

No. 47 December 1985



CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP FOR B.U.A.

The Beaconsfield Upper Associations General Meeting at the Village Hall on Wednesday December 4, will be a Christmas Breakup.

AGENDA

- 7.45 p.m. Minutes for perusal
- 8 p.m. Meeting opens
Correspondence

Treasurer's Report
Sub-Committee Reports

General Business

Please bring a plate and stay to exchange seasonal greetings.

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Wednesday February 5. The speaker will be Senior Constable Bill Manning who will talk and show films on "Neighbourhood Watch."



"STAY PUT ON ANOTHER ASH WEDNESDAY" - bushfire experts advise.

A report of the talks on fire preparedness at the October B.U.A. Meeting given by Mr. Jeff Cruise (CFA) and David Packham (Research Scientist).

The advice which came out was clear:-

"In another Ash Wednesday fire it will be safer for residents - and many fewer properties will be destroyed - if householders take adequate precautions and then stay at home." This is in contrast with the policy of Police and Emergency Services which seems to try to get people to evacuate as soon as an area is threatened. "Last minute evacuations have potential for disaster" Mr. Cruise said. "Young children and the infirm should be evacuated early but all the able bodied should stay if they are willing to do so."

Mr. Cruise said that people living in an area were responsible for fire protection in that area and each householder was responsible for his own house. In a large fire the Fire Commander has to assess what he will save and what he will lose because in those circumstances often there is insufficient equipment, manpower and time to save everything. These are difficult decisions - will he withdraw crews to protect property or will he try to stop the run of the fire? In the latter case - people must look after their own homes.

The CFA policy is that evacuation was a last resort. "Occupancy helped to save houses - many were likely to be lost if unoccupied. The design of the house, the type of the surrounding vegetation and the fuel load, the slope of the land, and the wind would all affect the chance of survival.

Victoria had great problems due to the climate and to the type and growth of vegetation. If the fuel load was halved, the fire intensity would be reduced to a quarter. The better prepared, the better the chance of survival. People who decided to evacuate should do so early as smoke and fallen trees caused road accidents.

A fire in grassland, could travel at 18 kms/hour. In a "normal" fire, firebreaks would help to stop the spread, and firefighters could work from them. On high fire danger days the breaks will not stop the fire but will help to reduce the risks to the firefighters.

In our area the firefighters are all volunteers. They should not be expected to go into very dangerous properties - bad access, low over-hanging branches and so on. They face enough risks in normal situations. Owners of such properties must accept the risks themselves." Mr. Cruise added.

David Packham used the findings of the Andrew Wilson study of Mt. Macedon fires on Ash Wednesday and said that the findings apply equally to the Upper Beaconsfield area.

He strongly advised people to stay in their houses next time. At Mt. Macedon some 250 houses were either threatened or destroyed. Of the threatened houses only 30% survived without help from someone immediately after the fire front had passed, whereas the survival rate for houses defended by able-bodied residents was 90%. "Very few people were prepared" he said. Seven houses had a pump and an independent water supply - water in a kettle saved one house (in Hobart the fluid from a home-brew outfit saved another.)

In the questions and answers which followed the following points emerged: Window shutters are good protection - curtains should be removed on approach of fire - external metal fly wire reduces radiant heat by 27% and reduces entry of sparks. There is no evidence of houses exploding in heat but structural failure sometimes is caused by high velocity winds generated in these conditions. If L.P. gas cylinders are properly maintained they may vent but will not explode. If time permits they should be removed from vicinity of house. Petrol tanks should be stored away from dwellings.

Evacuation of very young, infirm and elderly should be planned neighbourhood system - on extreme danger days - plan ahead. Re roadblock problems - the CFA Regional Officer said people in homes can stay. Police or Fire Commanders have control of people on the roads. Police powers re roadblocks are not clear - an Act is being prepared by Government in which Police will be Zone Co-ordinators.

THANKS FROM MARYBOROUGH

The Beaconsfield Upper Association and organisers of the local appeal for funds to aid victims of the disastrous Central Victorian Bushfire have been delighted with the result of the efforts so far.

On October 12, at a Dinner attended by 250 residents, a cheque for \$5,600 was presented to representatives from the Maryborough area.

On and since that evening a steady stream of donations has come forward and another cheque of in excess of \$1200 has been forwarded to the Trustees of the Appeal in Maryborough. To date some \$3000 has come in donations from individuals - and by far the bigger proportion has come from Ash Wednesday victims who can share the feelings of the people who lost homes, possessions and livelihoods in the Maryborough area in January this year.

The amounts forwarded to far total \$6,800 and are in addition to a gift of \$2,510 given to the Appeal from St. John's congregation at the recent service of Thanksgiving.

This has been a significant response and an encouraging gesture to people who have not had much encouragement from either meagre Government assistance or from an apathetic media.

