

TO ALL RESIDENTS

POSTAGE PAID UPPER BEACONSFIELD



THE VILLAGE BELL



Issued by the Upper Beaconsfield Association Inc.

ISSUE NO. 105

AUGUST 1995

**BIMONTHLY MEETING
UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION
Wednesday August 2, 1995 8 pm - ALL WELCOME
at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex (Hall)**

GUEST SPEAKERS

**John McCaffrey - Cardinia Shire Corporate Manager for Planning
Doug Axnick - Cardinia Shire Manager - Design**

"Proposed Reconstruction of Salisbury Road"

Salisbury Road has been given high priority in the 1995/96 Budget. Local residents concerned about this important thoroughfare should take this opportunity for input to the team responsible for the design changes that will take place.



The Upper Beaconsfield Assoc. has Reserved the Function Room at the Pine Grove Hotel for an Evening to Honour

Ray and Elva Ratcliff

Friday August 18, 1995

Commences 7:00 pm

Speeches 9:00 pm

(Buy Your Own Meal/Drinks)

(Submissions Encouraged!)

ALL WELCOME

COMMUNITY SALUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB

Graham Jackson
UBA President

In looking at the many groups and organisations in the Upper Beaconsfield area I am struck by a specific group of people who recognise that there is a need to help those who in turn help others. I refer to the members of the Rotary Club of Upper Beaconsfield. They see one of their roles as being the support and backstop for other community groups.

Repeatedly I hear people involved in a worthwhile community project say " I wonder if we could get some support from Rotary?" So often behind community achievements I detect the helping hand of this small band of Rotarians. It is not always visible or advertised, but it is there. So, just for a few moments, let's turn the spotlight on to our local Rotary Club and say -

" Thank you for all you have done for the Upper Beaconsfield area. You have contributed so much to this community and your efforts are both recognised and appreciated. Long may our village enjoy your help and support. "

VILLAGE BELL EDITORIAL

Ray Ratcliff

The Editors of the Village Bell are grateful for the flow of letters and articles from community groups contributed by many of you out there. They make the newsletter the valuable paper which it is.

In the course of ensuring that the paper is interesting to readers, and is presented in the most professional fashion possible, Editors often have to prune or rewrite some letters and group articles. We would like you to consider the following hints when preparing articles for publication:

What is the **purpose** of the article and who is the **target audience**?

Does the reading of less pertinent material tire the readers **before** they get to the **important points**?

Do your articles look to **future events** that may be of greater interest rather than describing past happenings?

Is the copy fresh or a rerun of news **already circulated** through other channels?

Is the text **uncomplicated and concise**?

Keep up the good work and continue to help us make The Village Bells well written and eagerly read local newspaper!

NEW EDITORIAL STAFF NEEDED

Colleen Lazenby

The Village Bell Editorial Staff is anxious to recruit one or two new members to help with the publication of the paper. Current members are Jeanette Ballinger, Carolyn Floyd, Ysabelle Hobson, Susan Pitman, Ray Ratcliff, Phil Rocke, Helen Smith, Charles Wilson and myself.

As noted in the article above, one of our tasks is to review and edit reports submitted for publication from Community members. In addition we write some articles ourselves, and solicit material from other people and organisations. Each volume of the paper is the responsibility of one of the Editors who assigns tasks to other Editors and oversees production of the final copy. Thus no one Volume Editor works alone and each issue of the newspaper is a group effort. Our meetings are held bimonthly, enabling us to publish the paper six times a year.

While we would welcome any one interested in joining our group, the Editors are particularly keen for one or two parents of school age children, from the either the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School or local secondary schools, to bring their expertise and perspectives on community life into our ranks. Interested individuals should contact any of the current Editors, UBA President Graham Jackson, or leave a letter addressed to Village Bell Editors at the Upper Beaconsfield Post Office. We look forward to hearing from you!

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Phil Rocke

One of the duties assigned to a member of the Committee of the UBA is the task of reading through the minutes of Shire Council meetings and reporting any items of interest to the Committee. At the present time Chris Cowley is responsible for this task.

There have been a number of changes to operations since the Commissioners took control, the main change being that the public now has no direct voice to the Council as we had through elected members. In lieu of the input and personal submissions from elected members, a higher level of investigation and research is required from Council employees culminating in firm recommendations to Council Managers, the CEO and Commissioners.

The Council meetings, which used to take up several hours for debate and decision, are now often over in less than half an hour. Members of your UBA Committee attend the meetings and spend some time afterward in discussing matters of interest with Commissioners and Staff of the Council.

The following are Chris Cowley's comments on the minutes of the March meeting of the Cardinia Shire Council:

- * The early days with our new Commissioners suggest that a group of professionals is now running the Shire.
- * A cost cutting exercise is underway while still attempting to maintain or improve services. Examples can be seen in the changes to the Mobile

Library Services.

* The Commissioners are studying our waterways and creeks in a total catchment management plan, together with waste and sewerage disposal.

* Lot subdivisions are carefully studied by Council and are generally prohibited despite appeals to higher authority.

