



No. 32 June 1983

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Upper Beaconsfield Assoc.

**BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION**

PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 1ST JUNE 1983

AT THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.45 P.M.

7.45 p.m. Minutes and correspondence available  
8.00 p.m. Meeting begins  
Minutes  
Correspondence  
Financial Report

**AGENDA**

1. Area Committee Report - P. Meeking
2. Community Development Officer Report - Sue Gray
3. Upper Beaconsfield Community Advisory Group Report
4. Re-establishing Gardens
5. Reports from Sub-Committees :
  - Youth/B.M.X. Group - M. Erwin
  - Group Planning Review of Ash Wednesday -K. Ewenson
6. Village Bell - Write up of the Experiences of  
Ash Wednesday - J. Ballinger

Other Business

Supper: 10.00 p.m.

REVIEW OF ASH WEDNESDAY?

The B.U.A. felt the possible need to collect factual aspects pertaining to the fires in the area. The executive drew up a list of ten people to consider the need and ways and means of this matter. The group met briefly last Sunday evening and all agreed on the need and were prepared to act as co-ordination review panel. The method suggested and strongly recommended is to immediately invite written submissions from all interested residents and all relevant public authorities. The purpose is to compile a broad spectrum report for presentation to the public or subsequent Government review. The subject will be discussed at the next B.U.A. meeting. The reviewpanel are listed below and if others feel they can help, contact Keith Ewenson. The next meeting will be at 6.45 p.m., Sunday 29th May, at the Hall.

L. Gullquist            C. Wilson                    V. Greenaway            M. McDonald            I. Harris  
L. Davis                F. Bumpstead               D. McKenna              G. Kidd

No witchhunt but a positive attempt, to learn from our experiences.

Keith Ewenson, Convenor

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EDITORIAL

Trees

There is an old tree stump in Mirboo North bearing a sign which reads :

"This tree, believed to be the tallest in Australia,  
was cut down on ..... and measured at .... feet."

Many a tree has been cut down in this sparsely treed land, with little reason. The clearing of vast areas of Australia's woodlands is now regretted, not only by conservationists and ecologists, but by growing numbers of farmers throughout the land.

The environment of Upper Beaconsfield has been damaged severely by the fires - trees, gardens and bushland will take years to recover. Now, in the weeks since the fires, many hectares of trees have been cleared.

Reasons for felling trees may be -

- the danger from damaged trees or limbs falling
- the trees have died and will not recover
- the wish to rebuild with a wider area around the house clear of trees
- fear of trees as a fire hazard
- clearing for agricultural purposes.

We are now distant enough from the fires to consider in a calm and reasonable manner some thoughts and questions relating to trees and our environment.

- \* We live in one of the most attractive environments within easy access of the metropolitan area. Trees are a significant part of that environment.
- \* It is a privilege to live in such an area, a privilege for which we are prepared to make certain sacrifices, forego certain conveniences and take some risks. One such risk is the chance of summer bushfires - a risk considered by all who plan to live here.
- \* From a purely practical point of view, trees have a great number of uses, from timber for housing to children's cubby tree-houses, from shelter against sun, wind and beating rain to supports for a hammock. Trees provide firewood and furniture, fruit and honey, habitats for native bird and animals, air purification, soil conservation and unique environments.

Our environment will recover, along with the bushlands, in time. Nature will be doing its part, showing extraordinary strategies for regeneration. Is it our part to dominate the landscape or to work as its partners? If the former, then we can undo in moments with chainsaw and bulldozer what nature has taken decades and centuries to achieve. If the latter, we will need more patience than haste.

Some questions to consider :

- How sure are those clearing trees that the trees will not recover?
- To what degree were trees responsible for the extent of fire damage
- Do the gains of clearing outweigh the costs, in the long term?
- To what extent are we all responsible for the environment we share?
- Are landowners familiar with regulations on tree clearing in their particular land zoning?
- Along with clearing, is there sufficient planning for clusters of trees to hold soil on hilltops and in gullies?
- Are there plans for replanting suitable species of trees and shrubs and for prompt seeding of land left bare from clearing and vulnerable to erosion?

Trees and the bush mean too much to us to see their numbers and area diminish any further. What is needed is a constructive approach to assist nature's own regenerative processes, now more than ever as the International Year of the Tree ends on June 6th.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### AN EVENING WITH KEVIN HEINZE

There will be an evening with Kevin Heinze on -

THURSDAY, JULY 21ST, AT 7.30 P.M.  
AT THE BEACON HILLS GOLF CLUB

Kevin has agreed to come out, hopefully, with other members of the Royal Agricultural Society, to talk about repair and rebuilding of gardens and public areas and to answer questions.

The B.U.A. is sponsoring a number of initiatives to help people with landscaping, selection of plants and garden design.

- \* Soil samples have been sent away for analysis.
- \* A group of advisors is being gathered to offer advice.
- \* Comprehensive lists of plants suitable for the area will be drawn up, including species resistant to fire.
- \* Perhaps a Family Arbor Day could be planned.

Thanks to Chris Leaver who has been active in this service.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### STOP EROSION ON BURNT BUSHLAND

Officers from the Soil Conservation Authority are concerned that severe erosion may occur on some fire affected areas within the Shire of Pakenham. Area Soil Conservationist, Mr. Paul FitzSimons, advises landholders to protect erosion prone land as soon as possible. Mr. FitzSimons said, "Immediately after the bushfires the risk of erosion was widespread Fortunately, good light rains have encouraged new plant growth in most areas. The areas still at risk include poorly revegetating sites on steep land and sites of concentrated water flow."

