

LIVING TODAY

IN MOOROOLBARK/YARRA RANGES

NO. 39 MARCH 2012



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Saturday March 24th Talent Show, Friday March 23rd

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She Fell For His Blue Eyes...

It's been a great romance from the start. She fell for his blue eyes. He took one look at her and the rest is history!

Connie tells the story of life shared with Rex Wyatt and their arrival in Mooroolbark in 1952:

Rex is fourth-generation Australian and I'm an immigrant. I arrived here in 1923 at 11 months of age from South Africa. My father was in the cavalry during the Boer War and was shot in the knee. He took his discharge from the British Army. He was obviously no good to them any more and of all things he married an Afrikaans woman – a Boer. There were three older children and one had died, and I sort of feel that they wanted to get out of the place.

I was pretty put out when I had to apply for Australian citizenship! I'd been in the air force and had taken out all the oaths that you could possibly take ... I was pretty put out with Bob Hawke's legislation in the late '70s.

Rex was born in Surrey Hills, and lived there until he departed to join the air force in the UK. We met when Rex came back after the war. They sent him in to work for me. He was one of the strays. I worked at the Officers Records. I was inundated with papers and ended up with about sixteen staff, and all these strays that they didn't know what to do with. I was attracted by his blue eyes. And Rex took one look and said, 'She's for me!' And bingo, it was quite quick, really.

Rex had attended school in Canterbury, followed by Swinburne Junior Tech before switching to a commercial course at Royal Melbourne Technical College¹. From there he had various jobs for four or five years before joining the air force.

Rex continued the story, remembering his war service:

I started off with Airmen Records in St Kilda Road and talked my way out of that to a posting in the UK. They started a separate overseas headquarters in London, and I was one of the initial staff. Forty two of us went in luxury on the Monterey via the United States. Everyone was treated like a first class passenger! America wasn't in the war yet, so because of the Neutrality Act, we went up the coast to Vancouver in one train, and changed to another train for a six-day journey across Canada to Halifax, which was where all the shipping was going from to the UK. They could not go from the American ports, as that would contravene the Act. I got sick in Halifax and was delayed there for a fortnight before heading to the UK.

Connie continued:

When Rex and others were due to

be discharged near the end of the war, they would send them on a course to learn about mustard gas, and then send them back to Australia on an ordinary cargo ship. The ships wouldn't travel in convoy, because of fears about enemy use of mustard gas. Rex came back via the east coast of America, through the Panama and across to Australia.

We were married on Australia Day 1946. At first we had a milk bar in Wattle Park, Surrey Hills. We were there two years, and Steve – the eldest of our three boys – was born. Things became a bit difficult, so we sold the business. Rex had always had his real estate licence – his family were in real estate – so he worked at that, and also as a traveller for Fauldings². We had another son, Andy, during that time. Rob was born after we moved to Mooroolbark.

In 1952 we moved to Mooroolbark because Rex had not been very well. He'd been in hospital off and on with one thing and another, and I had this block of land in Mooroolbark, and I wanted something that I could look after with two children and still make a living.

² Australian pharmaceutical company founded in 1845 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/F._H._Faulding_%26;Co

¹ Now RMIT



Rex Bournemouth, England November 1941



The mixed business, built 1951



Connie in WAAF uniform 1942



The hardware business, built 1953



The Neptune service station

It was a very hard time, because you couldn't get timber and things like that so we scrounged around and got to know people. We moved there just after Easter and opened the milk bar in Brice Avenue – or Taylor Road, as it was then known. Our residence was behind it, where the Commonwealth Bank is now. Some people we'd known in the service who worked for Neptune³ told us that the company could install petrol tanks if we supplied the building, so that's what we did. We bought the block of land next door for a service station. We were terribly in debt, but you didn't bother to tell anybody that! One of the boys came home from school with the tale that their Dad owned half of Mooroolbark, but I told him, 'No, the bank owned half of Mooroolbark!'

Eventually we decided to add the hardware store – so then we had the milk bar, the service station and the hardware store. We sold timber and concrete slabs at the back. Everybody was building out at 'Snake Gully' – the land around Sherlock Road.

When asked what Mooroolbark was like in those days, Connie answered that it was very different from what she had been used to:

It was terrible! It was very pretty, but the place flooded. A lot of topping had to go in, as the land was very low. The businesses fronted onto a dirt road and there were no gutters. I'd grown up in Essendon. Coming to Mooroolbark was a bit of a shock! It was completely different from anything I'd known, but I settled in

quite well. I'd had four years in the air force and could make do with the best of them. We had no sewerage, but I'd already been through that when we'd lived briefly at a little place in Boronia before moving to the Surrey Hills milk bar.

Mooroolbark was a great place to bring up children, however. You knew that they were safe, because everybody knew them and was watching them – but not over-watching them. I could see them playing on the oval⁴ from the kitchen when I wasn't in the shop. We all looked out for everybody else's kids.

There were lots of characters in Mooroolbark! There was Brigadier Ballantyne who used to come down for the papers and Edna Walling who lived at Bickleigh Vale, Andy Bell the stationmaster and the Hookeys. There were many people with personality. They would put up with things because they liked the quiet. Some wrote poetry, and so on. They were always nice and welcoming, as they appreciated not having to go to Croydon or Lilydale to buy supplies. There'd been the war and the shortages of things and people just wanted things to be better. They wanted a reasonable life.

Some people lived in one room or a garage while they were building. The laws won't let you do that now. They've taken all the fun out of life! We knew all these people. We knew they were struggling; we were struggling, but you got through it together.

When we opened the milk bar, there was a general store in Manchester Road on the north side of the railway line. They stocked everything. The proprietor, Bill

Drewett, eventually built a new red brick post office in what is now Brice Avenue and some years later, his son Albert built a newsagency next door.

Our dog used to lie in the middle of the dirt road, and cars had to go around it! And the ranger would come once a month with his cart to fetch the dog and people would say 'You can't take that dog, that's Rex Wyatt's dog!'

There was a gentleman who used to come off the train, who wasn't very honest – he was very light-fingered. Once he left a bag containing sausages outside the door of our milk bar. Rex saw our dog come round the side and pull the sausages out of the man's bag and run to the back of the house. I wasn't going to tell him; we figured it was retribution!

There were people who wanted to be 'somebody' in a small place like Mooroolbark, and it was always very amusing to stand back and watch.

Somebody said to me, on one occasion, 'Oh, you're one of us' and I thought, 'No, you don't get away with that!' So I said, 'Well, what is one of us?' They said: 'Well you had good schooling', and went on and on. I said, 'No, you are so wrong. You couldn't be more wrong if you tried. I left school when I was fourteen because we were immigrants and we were barely making it. My father had lost the land he'd bought because he couldn't get work even though he'd qualified as a French polisher in London before his service in the Boer War. My parents lost everything, and I had to go to work. I went to night school – my parents couldn't pay for it, so I worked and paid for it. I gave her chapter and verse and said: 'Never judge people like that! I may be one of you, but quite honestly, I don't want to be!' I was very angry. I don't like it!

We worked very hard to establish a playgroup in the hall. For a time I was president of the mothers' club. And later we had an architect do the plans for the kinder in Charles Street.

We moved to Lilydale in June 1970. Rex's father had died, and his mother came and lived with us there. Rex eventually concentrated solely on his travel business on the corner of Clarke Street and Main Street, Lilydale. We were in Lilydale for 29 years, eventually moving back to Mooroolbark in 1999. We were there for ten years before coming to live at Heritage Gardens in Canterbury Road.

Many thanks to Rex and Connie for generously sharing their time and reminiscences! And, Connie – best wishes for your birthday later this year when you'll join Rex on '90 not out!'



