

# LIVING TODAY

in Mooroolbark and the Yarra Ranges

NO. 50 MARCH 2015



**Celebrate Mooroolbark—Coming Soon!**

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**11,500 Free Copies Distributed Throughout Mooroolbark & District**

# ROLAND GRIFFITHS-MARSH

## A MOOROOLBARK

In this issue we conclude our serialisation of a chapter of Roland-Griffiths Marsh's book, *I Was Only Sixteen*, in which he vividly portrayed visits to his father's childhood home town

of Mooroolbark. Even as a child, Roland had been aware of the financial difficulties the worldwide depression was bringing to his family – but there was still much to be thankful for.



Though poor, we at least had our home, land and most of our food was homegrown. My father could still afford to buy us boots to wear, but many of my school-chums walked barefoot to school in the depths of winter. Their feet would be blue with cold, and sometimes bleeding from stone cuts. Grandma would knit my brother and me mittens and balaclavas. The wholesome food, constant exercise and rigorous conditions did much to mould me mentally and physically. I was ten or eleven years of age, a fit lad who could run like a hare and sustain a massive energy output for lengthy periods. I hesitate to recount the following for fear that I will be disbelieved, but it is the truth. On one occasion, I

actually ran a rabbit to ground; on another, I found a rabbit hiding in a tussock, and by running around it in rapidly decreasing circles, actually caught it by hand. I was so brimful of energy that I could not stand still. I would run, and I mean run, wherever I was going, unless I was compelled to walk sedately beside my father and mother on Sundays. By this time, I was swinging a four and a half pound plumb-axe beautifully honed, could scarf a tree, lop branches, fell a tree in whatever direction I wanted, could Z-cut down a fallen tree, and tap the bark off into a single unbruised sheet, which was then used to roof the pig shed, or make mias under which our cattle could shelter. I loved the bush, and sometimes just for

the sheer joy, my brother and I would camp out under a mia-mia, make billy tea, cook damper, and live off rabbits we caught in traps. We often did this within cooee of our home.

Father subscribed to the belief that whatever had to be done must be learned thoroughly and properly. So he proceeded to teach me gun lore, gun safety and gun care. He bought me a .22 bolt action repeater and coached me in firing. My hand and eye coordination was such that I could split a playing card edge-on at seventy-five feet, and more often than not brought down rabbits with head shots. This was due to economic necessity; otherwise the skins would not sell, and could not be used for gloves if the body was perforated.

My parents were not particularly enchanted with Mr Bailey, who seemed to be more preoccupied with dispensing discipline through his ever-ready strap, than with enlightening the juvenile heathens who occasionally frequented his school between wagging and working on farms. They decided that my brother and I should sample the allegedly more intellectual atmosphere of the Montrose State School, which was much bigger, staffed by two male teachers, and attended by many more children. Here again, my brother and I were exposed to the usual trauma and fisticuffs before we established our positions in the schoolboy hierarchy. I was much harder, knew what to expect, and consequently did not comply with the etiquette expected of a new pupil. Instead of apprehensively waiting for the local bully to identify his quarry first, I made enquiries, ascertained who the alpha boy was, found him and flattened him. To both his and my amazement, we became good friends and would go camping together.

The headmaster, Mr Budd, was a wonder to all the boys. A small, tense, always well-dressed man, he wore a huge gold chain draped over his waistcoated tummy, from which dangled assorted gewgaws. He was a student of Shakespeare and would quote him, or what purported to be Shakespeare. It was almost worthwhile to be strapped when issued a command such as: 'Hasten, lad, extract thyself from thine pew and proceed hence to the place of just punishment for, indeed, you have transgressed against the law of Caesar.' I



Roland just before his mission to enemy-occupied Borneo, for which he received a Military Medal for bravery. He returned to Australia later that year, wounded, sick and feeling like 'an old man' at only 22.





# HOMECOMING

would trundle up to his dais, put out my hands and receive my just desserts for offending against Caesar. Another trick which never lost its enchantment occurred when a pupil incorrectly answered a question. Mr Budd would clutch his heart and shout out, 'You have unmanned me', stagger backwards, and fall onto the mistuned piano behind his dais. To the accompaniment of discordant musical notes, he would slide down until he was reclining against the foot-pedals with his feet out-thrust and, with eyes rolled upward and his right hand against his heart, his feet and legs would convulse in dying pathos. I loved this delightful eccentric, and I do think I learned much more from him than I did from Bailey.

It was now 1936, and the malignant gods of the Middle Kingdom, as the Chinese would have it, turned their jaundiced eyes away from my family. Out of the blue a cable arrived, offering my father a skipper's position with Jardine Matheson, based in Hong Kong. My parents were rejuvenated. Several of our dozen or so brass-bound

camphor boxes were packed with Father's uniforms, sextant, and the various articles of seafaring. There was no disguising his joy. With his baggage aboard, we said our adieus to him in his cabin, and the ship on which he was a passenger left the quay at Port Melbourne. We returned to Mooroolbark where Mother was to wind up the dairy and pack for our departure. We would be following as soon as he had found accommodation for us.

For me, it was a bitter-sweet period. I wept when my favourite draught horse looked at me dolefully, absent-mindedly munching in his nosebag. As he was sold and led away, I wondered who would singe the yellow-dusted hairy spats on his hooves, a sure sign of botfly eggs, and who would bring him apples and carrots to munch? Our cows, milking and pasteurising machines all went, and then came the final dreadful moment when our retriever left for new owners. I was heartsick, for we had gone rabbiting together, fought snakes, gone swimming in muddy creeks. No more would he spray me as he shook his soaking

pelt, or run ahead of me in zigzag patterns looking for rabbits, nor would I hear his joyful bark as he ran to greet me on my return from school.

On the night prior to our departure, I walked through our heavily timbered sixty-acre property, and in the crisp, moon-flooded night said goodbye to my many haunts: our tree-top house, the dam dark with tannin from the bark of fallen trees, the sad cries of a mopoke owl and the rustling of possums. I smelt the aromatic scent of gum leaves which flooded the still night air and crushed some in my hand, then rubbed my hand over my face. I returned to the pale yellow light beckoning from our little wooden cottage, and before going to bed, looked long and introspectively at the half-green logs steaming and bubbling sap from the ends. I absently kissed my mother goodnight, and without another word went to my trundle bed. The following morning, as all good Chinese boys should, I said goodbye to the kitchen god who had preserved us safely with the necessities of life in our little house in Mooroolbark.



Roland returned to Mooroolbark in his mid-teens, and it was from Melbourne that he signed up for service at only 16 years old, using his older brother's birth certificate and name for identification. He returned to civilian life after nearly six years at the front, much-decorated but in ill-health, describing himself as 'a very old young man' at 22 years of age. He had suffered injury, extreme hunger and deprivation during his life overseas, and had lost his closest friends to the war. Not knowing why his life had been spared, Roland Griffiths-Marsh woke up each morning for the rest of his life grateful for the new dawn. Roland died in Queensland on 29 December 2012 at 89 years old and was honoured with a military funeral.

