

LIVING TODAY

in Mooroolbark and the Yarra Ranges

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**Fun at
Celebrate Mooroolbark**



10,000 free copies distributed throughout Mooroolbark and district

Malcolm Russell



Malcolm and Letina Russell with their three children

PHOTO SUPPLIED



Malcolm with acclaimed concert pianist David Helfgott

PHOTO MICHAEL GERNSH



This year, events programming at the Mooroolbark Community Centre and Montrose Town Centre will appeal to a more diverse audience

PHOTO CAROLINE PARKES

What's Keith Urban—the New Zealand-born, internationally acclaimed Aussie country musician who married Nicole Kidman in 2006—got to do with Mooroolbark?

In a recent interview with Malcolm Russell—the man behind the concert series offered by both the Mooroolbark Community Centre and the Montrose Town Centre, whose rather imposing official title reads “Regional Arts Coordinator (Urban)” —I flippantly asked, “Does that mean you’re an agent for country musicians?”

To my surprise, Malcolm answered with a chuckle, “I worked with Keith Urban a long time ago before he was a big star and before he was married to Nicole. I was his agent in the very early days and I brought him to Melbourne. He played the Prince Patrick Hotel in Collingwood and the Esplanade Hotel in St Kilda to nobody other than me, a couple of other people and a barman.”

Malcolm devoted over a decade of his early working life to artist management, at first in Sydney. After moving to Melbourne to support his twin sister after a death in the family, he developed an agency here. Some of the artists he represented are familiar names—performers such as INXS, Midnight Oil, Kate Ceberano and Tommy Emmanuel.

Growing up in a country town in South Australia in a household that valued the arts, Malcolm discovered a passion for music early in his life—not so much as a performer, but as an informed listener.

After some years of agency work in Melbourne, Malcolm's focus shifted to programming festivals such as the Queenscliff Music Festival and the St Kilda Festival. Malcolm's role was to source artists, find out what they'd be playing, shape programs and market the event. You can imagine that a lifetime could easily be devoted to such work, particularly with Malcolm's passion for music and his very personable, relational manner!

But—as they can do—circumstances changed for Malcolm and his wife, Letina. Following the birth of their first child, and the birth of twins not too long after, their circumstances changed much more dramatically than they'd anticipated! It dawned on Malcolm that the family had changed from being a “double income,

no kids” household to his single income supporting five—an income that would be subject to the inevitable uncertainties of the music business.

Wondering what to do, Malcolm noticed an advertisement in a newsletter he subscribed to called ArtsHub¹. He applied for and was successful in gaining employment as the Events and Cultural Development Officer with the City of Knox. The job had the advantage of being much closer to the family home in Sassafras and offered the steady income that the family depended upon.

Working at Knox changed Malcolm. What had started as a passion for music developed into a deep conviction about the vital role the arts can play in developing and enhancing community life.

Becoming used to local government processes took a long time, but eventually Malcolm came to value the importance of some of these bureaucratic safeguards. He observed, “It's all about maintaining a relationship of trust. Generally speaking, the processes ensure that the organisation operates in a fair and transparent manner. It was something I had to learn and come to appreciate.”

“I started to realise the impact that arts and culture can have in building community. It's not simply a matter of getting people on stage; it's understanding the impact the arts have in helping to make places better communities to live in. The arts can contribute to people's wellbeing, health and even safety. Ten or twelve years ago, I began to realise and better understand the nature of the dynamic relationship the arts should play in the enhancement of community.”

After several years working in Knox, organising council-run festivals, Malcolm was offered the opportunity to work in his current position in his local shire, Yarra Ranges Council.

Malcolm says that the first 12 months were devoted to gaining an understanding of the Mooroolbark and Montrose communities and the “spaces” that he was to manage. “There's much to learn about how local stakeholders interact with their community centres. What are the expectations that the unique demographics anticipate from their community centres?”

In some respects, as concert

¹ <http://www.artshub.com.au/>

—Sharing a Passion for Music and Culture

programming had a long-established history at Montrose, Malcolm's work there was to continually develop and enliven further series of performances and workshops, with a view to attract a more diverse audience to these events.

In Mooroolbark, however, Malcolm observed two important stakeholders. There were the families looking for opportunities to enrich their children's lives and also an active and energetic senior population wanting to be engaged in a wide range of activities.

The building up of the school holiday program was a natural starting point, along with the expansion of art workshops and classes at the community centre.

But there was an additional challenge. Unlike the Montrose location, which is so highly visible that it defines the centre of Montrose, the Mooroolbark Community Centre is tucked away—barely visible across Red Earth Community Park, and obscured by both the senior citizens' building in Brice Avenue and the shopping centre to the west.

Some residents, on discovering the MCC for the first time, comment that they've lived in Mooroolbark for 30 years without realising it existed; others might arrive wondering whether this is where they register their dog!

By developing the arts program, which includes regular exhibitions in the centre's exhibition space, the centre has become better known. And Malcolm and his supportive staff have more recently worked to establish the centre as a venue hosting regular concerts.

"The two centres are funded by council's Arts Culture and Heritage department, with the aim of using the spaces to engage with their communities and contribute to the building of community," said Malcolm. "The concert programs help to increase community awareness of the MCC through the promotional banners displayed in Brice Avenue, along with poster and social media advertising."

"Our Red Earth concert series has brought additional people to the MCC. I've been pleased with the success of these Sunday afternoon concerts, ranging from classical music to theatre to performances by larger groups such as the Australian Army Big Band and the Australian Youth Orchestra. We've tried to shape our programming to attract local residents because the events have to be largely self-funding."

"This year, in an attempt to appeal to a more diverse audience, we're offering different kinds of programming. We've programmed the Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Roadshow on 1 July. There'll be five different comedy festival performers presenting in the one program. We're hoping to attract a different audience to the centre, in the same way that our partnership with the Mooroolbark Umbrella Group last year attracted a very different audience to the centre to see Frank Woodley."²

"There'll be an additional impact this year, also, as the Montrose Centre will be closed for six months due to construction work," continued Malcolm. "We've transferred the Montrose programming to Mooroolbark. It's a tremendous opportunity to raise the profile of the MCC within Mooroolbark and surrounds."

A highlight in August will be the concert that Barney McAll³ will perform at the Mooroolbark Community Centre. "He's a Mooroolbark boy who has made it big in the world of jazz—has performed at the biggest venues and jazz festivals in the world, been nominated for a Grammy Award and so on," said Malcolm. "His most recent album, entitled Mooroolbark, won several awards, including an ARIA Award for jazz album of the year, and he wants to perform it here, where he grew up. He's a big name in contemporary jazz and we have the opportunity to acknowledge one of our own who's done so well."⁴

"For us, though, at Arts, Culture and Heritage, of greater importance than the performances themselves, is the cup of tea people share at interval—the opportunity people have to meet others or converse with friends—these simple things that create and enhance our sense of belonging."

