



VOL. NO. 96 ISSUED BY UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOC. INC. FEBRUARY 1994

SPECIAL INTERVIEW
 WITH ROB MOUNTAIN
 RETURNED FROM
 NSW BUSH FIRES
 (page 15)



Sponsored by
 Community
 Care Group

IT'S COMMUNITY WEEK TIME AGAIN
 OUR 5th ANNUAL CELEBRATION
 OF LIFE IN UPPER BEACONSFIELD
 GUYS HILL/DEWHURST

FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY THROUGH TO SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY

(See page 5 for further particulars)

CAN YOU HELP TO GET YOUR STREET PARTY ORGANISED?

UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOC. INC. A.G.M. FEBRUARY 2nd. (See page 3)



CHILD BIRTH EDUCATION CLASSES
AT
MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

The next seven week course commences Wednesday February 9, 7-9 p.m. The aim of the classes is to assist parents-to-be to feel confident about preparation for labour, parenthood and the new family, with increased information and participation through pregnancy and the birth process. The other vital aspect is the development of networks and friendships in the local community, so that the services available to new parents are known.

A group of Mountain District Community Health Centre staff, including physiotherapy and midwife/childbirth educator bring a complement of expertise to this course. The cost is \$5 per couple per night and a health card/student concession is available. For enquiries and bookings contact reception or Sue on (059) 688 146.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE AUXILIARY Joan Green

CLEAN RAGS WANTED - The Fire Brigade Auxiliary are always wanting good used clothing etc. These can be left at the Milk Bar. They are sorted out and distributed, and this in a small way, helps raise money to maintain our Fire Brigade.

MISS UPPER BEACONSFIELD QUEST FOR 1994 - Any young ladies wishing to participate this year who are 16 years and over, would they please contact Dot Pockett (03) 707 5797 who will be very pleased to answer any enquiries. Judging will be held in the Fire Station at the end of February.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from GEORGE SILBERBAUER

LESSONS FROM THE SYDNEY FIRES You must have noticed the way in which householders were dressed when they tried to defend their houses against the fires in, and around Sydney. Shorts and thongs for the males; bikinis for the females. (Early in the week one bloke started off the segment dressed only in his underpants; moments later they had evidently fallen off!) Hasty, last-minute evacuations. Houses surrounded by undergrowth, trees, firewood and other fire-fuel. As you saw, it doesn't work very well if you do it that way.

We all feel deeply sympathetic of those who suffered losses. After all, we know what it's like, and OUR TURN MAY COME AGAIN BEFORE SUMMER IS OVER.

Learn from the Sydneysiders' mistakes and misfortunes. Spend a few minutes looking at the Fire Boards between the Hall and Ash Wednesday Memorial Park. They will give you a good crash course in fire Prevention, protection and survival. Make your preparations and plans now. Although everything is beautifully green at present, a week of hot, dry weather can bring fire-proneness, danger, and a re-run of all that TV footage - SHOT IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD this time.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION

Colleen Lazenby

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A reminder to all residents that the AGM of the Upper Beaconsfield Association will take place on Wednesday 2 February. Officers for 1994 will be elected at that time and annual dues of \$5/household are payable as well (use the form on page 11). Nomination for officers will be accepted up to that date; forms are available in the Upper Beaconsfield Post Office.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR PETER MEEKING

Peter Meeking was presented with Honary Life Membership in the UBA at the December meeting. The honour was a surprise, and a welcome opportunity for members to thank Peter for his many years of devoted service to the Association, the community and the region.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOC. CONSTITUTION

All proposed changes to the UBA Constitution were passed unanimously at the December meeting. A revised version of the document will be kept at the Post Office in Upper Beaconsfield for the use of residents.

CARDINIA RESERVOIR SUB-COMMITTEE

A UBA Sub-committee was formed to deal directly with the issue of changes in fire-fighting capabilities and maintenance at Melbourne Water's Cardinia Reservoir north of the village. The matter was brought up with the office of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Patrick McNamara, with copies of correspondence sent to Ministers Mark Birrell and Geoff Coleman, our state legislators, and the local Shire officers. A report of the generally favourable outcome of these overtures can be read elsewhere in this issue in an article by George Silberbauer.

FOOTPATH, SALISBURY ROAD

Twenty responses were received expressing an opinion about the Shire's proposal to surface the path between the Medical Centre and the Community Hall. Eighteen of those responses indicated the "Natural surface" option, and two people voted for brick paving at a cost of \$8,500. The results of the survey were transmitted to the Shire's Manager of Works.

The UBA was also asked to comment on a surfacing material to extend the path from the area of the shops to 63 Emerald/Beaconsfield Road. Members voted to suggest that the Shire use brick paving to maintain continuity with the material used in front of the shops.

