



CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGE



Vic Greenaway

Carols by Candlelight

Last year's Christmas Eve at the Rotunda, under the festive lights, proved to be such an enjoyable event for the whole community that the B.U.A. is planning to repeat it this year.

The Rotunda area will once again be transformed by the brightly coloured lights and the combined voices of the residents, celebrating the festive occasion with all the warmth and friendship that a community such as this can offer. The Primary School will present a children's choir together with a guitar and recorder group, and Ross Hales will provide the musical accompaniment for the carol singing with a much improved sound system, ensuring that everyone will be able to hear what is going on.

Father Christmas

Yes, this jolly old fellow will be with us again and will begin his rounds in the fire truck, along with his trusty helpers, at 7.45 p.m. on Christmas Eve, stopping firstly at Grant Court. His second stop will be at the intersection of Burton Road, Stoney Creek Road and Young Street at 8.00 p.m. From there he will proceed to the vacant block just before Paul Grove, arriving at 8.15 p.m., and then go on to the Rotunda, in the centre of the Village, at 8.30 p.m.

I am sure he is looking forward once more to all the boys and girls of Upper Beaconsfield gathering around him at the various stopping points. He will have lots of goodies and Christmas cheer to share around with all. The carol singing will then begin at 9.00 o'clock.

SO PLEASE REMEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE VILLAGE :

Santa's rounds followed by

Carols by Candlelight at the Rotunda -

- a wonderful way to share Christmas Festivities with friends and neighbours -

- DON'T FORGET YOUR CANDLES -



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THE SATIN FLYCATCHER

John Reid



The Grey Fantail and Willie Wagtail are two well-known members of the Flycatcher family. They are very active insect-eating birds and both are common in our area. Not as common is the Satin Flycatcher, which occurs here as a Spring and Summer migrant and can be seen in the more heavily wooded parts of our local bush until about March.

The male is similar to the Willie Wagtail, but is a little smaller. It is black above and white below, with the throat also black. In good light the dark feathers have a blue sheen. The female is quite different, being grey above and white below, with an orange throat.

Early in November a male bird was seen in the Chambers Reserve on Bourke Creek Road. As it moved from one branch to another it called frequently - a combination of scratchy insect-like sounds and a musical two-note whistle. While calling, the feathers on the top of its head were often raised in a crest. Another distinctive feature of this bird, and its close relative the Leaden Flycatcher, is its habit of rapidly shaking or shivering its tail.

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CONSERVE THAT WATER

Ms. Compost

After the driest winter and spring for years, and an early summer, we have finally received some rain but not enough to fill our dams and water restrictions seem inevitable. Here are a few ways to help conserve water. Prune all plants that have finished flowering to reduce the demand placed on the root systems. Soak shrubs and plants well before and after feeding as natural damp does not always reach the roots and they can be damaged. Pull out all weeds as they use valuable moisture. And mulch, mulch, mulch! This retains moisture, keeps soil temperature more constant and prevents weed growth.

Recommended mulches include leaf litter, pine bark, compost or peat moss, all of which benefit the soil as they rot and allow rain to percolate through and prevent run-off on hard ground.

A good soaking once or twice a week is preferable to a sprinkle every day as the latter never soaks in and only draws roots to the surface.

It is a busy time now with many seeds and seedlings to plant and look after and also crops to harvest and freeze. Fresh peas and broad beans have been a delight and strawberries are well on the way. Lettuce, cabbage, and silver beet are going to seed in the unseasonable heat but mere can still be planted.

It is unfortunate that Christmas and the busiest time in the garden come together.

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BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY

2nd FEBRUARY, 1983 Jeanette Ballinger

B.U.A. Constitution : 'Section 7, General Meeting -

- a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in the month of February of each year. Notice of such meeting shall be notified by mail to all financial members at least 14 days prior to the date of meeting.'

We are giving all our members and the community plenty of notice this year and would be delighted to receive many nominations for office-bearers. Nomination forms will be available at the Post Office and should be returned there 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, or given to the Secretary, Mrs. Laura Levens.

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BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP MEETING AND PARTY.

Wednesday, 1st December, 1982, 7.45 - At the Village Hall.

7.45 p.m. Minutes and Correspondence available

8.00 p.m. Meeting begins - Formalities to be kept to a minimum.

A number of matters of interest & importance will be brought up for discussion, including:

Re-cycling - Bottle Depot

Brennan's Estate Firebreak Plans

Christmas Decorations & Celebrations

Short Reports from sub-committees on -

Youth Club/B.M.X., Hillview Quarries,

Citizen of the Year, Village Fair 1983.

