

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

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INSIDE

- *Anzac Day Service*
- *Blind Bowls Tournament*
- *Story Time at Your Local Library*
- *Australian Army Big Band – Local Concert*



***Barkers Women's Soccer Club
- A Champion Team - page 7***

To CHAPLAIN or not to CHAPLAIN?

“I suppose initially I thought, ‘where would a chaplain fit in?’ Where I’d been in previous schools, I thought staff handled pastoral issues pretty well. So I was curious when a local school employed a chaplain through their own fundraising. It was a secondary school and it seemed to be a huge redirection of resources. I was curious because I’d assumed they were pretty well on top of their pastoral care, their wellbeing and direction for youth.”

With many interested in the debate about the presence and role of chaplains in schools, I enjoyed the opportunity to speak with two local primary school principals – Neil Pollard from Montrose Primary School, and Carolyn Elliot, not too far down the road at Pembroke primary. Many thanks to them both for sharing their views. But I’ve interrupted Neil, who is in the process of explaining how his views on chaplaincy in schools changed. Sorry, Neil, please continue!

“So when I came here to Montrose, we already had a locally-funded chaplain, and I came to realise how valuable that service was. It was not ‘in your face’. It was very quiet, very effective and dogged, and that’s what I’ve noticed with each chaplain. Our program is now federally-funded. Anna is our third and she works very much behind the scenes, but is very persistent in supporting kids and families, and sometimes multiple kids and multiple families, in her work.”

“And interestingly, the funding body increased our funding so we were able to increase from one and a half days to two, and that’s what caught our second chaplain out, as she was unable to commit to any more time away from her parish. By contrast, Anna’s not linked to a parish in any formal role, so for us it’s been ideal. And she’s working two days a week, which enables her to increase her coverage with more revisits. The needs are constant. It’s very rare for her to have any downtime, as she spends time working through both old and new issues.”

I suggested that the demand for pastoral care in schools had increased dramatically in recent years, and Carolyn responded:

“In times gone by, when many people

had bigger families, and had much more contact with grandparents, aunts and uncles, and larger community friendship networks, people were able to turn to that extended family for support. But things have changed. There’s much more isolation in our community now. Parents are having kids later, so the grandparents are not necessarily there. People tend to move around much more, too, so they’re losing some of the networks that they would have had in the past.”

“Nowadays the school is often regarded as a place that’s solid, that’s structured and constant, and to have a chaplain working within the school as another resource that parents can go to, helps to build a local relationship and provide a sounding board. Sometimes kids and parents don’t know what to do, and to have this additional person who they can talk to, who’s not judgmental and doesn’t try to fix things for them, gives them the opportunity to almost catch breath, giving them time to verbalise and prepare for what they actually want to do.”

“I think having a chaplain in the school is valuable for teachers and staff, too,” continued Carolyn, “because it’s an outside person that they can have a conversation with, a person who looks at things from another point of view. And to have someone who is non-judgmental is very helpful for all kinds of people as they face single parenthood or the challenges of blended families and so on. And as Neil mentioned, the great thing about chaplains is that they work behind the scenes.”

I asked whether chaplains are seen as part of the staff-team within the school community.

“The chaplain is one resource among many that the school has,” said Carolyn. “When parents come asking for help, what they really want to hear is that they are being heard, and that you are trying to be helpful – and even if you’re unable to completely solve the matter at hand, they want to know that you’ve heard them; that you’ve listened, that you’ve acted as best you can and that you’ve got the child at the centre.”

“Being able to say ‘would you like your child to see the chaplain?’ provides them with extra reassurance that everything possible will be done to help. Schools have finite resources, and when a chaplain is in the school we have a valuable extra resource. And chaplains are very good at assisting and then following up a week later – generally helping to minimise a whole lot of concerns for parents. My experience with chaplains is that they are very calm. They are very measured, and very considered in what they have to say. They can diffuse anxiety, fear and apprehension, which helps school in general, but most importantly helps the kids.”

Neil commented on the trust chaplains can establish: “The first chaplain here was

much loved and didn’t start as a chaplain. So in a way he became a chaplain by a kind of osmosis. He didn’t actually apply to be a chaplain, but because he was seen as very much an integral part of the school and the wider community, his work melded into something that gave a title that said ‘chaplain’.”

“So that trust element was already there before he became a chaplain. For a new chaplain it takes a little time to re-establish trust – that you will handle things confidentially, that you’re non-judgmental, that you’re caring; all those things. If people are actually going to ask for help, to put themselves on the line, they need to be confident about those things and that what they might share is not going to come back at them. And because our first chaplain had that trust it makes things easier for each successor to be viewed with similar trust.”

Neil observed that the school community grows to know what matters need to be dealt with by the principal or a teacher, and the kinds of things that would lead them to say ‘I need to see the chaplain.’ And as the relationship with teachers grows, the chaplain is a very reassuring and encouraging resource for them, too.

Both Neil and Carolyn agreed that it is important that the school find the appropriate person for the school.

“You have to have a chaplain who fits the school and vice versa,” said Carolyn. “The chaplain’s ethos has to match the ethos of the school, because as school leaders you place a lot of trust in the chaplain. The whole thing wouldn’t work if the principal or the assistant principal had to sit in with the chaplain whilst they’re speaking with one of the children. So, you have to be on the same page about values, what you understand as well-being, and so on. When there’s agreement, the chaplain can get on with the job knowing when there are matters that should be shared with you.”

“For us at Pembroke, being such a multi-cultural school, it’s really important that our chaplain understands the history of our children and their varied backgrounds, and believes that multiculturalism is a good thing. You can imagine that if you had a chaplain who didn’t share those values – no matter how good the chaplain may be, it wouldn’t be a good fit. We’ve been fortunate that we’ve been able to select our own chaplains so that right from the word go, we’ve had that fit.”

Neil agrees. “Yes, we didn’t just want to take a chaplain off the rack – our interviews were extensive. You’re really trying to make sure you’re employing the best person for the school. We looked into the person’s employment history, and personal recommendations were important. We had a number of conversations: ‘Who are you? And let me tell you about our school.’ You can



Primary school principals
Neil Pollard and Carolyn Elliot

tell by the responses and the body language, so that their employment becomes a mutual choice. It's a good dance!"

"From our recent check of who wants to work with the chaplain, we have over 80% of parents saying 'yes, we want to be part of that.' That's pretty good. And I suppose for us it was an affirmation of the chaplains we've chosen. And we've been surprised over time that some of those who have said 'no' to any chaplaincy involvement have a change of mind when unexpected challenges may arise."

"Our families have appreciated that although they may not need the chaplain for a long period of time, something may happen in their life – things might change," said Carolyn. "There may be a family separation, perhaps a death in the family, perhaps anxiety about a child moving to secondary school – there could be any number of things! There have been some families who have been sounding boards for other families who are able to share the load by suggesting 'why don't you go and have a chat with the school chaplain? You might benefit from a fresh perspective. Having another person to listen can be invaluable.'"

