

★ THE VILLAGE FAIR

Upper Beaconsfield residents and children especially will be looking forward to the 1997 Village Fair, coming on Saturday, April 5th to be held at the Recreation Reserve in Burton Road between 11 am and 3 pm.

It is always great day for the family. The kids can run around and look at the exhibits and try the various activities, while the parents (and grandparents) catch up with friends and neighbours.

It is also a good way to find out more about the community you live in as many of the community groups set up information stands and you can talk with their representatives. Other groups are setting up food and craft stalls and appreciate the opportunity to raise some needed funds for their organisations.

Some of the activities featuring this year include -

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sherbrook Achers | Myuna Animal Farm |
| Fire Brigade Demo | Pony Rides |
| Rock Climbing | Plaster Making |
| Face Painting | Art and Crafts |
| Decorated Bikes | Games |

★ And let's not forget Humphrey B. Bear!

SEE YOU ALL THERE

Meet the New Councillors - next UBA Meeting

The next UBA meeting to be held on April 2, 8 pm at the Community Complex will be your opportunity to meet the two new councillors representing Beaconhills Ward in the Cardinia Shire.

They are Ted Owen and Graeme Kidd who were successful out of the six candidates who stood for election. See further poll report on page 6 inside.

The new team leading the Association in 1997 is also featured on page 20. This meeting is also a chance for you to meet the people who have the interests of Upper Beaconsfield at heart.

**UBA meeting
Community Complex
Wednesday April 5
8 pm**

IN
THIS
ISSUE

UB Planning meeting	Page	7
Free Water	Page	9
UBA News	Page	20

THE DAY UPPER BEACONSFIELD DIDN'T BURN

by Ysabelle Hobson

Tues 21 Jan 1997

5 am - I roll over in bed, look at the clock and think "I don't have to get up." (The day before I finished a project which had occupied me for 10-12 hours a day for nearly eight weeks.)

7 am - I get up. What else can you do when you have a four year old daughter, and a menagerie which includes a dog who yodels for her breakfast and a horse who twangs the wire on the fence when he's hungry? Another extremely hot day with strong northerly winds. We can only be alert and pray it never happens again - not in Upper Beaconsfield. Not anywhere.

Mid-morning - Val, my mother-in-law, has heard on the radio about the fires in Mount Dandenong. My stomach knots uneasily. But Mount Dandenong is a long way away. Lindsey and I go into the village. As I drive the familiar few kilometres I look around anxiously for smoke - signs of fire. Nothing.

But in the village everybody is jumpy. A large smoke column is pointed out to me. It appears to be heading our way. I remember what I've heard about fires starting from the debris blown before a fire front and I quietly panic. *1st mistake: do not panic.* I drive home, forcing myself not to exceed the speed limit. Despite bright reassuring words from me, she knows. "Will Mollie get burned?" she asks. (Mollie is her pony.)

Piers and I agree that Val should evacuate with Lindsey immediately and take as many animals as she can fit into her 800 cc two-seater Subaru. Val thinks it is too early to make the decision. *2nd mistake: if you're going to go, go early.* I just want Lindsey out of there.

As I run around catching horses and putting them into the yard where they can be easily caught, Lindsey follows me around wanting to help and becoming increasingly stressed when I won't let her. *3rd mistake: children tend not to panic unless the adults do. Let them help with preparations according to their capabilities.*

In the end Val takes only one dog because it is taking too long to get the other animals organised. *4th mistake: the animals should have been kept inside all day. We knew there was a high fire risk.* As I bundle Lindsey into

the car and press woollen blankets and water onto Val for the journey down the hill, I can see in her eyes that she thinks I am panicking unnecessarily. But she has gone, and whatever else happens Lindsey will be safe.

I hear on the radio about fires in Ferny Creek and Kallista. The township of Upwey is threatened. That's far too close for comfort. Thank God Val has gone via Berwick.

While Piers is cleaning gutters, checking the petrol pump, cleaning up rubbish (*5th mistake: we should have done all this weeks ago*) I start getting cat carriers and leashes together.

I even pack a box for the pet rat. I bundle the cats into the bathroom. I shut the dogs in the house. One (the yodeller) has already picked up on the tension and is hiding under the bed. That's the safest place for her - it's our room of last retreat in an emergency. I put water and hay in the fireproof stable and hope to God I don't have to use it. Harry, my horse, panics when there's a botfly in the vicinity.

As I fill every available sink and trough with water and collect mops, towels and fill the water backpack, the phone starts ringing. First it's a Beaconsfield restaurant wanting to confirm a booking. I tell them tersely I'll ring them back as soon as the danger's over. They laugh.

Then it's a friend whose daughter rides one of my horses ... Kara! I forgot all about her! The friend, very worried by radio reports, has cut a holiday short and is speeding home. We discuss possible evacuation plans for the horses. We decide to review the situation in an hour's time. *6th mistake: moving horses anywhere at such late notice is dangerous. They are liable to panic and refuse to load, the car could overheat or the petrol evaporate.*

The phone rings again as I am trimming the wisteria away from a window so I can close it, drawing curtains and moving furniture into the middle of every room. A very nice lady from Geelong wants to discuss local caterers for a horse show in Berwick. Ring you back tomorrow. If I still have a phone. If I still have a house. If I'm still alive.

(In my haste I get the number wrong so she never does hear from me again.)

As I am frantically sweeping gum leaves off the verandah (*7th mistake: see 5th mistake*) the phone rings again. Another friend has been told by somebody else the fires are in Emerald. Get out now! *8th mistake: be wary of rumours. Even if it's true it's probably too late to evacuate anyway.* And can I evacuate a horse from Leadbetter Road? No, I say (I know it's too late).

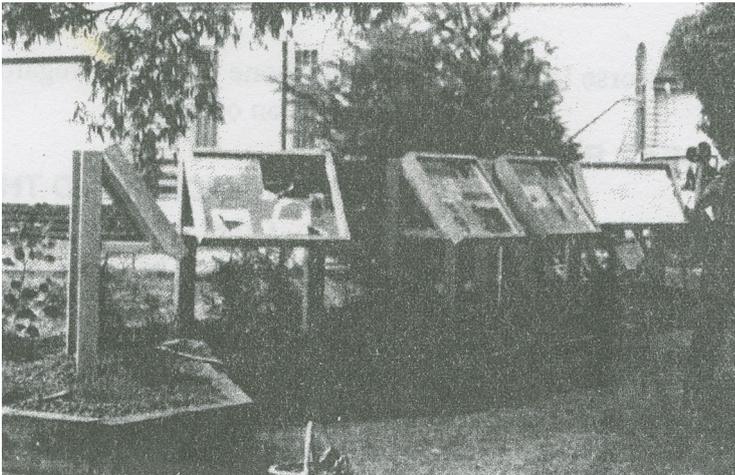
I go back to sweeping leaves which have blown straight back in on the verandah. But I feel guilty. I ring the VEC. New people have only recently taken over - Margaret and Ken Aldred. Talk about baptism by fire! Margaret is very kind. The VEC is a human, not a horse, refuge, and they have turned all their horses out. Yes, they could take a few more, but do I have time to get them there? She can see the fire from there. What fire? The one in Upper Beaconsfield - somewhere near the school.

Now I'm really scared. I yell the news to Piers and rush outside. In my always over-active imagination I can almost smell smoke and see trees in flames. But there is nothing. I ring the emergency number. Engaged and remains engaged. I try another emergency information number. The operator cannot advise me. We sit down by the radio. But we hear nothing about Upper Beaconsfield. (Later we hear that one station reported the village had been evacuated. As it turned out, two shop owners had, for various reasons, decided to go home.)

There have also been complaints that the Police prevented some people who lived near the village from returning to their homes. Pakenham Police are puzzled by these reports. At no stage were they instructed to evacuate locals, and they do not know which Police Officers were involved.)

