

No. 33

JULY, 1983

Published by the B.U.A.

To All Residents

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EXTENSION WORKER

Lenoar Gullquist has been appointed to the above position which has been funded by the Uniting Church and administered by the Shire of Pakenham.

The appointment is for 6 months and the objectives of the new position include:

1. ensuring all fire-affected persons in the Upper Beaconsfield, Mt. Misery, Pakenham Upper, Guys Hill, Beaconsfield, Officer and Harkaway areas are contacted in that time,
  2. ensuring all contacted residents have knowledge of and information about their entitlements under the Bushfire Appeal (1983) Trust Fund,
  3. raising the capacity of all fire-affected persons to manage their lives in the post-trauma phase,
- and
4. referring to local support and professionally based agencies for any residents who are under considerable stress in their daily living.

Lenoar will be based in an office at the Upper Beaconsfield Hall - (phone 443 484) - and will visit people at home by appointment, or at the Hall if they prefer.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP - L. Gullquist (Chairman)

The meetings of the Advisory Group have been gradually decreasing over the last two months, as the community is slowly getting back on its feet, and problems are gradually being resolved.

The next meeting of the Group is on Sunday, 31st July at 7.30 p.m. at the Upper Beaconsfield Hall. The main item of discussion at the moment is the future of the Group - has it served its purpose already? - should it continue in another form? - is there room or need for another community group within Upper Beac.?

If you are interested in the future of the Group, please feel welcome to attend the next meeting.

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THE BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION

G.B.Jackson, Hon. Secretary

The Association has been active in a number of areas, however the topic that is beginning to occupy more and more of our attention, and promises to become a matter of great significance in the months ahead, is the issue of what is being done by the authorities to learn from the experience of the fires and to ensure Victoria is better able to cope with disasters in the future.

Keith Ewenson is chairing a sub-committee gathering information on the fires with the objective of preparing a formal submission to the authorities.

Readers will already be aware of the exchange of correspondence between the Association and the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission on the matter of adequacy of the water supply to support a major fire fighting operation.

The Association has written to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services requesting information on the "Miller Enquiry" and to ascertain if this community, and other fire-affected communities, will be consulted in the course of this "enquiry".

Whilst we are pleased to report the Minister has assured us the public will be involved and that the B.U.A. will be asked to participate, we regret that the Miller Enquiry is, in fact, a Working Party, chaired by the Chief Commissioner of Police and reporting to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

The Committee of the B.U.A. have replied to the Minister that in our view the report of the Working Party will not be seen, by the public, to have, the objectivity of an open enquiry under an independent chairperson.

We have therefore written to the Premier requesting the government institute an open enquiry into all aspects of "the fires", that is, before, during and after the occurrence, with the objective of establishing a more effective response to major fires and other disasters in the future.

We have carried the matter further with a request to the Premier, that, in addition to the open enquiry, the government appoint what we have chosen to call a "Citizens Advocate" to represent the people who were involved in the fires.

We believe that many people who have a contribution to make to such an enquiry will be reluctant to subject themselves to the experience of appearing before such an enquiry, with a seriousness and formality associated with such an enquiry.

We envisage, the "Citizens Advocate" would spend time in each of the fire-affected areas, discussing with people their thoughts and ideas as to what occurred and what can and should be done to ensure Victoria is better prepared next time people face a disaster.

From this the "Citizens Advocate" would be able to ensure the thoughts and ideas of the community are forcefully put to the enquiry.

This is not to say we do not support the right of each and every citizen to appear before an enquiry; what we do seek is that every support and assistance be given to people who wish to put forward their views.

It is important to point out that many of the experiences of the people of Beaconsfield Upper, whilst of great significance, not only to the individuals concerned but also to our community, will not be relevant to an enquiry.

What we must do is to look deeper, to ascertain why and how these things happened and what changes need to be made to ensure history is not repeated and others do not suffer in the same way.

The correspondence we have entered into is available and will be read at the general meeting on 3rd August - it is however somewhat longer than the space available to the Association in this Village Bell.

