


LIVING TODAY

in Mooroolbark and the Yarra Ranges NO. 56 SEPTEMBER 2016

- 
- Playful art at Gray Court Preschool
 - Military history comes alive
 - Cafés welcome healthy eating program

10,000 free copies distributed throughout Mooroolbark and district

Anthony McAleer: Bringing History to Life

Do you remember *The Sullivans*? Or perhaps you hadn't even been born when this television soap opera ran on the Nine network between 1976 and 1983. The series portrayed the effects of World War II on a typical Melbourne family.

The program was known for its high production standards and the efforts of the researchers to ensure historical and cultural accuracy. According to Wikipedia, "Many scenes were timestamped and the scripts referenced actual military developments and events of the time, such as discussion of specific battles, sporting results and cinematic releases." Authentic furniture and items were used on set, and even the weather was checked against old newspaper records.¹

"So what?" you might say. Well—the series in large part ignited a continuing love of history in a young Anthony McAleer. Anthony has gone on to become a chronicler of the history of the Shire of Lilydale which, in turn, became the Yarra Ranges Council in 1994 during a merger of several local councils.

Growing up in Reservoir and Bundoora before moving to this area over forty years ago, Anthony acknowledges the huge impact his grandparents' stories also had on him. Stories have amazing power as they invite us into the story-teller's world, where we feel as though we have become participants reliving every detail.

Although his ancestry² has no military connection to speak of, Anthony found himself drawn to military history partly due to the emotional impact and connection he experienced as he heard personal stories of the wartime years.



Anthony as a teenager with his grandparents William & Irene McAleer, who helped him understand the power of a story well told.

Anthony said that the 1984 ABC radio show *Australians Under Nippon*, which included interviews with former Australians held prisoner of war by the Japanese, had a major influence on him. "The producers put it into a story form, so that interwoven fragments of interviews told the narrative," said Anthony. "That was the first time I came across oral history like that, and I became a huge fan. It became a major reason why I started to make recordings of a lot of stories."

"I found that oral history provides a way of not only presenting facts, but also conveying the emotions, feelings, sentiments and attitudes that those being interviewed had towards those facts. You can read a sweeping historical account of a particular battalion involved in a particular battle to gain a good overview, but when you hear someone talking about what it

was really like, and how they felt, many of us have a greater connection because the stories now have the emotions included. And when you make that kind of connection, I feel you have a better understanding."

In the early nineties, Anthony became involved in helping out at local chapters of the Returned and Services League (RSL), which also provided an opportunity to hear a rich diversity of stories.

Anthony recalled that in those days the RSLs were full of veterans from WWII, Vietnam and even a handful from WWI. "To sit down and talk to them about their experiences and listen to their stories was the closest you could get to being a part of it without having been there," he said. "To me, it was fascinating, and I'd sit at their feet and listen to every single word they'd say, because their experiences were unlike any I'd ever had."

Not long after Anthony joined the Lilydale RSL, he became aware of an amazing collection of commemorative pins and badges that various people had given to the RSL over the years. He started to sort through the boxes to categorise the collection. "There were pins commemorating British royalty—Queen Victoria, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth—and there were also badges and pins that were part of fundraising efforts extending back even to the Boer War," he said. "Research was also needed when I came across pins for Wattle Day, for example."³

The Museum of Lilydale heard about the extensive collection and asked if they could use some of it for an Anzac Day exhibition. At the same time, they decided to also include details on the local military history. Anthony said that all he knew about the topic was that there was a war memorial in the Main Street. "I began to research it and so much information came forth. It was the first time I came across people like Ralph Goode, William Scurry, George Ingram VC, M M and J D Burns—all of whom I went on to write biographies of. When the exhibition opened there were so many responses to it that I decided I would really like to unearth and write about as much of the military history involving people from the Lilydale region as I could discover—how Australia's military heritage had affected the district and the role the district played in that history."

The first volume that Anthony assembled was entitled *The Shire of Lilydale and Its Military Heritage – The Colonial Years*.⁴ Anthony found that many of the pioneers had had military backgrounds. Some had fought in the Napoleonic wars, in Afghanistan with British Empire forces and even in the American Civil War. Two locals died during the Anglo-Boer War and before that another was killed in action in helping to crush local resistance to the British colonisation of Rhodesia.

Anthony found a rich seam of information about the Boer War by scouring the local newspapers of the time.

"I went through the local papers—*The Lilydale Express* at the time—and there were quite a number of letters written by locals in action in South Africa. They enabled me to gain real insight into what it was like to have been there... It surprised me that there was so little censorship. Some of those letters openly described looting Boer farmhouses and even the burning of Boer farms. It was also interesting the way a couple of fellows used sporting analogies in their early letters—things like going to 'support the team' and 'we're going to win a gold for the Empire'—and as they became involved in the campaign and saw action, their attitudes became very different."

Anthony mentioned that it was also interesting to read about what happened on the home front during that period: the extent of local awareness, the fundraising efforts, the farewells given to those leaving for the war, and the welcome home celebrations. "It mirrored what happened in most communities during that period," he said, "although there were

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sullivans

² Anthony has an uncle by marriage who served in Vietnam, a brother-in-law who served in the RAN, and his youngest brother currently serves in the army.

³ wattleday.asn.au/about-wattle-day

⁴ trove.nla.gov.au



Anthony in July at the launch of his new book, *J D Burns – Poet, Schoolboy, Soldier, Martyr*.

elements unique to this area, such as when the people of Lilydale planted an oak tree and erected a plaque to mark the relief of the besieged town of Mafeking in South Africa. Both are still in Lilydale, unknown by most, behind the Yarra Ranges Museum."

Included in the volume is an account of our first armed conflict in what became the state of Victoria. It was known as the Battle of Yering and happened on the Ryrie brothers' property between some armed local Indigenous people and border police. Fortunately, although shots were exchanged, no one was hit.⁵

Two further volumes followed, on World War I and then World War II.

In preparing for the World War I volume, Anthony recalled interviewing the last two surviving WWI volunteers from the shire. One of them had witnessed the shooting down of the famous German air ace known as the Red Baron. Anthony said of the witness: "I think he was the most honest man in the Australian Imperial Forces, because he's the only one I've ever heard who claimed he was there and didn't shoot him down. Everyone else had laid claim to doing so!"

In recalling his preparation for the coverage of WWII in his third volume of our local military heritage, Anthony mentioned that few veterans shared what they'd seen and experienced during the war with their families. The fact that Anthony was a stranger who understood something of their background enabled some veterans to open up and talk about their experiences. Many had highly emotional moments during their interviews—usually not out of self-pity, but rather as they recalled things that had happened to their mates.

Anthony mentioned a particularly memorable and poignant interview with Keith Mellor:

During WWII, an Australian regiment, the 2/21st Battalion, was sent to Ambon in the Dutch East Indies. Six local fellows were captured by the Japanese when they overran Ambon. Keith was the only one who survived the subsequent internment as prisoners of war.

When I contacted Keith, I was aware of some of the things he'd likely been through and asked if he'd speak to me of his time in the Lilydale

Militia Unit prior to the war. "Yes," he said, "Not a problem, but I'm telling you now I won't be talking about the Jap stuff. That's too much for me." I respected his wishes and we met and I asked him about his militia experiences.

As the interview continued, we were getting along really well, and I asked a question about when he'd enlisted in the 2/21st Battalion. The conversation continued to his time in Darwin, arrival at Ambon, and then Keith told me about the Battle of Ambon, being captured as a Japanese prisoner of war, and he just opened up. When we finished, I said, "Look, I really appreciate your telling me that. I know that this hasn't been easy for you." He put his hand on my shoulder and said, "Well, I've got faith that you'll do the right thing by me, but be aware, I'm going to be chasing Japs in my sleep for the next week." It underlined for me that sharing these stories has an effect on these guys.

Anthony said he has had great reactions from family members of those whom he has interviewed, who had never spoken to their families about some of the details. “I think people find it easier to unload these emotional reactions to a stranger, because a stranger then walks away,” said Anthony, “and in contrast with the ongoing presence of family members, is unlikely to continue to ask questions, thus re-igniting difficult memories.”



