number of awards were presented for various achievements and Melanie Matthews was welcomed as the new Region Leader for the Acheron Region.

Sandy McElroy, retiring Region Leader for the region, had arranged much of the proceedings. To her surprise, the Assistant State Commission, the Chairman of Guides Victoria and the former State Commission of Victoria, stepped up to give recognition to Sandy for her significant contributions over many years. She was presented with the very high honour of the "Emu Award" for outstanding service to Guides Victoria.

Sandy has been involved with Guides for 18 years and has held the position of Regional leader for the past 5 years. During that time she had taken on a number of key roles including that of forging growing links between regions by providing support, backup, encouragement and leadership training. In addition a special relationship has been fostered with their "sister region" of Woorayl in South Gippsland. Earlier this year she played a major role in preparing the Victorian Contingent to go to the A.C.E. (Australian Centenary Event) camp in Geelong. Approximately 2,500 campers from all around the world shared in this exciting event.

In receiving this special award, Sandy thanked Guides Victoria, the local leaders, and her own family for the team effort that has made it all possible. She now looks forward to supporting Melanie in the on-going work of the Acheron Region.

Sandy speaks with much passion when she talks about the many benefits and opportunities offered to young ladies through the Guide movement. She reflects on the life-long relationships, formed as the girls learn, grow, and develop together through participation in a wide variety of activities. She talks of the many outdoor activities such as hiking, camping, boating, skiing, etc., the travel opportunities, the life skills development and the community service and leadership training. As she says, "It is a great way for young girls to grow up".

We congratulate Sandy on the award and thank her for her dedication and commitment to serving so many young girls of our community through her work with Guide Victoria.

Want to know more about Girl Guides in the Mooroolbark area? You are invited to ring Sandy on 9733 4095.



THE MONASH-AIRES (A Voluntary Entertainment Group)



Barry, rehearsing for a concert

The Monash-Aires are a small group of volunteer musicians, singers, and entertainers who were formed in 1995 by Joe Hopkins, who this year was awarded the O.A.M. (Order of Australia Medal) for his services to the elderly and infirm for his voluntary work with the Monash-Aires.

There have been up to 50 volunteers with the Monash-Aires during this time period and all have come from about 100 K radius

from the Melbourne CBD which is the area that the Monash-Aires cover to entertain. Yes, from Geelong up to Sunbury, over to Healesville and down to the Mornington Peninsular and everywhere in-between!

As a volunteer no one gets paid except for petrol and public transport expenses. But the pleasure of performing for the elderly and infirm far outweighs any of the minor problems that can occur. Voluntary donations to the Monash-Aires come from the many hospitals, hostels, nursing homes, community and church halls, day care centres and other venues they entertain at. Over the past 18 years the Monash-Aires have donated fifty five thousand dollars to many needy charities and have given over 4000 concerts up to the time of going to press. One of the volunteer players with the Monash-Aires is Barry Austin who lives in Mooroolbark and plays clarinet. I asked him for his comments.

I've been with the Monash-Aires for about three years now and enjoy the camaraderie with the other performers and pleasure of performing to live audiences. There are no rehearsals and I just turn up at the appointed venue and give a solo performance or if the pianist feels OK about the pieces I want to play, I will have an accompanist. I also join in the very popular sing-a-long segments.

We usually have groups of 3 to 6 volunteer performers at each 1½ hour concert. Sometimes there are two concerts a day at venues that are in the same vicinity. During the concert we are guided as to when we play by our very capable MC, Joe Hopkins. The choice of items depends on the make-up of the particular audience, so that we can give the most suitable form of entertainment for them.

Mostly we are served tea and coffee and cakes after the performances and occasionally a full free lunch!

Some of the audience who are aged or infirm seem to be asleep when the concert begins... BUT, as soon as the music starts their feet start tapping and they join in the singing and I personally get a great deal of pleasure from being part of this volunteer group known as The Monash-Aires.

Would you like to entertain with the Monash-Aires? Can you sing, play keyboard or any musical instrument, or recite? A monthly entertainment guide is prepared in advance by Joe Hopkins and you then decide where you want to perform and what you want to play or sing.

If you would like to join the Monash-Aires PLEASE contact: Joe Hopkins on 9803 7045. Thank you.

Barbara Austin

Stressed out!

Recently I found myself working very long days and nights over a four week stretch. A couple of days I worked right through, stopping to have a 30 minute nap at 8am. Most days I worked about 14 to 16 hours and I was working on my own the whole time. My project was quite a demanding one requiring high concentration to avoid errors, and I found myself deeply engaged in my work.