Randall Bouchier

3 <http://www.gassigns.org/neptune.htm> - some photos and brief history of Neptune service stations

4 Now Hookey Park



Our Free Family Festival SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2012 Red Earth Reserve, Brice Avenue Mooroolbark

What do steam trains, dragons and giant garden gnomes have in common? The answer



In just a few weeks, the Red Earth Reserve Mooroolbark will come alive for our very own festival. It will be a fun-packed family festival celebrating the community in which we live. Most things are in readiness; all we need is a crowd of people looking to enjoy themselves and the festivities. This year, Steam Rail Victoria is joining in, running the steam shuttle all day from Mitcham to Mooroolbark.

The festival will spread out from the Mooroolbark Community Centre across the Red Earth Reserve with a variety of activities to keep all ages amused. Food and drink on the day will range from the Lions BBQ sausages and potatoes to Devonshire teas and pancakes and vintage ice cream and everything in between. There will be the usual community market with a variety of produce and products on hand, as well as community groups with information booths. There will be rides, an animal farm, the scout bridge, ice-blocking and other activities for the kids, including flag painting and dance workshops. There will be a puppet theatre to entertain them as well. Most activities are free or at low cost because of the generosity of our sponsors. On the day there are a number of competitions happening. Lucky envelopes will be there again and for the young folks there will be a 'scavenger hunt' with a twist. You can look out for us on Facebook and if you 'like' us you go into the draw for a special prize.

Talent Quest

The festival itself kicks off on the Friday night (March 23) with the **Mooroolbark Talent Quest** at the Mooroolbark Community Centre at 7:30pm. An audience is required and at only \$5 it is a great night out. Winners will appear on the community stage the next day. The stage programme is packed with a variety of acts over the day. We have already confirmed Ghawazee Charm Belly Dancers, Fenix Fitness Centre, the Croydon Citizens

Brass Band, Red Horse, vocals from Brittany and the Bollywood Dancers. But there are still more acts to come. And around the grounds do not be surprised to encounter a variety of interesting and unusual characters. Trevor the Magician has said he is coming and rumours are that a large garden gnome will be seen in the crowds.

The festival starts on site with an ecumenical church gathering at 9:30am. Our street Parade will be leaving Hookey Park at around 10:15 and in celebration of the Year of the Dragon, we will be led by the famous Bendigo Dragon. Participants from local schools, bands and community groups will march to the Festival. Keep an eye out for the marchers and give them a wave and a cheer. When the parade arrives, they will be welcomed by Cr Terry Avery, who will then declare the festival open.

Celebrate Mooroolbark offers something for everyone in a fun-filled festival. Plan to be there some time in the day and join in the festivities. The only danger is that you will enjoy yourself too much!

■ **Andrew Lang,**
Chair of the Celebrate Mooroolbark
Committee

Premier
Sponsor



Major
Sponsor



Significant
Sponsor



Lilydale Swimming Club

Lilydale Swimming Club has a long and proud history. It was founded in 1903 when Lilydale community members banded together to build the first 'public baths' in the area. The following year, the club became registered with Swimming Victoria. It is the second oldest club in the state.

Over the many years since its foundation, the club has achieved substantial success at state, national and Olympic levels. Its most famous member was Sir Francis (Frank) Beaufort – a very well known sportsman, businessman and civic leader. Among his outstanding achievements, Sir Frank competed at olympic level and held various world records, founded the well known Beaufort Tyre Services and held the office of Lord Mayor of Melbourne (1942). A much more recent achievement was recognized with the presentation of the 2011 Victorian Deaf Achiever Award. This was presented to club member Julia Algie. Our congratulations to Julia!

These days the club trains and operates out of the Kilsyth Centenary Pool – in Hawthory Road, Kilsyth. Through its many successes, the club has managed to maintain the family focus that it has always been known for – a focus of encouraging children and parents to simply enjoy participating in the exhilarating sport of competitive swimming. The club is managed by a volunteer committee and currently has 80 members ranging from eight years to adult and from learners up to those participating in state and national competition. Club swim nights run from 6pm - 8pm with training fees costing as little as \$8 per session. Junior orientated fun nights are run throughout the year and an 'Open Water Camp' is coming up soon. This particular camp will be held at Dromana, in association with the Rosebud Swimming Club and the Dromana Surf Life Saving Club.

Lawrence Krauter is the club's full time coach. He is supported by assistant coaches, Ann Longridge and Tyler Phillips. Lawrence

is available to talk to any interested swimmers or parents about the squad programs and to arrange an assessment of swimming ability for those considering becoming club members. Following the assessment, the applicant will be offered a two-week free trial with a swim squad working at the appropriate skill level. If the participant enjoys the two week trial, he/she can then complete a membership application by submitting the relevant forms.

**Lawrence can be contacted on
0402 374 384 or
Email at krauter@live.com.au**



“Mother of Mooroolbark”

Few people appreciate the vastness of the Victorian countryside more than Lesley Neuparth. These days she spends much of her time driving between family in Wangaratta and Swan Hill, and her home in Chirnside Park. In fact, Lesley knows no different. She has never lived on a property smaller than an acre, and over the past 50 years has fallen in love with the fringe suburban life of the outer east.

A nurse by trade, Lesley moved to Croydon in 1964 to work at Ardrossan Nursing Home. She recounts meeting many wonderful people in her time there, and recalls that it was during that time that she first became involved with the Mooroolbark Football Club.

Once dubbed the ‘Mother of Mooroolbark’, Lesley has been involved with Mooroolbark F.C. since 1976 in a variety of capacities. Putting her nursing skills to good use as a trainer in the early ‘80’s, Lesley recalls that she has washed and sewn more football jumpers than she cares to remember. Her two sons Stuart and Douglas both played over 200 games with the club, and in 1991, all three were inducted as life members at the same time.

Her current property in Chirnside Park has been home since 1977 after she cheekily bypassed the auction with an unannounced visit and a cup of tea. For Lesley, the five-acre spot embodies what she loves about this area. “I love the open air and plenty of space. It is a great community,” Leslie reflects.

When asked about her strongest memories of her time in the area, Lesley is philosophical. “Time does fly. I remember helping out with the Ash Wednesday bushfires and then again on Black Saturday. Suddenly another three years have passed.”

Lesley was enormous in her efforts following the Black Saturday bushfires. She managed the Yarra Glen Relief centre for a full 12 months after the fire. Again, as with Ash Wednesday, her nursing background



Lesley Neuparth

came in handy, but due to the sheer number of people affected, Black Saturday was largely about directing the flood of support to the right places.

“People were extremely generous and there were so many donations, but it was a monumental task to sort through it all,” Lesley says. “Anything that wasn’t suitable for the home, we gave to people for their animals, as you had this huge number of pets which had also lost their homes and belongings.”

These days, Lesley states that family is the number one priority, but she still gives her time freely to help the community. “I firmly believe that all communities really benefit from volunteers, and especially those who know what they are doing,” she says. “There is no point in dilly dallying around; you really need to get in and help.”

It is this attitude that has endeared Lesley to a generation of local residents, and to several generations of Mooroolbark footballers, of whom she is quick to remind us, “They are set for a big year this year.”

**David Hodgett,
Member for Kilsyth**

ART CLASSES

Mooroolbark Community Centre

Artist Sara McPherson conducts very popular art classes at our local Community Centre. Currently she runs four classes each week. In these classes, Sara is more than happy to work in any medium but her groups tend to focus mainly on oil painting as she believes this to be a good starting point for most people and the medium where she feels she can be of most help.

Whilst these classes are just one part of Sara’s broad artistic pursuits, they are of particular importance to her. She says, “I feel most fortunate in having the opportunity to be involved with the Mooroolbark community in this way over the past five years. I have met so many interesting people and made so many good friends in that time. And I enjoy the deep sense of personal satisfaction I receive in working through the creative process with others.”