VILLAGE FAIR

Colleen Lazenby will chair this year's committee to organise the Village Fair. Pam McDonald and Steve Gaunt are also on the committee and a number of people have offered informal help. Anyone wishing to be involved in the Village Fair, including individuals and organisations requesting stall spaces should contact Pam McDonald, phone: (059) 443 782.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

The UBA again wishes to thank Ray Ratcliff and his band of volunteers for another wonderful Carols ceremony. Thanks also to Greg Ross for compere services. The tireless efforts of all concerned made the evening a special one for the community.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PAKENHAM SHIRE?

Cr. Peter Meeting

Cr. Keith Ewenson

RECYCLING - THE FUTURE

With the rapid reduction in prices being offered for waste materials, particularly plastics and paper, Council's contractor is seeking an urgent review of the contractual arrangements.

Such problems do not just confront Pakenham Shire, but the community as a whole. It is time that Federal and State legislators looked to legislative manoeuvres to ensure that the current problems do not result in a total decline in the successful community supported recycling programs.

PUB-TAB COMES TO BEACONSFIELD Council has granted planning approval which will enable Beaconsfield Hotel to establish a "Pub-Tab".

BLACKBERRIES AND RAGWORT With the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (D.C.N.R.) cutting back on resources needed to combat the plague of blackberries and ragwort throughout the State, Council is not keen to use ratepayers funds to offset this withdrawal of funding - nevertheless something has to be done.

Council has purchased D.C.N.R.'s previously owned spray equipment and will hire out this equipment to ratepayers at cost. Council is, also undertaking a public education campaign, particularly aimed at ragwort, in an effort to have the community accept part of the responsibility to overcome this ever increasing problem.

CHANGES TO RIDING BOUNDARIES Council has been directed to review its Riding Boundaries as the result of changes in population densities within the ridings. A plan of the proposed changes will have been circulated in the press, seeking community comment.

Alterations to Beaconhills Riding is likely to be minimal, with only a slight extension of the Riding's easterly boundary being proposed. This change, if implemented, could move some existing Toomuc Riding voters into Beaconhills Riding.

STATEWIDE SPEED ZONE REVIEW The State Government through Vic Roads, has introduced a number of changes to existing speed zones.

- (a) Introduction of 110 K.P.H. speed limit on selected freeway sections.
- (b) Changes of speed limits to increments of 10 K.P.H.
- (c) Introduction of time-based speed zones at selected sites, (e.g. past schools and through strip shopping centres).

The Government has now thrown the responsibility and costs of implementing 50 K.P.H. speed zones in selected urban areas, to the Shires and while Shire of Pakenham has protested to the Government about this very late Government change in policy - it will go about surveying and assessing each of the Council's urban areas for 50 K.P.H. zones.

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COMMUNITY CARE GROUP

Des McKenna 443 516

COMMUNITY WEEK

Much enthusiastic support is again in evidence in 1994 for the annual celebration of Community Week. It is the fifth year now that people have been getting together in neighbourhoods to celebrate life in Upper Beaconsfield / Dewhurst / Guys Hill.

The concept of Community Week began with the Community Care Group seeing the need for residents who had experienced the Ash Wednesday disaster to be able to meet together socially and talk about their experiences - as well as the need for newer residents to hear first hand what had actually happened in the area into which they had moved to live.

Each year the number of functions being run has markedly increased and people look forward to this annual get-together.

It is important to get to know our neighbours - not to live in each other's pockets - but to be aware of neighbour needs, or crises, which may occur in families unexpectedly at any time - and to feel we know people well enough to be able to offer to help.

The gatherings over the last five years have generally been open air gatherings, be they barbecues, picnic lunches or tea on a strictly BYO basis. They may be held in a person's garden, or you may feel easier meeting on neutral ground, such as the end of your street, or parkland which may be nearby.

Yes - the timing of Community Week is significant - and it is always set to encompass the Anniversary date of the Ash Wednesday fires, February 16. so what about getting cracking with some of your immediate neighbours and setting a date and inviting the rest of your street along. We have found that personal invitations work much better than a note left in a letter box, in achieving a good response.

This year the N.S.W. disaster will give us added food for thought and discussion with our neighbours, of our own local situation and any means in which we could help each other if we face similar emergencies in the weeks ahead. If you need any help or information please phone Des McKenna 443 516.

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<u>CREDITS</u>	EDITOR	-	Ray Ratcliff
	TYPIST	-	Barbara Jackson
	MASTHEAD	-	Danny McKenna
	PRINTING	-	George and Judy Moir
	ADVERTISING	-	Phil Rocke and Laura Levens
	COLLATING	-	Miscellaneous Volunteers
	RECEIVING COPY and		
	RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS	-	Ray and Julie Allsop
	DEAD LINE NEXT ISSUE	-	15 March

UPPER BEACONSFIELD NETBALL CLUB

Chrys Edwards

It's time again! The winter netball season is not far away and it is time to begin thinking of the year ahead. The Upper Beaconsfield Netball Club will hold its AGM on Monday 7 February in the cricket rooms at the igloo. Time 8.00 p.m. We cordially welcome all interested players, parents, umpires, coaches or committee members to this, short meeting. We especially welcome new players in all grades and ask them to make themselves known to Marianne by phone 443 351, or Chrys on 443 463.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD CRICKET CLUB

Richard Edwards

The Cricket Club is having a frustrating season with weather playing a large part in proceedings. A Grade have now had three washouts and with a loss just before Christmas, find themselves out of the four, B Grade have struggled, but hopefully will improve when all players return from holidays.