As early as possible : Drinks and eats for the Christmas Season.

(COME ALONG - AND PLEASE BRING A PLATE)

B.U.A. NOTES : Hopefully the small attendance at the last public meeting was a sign of quiet time for the B.U.A. and a shortage of the year's low-key activities and discussions. However, one or two matters require more public airing than they have been given.

RE-CYCLING - BOTTLE DEPOT - The present site for the dumping of bottles will be discontinued as a re-cycling depot at the end of the year. This decision has been made by the Pakenham Council on the basis of the proximity of the site to residents. A number of sites for re-locating the bottle depot with facilities for re-cycling other materials have been considered, but a suitable place has not been agreed upon. The Scouts depend on the re-cycling of bottles as their main income. There has not been a rush of volunteers wanting the depot close to their homes. A new depot would be more attractive and more easily protected from vandalism. You may have some interest in, or suggestions on, this issue.

BRENNAN'S ESTATE FIREBREAK - Responding to requests from residents and Fire Brigade officials, the Council plans to put in a 20-metre-wide firebreak around the Estate, at a cost of some \$7,000. There is an obvious need for an adequate fire break facility and more ready access to the bush area along Stoney Creek. These needs must be balanced against the need to preserve the environment from excessive damage. You may want to share your interest in this matter.

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VILLAGE BELL

Masthead : Graeme & Sheila Kidd
Printing : Matt McDonald, Ken Ballinger
Editor : Jane Holth
Typing : Joyce Attreed, Gail Bailey, Gilda Hansen,
Margaret Mackenzie, Elva Ratcliff
Collating : C.W.A. Woorinyan Branch
Deadline for Next Issue : 14th January 1983 at the Post Office. A
Special Thanks to Peter Deering for printing the first two pages.

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** GARAGE SALE : Saturday, 4th December - Further details on Fire Brigade Notice Board at the General Store.

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RESULTS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON POSSIBLE RE-ZONING OF THE HILLVIEW QUARRIES LAND

Graeme Kidd

We present below the results of the survey carried out in September to assess community opinion on the question of a possible re-zoning of the Hillview Quarries land off Leppitt Road.

The total number of households responding was 672. The responses shown below represent the percentage who answered 'YES' to each part of a question. (Where the total for a question doesn't add up to 100 per cent, the balance is the 'No opinion' response.)

	<u>Response</u>
Q. 1 <u>Which do you consider more important</u>	
a) preservation of the conservation area	91%
b) quarrying of the stone deposit, on the site	5%
c) no opinion.	4%
Q. 2 <u>In deciding an appropriate use for this land, should Council</u>	
a) accept the majority view of residents/ratepayers who live near the area	72%
b) accept the majority view of residents/ratepayers throughout the Shire	21%
c) make up its own mind	6%
Q. 3 <u>If there was no clearly demonstrated demand for stone products for at least 10 years, (say), would you</u>	
a) favour retention of the conservation zoning?	82%
b) favour a re-zoning now which recognised that a quarry might be established in the future, but which would require a further re-zoning at a later time to actually allow quarrying?	13%
c) favour a re-zoning now which would allow quarrying at any time in the future?	4%
Q. 4 <u>In setting conditions (e.g. on access routes, noise & traffic control, final use of site, compensation, etc.) which could lead to a possible re-zoning, should Council</u>	
a) negotiate only with Hillview Quarries?	2%
b) negotiate only with residents/ratepayers?	35%
c) negotiate equally with both parties?	61%
Q. 5 <u>If there was no clear need for a new quarry in the Shire in the near future, do you think it would be reasonable for Council to negotiate with Hillview Quarries to find another quarrying site in a less conservation-sensitive area?</u>	Yes 83% No 14%

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The response to the first question clearly indicates that the overwhelming majority of those who responded consider that retention of the conservation area is of major concern. This is reflected further in the response to Q. 3 in which 95 per cent favour retention of the conservation zoning or at most a re-zoning now which recognises that a quarry might be established in the future. A mere 4 per cent believe that the area should be re-zoned now to permit quarrying. Likewise it is significant that just 2 per cent of households felt that the Council should negotiate only with Hillview on conditions which could lead to a possible re-zoning. And yet these are the very actions that Council is pursuing. It would seem that Council is not realising its responsibility to represent the views of its ratepayers. A vast majority of respondents have indicated that they feel they should be involved in making the decision as to what use the land should be put - perhaps now is the time for Council to start talking with its ratepayers.

