

LIVING TODAY

in Mooroolbark and the Yarra Ranges

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I Was Only Sixteen ... WWII soldier remembers
his local childhood – page 2

A Mooroolbark Mystery – page 12

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ROLAND GRIFFITHS-MARSH ADVENTURES IN

Military Medal recipient Roland Griffiths-Marsh (1923-2012) spent many of his childhood years in the 1930s Mooroolbark. Roland went on to become a decorated soldier and in later life was a member of the Under 16s, a small group of brave men who were drawn together by the dubious privilege of having enlisted for service in WWII before their sixteenth birthdays. Roland wrote about his childhood and war experiences in his 1990 book *Sixpenny Soldier*. The book received awards including The Nettie Palmer Prize for Non-Fiction (one of the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards), and was rereleased in 1995 under the new name of *I Was Only Sixteen*.

With the permission of Roland's widow Maayken, now living in Queensland, *Living Today* is honoured to present an extract of Roland Griffiths-Marsh's book. The selection colourfully describes his family's first years in Mooroolbark, and will be published over four issues of *Living Today*.

From the beginning, Roland's life seemed destined to be one of adventure. Born in Malaya in 1923 to a French mother and Australian ship captain father, Roland's childhood years included owning a pet tiger cub and baby elephant. His early life overseas was spent in relative luxury, living in large houses and surrounded by indulgent servants. As a young boy he delighted in the exciting sights and sounds of sailing out to greet his father's huge ship as it returned to harbour after a long voyage. He described his



Soldier and author Roland Griffiths-Marsh MM, at his last interview in December 2012

early years as "a constant kaleidoscope of colours, smells, sensations and challenges; a childhood to be envied by many."

Roland's maternal grandmother lived in Mooroolbark, and Roland and his family made periodic visits from their overseas home to the area. The following extract describes one such stay in Mooroolbark, and is a vivid depiction of life in Mooroolbark in the early part of last century.



A young Roland (right) with his pet tiger cub, brother Beauzie and his Maman

The ship's journey to Melbourne was enchanting. Occasionally, we would encroach on the coast and somewhere, possibly as we approached Port Philip Heads, I saw a lighthouse and a promontory, and had an immediate sense of déjà vu. I excitedly told Maman that I had been there before and described to her what to expect. We rounded the promontory and, sure enough, there were the little green fields, a twisted path, and three or four little houses with smoke spiralling out of the chimneys. I can give no explanation for this; perhaps a similar landscape had imprinted itself on my juvenile mind from a picture book. Some of the passengers around us were astounded by this revelation.

At Melbourne, my aunt, Mrs Brendwa Katherine Ballantyne, greeted us. She was a journalist and feature writer with the agricultural papers—the *Leader* and the *Weekly Times*. She was domineering, wore a ladies' business suit, had an angelic face and thick ankles. She took charge of us with the inspired virtuosity of an army hospital matron. My Australian grandma, whom I insisted on calling 'grandmère Anglaise' was tiny, slender, and, like her daughter, wore very sensible brogues. Though we had previously been here when I was but an infant in arms, this was the first visit in which Australia registered on me. The atmosphere on the wharves held me spellbound. Huge Clydesdales with longhaired spats over their enormous hooves were pulling steel-rimmed, wheeled, flat-top lorries piled high with huge bales of wool. Wharf labourers in thick, collarless blue-grey shirts (known as Tasmanian blueys) trundled hand trolleys. Their shiny bag hooks were held in hand or stuck into their belts. While we waited for our luggage to be unloaded, I voraciously absorbed the smells, sights and urgency of it all. I was positively tingling with excitement.

MOOROOLBARK

Our trunks and baggage were loaded onto a horse-drawn, enclosed van with a lovely tattered leather bench in front, and a massive Clydesdale patiently waiting between the shafts. Nothing, but nothing, would compel me to get into my aunt's Ford. I would go with the van to our rented house in Mooroolbark. My brother and I climbed up on the seat alongside the brawny weather-beaten ex-digger. My poor mother fluttered about with many terrifying instructions about what to do if we were attacked by bushrangers, and was finally ushered, with Grandma, into the Ford tourer. With a flourish of his whip, the driver removed his foot from the large steel arm of the cart's footbrake on his right side, the placid Clydesdale stopped munching in his nose-bag, and we followed the car.

We clip-clopped our way through Flinders Street, alive with clanking trams, jinkers, carts, solid rubber-wheeled trucks, square box-like cars of all makes chugging past, people diving across the street. Ladies with parasols, tall policemen in blue uniforms with tall white solar topees. I was beside myself with excitement, and almost fell off the bench several times as a result of my gymnastics while gawking at every incident. I was in Australia and loved it. My pride knew no bounds when the sunburnt driver said 'Take it easy, mate, I'll let you hold the reins later when we get out of the traffic.' To be the mate of this horsey-smelling, laconic, rugged man who so expertly navigated his huge patient horse through all this traffic at the devastating speed of four miles an hour was, at that moment, the zenith of my new ambition. I knew I was Australian because my father was Australian, but I knew I could not be one until I had held the reins of this Clydesdale.

We wandered through ever-decreasing traffic until we got onto White Horse Road, Box Hill, through Mitcham, sparsely dotted with houses, lovely soft green pastures with lanes and sheep on either side, through Croydon, up the hill to Mooroolbark. The gum trees and aromatic smell of eucalyptus, the magpies and pee-wees in their black and white plumage, enthralled me. By this time, we had stopped to rest the horse, and I had been permitted to hold the reins of this sturdy animal with broad and muscled withers, who so patiently plodded away and really did not require guidance. One incident projected me into a seventh heaven of happiness. At a rest at midday, at the top of a long rise, we all got out. This kindly man unbuttoned his fly and pissed up against the hub of the

off-side front wheel, then buttoned himself up, reached up, lifted the hinged seat and pulled out a brown paper bag. He produced sandwiches made of two huge unbuttered slices of heavenly brown bread, stuck to an equally huge blood and fat congealed lamb chop, and, without washing his hands, handed me one. I had been accustomed to wafer-thin, crustless buttered sandwiches in the English colonial style. This strong-crust, flavoursome fresh bread and the tangy salt taste of crisp lamb chop was food for a king. I was the mate of a man who drove horses, who pissed against wheels, and handed out scrumptious sandwiches of half-raw meat and thick, unbuttered bread. My poor mother, had she but known, would have accused me of turning into a barbarian.

We had rented a cement-rendered doll's house of a cottage, about a quarter of a mile from Grandma's place, surrounded by at least two acres of lavender plantation. My anxious mother and grandma, and not-so-anxious aunt, awaited us. Regrettably, I had to farewell my newly acquired mate who, after receiving his five shilling fee, said 'Thanks Missus. See ya', flourished his whip without touching his horse and clip-clopped out of my life. I was devastated for all of ten minutes. After a quick glance at the house, which smelt delightfully of wood stain and eucalyptus-scented wood smoke coming from the timber-burning stove, I paused only to wonder for a moment at the smallness the house and lack of servants. My brother and I then dashed outside to scout out the glorious new land.

