

the
VILLAGE
BELL



No. 45

Published by the B.U.A.

August 1985

THIS BELL IS INTENDED TO TOUCH A CHORD IN YOUR MEMORY

On the Fourteenth of January this year the City of Maryborough and the surrounding District, suffered severely from Bushfires.

Dead:	One
Seriously Hurt:	Five
Other Casualties:	100
Houses Destroyed:	101
Farms Devastated:	About 500
Stock Loss:	Sheep 40,000; Cattle 500

An Appeal was launched shortly after the fires, but very little Public and relatively little Government support was received. There are probably many reasons for this, and one is certainly poor Media support.... from Maryborough we learn that many of the victims of these fires are in considerable trouble; having lost both their homes and livelihood. This Appeal was called-

"The Central Victorian Bushfire Appeal"

Many people in Upper Beaconsfield have good reason to remember the generosity of their fellow Australians and others following Ash Wednesday. After discussion, the B.U.A has decided to assist this appeal. Already many donations have been received in the form of goods and cash from village members. As a result we have some useful and exciting prizes for a raffle which hopefully will be generously supported.

Raffle Prizes:

Tickets will be \$1.00

First Prize: A Commodore 64 Computer family pack. This includes Keyboard, A Tape Recorder, Joystick for Games, and four Software packs.

Second Prize: Bosch Car Alarm and a Bosch Cordless Drill.

Third Prize: A Pack (22 Lovely Bottles) of Superb Vintage Australian Wine.

Fourth Prize: A Double Bed Woolen Underlay.

Fifth Prize: A Tea and Coffee-Maker and a Dinner Service.

Tickets- Eric Bumpstead 443298

Charles Wilson 443008

see over.....

re-created copy

A VILLAGE DINNER TO HELP APPEAL

On the 12th of October there will be a Dinner at Beacon Hills Golf Club. Those who have enjoyed Chef Ian Boyes carvery meals, will need no persuasion to attend this three course event. Tickets will be \$32 a Double - Start saving NOW.

At the dinner the Raffle will be drawn, and the Citizen of the Year named. We hope this will be one of the events of 1985.

Please help by organizing your tables soon.

Tickets-Charles Wilson-443008

Those who wish may make a direct donation to the Appeal. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

RURAL WATER COMMISSIONEMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY

Received from Mr. D.J.Watson, Acting Manager, Main Urban Supplies.

The most suitable form of alarm system for advice of power failure, and a modification of wiring at the pumping station to simplify the connection of generators are scheduled for installation before next summer.

Further examination of the effects of power failure on various pumped systems in the Mornington Peninsula System and the risk of failure of power supplies has indicated that there are 14 pumping stations, out of a total of 45 installations, at which power failure could result in loss of water supply in less than 4 hours.

An extended power failure would place these areas in the same or worse position than Upper Beaconsfield as far as continuity of water supply is concerned; however, of the 14 pumping stations in this group, the risk of loss of SEC power is agreed to be highest at the two installations supplying Upper Beaconsfield.

One set of generators on standby hire, located at a central depot is considered to provide a reasonable degree of security for these stations on the understanding that additional units could be hired in the extreme emergency situation. Locating generators exclusively at Upper Beaconsfield, temporarily or permanently, would deny their use elsewhere and require additional standby hire for a second set. In this circumstance it would not be reasonable for the costs to be borne by all the ratepayers in the Mornington Peninsula System.

As stated previously, there is no objection to the provision of additional security, beyond the present arrangements, provided the Upper Beaconsfield residents are prepared to meet the annual, costs involved. These costs would range from about \$20 per property annually for dedicated generator hire, to \$350 per property for the provision of permanent generators with an upgraded storage and distribution system. This latter estimate is for full upgrading of the system as described in an addendum to the letter from the then Minister of Water Supply to the Shire of Pakenham in December 1983.

The mechanism by which any such additional charges should be paid would require further discussion between the Commission and the Shire Council if the augmented works are required.

BEACONSFIELD UPPER ASSOCIATION

8.00 p.m. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7th 1985

PUBLIC HALL SALISBURY ROAD

AGENDA:-

- 7.45 p.m Minutes of the previous meeting available for perusal.
- 8.00 p.m Mr. David Watson, Acting Manager, Main Urban Supplies, Rural Water Commission to speak on the provision of standby generators for the Upper Beaconsfield Water Supply
- 8.20 p.m Discussion Time
Followed by the formal General Meeting, the Treasurer's Report and outline of the "Central Victorian Bushfire Appeal", Dinner and Raffle, which is being organized.

RURAL FIRE RESEARCH CENTRE

Jeanette Ballinger.

A recent news item stated that the Rural Fire Research Centre was not to be funded in the future. In view of our villages experience of rural fires, and because the group was headed by our local David Packham, we checked this out, and found that the Rural Fire Research Centre had not functioned since April this year.

C.S.I.R.O will establish a National Bushfire Unit of 12 people, 10 in Canberra and 2 in Melbourne working with the Division of Atmospheric Research on meteorology research relating to bushfires. Of the original gathering of experts working here in Melbourne, one has joined a bank the other 4 are currently unemployed.

