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 THE UPPER BEACONSFIELD

**VILLAGE  
BELL**


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ISSUE NO.99

AUGUST 1994

ISSUED BY THE UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION INC.

The wattle illustrated is called *Acacia myrtifolia*. Many residents have it growing on their nature strips or in the natural bush areas of their gardens. It is a small shrub, 3 to 6 feet high, with pale yellow flowers. Keep your eyes open and you will spot this lovely Australian native plant flowering any time now!

***UBA IN ACTION - Safety Issues at Cardinia Reservoir***

Ysabelle Hobson

The Village Bell has reported over recent months on decisions by Melbourne Water to reduce staff and fire-fighting capabilities at the Cardinia Reservoir, and the concerns of the Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade that this could result in a major disaster should a bushfire break out in the area. A particularly agonising dilemma became apparent ... in the event of a bushfire threat, our fire-fighters would be obliged to leave the village unattended in order to protect crowds at Cardinia Reservoir reserves. Such a decision could mean that people might die in tragic circumstances. [cont'd next page]

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**UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION INC.  
PUBLIC MEETING**
**Wednesday 3rd August 1994 8pm Upper Beaconsfield Comm. Hall**
**GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. John Scarce State Registrar's Office**

**Interested in your ancestry? Would you like to see a computer demonstration of a genealogy search? Come and see these and other similar services offered by the State Registrar's office.**

Late last year, responding to these concerns, the Upper Beaconsfield Association formed a Fire Safety Subcommittee. Members were Eric Bumpstead, Graham Jackson, Graeme Jolly, Colleen Lazenby, and George Silberbauer. Their mission - to liaise with Melbourne Water, the CFA, and the Victoria Police to make sure that adequate precautions and workable contingency plans were firmly in place to protect the public in the event of a bushfire in or threatening the parks and the Cardinia dam area. Subcommittee members pointed out to Melbourne Water that they encourage people to use the park, and that the responsibility for the safety of visitors should not be abandoned because "... of recent internal restructuring of Melbourne Water ..." (Cardinia Fire Protection Plan, December 1993).

Cardinia Reservoir is surrounded by large tracts of grassland and bush. It also has attractive public areas which, because of their excellent recreational facilities, draw many people on weekends and public holidays. On hot days these areas understandably have even more appeal, and Melbourne Water's own figures of 34,000 people and 8500 cars clearly indicate very large crowds on heavy use days. Should a bushfire break out, evacuating all these people safely would be a dangerous and probably impossible task. Melbourne Water planned in emergency to move people to "refuge areas" - lawn with sprinklers systems. But inspection of these areas by the UBA Subcommittee suggested that the refuge areas seemed inadequate. The lawn at Bob's Park, for example, will hold only about 250 people; the lawn at Henley Park will hold about 500 people (Victoria Police figures, "Local Emergency Plan 1993/4"). In addition, the Aura Vale Lake park sprinkler pump is powered by electricity which, during a bushfire, is often one of the first services to be cut off.

Evacuation routes were also a point of contention between Melbourne Water and the Subcommittee. People forced to leave the refuge areas at Crystal Brook via the exit South (Red Hill Road) would travel along potentially dangerous roads. Safe and speedy evacuation is further complicated by the fact that car parking facilities within the parks are quickly filled on busy days. The UBA Subcommittee showed Melbourne Water, Police and top CFA officers photos taken on Australia Day 1993; cars were parked illegally on grass verges, jammed onto medians, and blocking fire access routes in both parks and along Wellington Road. The potential for traffic jams, panic, and loss of life under these conditions seemed inevitable.

Confusion among various authorities about emergency plans also create potential hazards. The Melbourne Water Cardinia Fire plan appeared to differ in certain details from plans of the CFA and the Victoria Police. In particular, our local Brigade was concerned about possible conflicts relating to fire-fighting responsibilities, protection and evacuation of people caught in the Reservoir during a fire.

Cutting through the confusion and dealing with the real-life issues, the UBA Subcommittee continued to press for changes. Several months and many meetings later, a list of recommendations has been drawn up. At a meeting on

17th May at which the UBA, the Victoria Police, Melbourne Water, the CPA and others were represented, the following were recommended for implementation:

- \* That car parking should be prohibited on Wellington Road in the vicinity of Aura Vale park area (to limit the number of people using the park on fire danger days);
- \* That the car park on Wellington Road above Henley Park be closed;
- \* That parking within the Aura Vale Lake area be restricted to the number of designated parking places available;
- \* That a gate be installed at the Wellington Road-Aura Vale Lake entrance to the park, and manned to control the number of vehicles entering to park;
- \* That if car parks are full, the gates will be closed;
- \* That signs be installed on Wellington Road to the east and west of the park to inform the public of the closure of the car parks;
- \* That Aura Vale Lake park be developed into a "Safe Area" for the public with refuge areas, in case of emergency.