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BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 3rd AUGUST 8.00p.m. -in VILLAGE HALL

AGENDA : Minutes, Correspondence, Financial Report

- Item 1 : Area Committee Report - P. Meeking
- 2 : Community Development Officer Report - S. Gray
- 3 : Personal Emergency Service - G. Kidd
- 4 : Community Advisory Committee Report - G. Kidd
- 5 : Garden Re-establishment & Plans for a Gardening Group - M. McDonald/C. Leaver
- 6 : Youth Club/BMX Report - M. Erwin
- 7 : Ash Wednesday Study Group - K. Ewenson

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REVIEW - ASH WEDNESDAY SUB-COMMITTEE

K. Ewenson

The work of receiving information and co-ordinating discussion with relevant authorities has commenced. A number of submissions has been received from residents relating their experiences and with constructive comments. A further group of submissions has been obtained from the Post Office. These may well have been meant for historical purposes and they will still be used in this way, but it would be advantageous to use them to broaden our data base. If there is any person unhappy with this approach don't hesitate to contact me.

\* \* \* \* \*

It is not too late to make submissions. My committee is quite mindful they are asking a lot to expect people to recall this traumatic occasion, nevertheless it is vital to learn from it. Complete endorsement is given to the actions instigated from a comprehensive inquiry (as reported in another part of this edition.) The first meeting for discussion with an authority is to be the S.R. & W.C. with Executives of B.U. Fire Brigade Sub-Committee and the Shire. Other meetings follow.

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BUSH FIRE MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING-IGLOO

K. Ewenson

Town Planning applications are currently before the MMBW and the Shire. Both Authorities have asked for full advertising of proposals and determinations should be known shortly.

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RECREATION GROUND

K. Ewenson

Possibly the largest improvement to recreational facilities in Beaconsfield Upper is about to start. The Shire has been able to co-ordinate the Departments of Youth Sport and Recreation and the Education Department in a joint use project which will be of great benefit to the whole community. Full marks to Apex for being willing to supply the public contribution towards the project funds enabling the work to proceed.

Currently the Shire is finalising the small details required by the user groups and arranging an equitable management basis. As soon as this is done, the work will commence.

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THE ROLE OF THE BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION

Vic Greenaway, Pres.  
Graham Jackson, Sec.

In every vigorous, democratic community there exists, in one form or another, a forum for public debate and for the dissemination of ideas and information of concern and interest to the community. We believe the B.U.A.'s role is to maintain and protect the right of each individual to speak; we believe the B.U.A. is a place where every member of our community can address his, or her, fellow citizens on matters of public interest and concern.

People have asked, "What does the B.U.A. do?" We believe the B.U.A. is not a "doing" organisation - the action stems from the groups and bodies that the B.U.A. generates and sponsors.

We hear the comment - "Oh, that's something the B.U.A. should do." With respect, we suggest the comment should be, "That's something we should discuss at the B.U.A. and see if there are others in the community who will support and work for this idea."

If the B.U.A. were dedicated to a particular end, such as a sporting body, then one would expect the executive to exercise direct control over the whole organisation and ensure sub-committees, as well as members, all focus their attention on the common objective. The B.U.A. is not, however, dedicated to a single narrow objective and the action groups that are generated, as a result of discussion within the B.U.A., are autonomous groups that "do their own thing". These groups choose to give progress reports at B.U.A. meetings but in doing so they are providing their progress reports to the people attending the meeting. They are not reporting, in a management sense, to the executive of the B.U.A. The executive of the B.U.A., we believe, is there to structure meetings and to provide the facilities for communicating the views of the community, as determined by the community, and to receive information from other bodies and disseminate this information to the community.

What then has been achieved through the B.U.A. this year, and, in particular, what has been done to help re-build our community in the aftermath of the fires? Firstly is the publication of that special edition of the Village Bell in the days immediately following the fires. Those that saw readers' reactions to that issue must rank it as something very special.

The initiative for the appointment of the Community Development Officer began within the B.U.A. and resulted in the appointment of a person from within our own community. The selection and the funding was done by the government with management in the hands of the Shire.

The Community Advisory Group developed from the request by Crs. P. Meeking and K. Ewenson for a group of people to support them in the many decisions necessary in the aftermath of the fires.

The Village Picnic that took the place of this year's Village Fair, together with that special "Citizen of the Year" award to all the citizens of Upper Beaconsfield were also the inspiration of the Association.

The Youth Drop-In-Centre, film nights at Beaconsfield Upper and Cockatoo, funds to replace the Village Bell equipment, a projector for the film nights, the Ash Wednesday Study Group, all these and many other matters have resulted from discussion within the B.U.A.

