



The VILLAGE BELL.

No. 31 April 1983

Published by the
Beac. Upper Assn.

COMMUNITY ARRANGEMENTS AT THE HALL

Drop-in Centre: The CWA has established the centre to be open on each week day from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. if you feel like a chat, a cuppa, a laugh or a weep, or want some company while you do your ironing, baking;, sewing or craftwork.

TV Room: A portable room for TV has been set up behind the Hall. It has been comfortably furnished with the help of Apex and Tom and is expected to be open every night.

Laundry: Ten washing machines and driers in a laundry room have been provided by the State government to the right of the Hall.

Showers: A shower block has been set up at the Hall between the TV room and the laundry in place of the facilities that have operated in the past few weeks.

Playground: Playground equipment will be installed near the Drop-in centre.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

As a result of a submission from the BUA outlining the need for full-time co-ordination of support programmes in Upper Beaconsfield, the State government has agreed to employ a paid Community Development Officer for six months. A number of local residents have been interviewed for the position and a decision is expected by the time this Bell reaches you.

The role of the Community Development Officer is seen as planning and co-ordinating community services, providing and seeking information, and advising Council on the need for and funding of support programmes.

BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION - NEXT MEETING 6 APRIL 1983
AT THE HALL AT 8 p.m.

STOP PRESS The C.D.O. is Sue Gray - 443484 at the Drop-in Centre

SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE TO BUSHFIRE VICTIMS

FINANCIAL HELP

- RED CROSS - Limited Financial Help - Phones 03 616 9725
to 9729
- GIPPSLAND BUSHFIRE APPEAL FUND - Cash Payments
through Pakenham Shire - Contact Mandy Splatt
059 411 011
- DISASTER WELFARE CENTRE - For payment of Bushfire Relief
Payments
Co-ordinator Chris Keely 03 791 5244
- - - - -

FURNITURE AND CLOTHING

- STATE RELIEF CENTRE - 134 Jeffcott Street, West Melbourne
(03) 329 5599
- SALVATION ARMY - Doveton Office now closed down.
Hawthorn (Drill St.) - Furniture, Clothing, Shoe and
Clothing Vouchers
(03) 808 1328
- Abbotsford - Electrical goods, Clotting (03) 419 7833
- BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE - 116 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy.
Sharing Centre - Material Aid, Furniture, etc.
Ring first - (03) 419 4934
- NURSING MOTHERS ASSOCIATION
Giving mothers a lambswool skin, for baby to sleep on.
- ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - Clothing, electric blankets, Avon,
Tupperware.
Contact Sally Griffin (Armstrong Rd.,
Upper Beaconsfield - 059 443232

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Soil Erosion: Contact Paul Fitzsimmons of the Soil Conservation Authority.
- Power leads to Caravans: Make sure the rating of leads and fuses is not exceeded, particularly when using electric heaters.
- Heaters: Preferably use fan heaters, not bar radiators, in vans.
- Pan Toilet Services: For this service contact the Shire Health Officer.
- Recreation Reserve: Will be closed to the dumping of fire debris on the Tuesday after Easter.
- Clean-up Service: Apex will provide the service on the weekend of 17-18 April. Information from the Community Development Officer.
- Screenings: The Rotary Club will provide them for walkaways around caravans.
- Citizens' Advice Bureau: Remember the Shire C.A.B. volunteers have information on various matters including health, legal and employment affairs, housing and accomodation, taxation and employment. For information ring 412377 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m, or call in at 24 Main St Pakenham.

BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION

Graham Jackson.

The attention of the Association is now being directed to issues which we believe are of great importance to the people of Beaconsfield Upper in the months ahead. We are not alone in our concern to see that everything possible is done to rebuild our village and to strengthen the social fabric of the community. To all the organisations and groups working to these ends, we offer our support.

We have a number of items to report. Firstly, the Citizen of the Year Award -it was made to all the Citizens of Beaconsfield Upper. To single out one person would have left so many unrecognised. One and all, people responded magnificently to the events of Ash Wednesday and to the aftermath.

The Citizen of the Year Award has been made to everyone with the conviction that everyone will continue the task of rebuilding, with understanding for all who suffered in the fires. Heinz Moritz will be creating a special plaque to the fires of 1983. It will be displayed permanently in some suitable place in the village to remind us of those days and nights, and to tell those that come after us something of what we experienced.

The Association has already received money towards a memorial to those who died in the fires. This money has been placed in a special trust account. At this time, we do not see a particular form for this memorial, feeling that we are still too close to the event. However, we support the concept wholeheartedly and will be seeking to learn the wishes of the community.

The Village Fair, in a reduced form, was held on Saturday 19th March and is reported elsewhere in the Village Bell.

The Committee have written to the Cardinia Creek Advisory Committee drawing to their attention one rather unusual feature : it must be rare for a community to be the subject of an in-depth study immediately prior to an event of the magnitude of the fires. We have suggested the opportunity not be allowed to pass and a further study be commissioned in order to measure and record the impact on the community of the recent events.

The Association wishes to thank Alcoa of Australia Limited for its gift of a 16 mm movie projector to the Youth Group. This projector will be put to good use in providing film nights for the young people of Beaconsfield Upper and Cockatoo.