She thinks of her classes, not so much as teacher and students, but rather as a group of friends with common interests, working and learning together.

Sara studied for her Bachelor of Arts degree at RMIT. During that time she worked on several theatre productions with the RMIT Theatre Group. It was there that she first heard of scenic art – the production of theatre backdrops and effects. She fell in love with that particular art form and this became the area that she pursued for some years to come. She still includes this work in her broad range of artistic endeavours.



Sara & 7 year-old daughter Piper

She has, however, moved into a number of other fields and speaks fondly of the pleasure she receives from working in a wide variety of artistic fields.

Her other pursuits have included, creative work in advertising, freelance work as a mural artist, community art projects, public art work and private commissionings. A recent example of her community art was in working with several local schools in developing signs for the Mooroolbark Station Project. An example of her public art can be seen in the Warburton Play Space.

Alongside these avenues she has continued to develop her own personal style which focuses on the natural environment and always reflects some aspect of her personal views on current issues such as concern for

the environment, public use of our rich resources, perspectives on immigration, etc.

In recent years, Sara has held several personal exhibitions including those at Red Gallery (Fitzroy) in 2009 and 2011 and at the Yarra Valley Open Studio in 2010.

A range of her works can be viewed on her website www.saramcpherson.com.au

Sara likes to regularly find time to work outdoors on her landscapes and seascapes as well as spending time in her studio on more reflective

works.

She is happily settled, with partner, Paul, and 7 year-old daughter, Piper, in a beautiful bush setting just one hour out of Melbourne. She greatly appreciates the wide variety of artistic pursuits that she has been able to experience throughout her career and looks forward to whatever future opportunities the next part of her journey may bring.

We thank her for her ongoing contribution to life in Mooroolbark.

For further information about Sara’s Art classes, please contact the Community Centre on 9726 5488



The cheery smile that we all knew so well

Lion Robert James (Bob) Gatherum

Community Service Club Member
16 October 1919 – 17 January 2012

Lion Bob Gatherum, whose life was spent in serving his community, died on the 17 January 2012 at the age of 92.

Born in England on the 16th of October 1919, he took up an apprenticeship as a printer/photographer at the age of 14. In 1939 he volunteered for the British Army and was attached to the Hertfordshire Yeomanry as a photographer.

From September 1940 to November 1942 he was involved in top-secret research and development of infra red photography in Scotland where he met and married his wife Bette. On 6 June 1944, he participated in the Normandy invasion, landing at Juno Beach. He served in France and occupied Germany until February 1946.

On returning to civilian life, Bob completed his apprenticeship, working in the printing industry until 1951 when, together with his wife Bette and three sons he migrated to Australia. A daughter was born after his arrival in Australia. He worked with the *Argus*, *Herald* and *Weekly Times* and *Lilydale Express* newspapers until he retired in 1980.

In August 1970, Bob joined the Lions Club of Mooroolbark where he remained an active member until his death. From the start Bob, (together with Bette) was an active and enthusiastic member of the club in all its activities. He was the first and only life member of the Lions Club of Mooroolbark and held every position in the Club. He was a "Melvin Jones Fellow" and a "William Tresise Fellow", which are amongst the highest International and Australian Lions awards for humanitarian service. He received countless other awards at international, multi district, district and club levels.

The Lions Organisation provided the opportunity for Bob to display his commitment to community service. He was instrumental in the development of the Lions Club of Mooroolbark "Sports Day and Carnival" and the running of the "Lilydale Gift", which raised thousands of dollars for community projects

Mooroolbark Farewells a Much Loved Community Member

On Tuesday, January 24th an overflow crowd gathered at Le Pines Funerals, Croydon, to pay deep respect to a loving family man, a wonderful friend to so many, a prolific contributor to community life in Mooroolbark and an RSL veteran who participated in the Normandy Landing in 1944.

Bob Gatherum will long be remembered by many people from all walks of life.

The following tribute by long time friend and fellow Lions' Club member, Peter Giddings, is a summary of the eulogy Peter presented at the funeral service. It gives an excellent overview of Bob's life and his contribution to his fellow man in so many ways.

We thank Peter for sharing his personal perspective on Bob's life and work with us all.



Following his visit to Normandy in 2009, Bob participated in recording the history of the Normandy landing at the Australian Centre for Moving Images – Federation Square



Participating in the Celebrate Mooroolbark Street Parade March 2010

and eventually led to the establishment of the Mooroolbark Red Earth Festival.

Bob was also involved in the establishment of the "Yarra-me Paraplegic and Quadriplegic Centre". An extensive system of covered wheel chair walk-ways was constructed by the club members. He was later involved in a further project which provided a hydrotherapy pool for the Rosine Nursing Home.

He was also actively involved in Bushfire Relief following the Ash Wednesday bush fire and was part of a team that provided a replacement home for the George family.

In 1990 Bob was a committee member of the Lions Club of Mooroolbark Bone Marrow Donor Registry Project. This was a Lions District project which raised \$140,000., resulting in 3,400 volunteer bone marrow donors being placed on the Bone Marrow Donor Register.

Both Bob and Bette worked tirelessly for this project.

Bob was also interested in international cooperation. During his service with the Lions Club of Mooroolbark he and Bette hosted 12 Lions exchange students from Japan, Sweden and Switzerland.

It is in the area for the care of the elderly that Bob excelled. 26 years ago Bob was on a Lions Club committee that designed and built the "Jim Fuller Group Home" in Wynyard Drive, Mooroolbark. This home provides affordable, self-contained communal accommodation for disadvantaged and low income elderly residents of the community. Bob was the inaugural president of the Committee of Management, a position he held until March 2007, with Bette fulfilling the role of secretary. His was a daily commitment, attending to such matters as maintenance issues, disputes, management and financial

matters. His driving ambition was to provide the best possible facilities and living environment for the residents of the home. He maintained an active interest in the home until his death.

On the broader front, Bob was a member of the Lions District 201-V5 cabinet, serving for 20 years as the district historian and editor of the monthly district newsletter. He was also a member of numerous community groups, including the Mooroolbark Historical Society and the Mooroolbark Umbrella Group.

Bob was an identity in the Lions organisation, but more importantly he was an identity in his own community of Mooroolbark. Known to much of the community, he earned the respect of those with whom he lived and worked.

He was proud to be a Normandy veteran but bore no malice towards the defeated enemy and was in fact willing to accept people of all nationalities and creeds on face value. He was a rarity in modern society... a man who always looked for the good in people and found it.

He was loyal and faithful to his friends and he devoted his life to serving his community. He was fiercely independent and despite a lack of mobility in recent times he continued to serve the community of Mooroolbark.

There is no doubt that Robert James Gatherum was a truly remarkable person and that he will be deeply missed by his family and all his friends whose lives have been enriched by knowing him.

Peter Giddings



Fenix Fitness Mooroolbark

Justin Smith, manager of Fenix Fitness Mooroolbark, is most passionate about the message that

“Keeping fit and improving your health and fitness is not just a fad – but a way of life!”

He is totally committed to helping people to experience the many benefits to be found through adopting a more healthy life-style. He says, “Whether you want to slim down, tone up, create more energy for work or family or just look and feel better – Fenix has the best facilities and the fully qualified staff to help you achieve your goals.

Justin has worked in the fitness industry for over seven years and has been employed at Fenix Fitness Mooroolbark since it opened in April 2008. He was assistant manager to the original owner and was appointed as manager when the facility became fully owned by Fenix. He greatly enjoys his management role and takes much pride in the goals that have been achieved.

- With a current listing of over 4,500 members, Fenix is a significant employer in the local area. It has 12 full time staff, 8 part time receptionists, 8 casual crèche staff, and a number of contract cleaners.
- In addition, 45 personal trainers operate their own businesses in conjunction with Fenix and 30 group fitness instructors are paid per class taken. Currently there are over 60 group classes provided each week. They cover a wide range

of activities which can be viewed on their website.