As I neared the end of this project I marvelled that I was still quite alert during the long days and functioning quite nicely, but began to notice a little vagueness in getting my thoughts together early in the mornings.

After I had finally finished, with a few sleep-ins and shorter days at work, I began to really wind down and felt like I was made of plasticine – like Wallace and Grommet, only not nearly as funny. I had been running on adrenaline and stress and now the need had passed, I was empty - empty of energy, interest and enthusiasm for doing a job that gives me much satisfaction.

Adrenaline and stress are very useful, actually vital, when we are faced with unusual or stressful circumstances. As we rise to meet the needs of the moment or extended period, we use up much more energy – emotional, physical and mental energy than we would normally. We can get by without sleep, even food for a while if need be, and still function quite well – but only if we are being charged by some other means, like the natural effects of stress in our bodies. We may also be able to resist getting sick, as stress and its helpful hormones seem to help us accomplish our task with a temporarily tougher immune system.

For me, this was a passing event. I got over it and back to normal after a few

good sleeps and more normal days – and the pleasure of having completed the job successfully and on time.

When the stress gets bigger

For many though, stress doesn't last for a few short weeks. It can linger for months or even years if the situation causing it does not

.....	subside. When troubled by
• <i>When troubled by a</i>	• a traumatic experience, the
• <i>traumatic experience,</i>	• hurt and metal injury can
• <i>the hurt and metal injury</i>	• remain and become part
• <i>can change them forever.</i>	• of the person – potentially
.....	• changing them forever.

It's hard to imagine the toll on the body and mind when instead of 'coming down' from a stressful period, we stay there for months or longer. The adrenalin and other hormones are intended to prop us up in moments of extreme need, and when the need has passed we can get back to normal, but not all of us are that fortunate, and find that the stressfulness remains much longer than the body can readily cope with.

The bushfire season is with us again and as Victorians, the memories of February 2009 are still very sharp - consider those directly affected by the fires and continue to be. We vividly recall when the 33 Chilean miners were freed in October after being trapped underground for 69 days! It seems that events of this magnitude occur with alarming regularity. We see the news, we're shocked and concerned, and after some time, we're able to move on – except for the people directly affected by such events; their lives are significantly impacted and radically changed.

Perhaps we might be dealing with a difficult situation, or the aftermath of a bad experience that is taking a toll on our lives.

Even if it seems over and resolved, there are still issues that we need to understand in order to move on – not just move on, but to be a person who has grown, who has greater capacity to care for others and who has a deeper awareness of other's hurt and pain as a result of whatever experience we've encountered.

I heard that one of the miners freed from our Beaconsfield Mine collapse, in April 2006 advised the Chileans about what to expect once the miners were rescued. You'd think that once they were out and back with family and friends, all would return to normal.

Apparently, that is far from the reality of a having experienced an event like this. It seems that the Aussie miner felt that he was OK and coping well after his traumatic experience and its resolution, but everyone else could see a different reality. To them, everything was far from normal, and professional help was needed urgently!

It's how we see a situation compared to how it *really is* that is at the heart of the recovery process. Once we are able to recognise our true position, we can deal with it and emerge from it armed with valuable information and resources to make us stronger. This enables closer ties to family and friends – an essential part of any remedy for those who have had terrible experiences to shoulder.

I have had many stressful situations and experiences, but nothing like the experiences from those events I've mentioned. Experts are telling us that stress, and its big brother trauma, need to be dealt with in effective and informed ways. This will leave us much better equipped to not just *survive* a tragedy or loss, but understand some of the basics of *what happens* when we suffer and begin to emerge from a serious event.

The choice we need to make

If I had a choice, I'd rather be in a place of my making, not one made by the trauma. I'm sure you would too. We can think of it like having corrective surgery instead of just letting a serious wound heal naturally and leaving bad scarring and internal damage.

A couple of years ago I nearly cut off my index finger. It took an operation to sew tendons and nerve tissue together, and a few visits to the physio to make it fully functional again – a vast difference to just stitching up the outside and ignoring the significant unseen damage. Unseen, except to someone who knows what to look for; I was going to be sent home with some external stitches, but then they realised that I had cut through much more than just skin.

I'd rather be in a place of my making... not one made by the trauma

Dr Rob Gordon who speaks regularly at Department of Education seminars and is involved as counsellor and adviser in many events including our Victorian bushfires since 1983 highlighted some interesting details about trauma:

- Trauma is defined as a normal reaction to abnormal experiences.
- About 95% of people who experience a natural disaster report some symptoms in the aftermath which subside over the next few months, with recovery continuing for a year or so.
- Recent research has highlighted how the things we do or say to those traumatised can be quite helpful, or unfortunately, quite unhelpful – knowing the difference will have a great impact on the process of recovery and healing of what amounts to a 'physic injury'.
- Only in the last decade or so has trauma been recognised as a primary influence to the person's behaviour and personality.