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NEW RESIDENTS : A warm welcome is extended to the following :

- Salisbury Road : Richard & Jennifer PRICE Lenne Road : Graham & Janice GEORGE
- Stoney Creek Road : Sharon FIRMAN Lewis Road : Peter & Michelle FRY

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TENNIS CLUB

Christmas Break-up, Sunday, 19th December - Members please note the Break-up is at 12 noon - B.Y.O, meat and salad. There is a list in the Club House for the Social Tournament to follow the B.B.Q. Father Christmas will be there for the kids.

Emerald vs Upper Beaconsfield at Emerald Tennis Club, Sunday, 23rd January, 1983 -Annual Tournament and B.B.Q.

People interested place names on list in Club House. The limit is 12 men and 12 ladies from Upper Beaconsfield.

New Members - If interested in joining club Please contact :

Peter Durkin (059) 443 765 or Tony Lange (059) 443 723

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Don Colles, St. Georges Road

Re : Edition No. 26

Your Foot Road correspondent's letter complaining of lack of access through the Red Hill Road gate to M.M.B.W. parkland deserves support.

Local residents should be able to use the park without travelling 6 kilometres to Wellington Road entrance.

The M.M.B.W. plan was to leave the gate open, however the Shire of Pakenham suspected extra traffic would be generated, especially on Red Hill Road, and suggested the M.M.B.W. assist in maintenance. As the M.M.B.W. was unable to commit funds the gate remains closed.

Perhaps a pedestrian gate would be in order.

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VILLAGE FAIR 1983

Sheila Kidd

Preparations are now underway for the next Village Fair which will be held on Saturday, 19th March, 1983.

In the tradition of all past Village Fairs the planning committee hopes this will be another enjoyable day where the local community can meet together and participate in the various events.

The Parade will take place as usual, and local organisations, families and streets are asked to decorate floats, trailers, cars - anything on wheels -and take part in the procession which will commence at 11.00 a.m. If you happen to own a horse-drawn vehicle you can enter that too.

Anyone wishing to hold a stall at the Fair (for a charge of \$5.00) should contact Murray Erwin (443 737).

A Grand Raffle and other entertainments are planned, more information about that later.

Sponsors are needed - can you help in any way by a donation or gift as a prize? Contact C. Wilson 443 404.

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YAKKERBOO

Joyce Bumpstead

Any girls wishing to enter next year's Yakkerboo Princess Quest should start clueing up on their local and general knowledge - a good start is the Shire's Handbook. The Yakkerboo Princess will take part in the Queen of Yakkerboo contest held in Pakenham in March. Girls must be 16 by 31st January, 1983.

For more details, see the next Bell, or ring Joyce Bumpstead on 443 298 or Dot Pockett on 443 506.

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BEACONSFIELD UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pat Finn.

BONFIRE: Our recent bonfire was a great success both financially and as a spectacle. Such an event is becoming increasingly hard to stage due to the tightening of restrictions on fireworks. Many thanks to Stan Hamilton for his fireworks display -it was most spectacular,

The fire brigade is to be congratulated on their excellent organisation for without their help the bonfire would be impossible to arrange.

A special thank-you goes to Malcolm Graham who worked extremely hard to ensure that the bonfire was a success. We also thank all the willing helpers who were "on duty" during the evening and the next morning. The sum of \$472 was raised by the Mothers' Club and the School Committee made \$1378.

INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS: The annual Athletic Sports were held recently at Doveton. A great day was had by all and the ladies who gave up their day to score were greatly appreciated. There was no winning school but our children performed very well. This seems to reflect on the worth of the Daily Fitness Programme introduced by Ken Wynd. Perfect scores were gained by Wade Beckwith, Brendan Poulton and Anthony Stevens. We also had placings in most of the Championship Events. Megan Hiam won the Grade 5 girls 100 metres and Paul Pfeifer won the Grade 6 Boys 100 metres. Congratulations to all children and teachers on a mighty effort.

EXCURSIONS TO GIPPSLAND: The children of Grades 4 to 6 were involved in a Vicrail Tour to East Gippsland. The tour is appropriately named The Train of Knowledge. We all had a wonderful time participating in activities as varied as cave exploring and boating. This tour was the best educational experience with which I have been associated. Seasons greetings to all from staff and pupils of B.U.P.S.

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BEACONSFIELD UPPER RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

George Silberbauer.