Facilities. In addition to the ‘mixed’ areas for cardio and fitness development there are also ‘designated female only’ areas providing equivalent facilities for ladies who prefer this option.

Additional Studios. Three additional studios are available for cycling, yoga classes and high intensity work-outs.

Child Minding. To assist parents in working towards their health and fitness goals Fenix provides quality child-minding facilities that are cost effective. Highly qualified staff ensure that children can enjoy many fun activities and opportunities to meet new friends. Crèche bookings are essential and can be made through the reception desk.

Popular child fitness classes (with parents involved) are conducted twice weekly.

Transformation Challenges. These programs are held regularly and have been very popular in helping members to set goals and to follow them through. Goals may relate to weight loss, general fitness, body building or life-style changes.

Open Day. An open day will be held on Thursday March 22nd. This is a fun day offering free fitness activities throughout the day, various fitness demonstrations, a taste of a number of group activities and chance to meet and talk with personal trainers. This is a great opportunity for those considering membership to experience and assess the outstanding facilities and the high level of professional help that Fenix offers



Community Support. Fenix gives a great deal back to the community by supporting various local groups and sporting clubs. It has also been a significant sponsor of our local festival ‘Celebrate Mooroolbark’ for the past four years.

We wish Justin and his team the very best of ongoing success in this vital local business and valued service to our local community.

Contact details

Website: www.fenixfitness.com.au

Phone: (03) 9727 6888

Email: mooroolbark@fenixfitness.com.au

Bricey's Deli Café

Shop 7, 61 Brice Avenue Mooroolbark

Nancy Marchese took over the running of Bricey's Deli Café in May 2011. Some months earlier she had taken up employment in the café as a shop assistant. At that time she had no indication at all, as to how things would eventually work out. It was only after being employed there for some months that she heard the previous owners were planning to sell. When the opportunity to purchase the business arose, Nancy was keen to take this step into running her own business.

Nancy is no stranger to Mooroolbark, having lived and attended school in the local area in her teens. She has always felt a connection with the local neighbourhood and has enjoyed the experience of re-connecting with the area. In the years since her teens Nancy has had a variety of experiences in the food/service industry. She managed Coles deli in Chirnside Park for two years and has had years of experience in running a restaurant in Warburton and an involvement in a bakery business – all good preparation for the step she has now taken.

Bricey's Deli Café is very much a “family affair” with Nancy's two teenagers helping out in every way that they can. Paul (Year 12) and Rachel (Year 9) assist in the café before and after school and at weekends and in the holidays. Along with Nancy and highly valued shop assistant, Anna, they make a great serving team.

In returning to Mooroolbark. Nancy has been greatly encouraged by the support received from the local community. She speaks of being



Rachel, Anna & Nancy

quite overwhelmed by the many gifts and expressions of appreciation received at the Christmas period. She extends her sincere thanks to all for this strong support.

Nancy's goal for **Bricey's Deli Café** is to continue to offer great quality products across the delicatessen range at most competitive prices and to provide great service along with the popular Coffex coffee and wide selection of delicious cakes offered at this popular venue.

We wish Nancy and family every success in this venture.

School's over ... GETTING YOUR FIRST REAL JOB

It's a tough time for many school leavers these days who are looking for a job, let alone starting a career. Our economy is in a depressed state and employers are choosier than ever before. They expect to be impressed by the limited few who do finally get the nod for a position. If they aren't impressed, then there are plenty of others to take their place. We must seriously consider first impressions... there's no 'second chance' to make a first impression.

Let's review some of the important things young people can do to improve their chances of finding suitable employment. There are a few simple things that may help them get ahead of the pack.

Job hunting is written about extensively. Many agencies seek to fill positions for employers, and there are coaches to help applicants make that critical first impression a positive one. This article's object is simply to emphasise a few main points by way of introduction to a very broad and complex process – getting your first real job.

But First, Year 10 ... Now What?

In Victoria, there are two alternative paths to take after year 10, VCE and VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning). Those wishing to attend university would seek a good VCE pass, while those wanting to pursue a trade or other job might choose the alternative. VCAL is a hands-on option for Years 11 and 12 students, offering practical work-related experience and learning. Young people ideally need assistance in making a wise choice *two years before* they start thinking about what they want to do next ... or for the rest of their life. (See VCAL box)

Looking the Part

Appearance is the first thing others notice about us ... well before our voice and our thoughts. Our talents or experience might not be revealed at all if the potential employers have reservations based on what they see. Many employers in their 40s to 60s may not warm to a person with excessive facial jewellery or questionable skin art, for example.



VCAL is ideal as a pathway into apprenticeships, TAFE or employment. The programs are designed to give students the opportunity to complete Years 11 or 12 in an adult learning environment. Students participate in a range of practical educational projects that integrate the three VCAL strands of Personal Development, Work Related Skills and Literacy & Numeracy. There are courses in building, retail, automotive, hospitality and more.

Employers have a reasonable right to have their employees project a company standard that they feel will enhance their customer's experience. Contemporary body decoration might not be the kind of enhancement they're looking for. Appropriate hairstyles are important too.

I know a young man who wants to be a carpenter ... he has an unkempt hair style with three different colours – it's probably not going to help him get an apprenticeship. His mates may approve, but they don't give out many jobs.

Remember ... our goal is making the most of the chances that come along. Looking cool or trendy isn't the goal; looking well-groomed and appropriately dressed is.

An employer I know was quite shocked when a young person he had employed after two interviews turned up for work the first day with numerous bits of metal attached to his face. They hadn't been there before and some presented a safety hazard and had to be removed. This isn't a good start to an important new relationship that needs to be based on trust and fairness.

Young people cannot easily see how today's choices will affect their lives two or three years away. They will see the world much differently, and how the adult world sees and evaluates them will have a significant impact on their future. If questionable tattoos and piercings can severely restrict employment opportunities ... perhaps it's better not to get them in the first place?

Make a phone call or visit the company to enquire about appropriate clothing.

Some research or even a phone call to the potential employer may be in order if you are not sure how best to present yourself. A general guideline is to wear very good casual clothes – good condition in the eyes of a 40-50 year old, not your mates! Girls should avoid dressing how they would for a party, and boys: no runners, shorts or t-shirts – naturally, you can dress it up from there once you know what's appropriate.

Every other applicant is going to be doing their best too – well, nearly everyone. Seek advice from a parent, family friend or even a friend's parent who can assist you in being well prepared and neatly presented.

Make a phone call or visit the company to enquire about appropriate clothing.

MP3 players in sight (turn them off), and don't fiddle with things like hair, jewellery, clothes etc.

- No one expects a young person to know everything – but employers want those who demonstrate a willingness to learn and grow by seeking skills and understanding in addition to the training provided.
- Get a great résumé together, and be prepared to alter it for specific applications. Ask family members to suggest any improvements.
- Be on time or just a few minutes early for every appointment.
- Know what hours you can work, and how you'll be getting there.
- Always be ready for an interview – it could be an impromptu one while you're at the shopping centre filling out applications.
- Don't worry if you're nervous. Rehearsing some expected questions with family will ease some of those nerves and help you present much more confidently. Practice may also help to reduce the 'um's.
- If you can do it naturally, use a little humour in your responses or general discussion. This can help others to warm to you and make you a little more memorable in a positive way.
- Boys should practice a good handshake. Make it firm without trying too hard. It's good if you can keep your hands dry rather than sweaty.
 - Have a couple of questions prepared – this shows enthusiasm and genuine interest in the position, but don't make them about money or time off. Save those for when you have received an offer.
 - Send a note of thanks a day or so after the interview and restate your desire to work there. You could remind them of any particular strengths or experience you have that would benefit the company. Not many will do this, so it's another opportunity to stand out from the crowd.

