

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO. 45 DECEMBER 2013



Taekwondo Champion
Adel Jobbagy

INSIDE:

- Faster Pastor: Reverend runs for a cause
- Money Matters: Teaching kids about money

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A TALE OF TWO BROTHERS

Did you know that car registration used to be cheaper for car owners living on the east side of Manchester Road than for those on the west side? Those on the east side qualified for the less expensive “country” registration rates!

I learned this while speaking with locals Phil and John Shepherd who, as children, moved to Mooroolbark in late 1967 with their family and completed their schooling in the area.

The boys initially attended Mooroolbark Primary School, but when Manchester Primary School opened, everybody north of the railway line was assigned to Manchester Primary, while those on the south side stayed at Mooroolbark Primary. Phil and John were among the first kids at Manchester Primary.

According to the Mooroolbark Baptist website:

By 1947, Mooroolbark Primary still had no electricity or septic tanks. The enrolment had only crept to 45. Ten years later, the numbers exceeded 200, and by 1965 they were over 600! Fourteen additional classrooms surrounded the old two-room building, with each becoming overcrowded as soon as it was occupied. The opening of Pembroke Road Primary School in 1966, with an initial enrolment of 334, gave some relief. By 1969 the enrolments at Mooroolbark Primary School had climbed to 788. A new school was planned for North Mooroolbark, on the east side of Manchester Road, but changes in housing developments – particularly those around David Drive and Erskine Ridge – saw the new school site moved from east to west of Manchester Road. Manchester Primary School, No. 5009, opened in February 1970 with an enrolment of 286.¹

The boys remember that the Mooroolbark Primary principal was Mr Patworth, and Mrs Friday was the vice principal. Mrs Friday then became the principal at Manchester Primary. Phil and John remember that both teachers were well respected, and received many well wishes on their retirements years later ... in keeping with the friendly nature of Mooroolbark residents.

Phil recounts: “I caused Mr Patworth, the principal, to fall in the mud. When they were making the oval, it was all muddy – a construction site. For some unknown reason, at lunchtime I walked down onto the oval, and got stuck in the mud, like quicksand. So the principal in his pin-striped suit had to get these planks of wood to walk across to get me out. And before he got me out, he slipped over and landed on his side in the mud. I started laughing – to see the principal rolling in the mud is actually quite funny. When he pulled me out, my pants came off! They took me to the toilets and washed the mud off, but my pants were still stuck in the mud (they’re probably still there to this day). They went to lost property and they couldn’t find a pair of pants there, so they found a football jumper. I had to wear a football jumper as a pair of pants, and they sent me home. Some locals still talk about that!”

“We both went to Mooroolbark Technical School, which was a pretty rough place back in those days,” said John. “I remember we were banned from going on some excursions, because we’d gone to see a play – quite a serious play – and some of us found it funny and laughed throughout the performance. So the teacher said: ‘That’s it, you’re not going anywhere anymore!’ For years to come, we were banned from going on excursions because of that incident.”

“Manchester Primary was surrounded by paddocks and I remember the cows broke through the fence into the school yard once. I remember them all looking in the windows. And, as the area was semi-rural, our excursions sometimes involved hopping over the barbed wire fence and visiting one of the farms further up – ‘mind the cow poo!’”

“When we came to Mooroolbark we didn’t have fly screens on the windows.

I remember on a hot summer’s night the bedroom wall would be thick with bugs. Every bug you could imagine – spiders, crickets, mosquitoes. Everything was there.”

John and Phil remember going with their mother to the supermarket in Manchester Road, now the site of a dance studio. “I think it was a Four Square supermarket. They’d taken over two shops in developing it. You’d buy your cereal, flour, wheat, and groceries and then we’d go to the green grocers on Brice Avenue for vegetables and fruit. And then we’d visit Gilbertson Butchers in Brice Avenue for our meat. That’s long before Coles.”

“We made our own fun growing up! We weren’t wrapped up in cottonwool like many kids today. We used to go and explore along Brushy Creek. We’d leave just after breakfast, get the other kids in the street and then wander all the way up and down the creek where we’d find turtles and see fish. There were no foot bridges across the creek then. We also used to do a lot of exploring in Manchester Road. It was all farms and paddocks up to Lilydale and Chirnside, and we’d go mushrooming, pick blackberries or go milk the cows up the hill.”

Phil remembers visiting the site of some old houses being demolished, on the top of the hill where Mooroolbark College is now. “Next to the house was an old well, and people dumped rubbish and old appliances in it. One day when we were there we could hear a cat miaowing. John went right down amongst all the rubbish and found a tied sack with a cat in it. I think it was close to death’s door. It was the skinniest animal you’ve ever seen. The lady across the road rang the local paper and we had to get back down in the well with the photographer and hang onto the cat!”

Sometimes the adventures were dangerous!

“There used to be a lot of old houses where the Terrace is now,” said Phil. “They were unbarricaded during their demolition. As kids we went into a half-demolished house, and went up to the second storey and John fell and was hanging between the joists by his elbows. I had to pull him out before he fell further and perhaps been killed or severely injured.”

¹ <http://www.mbc.org.au/localhistory>



The Shepherd brothers remember a slower-paced Mooroolbark. L-R : Arthur's Milk Bar; Brice Avenue looking east from Manchester Road; looking south on Manchester



“When we were about 13 or 14, we went down into Cave Hill quarry. There was a shed, and we opened it up and there was a set of metal stairs. It was all lit up, and when we went down the stairs we discovered a river down there – a decent-sized, fast-flowing river under the quarry. I was scared! I thought if anyone ever falls in there, you’d never ever be seen again.”

At one point during the boys’ childhood, the family moved to another house. The boys remember that people would be puzzled if someone moved house. “Why would you want to shift to another house, especially if it was in the same suburb?”

The boys have good memories of the dirt streets, the sounds of crickets and cicadas in summer, and thieving magpies picking the foil bottle tops off the milk bottles, which the milkman had delivered earlier. “I remember lying in bed and hearing the milkman. His horse and cart would be going clip, clod, clip. The milkman used to just let his horse go along the street whilst he’d be running in and out of properties with the milk. And our bread was delivered and left in the meter box. There was no junk mail, just the local paper and new mail, and that was it.”

And where are ‘the boys’ now?

Phil lives in Mooroolbark with his wife and his young son Jordan, who loves growing up in the Mooroolbark community. Phil has worked with sheet metal in Mitcham for the last thirty years. He has an interesting hobby – he is a member of a Star Wars costuming club. He is constructing an authentic storm-trooper’s

outfit and hopes to have it on display at the Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival next year. Of the festival, Phil says “everybody loves Celebrate Mooroolbark. It gets everyone together so we can just mingle.”

John works as the Lilydale line station master and is based at Lilydale and Mooroolbark. John recalls joining the railways in 1980. “All the signals then were kerosene lit. I had to climb ladders four times a week, higher than the overhead wires, with the crows and magpies looking up at me from the trees. On Wednesdays I had to clean all the windows with kerosene, newspaper and water.”

In those days there was a 12-week training course for signal operators; now the course takes two weeks. John remembers the old pistol-grip handles on the manual track switch levers. At one point, Lilydale had 101 levers in the signal box there. These days, 35 Lilydale switches control the whole region.

John is excited about some current projects and plans: “Something exciting happened in Lilydale on grand final day. We had 4 kilometres of rail delivered for the bridges on the Healesville line. It came on a train powered by three T-class engines.”

“We’re planning to open the railway line between Healesville and Yarra Glen in 2016. There’ll be a steam train, and the old stations will be restored – they’re building a new picket fence at Healesville station now. And there’ll be a brand new station at Yarra Glen from the ground up which will be a replica of the old station which was built in 1914”.

John says that when the Cave Hill quarry site has been developed for housing, there

are plans to make a double line from Lilydale and to build a new station “more towards the quarry than the pony club in Hull Road.”

Both the Shepherd brothers enjoy the continuing community feel of Mooroolbark and hope that our sense of history and our awareness of the way things have changed will never be lost.

