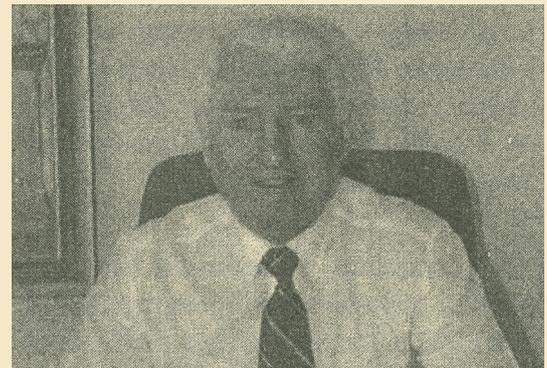




ISSUE NO. 102 JANUARY 1995.
ISSUED BY THE UPPER BEACONSFIELD
ASSOCIATION INC.

Chairman of Commissioners
Mr. Bernard Coburn



Commissioner
Mr. John Raymond



NOTICE
of
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the
UPPER BEACONSFIELD
ASSOCIATION INC.

FEBRUARY 1, 1995
Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall
8 pm
to be followed by
GENERAL MEETING
UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION

GUEST SPEAKER: *LISA SCOTT -
BREAST SCREENING PROGRAM*
MONASH MEDICAL CENTRE
Ms Scott will talk about the Monash Program and
the importance of breast screening for
early detection of cancer

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS
DETAILS PAGE 2

THE QUESTIONS YOU WANTED TO
ASK THE NEW SHIRE
COMMISSIONERS ARE ANSWERED ON
PAGE 3

AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS 1995

January 26th is Australia Day - a time to celebrate our identity, promote pride and respect achievements.

The Australia Day Committee are completing arrangements for the celebration and encourage the community to come along and share in the celebrations.

These commence at 10.45 am with a march along John Street to the Pakenham Recreation Reserve.

At 11 am there will be the flag raising; presentation of Australia Day Awards and a Citizenship Ceremony which is to be followed by family activities such as a family barbecue, novelty events and demonstrations by Scouts, Guides, Fire Brigades and the State Emergency Service.

The committee is optimistic that a large number of residents will join together in this celebration and encourages residents of the Shire to attend.

RAGWORT CONTROL

Neil McDonald

A group of concerned residents in Yackatooon and Walford Roads met recently to discuss a plan of action to control and, if possible, eradicate ragwort in their area. The meeting was addressed by Meinhard Holtz who established and runs the Hills Ragwort Control Group in Gembrook.

Meinhard is somewhat of an expert on ragwort and works in the district advising property owners on the importance of controlling this highly invasive noxious weed.

The residents are particularly concerned about a heavy infestation of the weed in a neighbouring property. This infestation has the potential to spread over a wide area.

Residents were advised of the characteristics of ragwort, its potential for spreading and appropriate methods of control.

Ragwort is a major environmental problem in the area and property owners are urged to do everything possible to eradicate this proclaimed noxious weed. Leaflets and control sheets providing further information can be obtained from the U.B. community centre or the Cardinia Shire Office.



SHIRE OF CARDINIA - FAMILY DAY CARE SCHEME

Margaret Aveling, Shire No. 411 011

Vacancies exist within the Shire Family Day Care Scheme for caregivers who wish to care for children in their own home. Family Day Care is a Commonwealth funded program which provides quality home based child care.

Successful applicants will have the ability to maintain a safe and clean environment, have an understanding of children's needs and development, provide suitable activities, have good communication skills and attend regular in-service programs.

Experience in caring for children is essential. A First Aid Certificate, Driver's Licence and the TAFE Certificate in Child Care (home based) are desirable.

Applicants should obtain an Information Package from the Family Day Care Coordinator, Margaret Aveling on 411 011.

VILLAGE BELL QUESTIONS TO THE NEW COMMISSIONERS OF CARDINIA SHIRE

Jeanette Ballinger

The Village Bell sees its role in the community as a means of communication between the village and the larger community. Other papers in the area have published details of the new Commissioners, we decided to ask them questions pertinent to our area.

We delivered the letter to the Shire on January 9th, the day the Commissioners returned to the office after the Christmas break. The reply was faxed through to us on January 16th. in a letter signed by Commissioner Bernard Coburn, Chairman of Commissioners. We appreciate the speed and efficiency of their response.

Five people worked on the following questions, we hope they cover the subjects you want answered.

Question 1. What brief have you received from the Government?

The formal brief is the Minister for Local Government's order dated 15 December 1994 which created the new Cardinia Shire and appointed Commissioners and an Acting Chief Executive Officer. The major tasks involve:

- * setting of service delivery levels; transferring staff, liabilities and assets
- * appointing a permanent Chief Executive
- * consolidating records, local laws, planning schemes, and preparing a corporate plan
- * ensuring a consistent and equitable rating and valuations system
- * preparing for Council elections in 1996
- * consulting with and informing the community of the new directions.

In general terms the State Government wishes to reduce the cost and increase the efficiency of the local government sector as part of its microeconomic reform program. The aim of the program is to make local government stronger, leaner and more answerable to the communities it serves.

In specific terms we want to work with the communities involved to create the new Cardinia Shire.

Question 2. We have been very well represented in a hands on way by three local councillors for the past 20 odd years. Now that you have replaced these elected representatives how is it your intention to represent us?

The staff will serve the needs of the communities of Cardinia Shire. As Commissioners we will welcome ideas and will actively seek input from the community on how procedures can be improved. We also take on the responsibilities of Councillors, pending their return.

Question 3. Will you attend a UBA public meeting to meet ratepayers and local organisation representatives? In the past we regularly had two councillors present to report and answer questions. Dates of these meetings are attached.

We will be delighted to attend any meeting where our attendance is relevant.

Question 4. Would one of the Commissioners be prepared to be the guest speaker at our April meeting? Wednesday April 5th, 8 pm at our local hall.

I or one of my colleagues, will be delighted to be guest speaker at the UBA meeting to be held on 5 April at 7.30 pm. at the Upper Beaconsfield Hall.