**SOIL EROSION ON BURNT BUSHLAND** (Cont'd)

The Soil Conservation Authority can help landholders with vulnerable land by providing on-property advice and, if necessary, financial assistance for erosion control works. One of the best methods to protect soil is to establish a dense grass cover. A quantity of free seed suitable for use in bushland is now available. This will give best results if planted by the end of May.

"Erosion problems may occur this winter on fire tracks, fire breaks and fire control lines. The treatment in these areas is to prevent water concentrating or, if this is impracticable, to spread the concentrated flows of water," Mr. FitzSimons said.

Contact with the Soil Conservation Authority should be made for advice on and assistance with reclamation of any major erosion hazard created during the bushfires. Its offices are at Suite 6, Whitehorse Plaza, Box Hill, 3128. Telephone (03) 890.0711.

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**FIRE BRIGADE AUXILIARY**

SATURDAY 28TH MAY            Cake Stall from 9.30 a.m. outside the Milk Bar  
In Aid of Brigade Funds

SATURDAY 30TH JULY        Family Dance and Supper  
8.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. -- In the Hall  
Door Prizes  
We hope to have creche facilities available, enabling families to attend. More information in the "Village Bell" weekly newsletter.

After the recent fires, the Brigade needs your support!

\* \* \* \* \*

**PAKENHAM SHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

WANTED - Men and women volunteers with common sense and spare time during the week who enjoy talking to people. Why not join in your local community with the volunteers at the Citizens Advice Bureau?

Volunteers are trained by the Community Welfare Training Institute by means of a three (3) hour per week course for thirteen (13) weeks. Trainees learn interviewing techniques, helper skills, and use of community resources. By belonging to our professional team you will be participating in an interesting and worthwhile community service. For further information ring the Bureau on 41.2377, Mondays to Fridays, excluding Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

**Do you Need Advice from a Social Worker?**

Mandy Splatt from the Dandenong Valley Family Care Organisation is available to discuss problems of family and child support matters. For an appointment, or advice, telephone 41.2377.

**Outpost at Beaconsfield Upper**

A trained volunteer is available at the T.V. room situated behind the drop-in centre at Beaconsfield Upper. Hours of operation are from 10.30 am to 2.30 pm Thursdays, although pamphlets and literature will be available at all times.

**PAKENHAM SHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (Cont'd)**

Other services offered by the Citizens Advice Bureau are : Legal Aid Services, Interpreter Services, Free Careers Advice, the magazine "Looking Forward" with advice on planning for retirement, information on Consumer Protection and advice for parents of teenagers.

For information on the above and other matters, call in at 24 Main Street, Pakenham, or telephone 41.2377. The Bureau volunteers are there to give you information or to refer you to someone who can help.

\* \* \* \* \*

**SURVIVAL TALES Judy Moir**

Well-known hoarder from Upper Beaconsfield sorting through bits and pieces from his burnt garage and sheds was asked by sister from Mt. Waverley - "When is the Council coming to take away the rubbish?" Hoarder looked up and said, "They have already been", i.e. Council did a good job!

Lady in Upper Beaconsfield wasn't as lucky as other lady who left candle burning on Ash Wednesday. Having quickly put 2 dogs and 3 children in the car, she rushed back to put her candles out - her house was burnt.

\* \* \* \* \*

VERY CLEAN FILLING - SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE - CONTACT V. GREENAWAY

'Phone 44.3573

\* \* \* \* \*

**SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT P.S. Meeking**

Recreation Oval - the Education Department has advised that the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School has been successful in its application for funds to construct the school-community oval. An amount of \$20,000 has been allocated which, when added to the funds from the Department of Youth Sport & Recreation and the Shire, makes the project a reality.

Special Grants to Schools - advice has been received that an additional \$10.00 per child based on the February enrolments has been made available to the School. It is stated that the Special Grant may be spent at the discretion of the School Council but with the stated expectation that it will be used to purchase items and for the development of short term projects that may assist in reducing the level of unemployment in the community. The matter has yet to be determined by the School Council.

Changing Role of the School Council - Three Ministerial papers have been submitted to the School, the contents of which have already been mentioned in a number of newspaper articles. Briefly, the Government states that it is committed to devolution and broader participation in the operation of schools, proposing a much more responsible and detailed role for School Councils. It is claimed that the Government will amend the Act so as to make School Councils responsible, within the framework of overall State policy guidelines, for the educational policies and plans of its school. Further, that the Government intends that School Councils will decide the major directions of the school programme by their involvement in the determination of curriculum objectives. Such terms as real local responsibility and accountability and greater educational effectiveness through parent and community support are all included in the report. The report, however, continues to emphasise the even greater need of very close cooperation and involvement of teaching staff and School Councils. At the present stage, both teachers and School Council members do have copies of the reports and a Special School Council Meeting will be held shortly to discuss the matters further. Steps will no doubt have to be taken which will enable all parents to be informed of the proposals but it is not determined yet how best this can be carried out.

\* \* \* \* \*

## A GOOD BUY?

The B.U.A. has been looking at some way of helping people who are reestablishing homes, to find articles at the best prices. There are problems with organising buying in bulk : Does everyone want the same fridge? One way people could help themselves would be to join A.B.A.S. - Australian Buyer Advisory Service. You pay \$120 to join and \$70 per year for renewal. (For fire victims, 10% discount). This fee entitles you to request ABAS to find you the best price on specific items. The service will refund your money if in one year you do not save the joining fee on four purchases over \$100. Further details about ABAS have been left with Sue Gray at the Drop-In Centre OR you could ring Kitty Kensell on (03) 690.5888.