"Some parents may have lingering memories of school not being the most pleasant place for them as a child. So to have somebody removed from the school hierarchy can provide them with a much more comfortable option. They don't have to go to 'the principal's office!'"

"When you sit in the principal's chair you have more than enough to keep you occupied and challenged, especially when

people are struggling emotionally with life challenges," said Neil. "There's so much going on in a school that sometimes you might not be able to give them as full a commitment as they need. Chaplains are a valuable resource. We're a Kids Hope school, and we see church folk committing to a child for up to five years – an hour a week with one child. You've got to appreciate that. And just as the mentors don't try to recruit for their church, but are in the school to help, the chaplain operates similarly. They are there to provide a supportive function."

"The staff is won over – not because of what a person says, but how they come across. People are pretty tuned in and able to form an opinion on how a person operates and their character by the way they carry themselves."

Both principals described other ways chaplains help by coordinating the confidential distribution of food assistance from the parents' club, running friendship groups for students and parenting workshops; and helping with some material included in staff professional development.

Both value the qualifications that chaplains are required to obtain in order to meet funding guidelines, and the way in which much of that training involves on-the-job mentoring from an experienced chaplain. And both wondered what would happen after 2014 when current federal funding arrangements will be reviewed.

"That's the big question," Carolyn acknowledged. "What happens after 2014? Schools have invited and encouraged families

to ask chaplains for help, and encouraged kids to be confident in seeking help instead of bottling up a whole lot of things. So we've let the genie out of the bottle. What happens if you've created this culture and if you then can't continue it? Raising sufficient funds to fund it internally will be difficult unless funding is somehow provided."

"For large schools of 1500," said Neil, "the part time wage for a chaplain would be easier to cope with than for tiny schools where the amount paid for a chaplain for a day or half a day a week is equal to most of their curriculum budgets. Chaplaincy works well and we certainly derive more value than what salary rate would suggest."

Carolyn added another insight: "It's very hard to teach children if their head is not in the right space. A chaplain helps a number of children to deal with anger, or with other emotions and feelings that get in the way of learning taking place. Surely it is better that some of these matters be dealt with when children are young and before they manifest themselves as problems later in life."

"Having a chaplain as an integral part of our school team is vitally important. Without them, there would be a void that their presence and involvement fills. They not only benefit the school community in the shorter term, but create long-term ongoing benefit for the wider community."



Randall Bouchier



celebrate mooroolbark 2013

March 23 was a great day for Mooroolbark! Celebrate Mooroolbark 2013 was bigger and better than ever before. With over a hundred stalls and 8000 people, it was a great day out for our Mooroolbark community and beyond. True to its promise the festival, which centred around the Mooroolbark Community Centre and the Red Earth Park in Brice Avenue, offered a great day out for families. Every effort was made to have many activities free or at low cost.

The talent quest, which launched the festival on Friday night, continues to showcase the quality of our local performers and the parade continues to attract more participants. This year's circus theme made it particularly colourful. We thank the Victoria Police Showband, which launched the stage program after the official opening. One patron complained that it was difficult to get round the whole festival because the stage program was so fantastic.

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, and the many stallholders and volunteers,

who all worked together to make it an event to remember. We're thankful to all who supported the event by coming to the activities. We offer special thanks to the Yarra Ranges council and our other generous sponsors, who made the day possible.

Our thoughts now turn to 2014. Mark Saturday March 22 on your calendar now and plan to be there – and also on Friday March 21 for the talent quest. If you are interested in getting more involved in next year's event, or have thought about joining the event committee, you can contact us at celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com.

Thank you Mooroolbark for your support!

Andrew Lang
Chair, Celebrate Mooroolbark Committee

ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE – HOOKEY PARK

Beautiful autumn weather saw more than 400 community members in attendance at this year's Anzac Day service at Hookey Park.

Chris Clifton, honorary chaplain of the Lilydale RSL, conducted the service, and students from Mooroolbark College and Yarra Hills Secondary College provided readings and prayers.

The Croydon brass band accompanied the hymn singing. The Anzac Requiem was read by Peter Giddings of Mooroolbark Lions, and Cr Terry Avery presented the Anzac Day address. Many groups and individuals came forward to lay down wreaths and flowers – led by Tony Smith, federal member for Casey and David Hodgett, member for Kilsyth.



Our thanks go again to Mooroolbark Lions for once more arranging this important annual community gathering.



TEENAGERS HELP DEVASTATED FARMERS

Students and teachers from a local school recently participated in a project run by BlazeAid, an organisation which uses volunteers to help rebuild farm fences which have been damaged or destroyed by natural disasters such as fire or flood.

BlazeAid operates at locations throughout Australia, repairing or replacing fences in rural areas. In March, Year 9 students from Lilydale Adventist Academy travelled to the fire-affected areas of Maffra, Seaton and Heyfield to join the volunteer effort. The students were undertaking the project as part of the school's Rite Journey program, which is a year-long program geared toward facilitating the character growth of boys and girls transitioning to adulthood.¹



In addition to providing a labour force to repair damaged property, BlazeAid gives encouragement to farmers who may have been ready to leave their farms after the devastating effects of a natural disaster. The LAA students built fences on the 1800-acre cattle farm of Richard and Dianne, who had been severely affected by the recent fires in the area, losing stock, equipment and kilometres of fencing.

While the project provided some much-needed aid to the struggling farmers, it was also fun for the students, and helped them to understand the application of

Lilydale Adventist Academy's motto of "character ... through nurture, learning and service".

Comments made by LAA students after the project showed that they greatly valued the experience, particularly the looks on the farmers' faces when they saw the work that had been done. Many students realised that although they were giving to others, they received back much more than they gave. The challenge of undertaking a difficult task was appreciated by many students, as was the sense of community that came as a result of working together as a team. A highlight for some students was sitting with the other volunteers in the BlazeAid dining room at the end of the day, discussing the day's achievements.

Judy Howard-Bath, Rite Journey facilitator at Lilydale Adventist Academy, commented that it was a privilege for the school to be able to contribute to the healing process for the farming community, and that the school is indebted to BlazeAid for providing the service opportunity. The farmers, said Judy, "bravely shared with the students what it was like for them before and during the fires, as well as some of the impact that such devastation can cause."

"Many 'seeds' were planted during the project," said Judy. "... seeds of compassion, understanding and a deep respect for Australians who work the land."

Janet Van Dijk

¹ This innovative program was created by former Adelaide teacher Andrew Lines and is being implemented in a number of public and private schools and youth programs throughout Australia, New Zealand, and the UK. For more information, see theritejourney.com.au



KILSYTH BASKETBALL'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!