Melbourne Water representative Des Lucas also advised the meeting that steps were being taken to replace faded and damaged signage, repair and extend fencing in the vicinity of the parks and to provide public addressed/hailer systems to facilitate communication with park users during an emergency. Melbourne Water has undertaken to review the replacement of the electrically-powered pump at Aura Vale with a diesel powered unit, and to reassess the number of people that can be protected under sprinklers in the event of a fire.

A potentially hazardous situation at the Cardinia Reservoir - one that would affect park users as well as those of us living in the surrounding areas - was identified by the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade, and that matter was brought to the attention of the UBA. The five members of the Fire Safety Subcommittee made the responsible authorities face the issues, brought them together and ensured that workable solutions to the problem were formulated. We owe our thanks to these individuals and to the UBA for dealing with a matter of vital importance to our village.

## **UBA NEWS**

Colleen Lazenby

### Call for Volunteers

President Graham Jackson's call for volunteers to organise Carols by Candlelight in December as well as next year's Village Fair has met with heartening results. The organising committees for these important community events will be appointed at the UBA meeting on August 3, and all those who indicated their willingness to help, as well as any other interested people, should be at that General meeting.

### Fire Safety Subcommittee

At its July meeting the UBA Executive passed a motion to extend the thanks of the Association to Eric Bumpstead, Graham Jackson, Graeme Jolly, Colleen

Lazenby and George Silberbauer, the five members of the Fire Safety Subcommittee who worked so hard on behalf of the community in this important matter. These people continued the proud tradition of positive activism that has become a hallmark of the UBA and the people of this village.

Thanks to Pat Edwards

The Executive also extended its thanks to Pat Edwards for undertaking the job of Secretary of the Association while Colleen Lazenby was overseas.

John Scarce, State Genealogical Research Officer

Guest Speaker at the August 3 General Meeting, John Scarce, will outline the history of the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, describing the nature of the records held and the complexity of the original indexes. This will be followed by a discussion of the new Victorian Pioneers Index 1837-1888 on both microfiche and CD-ROM, and an outline of the work currently being undertaken on the Federation Index of 1889-1913. The evening will conclude with a demonstration of the Victorian Pioneers Index on CD-ROM.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Ash Wednesday Survey

I would like to thank the residents of Upper Beaconsfield who recently completed my survey concerning the Ash Wednesday bushfires; it was much appreciated. Special thanks must go to the Haywood family, Mrs. Laura Levens, Jon Boura and the other officers of the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade, and Mrs Elizabeth Brain. They all gave up their time generously to assist me with my senior geography project which is currently being assessed. John Milligan, your book provided me with a wealth of information which greatly enhanced my report.

Thanks Upper Beac' for your time and memories.

Kind regards,  
Stacey Carter  
Year 11, St. Mary's, Maitland, NSW

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**NEW RESIDENTS**

Welcome to:

Fox Road	Jenny, Fred and Emily Scott
Harpfield Road	Cathy and Tom Hill
Young Street	Trish and Phil Helliari; Jean McKenzie
Brennan Avenue	Pat and Bob Balson

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## **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PAKENHAM**

Cr Peter Meeking 443 568  
Shire President

### Shire of Pakenham or Not?

No, by late October the Government will probably have decided that there will not be a municipality called the Shire of Pakenham. The Government will have dreamed up a new name for our Shire, and you will be simply told about it.

### Councillors or Not?

No, probably by late October the Government will simply dismiss all of Pakenham Shire's elected representatives, and the elected representatives of all other Councils, and for the next 12-18 months, your representatives will be Government-appointed Commissioners, with the Chief Commissioner to be paid for by you at a rate of \$80,000 per annum. The Deputy Commissioner will be paid at a rate of \$60,000 per annum.

### Will Our Shire Remain the Same?

Nobody in this area knows, but our local member and Minister for Planning, Mr, Rob Maclellan has strongly indicated that there will be a municipality reasonably equivalent to the present area of the Shire of Pakenham.

### The Likely Changes

There could be an extended Shire to include Koo-wee-rup Township and some additional parts of the Koo-wee-rup Swamp. There could be an extended Shire to include the remaining parts of Cockatoo and Emerald, and there is a possibility that places like Macclesfield, Avonsleigh, Menzies Creek, and Clematis could also be included in this Shire.

On the other hand Sherbrooke Shire is claiming all of Cockatoo and Emerald within its own proposed Dandenong Ranges Council, to include all of Cardinia Reservoir, and parts of the properties nearby. On the other hand ..... ?????? !!!!!