During the period when our area has no elected representative(s) on Council, The Village Bell will continue to report the UBA summary of Council minutes. And we encourage those with a spare half hour to attend the monthly meetings of Council on the third Tuesday of each month commencing at 5:00 pm. Meeting dates for the remainder of 1995 are August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21 and December 19. A Question Time is provided at each meeting

❖❖❖ New Numbers for Cardinia Shire ❖❖❖

PH: (059) 454 222

FAX: (059) 413 784

UPPER BEACONSFIELD FIRE BRIGADE

Jon Boura

The latest statistics show that 46% of Melbourne's house fires begin in the kitchen. The vast majority of these are caused by saucepans boiling dry and igniting, or by the classic boil over of cooking oil. These figures show that even the most mundane of activities can lead to problems if you don't take care.

Most people know that the best protection from house fires for their family is a smoke alarm. However, many people who have installed an alarm have failed to maintain it correctly. How many know that you should vacuum your smoke alarm periodically to remove the build up of dust which will, over time, decrease its sensitivity to smoke? It is also important to test the alarm regularly by burning a small piece of paper beneath it or by pushing the test button. It is vital that everyone in your family is familiar with the alarm sound and knows what to do if it goes off.

It is also prudent to change the batteries a couple of times a year to ensure that the alarm will always sound at full volume. A simple rule is "Change your clock, change your smoke alarm batteries". A smoke alarm won't prevent the occurrence of a fire, but it will give your family precious extra minutes to exit the house and call the Fire Brigade.

Since the push to install smoke alarms began, the CFA and MFB have documented many fires in which a smoke alarm saved lives, and tragically, where the lack of a smoke alarm contributed to deaths. Installation and maintenance of smoke alarms in your home is the easiest, cheapest and most effective measure you can take to keep your family safe.

UBRFB Turnouts: Since the last Village Bell the Brigade has responded to a rubbish fire in O'Neill Road, motor vehicle accidents on Salisbury Road and on the

Beaconsfield-Emerald Road near Sugarloaf Road, a car fire on Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, just south of the village, and has supported Beaconsfield Brigade to a motor bike fire on Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, near Holm Park Road.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD FIRE BRIGADE AUXILIARY

Colleen Lazenby

At the recent Annual General Meeting of the Fire Brigade Auxiliary the following officers were elected: President - Dot Pocket, Vice-President - Lorraine Knight, Treasurer - Jan Morrison, Secretary and Publicity Officer - Colleen Lazenby, Catering Officer - Pat Edwards, Communications Officer - Nancy Boura. Many thanks are due to a retiring Joan Green for long and dedicated service to the Auxiliary as Secretary. The Auxiliary is calling for **new members** who wish to make a contribution of time to the Brigade but who for various reasons cannot join the firefighting side of the organisation.

If you are planning a Spring clean out of cupboards and storage areas, if you've decided to redecorate and have household items to give away, or if your toddlers are all toilet trained (praise be!) and you want to dispose of old nappies and baby clothes, please remember the Fire Brigade. The Auxiliary raises funds by processing old clothes and nappies for sale as rags, and the Brigade is starting to build up stock for its next Auction. We also need donation of items for a Dutch Auction to be held in the near future. It is likely that the Godiva water pump will need to be replaced soon and the push is on to raise money for that eventuality. Please contact any Brigade or Auxiliary member about donation of items. As always, we appreciate the generous community support that the Brigade receives.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Joy Rose

The Centre breathed a sigh of relief as the term holidays approached, giving everyone a much needed break after an extremely busy Term 2. Attendance numbers to the end of June had passed the total attendance at the Centre for 1994! Everyone is expecting the next six months to be even busier than the last.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of a new Neighbourhood House Coordinator, **Sue Bailey**. We welcome Sue and wish her well in her new position.

There has been much fundraising activity through the Centre by the various user groups. A very successful luncheon event at Clover Cottage was the highlight of last term. A special thank you to all those hardworking members of the fundraising subcommittees whose names are too numerous to mention.

The next special event is our **Fashion Extravagance on Friday 1st September** at the Beaconhills Country Golf Club. Everyone is welcome to come along and make this evening a huge success. Money raised during this event will be used to refurbish the Creche at the Centre. The Creche is also in desperate need of two deep sturdy cots and children's wet weather clothing. Donations would be gratefully accepted.

Enrolment Week for Term 3 courses is from July 17 to 21 at the Centre. The variety of courses offered is quite extensive, with some exciting new courses available:

For those who love to sew: Piccaninny Girls/Embroidery (3 weeks); No Sew Applique, (August 21); Make a Pig Family [doorstops] (3 weeks); Pin Cushion Making (3 weeks); Tassel Making (3 weeks); Canvas Work (3 weeks); Fairy Costume Making (2 weeks, as part of Fairy Fantasy Course); and Making Your Own Lingerie (3 weeks).

ACFE Funded Courses being run at the Centre: VCE Unit 1 Management Skills; Certificate in Workplace Leadership and Advanced Certificate in Management Skills; VCE Accounting Units 1 & 2; Introduction to Hospitality; and Study Skills for Women Wanting to Return to the Workforce. These courses are offered free of charge.