Mark Brownfield (General Manager Marketing & Retail Sales of AGL) with Grant Wallace (Kilsyth basketball General Manager)

Kilsyth Basketball is delighted to announce that they have recently installed a 30 kilowatt solar power system at the Kilsyth Sports Centre. The massive ReneSola system with three Aurora inverters was installed with the support of AGL Solar, and will assist the association in moving forward towards a sustainable future, whilst reducing their total energy consumption and costs. The solar power system is expected to yield approximately 106.9 kilowatts per day, which is enough energy to run six average households¹.

Kilsyth Basketball General Manager Grant Wallace commented: "the association has long held a commitment to sustainability, and our move to solar power only reinforces this commitment".

As part of the installation, a monitoring system will be installed to enable the association to collect data on the amount of energy that the solar panels are generating and the carbon savings. As a further contribution to the local community, AGL Solar is donating a display system in the foyer of the centre so that all members and visitors to the Kilsyth Sports Centre can see firsthand the amount of energy produced by the solar power system.

It is estimated that the solar power system will



offset approximately 52.7 tonnes of carbon emissions per year². Over a 25-year period this would equate to taking 346.6 cars off the road or planting 4,916 trees³.

Kilsyth is expected to save approx \$6,500 per year⁴ from this sustainability project.

¹ Ave household consumption per day based on 15-18kW. Source: <http://www.greenpower.gov.au/Homes/Costs/>

² Source: Carbon Co-efficient in Vic=1.35t per MWh of electricity generated in Victoria. Essential Services Commission GreenHouse Gas co-efficient 2012 21 Mar 2012

³ Source: Conversion factors <http://www.greenfleet.com.au/TechnicalInformation/TechnicalInformation.aspx>

⁴ Annual Savings derived from proprietary modelling tool developed by SunWiz Pty Ltd.



Chris and Peter with shop assistants - Amy (left) and Kelly

Shop 1/ 63 Brice Avenue Mooroolbark Ph : 9726 9946

Master Cakes Bakehouse is 'a bakery with a difference' ! It specialises in offering an inviting range of delicious cakes with an extensive selection on display at all times. Top quality wedding and birthday cakes are made to order and gluten free cakes, as well as gluten free bread and muffins, are available. Everything is baked on the premises.

Delicious cakes plus a whole lot more ...

Master Cakes Bakehouse also provides meals from Monday to Saturday with an all-day breakfast menu – starting with an egg and bacon muffin for just \$2.50 – and offering an extensive and varied lunch menu. Their regular and gourmet pies and pasties and their family pies and quiches are very popular, along with the Beraldo coffee they serve. Business hours are Monday to Friday 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Master Cakes Bakehouse also provides a catering service – offering salad platters, sandwiches, slices, and cakes to order.

New proprietors Peter and Chris Kanellopoulos moved to Brice Avenue from Mountain Gate shopping centre where they sold their previous business, Euro Bakehouse, to move to Mooroolbark. Their current business is very much a family affair with Peter attending to the baking and Chris focusing on the cake decorating and preparation of salads and other meals. Peter's mother, Maria adds her special experience in baking a range of Greek-style cakes whilst his father, Theo, provides general help wherever needed.

Peter and Chris' son, Daniel, is also involved – learning the business from the ground up. Their two daughters, Courtney and Leah, are currently attending secondary school. The family is keen to build community relationships through the business and looks forward to becoming involved with local people and organisations in a variety of ways.

We welcome the Kanellopoulos family and their new business to Mooroolbark, and wish them every success in the future.



Stav Mavroidis and Steve Cultrera

**Shop 4/61 Brice Avenue Mooroolbark
Ph: 9726 6614 9726 6694**

Porta via opened for business in its very modern and rustic premises on February 25th this year.

It offers an extensive traditional pizza menu, along with a wide range of carefully selected gourmet pizzas – all with gluten-free bases available. In addition, Porta Via's "Cucina" (kitchen) menu presents a tempting array of traditional home-style cooked Italian dishes. Included in this menu is a variety of take-away pasta dishes and tempting "mains" such as chicken schnitzel, ribs, veal parma and garlic prawns, to name a few. All meals are prepared on the premises.

Porta Via is open seven days a week for dinner, and from Tuesday to Saturday for lunch. It offers various lunch specials and quality Del Zotti coffee at competitive prices.

Partners Steve Cultrera and Stav Mavroidis bring a wealth of combined experience to their new business. Steve has owned and managed various restaurants in Hawthorn, Moonee Ponds and Balwyn over the last 25 years. Now – having moved to Mooroolbark with wife Alicia and their five children – Steve, a committed

family man, says, "It means a lot to be able to run our business close to home." He is the proud Dad of Erin, Bree, Alexi, Joseph and Matisse.

Stav Mavroidis is a trained chef who has had extensive experience in managing dining establishments in the city and South Yarra. In recent times he was head chef at Steve Cultrera's Benedetti Restaurant in Balwyn. Having developed a close friendship through working together, Steve and Stav have now embarked on their new business as partners. Stav now resides in Croydon with his partner Trish.

Both Steve and Stav are keen to contribute to the local community. They are currently working on a sponsorship deal with Mooroolbark Football Club where they already offer "player of the day" awards for all matches for each of the eighteen teams the club fields. They are also planning to hold some sponsorship discussions with Mooroolbark Soccer Club.

Porta Via adds a new dimension to the wide variety of foods available in Mooroolbark. We welcome Steve and Stav to the community and wish them every success in their new venture.

Annual Vision Impaired Bowls Tournament

Barry Austin



Berneice Stevenson looks on as Rosemary Varty declares the National Championships open

Australian Blind Bowlers ... it sounds like a contradiction in terms, yet that is exactly what took place for a week in April at the Mooroolbark Bowls Club in Hull Road.

The Mooroolbark Bowls Club has sponsored this worldwide event for eight years. At the end of the event a two-day coaching session was given by Australian national coach Graeme Clements, for players who will represent Australia in England next year.

Bowls are played on a level green with "biased" wooden balls (i.e. weighted on one side), which are rolled at a small white ball called the jack. First the jack is bowled from the mat and where the jack stops is called the "head." The aim of the game is to get each bowl as close to the jack as possible.

The bowling greens have to be specially prepared for the blind bowlers, and this is done with great skill by Graham Storm, the greens director for the tournament. The greens are sown with a special variety of grass to ensure that they will be perfectly flat and smooth after mowing and rolling. Distance markers are placed down each side of the green in metres. A line-up string (which is demanded by the world bowling authority) is positioned from the centre of each mat to the end of the green.

Blind bowlers have a "director" who tells the bowler how far the bowl has travelled by the distance markers and tells the bowler where it is placed relative to the jack by using a clock layout. For example, if the bowl stops level with the jack at 29 metres and 20mm to the right, the director will tell the bowler, "29 metres from the mat and 20mm metres at 3 o'clock". With this information the bowler knows approximately where the bowl has stopped and how to bowl the next ball to more accurately attack the jack. This is difficult enough for a sighted person to do, so imagine how hard this is for a vision-impaired player!