Randall Bouchier



Anthony's recently released book about J D Burns joins the impressive list of books he has written, many of which are biographies of Australian soldiers.

In our next issue we will talk with Anthony McAleer about the recent release of his latest book, J D Burns – Poet, Schoolboy, Soldier, Martyr. In his book, Anthony tells the story of James Drummond Burns, the Melbourne teenager who wrote the poem “For England” before he went overseas to serve with the Australian forces in 1915. Just four months after leaving Australia, James paid the ultimate price of war, losing his life in the trenches of Gallipoli.

⁵ G F James mentions the Ryrie brothers and their land holding in *Border Country: Episodes and Recollections of Mooroolbark and Wonga Park*. "Yering" derived from a native word for thick scrub. Much of the lighter cover had been broken down by the free-ranging cattle and Hubert de Castella, whose younger brother Paul took over the Ryrie holdings in 1850, left a comment on the Yering landscape as the undergrowth was cleared: "as the trees are generally wide spaced and as their long straight trunks carry no branches below a height of 10 or 12 feet, you can qalloo almost anywhere." p.9

CELEBRATE MOOROOLBARK

Saturday, March 25 2017



PHOTO: GREG CARRICK

PHOTO: MARK SWINDON

Another Festival—Why Not?

Celebrate Mooroolbark has become part of the Mooroolbark landscape for many years and aims to gather the people of Mooroolbark and surrounding suburbs together for a day of fun and family entertainment. It may be six months to the next festival, but already the committee is hard at work, exploring different options for 2017 to make it bigger and better than ever.

The guiding principle of the festival is to provide a low-cost day out for families. We seek through sponsorship to minimise the costs on the day and we encourage groups to put on free or low-cost activities for children and families. This has come from the support of our local businesses and organisations, with both cash and 'in kind' sponsorship. I would love to mention them all, but there are around 150 groups which help make the day happen. All that I can say on behalf of the community is thank you. Celebrate Mooroolbark is an opportunity to showcase our local organisations and businesses and to promote the community and ourselves.

Each year, more groups have come on board and we are pleased to say that as the festival grows, we have more opportunities for

volunteer groups to supply food on the day. If you are part of a group, why not consider how you can use the festival to gain more recruits or to gain more exposure on the local scene. If you are short of ideas, talk to us and we can show you ways to get involved. Let us try for 200 groups to be involved in next year's event!

We are building the festival around the idea "It is easy to be green". With apologies to Kermit, we are framing the festival to be environmentally friendly (as well as family friendly). We would love groups who care for our environment to come on board to educate and encourage the community in better ways to care for this wonderful part of world in which we live.

The festival begins with a celebration of the talents of our community with Red Earth Unearthed on the evening of Friday 24 March. We will be looking for acts to make it a great night out!

We are looking for people and groups to get involved both on the day and to help organise the festival. Contact us on celebratemooroolbark@gmail.com or through Facebook.

■ **Andrew Lang**
Festival Chairperson

All Welcome—Community Forum Featuring BOORI MONTY PRYOR

Mooroolbark Umbrella Group's 2016 Annual Community Forum and presentation of the Quiet Achiever's Awards will take place on Thursday 17 November.

This year, the special guest will be Boori Monty Pryor, an exciting Indigenous Australian writer who is best known as a storyteller. Together with Alison Lester, he was named the inaugural Australian Children's Laureate (2012-2013). This is a prestigious role to which Australian authors or illustrators are appointed with the purpose of promoting the power of reading to young children.

Boori Monty Pryor was born in Northern Queensland. Before beginning to write books he had a long career in communicating Indigenous culture in schools throughout Australia by

performing dances, playing the didgeridoo and storytelling. Among his award-winning books are *Maybe Tomorrow*, *The Binna Binna Man* and *Shake A Leg*, which won the 2011 Prime Minister's Literary Award for Children's Fiction. Monty has also had extensive experience in the areas of film, television, sport, music and Theatre in Education.

Eastern Regional Libraries has partnered with Mooroolbark Umbrella Group to invite local secondary school students to participate in a morning session with Monty at the Mooroolbark Library on the day of the community forum. This will be followed by an afternoon session at Mooroolbark Community Centre for many of our local primary school students. As usual, our evening session, which is open to all, will also

be held at MCC and will commence at 7:30 pm.

Admission is a gold-coin donation, and bookings can be made by calling 1300 368 333 or online: www.culturetracks.info

We look forward seeing you there!

Doug Lewis



Monty with an impressive piece of art created by Nicky Bidju J Pryor

WHAT IS MUG?

Mooroolbark Umbrella Group (MUG) is a group which meets quarterly to foster activities and partnerships which benefit our community. It aims to be a voice for the community, and to provide a place for sharing of local information, views and priorities. Activities include facilitating dialogue between the community and outside agencies, and promoting participation in local issues and projects. Community groups wishing to be represented at MUG meetings are invited to call Randall Bourchier on 9723 2693 or to email moor.umb.group@optusnet.com.au



SING, SING, SING

"Music matters!" Those were the emphatic words of Florence Foster Jenkins in a scene from the critically acclaimed 2016 movie about her singing aspirations. The delightfully eccentric Florence, portrayed by Meryl Streep, was a real-life New York heiress who felt a lifelong ambition to sing, and put considerable money and effort into achieving her dream of performing publicly.

Not all of us have the means—or the desire—to commit to staging our own solo performances, but thanks to a dedicated group of singing leaders, Yarra Ranges residents (regardless of their singing ability) have the opportunity to be involved in community singing events.

With funding help from the Yarra Ranges Council, a singing project called 'Up Hill, Down Dale' has brought together three singing leaders—Leah Marlowe, Barb McFarlane, and Libby Price—who are all involved in local choirs and have a passion for promoting music in the community. As part of the project, the trio were involved in organising a 'Winter Warming Sing' to meet the needs of those who want to sing occasionally rather than making a regular commitment to a singing group.

On a crisp Sunday afternoon in early June, a group of more than 50 people—friends and strangers—met in the warmth of The Memo in Healesville to take part in an afternoon of community singing. The event was hosted by Healesville's Rocky Road community choir, which is led by Leah Marlowe. Members of other choirs from around the valley also attended and brought family and friends. There were also people who came along simply because they had seen the event promoted and wanted to be involved.

The group spent a couple of hours singing easy-to-learn songs such as 'Bele Mama', 'Sin Je Je', and 'Put a Song in the Air', with a break halfway through for afternoon tea and a chat.

"People have come to recognise the importance of wellbeing through community and through shared song," said Leah. "The idea is that the choirs provide the safety in numbers and the supported sound. Others can come and listen and get swept along with it and join in." There was no need for participants to have a background in music theory, as the songs were taught by ear rather than by reading sheet music.



Singing leaders Leah, Libby and Barb believe that all people should have the opportunity to express themselves through song.

Barb, Libby and Leah are motivated to bring music to people because of a fundamental belief that making music is the birthright of all. "Even babies can make music before they can talk and walk," said Leah. "Research has shown the social, mental and physical health benefits of having that community connection and sense of belonging. Singing itself releases endorphins to give you a boost mentally. So if you have been depressed or feel flat, singing gives you a lift."

The next singing event organised by the group will be a 'Spring Sing' on Sunday 11 September at 1:30 till 4:00 pm at Healesville Senior Citizens Hall at the corner of Green and River streets. This event will also be a celebration of the eighth birthday of the Rocky Road Choir. The cost is \$5 per person, which includes afternoon tea—and birthday cake! For more information, contact Leah on 0458 160 380 or email singyarraranges@gmail.com.

Libby, Leah and Barb make it clear that everyone is welcome, not just those who consider themselves to be good singers—willingness to get involved is what matters. Florence Foster Jenkins would have understood that. Many people didn't appreciate Florence's singing voice, but she didn't let that dampen her enthusiasm. "People may say I can't sing," she said, "but no one can ever say I *didn't* sing."