Question 5. In the past we enjoyed excellent communication with our councillors and this resulted in a very constructive and positive relationship. How are we to communicate in future?

Residents are welcome to telephone, fax or visit the Municipal Offices Henty Way Pakenham; or write to us at PO Box 7 Pakenham. Close contacts with staff would of course continue.

Question 6. How do you propose to find out public opinion on matters in the Shire?

We will ensure that the Council is customer-focused. The purpose of the organisation must be to provide wanted services at prices our communities consider reasonable. Sustaining a market-driven, customer-friendly, and responsive, service organisation is not easy. It will be the aim of the Commissioners and all staff to ensure this is achieved. We will ask questions of, and listen to (the ratepayers and residents. But we have legal and financial obligations - as you know, from time to time some hard decisions may have to be made.

Question 7. Will you be making decisions solely on the basis of financial analysis or will you also consider community interests and social concerns?

We will consider all relevant criteria in our decision-making. We have an open agenda of increasing our efficiency, improving our services; and smoothing the way for the return of an elected council. The process will be open and objective.

Question 8. Will you continue to fight, as did our representatives, to oppose the Hillview Quarry attempt to convert Conservation Zone land to allow for quarrying?

We will consider all major planning applications which are placed before us in accordance with our statutory responsibilities. We are aware of the depth of community feeling on this issue.

Question 9. What is the future of community grants that have been a strong part of this

council's policy of helping the community to help itself? \$ for \$ in some cases of a capital nature and a direct grant for others?

Within our charter which is the creation of Cardinia Shire, and on behalf of the ratepayers, we will closely examine all outlays. Funding for emergency services, essential maintenance of community assets, and the improvement of those assets will continue as a priority. Discretionary expenditure will be examined to ensure that arrangements are equitable; and that benefits to the wider community and ratepayers can be demonstrated.

Question 10. What will be the role, if any, of past councillors? Do you intend to use them for advice and guidance, if so on what basis?

All of the former councillors have been invited to service on various committees and organisations. At the time of writing this, both Peter Meeking and Ted Owen had responded positively. There will be a number of issues on which we will seek their advice and guidance. We have already done this on the critical issue of DISPLAN consolidation.

Question 11. Do you intend to review the current planning scheme?

The Shire of Pakenham Planning Scheme continues to be in force in the former Pakenham Shire; as do the Cranbourne and Sherbrooke Schemes in those parts of the new Shire. A major task will be to consolidate the relevant provisions of these three schemes. This task will occur with extensive community consultation.

Question 12. Will your meetings (council) be open to the public and at a time the public may attend?

Meetings of the Commissioners will be open to the public and are scheduled to be held at 5.00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Parts of the meeting may be closed to consider various confidential matters (personnel, personal hardship, industrial, contractual, legal advice; security); but this will be limited to obvious cases.

Question 13. Will we be able to find out the agenda items of the above prior to meetings?

The agenda and business paper will continue to be available prior to the Council meeting from both the Municipal Offices and Pakenham Library.

Question 14. Will you continue with the operation of the Pakenham Shire Information Caravan?

We are not sure at the moment, this will be addressed as part of our overall community information strategy.

Question 15. Will the community be consulted prior to your decision when you try to determine such matters as:

- Logo*
- Riding boundaries*
- Community grants*
- Rezoning matters*
- Significant planning permits*

Statutory consultation and the opportunity to make submissions/objections is provided in relation to ward/riding boundaries, rezoning matters and major planning permits. Residents will be invited to comment on the logo. The availability of community grants will be publicly advertised; however determination of the total funds available and individual awards remains a matter for the Commissioners.

Question 16. The rates for 1995/96 will be for a nine month period only. Will this be clearly shown on the rate notice and explained to residents?

The State Government has changed the municipal financial year to now end on 30 June. The next rate to be struck will only cover a period of nine months. This will be explained to residents as clearly as possible.

Question 17 Will the standard of service, particularly regarding road maintenance, slashing, grading etc. be maintained?

Service levels for all Cardinia Shire programs will be reviewed. No programs are exempt. Where possible efficiencies will be made. We are aware of the importance of a good road network to the community.

Question 18. What special steps do you intend to take to welcome new areas such as part of Emerald & Cockatoo. Lang Lang, Kooweerup and Cardinia to the new shire?

We will consider this as part of our communication strategy.

Question 19. If you propose to delegate matters to officers what monitoring role would exist for the public?

Council staff are there to serve their communities. Appropriate delegations will speed decisionmaking and reduce bureaucracy and waste.

Question 20. What is it in your view that makes up the Shire of Cardinia eg. type of municipality, key attributes etc?

This area is a unique blend of rural, environmental and urban interests. Its people choose to live here because of the unique lifestyle. The metropolis is not too remote, and the natural environment, fresh air and space are at the back door. Over the years its communities have demonstrated a pioneering spirit and determination in the face of adversity. We must remember that this is a new municipal community - and we need to build on the heritage.

Question 21. Do the Commissioners intend to maintain regular functions such as the Art Show and Yakkerboo?

The Art Show and Yakkerboo will continue this year. Culture and art have an important role in any modern community - community festivals will continue to receive strong support. Because we are a new community it will be appropriate to consider the best way of reaching people through these festivals.

Question 22. When do you expect we will return to an elected local government?

I would pencil in my diary March 1996; but the setting of the date is at the discretion of the Minister for Local Government.

FAREWELL GESTETNER - WELCOME RISOGRAPH

Charles Wilson

For more than 10 years our Master Printers, George and Judy Moir have struggled with a variety of old Gestetner printing machines to produce acceptable copy for the 'Village Bell'.

Despite frequent fractures of the main drive belt and the many other problems that occur when one uses machines that are well past their useful life, they managed to produce good results.

At a recent meeting of the 'Village Bell' editorial committee, Colleen Lazenby suggested we should apply to the Community Grant Scheme for funds to assist in the purchase of a modern and more suitable machine. Further, Colleen volunteered to prepare a submission. As you may guess the editors accepted her offer unanimously.