My massive lamb chop had not assuaged my hunger, so when grandma called us for a pre-dinner snack, we charged in, to be confronted by a huge steamed pudding dripping with golden syrup, scones, cream and raspberry jam. I gorged myself on these succulent delights. My mother, still befogged by her sudden exposure to this primitive, servantless country, carpeted with snakes, and where you had to cut your own firewood, forgot to curb my gluttony. I loved Australia, the morning call of kookaburras and magpies, the delights of splitting firewood, collecting the eggs from Grandma's fowl pen, and, most of all, the beautiful Jersey cow that Grandma milked morning and evening. This gentle creature with soulful dark eyes, patiently tolerated our stroking, hugging and tentative tugs at her teats as we milked her.

Then the guillotine fell. My mother decided that I should go to school.



Roland at 15 years old, as a cadet



The Griffiths-Marsh homes overseas were like this one in Indo-China – much more luxurious than any they would experience in Mooroolbark

Next issue: Roland Griffiths-Marsh describes his first days in the tiny Mooroolbark schoolhouse, and his continuing education in the ways of being an "Australian larrikin".



Pictures: Mark Symonds, Amber Green

A DAY TO REMEMBER

celebrate mooroolbark festival

Celebrate Mooroolbark this year was once again a wonderful day out for the whole family. Around 10,000 community members supported the event, making it a day to be remembered. Local schools, community groups and traders offered activities free or at low cost, while many people got into the spirit of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party theme by dressing up for the costume competitions.



The festival was launched with the Friday night talent quest, showcasing

the high quality of our local performers. On Saturday, following the colourful street parade and official opening by our Mayor, Cr Fiona McAllister, the Australian Youth Band was the first of many acts on stage to entertain the crowds. Tubby the Robot and baby were there, and famed author Andy Griffiths made an appearance and signed books for adoring fans.

We are grateful for the contributions of so many in the community who made the weekend an outstanding success – the hard-working Celebrate Mooroolbark committee, the community centre staff, the many stallholders and volunteers, and those who supported the event with their attendance. Special thanks

go to the Yarra Ranges Council and our other generous sponsors who made the day possible.

2015 is now our focus, so mark Friday evening March 20 and Saturday March 21 on your calendar now! If you are interested in getting more involved in next year's event, or you have considered joining the event committee, please contact us at celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com. With your support, we look forward to another not-to-be missed event in 2015!

Andrew Lang
Chair – Celebrate Mooroolbark Inc

MORE THAN A STATION

Mooroolbark's newest rendezvous spot

As part of the Mooroolbark Community Hub project, the train station will be transformed into a more inviting and comfortable space for both station users and the local community to enjoy.

The project will improve the safety and accessibility of Mooroolbark station, and includes the construction of a new canopied station entrance, landscaping in the forecourt, and a new café in the station building. Safety will be improved with additional CCTV cameras and better lighting.

Public Transport Victoria has worked closely with local residents, business owners, community groups and the Shire of Yarra Ranges to develop a project design that will enhance Mooroolbark station.

This project is the second stage of improvements for Mooroolbark station. The first stage was completed last year when the station car park was upgraded. Those works included the construction of an additional 64 car parking spaces, resurfacing gravel areas with asphalt and new lighting to make it safer at night.

The project will be delivered by Metro Trains Melbourne on behalf of Public Transport Victoria, with the Shire of Yarra Ranges contributing

Artist's impression: how the improvements to Mooroolbark station may look.



\$300,000 to the project cost. The planning phase is currently being completed, with construction set to begin later this year. The upgrade is anticipated to be completed in early 2015.

For more information about the project visit ptv.vic.gov.au/mooroolbarkstation or call Public Transport Victoria on 1800 800 007 (6 a.m. - midnight daily).

Sharon Stapleton

COACHES PROMOTE COMMUNITY FITNESS

"Eighty percent nutrition, twenty percent exercise!"

Barbara Austin

If you walk along to the Red Earth Park on a Wednesday evening between 6:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. or on a Saturday morning between 7:00 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. you will hear this catch cry. You will see lots of activity, with people of all ages running on the spot, or down on the ground doing exercises to tone up muscles they didn't know they had – with lots of high fives in between and plenty of positive vibes as they complete a series of simple exercises.

One day at work, health coach Gavin Hogan got together with some other health coaches to discuss how they could help people in the community who wanted to get fit but couldn't afford to go to the gym. Gavin and his friends wanted to volunteer their time and expertise to help such people, and saw an opportunity to set up a free activity program in the eastern suburbs. As a result, about nine months ago Mooroolbark's FitClub was born. A Saturday morning session began and proved so popular that a Wednesday evening session was introduced.

The activity program is for anyone and everyone. No physical examination is required, although a first aid kit is on hand and the coaches look out for anyone who is really struggling. With participants being told to go at their own pace, couch potatoes and gym junkies alike are catered for. Although there are a few groans as one exercise may be harder than another, enthusiasm keeps the participants going. To keep it fresh and interesting, the program changes every week, and can be taken to any level depending on the individual. It is all about getting the heart rate up, and it is obvious that the participants all enjoy being together.

After the exercise program has finished everyone is invited back to the Level Ten Nutrition recreation room in Manchester Road for some drinks and shakes, and some education on nutrition.

It is hard not to get carried away with Gavin's enthusiasm. He obviously has the group's interests at heart and it is refreshing to see a young person concerned enough to give up his time to help others in the community – not just with education on exercise and nutrition,

but providing an atmosphere after the session where people can chill out and make new friends.

To find out more about FitClub, ring Gav on his mobile (0401 085 415) or email him on gav@impactfitnesssolutions.com.au. There is also a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/teamboomcommunity.

To take part, just turn up on Saturday at 7:00 a.m. or Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Red Earth Park. Remember, it's about eighty percent nutrition and 20 percent exercise!





THE PERFECT SMILE Mooroolbark Denture Clinic

Shop 13/91 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark. Ph: 9726 4983

When you meet Matthew Imani at the Mooroolbark Denture Clinic, you will immediately be moved by the way he cares for his patients, his clear explanations and the respect he shows to his clients. It's no wonder people willingly come from all over Australia and overseas for his expert services.

Matthew and his wife Mina arrived from Iran in Australia in 2004 with skilled migrant work visas. Matthew had already qualified as a dental technologist from the Tehran Dental University in 1996. Over many years Matthew built his knowledge and experience of dental prosthetics and the dental materials used, and in 2004 published his book *The Successful Dental Technician*, which covers detailed information about building a successful dental laboratory with the highest quality standards, and information on infection control. The book also has advice on best practice for use in the dental industry, dental finance, dental management, dental laboratory design and the best equipment required to be a successful dental technician.

He continued his training at the RMIT University, becoming a qualified dental prosthetist. Upon completion of this training Matthew was awarded the J. Michael Hannon Prize (Advanced Diploma) in 2009 by the Australian Dental Prosthetist Association of Victoria for the 'most outstanding dental prosthetic student.'