The organiser of the Central Victorian Bushfire Appeal, Mrs. Lee Scott, of Neill Street, Maryborough has written to the President and Members of the Beaconsfield Upper Association as follows": -

"We thank you so much for your wonderful donation of \$5,600. Our people are most grateful to you for your help. The Appeal has officially closed though we are accepting last donations.

The Appeal has raised approximately \$385,000 since the January 14 fires. Money is still coming in and with a little luck hope to reach \$400,000 up to Christmas.

Once again I thank you from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of our people for your generosity."

Reconstruction Beaconsfield/Emerald Road North of Upper Beaconsfield

After many years it is pleasing to finally be able to report that the reconstruction of the Beaconsfield/Emerald Road, Stoney Creek Road to Split Rock Road, will begin during the 1985/86 Council year, and continue over the following 2-3 years. With dangerous curves and a long history of accidents, it is a relief to all that this main road will soon reach a safer standard.

No More Double Permit Applications in Upper Beaconsfield and Surrounds

Any resident who has sought a Planning Permit over the past few years would be aware that not only was it necessary to gain a permit from the Council, but also, another permit was to be obtained from the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (now Ministry of Planning).

Sometimes, one Authority granted a permit, and the other refused. At other times both Authorities directed that the proposed application should be advertised, requiring two separate notices and advertising procedures.

Persistent opposition by Council has finally been rewarded, and the Minister has indicated a willingness to exclude the MMBW Planning Controls from this area, even though it is his intention to maintain a fairly strong Ministerial control. Such a change has been agreed to but not as yet gazetted, so a single planning permit application is imminent.

SEC Clearance of Lines

At long last a light has appeared at the end of the very black tunnel. Mr. Fordham, the relevant Minister, has met with our representatives, expressed some surprise at the implications of the legislation, and has promised a total review of the law. Certainly a long way short of victory, but at least a start in the right direction.

Upper Beaconsfield - Rural Town or Metropolitan Area?

Is it important to you to live in a small rural township (village) or would you prefer to be included within the rapidly expanding metropolis? In the not too distant future, perhaps even in a few months, you may be asked to make such a decision. The Government has clearly indicated that there are far too many local government units, and it is believed that an attempt will be made to reduce the number of Municipalities by nearly half. (210 Councils reduced to 100 - 110).

Even though the Planning Minister has apparently determined that from a Planning point of view, the Shire of Pakenham should not be part of the Metropolitan Planning area, there is every indication that in the total review of all Municipalities no existing boundary will be safe.

Resulting from a review of the Shire's entire operation, Pakenham Council is of the opinion that the Municipality as structured is viable and well capable of coping with people's needs for many years to come, and will therefore oppose restructuring. There are many issues that Upper Beaconsfield residents will need to consider including rates (presently at a level somewhat less than other Municipalities) and representation (currently 2 Councillors represent Upper Beaconsfield).

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD TO HAMILTONS

The 1985 Citizen of the Year Award was presented by Beaconsfield Upper Association President, Murray Erwin to Stan and Beryl Hamilton. The presentation was a fitting climax to the dinner at the Beaconhills Golf Club which raised \$5,600 for the Central Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

The award was most appropriate because Stan has the fire brigade's 25 years' service badge and Beryl has worked tirelessly for the brigade's ladies' auxiliary.

Murray Erwin recalled that the Hamilton's home in Berglund Road had become a home away from home for many people after the Ash Wednesday fires. Presenting a specially-made plaque, Murray said the Hamiltons were a couple who quietly supported every community activity in the village. So many people had been helped by them in a private way that most people did not know just how much they had done. "They don't make a big thing of it, but they have been doing it quietly and efficiently over the years" he added.

At Beaconsfield Primary School, both had worked tirelessly for many years, long after their children had attended there. Stan had been involved with the fireworks and bonfire nights for many years and Beryl had worked with the Mothers' Club.

Murray said he became acquainted with Stan during the centenary celebrations and soon realised that he was a man who would willingly do any job that needed doing.

The Award was one way the people of Upper Beaconsfield could show their gratitude for the contribution the Hamiltons had given to the community.

The Pakenham Gazette carried an excellent report of the presentation on Page 2 of the October 16 issue, together with a three-column photograph of Murray presenting the plaque.

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR SAY "THANK YOU".

Stan and Beryl Hamilton would like to say a special thanks to the people who nominated them for Upper Beaconsfield's Citizen of the Year, and to convey their thanks to the many people for their congratulations, cards, letters and phone calls. "We have been overwhelmed by your kindness."

The Hamiltons

DID YOU SEE THIS ACCIDENT?

Persons who saw an accident between a motor bike and motor car on the corner of Stoney Creek Road and Young Street, Upper Beaconsfield at about. 3 p.m. on October 21 are asked to contact 443 061.

