

# LIVING TODAY

in Mooroolbark and the Yarra Ranges NO. 53 DECEMBER 2015



**The sounds of  
Mooroolbark: Jazz  
musician Barney McAll**

**10,000 free copies distributed throughout Mooroolbark and district**



# One of Our Own

My enjoyment of jazz started after I was exposed to a friend's record collection during the mid-50s. Later, while courting my Sydney-born wife in the early seventies, one of our pleasures was to listen to a favourite jazz band, Galapagos Duck, at the well-known Sydney jazz venue The Basement.

Little did I know that almost fifty years later I'd stumble across a Mooroolbark connection, when an email sent to me via the town website read: "Just wanted to let you know that there has been an album named after Mooroolbark. Great, hey?"

My interest was piqued, and I contacted jazz pianist and composer Barnaby (Barney) McAll, who had released the album through the ABC in 2014. Subsequently, *Mooroolbark* has received critical acclaim and received two prestigious awards—a 2015 ARIA award and most recently an AIR award for the Best Independent Jazz Album.<sup>1</sup>

Barney has fond and grateful memories of growing up in Mooroolbark—"a very calm, peaceful place". His mother and father provided their children with a secure childhood that richly nurtured their curiosity and creativity.

"I lived in Pembroke Road just near Bickleigh Vale Road until I was twenty," Barney recalled. "I went to Pembroke Primary and

then to Pembroke High School. Growing up in Mooroolbark was fantastic. There was a place at the top of Pembroke Road where some friends lived. Back then it was like a jungle; we used to call it 'Congo Bongo Land'. We used to go there and roll in the dirt, set all sorts of traps, spear frogs, and just spend a whole day there. We'd just have so much fun and come back home after a whole day. And the next day we'd go there again and just disappear! It was a very rich childhood, a lot of nature, a lot of good stuff going on."

*Mooroolbark's* cover notes include some of Barney's juxtaposed memory-images, among them: "...spackled white walls of a hundred wall papers, crate of apples from the cool store, jane barnard plays the pearls, joss playing rondo alla turca, minimum chips..."

These reminiscences are prefaced by: "Mooroolbark is largely why I play music."

Barney explains the rich musical and cultural influences that helped form his artistic vision in Mooroolbark: "There were a lot of people up on Bickleigh Vale Road that we sort of connected with. They were probably attracted by the Edna Walling estate. People like Bruce Rowland<sup>2</sup> lived up there and one time, the Swedish pop group ABBA stayed in his house. Another time Joan Baez came to dinner at my parents' place because she couldn't find a

vegetarian meal and my mum cooked one for her."

"It was all pretty exciting," Barney continued. "Len Barnard also lived up on Bickleigh Vale Road, and he was friends with my parents. He was one of the best-known jazz drummers in Australia. He formed Galapagos Duck, and he'd drop off records for us to listen to, and that's why, when I was about seven years old, I got to listen to some very hip jazz records in Mooroolbark."

But there were other creative artists, too. Barney's sister knew musician Archie Roach who lived nearby, and his brother used to go out with a Pine Road resident, filmmaker Jocelyn Moorhouse, whose brother Greg, Barney says "was a brilliant guitarist."

I asked Barney when it was that he became aware of his musical gifting.

"I kind of knew as a very young child because, although I was a bit confused about being on planet Earth, I did love to play the piano. The last track on the Mooroolbark album is me playing when I was seven. At that stage I was playing, and playing games in my head, you know, just disappearing into the music and the discovery of it. I would look up and it would be completely dark outside. This went on for years and I remember that feeling of: 'Oh, it's dark! Gee, I was completely gone there!' I knew from a very young age that I needed to—and wanted to—play music because I was innately doing these long musical meditations."

<sup>1</sup> Awards made by the Australian Recording Industry Association Music Awards (ARIA) and Australian Independent Record Labels Association (AIR)

<sup>2</sup> Composer of Film score for *The Man From Snowy River* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce\\_Rowland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruce_Rowland)

Brown and Gary Costello—some of the best players from Australia. I wasn't on their level, but it certainly challenged me and I decided at that point to really knuckle down. While playing with Vince I saved enough money and headed for New York."

Barney recounts going back and forth between New York and Australia for several years: learning, playing and absorbing much that New York's jazz scene had to offer. Winning the inaugural Wangaratta jazz piano competition in 1990 helped fund one such journey.

"I recorded a lot of lessons and gigs in New York and took them back to Mooroolbark and then just studied all this raw material on my parents' Yamaha upright on Pembroke Road."

After touring with Gary Bartz in 1995, Barney was invited to join his band.<sup>3</sup> "I moved to New York full-time, and until returning to Australia in 2015, I've been there ever since".

Barney described how he set himself up in New York bit by bit: "I made more and more contacts and started to get more and more gigs, and things just kept escalating, and I began to travel all over the world with some of the best."

"There were many amazing opportunities and I learnt a great deal," Barney recalled. "I learned lateral musical thinking from Josh Roseman<sup>4</sup>—a very innovative trombone player who also had been around influential, very free-thinking musicians like Henry Threadgill, Lester Bowie, Cecil Taylor, and Steve Coleman. Josh helped me to understand that there are no rules in music—you can make up your own rules. When I first left Australia I was just subscribing to quite limited rules and wanted to be just a straight bebop sort of guy. Josh helped me to understand that you can just do whatever you want to do in your own way."

"Working with Gary Bartz was very important because Gary is an alumni of Miles Davis' band, amongst others," continued Barney. "He also played with Art Blakey, Max Roach, Abbey Lincoln and still plays occasionally with McCoy Toner. In working with Gary I also was working with someone who was linked to the tradition of black

American music."

Space doesn't permit more than a passing mention of Barney's time as singer Sia's musical director and piano player, his film scores, his eight albums, or being nominated for a Grammy in 2007 for the best contemporary jazz album with a band called The Groove Collectors. As part of The Groove Collectors Barney wrote seven songs for the album *People, People, Music, Music*.

Currently, Barney lives in Sydney enjoying a twelve month composer-in-residency—part of the legacy of Australian composer Peggy Glanville-Hicks.<sup>5</sup>

"Peggy Glanville-Hicks was a very well-known contemporary classical composer who was brought back to Australia during Gough Whitlam's arts incentive, which helped some Australian creative people to return to Australia," explained Barney. "As Peggy didn't have family, she bequeathed the house—this house that I'm in right now—to composers, especially middle-aged composers to have a year off from the grind and to really concentrate on their work. I've been recording some solo piano here and have written a lot of new pieces. It's a great time of respite, being able to devote a whole year and supported by a small stipend just to work on your own music. And there's a beautiful Stuart and Sons piano here, too."