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PONY CLUB

The next Pony Club rally will be held on Saturday, 26th March, 1983. Please come along with or without a pony. Our Club has had many kind offers of assistance and we need to know your needs. The postponed Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29th March at 8 p.m. in the new portable Kindergarten. More than ever we need your ideas and support for the Club.

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BEACONHILLS ASSISTS FIRE VICTIMS

Since the fires Beaconhills Golf Club has attempted to replace some of the losses of the community. Firstly, it is providing temporary accommodation for nine families who have lost their homes, including free power, showers and toilets, clothes washing and drying facilities.

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Secondly, as a result of the loss of the Pine Grove, it now provides counter lunches seven days a week and counter teas from Wednesday to Sunday evenings. The normal Dining Room service is also still being offered on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

All locals are welcome, however they are reminded that neat, casual dress is required to gain admittance.

The Club has also organized two FREE theatre evenings. The first, a melodrama entitled "Lord Marmaduke Murkees Last Misdeed", will be presented by the Gemco Players on Thursday evening 25th March, at 7.30 p.m. The second, "A Might at the Tiv", will be presented by the Westernport Theatre Company, on Friday 15th April at 8.00 p.m. Counter teas will be available before both functions and the bar will remain open throughout the evenings.

You are urged to acknowledge the generosity of these groups and organize a party booking as soon as possible. Bookings for both events can be made by ringing either Geoff Brooks or Helen Kneen on 44 3309. Remember:
ADMITTANCE IS FREE.

The Club is donating 50% of its takings from its March Bingo Sessions to the local fire appeal. Bingo is held each Wednesday evening commencing at 8.00 p.m. and again everybody is more than welcome.

BROWNIES

The 2nd Upper Beaconsfield Brownies celebrated their 2nd birthday on 2nd March with games and dress up night. Two of our Brownies lost everything in the fire and Headquarters have taken responsibility for completely re-fitting them in Brownie uniforms.

We still need help with a new leader and/or assistant. The pack has 18 girls aged 8-11, meeting on Wednesday evenings 7 - 8.30 p.m. If there is anyone in the community, perhaps with older children, willing to give us some time we would be very grateful. Please ring Jenny Toon 44 3604.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

At the garage a sign on a burnt out car advises FOR SALE \$950 WITH ROADWORTHY.

During the fire a leg of pork in a freezer was 'cooked to a turn', also green tomatoes were seen to ripen in 24 hours.

Someone let out his neighbour's homing pigeons - they flew around in circles and homed in when it was clear.

A lady who discarded her dentures before jumping into the pool returned post fire to scratch through the debris and there they were intact.

The 'Treetops' residence has been updated to 'Burnt Treetops'.

Sign outside the razed arts and crafts shop - 'temporarily closed for renovations.'

Blue Ridge Road Resident
David Packham, Project Leader,
Fire Research Group,
Chisholm Institute of Technology

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

The fires of Ash Wednesday were a disaster of the type that occurs throughout Australia at regular but rare intervals. The interval between disaster fires is long enough for the great Australian apathy to flourish and for us all to imagine that "she'll be right". On Ash Wednesday it was not right and on the next occasion it will not be right either, unless we do something about it NOW. Whilst I suspect that the official attitudes are that we can't do much in the face of such problems, I know from 21 years of bushfire research that we can indeed do a lot.

We must understand what we are up against in a real bushfire. A bushfire is a huge release of heat energy that is stored in dead leaves, grass and other forest litter, waiting to burn on a hot, windy day. The heat released is enormous, for example, one meter of fire edge on Wednesday in the hottest areas gave out about 10 megawatts of power (or 10,000 watts - a one-bar radiator is equal to 1,000 watts), i.e. 5 metres of fire front is equal to a Newport power station's power capability and 60 metres is equal to Victoria's total electric power capability.

Where does this heat go to? Two thirds of it goes in hot air up into the atmosphere where it causes us no great concern, but the other third is transferred as heat radiation. Heat radiation travels in straight lines and can be deflected by any solid object. The maximum radiation intensity that can fall on an object from a fully developed crown fire is about 100 Kw per square metre. That amount of radiation falling on exposed skin can cause death in seconds. The very nature of heat radiation, however, is that it is very easy to protect yourself against it. A solid object, especially a building, will provide the necessary protection for the five minutes of peak bushfire burning that occurs when the fire front is passing. Afterwards it is very hot and unpleasant but if one is in reasonable health one will survive.

We hope to enclose a pamphlet describing essential steps to be taken during a bushfire threat. Quietly reading these instructions during the cooler part of the year will ensure you are prepared in summer. I suggest pinning them to the loo door (inside) so they can be assimilated during quiet times. (All the assimilation in the world is useless unless you act on it.)

There are many ways to help a house to survive within a Bushfire. All the suggestions that follow are based on the fact that most houses burn from the inside, underneath or in the roof space, so I suggest the following :

1. Build on a concrete slab.
2. Have no roof space, exposed beams or trusses and fill the space between lining and roof with glass bats or rockwool. (include the eaves and verandah.)
3. Ensure that you establish a 1200 litre, gravity fed water system to the house.
4. Keep ground fuel back from the house by at least four to ten metres. Don't destroy the trees but keep them clean underneath.
5. Ensure the flywire is wire and not plastic.
6. If you have a roof space keep it clean and consider fitting a fine sprinkler system inside it.
7. Have a static source of water near the house, outside, e.g. a swimming pool, hot tub or fish pond, etc.
8. Equip the house with buckets, mops, dippers and wet towels.
9. Consider carefully a refuge within the house connected to the outside, for example, a solid laundry, wine cellar (above ground), or storage area connected to a sheltered courtyard.