Thinking back about my finger injury – the immediate limitations were obvious to me, and anyone who could see the bandages. I could not use the finger and this gave the hand limited function. When the bandages were removed, it looked OK, but was still

healing and in danger of tearing the stitches inside holding the important parts together. If I were to disregard the inner fragile state, I could have harmed it further. Already it would take many weeks or months to regain optimum strength. When someone has a significant trauma experience, much of the damage is invisible – even to the traumatised.

The way we treat those traumatised during this healing, repairing stage can make an incredible contribution to their well-being in the weeks and months to follow (see table). But also just as important is the understanding that if we are the traumatised, we will not be able to fully appreciate what has happened to us, and is still happening deep inside, if we try to ignore the event and continue on as if it is all behind us now.

People are still dealing with their bushfire experiences from two years ago. They are changed people as a result, and the memories of such events will never leave them. With due respect of the injury and suitable follow-up, people will be more able to move on after such experiences... to grow, to care more for others with an empathy that some of us will never know, and to do so surrounded by thoughtful and respecting

family and friends. The responsibility belongs to all of us to respect the stress, the trauma, and navigate a way out the other side for the well-being of all concerned.

The accompanying table helps to show the differences between the things we often do naturally, without being aware of other, more helpful possibilities in the way we communicate with those in need. It simply helps us to see another way... it is also helpful to seek specialised advice as every situation is different.



Steve Steel

Helpful	Hindering
Active communication	Passive communication
Organising discussion	Saying the same things
Considering how to increase understanding and meaning	Reiterating or thinking on losses
Revealing more, adding new details, making new connections	Going over the same ground without adding meaning
Accepting emotions as part of recovery	Avoiding discussing emotions
Represent emotions in language	Emotional expression, "getting it out" without adding words
Empathy—offering the sufferer something different	Sympathy—offering the sufferer more of the same
Generate positive emotions	Exhibit negative emotions
Selective focus on some aspects rather than the whole	Reassurance, platitudes

Professionals - Supporting the community since 1964



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

Call Natalie Potter at our Mooroolbark office on 9726 8888 today and book the FREE marquee for your next community event

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CHURCH NEWS



Every now and then my car needs a tune-up. The car runs more efficiently and burns cleaner. And the ride is far more pleasant.

Keeping your life properly tuned is a bit more complex, but it's quite do-able. Just as well! Because there's much in our culture that can throw a life out of tune. Take, for instance, that popular old chestnut: "Pray as if it all depends on God and work as if it all depends on you."

There is just one problem. It doesn't work.

Consider this: If everything depends on God, what would be the purpose or value of our thoughts and efforts? On the other hand, if everything depends on us, how can we succeed in the face of our inherent weakness, inadequacy, and shortcomings?

As people who know and acknowledge our weaknesses, let's have a shot at tuning the terminology to something relevant and practical for today,

How about: "Do everything knowing God loves you, stands beside you and will never forsake you."

Tuning is often just a tweak. But it makes all the difference. It's more than worth it. I'm no longer constantly frustrated and fearful. I'm more in harmony with God, there's less static and I don't blow as much smoke!

The unexpected bonus is a quantum leap in my grasp of the joy and the peace of mind and calm confidence, knowing that every step of the journey is safely in the care of the Master. The ride is indeed far more pleasant.

My car, unfortunately, despite the best efforts of General Motors, is only a dumb machine. It is therefore incapable of thoughts and emotions. But if it were, and if it were able to read what you've just read, I'm confident it would agree wholeheartedly, from its own equivalent experience.

So, friends...

Stay tuned!

Adapted from the article by Kerry Gubb, Christian Odyssey Jun-Aug 2010

FREE MEALS & the Opportunity to Meet NEW FRIENDS



Mitch & Dylan

Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship is pleased to announce the establishment of a new "Community Kitchen" to supplement the work that other local groups are doing in providing meals for the needy in our community.

To begin with, the meals will be provided on the first and third Fridays of each month, between 5.30 and 7.00 p.m. The venue is The Red Earth Room / Brice Avenue (near the Community Centre and just a short walk from the station). The meals on offer will consist of soup followed by a main course of pasta or hot beef rolls, etc. People of all ages who would be happy to receive a hearty meal whilst enjoying some good company to share stories and personal concerns are invited to attend and participate.

Who Knows – some helpful friendships may be generated, as well.

This program is the initiative of some of the younger members of our community – headed by Mitch and Dylan, (pictured). Volunteers to run this service will be drawn largely from our church community but any other individuals, local groups or schools who are willing to assist would be most welcome.

