

LIVING TODAY

in Mooroolbark and the Yarra Ranges NO. 48 SEPTEMBER 2014



The Willis Team

Medal-winning Track and Field Family

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ROLAND GRIFFITHS-MARSH

A MOOROOLBARK

In this issue we continue our serialisation of Roland Griffiths-Marsh's account of his life in Mooroolbark. Roland was born in Malaysia, and spent much of his early life overseas with his Australian father and French mother. He also spent extended periods of time enjoying an active and adventurous childhood in Mooroolbark, the home of his paternal grandmother, referred to as 'grandmère Anglaise'. As Roland grew he retained his adventurous spirit, joining the troops of WWII at a very early age – in fact, he was one of the few Australians who signed up before their sixteenth birthdays. He was awarded the Military Medal for his leadership and bravery behind enemy lines in 1945. Roland's prize-winning memoir *Sixpenny Soldier*, released in 1990¹, addresses the horrors of war as well as the joys of his carefree Australian childhood.

In our last issue, Roland described the pleasures of being a child in 1930s rural Mooroolbark – milking cows, chopping firewood, and enjoying his grandmother's country cooking. Roland, his mother and siblings had recently arrived in Australia from Singapore, for a temporary stay while his ship captain father was at sea. Life in country Mooroolbark was very different from their life overseas, where they had enjoyed an exciting existence which included glamorous parties, exotic pets and attentive servants. Roland loved the relaxed lifestyle and the joys of roaming the Australian countryside. But just when Roland and his brother were enjoying the freedom of a life unhampered by too many rules, their Maman informed them it was time for them to start their Australian schooling...



The barbarian days were over. Brother George had gone to several schools in Malaya, or had home tutors which we shared. So, much against my will, and muttering Malay, Chinese and French obscenities, which I dared not quote in the presence of my mother, I was walked the four miles to the little wooden school at Mooroolbark. There, Maman and Grandma introduced me to a swarthy, solidly built man of about thirty, a Mr Bailey who, the moment my folks departed, went to his desk, produced a large strap, and said ominously, 'This is for bad boys.' I had never been strapped, or, for that matter, beaten. I was nonplussed by this menacing statement, and in my innocence really did not know

why Mr Bailey would give straps away to bad boys, or what they were supposed to do with them once they had them. I was not to remain in ignorance. Here, too, I was exposed for the first time to the cruelty of children and the prejudice of parents.

My mother was a snob but never imposed it on me. My father was an egalitarian who subscribed to the philosophies of Plato, Cicero, Anatole France and other idealists. Thus my brother and I encroached on the formerly placid life of that worthy dispenser of knowledge, to whom the stolid citizens of Mooroolbark rightly accorded the respect due to his position in the tiny community. My brother, two years older, was blind as a bat and wore thick glasses, the lenses of which were more suitable for plugging ships' portholes. He was studious and more erudite than I. He was filled, as was I, with masses of delightful, useless information on the most obscure subjects imaginable. I was avid to learn, but this curiosity was temporarily halted by the attacks of scorn which I repeatedly drew upon myself through my ignorance. To me, frogs were useful creatures, some species of which were superbly edible, particularly when prepared by our cook under the direction of my French grandmother. At Mooroolbark, I displayed my abysmal ignorance, to both Mr Bailey and the boys, in not knowing that the triangular-shaped horn inside a horse's hoof was called a 'frog'. My discomfiture and the school's scorn increased when I innocently asked whether it was good to eat. My brother, with the infinite wisdom of his additional two years, and as ignorant as I about frogs located in horses' hooves, went through the motions of not owning me.

My ignorance of Australian country life was matched only by my interest in what was around me. Within six months, I was thoroughly converted into a typical ragamuffin, had punched my way into gang acceptance, swum naked in every swimming hole and creek within wagging distance of school, and learnt to line my trouser seat with school papers to lessen the onslaught of Mr Bailey's constantly swinging strap. I had shot up and filled out sideways as a result of gourmandising Grandma's hot buttered scones, eggs and bacon, not to mention massive fried steaks, lamb chops and superb sausages, the taste of which were a gourmet's dream now unknown in Australia.

All too soon I was rescued from the delightful prospect of growing into an Australian larrikin. My mother breathed a sigh of relief, my aunt prayed her gratitude to God, and Grandma wept as we prepared



Roland Griffiths-Marsh with his medals, including the Military Medal, in 2009

to return to Singapore. It was a blustery day when we left Port Melbourne, the ship rolled heavily as we thrashed our way out of the Heads. Prior to departure, while clutching Grandma's hand, I had told my Aunt Kath that I could not return to Australia quickly enough. She positively blanched at the prospect.



The family's return to their overseas home did not go as expected. The worldwide depression had hit the shipping world hard, leaving Roland's father longer at home between voyages, and the family without the financial security they had previously enjoyed. Roland was a little too young to fully understand, but he was aware that his world was changing...



The worldwide crisis of the depression years was now paramount. Father and Mother debated whether to go to Haiphong to the maternal home, or back to Mooroolbark where Papa had purchased sixty acres of land in Hull Road, near Montrose. The spectre of Father's unemployment, and the shame of confirming my French grandmother's dire predictions concerning the marriage, swung the decision towards our return to Australia. Father remained behind, and the rest of us, representing the advance guard, returned to our little rented lavender home next to my grandmère Anglaise.

¹ Re-released in 1995 as *I Was Only Sixteen*.



CHILDHOOD

To my great joy, my French grandmother joined us in Malaya for the journey to Australia. No boy could have been happier than I, with two grandmothers to stoke me up with their specialities, and to dote on me. Unknown to my family, the depression and other calamities had struck my mother's parents. Her step-father had died of a tropical illness, while grandmère Francaise had tried to struggle along on her widow's mite (the French colonial pay and amenities were, at the best of times, minuscule). At the invitation of my parents, and because my mother was pregnant again, she had simply thrown covers over the furniture, sealed up the grand old house left in the care of a family friend, Madame Tessier, and joined her daughter. Thus we descended on Mooroolbark, to the dismay of my aunt, the joy of Grandma, tempered somewhat by the thought that she would

have to compete with another grandmother, and the vexation of poor Mr Bailey.

Would that I could have savoured to the full this heavenly vista of grandmothers, Australian food, fisticuffs, swimming in water-holes, wagging school and sometimes bird-nesting. Malignant fate, however, had not lost sight of us. The unhealthy colonial life, grief over her husband, and the stress of being a stranger in a strange land were a lethal conspiracy. Grandmère suffered several successive heart attacks, and as we watched her decline, I prayed as I had never prayed before. I was christened a Catholic, and had acquired some of its fervour from Maman—at least when I wanted God and the Virgin Mary to help me out of my escapades. I prayed lustily and fervently. I even promised to do penance for my monstrous schoolboy sins by forgoing frilly pancakes for the rest of my life, but

this momentous sacrifice was unacceptable. Grandmère was buried on a hillside in the Lillydale cemetery. She had managed to delay her departure long enough to see the new granddaughter, who was born in the little cottage and named Raymonde.

We were all devastated by Grandmère's death, and only the joy of a new sister and the additional, but necessary, care required for a new baby kept our minds and thoughts partly distracted. It was a long time before our sadness began to diminish. Various events in rapid succession affected our lives. Papa was eventually beached. He, like many other skippers, had to put his ship in mothballs and disband the crew. He shipped out of the East with his sextant and inscribed telescope which had been presented to him for rescuing a ship's crew sunk in a typhoon, and then joined us in Australia.



Roland at around the time of his enlistment in the Australian Army at age sixteen



This photo of Roland was taken not long after his 22nd birthday – shortly before he parachuted behind enemy lines in Borneo.

Next issue: Roland 'helps' a local carpenter with the construction of the family home, with mixed results. He continues to learn from experience what it means to be an Australian boy, both in good times and hardship.

