

No. 35

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To All Residents

CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVITIES IN THE VILLAGE

Ray Ratcliff

Last year's Christmas Eve at the rotunda on Charing Cross again proved a very enjoyable function for all ages and planning is well advanced for our third such gathering this Christmas Eve.

The Charing Cross area will once again be brightly lit with coloured lights and transformed by the music, excited children and the sense of community which has been so evident on previous occasions.

Ross Hales will again provide music for us and we are very fortunate to have such freely given talent available.

FATHER CHRISTMAS

Yes, this jolly old fellow will be with us again and will begin his rounds in the fire truck along with his trusty helpers, at 7.45 p.m. on Christmas Eve, stopping firstly at Grant Court. His second stop will be at the intersection of Burton Road, Stoney Creek Road and Young Street at 8.00 p.m. From there he will proceed to the vacant block just before Paul Grove, arriving there at 8.15 p.m., and then go on to the rotunda in the centre of the Village, at 8.30 p.m.

I am sure he is looking forward once more to all the boys and girls of Upper Beaconsfield gathering round him at the various stopping points. He will have lots of goodies and Christmas cheer to share with all.

The carol singing will then begin at 9.00 o'clock.

- CHRISTMAS EVE IN THE VILLAGE

- Santa's rounds followed by

- Carols by Candlelight at the Rotunda

Share these Christmas festivities with friends and neighbours.

MERRY

CHRISTMAS

CENTENARIES OF SCHOOL AND HALL.

1984 will see the centenaries of both the Assembly Hall and the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School.

Following a preliminary meeting of a few concerned residents on 12th October, a Steering Committee was formed, representative of community interests.

- Roy Harris, Chairman
- Jeanette Cronin
- Nola Fossey
- Annette Phillips
- Judy Skinner
- Fay Smith, representing the School
- Diana Rocke, St John's Church
- Joan Trumper, Hall Committee
- Joyce Bumpstead, Hall Committee and C.W.A.
- Graham Jackson, Beaconsfield Upper Association
- Peter Deering, Fire Brigade and Scouts
- Carol Westrip, Tennis Club
- John Milligan, Berwick-Pakenham Historical Society.

It was decided to celebrate the centenaries of the Hall and the School during the weekend, Friday 2nd November to Tuesday 6th November (Cup Day), 1984

Among numerous proposals considered were a firework display, dances, picnic lunch, sports for youngsters and adults, golf and tennis tournaments, equestrian events, a service in the new St. Johns, rebuilt after the Ash Wednesday Bushfire, souvenir booklet, a display of old photographs and memorabilia, and a "Back to Upper Beaconsfield" for former residents. These, and other proposals which the committee hopes to receive from residents will be developed into a weekend programme, and be well publicised during the next twelve months.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. The committee will welcome suggestions for the celebrations.
2. There must be many of our readers with relatives or friends who formerly resided here, but have moved away. Now is a good time to tell them of the Centenary, and the "Back to Upper Beaconsfield" feature. Put a few words on their Christmas card!
3. Will readers who are willing to lend souvenirs of the Hall for a display (photographs, programmes, advertisements, newspaper cuttings, etc.) please tell Diana Rocke or John Milligan, so that a display can be planned. There will be no need to collect the material until later.

The Committee's next meeting will be on Tuesday 29th November.

Diana Rocke
John Milligan

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YAKKERBOO PRINCESS.

Joyce Bumpstead

Any girls wishing to enter Yakkerboo Princess 1984 should start clueing up on their local and general knowledge - a good start is the Shire's Handbook. The Yakkerboo Princess will take part in the Queen of Yakkerboo contest held in Pakenham in late March.

Girls must be 16 by January 31st, 1984. For more details see the next Bell or ring Joyce Bumpstead 44 3298 or Dot Pockett 443506

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BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP MEETING AND PARTY

Wednesday, 7th December, 1983, 7.45 - At the Village Hall.

7.45 p.m. Minutes and correspondence available
8.00 p.m. Meeting begins - formalities to be kept to a minimum

Agenda: Christmas celebrations
Centenary celebrations, 1984
Reports from Sub-Committees, and from
The Community Outreach Worker,
Shire Councillors
Town Planning Group
Discussion on meeting with Air Vice
Marshall Carter.
Other business

As early as possible: Drinks and eats for the Christmas season.

