

# The Village Bell

No. 34

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October, 1983

## 1984 - A CENTENARY YEAR

Graeme Kidd

Next year is a significant year for Upper Beaconsfield -both the Primary School and the Public Hall celebrate their Centenaries. Committees are being formed to organise specific functions for these, but there is a feeling that it may be appropriate to arrange some common activities, and these of course would need to be coordinated. How these would fit in with other activities such as the Village Fair will also need to be considered. This may most effectively be carried out by having a group who is responsible for overall coordination.

The question of how these events for next year are to be organised will be discussed at the October meeting of the Association. Since it is expected that these will be of interest to a wide cross-section of residents, we would appreciate an appropriate representation of views. See you at 8.00 p.m. on Wednesday 5th October, 1983 at the Village Hall.

## UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

8.00 pm, Wednesday, 5th October, 1983

Public Hall, Salisbury Road

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Issues and reports on the agenda include:

Town Planning in Upper Beaconsfield.

Water Supply to Fire Prone areas.

Ash Wednesday Study Group.

Report by Riding Councillors.

Youth Club and BMX Group.

Formation of a Gardening Group.

Carols by Candlelight.

Village Fair.

and other issues as required.

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VILLAGE FAIR, 1984.

Early next year there will be a number of occasions for social gatherings, commemorations and celebrations. Mid-March is the usual time for the Village Fair, and at this stage there seems to be every reason to hold the Fair at the usual time.

Hence, the need for a group of willing people to form a committee to begin preparations for the Fair. Those who wish to volunteer (themselves or someone else!) could contact Peter Deering, on 44 3521 or Matt McDonald on 443 860)

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GARDENS.

Locals who are sufficiently well reestablished to be thinking about planning and replanting gardens have already had assistance from a number of quarters.

- o An evening for questions and advice, with Kevin Heinze, Bill Molyneux representatives of the Garden State Committee and other groups and authorities.
- o An order was taken for a bulk fruit tree purchase. This order was fulfilled and the trees were very good value.
- o Native trees and shrubs were donated by Oakleigh Technical School, the Shire of Pakenham and Men of the Trees, and were distributed in August.

Efforts have been made to organize a series pf nights on garden design landscaping, drainage, embankments, plants, planting and mulching, but due difficulties in publicising the nights, and the number of other commitments people have had, those nights have been put off. Perhaps there may be a need for them at a later date.

Further grants of plants will be made in October this year and March 1984 by the combined Services Clubs. Details of distribution are at this stage not known - Keep your ear to the ground!

The Forestry Commission was offering plants at special rates, and it is believed that this offer is still available.

The Natural Resources Conservation League has offered \$20,000 worth of vouchers for purchasing plants from them. The vouchers are for \$50.00 on the purchase of \$100 worth of trees. The offer is being administered through the Victorian Farmers' and Graziers' Association and is available to people whose property is 20 hectares or larger. Special consideration may be made for fire-affected properties that are smaller than this.

GARDENS will be an item on the agenda of the forthcoming B.U.A. meeting.

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WANTED

One man or boy for one weeks manual work - Ph. 443 283

\* \* \* \* \*

INFORMATION SERVICES

Bush Fire Relief - Lenoar Gullquist 44 3609 or 41 1011

Community Services - Marion da Costa 41 1011

Building & Engineering Services - Tom Cleary 41 1011

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**BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION**

The Committee of the BUA is concerned that, increasingly, the Association is being asked to respond on matters of Community interest, at shorter and shorter notice.

The practice of holding a Public meeting every other month, with a Committee meeting on the alternative month, does not allow the Association to react quickly enough on such issues. The Committee has decided that, for a trial period, meetings will be held monthly with a short Committee meeting proceeding the Public meeting. This trial is to be reviewed prior to the Annual General Meeting and a decision made as to whether or not the Association wishes, to adopt monthly meetings, sd was regular practice.