All work related to the survival of people and houses in this type of rural area will now be centralised in Canberra.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are invited for the Citizen of the Year Award 1985. There are many people in Upper Beaconsfield whose service to the Village life justify their nomination. Please nominate your choice Now and leave it at the P.O. with Postmaster Eric. The award will be presented at the Beacons Hills dinner in support of the "Central Victorian Bushfire Appeal" on October 12th.

PLEASE - DO IT NOW.

I Nominate

As "Citizen of the Year for 1985.

Reasons.....

Signed.....

Attach a letter if you wish.

ROTARY CLUB OF UPPER BEACONSFIELD

The Rotary Club collection for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal amounted to over \$1400.

COLLECTION OF TOYS FOR TOY LIBRARY:

The already successful Toy Library is continuously looking for toys to add to its stock.

Eric Chaplin, Community Service Director of the Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield, asks that if you have any unwanted toys in reasonable condition, to please contact him or members of his committee, and arrangements will be made for their collection.

Telephone Nos are:-	Eric Chaplin	059 443 312
	Ian Wright	059 443 423
	Alan Rowles	059 432 288
	Ian Wake	03 707 1549

UPPER BEACONSFIELD BROWNIES & GIRL GUIDES

Annette Dale

We are glad to announce that due to the re-opening of the 2nd Brownie Pack, the 1st Brownie Pack's WAITING LIST has re-opened. Enquiries -ring Marion Graham, on 443 206.

The Girl Guide Company is continuing without the 'expertise' of Kathy Archibald who has moved to Queensland. The Assistant Leader, Annette Dale has taken over and desperately requires two Assistant Leaders in order to accept any girls off the waiting list and to keep the Company fully active. All enquiries will be gratefully received by Joy Millett (District Commissioner) on 412 598.

The present Girl Guides are very keen, and to keep up with their appetite for badges there is a definite need for more Badge Testers. Anyone in the community who feels that they have expertise in any of the areas listed below and are interested in assisting our youth, could you please ring Annette Dale on 443 873.

TESTERS NEEDED FOR

Art- painting and graphic, public speaking, Orienteering, Dancing, Life Saving, Swimming, Cycling, Emergency Helper, Fire Fighting, Friend to Handicapped, Weatherman, Naturalist, Cake Decorating, Floral Art, Home Skills, Handywoman, Crochet, Knitting, Needlework, Laundress, Writing, Collector, Postal, Radio Communications, Pet Keeping, Australian Aborigines, Hobbies.

ROCK 'N ROLL PRELUDE TO CRICKET SEASON

Following the success the U.B.C.C. obtained in season 1984/5 the Club is now planning for even greater results in the forthcoming season. This season the Club will field additional Senior and Junior teams and any interested players should contact Roger Scott (Seniors) 44 3937 or Glenn Rutherford (Juniors) 44 3760.

The next important date to remember is Sat. 24th August, when the Club will hold a Fancy Dress 50's & 60's Night, at the Public Hall, commencing at 8.00 p.m. Admission \$5 per head. B.Y.O. Hamburgers, hot dogs and Coke available during evening! Heaps of prizes - Best Dressed, Door Prize, etc. For more information contact Ken Murphy 44 3870. So rummage through your wardrobe, drag out your old gear and come along to what promises to be a great night's entertainment!

UPPER BEACONSFIELD HALL COMMITTEE

OLD TIME DANCE 50/50

CHATFIELD'S BAND

SATURDAY 10th AUGUST, 1985

8 p.m.

at the Hall

\$14.00 Double / \$7.00 Single Supper provided.

Tickets Joyce Bumpstead 44 3298 or at the door

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD KINDERGARTEN

Sue Luxford

If you wish your child to attend this kinder between 1986 and 1989 you are strongly advised to contact Mrs. Kaye Cohen, our Directress, obtain and complete an enrollment form Now. New families arrive every day and vacancies may be few.

Parents and organisations using the Reserve and B.M.X track are requested to stop their children using the Kinder play area and Equipment. These facilities are for Kinder children only, and not to be used outside Kinder times. Any damage to equipment can be costly, especially the slide, which has already been replaced due to larger children running up the surface.

Please note the following activities in the coming months:-

- | | | |
|------------|--|-------------------------|
| Sept. 18th | "Magic Journeys" | A Show for Children. |
| Oct. 9th | Toy Purchasing Party by Bellbird School Supplies | Stock Up For Christmas. |
| Oct. 23rd | "Wildlife on the Move" | will visit the Kinder. |
| Oct. 25th | Orientation Day for children who will attend Kinder in 1986. | |

NO COUNCIL ELECTION IN BEACON HILLS THIS YEAR.

Cr. Keith Ewenson would like to thank the many people who offered to assist in the event of a contest in Beacon Hills. No other nomination was received for the Riding so he will be returned unopposed. Whilst this assistance will not be required for electoral purposes Keith hopes this effort may be channeled into the advancement of other matters of Community interest.

Only two of the four vacancies were contested. There will be elections held in Toomuc and Ranges Riding on 3rd August this year.