COME ALONG - BRING A FRIEND AND A PLATE

B.U.A. NOTE

We are all conscious that in a few weeks we shall see the close of a year that will stand, in the history of Upper Beaconsfield, and in the memories of us all, as the year in which we faced perhaps our greatest trial.

Perhaps that should be 'trials' - for so many people the trial did not end with the quelling of the flames - they have had to face the task of rebuilding their lives and their homes.

It has been a year of strain for all, and a time in which many people have, of necessity, focussed their attention on the rebuilding and restoring of that which was lost or destroyed.

There are losses that will never be replaced and that is something people will carry with them into the years ahead.

With the coming of the New Year it is timely to suggest that we give thought to the groups and organisations that are so much a part of life in Upper Beaconsfield, and who have done so much to support and help, be it directly or indirectly, by providing the recreation and light relief so necessary in our lives.

Many of the people who serve these groups and organisations are people who have continued to contribute time and energy, despite the losses they themselves suffered, and despite the many other demands made on them.

To those who are well on the way to being re-established, and to those who did not suffer greatly, would you please think seriously of stepping in and giving these people a break - this is not a plea for support for the B.U.A. - it is a plea for support for all the organisations and groups in Upper Beaconsfield, and for

B.U.A. Notes (cont.)

those people that have served this community.

Many of the people that carried these groups through 1983 cannot be expected to carry them through 1984. The great risk is that the groups that have contributed so much to making life in Upper Beaconsfield what it is will falter because the willing are tired and others are not prepared to step forward and play their part.

So how about making 1984 the year we see people step forward and take a part in supporting and strengthening our community of Upper Beaconsfield.

On behalf of the Committee and members of the Beaconsfield Upper Association, we wish you a Merry Christmas and may 1984 be a vintage year for all of us.

And please, let's be sure no one in Upper Beaconsfield spends a lonely Christmas or celebrates the arrival of 1984 alone.

Vic Greenaway, President

Graham Jackson, Secretary

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VISIT OF AIR VICE MARSHALL CARTER

The deputy Chairman of the three-man Bushfire Review Committee, Air Vice Marshall Nick Carter, was at the Upper Beaconsfield Drop-In Centre on Thursday 10th November between 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. His visit was in response to requests from the Shire of Pakenham, the U.B.A., the Dandenong Ranges Fire Affected Area Committee and the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade, that the Miller Committee seek more direct and thorough input from locals in fire affected areas.

The afternoon session was taken up with appointments, and the evening took the form of a public session.

Those who spoke with the Air Vice Marshall were impressed by his openness, frankness, ability to listen, and keen awareness of the issues at stake in the Review.

He sympathised, and to some extent agreed with the view put quite firmly by the Ash Wednesday Study Group (Chairman, K Ewenson, Secretary, G Silberbauer) that the Bushfire Review Committee is inadequate in size, in the scope of its terms, of reference and in its determination to canvass effectively the views of fire affected people.

Mr Carter gave an assurance that before the Committee completed its inquiry, he and his assistants would set aside a further day to hear the views of people in this region.

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MRS MARGARET PHYLLIS LANG

The community will be saddened by the death of Mrs Margaret P. Lang, mother of Don and Ernie (Snowy) Lang.

Mrs Lang had lived in Upper Beaconsfield for about 55 years, having come from Bendigo, and was married at the age of 21 years at "Woodlands", Telegraph Road, now the home of Harry Lang.

For many years the Lang family conducted a fruit shop in the weatherboard house which still stands opposite the U.B. Milk Bar.

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UPPER BEAC. COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Many people have asked the questions: What is the U.B Community Centre and what are its aims?

To help answer these questions we list here the objectives as set out in our constitution which was accepted by the committee and members in July 1983.

The objectives of the organisation are:

1. To provide a focal point for initiation and co-ordination of caring groups and community activities within the area.
2. To supply and maintain support links to people in the community needing them.
3. To collect and disperse information about community activity in the area.
4. To encourage people to build links and networks between each other.
5. To be aware of changing needs and demands in the community and respond accordingly.
6. To create recreational and community activities for people using the centre.
7. To create educational opportunities for children and adults.
8. To provide a place as a social focus for all people in the neighbourhood from small children to senior citizens.
9. To provide a playing and learning environment for children, on a co-operative basis, additional to that which can be provided at home.

