

the  
*Village  
Bell*



ISSUE NO. 116 JUNE 1997

UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION

## Planning and Rezoning

### UBA Meeting 4th June Pine Grove Hotel

The next UBA meeting will be held at the Pine Grove Hotel, Stony Creek Road, Upper Beaconsfield at 8:00 pm, 4th of June.

The guest speaker will be Don Jackson, the former Head of the Planning Department of the Shire of Pakenham. He will make a presentation on the municipal planning process, town planning applications, rezonings and the role of reference panels

This will be an important presentation for those residents wanting to gain a better understanding of the planning process, particularly in the light of a number of recent applications for rezoning of land within the village.

All residents of Upper Beaconsfield are welcome to attend the UBA meeting and presentation. The function room at the Pine Grove Hotel has been booked for 6:30 pm for those wishing to purchase a meal prior to the meeting.

**John Riddiford**

## VALE

### Ray Ratcliff 25/2/25-15/5/97

On May 15, the Upper Beaconsfield area lost one of its most beloved citizens when Ray Ratcliff passed away. It will be twenty years in December that Ray and Elva Ratcliff, arrived in Upper Beaconsfield and moved into the Post Office. Within a short time they had taken our community to their hearts and the community responded.

Ray was born into a strict Baptist family at Ormond on 25th February 1925. He received his schooling at Caulfield South Primary School, Tooronga Road Central, and Carey Grammar. At the age of 5 he became an ardent and lifelong Collingwood supporter.

In 1942 during the war, Ray commenced work at the Commercial Bank. The following year having turned eighteen, he joined the 42nd Infantry Battalion and served with this unit for three and a half years, almost half of this time overseas.

In 1947 Ray joined the Commonwealth Bank in Collins Street where he met Elva. They became engaged in 1948 and married on 21st May 49. Their first home was at Brighton Beach, where they began raising their three children Jan, Bruce, and Peter. Whilst living at Brighton Beach, Ray became an Elder of the Presbyterian Church, as

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well as the Boys Club leader and Bible Class leader.

In 1959 they moved to a larger house in Mentone, and there joined the Davies Memorial Presbyterian Church. Again Ray became an Elder and Leader of the Boys Club, also Sunday School Superintendent, a Member of the Men's Brotherhood, and from 1962-69 was key member of the Immigration Committee, which assisted families from overseas to settle into Australian life.

In December 1977 Ray resigned from the Bank after 30 years service, and with Elva bought the Post Office at Upper Beaconsfield, which they ran until 1984. The move changed their lives and was to be of great benefit to our community which has indeed been blessed by their presence in the village.

The Ratcliffs contributions in 1983, on the day of the Ash Wednesday fires and throughout that year, could only be described as magnificent. Elva stayed working on the Fire Brigade radio all that night, whilst Ray took on the task of caring for those in distress. They assumed the pivotal role of communications centre for the residents and the outside world. People have described Ray and Elva as being "outstanding" and "extraordinary" in their calmness and ability to help people. Because of their knowledge of the community, they were invaluable in providing information to worried friends and relatives, some from interstate or overseas, and knew where everybody was staying or could be contacted.

Ray was also involved in various other village activities. He was appointed a Commissioner for Taking Affidavits. He joined the Upper Beaconsfield Association on the Committee, then was elected President in 1986, a position he held for three years. Later he was Treasurer and was honoured in 1993 with the first Life Membership of the Association.

Ray served on St. John's Vestry, taught Religious Education at the Primary School, was the first, and an excellent M.C. for our Christmas Carols and always helped in their organisation.

He was an early editor of The Village Bell and remained on the Editorial Committee where he made contributions to more than 100 issues. Ray recently accepted the hard task of organising the collation of the paper.

He was a CFA radio operator, member

of the Community Care Group and was their representative to the Emerald and District Hospice. Ray was a volunteer with Dandenong Palliative Care and was always available to doorknock and collect for Red Cross, Freedom from Hunger, Clean Up Australia and the Salvation Army.

In 1984 Ray and Elva, retired from the Post Office and built "Mill Bend", Split Rock Road which they later sold to move to St Georges Road. In his recreational time Ray took up golf, was a foundation member of the Garden Club, and was an avid gardener himself. Recently Ray and Elva relocated to Berwick where he was within walking distance of his beloved bowls club.

In 1989 Ray, along with Elva, was made "Citizen of the Year", a well deserved award which gave him great pleasure.

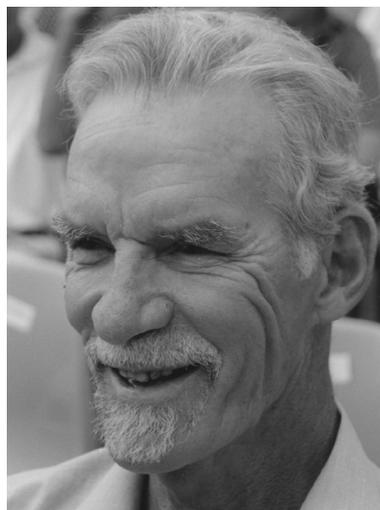
Ray's friendly welcome, big smile, and handshake conveyed his feeling for his fellows. He was a person of great sincerity and trustworthiness who was always supportive. An honourable and true gentleman, Ray's Christian beliefs carried him through to the end of his life when he faced cancer with courage, dignity and great strength, retaining his sense of humour to the end.

Longfellow said that

*"Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime.  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints in the sands of time."*

Ray Ratcliff left huge footprints behind, ones that will not, if ever, be filled as well again.

**Compiled from Various Contributors**



## ***Traders promote Upper Beaconsfield***



Photo: Courtesy of Pakenham Gazette

*Roger Gordon of the Welcome Man presenting Mrs Pauline Timmins with her prize helped by Butcher Kelvin Clarke and Brenda Field from the General Store*

Since the start of this year the six shops in the main commercial precinct of Upper Beac have been running a promotion to woo shoppers to their businesses. If you spend \$10 or more at the General Store, Bakery, Butcher, Hairdresser, Licensed Supermarket or the new Japonica Jelly Restaurant, you automatically receive a free entry in the next draw for a \$3000 diamond ring. The winner will be drawn on May 31/97.

The first draw earlier this year saw local resident Mrs. Pauline Timmins win a \$2000 bracelet. Mrs Timmins was thrilled to win something for the first time in her life and the bracelet came at an opportune time as a 21st birthday present for her daughter.

The recent successful opening of Japonica Jelly is expected to encourage more people to focus on the centre of the village and to support those businesses. Local traders have been very happy with the response to this promotion and point out that you have to be in it to win it!

**Roger Gordon**

### **RAY RATCLIFF**

The Editors of the Village Bell are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our own - Ray Ratcliff.

