

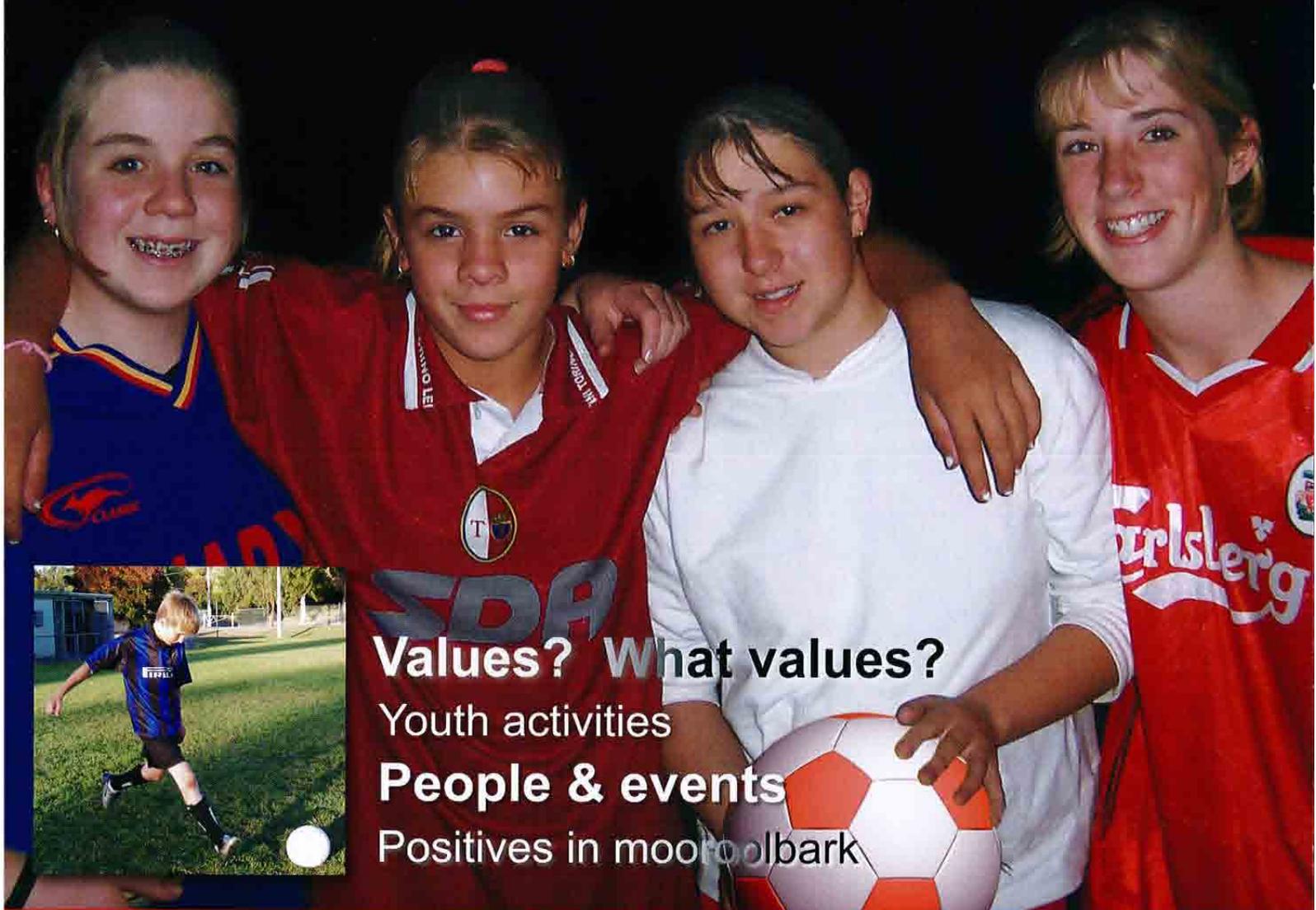
# LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

No. 12 JUNE 2005



## Mooroolbark Junior Soccer Club



Values? What values?

Youth activities

People & events

Positives in mooroolbark



8,500 Free Copies Distributed Throughout Mooroolbark & District

# TALK IT UP *mooroolbark*

In recent editions of Living Today in Mooroolbark, I have written about a recently formed local organisation – MAP Mooroolbark – a group of local volunteers who are committed to interacting with our community to collect and provide information about our people, our skills, our organisations and businesses, our facilities and Mooroolbark’s natural features...

In other words:

- What’s here?
- What do we value?
- What do we do well?
- What don’t we do well?
- What’s duplicated?
- What else do we need?

MAP Mooroolbark members believe that if we have ‘up to date’ information about our township, we have a better chance of using our collective community resources in ways that benefit all our residents, businesses and organisations.

That same ‘up to date’ information can also help us plan more effectively for our future:

- What do we value in Mooroolbark that we want to retain?
- What do we do that we want to do better?
- What else do we need in Mooroolbark to improve our township?
- What would we like Mooroolbark to be like in 5, 10 or 20 years?

By personally connecting with our community, MAP representatives are discovering that the process of mapping, by its very nature provides opportunities for enhancing and strengthening already existing community networks, and even

for encouraging new, broader partnerships between community groups.