The objectives shall be non-political, non-sectarian and non-racial.

The committee headed by Christine Hoffman, President, Anne McDonald, Secretary and Judy Escreet, Treasurer are very aware of these objectives and co-ordinating the different facilities under our care.

The toy library, creche and a wide variety of classes as well as loose-knit fellowship groups with a common interest are some of the activities flourishing. This month we introduced the first of our coffee mornings which proved to be very successful. The funding we are to receive from the Employment Initiatives Programme will enable us to appoint a part-time co-ordinator and we hope to consolidate and expand our programme next year.

A tentative programme for the first term in 1984 is as follows:

Monday	A.M.	Jazz Ballet
	P.M.	Painting
	Evening	Yoga
Tuesday	A.M.	Music and Movement for pre schoolers.
	P.M.	Short Course Continental Cakes
	P.M.	Playgroup for Mothers and Toddlers

cont'd

U.B.C.C.News (cont)

Wednesday A.M. Aerobics Two Groups Advanced
Beginners
P.M. Craft Afternoon including a 3 - 4 course on
Easter Theme involving Craft, Cooking,
Chocolate Making etc.

Thursday A.M. Advanced Fitness Course
Morning Coffee 1st Thursday of Month
Toy Library 2nd & 4th Thursday of Month

These courses are only suggestions at this stage, and depend on availability of instructors and public interest. We need to know what you want, so please let us know. There is usually someone available Monday - Thursday at the drop-in-centre during school hours. Please feel free to call in, have a chat and see what is happening.

Many of the 1983 activities are beginning to wind down now.

The aerobics and yoga classes have decided to extend their sessions.

The Music and Movement class for pre-schoolers finished with a small concert and a Christmas party for all children who attend the creche. Even Santa was there.

EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES PROGRAMME

The Interim Committee, (in conduction with the Shire of Pakenham), applied to the Employment Initiatives Program on 15th July 1983 for funding to carry on the Drop-In Centre, Bus Service and after School Programme. The Ministry of Industry and Training have accepted our proposals for:

- 1 Centre Co-ordinator - 30 hours per week
- 1 Creche Co-ordinator - 32 hours per week
- 1 Creche Assistant
- 1 Bus Driver/Maintenance Person - 40 hours per week
- 1 After School Programmes Co-ordinator
- 4 Teachers Aides/After School Programme Leaders

The total funding is for \$72,306, the major component being salaries for the above positions. The E.I.P is designed to provide employment for the long term unemployed, to enhance their further employability through work experience and training. The grant is made available under the Employment Initiatives Progress Board and from Commonwealth "Wage Pause" monies.

Applicants for these positions, with the exception of the Centre Co-ordinator, must be unemployed and have been registered at Dandenong C.E.S for at least 6 months.

Dandenong C.E.S is the sole agency for referral of applicants. Any person interested in the above positions and who satisfies the set criteria should contact that C.E.S Office.

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U.B.C.C. DATES TO REMEMBER

30th Nov. '83 Chocolate Making Demonstration. Time 1.30 - 3.30.p.m.

Come and join in the fun of our chocolate making demonstration to be held at the centre, a creche will be available. Just think, home made sheets for Christmas!! Cost \$2.50 per head. Please phone Judy Escreet 443773 and book your place.

U.B.C.C. DATES (cont)

1st Dec. '83 Coffee Morning.

The centre would like to "invite any interested persons along to the centre for a "Morning Coffee". All you have to bring is "Yourself" and if you have small children bring them along too!! Just call in for a "cuppa" and see what we're doing at the centre.

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By the way did a hastily called Hall Committee and Community Centre meeting really took place in the laundry because both Hall Committee members had forgotten their keys.

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PLEASE BEWARE of the traffic hazard operating outside the Hall on Thursday mornings as several staggering bodies complete Alison's 12 minute torture run.

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Finally we would like to record our sincere thanks to the Hall Committee, the Shire and the many experts who have so readily given their help in setting up the Centre. We thank them sincerely for their support. . .