HELPING MOOROOLBARK GROW

Many of the volunteers at this year's tree planting day wouldn't even have been born when the annual event first began in Mooroolbark. Now in its eleventh year, the activity brought together over 12 different community groups, schools and churches at the David Hedwig Reserve on Sunday 27 July.

In uncharacteristically pleasant weather, the 120 volunteers helped to plant 1500 trees and shrubs. As in previous years, these were supplied and set out by the Yarra Ranges Council.

The day was notable for the record number of volunteers, and the high percentage of young people involved. Three local scouts groups from Mooroolbark, Mount Evelyn and Montrose were there to give a hand. The Mooroolbark Guides were also present, as well as students from Billanook and Bimbadeen Heights primary schools. One long-term participant commented on how wonderful it was to witness the high level of youth involvement.

The Mooroolbark Lions, Mooroolbark Umbrella Group and Transition Towns were some of the community groups present, and church members from St Peter Julian, St Francis in the Fields, and Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship also joined in the planting.

The event was attended by David Hodggett MP, member for Kilsyth, and Tony Smith MP, federal member for Casey.

The day concluded with the traditional post-planting afternoon tea, celebrating the community efforts and spirit of the day.

Carissa Warren



Logan gives it his full attention



Lily contributes to the project



A large number of the volunteers were children and teenagers

GETTING READY FOR THE NEXT FESTIVAL ...

Celebrate Mooroolbark 2015 – Saturday 21 March

It still amazes me that after many successful festivals, I still meet people who have never experienced Celebrate Mooroolbark. But the number is declining. Were you part of the 10,000 who showed up for our Mad Hatter's Tea Party last March? Well, the good news is that we are already planning our next festival for 2015.

Celebrate Mooroolbark aims to gather the people of Mooroolbark and surrounding suburbs together for a day of fun and family entertainment. It is an opportunity to showcase the local organisations and businesses and to promote the community and ourselves. Each year, more groups have come on board and we are pleased to say that as the festival grows, we have more opportunities for volunteer groups to supply food on the day. If you are part of a group, why not consider how you can use the festival to gain more recruits or to gain more exposure on the local scene. If you are short of ideas, talk to us and we can show you ways to get involved.

The guiding principle of the festival is to provide a low-cost day out for families – we seek to minimise the costs through sponsorship, and we encourage groups to put on free or low-cost activities for children and families. Support has come from our local businesses and organisations, with both cash and 'in kind' sponsorship. I would love to mention them all, but there are around 150 which help make the day happen. All that I can say, on behalf of the community, is thank you.

Our theme for the 2015 festival is 'My Favourite Storybook'. As usual, there will be a number of competitions in the months leading up to the festival. We will launch the festival in October with a Saturday street BBQ outside Video Ezy. Then the festival will begin with a celebration of the talents of our community with a talent quest on the Friday night (20 March).

We are looking for people and groups to get involved, both on the day and in the organisation of the festival. Contact us on celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com or 0490 499 320, or follow us on Facebook.

Andrew Lang
Chair – Celebrate Mooroolbark Inc



A WINNING TEAM

The Willis family of Mooroolbark is making a strong mark on the junior athletics scene, both locally and nationally. Fourteen year old Lateisha is celebrating her recent success at the Australian Junior Championships in Sydney, where she took out the gold medal in the 90m hurdles and silver in the 200m hurdles. This was in addition to taking gold and silver in three different state championships in one year (Little Athletics/ junior athletics and Schools Championships). In the process she has broken 12 records in hurdles and sprint events.

Lateisha's ultimate goal is to follow in the footsteps of her hero, Olympic hurdler and gold medallist Sally Pearson. With her coaches expressing confidence that she is already sufficiently talented to participate in the world juniors events, it would seem that she is well on her way toward that goal.

Recently, Lateisha was thrilled to receive an invitation to attend the annual juniors camp at the National Institute of Sport – an honour extended to the best 10 girls in national events. Unfortunately, circumstances did not allow her to take up the invitation at that time, but she hopes to have the opportunity again.

Lateisha attends Mooroolbark College and is a member of the Yarra Ranges Athletics Club. She currently trains at Ringwood where she is under the guidance

of specialist hurdles coach, Peter Bennifer. Lateisha's training regime includes gym work, hurdles technique and practice sessions, physical conditioning and pyometrics (special exercises designed to develop speed and power).

Lateisha's younger siblings attend Ruskin Park primary school and are also members of Yarra Ranges Athletics Club. 11-year-old Tayleb has already had significant success in athletics, including breaking the club record for the 100m sprint last season. He recently gained a medal at the state level of the Schools Championships and was automatically nominated as one of four to participate in the National Schools Championships. Tayleb's special events are sprints and triple jump. He also loves playing football and enjoys the challenge of cross-country races.

Seven-year-old Tiara has also experienced considerable success in her age events. In the last two years she has broken the club records in the under 6 long jump and the 200m sprint and, more recently, the under 7 long jump and 300m sprint. Her coaches agree she shows great future promise. She is also a keen swimmer and likes to enter cross-country events



The Willis Team: Tiara, Lateisha with baby Harlem, and Tayleb

as well.

Mum Christine is 'on the go' most days of the week – meeting the training commitments of her three older children while caring for baby Harlem. The coaches, she laughs, say they already have their eyes on Harlem, but at nine months of age he has a way to go yet.

We congratulate Christine on her dedication to ensuring that her children receive every opportunity to succeed in their sporting endeavours, and we wish each of them much success in the years ahead.

For enquiries about Yarra Ranges Athletics Club, please contact Club President Darren Ford on 0432 911 129 or at ddf@virginbroadband.co.au

Doug Lewis



Billanook College

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THAILAND

The opportunity to play and interact with a herd of elephants is something that many Australians will never have the chance to experience. But for a group of students and teachers from Billanook College, that's what awaits them as part of an upcoming overseas cultural experience. As part of the college's annual Thai Service Project, a small

group from Billanook will travel to Thailand in November to experience the country's culture, participate in service projects, and even visit an elephant sanctuary.

Billanook College believes in the importance of educating students beyond just academic success. To this aim, the school belongs to Round Square, an international charitable association of schools which participate in local and international community service projects.

Schools in the Round Square network promote six learning ideals, known as pillars: Internationalism, Democracy, Environment, Adventure, Leadership, Service.

These six pillars underpin Billanook's Thai Service Project, which began ten years ago. Georgie Bennett, Billanook College's public relations manager, explains the pillar of internationalism: "It's an awareness of the world outside of where we live, and also an understanding of other cultures – being accepting of different religions and nationalities. Our kids get a really good grounding in the fact that the Australian way of life is not the only way of life."

Students on the tour pay for their own expenses, and throughout the year they organise activities to raise money to pay for construction materials for their building projects.

Upon arriving in Thailand, the group of about 15 students and three teachers will embark on a cultural tour, which helps students to understand the Thai nation and its people, as well as the age-old traditions the Thai people are seeking to preserve. One of the most popular activities is a visit

to an elephant sanctuary, where students can bathe and play with the rescued elephants.

The group will then travel to north-eastern Thailand, where they will stay in Mae Hong Son and travel each day to Ban Huai Pong On primary school, about 30 minutes away. The school is used by about 50 village children from the Red Karen hill tribe. The villagers rely on farming and agriculture for their livelihood, and the average income is very low. Billanook students will assist the school by undertaking projects such as building a toilet block, creating a playground, and making repairs.

Over the years Billanook College students have completed many projects to improve rural village schools, including building retaining walls, water catchment areas and a shower block. The work is physically demanding and the students learn valuable labouring skills.

For teachers and parents, seeing the difference in the teenagers when they return home is rewarding. The students have fun, but they also mature. "It's really exciting for them," Georgie said. "They have the opportunity to give back and they are able to reflect on what positive changes they can make in the world."

