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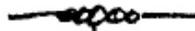
### A LOCAL DISASTER PLAN

There has been much discussion over the past year on the confusion and lack of direction that existed before, during and after the fires of the 16th February. The BUA, individual residents, and the Shire have all made suggestions to the State Government on ways of improving this if a similar disaster were to re-occur in the future. As part of a broad Government strategy, certain action has been taken. The Shire of Pakenham, for example, has recently completed its Plan to cope with disasters on a regional level.

However, this Plan cannot, and in fact is not intended to cover every contingency on the purely local level. This is definitely the responsibility of the local community itself! We in Upper Beaconsfield should clearly be acting now to develop our own disaster plan for the township and surrounding districts.

The BUA is willing to coordinate appropriate action to get a Local Disaster Plan off the ground, IF there is a strong feeling among residents that such a plan is necessary and workable. The Ash Wednesday Committee, under Keith Ewenson, has already collected much information from residents and is in a position to identify the main points that would need to be included in the Plan.

Come to the Association meeting on the 8th February to give your views on how we could set up and run a disaster organisation in Upper Beaconsfield.

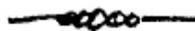


### MEMORIAL CHURCH SERVICE - 19TH FEBRUARY - SUNDAY MORNING:

A memorial service will be held at the Tennis Courts at Upper Beaconsfield being twelve months after the Ash Wednesday fires.

It is intended that after the Service, there will be refreshments available and a chance to meet and talk in a picnic-type atmosphere.

People are encouraged to bring a plate and make this a new start to a new year for the Community.



**THE ASH WEDNESDAY STUDY GROUP** - Keith Ewenson

The members of the Ash Wednesday Study Group wish to thank all those residents who made submissions. As a result of the input and the knowledge of the above Group, the Secretary, Dr. George Silberbauer, was able to make a detailed submission to the State Government's Bush-fire Review Committee (a copy was in the P.O. for some time).

On Thursday, 10th November, the Deputy Chairman, Air Vice-Marshall W. Carter and his Executive Officer, Mr. K. Wilkinson were present in Upper Beaconsfield to receive details. The Study Group was fortunate enough to have a forty-five minute session with the executives. The panel highlighted some of the recommendations from its written submission. The time soon passed and indeed went into what had been allowed for the official party's tea prior to the public meeting. Nick (as he asked that we call him) suggested they would return in December.

During his return visit, additional information was given by members of the Panel on such matters as co-ordination after the disaster, and the need for improved communications. The time spent in this session disappeared as rapidly as the first and Graham Jackson, whom we invited to be present, suggested we could go on and on. Immediately, Nick Carter offered to return late in January, 1984.

You will recall that initially the B.U.A. was sceptical of the Government's review arrangements. It will not be because of the lack of interest and work of Air Vice-Marshall W. Carter if the review is unsuccessful. The Panel cannot speak highly enough of his efforts in our local area.

~~SECRET~~

**MULTIPLE PURPOSE BUILDING AT RECREATION GROUND** - Murray Erwin

A meeting of the U.B. Recreation Ground User Group was held late last year to discuss the use of the proposed Multiple Purpose Building (commonly referred to as "The Igloo"), its purpose to make recommendations regarding technical and functional aspects of the building.

Represented at the meeting were the Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scouts and Football, Cricket, Pony and Youth Clubs.

Many recommendations were made including :

- Maintaining the large open area inside the building.
- Having a servery to the outside from the kitchen.
- Increasing the storage space from that originally proposed.
- Having the main entrance facing the oval and covered by a portico.
- Making the floor concrete.
- Properly finishing and landscaping to soften the visual impact of the building.

All suggestions have been passed onto the Shire and whilst not all may be incorporated initially, it is hoped that at least, proper provision can be made for them to be done in the future.

The construction of the building is to be carried out by the Pakenham Rotary Club and is expected to commence late February.

~~SECRET~~

BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY AT 7.45 P.M.