Ray was a long time Editor, a man of wisdom and elegance and inestimable value to the community, his family and friends. His death has left a huge void in our hearts.

Our most sincere sympathies to Ray's wife Elva, his sons and daughter and their families.

Letters and cards can be sent to Elva at Unit 106, 57 Gloucester Ave., Berwick 3806

### **Invitation**

The Upper Beaconsfield Writers Group invite residents of Beaconsfield Upper to come to a celebration of the publication of a small guide book -

#### **WALKS THROUGH NATURE RESERVES OF BEACONSFIELD UPPER**

10am at the Community Complex,  
Salisbury Road, Beaconsfield Upper

**June 18,1997**

RSVP to the Community Centre  
Tel 0359 443 484 would be appreciated

## U B Citizen of the Year for 1997

### Peter Meeking



Peter was presented with his award by Graham Jackson, Citizen of the Year 1996 at the Village Fair. Peter has been active in Municipal life for approx. 30 years and involved in such a multitude of activities it has been difficult to compile a list; none of us were aware of the full range of

his involvement. Of course, the many private kindnesses and unsung help will never be known.

The following listing is part of the reason Peter received the award: Elected unopposed in 1977 as our representative to the Pakenham Shire Council, after he was Mayor in 1981-82 and again in later years. He remained as riding councillor until they were dismissed in 1995. Peter was always ready to listen and help the people of U.B. during his years as a councillor.

Peter has been a trustee of the U.B. Kindergarten and has contributed significantly both to its development and its rapid re-establishment after the 1983 fires;

He is a committee member of the Tennis Club which received much help from him when it transferred to the new grounds;

Member of the U.B. School council for many years (and served a term as President) during a period which saw the school upgraded to an enlarged, well-equipped establishment.

Peter served a number of years as a member of the U.B. Recreation Reserve Committee, through

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## Junior Citizen of the Year

### Tracy Timms



Our Junior Citizen of the Year selected by the committee is Tracy Timms of Blue Ridge Road.

Tracy is a Grade 6 student at our Primary School where she is a house captain. Tracy is a member of the Supercats - the basketball team, and the Pony Club. She has won a number of championships and other distinctions in horse riding and netball and has also been involved in activities at the School Assembly and in fund raising for World Vision.

The committee was impressed with both Tracy's attitude towards others and her achievements.

Charles Wilson

## ***All the fun at the fair ...***

The annual Upper Beaconsfield Village Fair was held on a drizzly Saturday afternoon in April and despite the weather it was declared a huge success.

All of Upper Beac's numerous community groups had the opportunity to promote themselves, sell their wares or display their expertise.

The Fair started at 11:00am with the opening ceremony and Advance Australia Fair sung beautifully by local singer Nicole Kemp. This was followed by the Citizens of the Year presentations to **Peter Meeking** and **Tracy Timms** (Junior Citizen of the Year). Next on the agenda was Humphrey B. Bear who arrived at noon and entertained a wet but enthusiastic crowd.

The White Rabbit shared the stage with Humphrey and there was much fun and games. Neighbourhood Watch presented an entertaining play featuring local identities which was well received by a participating crowd.

Keith Farthing, along with Gary Martin (alias the White Rabbit), once again did a fantastic job

as MCs. The two "Jacks of all trades" not only provided an entertaining commentary for the day's events but also judged the bicycle competition, organised the dancing and gallantly provided an umbrella for Humphrey! Greg Wyatt organised a push cart challenge which proved popular with winners and losers.

The crowd stayed until well after the finishing time and everybody is looking forward to next years' Fair.

A special thank you to **ALL THE SPONSORS** without whose generous donations this fair would not have been possible.

All in all it was a wonderful family day filled with laughs and entertainment in keeping with the theme for the day - FUN!

Anybody interested in assisting with next year's Fair should contact Bernadette McGougan (5944 3602) or Anne McCormick (5944 3502).

The success of the Fair depends upon broad community involvement and any assistance will help to ensure that this traditional annual event will continue.

**Bernadette McGougan**

## *Letter to the Editor*

The Editor - Village Bell  
Monday 12th May

I wish to take the opportunity to thank the people of Upper Beaconsfield for selecting me as the ! Citizen of the Year for 1997. This was a very special i thrill, as I felt I was being judged by my peers - my fellow community members. Thank you also to those people and groups who were responsible for my nomination.

It has never been precisely defined as to the actual duties of a Citizen of the Year - other than to join the elite group of former Citizens. If however a group within the community does wish to make use of a current Citizen of the Year, then I will endeavour to make myself available.

Thank you also to my wonderful friends at the Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten - PreSchool

who recently bestowed on me a Life Membership. Again a very special award from a very special committee.

It is true that I have physically left Upper Beaconsfield, but it is also true that I am presently in Upper Beaconsfield twice per week, attempting to play tennis with the club, and it is my intention to continue on with the tennis, so I am still around.

The community of the former Beaconhills Riding (Officer, Beaconsfield, Upper Beaconsfield) has always been very supportive of me as I have endeavoured to represent each of those communities, together with my colleagues Ted Owen and Keith Ewenson. The achievements always resulted from a cooperative approach, which can be the only way to succeed. Thank you for all your friendship, kindness and support.

**Peter Meeking**  
18 Morang Road  
Hawthorn 3122

## After Hours Medical Care

Funding has been received from the Commonwealth Government for a survey of after hours medical care in the areas of Emerald, Upper Beaconsfield and Pakenham.

At present there are no co-ordinated after hours medical services. Single doctor practices are under great stress in providing a 24 hours service to patients. In Upper Beaconsfield we are fortunate to have a four doctor practice which does provide a full 24 hour service, even though it puts stress on each doctor in coping with family relationships and responsibilities.

Some residents in Upper Beaconsfield will be

interviewed regarding their experiences with after hours medical care. When the results of interviews in all areas are received, a report will be prepared by the Sherbrooke and Pakenham Division of General Practice, assessing the strengths and weaknesses of after hours care in the area, both from the needs of the patients as well as the doctors and their families.

This may lead to the establishment of an area wide service, operating 24 hours a day, where phone calls may be made regarding after hours medical care anywhere in the area.

If you have any information to contribute, please ring the Division on (03) 59 685 677.

**P Roche**

## NEW MEDICO FOR UPPER BEACONSFIELD

Dr. Rodney Stephenson has recently joined the team at the Upper Beaconsfield Medical Centre. After graduating from Monash Medical School in 1986, he had two years postgraduate training at Western General Hospital before venturing into general practice. Rodney has worked as a general practitioner at Moe, Korumburra and Warnambool.

Following this experience, Rodney found that his main interest was with adolescents, and in order to study adolescent health and psychiatry, he

joined the staff of the Royal Children's Hospital for 12 months. In addition to his work at the Medical Centre, Rodney is working in the Casualty Department of Dandenong Hospital on alternate weekends.