In April last year Roland's widow Maayken travelled

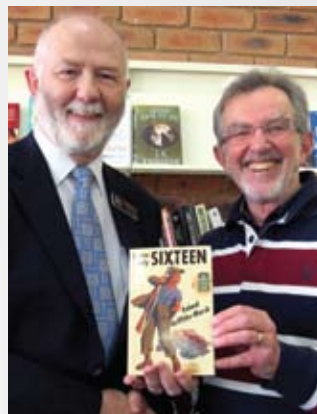
to Melbourne from Bribie Island to return his ashes to his childhood home – something that had been discussed by Roland and Maayken prior to his death. Accompanied by family members including Roland's daughter Amber, grandson Dan and nephew George, Maayken committed his ashes to the earth beneath a beautiful Norfolk pine at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery. Several others also gathered to honour Roland's life, including members of the Mooroolbark History Group.

In a moving moment, Maayken searched for Roland's military plaque at the Garden of Remembrance, "We found the plaque, paid our respects and stood silent for a moment," said Maayken. "I had brought my Roland home as far as I could. This was the physical end to his story on this earth."

Roland will be long remembered as a proud citizen of Mooroolbark, a great family man and one of the few eligible for membership of the Under 16s, a courageous group of Australians who cut their childhoods short to join the brave fight for their country. He will also be remembered, in the words of the memorial book at Springvale cemetery, as a 'teller of stories'.



A quiet moment of reflection for Maayken Griffiths-Marsh at Roland's military plaque at the Garden of Remembrance



Mooroolbark Umbrella Group President Randall Bouchier presented a copy of *I Was Only Sixteen* to Joseph Cullen, the Chief Executive of the Eastern Regional Libraries in May 2014. Two copies of the book were donated to the Mooroolbark library by Roland's widow, Maayken.



# celebrate mooroolbark 2015 festival

SATURDAY MARCH 21<sup>st</sup>

Red Earth Community Park  
Brice Avenue Mooroolbark

## CELEBRATE MOOROOLBARK SPONSORS

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Our cover photo shows eight-year-old Taylah from Chirnside Park enjoying the fun of last year's Celebrate Mooroolbark festival.



## FREE FAMILY FESTIVAL

What is your favourite storybook? *Mog and the Baby*? *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*? *The Jungle Book*? *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*? You might find these and many others at Celebrate Mooroolbark – we are building this year's festival around our theme 'My Favourite Storybook'.

'Bigger and better' is what we are aiming for this year. In just a few short weeks, the Red Earth Community Park in Mooroolbark will come alive for our very own festival. It will be a fun-packed family festival celebrating the community in which we live. Most things are in readiness; all we need is a crowd of people looking to enjoy themselves and the festivities. As Molly says, 'do yourself a favour' and be part of it.

The festival will spread out from the Mooroolbark Community Centre across the Red Earth park and oval with a variety of activities to keep those of all ages amused. Food and drink available on the day will range from the Lions' BBQ sausages to Devonshire teas, pancakes, vintage ice cream and much more. There will be the usual community market with a variety of produce and goods for sale, as well as community groups with information booths. There will be rides, an animal farm, the scout rope bridge, ice-blocking and other activities for the kids, including a puppet theatre.

Because of the generosity of our sponsors, most activities will be free or at low cost. During the day there will be a number of competitions happening. Lucky straws will be there again, and one in five will win a prize. Young folks are invited to hunt for the books in a scavenger hunt with a twist. Look out for us on Facebook and 'like' us to go into the draw for a special prize. There will also be an Easter bonnet competition on the stage in the afternoon, with prizes in Junior and Open categories. The judges will be looking for style, flamboyance, imaginative design and whimsical nature. Entry is free.

The festival itself kicks off on Friday night (20 March) at 7:30 p.m. with the talent quest at the Mooroolbark Community Centre. Come and join the audience – at only \$5 it's a great night out. Winners will appear on the community stage the next day.

On Saturday, the street parade will leave Hookey Park at around 10:15 a.m. with a costume competition for the participating groups. Participants from local schools, bands and community groups will march to the festival site. Keep an eye out for the marchers and give them a wave and a cheer. When the parade arrives, they will be welcomed by our Mayor Cr Maria McCarthy, who will then declare the festival open.

Don't be surprised if you encounter a variety of interesting and unusual characters as you wander around the grounds! There will be activities like story time from the library, a magic show and puppets, and the chance to meet our new friend Gamagalah. The stage program will be packed with a variety of acts throughout the day – among them Kofi the traditional West African drummer, Ghawazee Charm belly dancers, Goodlife health clubs, singing group Entity and ARK Theatre group.

Celebrate Mooroolbark offers something for everyone in a fun-filled festival. Come for an hour or come for the whole time, but beware – you may enjoy yourself too much!

**Andrew Lang**  
Celebrate Mooroolbark

## LIONS CLUB PROPOSES MEN'S SHED FOR MOOROOLBARK



**We Serve**

The Lions Club of Mooroolbark is currently seeking expressions of interest from the male residents of Mooroolbark in establishing a Men's Shed in our neighbourhood.

Men's Sheds have emerged over the last 15 years in response to concerns about men's health and wellbeing. They provide an important opportunity for older men to socialise and participate with other men in hands-on, practical activities that offer both personal and community benefit. The Men's Shed movement has grown rapidly and there are currently over 230 Men's Sheds in Victoria.

The Lions Club of Mooroolbark is now engaging with the Yarra Ranges Shire and local residents to determine the viability of establishing a Men's Shed in our local area.

Drawing on the 'shed in the back-yard' concept, Men's Sheds offer a safe and friendly environment where participants can socialize with other men as they work together on community and personal projects. Men's Sheds have been proven to play a significant role in engaging 'hard to reach' groups of men, including those with disabilities, retired men and the unemployed.

Men's Sheds can range from small workshops to larger-scale community operations. They encompass a variety of activities, from woodworking and metalwork to computer classes, cooking and gardening, etc. Some also run mentoring programs with needy young people and those involved in the youth justice system.

If you would be interested in joining and helping to establish a Men's Shed in the Mooroolbark area, please register your interest on the Lions website or the Mooroolbark Men's Shed Facebook page, or phone club President Rob Law on 9733 4815.

**Rob Law**

## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS FOR MOOROOLBARK LIONS

Congratulations to the Mooroolbark Lions Club, which was honoured on 26 January at the Yarra Ranges 2015 Australia Day Awards. The club was recognised for its numerous and far-reaching services to our local community – and beyond – over many years. Since its inception 45 years ago, the Lions Club has been a highly valued and greatly appreciated part of our community life and is a most deserving recipient of this significant award.



Lions Club members George Nantes, Rocco Mammoliti and Peter Giddings with Mayor Maria McCarthy

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## LOCAL BANK DONATES NEARLY \$50,000 TO MOOROOLBARK COMMUNITY



Grants Committee representative Richard Nicholas, Branch Manager Rowan Alexander and Cr Terry Avery with some very happy grant recipients

On 24 November 2014 the Mooroolbark Community Bank® Branch of Bendigo Bank held its 13th Annual General Meeting at the Mooroolbark Lawn Bowls Club. At this meeting the bank's board presented six community grants totalling \$49,436.80 to local not-for-profit organisations. The six fortunate recipients from the bank's 2014 Community Grant Program are

- Manchester Primary School
- Mooroolbark and District Miniature Railway and Steam Club
- Rolling Hills Pre-School
- Bimbadeen Heights Primary School
- Red Earth Access Chaplaincy Committee
- Caladenia Dementia Care

Some of the projects the bank will be supporting include

- primary school reading kits for individual pupil use
- outdoor wheelchair-friendly tables with concrete foundation and overhead shelter
- building renovations
- individual iPads for year 5 pupils at a local primary school
- specialised training course for local teachers
- new furniture purchases

Branch Manager Rowan Alexander stated that delivering these community grants is one of his most enjoyable duties. Rowan says all recipients along with their individual projects provide major benefits for our local community and as such are well worthy of receiving their grants.