AT THE VILLAGE HALL

AGENDA

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE

GENERAL MEETING:

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1983 MEETING  
CORRESPONDENCE  
GENERAL BUSINESS - ASH WEDNESDAY MEMORIAL SERVICE  
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR  
REPORTS - COMMUNITY OUTREACH WORKER.  
COMMUNITY CENTRE  
SHIRE COUNCILLORS  
LOCAL DISASTER PLAN  
TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE  
YOUTH GROUP  
OTHER BUSINESS - CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

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Nominations for the B.U.A. Committee are invited and should reach the Secretary no later than 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

~~SECRET~~

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 1983-84

Vic Greenaway, President.

My term as President of the B.U.A. has come to an end.

It is hardly necessary to explain the functions of an organisation such as the B.U.A., especially after a year like 1983. In the previous year's President's Report of this Association, I recall the opening lines, "The Association has plodded through 1982 without having to deal with many controversial matters." This year was a challenge for all of us. It was a challenge for the Community to pick up the pieces and to carry out the enormous task of rebuilding our Village after the tragic fires.

The B.U.A. Committee and working parties have worked hard this year and we hope that the "open forum" type meeting of the B.U.A. and the issues taken up at those meetings, and followed through by the Committee, has illustrated the importance of such an organisation.

Immediately after the fires, one of the more important initiatives of the B.U.A. was to push for a full-time Co-ordinator, who was a local person and could appreciate the needs of the Community. We were fortunate to have that appointment filled by Sue Gray who carried out the task very well.

[continued]

The B.U.A., as always, maintained a strong liaison with the Shire of Pakenham and there were many issues relating to the fire disaster which needed close attention and sometimes immediate action. Our Riding Councillors played a vital role in that regard, by keeping us well informed on many issues which affected Upper Beaconsfield.

Action was taken by the B.U.A. on the controversial water supply and successful meetings with the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission representatives have led to future plans to improve the pumping facilities to Upper Beaconsfield.

There was much correspondence to and from the Ministry for Emergency Services and the Premier's Dept. expressing our concern over the lack of direct communication with fire-affected areas by the newly formed Miller Enquiry into the Bushfires. A "Citizen's Advocate" was suggested by us as a means of achieving this end. We were not successful. However, the visits from Air Vice-Marshall Carter, a member of the Enquiry Committee, proved to be very worthwhile.

Our own Ash Wednesday Study Group, chaired by Cr. Keith Ewenson, has been very effective in producing submissions on behalf of the Community of Upper Beaconsfield to the Miller Enquiry and has also had very constructive sessions with Mr. Nick Carter.

Not so long after the fires when so much was happening, the Committee of the B.U.A. was approached by the Area Committee Chairman, Peter Meeking, who is also one of our Riding Councillors, asking for help to assess community needs and reactions to so many aspects of help and relief to the fire-affected areas. On most occasions, quick action was needed and the need for community input. The Advisory Group was formed which was made up of a broad cross-section of the community which met with Peter to advise and help his Committee to carry out their very good work. This Advisory Group was chaired by Lenore Gullquist until the group disbanded, having carried out its role, Lenore has more recently taken on the position of Community Outreach Worker, continuing a very worthwhile role.

The Youth Croup of the B.U.A. played an important part after the fires, conducting a Drop-in-Centre at the School and running film nights for the Upper Beaconsfield youth.

There were many other organisations and helpers in Upper Beaconsfield over the past year which the B.U.A. played little part in, but I would like to, on behalf of the Community, once again express our appreciation to all those who came to our assistance and some who stayed on for quite a long time.

More recently, the B.U.A. has been actively involved in discussions with the Shire of Pakenham, and in liaison with the Dandenong Valley Authority and Environmental Study Group, over the future development of the Village, particularly the drainage scheme and future sub-divisions within the village area. No doubt this will be the ongoing issue for the incoming Committee.

Finally, on behalf of the Community, I wish to thank the Committee for their support and good work throughout the year. To the Editors, writers and helpers who work hard everytime a "Village Bell" is to be published. There were many who carried out tasks through Sub-Committees who deserve our thanks also.

