Don’t miss out this year! Join the crowd at your local community festival.

Celebrate MOOROOLBARK

Saturday March 20th
Talent Quest, Friday March 19th

11,500 Free Copies Distributed Throughout Mooroolbark & District
When you think of the word “ambulance” these days, flashing lights, sirens and dedicated uniformed paramedics spring to mind. But did you know that the first ambulances in Melbourne had two wheels and were pushed along like trolleys? And did you know that the St. John “ambos” and first-aiders have a direct link with the Middle Ages and an order of fighting monks – the Knights Hospitallers? Were you aware that one Mooroolbark resident has been appointed Commander in the Order of St. John?1

In speaking with Mooroolbark local Michael Sellar, I learned a thing or two – and enjoyed hearing something of his involvement with St. John.

Michael was born in southeast London the year before the Second World War commenced. He remembers his father’s absence due to active war service, and going to school in a bomb-shelter with a handful of pupils2 and a teacher. And, along with doodlebugs3, he remembers that the air-raid shelters were great places to play after the war.

Following his schooling and National Service, Michael commenced work with Scotland Yard as a Clerical Officer. After successfully completing his public service examinations, he was promoted to Executive Officer and given the opportunity for extra training in computers.

Some years later, whilst working for British Rail, Michael and his wife Christine decided that if the right opportunity arose they would immigrate to Australia with their three sons. A job offer soon arose with BHP, and the family relocated to Port Kembla in 1972. They moved to Melbourne four years later, where Michael continued working with BHP until 1994. Christine says that she enjoyed the beautiful green trees of Mooroolbark when they settled. At that stage there were only a few houses amidst the surrounding farmland.

Although the farms are long gone, the Sellar’s back deck still overlooks many beautiful trees on reserved freeway land. With the encouragement of his mother, who had been involved in the Women’s Voluntary Service for some years, Michael became a first-aider with St. John in 1955 when he was eighteen. It was a decision that signalled a lifetime involvement with the Order of St. John.

The original Order – now known as The Sovereign Military Order of Malta – is a religious order of the Catholic Church. Although the fighting monks – the Knights Hospitallers – are long gone, the Order survives and works with refugees and others in need. In Melbourne, the Order is involved with the running of the Caritas Christi hospice in Kew. Internationally, the Order has its own embassies and is supported by a lay organisation of about 10,000 people.

In England, the original monastery4 of the Knights of St. John is survived by its gatehouse – St. John’s Gate – which currently houses the headquarters of the Order of St. John. Although Henry the Eighth had disbanded the monastic order in England in 1540, and despite papal opposition on the grounds that they were Protestants, a group of Englishmen decided to ‘go it alone’ and set up the English Order of St. John in 1831. They devoted themselves to charitable work – such as supporting cottage hospitals in various towns. In 1877 a teaching arm was established – St. John Ambulance Association – and in due course graduates of the first aid certificate started to help out at local sporting events, which resulted in the

---

1 The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem ...is a royal order of chivalry established in 1831 ... with the world-wide mission "to prevent and relieve sickness and injury, and to act to enhance the health and well-being of people anywhere in the world." It is perhaps best known through its largest service organisation, St. John Ambulance. ... Sourced from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venerable_Order_of_Saint_John
2 Most children were moved from London for much of the war
3 http://www.hyperaction.org.uk/RoathVillageWeb/War/doodlebug.htm German flying missiles directed at England from occupied France
4 Built 1504
establishment of local brigades. In 1887, the local uniformed brigades were established as a joint organisation.

In 1882, St. John established an eye hospital in Jerusalem, which continues to be solely supported by the Order. In Australia, the Order partners with the Queensland government in providing treatment and education about trachoma, or ‘sandy blight’ - a major cause of blindness among Aboriginal people.

In 1888, Queen Victoria granted the Order a Royal Charter making it a Royal Order of Chivalry. All appointments to the Order are made by the Queen – or, in Australia, by the Governor-General on behalf of the Queen.6

Michael chuckled as he told me that the Order of St. John is unique. “It’s the only Order of Chivalry that does anything. Usually an Order honours people who have been doing various things elsewhere, but the Order of St. John honours those who work within the structure of the Order.”

St. John is perhaps best known through its largest service organisation, St. John Ambulance, which set up and continues to run the ambulance service in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

In Victoria, the Order established first aid courses in 1883, and set up and ran the ambulance service until 1916, when the government (using St. John personnel) then took over because the service had become too expensive for the Order to finance. Until recently, the Order also serviced South Australia.

About 50 years ago, the Order began to move into community care activities in England. In Australia a similar movement resulted in local St. John personnel visiting people in institutions such as retirement homes and nursing homes. These one-on-one visits aim to help residents cope with the personal loneliness that some experience even though living with others.

Since commencing as a first- aider with St. John in 1955 in the Lewisham Division, Michael qualified as an instructor in 1968, and taught until 2007. In 1994, what was to have been a fortnight’s work helping with computer systems turned into five years full-time employment with the Order.

Michael continues to serve in Community Care as the Transport Officer. Two minibuses are kept in Mount Evelyn, and Michael organises a roster of drivers, who pick up people from various institutions and take them out for picnics, the cinema, visits to shopping centres, lunch at the RSL and so on. Michael commented that he has 12 drivers, but could use twenty or thirty. He is also involved in the St. John Historical Society, which maintains a permanent museum in what was formerly the Williamstown Divisional Hall.

Although most people serving in the uniform branch are not members of the Order, Michael was appointed a Member7 in 1984, an Officer of the Order in 1995 and, most recently, has been appointed as a Commander of the Order of St. John7 and will be invested at Government House in February 2010.8

In speaking with Michael, his relaxed and friendly welcome, the genial, self-effacing chuckle, his interest in a pair of turtle doves nesting in his back porch, and his quiet insistence that helping others is simply ‘what you do’, left me with the impression that here is a man who doesn’t take himself too seriously.

Looking back over the years of service, he treasures the memories of teaching, because there’s often feedback from students even when you bump into them years down the track. There’s an additional vicarious enjoyment of their accomplishments. In addition to providing students with practical courses that assist them with serving the general public, the Order looks to enrich the overall personal development of corps members.

As a 22-year-old, Michael was on duty in London during Winston Churchill’s funeral. He told me, “I remember crowds lining the streets, seeing the coffin go by, and later on watching the barge going up the river.”

Sometimes the help given to others is quite simple: “I used to help out in the inner city – at what used to be a St. Vincent de Paul Centre,” Michael reminisced. “You see another side of life. You had people coming in all the time. Some of them had been quite successful people. I remember one chap coming in one day – he’d been a Lutheran pastor, and drink and drugs had got at him.”

“One of the regulars was a bloke – let’s call him ‘Joe’ - and everyone was terrified of him. One of my clients said ‘Joe is outside; I can’t go out the front door.’ So we let the client out the back door, and Joe came in. There was just me and Joe there, and we were chatting away about various things and he said, ‘Nobody likes me!’ I said, ‘Well, you do have a reputation, don’t you?’ So he agreed that he was something of a tough man, and that no-one liked him. So, I said: ‘Do you fancy a cuddle?’ And he said: ‘You wouldn’t!’ And I said: ‘If you want a cuddle, we’ll have a cuddle.’ And that was all he wanted – a bit of personal contact.”