. . . / contd.

What have we learned? How to help a house survive (contd)

- 10, Design the roof structure to withstand cyclone strength winds.
- 11, Sprinklers around the house in the lawn about 4-5 metres from the house will decrease the heat radiation that falls on the house.
- 12. Remember that all S.E.C. power will fail in a bushfire area and all water systems will also probably fail unless very carefully maintained or gravity fed.

There are many more details that are important but my conclusions over two decades of research, seeing Hobart in 1967, Gippsland in 1965 and Ash Wednesday 1983, are that if you are of normal health and over about 8 years old then,

- (a) the house is the safest refuge if carefully designed, and
- (b) people who understand what will happen in a bushfire don't panic and do all the right things.

Finally, if we undertake good fuel reduction in the large, dangerous areas around us as well as out house blocks, then we can prevent future Ash Wednesdays. If we don't then this disaster will be repeated, time and time again.

Further Reading

BUSHFIRES IN AUSTRALIA, Luke & McArthur (365p, 1977), Australian Government Printing Office - an excellent and economical book written for the general public - about \$14.

FIRE AND THE AUSTRALIAN BIOOTA, Gill, Groves, Noble (eds) (582p, 1981), Australian Academy of Science - a scientific and up-to-date summary of all bushfire knowledge in Australia - \$39.95.

BUSHFIRE, Ted Foster (1976), A.H. & A.W. Reed, Sydney - somewhat like Luke & McArthur.

BUSHFIRE DISASTER, R.L. Wettenhall (1975), Angus & Robertson, Sydney - an account of how the people of Hobart prepared and occupied themselves during the 1967 disaster.

PHYSICS & BUSHFIRE PROTECTION, D. Packham in "Victoria's Resources", Vol.19, No. 3, September, 1977.

TAPES of talks on FIRE PROTECTION of houses, and questions and answers, during a recent Seminar in Warragul - In our T.V. Room we hope to have tapes by :

David Packham, Project Leader, Fire Research Group, Chisholm Inst. of Technology & Brian Dobson, Country Fire Authority Regional Officer.

When it is available we will also have a tape by the McMillan Rural Studies Centre in Warragul.

We hope, when you have a quiet moment, you will pop in and listen to the information on the tapes. We can all learn something from them.

DUSTY RECORDS?

Jeanette Ballinger.

Would you like a record of your experience on Ash Wednesday to be placed in a book so future generations may read your story?

We would need to buy a large, beautiful ledger. We would need someone who writes legibly and has sufficient time to transcribe the stories. We would need families to write down or put on tape their experiences and then sign the transcription. Would YOU be part of this?????

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TOY LIBRARY

Christine Hoffman

Funds have been allocated for the setting up of a Toy Library. The inaugural meeting of interested parents will be held at the Hall on Thursday, April 7, 3.30pm.

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LETTERS TO THE BELL - TO NEIGHBOURS, FIREFIGHTERS & VOLUNTEERS

Letters of thanks have been received by the Bell from Phil and Yvonne Hansen and Bill and Dorothy White and a note of support and encouragement from Mrs. Eileen Williams, a volunteer from Pakenham. Instead of printing them or any further similar correspondence, the editors decided to include Vic Greenaway's address to the Family Picnic on March 19 :

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD 1983

It is my pleasure this afternoon to announce this years 'Citizen of the Year Award'. This award has been operating for some years now and is awarded, by popular vote, to honour an outstanding display of unselfish service and devotion to the community of Upper Beaconsfield. There are many people in Upper Beaconsfield who deserve recognition by such an award because of their continuing work and interest in the area. If it were not for these people a township such as ours could not function and would not display the spirit and drive that it does.

During this past month, in the wake of the disaster, there has been much evidence of this very special spirit and drive. It would not be wise to try to single out acts of heroism or bravery. There are many stories of individual efforts both during and after the fires.

At this time I would like us all to take a moment to remember those who have lost their lives, and give special thoughts and continuing care to the families and friends who survive them. We must not let those memories fade while we rebuild our lives. Also, to those who carry the injuries and scars of the past few weeks, we wish them a speedy recovery.

We all have very much to be thankful for, and are all indebted to each other. There are many volunteers who gave immediate assistance in time and energy to re-establish our community and many who are continuing that support. At this point I would like to welcome a lot of those people who are here today and say thanks from all of us. We appreciate your caring and your hard work.

An army of support came from the Shire of Pakenham and the Government Services. All the various departments did a fantastic job in getting our little village back together. We say thanks for their unyielding support.

There are also many representatives from voluntary organisations and social workers who are still working to help people get back on their feet. Again we say thankyou.

The co-operation of all the residents of Upper Beaconsfield has been outstanding. We are a very close community, let's keep it that way.

Now for the award!

Citizens of Upper Beaconsfield, by popular vote, YOU are the 'Citizens of the Year' for 1983.

To commemorate this award a trophy will be made by Heinz Moritz and placed in an appropriate public venue for us all to appreciate and be proud of.