RELIEVING PRINCIPAL LEAVES U.B.PRIMARY SCHOOL Judy Skinner

Our relieving Principal Mr. Peter Symon will cease duty at the school towards the end of this month. The staff give special thanks to Peter for his expertise in all areas of administration assistance with classroom lessons, literature programs and policy-making sessions. His highly professional approach to the task can only be matched by his understanding and caring attitudes displayed when meeting the needs of the children, parents and staff of this primary school community. We wish him well for all of his future plans.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD CRICKET CLUB (INDOOR)

We're lucky having RICHARD
 He'll knock them in a heap
 He'll take amazing catches
 Providing he doesn't go "beep"

TREVOR'S our Legal Eagle
 A playful little pup
 Keeps us all on our toes
 With his cries of "Fire-up"

Scotsman BOB TAYLOR
 Is the local Douglas Bader
 The local females sigh with relief
 That he can't run any harder

He'll take of those bails
 Like he's not even tryin'
 But should he miss them
 The cries are all "O Brian, Brian BRIAN!!"

ROGER and ADELE
 Do it turn about
 Adele does it quietly
 Roger with a shout

JULIE, a latecomer
 To our team we did con,
 Another couple of games
 And she'll out-rate husband John

CAROL and LAURIE BUTCHER
 To the other side can be a menace
 Both fit and on their toes
 Must be all that Tennis!

What's that noise we hear
 Is it the bails breaking?
 Is it the Chenist's beeper?
 No, its SHARYN'S knees shaking

We owe this all to KAREN
 The leader of the troop
 She'll either take us to the top
 Or land us in the soup

When the games are over
 GILDA will have another job
 Giving cricket lessons
 To her husband ROB

ANON.

CAN YOU HELP????

Local Guides and Brownies are in desperate need of
 new leaders. They would welcome people prepared to
 come in as Leaders.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD PONY CLUB

The Pony Club has started the new financial year with a few vacancies for new members. If there are any children who own a pony and would like to join we hold rallies on the fourth Saturday of each month and monthly theory nights. Contact Liz White on 443 450 for more information.

Lynda Brodie

Lynda was involved with the Pony Club for more than five years, three of these in an official capacity. These are the facts, but they remain merely as numbers on a page and reveal nothing about the person; reveal nothing about the commitment in terms of time, effort and genuine concern at keeping the club running through difficult times: all for the benefit of the children. To Lynda this was always the most important aspect of the club and in spite of the inevitable red tape and increasingly complicated management of affairs, she never lost sight of that. She stood by her convictions and voiced a strong opinion always in support of the children's well-being and safety.

She will be remembered as a very special lady who played a vital role in the community, always giving of herself with a warmth and genuineness that can only be admired and remembered with equal warmth and sincerity.

Judy Greenaway.

CHURCH NEWS

Phillip Roche

Roy Harris' shed (in Salisbury Road opposite A'Beckett Road) is always open for delivery of newspapers and magazines, not cardboard. There is a sign on the gate. This system replaces the former 'paper drives' which used to be held every three months. Papers should be tied in bundles.

There will be news in the next "Bell" regarding a number of special services and other activities in October in connection with the opening of the new Church. People who have been involved with all aspects of the building will be invited to these functions. At this time of writing it is expected that the first service in the new Church will be held on 28th July.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

An invitation is extended to attend the Seventh Annual Meeting to be held in the Senior Citizens Club rooms, James Street, Pakenham on Wednesday, 14th August, 1985 at 8 pm. A self assertiveness film "When I say 'no' I feel guilty" will be shown and supper will be served.

People with an interest in community welfare are required for the Board of Management. Volunteers are required to assist in the operation of the Bureau and interested people are asked to ring 412 377 or call at 24 Main Street, Pakenham, for further information. A part time training course is to be undertaken by three new volunteers in October.

TO RENT- a three bedroomed house in Upper Beaconsfield.
from October 1985 to July 1986. Phone (059) 443563

- Aug.10 Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary - Street Stall
- Aug.10 Old Time 50/50 Dance -Hall Committee
At Public Hall, 8.00 p.m, \$14 Double, \$7 Single
Supper provided, no alcohol, Chatfields Band
Tickets :- J.Bumpstead 443 298
- Aug.17 Dutch Auction - Scouts
At Public Hall 7.30 p.m. Saleable goods appreciated.
Lots of Bargains. Social evening/Family night.
- Aug.24 Fancy Dress 50's and 60's Night. - Cricket Club.
At Public Hall, 8.00 p.m. Tickets £5 at door.
Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Soft drinks on sale, B.Y.O. other
Prizes for best dressed.
Information:- Ken Murphy 443 870.
- Aug.25 Round Robin Tennis Tournament - Tennis Club.
At Berwick Tennis Centre. B.B.Q. facilities B.Y.O
\$8 per entry.
Contact:- Leigh Oldmeadow 443 658.
- Sept.4 Girl Guides- Campfires for all, celebrated around
the world.
Recreation Reserve 7.30- 9.00 p.m.
- Oct. 2 Guide Week. - Girl Guides being of service to the
community and sale of Girl Guide biscuits.
- Oct. 6 Dedication of St.John's Church.
- Oct. 9 Toy Party - Bellbird Pre-School Supplies.
Toys for sale in aid of Kindergarten.
At Kindergarten 7.30 p.m.
- Oct.12 B.U.A Dinner - Beacon Hills Golf Club.
Citizen of the Year Award. Drawing of Raffle.
- Oct.25 Orientation day at Kindergarten.
- Oct.26 Halloween Family Fun Night- Mothers Club Primary School
Recreation Ground 5.30 p.m.
- Nov. 4 Annual Cup Eve Dinner Dance - Tennis Club.
At Montuna Golf Club.
- Nov. 9 Macka's Music Hall - Hall Committee.

