

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO. 36 JUNE 2011



• A happy little group at
• Pembroke Primary School
• Celebrating "Refugee Week"
... page 15



Of Machines, Meals and Mooroolbark...



Ken Whitworth and his family came to Mooroolbark in 1972. Ken has fond memories of what it was like in those days:

“It was a rural place. Up Pembroke Road and right up Cambridge Road, there were a lot of open paddocks with a creek running through. And there were cows – they used to wake me up early in the morning mooing and carrying on, wanting to be milked.”

“There was a big farmhouse, just up on the corner of Pembroke and Cambridge Road, which burnt down one night, and there was talk that it had been deliberately lit. Anyway, the dairy and the cows went and the land got slowly sub-divided, up to Diane Crescent – and all those places up there.”

“I remember the station. There were two tracks at Mooroolbark – one going through to Lilydale and the second one ending in a siding where they unloaded wood. They

stocked briquettes that came in by rail, in GY wagons¹. I think too, that it was also an Ampol depot. And of course, Croydon had a siding where they used to stable the old ‘red rattler’ trains.”²

Back then, Ken recalled that Manchester Road was all open paddocks from the railway crossing back towards the “Five Ways” intersection. “There was a big dairy that fronted Manchester Road from Brice Avenue to the Lions Op shop,” Ken said. “It had loading bays where the trucks used to unload. It went pretty early in the piece when we moved in. And there was a Golden Fleece service station down at Five Ways that went later on.”

Ken remembers when Coles was being built. “Where the Terrace is now,” he said, “there were houses. One chap who lived there was a signwriter and wheelwright who renewed and restored the wheels from horse-drawn sulkies or buggies and all that sort of stuff. He used to sign-write my vehicles when I restored them, and he worked on the timber wheels from some vehicles for me. When the Terrace was built, it was a vibrant place. There was a Payless store, a Treasureway and other big shops. It was very well patronised, but today it’s become a little bit of a white elephant.”

Ken recalled that there was also a

Fosseys store, a shoe shop, and a menswear shop. “You could just about buy anything,” he said. Since then, according to Ken, much of the business has been taken away by Chirside Park. “Many shops now provide services, rather than what ordinary people need to buy for their everyday needs,” he commented. “In those days, you knew all the shop owners by name and they knew you and took a personal interest in you and what you did. My wife used to do all her shopping in Mooroolbark because she could buy everything she wanted.”

“Our daughter caught the bus from the corner of Pembroke and Cardigan Roads to go to Lilydale Tech. She joined the local church group – seemed to have a lot of girlfriends. We mixed in well and had a lot of friends. The neighbours were very friendly. We used to visit one another, have meals with one another. Yes, we found Mooroolbark pretty good.”

Ken grew up many miles from Mooroolbark, in Melbourne’s western suburbs.

“I was born in Footscray in 1935,” Ken told me. “Dad worked for the Post Master General’s department. That’s why I ended up working there. Just before World War II, Mum and Dad bought a block of land at Maribyrnong overlooking the munitions factory. Our back yard went down to the river. We never had a back fence, but Mum & Dad told me: ‘Don’t go near the river,’ and I never did.”

“We moved there in 1939, and a

lisareyment.com.au
0407257987

Photographers for all occasions
Yarra Valley and surrounding areas

Our special thanks to Lisa Reyment
for this issue's cover photo.

¹ Open freight wagons used by Victorian Railways. See photo at <http://www.precisionscalemodels.com.au/models/victorian-railways-gy-freight-wagon/>

² See footage of the ‘red rattlers’ on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lggsaPUElVo&feature=related>

big furniture van came. We loaded all the furniture into the truck, and the dog in the front with Dad, and Mum and I had to walk from Yarraville to Ascot Vale, because we didn't fit in the furniture van and there was no bus service, and I remember saying to Mum, "Are we there yet?" as I trudged through Footscray."

"I went to Ascot Vale West Primary School, which was right next to the showgrounds. We used to get an extra week of holidays when the Melbourne Show was on, so that they could use the school grounds as a car park."

"I was sent to a Presbyterian Sunday School till about the age of 14, and then I stopped going. I saved my earnings from my paper round and bought a pushbike, and during the weekends I was out roaring around everywhere. I used to ride for miles ... to Elwood, to Essendon aerodrome, all over the place. I rode to Geelong one day; Bacchus Marsh another day with a mate – just loved riding my pushbike."

Ken worked for 40 years in the technical and engineering side of communications – finally retiring from Telecom³ in 1991. He mentions an intriguing secondment to ASIO for a time – "can't talk much about that!"

Part of the motivation to move to Mooroolbark was to accommodate Ken's passion for vehicle restoration. He bought a two and a half acre block on Pembroke Road, and built a house and a huge shed to accommodate his hobby.

"I had steam engines, traction engines, a steam road roller, a steam wagon, fire engines and a bus. I went to the council and said I want a shed x by x. They said it was a residential area – but the inspector came for a look, and he said: 'It really would be better if all this lot were under cover!'"

When Ken moved to Pembroke Road, he joined the Historical Commercial Vehicle Club of Australia.⁴ "I used to go to the steam rallies that were held down at Wantirna in local steam contractor Bill Beamish's yard. He had fire engines, and I thought that'd be something different. They were cheap to buy in comparison with cars".

"Bill told me about Casula Motor Wreckers in NSW. I flew up and saw a big line-up of Dennis Big 4 1938 timber-bodied fire engines – an open type where the firemen sat on the side.⁵ The wreckers had a crane and were dropping the fire engines from a great height, smashing them, and just burning them. I said: 'You can't do that!' and they said, 'They're not worth anything; nobody wants to buy them.' But after I asked to buy one, they said: 'Oh, well, they're worth a lot of money, you know!' I bought two for \$500 – a 1935 Leyland and a Dennis Big 4 and I had them trucked back down to Melbourne on a semi-trailer."

"At other times, I bought a steam traction engine, a portable⁶, and a steam wagon".

Ken attended night school at RMIT for three years to get his engine driver's ticket. "To finally qualify, I had to do voluntary work in various factories around Melbourne for a certain number of hours," said Ken. "I worked at Kew cottages where the old Cornish boilers were fired with briquettes. It was the dirtiest job I ever had. The Austin Hospital had old A-frame boilers. I worked at the Carlton and United breweries, also. They had massive boilers there – biggest things I've ever worked on in my life. I worked on Puffing Billy for a while, stoking, and in some other smaller factories. Then I got my ticket to drive these vehicles and used to drive a steam wagon in parades including the Red Earth Festival."

Once, Ken restored a 1937 tramways bus transported from Rye in a derelict condition. He has also restored other vehicles at his home.

"Just recently I restored a 100-ton AEC road train prime mover, which I sold because it was such a terrible thing to drive around the roads here," said Ken. "It just wasn't built for suburban roads!"

Ken also bought a half-cab Leyland bus commissioned by the British government. "It's beautifully built – all steel and aluminium. It had quite a history to it. It had been commissioned to carry the scientists at Wimmera rocket range out to the Blue Streak rocket and atomic bomb test ranges. Later it became a tour bus and finally a school bus. The owner-driver died and the bus just sat in his shed for 17 years, with its nose sticking out. The rain slowly rotted out the headlights, the mudguards and eventually the radiator disintegrated." After years of disuse, the bus was purchased by Ken at an auction, much to his wife Margaret's dismay.

"I recently bought an ex-Melbourne Fire Brigade ACCO fire engine," Ken continued. "MFB sell their old fire engines to Tassie. It went to Queenstown, and when it finished there, it was sold to AusPine, and they used it for back-burning operations and then shipped it to their pine plantations in Mt Gambier. So I bought that and restored that."

As you can see from the photograph, Ken's hobby is more like a love affair, as he painstakingly brings new life to down-at-heel machinery.

But Ken is not simply gifted in restoring machinery. He's learned a thing or two about walking alongside people in the midst of their struggles.

"When we came to Mooroolbark we started going to the Baptist Church. We've been there decades. I got involved in the ministry there and helped extend the church building. Then I got involved in the community kitchen. We've just celebrated seven years and 377 consecutive Monday evenings. Just

this year, we've served over 1700 hot, two-course meals."