If you'd like to check out the cool jazz sounds of *Mooroolbark*, you can do so at the following link: <https://shop.abc.net.au/products/mcall-b-mooroolbark-cd>

And there's more! There's a whisper doing the rounds that Barney and his band will perform the entire *Mooroolbark* album next August at the Mooroolbark Community Centre. *Living Today* will publish more details closer to the date.

Thanks very much Barney for your willingness to share some of your story with our readers. We're looking forward to your homecoming!



**Randall Bouchier**

<sup>5</sup> Peggy was born in Melbourne and studied between 1931 to 1936 as a student at the Royal College of Music in London, with notables Arthur Benjamin, Constant Lambert, Malcolm Sargent, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Her will established the Peggy Glanville-Hicks Composers' House in her home in Paddington, Sydney, as a residency for Australian and overseas composers.

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary\\_Bartz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gary_Bartz) - Barney mentioned in the Discography.

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josh\\_Roseman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josh_Roseman) Barney mentioned

Barney's older brother, John McAll, plays piano too. "He currently works with Joe Camilleri and has also worked with Renee Geyer and also with Vince Jones. He taught himself how to orchestrate and has conducted the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for some concerts. He's done very well. He's the guy who initially showed me how music works."

Other well-known musicians who lived nearby were drummer Michael Jordan, Len Barnard's daughter (singer-songwriter Rebecca Barnard), and the Tailby twins—drummer Greg and bass player Rick—who lived in Dryden Concourse and with whom Barney started out.

"There were a lot of creative people around who wound up doing really good things, and Mooroolbark just seemed to be a little cultural hot-bed," said Barney.

After secondary school Barney studied at the Victorian College of the Arts. He mentions teachers such as Paul Grabowsky and Tony Gould. Guitarist Doug De Vries (who also lived in Mooroolbark) taught at the VCA and, after hearing Barney play, invited him to play with the Vince Jones band, which provided Barney with the focus he needed: "Rather suddenly I got to play with people like Allan



PHOTOS: © MARC BONIFERS

PHOTO: © JENNIFER GAVITO

# celebrate mooroolbark 2016 festival

● Saturday 19 March ● Talent Quest Friday 18 March



PHOTO: © DOUG LEWIS

**Movie Mayhem** is the theme for the 2016 Celebrate Mooroolbark festival. Needless to say, the committee is already hard at work with preparation for this event. We are looking to set new records in attendance and participation this time. Have you been a part of the festival in the past? If so, get back in touch and start the ball rolling. If not, how about making this the festival that you get involved. We are looking for partnerships with new participants. Maybe your business, school or group would like to participate in the marketplace or get involved in the festival parade. We have competitions for school-age children and many opportunities for local acts and performers. We are also seeking local acts for the community stage or as roving performers, and groups to provide family-friendly activities or affordable food.

Planning for the Celebrate Mooroolbark Talent Quest is also under way. If you can sing, dance, play an instrument or can entertain an audience, we want you. Why not enter the talent quest, with the opportunity to win cash prizes. Entry is free and there are two categories—Under 16 and Open—with first, second and third prizes as well as a People's Choice.

If we have not been in touch with you yet, please contact Yolande Pickett at [admin@celebratemooroolbark.com](mailto:admin@celebratemooroolbark.com) and she will arrange to have the information sent out to you. **We would welcome new faces for the committee and volunteers on the day.**

Above all, keep the date available.

— **Andrew Lang**  
Festival Chairperson

## COMMUNITY RECOGNISES EXCELLENCE IN TEACHERS

It is a credit to Mooroolbark East Primary School (MEPS) that four of its teachers were nominated in October for the ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards (NEITA) by members of the community. Since then one of the teachers, Grattan Stephens, has gone on to receive the state award, which means he is still in the running for the national award to be announced in March 2016.

It is easy to see why prep teachers Sharon O'Connor and Kerry Craig-Smith were nominated—their love for their work and the children is expressed in so many ways. As Kerry said, "Every day is different—the preps come at the beginning of the year not being able to read or write but at the end of the year they are able, and knowing that we are responsible for that keeps us motivated." They both agreed that it was nice to be acknowledged in this way, as teachers put in much longer hours than is expected of them.

Nominee Bethany Driscoll, who is also a prep teacher, was absent at the time of our interview for an excellent reason—she was taking some time off to get married!

Grattan Stephens, the fourth nominee, wasn't sure whether he wanted to be a teacher when he completed his university degree, as there was not a lot of hands-on teaching in the curriculum. To help him decide, he did some relief teaching but left that to take a managerial position at Kmart, thinking it would be a better financial decision. After a month or two Grattan decided the job wasn't what he wanted, so he

returned to classroom relief teaching until MEPS offered him a permanent position. He has been there since 2009 and is now teaching grade 4 and loving his job. He said, "Teaching is an integral part of my life and I go to work every day filled with enthusiasm and energy to engage and challenge my students."

A day in the life of a student in Grattan's class starts with a five-minute run around the school, with regular breaks from lessons for exercise. Grattan takes time to learn about the students' interests, personal experiences and abilities to make their classroom activities more interesting. He uses experiences from his own school life and outside school to relate to the children, and they see him as one of them, but a bit older. He believes in building relationships with the parents of his students, saying that "encouragement and support from home benefits the students, teacher and parents."

Grattan gives credit to the leadership at MEPS as well as the other teachers and the integration aides, saying that each one of them could have been nominated for the work they do. He believes that MEPS is a fantastic school to work in and a great place for students to learn.

Whether or not he wins the national award next March, Grattan Stephens is a winner in the eyes of the children at MEPS and their parents. For Grattan and the three prep teachers, it must be very encouraging to know that their efforts

are appreciated by their community.

**Barbara Austin**



Kerry Craig-Smith, Grattan Stephens and Sharon O'Connor were all nominated for excellence in teaching.



Grattan with his grade 4 class, fellow nominees Kerry and Sharon, and integration aide Dee.



PHOTOS: © BARBARA AUSTIN



# GETTING READY FOR FIRST-DAY SMILES

From the first moment of gazing into a newborn's eyes, parenthood is a journey of firsts—first smile, first tooth, first wobbly steps. And perhaps nothing is guaranteed to tug at parents' heartstrings more than the step that launches their 'baby' out into the world—the first day of school.

The transition to school is a big step for children, who may never have spent as much time away from their parents. There will probably be larger buildings and playground equipment, a more structured routine with strange rules and expectations, and lots of unfamiliar children—most of them much bigger than they are!

Children will respond to this new challenge in a range of different ways, depending on their individual personality, skills and experience. Some children will accept this new challenge with enthusiasm and excitement, while others will be clingy and anxious. Whatever your child's temperament, you can enhance this important experience by demonstrating a positive attitude. If you are feeling emotional and nervous, try not to communicate that to your child. If you didn't like school yourself, now is not the time to mention it!