As MAP volunteers move out into the community, we’re also finding that Mooroolbark residents quickly grasp the usefulness of what we’re doing, and in turn are volunteering to help collect information for MAP.

My own experience of meeting and speaking with people whilst collecting information has been very encouraging.

*“I’ve been impressed (and, I must admit, pleasantly surprised!) by the enthusiasm that we share for this township!”*

I’m reassured, that people share the desire to retain and improve the good stuff in Mooroolbark, and look for other ways to make our town a better place!

Here’s a sampling of things people have mentioned that they value about Mooroolbark. Have you ever thought about any of the following?

- The beautiful environment – the many trees, our parks and mountain views
- The respectful friendliness in our township
- The good service from our

businesses

- The way our smaller shopping centre reflects our community, rather than an imported culture
- Single-storey shops making access easy for the elderly and disabled
- The Community Bank helping us feel that our community is sustainable
- Easy car parking near shops
- The railway station, and the advantages of good rail transport
- The absence of poker machines as being good for our community identity
- The general safety of our community – and discreet police presence
- Good schools and sporting clubs
- Our young people – generally well-mannered, good-humoured, energetic
- Many active, community minded people and volunteers
- ‘Small town’ atmosphere, where many traders know the majority of customers...
- Hilliness
- Living in Mooroolbark is like living in the country, in the city



# oolbark!

- *Community groups – churches and other organisations are very helpful... People are ready and willing to help*
- *Our Community artist is a 'plus'*
- *Quieter than living in the city, and with gateways to the Dandenongs and Yarra Valley*
- *Great place to raise a family*
- *Good road structure through Mooroolbark*
- *Close to 5 other suburbs*
- *Views are beautiful - creeks, reserves, mountains*
- *Potential to be a much better place through careful design*
- *Can walk to the town to shop*
- *Tavern with outdoor garden*
- *Café culture emerging*
- *Most houses have views*
- *Community Centre - a potentially great (but under-utilised) resource*
- *Wide streets and footpaths*
- *Lots of land – plenty of scope for the development of artistic and visual qualities*
- *Older shops have great character*
- *Bowling*
- *Swimming pool*

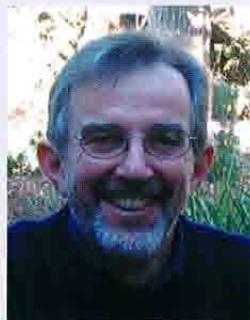
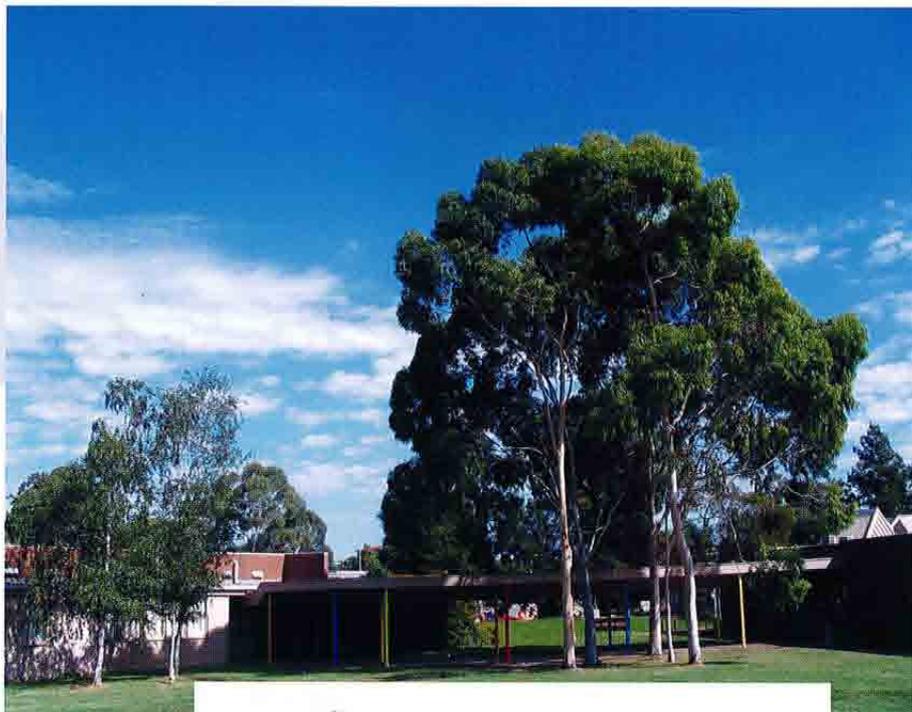
*It's a pretty impressive list, isn't it?*

*No doubt you can think of other attributes of our town. We'd welcome hearing from you. Please feel free to contact our office! Or email me at [randmary@tpg.com.au](mailto:randmary@tpg.com.au).*

*At MAP Mooroolbark, we're really excited by your growing, positive awareness about what we have, what we really value and what we want to retain in this great township!*

*In the next edition of LIVINGTODAY, I'm planning to inform you of our plans for a Mooroolbark community website...*

*In the meantime, let's keep 'talking up' and appreciating our town – Mooroolbark!*



**BY RANDALL BOURCHIER**



# Girls' day out



As part of their transition program for year 2006 students, Pembroke Secondary College - Cambridge Campus - invited grade six students from nearby primary schools to this special day. It was an introduction to the concept of the girls' home group that students will be able to take part in next year.