A small Committee was established to investigate our requirements and it decided that a modern duplicator could produce good copy and would fulfil the "Village Bell" requirements for many years. Our master printer, the president of the U.B.A., and three editors attended a demonstration of a 'Risograph' and decided it would be suitable. A few questions revealed that a new, but superseded model was available at greatly reduced cost, and possibly within our budget.

Colleen's submission for the grant was thought to be a gem - highly professional - some said a masterpiece.

In the submission the role and achievements of the 'Bell' were described and a calculation made of the number of hours of voluntary work given by the editors, and also time given by the public when collating. Costs of postage, paper, ink and other printer necessities used in producing more than one hundred editions were calculated.

The fact that the paper was delivered free to all residents, and was financially sound, as advertising costs balanced printing and distribution costs, was also stated.

Colleen's great effort was rewarded, and Council agreed to grant the funds for the superseded "Risograph" which we have now purchased; it will be used to produce this 'Village Bell'.

For the technically minded: The 'Risograph' is a sophisticated duplicator which uses digital technology to produce high print quality. Resolution of 400 d.p.i. is possible using a new image scanner, and up to 256 halftone gradations, enabling any good photo to be sharply and well reproduced. An original document is automatically fed into the scanner, and printed. The print rate can be as high as 130 copies per minute.

There are six volunteer printers who will undergo training and print the 'Bell' while being supervised by experts.

Colleen prepared an excellent submission, based on the record of the 'Bell' since its first copy appeared in July 1978. Since then more than one hundred 'Village Bells' have been produced by voluntary editors requiring a lot of time, effort, and labour by the community in the collating. In addition the paper is now self supporting financially, income from the advertisements balancing the cost of paper and printing.

THE DOROTHY MARSDEN BEQUEST

Charles Wilson

Miss Dorothy Marsden lived in Fraser Avenue, Upper Beaconsfield for nineteen years prior to her death on May 4, 1985. In 1986 the Upper Beaconsfield Association Inc. was notified that Miss Marsden had left the sum of \$1,400. for the Association and a similar sum for the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade.

This money was invested by the U.B.A. until a suitable project should arise for our community. In 1994 a public meeting of the U.B.A. approved the use of this money to purchase the balance of the Risograph and a colour drum and accessories.

Continued over page

MARSDEN BEQUEST *continued*

This two colour page in black and brown ink has been printed with the Risograph using the equipment purchased with Miss Marsden's Bequest.

Miss Marsden was an unforgettable character. She had learned elocution when young, and having a sharp mind and excellent recall, expressed herself very clearly, concisely and sometimes with considerable force. She was courageous, determined, and a person to be treated with respect.

She was a lady with many talents, able with the needle, and a good gardener. She also played the piano, and was a competent amateur painter, using many of her own pictures to decorate her first home in Upper Beaconsfield.

Her early years were spent in North Fitzroy, where she attended the Miller Street State School, and finished Dux of the school. She then had the misfortune to develop epilepsy, and for some years could not obtain any work. Fortunately in 1920's a drug was developed that controlled her fits, and she started work in a major Melbourne Emporium.

Her greatest misfortune was the loss of her fiancée, a young Englishman, who died shortly before they were to be married. This was an enormous blow to her.

In 1966 when aged 60, Miss Marsden retired from work, and decided she would like to live in the country. She purchased land in Fraser Avenue, after an estate agent had assured her that there would be local public transport within a few years.

Leaving her Seaford home, she erected a garage and lived in it whilst her house was being built. She then worked with her usual determination and energy to establish a garden and small orchard.

In 1967 she narrowly escaped losing her home when fire swept through the Cardinia Creek

flood plain, and had to be evacuated, a difficult procedure as she refused to leave without her cat, a very aggressive animal which had to be wrapped in a towel to make it manageable. Fortunately her house survived.

By 1983 her health was failing. When the Ash Wednesday fires started in South Belgrave she was seen as a problem, and about 4 pm. was phoned and evacuation suggested. Her reply -"Come down in two hours and I will be ready". Fortunately the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade managed to get her out shortly before the fire front came through, her home was totally destroyed.

This time she lived in a caravan whilst her home was being rebuilt, to keep a close eye on the builders. Her tradesmen found her very demanding, as indeed did the Shire President who was invited to fix her temporary outside toilet which had blown over in a high wind one weekend. The Shire President and son obliged!

A lady with great courage, she coped with many problems. On one occasion whilst heating paraffin wax to seal some freshly made jam, the wax caught fire, and flames set fire to the extractor fan above the stove.

She bravely threw the burning container into the kitchen sink, unfortunately the curtains over the sink caught fire. She tore these down and threw them outside to burn out, but it had been very wet weather and muddy, to protect the carpets she had put newspapers on the floor, some of these caught fire as burning pieces of curtain fell on them. These also she threw outside, only then did she call the Fire Brigade.

Fortunately the Brigade arrived quickly and were able to extinguish the fire above the extractor fan. Despite her heart problems she continued to walk up the St. Georges Road Hill until 1982 when she had to rely on taxis and friends for transport.

This is the first and only bequest the Association ever received. Miss Marsden enjoyed the 'Bell' and would have thoroughly approved our action.

**UPPER B'FIELD
COMMUNITY
CARE GROUP**

Des McKenna



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Many thanks to all those people who supported us by providing goods for our stall at the community centre Christmas fair in early December and to those who spent money buying them. Our funds were extremely low and we were enabled to have some financial backing into 1995. Special thanks to Joy Rose, Laura Levens and Sue Barasits who were the organising sub-committee.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Shire of Pakenham again provided our group with a community grant of \$830. for 1995 which will enable us to continue with our newsletters to residents and assist with our administration costs. Thanks to Peter Meeking for his assistance.