Preparing ahead for 'big school' can make the first weeks an exciting and enjoyable time for both parent and child. By emphasising this step in life, you also convey to your child the value and importance that your family places on learning and education. This could potentially set the tone for your child's future attitude towards schooling. To ease the transition:

## Help your child get used to the school.

Most schools have transition-to-school sessions before the start of the year, where children meet their teachers and get to know other children in their class. They will learn about the school schedule and discover the location of important places such as the playground, drinking taps and toilets. If your child is unable to attend such orientations, make an appointment to take your child to meet next year's teacher and become familiar with the school.

**Ensure that the school is familiar with your child.** Tell the principal and classroom teacher anything they may need to know about your family: your religious or cultural background,



your home life, medical issues, and any special strengths or needs that your child has.

**Encourage independence and responsibility.** Help your child to master skills like dressing and undressing, filling a drink bottle, opening lunchboxes and food packaging, and going to the toilet without help. Teach your child to look after personal belongings such as clothes, toys and school items and to put them away after use.

**Build your child's social skills.** Children need to be shown how to introduce themselves to other children, and how to be friendly and kind. Practice sharing and turn-taking (board games are great for this). Talk to them about feelings so that they are better able to recognise their own emotions and those of others. If your child does not have friends attending the same school, try to make contact with other families in the school community before school begins.

**Make school preparations fun.** Involve your child in many of the preparations for next year, such as buying school uniforms and choosing lunchboxes or library bags. Don't be surprised if your pre-schooler wants to wear the school uniform on various outings before the school year has even begun!

**Prepare for the new school timetable.** Test-run the drive or walk to school so that you know how long it takes and won't be rushed for time. Make sure your child's sleeping and waking routine fits in with the new school schedule.

**Reassure your child about the unfamiliar routine.** Let your child know who will be there at pick-up time or how to go to after-school care. Explain basic school rules such as listening quietly, raising hands and standing in line. To prevent anxiety, make sure you are on time to drop off and pick up your child.

**Plan ahead to reduce potential distress.** Make sure your child has everything necessary—lunch, art smock, hat, etc—so that there is no cause for worry. Label containers and clothing so that lost items can be returned before your child becomes too anxious about the loss. If your child has had trouble separating from you in the past, try something that helped at those times, such as bringing a favourite toy. Reassure your child about what will happen once the school day is over.

The night before the big day, make sure your child has a relaxing evening and goes to bed early. Allow plenty of time in the morning to get ready and to have a healthy breakfast. Most schools allow parents to stay for a few minutes after the bell on the first day. When it's time to say goodbye, do it quickly and in a positive manner—a hug, kiss, and reassurance that you will be back when school is over. If you think you might be feeling rather lost yourself, plan ahead of time to do something to take your mind off it—perhaps have coffee with a friend or start an important project.

Soon the first day will be over and your child will be back home—probably exhausted and hungry. Depending on personality, your child may be bursting with stories or deep in thought. Before long you will settle into a routine, and the first day of school will be added to your vault of happy family memories.

Janet Van Dijk



## ONE LOCATION FOR CONVEYANCING AND FINANCE

Awesome Conveyancing and Ness-cessity Finance are two start-up businesses established in Mooroolbark within the last 12 months which share the same suite of offices at 2b Brice Ave (on the second floor, corner of Brice Avenue and Manchester Road).

# Awesome conveyancing



Krystal O'Toole and Sarah Francis

Krystal and Sarah became friends when they met while attending a TAFE class together. Later on they found themselves working together for the same company in the conveyancing industry. On 16 February 2015 they stepped out in launching their own business—Awesome Conveyancing—and have not looked back. Krystal and Sarah provide set prices for all conveyancing contracts and focus on offering a friendly, personal approach that is designed to take all of the stress out of working through these legal procedures. They provide clients with unlimited contact via phone, email, post and in person and attend to all legal work throughout the transaction process and beyond.

Awesome Conveyancing's services cover all aspects of conveyancing: sale, purchase, transfer of ownership and subdivision contracts. The business has grown steadily throughout its first year and looks forward to continued expansion in the future. Contact: info@awesomeconveyancing.com.au or phone 9727 4429.

## NESS-CESSITY FINANCE

Vanessa Lewis met Krystal and Sarah at a business networking meeting, where they soon realised that they had a number of business contacts in common.

Their business relationship grew and led them to sharing their current office facilities. They soon found that their two businesses complement each other in a number of ways.

Vanessa brings more than 20 years of experience in banking and finance services to her business Ness-Cessity Finance, which began operating in 2011.

The business, which provides finance advice and loan services for both personal and business clients, prides itself on exceeding client expectation in finding great rates, services and options for loans that best meet the needs of those clients.

Services are offered in the areas of refinancing, debt consolidation, home loans for first home buyers, construction and investment loans, car loans and asset and equipment finance. Her home and investment loans are provided through Morbanx Pty Ltd.

Whether you are seeking a great home loan or the best deal on a number of financial products, Vanessa—an accredited finance adviser with the Mortgage and Finance Association—is well qualified to help you to access the best loan or leasing arrangements for your circumstances. Contact: vanessa@ness-cessityfinance.com.au or phone 0429 032 973.

Doug Lewis

Ness-Cessity Finance Pty Ltd (CRN 475355), Morbanx Pty Ltd (CRN 415282) and Vanessa Lewis (CRN 415453) are Authorised Credit Representatives of Newco Financial Services Pty Ltd (Australian Credit Licence No. 385054)



This October, *Blooms on Brice* celebrated 20 years since first opening its doors. "It's quite funny because I initially said I might have the shop for five years and then move on," said owner Kerri Grassby. These days the Mooroolbark florist and lifestyle shop is a familiar feature on the main street. The October milestone was celebrated with staff, friends and regular customers—and after 20 years there are plenty of regulars.

"That's one of the best things—our regular customers." The shop has seen many of the same people through the doors over the past two decades, and Kerri explained what a privilege it was to be a part of so many significant events in people's lives. "I've seen little kids come in with their mum, then years later they have grown up and we are doing their 21st flowers, engagement flowers, and even wedding flowers!" She added, "I love the interaction, especially with some of our older customers who always have a bit of advice and time to chat."

The 20th anniversary also marked many years of hard work by Kerri in an industry she clearly loves. Kerri was the sole florist for the first year, but now employs a full-time staff member as well as seven local girls part time and, occasionally, work experience students. "It's really rewarding to have seen it grow so much," said Kerri. She also credited her mother and step-father, Wendy and Greg, for their constant support and help with the business. In Kerri's opinion, "It's great working in a creative industry because you get to do something different every day."

Kerri feels that *Blooms on Brice* has grown up along with the area. "The area has changed a lot over the years and is thriving now." The florist has changed too, and now includes a range of homewares and gifts. "Since we've been here for a while, we are constantly updating our stock so that it is fresh and interesting. People might come in for flowers but leave with something else."