As a dental prosthetist, Matthew is a skilled member of the dental profession who is qualified in the construction, fitting and ongoing care of dentures. He uses the highest quality materials and the latest modern technology available. With his skill and attention to detail, Matthew is able to create exceptionally comfortable dentures with a realistic appearance that are virtually undetectable from natural teeth.

Matthew chose to come to Australia because "it's a beautiful environment with beautiful people who on the whole are very kind and generous, and who love to hear the different accents that are spoken by the many races that now live here. And when they trust you, they trust you with their hearts. I also live locally and it's great to hear 'Hi Matthew', when I walk down the main street."

Matthew is also a very keen photographer and is a member of the Australian Photographic Society. He has a small studio at home and enjoys portrait and landscape photography – examples of his beautiful work can be seen at www.imaniphotography.com.au.

He is also a member of a special needs group committee organised by the Australian Dental Prosthetists Association, which works hard to improve the way dental prosthetists treat their special needs patients.

Replacing dentures regularly is paramount in keeping the correct bite to support the jaw and surrounding muscles, Matthew advised. He warned that ill-fitting dentures can cause problems such as ear pain, ear pressure or a sense of fullness, difficulty clearing the ears when swallowing, ringing in the ears or dizziness. If you experience any of these problems Matthew suggests you consult your dental prosthetist as soon as possible.

For those with dentures, Matthew offered the following guidelines:

1. Have a yearly mouth check-up and denture polish.
2. Never go to bed with your dentures in. Let your gums relax and prepare for another day, as excessive wear may cause mouth ulcers and will need immediate attention and adjustment.
3. Consider acquiring new dentures every five years, as gum shrinkage will cause the denture fit to become loose, and jaw and gum damage may occur.



Matthew Imani

If you would like more information about having 'the perfect smile' please contact Matthew at the Mooroolbark Denture Clinic on 9726 7284 or visit his web site: www.dentureclinicmelbourne.com.au

Barry Austin



Healthy menu items are offered at Pump Cafe by owners Troy and Vicky, shown here with café assistant Sophia

Healthy and Delicious

4/14 Manchester Road, Mooroolbark

PUMP CAFE

Troy and Vicky Moore recently completed their first year of operating Pump Cafe in Mooroolbark, and are very pleased with the way their initial joint venture has worked out in its first year.

Troy, who grew up in Brisbane, has always been involved in the hospitality

industry – working in various coffee shops and restaurants in Queensland. In 2001 he came to Melbourne for what he planned would be a short working holiday. This plan was radically altered when he met Vicky, his wife to be. The couple met when they were rostered on an evening shift together at a South Yarra restaurant. At that time Vicky had been managing her own Glen Waverly beauty salon (her first love) for some years. In addition she was doing some evening work in hospitality. She said, "I grew up with my parents owning and operating fish and chip shops. My early years of work experience in those shops prepared me well for hospitality work."

Vicky and Troy married in 2008 and as children came along, it became much more difficult to manage their separate careers whilst providing the level of care they felt necessary for their four-year-old son and his younger twin brothers. The couple decided to launch a joint venture in operating a coffee shop to find the family balance they were looking for.

When the opportunity arose to take over Pump Cafe, it suited Troy and Vicky very well. Café trading hours allow them to stagger their individual working times to run the business effectively while also meeting their family needs in the way they feel is most appropriate. Being free from work commitments in the evenings is a big factor for them. Both Troy and Vicky are a part of quite large extended families and wanted to be free to adequately maintain those contacts. They see their current circumstances as offering a very balanced lifestyle. Troy commented, "Having the gym right next door is an added advantage. I manage to enjoy a workout several times each week."

Becoming a part of the Mooroolbark community and getting to know many of their regular customers has been a highlight for both Vicky and Troy. Surprisingly, their busiest time of the day begins at 6:00 a.m. when many 'gym buffs' come in for anything from light refreshments to a hearty breakfast after an early morning workout. The Pump menu is health-oriented, offering such items as freshly squeezed juices and protein smoothies. The breakfast menu offers healthy breakfast options and is available up until 2:00 p.m. A number of seasonal lunch options and light snacks are also on offer. Vicky said that she receives many positive comments about the unique Di Bella blend of coffee they serve. This is a favourite, especially for many of the young mums who come in for a coffee after dropping their children at the early learning centre or the nearby crèche.

Why not pop in and check out the great food and friendly service offered at Pump Cafe? The trading hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Doug Lewis

Official Opening of MONTROSE DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

Doug Lewis

On Friday March 14th the Montrose District Men's Shed was officially opened by Tony Smith, member for Casey. Also present to help celebrate this special moment were James Merlino, member for Monbulk and Cr Len Cox, Walling Ward – Shire of Yarra Ranges.

Club President Max Lamb thanked all who had supported the process of establishing the Montrose District Shed. He also congratulated all of the founding members on the great work they had done in fitting out and decorating the old Montrose fire station building to suit the

needs of the group. He made special mention of Ken Dowling's vital work in arranging the initial funding to establish the shed, and a plaque was unveiled in recognition of Ken's important work. Ken, who passed away shortly before the official opening, was represented by his wife Chris and his daughter Fiona Poser.



Chris Dowling and Fiona Poser

Max introduced Ric Blackburn, executive officer of the Australian Men's Shed Association, who gave some background on the Men's Shed movement. He explained that it was an Australian initiative which had its beginnings in Orbst (country Victoria) some 15 or 16 years ago. The concept of AMSA was formally established in 2007 with the founding principle of freely sharing information between organisations and members for the development and effective operations of men's sheds wherever they are established.

The association now has over 1000 sheds representing an estimated 175,000 individuals, and employs four full time workers. The concept of



Tony Smith, Len Cox and James Merlino with Men's Shed members

Men's Sheds has now also spread internationally with a number of sheds being operated by health authorities in Ireland, England and New Zealand, and other interested groups in North American and Japan.

The AMSA website points out that good health is based on many factors including feeling good about yourself, being productive and valuable to your community, connecting to friends and maintaining an active body and an active mind. Becoming a member of a Men's Shed can give a man that safe and busy environment where he can find many of these things in 'an atmosphere of old-fashioned mateship'. And, importantly, there is no pressure. Men can just come and have a yarn and a cuppa if that is all they're looking for.

Anyone interested in finding out more about Montrose District Men's Shed is invited to contact Max Lamb on 0427 358 000.

Caladenia's Dream Becomes Reality

"I tried to count how many families we'd helped in our 13 years here but it was just impossible," said Sarah Yeates, manager at Caladenia Dementia Care in Mooroolbark. Since 1991 Caladenia has been providing programs, support and a community for local people living with dementia. Recently, the centre purchased the property next door, which will allow it to realise a long-term goal of providing overnight respite care. "We've been working on this for about eight years – it's been our dream."

Caladenia sees 60-70 people a week who are living with various stages of dementia. The centre provides day sessions and outing programs for specific groups. "The people very early in their dementia use it as a peer support; somewhere where no one pays attention to the deficits. It builds them up for all the things they can still do." For Sarah it's the staff and volunteers "who genuinely love what they do," who are the key to Caladenia's special atmosphere.