This is not an exercise in justification; nor is it intended to be a listing of the B.U.A.'s achievements. Such a listing would be presumptuous; we are not in the business of gathering credits, particularly as there are so many with which to share those credits. This is, however, an exercise in saying what we think the B.U.A. is all about - we certainly welcome your thoughts on the role played by the B.U.A., or more to the point, on the role you believe the B.U.A. should play in the community life of Beaconsfield Upper.

NATURE NOTES - THE BUSH COMES BACK

John Reid

Anyone who saw the black paddocks and bushland soon after the fires would be aware how much natural change has occurred in the last five months. The paddocks are so green it is hard to imagine just how black they were, and the bush has come back strongly with many kinds of new growth.

While walking on the Friday after the fires, it was hard to believe that the forest was still alive. But the Australian environment has evolved with fire as an important component. In fact, it is needed to maintain the stability of certain types of bush and forest. Wattle seed lying dormant in the soil needs the heat of a fire to soften the hard seed coat and cause germination. Hakeas require heat to split the woody fruiting capsules and spread the seed.

About a month after the fires the gum trees (eucalypts) had begun to sprout clumps of leaves from their trunks and branches. This is caused by buds that remain dormant under the bark until the tree requires quick green regrowth to keep it alive after it has lost its leaves in a fire. These shoots produce a juvenile form of growth, with stalkless leaves in opposite pairs along the stems. These will remain on the tree until the mature crowns have grown back.

Many plants such as grasses, ferns and orchids were reduced to dust at ground level but survived because their underground parts resisted the heat of the fire. Soon after the first follow-up rain, grass appeared through the ash and dry gum leaves. This was followed by hundreds of tiny seedlings, especially eucalypts and wattles.

Ferns have come back strongly. The underground stems of Braken, Rainbow Fern, Gristle Fern and Maidenhair survived the heat and, within two months, all were showing new fronds. The tree ferns have maintained sap flow under their thick charred trunks and produced new fronds a metre long.

These plants and many more are coming back and as they become re-established so will the insects, birds and animals.

\* \* \* \* \*

A FORTNIGHT OF LUXURY

Jane Holth

"Two weeks in hotels after months in the van was luxurious", said Marg McKenzie. "From the time we got on the plane until the night before we came back I hardly thought of Upper Beaconsfield, and I slept every night".

Ian and Marg have recently returned from relaxing at Pattaya Beach in Thailand for a week in a temperature of 34 degrees before a more active week in Hong Kong. Having lost nearly everything in the fire, they took advantage of Hong Kong's low prices, especially in the clothing area. "I had shoes made to fit", said Marg "and, nicest of all, my rings which I salvaged from the ashes were restored".

They were surprised that so many people had heard about the Victorian fires and one shop they visited had contributed to the fire relief through the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

The McKenzies also took a trip to Macau where they visited the casino with their purses firmly closed.

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HOME HELP SERVICE - NEW GUIDELINES

Specific Home Help Service

The service applies to severely mentally or physically disabled children or younger adults, who are cared for by parents, guardians or guardian equivalents in the home, irrespective of the age at which the disability was incurred. With the permission of the Supervisor and parent(s), and with the assurance of the Council that adequate safety and insurance cover is provided, Home Help providers will be permitted to take children or other members of the household out of the home for short outings. The emphasis is on replacing parents in the home. This new role is considered to be more than one of observation of a disabled person, and catering for his or her needs. It also covers the normal duties carried out by the Home Help provider, and these include household cleaning, cooking and washing, together with the care of the children.

General Home Help Service

This service is available to the aged, disabled or the chronically ill who are unable to attend to normal household activities. Young families through the illness of a parent, confinement of the mother, or illness, handicap of a member of the family, or where the caring parent or relatives cannot properly attend to the family's household needs, are also eligible under the scheme.

Clients using both the Specific and General Home Help service will be required to contribute towards the hourly salary of the Home Help Staff member, according to their ability to pay.

Under normal circumstances, home help duties are confined to within the home boundaries of the family dwelling; these duties will include such tasks as the care of children, washing, ironing, cooking, cleaning, shopping and laundry visits, together with the preparation and cooking of meals. The Home Help provider is permitted to do spring cleaning, arrears in washing and ironing, cleaning of windows and sweeping of paths, only when assisting an aged person who lives alone or with another aged or disabled person. The service does not extend to carrying out nursing duties requiring the skills of a qualified nurse.