Upper Beaconsfield has had an average of two fires a week since the beginning of spring. Quite obviously, the fire season has arrived at least two months early. Even though our weather is pretty quirkish and cranky, there is no longer a realistic hope for good rains before the end of summer. Therefore the prospect for the next three or four months is one of more frequent and more severe fires. As dams and water tanks run dry there is less and less water available for fighting those fires. This all means that the dice are loaded rather more than is usual in favour of you and/ or your property being involved in a fire.

During Fire Prevention Week the brigade arranged an evening of films and talks on how to lessen the risk, of fire and what to do if it does break out. We were glad to see the school children who came but, despite good publicity, only three adults attended; does this mean that the community is responding to an increasingly bad fire season by leaving planning and prevention in the hands of the children? That's probably carrying it a bit far for, in planning the action you will take in the event of a fire, it is, of course, vitally important to make sure that the children understand the plan thoroughly and are capable of playing their part in its execution.

Fire restrictions will almost certainly come into force earlier than usual this year. At present the most probable date is Friday, 3rd December.

Fight ladies are presently undergoing training as firefighters. Another course will be held in 1983. Men who want instructions are welcome to attend the regular training sessions at 9.30 a.m. on Sunday mornings at the fire station.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD PONY CLUB

Graeme Robertson.

The Pony Club has had a successful year in regard to results and membership.

Membership now stands at forty (40) and will not be increased in the foreseeable future, mostly due to the limited area and facilities available at the Recreation Reserve. Any person wishing to join will be put on the waiting list. For further information, ring 443458.

Members have represented their club well and have had successes in dressage, show jumping (participating in the State Championships), one-day events and shows during the year.

Monthly theory nights have once again proved their worth in the number of passes and certificates gained.

An aspiring junior committee has been involved in inviting instructors and in arranging the type of instruction and events at rallies as well as in organizing the Christmas gymkhana to be held on Saturday, 4th December.

A special thank you must go to our instructors for a good and enthusiastic year's work.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD BROWNIES AND GIRL GUIDES

Margaret Cummings.

At present 46 girls are enjoying the activities of Brownies and Guides. One activity has been selling biscuits as part of the World Association for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts week to raise money for the building of a new Guiding Centre in London (Olave House).

Several of the Brownies and Guides participated in a Fun Day at Koronga Park in Dandenong.

1st Brownie Pack, led by Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Schroeders, welcomed five new recruits recently to bring their number to fifteen. Parents and friends attended the promise ceremony. Their meeting time has been changed to after school on Tuesdays at the Village Hall. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the hike on 23rd November, but there were many weary legs at the end of it.

2nd Brownie Pack had three girls make their Promise on 10th November, to make a full pack. As leaders, Mrs. McSwan and Mrs. Toon led the girls on a night hike down St. Georges Road. All the Brownies have participated in cooking activities over the last few weeks and many are involved in achieving badges.

The Guides, Mrs. Archibald and members of the Local Association extend their congratulations to Mrs. Dale (and Mr. Dale) on the birth of their son. Mrs. Dale has been missed as one of our leaders and we hope to see her back soon.

The fourteen Guides are participating in the eight point programme, which covers unit and individual challenges. Unit activities have included orienteering, camp-fire-cooking, card-making, printing, keeping fit, hand crafts, cooking and hiking.

A trip to the Rebound Gym for a swim and sauna was enjoyed by all. The sleep-over at the Church Hall on Cup Eve was a highlight for the girls. They thought it was great fun, but Mrs. Archibald and Mrs. McSwan (the two leaders) looked quite bleary-eyed on Tuesday morning.

The Brownies, Guides, leaders and members of the Local Association wish our District Commissioner, Dorothy Halliday, all the best and extend our thanks for all her good work, as she retires from this post at the end of the year.

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THE VILLAGE BELL EDITORS AND HELPERS WISH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Film Group: We are now in the last stage of our programme for 1982 and should break even by the end of it.

Adult Films: As we were very disappointed with the response to an adult film night early in the year we cancelled two others scheduled for later as we are at risk financially if serious losses are incurred.

1983: The committee consisting of Rob Hansen, Norm Wilson, Ray Johnson and Murray Erwin will soon decide the films for next year. There is more to ordering films than one would imagine. Many popular titles are booked well in advance. Others are withdrawn for various reasons, so it is essential that an extensive list be submitted. The ordering of films so far in advance also creates the risk of a film appearing on television before we screen it.

Ratings: The ratings given to films are confusing in many respects. The reason for the rating is not explained and the N.R.C. rating varies considerably in its application. Therefore, unless one of the committee has previewed the film, we take a chance on some titles. Our audience remains basically the 10 to 13 year olds and as many parents are wary of N.R.C, ratings our attendances have varied significantly.