The bank delivered its first community grant program in October 2008 and has since presented over \$377,000 in grant payments. The bank's board meets in May each year to confirm it will hold a new grants round and how much funding it will make available. If a new program is approved, it opens for applications in June and remains open until late July/early August. Community grant programs are advertised in the local newspaper, on posters displayed in the branch and also appear on the Community Enterprise Foundation website: [bendigobank.com.au/foundation](http://bendigobank.com.au/foundation). All local not-for-profit organisations may apply for a community grant – however, sporting clubs generally do not qualify unless their project is for the benefit of the wider local community, not just the sporting club.

Bank Chairman Mr Peter McGowan says that since opening its doors to business back in May 2002, the bank has provided over \$1M in sponsorship and grant payments – in addition to returning over \$415,000 back to its local shareholders via dividend payments. The bank and its board are pleased to be able to contribute in this way to the local community. According to Rowan Alexander, "We never overlook never overlook the fact that what we do can only take place due to the support and loyalty of our most valued customers."

*Living Today* encourages not-for-profit organisations to seek further information on the bank's community grants and sponsorship programs by contacting Rowan Alexander on 9726 5388.



Matthew enjoys many types of photography, including portraiture, landscapes and cityscapes.



# Imani photography



*capturing your dream...*



**Matthew Imani** is a man of many talents... from creating sparkling healthy teeth at Mooroolbark Denture Clinic to producing sparkling photographs that can be viewed at [www.imaniphotography.com.au](http://www.imaniphotography.com.au)

Matthew became interested in photography at 14 years of age when his uncle bought him his first camera. After learning to use the camera, Matthew developed a passion for landscape views and scenes. Matthew loves landscape photography for many reasons: among them, that he can take his time, set up the shot exactly how he wants it and enjoy the environment while he is doing it. And when he views that landscape image again, memories come flooding back and he enjoys getting 'lost' in the photograph. He is even able to see details that he had missed when he actually took the picture.

More recently Matthew has turned to portrait photography for both individuals and family groups, and spends time with his

**Barry Austin**

Matthew can be contacted by phone on 0413 623 824 or 9726 7284. A portrait sitting of approximately two hours can be booked for \$100, and individual prints start at \$50 to \$320, with photo packages from \$450 to \$3500. To see some of Matthew's brilliant style in portraiture, check out his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Matthew-Imani-Photography/1422704557975045>. Matthew's landscape photography can be viewed and purchased at [www.imaniphotography.com.au](http://www.imaniphotography.com.au)

subjects to discover more of their personality. This enables him to present a more personal likeness in the photographs.

Matthew has been a member of the Australian Photographic Society for several years. As well as portraiture and landscape photography, he is also interested in the occasional micro shot (photographing very minute subjects in close up and in fine detail). Matthew is currently preparing for an exhibition to display his beautiful landscape photographs.

Matthew has some advice for budding photographers: take several shots of your chosen subject. A photograph, like a painting, can be composed at the 'take' and then edited before presenting the final image. For example, lots of background detail in a portrait image will detract from the subject and will need to be edited out. True photography is a very worthwhile interest whether as a hobby or business. Anyone can point and shoot but it takes a particularly perceptive eye and patience to take the picture!

## Bricey's Cafe and Deli

7/61 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark



When Randall and Caroline Ebert took over Bricey's Cafe and Deli in June 2014, they brought with them a clear idea as to how they planned to develop and build their business.

Where the previous concept of Bricey's had been that of a delicatessen with a café attached, Randall and Caroline have moved to put the main focus on developing the coffee shop and café side of the business. They now present a much broader café menu, taking full advantage of the deli's wide variety of cold meats, gourmet cheeses and special toppings to create the diverse array of sandwiches, focaccias and quiches.

In addition they have developed an in-house blend of coffee that is unique to Bricey's. The new menu and the special coffee blend have drawn many very positive comments from their customers.

Randall and Caroline both have quite extensive experience in the hospitality industry but this is their first

experience in running their own business – a challenge that they are both enjoying very much. Listening to them speak about their first joint venture, it is obvious that they enjoy working together and are very enthusiastic about making the most of the opportunity that has come their way. Their positive and fun approach to their work is reflected in the artistic and often quite quirky chalk-board comments and quotes seen in their shop signage.

The Eberts have four children, ranging from 12-17 years of age. They each help in the shop from time to time and see the whole project as a family adventure.

Bricey's Cafe and Deli is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. In addition to their café and deli services they also provide catering of food platters for both private and corporate functions.

We wish the Eberts every success in their new venture.

 **Mooroolbark**  
Denture Clinic  
9726 7284

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**Doug Lewis**



## More than Tea and Scones...

For many of us, the words 'Country Women's Association' conjure up images of cheerful farmers' wives serving freshly baked scones with jam and cream. While that's certainly a pleasant picture, it doesn't tell the whole story of the CWA.

The Country Women's Association—now the largest women's organisation in Australia—was formed in rural NSW in 1922 under the leadership of grazier's wife Grace Munro. A decade earlier, Grace and her husband had suffered the death of their youngest son while Grace was hundreds of miles away seeking emergency medical attention for another of her four children. Grace, aware of the isolation and difficult living conditions for rural women and children, was determined to set up better emotional support and improved health care for those in country areas.

Mooroolbark CWA and is currently the branch treasurer.

Although the first CWA branches were in rural locations, many branches are now in the suburbs. Some branches hold meetings during the day, while others hold meetings at night, particularly for the benefit of their younger members who work during the day. City members try to stay connected to what is happening in the country, especially about important issues such as the high suicide rate among farmers. The country members are also aware of what the issues are for their city

local charities and community projects. It provides pamper packs and hand-knitted rugs to Anglicare, and offers financial support to local groups such as the fire brigade, SES, and a dementia facility. The CWA has 'adopted' a kindergarten and also supplies small scholarships through two secondary colleges. To support these causes, money is raised in various ways, from selling crafts at Lilydale Farmer's Market to catering for functions such as parties and book launches.

CWA members lend a hand wherever they can. And yes, the legendary scones



**1923: the inaugural meeting of one of Australia's earliest Country Women's Association branches, in Queensland. Victoria would start forming its own branches five years later, in 1928.**



**CWA Mooroolbark Treasurer Helen Linney and President Mary Schultz**

By 1936, CWA branches had been set up in all Australian states and territories, and in 1945 the Country Women's Association of Australia (CWAA) was formed, uniting all the groups under the umbrella of a federal body. In 1928 the Country Women's Association of Victoria began, and there are now over 300 Victorian branches, with a membership of more than 5,600 women.

The organisation has remained true to its original aim of using community service to improve conditions, particularly for women and children.

When Helen Linnie first walked into a meeting of the Mooroolbark CWA, she didn't quite know what to expect. And, like many people facing an unfamiliar situation, she was nervous. "It was the first thing I did as *me*," recalled Helen. "I had always been somebody's mother, somebody's wife, somebody's employee—I had always done things for someone else, and it was the first time I had ever done anything for myself. It was a pretty big step." It didn't take Helen long to decide to stay, thanks to the friendships that began that day. Nearly ten years later, Helen has held several leadership positions at

sisters. "It brings us all together," said Helen. "We're all one unit."