Phil thinks a plaque should be placed at the shops in Mooroolbark, indicating what businesses were originally there. “Most of the shops are all different down there now. For example, there was a milk bar that became Oxley’s Newsagents and later still accountancy offices. We also had a milk bar next to the newsagent. Yet another milk bar – Arthur’s Milk Bar – was located down the other end where the real estate agent at the corner of George Street and Brice Avenue is now. Arthur used to be a local identity because he used to know everybody – all the young people, too. Everyone used to go in there and buy their pies and pasties, hotdogs, sausage rolls and Big Ms. You’d get a Big M and he’d actually heat it and froth it up for you for no extra charge. It was a bit of a hang-out for a lot of people in the ‘80s.”

Thanks to Phil and John – and many thanks for the photographs of Mooroolbark used by permission of local residents Ian and Joy Henderson.



Randall Bouchier



Road; looking toward the Five Ways intersection from Manchester Road; and southward view of Manchester Road.



GALLERY OF GREATNESS

RECOGNISING THE GREATNESS IN THE INDIVIDUAL Terry Spottiswood

Who do you think is a 'great' person? Someone who has influence? Someone who is successful? Someone who makes positive change in society? Our students recently addressed these questions, whilst investigating the impact of Social Justice on Human Rights. Our level 5 and 6 students presented biographies of significant people who worked towards improving human rights or social justice. Their presentations reflected the contributions of people locally, nationally and globally. So who are the people of note to our senior students? What do you know about the good works of some of these famous people? I am sure you will have heard of many of the notables our students studied: Nelson Mandela, Laurie Baymarrwangga, Audrey Hepburn, Gary Quinlan, Vida Goldstein, Father Bob Maguire, Jonathan Welch, Shane Crawford and many more.

Engaging students in their learning and ensuring that it has authentic meaning and relevance to a socially just community are ongoing challenges in 21st century learning. At Rolling Hills, we have been working for the last few years to help students make connections between their learning and what is happening in the world. Students from Foundation to Level 6 are introduced to big concepts and ideas, to enable

them to make connections to their world. The learning takes place through a combination of explicit teaching and personal



Father Bob Maguire with Rolling Hills students

inquiries and investigations around eight key concepts: Community, Identity, Scientific Change, Design, Necessity, Curiosity, Discovery and Social Justice.

We all have different strengths and interests and can be very successful in different areas. This is a message we want our children to learn so they can follow their passions and accept that we can't all be good at everything. Our school production, *Beauty and the Beast*, helped students see where their talents lay in either performing or back stage management.

Recently our sporting teams in basketball, netball and athletics have made it to regional and state finals. Helping our students to find their unique skills is what makes our school 'great', in keeping with our school vision of "inspiring all learners to be resilient, ethical citizens, who thrive in a global, innovative and sustainable community".



celebrate mooroolbark 2014 – Saturday, March 22 Talent Quest Friday, March 21

Planning for Celebrate Mooroolbark 2014 is well under way. We are a family festival with the theme this year being "A Mad Hatter's Tea Party." We are looking for partnerships with new participants in the festival to make it bigger and better. Maybe your business, school or group would like to participate in the marketplace or get involved in the festival parade. We have writing, recycled sculpture and fancy hat competitions for school-age children, and many opportunities for local acts/performers. We are seeking local acts for the community stage or as roving performers, and groups to provide family-friendly activities or affordable food. And there is the opportunity to march in the parade.

Then there is the Celebrate Mooroolbark talent quest. If you can sing or dance or play an instrument, or can entertain an audience, why not enter the talent quest with the opportunity to win cash prizes. **Entry is free**, with two categories – Under 16 and Open – with first, second and third prizes as well as a 'people's choice'. Winners will be featured on the community stage.

If we have not been in touch with you yet, please contact us on celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com and will get information out to you.

Above all, keep the date available.



hope for Christmas

the salvation army mooroolbark
where God is changing lives

carols in the park
Thursday 12th December 7.30pm
cnr Billanook Way & Goldentree Drive
Chirnside Park

carols at the lake
Sunday 15th December
Lilydale Lake
6.00pm kids activities, face painting, balloons, sausage sizzle
6.30p.m.– band & carols

A KILSYTH SUPER STAR

Kilsyth resident Lavinia Petrie first became involved in track and road running when she was 16 years of age and living in Houghton-le-Spring (near Durham) in England. She experienced significant success in cross country races at that time and was encouraged to further pursue her running interests.

When Lavinia was 23, she and her husband Bob migrated to Australia. On arrival they were initially housed at the migrant centre in Nunawading and immediately joined the Ringwood Athletics Club together. That was in 1966. Lavinia is now a life member at Ringwood and is currently vice president of the club. In their early years in Australia, Lavinia and Bob owned milk bars in Box Hill South and Montrose, and Lavinia was employed in a customer relations role with several companies.

Over the years Lavinia has won an amazing number of track and road events ranging from 1500 metres to 100k and holds some very impressive records. She currently holds the Australian women's record for 1500m on track and also the women's marathon. In 1991-1993 Lavinia broke the Australian record for 50k on track three years in a row and to this day holds the Australian record for 50k on road, which she set in 1994. In addition, for 21 consecutive years she participated in the Bright Alpine Climb (Four Peaks Climb). This involved running to the top of four mountains – Porpunkah, Feathertop, Hotham and Buffalo – on consecutive days. She was crowned Queen of the Mountains on three occasions.

For Lavinia, one of her greatest highlights was competing with husband Bob and son-in-law Bert in the Comrades Marathon in South Africa in 1998. The course ran from Durban to Pietermaritzburg. Following this event the family enjoyed a memorable holiday in South Africa. Another special highlight was Lavinia and Bob's participation in the 1999 Masters Games in Gateshead, England. Gateshead was where Lavinia and Bob commenced their running careers. That trip had a particular family significance as their daughter June, who was two years old when they left England, joined them in this event 35 years later. They were accompanied also by June's husband Bert. At that meet Lavinia won gold in the 5000m world championship and also won the marathon. Lavinia and Bob's second daughter, Julie, also runs in track and road events and recently participated in the 50k



For Lavinia Petrie, a highlight of her running career was competing in the Durban to Pietermaritzburg Comrades Marathon in 1998.

Sydney event and the Australian 50k Ultra Championship.

Sadly, in Oct 2000 Lavinia lost her husband and running mate to a lifelong medical condition. He was just 59 years of age, and at the time of his death was in training for the Melbourne Marathon.

Lavinia began competing in Masters Games in 1976 but has always continued to participate in open events as well. She is now also a life member of the Masters Games organisation.

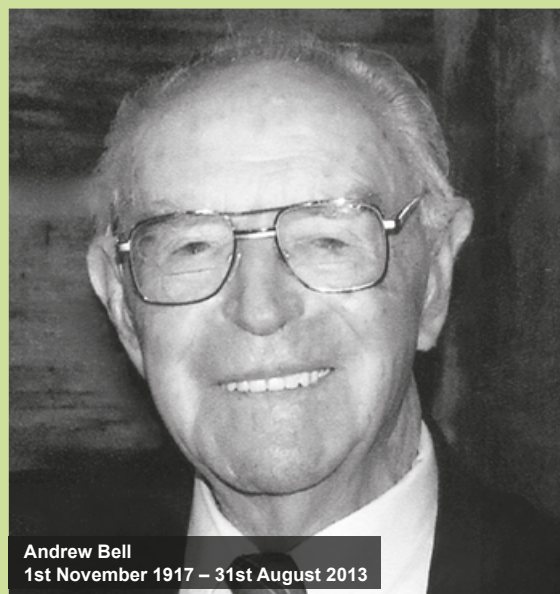
In September this year, Lavinia turned 70 years of age. From her perspective, this just opens up extra running challenges. She can now compete in the women's 70-74 category of the Masters Games. At their September meeting in Geelong this year, she broke the Australian 1500m record for women 70-74, and also the world record for 5000m (taking 32 seconds off the record). Also in September, in another event, she broke the women's 70-plus world record for the greatest distance run on track in one hour. The distance she covered was 13.044 kilometres.