To the Secretary, Graham Jackson, who did a fantastic job. It was not an easy year and Graham was a real strength in his capacity as Secretary and I thank him for making my job so much easier.

All the best to the new Committee for 1984 and here's hoping for a quiet but productive year.

~~SECRET~~

**THE RATCLIFFS MOVE TO GREENER PASTURES** - Susan Pitman

Ray Ratcliff is not a man who likes turning right which is why, given the choice of inspecting the Upper Beaconsfield and the Beaconsfield Post Offices, he and Elva found themselves sitting in the rain outside the former deciding that it looked like a nice place to live. They had both worked at the Commonwealth Bank, but had become dissatisfied with the lack of human contact in their jobs. Running a Post Office seemed to offer a solution which would enable them to use their clerical and banking experience as well as be more involved with people. They survived learning the basics of the job in the three weeks prior to Christmas and on January 4th, 1978, they officially took over the management of the Post Office. Sandy arrived from the Narre Warren pound some months later and together the three of them have run the Post Office in a friendly, efficient and informative manner which has made living in Upper Beaconsfield just that little bit more congenial.

The Post Office played a vital role in the days after the bushfire when Ray and Elva tirelessly provided invaluable links between the outside world and the stunned and stricken members of the Upper Beaconsfield community. They found the months that followed emotionally draining, but considered it both a humbling experience and a privilege to have been able to help the "magnificent" people. Their greatest wish is that the community spirit so evident in that post-fire period will continue into the future and that the Community Centre which embodies that spirit will be supported by the whole town.

There was never any question of leaving Upper Beaconsfield when they retired from the Post Office for as Ray said "You'd have to go a long way to find a better community than this." They will move into a caravan on their block on Split Rock Road where they will build a house, grow vegetables and fruit, try to persuade Sinbad that an appropriate diet for sheep does not include white bread and continue to be involved in village affairs.

Their place at the Post Office will be taken by Pam and David Keeley and their two young children who are moving here from Springhurst near Wangaratta.

Ray and Elva will long be remembered for their helpfulness and concern for others and for the way in which they made the Post Office a real centre of communications. May their stay in the caravan be a short one, their life on the block a healthy and satisfying one and may the lightning never strike any closer to their new house than it did to the Post Office!

~~SECRET~~

**S.R. & W.S.C. GUARANTEE STANDBY GENERATORS** - Cr. Keith Ewenson

The Water Commission have assured the Pakenham Council that standby generators will be available in both pumping stations for Beaconsfield Upper throughout the summer of 1984. The State Rivers believe the units could be brought into action within an hour of a power failure. This starting rate is quite acceptable when the capacity of the storage is considered.

During this season, we believe the S.R. & W.S.C. will be reviewing the criteria required for rural supply areas such as ours.

Local efforts to improve the reliability of the service has been successful for this season - we can but wait to discover what the Government's ultimate policy will be for the future.

~~SECRET~~

**BEACY UPPER CRICKET CLUB REVIVAL** - Rob Hansen

Fourteen years ago, this summer, was the last occasion that the Beaconsfield Upper Cricket Club operated in its own right as an independent unit. For a few seasons, it combined with our neighbours as Beaconsfield -Upper Beaconsfield Combined. Now, with the re-construction of the oval, our chance arises to once again possess our own cricket team.

On the 19th December, 1983, a meeting was held in the Primary School to form a Committee. Members of the Committee include: Dieter Dutka (Sec.), Rob Hansen (Pres.), Bill Physick (Treas.), and Committee Members Gary Mitchell as well as Colin Couacaud. The Committee saw its immediate aims as being -

- (a) To raise funds for facilities including equipment and a synthetic surface for the pitch.
- (b) Gaining use of the oval and entering into a joint use agreement.
- (c) Having water connected so that the surface becomes a first class playing surface.

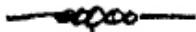
At this stage, the Committee is keen to recruit members and has received expressions of interest from many prospective cricketers in the village. It is the intention of the Committee to work in with the Beaconsfield Cricket Club, particularly in the junior sphere so that the needs of both clubs are served.

