



The Village Bell

No. 30 4th March, 1983

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LET'S GET TOGETHER

Let's get together at the V.E.C. (Cnr. Split Rock & Emerald Rd., Upper Beaconsfield).

FRIDAY, MARCH 4th - 7.30 P.M. - NO CHARGE

The "UPPER BEAC DIXIELAND JAZZ BAND" (Geoff Lord) will entertain.

CHILDREN'S FUN AND GAMES - CLOWNS

This should be a good night for the family and a chance to talk out our troubles.

See you there.

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DISPLAN

PERSONAL SERVICES HELP

Trevor Williams

The Department of Community Welfare Services and the Displan Personal Support Committee have gathered a team of folk who will make contact with you next week.

They are there to listen and help if you need it. You can set the pace. Each visitor will have some bits of information that you may want to know about and will be able to help you through the maze of red tape - compensation forms etc.

The visitors are ordinary folk (not experts) and are simply there to help. Your conversations will be treated with the strictest confidence.

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Make them welcome. The visitor team is there to help you and your local community to "get it all together" again. They will wear an identity tag so that you won't confuse them with the other "odd bods" who may be about.

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VILLAGE FAIR

A Village Fair will be held this year but with a changed format. As the resources of many contributing businesses and organizations are strained to the limit, the Fair Committee has decided that a FAMILY PICNIC DAY will be held on Saturday March 19th in place of the traditional Fair.

Families are invited to bring a picnic lunch between 12.30 and 3.00 p.m. and enjoy a variety of entertainment. There will be a free Lucky Ticket Draw for the following prizes:

- Gas Barbecue
- Set of Stainless Steel Saucepans
- Hair Care by "Odette" of Berwick

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INFO FOR VILLAGE BELL

Mandy Splatt, Shire Social Worker

1. From Wednesday 2nd March all \$1,000 Displan Grants will be available from the Department of Community Welfare Services ONLY at their Dandenong Office, 6th Floor, 280 Thomas St., Dandenong (Tel. 03 791 5244). This Grant is available to those people whose homes were destroyed, or who have lost their source of income in the fires.
2. The Department of Community Welfare Services also has small cash grants available for those people who need immediate cash assistance.
3. The Department of Social Security will no longer be present at the Hall. All enquiries should be directed to the Dandenong Office of Social Security, 294 Thomas Street, Dandenong (Telephone 03 797 5777).
4. The Infant Welfare Centre is open as usual, 9.00 a.m. -12 noon and 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Mondays.
5. The Gippsland Bush Fire Relief Fund has money available to those families who have been burnt out to help with immediate needs. When Gippsland Bush Fire Fund personnel are unavailable see Mandy Splatt.
6. Showers are available at the Public Hall (24 hours) and at the Beacon Hills Golf Course.
7. Next Monday night (7th March) the Davis Cup Team (John Alexander, Pat Cash, Paul McNamee, Neil Fraser & Allan Stone) will give an exhibition and clinic at the Beaconsfield Tennis Club for children from families who have been burnt out ONLY.

The bus will leave from the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School at 4.40 p.m. picking up at Guys Hill Store at 4.50 p.m. Return by 7.30 p.m. Tennis shoes and rackets will be available at the Courts.
8. Please try and minimize power use on leads from temporary poles, as problems may arise with overuse.

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SHOWERS AND TOILETS

Graeme Kidd

As part of the emergency arrangements two caravans have been set at the Hall to provide shower and toilet facilities. The Ladies caravan we are told is quite well appointed: Those caravans are located at the side of the Hall near the tennis court and are available 24 hours a day. Feel free to use them.

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VOLUNTEERS

There will be a long term requirement to help out those who have lost their homes with, for example:

- child care
- transport
- laundry
- entertainment
- social support

If you are able to assist could you please drop in your name to the information centre at the Public Hall.

We already have some names and as help is needed this list will be gradually used.

For those who would like assistance of one form or another please don't hesitate to ask. If you have special needs or have ideas about how to help, let us know.

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FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL

The Upper Beaconsfield Association has received a donation of £50 towards the establishment of a Memorial to those Firefighters who so tragically lost their lives in Upper Beaconsfield.

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Our Fire injured

Dandenong Hospital, David St., Dandenong . . . Satisfactory condition and recovering

Mrs. Elizabeth Brain, Sutherland Road

Mrs. F. Jaekel, Lenne Street

Alan Orr, St. Georges Road

Alfred Hospital, Commercial Rd., Prahran , Satisfactory condition, resting in bed

Ann Fogarty, St. Georges Road

Sheila, Karen & Jane Griffiths, Harpfields Road

The thoughts and prayers of the whole community are with you.

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MEDICAL SERVICES

A temporary Medical Service has been set up at "Fassifern", A'Beckett Road, phone 443404. The surgery is staffed 24 hours a day by Dr. Wilson with the support of other doctors. Service is free.

If you have no oven in your Caravan would you like
to do some cooking at the hall ????

FURNITURE

Lenoar Gullquist

FURNITURE TO OFFER :- Do you or your friends have furniture to offer those burnt-out of their homes? If so, please leave it at home, as there is no secure storage space in the area, and ring the Upper Beaconsfield Hall on 443701 or 443318. Give your name, address, phone no, and details of the furniture available.

ITEMS MOST NEEDED AT THE MOMENT

Wardrobes, chests of drawers and cupboards with shelves.

I also believe that when people move into their caravans, there may be a need for a second fridge, as caravan fridges are often very small.

DO YOU NEED FURNITURE?

Please ring the Upper Beaconsfield Hall on 443701 or 443318, stating name, address, Disaster Reg. NO. and items needed, and the volunteers there will try and match you up with furniture offered.