YAKKERBOO PRINCESS

As is well known, the Yakkerboo Festival is coming up shortly and Upper Beaconsfield are looking for girls to become Upper Beaconsfield's Princess. If you are 16 before the 31st January, or over, and interested in becoming a Princess contact Mrs. J. Bumpstead 443 298 or Mrs. D. Pockett 443 506.

There have been many beautiful even unusual homes built in Upper Beaconsfield since February 1983 but Bert & Laura Levens home in Leppit Road deserves a special mention.

Coachstop Building Company of Monbulk built the house to their 'Nugget' design. Others have suggested that 'Kooka-burra' or 'Rabbit-burrer' might be appropriate for the Shire's first earth sheltered house. The expected advantages of earth sheltered housing are climatic control (an anticipated temperature variation of 5 over a year) without air conditioning, low maintenance and running costs and easier bushfire protection. Bushfire protection was considered very important and is created by a sheltered courtyard on the south side. The building, which is constructed entirely of reinforced concrete and solid brick has window and door frames of metal and two walls and roof are earth covered. Garage doors on the western end will have a return on both sides and over the top of doors to prevent burning debris blowing in and windows have heat reflecting translucent blinds and it is intended that tightly fitted shutters will be built for all glass.

For the technically minded there is a separate retaining wall of cement blocks concrete filled and reinforced. This wall is tanked and also drained both sides and there are additional drains under the floor slab. All walls support the roof slab which is in two layers of 175 mm and 100 mm thick concrete separated by two layers of waterproofing membrane and 75 mm of drainage sand between them. The whole area is then backfilled with loam and native grasses are being encouraged to make it environmentally compatible.

Great care was taken with engineering design and building construction to ensure strength and waterproofing and there is a positive ventilation system which can be turned on as required in the event of excessive moisture buildup occurring.

Built on a 1 in 4 slope to the N.E. so that all main rooms have large windows able to take advantage of magnificent views and sunshine only the laundry and bathrooms are artificially lit. There is certainly no feeling that this house is underground. Another feature of the house would have to be the circular living area which provides many interesting nooks and crannies and the beautiful raw cut marble slab flooring. Laura says already the lack of variation in temperature is noticeable and traffic noises are muted. Dust from the busy gravel road finds it very difficult to infiltrate.

Bert and Laura went through many trials and false starts because of their dream of an earth sheltered house but today they must be very proud that it is finally completed and so lovely and functional.

TENNIS CLUB AT CHOO CHOOS

The Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club will hold a Restaurant Night at Choo Choos Railway Carriage Restaurant (B.Y.O.) on Thursday 5th December at \$20 a head. All are welcome ~ members and non-members. Place names on the list in the Club House or ring Russell Rhode (059) 683223

DIARY OF LOCAL EVENTS

Compiled by Judi Pratt
443 236

Note: Fuller details may appear in articles elsewhere in this Village Bell.

1985

- Dec. 2 - Prep Parents Night - Primary School
- Dec. 2 - Planning Night for Pre-School and Kindergarten. All interested parents welcome 8 p.m. at Kindergarten.
- Dec. 3 - Netball Club Meeting at Creche, Village Hall at 7.45 p.m.
- Dec. 4 - Beaconsfield Upper Association Meeting 8 p.m. Hall. Christmas Break-up to follow.
- Dec. 4 - Baby-sitters get-together at Ho Ho (B.Y.O.) Hallam 7.30 p.m.
- Dec. 5 - Tennis Club's Restaurant Night at Choo Choo (B.Y.O.)
- Dec. 6 - Bush Dance - Cricket Club at Berwick Leisure Centre \$8 adults \$3 children B.Y.O., Sundowner Band.
- Dec. 7 - Fete - St. John's Church at Trumpers Nursery 9 a.m. Gate prize - BMX bike.
- Dec. 7 - Christmas Gymkhana - Pony Club at Recreation Reserve 10 am onwards.
- Dec. 8 - Tree-weeding day at Recreation Reserve 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Dec. 8 - Art Show at: Primary School
- Dec. 12 - Rotary Celebrity Golf Day at Beaconhills
- Dec. 21 - Christmas Party - Tennis Club 6 p.m. Food and drinks. Raffle drawn at 8 p.m.
- Dec. 22 - Sunday School Break-up. - St. John's 9 a.m.
- Dec. 24 - Carols By Candlelight at the Rotunda

1986

- Jan. 15 - Village Bell copy closes at Post Office.
- Feb. 5 - B.U.A. Annual Meeting. Sen. Constable Bill Manning to speak and show films on "Neighbourhood Watch."
- Feb. 11 - Upper Beaconsfield Baby-sitting Club's Annual General Meeting at Glenda Williams' home 8 p.m.
- Feb. 16 - Centenary Cup Competition Riding Club
- Feb. 20 - Annual meeting of Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre.
- Mar. 15 - Village Fair at Recreation Reserve.