New Courses: Farm Gate Signs (4 weeks); Basic Hair Cutting (August 8); Wills and Power of Attorney (August 22); Fairy Fantasy (combination of 2 weeks sewing, 3 weeks ceramics, & 1 week stamping and card making); Terracotta Pottery (8 weeks); Leadlighting (7 weeks); Shiatsu (August 4).

In addition to the above: Psychology is being offered (contact the Centre for further details); Paul Whitfield is offering "Parenting of Teenagers" for the cost of tea and coffee; the popular Power Kids will meet Wednesday afternoons after school for grades 4, 5 and 6; and Line Dancing has taken off in a big way and will commence again on July 27.

For further information about any of the courses, or to enrol, please contact the Centre on (059) 443 484.

FASHION EXTRAVAGANZA!

Date: Friday, 1st September, 1995
Venue: Beaconhills Country Golf Club
Time: 7.30 p.m.
Cost: \$15.00 per head

Organise a table of friends and dress up to escape for a night of fashion extravagance!

Your \$15 includes a glass of champagne on arrival and light supper during the night.

You are assured of a fun night with lots of prizes and a bit of frivolity!

Book early to avoid disappointment!

For tickets/enquiries contact:
Community Centre on 443 484 or Joy Rose on 443 289

HEY - ALL YOU PARTY PEOPLE!

If you are looking for somewhere for a party, celebration, 21st or club function then look no further. The solution is The Community Hall where for a reasonable rate you have the use of all facilities and an attractive, comfortable venue with an updated kitchen.

You are welcome to check out the facilities any time. Crockery and cutlery are also available for hire.

Enquiries & bookings (059) 443 219

EDITORS' MAILBAG

Notices of Community Interest received in the Editors' Mailbag for this issue of *The Village Bell* include:

❖ News from the **Mountain District Community Health Centre** that they will be offering a five week program to educate women about a new approach to long term weight control. Called Body Image and Eating Awareness, the program begins August 1 at the Pakenham Neighbourhood House. The Centre has also started a Family Planning Clinic at the corner of Main and John Streets in Pakenham, open on Thursdays from 2 -5 pm. For inquiries about the range of services offered by the Clinic or about the Body Image and Eating Awareness Program, contact Brigitte on (059) 401 866.

❖ A Newsletter from the **Yakkerboo Festival Committee** which included a call for donations to help with the repair of "Mr Yakkerboo" the festival figure badly damaged by vandals this year! The Committee also announced the formation of a Friends of Yakkerboo group and they are seeking individuals with a few hours of time who are willing to help with the running of specific Yakkerboo events at both the Festival and the Cardinia Shire Art Show. They are also calling for ideas for a Festival theme for 1995. Anyone interested in involvement or with ideas should call President Glenn Madden (059) 413 914 or Secretary Graham Treloar on (059) 411 682

NEW COMMITTEE FOR CRICKET CLUB

The Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club held its Annual General Meeting on Monday May 22 and a new look Committee was elected. Rob Hansen was re-appointed President while Richard Williams was elected Secretary. Richard Edwards retained the position of Vice President and Chairman of Selectors, John Brierly is Treasurer while the remainder of the Committee includes John Kett, Paul Unwin, Rob Irving, John McConchie and Peter Bull.

Richard Edwards was re-appointed Club Coach at a subsequent Committee meeting as the group reaffirmed the direction that the Club embarked on last season, employing the State's top coaches to attend training. Every effort will be made to expand upon this system.

The AGM decided to enter three Senior teams as well as three Junior teams - U. 16, U.14 and U. 12. The Junior teams will be coordinated by Peter Bull who so capably coached the U.12's last season. At this stage we are looking for a person to coach the U.12 team.

One highlight of the AGM was the honouring of Don Begg with a Life Membership. Don served the Club with distinction during the 1940' and 50's, as well as being one of its top all round cricketers over a period of almost 20 years. The Club has now agreed

upon criteria for future Life Memberships and this will ensure consistent consideration Of this important aspect of the Club's traditions.

History Progressing: Club President Rob Hansen has been researching the history of the Club in an endeavour to produce a book. Quite a few interviews have been held with identities of the Club's past including: Don Begg, Alan Hamilton, Keith Ferguson, Ted Owen, Bill Knapton, the late George Nixon Holmes, Lou Russell and Mrs Gladys Preston. Hopefully the work may be finished later in the year to coincide with planned celebrations to mark over 100 years of the cricket club's history. If you think you may have information which could assist this process please ring Rob on (059) 443 871.

Wanted - New Players!: The Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club is seeking players for the coming season in both the Senior and Junior groups. If you are interested please do not hesitate to ring Rob Hansen (059) 443 871 or Richard Williams (059) 444 075.