Janet Van Dijk



SIXTY YEARS OF SERVICE

The Mooroolbark Country Women's Association (CWA) celebrates its 60th anniversary in September this year. During its sixty years of operation, the CWA members have supported many local charities and community projects as well as lending a hand wherever they can.

Over the years the CWA has given pamper packs and hand-knitted rugs to Anglicare, offered financial support to the local fire brigade, SES and a dementia facility and have 'adopted' a kindergarten. They also supply small scholarships to students at two Mooroolbark secondary colleges. Money for these projects is raised by selling crafts at Lilydale Farmers' Produce Market and Celebrate Mooroolbark, and

also catering for functions such as parties and book launches. Their latest project is supplying toiletries and hand-knitted rugs and crocheted quilts to support The Mustard Tree in Lilydale. A quilt commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli made by several CWA members was displayed in the Mooroolbark Library during celebrations of the centenary in 2015.

The focus of the Country Women's Association is on service, but they also enjoy themselves, and many lasting friendships have been made over the years. New members are always welcome to join—if you would like to know more, please contact the president, Coral Cunningham, on 9728 4479.

Barbara Austin



Making Smiles Come to Life

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Mooroolbark Laundrette
Domestic & Commercial Laundrette

28 Manchester Road Mooroolbark

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Once Loved

54 Manchester Road, Mooroolbark

"We are not an op shop," says quietly spoken Lee O'Neill, owner of the Once Loved ladies' fashion store. "We sell women's clothes, handbags, shoes, jewellery, New Age products such as perfumes, incense and crystals and a mix of old and new."

Lee took the opportunity to buy the business four years ago when she was commuting back and forth to Williamstown and had a background in administration, working in building companies and a bank. She now lives three minutes from home and enjoys working in her own neighbourhood, but her main focus has always been to maintain the quality of customer service.

Since buying the business, Lee has put her personal touch on the store and made changes to the way it operates. Instead of bringing in recycled clothing on consignment, she buys the clothing, shoes, handbags and jewellery outright. Everything is rewashed and the clothes are steam ironed. The fact that most of the clothes are relatively new gave Lee the incentive to buy her own collection of brand new items, which is why there is now a mix of old and new.

When buying, Lee assesses each article for quality and desirability. She offers a price for each article depending on what she thinks people will pay for an item. Because of the nature of the business she doesn't have the customer base that people might expect, so turnover is sometimes slow. Lee works for the love of it and puts a lot of time and effort into the shop, which is obvious by the attractive way the clothes and other items are displayed.

Lee enjoys talking and listening to people. She understands that if treated well, people will come back—if not a customer today, maybe tomorrow is her motto. She is a firm believer that it costs nothing to be happy, nothing to smile and nothing to help someone, and knows that



PHOTOS: BARBARA AUSTIN

she might be the only person that some people speak to all day.

As well as enjoying her interactions with the customers, Lee loves being a part of the community and being able to give something back when she can. We're grateful that every year for the last three years, Lee has run the Lucky Straws stall for Celebrate Mooroolbark, even though it means closing the shop for the day or, if she can't get a family member to take her place, paying someone to look after it.

Lee has two children, three grandchildren and a very supportive husband of three years. She is an animal lover, loves family, lifestyle shows, houses in different countries and reading. She likes Mooroolbark because of its location and the country attitude of people being willing to help.

If you need a new outfit for a special occasion or want just go in and browse at Once Loved, Lee will be only too pleased to help you.

Barbara Austin

Once Loved is open Tuesday to Thursday 10 am-4 pm, Friday 10 am-5 pm and Saturday 10 am-1 pm.

Mr Banana Fruit & Veges

In August 2015, Mooroolbark residents were delighted to find that the vacant greengrocer store in Brice Avenue was once again occupied. Tony Luong, the new owner of the business, has set up a bright, immaculate space stocked with fresh, good quality produce at competitive prices.

Tony started his working life toiling in the fields of the farms and rice paddies near his small village in North Vietnam. However, his ambition was always to have his own business. When Tony visited his brother in Australia in 2000, he found that Australia provided opportunities to live a good life, to study and to get ahead. Having already studied accounting in Vietnam, he moved



PHOTOS: JANET VAN DIJK

to Australia to do a Bachelor of Business degree.

Tony's love of food (especially bananas) and his willingness to work hard brought him to Mooroolbark to set up his first business venture. Discovering that the old fruit and vegetable shop at 71 Brice Avenue was vacant, he leased the premises, stocked the shelves and in August 2015 launched Mr Banana Fruit and Veges. The position in the shopping strip has proved to be a good location—it is close to public transport, has customer parking, and the shop's proximity to local businesses and schools allows him to deliver special orders.

Most of Tony's produce is bought from the Melbourne Wholesale Market in Epping. He also sells apples and tomatoes grown in the Yarra Valley, strawberries from Benny's Berries in Mooroolbark, and stocks local free-range eggs.

Although Tony finds the hours running his business are long and hard, adding three extra staff recently has made a big difference. Tony now has more time to devote to his

studies of English and welding. In future, Tony plans to increase the variety of produce on offer and to also put his welding skills to good use to upgrade the display shelves.

One of the most challenging aspects of the business for Tony is learning how to choose good quality produce and maintain its freshness, especially those fruits and vegetables new to him and not found in Asia. An amusing example of this challenge was when a customer asked if Tony had any rhubarb. "Oh, no," he replied. "We had to toss it out because the leaves were wilting." Tony hadn't realised that the leaves are poisonous and that only the red stalks are eaten.

Tony's personable, helpful manner and his team of friendly staff have made popping in for fruit and vegetables a very quick and pleasurable shopping experience!

Mary Bouchier

Mr Banana Fruit and Veges is open from 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday, and from 9 am to 5 pm on weekends. Phone orders can be placed on 0423 030 345.



**Lions Club
of
Mooroolbark**

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Healthy Picks is an exciting initiative which works with cafés in Mooroolbark to make healthy food selection the easy choice by improving access and knowledge through visual and social media strategies. A key component of the program is to promote the participation of cafés, which provide an ideal environment in which our health can be positively impacted.

The program is led by Inspiro, a non-profit community health service for the Yarra Ranges community. Inspiro is working on the initiative in partnership with Yarra Ranges Council and the Mooroolbark Traders Group, in an aim to address the increase in numbers of people with obesity and diabetes in the Yarra Ranges.

Did you know that there was a 180% rise in number of people with diabetes in the Yarra Ranges between 2001 and 2011? And that:

- People in the Yarra Ranges consume a significantly higher than average amount of sugary beverages.
- 91.2% of people in the Yarra Ranges are getting less than the recommended serves of vegetables per day.
- Only 4.7% of people in the Yarra Ranges are consuming the recommended serves of fruit and vegetables every day.
- Overweight and obesity are higher in the Yarra Ranges than the state average, with overweight representing 39.3% of the population in the Yarra Ranges.

Surveys of over 200 Mooroolbark locals showed clear community demand for healthy meal options that tie in with a growing café culture and the prevalence of eating out. As more people choose to dine out, cafés have a unique opportunity to positively influence people's eating habits. As accessibility and visibility of healthy menu items grows, making a healthy decision will be easier, which may assist in addressing serious health issues within our community.

To meet Healthy Picks criteria, participating cafés must produce a minimum of three dietetically approved meals that contain at least two

serves of vegetables, and are low in salt, sugar and saturated fat. Visual indication for the customer of such items will come from a green Healthy Picks sticker or special menu display at the counter or table. Healthy Picks meals are not to be at the expense of flavour—the intention is to create delicious, seasonal, vibrant, colourful and textural dishes that assist in working towards our daily nutritional goals. A range of Healthy Picks-approved desserts is in the planning stages too!

The Healthy Picks Project is expected to launch in late October 2016. So far, initial agreements have been made with Pump Café, Coffee for Me and Cafe Rondiné. Let's support these businesses who are working with us for a healthier Mooroolbark! Keep an eye out on social media for participating businesses, upcoming rewards, competitions and healthy eating tips. Eat well and be happy!

For advice from our dietitians, nutritional programs or other services, please visit www.inspiro.org.au for details.