LATE ARRIVAL

- Aug. 15th KNIT A THON - Community Centre 10 a.m
Bring 8 ply Wool, Size 8 Needles. Knit for One Hour
Every Row You Knit will be sponsored - to raise
funds for new Community Bus
Stay for a "Cuppa" afterwards. - Lin Chadder

VILLAGE BELL

EDITOR	CHARLES WILSON
TYPING	JOYCE ATTREED AND PHIL ROCKE
MASTHEAD	PAUL REID
ADVERTISING	JAN RUTHERFORD
COLLATORS	LENNE ROAD NEIGHBOURS

NEXT ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 15TH DEADLINE FOR COPY AT THE POST OFFICE.
EDITOR: RAY RATCLIFF

UPPER BEACONSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 1) Curriculum Day - Monday 8th July 1985.
Westernport Region Consultant, Mr. Laurie Cantwell conducted a session for teachers on a Handwriting Course, that will be progressively introduced into this school in 1986.
Features of the new style are:-- Letters based on a parallelogram with a 5 degree right slope: Joins are practised from prep: The familiar loops in the old copperplate are reinstated... Researchers believe this new style of writing will remove many of the difficulties experienced by children when trying to perform with ease and fluency, the present Victorian Cursive Script.
- 2) Book Fair - Staged by Mrs Jacobi - Teacher Librarian in the School Library from 9th to 12th July.
Children, parents and staff were offered a wide range of good quality books for browsing, reading and purchasing if wished. Prices ranged from \$1.25 for paper backs to \$10 for hard covers. The response was overwhelming and we thank very sincerely all those who participated in this event.
- 3) Children's Book Week 20th to 28th July.
The Book Fair acts as a prelude to Children's Book Week which occurs later this month. The B.U.P.S is actively involved in promoting children's literature at all times, but during Book Week children and teachers make an extra special effort to develop in children a life-long love of books and reading. During Book Week lots of exciting and stimulating learning activities will be planned and carried out by all teachers for children to simply experience and enjoy. At present all students are involved in writing, illustrating and publishing his/her own book for inclusion, upon our library shelves. Children will be encouraged to borrow and read these books during Book Week. On Wednesday July 24th children and staff will present themselves as a book character. This is a common practice now in most Australian schools during this special week.
- 4) Youth With A Mission (Y.W.A.M.)
This energetic group visited the school on Wednesday, July 3rd. Members paid visits to the classrooms during the R.E. sessions and involved children in many enjoyable singing activities. Later puppet plays were performed for children in the Multi Purpose Room. The basis of their productions is the development of tolerance and understanding of other people.
- 4) State School's Relief Appeal.
Thank you to those who supported this worthy cause. Proceeds will be channelled to pay for new clothing and footwear for needy children attending government schools in Victoria.
- 5) Parent-Teacher Interviews were successfully conducted on 10th and 11th July and proved to be friendly, meaningful and informative for all concerned.

It's in a Good Cause. Give your child the chance of winning a personal Computer-Raffle Tickets available. \$1

ASH WEDNESDAY....A PERSONAL DIARY...16/2/83.

6.45 A.M. HELL! ANOTHER STINKING HOT DAY. THE NEWS ON A.B.C. CONFIRMING A TOTAL FIRE BAN, WITH A HOT NORTHERLY.

7.30 BREAKFAST-DOZENS OF HONEY-EATERS THIRSTILY SIPPING AT THE BIRD BATHS SCATTERED ABOUT THE LAWN OUTSIDE THE DINING-ROOM WINDOW OF "WILDFELL", AND ONE FAT-TAILED (NATIVE) RAT CREEPING WARILY OVER THE ROCKERY. YESTERDAY WE HAD THE EXCITEMENT OF AN ECHIDNA DRINKING FROM A BIRDBATH.

8.A.M SURGERY--TOO HOT TO BE BUSY.

9.AM YVONNE LEAVING, HAVING ARRANGED THE PREVIOUS NIGHT TO DO SOME SHOPPING WITH DAUGHTER MARGARET IN MELBOURNE, 11.30 SURGERY FINISHED. ONLY ONE CALL, ON WAY PICK UP BREAD AND MILK FROM GEORGE, AND LETTERS FROM RAY.--ELVA ALSO OUT FOR DAY.

12.30 LUNCH....TURN ON C.F.A. RADIO SET TO CHANNEL 3. (LOCAL) ALL QUIET.

2.50. C.F.A. RADIO- TALKING- NOT OUR AREA.

3.20. PHONE RINGING. NANCY BOURA, "CAN YOU OPEN UP RADIO ROOM- THERE IS A FIRE AT SOUTH BELGRAVE "...O.K."-- TRY TO RING YVONNE TO TELL HER TO COME HOME AND TAKE OVER THE SURGERY PHONE. NO ANSWER AT MARGARET'S.TURN ON ANSWERING MACHINE-LEAVE MESSAGE RE WHERE-ABOUTS, FOR EMERGENCY CALLS.

3.40. OPEN C.F.A. RADIO ROOM...MUCH MORE ACTIVITY-STILL SOUTH BELGRAVE FIRES BUT OBVIOUS I WILL NEED HELP. RING JOYCE ATTREED."SURELY, I'LL BE THERE IN TWO MINUTES." MANAGE TO CONTACT YVONNE, SHE WILL COME HOME AT ONCE.