Vic Greenaway.

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Sign at the General Store - "B.U.G.S. - Business as Usual - Almost!"

After one Upper Beacy evacuated the house in the face of the fire she returned to find it intact but with a flickering light inside. It was not on fire -she had forgotten to put out two candles!

'Like a heavenly cloud in silver' said Charles Wilson of the engine of his burnt out B.M.W. The "sculpture" will be a feature in the Wilson's new home.

When a toast was drunk to the Pine Grove on 17 February a wag suggested a temporary name change - Ash Grove - the response was a raised eyebrow.

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NEW PROPRIETORS AT THE MILK BAR

Jane Holth

The country life and a milk bar - the U.B. Milk Bar offered the fulfilment of both ambitions to Ian and Maureen Wright who took over the business recently. Previously they lived in Springvale where Ian was a storeman and Maureen worked for the local council. Three of their four children have also moved to Upper Beaconsfield. Said Maureen, 'We're still settling in and we're flat out at the shop. Any changes we think of will have to come later.

HELP OUR ANIMALS

Jane Holth

Much of the human distress since the fires has arisen from witnessing the suffering of burnt pets, stock and wildlife. Yet now there are some simple ways to help the remaining animals and birds recover.

In recent weeks John Gault from Stoney Creek Road has written that two large well-groomed neighbourhood dogs on two occasions killed his family's two remaining sheep and attacked their two goats. Gilda Hansen has reported that an old slightly burnt wombat was killed by a car on the corner of Brennan Ave. and St. Georges Road. Wallabies, echidnas and ring-tailed possums have also been seen run over.

It is so easy to tie up your dogs at night - remember if you don't a stock owner has the right to shoot a dog molesting stock on his property. And it is so easy to drive more carefully.

Paul Chick from Stoney Creek Road says that a lot of birds may have fled the areas that first caught fire, particularly stronger fliers such as the magpie bronze wing, duck, parrot and hawk species, but presumably most perished when the wind changed and turned the fire back. As suggested in the previous Bell, we can help the survivors by supplementing their food.

RED CROSS CALLING

Peg Bellair

There will be no door knock appeal as such at Upper Beaconsfield this year owing to the tragic bushfires. Instead, there are Red Cross tins and envelopes at the Upper Beaconsfield Milk Bar, Post Office and Pine Grove Hotel. The tins will be collected later. As there will be a terrific drain on Red Cross resources throughout Victoria your contribution however small (or large) will be very much appreciated.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD R.S.L. WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

Nell Fullerton

The Upper Beaconsfield R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary at its meeting on 16 March 1983 officially extended its deepest sympathy to all residents who have suffered so greatly in the fires.

At this first meeting since the Auxiliary's 1982 recession, it was unanimously agreed that we should carry on this year as a social group only, thereby assisting the R.S.L. Sub-Branch and its members wives with functions they arrange in the R.S.L. Club Rooms. No money-raising efforts will take place in 1983 whilst the current tragedy prevails, though a 'special effort' may be considered later in the year for the R.S.L. Victorian Women's Council, as 1983 is its 50th Anniversary.

With our membership now reduced to seven, it is vital that we add to our ranks before determining the future of the Auxiliary in 1984. If you would like to join us please phone Nell Fullerton, President, 44 3320.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Jenny Toon

The Annual General Meeting of the Kindergarten, Pre-School and Infant Welfare Centre was held at the McBride Road Centre on 6 March 1983.

The new Committee is:

President	Jenny Toon
Vice-President	Pam Harrison
Secretary	Judy Rouse
Asst. Secretary	Kathy Bain
Treasurer	Vivienne Mitchell
Asst. Treasurer	Chris Clutterbuck
Enrolments	Anne Burridge
Committee:	Gail Bailey, Sue Fritz, Caroline Dean Denis Norman Peter Willis Angela Saunders

A temporary kindergarten has been set up in a portable classroom next to the Telephone Exchange. We have borrowed a lot of the necessary equipment and many thanks to the various kindergartens for thinking of us. Thanks must also go to the Girl Guides for helping to clean the classroom, and to the committee members who had a working bee there on Saturday 12 March.

The pre-school and kindergarten children have been quite confined sharing the one building since the fires, but now they will be able to enjoy the outside area and equipment of the temporary Kinder. The children will greatly appreciate the new sandpit which was very generously donated by Ellis Loveridge of Berwick. The new kindergarten plans are already being drawn up and we expect the Health Department to approve them quickly as the building is very similar to the previous one. Could all mothers re-enrol their children as all records were destroyed in the fire.

Mrs. Kerry Kirk, our Kindergarten Directress for the past five years, left on 11 March for her Confinement Leave. Our best wishes go with her from the past and present parents and Committee. We welcome Mrs. Kaye Cohen as our Temporary Directress. Kindergarten phone number unchanged: 44 3822

QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF U.B. KINDERGARTEN

There will be a quiz night at the Beacon Hills Golf Club on Friday 29 April to raise funds for the re-equipping of the kindergarten. The quiz will commence at 8 p.m. but counter teas will be available from 6 - 7.30 p.m. The bar will remain open during the quiz.

Table bookings of 6, 8 or 10 people can be made at the Pre-School building in McBride Road. Admission is \$2.50 per head plus a small plate of supper.