He is married to Robin who is also a medical graduate, and they have four children.

**Charles Wilson**



## Melinda Nance for Miss Australia

A recent issue of the Pakenham Gazette highlighted the involvement of local resident Melinda Nance in the Miss Australia Awards. Melinda is representing her community by supporting the Spastic Society of Victoria and its involvement with the Awards.

In addition to a busy professional commitment in the fashion industry, Melinda enjoys singing, classical piano, aerobics and movies.

The Miss Australia Awards emphasise personal development skills as participants join in raising money for the Spastic Society throughout the

year. The Society is a non-profit, non-government organisation helping children and adults with their disabilities.

Melinda and her support group will be manning tin shakes, raffle sites and organising other community events to raise much needed funds and awareness of issues for the disabled.

Any support, including sponsorships, would be most welcome.

The Spastic Society also offers a Junior Awards program for students from year 1 to year 12. VCE students doing their communications assignment would find the program especially beneficial and rewarding.

For information contact **Vanna Nigro**, Area Coordinator on (03) 5944-3147/mobile (017) 969 443.

## CHANGES AT SALISBURY HOUSE

### Renovations

Have you noticed the renovations at Salisbury House? They are not easy to see; it is clever to update so thoroughly and still leave the facade intact. Recent renovations are just the latest in a number of improvements.

In 1995 a new septic system was installed and then a new laundry built. Now there are new rooms halfway across the back of the old building. A balcony soaring out over the steep hill gives magnificent views across to Westernport Bay.

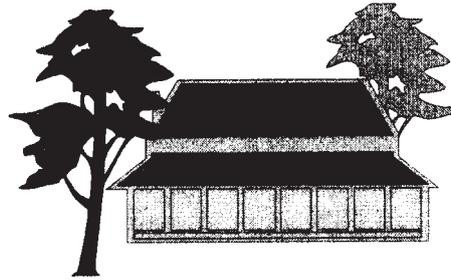
The changes will update existing facilities and alter five and six bed wards to single and double rooms. Eventually there will be nine double rooms and 27 singles, only five more beds than in use now. The double rooms enable married couples to stay together, a facility sadly missing in many nursing homes.

When the present update is finished in about a month's time many of the residents in the old section will be moved and renovations will start there. Soon the whole building will have smoke detectors, sprinklers and new hydronic heating. Not to mention a covered deck area where residents can sit outside even if it rains, a new day room, new physio room and new kitchen. Foundations are in for the next stage which it is hoped will start next year.

Salisbury House is a family business. Parents Alex and Penny Saisanas and son Jim, daughter Vicky and her husband John Liaskos all work in the business;

a lot of the day to day domestic work is done by them. Vicky says her father is the 'boss in overalls'. He supervises the building work and makes sure that it meets his quality standards.

The family bought Salisbury



House in March 1990 and have worked seven days a week since. A close family, they live in town houses on the same block of land in Oakleigh and have been part of the Greek community there since Jim and Vicky were born. They understand being part of a community and want Upper Beaconsfield to embrace Salisbury House because it is THE nursing home in our area.

Vicky says their aim is to provide a homely atmosphere in which comprehensive and quality care can help residents with physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs. They encourage and welcome community participation to achieve their aims.

### New Matron

Ann Baker, a softly spoken lady from Ireland joined the Salisbury House team in February this year. She trained in South Wales and lived there until moving to Australia in 1986. Ann has worked in St. Vincent's Hospital as Charge Nurse in the Rehabilitation Unit, Lilydale Nursing Home as Unit Manager and was Director of Nursing at Kirkbrae in Kilsyth.

Although living in Drouin Ann says it only takes her 35 minutes to drive here and is convenient because she has a daughter in Warragul and a son in Mitcham.

Ann is a very up-to-date lady who uses the computer in her work but also enjoys surfing the Internet, which she uses for her hobby of researching her family history. Ann also enjoys music and ceramics and can't wait to arrange her schedule to start classes at the Community Centre. She is also a proud grandmother of two.

### Residents' Committee

Salisbury House will hold the inaugural meeting of its Residents' Committee on Thursday 12th June 1997 at the Nursing Home.

Anyone with past or present associations with the home and those wishing to take part in activities and fundraising are most welcome.

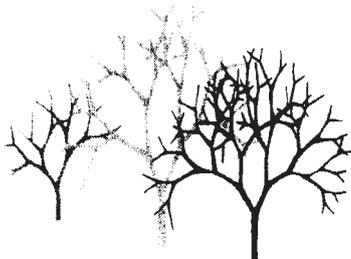
Contact Ann Baker or Lyn Beard on (03) 5944 - 3443 for information.

**Jeanette Ballinger**

## Local power line clearing

Outside metropolitan Melbourne, power companies clear vegetation under power lines in accordance with regulations contained within a Code of Practice. Maintaining a minimum cleared space around powerlines reduces bushfire danger and power blackouts caused by tree branches.

In addition to guidelines issued in 1996 for powerline clearance, Government Minister Alan Stockdale has established a Reference Group to address related issues. The Group reports to the Chief Electrical Inspector via the Powerline Clearing Coordination Committee and includes representatives from Environment Victoria, National Trust, Roadsides Conservation Advisory Committee, Natural Resources Conservation League, Save The Bush and the Upper Yarra and Dandenongs Environmental Council.



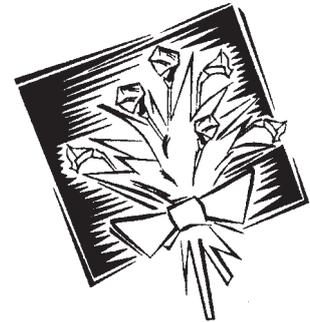
Some of our rarest vegetation communities now exist only on road reserves where power lines jostle them for space. These roadsides provide local seed for revegetation projects and can also include: habitat for wildlife, aboriginal scarred trees, avenues of honour, historic plantings and locality character and scenery.

The Reference Group is tackling issues that include: overclearing and 'hacking'; protection of significant stands of vegetation; lack of long term planning; ineffective consultation processes; uncontrolled clearing in isolated areas; shortage of expert knowledge in rural municipalities; lack of funds for permanent solutions like underground cables; and appropriate notification of power company plans.

In our shire, the power company subcontracts clearing to a company called VEMCO. This company is coordinating with shire and environmental officer Sue Harris on clearing in sensitive areas. They have established a special schedule to minimise impacts as much as possible. Anybody with concerns about clearing under powerlines can contact me, the Environment Victoria representative or Sue Harris on (03) 5945-4272.

Ross Jephcott  
59 443 202.