St. John's church is now open every Sunday from 2 - 4.30 p.m. for all who would like to see through this beautiful new building. All are welcome to the service which starts at 9 a.m. every Sunday (except for special occasions, which will be advertised on the notice board.) We expect to be holding a carol service at 7 p.m. on Sunday 22nd December and the usual Christmas Day service at 9 a.m. Christmas morning. As this is the only church in Upper Beaconsfield, all denominations are welcome to attend the services. If you have any queries about attending please ring me on 443 243. I will either be able to answer them or refer you to the right person.

Car parking People attending church services, weddings, functions etc at the church, are asked NOT to park outside the shops as this interferes with shoppers. Parking behind the shops opposite the church driveway is OK. Parking space has been provided behind the church lower down the hill.

Christmas Cards from the church will be available by the time this "Bell" is delivered. They feature pen and ink sketches by Sheila Marshall of the old St. John's and the new church, and a short history of the church on the inside of the card. Plain cards will also be available shortly without the Christmas message. Cost of the Christmas cards in \$5 for 10 or 60c each. Cards will be available from the fete on December 7 or from Phil Rocke 443 220 or Cedric Johnston 443 561, or from the church.

Future planning for St. John's The Parish Profile was held on Sunday November 24 to discuss the future of the church and the direction the parishioners want to see the church moving. The most important aspect presently under discussion is whether we wish to become a separate parish. Up until now Pakenham and Upper Beaconsfield have been a combined parish, with only one vicar, namely Roger Rich. He has now left to become vicar at St. Matthews church, Endeavour Hills, and this is an obvious opportunity to discuss the possibility of establishing separate parishes. The Pakenham area has grown enough to require a stand-alone church, and Upper Beaconsfield is probably the same. A minister residing in Upper Beaconsfield would be of great benefit to the general community as well as to the present parishioners.

For the next couple of months Rev. Bill Potter will be acting as Vicar. He can be contacted on 411 013.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS FETE

Penny Silberbauer

St. John's church is holding its annual fete on Saturday December 7, starting at 9.30 am. It will be held at the Trumper's Nursery (Kwarna) which is in Burton Road off Stoney Creek Road. It is also accessible from Emerald Road north of the township. All are invited to enjoy the stalls and the beautiful setting. There will be cakes fancy goods, games, Christmas gifts and novelties, books and tapes, Cabbage Patch dolls clothes, home-made devonshire teas in the tea room where the grown-ups can sit and chat over scones and coffee. Our new Christmas cards will also be available. Orders are now being taken for fresh fruit and vegetables from the market which will be available at the fete at competitive prices. Phone Siosi and Mick Oliver 443 558 or Ken and Bev Dow 443 747 to place your order.

A beautiful brand new BMX bike will be given away to some lucky person. Free tickets will be given out at the fete from starting time to just before 11 am. A Hawthorn footballer will draw the winning number at 11 am and present the prize, so be sure you are here by that time to have a chance of getting the bike. Several bikes will be available to choose one from.

ST. JOHN'S FETE (cont'd)

Donations of plants, cakes, fancy goods, jams, books, posters etc. can be brought along to the stalls on the day and will be most welcome. Secondhand items of some value that will readily sell as treasure to others will be collected by Noel Reid (443 776) or you can bring them along on the day. Your knick-knacks, gadgets, curios and antiques - large or small - will all go towards maintaining your community church.

So come along to a beaut morning of fun and interest and bring the whole family. You are all welcome to share in this enjoyable occasions.

BUSY THIRD TERM AT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Judy Skinner

Upper Beaconsfield Primary School has been having an extremely busy and productive third term. Many activities have taken place within and away from the school that have served to broaden and enrich children's understanding of their environment. They were:-

Grade Prep/1 (Mrs. Davis) participated in the very special "Writers Week" at the Tooradin Education Centre.

Grade 5 (Mrs. Nash) visited the Planetarium for a session on Halley's comet

Grades 4 (Mrs. Cummings and Mrs. Arthur) enjoyed their trip to the Museum to view and work on "The Story of Victoria."

Grade 6 (Mrs. Skinner) and 5/6 (Mrs. Anderson) went to the Museum to the "Everybody Exhibition", "The Story of Victoria" and "Experilearn."

Recently 120 children from Prep - 6 were engaged in performing musical items for the Music and Dance Festival for regional schools.

Special Visitors

Members of the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade visited the school during Fire Prevention Week.

"The Shenanigans" came by arrangement with the Victorian Arts Council. This talented group of musicians engaged children in a workshop of folk dancing, musical knowledge and appreciation.

Shire President, Cr. Keith Ewenson, shared our Monday morning assembly and later addressed grades 5, 5/6 and 6 with information on local government.