There’s also an element of unpredictability in the work Michael has been involved with. He remembers a 3 a.m. meeting involving coordinating representatives of all the service organisations involved in bushfires near Wesburn. They were planning to shut down the coordination centre, when an out of control back burn swept across the vegetation behind them. “That was the end of that meeting!” smiled Michael.

The St. John motto ‘For the good of mankind’ fits very comfortably with Michael’s involvement in the St. Peter Julian parish. “I’ve always been involved in the church. Being involved in St. John is an extension of that.”

By the time this article goes to press, Michael will have been formally invested as a Commander of the Order of St. John. We’re grateful to him for the years of service that led to his receiving such a significant honour, and thankful, too, for his quiet perseverance in continuing to help others. When I queried whether he’d retire, he responded, “Not really; there’ll always be something around.”

Randall Bourchier
Celebrate Mooroolbark! – 30 YEARS OF COMMUNITY –
19th & 20th March 2010

Celebrate Mooroolbark 2010 is set to go off with a bang to celebrate the Mooroolbark Community Centre’s 30th birthday.

The annual Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival springs to life on the 19th and 20th of March with a rich and multi-layered program of live music, activities, markets and so much more. Red Earth Park and the Mooroolbark Community Centre expect to host a crowd of over 3000 people throughout the festivities, soaking up free entertainment and devouring delicious food and drinks. The focus for 2010 is on the culmination of the last 30 years of Mooroolbark and how the community has grown into what it is today.

Launching the festival is the Friday evening Talent Quest presented by the Mooroolbark Theatre Group. Experience the wide range of outstanding new talent, where local acts of all ages perform to a packed hall at the Mooroolbark Community Centre. Starting at 7.30pm the talent quest’s items will surprise and delight you. It is a really great night out at $5 a head including supper!

The Saturday Festivities kick off at 10am with the Street Parade cascading down Brice Avenue to the Red Earth Community Park. Join the participants from local schools, bands and community groups as they march to the festival site, where an abundance of activities will leap into action. Throughout the day the community stage will highlight the extraordinary talents of local performers and musicians. You will be mesmerised by the swinging sound of big bands, pipe bands, folk music and original singer songwriters, along with performances from schools and some very talented dancers.

Other activities will include kite flying, market stalls and food and drinks, dynamic roving performers, exhibitions, kid’s activities and more! A lively blend of amusements will continue at the park and inside the Mooroolbark Community Centre until 4pm. The Saturday festivities provide a unique opportunity for all members of the community to enjoy a day out of free entertainment whilst sharing in the spirit of celebration.

Please note: Station Streets and Brice Avenue will be closed temporarily at 10am on Saturday 20th March to allow for the parade to reach the Red Earth Community Park. We thank you for your patience and hope you enjoy the display!

Major Sponsors:
MOOROOlkARK SOCCER CLUB

By Peter Stephenson

Did you know that there is a piece of Australian sporting history right on your doorstep in Mooroolbark? Well, your local soccer club, based at Esther Park in Esther Crescent, was the first Australian sports club to join a national competition when it joined the fledgling National Soccer League (NSL) in 1977. But we’re getting ahead of ourselves...

The Barkers, as the club is colloquially known, was founded in 1962, and joined the Victorian Soccer Federation (VSF, now FFV) in 1964, playing in Metropolitan Division 4, and based at what is now Hookey Park. The club later relocated to Esther Park, and after a series of promotions, reached the dizzy heights of the NSL (forerunner to today’s A-League) in 1977. Since then, the club’s fortunes have fluctuated, and the men’s team now plays in Provisional League 1 South-East. The club’s opposition in 2010 will range from Beaumaris on the Bayside to Warragul United in Gippsland.

I say “men’s team”, because there are now numerous soccer teams which call Mooroolbark home. In 2010, the senior section of the club plans to field 7 men’s and 2 women’s teams, including social teams and a masters team aimed at the “more mature” player! Additionally, the junior section organises a multitude of teams ranging from under-6 to under-18 for both boys and girls. You can see, therefore, that the Barkers provides an opportunity to play the “world game” irrespective of your age, gender or ability level.

Even so, the Barkers family encompasses more than the playing groups. Firstly, there is a loyal group of supporters who barrack for the Barkers, and also follow the club over hill and dale (and even up the mountain to Monbulk) to away games. Also, like any not-for-profit organisation, the Barkers rely heavily on the goodwill of a group of dedicated volunteers to help the club to run smoothly. Tasks available could be anything from working in the canteen, marking the lines on the pitch, matchday steward, or for the seriously committed, serving on the committee. If you’d like to help the club out, or even register as a player, visit the website (address below) for the club’s contact details. Alternatively, visit the club on a training night or a matchday (details below).

The results of all this hard work are a well-run sporting club with a respected reputation in the local game. Other clubs have often remarked (both personally and in online forums) on the friendly atmosphere and well-organised set-up to be found at Mooroolbark.

It might come as a pleasant surprise to those unfamiliar with the local game to also discover how inclusive a club the Barkers are. A glance at any recent teamsheet will reveal a polyglot combination of players with backgrounds ranging from Ireland, Italy, Holland, Germany, Serbia, Albania, South Africa, Zimbabwe and, of course, Australia!

The season runs from late March to early September. Senior club games are played on Saturday afternoon (men) and Sunday (women and social teams). Junior games are played on Saturdays. Training nights during the season are Tuesday and Thursday for the men and Monday and Wednesday for the women. Facilities on a typical matchday include canteen and licenced bar. The regular matchday program keeps you up-to-date with goings-on at the club, and the clubroom may be hired at a competitive rate for your functions.

For more information, visit www.thebarkers.com.au (seniors) or www.barkers.com.au (juniors). The Barkers look forward to welcoming you to Esther Park!

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

ALL WELCOME
Come along to Mooroolbark Community Centre
Wednesday March 31st
“Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs”
Comences at 7.30 p.m
The usual 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
Tickets may be reissued if there is a wait list and they are not collected by 7:15pm

Professionals - Supporting the community since 1964

You may have noticed our marquee at various community events; supporting charity fund raisers, sporting events, school fetes and even at local RSL’s. Methven Professionals is proud to be associated with local community offering our versatile 11X 7.3 metre marquee, FREE of charge for your community event – delivered and erected by our expert team!

Call Natalie Potter at our Mooroolbark office on 9726 8888 today and book the FREE marquee for your next community event.

One Team. Four Locations.
Late last year, a new church opened its doors for the first time in Mooroolbark. Its origins may surprise you. Many would be well acquainted with the church building on the corner of Manchester Road and Kalimna Street. From the mid-sixties it belonged to the Salvation Army, before being purchased by Mooroolbark Neighbourhood Church in the late nineties. In recent years, it has also been the site of a church café, that has become a much-loved local hospitality venue.

Pastor Jurgen Wiesner, after leading the church for almost 16 years, felt last year that generational change was needed. He dropped in to see a friend, Andrew Magrath, pastor of Hope City Church in Croydon. Under Andrew’s dynamic and youthful leadership, Hope City has been enjoying constant growth for several years, attracting many young people, families and seniors. It is also gaining a very positive reputation in the community for its care arm activities, assisting many people through a food bank, extravaganza days, pamper days, and other means of practical help.