Whilst monthly meetings will enable the Association to react quicker, it does nothing for our capability to react adequately. There is only one thing that will do this - greater community involvement. This probably sound like the lament Of every organisation, however it is a matter that needs to be addressed.

The BUA exists as a forum for the people of Upper Beaconsfield to discuss issues of Community concern and interest, and to communicate with bodies such as the Shire Council, State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and many others.

Not only are we being asked to respond quicker, but also to respond on a wider range of Community issues. There are people who are prepared to object, if they disagree with what they perceive to be the BUA's attitude on an issue - when that issue affects them personally. If the opportunity is presented for the community to discuss issues and communicate their views, then clearly the greater the Community involvement the better the decisions made at BUA meetings will reflect the Communities views.

Please note that the decisions we are concerned about are decisions made the BUA meetings; not the decisions of the BUA but decisions the BUA is obliged to represent, faithfully, and directed by the meeting. The place to express your views is at BUA meetings; express them and give others the Opportunity to respond to them. This applies even more so to the organisations that function in Upper Beaconsfield. The BUA is the place to gauge how the rest of the Community feel about issues of vital interest to your organisation, and the place your organisations view on these issues.

We do find it difficult to accept criticism of a particular decision when the critic did not participate in the public decision making process - so the message is clear.

TURN UP AND PARTICIPATE - EACH MONTH

Graham Jackson -Secretary

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REPORT FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Peter Meeking

THE NEW UPPER BEACONSFIELD OVAL

Some weeks ago work began on the formation of the recreation oval, but alas, the rains came and everything ground to a halt. Hopefully the programme is now underway again, as it is necessary to finish the works in sufficient time to enable in-season grass planting. At this stage the oval will have water provided throughout, will be fully fenced, and is likely to have a cricket pitch reinstated.

In the meantime the BMX track plans are with the Recreation Reserve Committee, and the Shire staff have been to busy themselves in a general tidy up, particularly in the vicinity of the soon to be opened kindergarten.

THE IGLOO

All of the planning processes are near to completion, with both the Council and the MMBW issuing notices of determination to issue permits. As there are no appeals lodged with the Planning Tribunal, the actual permits can now be issued. As soon as these matters are finalised Pakenham Rotary Club will be contacted to commence the erection of the building.

PAKENHAM SHIRE DISASTER PLAN

Many meetings are being held in an endeavour to produce a plan which will assist the people of the Shire should a further disaster occur. A Welfare group is meeting, analysing what did happen after the fires, and looking to document all matters which need to be handled at the time of a disaster. A Communications Committee involving - Telecom, CFA, Police, Shire, Ham Radio operators, Ambulance Service and S.E.S. are also reviewing the Ash Wednesday activities, endeavouring to bring about improvements and greater co-ordination.

Without trying to be pessimistic, it is over 50 years since the last serious flooding of the Kooweerup Swamp, and therefore urgent steps have been taken to introduce a flooding plan. Not finalised as yet, but on the way.

The CFA at Group level, has produced a "Fire Plan" which is now being presented to various authorities for discussion purposes prior to finalisation.

\* \* \* \* \*

C.W.A.

C.W.A. Upper Beaconsfield are holding a Fete on Saturday, October 15th in the Community Hall from 10 a.m. There will be stalls of Craft and plants also White Elephant and cakes. Devonshire Teas will be on sale as well. We are looking forward to a good day, and trust the Community will give their support.

Upper Beaconsfield Day Branch of C.W.A. meet on the first Thursday of every month at 1.45 p.m. in the C.F.A. Meeting room with our Annual Meeting this year on Thursday, October, 13th. We welcome visitors at all our meetings and are always open to new members. Why not come and join us?

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

LOCATION: The community centre, which includes the drop in centre, is located at the hall in Salisbury Road. It is now busily operating with the first of its programmes in full swing.

Christine Hoffman and her hard working committee have completed their submissions to the government for funding and we are all waiting with crossed fingers for the results. Our thanks must go to Sue Gray for her expert guidance and enthusiasm in getting the ball rolling.

