

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

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***Young Tree Planting
Volunteers...*** Page 4

INSIDE

- Scouting in Mooroolbark
- Blue Light Disco
- Dandenong Ranges Orchestra



Just a Friendly Person

A story about Barbara Mills

In recent years the Carols by Candlelight at Hookey Park has grown to become a vibrant community celebration, coupled as it has been with a twilight picnic!

Barbara Mills, who came to Mooroolbark with her family in 1960, recalls the very first "Carols."

"We came early in 1960 and my parents came in July or August. Dad – Sydney Buck – started a small church choir and as there didn't seem to be anything happening in Mooroolbark at Christmas, he and Peter Hookey drove a truck to Hookey Park, and the choir sang carols from the back of the truck – accompanied by organist Tony Widdows on the old harmonium from the church. Some people stopped and listened."

"The next year, the Baptist church said they would help, and the Lions said that they would sell the candles. The Croydon band came and provided the music, and some of the churches provided choristers so we had quite a nice little choir at one stage."

"We had used to print a few posters and various shopkeepers would put them in their windows, but the carols weren't widely known – but when the schools came in, that was good publicity. It's quite exciting really. It's one of my fondest memories – that my father started the carols and it's still happening."

Return to England

Barbara arrived in Australia from England in 1925 when she was five, but two years later returned to England.

"We went back to Leicester where I was born because both my father's parents were sick. Anyway, Grandpa died before we got back. Grandma kept going for a while. I attended school in England until I was sixteen."

Barbara enjoyed her school days. "I didn't excel academically but represented the school for running, sports, and things like that. I didn't go swimming because the first time I went they pushed me in and I couldn't swim. So I said to my mum, 'I'm not going again'. So I took up tennis."

After leaving school, Barbara went to business college, where she did very well. Her first job was working for a hosiery manufacturer in Leicester. Barbara recalls that because she had done so well at commercial school, a firm called Heating Elements employed her to work in the office. "I was there until I had Elizabeth" said Barbara. "By that time, I was running the office."

"During the war years I wanted to join the Women's Royal Naval Service¹ but the boss wouldn't sign the necessary form to release me from employment. And so I joined the Red Cross (the American Red Cross, actually) and I think I made more sausage rolls than anybody else as I was helping in the kitchen! I don't know where the Yanks put them all. I used to make hundreds in a night. I'd go straight there

from work of a night and then I also joined the Women's Voluntary Service²." The Red Cross also enrolled Barbara in a First Aid course, which she attended three nights a week.

During the war, Barbara's family attended St. George's Church, in Leicester, which is where Barbara met her future husband, Frank.³ "He and Dad were in the choir. Frank was in the Navy from January 1940 until the end of the war. He was on the destroyers protecting the ships that came across the Atlantic."

Barbara and Frank were married in England in 1942.

"When we came to Australia, Frank eventually found work at the Northern Assurance, which was an English-based company. They were taken over by Commercial Union and Frank worked there until he retired."

Back to Australia

When Barbara's family first returned to Australia in 1947, they lived with her grandmother in Coburg. "We were there for quite a while," said Barbara. "My two boys were born in Coburg, and how we came to Mooroolbark was funny, really. It was a Cup Day. We said, 'We'll go for a ride. We'll go as far as Mt. Dandenong.' And we stopped at Croydon – the kids being little and wanting the toilets, and wanting an icecream. We stopped next door to Max Brown's office – and while the kids went in to get their icecream, we were looking in the window

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women's_Royal_Naval_Service

² <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WRVS>

³ Frank died in 2005. Their children are Elizabeth, David and Andrew.

there, and said: 'Oh, they've got some land for sale.' So we came on a Cup Day and found Mooroolbark!"

"We bought the land, and Dad built next door. We were here first ... we were the first house in the street. And as all the other houses were being built, our kids loved playing on the building sites."

The Mills family's early days in Mooroolbark were very different from the modern suburb of today. "The farmer who lived at the top of Cardigan Road used to bring his sheep down to graze," said Barbara. "There used to be a big tree across the road from us, and he and Dad used to sit there talking for hours on end! And across the road was an old farm. The kids used to run wild, I suppose. But it was good."

"There were very, very few shops down at the village, as we used to call it. There was a greengrocers, a chemist, Rex Wyatt's shop with one or two petrol bowsers outside, and at the corner of Brice Avenue and Manchester Road, was the newsagent and post office. We had to collect the mail; there was no postman."

"There were houses along Brice Avenue – but the roads were not like they are now. I remember Frank saying, there was a fellow in a car, who he called 'Speedy Gonzales'. He used to whiz down there and everyone had to stand back as he went by, or be sprayed with mud and slush."

Barbara recalls some aspects of those days with amusement. "When they arrived at the station all the men would change into their shoes. There'd be a row of gumboots left at the station all day, and then they'd change back into them when they came home again. Could you imagine that now?"

Many tradespeople made home deliveries back then, including the baker and the grocer. "Once a fortnight, another fellow came, selling meat pies, and fruit pies, and a lady came about once a month for your dry-cleaning. And we'd order briquettes from the man near the station and he'd deliver them."

"The milkman used to call. That was funny. He had a horse which had one pace. Nothing was going to stop that horse. You'd hear him coming down the street and the milkman would be saying, 'Whoa, whoa' but the horse just kept going!"

St. Francis in the Fields

From their first days in Mooroolbark, Barbara and Frank were heavily involved in the church community.

"When we first came in 1960, we went looking for the church. We walked straight past it. Trees surrounded it! Our lives were centred more or less around the church really, and we made a lot of friends there."

In 1962, both Barbara and Frank started clubs for young people in the area. Frank started the Church of England Boys Society (CEBS) and Barbara started the Young Anglican Fellowship.

The Young Anglican Fellowship was for teenagers in nearby suburbs – "not only for Mooroolbark but also Kilsyth and Montrose,"

remembered Barbara. "We had a bit of religion now and then, but mostly it was a social thing to get the kids off the streets. Twenty or thirty young people attended, depending on the activity. Sometimes we'd sit around and have a cup of coffee and talk. We let them create their own programme. We used to go on hikes, and to the theatre – things the kids liked to do. Frank's group was more organised. The present Mayor of Lilydale, Terry Avery, was an old CEBS boy."

According to a history of St Francis in the Fields, "The 1960s ... saw Mooroolbark expand rapidly, especially with young families. There were few opportunities for young people to gather outside of school hours, so CEBS and the Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) became very attractive to them."

"CEBS was made up of three main groups depending on the boys' ages. LADS group began at six years, followed by PAGES, and then the ESQUIRES group." CEBS had their uniforms of light blue shirts, shorts or long trousers and long dark blue socks. Badges were awarded for proficiency...⁴

While Barbara has enjoyed seeing the growth of the church over the years, she was sad about the inevitable removal of many of the trees. "My daughter got married there, and David got married there to Janet. I've seen all the vicars. The very first one was from Croydon. I look at the parish hall where we have a cup of tea – where we have all the vicars listed – and 'Golly, I know them all!'"

The Easts and the Fire Brigade

Barbara reminisced about one of the early Mooroolbark families: "We were very friendly with the Easts. Alf East ... had a nice family: Linda, his wife, three girls and Charlie, the only boy, who was a friend of our youngest, Andrew. They owned the whole block, where the tennis courts are.⁵ The boys had an old car, and learned to drive on that land."

"Frank took the CEBS to a camp at Woori Yallock and they ran out of milk. There were some cows in the next field. Charlie East said, 'I'll get you some milk. Give me the bucket', and he went and milked one of the cows! Oh, the things they used to do."

"The boys' choir went to sing at St. Paul's Cathedral⁶, and came home thrilled to bits. Somebody at the cathedral took them up into the tower to see the bells. They were thrilled about that: 'Not many people get up there, Mum!'"

Barbara described the beginnings of the fire brigade in Mooroolbark:

"Alf was the one who started the local fire brigade... if you could call it a fire brigade. It was made up of all the local men who weren't at work, and there were others who

took time off work. Alf was a farrier and all the equipment was kept in a shed on his land. It wasn't the CFA then, it was just a voluntary thing. Later on the CFA was born."