Piers is his usual calm self, but I am starting to wish I'd left with Lindsey. A fire from the direction of the village is bad news. It will be travelling uphill when it reaches our property (fires travelling uphill burn faster and more intensely), and we are less protected.

(Continued on page 3)



YOU OWE IT TO YOUR FAMILY

I was very concerned to hear reports from Upper Beaconsfield of some last minute panic in the township on these hot days of January, 1997.

There were reports of non-stop phone calls to your busy fire station and many over the counter requests for advice from the milk bar and shops as to steps to take in the face of a fire threat approaching the township.

If you live in U.B, you owe it to your family to take these sensible steps to protect them from fire—please do not leave them until the last moment.

1. Clean up ground fuel around your property.
2. Read and teach your family the great lessons on fire protection on the Community Fire Boards beside the Hall — see picture.
3. Form or join a local 'Community Fireguard Group'. Tel 03 5944 3631, Rob Mountain.
4. MAKE YOUR HOME A REFUGE -- NOT A RISK AREA.

PLEASE TREAT THIS MATTER AS URGENT AS 3808 IS STILL TINDER DRY

Ray Ratcliff

(Continued from page 2)

The Ferny Creek fire is also a worry as our open carport faces that direction. In it are the cars, facing out for a quick getaway, keys in the ignition, water and blankets packed. We still have power to use our regular water pump so I set up the garden sprinklers on top of the cars and proceed to flood the carport. I want Piers to turn on the petrol pump which pumps water from the big concrete tank to operate the house sprinklers but he's saving water for an emergency. What the hell is this? I scream. *9th mistake: do not turn on sprinklers until the fire is imminent. Trying to soak the house and garden is a waste of time as in high temperatures most water just evaporates.* I suddenly remember I haven't covered the light switches in the very wet carport and rush to do so. I am in danger of shorting out our power supply before the fire gets anywhere near us.

Piers and I are drinking water (in a fire situation you need to drink four litres plus an hour or you will dehydrate). The phone rings again. Another friend, who evacuated hours ago and left his

horses in their yard. But he's worried because he left their halters on.

10th mistake: Take all rugs, halters, flynets off your horses and hose them down. Some vets also advise opening all internal gates on your property and if possible giving horses access to a dam. Horses can survive by leaping the flames, particularly if pasture is scarce.

It's only five minutes up the road to my friend's place - I want to go and take the halters off. But the friend won't hear of it, and I know he's right.

Late afternoon. We sit, exhausted by the radio. We have heard rumours from friends that there have been three to four fires in Upper Beaconsfield. There was, in fact, one grass fire, deliberately lit, but our local CFA controlled it promptly. Unfortunately we didn't know this at the time. As our house and those of our neighbours are still standing we can only assume that the entire village has been razed except, miraculously, Lewis Road. *11th mistake: see 8th mistake.*

Evening. Lindsey rings: she's

having a lovely day with Val and her friend but there's a catch in her voice. Four years old, and she knows. Yes, darling, Mollie's fine. We all are. You can come home soon ... If I can only find out if the village is still intact and the road from Berwick is safe.

Again I try the emergency numbers. No use. I am reluctant to ring the CFA because they have enough on their hands. But the prayed-for wind change has come and so Val and Lindsey start the trek home. I keep the bath filled and the curtains drawn just in case, and they will remain like that for the next 24 hours.

9.30 pm - Lindsey is already tucked up in bed and the rest of us can't wait to follow. But I am still worried, so Piers and I agree to take turns listening to the radio.

1 am - Piers comes to bed, but, judging the danger is over, he doesn't wake me. Waste of time anyway. I've had such a hectic day off that nothing short of nuclear disaster would rouse me from sleep.

WORST FIRE SEASON SINCE 1985

The hot, dry summer we have been experiencing has led to arguably the most severe fire season since 1985. The most extreme days were January 20 and 21 when significant fires occurred in country Victoria and in Melbourne's forested outer suburbs.

There were a total of 511 fires recorded during the 48 hour period; 176 fires on Monday 20 and 335 on Tuesday 21 January 1997. Of these, eight were considered major fires Langwarrin and Mount Martha on the Monday; and Kalorama, Ferny Creek, Walbundry-Upwey, Arthur's Seat, Heathcote and Creswick on the Tuesday.

The major fires were relatively small, a total of 2604 ha, but their location meant they posed considerable threat to large residential areas. Three lives and 40 homes were lost in the Dandenong Ranges Fires. Elsewhere homes were damaged, but the only losses were to farm sheds etc..

CFA and NRE (Natural Resources and Environment) utilised 3,000 firefighters, 703 fire trucks, and 37 aircraft in combatting the major fires. Firefighters were generally successful in controlling the fires as they reached the boundary between the forest and residential areas, and in protecting homes.

Whilst both days exhibited extremely nasty fire weather, they were only 75% as severe as Ash Wednesday. This combined with a very calm cool change on Tuesday evening helped ensure that the fires were controlled.

It could easily have been

much, much worse !

UPPER BEAC BRIGADE BUSY

Upper Beac Fire Brigade responded to 8 calls on 20-21 January.

Our Tanker was sent to the Langwarrin fire as part of a Pakenham Group Strike Team on Monday evening and worked throughout the night returning to Upper Beac Tuesday morning.

Whilst it was away, the remaining Upper Beac units supported by those left at Emerald and Narre Warren East successfully controlled a grass fire in Stoney Creek Road.

Upper Beac firefighters were on stand by at the Fire Station throughout the 21 st, keeping an eye out for spot fires from the Dandenong Ranges fires directly north of us.

Smoke drift from these fires lead to false alarm calls to Grant Court (supported by units from Beaconsfield and Berwick), Quamby Road (supported by Beaconsfield, Berwick and Narre Warren), and Split Rock Road (with support from Officer).

The main fire for the day was approximately half a hectare of pine trees and scrub near the Primary School. This fire had potential to cause problems, but was rapidly controlled by Upper Beac units supported by those left at Berwick and Beaconsfield.

The other calls for the day were to power lines in Salisbury Road, and to a tree smouldering at the earlier scrub fire.

In between calls, brigade personnel watched for spot fires, and answered a non-stop stream

of telephone inquiries regarding the location of fires.

AND IT DIDN'T END THERE ..

Other calls since the last Village Bell have been a motor vehicle accident on Beaconsfield-Emerald Road (below the Church), a false alarm smoke sighting in Barnes Drive, a grass fire in Norbury Road, a false alarm smoke sighting in the Critchley Parker Junior Reserve and a stump fire—Norbury Road.

There was a car fire Burton Road, a motor vehicle accident Beaconsfield-Emerald Road (north of the village), a rubbish fire Stoney Creek Road, an assist to Clyde at a grass fire, a car fire in St. Georges Road, and an assist to Beaconsfield at a car fire in Payne Road, Mt. Misery.

A total of 56 emergency calls so far for the financial year.

THE COMMUNITY HELPS ITSELF

On a positive note more than 50 local residents attended an information night at the Community Centre where for more than 2 hours they asked wildfire safety questions of a panel of Brigade personnel.

The five Community Fireguard groups have also been active this summer, a new group has formed in High Street, and there has been interest from three other neighbourhoods in Upper Beac. If you want to learn about wildfire and develop survival strategies to help you in next years fires contact Rob Mountain on 0359 443 631.

Jon Boura

END OF AN ERA AT THE UBRFB

The Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade meeting on Monday April 7 will see the end of an era in the village when Captain Eric Bumpstead chooses not to stand for reelection to the position. After 24 years wearing the red helmet, Captain Bumpstead announced at the March meeting that the time has come for a change.

Although the Captain's term will not officially finish until the end of the financial year in June, a new captain will be named as a result of brigade elections to be held during the April meeting.

