



ISSUE NO. 113 DECEMBER 1996

UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Christmas Eve

The Upper Beaconsfield Carols will be held on Christmas Eve starting at about 9 pm in the Keith Ewenson Park behind the Community Complex in Salisbury Road.

The Primary School children will be presenting their carols, and Greg Ross will again be Master of Ceremonies.

Bring a candle and a blanket. If you need a chair, please place it at the back to avoid blocking the view of others. Free refreshments will be available before the Carols start. Please do not bring alcohol to this family occasion.



FATHER CHRISTMAS will be touring around Upper Beaconsfield before the Carols and will be at the various locations as follows:

Grant Court - 7.45 pm
 Burton Road - 8.00 pm
 Paul Grove - 8.15 pm
 Ewenson Park - 8.30 pm

Steak, Seafood or Pasta

Come and join us at the Pine Grove Hotel at 6 p.m. prior to the December UBA meeting which commences at 8 pm. You can enjoy a pasta meal with unlimited salad for as little as \$7. Drinks available at bar prices

All Upper Beaconsfield residents, especially new comers are most welcome. If you have not attended a meeting before this is a great way to meet other community minded people.

Do you have any concerns as to just what is going on in Upper Beaconsfield. Here is your chance to let us know about it.

Don't forget

The meeting will be held on Wednesday December 4th at 8 p.m. Meal will commence at 6 p.m. in the Function Room of the Pine Grove Hotel.

See you there!

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Bushed

A small group of would-be writers agreed to reconnoitre an area of bushland. Now for a 'townie' like me, so unaccustomed to the ways of the bush, this was going to be some challenge. All I wanted to do was come back alive. I had tried to weasel out of it ... couldn't even remember volunteering, but Laura wouldn't hear of it. Maybe I should have read the fine print on the enrolment form when I signed up for the 'Writers' Group'.

A certain amount of preparation seemed to be called for - flask of hot coffee, two cups (one spare in case Phil forgot to bring his own), buttered scone (cut in half in case Phil forgot to bring his own), bandaids, Stingose, tourniquet? Check! Compass, designer track-suit with matching walking shoes, umbrella? Check! Fingernails painted bright red to assist search and rescue team? Check! Plastic supermarket bag for specimens, medicinal brandy? Check! Burke and Wills could not have been better prepared.

The trip to our destination, Chambers Reserve, was more like the endless Yellow Brick Road and I the apprehensive Dorothy. I hitched a ride with Laura, the Good Witch of the North, and her husband Bert, the Lion, who courageously steered his four-wheel-drive round blind bend after blind bend while at the same time avoiding man-eating pot holes.

At the picnic area Peter the Tin Man was waiting patiently ready to be galvanised into action. Shortly afterward Hilary the Wizard arrived along with Peter's sister Margaret; here on a visit from England. When Phil the Scarecrow arrived, a good hour late, with still no sign of the pikers three, Jeanette, Lynn and Adriana; not one of whom had sent a note

(and I thought I was the wimp), we intrepid adventurers unanimously voted to push on regardless.

Chambers Reserve, a veritable Land of Oz, possessed an assortment of extraordinary street names - Hakea Circle, Acacia Walk, Echidna Path and Wombat Trail to name just a few. A variety of grasses, milkmaids, billy buttons (some with scaly bottoms advised the Wizard) and several bush peas were pointed out to me. Old man Banksia put in an appearance and a successful demonstration was carried out on a 'trigger plant'... fascinating! Munchkins however, were nowhere to be seen.

There was a lot of talk about the 'understorey', which I thought must have some connection to the FBI. Then I discovered that the 'overstorey' had holes in it. I only discovered this when it rained. My umbrella was back at the 4WD so I ended up wearing the yellow plastic supermarket bag on my head. It did nothing for my image, or the specimens. We encountered the Wicked Witch of the West along the way, she was riding a white horse on the walking track, stubbornly refusing to stick to the horse trail, much to Laura's disgust.

Back at the picnic area we picnicked, and yes you know who forgot to bring his own. We broke camp at around 11.40am and said good-bye to Phil and Peter; Hilary and Margaret having left earlier with some excuse about a shopping expedition.

Bert, Laura and I mounted the trusty 4WD and drove back to the Community Centre where I had left my car, but just to prove how gullible I am, I allowed Laura to coerce me into undertaking another trek, this time down the Salisbury Trail in search of bush orchids.

In a vain attempt to show interest in the subject matter I swooned in rapture at the sight of a host of 'white bells' which reminded me of the 'blue bells'

in my native England. The Good Witch of the North then proceeded to squeeze sap from a stem, push her fingers up my nose, call it some kind of an 'onion' and announce most emphatically that it was a noxious weed. Oh dear!

I was assured of the presence of wallabies, wombats, possums, bats and rats and maybe the occasional lyrebird or koala, but saw none of these. The Good Witch of the North informed me that the gigantic 'wormholes' underfoot were made by yabbies, and that the delicate flying insects which became quite attached to me were known as mosquitoes. There was some consolation however in knowing that Upper Beaconsfield must be a great place, after all thirty thousand mosquitoes can't be wrong.

We were occasionally entertained by the screeching, laughing and warbling of cockatoos, kookaburras and bush robins, but the most memorable thing for me was that I could actually hear the world winding down.

As always, Laura proved to be a mine of information on a topic dear to her heart, she has an extraordinary eye for detail. She also weeded the whole of Salisbury Gully along the way and bemoaned the fact that some drastic pruning was needed. Thank God she didn't have her secateurs or we would have been there still.

'Go home right now and write about your experience' said Laura as she and Bert waved good-bye, 'and put some feeling into it.'

So I did. I've written. I guess the feeling will come later ... sore feet, aching knees and other feelings I didn't know I had.

Barbara Smethurst
Upper Beaconsfield Writers'
Group

FUTURE OF COMMUNITY COMPLEX BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE IN DOUBT - A PLEA FOR HELP

At the recent elections of the Community Complex Buildings and Grounds Committee, only two people came forward to take the place of the retiring members, and consequently the future of the committee is in doubt.

We need community minded people to offer their services in helping the committee look after the buildings at the Complex as well as Keith Ewenson Park. Anyone who has enjoyed Carols by Candlelight at the Park, attended a function at the Hall or attended classes at the Community Centre etc. will appreciate the importance of keeping this great local facility in good order.

The next meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee is to take place Thursday 5 December 8pm in the Supper Room. We urgently ask that you offer your support by coming along.

A letter from Cardinia Shire

Dear Community Members,

On Thursday November 7th I attended the Triennial meeting of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Buildings and Grounds Committee to conduct the elections for members of the Committee.

This Committee is charged with the responsibility of managing this Complex on behalf of the Upper Beaconsfield community. It is responsible for the development, hiring, management, and maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

This Complex plays a significant role in the community. It contains one of the most successful community centres in the South Eastern Re-

gion. It is the home of the Maternal & Child Health Centre, playgroups, Toy Library, Country Women's Association, the Upper Beaconsfield Association and many other activities. Many hundreds of people benefit directly from the activities which take place at the Complex.

In recent years, hard working and dedicated committees have ensured that this is a Complex to be proud of. It is kept in excellent condition and some of the many improvements include the development of the park and playground, kitchen, security lighting, painting, building of the barbecue area and car park.

How can it continue?