Seeking your first job is a big step and may lead to a lifelong career. Your goal is to present yourself in a positive manner and that may sway an employer to choose you over many other applicants. There may be some disappointments and frustrations, but let these influence you in a positive way. By learning from mistakes and experiences you will become stronger, wiser, more mature and most importantly, more employable.

We wish you the very best in your search for the job that fits you and one that you can grow in and thoroughly enjoy.



Steve Steel

A VCAL Success Story

"Studying at NMIT has probably made me a lot more responsible (I now try my best to get to a lot more places on time). It's basically shown me the way things work as you leave school. I'm not really the type of person who likes doing theory but we incorporated a lot of the book work into physical activity."

Reprinted with permission. *Success stories, Casey Trainor. NMIT Courses*
http://www.nmit.edu.au/course_info/local_students/more_information/success_stories/casey_trainor/

The Job Seeker's Basics

There are a lot more people looking for work than there are positions. The following points will help you stand out from the crowd – and that has to be a good thing. Some are obvious, others might not be.

- Be confident, positive, cheerful, and maintain good eye-contact. One idea is to look at top of the other person's nose if that makes it easier.
- Emphasise the positives of being young ... willing to learn, flexible hours, fresh insights to contribute, not costly to employ, and any special experiences you may have had like working in a team (sport), or volunteering.
- Accept challenging requests – treat them as learning opportunities that will add to your skill set and your experience repertoire. It doesn't matter if you fail or do poorly, you will do better next time. When you are challenged again, you will be that bit more experienced and capable.
- Don't chew gum! Don't have mobiles or

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CHURCH NEWS

Welcome, Billi -7, Whoever You Are

As I write this, the world's population will have topped seven billion.

October 31st was the estimated date. Population analysis is, at best, an inexact science. Some countries, especially very large and very poor ones, have no idea how many people they have. It is highly likely that our seven billionth inhabitant will be born into one of these countries. There is a just better than even chance that he will be male, as the statistics indicate slightly more males born than females.

What does life hold for him? Well, unless he was born into a very poor country, his chances of surviving infancy are quite good. So also, believe it or not, are his chances of not being killed in a war or a terrorist attack. A recent report showed that more of the world is living in peace than ever before.¹

Peace maybe, but not prosperity. Life for most people in our world is still a grim struggle for survival. Average income worldwide is \$7,000 a year. However, the distribution is uneven. The median annual income is only \$1,700. About half the world's population has never made a phone call, and about 40% have never ridden in a car. With the rapid spread of cheap digital technology this will almost certainly change during his lifetime. He can expect that life to last about 64 years (unless the seven billionth person is a girl—women live on average four years longer). Statistics like this can only be general. And in this precarious world, it all could change—for the better or the worse. He will have to take his chances.

However, there is one thing we can say for certain. We may not know who the seven billionth person is, or where he is, but God does. The Creator, who is "sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Hebrews 1:3) is very much aware of the details of his creation. Jesus told us that whereas "five sparrows are sold for two pennies ... not one of them is forgotten by God." (Luke 12:6)

How many sparrows are there? There are at least 35 kinds of sparrows in the world. Some flocks have been estimated as numbering 20 million. So how many individual birds are there? God knows.

Jesus also said that we humans are of much greater value to him. "Even the very hairs of your head are all numbered," he explained. Our seven billionth baby probably doesn't have too many hairs on his little head yet, but God knows about him, loves him, and has plans for him. Those plans were established "before the foundation of the world." Jesus, the Son of God, was born as one of us. At that time there were probably only about half a billion people alive. He lived, died and was resurrected for them. And for all who had gone before and would come after—a number estimated at just over 100 billion altogether.



So welcome to the human race, whoever you are and wherever you are.

(Article by John Halford from December issue of "Christian Odyssey".)

¹ Associated Press, Oct. 22, 2011



The 'Changing of the Guard' at Mooroolbark Salvos

Welcome to Steve and Christine Black

The community of Mooroolbark extends a very warm welcome to newly appointed Salvo leaders, Steve and Christine Black. Majors Steve and Christine come to Mooroolbark with extensive experience in pastoral service behind them. Originally a builder/carpenter for much of his early working life, Steve commenced training for Salvation Army leadership at age 33.



He and Christine completed their training together in 1985-86. Their first appointment was to Northam, W.A. (Northam is approximately 100 Kms north of Perth, in the Avon Valley). This initial appointment held very special meaning for Christine as she was following in the footsteps of her great-grandmother who served in the same area way back in 1893. Following this initial appointment they served at Hamilton Hill (near Fremantle), Greensborough (Vic), Wellington, (N.Z.), Moorland (Melb.) and Mount Gambier (S.A.) before coming to Mooroolbark.

Steve and Christine have four adult boys and six grand-children. Three of the families live in W.A. as that was where they grew up. The fourth lives in Melbourne.

Steve and Christine say, "We have felt quite overwhelmed by the amazing welcome we have received from our church family and from the wider community in Mooroolbark, and look forward to the years ahead – living and working in this beautiful area".

We wish them a very happy and fruitful stay in Mooroolbark.

Farewell and best wishes to Peter and Margaret Collins



After two years service based at Mooroolbark, Majors Marg and Peter Collins have been assigned to a new appointment at the Salvation Army Training College in Parkville. Peter is to be the Assistant Training Principal and Marg the Senior Training Officer, with the responsibility of helping to train 47 cadets. Peter has commented: "These years in the beautiful valley have been most fulfilling and we have loved the opportunity to be engaged with the community and to pastor and lead the Salvos.

During this time we have relocated our worship venue from the Yarra Hills Secondary College to the Performing Arts Centre at Oxley Christian College. There has also been progress with the building proposal located on the corner of Manchester and Fletcher Roads, Chirnside Park.

We commend Majors Christine and Stephen Black who have had considerable experience and have come from Mt Gambier".

Very best wishes for the future - from the Mooroolbark community.

For The Love Of Children

When I saw Marjorie O'Brien for the first time, I thought "How could this frail little lady do the things that I have been hearing about?" She was sweeping the leaves off the front doorstep, and to turn her head to see who was walking up her footpath, she had to move her body from the waist as she didn't have the strength in her neck to lift up her head. It wasn't until we were settled inside and I heard her story that I realised that no matter what her affliction, this lady had an indomitable spirit that would not let her give in.

Marj was born in Minyip in the Mallee. She has five children, one of whom is in the army and will be off to Afghanistan very shortly, twelve grandchildren and twenty great grandchildren.

Her first husband died after they had been married only ten years and she and the children moved in with her parents. Together they moved around Victoria settling in Bright for several years

With her children all grown up and after a battle with asthma which included five respiratory arrests, she finally settled in Mooroolbark to be near her daughter, Rae, who is very protective of her. Marj joined the Anglican Church Choir in Mooroolbark, where she met and married John O'Brien, who was also in the choir. John died in 1998, and Marj has been on her own ever since.

Music has always played a huge part in Marj's life and at nine years of age she started taking piano lessons, practicing two hours every night. Much to her regret she had to give up taking lessons at the age of fourteen, as she developed tendonitis in both wrists from practicing so much. Since then she started singing soprano. She sang in the local church choir at Mortlake, sang solo in the hospital programmes on 3YB at Warrnambool, and entered eisteddfods, always managing to get a place in the top three. Through her singing she met Mal Waldon, who is now a newsreader for Channel 10. Today at the age of 77, Marj still sings with the local church choir, although she says she isn't able to sing the high notes as she used to. She also sings with the Celebration Singers, led by Clive French. They start practicing in July to be able to sing in different churches at the end of the year.