The newly acquired property, already affectionately dubbed "The Bed and Breakfast", will be a flexible overnight respite centre. Specifically for short-term stays, it will provide a respite alternative to nursing homes – an option many families and carers often struggle to find. "Some of our people, who are very well physically, find it really difficult to have respite

in a nursing home where they are at a very different stage to the residents there."

Caladenia is currently seeking funding to commence the necessary renovations. Once complete, the respite centre will have eight beds, and staff present throughout the night. However, the routine will aim to be "very domestic" according to Sarah. The new centre will allow carers or families to book in their loved ones for a stay anywhere from one night a month to one night a week, or stays of up to a fortnight.

Interestingly, Caladenia almost missed out on the perfectly positioned new property. "We don't ever drive further than this down the street," laughed Sarah. "One of our carers drove down to turn around one day and noticed the 'for sale' sign. They called us and said 'Do you realise your neighbours are selling?' So I called the board for an emergency meeting and they decided to jump in with both feet!"

"We've got great links with the local community, which is terrific," said Sarah. She and Maggs, Caladenia's beloved golden retriever, regularly visit schools and community groups to talk about dementia issues. The centre already serves the local community not only through its programs, but also by offering carer support groups. "People are also always welcome to ring and get information on dementia itself, find



Caladenia manager Sarah Yeates with Maggs



The new respite centre at 13 Hilledge Lane is ideally located next to the existing Caladenia premises

out about our programs, or even just ask for advice in a difficult situation."

Sarah and the Caladenia team are looking forward to the additional services they will finally be able to provide once the new respite centre is up and running. "What we do, it's all about dignity. It's all about respect."

Carissa Warren

Is Our Technology Making Us Lazy?

With technology we're constantly 'connected' with the world in so many ways it can distract us from what we're supposed to be doing. Are we distracted from our projects and responsibilities so that they take longer than they should or are done to a lower standard? Sure, technology can really speed up just about everything we do. But as we become overly dependent on technology to do what we want or need, are we struggling to be our best and happiest? We all know that more money doesn't really make us happier... unfortunately, more gadgets don't either!

Additionally, are we getting "dumbed down" by not having to think or reason like we used to? Are our children getting dumbed down by their proximity to and reliance on tech gadgets in everything they do?

We have endless information readily available now... it's no longer necessary to walk or bike ride to the library or bookstore. We just search for the data we want on our device – whether it's a phone, tablet or PC – whenever, wherever we want. With so much information available, though, we need to work out if what we find is correct! Do we readily accept it as fact, when it may just be an opinion? Let's face it... there is a lot of information on the web that is simply wrong or misleading. Without an ethical, moral or practical base for working out what's good and what's not, we're in trouble. If our children form that base increasingly from technology, then their thinking and reasoning ability will be unreliable or diminished.

Our devices are, well... our devices! The more things we can call ours can lead to a rather insular view of the world and everyone in it. The more we move away from sharing equipment, the more self-centric we become. Like Spock ambling around with his tricorder, we focus unconsciously on the technology, and maybe not so much on what we should be doing, or on doing it well.

Quite a Contrast

While in Vietnam recently, I observed the way people work there. The people I saw every day on the streets preparing food, cleaning, attending to their shops, or serving in their restaurants and hotels, work hard. Often their jobs are quite menial and the hours long. They frequently work in poor conditions, with very meagre equipment, in all weather and yet mostly with a smile. Their rate of pay is incredibly low by our standards. What impressed me was their work ethic. What makes them come back every day to do the

same thing over again, day after day, year after year with little chance of doing much else? What they do, and how they do it, keeps the country going and growing.

We all know Vietnam has had a hard time in recent decades getting on with life after a horrible war – but they have used their experiences to make them stronger and more resilient. They proudly fly their flag everywhere... on boats, cars,

buildings, and buses. Every home and business seems to have at least one of the distinctive red flags with a central yellow star, and

Today we are so gadget-obsessed that most of us have a wealth of information at our fingertips, just like Star Trek's Spock and his tricorder.

sometimes a few! The work ethic in Vietnam is clearly visible. The people are on a mission, and technology is not getting in the way. They still have a principled manner which motivates and unites them. Checking Facebook and other personal pursuits while working doesn't seem to be acceptable. They play music, but not often the personal kind with ear buds which excludes others or diverts their focus from work.

I have visited Fiji twice, and the second visit was very different from the first. In between my visits, they had acquired TV (yes, it was a while ago). I was struck by a difference in the attitude and responsiveness of some of the people. If you wanted a boat or something that they needed to organise for you, then you had to wait till the ads came on... and if they liked the ad too, well, bad luck!

Not Just a Work Ethic

Let's note some aspects of a healthy work ethic:

- Being punctual and endeavouring to maximise the day's work time.
- Improving the way you work and the methods used.
- Continuing to do your best even if others don't seem to care about the work they do, or even the work you do.
- Respecting the different relationships in the workplace – both those above and below your position. Avoiding gossip and disrespect is a vital part of this.
- Valuing others' comments and contributions, and considering criticism without prejudice.

These are, and will always be, signs that show a person has a committed work ethic. Our work ethic is about much more than just getting work done. It's also about who we are. Who we are under pressure, who we are when it's not going well, who we are when it's an unpleasant job that has to be done.

When considering who we are in the context of work – which is something we spend a lot of time doing and usually involves interaction with others – we get a picture of our real self. If we're honest, do we see ourselves getting distracted too often with technology? The younger generation is overly familiar with technology and it often gets in the way of who they

are – they think they are working even though they have their phone in their ear, chatting, texting or listening to music.

When we start to get lazy – when we start cutting corners, and when we start misusing time and resources – it's hard to recognise and often hard to alter that behaviour. We're changing, and it's not in a good way.

Be consistent. By avoiding excuses and laziness, you will be reinforcing a good habit. When we accept laziness as an option, it begins to be the first thing we think of and then it is hard to get back to fulfilling expected responsibilities in a timely and ethical manner.

As time progresses we can become disillusioned and just do what we need to do to get by, to look busy and not much else. While that might seem OK, we are not contributing





In countries such as Vietnam, people tend to work hard – undistracted by technology – and take pleasure in a job well done.

very positively to who we are. It's not only our boss who is not getting value from us, we're not getting value from ourselves either. The values that we live by affect who we are. They affect our attitude, our behaviour, our mental state and our emotions. And we too have to live with ourselves!

By taking stock of how we're working, and being alert to excuses and choices that don't contribute positively to our

work time, we can be doing ourselves a favour and warding off laziness that occurs because of our time with technology, or anything else that might sneak in under the radar.

Steve Steel



Congratulations to Beth from Mooroolbark, who was the winner in our 'common sense' competition. Beth will receive a \$50 Coles gift card donated by Coles Mooroolbark.



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ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Beautiful autumn weather on April 25th saw close to 500 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 Yarra Hills Secondary College and Mooroolbark College provided readings and prayers. The Croydon Brass Band accompanied the hymn singing and the wreath-laying ceremony.