It looks as though the Mooroolbark community will continue to enjoy *Blooms on Brice's* beautiful wares for a while yet. "If I still love what I'm doing—who knows!" laughed Kerri. "I might end up being the little old lady selling flowers and celebrating the 40th anniversary of the shop!"

Carissa Sianidis



Kerri and her mum Wendy

## Local Australian Boxing Champion

Young Mooroolbark resident Harrison Garside is the current Australian Lightweight Youth Boxing Champion. He says his life started on the long pathway to his national success in boxing when, at just ten years of age, he wandered into the club rooms of the Lilydale Boxing Club. He was immediately impressed with the 'fun atmosphere' at the club and was very excited about the prospect of getting involved in the fitness and skills aspects of the sport. He said, "Over the years my enjoyment of all that boxing offers has continued to grow. I just can't get enough of it."

Harry first tasted national success when he took out the silver medal at the 2013 National Boxing Championships. He commented, "This made me really hungry for more success." It was at the following national event, in 2015, that he became the Australian Youth Lightweight Champion.

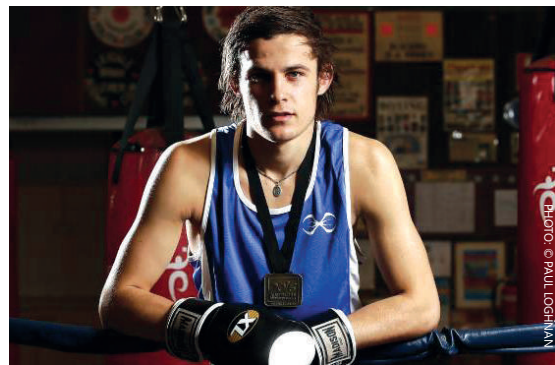
Recently, Harry was one of eight young Australian boxers in his class to be selected to participate in the Australian Youth Commonwealth Games in Samoa. He received the significant honour of being nominated as the team captain of the Australian contingent. He met the favourite for the event in the first round of that competition and was narrowly

defeated on points. This, however, did not dent his enthusiasm one little bit.

Harry has now been selected as one of seven from Australia to represent our country in Beijing, China, for a two-week training camp leading up to the 2016 Australian Championships, which is a stepping stone to the 2016 Rio Olympics. His immediate goal is to represent Australia in one or more of the coming 2016 Olympics, the 2018 Commonwealth Games or the 2020 Olympics. Only then does Harry say that he may consider the possibility of taking up professional boxing. His long-time coach, Brian Levier, commented, "In 40 years of coaching I have seen very few who are as dedicated and capable of success at the highest level as Harry."

When Harry was asked the question, "As a boxer, what is it that you think sets you apart and has enabled you to enjoy so much success?" his response was, "People say I have a big heart. What I do know is I may not be the strongest or quickest but I never give up. You will have to work hard if you are to beat me!"

This year Harry successfully completed his VCE at Lilydale Secondary College and plans to eventually join the Australian Army



with the goal of entering a recruitment program for an SAS position. He acknowledges that this is a big goal to have, but looks forward to the opportunity to meet the challenge of participating in the recruitment and training program.

Right now Harry is very much enjoying sharing his love of his sport by encouraging other young people to set significant goals in their lives. He does this through the Jim Stynes Reach Foundation which facilitates him speaking at various clubs and schools. The program enables 30,000 young people each year to participate in workshops that are 100% led by youth leaders in the community.

Well done Harry! We look forward to future news of your achievements.

**Doug Lewis**

## Brent Guerra: My Gambling Addiction

Brent Guerra was hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt before he was able to admit to others that he had a gambling problem. For the ex-AFL footballer, acknowledging his problem was the first step in getting help to overcome his addiction. Now, as a recovering gambling addict, Brent is an enthusiastic supporter of the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation and uses his experience to help others in the same situation.

Brent told his story at a free community forum held at the Mooroolbark Community Centre on 13 October. The forum was one of more than 100 such events held across Victoria as a part of Responsible Gambling Awareness (RGA) Week. Previously held in May

each year, RGA Week has now been moved to October to coincide with the increased betting that occurs around the spring racing carnival. The Mooroolbark forum, which was supported by the Yarra Ranges Council and community groups, attracted an audience of gamblers and their loved ones, as well as concerned community members and local organisations.

Brent explained to the audience that although at first he thought he was gambling responsibly, things changed almost overnight when he won a great deal of money from a single bet. He was hooked. He began gambling frequently and soon lost not only his winnings but much more. Before long he was betting on almost anything—including sports and horses he knew nothing about—in every spare minute that he had. Each time, he believed that the next big win was around the corner. "I thought, I'm onto something here," he said. "But I wasn't onto anything."

To cover his debts and his addiction, Brent began borrowing money from family and friends—lying about where the money was going. "I was just so embarrassed," he said. "It made me change as a person."

Brent tried to curb his gambling by himself, but when he realised that he couldn't do it alone he confided in his manager, and with his help began the road to recovery. He now has his life back on track, is saving money, and enjoys time with his wife and young son instead of gambling.

Brent was supported at the Mooroolbark

forum by a panel of experts, which included a psychologist, a financial counsellor and a legal aid adviser. The panel explained the support that is available to gamblers and their families, and fielded questions from the audience.

Because of the devastating effect betting had on his own life, Brent wants to help others struggling with gambling. "If I can help one person I will get a lot of satisfaction from that, but if I can help many more, that would be fantastic," he said.

*If you would like to find out more about gambling, its effects and how to get help, call the free and confidential Gambler's Help hotline on 1800 858 858. Comprehensive information and support is also available on the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation website: [www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/](http://www.responsiblegambling.vic.gov.au/)*

**Janet Van Dijk**



PHOTO: © RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING FOUNDATION / PAUL JEFFERS



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# Minding our Ps and Qs

"Mind your Ps and Qs" is an English expression meaning "watch your manners" or "be on your best behaviour." This phrase was used by parents to remind their children to use those polite words when speaking to others. There are several different theories as to the origin of the phrase. One explanation suggests that "P" is short for "please" and that "Q" represents "thank you".

The original meaning of the word "please" was "if it pleases you." Other ways of expressing it include, "would you mind?", "would you be willing?", or "could you possibly help me?"

Asking someone to do us a favour in this way places us in a position of vulnerability—it places us in that person's debt. This debt might be repaid quite simply with the words, "thank you!" or perhaps just an appreciative smile or nod.



**If you want to turn your life around, try thankfulness. It will change your life mightily.**

~ Gerald Good

People often say, "A smile doesn't cost anything." In monetary terms a smile certainly doesn't cost anything. However it does carry with it an expectation. The message conveyed by a smiling face is quickly understood—it's welcoming, disarming and invites a smile in return. Just like making a request using the word 'please', when we smile we anticipate a positive response. It's this exchange that makes all the difference. A smile offered and not reciprocated or acknowledged is like picking up a phone that is ringing, then immediately hanging up! It is like saying, "I know you're there but I don't care".