CLASSES: Have you a couple of hours spare during the week? You might enjoy the huff and puff of the aerobics class, creating a masterpiece in the painting class or tying yourself in knots with your two left feet at jazz ballet.

This term's activities are well under way. There are still vacancies in most classes and any interested persons are invited to phone for more information. Or you can call in to the creche situated behind the hall. Classes for this term are as follows:

	10 - 11 a.m.	1 - 3 p.m.	7 - 8 p.m
Mon -	Jazz ballet	Painting	Yoga
Tues -	Music and movement for Pre-schoolers	Advanced Chinese Cooking	8 - 10 p.m.
Wed -	Aerobics	Craft	Chinese Cooking
Thurs -	Leadlighting		

-The creche is available for all daytime classes.

CRECHE: Mums - do you dream of sneaking away on your own for a couple of hours to the hairdresser or maybe to the supermarket without arriving at the checkout with half a trolley of groceries you certainly didn't put there? If so please make use of the creche facility.

Anne, Shelley and Liz are providing expert and loving care for all pre-school children - babies included. There are two sessions Monday - Thursday inclusive. The morning session is from 9 - 11.30 and the afternoon from 1 - 3.30. There is no charge for this service but mothers are asked to provide a drink in a named container and a piece of fruit for morning and afternoon tea. The creche is very well set up with both indoor and outdoor equipment and a stimulating programme of activities is available for the older children.

The Community Centre is available to all members of our community. Please make use of it and feel free to drop in for a chat and a cuppa or just to see what is happening (or why the hall is vibrating on its foundations every Wednesday from 10 - 11). We would love to see you!

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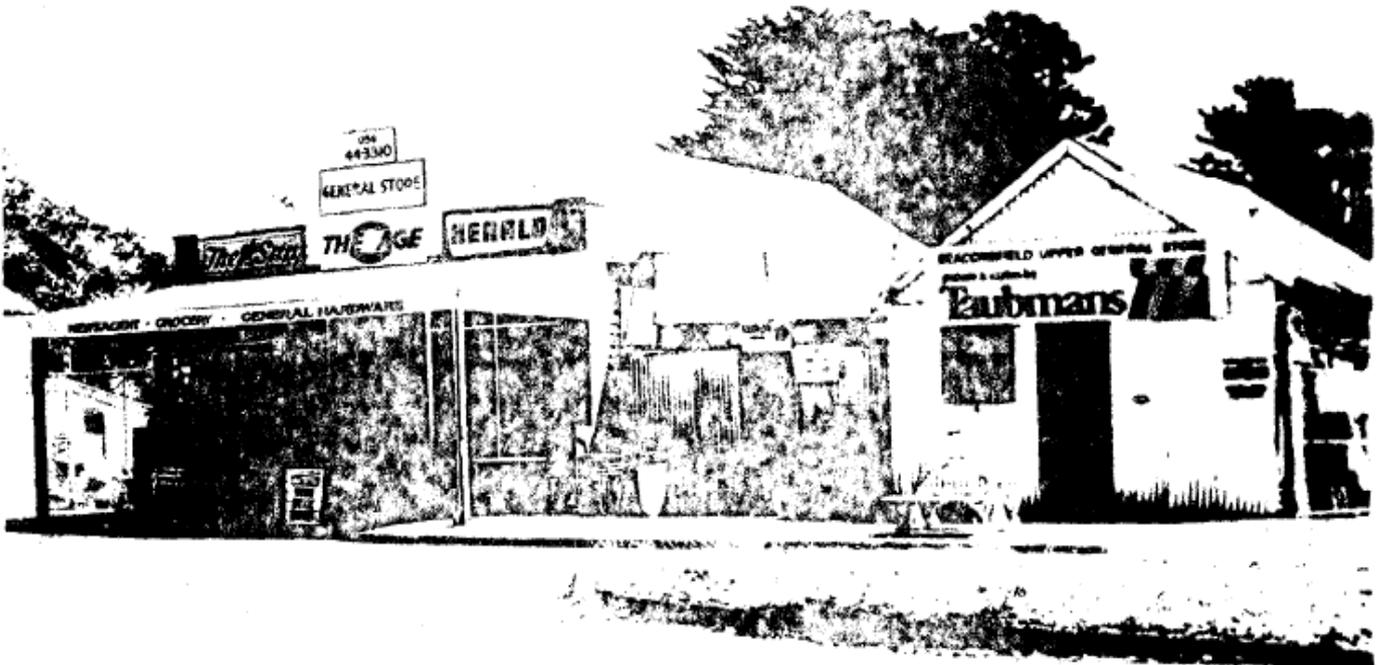
OFFICIAL OPENING OF U.B. GENERAL STORE