Despite articles, advertisements, letters and personal contact only two people have accepted positions on the Committee and I have been asked by them to bring their plight and that of the Complex to your attention. One member has generously accepted the position of Secretary but there is no President or Treasurer. The small committee can carry the burden only for a short time but it is imperative that support is forthcoming from the user groups and the public if this Complex is to maintain its pivotal position in the Upper Beaconsfield community. Please contact Helen Smith 443 219 if you can help.

Yours sincerely,

John White,
COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER
CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Historic

Upper Beaconsfield Hall

A perfect venue for your next party -
whether it is a wedding,
21st, anniversary or club function.

Bookings Tel 443 219



BEAUTIFUL BEACONHILLS - 50th Anniversary

Beaconhills Country Golf Club will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1997 and we are endeavouring to contact as many former members as possible to join us in our celebrations throughout the year.

To get the year off to a great start a "Back to Beaconhills Ball" is planned for Saturday 1 March. If anyone can help with updated addresses of former members, it would be greatly appreciated. Other events and get-togethers are to be organised as the year progresses. We would like to take the opportunity of our 50th year to invite former members who are no longer playing golf, or interested Upper Beac residents, to contact Club Manager Chris Bracher if they would like to see the developments and beauty of Beaconhills via a ride in a motorised golf cart.



During 1995/96, Beaconhills Country Golf Club defied golf industry trends, by generating unprecedented membership growth. A net increase of 82 members over the twelve month period speaks volumes for the market appeal of the Beaconhills product, which includes monthly subscription payment options, corporate packages and family membership.

The widely acclaimed junior program also continues to generate solid support from the youth of the district and enquiries about this program are now being fielded from around Australia.

The club is in the final stages of finalising a Business Plan, which lays the formal foundation for strategies into the foreseeable future. Significantly, this process has spawned a formal "vision" for the club, which recognises our place as a provider of leisure and hospitality experiences, rather than simply as a market of a golf product. Also recognised are our important links with the Upper Beaconsfield community through

our dining, bar and gaming facilities and the high quality retail outlet operated by the golf professionals. Significantly, the club vision also paves the way for expansion and growth of other non-golf components, consistent with modern perceptions of a "Country Club".

The club has reaffirmed its commitment to green fee visitors as "members for a day" and recognises the ongoing importance of this sector within our operations. Accordingly, a continuation of our high quality service to casual visitors can be expected.

1997 promises a year of even greater growth, with representatives from both the ladies and mens sections now serving on major club Committees. This will enable the club to continue to further increase its market share and in particular, address head-on the major challenge facing golf in Australia ... declining women's membership.

By December 1996 a Saturday competition will be presented for women, which is expected to entice women who work to Beaconhills. A week-day "bridging package" is also to be launched, which will provide a low-cost introduction to life at Beaconhills for (amongst others) ladies who have graduated from Mark Griffin's clinic program.

In physical development terms, the club has also launched its plans for a total clubhouse re-fit. When complete, this facility will include features designed to keep the club "ahead of the pack", such as an expanded function room, new locker rooms and a crèche.

The Beaconhills Board of Directors prides itself upon it's professional approach to the development of the club and growth rates reflect these efforts. Exciting times await the club in the near future.

Chris Bracher 443 309
Manager Beaconhills Country Golf Club

VILLAGE BELL CREDITS

Editor Charles Wilson

Typing Editorial Team

Format Helen Smith

Advertising Phil Rocke,

Penny Truscott, Laura Levens.

Masthead Val Ewenson

Collating Netball Club

Receiving Copy: Julie and Ray Alsop
(Upper Beac. Post Office)

Next Editor Susan Pitman
and Val Ewenson

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Charles Wilson -tel. 5944 3008

CITIZENS OF EACH YEAR

We thought you might like to know that for some years the Citizens of the Year have been meeting annually for a dinner, self funded you will also be pleased to hear. This month 26 people enjoyed dinner and each others company at the Golf Club. They welcomed the current Citizen of the Year Graham Jackson and Barbara. A toast was raised for our late friend John Milligan, the first dinner for many years without him, and to the memory of Terry Milligan.

This dinner also enabled Eric and Charles to organize the next working bee for the Ash Wednesday Memorial Garden. If you drive past and see a number of people on their knees weeding the garden beds, you will know that these worthy citizens of yours are enjoying the fruits of their service to the community.

Just for the record the following are the reluctant, or otherwise, gardeners:

- 1977 Eric Bumpstead
- 1978 Marie Howard
- 1979 Joan Harris (Medwin)
- 1980 John and Terry Milligan
- 1981 Roger Francey
- 1982 Brian Dickinson
- 1983 Everybody in U.B.
- 1984 Charles Wilson
- 1985 Stan and Beryl Hamilton
- 1986 Des McKenna
- 1987 Keith Ewenson
- 1988 Joyce Bumpstead
- 1989 Ray and Elva Ratcliff
- 1990 Nancy Boura
- 1991 Julie Jamieson
- 1992 Jeanette Ballinger
- 1993 Patricia Trewin
- 1994 Helen and Barry Smith
- 1995 Judy and George Moir
- 1996 Graham Jackson

Jeanette Ballinger

NEW RESIDENTS

St. Georges Road -

David Schmid, Helen and Michael Collins and Wilfred Taylor

Brennan Avenue -

John, Helen, John and Rebecca Hewat

Young Street -

Peter, Patsy and Harry Smiles

RAGWORT CONCERN - HELP AVAILABLE

The Shire's Environmental Manager, Sue Harris, has reported that the Department of Natural Resources and Environment is to employ a "Ragwort Facilitator" in Upper Beaconsfield to work for two days a week for the next six months.

His work will be to find and map ragwort infested land, then liaise with the owner to ensure the weed is eradicated.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD AND YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR UPPER BEACONSFIELD

Since its beginning the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year Award has been given to those who have contributed much to the progress and development of the community - to people who have recognised the importance and value of community service in Upper Beaconsfield.

Now we would also like to see a Young Citizen of the Year Award for a youthful member of our community who has/is making a significant contribution to our community.

Details of 'eligibility' and 'application forms' for both Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year are available at the Post Office. Completed applications should be directed to : The Chairperson, Citizen or Young Citizen of the Year Awards, P.O. Box 86 Upper Beaconsfield 3808.

Upper Beaconsfield Community Care Group



New Residents Package

Thanks to the generosity of the Berwick Lions Club we have been able to have printed a welcome folder which is given to residents by Julie and Ray Allsop at the Post Office. This folder contains information about the various groups and activities of Upper Beac's many organisations. Ray and Julie have been issuing this very welcome information to newcomers for many years and the new folder dresses it up in a very impressive manner.

At Risk Register

A register has been created, which in the event of a disaster, will alert authorities to those who may need assistance. Any resident with a disability or anyone who might need help in case of a disaster should register. An example would be a one car family where the car is normally used for travel to work on a daily basis, leaving family home without transport. For information on how to register, phone Des on 59 443 516

Equipment Available

We have mentioned in several issues of the Village Bell that we have available a personal alarm monitor which we can loan to any resident in need of such a unit. We supply the unit free but you have to enter into a monthly contract with the monitoring company.

We have recently been given an "as new" invalid chair which is height adjustable so that people can easily sit down or stand up. We also have an aluminium walking frame in excellent condition. Both are available to any resident on request.

Community Week

Don't forget to start talking with your neighbours about your Community Week function. Community Week is Friday 14th February to Sunday 23rd February 1997 and celebrates our special community with BYO get togethers in every street in our district. This produces a wonderful opportunity to get to know people better and in particular to meet with recent arrivals.