There will be prizes for the winning table as well as various spot prizes throughout the nights. So come along and have some fun and help the kindergarten as well.

SHOULD OUR COMMUNITY BE ASKING THESE QUESTIONS

Jeanette Ballinger

If we build a lot of safeguards into our house and wish to stay with that house during a fire can Police or anyone else legally order us to evacuate?

Should Police have the right (do they have the right?) to stop a man who owns property or has a wife and children in a fire threatened area from entering that area? Many people claim they were stopped from coming near the township hours before the fire entered the town, at a time when the Fire Brigade believed they had things under control. These people would have had hours in which to prepare their properties or evacuate their families. Some of the worst traumas of that night were suffered by families because they were not together. If you can prove by your driving licence that you are a resident, should the Police keep you out?

Many people wanted to leave the area to make a phone call reassuring relatives of their safety. Even 24 hours after the fire they were told they would not be permitted back into the area. Many of us could not afford to leave still smouldering trees even 24 hours after the fire. We had no telephone to call 3LO. Police would not take a message either. On the other hand some sightseers did slip through.

Do people have to spend \$130 on a CFA receiving set (and receiving only) to have some news of what is happening in a fire. Would it not be possible to broadcast news every 1/4 hour from a previously designated radio station. While we had no power, telephone, water, most of us had transistors but didn't want to listen to pop music. Some people could see the fire coming and had been preparing since 3.30 p.m. Others were suddenly overwhelmed by fire at 9 p.m. almost without warning.

Is it a good system which allows experienced fire fighters to be out at other peoples homes when their own are burning? Perhaps when my town is on fire I stay home and you come and help. When your town is on fire you stay home and I come and help you? This would require re-thinking of strategies.

Technology exists to shield men during re-entry to the earth's atmosphere after a visit to the moon. Are we criminally insane to go anywhere near a fire in the present design of fire truck?

We have seen how utilities and communications break down during and after a major disaster. Should we be thinking about preparing to be more self-reliant? and/or organizing ourselves in advance to help our immediate neighbours so no person is alone?

Some people claim to have had reticulated water hours after other people's taps had run dry. Should the system be investigated and steps taken to ensure water to all houses ie; a generator or ?

Should some of our dead-end roads ie: St. Georges Road, be opened up for possible escape routes - not necessarily all weather general public access?

Was co-ordination of information adequately handled before, during and after the fire? How could it be improved? After a disaster do we prefer to talk to strangers or locals when filling in forms, etc., especially when many of the helpers have no formal training anyway?

I have only touched on some of the many questions we are asking ourselves, but unless we discuss these matters and ask the questions we are not likely to be given answers.

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

At the suggestion of Cr Peter Meeking a Community Advisory Group has been formed in Upper Beaconsfield to advise the Dandenong Ranges Fire Region Committee (of which Peter is Chairman) on the funding of community programmes. It is also expected that this group will provide support for the Community Development Officer. Comprising 22 local residents, the group is as representative as possible of the varied interests of the township. The residents are: Geoff Brookes, Joyce Bumpstead, Alan Dale, George Decelis, Murray Erwin, Vic Greenaway, Lenoar Gullquist, Joan Harris, Pam Harrison, Jasmine Hewson, Gwenn Judd, Graeme Kidd, Tony Lange, Des McKenna, Matt McDonald, Terry Milligan, Gwen Oldmeadow, Dot Pocket, John Poole, Glen Rutherford, Judy Skinner and Charles Wilson.

The first meeting of the group was held at the Hall on Sunday 28 March. Crs Peter Meeking and Keith Ewenson and Shire Officers John Murrell and Mandy Splatt also attended and Cr Meeking took the Chair.

The group will operate for six months although this period may have to be reviewed later in the year in the light of community need for longer term support.

Proposals under consideration include:

- * Extension of the hours of the Drop-in Centre;
- * Provision of facilities for secondary school students to meet and study;
- * Provision of showers in other parts of the town;
- * Funds have been allocated for a jus service to operate for six months - should this run between Upper Beaconsfield and Berwick and Fountain Gate, for example, or would a local community service be more useful?
- * Funds have been provided for a creche and consideration is being given to how this should be arranged:
- * Funding of the Recreation Oval which is still considered of high priority:
- * A caravan park within the township to allow families who do not want to stay on their blocks during rebuilding to maintain local contact (if you are interested ring Alan Blackwell, 443405);
- * A local radio station to operate a couple of hours a day;
- * Extension of the counselling services already provided by the Shire and the local medical service.

It is expected that the Community Development Officer would assist in determining the need for and extent of a number of these services. To make it easier for people to comment on these ideas, and offer new ones, a Suggestion Box will be placed in the Drop-in Centre. Please feel free to use it.

SUPPORT AND COUNSELLING

Support and Counselling services from St Vincent's Hospital are available to the Beaconsfield Upper community. Over the past few weeks a group of doctors and nurses has been making regular visits to Beaconsfield Upper. The assistance they offer includes support counselling and, if required, appropriate referral to specialist services. If you or anyone in your family is having difficulties settling down or simply wants someone to talk to about problems, this service is available by contacting the Community Nurse at Dr Charles Wilson's surgery. Phone 443 404.