This group is designed to help support girls' academic and social needs,

to build their self-esteem and to allow for special strategies that cater for girls' learning strengths.

During the day the girls took part in a variety of activities including science experiments, dance, art, cooking, creative writing and group discussions. Primary students were assisted on the day by current secondary students. A feature of the day was a message presented by Janine Hosten, from "Youth Mobilization", a Montrose based support group for needy youth. Campus principal, Janice Marks, described her speech as inspirational. Janine related some of her experiences in meeting with refugees, children in orphanages and others in third world countries. She spoke of the inner beauty that was evident in many of these people as they struggled to help one another cope with the squalid conditions

surrounding their lives. She encouraged the girls to strive for that inner beauty that stems from reaching out to help others in need.

From the many happy faces to be seen, it was evident that Girls' Day Out was a great hit.



Janine Hosten (guest speaker) with a young orphan in Thailand

## farewell to rika mason

at the end of Term 1, family, friends and colleagues of Rika Mason joined in a most enjoyable celebratory evening to mark Rika's retirement from primary school education and from her position of principal at Pembroke Primary. This event, which took place at the Moo Bar in Mooroolbark, was a great time of fun and reflection for all present. Deputy principal Kate Perkins hosted the evening and spoke of Rika's career and her many accomplishments. It was noted that Rika began her teaching career with an appointment at Pembroke P.S. and was now leaving her final post after seven years as principal at the same school. A light-hearted slide show, prepared by staff members, illustrated some of the more recent events in Rika's school life and highlighted some of the many personal qualities she brought to the task - including a great sense of humour. Several people made mention of Rika's passion for mentoring of others at all levels: from staff leadership development to mentoring of young students. Her interest in the mentoring process was a significant factor in the establishment of the World Vision initiated program of "Kid's Hope Aus" at Pembroke, in association with Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship.

We all thank Rika for her many outstanding contributions to life at Pembroke Primary School and in the broader Mooroolbark Community. We wish her every happiness in the many endeavours she has planned for the years ahead. Thank you Rika!



Rika Mason, retiring principal Pembroke Primary School

# family fun day

## at manchester preschool

The superb weather on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March drew a large number of current and past families to the Family Fun Day at Manchester Preschool in Manchester Road. A jumping castle, face painting, coloring competition, an animal farm, sausage sizzle, a cake stall stocked with delicious treats, and a variety of craft stalls ensured a fun filled day for all who came along. A visit from the Easter Bunny added much excitement to the day.

This annual event is planned primarily as a social opportunity for families to get to know each other and also to raise funds for new equipment for the centre. The preschool opened in 1971 and has played a significant role in the education and care of young children in the local area. The staff are all highly experienced and the centre is managed by a voluntary committee and receives excellent support from the parents of the children attending.

Groups for 3 year old children are held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9.15-11.15a.m. and two groups for 4 year olds are run as well. The front of the building has just been rendered, new signage installed, and the front garden replanted to update the centre. As part of the kindergarten's sun smart policy a large roof over the sandpit to protect the children from the



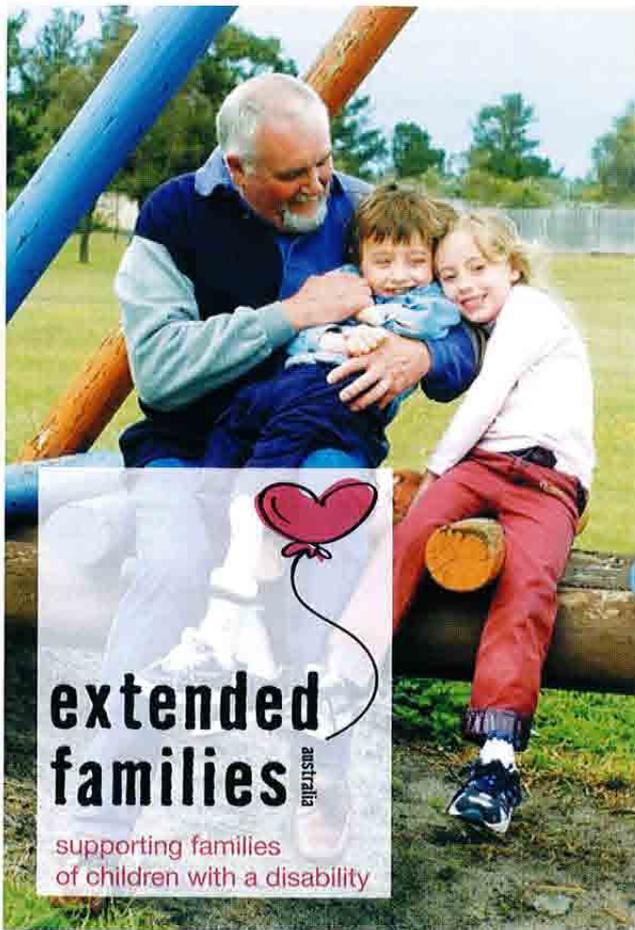
Emma Huckel with pre-school Mum, Allison Evans & Jai Evans

harmful effects of the sun has been recently added.