D Grade have been the success story so far. Another good win after Christmas has given them a great chance of playing in the finals. E Grade have had mixed success and as is usual at; this time with so many away, have struggled since Christmas.

The Juniors, especially the Under 16's have been doing well; and as with the Under 14's, have the chance to finish in the finals. The Under 12's have also played well, losing their first game just before Christmas.

All supporters and players are reminded of the Annual Music/Sports Night to be held at Montana Golf Club on Saturday 29 January. Please organise a table, tickets \$12 per head. Let Richard Edwards know if you wish to come. Phone (059) 443 463.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD BABY SITTING CLUB

Secretary for January :

Anne Hutchinson 443 552

Secretary for February:

Jennifer Weimann 443 054

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 8.00 p.m. Thursday 10 February at Debbie Winder's 10 Halford Street, phone 443 056.

Anyone interested in joining the club is welcome to come along, or you can phone Debbie for information.

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HELP WANTED! UPPER BEACONSFIELD AREA

Belinda Dwyer

PREP. AGED GIRL STARTING AT BEACONHILLS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE 1994.

I require older student to accompany me on the bus and also require after-school care for approximately 12 hours per week. Anyone who can help please ring (059) 444 459.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD GIRL GUIDES

Jacky Dow 443 392

Have you noticed the congratulation signs around Upper Beaconsfield concerning the Baden Powell Award for Sarah Fiddes - the highest award a guide can achieve? We are all very proud for Sarah, and the award is especially meritorious because Sarah is confined to a wheelchair.

This disability has not stopped Sarah, who has been an active guide in all activities and a patrol leader, accepting all challenges put in front of her and ultimately receiving the highest award.



Sarah receiving her
award from
Mrs Heather Barton
Chief Commissioner
of Guides in Victoria

In September we joined the Beaconsfield Guides on a camp at King Island. Despite the almost gale force winds and rain, we managed to explore the island fully.

While enjoying the local scenery we saw lighthouses, the museum, sheep shearing, penguins, the honey farm, the kelp factory and the King Island Dairy. We also learned a lot about the island from our helpful bus driver, Mr Dodge. We explored the town of Currie and met the local Guides.

The weather improved during the week and we were able to finish our camp with a big campfire with the local Brownies and Guides, on Friday night. We are all very thankful to Annette and particularly Angela who did all the preparation and planning for this great camp.

During Term 4 we had a fitness and health night. Many thanks to Mrs Van Vliet for her wonderful skin care and make-up demonstration.

U.B. Girl Guides (contd)

Activities have included cooking a Mexican meal and learning to make bread rolls; visiting the Beaconsfield Guides; a penny hike and a trip to McDonalds. We held a link badge night in November to get to know our older Brownies and on this night Mrs Gould was presented with her District Commissioner's Warrant by Libby Howlett the Division Commissioner. Congratulations Maree!

Also in November we entered a mixed patrol in the Lady Stradbroke Cup, a competition camp for all the Guides in the Dandenong Region. Kangaroo patrol earned a gold pennant and won the shield for the best mixed patrol. Well done April, Sarah, Nina, Kelly, Eliza and Elvira.

Congratulations to Emma Van Dyk who made her promise on 14 December and a special welcome to two new Guides from Brownies, Michaela New and Catherine Gaunt.

Well done to the girls who have earned badges this term:

Eliza Woskoboenko - yellow eight point badge and sportsgirl
 Sarah Fiddes - meteorologist, naturalist and World trefoil
 Sarah McCann - horsewoman and swimmer
 Emma Van Dyk - sportsgirl and swimmer
 Lauren Cockerell - horsewoman.

Congratulations also to Kelly Dow who has been selected to attend an International Camp in January 1995 in Tasmania.

We have vacancies for girls from 10 - 14 wishing to join the Guides.

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NEW RESIDENT DELIVERS DOGGY DINNERS TO YOUR DOOR Ysabelle Hobson

After living in the suburbs, relocating to a place like Upper Beaconsfield can come as a bit of a shock to the system, as Vicki and Jock Meldrum discovered when they moved to Fairhazel Court from Chelsea, in April last year. They were eager to enjoy a change of scenery, and they love the bush, the wildlife and the peace and quiet, but Vicki also felt a little isolated and lonely. Then Jock broke his ankle in a motor bike accident and has not been able to work since October. Vicki used to be an Administration Manager, but lost her job after a long illness during the recession.