The Health Commission has relaxed the guidelines further to enable the Home Help to assist residents affected by the fires. This may be in the form of friendly home visiting, to assist in filling out of forms, or to give support, where needed. Approval by the Home Help Supervisor for such assistance must be obtained prior to the Home Helper going into the home.

For more information contact should be made with Council's Home Help Supervisor, Mrs Joy Morris, on telephone (059)41 1011 or your local doctor.

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**THAR THAR - SHE BLOWS!!**

D. Greenaway

If you want a whale of a time, Gemco Players Community Theatre Group have just what you need with their unusual interpretation of the epic "Moby Dick", one of the three hilarious plays to be presented in their next production. As well as "Moby Dick", a very condensed and over ambitious attempt of the epic, Gemco will also present "Streuth", a detective mystery murder with a very strange ending, and "Il Fornicazione", an operatic "sendup".

Thanks to the generous support of the "Dandenong Ranges Fire Affected Committee" and the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, Gemco Players Community Theatre Group proudly announce a special performance at the Beaconhills Golf Club on Saturday 20th August.

The overall title of the show will be "Comedies of Errors" -This is most appropriate as the show, a selection of three hilarious plays, will be performed in the style of coarse acting. This is where everything one hopes not to happen in a production does so, with very funny results'!

A substantial meal will be provided with a course between each play, so if you want to satisfy your theatrical appetite as well as your hunger, this show is definitely not to be missed. The cost will be minimal. Phone Jeff Brooks (059) 443309 at the Beaconsfield Golf Club for further details and bookings. Remember seats are very limited so book now to avoid disappointment.

Gemco still require people to help with back stage, 'Front of house', catering, publicity, costumes, scenery etc., so if you have a little time and would like to join this fun and friendly group please contact David (059) 684050 or Sue (059) 684208. Hope to see you soon!

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**YOUNG U.B.'s OFF TO N.Z.**

Jane Holth

Police transport, radio and television interviews, and an encounter with New Zealand Prime Minister Mr Muldoon and Wellington's Lord Mayor will be just some of the excitement in store for fifty U.B. 5th and 6th graders next week.

They are being sponsored on a trip to New Zealand by the Rotary Club of Wellington, the Salvation Army and Rotary District 981 of Victoria (Blackburn and Nunawading areas). They will be billeted, in private homes on their two-week tour which is a bush fire relief plan, five teachers have been despatched to keep matters in hand.



**POST OFFICE BOXES**

PRIVATE BOXES are now available at Upper Beac. P.O. - (059) 443 200

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**BERWICK HIGH SCHOOL - A CALL TO PARENTS**

Ian Baird

Recently all Upper Beaconsfield parents of Berwick High School students were invited to attend a meeting with school staff to discuss future school policies and elect a local representative to the school's Policy Development Committee. While I am as reluctant as most parents when it comes to involvement in school meetings, committees etc. it appeared important that I attend any discussion on the future policies of the school. My children attend; I was therefore one of the parents at that meeting and ended up being elected as your representative to the Policy Development Committee.

As I see it, the purpose of this Committee is to provide a cross-sectional, parental view for consideration in the development of future school policies on all aspects of school operation. Obviously this will only be possible if I have an understanding of your views.

As examples of the range of considerations which can be developed by the Policy Development Committee I mention the following subjects which were raised in discussion at the parent/staff meeting:

- curriculum - future paths, the possibility of some emphasis away from academic subjects;
- school uniforms - their acceptability and affect on discipline;
- student performance - parent/teacher contact to analyse and resolve difficulties;
- discipline - staff and parent views concerning discipline;
- future possibility of sharing school resources with other school
- zoning of schools;
- smoking by students;
- basis of promotion of students to next year levels;
- computer training;
- community attitude towards Berwick high School.

Many other aspects were also discussed, however this list gives some idea of the policy determination areas in which parents are now being given their say.

It is my belief that each of you will have opinions on many aspects of school activity and policy, however these opinions' cannot be represented unless you inform me of them. At this stage there are no firm views as to how it can be ensured that I will be speaking on your behalf, however your contact with me will assist in determining a course of action. Hopefully, there may be sufficient interest to allow periodic meetings to develop consensus points of view. Please do not hesitate to contact me at my home, 26 Brennan Ave, or telephone 44 3756.