As the two church leaders discussed the state of their respective churches, the idea for a merger was birthed. Both agreed that the church in Mooroolbark must not close, but that drastic changes must be made at this time. The eventual outcome of their discussions was a proposal, brought to both congregations, to create one church, meeting in two locations. Andrew would be the Senior Pastor and Jurgen would remain on staff as the pastoral care minister. The church would be known as Hope City Church, with the Croydon campus meeting at 9:00am and the Mooroolbark Campus at 2:30pm each Sunday. The proposal was met with almost unanimous agreement.

The ensuing weeks were filled with frenzied activity, as the old Mooroolbark church building received a much-needed face-lift and many other preparations were put in place. The first service, held at 2:30pm on Sunday, 25th October 2009 was a resounding success, with a much larger than expected attendance. Since then, both campuses have continued to prosper with a much larger than expected attendance. Since then, both campuses have continued to prosper under Andrew’s leadership.

The future looks bright, with both campuses looking forward to providing much-needed practical help to the community, offering excellent hospitality and being great places of worship. Who ever said churches can’t get along together?

written by Carolyn Elliot, Principal, Pembroke Primary School  Ph: 9725 6689

Late last year, a new church opened its doors for the first time in Mooroolbark. Its origins may surprise you. Many would be well acquainted with the church building on the corner of Manchester Road and Kalimna Street. From the mid-sixties it belonged to the Salvation Army, before being purchased by Mooroolbark Neighbourhood Church in the late nineties. In recent years, it has also been the site of a church café, that has become a much-loved local hospitality venue.

Pastor Jurgen Wiesner, after leading the church for almost 16 years, felt last year that generational change was needed. He dropped in to see a friend, Andrew Magrath, pastor of Hope City Church in Croydon. Under Andrew’s dynamic and youthful leadership, Hope City has been enjoying constant growth for several years, attracting many young people, families and seniors. It is also gaining a very positive reputation in the community for its care arm activities, assisting many people through a food bank, extravaganza days, pamper days, and other means of practical help.

As the two church leaders discussed the state of their respective churches, the idea for a merger was birthed. Both agreed that the church in Mooroolbark must not close, but that drastic changes must be made at this time. The eventual outcome of their discussions was a proposal, brought to both congregations, to create one church, meeting in two locations. Andrew would be the Senior Pastor and Jurgen would remain on staff as the pastoral care minister. The church would be known as Hope City Church, with the Croydon campus meeting at 9:00am and the Mooroolbark Campus at 2:30pm each Sunday. The proposal was met with almost unanimous agreement.

The ensuing weeks were filled with frenzied activity, as the old Mooroolbark church building received a much-needed face-lift and many other preparations were put in place. The first service, held at 2:30pm on Sunday, 25th October 2009 was a resounding success, with a much larger than expected attendance. Since then, both campuses have continued to prosper under Andrew’s leadership.

The future looks bright, with both campuses looking forward to providing much-needed practical help to the community, offering excellent hospitality and being great places of worship. Who ever said churches can’t get along together?

written by Carolyn Elliot, Principal, Pembroke Primary School  Ph: 9725 6689
BRIAN CAMPBELL TRAVEL

Celebrating 30 Years in Business in Mooroolbark

Brian Campbell Travel was established in 1980 to serve the travel needs and requirements of residents in Mooroolbark and the surrounding districts.

Located in their own premises at 20 Brice Avenue, Mooroolbark, the agency provides detailed planning advice and services and is a booking centre for all local, overseas and international travel reservations. They happily celebrate 30 years in this business in March this year. The proprietors, Brian and his wife Carole, bring a great deal of experience to the business, having both entered the travel industry in 1962.

Their combined travel careers have included stints in South Australia and Western Australia, and Brian has escorted numerous tour groups throughout Australia, New Zealand, Canada, America and Britain.

In recent times they have escorted two tour groups to Canada and Alaska featuring the Canadian Rockies, the world famous Calgary Stampede and a cruise and overland tour into Alaska. Brian’s most recent tour visited the east coast of Canada and the U.S.A.

The Campbells are also ‘cruise specialists’, having completed in excess of 26 cruises on various ships over many years. With this rich experience they would no doubt be able to answer any questions one might have regarding this very popular form of travel.

Brian Campbell Travel has long been committed to supporting the local community and is a proud sponsor of both the Mooroolbark Bowls Club and the Mooroolbark Football Club.

Brian is a life-member of the Mooroolbark Football Club and currently serves as president of the club’s Coterie Group. This group, known as the 'Black Stallions', is a support group consisting of business people and others with various affiliations and connections with the club. They meet regularly to identify and carry out special projects to assist our very successful local football club. One recent project provided upgraded score-board facilities.

Brian has been a long time member of the Mooroolbark Traders’ Group and is a past president of the local Chamber of Commerce. He has also served on the board of the Mooroolbark Community Bank.

We thank Brian and Carole for the service they provide and for their commitment to our local community. We wish them continued success in their travel agency business.

If you are considering painting the shed, the house or even a factory... pay a visit to Travice Lisboa-Pinto at the 3D Paint & Colour Shop for a “painting experience” you won’t forget or regret.

5/191-193 Hull Road, Mooroolbark,
Ph: 03 9723 3381

Travice came to Australia 23 years ago from Sri Lanka to make a better life for his wife and 3 children. He enjoys surf fishing and occasionally goes river fishing. He is also studying the guitar and has 4 of them and is doing very well.

For Travice’s family, sharing of each other’s favourite types of music is a bonding activity that they often enjoy together.

He joined the 3D Paint Shop as a delivery driver 10 years ago with no sales experience at all and now manages the shop here in Mooroolbark. He is able to bring experience, advice, and service to any painting problem you may have with courtesy and fast cheerful service. The range of paint and equipment available will make any professional or D.I.Y painter drool.

Lee Guest, a fully trained assistant, has the same expertise and enthusiasm to help as Travis has.

The training to become a specialist in this field, given by the Dulux Training School, is called “Trends and Principles of Paint” and is in 3 parts. And there is a separate retail course that has to be completed as well.

Help with graffiti problems. If your home or premises has been vandalised, you can contact the Yarra Ranges Council on 1300368333. Give them the details of the vandalism and they will provide a paint discount voucher. Take this voucher to the 3D Paint shop and they will supply the paint to repair your property. This is a little-known community service supplied by the 3D Paint Shop.

Part of Travice’s philosophy on life is “I treat people the way I want to be treated”. (Your reporter was made aware of this by the customers that came in during this interview. The customers and trades people obviously enjoyed their visit because of the leg pulling laid back humour and the “in” jokes given from both sides of the counter).

Travice is also a strong believer in the value of sport for young people. “Participation in sport - any sport, can provide many valuable opportunities and experiences for youngsters.”

We thank Travice for his contribution to life in Mooroolbark and wish him continued success in his business.

3D PAINT & COLOUR

Barry Austin
Last issue we discussed the new-age reality of cyber bullying and how much impact it can have on a young person. We also looked at some of the things we can do as parents to help with and manage such persistent pressures and influences. That’s if our children are experiencing this new phenomenon … chances are they will in one way or another.

How children turn out as adults depends on how they learn to handle stressful situations as they grow. We are preparing them for a lifetime of healthy relationships and mature responses to the challenges and circumstances they will encounter – just as we all do, no matter what our age.