A couple of activities aimed at promoting interest in the Club will be -

- (a) A social match on Sunday, 5th February at the Officer Recreation Reserve - if you're interested in playing, contact a Committee member,
- (b) Entering a team in the West Gippsland Cricket Association's Knockout Competition held on Sunday, 12th February. This Competition is sponsored by Ross and Neil Neilson Holden of Berwick.

If you are interested in any of the above activities or in joining the Club to play next season, why not contact a Committee member to have your name recorded?

Ring - Rob Hansen 44-3871, Dieter Dutka 44-3517,  
Bill Physick 44-3563, Gary Mitchell 44-3770.



**RED CROSS CALLING**

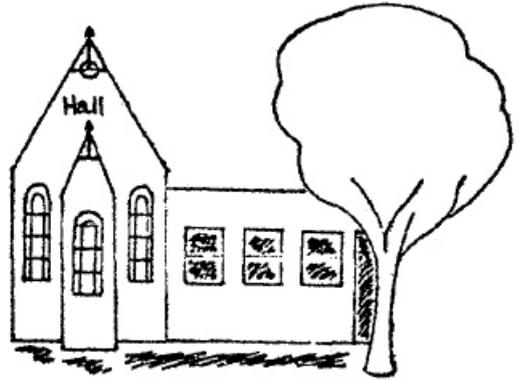
A Planning meeting is to be held in the Council Chambers Committee Rooms of the Shire Offices, Henty Way, Pakenham, on Wednesday, 8th February, at 8.00 pm, to issue callers kits and allocate exact areas. Please contact Mrs D Vairy, Pakenham 411449. "Red Cross Calling" will be held on 17-18 th March.



**COLIN GILES**

Our sincere condolences to the Giles Family of Stoney Creek Road on the loss of their son, Colin.

# THE COMMUNITY CENTRE



Did you ever want to make a continental cake like Gerda Moritz or learn to restore old furniture with a professional? How about getting fit in the aerobics class while the children are being looked after in the Creche? It's all happening at :

Your COMMUNITY CENTRE Hall!!!

It's fun; it's exciting classes with child-minding facilities; it's a morning coffee with your neighbours and it's all happening in our lovely old hall!

A leaflet has been distributed to all residents outlining this term's courses. Many interesting activities are taking place including classes in continental cake-making, drawing and painting, aerobics, jazz ballet and leadlighting. Enrolment day is 3rd February, but class sizes are limited so it is advisable to book early. (Ring Anne on 44-3484).

The COMMUNITY CENTRE has now employed a co-ordinator to organise and oversee the running of all activities. She will be available Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hall. Also, our new bus driver-handyman has been employed and is busily working away at restoring the Hall before its centenary in November of this year. The school bus round will be running much the same as last year.

The Creche will be resuming operations on Tuesday, 24th January. Hours will be 9 to 11.30 a.m. and 1 to 3.30 p.m. Monday to Thursday. Remember it's available to everyone whether to go shopping, attend classes or just to catch up on housework.

Volunteers are still needed as assistants at the Creche. If you are able to give a morning or afternoon a week, please ring Shelley or Liz on 44-3484.

Looking forward to seeing you at the COMMUNITY CENTRE!

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
9-10 am	Jazz Ballet			Advanced Fitness
10-11 am	4th Mon. morn Nursing Mums	Beginners Aerobics	Advanced Aerobics	10am 1st Thurs of month: C.W.A. meet -----
1-3 pm	Lead- lighting	Continental cake making	Craft afternoon	10am 2nd & 4th Thurs: Toy library -----
1-3 pm	Drawing & painting			10am 3rd Thurs: Coffee morning
7-8 pm	Yoga			

CENTENARIES OF THE SCHOOL AND THE HALL - 1984 - John Milligan

The Steering Committee, representative of community interests, held its second meeting on 29th November, 1933. Based on suggestions arising from its first meeting, a draft programme of celebrations for the two Centenaries began to take shape, along the following lines :

Friday, 2nd November, 1984

Evening firework display, supervised by the Fire Brigade.