## Bouquets



- ◆ Large, bright bouquets filled with thanks for a job very well done on the 1997 Village Fair to Bernadette McGougan and Anne McCormick and their team.
- ◆ Equally large bouquet and belated thanks for collation of the previous issue #115 of The Village Bell to The Members of the Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group.
- ◆ To Laura Levens - local botanist, conservationist and author on the publication of her book Walks Through Nature Reserves in Upper Beaconsfield, and to the members of the Upper Beac Writers Group for their able assistance with the project.

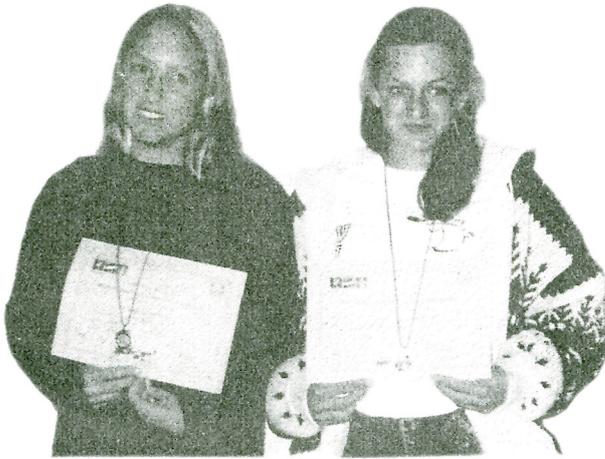


## Planning a Party?

Then why not book the Upper Beac. Hall!  
Caters for around 100, price is reasonable, clean and comfortable.

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS TEL 59 443 219

## Local Girls are Australian Champions



Two local 15 year old students from Beaconhills College have become the Australian double racing kayak champions by winning the U 16 K2 event at the National Championships held in Sydney on 28-29 March.

Jessica Beck and Kristie Columb-Leaver, both from Upper Beaconsfield, trained long and hard, mainly at Aura Vale Lake and competed in lead up races throughout the state ensuring that they were at their peak for the championship race. They are ecstatic with their success.

Both girls have long term goals to compete in the World Marathon Championships and to achieve Olympic selection in sprints. They are aware of how tough the competition is especially in New South Wales and Queensland, but they have already shown that they are prepared to work hard.

Campkraft Kayaks Bayswater and Hella Australia have assisted the girls with the boats and their coaches and other members of Beaconhills Kayaking support and encourage them.

Chris Leaver

### ***Artists Ahoy!***

The editors of the Village Bell are always on the lookout for new people to provide them with suitable, individually designed mastheads for each issue of the Bell.

If you would like to submit one or two mastheads for use please leave them at the Post Office. Just keep the measurements of the masthead the same as for this Bell so it will fit into the space allocated.; The deadline for copy for the next issue is July 15th.

## Elsie Yardley



The residents of Armstrong Road were saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Elsie Yardley on Wednesday 23 April.

A wonderful neighbour, who will be sadly missed by all those who knew her.

Let us hope that there are plenty of equine friends in heaven that need her care.



Jo-Anne Duggan

## New Residents to Upper Beac.



A warm welcome to the following new residents -

**Lisa, Mark and Joshua Birch**  
Salisbury Road

**Helen and Roger Pickford**  
Berglund Road

**Nicole and Leon Key**  
Salisbury Road

## Anzac Day at Upper Beaconsfield



April 25th 1997 was a glorious autumn day. The sun was shining and the air was crisp and clear.

At 11 am a group of citizens and friends gathered at the cenotaph opposite Charing Cross

in the village to remember their family members, comrades and friends who had served in the wars.

The ceremony was conducted by the Upper Beaconsfield RSL and lead by the President, Frank Conn. The Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies placed crosses and red poppies in front of the cenotaph to mark our respect for the local heroes who had died.

After a dignified and moving ceremony, Frank Conn invited everyone present to enjoy morning tea at the RSL club rooms in Halford Road.

**Jo Carter**

## Our New Restaurant

An important event occurred last week,  
Which raised the tone of Upper Beac.  
It's Japonica Jelly of which I speak,  
You'll like it I feel sure.

I've lunched there once and twice I've dined.  
Have a meal there and you'll find  
You'll very likely feel inclined  
To go there more and more.

**Anon**  
May 1997

## COUNTRY WOMENS ASSOCIATION

Meetings of the Upper Beaconsfield branch of the CWA are held on the first Thursday of each month.

For the month of June only, the meeting will take place at a member's home, to be followed by an Irish Christmas lunch. This fundraiser is only \$5 per person. Reservations can be made by contacting Carol Murtagh.

The July meeting will return to its usual place at the Community Hall with a meeting for members at 10:30am, followed by an aromatherapy and herbal demonstration for members and guests at 1:30. A small fee for the demonstration will include an afternoon tea. New members are always welcome.

### Contact

Carol Murtagh,  
Treasurer (5944-4110)  
Betty Mars, President (5944-3214)  
or Daphne Brown, Secretary (5944-3994)

## CWA Recipe for a friendly cake

### Ingredients:

several friendly ladies  
a quantity of talk time  
tea or coffee to taste  
numerous meters of craft material  
some kilos of community interest



### Method:

Mix friendly ladies with tea or coffee. Add craft materials and fold in the talk time. Blend all of the above with the community interest. Place in a warm environment for 1-2 days a month depending on the taste.

## Brownies and Guides

Things are up and running for Term 2 with lots of activities planned by the girls, with some input and directions from leaders.

The brownies have organised a pitch and putt night, bike safety, a visit from the Pakenham SES, a pizza and video night and clay modelling, as well as the fun and games that are held every week.

The Guides are hosting Pakenham Guides to a campfire night, as well as organising

rock climbing at Seaford, a visit by the Pakenham SES and an international night to discuss letters received from their new penpals around the world. There is also a lot of hilarity on games nights and some serious business of badge work.

The New Way Program is now operating with girls having a lot more to say about what they do each term and what they wear. The award system is available to girls who want to work on obtaining badges while those who don't are not pressured to do so. The peak achievement is

the Baden Powell award as in the past, but now there is also a junior BP award for younger girls.

We had a successful day at the Village Fair in spite of the weather, selling toffees and other goodies and generally promoting Guiding in the area. Thank you again to those who helped make it a success. Anyone interested in joining our small but enthusiastic team of leaders - we'd love to hear from you.

**Linda Wilkinson**  
(03) 5944-3987.

## COMMUNITY CARE GROUP



### Changes in 1997

The community owes a great debt to Ray Ratcliff who handed over the Treasurer's role before he died.

Ray held the job, which he did admirably, from our group's inception and we will miss him greatly.

Sharon Fisher also deserves a thank you for the work she has done as a coordinator over the last two years

A special welcome to newcomers Ken Dow on our Group Committee and to Meppy Johnson who has joined the Coordinating team.