Obviously not the type to let things get her down for long, Vicki decided to start her own business - Mollie's K9 Meal Deals - gourmet pet food delivered to your door. The pet food, made by a well-known boarding kennel in Yarra Glen, consists of fresh chicken, rice and home-grown vegetables all cooked into a loaf which is frozen for convenience. Vicki tested the product very thoroughly on her own dog and cat before deciding to go into business, and they love it.

Business has been slow, but Vicki is just as interested in meeting local residents and getting to know the area, as she is in making money, so she intends to persevere. I certainly hope she does, because the Hobsons have four dogs, including one very picky eater, and all are big fans of Mollie's K9 Meal Deals.

You can contact Vicki or Jock on 443 561.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

Jon Boura

NEW SOUTH WALES FIRES

At the time of writing, the vast fires which have burnt across N.S.W. seem to have abated (for the moment at least), have resulted in a surprisingly small loss of lives and homes.

One of the main reasons for this was that many fires began in remote forest and had been burning for some time before threatening populated areas. This allowed time for the orderly evacuation of thousands of people, and enabled the deployment of massive fire brigade resources drawn from across Australia. These firefighters concentrated on saving homes, rather than on trying to contain the fires.

Unlike in N.S.W., the C.F.A. doesn't insist on mass evacuation -rather we recognise that the most appropriate strategy will depend on the individual's situation and wishes. Also it is very unlikely that an area such as Upper Beaconsfield will have sufficient warning of fire to allow safe evacuation of all residents. In contrast to the N.S.W. fires, on Ash Wednesday the main period of extreme fire conditions, and all deaths, occurred within seven hours of the fire starting.

Last minute evacuation in the face of the fire is extremely dangerous, and the media reports from N.S.W. showed many disturbing examples of people losing their nerve at the last moment and running out into the street as the fire reached the back of the house. Houses provide the best protection from radiant heat (the major killer), and provided that effective fuel reduction is conducted around the home, residents can shelter inside until the fire front has passed and then emerge to put out any spot fires. Most civilians shown were dressed in lightweight summer clothing, putting them at even greater risk from radiant heat. It is good practice to have jeans, long sleeved heavy cotton shirt or woollen jumper, woollen or cotton hat and solid footwear ready to put on, regardless of whether you decide to stay or evacuate.

The other lesson reinforced by the N.S.W. fires is that even the largest fire suppression operation in Australian history was unable to provide protection to every property threatened. In major fires the fate of your home will depend upon your actions.

C.F.A. commitment in the N.S.W. fires is a fleet of 85 tankers, 21 communication and control vehicles and 2 helicopters. C.F.A. radio technicians and mechanics accompanied the task force. Relief crews are being flown up to Sydney and R.A.A.F. bases near the fires. To date over 1500 C.F.A. firefighters have seen action in N.S.W., including personnel from the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade.

COMMUNITY FIREGUARD Closer to home, two neighbourhood groups from different parts of Upper Beaconsfield have become involved in the Community Fireguard program sponsored by the S.E.C. These groups meet in a participant's home to discuss fire protection with their neighbours, an officer of the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade, and a scientist from the C.F.A. Fire Management Department. Free ranging discussion has covered the experience of a major fire, how houses ignite, and the factors which contributed to loss of life. From this basis of scientific fact the participants are encouraged to develop for themselves, fire protection strategies which suit their location and values.

COMMUNITY FIREGUARD (cont.)

Brigade officers attended the December meeting of Neighbourhood Watch to discuss Fire Brigade activities and Community Fireguard. One of the questions we were asked was what are the dimensions of our largest vehicle. The tanker is 2.8 m (9'2") high, 2.7 m (8'10") wide, and 6.5 m (21'4") long. This is our first response unit, and it is in your interest to ensure that it can fit down your driveway, under overhanging trees, through gates etc.

TURNOUTS

responded to: Since the last "Village Bell" the Fire Brigade has

- a ceiling fire in Stoney Creek Rd.,
- a grass fire in Grant Ct.,
- supported Doveton to a motor vehicle accident on the Princes Highway, Hallam (our vehicle just happened to pass just after the accident occurred),
- a rubbish fire in St. Georges Rd,
- a leaking L.P.G. gas tank also in St. Georges Rd,
- and supported, the N.S.W. Bushfire Brigades Board to bushfires in the Singleton, Gosford and Blue Mountains areas.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

from

GEORGE SILBERBAUER

CARDINIA RESERVOIR REVISITED Following on the article on the fire danger at Cardinia Reservoir in the previous "Village Bell", and several in "The Gazette", Rob Skinner, General Manager of Water Services,, Melbourne Water, invited Capt. Eric Bumpstead and George Silberbauer to discuss the problems with him and several members of his staff. The outcome was what should be a very satisfactory working relationship between the Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade and those of Melbourne Water's staff who are responsible for the catchment area. Good communication lines and procedures were agreed upon and these should prove adequate should an emergency arise. Accordingly the meeting with the Minister, which the Upper Beaconsfield Association had sought in order to raise these problems, has been cancelled.