Saturday, 3rd November

Back to School - 10.00 to 12.00 noon. Old time classroom set-up.  
Boot inspection and flag ceremony.  
Pen and ink handwriting competition.  
Awards for oldest pupils - male and female.  
Display of old school photos.

Picnic lunch 12.00 to 2.00 p.m.

Official Opening 2.00 to 2.30 p.m.

Sports afternoon 2.30 onwards for adults and youngsters. Volunteers will be needed to organise and supervise events.

"Calcutta" sweep in evening at Golf Club. Dance at the Hall.

R.S.L. rooms will be open all day.

Sunday, 4th November

Service at St. Johns Church.

Golf tournament in morning.

Tennis in morning and afternoon.

Equestrian events.

Monday, 5th November

Dance or family social in the evening.

We repeat the notes in the December "Village Bell" -

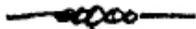
1. The Committee will welcome suggestions.
2. Will readers please make the Centenary as widely known as possible among former residents.

The Committee's third meeting will be at 8.00 p.m. on 14th February.



VILLAGE FAIR:

The decision was made not to stage the Village Fair in March as in previous years, but rather incorporate the celebrations of the Centenary Year for the Primary School and also the Village Hall. This will take place in November and a Committee is working on the details of this grand event.



UPPER BEACONSFIELD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

No doubt all Upper Beaconsfield residents are aware that the fire danger period was declared from the 9th January, 1984 and extends until Monday, 30th April, 1984.

Because of the unprecedented growth and green vegetation late into the summer, it has been particularly difficult for residents to clean up and burn off their properties prior to the restrictions coming into force, I know the residents of Upper Beaconsfield are more sensitive than most to fire hazards, but I am sure I will be forgiven for including the declared fire restrictions in the Village Bell.

The fire restrictions in force throughout the declared fire danger period are :

- (a) Burning off is prohibited except upon obtaining a written permit signed by a "Proper Officer" and in accordance with the conditions appearing on such permit.
- (b) No fire may be lit in the open air for cooking, barbeques, or other such purposes except in a properly constructed fireplace or a trench at least 1/2 metre deep around which there is an area of 3 metres width clear of all inflammable material. The space above this area must also be clear of all inflammable material. No fire may be lit within 7 1/2 metres of any log or stump. No such fire may be left unattended and must be completely extinguished before leaving it.
- (c) It is an obligation to report any fire discovered to a Fire Brigade, Forest Officer or Police Officer.
- (d) The throwing down of lighted tobacco, cigarettes, cigars, matches or any other burning material or thing is prohibited.
- (e) The placing of phosphorus or any other such substance in a position where it may be ignited whether by the sun's rays or by any other cause, is prohibited.
- (f) No fire may be lit in the open air for the purpose of converting wood into charcoal unless a written permit signed by a "Proper Officer" is first obtained.
- (g) Every motor vehicle in contact with grass or other vegetation must be fitted with an efficient exhaust silencing device.
- (h) Every heat engine used for harvesting, and every tractor which is in contact with or within a distance of 9 metres from any grass, crop or stubble or other vegetation, must :
  - (i) be free from mechanical faults and defects likely to cause fire;
  - (ii) be equipped with an efficient spark arrester;
  - (iii) be equipped with a knapsack fire-fighting outfit in working order with the container fully charged with water.
- (i) Any person who uses welding or gas-cutting equipment or any grinding tool in the open air must use a shield of fire resistant material, wet down or clear for a radius of 1 1/2 metres and keep available a knapsack spray pump. Work cutoffs and electrode stubs must be placed in a fire-proof receptacle.
- (j) A blow lamp or gas torch must not be put down where a fire is likely to be caused.

THE MAXIMUM PENALTIES FOR BREACHES OF THE FOREGOING PROVISIONS ARE A FINE OF \$2,000, IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN TWELVE MONTHS OR BOTH FINE AND IMPRISONMENT.