Blind bowlers have degrees of impairment which are categorised: a B1 is totally blind but may perceive light, a B2 has a sight range of

A vision-impaired bowler shows his skill



2-7 metres, a B3 can recognise people at 10 metres, and a B4 has more vision than a B3.

Maree Fenech is a blind bowler who originally worked as payroll officer in a nursing home and was a sighted bowler with East Ivanhoe, but had to give everything up after losing most of her vision almost overnight.

In spite of losing her vision, Maree has a wonderful outlook on life. In her words, she now has the time to "give back to the community" by being a secretary, coordinator or treasurer for other vision impaired groups."

In 2005 Maree heard of the Blind Bowling Association and became a member. She is now a skilled B1 champion bowler who has represented Victoria since 2006 and represented Australia three times. She uses muscle memory to gauge how gently or firmly to roll the bowl at the jack. Her husband Joe Fenech acts as director, standing in front and speak to Maree. Maree bowls in the direction of Joe's voice, trying to bowl between his legs for the correct direction for the bowl. Maree chooses not to use the line-up string.

Congratulations to Mooroolbark Bowls Club for their wonderful ongoing support of this very special tournament.



Mooroolbark Theatre Group Inc.

Presents:

By special arrangement with OMMH Theatrical Pty Ltd

"Fish out of Water"

a comedy by **Derek Benfield**

Directed by **Arline Myers**



MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY CENTRE
BRICE AVENUE, MOOROOLBARK

13, 14, 15 & 19, 20, 21, 22 JUNE 2013

Doors open at 7.30 pm Curtain up 8.00 pm

(Table seating + BYO)

Bookings 9726 4282

Tickets \$16 & Conc. \$14

<http://tinyurl.com/7uf4n>

SELF-WORTH OR SELF-ESTEEM? ...

LIFE'S TOUGH WITHOUT ONE OF THEM!

With Facebook and Twitter apparently totally pervasive in our community, our young people seem to be spending more time than ever communicating with one another. Several well-known companies have learnt the hard way that using these mediums to promote their businesses can have quite negative consequences. Likewise, if we as individuals are socially active online, then we have to accept whatever comments come our way, invited or not. Some of us may be quite distressed by negative or cruel feedback.

Self-worth, on the other hand, is an understanding and belief of our own intrinsic value and worth to ourselves and others, regardless of the feelings or opinions of others.

The trouble with self-esteem is that if others can give it, they can take it away! No wonder we, as kids and adults, can be so emotionally fragile and delicate. We can be easily hurt by critical comments, and yes, also boosted by a compliment. It has been said that it takes seven compliments to offset one negative comment!

It's not about 'things'

Our world seems to run on materialism and advertising – the persuasively suggested need for things we don't need or can't afford. Let's not measure our success by what we have. It seems easy to gauge one's self-esteem by what we have, or don't have, compared to others. With kids, it's toys or clothes. With adults it's bigger toys, more expensive clothes, cars, houses, jobs, wealth ...



Our self-esteem can take quite a battering if we derive a sense of wellbeing from others and their (often unsolicited) opinion of who we are as a person.

In our last issue we explored the effects of over-praising children. This time, let's delve into the best kind of praise and how it can affect a young mind. There are two popular terms used to define our opinion of ourselves ... self-esteem and self-worth. While they may seem similar, they are distinctly different in their intended meaning.

Our self-esteem is dependent on feedback from others. Our self-worth is not.

Self-esteem is very much about how we feel about ourselves based on what we believe others think of us. Does that seem healthy? If we are rejected, excluded or otherwise not accepted, then our self-esteem will be low. If we are praised or included, our self-esteem will be higher.

Doers or Feelers

Can we imagine any of life's heroes (real or fantasy) being concerned with what others thought? – they just *did*! They did what was right when it was needed. They 'did' because they had a high or healthy self-worth. They understood their value to others (rather than finding their value in the *opinions* of others). They 'did' even if the cost to them was high. They 'did' even if it went against the culture around them, where others were more concerned with feeling right, than doing right.

As parents, we want our children to be confident and self-assured; to know their strengths and talents and be happy in their own skin – not because others tell them they're good, but because they know who they are. They *know who they are* in a world that doesn't really care for pampering them and making them feel good or esteemed unless they are some kind of momentary star! When praising our children we must strive to promote their understanding of self-worth, not pump up their tyres with the more hollow self-esteem.

Essential to understanding and valuing self-worth is discovering what it is that makes you, 'you' and knowing your unique gifts, talents and abilities and special personality mix that no one else on earth has.

It's really not what we do that makes us special... it's the reason that we do it. It's the drive, the motivation, the passion that makes us 'us'.

It's really not what we do that makes us special... it's the reason that we do it. It's the drive, the motivation, the passion that makes us 'us'.

Our self-worth is a value that can make an amazing difference to how we see each day, how we treat others (and how others treat us), what our priorities are, and what we can accomplish with our life. Our self-worth is not driven by emotion or circumstance. It is not something that rapidly changes with our mood, or the quantity or quality of our possessions.

Actually, we are born with a very healthy self-worth but we can lose sight of who we are. We can begin to doubt our personal strengths and abilities and our value in the world ... even our value to our family and friends.

In a perfect world we would all be loved for who we are. Normally, children are loved by their parents from the first day just because they exist! As they grow older and encounter people outside their family, we hope that they will remember that they are loved and respected for who they are, not because of their good behaviour or physical appearance.

Teaching our kids about self-worth

Asking a teen to participate in an activity can be very rewarding and relationship-building. When teens don't agree with your way of doing things, you can still send a positive message. Let them make their own decisions at times, but take the opportunity to remind them that their presence and contributions will be valued if they change their minds. We can instil in our kids a sense of respect for others even when they may not agree with the behaviour. Unfortunately, many people have inherited a life where self-worth has not been expressed, and they get by on self-esteem, which is a rather fragile existence often leading to more trouble than not.

Find ways to explore your child's unique gifts and abilities. Help children to understand that those gifts are to benefit those around them – not just themselves. Self-worth is a powerful driver for who people really are – not how others would like them to be. Remember, self-worth is how they value themselves – not how others do. We've all heard stories about people helping those in need – especially after a natural disaster or other tragedy. The volunteers who sacrificed time, money, energy, or even their physical well-being, often learned things about themselves that they may not have otherwise known. These valuable opportunities enrich understanding and ownership of our self-worth.

What might make our sense of self-worth diminish?

When we do something that is contrary to what we would normally do, we might feel guilty, or uncomfortable with ourselves. If we were to steal something, or tell a lie to someone, if we could have helped but chose not to... we can harm our sense of self-worth. Because we have let ourselves down... it's as if we have hurt our self. These feelings are a natural response when we or our children have made a mistake. Making an apology or righting the wrong will restore the dignity and build up the sense of self-worth.