### Firewood

Over recent years due to the generosity of the Rotary Club and some other donors we have been able to distribute small amounts of firewood to needy families in our district.

As the Rotary Club is no longer in operation, we are asking for donations of any quantity of firewood - large or small, cut or uncut - from members of the community. Donations will enable us to continue to provide this service. If you can

help please call Des McKenna on (03) 5944-3516.

### What do we do?

Approximately 70 volunteers operate in the Care Group providing services at no cost to ANY MEMBER of our community - Dewhurst, Guys Hill and Upper Beaconsfield.

We generally offer emergency services rather than those of a long term nature as it is intended that the help offered will enable the person or family to get back as soon as possible to a situation of self dependence.

We offer emergency home help, child minding, transport, meals, friendly visiting and minor handyman services.

We have many requests in areas not mentioned above and always try to assist if at all possible.

To contact the Care Group call the Community Centre (03) 5944-3484, Glenda (03) 5944-3884 or Des (03) 5944-3516.

### Information Night

Following the very successful evening held last November, a further information night for volunteers will be held in the Community Centre on Tuesday June 17th at 8pm. All volunteers will be contacted and are invited to attend.

**Des McKenna**

## WILDLIFE WATCH



There is some doubt in the minds of many people whether there will be any wild flowers to see this season considering how dry everything has been. My rainfall records show last year as 70 mm below average and to date this year there has been less than half of the average. No wonder mature eucalypts are suffering.

On a walk through my patch of bush on May Day I discovered that the early orchid plants are up. A few nodding greenhood (*Pterostylis nutans*) leaves were in the same area as other years and tall greenhoods (*P. longifolia*) in bud ready for spring. Dark green heart-shaped leaves with purple backs showed where small mosquito orchids grow. They usually flower during April and May but I suspect they will be much later and not as

prolific this season. We shall see.

I also discovered a bundle of drooping mistletoe (*Amyema pendulum*) on a eucalypt, the first on this property since we have lived here. Maybe I will be able to add the mistletoe bird, with its iridescent blue-black back, red breast and undertail, and white belly, to our list of sightings as mistletoe berries are its main food. These tiny birds (only 8.5 cm long) are found wherever there are mistletoes which is all over Australia except Tasmania.

There have been occasional flowers on silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*) and usually more could be expected from now on; pink or white heath (*Epacris impressa*) should be in full bloom through the next couple of months; and the trailing ground-berry (*Acrotriche prostrata*) ought to produce honey pot shaped flowers full of nectar on old

wood. During June I will look for a tiny helmet orchid (*Coryba aconitiflorus*) among litter under the outer limits of the canopy of a broad leaf peppermint.

Now something for which I would like an explanation. Why would a spider trouble to construct a perfectly engineered sling around a small piece of granite (not wrapping it in silk as she does an insect), hoist it a metre from the ground and leave it to swing to and fro suspended from the barge board for two or three days?

I missed what happened next. Had she planned a tombstone in memory of her cannibalised husbands, or was she using it as a bolas to capture prey? Perhaps kitchen renovations were under way or construction of a barricade against hungry predators?

Does anyone know the answer?

Laura Levens

### Native Plant Nursery Now Open



The Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group's Nursery has many small plants suitable for the home garden at our new home on Halford Street, near the Milk Bar.

The nursery is open Friday afternoon until 5pm or by appointment (03) 5944-3690.

#### PLANT OF THE MONTH

This month's plant is the Trigger Plant (*Stylidium graminifolium*). Plant now for spring into summer colour.

Each tuft of grassy leaves sends up an erect stem to 60cm, carrying a spike of many small pink flowers. The plant is ideal for rock gardens and open sunny areas.

Gladys Aarons



### Diary Dates

- Jun 4** Wed. Upper Beaconsfield Association meeting, 8pm Pine Grove
- Jun 16** Mon. Neighbourhood Watch 8pm Community Complex
- Jun 21** UBRFB members dinner
- Jun 26** Red Cross luncheon fashion parade
- Jun 18** Book launch Community Complex
- Jul 12** Beaconhills Annual Dinner
- Jul 11** Red Cross AGM
- Aug 2** Bed & Breakfast Workshop Community Complex
- Aug 26** UBRFB Auxiliary towel night 7.30 pm

# BEACONHILLS COUNTRY GOLF CLUB



The recent Autumn rain has been most welcome at Beaconhills. The fairways are in great condition and the depleted dams are hopefully starting to fill again. The groundstaff have had a hectic summer of maintenance and course preparation.

Recently completed tasks include the upgrading of cart paths, the replacement of above-ground fuel tanks with safer underground units and the installation of an E.P.A. approved wash-down bay and associated triple interceptor pits. This guarantees the proper filtration of waste products and chemical residues and ensures Beaconhills complies with relevant waste disposal regulations.

### Members' News

Beaconhills has welcomed over 150 new senior members (many former members of the Emerald Country Club) and approximately 30 junior members in the past few months. Changes to competition formats have been introduced to cope with the extra players and Beaconhills can now

offer competitions for women on both Saturday and Sunday, as well as the popular Wednesday competitions.

Our club professionals have announced a generous concession for juniors wishing to hire golf equipment. Rates will apply to both members (after the expiry of the 2 month free loan period) and non-members. The next Junior golf clinic will be held on Friday July 11, commencing 11 a.m. (school holidays), cost \$3.00. Enquiries to the pro shop 5944 3630.

### Staff movements

Cathie West has recently been appointed Assistant Manager enabling Beaconhills to provide a managerial presence seven days per week. Cathie has previously worked at Peninsula Golf Club and held the position of Assistant Manager at Eastern Golf Club in Doncaster. Paul Matthews and Greg Tivendale have joined the groundstaff as Turf Management trainees under the AFL Traineeship scheme and Matthew Kneen has left Beaconhills to pursue a career in Outdoor Education/Leadership.

Board member Leigh Jeffs has been elected by the Directors to the position of club Vice-President for the second year in succession. Club Activities

The lady members annual Charity Day in aid of the Walter

& Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research held in April raised \$1,660.

Congratulations to Wendy Carter and Anne Felgate for winning the Foursomes Championship, to Pat Bird for being the inaugural winner of the Inner Wheel District Golf tournament and to Lorna Pawsey for recently receiving the prestigious Paul Harris Award.

Commiserations to our Division 4 district Pennant players who just missed out on the flag on a count back, after finishing the season equal with Portsea.

Club 50th anniversary year celebrations will include a reunion luncheon for past and present members during August. Any help with up-dated addresses of former members would be greatly appreciated. July 12 the Presidents and Captains Annual Dinner Dance will have a theme "Fashions from 1947" in keeping with the anniversary celebrations.

### VALE

It is with sadness we have learnt of the passing of former member Ray Ratcliff. All Ray's friends at Beaconhills offer sincere sympathy to Elva and her family.

