

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO. 35 MARCH 2011

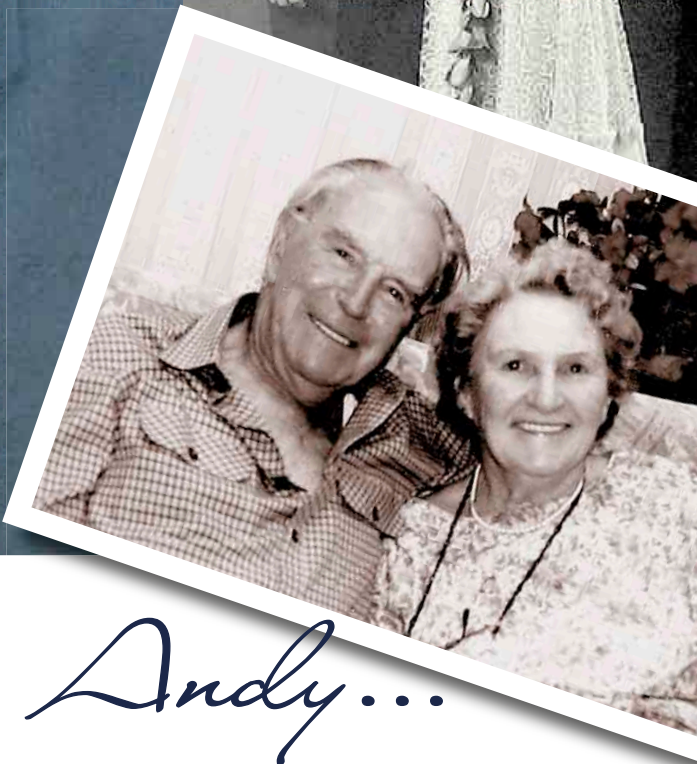
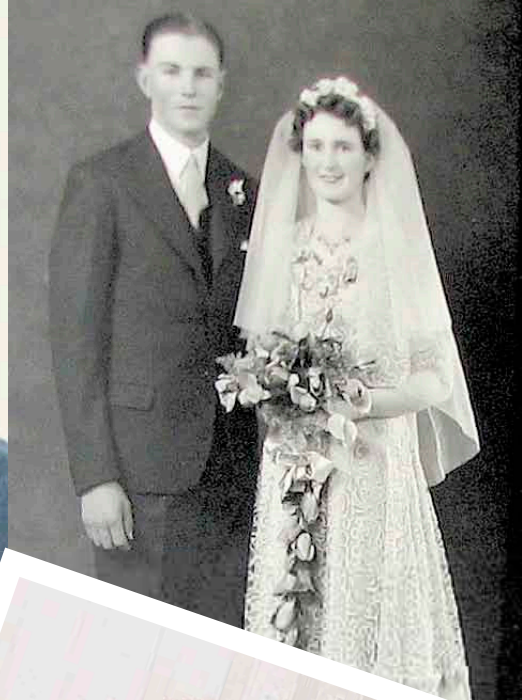


**Don't miss out this year!
Join the crowd at ...
Your local community
festival**

celebrate
mooroolbark
inc.

• **Saturday March 26th**
• **Talent Quest, Friday March 25th**
• program details, page 4

11,500 Free Copies Distributed Throughout Mooroolbark & District



Tell us some more, Andy...

Some readers may recall a short article about former station master and Mooroolbark resident Andy Bell in the December 2004 edition of *Living Today*.

Now aged 93, Andy and his wife Vera celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in 2010. We've asked Andy to tell us some more about his full life, which is also rich with stories about the history of Mooroolbark.

Early life

Andy was born at Yarra Glen on November 1st, 1917. He recalls, "We had a big family. Dad's first wife died, and dad (with his six or seven children) remarried a widow with one son. He and Mum had ten children altogether. Dad was a blacksmith in Yarra Glen all his life. He used to make a set of four horseshoes for draught horses and put them on for 9 shillings (now it would be about \$85). During the Depression it was pretty hard to get the 9 shillings from the owner of the horses, so he rented a small farm and we'd milk about 10 or 12 cows to keep us going."

Andy was educated at Yarra Glen Primary School before starting work in the western

district. "When I was 15," Andy commented, "my brother and I worked on a farm out of Camperdown, at place called Mt. Noorat. It was the middle of the Depression. Three of us milked up to 80 cows. We also trimmed the boxthorn hedges that had grown unchecked for years. That job lasted nine months, and then we went to work for the farmer's uncle for the same rates and conditions. The pay was good. We got £9 a month between us. That kept us in tucker."

"When I came back to the city looking for a job in the Depression, it was pretty tough. You'd see a job advertised at 4 o'clock in the morning, go after it and when you'd get there, there'd be 20 or 30 adults there as well as the kids that were after it. After a brief stint with the Australian National Fur and Skin Company at the top of Elizabeth Street, I was fortunate enough to get a job in the railways. If you were lucky enough to get into the railways, you were made. Even to get a job sweeping the floors you needed four or five references. It was a big pay rise going from £9 a month between two of us to an individual wage of 4s. 2d. a day – 45 shillings a week."

Vera, the war and Mooroolbark

"So, I started in 1934 when I was 16 and had 43 years in Vic Rail before retiring on my 60th birthday."

Andy remembers, "I met Vera when I was working on the railways. My boss at Taronga introduced us. Her family came out from England when she was seven, and she was raised on a farm in Mount Waverley. They had cows, and Vera had to make sure they didn't get into the cauliflowers."

"We went out for four years and married in 1940 in the Methodist Church in Mt Waverley. The minister was away. He suggested we use the church but get another minister. We looked around and found a Presbyterian minister at Glen Iris. The best man and I had to pick him up on the day of the wedding as he was short of petrol."

"I was planning to go into the army," continued Andy. "Vera wanted to get married before I went. After our honeymoon in the Blue Mountains I enlisted at South Melbourne. Because there were so many enlisting, there were not enough camps. Because I couldn't

go straight into the army, I went back to the railways. They sent me out to Coburg for a day while they decided what to do with me – and then they told me to go out to Mooroolbark. It was a married man's job with a house."

"We had no money, no furniture and you wouldn't have put a dog in the house! It had three water taps out in the yard. The kitchen was detached from the house and the bathroom was a tin bath on a dirt floor. I told them if they made it suitable to live in I'd move in, which we did, in 1940."

"There were just the two of us. Now we have 50 in our family! Four sons, four daughters, eighteen grandchildren, and so many great grandchildren – and just before our 70th anniversary our first great-great grandchild arrived."

Returning to memories of those early years, Andy continued, "So instead of going to Singapore I was sent to Mooroolbark. I guess I was lucky. Many of my friends ended up in Changi. Later on the railways were declared an essential service, so I didn't get to go. I often felt I should and I always regretted that I didn't serve my country, but that was the way it was."

"We spent 21 years in Mooroolbark in that old house, and knocked back several promotions. Every three years I could have gone up another promotion grade to a higher station, but of course the kids were all at school, and in the tennis club and the cricket club, and everything else and we kept knocking back the promotions. By 1961 things had changed. Station masters in the bush were satisfied to stay in the bush rather than come to Melbourne. I accepted a promotion to Auburn but continued to live in Mooroolbark. All up, I had 21 years in Mooroolbark, seven in Auburn, and ten more in Mooroolbark from 1968."

Andy recalled that there wasn't much rail traffic in Mooroolbark in the early years. "The first train was a two-car train between Lilydale and Croydon," he commented. "It used to run backwards and forwards. The first train left at 6:45, the next 7:26, then the 8:03 was a through train, a seven-car train where you didn't have to change at Croydon. Then there were no more trains until the Healesville to Warburton trains crossed, before a train at 11:00, another at 12:21 (from Healesville) and nothing more until four."

"Later on, things got busier. Mooroolbark was the first country station, and as you couldn't send goods and parcels from a suburban station, people from Box Hill and the fruit growers at Mitcham and Donvale, all had to bring their goods here to send off. We even had tank makers sending off their product from here."