COMMUNITY WEEK

Each year the Care Group sponsors Community Week in U.B./Guys Hill/Dewhurst during which we encourage residents to gather together socially on a BYO basis and to get to know each other better. Groups normally are based on a street or part of a street and have traditionally been highly successful and enjoyable. Community Week always includes the anniversary date of the Ash Wednesday Bush Fire (16.2.83) and this year runs from Friday 10th February through Sunday 19th February. *Get your party organised.*

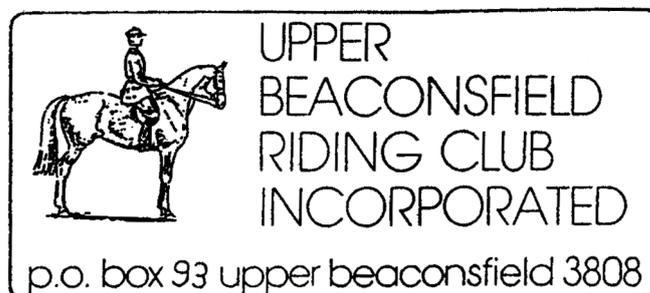
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held on Monday 20th March at the community centre commencing 8 pm. All are welcome and we would particularly like to hear from anybody (one of our volunteers or just a resident who is not yet involved) who would be interested in joining our committee.

EMERGENCY MEALS

Don't forget we have available a bank of frozen meals for use by residents facing a sudden need eg. illness of a member of the family, bereavement etc.

For this service or any other information about the Care Group activities please contact either 443 484 or 443 516.



**WANTED - ADULT HORSE RIDERS
BEGINNERS ONLY**

Ysabelle Hobson 443 273

The U.B. Adult Riding Club Inc extends a warm invitation to any inexperienced horse riders (18 years +) out there to come to our first rally for 1995 ... and to receive one hour's instruction plus lunch at NO COST.

Instruction will be provided by Rick Thirkell, longstanding member of the club, dressage judge for Equestrian Federation of Australia (EFA) and level assessor for the Horse Riding Clubs Assoc. of Victoria Inc (HRCAV). Your lesson will consist of basic flatwork (no jumping) and will be geared to suit the needs of any inexperienced rider who enjoys the sport but who hasn't had the opportunity for lessons on a regular basis.

The rally will be held at the Riding and Pony Club Reserve in Burton Rd., U.B. (behind the school) on Sunday, February 5th. Beginners' class begins at 9 am sharp. Lunch is at 12, so you can either stay to meet our friendly members and watch other classes, or take your horse home and come back.

For more information or bookings please call *Jamie Hannah on 03 562 0541*. Bookings can be made on 26 & 31 January and 1-2 February between 7.30 and 9.30 pm. All you need is a horse and safe equipment. We look forward to meeting you!

DR WHO VIGILANCE KEY TO ASTHMA CONTROL

Asthma affects about one in ten children. It is a potentially serious illness and sadly Australia and New Zealand have proportionally more deaths from asthma than anywhere else in the world.

Fortunately, most asthma sufferers have relatively mild attacks but it is important that everyone understands the disease, how to recognise when it is getting worse, and how to manage an attack.

The problem in asthma occurs in the tiny breathing tubes (bronchioles) through which air passes into the lungs. Inflammation causes them to become narrowed, through a combination of spasm of the muscles in their walls and the presence of mucus secretions which block them.

This results in a reduction in the amount of air getting to the lung which in turn means that the body is deprived of the oxygen essential for life.

This may be seen as a child (or adult) 'struggling' to breathe, often making a marked wheezing sound. In milder cases a cough, particularly with exercise and at night, may be the only sign of asthma.

Asthma is probably due to many factors including a family tendency. In many, it is an allergic type of problem which can be triggered by factors such as grasses, pollens, animals, and some medications. Many asthma sufferers will get attacks after minor virus infections such as simple colds. Irritants in the air can trigger attacks. The children of parents who smoke are more prone to asthma.

Management of asthma falls into two categories:

- Treating attacks
- Preventing attacks.

Treatment of an acute attack is usually through drugs known as bronchodilators, which 'open up' the bronchioles. These are usually taken by using an inhaler (puffer) but may be given by face mask, tablets, medicine or injection.

Those who get frequent or severe attacks may need to go on to continuous preventative medication to stop the inflammation developing. Again, these medications are usually given by puffers. The development of 'spacer' devices means that even very small children can now be treated in this way.

It is very important for all asthma sufferers (or their parents) to recognise when an attack does not respond to the usual treatment.

If the bronchioles are very narrowed there may be no wheezing heard, but the sufferer may be breathing very quickly and be obviously distressed. With children the ribs may seem to be 'sucked in' as they try to breathe.

In these situations, seek urgent medical attention.

There will be a natural temptation to use increasing dosages of the bronchodilating puffers, but if too much is used this can be dangerous.

Many sufferers now have a little device at home called a peak-flow meter which enables them to measure the state of their asthma. If you or your child gets asthma or persistent coughing, discuss the best management with the doctor.



MOUNTAIN DISTRICT COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE

Heather Knight

The Pakenham and Hills Needle Syringe Exchange offers a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL service to people who have concerns about HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis or other STD's.

The exchange offers more than clean needles; advice on safe use or safe sex is offered along with information on the effects of drugs, signs, symptoms and treatment of STD's.

To access the mobile service or for information call Heather on (059) 689 066

HEH YOU FELLOWS!!!

*Graham Jackson,
President, U.B. Association Inc.*

I think it is about time someone had a word with the men of Upper Beaconsfield. Many of you fellows are dragging your feet when it comes to taking a role in community life. I know we have some very active and committed men in the community, who are doing a great job, however the women of Upper Beaconsfield carry a very large part of the load as far as community life in the village is concerned.

Many of these women cram more into a day than a lot of you fellows manage to fit into a week! Just try the daily schedule many of these girls fulfil - you'll be calling for help quicker than you think.

Yes, I know that many men have work commitments, however these days many of the women also have work commitments, as well as all the demands placed on them as wives and mothers.

Yes, I know that work can be demanding and that at the end of the day it is very pleasant to put your feet up and relax - point is that quite a few of you fellows like to relax at the end of every day.

Yes, I know it is great to get involved in family activities, but many of the things you and your family do, rely on facilities and services that others in the community have created and maintained.