Care Group

We aim to bring together the needs of the community (Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst and Guy's Hill) and the resources available within the community. The services we offer free of charge to any residents are emergency childminding and home help, emergency transport, friendly visiting, emergency meals and emergency handyman help.

Des McKenna 59 443 516

BROWNIES & GUIDES

Help needed-

If Brownies and Guides are to continue in Upper Beaconsfield in 1997 new leaders are urgently required. If you are enthusiastic and would like to lead our young girls, we would like to hear from you. All training and uniform costs are covered by the support group.

Brownies each week is fun from start to finish. This term we have had a pyjama and carol night, Halloween dress up and a visit to Ferntree Gully Brownies; puppet making, followed by an impromptu puppet show, and a Bring a Friend night - when lots of games were played.

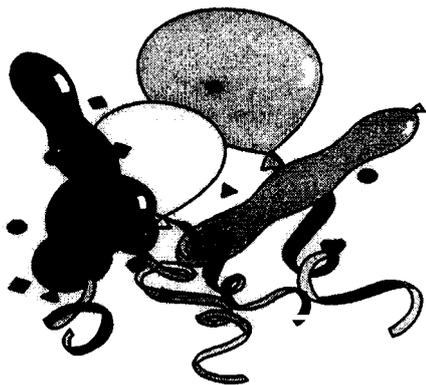
Next week we are walking to Salisbury Gully for some outdoor fun. To finish the year we will join with the Cubs to sing Christmas carols to the residents of Salisbury House

The Guides are busy preparing for a patrol to attend the Lady Stradbroke, Cup this month. At this event Guides are tested in various aspects of camping, including devising a menu, cooking, camp neatness, knotting and lashing wood together to make bowl stands etc. It is a great learning opportunity for Guides.

The grand finale this year will be a combined Brownie and Guide Christmas breakup party. All families are invited, and there will be a "Flying up to Guides" ceremony for four brownies on that night.

Merry Christmas from the Brownies and Guides, and our thanks to all who have helped from the out going leaders.

Linda Wilkinson
03 5944 3987



**UPPER BEACONSFIELD
VILLAGE FAIR
COMMITTEE**

**Important information for
community groups and
residents**

STALL SPACES

These are available to display, demonstrate or promote the activities, services, or goods of our many community groups and talented residents. The stalls are a good way to raise much needed funds for the years activities.

If you are a Community Group, or a resident who would like to have a display or sell some Arts and Crafts etc. please pick up your STALL APPLICATION FORM, from either the POST OFFICE or the COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Stall spaces are available for \$10.00 each. Multiple spaces can be taken if required. POWER can be connected to your stall for an extra \$5.00.



**For further information
please call:**

Mrs Bernadette McGougan, P.O.
Box 159, Upper Beaconsfield,
3808 Phone: (03) 5944 360 or

Denise Smith
(03) 5944 4107.

**FREEDOM FROM HUNGER
DOOR KNOCK
COMMUNITY AID ABROAD**



A special thankyou to the thirty six dedicated people who braved the elements and found that courage to knock on doors of homes in Upper Beaconsfield and Guy's Hill in the period September 14th - 22nd.

The final collection amount received by C.A.A. was \$1,858.75 which bettered last year's collection by almost \$150. Once again we are grateful to local people who have shown their generosity in a practical way to help ease the poverty and starvation in the world. To put the Upper Beaconsfield area contribution into perspective the total amount collected throughout Victoria was \$70,000, whilst the national tally reached \$427,000.

Des McKenna

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD
VILLAGE FAIR
1997**

The 1997 Village Fair has been scheduled for
Saturday April 5, 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m.

The theme for this years Village Fair is

F U N!

Our FAMILY FUN DAY includes such attractions as

**HUMPHREY B. BEAR
FACE PAINTING
MYUNA ANIMAL FARM
BIKE DECORATING COMPETITION
ARTS AND CRAFTS
PERFORMANCES FROM UPPER BEACONSFIELD
PRIMARY SCHOOL
FIRE BRIGADE DISPLAY
...AND MUCH MUCH MORE...**

Come and join us for a great family fun day

Weed Control - Property Owners Can in Be Held Legally Accountable

Cardinia Shire Council is very concerned at the spread of noxious and environmental weeds throughout the northern area of the shire and is seeking the support of residents to combat this problem. Weed control needs the support and involvement of the whole community.

Residents appear to be confused about their obligations when it comes to preserving native vegetation and controlling weeds, particularly in respect to naturestrips. Sue Harris, the Environment Management Officer for Cardinia Shire Council answers some of our most common questions:-

Noxious and environmental weeds - what's the difference?

Noxious weeds have the potential to invade agricultural land; environmental weeds the potential to invade bushland.

Are you required to remove noxious weeds from your property and naturestrip?

Yes. Property owners are required by law to remove noxious weeds on their properties and on nature strips and roadside verges adjacent to their properties except on declared main roads. The Emerald-Beaconsfield Road is the only declared main road in Upper Beaconsfield, and Council has already engaged a contractor to remove noxious weeds from this road this season - Blackberries, Ragwort, English Broom, Cape Broom and Flax Leaf Broom.

What about environmental weeds?

Environmental weeds are escaping from our gardens and invading the bush. Property owners are expected to control environmental weeds on their land to stop the spread to other areas, and do not need a permit to do so. As yet there is no compulsion to control them, but several types of environmental weeds are expected to be classified noxious for the purposes of the Catchment and Land Protection Act. When this happens, property owners must control them. The worst environmental weed in Upper Beaconsfield is Pittosporum, which is spread by the introduced Blackbird. Several types of Wattle and Willow plus Cherry Plum, Watsonia, Freesias, Agapanthus and Nasturtiums and many other garden favourites are also classified as environmental weeds, so beware! If you grow them, control them.

What about trees and native understorey?

On lots greater than 0.4 hectares you do not need permission to remove trees within 10 metres

of your dwelling, and understorey within 30 metres.

For smaller lots it is 6 metres and 15 metres respectively. For anything over these distances you must have a permit.

Are you supposed to mow your naturestrip?

There is no legal requirement for property owners to mow nature strips, which are classified as Crownland. In fact, if there is native vegetation on your naturestrip, you would require a permit to mow or to remove it. Any application for such a permit would go to Council who would then have to refer it to the Department of Natural Resources and Environment for approval. There are many naturestrips, particularly in the urban parts of Upper Beaconsfield, that do not contain native vegetation and can be mown if desired. Some nature-strips come under Municipal Fire Prevention Plan. Council arranges for these to be slashed at times when vegetation could be a high fire risk. Mowing does not necessarily control weeds - in fact, it may encourage further seeding. The only way to be sure of controlling weeds is to spray them or dig them out. However, mowing can damage native vegetation, and you could be held accountable. So if you want to mow your naturestrip first check the vegetation carefully.

Where can I find out more about weed control and identification?

Colour brochures which clearly identify 38 environmental and noxious weeds are available from the literature stand in the Community Centre. Also available is a Control Sheet which describe: how best to deal with weeds. Or you can contact Sue Harris at the Cardinia Shire Council on 03 5945 4272. Small quantities of herbicide are available at cost price through the Hills Ragwort Control Group, Spray equipment is available from the Shire Depot. (Bookings on 03 5945 4381.) The Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group can provide advice and tubes of indigenous plants to revegetate affected areas. (Sue Simmons 03 5944 3690 or Gladys Aarons 03 942 7571.)