### What Can You Do?

The State Government's preliminary determinations in the Local Government Report will be available for this area in early to late August. If you do not like the proposals which you have heard, or will read and hear about write to the Board and your local politicians forthwith - by no later than 30th July:

Mrs. Leonie Burke, Chairman - Local Government Board,  
6th Floor, National Bank House, 500 Bourke Street,  
Melbourne 3000  
Telephone (03) 602-8586                      FAX (03) 602-9474

**REMEMBER ..... "PAKEN & AM SHIRE IS THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS"**



D.J. Printing was chosen as the Winning Sponsor of the 1994 Village Fair and will receive a year's free advertising in the Village Bell, We thank D.J. Printing and all other Sponsors of the Fair for their continued support.

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP REMINDER**

If you are reading this Village Bell and you HAVE NOT paid your household membership fee of \$5.00, please do so now. The fee entitles each address to receive the newspaper and each financially current member to vote at all General Meetings of the UBA. Fill out and return the form to Treasurer, UBA, PO Box 86, Upper Beaconsfield 3808.

Name(s):-----

Address:-----

If not an UBeac, Guys Hill or Dewhurst address, check here and the paper will be mailed to you



**ELGAS BACKS UPPER BEAC PRIMARY SCHOOL GOLF DAY**

Lindsay Bryne

ELGAS named the day. In announcing its major sponsorship of the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School Golf Day, to be held concurrently with Rotarys Legacy Golf Day on 29th September, ELGAS Sales Manager Shane Keating said that his company has strong links with the Upper Beac community and the school. "The Golf Day offers the opportunity for ELGAS to put something back into the community, and we are very pleased to be involved," Shane said. A number of other local businesses also will lend their support to the ELGAS Upper Beac P.S. Golf Day, which will be held at the Beaconhills Golf Club. Colin McLeod of Mobil Officer East will sponsor the Mobil "Nearest the Pin" competition, and Graham Cockerell of Moonshine Motors will sponsor, quite appropriately, the "Longest Drive". Laurie Fenton, Beaconsfield Upper General Store, also will field a team for the "Sponsors Trophy".

The Golf Day is conducted by the Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield in cooperation with the School Council; the proceeds will be shared between the school and Rotary projects. Funds will assist the work of both groups while promoting the Upper Beac community in general.

**WATERWISE PROJECT -  
MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE**

Charles Wilson

A recent enquiry by the MDCHS regarding local health problems revealed the concern felt by many residents regarding the management of on-site wastewater disposal in the district. To ascertain the importance of the problem, funding was obtained from the Lance Richstein Foundation and the Victorian

Health Promotions for a study with Ian Morgans as group coordinator - the "Waterwise Project" was born. Two meetings have been held at the MDCHS Centre. At the first meeting, 22 different issues relating to the disposal of wastewater were identified, and six possible objectives for the group were defined. The group chose to focus on the scale of local creek pollution problems, and the extent to which these were related to failing on-site wastewater disposal systems.

The second meeting was addressed by Lance Lloyd who is the Principal Scientist and Manager of the Environmental Assessment Section of the State Water Laboratory. He explained methods of assessing water quality, including electrical conductivity, chemical analysis for nitrates, phosphates, and nitrites, etc. The group also learned that an important indicator of creek water quality is the animal population, especially the macro invertebrates, some species of which are very sensitive to contaminants. The next meeting on 18th July listened to Sherrie Wentworth discuss animal classifications. Interested people are always welcome; more information can be obtained by contacting the MDCHS.

## **COUNCIL NOTES**

Keith Ewenson

### Mobile Service Centre

The new Shire Mobile Service Centre was launched in Main Street, Emerald on Thursday 14th July. You may have seen it in UBeac the previous day at the Mobile Library site. Resources the van will have include: information pamphlets on health, community services, Neighbourhood Houses, permit information, amalgamation issues, planning, libraries, recreation, and local laws. Enquiries can be dealt with quickly because phone and FAX are available. No cash will be held in the van and transactions will be by cheques only. Watch the local paper for the details of the time and places that the van will visit, and take advantage of this very effective service. You can identify the vehicle because the sides are painted to say "Pakenham" and "Mobile Service Centre". But would you believe it - when the door is open, the sign becomes "Moe Vice Centre"! I suppose it shows how versatile it is!

[Editors note: when details of the permanent roster for the Shire's Mobile Service Centre become available, the times and places will be published in the Village Bell.]

### Amalgamation issues

There will never be a better time to tell the Local Government Board your thoughts.

I have recently seen a letter from a member of a Voluntary Committee written to Mrs Leonie Burke, Chair of the State Local Government Board. It rang true to the Pakenham I know, and I wonder whether it reflects other people's thoughts of the Shire. After listing the Committee's achievements, in part the letter read:

"All of these projects have been achieved with a minimum amount of expenditure and have resulted in maximum achievement. Such results would not be possible without the "grassroots" involvement and cooperation practised by the Shire of Pakenham and our Committee. The voluntary work performed by our committee is made so much easier due to the close ties that exist in the Shire. This is a Shire which recognises its residents' needs, interests and motivation and is prepared to work with them to achieve the best results for the community. A more centralised form of government could not possibly be so finely tuned to the community needs. There would be some difficulty in motivation of the volunteer system when there is a feeling of loss of support, understanding and control of their own destiny. A sharing of ownership at the grassroots level will always succeed in making things happen over a more centralised form of management."