The philosophy of the preschool is that the children learn through play and the program is designed to enhance the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of each child. Incursions and excursions are planned around the children's interests. The 4 year old groups have recently enjoyed a performance by Dove Puppets of "The Ugly Duckling," and will be visiting Manchester Primary School to celebrate "Multi Cultural Australia" as part of Harmony Week next week.

Places are still available in the 4 year old groups for this year and if you would like to visit, or inquire about a placement, please call the centre on 9726 9204. By Margaret Volk

## creating OPPORTUNITIES through FRIENDSHIP



**extended families**  
australia

supporting families  
of children with a disability

The Extended Families Association, which was previously known as the Foster Grandparents Scheme provides an invaluable service for children with disabilities. It offers opportunities for mature-age volunteers to spend time with children who have a disability, and with their families, providing valuable companionship and support through regular visits in the family home or in a community setting. Each volunteer is carefully matched with a family who has a child with a disability, fostering the development of a loving and caring "grandparent" style relationship.

### Why take Part?

All children deserve to have someone special in their lives. Extended families offers support and companionship for children with disabilities, and their families, through outings visits and other social activities. Through the simple gift of friendship, the children are helped to realise their full potential in life. For the volunteer, there is a huge sense of personal enjoyment and satisfaction to be had in knowing you have truly made a difference in the life of a "special" child.

### Testimonials From Current Volunteers

"Being there for him has given me a huge sense of satisfaction and keeps me committed because I feel needed in his life"

"To see them express their love and trust is most rewarding"

"Knowing that you are contributing to their well-being"

"The love and hugs received from the child – Their faces lighting up when you arrive"

### Who Could be Involved as a Volunteer?

Extended family volunteers are enthusiastic, mature-aged people, committed to making a difference in the life of a child with a disability. All volunteers are screened and fully trained by a qualified regional co-ordinator before being matched with a family. They are fully supported in their work by the association.

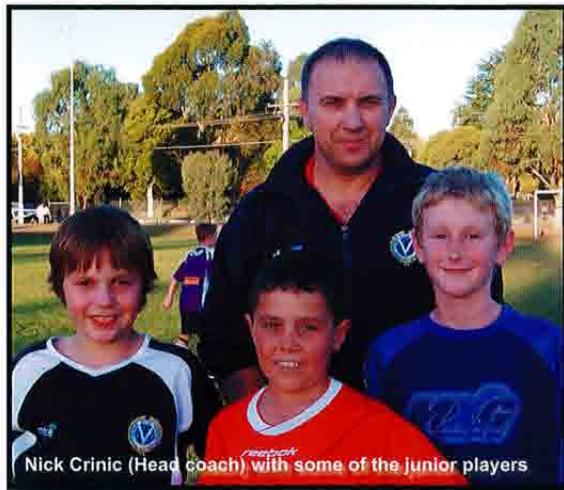
If you would like to know more about being involved, contact Extended Families Australia on (03) 9650 7216

# 200 keen young supporters can't all be wrong

**200** That's the number of young people, from our neighbourhood and surrounding areas, who participate in the activities of the Mooroolbark Junior Soccer Club each week.

*"With a response like that we have to accept that the club "must be doing something right."*

Parents express appreciation for the opportunities provided by the club and the kids, themselves, just can't get enough of it. One mum spoke of the times when her daughter has been too sick to go to school – but always recovered enough when it's time for training. "Hmm!" Another



Nick Crinic (Head coach) with some of the junior players

mum reflected, "His willingness to get out of bed early on a weekend morning, and to leave his video games during the week, for training, indicates how much pleasure my son gains from participating in the club's programs."

Currently M.J.S.C is fielding 14 teams in the 8-18 year old

sections of local competitions. It also offers a pre-competition, skills oriented program, for 5-6 year olds. The club is affiliated with the Victorian Soccer Federation and the teams compete in various Eastern Suburbs Leagues.

Our community applauds the work of the dedicated committee, coaches and supporters who provide these opportunities for healthy physical pursuits and team-building experiences for our youth. One

local community group, who obviously appreciates the value of all that the junior soccer club offers is the Lion's Club of Mooroolbark. When the Lions Club were recently asked if they would be willing to sponsor the club in some way, the soccer club representatives were "blown away" by the generous response they received. The Lions looked carefully at the Club's needs and then presented them with a grant of \$10,000.



Alex Legg (Pres.) Di Graf (Sec.) Andy Riley (V.P.)

What a great spirit of service to our community – from both Clubs!

Want to know more?

Contact Di Graf on 0414 726 699 OR  
tune in to 98.1 Eastern FM FRIDAYS 6:05pm  
for the club's radio program,  
"The Sound of Barkers Barking."

# MORE THAN JUST A BUSINESS!

*Just spending time with "Spokes" owner and proprietor, Gary Paddick, makes you realise that his shop and all that goes with it is more than just a business to him. It is his baby!*

He is proud of its long history in Mooroolbark - having now reached its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He is thrilled with the community connections it has made – the shop often serving as a meeting place for a coffee and a chat. And he relishes the many opportunities he has to help cycling enthusiasts in our neighbourhood to sort out their needs - now serving a second generation of local families. No wonder the business has such a good reputation and is growing.