Two men have indicated that they are willing to serve - Rob Irving, currently a brigade Lieutenant and Robin Mountain, also a brigade Lieutenant and CPA Group Training Officer for Region 8/13. Whichever of these men is elected, it will mark the first time in its history that the Brigade will not be led by an orchardist.

After what he termed "long innings in the job", Eric Bumpstead feels that he should step aside while he is still in a position to act as a mentor to the incoming Captain. He intends to apply the lessons of his Lodge pledge to the situation: he will "render further assistance" to his successor, giving advice freely when it is sought and offering help when he feels it is needed.

Relinquishing the responsibilities as Captain will also ease some of the obligations of a very busy life and give Eric and his wife Joyce a chance to travel occasionally and take holidays together and spend additional time with their 3 granddaughters, son and a daughter and son-in-law who recently returned from 12 years overseas.

Eric was born and grew up in Pakenham, moving to Upper Beaconsfield in 1953 when he took over the orchard site where he and Joyce have made their home since 1954. He joined the brigade in 1957 and took over the captaincy from Ed Hamilton in 1973.

At that time fire fighting equipment consisted of beaters, rakes, knapsacks, axes and one small pump on an old truck. The all-male crew wore no helmets or overalls, but their skills and experience on the land gave them an edge for the wide variety of conditions in this area.

Although equipment and training are much more sophisticated now. Captain Bumpstead's philosophy remains the same: "with fire, you're dealing with something that never changes", he says; the basic purpose is "to put the wet stuff on the red stuff". And while being proactive is a desirable stance, it has its limitations. "Firefighting is basically a reactive process", he says, and "despite the fact that there are patterns, you can't altogether predict what a fire will do".

Certainly the biggest challenge that the Captain, the brigade and the village faced together was the fires of Ash Wednesday. Eric and Joyce Bumpstead played an important role in the aftermath - they found that their house was filled until late many nights when fire fighters and other village people needed to talk about their experiences to relieve some of the stress and trauma of that period.

The Bumpsteads decided not to sell fruit at their roadside stall that year and Eric spent a great deal of time "dedicated to looking after his community, to the extent that he did his best to help everybody" who had lost homes and



property, remembers Ian Symons, currently CFA Acting Deputy Chief, but a Regional Officer at the time. Symons also notes that before 1983, Eric's insistence that shire fire prevention officers should support his demands for better roadside clearance and property maintenance caused some friction, but the practices he emphasised then have become accepted methods for community preparedness since the lessons of that time.

One of the most notable - and controversial - innovations of Captain Bumpstead's tenure was the inclusion of women as fully trained brigade members. Up until 1981, women acted as radio operators only.

When the number of male firefighters declined sharply with the departure of Dewhurst orchardists after Cardinia Dam inundated their village, and with so many men working outside the environs of Upper Beaconsfield, Captain Bumpstead realised that capable women represented an untapped resource and a great waste of talent.

What seems a logical decision from the perspective of the 1990's met with stiff opposition both inside and outside the local brigade at the time; other Victorian captains went as far as to tell Eric that if they had to accept women in their brigades, they would resign!

Faced with those attitudes, Captain Bumpstead decided to hold additional women-only training sessions to bring their skills up to par, rather than "throw them in at the deep end with all the blokes", he says now. He recognised then that a lack of self confidence would be the biggest barrier to full integration of women into the CFA, making the difference between acceptance or further resentment of them.

The first group of seven women became known as "Eric's Angels" and in his estimation, in a lot of cases those women performed better than a number of the men. One of the original "Angels" Nancy Boura is still an active member and she says that the leadership that Captain Bumpstead has provided - free of the shouting and excited style that she has seen in other captains - has been so important in maintaining brigade stability over the years.

Other firefighters do not hesitate to describe Captain Bumpstead in glowing terms as well. "I suppose there must be other Captains as good in their way as he is, but it's impossible to imagine", say Dr. George Silberbauer, Past President and a 25 year member of the Brigade and a specialist in the study of disasters. Eric's "first class people management skills" are

(Continued on page 6)

DECLARATION OF THE POLL - MARCH 17th

The results of the Cardinia Shire elections were formally declared by the Electoral Officer at 5:00 pm on Monday 17th of March at a special meeting of the Council called for this purpose.

As has already been publicised, the 2 successful candidates for the Beaconsfield Riding are Cr. Ted Owen and Cr. Graeme Kidd.

There were 6 candidates standing for 2 positions of ward councillor - this in itself is important - to have 6 people prepared to commit themselves to the demanding task of representing the rate payers of Beaconsfield Ward and to the all important task of steering the

Shire of Cardinia over the next 3 years, is something we can be proud of. Our system of government depends on there being citizens willing to accept these responsibilities.

One of the great regrets is that only 2 candidates could be selected - that all the candidates were worthy is beyond doubt, but the system allows for but 2 to become councillors.

One candidate in particular brought a wealth of experience and many years of dedicated community service, only to miss election by 29 votes. To Keith Ewenson, former councillor of 19 years, may we say how much your years of service mean to the

residents of Upper Beaconsfield, and, knowing you as we do, we are sure you will continue to contribute to the community in so many ways in the years ahead.

Keith, you have earned a special place in the list of those who have given of themselves that the community may prosper and grow.

Val, it is right and proper that our thanks encompass you also - the contribution has been a team effort and it is the team of Keith and Val that we thank for a great job well done.

Graham Jackson

(Continued from page 5)

legendary; his relationship with brigade members is as a first among equals, but as Lieutenant Jon Boura says, "you're left in no doubt" when Eric gives an order.

Jon, a CFA professional staffer has seen a lot of CFA Captains and he says that Eric's local knowledge is "a real stand out" feature which strongly influences the expertise he brings to bear in any emergency situation.

In addition, Ian Symons says that Eric Bumpstead "has never forgotten any lesson he ever learnt in the past", a reference to what others call the Captain's formidable memory.

Community members such as Graham Jackson refer to the Captain's outstanding intellectual calibre, honest, straight forward manner and immense practical experience.

Sue Fiddes feels that Eric has had "the community's welfare at heart the whole time", and although he seems eminently suited to the fire brigade, "Eric would have occupied a position of responsibility in the community no matter what", says Graham Jackson.

An important point repeated by everyone is the supportive role played by Joyce Bumpstead over the years; "He couldn't have done it without her", says the CFA's Ian Symons. Until the recent introduction of the new VicFire reporting system, a fire call to the emergency number rang simultaneously in the Captain's house.

In addition to helping her husband into his overalls and boots at any hour of the day or night, Joyce was left to answer calls from other brigade members and anxious neighbours about locations and severity of fire or accident.

For every consultation or "chat" with the Captain, innumerable cups of tea, freshly baked biscuits and lunches were produced from Joyce's kitchen. One wonders if the "job description" that the candidates for captain have considered

includes a clause for the role of Captain's Wife.

The leadership of Captain Bumpstead over these last two and a half decades has produced a brigade with an enviable reputation as an expertly trained, professional and cohesive group of men and women. Whether responding to motor vehicle accidents, house fires, bush fire or similar emergencies, the work of our volunteers is marked by calm efficiency and superior skills.

When asked about the part he played in shaping the Brigade during his time as Captain, Eric Bumpstead characteristically modest. He attributes any success to "sheer good luck" and says the time "did me as much good as anyone". "I wanted to help the community because of my availability and a few other things", he says, but there is an unmistakable pride in his voice when he talks about how good the brigade really is.

Eric's legacy as Captain will be to pass along a fire fighting and emergency response team that is, he notes, "running smoothly, with all systems in place and standards set". His hope is that the next Captain will appreciate what he's got and will foster it and carry on in his own way from this solid foundation. His decision to leave the Captain's position while he can still be of use in an advisory position, along with his recent brigade training sessions that emphasised the value of local knowledge are measures of the level of responsibility that Eric Bumpstead brings to the job.