Tor Holth has been visiting regularly in connection with "Artists in Schools" program. All grades have experienced sessions with Tor, but the grade 4 children were selected to receive the main focus of this program. Tor has provided many stimulating activities for children to discover their individual creativity and to develop an awareness and deep appreciation of their environment and heritage. Tor made a valuable contribution in sharing his talents. The program will culminate with an "Art Show" on December 8 -the Multi Purpose Room and the unveiling of the "Four Seasons" murals that have been painted by children under Tor's direction. They will serve as a fitting legacy of Tor's in the art program

- Continued on P10.

The success of the Family Fun Night and school concert on October 26 was due to the co-operation and hardwork of the Mothers' Club, School Council, teachers and children. We thank the Mothers' Club and School Council for their full and continuing support in 1985.

Athletics sports days were held in late November and the second one concluded with a BYO barbeque for parents as well.

KINDERGARTEN ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten and Pre-school which will elect a new 1986 Committee will be held on Monday December 2, at 8 p.m. at the Kindergarten, Stoney Creek Road. All parents are welcome.

WHAT IT WAS LIKE THREE YEARS AGO

In the Village Bell of just three years ago, three months before Ash Wednesday, George Silberbauer wrote that Upper Beaconsfield had had an average of two fires a week since the beginning of Spring. "Quite obviously the fire season has arrived at least two months early," he said, "therefore the prospect for the next three or four months is one of more frequent and more severe fires."

"During Fire Prevention Week, the brigade arranged an evening of films and talks on how to lessen the risk of fire and what to do if it does break out. We were glad to see the school children who came but, despite good publicity, only three adults attended. Does this mean that the community is responding to an increasingly bad fire season by leaving, the planning and prevention in the hands of the children?" Mr. Silberbauer queried.

When Ash Wednesday did come many of those children put their fire drill to work in cooling down panic at home, and making it possible for some of their homes to be saved in heroic fashion. The story of the children on Ash Wednesday has still to be told. Even though only three adults attended, that meeting was well worthwhile.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - REPLY ON "COUP DE HORSE"

from Eduard Rodgers

Sir, - In his "coup de horse" statement the Shire President Cr. K. Ewenson suggests that the Pakenham council has co-ordinated expenditure in excess of \$150,000 on the recreation reserve, without direct financial contribution from the local community.

This is quite untrue, as some of the work carried out by the Council was paid for out of the Upper Beaconsfield Riding Club funds. In addition, many residents have contributed much to improve this sporting complex with labour and/or other services.

The improved facilities now available at the Reserve will continue to be used harmoniously by the different interest groups and individuals and not, as implied by the "coup de horse" of the Shire President's statement, just the pony and riding club members.

NEW NETBALL CLUB

Gillian Lewis

A Netball Club is being formed in Upper Beaconsfield. The inaugural meeting will be held in the Creche at the Village Hall in Salisbury Road on Monday December 3 at 7.45 p.m.

At this meeting a committee will be elected for the 1986 season in which the club will play in the Saturday competition of the Dandenong and District Netball Association at Greaves Reserve, commencing in April 1986, Nominations for teams in the U10, U11, U12 and U14 age groups have already been accepted, and open age teams will also be considered if sufficient interest is shown.

Those interested in playing, coaching or umpiring should contact Gillian Lewis (443686) as soon as possible. We look forward to your support at our meeting, particularly the mothers of our junior players.

PONY CLUB GYMKHANA

Barbara Mars

To round off a busy year of activities for the Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club, members are taking part in a Christmas Gymkhana on Saturday December 7. There will be events for every member to take part in, plus a lunch time fancy dress parade which promises to be an impressive sight if it lives up to last year's effort.

The gymkhana will be held on the Pony Club grounds at the Recreation Reserve. After a lot of hard work, these grounds have finally taken shape as an excellent home for the young and enthusiastic members of the club to hold their activities.

Donations made to the Pony Club in memory of Lynda Brodie have been put towards a perpetual trophy, which will be called the Lynda Brodie Encouragement Award. It will be awarded to a member of the Club 14 years or under who shows the qualities of enthusiasm, active participation in all club activities, courteousness and helpfulness to all members, horsemanship and ability to care for animal and gear. The award will be presented at the Christmas Gymkhana.

VILLAGE FAIR ON MARCH 15

Upper Beaconsfield's next Village Fair will be held on Saturday March 15 on the Recreation Reserve.

A sub-committee of the Beaconsfield Upper Association is working steadily on planning for the Village Fair - the first to be held since 1982.

Some changes from previous fairs are foreshadowed with a later start at 1 p.m. and going through to a twilight barbeque with folk music and the opportunity for colonial dancing.

A processions will be held from the township to Recreation Reserve spurred on by baton twirlers and bands. Local groups and organisations are invited to organise a float or entry to take part.