[continued]

And please remember no fires are allowed to be lit in the open on a TOTAL FIRE BAN day.

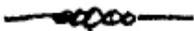
The Brigade members would like to believe they will not have, to attend any fires in the district, but have made every effort to prepare for the fire season.

Thanks to the generosity of people in the community and service clubs, both in Australia and overseas, we are equipping the Brigade with vehicles we believe will be most suitable to our locality. We still have some way to go to have the Brigade as well equipped as it should be, but we are much better off than this time last year.

The Brigade believes that in the event of a bushfire people are safest in their houses, providing they have done the required amount of pre-season preparation. If you feel you must evacuate and go to an area which is relatively safe, please do not leave it until the last moment and make sure you plan your route to the area with due consideration to the prevailing conditions.

The following areas are those which are considered safer areas :

- Beaconhills Golf Course
- V.E.C.
- Recreation Reserve
- Tennis Courts and Fire Station Area
- Montuna Golf Course
- Owen Magee (Hon Sec.)
- U.B.R.F.B.



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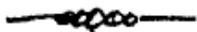
For Sale: 2 Years, resgistered QUARTER HORSE FILLY. \$300. 44 3747

For Sale: CHESTNUT GELDING 7 Y. Needs experienced rider. 44 3747

### UPPER BEACONSFIELD BABY-SITTING CLUB

The Upper Beaconsfield Baby-sitting Club has been in operation for nine years, with a few of the original members still participating. However, as children grow up, and people leave the district, there is a continuous need for new members. A meeting to discuss the present functioning of the B.S. Club and to introduce new members and new ideas will be held at Sheila Kidd's house, Lot 8 Lenne Road, at 8pm on Tuesday, 7th February. Current members who wish to be included in the 1984 list are asked to attend. Also any parents who are interested in joining the Club, which operates on a "debit" and "credit" points system. For more information ring Sheila Kidd on 443400.

It would be useful to the Club to also have a list of people in the district who baby-sit on a paying basis, for use in times when Club members are unavailable. If you are willing to babysit (for a fee), could you contact the above number.



### KINDERGARTEN NEWS - Jenny Toon

A fabulous Spit Roast will take place Saturday, 18th February 6.00 p.m. at the Kindergarten. Salads and bread rolls provided, B.Y.O. grog and chairs.

This is a good opportunity for getting to know everyone, new Mums included. So please come and make it a good night. Tickets on sale at the Pre-School and Kinder - \$5.00 adult - \$2.00 child. Kinder phone 44-3822 Mrs. Cohen and Pre-School phone 44-3253 Mrs. Cameron.



### THE BROWNIES NEED LEADERS!

In the last Village Bell, there was an article calling on some "new blood" to help with the various community groups. After several years of hard work, some relief is needed and, as the community is very interested in seeing their children benefit from these groups, there must be some willing and able helpers waiting in the wings.

The U.B. Brownies are in desperate need of leaders. The 2nd U.B. Pack has completely folded. There are 36 girls on the waiting list and no one wants to help. As from last term, the waiting list will be closed - no new names accepted. Any new intake in 1984 will be existing Brownies into the 1st U.B. Pack, so it looks like many girls will not have the marvellous opportunities and fun Brownies have.

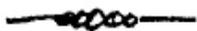
If anyone can help, please ring the District Commissioner, Joy Millet on (059) 412598 or 411096 B.H.



### YAKKERBOO PRINCESS

Girls who turn 16 by 31st January, 1984, are YOU interested in representing Upper Beaconsfield as our Princess and taking part in the Queen of Yakkerboo? If so, start clueing up on your local and general knowledge, also read your Shire handbook. Judging will be done the same as 1983 in a private home.

Contact Dot Pockett on 443506 or Joyce Bumpstead on 443298.



## A TRIP TO INDIA

Elizabeth White

Nell Fullerton has recently returned from an exciting holiday in India. She travelled with her elder daughter Trish to meet her younger daughter Fiona, who had just spent 12 months in Ladakh, the Tibetan Buddhist Kingdom in the North East of India as Doctor-in-Charge of a hospital for Tibetan Refugees.