Lavinia still runs six days a week and has no intention of slowing down. She feels she still has much to achieve. She is very grateful for her relative freedom from injury, which she puts down to being very aware of any "niggles" she might feel and taking the immediate and necessary steps to avoid further harm and carry out a suitable recovery program. This has kept her going.

We thank Lavinia for sharing some snippets of her inspiring lifelong track and road story. We wish her well and will look forward to future news of her achievements.

Doug Lewis

Farewell to Loved Local Resident – a Great Family Man



Andrew Bell
1st November 1917 – 31st August 2013

On September 9th, an overflow crowd attended St Margaret's Church in Mooroolbark to farewell a very well-known and much-loved member of the local community. The service was conducted by Reverend Arnie Wirenga.

Andrew Bell passed away on August 31st, just weeks short of his 96th birthday. He grew up in Yarra Glen and spent much of his adult life working for the railways. Andrew began employment with the Victorian Railways in 1934. After working at a number of suburban stations he was appointed as stationmaster at Mooroolbark – a small country station at that time. He held that position for 21 years before being promoted to Auburn, a larger suburban station. Later, when Mooroolbark station was upgraded, Andrew returned for a further 10 years at his local station.

Andrew and his wife of over 70 years had eight children and leave a very large extended family.

Andrew's daughter Jennifer speaks fondly of her father's strong devotion to his family and the love expressed for him by his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She said, "He had many stories to tell and a great sense of humour, and he was not averse to kidding people along at times."

At the funeral, son Bruce shared this story: "When he was stationed at Auburn he would sometimes take the last train to Mooroolbark at night following his shift. He'd always ride in front with the driver. The story goes that one night the train stopped for a short time between Croydon and Mooroolbark so that Andy could scramble out, cut down a Christmas tree growing near the track and then resume his journey, prize in hand."

Mark, youngest of the eight children, spoke of the very close marital relationship his parents enjoyed. "They were always willing to go the extra mile for each other and were a great example for the rest of the family in that way – a family that they both loved so much and kept in close contact with."

Through those early years and in the decades since, Andrew has been deeply involved in many aspects of community life. He will be sadly missed by many friends, colleagues and neighbours as well as his loving family members.

We extend our condolences to each one of Andrew's extended family.



Spitting Image

Doug Lewis



From simple beginnings as a home-based start-up in 1996, Spitting Image has grown and developed into a professional and vibrant business. It provides a full-service digital print and copy centre for its many regular business clients and for its local customers.

From the initial focus on large-format printing and laminating, the business now provides a wide range of services including plan printing, colour and B & W digital printing, booklets, course manuals, flyers, brochures, stationery packs, newsletters, business cards and invoice books. The business specialises in same-day plan printing services for the building industry and short-run flyers, each with a 24-hour turnaround period.

Frank and Annette Archer, along with daughter Rebecca, worked from home for close to two years as they gradually built a client base strong enough to warrant moving to their first shop front in Brice Avenue, next to the CBA.

In those early years they also sold a variety of gifts from their shop to help cover overheads. Three years later they moved to their current premises – Shop 11, 91 Brice Avenue – where the facilities were much more suitable for their needs. This move took place in the year 2000.

The family gives Rebecca full credit for her work in the setting up and developing of the business over those formative years. She has now moved on to other work pursuits but still oversees the running of the business and provides additional 'on the ground' assistance when required.



Rachel, Annette and Sue

Rebecca's younger sister, Rachel, commenced working in the business in 2007, along with the first trainee in the

business "little Rach" who contributed in the growth of Spitting Image for a number of years. Little Rach eventually moved on to greener pastures, which resulted in the addition of Sue Margrave to the team in 2010. Sue has quickly become an integral part of the business and is often referred to as the "adopted sister". These days Rachel and Sue attend to all aspects of the day-to-day running of the business, with Annette's support and assistance where required.

Spitting Image has grown and continues to do so primarily through customer referrals and recommendations. Over the years very little direct advertising has been used.

Rachel and Sue speak with obvious passion as they describe their commitment to technical excellence while providing the highest possible standard of personal customer service.

Rachel said, "We go all out to identify what is the best product for the customer's needs and we follow that direction – even to our own financial detriment."

Sue added, "When customers clearly see that we really do seek what is best for them, price included, they are always confident to seek our advice and recommendations."

That genuine desire to seek the best for others has been evidenced over the years in the community work that Frank and Annette have participated in.

Their involvements have included:

- helping establish the Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) for Mooroolbark.
- initiating and supporting the Traders Association.
- involvement in Clean Up Australia Day.
- community representation on various committees such as the Community Hub station development.

We thank Annette and Frank for their contributions to community life in Mooroolbark and congratulate the Spitting Image team on the success of this 100% Australian-owned digital print and copy centre. We wish them continued success and growth in the years ahead.

Regular customers of **Indian Wave** restaurant and takeaway – 60 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark – are very appreciative of the exceptionally high standard of meals that are offered at this venue, and the outstanding service provided. However, probably all too few are familiar with the unique background and training of its proprietor and chef, Prem Chauhan.

Commencing in 1986, Prem trained in hotel management in Delhi and went on to complete the Indian Certificate of Executive Chef. This certificate is a highly-prized qualification in the hospitality industry in India, which enabled him to immediately find employment in some of the best-known five-star hotels in the land. In the years that followed, Prem gained a number of top awards and medals in country-wide competitions and was widely recognised as a leading chef. As such, his future prospects in India were very good.

However, when the opportunity came to move to Australia, Prem and his wife Mita opted for migration in order to obtain better life prospects for the family, rather than stay and enjoy the significant prestige that his work in India would have provided. That opportunity came in 1996 when Prem was sponsored by a family friend to commence work as a chef in Warrnambool in country Victoria. Their son,

Shivam, was just a toddler at that time. Today he is studying at Monash University. After just over one year in Warrnambool the family moved to Melbourne, where Prem immediately gained employment in various leading hotels. During that period he also completed Australian qualifications as a chef. At this time Mita, who was also trained in hotel management in India, was employed in customer service roles at the Grand Hyatt and then at Crown Casino.

Together, Prem and Mita were extremely well prepared and qualified to open and manage their Indian Wave establishment in 2007. They specialise in North Indian and Tandoori cuisine and offer lunch Monday to Friday and dinner seven nights a week, as well as a full takeaway service and catering for all occasions. A wide selection of dishes is offered at very reasonable prices, and all of their services are very well patronised.

The restaurant's only advertising comes from the recommendations of regular customers like Colin Jones, who says, "I enjoy the hospitality and friendly atmosphere as much as the fine food." Many other customers have posted highly favourable internet reviews commenting on both the food and the friendly service. Prem says, "Our aim is to give our customers just exactly what they would like, and we often vary the way

Mooroolbark's "Master Chef"



dishes are presented to suit individual needs and requirements."

We congratulate Prem and Mita on their very successful business and wish them well in the future.

Taekwondo Triumph

Janet Van Dijk

National Recognition for Young Athlete

Don't be fooled by Adel Jobbagy's small stature: at only 12 years old, the Mooroolbark resident is a taekwondo champion with numerous state and national medals and trophies, including her most recent win of two silver medals in the 2013 national championships in Brisbane.

Adel began learning taekwondo at about eight years old. Having decided not to continue with gymnastics classes, Adel was looking for a different sport, and taekwondo seemed a natural choice. Martial arts was not new to the Jobbagy family ... Adel's father, Hungarian-born Alex, is trained in karate, and Adel's older sister Erika (now 18) took karate classes as a child. Adel began her training at the JB Taekwondo Centre in Boronia, owned by taekwondo master Julius Burai, who is an 8th dan black belt.