Ms Anni Atkinson presented the Anzac Day address, telling the moving story of the significant war service and sacrifices made by her family members, the Hubbard family of Steels Creek. Many groups and individuals came forward to lay down wreaths and other floral tributes. They were led



by Tony Smith, federal member for Casey, Christine Fyffe, member for Evelyn and David Hodgett, member for Kilsyth. Councillor Terry Avery represented the Shire of Yarra Ranges council.

This important gathering was once again organised by the Lions Club of Mooroolbark for the benefit of the community.

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT



Fearless optimist Anna sets off on an epic journey – teaming up with rugged mountain man Kristoff and his loyal reindeer Sven – to find her sister Elsa, whose icy powers have trapped the kingdom of Arendelle in eternal winter.

Mooroolbark Community Centre

Wednesday 2 July 2014

102 minutes - Rated PG

Film commences at 7:30 p.m.

Free ice-cream, tea & coffee available

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

To reserve your tickets* phone 9726 5488

or book online at

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

Bookings commence from Wednesday 18 June

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

What Would Jesus Tweet?



Undoubtedly you've heard of Twitter. The social networking platform, launched in 2006, that gives us the ability to instantly post online very short messages (140 characters or less). Almost everyone tweets – from people like Kanye West and Britney Spears, all the way up to the President of the United States. But still, as King Solomon wrote some 3000 years ago: "There is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Social media may not be as "cutting edge" as we might think. Long before the TweetDeck or the somewhat older Facebook wall, there was the local tavern. Romans used to write brief comments on stone walls – posting greetings, proclaiming their love and even grumbling about the media content of the day. Here are a couple of their ancient "Tweets" that I found somewhat amusing:

- "Secundus sends many and perpetual greetings to Onesimus."
- "Oh wall, I am amazed you haven't fallen down, since you bear tedious scribbling of so many writers."

And if you thought chat rooms were an invention of the modern digital age, think again. During the 19th century, telegraph operators used to go "online" to tell jokes, play chess and even fall in love.

These types of social media have been around in one form or another since the time of Christ. And that got me thinking: if Jesus were online today, what would he say? Could he fit his message into a single 140-character tweet? Many theologians have actually wrestled with this very issue. And time and time again they come back with the same answer: Yes.

It looks like this: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

John 3:16 is probably one of the most well-known verses in the Bible. And on top of that, it's been translated into over 1,200 different languages. Martin Luther called it "the gospel in miniature" because it perfectly illustrates the loving nature of our Creator God. He loved us so much that no matter who we were, where we were or what we'd done, he sent his only Son to restore us.

It's a verse that gives us hope in Christ, and affirms God's ultimate purpose for us all: not to perish – but to live together with him.

Now that's a message we can all retweet!

Joseph Tkach: Speaking of Life
See: <http://www.gci.org/SpOL352>

Oxley Kids is a brand-new Christian early learning and day care centre with a state-of-the-art facility currently being built at Life Ministry Centre, Chirnside Park. The centre will be committed to excellence of teaching and learning through which students can develop their unique abilities in a secure yet stimulating environment.

The brand-new facility, opening in 2015, will offer the following services:

- Full day care for children from 18 weeks to school-age entry
- Kindergarten for 3 year olds (known as Kinderoo)
- Funded preschool for 4 year olds
- Playgroups (known as Jelly Beans)
- Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) for primary students

Oxley Kids is located in Old Melbourne Road Chirnside Park on a spacious, beautifully maintained campus of 28 hectares, which includes its founding church, Life Ministry Church, together with Oxley Christian College. The new Oxley Kids centre is now nearing completion and will be ready for occupation in January 2015.

Oxley Kids



Artist's rendition of the Oxley Kids facility, which is scheduled to be completed in 2015

Oxley Kids will be a vibrant centre with programs aimed at providing excellent care and learning opportunities based on Christian teaching and values. The play-based day care curriculum will encourage children to explore, problem solve, express ideas and make decisions. Special projects will encourage enquiry skills and higher-level thinking.

The new centre will have seven rooms, each with use of a state-of-the-art playground and active learning area to the rear. The playground has been planned by Laidlaw & Laidlaw Design, the team which created the Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Melbourne. The playground is designed with an exciting series

of natural landscaped spaces which will invite creative play and exploration of garden areas, with challenging climbing frames, cubbies, forest plantings, logs, rocks, sand, pebbles, lawns, shrubs, flowers, vegetables, herbs and even chickens! A dry water bed with hand pumps will enable safe water play.

Oxley Kids aims to enrich the well-being of every child; building their sense of identity, connection with others, and their confidence as learners and communicators. With Godly teaching at its heart, Oxley Kids is sure to be a happy place!

For further information, email office@oxleykids.vic.edu.au or contact the registrar on 03 9727 9957

Andy Hunt

FIFTY YEARS ON



Nola and Tony Guardiani, who were married in St Patricks Church on 21st March 1964, say that patience and "sticking it out" when the difficult times come along are the ingredients for their fifty-year marriage.

The Guardianis met at a dance in Hawthorn Town Hall on Nola's birthday, became

engaged on her next birthday and were married three months later. During their courting days, they grew to know every nook and cranny of the botanical gardens in the city, as Tony didn't own a car.

Tony was born in poor mountainous country in Italy, and migrated to Australia to find work in July 1961, when he was only eighteen. When he began work in Carlton as a concrete labourer he spoke no English, and today still speaks with a very strong Italian accent. Eventually Tony started up their own business as a concrete layer, with Nola as the bookkeeper. He worked on many council projects, including Lilydale Lake and Mooroolbark Library, and built the swimming pool in Kilsyth

Nola was born in Lilydale and later worked there as a bank clerk. When she and Tony became engaged they bought a block of land in Mooroolbark for £800. This is where their house was built and where they brought up their four children – David, now 47, Anthony (45), Danielle (43) and Mark (37). They now have four grandchildren whom they see quite often, as the family all lives locally except Mark.

The Guardianis have a holiday house where Tony can indulge his love of fishing and Nola her love of books. They both love gardening and Tony has grown fruit trees which he has grafted so that two different fruits grow on each. Nola loves succulents for their colours and different shapes, and because they are easy to look after. Most of them are in pots so that Tony doesn't dig them up thinking they are weeds!

Fourteen years ago, Tony hurt his back and was unable to work. In order to receive Centrelink benefits, Nola was required to do some community work which eventually brought her to the Salvation Army op shop in Mooroolbark. She has been there for ten years and enjoys it so much that she now works as a volunteer.



Tony and Nola on their wedding day in 1964

Neither of the Guardianis feels that their different cultures have created any problems in their relationship, although Nola is now doing an Italian course on the internet. Both use the computer – Nola so that she can research the family tree, and Tony to listen to Italian music on YouTube.

Congratulations Nola and Tony on your fiftieth wedding anniversary!

Barbara Austin

Mooroolbark
Denture Clinic
9726 7284

Making Smiles Come to Life

Proudly supporting
Living Today in Mooroolbark



What is it?