"I wish that we had more Erics - we wouldn't have half the troubles we now have", says Ian Symons, "the difference in the [quality of] the leadership is evident when you look at other brigades". And remember, if you will, that like all members of the Brigade, Eric Bumpstead is a volunteer. And has been for forty years.

Colleen Lazenby

PLANNING WORKSHOP HELD IN UPPER BEAC.

Around forty people attended the last of five workshops held around the Shire over the last two weeks to obtain community input into the development of a Municipal Strategic Statement.

The chairman for the Workshop Philip Walton, Manager of Planning, began the evening by putting the exercise in context. The State government initiated planning reform in 1992 with the introduction of the Victorian Planning Provisions intended to ensure rationalisation of the thousands of existing planning zones and consistency of planning provisions across the State.

All planning schemes will have to be rewritten according to the new guidelines and the State government expects the process to be completed by the end of June.

A key element in this process is the development of a Municipal Strategic Statement to establish policies for the development and protection of land within the Cardinia Shire.

In addition to using available data and consulting with relevant agencies such as Melbourne Water, Vic Roads and Parks Victoria, five community workshops have been held to provide an opportunity for residents to identify issues and generate ideas to ensure the policies developed have local relevance.

Concern was voiced by several participants that the implementation of Shire wide planning policies would be inappropriate given the diversity within its boundaries.

Corporate Manager Planning, John McCaffrey pointed out that the planning team was interested in looking at the issues for the whole Shire but also wanted to develop a planning scheme which was responsive to local issues. He noted that the Shire has already developed an Environment Management Strategy, a Land Capability Strategy and a Heritage Study.

Graeme Kidd informed the group that the UBA had appointed himself, John Riddiford and Neil McDonald to oversee the development of a strategic plan for Upper Beaconsfield which would overlay the Shire planning scheme.

The Shire was being approached to fund a consultant to assist in this process. Participants in the workshop were organised into five small groups and initially given five minutes to brainstorm and list the issues.

There was broad agreement across the groups that the important issues were subdivision, drainage and waste management, traffic management and possibility of a by-pass road, maintaining the village atmosphere/lifestyle, protection of the environment and its diversity, appropriate

development perhaps cluster housing for older residents, greenbelts/open spaces, youth focussed recreational activities and minimisation of bushfire risks.

Each table chose a topic to workshop in terms of why it was important, goals to aim for and strategies for achieving them. The results were then fed back to the meeting.

John McCaffrey concluded the meeting by noting that the feed back from participants had been similar to that from the other four meetings in terms of the issues even though the details and accents differed. He stated that a strong recommendation would be made to the incoming council to fund a consultant to facilitate a strategy plan for the township.

Upper Beaconsfield will experience considerable pressure in the future from growth in the Berwick area so it is vital that a sound strategy plan is in place to cope with this pressure.

Once the draft Municipal Strategic Statement was developed participants to the workshops would be invited back to review and refine it.

There will also be further opportunities for community input when the draft Cardinia Planning Scheme will be exhibited for three months across the Shire.

Sue Pitman

MEET THE COMMUNITY CENTRE CO-ORDINATORS

ANNE INKSTER



Anne grew up in Berwick and attended St. Margaret's. She studied art and design at Dandenong Tafe College and then at RMIT to take a degree in Interior Design. She went

on to a career in the Interior Design industry planning commercial offices and designing board room layouts etc.

Between 1992 and 1995 she worked for the City of Berwick as Arts Officer, assisting on all art related matters. She organised courses to assist groups to run their meetings and to help with fund raising, etc., and liaised with the leisure and youth department working with young people and schools.

She also coordinated very successful jazz jam sessions at the Cheese Factory.

Anne married Wesley at St. Johns Church, Upper Beaconsfield in 1993 and they have a son Thomas, who is 11 months old.

Anne commenced work at the Community Centre on 24th February as coordinator together with Sue Bailey. She is working 15 hours a week.

At the moment Anne is still settling in and is working hard setting up classes for term 2. She brings with her a lot of experience in working with people and expertise in working with groups.

SUE BAILEY

Sue came to live in Guys Hill in 1986 and has lived in and around this area ever since, except for a year spent interstate and travelling around Australia. She was previously a Secondary College mathematics teacher which was an unusual occupation for a woman when she first began. Sue now lives in Toomuc Valley and she is married with two children, Jacqueline 11 and Simon 9. Both children attend the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School.

She has been employed by the Community Centre for 18 months, previously working 10 hours a week.

Two sections of activities at the Community Centre, Human Services and Adult Education have now been combined to be administered jointly. Sue now works 23 hours per week in conjunction with Ann Inkster to coordinate these services. Both Sue and Anne bring a lot of ability to administer the position and are both keen to help provide the course and services that people will benefit from and appreciate.

Val Ewenson

FOR SALE - AVIARY BIRDS

Silver quail, zebra finches, Fischer's Lovebirds.
Phone 03 5944 3219

WANTED - AGISTMENT

For 5 horses in UB area. Lease arrangement
Phone 03 5944 3273

EXPERIENCED HOLIDAY CARE

for pets, plants, property
Phone Allison 03 5942 7316

PAKENHAM CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

CAB is inviting people to take up training for their community information workers certificate course. A 12 week course with sessions once a week, it can be done at Dandenong commencing March 11th. You may still be able to join.

Contact CAB on 03 5941 2377 or 68 Main Street, Pakenham 10am to 3pm weekdays.

FREE WATER IN CARDINIA SHIRE

STANDPIPES ARE FOR RESIDENTS USE

DROUGHT CAUSES PROBLEMS FOR TANK USERS

We have had a mere 88.8 mm. of rain during December, January and February, less than half the average for these months, which have also been exceptionally hot and windy. Gardens have suffered badly as has much of the indigenous vegetation. A further difficulty is the time delay for home deliveries of water, at present three weeks. Many have thought to obtain water from standpipes in this emergency, but have been confused by statements concerning the taking of such water..

Following enquiries from Ken Ballinger, Mr Graeme Tutt, Corporate Manager-Services for Cardinia Shire has authorised the "Village Bell" to make public the following statements-

* Standpipes exist at various locations throughout the municipality.

* The standpipes are provided by the Water Authority while the cost of the water used is borne by the municipality.

* The standpipes are provided for use by residents for domestic or agricultural uses where appropriate.

The water is provided free of charge and

there are no restrictions on use by residents/ ratepayers.

* There have been minor problems in the past where contractors, such as road contractors or potato carters, have used the standpipes for commercial purposes, but this problem has not occurred on any significant scale for some time.

*It should be noted that water cartage contractors are licensed by the Water Authority and may therefore use the standpipes as required.

These conditions have not changed for 25 years and may be confirmed by ringing the Cardinia Shire Offices. We suggest that you do not ring any other authority - you may well receive confusing information, which is not applicable to Cardinia Shire.

Charles Wilson

Ed. note: This information was gathered when two residents reported they rang South East Water and were told they would have to pay \$100. per fill. You will be glad to know this is not true for our Shire

THE BERWICK FILM SOCIETY . . .

Is a group of local people who meet regularly to view a wide variety of films, Contemporary and classic, foreign and alternative films . Members are encouraged to suggest new films for screening.

3rd Friday of each month promptly at 7.45pm.

St. Margaret's School Lecture Theatre, Gloucester Ave., Berwick

Join us for a relaxing night of quality film, followed by supper. Prospective members are welcome to view one film for free, with no obligation.

Phone Joyce Agee (AH) 03 9700 6762



Time for a
PARTY

at the
**Upper Beaconsfield
Hall.**

Reasonable rates

Bookings Tel. 0359 443 219

BREAK EVEN GAMBLING NEWS

Do you know that Victorians lost \$682 per person on gambling in the year 1994/95? (The Bulletin 30/7/96). This is recreation for most Victorians, but for some it becomes a problem when people lose more than they mean to over a period of time.

The Break Even Southern Problem Gambling Service is a free service offering counselling to people experiencing problems because of their gambling, and to family members and friends.