With his knowledge of festivals at Knox in mind, I asked Malcolm about our own annual family festival, Celebrate Mooroolbark.

Malcolm explained that the festival model in YRC is very different from that at Knox. Because of the diversity of township—rural, urban, valley, mountain—in Yarra Ranges, the shire has chosen to support community-specific festivals and provides funding and support to assist local people develop sustainable local festivals.

"Celebrate Mooroolbark is a big community festival," Malcolm commented. "It took me a while to get my head around it. In Knox I was running three to four large festivals each year, but the council

provided everything—big dollars to organise, run, program and market festivals where local community groups, businesses and organisations were able to showcase what they had to offer to their communities."

"Celebrate Mooroolbark, on the other hand, is organised by a strong local committee. While it receives some financial support from YRC and various other local sponsors it still amazingly achieves 80-90% of what a massively more expensive council-organised festival could hope to achieve, subsequently creating the opportunity for many more community-run festivals and events to be funded throughout the region, and for communities to promote and maintain their own unique identities. It is a brilliant result!"

Malcolm, who has seen three Celebrate Mooroolbark festivals so far, says the event is going from strength to strength. "It is an excellent community festival, one that demonstrates clear community ownership and values—a great asset to the Mooroolbark community."

"Of course, the constant challenge for local festivals lies in creating sustainability. They cannot simply rely on a handful of committed key committee members forever—they have to continually be attracting fresh blood and ideas."

While Malcolm works with the concert series at Montrose and Mooroolbark, the Yarra Ranges Culture Tracks program of arts and cultural events is not restricted to these venues. There are four additional venues within the shire: Burrinja Cultural Centre in Upwey, The Memo in Healesville, the Upper Yarra Arts Centre in Warburton and, in Lilydale, the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum. Each venue offers a surprisingly rich diversity of entertaining and educational events and performances.⁵

Malcolm once told his father that he wanted to be either a politician, a comedian or an astronaut. I think we should be thankful that instead of orbiting the moon, his life has unfolded the way it has, bringing benefit to shire residents as he seeks to enhance our community through the arts.



Randall Bouchier

² For more information on upcoming events at Mooroolbark Community Centre, see page 15

³ See my article earlier this year: <https://mcf.gci.org.au/resource/livingtoday/LivingTodayIssue53.pdf>

⁴ See page 12 of this issue for more information about Barney McAll's concert

⁵ Check out the home page: <http://ach.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/> Home and find full programming information in the brochure at: https://issuu.com/culturetracks/docs/culturetracks2016_program_no_print_

It rained— but the fun continued

The early morning of 19 March did not promise a great start to the Celebrate Mooroolbark festival after a stormy set-up day on Friday, but by the time the parade was under way, the weather had cleared and the festival went on. The crowd was down in numbers but not in spirit, and all those who made the effort had a great day.

Our aspiring Mooroolbark talent got involved in the talent quest on the Friday evening, providing a great night out. Our program was full, with two bands and a variety of other acts. This will be the last "talent quest" as next year we rebrand it "Red Earth Unearthed". Our quest is still to unearth the hidden talent in our community.

Saturday began with the colourful street parade, Auntie Dot's Welcome to Country and the official opening by Deputy Mayor Cr Andrew Witlox. The first of many acts on stage to entertain the crowds was the Australian Youth Orchestra. Our community groups once again provided free or low-cost activities and this meant a wonderful family outing. A few new faces were there in the market place, as well as many who have supported us in past years. It was a great day for catching up.

One new feature this year was an experimental Youth Zone. New committee members Alex and Brad and the team found some amazing young acts, resulting in a show running throughout the day. Already we

have plans to make it bigger and better in 2017.

Our thanks go to the many members of our community who contributed to the success of the weekend. We welcomed Cathy, Craig, Alex, Brad, Jimmy, Daryl, Najee and Tani to the hard-working Celebrate Mooroolbark committee. We thank the community centre staff, the many stall holders and volunteers who all worked together to make it an occasion to remember, and to all who supported the event by coming along on the day. We extend special thanks to the Yarra Ranges Council and our other generous sponsors who made the event possible.

2017 is already being planned. Make a note in your calendar to be there on Saturday 25 March and also for the talent quest the previous evening, Friday 24 March. Maybe you are interested in getting more involved in next year's event—perhaps as a new sponsor, or maybe you have thought about joining the event committee. If you would like to participate, please contact us on celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com.

Thank you again, Mooroolbark, for your support.

Andrew Lang
Celebrate Mooroolbark

Our cover photo shows Olivia Szalay negotiating the ropes course

celebrate
mooroolbark
festival
2016



PHOTO: MARK SYMONDS



PHOTO: DOUG LEWIS



PHOTO: RUDA PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO: DOUG LEWIS



PHOTO: NICOLE SQUERCHI



PHOTO: RUDA PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO: CATHY GRABAC



Urban Harvest

Do you grow your own fruit and vegetables and have more than you need? Or perhaps you have thought of starting your own backyard vegetable garden and don't know where to begin. If so, then Mooroolbark's new Urban Harvest might be the place for you!

Local resident Claire Coutts has been instrumental in bringing the Urban Harvest concept to Mooroolbark. Urban Harvests, which operate in several Melbourne suburbs, are about backyard fruit and vegetable growers meeting each other, sharing information, and swapping surplus produce.

Claire was one of the originators of the Whitehorse Urban Harvest, which has been operating in Forest Hill for more than five years. Some of the regulars at the Whitehorse group live in Mooroolbark, so when Claire moved to this area she thought it would be a great opportunity to start one here. With the support of the Yarra Ranges Council, which is in the process of developing a sustainable food policy, Claire held the first Urban Harvest meeting at Red Earth Community Park on 9 April.

Claire described the Urban Harvest concept as "a spin-off of the green philosophy." Local growers can bring their fresh, locally-grown fruits and vegetables and swap them for produce that they don't have, grown by other

local gardeners. Participants can also bring along other garden-related items to swap. People might bring plants or home-made jams, or other items that they are no longer using: gardening books and magazines, recipe books, and even preserving jars.



Claire Coutts with local resident Chris Lawson, who has assisted Claire in setting up the Mooroolbark Urban Harvest.

Local suburban gardens are a great source of fresh, seasonal fruit and vegetables which are often organic and come with low 'food miles'. Swapping produce is also a great way to get to know other community members and redistribute food that may otherwise go to waste. "It really is great fun because you get to talk to like-minded people," said Claire.

Participants don't do a direct swap with another person—instead, items are placed on a

table and people can take what they need. No money changes hands. "It's based on honesty—you put your produce out there and you take a bit of what someone else has that you don't have," said Claire, adding that the system is self-regulating and that it works out well. "Most people tend to take less rather than more."