"This year we're averaging 130 a night. One night we decided to make a meal that was a bit expensive. We had 102 pieces of chicken that we cooked, and people were slowly coming in, until we had 140 people there. Where did the chicken come from to feed these extra people? We were just amazed. We thought we were going to be in trouble. We might have to get some sausages out of the freezer, but we just kept doling it out. We often talk about that night, when it was so apparent that it was something beyond our control."

"We build a lot of good relationships. We go down to Ringwood Court with people, when they're in trouble. We visit people's homes, drive them to doctors' appointments and legal appointments, and so on. We bump into people in the street and go and have a cup of coffee with them. We sort of feel we are helping people."

"When we started there were many homeless people, who lived under buildings or bridges and carried their life's possessions on their backs. They were pretty 'rough and ready' – you'd sometimes smell them coming. And I often say to people, that before those days, I'd have crossed the road when I saw such people coming. And now I'm sitting down next to them, having a meal with them, talking to them, and shaking their hands. It really changes you around when you see other people's circumstances."

"Nowadays we get more young men, out of gaol, or between sentences sometimes. There are ladies with children, who've been deserted – and broken families, where the husband has walked away and left the lady to look after 4 children. And now, we're finding we're getting people who were established, had homes, good jobs – and then lost their job, and genuinely can't obtain work. And in their 40s and 50s they're really starting to struggle for money. There are a lot of people doing it hard, that's for sure."

I observe that Ken's experience has been life-changing.

"Yes, it's changed me completely," agreed Ken. "I'm a more tolerant person, and accepting of other people. There was snobbery in my family, and at home everybody wasn't equal. Dad had a government job and during the Depression he had work in the public service. And later, he didn't have to go to war because he was in a restricted occupation, so we were 'above' other people. Although we didn't have a car till the 1950s – other people in the street had cars, but we were still better than them."

"I'd begun to be like that too, but this has sort of levelled me out. Here everybody's equal."

Thanks for sharing some of the richness of your life and insights Ken! And for those interested in meeting Ken and seeing some of his restored vehicles, he has agreed to be part of the 2012 Celebrate Mooroolbark parade!



Randall Bourchier

³ The Post Master General's department was restructured into Telecom and Australia Post in 1975

⁴ Ken was a founding member and has been the President of the club for nine years

⁵ See photo and details: http://www.visit.heritage.nsw.gov.au/16_subnav_09_2.cfm?itemid=5055581&sort_by=&item_id=&item_name=&suburb_name=&product_category=&state_theme=&product_region=

⁶ A portable steam engine was towed from farm to farm by horses to power the threshing machines



● **“Were you there?”**

Were you at Celebrate Mooroolbark 2011 on March 26? A significant number of our Mooroolbark community joined in celebrating all that is good in Mooroolbark and surrounding suburbs. The overall feeling of the festival was one of fun and excitement and a great ‘sense of celebration’. Most areas of the festival were bigger and better than last year and the mild and fine weather made for a wonderful family day. Many local organisations provided free or low-cost activities for children and the roving performers added to a genuine family-friendly atmosphere. The wide variety of things to do meant that children could be entertained for a number of hours.

The Talent Quest, which launched the festival on the Friday night, continues to showcase the quality of our local performers and the parade continues to attract more participants. A few new faces were there in the market place as well as those who have supported us over many years.

Our thanks go to so many members of our community who contributed to the outstanding success of the weekend – the hard-working ‘Celebrate Mooroolbark committee’, the community centre staff, the many stall holders and volunteers who all worked together to make it an event to remember and to all who supported the event by coming along on the day. We give our very special thanks to the Yarra Ranges council and our other generous sponsors who made the day possible.

The question now is **“Will you be there?”**

Set aside the following dates for 2012.

Friday March 23rd for the Talent Quest & Saturday March 24th to ‘Celebrate Mooroolbark’.

Thank you again, Mooroolbark, for your much-appreciated participation and support.

Andrew Lang
Chair of the Celebrate Mooroolbark Committee





Alyce Reidy

A Life Changing Experience

Alyce Reidy, a Year 11 student at Yarra Hills Secondary College (formerly Pembroke S.C.) had what she refers to as a 'life-changing experience' when she visited Borneo with the World Challenge program.

Alyce was one of 9 students to make this trip, which took them into the small village of Pa'umor in a remote, highlands area of the Malaysian part of Borneo.

Alyce says she immediately fell in love with the people they

met and the village life that they were able to experience. She greatly enjoyed the breathtaking jungle setting, the village life and the unique aspects of the local food including tapioca, wild boar and porcupine meat. But most of all she loved the people. She says, "They have very little in the way of personal comforts and live a simple life but they are a most happy, relaxed and loving people who made us all feel very much a part of their village family." She also loved the way they so clearly appreciated and deeply respected their environment – which was evident in everything they did. Some of Alyce's best memories are of village nights spent together in conversation, playing cards and enjoying much joking and laughter before settling down for the night on their sleeping mats in 'the long house'.

During their stay the group participated in a building project that the students had provided some funds for. The project involved a four hour hike into a remote jungle area where efforts are being made to

protect the natural environment in the face of constant logging activities. Their task was to build a hut using the materials that their contributions had provided. They spent six days there, working in hot and humid conditions – but with a real sense of satisfaction at what they had been able to achieve at the end of that time. The hut will be used in conjunction with tourism in this protected area. Whilst acknowledging that the student group had been able to offer some help to the local people, Alyce feels that she personally benefitted even more from the experience of just being there with them.

As part of the trip, the group also had the opportunity to climb Malaysia's highest mountain, Mt Kinabalu. This involved a full day of climbing to a sleep-over point and then a further challenging climb to the summit the next day. On the second day they set out at 2 a.m. to be at the summit to see the sun rise. Such was the challenge that only three of the group made it to the top. Alyce was determined that nothing would stop her making it all the way. She said that the amazing spectacle at the top made it much more than worthwhile.

Since returning to Australia, Alyce has kept in touch with the leader of the village, a man named Rian.

She is planning to return to Pa'umor at the end of her VCE and spend at least three months there helping the village in her interest area of health and hygiene, and also with teaching English and helping develop tourism.

Alyce's advice to any other students who are offered the opportunity to travel in this way is to grab it with both hands. Don't be put off by the cost. (She had to raise \$5,500.) You will find ways to do it. And when you do, you will have an experience you will never forget.

50th Anniversary – Congratulations

Barbara Austin

Fifty years is a lifetime of living and loving and growing together, and as you walk into the home of David and Dawn Sullivan you feel this sense of going back in time. The lounge is full of photos which are an expression of the life they have led, and although you would like to spend more time looking at them, you are gently ushered into the kitchen where David will make you one of his special cups of coffee.

This hospitable couple, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 21st January 2011, has much to tell and has given much to the community over the years - a community where they have experienced many changes with each generation and seen much growth from the time that they first came to live here forty nine years ago.

How many people remember seeing sheep ambling up what is now Manchester Road, and how many would remember when the only school in Mooroolbark was the primary school at Five Ways – which closed down a few years ago?

Dawn, who was born in Bulabul, just outside Bendigo, tells me she was born at home, which was unusual in Australia at that time, but her parents were miles away from a hospital. She has a real quirky sense of humour and it is sometimes hard to separate the humour from fact, but it makes for a lively conversation. David, on the other hand, was born in the Royal Women's Hospital in Carlton and lived in Port Melbourne. Port Melbourne Beach is where they first met. On their very first date they went to see the Russian Ballet. When asked about their reactions to each other at that time, Dawn said, without any hesitation, "He was a gentleman" and David thought Dawn was "the greatest thing on toast".

They eventually married and Donna, their only child, was born eleven months later. Donna now has three children of her own and lives in Sydney. When asked what their secret was for a happy marriage,



David said, "being able to talk things over". Both were in agreement that it was important not to hold a grudge and from the laughs and looks that passed between them it was obvious that this had worked for them. It is hard to believe that Dawn is eighty one and David is eighty two.