Current Mooroolbark CWA President Mary Schultz has fond memories of visiting the Camperdown CWA as a child with her grandmother. As an adult she hoped to join the CWA one day, but was busy working and raising children and grandchildren. Not long after Mary retired from her job, a friend informed her that they would both be joining the CWA, since Mary had often said she would do that in retirement. "She went up to the CWA stall at Celebrate Mooroolbark and signed me up," Mary remembers with a smile.

Along with the invaluable friendships, both Mary and Helen like the focus on service promoted by the not-for-profit, non-sectarian association. The CWA has historically revolved around helping people, and each branch continues that tradition with its own program of community support. CWA also lobbies the government for better services, and has made submissions on many matters from domestic violence and compulsive gambling to food-labelling laws.

The Mooroolbark CWA branch, which was established in 1956, supports many

and cups of tea do play a part! Helen said, "During the drought and fires, we went to help at Yarra Glen and Healesville. We were making sandwiches and serving cups of tea because that was the practical help that they needed." Helen said that while other people and agencies were providing services such as financial counselling to the displaced residents, "someone had to make the sandwiches."

Several members of the Mooroolbark CWA have recently completed a quilt to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli. The quilt, which includes iconic Australian images such as the flag and Simpson and his donkey, will be displayed during celebrations of the centenary this year.

For Mary and Helen, joining the CWA was a positive step, giving them lasting friendships with a group of women who enjoy working together for the benefit of the community.

**If you would like to see what you and the CWA can do for each other, please phone Mary Schultz on 9727 4971, or the Victorian head office on 9827 8971.**

**Janet Van Dijk**



# Are We Reaching Our Full Potential?

Recently I was privileged to hear from two guest speakers who addressed gatherings I attended. The speakers, both men, have something special in common. They have conquered very difficult circumstances to achieve dramatic and inspiring outcomes for themselves. Australian Paralympian Don Elgin was one speaker, and the other was Tom O'Toole, founder and CEO of Beechworth Bakeries.

I'd like to share some of the lessons they shared about their amazing lives. The important principles they have learned along the way affect the way they live every new day. They love to keep life interesting and fulfilling, and not just for themselves – everyone around them seems to benefit greatly too!

They both come from difficult beginnings. Don was born with half a leg missing and a few other complications that made growing up quite a challenge. Tom found school a battle – maths and writing were very difficult for him and he dropped out of school at the age of 14. For both men, these starting circumstances might seem to be the beginning of a difficult and unpromising life, but several unique factors made each life quite the opposite.

They were each raised by loving and wise parents who laid a foundation these boys could build on to construct their own lives as young men. There is a tendency to default to the 'Oh isn't that terrible!' response when hardship befalls another, especially a child. That's *one* response, but the parents of these kids were having none of that. They treated all their children the same and expected everyone to do the best they could. When things were difficult or painful, Tom and Don were encouraged to push through and keep trying. The old adage 'practice makes perfect' comes to mind.

Sometimes, as parents,

we don't see the results we are hoping for in our children, but the importance of laying a foundation of love and appropriate encouragement cannot be underestimated. For both men, this approach fostered a deeper sense of family, perhaps an unexpected benefit. With no particular child receiving all the attention, other siblings know that each child's individual needs and abilities are recognised, which means they are more likely to play their part in helping and encouraging the sibling who has special needs.

## What are the Possibilities?

Both families used a parenting approach that instilled in their children a sense of seeing what's possible, rather than what's NOT possible. Life was seen as a challenge to transcend and an opportunity to be seized rather than as a miserable situation that meant relying on others to get by. We all need other people, but not in order to live our life to its full earthly potential. We need others to share that potential with and be benefited by each other's gifts and abilities. We need other people to provide encouragement and reinforcement, affirmation of our strengths and to let us know our areas of weakness. These parents taught their children how to play to their strengths, to recognise and understand how unique their lives were – not because of the difficulties, but through the opportunities created by those challenges!

Now, as highly accomplished adults with many years of living full and rewarding lives, they love to speak about their experiences and do so in an exciting and motivating manner. They tell stories of how their difficulties have led them to see the world in ways that the rest of us fail to. Learning

to walk with one artificial leg is one thing – learning to swim, run, jump and even skip is another! The challenges faced by Don in becoming an athlete, *an Olympic athlete*, were numerous to say the least. He has a never-say-die, never-give-up approach that was supported and encouraged by many who were part of this young man's life.

Basic academic skills were not part of Tom's repertoire, so he needed to establish a business model that focused on other strengths. Learning to run a business is one thing; keeping it going and growing is quite another. Tom's business model pivots on customer service. He ensures each customer is delighted with the bread, scone or cake that is bought in his shops. If customers don't like a purchase, they can bring it back to choose something else – free!

Both men love people. They don't feel that their amazing accomplishments make them especially important, but they do love to share who they are and what they have learnt, with anyone willing to listen.

## The Secret to Success!

Don and Tom share a commitment for tenaciously pursuing their goals in spite of numerous setbacks or perceived failures, always looking for something they might have missed in order to have another go with better odds on their side.

Part of their strategy was to seek advice from people who knew better than they did. They were never afraid to ask for help because they knew the information and encouragement they received would give them a better chance of success. The people they called on for assistance and advice became part of who they were – they were like a mini community.

Everyone was striving together towards common goals and accomplishments.

Goal-setting was another principle Tom and Don had in common: written-down goals with a time frame. They explained how goal-setting helped them to focus on objectives and reduce distractions that would otherwise waste their time and frustrate them from their chosen direction. Nothing they did came easy; nothing important or valuable usually does. They accepted the risks and expected to fail, to fall, and to feel the pain of disappointment. But the belief that they *could* accomplish, that they *could* win, pushed them on to keep trying. The wonderful result is a story of two lives generously woven with success and triumph.

I can't help but feel that the rest of us have some kind of







lessened potential because life is *not* such a dramatic challenge. Can we as adults better equip our children, our nephews and nieces, or our grandchildren with a hope that life is much more wonderful than TV, movies or video games? Can we encourage them to aspire to greatness, to a greatness of simply being their best? Can we request that other adults that we respect become a 'significant other adult' in their lives? Don and Tom were both inspiring and often quite moving as they spoke about their challenging – yet also full and rewarding – lives and of the chance to give others the same infectious desire to experience and embrace the opportunities present in each and every day.



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## Who Was That Jesus Anyway?

Joseph Tkach, *Speaking of Life*

### Jesus

When I was younger, I loved running home from school and turning on the TV to watch the Lone Ranger round up the bad guys. At the end of every show, as the Lone Ranger and Tonto were riding off into the sunset, one of the townsfolk would ask: "Who was that masked man anyway?"

Throughout the years, people have asked that same question about Jesus. Many continue searching for the "historical Jesus," even while distrusting the only historical sources we have, the Biblical witness. Personally, I'd rather take Christ at his word and at the words of those whom he personally entrusted to be his spokesmen, along with the accounts of eyewitnesses reported by them. Let's take a look at just a few of the many ways Jesus indicated just who he was.