Anger, distress, sorrow and lots of other feelings are part of the symphony of life. It’s easy to handle being happy, but how can we understand what’s going on when things don’t go so well, in a way that will help us grow and mature in spite of the challenges?

My mother was on the right track when she once taught me a better way of expressing my frustration and anger with something when I was a teenager. Those years of our lives are an emotional smorgasbord of feelings and wide-ranging responses and reactions to lots of new stimuli and experiences. As we mature, we would do and say things much differently – or at least that’s the plan, isn’t it?

I had returned home from a big day at the beach with friends. Let’s just say ‘Slip, Slop, Slap’ wasn’t on the list of things to do when I was a kid. The beach during a Sydney summer was all about the tan! Coconut oil and a few other Hawaiian smelling lotions was the closest we got to looking after our skin and most of us didn’t bother … that stuff was for the girls and just maybe a few of the guys.

So … I was RED, and getting redder … we’re talking ‘lobster red’! I needed a relaxing shower to calm the growing tightness of my skin, and wash off all the salt. After the shower I reached for my towel – only to realise I had grabbed what felt like a large sheet of coarse sandpaper that was hung over my towel rail!

What followed was an abusive torrent of words not meant for mums, about ‘how rough my towel was’ and, ‘what had she been washing them with to make them so awful and useless?’

Her calm, helpful and diffusing response was, “If you need a softer towel, just ask me for one.”

I have never forgotten that simple, yet profound exchange (for me anyway) which helped to teach me that there is always another way to do something, and it may be a better way than the one we think of first. It’s often the difference between responding and reacting.

Some contrasting emotional approaches to parenting:

**Dismissive:** Refusing to tolerate or validate our children’s feelings. This may cause them to keep feelings private and store up hurt and fear which will accumulate over time, causing difficulties in future relationships.

**Permissive:** Allowing emotions to run wild and not calling children to account for why they feel a certain way. This may cause them to be over reactive and not be sensitive to how others perceive them. Can lead to them living on their emotions and not growing emotionally.

**Coaching:** Taking time to come alongside and discuss and validate the emotion and the reasons for the feelings. Helping them to decide what the next step could be to benefit from the experience – even if it was unpleasant. Able to see a situation with EQ and make wise decisions considering needs of others.

Source - Kids Hope Aus Presentation

Some contrasting emotional approaches to parenting:

**Dismissive:** Refusing to tolerate or validate our children’s feelings. This may cause them to keep feelings private and store up hurt and fear which will accumulate over time, causing difficulties in future relationships.

**Permissive:** Allowing emotions to run wild and not calling children to account for why they feel a certain way. This may cause them to be over reactive and not be sensitive to how others perceive them. Can lead to them living on their emotions and not growing emotionally.

**Coaching:** Taking time to come alongside and discuss and validate the emotion and the reasons for the feelings. Helping them to decide what the next step could be to benefit from the experience – even if it was unpleasant. Able to see a situation with EQ and make wise decisions considering needs of others.

Source - Kids Hope Aus Presentation

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

a key to healthy living

L ast issue we discussed the new-age reality of cyber bullying and how much impact it can have on a young person. We also looked at some of the things we can do as parents to help with and manage such persistent pressures and influences. That’s if our children are experiencing this new phenomenon … chances are they will in one way or another.

How children turn out as adults depends on how they learn to handle stressful situations as they grow. We are preparing them for a lifetime of healthy relationships and mature responses to the challenges and circumstances they will encounter – just as we all do, no matter what our age.

Anger, distress, sorrow and lots of other feelings are part of the symphony of life. It’s easy to handle being happy, but how can we understand what’s going on when things don’t go so well, in a way that will help us grow and mature in spite of the challenges?

My mother was on the right track when she once taught me a better way of expressing my frustration and anger with something when I was a teenager. Those years of our lives are an emotional smorgasbord of feelings and wide-ranging responses and reactions to lots of new stimuli and experiences. As we mature, we would do and say things much differently – or at least that’s the plan, isn’t it?

I had returned home from a big day at the beach with friends. Let’s just say ‘Slip, Slop, Slap’ wasn’t on the list of things to do when I was a kid. The beach during a Sydney summer was all about the tan! Coconut oil and a few other Hawaiian smelling lotions was the closest we got to looking after our skin and most of us didn’t bother … that stuff was for the girls and just maybe a few of the guys.

So … I was RED, and getting redder … we’re talking ‘lobster red’! I needed a relaxing shower to calm the growing tightness of my skin, and wash off all the salt. After the shower I reached for my towel – only to realise I had grabbed what felt like a large sheet of coarse sandpaper that was hung over my towel rail!

What followed was an abusive torrent of words not meant for mums, about ‘how rough my towel was’ and, ‘what had she been washing them with to make them so awful and useless?’

Her calm, helpful and diffusing response was, “If you need a softer towel, just ask me for one.”

I have never forgotten that simple, yet profound exchange (for me anyway) which helped to teach me that there is always another way to do something, and it may be a better way than the one we think of first. It’s often the difference between responding and reacting.

Some contrasting emotional approaches to parenting:

**Dismissive:** Refusing to tolerate or validate our children’s feelings. This may cause them to keep feelings private and store up hurt and fear which will accumulate over time, causing difficulties in future relationships.

**Permissive:** Allowing emotions to run wild and not calling children to account for why they feel a certain way. This may cause them to be over reactive and not be sensitive to how others perceive them. Can lead to them living on their emotions and not growing emotionally.

**Coaching:** Taking time to come alongside and discuss and validate the emotion and the reasons for the feelings. Helping them to decide what the next step could be to benefit from the experience – even if it was unpleasant. Able to see a situation with EQ and make wise decisions considering needs of others.

Source - Kids Hope Aus Presentation

Some contrasting emotional approaches to parenting:

**Dismissive:** Refusing to tolerate or validate our children’s feelings. This may cause them to keep feelings private and store up hurt and fear which will accumulate over time, causing difficulties in future relationships.

**Permissive:** Allowing emotions to run wild and not calling children to account for why they feel a certain way. This may cause them to be over reactive and not be sensitive to how others perceive them. Can lead to them living on their emotions and not growing emotionally.

**Coaching:** Taking time to come alongside and discuss and validate the emotion and the reasons for the feelings. Helping them to decide what the next step could be to benefit from the experience – even if it was unpleasant. Able to see a situation with EQ and make wise decisions considering needs of others.

Source - Kids Hope Aus Presentation

Some contrasting emotional approaches to parenting:

**Dismissive:** Refusing to tolerate or validate our children’s feelings. This may cause them to keep feelings private and store up hurt and fear which will accumulate over time, causing difficulties in future relationships.

**Permissive:** Allowing emotions to run wild and not calling children to account for why they feel a certain way. This may cause them to be over reactive and not be sensitive to how others perceive them. Can lead to them living on their emotions and not growing emotionally.

**Coaching:** Taking time to come alongside and discuss and validate the emotion and the reasons for the feelings. Helping them to decide what the next step could be to benefit from the experience – even if it was unpleasant. Able to see a situation with EQ and make wise decisions considering needs of others.