David joined the Air Force as a boiler-maker in 1968, when he was 39 and because he spent a lot of time away from home, it gave Dawn an opportunity to indulge her interests. She liked being around young people and still does, and volunteered her time by helping in any way she could with Sunday school and the Guides. When she is not busy with the many aspects of her local volunteer work, she enjoys gardening and visiting her sister in a nearby nursing home.

David retired from the Air Force in 1984, and although he doesn't enjoy particularly good health he loves to play billiards, snooker and golf. His other interest – Dawn.

Congratulations Dawn and David on your fiftieth wedding anniversary ... may you have many more.



ZOOTS Hair Design

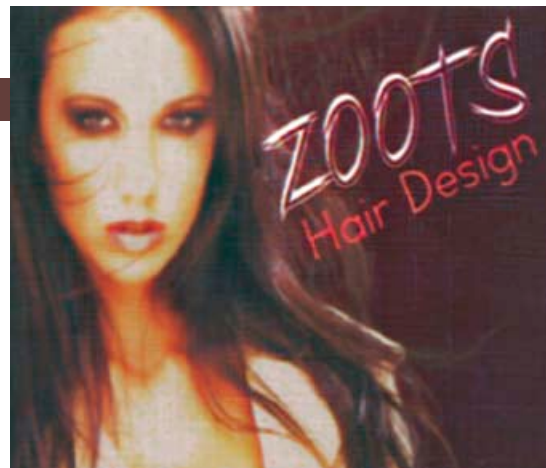
Shop B 64 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark Ph: 9726 7190

Jessica Mirabella is celebrating three years since she purchased "Zoots Hair Design" from Darryl and Sue Campbell, who had run the business for the previous 24 years. Jessica wishes to express her sincere thanks to the many Zoots clients who were willing to continue their patronage ... 'giving Jessica a go' as she says. She greatly appreciates the loyalty they showed in helping her to get started, and the many close personal relationships that have developed over the years since. Jessica thinks of her many regular clients as her extended family and gets much pleasure from the on-going relationships that they enjoy together. As a thank you to the community, along with the other many benefits and discounts offered



Jessica

to her clientele through her rewards system, Jessica is offering a third anniversary special "Colour and Haircut for \$55.00," available to everyone. Jessica has lived in Kilsyth all of her life. Her Mum and Dad are both of Italian descent: Mum was born here and dad came here as an infant. After their many years in Australia the family still enjoys many of the traditional Italian ways of life and family values that form their heritage and give them so much pleasure. Reflecting on her personal journey which led her to purchasing Zoots, Jessica notes that academic pursuits were not her 'best thing' in her school days but that her parents had encouraged her to always be positive and to follow her dreams. This led to her leaving school at age 16 to pursue her goal of becoming a proficient and creative hairdresser and eventually owning her own business. Throughout her childhood she had watched her Dad run a number of successful businesses and reflects on the encouragement and confidence that she developed through watching the way he worked. She saw clearly that if you were willing to work hard you could go a long way – you could become whatever you wanted to be. She talks of experiences like



accompanying her Dad to the Footscray Market at age nine and learning how to give change, how to calculate costs and profit margins and how to relate to customers. Above all she learned that if you think things through and put in the effort you can succeed in your own business. This confidence and work ethic remains with her today. This year she has commenced further studies to achieve certificate 4, the top qualification in hairdressing, which qualifies her to train and assess others in her craft. She plans to do some teaching work in the future.

We wish Jessica every ongoing success in her business and the future. We can be pretty sure she will succeed – whatever her future dreams may be.

Ph: 9726 0098

Email: owc@bigpond.net.au

Web: www.owc.net.au



Actionsport & dancewear

Shop 1 'The Terrace' (Facing onto Brice Avenue)
Ph. 9727 0502

Kerrie McPhee will be no stranger to many of our readers, due to her 28 years of work as a gym instructor and group fitness leader in the local

area. Over those years, Kerrie has worked in many different venues. Currently most of her teaching work is done at Fenix in Mooroolbark, Fernwood at Chirnside Park, Nitro in Kilsyth and the Croydon Leisure Centre. Her classes include aerobics, body balance, stretching, pilates, cycling, boxing, body contact and a 'fat-burning' group.

On May 15th 2010, Kerrie branched out by opening her Action Sport & Dance Wear business at 12 Brice Avenue Mooroolbark. Her unique outlet offers a wide range of special apparel for sport/fitness and for dancing. She sells a variety of brands including the popular Capezio label. Along with the main garments, she stocks many of the accessories that go with these activities such as dance shoes, leotards, tights, head and wrist bands, hairpins/nets, socks, boxing gloves, etc. She also carries a wide range of ladies' tees and singlets.

One thing that sets Kerrie's business apart from others is the expertise and advice that she can offer along with her products. She explains that compression garments are a revolutionary step in fitness apparel. In this relatively new science, tensile strength in fabrics is used to support the various muscle groups during dynamic movement or exercise situations. (The B.S.C. Compression Clothing website points out that this equipment can "enhance blood and oxygen flow to the muscles," "help reduce muscle and ligament strain," "improve muscular endurance," "assist lactic acid removal," and "facilitate faster recovery times."

Worth considering?

Kerrie and her husband Paul have lived in Mooroolbark for many years. They moved into their first home in Cardigan Road Mooroolbark in 1987 and now live just off Taylor Road. One of the factors in choosing their current home situation was the proximity to Billanook College. Their daughter, Rhiannon, is currently enrolled at year 9 at Billanook. Rhiannon has had a long interest in and commitment to various dance disciplines (she studies jazz, tap and ballet - putting in 8 hours of classes every week). This puts her in a position where she is well placed to offer various ideas and suggestions for currently popular dancewear clothing – input that her mother very much appreciates. Kerrie speaks of the high level of personal satisfaction she has experienced through getting to know and work with so many in the local community over the years, saying, "It has been most rewarding!"

We wish Kerrie every success in her new venture - 'Action Sport & Dancewear'.

SenseAbilities- An amazing world of "SPECIAL SENSORY TOYS"



Robyn and Kathy

www.senseabilities.com.au
12 Winyard Drive, Mooroolbark Victoria 3138
Tel: 03 9726 8047 Fax: 03 9728 3739
Email: robyn@senseabilities.com.au
PO Box 445, Montrose Victoria 3765

Kathy Clarkson and Robyn Kirkham are sisters with real "get-up-and-go". They saw a need within the community 9

years ago and did something about it. Their company, SenseAbilities, is all about helping children develop through the use of their senses with particular focus on equipment for children with sensory processing difficulties such as autism spectrum disorder and learning difficulties.

Kathy Clarkson is a paediatric occupational therapist with 20 years experience and has a practice in North Carlton. Specialising in developmental therapy, particularly in the area of sensory processing, (the way the nervous system processes sensory information), has been a lifelong fascination for her. At one point in her career Kathy came to realise there was very limited access in Australia to the special sensory toys and books she needed for her work. She approached her sister Robyn with the idea and from there they began to work together to import the various books and toys she required in bulk, and to make them available through online shopping to other occupational therapists, early intervention centres and families in need ... and SenseAbilities was born.

Product distribution for the business is primarily by the internet. The orders initially began coming in from therapists at professional development courses, who then recommended SenseAbilities products to teachers, schools and parents. Word of mouth then spread, meaning that there has been little need for advertising.

From this point Kathy and Robyn continued to look at the community need. Kathy told me, "Toys today do not have a "purpose to play" designed into them. In general the toys have a battery and a button to push and the toy now does automatically what the child did manually ... and the child's development and learning is hindered because there is no interaction and open-ended exploration ... there is no "designed purpose to play" in these sterile types of toys." Too many toys are being designed for fast visual, two-dimensional input, such as screens and flashing lights. Kathy's particular concern was of the general lack of "sensory-based, child-interaction toys available." These are toys that create an appropriate development of awareness in a child's mind when he/she play with them, and promote the use of the senses important to development such as touch, the use of the muscles and movement, as well as more integrated and intellectual concepts such as planning, problem solving and sequencing. This very limited availability of this type of developmental toy brought Robyn and Kathy to the decision to expand the SenseAbilities range to include not only toys and tools that therapists need for children with special needs but also sensory and developmental toys to stimulate the experience of all children.