**Barbara Jackson**

### SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL - UBA AND VILLAGE BELL

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

I enclose \$5 being family subscription to the UBA and the Village Bell for 1997.

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

Name of family ..... Address.....

Tel ..... Signed .....

## **BERWICK/UPPER BEACONSFIELD**

# **Red Cross News**

### **Red Cross Calling**

No doubt Upper Beac. residents would have seen the final figures for the "Door Knock" which was held during March. Our Unit member **Mrs Barbara Jackson** organised her callers in a very professional manner. The total collection for Upper Beac was \$4638, exceeding last year's figure. On behalf of Red Cross, thanks to all who participated in any way and to the Primary School students who once again sold buttons.

### **Major Raffle**

Red Cross is again offering automobiles as prizes in a major raffle to be drawn at the Head Office early in June. It would be exciting to have at least one of the three cars won by a resident in our local area!

### **Blood Bank**

The Mobile Blood Bank was in Narre Warren North Hall on 28/29 April and at the Berwick Leisure Centre on May 9. Total donations of blood remain disappointingly low and it is especially difficult to interest new donors. It is a wonder why only 3 percent of eligible Victorian donate blood to this essential service.

### **June Luncheon**

The Unit is planning a luncheon and fashion parade to be held in the RSL Hall, Berwick on Thursday, 26 June at 12 noon. The cost is \$7. Garments are reasonably priced and may be purchased on the day. Please contact Marie Womersley on (03) 9707-1103 if you would like to come along.

### **New Members**

The Unit is constantly on the look out for new members with very reasonable membership fee of just \$2 per annum. The Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday, 11th July. Please contact Marie Womersley with enquiries or information regarding Red Cross.

**Marie Womersley**

## **DOOR KNOCK RESULTS**

As reported above the residents of Upper Beaconsfield have once again been wonderful supporters of the Annual March Red Cross door knock.

**Thirty nine voluntary callers** received \$4,637.85 in donations from residents and a further \$28.80 was contributed by the children who purchased Red Cross buttons at the **Primary School**.

This year five members of the **Upper Beaconsfield Rovers**, Bruce Norbury, Steve Joiner, Kirsten Drysdale, Mel Evans and Rachel Patterson, assisted with the collection.

Other "first time" callers to brave the dogs etc., were Lorraine Barnes, Dianne Conn, Lesley Davidson, Margaret Edwards and Anne McCormick.

As area coordinator, I extend my thanks to all callers and the wonderful generosity of the Upper Beaconsfield community.

All money raised in the Victorian door knock is used to further Red Cross services within Victoria, such as blood bank, medical transport, emergency and disaster relief etc.

**Barbara Jackson**

## *Village Bell Credits*

|                       |   |
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**Colleen Lazenby  
Tel: 03 9796 2226**

## FIRE BRIGADE NEWS



### New Office Bearers

The biennial election of Brigade officers and office bearers was held on April 7th. Results are as follows, effective from July 1 st -

**Captain** - Robert Irving

**First Lieutenant** - Robin Mountain

**Second Lieutenant** - Jon Boura

**Third Lieutenant** - Ian Johnson

**Fourth Lieutenant** - Alan Dale

**Communications Officer** - Nancy Boura

**Apparatus Officer** - Geoff Schoonderwalt

**President** - Ray Allsop

**Secretary** - Owen Magee

**Treasurer** - Judy Irwin.

The very dry weather conditions have caused the Brigade to be busy in the two months since the last Village Bell. There have been twenty turnouts including supports to Beaconsfield, Officer and Upper Pakenham brigades. Many of the calls were to burnoffs and rubbish fires which were causing concern; several were to fires that had reignited after property owners through they were extinguished. All were quickly brought under control and the recent rain has eased the situation.

**Nancy Boura**

## Bed and Breakfast Workshop

### COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Upper Beaconsfield is a lovely weekend retreat for city dwellers seeking rest and relaxation, for people visiting the area on special occasions and for general tourists. Our area has had of long history of providing a haven for just such people.

With this in mind, more and more people are looking at opening a Bed and Breakfast business to cater for this clientele.

If you are thinking of operating a B&B establishment, there are many issues to consider to ensure that you offer a high quality facility and service to your clients.

A Saturday B&B workshop will be held on 2 August from

10am to 4pm at the Upper Beac Community Centre for the modest cost of \$10. The workshop will help you make an informed decision about whether the b&b industry might be the right choice for you.

Conducted by an experienced B&B operator, the workshop will cover - liabilities and obligations of the operator; legal requirements; safety and the environment; various types of b&b's; marketing and promotions; set up costs; record keeping/taxation issues.

For information on this and other interesting courses and workshops, contact the Community Centre on (03) 5944-3484

### Enrol Now for places at Kinder and Pre-kinder



Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to live in the immediate Upper Beaconsfield vicinity for your child to be eligible for a position at the Upper Beac Kinder.

Over the past few years, people have come from Emerald, Cockatoo, Berwick and Pakenham due to the excellent facilities and comprehensive program.

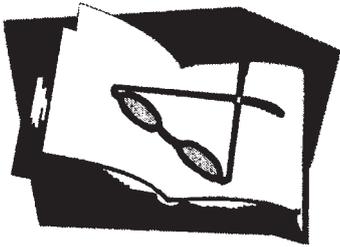
Positions for 1998 are available but limited so you are urged to enrol as soon as possible, The Kinder Enrolment Officer Jenny Benbow is happy to provide more information on (03) 9707-4451.

Ches Mills has settled in well at the Pre-Kinder and is providing a stimulating program for both groups of children. Her gentle yet vibrant personality is more than evident despite the demands of fifteen 3 and 4 year olds per group.

If you are aware of anyone interested in a place in the Pre-Kinder in 1998, ring Teresa Cooper on (03) 5944-4189 for more information.

**Judy Riddiford**

## **Laura Levens, published author**



Laura has just guided into publication her small book - **Walks through Nature Reserves of Beaconsfield Upper**.

Although Laura is well known in Upper Beaconsfield it seems a good time to put on record a few details that not all would know. Laura was

born and raised in Red Cliffs, Victoria. She met her husband Bert there. They married in Melbourne and lived in Parkdale while raising their son and two girls.

Laura worked as a telephonist in Red Cliffs and Mildura in the days when they had a manual exchange - when the phone was wound up by means of a handle. A shutter dropped at Laura's exchange and she put a plug into the board and said "number please". Many residents can remember the same system here in Upper Beaconsfield. Laura says "of course, we never listened in".

For a short time Laura worked at Melbourne Central until her children were born. Ten years later she did volunteer work at the Mordialloc City Library and worked her way into a full time job. Laura moved to the Doveton Library which was a branch of the Dandenong Valley Regional Library System and stayed with them for 20 years or so.