Yes, I know it's great to spend time with your mates, but bear in mind that while you are enjoying yourself there are others who are getting on with creating and maintaining community facilities and services - facilities and services that you and your family use. Well why not? The facilities and services are there for the use of the community.

Exactly the point - and I would like to see more

men realise that the community, their families, and they themselves, would be the richer for their contribution to community life in Upper Beaconsfield. So how about sharing the load with the girls!

I would venture to say every community service, every facility and every club and association in Upper Beaconsfield would be grateful for more support and involvement from the men of Upper Beaconsfield - and that includes the Upper Beaconsfield Association and its committees.



COMMUNITY EFFORT FOR CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Colleen Lazenby

Clean Up Australia Day is scheduled this year for Sunday 5 March. The U.B. Association will be co-ordinating a community wide effort to make this day count in the village. We hope that the pride that all residents feel about our beautiful area will translate into a huge effort on the part of individuals as well as other community organisations when it comes to the clean up.

Members of the U.B. Fire Brigade have volunteered to form the core of the UBA group that co-ordinates Clean Up Australia Day. Community groups and other residents' groups (for example, all home owners on one street) need to obtain information about organisation on the day, a quantity of rubbish bags, and instructions about drop off points for the filled bags.

Representatives from community groups and interested individuals are encouraged to attend the UBA meeting on February 1 at the Hall when Clean Up Australia in Upper Beaconsfield will be organised. Before that time questions can be answered by Nancy or Jon Boura on 443 632.

FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Jon Boura

U.B. Fire Brigade

For the first time in three years fire restrictions have come into force. Fire restrictions are designed to reduce the number of potential ignition sources by placing strict controls on the use of fire during the proclaimed Fire Danger Period.

On the days immediately prior to Black Friday, 13 January 1939, literally hundreds of fires were burning unchecked across Victoria. On this day of extreme fire danger the fires were swept to new fury and claimed 71 lives. Judge Stretton in the report of the Royal Commission into these fires wrote that "...the major over-riding cause, which comprises all others, is the indifference with which forest fires as a menace to all have been regarded."

Similarly on February 7th 1967 the devastating Hobart fire began at 81 separate locations around the city. These fires then joined together into a massive conflagration.

The Victorian fire restriction legislation has been extremely effective in eliminating the multiple-ignition bushfire. However it is still possible on days of high fire danger to get a number of separate fires burning simultaneously, such as the 180 fires on Ash Wednesday, 16 February 1983, 8 of which assumed major proportions.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. FIRE DANGER PERIOD

No fires may be lit in the open to burn rubbish etc.

If you use an incinerator it must be clear of all flammable materials for at least 3 metres in all directions, an adult must be in attendance at all times, there must be water available, and the wind speed should not exceed 10 km/hr.

You may use a barbecue provided that: - it is cleared to at least 3 metres of all flammable material

- it is at all times attended by an adult
- wind speed is less than 10 km/hr.

2. TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS

No fires may be lit You may use a GAS or ELECTRIC barbecue only provided that:

- the restrictions above are met PLUS
- it is fixed in a permanent structure such as those found at public reserves or if portable it is within 20 metres of a permanent dwelling
- a hose is connected to reticulated water or a container of at least 10 litres of water is present
- it does not contain charcoal, scoria, wood, heat beads or any other solid material.

Failure to comply with fire restrictions can result in penalties of up to 2 years jail or \$10,000. fine or both.

TURNOUTS

Since the last Village Bell the Fire Brigade has responded to 16 incidents:

Tree fires in Quamby Rd., Yackatooon Rd.

Supported Emerald Fire Brigade to a smoke sighting in Brentwood Close

On two occasions put out burnoffs in High St. prior to Total Fire Ban Days.

Investigated a fused fluorescent light in Salisbury Rd.

Supported Toomuc Fire Brigade to a scrub fire in Bathe Rd.

A false alarm at the Telecom Exchange

Contributed tanker and crew to a strike team which responded to grass fires in Cardinia and Lyndhurst.

Stood by at Doveton Fire Station in case we were needed at the South Eastern Arterial fire.

Smoke sighting in Brennan Ave. Motor vehicle accident on Bfld-E. Rd. Dewhurst

Put out a wind row in McBride Rd. prior to fire restrictions coming in.

Illegal rubbish fires in Knapton Ave., Burton Rd., Manestar Rd., & St. Georges Rd.

A busy start to what threatens to be the most serious bushfire season since 1982/83.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING AT PAKENHAM SHIRE

Cr. (ex) Peter Meeking

COMMUNITY GRANTS

Council was able to finalise its community grants for the current year. Within the Beacon Hill Riding, grants of \$96,500. were sought, for an available amount of \$49,500. Within Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds the following applications were successful:

Upper Beaconsfield Assn.	
Printer	\$7,100.
Village Bell	\$ 400.
U.B. Community Centre	
Youth Service	\$ 970.
Equipment	\$ 340.
Operation Grant	\$2,300.
U.B. Kindergarten	
Photo Copier & Storage	\$2,698.
U.B. Community & Grnds Comm. (Hall Committee)	
Mainten. & Development	\$2,850.
U.B. Tennis Club	
Club room extensions	\$5,000.
U.B. Fire Brigade	
Mainten. & New Equipment	\$ 500.
U.B. Recreation Reserve Maintenance	\$5,000.
Sutherland Rd. Reserve Comm	\$ 500.
U.B. Care Group	\$ 830.

END OF AN ERA

With the determination by the State Government to eliminate all democratically elected Councillors, my service to the people of the Beaconhills Riding and to the Shire of Pakenham has been curtailed.

In lieu of elected representatives, the community will now be represented by three Government appointed Commissioners and an Acting Chief Executive Officer. Your enquiries, difficulties and complaints will of course need to be dealt with by these nominated representatives.

In concluding my 17 years, I wish to sincerely thank my Shire Council colleagues, particularly Riding Councillors Ted Owen and Keith Ewenson. Thank you to the staff of the Shire of Pakenham who are truly a great team, and

than you especially to the community who have supported and assisted me throughout this time.