Family life in Mooroolbark – '40s and '50s...

Andy remembers the Mooroolbark of sixty or seventy years ago: "The place was all right. Nice people, when you look back. There was only one person who was able to ride to the station in an old T-model Ford. It was just push bikes or walking through the paddocks. I can tell you now how many people there were, and which train they'd catch.

"It wasn't a bad place to raise kids. I rented a paddock opposite the railway house for 2 shillings a week and kept a cow there for 20 years. The kids were all raised on good jersey milk, butter and cream for every meal. And their first school was Mooroolbark Primary at Fiveways. Mr Hookey was the principal. He asked if our youngest child – who was four and a half – could start school to help bump up numbers."

"I think I served on the school council for 14 years. At that time Mooroolbark started to grow. The teacher would be up the street on the phone to the Department asking for extra classrooms – and by the time you got what you asked for, you'd need another one! That school went from 32 at the start to six or seven hundred."

"It was a good life. The kids had a good time here. They all kept out of trouble. You could have a good dance and get up a good thirst, and go out to your car and have a couple of bottles of beer and have no trouble. There was a chap called Charlie who owned a property up the hill, where the tennis club is now. He used to play the violin and his son-in-law played the squeezebox. I remember that one time Charlie stopped playing and asked: 'What are you playing, Alf?'"

"In a small place like this, everyone was like one family. You had to be in everything to enjoy life here; otherwise you'd be on your own."

Andy was also involved in the sporting community back then. "I played cricket for 21 years here as a bowler," he said. "There was tennis at Mooroolbark, bowls at Mooroolbark, golf at Croydon. I wasn't a star but I enjoyed it! We all had our ups and downs. There were none of our own kids that didn't have a broken bone some place or other from a bike fall or cricketing accident. But they all finished up in the right way."

And the bread wars?

Life was not without its inconveniences. Andy remembers a time he calls the 'bread wars': "To save manpower during the war, the government didn't want to have two bakers in one particular area, so bakers were zoned. After the war, when the zoning was officially finished, bakers were supposed to be able to go where they wanted."

"Well, at that time, Mooroolbark used to get bread from Lilydale twice a week in the

backseat of an old Dodge Tourer. When Rex Wyatt built a milk bar, he decided that people needed better than that – so he stocked bread from Croydon. One day the fellow from Lilydale pulled up outside in the old Tourer and said: 'That's it, you've had it!' Next minute the baker from Croydon rang up saying: 'I'm sorry, I'm not allowed to sell you any more bread – the Master Bakers threatened to cut off flour supplies if I continue to sell bread to Mooroolbark.'

"Rex wasn't going to put up with that. He had a little Prefect utility, and said to me: 'They won't serve me but if you go in and get a couple dozen loaves of bread, we'll do it that way.'"

We had a *Herald Sun* journalist living in the Bickleigh Vale area and he said that would make a good leading article in the *Herald*. Well, week after week the article never appeared. Rex and I decided to go and see the editor. We went in and were told he was unavailable, but might be back during the afternoon. We filled in a couple of hours and went again in the afternoon, only to be told that he didn't want to see us."

"So we went to the *Truth*. They devoted a front page instead!"

"As it turned out, we were able to get bread from a big baker somewhere in Surrey Hills, who wouldn't be stood over by the Master Bakers Association – and, not to be outdone, the Lilydale baker stocked bread in the old general store opposite the railway house."

"That was the bread wars! We won the war, too. We ended up with a choice between Surrey Hills bread or Lilydale bread!"

Once again, I'm appreciative of Andy's time and recollections. As a final question, I asked Andy what made for a happy life in the community, and in marriage:

"You have to be in it to win it – to enjoy life," Andy answered. "People would do well to get out of their homes and get involved in the community, not just travel to work and back and then keep to themselves".

And a recipe for a long and happy life together? "You've got to love each other and not be disrespectful. Be patient. Be faithful."



Randall Bouchier



- March 25th – The Mooroolbark Talent Quest
- March 26th – A free Family Festival

Red Earth Reserve & Mooroolbark Community Centre,
Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark

Things are now shaping up for Mooroolbark's very own family festival scheduled for the end of March. As usual, there will be much to do and much to see at this fun-packed event in the heart of Mooroolbark. All we need is the crowd of people wanting to enjoy themselves and have a great day out.

The festival will spread out from the Mooroolbark Community Centre across the Red Earth reserve with a variety of activities to keep all ages entertained. Food and drink available on the day will range from the Lions BBQ sausages, hamburgers, Devonshire teas, pancakes and vintage ice cream and everything in between. There will be the usual community market with a variety of produce and products on hand as well as community groups with information booths. There will be rides, an animal farm, the scout bridge, ice-blocking and other activities for the kids. There will also be a puppet theatre to entertain the kids.

The festival kicks off on the Friday night (March 25) with the Mooroolbark Talent Quest at the Mooroolbark Community Centre at 7:30pm. You can be part of the audience for only \$5. It is a great night out and supports our local talent. Winners will appear on the community stage the next day. The Saturday stage programme is packed with a variety of acts throughout the day. We have already confirmed Ghawazee Charm Belly Dancers, Fenix Fitness Centre, Salvation Army Band

& Croydon Brass Band, Beat 87, and the Hahka Chin Band. And there are still more acts to come. Around the grounds, do not be surprised to encounter a variety of interesting and unusual characters. Tubby the Robot is coming again and there will be much more, making it a great day for all.

On Saturday, the festival starts on-site with an eccumenical church gathering at 9:30am. Our street parade will be leaving Hookey Park at around 10:15. Participants from local schools, bands and community groups will march to the festival. Keep an eye out for the marchers and give them a wave and a cheer. When the parade arrives, they will be welcomed by our New Mayor, Cr Terry Avery, who will then declare the festival open.

On the Saturday there is a Monster Door Prize. Entry forms are being delivered to houses in Mooroolbark and the surrounding areas. Entry is free and in person, so when you come along, drop it in the barrel at the information booth and have the chance to win \$500 of vouchers from local businesses.

Celebrate Mooroolbark offers something for everyone in a fun-filled festival. Walk, cycle or catch public transport there between 9:30am and 4:00pm to join in the festival. Car parking will be limited. The only danger is that you may just enjoy yourself too much.

Andrew Lang
Celebrate Mooroolbark



For more information on Celebrate Mooroolbark visit the website:
<http://celebratemooroolbark.com>

Please note: Station Street and Brice Ave. will be closed for 1 hour from 10:00am on Saturday 26th March to allow the parade to reach the Red Earth Community Park. We thank you for your patience and hope that you enjoy the parade.

Premier Sponsor



Major Sponsor



We Serve



Significant Sponsor



Mooroolbark Terrace MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH CENTRE



Kathy Ralph & Heather West

Many young mums will know Heather West and Kathy Ralph very well. They are co-workers at our local Maternal and Child Health Centre on the west side of the Terrace, in Brice Avenue.

Heather explains that all M & CH nurses are registered, general nurses who are trained in midwifery and are post graduates in Community Health or Maternal and Child Health. Heather is a post graduate in Community Health and Kathy has gained a masters degree in Maternal and Child Health.

The M & CH Service supports families in the areas of parenting, health and development, well-being and safety, special support referrals and in linking with local communities.

That support includes ten free consultations at '*designated key ages and stages*'. At each of these consultations, parents are given the opportunity to discuss any concerns, talk about parenting experiences and consider options for their child's on-going health, growth and development.

A special aspect of the service provided in Mooroolbark is a response to the recent increase in the number of Burmese families in our local area. A special Burmese group has been established. This group operates on the first Monday of each month from 1:30 - 3:00pm. At each meeting, an interpreter is present to help with weighing and measuring, to answer any questions and to provide information about other local community services such as kindergartens, library, community centre, etc.

