Celebrate Mooroolbark Festival – 18 & 19 March
I suspect that the need for more humility is not a frequent topic of discussion in government circles. Of course, there have been impressive exceptions—Nelson Mandela springs to mind. Perhaps it’s a perceived lack of humility in the public’s view of those who govern that makes the example of a Mandela even more exceptional.

It was with some surprise and interest, then, that I read that the new Mayor of Yarra Ranges—Councillor Jason Callanan—believes that humility is one of the factors leading to Yarra Ranges Council’s success. I was interested to hear what he means!

“I’ve noticed that it can be difficult for organisations to accept that something has gone wrong, and then to admit that whatever happened wasn’t the right way to go,” said Jason. “I’ve brought a few matters to the council and asked, ‘Why can’t we just say: yep, sorry, we got that wrong—we’re going to go this way now?’ Having that approach, I think, shows more of a human side to the council.”

“I’ve certainly done it,” he continued. “I’ve made mistakes and I’ve said ‘Sorry, yep, my bad.’ I guess that was part of my ambulance training—knowing when you’ve gone wrong and learning from that. I think council could do that a bit more. Simply acknowledge that a mistake has been made and learn something better from it. It probably goes on behind closed doors, but when people are not told what has happened, they can become frustrated, and they’re likely to say ‘You guys never listen to us.’ Some of our communication with the ratepayer can be overly bureaucratic!”

As an example of a mistake that has been acknowledged, Jason mentioned the negative public reaction to the consultation process around the council’s decision to close the Olinda Pool.

According to an article in the Leader,1 the discovery of large cracks in the pool led to a council decision to close it and to add the $265,000 Olinda Aquatic Centre budget to the Olinda Pavilion project. Olinda residents’ negative reaction was understandable, particularly as locals had fundraised for the pool in the 1960s after bushfires had swept through Olinda and the town recognised that a static water supply would be needed in the event of similar emergencies.

“The public felt that they weren’t represented properly and that their concerns hadn’t been properly heard,” Jason commented. “I asked for a review of the consultation process, and at one of our forums we admitted that we probably hadn’t gone about the process appropriately but that we had learnt from it, and would ensure that future consultation processes would be handled in a better way.”

Ultimately, the outcome was successful, with the Olinda Pool reopening within budget and in time for the summer season. “But along the way, the consultation process, and which groups had been included or excluded, was examined closely.”

For the last twenty years, Jason has worked as a Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance (MICA) paramedic for Ambulance Victoria. He became interested in that field when, as a young man living and working in both the Northern Territory and Queensland, he volunteered with the SES and later with St John Ambulance, with the aim of helping others. Jason explained that the role of paramedic has changed over the years, and that some of the care now offered could be described as more pastoral than medical.

So that he can better perform his mayoral responsibilities, Jason is working part-time this year. The only element of his paramedic work that he doesn’t miss is the shift work!

It was while working as a paramedic in motor sport that Jason met his wife Lisa, who is a nurse. A second-generation local resident, Lisa is the child of Italian migrant parents who settled in Australia and bought farmland in Silvan. With Lisa’s parents, siblings and cousins living nearby, Jason enjoys the experience of close family contact which is very different from his own experiences whilst growing up. Jason and Lisa have two daughters: Olivia, aged five, and Mackenzie, four.

Being elected as the councillor representing Chandler Ward (following Cr Graham Warren’s decision not to stand for re-election) was demanding for Jason in the first couple of years. Having lived in the area for only six years, he had a steep learning curve discovering what contribution the various organisations in the ward made to community life. He had to learn the ropes at council, too, and has found that the open-door policy, enabling councillors free access to all personnel employed by the shire, helps councillors better understand various issues as they arise.

Many of those Jason represents are farmers. To better assist the shire residents involved in agriculture, he has chosen to serve on the council’s Rural Advisory Committee. The main issue concerning rural residents is the condition of roads in the ward. Many property owners live on dirt roads, and Jason is excited by an extremely cost-effective one-step process for surfacing of those roads. The Boral GATT surfacing2 process helps to prevent erosion, reduces maintenance, and importantly—particularly for farmers concerned for their produce—reduces dust.

When Jason began serving as a councillor, Graham Warren introduced him to some key people in the ward. One of those was Lisa Doolan, the president of the Monbulk Rangers Soccer Club, which boasts a membership of 600. Lisa and the club have worked tirelessly, along with council, to secure changes to zoning laws and enable the construction (in several stages) of a large state-of-the-art sports complex.

Lisa described the complex as a “brand new multi-million dollar facility (Local, State and Federal Government funded project) [which] will be completed in early 2016. This will house a modern functional pavilion, two synthetic pitches, one main grass pitch and several other grass pitches. Extensive car parking and guest viewing areas will also be present.”

Jason has been active in helping obtain the necessary rezoning and other permits for the project. He is passionately proud of the soccer club’s work in bringing a recreational facility of this standard to Monbulk, and looks forward to the boost to the local area that the complex will provide.

Jason’s great passion outside of his council responsibilities and employment is his involvement with ROADwhyz, a program which educates young drivers about road safety. According to the ROADwhyz website, the program does not teach actual driving skills but instead seeks to empower inexperienced drivers with the knowledge and skills to stay safe on the road.4

Looking back over his three years in council, Jason has seen many changes. Several of the changes have been internal by nature and have been designed to better help the council serve shire residents.

Along with major changes to the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme5, there have also been significant organisational changes. In an attempt to prevent unnecessary duplication and reduce costs, there are now three department directors instead of four, which has reduced wage costs by about $250,000 per year. With state government CPI rate-cutting commencing this year, there will continue to be difficult deliberations about services that are essential and must be maintained and other services that may become impossible to fund.

Jason is also confident that, although some improvements have been made, yet more improvement is possible in helping the council change from being simply a regulatory enforcement organisation to one which increasingly values customer satisfaction and

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5 www.roadywhyzvictoria.com.au

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Introducing Mayor Jason Callanan...
Australia Day Honours

The new mayor recently had the opportunity to honour the following winners of the 2016 Yarra Ranges Australia Day Awards:

**Citizen of the Year** – Brendan Murphy
**Young Citizen of the Year** – Chenile Chandler
**Environmentalist of the Year** – Jenny Saulwick
**Ken McIntosh Memorial Award** – Jasmine Andrews
**Ian Del La Rue Award for Community Leadership** – Jeff Gill
**Community Group of the Year** – Yarra Valley Chrome Bumpers
**Mayor’s Lifetime Achievement Award** – Catherine Carr-Garside

**Certificate recipients:**
Mike Bainbridge
Julie Cuffe
Maggie and Geoff Daish
C.J. Dakis and Kathleen Snowball
John Faull
Connie Grogan
Greg Morton
Jack Rose
Irene Stewart

asks “How can we help?” He said, “There’s still a way to go but we’re slowly changing.”