The one aspect of the Shire of Pakenham which was by far the most valuable and the most critical was the role of the volunteer. I can only hope that the Commissioners quickly become aware of this area of community life within the new Shire of Caidinia, and that they continue to recognise and support this very special group.

PAST PUBLIC PERCEPTION, POSSIBILITIES, PRESENT POSITION

Keith Ewenson

In all the new areas that were incorporated into the new municipality of Cardinia it is interesting to note there was a desire by the residents for this to happen. It was their preferred option and they achieved its implementation. The overwhelming support of the residents of the municipality and the dedicated staff within the Shire was of tremendous assistance. The single minded approach of my council colleagues on restructuring matters helped focus our ideas into a workable plan. I am indebted to the team-work of all the council but in particular to Ted Owen and Peter Meeking.

POSSIBILITIES:

The municipality has immense potential with the diversity of the terrain We have fertile fields, picturesque hills, progress commercial centres, and areas zoned for residential development, not to mention the immense tourist potential. The future of Cardinia is great.

PRESENT POSITION:

The Council has been dismissed after 19 years and I no longer represent you with my other riding colleagues. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to help shape the municipality. It has been an interesting and challenging lime. The Commissioners are trying to use the Councillors for representation but to this point no satisfactory basis has been established. Administration by Commissioners means the possibility of diminished monitoring by the community which should be addressed.

THE SHIRE OF PAKENHAM & UPPER BEACONSFIELD

Phil Roche

My own personal experience over the past twenty years has been that the Shire of Pakenham has been a generally helpful, friendly, and efficient organisation with constant communication with fellow residents through our local Councillors, Keith Ewenson, Peter Meeking and Ted Owen. The Councillors were replaced just before Christmas with Commissioners. At a meeting on 9th January, the Village Bell Editors considered that it was now appropriate to acknowledge the long years of service of our present three Councillors.

I was unable to interview Ted Owen, but the Pakenham Gazette of 11th January carried a long letter from Ted covering the subject. It's worth reading.

The Councillors of Beacon Hills Riding were publicly elected with those of the other three Ridings, and formed the Council of the Shire. Each year one of the members was elected President for one year. The position of President carried with it a heavy work load.

As well as keeping up with all the paperwork and information required of all the Councillors, the Shire President was required to lead the Council and represent the Shire to other Local Government Bodies, State and Federal Government organisations, overseas visitors and members of the public. This could mean attending four or five evening functions every week. Ordinary councillors would attend about two evening functions each week. Keith, Peter and Ted each served two terms as President

All the Councillors belonged to four sub-committees of the Shire which met before the official Council Meeting every third week. The meetings would commence at 2 pm and continue until business was completed, often late in the evening. Each Councillor also served on more than a dozen Committees of Management of community organisations dealing with recreation, health, environmental management, employment

etc. As well the Councillors felt it essential to attend the meetings of the UBA and the Officer and Beaconsfield Progress Associations, and the associations were extremely grateful for their input. All these activities kept the Councillors in close touch with all aspects of the communities and their aspirations.

Due to the years of good relationships between the Shire, the Councillors and the public, most of the personal representations by ratepayers to Keith, Peter and Ted were logical and rational. If they couldn't provide assistance personally they were able to refer the matter to the right person or organisation. From our side it was good to have someone to go to who would listen to us and advise what could be done to help.

Highlights of Keith Ewenson's nineteen years as Councillor included a leading role (as Shire President) in the negotiations with the State Government on restructuring which led to a good result for the Shire and the new areas; being Shire President in 1985/86, and helping to move Shire administration into the community in Upper Beaconsfield for some weeks after the Ash Wednesday fires.

Highlights of Peter Meeking's seventeen years as Councillor included the co-ordination of Shire and local organisations and individuals into helping Upper Beaconsfield re-establish itself after the Ash Wednesday fires (a very emotional experience), negotiations with the Education and Conservation and Environment Departments which led to the transformation of the tip at the old Recreation Reserve in Upper Beaconsfield into the present excellent facility; working as Shire President for the procurement of the land for the new Shire Offices, and working with the team which obtained 50 acres from the Ministry for Health for use as a Regional Recreation Centre in Pakenham.

Both Keith and Peter worked full time in Upper Beaconsfield for some weeks after the fires.

Ted Owen served as Councillor for more than twenty years. In his article in the Gazette Ted

continued....

Shire of Pakenham & U.B. continued

indicated that he was proud to have served in such a successful organisation as the Shire of Pakenham and to have had the privilege of working with Keith and Peter, and with the staff of the Shire. He was obviously delighted to work with the representatives of the dozens of organisations he came into contact with, and the public generally.

The residents of Upper Beaconsfield should know that for the last few years the payment to the Councillors for all the above demanding tasks (and others) was \$3,000. per year plus expenses (no, I didn't leave a nought off). Before that there was no payment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU ON A JOB VERY WELL DONE.



GENERAL STORE ROBBERY FRUSTRATED

Ray Ratcliff

The sound of shattering glass at the U.B. General Store in fee early hours of fee morning alerted a neighbour feat a break-in was in progress.

The neighbour, seeing a young person exiting through a shattered front door glass panel phoned fee police and fee proprietor Laurie.

The intruder/s then apparently departed fee scene via the back-yards of several St. Georges Road properties as barking dogs alerted residents to his/their progress. The later arrival of police wife dogs further aroused fee local dogs and their owners.

A person was apparently seen by several residents before escaping via Paul Grove in a white ute stolen from a household there. The utility has been recovered from police paddocks

in theDandenong area, damage seemed to be restricted to a broken driver's window.

Only a small amount of money was stolen from fee Store and damage to the shop door was made good by 5.30 am enabling Laurie to return home to prepare for a long day at fee office!



PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO SALISBURY HOUSE

Charles Wilson

Salisbury House Nursing Home has obtained Council permission to add an additional five rooms to the building. This will result in improved comfort and privacy for fee residents, as no room will then have more than one, or at the most, two occupants.

It will also increase the total capacity of the Home to forty-five patients, which will improve its commercial viability.

A further application is before Council requesting permission to build an additional living room which should permit more flexibility in living area use.