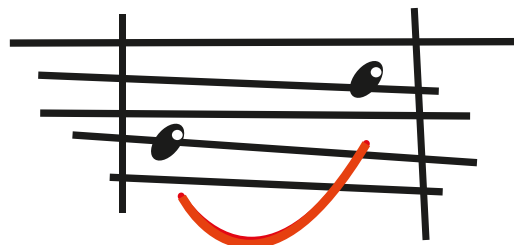
Heather has worked in the M & CH field for over 30 years – often part-time. She previously had experience in midwifery and delivery suite work. Married, with two daughters, she has lived in Mooroolbark for 24 years. Over that time she has seen many positive changes. She remarked on the recent improvements to the Brice Ave 'streetscape'.

Kathy has worked in M & CH for just four years. Previously she had 20 years experience in midwifery at Knox Private Hospital. Also married, with two daughters, she has lived in the local area for 31 years. Her two married daughters also live locally.

Both Heather and Kathy speak of the privilege it is to work in this field and the enjoyment they receive from the 'helping' work they do. Kathy said 'It is just lovely to meet with young families and to have some input into their journey of parenthood.'

They both see their role as that of helping to make that journey a little easier and more rewarding for all concerned. They point out that a significant part of their role is that of sharing real concerns, offering a sympathetic ear where needed and affirming and confirming the positive impact that parents are having.

We thank them both for their very obvious dedication to their special role in serving our community.



Simply MusicTM

Simply Music is a revolutionary, Australian-developed piano and keyboard program that aims to create a culture where people of all ages can easily and readily acquire and maintain *playing music* as a lifelong companion. This unique program is taught in many areas throughout Australia, USA, Canada and New Zealand.

The Simply Music method delays the reading of music and focuses on the sheer fun and pleasure of playing. It enables children, teens, and adults, including seniors, to be playing great-sounding music, from contemporary to gospel, jazz or classical – right from the very first lesson.



David Bremner

The Simply Music website points out that the 'hands-on' nature of the program and the immediate results that are produced have the effect of encouraging students to realise that learning to play does not necessarily involve endless practice sessions with scales and drills.

It also states that within months, students typically build a broad playlist that includes different genres of music and that they also learn to read, improvise, compose and arrange music, using the same 'learn by doing' method.

David Bremner is a local pianist and piano teacher who applies the Simply Music method. He says, "I learnt to play piano as a child and have always enjoyed playing for others. Over the years I have played in concerts and at many functions. Now, teaching music has given me even greater opportunity to share my passion for music and for helping others to develop their musical ability."

David began his working life as an architectural draughtsman – working for A.V.Jennings Homes for 18 years. He left that job to join with his wife, Ruth (a retired nurse) in managing a Croydon facility for people in need. At that time, their younger son, Paul, began learning music – using the Simply Music method. David says, "I was so amazed at his progress and at the quantity and quality of the music he was able to play in such a short period of time that I was convinced that this was the way forward for me!"

David underwent training in 1998 and was accredited to teach the Simply Music program in February 1999.

Since then he has taught students of all ages (4-74 years). He teaches in a number of schools — taking both groups and individual students and from his home studio during afternoons and evenings.

David and Ruth, and sons Luke and Paul are all involved in music in various ways. They moved to Mooroolbark 11 years ago and enjoy being a part of this community.

For more information, please check out the Simply Music website listed below, or phone David to discuss any questions or to enroll in lessons.

David Bremner.

Ph. 9726 6481 Mob. 0400 065 788

Email david-piano@hotmail.com.

Web: simplymusic.com



Dr. Nicole Moore has 21 years experience in the field of chiropractic. In the early part of her career she worked in partnership with others, participated in locum work and taught at her subject at RMIT. In 2005 she established her Optimal Wellness Chiropractic centre in Brice Avenue Mooroolbark.

Nicole lives in Croydon with husband Patrick and teenage sons Andrew and Jason. When asked why she chose Mooroolbark to establish her business, Nicole explained that in considering a number of areas she was impressed with the village-like feel of Mooroolbark and the Brice Avenue shopping/business strip. After 6 years in business here, she is convinced that she made the correct decision. The business is going very well and she is enjoying being a part of our local community.

Nicole makes the following comments about chiropractic:

"Chiropractors lead the way in providing safe, effective and drug-free ways to maximize a person's overall health and wellbeing. Our primary focus is on the spine and nervous system and the relationship this has to good function and good health. Chiropractic procedures are uniquely different, but complementary to the work of medical doctors and physiotherapists."

"The objective of chiropractic is to locate and correct nerve interference

or nerve stress. Gentle adjustments of the vertebrae help to unlock any communication breakdown between the brain and the organs, muscles, tissues and cells."

"Chiropractors do not cure or treat any form of health problem or disease. They seek to assist the release of stress held in the spine and nerve system by correcting nerve interference. This allows the body to repair and express its innate health potential."

"All people can benefit from chiropractic care. At Optimal Wellness Chiropractic we regularly take care of families, babies and children, sports people (professional, amateur and 'weekend warriors') and pregnant women. Everyone is different, which is why we do not provide a 'one size fits all' approach. At OWC, extensive testing is provided and we recommend and provide care based on each individual's unique presenting condition".

Nicole says, "I love what I do and am doing what I love". Chiropractic certainly fills her life.

Throughout the year, Nicole and her two highly-valued chiropractic assistants/receptionists, Evelyn and Michelle, keep up to date with new developments by attending various seminars all around Australia.

Nicole is also involved with an organisation known as "Chiro Mission" which is dedicated to taking



Nicole, Evelyn and Michelle

chiropractic into third world countries. This affiliation has seen her travelling with other professionals into such places as Panama and the Dominican Republic — providing service and awareness, practical help in the form of clothing and personal needs and raising funds for local charity work. She also actively supports a number of local organisations in Mooroolbark. This year, a large number of Christmas gifts for needy children were collected and distributed through the Salvos. These were collected on a special OWC day when clients were asked to donate a toy instead of paying their usual fee.

We wish Nicole and her team every on-going success in the work they are doing and thank them for the service provided to our community.

Ph: 9726 0098

Email: owc@bigpond.net.au

Web: www.owc.net.au

Doug Lewis



Natasha and Rachael

Hair Health Beauty and Supplies

Shop 1 'The Terrace' (Facing on to Brice Ave) Ph. 9727 0502

Rachael Morris's experience in the beauty industry began when she was employed as a sales representative for a distributor — selling a wide range of personal care products

to various beauty parlors, retail outlets and to the general public in the eastern suburbs. She says that the extensive product knowledge and the experience gained during her six years in that role has been invaluable in her work in the industry over more than 30 years.

She established her current business, 'Hair Health Beauty and Supplies,' four years ago at shop 15 in the Terrace. Late last year, when the opportunity presented, she moved to shop 1 in the Terrace - giving her much more exposure to passing traffic. She has found this to be a most beneficial move.

Rachael's salon provides a wide range of hair and beauty services. Her highly-valued assistant, Natasha Barr, is a make-up artist who provides a professional service in debutante and wedding make-up, false eye-lashes, human hair extensions, etc. She also specializes in dreadlocks, tinting and facial waxing. Rachael's daughter, Leah, has

now commenced assisting in the shop as well.

The secondary aspect of the business is the provision of a wide range of personal care and beauty products for purchase by Rachael's customers. The items on offer extend from budget priced items to top of the range products — in all areas of personal care. This is where Rachael's experience proves so valuable, as many customers very much appreciate her expert advice on the best products for their particular needs. Also provided are electrical items such as blow-dryers, curling wands and hair straighteners.

In addition to providing these services for her salon clients, Rachael also sells products such as hair colours, bleaches and perm solutions to other salons, home and mobile hair-dressers — and offers a range of furniture and equipment for anyone wishing to establish a new salon.

Rachael and Natasha both speak of the enjoyment they receive from working in the Mooroolbark area. They have developed many friendships and very much enjoy the way customers often pop in just for a coffee and a chat. Their clients are drawn from Mooroolbark and many surrounding suburbs — mostly by personal reference/recommendation.

Rachael says their mission is 'to provide the best possible services and products at affordable prices'.

We wish them continued success in this business venture.