The letter quoted is from a member of the Upper Beaconsfield Building and Grounds Committee.

Have you thought about writing to the Local Government Board? I cannot emphasise enough the need to do so. Tell them what you think; there will never be a better time. Details of the address are above in Councillor Meeking's article.

## ***ROTARY CLUB***

### Graham Cockerell New President of Upper Beaconsfield Rotary

In the last week of June, the Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield, chartered just 12 months after the Ash Wednesday bushfires, celebrated its Tenth Anniversary with an informative and entertaining evening at the Beaconhills Golf Club. Following a series of informal reflections by past and present members of the Club, Graham Cockerell, the proprietor of Moonshine Motors, was inducted as President for 1994/95.

Past President Eric Chaplin recalled the planting of trees on the nature strips in Grant Court, and former member Colin Edwards gave an interesting insight into the construction of the infamous igloo at the Upper Beac Rec Reserve. Past President Greg Ross carried on from his poetic picture of international Rotary activities with a brief re-enactment of the Club's first attempt in the early years to convey a Vocational Service message at a District Conference. Former member Michael Keogh reminisce about the difficulties experienced conducting a Golf Day in which all the players were members of the Clergy. Whilst each of the projects was different, they shared the common thread of satisfaction gained from completing a worthwhile task and the fun to be had when an enthusiastic team sets out to achieve something they don't know much about!

Outgoing President Geoff Davidson presented Certificates of Appreciation to Charles Wilson and Bill White for the support given to the Club during their period as Honorary Members, and he announced the appointment of past Ambassadorial Scholar Bill Severino and St John's Rev Tom Stokes as Honorary Members. District Governor Bryon Puddy also drew attention to the activities of John Lewis, praised as a model Rotarian. D. G. Byron then inducted John as a Paul Harris Fellow, and a fitting and appropriate recipient of Rotary's highest award.

The Club bid farewell to Exchange Student Nicole Kramer who returned home to Germany. Nicole, who was jointly hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Narre Warren and Upper Beaconsfield, outlined the highlights of her 12 month stay in Australia, including the annual Exchange Students' Expedition to central Australia and the climbing of Ayres Rock. Nicole conveyed her gratitude to those present with a rousing rendition of an unrecognisable tune on a recently acquired didgeridoo.

President Graham Cockerell outlined some of his aims for the new Rotary year. Graham indicated that the Club's direct involvement with many other community groups provides the opportunity to introduce new members, and to work on joint projects such as the inaugural Upper Beaconsfield Primary School Golf Day. President Graham also noted that planning is well underway for this year's Rotary Business Adventure, in association with the Rotary Club of Corryong, and the Legacy Golf Day, conducted as usual on the last Thursday on September. The Club also supports the District's program "Pennies from Heaven" in which the now obsolete one and two cent coins will be collected by Rotary and redeemed at full value by the Mint. Graham confirmed his commitment to make 1994/95 a productive year for the Club and a year in which membership increases and develops.

## ***LOCAL CRIME ANALYSIS***

The City of Berwick and Pakenham Shire are developing a Crime Analysis and Prevention Strategy to: provide a clear analysis of current crime levels and potential trends; identify community perceptions in relation to crime, strategies for reducing crime, and existing agencies involved in crime prevention. Individuals may leave comments and messages, toll free, before August 31, 1994 on 1-800-069-586.

## ***NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT THE COMMUNITY COMPLEX***

Joan Green

The Building and Grounds Committee of the UBeac Community Complex was successful and very lucky to receive funds for new playground equipment from the Shire of Pakenham. We went ahead and received quotes from various suppliers, and have now decided to order this equipment from Miracle.

In order to erect this equipment on the grounds of the Hall, we are appealing to any residents who may have knowledge about installation. Please contact Anne McCormick (443 502) or Joan Green (443 962) if you can contribute in any way.

# Workshop for Writers

with

**Mr Kevin Brophy**

Wednesday October 12th, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre, Salisbury Rd

If you have an interest in writing, then the Upper Beaconsfield Writers' Group invites you to participate in a three hour workshop led by Melbourne author, Mr Kevin Brophy. Characterisation will be the central discussion topic but many other aspects of writing will be touched on. The workshop has been made possible by grants from the following organisations:



There will be a door charge of \$5.00 and participants will be asked to bring a plate for lunch. Numbers will be limited. Please contact Laura on (059) 443 828 for further information.