Source - Kids Hope Aus Presentation
Our academic learning is based around our Intelligence Quotient (IQ) and our ability to use our intellect to acquire, understand and apply knowledge. For decades IQ was thought to be the catalyst for success in life. However, as recently as 1990, social researchers have been emphasizing the importance of our emotions in our learning and living. When it comes to life skills, they can play a much greater role than IQ, and especially significant is the consensus that you can’t greatly improve your inborn IQ, but the potential to improve your Emotional Quotient (EQ), known as Emotional Intelligence, is considerable. When we understand and improve our EQ, it will impact areas of our life like self-motivation, empathy, self control, relationships and other important life issues.

**eMotion in Action**

‘Being smart with feelings’ is a simple way to describe EQ. It’s being intelligent concerning our emotions. We need to not just feel our emotions, but think about them as well. We can increase our EQ by becoming more aware of, and able to monitor our own, and other’s feelings, and to use this information to positively guide our thinking and actions, enabling more conscious choices and better decisions.

Everyone has emotions, and it’s encouraging to know that everyone has a real opportunity to increase or develop their EQ. When we begin to value emotions as a source of information and energy, we can begin to get more positive results in our lives and relationships. EQ gives us an ability to see inside the words and actions, and build a picture of what’s causing our own, and other’s behaviour.

The main recognised benefits of growing your EQ are:

1. Self awareness – being alert to your feelings as they happen.
2. Managing emotions - having appropriate feelings, and finding ways to handle negative emotions.
4. Recognising other people’s emotions and perspectives.
5. Managing relationships, being alert and responding to the emotions and needs of others.

**As a Parent…**

Low intensity emotions like frustration, worry or sadness, can lead to higher intensity emotions like anger, fear or depression. Complex emotions are a combination of smaller and less intense emotions interacting. If we are able to arrest the progression of basic emotions, a situation may not become inflamed or lead to damaging, and perhaps, more physical consequences.

We can teach our children that there is nothing wrong with what they are feeling when they are upset, but that bad behaviour is not an acceptable result or solution. We are made to have a very large range of feelings … that’s what being human is all about. We encounter people every day – all with diverse perspectives, upbringing, origins and goals … and emotions.

If our children can learn to better understand and use words to describe their emotions and feelings they will uncover some of the mystery of ‘how they tick’.

If our children can learn to better understand and use words to describe their emotions and feelings they will uncover some of the mystery of ‘how they tick’.

Being told to ‘suck it up’ and ‘not be a sook’ isn’t helpful. When they are not afraid of being sad, or angry, or frustrated, they will be more able to decipher what drives their actions – good and bad. Just by being in tune with why they feel a certain way, and alert to the possible outcomes, potentially negative outcomes may be averted. We need to learn to diffuse an ‘emotional moment’ by learning alternatives from the normal reaction. Professional sports people like golfers and tennis players need to control their frustration, anger or disappointment and move on to the next challenge or their game will suffer badly. Likewise, when we are angry, we can allow ourselves to get angrier, but in doing so, we are not controlling our feelings; instead we are being led by our emotions down a very unproductive path.

In our families, being calm, listening, encouraging and empathising are all helpful in pursuing meaningful relationships. Yelling at our children or belittling them to express our point is modelling the exact opposite of EQ behaviour. People who set out to improve their EQ (or have someone to help them) will be more successful at work and play because both involve other people who need to be understood and accepted – who then treat others better.

From the earliest days of parenting we are attuned to our baby’s cries … we listen for a tired cry or a hungry, scared or lonely cry. This is a good example of EQ in action – we change our response according to our evaluation of their noises. The older they get the bigger their noises, and they express a greater range of needs and wants. Can we teach and encourage our children to develop similar abilities with regard to their friends, teachers and bosses - to respond appropriately, rather than react?

We are effectively becoming an emotional coach to our children. It’s not really about right or wrong, but about better!

Getting better at understanding and dealing with emotions, better at looking for positive outcomes, better at putting an unpleasant experience behind them and moving on – not ignoring the situation that caused the stress, but actually resolving it for their own well-being, and potentially for others involved as well. Emotions can really drag us down when unchecked, affecting us to the point of thinking irrationally and then making poor decisions.

We can help our children become adults who are more able to bounce back from distress, and who are more resilient towards life’s obstacles. There will still be arguments, stress and disappointments, but the results can be much more positive and less all-consuming when experienced with emotional maturity – a product of a growing EQ.

A person or child with a well-developed EQ will live a happier and more productive life, filled with better decisions, more thoughtful responses to others, and less inhibited by emotions.

They will really benefit from being ‘smarter with their feelings’.

*Steve Steel*
Never Forget the Importance of Inclusion

My son, Johnathan, had a bad day at preschool the other day. I didn’t realise how bad, however, until I tried to drop him off the next morning and he panicked. I leaned in to see what was wrong, and he gripped my neck with a death hug, buried his head in my shoulder, and refused to let go.

This wasn’t like him. He had never complained before when I dropped him off, and he had never seemed to care when I left. In fact, he loves school. Just a couple of weeks earlier, when we were touring the place, he nearly cried when his mother and I made him leave. Yet, here he was, clinging to my neck for dear life, terrified I would go without him.

So why was he scared? The day before, a couple of kids had refused to play with him. That’s it. They hadn’t threatened him, laughed at him, or bullied him. They’d simply excluded him. I hadn’t thought much of it when he told me the previous night. After all, that’s what kids do, right? It didn’t seem like a big deal. Yet, here I was late for work, hugging my boy for dear life, and terrified because I knew I had to leave him.

I’m not sure why I was surprised by his reaction. Our need to be included is fundamental to our humanity. It isn’t secondary or nice to have. It’s hard core—right up there with our need for oxygen, food, and morning coffee. Okay, the last one might just be me. But the rest are common to all people.

It reminded me of the incident between Taylor Swift and Kanye West at the MTV VMA awards this year. Taylor, a 19-year-old country music star, was accepting an award for best female video.

She had just started to explain how much it meant to her to be accepted by “mainstream” music, when rap star Kanye West took the microphone from her. He then explained that she really didn’t belong there after all. Actually, he said that Beyonce deserved the award, but I’m sure Taylor and the rest of America heard, “You’re not in the same league as Beyonce. You don’t belong.” Understandably, Taylor broke down and was seen crying with her mother backstage.

Fortunately, the story didn’t end there. Beyonce received another award later in the evening, and she took the opportunity to tell everyone how much she related to Taylor. Beyonce explained that she’d been a teen when she received her first VMA, and she remembered what it was like. She then invited Taylor back onstage to have her moment. Her message to Taylor was clear: “You do belong. You’re one of us. You’re included.”

My son, Johnathan, had a similar moment. Before I could figure out how to escape his grip, another little boy saw him clinging to my neck and asked, “Is his name Johnathan?” Surprised that he knew my son’s name, I said, “Yes, what’s yours?” He told me. Then he started telling Johnathan all about the stuffed animal he was carrying. Slowly and gently, Johnathan released his grip. Then he faced the boy and started telling him about his toys. A few moments later, as the new friends were playing, I slipped away without my son ever noticing.

Never forget the importance of inclusion.

I’m not going to end this article with a lecture on ways you can and should make others feel included. You’re smart enough to figure that out on your own.

All I’m going to say is, blessed are the peacemakers.

By Brent Meranda

MAGAZINE OFFER This article originally appeared in the Dec. – Jan. issue of Christian Odyssey magazine under the heading “Blessed are the Includers”. Living Today in Mooroolbark has obtained a number of copies of this issue and is happy to make them available to interested readers.