What size is it ?

It has texture

... some odd angles

... and
natural
colours

MYSTERY IN THE PARK

What is it that will have us flocking to the park?

So, what on earth might this workshop, and *this* man, playfulness, a passion for steel and metal fabrication, fashion design, a sensitivity to place, several awareness-building, lingering visits to Hookey Park and a lifetime of creative pursuits have to do with Mooroolbark?

Mooroolbark residents have been aware of extensive changes to Hookey Park during the last two or three years, as they've visited the library, attended Mooroolbark's Anzac service or taken the children to the playground. It seems to me that more people have been visiting the park, which houses Mooroolbark's iconic band rotunda, since community consultation led to imaginative remodelling of the park and its landscape.

What most people won't be aware of is a several-months-long process going on behind the scenes which will culminate in providing Mooroolbark with a public art work that celebrates some of the uniqueness of our township.

At the start, newspaper and ArtsHub advertisements generated twelve submissions. Five artists were shortlisted to present their ideas to an evaluation panel made up of Yarra Ranges council staff and Mooroolbark community representatives.

The artist who won the tender process and is now working towards the completion of the artwork for Hookey Park is Jonathan Leahey.¹

As a member of the evaluation panel, I met Jonathan when he presented his ideas. I don't think I was alone in being impressed by the suitability of his proposed artwork for Mooroolbark, by his energetic passion for his work, and by the conceptual preparation that had gone into formulating his plans.

When I visited Jonathan recently at his central Victorian workshop near Guildford, he told me that he likes to completely fabricate his work himself and chuckled about one of his giant paper plane sculptures – eight metres long – that had had left only millimetres to spare in the workshop.²

There's a playfulness in much of Jonathan's previous work – a giant flower sculpture based on his daughter's drawing when she was five... the quirky introduction to the ABC programme *Inventions from the Shed*³... paper planes evoking the memories of childhood dogfights... an exhibition of small sculpted teddy bears bearing all the wear and tear of our much-loved childhood toys... and there's an element of liveliness in the proposed Hookey Park artwork, too!

Jonathan not only enjoys the

playfulness of the work but also the way sculpture can set our imaginations free to envisage so much more.

What is the work?

Well, I can't tell you that as I am sworn to secrecy. I'm bursting to tell you, because I'm excited about the development of a major artwork in our town and really chuffed about the appropriateness of the work to Mooroolbark, as well as accessibility. I'm sure it will be a drawcard for locals and visitors to our region.

As I envisage the finished artwork, I can easily imagine groups of school children visiting, or Yarra Valley tourists and regional residents coming for a picnic and enjoying a great day out, lingering in Hookey Park interacting with the art works.

What I *can* tell you is that there are multiple works. They are large in scale, carefully crafted and intricately put together. They will be instantly recognisable and be unique to Hookey Park. As you look at the photos on this page showing small sections of some of Jonathan's working models, have fun trying to imagine what the bigger, finished product might be!

And in case you're wondering about the materials? Jonathan will use galvanised or anodised corten steel – a product that, according to the manufacturers, "is a cold-rolled weather-resistant steel that protects itself"⁴ with a surface coating of rust that prevents further corrosion.

A multitude of experience has contributed to Jonathan's creativity. Although he loathed his years at school, at one point Jonathan studied fashion design at Prahran College for Art. Somewhat bemused, in light of his current work, I asked whether the course had any long-term usefulness. In response he explained that the pattern-making skills learned in the course had been very helpful in preparing drawings for his sculptures.

But there were also other experiences before sculpture. For a year or two, Jonathan lived and worked in France. He was also involved in robotics and special effects, working in Hollywood for seven years on films that included *Titanic*. An *Age* article noted: "Leahey made a name for himself in Hollywood with his 'wrap gifts', given to movie producers, directors and actors at the end of a film shoot."

On movie sets, Jonathan watched the welders at work and concluded that it didn't look terribly difficult. Jonathan developed that skill, which helped open the door for him to work as an independent sculptor.

Later, he made the armour used in the *Ned Kelly* movie. He said, "They brought

1 http://extremeleahay.com/oeo_content.html

2 You may have noticed the paper plane sculpture on the lawns at Werribee park <http://www.theage.com.au/fimages/2008/02/27/1203788423826.html> (image 13)

3 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_43p2pWRL0

4 <http://cortenaustalia.com.au/>



some of the Kelly armour for me to try on. There were security guys all over the place!" According to the *Age*, Jonathan's art credits in *Titanic*, *Alien Resurrection* and *Ned Kelly* gave him access to an industry that valued his brand of one-off creations."⁵

Completion date for the work should be September. It's something to look forward

to! It should be well and truly finished by the time the community gathers for the carols and twilight picnic in Hookey Park on the evening of Friday 5 December.



So... grab the kids, a rug, the picnic hamper, and enjoy an evening of singing sitting with...well, you will have to wait and see!

Randall Bouchier

⁵ <http://www.theage.com.au/small-business/the-object-of-everyones-affections-has-the-gift-20090619-cp90.html>

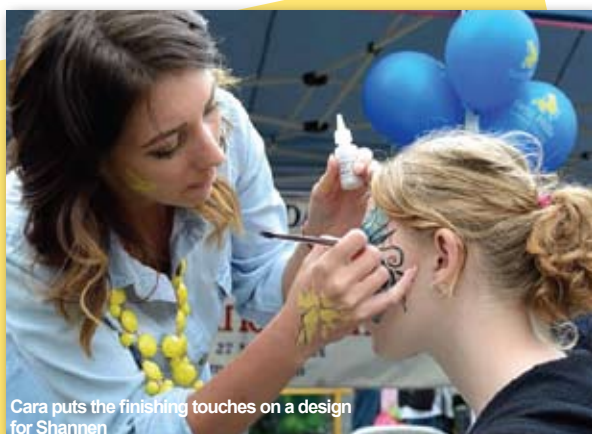


Professionals

www.methven.com.au

Mooroolbark Office Tel. 9726 8888

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Cara puts the finishing touches on a design for Shannen



Cara Robinson is very proud of Yarra Hills Secondary College, a two-campus school located in Mt Evelyn and Mooroolbark. As teenagers, Cara and her sister Kylie attended the Mt Evelyn campus before moving to the senior campus in Mooroolbark. Cara went on to earn her science degree, and worked as a scientist for several years before returning to Yarra Hills Secondary College as a teacher five and a half years ago.

As the recent Celebrate Mooroolbark festival was approaching, Cara suggested an interesting way to advertise the school she loves. Her idea was to promote Yarra Hills Secondary College while providing free face-painting at the festival. The plan was to illustrate the school's emblem – the griffin – in paint and glitter, while talking to festival-goers about the school.

With the help of her sister Kylie Healey and Yarra Hills SC student Stephanie Philpott, Cara spent the day painting faces and talking to locals. College Principal Darren Trippett and other staff members were also on hand to provide additional information about the school.