"With the fires in the Dandenongs about the mid '60s, Alf wanted men to go fire fighting and I know Frank took time off work to go. All they had were stirrup pumps and slashers. Frank went off with Alf on one of the trucks and we didn't see him for two days. And I thought, 'Oh where is he, what's he doing?' Anyway, he came back after they got the fire under control, and during the fires I went and helped Mrs East making sandwiches and getting food and we took them up to the hall at the Basin. I remember that, because I got a puncture on the way back and it was one of the firemen who stopped and helped me change the tyre."

Lions Club

When the Mills moved to Mooroolbark, the Lions Club was already in existence. "About twenty years ago David transferred from the Lions at Yallourn, where he'd been living and working, and he persuaded Frank to join."

When the Lions opened the opportunity shop on Manchester Road Barbara volunteered to help, and continued assisting until late 2010, when she was told those over age 90 were not covered by insurance. "Now I just go in occasionally," said Barbara. "Janet and David still go."

"It was fun at the Op Shop," recalled Barbara. "You meet some interesting people, but you just treat them all alike and hope for the best. You'd hear some sad tales; happy tales; because people want to talk. Sometimes they're more comfortable talking to strangers than to people who're close to them."

"And the Lions raise no end of money not just to help big organisations, but also individual people with needs. 'Would the Lions help? I've got a big bill and I can't do anything about it ... if I don't pay, I may be evicted ...' The Lions always manage to help out in some way or other. I've never known them to turn anyone down without anything. They help in so many ways in our community. It's amazing what they do."

Barbara also enjoys the many social activities run by the Lions Club. "They have many nice evenings, for example the 'Changeover.' David has recently been appointed as President. That's a nice evening. It's always held at the bowling club and they serve a good meal. On Cup Day, the Lions run a Cup evening, and that's fun. The ladies get dressed up; we have dinner and then we have the races. That's really a lot of fun."

It's quite a life! So many memories – and so generously shared. I asked Barbara how she'd like to be remembered. And her response? "Just a friendly person."



Randall Bouchier

⁴ *Fields of Faith Sown in Red Earth. 50 Golden Years for St. Francis in the Fields Anglican Church Mooroolbark 1954-2004.* Editor: Clive P. French, September 2004 © St. Francis in the Fields p.52 (Used by permission.)

⁵ In Hull Road

⁶ Barbara's father Sydney Buck formed the first choir at St. Francis in 1961. A picture in *Fields of Faith* captures three generations of the family in the choir. Sydney and Katherine Buck, Barbara and Frank Mills and son Andrew. *Ibid.* p41.

8th Annual Tree-Planting in Mooroolbark

In glorious sunshine, over 90 community members, of all ages, joined in this most enjoyable annual tree-planting event. Over 1,000 trees and shrubs were planted in Greenslopes Reserve, Hull Road. Many community groups were represented by the volunteers. These included our local guides and scouts, Lions Club, Mooroolbark Umbrella Group (MUG), Mooroolbark police, Celebrate Mooroolbark Committee, Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, Transition Towns Group, and others. It was pleasing to be able to welcome Tony Smith MP, Federal member for Casey, David Hodgett MP, member for Kilsyth and Mayor, Terry Avery who were all there to help with the day's planting. A number of neighbouring home owners happily added their support. One contributor, Marilyn Marshall, who lives adjacent to Greenslopes Reserve was very excited about this development. Her reaction – "This is just fantastic to see. It is going to look terrific!" Another volunteer, Vicki, whose dad's property borders the reserve sees it as, "a great idea and a significant improvement to the area."

Our special thanks to the Yarra Ranges Council employees who were there to set out all of the plants, covers and stakes in readiness for the community volunteers to get to work. The day concluded with a most enjoyable afternoon tea and a chance for a good chat.

A big thank you to all who gave of their time, once more, to contribute to this valuable, on-going community project



A Partnership in Caring



Sarah Yeates and George Hume

Mooroolbark Bowls Club has, for the last 18 years, conducted an annual charity event to raise funds to help support the on-going work of Caladenia Dementia Care, Mooroolbark. This event, "The Caladenia 1000" is a bowls tournament where prize money of \$1,000 is on offer. Tournament co-ordinator for the Bowls Club, George Hume, explains that people come from all over Victoria for this special event and for the very popular raffle that is run on the day. Last year's event saw players from as far apart as Lakes Entrance in the east and Bacchus Marsh in the west. Local club members are also strong supporters of the event and usually make up about half of the entries. Over the past 18 years, the magnificent sum of \$47,000 has been donated to Caladenia – a wonderful contribution from just one local club. George, who has co-ordinated this event over the whole 18 year period, extends his sincere thanks to all who have been involved. He is especially thankful to the many sponsors who have given support to this event over that time. In particular, he thanks two major sponsors – Yarra Valley Motors and The Spectacle Site.

Along with his role in the Bowls Club, George is also a member of the Board of Directors at Caladenia. He is very pleased to be able to

play a part in this significant partnership which continues to address a significant need in our local community

Caladenia Dementia Care is a non-profit centre for people living with dementia. It was founded in 1983 and is located in a purpose-designed building in Hilledge Lane, Mooroolbark. The original building, "Meadowbank House", is owned by the Shire who make it available for a nominal rent. Caladenia is responsible for the upkeep of the building.

The Day Centre runs dementia-specific programs five days a week and offers a Sunday outing once a month. Programs are overseen by 14 qualified staff and 42 trained volunteers. Currently the centre cares for a total of 58 clients. The weekly programs aim to promote self-esteem for the person living with dementia and to give friends and family members a break, knowing that their loved one is happy, occupied and safe. Services are available to anyone with dementia – from very early stage (or first diagnosis) to specific programs for people with more advanced dementia.

Clients are usually referred from various sources, but anyone who has been diagnosed as living with dementia is eligible to participate in the programs that are offered. Carer Support Groups are in place to help family members and other carers to cope with the challenges they face. They offer peer and professional support and advice where needed. They also assist with referral processes.

Sarah Yeates, who has been the manager of Caladenia Dementia Care for ten years, speaks most enthusiastically about their current plan to build a state-of-the-art "bed and breakfast" facility, which will cater for up to eight people at a time in a home-like environment. It will provide a safe and familiar place for people living with dementia to stay overnight when their carer needs to have a short break. On 10 September 2010, Caladenia Dementia Care officially launched its appeal to raise \$1.7 million to build this overnight respite care centre which will complement the existing day programs for people living with dementia. It is proposed that it be built next to Meadowbank House.

Sarah explained that Caladenia is always on the lookout for additional volunteers as their programs depend so much on this support.

If you would like to contribute to the work of Caladenia in some way, or just find out more about the organisation, please go to the website; www.caladenia.com.au or telephone Sarah on 9727 2222.

Thank You Sarah

Frits Van Reyersdael, a well known personality in our community, expresses sincere thanks to Sarah Forbes, on behalf of many people with disabilities in the Yarra Ranges. He thanks her for the selfless efforts she displayed in serving the needs of local people with disabilities over the past five years.

In April this year, Sarah concluded five years of work with the Social Planning and Development Department of the shire – as a MetroAccess Worker. Her role was to help people with disabilities to take a more active part in the life of their local communities. Frits says that her dedication to doing all that she could to help so many people make the most of their lives was deeply appreciated throughout the region.

From Sarah's perspective, she feels that she gained a great deal through coming to know and work with so many inspiring individuals - people with disabilities who are determined to "do their best to just get on with life and to help and advocate for others along the way." Through those years, Sarah was very appreciative of the way so many people with disabilities warmly welcomed her into their lives as they worked together to explore the many life-possibilities that exist for each one. She was also very encouraged to personally experience the warmth of welcome that is extended to people with disabilities by the wider community. She sees a growing commitment in the community to meet the challenges of giving all people the best opportunities possible – to lead a fulfilling life. She is thankful for all she learned throughout those years and the opportunities she had to make many good friends along the way.