Jane Verity



There is a real sparkle in the eye and the voice of Mooroolbark personality Jane Verity when she talks about the special program she has developed to bring hope, encouragement and help to people with dementia and their carers.

"Spark of Life" is a carefully developed and internationally recognised program designed to improve the social, emotional and spiritual wellbeing of people with dementia and those who care for them. Rather than just focusing on diagnosing, analysing and treating the various physical stages of dementia, this program seeks to bring a new spark of life through engaging and communicating with the person in ways that clearly express deep love and a real concern for their total welfare. As Jane says, "Like all of us, people with dementia need to feel loved and to be assured that they are in a place where they are truly appreciated and valued." It is her life-experience and deep conviction that when shown real love and concern, people with dementia are enabled to choose to re-engage with their surroundings.

"Spark of Life" started off as a club program designed to facilitate the arousal of dormant abilities in the lives of local dementia residents. The program was further developed and is now acknowledged as a philosophy that can enrich other programs and approaches for people with dementia in many parts of the world.

Jane says, "In a situation where patients have often lost their identity and sense of belonging, and where their uniqueness and individuality may be being overlooked they can often feel lonely, neglected and disconnected. The 'Spark of Life' program can provide the means to help such people re-connect with the world around them."

Recently the "Spark of Life" program received special recognition by a prestigious international organisation — *The International Association for Homes and Services for the Ageing* — who presented their bi-annual award to the "Spark of Life" Culture Enrichment Program for outstanding worldwide service to elderly people. In doing so it gave recognition to the rehabilitation aspect of the program in a field where many have felt that little could be done. Also, in November, 2010 the Mooroolbark Community Bank gave recognition to this program, giving a grant of \$5,000 to foster further development of the web-site which provides practical support for people with dementia as well as relatives and carers in this field.

Jane graduated as an occupational therapist in Denmark in 1980. After her graduation, the first job she was offered was in

geriatric psychiatry – attending to the needs of people with dementia. Right from that first contact she felt committed to working in this field. When she migrated to Australia she immediately sat the exams to become accredited here and began working in the area of dementia care – first at Heatherston Hospital, and later at the Peter James Centre where she served as senior occupational therapist.

In addition to occupational therapy, Jane is a Family Therapist – addressing social and psychological challenges in the context of the wider family dynamic. She is also a master practitioner in Neuro-Linguistic Programming – focusing on how to best talk with people who have dementia in ways that connects with them and clearly express compassion and concern. In recent years the combined experience of these various disciplines has helped her to develop and refine her "Spark of Life" program.

During Jane's early years in Australia she became aware that her mother was beginning to show signs of dementia. She was able to bring her mother to Australia to provide her with the personal care that only she could give. As time went on, the results of her dedication in applying all that she had learned, for her mother, proved to her just how well her fledgling program could work.

In 1993, when she was offered a retirement package, she used the money she received to establish 'Dementia Care Australia' in Mooroolbark. For many years now they have operated out of their premises in Brice Avenue with much success and appreciation from families involved.

These days, Jane spends a significant amount of her time travelling around the world to present her program to other professionals and interested parties. As this article is being written she is on a trip to South East Asia and Scandinavia for this purpose.

Dementia Care Australia continues to support people with dementia and their carers at the local level and also supplies and distributes educational programs in the form of DVDs and manuals to enable others to set up their own programs.

Note: Dementia Care Australia has recently set up a foundation — a not-for-profit organisation that focuses on sharing the spark of life with the world. For more information or to contribute to this foundation, go to www.dementiacareaustralia.com or call the Mooroolbark office on 9727 2744.

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

One Team. Four Locations.

Clean Up  Day
Sunday March 6th

To join in our Mooroolbark clean-up day please meet at
THE RED EARTH ROOM - Brice Ave. 8 am
Activity concludes at 12 noon with a BBQ lunch.
For more info. mooroolbarktraders@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY – what, why, how...

No matter who we are or where we live, we all have a fundamental need for community in our lives. Recognising community can be difficult as it forms such an intrinsic and primary role in our lives, but is virtually indiscernible to a casual observer. Essentially, community is the sense that we are not alone – that especially in troubling times, there are others to share with and be supported by. Our hearts have gone out many times to our farmers who have battled drought for several years, and only recently had their best crops in a decade swamped, flooded or devastated by locusts. Community has helped hold them together — almost literally.

Collectively, as a community, they have maintained some kind of hope; a hope for a better tomorrow, a hope that their misfortune cannot go on much longer. Community is about 'not going it alone'. It is a deep sense, awareness, and belief that they have friends and neighbours who are willing and able to work through their obstacles or challenges together. Acting as one community, they put aside differences with others and operate like one really big family.

The essential component of community is the contribution of the many (sometimes the few) who voluntarily give time and energy. Really, without this involvement, community

would practically cease to exist. Community is not a forced, contrived or government sponsored feature of our lives like a tax or a mandate — it happens because deep down we care for others, especially those in our immediate proximity – our neighbourhood, our town, our club, our country.

Community is often most noticed when someone cares for us – out of the blue, when something goes 'pear-shaped' in our lives, someone cares enough to bring a meal, or a box of groceries, or simply turns up with chips and a couple of beers to have a yarn. Maybe we just need a shoulder to cry on or an encouraging hug. The old saying 'a problem shared is a problem halved' still holds true.

It's everywhere!

While staying in a small coastal town recently, I was struck by the centrality of the sporting club to the whole way of life for a somewhat out-of-the-way community ... of which Australia has hundreds. Every age seemed catered for; from birth with the child care ... all the way to the retirement village next to the bowling greens. Apparently, everyone knows all the others, no matter what age they are. There seem to be few generational gaps ... or generational chasms as our city life can often have. While the interests, activities and lifestyles of the different ages are as varied as anywhere else, the social connections seem strong yet simple and uncomplicated.

Somehow, I can't imagine this community connected by one of the internet's social networking sites! Can you see the elderly lawn bowlers tweeting, or thumbing out a text to the younger ones on the beach? They wouldn't need to ... they get to catch up over a family meal, at home, at the club, or just in the street doing the shopping – such is life in a healthy, thriving community.

Really, it's a situation the townspeople are probably almost



Brisbane Fairfield area community volunteers clean up after floods.



Local volunteers supplying free BBQ in flood affected areas. Supplied by Paul Butler



oblivious to – it's been like this for generations. I wonder if many, if not most, readers of this magazine also have a sense of community that they experience almost daily. If we do, then we can consider ourselves most fortunate.

Unsung heroes

There are two significant aspects to community that we touched on earlier. Many appreciate community because of the benefits that others provide for them – some kind of service or support. Once again, this is not government sponsored, but given out of love and concern. These givers are the ones who are the almost the *drivers* of community. They are the ones doing the providing and the giving to others in their need. Usually they do this voluntarily because they care. They do it because they have personally experienced the need and feel suitably placed in giving of their lives to help others. Perhaps helping someone get up each day, providing some time to sit and chat, to do a few errands, to help a family run a bit more smoothly – maybe actually enabling a family to stay together and function at all. These volunteers are many and varied ... there's the obvious ones like the CFA, SES, Lifesavers, Lifeline, Rotary, Lions, Meals on Wheels, to name but a few. There are of course many, many more less obvious volunteers

like school helpers for both teachers and students, people using their own cars to ferry others to hospital and doctors etc – most are unheard of and certainly unsung ... I don't think "heroes" is too strong a description. These quiet heroes give not just time, a little money (sometimes a lot) and physical energy, but emotional energy too as they support and comfort others in need. We all understand the comfort of having someone there for us when

we feel alone, or of a friendly voice on the phone, or just knowing that our burden is shared with someone else.

I remember learning a long time ago that when trying to accomplish a seemingly insurmountable and miserable task, it's suddenly achievable, (almost enjoyable) when someone turns up to help. Now, you're not in it alone! The opportunity to sort through our thoughts and feelings is hard to do by ourselves, but when we express our thoughts to another we can start to think a bit more clearly, and with a bit less stress and worry. Working together is always going to be the best way to approach any task, especially the more formidable and upsetting ones.