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**THE REBUILDING OF ST JOHNS**

Shelly Waters

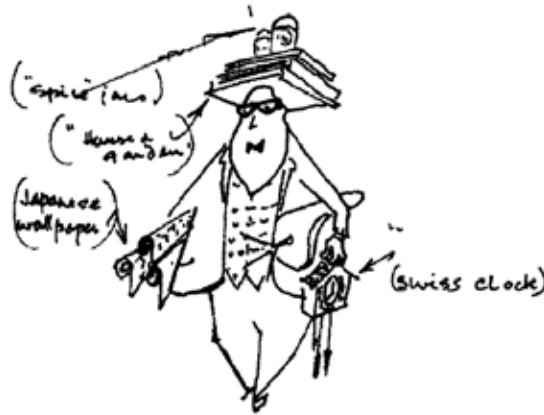
All plans have now been submitted and will be available for parishioners and interested people to view at a luncheon on July 31st from 11.30a.m. at the Upper Beaconsfield Hall. We would appreciate your comments and ideas, which may be directed to Father Roger Rich on 411013.



**RAINBOW LAKE DEVELOPMENT**

Peter Meeking

After many months of discussion between owners and Council Officers the matter is about to be placed in the public arena in similar fashion to all other rezoning proposals. If the rezoning was to proceed, the owner would acquire an additional 4 x 1/2 ha allotments along the Stoney Creek Road frontage, with the lake retained by the owner as a separate allotment of 8.8 ha (= 20 acres.) The most northern allotment approximating 4 ha (10 acres) would be transferred to the Council for community purposes. Appropriate notices will be included within the Pakenham Gazette.



**NEW RESIDENTS**

We extend a warm welcome to the following new residents and hope they feel at home in our community -

- Brennan Avenue : Darrell BANKS; Wendy SIMPSON;  
Donald and Diana CALLEN
- Fraser Avenue : P.L. & M.J. HALFPENNY
- Stoney Creek Road : Laurie & Theresa DALMAN; Ken & Sandra FARTHING
- Grant Court : Colin FRANKLAND; Marion OEHME
- Emerald Road : Ron & Betty BOWMAN (VEC)
- Split Rock Road : George & Lorraine WOOKEY
- Manestar Road : Bob & Kaye EVANS

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**COMMUNITY HOUSE**

Shelley Waters

Representatives from the Community Centre Committee have approached both the Upper Beaconsfield Advisory Group and Hall Committee for their comments regarding the establishment of a Community Centre and to date have received enthusiastic support. Also over the past week the Committee has made a submission to the Employment Initiative Scheme for future staff funding.

There are numerous new courses being offered at the Drop-in-Centre for Term 3 so book in early to avoid disappointment. Due to Disaster Relief Funding drawing to a close, there will have to-be a minimal charge for both creche and courses.

A luncheon will be held on August 8th enabling the Community to say thankyou to the dedicated hard working Hall volunteers who have helped and supported us over the past months.

The Community Centre will hold their next meeting on 25th July at 8.p.m. We invite all interested people to attend.

V I L L A G E   B E L L

Masthead : Tor Holth (also cartoons)  
 Editor : Jane Holth  
 Typistes : Lynne Hollick, Christine Hoffman, Elva Ratcliff  
 Advertising : Jan Rutherford  
 Printing : Judy & George Moir, Ken Ballinger  
 Collating : The Venturers

DEAD LINE FOR NEXT ISSUE - (Please diarise!) 15th September, 1983

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DUSTY RECORDS

J. Ballinger

If anyone would like to help with the recording of their bushfire experience, contact Ray Ratcliff at the Post Office who will put you in touch with either an ex-journalist or a local resident who both have volunteered assistance.

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DR. WILSON'S SURGERY

Dr. Charles and Mrs. Yvonne Wilson are moving to their new home in Old Officer Road - between Split Rock Road and Carpenter Road - also called "Wildfell". However the surgery telephone number is unchanged 443 404 - and the surgery remains at 'Fassifern'.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD FIRE BRIGADE

A series of talks and practical demonstrations to help you to help yourselves when the next fire emergency arises is being conducted in the Fire Brigade Room (behind the Fire Station in Halford Road) over three NIGHTLY sessions each of approximately two hours, then one Saturday morning practical session.

DATES :            Thursday 28th July        -    7.45 p.m. - 9.45 p.m.  
                   Thursday 4th August               "                "  
                   Saturday 6th August        10.00 a.m. - 12 noon  
                   Thursday 11th August      7.45 p.m. - 9.45 p.m.