4.00 JOYCE ARRIVED....FIRE SPREADING RAPIDLY. REPORTED TO HAVE JUMPED WELLINGTON ROAD. THIS IS CONFIRMED AND ALSO THAT THE FIRE IS HEADING DOWN MOUNTAIN FLAT ROAD, AND TOWARDS HARKAWAY.

OUTSIDE THE SKY IS DARK FULL OF SMOKE AND THE SUN LOOKS A DARK RED DISC. 4.08 DAVE MARRIOTT AND IVAN SMITH, TWO ABLE AND EXPERIENCED GROUP OFFICERS ARRIVE, TO CO-ORDINATE AND DIRECT BRIGADES FROM SURROUNDING AREAS, WHO HAVE NOW BEEN "TURNED OUT", AND ARE CALLING IN FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

ON THE BIG MAP ON THE NORTHERN WALL OF THE RADIO ROOM FIRE POSITIONS ARE SKETCHED IN....ALSO THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF EACH BRIGADE AND THE FIRE THEY ARE ATTENDING.

4.10.FIRE HEADING TOWARDS ABECKETT AND CHADWICK ROADS, HARKAWAY....HELL! DUNCAN MANSIE LIVES THERE, HOPE HE'S O.K.

4.20..YVONNE ARRIVED AT RADIO ROOM. SHE WILL GO HOME CHECK THE PHONE AND MAKE SANDWICHES.

4.25 SPOT FIRES REPORTED DOWN MONTUNA WAY.....FIRES NEAR "SHELL COTTAGE"...FIRES BEHIND BUMPSTEAD'S.

4 .30 FIRES SPREADING AROUND BARKER'S--FIRES REPORTED AT MOUNT MISERY...THIS IS CONFIRMED.ASSISTANCE NEEDED AND ARRANGED.

4.45 FIRES REPORTED AT OFFICER, NEAR RAILWAY NO MENTION OF ANY HOUSES THREATENED. ALLAN BLACKWELL AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS REQUESTING KNAPSACKS TO FIGHT SPOT FIRES, WILL WORK IN CARDINIA CREEK AREA.

5.00 FIRES REPORTED AT THE END OF BEAUMONT ROAD-TWO HOUSES THREATENED.

5.15 JOE MAAS ARRIVED AT THE RADIO ROOM WITH TWO INJURED BOYS HE HAD PICKED UP IN SUGARLOAF ROAD, JOE WAS ADVISED TO TAKE THEM TO BERWICK BECAUSE OF THE EMERGENCY AND AGREED TO DO SO. SHORTLY AFTER HE RETURNED---"THE ROAD IS CUT BY FIRES AND I CAN'T GET THROUGH"... I AGREED TO MEET THEM AT THE SURGERY. SURGERY.

THAT MEANS ANOTHER RADIO OFFICER, ELVA STILL NOT HOME--DOT POCKETT IN DANDENONG, TRY JENNIE KERR,--WHAT A FOOL I AM-- -OF COURSE SHE CAN'T GET UP THE HILL.

THE PHONE RINGS INCESSANTLY, WITH REPORTS OF NEW SPOT FIRES, AND THE ROOM IS TENSE AS THE G.D.O'S MAKE SOME HARD DECISIONS

5.20 THANK HEAVENS! ELVA HAS ARRIVED. ELVA RATCLIFFE AND JOYCE ATTREED STAYED ON DUTY THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THAT NIGHT AND WERE NOT RELIEVED

UNTIL HELP CAME AT 11.30 A.M. NEXT DAY, AT 2 A.M. ON THURSDAY JOYCE LEARNED THAT HER HOUSE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY THE FIRE.

5.30 HOME. YVONNE HAS BEEN CLEANING THE ABRASIONS AND LACERATIONS BETTER AND PROBABLY MORE GENTLY THAN I COULD

SUGGESTED I GO AND PICK UP MISS MARSDEN, AND ALSO DROP TWO LOAVES OF SANDWICHES THAT WERE MADE, TO THE C.F.A. WHILST THE CLEANING WAS CONTINUING. SON ROBERT RANG FROM TOWN. "DAD CAN I HELP? 'TOLD NOTHING TO DO, AND THERE IS NO DANGER AS FIRE HAS PASSED "WILDFELL".

TRY MISS MARSDEN FIRST.."NO THANK YOU DOCTOR IM NOT QUITE READY, CALL BACK LATER, WHEN I HAVE FINISHED PACKING."

5.45 MUCH ACTIVITY IN THE RADIO ROOM AND MANY LOCALS VOLUNTEERING TO ASSIST. LEFT SANDWICHES.

6.00 AS WE HAD NO POWER, HAVING LOST S.E.C. ABOUT 5 P.M., YVONNE HAD LIT TWO TILLY LAMPS...THE TEMPERATURE IN THE SURGERY WAS TREMENDOUS,PARTICULARLY AS WE WERE BOTH DRESSED IN LONG "FIRE CLOTHES".. OUTSIDE HAS ALMOST DARK.

BOTH BOYS HAD WOUNDS THAT REQUIRED FURTHER CLEANING UNDER LOCAL ANAESTHETIC, AND ALSO SUTURES, WHICH TOOK SOME TIME.