Taekwondo originated in Korea and is a decades-old martial art which combines combat and self-defence techniques with sport and exercise. It was a demonstration sport in 1988 at the Seoul Olympics, and became an official event at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Taekwondo was also accepted as an official Commonwealth Games sport in 2010. Taekwondo is known for its emphasis on high kicks and fast hand techniques. Training involves development of skills such as blocks, kicks, punches, and light contact strikes. While it is a self-defence strategy as well as a sport, taekwondo is based on peaceful philosophies which include principles of self-control, integrity, and courtesy.

Having been a member of the Victorian gymnastic team, Adel found that she had laid a foundation of fitness and flexibility that was essential for taekwondo. She enjoyed taekwondo and rapidly progressed through each level. Taekwondo students are regularly graded, and as they complete each level they are awarded belts and stripes called "geup". The first belt to be awarded is yellow belt, followed by blue, red, and black – and three stripes must be gained in each belt level before the next belt is awarded. Adel is currently a red belt, and at the end of the year will be graded for the final red belt stripe – meaning that next year she will be trying for the coveted black belt. At the black belt level, each further step achieved is called "dan". In general, a black belt may advance to the next rank only after the number of years equivalent to the current rank. So, for example, a person having just achieved third dan does not usually attain fourth-degree black belt for another three years.

Adel's taekwondo classmates are both male and female, as the sport is enjoyed by both genders as well as people of different ages. Athletes develop physical strength, flexibility and stamina, as well as mental discipline.

Not long after beginning taekwondo, Adel started entering tournaments, where opponents compete in both sparring (fighting) and poomsae (technical) work. Competitors wear headgear and body shields, and are scored when they achieve a clear hit to their opponent's shield. Hitting any other part of the body is forbidden, except for black belt level where competitors can do a head kick.

For the last three years Adel has won numerous gold, silver and copper medals at both state and national levels. In 2012 she won gold at inter-club championships, gold at state and another two gold medals at the nationals in Sydney. She also received the 2012 regional *Leader* newspaper junior Sports Star award. At the 2013 national championships in October, she won two silver medals in her age and weight division: one in technical work and one in sparring.

It is important to Alex Jobbagy that his daughter keeps to the proper spirit of the sport instead of attempting to win at all costs, as some competitors do. A few participants aim to hurt their opponent by punching outside of the designated area. If these punches are detected by the referees, points will be deducted and the offender will eventually be dismissed from the competition ... but often the opponent has been eliminated before this happens.

"Some people concentrate on aggression; others concentrate on technique," Adel's mother Simona commented. "It's about being very observant and agile; being quick enough to get out of the way, as well knowing when to block the opponent." Because Adel is often smaller than her opponents, this combination of agility and defensiveness is very



Adel with the medals she won at the national championships in October



Adel demonstrates one of her poomsae patterns



An impressive number of taekwondo medals and trophies have been awarded to Adel

important. "I usually use the first round to see what they are doing," said Adel. "If they are getting very aggressive fast, then I try to get in as well and block more. But if they are just going in for the points I don't use my energy as much."

Like many taekwondo students, Adel would love to compete in a future Olympic Games. Gaining a competitor's place for taekwondo is no easy feat ... there are fewer Olympic places for taekwondo than there are for more popular sports such as swimming or gymnastics. At present, Australia is only allowed two taekwondo competitors for each Olympic Games.

Adel's taekwondo success has not gone unnoticed. Her fellow grade six students and teachers have seen her medals and have read newspaper articles in which she has featured. Last year, Adel recorded an interview with an SBS Hungarian radio program. Adel laughed as she recalled that interview: "I'm not a hundred percent fluent in Hungarian as I don't speak it as often as English, and I started getting confused when she used big words ... they cut a lot of it out, I'm presuming!" While Adel didn't want to listen to that interview when it was broadcast, she has become more comfortable with discussing her achievements, and credits taekwondo with her increased confidence when talking to people.

This poised and well-spoken young athlete certainly looks set to make her mark on Mooroolbark, Australia and even the world!

Money Matters



We all need money. We all have potential for earning money. The skills that we develop over our lives for managing money are, sadly, often drawn from a trail of mishap, loss, foolishness and sometimes, very harsh lessons.

As I write, there are several countries that are spending freight trains of money more than their income. If they default on their debt obligations, the resulting financial shockwaves will affect all of us. In reality, the effects of bad monetary policy have been affecting us all for some time!

But back to our little world ... if we could shortcut the hard learning of those lessons for our young ones, that would be useful for everyone. A little lesson learned well (when they're young) goes a long way ... hopefully, helping the money go a long way too.

I grew up with a mate who used his numerous bank and store credit cards with little discipline or caution. After a while he would borrow from one card to pay down another ... and all this over several years! Thankfully he married a girl who had better ideas with money. However, it took several more years to pay off the debt – using *both* their incomes.

As parents and guides for young money managers, how do we shape their attitudes and help them form habits that will frame their financial decisions and practices?

Plans Matter

Perhaps the most important fundamental principle is to have something of value to show for money after it's spent. It may not even be a 'thing', but there must be a value as a result of the money spent. For that to be true, there must be a plan – a plan for how much, when, why and probably even who. If, with a plan, we aim to reduce the attitude of trivial and spontaneous spending, then we promote appreciation of money and spending it wisely.

Even before making their first dollar, children will have witnessed the spending habits of their parents and other significant adults as they head toward their teenage years. Knowing where money comes from, or what it's for, is something a child may never think to ask. Right there is a clue to teaching about money – encourage kids to ask, or at least discuss money in the family. Talk about budgets, talk about value for money spent, about fairness, about carefulness, about saving, about giving,

about debt. Our children need to understand what debt is and how to minimise it. How to use debt wisely and responsibly is a skill we need to teach them – the banks, for example, may not.

Plan Smart

I recently read an article written by a mum about an experience her mid-teenage daughter had. The bank had phoned the teenager about getting a credit card, stating that it was the best way to get a credit rating. Despite the fact that the girl was a minor, the bank did not seek parental permission for the conversation. The bank launched into a spiel about how the teenager would be able to buy some nice shoes if she saw some she liked right there and then, even if she had no money! Talking to a teenage girl about buying shoes is a great way to start a life on credit ... well, debt!

One more point about credit cards: don't allow your teenager to think 'if I can make the monthly repayments it will be OK'. That's trouble waiting to happen! If the money to pay the whole debt isn't available, teach your teenager to wait. Paying off debts in instalments is throwing hard-earned money away in excessive

interest charges. Extensive research shows that teens' understanding of these matters is sketchy at best, and often wrong.

In a fast-moving world with so many options and apparent 'needs', there is never a problem spending money – it's having it to spend in the first place that is the first hurdle.

A very good idea came from a friend who, incidentally, works in a bank. He showed his child a way to understand the value of money and also generated a sense of ownership and responsibility.

The child's school began a compulsory computer tablet program for the students. In addition to the cost of the tablet, the parents had to subscribe to an insurance scheme that required an excess of \$200 or so if repairs were needed, or if the tablet was lost or stolen. My friend and his wife pay their children pocket money, and they asked their teenager to put aside \$200 out of savings in a special account, so that if there was a claim, the money would be available. At the end of the year, if there were no claims, the money would be returned with interest. The child took great care of the tablet and it still looked like new after the 12 months finished.

That teenager now has a grasp of the value of money that can hardly be taught by words alone – and has also seen the benefit of looking after things in which there is a vested interest. There's a peace of mind that comes from knowing money is set aside for a special need. There's a sense of ownership of the situation that is a seed for wiser and much bigger decisions later on in life.

Techniques like this help children begin to understand, value, respect and enjoy money.

It helps them be in charge of money, instead of being a slave to it because of immature misunderstanding.

Plan Big

Money is like anything else we have – it's not healthy to keep it all for ourselves. As part of the plan that I mentioned earlier, we would do well to include others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Having a willingness to set aside a small portion, even just a few percent, will make a big difference to others in need, but won't be sorely missed by us. Setting aside the same few percent for saving is another good foundation to money management. If it is a small amount allocated periodically, say weekly or monthly, then it will add up over time and be something to show for what we've been doing. It might just be a gold coin that we put aside each day or each week and 'forget about it'. It will grow, and with very little effort or stress. Trying to put aside too much might cause worry and raise the temptation to get at it too soon for trivial purchases.