It's not what is in the apple that matters -It's the effect on the medical profession.



Take photographs or a video of major items and jewellery as an independent record of your belongings. Keep the photos or video in a safe place with the detailed list of your contents and your insurance policy.

BEACONHILLS COUNTRY GOLF CLUB

Barbara Jackson

Players at Beaconhills are enjoying the benefits of the new watering system installed on the Hills course during 1994. Both courses now have fully automated watering systems and are providing excellent summer playing conditions. Extra drinking water points have also been added to both courses.

Members comps have continued over summer and Mark Auhl is to be congratulated for scoring 64 off the stick on the Lakes (Par 69) course during a recent comp. Juniors and sub juniors have participated in clinics and comps over the holiday period.

Club professional Mark Griffin's nephew, Julian Simeth aged 15, won a recent Thursday comp with the excellent score of 44 stableford points and reduced his handicap from 21 to 17 in one week.

Lady members play 13 hole Wednesday comps over summer and special thanks go to Jan Fox for organising these while the committee takes a well deserved summer break.

The Beaconhills Pro Am will be held during March. Contact Mark Griffin at the Pro Shop (443 630) for further information.

Congratulations to local residents Leigh Jeffs and Peter Ash who have been appointed to the Board of Directors at Beaconhills for 1995. Peter has taken on the role of Treasurer from Graeme Taylor who worked tirelessly in this position for the past five years.

Peter Gray and Laurie Fenton have also decided to take a break from Board duties and to all three, members thank them for their service over the years.

RED CROSS CALLING - MARCH 1995

Barbara Jackson

After fifteen years as the 'Red Cross Calling' appeal organiser for the Upper Beaconsfield area, Mrs Peg Bellair has decided to take a well deserved retirement from her role of area organiser. Peg will continue as a caller, a job she has done for 18 years.

Peg's early records were lost in the Ash Wednesday fire. The current book, dating from the 1984 appeal, shows that the residents of U.B. have most generously donated a total of \$42,181. to Red Cross in the past eleven years. In 1994 thirty-four U.B. 'Friends of Red Cross' donated their time to participate in collecting \$4,557.90. A Sincere thank-you to both callers and residents for this great effort.

As the new area organiser I thank Peg for her dedicated service to Red Cross over many years. During February I will be contacting all Peg's regular callers and issuing the collection kits. Each year some new callers are needed and I would be grateful to hear from anyone interested in joining the dedicated U.B. team. Collection in our area can be done at anytime during March. Please phone 443 554.

NEW RESIDENTS

Emerald Rd.	Mick & Sandra Elliott
Fraser Ave	Mary Leah, Brian & Daphne Canadi
Salisbury Rd.	Tom & Delwyn Gibson & family
St Georges Rd.	Jayne & Jim Hargreaves
Stoney Creek Rd.	David & Karen Corncy Adam Worthy

U.B.ASSOCIATION INC. NEWS

Colleen Lazenby

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING The AGM of the Association will be held before the regular general meeting on February 1, 1995, 8 pm at the U.B. Community Hall. The Executive and Committee members for 1995 will be elected at that time. Nominations can be made for any of these positions up until the time of the meeting. Nomination forms are available at the Post Office in U.B. Each nomination must be signed by two UBA members in good standing. Any questions about the nomination procedure or the function of the committee and expressions of interest should be directed to Graham Jackson 443 554 or Colleen Lazenby (03) 796 2226.

The annual membership fee of \$5. per household is also due at the AGM. We urge all community members to consider the positive role played by the UBA in U.B./Guys Hill/Dewhurst, particularly in the production of this newspaper. We want to remind residents to pay the \$5. membership fee as a community contribution.

SIGN AT CHARING CROSS

The Shire agreed to erect a sign at the park in the centre of town indicating the name 'Charing Cross'. This will solve a variety of problems for many new residents and visitors who are told to "turn left/right at Charing Cross..." by locals.

FOOTPATH, EMERALD/B'FIELD ROAD

The long standing issue of surfacing the footpath from the shops to connect with the existing path at Stoney Creek Road has been resolved. The Shire will be using a patterned concrete for the surface, at a cost of about \$20,000.

COMMUNITY GRANT - VILLAGE BELL

As parent organisation of the Village Bell the UBA recently received a community grant from Pakenham Shire (now Cardinia Shire) to cover the majority cost for the purchase of a Risograph digital printer, enabling better production of the newspaper. See a longer article by Charles Wilson in this issue.

As we celebrate the acquisition of this fancy new

technology, the UBA also wishes to acknowledge the important role played by George and Judy Moir in the production of many past issues of the Village Bell. We thank them both for long and dedicated community service, and for years of effort using temperamental and outdated printing equipment.

SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Ms. Lisa Scott from Monash Medical Centre will talk to the general meeting about the Breast Cancer Screening Program at the Centre. Community members are invited to come and learn about this important diagnostic procedure, and to find out how to arrange for the testing themselves.



BERWICK/U.B. RED CROSS UNIT

M. Womersley, Publicity Officer, 7071103

RED CROSS CALLING - Planning is under way for the biggest money raiser throughout the State. For the first time Red Cross Calling has gone national with all divisions agreeing on common dates. They will be 18-26 March. However, in U.B. and other country areas arrangements to extend the collection time will be made. Additional volunteers willing to spend two hours 'door knocking' will be welcome in all areas.

MAJOR RAFFLE- Tickets are now available. These will be sold in Berwick on 10-24 February and probably at a later date in U.B.A \$2. ticket gives an opportunity to win an A.V. Jennings house and land package to the value of \$150,000.

RED CROSS TRENDSETTERS- BERWICK- This is a new group (age 25-40) who, although not wishing to attend meetings would plan one function a year, sell tickets in the major raffle and assist with Red Cross Calling. A leader has been found and she requires support. Would interested persons in this young' age group please contact Tess on (03) 796 2102. At present there is an enormous problem in getting young people to assist Red Cross. ANY HELPERS?

ROTARY CLUB OF U.B.