Thanks from the Fire Brigade Auxiliary

The members of the Auxiliary extend our thanks to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts by purchasing hot food and baked goods during the Brigade Auction in October. We also thank those who bought raffle tickets on the day. First prize of the food hamper, second prize of sherry and glasses and third prize of a dried flower picture all went to local residents.

The Auxiliary reminds community members that all donations of old clothing and other material are used for RAG SALES to raise funds for the Fire Brigade. Goods can be left at the Milk Bar next to the fire station.

Our **Father Christmas** suit has been cleaned and is available for a rental fee of just \$10. Contact Diane Rose on (03) 9796 1030 to reserve the suit for your club party or other get togethers.



Our thanks to all for your generous support over the past year and warmest good wishes for a happy and safe holiday season.

Colleen Lazenby

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
LAST TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH 8 PM AT THE
STATION**

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

The last family service for this year will be at 9.30am on Sunday 1 December. This service is for all ages, so bring the family to worship together, to participate in children's ministry, to watch drama and enjoy other planned activities.

Traditional hymns will be played at the holy communion service at 7pm that night.

Cafe John on Friday 6 December at 7pm will have top class entertainment. Members of the Victorian State Opera, Karl Huml - bass baritone, Robin Cooper-Bugg - soprano, Lawrence Allen with his wife Margaret, with Bill Reid as accompanist and soloist will be the guest artists. Light opera and Christmas items will be part of the special program. At \$20 single, or \$45 family this is great value for a three course meal and entertainment. Ring Peter Joseland on (03) 9754 3503 to book tickets.

The theme of the 8 December youth service is "The Real Meaning of Christmas". The participation of young people in music and drama at these services has been encouraging and entertaining.

The Christmas Religious Education services for the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School will be held at St. John's on Wednesday, 11 December. Grades Prep to 2 service will be at 9.30am and Grades 3 to 6 will be at 10.15am. The children and their R.E. teachers would welcome parents, grandparents and friends to see their Christmas items put on throughout the services.

The ladies fellowship will be holding a Christmas stall outside the General Store on Saturday, 14 December.

Christmas services will be as follows:

10.30pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion, following Upper Beaconsfield Community Carols by Candlelight.

SUTHERLAND PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Election of Public Members to the Committee

A public meeting is to be held at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre, Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield on 4th December commencing at 8 p.m. for the purpose of electing public members to the committee.

Local residents who enjoy tennis, the flora and fauna or just strolling through the Park, and wish to see it maintained in a proper manner, should come along and show your support.

President Sue Simmons

A BIRTHDAY WITH A DIFFERENCE

The Cockerell family of Upper Beaconsfield celebrated a birthday with a difference recently. Graham and Lyn (proprietors of Moonshine Motors) invited a large number of family, friends and neighbours to join the family in a 100th birthday celebration of their home 'Glen Leith' in A'Beckett Road. Guests were invited to park their cars at the Community Complex and get a ride to Glen Leith by a horse drawn wagonette engaged from Silver Creek Livery and Stables for the afternoon. Lyn and Graham and some of their friends got into the spirit of the occasion by dressing up in period costume and welcomed the guests as they arrived and invited the visitors to wander around the property to view the old house and to see the improvements already made.

Local historian Charles Wilson has provided the Cockerell family with details of the history of their home. William Richards originally obtained a Crown Grant of around 19 acres in 1886 and the house is believed to have been built around October 1896. Mr Thomas Colles, a Collins Street solicitor has his name on the original Certificate of Title. The house at this time was called 'Kanoona' and early records show that in 1898 it was leased to Nurse Alice Homan, who used it as a convalescent home. An advertisement for this home appears in the Guide to the Beaconsfield Ranges, published in 1899.

The property remained in the hands of Thomas Colles until 1912 when it was sold to "Toorak gentleman" David Edmund Stodart. In 1915 the house was bought by "married woman" Ethel Violet Gowan of East Malvern. The house changed hands again in 1920. The new owner was Edith Lillian Ballantyne and her husband Jack. They called the property 'Glen Leith'. The Ballantynes stayed for over 20 years, then sold to Gladstone and Rose McGowan in 1941.

During World War 2, in 1944, the property sold again, this time to Arthur Day, doctor, Eric Taylor, school master of Melbourne Grammar and Henry Purcell Scott. The property, now called 'Melbournia', was used as a school camp by Melbourne Grammar. The story was that the property could be used in case of evacuation should it become necessary. Given the late date in the war, this appears unlikely to have occurred. In 1951 the property was sold to Harry and Bertha Burton. Harry had previously worked at Glen Leith for the Ballantynes. After Bertha's death Harry remarried and no longer lived there full time. Then in 1990 Harry died and the property slowly fell into a state of disrepair until its sale in 1993 to Graham and Lyn Cockerell.

Lyn relates that after they had bought the property they showed her father over it. He was utterly speechless. During the afternoon of the birthday, a photograph album was on display to show pre-renovation views. It certainly was depressing. The major jobs of re-stumping, re-wiring, re-plumbing and re-

painting took twelve months before the family could move in. Further restoration of the outside of the house and the garden are being undertaken as time and money permit. There's nothing like a deadline to get things done. There was frantic activity in the weeks and days before the birthday. Apparently the paint brushes were still being wielded until an hour before the first guests arrived on the Saturday afternoon!

'Glen Leith' is a large rectangle with wide verandahs all around. The outside of the house is being restored to the original colour scheme (revealed under layers of paint) of silver grey with a burgundy and cream trim. The home is built on the side of the hill, which allows two levels. The way the house is constructed lends itself to Graham's theory that it was shifted there in two sections and placed onto a platform. The platform must have moved during construction which accounts for the angle of the walls downstairs. On arrival you enter through the front panelled door into a lovely wide hallway that goes completely through the house from front to back. A formal living room and bedrooms (all with fireplaces) and bathroom open off the hall. There are polished baltic pine floors throughout. The baltic pine lining wall boards have been sanded back in the hall to reveal warm wood tones, while in the other rooms the lining boards have been stripped back and repainted. A staircase from the hall leads down to the lower level which also has a wide verandah. The verandah area is nearly as large as the total area of the rooms. The lower level comprises a family room, dining, kitchen, sunroom and laundry. The kitchen has been renovated in keeping with the house and boasts a Rayburn stove in the fireplace, a central work bench and a long built in sideboard.

The afternoon tea was held on the verandah of the lower level where there was plenty of room to mingle and tuck into the spread of cakes and scones. Later during the function Graham called the visitors together to thank all the family, friends and local tradesmen who had helped them so far. He also introduced their special guests. They had managed to track down family representatives of five of the previous owners who were able to attend on the day. These were William Richards' grand daughter, Mrs Marie Ashley and son Michael; the Ballantyne's daughter Mrs Janet Lee and her son; the McGowans' son Tony and sister Judith; Dr Day's son, neighbour Mr. Arthur Day and his wife Hilary and finally Dora, daughter of the Burtons, with her husband John. A photo of the present and former residents was taken on the front steps.

Helen Smith

Peter Meeking Leaves Upper Beaconsfield

Peter Meeking, who has played a significant role in this community for the past twenty-five years, quietly moved out of Upper Beaconsfield in November. He says it was one of the hardest decisions he has had to make.