Christian Odyssey is an easy-reading magazine exploring matters of life and faith. If you would like to receive one of these copies, simply contact the Editor at lewisdm@bigpond.net.au, or call our office on Ph. 9726 8898. We would be pleased to forward a copy to you.

“Easter Sonrise” is a three-day gathering dedicated to seeking God in prayer and worship. It is a unique opportunity to celebrate the original purpose of Easter - God and man – reconciled.

Date: Easter weekend, 2nd- 4th April.
Venue: Life Ministry Centre Chapel, Old Melbourne Road, Chirnside Park
Enquiries to (03) 9726 8111 or office@lmc.org.au
Come as a group of friends, youth group, church group or family and experience this great time together.
All welcome!

Our French-speaking church gathers people from various French-speaking backgrounds and cultures to worship. Whether you are learning French or come from a French-speaking background you will enjoy being with us.
We meet together on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 3 p.m. Venue: Life Ministry Centre, Old Melbourne Road, Chirnside Park
Farewell and Best Wishes
A number of church leaders have moved on to new appointments in 2010 after serving for quite some years in Mooroolbark. We wish each of them well in their new roles and thank them for these farewell messages to their many friends and colleagues in Mooroolbark.

From Darrell and Pam McKerlie  Mooroolbark Baptist Church
As we write this message, Pam and I are making our last preparations for our February move to our new appointment at Broome Baptist Church, W.A. After almost 18 years in Mooroolbark, we would just like to say how much we have enjoyed living in this beautiful part of Melbourne and to thank the wonderful local community who make our neighbourhood such a delightful place in which to live and work. We have made so many good friends from all walks of life. Thank you for all of your kindness and friendships. To our Baptist Church family, we thank you all so very much for your love and acceptance, your constant encouragement and your much-valued support throughout these very special years of our ministry.

As we look back over those years, Pam and I are most grateful for the strong fellowship, the many wonderful occasions and achievements we have shared together and the many aspects of church growth and development that we have all been a part of and can celebrate together. We have so much to be thankful for. You will all be very much in our thoughts and prayers in the weeks and months ahead.

We especially thank Rex and Jean Hayward (pastors to our seniors) for their unstinting dedication to serving our church family and to supporting our ministerial team so fully in the work we have all shared. We wish them every success and happiness in whatever direction their life together takes next.

Lastly, we would like to express our sincere thanks to the many other church leaders in our area, with whom we have worked closely over the years. It has been most encouraging to have such a close and supportive relationship between churches and with one another as we have worked together to foster the many aspects of life that we have in common. Thank you all. You have given us many wonderful memories to cherish. Darrell and Pam.

Going But Not Gone
Ministry amongst the folk at St Margaret’s Uniting Church in Mooroolbark has been a blessed five years. We’ve shared our times of joy and frustration, celebration and sadness and looking back it seems to have gone so quickly.

In line with the teachings of Jesus, the congregation has a strong sense of hospitality and social responsibility that reaches from our doorstep to the Mallee in their partnership with Wycheproof and surrounding churches, and also to Uganda as they support RYDA, a Youth Training facility. This hospitality readily includes welcoming visitors and providing strong pastoral care through the elders. St Margaret’s people are willing to try new things, which has been beneficial and sometimes surprising for all of us!

We had a wonderful day of farewells on January 3rd, a time that will long live in my memory, framed by the extraordinary quilt and clever Chaplain’s survival kit. Being unstintingly generous is a hallmark of this mob, and they were, even in the goodbyes.

As I commence full-time chaplaincy at Billanook College, my ministry placement moves only a short way geographically but the demographics change considerably. St Margaret’s has offered me a strong congregational base from which to move ‘outside’ into the school community and for that I am grateful. My prayer is that they continue to care for each other, go to the margins in search of mission, and seek the guidance of the Spirit as they move to make another ministry appointment. As for me – you know where to find me; just up the road in the wonderful embracing environment of Billanook College.

From Clint, Karen and Claire Castley  Salvation Army
Hi from Clint, Karen and Claire Castley, as we settle into life in Adelaide.

The trip over went by without incident and our initial reaction to our new home is one of warmth as we enjoy this lovely city.

Our new role involves heading up the youth ministry of The Salvation Army in South Australia and we are looking forward to the challenges and blessings that this role will no doubt bring. We want to say a big thank you to the community of Mooroolbark and beyond for their support and encouragement of us over the past five years. Mooroolbark will always hold fond memories in our hearts and we thank God for the opportunity that was ours to serve this community.

Clare in particular wants to say “Hi!” to all her friends at Manchester Primary School, and to thank the staff and students for the support shown her over the three years that she called Manchester her school.

In addition, we would commend Majors Peter & Margaret Collins and Captain Deborah Smith to this community as they take over the leadership of The Salvation Army Mooroolbark – where God is changing lives. We pray God’s blessing over their ministry.

So, thank you for your support of us over the past five years. I will leave you with some words from the Bible which say: “The basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is!” Romans 1:19 (The Message)

I trust that in your every-day lives as you go about your business, that in the face of a child, in the handshake of a man, in the smile of a woman and in the hug of a friend that you would feel and see that God is present.

Blessings, Clint Castley (Captain)
Behind closed doors...

Do you ever speculate about the lives of people in your neighbourhood... the richness and diversity of their interests?

Let me tell you about one of my neighbours, Rose Chafer, and the amusing annual pastime she's shared with one of her friends.

Cup Day 2009 celebrated the 20th anniversary of Rose and her friend Sonja attending the Melbourne Cup dressed in matching costumes. Over the years there have been plenty of costumes, as the accompanying photos illustrate.

I wondered about Rose's childhood and what might have triggered this long-term interest. Rose told me, "I was very lucky... I had a good family. I grew up in Pascoe Avenue... in the same house with my Mum & Dad and brother. All we had to do was jump the fence to go to school. I still see a lot of my friends that I met in prep; probably about eight of us still see each other regularly, which is pretty good, like, 39-year friendships. I feel that none of us have changed really - we are all just the same. We all do different things and are on different paths, but we make the effort twice a year to catch up and see what we're all doing".

"I feel that I was very lucky with my family," Rose continued. "We had a great street; lots of kids. I have good memories of just playing in the street with all the kids, and the dads would come out at night to accompany them in the street; lots of kids. I have good memories of just playing in the street with all the kids, and the dads would come out at night to play footy with us when we were little. It was just a really good community feel around there and it was safe for kids to play out on the road, not like now. Every night we'd all have tea and then we'd be out playing on our bikes and all that sort of stuff. It was fun. On the weekend, you'd disappear all day and hear your Mum yell out that tea was ready and then you'd just come home. It's just so different now."

At school, Rose enjoyed art, painting, and other creative activities. "The other night, Mum found a bag of stuff that I made when I was seven. And I remembered the things in there - a bear that I made, really ordinary sewing, bits and pieces, weaving, and paintings. I loved making things and I also loved sport."

"At Croydon High, I followed the Arts side of things right through. We used to catch the bus up on Hull Road and we'd either catch the bus or walk home, depending on who was there. If there were a group of us we'd walk home. Most of the Ruskin Park Primary School kids went there as well."

"And then I went to Deakin Uni and majored in Art."