Some Urban Harvests also have occasional guest speakers to talk about topics relevant to the group. Claire, who is a bee keeper, has given talks on bee-keeping and has hosted honey-tastings at the Whitehorse Urban Harvest.

The Mooroolbark Urban Harvest will be held on the second Saturday of each month between 10 and 11:30 a.m. at the Red Earth park, in front of the barbecue area near the playground. Because the group has access to the Red Earth Community Hall, even rainy days shouldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the group.

In addition to the health benefits of home-grown food, Claire also likes the self-sufficiency vegetable gardens offer. "When the zombie apocalypse comes," she joked, "we will know who can support themselves and who can't!"

Janet Van Dijk

For more information on Mooroolbark's Urban Harvest, please phone Claire Coutts on 0425 700 280.

Anzac Day

A crowd of around 500 people enjoyed a glorious autumn day as the moving 2016 Anzac Day memorial service took place at Hookey Park on Monday 25 April. The service was conducted by Chris Clifton, Honorary Chaplain to the Lilydale RSL, with students from Mooroolbark, Yarra Hills and Oxley colleges contributing various parts of the program. Lions President Peter Giddings QPM (Queen's Police Medal) delivered the *Requiem* and the Anzac Day address was presented by Police Sergeant Lee Nichols VA (Valour Award, Victoria Police).

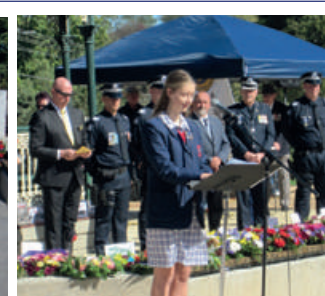
At the close of his address, Sergeant Nichols spoke of the disappointment caused by the recent theft of one of the newly installed memorial plaques from Hookey Park. He expressed thanks to those in the community who had assisted in recovering the plaque, which was reinstalled prior to Anzac Day.

This meaningful annual ceremony was once again facilitated by the Lions Club of Mooroolbark.

Anzac Day ceremonies and marches



A large crowd gathered at Hookey Park to honour all who served our country in times of war



were also held at more than a dozen other locations throughout the Yarra Ranges. Former Mooroolbark resident Joel Skilbeck, who was on a visit home from his Navy base in Nowra, NSW, participated in the Yarra Junction march. It was a special occasion for Joel and his family, as he accompanied his grandmother Laura Bainbridge for the unveiling of a memorial to soldiers from Wesburn who paid the ultimate sacrifice at Gallipoli. One of those honoured was Joel's great-great-uncle Alan Cameron Stone. Last year, on the hundredth anniversary of Gallipoli, Joel's deployment on the HMAS Anzac gave him the inspirational opportunity to commemorate the centenary by visiting AC Stone's grave site at Lone Pine, Gallipoli.

Doug Lewis



25 April 2015: Joel on board the HMAS Anzac, with Gallipoli in the background

PHOTO SUPPLIED



YOUR NEW DENTIST

124 Manchester Road Mooroolbark

Meeting Monica O'Malley is like going out and getting a breath of fresh air. She is practical, down-to-earth and sincere—which may be a result of being the seventh of eight children from a working class family in the outer suburbs of Sydney.

Having practiced dentistry in the Yarra Ranges since 2008, Monica has now opened a new practice—Your New Dentist—in Mooroolbark, bringing with her a wealth of experience. She began her career as a dental assistant in the early 1990s, graduated as a dental therapist in 1993, and received her master's degree in Health Science Education in 1998. After graduating with a Bachelor of Dentistry (Honours) in 2003, Monica left Sydney to go to Wagga Wagga, then Cobar, then to Burke. She now lives in Toolangi with her partner and two dogs.

Monica believes a visit to the dentist should be a personal experience, and she is interested in the people she sees, not just their teeth. Because of her background as a health science educator, she prefers to focus on prevention through education and support. Her surgeries are equipped with small television screens so that patients can see their teeth as Monica discusses the treatment and future care of their mouth. Her catch phrase is "we proudly care about the person attached to the tooth."

Monica started work as a dentist in Healesville in 2008, just a week before Black Saturday. The fires came within one kilometre of her house, giving her and her partner time to drive to Yea where they spent the night, returning to their home the next day. The experience has obviously had an effect on Monica—two and a half years ago, she joined the musical steel pan band Hot Pans on Fire. The steelband was formed in February 2009 by a group of people in the Marysville area as a way of helping with the recovery process. They are now featured in several YouTube videos and have released two CDs.

Monica is committed to giving back to the community, both locally and internationally, by supporting organisations such as Bridge Builders, a non-profit youth organisation based in Lilydale which tackles issues such as drugs and alcohol, anger management and other problems. For ten years her business has also supported Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières), an international humanitarian organisation which helps people worldwide. And as part of her commitment to the environment and waste management, Monica uses biodegradable plastics, barriers and infection-control items.

Monica, 43, has now been part of the dental industry for 25 years and says that technology has improved so much that painful visits to the dentist are almost a thing of the past. She looks forward to welcoming you to Your New Dentist—for more information, phone the practice on 9727 1914, or check out the website: www.monicaomalleydentist.com

Barbara Austin



Dentist Monica O'Malley (far right) with staff members Cass and Stef



PHOTO: © HEARTSTORY

Margaret Watson Designs

Artistic head pieces crafted with style

Milliner Margaret Watson always has her eyes open for inspiration for her beautiful fascinators, hats and head pieces. During our conversation, a chicken found itself lost in Margaret's backyard. "He's got lovely feathers..." she mused, her creative eye sizing up a white feather dropped by the surprise guest.

Growing up in Caulfield, Margaret would often attend the races with her mother and was used to seeing headwear complement every outfit. Now a Mooroolbark local for the past 20 years, Margaret creates those pieces herself. Over the past decade, Margaret has developed her craft and grown her millinery business through her website and loyal private clients. Margaret's home workshop is overflowing with textiles, materials, and creative ideas just waiting to happen. Designing and creating a single piece can take anywhere from three to ten hours.

"The headpiece is really the focal point, and ideally you should start with that when creating an outfit," said Margaret. Margaret worked as a textile artist for many years before her career in millinery "sort of evolved out of being a textile artist—like taking it to the next level".

"Ladies will contact me for a new hat to match their outfit," said Margaret. "Often I'll go over to see the dress and then create a piece to complement it." This personal touch is an aspect of her work that Margaret clearly enjoys. Spring carnival time is the busiest in her year, with the high demand for race wear. Throughout the year Margaret also creates bridal and special occasion pieces for clients.

Though trends often sweep the world of hats and head pieces, millinery itself seems to be an almost timeless art. Pointing to a beret-shaped hat in progress, Margaret said, "This style is very in right now because Kate's wearing them," referring to the trendsetting Duchess of Cambridge. "Usually it's as simple as a lady with a dress wanting a hat that completes her outfit," explained Margaret with a smile. The fashions may have changed since she was a young girl, but hats are still very much in vogue.