Robyn has the book-keeping, retail, customer service and management skills and the time to run the retail side of the online

shopping business, which remained in her home until June last year. As with all good ideas and good service based on knowledge, personality plus and a philosophy of "you put it out and it comes back." SenseAbilities outgrew the home environment, and the internet shop/warehouse in Mooroolbark became a reality. Robyn virtually runs the shop/warehouse single handed, although there may be an increase of staff soon. Her personality is ideal for customer relations as she has a ready smile and helpful attitude. But more importantly, she knows her products and the business intimately.

Another specialist part of SenseAbilities is the information that both Kathy and Robyn can provide through the website. Anybody accessing the SenseAbilities website can use it to email Kathy, as a professional, and get assistance and advice. Kathy receives emails from people wanting information such as product details, parents wanting a recommendation for an occupational therapist with a particular specialty in the community, teachers who have children with poor handwriting or attentional issues in the classroom who need equipment or activity ideas, or want to know how to get more support, etc. SenseAbilities is committed to the provision of equipment and resources designed to assist with the sensory motor development of children. They provide supplies for parents, occupational therapists, speech therapists, physiotherapists, teachers and other allied health professionals, or just to people wanting to have a little fun with sensory toys. All the above information and more relating to the developmental wellbeing of the child is available free at their website or you can visit the shop. Due to the nature of the business, SenseAbilities does not operate regular retail hours. If you are passing by and they are open, you are welcome to come in and browse. If you are making a special trip, please phone and make an appointment to ensure availability.

Kathy and Robyn are both happily married with children and have very strong back-up from their husbands who have donated their own professional skills to the success of SenseAbilities. Their comment on their families was "We couldn't have done it without them". Robyn's husband is an accountant and Kathy's husband a computer programmer and web designer. Their children are given samples of all the toys to try as Kathy and Robyn look on to see how they play with them and what they do with them. The toy may have been designed with one style of play in mind ... but what the children dream up to do with it is something else again. Kathy gets so excited about how the nervous system works and how the children bring their individuality into the play. Kathy points out that "every item in the shop has a target area in development, be that sensory, emotional or intellectual and if you can't find something you need, give us a call and we'll try to find it!"

At this stage Kathy and Robyn plan to consolidate where SenseAbilities has come to at this point before considering any further business developments.

We wish them every success for the future.



Barry Austin

INTRODUCING

MOORCOLBARK UMBRELLA GROUP

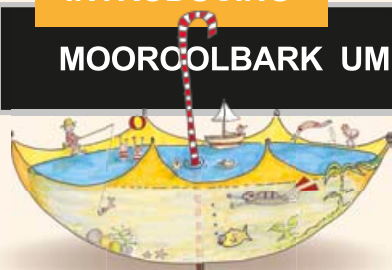
M.U.G!

CONTACT US

Email: moor.umb.group@optusnet.com.au
Phone: Randall 9723 2693, 0425 716 655
Mail: Mooroolbark Umbrella Group, c/o
Mooroolbark Community Centre PO BOX 85,
Mooroolbark 3138

- An organisation supporting Mooroolbark organisations
- Quarterly network meetings
- An inclusive voice for Mooroolbark
- Partnerships that help our town flourish

Initiative Community
Appreciation Family Vision
Volunteer Mooroolbark
Supporting Uniting



SO WHAT WILL YOU BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?...

'So, what are you going to do when you leave school?' It's a bit like, 'what are you going to be when you grow up?'

How many times have we heard those comments – or asked them of the younger ones among us? Sure, it's an important question ... but even more importantly ... how can we expect them to give a reasonable answer? These days, more than ever, there are so many choices that we can hardly be puzzled or annoyed by the usual response of, 'I don't know!' Or worse still, 'whatever!'

I've mentioned in previous articles that I consider myself very fortunate in having pursued a career that I feel perfectly suited for, and one that I enjoy immensely. I was *meant* to do what I do – it's in my genes! My father built things, my brothers build things, my uncles made or designed things – it must be in the family DNA. For me to seek a career in sales (and I tried) would be a waste of the talents in me that were meant to accomplish something useful. As I was about to leave school in year 10 (which was when apprenticeships usually started) my parents took me to do a Vocational Guidance Test (VGT). The results confirmed that I should go and do what I felt I should ... but also to use it as a base for further development. I'd always done metalwork and technical drawing in school, and these were my favourite subjects. But having the VGT confirm my strengths and provide an insight into where they could take me, was of great benefit and encouragement.

New challenges

As our children continue to move away from the traditional toys and hobbies we used to have, and amuse themselves with electronic toys, they seem to be gradually distancing themselves from opportunities that help them understand what they are good at, and what they enjoy doing. (See the article in this issue on toys for children with special needs – the principle applies to all children, not just the ones with learning difficulties). By engaging the mind with challenging toys and hobbies, important skills are developed. Unfortunately, video games and similar entertainment style games are not very good at helping our youth develop the skills needed for the oncoming responsibilities of adulthood, including vocational demands.

So, how do we proceed from here? If your teen has no idea of where their strengths lie, consider having him or her take a VGT. It may reveal some significant hidden talent, or at least confirm a special passion or strength. Our 18 year old son took such a test recently. It confirmed his main abilities and highlighted some other strengths we thought he might have had, but had not yet been exhibited. For your teen, a test may give confidence that a chosen path is in the right general direction. It may also show that a considered path may not be a wise choice. It should help to narrow down some complex vocational choices.

It's not just a job!

I have encountered many people – young and much older, that are just *doing a job*. They go to work, they get paid, and that's it! We are most fortunate to live in a country where there are no limits to what a young person can aspire to – we have a Welsh immigrant as Prime Minister! To be employed doing a job we love is not some wild idea – it is actually quite a practical means to enjoy ourselves and get paid for it. I firmly believe 'a happy worker is a productive worker'. When someone is doing what he or she is good at, feels confident at, and is able to see where they can continue to progress, it makes for a happy worker. This in turn, makes for a well-paid, contented and fulfilled worker who doesn't feel the need to keep changing jobs. When we can do what we're good at, we will do it well and enjoy doing it – and we'll continue to get better at it, and the cycle continues. As someone once said, 'People who really enjoy what they do never *work* a day in their lives.'

It's more than skills

Being really proficient at something is not derived from training alone, but is often quite dependent on an inherent *desire* or *talent* to do the task.

The challenge for parents is twofold;



1. To help their teenager discover and understand their inner talents, gifts etc.
2. To encourage the passionate expression of those talents through a well chosen career.

Additionally, often it is also the *heart* for a project that makes us want to do our best.

A very brief word about personality profiles

There are several companies using different methods to analyse a person's personality, but they all tend to arrive at similar conclusions, often using differing terminology.

This is not about measuring skills or talents but understanding each person's unique personality – the way a person functions when they are not stressed, when they are not being someone, or doing anything – when they are just being themselves. Some people work well in teams, some don't. Some have to have a constant flow of decisions being made, some don't. The point is that we all want to operate in a way where we feel comfortable, this enables us to work most efficiently and enjoyably. Some people need to chat, others prefer some quiet time alone. Some like (need) to know what's happening for the next six months, others like to take it day by day.

We're all different like this and it's the combination of the personality aspects described that make each of us unique! If we can understand and operate in our zone, then we will be our happiest and most productive.



When we can combine the heart *and* the talents, we are on a sure track for successful and rewarding employment.

Another aspect that may assist in finding a person's special niche is to understand their unique *personality profile*. It's not within the scope of this article to explore this any further than pointing out that there are 4 broad personality profiles (see box). Each teenager's particular profile will significantly impact their career path in the following areas (to mention only a few);

- how effectively they work in a team (or not)
- how they deal with stress
- how they plan, and
- how they navigate problems.