The Service also provides free community education sessions to service providers and the general public. Counsellors are now situated at 12 locations throughout the Southern Metropolitan Region.

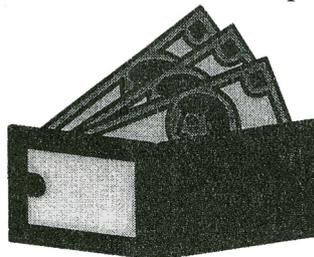
Colleen Knapp, psychologist and problem gambling counsellor, has recently been appointed as part-time counsellor at the Cardinia

Community Health Service, Main Street Pakenham (0359 401 866), and is at the centre on Wednesdays and Thursdays, she is at the Cranbourne Community Health service on Mondays and Fridays (0359 966 411). You can also ring G-LINE on 1800 622 112 for crisis counselling, information, and a referral to a Break Even Service.

The odds for a first prize?
Powerballs - about 55 million to 1
Footy tab - about 10 million to 1.
Tattsлото - about 8 million to 1.

This information supplied by Diane Jenkins, Community Educator, Industry Liaison Worker. Berwick-wide Community Health Service Inc.

Phillip Rocke



NATIONAL SENIORS ASSOCIATION

Most people are aware of Senior Citizens for the over 60's, but there is a National Seniors Association for over 50's which is not so well known.

They are now celebrating their 20th year and have a membership of over 100,000. There is a magazine every two months, and various discounts on insurance and travel.

They have a lobby group in Canberra and hope to provide economic and social benefit for persons over 50.

The Melbourne telephone number is (03) 9246 2346.

Membership costs \$15 per year for singles, and \$20 per double. It is a not-for-profit organisation.

Phillip Rocke

Art Classes for Young and Older



Commencing in May, Peter Petruccelli and his daughter Natalie will be holding a series of classes at their studio in Stoney Creek

Road, Upper Beaconsfield. Peter's oil painting classes will be for adults, some for beginners, other classes for advanced students.

Natalie will conduct several programs, including a children's art program (drawing, painting and pottery), teenager's art (drawing and painting), and for V.C.E. students, Folio development and enrichment.

For recent arrivals, we should mention that Peter and his wife Mary, a well known potter, have lived in Upper Beaconsfield for 25 years.

Peter commenced his painting

studies at the National Gallery Art School in 1958. After gaining his diploma he was awarded a scholarship, which allowed him to spend the next two years studying painting at the Central School of London, this was followed by two years studying at the Academy of Fine Art in Rome. His principal painting exhibitions have been in London, Rome, Melbourne, and the A.C.T.

Many of his works are in prominent places, including the National Gallery of Victoria.

Peter has been teaching art for many years. His great ability, his friendly enthusiasm and energy, his sense of humour and happy nature, make his classes exciting and stimulating - don't miss this opportunity to develop your latent talent.

A visit to the display of paintings, and ceramics at the Petruccelli Studio will provide you with much pleasure, and certainly awaken your interest.

Natalie inherited her father

and mother's skills, and, as one might expect in such an artistic environment, followed in their footsteps. She commenced her art studies at Chisholm in 1987, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) in 1989, gaining a High Distinction in painting and drawing.

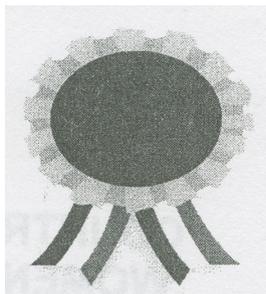
In 1993 she obtained a Graduate Diploma (Fine Art) at Monash University and in 1995 a Diploma of Education at Hawthorn. She has also travelled extensively in Europe and Asia. Her qualifications and youth make Natalie an ideal art teacher for the younger members of our community.

The classes will commence on May 4th, and will be held on Sundays and Mondays from 10am to 12.30pm

If you wish to obtain further information phone Peter (03 5944 3224) and make a visit to the studio.

Charles Wilson

PONY CLUB STATE WINNERS!



Congratulations to Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club members Angela Harris, Katie Kelly, Michael Parker and Rebecca Woff who represented West Gippsland Zone at this years Pony Club State Dressage Championships. Each was a first place getter!!

Angela won the individual grade one championship and Katie, Michael and Rebecca teamed together to win the grade three teams Championship.

The championships were held at Wodonga on 9th February.

Berwick Show Success

Congratulations to Melissa Harris who won the prestigious Evan Henry Memorial event at the Berwick Show in February.

This event is open to one representative from each Pony Club, and is judged on flat work, jumping and turnout of horse and rider.

Melissa, riding her horse Pure Silk, performed to perfection and was presented with the winner's sash and perpetual shield.

Marlene Kelly
5944 3487

Upper Beaconsfield Telephone Numbers

I have just been in touch with Telstra in order to get the LATEST and DEFINITIVE information on the change to the 059 telephone number system.

All of our 059 numbers have now become 0359 numbers. The insertion of the 3 between the 0 and the 5 is the main difference.

Up until the 18th May 1997 subscribers can reach us on either our OLD 059 number OR our new 0359.

From the 18th May until the 17th August 1997 subscribers calling the OLD 059 numbers will hear a recorded voice message advising them to ring 0359. After that date, you are on your own.

For subscribers with an OLD 059 number who previously rang other subscribers with an 059

number by dialling the last 6 digits (for example to ring me you would have rung 443311) you are now required to ring 5944 3311.

I wish you all good luck with your new telephone numbers.

Jeanette has suggested an aid to the memory for telephone numbers. Break the number down to two sets of four! See where I have left a space!

If you have any problems, please ring me on 5944 3311 (is that right?).

Jo Carter



Welcome New Residents!

ALBERS ROAD

Martin and Sally Budge and family

CORRINGHAM ROAD

Peter and Suzanne Johnson

EMERALD ROAD

Bill and Carol Warner

McBRIDE ROAD

Ken & June Woodman

ST.GEORGES ROAD

Lyndal and Andrew Dimsey and family

STONY CREEK ROAD

Judy and Daryl Fenby and family

STONY CREEK ROAD

Kathy, Tony, Simone and Stephanie Marshall

Scouts

BUSH DANCE - Jamboree Fundraiser

Upper Beac. Hall
Saturday 5th April,
7.30 pm

**FEATURING
'DROVERS CRAZY'
BAND**

**\$20 DOUBLE,
\$25 FAMILY. BYO.**

Tickets ring 0359 443 655

NEW LEADERS FOR BROWNIES AND GUIDES.

Each of the Brownie and Guide groups is settling in for a new year with a new leader.

Karen McQuilten is the Guide leader. She was previously the president of the Support Group. Despite the very hot weather, Karen has provided a varied program for the girls. They have enjoyed the outdoors with hiking and with water games. Badge work is ongoing. At last weeks Promise Ceremony, 4 brownies were invested as guides. An astronomy night at Cardinia Dam is planned for March, and a bike riding weekend at Kooronga Camp Site is planned for May. This overnight stay is open to anyone who is over 10 years.

Jenny Brennan is the new Brownie leader. She recently at

tended leadership training and has involved the girls in indoor and outdoor activities, games and craft nights. Four new tweenies started this year and made their Promise.

The groups will be holding a stall at the Village Fair - making friendship bonds and displaying promotional material on guiding. All parents and girls are welcome to "man" the stall. We are looking forward to a great day.

The annual general meeting will be held on 20th March at 5.30pm. All are welcome.

Linda Wilkinson 5944 3987

NEW PRESIDENT WOORINYAN C.W.A.

Our new president is Joyce Bumpstead and we are looking forward to another happy year. Joyce is well known to most Upper Beaconsfield residents.

Our "Country of Study" this year is China, and we hope to learn a lot about their culture. We will have the help of our International Officer, Barbara Walden.

We are making up a parcel for the Pacific Islands and at a sewing bee held recently, we made 20 art smocks for their preschool children.