Though she referred to her successful business as "almost a retirement thing", Margaret has no real plans to slow down in her craft. "That would be a bit boring! So long as it's fun while I'm still doing it."

Carissa Sianidis


■ You can contact Margaret on 0403 283 637 or view her designs at www.margaretwatsondesigns.com.au

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MOOROOLBARK MEN'S SHED —Looking for a Temporary Home

At a community meeting held in 2015, the Lions Club of Mooroolbark sought expressions of interest for establishing a Men's Shed in the neighbourhood. More than 70 people showed interest in joining a Men's Shed with the focus on improving men's health and also benefiting the community. Since that time, a committee has been formed and incorporated and a plan is in place to construct a purpose-built facility in the local area. However, for now, the group needs to find a temporary home to get started while the building process takes place. If anyone is able to suggest a venue that could be used for this purpose, the committee would be interested to hear from you. In the meantime, any donations of tools or machinery would be most helpful. To make a suggestion



Men's Shed president Greg Andrews (right) talks to Brian Amos of 98.1 Radio Eastern FM

regarding a possible venue or to enquire about the group, please contact president Greg Andrews on 9728 4439 or secretary John Lowry on 0419 366 939.

Doug Lewis

LILLYDALE LAKE REDEVELOPMENT

Work has begun on the \$1.4M redevelopment of Lillydale Lake's play space, which aims to encourage play, fitness, socialising and family time for people of all ages.

Members of the surrounding communities were invited to give input into the design of the play space. Mooroolbark's St Peter Julian Eymard Primary School and Bimbadeen Primary School were two of three schools which contributed ideas to the design. The resulting plan includes creative spaces for active play catering for all age groups and abilities, with a focus on nature-based play. The project, which was jointly funded by the Yarra Ranges Council and the state government, will include a water play area, a giant birds' nest swing, slides and climbing obstacles. One of the most popular features is sure to be the double flying fox!

The updated space has been designed to appeal not only to children, but to those of all ages and abilities. There will be areas for social interaction as well as a health and fitness zone, which will include outdoor fitness equipment.

"This is a brilliant addition and is much more than a playground," said Deputy Premier James Merlino, member for Monbulk. "This will become a meeting place and a space for families to gather and connect."

Janet Van Dijk



Living Today extends its thanks to the Lions Club of Mooroolbark for its financial support of our magazine. This new sponsorship is just one of the many ways in which the Lions contribute to our local community.



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of
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Rescue Mission

Are we too quick to intervene in our children's lives?

When I was about 19, a few mates and I were trekking through the Blue Mountains, NSW. One of my friends wandered a little off the track to 'water' the bushes. Perhaps not seeing clearly because of the bushes, he slipped and fell about 30 metres into the gully, hitting most parts of his body on rocky and woody protrusions on the way down—finally landing at the bottom, on a rock ledge. We couldn't get to him—all we could do was listen to the occasional groan and call out some support, hoping he could still hear us. He stayed where he landed, in various states of consciousness, until the SES rescued him several hours later. He survived. He had a few broken ribs, a punctured eardrum and some concussion, with lots of bruising and a bit of grazed skin here and there—but he was okay after a few weeks of rest and recuperation.

That was a long time ago and the world has changed a lot since then. We live in a very complex world now, and it seems there are so many more opportunities to 'rescue'

one thing or another. As a nation and as a civilisation, we frequently seem to be focused on rescuing something. We appear to want nearly everything to be perfect and trouble-free.

■ *Are we really helping?*

Thankfully, we still rescue people physically—people stranded in the bush and ocean, and even from space! We also rescue financially—banks or companies that have behaved badly, or small countries and individuals who are in dire straits. We are even trying to rescue the planet from climate change. Is there nothing we can't rescue? Yet, strangely, many things we rescue seem to get worse. Perhaps the answers we think we have for these problems are not the answer at all.

■ *Rescuing our children*

In this world's 'rescue culture', do we as parents continually—perhaps inadvertently—try to rescue our children? Do we try to save them from every little thing that may negatively impact them on a daily basis?

Simplistically, to rescue means to extricate something, or someone, from a bad situation and leave them better off than at first. Getting a stranded bushwalker out of trouble is leaving him better than he was before he was found. However, attempts by politicians and governments to rescue banks, corporations and small countries have often led to more mess. We don't want to make the same mistakes with our children.

It's a parent's job to be a responsible parent. That involves raising responsible kids—kids who are capable, and who have learnt to respond appropriately in a given situation. A boss once told me with regard to being in charge of others, "You need to make yourself redundant". What he was trying to encourage me to do was help others to do their job so well that they no longer needed someone telling them each step. That wisdom applies to parents too!

For example, do we monitor the due dates of our children's homework and remind them, or do we allow them to check for themselves when their homework is due? Do we email or text teachers to get extra time for an assignment, or do we let our children experience the consequences of the homework being late or unfinished?

If we supervise and rescue too often, we restrict a child's ability to make plans and, subsequently, wise choices and decisions as they get older.

■ *Meeting life's challenges*

As responsible parents, we need to be willing to step back and allow our kids to experience failure. We need to be willing to let them—and help them—work through difficult situations and challenges. We need to consider that by doing everything for our children, we may be unwittingly micromanaging their lives to their detriment.

How can we expect children to learn if we protect them from every adversity and challenge? If we're taking regular, everyday situations out of our children's hands, how will they learn to face difficult situations and make appropriate decisions? If we are intervening in their issues when we don't need to, they are robbed of the opportunity to sort things out for themselves. Next time something similar happens they will be no better off—and could even be worse off because they didn't get to experience the situation and find their own resolutions.

■ *Learning wisdom*

If we can refrain from immediately intervening in our children's problems, we encourage them to think about their own actions and responses. They learn about cause and effect—a foundational element in any person's maturity.

This doesn't mean we can't act in our children's best interests—but we need to do so in a restrained and deliberate manner that ensures they get the time and space to work out a response and solution first. That's our job: to ensure they are able to (eventually) arrive at a sensible solution. If they are unhappy with the outcome of their decision-making we can be there to talk them through what happened and what they could do better next time. This process won't happen perfectly the first time, or the second, but they will get better at dealing with unpleasant and unfortunate circumstances. Growth and maturity now have a foothold and they can build on that foundation, one step at a time.

If our children are able to consider the options available to them and work through how those options might play out in the end, they will develop a rare and





special commodity—wisdom. Wisdom is being able to see the end of a matter: to be able to carefully and strategically join the dots of possible actions—or inactions—and envisage what the results may be. This ability will enable a person to weigh up the choices available in any given situation and make a thoughtful decision about what to do next.

We have the responsibility to teach children that when they have a job or task to finish, other things—TV, games and so on—must wait until the task has been completed. This restriction is not a threat or

a punishment; it's merely a reasonable way to do something. Be firm. Clearly and kindly state what is expected. When the tasks have been done correctly, the children can go and do something of their choice.