Sarah is very excited about her new role at Personalised Lifestyle Assistance. PLA is a not-for-profit organisation that is partially funded through the Department of Human Services and also receives philanthropic support. It is a community-based advisory service, committed to helping individuals and families to build a fulfilling vision for life and to explore ways to experience a truly meaningful life – as successfully and as independently as possible. It looks at identifying a range of family and community support processes and relationships



Emma and Sarah in the USA

to supplement the government services available. In this way it seeks to increase the capacity of people with disabilities to live out their own vision for life and to make personal life choices in the way most of us take for granted.

Sarah, who sees this approach as the 'next step' in finding ways to better support people with disabilities was recently very encouraged to receive a scholarship ("Ethel Temby Study Award") to do some research in the USA and Canada. Along with a colleague, Emma Hanna, she was able to consult with a range of professionals who have been involved in similar programs for a number of years and also many of the families participating in their work.

She looks forward to completing the recording of her research findings and presenting her work at the International Social Role Valorisation conference in Canberra in September. We join with Frits in thanking Sarah for her valuable work in our community and wish her every success in her new role at PLA.

For further information contact PLA, Suite 2/18 Floriston Road, Boronia. Ph. 9739 8333



Getting Ready for the Next Festival...

CELEBRATE MOOROOLBARK 2012, SATURDAY MARCH 24TH

**Andrew Lang
Festival Chairperson**

It amazes me that after eight successful festivals, I still meet local people who have never experienced Celebrate Mooroolbark. After last year, I met a couple who lived in the area but had never been before and they commented that it was so much better than they thought it would be ... and they would not only be back next year, but offered to help on the day.

Celebrate Mooroolbark aims to gather the people of Mooroolbark and surrounding suburbs together for a day of fun and family entertainment. It is an opportunity to showcase the local organisations and businesses and to generally promote the community and ourselves. Each year, more groups have come on board and we are pleased to say that as the festival grows, we have more opportunities for volunteer groups to supply food on the day. If you are part of a group, why not

consider how you can use the festival to gain more recruits or to gain more exposure on the local scene? If you are short of ideas, talk to us and we can show you ways to get involved.

The guiding principle of the festival is to provide a low cost day out for families – and we seek, through sponsorship, to minimise the costs on the day and encourage groups to put on free or low cost activities for children and families. This has come from the support of our local businesses and organisations, with both cash and 'in kind' sponsorship. I would love to mention them all, but there are around 120 that help make the day happen. All that I can say, on behalf of the community, is thank you.

We are pleased to note that the Yarra Ranges Council has given us a grant towards the 2012 festival.

We have now started the planning for the 2012 festival and we have the theme 'we are family'. We would like to celebrate the many families that make up our community that are all shapes and sizes and from all backgrounds. We are a diverse community, but we are all part of the Mooroolbark family. And as usual, we plan to celebrate the talents of our community with a Talent Quest on the Friday night (March 23).

We are looking for people and groups to get involved both on the day and to help organise the festival. Contact us on celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com or 0435 362 725 or follow us on facebook.



Committee members at Festival 2011



Street Parade Celebrate Mooroolbark 2011

Scouting in Mooroolbark

Perhaps you didn't know that of the 24 men to travel to the moon on the Apollo 9, through Apollo 17 missions, 21 were Scouts – including 10 of the 12 men who physically walked on the moon's surface, and all three members of the crew of Apollo 13. Scouting is teaching kids skills for life and leadership through a variety of fun activities.

Fifty years ago, scouting was established in Mooroolbark and today, our local group is seeing somewhat of a resurgence. In the seventies it was one of the largest groups in the state and although in the early 2000s there was a considerable decline, the group is now on the way up again. As part of the Yarra Ranges District, it has become the second largest group and has shown the greatest growth in the past year.

All activities of 1st Mooroolbark are based in the hall at Marion Avenue. Joey Scouts meet on Wednesday nights (6:30-7:30) and offer 6 to 8 year olds a programme with the theme of Caring and Sharing. Programmes include games, craft, stories, sleepovers and district outings.

Cubs Scouts are children between the ages of 7½ and 11. The underlying theme is taken from the jungle book where the children become part of a cub pack led by Akela (the pack leader). Leaders often take names from the Jungle Book and so you will find Bagheera and Baloo, Kotick and Grey Brother with the pack. The programme includes games, activities and outings, and cubs are encouraged to develop life skills through participation in the award scheme. The highest award is the Grey Wolf Badge and this was earned by one of our cubs this year. Older cubs are encouraged to take leadership and management roles within the pack. We meet on Mondays (7-8:30).

Scouts (age 10 ½ - 15) is based on the patrol system. The scouts are expected to do much of the organisation. The programme has all the elements of fun and adventure and perhaps the high point is the ten-day National Camp or Jamboree. In 2007, the Jamboree at Elmore was the 16th largest settlement in Victoria. Meeting is 7 – 9pm on Thursdays.

This year, the Mooroolbark group has re-activated the Venturer Unit, for Boys and Girls (14 ½ and 18). They meet on Friday nights. These young people are the ones eligible to achieve the highest award of "Queen Scout".

Adults participate as leaders or parents and both are vital. Leaders are voluntary and come from all walks of life. We are pleased to have three new leaders with the group, who are now in training, but there is always room for more.

Scouting is not for everyone but many people enjoy the challenge it offers. Boys and girls can join at any age and the movement has a policy of 'three for free'. Try it out for three nights and see how it goes. Cost is less than \$1 a day. Contact Rob Lowe (Group Leader) roblowe48@gmail.com or 0407 847 662. And look out for us around Mooroolbark.

Andrew Lang
District Leader CS Yarra Ranges

Ripple Kindness Project for Schools

Lisa Currie, a Mooroolbark mum of two young boys, has a strong passion for helping our children to experience and appreciate the impact that results from performing simple acts of kindness in our day to day life. She says, "Kindness is contagious and it creates a ripple effect which helps to make our world a better place for everyone." This concept led her to produce her "Ripple Kindness Cards" which she shares free of charge, with anyone who requests them (see details below).

The extremely positive response Lisa received from people both in Australia and overseas has encouraged her to develop her **Ripple Kindness Project** for schools. This program is designed to allow primary age children to "feel" just how good life can be when we embrace values such as kindness and genuine concern for others. In the school program, children are given three Ripple Kindness Cards and asked to perform three acts of kindness: the first for someone they know well, the second for someone they don't know so well and perhaps don't like very much, and the third for someone outside of school. They are provided with a worksheet where they state what they did, how the recipient reacted and how it made them feel. They are then asked to be kind – without kindness cards. Resilience is another important value children learn as they are taught how to deal with rejection. Once these activities are completed, the children work in groups to make kindness posters to hang throughout the school. A kindness journal is produced by the class and each child has the opportunity to take it home for a week. A comprehensive manual provides additional activities for teachers to use throughout the year to reinforce the importance of kindness and to foster it as a natural part of life.

A recently-completed pilot program involved students from Bimbadeen Heights, Birmingham and Monbulk primary schools, as well as a girls' school in South Africa. Various schools in the local, and not so local, areas are excited to participate upon its release. Lisa thanks those schools for their highly valued support and also Luther College music department, which is working to produce and record a song to accompany a video introducing the program. The official launch of the program will take place, later this year, at Bimbadeen Heights Primary School principal, Leigh Johansen recently said, "If this makes a difference for just one child it is worthwhile and I can assure you that Ripple has already made a difference for many more than just one." He fully supports the program – offering Lisa a special assembly for the launch.

Tony Smith, Federal Member for Casey, is highly supportive of Lisa's work and honoured to officiate on launch day. He recently said, "I congratulate Lisa on her initiative and commitment in developing the kindness cards. Lisa is a caring mum who has decided to step up and help make a difference to promote a positive message".

Lisa believes that all children deserve the opportunity to experience what kindness can do for them and feel the difference it can make to their lives. She says, "Our children have the ability to change our future, so let's equip them with the tools to do so." For further information on this school program go to www.rippleeffects.com.au/RippleForSchools.html or register your schools interest at lisa@rippleeffects.com.au.