Gary gives credit to Brian Jackson, a previous owner for much of the community good-will that he and "Spokes" enjoy so much today. (Many of us remember Brian well, for his earlier, valued contribution to Mooroolbark as an outstanding manager of our local Community Centre). Gary also derives much pleasure from supporting needy individuals and groups whenever and wherever he can. He often helps young people to develop skills in bike maintenance and repairs.

Recently he has given valuable support to local marathon cyclist, Paul Smith, in his various rides around Australia to raise funds for cystic fibrosis. (See details of Paul's next fund-raising bike-ride below). Another local identity he recently supported was Aaron Leonard in his work of raising funds for "Kids with Cancer".

Why not call in and have a yarn with Gary sometime - perhaps about the need for extension of our bike tracks in the immediate vicinity of Mooroolbark. He's always got time for a chat. We thank him for his keen interest in and contributions to our community.

### Paul Smith's next ride:

**Mooroolbark to Canberra, 660 km, over 5 days. Departing "Spokes" at 8 am Sunday Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. He is looking for company and support.**

Also being planned-

**Around Australia 2006, 14,000 km.**

Contact "Spokes" for further details.



**S**trong family contributions enhance communities! And we must never underestimate the value of those family contributions in our township.

Some of our residents and their families have lived and worked in Mooroolbark for many decades. Not only do their memories help enrich our sense of place, but their core value of voluntary service has benefited all of our lives.

One such family that has served Mooroolbark for many years is the Fuller family. In 1963, Jim and Dorothy Fuller and their four children moved to Mooroolbark from country Victoria.

In 1969, Jim Fuller became a charter member of the Mooroolbark Lions Club, and served as the inaugural Vice President. Members still recall his energy and dynamism. In July 1988 the Jim Fuller Community House (funded jointly by the Lions, State Government and Shire) was opened in Mooroolbark and named after Jim, in recognition of his continued service to the Lions Club and our township.

But the Fuller family's contribution to Mooroolbark didn't end there. Today,

## THE FULLER LEGACY

Jim's daughter Dympna – better known to us as Dympna Beard, MP for Kilsyth, currently serves on the Committee of Management for the Community House.

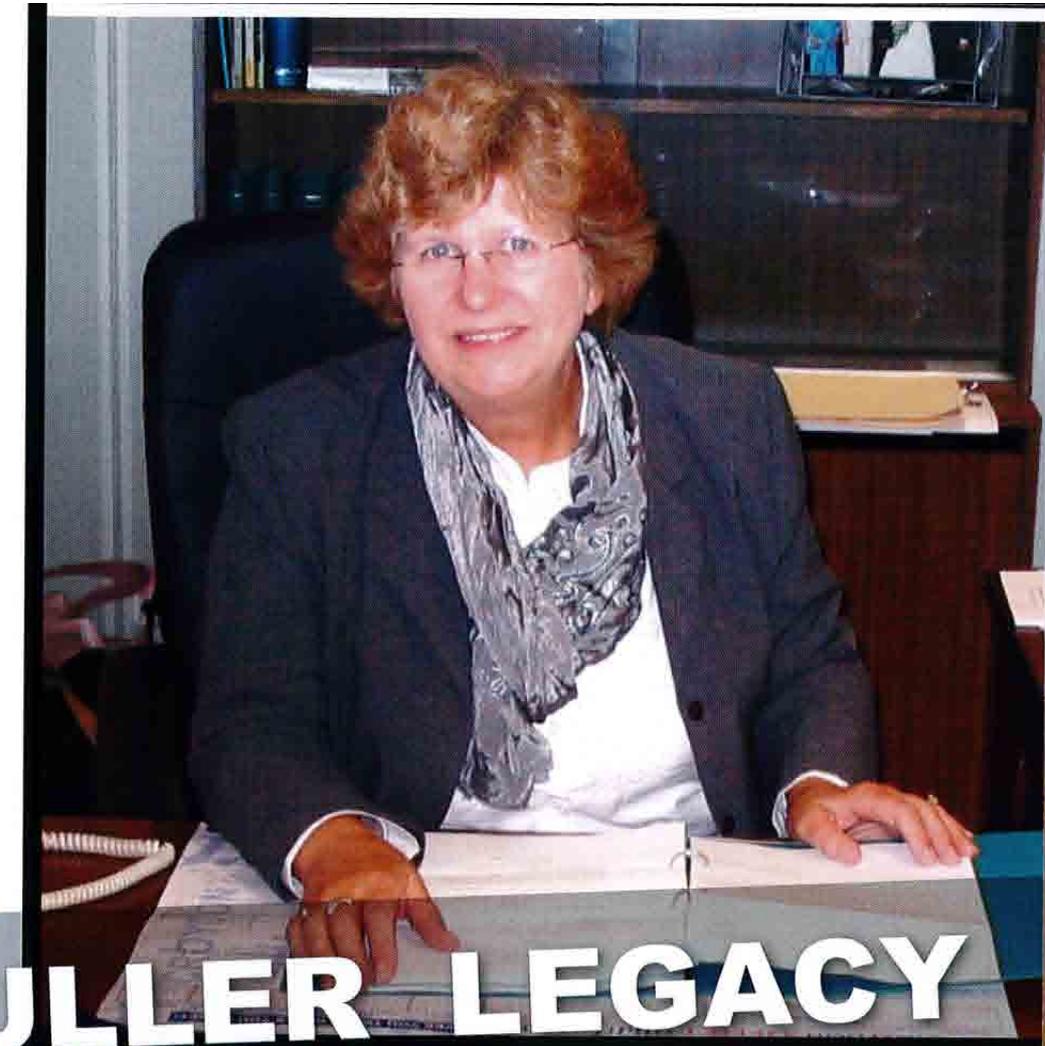
When elected to Parliament in 2002, Dympna recalled arriving in Mooroolbark:

"In 1963 ... (the family) moved to Mooroolbark from our country home just outside Colac, some of us arriving by train! With hot-water taps, a shower, a weekly garbage collection and a flushing toilet, and being together, we were sure life did not get any better... My husband Ted and I now live less than 3 kilometres from that Mooroolbark home, where my Mother still resides."

As a result of years in the family taxi business and teaching in several local primary schools, Dympna knows our community well.

Some politicians build their reputation as 'king makers', 'hatchet men', policy framers, spokesmen - but Dympna impresses me by her care for needy people. She has that 'common touch' – the capacity to relate to ordinary people – no doubt honed by her years of driving the local taxi. And so, during her term in State Parliament, she has primarily focussed upon the demand for better public housing and the needs of the elderly.

When she's away from the 'busyness' of parliamentary sittings and duties, Dympna feels most at home



Dympna Beard with her Electorate Officer Julie Bissett

personally helping people who visit her office. She listens with warmth and concern, as people speak with her about their personal difficulties.

Perhaps her father Jim's greatest legacy lies in the example he set for his family – the example that motivates Dympna to work within the community for the betterment of others.

She speaks about life after politics

– and her readiness for easing back into community life, and continuing to help ordinary people.

We wish her well – and we'd hope that Jim Fuller's concern for others would rub off on many more of us!

By Randall Bouchier

# Values? What values?

A few months ago, the media suddenly found "values" a subject of some controversy. You may remember it. Commentators attributed the Howard government's re-election in part to his appeal to traditional values. We saw similar factors at play in the outcome of the US elections. Then on top of all this came an announcement about a plan to include "values" in our Victorian schools curriculum.

This was how *The Age* reported on it in October last year under the headline "Fierce Debate Erupts": "The push to include values for the first time in the Victorian school curriculum has generated a heated debate over exactly what values should be taught.

"While a survey of schools and the community has strongly backed the teaching of a list of proposed values, a significant number have questioned just how the values would be chosen and raised concerns about interpretation.

"The State Opposition has also challenged the proposed list of values..."<sup>1</sup>

The tenor of this debate tended to assume that our teachers would be called upon to stand up in front of their classes and in some way expound and discuss these values in a straight teaching situation. However, the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), which circulated the proposed list, had something different in mind. As it still states on its website:

"The set of values outlined in the VCAA's original consultation paper . . . are not proposed to be the subject of specific, stand-alone teaching or the focus of assessment of individual students. They are a statement of the community expectations within which schools develop their curricula."

In other words, they form part of the background principles upon which the school selects what is to be taught in the classroom.

The set of values, outlined in the VCAA's consultation paper, are not intended to stand alone. They are a statement of community expectations within which schools can develop their curricula.

Of course, that doesn't make them any the less important and any the less suited to discussion. But it may take some heat out of the situation. So we may ask: Values? What values?

And I suppose that is the nub of the debate. In our increasingly multi-cultural society, with its "values-free" principles, how can we discuss values – and arrive at a consensus?

While "values free" conditions apply in the consideration of how we confront our personal biases and prejudices, it doesn't mean we then have to live in a "values-free" zone. But that is what many are feeling is being pushed on them by what goes under the label of "political correctness".

As *The Age* article went on to say: "The inclusion of values in the curriculum coincides with this year's debate triggered by Prime Minister John Howard, who said public schools were too politically correct and values-neutral. He said this partly explained the drift in enrolments to private schools."

We may or may not agree with this statement, but we should not allow such issues to polarise the discussion of what is intrinsically a critically important subject. What the VCAA was really saying was, "What are the values that we agree on as a community?" Because we do have values. Some are entrenched in our laws and sentencing. Others are not written down but are equally as powerful. However, there is a sense among many that the values that they hold dear – whether written down or not – are under some sort of threat and are in danger of erosion.

That's where a discussion – rather than a debate which can so easily descend into heated argument – can be both healthy and helpful. We do need to be able to explicitly state what our values are. For many of us, if we were put in this situation, it would be a most difficult task. We generally only pinpoint them when they are specifically challenged. It would be a magnificent exercise for each of us as individuals, as families, and as community groups to sit down and list what we feel are the values we have, and perhaps more importantly, the values we ought to have.

In that situation, it is a big help to have a list to look at to start with. Which is the reason the VCAA produced their list in the first place. Then when we've compiled our own list we can sit down with others in or community and compare lists. I suspect were we to do this we would be struck by how much we do have in common and how much we would have no argument over whatsoever.

Isn't that something worth trying?