It may be helpful to residents to hear of firms who are making goods available to fire victims at special prices. With the firm's approval you could give names to Roy Perry of the B.U.A. or to Sue Gray. A collection of some quite helpful offers may eventuate. It will depend on input, e.g. Roger Seller & Myhill Co. P/L, 27 City Road, South Melb. (03) 62.0781, are reported as giving a good deal on bathroom and kitchen tiles and plumbing furniture. Wide range on display. Open Moaday to Friday till 5.00 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SHOULD OUR COMMUNITY BE ASKING THESE QUESTIONS?

Jeanette Ballinger

### Second instalment

Did you ask any of the questions listed in our last issue? Did you get any answers? I had several phone calls from residents who felt deeply that these questions should be answered.

The Berwick Times picked up our questions regarding Police rights in their April 11th issue and said : "A spokesman for the Victoria Police said Police had the legal right to keep anyone out of fire threatened areas and also had the right to evacuate residents from their homes."

On April 25th the headline on the Times announced 'POLICE CAN'T FORCE FIRE VICTIMS TO LEAVE'. Apparently the Times contacted the Police media liaison section in Melbourne and enquiries were made 'higher up'. Although the job of Police is the safety of the public, people cannot be forced out of their homes, was the answer. Police do, however, have the right to control traffic in and out of disaster areas.

The Village Bell is often quoted in the Times, they must be very pleased we exist. This time we can thank the Times for an answer (satisfactory or not) to some of our questions.

Cr. Keith Ewenson is convening a Committee of people interested in our questions and in formulating a policy to handle local answers to a crises in our community, see his article on page 2.

At our last B.U.A. public meeting, Cr. Peter Meeking promised to take our questions to the first meeting after the fire of the Shire's Disaster Committee. Our questions were actually used as the agenda; present were members of the S.E.S., Displan, C.F.A. and the Regional Officer for the Police. Cr. Meeking is reporting on this meeting elsewhere in the Bell.

Since starting this article I find that a lot of work is being done in various groups, most of which you could join or give written submissions if you feel deeply. I think I am happy not to be given answers right now so long as I know the questions are still being asked and answers sought. If you wish to take on a different level of action, I am told that the proper person to send a letter, stating your views is -

The Hon. C.R.T. Mathews, M.P.,  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services,  
Old Treasury Building,  
Spring Street, MELBOURNE. 3002

**AFTERMATH**

Shirley Colvin Black.

Bony black fingers  
groping at the sky  
a twilight landscape  
gone awry  
Unearthly silence shattered by  
the tormented wrench  
of a dying branch.

The meagre seedling apples rot  
beneath the tree  
whose gentle snow of blossom  
froths startlingly  
Inside the tent  
the old man soothes  
the crying babe  
And outside, thrusting eager  
from the Earth  
the first green blade.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FIRES AND FIRE PREVENTION IN RELATION TO NATIVE FLORA**

Paul Gullan

Dr Paul Gullan, Ph.D., Senior Botanist, Ecological Section, National Herbarium, South Yarra, spoke recently with a group in the district. He is one who believes that by selective slashing of undergrowth in woodlands (as distinct from forests which have larger trees in more dense growth than is the case in the Beaconsfield hills) fuel for fire can be effectively reduced. The following is an article Dr. Gullan wrote for us -

"Since the Ash Wednesday fires many local residents have expressed concern over the fate of the native flora of the Beaconsfield region. Their concern centres on two questions. Firstly, will the native plants regenerate after the fires and what, if anything, should be done to assist regeneration? Secondly, are there methods of reducing the susceptibility of native vegetation to fire which do not necessarily threaten the survival of the local plant species? The answer to the first of these questions is a qualified yes. Most native plant species are well adapted to regeneration after summer wildfires, particularly those species which are common in the woodlands of the Beaconsfield area. Some regenerate from rootstocks, tubers and underground stems and will begin regrowth a few days after the fire (e.g. lilies, sedges, grasses, grass-trees, tea-trees, etc.). Others must regenerate from seeds which are stored in the soil or are born on living plants and released after the plant is killed by fire. These usually take some weeks or months to begin regenerating (e.g. bush-peas, banksias, hakeas, casuarinas, wattles, eucalypts, tea-trees etc.). Eucalypts, as well as regenerating from seed, will "coppice" or form "epicormic shoots" on the trunks or larger branches from which the mature foliage will develop (few eucalypts were actually killed in the fires). Some species will have been wiped out completely and will need to re-invade from native vegetation not affected by the fire. The most significant problem the native flora will encounter during regeneration are man-induced. Some weed species, such as blackberry, will regenerate rapidly after fire and if not controlled in the early phases may dominate the early post-fire vegetation. Other problems relate to excessive soil disturbance from domestic stock, or other sources, or runoff from nearby agricultural or industrial land (with resultant over-fertilization or poisoning of the soil).

Methods of "fuel reduction", which are often employed to reduce the chance of future wildfires, by reducing the amount of combustible material in the vegetation understorey, may also inhibit complete regeneration. Fuel reduction burns are usually carried out during spring or autumn and will remove the above-ground parts of most plants other than the trees.

**FIRES & FIRE PREVENTION IN RELATION TO NATIVE FLORA** (Cont'd)

Regeneration after these burns is often vigorous and within a few years (usually about five) a dense understorey has developed which is once again susceptible to fire. Consequently the vegetation will be again burnt and this process is continued indefinitely. The drawbacks of this technique are :-

- (a) The 'cool' burn may get out of control if not carefully supervised or if weather conditions change suddenly.
- (b) A blackened landscape becomes a regular part of the local scene.
- (c) Some species of plant which must regenerate from seed and take longer than the period between burns to produce enough seeds to ensure adequate regeneration, will become locally extinct.