Children who believe in their ability to cope with whatever comes their way will find life is not a chore but a richly rewarding experience. If you as a parent continually save your children from adversity and challenge, you are not doing them any good now or in the future. After all, you won't always be available to rescue them again!

One of life's greatest rewards for

parents is seeing their children grow up to be strong, capable adults with self-worth and the ability to make wise and thoughtful decisions. In turn, those adults are sure to impart this knowledge and wisdom to their own children, strengthening the outcomes for the next generation. What a great result!



Steve Steel

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK



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The Captive Audience

Joseph Tkach: *Speaking of Life*

PHOTO: DEL BALDWIN, LOOK MAGAZINE 9 APRIL 1969 / PUBLIC DOMAIN



Johnny Cash in 1969

I want to tell you about a concert Johnny Cash gave in 1969. It was like any other he'd participated in except for one major difference—this time he wasn't playing in an auditorium filled with kids from the suburbs.

Instead, Cash and his band were locked deep inside the walls of San Quentin prison, and the audience was made up of some pretty rough guys. But that didn't stop Johnny from giving the performance of a lifetime. He sang hits like "Ring of Fire," "A Boy Named Sue" and "Folsom Prison Blues"—riled up the guards, and even shared the same bad-tasting water the inmates drank!

But near the end of the set, Johnny slowed everything down. He turned to the men and started talking about his faith. He didn't quote Bible verses or attempt to shame them into a corner. He didn't moralise or give them a pep talk to hype them up with "optimism"—he just talked from the heart about how God was continuing to change his life.

What I loved about this concert was the way that Johnny was able to minister to these inmates in a very specific way. He started by bringing them what they wanted to hear—hit songs played fast and loud. He connected with them, sharing his own struggles with drug abuse. Finally, after all that, he unpacked what God had done for him. As far as Cash was concerned, he was living out this verse in the New Testament: "Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3).

Cash performed over 30 prison shows during his career. He felt a real connection with those who had lost their way. But like Christ, he never gave up on them. He always held out hope that God's mercy was strong enough to break through the hold their lifestyle had on them. I hope we can have a similar impact by taking time and sharing a life with God with those similarly "locked up" in their suffering.

New Look for the Salvos

It's bigger! It's better! And it's beautiful!

The Salvation Army Thrift Shop in Mooroolbark has been extended and is now three rooms instead of two. There is now space for furniture, clothes and bric-a-brac to be displayed properly, instead of customers having to search through many layers of plastics, china, craft items, CDs, DVDs, and books.

For some, that was the thrill of a thrift shop—being able to spend an hour or two searching through boxes of second-hand cast-offs to find an unexpected treasure. But for those who don't have time for that, to be able to see everything at a glance—or even just look through the window and have an idea of what is inside—the newly refurbished Salvation Army Thrift Shop is the place to go.

The extension to the shop wasn't as expensive as may have been anticipated. Major Steve Black, after receiving advice from a retired CEO of Salvos Stores and because of his previous skills as a carpenter, was able to do a lot of the renovations himself, with the help of volunteers. Putting up shelves and hooks and painting the walls, among other things, was second nature to him, saving the church a huge expense. Steve did this while continuing his busy role as the pastor of the new Salvation Army Church on the corner of Fletcher and Manchester roads. He also continued his duties as manager of the thrift shop, which involved picking up and delivering heavy items to and from the shop with the help of volunteers, and sorting out various internal problems as they cropped up.



Majors Steve and Christine Black ready for opening day

PHOTO SUPPLIED

Steve's wife Christine has a natural creative flair for arranging clothes and putting colours together so that they catch the attention of customers as they walk through the shop. Leading up to the opening day, Christine spent hours at the weekends and in the evenings sorting out clothes and bric-a-brac. Again, this was done with the help of a group of dedicated volunteers.

The ribbon was cut and the doors were officially opened on 7 March—just a month from the time of conception. The improvements have been a great success and customers have been very appreciative of the new look. Prices have been kept low and there is a constant turnover of new stock. The success of the store is very important to the Salvos, who aim to hire a youth worker with the proceeds.

The Salvation Army Thrift Shop is located at 111/91 Brice Avenue Mooroolbark, opposite the Moo Wine Café. Volunteers are always needed, so if you feel that this is your calling contact Steve on 0407 860 085 for an interview.

Barbara Austin



Butterfly Tan and Dianne Dobson in the refurbished shop

PHOTO: BARBARA AUSTIN

20 Years Supporting Street Youth in Uganda

In the early morning hours of 27 April 1996, a weary Australian educator and a disheartened social worker from Africa met at the breakfast bar of a café on West Broadway, San Diego. Their meeting was not chosen by either of them: it was random, unexpected and unscripted. When the educator entered the café, the stool beside the African was the only vacant place in the room.

been endlessly stunned at the growth of RYDA's support community beyond St. Margaret's and by RYDA's initiative and enterprise in extracting \$1.10 value from every dollar given. The church-managed website for RYDA (blackdouglas.com.au/ryda) shows just how well the money has been utilised.

RYDA's principal aim has been to empower the poor and disadvantaged of Uganda, especially women and children, by assisting them to increase their socio-economic independence. In particular, RYDA seeks to increase life skills, opportunity, education and vocational training to help put an end to child labour.

For 20 years, the congregation's constancy has fanned the embers of RYDA's hope. In April—the 20th anniversary of that chance meeting—several members of St Margaret's reflected on what this commitment has meant to them.

Stephen White revealed that hearing Geoffrey speak was his reason for becoming a St

Margaret's member. "In the 90s, Karen and I were looking for a church. Karen gave St Margaret's a try and convinced me that this could be the one for us, so I came along. It happened to be a morning RYDA's founder, Geoffrey Kyeyune, was visiting from Kampala. I was so impressed with his story and the congregation's support for RYDA's work that I have been here ever since."

Marj Hookey, treasurer for most of this period, observed, "St Margaret's involvement with RYDA has shown us what real mission giving is all about. It is a bold and breathtaking story of a visionary leader changing the lives of orphaned and vulnerable street youth in Uganda."

For Joyce Dodge, whose family were early settlers of Mooroolbark, the good thing about supporting RYDA is the continuity. "It is an organisation where God is at work." Yvonne Spicer expanded this thread, commenting, "It never ceases to amaze me how the Holy Spirit has worked, and continues to work, through us and RYDA—how everything falls into place." Reverend Arnie Wierenga, who has run multiple marathons to raise funds for RYDA, agreed with Yvonne. "I am constantly amazed at how much can be achieved with almost nothing and a little faith."

Geoffrey read the anniversary article in the April web news and sent a simple email in response: "The website has reminded me that we are 20 years older. At the time I was 33 years, now am 53 years. God has guided us well that we have saved lives."