## Values Proposed For Victorian Schools

### Tolerance & Understanding

acknowledging other people's differences and being aware of others

### Respect

treating others with consideration and regard

### Responsibility

personal, social, civic, and environmental

### Social Justice

the pursuit and protection of the common good. All are entitled to legal, social and economic fair treatment

### Excellence

seeking to accomplish something noteworthy, performing at one's best

### Care

for self and others

### Inclusion And Trust

being included & including others, listening to others' thoughts and feelings

### Honesty

being truthful and sincere

### Freedom

enjoying the rights of citizenship, standing up for the rights of others

### Being Ethical

in accordance with generally agreed rules, and/or standards



By Terry Villiers

<sup>1</sup> As reproduced in the article by Shane Green, Education Editor, *The Age*, Friday October 29 2004

Mooroolbark Community Bank Branch  Bendigo Bank

Supporting The Local Community.



# CHRISTIAN VALUES

**C**hristian values – those can be “fighting words”, even though those values are supposed to represent exactly the opposite way of life.

But taking up the challenge we posed in our leading article *Values? What Values?* how would Christians respond? You’d think we would have a much easier job of it than most. But looking around at the diversity of churches and our differing dogmas one can’t help wonder.

I happened to be in a group once where this subject came

That’s probably a good place to start. William Barclay, the noted Scottish preacher and commentator, pointed out that even though other religions and philosophies proposed something similar in “Do not do to others what you would not have them do to you”, there lies a world of difference between the positive and the negative.

It is much more demanding to actually do something for others than to simply avoid doing things that might hurt or offend them. This is also the key difference between the ten commandments and the Christian ethic. Most of the ten consist of



up – quite inadvertently. One person had a ready answer, “The ten commandments! If we all got back to those, we’d have no more problems.” And so often that is the answer Christians offer.

But is that really the set of values that Jesus Christ brought? When you put it that way, it seems self evident the answer has to be no. The plain fact that the ten commandments were around for thousands of years before he appeared, puts paid to that notion. Yes, he did explicitly commend them to people – they were certainly sound and godly principles given to the people of the book. But were they to be seen as the core of his legacy?

### What is the core of Christ's legacy?

Putting it that way makes you dig a little deeper. What about the golden rule? “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

avoiding things that offend - the “Thou shalt not’s”.

When the apostle Paul responded to a challenge to state the key values of Christianity, he named three – faith, hope and love (or charity). But, he said, the **greatest** of these is love. It becomes the ruling standard by which all else is to be judged, both in thought, attitude and deed. And love, as Paul defined it, included “doing to others as you would have them do to you”. Specifically he included patience, kindness, humility and meekness, consideration for others, forgiveness, endurance, willingness to suffer wrong, steadfastness, and trust.

Is that not a good place for we Christians to start our list?

By Terry Villiers

## welcome to rev. jennie gordon

The combined churches of Mooroolbark extend a very warm welcome to Rev. Jennie Gordon who has recently taken up the position of minister to the Uniting Church congregations at both St. Margaret's Mooroolbark and Croydon North.

Jennie is thrilled to have the opportunity to serve in our neighbourhood – an area that she watched, from her childhood in Croydon, emerging from a “rural outpost” to a “snappy suburb”. A community that she sees as now having taken on a life that is uniquely its own.

She looks forward to building on “the generous creative, and faithful work of her hard-working predecessors, Jim and Margot Foley”, describing them as “a hard act to follow”.

Jennie was trained in the United faculty of Theology in Melbourne and spent two years serving in Preston prior to this appointment.

She lives in the local area with husband, Colin and children Sarah, currently in year 12 at Luther College, and Michael, in year 9. Two dogs, “Will” and “Angel” contribute to family life.

Welcome to Mooroolbark and very best wishes – from our local churches.



## FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup>

All Welcome

Mooroolbark Community Centre

“Robots”

commences at 7.30pm

Free ice-cream and tea & coffee

This school holidays program is presented by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship, in conjunction with our community center as a service to young families in our neighbourhood.

For bookings contact the Community Centre  
9726 5488

See ya there !

Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship - Serving our Community

# YOUTH SERVICES

providing opportunities for young people

The Shire of Yarra Ranges Youth Services offers a range of programs, activities and services to the young people of Mooroolbark and the greater Shire. Many of you will have noticed the mural that has been developed behind the wall at the Moo bar as part of the Shire's Graffiti Project, and noticed the clean ups that have taken place around town. You may have even attended one of the events, like the Hot Acts Comedy night at the Mooroolbark Community Centre, the Youth Services-funded Youth Wake Project that provides activities for young people at the Mooroolbark Community Centre or the various activities held during the Holiday program offered throughout the Shire. These are just a few examples of the work that Youth Services does in the community.

Youth Services offers counseling services to young people aged 12-25, as well as holiday activities and structured programs like the recently held Youth Summit that brought together young people from all across the Shire; the Young Leaders Program

– a year-long program developing leadership skills and offering young people the chance to implement a community project; the Young Parents Group – for young parents aged 16-23; and the FReeZA program that offers young people the chance to join a committee and work on local music-based events in their local area.

Youth Services aims to assist young people to become involved and play a positive role in their local community, to provide activities and entertainment appropriate to local young people, to develop the skill of the young people and to assist young people to live healthy and fulfilling lives.