Marj always wanted to be a teacher, but her father who was very

strict, wouldn't allow her and she had to settle for office work. It was only later in life that she was able to fulfill her desire to teach, starting with remedial teaching at Pembroke Primary School. She always loved going to church, starting with Sunday school as a toddler in Mortlake, and then becoming a Sunday school teacher. Other achievements were playing the piano for the Mortlake High School choir and helping to train them. She also became involved with the Brownies, becoming a Brown Owl of one of the packs, the Girls Friendly Society (GFS) and Church of England Fellowship (CEF), Girl Guides and Church of England Boys Society (CEBS).

When she came to Mooroolbark in 1985, she really became heavily involved with Religious Education (RE). In 1993 she commenced a four year voluntary course with the General Board of Religious Education and then started teaching RE in 1998 at not one, but six primary schools each week, taking her 'pump' with her in case of an asthmatic attack. The schools were Manchester, Pembroke, Mooroolbark, Mooroolbark East, Wonga Park and Bimbadeen. Each year she had to do a mandatory refresher course in RE and has a Certificate of Appreciation from ACCESS ministries for twenty years of service in Christian Religious Education.

She finally finished up with just teaching RE at Manchester Primary School, but reluctantly had to retire at the end of last year, through ill health. When asked why she did what she did her answer was very simply, "I love children".

We wish her well in her retirement.

Barbara Austin



Marjorie O'Brien



FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

ALL WELCOME

Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre

Wednesday April 11th 2012

"The Muppets"

Commences at **7:30 p.m.**

Free ice-cream, tea & coffee will be available.

This school holidays program is a joint community service extended to young families in our neighbourhood by

**Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship &
Mooroolbark Community Centre**

Please visit or contact Mooroolbark Community Centre to

reserve your seats phone 9726 5488

If there is a wait list and reserved tickets are not collected by 7:15 p.m., the tickets may be reissued.



The DUNNY MAN

You rarely hear the word 'nightsoil' any more – the word that respectably covered a whole range of colourful terms for human waste. We hope you're not too squeamish about such matters!

Recently, I interviewed John Gardner, who for some years was the nightsoil contractor for our shire. John's recollections will perhaps be news to our younger readers, but older readers might share memories similar to my own – memories of our own backyard toilet when we lived in Swansea Road, and the weekly early-morning visits from the dunny man!

John authored a recent book of colourful and often funny stories about his own and others' experiences as 'dunny men'¹ The National Library's Trove website summarises the book as containing "the stories of the men who worked as the dunny man – a history of their lives and the history of the sanitary service they performed. In these days of luxury bathrooms with spa and bidet, it is hard to imagine that just 60 years ago, there was only the outdoor dunny, and the dunny man came along the back lane each night."²

In an article about the annual World Toilet Day – yes, seriously! – there's a description of early Melbourne: "With no

internal plumbing, Melburnians used chamber pots or the 'dunny' at the back of the yard, which was emptied by nightsoil collectors. (You can still see many of these old dunnies from the laneways that run behind older houses in the inner city.) 'Nightsoil' – the coy term for human waste – was dumped in pits or depots in the outskirts of the young city, including the area that would become Carlton Gardens."³

John told me of his own childhood:

"I remember growing up as a kid – if we had other kids over to play, we'd tell them to watch out because of the spiders in the toilet. And when they finally had to go to the toilet, we used to poke a piece of grass through the missing trapdoor on the back and tickle their bums and they'd launch themselves out the front door like rockets!"

"If we saw the dunny man at home, 'G'day' is about all we ever said!"

"When I worked as a dunny man, if I caught someone in the toilet, I'd make a big joke of it. If you went to push a door open and it would push back at you, you'd know someone was in there. Women and men responded differently. If it was a woman, she'd say, 'Who's there?' I'd always say, 'Ha, ha, caught ya! It's the dunny man', and make real light out of it, and then sit on the empty pan I'd brought and wait. And as she came out,

she'd say, 'Oh, I was busting for a twinkle. I knew you were due but I just couldn't wait.' But if it was a man, he'd just push the door back at you and when he came out, 99.9 percent of the time he wouldn't even look at you. The only thing I can put it down to is that when women had their babies, they suffered all the lack of dignity under the sun, whereas a man would rather die of prostate cancer than go through the investigation procedure."

"For half the toilets we had to change the pan from inside the toilet and half from the back trapdoor," John continued. "If you used the trapdoor, you wouldn't know whether the toilet was occupied or not. I never saw a bum all the years I was a dunny man, but a lady told me after one of the Probus⁴ meetings I addressed, that she'd been traumatised at the age of fourteen because the dunny man had seen her bottom!"

John became a dunny man quite unintentionally.

"I was a builder – small time, never employed more than five people – and I did some work on a Chinese restaurant in Ferntree Gull," he recalled. "At the grand opening the town clerk and a few others from the council were there. I was always complaining that you didn't get good toilet service at a building site. Most house building sites in the mid '70s never got a toilet and if they did, they rarely got a

1 Gardner, John D. *The Dunny Man: Taking Care of Business*. Olinda: The Small Back Room, 2009. smallbackroom.com.au

2 <http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/28276766>

3 <http://museumvictoria.com.au/about/mv-blog/?tag=toilets>

4 An association of active senior members of the community. <http://www.probusouthpacific.org/>



John Gardner

pan in it, and if you did get a pan, it was rarely serviced.”

“At the end of this restaurant opening, I said to the town clerk, ‘What’s with this dunny man? Why doesn’t he do the service? And he says to me, ‘If I wasn’t the town clerk I’d put in a tender and do the job.’ ‘Oh, I said, good money?’ ‘Oh yeah, good money’ (and it turned out it was good money) and he asked me if I was interested. We’d both had quite a lot to drink, and I said: ‘Oh, yeah!’

The following Monday the tender papers turned up at John’s place, with the tender due in two months time. John thought, “Why not? Go for it!” He conceded, “I didn’t know much about it and had to price trucks and so on. but I managed to scrape through all that and wound up with the contract for the city of Knox and followed up with the Shire of Lillydale sometime later.”

After getting the contract, John understood why building sites were poorly serviced. According to John, councils rarely provided enough pans to service any more than existing residences. “At that time there were 1300 weekly services in the city of Knox, and another 400 in Lillydale Shire”⁵.

John remembers that it wasn’t a bad job. “People jumped to the wrong conclusion about the brown stains on the dunny man’s shoulder. It was simply that all dunny pans were painted with bituminous paint that rubs off. Most days you wouldn’t smell bad at all!”

For John, the worst thing about being a dunny man was the abundance of spiders in Ferntree Gully and Lilydale. “You’d walk under a tree and through the web of some very big spiders and sometimes a big huntsman would run around the pan in a never-ending circle and I’d drop the pan – fortunately with its lid on.”

Dogs were a problem, too. “Little dogs were the worst, little nippers. One place had

two of them; one at the front and one at the back, and one of them would get you. I warned one of the new blokes, and he said ‘I think I know how to fix that!’ and he dropped an empty pan on it. But next week the dog was still waiting for him.”

“And then there was the lady in Ferntree Gully who used to be naked every morning making her husband’s breakfast ...”

“As far as any stigma attached to being a dunny man, I played up to it, except one time at a school reunion. I told everyone that I was a builder.”

John served as the vice president of the Boronia Liberal Party for a while. “I once chaired a meeting at Dorset Gardens Hotel for the Liberal Party. There were a couple of hundred people there to hear a guest speaker from Tasmania – Senator Peter Rae⁶. We were sitting together, and he asked me what I did for a living. I said, ‘I’m the local dunny man’. And he said, ‘What do you really do?’ – and I said I’m the local sanitary contractor, I pick up people’s poop!”