## **IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

Up to Date as of July 22, 1994

### LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY CALLS:

POLICE \* 000

AMBULANCE \* 000

\* No prefix required

### FIRE BRIGADE

UPPER BEACONSFIELD (059) 443 333 \*\*

\*\* For prompt response in this area ring the local brigade rather than the 000 Emergency number

POLICE - Narre Warren (03) 705-3111

POLICE - Pakenham (059) 411-033

LIFELINE \* 13-1114

POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 00-551-5678

PAKENHAM SHIRE (059) 411-011

### 24-HOUR EMERGENCY RESPONSES:

MELBOURNE WATER \* 13-1693

ELECTRICITY \* 13-1797



## ***NEW SERVICES FROM C.A.B.***

The Pakenham Citizens' Advice Bureau now offers a Telephone Interpreter Service to help foreign speakers from other countries with translation of documents, and escorts for legal, court and medical matters. They also have advisers who will help to organise special payment arrangements for people whose SEC and Gas and Fuel bills overwhelm their budgets. And lots of other informative and useful pamphlets, services etc. are available. Contact your Citizens' Advice Bureau, 66 Main St., Pakenham, (059) 412 377, between 10:30 and 2:30, Monday to Friday.

## ***CHILDREN'S EXPO AND AUCTION***

Upper Beaconsfield Kindergartens Association is hosting a special "Children's Expo and Auction" at the Community Centre Hall on Thursday 11th August, at 7:30pm. There will be a large range of baby's and children's clothing, footwear, games, puzzles, books, and novelty items. These can be purchased on the night or ordered according to your requirements.

Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy "end of the season" bargains, lucky door prizes, and to bid for the many goods that will be auctioned. The \$2.00 admission includes supper, and is payable at the door. Hope to see you there! Enquiries contact Judy (443 592),

## ***UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY CARE GROUP*** Des McKenna



Each of us at various stages in our lives needs help of some sort. The fortunate ones among us have family members close by who willingly come to our assistance. Not everybody is in this happy position and very often when an emergency arises we fail to think clearly and perhaps don't reach for the help that is readily available right here in our community.

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Care Group exists to serve the needs of residents of Guys Hill, Dewhurst and Upper Beaconsfield. More than 60 residents act as volunteers for our group which aims to bring together the resources of our community to meet the needs of our residents. How well we succeed in this depends largely on people firstly being aware of our services, and secondly on a willingness to make use of them in times of need.

All our services are free. We offer domestic help, friendly visiting, emergency meals, emergency child minding, emergency transport, help with small odd jobs, etc. If you have any of these or similar needs, please contact us - if we can't provide the service ourselves, we can in most instances put you in contact with somebody who can assist you. All requests for assistance are treated with absolute confidentiality. For further information, phone the Community Centre (443 484) or Des McKenna (443 516).

## **BERWICK/UPPER BEACONSFIELD RED CROSS UNIT**

Marie Womersley

The Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Unit is still searching for more new members and some additional drivers willing to have their names added to the Transport Roster. This service is becoming busier month by month. Drivers willing to use their own cars to transport sick and frail people to hospitals and clinics are covered by insurance, and may claim reimbursement for petrol at a set rate per kilometre. For those interested in joining, meetings are held in Christ Church Hall, Berwick at 1:30pm on the second Friday of each month. It is well understood that the majority of members cannot attend every meeting.

The Unit's Annual General Meeting was held on 8th July. The Guest Speaker was Mrs. Shirley Caulfield, Chief Executive of the Arthritis Foundation. The hall was absolutely packed with members and guests who heard a good speaker provide valuable information about an ailment which affects so many families.

The story of the celebration of 80 years of Red Cross involvement for the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Unit appeared recently in the local print news. It was wonderful to have a number of the descendants of the seven founding women members present at the celebratory luncheon. Descendants came from Braxholme, Mansfield, Seymour, Pakenham and Berwick, including members of the Thomas family from the Pakenham Gazette.

Should readers have any questions regarding local Red Cross work or services, please contact M. Womersley, Publicity Officer, (03) 707-1103

## **VILLAGE BELL CREDITS**

EDITOR:	Colleen Lazenby
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PRINTING:	Tony Rushton, Beaconsfield
COLLATING:	Scout Group
RECEIVING COPY:	Julie and Ray Allsop, UBeac PO
ADVERTISING:	Phillip Rocke, Laura Levens, Penny Truscott
NEXT EDITOR:	George Silberbauer - for a Special 100th Commemorative Issue. Please keep the special issue in mind when writing your next article for the Village Bell.
COPY DEADLINE:	September 15, 1994

# **CONSERVING LOCAL WILDLIFE IS PART OF THE UNDERSTOREY**

Steve Malcolm  
The Age 14.6.94



Illustrated by  
Helen Smith  
U. Beaconsfield

In public reserves and on private bush blocks it is common to see the larger trees retained while the understorey is cleared and regularly mowed. This is often done in the belief that the remaining trees will allow local wildlife to survive.