Laura and Bert fell in love with the wild flowers on a block of land in Leppitt Road, built their dream house and moved in around 1980. That house was burnt down in 1983 and she and Bert lived in a granny flat until their unique underground house was built in 1986. This house has been featured in the Village Bell and other publications.

Laura says she "came late to an interest in wild flowers, conservation and land care". Watching the land spring to life after the devastation of the fires in '83 has created a lifetime interest for her and she is hoping against hope that the same rejuvenation will happen to the trees after our bad drought.

Laura joined the Conservation Group nine years ago and the Writing Group four years ago. The combination has led Laura to write many articles for the Village Bell and other publications. She feels the Writing Group was the incentive to convert a short article into her book. The group walked around the area with Laura and helped in every way they could.

However, it is Laura who used her special knowledge of the local flora and fauna to write this book. She is hoping the community will come to the launch at the Community Centre at 10 am on June 18th.

**Jeanette Ballinger**

## **VEC Hosts Olympic Style Competition**

On Saturday 12 April the Victorian Equestrian Centre hosted the 1997 Interschool Equestrian Competition, the final series for this year.

The event has grown so popular, with the participation of 150 schools and over 700 competitors, that the VEC scheduled five qualifying competitions which were held in March and early April.

Entries were received from all over the state, from both primary and secondary schools in both public and private sectors. The top six schools, along with the six highest scoring individuals, from each qualifying round, competed in the final day of competition.

The Interschool Equestrian Competition requires young riders to show "all round" skills by competing in a variety of disciplines including dressage, riding on the flat, show jumping, jumping equitation, games and handy mount.

"Young competitors" is certainly an understatement, with children as young as five years old participating. The children work hard to be chosen to represent their school, and even harder to achieve the recognition they deserve to participate in the final event.

The winner was Hurstbridge Primary School with a tremendous lead of 19 points. The average age of riders in the team was 11, with one as young as five!

*(Continued on page 17)*

## Upper Beaconsfield Riding Club



### UPPER BEACONSFIELD RIDING CLUB INCORPORATED

PO Box 93, Upper Beaconsfield 3808

#### Top Team Trophy Combined Training 1997

On Sunday 23 March at Acoonah Park in Berwick, the Upper Beaconsfield Riding Club hosted the Horse Riding Clubs' Association of Victoria 1997 Top Team Trophy for Combined Training. Upper Beaconsfield won the trophy last year when the event, which comprises one dressage test and one show jumping round per competitor, was hosted by the Upper Yarra Adult Riding Club.

After a couple of hours of rain, conditions were slippery for the 207 competitors. But there were some excellent dressage tests and jumping rounds. The show jumping courses were challenging, making it harder for competitors to win on dressage points only.

The winners were the Peninsula Party Girls (Peninsula Horse Riding Club) - Pip Arwas, Barbara Chapman, Gail Clay and Liz Turner.

2nd place went to the Wild Things (Trafalgar Adult Riding Club). In 3rd place were the Seville Showstoppers (Seville Equestrian Club) and 4th came the Four Dead Beats (Trafalgar ARC). The Lysterfield Liquorice Allsorts (Lysterfield ARC)

came in at 5th and 6th was the West Gippsland ARC team.

Best individual performances from Upper Beaconsfield Riding-Club members were Denise Fellows and Whoopie (6th in level 3), Susan Dunn and B.P. Burgundy (3rd in level 3) and Ysabelle Hobson and Harry O'Lion (=2nd in level 3). Upper Beaconsfield had two teams entered, but lame horses meant that two members has to scratch.

#### Dressage Day 1997

Conditions were once again ideal for this annual event held at the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve. Best performances from Upper Beaconsfield Club members were-

Lynette Bergin and Victoree's Pride, 1st in Level 1; Anna Thirkell and Barrymore Montrose, =5th in Level 1 and 1st in Level 2; Kris Adrian and Tudor-park Balmoral, 6th in Level 2; Jenny Williams and Sharinga Bounty, 3rd in Level 2 and 2nd in Level 3; Brian Czempinski and Valentine, 5th in Level 3; Denise Fellows and Whoopie, 1st in Level 4; Greg Bootes and Banner, 1st in Level 5; Kerryn Redpath and Ryback, 3rd in Level 5; Julie Leitl and Kariboo, =4th in Level 5.

Greg and Julie were competing in their first ever dressage event. Denise Fellows won the Beryl Hales Memorial Trophy for the Best Performed UBRC Member.

Thanks to all members, friends and relations who helped out at both events. The Club couldn't have done it without you!

**Ysabelle Hobson**

*(Continued from page 16)*

The winner of the Individual Section was Jessica Collins from Wesley College in Elsternwick.

The Hon Tom Reynolds MP, Victorian Minister for Sport and Rural Development, conducted the official opening of the 1997 Victorian Interschool Equestrian Competition.

Nancy French, one of Australia's greatest dressage riders, performed dressage to music. A Games Team, many members of whom will become international competitors, provided a

games spectacular which got everyone's adrenalin pumping.

To ensure that no school had an unfair advantage, the VEC allowed secondary schools and their natural "feeder" primary schools to enter combined teams. Schools which provide grades from beginners to Year 12 could enter both a primary and a secondary team if they wished.

More information about schools competitions and individual riding can be obtained by calling the VEC on (03) 5944-3751.

**Ken Aldred**

## ***Biggest in the District!***

It's official - 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group is now the largest group in the Cardinia District, despite the fact we have lost several members this year and there are still plenty of vacancies in the Venturer section.

### **New Committee**

Tom Gibson and Ian Wilkinson have joined the committee this year and the office bearers are

- Group President, Barry Smith
- Secretary, Kathy Boynes
- Treasurer, Danny Ryan
- Second hand uniforms, Jenny Irwin

Jan Carmody continues as Group Leader.

### **Village Fair**

We have started with a rush of activity beginning with several stalls and displays at the Village Fair. A great success was the Bush Dance held after the Village Fair, run as a fundraiser for the Scouts attending the Jamboree in Brisbane next January.

### **Firewood raffle winners**

Winners so far have been

J. Perrin and S. Robinson.

These raffles will be continuing throughout the winter months. Our thanks to Peter Delarue for loaning us a hydraulic splitter to split the firewood.

### **Joey Scouts**

Joeys have been busy with craft nights and an Australian flag night. Five members are going up to Cub Scouts to start next term. There are quite a few names on the waiting list, but contact Jan Carmody if you would like to put your child's name down.

### **Cub Scouts**

They arranged and attended a billy cart derby at Pakenham Upper, held a special night for Mother's Day and a construction night. Plenty of badge work is also being achieved.

### **Scouts**

They attended the Stradbroke Cup competition at Gilwell Park over Easter and won 3 bronze pendants. Badges are also being earned to qualify for the Jamboree which includes a weekend hike.