Jane Holth

'Perhaps the only memorial we can really make to those who lost property or who lost their lives in the fires is to make sure it never happens again, said the Hon. Rob Maclellan, when opening officially the new U.B. General Store on Monday 12 September.

On that wintry spring morning more than 100 people accepted the invitation of George and Ann Decelis to a chicken and champagne opening in appreciation of their continuous service since the fires and to wish them all the very best for the future.

The Hon. Rob said that as an outsider he could never hope to understand what life had been like in Upper Beaconsfield during and since the fires. Yet he had seen the courage and determination of the people to rebuild their town and, he said, "As Upper Beaconsfield rises like a phoenix from the ashes this store is a bricks and mortar sign that the town is well on the way back". He recalled that the U.B. Store first came to his attention when he received a complaint that it had sold nails on a Saturday afternoon. Fortunately the prosecution did not proceed! He expressed his appreciation of Ann's and George's efforts to rebuild in a style that reflected the past and suggested that building regulations should be examined and improved in order to make such designing easier. He congratulated George and Ann on their service to the community, particularly since losing the old store, and wished them prosperous trading in the future.



THE OLD GENERAL STORE

Photo: Matt McDonald

When introducing the Hon. Rob, Cr. Peter Meeking outlined the history of the store. He said that in the 1920's Jack Nathan's original store was located opposite the post office until it was burnt down. In the early 1930's it was rebuilt roughly on the present site. In 1938/39 the store was bought by Mr. J.S. (Ford) Loveridge who held it until 1979. It was managed for many years by Bill Noblet who has since died and is survived by his wife and children. Until they were burnt out they resided in St. George's Road. For the last five or six years of the Loveridge reign the store was managed by Bill Russell. In the early days Saturday afternoon trading was the custom and the store closed on Wednesday afternoons to compensate.

## U.B. GENERAL STORE (Cont.)

Cr. Meeking said that Ann and George came to Upper Beaconsfield in 1976 and purchased the store in January 1979. They made some minor changes and introduced the extensive garden supply section. "Dare I say it" he added, "they also gained permits for Sunday trading". "Then the fires and their many dreams were shattered. But they were back trading immediately, certainly not to make money, but to provide a service for the many homeless and carless locals".

"At the same time they got on with the task of rebuilding. They were determined to give us a store that reflected the past and fitted the character of the village - something which building regulations don't always allow for. Yet they stuck to their guns and the store we have today, with its verandah posts, footpath and harmonious colours, makes their battles all worthwhile. We say to George and Ann, thank you for a job well done.

George and Ann were called upon for a few words and Ann gave a special thankyou to her parents for their support during the past seven months.

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We hope in the next few issues of the Village Bell to give information about old houses that were lost in the Ash Wednesday bushfires.

## "STONYCROFT"

"STONYCROFT" stood on the north-east corner of the intersection of Split Rock and Berglund Roads. We are indebted for information to Mrs. Susan Pitman, the recent resident, and to Mr. Larry Osborn of Nar Nar Goon North, who has photographs taken when the house and garden were looking their best.