For Billanook College, that's what it's all about – upholding Round Square's aim for students to 'make a strong commitment, beyond academic excellence, to personal development and responsibility.'

For more information on Round Square and Billanook College's Thailand Service Project, visit www.billanook.vic.edu.au

Janet Van Dijk



One of the trip highlights is spending time with rescued elephants



Students Rachel and Kate working on one of the building projects



A Place for Everyone

19 Paul Street, Croydon

If you're looking for somewhere new to have coffee, then GiGi's might just be the place for you! Gayle Lemmens (known as GiGi to her two grandchildren) opened GiGi's Place in May after realising that there was a need for a family-friendly café in the area. Located just a stone's throw from the Five Ways roundabout, the café caters to everyone, but particularly wants those with children to enjoy the experience of eating out.

The café is bright and colourful, and whimsically decorated with mismatched pastel furniture. An inviting window seat is piled high with elegant throw cushions, and there is a play corner filled with toys. Vintage-style signs and boxes, vibrantly coloured knitted toys, and home-baked goods at the front counter add to the impression that you might be at grandma's place.

Gayle's vision was to create a setting that was fun for children, but enjoyable for the adults also. "Bistros are about the parents; play centres are about the children – this is about family having somewhere to go and eat together," she said.

After Gayle found a suitable location for her dream, getting the café ready was a family affair. There was a lot of scrubbing, clearing, and painting to be done. Gayle was helped by close friends and her family – son Ross and his wife Samantha (who designed the logo), and daughter Jade and her husband Wayne. The comfortable style of the café slowly emerged when the tables and chairs were painted different pastel shades and interesting items were added to the décor. The idea of mismatched furniture, Gayle said, was to make customers feel at home.

The menu was also designed to offer comfortable, home-style food. Jade, who works for the Heart Foundation and has a degree in health science, assists her mother at the café on Saturdays and is also committed to helping her mum keep the food wholesome, with as few preservatives as possible. Items such as sausage rolls, pasties and soups are made by Gayle in the café kitchen, and many other goods are sourced from local suppliers. For those who have food intolerances,



Gayle relaxes after a busy morning at the café



Jade helps at GiGi's Place on the weekend



Crafts for sale add colour and interest to the décor

there is a delicious range of suitable snacks and breads.

To support others in the community, Gayle also displays items such as photography, pottery, hand-made cards, and other crafts by local artists. Jade said, "We love the idea of being able to support somebody who wouldn't have the opportunity to have their own shop or even a stall at a market." There is also a range of dog treats, handmade by three year olds from nearby Swinburne Children's Centre. The treats are prettily packaged, and all proceeds go to animal aid.

Gayle has ideas to improve the café further. There is a garden area behind the café that will be made ready for outdoor eating before summer arrives. Gayle envisions a grassy lawn, shade sails, and places for parents to sit and enjoy a coffee while their children play.

And that's just what she wants to see at GiGi's Place... the children happily occupied while the adults enjoy a break from their routine!

GiGi's place is open weekdays until 4 pm and on Saturday until 1:30 pm, and serves all-day breakfast, lunch, or just coffee and cake. More details are available on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/gigisplacecafe. Throughout September, readers who mention this article will be eligible for a buy-one-get-one-free coffee.

Janet Van Dijk



An Innovative Approach to Customer Service

Australia Wide I.T. Shop 32, The Terrace Shopping Centre

Adam Goudge is a director of the innovative information technology company Australia Wide I.T., which has its local office in the Mooroolbark Terrace shopping centre.

Australia Wide I.T. aims to give the local and Australian community value for money. The company's expertise is in repairing, maintaining and supporting Windows computers and networks. While the default position of many in the industry is 'if we can't fix it there's no charge', Australia Wide I.T.'s position is (with a world-first slogan) 'If we can't fix it, we'll pay you!' That

means that if the company can't find a solution to a client's problem, it will not only waive the fee but will give the client \$500. The company's website, www.australiawideit.com.au, outlines how the guarantee works.

The six experienced staff at Mooroolbark are Adam, technical services manager Bill, field technicians Glen and Nash, and administrators Rebecca and Samantha. Australia Wide I.T. prides itself on being a one-stop shop for business computing support needs, and on its ability to offer support and repair right through to major project planning and equipment sales.

Australia Wide I.T. was started nine years ago. Although Adam is an expert on computers, at the time he didn't know much about running a business. A business coach was brought on board to help transform the company into a high-quality national brand. Adam realised that the technical work of a business, and a business that does that technical work, are two totally different things! The company is now offering franchises all over Victoria to establish, operate and sell Australia Wide I.T.'s goods and services.

Adam has a wide variety of interests, and he is very passionate about them: four-wheel-drive travelling and exploring, camping with his three

children (two daughters and a son), and amateur photography. Because of the travelling, he has a special interest in landscape photography, and some of his photographs have been published.

Adam is also the vice president of Victims of Crime Assistance League (VOCAL) Victoria and unfortunately, like many VOCAL members, he has a tragic reason to support the group. Three years ago, Adam's mother was murdered at her home in Wantima South. The help and support Adam received from VOCAL was so meaningful to him that he decided to join the organisation and give help to others. Supporting VOCAL is Adam's way of giving back to those in the community who may need it, just as Adam and his family were supported in their grief.

VOCAL will soon be organising a series of fundraising projects in support of creating a respite house for families and surviving victims of serious crime. The goal is to raise \$2 million... so if you come across any of the fundraising activities, please help if you can.

For the VOCAL fundraising to be successful, the group needs to ensure that its cause is highly visible. Adam's approach when it comes to information technology is different – his motto is "Good IT is invisible... it just works!"

Barry Austin



MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY



Janet Van Dijk



At the March clothes swap, Karen found several items to freshen up her wardrobe



Clothes of many styles, colours and sizes will be available

Women and teenage girls looking to update their wardrobes for the cost of a gold coin will be in luck in October, when Mooroolbark's third community clothes swap will take place.

The swap will be held at the Mooroolbark Soccer Club and run as a community service by sisters Veronica Kennedy and Mattena Stephenson, on the premise that 'one man's [or woman's] trash is another man's treasure.' Many of us have clothes in our wardrobes that we no longer wear which are still in very good condition and might be someone else's new favourite outfit. "We all have way too many clothes, or clothes we no longer wear," said Mattena, "so why keep them?"

Veronica and Mattena had attended a clothes swap in Montrose last year and enjoyed the chance to update their wardrobes. They loved the idea of the swap so much that they decided to run a similar one for the Mooroolbark community. With the support of some friends, the sisters organised the first clothes

swap and have now held two swaps: the first in October 2013, and the second in March this year. The plan is for the event to be held twice-yearly, with the next swap being held from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on 11 October.

Those who would like to be advised of the dates of upcoming swap meets can email clotheswap@yahoo.com.au to be placed on the mailing list.

The premise of the swap is simple: a \$2 per person entry fee is charged (to go toward expenses associated with running of the swap) and each participant can bring clothes, shoes and accessories to trade. Each item is exchanged for a token, which may then be traded for an item of clothing on the racks. Those who have no clothing to swap can participate by purchasing clothes for \$2 per item. All items must be freshly laundered and free from faults and pilling, and certain items (such as underwear, polar fleece and track pants) are excluded.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided so that women can relax with a cuppa while having a chat or waiting to see what new items have been brought in. The coffee corner is also a comfortable sitting area for husbands or dads accompanying the shoppers.

At the end of each event, Veronica and Mattena sort the remaining clothes – keeping the best quality items so that the first arrivals at the next swap will have plenty to choose from. Clothes not kept for the next swap are donated to charity.