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT



All WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre
Wednesday Feb 2nd
"Furry Vengeance"

Commences at 7.30 p.m.
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.

New Ministerial Appointment at St Margaret's

On Sunday, Sept. 19th a large gathering of church members, friends and visitors welcomed Rev. Arnie Wierenga and his wife Ani to Mooroolbark.

On that day Arnie was inducted as the minister to St. Margaret's Uniting Church. It was a most pleasant occasion for all concerned.

Arnie and Ani both grew up near Hobart in Tasmania and got to know one another in the local Uniting Church youth group.

In his early adult life Arnie completed an apprenticeship with Telecom and was employed for the next 10 years as a technician working mainly on broadcast transmitters. He has some interesting tales to tell about working on huge transmission towers in some very remote areas and bleak conditions. In this job, amongst other things, he became proficient at driving a snow plough.

Arnie had always felt drawn towards church work but says he only began to take this calling seriously in his late 20's. This led to him completing an Arts Degree at the University of Tasmania, majoring in sociology and philosophy. He then went on to gain a Bachelor of Theology at Melbourne University.

His first appointment in ministry was at Oakleigh Uniting Church where he served for over eight years. St Margaret's is his second ministerial appointment.

Dr. Ani Wierenga is a Future Generation Research Fellow, based at the Australian Youth Research Centre of the University of

Melbourne. As a youth worker and then sociologist, Ani has been involved in the youth sector for over 20 years. Her research into the well-being and social participation of young people has led, amongst other things, to the publication of a book titled "Young People Making a Life". The book tracks the lives of a number of students - looking at the key factors and key people in their decision-making processes. It is used by many groups and departments in their research and work with young people.

Both Arnie and Ani are very much enjoying getting to know about Mooroolbark - its people and its history. They feel most warmly welcomed by the deeply faithful people at St. Margaret's and are looking forward to their future with them, in the years ahead.

The family of Churches in Mooroolbark welcomes the Reverend Arnie and Dr. Ani Wierenga to our local community and wishes them the very best in their ministry work.



MCF (Melbourne Christian Fellowship) CELEBRATION DAY

Matt & Kylee Bellingham

The weather bureau predicted gusty winds and prodigious rainfall. The media headlines declared the worst floods in 15 years were to descend. By all reports, Saturday September 4 was not shaping up as the best day for the Melbourne Christian Fellowship's Open Day! Yet a little rain was not going to halt our celebrations. After 10 years of on-going building projects, Melbourne Christian Fellowship was completing the construction of beautiful meeting areas, hospitality facilities, and a stunning new deck area. It really was something worth celebrating!

This first weekend in September marked the end of an old phase and the beginning of a new. A decade of fulfilling our original building plans came to completion due to the participation and offering from the MCF congregation, ably led by gifted builders and facilitators. Yet our weekend was less about the physical building than wanting to give thanks to God for His goodness and open up to our local community. So celebrate we did, with a community Open Day on Saturday Sept 4 followed by a thanksgiving communion service on Sunday September 5.

With music, food, fun and games, family and friends gathered. Kids happily chose from jumping castles, 'Minute to win it' games, amazing balloon animal creations and kite making activities. The Babycinos pre-school program and face painting were popular with the little ones. Meanwhile,

information tours of the buildings, displays from our art and craft groups and live music entertained mums and dads, grandmas and grandpas. Or they enjoyed the atmosphere with an espresso coffee on the new deck amongst the landscaped gardens. Yet the best was to come...lunch was on us! We feasted on generous spit roast, salads, sorbet and ice cream. Kids loved their specially-made lunch packs with sausages, cookies, popcorn, juice and icy poles. In short, lunch was delicious!

We were privileged to be joined by our local Manningham Councillor Meg Downie, and State Member for Evelyn Christine Fyffe who gave an entertaining speech and undertook the cutting of our ceremonial ribbon to officially open the new deck area!

So it's official, a new season commences! We look forward to continuing the way it began: with community, participation and a good dose of fun. You're most welcome to join us.

Melbourne Christian Fellowship meets every Sunday at 9:30am Communion Service and 11:15am Bible Study and Sunday School, at 70 Holloway Road, Wonga Park. All are welcome to attend, if you have any queries please call the church office on 9727 9755.

We thank every person that offered their time, skill, care and resources to planning and facilitating the activities and food for this day.





Angela on the house balcony overlooking the newly opened Hawthory Rd. Pool



The Flaminia



Early days at the optometrists



Robbie on Hawthory Rd



Cambridge Rd



Manchester Rd



House nears completion

I always wanted to work in a shop...