Such an approach can have serious ecological consequences because although large trees are important, many small animals including mammals, birds, lizards, frogs, and invertebrates depend on the understorey for food, breeding sites and shelter from predators. For information on how to look after native understorey, contact Greening Australia Victoria (03) 654-1800.

## **UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY COMPLEX**

Vicki Sutherland

### Community Centre

A Christmas Market Day is being planned for Friday December 2 at the Centre. Stalls will be available for all those who have wares to sell - we hope to

present craft items, cakes, jams and preserves, bric-a brae. etc. Book now and please mark the date on your calendar. Vana Nigro can be contacted on 443 147 for further information.

Donations of goods for the Christmas Raffle will be happily accepted from now on; non-perishable foods, drinks, crafts, vouchers, toys, etc are welcome. Crafts are currently on display, some of which are for sale on a commission basis, showing just what can be learned in the many classes offered to the community at the Centre.

### Community Centre Crèche

It seems that a number of parents in the area are unaware that the Crèche is available for Occasional Care and is not just available to those taking courses at the Centre. The Crèche is currently open all day Tuesday and Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm and Monday and Wednesday from 9:00am to 12:00 and 1:00 to 3:00pm. The possibility of offering full time Extended Care is being investigated at present. Fee Relief will most likely be available.

WANTED The Crèche is in desperate need of some cupboards in which to store blankets and pillows. The cupboards must have doors and be no higher than 3'6" (slightly over 1 m) high. Please have a look around your houses and sheds to see if there is a suitable item that could be donated to the Crèche. Please call Vicki Sutherland (443 484).

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST**

The Village Bell receives many notices for publication. In recent mail the Editors found:

- \* a reminder that numerous interesting classes are also offered for local residents at the Pakenham Neighbourhood House; contact 412 389
- \* that Family Day Care (home care) options exist for parents and children in many parts of the Shire; contact Care Coordinator Margaret Aveling on 411 011
- \* that a new outlet for home made crafts has opened at the Homegarth Community Craft Outlet in Pakenham; contact Homegarth on 402 148, or Glenys on 413 497

### **KITCHEN APPEAL NOW OPEN**

Helen Smith

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Building and Grounds Committee has recently opened an appeal to raise funds for kitchen improvements in the older section of the complex. The B & G Committee has obtained a grant from the Shire to cover part of the cost of the planned improvements, but needs to raise enough funds to cover the rest of the expected cost.

The kitchen is a part of the section of the Hall for hire for private functions, and at present it is not up to standard for larger functions when meals are served. The work and storage areas need improvement while some of the appliances need updating. The Committee has lost some bookings because these facilities were not adequate for large numbers of people.

So far the Committee has raised over \$800 from the very enjoyable Trivia Night held in May, hosted by Peter Deering. Keep Friday 28th October free for the next Trivia Night. A raffle of hand made crafts is also underway: first prize - a crochet blanket; second prize - a candlewick cushion; and third prize - a folkart plaque. Tickets are available at the Office for 50 cents ea or 3 for \$1.

The UBeac Community Complex is a real asset, with low cost facilities available to everyone. The reasonable cost does not enable the accumulation of funds for capital improvements, and we are appealing to the residents of Upper Beac and surrounding areas to support the Kitchen Appeal. For those who cannot participate in fundraising activities, we are asking you to consider sending a donation to the appeal. Donors will be acknowledged in the Village Bell and they will receive a receipt. Please send donations marked "**KITCHEN APPEAL**" - **UBEAC COMMUNITY COMPLEX**, Treasurer, UBeac Comm. Complex, Building and Grounds Committee, Salisbury Road, UBeac 3808

For booking of facilities at the Hall contact Helen Smith (443 219).

## ***UPPER BEACONSFIELD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE***

Nancy Boura

### Fire Plugs

Have you noticed Fire Brigade members apparently excavating holes in the footpath? Have you seen them dodging the traffic and gluing blue reflectors on the road? Have you wondered what the white posts with the red tops and blue reflectors are marking?

Upper Beaconsfield has 152 fire plugs which are points on the mains reticulation system where the Fire Brigade can obtain water. We have just completed our annual inspection and clean up of these fire plugs, and at present they are all in usable condition. However, after the next heavy rain some may be buried under screenings, and some may be filled up with thick mud. Ants are also a problem with soil from their excavations filling the space where the hydrant is inserted. Grass may grow across them and scrub may obscure the marker posts. Valuable minutes are wasted if there is any delay in obtaining water, and every minute is vital when your house is on fire.

***You can help!*** If there is a fire plug near your property, please help us to help you. If you would like to be shown what to do, please contact me (443 632), or a brigade member, and a visit will be arranged.