Lisa, with students – Zac, Jamieson, Callum, Max and Mitchell

FREE Ripple Kindness Cards are available to anyone who would like to forward a stamped addressed envelope to:

Ripple Kindness Project, P.O. Box 78, Mooroolbark Vic 3138

Note: Please mark on the envelope whether you require children's, adult's, or both cards. Six of each cards will be sent unless otherwise requested. Email lisa@rippleeffects.com.au for ideas on how to share kindness, or more information on kindness cards go to www.rippleeffects.com.au/RippleCards.html



New Offices for a Family Accountancy Business

Jean A. Jones - Public Accountant
has recently opened its new offices at 30 Manchester Road, Mooroolbark.

This local business is a very much a "generational - family affair". Jean and her son Paul are both CPA accountants and Paul's wife, Jess, is the company receptionist/bookkeeper. They have all lived in the local area for most of their lives and after outgrowing their previous office, Jean A Jones Public Accountants has made the move to newly renovated premises in Mooroolbark.

In the earlier part of her working life, Jean ran a very successful accountancy practice in Ringwood East. This continued for fifteen years – until she decided to retire from full time work.

During those years of semi-retirement, Jean provided accountancy/audit services for a number of charitable organisations. She recognises the need to give back to the community, especially for organisations that rely on government funding and/or donations to survive. The business continues to offer its services to various helping agencies including "Bridges Connecting

Communities" (support for the frail and elderly), several overseas aid organisations, and a number of local community groups.

Paul completed his accountancy qualifications in 1991 and has been employed in industry until now. In March this year, after much careful planning, mother and son joined forces. They opened their new offices at 30 Manchester Road on June 6th 2011. They are each very happy to be able to grow and build their business in the Mooroolbark area, which has been home to them all for so many years.

With Jean utilising over 30 years experience in public practice, and Paul having 15 years in industry, they have the knowledge and experience necessary to assist with all accounting, taxation and bookkeeping requirements. Their focus is to offer realistic and relevant advice at an affordable price.

The business services a full range



of small to large size businesses from trades-people, retail, manufacturing, primary production to various consulting businesses.

We thank the Jones family for their long-time contributions to community life and wish them well as they move to grow their business in their new Manchester Road premises.

The office can be contacted on 97369155 or email on info_jeanjones@bigpond.com.

Action sport & dancewear - Goes Mobile!

Kerrie Mcphee

After 12 months of trading, Action Sport and Dancewear has decided to close its doors to the public and **offer direct, mobile and online sales.**



Action sport & dancewear



Direct, Mobile and Online
Dancewear, Tights, Shoes
Lashes and Accessories

Suppliers of *Capezio*

PH: 0403 838 773 www.sportanddancewear.com.au

By moving to direct, mobile and online sales, Action Sport and Dancewear can offer reduced prices on all dancewear items as well as providing a free fitting service for dance students in the comfort of their home or at their studio on a pre-arranged date.

This will save everybody the time and stress of trying to source dancewear for classes, competitions and concerts as well as ensuring consistency and uniformity of items. And with the closure of the Lilydale Dance shop there are now limited dancewear suppliers in the area.

So whether you need dance shoes, tights, apparel or accessories, please give us a call on 0403 838 773 or send an email to sales@sportanddancewear.com.au to arrange a fitting either at your home or at your studio. Alternatively you can purchase directly from our website www.sportanddancewear.com.au.

During our twelve months of trading, we received much positive feedback from our customers about the service, prices and quality of items that Action Sport and Dancewear supplied. This is why we are continuing with this direct, mobile and online service, but now at the convenience of your home or studio.

COMMUNITY FORUM AND QUIET ACHIEVER AWARD PRESENTATION



THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER – 7:30PM – MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY CENTRE.
MORE INFORMATION – 9723 2693

Mooroolbark Umbrella Group presents our first Community Forum featuring guest speaker **Detective Senior Sergeant Ron Iddles** of the Homicide Squad. Ron, Australia's most experienced homicide detective, will draw on his extensive experience in promoting the advantages of active, healthy community life.

“JUST TWO MINUTES OF MY TIME, RUINED



It only takes a minute or two, maybe less...

It only takes a minute or less to send a sexy or explicit photo to a friend using a mobile phone. Sure, they might be a friend – a boy friend or girl friend, but will that relationship last forever – will it last longer than six months, a few weeks?

The photo will last much, much longer than that. If there has been a difficult parting, then perhaps that photo will do the rounds of the class, the school, sporting club ... perhaps it will even get on the internet – to be there forever. There is every chance that the photo or photos will not be deleted and every chance that they will eventually get loose into the wild and be seen by all sorts of people – beginning with friends, peers, friends of peers etc, etc.

It's called 'sexting'. It's not new; it's been around for a few years now but it's already

an alarming trend in high schools. Even primary school kids are adopting the ability and the technology to be able to participate. Unfortunately, neither group is ready for the consequences and neither are their parents.

None of us wants to think it could be our family that finds itself involved in this practice. This belief will certainly not help when working through such a critical issue that is affecting ordinary families and it is on the increase.

'Sexting' is sending sexually explicit or racy images via a mobile phone or email message, or any other form of digital communication. At the heart of the problem is that images can be so easily forwarded to others in only a few seconds – literally!

Young people are seeking fame and recognition by videoing crazy stunts to put on YouTube with an endless enthusiasm. It's a practice that's actually causing deaths!

They don't mean to die – they just don't fully consider the consequences.

Even more tragically... there have been deaths because of sexting too.

Without help from carers and parents, young people aren't fully able to consider the consequences of sexting either. They don't yet have the ability to see very far into the future of their lives, or grasp the potential results of their actions and decisions. When they simply can't cope with the shame or humiliation they've caused themselves and their family, they take their own life.

We're talking about one photo! One poorly-considered, naively-taken, hastily-sent photo.

As one young girl said, "It was just 2 minutes out of my time, and those 2 minutes ruined my life."

Let's make an effort to help our children understand that what they do online – including

MY LIFE”

all forms of electronic media such as texts, photos, emails, forum discussions, online chat sites – is out there forever! We can never remove these contributions from the online world of information and entertainment. It won't help to pull the power plug, turn off our connections, remove ourselves from forums and chat rooms or get a new phone number ... these actions achieve practically nothing to undo what's been done.

Who are you?

Our reputation is vitally important – it's about *who we are*. It is determined by what we do, what we say, how we behave, how we deal with stress, how we relate to people, how we treat others ... our attitudes, our habits, principles and how seriously we take responsibility.

Our *digital reputation* includes what we put online in the forms mentioned and is there forever! The police have the ability to monitor and keep record of who did what online. Many others also have these abilities and can access (hack) people's online history if they want to expose someone or reveal their electronic actions. A young person with a damaged digital reputation could be seriously hindered in developing a career, a happy family and having a social acceptance.

Just as a paedophile lacks social acceptance, we can understand that if we're involved in similar things, we may share the horrid consequences. To send a sext, to receive a sext, to possess a sext is legally comparable to sending, receiving and possessing child pornography. It's against the law! We cannot simply dismiss it as 'something kids do'.

Seemed like a good idea at the time...

Why would a young person sext a friend? "If you love me you'll do it." It's almost quaint that a teenager would think to commit to another all the trust, belief and confidence they have, when a teen or pre-teen relationship can be so fickle and temporary. Unfortunately, these young people don't see it that way while they are involved. Early relationships are very impacting. As they mature through adolescence into adulthood, they will learn much about relationship dynamics. These young relationships finish and they move on – but not if they have sexted! Responding to, "If you love me ..." with sexting to somehow prove their love or loyalty makes sense *only* in the teenager's emotionally-charged state. They don't *think* it through – they just do it.

Attention-seeking is another reason young people sext. It's going to extremes, going that bit further than others to try to elevate their profile amongst their peers – with potential long-term, devastating consequences.

We all need to feel we can trust others. Teens might trust another and sext them. This trust can be misplaced, or the relationship changes. People who were trusted may also act irresponsibly or crassly and forward (in an instant) by phone or internet things meant only for them. What has been sexted in trust is still in cyberspace forever and subject to all kinds of abuse.