The house was built by Mr. Walford (not to be confused with Professor Halford, another early resident), about 1880, as a house for his coachman. At the same time he built his own residence, "The Fernery", on the opposite side of Split Rock Road, 100 yards towards the Split Rock. That house was later moved to its present position at the corner of Salisbury and Sugar Loaf Roads. The two houses were generally similar, Mr. Walford's being on a larger scale with an additional pair of rooms at the back. A central passage went from front to back, with living rooms on one side and bedrooms on the other. At one side of the front door was a bay window, at the other a verandah. The weatherboard construction was rather rough, as one would expect in the early 1880's in what was then a remote place.

Dwelling for a moment on "The Fernery", the journalist "Vagabond" referred to "Mr Walford's capital spring of fresh water" in an "Argus" article in 1885. The "Illustrated Guide to Upper Beaconsfield" published in 1899 had a picture of "The Fernery", and showed the position of "Walford's Fernery" on a map (reproduced in the recent publication "In the Wake of the Pack Tracks). However in the text, the "Guide" referred to "Robertson's Fernery", so presumably he had followed Walford.

**STONYCROFT** (cont.)

A later owner of "Stonycroft" was Mr. Simmons, who sold to Mr. H.J. Osborn in 1919. At that time there was an orchard of 8 or 9 acres, and a still for distilling eucalyptus oil, situated near the creek for its supply of cooling water.

The Osborn family resided until 1970, when they sold to Dr. Bailey. Mr. and Mrs. Osborn were keen gardeners, and established a properly laid out garden. To care for it, run-off water was led in from the roadside to a lily pool, and from there piped to a large concrete tank; it was probably this tank that subsequently gave rise to speculation about a cellar. Later a dam was formed by the creek, and water pumped up from there.

Dr. Bailey used the place as a holiday house, but did not live there. He converted the old coach stable into a garage by adding side walls, but otherwise the buildings were little changed, and became overhung with trees. The garden, once cared for, went back to nature.

Susan and Tom Pitman purchased the property in 1981, with a view to restoring it. They found walls of rough sawn boards, originally covered with hessian, which had later been covered with caneite. In places there were traces of old wallpaper, and in the passage a stencilled border made by Mrs. Osborn.

Tidying the garden and restoring the house were well advanced when the bushfire destroyed it all beyond the possibility of repair. When rebuilding, a site was chosen further from the road, and the style of construction was modern, mud brick and pine.

Diana Rocke, Roy Harris, John Milligan

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKER

Since commencing work on the 25th July, I have been visiting those who were burnt-out and had moved out of the area, either temporarily or permanently, as well as trying to catch up on those who are shifting back into their new homes.

Many of the people who had shifted out of the area had had no contact with any "official" visitor, although most had kept up with what was happening via the Village Bell Information News sheet - which received much praise for its helpful, current information.

Some people are feeling a little strange on moving back into the community after having been out of it for 6 or more months, and especially as the house is "new" and feels as though it belongs to someone else, and also as more & more trees are having to be removed, the outlook from the house is very often completely different. Besides that, what was once a shady, restful garden is basically a sea of mud, with years of work ahead.

In fact, the gardens are what most people are facing difficulty with. Once the house is built, even if there is not much furniture, curtains etc., in it, it is liveable. But with the garden, there's a great deal of heavy work left to be done - trees cut up, split and removed, often fairly major earthworks to be completed & then work like rotary hoeing, lawns and garden beds.

I have been advised by the Chairman of the Trust Fund, Mr. Neil Smith that he anticipates that by the 30th September, all monies will have been distributed, except for a very small carry-over for late applications. On the 30th September five of the seven Trustees will retire. Mr. Smith & Mr. David Moye will remain to finalise the administration of the Trust.

People getting telephones reconnected to new homes should not be being charged any reconnection fees, providing they are in the same telephone area. I have basically completed visiting those out of the area, and will be spending more of my time around Upper Beaconsfield, Officer, Upper Pakenham and Beaconsfield. My job includes visiting all those "fire-affected" -not just those who lost their home.