They can't *change* their personality profile, but they should seek to work with their inbuilt strengths. Knowing their profile has the potential to impact their life choices, this certainly would compliment fundamental career guidance. It's important to understand that a personality profile is not about being good or bad at something – just about understanding the differences between individuals and how each can function at their best with relative ease and comfort. If we try to operate in areas *not* part of our personality profile than we will encounter a measure of stress.

Decisions for life

Having them leave school only to change jobs or career paths every few months, and not being happy in what they are doing is no fun for anyone. The longer they take to find their passion, the harder it will be to pursue it with vigour and grab opportunities for advancement. Responsibilities begin to mount up and with bills to pay, it will be much more difficult. It may even be quite unrealistic

to restart down a newly-discovered, more appropriate and rewarding, career path. They could have pursued this after school if they'd known what their gifting was in the first place.

University and TAFE 'open days' are a great resource to find a special job or field that you may not even be aware existed. These open days are usually staffed with excited students who are very approachable and happy to share their journey and offer any tips on what's so good about their chosen field.

As your teenagers consider their career options, they will benefit from any help and encouragement you can provide for developing their skills and gifting. These can be exciting times for the whole family. Being well-informed is the start of a lifelong adventure

that offers great rewards for those who give it their best. The first challenge for families with a school-leaving teenager is to find out what their best is!



Steve Steel

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

Quality ISO 9001
 Business System

Professionals

www.methven.com.au
 Mooroolbark Office Tel. 9726 8888
 Proudly supporting Living Today in Mooroolbark

CHURCH NEWS

Aussie Mateship?

Adapted from the article by Kerry Gubb, Christian Odyssey Apr-May 2011.
See: www.gci.org/publications/odyssey

Australia has been called "The Lucky Country." But we haven't been feeling so lucky lately. In just one month:

- **Flash floods** inundated an area the size of France and Germany combined. Lives were lost, homes and crops destroyed.
- **Cyclone Yasi** crossed the Queensland coast, leaving devastation in its wake.
- **Bushfires** burnt out homes and property on the edge of Perth.

But when Australia produces its worst, it can bring out the best in us. Mateship – "Aussie spirit" – is our self-image. It's lived out each time this land fights back with fire, wind or water.

I'm as fiercely proud of mateship as anyone. However, Australians are not the only ones who come together in a crisis. Each nation, each community has its own variation on the same theme. They might call it something else, and display it in ways that reflect their own history. But mateship is common to all humanity - made in the image of God. Because God – Father, Son, and Spirit – is mateship, relationship, community. God says, "You are in me and I am in you. I will never leave you, nor forsake you."

Here's the difference, though. That's how God is all the time. But we're not like God all the time. In fact, we're not like him most of the time, are we? That's because this image of God is bent by our self-centeredness. Only in special moments does it break through. So mostly, we do our own thing, largely unaware of the family two doors down our street. **Until there's a flood. Until there's a cyclone. Until there's a fire.**

Disasters are just that. Nobody enjoys them. But that's when we think that the family two doors down might need some help. From a street full of strangers emerges a community of friends – mates – lending each other a hand. There were countless comments from grateful owners of flooded and ravaged homes, about how overwhelmed they were to have complete strangers helping them restore their lives. As it was after the California fires and the Haiti earthquake. As it was after the Boxing Day tsunami, or as the world held its breath for the trapped Chilean miners.

I can't help reflecting, though, that such community spirit comes from something we share with all humankind. The Son of God didn't just make us – he became one of us, and still is. That's mateship.



Mooroolbark Welcomes Father Joseph Lu Xin

The community of churches in Mooroolbark joins with the St Peter Julian and St Richards, (Kilsyth) in welcoming newly appointed priest, Fr. Joseph Lu to our community.

Originally from Beijing in China, Fr. Joseph came to Australia in 1990. His training for the priesthood included five years in Sydney, a further five years in Melbourne and one year each in New Zealand and in the USA. This culminated in his ordination as a Mission Priest and a member of the "Society of the Divine Word", Box Hill. He was then posted to Manila in the Philippines. His church there, St. Jude Thaddeus, was situated adjacent to the presidential palace. During his time in Manila, it was his privilege to regularly conduct Mass for the presidential family and

NEW SALVO WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Peter Collins

The Salvation Army has been operating at Mooroolbark since 1965. Our home for the first thirty years was on the corner of Kalimna Street and Manchester Road. Fifteen years ago a decision was made to sell that property since it was too small for the expanding programme at the Corps. The intention was to rebuild on suitable land after two years. Two acres of land was purchased from the Anglican Church on the corner of Fletcher (formerly Sheep) and Manchester Roads; however there were a series of delays mostly because of funding issues. Over these past fifteen years we have been grateful to the Pembroke (now Yarra Hills) Senior Campus and to the Mooroolbark Baptist Church for the use of their facilities.



**Major Peter Collins
Corps Officer -
Mooroolbark**

In November 2009, a firm commitment was made from Salvation Army headquarters to support the local Corps in the construction of a worship and community centre. An architect was commissioned and after six months of discussion a set of plans has now been sent to the Planners of Yarra Ranges council to seek approval to proceed to the building design stage, utilising the land at Fletcher/Manchester Roads. The current plans incorporate a 250-seat auditorium with overflow provision, a function room, welfare interview rooms, administration offices, crèche, and some break-out rooms. In the underneath section there is storage, bus parking, plant room and a reserved area for a stage 2 development. The design features sustainable elements such as underground cooling, solar heating, water storage and a thermal chimney. Linking the various areas is a generous foyer which is adjoined by a kitchen and servery to provide hospitality for welfare clients, worshippers and those who are linked in with our community clubs. The building will have a community character and is intended to be a base for Salvation Army ministry in this part of the Yarra Valley for the next 100 years.

The anticipated overall cost will exceed \$4 million, which will be met from local fundraising, a 25-year loan and a grant from headquarters, together with invested money from the sale of our former property. Community support for our building fund would be gratefully received since we hope to raise \$100,000 in the next 12 months. Community groups and individuals can send donations to our office at PO Box 83 Mooroolbark 3138, with cheques made out to The Salvation Army Mooroolbark Building Fund.

he was chaplain to the then-president, Gloria Arroyo – a significant challenge for a newly ordained, young priest.

Now Fr. Joseph is enjoying the new challenge of the work of a diocesan priest in his quite large parish which now includes St Richard's church and school in Kilsyth as well as St Peter Julian's church and school in Mooroolbark. He speaks enthusiastically about the local area as a most peaceful, beautiful and much-blessed part of our country and has been very impressed by the friendliness of people throughout the broader community. He is especially appreciative of the warm and loving welcome received by what he describes as his 'very active' parish family.

Mooroolbark welcomes Fr Joseph to the area and wishes him a most enjoyable and productive time throughout his stay in this community.

St. Margaret's Uniting Church, Mooroolbark

SUPPORTING HOMELESS YOUTH IN UGANDA

As a young child in Uganda, Geoffrey Kyeyune was an orphan living in a war-torn and politically and economically devastated country. From any perspective, his future looked decidedly bleak. However, life offered him an opportunity that neither he nor his peers could have ever imagined or hoped for. He was taken into care by a religious nun who saw to it that he was properly cared for and ensured that the way was opened to allow him to gain the best education available. With her strong support, Geoffrey completed a university education, graduating as a qualified social worker.

From an early age, the impact of the very special opportunity that had come his way led Geoffrey to develop a passion for a life of helping others – particularly homeless youth. He wanted others to experience the sort of help that had turned his life around. In the early 1990s Geoffrey began reaching out to needy young people. At that time, the civil strife and turmoil the country was going through saw many young people living on the streets and in desperate need. In 1992 the Rubaga Youth Development Association (RYDA) was established as a community-based organisation. From its small beginnings, RYDA has grown to where it is now a registered NGO (Non-Government Organisation) which operates three centres and assists over 500 children and youth. 154 of these youth are involved in a residential program; the balance are supported to attend formal primary and secondary education or participate in daily training programs at a “community house”. Through these programs, RYDA assists marginalized young people to rise above their circumstances, reach toward their potential and find ways to build more ‘complete’ and successful lives.