JOE MAAS, BLESS HIM, WAITED FOR THE BOYS AND SPENT THE TIME HOSING DOWN THE SOUTH-WEST WINDOW AND WALLS, WHICH HE CONSIDERED MOST AT RISK, AND WHERE INDEED THE FIRE BROKE THROUGH LATER..... JOE AND JULIE LOST THEIR HOME IN EMERALD ROAD LATER THAT NIGHT.

6.20 ROBERT RANG AGAIN."COULDN'T HE POSSIBLY HELP??"TOLD NO WAY! ANYHOW ALL ROADS NOW CLOSED!

7.30 JOB FINISHED AND A QUICK DRINK. DAUGHTER MARGARET, AND CLOSE FRIEND SHIRLEY DAVENPORT ARRIVED, "TO HELP".. THEY HAD MANAGED TO AVOID THE ROAD BLOCKS BY COMING THROUGH AURA VALE, AND THEN VIA THE RECENTLY BURNT BACK ROAD! SHIRLEY AND MARGARET CONTINUED HOSING AND SET UP FIVE SPRINKLERS SPRAYING WATER OVER THE ROOF AND WALLS.... "THAT SHOULD KEEP US SAFE!"

7.45 PHONE CALL FROM C.F.A. COULD WE HELP CRANBOURNE WHO HAD MEMBERS WITH EYE INJURIES?..THEIR TANKER ARRIVED SHORTLY AFTER;SEVERAL HAD EYE BURNS, PERHAPS THEY HAD NOT BEEN WEARING THEIR GLASSES,TWO HAD FOREIGN BODIES IN THEIR EYES, BUT ALL OF THEM WERE MILDLY DEHYDRATED, AND FLUID WAS THEIR GREATEST REQUIREMENT----THE GIRLS WERE HAPPY TO HELP...WE STILL LAUGH WHEN WE REMIND YVONNE OF HER COMMENT,"DON'T GIVE THEM THE BEST CRYSTAL IN THE GARDEN"! A SECOND TANKER ARRIVED-- SIMILAR PROBLEMS.

8.20 AS THEY LEFT, THE DRIVER CALLED TO MARGARET WHO WAS ON THE ROOF HOSING AND MOVING SPRINKLERS.." GET OFF QUICKLY IF THE WIND CHANGES".... IT IS POSSIBLE THIS REMARK SAVED HER LIFE.

THIS WAS OUR FIRST KNOWLEDGE OF AN EXPECTED WINDCHANGE. WE LEARNED THAT WINDS OF 30 KNOTS WERE EXPECTED FROM THE SOUTH WEST--AND IT WAS ALREADY AT DANDENONG. . .NO ONE KNEW OF THE DISASTER AT ANGLESEA OR OF THE WIND FORCE THERE.

8.40 CLEANING UP OF SURGERY ALMOST FINISHED.

-"DAD,THE FIRE IS HERE!. .MARGARET RUSHED INTO THE SURGERY HAVING SEEN IT APPROACH FROM THE ROOF.

(TO MYSELF)-- DON'T PANIC! SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY! THE HOUSE WILL BE SAFE FOR SOME TIME.

WALKING DOWN THE PASSAGE THE INCREDIBLE ROAR OF A TREE-TOP BURN COMING UP THE VALLEY FILLED THE HOUSE.... GOING INTO THE SITTING ROOM, WHICH LOOKED SOUTH-WEST,I WAS APPALLED...

FLAMES WERE REACHING ACROSS FROM THE TREES IN THE NEARBY FOREST,THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE, AT LEAST 120 FEET AWAY, AND TOGETHER WITH LIGHTED LEAVES, TWIGS AND SMALL BRANCHES WERE BEATING AND RATTLING THE FULL LENGTH WINDOWS WHICH WERE OBVIOUSLY ABOUT TO BURST INWARDS. THE WIND WAS SCREAMING AND OF FULL GALE FORCE.

NO COMPOSURE NOW-- WE WERE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER..IF THE WINDOWS COLLAPSED THE FIRE WOULD SWEEP THROUGH THE HOUSE IN MINUTES AS THE INTERNAL WALLS AND CEILING WERE MADE OF CANITE.

ALL FOUR, AND THE DOG MOVED TO THE GARAGE. THROUGH THE DOOR MARGARET'S CAR COULD BE SEEN ALREADY ON FIRE UNDER THE LARGE GUMTREE,IN THE CARPARK..... NO ESCAPE THAT WAY.

O.K. IT HAD TO BE THE POOL...WE HAD DISCUSSED IT MANY TIMES BEFORE...

.RIGHT LET'S GO ..YVONNE WITH GREAT PRESENCE OF MIND HANDED EACH OF US A WET TOWEL,THEN CHECKED THE DOG WAS OUT!...THE LAST TIME WE WERE TO SEE HER.

MARGARET WAS THE FIRST TO GO, BUT BEFORE THE REST OF US COULD FOLLOW SHE WAS BACK AGAIN----"IT'S NO USE DAD, THE POOL IS ON FIRE!" I REALISED THAT SHE MEANT THE HEDGE AND WATTLES AROUND THE POOL,BUT THAT WAS A GAUNTLET WE WOULD HAVE TO RUN.