John recalls that other people had more problems with his occupation than he did. “My accountant’s wife said to me once, ‘If you see me in the street, don’t even acknowledge me!’ So one day I saw her walking in Dorset Road. I’m tooting her and she wouldn’t look at me, so eventually I stuck my head out the window and yelled. She finally gave me a little wave close to her chest.”

“My daughter used to go to college by bus along one of the roads I travelled in the truck, and she said ‘don’t even look at the bus!’”

John explained a little of the history of nightsoil disposal.

“In those days we used to empty the cans in a large shed behind Channel 10. You’d drive into a loading bay with a load of 120 pans, take off the lids and put each pan on a conveyor belt, so that it’d get emptied and cleaned – with an occasional exception!”

“Before my time they used to empty the pans into a paddock – where the pub is now on the corner of Heatherdale and Canterbury Roads. They’d just plough it into the ground, and when I was a kid I remember them using a place we called ‘poop paddock’ near the corner of South Road and Warrigal Road”.

“Prior to that there was a place near the Clayton railway station where two Chinese brothers had a vegetable garden, and they used to open up the ground with

a plough and the trucks would come in and tip it into the furrows. They made their living growing vegetables until legislation stopped them using human wastes as fertiliser.”

Along the way there were occasional funny moments, challenges and spills!

“Once the truck got stuck in a driveway, and had to be towed out.”

“An old dunny man told me that he was one of seven sons, and that four of them joined their father as dunny men.”

“Back in the time when most Nunawading families were one-car families, if the family breadwinner worked in the city, he’d ride the pushbike or take the bus to the station.”

“The old dunny man told me that one morning they were in the truck near Nunawading station, and as they went round a corner, one of the pans fell off. Before they’d had a chance to clean up the spillage, a man came around the corner on his pushbike, with his briefcase hanging off the handlebars, his suit trousers tucked into his socks, and no back mudguard. He rode right through the middle of it, and earned a wet streak right up his back, and all me Dad said was, ‘I bet he won’t have any trouble getting a seat on the train!’”

“There was also a street called ‘Lucky Street’ in Nunawading. The road was so bad a council employee used to meet the dunny man with a trailer and a Ferguson tractor. They would load all the pans for the street on the tractor and trailer to prevent the dunny man’s truck from being bogged.”

The worst spill John can recall having was near Kilsyth Primary School. “Four ‘fullies’ went off the side of the truck, all over Mt Dandenong Road. I braved the traffic, collected all the lids and all the pans – got them back on the truck and wondered what to do about cleaning up the mess! There was nothing I could do, even though according to the terms of the contract all spillages were to be cleaned up. Cars were spreading the mess towards the two lollypop ladies outside the school, and, believe me, they had wind of what was coming!”

John drove around in his truck until he found some council workers. “I asked them if they had a radio in their truck. They said ‘Yes’. ‘Oh you beauty!’ I said, and told them what happened, and that I wanted the Shire of Lillydale’s water tanker to come and clean up the mess. When they stopped laughing they did it. They thought it was hilarious.”

When the movie *Kenny* was being made, the lead actor spent a couple of hours with John, learning about carrying pans.⁷

I’m grateful to John for the time and laughter we shared. His book is packed with humorous and historical anecdotes. Copies may be purchased by contacting johndgardner@live.com.au

Randall Bouchier



⁵ note the correct spelling of the Shire of Lillydale - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shire_of_Lillydale

⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Rae

⁷ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenny_\(2006_film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenny_(2006_film))

Congratulations to Our New Mayor Cr. Graham Warren

Warm congratulations to Councilor Graham Warren on his recent election as Mayor of the Yarra Ranges Council.

Graham is in his 7th year as councilor for the Chandler Ward (Monbulk, Silvan, Wandin, Seville). He brings a great deal of experience, passion and enthusiasm to his new role as mayor. He summarises his focus as a councilor as that of 'working to build better communities'. He explains that, whatever the project or issue at hand, a key question always is "How can it help to build and sustain a better community?"

Graham has a particular interest in fostering the work of sporting clubs, especially junior clubs, as they play such a vibrant part in community life and do so much to help keep our youth engaged in worthwhile and healthy pursuits. He cites the outstanding work of the Monbulk Rangers Soccer Club whose website currently lists 12 adult teams and 27 junior teams for the 2012 season – a great contribution toward a better community.

Graham takes much pride in the shire's capital works programs which include the Monbulk Community Hub, the new Lilydale Museum, the netball courts at Kilsyth and the current station development program for Mooroolbark. As mayor, he will work to ensure the on-going delivery of the many projects at hand.

Since accepting the role as mayor, Graham has taken leave from his position as manufacturing manager at Radio Frequency Systems in Kilsyth in order to apply himself full-time to his new civic duties and responsibilities.

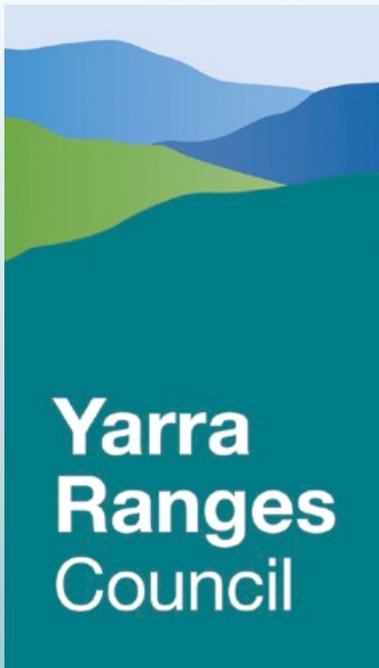
Graham grew up in Silvan and has always lived within the shire. His current home is on the Warburton Highway, near Wandin. He and wife Carolyn have four daughters and thirteen grand children, which ensures that life at home is always quite busy.

We thank Graham for his commitment to serving the community as a councilor for the past six years and wish him every enjoyment and success in his new role as mayor.



Grants for the Community

Community groups and volunteers are the lifeblood of the Yarra Ranges.



Each year countless projects that benefit our community are carried out by Yarra Ranges residents. Council recognises the importance of these groups and supports their contribution by offering an annual "Grants for the Community" program.

The 2012-2013 program is now open with applications closing 18 April.

Eligible community groups are invited to apply for grants in three areas: 1– Cultural Development, 2– Community Development, 3– Festivals and Events.

Cultural development grants up to \$6,000 are available to foster the development of a rich and diverse range of cultural activities and programs. Artists, art workers, organisations and groups can apply for funding for activities for projects that articulate and enhance arts, culture and heritage practice across the Yarra Ranges.

Community development grants up to \$6,000 are available to strengthen local communities. Community groups can apply for funding of projects that support life-long learning and enhance the community's capacity to achieve their goals.

Festival and events grants are available to assist communities plan and stage local celebrations that are inclusive of the wider

community. First time applicants can apply for up to \$5000. Funding up to \$10,000 is available for festivals with a proven track record.

We have had some wonderful feedback over the years from groups who have used the grants successfully for some tangible results in their communities. These one-off grants enable community groups to complete projects or run events that they otherwise may not have the funds to do. **Grant applications can be made online at <http://yarraranges.smartygrants.com.au>**

Council supports this program by running information sessions in each locality. For 2012, these sessions were carried out in February, however, any groups still interested in applying for a community grant should contact Jackie Elward or Kaye Hart on 1300 368 333 for information on how to proceed.

A grant-writing workshop will be held in Lilydale on March 5th from 4:30 – 7:30 pm. Bookings are essential.

**Cr Graham Warren
Mayor**

Community Centre Staff Supports “Everyday Heroes”

Just prior to Christmas the Mooroolbark Region Arts, Culture and Heritage staff were discussing ways to celebrate the festive season and spend some time together. There are 12 of us in the team and we have previously participated in a staff ‘Kris Kringle’.