However, said Rose, "When I started teaching, I didn't specialise in Art. I taught Phys. Ed. and Library my first year at Marysville. Then the numbers dropped and I moved to Bayswater North. I used to push Art a bit in the classroom because I enjoyed it. And I used to help with productions, art exhibitions, etcetera."

After some time on leave without pay from her teaching career, Rose moved into real estate.

"I took long-service leave from school and worked at the real estate office for a week for a bit of work experience and enjoyed it. I took a year's leave without pay from school and got a job with the Professionals, and then had another year without pay which extended to about five years. Then the school said to me: You really have to make a decision either to resign or come back. It wasn't too hard; I just resigned. I've been in real estate nine years and not regretted it once, although I miss the contact with the kids. I used to love reading to them. I do miss that face-to-face contact in the classroom."

I asked Rose about the origins of the Melbourne Cup costumes.

"A group of us decided to go the Cup because we'd never been. Sonja and I were the only girls - so eight blokes and us. As the Cup got nearer we thought maybe we should wear fancy dress and not tell the blokes - just turn up at the station dressed up as something silly. We thought it would be quite funny and make the day a bit more fun. The first year we dressed up in the colonial fashion with the big hoops and bonnets."

"There was quite an impact at the station. The boys just looked at us. 'What are you doing? We don't want to wear stupid stuff!' But it was too late - we were at the station ready to roll! We had a fantastic day that first time. People were good fun and had a good laugh."

Rose and Sonja continued to go to the Melbourne Cup in costume year after year. Rose remembered, "Before Sonja had kids we could stay out late. We'd do the Cup thing then go by train to Young and Jacksons, and then to a Japanese restaurant for teppanyaki, which was a bit funny if you're dressed up. But the people at the restaurant used to remember us each year and they'd take our photo and it'd be on the wall. They were thinking: 'What are they going to turn up as this time?'"

"People got to know us over time. There was an older bloke called Peter at the Cup gate. We met him the first year and we saw him every year after that. He was really nice. He referred to us as 'his girls.' He'd say, 'I wonder what my girls are wearing this time?' Whatever gate he was on he'd just shoo us in and say 'don't tell anyone I let you in.' "We'd get into some good spots and into some good marquees... our aim was to pay for the train and admission and pay nothing else for the rest of the day. It all changed after 9/11 when..."
security got tight and people weren’t willing to let strange creatures into their marquees.”

I asked Rose about her favourite costumes.

“We’ve both got favourites. The frill necked lizard was probably my favourite because it was so ‘out there’ — it was big and colourful. We had blue tongues and had great big frills right around our head and completely painted our face like scales and painted our hair blonde so it was all plastered down. The kids at school told me you could get these lollies… they made your tongue really blue. Sonja’s favourite was the peacock outfits because they were very striking as well”.

Rose met John at the very first Melbourne Cup she attended. John confided that he was apprehensive approaching their first formal date, fearing that he may not recognise Rose without her costume.

John was not so sure about the costumes some years. “I liked the frilled neck lizard, and the colonial dress when I met her,” he said. But he added, “There have been some shockers — the dentists and court jesters”.

Rose explained: “For the dentist we wore our dad’s shoes and knee-high socks and found dentists tops in the op shops. As a rule of thumb, we insisted on comfort, and comfy shoes — no high heels. We had to be able to sit down in whatever we wore each time”.

When I asked about unforgettable memories, Rose told me about the time they went dressed as pandas, complete with big black eyes: “You would never know who we were. They looked just fantastic; my Mum helped us make those. I was still teaching that year and got into some very good marquees. There was an eccentric celebrity - Peter Jansen — who used to race cars, had heaps of money, and he had a ridiculous marquee with a grand piano and waterfall in there. He let us in to get photos and we were there for about four hours. We came out of there and we were talking to some people through a fence and a bloke asked us into his marquee. I thought I recognised him and suddenly realised that he was one of the pupil’s dads. He didn’t recognise me — but started staring at me. I was just laughing and eventually he said: ‘Is that you, Rose?’ He said, ‘Oh no!’ Then he looked at Sonja ‘cause we both looked the same.’ He rang his son and I talked to him on the phone.”

Rose said there have been changes over the years. “Not as many people dress up now. It was quite common back then to go in fancy dress. People dress more nicely now — it’s a bit more like Oaks Day. The crowds are about the same — perhaps it’s a younger crowd in general — and it costs a lot more than it used to. Most people are good. Behaviour is generally not a problem. There’s the odd fight at the end of the day, but that’s always been the case.”

Rose and Sonja are not sure how long they’ll continue the Melbourne Cup costume tradition. “We might have a break this year. We don’t know. We think 20 years is a fair effort. It’s hard to think of different things to go as every year — and it’s become pretty impossible to get into the marquees.”

Rose and John are good neighbours. They, too, enjoy the way the Mooroolbark area is “nice and central, close to everything — easy walk to shops, bigger blocks, old-fashioned neighbourhood feel. We like the privacy and space; the trees and greenery! And we like being able to have our two dogs — Cashew and Yardley — they’re proud of their mother!”

So, the next time you visit the Melbourne Cup, keep an eye out for a matching pair of costumes … perhaps Rose and Sonja will defer their retirement! Perhaps they’ll dress as roses!

Randall Bourchier
The present day.

grown from the initial draftsman’s drawings to

You can see how the centre has developed and
grown from the initial draftsman’s drawings to

birthday of the Mooroolbark Community Centre.

program will be

MCC – Born, 1980

workshop such as pastels, sculpture or creative

short on time, you may enjoy a weekend

painting, dance, crafts, or sculpture. If you’re

find workshops available such as pottery,

an informal, warm and friendly environment.

offer a range of arts and cultural activities in

inspiring workshops available. We aim to

creative side, there is a diverse program of

Real Estate.

public to visit, is sponsored by Hocking Stuart

red soil integral to the Mooroolbark area.

to the theme

a work on the same size canvas, and respond

now accepting registrations. Artists will create

own special light.”

The Lounge Sessions are back again

for another year of great performances by local musicians playing original music in a relaxed environment. The next performance is on Friday 30th March at 7pm. If you are interested in performing, we would love to hear from you!

Premiering on 16th April as part of the Yarra Ranges Council Youth Week program for 2010, TOM tackles issues of binge drinking, sexuality, peer pressure, bullying and drug use. The performance is designed to SHOW not TELL. Rather than preaching to its audience, the core issues are subtly interwoven throughout the progressive visuals, dialogue, song lyrics and movement sequences. The ‘TOM Project’ is an initiative of the Shire Ranges Council in partnership with See Hear Say Theatre Company, local artists and young people.

We look forward to another exciting and fun year, full of possibilities and celebrations. If you would like any further information on any of the programs on offer, please contact the Mooroolbark Community Centre on 9726 5488.

Adam Gray
Front of House Supervisor
Mooroolbark Community Centre

Around the
Yarra Ranges

2009 was a particularly hard year for the Yarra Ranges community, and almost one year on from the Black Saturday bushfires, many residents are continuing to rebuild their lives. As mayor of Yarra Ranges in my second term, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all community members for a brighter

lives. As mayor of Yarra Ranges in my second term, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all community members for a brighter

year ahead. While the challenges of 2009 will never be forgotten, it’s time to embrace a new year and indeed a new decade – one which is
good to see a number of exciting developments come to fruition in Yarra Ranges.