Carriers may be able to be arranged from the list of volunteers offering transport.

THE SALTATION ARMY

They have taken over the Porsche Showrooms, Summitt Road (off Browns Road), Noble Park until September. Phone 7950000, 9.00 a.m - 5.00 p.m.

To get furniture free, people need to show their Disaster Registration Card. There is no carrier service at the moment, the "Salvos" only have a small amount of furniture - some tables and chairs, single beds, mattresses etc, linen, clothing, food, crockery and cutlery.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

They have some furniture, which they Hall. If there are a number of items arrange delivery.

are supplying through Upper Beaconsfield to be delivered in the area, they will

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANCE

Nick Griffin, architect and former resident of Upper Beaconsfield, is co-ordinating the Royal Australian Institute of Architects planning service for fire victims in this area. He has arranged to have a range of selected RAlA house plans displayed at the Hall this weekend. On Monday, 7 March, Nick will be available to discuss these, and if required make on-site inspections. If you wish to take advantage of this free service please contact him on 707 4777 to make an appointment.

The plans covered by this planning service cost \$50 each which includes a full set of working drawings. Alterations to these will be carried out at a standard drafting fee.

ABOUT TO REBUILD?

Paul Reid

A leaflet to help residents build houses better to withstand bushfires is now obtainable from the Shire's Building Office in Pakenham. Published in 1979, these "Notes on the Science of Building" (No. 154) prefer concrete floor slabs on ground, metal-deck roofs at low slope and the ability to close off all openings from sparks such as windows, chimneys, wall and roof vents. Instead of roof gutters, collection drains at ground level are suggested.

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DEBRIS CLEARING:-

John Murrell
Shire of Pakenham

The Shire of Pakenham in conduction with Berwick Service clubs and Ron Baldwins Veteran Runners are co-ordinating the clearance of debris from home sites burnt in the fires.

If your dwelling and outbuildings have been damaged or destroyed and assessment made by your insurance company, you should complete an authorisation which is available at the Upper Beaconsfield Public Hall or from the Shire Offices. This authorisation will then provide Council with advice that you wish your particular house site to be cleared.

If you are not insured the same debris clearing service will be provided by the Council.

To assist Council to identify your block please provide name and allotment particulars at the front of your property. (Signs are available at the Hall).

Council is presently concentrating on the clearance of house sites only at this stage to allow residents to get back onto their allotments and commence rebuilding. Further extended clearing will be dependant on government finance.

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BUYING CO-OPERATIVE

CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE

HOUSING CO-OPERATIVE

With the large number of families who will be re-establishing themselves in the area there could be considerable advantage in establishing one or other of these forms of Co-operative. If you have technical expertise in the running of a co-operative and would be willing to advise or assist in setting one up, could you please contact Graeme Kidd (443 400).

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HALL Telephone Numbers -
443 812 443 318
443 701 443 249
443 606

SHIRE CARAVAN (on Hall Site)
Telephone Numbers -
443 687 443 484
443 722

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STATE INSURANCE COMMISSION

John Murrell

The above Commission will be available at the Hall on MONDAY, MARCH 7TH, between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. This is a State Government Insurance troubleshooter service. They will help people who are dissatisfied with the action they are getting on their insurance.

Please make use of this service if you have any complaints or difficulties with your Insurance.

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DANDENONG VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY

Laura Levens

If your library card was burnt you are welcome to call at any of the library branches and collect a new card.

No charge will be made for books burnt in the fires.

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BIRDS AND FIRES

John Reid

In the wake of the bushfires, spare a thought for the native birds and animals that have lost their sources of food and shelter. While many birds seem to have survived the fires, there are already signs that numbers are dropping alarmingly. There is simply not enough food or unburned vegetation to support all the survivors. Some nomadic species may have left the area but other more "stay-put" kinds will die.

Residents can help by putting out food and water for the remaining birds. Containers of food should be well secured and placed in raised positions, and near a bush or overhanging tree, if possible. Bird's Porridge can be made from equal parts of dripping, honey, brose-meal (dried pea flour) and instant oats (see insert). A nectar substitute can be made by mixing 1 part honey to 10 parts water, dissolved gently over heat, but not boiled. This can be put out in a feeding bottle, or open container, but must be replaced daily.

Try throwing small pieces of cheese to small birds, and put out seed, eg, sunflower seeds or parrot mix for larger birds, and small seeds such as panikin for small finches.

Bread is not recommended, as it attracts the more aggressive species which will discourage the majority of smaller native birds. Please give some time to the local birds and animals, which add so much to the quality of life in Upper Beaconsfield.

Insert:- Melt dripping, remove from heat, add honey, brose meal and instant oats. Stir to a thick paste.

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WHERE ARE YOU?

With all the chaos of the past couple of weeks we seem to have lost contact with a number of families who have moved out of the area. We would like to continue to send copies of the Village Bell to all those who were resident in Upper Beaconsfield at the time of the fires so they will be aware of any ongoing relief arrangements, as well as keeping them informed of what is happening about the town.

If you know of someone who is in this situation could you please give Ray Ratcliff at the Post Office their address, or alternatively ask them to contact him on (059) 443 200.

A notice has gone over six radio stations asking people who have left the area as a result of the fires to contact the Post Office and advise change of address.

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VILLAGE BELL

Another issue put together hurriedly with the help of John Murrell, Mandy Splatt, Ray & Elva Ratcliff, Joyce Atreed, Gilda Hansen, Graeme Kidd and Jeanette Ballinger. Our thanks to Brian Baldwin for the masthead and George Armytage for Printing. Copy deadline next issue - we hope - March 15th, 1983.