We also need to make sure we focus on our kids' natural strengths and provide opportunity for development, rather than comparing their abilities and accomplishments with others'. This enhances their understanding of how they can contribute to the lives of those around

them. Healthy self-worth will positively impact decisions made about lifestyle choices, about weight management and about substance abuse because they have a healthy regard for who they are as valued individuals. They'll be less easily swayed to do stupid or dangerous things in an attempt to raise their self-esteem amongst their peers.

No one needs to be good at everything – no one ever is. We need to help our children understand what they are good at and let that be enough. That will allow them to be content in their self-worth without needing to seek self-esteem from others. We all need to have a firm grasp on what we are good at, and what we are not so good at. Self-worth insists on an honest appraisal of who we are – complete with our personal imperfections, not papering-over faults to maintain a wobbly self-esteem.

Growing self-worth

Having other significant adults involved in children's lives is a great benefit – that's what uncles, aunts, and grandparents are for! If there's not too many of those around, encourage your kids to be involved in sport, and be supportive of the relationship with the coach and peers. Coaches often have a high self-worth and it's expressed through their desire to spend considerable time serving and encouraging others – often at great sacrifice.

The motivation for people to grow and make the most of life is not a fluffy self-

esteem, but a strong grasp and understanding of values and principles. These are the heart of self-worth ... making ordinary people into extraordinary people.

Life is a wonderful journey – well, it's meant to be. It was never supposed to be easy, but it is a great time of discovery. Not a discovery of things, not a collection of pats on the back, not a time of getting ahead of everyone else, but of discovering who we are and what makes us tick. Our self-worth is already built in. Helping our kids to discover and understand it is our job as parents and other significant adults. With a healthy grasp of self-worth, children will not only have a great life, but like any hero, they will significantly affect many others' lives in a wonderful way!



Steve Steel



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CHURCH NEWS

The Gloves are Off

Sue Berger, 2012

It was a sparkling day outside as I walked into the clinic. One of the technicians quickly greeted me and gave me a hug. We've got to know one another and enjoy catching up during my regular visits.



We chat and laugh easily while doing my weigh-in and checking vitals. She then pulls a couple of latex gloves from a box on the wall, tugs them on and gives the top edges a satisfying snap.

Suddenly I feel as if I'm untouchable. For some invisible reason, barriers have been erected. Neither of us speaks while she pricks my finger, creating the small bead of blood required for the test. After a quick daub and a little bandage taped in place, my friend peels off the gloves and shoots them into the trash can like rubber bands. We joke that she's had a lot of practice on that shot. Our chatter resumes as I follow her into the next room.

Later on, I'm still haunted by that momentary feeling of alienation. The simple act of pulling on gloves made me feel rejected, distanced and isolated, emotions I have to squelch by reminding myself of the professional reasons involved, even though I understood why.

As I muse on it, I begin to think of Jesus. (Okay, you knew it was coming...) What an amazing thing it was to have Him walking among us. Born as an infant. Does it get any messier than that? He was an unsteady toddler, an exploring child, and a gangly teen. All stages with their quota of bumps, bruises and scrapes, undoubtedly treated, bandaged and kissed by his mother. That care and human touch is evident as he reached out to heal those around him. Nobody was untouchable. Even those, who for all rational purposes, should have been.

God with us. Here on earth, experiencing our frailties, touching our diseases, mingling his blood, sweat and tears with ours. No precautions. No alienation. No gloves.

God with us. Here on earth, experiencing our frailties, touching our diseases, mingling his blood, sweat and tears with ours. No precautions. No alienation. No gloves.

Nothing repelled him. Nothing caused him to avoid them. On the contrary, he was moved by pain and reached out to touch, hold and heal. He embodied God's desire to gather us into his heart, regardless of our human condition.

The gloves are still off today and always will be. And that is very good news for you and me.

A Gift from Stawell

You may have heard of the Stawell Gift, but did you know that here in Mooroolbark we have a gift from Stawell?

Mooroolbark man Max Bigmore met his future wife Val in Stawell in 1951, and immediately fell in love. He was nineteen. It took Val a little longer, but she admits that she fell for his blue eyes. She thought he was a "bit weedy" and needed building up, and she has spent a life time doing just that.



Max was doing his baking apprenticeship in his uncle's bakery in Stawell at the time, and Val had completed her training as a children's nurse at the Royal Children's Hospital. Val was on her way to South Australia with a nursing colleague who had friends in Stawell; Max was visiting the same house. That night Max took Val to a dance in Stawell for their first date.

They kept in touch through letters, and the day after Max completed his baking apprenticeship at the end of 1951 he moved down to Melbourne. They became engaged in 1952 and married on March 14, 1953. They had four children – two girls and two boys – and to date have ten grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. After several moves, they built a house in Ringwood East and stayed there for forty years. Val's Dad came with them, as her mother had passed away, so Val's time was spent looking after four children, a husband and her father.

During this time, Max developed asthma and found he was allergic to flour. As he was a baker this caused huge health problems, but it was a job he loved, so he continued baking for another 20 years, working his way up the ladder. Max still misses his work and his eyes fill with tears when he talks about it.

In 1998, the time came to downsize so Max and Val moved to St John's Park in Mooroolbark as soon as a cottage became available.

After retirement, Max developed many hobbies, such as painting, woodwork, cake decorating, 10-pin bowling and tapestry. There is a beautiful painting of Cradle Mountain overlooking Lake Pedder hanging up on the wall in their cosy little lounge, which was painted by Max, and samples of his tapestry are scattered around the room, some to be given away as presents to the family. Val's passion is her garden, but she also specialised in making jam, marmalade, lemon butter and pavlovas. She also did fancy work and knitting, although she says with a chuckle, "Max is still waiting for his jumper."

While they are reminiscing, Val reaches out and takes hold of Max's hand. "This is what keeps a marriage together," says Max. "Holding hands."

Three years ago Max was asked to make scones for Celebrate Mooroolbark and made 15 kilograms of scone mix, which made 40 dozen scones. He became known as the "scone man". The following year he made 20 litres of pancakes, which were cooked on the BBQ.

A digital photo frame sits on the table in the lounge and as we talk, it is running most of the time with family photos and events.

Max and Val celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on 14 March of this year with a big party in the hall at St Francis in the Fields. When asked the secret of a happy marriage, Val says, "A sense of humour and the ability to laugh at oneself, and if possible, settle any disagreements before going to bed."

It has certainly worked for them.

Barbara Austin

MOOROOLBARK WOMEN'S SOCCER CLUB

By Peter Stephenson



Robyn Clausen meets a strong challenge

Barkers playmaker Monique Nogueira shows her opponent a clean pair of heels

Members of the Matildas, Australia's national women's soccer team, are the champions of Asia, but where do we find our future stars?