EACH ONE MADE THEIR OWN WAY, TOWEL ON HEAD, MIDST BURNING LEAVES AND DEBRIS AND A FEROCIOUS WIND...AT LAST IN THE POOL-SO VERY COOL.

" MY GOD! .WHERE'S YVONNE?" " WHERE IS SHE"? I'LL HAVE TO GO BACK. NO WAY--I WAS PHYSICALLY INCAPABLE OF MOVING - -EVEN AT WATER LEVEL THERE SEEMED NO AIR. SUDDENLY A SPLASH! WONDERFUL YVONNE, WHO RAN MORE SLOWLY THAN THE REST HAD MADE IT!

FOR A SHORT TIME IT WAS TOUCH AND GO, FLAMING BRANCHES AND LEAVES POURED ON US, EACH CROUCHING BENEATH A TOWEL DUCKING UNDER AND THEN UP AGAIN FOR A QUICK BREATH. THERE SEEMED TO BE NO AIR AND BREATHING WAS VERY DIFFICULT. I FELT THIS WAS THE END. THE INTENSE HEAT AND OXYGEN LACK FROM THE GROUND BURN WAS TOO MUCH TO COPE WITH.

GRADUALLY WE BECAME A TEAM, AND WITH THE TOWELS JOINED OVER OUR HEADS AND GOING UNDER TOGETHER, BREATHING BECAME EASIER.

AFTER ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES WE WERE ABLE TO LOOK ABOUT US AND GUESS THE CAUSES OF THE MANY EXPLOSIONS AND OTHER NOISES.

WITH GREAT SADNESS WE WATCHED "WILDFELL" BEING ENGULFED. FLAMES POURING OUT OF THE DINING ROOM WINDOWS, AND CRASHES AS THE IRON ROOF FELL IN.

NEXT DOOR "YALLAMBEE", DAVID AND MARILYN HAYES HOUSE WAS BEGINNING TO BURN, HAVING BEEN PROTECTED UNTIL THEN BY OUR HOUSE WHICH WAS A LITTLE HIGHER UP THE HILL.

ANY ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM THE POOL WAS QUICKLY ABANDONED AS BURNING BRANCHES FLEW PAST, FURTHER MORE WE KNEW WE WERE SAFE THERE, AND THOUGHT IT SILLY TO COURT DANGER WITHOUT REASON.

LOOKING TO THE EAST, WAS ANOTHER MASS OF FLAME AND WE LOOKED WITH HORROR AS A ROARING FIRE ENGULFED AND HURLED SKYWARDS FROM BEAUTIFUL "AMESFIELD"..WHERE THE PREVIOUS EVENING SUE AND WILFRED THORNTON HAD ENTERTAINED US, --- CELEBRATING WILFRED'S RETIRAL AND BIRTHDAY AND SHOWING US THE PRESENTS HE HAD RECEIVED.

BY NOW I CAN ONLY GUESS IT WAS ABOUT 11.PM, LEAVES AND BURNING BRANCHES WERE FALLING FROM NEARBY TREES,BUT I FELT IT REASONABLE TO MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO LEAVE THE POOL. THE OTHERS WERE NOT TOO HAPPY, AS THE GARAGE,CONTAINING TWO CARS HAD STILL NOT BURNT, AND THEREFORE CONTAINED PETROL WHICH COULD BLOW.

WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE GARAGE ONE CAR WAS WELL ON FIRE, THE OTHER STILL INTACT BUT THE BENCH AND WALLS WERE BURNING. DISCRETION WAS INDICATED, AND I RETREATED TO THE POOL.

ABOUT THIS TIME, A HORN BEGAN TO BLOW. NEIGHBOURS TOLD US THEY THOUGHT WE HAD TRIED TO GET OUT BY CAR AND BEEN CAUGHT. LATER WE REALIZED IT WAS THE SURGERY BURGLAR ALARM.

BY NOW THE WIND HAD FALLEN IN STRENGTH AND A FEW RAINDROPS WERE FALLING....WE BECAME CONSCIOUS OF A NEW NOISE --AN ENGINE?..POSSIBLY A PUMP? PERHAPS WE WERE NOT THE ONLY SURVIVORS? OR COULD IT BE THE C.F.A.? COULD THEY HAVE GOT IN?

"A COMBINED HAIL--AND BY RETURN "YVONNE AND CHARLES, ARE YOU ALIVE?".LARRY CRONIN TWO DOORS AWAY HAD MANAGED WITH THAT PUMP TO SAVE HIS HOUSE, AND FAMILY, PLUS NEIGHBOURS.....WITHOUT IT I DOUBT THAT ANY OF THEM WOULD HAVE SURVIVED.

THE GROUND WAS BEGINNING TO COOL, THERE WERE FEWER FALLING EMBERS AND WE FELT WE SHOULD AGAIN TRY TO GET OUT..THIS TIME AS A PARTY..LOOK MONTIE AND MARGARET HOWARD'S HAS SURVIVED

THE HOWARDS WERE MORE THAN SURPRISED, AS THEY WERE CERTAIN WE HAD BEEN LOST...HARD WORK,THREE STRONG MEN,GOOD EQUIPMENT AND GOOD LUCK HAD SAVED ALL THREE HOUSES.