After a tiring day at the last swap, Veronica was pleased with the success of the event. "It is lovely to see mums and their girls come and shop together," she said. "There is nothing nicer than seeing people leave happy, with smiles on their faces."

It's not long until the October clothes swap – so start planning now to renew your wardrobe for the cost of loose change!

A Wealth of Learning at Kilsyth Primary School



Recently appointed principal at Kilsyth Primary School, Mr Daniel Gooding, brings to his position a rich background of experience in both primary and secondary school education. In past years he has enjoyed working in a number of local secondary colleges and in particular liked his time involved in coaching other teachers, which he describes as both personally very rewarding and a highly effective form of professional development.

In recent years Daniel has worked with both primary and secondary schools in a number of innovative programs, including developing the best use of technology in schools and promoting greater intercultural understanding and learning programs. His experience in both primary and secondary schools led him to the personal conviction that the primary level is where he finds his greatest job satisfaction – due mainly to the focus being on the 'whole child' rather than on a particular subject area.

Daniel is very excited by the opportunity he now has to be closely involved in helping to provide students at Kilsyth with the most promising learning environment. "My passion is to provide the best possible learning opportunities for each and every individual at our school," he said, "and to do this through recognising that we are living in a technologically rich, connected and increasingly globalised world. I am focused on using a wide variety of technologies, in innovative ways, to enable our students to 'Create, Collaborate, Contribute and Connect' with their local community and the world around them."

A high level of parental and community involvement is already a significant feature of Kilsyth primary school. Daniel commented, "It is a big priority for me, and for the school as a whole, to continue to expand and grow this strong sense of connectedness and community."



Kilsyth Primary's new playgroup gives preschoolers the opportunity to enjoy creative activities such as painting

One of the first new developments in this area is the Kilsyth Primary School playgroup, established in May of this year and open to children from birth to three and a half years. Sessions of 90 minutes are run each Wednesday morning and incorporate story-time, games, outdoor play, painting and other activities. Daniel said, "This program provides a fantastic opportunity for preschool children and their parents alike to enjoy fun and learning in a very social setting."

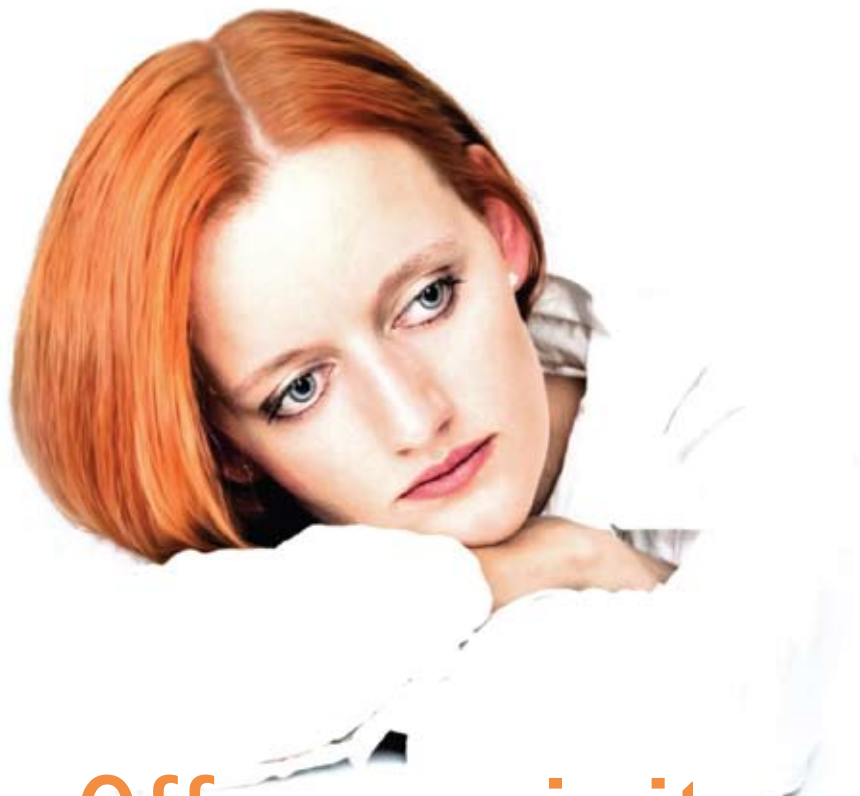


Principal Daniel Gooding is passionate about providing the best learning opportunities for all students

Daniel and his wife, Simone, live in Ringwood East with their four children. Simone is a very busy mum, balancing family life with running her own business, which markets her personally designed soft toy patterns worldwide.

We wish Mr Gooding the very best in his leadership role at Kilsyth Primary School and look forward to hearing of many good things to come.

Doug Lewis



Taking Offence... is it worth it?

Why do we get offended? Why do the littlest things seem to cause such deep offence in many people's lives?

When someone says or does something that is contrary to our feelings or beliefs, we often 'get bent out of shape' for the day or week... or perhaps the rest of our lives! If we get too angry, we may exhibit violent and dangerous attitudes, and these often result in actions that simply can't be undone!

If we feel we're the centre of the universe, then of course everything will affect us. It's as if we're looking for reasons to be offended – because the fact is, very few people will agree with us all the time. Frankly, who wants to live like that?

No-one is the centre of anything. We all exist in some kind of community or family structure – if we didn't, there wouldn't be much chance of being offended. But we're all part of a collective where the 'many' contribute in ways that make our society stimulating and mature... no one person is responsible for this; we all are.

I'm not talking about the very deep issues that do polarise people, even whole nations, and cause them to want to hurt those who don't see things their way. I'm referring to the everyday sights, words and expressions that we see and hear, which can cause us to recoil in shock or feel like giving an abusive or rude response.

To some degree each of us thinks we've got a monopoly on truth and the correct view of everything. Yes, others may be wrong – they may be very wrong – but we have an opportunity to be the bigger person and be tolerant, even respectful of others' right to voice an opinion. When we look more deeply

at the reasons behind another person's words or actions, we often find their motives to be quite different from the ones we inferred. Without trying to understand the other person's viewpoint, we might take offence for the wrong reason... that's not too smart, is it?

Look for the value in others

We might think some people's humour is quite warped – when compared to ours, that is! We could say the same for other people's logic, emotions and so on. We all need to be tolerant of the differences between us; not taking them personally and not thinking less of those who are different from us.

A better way

What if, instead, we consider every person as someone who has something to offer? We will always find things to disagree about, but that is the 'glass-half-empty' approach. Look for what might advance the relationship. Don't dwell on the things that annoy, aggravate or promote separation. A healthy relationship is of benefit to those involved, while a stressful relationship is emotionally draining and a cause for anxiety and ongoing difficulty.

Value harmony more than being right

We're all wrong some of the time, and right some of the time. Let's not get too stressed about the ratio. Rather, consider what we can learn from those we meet. We can gain value and understanding from other people's perspectives on various matters – even if they are wrong!

Listen

Here's a tough one... we could all listen more. When we're getting our next comment or retort organised, we aren't listening very well – if at all. By taking a little extra time to respectfully listen, we will gain a deeper understanding of the other person's point of view, and perhaps the reasons behind it. We will also avoid rushing in with a half-baked response which will only make matters worse. And when we listen better, we invite others to do the same to us. The less agitated the conversation, the more carefully constructed the point of view and the lower the chance of causing offence.

We've previously noted the true value of self-worth. It's a significant key to avoiding the default response of being offended. We shouldn't develop our sense of value from others – that's the self-esteem merry-go-round, and we'd do well to get off that ride! Successful people with healthy self-worth have an ability to stand tall. They focus intently on their objective, inspiring others with their drive and passion, and they often persevere no matter what obstacles they encounter. It's hard to imagine people like that being offended by trivial issues that sap valuable time and energy!