We extend to all, our greetings for the coming Festive Season and look forward to seeing you in 1984.

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BUSHFIRE APPEAL TRUST FUND.

The Report of the Bushfire Appeal (1983) Trust Fund, as at September, 1983, has been published and made available to us. The Report has nine sections:

1. Introduction
2. Operation of the Trust Fund
3. Appeal Funds
4. N.D.R.A. Funds
5. Categories of Grants. This section details the stages in the management of the Fund, and the entitlements of people in different groupings.
6. Local Area Committees
7. Other Aid Programmes
8. Recovery of Trust Funds
9. Appreciation of the Trustees.

Four Appendices to the report outline the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure to the various regions and in the different categories.

One indication of the effectiveness of the work of Mr Smith and the Trustees is seen in the balance sheet which shows:

Total receipts	\$22,559,666
Total expenditure,	\$22,489,114
Balance	\$70,552

The Report is available for inspection at the Post Office.

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PLANNING GROUP

Graeme Kidd.

You will have noticed recently the beginning of construction of a shop a couple of blocks up from the service station. As well you may also be aware that an application has been lodged with the Shire for the development of the block on the St Georges Rd side of the General Store to accommodate a number of shops.

In due course other shop will no doubt be built in this "commercial" zone which covers the area from St Georges Rd down to the service station.

At a recent meeting of the B.U.A the view was expressed that all such development should be carried out in an integrated way, rather than piece-meal, taking into account the overall aesthetics, traffic flow, parking requirements and pedestrian access.

The Association accordingly agreed to co-ordinate discussion between the Shire and the Owners to prepare such overall guide lines. A number of meetings have been held between the various parties, the most recent one actually "on-site" and some suggestions made. These are to be incorporated into sketch plans to be prepared by the Shire, which when available will be open for comment.

The people who have been involved in these discussions include the Shire Engineer, Warwick Bayley, the Town Planner, Phillip Steer, Councillor Peter Meeking, George Decelis, John Byron and Mary Petruccelli representing the "commercial" side; Graham Jackson, Vic Greenaway, Ed Vaughan and Graeme Kidd representing the residents.

The development of the commercial area is just one of a number of planning issues which must be considered as part of the overall long-term development of Upper Beaconsfield.

An urgent issue, for example, relates to the rehabilitation and revegetation of areas severely affected either by the fires themselves or as a result of subsequent clearing (eg the removal of pines along roadside verges). This was raised at the last Association meeting but will need to be further discussed.

Another issue relates to drainage. Following the release of the DVA study we are now in a position to assess the impact of the various options. Some preliminary discussions have taken place between the Shire, the DVA and the B.U.A on the way in which this matter should be tackled.

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C.W.A. UPPER BEACONSTFIELD.

J. Attreed, President

The Ladies of the C.W.A. upper Beaconsfield are holding their final meeting for 1983 on Thursday, 1st December, in the C.F.A. Meeting Room, Halford Road, at 10.30 a.m., with lunch afterwards.

Any Lady who would like to come will be most welcome. We are involved in various activities and would be pleased to welcome you any time. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month, normally from 1-4 p.m., so why not join us. Contact either Joyce Attreed, 44 3973, or May Mcpherson, 44 3879.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD GENERAL STORE - FATHER CHRISTMAS.

On Saturday 10th Dec. at 11 a.m. Father Christmas will be at the General Store.

Surprises for the children.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

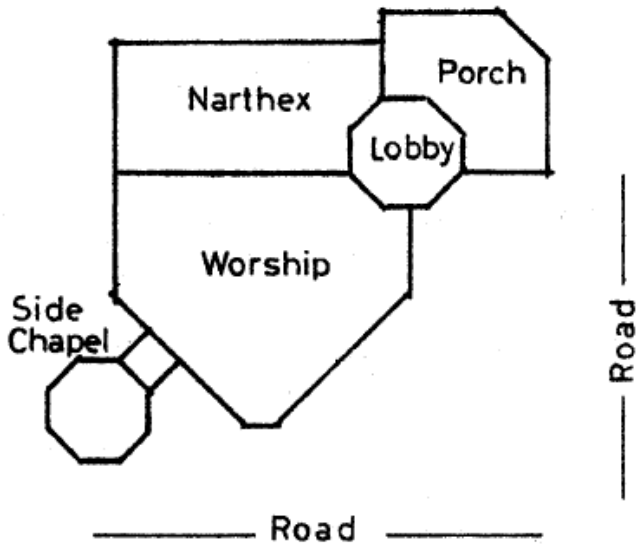
Here are the details of the special celebrations of the Christmas season:

- Wednesday, 21st December - 7.30 p.m. Christmas Pageant, at St. James', Pakenham.
Everyone welcome.
- Christmas Eve, 11 p.m. - Midnight Service, St. James', Pakenham.
- Christmas Day, 9 a.m. - Christmas Day service, St John's Upper Beaconsfield, in the Hall.

Sunday School will be continuing in 1984. It has been well attended and the community bus will be available for collection of children.

Sunday School is at 9 a.m. For details, contact Julie McConchie, 44 3577.

THE NEW ST. JOHN'S.

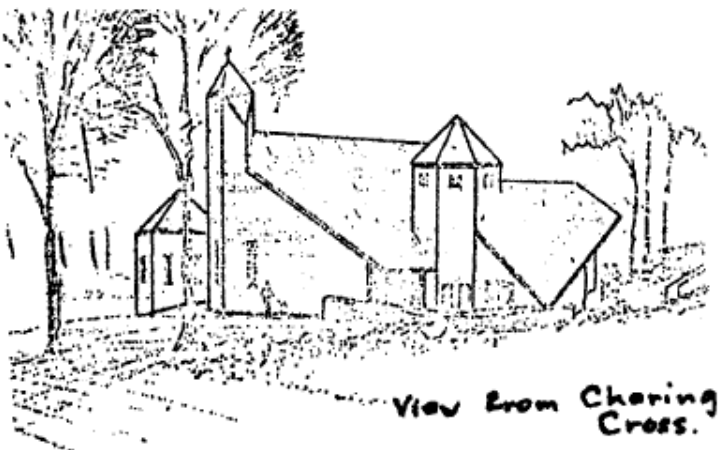


Plans for the new St. John's Church have been approved, and building is expected to begin early in 1984.

Mr Paul Reid, the architect for the new church, has kindly provided these sketches for the Village Bell. Those responsible for the new design have tried to retain the style of the old church, while providing a building that will serve the needs of the church community. They have also been aware of the prominent position of the church in the Village centre. The church will be rebuilt on the corner of Emerald-Beaconsfield Road and St. Georges Road.

The church will seat about one hundred people. The fellowship area, which was in the house adjacent to the church, will now be under the main roof.

Construction is of weatherboard with an iron roof as before. Stained glass windows will add special character to the building, and there is a bell tower. The side chapel is to the memory of those who suffered in the bushfires of Ash Wednesday.



Retirement of John and Amy Crosbie.

Judy Skinner & Editor

Mr John Crosbie, principal of the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School, is due to retire at the end of the school year. His wife, Amy, who has been school secretary, is also retiring. We take this opportunity to pay tribute to two people who have served the community for six years.

Mr Crosby was appointed Principal here in 1978. He was born in England, and served in the Royal Air Force for five years during the war. He began teacher training in London before coming to Australia in 1948, and completing his training at Geelong Teachers' College.

His teaching career has taken him to Chelsea, Cheltenham, Hanging Rock, H.M. Prison Pentridge, Langi Kal Kal Prison (neither as an inmate), Yering, Swift's Creek, Romsey, Eaglehawk, Hastings and finally, Upper Beaconsfield.

The school has increased its enrolments during these years, from 250 to over 300. The library and multi-purpose room have been built, and the recreation reserve, incorporating part of the school ground, is being constructed. There is much more community involvement in the school than there was previously.

John pestered the Education Department into providing a fire hydrant and a long hose, which enabled the school and residence to be saved in the fires.

John and Amy will be moving to the Mornington Peninsular, and are looking forward to a lot of relaxing and a little travel.

John will be remembered for his devotion to the children and his loyalty to the staff; Amy for her clerical work and 'mothering' of the children.

The staff gratefully acknowledge the generosity , expertise and care that John and Amy have brought to the school, and wish to extend their congratulations on jobs well done, with warmest wishes for a happy and rewarding retirement.