Angela Dolinsek - Mooroolbark's longest serving employee grew up in Slovenia and started work in a factory that spun wool. But, I'll let her tell the story...

I was spinning on a treadle, spinning the large bobbins. On the other side of the room they were knitting jumpers- all wool - and making dresses and suits.

Then, out of the blue, I met up with Joe and started to go out with him and eventually we decided that we would like to go to Germany, work there for 2 years and then come back to Slovenia.

It didn't quite work out like that, because when we arrived in Austria we couldn't go on to Germany because I was 4 months away from being 18. They wanted to send me back, although Joe, who was seven years older than me, was able to go to Germany hoping to join up with his brother.

Unable to find his brother, Joe came back to Austria and stayed with me and we

went into a camp for immigrants. We were allowed to stay because we were planning to be married.

The first camp we stayed in was Traiskirchen near Vienna. We were there for 2 or 3 months, because we had to be thoroughly checked out... they checked your teeth, your health and your background. You had to be clean as a whistle where your character is concerned, before they accepted you. Whilst at Traiskirchen, we worked in a big butcher shop. We had to pay our own way in the camp.

When they accepted us we moved from Traiskirchen to Salzburg, where Joe and I were married in 1960. And we stayed there another two and a half months.

In time plans took shape - rather than return to Slovenia, there were other options...

First we decided that we'd go to Canada and stay there, but in the end we

decided to go to Australia. I wanted to have more adventure, wanted to see the world, but I didn't think that we'd stay so long in one place! I was always thinking that I'm going to go back home, because I left all my family there and my Mum and Dad...

In November 1960 we boarded an Italian ship - "Flaminia"¹ - in Trieste and the voyage took about a month to get to Australia.

We didn't pay for our fares, but I recall contributing some of our weekly earnings towards the cost of immigrating.

Our first view of Australia was the port of Fremantle and then Melbourne where they put us on a train and took us to Bonegilla². We had Christmas there. My husband loved it! I was pregnant, and found the

¹ <http://www.ssmaritime.com/flaminia.htm>

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bonegilla_Migrant_Reception_and_Training_Centre

heat difficult. We weren't there very long, because in January we went to Unanderra Hostel³ and Joe got a job in Port Kembla.

Later, he had an offer to go to a farm in Queensland, where Joe would work as a farmhand looking after the sheep, horses and cows. He loves the country, but we didn't last more than a week. The heat up there was just too much.

And the accommodation didn't agree with our six-month old baby son, Robbie. It was the first time he'd been sick. We slept in a shed where the shearers stayed. Kerosene lamps, kerosene fridge - it just wasn't designed for a family. The nights were so cold. There were no blankets and I didn't have a baby blanket! There were no bed sheets...

We'd assumed things would be like Unanderra, where you'd go to the office and get everything you needed - and the money would be deducted from Joe's wages to pay for the cost of our food and accommodation... so I said to Joe: 'This is not for me!'

When the family arrived in Melbourne, Joe worked for thirteen years at the Government Aircraft Factory at Fishermans Bend⁴ before working locally.

Angela worked at the Royal Women's Hospital for a year, but when the family moved to Mooroolbark in 1963 she worked at Johnson's Pottery for two and a half years.

When Robbie went to school, I stayed home to take him to school, and I was looking for a part-time job. One day I mentioned this to one of the girls at the chemist and a couple of weeks later, they offered me a job.

Until he sold the chemist shop, Mr Bray employed me on a part time basis for about two and a half years.

When Mr Bray sold the chemist shop, he started a new business in optometry - he was both a chemist and an optometrist. He was helpful to a lot of people in Mooroolbark. Sometimes if they couldn't afford something, he would say, 'Just take it', and he'd let them have it.

At first his daughter helped out with the new business, but, in 1972, I started working three days a week, which I did for fifteen years, before transitioning to full-time work. I resumed part-time work in 2005.

My first job was buying frames. And then later I did the bookwork. I've worked here in Mooroolbark for close to 41 years, continuing as the business changed hands⁵.

For a time a chiroprapist worked out of the same premises in Brice Avenue, and Angela recalls an amusing mix-up one day when a bewildered client wondered why they needed their feet soaked prior to an eye examination...

I asked Angela why the family had moved to Mooroolbark in 1963.

We lived in the city and we always wanted a house or a place of our own. One

day Joe saw an advertisement for land for sale in Mooroolbark. He and a friend who had come to Australia with us on the "Flaminia" went to have a look.

And we liked it, because the Dandenongs remind us a little of Europe. We decided to buy. The land cost £720 pounds, which in 1963 was a lot of money. At that time, Joe was earning about £15; I was earning about £10 per week.