It's important to raise our children's awareness of the advertising that we are all bombarded with to get us to part with our money. Adults are generally wise to the ploys advertisers use, but our young ones are easy manipulated unless we 'pull apart' the ads with them and help to reveal the underlying message – which is loosely based around 'all the cool people have this product' or 'your life will be much better with this item'. By helping your children to be advertising savvy, you teach them to have much more control over their money, even subconsciously, as they go through life.

Of course, as your children reach a saving goal, or make a wise decision, or postpone a purchase till they have enough, congratulate them and maybe even reward their efforts in some way. Positive reinforcement is vital in helping teenagers form good strategies with money. That said, it's beneficial to let them make some mistakes too. A few smaller mistakes can help them value the power of thought and reflection. Be gentle with them and encourage them in understanding what went wrong.

Finally, do some research together about money. Read a book together, browse the web together, go shopping together – even for groceries – and let them be involved in adding up the bills from a young age. Hey, this will even benefit their maths, and we know that can only be a good thing!

Steve Steel



Reference works are a great starting place when teaching your child or teenager about money. An internet search will help you find the following items – while some sections might be a little complex, there is also some useful information that you can go through with your children:

- *The Complete Guide to Personal Finance: For Teenagers* by Tamsen Butler. Available in paperback or e-book.
- *Making Money Made Simple* by Noel Whittaker. Available in paperback or e-book.
- "Start Smart: Money Management for Teens." Online PDF. Although geared towards American teens, it contains helpful information for Australians too, and is free.



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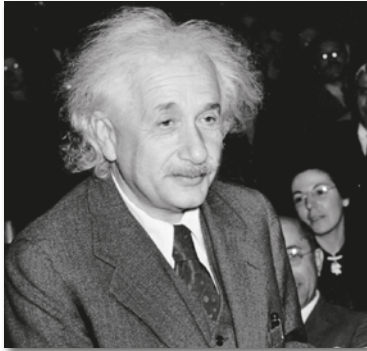
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CHURCH NEWS



EINSTEIN – DEFYING COMMON SENSE

I think it was Mark Twain who said, "Faith is believing what you know ain't so."

Those who believe in God are often criticised by atheists and agnostics for believing things that common sense tells us just "ain't so." Reality is reflected in what you can prove to be true, not in nebulous ideas

that logically don't add up. For example, the idea that God is three persons in one.

That used to be so, but beginning with Albert Einstein, scientists also have got used to the idea that they must accept a reality of things that common sense tells them "ain't so."

Albert Einstein has always been a fascinating personality to me. More than a hundred years ago, he wrote a paper describing a radical insight into the nature of light. Einstein challenged the then-accepted ideas of physics, and pioneered the development of quantum physics that turned that scientific world upside down.

As we continue to probe deeper into the nature of the physical world – from the immensity of the universe to the intricacies inside the atom – we are confronted with facts and phenomena that defy common sense.

Stephen Hawking, the theoretical physicist, has written, "Quantum physics is a new model of reality that gives us a picture of the universe. It is a picture in which many concepts fundamental to our intuitive understanding of reality no longer have meaning." (The Grand Design)

Einstein showed that being scientific doesn't mean making everything understandable with absolute certainty. Today, research shows us that we must accept the reality of things that just "ain't so."

I find this a fascinating topic to explore. When I see what paradoxes exist in nature, it is not so difficult for me to accept that the nature of the "Creator of light" would also seem – to my limited human understanding – also somewhat paradoxical.

So it is not only scientists that owe Einstein a debt of gratitude for his insights. In God we stand before a reality that far exceeds our understanding.

Christian understanding of God is not unscientific and science does not and cannot rule out a reality greater than ourselves, or greater than our universe. As Einstein wrote, "Everyone who is seriously interested in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe – a spirit vastly superior to man, and one in the face of which our modest powers must feel humble."

From the *Speaking of Life* series by Joseph Tkach. (See: <http://www.gci.org/spol>)



Mooroolbark's 'Faster Pastor'

Doug Williams

Dubbed our 'Faster Pastor' by Win Linstedt when he shaved 11 minutes

48 seconds from his Melbourne half marathon time, Reverend Arnie Wierenga was delighted with his personal best. As he did in 2011, Arnie was running to support Rubaga Youth Development Association (RYDA) Uganda, which St. Margaret's Uniting Church has supported for seventeen years.

Arnie takes his preparation seriously, training for four months and covering about 700km before race day.

"Running is mostly a solo activity. Training happens whenever I can squeeze it into the complexities of ministry life. Usually I stop to run on my way home from my church community. My long run typically happens on a Sunday after worship."

Running in 'God's gymnasium' – the hills of Mooroolbark and the Dandenong Ranges – Arnie trained five or six times a week, regardless of weather, for more than four months. He shed kilograms, sometimes struggled to continue the commitment, and literally planned some sermons 'on the run'.

"The worst thing about training is the time needed. Mostly I look forward to being able to train but there are times when I am sore and tired and would rather not go out into the cold. The best thing about training is the physical reward – getting fitter, feeling wonderful, having more energy and seeing

tangible improvements towards the goal of giving it my best on race day. Running is a good way to relieve stress and also seems to be the place of good ideas and insights for Sunday sermons."

Arnie gives his best on race day for himself, for RYDA and for God. RYDA's principal mission is to empower orphaned and vulnerable youths to create a positive future for themselves. Arnie perceives God's hand in RYDA's work and St. Margaret's involvement with it.

"I see running for RYDA as a way to live out my faith. A half-marathon is personally challenging, but it is minor in comparison to the challenges these young people have to go through."

Former street children or victims of child labour or children orphaned by AIDS are offered food, clothing and a home at the RYDA training centre outside Kampala, where life skills training complements vocational training in a wide range of trades. In 2012, RYDA students gained the second highest exam results in the country. Post examination, students are supported to find their first job.

By running the race that matters, Mooroolbark's Faster Pastor has inspired sponsorship from far and wide – resulting in over \$5,500 for RYDA's work – around \$265 per kilometre. If it also inspires you, find out more at: <http://www.blackdouglas.com.au/ryda/13revruns.htm>.



Rev Arnie Wierenga training on the hilly streets of Mooroolbark



100-year old Nada Klepac with her daughter Angela

A Life of Love and Laughter Janet Van Dijk

Despite being more than halfway into her 101st year, Nada Klepac has an energy that inspires many younger people. Nada's daughter Angela

Mallard remembers a party held in honour of her mother's 100th birthday, where many of the guests were ready to go home well before Nada was! "She was the oldest and the most vibrant there," said Angela.

Nada celebrated her 100th birthday on 22nd May of this year amid much celebration. Not only were there several parties in her honour, but she received messages of congratulation from many people, including the Queen, the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, and local member of parliament Tony Smith. As a devout Catholic, Nada felt that the most special honour was a papal blessing. The elaborately decorated document has been framed and holds pride of place in the home Nada shares with Angela.

Nada attends the St Peter Julian Eymard Catholic Church in Mooroolbark every week, and her faith is very important to her. While still living in her native Croatia, Nada felt that her connection to God and the church helped with a difficult life. When Nada, her husband Vladimir and four of their five children immigrated to Australia in 1959, one of the greatest joys for Nada was to be able to go to church every day. She could travel by train to church in Croydon – in Croatia, she had to walk several hours to attend a church service.

Australia's moderate climate has always appealed to Nada, and when she was younger she enjoyed the huge vegetable garden that she and her husband planted. Now a widow, Nada no longer has the stamina for gardening, but keeps busy with other activities. She participates in outings with a senior day care centre, and also loves going out for coffee or lunch, particularly with her family – her two daughters and two sons all live in Mooroolbark, as do many of her 13 grandchildren

and 28 great-grandchildren. She also travels to Lakes Entrance at least twice a year with her family for a caravanning holiday.