This basic exchange of please and thank you between two people, perhaps strangers, creates a new relationship: creditor and debtor, giver and receiver. When these words are expressed with sincerity, there is an underlying message of respect. There is recognition and appreciation from both people of what has been offered and received. This flow of give and take forms an important link between people. On the other hand, when there is imbalance or under-appreciation, social standards and relationships suffer. "Please" and "thank you" are simple words that can have a significant effect in our lives, and the lives of others we make contact with.

**Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.**

~ William Arthur Ward

A smile might not cost, but being rude, impolite, impatient or unkind certainly does. Not in dollars, but in decency and dignity. There's a mistaken concept gaining traction that if someone wants to get ahead in life, it needs to be at another person's expense. In fact, no matter who you are, you still need people in your life. Genuine, caring and reciprocal relationships are a key to happiness.

Healthy relationships seesaw between giving and receiving. We ask for help with a "please" and we acknowledge help received with a "thank you". We may respond to someone thanking us by saying "You're welcome", or "It's a pleasure". We should endeavour to avoid responding in a dismissive manner or not at all.

Let's all take a few minutes, maybe at the end of each week, to think of those who have helped us in some way that week. Perhaps we've already acknowledged the contribution, but we can affirm our appreciation through a text or a card—this

does wonders to promote and strengthen relationships. We could also think of those whom we've already helped and perhaps contact them to see how they're progressing.

Relationships follow a similar principle to electricity. Electricity doesn't produce light or motion unless there is a completed circuit. When a need is met, and appreciation expressed, the circuit is complete.



Steve Steel

Is there a circuit that you can help complete? I know there are many in my life.

**In everything, give thanks.**

~ Apostle Paul



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# Sleeping Rough



Have you ever considered what it might be like to be homeless in Melbourne—at the mercy of our fickle weather, perhaps being pelted by icy rain or sweltering under the scorching rays of the summer sun? What must it be like to have so few of life's necessities that you long for the luxury of a warm shower or a cup of coffee? Perhaps you understand how it feels to be a single parent who struggles to meet the physical and financial needs of those you love most.

For Mooroolbark mum Lisa Currie, thinking of those who are in desperate financial need led her to establish the Ripple Kindness Christmas Care Project for those who this Christmas are “sleeping rough” or going without. It's part of the Ripple Kindness Project, a community project and primary school curriculum that provides opportunities to help people practise kindness toward others.

With the generous help of individuals and businesses, the Christmas appeal has collected items to be distributed to the poor and homeless. Fifty backpacks will be filled with personal care items, small gifts and Christmas treats, and an additional 150 or so gifts will be distributed to those who might otherwise receive nothing.

Lisa's first Christmas collection was a few years ago when, as a member of the Bimbadeen Heights Primary School chaplaincy committee, she heard about several families who would be struggling at Christmas. Determined to help, Lisa approached local businesses for donations.



Lisa approaches small businesses and large corporations to help with her projects. Here, she and a friend hand out gifts and donated food vouchers to the homeless on World Kindness Day

Most people were generous, and Christmas was made easier for several families.

At the time Lisa thought her Christmas appeal would be a one-off, and focused her energy on running a Pamper Day for carers in 2013 and a Winter Warmers clothing appeal this year. The Pamper Day was a great success, and the clothes drive collected more than 900 kilos of quality pre-loved clothing for those living on the streets or doing it tough.

As the end of this year approached, Lisa decided once more to collect for families under pressure at Christmas. This time, she

recruited volunteers to assist. With the help of her Ripple Kindness Facebook page and the distribution of hundreds of flyers, Lisa appealed to the community to help by donating money or goods.

Because of the far-reaching effects of Facebook, contributions have come not only from the local community but from interstate and even overseas.

Lisa is very grateful for the support of several organisations: Harvey Norman printed the flyers, while Methven Real Estate and Chirnside Park Community Centre are acting as local drop-off centres for donations. Very generous contributions came from Belvedere Hosierey, QBD The Bookshop (Eastland), Carman's Kitchen, Organic Formulations, Big Mates Pizza, and Shepparton Food Factory Sales in Bayswater.

Local schools have been eager to help, and Lisa is touched to see the spirit of giving in those so young. The Basin and Pembroke primary schools and Billanook College have all offered to make Christmas cards, donate gifts, or contribute filled backpacks. “As educating students about the importance of kindness is a huge part of what we do, I'm really excited to see local schools want to get involved,” said Lisa. “They show children that charity isn't just a gold coin donation. They're keen to involve their students in practical ways so they're able to understand how wonderful it feels to help someone less fortunate.”

## You can help!

There is still time to donate—items can be left at the Chirnside Park Community Centre or Methven Real Estate's Mooroolbark, Lilydale or Mt Evelyn offices. Donations can also be mailed to Ripple Kindness Project, PO Box 78, Mooroolbark. To find out what's most needed, you can contact Lisa via the links below. Because no new backpacks have been donated, the appeal will need to purchase clean, good quality second-hand backpacks. People can help with costs like this while shopping online—the Facebook page has links to sites such as Book Depository and the Breast Cancer Site Store, which will donate a percentage of the cost of purchases. Ripple's own Etsy store is also donating 100% to the appeal.

After the appeal closes on 10 December, items collected will be distributed to the homeless and to struggling single parents. Lisa said, “We are working with aid agencies and school chaplains to identify those most in need.” Among those who will benefit are organisations such as Holy Fools in Lilydale and Warburton's Redwood Centre.

In the years that Lisa has been raising funds for people in need, she has noticed that it's those who have little to give who are the most generous. “I've heard of strangers who hand over their last few dollars to someone whose struggles seem greater than theirs,” said Lisa. “The community has raised its hand to help its neighbours and I encourage more businesses to partner with organisations like ours to make giving back to the community part of their future plans.”

## THE GIRL GUIDES' SONG

*No matter what difficulties we face, God will never forsake us*



British Girl Guides in Devon, 1944

PHOTO: MINISTRY OF INFORMATION (UK) / STONE RICHARD PUBLIC DOMAIN / VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The other day I was listening to a podcast when I heard a story about a troop of British Girl Guides living in China during World War II who were interned in a Japanese concentration camp. And while they endured horrible conditions and were forced to go without food and water for long periods of time, these guides didn't let the circumstances get them down.

Instead, they determined to live by their code, making the best of every situation. One of the ways they did this was by singing songs to make them feel better. They sang funny songs, silly songs and even had songs that they sang before they went to bed. As the Japanese soldiers marched this

Girl Guide troop through the front gates, the guides recited Psalm 46, singing:

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. (Psalm 46:1-5).*

When I'm facing an uncertain situation, I turn to my favourite passages of scripture. Whether it's the Psalms, the Prophets or the Gospels, scripture reminds me that none of us are abandoned by God—He has not now,

or ever will turn away from His children or stop pursuing us. He will do anything and everything to bring us into a deeper relationship with Him.