Our ability to positively influence others can be compromised if we show ourselves to be easily offended – we may be thought of as prickly, sensitive and 'high-maintenance'. People like that are usually avoided, rather than being admired and sought out for their opinions or advice.

Be polite

Polite people naturally invite others to be thoughtful and considerate too, reducing the risk of introducing conflict in any circumstance or relationship. There's an old saying, 'a kind word turns away wrath'. It could make all the difference if we count to ten and respond with

wisdom and thoughtfulness instead of the other more ready offering we might have up our sleeves.

The alternatives

Can we really keep track of who did what to us? What else could we devote that physical and emotional energy and brainwidth

to? Then there's the fear of retribution for what we might have done to others... looking over our shoulder all the time is a stress better avoided!

Can we really keep track of who did what to us? What else could we devote that physical and emotional energy to?

How do we get rid of supposed enemies? Turn them into friends. When we communicate with sincerity and respect, with honesty and empathy, we will invite a deeper relationship to form and mature. Sure, we may still be at odds over some things, but that is secondary to the real purpose of getting to know each other. We can then appreciate one another for who we are, and for what we have experienced that is at the core of our beliefs and viewpoints. Everyone has reasons for holding certain beliefs dear. Exploring those ideas may lead to a whole world of possibilities. Most of us are willing to consider changing our deeply held views if challenged and shown another, perhaps better, way through delicate dialogue – as opposed to the shouting match or hurt feelings that can take over when someone is offended.

Australia has laws which can lead to penalties for those who offend others with their opinions on matters such as race, religion, gender, and age. These laws are intended to help us recognise the inherent value of each person, regardless of background, circumstances, or beliefs. While there is a place for these laws, we also need to consider our own responsibility in contributing to a change in the community... both in being careful of the feelings of others, and in being slow to take offence. Wanting to change (not just because it is against the law) will result in a genuine difference in our lives.

When we respond rationally and sensibly to conflict or discomfort we increase our opportunities to:

- learn and grow. Life is all about growth – not staying the same regardless of what we encounter; and
- resolve conflict. A problem halved or shared is often a problem solved. Even if the problem remains, tackling it together can only be a good thing.

Realistically, revenge doesn't help. Carrying around our hurt or intending to 'get even' one day is not healthy to – you

guessed it – YOU!

Let's all resolve to consider what triggers our reactions to others and consider a response instead. A thoughtful, respectful, polite and engaging response might just turn a foe into a friend!



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Speaking of Life

TENSION AND STRESS

by Joseph Tkach, president of Grace Communion International

I think I am reasonably mechanically minded. I can usually figure out how to use the various devices and gadgets that seem to be so much a part of life today.

But there is one machine that defeats me. I have no idea how it works or how to use it: my wife's sewing machine.

The last time I watched her using it I had to ask what one of the controls was for. She said "That is the tension release button". I thought, "I could do with one of those. If only I had a tension release button!"

In one sense I do. When everything is getting to me, which

it does more often than I care to admit, I try to find a quiet moment. Sometimes I need to create it in my mind. At other times I find a place away from the immediate hustle and bustle, and I pray. I pray that God would give me some peace and help me face whatever the issue is, without feeling so stressed. In that way, for a brief period of time, I rest in God, and it relaxes me. The problem might not go away, but the tension is released.

When we take our burdensome problems to God,



He helps us feel less stressed. He invites those who are weary and heavy burdened to come to Him, and He will give them rest.

The next time you're feeling overwhelmed or stretched too thin, take a moment and turn to Christ. Reach out in prayer – and let Him take the tension away.

National Day of Thanksgiving

Doug Lewis

On Saturday 31 May, 180 people gathered for the ninth annual Shire of Yarra Ranges National Day of Thanksgiving Mayoral Breakfast, held at the Foothills Conference Centre in Mooroolbark.

In her welcoming remarks, Mayor Fiona McAllister introduced the theme of this year's breakfast – 'Laying Down our Lives'. She said, "We depend so much on the many people who work in our service organisations, and in our educational and health sectors – and we also depend very much on the thousands of volunteers who serve us in so many ways. Our theme for today is exemplified in the lives of each of the eight people we will honour this morning and the many they represent. Their lives are a challenge to us all as their selfless actions enrich our lives. It is good to take this time to thank them for their contributions to our community life."

Master of Ceremonies Randall Bouchier told the stories of the eight members of our local community who received recognition as representatives of the thousands who serve us in so many ways.

Those receiving recognition on the day were Keith Thomas, Roger Boness, Len Cox, Matt Henry, Dorothy Barbour, Florence Flood, Jan Simmons and Denise Garratt.

Adrian Hyland – celebrated author, university lecturer and CFA volunteer – was the guest speaker. Adrian's award-winning book, *Kinglake-350*, has been described as a masterpiece of storytelling in which he graphically describes the most devastating fire in our nation's history – the events of Black Saturday, February 7th, 2009.

Adrian's contribution at the 2014 Thanksgiving Breakfast was greatly appreciated by those in attendance. In his address, Adrian shared some of his personal life-changing experiences on that fateful day and paid tribute to so many whose brave and sacrificial deeds will not be forgotten.

As Adrian notes in his book, "Thousands of people were involved in the Black Saturday disaster: hundreds of heroic deeds were performed. In focusing on the actions of a handful of individuals, I have attempted to produce an account of the day that will stand as a tribute to them all."



Award-winning author Adrian Hyland



The Oxley College vocal ensemble presents 'Bridge over Troubled Water'

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT



The entire Muppets gang goes on a global tour, selling out grand theatres in some of Europe's most exciting destinations. But mayhem follows the Muppets overseas, as they find themselves unwittingly entangled in an international crime caper headed by Constantine – the World's Number One Criminal and a dead ringer for Kermit – and his dastardly sidekick Dominic.

All Welcome

Mooroolbark Community Centre

Wednesday 1 October 2014

113 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 17 September

*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.

A New Home for Mooroolbark Salvos

Doug Lewis

Mid October 2014 is the anticipated time for the official opening of the new Salvation Army church and facilities building in Fletcher Road Chirnside Park. The specific date for the opening ceremony will be announced soon.

This is an exciting and long-awaited moment for the members of the local church and their leaders, Majors Stephen and Christine Black and Captain Deborah Lipari. The Mooroolbark members have planned and worked hard for many years to be in the financial position to take this significant step, and look forward to their opening day and all that follows.

Long-time local residents will remember that the previous Mooroolbark 'Salvos' church building was situated in Manchester Road, on the corner of Kalimna Street. In 1995, the then-serving church leader Major Brian Pratt, along with the local members, determined that they had outgrown their existing facilities and needed to work towards developing a new home for their growing church and community work. With this in mind, the Manchester Road building was sold and the proceeds invested in the building block in Fletcher Road.

With the church building sold, there was the need for a temporary church home. The church was able to rent classrooms in the Reay Road campus of the local secondary college (now Yarra Hills Secondary College) for its weekly services. Looking back on that move, the members see their connection and involvement with the school as a very positive step in drawing the church closer to the heart of the community. At the same time they opened their business premises in Manchester Road, adjacent to the shops. This was



subsequently moved to the current premises in Brice Avenue.

In 2011, commencement of building works at the Reay Road school site meant that the group would once again have to find a new home for their weekly services. Church leaders at that time, Majors Peter and Margaret Collins, were very thankful when Life Ministry Church offered the Salvos the use of their newly completed Bradley Performing Arts Centre at Oxley College while the Fletcher Road facility was being built. When Stephen and Christine Black took charge of the church in January 2012, the members were already well settled there for their Sunday services. Stephen said, "The generosity of Graham Nelson and the Life Ministry Church has been a real blessing for our members. We are most grateful for their support."

It is planned that the October official opening and dedication of the facilities will be followed by a thanksgiving service and a community meal for all those participating in the celebration. The building will immediately become home for regular church services, youth programs and administrative services. The various welfare programs the Salvos offer will be relocated in the new building soon afterward.