A SUPPERDANCE will be held to mark this occasion, at the Beaconhills Golf Club, Upper Beaconsfield, on Friday, 9th December, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$13.00 per head, which covers the cost of the supper and presentation. Drinks will be available at the bar. For tickets or further information, contact Judy Skinner, 44 3591, or 44 3464 (A.H.)

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NEW RESIDENTS.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new residents:

- a'Beckett Road : Pat and Patricia KELLY and family
- Quamby Road : Rodney and Cathie HANSEN
- St Georges Road : Peter KENNEDY; Jerry and Valerie RYAN
- Brennan Avenue : Geoffrey and Lesley DAVIDSON
- Knapton Avenue : Tony and Linda REMINGTON
- Stoney Creek Road : Lindsay & Glenys BYRNE; Andrew & Cheryl GROH
- Albers Road : the RICE family
- Manestar Road : Philip HAMMILTON; Carole HARRISON
- McArthur Road : Kieth and Mrs McIVOR
- Yackatoon Road : Nellie and George CAMPBELL

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HALL BOOKINGS.

Joyce Bumpstead

The Hall Committee would like to ask all groups that use the Hall to make sure of their bookings for next year.

Bookings are getting quite heavy, and groups should not presume that their bookings are carried over automatically to the following year.

Please contact Joyce Bumpstead on 44 3298.

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CHRISTMAS TREES.

Hopefully, the Youth Club will be able to sell Christmas trees once again at one Village centre shortly before Christmas. If trees can be found, they will be on sale, possibly on Saturday 17th December.

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COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKER.

Lenoar Gulquist, the Community Outreach Worker in the Upper Beaconsfield area, will not be working in this capacity from December 16th until January 31st. It was thought that her work would be more effective after January, as many people will be away for part of the Christmas holidays.

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U.B.B.C. (BASKETBALL)

The Upper Beaconsfield teams now play in the Berwick competition: A Grade play at Hallam, B Grade at the Berwick Leisure Centre on Sunday nights, and the Ladies' team also at the Leisure Centre.

The A Grade team reached the finals, but lost points due to an organisational malfunction and dropped out.

The B Grade team is in the finals, with a second chance after losing the first semi-final narrowly on Sunday night.

The Ladies' team is also in the finals with a good chance of taking out the premiership.

There will be a meeting of all interested in playing in 1984, at Glen Rutherford's home, early in December. For date and time, please ring 44 3760.

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THE VILLAGE BELL.

Masthead:	Paul Reid
Editor:	Matt McDonald
Typing:	Joyce Attreed
Printing:	Peter Deering (colour) Judy Moir.
Advertising:	Jan Rutherford
Collating:	Kitchen Road residents

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JAN. 15th; EDITOR: J Ballinger.

THE EUROPEAN WASP.

The Shire of Pakenham has expressed its concern to the Minister for Agriculture about the increased number of English and European wasp colonies throughout the metropolitan and fringe areas of Melbourne.

The Minister replied, giving some details of the origins of, methods for control of, and sources of information about the wasps, particularly the European Wasp which arrived in the Melbourne area only in 1977.

The Garden Advisory Service at Burnley Gardens can offer advice about the wasp, and can be contacted on 03 819 4422, 8.30 a.m. to 12.30p.m. The Service has received many calls, and as a result of the numbers seeking advice, ran a seminar which uncovered some useful information.

- ◇ The European Wasp is hard to distinguish from the less potent English variety, unless you are a wasp expert.
- ◇ Rapid growth in numbers now means that general control is impossible. It is up to individuals and local authorities to do what they can to control them.
- ◇ DESCRIPTION: They are about the same size as bees, but have conspicuous lemon-yellow banded markings on a black body, and do not appear to be as hairy.
- ◇ They can be found in holes in the ground, or in rockeries, but may be amongst stacked material, in compost, tree trunks, pampas grass, hedges and unused sheds. They colonize in huge numbers.
- ◇ Wasps may attack repeatedly, especially when their nest is disturbed. The skin reacts with firey pain to the sting and forms a red lump several centimetres across. The application of ice and water mixed in a plastic bag will ease the pain; swelling subsides over a week or so, meanwhile quite often getting itchy.
- ◇ Avoid leaving an opened drink can outside - if a wasp enters it and a person drinks from the can, they could be stung on the mouth or throat, causing serious problems from swelling.
- ◇ Wasp-allergic people stung on a limb or elsewhere will notice a reaction causing puffiness of the skin which develops well beyond the site of the sting. If a limb is stung, the first aid treatment is the same as for a snake bite, i.e., pressure and immobilisation. Wasp allergic people could be better prepared for the summer by seeking advice from their doctor in advance.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, OR ADVICE
ABOUT CHEMICAL CONTROL OF WASPS,
RING THE BURNLEY GARDENS NUMBER:
03 819 4422