Getting through together

The recent floods around Australia have sharply highlighted this need for working together to overcome severe and extraordinary circumstances. We were all shocked by the magnitude of the Victorian fires two years ago, only to be further alarmed by the astonishing and destructive floods that have left many towns in several states in complete disarray. It will take a very long time to restore full functionality of basic and essential services to these communities. What's been critical to the recovery process,

in addition to the wonderfully generous volunteers who sacrificed considerable time and energy – physically and emotionally – was the leadership that was displayed by some key community and political figures.

These people showed great courage and empathy, working and walking alongside devastated and anxious home and business owners. They have encouraged – not with words alone, but by their demeanour, positive

spirit and can-do attitude. 'Together we can fix this ... it may take quite some time, but we will get there together, we will function normally again,' were the oft-heard words of determined and committed leaders who inspired others to give and to give heartily and generously. The floods were a very public and closely-followed event that attracted interest around the world – imagine two thirds of Queensland affected, or the area of Germany and France combined.

We're all in it

But on a local level here in Mooroolbark, there are many who give very selflessly all year, every year. They keep doing it because they love it. They give a lot, but they also receive a sense of community which drives them onward. Probably some days they don't feel like it, but they continue to give; they volunteer because someone depends on them, and that's how life is in community – we all depend on others. We depend on others in families, in clubs, in towns – we depend on volunteers who give willingly and generously to make our community possible – not just on the good days, the easy days, but the harsh and very difficult days, when, on our own, we'd just rather give up!

So, it's important to say, 'THANKS VERY MUCH', for all those who give to make our communities function and thrive in the manner they do – all over our wonderful yet unpredictable land, and in a manner we all love and appreciate. If you would like be involved, any contribution would be most welcome ... in planting trees, offering a lift, delivering a meal or just making a phone call – there's something for all of us. One day we'll really appreciate when someone comes to our aid. I think there will be times we'll all need a hand to get us through. We'll be as grateful then, as those we might be able to help now.

Steve Steel



Blazeaid – an extraordinary example of volunteers working together

An amazing 'grass roots' community formed from volunteers to rebuild 100's of kilometres of fences after Black Saturday. Not only did men, women and children come by the hundreds, but they worked, ate and stayed together as a very closely bonded group. Together they solved one enormous problem for country families dealing with their affairs after such a catastrophic event.

Quotable Quotes

"Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look at what they can do when they stick together."

Author Unknown

PUBLICATION PERSPECTIVES

- Design
- General Printing
- Technical Documentation
- Multimedia
- Web Design

PUBLICATION PERSPECTIVES PTY LTD
29B Glenvale Crescent, Mulgrave VIC 3170

Phone + 61 3 9561 1800 Fax + 61 3 9561 1855

Email reception@publicationperspectives.com.au

publicationperspectives.com.au



CHURCH NEWS



A Neighborhood Watched

The sight always intrigues me. I drive past several times a week and expect something to have changed, even though nothing has in several years.

It's a subdivision near home. Streets laid out, curbed and guttered. Underground utilities installed. Streetlights standing straight and tall. But no houses. Haven't been for years.

So what draws me as I drive by? The mystery of it all. Who started it? Why don't they sell? Is it tied up in a lawsuit? Did the developer die? Is there a toxic dump? I exhaust all my musings, but still examine the scene every time.

I feel sad. There should be rows of houses, cars parked, kids riding bikes, people mowing grass and walking dogs. It should be a living, breathing neighborhood.

But it isn't. Just weed-filled lots. No gardens. No sounds of laughter or dogs barking. No steaks on barbies. No life.

Yet, I yearn for this neighborhood. The potential is obvious. Just as obvious as my next thought is going

to be. How much does God yearn over my obvious, under-developed potential? Is my life a pulsing community, or is it barren? Granted, God loves me whatever state I'm in, and I'm so thankful for that! But what Master Planner doesn't desire his development to grow?

So I begin to question how I view others. It's easy to be critical of my neighbours. Wouldn't it be better building relationships? I may not agree with their life style. But so what? Together, we're a living, breathing community, with diversity and creativity.

I think I'll break some new ground. Maybe take a class. Volunteer. Get to know my neighbours. Explore the shops close to home. I can be an active part of my community, just as you can be an active part of yours.

Sue Berger



This is an edited version of her article featured in *Christian Odyssey* December 2010. *Christian Odyssey* can be accessed at www.christianodyssey.org

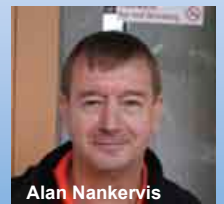


St Francis in the Fields joins the 89.9 LightFM "Careline Team"

Your spouse loses their job - suddenly and you are both feeling emotionally strained - who can you turn to? For more than 8 years now, many Melbournians have been calling LightFM Careline. Careline is a supportive service for people who need prayer, an explanation of Christianity, or simply an understanding ear. When requested, callers can be referred to a local church.

You can call LightFM Careline any day from 9:00 am to 1:00 am on 9583 2273

Mooroolbark's St Francis in the Fields has become a local partner in providing this Careline service. Vicar, Andrew Lang, explains that, "Through the wonders of modern internet technology it is possible to contribute to this valuable work from our local church office. It is a way that we can care for people - who are seeking God's help - in the wider community", he said. Local church member, Alan Nankervis, is heading up the program at St Francis.



Alan Nankervis

For further info call St Francis on Ph. 9733 4626 or go to the 89.9 LightFM Careline website



Farewell and Best Wishes to Fr. Andrew Jekot

After eleven years of service at St Peter Julian Eymard, Fr. Andrew Jekot has accepted what he refers to as his 'sea change' - a move to a Melbourne seaside parish. He comments that his new area, of Mordialloc, is a quite lovely and scenic area.

Over the years, along with his many and varied parish responsibilities, Fr. Andrew regularly made time to meet with leaders of other local churches at monthly, minister's fraternal meetings. These meetings often provided opportunity for planning and preparing for a variety of church-wide activities such as the World Day of Prayer, National Day of Thanksgiving breakfasts, combined services, etc. They were particularly helpful in opening up ways for local churches to complement and support one another in the work that each one is doing.

Fr. Andrew's cheery presence, his ever-ready sense of humour and his contributions to discussions at these meetings will be missed by all. We thank him for his significant contribution to life in Mooroolbark and wish him all the very best in his new parish appointment and for the future. Fr. Andrew is succeeded in St. Peter Julian Parish by Fr. Joseph Lu.



What is KIDS HOPE AUS.?

KIDS HOPE AUS. is a mentoring program that helps Australian children needing additional support, and their families. Through a partnership between local churches and primary schools, Kids Hope Aus. works to improve opportunities for mentored children in the areas of education, self confidence and wellbeing.

For one hour each week, a caring adult mentors a child needing additional support at their school. This usually involves helping the child with homework, playing games, arts and crafts, or just spending time together. KIDS HOPE AUS. assists churches to recruit and prepare caring mentors for ongoing mentoring relationships with vulnerable children. Some 48 schools in the outer eastern suburbs are utilising KIDS HOPE AUS, with ten of these in the local Mooroolbark area. (See box.)

Where did it come from?

The KIDS HOPE program originated in the USA. Dr. Virgil Gulker, KIDS HOPE USA founder, had a vision of a way church communities



could lend their resources to help struggling school children by spending just one quality hour with them each and every week of the school year.

- October 1993 — KIDS HOPE USA began with a question and a discovery – the need, and a way of finding the answer.
- November 1994 — The KIDS HOPE USA model was designed.
- February 1995 — KIDS HOPE USA initiated three pilot sites in Michigan. These programs triggered interest in many other communities, with church and school representatives requesting program information.
- Today — KIDS HOPE USA has helped in the lives of over 8,000 at-risk children, located in urban, suburban and rural communities.

Who does KIDS HOPE AUS. help?

Children in Australian public primary schools needing additional support ... Over half a million school-aged Australian children could benefit from a one-to-one mentoring relationship.