Obviously, from the point of view of native vegetation, it is better for wildfire, occurring in summer and at intervals of 15 years or, to prevail. However, local human residents may feel less secure with this regime. An alternative fuel-reduction technique is that of slashing. A tractor with a slashing attachment can be used with relative safety in the summer and so act at the same time of the year as natural wildfires. It is a selective technique so that certain interesting, rare or important plants can be avoided. It does not have to kill the plants it operates on as it will, in most cases, perform no more than a drastic pruning operation. The soil is usually disturbed less than with heavier equipment and a certain amount of ground cover is always maintained. Cut brush may be raked away and piled up to be burnt (and perhaps the ash respread) at a later time. Or if the brush does not appear to be too great in volume it may be left to mulch into the native soil so that nutrient loss is minimised. This procedure has been adopted in a number of places near Melbourne and appears to function well as a fire inhibitor without the risk of wildfire and the unpleasantness of a blackened landscape and with a minimum of destruction to individual native, plant species.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PINES AND THE FIRES**

John Balding

Upper Beaconsfield has long been noted as an area where pine trees grow in great numbers and with great speed. Before the fire the area was treed with a mixture of native scrub, mainly Apple Box, types of Peppermint and Stringy Bark, interspersed with pine. In some instances the pine had taken over and the native timber was eliminated.

Since the night of the fires the eucalyptus have gradually come back and in most cases are now covered with a mass of juvenile leaves and with the recent rains will return to their former conditions.

The pines are a different matter. They stand in their simple brown coats without a trace of green. They are dead. The pines and other conifers which grew in the fire areas have very poor resistance to fire. After being burnt or scorched the needles turn brown immediately and are gradually shed over the ensuing months till the branches are bare. If left standing the trees quickly rot and after twelve months or so they begin to shed their limbs and become a dangerous proposition to remove.

If you have a number of dead pines you may be able to dispose of them to a mill but you will have to move quickly as a fungus begins to stain the wood after four to six months and the timber becomes worthless.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THANK YOU**

Ros Richardson

I would like to thank all friends and neighbours for cards and flowers during my recent stay in Berwick Hospital. Special thanks to the nursing staff for their kindness. It was deeply appreciated.

\* \* \* \* \*

**EARTH CULTURE EXCHANGE**

A regional group meets on the last Tuesday of each month. The next Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 31st at the home of John Wallace, Nar Nar Goon North. Ken Ballinger will speak on soap-making. Eric Dodge will speak on alternative methods of human waste disposal. For directions to the Wallace address, ring the Nar Nar Goon P.O. or 41.2246.

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**UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY SERVICES & FACILITIES - A GUIDE**

Fire Brigade	443.333	Doctor
Community Development Officer	443.484	
Pakenham Shire	411.011	
Drop-In Centre	443.484/609	
Financial Counsellor	443.484	
Bus Service	443.484/410	
Community Health Nurse	443.484	
Creche	443.484/609	
Toy Library	443.351	
After School Program	411.011	(Bob Utber)
Appeal Fund Trustees	(03) 652.4600/4751	
Family Day Care	411.011	(Margaret Aveling)
Youth Drop-In Centre	443.737	
Area Committee Representatives	443.568/309	
Advisory Group Chair Person	443.499	
Citizens Advice Bureau (Thursday)	443.484	
Rural Finance	613.771	

For further details of services and facilities, consult the Village Bell Information Newsletters.

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**THANK YOU**

Ida Biss, Shoreham

Thank you for your 12th April '83 news of courage, re-building and all activities. We hope to be established in St. George's Road sometime in June and are looking forward to being of assistance in the revival. Our contribution was sent to Miss Mern Rossell, a teacher at Berwick Primary School, and she suggests it would be a help in rebuilding the kindergarten or supplying a few essentials. Sorry to be such a distance from all the functions but please contact us for any help when we are residents. Best wishes to you all.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SWIMMING SUCCESS**

Congratulations to Sam McCurdy of Blue Ridge Road who won the silver medal in the Victorian High School (Under 14) 30m Breaststroke Championship at the State Swim Centre on 26th April. The gold medal next year, Sam!

\* \* \* \* \*

**DAUGHTER FOR KERRY KIRK**

Kerry and Barry Kirk have a daughter, Amy. Kerry is home with the baby and both are well. Congratulations from all the locals who know Kerry and Barry.

\* \* \* \* \*

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD TENNIS CLUB**

The Club championships were held in March and April, the winners were -

Junior Girl - Singles	Gina Tritt
Junior Boy - Singles	Adam Konecny
Ladies - Singles	Siosi Oliver
Mens - Singles	Ian Jackson
Ladies - Doubles	Siosi Oliver & Barbara Jackson
Mens - Doubles	Peter Meeking & Peter Gullquist
Mixed Doubles	Glenda Fenton & Peter Meeking

Our congratulations to the winners, thanks to the Committee who organised the Club Championships and thanks to all who took part in them.

The Social Committee is arranging a get-together for members. Details will be forwarded in the next few weeks.

As some of our records were destroyed on Ash Wednesday, if you are a member of the U.B.T.C. and by the 30th June have not received a membership renewal form, could you please ring Gwenda Oldmeadow A/H 445.658, so we can get our membership list up to date.