The programs aim to empower young people to succeed by offering general education, worship & scripture - training, music and sports programs, agricultural experience and life-skill & vocational training. Sometimes it is also possible to find donors who will sponsor suitable students to go on to university. Whilst the focus is primarily on children and youth, the Community House Training Programs are also open to any members of the community, and are having a significant influence on the broader community.

RYDA's motto is “All people have the opportunity to develop within an enabling environment”. St Margaret's involvement with RYDA stems from a chance meeting of two men in San Diego (USA) in 1996. Doug Williams was on a business trip and happened to meet Geoffrey at the breakfast table at the local YMCA. They got talking together. As Geoffrey talked about his charity work and the need to raise funds for the on-going work of RYDA, Doug felt moved to ask if there was any way that his local church in Mooroolbark could perhaps offer help. When he arrived home and spoke to his minister Rev. Lesley Shekleton, a small beginning was initiated – and a lasting association began. Geoffrey has visited St. Margaret's on several occasions over the years, and the local congregation has been able to provide considerable support.

In February 2010 RYDA received a grant to support a 22-month program relating to eliminating child labour. This offer came from ILO/IPEC, an arm of the United Nations, who will provide a total of US \$66,000 for a pilot program as long as certain conditions are met. One condition was that RYDA had to raise a total local contribution of \$9,000 over the life of the project and \$3000 of that had to be in the bank by February 14th of that year. At the time they only had access to about \$1500. When the congregation at St. Margaret's heard about this new need, they immediately gave Geoffrey a commitment that this amount would be met, and have since undertaken that the balance of the \$9000 will never be in doubt. At time of writing around \$6000 has been transferred, made up from many donations from in and outside St. Margaret's. The congregation is continuing to work towards completing the \$9000 promise.



Geoffrey Kyeyune & son, Solomon

With help from RYDA this project will ensure that 333 children are prevented from entering into child labour situations and a further 167 will be withdrawn from existing work placements. In addition to all of this, RYDA is implementing an “Integral Mission” (Community Development Program) which uses church leaders to bring both the spiritual and the physical aspects of life together in helping to develop an entire community. They work with a community helping to improve living conditions, to develop community leaders and to facilitate meaningful communication within the community. RYDA has the very clear goal of developing sustainable improvement through the ongoing, ‘generational’ training of community leaders.

The writer found it very encouraging to meet Geoffrey's son, Solomon, who has just completed his secondary schooling and is planning to study economics at tertiary level. Already, Solomon is talking about his desire and passion to follow in his father's footsteps – not working for his father, but finding an equally effective way himself to make a significant difference in the lives of needy people in his developing homeland of Uganda. With this generational commitment to serving the needy, it would seem assured that the people of Uganda can look forward to a brighter future.

Like to know more about RYDA and St Margaret's involvement? Please go to the website at www.blackdouglas.com.au/ryda or call Doug Williams on 9726 6968.

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

ALL WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre

Wednesday July 6th 2011
“Rio”

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 if there is a wait list.

THE LONG & THE SHORT OF IT



Linda Hancock

Linda Hancock grew up in New Zealand. Her family still lives there, but by coming to Australia, Linda was able to realise her dream of becoming a police officer.

“Following training we had two years of being rotated around all aspects of policing. I started at Fitzroy and boy, did it hit me! In some respects I’d had a sheltered life compared with what I witnessed in Fitzroy. And later I was transferred to traffic for a couple of weeks and then records section, licensing section and so on. After working at Russell Street, I was posted to Ashburton – from one extreme to the other!”

Linda has appreciated the way that black humour helped her through challenging times



meeting at night,” said Linda. “And of course my husband is very supportive – and we’re able to divvy up who takes the children to their activities. Sometimes community takes second fiddle – or sometimes my family does. My kids understand that.”

The longer arm of the law...

“At first when I started working in Crime Prevention, I wondered what was I really getting involved in, but I’ve come to see that Victoria Police, as a major stake holder in the community, should become increasingly involved in community processes.”

“Much police work tends to be reactive – attending to theft, burglary, domestic matters,” commented Linda, “but Crime Prevention is more proactive – we can contribute to how we might do things better.”

Linda has tried to build relationships with both large organisations and small networks within the community to say, “We’re here to assist.” “It might be in helping to plan for greater safety and usage of a park that people feel is scary,” she said. “And we’ll help in working through relevant issues – it may be lighting, or safer landscaping or reducing local crime.”

One of the most rewarding aspects of Linda’s work is in the field of environmental design. “So many areas can be made so beautiful, and can be designed so that people can visit and feel safe. I’ve done quite a bit of that work around the Shire – sitting down with various council departments – planning, urban design, local community and traders, and we’ll look at why something is not working and what we might do to make it better. It’s even possible to get quite excited by designing public toilets better!”

“I really enjoy the community awareness of townships in the Yarra Valley,” continued Linda. “To have 20 or 30 people willing to commit to a community project – or to have 50 or 60 come out to weed and paint, remove

The short...

“I always wanted to be a police officer, but I was a little bit under the NZ height restrictions, so I came to Australia. I’d come for a holiday in Tasmania, and never went home. The height restrictions weren’t a factor here and I went through police training with another NZ girl who came over here for the same reasons. And I stayed in Melbourne because I could do what I always wanted to do.”

“I had an alcoholic father. He was often brought home in the back of a divvy van with his bike. The police that brought him home showed me a supportive side to policing that appealed to me. They were very nice to my mother, for whom life was a battle, so I always had that respect for them.”

One of Linda’s father’s relatives was a police officer. “Sitting on his knee as a child, I grew up listening to his stories. Wanting to join the police force helped me through adolescence. I thought, ‘Well, I can’t do the wrong thing; I’m striving to stay on the right side.’ So I was probably a ‘goody two shoes’ in that respect.”

Linda joined the Victorian Police Force in 1983.

“We did an 18-week course. It was a small intake that year – 360 of us, compared with the more usual intake of about a thousand. Funding was lean that year, and we were told we were ‘handpicked and had to just keep running and jumping!’ That year our training squad and our sister squad had more women than was usual.”

during her police work – like the time in 1985, when an article appeared on page 3 of *The Truth* newspaper.

The small article – ironically appearing under a picture of a scantily clad woman coincidentally called Linda – reported that the then Constable Hancock had been solicited for sex by a passing motorist in St. Kilda. The man had offered her \$5. The article concludes with: “Assaad’s lawyer Julie Sutherland assured the court her client had in no way intended to insult the constable when he offered her \$5. Magistrate Jack Maloney found the charge proved and fined Assaad \$50.”

After some years at Reservoir, Greensborough and eight years as a detective based in the Yarra Valley, Linda married, and she and husband Robert (currently a Maroondah Shire councillor) had twins, Robert and Hannah.

Linda found it hard to balance her detective work and raising a family. “I took maternity leave – and felt ‘ripped off,’” she said. “I had two kids and only one lot of leave!”

“During my maternity leave a colleague contacted me about the possibility of working in crime prevention. I went over to Knox and had a look. I thought I’d give it a go – it was really different – and now, you can’t get me out. I really enjoy it!”

Linda chose to remain a senior constable because the hours in that position are more family-friendly. “Sometimes I’m home at times through the day, but go out to a community



Made it! Linda 2nd from left



Training Linda far left front row

graffiti and fix up broken infrastructure, making the town more liveable. I just think that's wonderful when you see that."

"I've learned that in community work I often need to sit back, rather than taking charge of the process. If it's going to be sustainable it's got to be driven by the community according to what people want for their community. But I'm able to contribute ideas, and help in various ways – but learning to sit back patiently at times is the biggest lesson that I've learned."

"Sometimes our work may be to reassure a burglary victim by helping them improve some security aspects of their home – and thus helping to re-build their confidence. It's nice to be able to share tips that I take for granted."

"We've also been able to help by establishing the Yarra Ranges Police Community Safety Register in response to the isolation experienced, as people grow older."

Linda notes that the police often see people who don't have a lot of links to the community. "These days, kids like me may live elsewhere, leaving parents without their support. Friendship networks also diminish as friends move or pass away."