The British Girl Guides endured their hardship, living to see the American troops parachute in and liberate the camp. I don't know if they sang a psalm then, but if they did, I think it would have been this one: "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles" (Psalm 34:17).

by Joseph Tkach  
Speaking of Life series:  
<https://www.gci.org/SpOL433>

## A Promise Kept

### Volunteering at the Royal Children's Hospital

Nancy Isherwood first came into close contact with the Royal Children's Hospital years ago when a young family member required medical treatment at the hospital. Throughout the treatment process Nancy was deeply impressed with the level of kindness and support received from the staff and volunteers at the hospital. Before the treatment was concluded Nancy made a promise to herself that she would return one day to help others as she had been helped.

Many years later Nancy, now a grandmother of four, is one of 400 volunteers who help to provide the best support possible to young children and their families as they go through challenging times facing medical issues.

Nancy's volunteer work takes place in the Specialised Clinics section of the hospital, which provides day appointments for hospital outpatients. Her role is to offer friendly comfort and support to young patients and their parents as they wait for appointments. At her disposal are a number of craft activities, puzzles, games and toys to catch the child's interest, and often to provide some much-needed relief for anxious mums and dads.

Another well-used facility is the 'Bean-Bag Theatre' where

children can make themselves comfortable as they watch a current children's movie. Nancy points out that this theatre facility is provided by the Hoyts Australia organisation and is run remotely from the company's offices.

Along with other volunteers, Nancy helps children to find a bean-bag and a spot to enjoy the movie.

Having volunteered in this capacity since 2008, Nancy speaks of her role at the RCH as a most enjoyable, worthwhile and rewarding part of her busy life. She said, "Bringing some enjoyment to the young patients, and offering a well-deserved break for concerned parents, brings a real sense of achievement and satisfaction."

Nancy also enjoys an active life at her church—St Margaret's Uniting Church in Mooroolbark. Nancy has been a member at St Margaret's for 36 years and is committed to contributing to the life of the church in whatever ways she can. A church elder and a member of the church council, Nancy expresses a strong passion for pastoral care and enjoys being able to devote a good deal of her spare time to supporting church members and families in various ways. She is also actively involved in providing the popular 'Music

Together Program' that the church offers to the community. In all, Nancy provides a great contribution to community life.

Interested in finding out more about volunteering at the Royal Children's Hospital? Go to [www.rch.org.au/volunteers](http://www.rch.org.au/volunteers)

Doug Lewis



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

# Carols by Candlelight

Hookey Park  
Friday 4 December 2015

**6:30 pm** Picnic dinner in the park:  
BYO or purchase at family-friendly prices

**7:45 pm** Enjoy the sounds of Croydon Citizens' Brass Band

**8:00 pm** Community carols, including performances by local schools

Bring your own rug or chair  
Food for sale including the famous Lions Christmas Fruit Cake  
Battery-operated candles for sale  
Parking: rear of Terrace Shopping Centre

PHOTO: © LEDUA BROOKS



Rachel helping prepare a meal



Payton with some of the local children



Australians and Ni-Vanuatans working side by side



## Tankio Tumas

*Tankio Tumas.* These simple words—“thank you very much”—were a heartfelt expression of gratitude from Andrew John, principal of Fokona Primary School in Vanuatu, after a group from Edinburgh College in Lilydale travelled to Vanuatu to help rebuild the primary school.

For many years, Edinburgh College has sent a group of Year 11 students to Vanuatu to help with building and maintenance work. This year there was increased urgency as a result of the damage caused by Cyclone Pam, which swept through the country in March. The cyclone left over 75,000 people without adequate shelter, and more than 95 percent of crops were destroyed. Flood waters caused damage to roofs, floors, foundations, and windows, and the locals don't have money for many of the repairs.

Through ADRA Connections, which organises short-term service trips for volunteers on behalf of ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency), the students arranged to help repair the damaged Fokona Primary School near Port Vila.

Before leaving Australia, the students set out to raise \$1800 each to purchase materials for the project once they arrived. For several weeks the students worked hard raising money through working bees, food stalls, sausage sizzles, concerts and garage sales. They also received very generous donations from family and friends. As a result of the students' hard work and the kindness of others, the money was raised and the group set off for Vanuatu in mid-September.

During the ten-day trip, the students' main task was to replace damaged classroom floors. They worked side by side with locals in the hot sun, ripping up floorboards, shovelling dirt to level the classroom floors, and mixing concrete by hand, using buckets and shovels. Student Vanessa Chasteauneuf appreciated the two-step process of not only raising and donating the money, but working with the locals to get the repairs done. “I'm so glad I had the opportunity to meet such wonderful people,” she said.

The Edinburgh students also spent time getting to know the local children—giving them classroom lessons in hygiene and nutrition, and playing soccer and other games with them.

One evening the students helped local women prepare a dinner of

food wrapped in banana leaves which was cooked over fire-heated stones. A few of the students found that some of the food preparation—like grating coconut using a native tool—was not as easy as they might have first thought!

It was a time of new experiences for the students, from tasting the native food to establishing friendships with people of another culture. They coped with limited bathroom facilities, hand-washed their own clothes, and experienced life without refrigeration and mobile phones. In return, there was the pleasure of working with the villagers and enjoying a healthy diet of freshly picked fruits and vegetables instead of processed foods. “It was such an amazing experience,” said Payton Page. “There was never a dull moment.”

Student Michael Tutic was struck by the positive outlook of the people of Vanuatu. “They are so happy, regardless of what the situation is... the locals worked together to achieve their goal without needing to rest that much,” said Michael. “It was an eye-opening experience.”

After finishing their project and saying goodbye to their friends in the village, the group enjoyed a day of sightseeing before they caught their flight home. They visited a museum, shopped at local markets and went swimming in the crystal waters of the beautiful Blue Lagoon.

Teachers Ledua and Danny Brooks, who led the group, enjoyed seeing the positive impact the trip had on the students. “They've realised that the beauty of the Pacific is her people, not the place itself,” said Danny. His wife Ledua agreed: “The way that people there treat work as a social event stood out. Students couldn't help but comment about the way Ni-Vanuatans people smiled all the time, and the hospitality was really appreciated. I think our students have come back changed. They had to work hard to raise their money; they worked hard over in Vanuatu, and have been totally blessed and changed as a result.”

Fokona Principal Andrew John said that for the students and teachers of the primary school, no longer having to watch where they walk to avoid injury is a “dream come true.”

It seems it was a dream come true for the group from Edinburgh College too. “It was so rewarding and I would do it all over again,” said Payton. “I'm sure everyone who was involved will never forget it.”

**Janet Van Dijk**

# Tony Smith: Speaker of the House

Imagine our local Federal member Tony Smith MP being dragged—somewhat unceremoniously and certainly reluctantly—to the Speaker’s chair in the national parliament in Canberra.