WHAT A WONDERFUL RECEPTION THEY GAVE US--SHOWERS FOR ALL--DRY CLOTHES-A DRINK AND ANNE WOULD DRIVE US TO MELBOURNE... BURNING LOGS STILL ON THE HOWARDS LAWN, AND ALL ALONG ST. GEORGES ROAD.

A STOP TO REPORT OUR DEPARTURE--SAW ERIC BUMPSTEAD AND LINDA BRODIE -GREY WITH EXHAUSTION, AND SMOKE STAINED WALKING PAST THE POST OFFICE. TOLD ERIC WE WERE GOING AND THEN LEFT. I DOUBT HE WOULD REMEMBER IT.

Altogether 21 Lives were lost in Upper Beaconsfield as a direct result of the Ash Wednesday fire.

Within 200 metres of "Wildfell", thirteen people died that evening.... twelve were firefighters from other areas, 11 were members of the C.F.A. Charles Wilson

UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Thank you for your support during Term II which is rapidly drawing to a close. Once again I need your suggestions as to what you want to see provided at the Community Centre during next term.

The programme will be distributed to you during the last week of this term. Enrolments will be taken at the Community Centre during the first week of next term (9-13 September) and classes will begin on Monday 16 September. We ask you to please book in advance to facilitate programme planning, cancellation of non-supported classes etc.

Thank you to those who have supported the crèche this term, in its beautiful new premises. Particular thanks go to all parents who have assisted us with just one session of voluntary duty, without which we could not have managed. We ask you again to put your names down, just once, for a duty in the third and busy term.

The crèche is now officially registered with the Health Commission of Victoria, who have stressed the vital importance of abiding by the regulations, especially those governing numbers of children we are allowed to care for. In terms of modus operandi of the Community Centre, preference must be given to children of parents who are at classes at the hall, whom we are obliged to accommodate, and if at any stage your child as a casual visitor, is turned away, please understand that this is merely our effort to abide by stringent regulations in our attempt to provide a high quality of child care facilities.

The crèche hours remain at 9-12 and 1-3, and we are not permitted, in terms of the regulations, to exceed these stipulated hours.

The crèche is still open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Costs are:-	\$3	per family per morning session or part thereof
	\$2	" " " " afternoon " " " "
	\$1	" " " " class session, for duration of that session.

A playgroup is now happily operating at the crèche on Thursday afternoons from 1 - 2.30 p.m. Many thanks to Judy, Chrys and Joanne for getting this much needed service functioning efficiently.

The Community Bus is still available for use by individuals or groups in the community. Rates remain reasonable. The bus seats 10 plus the driver, who only needs an ordinary licence, and can be booked by ringing Lin 443 484 or Richard 443 478 (or 707 1148). This is your community asset- do not hesitate to consider using it.

I am saddened to report on increasing vandalism at the crèche, especially in the playground area and presumably at weekends. The Police have agreed to step up surveillance, but local residents are asked to report anything suspicious, as damage caused has proved costly and of considerable inconvenience.

Please note that I am only at the Community Centre on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. Lin Chadder 443 484.

Would you like a Good Dinner with friends, in pleasant surroundings?? What could be nicer? You have such an opportunity on Oct. 12th and at the same time help the Bushfire Appeal...Tickets \$32 a double, ring 443008.

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YAKKERBOO FESTIVAL 1986

You could play a significant role in planning the next Festival, watch the local paper for details of meetings to be held in the near future. The basic purpose of Yakkerboo is to draw diverse communities of the Shire together on a Fun occasion.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD BABY SITTING CLUB

The Baby Sitting Club is still providing a valuable service for many members of our Community... New members are always welcomed. For further informations please contact:-Glenda Williams 443 703

Secretaries For August Annette Dale 443 873

For September Adele Scott 443 937

PAKENHAM AND DISTRICT CARE FOR THE AGED COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.00 p.m on August 11th at Meadow Vale Retirement Village - Entrance off Ahern Road. All are invited. A tour of the village will follow the meeting.

T.Reimert (Hon.Sec.) P.O.Box 136, Pakenham 3810

UPPER BEACONSFIELD SPINNING AND WEAVING GROUP

This Group meets on 3rd Tuesday in each month. New members are always welcome. Next meetings are: -

20th August 1985 Ballingers in Yackatoon Road 443 395

17th September 1985 Harrisons in Emerald Road 443 810

A ROVER REPORTS

Ray and Elva Ratcliff who are currently holidaying in the North have visited Meg and Peter Johnson former Split Rock Road residents now living at Hay, where they are working a large property and unintentionally feeding many red and grey kangaroos and a few emus.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Jeanette Ballinger

Thank you to all those who took note of our pleas in the last Village Bell, to attend the B.U.A meeting and give their views.

It was the largest meeting we have had for some time and must have made BUA office bearers and local councillors feel that someone "out there", at least in Upper Beaconsfield, is alive and kicking.

VILLAGE BELL EDITORS

1985 & 1986

Subject to revision, exclamations of horror and Editor swap

May - Jeanette Ballinger July - Charles Wilson

Sept - Ray Ratcliff Nov - Charles Holloway

Jan - Sue Pitman Mar - Jane Holth

May - Graeme Kidd July - Wilfred Thornton

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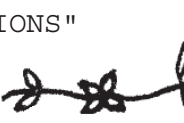
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