So we employed a builder to build a place, and he built it without permission so we had to pull it down but somehow we managed to take the material from our block to our neighbour's block and my husband took 3 months off so we could rebuild.

We always liked Mooroolbark. I liked the open space. I felt free. It felt good! There were things you had to put up with - a muddy road. Going to work in the city, you'd have to change your shoes at the station and leave them there until the evening, when you'd change them again. But I was young and didn't let it worry me. I just accepted it. I never expected anything more. We worked hard together and built the house. We did the framing, flooring, put the roof up ourselves and I helped Joe put the tiles on the roof. We had tradesmen install the electrical wiring, plumbing, steps and do the brickwork.

We laid the foundations in 1964 and it took us 3 years before we were able to move in. In the meantime, we lived with the friend next door. At first we moved into the basement. I had a kerosene cooker and we had the power on. So we lived downstairs in two rooms. We lived there whilst we worked on the rest of the house upstairs.

At that time, there were not many neighbours. In our street there were only four houses.

I remember in the early years we had milk and bread delivered, and also cases of soft drinks. Three months after Nancarrow's⁶ opened in Manchester Road, the lady who had a smaller grocery shop in Brice Avenue had to close. Everyone had started shopping at Nancarrow's, and then, when Coles was built in later years, Nancarrow's eventually shut its doors. Clive Peeters was also in Mooroolbark before shifting to Ringwood.

We've always enjoyed Mooroolbark - the garden we started in 1964, our friends, neighbours, and our grandchildren when they were small. One year I brought them down for the Red Earth Parade. It was so hot that I took them into the shop and had my granddaughter on a chair watching the Parade as it went through the town and then I took them out at night for the fireworks.

I was just happy. I like music. I love Johnny O'Keefe, Slovenian music and country and western. We liked watching Bobby Limb and Sunny Side Up on TV, along with Showcase. We liked the presentation.

I love the sunshine. I just love life.

Robbie went to Mooroolbark Primary school, at Fiveways, before going to

Pembroke High. From there he went to Black and Decker - and later to Mitcham to work as a power tool repairman. He married in 1984 and he and his wife had 3 children, who are all grown up and working.

This past April delivered tragic news for the family, when son Robbie died from an undiagnosed heart condition. John Schubert writes:

In the dark days that followed, the Dolinseks were overwhelmed with kindness and understanding - not only from their family members and friends - but also from local people who sent cards and flowers or who stopped for a quiet word. Included amongst these were many optometry patients who were grateful for Angela's assistance with their glasses over the years, as well as local business people and neighbours.

Angela and Joe want to thank all who have shared their grief over the past several months. Angela says she hasn't been able to thank everyone personally but they will never forget the kindness of so many.

I know that Angela particularly appreciates the understanding kindness of her employers - Glenda and John Schubert - at the optometrist shop where she continues to work. She considers them to be like 'family'.

Angela has achieved the distinction of being the longest serving employee in Mooroolbark. She's aware that others - Geoff Earney for one - are breathing down her neck. At the rate she's going, it looks as though she'll add a year or two more to her almost forty-one 'not out', as she and Joe continue to enjoy living in Mooroolbark:

We've never had it in our plans that we would ever move out. Joe and I would like to stay where we are if our health permits. The swimming pool is not far for me, there's the park, there's a little steam train, and you can watch the children having a ride. From my kitchen window I can see the Dandenongs and at nighttime the lights are just beautiful.

Mooroolbark is a small community. It's a peaceful area for bringing up children. We have good schools. The central business area is good. There are medical centres and so many good services. And I enjoy being able to help out with the Mooroolbark Theatre Group.

I love being here. I love this area. This is my home!

For someone who wasn't planning to stay in the one place for very long, thankyou, Angela for helping so many of us for so many years!

In fact, I must take these glasses down to her for some adjustments!

Randall Bouchier



3 <http://www.migrantweb.com/unanderrahostel/>

4 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_Aircraft_Factories

5 The Mooroolbark Optometry business is currently owned by Glenda and John Schubert

6 <http://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM01450b.htm>

AWARENESS DRIVER EDUCATION

..... DRINK /DRIVE PROGRAMS

For more information related to this article or to find out about up-coming Driver Awareness Programs - readers are invited to contact Peter Reid on Tel. 9654 3321.



Peter Reid gets pretty “fired up” when he talks about alcohol as our number one drug killer. He explains that for drivers up to 30 years of age, 60% of deaths from motor accidents involve alcohol. For all age groups the figure is 23% of all deaths. He reports that in the area bounded by Healesville / Lilydale & Warburton, typically one in forty breath-tested drivers under 26 years of age is found to be over .05.