Jason also hopes that Yarra Ranges residents will increasingly grasp and value the large range of services offered. “I remember before I became a councillor I used to think that I wasn’t seeing much return on my rates,” he said. “I quickly began to see, however, that the rate system covers many needs across a wide diversity of age groups. From the very young—through immunisations and family day care—through to providing meals on wheels for the elderly and the hospital-in-the-home service, along with transport and so on, the diversity of necessary services covered by our rates has amazed and encouraged me.”

“It’s sometimes discouraging when you speak with the occasional resident whose own demands prevent them from seeing the bigger picture—the complexity involved in supporting the 150,000 people in the community.”

“Next election will bring changes electorally,” Jason continued. “We’ll be moving to three wards instead of nine, with each ward represented by three councillors. I’d like to help council improve communicating the diverse and complex business plan. I hope to do this by using the media and opportunities for personal contact to help Yarra Ranges residents better understand the costs involved in maintaining and creating the many services and the vast infrastructure that the shire is responsible for.”

Better communication, along with the humility that Jason values, sound like helpful aspirations in continuing to foster the wellbeing of all who live and work in Yarra Ranges.
Child's Play

Imagine how happy your children would be if they had access to thousands of toys each year—and how happy you would be to know that it isn’t going to cost you much more than the price of a single, good-quality toy!

The term ‘child’s play’ is used to mean something that is insignificant or very easy to do. In fact, play for children is not insignificant at all. It is vitally important—babies and children need a wide variety of engaging toys to help the healthy development of their brains.

But how are families to afford that wide variety of toys? That’s where the toy library comes in! At a toy library, members can borrow from a huge array of quality toys, for babies right through to preschoolers. Toys are carefully chosen to support the development of cognitive, social and academic abilities, as well as physical strength and dexterity. Children learn very quickly in the first months and years of life, so their toy needs are constantly changing. Access to a toy library allows parents to provide items for the child’s current stage development, then offer other toys when necessary.

There are toy libraries at seven locations in the Yarra Ranges Shire, from Mount Evelyn to Yarra Junction. There is no toy library in Mooroolbark, but many Mooroolbark residents use other libraries within the shire, or the large Maroondah Toy Library in Ringwood North.

So that parents can be confident that the toys are safe for their children to use, each toy library has its own procedure for checking items for missing or damaged parts, and cleaning toys between borrowings.

Lilydale mother of two Kate Gobbe joined a toy library when her eldest child was about 18 months old. “It’s much cheaper than buying lots of different toys, and you don’t have to store all the toys that they no longer play with,” she said. Kate also enjoys the chance to “road test” toys: “You get to know what toys your children like. Otherwise, you might buy toys and they don’t even touch them, so it ends up being a waste of money.”

Toy libraries select toys which are fun and educational, and most libraries categorize toys according to age or type of play. For example, there may be sections for early learning (6-24 months), craft, construction, sports, role-play, costumes, music, games, and outdoor toys.

Mattena Stephenson, a committee member at the Maroondah Toy Library, is very satisfied with the selection her toy library offers. “You can get stamps, paints, play dough and other craft items. There are puzzles, and puppets, and dress-ups. We have toys for older children—doll houses, and prams, and Lego and Duplo, and different types of building blocks. In fact,” said Mattena, “any type of toy you can think of that a child would want to play with, it’s there.”

Toy libraries also stock large toys such as slides, swings and bikes. Some toy libraries even offer a party service: for an additional fee, parents can borrow items suitable for a party, such as a jumping castle, or tables and chairs.

Toy libraries are not just for parents. For those looking after their grandchildren on a regular basis, it’s a useful way to rotate the toys and offer variety. The advantage for those whose grandchildren only visit occasionally, according to Mattena, is that “they don’t have to have a house full of toys year round.”

Toy libraries are represented by Toy Libraries Australia (TLA), which provides publicity, information and encouragement to prospective and existing toy libraries. You can find the location of your nearest toy library on the TLA website: toylibraries.org.au

One of the greatest benefits for Mattena is that she doesn’t need to spend time or money at toy stores. “Other than picking something up at the op shop for a couple of dollars, I don’t buy toys,” she said. “Unless I see it at the toy library, I probably don’t know it exists!”

Janet Van Dijk
There’s not long to go now. Our 2016 festival is just a few short weeks away—are you ready for it? We all like to go to the movies, and this year we are celebrating Movie Mayhem. Perhaps you could hire a limo to come for a red carpet walk or be part of our parade as a character in your favourite movie. Or perhaps even produce your own short film for the competition. Check us out on Facebook!

It’s up to you—plan to be part of the day and join in the fun.

This year, the festival will be bigger and better. Once again, the Red Earth park in Mooroolbark will come alive for our very own festival: it will be a fun-packed family festival celebrating the community in which we live. Most things are in readiness; all we need is a crowd of people looking to enjoy themselves and the festivities. As Molly Meldrum says, “do yourself a favour” and be part of it.

The festival will spread out from the Mooroolbark Community Centre across the Red Earth Community Park with a variety of activities to keep all ages amused. Food and drink available on the day will include the Lions’ BBQ sausages, Devonshire tea, pancakes, and vintage ice cream—and everything in between! There will be the usual community market with a variety of produce and products, as well as community groups with information booths.

For the kids, there will be rides, an animal farm, the scout rope bridge, ice-blocking and other fun activities. There will be a magician and a puppet theatre to entertain them as well. Most activities are free or at low cost because of the generosity of our sponsors.

During the day there will be a number of competitions happening. Lucky straws will be there again and one in five will win a prize. The young folks are invited to a ‘scavenger hunt’ with a twist. Look out for us on Facebook and if you ‘like’ us you go into the draw for a special prize.

The festival itself kicks off on the evening of Friday 18 March with the Mooroolbark Talent Quest at the Mooroolbark Community Centre at 7:30 pm. Please come and enjoy the talent in our community—an audience is required and at only $5 entrance fee, it is a great night out. Winners will appear on the community stage the next day. The stage program is packed and the audience will see a variety of acts over the day. We have already confirmed Kofi the African Drummer, Ghawazee Charm Belly Dancers, and Good Life Fitness Centre—and there are still more acts to come.

As you wander around the festival grounds, do not be surprised to encounter a variety of interesting and unusual characters. There will be story time from the library, a magic show and puppets. Look out also for the FReeZA program!

Our street parade will be leaving Hookey Park at 10:00 am on Saturday morning with a costume competition for the participating groups. 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 at the grounds, they will be welcomed by our mayor, Cr Jason Callanan, who will then declare the festival open.

Celebrate Mooroolbark offers something for everyone in a fun-filled festival. Come for an hour or come for the whole time, but beware—you may enjoy yourself too much!
Almost at the same time as the recent arrival of a flock of origami-style bird sculptures at Mooroolbark’s Hookey Park has been the arrival of a new Japanese-style eatery right next door!