Many thanks to the committee for their hard work during the year, and to the B.U.A. for their support and patience. The seasons greetings are extended to all our regular patrons and the community.

Recently the Youth Club has been active in the following areas:-

B.M.X: At our most recent race meeting held on Sunday 14th November we again catered for approximately 10 competitors and their parents. Despite the unusual heat, competition was keen and a successful day was had by all. Results of the racing are too numerous to list but were printed in the Emerald Gazette.

We are pleased to have been associated with the Emerald B.M.x. Club in running B.M.X. meetings on our track. Support for monthly meetings has been encouraging. A special thanks to Pam Pascoe from Emerald for her hard work in these ventures. We wish Emerald success in their efforts to construct a B.M.X. track and look forward to visiting their meetings.

During the School Holidays we may attempt to conduct a B.M.X. meeting in January as a service to mums who run out of activities for their children. Watch the Community Notice Board near the General Store. Posters and entry forms will be placed in our three shops (ie Guys Hill, The Milk Bar, The General Store). Another activity will be considered and this will probably be ice skating or roller skating. We may provide free bus transport. See the Community Notice Board and the three shops for information.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD: For some time the Upper Beaconsfield Association has recognised the need for a central board available to clubs etc in our area. The Youth Club will help the Association with this project and Alan Blackwell and Peter Willis are working on it. Hopefully it will be erected on the median strip near the General Store by the time you read this. We aim to put a yearly planner on this board so that clubs etc can co-ordinate their functions to minimise clashes of interest. One of the first notices will be details of how to use the facility.

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UPPER BEAC. HALL AND BOTTLE DEPOT

Ross Hales

Negotiations are under way between Scout Group Committee, Shire of Pakenham and the Hall Committee concerning extensions to the Hall. The larger Hall will be a great help to Scouts and Cubs and everyone else who uses it. Pakenham Shire Council have agreed to assist in financing the project and we are most grateful for this generous support.

The Bottle Re-cycling Depot in Salisbury Road has been given an extensive clean-up and is in ship-shape order awaiting your next delivery. The Pakenham Shire has announced the closure of the Salisbury Road site on 31 December and negotiations for a more satisfactory place are nearly complete. Income from the bottles is vital to our Scouts and the Group Committee is looking forward to your continued support.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE AUXILIARY

Dot Pockett

President	Dot Pockett	44 3506
Vice-President	Jennie Kerr	(03) 707 4325
Secretary	Joyce Attreed	44 3975
Assistant Secretary	Nancy Boura	44 3632
Treasurer	Terry Milligan	44 3263

The sale of rags provides a useful source of income for the Auxiliary. If you have any rags or unwanted clothing at any time, please contact one of the committee above, or Beryl Hamilton on 443531 or Amy Crosbie at the Primary School.

The fire brigade dance was a great success and \$600 was raised for the purchase of brigade equipment.

The Auxiliary meets on the last Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m. in the meeting room at the Fire Station (no meeting in December). New members would be most welcome.

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COUNTRY WOMENS' ASSOCIATION

Gwen Judd, President

The Upper Beaconsfield day branch held their annual meeting on the 14th October. Office bearers for 1982-83 are:-

President	Mrs. Gwen Judd	44 3556
Secretary	Mrs. Margaret Hill	(03) 707 4681
Treasurer	Mrs. Terry Milligan	44 3263

Our Christmas meeting will be held at the Public Hall in Salisbury Road on Thursday 2nd December, Lunch is at 12.00 and a short meeting will follow. Visitors are welcome.

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ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Lois Maghanoy

Parish Camp: A family camp will be held on 4th and 5th December at Cowes. For information, contact Barry Medwin 44 3551 or Vicarage 41 1013.

Carol Service: The traditional carol service at St. John's will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 19th December, and include a singing and dancing group who will also perform afterwards in the Fellowship Centre.

Christmas services: St. John's and St. James' combine on Christmas Eve for a Christmas pageant in St. James' at 11.00 p.m. The service is followed by the Midnight Eucharist. Be early for a seat!

St. John's -- Christmas Day, Holy Communion 9.30 a.m.

St. James' - Christmas Day, Holy Communion 8.00 a.m.

Note of Appreciation: We thank the community for their excellent support of our parish fete.

Sir Frank Woods: Sir Frank, a parishioner and patron of Beaconhills Christian College, has suffered a leg injury after being hit by a tram. We ask your prayerful support for his speedy recovery.

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KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Pam Harrison

The Kindergarten fete will be held on Friday, 3rd December from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. There will be games, stalls and lucky dip, so please come along.