The park area around Cardinia Reservoir (i.e. Crystal Brook and Aura Vale) is administered by Melbourne Parks & Waterways, a separate division. We have not yet managed to discuss with them the remaining problem of the safety of park visitors in the event of fire. Melbourne Water estimates that the daily number of park visitors reaches as high as 38,000. On a bad blowup day even a quarter of that number poses a serious problem of control and evacuation. This problem appears not to have been addressed by either Melbourne Parks & Waterways or C.F.A. Headquarters. When the Sydney crisis passes, members of the U.B.A. sub-committee will approach the C.F.A. Chairman.

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DANCE!! DANCE!! DANCE!!

Ray Allsop

Following the success of the last dance, the Community Centre is conducting another on Saturday 5 February. Music will again be by "Ebb Tide". Dancing from 7.30 p.m. till midnight. Admission \$6.00. BYO supper, glasses and drinks.

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BEACONHILLS COUNTRY GOLF CLUB

Barbara Jackson

The Beaconhills Country Golf Club AGM was held early December. Local residents are well represented on the seven member Board of Directors for 1994. John Barker remains President, Graeme Taylor (Holm Park Road) Treasurer, Peter Gray and Laurie Fenton, Directors. Vice Captain is Alan Phillips.

Club Champion Mark Auhl just keeps on getting better all the time and on January 8 achieved a course record for the Lakes course in pouring rain, during the Monthly Medal event. Mark, playing off the blue (championship) markers, recorded a gross score of 64 (63 nett), which included an eagle on the difficult 12th Par 4 hole.

Recently Mark was placed sixth in the Box Hill Open, scoring 70, 69 and was just two strokes behind the winning score of 137.

Full marks to the players who finished the Par round on Boxing Day (last comp. for 1993) in appalling wet conditions. Jim Wilson won with +1, but with so many pulling out because of the weather, one dogged survivor found he was a down-the-line ball winner with -16!

The Dandenong Mayoral Charity Day will be played on both courses on Tuesday 22 February and the popular Rotary Clergy golf day will take place on Monday 28 February.

The Under 15 Junior category (\$50 and no Joining Fee) has been well received and is open to both boys and girls. Members are encouraged to play as much golf as possible outside club competition times, before making an informed decision on their desire to become a full Junior Member. A junior Committee has been formed to run social nights and specific competitions for the Under 15's.

Many players have taken advantage of the Shopper Docket advertising program run during November/December in local, Berwick and Narre Warren shops. Look for more savings on green-fees during Autumn.

The club house is now sporting a nice new red roof and we now have new airconditioning - so come and enjoy the club house hospitality in comfort, after your round of golf.

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UBA MEMBERSHIP / VILLAGE BELL SUBSCRIPTION, FEBRUARY 1994

Membership dues of \$5/household entitle you to receive the "Village Bell" for 1994 and to vote at the bi-monthly meetings of the UBA. Please return this form and your fee to :

The Treasurer, UBA, (PC) Box 86, Upper Beaconsfield, 3808.

Name (s) :
.....
Address :
.....
Phone :

If out of Upper Beaconsfield, Guys Hill or Dewhurst mail delivery area tick here and the paper will be mailed to your address as shown.

BERWICK/UPPER BEACONSFIELD RED CROSS

M. Womersley (03) 7071103

DOOR KNOCK Red Cross Units throughout Victoria are preparing for Red Cross Calling, otherwise termed "The Door Knock", which will take place from 1-11 March in most areas. In Upper Beaconsfield callers may need an extension of time. Additional callers are always needed to assist the Area Organiser. All callers give their services free of charge and will wear a Red Cross Caller 1994 badge displaying their name. They carry a caller's kit and issue Red Cross receipts for all donations. All money raised from the March Appeal goes towards the cost of maintaining the many community services which operate in the majority of local areas. During 1993 several additional services were introduced, so we require all the help we can get to reach our monetary target.

MAJOR RAFFLE The first two prizes in the (\$2 ticket) Major Raffle are cars of the winner's choice (\$35000) and (\$18000). There are also three Shopping Sprees - \$1000 and 2 X \$500. Tickets will be on sale in Berwick on 10 and 24 February. Our member, Mrs Dorothy White will no doubt be planning to sell in Upper Beaconsfield on a date to be arranged.

FIRST AID 1993 was a busy year for Mr Phil Jones, the Health and Safety Education officer who has given first aid instruction to hundreds of school students, and has run long term and short term courses for adults in many areas. His first aid teams are being constantly called upon to be in attendance at a variety of sporting events. Mr Jones can be contacted on 707 3806 or 707 5230.