To many residents Peter was best known as a long-serving councillor of the Shire of Pakenham from 1977 until its demise in 1995. He was twice Shire President. He was renowned for his dedication and hard work, his car always overflowing with Council papers, not to mention his ability to fit three or more meetings into the one night! He was always available to listen and to advise, and you were sure that he would follow an issue to an appropriate conclusion.

To others it will be his contributions in time and energy to the many organisations in the township. He was a Trustee of the Kindergarten, has been a member and president of the School Council, and has served on the committees of the Recreation Reserve and E A Owen Conservation Reserve.

Among his many activities he found time to be an extremely effective President of the Upper Beaconsfield Association for three years, a record not likely to be broken soon. He was made a Life Member of the UBA in recognition of

his contribution to that organisation.

Although these activities are impressive, to many of us Peter's outstanding contribution was what he achieved for this and other communities and individuals in the aftermath of the 1983 Ash Wednesday bush-fires. Chaos reigned, and nothing was easy, but he worked tirelessly at both the personal and the bureaucratic levels to ensure that everything possible was done to help those affected by this disaster.

Peter has not totally broken his ties with the township... the wily old fox will continue to play tennis for Upper Beaconsfield!

We wish Peter and Judy well for the future.

Graeme Kidd



BERWICK/UPPER BEACONSFIELD RED CROSS UNIT

During October a number of practice sessions dealing with registration of evacuees who may be obliged to leave a major disaster situation were held in Pakenham, Cranbourne, Berwick, Narre Warren and South Gippsland areas. All Red Cross members remain conscious of a need to formulate a solid plan of action to cover such emergencies.

The Unit urgently requires additional drivers to be recorded on the list of volunteers willing to assist in conveying elderly and sick people to their appointments at hospitals and clinics. Drivers use their own cars but are covered by insurance, and reimbursement for petrol is available.

An extract from the quarterly publication "Cross Talk" issued to Units states - "currently only 3-6 per cent of Victorians eligible to donate blood do so. If this figure was raised by just one per cent, Victoria would have a sustainable blood supply". Residents are reminded that a Mobile Blood Bank visits Pakenham, Narre Warren North, Cranbourne, and Dandenong at regular intervals.

"Cross Talk" also states that a Chair of International Humanitarian Law has recently been established at the University of Melbourne, and Australian Red Cross welcomes the appointment of Dr Tim McCormack an international expert on human rights law.

Marie Womersley

FIRST UPPER BEACONSFIELD SCOUT GROUP

GROUP ACTIVITIES

With the end of another year in sight, the Joeys, the Cubs and Scouts, the Venturers and Rovers are involved in their final few weeks' activities. The Joeys have brought a Christmas flavour into their evenings recently with a night of Christmas card making. Other groups are making use of the longer hours of light and warmer weather by heading outdoors for some activities. Weekend camps are on the agenda for Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. The year has been a most successful one for all groups.

Families of young people in the different groups gathered for a picnic on the oval on Sunday 17th November and enjoyed the end-of-year occasion.

The Scout Committee would like to pay a tribute to all of the people who assist in the running of these valuable programs for young people - the leaders of the various groups, who contribute a great deal of their time and energy for the benefit of the young members, the parents who support the groups and lend a hand when needed, and indeed so many in the community of Upper Beaconsfield who recognize the value of this involvement for young people and support the Scout Group in many ways.

In particular the Committee thanks the wider community for supporting the groups through the firewood raffles, which are increasingly important for the groups to continue to function.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE JAMBOREE

Up to 20 Upper Beaconsfield Scouts are making early preparations to attend the Jamboree in Queensland in January, 1998. The boys and their families have begun fund-raising, and on Saturday 10th November organized a very successful Trivia Night hosted by Peter Deering who ensured that there was not much jingling of loose coins in pockets and handbags as the crowd departed at the end of a what was a most enjoyable night. The evening netted a profit of \$1367. Christmas puddings are available for purchase by contacting Jan Carmody.

**A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR TO ALL,
FROM THE FIRST UPPER BEACONSFIELD SCOUT GROUP**

Matt McDonald

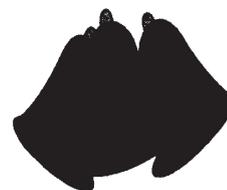
PAKENHAM CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (CAB)

(059) 412 377

For 17 years CAB has been providing free information to individuals or groups, enabling them to have access to accurate, relevant, and detailed knowledge of their rights, responsibilities and the services available in order that they can be independent and effective members of the community.

The trained volunteer staff will, enable you to help yourself and if needed refer you to appropriate professional staff agencies.

Open 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday



C.W.A. UPPER BEACONSFIELD BRANCH

Our meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except January, at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex. The December meeting will commence at 10.30 a.m, and then we are going to the Cuckoo for a Christmas breakup lunch.

We raise funds for local charities, and state and national emergencies. We also manage to enjoy ourselves and have some fun. Ladies who would like to join us will be made very welcome.

Betty Mars - President 0359
44 3214, Daphne Brown Sec.
0359 44 3994.

Cricket Club News

The Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club has started the new season well with all senior teams notching up wins in the opening three matches. Senior teams this season are in B, C and E Grades in the West Gippsland Cricket Association.

The Club has a new captain - coach in former player Joe Robertson and we also welcome back Terry Ramsay. The loss of John Kett (on business in China) left a big gap to fill. Other recruits include Darren Collings, Roland Betheras and Chris Wright.

The Firsts have won two of their first three games. Highlights have included a gritty win over traditional rivals Beaconsfield, good form with the bat by youngster David Runge and coach Robertson and great bowling performances from John Brierly and Richard Edwards.

The Seconds again under the captaincy of Colin Mitchell, have won two games and tied the other. Best batting performances so far have been from Warwick Scanlan (83 in round 3) and Kevin Gehling (38 in round 1). Recruit Collings has produced the best bowling figures so far with 6/34 in round three.

The Thirds, captained by Rob Hansen have carried on their good form of last season and are so far undefeated. Craig Hudson and John McCoinchie are top amongst the runs, whilst Hansen, Betheras and Hudson have been picking up the wickets.

Junior Sides - have also

shown various degrees of early season form.

The U/16s have shown a steady improvement and have just won their first game. In that game, Marcus Gehling top scored with 40 (retired) and Dale Irving took the bowling honours with 4/19

The U/14s have won all three games. Coach this year is Peter Ash. Matthew Brennan and Brendan Webb have both shown great form and have been rewarded with selection in the W.G.C.A. U/14 side.

The U/12s have yet to win a game but their performances are improving. The team has recruited a female player Rebecca Kennedy and welcomes any other girls who wish to play. The last match was played at twilight on consecutive Fridays and proved to be popular with both players and spectators.

Social News - The Club recently held a cocktail night where guests were treated to a range of exotic cocktails. The annual \$1000 Night will be held on Saturday 21 December in the Clubrooms. Anyone interested in having a chance of winning \$1000 should contact Richard Edwards on 03 9704 7563.

The Club is again looking for sponsors. If you or your business would like to sponsor a player and enjoy the privileges, please contact Richard Williams on (03) 5944 4075.

Richard Williams



CAROLS BY CANDLE-LIGHT AT PAKENHAM -

*An exciting Program -
Presented by the Cardinia
Shire
SATURDAY 14TH
DECEMBER AT 6.30 PM*

The Shire is expecting about 4000 people at the gardens by Lilypond House, in Duncan Drive, to participate in carol singing. Entertainment will be led by the McDonalds Melbourne Youth Band, the Australian Children's Choir, Piper Ian Berry and Soloist Di Faulkner.