Commenting on the new facility, Stephen Black said, "We want to be a light on the hill for the community to see – a place where people can enter and feel welcome and quite at home." He added, "The motto of our local church is, 'Where God is changing lives'. We want our church facility to be a life-changing place. Please feel welcome to contact us at any time."

The Mooroolbark community of churches congratulates the local Salvation Army Church on this significant achievement and wishes them well in the transition period and beyond.

From the Salvation Army website:

Our local Salvation Army churches are our grassroots community presence around the country, providing a huge diversity of spiritual, social and recreational activities. If you've got questions about faith, if you want to explore Christianity, or if you'd just like to connect with other people in your community then our churches are places that can help.



Majors Christine and Stephen Black



Artist's impression of the completed building

A Magnificent Career

Staff and students at Billanook College recently bid a reluctant goodbye to one of their longest-serving teachers. On Friday 27 June Deputy Principal Cheryl Mutabazi, after a 28-year career with Billanook, closed that chapter of her life.

Mrs Mutabazi had been a fixture at Billanook College since its early days. The college was established in 1980 in Cardigan Road Mooroolbark, and well before the school had celebrated its first decade, Cheryl had joined the teaching staff. Today, Billanook College is proud of its high staff retention rate and strong family associations. Many of the current staff are past students, and a significant percentage of today's students have parents who also attended the school. Cheryl's own daughters Karinda and Eleya, now young adults, were students at Billanook.

Cheryl has now relocated with her husband Steve to his homeland of Africa. Africa, and in particular Rwanda where they are now living, has been through decades of ethnic strife and instability, and the Mutabazis hope to provide a positive contribution to local communities. According to Billanook College representative Georgina Bennett, Cheryl is excited about the new opportunities ahead of her. "Cheryl is a strong woman who gives back to the community," said Georgie. "She is incredibly passionate about the environment and social justice."

Long before protecting the environment became such a popular cause, Cheryl was committed to the issue. "Cheryl was promoting the environment 28 years ago," said Georgie. "She has been on this for a very long time and has aligned herself with a school that would allow her to foster that in the community as well. I think she is quite a visionary in



Before leaving Billanook for a new life in Rwanda, Cheryl Mutabazi planted a beautiful magnolia tree on campus grounds

some respects and, unfortunately for us, Rwanda's gain is our loss."

At her farewell function on July 18, Cheryl's love of the environment and her commitment to Billanook were honoured in a fitting tribute – she was escorted to an area of the senior school campus, where she planted a beautiful magnolia tree overlooking the college's iconic bridge and creek.

According to one observer, "it was a perfect ending to what has been a magnificent career at the college."

Janet Van Dijk

Major Milestone for St Margaret's

Why would I dedicate an article to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the opening of the original St Margaret's Uniting Church building on September 4, 1954?

You might say: "So what?" You may even believe that churches have little to currently offer our community. "They're outdated, aren't they?"

Let's take a look at several contributions that congregations like St Margaret's contribute to the common good!

Long-term, sustained community benefit

St Margaret's has impacted our community since at least 1926. A paragraph written by Jack Hookey – the head teacher at the school which was on church premises from 1937 to 1947¹ – says, "There were no church buildings as such, but the Presbyterians had commenced Sunday school and church services in the Public Hall in 1926. A weekly rental of one shilling was paid, a figure no doubt negotiated by having influential members of that denomination on the hall committee."

According to Marj Hookey², who is one of two current members who attended the first service in 1954, members of the congregation were not only active in helping establish many of the community groups in Mooroolbark, but have provided meeting space for a diversity of groups. "The senior cits started at St Margaret's and continued to meet here until their current clubrooms were built. The Seventh Day Adventist congregation started at St Margaret's, meeting here on Saturdays for seven years until they constructed their own building."

Marj noted that the hall is still used by many groups including a dance school, Probus, Country Women's Association, the Kilsyth Scottish Country Dance Group, the Maroondah Town Club and the Chin Evangelical Church.

Members of the congregation continue to serve in the community. We see them for instance at Celebrate Mooroolbark, and at the National Day of Thanksgiving Mayoral

Breakfast. The church sponsors a Thursday morning group, Music Together, which offers musical enrichment for babies and preschoolers conducted by a paid musical therapist, and the quarterly Music at St Margaret's contributes to community life.

Church leaders participate in the regularly-meeting local pastor's fraternity – a good-humoured bunch of pastors who enjoy one another's company and sharing together in serving our community.

"One of the things we hosted for a long time was the fire-house bell," said Marj. "The fire brigade had a bell but no belfry, and the church had a belfry but no bell, and the people in the church were mostly the office-bearers in the fire brigade, so it was a mutual arrangement that the bell would hang here. I don't think it ever rang once on behalf of a fire! The CFA claimed it back when they built their new fire station."

There was an interesting occurrence in the tendering process for the building of St Margaret's. Church minutes record: "The secretary reported nine tenders had been received. The lowest tender was a local builder, not long in town, whose price was £4000 – £800 lower than the next lowest tenderer... The lowest tenderer took secretary Ralph Friday and Mr. Russell Blackburn to visit some of his completed projects. One was the remodelling of the Rivoli Theatre in Camberwell. Another house was visited in Nth. Balwyn. There appears to have been some concern shown..."

"They started to get suspicious," said Marj, "and started checking up on him. And they sniffed out that this Mooroolbark builder was perhaps a little careless with the truth. Naturally the tender was awarded to the second-lowest tender!"

From an environmental perspective, the church has been involved in promoting sustainable living – thus the 13kw solar power system on the church roof.

Long-term generosity

Christians believe that God is generous and that generosity should be an attribute of Christians.

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that St Margaret's gives away up to \$50,000 each year. For a congregation with a weekly average attendance of 80-85 people, I wondered where the money came from in addition to people's weekly giving.



Occasionally there will be a special appeal, but the church also holds an annual fund-raising fête, which itself has a colourful history after being started by the ladies guild³ in 1946.

Mooroolbark's world-renowned landscape designer Edna Walling hosted one of the fêtes at her property – Sonning – in Bickleigh Vale.

Marj recalled that Harvey Blanks, who used to write the gardening page in the *Herald*, opened his garden in Cardigan Road, which was on Edna Walling's estate, and the church held a fête there.

Marj remembers another fête, hosted by a family named Vial – "they lived up near the extinct volcano which is part of what is now known as 'The Briars' estate near the corner of Maroondah Highway and Mooroolbark Road."

On another occasion, according to Marj, a church fête was opened by famous Australian portrait painter Sir William Dargie.

Another example of generosity: the land where St Margaret's is now situated was donated by the McIlwraith family, after their farm – a large holding mostly situated on the southern side of Hull Road⁴ – had two acres 'cut off' due to the Hull Road survey.

Advocates for those in need

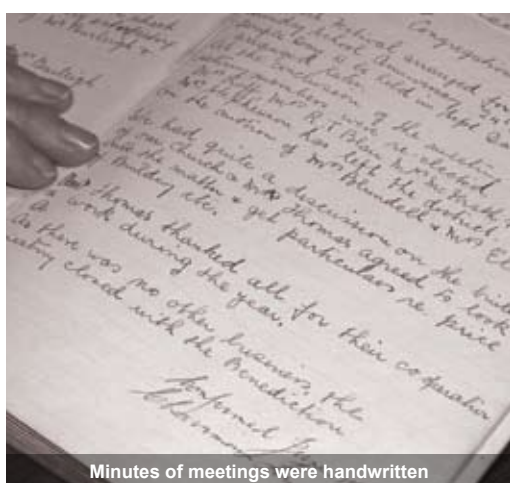
The congregation supports a big project in Uganda which helps to care for orphans and vulnerable children by taking them off the streets and providing them with an education, followed by trade training so that they can go out into the community as people able to

¹ The school started in 1931 in the public hall prior to moving to a one-room school house at the Five-Ways site in 1936. Hookey himself was a member of the Presbyterian Church, which would become part of the Uniting Church of Australia in the late seventies.