3 Year Old Pre-School Services at Risk

The committee has received a series of letters over the past few months from the relevant State Government minister and the opposition shadow minister, indicating that the government is unlikely to be able to preserve the current (1982) funding level of 3 year old pre-school education by a qualified teacher.

The committee has established a sub-committee to examine the situation and to seek the local community's opinions on the level of 3 year old services actually desired, and the ability of parents to meet the costs 1983/4 involved if the government withdraws its current level of funding.

BERWICK LEISURE CENTRE

Tony Campbell

The Berwick Leisure Centre has been open for just on one and a half years during which its activities have slowly been broadened as more people become aware of its existence. The programming of classes attempts to fulfil the needs of the community, so if there is something you would like to learn please do not hesitate to contact the centre on 707 3371 or visit it in Manuka Road (next to the Berwick High School). Alternatively, if you have a skill which you would be willing to pass on to others, please contact us.

We attempt to achieve a blending of both physical and craft activities each term, in the term just completed these included patchwork, lead and stained glass, soap making, and an introduction to Victorian native plants, and alternative building as well as various cooking classes. Some of the most popular classes which run each term include aerobics classes on Monday evenings at 7. p.m., Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m., and Tuesday/Thursday mornings at 10.30 a.m; guitar classes for beginners to advanced; introductory gymnastics; and boys' Olympic gymnastics from beginners to the advanced.

A number of different sports can be participated in at the centre. Badminton is held on Monday nights; girls' gymnastics on Tuesday nights; netball on Wednesday nights; women's basketball on Thursday nights; and men's basketball on Sunday nights.

The centre runs a number of functions such as discos, film nights, and live bands, which are advertised through the schools and local press. Social functions of any size are catered for also. The centre is available for hire by any group and all enquiries are welcomed.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD BASKETBALL CLUB

Matt McDonald

Another season of mixed fortune is drawing to a close for the U.B.B.C. Both club teams transferred for the winter season to the Berwick Leisure Centre, and have been pleased with the new venue and the organization of the competition. Wives are not unanimous in their enthusiasm for the Sunday night games, and the early game (4.20) can ruin one or two Sunday afternoons.

Glen Rutherford's boys will have to battle out the finals and have an even chance of taking out a premiership. The second side may be there too... as spectators.

Two men's sides and one women's side will be entered for the summer competition. Men or women interested in playing International Rules Basketball could contact Glen Rutherford on 443 760, or Chris Beaver on 443 882.

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PAKENHAM SHIRE CITIZEN ADVICE BUREAU

Main Street
Pakenham
Tel. 412 377

Hours - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Remember the volunteers at the bureau receive regular updating of information relating to health, legal aid, employment, social and welfare services, taxation, education, and leisure and recreation. They will also advise you on applications for Housing Commission houses and Housing Co-op finance, and have information on a veterinary insurance plan for cats and dogs.

From 1st September the law has been changed for road accident towing in the metropolitan area. To call a tow-truck operator, ring 546 4000 (free call).

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SCOUTS.

David Curtis.

On behalf of the 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout, Troop together with 3rd Pakenham Scout Troop on being co-holders of the Pakenham Lions Club Camp Craft Standard Award. The trophy, in the form of a perpetual shield, is awarded on camping standards, with the emphasis on making the most of the available equipment and site.

The Award competition is incorporated in the Toomuc District Annual Scout Camp held on 12, 13 and 14 November at Gilwell Park, Gembrook.

Upper Beaconsfield also won the Gateway Competition. The theme of this event is to enhance the character of the site with a novelty or constructed gateway.

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BERWICK LEGACY WIDOWS' CLUB.

John Bellair.

As well as from Berwick, the club draws its members from Narre Warren, Hallam, Beaconsfield, Guys Hill, Upper Beaconsfield and Emerald.

The attendance at monthly meetings is growing, which of course, has a sad side to it, but the club offers companionship to members, and speakers give interesting talks and demonstrations. Sometimes the meetings take the form of a picnic. The October meeting, for example, was held at the Cardinia Dam, and a barbecue with chops and sausages preceded the official business. There are always two or three Legatees at meetings, so the widows have someone to whom to turn for advice if they need it.

Regular cinema luncheons are organised, and recently Members saw "The Man from Snowy River" at the Waverley Cinema.

Members of Legacy have the privilege of caring for the widows and children of deceased comrades and we try to keep our widows living in their own homes as long as possible. This means helping to keep their homes in good repair, especially in the less affluent parts of the Dandenong/West Gippsland Group area, which stretches from Springvale to beyond Lang Lang. This policy is known as domiciliary care. Many widows have loving families, but some do not.