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**DOGS**

Reports continue to come in about injury and death to sheep and other small livestock caused by dogs. Most dog owners in the Village and surrounding farm lands are very conscious of the potential suffering and loss their dogs can cause. Their dogs are not allowed to roam, are walked on a leash and receive plenty of attention. The few dog owners who are less careful must be either completely ignorant of the damage their dogs cause or so concerned for their dog's freedom that the rights of other animals and their owners count for very little.

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**MACKA'S NIGHT**

There will be a MACKA'S NIGHT on SATURDAY, 9TH JULY in the VILLAGE HALL at 7.00 THREE COURSE MEAL - B.Y.O. - \$12.50 PER TICKET Contact - Joan Trumper or Joyce Bumstead of the Hall Committee

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**FIRE RETARDANT PLANT SPECIES**

David & Margaret Coulson

Green and especially succulent ground cover plants -  
carpobrotue, gazania, lamprantus, portularcaria, pelargonium, rhogodia, sedum.  
Fire retardant trees & shrubs species - angophora, atriplex, brachychiton.  
fraxinus, grevillea, hakea, ligustam, myoporum, pittosporum, populus. quercus,  
salix, tristania, ulmus.

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**B.U.A. YOUTH CLUB & B.M.X.**

Murray Erwin

Youth Drop-in Centre - The Youth Drop-In Centre is operating successfully from the Multi Purpose Hall on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons and evenings with the emphasis on informal recreational activities. There is no cost to attend and is open to all.

Hours are -	Fridays	6.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
	Saturdays	2.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.

At least two adults are in attendance at all times, thanks to the many volunteers who give their time to help man the Centre.

Film Night - the next film night is on the 28th May with a film called "Salty the Seal" which should appeal to the youngsters. Admission is free and we hope to see a similar 'turn out' to last, month's film which was excellent. We are continuing to show the films at Cockatoo on the prior Friday night; these too are proving popular even though the patrons get a bit rowdy. We thank the Australian Film Hire Company for waivering the second hire fee which allows us to provide this service to Cockatoo.

B.M.X. - the next BMX Race Day is Saturday, 18th June. Bike check 1.00 pm, races commencing 1.30 p.m. Entry \$2.00 with entry forms which must be lodged by Wednesday, 1st June. Entry forms will be available from Milk Bar and General Store.

We would like to thank Woodlands Nurseries of Five Ways for the recent assistance given to the B.U.A. Youth Club,

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**VENTURERS**

Martyn Reeves

1st Upper Beaconsfield is celebrating the 75th Year Anniversary of Scouting with great enthusiasm. Just under twelve months ago our Venturer unit was formed with two boys and now it has grown to eleven, with four or five potential members. Some milestones reached were - the advancement of three boys from our Scout troop and the opening of our doors to girls. Due to the admission of girls to the Unit we desperately need a female Venturer Leader, to qualify for this you need to be over twenty years old and no Scouting experience is needed as training is provided. If you can help us in this way, please contact Martyn Reeves on 44.3941 for further information. As we have a larger Unit, we now have formed a Unit Council which consists of Venturers planning the program under leaders guidance. The Council is busy planning our 1983 program and it promises to be a great year for Venturing in Upper Beaconsfield. So remember, if you want to join us as a Venturer or Leader - come along to the multi-purpose room on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m.

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**BEACON HILLS WINS 3 PENNANTS**

Geoff Brooks

The gloom of the fires were forgotten at Beacon Hills on Sunday, 1st May, when the club's Reserve Division 1 and Division 2 teams returned from their respective pennant finals both carrying flags. Considering that the club has not won a pennant flag since 1975, it was all the more reason for celebration - and celebrate the boys did!

Not to be outdone, our Associates have also collected their first Pennant since 1976, although they won't officially receive recognition for at least another week.

Considering the interruptions to pre-season practice and that the course for early season matches was unavailable and matches had to be played at Rosebud Country Club, the efforts of our teams this year have been superb.

**BEACON HILLS WINS 3 PENNANTS** (Cont'd)

There is no doubt that with the further development of its new course and, with the continuation of a strong junior development program, Beaconhills will remain a force in the Mornington Peninsula District Golf Association for many years to come.

Other highlights on the course over the past 8 weeks have been Craig Pockett's fine win over John Ambrose in the final of the Founders Trophy, Warren Yardy and Ken Syphers victory in the Summer Cup and holes in one recorded by Ralph Neve and Dawn Shaw. Dawn becomes the first person to hole out in one on the new course.

Off the course, the dam extension program is now nearing completion and the road should be open again in 2 - 3 weeks. The club will now have water storage capacity of 30 million gallons and that should be enough to get us through any summer.

Socially the Club has been very active and as well as many private and inter-club functions, the Club had played host to the Upper Beaconsfield community at two live theatre nights and for the Kindergarten Quiz Night. There have been more community activities planned and advice of these will be given as details become available.

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**LOOKING FOR A NIGHT OUT - BINGO!**

- \* Every Wednesday Evening
- \* Eyes down - 8.00 P.M.
- \* Minimum Game - 320.00
- \* At least two chances each night to win \$100 or more
- \* Neat Casual Dress Essential
- \* Visitors Welcome AT BEACONHILLS COUNTRY GOLF CLUB

**COUNTER MEALS - PUBLIC DINING ROOM - BEACONHILLS GOLF CLUB**

- \* Counter Lunches - 12.00 noon - 2.00 pm - 7 days
- \* Counter Teas - 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm (Wed.- Sun.)
- \* Dining Room - 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm (Fri.- Sun.)