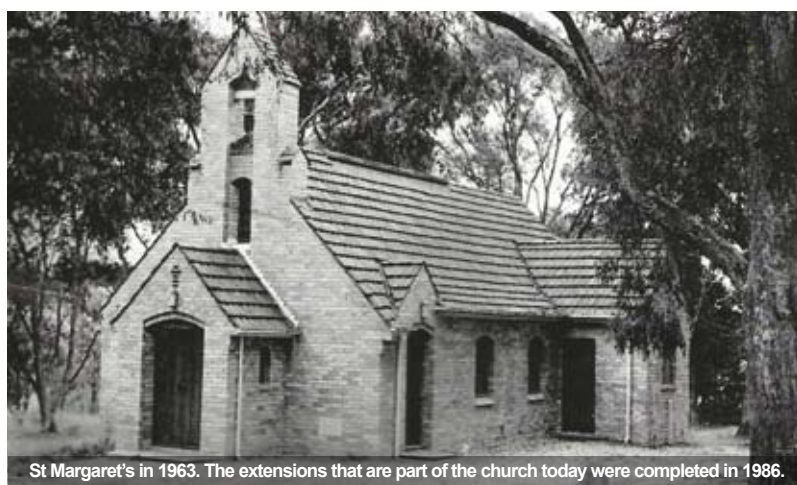
² Marj still plays the organ at St Margaret's, and has been treasurer for over 20 years, an elder since 1979 and for 20 years has edited the church paper, *The Link*.

³ Marj recalls: "The church name, St Margaret's, was chosen because it honours the Ladies Guild without whose efforts we probably would never have had a building. St Margaret was a Scottish Queen who devoted her life to caring for the poor."

⁴ St John's Park, the Anglican church, the SPJ church and school, Yarra Hills Secondary College, Peter James Centre etc are all situated on what was formerly part of the McIlwraith farm.



Minutes of meetings were handwritten



St Margaret's in 1963. The extensions that are part of the church today were completed in 1986.

make their own way, by starting their own businesses.⁵

"A few years ago, we were involved in quite a large project there," said Marg. "They had a grass-thatched hall that was the major building in their complex. They used it for exams and concerts and all sorts of things. After extended rain over a long period, followed by a massive rain storm, the grass roof collapsed. And so they rebuilt it. Thanks to their trade training, they were able to lay the concrete floor, make the bricks and build their walls. When they needed the money to put the roof on, our minister – Rev. Arnie Wierenga – helped through fund-raising runs!⁶ We raised a lot of money for what was previously called Kasubi Hall, which means "grass". As the hall was now a brick hall with a tiled roof, the board asked us in 2013 if they could rename it as St Margaret's Hall."

"This relationship started very simply after Doug Williams met the director over breakfast in a YMCA hostel in Los Angeles. Doug said, 'How can we help?' and the first

things we sent over were balls and skipping ropes, for children on the streets. And over time things developed so that several children have been put through school to university standard. And we've helped with providing water tanks and encouraging sustainable animal husbandry."

"Children were learning needlework. They contracted to produce a school uniform for a Kampala school, and we provided the seeding money that bought the first fabric, that enabled them to make and sell the uniforms."

"Recently, after they received a \$10,000 grant for a vehicle, we were able to contribute another \$3500 for the final payment."

"We also support Uniting Church projects, particularly Share," continued Marj. "They're always into emergency relief, as soon as there's a cyclone or a fire. The Uniting Church part of the emergency plan is usually to put a chaplain in an area to do follow-up work with families, and long-term community support."

"We supported the Wycheproof country parish during the drought, sending over \$50,000 in support. St Margaret's also promotes and uses Tradewinds fair-trade tea

and coffee."

Marj also speaks passionately about the congregation's support for denominational concerns about a fairer tax system and better treatment of asylum seekers. "We are concerned about the asylum situation. There's no doubt that it's been dealt with in an appalling way by both parties, really. Selfish, self-interest and political jockeying has meant that people at risk are not being considered in compassionate and humane ways."

"The days of the 'basic wage' are quite gone. I'm concerned about that, and the way we're leaving people behind. On top of that, governments can reduce benefits given to needy people in preference to raising more revenue from those who can easily afford to help."

Thanks Marj, for spending some time and sharing some of your thoughts and personal history!

We'd like to congratulate the worshipping community at St Margaret's on achieving this significant milestone. May God continue to bless you in the years ahead.

Randall Bouchier



⁵ The project supports the RUBAGA Youth Developments Association (RYDA)

⁶ http://www.mooroolbark.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=489:-minister-runs-from-preaching-responsibilities&catid=1:news&Itemid=13

Hookey Park War Memorial

Unveiling & Dedication Ceremony

Members of the Mooroolbark community are cordially invited to join in a special ceremony to unveil and dedicate the new war memorial at Hookey Park. This event will take place on Sunday 9 November – two days prior to Remembrance Day.

Bring your own picnic blanket or chairs, and join in a community lunch beginning at 12:30 p.m. Mooroolbark Lions will provide a free sausage sizzle or, if you prefer, you can bring your own lunch.

The dedication ceremony will commence at 2:00 p.m. and the three revised plaques will be unveiled, for the

- Anglo-Boer War
- World War I
- World War II – Post World War II

Children are invited to make a poppy to place at the memorial during the ceremony.

The dedication ceremony will be followed by a commemorative concert featuring local singers and musicians and including some community singing of songs from across the decades. The Running Rabbits Military Museum will present a free display on the day.

Come along and join in this significant community event!

Enquiries : Marion (9726 8740) or George (9726 5998)

Marion Scott



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Making Smiles Come to Life

Proudly supporting
Living Today in Mooroolbark

Keeping Up With the Seniors

Mooroolbark Senior Citizens Club - 125A Brice Avenue

Grey hair, walking frames, arthritis, old age, retirement or even 'over the hill.' Is that what springs to mind when you think of a senior citizens' club? It can be all of that, but it can also be New Vogue ballroom dancing, indoor bowls, line dancing, and snooker or billiards – or even exercise classes and trips away. When I spoke to June Simmons, the secretary of the Mooroolbark Senior Citizens Club, I was impressed with the variety of entertainment and activities offered at the club. With around 240 members, the Mooroolbark club is the largest senior citizens club in the Yarra Valley.

The club does more than cater for seniors – some local churches hire out the hall for their needs, such as the Salvation Army's Mainly Music program and the Pentecostal church's Sunday services. The hall is also leased for activities such as drama group and tai chi, as well as for birthdays and other celebrations.

Recently, as part of their involvement in the community, the senior citizens have joined Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship's People's Pantry program, which supplies a meal to those in need every second Friday evening. The seniors provide their hall and its facilities and MCF takes care of everything related to preparing and serving the meals.

The senior citizens club's committee meets every month, and any ideas or problems are discussed and minuted at the meeting. No decision is made by one person only – all outcomes are agreed by the group. The annual general meeting is held in August and the club officers are elected at this time. The club receives a grant from the Yarra Ranges Council each year, which goes toward refurbishments and other necessary expenses. The committee also gives cards or flowers to members who are going through a difficult time, such as an illness or a death in the family, and important birthdays are recognised in a similar fashion. There is also a Christmas party at the end of the year.

Anyone over the age of 60 is welcome to join the Mooroolbark Senior Citizens Club. The joining fee is \$6 a year, plus a fee ranging from 50 cents to \$1 for each of the activities. Potential members are able to have a first visit to the club to see if it suits their needs.

Those interested being involved may contact Club Secretary June Simmons during working hours on 9726 7095, or after hours on 9725 7730.