Legacy was founded in Melbourne 59 years ago by Lieut.-General Sir Stanley Savage, a Gippslander himself, and now covers all of Australia with a branch in London to care for Australian widows of ex-servicemen in the United Kingdom.

I hope this information will be of interest especially to the many generous people in the district who contribute each year to our funds.

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VENTURERS.

John Field.

The five boys forming the unit are progressing well, each having gained the Venturer Badge which gives them the opening to eventually gaining their Queen's Scout Award.

At the start of November we went on a two-day hike to the Wonnangatta Valley. We unfortunately did not reach our objective, but the boys all gained valuable experience in the bush.

The unusually dry weather this year caused the cancellations of two other outdoor activities - cross country skiing (no snow) and a white water canoeing course (not enough water). Hopefully these events will be held next year.

Don't forget, anyone interested in joining the unit, that we meet every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room.

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THE PUBLISHERS OF THE "VILLAGE BELL" WISH ALL U.B.'S A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

* * * * *

THE DEWHURST PROGRESS ASSOCIATION Diana Rocke, Roy Harris, John Milligan

Through the kindness of Mr. John Murrell of the Pakenham Shire Office, we have been lent some records of the vanished village of Dewhurst. One of these records is the Scrap Book of the Dewhurst Progress Association covering the period 1955 to 1966. The Progress Association presumably dated from 1923, as the first item in the book is a photo of the hall, commemorating the Association's 15th anniversary on 10 September, 1938. A press cutting comments that all members arrived by horse at the first meeting, whereas at this reunion they all came by car.

An early entry is an account of a wedding between Joyce Shelley of Scottsdale, Tasmania, a descendant of the poet, and Pieter Van Der Val, who had recently emigrated from Haarlem, Holland. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Pearce Barber of Dandenong, in the small Methodist Church; it was the first wedding reception to be held in the hall. A committee of Dewhurst residents (Mesdames Holt; Moore, Peart, Pratt, Wade and Wilson) had taken special pains to decorate the church and to provide a wedding breakfast as a gesture to the Dutch newcomers to the community.

A cutting dated 7 November, 1956 records the resignation of the Secretary of the Association, Mr. J. George Lewis, then aged over 80, who came to live locally in the year 1900, long before Beaconsfield North changed its name to Dewhurst. Lewis Road was, of course, named after him in 1959.

In a cutting from the Dandenong Journal of 6th February, 1957 we read, "District Firefighters Proclaim the Merits of Wireless." For three days the local brigades had fought bushfires in the Emerald-Dewhurst area, assisted for the first time by radio telephone. Transmission was from the base at Upper Beaconsfield, to helmet earphones on the Gembrook, Upper Beaconsfield and Upper Pakenham fire-trucks. These mobile sets were constructed in his own time, and without monetary reward, by Mr. Larry Osborne (who incidentally is still associated with the fire-fighting radio communications, having kept them up to date with the rapid advances in technology).

On 11 February, 1959 the press recorded the destruction by fire of "Bimbimbi", described as "a mansion", and the home of Mr. Pat Clancy. The building stood to the east of the present road to Emerald, near the junction with Lewis Road, in a 404 acre estate. Bimbimbi Road was recently constructed in that area. The house was one of Victoria's first "pre-fabs", brought out from England in a sailing ship by Dr. Louis L. Smith, and called by him "Louisville". The blaze began in a kerosine refrigerator, and the flames had a firm hold on the old building before the brigade arrived. Dr. L. L. Smith, besides being a medical man, was a local landowner and a State politician, and deserves a small biography of his own possibly in the near future.

* * * * *

IN THE WAKE OF THE PACK TRACKS.

John Milligan

A history of the former Berwick Shire, commissioned by the Councils of the City of Berwick and the Shire of Pakenham, and compiled by members of the Berwick-Pakenham Historical Society, is expected to be on sale in a few weeks. Look for announcements in the local press and the next Bell.

* * * * *

MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE.

Tel. 688 146
McBride Street
Cockatoo

A physiotherapist now attends the service - please ring for an appointment. The nursing staff have prepared a book, "Nursing Care of Common Disorders", which is now available from the Centre at a cost of \$2.00.

* * * * *

A TREK TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Ray Ratcliff

Having enjoyed a "Red Centre" camping safari to Darwin in 1981, Elva and I decided that we had better do a similar trek through Western Australia this year before we got "too old and decrepit" to cope with it. We chose a 25-day trip which covered 10.700 kilometres.