Enjoy the warm, casual and friendly atmosphere with some friends.  
Children welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

**WATER RATES**

Graeme Kidd

The State Rivers & Water Supply Commission wrote to the Shire in early April with some welcome news for the residents of Upper Beaconsfield, namely that the U.B. Urban District has been abolished and will now be incorporated in the Mornington Urban District as from the 1st July 1983. This means that our water rates will be roughly half of what they are at present.

The following table gives some idea of how the change will affect you, assuming that next year's rate is 6.5 cents in the dollar (NAV), i.e. up 10% on the current Mornington rate of 5.9 cents. The table also shows the water allowance beyond which you pay an excess water charge. This water allowance is calculated by dividing the total rate by the cost per kilolitre, which for U.B. this year was 41 cents and which is expected to be 31 cents under the new arrangement.

N.A.V. (\$)	OLD (1982/83)			NEW (1983/84)		
	Rate cents in \$	Total Rate \$	Allowance (kl)	Rate cents in \$	Total Rate \$	Allowance (kl)
2,000	12.7	254	620	6.5	130	420
3,000	12.7	381	930	6.5	195	630
4,000	12.7	508	1240	6.5	260	840

NOTE : 1 kl = 220 galls.

The significant point to note is that although your rates will fall so also will your water allowance. So if you're not careful, you may find yourself paying a hefty excess water charge!

This decision by the S.R. & W.S.C. to amalgamate U.B. with the Mornington Peninsula is the culmination of several years of agitation by local residents, the B.U.A. and the Shire. A submission proposing such an amalgamation was made to the then Minister, Mr. Granter, in May 1980, but to no effect at that time. More recently, John Bain re-activated the issue by writing letters to the new Minister and others. However, it was probably the fires that provided the final catalyst. Mr. Bob Tanner, District Engineer at Frankston, saw this as an opportune time to make the change and pushed the commission to make a decision.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE SAGA OF COCKY II**

The Watsons

Cocky II lived in Sutherland Road with the Watsons. An excellent talker, Cocky II proved too clever for his own good, or so it seemed at the time. He undid the securing wire to his cage and let himself free. Despite the ministrations of Pat and Gil and numerous neighbours, he gradually ranged further and further afield. He was last seen among the pine trees between Lenne Street and Grant Court. All this happened in November 1982.

The night of the fires, Ash Wednesday, saw the house at No. 12 spared. However, unfortunately, the entire bird population of the aviary perished, asphyxiated on their perches and Pat and Gil wondered at the fate of Cocky II. Some two weeks later, Gil had cause to call on a neighbour about another matter. In the hope of being of some help and considering he lived in the next street, Gil went around to the site. He introduced himself and was greeted with "Aren't you the chap who lost the Cocky?" On confirming that this was so, Gil was told that Cocky II was alive and well and living in a neighbour's aviary. Enquiries proved that indeed it was Cocky II and a thankful Pat and Gil now have their treasured pet, in excellent condition back home in his aviary (with a large padlock).

\* \* \* \* \*

INFORMATION COLLECTION

Graeme Kidd

Jase Haysom of Split Rock Road had a letter containing some very sensible suggestions published in The Age of 3rd May 1983. He put the view that there needed to be a group which could serve as a collection point for ideas arising out of the fires so that a series of handbooks on bushfire prevention and protection could be produced to give guidance to home owners, builders and Councils for many years to come. He argued that the Government, in not establishing such a group, showed that it did not have a real desire to extend itself to decrease future bushfire risk.

In the following day's paper, Race Mathews, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, replied that an Ash Wednesday committee had in fact been formed, and that this was currently assessing various reports and suggestions. Out of this would come a comprehensive report which would prepare "action to further refine our state's disaster response capacity".

Jase feels that Mr. Mathew's response didn't really address the substance of his letter and so has sent another directly to the Minister spelling out at greater length his proposal as well as pointing out the deficiencies of the Government's approach, particularly the lack of direct submissions from the community. While we await Mr. Mathew's reply, perhaps we should be thinking of how we would collect the sort of information needed to minimise future risks from bushfires.

\* \* \* \* \*

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Sue - 059 - 68.4208

\* \* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \* \*

WATER SUPPLY - UPPER BEACONSFIELD

In March the B.U.A. wrote to the S.R. & W.S.C. concerning the water supply situation during the fires. The following is the exchange of correspondence between the Association and the Commission.

From the Association:

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you, as a result of a number of queries from the citizens of Upper Beaconsfield, with regard to one particular feature of the water supply to the town, which became very apparent during the recent disastrous fires in the area.

In a fire situation one of the first services to either fail or be disconnected is electricity. This occurred on the evening of Wednesday February 16th and as a result, water could not be pumped to storage in Upper Beaconsfield.

Once the storage facilities were depleted, the township area was left without water for fire fighting.

Whilst the recent fires were unprecedented in their intensity, we would like to suggest it would be timely to now examine where facilities and services might be improved for the future.

Is there any way the Commission can provide some standby power source that can be utilised during emergencies to ensure the water supply is kept up to the township?

We would appreciate your consideration of this question.

It is a concern to the people of Upper Beaconsfield - so much so that we would ask if we may have permission to reprint the Commission's views on this question in our community newspaper.

Signed: G.B. Jackson (Secretary).

From the Commission:

Dear Mr. Jackson,

I refer to your letter of the 9th March, 1983 concerning the water supply situation during the fires at Upper Beaconsfield on the 16th February, 1983, and the possibility of provision of standby power for pumping.