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD YOUNG PEOPLE - TAKE NOTE!

Ray Ratcliff

Post Office relievers, Arnold and Joyce Moore, commented favourably on the politeness of the children who came into the Post Office during their stay in Upper Beaconsfield recently. They said that they had not heard so many 'pleases' and 'thank-yous' for a long, long time.

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EARLY MEMORIES OF "LEINTWARDINE" Written by Meredith Bell,

grand-daughter of W. E. Morris, with help from Joan Stewart.
(Contributed by Audrey Morris)

This article is considerably longer than is usual for the Village Bell, but because of the interesting nature of the article, cutting has been left to a minimum. (Ed.)

My association with the house began at the earliest possible moment. I was born there. It was a cold, wet and windy night, so the story goes, and my father, unable to catch a horse in the dark, had to run all the way to Berwick for the doctor. He would have turned right at the front gate, up "Braes de Hill", across Cardinia Creek, past Chadwick's Farm and the Blind Creek Gully to Harkaway Road and on to Berwick.

The wooden trestle bridge over the Cardinia survived floods and fires for many years, but was finally wiped out by a vicious fire in the 1920's.

My childhood memories of "Leintwardine" begin with the day our family returned there, after being in England from 1914 to 1918. In those days one went by train from the city to Beaconsfield station, then took 'Boss' Shorthouse's coach, with two horses for the hilly climb to Upper Beaconsfield. From there, by St. Georges Road, it was less than three miles to "Leintwardine". I can remember how the brakes squeaked as the driver eased the horses down the steep slopes. Suddenly, as we started down the last hill before the Stoney Bridge, the wheels on one side hit a soft patch, and over went the coach. The driver scrambled out, cut the traces to free the horses, then looked inside at his passengers, all in a tangled heap with the luggage.

When we finally arrived, we emerged opposite the place where General Foott would later build his house, on the road to be named after him. A little further and there were the tall white picket gates; the name had been removed when the place was let as a boarding house during some of the war years. We started up the sandy drive, curving left under spreading dark green pine trees, and there was the long white house, with many-paned windows, a porch with a pointed gable framing the front door.

William Morris was born at the little village of Leintwardine, where the old English Shires of Hereford and Worcester meet the Welsh border. He came to Victoria in 1853, and entered the service of the Church of England Diocese of Melbourne, in the following year. In 1887 he became Registrar of the Diocese.

After his marriage to Clara French in 1875, he built a "commodious residence" in Hoddle Street, East Melbourne, whence he could walk to his office in the St. Paul Cathedral buildings. As his family increased, in the typical Victorian way, he began to feel the need for a quiet country retreat, away from the crowded and always dusty streets of Melbourne. In the 1870's he bought the land at Upper Beaconsfield, possibly influenced by the theory popular at the time, that the wind blowing in from the sea ... in this case Westernport, ... over a Eucalyptus forest, produced a layer of "salubrious" air, that would relieve, and possibly cure, asthma, from which his eldest daughter suffered severely.

Mr Morris soon set about planning a suitable house to be built on the rounded granite hilltop that denimated his 71 acres. Whether from nostalgia, or because he liked the name, he called it "Leintwardine". The house was built of weatherboard, and painted white, its lines hugging the ground closely, even to having an

"Leintwardine" (cont)

early version of a "split level" where the house followed the contour of the land sloping away at the western end.

We know that the sixth Morris child, Katie Elizabeth (Mrs Crotty) was brought to I"Leintwardine" as a baby in 1882, so it may have been at this time that an upstairs section of two bedrooms and a narrow balcony were added over the west end of the house. Lath and plaster construction was used, covered with hessian onto which was pasted a flower-sprigged wallpaper.