*"Jesus . . . asked (the disciples), 'What are the crowds saying about me, about who I am?' They said, 'John the Baptizer. Others say Elijah. Still others say that one of the prophets from long ago has come back.'"*

*He then asked, 'And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?' Peter answered, 'The Messiah of God.'"*

*Jesus then warned them to keep it quiet." (Luke 9:18-20).*

*"(A Samaritan) woman said, 'I do know that the Messiah is coming. When he arrives, we'll get the whole story.'"*

*"I am he," said Jesus. "You don't have to wait any longer or look any further."*

*Many of the Samaritans from that village committed themselves to him . . . when they heard what he had to say. They said to the woman, 'We're no longer taking this on your say-so. We've heard it for ourselves and know it for sure. He's the Saviour of the world!'" (John 4:25-6, 39-42).*

From the very beginning, it's clear that Jesus knew who he was. When Mary and Joseph lost him in Jerusalem and found him in the temple (he was just 12), he told them he was in his "Father's house," indicating awareness even then of who his father really was. And later when John baptized him in the river, the voice of God was heard declaring: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Of course there is much, much more that Jesus said and did to fill out and confirm his unique mission and identity. The Jesus of the Biblical witness, by all reliable accounts, is truly the Son of God, the one and only Messiah, who came to this world through the miracle of the incarnation. He came to bring us back into communion with our Heavenly Father. And we can trust him to faithfully continue that work in us, through us and in all the world

## MOOROOLBARK REMEMBERS

The late Bob Gatherum (then president of the Lions Club) was influential in the construction of the first war memorial in Mooroolbark, which was opened on Anzac Day 1987. It was situated in Red Earth Community Park, in front of the community centre, overlooking the playground.

The memorial was a large ochre-coloured rock set onto prone bricks with a flag pole, bearing a plaque inscribed

IN HONOUR OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED IN  
THE DEFENCE OF AUSTRALIA ALLOWING  
COMMUNITIES LIKE MOOROOLBARK TO DEVELOP

In 1996 a committee researched local records in order to produce a World War II Honour Board, a World War I Honour Board having been unveiled in August 1921. (These honour rolls are now on the foyer walls in the Lilydale's Athenaeum Theatre.) As a result, moving the Mooroolbark Memorial was discussed and it was decided to relocate it to the southern right-hand corner of Hookey Park. Bob was again instrumental, along with residents including local military historian Anthony McAleer. The flag pole and memorial rock were reset on bricks, and three brass plaques were added. The dedication and unveiling ceremony took place in April 1997.

In the years since, attendance at the noon Anzac Day service (presented by the Lions Club) has grown larger each year.

In 2010 a steering committee was formed to revamp Hookey Park. Among its objectives was the relocation and redesign of the war memorial. A member of the Mooroolbark History Group noticed that two names were missing from the World War II plaque – and thus, with the help of modern technology, began the research which has resulted in the addition of about 30 names for the three new plaques.

The new war memorial was redesigned by representatives from the Yarra Ranges Council Urban Design and Landscape Architecture team. The 2014 Anzac Day Service was held around the new memorial with the proposed wording for the plaques displayed on the plinths for public feedback. The wording was subsequently finalised and the plaques created by Vitra Signage Systems. The names of those who served stand out in white lettering against a black background with a large poppy watermark.

The dedication and unveiling ceremony of the three revised plaques was organised by the Mooroolbark History Group (with a fourth plaque to be dedicated at a later date). The ceremony was held on a beautiful sunny day in November 2014, two days before Remembrance Day. Highlights included a vintage biplane fly-over, bagpipe solo by Iain Townsley and bugle calls by Liam Barker. The opening address was given by then-Deputy Mayor Cr Maria McCarthy, and Lieutenant Colonel Neil Smith AM (Retd) also spoke to the crowd.

A poignant moment occurred during the plaque unveiling and laying of wreaths when Major Kenneth A. Mackenzie OAM (Retd) escorted James Blundell, the last surviving person of the 56 names, to the World War II plaque. Later, Max Lamb led the Australian Air League Cadets in a flag party drill and the *Ode* was recited by Lilydale RSL President Don Parsons.

The official opening of the new war memorial was a very memorable event, made possible by the significant contributions of many community groups

**Marion Stott**  
Mooroolbark History Group



The war memorial over the years: at Red Earth Community Park in 1987; at the top corner of Hookey Park in 1997; and at its current location in the revamped Hookey Park.



**SERVICE**  
All Welcome

**Saturday 25 April 2015**

**12 noon**

**Hookey Park, Mooroolbark**

Mooroolbark History Group would love to see photos or information relating to anyone whose name is listed on the memorial plates. If you have some relevant information, it would be appreciated if you would bring it to the refreshments tent.



# A Helping Hand for the Homeless

Louise Lang didn't want to marry a minister of religion. She was a tomboy and as a young woman thought that a minister's wife would have to wear twin sets and pearls and make numerous cups of tea. Eventually she began to realise that she could be a minister's wife and still be her own person—which was fortunate for her husband Andrew, as sometime after they were married he realised that a minister was what he wanted to be.

When the Langs married, Louise was in her second year of early childhood education. She postponed her course to go with Andrew and their first child to study overseas at the Christian Service College at Kumasi in Ghana, West Africa. It was while they were in England on their way to Ghana that they realised they were expecting another child, and having a baby in a third world country was a very different and challenging experience. Fortunately, they were in an English-speaking nation so didn't have to learn a new language. They soon found that, being in a foreign country as students with very little money and no government structure, they had to rely on each other and their relationship with God a great deal. It also meant learning a different culture, eating different food and learning to do things differently to what they had been used to. They found that their way was not necessarily the only way and that there were other ways of doing things.

Doing emergency relief work and working with people has been an important part of Louise's life. On the family's return to Tasmania, then to NSW, back to Tasmania and finally to Victoria, most of Louise's significant jobs have been working with people who are homeless or otherwise going through hard times. She has several diplomas under her belt, such as the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Community Services Practice and is presently studying her Bachelor of Theology. Andrew and Louise had their third child in 1997, and Louise says that despite her formal education, being a mother of three children was her best qualification for her work. Louise's current position is coordinator for the homeless support services for Anglicare Victoria. Prior to this she had been the coordinator of Dixon House in Clayton, a neighbourhood house for Anglicare Victoria, for three years.

Anglicare is independent from but strongly linked to the Anglican Church and the portfolio that Louise works in—Parish Partnerships and Community Development—works closely with the Anglican churches around the city.

Louise is now based in East Melbourne and Fitzroy, involved in the provision of breakfast 365 days a year and operating from St Peter's Eastern Hill Anglican Church. Between 50 and 80 people attend daily, with volunteers helping with the set-up and preparation.

Louise identified the different stages of homelessness as:

- Primary homelessness—those who sleep in the park
- Secondary homelessness—'couch surfing', boarding housing or emergency housing
- Tertiary homelessness—moving into transitional housing which is not permanent housing but homelessness in a broader sense

After breakfast, Louise and her staff travel over to St Mark's Community Centre in Fitzroy until 3 p.m. where from Monday to Friday there are shower facilities, washing machines, and a drop-in centre which supplies tea and coffee and some socialising. Lunch is also provided. Part of Louise's job is to make an assessment of those in need. They are then given food parcels and shopping vouchers for the op shop or prescriptions, the latter being government funded. Advice and referrals to qualified people who can help with housing or health issues are just some of the many other areas where assistance is offered. A hundred people may pass through the doors of the community centre each day.

Art and music are very powerful tools for helping people, and at Dixon House in Clayton Louise had a community arts and crafts class with a teacher who had a fantastic ability for bringing out the best in people and building their self-esteem.

Louise gave an example of parish partnerships in action: the Clayton parish supplied the vicarage for the community house program, while the vicar lived in another property supplied by the church. The church parish worked on parish grounds with people. Asked if any church



services were held for those they were helping, Louise said only if the people knew that a service was being held and wanted to attend. The focus was on the issue requiring attention—for example adult literacy—rather than promoting the church. The goal was Christianity seen in action rather than words.