When asked the secret of her long life, Nada suggests that it's because she prays so much ... God doesn't want her yet because she still has praying to do! Angela also credits her mother's long life to prayer: "It keeps her calm and stress-free; it's like meditation to her."

Despite being the oldest of her siblings, Nada has outlived them all, and the Klepac family feels blessed to still have Nada in their lives. The grandchildren and great-grandchildren love spending time with their "Baka", and the little ones are amazed to know someone who is over one hundred years old. Most importantly, Nada is a very happy person who has always made the most of the life she has been given. "She loves to laugh," said Angela, and "she prays for everyone in the world, every day." Perhaps Nada's appreciation for life and her love for those around her give us a clue to the secrets of her long life!



Nada and Vladimir Klepac shortly after their marriage in 1930



Road to Bethlehem



For more information on how to be a part of this fascinating experience, visit the website: www.roadtobethlehem.org

Road to Bethlehem is a free, unique outdoor theatre experience which is a highlight of the year for many Melbourne families. This interactive dramatic walking tour explores the story of the night of Christ's birth, based on the biblical accounts in Matthew and Luke.

The annual Christmas pageant is a gift to the community from the Seventh-day Adventist church, and takes many months and hundreds of volunteers to put together. Complete with dozens of actors and real animals, the experience is sure to delight old and young alike. Groups of over 100 people set off at regular intervals and are led by guides through a variety of scenarios, culminating in a spectacular and moving depiction of the birth of Christ.

Road to Bethlehem is staged at five locations in Australia and New Zealand. In Victoria, the Nunawading Adventist Convention Ground hosts the event for approximately 15,000 people each year. While entry is free, donations are gratefully accepted.

Bookings for the event (held from Monday 9th to Thursday 12th December) began on November 25th and most tickets are allocated very quickly. For those who are unable to pre-book, a limited number of tickets will be available at the ticket booth after 6:00 p.m. on the night of each performance.

Ticket-holders who arrive prior to their scheduled tour times can linger in the summer air, purchasing refreshments or enjoying the free entertainment, which includes craft activities, a climbing wall, and live music.

Jean's Memories

The Bridge family's involvement in our region will be remembered as future generations continue to enjoy Elizabeth Bridge Reserve in Durham Road, Kilsyth – not much more than a stone's throw from Mooroolbark.¹

Yarra Ranges council bought land predominantly from the Bridge family for the purpose of establishing the reserve and providing varied opportunities for recreation – cycling, walking, bird watching, a barbecue picnic, yabbing in the lake or enjoying the playground! The reserve also houses the beautifully maintained Bridge Community Garden Centre.²

Elizabeth Bridge died in 1975, but I recently enjoyed the opportunity to speak with her 90-year-old surviving daughter, Jean. I'd like to share some of her family memories and experiences with you.

The Great Depression years³ created great hardship for many people. Jean's parents had a farm in the Ringwood district and she recalls:

"We lived in Ringwood where we had land and cows. When the Depression came people didn't have any money. You couldn't sell your home; you couldn't sell anything, because nobody had any money to pay for it. We lost the farm ... had to walk off the land and anyone who wanted the things we'd left would just take them – horses, and cows, anyone who wanted them could take them."

However, the family survived: "Dad went to Grandpa's and Uncle George's butcher shop in Moonee Ponds, doing a bit of work just to get by. And one of Mum's brothers was a milkman who boarded with her. He used to bring us milk and we got through with that. I was only a child, but I can remember we only had bread and dripping to eat – but because it made me sick, I had bread and jam. When one of Mum's aunts died my Mother was left some money in her will, and that's how she got the money to buy the land in Kilsyth."

"I had a sister and a brother. I came here in 1936 when I was 12. My brother died at 50, my mother at 75 and my sister at 70."

"I went to school at Kilsyth Primary where I obtained my Merit Certificate. The school consisted of two rooms and two teachers. The headmaster, Mr Smith, taught grades 4 to 8 and Miss Maygar taught the preps to grade 3."⁴



Jean Bridge

Jean recalls that when her family first came to the area, Durham Road was a dirt track and many of the roads would flood in winter. "The area consisted of bush, small farms and orchards," remembered Jean. "Our place consisted of 12 and half acres and we kept cows, horses and poultry for our own use. There were several sheds built from bush timber, but they were very dilapidated and were eventually demolished. There was also a well at the side of the house. Many homes had wells, as there was no water or electricity available in the area. We used kerosene lamps, and in the main room we used a Tilley lamp which was much brighter."

At that time, water was collected from the roof when it rained and was stored in tanks. "Hot water for baths and washing clothes came from boiling up the copper," said Jean. "Washing was done by hand in troughs. At first the white clothes were boiled in the copper, and then rinsed, and finally fed through a blue rinse. We used to buy knobs of blue from the grocer's. Then the clothes were hung on the line, which consisted of a length of plain wire stretched between two trees with a prop used to push the line up."

"Quite often in summer we ran out of water, so then we would have to buy water until the rain came. In those days, people had a weekly bath and on the rest of the days we used a tub and sponged ourselves down."

Jean recalled ironing clothes with flat irons which had been heated on top of the wood stove. "We had three which were rotated

as they became cold. We had to be very careful to wipe each iron before use so that we wouldn't leave dirty marks on the clothing. Some people had petrol irons. We cooked on top of the wood stove, and we always had three kettles on the boil." Jean remembers that baking and roasts were done in the oven, but regulating the heat was difficult. "However, we managed quite well."

Keeping food cool was more difficult in those days, as there were no refrigerators. However, Jean remembers, "we did have a large ice-chest and the ice man would deliver blocks of ice three times a week. In the summer the ice would melt and we relied on neighbours picking up some ice for us if they were going to Croydon by horse and jinker. In the hot weather my mother would make a jelly, and to make sure it would set she would place the basin in a bucket on a rope and lower it into the cool well. Before ice chests we had Coolgardie safes which we'd hang in a cool place. They would be kept cool by water and by hanging pieces of wet flannel down around the safe."

When the family had cows, Jean would watch her mother separate the milk. "She'd turn the handle of the separator and cream would come out in one place and milk the other. The cream would be stored in the ice chest and every couple of days Mum would make it into butter. If we had calves, surplus milk would be given to them. Later, milk deliveries commenced from a dairy in Dorset

¹ <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~foebrres/welcome.htm>

² <http://www.datascape.com.au/infocomse/yarrarangessc/search.cfm?Page=Details&SS=yes&DIL=no&LP=Agency&AZ&IT=A&Opt=Agency&Type=Agency&AZ&Letter=T&EntrySN=17468&All=All>

³ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression_in_Australia

⁴ Jean says that during wartime the school accommodated grades 7 and 8 as a temporary measure.



The Bridge family home

The Bridge family butcher shop in Moonee Ponds

Road, and we'd leave a billy on the gate post along with money for the amount of milk we needed."

"Bread used to be delivered three times a week and Kilsyth had a general store and post office owned by our friends Lloyd and Nora Watson. It sold everything from petrol, chaff and grain, groceries and newspapers. It was quite expensive, so mum used to catch a bus on a Friday and go in to Croydon Market and buy groceries and green groceries. The market sold cattle, too. It was a big day out, really. I would meet her after work."

Jean remembers the mail being picked up by the Jeeves family, who ran the bus service. They would pick up the mail bags and take them to Croydon railway station, where they'd pick up any arriving local mail bags.

It was a treat for Jean to go to a matinee at the old Croydon cinema on Mountain Highway when she was a child. "We'd walk to and fro and were given seven pence for our ticket, but no money to spend," said Jean. "When my brother and I started work, we graduated to the Saturday night pictures and we'd have permanent seat bookings. We used to catch the return bus at Kilsyth store."