Breaking up ... school relationships may last only a week, or a few months. Once the relationship ends, teens may use any sexts to seek revenge or to retaliate, or may even have a misguided idea that forwarding the images is fun!

Even when teens fully trust those they are sending texts to, they don't know who may be the eventual recipient. They might think they're being careful, trusting only the closest friends, but websites and online accounts can be hacked. In just a moment, pictures we thought were safe are being sent all over the place – it doesn't take long to give the whole world access to our most private pictures.

Does the teen know who the friend really is? Online social sites attract all kinds of people masquerading as teens and a trusting friend. They often really don't know who they are chatting to while developing trust and affection that can lead to a request for something more – something to 'show you love me ...'

The bottom line is 'don't take the risk'. No matter what anyone says, no one should

SPECIAL OFFER - Vocational Guidance

In our last edition of *Living Today* in Mooroolbark we presented an article on vocational guidance for young people. Along with that article was a offer to provide a free vocational guidance test and a follow-up consultation for several youth – a very special opportunity for students doing VCE.

We are pleased to advise that this offer has been extended. Readers who are interested in taking up this offer should contact us on 9726 8898 so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

ever put themselves out there for misuse or abuse with material that can never be reclaimed – potentially forever!

Take the risk!

Parents and carers, take the risk to express your concerns about this to those in your care. Yes they may scoff and suggest that you are way off, but at least you have talked about it. There's a chance they will remember your words of advice when they are pressured to go that bit too far; a chance they will consider the real and tragic consequences – a chance they *will* consider the risk!

There's a chance they will avoid a tiny two-minute sexting that could mar their lives forever.



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CHURCH NEWS



Keeping Perspective Barbara Dahlgren

Neat and tidy! That's how I like it! A place for everything and everything in its place! I like routine, order, organisation. I like life to run smoothly and at an even keel. Don't rock my boat. Don't rattle my cage. Don't shake my tambourine. Don't upset my apple cart. And don't keep me from marking off a number on my "to-do" list. Unfortunately, life is not neat and tidy. It's messy. Life is just one inconvenience after another.

Recently one of my best friends died – my computer. Although I'm not a techie, I love writing, researching, e-mailing and doing computer stuff. Picking out a new "best friend" is a daunting task when you aren't computer savvy. Techie friends aren't very helpful because they use terms like CPU, gigabyte, PC, megabyte, and RAM, assuming I know what they mean. When the technician said he might not be able to retrieve my material, I was sad, but not disheartened. After all, being the organised person I am, I had two backups. However, through some fluke, neither of my backups worked. Then I became disheartened. As I write this on a borrowed computer, we still aren't sure if my material can be saved.

Dealing with life's inconveniences can be stressful, time consuming, and overwhelming. Sometimes it's difficult to keep perspective and discern the difference between an inconvenience and a

tragedy. This really came home to me about seven years ago when I got a phone call informing me that my stepsister and her whole family had been killed instantly in a car crash. My "to-do" list fell by the wayside as I flew back for the funeral, trying to comfort my folks though I was heartsick myself. Suddenly my whole perspective had changed. A flat tyre, a snoring spouse, a missed appointment, a late aeroplane, a lost game, the guy who cut me off in traffic, the gossipy co-worker, the slow internet connection, the stock market being down, my weight being up or my computer crashing didn't seem like quite as big a deal as it all did before.

Fortunately, God is with us whether our crisis is large or small. His perspective is the one that really counts, because he loves us and knows what is best for us in any given situation. What happens to us is not as important as who we are in Jesus, who lives in us and is our all in all. Life is not neat and tidy; it's unpredictable. Major tragedies and minor inconveniences will always abound. I think it's helpful to discern the difference between the two, but if the trial is big or small, God is with us through it all (Matthew 28:20b).

More and more, I'm realising that Jesus is not as concerned about my routine, my boat, my cage, my tambourine, my apple cart, or my "to do" list as I am. He doesn't always shield me from life's woes, but he will never leave or forsake me (Hebrews 13:5). After all, he is a much better friend than my computer, and his backup never fails (John 15:14-15)!



Mooroolbark Salvos – On the Move

In our last edition, Major Peter Collins indicated that "Mooroolbark Salvos" plan to build a new Worship and Community Centre on the corner of Fletcher and Manchester Roads, Chirside Park. It is anticipated that building works will commence in the coming months.

In doing so, he thanked Yarra Hills Senior Campus and Mooroolbark Baptist Church for making their

facilities available to the Corps in recent years and advised that their meetings will soon be moving to an interim Chirside Park location - Oxley College Performing Arts Centre.

The last meeting at the Yarra Hills campus (Reay Rd.) will take place on Sunday, August 28th, commencing at 10 a.m.

REV. RUNS FOR RYDA

Rev. Arnie Wierenga, minister at St Margaret's Uniting Church, Mooroolbark, is planning to run the Melbourne Half-Marathon on Oct 9th. In doing so he hopes to raise funds for RYDA, a youth development program in Uganda, which the local church supports. Arnie, who enjoys regular running to keep fit, says that he will have been training seriously for this event for about four months by the time it takes place. He does most of his running (sometimes accompanied by wife Ani) in Mooroolbark and in the Dandenong Ranges.

Every dollar raised from his participation in this event will go

toward the RYDA program which supports former street children, orphans and other vulnerable youth in Uganda. It provides basic accommodation, food and clothing whilst offering a life-changing vocational and life-skills training program. In many cases, it is also able to find work opportunities for these young people.

If you would like to sponsor Rev. Arnie, or support the RYDA fund-raiser in any way, please contact Doug Williams on 9726 6968.



Rev. Arnie Wierenga & wife Ani

Marriage Week 11th – 17th September 2011

Marriage Week Australia

A great time to reflect on and build on our marriages. A time to celebrate, value and strengthen that special relationship in various ways. From September 11th – 17th there will be many special events happening across Australia. Go to www.marriageweek.org.au for details of events to consider.

Mooroolbark Baptist Church is celebrating **Marriage Week** with a special dinner evening at **Natalie's Restaurant** in **Mitcham**, **Saturday September 17th 2011**. During the evening, several guest couples will share their personal experiences and insights regarding the marriage relationship. The cost for the evening is \$70 per couple, including a two-course meal. A number of marriage resources, from "Insights for Living" will be on display during the evening. **All welcome.** All community members are cordially invited to come along and participate in this friendly and uplifting experience. **For further information, or to book your places for the dinner, please contact the church office via email – office@mbc.org.au or Liz Skilbeck Ph: 9727 1550**

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

ALL WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre

Wednesday September 28th 2011

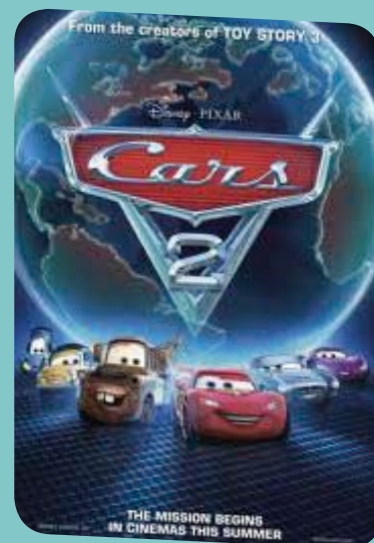
"Cars 2"

Commences at **7.30 p.m**

Free ice-cream, tea & coffee will be available.

This school holidays program is a joint community service extended to young families in our neighbourhood by

Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship & Mooroolbark Community Centre



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

Tickets may be reissued if not collected by 7.15, and there is a wait list.

DISABLED PEOPLE'S COMPANY

A friendly, social support group for people living with physical disabilities and for their carers, family members & interested friends. **Come along & enjoy morning tea and time for a chat with some very friendly folk. You will have opportunities to ...**

- * Participate in a vibrant community group.
- * Make new friends.
- * Share experiences.
- * Help support one another.
- * Gain helpful information on available government & community services, etc



New Members Most Welcome
Wednesdays 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Mooroolbark Community Centre

Member contribution \$2 per meeting

For further information please contact
Mooroolbark Community Centre Ph: 9726 5488

Mooroolbark HISTORY GROUP

As many are aware, Mooroolbark History Group is in the process of compiling and publishing a book to commemorate thirty years of community life in Mooroolbark – from the opening of the Mooroolbark Community Centre through the years of the 'Red Earth Festival' and 'Celebrate Mooroolbark' - our current festival.