NEW RESIDENTS

Carpenter Road	Ellen and Tony Porritt
Halford Road	Adrian and Clair Street and Family
Lenne Street	Christine and Colin Charlesworth
Stoney Creek Road	Jennie and Ian Norman; David and Trudi Paton



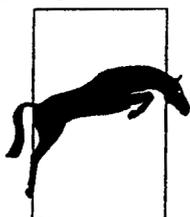
<p>DIARY DATES</p> <p>Aug 2 UBA Meeting</p> <p>Aug 5 Fire Brigade & Aux Spitroast [members & guests only]</p> <p>Aug 12 RSL & Rotary Country Dance</p> <p>Aug 18 Community Supper for Ray & Elva Ratcliff</p> <p>Sept 1 UB Community Centre Fashion Extravaganza</p>	<p>VILLAGE BELL CREDITS</p> <p>EDITOR Colleen Lazenby</p> <p>MASTHEAD Helen Smith</p> <p>LAYOUT & WORD</p> <p>PROCESSING Colleen Lazenby</p> <p>ADVERTISING Phil Rocke, Laura Levens, Penny Truscott</p> <p>PRINTING The Risographics</p> <p>COLLATING UB Scouts & Cubs</p> <p>NEXT EDITOR Ray Ratcliff</p> <p>COPY DEADLINE 8 Sept 1995</p> <p>RECEIVING COPY Ray & Julie Allsop UB Post Office</p>
<p>MASTHEAD NOTE:</p> <p><i>The wattle depicted on the masthead is Acacia dealbata commonly known as Silver Wattle. The name derives from the silvery foliage. The bark is grey, often mottled white, and the plant varies in size from a tall shrub to quite a large tree.</i></p>	

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ISSUE NO 105 EDITOR - COLLEEN LAZENBY (03) 796-2226**

WHAT'S NOT HAPPENING AT THE VEC?

Ysabelle Hobson

VICTORIAN EQUESTRIAN CENTRE INDOOR ARENA



The Victorian Equestrian Centre has for years been a landmark for horsey and non-horsey locals alike. And everyone has heard of its owners, professional equestrians David and Michelle Strapp. When it comes to equestrian events, every local horse enthusiast knows its happening at the VEC. What most of us may not realise is just how much is happening - or the extent to which the business has expanded in recent years.

David and Michelle took over the VEC in 1986. They both continued to ride professionally, in between teaching, hosting major equestrian events, training horses and running a successful agistment business. Somehow they also managed to find time to start a family - Amy is now seven and Zoe is two. As if the Strapps weren't busy enough, they decided to offer holiday camps, 10 of which they run annually, taking 24 kids at a time from the ages of 8 to 16. There are also Equestrian Clubs on Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays, and a two-day holiday program for pupils from St. Margaret's School in Berwick. Several other schools are participating in VEC activities, while yet other school are showing interest, and the Strapps are planning all sorts of exciting inter-scholastic competitions.

Children are encouraged to use their own horses and ponies for camps and clubs, but there are also about 24 carefully selected animals available at the VEC - no one needs to be short of a mount for all this exciting activity. The Strapps, having children of their own, understand only too well that kids need to have fun and all activities are organised with that in mind. The five-day holiday camps include not only riding instruction and theory, but non-horsey activities such as volleyball, basketball and tennis. In the evenings there is a cabaret show in which staff and students participate.

Sound good, all you parents with horse-crazy kids? Well, the best bit is that the VEC caters for horse-crazy adults as well. Individual instruction is available and there are also some excellent group activities such as Ladies' Morning on Wednesday and dressage and freshman competitions on Friday nights. The newest addition to the program is a Tuesday morning class with creche facilities. Classes begin on August 1 running from 9 am - 1 pm; instruction will include dressage and jumping, with mini-competitions as well. The cost is extremely reasonable with discounts to Riding Club members. The cost of the creche is just \$5. Older kids home from school can also be accommodated - the VEC has computer games to keep them occupied while the olds are riding.

You may wonder when David and Michelle manage to sleep, and the answer is not very often. Fortunately they do have the help of two very experienced instructors **Rebecca Stansfield** and **Merrick Sheldon**. Rebecca and Merrick are both English, each with their BHSII (equivalent of the Australian Level 2) certificate. Attaining this level of professionalism in the UK involves complex and rigorous training, so Rebecca and Merrick are well-equipped to deal with any challenge the VEC can hand them.

David and Michelle officially retired from competing earlier this year. But they say they still need something to give them an adrenalin rush, which is why they are continuing

to plan yet more exciting activities at the VEC. You can contact either of them at the VEC on (059) 443 751; FAX (059) 443 090.

BEACONHILLS COUNTRY GOLF CLUB

Barbara Jackson

Winter golf can be quite a problem for some clubs in our area, but fortunately at Beacons Hills with two courses and excellent course management, total closure is a very rare event. A special thank you to all the Grounds Staff for carrying out their winter tasks and maintenance so well, in less than ideal weather.

Both Lady Members and Men recently enjoyed a week away at Yarrawonga, playing on courses along the Murray River. A weekend of golf at Bairnsdale is currently being organised. The club encourages membership with different fee structures, and present members are particularly interested that more local residents take advantage of the great golfing facility we have right here in Upper Beaconsfield. Interested women can join the ladies for lunch on Wednesdays and find out more.