On arrival in Bombay the monsoon greeted them, the heavens opened in a torrential downpour, they were amazed by the millions of Indians in the streets as they drove to their hotel.

Delhi was to be their base from which they began their adventurous holiday. They flew to Srinagar in Kashmir to spend a week in India's Venice, on a houseboat. Food for them was cooked by relatives of the boat owner and brought to them, it was always Indian style Kashmiri curry with plenty of spices, one very tasty meal Nell discovered later was Kashmiri goat.

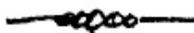
From Srinagar they journeyed by bus to Leh. It was a hair raising trip and Nell found she needed a sense of humour, an acceptance of risk and a sense of fatalism. In 1974 the Indian Government opened the road which they had constructed through the Himalayas to supply a huge army of 120,000 men based in Ladakh as a bulwark against Pakistan and China, 435 kms has been cut through the mountains with many hair-pin bends and the most magnificent views. After a 12 hour journey, Fiona and her friends met them carrying white scarves, symbolizing peace and love. After recovering from altitude sickness, Nell was able to enjoy her 7 day stay with the Tibetans whose culture and religion is so fascinating. They visited the Tibetan Children's Village where Fiona was working, just 100 kms from the Chinese border. The 400 children there gave a farewell concert to Fiona and welcome to them. The children were beautifully dressed in Tibetan costumes, they sang Tibetan songs and performed traditional dances, they seemed to enjoy their dancing so much.

The Tibetan people are so beautiful and kind, the children so courteous and charming. They believe in reincarnation and if they lead a good life will return to a better one.

After a few days of rest in Delhi they visited Jaipur and stayed at the Maharajahs Palace, now an hotel, an elephant ride in traditional Indian style to visit the old forts was an exciting experience. A train trip-the Indian Government is very proud of their railways-took them to Amritsar where they were met and driven to Dharamsala, city of Tibetan Government in exile. The extreme rural poverty of the Indian countryside contrasted with its beauty and its bright green paddy fields.

They flew to Varanasi, previously Benares, a sacred Hindu city where every Hindu makes a pilgrimage, they go to splash in the holy waters of the Ganges. A guided tour took them through the fascinating temples on the shores of the Ganges. Then it was on to Katmandu in Nepal for a fascinating 5 days. One of the loveliest places was just outside Katmandu - a natural dam -where there were hundreds of small monkeys frolicking, playing and teaching their babies to swim. They were so human, showing them how to do the strokes and sunbaking with them.

On their return to Delhi they prepared for their homeward journey to Australia.