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COUNCIL RATES

- 1) All dwellings destroyed or damaged by the fire will have their valuations, and therefore their rates, adjusted prior to 10th April, 1983.
- 2) Adjusted rate notices will be sent to the last known address, unless notification of a change of address is received by the Shire.
- 3) Where the dwelling has been destroyed, any person paying on quarterly instalments, due on 28th February, 1983, please wait until a revised rate notice is received.
- 4) Any person who has paid their rates in full, and their dwelling has been destroyed, will receive a refund to their rates.

If the above is not clear, or should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to telephone the Shire Offices on 411 011.

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INDESTRUCTIBLE RUBBISH COLLECTION

Shire of Pakenham

The Council will be collecting "indestructible" or "hard" rubbish on Monday 18th April, 1983.

The following items will not be collected.

- * bricks and rubble
- * trade waste
- * tree cutting or garden waste
- * car bodies, either whole or dismantled
- * old and disused water tanks must be cut into sections

All rubbish must be neatly stacked in an accessible location on the nature strip before 7.00 a.m. on the 18th April. Rubbish must not exceed three metres (10 feet) in length and be capable of being lifted shoulder high by two men.

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ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

After the fire Publican Frank Sansom resurrected a couple of golf clubs from the ashes and practised his putting, using a jam tin for a hole, on Thursday lunchtime. One of the shafts was like an "S". With a set of new clubs given by friends he is a bit disappointed with his first two games at Beaconhills. His scorecards were worse than before - presumably the guarantee is only against breakage not bad results.

Jeanette Ballinger warns that towelling pants are unsuitable for fire fighting - after falling through some steps and spilling her bucket of water over them they kept falling down, leaving her with one hand with which to bucket.

A most enterprising Upper Beacy resident is reported to have blasted off with his gun the flaming tops of his trees and then dowsed them with buckets of water as they hit the ground.

For a couple of weeks post fire Dr. Wilson was visited at 6.15 p.m. by a butler of sorts who, complete with silver tray, decanters, ice bucket and napkin, served drinks to help sustain the dedicated, unflagging medico.

It is rumoured the Pine Grove was serving freshly mulled ale on tap on Thursday afternoon, however many imbibers had not acquired the taste.

INSURANCE COMPANY RELEASE FORMS

A warning note has been struck by Shire Advisors concerning the hurried signing of Release Forms in order to obtain quick insurance payouts.

You should ensure that your rights to payment for such items as block clearing and rental of alternate accommodation are not prejudiced by the signing of the Release Form.

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RANGER GUIDES OFFER HELP

Jan Peeters

Cranbourne Ranger Guides and Hampton Park Ranger Guides will be in the Stoney Creek Road area in April. We will be willing to clean windows of houses or caravans in the fire damaged area. We will also give assistance if our help is needed in any other odd jobs. We will all have identification on us and the girls will work in groups of no less than two. We may also be contacted on either 059 96 2837 - Mrs J. Peeters or Mrs E. Whitfield 03 799 1956.

* * * * *

FREE TUTORING

free tutoring in maths, physics and science available for Secondary School students whose studies have been affected by the fire. Phone 059 443 547

* * * * *

DID YOU LOSE A HORSE, DOG OR CAT?

Horses and ponies of a range of sizes and types are being, donated to locals who lost their steeds in the fire. Great care is taken to match horse and rider and already five animals have found a new home. For information ring either Bill and Eleanor Peeler on 03 707 4076 or Tor Holth on 443 384.

Clair Davis - 03 707 2737- and Lyn Morris - 03 707 4526 - are taking great pains in replacing lost pet dogs and cats. They are providing free initial vaccinations and worming and speying at a reduced rate.

HOLIDAY ACCOMODATION

Mandy Splatt, Shire social worker, has had several offers from various groups and towns, including Wodonga and Leongatha, to provide accomodation with host families during the May school Holidays, either for the whole family or the children. For information ring Mandy at the Shire on 411 011.

BICYCLES FOR THE KIDS

On Saturday 26 March 66 new bicycles were donated to children who had lost theirs in the fires. Rotary and Repco (Aust.) sponsored the gesture, providing the bikes at less than cost. At Cockatoo 106 bicycles were given out. Thanks must go to all concerned, especially those who helped assemble the machines, and to Malcolm Graham and Brent Ziesler and his staff and to the Blackwell boys. The job is not yet done.

A PLEA FOR UPPER BEACONSFIELD.

R. Hansen

Most of us have recovered from the trauma of Ash Wednesday and the business of reconstruction has been evident everywhere. However I wish to make a plea for what was Upper Beaconsfield. Some people have said that Upper Beaconsfield will never be the same again. As far as some buildings are concerned that is patently true, but let's not forget the flora and fauna.

It is easy to over-react and chop everything out. Let's make sure we clear for fire-protection but please remember why we all chose this spot to live - its peace, its beauty, its environment. Some houses were destroyed even though they had no trees within 200 feet of them. Help to keep Upper Beaconsfield as close to what it was as is sensible.

PROMPT HELP TO VILLAGE BELL

The loss of the Village Bell's Gestetner Duplicator on Ash Wednesday prompted a generous response from Australia Post Divisional Office at Clayton South, and a good replacement electric Gestetner has been promised free.

As the fires ate our two typewriters, does anyone out there have contacts in the typewriter world?