A wide staircase, a continuation of the long passage through the centre of the house, led to the upper rooms. The stairs I recall particularly for their shallow risers, so accommodating and safe for small legs.



All the original walls were lined with knotted pine, already darkening with age, and with smoke from the open fireplaces. The latter were memorable for the hot baths taken in front of them by smaller members of the household. A big hip bath, and great iron kettles hanging on hooks over the fire, were used in this ritual.

At the other end of the building, a "caretaker's cottage" was joined to the main house by a draughty

covered way. The cottage contained the big, dark kitchen where all meals were prepared; also two rooms were provided for the "married couple". Water must always have been a problem in summer, which may have been why so many walks and picnics terminated at the "cataract" on Stoney Creek, or the deeper pool in the Cardinia Creek near the bridge. The family washing was done in wooden troughs outside, under the big cherry-plum trees. Making great cauldrons of cherry-plum and Kentish cherry jam was part of the Christmas holidays.

Grandfather had planted a proper farm orchard with all the old English varieties of apples, pears, and stone fruits. We often climbed the spreading branches to pick the fruit, and the mulberry tree was the favourite.

When the house was first built, a thick layer of sawdust was placed above all the ceilings. Did the idea come from India, or was it already an Australian practice to insulate rooms in this way?

The cool dark feeling of the house in hot weather was increased by the long veranda running the whole length of the building on the north side. A good place to play, on wet days, or to sit on summer evenings and watch the twinkling lights of Belgrave, and the few others that gleamed here and there across the bush-covered hills. From there, too, we could watch the moon sliding between the great gnarled branches of the apple-jacks, dark against the sky.

The stern-faced gentleman whose portrait hung in the house must have had considerable vision, and his planning was in some respects, ahead of current thinking. He saw no need to improve the "dreary Australian landscape" with introduced trees, unless they bore fruit.

"Leintwardine" (cont)

The pines he planted to enhance the curving drive up to his house, where their shape and colour made a pleasing contrast with the surrounding bush. Very aware of the danger from fire, he had all the low scrub cleared to a safe distance from the wooden buildings, but it left the native apple box and peppermint to make an attractive parkland around his home. He soon planted a "wood lot" of blue gums to protect the orchard from north winds, and to give shade and shelter near the stables and cowshed, on land that had previously been cleared. Raking and burning of leaves and debris from the trees near the house was an annual task. It was usually done in the late afternoon or in the evening, and we all took part, lighting the long windrows with bark torches.

William Morris died in Sydney in 1923, in his 94th year, Grandmother having died some years before.



Some members of the family had already taken over the management of "Leintwardine", and in the end it was possible for Basil Morris (now Lieut. Colonel) and his beloved wife Audrey to buy out the remaining shareholders. So "Leintwardine" became home to Joan, Audrey, Ruth, Jenny and Derisley. That was fifty-three years ago. Now, and how thankful we all are, it is still Audrey's home, with Jenny and her family only a few kangaroo-hops away.

Grandfather Morris chose his site well. The name "Leintwardine" will outlast the wooden walls, taken in the bushfires of Ash Wednesday, and today a new home rises on the site. It will be different, as befits a house for the dawning of a new age, but it will still be "Leintwardine", a happy, welcoming place, surrounded with evergreen memories, and the magpies will sing in the apple-jacks.

Some of the dates and events in these notes come from an old piece of timber, removed from a doorway during alterations to the house. Many letters have been obliterated, and few entries are complete. Headed "Event Board", the brief entries start with "Feb. 8, 1898. Bushfire - paddocks burnt, fencing ditto, house escaped". Three other bushfires and two snowstorms are recorded, and two honey-moons, my mother's and one of her sisters'.

* * * * *

STATE AWARDS FOR BRAVERY.

The community of Upper Beaconsfield would like to add their congratulations to those of the Governor and the media, to

Harry ('Pa') Moore
Royce Thomson and
Alan Orr


for their special heroism on the night of the Ash Wednesday bushfires. On Wednesday, 16th November, these three locals were honoured by Sir Brian Murray at Government House. We are proud of our local Heroes.

* * * * *

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