I do ring or write before I call, but in the meantime, if I have not yet caught up with you please do not hesitate to call me on 411 011 (leave a message with Marion de Costa) or 443 609. My office is now in the T.V. room office where Sue Gray was. Hope to see you soon.

Lenoar Gullquist

\* \* \* \* \*

WELL DONE - SUE GRAY

Shelley Waters

Representative from the Community attended a luncheon at Beacon Hills Golf Club to thank Sue for her untiring efforts as Community Development Officer. Sue has done a tremendous job in her role of helping to reunite and rebuild our Community after the devastating fires.

Sue now intends to enjoy a well earned retirement as she is looking forward to the birth of her third child.

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**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 Wednesdays, 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:**

All of us who were recipients of the extraordinary generosity following the Ash Wednesday bushfires, will have written our many letters of thanks whenever we were able to do so. In many instances, however, it has not been possible to write individual letters to all who deserve them - indeed many are not identifiable. It would be invidious to thank some and not all.

We strongly believe that our deep appreciation is due, and ought to be publicly expressed, to the Community organisations of Upper Beaconsfield, and, with their members, the many individuals in the community, all of whom gave their services freely and unstintingly to help the unfortunate overcome the disaster. (We include a special word of thanks to the Editorial and other staff of the Village, Bell, who kept us all so well informed by way of the special News Letters).

Our very sincere thanks,

Wilfred and Sue Thornton

Judy Fairhall, Community Health Nurse for the past three and - a half years at the Mountain District Community Health Service, writes to thank the community of Upper Beaconsfield for its friendship and support during that time.

\* \* \* \* \*

**"FOCUS ON GEMCO"**

"Gemco is a community theatre group, which evolved out of a small group meeting of individuals who met over three years ago at Emerald. Their common interest - the theatre.

Their next production will be the well-known classic pantomime "Snow White", to be performed at the Emerald Community Hall in late November and early December.

Persons interested in joining this fun group either on stage or "behind the scenes" are most welcome. For further information or enquiries contact Sue (059) 684208 or Peter (059) 684273 A.H.

\* \* \* \* \*

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

Peter Meeking

Advice has been received from the Education Department (Westernport) in response to a letter submitted on behalf of Upper Beaconsfield parents. In simple terms, Upper Beaconsfield children are now zoned to Berwick High School and Endeavour Hills Technical School, and transport subsidy will be provided for these schools.

Only "siblings" will have some possibility of attending Pakenham High School, and even then there will be no transport subsidy.

For nearly 15 years Upper Beaconsfield Primary School has conducted a Bon Fire and Fireworks night, usually scheduled in November. The C.F.A. take full control of both the fire and the fireworks, and safety is of course assured.

There has been some talk in the Community as to whether such an evening should proceed, but some unofficial surveys taken at a recent dinner dance would seem to indicate that a majority of persons are in favour of a continuation.

Mr. John Crosbie, Principal, is to retire shortly and a function is being prepared. Further advice will be provided when available.

\* \* \* \* \*

SO IT IS TRUE:

L. Levens

On our lot anyway the bush is demonstrating its recuperative powers. The eucalypts with lush epicormic growth, a carpet of acacia seedlings, creepers, native grasses enlivened by hardenbergia flowers of bright purple. White early nancys, yellow billy buttons and blue and yellow lilies among great patches of scented sundew with their large white flowers set in a rosette of red or green sparkling leaves present a picture to gladden any heart.

And most exciting of all is the appearance of orchid plants in such numbers that there is hardly footroom in some areas. Already a knowledgeable friend has noted two varieties previously missed. And the Caladenia menzesii is budding up in thousands - well - hundreds anyway - after having produced only one flower in the four years I've been exploring here.