The authentic Keyaki Japanese café is located in the centre of the Terrace Shopping Centre, and offers light and economical lunches from Tuesdays to Fridays between 11 am and 2:30 pm. The menu varies according to the season (soup during winter only) and is largely gluten free.

Keyaki Japanese

The owner of the business, Erika Timms, cooks and prepares all the food herself each day in the cozy but well-appointed kitchen. This is her first venture, but she brings many years’ experience of cooking good homemade Japanese food and takes pride in using only the freshest and most authentic ingredients.

After living in the eastern suburbs for over a decade, Erika and her Japanese colleagues realised that there are only a very small number of authentic Japanese food outlets in Melbourne. “Though the majority of other places still make very nice, high-quality food, nonetheless it is not made by Japanese in the Japanese style, nor with our authentic ingredients. Japanese soya sauce, for example, is the most crisp and savoury, whilst the rest are varying degrees of smoky sweet.”

“The teriyaki chicken nori roll has become my trademark dish, served with lettuce and mayo,” Erika told me. “Then, the Chicken Lunch Bowl, which is deep-fried chicken served with a savoury spring onion vinaigrette sauce, on salad and steamed rice.”

Erika uses miso as a base for perhaps Japan’s most traditional soup. “Though mild, it is a beautiful and deliciously savoury broth, made of miso paste (produced by the fermentation of soybeans) with salt and koji-kin mushrooms. The result is a subtle yet elegant flavour that is not imposing, but always satisfying.” Erika said she has never met anyone who hasn’t wanted more miso soup after trying it.

After trying both the teriyaki chicken sushi (also known as nori) roll and the spicy tuna sushi roll, along with a delightfully cold, unsweetened green tea (which I was pleased to note was made from Australian green tea!) I heartily recommend you take time to enjoy a simply delicious, elegantly presented and nourishing Japanese treat or take away.

For Erika, the name Keyaki has a special significance—it is the name of a type of large deciduous tree related to the elm and is the symbol of the city of Saitama in Japan where she grew up. Erika said, “I chose this name because as a child my home was surrounded by farmland and I spent a lot of free time walking amongst cherry blossoms and these grand old keyaki trees.”

Mary Bourchier

JD PORTRAIT ART

In 2008, Living Today wrote about photographer Johl Dunn, who had just started his photography business in Mooroolbark; eight years later, Johl has a successful and thriving studio—now called JD Portrait Art—and he does 300 photography shoots a year.

Johl’s business vision includes a desire to give back to the Mooroolbark community. He has donated photography vouchers to schools, charities and churches which they have auctioned off, raising money for their particular group. Johl enjoys helping worthy organisations in this way.

The Celebrate Mooroolbark festival has been on the receiving end of Johl’s generosity—he has donated substantial gift vouchers to the photography competition, which encourages both young and old amateur photographers to submit their pictures of the event.

In May last year, in keeping with his community involvement, Johl donated his expertise to the National Breast Cancer Foundation through the National Family Portrait Month (NFPM). The NFPM is a national campaign which raised money for breast cancer. The campaign worked through social media and community advertising. By paying a fee of $65, all of which went to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, families were able to choose one of the participating photographers for a photography session. Each family received a free photograph from the portrait sitting, and also had the option to purchase further photos as a priceless reminder of a moment in their lives.

As well as raising funds for breast cancer, the campaign aims to highlight the importance of professional photography in Australia and to encourage families to have portraits taken while their children are still young—because, as the NFPM website points out, “Life can change in a heartbeat.” The campaign was very popular last year and Johl is looking forward to participating again this year.

It is easy to see why Johl has been so successful. The walls of his studio are decorated with an impressive array of photographs taken by JD Portrait Art, many of them of children. “We get them to play and run around together, tickle each other and just be themselves,” said Johl. The resulting portraits are beautiful, natural images.

Johl runs the business with the help of his staff Robyn (who does the marketing and sales) and makeup artist Candice. Johl’s wife Heidi is kept busy looking after their two children—and with another one on the way, she is only able to help out at the studio occasionally.

If you would like to know how this community-focused business can capture some memories for your family, contact Johl on 9733 4854 or check out the website: jdportraitart.com.au

Barbara Austin

Johl finds the happy impulsiveness of children “a beautiful thing to capture.”

PHOTO: © JD PORTRAIT ART

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Celebrating Yarra Ranges Youth

For the Yarra Ranges Youth Reference Group, the 2015 Youth Leadership Celebration was designed to be a fun way of showcasing the achievements of young people in their community. Tiffany Kuiper, a member of the Youth Reference Group, admitted to some nerves before the event, but said she was “very happy for our first event” and credited the night’s success to the group’s good teamwork.

The celebration, held in December last year, was organised by youth, for youth. The Youth Reference Group was responsible for all aspects of planning and coordinating the evening, which included awards, guest speakers, and a chance to mingle and catch up over delicious catering. The Mooroolbark Community Centre was filled with young people, families, and the local youth services community, as they all came together to celebrate the hard work and successes of the community’s young residents.

The musical talents of SPARKS and Charlotte Lees provided a live soundtrack for the event. The SPARKS trio of young men won the Yarra Ranges final of the 2015 FReeZA Battle of the Bands competition, and their performance on the night coincided with the release of a CD featuring the competition’s finalists.

A number of groups and individuals were recognised on the evening for enriching and contributing to youth services and initiatives throughout the Yarra Ranges. The audience heard from young people involved in the Yarra Ranges Youth Mentoring Programs, the Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association (HICSA) Youth Leadership Program (cultural strengthening through the arts), the FReeZA Level-Up crew (a program enabling youth to volunteer in planning and staging music and cultural events for young people), and the ROAR leadership program (helping secondary school students to develop and share their leadership potential). Participants and volunteers in these groups were awarded with certificates, to the supportive applause of friends and family.

The night opened with a welcome by Yarra Ranges Councillor Maria McCarthy, and included a keynote address by Fiona Canny from Oaktree Foundation. Britt Westaway from the Youth Reference Group was the MC for the evening, and other speakers included Prue Northey (Yarra Ranges Youth Citizen of 2015) and Caitlin MacDonald, another member of the Youth Reference Group.

Speaking at the event, Caitlin said that the group is “fun, exciting, and most definitely engaging.” She explained, “It is a forum to discuss, advocate for, and celebrate young people in our community.” Her fellow member Tiffany Kuiper later said, “It gives young people a voice in the matters that face youth in our community. It also gives you experience in working with the community, such as planning and delivering events around specific times of the year.”

Prue Northey was awarded her position as Yarra Ranges Youth Citizen for her volunteer contributions to the Cancer Council’s Relay For Life campaign in the local region. In her speech, she encouraged other young people to seek involvement with their local community, and told how her volunteer work had helped her to find a career path and also to have her voice heard on important issues.