On Monday July 18th the group was presented with council grants to enable them to complete the project. They received an 'implementation grant' of \$4,300 to provide the cost of an editor to oversee the final draft, a designer to format the content and for the preparation of promotional material. A second grant of \$1,700 was also awarded to the group to cover the various costs involved in the planned official launch of the book.

Mooroolbark History Group Inc. will hold its first AGM on Thursday Sept. 22nd when a guest speaker will provide a presentation on the Bickleigh Vale area. All are welcome to participate in this evening which will be conducted at Mooroolbark Community Centre commencing at 7pm. Note. A further event is being planned for the last week in October - The Royal Historical Society's History Week.

Congratulations to all who have worked hard to bring the project to this point. We all look forward to enjoying the end-product.

For further information – please contact Marion at stotthq@bigpond.com



Marion Stott receives the grants from Mayor Terry Avery

Go for it, JACQUI!



This article is brought to you by the letter 'M'...

You might wonder what connection there would be between Mooroolbark, Music teaching, Montrose, Motherhood, McLean, Multiculturalism, Manchester, Music hall, Macclesfield, and the Mrs Australia Pageant... Jacqui Walker provides the link!

Jacqui lived in Springvale until she was four and a half, before her parents chose to move to Mooroolbark.

Jacqui recalled, "Mooroolbark was a very different suburb from Springvale South, which at that time had a big influx of Vietnamese immigration, and a lot of the businesses were being run by the Vietnamese."

"We came in 1980, and I remember vividly, living up on Manchester Road right beside the high school. Manchester Road was basically one carriage way with a service lane which ended before the high school. I remember playing in the pine trees for the first couple of years, and on a couple of blocks of land down the bottom of the road. Our view from the top of the hill was of horse paddocks, down where Manchester Primary School is now."

"I went to Charles Street Kindergarten and I remember spinning in a net, suspended from the ceiling and being an angel in a nativity play at the end of the year."

Jacqui and her siblings attended Bimbadeen Heights Primary School before going on to Mooroolbark High School. "I was quite adamant that I wanted to go to Blackburn High or Ringwood High for the music. I was a musician, way back then. Always sang, had a brilliant music teacher, Jan McLean at Bimbadeen, who was a huge inspiration and helped me achieve everything that I wanted."

"She also taught my brothers and my sister – and my own children were there for a couple of years, early on, and she taught them. Any time I came up with an idea for writing a play, and directing it and putting it on, she would let me. She would supervise rehearsals – she'd make it possible. Or she'd allow me to form a band. It was a bit ridiculous in hindsight. I thought it was a real rock band; I wanted it to be really heavy with triangles and tambourines! And at that stage I'd been in the school band since Grade 3, playing triangle and the tambourine. Never underestimate the triangle and the tambourine!"

Jacqui also learned recorder, keyboard and flute, and loved taking part in the choir.

"In Grade 6 I played one of the lead roles in the school production. I was the storyteller, and that's when I really, really got the bug. I was standing there when the curtains opened, and I was up on these boxes and the spotlight was on me, and the whole ensemble cast was behind me – I had the spotlight in my face, sang the opening song, and it was brilliant. And some of my parents' friends sitting in the audience said, 'She can really sing!' I absolutely loved it."

Even though it was difficult financially for her parents, they enabled Jacqui to have weekly dancing and singing lessons – providing encouragement, support and transport along the way.

"I took up jazz and tap with Deanna Burke at Norwood Secondary, said Jacqui, "and I started singing lessons when I was 13 with Joan Carter in Ringwood, going on to classical training with her."

"She would put me in all the local eisteddfods, and I was absolutely terrified. I'd stand there and shudder but I kept doing it, because I loved singing and wanted to be good at it. Performing classical music wasn't made easier by having adjudicators sitting in front of you – marking you on everything – phrasing, breathing, your rhythm. It was pretty pressurised!"

"While I was training classically, I continued with school productions and the school rock band. I continued to complete AMEB singing and theory examinations out of school – and I enjoyed the encouragement and support of Rachel Valentine who taught music at school between years 9 and 12."

Motherhood and Music Hall

After high school, Jacqui attended Deacon University. But, she said, "I floundered. I wasn't doing the work, wasn't motivated. I tried to get involved in campus life, and joined a few societies and then I heard that one of the mature-age students studying theatre and dance owned a theatre-restaurant. Someone pointed him out. I introduced myself, auditioned and was offered a job on the spot. It was very exciting. I gave uni away at that point and worked in the theatre restaurant for about four months – two nights a week at Spiders Theatre Restaurant."

Whilst working in the theatre restaurant Jacqui had a short-lived relationship which resulted in her first pregnancy. Shortly after, she married Brian, who was willing to be a father to her unborn child. Letitia was born soon afterwards and not long after that, a son Connor arrived. Those were difficult years.

"Our relationship ended when I went to university as a mature-age student," said Jacqui. "Up to then, I'm not sure where I had gone or who I was trying to be. I was very young. I was trying to be adult, but I just lost my personality."

After Jacqui had been at university for a semester, Brian said to her, "You've changed." Jacqui replied, "No, I'm back, and I don't know where I've been."

"I'd brought home all my books and I was so excited about what I was learning," said Jacqui. "I was stimulated and I wanted to discuss everything, and we couldn't have a conversation. It seemed that we were not compatible, at all. We both

knew that it was not going to work. There were a lot of issues, but we split amicably. We get along to this day."

Ten years ago, Jacqui met her husband Glen on the internet. At the time she was a busy single mother struggling to complete a double degree (in arts and teaching) and wasn't interested in the pub scene.

Glen and Jacqui discovered that they have similar tastes in music, books and movies. "His son Cody is 14 months older than Letitia," commented Jacqui. "He lived nearby in Boronia. We went on to have a lovely daughter – Polly – during my final year at university. She joined everyone together."

"Going to uni as a mature age parent was a huge struggle," Jacqui recalled. "If

Conversation and Film Night in Maroondah A Transition Towns Event

the Economics of Happiness



Help build a better world. Join us for a screening of 'Economics of Happiness' and associated discussions hosted by Vasili of 'Vasili's Garden'

Sunday Sept 4th, 6:30-8:30pm
Karralyka Centre, Mines Rd. Ringwood East.
Cost – A voluntary gold coin donation.
Contact 9298 4261

children who travel from one country to another, discovering a life lesson from each country and piecing them together.”

Mrs Australia

In January, Jacqui was announced as a Mrs Australia National Finalist.² “I’d been performing at a Mrs Australia event the year before,” said Jacqui, “when someone asked me to enter. Because I’m not petite, as are many of the women who come from a modelling background, I was encouraged to represent other women like myself.”

“So I looked at the criteria, and the Mrs Australia Pageant is really about the work the finalists do for charity. All the proceeds go to ‘Women in Need’ and ‘Project Dovetail’.”

For Jacqui, it’s been a real pleasure being surrounded by the other Mrs Australia finalists, most of them working mothers who are very active in their communities.

Jacqui has herself been busy with community fundraising. “I organised a fundraising Masquerade Ball at Chateau Wyuna for WIN

– which helped raise awareness about the charity and raised over \$1000.³”

“There’s a big family fun day on Saturday 27 August at Gumbaya Park for Project Dovetail, which supports disadvantaged children both here and overseas. At the moment they are sponsoring an orphanage in Mauritius.”

The achievements of the Mrs Australia finalists will be assessed in mid September, when the finals for Mrs Australia take place at Crown Casino. Finalists will be interviewed by a panel of ten judges.

I’m constantly surprised by people’s experiences and accomplishments as they share their stories. I asked Jacqui what her advice would be for others who may struggle through difficult circumstances.