Earlier this year, with the resignation of former Speaker of the House of Representatives Bronwyn Bishop, Tony was elected by the Parliament to be her successor.

According to information obtained from the UK parliament site:

*When a new Speaker of the House of Commons is elected, the successful candidate is physically dragged to the Chair by other MPs.*

*This tradition has its roots in the Speaker’s function to communicate the Commons’ opinions to the monarch. Historically, if the monarch didn’t agree with the message being communicated then the early death of the Speaker could follow. Therefore, as you can imagine, previous Speakers required some gentle persuasion to accept the post.<sup>1</sup>*

The above photo pictures the tradition playfully continued today in the Australian Parliament—although Tony looks to be anything but reluctant or resistant. Nor does he appear to be being dragged! Tony told me, however, “I’m glad I’m a Speaker this century rather than centuries ago!”

Although this tradition has its roots in the Westminster system, not all our parliamentary practice came from that source. For instance, the term “House of Representatives” is American terminology in preference to “House of Commons”. Likewise, Australians preferred the US “Senate” for our elected upper house, contrasting with the appointed “House of Lords” under the Westminster system.

When Tony was elected to the Speakership he made it very clear that he would continue in the Australian tradition of remaining impartial when in the Chair. By contrast, Tony explains, “In Britain over recent centuries, the Speaker has become independent to the point where they’re not contested in their electorate and they don’t involve themselves in anything other than the Speakership. Australia has never been down that path. The Australian way is to have a Speaker who is impartial whilst sitting in the chair, but who continues to be a fierce advocate for the electorate at other times.”

As a way of helping him remain impartial, Tony chose to discontinue attending the regular party room meetings, due to the regular planning of party tactics for Question Time. “I committed to do this on the day I was elected to help bolster confidence in my commitment to impartiality.”

It was Tony’s electoral neighbour Michael Sukkar<sup>2</sup> who nominated Tony for the Speaker’s



role, and who, curiously, became one of the first parliamentarians Tony suspended from the House. Such are the demands of impartiality!

In his opening remarks, Tony stressed that parliamentary debate should be robust. How could it be otherwise when “the purpose of Parliament is to be the arena where ideas and ideals are argued about. But I also said Parliament shouldn’t be loud and shouldn’t be rude. I stated that I wanted to see a better parliamentary conduct which we could only deliver as all parliamentarians aspired to this together.”

As I write this, Tony has completed four weeks of sittings. “There have been some times when our behaviour hasn’t been as it should be, and you’ve just got to deal with it,” said Tony. “But I’m constantly thinking about better ways to do the job to the best of my ability.”

People may not realise that the Speaker’s responsibilities entail more than key chairing responsibilities of the daily opening of parliamentary sittings, where items such as daily prayers, acknowledgement of country and so on take place. Assisting the Speaker in some of his additional responsibilities is a Speaker’s panel—a number of others who may occupy the Chair at moments other than those key times. A member of the panel may take over once Parliament is up and running, before the Speaker returns for his obligatory presence during Question Time and then again to adjourn Parliament at the close of the day.

But there’s more to it, as Tony described. “The President of the Senate and I, as the Presiding Officers, jointly administer the Parliament. We speak several times each day. Technically, you’re not a Minister but you’re like a Minister—you have a department to ensure that all that needs to be done is done well.”

“There’s a hefty administrative role to ensure that the myriad of logistical needs are met so that Parliament can function—everything from cleaning to catering. In addition there are regular parliamentary delegations visiting from around the world. As the Presiding Officers, our role is to welcome these visitors on behalf of the Parliament, and ensure that their administrative needs are taken care of.”

“In a typical week, there could be two or three significant delegations visiting. One group this week, for instance, was a delegation from Hong Kong. After initial discussions involving one or both Presiding Officers, the delegates would continue discussions with other Members of Parliament. Typically delegations range from between four to ten representatives. Their days are packed full of meetings, and in addition they usually attend Question Time.”

“At times, depending on the size of the group, the President of the Senate and I will host a reception for them. If the delegation numbers ten to twelve we will organise an equal number of members from all political parties. So at the recent dinner we hosted for a Saudi delegation, we had Members who have a particular interest in that country. By such means we are able to build ties between Parliaments. On occasions when we host a visiting head of state, the whole Parliament



**Mooroolbark**  
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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/role/customs/>

<sup>2</sup> Liberal Member for Deakin

is involved.”

In attempting to run Parliament according to the Standing Orders, Tony spends considerable time in conversation with MPs. “Many members of Parliament talk to you about the processes of Parliament, or why you made a particular ruling, or they might ask for clarification about what happened in a particular debate—that sort of thing.”

“What a Speaker needs to do as the parliamentary umpire, is to be there for every Member of Parliament. Each of the several parties represented have diverse matters they wish to pursue. It’s my job to make certain that all are heard, that all views are taken into account.”

In the House, Tony is continually trying to judge the tone of the debate. “If I have concerns I warn people. I might warn people a couple of times so they’ve received fair notice. Beyond that, they know exactly what the consequences will be,” said Tony. “And if I require them to leave the Chamber I try to do it without fanfare.”

“Sometimes, depending on the circumstances, and in the interest of keeping the debate flowing as freely as possible, you have to be like an umpire and say “play on”. It all depends on the particular context, and how things are unfolding. Or sometimes I’ve allowed some very robust questions that the Government hasn’t liked but I’ve explained the flip side: if you ask a robust question you can expect a robust answer.”

“Standing Orders are there to be enforced sensibly,” continued Tony, “and in a way that keeps Parliament moving forward. Over the years, what’s called the “Practice” has developed—a collection of very helpful precedents on the way Speakers have applied the Standing Orders. They can provide insights as you focus on weighing up matters, making judgements and issuing instructions, because if we enforced every single Standing Order to the letter of the law every day, far fewer questions or answers would be allowed.”

We’d like to congratulate Tony on his election to this significant parliamentary office. No doubt he faces enjoyable and challenging times as he balances his electoral responsibilities with the important role of Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**Randall Bouchier**



McHappy Day at Mooroolbark McDonald's on 17 October was a very busy and successful event with local children enjoying many special activities such as face-painting, a jumping castle, guessing games, luck dips and fairy-floss.

Event coordinators Deyja Claydon and Cassie Baldry expressed their sincere thanks to all staff and volunteers who contributed so much to the success of the day. Several local businesses donated prizes for the children's activities, and Bonnie Anderson, Chloe Braidener and other performers gave of their time. Many members of the 1st Mooroolbark and Croydon Hills Scouts groups also gave significant support throughout the day. Local MP David Hodgett generously allocated some time to help.