### Auction

On Saturday 22nd October, a fund raising auction will be held at the Fire Station. The Brigade is accepting donations of saleable goods; items can also be sold on commission. Please contact Peter Deering (443 521) or Stan Hamilton (443 531) for further details.

### Turnouts

Since the last Village Bell the Brigade has responded to a venting LPG cylinder in St. Georges Road, a scrub fire at Montuna Golf Club, two direct alarms to the Telecom Exchange (false alarms), a motor vehicle accident in Stoney Creek Road, a car fire at Elephant Rock, trees on fire in Sugarloaf Road, and trees on fire in the Telegraph Road/O'Neil Road area.

## ***FIRE BRIGADE AUXILIARY NEWS***

Colleen Lazenby

A reminder to all that the UBRFB Auxiliary is hosting a Towel Night to raise funds for the Brigade. Tuesday 6th September 7:30pm is the night that you can purchase outstanding towels, bed linen, doonas and covers, children's nightwear, baby linen and towel giftpacks at discount prices. It will be great opportunity to replace wornout towels and linens at bargain rates, and to pick up some Christmas presents.

The Auxiliary also has a number of copies of The **Complete Australian Bush Fire Book** by Joan Webster, for sale at a discounted price. This important book, essential for families who want to be fully informed about how to maintain their properties and protect themselves before, during and after a fire, is only \$25. Visit the fire station on Sunday mornings between 9:30 and 10:00 am or contact me (03) 796-2226 or Joan Green 443 962 to purchase a copy. The book also makes a great Christmas present or house warming gift (along with a fire extinguisher!).

As always, new members are welcome at our meetings, last Tuesday of each month.

## ***FIRST BEACONSFIELD CUB SCOUT GROUP***

### Scout Group

A district hike took place at Gillwell Park near Gembrook recently, on a damp weekend, during which several UBeac Scouts took part. Despite the weather, and Scouts heading for tents and sleeping bags at 5:30 pm, the event was enjoyed by all. Five of the nine scouts who will be attending the Jamboree in Perth this summer camped out for four nights recently to fulfil a portion of the ten nights "under canvas" required for attendance.

Four new members have been welcomed into the Scout group: Matthew Bennan, Ben McDonald, Luke Fisher, and Peter Sheary. Plans for Term III for these and the other boys include a trip to the snow and a bike hike.

### Cub Pack

Winter may be a time for some species to hibernate, but not our Cub Pack! Four new chums were enrolled in June, and three new leaders are now fully warranted, having taken part in the required training. This makes a full Pack of 24 boys and five leaders. The Cub Pack holiday will be on at The Lord Mayor's Camp, Portsea, August 27th and 28th. Term III activities will include nights for swimming, an investiture. "Fathers Day", a puppet show, and a visit to a pottery workshop.

### Scout Committee

The Committee continues to ensure that the leaders of groups have support and resources. The firewood raffles, more frequent in past weeks as our need for funds increases, are well supported by the community and that support is greatly appreciated.

### Perth Jamboree Group

In aid of the trip to Perth, we are holding a **QUIZ NIGHT, Saturday September 10**, at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall; M.C.: Peter Deering. All welcome - come along and form a table for a fun evening!

## ***FAMILY CELEBRATES RE-NAMING OF HAMILTON RESERVE***

Hamilton Family members invite all their friends and interested members of the community to join them on Sunday 7th August to celebrate the opening of the newly re-named Hamilton Reserve at the corner of Yackatoon and Berglund Roads. A crowd will gather at 2:00pm to see two Hamilton sisters and two brothers cut a ribbon to mark the official opening, using the same gold scissors their mother used to inaugurate the advent of electricity to that part of Upper Beaconsfield. Guests will adjourn afterward to the home of Stan and Beryl Hamilton, 183 Berglund Road for tea and cakes. Bring a plate and join in this celebration of a unique family and its part in our local history.

## ***NEW LOCAL ACCOUNTANT OFFERS PERSONALISED SERVICE***

Ysabelle Hobson

There's a new chartered accountant service in Upper Beaconsfield, but as Philip Helliard is operating his business from his home at 10 Young Street, you may not be aware of it. Philip, his wife Trish and their children moved into the area from Berwick back in February. Apart from the usual rigours of settling into a new house, Philip and Trish have been busy setting up the new business, which officially opened on 1st July.

Philip worked for 10 years in the Taxation Office, and also spent several years working with a well-known Dandenong accounting firm. He has acted for and advised many types of businesses about book-keeping and finances. Philip is offering professional and personalised help with income tax, finances and business matters for individuals and small to medium-sized businesses. He has the facilities for electronic lodgement of tax returns and can offer all the services you would expect from any accounting firm. He has a home office and he will also visit you in your own home - out of business hours if that suits you. He believes that many people are confused and concerned by changes to the rules governing taxes, superannuation, fringe benefits, etc. and that these people need more personal attention with their business affairs. By being more flexible with his working hours and by offering home visits, Philip will be able to give his clients the sort of help you can't often get from large accountancy partnership firms.