As Peter says “We all know that it is a very exciting time for young people – getting a licence and gaining that independence and life-style they are seeking. But, sadly, the fun is often short-lived due to accidents or conviction for drink-driving. The ramifications of all that follows –death or injuries, loss of licence, loss of independence – perhaps loss of job as well - are a heavy price to pay . Peer pressure is often a significant factor in making wrong choices which can have such a powerful impact on people’s lives.”

Peter has lived in the Croydon-Mooroolbark area for 25 years. In his earlier years he worked as a psychological nurse before becoming involved in “Detox” programs at various hospitals . Working to help alleviate the impact of drink-driving is now his passion. Since those early years Peter has gained a B.A. in nursing and a graduate Diploma in Alcohol and Drug Dependency. For the past 20 years he has been involved in presenting

Drink- Driver Programs under the auspices of Awareness Drug Education. Participants in these programs are primarily those who are required by the courts to complete the course in order to regain their driving licences after alcohol offences. The program is run over 2 x 4 hour sessions and is offered in 20 locations around Melbourne.

It covers such matters as

- Drink driving Laws and penalties
- How alcohol affects driving skills
- How to estimate blood/alcohol content
- Safe patterns of drinking
- How alcohol is metabolized in the body
- Different effects on women
- Preparing for Court
- Strategies to avoid re-offending.

Peter is keen to make the point that **planned prevention** is so much better than learning the hard way.

As he says, “We have very clear laws on alcohol limits but not enough is done to help young drivers learn how to keep within those limits.” As part of the solution.....

1 In each of the courses that Peter runs he provides two places for people who want to voluntarily sit on the program to help avoid future problems.

2 He is a strong advocate of a/ drink- drive courses being made a part of the senior secondary school curriculum and b/ similar courses also being made a mandatory pre-requisite for gaining

a licence.

3 Peter strongly recommends that younger drivers invest in a reliable breathalyzer unit and learn to monitor their own actions – avoiding costly mistakes.

4 Peter also points out that another deterrent would be a greater public awareness of the severity of drink/drive penalties that apply. He cites these details:-

- **A first offence can mean a fine of up to \$1,200 and many months of loss of licence – depending on the blood alcohol reading.**
- **A second offence doubles the time of loss of licence with fines up to \$6,000 and a possible 12 months gaol sentence.**
- **A third offence may lead to cancellation of a licence for a maximum of 5 years, up to 18 months gaol and fines of up to \$20,000**

One note of good news that Peter refers to is the fact that in the 1970’s we had approximately 1,000 fatalities per year on Victorian roads. Today, despite the increase of population and many more cars on the road, the annual toll is now in the 300’s. Many factors have influenced this change but a closely related statistic is that in the 90’s there were 9,000 – 11,000 convictions in Victoria each year. This figure now exceeds 50,000 per year - due mainly to the wide use of electronic equipment to apprehend offenders.

Doug Lewis

**Celebrate
MOOROOLBARK**



Be sure to mark the date on your calendar –

Saturday March 26th 2011

Come and join in our celebration !!!

Celebrate Mooroolbark will take place on this day with the theme **Aussie Heroes**. We are looking for additional schools, community and sporting groups to get involved . We will have all the usual activities and events in place - and a few surprises.

The parade needs extra participants; the competitions need further entries and the marketplace need additional stalls and stands. We have already begun the process of contacting potential participants but our lists are not complete. If we have not been in touch with you to date, please contact us on celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com and we will get information out to you.

We are also looking for additional local acts/ performances for the stage programme. This is the main Mooroolbark gathering for the year and is an opportunity for us all to get together and celebrate our great neighbourhood and community.

Andrew Lang.
Festival Chairman

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

<http://mooroolbark.org.au>

**“Let us know how we can help your organization to
publicise itself more effectively on this site.”**



A Special Day at Mooroolbark Station

Steam-train Rides

Things were 'really buzzing' at Mooroolbark station on Sunday September 19th. Despite the overcast and rainy conditions, between 2,500 and 3,000 local residents, family groups and steam-train buffs moved through the station precinct. Most were there to participate in the "Steamrail Victoria" shuttle between Mooroolbark and Mitcham. At several stages, the platform was packed as large numbers of enthusiasts waited for the next trip. For many who boarded at Mooroolbark, it was standing room only on the first stage of the journey as passengers from Mitcham made their return trip. This did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm in any way at all.

Train Stations as Community Hubs

Visitors to the station on that day, also had the opportunity to view a display of the proposed improvements and additions to our station precinct under the "Train Stations as Community Hubs" pilot project. This is

a project funded by the Department of Transport.