GUYS HILL MILK BAR CHANGES HANDS

Colleen Lazenby

Long time owners of the Guys Hill Milk Bar, Brian and Karen Southorn have sold the business and the freehold property. The delightful new owners are Lee-Anne and Bryan Denys of Brennan Avenue, Upper Beaconsfield.

The Southorns have been the proprietors of the newsagency/shop/petrol station and post office at Guys Hill for the last seven years. Karen ran the business for the first four and a half years and Brian took over for the last two and a half years. The Southorns feel they have reached a point where they both want to spend more time with their three children; they will eventually look for a new venture which consumes less full-on time than the milk bar. They have no plans to leave the home they built in Upper Beaconsfield, but they are looking forward to an extended holiday in Queensland over the next weeks. Brian expressed a deep appreciation for the friendship and patronage of local people over the years, and although he will miss the daily contact with his customers and friends, he won't miss the early mornings, late nights and long hours at the milk bar.

The Denys's moved here four years ago from South Oakleigh where they were the owners of a service station and panel beating shop. They have two young children, one of whom will soon start school in the area. Bryan is currently an independent motor vehicle assessor which still allows him plenty of time to spend in the shop with Lee-Anne. The Denys's have taken up the challenge of providing the myriad services at Guys Hill with a real enthusiasm. In fact they hope to extend those services, particularly in offering additional take away foods. But that will have to wait until they can get used to the busy pace of life at the milk bar. Lee-Anne and Bryan have been impressed with the friendliness of people in Upper Beaconsfield and surrounding areas and they are

looking forward to getting to know many more people during the their tenure at Guys Hill.

Congratulations to Lee-Anne and Bryan Denys; it is a pleasure to know that one of our village milk bars remains in local hands. And Best Wishes to Brian and Karen Southorn for a well-deserved rest and a prosperous and happy future.

JULIE NOW IN UPPER BEACONSFIELD

Helen Smith

The Upper Beaconsfield shops have been brightened up recently with the opening of a new hairdressing salon under the management of Julie Bristol, trading under the name of Julie's Hairshack.

Julie is no stranger to the area; her family comes from Berwick and she has lived in nearby Officer for the past two years. She has had considerable hairdressing experience, having worked for 12 years full time. Julie owned her own salon in Byron Bay, NSW for four years and spend three years managing a salon in Tyabb. She recently added to her qualifications, completing a technicians course specialising in hair colouring and perming at Schwartzkopf in Melbourne.

All family members, male and female are being catered for at Julie's Hairshack, while pensioners can benefit by taking advantage of discount prices. Julie also offers a free, no obligation consultation service.

The salon has been decorated in rustic Mediterranean theme, with palms in terracotta pots and a colour scheme with terracotta and teal accents. Julie has added a cosy feeling by providing Coonara heating and customers can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee by the fire while waiting. Just the thing for these cold winter days! Julie, with her bright and friendly manner, will make you feel very welcome. The phone number remains the same - (059) 444 173.

❖ ❖ Remember to support our local businesses ❖ ❖
and save time running down the hill !

FOR SALE: Aztec brand gas heater, wall-mounted type - \$300; Edson 9 litre (MP9V) hot/cold water dispenser, \$100; large (7' x 16') accordion pleated door, suitable to divide a wide room, beige - \$200. Call H: (03) 9796-2226; B: (03) 9866-8699.

ATTENTION UPPER BEACONSFIELD AREA HOMEOWNERS

Would you like to sell your home to a PRIVATE BUYER and save the agent's commission? I am a CASH buyer desperate to buy a quality home on small acreage in Upper Beaconsfield/ Guys Hill/ Dewhurst. Don't wait for summer to sell. I want a house now !
Ph: (03) 769-9068; Bus: (059)453 391 FAX: (059) 453 411





New Volunteers: A special welcome to those who have recently joined our Care Group as Volunteers - thank you for your generosity. We are sure you will be well rewarded with a sense of achievement in doing a worthwhile job in our community. New volunteers are always welcome as it means nobody is overworked.

Friendly Visiting: It is a sad fact of life in Upper Beaconsfield that the lack of public transport often means that as our older residents become less active, they need to move "down the hill" into Berwick or elsewhere.

We have a number of volunteers willing to undertake friendly visiting. If you still live in Upper Beaconsfield, Guys Hill or Dewhurst and would appreciate somebody dropping in for a chat or to read you a book, we would love to hear from you. We can help to brighten your week!

Coordinating Team: A special welcome to Sue Bailey, the new Neighbourhood House Coordinator, who has kindly joined our Coordinating Team of Glenda Matthews, Sharon Fisher and Des McKenna.

Residents can access our services by calling (059) 443 484 or After Hours (059) 443 516.

BERWICK/UPPER BEACONSFIELD RED CROSS

Marie Womersley

The Annual General Meeting of the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Unit of the Australian Red Cross Society, held in July each year, brings fresh hope that a number of new people will become members and actively assist Red Cross in the years to come. The Unit is still searching for more members from the Upper Beaconsfield area who are prepared to work in a volunteer capacity. The annual membership subscription fee is just \$2. This year at the AGM you would have had the pleasure of hearing well known local resident Dr. Charles Wilson give a most interesting talk.