MURRAY RIVER CANOE MARATHON In early December we were delighted to hear that a mixed team of students from Beaconhills College were entering the teams event. I believe they achieved an excellent result with a third placing. Members of the team included Fiona Hewson and Birgita Hansen of Upper Beaconsfield. Congratulations! The overall individual winner of the Marathon was 55 year old Margaret Buck, a former Olympian.

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PLANNING A CELEBRATION

Why not hold your party in the Upper Beaconsfield Hall - an ideal venue for 21st birthday and engagement parties, wedding receptions, anniversaries and club functions. The Hall comfortably seats around 100 people and comes also with a kitchen and a generous sized supper room. Reasonable rates.

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR HIRE - Club House suitable for picnic groups and meetings.

Crockery, cutlery, chairs.

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKING - Phone 443 219
Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex
Buildings and Grounds Committee,

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WANTED

Corrugated frame for Clark 12' diameter pool 'ox" 3'6" high.
Phone: Hausegger 443 461.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD BROWNIES

Johanneke Woskoboenko
Ocksana Haywood

Brownies are inquisitive! This fact was brought home to us when we were planning our secret night out. We made it secret initially so that we could change the venue should Melbourne's November weather let us down. But the plan gained momentum as soon as we announced a secret night sleep-over.

The tactics used by Brownies to unlock the secret were most imaginative and their speculation as to where we would end up sleeping made a good writer's serial. Perhaps Enid Blyton got her ideas from Brownies! The speculation added a great dimension to the night as we set off sloshing in our gumboots.

First stop was John and Liz Brain's garden where we had a barbecue tea and then set light to a great bonfire complete with "Guy" on top. It was November 5 after all! We traced patterns wildly with our sparklers and everyone laughed at the people slipping over getting wet backsides - namely a leader who had to go home and change.

Then we set off singing our marching songs, to the Community Centre for our sleep-over. The Brownies were all well prepared with gear and spent a warm dry night. November was a particularly wet month, so at the last minute we had to change plans from sleeping under canvas to indoor accommodation. Thank goodness we have got such super facilities at Upper Beaconsfield.

The morning was bright and sunny and we all ate our cornflakes outside and amazed visitors who were arriving to set up a fair in the hall. They had not expected to see so much activity at dawn! It was great to see that twenty girls can get together and have so much fun without using modern entertainment aids.

This year we have a few Brownies progressing to Guides and so have a bunch of fresh new faces ready to join us. We start the year off with a BANG as we are off to a week-end camp early in February. Brownies resume their first meeting at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 27 January at the igloo when they will put forward all their ideas of what they want to do and eat at camp. Twenty little heads with twenty individual ideas will mean some interesting input. Then democratically they will eliminate the impossible and we should reach a majority view plan for the camp.

Our camp will be held at Sorrento from Friday 11 - Sunday 13 February. Hopefully the weather should be ideal for outdoor activities and the setting is superb for lots of shade and water play. So if you hear a 'bus load of singing Brownies pass your way on the 11th, give them a wish for pleasant weather.

Many thanks to all the residents of Upper Beaconsfield for your caring and sharing which makes the Brownie Pack function so well.

Kind regards from Kingfisher and Platypus.

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Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield

The Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield is alive and well and still making its contribution to the well-being of Upper Beaconsfield, during the past six months local Rotarians have assisted in community activities, enabled students to attend seminars, sponsored an Exchange Student from Germany and raised funds for major charities.

Our Community Service program has included the creation of a large pergola at the, Upper Beaconsfield primary school, the purchase of an asthma pump for our local kindergarten (for which we gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Carol Gibson), the Red Shield Appeal, and our continued assistance to the Community Care Group. We also are a major supporter of Legacy, for whom we raise much needed funds by running a Golf Day each year.

Vocational Service projects have included the sponsoring of two local students to Summer Science Schools, the presentation of the Ian Wright Memorial Awards to two outstanding Year 6 students who have now graduated from the local Primary school, and the Rotary Industrial Adventure which gave Year 10 students the opportunity to visit manufacturing, commercial,, and training establishments, over two days.

Our most important role in International Service has been the sponsoring, with the Rotary Club of Narre Warren, of a German Exchange Student, Nichole Kramer. Nichole is now living with Rotary families here, and no doubt local residents will have the opportunity of meeting her during her stay over the next six months.

Future projects will include sponsoring a young person to the Rotary Youth Leadership Seminar, the long established Pancake Night, and one of our fund raisers, the Clergy Golf Day in February.

The Rotary Club has elected Graham Cockerell to be President for the Rotary year 1994-1995 and Gregory Williams for 1995-1996. Membership is growing. By the time this edition of the Village Bell goes to print, President Geoff Davidson will have had the pleasure of inducting local businessmen Peter Lyons into the club.

The Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield was formed ten years ago by local business and professional people who enjoy involvement in worthwhile projects which benefit the local, national, and international communities. This, combined with the unique fellowship provided at our weekly meetings has created a very willing and able team. For further information please contact Club Secretary John Lewis on 443 686 (home) or (03) 215 6111 (business).