Many of the teenagers and young adults recognised at the event shared similar themes in their speeches: the value of community, the opportunity to make new friends and develop unique skills, and an encouragement to their peers to get involved with the many available programs. Their sentiments echoed the evening’s broader theme of celebrating the richness and importance of youth involvement in healthy communities.

The Youth Leadership Celebration also represented the culmination of the Youth Reference Group’s first major project. The group, formed in April 2015, is a new initiative that enables 15-25 year olds in the Yarra Ranges to advise the Yarra Ranges Council and their associated Youth Services. The members plan and deliver youth initiatives throughout the Yarra Ranges, including the annual Youth Leadership Celebration.

The team of eight meets together monthly to discuss, plan, and catch up. They are currently working on an event for National Youth Week in April. The council’s Youth Participation and Engagement Officer, Kylie Wilmot, mentioned that the group is always looking for more members. Anyone aged 15-25 who is interested in being involved is encouraged to phone the Youth Development team on 1300 368 333.

All those who attended on the night would agree that it was an inspiring and enjoyable evening. The 2015 Youth Leadership Celebration was a shining example of a healthy, energised youth community within the local area.

Carissa Sianidis

Proudly supporting Living Today in Mooroolbark
I can remember the red-hot metal bar pushed against my inner forearm by a fellow student and his accomplice in my metalwork class. I remember the burning smell, the hiss sound and the smoky steam that formed. It was not a serious burn, but the resulting scar remained for many years.

I was good at metalwork. The teacher acknowledged my skill and I imagine the other boys knew it too. I never made a big deal about it in class—I simply enjoyed it and always received good marks for my work. Forty years later, I am still good at metalwork, perhaps even gifted.

That is where my understanding ends and my speculation begins. Why did they burn me? Did they think that hurting me was going to make them feel better? Did they plan that action, or was it impulsive? Does it even matter why they did it? What matters is that they did it—and that it hurt!

After hearing a presentation about family violence I felt moved to consider the issue of violence—an increasingly distressing and debilitating issue that troubles virtually every facet of our society. What is leading to this epidemic of violence? How do we, and our children, guard against it in our own lives?

Experts try to explain what leads people, mostly men, to inflict pain on others. Many lay the blame on family issues that have remained unaddressed. We are all somewhat dysfunctional. Every family TV show has some kind of dysfunction at its core—perhaps that's what makes such shows popular. We easily relate to what the fictitious character is like because we (often humorously) recognise similar traits in others (certainly not in ourselves—perish the thought!) In a sense, we practically celebrate dysfunction! But in real life, it leads to tension and affects all other members of the family, the workplace or anywhere it appears.

Communicate

A family that acknowledges and works through issues together can help members to develop a worldview that promotes respect for others, no matter who they are.

While my incident did hurt for a few days, it doesn't hurt anymore. It doesn't hurt in any part of my life. I've moved on. It was an unpleasant experience, but it was a long time ago. Unfortunately, greater events than my experience change people's lives in quite serious, deeply impacting ways.

When our perspective is corrupted by events we don't have control over, we can become irrational and judgemental. Losing sight of the normal baseline distorts our thinking, often making it virtually impossible for us to make wise choices and decisions.

Sadly, much of what we see on the news every day is preventable. The violence we see on our city streets at night is often fuelled by excessive alcohol and other so-called ‘recreational’ drugs. What a polite name for a death-dealing concoction of chemicals!

Cause and effect

Let's not be fooled by our Aussie way of life, which seems to view excessive drinking as normal behaviour. Let's all make our families uphold responsible use of alcohol and a persistent view that unprescribed drugs are not a sensible solution to any social ill or personal need. Drug and alcohol abuse is a way of treating the symptoms of a lifestyle disorder. Nothing good comes of turning to these substances week after week, month after month, year after year.

When we have physical pain in our lives it is important to explore what might be causing the pain. This may be beyond our understanding and we may need to seek the help of a professional. Do we have a kinked neck or misalignment in our spine? Have we eaten something that has caused us difficulties? Have we fallen or been in an accident and not known the full extent of our injuries? Rather than just treating the symptoms, we often see a specialist for these physical pains.

Likewise, professionals with specialised training, such as psychologists, can help us to explore our thoughts, feelings and behaviour that may be causing emotional pain. They can work with us to untangle issues that are troubling us, or our children, and help us to
Riley is a happy 11-year-old Midwestern girl, but her world turns upside down when she and her parents move to San Francisco. Riley's emotions, led by Joy, try to guide her through this difficult, life-changing event. However, the stress of the move brings Sadness to the forefront. When Joy and Sadness are inadvertently swept into the far reaches of Riley's mind, the only emotions left in Headquarters are Anger, Fear and Disgust.


Free Family Film Night

Mooroolbark Community Centre
30 March 2016

Film commences at 7:30 pm
Free ice-cream, tea & coffee available
This is a joint community service extended to families by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship & Mooroolbark Community Centre
To reserve your tickets*
phone 1300 368 333
or book online at ach.yarraranges.vic.gov.au

* If you have not made a booking, please come anyway, as uncollected tickets may be reissued at 7:15 pm — there are always seats available.

Let’s Talk

arrive at strategies that are workable and known, through research, to make a difference. It is wise to explore options available so that an informed decision can be made.

What do we look for?

Let’s look out for signals that those we know (including our children) might be facing issues that are too much to handle on their own. Are they becoming stressed to the point where they begin to start treating the symptoms instead of the cause? Having open communication in a family helps to share the load. We can take positive action when trouble begins, before it becomes a major issue that may take years to address effectively.

Some people turn to violence when their emotional stress becomes more than they can handle. There are behaviours that can alert us to potential trouble. Take note if someone in your life is:

• susceptible to mood swings, changing quickly from pleasant to aggressive
• jealous of other people—their possessions, time, or space
• unable to handle rejection calmly or rationally
• easily offended when others disagree with his/her opinion
• quick to resort to name calling, intimidating language and swearing
• cruel to pets or other animals
• subject to angry outbursts, including throwing and breaking things
• behaving in a threatening manner: holding, hurting etc.
• not taking responsibility for their own actions—wanting to blame others for bad outcomes
• consistently using alcohol or drugs to ‘get through the day’

Violence in our community and families happens when people feel unable to deal with troubles in their lives. Eventually, the real reason gets lost in the stress and they begin to react unreasonably. Teaching our children about cause and effect, about real issues, and about the symptoms that can be visible to others will help to promote a wiser worldview.

Great progress is being made against violence in families and our society. It’s a topic that is increasingly being discussed, and that alone will make an impact on those with young minds and a whole life ahead of them. Our example is a big influence too. Let’s talk to our children and workmates about the deeper issues our society faces and start looking for the cause, instead of just noticing the symptoms.
CHURCH NEWS

INCONVENIENT KINDNESS

It was on a snowy evening in mid winter when a doctor received an urgent call summoning him to an emergency brain surgery at Trinity Medical Centre in Birmingham, Alabama. But he was only able to drive a few blocks before his car stalled in the heavy snow. So he then decided to walk the rest of the way through the biting cold. When finally he arrived at the hospital, he dried himself off and got to work.