The Upper Beaconsfield water supply system was designed to meet the anticipated domestic and commercial demand of the supply district with normal growth to 1990. As part of the normal design procedure allowance was made for fire storage to be provided in the steel storage tanks in Hughendon and McKenzies Roads. The design for fire flow allows for the normal situation, the fighting of localised fire which threatens one or two houses, and a period of some 4 hours would normally be provided by the tanks in the event of an extended power failure.

The severity of the fire that occurred on the 16th February was such that the fire swept through the district very rapidly and the failure of the electricity supply to the pumps did not materially affect supply for fire fighting purposes, as most of the damage had occurred prior to the tanks being emptied.

As far as is known, power supplies to the pump station were interrupted at about 6 p.m. on the day in question, and the water supply tanks did not run out of water until 11 p.m. Supply was reinstated by 3 p.m. on the 17th February by bringing in diesel generators to the pumping stations. Water was made available from the Beaconsfield Reservoir to fill tankers for further fighting of fires where required, and water tankers were supplied by the Water Commission, whilst the pumps were not operating, for domestic use by people still remaining in the area.

It is the Commission's view that in the event of a repeat of the recent drastic fires, with all residents evacuated from the area, extensive power failure, and a large fire front, continuity of the water supply would be of little value; in the event of a smaller grass fire causing temporary damage to power supplies (but the residents stay in the area) temporary generators could be hired at short notice if the power outage extended beyond the period provided by the tanks.

The existing supply arrangements are more than adequate to supply water for a normal house or grass fire in the area, and the provision of permanent standby generators to provide for the contingency of another conflagration of the same intensity as experienced on the 16th February, 1983 is not considered to be justified on the slight possibility that it could occur again.

The Commission has no objection to the contents of this letter being made available to your community newsletter, and would be pleased to discuss the question with your Association should you so desire.

Signed: F.C. O'Connor, (Acting Secretary).

### O.K. AT U.B.

The Village sure has had a time of it. The fires hit and the C.F.A. were flat out. Soon the S.E.S. got cracking. The S.E.C. got sparking and TELECOM got wired up. The S.R. & W.S.C. was all washed up for a while. Then came the powwows with the S.E.S., the D.C.W.S., reps from Pak. S.C., DISPLAN and a few U.B. locals. The big boys got in on the act - M.H.R.'s, M.L.A.'s, M.P.'s, even the P.M. The J.P. at the P.O. was in the thick of it. The C.W.A. was in there, too, with help.

The B.U.A. (U.B.A.) swung into action and soon we had a U.B.C.A.G. (B.U.C.A.G.), a C.D.O. and a D.I.C. (drop in some time for some T.V. or just T.). V.B.'s multiplied and we had V.B.I.Ns.

Now if the S.G.A.C., R.F.C. and the B.F.A.T.F.T. mind their P's and Q's, and with a bit put in by all, what looked like a T.K.O. will be O.K. for U.B.

\* \* \* \* \*

### UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP.

At the instigation of Cr. Peter Meeking, an Upper Beaconsfield Advisory Group was formed at a meeting on Sunday 27th March, 1983.

The aims of the group were to provide guidance and advice to the Dandenong Ranges Fire Affected Area Committee over the following six months. It was to examine immediate problems and decide on future directions. It was intended that members of the group be as representative as possible of the varied interests of the community, including of course a good cross-section of those whose homes were destroyed.

At the second meeting, I was elected chairman of the group, and at subsequent meetings we increased the representation of those who had lost their homes. The group is a loosely formed one, and really any member of the public is welcome to attend. The next meeting is on Sunday 29th May at 7.30 p.m. at the Upper Beaconsfield Hall.

We did hope that we had a group that was so broad that everyone in the community knew at least one person in the group, so that when anyone has ideas or suggestions to pass on, and is unable or does not wish to come to the meetings, they can ring a member of the committee who can then pass on the ideas. So please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Committee if you can see something that can be improved or changed. There is also a suggestion box in the Hall. The Hall is open 9.00 a.m. - 4.00p.n Monday to Friday.

Some of the items discussed by the Group since its inception are:

- Caravan Park - idea examined, survey taken, no need established from survey, therefore caravan park was not proceeded with.
- Our own Radio Station - after a lot of work and investigation by Murray Erwin, the red tape involved halted this project, but on a Wednesday night, Murray managed to get us some air space on 3AW on the Dave Pinkney Show - so listen to 3AW for the latest information.
- Secondary Students Study Program - actively running in school library.
- Bus Service - a small bus for local use was decided to be best, and is now in operation.
- Recreation Oval - this was decided unanimously to be the number one project for the area and both Lions and Apex, who offered money to the community for a community project, have been asked for the community's contribution - a matter of some \$10,000, as it was believed that after such a disaster, the ability of our own Upper Beaconsfield Community to raise is very limited, and the project will fall through if the community cannot contribute their share of the money. The rest of the money is coming from the State Government, the Education Department and Local Government.  
The project is number one priority with the Pakenham Shire and it has taken years to reach this position. A usable Recreation Reserve will help keep the community together.
- The group has also looked at the need for other services such as Counselling Services - Social Workers, Marriage Guidance etc, and is currently organizing discussion groups and a public meeting to discuss stress, and how to deal with people who are under stress.
- Information Sheet - Communication (or rather, lack of it) was of great concern to the Advisory Group, so it was decided to set up a short-term Information Sheet, to be issued weekly first, and then gradually decrease in frequency as the need for information lessened. So do read the Village Bell Information Sheet to keep you up with the latest.
- Some of the other items currently under discussion are - the Igloo for the new Recreation Reserve Oval; a Buying Co-operative now being investigated by the Upper Beaconsfield Association.; a discussion night with a representative from Rural Finance; a change in the staffing of the T.V. room - will now be open on weekends as well as Friday and Sunday nights; concern over a reduction in the number of social workers available for the area; concern over Mr. Smith's "grey areas"; Marg. Chellew, the Community Education Officer has been invited to the next meeting to discuss her role within the community and how she can help us; another "get together and have fun" night for EVERYONE in Upper Beaconsfield; trying to get more dryers in the Laundry and the availability of hot water to at least one washing machine for mothers with nappies.