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NEW RESIDENTS

We welcome the following new residents to our area :

EMERALD ROAD	Kay & Barry Cox; Joan & Peter Dayson; Denise & Michael Smith
CORRINGHAM ROAD	Pat & Carol Murtaqh
FOOTT ROAD	Sue, Bill & Mark Ogilvie
LENNE ROAD	Lyn & Milla Morris
ST. GEORGES ROAD	Lesley & Mick Cleary
SPLIT ROCK ROAD	Martin & Ann Van Ballegoey & family
YACKATOON ROAD	Gerhard & Anne Fries

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ROB MOUNTAIN - NEW SOUTH WALES BUSH FIRE STORY

as interviewed by Ray Ratcliff

Lieut. Rob Mountain of the Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade volunteered for fire fighting duties in NSW and was allocated to a Strike Team from our Region 8. The team consisted of twenty-one volunteers with five tankers and a command vehicle, each tanker crewed by an officer and three fire fighters.

The team were working on the North East tip of Wollemi National Park based on Bulga (near Singleton), then in Gloucester (west of Taree and over 100 kilometres North of Newcastle), and again later in the Blue Mountains at Richmond, NSW.

Rob was engaged in fire fighting work for four days from Sunday 9 to Wednesday 12 January.

The country was far more rugged and inaccessible than our area and water availability was always a problem, Water had often to be transported in huge 50,000 litre tankers to refill the fire vehicles.

A major danger in the bush fires up there was from burnt trees falling - mahogany gums - where the base of the trees would burn out and huge trunks would push one another down in a domino reaction.

A ranger, in the Gloucester area, drove along a track in early morning, but thirty minutes later the track was blocked by fallen trees. These were cleared by a bulldozer - but some minutes later, the track was again blocked by further trees across it.

The land bordering on Wollemi National Park was rural land with dry pasture dotted with coal mines. The fires raced across the pasture, and, stopping the fires getting into the coal mines was high priority. This fire front extended for over thirty kilometres.

Another major danger was wind variability - the winds chopped and changed in every direction and temperatures were always in the high thirties.

In the overall picture - the area burnt out in NSW was more than double the Victorian acreage on Ash Wednesday.

Victorian Country Fire Authority tankers and equipment were vastly superior to the outdated equipment used by the NSW Bush Fire Brigades, but the Victorians had nothing but admiration for the courage of the men who carried out their job on these obsolete vehicles, with little heat-shield protection and ineffective fire fighting (water production) capacities.

A lot of the work done by the strike force at this stage was back burning in order to remove burnable, fuel from the path of the going bush fire. The technique was, first, a bulldozed earth strip and then back burning towards the fire from the bare earth of that strip.

Helicopters were vital in fighting fires in this country and they often swooped in with their full "monsoon buckets" to douse a hot spot which was threatening fire fighters on the ground. The accuracy and skill of the chopper pilots was incredible.

..../cont.
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In spite this, Maryknoll's tanker (which Rob was crewing) received blistered side panels during one close encounter.

The strike force was working under CFA control and used their own radios. Mobile phones were also widely used in communications - there was very little use of radio portables.

Fire vehicles remained at the fire front as shifts changed, and buses were used to collect and deliver fire fighters and transport them to meals etc. Routine was 6 a.m. breakfast, depart for fire work 7.a.m. carrying cut lunches and after an exhausting, hot, minimum twelve hour shift, return to a hot meal at staging point and then to bed. Food did not have a lot of appeal in these hot conditions, but crew members drank eight litres of water per day each, and could have used more!

One overwhelming and emotional factor was the reception by the NSW people to the visiting volunteer fire fighters. From the airport ground staff, flight crews and attendants - and to the NSW public at large - the fire fighters received a very heart warming welcome and a big "thank you for coming". It was a grateful response which made the hardships and dangers and long weary shifts, all worthwhile. No sign of interstate rivalry in these encounters!

Rob felt privileged to go as a volunteer to the NSW fires - but he felt that many other fire fighters (some from our own brigade) volunteered, but were not sent up. These men deserved the same public commendation extended to those who had gone.

Rob's comments finished with these words - "a fire needs oxygen, heat and fuel to burn. In bad weather conditions, you cannot control wind, air temperature, etc. - but you can control the fuel which may endanger your house and family".
It is up to you!

* * * * *

STOP PRESS BUSH FIRE RELIEF

A big thank you for the overwhelming response to the Care Group's request for clothing and goods for New South Wales. The collection of good quality bedding, blankets, towels and clothing exceeded thirty cubic metres in space and was collected by St. Vincent De Paul as a specific consignment for NSW Bushfire Relief.

"A response beyond our wildest hopes" say Des and Carmel.

* * * * *

STAFF-REQUIRED The "Village Bell" editors invite expressions of interest in various positions now showing signs of becoming vacant.

EDITORS - INTERVIEWERS - TYPISTS

Unfortunately remuneration has remained unchanged for ten years, but despite this, job satisfaction is guaranteed.