KIDS HOPE AUS. focuses on children at primary school because during this phase the children are most likely to benefit from a close relationship with an adult. This is when self-esteem and values are learned, and critical academic skills are acquired. Positive human relationships are essential for children to grow up happy and healthy. Yet many Australian children lack significant close relationships with a caring adult, other than their parents. Children who receive help early on, especially those considered vulnerable and at-risk, significantly improve their chances for a good education, health and wellbeing, and social competence.

KIDS HOPE AUS is sponsored by World Vision Australia. For more details on how the program works and how it is supervised visit the website at <http://www.worldvision.com.au/ourwork/solutions/KidsHopeAus.aspx>

Terry Villiers

Local Schools with Kids Hope AUS Programs

Bimbadeen Heights PS
Birmingham PS
Chirside Park PS
Kilsyth PS
Manchester PS

Montrose PS
Mooroolbark East PS
Pembroke PS
Rolling Hills PS
Ruskin Park PS

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

All WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark
Community Centre
Wednesday April 20th
2011

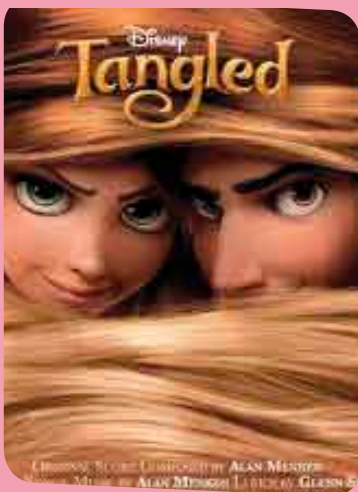
"Tangled"

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 and Mooroolbark
Community Centre**



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

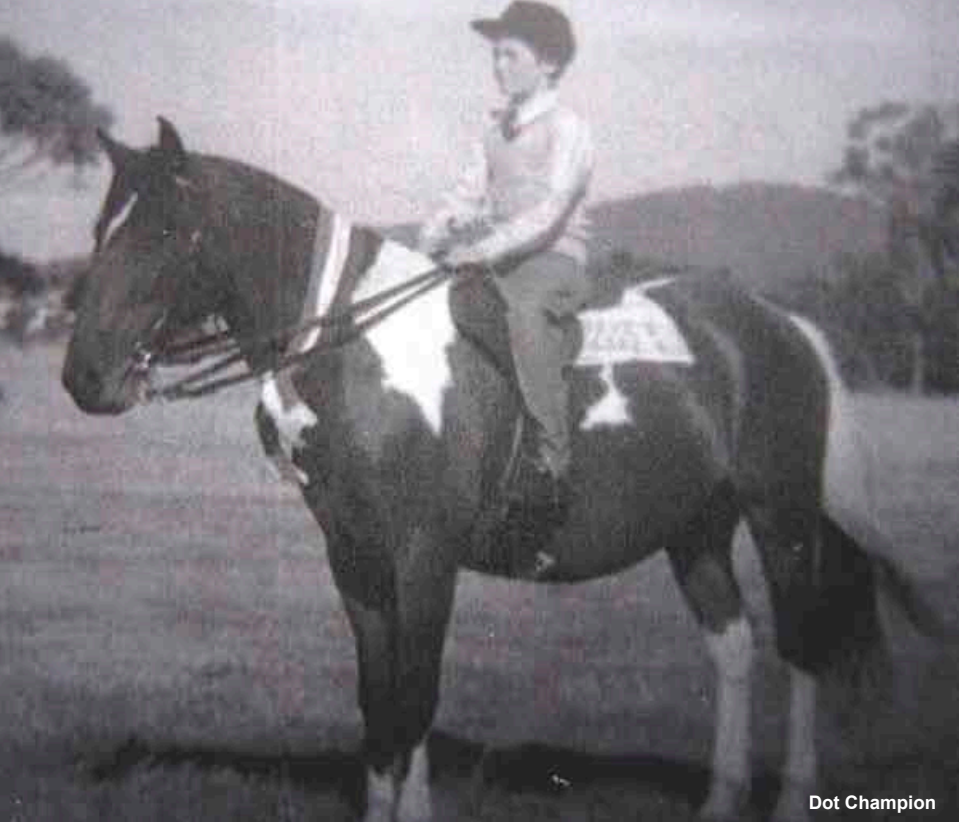
Tickets may be reissued if not collected by 7:15 and there is a wait list.



World Day of Prayer

COMBINED CHURCHES SERVICE

Friday March 4th 10 a.m.
Mooroolbark Baptist Church,
Hull Road Mooroolbark.
All Welcome



Dot Champion



Dot and Dad



Riding



Dot today

A HORSEY TALE

It doesn't take much imagination to realise the importance that horses played in the early days of Mooroolbark, when it was a small farming community.

Dot O'Brien's (nee Brown)¹ story gives us some insights into some of the recreational enjoyment that horses brought to her family:

"In 1943 I started to go to shows and gymkhanas," Dot recalled. "Sometimes we would all go, but other times it was just Dad and I. My brothers were not interested in horses. We would only attend these events if they were within riding distance for us. I remember we went to a show over near Lysterfield, which was a long way from Mooroolbark. It was freezing cold when we set off in the jinker², leading my pony behind. We each had a hot brick heated in Mum's wood fired oven and wrapped in a chaff bag to keep our feet warm. The other kids whose

families had money would roll up in the cars and horse floats but I didn't mind. We had a lovely time."

"I loved the 'penny throws' at these shows, where you had to land the penny on the squares on the table. When I had run out of money I would always go looking for Dad to give me more money. In 1943 when I was nearly nine years old, Dad gave me a skewbald horse which had been in a circus – they put a flank rope around it to make it pig-root³ then asked all the local kids to see if they could stay on the horse for a certain time, and if they did they would win ten shillings. The only way I could ride this horse was with spurs, but if the spurs were blunt the horse would not move. I had that horse for a while and won lots of ribbons with it. I used to jump it over the brush fences, but in 1943 my pride and joy was winning 'Champion Rider 18 Years and Under' at the Croydon Show whilst I was still only eight years old, not turning nine until the November."

"When I went to gymkhanas I wore

jodhpurs, but we didn't always wear safety helmets. I only had the one pair of jodhpurs at a time, both to muck about in and to ride in. The pair of jodhpurs I am wearing in this photo were nice ones – some of the hand-me-down jodhpurs I had to wear were shocking.⁴ The saddle I had the whole time I was riding belonged to a jockey, who had lent me his training saddle. He died some years ago but no-one remembered what had happened to the saddle. It wasn't a nice saddle but we couldn't afford anything else. I always wore a shirt and my sleeveless vest was knitted by Mum. At one stage I did have a hat with a protective section in it – it was made of black velvet. Friends of Mum and Dad who were involved with trotters made me the hat to resemble a jockey's hat."

"Dad used to wheel and deal in horses and I'd get one and really get to like it and next thing it would be gone and I'd have

⁴ "When I was 16 and working", Dot added, "Mum and Dad went away and when they came home I had purchased myself a pair of slacks. Mum asked me why I had bought them as she said jodhpurs would have been much nicer. I wasn't interested in wearing jodhpurs on an outing, but my parents did not approve of me wearing 'pants'."

¹ Dot is Allen Brown's elder sister. See the article on Allen: <http://mcf.gci.org.au/resource/livingtoday/LivingTodayIssue33.pdf> p.12

² A two-wheeled horse drawn conveyance for 2-3 passengers.

³ Unlike 'bucking' which involves all four legs leaving the ground, 'pig-rooting' involves only the back legs kicking up.



Baby Dot

The Brown children

Charles St home

Dot and jinker

Dot and Mum

another in its place.”

Dot remembered that her father would often buy unclaimed horses from the pound. “He bought one horse for two bob and sold it to Jack Hookey for one pound,” she said. “So Jack Hookey [the first Principal of Mooroolbark Primary School] called it Bob and used to ride his jinker to school and let the horse graze there at Fiveways.”