Following on from the success of the Upper Yarra Family Centre which opened in Yarra Junction in 2008, this year will see work on a number of other new community hubs throughout the shire. These hubs will provide Yarra Ranges communities with a one-stop shop for a number of valuable services. Monbulk Community Hub is due for completion this year. The $5.4 million building will feature a shared library with Monbulk Primary School in conjunction with the mobile library service, a Yarra Ranges Community Link, Maternal and Child Health centre, a preschool and occasional care services. A meeting space for senior citizens and the local historical society and a large multi-purpose room for general community use will also be included in this state-of-the-art building. Construction of new hubs in Upwey and Healesville are also set to begin this year, while plans will be developed for a similar hub in Kilsyth.

There will also be a number of sporting developments up and running in 2010. Monbulk’s new synthetic soccer pitch is complete and should be ready for use within the next month, while the new pavilion at Montrose Recreation Reserve should be completed later in the year. The $2.6 million Kilsyth Basketball Stadium redevelopment is set to begin shortly, and the $1.2 million Seville Water Play area is well on the way to being completed for next summer.

Arts and culture in Yarra Ranges will also see some exciting developments this year. The Yarra Ranges Regional Museum is expected to be completed mid-year, and plans will soon be underway for official opening celebrations. Construction work is due to begin shortly on the $9.55 million Burrinja Community Cultural Centre redevelopment, which will feature a 400 seat auditorium and an even better facility to showcase exciting art collections for the Yarra Ranges community to enjoy.

I am excited about these upcoming developments and look forward to seeing the many benefits our community will enjoy as a result. On behalf of Yarra Ranges Council, I wish everyone a happy, healthy and rewarding year in 2010.

Len Cox
Mayor
Yarra Ranges Council

Quotable Quotes

“We are each gifted in a unique and important way. It is our privilege and our adventure to discover our own special light.”

Mary Dunbar
Over many years most of us have heard of Legacy, but many of us are not quite sure of exactly what Legacy is or does.

Legacy was founded in 1923 by the late Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Savage and formed by returned servicemen through their comradeship after having returned from the 1914-18 War. These men had a strong desire to support one another and to help rehabilitate their comrades. Soon after Legacy was founded, they began to help widows of returned ex-servicemen and their children. It is an Australian organisation with a club in London.

Legacy, where possible, now looks after dependants of Australian service personnel, of all generations and conflicts, who died whilst serving or who have since died. In reality that is what Legacy is all about.

The Yarra Valley Group of Melbourne Legacy which was formed in 1955 has a geographic area of responsibility that goes from Chirnside to Ringwood to Knox to Ferntree Gully across to Warburton including Mt Dandenong, over to Healesville, back to Lilydale, and all suburbs inside that perimeter. Yarra Valley Legacy currently has 25 active members known as Legatees and 19 Legatees on reserve. Those on reserve are no longer actively involved with supporting new widows. We currently have 2491 widows registered with us, and our Group supports Widows clubs in Bayswater, Boronia, Croydon, Healesville, Lilydale, Monbulk and Upper Yarra.

What do we do as Legatees?

When we are advised of the death of a serviceman, a Legatee is allocated to support that widow through a personal relationship. Every effort is made to obtain a War Widow’s pension and a Gold Card for the Widow, as well as provide support in any other ways possible. This could be by way of financial grants for widows in need, purchase of equipment to assist with their mobility needs or by simply being a sounding board for those looking for advice and assistance. We fund all formal educational needs for dependant children including books, uniforms, excursions etc up to age 25 or until they leave the formal education system at an earlier age.

Our group also takes delight in being able to provide a BBQ picnic each year for dependants with disabilities Victoria-wide, as well as conducting and supporting ANZAC ceremonies for school children at Ferntree Gully, Upper Yarra and Lilydale. We transport 12 buses of children to the Children’s ANZAC ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance each year and we are also involved in widows’ club functions and outings.

Obviously resources both human and financial are a concern when looking after the needs of the widows and their families. Each year during Legacy Week, which is the week preceding Legacy Day (the first Friday in September), we organise the selling of badges, wristbands and pens to raise money to enable funds to be available to assist widows and

their dependents in our area. In doing so we enlist the help of widows, our personal friends and other volunteers; however our ranks are thinning. So if you have any time to assist us during Legacy Week, your help would be most welcome.

Alternatively you might like to join our ranks and become a Legatee. Once a month we have a dinner meeting in Chirnside Park where we enjoy each other’s company whilst conducting the business of helping widows and their dependants. All Legatees are volunteers and in recent years Legacy policy has changed so that Legatees do not need to have served in the military. We have been very fortunate that individuals in our local communities have been very supportive and I would like to publicly thank all those who have worked so hard to date and the generosity of the community as a whole.

Legatee Barry Jacquier
President Yarra Valley Group of Melbourne Legacy Inc.
Community Events Calendar

Mar 2nd, Apr 6th & 14th, May 4th
Shire Immunisation Sessions. For details Ph. 1300 368 333

First Sun of each month.
Farmers’ Market “Bellbird Park”. Swansea Rd. Next to Lilydale Lake. Combined Rotary Clubs - All proceeds to local and o/seas projects. Contact: Bill Sutherland 9727 0037

Friday Nights - School Term
Friday’s @Kid’s Domain Activities for Prim. school age kids. 4-6 pm Oxley College Stadium. Details – Ph 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au

Mar 5th
World Day of Prayer. A day of prayer celebrated by Christians around the world. St Francis in the Field, Hull Rd. 10 am and 7 pm

Mar 5th & Apr 30th
Lounge Sessions. All-age music sessions performed by local artists. Light refreshments available. $6 entry. Enquiries Ph 9726 5488

Mar – May
Red Earth Gallery MCC - Born, 1980 (30 Years of development at MCC), Small Stitches (local craft), RED (Art competition) Enquiries 9726 5488

Mar 13th, Apr 17th, May 8th
Weekend Workshops : Sculpture, Pastels & Creative Metal-Smithing
Start 10am. For details ring Mooroolbark Community Centre 9726 5488

Mar 27th & Apr 17th.
Montrose Concert Series. ‘Latin Lover’, ‘On the Wallaby Track’ Enquiries & bookings 9761 9133 (Subscriptions available). Starts 8pm

Mar 29th to Apr 9th.
Creative Capers for Kids. A wide range of school holidays activities for kids. Mooroolbark (Tel. 9726 5488) & Montrose (Ph. 9761 9133)

Apr 6th
Red Cross Blood Bank M/B Community Centre Bookings 13 14 95

Mar 31st
Free Family Film Night MCC Film ‘Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs’ Ring the Community Centre (Tel 9726 5488) to book seats. 7.30 pm start.

Apr 12th
Speaker Series – Antiques. Appraisal session by antique expert. (one item per participant) Montrose Town Centre. 12pm start. Details 9761 9133

May 9th
Organ Concert. Featuring Matthew Schultz 2.30 pm St Francis in the Field, Hull Rd.

May 23rd
Ecumenical Pentecost Service. St Francis in the Field, Hull Road. 5.30 pm

Our new “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 Ph. 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.

Proudly supporting Living Today in Mooroolbark.

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

MISSIONSTATEMENT

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

We seek to achieve this by:

- Highlighting the many positives within our community
- Encouraging partnership in community initiatives
- Contributing to the process of identifying and addressing community needs and concerns