The answer is at grassroots clubs such as Mooroolbark, located right on your doorstep at Esther Park, Esther Crescent. Known colloquially as the Barkers, the women's team was formed in 2003, joining Victorian State League division 4 SE. Since then, the Barker women have been promoted four times and never relegated, and now play in division 1. (The club has been promoted twice to division 1, but was unable to accept the first promotion due to not having enough players for a reserve team). This is just one division below the State Premier League, and ranks the Barkers in the top 20 teams in the state.

An important innovation last season was the introduction of floodlights at Esther Park, allowing many women's home games to be played on Friday nights. The result has been to significantly increase the attendance at the

women's games (to the evident surprise of the opposition!).

The Barker women now command a vocal support from the club's members, and it's fair to say the night matches have a theatrical quality that afternoon games lack, providing an exciting atmosphere for both players and spectators. And how the women responded in 2012! Of all senior sides in the Barkers' 50-year history, they became the closest side to having a perfect season, winning 16 league games, drawing one and losing one. Remarkably, this was not enough to win Division 2 South-East, as rivals Berwick City had an identical record, but a better goal difference. Indeed, the sides were so closely matched that their sole defeats were to each other.

Soccer is, of course, a team game, and each and every player played her part in the stellar season of 2012 (as did new coach Andrew Mashoian). However, one individual feat should not go unrecorded. Forward Amy D'Ortenzio didn't just beat every previous club scoring record – she obliterated them. In 19

games, she scored a scarcely believable 49 goals, and would have had a nice round 50 (in the club's 50th year) if a certain assistant referee (me!) had not disallowed one of her goals for offside.

Season 2013, in Division 1, is proving a big challenge for the Barker women as they adjust to the higher standard required, but if past experience is anything to go by, adjust they will.

So if you have even a passing interest in the world game, there's no better place to be on a Friday night or Sunday afternoon than Esther Park, Mooroolbark. Here you will see some of the region's best young female players, and goals are almost guaranteed whenever the Barker women take the field! Kick-off time is 8:30 pm (Friday games) or 3 pm (Sunday games), with the reserves game as a curtain-raiser two hours earlier.

**For further information and club fixtures, go to www.thebarkers.com.au
See you at Esther Park!**

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

ALL WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre

Wednesday July 3rd 2013

Film commences at **7:30 p.m.**

Free ice-cream, tea & coffee available.

Due to changes in film distribution procedures, we are currently unable to confirm the name of the film to be shown. This information will be on display in the Mooroolbark Community Centre as soon as it becomes available. Check it out, or just come along and enjoy the surprise.

This is a joint community service extended to families in our neighborhood by **Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship & Mooroolbark Community Centre**

Bookings commence from Wednesday 19th June

To reserve your seats phone 9726 5488

or book online at

www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc/shp

If you have not made a booking, please come anyway, as any uncollected tickets may be reissued at 7:15 p.m. – there are always seats available.

So, you're cynical about politicians?

Talk to many Australians and they'll admit to being cynical about politicians. Unfortunately, some politicians can behave in ways that do little to change our attitudes towards them. Sadly, some fall into the trap of opting for short-term advantage, rather than working to serve the common good by constructive policy, personal example and meaningful public dialogue.

Do politicians really believe that the average Australian falls for the all-too-common blaming of the previous government for the complex challenges facing our nation? Is there a feeling that it doesn't matter that childish and undignified personal attacks on one another may increase our disquiet and cynicism about political leaders? What effect might such behaviour have on our children? And why do politicians make simplistic "promises" about how their party will fix long-term, not readily solvable, challenges?

It's not often that we hear genuine in-depth dialogue between the parties about long-term national issues and unilateral cooperation to develop policies that will best serve the nation and the international community.

No wonder cynicism exists! A good friend of mine suggests that if he were to handpick the best of our leaders from across the political spectrum, he'd take them away from parochial

antics of the few who attract the limelight.

The politicians I have known do want to make a positive difference, and make sacrifices of time and energy in order to do so. I thought it useful to write briefly about some of the ways they're uniquely placed to be helpful. I'd like to thank our federal member – Tony Smith – for inviting me to tag along with him over a couple of days to get a feel for some of the contributions that he and most other elected representatives attempt to make in their service of our well-being.

Custodians of local history and stories

The day before Anzac day, I visited Bimbadeen Heights primary school, where Tony participated in the annual Anzac Day service. I was taken by just how many of the pupils were aware of who he was. Some greeted him by name and spoke with him.

Tony's address and demeanour reminded us of the significance of this day in honouring those who gave their lives for us. But our elected representatives can do more than that. Tony helped to give the Anzacs a local significance by sharing the story of a man who, prior to his death in 1963, spent years living and working in Silvan, and then Croydon for the latter years of his life.

As our politicians meet people in a public setting – such as in a school, community festivals such as Celebrate Mooroolbark, or during regular "mobile offices" throughout the electorate – the result may be as simple as a few words of encouragement, an offer of follow-up contact, or the suggestion of which agencies may provide useful help.

I was impressed by the potential politicians have for sharing helpful information with their electorate when we visited *SecondBite*² – a media-savvy, national organisation whose Kilsyth warehouse sources and distributes healthy food to needy families in our region.

With a focus on obtaining fresh food, the group makes an "environmental, social and health impact ... important and finite resources – energy, water – can be saved by ensuring good quality food does not go to waste. SecondBite can reduce the impact of food waste, whilst also ensuring healthy food for people in crisis. Meal programs, cooking classes, school breakfast and parcel services are now packed full of fresh produce every day across Australia."³

SecondBite's 2012 annual report claims that: "Since 2005, we've rescued 4.5 million kilograms of surplus fresh food – enough for 9 million meals." They currently serve 484 food programs.⁴



party rooms, and put them in a room together to work out what would be best for the nation in the long term. And, sadly, he has a point. When the primary focus is on electoral success, policies that would benefit the nation in the long term may be compromised for short-term electoral advantage. We're all familiar with the misleading "spin" that we're exposed to with media sound bites.

Living Today's policy is to be politically neutral so that we can work alongside elected representatives regardless of their party affiliation. Over the years, *Living Today* and I have partnered with a number of politicians of differing political persuasions to work towards the betterment of our communities. I've found them to be hard-working people, looking for ways to help – by contrast with the publicised

Lance Corporal William Scurry and his friend assisted the retreat from Gallipoli when they "developed the self-firing rifle which worked simply by having water from one bully beef tin drip into a lower tin. When the water in the lower tin, which was attached to the trigger of the rifle, reached a certain weight, the rifle was fired. This ruse led to the Turkish defenders believing that there were still troops opposing them, even after the soldiers had been evacuated."¹

A visible presence in our communities

When local members spend significant time sharing in the life of the community, not only do they better keep in touch, but their presence invites people to make their views known or to seek help.