After flying to Darwin we met up with the Safari coach tour in a caravan park and proceeded on our "travelling circus" next morning at 6 a.m., heading for Katherine Gorge which was familiar from the 1981 trip.

Then off to the Kimberleys, camping at Kununurra and flying over the Ord River Scheme-including the huge Lake Argyle. This immense water storage in a hot arid countryside is teeming with potential which seems so far to be largely untapped. While camped at Kununurra, we saw many large "V" formation flights of Magpie Geese in the morning heading over towards the experimental irrigation farming areas - and we got some glimmer of the size of the natural problems which have beset early attempts to grow rice and other crops on a large scale.

Off again through Hall's Creek and Fitzroy Crossing where we diverted to Geikie Gorge. This is a superb feature with very unusual limestone walls and lovely trees and wild life along a glassy smooth river. Here in the "Wet" the river rises some 15 metres. Therefore in December and January the National Park has to be put into mothballs and everything removable - signs, ramp, bins, posts, Mats, jetties - are taken on a "semi" to safety until March or April when the Park opens for visitors again.

On the whole trip we had many highlights including the beautiful jasper deposits in the Marble Bar National Park, the lush irrigated area near Carnarvon contrasting with the arid country north of it, the magnificent gorges of the Hamersley National Park, the wild flowers which were in their prime in the areas south of Perth, and then the big timber forest in the south towards Albany. The large sections of arid near-desert through which we passed gave us some concept of the size of our country - and some appreciation of the hardships of the people who live and work in the far north-west of Australia. The other strong impression was one of great admiration for the early settlers who opened up the far north - who drove cattle, carted household goods, building materials, everything needed to survive in a hot, dry country which was without roads or maps, to say nothing of air conditioning or refrigeration.

After camping for 25 days it was good to be home to have a comfortable bed and a good cup of tea, rare and important commodities on such an excursion.

* * * * *

DINING IN HIGH STYLE

Jane Holth.

Prawns, lobsters, oysters and fine wines - just part of a five-course sit-down feast served recently at about 700 metres above sea level in the heart of the Victorian Alps to Tor Holth from Upper Beaconsfield, Captain Mark Phillips of Princess Anne fame, and about fifty members of the press. A master chef from Toorak prepared the fare, and followed it up the next morning with croissants and French toast for breakfast and chicken and champagne for lunch.

The dinner, however, was the highlight of a rough country drive organised by Leyland Australia to Wonnangatta Valley to display the attributes of their 4-wheel drive vehicles. Tor was invited as a raconteur of the local history and tall tales and to talk and ride horses with Mark.

As a seasoned mountain traveller Tor is more accustomed to spinning yarns around a camp fire over a pannikin of tea and a camp oven roast. Nevertheless, yarns and tall stories abounded until the early hours of the morning, and Tor returned to Upper Beaconsfield refreshed and inspired after a weekend where the word "recession" was, presumably, taboo.

* * * * *

LOST:- At the Fire Brigade Dance 16th October, 1 pair reading glasses, flesh coloured frames. Please contact Joyce Bumpstead 44-3298

* * * * *

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BEACONHILLS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Jane Holth

Nearly \$600 was raised recently for the Beaconhills Christian College through a fashion parade and mouth-watering three-course lunch organised by Rosemary Ballantyne from Upper Beaconsfield, Lyn Tivendale from Officer, Joel Hoskings from Berwick, and Barbara Birch from Bunyip.

The parade was held at Seven Oaks in Pakenham by courtesy of the owner, Mrs. Alison Cotton-Stapleton. About 60 ladies enjoyed a preview of the summer's fashions provided by Pol Boutique of Berwick. The models were ladies from the area - Sue Stott, Mary O'Doherty, Stella, Roz and Leanne Montague, Nan Gleeson and staff of Pol.

A SNOWY CHRISTMAS

Jane Holth

If you are sweltering over a hot turkey this Christmas think of Dr. Fiona Fullerton, daughter of Mrs. Nell Fullerton of a'Beckett Rd., who is snowbound in India. Fiona is working in a small hospital in Leh, a refugee village for Tibetans north of the Himalayas. Temperatures reach minus 47C in winter and the village is snowbound until February.

BEACONSFIELD UPPER TRADES & SERVICES DIRECTORY

Charges \$5 per box per issue, \$25 per box per year (6 issues).

Contact Jan Rutherford (44 3760) or Ray Ratcliff at Post Office.

(Number in brackets indicates future paid-up advertisements on special rate.)

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