The police aim to have safety register clients carry an identification card. "In case of an emergency, we're able to identify the person who has maybe fallen at home or in the street. Our data base lists next of kin, so we can ring and say, 'Look, Mum's just had a bit of a fall, she's off to Maroondah Hospital; she's been taken in an ambulance' or 'we're taking her home; she's been assessed, but she's going to need on-going support'."

"Sometimes we're able to respond to families living interstate who call and say 'we haven't been able to get onto Dad' – and we can follow up."

"Another benefit is that our volunteers are able to ring these people, if they choose, once a month for a chat. They might not have spoken to anyone for a week or more, so sometimes the chats are extended. Depending on the weather, the volunteers warn about things like heat stress, keeping up fluids, and so on. They're also able to speak to the volunteers about things distressing them – having to sell up their home and move to a retirement village. And checking that they're OK, is it time that they needed Meals on Wheels, are they eating, that sort of thing. It's not just for senior people, but for any people who might live alone or feel in need of the service."

"It's a bit of a commitment police-wise to start it up, but once it's rolling, the volunteers are just fantastic. I don't even have to be here; they make the calls, leave me any notes that I might need and basically I'm just there for assistance."

Linda already has 20 volunteers and is looking for a couple more to be on an emergency roster. "We just ask for a couple of hours once every four weeks or so. I enjoy going out and doing home visits. I've met some wonderful people in the community, listening to their stories and having a cup of tea".

Since being in crime prevention, Linda has become increasingly aware of graffiti – and particularly notices "the way that the untidiness of tagging promotes the feeling that no-one really cares. As I visited various groups, the question kept coming up: 'What can we do about it?'"

"I'm quite proud of the fact that we've been able to establish an Eastern Graffiti Information Network. All the big players come to that – the Department of Justice, VicRoads, Department of Transport, local councils. Local councils have graffiti officers now – that was unheard of over ten years ago. And various townships and businesses have taken up the challenge to eradicate it and the Department of Justice has supported it with funding. There's also a much more balanced approach now, so that I'm able to say graffiti can be an art. Melbourne has Hosier Lane. There is a tension between what may be considered an offence and what may be considered as art. It's a very mixed message to people, what is and isn't. And I quite like that art – but what I dislike is the mindless tagging that defaces property. I know, too, that the better work is not everyone's cup of tea."

"So some of our work involves working with some offenders who sometimes are simply disengaged from what everyone thinks people should do. Some think that playing sport would be the answer to everything. Well it's not. Some young people aren't sporty. But they like to do other things and we've found that they're very good designers, for example. So, the trick is trying to get them to use their skills in the right place, with the right structure."

"Some of the work with graffiti has been very satisfying. And some of the removal work just makes our communities look so much healthier."

"These days, I feel that I've come full circle," said Linda. "I've been through all my young, active policing career, and I've been really grateful to have been given the responsibility and the honour of having my own police service area – to be crime prevention officer in the Yarra Valley. I feel like I've come home. It's very comfortable in the new Lilydale police station, and I really like the people in Yarra Valley."

If you'd like more information about some of the work that Linda is involved with, you can contact Leading Senior Constable Linda Hancock at Lilydale Police Station, 6-10 Albert Hill Road, Lilydale, or phone 9739 2396.



Randall Bouchier

MOOROOLBARK THEATRE GROUP INC.
by special arrangement with Dorrine Pty Ltd A0014291

presents
 a comedy by **Richard Harris**

Party Piece

Directed by **Arline Myers**

MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY CENTRE
 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark

**16th, 17th, 18th,
 22nd, 23rd, 24th & 25th June**

Bookings: 9726 4282
Ticket Secretary: Arline

Tickets \$15 (Conc. \$13)
Group bookings welcome for further discount

Doors open 7.30pm Table seating & BYO Curtain up 8pm



Manchester P.S. Welcomes its New Principal – Peter Jenkins

In taking up his appointment as principal of Manchester Primary School, in February 2011, Peter Jenkins came to the school with a unique background resulting from his unusual entry-path to the world of primary education and his very interesting and challenging experiences in a very different educational setting.

Before Peter had completed his teacher training in 1988 he was offered a business partnership in a family fencing contracting business. He accepted that position and pursued this path for a period of 10 years, also “dabbling in building” as he puts it, and building his own home. In 1997 Peter decided it was time for a change of occupation and having achieved a private pilot’s licence, he and his wife, Sarah (also a trained teacher) headed off to Darwin with the intention of Peter gaining employment as a pilot somewhere in the Northern Territory.

In the early days of their time in Darwin, Peter accepted some relief-teacher work in the area – thinking of this as a temporary means of gaining income whilst he pursued the pilot’s job. He soon found that the challenge and rewards of working with mixed races of young children was the thing he most wanted to do.

Whilst in the Northern Territory, Peter worked in both primary and secondary schools in Darwin, Kakadu, Groote Island, Maningrida (in Arnhem Land) and Tennant Creek. His experiences were highly varied. At times he taught in mining community schools where the population was mostly made up of white children whilst in others there was a mix of indigenous children and those from a variety of other ethnic backgrounds.

At other times he worked in areas where the entire local population was of indigenous background.

Peter has many stories to tell of the contrasts, the challenges and the rewards of such varied teaching opportunities.

One of his fondest memories is that of his time living and working in the mining community in Groote Island. He refers to that particular area as a real “tropical paradise” and a wonderful place to raise kids.

Throughout his time in the Northern Territory, Peter was promoted a number of times eventuating in his appointment as Principal of a Group School in the Tennant Creek area. In this role his responsibility covered nine community schools with over 500 children on their combined attendance lists. On average there was approximately 350kms. between each of these schools or cluster of schools.

During all of this time in the Northern Territory, Sarah also pursued her teaching career in a number of ways.

In 2010, Peter was able to take up a year’s study leave, earned through credits received as a result of working in very remote areas. Now, with three children (Lucy, Olivia and Max) in tow, they set off on a world trip focusing mostly on Spanish speaking areas. (Many more interesting stories to tell).

They completed their trip and returned to Australia in time for Peter to apply for the principal position he now holds.

Coming to Manchester, Peter was greatly impressed and encouraged by what he describes as the “fantastic mix of passion, enthusiasm and expression in the highly valued teaching staff and the excellent standards being achieved throughout the school as a result of many years of thoughtful and careful management”. He sees nothing less than a very bright future for Manchester Primary School.

The Mooroolbark community congratulates Peter on his appointment to the school and welcomes him to the local area. We wish him and the school every success as they move ahead.



27 Years On the Job



When Sandra decided to take on a crossing supervisor position in May of 1984, her thinking was “This is a way to earn myself a little pocket money for a couple of years or so, and still be mostly at home for my children”. Little did she think, at that time, that she would still be ‘on the job’ 27 years later.

Asked what has encouraged her to stay in the role for so long she says, “It’s because I just love kids. I enjoy seeing the children each day, getting to know some of them and their families and being there to help them. And it’s nice the way many of the children just love to say hello or to have a little chat each day as they pass by. It seems to give them a

sense of security that the same person is there for them, day in and day out.” Sandra also reflects on the pleasure it has given her that some of the children have made a point of coming back to say hello again, after leaving to attend another school.

Over the years she has also enjoyed being involved with the nearby primary school in a small way – attending some of their functions and getting to know people in the school community.

Many local drivers have exchanged a wave with Sandra over the years as they have passed by. One who stopped to say hello, after many years of waving, turned out to be from the same part of Scotland that Sandra

came from. She came to Australia from a little fishing village in the south-east corner of Scotland call Eyemouth (at the mouth of the river Eye, she explains). Arriving here in 1966, she spent her first couple of years in Brisbane, before moving to Melbourne. She still has family in Scotland and has been back there twice over the years and hopes to go again soon. She now has two children and four lovely grandchildren living in the local area.

Sandra is one of more than 130 crossing supervisors working in our shire. From time to time she meets with other supervisors at the three-monthly update meetings that the shire conducts and at the Christmas function provided each year. At the quarterly meetings, safety issues are discussed and often guest speakers provide additional input and information about the supervisors’ role and responsibilities. But the thing she enjoys most is just getting together with others who are doing the same job.