Not everyone opted for the griffin design, so Cara, Stephanie and Kylie were able to use their creativity. "People enjoyed the face painting, and while we were doing it we were able to chat about the school," Cara said. "We talked about the school's ethics and what we believe in."

The griffin is a legendary creature with the head of an eagle (representing intelligence) and the powerful body of the lion. For Cara, the griffin symbolises the strengths of Yarra Hills. "Our school is very accepting and fun," said Cara. "We take learning seriously, but we get to know the students as well. It's about respect... we respect one another and we always endeavour to do the best that we can. We take a lot of pride in what we do."

Despite her interest in science, Cara has always enjoyed artistic pursuits – "I love to do artsy things on the weekends and to play scientist during the week," she said. For many years Cara has worked part-time as a hairstylist and make-up artist for weddings and special events. (<https://www.facebook.com/caraleemelbourne>). Cara is also hired as a face painter for children's parties, and has provided free face art at several community events.

Cara, Kylie and Stephanie enjoyed watching the faces of the children light up after the artwork had been finished. "I loved the expressions on their faces when they looked into the mirror," Cara said. "They had a big grin on their faces and they would look in the mirror, then up at us, and then back in the mirror. They didn't want to stop looking at themselves." It worked out well for everyone... the children liked their face art, and Cara, Stephanie and Kylie enjoyed this special way of sharing their pride in their school.

Janet Van Dijk



Mooroolbark College Enriched by Cultural Exchange

Rachael Williams

For the past couple of years, the students and teachers of Mooroolbark College have been fostering a close relationship with a school in Suzhou Province, China.

The association began in March 2012, when three Mooroolbark College teachers were part of a study tour led by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). Assistant Principal Lyn Godfrey and teachers Robyn Cooper and Stephen Cameron spent two weeks in China. The trio visited cultural and historical sites and educational institutions in Shanghai, before visiting Wujiang Senior Middle School. Over the course of five days at the school, the team met with their Chinese colleagues – discussing educational philosophies, teaching and learning ideas, and comparing education systems. They also taught English to Chinese students. Relationships were forged, not only personally but between the schools, culminating in a sister-school agreement.

In March 2013, Robyn Cooper and Stephen Cameron returned to China with Assistant Principal Rachael Williams, strengthening the bonds made on the first visit. One highlight of the visit was a combined Chinese/Australian forum between students via Skype.

Five months later, a delegation of students and staff from Wujiang Senior Middle School visited Mooroolbark College. Eleven Chinese students joined Mooroolbark classes and stayed in the homes of members of the college community. At that time, agreements for future exchanges

were negotiated.

Now, Mooroolbark College is thrilled to announce that Principal Simon Reid and Assistant Principal Rachael Williams will undertake a formal visit for both principals to further discuss the future of this exciting educational opportunity. In addition, two staff and twelve students visited China in mid-May, spending time in Beijing and Shanghai before undertaking classes in the sister school.

The aim of the program is to provide educational enrichment through:

- introducing students to a different educational philosophy, environment and curriculum
- developing cultural awareness and understanding among students in the school environment
- promoting international understanding and cooperation
- developing students' Asia literacy and knowledge of China by experiencing life in Chinese cities and by visiting cultural and historical sites; and
- empowering students to share their experiences, understandings and global outlook with their peers upon return to Mooroolbark College.



Teachers at the Wujiang and Mooroolbark schools have developed a close relationship

Families Benefit from Park Improvements

Nate Leslie

The \$1.3 million upgrade to Mooroolbark's Hookey Park is almost complete after years of work to improve the park's facilities for visitors and residents.

The work has been funded by Yarra Ranges Council, with a \$250,000 contribution from the state government's Public Safety Infrastructure Fund.

The children's adventure playground is the heart of the park, with a tree house, bridge explorer walk, whirlwind swing and a dry rock bed for the little ones to explore.

Yarra Ranges Councillor Terry Avery has praised the upgrade to the park. "Hookey Park is now an even better place for Mooroolbark families to enjoy," he said. "It's a fantastic playground that's already being enjoyed by families."

The second stage of development saw the installation of new picnic seating, a BBQ, benches and seating, with garden beds and trees planted as part of a revegetation program. Additional footpaths, signage and

night lighting make the park more accessible and user friendly than before.

The upgraded war memorial is another gem of the park, with the new pillars and benches forming a place of both ceremony and reflection which will be used for future remembrance ceremonies. The memorial now requires finishing touches, with community consultation assisting in the development of new plaques to be cast and mounted on granite plinths.

The key to the success of the project has been the consultation which has taken place with residents, traders and the local community. "The landscape architects for the project consulted with local school children to ensure the space we create is well used and enjoyed by the whole community," Cr Avery said.

The park development master plan, which focused on improving safety and accessibility in the park, was adopted by Yarra Ranges Council in 2011. "The work reflects the community's desire for safer, more accessible



spaces to relax and enjoy the surroundings. The upgrades also maintain the sense of fun and vibrancy unique to the Yarra Ranges," Cr Avery said.

New artwork by local artists is set to make an appearance in the park, which will be mirrored in the future upgrade of neighbouring Mooroolbark station as part of the state government's Train Stations as Creative Community Hubs project.

"With a redevelopment of the train station car park, streetscape works and two new playgrounds, it's an exciting time for Mooroolbark," said Cr Avery.



Anzac Day flowers at the Hookey Park war memorial – honouring those who fought for Australia with courage, mateship, sacrifice and service

Mooroolbark History Group Seeks Community Input

Marion Stott

Yarra Ranges Council is working closely with the Mooroolbark History Group, Lions Club of Mooroolbark, Lilydale RSL and Mt Evelyn RSL to update the wording and listings for the new plaques to be installed on the reconstructed war memorial in Hookey Park. The upcoming installation of the revised plaques will complete this important aspect of the park development project.

With the availability of more online access to government records, the history group has identified further names to add to the current listings.

Community members are invited to provide additional input about any men and women who were associated with Mooroolbark prior to their joining the Australian Defence Forces – for example, those who were born, grew up, worked or enlisted at Mooroolbark.

Currently proposed changes can be viewed in a display at the Mooroolbark library, with the suggested alterations or additions highlighted in the display.

Please forward details of any input you can offer to Lloyd 9726 8740 or stottq@bigpond.com

Great Value Performances at the MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Mooroolbark Community Centre is proud to bring world-class acts to our local community at affordable prices. Following the sell-out success of last year's program, we will be presenting a range of quality performances for as little as \$5!

The Victorian Concert Orchestra, Oz Opera, Australian Youth Band, and the critically acclaimed theatrical adaptation of Alfred Hitchcock's *39 Steps* are featured in our 2014 program. This year will also see the return of the Melbourne Welsh Choir and Australian Air Force Band.

Australian Youth Band

Australia's most internationally recognised youth marching band made a rare concert appearance at the Mooroolbark Community Centre's Red Earth Theatre on Sunday 25 May. The Australian Youth Band is comprised of Victoria's most talented musicians from 13-24 years of age. Several of the young performers and the group's former US-based director, Richard O'Toole, hail from the Yarra Ranges and were excited to be performing locally in Mooroolbark.