Barbara Austin



Exercise classes are one of the many activities offered at the senior citizens club



Club Secretary June Simmons at work

**Mooroolbark Community Centre
presents:**

The 39 Steps

Seen by over three million people in more than 60 countries, this side-splitting comedy based on the 1935 Hitchcock spy thriller has been hailed as 'absurdly enjoyable' by the New York Times. Featuring over a hundred characters played by four actors, the show takes the audience on a thrilling ride full of suspense, humour and adventure. Mooroolbark Community Centre will be presenting *The 39 Steps* at the Red Earth Theatre on Tuesday 7 October for a matinee performance.

The production follows handsome hero Richard Hannay as he's taken on a whirlwind journey following a chance meeting with a mysterious woman who reveals a plot to smuggle military secrets out of the country. That night she is found murdered in his apartment. With the police and international spies hot on his heels, Hannay races to solve the mystery. His heart-racing adventures involve death-defying escapes from planes, trains and automobiles with the beautiful blonde bombshell Pamela by his side.

Three's Company Theatre Company Ticket Offer – Three Tickets for \$36

Theatre is more enjoyable when experienced in the company of others, and it is with this in mind that we have developed Three's Company Theatre Company. If you already have a partner in crime for theatre-going, think about that person in your life who might not, and who would get a lot out of sharing the experience – a niece, parent, neighbour, grandparent; even your postman. Book today, and spread the joy of theatre with Three's Company Theatre Company.



Red Earth Theatre - Mooroolbark Community Centre

125 Brice Avenue Mooroolbark

Tuesday 7 October at 2:00 p.m.

TICKETS

\$18 single

THREE'S COMPANY SPECIAL

\$36 for groups of three

For more information or to book tickets, call 1300 368 333, visit us at Mooroolbark Community Centre, or go to www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/ach.

Suzanne Earhart

FIVE WAYS ROUNDABOUT GETS FRESH LOOK

Mooroolbark's gateway intersection has been freshened up with some new plants, mulch, and improved maintenance amenities.

The three-week project included clearing existing vegetation from the three roundabouts at the intersection of Hull, Manchester and Cambridge roads for new planting and mulching. Work also included the installation of a concrete strip around each roundabout. This allows maintenance teams to safely work on the intersection away from passing traffic.

Yarra Ranges Council recently took over the maintenance of the roundabouts from VicRoads to make the gateway to Mooroolbark

more attractive. Council worked with the Mooroolbark Traders and the Mooroolbark Umbrella Group to develop and update the intersection, while also considering written feedback from residents.

The design has been based on a red earth theme with planting and materials consistent with the Brice Ave streetscape.

Native plants including the grevillea and yellow buttons have been planted on the roundabouts. These are flowering ground covers, which ensures motorist visibility will not be restricted.

Nate Leslie



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
Mondays weekly	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
Wed & 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
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
Thursday evenings each week	Marondah TOWN Club: (Take Off Weight Naturally). Weekly, starting at 6:30 p.m. St Margaret's Uniting Church. Hull Road. More information: Marcia 9725 1259.
Wednesdays during term time	Kilsyth Primary School Playgroup: Painting, story time, activities and games for children birth - 3½ years. 9:15 a.m. More info: 9725 4320 or www.kilsythps.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.
Sept, Oct, Nov	Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions: September 2, 10, 23. October 7, 8, 28. November 12, 25. Mooroolbark Community Centre. More info: 1300 368 333.
29 & 30 Sept	Red Cross Blood Bank: Mooroolbark Community Centre. Bookings 13 14 95.
10 October	Wesley Fire Clay - Annual Exhibition of Ceramics and Garden Art: Friday 10 October 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. 101-103 Beresford Road, Lilydale.
11 October	Women's Clothes Swap: Mooroolbark Soccer Club, Esther Cres. 10:00 - 1:00. Entry \$2. Bring items in good condition to swap, or pay \$2 per item. (No underwear, swimwear, track pants, polar fleece).
10, 11, 17 & 18 October	ARK Theatre presents Radio ARKadia: directed by Lucy Morris at Lilydale Heights College PAC. Fri 8 pm, Sat 2 pm & 8 pm. \$20 pp incl. refreshments. Info: www.arktheatremelb.com or email ark_theatre@yahoo.com.au
17 Sept, 15 Oct	Edinburgh College (Preschool-Year 12) Tour: 17 September, 15 October. Enquiries: 9761 9991 (Early Learning Centre), 9728 8833 (Primary) or 9728 2211 (Secondary) or www.edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au
29 September	Yarra Valley Light the Night: from 5 p.m. Twilight walk with lanterns at Lillydale Lake to raise funds for blood cancer research, Leukaemia Foundation. Enquiries: Brian Mier (0418 326 670).
18 October	Mini Fete 9 am - 6 pm. St Francis in the Fields hall, 218 Hull Road Mooroolbark.
6-15 November	Mooroolbark Theatre Group Production: <i>But Why Bump Off Barnaby?</i> by Rick Abbot at Mooroolbark Community Centre. Tickets \$16; and concession \$14. Includes refreshments. Bookings Arline 9726 4282.
9 November	Hookey Park War Memorial - Unveiling & Dedication Ceremony. Lunch 12:30 p.m. Dedication ceremony 2 p.m. followed by commemorative concert (See article - page 14 this issue).
22 November	Christmas Fair: The Catholic community of Mooroolbark, Kilsyth and Montrose's annual Christmas Fair 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at St Peter Julian Eymard School, 32 Reay Road, Mooroolbark. All welcome.
5 December	Community Carols: Friday 5th December. Details TBA.
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	
22 Oct - 15 Nov	Red Earth Gallery Exhibitions: Assemblages & Glass Sculpture by Kerry Shirley & Tim Bassett (opening 23 Oct) MCC 9726 5488.
4 Sept, 2 Oct, 6 Nov	Montrose Movie Club presents Hollywood Classics - Sweet Smell of Success, Cries and Whispers, The Band Wagon 7 p.m. MTC 9761 9133.
10 Sept - 16 Oct	Red Earth Gallery Exhibition: Interludes by Janet Demond (opening 11 Sept) MCC 9726 5488.
22 Sept - 3 Oct	School Holiday Program: Free/low cost activities - art & craft, live performances, movies. MCC & MTC
23 September	School Holiday Performance - Raymond J Bartholomeuz: MTC 11:00 a.m. Book online for \$5 tickets.
1 October	Free family movie: Muppets Most Wanted. 7:30 p.m. MCC. Bookings commence 17 September.
3 October	School Holiday Performance - Alpha Theatre's Hercules: MCC. 11 a.m. Book online or phone.
7 October	Afternoon Performance Series - The 39 Steps: MCC 2 p.m. 3 tickets for \$36, or \$18 each.
7 October	Term 4 Workshops commence: pottery, oil painting, tribal belly dance, Young Artists, Pottery 4 Kids & craft. MCC. Bookings online or MCC 9726 5488 / MTC 9761 9133.
20 October	Mooroolbark Children's Film Festival - The Best Of Local Children's Film Making: featuring films written, directed and edited by children from local primary schools. MCC 9726 5488.
19 Nov - 10 Dec	Red Earth Gallery Exhibitions: Artists in Our Residence (opening 4 Dec). MCC 9726 5488

Our Community Events calendar offers a free service to local clubs and organisations. To include your community event in our calendar please contact Doug Lewis on 9761 1121 or lewisdm@bigpond.net.au Our next issue will be in the first week of December, and calendar entries need to be lodged by the 1st of November.

Proudly supporting Living Today in Mooroolbark.

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LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

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Like to contribute?

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

PDFs of this issue and all past issues of *Living Today* can be accessed at: <http://mcf.gci.org.au/current/livingtoday.html>

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.