In April, several members of St Margaret's gathered to reflect on their 20-year association with RYDA

Geoffrey asked the Australian to pass the salt; Douglas broke his resolve to keep to himself, eat quickly and get out of there. They struck up a conversation that would profoundly impact both their lives.

I was that travel-worn Australian, and twenty years later, the consequences of our short conversation continue to be integral to both the spiritual life and outreach of St Margaret's Uniting Church and the African success story that is Rubaga Youth Development Association (RYDA).

I remember Reverend Lesley Shekleton encouraging the original support idea to be presented to the congregation. Since then I have



Reverend Arnie Wierenga has run several marathons in support of RYDA

Douglas Williams

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT

Based on the 2007 Roald Dahl-inspired book *Doctor Proctor*. Bored tween Lisa suddenly finds her hometown is filled with much more excitement than she thought when newbie Nilly introduces her to Doctor Proctor. He's trying to create a powder that prevents hair loss, but his latest effort has instead resulted in an odourless fart powder. He soon discovers another side effect, if it is taken in large quantities—propulsion. While this could mean millions if he can sell it to NASA, he hasn't counted on jealous rival Mr Thrane who has designs on stealing the powder and the glory.



85 minutes – Rated PG

All Welcome Mooroolbark Community Centre

29 June 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 www.culturetracks.info**

Bookings commence from 17 June 2016

* 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.

From Mooroolbark to Mooroolbark with *Mooroolbark*

There's not much that Grammy Award-nominated pianist Barney McAll hasn't achieved on the world stage in his chosen field of contemporary jazz¹

Having played some of the most prestigious jazz venues in the world with some of the greatest players of contemporary jazz, Barney's desire to perform in his home town in the intimacy of our own Mooroolbark Community Centre says much about the rich memories he has about this place.

Learning his musical craft while growing up and attending school in Mooroolbark, Barney went on to study at the Victorian College of the Arts before heading to New York. He lived and worked there for fifteen years, composing, writing for film and performing internationally—primarily with the Gary Bartz Quartet, with whom he'll be touring Australia later this year.

Barney's fondness for his childhood and adolescent years in Mooroolbark, where he was surrounded by musical luminaries including Len Barnard, Archie Roach, Rebecca Barnard, Bruce Rowland and Doug de Vries, led him to name his 2015 ARIA Award-winning CD *Mooroolbark*.

The album has also received four nominations for the 2016 Australian Jazz 'Bell' Awards²—an annual celebration of the best in Australian jazz music—in the categories Best Jazz Album, Best Produced Album, Best Jazz Ensemble and Best Jazz Song (for 'Nectar Spur').

On 13 August at 8pm Barney will perform this critically acclaimed album at the Mooroolbark Community Centre, prefaced by a brief on-stage interview about his life and music.

Performing with Barney will be his band ASIO which comprises some of the best instrumentalists this country has to offer. I've paraphrased Barney's comments about each:

Stephen Magnussen: a fellow-VCA student who Barney regards as one of the best guitarists in the world.

Philip Rex on bass: a much-in-demand musician, mastering engineer and dance music producer whom Barney regards as an excellent musical foil.

Drummer Danny Fischer: studied for years in New York with jazz drumming great Michael Carvin. Barney believes Danny has a crucial role to play as a drummer and an educator in the development of the Australian drum tradition.

Julien Wilson: an award-winning master tenor saxophone player who studied at Berkley College of Music in Boston and is simply one of the best players around.

Recently turned 50, Barney is busier than ever. He's currently writing a commissioned piece for Melbourne's Federation Bells. Entitled 'Transitive Cycles', it's an interactive piece which Barney and some of the members of ASIO will be performing as part of the opening

of the Melbourne International Jazz Festival.³ Barney will also perform with the Gary Bartz Quartet during an Australian tour which will include the festival.⁴

Also in June, Barney is excitedly looking forward returning to New York to mix his pop album *Global Intimacy*. The album features Sia, Sydney dance band Jagwa Ma, and LA-born Genevieve Artadi.

Somehow he's found the time to co-write with Sassafrass-born ARIA-winner Daniel Merriweather, while planning a second ASIO album in July... but you get the picture—Barney's busy!

Bookings for Barney's August concert can be made at the Mooroolbark Community Centre. Phone 1300 368 333 or email the box office: boxoffice@yarraranges.vic.gov.au Tickets are \$15 and \$10 concession.

For more information, including online booking and a clip of one of the Mooroolbark tracks, visit ach.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Whats_On/Barney_McAll

The album will be available for purchase at the community centre on the night of the performance, giving the audience the opportunity to own a piece of Australian musical history unique to Mooroolbark.

See you there!

Randall Bouchier



PHOTOS: OZSO PHOTOGRAPHY

¹ See my article last year pp. 2-3
<https://mcfeci.org.au/resource/livingtoday/LivingTodayIssue53.pdf>

² The Bell awards are held in honour of the late Australian jazz pianist Graeme Bell

³ <http://melbournejazz.com/program/transitive-cycles>

⁴ <http://melbournejazz.com/program/gary-bartz-quartet>

CONFIDENT EATING

Taking the challenge out of family mealtimes

PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK



Jenny has been struggling to get Aaron to eat since he was two years old. She said, “I just dread dinner time! My stomach starts churning as dinner time gets closer. I desperately want Aaron to eat well. My husband and I love our food and always imagined that we’d share our love with our boy but it just isn’t working out that way. Aaron is so picky. He wants everything plain— plain pasta, plain rice, plain bread. I had hoped he would grow out of it but now that he’s four I am not seeing much improvement.”

Sharing a meal is a special time for many families—a time to pause, refuel and recharge. When you have a child who is a fussy eater, however, mealtimes can become a drain: stressful and disappointing. You may also feel a sense of embarrassment, particularly when eating out or with family or friends.

Dining can be a battleground as you try to coerce your child to eat. To keep the peace you may find yourself bargaining with your child or cooking two or even three meals each night so that everyone gets what they want. These strategies provide short-term solutions, but do not really support the development of long-term independent eating.

While most children experience a time of fussy eating, resistant eaters are likely to refuse food to the extent that parents become concerned about their health. According to Lori Ernsperger and Tania Stegen-Hanson in their book *Just Take a Bite*¹, resistant eaters may have limited food selection or might just eat from one food group. They often enjoy carbohydrates or dairy, with less interest in fruit and vegetables or meat. Selective eaters often react strongly to new foods by throwing tantrums or gagging.

Children can be selective eaters for many different reasons: some children are overly sensitive to smells and textures. Some have difficulty chewing and swallowing. Others have developed aversions to particular foods, perhaps due to a negative experience.

While some children—particularly those with additional needs such as intellectual disability or autism spectrum disorder—may need specialist help to resolve their eating challenges, many children will respond to the following tips to reduce mealtime challenges:

Prepare for dinnertime so that your child knows what to expect.