In participating cafés, approved menu items will display the green Healthy Picks sticker.

Toby Ware
Health Promotion Officer
Food & Nutrition
Inspiro



Mooroolbark Food Festival

In July 2015 the Yarra Ranges Council declared a Marketing and Development Special Charge Scheme for the Mooroolbark commercial and retail precinct.

The scheme provides the Mooroolbark Traders and Community Group with a dedicated marketing and business development fund for the period July 2015 to June 2020. The fund will be used to facilitate various activities in accordance with the group's prepared Strategic Business Plan.

Saturday 22 October has been set aside as a day of community connection, food and entertainment. The event, titled the Mooroolbark Food Festival, will be conducted in the heart of Mooroolbark—centred around Hookey Park, the Terrace and Brice Avenue. Certain events, including a food trail, will take participants beyond that area, where they

will have the chance to win a great prize.

A sausage sizzle and other community food fundraising stalls and information booths will be operating on the day. The Mooroolbark Food Festival team is keen to hear from any local community groups who would like to participate in these activities. A program of talks and workshops is currently being developed to

provide themed activities and entertainment for all of the family between 10 am and 2 pm.

Come along and help make this special community day an event to remember!

Marina Scott

For more information, contact Marina Scott (Mooroolbark Traders and Community Group) on 0425 843 470 or info@mooroolbark.vic.au. Updates will also be shared on Facebook: [facebook.com/Mooroolbark.Vic](https://www.facebook.com/Mooroolbark.Vic)



Food Festival team members Robyn (LJ Hooker), Peter (Master Cakes Bakehouse) and June (Cafe Rondiné)



Professionals

www.methven.com.au
Mooroolbark Office Tel. 9726 8888
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Excess Baggage



When we travel to another country, we usually pack a bag full of clothes and other important items, being careful not to exceed the 25kg limit for the airline. Then off we go to the airport, carrying or wheeling the bags to the terminal. After we have checked in our heaviest bags, we can rest easy until it is time to take off. Once we have arrived at our destination (assuming the luggage has arrived too) we usually don't give our suitcases much more thought until it's time for the return trip. The rest of life is not that simple, though!

Unfortunately many of us carry around emotional baggage from an experience that hurt us long ago. We get up in the morning, pick up our baggage and head off to our activities of the day, carrying this burden with us. The original experience may have been painful, humiliating or traumatic at the time, leaving an emotional stamp or scar from which we cannot imagine ever recovering. The remaining unresolved feelings go on to burden us, tainting our perception and preventing us from enjoying day-to-day life.

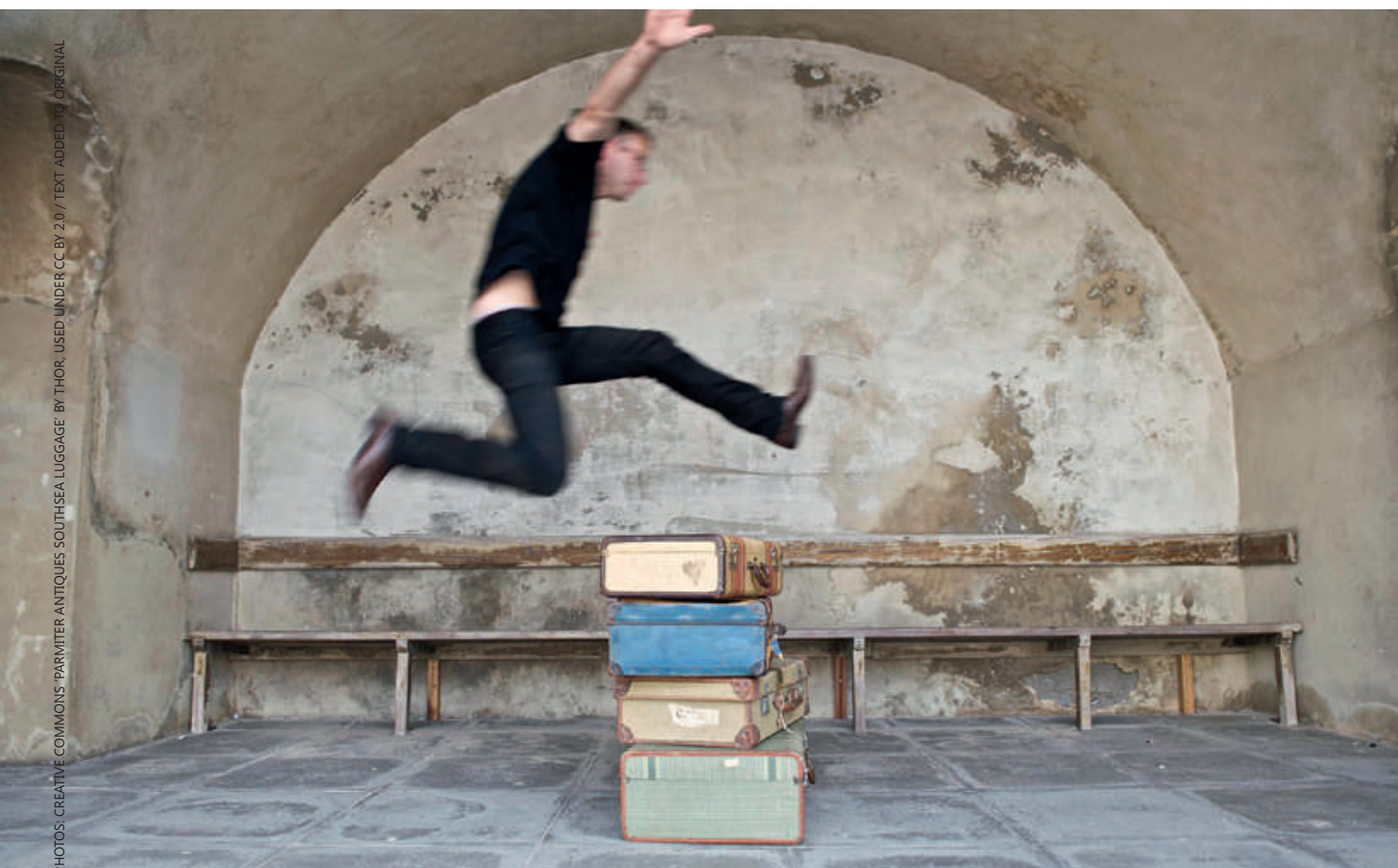
Why do we do it?

Life can be challenging. We all get hurt, disappointed and mistreated. What separates us is how we begin the next part of our journey. Do we hold on to the broken and disjointed memories that serve no purpose other than to remind us what a terrible time we had? Or do we endeavour to address the experience, perhaps with the support of people we trust? Sometimes revisiting and dwelling on a past experience can become a pattern of thinking, as if to reassure us that it was real and we didn't make it up. We can find ourselves revisiting the memory repeatedly, trying to make sense of the situation and how it affected us. We might even magnify the injury as we rehearse what happened, adding layer upon layer of memory and imagery to explain the hurt we felt a long time ago.

Of course we can pretend it isn't affecting us, but then we aren't being honest with ourselves. We can't pretend to forgive. We can't pretend to forget. We can't *pretend* to pardon. Healing can start only when we have the courage to explore and unpack what originally hurt us. On closer inspection we might realise that the extra baggage we're lugging around can be reduced or repackaged, or that it actually belongs to someone else!

Start the healing process

Look for meaning in the experience. We're all defined by what we've experienced—our battles, our victories, even our failures and near misses. They all make up who we are. But we can tend to focus on the negative and discount the positive.



PHOTOS: CREATIVE COMMONS 'PARMIER ANTIQUES SOUTHEAST LUGGAGE' BY THOR, USED UNDER CC BY 2.0 / TEXT ADDED BY ORIGINAL

The negative memories and troubles are not what we should let ourselves be defined by. Instead, it's better to acknowledge the positive: that we are still here and still standing, ready for another day or challenge. What we've been through makes us wiser and stronger—*that's* what we need to be defined by! Everyone loves a winner, especially a winner who has fought the hard fight and won. Someone who has earned a victory the hard way will value that victory so much more than someone who falls into success.