We do not know for certain what motivated this doctor, but we can readily recognise powerful evidence of caring and self-sacrifice in the way he responded to this crisis. Notice how nothing stopped him—neither the time of night nor the inhospitable weather—once he had made up his mind. Not concerned solely with his own wellbeing, he put himself at the disposal of others in need.

With this example in mind, we need to ask ourselves: “What motivates us to do something inconvenient for another, even a stranger?” One answer is found in the famous words of Christ when he said, “Love your neighbour as yourself.” Living that way means really caring about others. But that doesn’t mean that we do it simply to get in somebody’s good books, even our own. And your neighbour, as the story of the Good Samaritan points out, can be anyone we come across in need.

Often it means us putting our complete trust in the God who is, and letting that trust move us to freely and joyfully join Him in reaching out to the needy.

The doctor in Birmingham, Alabama, performed a successful surgery and the patient went on to recover to full health. And just like this surgeon, we can be called upon to reach out to others. As children of a loving God, let’s take whatever opportunities come our way to “love our neighbour as ourselves” and respond to the call to care.

A Seat with a View

Andrea Higgins and her late husband Peter used to enjoy evening walks on the track winding along the edge of Balcombe Avenue Reserve. Sometimes, while pausing to enjoy a spectacular sunset, they would look out over the grassy reserve and the many people enjoying themselves. “There might be exercise classes, people walking their dogs, footy or cricket training, and people riding their bikes or motorbikes,” recalled Andrea. “Pete and I talked about how that would be a really nice spot for a seat, to take a rest and look at everything going on.”

When Peter began serving his sixth term as Lions Club president in July 2014, he outlined some projects he would like to achieve during his term, and one of them was putting seats near the popular walking track. Unfortunately, Peter passed away unexpectedly shortly afterward at the age of 50, and was unable to see his dream realised.

Current Lion’s president, Peter Giddings, said that the Lions decided to complete the project in honour of their friend and his dedication to serving the community.

Peter joined the Lions in 1995 after a recruiting flyer came to his mailbox. “I remember the flyer coming in,” said Andrea, “and Pete saying, ‘I think I’d like to do that.’ He had always wanted to be involved in the community.” Peter quickly became actively involved in many Lions projects, and he particularly enjoyed using his building skills to help community organisations. “He felt comfortable doing things,” explained Andrea. Over the years he held several Lions positions, including the role of president several times.

“Peter was responsible for the original playground at the Red Earth park,” remembered Peter Giddings. “That was in his first year as president. He had concern for his community and the Lions Club offered him an avenue to express that concern in practical ways.”

As his daughters Kristie and Fiona grew older, Pete became especially interested in the welfare of the community’s young people. He became more involved in youth-oriented projects organised by the Lions, his church (Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship), and his daughters’ schools.

For the seating project, the Lions purchased three flat-pack bench seats, then stained and assembled them. The sturdy seats—described by Peter Giddings as “exceptionally comfortable”—have now been set in concrete bases overlooking the reserve. In time, the Lions hope to install a memorial plaque near the seats, dedicating them to Pete.

On a blustery day at the reserve in November last year, the three seats were officially gifted to the community in a ceremony attended by Cr Terry Avery, Pete’s family and friends, and representatives of the Mooroolbark Lions.

For the community, the seats will provide a welcome place to relax and enjoy the view over the reserve. For Andrea and her family, they are a lasting tribute to a life well lived in the service of others.

Janet Van Dijk

PHOTO: © DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

PHOTOS:  SUPPLIED
A WALK FOR KARL

Three years ago on Anzac Day, Graeme Knoll from Mt Evelyn—inspired by the character and determination of his great-great-grandfather Karl Wilhelm Knoll—set about to re-enact the walk undertaken by Karl as a new immigrant to Australia, from Melbourne’s Flinders Lane to Silvan.

Karl Wilhelm Knoll left Germany as a young, single 22-year-old looking for a new life in a new land, and wanting no part of the progression towards militarisation being pursued by the political leaders of Germany at that time. Karl sailed on the cargo steamer Karlsruhe and arrived in Melbourne in the autumn of 1893. Looking for work, he was directed to the Wiseman’s depot in Flinders Lane. The Wisemans were early settlers in the Silvan area—alongside other pioneering families such as the Parkers, Chapmans and Hollises—and Karl was sent to that district to find work.

While the exact date is not known, sometime in April 1893 Karl and a companion walked from Flinders Lane to Silvan. Apparently, during this strenuous trek kookaburras laughed loudly in a nearby tree, and the new arrivals felt that they were being mocked in their hardship—so a rock was dispatched to send the birds on their way.

Arriving at Mt Evelyn, Karl’s companion refused to go another step further, so Karl completed the final leg on his own. He found employment in the Silvan area and soon gained a reputation as an honest, hardworking, and community-minded man. He married Ada Hollis and later, in 1909, purchased farming land in Wiseman Road, Silvan. The land is still owned by the family today.

Karl Knoll’s great-great-grandson, Graeme Knoll, has re-enacted Karl’s walk for the last three years on ANZAC day, following the Dawn Service at the Shrine of Remembrance. Graeme wanted as much as possible to put himself in Karl’s Wilhelm’s shoes and to try to imagine what it would have been like in 1893, as an immigrant to a new strange land, trekking from Melbourne to Silvan and to an unknown life ahead. On his first trek, Graeme completed most of the trip on his own, being joined at Mt Evelyn by family and friends for the final leg and the celebratory BBQ afterwards at the Wiseman Road farm. For the last two years, cousins and friends have joined him for the whole journey. The total distance is just on 56 km, following the route along Barkers Road, Canterbury Road and Monbulk/Silvan Road—long enough for many a blister and to be a test of resolve and determination!

Graeme and his wife Jaclyn now run the Store House Café in Mt Evelyn where Graeme, as host, has gained a reputation for the same characteristics as his significant ancestor. Call in and ask him about Karl Wilhelm Knoll and he will be very happy to talk, and serve you an excellent coffee. But he won’t be there Anzac Day. He will be—well, you know where!

Russell Knoll

Gone Home

Friends, relatives and dignitaries turned out in January to say goodbye to Jean Mitchinson, one of Mooroolbark’s treasures, who passed away on 25 December 2015 after a long illness. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Bob, Jean’s husband of 46 years, her son Alan and daughter Linda, all spoke of her as being cheeky, fun-loving, and focused on family and community. With her busy life, Jean’s attitude to housework was well known among her friends—it was something to be done only when there was nothing else to do!