“I was a member of the Mountain District Horse and Pony Club which is still going, and at a later time I won another championship at the Boronia Gymkhana.”

Movietone News made a newsreel clip of that gymkhana to show in the theatres before the main picture. They described me as “a very small boy on a very large horse - looking like a pimple on a pumpkin”.

When the Mountain District Pony Club celebrated its 50th anniversary, it was featured on a family TV programme called *Talk to the Animals*. Some of the *Movietone* clip was included as part of the programme.

On the same day that Dot won the Under 18 Champion Rider at Croydon, her father borrowed a horse and together they entered the “Parent and Child” event. Dot recalls that her father rode the borrowed horse just dressed as he was. “The photo of us on our horses is from that event. Dad had a big black horse about 16-17 hands, which I loved. I used to ride him in all the walk and trot races at the gymkhanas. He was an ex harness racer and I always used to win. About the age of 15 or 16 I exercised a racehorse for a George Jamieson who was married to a Sherlock⁵. He wanted me to ride in the ladies’ races but Dad wouldn’t allow this as he considered the women were dirtier on the racetracks than the men.”

According to Dot, the Mountain District Horse and Pony Club⁶ was based in various spots – at one time on a property at Heathmont and later on at Cheong Park. Dot also recalls that some local gymkhanas were held on the flat in Diane Crescent, “when it belonged to Sharp and Taylor.⁷ Dad had a trotting track there. There was another one once at Hookey Reserve, near the library.”

Dot remembers riding to all of those venues on her horse: “There was not much traffic in those days and I rode on the side of the road, mostly on my own. One time I was going to a gymkhana at Montrose. I had been practicing and practicing and had a big horse I was going to jump. I was

riding from Mooroolbark to Montrose when I saw a programme on a tree. I went up the embankment and was reaching out to the programme to read it, when it flapped or something and the horse jumped sideways. I fell off – breaking my arm. The horse took off and I was left there.”

“So I had to walk to a paddock where a man was ploughing and he took me home. I can’t remember who took me to Box Hill Hospital to put my arm in plaster, but I remember that I got chicken pox at the same time, and had all these chicken pox under the plaster. I was aged only about 11 or 12 at the time.”

“At one stage I had a horrible little pony I would ride into Croydon. It tried to turn into every driveway along the way, as it had been used for delivering papers. I had another one that had been in a circus and it could count the days of the week with its hoof. However, we couldn’t keep it in the paddock. Even with a chain around its neck hanging to the ground to try and stop it jumping out, it got out of the paddock and one day finished up near Wandin. Our local baker who delivered bread three times a week from Lilydale saw it at Wandin and I was sent with him when he delivered that way. I had a saddle and bridle with me and caught the horse and rode it home. I was very young – about 12 at this time. I remember the same baker putting pies on the motor of his van to warm them up for our lunch.”

Once, reminisced Dot, “Mum and Dad went away for Easter and I had two girlfriends come and stay. We went to visit an aunt and uncle and Dad had said, ‘You can take the little jinker, but whatever you do don’t wheel strap the horse’. However, I wheel strapped the horse and it took off down Surrey Road to the railway line, dodging pine trees and eventually jumped a fence, leaving the jinker behind, and took off towards Mooroolbark where my uncle caught it. Before my parents came home I kept myself busy painting all the horse’s cuts and scratches with blue hobble chafe paint. All my brother was worried about was some tobacco that he had hidden underneath the seat of the jinker.”

“The station master Andy Bell⁸ was a close friend of the family. He used to go eeling a lot and if he had some spare he’d leave a bag at the front porch for Mum and Dad. Once there was a snake in the bag along with the eels! A dead snake – but Andy used to get up to all sorts of things. And because our

meter box was outside, sometimes he’d be going past and next thing your lights would go off!”

“We used to change our shoes at the station and leave our spare shoes behind a big bush at the gate of the station. Dad used to leave the bridle there when he’d ride the horse down. He’d leave it there all day till he got home. The dog used to stay there until Dad would come home at night.”

I’d like to thank Dot for sharing some of her informative and enjoyable stories with us.

For your interest, the Mountain District Horse and Pony Club meets regularly. If you’d like more information, the home page is: <http://www.mdhpc.ponyclubvic.org.au/>

In addition, the Mooroolbark Pony Club meets monthly in Hull Road – just east of the rail overpass. The club home page is: <http://www.mooroolbark.ponyclubvic.org.au/>

Randall Bouchier



⁵ Sherlocks were early Mooroolbark settlers who owned much land in Mooroolbark. Mr. Sherlock was a well-known builder in the area. They lived at the foot of Sherlock Hill near the current doctor’s surgery.

⁶ May be contacted at: <http://www.mdhpc.ponyclubvic.org.au/>

⁷ See <http://mcf.gci.org.au/resource/livingtoday/LivingTodayIssue33.pdf> p.12 for information about Sharp and Taylor’s former land holdings in Mooroolbark.

⁸ See article on Andy Bell on page 2 of this issue.



Dorothy 1951



Dot and friends



High school days



Mum and Dad



Dorothy

Congratulations to New Mayor, - Cr. Terry Avery



Congratulations to Cr. Terry Avery on being elected as Mayor of Yarra Ranges Council in his second term as councillor for Melba Ward. He first was elected to council in 2005. During his time in office he has become very well known in the Mooroolbark area - having been involved in many local activities and developments including recent participation in the station re-development task force, and the committee for the development of the Hookey Park Master Plan (see below). Also, he has served as past president of the Mooroolbark Traders' Association.

Terry has a long association with the local area, having lived in Mooroolbark from ten years of age. His 33 years in the police force have seen him move briefly to other areas for a time prior to being stationed at Lilydale for the past ten years. He has

now taken a year's leave of absence to attend to his mayoral duties

Along with Terry and his wife, his family members (two daughters and one granddaughter) also live in the local area.

Terry looks forward to the opportunity he now has to work to ensure that council stays on track in delivering on the various major capital works that are 'in the pipeline' and continuing to do the best he can to promote further development throughout our Shire.

He plans to make himself available to anyone who would like to 'connect' with him in monthly 'meet and greet' gatherings around the shire.

Congratulations Mayor Avery ... and very best wishes for a most productive term of office.

Mooroolbark Activity Centre Structure Plan

A draft master plan has been prepared for Hookey Park as 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.

Further consultation was undertaken during 2010 to identify the values and benefits of the park for the local community, and the role it should play for the future. A great response was received, with over 150 individual responses recorded and summarised in an Issues Paper.

The draft plan was informed by the Issues Paper and developed by council's Urban Design Unit in close liaison with a local landscape architect and plant design consultant, Paul Thompson, an artist and a community reference group.

It is anticipated that the park will again become a focus for social recreation and a venue for significant community events in Mooroolbark. Major features of the draft plan include:

- A centrally located "village green" for large gatherings and informal ball games;
- A raised viewing terrace, with the existing rotunda proposed to be adapted to become a stage in-the-round for outdoor performances;
- A new children's play space constructed within existing trees and undulating landform next to the library building and car parking;
- An outdoor café space opening out from the library into the park and play space;
- A more intimate setting and shelter for picnics and barbecues;
- Well lit pathways and trails that link the various park activities and connect with the town centre and surrounding residential

Hookey Park - Second Draft Masterplan



Perspective 01 - Village Green



Perspective 02 - Amphitheatre



Perspective 03 - Library Café and play space

areas;

- A range of distinctive forest types with clear trunks to permit open views throughout the park; and
- Public art integrated into the landscape setting, featuring a playful, low meandering rammed-earth wall, pergola and entry structure.

The integrated public art component in the design is intended to highlight the unique qualities of Mooroolbark and the work of one of its national celebrities, Edna Walling.

Maintenance and safety issues have been given paramount consideration in the design process. The planting has been

especially chosen to be water neutral in a low demand landscape.

The park will be developed in stages as funding becomes available, with a first stage of works due to commence later this year.