Louise mentioned that Anglicare Victoria helps those in emergency situations such as fires and floods, but also helps people who don't have enough money for food or can't meet their bills. Counselling in budgeting is offered to people who seem to need frequent assistance. A financial counsellor can do things like arrange payment plans with the utility companies for those who have large bills they are unable to pay, and can also teach people how to budget more effectively for future bills.

Louise's husband Andrew was ordained a minister of the Anglican Church in Tasmania in 1995 and is now the vicar of St Francis in the Fields, in Mooroolbark. Although she is working full time, Louise is still able to support Andrew by attending local activities with him in the evenings and at weekends, and in turn he supports and encourages her in her work. Louise also serves our community as District Commissioner in Scouting.

The next stage of her journey is to become a deacon in the Anglican Church, and she is currently studying toward that goal. No matter where life takes her, Louise will always have a heart for helping the homeless and underprivileged.

Barbara Austin

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

When an earthquake destroys his home in the Peruvian jungle, Paddington heads to England for a better life. Arriving alone at Paddington Station, he meets the kindly Brown family. When the Browns invite Paddington to stay with them, little do they realize how much comic mayhem one young bear will bring to their life.



All Welcome—Mooroolbark Community Centre

Wednesday 1 April 2015

95 minutes - Rated G

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](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc/shp)

Bookings commence from Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

\*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.

# Jim Blundell



James Blundell in his RAAF 'drabs', 1944



Jim at the dedication and unveiling of the war memorial at Hookey Park in November. Jim, as the oldest surviving WWII member in the local area, unveiled the memorial of the Second World War

*I met James (Jim) Blundell and his wife Joan at the unveiling of the new plaques at the war memorial in Hookey Park in November 2014. Born in 1925, Jim has always lived on the same block of land in Taylor Road. It is from there that Jim's first memories originate, and where he and Joan raised their two children, Christina and Murray.*

*Jim's memories of Mooroolbark begin when he was about six or seven years old:*

"I remember taking cream down to the station. I used to love the noise and bustle of the steam trains arriving. And I'd watch Charlie Allen<sup>1</sup> boring down Manchester Road and turning into Taylor Road<sup>2</sup> with his milk on the wagon. He'd always be last at the station. He always got a hand to unload. He had a wonderful horse!

We also loaded more milk in Mooroolbark than at any other station on the train line to Melbourne, which I thought was quite good! Our family only sold cream because we fed skim milk to the pigs. We had to live off the land. So we had fowls and pigs – pork and poultry. Oh! Battlers, we were. My brother was a crack rifle shot. He'd get 48 rabbits out of a packet of cartridges. We used to barter other stuff – eggs in at Croydon Market, and we'd get our bit of sugar and flour there then.

Things seemed to go alright. There weren't too many houses around. Up on the hill there was Bill Elms. And our 20-acre block went from Carronvale Road down to Blackburn Road. Behind us there was land owned by Laurie Upsill and then there were the Ellises. On the other side where the Mooroolbark East Primary School is there was a bloke called Alf Pollard, but he moved on up the road a bit to Tiverton, near the Billanook school.

Greens Road got its name because Dutton Green owned it before the turn of the century, and he used to have a manager on it doing a bit of milking and that sort of business.

Down this other way we had a good friend, the landscape gardener Edna Walling. Dad and my brother did a little bit of work for her. Mum did her laundry work and Edna bought fresh milk from us, which my brother Ted delivered on his way to school. He walked from here to Montrose to go school. I guess it was much better than ploughing, or something. I thought it was very community-minded of Edna to donate the poplars that were so prominent along Brice Avenue (Taylor Road) for so many years. On the southern side of Brice Avenue there grew thick stands of 12-foot-high tea tree.

Dad came to Australia from England in 1911. He worked for a while at the Newport rail yards, and Mum came out from England at the end of the year with Jack and Mary. They bought our Mooroolbark

land in 1912, and in 1917, Dad moved to a new job at the Cave Hill quarry as a maintenance carpenter. By 1920, my family was able to move into the new Mooroolbark home that Dad had built while working at the quarry.

There were not too many roads, of course. I think our land must have been cleared. One of the older Mooroolbark residents, Mr Rae, said 'A poor farmer can't afford trees.' So we had two white gums and a few peppermints growing and cultivated the rest with whatever we could sell at the market: peas, beans, pumpkins and maize. We cut most of the maize and manufactured a chaff cutting device to mill it. Dad fed our maize and millet to his cows in the English fashion, where stock are fed in the bails. It paid off because our produce was top quality. We didn't have to chase the stock; they'd come to the bails to be milked.

Dad's farming was self-learned. In England he started as a weaver and then he got into furniture making. He was pretty particular about his work. Near enough wasn't good enough! I thought a piece of work I'd completed was pretty good, but he said 'That wants another plane put over it. It's just not right.' He was a hard man, but they were brought up hard. I think it was pretty tough in England.

My father built two houses in Station Street where some of the flats are now. He'd almost completed another house in Charles Street for the then station master Arnold Pascoe when the bank said that the timber wasn't top quality timber and they wouldn't pay him. I'd be coming back from the Fiveways school and see him and my brother working on it.

The bank's decision jinkered him financially. We then had to try to make ends meet from the land we had. I remember growing peas and beans. We'd pick big bags of peas which would be carted to the Melbourne market. And we'd get tuppence or thruppence a pound for them. It's ridiculous, isn't it?

I first went to school in the hall, corner of Charles and Station Street. George Bailey was the teacher there. Before that Mrs Raff taught us. The Ruffs and Marshalls had farms up Manchester Road. Then there were the Blairs – Sid and Bob – and on the opposite side were the Raes – Grace and Jean and their brothers Stan, Lyn, Frank and Murray. The Rae's land extended down to Brushy Creek as it runs around to North Croydon. And their father, Les, owned the

<sup>1</sup> Charles Allen Reserve on Hull Road is named after Charlie

<sup>2</sup> Mooroolbark station is located in Brice Avenue, which was formerly Taylor Road





Mooroolbark State School in 1933. Jim is second from the right in the front row. Also pictured are teachers George Bailey and Rosie Brice (whose family Brice Avenue is named after). Rosie later married Jim's older brother Ted Blundell.

store there – the first store in Mooroolbark.

I also had Jack Hookey as a teacher. He was an interesting bloke. He came from up around Geelong way, in a horse and cart. I remember one day he was outside showing a group of visiting officials something. I was looking out the window. And he called to me to come and have a look. I just hopped out the window. Dear, oh dear! That was the wrong thing to do! I got a real lecture and was sent back inside to exit properly.

Another big land-owning family was the Aherns – three brothers and a sister. They were older than my brother Ted and I remember Ted, Bill Ahern and the Raes clearing the ground where Hookey Park is. They cleared the ground to make a cricket pitch because they were cricket fiends and also made tennis courts.

The Aherns were tremendous people. If we wanted to sell cattle, we'd have to take them over to their place because they had a loading ramp, where the truck could load them up and take them down to Melbourne. Every time our red kelpie escaped, the dog would go down and start rounding up and yarding the Ahern's sheep and Mr Ahern would bring the dog back and say, 'We don't want them in the yard today, Mr Blundell.'

I grew up with the Elms boys – Ralph, Clifford and Walter. Wally and I were about the same age and I used to spend a lot of time up there. And Mrs Elms would say to me, 'What time do you have to go home, Jim?' And I'd say, 'Chelve-a-chock.'