It was Jean’s community spirit which led to her involvement in so many organisations. Possibly her biggest achievement was the establishment of the Bendigo Bank in Mooroolbark. From childhood, Jean would not take no for an answer, so when the Bank of Melbourne sent out a letter to the residents of Mooroolbark saying it was moving to Chirnside Park in April 2000, Jean’s reaction was “over my dead body!” A petition was sent out and although there were 3500 signatures, the Bank of Melbourne closed its Mooroolbark branch, leaving the community with just one bank.

At a meeting on 19 April 2000, someone suggested that Jean Mitchinson arrange for the Bendigo Bank to take over the Bank of Melbourne premises. Jean agreed to work on it but needed help, so a small committee was formed. After a study by an independent consultant, the committee was told in August 2001 that it would need to raise capital by selling 630,000 one-dollar shares. This was a huge undertaking for a small group, but the committee refused to be put off. Letters were sent to the community and only nine months later, on 23 May 2002, the Bendigo Bank branch in Mooroolbark was opened for business. It is now unofficially known as Jean’s Bank!

After the Bendigo Bank opened Jean became a founding member of MAP Mooroolbark Inc., which introduced the township website, mooroolbark.org.au. With her husband Bob, Jean was also very involved with the Mooroolbark and District Miniature Railway and Steam Club.

Jean was also a member of Girl Guides Victoria. Sandy McElroy, Mooroolbark Girl Guide Group Liaison and Leader, said, “Jean will be a much-missed member, especially in Mooroolbark and the Acheron region.” In the Acheron region Jean held the role of Public Relations Coordinator. “She was always seen with her camera,” said Sandy, “ensuring that every event was a PR opportunity. She brought many laughs and enjoyable moments to us all.”

Jean’s love of animals motivated her to volunteer at the Healesville Sanctuary for 25 years as a guide, and she was also secretary of Celebrate Mooroolbark festival until she had to retire in 2014 due to poor health.

Jean Mitchinson was a lady small of stature but with a big heart, someone who saw a need and took up the challenge—a quiet achiever. Mooroolbark will miss her, but in the eyes of her Guiding friends she has “gone home”.

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Multicultural Excellence

I’d like to tell you a local story that could have been lost amid the media attention given to celebrity stories, political controversy, and the inevitable sports coverage.

I like this story because of its smallness! But by small, I don’t at all mean insignificant.

The story could equally be told of other quietly achieving community groups in Mooroolbark. It helps to highlight the concern, dedication and passion displayed by ordinary people in the everyday fabric of life as they contribute to the common good. It’s a story that is every bit as praiseworthy as the accomplishments of those who usually receive media acclaim!

As 2015 drew to a close, as a result of nominations from within the Department of Education and also Foundation House¹, Pembroke Primary School was awarded the 2015 Multicultural Commission’s Excellence Award in the Education and Early Childhood section.

Pembroke Primary School is remarkable in that it seems so unremarkable! In spite of small enrolments—not many more than 120 students—the school, with its students, dedicated staff and supportive families, is a vibrant and mutually supportive community. In more than ten years’ association with the school community as a Kids Hope mentor, I’ve been impressed by the school’s commitment to reject insularity, preferring to bring shared benefit to other groups within the wider community.

Let me explain.

Over seven years ago when the current principal, Carolyn Elliot, took up her leadership position, the school had two children with a refugee background. Today, students with a refugee background (predominantly Myanmar Chin) make up close to 50 percent of the student body. This multiculturalism, as Carolyn is quick to point out, brings benefits to all those within the school community.

When I interviewed Carolyn in mid-December last year, she told me about the previous day’s graduation ceremony. “We had children stand up and openly acknowledge that when they came to the school they didn’t know how things worked. They couldn’t understand, they couldn’t communicate and yet here they were reading their prepared speeches to an audience. I think that that is an incredible thing for them to do. We’ve had kids go to the local secondary school, achieve academic scholarships and win awards.”

“They understand what it’s like not to have an education or to attend school. School for them is a gift, something precious to be worked at. They place a very high value on education and aspire to be doctors or to work in caring, helping professions. Their approach to their schooling makes them great role models for others, and also serves as an incredible motivator for the teachers to ensure that 110 percent is given every single day for every single child within the school.”

Although Carolyn didn’t use the phrase, the school community shows by its actions that not only does it believe that “it takes a village to raise a child”, but there’s a belief that for the most sustainable results, the entire community—or village—learns together.

“We want parents to come into the school,” said Carolyn. “We also think that there is real value in kids seeing parents as learners—all parents are learners. So we’re working with Yarra Ranges Council and also Box Hill TAFE with the aim of building a large community garden which we will then use to offer Certificate 2 Horticultural classes.”

“As the school has large grounds, we can develop a large vegetable garden. We’ve received some funding to employ a project officer to help us develop this project. Our school philosophy is to make the opportunity available to all adults within the community, but it will mean that those parents who have prior skills in this area, for example farmers, can work towards a qualification that will provide them with the opportunity to gain employment in the fruit and vegetable industry in the Yarra Valley.”

The result is that the students get the benefit of a large community garden and see their parents working in that garden. “They get to ask questions about what’s happening, what vegetables are currently growing, and so begin to learn sustainable practices in a school context,” said Carolyn. “In time, we hope to develop the area further to include animals such as chickens, too.”

Although the garden will be on school property, it will be separate from the classroom block. The school also hopes to build a barn that will become part of the community garden, but also serve as a classroom area.

Yarra Ranges Council has also provided funds which will enable the school to employ Yolande Pickett as a project officer, to coordinate with the council, farmers, Box Hill TAFE, and various grant organisations. “Discovery Community Care in Lilydale is also on board to help us, as they assess potential benefits for their Work-for-the-Dole clientele,” said Carolyn. “It’s a multicultural project which sees many groups coming together to share skills, to partner in building something that will become part of the community garden, but also serve as a classroom area.”

¹ The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture Inc. (also known as Foundation House) provides services to Victorians of refugee backgrounds who have experienced torture or other traumatic events in their country of origin or while fleeing those countries. Foundation House, established in 1987, is a not-for-profit organisation and its work is funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments, charitable organisations and private donations. (www.foundationhouse.org.au)
Carolyn believes that meeting the needs of Pembroke’s multicultural community is an integral part of the school’s firm belief that ‘every child counts’.

students. Carolyn explained, “Within our overarching policy that ‘every child counts’, we recognise that some children come to our school needing some English language support. We work really closely with the Blackburn English Language School and a number of our children spend a year there before they come to Pembroke, at which point we have a really strong transition and handover so that we know exactly where the children are in terms of their English competency.”

Alongside the Victorian government’s standard education curriculum there is the English as Additional Needs curriculum. “At Pembroke we plan so that the two are merged together, so in our literacy work, we establish what other second-language skills are required in the light of the first language,” Carolyn explained.