Tony's visit encourages the organisation, and provides suggestions for partnering cooperation with other agencies, or possible grant availability. In turn, he gains insights which may prove very helpful to others, such as families and community support agencies which receive or distribute food from SecondBite.

Additionally, in a region like ours where there are many primary producers, our local members can help make connections with potential donors of fresh produce – and work towards framing legislation that provides

² <http://easternfoodalliance.org/>

³ SecondBite 2012. Food Rescue – A Fresh Approach. Report 2: The environmental impact of fresh rescued food p.14

⁴ http://secondbite.org/sites/default/files/secondbite_ar2012_web.pdf

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Scurry

tax incentives for farmers, encouraging them to donate surplus fresh produce.

SecondBite also offers employment training and experience for many who have limited opportunity to prepare for employment. In the Kilsyth warehouse, real deadlines and a team environment provide a setting where a “diverse range of students from ethnic backgrounds, special needs individuals, and those who are unemployed long-term” are helped “to gain the skills they need in a real-world working environment...”⁵

I chuckled at Tony’s remark as we discussed the tremendous contribution SecondBite makes through their work: “There are things that non-government agencies do so much better than government. It’s important for government to know its limitations, lest it delude itself and demoralise the public.”

Our politicians can potentially be significant conduits of relevant and helpful information, whilst also looking for ways to help broker links and partnerships within our community.

Exemplars of civic responsibility

Government leaders can also be great examples of responsible civic behaviour. The picture to the right, showing Tony joined by son Angus at the Anzac Day service in Hookey Park, needs no further explanation. Below that, federal and state, Liberal and Labour come together at the Monbulk service.

Compassionate advocates

Having spoken with many in our community, I know that there are times when our politicians display a mixture of compassion and persistence. There are times when laws can be applied by bureaucrats in ways that reflect the letter of the law without taking into consideration the personal challenges the application of the law presents to families. It could be an immigration matter, a disability matter, an impasse with a government department. In such cases, politicians frequently are of tremendous help. An appropriate letter or phone call, or suggestions about speaking with a key player, or an unexplored avenue – and sometimes there will be a successful outcome. At the very least, there’s usually a feeling that we’ve been listened to.

Living Today would like to thank those politicians who consciously devote significant time and energy to represent the interests of their electorates, and who are prepared to set aside personal advancement, preferring instead to spend their lives in contributing to the well-being of our communities!

Randall Bouchier



5 <http://easternfoodalliance.org/team/>



FANTASTIC AND FREE!

Your Local Library

Janet Van Dijk

As school holidays approach again, are you wondering how to entertain your children or grandchildren without spending too much money? Did you know that there is a place in Mooroolbark which offers a wealth of services for both you and the kids, free of charge? If you want to snuggle up with a book, watch a DVD, or listen to music, Mooroolbark library is the place to go – you will be able to take home CDs, DVDs and books of your choice, free!

The library also offers free or low-cost workshops and presentations, and in the school holidays there are craft activities for primary school children at a minimal cost.

Located in Station Street and overlooking the beautiful trees and green lawns of Hookey Park, Mooroolbark Library belongs to the Eastern Regional Libraries (ERL) network.

Library manager Penny Robertson considers the library a welcoming place for friends and family to meet. "We are lucky to have a lovely outlook onto Hookey Park and the great new play equipment," said Penny. To celebrate the opening of the park's new playground, the library recently hosted a teddy bear's picnic.

ERL has a huge catalogue of books, e-books, audio books, DVDs, CDs and magazines. If the item you want is not available, the library provides a free reservation service. Requested items are often sourced from the entire ERL network, and even from other library networks, so it's easy to obtain almost any library item you want.

Mooroolbark library also offers free computer access, and free Wi-Fi for those who bring their own laptops or tablets. Printing, photocopying and faxing are available at a small cost.

Members can use the library website to search the catalogue from home, place reservations and manage their account, or use the BookMyne app (available free from iTunes) to undertake the same activities using their phone or iPad.

Each week during school terms, Mooroolbark Library runs three story-time sessions for children from birth to five years old. Story time is a great way for parents to meet other parents and prepare their children for kindergarten and school. The sessions are run by Hanna, the delightful Youth Services librarian. Hanna loves the diversity of customers that she meets at the library. "I also really enjoy presenting story times to different age groups, getting to know families in the area and encouraging the love of books to children and young people in the community," said Hanna.

For more information about what your local library can do for you, phone 9726 8200 or check the ERL website (<http://www.eryl.vic.gov.au>)

"Living Today" would like to thank Mooroolbark library for helping to distribute our magazine – the library has about 20 copies of each issue available for the public.



Taya Pretty and Alana Somers enjoy story time with Youth Services librarian Hanna Condon



Story time: popular with both adults and pre-schoolers

Story time is a great way for parents to meet other parents and prepare their children for kindergarten and school.

SUPPORTING ...

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

Living Today in Mooroolbark is a community magazine printed and distributed by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship. It aims to highlight examples of many of the positives that exist within our neighbourhood and to help foster a growing community spirit within our local area. We are most appreciative of the ongoing support and financial assistance that we receive from the Mooroolbark Community Bank and

additional partnering contributions from other organisations and individuals from time to time.

At this time we would like to acknowledge the recent very generous donations received from Wicklow Avenue Medical Centre and the Parish of St Peter Julian Eymard. We thank them for partnering with us in working to help make Mooroolbark a better place in which we can all live and work together.



WAMC WICKLOW AVENUE MEDICAL CENTRE



A Welcoming, Eucharistic, Spirit-Filled Community



THE AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND MELBOURNE **BIG BAND** MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach



Fresh off the back of a sell-out performance of 'The Girls in Grey', Mooroolbark Community Centre continues its exciting 2013 program of professional musical and theatrical presentations.

At midday on Friday 19th July, the centre will be very privileged to welcome one of Australia's only full-time professional big bands to the stage. The full 34-piece Australian Army Band (Melbourne) promises to weave its musical magic and show why it is considered to be one of the finest bands of its kind in the world today.

The big band performs a wide variety of music, ranging from the classic dance band music of the 1930s and 1940s such as Glenn Miller, Count Basie and Tommy Dorsey, through to a modern jazz repertoire.

Currently commanded by Major Glenn Rogers, the Australian Army Band (Melbourne) has been at the forefront of military and ceremonial band music in Australia since 1940. In that time the band has become an integral part of Melbourne, sharing in every part of the growing city's life.

Tickets are \$10 full price or \$5 concession, and are available from the centre's box office or by calling 9726 5488. Alternatively, head over to the new-look Yarra Ranges Arts, Culture and Heritage website for more information and to book tickets online.