Major Raffle: The House and Land Package, major prize in the recent Red Cross Raffle, went to a lucky resident of Port Arlington.

Anyone seeking information about volunteer work or Red Cross services, please ring (03) 9707-1103



BOUQUETS TO...



Sandy Letch, for a neighbourly effort above and beyond the call, and for championing the cause of an elderly horse on St. George's Road

VJ DAY VILLAGE COUNTRY DANCE

Eric Chaplin

The Upper Beaconsfield RSL and Rotary Club are organising a Village Country Dance for the 50th Anniversary of the Victory of the Allied Forces over the Japanese in the Second World War. You are invited to join them on Saturday August 12 in the Community Centre Hall at 8:00 pm to dance to the music of the popular group 'Amarillo'.

A light supper will be served, but please BYO drinks and glasses. Dress will be casual. A really friendly, fun evening is expected with lots of prizes to be won. Tickets at \$15 per head will be on sale from August 1 at all shops in the village and at the Post Office. Tickets will also be available at the door on the evening of the dance.

Members of the RSL and Rotary look forward to your company on Saturday, 12th August.

QUARRY IMPACT UPDATE

Graeme Kidd
(059) 443 400

Proposed changes in Government legislation related to extractive industries, including quarrying, could well have a bearing on the future of the Hillview site in Upper Beaconsfield.

Changes in Legislation: In June the Government introduced its new ***Extractive Industries Development Bill***, proposed legislation based on recommendations of the ENRC Report. This provides that an application to carry out extractive industry operations will now be reviewed through the planning process only, rather than via a planning amendment phase followed by a permit phase as at present. In addition, the Bill does empower the Minister for Planning to make zoning amendments, without notice, to establish quarrying as a 'permit required' use in non-urban zones that currently prohibit extractive industry. The local Hillview site is a non-urban zone in which extractive industry is prohibited at this time.

Should this legislative bill become law, a quarry operator will make application for a permit to operate on a site to the local Council, who will hear objections and make a decision which will be open to appeal. In more contentious cases (which the Hillview site has been and will continue to be) the Council may decide that an Environmental Effects Statement (EES) is required. In the event of such a decision at the local Council level, the application is automatically 'called in' by the Minister for Planning who will establish a panel to hear arguments for and against. In reaching a decision on the issue the Minister will be guided by the Panel's report, but not bound by it. The Minister's decision will not be open to appeal.

Comments by the Present Minister for Planning: In a letter to the QIA dated 15 June 1995 the Honourable Rob Maclellan, Victoria's Minister for Planning (and local member for Pakenham), states that these changes "should not be construed to mean more than that a proponent will be able to lodge a planning permit for an extractive industry

proposal, instead of seeking a site-specific amendment". He goes on to say that "a proposal will be subject to the existing requirements of the Planning and Environment Act, and to the requirements of the planning scheme, including the objectives of the zone in which the site is located".

Mr Maclellan advises that a list is currently being prepared by the Government covering issues which must be considered by Councils in deciding on permit applications in those areas where they are presently prohibited. (The local Quarry Impact Association has sought a draft copy of the list.) He also assures us that in line with the ENRC Report recommendations, there should be more EES's required for extractive industry applications, although Mr Maclellan stresses that each proposal will be assessed on its merits.

Comments by the Quarry Impact Association: The QIA believes the above changes to the planning process are reasonable in many situations and will lead to a more efficient permit process for quarrying. However, they have gone too far in covering all non-urban areas. The ENRC Report clearly shows that there are abundant hard-rock resources for many decades in existing licences in the Melbourne region. As part of the Government strategy, 'Extractive Industry Interest Areas' are to be identified in which there will be minimal conflict with other values. We argue therefore that there is no urgency to open up new quarries in other areas, such as conservation zones, where conflict will exist.

Your Comments: The Extractive Industries Development Bill will be considered during the Spring Session of Parliament, after which it could become law. If you wish to make comments on this Bill, or to seek clarification, write to the Honourable S J Plowman, Minister for Agriculture, Energy and Minerals, and to the Honourable R R C Maclellan, Minister for Planning. Remember that Rob Maclellan is also your local MLA with offices at Shop 1, 87 Main St., Pakenham 3810; (059) 411 653, FAX (059) 412 101.

ENFORCEMENT ORDER FOR VEGETATION CLEARING

Colleen Lazenby

At the Cardinia Shire Commissioners' Meeting of July 18, 1995 Council Officers noted for the record the following Enforcement Order pertaining to Unlawful Clearing of Vegetation on a property in Upper Beaconsfield:

"Executive Summary: On the 17th January, 1995 the Commission determined to commence legal proceedings against the owners of the subject land for unlawful clearance of land in breach of the Pakenham Planning Scheme. Following a hearing of the matter on the 7th June, 1995 the Administrative Appeals Tribunal has directed that an Enforcement Order be issued requiring the owners of the land to replant the area cleared".