It is hoped that Vintage Cars will again be on display. Stall holders and local craftspeople will be there too. Further information will be published in February issue of the Village Bell.

EIGHT SCOUTS FOR SYDNEY JAMBOREE

Among 10,000 scouts from Australia, the Pacific and South East Asia who will be gathering in Sydney after Christmas for the 14th Australian Jamboree will be eight members of 1st Upper Beaconsfield. Andrew Jamieson, Jamie Reid, Shaun and Luke Williams, Iain Thomson, Tristan Eastoe and Anthony Curtis will attend as Scouts while Adam Lunn from the Venturers will be attending as an assistant leader with the scouts from the Yoralla Crippled Children Troop in Camberwell. It will be a great experience of fun, friendship and the most important event in the life of any scout.

Fund raising

- * With the great success of our 1985 Annual Auction a few months ago, we ask the community to hold any items which might be suitable for the 1986 Auction held later in the year.
- * We welcome bottles being placed in the depot at the Hotel and we would appreciate it if they could be stacked inside the area.
- * Spare scout uniforms are in demand, especially from those boys going to the Jamboree. Any unused or undersized items could be left with any of the Leaders.

1ST UPPER BEACONSFIELD SCOUT GROUP

- Cub Pack: Boys 8-10½ years old; 24 boys - no vacancies.
Meets Mondays 7 - 8.30 p.m. Multi purpose room at the School
Leaders: Yvonne Curtis, Glenn Rutherford, Paul Harvey.
- Scout Troop: Boys 10½ - 14 years old; 32 boys - no vacancies.
Meets Thursdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. in the Igloo.
Leaders: Steve Thomson, Peter Deering, Doug Hughes, David Curtis
- Venturer Unit: Boys and girls 14 - 17 years - 13 members; some vacancies.
Meets Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30 p.m. Venturers Den Multi Purpose Room
Leaders: Reg Mattingley, John Lunas, Jenny Toon, Ashley Coleman
- Group Committee: This is the parent support body which is responsible for providing finance, buildings, equipment and general assistance to the Section Leaders and Group Leaders to run their sections.
Meets: 3rd Thursday in Tennis Club Rooms at 8 p.m.
Membership: Ian McLean, Gail Crone, Norm Glennister, Royce Thomson, Gil Shead, Mike Conroy, Ian Beckwith, Bob Taylor.
- Waiting List: All families who have boys on the waiting list should now have returned the reply slip from the letter sent out in Mid November. Any family who believes they have a boy on the waiting list but did not receive a letter please contact Group Leader Bob Taylor immediately.
- End of Year Activities: A combined Cub, Scout, Venturer, Brownie, Guide Meeting will be held at the Reserve on Thursday November 28 6.50 - 9 p.m. Cubs will break up on Monday 16th December, Scouts will break up on Thursday 19th December and Venturers will break up on Wednesday 11th December.

R.S.L.'s GUN RESTORED

Eric Chaplin

The R.S.L. Club of Upper Beaconsfield has had its Second World War 25 pounder field gun restored to first class condition after the cannon had gradually deteriorated in less than ideal conditions outside the R.S.L. Clubrooms in Halford Road, Upper Beaconsfield. The weapon was presented to the R.S.L. soon after the war ended in 1945.

The President of the R.S.L., Frank Conn said that the Club had been concerned for many years at the gun's slow deterioration and that the Club was completely at a loss about how to rectify the problem. That's where the recently formed Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield stepped in to lend a hand.

Community Service Director of the Rotary Club, Eric Chaplin, a member of the R.S.L, said the R.S.L. was really worried about the old cannon rusting away, and that would have been a great pity.

"I knew the old canon meant so much to the R.S.L. and its another part of the history of Upper Beaconsfield" he said

Rotarian, Mark Blunden, runs a corrosion protection business in Dandenong and fellow Rotarians got the gun to his factory and brought it back restored.

Rotary Club President, Greg Ross said: "I am delighted that a project of this size has been able to be achieved by the members of the Club; its another example of the way in which we, as Rotarians can be of service to the community of Upper Beaconsfield."

The President of the R.S.L., Frank Conn said that the members of the R.S.L. were indebted to the Rotary Club for helping the R.S.L. solve a problem that had them stumped.

Community Service Director, Eric Chaplin, said that quite a few more projects were planned by the Rotary Club.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Gregory Ross

Once again on Christmas Eve the Upper Beaconsfield Carols by Candlelight will be held at the Rotunda.

At the last meeting of the B.U.A. it was decided to retain this location, as in previous years, after a proposal had been made to relocate Carols to the Reserve.

For the first time, however, the Carols booklet will be produced, through the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield, and will be delivered to households in the area.