Subjects covered will include : Fire prevention and fire behaviour; Structural fires - houses and other; Bush and grassfires; & Equipment.

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BEWARE HOUSE FIRES

Over the past couple of weeks there have been several house fires, one of the main causes is problems with the electrical wiring and some problems can be caused by the wiring having been subjected to extreme heat. If your house was in the immediate area of the bushfires it is in your interest to have your wiring checked for safety by a professional electrician.

The damage is not always obvious on first glance or to an inexperienced person.

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BEACON HEIGHTS AUTOS

E. White

Dale and Ben are making excellent progress with their new modern building. They plan to open their garage at the end of the month with many new facilities. They would like to thank their loyal customers who have continued to support them during difficult times.

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**HOUSE FIRE APPEAL AT \$8,000**

"The Towers", which was burnt down on June 27, was one of the few historic houses of Upper Beaconsfield which survived the February fires.

It had been built over a period of seven years from bricks made on the site in the 1870's by one of the Kitchen brothers who also built "Caversham" on Caversham Hill and "Seven Oaks" in Toomuc Valley. "Caversham" was destroyed on Ash Wednesday and now only "Seven Oaks" still stands.

The home has been in the family for generations, being owned by Mrs. Dack's grandfather, Charles Berglund, who purchased it from the Kitchen brothers. Mrs. Dack was given the home by her mother. The 100 acres around the home are the joint property of Mrs. Dack and her two brothers.

The Appeal for Lois Dack of "The Towers" and for Alan and Joy Vaughan who lost their home in McArthur Road the same weekend, is up to about \$8,000.

Donations may be handed to Officers of the Upper Beac. Fire Brigade, in at the Post Office, or sent to "B.U.A. House Fire Fond", Box 99, Upper Beaconsfield, 3808.

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**GENERAL STORE**

E.White

The new Upper Beaconsfield General Store will be officially opened in about 4 weeks time.

George and Ann Decelis opened for business recently but still have plenty of stock arranging to do.

The new building has a rural character with dark-coloured bricks which give a feeling of age, and an attractive bull-nosed verandah. The signwriter has also enhanced the building with old style signs. George has also organised seats outside.

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**YOUTH CLUB**

Norm Wilson

An excursion is being arranged to Williamstown one weekend which will include an inspection of H.M.A.S. Castlemaine, lunch and then an inspection of the Train Museum. If you are interested in taking part please contact Norm Wilson, 443 787.

For people aged 10 and over including parents a Gym Night at Pakenham High School. Activities include trampolining, table tennis, volley ball and vaulting horse. Bus leaves Multi-purpose Room at 7 p.m. on Friday 12th August. Bus returns at 10 p.m. Parents are requested to be punctual in picking up children. Parents must sign the declaration below regarding medical attention, and their children must bring it with them.

(Tear off here)

I authorise ..... to attend the Pakenham High School excursion and declare that in the event of an accident I authorise the person in charge (where it is impractical to contact me) to authorise that the above child receive medical/surgical treatment as may be deemed necessary.

Signed ..... (parent/guardian)

Telephone No:

**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

P. Meeking

The Government has announced a policy of providing School Councils with a far greater role in the actual running of schools. Appropriate legislation is expected to be enacted by the end of the year. As a first step the Government has requested that the school community determine the number of parents and the number of teachers it wishes to have on the School Council. Meetings of both parents and teachers have recently taken place to make their individual decisions on these numbers, and the results have been passed to the present School Council for them to make a final recommendation.

As the meeting of parents the matter of subsidised bus transport to local post-primary schools was also discussed. Noel Brain from the Education Department outlined the current situation concerning zoning of Berwick and Pakenham High Schools and indicated that it was proposed that Upper Beaconsfield be included within the Berwick zone.

Two motions were passed at the meeting requesting that :

- (i) the present School Council press for the continued subsidised bus service to Pakenham and Berwick High Schools until such time as technical facilities are available at Berwick.
- (ii) Upper Beaconsfield be placed in a common zone including Berwick and Pakenham High Schools.