The Commissioners' Meeting Minutes further state that the owners must replant the area cleared, whether on their land or the adjoining Road Reserve, with species indigenous to the locality, within nine months of the date of issue of the Notice and that the owners must maintain in good condition, all vegetation so replanted. Should any of that replanted vegetation die, they would be obliged to remove and replant the same.

The text of the Minutes goes on to say that, "There are many areas within the municipality which are environmentally sensitive and the planning controls which are in place are intended to protect that environment. This is not to say that requests for clearance will not be considered and approved. To the contrary, the majority of applications which are made and which are soundly based are approved. The concern is that in the absence of recognition of the planning controls, indiscriminate and unregulated clearance of vegetation results in changes to local environments which are unacceptable".

As residents of Cardinia Shire, *you must make yourself aware of restrictions* under the Planning Scheme that pertain to issues such as clearing of vegetation. On page 17 under **Fire Hazards** in the *Cardinia Shire Community Services and Information Directory 1995* issued to every household, reference is made to the fact that, for fire safety reasons, "Under planning controls no permit is required to remove vegetation including trees, undergrowth and ground fuel within specified distances of buildings". In 1994 two property owners in Upper Beaconsfield were abruptly called on by the Shire to account for massive clearing of vegetation on their adjoining lands that was noted by a Shire Officer cruising local roads. In these cases, the State Electrical Commission had cleared lengthy tracts under and around overhead power lines. The contractor consulted the landowners, but had not informed the By-Laws Officer who came upon the clearing after the fact.

The Directory section on clearing for fire hazards further advises that "You can check with the Town Planning Section for specific controls relating to your property". This note is supplemented by text on page 18 saying that "Planning permits are required for a variety of residential, commercial and industrial activities, and it is always wise to inquire with Council's Town Planning Section before you purchase land or start a new activity or development".

To do otherwise when contemplating any clearing of vegetation for reasons other than those relating to fire hazards could cost you dearly in terms of time, money and aggravation.

FREEDOM FROM HUNGER DOORKNOCK 1995

Des McKenna



'Community Aid Abroad' is again conducting the Freedom From Hunger Appeal, September 16 to 24, 1995, during which time the people of Upper Beaconsfield and surrounding area will be able to participate in this very worthwhile project. The theme for the appeal is "What a Difference a Day Makes". One day, or a few hours when multiplied by thousands of Australians helping in the doorknock will make a huge difference. Mozambique, officially the world's poorest country, is the focus of the 1995 campaign.

Funds collected by CAA are not given as food handouts, but go to develop self-help projects in agriculture. Examples of projects include the provision of water supply and measures to help overcome the future effects of drought and crop failure.

We will be contacting all our regular callers to work on the appeal over the next few weeks. Other individuals and groups willing to help out and spend a couple of hours on this very worthy project as volunteer doorknockers should contact Des McKenna (059) 443 516.

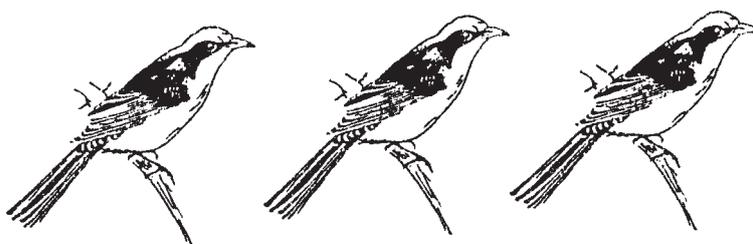
"FRIENDS" COME TO UPPER BEACONSFIELD

Denise Murray

Local residents, representatives from Cardinia Shire and from Melbourne Water recently joined members of the Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group to hear about efforts to save the Helmeted Honeyeater - our State and local emblem - from extinction.

Clearing of stream sides, grazing of stock, predation by cats, dogs and foxes and the devastation of the Ash Wednesday fires wiped out the known colonies in Upper Beaconsfield. The only remaining Helmeted Honeyeaters in the world are found in Yellingbo where a dedicated group calling themselves *Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater* are working desperately to save the species from extinction.

A long-term plan exists to re-introduce the bird to past known habitats. We have such areas along Cardinia Creek and can now act to become part of an important conservation and recovery program. Dense trees and shrubs are essential for the Helmeted Honeyeater to survive. Find out what you can do to aid this program and support the Friends group by paying a \$5 annual fee. Contact Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, PO Box 295, Mt Evelyn 3796 or the Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group, c/o UB Community Centre, or Denise Murray (059) 443 158.



WINTER AND YOUR ANIMALS

**Dr. Tia Reading
BVSc**

The following are some easy steps to ensure the comfort of your pets and stock this winter:

For sheep, goats, horses and other outdoor stock: Include some hay and grain feed in their diet this winter. This gives the animals added energy which they need to burn

for extra body heat. Always introduce grains gradually so as not to upset their stomachs and balance grains with oaten and lucerne chaff.

Rugging your animals: Rugging your animals saves you money in the long run. When they have the extra protection of a rug you need to feed them less to keep them warm. A good quality rug will last for years, but remember to mark it prominently with large letters showing your name and number. Rug theft has become a major problem recently in our area and thieves will always bypass covers with clearly marked ownership for those without.