“You can’t let the circumstances consume you,” Jacqui advised. “You put one foot out in front of the other, you get up, you live, you eat, you shower. You might not feel great, but it’s usually temporary.”

“Surround yourself with people who are positive and contribute to your health and wellbeing,” encouraged Jacqui. “Keep your eye on your goal. There may be a few hiccups along the way, and there’ll always be a few backward steps – getting to where you want to be is not always a straight route. Don’t give up!”



Randall Bouchier

it weren’t for the Salvation Army providing food stamps I wouldn’t have got through it. I had to pay rent and childcare, so often we would have no money. Sometimes we lived on sausages and mincemeat, two-minute noodles and eggs. My children frequently had hand-me-down clothes.”

Teaching

Jacqui’s first teaching position was at Macclesfield Primary School. “It was a semi-rural environment,” said Jacqui, “and I taught grades 1 and 2 for two happy years.”

Following a chance meeting with the Principal of Wallarano Primary School in Noble Park, Jacqui applied for a position heading up the school’s performing arts department. At first Jacqui thought it was too far to travel, but she changed her mind after discussing it with her husband and her mother. “They felt that this was the dream job that I’d been working towards for years.”

“I worked there for two years. It was a big learning experience. The school grew to 680 children and 78% had a non English-speaking background. From there I’m into my third year at Montrose Primary School. I couldn’t believe how different the two schools were – from Noble Park with its 78% non-English speaking background, to Montrose, which is 98% ‘Anglo’. Earlier this year I was asked to also help out with the music at Pembroke Primary School.”

“Going to Pembroke with its multicultural student population was just like being in Noble Park again. I recalled everything the children had taught me at Wallarano. I’m not afraid to ask the children, ‘Where are you from? Tell me some

of your language.’ And I enjoy hearing their stories.”

For Jacqui, one of the most enjoyable aspects of teaching at Pembroke has been getting to know the Chin people.¹ “Prior to Pembroke, I hadn’t had the opportunity to teach the beautiful Chin children,” said Jacqui. “But I had taught children from Sri Lanka, Croatia, Greece, Sudan, and so on. When the Chin children sing in Chin, it’s just divine. They are the most exquisite people, so calm and respectful and they genuinely love you.”

Multicultural Production at Pembroke

Jacqui said, “When I began toying with ideas for a production at Pembroke I was planning a traditional ‘Oliver/Annie’ type of show. During a staff meeting one day Carolyn (the Principal) was showing the staff a book on Chin culture. Right then and there I canned my earlier ideas because we needed to do something that reflects, incorporates and celebrates the cultures at Pembroke – and gives the children an opportunity to share more about themselves.”

“We asked the children where their parents and grandparents were from and tried to incorporate as many countries as possible. So there’ll be music from the Chin, a Sudanese hip-hop song, an amazingly fast song from China, another from Scotland and the haka from New Zealand.”

“It’s like an ‘Indiana Jones’ – it’s now ‘Isaac James’. There’ll be a core group of

¹ The Chin are one of the large ethnic minority groups in Myanmar. They are found mainly in the western part of Myanmar, as well as some of the nearby Indian states. The Chin people number about 1.5 million worldwide.

² http://www.mrsaustalia.com.au/#!__national-finalists

³ http://www.mrsaustalia.com.au/#!__charities-page

BLUE LIGHT DISCO – Re-started in Mooroolbark



Blue Light volunteers – Sgt. Phil Goodburn, Sen. Const. Wendy Campbell, Sgt. Richard Higgins

Many long-time local residents would be aware that the 'Blue Light' concept, that has become so well known throughout Australia, originated in Mooroolbark. Yes, the first-ever 'Blue Light Disco' was conducted by a group of our local

police officers and took place right here in our township in 1976.

Since then, Blue Light Discos and many other associated activities have become a key element in the Victoria Police proactive strategy for youth. Similar programs now also operate in every state and territory in Australia as well as New Zealand, Fiji, Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Victoria currently has 41 discos operating. The aim of the discos and all other Blue Light events is to provide safe, healthy, supervised entertainment for our young people in an environment which excludes drugs, alcohol consumption and violence. Through these events, organisers also seek to encourage better relationships and improved communications between young people, police and adult members of the community.

With many years of experience behind it Blue Light has now developed a range of activities for young people in Victoria. These include:- Derby Hill youth camp, youth forums, educational visits, Light Horse Brigade, pool party discos, tennis coaching, self-defence classes, and more. Information on Blue Light activities can be sought from your local police station or from the Blue Light state coordinator. Ph 9247 3132

Thanks to volunteers from Yarra Ranges Police and the support of Yarra Ranges council the Blue Light Disco concept has now re-commenced in Mooroolbark under the new name

“Blue Light Under-Age Dance Club”

(It seems that the word 'disco' is foreign to today's younger teens)

Thanks to the work of Acting Sgt. Ron Roszczyk (whose initiative led to this re-start), and to other volunteer police officers, the first of the 'new-generation' dances took place at Mooroolbark Community Centre on July 8th. Everyone agreed that it was a great night for the 130 - 140 youth, between the ages of 12 and 15 years, who took part. Many parents expressed appreciation to the volunteers, commenting on the fact that they had lots of good memories about the discos that had providing a much appreciated service for them in their own younger days.

**The next dance will be held at MCC
on Friday 23rd Sept. 7 pm – 11 pm**

Admission is \$5.00 with drinks and food available.

Community Support at Hansen Park Preschool



Our Herb Garden. Josh, Jack, Emma, Paige and Charlie with teacher, Jo

When preschool teacher Debra Anil talks about her work at Hansen Park she speaks, most enthusiastically, about the high level of community support that is a key to the effective, day-to-day workings of their preschool. In recent times, community volunteers have contributed to a number of major improvements to the outdoor facilities that have the playground looking a “real picture”.

The teachers and the committee (thirteen strong) are most grateful to the members of the Morrison House Men's Shed and other volunteers who recently constructed a very impressive-looking cubby house and shelter area. It has been a real “hit” with the children.

- Another new innovation has been the installation of a Rubber-Worx outdoor play & sports area. Committee Vice President, Melissa Cooper, describes this area as, “an extremely attractive & safe, non-slip play-ground which is very low maintenance.” She adds, “It has been a great addition to the many facilities our children enjoy.”
- This year, the children are all participating in the care of a new herb garden. The produce from this garden will be used in various sensory activities and in cooking projects.
- The newly refurbished 'fairy garden' looks like it is right out of a picture book.

In addition to these major developments, Debra is most appreciative of the on-going support the preschool receives from local residents. She talked about one neighbour, Mrs. Peterson, who often calls in with a variety of construction materials, greeting cards etc., and who recently knitted and donated two blankets for the dolls' cradles. As Debra remarked, “such spontaneous generosity, from Mrs. Peterson and others builds a great community spirit.”

Hansen Park runs two groups for three-year-olds and four groups for four-year-olds. The four-year-old groups attend rotational sessions, over four days. This gives each child the opportunity to know all of the others in his or her age group.

Committee President, Rebecca Cannon, notes that there are 60 families connected with Hansen Park. She is most grateful to all of the committee members, parent helpers and many volunteers who make Hansen Park such a great place to be for our youngsters.

And she says, “I cannot speak too highly of the very effective program run by Debra and her assistant teachers, Jo and Zoe. They do a wonderful job!”

If you would like to know more about Hansen Park Preschool, please feel welcome to contact Rebecca on 0418 599 249.

Combating Graffiti

Living in such a beautiful part of the world, pride of place is one of many things our communities share as residents of the Yarra Ranges – all bar a very small minority who choose to scar our local areas by vandalising buildings, fences and other surfaces with unattractive and often offensive graffiti tagging.

Graffiti tagging has long been a scourge on our community with hundreds of hours and dollars spent cleaning up the mess made by the unthinking few. I know, in my role as both councillor and police officer, that countless hours have also been spent trying to find a solution to the problem.