Allow your child to participate in getting ready for the meal. This might include washing hands, collecting plates and utensils for the meal, putting food on the table and pouring a drink. Look for ways that your child can become involved in preparing and serving the food—for example, tearing up lettuce for a salad.

Set the scene. Dining is also about spending time together, so make meals a special time. Reduce distractions such as the television,

phones, and clutter on the dinner table. Perhaps put on some soft music. Ensure your child is seated comfortably and able to easily reach the food and utensils.

Model the behaviour that you would like to see. Let children see other family members trying new foods, eating a bit of everything on the plate, and saying thank you to the person who made the food. Talk positively about the meal and the flavours you experience.

Include some child-friendly foods in each meal. Grilled chicken, small potatoes, cherry tomatoes, pasta and bread are often appealing to children and give them a sense of success. Keep portion sizes realistic—an overloaded plate can be daunting to a picky eater.

Limit snacks and set clear meal times so that appetites can build. Children who have lots of small snacks are often too full to eat at mealtimes.

Develop some family rules about mealtime behaviour. Rules could include staying seated at the table for a specified time (say 15 minutes), saying thank you to the chef, and using cutlery. Draw pictures or use photos to make it visual and put them where they can be seen from the dinner table. Focus on peaceful and pleasant behaviour rather than eating or not eating.

Clarify your responsibility. Rather than spending the mealtime coercing, nagging or punishing your child about eating, Ernsperger and Stegen-Hanson encourage parents to instead focus on their responsibility to provide a wholesome meal for the family. When the food is placed on the table, the job for the parent is done. Children can choose to eat or not eat what is placed before them but will not receive other food until the next scheduled snack or meal time.

Encourage your children when they try new foods. They may be more likely to try something different if they have the option of spitting it out (into a napkin). Praise them for being adventurous and having a go. Also try mixing a food they like with something less familiar: for example, spreading a little avocado on the usual Vegemite toast.

Offer options: provide some limited choices while still serving the same family meal. For some children it might be helpful to provide a small side bowl so they can pick out a few items that they don’t like. This gives them a sense of choice and control without disrupting the meal. Many children get tired of picking bits out of their meal and begin to eat the foods they ‘dislike’.

Having a child who is a selective eater presents many challenges for parents. However, children have a wonderful ability to adapt and learn. With careful planning and thought, parents can provide a framework to help children become happy, confident eaters.

Kate Chivers

Kate is a registered psychologist who works with children and families.

¹ ©2004, Future Horizons.



PHOTO: LUCAS UNLAND

Mooroolbark College Goes Pink

Pink Stumps Day was held at Mooroolbark College this year on 19 April to raise money for the McGrath Foundation. The McGrath Foundation works to provide care nurses for women suffering from breast cancer. This important event was completely initiated and conducted by the student group, led by the 12 VCAL (Victorian

Certificate of Applied Learning) cohort. Students from all year levels had the opportunity to show their support by wearing an item of pink for the day. The generosity of the college community raised over \$1000 for this much-needed and valuable cause.

Lucas Unland

Pink Stumps Day is an annual opportunity for schools, cricket clubs, businesses—or even just friendship groups—to participate in fundraising for the McGrath Foundation. The McGrath Foundation was formed in 2005 by cricketer Glenn McGrath and his wife Jane, who died in 2008 after a lengthy battle with breast cancer. Pink Stumps Day encourages groups to support the organisation financially while having fun and showing off their cricketing skills. For more information about how to become involved in next year's Pink Stumps Day, visit the website: www.pinkstumpsday.com.au



SPORTING SUCCESS FOR MOOROOLBARK COLLEGE SIBLINGS

In our September 2014 issue, we highlighted some of the track and field achievements of Mooroolbark's Willis family. Nearly two years later, Lateisha and Tayleb Willis are still going from strength to strength!

This year, in her chosen sport of hurdles, Lateisha participated in the Under 17s 100-metre hurdles event at the Australian Junior Track and Field Championships in Perth. In doing so, she achieved her sixth Australian Junior Championship and created a new Australian record for this event—13.49 seconds.

Lateisha told us last time that her goal was to follow in the footsteps of her hero, Australian Olympian Sally Pearson, the 2012 Olympic champion in the 100-metre hurdles. Sally won the 2012 gold medal with a new Olympic record time of 12.35 (wind (m/s) -0.2). In the future Lateisha hopes to compete in the Olympics like Sally, but right now she has her eyes on a place in the Australian team for the next Commonwealth Games. Australia will host the Commonwealth Games for the fifth time in April 2018, on the Gold Coast. With Lateisha's great track record so far, she is sure to be a competitor.

Lateisha's younger brother Tayleb has also achieved outstanding track and field success. A seven-time Victorian champion, Tayleb also participated in the national championships in Perth where he took bronze in the Under 14s 90-metre hurdles, came fourth in the triple jump and placed fifth in the Under 15s 200-metre hurdles.

Both Lateisha and Tayleb attend Mooroolbark College and train with Yarra Ranges Athletics. We will watch their future progress with great interest.

Doug Lewis



PHOTO: DOUG LEWIS



Classical pianist Simon Tedeschi

Mooroolbark Community Centre Red Earth Theatre

Some big changes at the Mooroolbark Community Centre Red Earth Theatre, over the next few months, will see our most extensive performance program ever. The Montrose Town Centre is closing for a short period to accommodate new building works, and its very popular concert series will be moving to Mooroolbark in the interim. This will be a great opportunity for patrons to access high-quality theatre, music and comedy starting off with the uproarious Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow on Friday 1 July.

In a real programming highlight, we will also see the return home to Mooroolbark of Grammy Award-nominated pianist, Barney McAll in a performance of his ARIA Award-winning album aptly titled *Mooroolbark*. Barney is bringing with him the absolute cream of Australian jazz musicians for the 13 August show—this will be a performance to talk about for a long time to come.

ABC Classics recording artist Simon Tedeschi will be performing from his two Gold album tributes to American composer George Gershwin. Performing some of the great American composer's finest works, Tedeschi captures Gershwin's timeless repertoire perfectly with passionate, vivacious performances that are bursting with life and romance. Featuring across the weekend of 16 and 17 July, Simon will also be performing a special 'cushion concert' for children, with a fun and informal introduction to classical and jazz music through improvised performance of well-known works and funny stories. At only \$7 per child it is great value; remember seating is the floor with your favourite cushion, pillow or cuddly toy.

Also for children is the popular school holiday program featuring art workshops, a free movie and a return performance from the wonderful Whitehorse Orchestra with their rendition of *Alice in Wonderland*.

For theatre and literature lovers, *Miss Brontë* is coming 23 August. Presented in conjunction with Eastern Regional Libraries, *Miss Brontë* is a powerful piece of award-winning professional touring theatre that unravels the story behind the mysterious Brontë sisters and their literary masterpieces such as *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*.