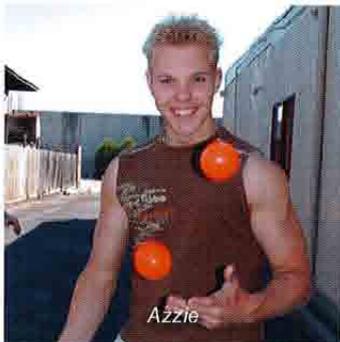
Details of the many programs and services offered by Youth Services can be found on their website [www.yrys.com](http://www.yrys.com)

For further details, to become involved in the programs, activities or committee's or to make a referral for the counseling service, please contact Youth Services on 9294 6716.

By Chris Leivers



Wicked-force



Azzie



Community Development Team



Youth Wake Participants



Left to right: Jessica Maybus, Clare Parks, Jess Dight, John Kennedy, Simone Newlands

## YOUTH WAKE MOOROOLBARK

While in Germany, Simone Newlands discovered the benefits of belonging to a youth group, this in turn sparked the idea to participate in a local youth group in her own community.

On returning to Mooroolbark, Simone was disappointed that there was no existing youth group that she felt she could attend. 'There are Church groups available, but that is not for everyone,' Simone commented. So the Mooroolbark College student decided that with a group of her peers, they would plan to set up their own youth group in the Mooroolbark area called "Youth Wake". After a few months of knock backs and dead ends, Miss Newlands approached the management of the Mooroolbark Community Centre and was given use of the centre free of charge.

Youth Wake was also among seven youth projects to receive funding through the Shire of Yarra Ranges Youth Services and Outer Eastern Employment Network. It received almost \$3000 to help set up the group. Youth Services personnel assist and mentor the group leaders.

Youth Wake began in November last year, and is progressing successfully into its second term. When asked about the aims behind Youth Wake, Miss Newlands said she was worried when she discovered that some of her friends had begun hanging around the Mooroolbark train station. 'I wanted them to have somewhere to go,' she said.

Miss Newlands is now keen to boost the numbers of young people attending Youth wake. 'I would like to get people that I do not know involved. My aim is to get the kids involved in helping their community and having fun at the same time with their friends.'

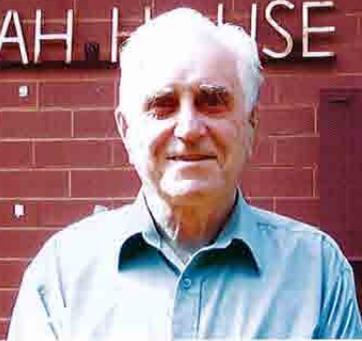
The group meets Tuesdays from 4.30 – 7 pm at the Mooroolbark Community Centre and takes part in activities such as sport, creative art, rock climbing, music and cooking.

If you are interested in getting involved with Youth Wake call the Mooroolbark Centre for more details on 9726 5488.

By Clare Parks



# MOOROOLBARK SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB BARMAH HOUSE



## It's my life

**K**en Makin, president of the Mooroolbark Senior Citizens for the past seven years says that the club "means everything" to him. He admits that it is often hard work and that he sometimes gets rattled when things go wrong but he loves every minute of it.

He is full of praise for the very capable and willing committee that he has working alongside of him, and speaks proudly of the team-work that has achieved so much in the way of innovations and developments in recent times.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the club's development, in Ken's view, is the significantly increased membership - seen over recent times. Numbers are up from 165 last year to over 200 at present. Ken is proud to call every one of the 220+ members of the club his personal friends. In return he is referred to as "a good bloke" who gives a great deal to the club. Having been through some personally very difficult experiences in recent times,

Ken is most appreciative of the help, the support and the friendship he has received from members of his "club family". He does not know where he would be without them.

Right now he is facing some serious health difficulties but has not let that slow down his contribution to club life. We all wish him well as he faces this latest challenge - and hope for a full and speedy recovery.

Ken issues an invitation to any local seniors, on behalf of the club, to come and check out the comprehensive array of programs and activities the club offers, or to phone the club on Tel. 9725 7704 for details.

Activities take place every day of the week, except Sunday, and include concerts, dancing, bowls, snooker, cards, bingo, art classes, exercise programs, line-dancing, subsidized bus trips and special catered luncheons.

Certainly worth a look!



## SAFETY HOUSE

Police and the community working together

The concept of safety houses began in Dandenong North in 1979. It is now a widely recognized community and local policing program throughout Australia.

The distinctive, yellow, smiling home logo designates a safe place for children to go for help when they feel frightened or threatened. A "safety house" can be a shop or business as well as a home. School education programs ensure that children are aware of the way that safety houses can be used to help them.

### Your home or business can become a safety house if:

- someone is normally home at the time children travel to and from school;
- your home is easily accessible from the street;
- the occupants of your home, over the age of 15 years, undergo police checks.

### What do you do when a child uses you as a safety house?

- Comfort the child.
- Call the police and follow their instructions.

Would you like to consider becoming a safety house or helping out with the program?

For further information please contact **Carmel Danks**, Safety House co-ordinator for our local schools on **9726 6302** or ring your own local primary school.

Carmel explains that the local area has a real need of further safety houses, additional members of the management committee and more home monitors. "The more safety houses we have, the safer the neighbourhood is for everybody."



Carmel & Kathryn Danks

## LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

### Production

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark is produced by a group of local volunteers

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### Like to Contribute?

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

## MISSION STATEMENT

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