During Community Week, Woorinyan served morning tea daily at St. John's church. This is a free service, and you will be welcome next year for a cuppa and a chat.

We will be holding the "Hot Potato" stall at the Village Fair, and look forward to seeing you there.

We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Kwarna Tea Rooms at 8pm. New members are welcome.

Ailsa Pikel 039 7990437 3994

COUNTRY WOMENS ASSOCIATION

UPPER BEACONSFIELD BRANCH.

Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month. The next meeting is on April 3rd at 10.30am and will be followed by a Chinese Lunch.

The following meeting will be held on May 1st at 1.30pm. This meeting will be preceded by a social lunch at 12 noon. Any ladies who would like to join us will be made very welcome.

Our branch is one of the foundation members of the Country Women's Association. We celebrated our 70th birthday last year. We need new members.

The CWA will be at the Village Fair and will display some of our craft work. We look forward to seeing you and meeting you at this time.

**Betty Mars President
5944 3214
Daphne Brown Secretary**

RED CROSS READY FOR FIRES

Bush Fires.

Red Cross disaster plans went into operation when the bush fires struck the Dandenongs in January. Members of the catering and registration teams attached to the Berwick and Upper Beaconsfield unit were requested to be on "Stand By". Fortunately they were not called into action. From seven locations in the Dandenong fires area, Red Cross served over 600 breakfasts. An estimated 1000 general inquiry calls were handled at the State Inquiry Centre, Head Office.

Murray Marathon.

The 1996 Murray Marathon attracted a record 975 competitors. The sum raised for Red Cross

services was \$175,000. Over the years this very successful event has brought in almost \$2 million.

Red Cross Calling.

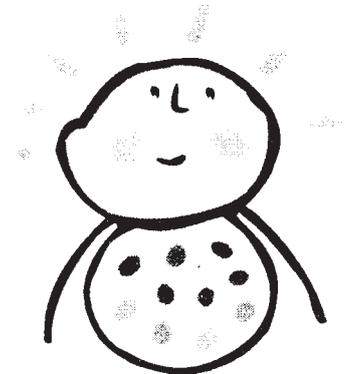
Thanks go to all the unpaid volunteers who are involved in the "Door Knock" and to all of the householders who donate so generously each year.

Meetings.

Meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 9.30am in the RSL rooms in Berwick. New members are needed and will be made very welcome.

Marie Womersley
Berwick -
Upper Beaconsfield Unit
97071103

Baby Sitting Club News



We are a group of local women who mind each other's children in the home. We work on a point basis system.

If you are new to the area and would like some information on how the club works, please ring the co-ordinator, Wendy Jennings, on 5944-4023.

The secretaries for the coming months are:

April

Cathy Usher 5944 4183

May

Sharon Fisher 5944 3883

June

Karen McKinlay 5944 3638

Our NIGHT OUT this year will be at the Pine Grove Hotel on Tuesday 8th April at 7.30pm. This will be an opportunity to reassess the functions of the club, meet new mums and discuss any new ideas. R.S.V.P by 6th April.

Wendy Jennings 5944 4023

Dear The Editor,

I wrote two letters to the Village Bell about Japan last year. In my second year here in Upper Beaconsfield, I would like to keep sharing something about Japan if you are interested. I will be glad if someone is interested in Japanese culture.

This time I'm going to write about the Japanese national sports - Sumo. Sumo is one of the most popular sports in Japan like baseball and soccer. Fifteen days professional tournaments are held in odd-numbered months every year.

Have you even seen Sumo wrestler? They are very big. Professional Sumo wrestlers- Sumootori are over 180 cm and 100 kg and the biggest Sumootori Konishiki is over 200 kg.

You might think that Sumo just a wrestling by fat guys, but it really has 300 years history, and it's a very strict and serious sport.

It's not really known that wrestlers start practising before sunrise with bare foot even in - C morning, or many young wrestlers in secondary school age aren't allowed to go home and they just keep practicing. After these hard training, they can show us great matches.

It's really exciting when small Sumo wrestlers throw his double sized wrestlers in the air.

Yes! You have a chance to see them. They are coming to Melbourne in June. The other day, I heard on the radio that a few people came to Melbourne from Japan to check beds and chairs in hotels where they are strong enough!!

Ayako Mizushima

Successful Season for Upper Beacy Cricketers

The Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club capped off a successful season with a Grand Final win in the W.G.C.A. B Grade competition, resulting in the team returning to their rightful place in A Grade. E Grade also played in the Grand Final, but unfortunately were runners-up.

Of the other sides, C Grade, Under 16s, and Under 14s, all narrowly missed out on a place in the finals, whilst the Under 12s don't have a finals competition.

The primary aim of the Club this season was to return to A Grade. This was achieved through the appointment of a Captain-Coach in Joe Robertson, the recruitment of quality players such as Terry Ramsay, and added commitment from all existing players. The tireless work of our

President, Rob Hansen, should also be acknowledged, as this formed the backbone of the year's success.

The Fred Noblet Award, awarded to the best player across all three senior teams, was this year won by Joe Robertson. Others to poll well were veterans John Brierley, Peter Brennan, and John McConchie. These players should also figure prominently in the other Club awards which will be presented at the Presentation Night, to be held on Sunday 6th April at the Pine Grove Hotel.

The Junior Presentation Night was held recently, also at the Pine Grove, and a good night was had by all players and parents who attended. A big thank-you to Fred Ward for his kind sponsorship of this event and congratulations to all award winners.

The Club would also like to thank its other sponsors, including G. & S. Williams - Builders and Contractors, Carol Gibson Pharmacy, Salisbury House, Graham Kelly, McConchie and Co. - Corporate Business Advisors and Accountants, Kelvin Clarke - Quality Butcher, Fenton Consulting - IT training, support, and project management consultants, Alan Phillips, Kristian Phillips, and Richard Edwards Chemist, for their support during the year.

With the return to A Grade, next season will be a challenge. Hopefully this season has sown the seeds for the beginning of another successful era for the Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club.

Richard Williams

Exciting Courses at the Community Centre

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre have an exciting program planned for term 2. Courses range from VCE topics, crafts, introduction to careers, aerobics, drama and much more for people of all ages to learn and enjoy.

The following subjects are just some of the courses available. For more information call the centre on 5944 3484.

JAPANESE

a practical introduction course to the Japanese language and culture for beginners. The course would be of great benefit for those interested in travel, assisting their children's Japanese studies or learning about a very interesting culture.

HUMAN RESOURCES

If you are interested in the area of Human Resources, the Community Centre are running TAFE accredited courses in Certificate IV - Human Resources. This terms modules are: Workplace industrial relations, Team building and negotiations skills .

STORY TELLING

Workshops to learn the skills and techniques of storytelling, how to be expressive and keep the audience attention all at the one time.

TUTORS NEEDED

We need tutors to teach Computers, Numeracy and literacy - Special Needs, Children's Art, and Office Administration.

Ring: (03) 59443484 Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre to register as a tutor in any area of interest. Day or evening courses.

Val Ewenson

**COMING TO
A VILLAGE
FAIR
NEAR YOU!**



Also at the Fair-

- Meet Senior Constable Peter Kelley, Police Coordinator for NHW E district. Senior Constable will answer all your questions about NHW and crime prevention.
- Have your bike or mobile phone engraved with your driver's licence number (or your Mum's or Dad's licence number) to help keep it safe from thieves.
- Check out the police caravan.

Next NHW Meeting Monday 21 April, 8pm, Community Complex

Neighbourhood Watch is improving your quality of life by eliminating crime and promoting closer community ties.

RED CROSS CALLING MARCH 1997

Once again Upper Beaconsfield residents have supported Red Cross most generously during the annual Red Cross Calling door knock.

Your support is greatly appreciated and the money collected is used within Victoria to help fund blood bank, medical transport, emergency and disaster relief etc.