Mr George Armitage generously came to our rescue to run the last issue of "The Bell" on his offset duplicator, and donated ink, masters and his time. We are most grateful for this prompt help.

He and Ken Ballinger did all the printing.

* * * * *

GETTING TOGETHER AT THE VEC

Jane Holth

Nearly 500 people turned up at the VEC on March 4 to appreciate the idea of Geoff Lord and Ray Johns to 'bring your own everything, relax and talk.' The Upper Beaconsfield Dixie Land Jazz Band and the Tritt Family Bush Band were in situ and Peter Deering organised games for the children. Thanks to this trio and to Jan Konecny and the VEC for staging a most encouraging and enjoyable evening.

Tables and benches with colourful umbrellas and potted plants were scattered around the centre and the 'everything' ranged from orange juice to picnic hampers laden with champagne and savouries and a big thankyou to Roy Harris for free beer.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

At the peak of fighting for her home and horses, amidst heat, smoke, sparks and roaring noise, one Upper Beacy said, 'If this is Hell I'm going to be good from now on.' When hearing that such events happen about every 40 years, her daughter announced that she is going to England in 38 years' time.

An Upper Beacy firefighter astounded Dandenong doctors when he regrew his burnt ear.

FAMILY PICNIC DAY

An informal Family Picnic Day was held on Saturday, March 19th in place of the traditional Village Fair which was cancelled due to the recent bushfires. Many families gathered at the Primary School to enjoy a variety of entertainment provided by the Berwick Pipe Band, "The Hobgoblins" and the "Upper Beacy Dixieland Jazz Band", introduced by Greg Ross. "Gropo the Clown" was popular with the children, especially when he distributed free icy poles! During the afternoon Vic Greenaway, President of the Upper Beaconsfield Association, made the presentation of the "Citizen of the Year Award". His speech is reprinted inside.

Schoolchildren distributed flowers to those present. Ladies from the Berwick Library made a generous gesture by donating plants and shrubs to those attending the Picnic Day.

The Village Fair will return to its usual form next year:

The Family Picnic Day was organized by the Village Fair Committee: M. McDonald, P. Deering, L. Levens, S. Kidd, J. Kerr, C. Wilson and M. Erwin. Our thanks to them for their efforts and to the School for allowing the use of their grounds, also to Murray Erwin for arranging the "stage".

Finally we would like to thank all those who generously donated their time and services.

* * * * *

SAFETY HOUSE SCHEME

Our Safety House scheme is still in operation. Although some of our homes were destroyed on Ash Wednesday the residents are back in temporary accommodation and are still acting as Safety House Parents. Also we welcome another eleven new Safety Houses within the next two weeks. The children are currently undergoing their six week education programme through the school. Enquiries to

R. Hansen 4443 871 or Helen Smith 443 219.

* * * * *

UPPER BEACONSFIELD BABY SITTING CLUB

A Coffee Morning will be held on Monday, April 11th (10.00 a.m.) at Chris Guerow's house in Stoney Creek Road (443 402). We would like as many members as possible to attend, also to bring a small plate (except those who are in temporary accommodation). If you are interested in joining the Baby Sitting Club please come along.

* * * * *

THE VILLAGE BELL

Editors: Jane Holth, Jeanette Ballinger, Graeme Kidd

Masthead: Brian Baldwin

Collators: Residents of the Beaconhills Golf Club

Advertisements: Jan Rutherford

Typists: Christine Hoffman, Elva Ratcliff, Gilda Hansen

Roneo Printers: Judy and George Moir, Ken Ballinger

Offset Printer: As the gremlins of the Roneo machine were especially vicious this issue, even after a supreme effort, we give a special, heartfelt, thankyou to George Armitage who printed almost the entire 'Bell' in one day.

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: May 16th. 1983.

BUA - YOUTH CLUB & BMX

Murray Erwin

YOUTH DROP-IN CENTRE

A Youth Drop-in Centre currently situated at the Multi Purpose Hall has been established to provide after school and weekend recreational facilities for Primary and Secondary school age groups.

The emphasis is on informal recreational activities (table tennis, pool, darts, hookey, chess, T.V. electronic games, films etc.) and to provide a place where young people can meet and talk.

It started on Saturday 26th March with the screening of a film which was originally booked as part of the usual film night (Unidentified Flying Oddball).

THERE IS NO COST TO ATTEND.

THIS IS FOR EVERYONE

The centre will operate on:	
Easter Saturday (April 2nd)	2.00PM - 9.00PM
Then	
Every Friday	6.00PM - 9.00PM
Every Saturday	2.00PM - 9.00PM

At least two adults will be in attendance at all times and a film shown free on the last Saturday in each month - as follows:

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea	April
Salty the Seal	May
The Wiz	June
Pete's Dragon	July
The Mirror Crack'd	September
Freaky Friday	October
Elvis the Movie	November

Funding is by Council as part of a recent Appeal Fund Grant. The Centre is being run by the BUA Youth Club Sub-Committee and it is hoped to expand the Centre as the needs are established.

BMX

The next BMX race day is Saturday 9th April. Bike check at 1.00PM races commencing 1.30PM. Entry will be free, however entry forms must still be filled in and lodged by Wednesday 6th April.

Entry Forms available at Milk Bar and General Store.