If you would like to become involved and feel you may fit in somewhere
PHONE Ray Ratcliff 443 271 or Jeanette Ballinger 443 395.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT CHARING CROSS

Ray Ratcliff

Over four hundred adults and children enjoyed a lovely evening of carol singing and fun on Christmas Eve at Charing Cross - and weren't we lucky with the weather again! The Upper Beaconsfield Association is very grateful to the many organizations and individual residents who helped to make this popular community activity such a pleasant function.

The U.B.A. is grateful to all who helped, and particular thanks are due to:-

Fiddlewood Signs - advertising sign
 Upper Beaconsfield Primary School - loan of stage and equipment
 Upper Beaconsfield Primary School Parents and Friends -donation of sweets
 Helen Smith and family - preparing Santa's bag of goodies Upper Beaconsfield
 Rural Fire Brigade - traffic control and transporting Santa
 St John's Church - loan of equipment and use of the church for music practice
 Margaret Allen for her lovely voice and for community singers and choir members
 Judy Skinner - musical program arrangement
 Liz Davis and Fiona McKenzie - keyboard accompaniment
 Greg Ross - his excellent job as Master of Ceremonies
 George Silberbauer - carols cover design
 Colleen Lazenby - carol sheet layout
 Berwick Secondary College - printing and collating carol sheets
 Rob & Gilda Hansen and family - assistance with printing
 Harry Willems - his great sound system
 Barry & Joan Medwin, Ben Maghanoy, Ern Adamson, Keith Ewenson, Roy Perry, Ray Ratcliff, Graham Jolly, Ron Affleck, Neil McDonald, Ken & Jeanette Ballinger, John Ulph, Peter Neagoe, Frank McKenzie, Ken Dow, Annette Dale & family, Graham McGowan, for help in supply of, transportation of, erection and/or dismantling of equipment.

* * * * *

SALISBURY HOUSE NEWS

Julie Leed, Diversional Therapist

Residents, staff and management of Salisbury House would like to thank the Rotary Club for the beautiful Christmas cake they had made for our residents, which was enjoyed by all. Also a special "thank you" to the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School and children who walked over to the Nursing Home to sing Christmas carols and pass out Christmas presents with Father Christmas. We all enjoyed it very much - We would also like to thank the Kiwanis Club for coming to see every resident to wish them a Merry Christmas and hand them a little gift.

It is wonderful to have people in the community willing to give up some time to come and visit at the Nursing Home, especially at Christmas. New faces are always very welcome.

* * * * *

1st UPPER BEACONSFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Barry Smith 443 219

Peter Deering 443 521

In December, three scouts, Steven Cornthwaite, Wayne Avard and Darrell Smith attended a joint Officer/Upper Beaconsfield Cub Scout camp at Tyabb. The theme of the camp was King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, with leaders and parents taking on the main character roles. The cub scouts played the squires and the scouts, the vassals. We thank our leaders, Paul Harvey, Glen Burridge and Steve Fisher as well as parents, Steve Kay, Peter Keefer and Gary Boynes for giving up their time to organise and assist at the camp.

Two of our Venturers have been chosen to attend a four day Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) seminar at Camp Manyung in Mt. Eliza early February. Kate McLellan will be sponsored by the Upper Beaconsfield Rotary and Bruce Norbury, by the Dandenong Rotary.

The RYLA program is aimed at helping young people develop their leadership skills to the fullest. A wide range of speakers and discussion workshops - covering family, social and workplace issues, will help participants better manage their own lives and careers, and make a mark in society.

We congratulate Kate and Bruce on being chosen for this exciting program. Our thanks to the Rotary Clubs for their \$250 sponsorships.

Our Annual Reports Presentation Night will be held Wednesday evening, March 23, in the igloo. All members and parents are urged to attend.

Thanks to the residents who still deposit bottles at our recycling depot at the Pine Grove Hotel. Our income is substantially reduced due to the cessation of purchasing beer bottles for re-use, but the funds we do raise, require no outlay and represent "money from nothing". Please continue to support us.

* * * * *

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The next meeting of neighbourhood watch will be held at 8.00 p.m. Wednesday 9 February at the Primary School Multi-Purpose Room.



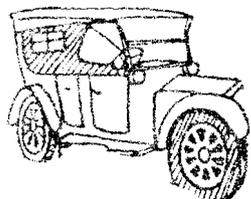
Guest speaker - Peter D. Schacklock
Subject - "Making a Will" and "Citizen's Rights"

Peter is a local solicitor with a wide experience in these and other fields. He has been very involved in community activities and is Past President of Berwick Lions.

* * * * *

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS WANTED URGENTLY BY UPPER BEACONSFIELD CARE GROUP

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport patients to medical centres, or incapacitated people on shopping trips. Some petrol reimbursement is available on application.



Contact Laura Levens 443 828 or
Des McKenna 443 516.

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