All residents, friends and families are welcome.

There will be an opportunity for all who wish, to leave new presents for disadvantaged children under the Christmas Tree.

Participants are invited to have a picnic by the pond and enjoy items presented by community performing groups. Food and drink will be available from community stalls.

Carols will commence at 8.30, and there will be fireworks at 10pm. You can buy your candles from the Scouts for 50c. There is ample car parking.

TELSTRA - A REMINDER

- 8 DIGITS telephone numbers are now in use.

On the 11th November 96 the new 8 digit telephone number scheme commenced in Victorian Country areas.

On 17th August 1997, STD 059 will cut out - we will all be 03 All STD calls to this area must use 03 after August 97

L.E.T.S. TRADES LOCALLY

BARTER MADE WORKABLE

Jeanette Ballinger

I have discovered that a **LETS** operates out of Pakenham. I have been reading about this system for years and I am convinced that it is useful in the present economic climate for small communities like ours - let me tell you about it.

LETS stands for **Local Employment Trading System** and is a system that is not deterred by an apparent shortage of money in the world. It is similar to a community bank. Each member can open an account and use the mutual credit system to trade locally with other members. Started in Canada by Michael Linton 13 years ago it came to Australia in 1987. No-one knows how many **LETS** systems are currently operating around the world.

LETS accepts that money is a measure and ideally has no value of its own; that the wealth of a community is the goods and services it provides. Many of us in Upper Beaconsfield may be happy to use this system. It is available in Pakenham, let's use these facilities. We can trade in Upper Beaconsfield and phone our trading to the central computer in Pakenham. In most cases it is usual to pay cash for parts or supplies like paint and pay labour in points. The more of us in U.B. who join and use the system the faster the employment opportunities occur for everyone.

LETS needs trades people to join, plumbers, builders, painters, carpenters, gardeners, repairers; also babysitters, accountants, office workers. Think about the possibilities just in our small community when we could have so many jobs done without using cash except for materials. So far the Taxation Department has put **LETS** in the too hard basket. Are all the tradespeople in U.B. run off their feet with work? Surely some of them would like to have various jobs done for them too. Join **LETS**

HOW TO USE IT? Pakenham **LETS** trades in Lily Points, each lily point being equal to one

dollar. Members are given a cheque book, when you buy something you give a cheque stating the lily points you have agreed to pay, on the cheque stub is your record of the lily points you are in debit. You also advise the office so they can keep central records. When you join you will be given a list of members, the services and goods they offer and their phone numbers, you can then start trading. Treat **LETS** traders like any others, ask for a quote, ask to see other work they have done, you are the customer. The secret of **LETS** is to keep the money circulating in the Community. The system best suits small communities and works well with between 50-200 members.

Can you be RIPPED OFF? Most **LETS** systems find as many people leave LETS with a credit as leave with a debit. If you are concerned keep your **LETS** account in debit, like an overdraft at zero interest. Then you avoid risk.

If the only goods and services available through the LETS system are those classified as disposable income items and do not involve the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter, the system can only be useful in a limited way. It is important for as wide a cross-section of the community as possible to be involved.

PAKENHAM LETS needs a greater diversity of membership. It currently has 40 members and must build up that membership as soon as possible. A working agreement exist, with **DANDENONG RANGES LETS**, who already have a huge membership and diversity. We may use their services; however, who wouldn't rather use members close to home?

If **LETS** sounds good to you contact - **PAKENHAM LETS INC.** on (059) 426 339 and leave a message. The Office Coordinator is in the office on Thursdays between 10am and 3.30pm at LLINC, 55-57 Henry Street, Pakenham. 3810. Call in and ask for details about the small joining fee or just to talk over the whole idea of **LETS**.

Open your **LETS** community bank account NOW and start trading.

YOUR LOCAL LETS NEEDS YOU!

UPPER BEACONSFIELD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

AUCTION

The fund raising auction held on 19th October was a great success. The Brigade thanks all those who attended and purchased goods.

BRIGADE BUSY

Since the last Village Bell the Brigade has responded to seventeen calls - four calls to attend storm damage which resulted in trees and power lines across the road, three motor car accidents including one fatality, a car fire, seven scrub or tree fires most of which were the result of burn-offs "getting away", an assist to Emerald Brigade for a tree fire, and an assist to Toomuc Brigade for a reported grass fire.

Nine calls to escaped burn-offs, show that despite a wet Winter and Spring, fires still need to be carefully supervised. Warmer and dryer weather will result in the need for even greater care.

FUEL REDUCTION BURNING

The Brigade will be conducting fuel reduction burn-offs in the coming weeks. On December 8th, if the weather is suitable, several neighbouring brigades will be involved in a burn-off in our area as part of a major pre-summer exercise.

Nancy Boura

Relating to - Letters to the Editor.

It is absolute editorial policy that "Letters to the Editor" must contain sufficient information to allow the editor to positively identify the writer. There are legal reasons for this, but it is also often appropriate to discuss the letter with the writer, and determine the origin of facts and opinions, or even to decide on the format of the letter or whether more information should be pursued. A writer may request that his/her name not be published or use a "nom de plume".

This month a long letter was received from a Chris Daffy. He/she provided no address, no telephone number and no Daffy is listed in the 059 directory.

In substance the letter expressed concern that a large number of animals had been killed in Leppitt Road, and made several suggestions that might reduce the mortality, including personalised signs for specific species. There were also comments relating to nature strip management. Cardinia Shire's attitude to this matter is outlined in the article on weeds.

People who work in Pakenham and are regular daily users of the road, have been asked to estimate the animal death toll in Leppitt Road this year, and they agree that a number of wallabies have been killed, and also point out that the speed and number of vehicles has increased greatly since the road has been made, greatly increasing the risk to fauna.

Unfortunately we have to accept that wallabies are roamers and have no "road sense" and unless the road is completely fenced nothing will change.

ED.

Diary Dates

- Dec 4 Sutherland Park Election
- Dec 5 CWA Meeting
- Dec 6 UBA at Pine Grove
- Dec 5 Community Complex B&GC Meeting
- Dec 6 Cafe John
- Dec 14 Stall St. John's
- Dec 16 Neighbourhood Watch Xmas night
- Dec 21 Cricket Club \$1000 night
- Dec 24 Carols by Candlelight
- Feb 14 Community Week starts
- Apr 5 Village Fair

EDITORIAL STAFF - ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Graeme Kidd, who was a founding editor and produced Village Bell No. 5 in April 1979, has now, after a long break, agreed to re-join the editorial group. His long association with this community, as UBA member, President of the Hall Committee, Chairman of the Quarry Impact Committee since it's formation in 1977, his business ability and local knowledge will be of great value to his colleagues..

Sharon Bourke has also agreed to help us, using her computer talents and assisting Helen Smith with the format - thank you and welcome Sharon.

Val Ewenson retired from the Pakenham Library on the afternoon of Friday November 8th, and kindly agreed to join the staff. Val has produced many mastheads for past bells - How do you like this Christmas coloured version? - thanks Val.

Ed.

BEACONHILLS COUNTRY GOLF CLUB

The AGM for the lady members was held during October. Life Member Gwen Johns has finally decided to take life easy and retire after serving as Secretary for eighteen years! Gwen's great contribution to Beaconhills has included a term as President and Board member for many years. Ettie Guilfoyle is now Captain and Gillian Lewis Vice Captain. Annette Phillips, another Upper Beac resident, remains assistant handicapper.