If any residents have suggestions regarding Carols by Candlelight in Upper Beaconsfield please ring Ross Hales 443 864 or Gregory Ross 443 258.

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre thanks you for all your interest, support and enthusiasm, without which your Community Centre could not function as well or as happily as it has done this year. The Centre will close for classes at the end of the first week of December.

We need ideas and suggestions for what you would like included in next year's programme, which is on the drawing board at this stage. Remember that this is your Centre and we will try to provide the facilities and services which you want.

Classes will start in 1986 during the week beginning February 10, the previous week being enrolment week. Please remember to book into classes in order to reserve your place, and to facilitate planning.

The beautiful new crèche was officially opened by the Shire President, Cr. Keith Ewenson, and we thank him and the many volunteers throughout the year without whom we could not continue to provide this child care facility. We will be sad to lose Amelia Hill at the end of the year, when her period of employment under the C.E.P. Youth Employment Scheme draws to a close, and wish her well in her career. The crèche will remain open for a week after classes finish this term (ie: until December 12), so please take advantage of this opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done. The Crèche will open at the beginning of the school term next year, and we look forward to seeing your children back again.

The Community Bus replacement fund is progressing well, thanks largely to your participation in the Knitathon and the Cabbage Patch raffle, both of which raised a substantial amount. (Prizewinners in the Cabbage Patch raffle were: 1. Lyn Wayne, 2 Mrs. Martin, 3 Mrs. Moroney.) Special mention must be made of the supreme effort of the Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield for its acknowledgement of and participation in the bus replacement project. Rotary will be justifiably proud of its new Upper Beaconsfield Community Bus, with which we hope to begin the new year. Bookings may be made for the bus during the school holiday period by ringing Richard Halliday on 443 478. Primary and High School services will not begin right at the outset of the new term/year, in order to give new children to the area or the respective schools the opportunity of availing themselves of this facility. Think now though about whether you will be requiring this service next year. Enquiries may be directed to Richard, at 443 478 or Lin at 443 484.

The Annual General Meeting of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre which was to have been held in November, has been postponed, until Thursday February 20, 1986. Please keep this date free, and please do not hesitate to offer your services to the Committee or to the Centre. I must extend my personal thanks to this year's Committee, who have all given so much of themselves to make the Centre such a worthwhile project, and to have made my job so much easier and more pleasant. I really consider it a privilege to have been afforded the opportunity of working in your community.

FOR SALE: Navy Silver Cross Reclining Stroller \$80. Sue Bradley 443 788

FROM STUTLEYS AT ELLIOTT HEADS

Gerry and Vic Stutley have written from their home in 7 Leslie Street, Elliott Heads, Queensland, mentioning visits by Elva and Ray Ratcliffe and Gwen and Alan Judd. They live next to Win and Albert Murfin formerly of Split Rock Road.

"Would you give anyone who remembers us our regards and keep up the good work with the 'Village Bell', its terrific. Though I did miss news of C.W.A. day branch in the latest copy. Naturally, C.W.A. is my pet thing. Best wishes good luck with all activities in dear old Upper Beac."

BABY-SITTERS' BUSY TIME

Glenda Williams

As we are now entering a busy time for the Baby-sitting Club would members please allow the Secretary plenty of time to organise sitters.

Our thanks to Ann Pateman who has held the book for the past two months.

A booking has been made at Ho-Ho B.Y.O. Chinese Restaurant, 28 Spring Square, Hallam on Wednesday 4th December at 7.30 p.m. for members who would like to come for a pre-Christmas get-together. Prices are very reasonable so lets all make it a night to remember. People wishing to attend should contact Glenda Williams so that numbers can be finalized.

The Club's Annual Meeting and introduction of new members will be on Tuesday 11th February at 8 p.m. at the home of Glenda Williams, 7 Brennan Ave. Would all members please attend to elect a new co-ordinator and monthly secretaries.

New members are always welcome and further information may be obtained from the Co-ordinator Glenda Williams on 443703.

Monthly Secretaries: December - Debbie Winder, 443 056
 January - No Secretary, please make own arrangements
 February - Glenda Williams, 443 703.

"CHALLENGE" BOOK AVAILABLE

Following the notice in the Village Bell in June, copies of "Challenge of the High Country" by Tor and Jane Holth are now available - phone 443384

VILLAGE FAIR ON MARCH 15

Upper Beaconsfield's next Village Fair will be held on Saturday March 15 on the Recreation Reserve.

A sub-committee of the Beaconsfield Upper Association is working steadily on planning for the Village Fair - the first to be held since 1982.

Some changes from previous fairs are foreshadowed with a later start at 1 p.m. and going though to a twilight barbeque with folk music and the opportunity for colonial dancing.

A procession will be held from the township to Recreation Reserve spurred on by baton twirlers and bands. Local groups and organisations are invited to organise a float or entry to take part.