Avoid blaming. One way to start the healing process is to be honest with ourselves. This means accepting that it is our hurt, our memory and our past that is affecting us rather than being quick to blame someone else for what's happened. When we blame, we deceive ourselves into thinking we've addressed the cause of our issue, when all we've really done is 'kick the can down the road'. Perhaps there are others at fault who should theoretically shoulder the blame. However, unless we can address what happened with them directly and get an appropriate remedy, we may remain stuck. If we are waiting for others to realise what they've done and apologise, we could be waiting—and hurting—for a very long time. Is it worth spending our emotional energy on things that will never get the resolution we feel we deserve?

Talk to someone you trust. Talking to a trusted person who is not involved in the situation can make it easier for us to understand why we are hurting or angry. Being listened to and feeling 'heard' can provide a measure of healing in many circumstances. Your friend

or counsellor may be able to share a similar experience or offer an outside perspective that you haven't thought of. If you don't want to hear advice (and many people don't!) perhaps make that clear from the outset. Let the other person know that you just want to talk through what happened. Deeper hurts, such as abuse or trauma, may need to be discussed with someone who is equipped with knowledge and experience on how best to work through what happened in a way that makes a real difference. Your local doctor can put you in contact with someone who is trained in the relevant area.

Set some parameters. If you are determined to reduce your baggage, you could start by setting yourself some limits. If you believe you have a reasonable chance of finding a remedy, set a time limit for resolution. It may be two weeks, or 12 months—but not 20 years! If you choose not to pursue a remedy, allow yourself a period of time to really explore what happened and how you felt at the time—write it down in a journal, send a letter to a trusted friend or just give yourself the opportunity to really mull it over and feel what you need to feel. When the time is completed, be determined to let it go and learn from it so that it doesn't happen again. When we put boundaries around our issues we remain in control of how these experiences impact us and our lives.

It is easy for us to hold on to past hurts and difficult situations—we're only human! But when our emotional baggage is preventing us from enjoying the next part of life's journey, it's time to take stock of the situation and

see whether we can lighten our load. With determination, courage and the support of those we trust, we can start to release some of those pent-up, damaging emotions and continue on with a lighter, happier outlook.



Steve Steel

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THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Joseph Tkach *Speaking of Life*

240 years ago, on 4 July 1776, America's founding fathers signed their Declaration of Independence. In the preamble, Thomas Jefferson laid out three inalienable rights given to humanity by their Creator—"life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Since then, free people all over the world have aimed for that last right—"the pursuit of happiness."

What does it mean? If we look around, we're bombarded with products, services and things that are declared to make us happy—or at least, happier. But countless studies have shown that simply consuming things and experiences doesn't bring lasting happiness. So what gives?

Recently *Star Wars* creator George Lucas attempted to answer this very question. Speaking at an event, he pointed out that happiness is really made up of two different experiences: joy and pleasure. He defined pleasure as something that was fleeting, self-centred and focused solely on what a person can consume. He went on to say that pleasure alone was like a drug. You always needed a higher dose to achieve the same level of happiness.

But joy, he said, is different. "Joy is compassion. Joy is giving yourself to someone else or something else... it's much more powerful than pleasure... And if you pursue joy, you will find everlasting happiness."



PHOTO: BIGSTOCK

In biblical terms, Lucas isn't far off the mark. Recognising the serious limits and liabilities of simply chasing pleasure is something we need to hear. Joy is *far more* than pleasure. But we need more information than that. Notice Lucas doesn't give us any clues as to the nature of the self-giving that would lead to joy. But I think I might be able to pick up where he left off. You see, God, providentially, gives us a more complete picture. Jesus himself tells us to first look to find where God is. (After all, He's the ultimate source of joy.) Jesus invites us to join with Him and His particular kind of self-giving. And the rest of His story fills out the many details of what this looks like in real life.

To be sure, those arriving there are not going to find fulfilment in consuming things, nor in acquiring the latest model car or video game. Instead, what Christ has pointed us to is a better, a more joyful and rich life—a life which leads us into faith, hope and love, and a life which finds real joy, peace and purpose in His. The real joy that, as Lucas put it, is found in "compassion" and in "giving yourself to someone else or something else". Only through pursuing that kind of joy will we find everlasting happiness.

National Day of Thanks MAYORAL BREAKFAST

On Saturday 28 May, more than 200 people gathered at the Foothills Conference Centre in Mooroolbark to join in the 11th annual Mayoral Breakfast, celebrating Australia's National Day of Thanks.

In welcoming everyone on behalf of Mayor Jason Callanan, Councillor Maria McCarthy expressed her personal gratitude for all who contribute to our community life. She noted, "We depend especially on the thousands of volunteers who serve us in so many ways. These people substantially enrich our lives."

This year's theme was "the richness of growing up and living in our community". It was a unique opportunity to give special thanks to the following people who represented our wide range of local volunteers: Bill Robinson, Jim Page, Sylvia Ramsden, Alfred and Ursula Klink, Max Lamb, Peter Lusk, Japheth Lian and Judith McGrath.

Graham Nelson presented an added expression of thanks to his co-host at the event, Randall Bouchier, for his significant contribution to



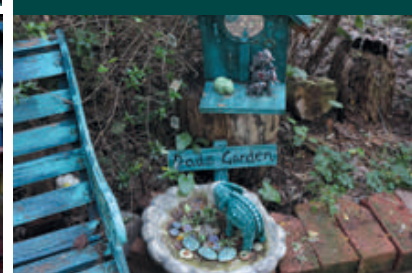
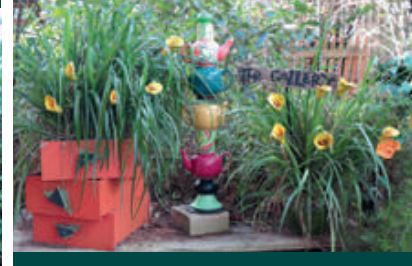
PHOTO: MATT DALEY

our Day of Thanks celebrations over the past decade, and to both Randall and his wife Mary for their many years of service in their local community of Mooroolbark.

The guest speaker for the morning was Anthony McAleer, military historian from Museum Victoria and Mt Evelyn RSL. Anthony told the moving story of Corporal Jim Burns from Lilydale, who was killed in action at Gallipoli at the age of just 20 years. Jim, a very successful student at Scots College, is well remembered for his poem "For England" which was subsequently printed in school readers and has become very well known. It is often recited at remembrance celebrations around our country.

A vocal ensemble from Oxley College added to the enjoyment of the event by presenting two delightful musical items to a most appreciative audience.

Doug Lewis



PHOTOS: JANET VAN DIJK

Mooroolbark's Enchanting Garden

Tucked away behind a row of trees in a quiet street in Mooroolbark lies a pretty but unconventional haven called Maddie's Embellished Garden. Nestled beneath towering pines, the garden is a labyrinth of pathways leading to little nooks of colourful artworks which have been created from unwanted and recycled items. The whimsical style of the garden is a testament to the ingenuity and artistic talent of Madeleine Willingham, the owner and creator of this charming retreat.

For almost a decade Maddie's garden has been open to tours for book clubs, school groups and garden clubs, and it is also open to the public twice a year to raise money for the Mary McKillop East Timor Mission. The next fundraising day for this cause will be on 16 October this year.

Madeleine and her husband Norm have lived for almost 30 years on the property, which was once part of the famous Edna Walling estate. Although her passion for design and her love for ongoing projects haven't always been easy for Norm, Maddie describes her husband as "probably my greatest supporter." Norm helps with the work but doesn't offer creative input. "It's probably better that only one person has the imagination," said Norm. "Otherwise there'd be a conflict of interest."

About 11 years ago, when their sons had outgrown the need for the bike jumps and skating ramps that were in their garden, Maddie began looking for a way to revitalise the area. Her extensive experience in the field of creative arts led her to look at the project through the eyes of a decorator rather than a gardener, and she decided to create individual 'rooms'. There are now 20 rooms, each with its own theme and colour palette. Pretty hand-painted signs point the way to the zones, which have intriguing names like "The Terrace of Towering Teapots", "The Snug," and "Doggie Dell."