Members of our local Train Station Consultative Committee were present to explain the project plans and to answer questions about it. Mooroolbark Lions Club, who have committed to on-going support of our station developments were on hand with a free sausage sizzle. Over 600 people took advantage of this generous offer. For many it helped make the matter of lining up for tickets for the steam train rides all the more pleasant.

Draft Structure Plan for the Mooroolbark Activity Centre.

On the day, residents also had the opportunity to view the Draft Structure Plan for the Mooroolbark Activity Centre. Council staff were on hand to explain the plan, to answer questions and to accept suggestions. More details on this plan are outlined on the accompanying article on this page.



Mooroolbark Activity Centre Structure Plan

Council has prepared a Structure Plan to guide future land use and development in the Mooroolbark Activity Centre. ***The activity centre comprises the shops and other businesses centred around Brice Avenue and the railway station, as well as the surrounding residential neighbourhoods that are generally within walking distance of the town centre.***

The Structure Plan has been informed by feedback gained through an extensive community consultation process. Council has also engaged specialist consultants to provide input on a range of key issues including

traffic management and economic and social impacts.

The mix of businesses and community facilities in Mooroolbark, together with its location on the metropolitan rail network, are expected to attract strong pressures for more development in the activity centre. The Structure Plan is intended to help Council to manage these development pressures in a way that makes Mooroolbark a better place with more of a village feel.

The Structure Plan analyses key issues affecting the activity centre and identifies

a vision for creating a vibrant and visually interesting urban village. It includes strategies and design guidelines for managing future development to achieve this vision, providing opportunities for more diverse types of housing and mixed use development, the creation of pedestrian and bicycle networks, and a more connected community.

A copy of the Structure Plan can be viewed at Council's Community Link in Anderson Street, Lilydale or you can download a copy of the report from Council's website (www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mooroolbarkstructureplan).

Graham Bower
(EO Strategic Planning)



Community Events Calendar

First Sun. of each Mth	Farmers Market. "Bellbird Park". Swansea Road, next to Lilydale Lake. Combined Rotary Clubs. All proceeds to local and O/seas projects. Contact Bill Sutherland. 9727 0037
Friday nights during school Term	Fridays@Kids Domain. Activities for primary school age kids. 4-6 p.m. Oxley College Stadium. Details – Tel 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au
Dec 6th	Taste of Speaker Series. Presents author Allan Campion. Montrose Town Centre 12 Noon Tickets \$15. (Includes light lunch) Tel. 9761 9133
Dec 12th	Combined Churches Christmas Carols Service. 7 p.m. Life Ministry Centre. Old Melbourne Road. Chirside Park. Featuring "Three Men and a Baby" Christmas production. Event is free!
Dec 17th – Jan 10th	Mooroolbark Community Centre. Closed over Christmas period.
Dec 25th	Christmas Day Service. Life Ministry Centre. Old Melbourne Road, Chirside Park 10 a.m.
Jan. 11th – 12th	Red Cross Blood Bank Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings - Tel 13 14 95
Feb 1st	Term 1 Art/craft classes commence. Mooroolbark Community Centre. For Course information, go to www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc
Feb 2nd	Free !!! Family Film Night. "Furry Vengeance" Contact Mooroolbark Community Centre for bookings Tel. 9726 5488. Starts 7.30 p.m. All welcome
Feb 17th	Mooroolbark Theatre Group. AGM. Followed by a reading of the next play. MTG welcomes new members in all areas of theatre-craft – technicians, crew and actors – no previous experience needed
Feb 24th	Mooroolbark Theatre Group Auditions for the next play. (to be performed June 2011). For further details visit http://tinyurl.com/7u4fn or Tel Arline on 9726 4282
Feb 26th	Expressive Water-colour Workshop with Kaytie Wood. Mooroolbark Community Centre Tel 9726 5488
Feb 26th	Montrose Concert Series presents Barry Morgan's World of Organs (musical comedy) 8 p.m. Tickets \$30 / \$24. /\$18. Montrose Town Centre. Subscriptions available. Tel. 9761 9133

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 Tel. 9761 1121 or lewisdm@bigpond.net.au
Note - Living Today is distributed quarterly – In the first week of March, June, September and December. Calendar entries need to be lodged one month prior to the distribution date.

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

Production

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark is produced by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, assisted by 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 tel. number or by email (as above)

MISSION STATEMENT

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

We seek to achieve this by:

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

ADVERTISING POLICY

Living Today does not publish direct advertising. We do, however, greatly appreciate the valuable contributions made by those who partner with us in serving our local community through this magazine. We acknowledge those partners in each issue.

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in Mooroolbark.

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