When I was about 15, I did one year at Swinburne, and to get down to Swinburne I had to work with the baker on Saturdays to earn enough money to pay for the train fare and books. We weren't well off in those days. And it was tough! So, rather than try to complete a second year at Swinburne I decided to start

work. I got a good job in Croydon working for Trevor Legge. He sold BSA motor bikes and Croydon Flyer push bikes. My job was to make up the push bikes. He did the welding and I put everything together and looked after maintenance and repairs. It was a good job. I was on my own much of the time because Trevor was also the agent for Aladdin lamps and he'd be away making sales.<sup>3</sup> He was an alright bloke. He organised a motor bike club. We were always open late on Friday nights and we had a petrol bowser out the front. He paid me 10 bob a week.

At some point, I'm not sure how, I heard about a job at what later became Marven's Poultry. Before he started the poultry farm, Fred Marven had a market garden up there. He grew flowers. He wanted someone who could drive a horse as well as do a bit of raking and odd jobs. So I went up and got the job and it was good. I enjoyed the work handling his horse.

When I first went there it staggered me to see his wife leading the horse down the paddocks while he was busy trying to hoik the scarifier or plough. It seemed he couldn't drive and plough at the same time. I said, 'Do you want me to have a go at that?' He looked at me, 'cheeky cow' like, and said: "Yeah, you do it!"

It was a magnificent horse. For scarifying, the horse shuffled under and over the soil with his feet and I could just turn him around and push back. So that set me up for life, I thought, but after I'd been there for about 12 months, Fred's van was requisitioned for the war effort, so that he was unable to get his flowers to market. Finished him, virtually. It finished me, anyhow.

And so, when I was about seventeen, I went down to Melbourne – went to the big smoke and got a job with Oliver J. Nilsen<sup>4</sup> at his electrical factory. I was doing alright there, but on my eighteenth birthday a bloke came and said to me: 'That's it! Hooroo! You're fired. Compulsory. 'Way you go!' And the next week I got a call from the services. It was 1943 and there was a place in Ringwood where I had to sign up for the army, and I thought to myself, 'I'm not an army bloke.' I asked if there were other options and the answer was, 'Yep, you can go wherever you like, but you're going somewhere. You're not going back home.' They gave me a few tests and discovered that I was suited to signals work, so they put me in the RAAF.

First, I completed basic training. It was a bit rough, but then they sent me to Point Cook where they taught me Morse code. And I practiced Morse code seven days a week till I could send and read 25 words a minute. Finally, I spent some time at a place called RAAF Frognal<sup>5</sup> in Camberwell, of all places, where I learned how to touch-type. At the time I didn't have a clue what all of this was for, but it wasn't bad – I could come home at night. But after I'd passed my Morse code and reached the required touch-typing speed, I found myself about a week later headed for war service on a boat bound for Port Moresby."



*In our next issue, Jim shares more of his memories of life in Mooroolbark and overseas.*

**Randall Bourchier**

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.twsands.com.au/aladdin> The T W Sands website states that it has been associated with Aladdin lamps (manufactured in Tennessee) since the early 1920s.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nilsen.com.au/about-us.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.onmydoorstep.com.au/heritage-listing/199/frognall>



Fun at Grandma's



Near Thornton



Launching Place



Spring—at Edna Walling's garden in Mooroolbark



Summer's Evening



Rooftops, Salsburg



Ballet Shoes



Camellias



Early Morning Start



# Creating Life's Canvas



For local artist Cathie Berry, inspiration is all around. She sees endless possibilities in a tranquil paddock of grazing cows, a sunlit bouquet of flowers, waves lapping gently against a shore, and the concentration on the faces of her grandchildren. She has even captured the noon shadows against a terrace house in Austria, and the romance of the canals of Venice.

While many artists prefer to concentrate on one style, Cathie seems to do it all, from soft seascapes to the portrait of a heavily tattooed worker described by Cathie as “the most gentle man.”

Cathie has been described as a ‘master pastellist’, and it’s easy to see why—many of her beautiful paintings are pastels. However, Cathie works with a variety of mediums and styles. As well as pastels, she uses oil paints, and also sketches in charcoal and pencil. Recently, more of her work has been in oils.

Cathie hasn’t always been an artist—or even had any desire to be. When she was attending a three-roomed schoolhouse in Camperdown as a child, opportunities for artistic expression were limited. Cathie didn’t mind; she didn’t have any particular interest in art. It wasn’t until she was married, with the younger of her two sons in school, that she decided to take a class at a community centre.

Painting wasn’t the first community-centre

class that Cathie tried. “I started out doing the ‘keep fit’ classes,” she laughed. “But I gave up on that.” However, when Cathie joined the painting class, she thrived. She remembers looking at a painting her brother brought back from overseas and thinking, “I reckon I could do that.” Her instinct was correct—it wasn’t long before Cathie had outgrown the community centre art lessons and was looking for another teacher.

In the following years Cathie studied with several accomplished artists who were known for different styles of painting. One unforgettable learning experience was travelling to the US in 1995 to study portraiture with artist Daniel E Greene, considered the foremost pastellist in the United States. The class was a turning point for Cathie. “He really pushed me and I broke through that barrier,” she said.

After that trip twenty years ago, painting became more than just a hobby. By signing up for community centre art classes all those years ago, Cathie had unwittingly embarked upon a new career.

When Cathie and her husband moved to Mooroolbark in the late 1990s, they were looking for somewhere with a beautiful view and space for Cathie to work. They found that view, moving into a house set on a sloping block overlooking the trees. As Mooroolbark has grown, some of the view has become partially obscured by neighbouring houses, but the home is still a peaceful haven where Cathie can devote time to her art.

Many places around Mooroolbark have influenced Cathie’s work. She has painted landscapes of areas such as the Yarra Valley, Lilydale, and Launching Place. One of her

favourite places to visit, when it is open, is renowned landscape architect Edna Walling’s garden Bickleigh Vale, off Pembroke Road. Cathie’s painting *Spring* depicts a corner of that beautiful garden.

Over the years, Cathie has received awards and other recognition for her artwork. She has exhibited in many shows—the most recent, her seventh solo exhibition, being at the end of last year—and has won over 150 awards. Her paintings have been published in both Australian and international art magazines. Cathie recalls the pleasure of having her first painting published in a magazine, and for sentimental reasons that painting is not for sale.

Cathie sells her artwork through her art exhibitions and through word of mouth. She is often commissioned to produce a work of art about something important to the buyer... a loved relative, a favourite animal, or the family garden.

Of her husband Kevin, Cathie says, “He’s so supportive. He has travelled all over the world with me and he does my framing.” Together they have visited locations such as the United States, Greek isles, Italy, Hungary and Austria.

When she was a child in a small country schoolhouse, Cathie could never have imagined that she would one day be a world-travelled artist with so many awards to her credit. “I feel so blessed,” Cathie said. “Hopefully there will be many more paintings to create.”

**Janet Van Dijk**

Many of Cathie’s works can be seen online. If you would like to contact Cathie, please email her at [cathieberry@bigpond.com](mailto:cathieberry@bigpond.com)



## OPENING OF MOOROOLBARK HUB



Mooroolbark's long-awaited community hub project at the station is now complete.

The project is the culmination of years of work by the local community, council, Public Transport Victoria and Metro Trains Melbourne.

Mooroolbark Train Station as a Creative Community Hub was a pilot program which aimed to revitalise the station to provide a sense of identity and improve the space for commuters and the general community.