When Jean's mother Elizabeth died in 1975, Jean wanted to maintain the family property. When the council valuer estimated the property value for probate tax, he mentioned that the council might be interested in buying the property as it would make a lovely park. "About a year later, I decided it was too much for me," said Jean. "At first council bought the back five acres – we still had horses, but eventually bought the remaining sections of land (from myself and others) that currently constitute the reserve."

Jean worked in the area all her life. It's only recently that she stopped chopping her wood and she has beautiful "working hands".

At 21, Jean worked on a Montrose poultry farm during her brother's wartime absence. It was heavy work lugging around kerosene tins of wheat and shell grit.

Following the war, Jean worked in Croydon until retiring at sixty. She first worked for twelve years at the milk bar opposite the old

Croydon picture theatre. After the sale of the business and a brief period working at Coles, Jean had a longer stint at Toohey's cake shop, before a time at Allen's toy shop, which was eventually sold to former Hawthorn footballer Jack McLeod.

"For many, many years you know what my wages were? Two pounds 12 and six [\$5.25]. And that was for a 48-hour week. By the time I retired my wage was about \$100 a week or so – couldn't do much on that."

Jean has noticed during her life that "the people who give you a hand are not the people who have plenty of money, but the people who have a small amount. It seems that the more you have the more you want!"

Jean's mother would always help others, even during the Depression. "I was a bit afraid – people had to just walk the streets with a blanket and a billy can and they would come up and mum would never ever refuse them. They might want a box of matches, a round of bread or some other simple thing. And they were always coming in to try and find a bit of work so they could send something to their families. It was really a dreadful time."

"In the mid-60s Mum helped a friend who lived in Browns Road, who'd lost her home from local fires.⁵ She went through her cupboard and gave away some of her china, amongst other things. She always helped people."

Jean also has a track-record of helping others, including extended times of nursing her mother and others in their twilight years and times when she has had to join with others to fight for the retention of the reserve. But she also enjoys the way others demonstrate their care for other people: "I think we have to help others. It's a pity that too many of us are so selfish and only think of ourselves."

"There are some who do a lot of good – the likes of Graeme Young. He's done wonders for the reserve. The park has never looked as good since he's been there. He's often working in the park, and if there's a branch down, he

cuts it up and brings it to me. And he follows things through, which you have to do."

Jean spoke of the helpfulness demonstrated by her nephew and niece: "It's very, very good that they are thinking of other people." One of Jean's funniest memories involves her nephew: "He should have worked with animals after he'd attended Mooroolbark Tech. When he was young he used to put down sheets of roofing iron in the paddock, hoping that snakes would shelter there. And when they did, he'd come home with a blooming copperhead or something wrapped around his arm."

"When he was at state school, my uncle bought him a python. My nephew had some of his little friends over one day and they frightened the snake so that it wrapped itself around his neck – and of course the danger is that they tighten and choke you. My mother was absolutely scared when he called out: "Nan, Nan, come quickly!" and she had to unwind the snake from around his neck. When I came home, there was a large box on top of the snake and we said to my uncle: "Take it back, we don't want any more of this!"

Thanks very much Jean for generously sharing your memories and experiences! We trust your ninety-first year is a ripper, and that those of us who visit Elizabeth Bridge Reserve will talk about your memories for years to come!

Randall Bouchier



⁵ The fires started when someone put out some ashes; it affected Cambridge Road and Swansea Road, Montrose.

Rotary Sponsors SPEECH CONTEST

Carol Lawton

In October the Rotary Club of Montrose & District held a very successful fourth Primary Schools Speech Contest. Every year the students (from Billanook, Kilsyth, Montrose, Mount Dandenong, Pembroke and St Richard's primary schools) are so impressive in their approach to the topic, their passion, commitment and energy. They absolutely shine! This year there were two students who have only been in the country for a couple of years, so English is their second language – they were particularly heart-warming.

We were very fortunate to have generous sponsorship by the Montrose Community Bank via David Watt, and none of this would be possible without the support and participation of Marlene Sinclair and the Toastmasters judges whose participation she arranges. MCs Dee Tebbutt and Marlene were exceptional – they both understand their primary school audience and the result is that all participants feel valued and appreciated. The schools really benefit from this too, as you can see from these comments:

"Our parents are very grateful for what the community offers their children and this is just something that you have to experience to reap the benefits ... Our students love these opportunities and as a teacher

you feel immensely proud!" and "We would like to thank you and Rotary for giving our students the opportunity to be able to participate in such an event ... The experience that these students gain by being part of the Rotary speech competition is invaluable. We are very proud of our students and teachers who assisted them in the planning of their speeches. Thank you for inviting us and please continue to do so; we are very proud to be involved with such a wonderful organisation."

Clearly something special is being added to our local primary schools. The schools have demonstrated that by including the speech preparation and selection into their programs for grades five and six – a ringing endorsement in anyone's language!

The Rotary Club of Montrose & District has been working in the community for nearly 35 years. As a service club, it works with others to enable activities or projects to be completed or supported. The list of projects completed and community events started and/or supported is extensive. It includes: Montrose War Memorial, toilet block for scouts at Wishart Lodge, community pathway at Brice Avenue Reserve, Montrose Cottage removed and rebuilt, Lord Mayor's Camp Portsea and CFA Junior Fun Day, Montrose Community Playground, men's health events and most recently, the Montrose and District Men's Shed.

Rotary meets on Wednesdays at Club Kilsyth (6:15 for 6:30pm) and we would love to see you there. For more information, call 0404 785 701, email info@rotarymontrose.org.au or find us on

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/rotarymontrose



David Kay, Erika Johnson and Chelsie Day show their certificates



President Lyn Franklin, Treasurer Cheryl Atkinson, and Secretary Kathy Ruddock

Mooroolbark Tennis Club SOCIAL GROUP

Doug Lewis

Along with all the regular playing opportunities you would expect from a local club, Mooroolbark Tennis Club offers a special feature that is very popular with quite a large group of its members – the social group. The members who make up this group are those who typically love to have a regular game to keep fit and to keep their hand in, but are not able to (or do not wish to) commit to the demands of playing in regular competition tennis. Some just like to get a game in before moving on to the other things they have to do on a given day. Most would readily admit that they enjoy the social aspect of getting together as much as the opportunity for exercise.

The club facilities are available for the social group each Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9am and midday. At these times members can either arrange to meet specific members there or simply gather at the club house, as most do, and join in a foursome with others attending on the day. Some participants come from other clubs to enjoy the social time at Mooroolbark. There are eight courts available for use on these days.

Tea and coffee is always available in the very comfortable clubrooms, and members often stay for a social time after their games have concluded. From time to time the group arranges "have-a-chat luncheons" where

participants bring along a plate to share as they enjoy some extra time together. Occasional outings are also arranged for all who choose to participate. Anyone interested in finding out more about the social group is invited to ring the club (see details below) or simply come along to one of the weekly sessions to check it out.

Of course the club also offers a range of opportunities for players interested in competition tennis. These include:

- Night competition in the Lilydale and District Night Teams Association – Mondays (ladies), Tuesdays (men) and Wednesdays (mixed teams).
- Midweek ladies' competition as part of the FTG and District Ladies' Tennis Association – Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Veteran men's competition (over 50s) participating in the Eastern Metropolitan Veterans Competition – Thursdays afternoons.

Mooroolbark Tennis Club is situated in the delightful Kiloran Park area in Kilsyth, adjacent to the Kilsyth Centenary Pool. Access is from Hawthory Road.

For further information about any of the programs available, club membership, etc. please contact club secretary Kathy Ruddock on 9725 8836.

Confident Parenting

For many new parents, one of the most daunting aspects about bringing home a new baby is that the tiny bundle of joy doesn't come with a user manual! Anything from the baby's crying to hiccups can cause concern for first-time parents. Thankfully, help is at hand with the government's maternal and child health service, which is available free to parents of pre-schoolers. The service aims to help parents with any health and well-being concerns they have about their children, particularly with regard to prevention and early detection of any issues.