Total amount collected will be reported in the next issue of the Village Bell.

**Barbara Jackson
0359 443554**

SCOUT NEWS

Scouting is booming with strong growth in our youth numbers giving a total of 102 registered members. This is due largely to the formation of our Joey Scout Mob (6 & 7 year olds) and a steady increase in the Rover Crew.

This has necessitated the recruiting of an additional Joey leader - Jenny Fuime has joined Chris Cunningham and Jane Harvey.

We also welcome Peter Johnson who has recently moved to Upper Beaconsfield with his family and has offered his services as a leader with the Cub Scout Section, giving us a total of 15 very hard-working and dedicated leaders.

A special thankyou goes to our Group Leader Jan Carmody who very ably oversaw the formation of the Joey Scout Mob and is generally keeping our Group on the

right path.

Unfortunately we lose four committee members this year representing a total of 22 years of service to our community - Graham Wood has seen 11 years and was our Treasurer for 7 years, Roger Haywood 5 years with the last 4 as Treasurer while maintaining our bottle depot and assisting with the firewood raffles.

Matt McDonald for 5 years was our Village Bell correspondent and also helped with the raffles, John Perrin joined us for 1 year and has given valuable assistance to the Scout leaders and attended District meetings.

Our thanks go to these people for their devotion to helping provide a worthwhile activity for so many children and young adults in our community.

Thanks also to our efficient Secretary Kathy Boynes, Secondhand Uniform Coordinator

Jenny Erwin and committee member Danny Ryan.

Some of the special activities undertaken has seen the Joeys participating in the District Joey 6th birthday celebrations at the Bayles Fauna Park, a 'bring a friend' night and Clean Up Australia. Cubs have had a visit to the Fire Station and to Jenny Conn's Pottery as well as Clean Up Australia.

Scouts had a good weekend at Inverloch for their aquacamp and are busy arranging a 4 day camp at Gilwell Park over Easter. Members attending the Jamboree next January in Queensland are busy with their fundraising.

Once again our main fundraising activity this year will be the firewood raffles and we thank Doug & Brenda Field for allowing us to use their shopfront to sell tickets.

**Barry Smith, President
59 44 3219**

BEACONHILLS COUNTRY GOLF CLUB

1997 promises to be a great year for women's golf at Beaconhills. With a large intake of new members over the summer period, Beaconhills is now able to offer a Saturday competition for women as well as the existing Sunday and Wednesday competition days. The Wednesday competitions will have sufficient numbers to offer both A and B Grade trophies. Competitions for men are played on Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Saturday 1 March was the

official opening day for the season, marking the start of Beaconhills 50th anniversary celebrations. "The Back to Beaconhills Ball" held after a very busy day of golf, was a spectacular success with an attendance of 380. Two huge marquees with a dance floor set up on the lawns created a great atmosphere. To Andrew Conn and his team of chefs, waitresses, bar staff and general helpers words fail to express what a superb and efficient job you all did. All who attended really appreciated the wonderful behind the scenes organisation exhibited in staging such a large event.

The lady members have already played two major events, the Beacon Plate and the Phoenix

Salver. These trophies were donated by Dot White, Moya Ross, Margaret McKenzie, Joyce Connan and Mary Hall who lost their homes during the Ash Wednesday fires. Margaret, who now lives in Merimbula partnered Captain Ettie Guilfoyle in the Beacon Plate. Moya Ross and Dot White were also in attendance at this District event held at Beaconhills.

Junior pennant finals are being played at the time of writing and both senior men's and women's pennant seasons will start at the end of March. Hopefully some flags will come to Beaconhills.

Barbara Jackson
0359 443554

New Restaurant Opening Soon

Japonica Jelly is the intriguing name of the new restaurant-cafe soon to open in Upper Beaconsfield.

Long-time local resident Jasmine Hewson is the creative force behind this new venture and she has had extensive experience in the food and catering industry including 15 years in private catering. More recently she has worked as a function coordinator at a large function venue and in marketing in a Melbourne tourism body. At present Jasmine is waiting for the final permits to be approved and plans that Japonica Jelly will be open by the end of April.

The restaurant-cafe will have a menu to appeal to all ages from children through to older diners and open from 11am - 11pm daily except Tuesdays. Customers will

be able to pop in for luscious home made cakes and cappuccinos, or select a variety of dishes from the luncheon menu. A more comprehensive menu will be available at night for dinners when bookings are preferred. Prices will be very reasonable, with luncheon dishes priced from \$5 - \$7, and dinners ranging from \$10 - \$12.

To hear Jasmine talking about the menu to be offered at the restaurant makes your mouth water.



There will be an interesting variety to choose from, with daily specials, and seasonal dishes

available. The menu will feature Mediterranean and Asian inspired dishes but also offer food to appeal to the more traditional diner.

The restaurant - cafe will have a separate take-away section, where many of the meals available in the restaurant can be purchased - but definitely no pies and sauce! Jasmine will not be offering food that is already available from the other local shops.

Japonica Jelly will have an informal and inviting atmosphere. It will be fully air conditioned, heated and carpeted, and catering up to 50. The restaurant will initially be BYO, with plans to extend to a licensed venue combined with BYO wine. The counter to be used as the bar originated from the Bendigo Bank in Berwick.

In case you wondered about the name, japonica jelly is a favourite recipe handed down in Jasmine's family. When in season, you will be even be able to order a lovely dessert based on this recipe!

Helen Smith

FIRE RE-SEARCH

Litter in Hamilton Reserve

Since the fuel reduction burn undertaken in January 1997 litter samples were collected, dried and estimated by David Packham.

Litter collected from a section burnt five years ago where there is a lot of wire grass equalled 16 tons per hectare.

Litter (predominately fallen leaves) from the section burnt last January equalled 8 tons per hectare.

Litter from the control section which has not been burnt, and where there was less wire grass than in the first section, equalled 16 tons per hectare.

Collections from all sites, made in January 1992 before any burning, averaged 24 tons per hectare.

**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL
UBA AND THE VILLAGE
BELL**

The Treasurer, Upper
Beaconsfield Association, PO
Box 86, Upper Beaconsfield
3808

I enclose \$5 being family
subscription to the Village Bell
for 1997|

I understand that this
subscription entitles me to vote
at the bimonthly meetings of
the UBA.

FAMILY

ADDRESS

UBR FIRE BRIGADE AUXILIARY



The Auxiliary will continue its tradition of running the indoor Tea Room at this year's Village Fair as well as a cake stall on the fairground. Come and relax at our tables and chairs set up in the Cricket Club rooms next to the Igloo kitchen. You can enjoy delicious home baked goods, sandwiches, Devonshire teas, cappuccino, coffee or cordial. Copies of Joan Webster's Bushfire book, a valuable reference for those wishing to prepare their homes and families before the next hot summer, will also be available for sale. Proceeds from a Raffle on the day will go towards support for the Brigade.

Colleen Lazenby

Wildlife Watch



I have seen what happens in the bush following a bushfire. I heard of some happenings in gardens after Ash Wednesday, 1983: pink lilies flowered as usual and an apparently dead oak tree made new leaves three years later. I know that Wyperfeld National Park recovered in similar fashion after an extremely heavy frost which seemed to kill even mature trees. After drought breaking rain, Central Australian plants spring into brilliant life.

Considering that the bush has been surviving weather vagaries for more years than we know I expect that it will survive this dry hiccup, but it will be interesting to watch what happens here once we get some rain. Will local eucalypts, currently very drought stressed, produce epicormic growth? I have faith that they will if we are not tempted to fell them too soon. Has it been hot enough

to encourage hundreds of acacia seedlings after the first good rain? Will patience be rewarded by seeing some apparently dead garden plants regrow?