The material for most of the garden artwork comes from a surprising source—roadside rubbish collections. Maddie sees possibilities in broken pots, headless statues, and even disused window frames. While most of the items are Maddie's original artwork or created from rubbish she has repurposed, the creations of other artists are also displayed. Maddie's colourful imaginative touch can be seen everywhere. Among the distinctive pieces are a ceramic "choir", a surprisingly pretty bench seat layered with aluminium drink cans, and two huge sunflowers made out of scrubbing brushes salvaged from a motorised floor cleaner.

Entry to the garden on the open day is \$6 for adults and \$1 per child. Visitors will be given a map of the grounds so that they can enjoy the artworks at their own pace. Fact sheets will also be available for those

visitors who want to create works of art with their own "junk." Devonshire teas and other refreshments will be for sale, and local artists and gardeners will also sell handmade goodies and bric a brac.

Money raised by the entrance fees will go to support the building of schools, hospitals and healthcare facilities in East Timor. As a member of St Peter Julian Eymard Catholic Parish, Maddie has been involved in fundraising for East Timor for many years. Her friends from the SPJ congregation will help on the day by collecting money and serving refreshments.

Children who visit the garden are encouraged to participate in the "I spy" challenge, which takes them to special places just for children. Maddie has created little passageways and entrances underneath the canopy of the main garden to keep children active and interested. "I want them to really see what's here," said Maddie. Children also love the sailboat—another one of Maddie's roadside finds—which is marooned on top of a large sandpit.

One of the garden areas is a tribute to Maddie's late father, who inspired her with his creativity. Not only was her father a talented gardener, but he brought home bits and pieces purchased at auction houses, and talked to his children about the possibilities each item held. "He was always imaginative and a great story-teller," recalled Maddie.

Maddie's resourcefulness and imagination are an indication that Maddie's Embellished Garden will never be completely finished. "If I find something really fabulous on the side of the road, I will create an area for it," she said. "Even if people have come three or four times, they still see things they haven't seen before. It's constantly evolving."

Maddie describes her garden as an "anytime garden." Unlike most gardens, which are subject to seasonal variations, the colourful features in Maddie's garden are available all year round. There are over a thousand handmade ceramic flowers, which at first glance can easily be taken for the real thing. Colour is everywhere, from Maddie's vibrant and outgoing personality right down to the smallest green frog or bright pink flamingo.

Come and see this fascinating garden on Sunday 16 October between 10 am and 4 pm at 80 Pembroke Road, Mooroolbark (on the corner of Pine Road). For further details please contact Maddie on 9728 5628, by email on maddiesw@bigpond.com or check out the Facebook page: Facebook.com/Maddies-Embellished-Garden-from-Trash-to-Art.

Janet Van Dijk

Gardiner's Run



PHOTO: CITY OF BOROKONDARA LIBRARY SERVICE

Tom Roberts' painting *Winter Morning After Rain, Gardiner's Creek* depicted the land where John Gardiner first settled in Victoria. However, Gardiner moved away from that location when he discovered the superior grazing potential of land in the area that is now Mooroolbark.

IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

The larrikin in me likes to think of the indignant cries of outrage from well-heeled Hawthorn residents at the thought that Mooroolbark might be a superior place to live and work. For that was the conclusion of one of the first pastoralists to settle in the Mooroolbark area, who abandoned a pastoral lease encompassing most of today's Hawthorn to make the move.

I remember my son briefly enduring the taunts from classmates when he enrolled as a new student at a school near Hawthorn. The taunt? That boys from out Mooroolbark way only survived because they scrounged for chicken carcasses in public rubbish bins. It would have been good to have been able to provide my son with a rejoinder that he had simply followed the example of John Gardiner, who had abandoned Hawthorn for better pastures in Mooroolbark!

John Gardiner was born in 1798 in Dublin and sailed for Australia in the *Andromeda*, arriving in Hobart Town in May 1823 with his new wife, her parents and her three brothers.

At first he worked with the Bank of Van Diemen's Land, leaving four years later to become a successful store keeper in the Macquarie River district in the Tasmanian midlands. Returning to Victoria, he rented 2,125 hectares of land at Lovely Banks in March 1834 and ran sheep.¹

Gardiner didn't stay still for long. After considering other options, he bought 300 head of cattle, and became one of the first 'overlanders', when he and two other men drove a mob of cattle to the Port Phillip District. On arrival, Gardiner claimed 5,000 acres at the intersection of the Yarra River and Kooyongkoot Creek (later named Gardiner's Creek). On his return to Sydney, Gardiner arranged for 200 more cattle to be brought to the Port Phillip District.²

An article from the 1934 *Argus* relates the delight of all when Gardiner slaughtered a prime bullock to provide the settlers with roast beef for Christmas, providing a welcome change from South American salt beef and Irish pork. According to the article, Gardiner went on to provide fresh beef at 7 pence a pound and butter at 3 shillings a pound.²

In 1837, Gardiner built a house at Gardiner's Creek. The creek later became the subject of the beautifully evocative Tom Roberts painting

Winter Morning After Rain, Gardiner's Creek.³

According to a Stonnington Council document, John Gardiner arrived with his cattle in 1836, at which time newly-introduced pastoral licences cost £10 per year. "Gardiner was a member of the first party of overlanders, who brought sheep and cattle overland to the Port Phillip District from the Riverina." He settled on a large area of land around the junction of the Yarra River and what is now called Gardiner's Creek, which at the time was called Kooyong Koot Creek. According to the council document, "in 1838 Gardiner moved to a better run at Mooroolbark".⁴

According to Neville Lee, in 1837 Gardiner discovered the grazing potential of the land further up the Yarra River catchment. As a result he abandoned the property at Gardiner's Creek and established a new 15,000-acre property, 'Mooroolbark'.

G F James wrote of Gardiner's new run, "The name given to the run was 'Mooroolbark'... covering some 15,000 acres between the Brushy Creek on the west and today's Olinda Creek on the east and extending from the Yarra to the foothills of the Dandenongs... The first sale was in 1845 when Gardiner's cousin and partner, William Fletcher, purchased a homestead section on the Mooroolbark lease and named it Mooroolbark Park (a section known today as Chirnside Park)."⁵

John Gardiner returned to England in 1841 in an unsuccessful attempt to seek capital for the Port Philip Bank. When he came back to Melbourne the following year, the town was in the midst of a financial crisis. Leaving the bank, Gardiner returned to Mooroolbark to live. In 1853, with his fortunes restored, he sold Mooroolbark and returned to England with his brothers and retired to Warwickshire. His wife, who had remained in Melbourne with her daughter, died in 1863 and shortly thereafter Gardiner remarried.

John Gardiner died in 1878 at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, at the age of eighty. He would no doubt be surprised to look around the thriving community of Mooroolbark today and see how far it has grown from the days when it was simply Gardiner's run!

Randall Bouchier

³ wikiart.org/en/tom-roberts

⁴ stonnington.vic.gov.au/Discover/History. See Thematic History Update (chapters 3 and 4) p.34. Interestingly, Toorak Road was formerly Gardiner's Creek Road.

⁵ James, G.F. *Border Country: Episodes and Recollections of Mooroolbark and Wonga Park*. Shire of Lillydale, 1984. p.9

¹ See Neville Lee's article on John Gardiner in the Camberwell Historical Society Newsletter March 2015 chs.org.au

² trove.nla.gov.au

Community Tree Planting



PHOTOS: DOUG LEWIS

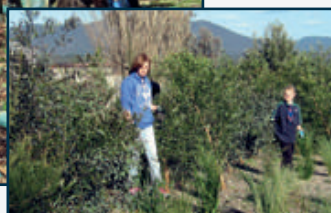
On a delightfully warm and sunny Sunday in July, more than 60 participants—representing a number of local community groups and organisations—took part in Mooroolbark's 13th annual tree-planting day.