So as you can see, we cover many aspects of life after the bushfires in Upper Beaconsfield, and we welcome your comments, thoughts, ideas and help.

Lenoar Gullquist  
Chairman - Upper Beaconsfield  
Community Advisory Group

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE VILLAGE BELL**

- Editor - Matt McDonald
- Masthead - Wendy Neal
- Collators - Volunteers at the Drop-In Centre
- Advertisements - Jan Rutherford
- Typists - Marlene Glenister, Gilda Hansen
- Duplicating - Judy & George Moir, Graeme Kidd

Deadline next issue: Friday, 15th July, 1983.

Editors for the remaining editions of the Bell for this year will be:

- August - Jane Holth 443 384
- October - Graeme Kidd 443 400 (Sept. 16th)
- December - Geoff Brooks 443 309 (Nov. 15th)

The dates in brackets are the deadlines for copy for that issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

**PORTSEA LORD MAYOR'S CAMP**

E. White

Two bus loads of tired but high spirited children returned from five days of fun and activity at the Lord Mayor's Camp at Portsea. Organized by Ann Burnell of Mt. Eliza and sponsored by the Salvation Army, 31 children from Upper Beaconsfield, Cockatoo and Colac enjoyed an exciting programme organized for them.

They toured the Officers Cadet School at Portsea, visited the Sorrento Aquarium and took part in a sand modelling competition. The Sorrento Rescue Squad gave a demonstration of a search and rescue operation which included a man being lowered from a helicopter into the sea to save another. Joining them for lunch were visiting V.F.L. footballers and Test Cricketers who gave coaching to all interested children.

On Thursday, in perfect weather, there was a 4 1/2 km walk along Portsea Back Beach to Sorrento Rock Pool, and then a bus trip to Arthurs Seat and afterwards a tour of Cape Schanck Lighthouse. In the evenings there were films, a concert and on the final night a Disco and Square Dancing.

The Lord Mayor's Camp was established 37 years ago after a bad drought in the Mallee and was known then as the Mallee Camp. It gave holidays to children of the outback areas. Since then 100,000 children have passed through its gates. Nowadays it is for country children from November to April and the rest of the year is available to any interested groups.

\* \* \* \* \*

**WRITE YOUR FIRE EXPERIENCES** (Dusty Records)

A number of stories, accounts and contributions have been received. Offers of help from typists and a calligrapher have been made. Any of the U.B. Editors will receive your offerings in the hope of putting them into a U.B. publication.

Contact: Jeanette Ballinger - 443 395

\* \* \* \* \*

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**WINTER COMFORT FOR CARAVANNERS**

Ray Ratcliff

The Uniting Church in Berwick has been allocated some funds for Bushfire Relief in the Upper Beaconsfield area. Some has been used to provide recipe books and some is for the purchase of doonas.

It has been decided to give either a queen size (210 cm x 210 cm) OR two single bed sized quilts to each family who have lost their homes and are in caravan, tent, or granny flat.

Orders can be placed with the Drop-In Centre and we should have delivery early in June.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEWS OF ANN FOGARTY**

We are delighted to report that Ann has now been moved from the Intensive Care Unit at the Alfred Hospital and is continuing to receive treatment in Burns Ward 3E. Ann is in good spirits and has been enjoying a few more visitors recently in her busy programs of getting well.

Intending visitors should telephone the Ward before setting out for a visit -visitors only between 2.30 and 4.00 p.m. at present.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ST. JOHN'S**

Church Worship continues at 9.00 a.m. each Sunday in the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School Library.

The Family Fellowship has resumed each Tuesday evening at 7.15 p.m. in private homes.

Youth Club at 7.00 p.m. on Friday evenings in the Primary School Multi Purpose Room.

Wednesday School - 3.30 p.m., also in the Multi Purpose Room.

Plans are being considered for the re-building of St. John's, with several architectural drawings being processed, and it is anticipated that within the next few months we should have a clear view of its restoration.

Any queries or information - Rev. Roger Rich 41 1013.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEW RESIDENTS** - We extend a warm welcome to the following new residents :

- St. Georges Road : Rod & Doreen WADDELL; Dale & Cheryl ALLAN
- Brennan Avenue : Wendy SIMPSON
- Stoney Creek Road : Michael & Wendy ERWIN; Ken & Fay FARTHING
- Emerald Road : Ian & Maureen WRIGHT; John & Carolyn FLOYD
- a'Beckett Road. : Lawrence & Annette O'KEEFE
- Sugar Loaf Road : Alan & Chandra DRIVER
- Sutherland Road : Thomas & Helen KENT
- Lenne Road : Phil & Sue WILD; Sandra COMPTON
- Billaroy Road : D. LEEMING; A. WEBB
- Bathe Road : Paul & Caroline EARL

**LOST KELPIE DOG**

Geoff Burt is searching for his young brown and white kelpie dog missing in the Upper Beaconsfield area. The dog was last seen in a'Beckett Road.

If you know his whereabouts, please ring Geoff on (03) 704 6658.

\* \* \* \* \*