Lindsay Byrne

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

The Australian Mint has agreed to accept 1 & 2 cent coins at face value through a fund raising scheme to be run by Rotary early next year.

The Rotary Club of U.B. ask that you donate any of these coins you may still have to help us next year in supporting two nationally important projects.

1. RESTORATION OF MELBOURNE'S SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE

You will all have heard that the Shrine is in urgent need of repairs. Rotary has decided to help raise the funds necessary to carry out these repairs, and ensure the future of Australia's finest memorial.

2. SUPPORT FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH RESEARCH FOUNDATION

This non-profit organisation is entirely funded by Australians, through Rotary, and is one of the largest research foundations in Australia, concentrating specifically on health & medical problems suffered by Australians. A past research of note was the successful study into some facets of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (cot deaths). Currently research is being made into the causes of youth suicide in an attempt to reduce these tragedies.

So now that you have a way to use those old 1 & 2 cent coins in a constructive way, please put them in a bag or container & leave them at either the General Store or Post Office any time from now. Or contact any local Rotarian. If you want a receipt, include your name and address, and well forward one to you. Remember — these coins have no commercial value!

Thanks, in anticipation of your support.

Contact: Geoff Davidson 443 841

Lindsay Byrne 443 700

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Helen Smith

A large crowd of families & friends, estimated at around 500, enjoyed the Carols on Christmas Eve at the new venue; the part behind the U.B. community complex in Salisbury Road.

The setting was quite spectacular with the wide, open, night sky, the large grassy bank for comfortable seating, the coloured lights strung out along the back of the Complex and the lovely effect achieved by spotlighting three of the large gumtrees.

Some minor problems were experienced with the new location but the organising committee will be able to address these so that the next Carols will be even better, and longer.

The community appreciates the efforts of the Carols committee in arranging this enjoyable event for us each year. In particular many thanks go to Rat Ratcliff & Judy Skinner who had coordinated the Carols in previous years. Thank-you to Barbara Hassell & Haydn Robins who took over the reins in 1994. Barbara and Haydn would like to acknowledge the following people and community groups who contributed in many and varied ways to the success of the evening:

Rev. Tom Stokes	U.B. C.F.A.
Margaret Allen	Barry Medwin
Lawrence Allen	Royce Thomson
St. John's Choral Group	Malcolm Graham
Jade Maddocks	Peter Deering
Nicole Kemp	Ray Ratcliff
Charles Wilson	Gordon Aitkin
Graham Jackson	P.F.A. Primary School
Eric Bumpstead	UBCC Buildings & Grounds Committee



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH says: Engravers on and eyes open is the message to defeat that burglar.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We asked the original Village Bell editors for their comments at the start of our next 100 issues. Here is the first of these letters from:

Graeme Kidd

A review of the first one hundred issues of the Village Bell shows the diversity of the articles and issued covered, and of course, the sheer number of contributors. This is an amazing achievement. As an original editor I am very gratified, but not particularly surprised given the nature of this township.

One of the more important contributions of the Village Bell has been as a focus for this community to develop a strong sense of identity. It is in this area that the Bell will continue to be most valuable in the future.

Local government is currently undergoing a major overhaul. The representational system with which we became comfortable (and more than a little complacent) has been thrown out the window. Non-elected commissioners have replaced councillors as an interim step towards another form of elected council. This community needs to be clear about how it wants to fit into the new arrangement, and to work closely with the Commissioners to establish a participative process for the development of relevant policy.

In 1978 the Village Bell was born out of a major rethinking about the role and purpose of the Upper Beaconsfield Association. What I have said above prompts me to suggest that we should be carrying out, as a matter of urgency, a serious reappraisal of the Association and how it should best meet the future needs of this community.

VILLAGE BELL CREDITS

Editor: Jeanette Ballinger
Masthead: Howard Doggett
Word Processing: Jeanette & Ken Ballinger
Next Editor: Sue Pitman & Caroline Floyd
Copy deadline next issue: March 1

CALENDAR

Jan. 26 Australia Day Celebrations,
Pakenham, Parade starts 10.45 am.
Feb. 1 UBA Annual General Meeting 8 pm
Community Hall Guest Speaker on
Monash Breast Screening Program
5 Adult Horse Riders program, for
details see page 8.
10-19 Community Week in Upper Beac
Plan your Street Party now.
March 5 Clean Up Australia Day
March Red Cross Calling

MINI EDITORIAL

Jeanette Ballinger

On proofreading this issue I realise just how much of the content is on local government. It is not every day the State Government takes away our elected representatives. Monumental changes are possible/probable in the next 12 months. It is time for each of us to be as informed as possible on what is happening in our local government and to know what our local issues are. This issue of the Bell has tried to give you that information.

Three of us attended the Council Meeting on 17.1.95 and met the Chief Commissioner and Acting Chief Executive Officer. They showed a good understanding of our area. They obviously wish to inform us and to be informed by us. There is the basis of a good working relationship there if we grasp the opportunity.

If you feel you should know more, come to the UBA meetings, especially April 5 when you can hear a Commissioner speak to us.

VILLAGE BELL CREDITS

Printing: New Risograph team
Collating: Walford & Yackatoon Rd.
Neighbours & Friends
Receiving copy: Julie & Ray Allsop, P.O.
Advertising: Phil Rocke, Laura Levens,
Penny Truscott.

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Special prices Monday to Thursday
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44 3423

LOST AND FOUND:

LOST - One large bunch of keys with a GIO tag, in the vicinity of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex.

FOUND - One pale blue baby blanket after the Carols at the U.B. Community Complex.

If you can assist with either of these two items please phone 443 219

Items currently favoured by burglars: VCR's, microwaves, power tools and especially Ride-on-mowers, preferably NOT ENGRAVED.

LOST - A string of pearls of great sentimental value - on Friday 13th January - outside the Chemist shop

If found please telephone 443 824

LOST - a TOTAL of \$38,000. stolen from the community in the three months ending September, 1994. NONE OF IT WAS ENGRAVED. A larger amount is expected to have been stolen in the three months to December.

Put your driver's license number on your property and use the prefix V for Victoria.