Enjoying the moment: Mayor Maria McCarthy, Councillor Terry Avery and Metro Projects Manager Arash Ahmadi

A community consultative committee including traders, police and Cr Terry Avery helped steer the direction for the project and ensure it captured the heart of the suburb. The new space provides a creative entrance to Mooroolbark for commuters as well as a civic space.

Cr Avery said combined with recent works to the nearby streetscape and the Hookey Park playground, the station project had helped revitalise Mooroolbark. "It has really brought a sense of vibrancy to the town," he said.

Cr Terry Avery and Mayor Maria McCarthy attended a launch for the hub on Monday 8 December.



### HELP SOMEONE LESS FORTUNATE BY DONATING YOUR UNWANTED WINTER GOODS

Ripple Kindness Project has teamed up with businesses to help collect goods for families struggling to make ends meet. Please donate your clean, quality pre-loved or new goods for adults and children

**by 31 March 2015**

to:

**Methven Real Estate:** Mooroolbark, Lilydale, or Mt Evelyn  
M-F 9:00-6:30; Sat 9:00-5:00; Sun 12:00-4:00

**Chirnside Park Community Centre:** Kimberley Drive.  
M-F 9:00-5:00

**Montrose Uniting Church:** cnr Grattan & Mt Dandenong Roads  
Tues 10:30 am -12:00 pm

More information: [lisa@ripplekindness.org](mailto:lisa@ripplekindness.org)

**Professionals**  
[www.methven.com.au](http://www.methven.com.au)

**Chirnside Park Community Centre**



## First Things First

In a brand new move for Yarra Ranges, dance theatre will be staged at Montrose Town Centre in April.

One of Australia's most innovative dancers, Joseph Simons, will tour the region with his show *First Things First* on Thursday 16 April.

Fittingly, it is the first time a dance show will be held at Montrose Town Centre.

Regional Arts Coordinator Malcolm Russell said he was thrilled to offer locals access to dance theatre in their own backyard.

"Normally you'd have to travel to the city to see a show of this quality. I think it's important for as many people as possible to have the opportunity to experience the energy of a live dance performance," Mr Russell said.

*First Things First* is a one-man show of hilarious physical theatre and technically complex dance choreography.

Do you remember your first day of school? The first time you rode a bike? Your first kiss? The first time is always memorable. But then you do it a second time, then a third. Suddenly, it's second nature. Award-winning Simons explores the art of 'getting used to it' in this mind-blowing display of physicality with his unique charm and wit.

Following critically acclaimed seasons in Berlin and New York, Simons is delighted to return home to bring *First Things First* to Australian audiences and be the first dancer to ever grace the stage of Montrose Town Centre.

Bookings are now open for *First Things First*. For your chance to experience this physical comedy showman in action, call 1300 368 333 or visit [www.culturetracks.info](http://www.culturetracks.info).

Sally Williams

## Community Events Calendar

First Sunday of each month	<b>Farmers Market:</b> 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	<b>Fridays@Kids Domain:</b> 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	<b>Scottish Country Dancing:</b> 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	<b>Mooroolbark Country Women's Association:</b> 1 p.m. at St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. New members always welcome. Contact Jeanne Wilson: 9726 9858.
Thursdays during school term	<b>Music Together program: 0-5 years.</b> Run by trained music therapist. St Margaret's Uniting Church 9:45 a.m. Morning tea & playtime included. \$12.50 per session per family. Call Yvonne: 9726 9347.
Thursday evenings each week	<b>Maroonah TOWN Club:</b> (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	<b>Kilsyth Primary School Playgroup:</b> 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.
Sunday 1 March	<b>Music at St Margaret's:</b> 2:30 pm. Featuring the Salvation Army Melbourne Red Shield Band in concert. Entry (including light refreshments) by gold coin donation. Enquiries: Alan 9735 2779.
March - May	<b>Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions:</b> Mar 3, 24. Apr 7, 28. May 5, 26. Mooroolbark Community Centre. More info 1300 368 333.
Saturday 14 March	<b>Community Women's Clothes Swap:</b> Mooroolbark Soccer Club, Esther Cres. 10:00-1:00. Entry \$2. Bring items in good condition to swap, or pay \$2 per item. Info: clothesswap@yahoo.com.au
Sunday 22 March	<b>Edinburgh College Family Fun Day:</b> All welcome. 33-61 Edinburgh Road, Lilydale. Enquiries: 9728-2211
22 April	<b>Edinburgh College (Preschool-Year 12) Open Night:</b> 6-8 pm. 33-61 Edinburgh Road, Lilydale. Enquiries: 9761 9728 221 or www.edinburghcollege.vic.edu.au
Saturday 2 May	<b>Oxley Christian College invites you to attend their Open Day</b> 11:00am-3:30pm, 15-49 Old Melbourne Road, Chirnside Park. Discover how Oxley can meet the educational needs of your son or daughter!
11 June - 20 June	<b>Mooroolbark Theatre Group presents Neil Simon's Rumors.</b> Directed by Louise Woodward. Red Earth Theatre, Mooroolbark Community Centre. Tickets: \$16, \$14 concession. Bookings: Arline 9726 4282

### Mooroolbark Community Centre and Montrose Town Centre

The following special events will be held at Mooroolbark Community Centre (MCC—Ph 9726 5488) or Montrose Town Centre (MTC—Ph 9761 9133).  
Bookings can be made by phoning 1300 368 333 or online: [www.culturetracks.info](http://www.culturetracks.info)

March - May	<b>Red Earth Gallery Exhibitions:</b> VCE Creative Showcase Feb 2-Mar 8 Emma Jennings & Shelley Krycer May 6-May 30 (opening May 7). Red Earth Gallery, MCC
16 March, 20 April, 18 May	<b>Montrose Movie Club Hollywood Classics:</b> <i>Manhattan, The Maltese Falcon, My First Wife.</i> 7 pm MTC
21 March	<b>James Morrison:</b> Trumpet virtuoso and multi-instrumentalist James Morrison. 8 pm MTC
23 March	<b>Local Grants Expo:</b> MCC. More info: <a href="http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/grantexpo">www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/grantexpo</a> or 9294 6335
30 March - 10 April	<b>School Holiday Program:</b> Free & low cost activities. Art & craft, live performances, movies. MCC & MTC
2 April	<b>School Holiday Performance:</b> <i>The Story of Odysseus, Myths &amp; Monsters.</i> 11 am & 2 pm. MTC. Book online for \$5 tickets
9 April	<b>School Holiday Performance:</b> The Amazing Drumming Monkeys. 11 am & 2 pm. MCC. Book online for \$5 tickets
16 April	<b>Joseph Simons:</b> <i>First Things First</i> MTC 8 pm. One of Australia's most innovative performing artists.
13 April	<b>Term 2 Workshops Commence:</b> Pottery, Oil Painting, Tribal Bellydance, Young Artists, Pottery 4 Kids & Craft. MCC & MTC
7 May	<b>Tubular Bells for Two:</b> MTC 8 pm. Live theatrical experience showcasing sheer acrobatics of two musicians.
23 May	<b>Vince Jones:</b> Australia's leading jazz vocalist and composer of songs in a contemporary jazz style. MTC 8 pm
31 May	<b>Australian Youth Band:</b> MCC 2 pm. \$5 concession tickets available.

**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 [lewisdm@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lewisdm@bigpond.net.au)**

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

# LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

## Production

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



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## Publication

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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.

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