“As a simple example, a student might know the words firstly, secondly, and thirdly in their first language but perhaps not in an English context, which can then have an impact upon tasks such as procedural writing. We may use visual cues to help establish the meaning—things as simple as a list on the board, or have the children identify who’s first in a line, or through consistent instruction: ‘Firstly I’d like you to do this.’”

“Learning English as a second language is about ‘good teaching practice’ due to the process of helping to ensure that children share the same understanding of meaning even when their experiences of language have not been the same. It’s about building knowledge and understanding, something all children benefit from.”

Carolyn said it was Pembroke Primary’s work with Foundation House that helped the school discover ways of doing things better. “We were one of five Victorian schools selected to work on a parent engagement project which looks at removing some of the obstacles for parents of refugee backgrounds in order to strengthen the learning partnership. Through their help, we learned of the usefulness of creating an overview sheet in Hakha Chin, which accompanies every school report. It’s a tool that makes the reports easier to decipher when English is not your first language. We’ve also benefited from some funding that enables us to employ a Chin speaker four days per week.”

Staff, children and parents at Pembroke Primary School were also involved in a publishing project that brought benefit to the school and the wider community. As part of the Yarra Ranges Council’s Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Early Years Network, they worked with children’s author Jeannette Rowe to translate several of her books into Hakha Chin. In August last year the books were officially launched by then-Mayor Cr Maria McCarthy at Mooroolbark library. About two hundred of the books have now been distributed to schools, preschools, libraries and migrant centres. “It is through projects like this one that we are able to support our richly diverse community,” said Cr McCarthy.

Carolyn believes that another benefit of the bilingual books is providing a nontaxing additional way for Chin parents to learn English while reading with their children. Pembroke is also working with Kids Own Publishing on a book entitled Imagine our Place. “Kids Own Publishing is based at the Abbotsford Convent,” said Carolyn. “Their team came to the school for five sessions and worked with parents, grandparents and children in our school… this school group, adults and children, worked with an artist to create the text and artwork that will be used in the finished production.”

“It was a fabulous experience,” she continued. “The kids have been part of creating and editing a book: are the words correct, the images suitable, how will the book be marketed? They’ve experienced the entire process. And we’re grateful for the financial support of the council’s Best Start program.”

Pembroke was encouraged by the example of a school in Traralgon which, with their Sudanese community, worked with Kids Own Publishing to produce books which are now available for purchase. “It’s a good news story because the money generated from the book sales is helping fund a school in South Sudan,” Carolyn commented.

I hope that this story will encourage each of us to be more alert to the outstanding work that takes place every day in the neighbourhoods where we live, work and enjoy our leisure—accomplishments that don’t command widespread media attention, but nevertheless contribute in essential and significant ways to strengthening the communities upon which we all rely.

Randall Bourchier
Emma Chandler is a passionate contributor to and supporter of the AFL Auskick program. “Auskick is a great introduction to Aussie Rules football where children can begin learning and developing a variety of physical skills at quite a young age and in an encouraging and totally safe—no tackling—setting,” said Emma. “But it is much more than that. Mooroolbark Auskick provides a great sense of community where there are constant opportunities for the development of friendship groups amongst both the children and the parents who participate in the program. Our close affiliation with the Mooroolbark Football Club means that many of those friendships become lifelong connections as young people move through the various age groups and even into seniors football together.”

Emma’s initial contact with Auskick was in 2007 when her eldest son Bailey was in Prep grade. At first she was happy just to observe what was going on, but after seeing and appreciating the value of the program and enjoying the social contact with other parents, Emma began to assist the organising group in various ways—starting with helping to provide the weekly sausage sizzle. In 2009, she accepted an invitation to join the Mooroolbark Auskick Committee and has found real enjoyment and satisfaction from her involvement since that time.

The group holds a number of special days and events during the year to help encourage social connections between the families of the players. These include a special Anzac Day program, a Mothers’ Day celebration and various theme days, such as Rainbow Day in 2015. In addition, there are occasional activities such as a skating event or a disco night.

Throughout the season, Auskick teams have the opportunity to participate in half-time matches when the Mooroolbark seniors are playing at home at Mooroolbark Heights Reserve. From time to time the children are allowed to take part in half-time games at allocated AFL matches, and the group has also been addressed by current AFL players.

On average, approximately 150 children participate in Mooroolbark Auskick each year. They are divided into groups: Preschool, Grade Prep, Grade 1 and a Seniors group for children in grades 2 to 6. Each group has a team manager, a coach and an assistant coach. All are required to have completed a Working with Children Check and they wear a uniform so that all participants can recognise them as leaders. The clinics are open to girls and boys, with girls being about 10 -12% of the current membership.

Parents who have a child wishing to participate in the program need to register online at the AFL website and pay the annual fee, which covers the cost of the 16 clinic days for the season, insurance, and an Auskick package of items such as a football, footy cards, and a backpack or boot bag.

To make it easier and less expensive for families, Mooroolbark Auskick lends each player a Mooroolbark jumper for the year and also conducts a ‘cheap boots’ program, which enables parents to exchange boots for a different size or to purchase donated boots for $5 per pair.

Mooroolbark Auskick’s season launch day in March will give participants the opportunity to receive their jumpers, meet the coaches and have a kick of the footy. It is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions about the program and weekly clinics, or offer to volunteer in some way. Keep an eye out for published information or check the website for the date of that season launch day. The 2016 clinic days will commence in mid-April, and are conducted each Saturday morning from 9 am to 10:30 am at Kiloran Reserve (off Hawthory Road, behind the Kilsyth Centenary Pool).

The Auskick committee members and volunteers do a great job in providing this valuable service for our local children. If you would like further information on how to participate, visit the website or contact one of the club representatives by phone: aflauskick.com.au
mooroolbarkauskick.org.au
Emma: 0433 967 923
Al: 0430 438 186
AJ: 0447 755 331

Committee members Al Dobie and Emma Chandler enjoying Rainbow Day in 2015

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED
Players dressed in a variety of colours for Rainbow Day
The Phantom as You’ve Never Seen It

Visit Mooroolbark Community Centre to see *The Phantom of the Opera* as you never have before—in vintage radio play style live on stage, on Sunday 8 May at 2pm.

Discover (or rediscover!) the joy of simpler times before TV with this Lux Radio Theatre production of the much-loved Phantom romance.

Before television, the entertainment highlight of the week was the Sunday night radio play. This fastidiously accurate representation lovingly recreates those days, with actors playing multiple roles, fashioning live sound effects and presenting vintage soap commercials just as they did during live audience broadcasts generations ago.

Far beneath the majesty and splendour of the Paris Opera House hides the Phantom in a shadowy existence. Shamed by his physical appearance and feared by all, the love he holds for his beautiful protégée Christine Daaé is so strong that even her heart cannot resist.

This quality production will be a fascinating and fun way to enjoy an old favourite.