In its 30-year history, the Australian Youth Band has performed extensively throughout Australia and conducted seven international tours to destinations such as Japan, China, New Zealand, Malaysia and North America. It has gained the reputation of a world-class ensemble by performing a unique repertoire of works by acclaimed composers



Victoria's finest young musicians performed with the Australian Youth Band at Mooroolbark Community Centre

including Bizet, Dvorak, Rossini, and John Phillip Sousa – in a musical adventure from classical and operetta through to jazz and contemporary soundtracks.

Classical Tracks

Mooroolbark Community Centre is thrilled to be part of the much-anticipated Classical Tracks program, presenting some of this country's best-known classical ensembles and performers every Sunday this winter throughout the Yarra Ranges.

The Victorian Concert Orchestra performs at Mooroolbark Community Centre on Sunday 31 August at 2 p.m. For nearly 100 years this iconic 50-piece orchestra has been renowned for an ever-changing program that ranges from the classics (Bach, Mozart and Tchaikovsky) through operetta and musical theatre (from Gilbert & Sullivan to Andrew Lloyd Webber) to contemporary composers such as John Williams (*Star Wars*) and Peter Allen.

Additional Classical Tracks performances in the area include Chris Howlett's *Bach by Candlelight*, The Melbourne Guitar Quartet, David Helfgott and the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra. Tickets start at \$10.

For more information on these events and other exciting programs, pick up a copy of *Culture Tracks* at the Mooroolbark Community Centre, visit www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach or call 9726 5488 to speak with Caroline, Suzanne or Malcolm.

Suzanne Earhart

Community Events Calendar

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
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 p.m. at St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. New members always welcome. Contact Jeanne Wilson: 9726 9858.
Mon and Thursdays during school term	Sing Move Shake: Fun with music for toddlers. Edinburgh College Primary, Edinburgh Rd. 10:00-10:45 a.m. \$6.00 per session. More info: Anne Turnbull 0438 596 232.
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.
Wed and Thursdays during school term	Happy Hands Art Time - Encouraging Creativity in Toddlers: children 1-5 yrs. Wednesdays: 9:30-11:00 a.m. or 11:45-1:15 p.m. Thursdays: 9:30-11:30 a.m. Register online: www.happyhandsart.com .
Thursday evenings each week	Maroondah TOWN Club: (Take Off Weight Naturally). Weekly, starting at 6:30 p.m. St Margaret's Uniting Church. Hull Road. More information: 0425 739 576.
June 2, July 7 August 4	Mooroolbark Movie Club Presents Hollywood Classics: <i>Newsfront</i> , <i>Meet Me in St Louis</i> , <i>Raging Bull</i> . 10:30 a.m. Mooroolbark Community Centre. Ph: 9726 5488. Free to new subscribers.
June - August	Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions: June 3, 11, 24. July 1, 9, 22. August 5, 13, 26. Mooroolbark Community Centre. More info: 1300 368 333.
June - August	Red Earth Gallery Exhibitions: 'Heart & Soul' by Graeme Hall & Irene O'Loughlin May 27 - June 26 (opening May 29). 'Peaceful Warriors' by Mark Lusk July 1-31 (opening July 3). Red Earth Gallery, Mooroolbark Community Centre. Ph: 9726 5488.
June 5, July 3 August 7	Montrose Movie Club presents Hollywood Classics: <i>Newsfront</i> , <i>Meet Me in St Louis</i> , <i>Raging Bull</i> . 7:00 p.m. Montrose Town Centre. Ph: 9761 9133.
June 12 -21	Mooroolbark Theatre Group presents <i>Noises Off</i> by Michael Frayn. Mooroolbark Community Centre 7:30 p.m. for 8:00 p.m. start. Tickets \$16 /\$14 concession - includes refreshments. Bookings essential: Arline 9726 4282.
June 20	FreeZa/Push Start Youth Music Event: from 6 p.m. Montrose Town Centre. More info: Youth Services, Ph: 9294 6716 or www.yrys.com
June 21 & 22 July 26 & 2	Mooroolbark History Group Book and Treasure Sale: 37 Blackburn Road, Mooroolbark. 8am – 2pm. Donations gratefully accepted. Enquiries: 9726 8740.
June 30 - July 4	School Holiday Program: Pyramid Rock – action-packed holiday program for children prep to grade 6. 9:30am-12:00pm daily, Mooroolbark Baptist Church. Free program – registration essential. Ph: 9725 3700.
July 7 & 8	Red Cross Blood Bank: Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings 13 14 95.
July, August September	Edinburgh College (Preschool-Year 12) Tours: July 23, August 20, September 17. Enquiries: 9761 9991 (ELC), 9728 8833 (primary) or 9728 2211 (secondary) or www.edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au
September 7	St Margaret's Uniting Church 60th Anniversary Celebration: Starts 10 a.m. Lunch follows. Please contact Marj (9726 7286), Joyce (9726 6627) or Lyn (9735 2779) if you are interested in attending.
September 21	SEBC Bogan Bingo: St Peter Julian Primary School. Commences 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$20 each. Purchase at sebsaints.com.au
August 29	FreeZa/Push Start Grand Final Youth Music Event: from 6:00 p.m. Mooroolbark Community Centre. For more info: Youth Services 9294 6716 or www.yrys.com .

Mooroolbark Community Centre and Montrose Town Centre

The following special events will be held at Mooroolbark Community Centre (MCC) or Montrose Town Centre (MTC). Bookings can be made by phoning 1300 368 333 or online: www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach

June 6	Montrose Concert Series 2014: Josh Pyke, 8:00 p.m. at MTC
June 15	Classical Tracks 2014: Melbourne Guitar Quartet. 2 p.m. at MTC
June 21	Montrose Concert Series 2014: Fred Smith - <i>Dust of Urugzan</i> , 8:00 p.m. at MTC
June 30 - July 11	School Holiday Program: Free or low cost - art & craft, live performances, movies. MTC & MCC
July 1	School Holiday Performance: Showko. 11 a.m. at MTC
July 2	School Holiday FREE family movie – Frozen: 7:30 p.m. at MCC
July 4	School Holiday Performance – Oz Opera Cinderella: 11:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. at MCC
July 14	Term 3 Workshops begin: Pottery, oil painting, Pottery 4 Kids and more. MCC: 9726 5488 / MTC 9761 9133.
July 20	Classical Tracks 2014: <i>Bach in the Dark</i> . 2:00 p.m. at MTC
August 8	Australian Air Force Band: Red Earth Theatre, 2:00 p.m. at MCC
August 9 & 10	Montrose Concert Series 2014: David Helfgott. 8:00 p.m. (9/8) & 2:00 p.m. (10/8) at MTC
August 31	Classical Tracks: Victorian Concert Orchestra, 2:00 p.m. at MCC

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 Doug Lewis on 9761 1121 or email living.today.mooroolbark@gmail.com

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.

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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)

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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
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us in serving our local community through this
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