The lady members have honoured Dot White by introducing the Dorothy White Perpetual trophy, an Ambrose pairs event. This was played during October and won by Marilyn Ford and Gwen Johns. Dot has been a wonderful club member for many years and initiated Picnic Day and the 9 holers competitions. She is also one of the five donors of the Phoenix Salver and the Beaconhills Plate two trophies donated by members whose homes were burnt during the Ash Wednesday bush fires in appreciation of assistance received from both the club and the district.

Club championships have been played recently and congratulations go to Bob Corbett our new club champion. B Grade - John MacGregor; C Grade - Scott Westle; Veterans -John Ambrose. Mark Auhl, club champion for the past six years is training to become a club professional and was not eligible to defend his title. Mark has very successfully completed his first year of the three year apprenticeship, receiving a number of high distinctions.

Marilyn Ford retains her club championship title for the sixth consecutive year. B Grade - Jenny Browning; C Grade -Carole Skelton; D Grade - Leslie Patterson; Veterans -Barbara Jackson.

Course Superintendent Stuart Laing and his ground staff are to be congratulated for the superb condition of Beaconhills during the club championships and for their maintenance and presentation of both courses throughout one of the wettest winters in memory. Beaconhills was closed for only two days and that was mainly as a precaution to prevent possible dangerous driving conditions, when overflow from the lower dam started to cross the entrance drive. No "tee ups" were necessary during the wet period and if you don't mind playing in the pouring rain, you can certainly get full playing time from your membership dollars at Beaconhills! Many new trees have been planted and pathways are continually being up-graded. The lady members recently presented Stuart with \$600 to be used for the construction of a path suitable for motorised carts to be built on the right hand side of the 10th fairway (Hills course), leading up to the green.

President Julie Greetham has invited ladies who have attended Mark Griffin's golf clinics during the year, to join in a refresher clinic and a few holes of golf followed by a light lunch with some of the lady members on Monday 9 December. Julie welcomes any other ladies interested in playing golf at Beaconhills to join the day.

Barbara Jackson 443 554

Skin Cancer Caution

Australians have amongst the highest rate of skin cancer in the world and as the protective ozone layer decreases, this incidence will increase. While there are many forms of skin cancer the most serious is melanoma. If undetected melanomas can grow into the deeper layers of the skin, from where they may spread to distant parts of the body, ultimately causing death.

A melanoma looks a bit like a freckle but with an irregular or smudgy border. Melanomas may come in a variety of colours including black, blue, brown, red or sometimes a pale grey. They are usually flat to begin with but often become raised as they grow. The first sign of a melanoma is usually the appearance of a new spot on the skin or a change in the size, shape or colour of an existing mole or freckle over a period of weeks or months.

Although melanomas can occur in parts of the body not normally exposed to the sun, the best way to protect against them is to reduce exposure to the sun. This means staying indoors if possible between 10am and 3pm on high UV days, wearing protective clothing, broad brimmed hats and sunglasses and using maximum protection (15+) sunscreen on all exposed skin. Men in particular need to remember to protect their ears, their neck and if they are balding, their head. Check your skin regularly and see a doctor if you have any doubts about a new or changing spot on your skin. The sooner a melanoma is identified and removed, the better the chances of cure

Dr Who

REAL ESTATE OFFICE OPENS IN UPPER BEACONSFIELD

Our area has seen a rapid increase in the number of new houses in recent years as well as a significant turnover in existing properties. The establishment of secondary and tertiary education focus at Berwick and the proposed construction of a hospital in the region will probably keep the demand for quality housing fairly steady in the coming years.

Stockdale and Leggo, one of the state's oldest real estate organisations have opened an office adjacent to the Supermarket. This office will be manned by local residents Roland Betheras of Telegraph Road, who is coach of the under 12 cricket team, and Richard Cook from Officer.

Residents wishing to contact Stockdale and Leggo should ring 5944 3789, after hours Roland is on 5944-4340, and Richard on 5943-2344, mobile 0418 878 553.

Colleen Lazenby

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sunday 27th October

The 40th Anniversary Celebration of the opening of the McBride Road Kindergarten was a great success. More than a hundred people attended the celebration, including past and present teachers, and their assistants, past and present pupils, representatives from committees spanning six decades, all mingling together. There was a lot of catching up to do, and the level of laughter suggested that many funny stories were told.

Attending guests signed the original visitors book of 1956, quite a few had signed the original book in 1956, and everybody received a booklet containing the history of the preschool service in Upper Beaconsfield. Many enjoyed browsing through the display of "kinder history" folders covering 1938 to 1990's, and also the early minute books, teacher's reports, newspaper articles, correspondence books, and photos

The first Truby King League Health Centre Committee was formed in 1938. In 1943 when Mrs Gwynneth Colles became President of the Committee a kindergarten was opened in the Assembly Hall. Mrs Colles continued as President until the McBride Road Centre opened in 1956. This building was the culmination of much hard work ...but there are always new challenges as many committees and teachers since then have found.

Every year sees changes, and contributions by the committee. The 1996 committee were very pleased to demonstrate to many who have worked in the past for a successful preschool service that their efforts are not forgotten - even if we do laugh at some of the minutes! (8/5/63 Mrs Conn thanked Mrs Stanford for her kind donation of a larger teapot, which was badly needed for meetings ...)

Wendy Jennings (President) made a short speech of welcome and thanks - especially commending the former kinder teachers, as well as Jenny Conn for her work with the clay tiles, and Peter Kenny for his "hammering" talents. She then invited Mrs Joyce Begg to cut the ribbon across the path leading to the area where the 1996 children's tiles had been laid, (thanks to Greg and Julie Whiteley), around a bird bath which Mrs Anne Bate had donated.

In the tradition of great kindergarten meetings of the past, afternoon tea was enjoyed by all. P.S. Thank you Ettie Guilfoyle, super address sleuth.

Mary Griffin

KINDER PARTY

Mrs Begg cuts the ribbon.

Happy faces were everywhere some young some older. See additional pictures on pages 20 and 24



Council Snippets

New Councillors

Cardinia Shire has planned two meetings designed to inform prospective councillors and their constituents of the procedures envisaged both during and after the local government elections due in February and March.

Approximately fifty people attended the first meeting which was held on November 19. Four main points were covered, the first three by heads of Cardinia Council departments and the last by Commissioner Clarke, using his own experiences as the source:

To illustrate how local government has changed and in particular to emphasise how important the new council will be for the future of the Shire, and to stress the importance of generating a strong field of candidates and the role of the community in this.

To illustrate the demographics and physical characteristics of the Shire which could assist candidates and their supporters.

To illustrate the electoral process. How the postal election will be conducted. To advise the candidates on what steps need to be taken between now and the election.

To provide advice which may assist candidates and their supporters to manage a successful campaign.

Further details from David Roff at the Shire offices Ph. 454222.

Important dates are 18th December 1996 when electoral rolls close, February 6th when nominations open, and February 12th 1997 when nominations close.

A second session of advice

for candidates will be held early next year.

Fire Hazard Clearance

You may have seen the advertisement in the Pakenham Gazette mid-October forecasting fire hazard clearance work. Notices will most likely be sent out prior to Christmas to those property owners where work is required. If your land has areas which are environmentally sensitive, arrangements may be made with the Shire to reduce the amount of slashing or postpone the work until shrubs, grasses, or orchids have shed their seed. Detail will depend on weather conditions. An extremely dry early summer could mean that delay would not be wise and this season's seed would need to be sacrificed.