Tickets on sale now at www.culturetracks.info or phone 1300 368 333.

Sally Williams

European wasps caused havoc last March when the eastern suburbs of Melbourne experienced the worst wasp season in 20 years—so now is the time to take precautionary measures for 2016. Mild winter and summer conditions in 2014-15 led to the outbreak and with similar conditions over 2015-16, it is important to be prepared.

Land owners are responsible for wasp nests on private property, so be vigilant and take action. Stay safe—if you need to, hire a pest control specialist, purchase approved over-the-counter treatments, and try to discourage wasps by using our simple tips.

Yarra Ranges Council treated over 300 nests throughout parks and reserves last year, which led to investigations into Fipronil, a chemical treatment for wasp nests. Fipronil was ultimately deemed unfeasible as it could target other species. As wasps are a state-wide issue, the council is keen to work with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to address wasp treatments across Victoria.

If you see a European wasp nest on Yarra Ranges Council land it is important to report it, so that council can inspect the nest and treat it. That way, everyone can enjoy our parks without the worries of these pests.

Four tips for discouraging wasps:

• Cover swimming pools, bird baths and ponds.
• Use fly screens to cover windows and doors.
• Remove all garden clippings, compost, pet food and damaged or rotten fruit from your garden.
• Water your garden at night time, when wasps are least active.

Think you have seen a nest, but not sure?

Wasp nests can be located in various places, but are often found in holes in the ground at the base of a tree or wall, or in a gap in brickwork or weatherboard walls. If you see a wasp nest on Yarra Ranges Council land call the council on 1300 368 333, or if you see one on your own property contact your local pest-control specialist.
Community Events Calendar

First Sunday of each month Farmers Market: Bellbird Park, Swansea Road, next to Lillydale Lake. Combined Rotary Clubs. All proceeds to local and overseas projects. Contact Bill Sutherland: 9727 0037.

Friday nights during school term Fridays@Kids Domain: Activities for primary school age kids. 4-6 pm at Oxley College stadium. Details: phone 9726 8111 or www.lmc.org.au.

Monday evenings each week Scottish Country Dancing: Mondays 8 pm (except public holidays). Beginners and experienced. Minimal charges. St Margaret’s Uniting Church, Hull Road. Enquiries: 9876 9206.

Second Monday of each month Mooroolbark Country Women’s Association: 1 pm at St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. New members always welcome. Contact Helen Linnie: 9726 0477.

Thursdays during school term Music Together program: 0-5 years. Run by trained music therapist. St Margaret’s Uniting Church, Hull Road. 9.45 am. Morning tea & playtime included. $12.50 per session per family. Call Yvonne: 9726 9347.

Thursday evenings each week Maroondah TOWN Club: (Take Off Weight Naturally). Weekly, starting at 6:30 pm at St Margaret's Uniting Church. Hull Road. For more information call Marcia: 0409 170 731.


1 March Immunisations: Yarra Ranges Council. 9.30-11.30 am, Mooroolbark Community Centre.

9 March Immunisations: Yarra Ranges Council. 5.30-7.00 pm, Mooroolbark Senior Citizens Centre.

22 March Immunisations: Yarra Ranges Council. 1:30-2:30 pm, Mooroolbark Community Centre.

18 March Mooroolbark Talent Quest: Mooroolbark Community Centre; commences 7.30 pm. Entry $5 per person.

19 March Celebrate Mooroolbark: Your local community festival. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. Red Earth Community Park, Brice Avenue. See page 5 for more information about all the fun!

5 April Immunisations: Yarra Ranges Council. 9.30-11.30 am, Mooroolbark Community Centre.

8-9 April 9-16 April ARK Theatre: ARKadian Authentic All-Woman Old Time Music Hall. LMC PAC, 17 Nelson Rd Lillydale. Fri 8 pm, Sat 2 pm & 8 pm. $20 includes snack (10+ tickets @ $18). 0491 151 340 or www.arktheatre.com

13 April Immunisations: Yarra Ranges Council. 5.30-7.00 pm, Mooroolbark Senior Citizens Centre.

25 April Anzac Day Service: 12 noon, Monday 25 April. Hookey Park, Mooroolbark. All welcome.

28 April Immunisations: Yarra Ranges Council. 1:30-2:30 pm, Mooroolbark Community Centre.

3 May Scottish Country Dancing: 5.30-7.00 pm, Mooroolbark Community Centre.

11 May Immunisations: Yarra Ranges Council. 5.30-7.00 pm, Mooroolbark Senior Citizens Centre.

24 May Immunisations: Yarra Ranges Council. 1:30-2:30 pm, Mooroolbark Community Centre.

5 June Music at St Margaret’s: Singularity presents The Gondoliers, in aid of RYDA. Sunday 5 June 2:30 pm.

9 December Carols by Candlelight: Hookey Park, Friday 9 December. Picnic dinner from 6.30 pm, carols start 8 pm.

Mooroolbark Community Centre and Montrose Town Centre

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

Weekly

Art workshops for adults: Pottery, oil painting, sewing, craft, belly dancing. Try a class for free. See website for class times. MCC & MTC.

Weekly

Art workshops for kids: Pottery, Young Artists. Try a class for free. See website for class times. MCC & MTC.

Until 26 March

Red Earth Gallery VCE Creative Showcase: See art by the region’s most inspiring emerging artists. Free, open during business hours. MCC.

16 March

Montrose Movie Club: Always Another Dawn. 7 pm $20 annual subscription. MTC.

9 & 10 March

Kate Miller-Heidke: Momentous Australian singer with triple octave vocals. 8 pm. $50. MTC.

23 March

Things of Stone and Wood: A band with the unshakable faith that whenever they hit the stage something exciting will inevitably happen. 8 pm. $28 full / $24 concession. MTC.

28 March – 8 April

School holidays: Free and low-cost activities including kids’ shows, art workshops and movies. MTC & MCC.

20 April

Montrose Movie Club: Cleopatra, 7 pm, $20 annual subscription. MTC.

8 May

Phantom of the Opera: by Lux Theatre. Revisit radio’s golden era complete with gorgeous gowns and charming live sound effects. 2 pm, $22 / $18 concession. MTC.

18 May

Montrose Movie Club: Excuse My Dust. 7 pm, $20 annual subscription. MTC.

24 May

Swing: Dance and theatre combine to tell a rock'n'roll love story that is warmly honest and sweetly funny. 8 pm. $22 / $18 concession. MTC.

28 May

Frank Yamma: An absorbing and immensely moving listening experience, featuring one of Australia’s most significant Indigenous songwriters. 8 pm. $22 / $18 concession. MTC.

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

To include entries for your group’s community events in future issues please contact

Doug Lewis on 9761 1121 or email lewisdm@bigpond.net.au

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

Proudly supporting Living Today in Mooroolbark.

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

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

OUR SPONSORS

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