Maternal and child health care nurse Kathy Ralph works at the Brice Avenue Mooroolbark centre, and is supported by other MCH nurse colleagues who also work at the centre. Kathy views the free service as a tremendous support to young families. "Parents can check that their child is age-appropriate in developmental milestones, and we can provide help or make referrals so that children can reach their full potential."

Council is notified of new births by local hospitals, and parents are contacted shortly after they come home from hospital. A visit is arranged, usually in the family's home. During that visit, Kathy addresses any concerns the

family may have, and also provides information about what services are available. First-time parents are informed about new parent groups which meet at the MCH centre: once a week for seven weeks, the nurse presents information to a small group of new parents, with time for questions and interaction between the parents. After the seven weeks are over, most groups continue to meet on a regular basis in each other's homes, and Kathy loves hearing of the support the parents provide to each other, often until their children are teenagers or even older. "We live in an isolated society in many ways, and people often don't know their neighbours," said Kathy. "They might be the first ones in their social set having a child, so the new parent group fills a huge void in a lot of people's lives."

Each baby's growth and development is also monitored at regular visits to the centre, with appointments becoming less frequent as the child reaches pre-school age. If any concerns are identified during these visits, Kathy provides information, support, and referral to a doctor or other service if required. Kathy can also give details about community resources such as playgroups and story time at the library.



Kathy Ralph enjoys empowering parents to trust themselves and their instincts to do what is right for their children

Kathy was a midwife before spending the last eight years in her current role, and has undertaken many years of study, including a master's degree in maternal and child health. Providing support to parents is something Kathy enjoys. "Most parents do the best that they can for their child," she said. "They just need affirmation and acknowledgement that they are doing the right thing. Sometimes it is just guiding them along the path."

For more information or the locations of other Yarra Ranges Council MCH centres, phone the MCH coordinator on 1300 368 333 or visit the shire website:
<http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au>



POPULAR LOCAL ART WORKSHOPS CREATING MASTERPIECES

Andy Simpson

The profile of the Mooroolbark and Montrose-based community centres has certainly been raised recently with a series of sell-out theatrical and musical performances across these sister venues. However it is the low-cost daytime and evening art workshops that are the mainstay of the centres. Small personalised classes accommodating all skill levels, ages and abilities are a huge amount of fun while providing healthy and creative challenges.

Pottery tutor Janet Duncan graduated from Victoria College in the early 1980s. Her popular classes have run at Mooroolbark for nearly 10 years, and she is highly regarded as a teacher and professional potter. Well known as a "functional" potter through her very popular 'Blue Hills' kitchenware range, Janet holds classes which cover the making of bowls, coil pits, pinch pots, slab cylinders and many other hand skills.

As a **painting tutor, Sara McPherson** is adored by her students, and highly sought after for her extensive professional experience across a range of mediums in public and community

art, and private commission. As a scenic artist her work has included *The King and I* and the new international tour of *The Lion King*. An RMIT arts graduate and tutor for seven years, Sara's main focus is on oils, although she encourages a range of styles for students to explore "their own personal art journey" in a "mental workout" that is both instructive and enjoyable.

Ten-week term workshops commence February 2014. See below, or for more information contact 9726 5488 or mcc@yarraranges.vic.gov.au, or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach



Sara and Janet

Workshop	Dates	Time	Location
Oil Painting	Wednesday	Daytime & evening	Mooroolbark
Pottery (Adults)	Tuesday & Wednesday	Daytime & evening	Mooroolbark
Pottery 4 Kids	Wednesday & Thursday	After school	Mooroolbark
Art 4 Kids	Thursday	After school	Mooroolbark
Tribal Belly Dance	Thursday	Evening	Montrose
Craft Group Mooroolbark	Tuesday	Daytime	Mooroolbark
Craft Group Montrose	Tuesday	Evening	Montrose
Sandwiches Patchwork	Tuesday & Thursday	Daytime	Montrose
Sit 'N' Sew	Monday & Tuesday	Daytime & evening	Montrose

Community Events Calendar

2013	
First Sunday 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
Thursday evenings weekly	Marondah TOWN Club: (Take Off Weight Naturally). Weekly, starting at 6:30 p.m. at St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. More information: 0425 739 576.
Monday evenings each week	Scottish Country Dancing: Mondays 8 p.m. (except public holidays.) Beginners and experienced. Minimal charges. St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. Enquiries: 9876 9206.
Second Monday of each month	Mooroolbark Country Women's Association: 1:00 p.m. at St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. New members always welcome. Contact Jeanne Wilson: 9726 9858.
Thursdays during school term	Music Together program: for 0-5 year olds, run by trained music therapist. St Margaret's Uniting Church. Morning tea & playtime included. \$12.50 per session per family. Call Yvonne: 9726 9347.
December 1	Montrose Concert Series – Bach Cello Suites: 2:00 p.m. Tickets \$15/concession \$10. Montrose Town Centre. Bookings www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 1300 368 333.
December 3, 11, 24	Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions: Dec 3, 11, 24. Mooroolbark Community Centre. More info: 1300 368 333.
December 4	Montrose Movie Club: great movies in a relaxed theatre environment on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Montrose Town Centre. Bookings www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9761 9133.
December 4-18	Red Earth Gallery Exhibitions: "Artists in (our) Residence" December 4-18. Red Earth Gallery, Mooroolbark Community Centre, 9726 5488.
December 7 Saturday	Chimside Market: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Oxley Stadium, Old Melbourne Road, Chimside Park. No entry fee; café on site. Enquiries: phone Narelle on 0412 423 018.
December 8 Sunday	Christmas Service of Remembrance & Healing: remembering those loved and lost. Hosted by the Mooroolbark Salvos; all welcome. Mooroolbark Community Centre 6:00 p.m. Refreshments served. Further information: contact Steve (9727 4777) or Sue (0409 415 072).
December 15 Sunday	Melbourne Welsh Male Choir: Red Earth Theatre Tickets \$12/Concession \$6. Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings and information: 9726 5488.
December 15 Sunday	Christmas Sound & Light Show: combined churches Christmas carols event: 7:30 p.m. Life Ministry Church 15-49 Old Melbourne Road, Chimside Park. All welcome!
2014	
January 13	Mooroolbark Community Centre and Montrose Town Centre open.
January 13 & 14	Red Cross Blood Bank: Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings 13 14 95.
January - March	Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions: January 7, 8, 28. February 4, 12, 25. March 4, 12, 25. Mooroolbark Community Centre. More information: 1300 368 333.
February - March	Montrose Movie Club: Great movies in a relaxed theatre environment on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Montrose Town Centre. Bookings www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9761 9133.
February 4	Pottery, Oil Painting, Art 4 Kids, Pottery 4 Kids & Craft – term 1 workshops commence: Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9726 5488.
February 4	Tribal Belly Dance & Craft – term 1 workshops commence: Montrose Town Centre. Bookings: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9761 9133.
February 14	Blue Light Disco: Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or 9726 5488.

Our Community Events calendar offers a free 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 submitted one month prior to the distribution date.

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

Production

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

Editor

Doug Lewis



Associate Editor

Janet Van Dijk

Publication

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

Contact

Phone 03 9726 8898

Mail PO Box 228 Mooroolbark VIC 3138

Email lewisdm@bigpond.net.au

Distribution

11,500 copies distributed throughout Mooroolbark and the surrounding district

Contributing Writers for

This Issue

R. Bouchier, A. Lang, C. Lawton

D. Lewis, A. Simpson

T. Spottiswood, S. Steel

J. Tkach, J. Van Dijk, D. Williams

Photographs

R. Bouchier, I. & J. Henderson

O. Howard, A. Lang, C. Lawton, D. Lewis

A. Simpson, J. Van Dijk, D. Williams

Graphic Design

Publication Perspectives

Printing

Publication Perspectives

Mulgrave, Victoria

Like to contribute?

If you have a good news story about people or groups who you believe are an inspiration to the community, please contact the editor through our church-office phone number

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.

Mooroolbark **Community Bank**® Branch
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