At a hearing in the Magistrate's Court on 18/11/96 a local landholder was fined and ordered to pay costs to a total of approximately \$10,000 as a result of illegal clearing of vegetation.

Laura Levens

Brief Notes from the Cardinia Shire Council Minutes for September and October

Planning Scheme Amendments

Advice has been received from the Minister of Planning and Local Government that he proposes to remove the prohibition on extractive industry in non-urban zones within the Melbourne supply area.

The amendment will create the opportunity for a planning permit for extractive industry in areas within the Cardinia Shire of environmental significance

where extractive industry is currently prohibited, i.e. Hillview Quarries.

Council recommend that a submission be made to the Minister to the effect that an amendment should include a statement concerning the need for an environmental effects study where appropriate in considering new proposals.

New Projects

Library Service - A new Board is now in position to create one of the most progressive library services in Victoria.

Art Design Centre - Toomuc Valley. The Shire is carrying out preparatory work for the letting of tenders for the design of this unique facility which will have an estimated cost of \$2.1 million.

Indoor Sports Stadium - Pakenham. A feasibility study is under way for this important development in recreation in the Pakenham Region and should have been finished by 12th November 1996.

Financial

The Shire financial surplus is some \$94,000 better than the 1996/1997 Budget estimate.

Compulsory Competitive Tendering

By the end of 1996 most Council services will be operating on a contract basis. Over the next three to four months, Council will proceed with market testing of the remaining services. (HACC, Family Day Care, Accounts, EDP/Records, Rating/Valuation, Workshop.)

Rates and Valuations

Movement in the value of property in the Shire has been downward between 1990 -1994 to the tune of 10-15%, vacant sites down by as much as 20%. Shire revaluations are complete for the rating period commencing the 1st October 1996

Chris Cowley



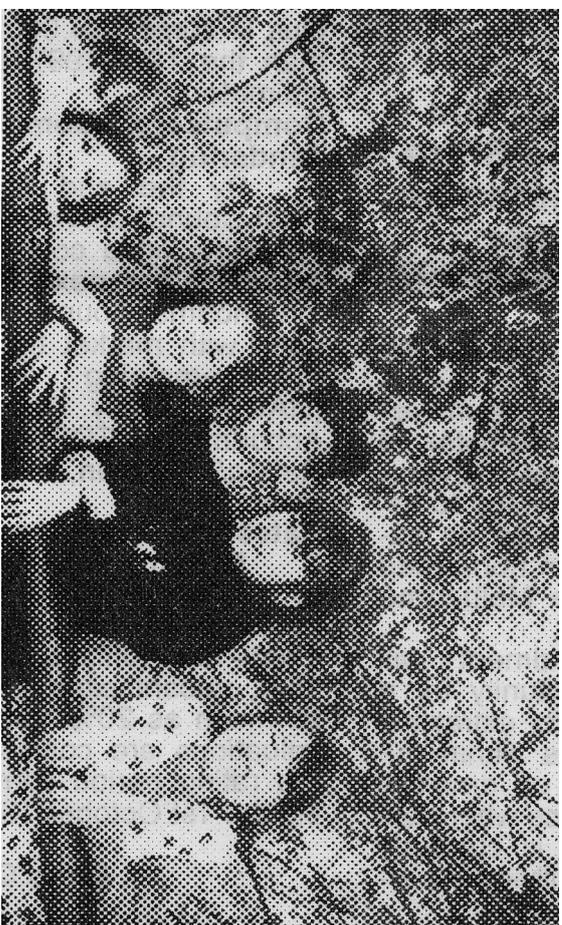
Marie Howard Ann Graham & Sheila Marshall



Gwynne & Jenny Conn with Colin Marshall



Phyl Murphy Isobel Clark & Jennie Vaughan



Younger fry enjoying the party

AMONGST THE CROWD AT THE KINDER PARTY

******ACCOMMODATION******

"FERNHILL"
Full Country Accommodation - B & B
Faye & Keith Farthing
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Lot 118a Salisbury Road
Upper Beaconsfield Ph (059) 44 3116

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For that special weekend away, stay in a restored cottage
with views to the Bay, set in 2 acres of formal gardens.
"Experience the Joy of Yuulong"
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******ACCOUNTANTS******

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Peter D Cousins
Certified Practising Accountants
Registered Tax Agent
67 High Street Berwick
B.H. 707 2788

PHILIP J HELLIAR

Chartered Accountant
Registered Tax Agent

Phone BH & AH 443112

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ELLEN & HANS NOWAK
Obedience Training and Top
Quality Dog Breeding.
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Classic Vehicle Restoration
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for service and maintenance of
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A/H 059 44 3042

******BOWLING******

COCKATOO & DISTRICT BOWLS CLUB INC.
McBride Street, Cockatoo (059) 688 802
NEW MEMBERS VERY WELCOME
Accredited coaches available (free)
If you would like to come and try
Contact Chris (059) 443 337 or Graham (059) 680 291

BERWICK BOWLING CLUB
Offers to new bowlers
Free tryout - free coaching
No waiting lists - Young or not so young
Pennant, Competition, Social, Night Bowls
Ring Ern (03) 9796 1328 / Keryn (03) 9796 2834

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD BUILDING SERVICES
Semi-retired Builder
Member of Housing Industry Association Reg. No. 16897
35 years experience
Able to do all Repairs and Maintenance
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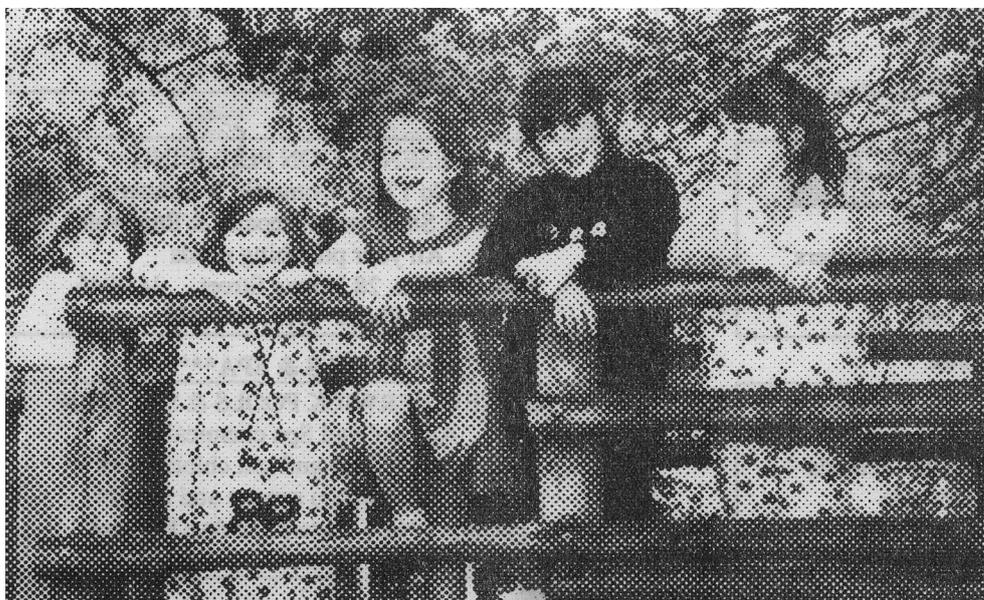
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