The grass trees are promising a magnificent display later in the season when butterflies will add to the beauty of the tall spikes of creamy white flowers.

Wattle flowers and heath are missing from the scene but we can look forward to those, along with hakea and banksia in the future

\* \* \* \* \*

THE REBUILDING OF ST. JOHNS

Shelley Waters

The proposed plan has been presented to the Diocese Building Committee and has been approved in principal. Archdeacon Moss attended our last Committee meeting on the 20th September and put forward comments and suggestions of the Diocese.

As a result of this meeting plans are being finalised. Shortly they will be displayed at the Upper Beaconsfield Post Office.

\* \* \* \* \*

**POST OFFICE NEWS**

Ray Ratcliff

Get going early this year on overseas parcels - surface mail rates are usually less than half air mail rates.

**CLOSING DATES FOR SURFACE MAIL AT UPPER BEAC POST OFFICE are:**

United Kingdom	21st October	Germany	13th October
U.S.A. & Canada	20th October	Holland	20th October
Italy	21st October		

Further details can be obtained from the Post Office.

\* \* \*

POSTAGE RATES FOR ALL MAIL CATEGORIES ARE INCREASED APPROX 10% FROM OCTOBER 3rd. Ordinary stamps for local mail will then be 30 cents.

\* \* \*

MELBOURNE 1983 WHITE PAGES & YELLOW PAGES ARE NOW IN STOCK.

\* \* \* \* \*

**NEW RESIDENTS**

We offer a warm welcome to the following new residents:

- St. Georges Road : Cyril & Ida BISS
- Stoney Creek Road : Roland & Florence KINGSTON
- a'Becketf Road : Stephen & Katerina SPEER
- Fairhazel Court : Ken & Sue LUXFORD
- Sugarloaf Road : Trevor & Janice PHILLIPSON
- Leppitt Road : Chris DAFFY
- Emerald Road : John & Mrs. ASHBROOK
- Burton Road : James & Daphne BROWN
- Morris Road : Robert & Camille SCHNEIDER
- Lenne Road : Terrenee & Jane NEWTON
- Morris Road (Foott Rd) : Dr. & Mrs. BIRNIE
- McArthur Road : Robert & June THWAITES
- Bourkes Creek Road : the TREWIN Family

\* \* \* \* \*

**VILLAGE BELL**

Masthead designed by Jase Haysom

Editors: Graeme Kidd assisted by Jane Holth, Susan Pitman, Elizabeth White, Jeanette Ballinger

Typists: Anne Pateman, Gail Bailey

Advertising: Jan Rutherford

Printing: Judy & George Moir

Collating: Upper Beaconsfield Girl Guides

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: 15th NOVEMBER, 1983

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD YOUTH CLUB

GYM NIGHT

IT'S FREE

At Pakenham High School Gym

Activities include:-

- T R A M P O L I N E
- T A B L E T E N N I S
- V O L L E Y B A L L
- B A D M I N T O N
- V A U L T I N G H O R S E S
- C L I M B I N G R O P E S

\* \* AND M U C H MORE \*\*

Bus leave multi-purpose room at Upper Beaconsfield Primary School at 7.00 p.m. on Friday October 14. Bus returns to school at 10.00 p.m.

PARENTS ARE REQUESTED to be PUNCTUAL in collecting their child.

\*\*\*\*\*

ALL CHILDREN 10 YEARS AND OVER, ARE WELCOME. PARENTS

(ANY AGE) WELCOME ALSO.

\*\*\*\*\*

Any queries - contact STEVE WATERS' - 443 910

Please complete the section below and return on the night of the excursion.

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I authorise ..... to attend the above excursion and DECLARE that in the event of an accident I authorise the person in charge to consent (where it is impractical to communicate with me) to the above child receiving such medical or surgical treatment as may be deemed necessary.

SIGNED..... Parent/Guardian

PHONE NUMBER.....

CONTINENTAL CAKES Made to order. Ph. Gerda Moritz (03) 707 2143