Our sincere thanks to Sandra and all of her crossing supervisor colleagues for the work they all do in all sorts of weather to ensure the safety of our young children.

MAYORAL BREAKFAST

As this issue of *Living Today* goes to print I am very much looking forward to hosting the coming National Day of Thanksgiving Mayoral Breakfast organised each year by local church groups in the shire. This annual event is always a great opportunity to hear some amazing stories about our local communities and the strength they have shown in times of adversity. It is also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and thank the thousands of people who volunteer their own time to work in service and community organisations and ultimately contribute to and enrich the lives of every single one of us in the community.

Volunteers ...

are people who freely give their time, energy and talents without ever expecting anything in return; people who have open minds and are willing to both share their knowledge and learn from those they work with. They underpin the fabric of our society because of these traits.

Volunteers and service groups not only play a vital role in ensuring many services are delivered to the community; they also create a connected and caring community, and as such, their value is immeasurable. Both locally and internationally there are many examples of

the wonderful work undertaken by volunteers and service groups. Whether it be delivering a meal to someone or helping out in a natural disaster, volunteers are everywhere.

Here in the Yarra Ranges we rely on a diverse range of volunteers who work in many areas to keep our community strong. From emergency services to junior sport, to caring for the environment, to visiting sick or isolated people, our volunteers are integral. Without volunteers, many of these services just wouldn't exist. Council also relies on volunteers to help make sure many services are delivered. Our Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver thousands of meals each year and, more importantly, provide welcome company and a friendly smile to so many of our older residents. And without the support of our PAG volunteers, many people's lives would be far less interesting and enjoyable. Volunteers also play a significant role in the protection and rehabilitation of our precious environment – more than 1000 volunteers lend their support through around 90 community-run environment groups operating in the Yarra Ranges.

For volunteers themselves, their work is extremely rewarding. It provides an opportunity to have a meaningful, positive



impact on their community, no matter how big or small that impact is. It's also a great way to find a new interest; to find something you are really good at and passionate about, and an opportunity to develop new skills. And apart from that, it's a wonderful way to connect with your own community and make new friends.

Volunteers are the lifeblood – the soul – of our community, and we simply couldn't do without them. To those of you who already volunteer, we sincerely thank you for your efforts and dedication to our community. And if you are thinking about becoming a volunteer, remember, it's a great opportunity to make your community a better place and to have a positive impact – have a chat with a local community group and give volunteering a go. In a very short time, you'll be glad that you did.

Mayor Terry Avery



CELEBRATING "REFUGEE WEEK"

19th – 25th June 2011

Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to inform the public about refugees – why they come to Australia and the many challenges they face in doing so. It also presents an opportunity for us all to celebrate the many positive contributions made by refugees to Australian society, and to help foster a growing culture of welcome throughout our country. The event has been celebrated in Australia since 1986. World Refugee Day is June 20th.

Across Australia, Refugee Week will be marked by a broad range of special events which offer opportunities for us all to experience and celebrate the rich diversity of our various refugee communities through the arts, festivals and discussion. **Two special events will take place at Mooroolbark Community Centre – Brice Ave Mooroolbark.**

Freedom from Fear - Exhibition of Refugee Art & Craft, 20 June – 7 July.

Red Earth Gallery, Freedom from Fear, will officially open at 7pm on 20 June, International Refugee Day. The exhibition will feature works that explore the hopes and imaginings of people who have arrived in Australia as refugees and will celebrate the contribution refugees make to our community. Local artist, Janet Wilson, is working with individual artists, families and groups through the Adult Migrant Education Service, local churches and the Migrant Information Centre Eastern Region to create work for the exhibition that will be presented alongside stunning examples of traditional crafts.

Refugee Week - Community Celebration in Mooroolbark, Sat 25 June 12 – 3pm

Mooroolbark Community Centre will also host a free community celebration day on Sat 25 June. The event will be presented in partnership with neighbouring councils, the Migrant Information Centre Eastern Region and AMES (Australian Migration & Education Solutions). It will offer people the chance to explore some of the colours, tastes, sounds, stories and culture of our refugee community.

For further information on these events contact Mooroolbark Community Centre on 9726 5488. Email: mcc@yarraranges.vic.gov.au www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc Opening hours are Monday and Friday 9am - 5pm, Tuesday to Thursday 9am - 9pm, Saturday 10am - 2pm.



world refugee day june 20 2011 • for information please visit www.refugeeweek.org.au



Note: The Refugee Council of Australia is an umbrella body for many organisations working with refugees and asylum seekers. Go to their website at <http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au> for further information about their organisation and about Refugee Week.

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 overseas projects. Contact Bill Sutherland. Ph. 9727 0037
Friday nights during school term	Fridays@Kids Domain. Activities for primary school age kids. 4:00 - 6:00pm Oxley College Stadium. Details - Ph. 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au
June - Aug	Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions. June 7, 8, 28; July 5, 13, 26; August 2, 10, 23. Mooroolbark Community Centre. More info 1300 368 333
	Term and Weekend Art and Craft workshops. Mooroolbark Community Centre Ph. 9726 5488. www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc
	Red Earth Gallery Exhibitions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freedom from Fear: 20th June (Opens 7:00pm) - 7th July. Exhibition of Refugee Art & Craft. Presented as part of Refugee Week 2011. Works exploring the hopes and imaginings of people that have arrived in Australia as refugees. Over the Hook and Through the Needle 14th July (Opens 6:00pm) - 29th July, A Retrospective, Textile works by Kaye Adolphson. HOME 5th Aug (Opens 7:00pm) - 8th Sept.- A place in the world, a place in your heart, a place in your imagination, annual open exhibition and competition. Red Earth Gallery, Mooroolbark Community Centre - Ph. 9726 5488 www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc
	Montrose Concert Series presents * East Meets West Saturday 25th June 8:00pm, * Roman Rudnytsky Saturday 23rd July 8:00pm, * Suade Saturday 27th August 8:00pm. Montrose Town Centre - Ph. 9761 9133. www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mtc
	Scottish Country Dancing. Beginners & experienced dancers welcomed. St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Rd. Mondays 8:00pm Minimal charge. Enquiries Ph. 9876 9206
June 6th	Montrose Speaker Series presents A Taste Of... Janelle McCulloch. 2:00pm Montrose Town Centre Ph. 9761 9133
June 16,17,18, 22, 22,23,24 & 25th	Mooroolbark Theatre Group presents the comedy " Party Piece " M.C.C. 8:00pm start. Table seating and BYO. Tickets \$15 (concession \$13) Bookings & info. 9726 4282
June 25th	Refugee Week - Community Celebration: Join us at Mooroolbark Community Centre to celebrate the contribution that refugees make to our community in an afternoon of performance, food and traditional crafts. (12:00pm - 3:00pm.) Ph. 9726 5488 www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc
July 4 - 15th	Creative Capers School Holiday Program Art & craft, dance, live performances, movies. Mooroolbark Community Centre Ph. 9726 5488
July 6th	Free !!! Family Film Night. "Rio" Contact Mooroolbark Community Centre for bookings. Ph. 9726 5488. Starts 7:30pm. All welcome.
July 11 & 12	Red Cross Blood Bank. Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings 13 14 95
July 31st	Community Tree Planting Day. Greenslopes Reserve, Hull Road, Mooroolbark. Commences 1:00pm. For further info - Phone Doug Lewis 0419 556 742

Our "**Community Events Calendar**" offers a service to local clubs and organisations. To include entries for your group's community events in future issues, please contact the editor on 9761 1121 or lewisdm@bigpond.net.au

Note - Living Today is distributed quarterly - in the first week of March, June, September and December. Calendar entries need to be lodged one month prior to the distribution date.

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,
Barry Austin,
Barbara Austin, T Avery
A Lang, P Collins

Photographs

Cover photo:- Lisa Reyment Photography
P Collins Shire Office, B Austin
R Bouchier

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 phone number or by email (as above)

MISSIONSTATEMENT

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

We seek to achieve this by:

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

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.