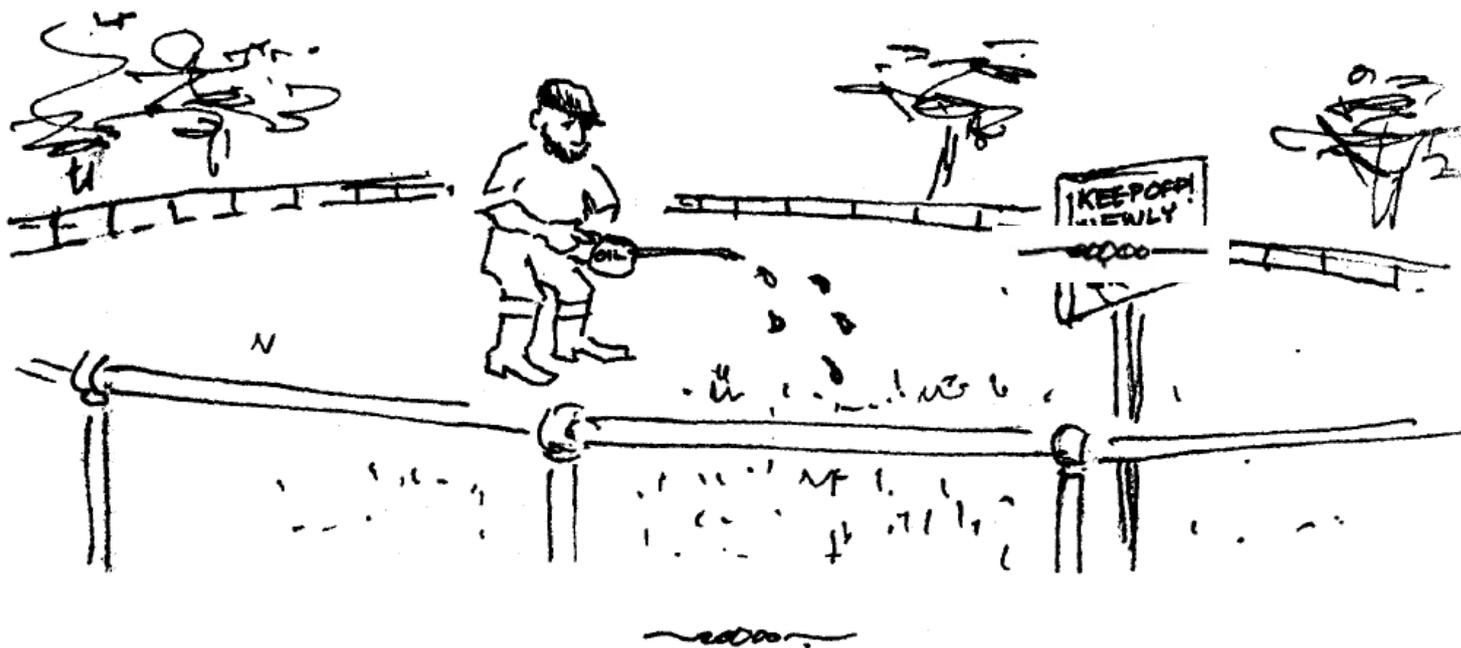


THE OVAL WATERING SAGA (or a Squeak is Lubricated!) - Rob Hansen

Following the initial meeting of the Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club, a telephone call to the Shire of Pakenham revealed that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission was demanding \$10,000 as an Area Contribution for the connection of water to our new oval. Shire officialdom admitted that this amount of money was not part of the Shire's budget and therefore was likely that the newly-sown grass would possibly quickly burn off during the hottest part of the summer and the usual northerly winds could easily remove the layer of sandy loam spread over the surface. Some quick calls to our local Council reps Cr. Keith Ewenson and Cr. Peter Meeking convinced them of the urgency of the situation, and a representative was sent to negotiate with State Rivers. Amazingly, the Area Contribution figure was reduced to \$3,900 and a commitment made to connecting the supply to the pipe fence on 20th January.

To bridge the gap till 20th January, a volunteer force has been giving its free time and skill to keep the surface moist and to give the grass a chance to consolidate. Thanks to the following people for their enthusiastic support: Barry Smith for his expertise in connecting the water from the School, Neil Vaughan and Geoff Brooks for supplying hoses from the Golf Club, John Crosbie for allowing us to use water from the School and to the team of volunteer sprinkler attendants - Gary Mitchell, Murray Erwin, Dieter, Karl and Travis Dutka as well as Doug and Neil Hughes.

When the Committee of Management is properly constituted, it should be able to carry on the good work to produce an excellent oval for the whole community to use.



SCHOOL WORKING BEE.....This Friday, 27th January !!!  
5 to 7 pm  
Help get the School in order..  
Meet the new Principal...

CONGRATULATIONS! Stuart Eaton, son of Peter and Bernice Eaton of Burton Road, has become Dux of Haileybury for 1983. Stuart proposes to study medicine at Melbourne University.

THE VILLAGE BELL

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EDITORS: Graeme Kidd, Susan Pitman,  
Matt McDonald  
TYPING: Maggie McLean  
ADVERTISING: Jan Rutherford  
DUPLICATING: Judy Moir  
COLLATING: The Community Centre

\*\*..\*\*

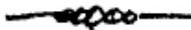
NEXT ISSUE: Copy required by 15th March, 1984.

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