Council wants your views on the draft master plan – come to a barbecue and community information day at the park on Saturday 5th March 12 noon to 2 p.m. Submissions can also be made on council's website:- www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/hookeypark up till 5:00pm on Monday 21st March. Displays will be located at the Mooroolbark Community Centre, Mooroolbark Library and Railway Station.

Gary Bateman

Bike Helmets... A Potential Hazard?

**“BIKE HELMETS CAN BE A DANGER
- IN UNSUPERVISED PLAY!”**

A recent media article reported on doctors warning parents that bicycle helmets are potentially deadly if worn by young children who are generally playing – not riding bikes. Both in Australia and overseas there have been incidents where young children have suffered death or severe brain injury as a result of hanging by the straps of their helmets.

In recent years in Australia, one young boy died after being suspended by his helmet strap between a bunk bed and a

wall. Another, a three year old, was caught in a similar manner as he tried to climb out through a window. A third victim, aged five, was suspended from an overhead clothes line whilst playing on a trampoline. Other incidents have seen children caught up in trees or on playground equipment.

A recent article in the *Medical Journal of Australia* states that, “Although such deaths are rare, it is important for parents and child-carers to ensure that bicycle helmets are only worn by children for their intended

purpose. Our aim is to draw attention to this rare, but entirely preventable cause of childhood death”

A Wikipedia article relating to this potential danger states, “To avoid serious accidents parents and carers should take care to ensure that children do not wear bicycle helmets during unsupervised play.”

A clear message is, **“Bike helmets can be a danger — in unsupervised play!”**



ARE YOU READY FOR DIGITAL T.V. ?

Analogue Television is on its Way Out!

The switch to digital transmission has begun in country Victoria, and Melbourne is expected to be one of the last Victorian areas to change over in - 2013. Once your area switches to digital only you will need a digital TV tuner to watch free-to-air TV channels. If you are not currently digital-ready you may want to purchase a new television set, or alternatively you could purchase a set top box to adapt your old TV.

Why is Australia Switching to Digital?

1. To keep up to date with worldwide changes in technology. This will allow Australians to continue to view overseas channels and for us to export our programs.
2. Picture and sound quality is much better in digital.
3. Turning off the analog signal will free up space that may be used for other community services.

Note. Changing to digital now will enable you to immediately access many additional free-to-air TV channels.

How do I know if I am already receiving Digital TV?

An easy way to tell is check whether you receive ABC2, ABC3 or SBS TWO. These are standard definition digital channels and if you can already view them (and you do not have subscription TV) it means that your TV is capable of receiving digital broadcasts.

Converting an old TV Set to Digital.

Purchase of a cheap digital set-top box will enable you to convert an old TV to digital - handy for that 'old telly' in the spare room, the shed or the caravan. Make sure the model you buy has the right connection for your old TV set. Your local supplier will be able to advise you in this matter. When shopping for a digital set-top box it is worth spending the extra few dollars on a high definition model as five of the current new digital channels are only available in high definition. This number will increase as more channels come on line. A high definition set top box can be purchased for about \$60.



Household Assistance Scheme.

The Australian Government has begun an assistance scheme to assist eligible pensioners and others on low incomes, to install digital TV in areas that are currently changing over.

It is intended that Centrelink will notify eligible individuals when the changeover impacts their areas.

For more information on this topic go to the government site digitalready.com.au

This site provides additional information on such matters as :-

- Rollout Details A map providing the dates when each region will be changed over .
- Govt. Household Assistance scheme.
- Information about suitability of different antennas.
- Issues relating to shared antenna systems, multi-dwelling units /commercial buildings? etc.
- Lists of antenna installers.
- And much more ...

Will I need a new antenna to be able to receive digital TV?

Many existing antennas will be able to receive digital transmissions without any problem, but in some cases equipment may need to be upgraded to receive reliable digital signals. You will need to find out if your current TV antenna is designed for the same frequency band that the digital TV channels in your area are transmitted on. In some cases an antenna will need to be upgraded because the new digital channels are in a new frequency band or because the antenna is older or not in good condition.

There is no such thing as a 'digital antenna', but some antennas have been manufactured specifically to receive both digital and analog channels (particularly those made after 2000). You can have your antenna system assessed by an antenna installer to find out whether it needs to be replaced



Community Events Calendar

First Sunday of each month	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 – Ph. 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au
Feb 16th, Apr 7th, May 9th	Red Earth Gallery. VCE Creative Showcase, Life Force, MCC Annual Group Exhibition
Feb 26th - May 28th	Intensive Workshops. Expressive Watercolour, Cupcake Decorating, Pastel Portraits, Sewing Survival Skills, Wildlife Painting, Soap Making, Card Making. Graphite Drawing. Contact M/B Community Centre for arts workshops & events calendar. 9726 5488
Mar 4th	Combined Churches World Day of Prayer. Mooroolbark Baptist Church, Hull Road 10 am
Mar 6th	Clean Up Australia Day. Meet at Red Earth Room, Brice Ave. 8:00 am. Concludes with a BBQ lunch at 12 noon. Contact mooroolbarktraders@hotmail.com
Mar 10th, 26th, May 18th	Billanook College Tours. (2x School at Work tours & Sat. 26th tour) Commencing 10:30 am Contact registrar@billanook.vic.edu.au or Ph. 9724 1179
Mar 25th	Mooroolbark Talent Quest. Mooroolbark Community Centre Tickets \$5 Contact talentquest@celebratemooroolbark.com
Mar 26th	CELEBRATE MOOROOLBARK. Your local Festival. 9:15 am – 4pm Red Earth Park. Contact celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com
Mar 26th, Apr 30th, May 28th	Montrose Concert Series presents Bob Sedergreen, 'A One Night Stand'. Barry Morgan's World of Organs, Sugar Blue. 8pm. Tickets \$30/\$24/\$18 Montrose Town Centre. 9761 9133
Mar 22, Apr 5, 13, 22, 3, 11, 24 June 7,11,28	Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions
Apr. 6th, May 4th June 1	Montrose Movie Club presents – Caddie, Kokoda, Road to Nhill Montrose Town Centre. Ph. 9761 9133
Apr. 11th – 22nd	Creative Capers – school holiday fun for kids. <i>Art/Craft, Dance & Movement, Live Performances and Movies</i> at Mooroolbark Community Centre. For a program Ph. 9726 5488 or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc
Apr 18th & 19th	Red Cross Blood Bank Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings 13 14 95
Apr 20th	Free !!! Family Film Night. "Tangled" Contact Mooroolbark Community Centre for bookings Ph. 9726 5488. Starts 7:30 pm. All welcome
Apr 24th	Easter Dawn Service 6:30 am Kalorama Park. Followed by free breakfast. Contact parish@stfrancisinthefield.org.au
May 2nd June 6th	Speaker Series. A Taste Of ... Fashion Collector, Ann Dixon, Journalist/Writer Jannelle McCulloch. Montrose Town Centre 2pm Tickets \$15 inc. afternoon tea. Ph. 9761 9133
May 29th	Pipe Organ Recital 2:30 pm Sam Allchurch Tickets \$15 / \$19. Contact parish@stfrancisinthefield.org.au

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 Ph. 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.

Proudly supporting Living Today
in Mooroolbark.

Mooroolbark **Community Bank**® Branch
Shop 19, 66-74 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark
Phone 9726 5388



LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

Production

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark is produced by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, assisted by local volunteers



Editor

Doug Lewis

Publication

Published quarterly as a service to our community by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship

Contact

Phone 03 9726 8898

Mail PO Box 228 Mooroolbark VIC 3138

Email lewisdm@bigpond.net.au

Distribution

11,500 copies distributed throughout Mooroolbark and the surrounding district

Contributing Writers for This Issue

R Bouchier, S Steel, A Lang,
T Villiers, G Bateman,
S Berger, D Lewis

Photographs

R Bouchier, A Lang,
D Lewis, Yolande Pickett, A Jekot

Graphic Design

Publication Perspectives

Printing

Publication Perspectives
Mulgrave, Victoria

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 Ph. 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

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.