With four children between the ages of five and ten, Philip and Trish don't have much leisure time. Trish helps out with the secretarial work in the business, and when he can, Philip enjoys the odd game of golf, pottering around the garden, and reading. He is also a parent helper with the 3rd Berwick Cubs. Philip Helliard can be contacted on 443 112.

**\*\*\* DIARY DATES \*\*\***

<b>August 3:</b>	<b>UBA General Meeting - 8:00pm</b>
<b>August 11:</b>	Children's Expo and Auction, Community Hall - 7:30pm
<b>August 27/28:</b>	Cub Pack Holiday, Portsea
<b>September 6:</b>	UBRFB Auxiliary Towel Night, Fire Station - 7:30pm
<b>September 10:</b>	Scout Group Quiz Night, Community Hall
<b>September 29:</b>	Rotary Legacy Golf Day
<b>October 12:</b>	Workshop for Writers, Community Hall - 10:00am to 1:00pm
<b>October 22:</b>	UBRFB Auction, Fire Station
<b>October 28:</b>	Hall Trivia Night, Community Hall
<b>December 2:</b>	Christmas Market Day, Community Hall

\*\*\*\*\*

From February to July 1994, Dr. George Silberbauer, Upper Beaconsfield resident of long standing and an expatriate South African, was Distinguished Visiting Fellow in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cape Town. In the following article, he gives us his impressions of the country at a momentous time in its history:

When my ship docked in Durban in early February of this year, South Africa faced its first democratic election in over 300 years. Chance encounters with friends-of-friends put me in touch with Zulu, Indian, Afrikaans and English groups. From their very different perspectives, they all expressed great apprehension and not much optimism about the outcome. This election had to come, or the country would be condemned to an intensification of the long, very bloody and destructive civil war. But with Buthelezi's powerful Inkatha Freedom Party determined to boycott the election, the prospect of anarchy and further violence seemed very real.

Cape Town, always somewhat aloof from the excesses of the rest of the country, was quieter, but nonetheless very tense. Elsewhere in the country, the violence was generally a good deal worse than what one read in Cape Town's papers each day. Not even the parliamentary candidates with whom I spoke could put much conviction into their promises of better things to come. Everybody knew what they wanted: peace, peace, please peace; and then security, jobs, and the usual voters' wishes - but nobody could inspire hope and faith.

Mid-March saw a sharp escalation of the violence, as well as the first signs of Inkatha sanity when Buthelezi decided Zulus should join the election as candidates and voters. Almost overnight attitudes changed. It was as if the Silent Majority of all races in the country proclaimed that it was fed up with the violence and, if Inkatha was going to be part of the election, then everybody would damn well pull together and make the election work. Small, ordinary people came together for Peace rallies, rather than election meetings. The tone and mood of conversations changed and hope began to creep in. Gaps appeared in the boundaries between races and political parties, as ordinary people determinedly broke with habit and tradition and talked with, and listened to one another.

It was a Mad Hatter's election. Four out of five had never voted before; there are eleven official languages in the country. There was no voter's roll and virtually every adult over 18 years was entitled to vote. No one knew how many millions might turn up at the polling booths; one could only guess how many would arrive at any particular booth and how many voting papers would be needed there. At those places where everything went smoothly, people queued for six hours to cast their votes. Elsewhere they waited for up to three days. The excitement was electric and, despite the delays and frustrations, the prevailing mood was of joy - shown equally by blacks, whites, coloureds and Indians. Apart from the lunatic bombing of Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport by right-wing whites, there was no violence. Only happy, hopeful New South Africans attending the birth of the New South Africa.

And it really looks like being a new South Africa. With political equality, social and economic barriers between the races are disappearing. At the

Grahamstown Arts Festival in June, the extent of cultural mixing and cross-fertilisation was both startling and inspirational. The determination of the victims of the previous oppression and bitter retaliatory violence to forgive their old enemies should give hope to all humanity.

South Africa is not idyllic. There is still crushing poverty on a huge scale, ever-present crime, and horrific violence. The Nationalist government did immeasurable damage to the country's infrastructure over the past 25 years, leaving a legacy of problems for decades into the future. But it is a beautiful, exciting, unfailingly interesting country full of people determined to bring about peace, harmony, and prosperity AND to get on with it. Visit South Africa if you can; you'll really know you're alive! To be there for the last six months was a remarkable, rewarding and humbling experience.

## VILLAGE FAIR SPONSORS

Regrettably, in the last *Village Bell*, the following sponsors of the 1994 Village Fair were omitted:

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Again, many thanks to these and all of the sponsors and volunteers who made the Fair work this year.



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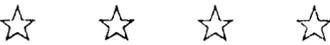
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