It was agreed that we would all like to do something different this time and as a group, we decided to support a charity. Through our contacts, we had heard of a family who were working to support children in India – this amazing family commenced a walk across India in December 2011 and aimed to complete the walk by mid January 2012... some 800kms in total. (www.everydayhero.com.au/coasttocoast)

Nick and Bec Petrucco and their three children India, Maggie and Gus wanted to:

- Make a tangible difference to the lives of vulnerable kids by raising funds for children in India through ChildFund Australia
- Raise awareness of the plight of disadvantaged kids across the world and demonstrate how everyone can make a difference
- Provide an incredible life experience to those involved
- Experience the wonder of giving generously
- Live BIG and see what they are capable of
- Create a story to share



We were delighted to hear that 100% of the money raised would go towards supporting chosen ChildFund projects. This idea strongly resonated with us and we quickly decided we wanted to support the Petrucco family. It was such a positive experience for us to think about giving and assisting the lives of children in India as part of our own Christmas celebrations. In December we contacted the Petruccos to wish them every success with their journey.

January 2012 update. As this article goes to print we can report that the team successfully completed their journey. Their blog tells many stories of their travels, the ups and downs with walking through India and the warm welcome they received from the Indian community wherever they travelled. As a family they raised the amazing amount of \$55,965.90.

Lisa Whitehouse

Anzac Day Service - Hookey Park



Our annual Anzac Day service, at Hookey Park on Wednesday 25th of April, will commence at 12 noon. Chris Clifton, Honorary Chaplain of Lilydale R.S.L., will conduct the service which

will include the playing of the Last Post and Reveille by Tom Steele. The program will include an address by a local politician and participation by Mooroolbark District Girl Guides group and local secondary colleges.

All are welcome to attend and those who wish to do so are invited to participate by the laying of wreaths or flowers at the close of the ceremony.

Exciting

SCHOOL HOLIDAY SHOWS coming in April

Mooroolbark Community Centre

Asanti Dance Theatre African singing and dance performance. **Thursday 5th April**

Feel the rhythm of the drums and experience the captivating, energetic dance movements of Asanti. Explore African singing and dance in an interactive workshop following the performance.

For bookings and more information. Ph 9726 5488
www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc

Montrose Town Centre

Black Apple Theatre An original puppet performance for hearing and deaf children and their families.

Wed 13th & Thurs 14th April

This newly-created work developed with young artists will entertain and enthrall.

For bookings and more information: Ph 9761 9133
www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mtc



Seeking Your Assistance

The Mooroolbark History Group Inc.

has moved into the final stages of producing its first book "Celebrating Mooroolbark" 1980 - 2010. This covers the 30 years of the Mooroolbark Community Centre and the Red Earth and Celebrate Mooroolbark festivals. The book was envisaged to consist of anecdotal stories about the community, for the community and by the community.



However, after the initial burst of enthusiasm from many in the community, it was found that even after repeated requests the response dwindled and the members have had to do much of the research themselves. So the MHG have had to seek an extension of their two funding grants they have received to assist in the publication and offer the community this FINAL opportunity for anyone who feels they may like to be involved, by either telling their story, supplying photographs or video footage .

To make a contribution, please contact Marion 9726 8740
stotthq@bigpond.com and local secondary colleges.

Community Events Calendar

First Sun. of each month	Farmers' Market. Bellbird Park. Swansea Road, next to Lilydale Lake. Combined Rotary Clubs. All proceeds to local and overseas projects. Contact Bill Sutherland – Ph. 9727 0037
Friday nights during school term	Fridays@Kids Domain. Activities for primary school age kids. 4:00-6:00 pm. Oxley College Stadium. Details – Ph. 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au
Feb 16 th – Mar 15 th	Red Earth Gallery, VCE Creative Showcase. Mooroolbark Community Centre 9726 5488.
Feb – Jun	Art & Craft Workshops. M/B Community Centre 9726 5488 Montrose Town Centre Ph. 9761 9133, www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mtc
Mondays (except holidays). Starts Mar 15 th	Scottish Country Dancing. Beginners & experienced dancers welcomed. St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Rd. Mondays 8pm Minimal charges. Enquiries Ph. 9876 9206
Sun March 4 th	Pipe Organ Recital by Thomas Heywood St Francis in the Fields. 2:30 pm Contact Peter Ph. 9761 9242
Mar 6 th , 14 th , 27 th Apr 3 rd , 11 th , 24 th May 1 st , 9 th , 22 nd	Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation sessions. Information 1300 368 333
Mar 7 th , Apr 4 th , May 2 nd	Montrose Movie Club. Hollywood Classics "Bringing up Baby", "Love Me or Leave Me", "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?" 7:00 pm Montrose Town Centre 9761 9133
Mar 19 th – Apr 13 th	Red Earth Gallery. Jenny Wood Exhibition. M/B Community Centre 9726 5488
Mar 19 th	Speaker Series. A Taste of Di Harris, "The Art of Ageless Beauty" Montrose Town Centre 1:00 pm Tickets \$15 (includes afternoon tea) 9761 9133
Mar 23 rd –24 th	CELEBRATE MOOROOLBARK. (Community Festival) Sat 24 th Red Earth Reserve, Brice Ave. Talent Quest. Fri 23 rd (See Pg 4 for festival details)
Mar 31 st , Apr 28 th , May 26 th	Montrose Concert Series. "Cosmo Cosmolino", "Trading Eights". "Ensemble Systolica" 8 pm Tickets \$30/ \$24 /\$18 (Subscription discounts) Montrose Town Centre 9761 9133
April (Term 1 Holidays)	School Holiday Performances. Mooroolbark and Montrose. See details on Page 15
April	YOU & I PHOTOMEDIA workshops for young people (Age 16-21) Exploring Respectful Relationships. Contact kaitlyn.yeomans@rangeschs.org.au Ph. 9738 8865
April 10 th	Red Cross Blood Bank. Mooroolbark Community Centre Bookings 13 14 95.
Apr 11 th – 22 nd	Creative Capers. School holidays fun for kids. Art & craft, dance and movement, live performances, movies. Ph. 9726 5488 or www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/mcc
Apr 21 st	Intensive Workshops – Jewellery making (Beginners) 10 am – 2:30 pm. \$22 per workshop, (\$40 for both). Montrose Town Centre 9761 9133
Apr 28 th May 12 th	Intensive Workshops – Jewellery making (Intermediate) Details as above. Intensive Workshops – Burlesque Pin-Up 10:30 am – 1 pm \$40 . Details as above
Sun Apr 8 th	Easter Dawn Service and Breakfast. Conducted by St Francis in the Fields Kalorama Park 6:30 am Contact Andrew. Ph 9733 4626
Apr 18 th – May 17 th	Red Earth Gallery You and I Exhibition M/B Community Centre 9726 5488
May 16 th or 23 rd (Date to be confirmed)	A Seminar on Dementia. St Francis in the Fields 1:00 pm. Contact Phyl 9723 0726
June 14 th –23 rd	Mooroolbark Theatre Group Production. "My Three Angels" by Sam & Bella Spewack. Tickets on sale now. Ph. Arline 9726 4282 http://tinyurl.com/7u4fn

Our *Community Events Calendar* offers a service to local clubs and organisations. To include entries for your group's community events in future issues please contact the editor on 9761 1121 or 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 lodged one month prior to the distribution date.

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

Production

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



Editor

Doug Lewis

Publication

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Publication Perspectives

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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)

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

ADVERTISING POLICY

Living Today does not publish direct advertising. We do, however, greatly appreciate the valuable contributions made by those who partner with us in serving our local community through this magazine. We acknowledge those partners in each issue.

Proudly supporting Living Today
in Mooroolbark.

Mooroolbark **Community Bank**® Branch
Shop 19, 66-74 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark
Phone 9726 5388