LONG ROOM OPENED IN ROYAL CELEBRATION

A regal highlight of the Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club's season to date has been the splendid opening of the Long Room, previously dubbed 'Green Shed' by some. The official ceremony was conducted by Lord Lindsay and Lady Caroline Hunt, Aides-de-camp of the Royal Family and present in Australia with Princess Di and Prince Charles on their recent successful tour. This never-to-be-repeated event was preceded by the unveiling of a plaque by Roger Scott, the President. The plaque pays tribute to those responsible for the renovations which produced the Long Room - Terry Worrell, Glenn Rutherford and David Rogers.

An evening of ribald entertainment ensued comprising musical performances, drama, poetry reading and audience participation, the likes of which are not likely to be witnessed very often again in Upper Beaconsfield. Additionally Brian Ford and Richard Edwards presented the Early Season Alternate Awards. Many worthy winners were selected for their dubious exploits to date in the current season. As well recognition was given to sections of the Long Room so that members will be able to relax in their favourite area - either "Spit-the-Dummy Corner" or the "Over 40's Corner." Many of the participants commented that they had left the celebrations with aching sides after this Royal occasion.

On the cricket side of activities all three Senior sides have enjoyed varying degrees of success. B grade and E grade are both at the top of the table while F grade is just starting to hit its straps. Our juniors are also showing continued improvement. Those young cricketers who do not receive regular games will be able to join in social games played on Sunday mornings. The games are being organised by Glenn Rutherford and will occur approximately every three weeks.

Our next major social function will be the Cricket Club's Annual Bush Dance. This year it will be held on Friday December 6 at the Berwick Leisure Centre. Tickets are available from Laurie Butcher (443 600) or by contacting Glenn Rutherford. This will be a family night for adults and children alike. Last year's Bush Dance was great fun and this year's promises to be just as good.

With over 48 senior cricketers and in excess of 30 junior cricketers regularly competing, the Cricket Club has quickly mushroomed. Hopefully our success will be maintained for some time to come.

EDITOR'S NOTE - Village Bell congratulates the U.B.C.C. of getting a Long Room like the M.C.C. but suggests it should look closely at the credentials of any couple who volunteer to open their next Long Room.

RECREATION RESERVE TREES

Graeme Kidd

The trees and shrubs planted by the community at the Village Tree Planting Day in May are generally coming along fine. The test however will be whether they survive the summer and the school holidays.

Give your tree (and any others nearby) a nice Christmas present - a big bucket of water!

VALE TOMMY GRIFFIN

Ray Ratcliff with Frank Sansom

The Village of Upper Beaconsfield is sad at the loss of one of its much loved people. Mr. Tom Griffin died on 14.11.85 in Queensland after a brief illness.

The Griffin family came to Upper Beaconsfield from Ferntree Gully in 1967 where Tom was the proprietor of the Tuck Shop at the Ferntree Gully Technical School.

Purchasing the Pine Grove Hotel in 1967, Tom was Mine Host until the Hotel was sold by auction in 1980 to the Houghtons and Sansoms.

Tom Griffin leaves a host of friends made during his lifetime. He had a great love of sport and took a great interest in bike riding, boxing, golf tournaments and took a pride in Stephen in his body-building prowess.

He was a proud grandfather of two grandchildren and a great family man.

Tom was one who did many quiet things to help people in hard times and this was evident during the post Ash Wednesday period when he did a lot to assist the people around him.

His effort in getting his "Pancake Tuesday" get-together off the ground was a great morale booster for a Village which was at a low ebb in spirits after the chaos of the bushfires. On behalf of the people of Upper Beaconsfield we say "well done, Tommy Griffin, we are the richer for your having lived and worked among us."

We extend our sympathy and love to Adrienne and family

NEW TREES ON THE RESERVE NEED WEEDING

Bob Taylor

It is now seven months since the tree planting day on the Reserve. With recent rains and warmer weather plant growth has accelerated but so also has the growth of weeds and grass.

On behalf of the organising committee, I invite all those who planted trees to come to the Reserve and do some gardening around their special trees. On Sunday 8th December between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. some of us will be tending to our plantings with the aid of a lawn mower, a spade and other tools. If you cannot attend to your trees at that time please visit the Reserve at your leisure to give your trees a little attention to help them become established before the hotter, drier weather.

VILLAGE BELL

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WHEN YOU WANT INFORMATION

The blue and white logo on the pole opposite the Consolidated School denotes the presence of an information and referral service where you may receive information on anything from family problems, European wasps, multi-purpose taxis, aged counselling, arthritis, self management courses to taxation and social security problems.

Pamphlets are also available on many subjects.

For further information contact the volunteers at 24 Main Street, Pakenham or telephone Pakenham Shire Citizens Advice Bureau (059) 41 2377.

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