* * * * *

CARAVAN MUMS

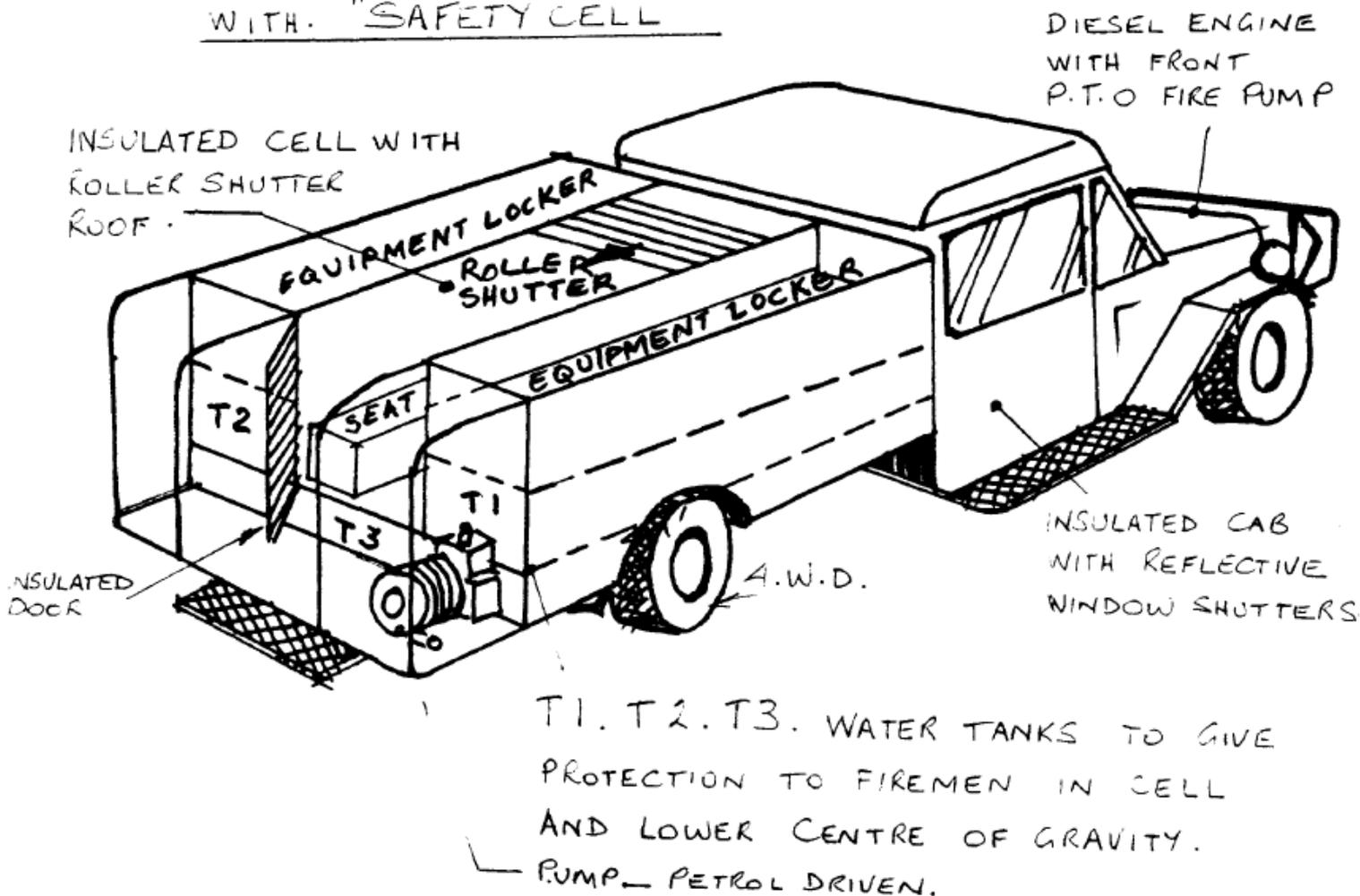
If anyone would like a break DISPLAN have kindly ladies who would love to sit with your child/children while you go visiting or whatever for a couple of hours. Ring Norma Thomas on 03 703 1936 or Marcia Wilkinson on 707 2220.

The editors of this Bell would like to recommend the prompt service, without which a certain baby may have postponed publication indefinitely.

UNDERGROUND SHELTERS

When a bushfire becomes too hot people may shelter underground until the main front has passed, later emerging to save their homes. Shelters can house a family or a whole school. If you are interested in the concept, ring Ian Harris on 443213.

BUSHFIRE VEHICLE
WITH "SAFETY CELL"



Proposed fire truck design with features to improve stability and passenger safety - by Ian Harris.

FIRE RESISTANT PROPERTIES AND GARDENS

Copies of a detailed guide on how to establish a low fire risk garden and fire resistant windbreaks and native bushland areas will be available in the community room (Village Hall).

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

What devotion to the cause of the Bell - the only things Jan Rutherford saved from the fire were the advertisements and the accounts.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE - mostly observed or overheard by Tor Holth.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD 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.

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RUMINATING

Life seems short at times and full of pain and unpleasantness. It is important to
look for and treasure the things that are good and make us happy.

People are the most important things.

* * * * *



WENDY NEAL