The September school holidays bring more theatre for all ages with the Jules Verne classic *Around the World in 80 Days*. Other favourites later in the year will be Opera Australia, the Australian Army Band and the Welsh Male Choir. Be sure to check out all the details at www.culturetracks.info.

Malcolm Russell

A New Fun Chapter for MOOROOLBARK LIBRARY

Calling all kids and bookworms! The new outdoor space at the Mooroolbark Library is ready to be explored by curious young minds.

An exciting play space and a great outdoor area for story time has been made to engage kids with reading and the world around them.

Visitors to the library can now easily access Hookey Park through the large doors and outside area—great for taking a favourite book out to the park to read in the sunshine.

The aim of the project was to make the library and park area more approachable, giving the two popular Mooroolbark community spaces a more interactive feel. With access to shops and public transport all close by, the new design helps to tie the busy community area together.

Feedback from library visitors has been positive, with plenty of kids enjoying the new play equipment. The library has rearranged its layout to complement the new outdoor space, placing the children's section closer to the new entranceway to ensure that kids and parents have easy access to everything that the library has to offer.

The design for the new space was a collaborative effort by Centrum Architects and the Yarra Ranges Council. The two parties came together to find the best way of creating a good flow between the library and the adjoining Hookey Park.

Funding for the \$270,000 library upgrade was provided by the state government, which gave \$120,000 as part of its Living Libraries program. Yarra Ranges Council provided \$100,000 towards the project and a further \$50,000 was contributed by Eastern Regional Libraries.

An opening day is planned in the coming months to celebrate the new library space.

Want to find out what other events and services the library has? Head down today to the library at 7 Station Street, Mooroolbark.

Tyrell Mills



PHOTO: TYRELL MILLS



Mooroolbark Laundrette

Domestic & Commercial Laundrette

28 Manchester Road Mooroolbark

proudly supporting
Living Today in Mooroolbark

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. 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 9:45 am. Morning tea & playtime included. \$12.50 per session per family. Call Yvonne: 9726 9347. |
| Thursday evenings | Maroondah TOWN Club: (Take Off Weight Naturally). Weekly, starting at 6:30 pm. St Margaret's Uniting Church. Hull Road. For more information call Marcia: 0409 170 731. |
| Wednesdays during term time | Kilsyth Primary School Playgroup: Painting, story time, activities and games for children birth - 3½ years. 9:15 am. More info: 9725 4320 or www.kilsythps.vic.edu.au . |
| June, July, August | Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions: 9:30 – 11:00 am. 7 June, 5 July, 2 August. Mooroolbark Community Centre. |
| June, July, August | Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions: 1:30 – 2:30 pm. 28 June, 26 July, 23 August. Mooroolbark Community Centre. |
| June, July, August | Yarra Ranges Council Immunisation Sessions: 5:30 – 7 pm. 8 June, 13 July, 10 August. Mooroolbark Senior Citizens Centre. |
| 16 – 25 June | Mooroolbark Theatre Group: Steel Magnolias. 8 pm Red Earth Theatre, Mooroolbark Community Centre. Tickets: \$18/ \$16 concession. Table seating. BYO: beer or wine. Phone Arline: 9726 4282 |
| 11 June, 9 July 13 August | Urban Harvest: A place for backyard fruit and vegetable growers to swap their excess produce. Red Earth Community Park, second Sat each month, 10-11:30 am. Enquiries: Claire Coutts, 0425 700 280. |
| 16 July | Big Book Sale: St Margaret's Uniting Church, Hull Road. Saturday 16 July 10 am – 1 pm. Morning tea available |
| 31 July | Community Tree Planting: 1 pm Landscape Drive, near Rolling Hills Primary School. Afternoon tea provided. All welcome. |
| 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) or Montrose Town Centre (MTC). Unless otherwise indicated, bookings can be made by phoning 1300 368 333 or online: culturetracks.info

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 19 June | Alice Giles: A rare opportunity to experience one of the world's leading harpists. \$26, \$22 online. 2 pm. MTC. |
| 27 June - 8 July | School holiday program: Free and low-cost activities including performances, workshops and movies. MCC and MTC. |
| 27 June | School Holiday Workshop: Hip Hop with Arch Ilias. \$10, \$6 online / library members. 11 am & 1 pm. Montrose Town Centre. |
| June - September | Red Earth Gallery exhibitions: Jessica Harris - <i>Where to from here?</i> June 1 - July 24; Michelle MacLennan - <i>Natures Mankind</i> July 27 - 10 September. Free entry, MCC. |
| June - August | Montrose Movie Club: Enjoy hand-picked cinema hits from the 30s to 70s including Give a Girl a Break, Chariots of Fire and All that Jazz. \$20 subscription, 3rd Monday every month, 7pm, MTC |
| 29 June | FREE family movie: <i>Doctor Proctor's Fart Powder</i> . 7:30 pm Mooroolbark Community Centre. Free ice cream, tea and coffee. Book tickets from 17 June. |
| 3 July | School holiday performance: Whitehorse Orchestra presents Alice in Wonderland. \$10, \$6 online / library members. 1 pm and 3 pm, Mooroolbark Community Centre. |
| July - August | Arts workshops for adults and children: Pottery, Oil Painting, Craft, Belly Dance, Young Artists Mixed Media. Try a class for FREE. See website for class times. MCC & MTC |
| 1 July | Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow: a show that will have you bursting into laughter long after the curtains have closed. \$36, \$32 concession. 8 pm, MCC. |
| 15 July | GLITCH: Under 18s Dance Party. 6:30-10:30 pm. Mooroolbark Community Centre. |
| 16 July | Simon Tedeschi: Best of Gershwin: Possibly the finest exponent of Gershwin's works in the world today. \$22, \$18 online. 8 pm. Montrose Town Centre. |
| 17 July | Simon Tedeschi: Kid's Cushion Concert: Direct from the Opera House—one of Australia's finest pianists. \$12, \$7 online. 2 pm. Montrose Town Centre. |
| 13 August | Barney McAll: The Grammy-nominated, internationally acclaimed pianist returns to his home town for a night of home-grown jazz. \$15, \$10 concession. 8 pm. Mooroolbark Community Centre. |
| 23 August | Miss Brontë: Perceptive, intelligent, fiery, romantic, poignant theatre. \$22, \$18 concession. 8 pm. Montrose Town Centre. |
| 26 August | FreeZA Battle of the Bands: 6:30 - 10:30pm, Mooroolbark Community Centre. For information contact Youth Services on 1300 368 333. |

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.

LIVINGTODAY in Mooroolbark

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



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Like to contribute?

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

PDFs of this issue and all past issues of *Living Today* can be accessed at:
<http://mcf.gci.org.au/current/livingtoday.html>
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MISSIONSTATEMENT

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

We seek to achieve this by:

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

OUR SPONSORS

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

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