In this second year of planting at the Rolling Hills Reserve site, the group was able to plant 700 new trees and shrubs and to remove the stakes and plastic surrounds from last year's plantings. It was most encouraging to see how well last year's plants had grown, with some of them now over two metres tall after just one year of growth.

The whole job was completed in less than three hours, leaving plenty of time to enjoy a chat together with the hot food and 'cuppa' supplied by Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship.

Thanks to all who contributed to the success of this day and to our ongoing local planting program.

Doug Lewis



Coming Soon!

Car Boot Sales:
October and November
Sunday 8:00 am – 1:30 pm

Mooroolbark—venue to be advised

Book your own stall or get together with your friends, family or neighbours to share a stall. Or just come along and browse the stalls for a bargain! Food and drinks available.

\$20 per stall. Bookings/enquiries: Barbara Austin – 0417 381 542 or barkoa@iinet.net.au

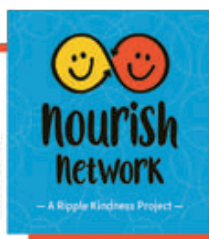


Can You Help?

Nourish Network is a new weekly program helping people doing it tough in our community. We are looking for donations and for volunteers who can help by:

- donating non-perishable food, personal hygiene items, household cleaning products, gifts cards and good quality clothing
- teaching an employable skill or hobby
- providing hairdressing or other wellbeing therapies

Please email lisa@ripplekindness.org to find out more



Mooroolbark Theatre Group presents

Out of Order

directed by Louise Woodward

Set in the Westminster Hotel, *Out of Order* is a brilliant 1990 comedy farce written by Ray Cooney

November 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th

Tickets \$18/\$16 concession

For tickets and more information call Arline on 9726 4282

FREE FAMILY FILM NIGHT



Continuing his "legendary adventures of awesomeness", Po has a lot to learn if he's going to fulfill the next challenge from his beloved instructor Master Shifu. After reuniting with his long-lost panda father, Po must do the impossible—learn to train a village full of his fun-loving, clumsy brethren to become the ultimate band of Kung Fu Pandas. Together, they unite to take on the evil Kai.

95 minutes – Rated PG

All Welcome

Mooroolbark Community Centre
21 September 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 7 September 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.

MARGARET TULL BIDS GOODBYE TO GYMBA ROO Marion Stott

I first met my wonderful friend Margaret when our children were at Lancaster Preschool in 1978. Margaret and Michael Tull had moved to Mooroolbark in 1975 to live and bring up their three children.

When Toddler Kindy GymbaROO established its second centre at Mooroolbark in 1984, Margaret looked after my daughter so I could be the assistant two mornings a week. The next year, sessions expanded into the afternoons and this is where Margaret's journey with GymbaROO began.

Now Margaret is retiring from GymbaROO after more than 30 years providing babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers with movement opportunities to assist their neurological development. She will be greatly missed.

During the early years Margaret was instrumental in helping establish several other centres, assisting for many years at Glen Waverley, Forest Hill and Bulleen/Doncaster. Having trained and gained a wealth of experience, Margaret eventually took on her own franchise at Camberwell between 1999 and 2003. Home base has always been the Croydon/Mooroolbark areas which consolidated to make this our 32nd year at Mooroolbark.

Margaret says that the major highlight of her career was being selected to travel to mainland China for six months in 2004, where she helped establish the first GymbaROO centre in Beijing. "Children are the same everywhere—actions speak louder than words, so sign language helped with communicating in the centre and all areas of daily life. My time in Beijing was a very rich experience, full of long-lasting impressions."

Upon returning from Beijing, Margaret was delighted to hear she was to be a grandmother. She now has six grandchildren, all of whom she believes have benefited greatly from attending GymbaROO.

"The pure joy of working with the parents and their children, by providing this program that nurtures each natural stage of development, is just so rewarding."

Margaret's involvement with the Mooroolbark community extends beyond her time at GymbaROO: she has been with the Mooroolbark History Group since its inaugural meeting in 2009 and is now the



Margaret with her youngest grandson, Floyd

treasurer. She was also instrumental with research and with the grant applications for the Celebrating Mooroolbark book.

Margaret's kind, calm and patient personality endears her everyone. She has been wonderful to work with and her colleagues will miss her greatly. However, they will still be seeing Margaret: she will be a grandparent 'nanny' and will be attending BabyROO sessions each week with her youngest grandson.



PLAYGROUND ART

When Brandon Kroon was a young boy creating art with paints and crayons at Gray Court Preschool, little did he know that 20 years later his art would again adorn the preschool—this time, in the form of wood carvings in the playground.

Brandon's wood carvings are impressive works of art created in a unique manner: by chainsaw. It's a technique that Brandon describes as part of a niche market in Australia. While handsaws and chisels are the most common method of carving, Brandon loves using a chainsaw, which he says is "obviously a lot quicker—but it's a lot easier to make a mistake."

When it was decided to upgrade the playground at Gray Court Preschool, the school raised funds for the project with the help of the local community. Joel Martin, whose son Flynn attends the preschool, explained that when he first found Brandon Koon's website, he had no idea that Brandon was once a student at Gray Court. The work was commissioned entirely on the basis of Brandon's amazing talent with chainsaw carvings, and it was just a happy

coincidence that Brandon had once attended the preschool.

The centrepiece carving—a wooden lighthouse—was designed with the input of the preschool, and its placement was described by Joel as a visual metaphor. Positioned on top of a new rock wall, it can be seen from anywhere in the garden, providing a symbol of security and encouragement—just as the preschool aims to provide a secure and nurturing environment for the children.

Other carvings specially made for the preschool include a wombat made from Californian redwood, a rabbit, and snails guarding the vegetable patch.

Brandon Kroon grew up on an acreage in Mt Evelyn and had some experience using chainsaws and wood on the property. However, wood carving wasn't his initial career choice: he began his working life in the motor industry and picked up wood carving as a hobby. With the help of local mentors, he improved his skill and soon made a name for himself in the industry. He ultimately decided to make it his fulltime occupation. He now enjoys

Jasmine and the other children at Gray Court Preschool are enjoying the new carvings

carving special pieces for people's homes or gardens, and making signs and statues for businesses. He also attends country shows and carving demonstrations, and participates in competitions.

It was significant for Brandon that he was able to make some custom pieces for his old preschool. "I love making creations out of timber, giving it a second life," he said. "I love sculpting special pieces for people, meeting customers and hearing their stories and what they want out of a piece of wood. It brings me a lot of satisfaction. It's an honour to be able to share my skill with the preschool."

Judging by the enthusiastic reaction of the children, parents and teachers, it seems that the Gray Court Preschool community couldn't agree more!

Janet Van Dijk

This issue's cover photo shows Flynn Martin in the new Grey Court playground.

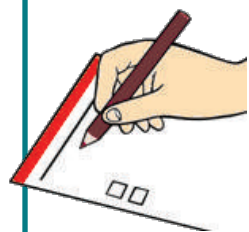
If you would like to see more of Brandon's remarkable carvings, phone him on 0430 732 289 or check out his website: bkcarving.com



Yarra
Ranges
Council



YOUR VOTE MATTERS —COUNCIL ELECTION



Make sure your voice is heard this October!

The local government election for Yarra Ranges Council is run by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) and will be held in October this year. The election will be conducted by postal vote.

In the lead up to the election, further information will be published through council and on the VEC website. In the meantime, here are some things you should know.

Voter Information Details

You can check your enrolment details or complete an enrolment form online at vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment. To enrol for a council-administered voting entitlement, contact the Yarra Ranges Council on 1300 368 333.

Election Office

The election office for Yarra Ranges will be based at the Healesville Community Link, and will be open from 14 September until 21 October.

Ballot Packs

Between 4 and 6 October, ballot packs will be distributed in a random order by the VEC via post to the household of every enrolled person.

Thinking of Running for Council?

Those wishing to learn more about standing as a candidate may attend the Candidate Information Session at 7 pm on 14 September at the council's offices in Anderson Street, Lilydale. Nominations to stand as a candidate open on Thursday 15 September and close at 12 noon on Tuesday 20 September. Nominations must be made in person at the election office.