Nationwide, this year's McHappy Day programs raised over \$3,600,000, which will provide more than 26,500 nights of accommodation in a Ronald McDonald House for families with seriously ill children. Over the past 30 years more than 120,000 Australian families have been assisted through Ronald McDonald House Charities. Some very moving stories of families who have been given support can be found on the RMHC website: [www.rmhc.org.au/stories](http://www.rmhc.org.au/stories)

This year's proceeds for McHappy Day at Mooroolbark totalled \$5,300—a great result!



MP David Hodgett serves a customer at the drive-thru window

PHOTOS: DOUG LEWIS

# 2016: A Blockbuster Year for Mooroolbark Community Centre

Sally Williams

The acclaimed shows *Phantom of the Opera* and *Educating Rita* are coming to Mooroolbark next year as part of the 2016 Culture Tracks program.

Locals can look forward to another year of the highest quality music, theatre and kids entertainment at Mooroolbark Community Centre.

*Phantom of the Opera*, to be performed in May, will be uniquely presented in vintage radio play format, live on stage. Lux Radio Theatre recreates the radio play experience, with distinguished actors playing multiple roles, creating sound effects and presenting old-fashioned soap commercials. This will be a fascinating way to enjoy an old favourite.

Victorian Seniors Week in October will be celebrated with a production of *Educating Rita*. Loved by audiences for 35 years, *Educating Rita* is a comedy classic made famous by the 1983 film featuring Julie Walters and Michael Caine.

Shadow puppet sensation *Sticks Stones Broken Bones* is sure to be a big hit with families in the Easter school holidays, and international music star Barney McAll will make a musical homecoming in August, when he performs his latest album Mooroolbark.

Tickets for the full 2016 program are on sale now at [www.culturetracks.info](http://www.culturetracks.info), by phone on 1300 368 333 and at the Mooroolbark Community Centre box office.



## NO WRONG DOOR

### Our Community Philosophy

In Yarra Ranges and throughout the outer east we believe that there is no wrong door for young people seeking help or support.

No Wrong Door is an initiative which helps young people aged 10 to 25 to navigate the service system. It ensures they receive the appropriate and adequate support for their needs, regardless of the door they used to enter the service system. Every door is therefore the right door and we ensure that young people's needs are properly identified and that they are referred on to the right service.

Youth Services teams from Yarra Ranges, Knox and Maroondah are leading the charge, working with 70 partner agencies which include Eastern Health, Centrelink and Inspiro.

The philosophy's framework was developed out of engagement with young people and care providers in the service sector. Now young people only need to tell their story once before being referred on to the appropriate service. Previously, they

might be unsupported if they did not fit a service's criteria.

An online directory, listing over 200 individual services and programs, is available at [www.nowrongdoor.com.au](http://www.nowrongdoor.com.au). It includes support in categories such as housing and accommodation, drugs and alcohol, financial support, same-sex attracted and gender diverse, education and employment, mental and physical health.

This website is a great resource for parents and carers looking for information on issues impacting young people, and offers resources to start supporting them.

If you are a service provider interested in participating in the program, contact details can also be found on the website.

For more information visit [www.nowrongdoor.com.au](http://www.nowrongdoor.com.au) or call Yarra Ranges Council on 1300 368 333.

**Nate Leslie**



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## 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 pm at Oxley College stadium. Details: phone 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au
Monday evenings each week	<b>Scottish Country Dancing:</b> Mondays 8 pm. (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 pm. 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 am. Morning tea & playtime included. \$12.50 per session per family. Call Yvonne: 9726 9347.
Thursday evenings each week	<b>Maroondah TOWN Club:</b> (Take Off Weight Naturally). Weekly, starting at 6:30 pm at 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 am. More info: 9725 4320 or www.kilsythps.vic.edu.au.
Wednesdays and Thursdays during school term	<b>Happy Hands Art Time—Encouraging Creativity in Toddlers:</b> children 1-5 yrs. Wednesdays: 9:30-11:00 am or 11:45-1:15 pm Thursdays: 9:30-11:00 am. Register online: www.happyhandsart.com
Friday 4 December	<b>Community Carols:</b> Picnic dinner from 6:30 pm, carols start 8 pm. 7:45 pm Croydon Citizen's Brass Band. 8:00 pm carols begin. BYO rug or chair; food & battery-operated candles for sale. More details see notice page 10.
1 & 22 December	<b>Immunisation, Yarra Ranges Council:</b> 1 & 22 December. Mooroolbark Community Centre, Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark.
10-24 December	<b>Spectacular Christmas Light and Sound Show:</b> Life Ministry Church, Oxley Stadium (15-49 Old Melbourne Road, Chirnside Park). 9-11 pm 10-24 December. Free entry; refreshments available.
10 December	<b>Ripple Kindness Christmas Care Project:</b> Bring your donations for those in need by 10 December to one of our drop-off locations. Further details page 9 or lisa@ripplekindness.org
13 December	<b>Life Ministry Church Christmas Carols Service:</b> 7:30 pm – 9 pm at Life Ministry Church, Oxley Stadium (15-49 Old Melbourne Road, Chirnside Park).
25 December	<b>LMC Christmas Day Service:</b> 10 am @ Life Ministry Church. Kids: bring your presents for show and tell! (Note: our 10 am services will be running throughout the holidays).
<b>2016</b>	
5 January 2 & 23 February	<b>Immunisation, Yarra Ranges Council:</b> 5 January, 2 & 23 February. Mooroolbark Community Centre.
January	<b>School holidays:</b> Free and low cost activities including kids' shows, art workshops and movies. Mooroolbark Community Centre and Montrose Town Centre. Bookings: 1300 368 333.
Friday 4 March	<b>World Day of Prayer.</b> 10 am Community service at St. Francis in the Fields, Hull Road, followed by morning tea. All Welcome. 2016 theme: 'Receive Children – Receive Me'.
<b>Mooroolbark Community Centre and Montrose Town Centre</b> 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	
Third Monday every month	<b>Montrose Movie Club:</b> Classic cinema hits screening every month. \$10 subscription. MTC.
12 & 13 December	<b>Melbourne Welsh Male Choir:</b> A Christmas tradition for Mooroolbark, this choir will fill the hall with booming baritones. 12 December 7pm, 13 December 2pm, \$15 / \$10 concession. MCC.
December 2015 - January 2016	<b>Red Earth Gallery:</b> Artists in our Residence, until 30 January 2016. FREE, open during business hours. MCC.

**Our Community Events Calendar offers a free service to local clubs and organisations.**

**To include entries for your group's community events in future issues please contact Doug Lewis on 9761 1121 or email 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.

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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)

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## MISSIONSTATEMENT

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

We seek to achieve this by:

- highlighting the many positives within our community
- encouraging partnership in community initiatives
- contributing to the process of identifying and addressing community needs and concerns

### OUR SPONSORS

*Living Today* greatly appreciates the valuable contributions made by several businesses which partner with us in serving our local community through this magazine. Their financial sponsorship makes the magazine possible, and we gratefully acknowledge those partners in each issue.



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