Shelter: Shelter protects your animals from wind and rain. Again it helps reduce food bills and animals will be more content under cover. Remember that in the wild, animals seek shelter and huddle together to keep warm.

Common sense will tell you if your animals need extra care. Simply take a look at them and imagine what you could do to make them more comfortable. It just takes a little time and thought on your part to make a significant difference for your animals.

LOCAL WATTLE DRIVE

Revised from a 1982
article by John Reid

The bright yellow colour and varied appearance of wattles add a welcome touch to this drab winter period in Victoria. Charles Wilson has retraced the route of a wattle drive researched by John Reid for an article in Issue No. 25 of *The Village Bell*. We thank Elizabeth Pennington, Upper Beaconsfield resident for bringing this piece to the attention of the Editors. Although there are always some species in flower, July through September are the best months to see wattles in bloom in this area. Take an opportunity sometime within the next few weeks to retrace our wattle drive yourself, or with your family, and enjoy this most beautiful of Australian native plants.

Wattle Varieties in Victoria: More than ninety different varieties of wattle (*Acacia sp.*) occur in Victoria. The true leaves of all Victorian wattles are divided into leaflets giving them a feathery or fern-like appearance. In all but 11 of these, true leaves are replaced in the adult plant by **phyllodes**, which are leaf stalks that look like and perform the functions of leaves. Most wattles are characterised by veins which run parallel to each other over the whole length of the leaf. The individual flowers of wattles are clustered together into flower heads which resemble round balls or sausage-like and caterpillar-like spikes.

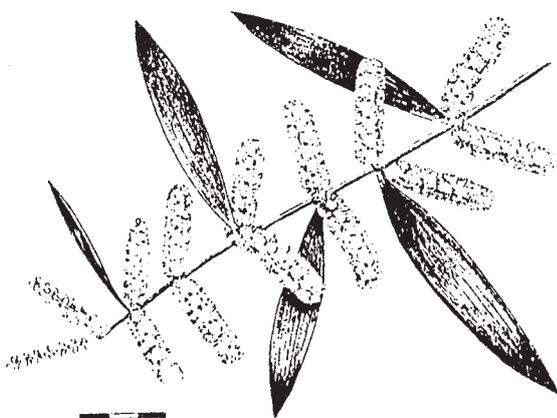
The Village Bell Wattle Drive: The drive starts at the centre of Upper Beaconsfield at the site of the Bushfire Education Boards. On either side in the landscaped bed around the boards you'll see two Golden Wattles (*Acacia pycnatha*), and behind the board showing "The Three C's" is the Myrtle Wattle (*Acacia myrtifolia*). In the carpark on the left side of the Hall is a magnificent specimen of Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*). Sadly this is not one of our Victorian wattles, but is an aggressive invader from NSW. It is nonetheless very lovely.

As you travel to the intersection of Salisbury and the Emerald-Beaconsfield Roads, the massive stand of wattle-like trees at the left corner, opposite the church, includes another foreign invader called Albizia (*Albizia lophantha*) which is sometimes called "Crested Wattle".

Leaving the village, drive south and downhill on the Emerald-Beaconsfield Road. You will see several specimens of the Cootamundra Wattle with its blue-grey leaves. Turn left into the upper end of Quamby Road and along the right side at "Staverton" you'll see numerous specimens of Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*; see this wattle illustrated on our Masthead). Some of these are 10 metres and more high. Downhill and at either side of the entrance to 163 Quamby Road are two wattles. The one with the narrow, upward pointing leaves is the Hop Wattle (*Acacia stricta*) and the other is the broad leafed Golden Wattle seen at the Hall. At 149 Quamby Road are four or five small trees with long phyllodes (leaves) and long flowering spikes of caterpillar-like flowers. These are Sallow Wattles (*Acacia longifolia*) which is probably a garden escapee and not a naturally occurring local plant.

At the intersection of Quamby Road with Telegraph Road, look left to the south side of Telegraph Road to see many examples of the early Silver Wattle; some are quite tall trees which flower well in July and August. Turn right into Quamby Road and proceed toward the Emerald-Beaconsfield Road. At the "Yield" sign, the group of trees on the left are Blackwood Wattle (*Acacia melanoxylon*). Turn left and head toward the roundabout at the Cardinia Park Hotel. Diagonally opposite the Hotel is a stand of Sallow Wattles. Continue south until you reach the point where the power lines cross the road. Look left and you will see the Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*). Another large bush of the same species is seen on the right side of the road under the fourth row of power lines. This is one of the few wattles with prickly spines on the branches.

We are fortunate in this area to have these and a number of other species of wattle. Nothing enlivens these overcast, grey winter days as much as that glorious burst of wattle yellow and gold. Illustrated below are the Sallow Wattle (left) and the Myrtle Wattle (right). Both drawings are from FJC Rogers *A Field Guide to Victorian Wattles*, 1986 (Creative Rural Printers).



Acacia longifolia

Sallow Wattle



Acacia myrtifolia

Myrtle Wattle

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