Yarra Ranges Council aims to attract a range of diverse candidates. GoWomenLG2016 seeks to increase the numbers and diversity of women who participate as candidates in Victoria's 79 local government elections in October this year. For more information, visit: gowomenlg.org.au/

After you have checked whether you are eligible to stand for your local government, it's time to do some research. For further information about becoming a candidate visit vec.vic.gov.au/. There are no special qualifications or experience required for being a councillor. Unpaid and paid work, life experiences and any qualifications you have will add to the skills you can bring to the role.

Nate Leslie

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN at Mooroolbark Community Centre

With school holidays upon us, the MCC and the Mooroolbark Library have teamed up to present another of their highly popular series of free and low-cost events for the whole family.

THEATRE: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Wednesday 21 September 2 pm
8+ years old

Joyride across the globe in this hilarious whirlwind adaption of a Jules Verne masterpiece. Hold on tight as three of Australia's best-known and much-loved stage and screen actors portray a cast of thousands. Starring Ian Stenlake (*Sea Patrol*), Pia Miranda (*Looking for Alibrandi*), and Grant Piro (*The 39 Steps*).

OPERA AUSTRALIA:

Friday 23 September 11 am & 2 pm
4+ years old

Following last year's sell-out children's opera series, Opera Australia returns with its latest adaptation, the much-loved story of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Set to the memorable tunes of Bizet's *Carmen*, it has colourful costumes and an enchanting set to keep kids of all ages entertained. Be captivated by this classic showdown of brains versus brawn as El Kid proves that fortune favours the brave. This 50-minute family musical explores the courage you find when you believe in yourself.

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET COMPANY:

Wednesday 28 September 11 am
3-5 years old

For the aspiring little ballerinas in the family comes a very special program, *Dancing Story*, presented in conjunction with Mooroolbark Library.

BOLLYWOOD DANCE WORKSHOP

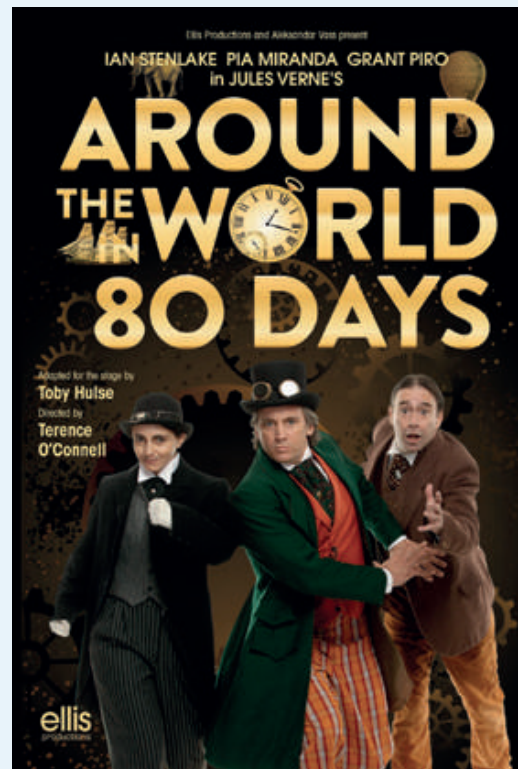
Monday 26 September 11 am
5-12 years old

Get your hips shaking, head wobbling and hands reaching to the heavens as you learn simple shortcuts to classical Indian moves. Starring Parvyn and Josh from *The Bombay Royale*, Melbourne's own originators of vintage Bollywood inspired sounds.

POTTERY WORKSHOPS

Wednesday 28 September 11 am
5-12 years old

Get your hands dirty, have some fun and create a masterpiece to take home.



FAR-FLUNG DANCE PROJECT

Monday 19 – Thursday 29 September
13–21 years old
FREE EVENT

Over ten days, local dancers and drama students are invited to collaborate with professional choreographers, multimedia, tech and multiple spaces to develop a work that explores the frustration and excitement of long-distance communication.

KUNG FU PANDA 3

Wednesday 21 September 7:30 pm
Family movie: rated PG
FREE EVENT

Mooroolbark Christian Fellowship presents the latest in Po's "legendary adventures of awesomeness."

Unless otherwise stated, all performances cost \$6 online and for Eastern Regional Library members. (Full ticket price \$12 each.) For more information, phone 1 300 368 333 or visit culturetracks.info.

These are popular programs that may sell out, so we encourage our locals get in early!

Malcolm Russell

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 Coral Cunningham: 9728 4479.
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 each week	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 .
September to November	Immunisations: Yarra Ranges Council. 6 & 27 September, 4 & 25 October, 22 November Mooroolbark Community Centre. More info 1300 368 333 or yarraranges.vic.gov.au
10 September 8 October 12 November	Urban Harvest: Backyard fruit and vegetable growers—swap your excess produce. Red Earth Community Park, second Saturday each month, 10-11:30 am. Enquiries: Claire Coutts, 0425 700 280.
Sunday 11 September	'Spring Sing': Community singing, Healesville Senior Citizens Hall, 1:30-4:00 pm. No experience necessary. \$5 per person includes afternoon tea. More details: page 5, or call Leah 0458 160 380.
18 September	Pipe Organ Concert: Talented young organist Hanford Lam. 2:30 pm St Francis in the Fields Anglican Church, Mooroolbark. \$10. Enquiries: 9761 9242.
25 September to 1 October	ARK Theatre's Daisy: Lilydale Heights College PAC 16 Nelson Rd, Gate 2. Fri 23- Sat 24 8pm; Sun 25 4pm; Thurs 29-Sat 1 8pm. Tickets \$20 incl. refreshments. Book: 0491 151 340 or arktheatremelb.com .
3 October	Yarra Ranges Seniors Festival presents: Beatlez (Beatles tribute band) plus seniors' events across Yarra Ranges during October. 1300 368 333 or yarraranges.vic.gov.au
12 16 October	Maddie's Embellished Garden Open Day: 10 am - 4 pm. Adults \$6, children \$1. Proceeds to Mary McKillop East Timor. 80 Pembroke Road, Mooroolbark. More details page 11.
4 December	Music at St Margaret's: Featuring the Dandenong Ranges Orchestra, Sunday 4 December. Hull Road,
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	
September - December	Red Earth Gallery Exhibitions: Group Exhibition 14 September-13 November, Artists In Our Residence. 16 November-3 December. MCC
19 September 24 October 11 November	Montrose Movie Club presents: <i>Cathy's Child</i> , <i>Footlight Parade</i> , <i>Letter from an Unknown Woman</i> . 7pm - Mooroolbark Community Centre 9726 5488.
19-30 September	School Holiday Program: Free and low cost activities - art & craft, live performances, movies. MCC. See p. 15
21 September	School Holiday Performance : <i>Around the World in 80 Days</i> , Mooroolbark Community Centre. 2pm. p. 15
21 September	FREE Family Movie: <i>Kung Fu Panda 3</i> . 7:30 pm. MCC. See p. 15
23 September	School Holiday Performance: Opera Australia's <i>El Kid</i> , MCC. 11 am & 2 pm. See p. 15
25 September	Australian Army Band: MCC. 2pm. Tickets \$12/concession \$8
26 September	School Holiday Bollywood Workshop: MCC. 11 am. See p. 15
3 October	Term 4 workshops: Pottery, oil painting, tribal bellydance, Young Artists, and more. MCC See p. 15
7 October	GLITCH - Under 18s Dance Party: 6:30-10:30 pm. MCC. Contact Youth Services 1300 368 333.
16 November	Performance Platform: 7 pm. MCC Free admission; bookings essential. 9726 5488.
17 November	Boori (Monty) Pryor: presented by Mooroolbark Umbrella Group. 7:30 pm MCC. Gold coin donation. See p.4
4 December	Yarra Valley Singers: 2pm MCC. Tickets \$15/ concession \$10
17 & 18 December	Melbourne Welsh Male Choir: MCC. Tickets \$15/ concession \$10.

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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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)

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 to living.today.mooroolbark@gmail.com

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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