One new approach that I was recently privileged to witness was a creative performance event that toured some Mooroolbark schools. The pilot Graffiti Education school program was jointly funded by the Department of Justice and Yarra Ranges Council. It involved performers from Warner Awareness Education bringing a 45-minute presentation to selected students in Grades 5, 6 and Year 8. Students at Manchester Primary School, Rolling Hills Primary School and Mooroolbark Secondary College enjoyed the performances. The presentation very successfully engaged students to raise

awareness about the impact of graffiti tagging on the community. It was great to see a program developed especially for students that focuses on making positive choices by not heading down the pathway of graffiti tagging. As a pilot program, the performances were impressive and I'm hoping we might be able to bring it to more Yarra Ranges schools in the future.

Council is also doing a variety of other things to combat graffiti tagging in our community. We have a Graffiti Management Plan which contains a spectrum of prevention, early intervention and pro-active responses to graffiti issues. Our approach involves business, local communities, government and non-government organisations.

Another initiative is in this year's budget where council has allocated further funding for a dedicated graffiti clean-up crew. The crew will be able to respond to areas of need as they arise, and by removing it quickly, will act as a deterrent to other would-be vandals.

Council is committed to working to reduce the incidence of graffiti and to making Yarra Ranges an attractive place for our residents, our businesses and those visiting this wonderful part of the world.

Terry Avery – Yarra Ranges Mayor



Mayor, Terry Avery and Cr Richard Higgins with Manchester P.S. students

Dandenong Ranges Orchestra



Wally Dunkley (French Horn) and Rebecca Hackett (Viola)

The Dandenong Ranges Orchestra is a vibrant organisation of close to 40 enthusiastic musicians. It is celebrating its 27th anniversary in 2011. It is an orchestra for strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. Instrumentalists of all ages and abilities are most welcome to attend.

They meet each Monday during school terms, at the Dandenong Ranges Music Council – **Community Music Centre** at Upwey High School – 1451 Burwood Highway, Upwey. Sessions commence at 8:30 pm. The orchestra presents 4-5 concerts each year and is often invited to perform at local festivals and other community functions, including recent performances at The Basin Community Carols Night. It also participates in larger projects organized by the DRMC.

Part-time scholarships for Viola and French Horn.

Currently the orchestra is looking to fill a need for musicians who play these two instruments. Part-time scholarships are on offer for people of any age or background who would like to learn one of these instruments. The scholarship includes free use of the orchestra's instruments and no rehearsal fees once the person feels able to join the orchestra. The offer is for one year but could be extended for a second year. The applicant would have to arrange their own lessons with an approved teacher. For further information, please contact the Musical Director, John Collins, on 9755 1561. John is the resident conductor and has been with the orchestra for the past 12 years.

The orchestra comes under the auspices of the Dandenong Ranges Music Council - an arts organisation assisted by Arts Victoria and the Yarra Ranges Council. It has been funding, facilitating and teaching community music for over 30 years. DRMC chairperson, Norma Durrand, says, "Community music is for everyone, beginner to professional. It enriches our lives and gives us local opportunities to sing, play, perform, jam, create and listen."

Other current activities of the DRMC include: Young Ranges Strings, New Horizons Concert Band for adult beginners, D.R. Big Band (Swing), choirs, fiddle groups, ukelele, pre-school music, instrumental lessons (all ages and abilities), Youth Music Awards, and more. See the website for more: www.drmc.org.au **"Welcome to Dandenong Ranges Music Council"**

Mooroolbark Concert

The orchestra will be performing a special concert at St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road Mooroolbark, on Sunday Sept 18th commencing at 2:30 pm.

Linden Greatwood will be the guest conductor and soloist and the program will include :

Bizet: Prelude from *Carmen*

Handel : Suite No. 1 from the *Water Music*

Vivaldi : Goldfinch Concerto for Flute and Strings

Vaughan- Williams: March Past of the Kitchen Utensils

Lloyd-Webber : Selections from *Phantom of the Opera*.

Community Events Calendar

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| First Sun. 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. 4:00-6:00 pm. Oxley College Stadium. Details – Ph. 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au |
| Weekly | Scottish Country Dancing. Mondays 8:00 pm Beginners & experienced dancers welcomed. St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Rd. Minimal charges. Inquiries Ph. 9876 9206 |
| Sept - Dec | Red Earth Gallery Exhibitions. Yarra Ranges Vintage Artists Art Show: 25% of proceeds from sales go to the Maroondah Hospital. Sept 20 - Oct 13. Maroondah Photographic Society: Oct 18 - Nov 7. Reflective Daubery: Nov 16 - Dec 1. Red Earth Gallery, Mooroolbark Community Centre 9726 5488 www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc/reg. |
| Sept - Nov | Weekend Intensive Art and Craft Workshops. Creative Bookmaking & Journalling Sept 17 & 18, Woven Pandanus Shell Sept 10 & 11, Rag Baskets Oct 15, Woven Baby Rattle Nov 19. Mooroolbark Community Centre 9726 5488. www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc & Montrose Town Centre 9761 9133 www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mtc |
| Sept - Nov | Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions. Sept 6, 14, 27, Oct 4, 12, 25, Nov 9, 22. Mooroolbark Community Centre. More info 1300 368 333 |
| Oct - Nov | Montrose Movie Club presents <i>The Odd Angry Shot</i> - Sept 7 @ 7:00 pm, <i>Death in Brunswick</i> - Oct 5 @ 7:00 pm, <i>Clubland</i> - Nov 2 @ 7:00 pm. Montrose Town Centre 9761 9133 |
| Sept - Oct | Montrose Concert Series presents Fraser & Smith – Sat. Sept 17 @ 8:00 pm, Diana Clarke Trio – Sat. Oct 29 @ 8:00 pm. Montrose Town Centre 9761 9133 www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mtc |
| Sept - Oct | Creative Capers School Holiday Program. Sept 26 - Oct 7. Art & craft, dance, live performances, movies. Mooroolbark Community Centre 9726 5488 |
| Sun. Sept 18th | Orchestral Concert "Dandenong Ranges Orchestra". St Margaret's Uniting Church Commences 2:30 pm. All Welcome. Entry - gold coin donation |
| Sun. Sept 18th | Steam Train Shuttle Between Mooroolbark and Mitcham. Steamrail Vic. See the website for times and prices. www.steamrail.co.au |
| Thurs. Sept 22nd | AGM Mooroolbark History Group Inc. Mooroolbark Community Centre. 7:00 pm All welcome. |
| Fri. Sept 23rd | Blue Light Under-age Dance Club. Supervised dance for youth aged 12 – 15 years M/B Community Centre 7:00-11:00 pm. Entry \$5. Food and drinks available. |
| Sun. Oct 2nd | Back to St Francis. Evensong 5:00 pm St Francis in the Fields. Invitation to all with a past connection with St Francis in the Fields to join us for a celebration. |
| Sun. Oct 2nd | Blessing of Pets. 3:00 pm Hookey Park Rotunda. Short Service 3:15 pm followed by Blessings |
| Oct 3rd - 4th | Red Cross Blood Bank. Oct 3 & 4, Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings 13 14 95 |
| Sun. Oct 23rd | Sunday Afternoon Pipe Organ Concert. 2:30 pm St Francis in the Fields \$15 (\$10 concession) u13 Free. Featuring Andrew Mariotti |
| Tues. Nov 1st | Cup Day Mini Fete From 9 am. St Francis in the Field. Cakes, bric-a-brac, craft, plant stalls, Devonshire teas and BBQ breakfast and more. |
| Thurs. Nov 24th | Community Forum / Quiet Achiever Awards. Guest speaker – Det Sen. Sergeant Ron Iddles. Mooroolbark Community Centre. Commences 7:30 pm. Further details see page 7 |

Our "Community Events Calendar" offers a service to local clubs and organisations.

To include entries for your group's community events in future issues please contact the editor on 9761 1121 or lewisdm@bigpond.net.au

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

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

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Like to contribute?

If you have a good news story about people or groups who you believe are an inspiration to the community, Please contact the editor through our church-office phone number or by email (as above)

MISSIONSTATEMENT

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

We seek to achieve this by:

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

ADVERTISING POLICY

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

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in Mooroolbark.

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