We can live in hopes of the following wild flowers during April and May: two orchids with new names, small mosquito orchid (*Acianthus pusillus*) and the sharp midge orchid (*Genoplesium despectans*); silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*), common heath, (*Epacris impressa*), and the tiny orchid (*Pterostylis parviflora*).

Grasses respond to rain quite quickly but orchids in particular seem to rely more strongly on rain at certain times of year. Apparently last February's high rainfall influenced the prolific spring flowering of greenhood orchids. Conversely does this dry time mean a poor season next spring?

How many of the flowers listed in the last issue of the Village Bell did you come across while walking the roadsides and reserves?

Laura Levens

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Easter Services at St. John's are as follows:

27 March	Maundy Thursday	
	Holy Communion	8.00pm
28 March	Good Friday	
	Service of Reflection	9.00am
30 March	Easter Sunday	
	Holy Communion and Celebration	9.30am

You are welcome to attend and learn more of Christian beliefs in celebrating Easter.

Anyone interested in joining a home group for Bible study, prayer and fellowship, please fill in a form showing preferred time of meeting.

Power Kids for Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 will recommence in Term 2. It will be held on Monday nights, 7.30 - 8.30 pm in the Community Centre, beginning on Monday 28 April.

Leanne Tait will lead a new program that will include discussion. There will be theme nights during the term. Leanne's number is 5944-2927.

Club 120, a secondary school age youth group, has a varied program planned for Term 2. The group meets at St. John's each Friday night from 7.30 - 9.30pm, unless an outing or activity is to be held elsewhere. Pip Stokes, Melina Winzar and Paul Hughes are the leaders. Contact Pip on 5944-3410.

Sunday School caters for all ages from crèche to youth and meets during worship service each Sunday at 9.30am, except during school holidays and on Family Service held the first Sunday in the month, when all ages worship together.

Marion Joseland

PRE-KINDER AND KINDER NEWS

Don't miss the Kinder stall at the Village Fair! Following its great success at the last Fair, we are having plaster painting activities for children of all ages. Support the Kinder while your child has fun at the Fair.



A vacancy exists in the Tuesday afternoon, Thursday morning group at the Pre-Kinder in McBride Road. If your three-year-old needs dynamic stimulation in a pleasant

environment, ring the Enrolment Officer, Teresa Cooper, (444 189) for more information.

The 1997 fundraising program has been decided and two items that may interest the general community are a Casino Trip in Term 3 and a Toy Warehouse Trip in Term 4 which should take the worry out of your Christmas shopping. Watch this space for more information.

The Committee has made Peter Meeking an honorary Life Member of the Association in recognition of his significant and ongoing contribution to the Kinder. Two trees have been planted at the Kinder: one for Peter, and the other for Gwynneth Colles, President 1943-1957, the only other recipient of the award.

Judy Riddiford
5944 3172

VILLAGE BELL CREDITS

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Julie & Ray Allsop Post Office

Next Editor Colleen Lazenby

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AWARD WINNING WAYS OF THE VILLAGE BELL !

For any one person to be honoured on Australia Day is very special. For the entire group of people involved in the production of The Village Bell, the receipt of an Australia Day 1997 Community Award from Cardinia Shire was very special indeed!

The award does not focus on individuals, but instead recognises the dynamic role that the paper itself plays in the life of our village.

On January 27, members of the current Staff of The Village Bell represented all contributors and editors and other staff, past and present, as they proudly received the citation from Chief of Commissioners Bernard Coburn.

Editor Ray Ratcliff thanked the Shire on behalf of Editors Jeanette Ballinger, Jo Carter, Val Ewenson, Ysabelle Hobson, Graeme Kidd, Colleen Lazenby, Sue Pittman, Phil Rocke, Helen Smith and Charles Wilson; production chief George Moir; and advertising staff Laura Levens and Penny Truscott.

He talked about 19 years of reporting tradition and history in the village and over 100 issues of the paper.

He also spoke about the participation of a wide variety of groups in writing news items for the paper and about a community that values service,

independent thought and positive activism.

He also reiterated the fact that all Staff members and collating teams who works annually on the six issues of the paper are volunteers.

We want to take this opportunity to thank each of YOU who are so supportive of all the efforts of the Staff of The Bell. Many people tell us that they read the paper from first page to last soon as they receive it.

One new resident told us that she thought the first issue she received was an immensely thoughtful gesture by her neighbours to welcome her to the village - well, actually, it is! In an effort to keep pace with the times, we have revamped the format of The Bell to produce it in newsletter style, but its contents remain basically the same. And you've also told us that you would like it to stay that way.

So join with us in a village wide smile of pride and count on a promise from us that we will keep up the good work.

And if you are interested in being a part of the Village Bell team, please call any of the Editors listed above - we'd be thrilled to hear from you.



Colleen Lazenby

UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting was held on 4th February. Lively topics of discussion included Citizen of the Year, Carols by Candlelight report, Village Fair and the planning strategy of the Cardinia Shire.

The Association members appointed a committee to facilitate community input for the strategy plan for Upper Beaconsfield. Graeme Kidd was appointed Chair and Neil McDonald and John Riddiford members of the committee.

The UBA elected a new committee. President - John Riddiford, Vice President - Pat Edwards, Secretary - Jim Jennings, Treasurer - Jo Carter, Committee Members -

Daphne Hollingsworth, Chris Cowley, Jeanette Ballinger, Charles Wilson, Ron Fisher, Neil MacDonald.

The next UBA meeting is scheduled for 2nd April at 8pm.

UBA EXECUTIVE PROFILES:

John Riddiford President John lives in Sutherland Road with his wife Judy and three young children, Daniel, Louise and Charlie. The family has lived in Upper Beaconsfield for 5 years.

John is in Forester Operations with Melbourne Water, and is involved in the operational management of the water supply catchments that surround Melbourne, and in planning for future resource requirements. He and Judy are involved in local community activities.

Pat Edwards Vice President. Pat has been involved with the Upper Beaconsfield community for many years. She is the immediate past president of the UBA. Pat lives in Harpfield Road with her husband Fred and two daughters.

Jim Jennings Secretary Jim is married to Wendy and they have two small children Emma and Tom. Jim is in retail with Coles Myer and was transferred to Victoria from Sydney. Jim and Wendy are both active in community affairs.

Jo Carter Treasurer Jo is a local accountant and tax agent. She and her husband Barry have lived in Upper Beaconsfield for 5 years. They have made many friends through the RSL and other community groups.

John Riddiford 5944 3172

SHIRE MINUTES

December Minutes

Health Service Council is facilitating a municipal wide response to "Cardinia Health Streams" to improve sustainability and co-ordination of health services in the Shire.

Prosecution Leppitt Road, Upper Beaconsfield:- The owners had, without council approval, cleared a substantial area of the property and on 26.06.1995 were made the subject of an enforcement order and a fine. No action has been taken by the owners, and in November 1996 the Dandenong Court found in favour of the Shire.

Planning Permits
39 Sugarloaf Road, Upper Beaconsfield: House
170 Beac./Emerald Rd Dewhurst: Dam
1 Halford Road, Upper Beac: Retail Plant Nursery
Albers Road, Upper Beac: 4 lot Subdivision

February Minutes

The Shire is currently updating the 10 year capital works program.

HACC Services -Submissions will be evaluated and a decision made by mid February.

Rating and Valuation Services - Tenders are being evaluated and a decision made by mid February.

Library Service - 3 year contract decision by early February.

Family Day Care - Tenders have been invited - closing date mid February.

Projects Funding Sources have to be fully identified for:-

Emerald Performing Arts Centre (final plans preparation cost \$60,000 to \$80,000)

Pakenham Art and Design Centre.

Emerald Lake Park Study The Shire has established a steering committee to conduct a review of the options for development of the park.

Disaster Relief Funding The Shire responded to the victims of the January Bush Fires with a grant of \$5,000.

Subdivision development 22 Berglund Road, Upper Beaconsfield - 3 lot subdivision.

Chris Cowley

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