A Simpson

U3A YARRA RANGES

Doug Lewis



Mooroolbark couple Peter and Lois Hansford have greatly enjoyed their active participation in U3A Yarra Ranges since Peter entered the retirement phase of his life in 2005.

U3A (University of the Third Age) is a learning cooperative of volunteers who encourage healthy ageing by enabling members to share in a wide range of educational, creative and leisure activities – a rich social life is an added bonus. The wide variety of interesting classes on offer are very affordable and are open to all.

Peter's working life had given him the opportunity to build up considerable computer skills so when he saw U3A computer classes advertised in The Leader he rang and offered his services. He was pleased to be able to pass on some of his professional skills as he assisted the class leader throughout 2005. He then went on to conduct the computer class himself for the next seven years. One of his class members in those first years was his wife, Lois, who has enjoyed becoming proficient in computer skills herself. Peter also conducted a very popular and complementary class on digital photography for some years. He speaks of the real sense of achievement he felt in being able to help others in this way.

Lois has enjoyed a variety of classes over the years including Italian, line dancing

and genealogy, and is a keen member of the Wednesday walking group – a group which travels to a variety of places around Melbourne and country Victoria to enjoy interesting walks.

Lois is thankful for the opportunities she has had to make many good friends over the years. She is an active committee member who currently enjoys attending to welfare issues amongst the group – ensuring that all participants know that they are valued and greatly appreciated members of U3A Yarra Ranges.

U3A Yarra Ranges operates out of a number of venues around the shire – the Janet Campbell Centre in Kilsyth being one that is regularly used. Over thirty different classes are on offer in 2013. All are run by volunteer class leaders. Membership fees – \$40 for single membership and \$70 per couple – entitle members to attend any of the classes on offer for just the annual fee. Interested persons are invited to phone 9739 7605 or check out the website, www.u3ayarraranges.com, for further information.

Living Today thanks Peter and Lois for their contribution to community life in our local neighbourhood and for sharing their experiences with us.



Janet Campbell Hall



Peter and Lois Hansford

Community Events Calendar

First Sun. of each month	Farmers' Market: Bellbird Park, Swansea Road, next to Lillydale Lake. Combined Rotary Clubs. All proceeds to local and overseas projects. Contact Bill Sutherland: 9727 0037
Friday nights during school term	Fridays@Kids Domain: Activities for primary school age kids. 4-6 p.m. Oxley College stadium. Details: phone 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au
Thurs evening weekly	Maroondah TOWN Club: (Take off Weight Naturally). Weekly, starting at 6:30 p.m. St Margaret's Uniting Church. Hull Road. Info 0425 739 576
Mondays weekly	Scottish Country Dancing: Mondays 8 p.m. (except public holidays.) Beginners & experienced. Minimal charges. St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. Enquiries: 9876 9206
M/Bark CWA 2 nd Monday of mth	Mooroolbark Country Women's Association: 2nd Monday at 1pm. St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. New members always welcome. Contact Jeanne Wilson: 9726 9858
Wednesdays during school term	Happy Hands Art Time - Encouraging Creativity: children 1-5 yrs. 10:00 -11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m. Register online: www.happyhandsart.com
School holidays program	Sammy's Music School: Radical activities for young musicians in the making (age 10-17yrs). Song writing, band skills, rap. Info: Sammymusicschool@gmail.com or 9723 3344
June-August	Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation sessions: June 4,12,25; July 2,10, 23; Aug 6,14, 27. Mooroolbark Community Centre. More info: 1300 368 333
June-August, first Wed of each mth	Montrose Movie Club: Great movies in a relaxed theatre environment. This year's movies: 1930s – 1950s Oscar winners. Montrose Town Centre, Bookings: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9761 9133
June-August	Red Earth Gallery Exhibitions: "Exploring Shibori" / Meg Gooch May 30-June 27. "Grom" / Rabbit Lynch July 2-25 "Liberation" July 30-Aug 22 Red Earth Art Prize Aug 27-Sept 26. Red Earth Gallery, Mooroolbark Community Centre. 9726 5488
June-August	2013 Montrose Concert Series: Rasa Duende, June 14. Lior, June 22. David Bridle, Aug 4. Vince Jones, Aug 30. Montrose Town Centre from 8 p.m. Bookings: 9761 9133 or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach
June 5, July 24, August 21, Sept 11	Lilydale Adventist Schools (K-12)Tour Dates: 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. More information or to arrange an alternate time, phone 9761 9991 (ELC), 9728 8833 (primary) or 9728 2211 (secondary).
June 7 th	FreeZa / Push Start Battle of the Bands: Youth music event from 6 p.m. Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9726 5488
June 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22	Mooroolbark Theatre Group: <i>A Fish out of Water</i> by Derek Benfield. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Table seating & BYO. Bookings: 9726 4282 Tickets: \$16.00, concession \$14.00
June 22, Aug 24, Sept 4	Billanook College Tour Dates: Morning college tours: June 22 & Aug 24, commencing 10:30 a.m. School at Work Tour: Sept 4, commencing 10:30 a.m.
June 28	Blue Light Disco: Mooroolbark Community Centre from 7 p.m. Bookings: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9726 5488 Note: next date – 20/09/ 2013
July 1- 12	School Holiday Program: Art & craft, live performances, movies. Mooroolbark Community Centre & Montrose Town Centre. Bookings: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc or 9726 5488
July 3	Free Family Film Night (school holidays): Movie to be confirmed. Mooroolbark Community Centre from 7 p.m. Bookings: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9726 5488
July 4 th	OzOpera's The Barber of Seville: Performance at 11a.m. Montrose Town Centre. Bookings: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9761 9133
July 8 th	Red Cross Blood Bank: Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings: 13 14 95
July 11	The Famous Maurice Flea Circus: performance and workshop. From 11 a.m. Mooroolbark Community Centre www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9726 5488
July 19	The Australian Army Melbourne Big Band: this 34 piece ensemble is considered one of the finest bands of its kind in the world today. Mooroolbark Community Centre 12 p.m. Bookings: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9726 5488
July 28	10th Annual Community Tree Planting Day: North end of Balcombe Reserve, Mooroolbark Rd. Commences 1 p.m. ALL WELCOME. For further information 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.

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LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

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Editor

Doug Lewis

Assoc. Editor

Janet Van Dijk

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Contact

Phone 03 9726 8898

Mail PO Box 228 Mooroolbark VIC 3138

Email lewisdm@bigpond.net.au

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Contributing Writers for

This Issue

R. Bourchier, S. Steel,
Barry Austin, A. Lang J. Van Dijk,
Barbara Austin, A. Simpson

Photographs

R. Bourchier, J. Van Dijk, A. Simpson,
A. Lang, A. Holly, Kilsyth Stadium,
Barry Austin, Barbara Austin

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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)

MISSION STATEMENT

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

We seek to achieve this by:

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

ADVERTISING POLICY

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