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**A GUIDE TO FIRE RESISTANT PLANTS**

"Landscape Australia" No. 2 1983 has a guide to fire resistant plants similar to that available at the Drop-In-Centre since April. Copies of landscape are also available at the centre. For further information contact the Forest Commission, 601 Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3000, or tel. 03 617 9222; or read-



- \* R.H. Luke & A.G. McArthur, "Bushfires in Australia", Aust. Govt. Publishing Service, Canberra, 1978.
- \* Bill Mollison, "Permaculture Two", Practical Design for Town and Country in Permanent Agriculture, Tagari, PO Box Stanley, Tasmania, 7331, Australia, 1979.
- \* B.J.T. Graham, "Tamarisk trees 'fire resistant'" in 'The Farmer and Grazier', 11 Jan. 1967.
- \* P. Waddington, "Expert advice on fire resistant plants" in the 'Fireman', 20 May, 1970.
- \* Trees and Bushfires", Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries, South Australia. Fact Sheet AGDEX 300/090, March 1977.
- \* "Bushfire Protection for Rural Houses. Ideas on siting, design and landscaping rural properties to maximize protection from bushfires", Dept. of Planning (Vic.) Design and Siting Guidelines, 1980. Also "How safe will your new house be from bushfires?" -a checklist accompanying the above publication, of matters to be considered when rebuilding a house in bushfire areas of the Dandenongs, Macedon Ranges and the Otways, March 1983.
- \* Report of the Board of Inquiry into the Occurrence of Bush and Grass Fires in Victoria, 1976-77.
- \* "Trees and Fire Protection. Trees and shrubs with low potential fire hazard." Papers kindly made available by Mr. Arthur Lyons of the Forest Commission of Victoria. April 1983.

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**PAKENHAM SHIRE CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU**

24 Main Street,  
Pakenham.  
Tel. 41.2377

Home Buyers

A booklet prepared by the Law Institute to help home buyers understand what is involved in buying and selling homes will be available shortly at a nominal cost.

Pensions, Benefits

New pamphlets for Pensions and Benefits are now available. Foster Grandparent Scheme.

The Bureau volunteers can give you advice on this scheme which is open to people over 55 years of age willing to spend 10 to 20 hours per week with two (2) disabled children.

Family Law/Women

A comprehensive booklet titled 'Women and Family Law' gives information on many matters.

Granny Flats

If you are having trouble obtaining accommodation and are a pensioner, or a grandparent, or have special circumstances, you may be eligible to hire a Granny Flat.

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 with a three hour per week course for thirteen 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.

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**TOY LIBRARY**

Jeanette Cronin

The Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library was established in April with Bush Fire Appeal funds from the Shire of Pakenham. With the assistance of many generous donations of toys and cash, plus subscription fees, we are now able to offer an extensive range of toys, catering for children aged 6 months to 7 years.

The Library operates from the Drop-in Centre on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. AND 7.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.

Subscription fees are \$10.00 per family per annum or \$6.00 for one child.

We have a membership now of 41 families. We look forward to seeing you and your children at the next borrowing day. Remember all families are welcome to join.

COMMUNITY BUS

Norm Wilson

The Community Bus has been well accepted in Upper Beaconsfield since it was donated by Apex, but when funding for the bus starts to run out the community will have to put forward some sort of a plan to Council showing how we can help support a bus. The cost of running the bus for June was around \$950-. During this time it travelled 2,600 km, and was used around 5 hours a day.

Funding for the bus could be raised by the following :

- Advertising on bus; Hirer charge for after hours use;
- A small bus fare; A morning and afternoon bus service for train travellers.

If you can put forward any ideas of raising funds for our Community Bus in the future please contact Norm Wilson, 443 787.

\* \* \* \* \*

A NEW BEGINNING

Judy Ruse

I didn't have time to say goodbye that night in February, but the pain was still the same. Now, five months later, I'm saying hello to a new house.

It is a lovely house - but still it's not the same. I moved in, so very glad to be out of that van. I can't touch the walls and I can't touch the ceiling - I do have space to move, lots of lovely space for my son to stretch out and play with his toys.

There is carpet on the floors, drapes at the windows and the light fittings are in. We are lucky. We tried to go back with a house like the one we bought two years ago. But it's still not the same - the pain and sense of loss returned once again.

There are gaps everywhere - no books in the bookshelves, no ornaments or photos and only some furniture. But, we are in our house.

We have lots of work to do yet inside and out. We have lovely red clay to turn into a garden and a small collection of plants to be protected until they can be planted out in spring. There are cupboards to fill, a library and cellar to re-stock, and fences to re-build. We must do this before we can bring our dogs home. We know this and are impatient to start these tasks together.

Most important of all though, for us - we are in our new house and we have our baby back with us. Our family is complete, once again!

\* \* \* \* \*



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