### **Venturers**

Venturers need new members and welcome boys and girls 15-18 years of age. Ring Jan

Carmody for details.

### **Rovers**

Rovers helped organise activities at the Hoadley Hide competition over Easter. Several members participated in the Sandown Formula Bike marathon ride and their buggy is undergoing a rebuild in readiness for the Mud Bash in June.

### **Anzac Day**

We had a good attendance of members for the Anzac Day ceremony and were joined by Cubs and Scouts from surrounding groups.

### **Leader Training**

Wendy and Brian Wood and Bruce Norbury are presently undertaking their stage 4 training.

### **Second hand uniform and books**

We need any items of uniform and books from families whose children have left our group. You can either donate them-or sell for a commission. Contact Jenny Erwin 59 443 737

**Barry Smith 59 443 219**

**Jan Carmody 59 443 655**

## **CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL NOTES**

As most now know, the seven new Shire Councillors are Graeme Legge, Leonora Cox, Edwin Hume, Graham Osborne, Max Papley and both Ted Owen and myself in the Beaconhills Ward. Edwin Hume was nominated as Mayor.

Each of us was elected to represent one of four wards in the Shire and we are committed to diligently represent the concerns and interests of

residents and ratepayers within our respective wards.

It is our goal however to take the broader view wherever possible to ensure the best outcome for the Shire as a whole.

Over the next months some of the important issues that Council will address include: the 1997/98 budget; the corporate plan; the 10-year capital works program; the recreational plan; the municipal strategic statement; and the new Shire planning scheme.

The community will have numerous opportunities to participate in the development of these important strategic documents. These plans will have a major effect on our environment and lifestyle over the next years and I strongly urge you to take an interest and the opportunities to become involved as much as possible. Enquiries can be addressed to me on (03) 5944-3400.

**Graeme Kidd**

(Continued from page 4)

## Peter Meeking - Citizen of the Year ..

He was president of the U.B. Assoc. Inc. for three years and is now a Life Member. Unlike others Peter still attended meetings and is still willing to help when asked.

Peter was involved in the following worthy and very necessary committees as part of his commitment to the wider community and to the Shire and Council:

- Chairman of the Shire's Policy and Resources Committee, Council representative to the M.A.V and the Gippsland Municipalities' Association, the FACS Committee, the Pakenham Development Committee, the Housing Committee and the Pakenham Welfare Group.
- Charter member of the Berwick Lions Club, president in 1973.
- Committee member Beaconsfield Community Centre.
- President E. A. Owen Conservation Reserve.
- Chairman of the Pakenham Shire Environmental Strategy.
- Chairperson of Strategy for Grantville Sand Mining Inquiry.
- President of Windermere.
- Helped set up Beaconsfield Community Health Centre.
- President of the Australian Valuers Association.
- Chairman of Displan 1982-1995.

This is a most impressive record for any one person, but if none of the above were true Peter would still deserve the recognition for his efforts for the community after the 1983 Ash Wednesday Fires.

He displayed determination, tireless energy and thoughtful compassion working to rehabilitate the people and communities who suffered through the

fires.

As Chairman of the Dandenong Ranges Fire-affected Area Committee his responsibilities extended well beyond the Shire's boundaries and, in the Chair, he succeeded in quelling rivalries to unite the committee and government agencies into effective facilitators of rehabilitation over the whole Dandenong area.

At the local level he achieved a remarkable type of unobtrusive leadership establishing contact between those who needed help and those who could give it.

Through well-judged, well-informed intervention he goaded State and Commonwealth Governments into taking more extensive and effective action than they initially appeared inclined to take; he tactfully persuaded unfriendly organizations into co-operation which both healed breaches and greatly enhanced the extent and nature of the benefit to the fire victims.

Although often outspoken, in the difficult times of 1983 Peter showed a versatility equal to task of dealing with the variety of persons, organizations and situations. Throughout these months of confusion he maintained his own values and sense of purpose and it was this steadfastness which both heartened victims and brought them the aid they required.

He continued the task of rehabilitation to its logical subsequent stage in his work as Chairman of the Shire Displan Committee. Peter was very proud of Displan, whose plans and strategies were a model for many other areas and States.

There can be few people nominated for the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year award who have such an impressive list of commitments and achievements as Peter Meeking.

I asked Peter if he was pleased to receive the award and he said he was 'rapt, because it is an award from my own community' and that is what it is all about.

**Jeanette Ballinger**

### ***Introduction to Horticulture Workshop***

Have you ever considered a career in landscape, cut flowers, turf, nursery or gardening?  
 Saturday 14 June 10am-4pm \$10.00 Teacher John Baker Bookings essential a week prior  
**Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre (03) 5944 3484**

# UBRFB AUXILIARY

## Tea Room

Our thanks to all who showed their support for the Brigade and Auxiliary by purchasing goods at our stall or visiting the Tea Room during the Village Fair in April. Raffle winners on the day were S. Johnson, J. Bumpstead and D. Pockett for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively. Claudia Johnson won a special prize as well.

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Auxiliary will have been held just before publication of this paper and it is expected that the following

people nominated for executive positions will be confirmed: President -Lorraine Knight; Vice President -Dot Pockett; Treasurer - Jan Magee; Secretary/ Publicity Officer - Colleen Lazenby; Catering Coordinator - Pat Edwards; Assistant Catering Coordinator -Joan Green. The meeting will have given us a chance to farewell our retiring Captain Eric Bumpstead, officiating as Interim Chair for the final time at an Auxiliary AGM.

## Mid-Winter Dinner

The Auxiliary will again coordinate and provide food for the joint Brigade/Auxiliary midwinter get together for members and their families to be

held on June 21 at the fire station.  
**Colleen Lazenby**

## Fundraiser in August

Once again the Auxiliary will hold its popular Towel Night Fundraiser on August 26, at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to the fire station where "Fawlty Towels" will provide an extensive range of towels, linens, robes and smaller items for sale, all good quality seconds. Purchasers have been very pleased with price, range and quality at our previous Towel Nights and the August function will be no exception. No entry fee; light supper provided. For information contact me on (03) 9796-2226.

# LOCAL ISSUES

## Strategic Plan

It is expected that funding will be approved in the next Shire budget to hire a consultant later this year to develop a Strategic Plan for Upper Beaconsfield and environs. The local coordinating group has been discussing the development of a framework and terms of reference for this study with Shire planners, placing particular emphasis on involving the wider community as much as possible.

A study examining water management and development options for Upper Beaconsfield was prepared by Pat Condina and others in 1982. As part of that study, a wide ranging questionnaire was used to

survey residents' opinions. The coordinating group believes that it would be valuable to repeat a similar survey fifteen years on, prior to or as part of the development of the town strategy. The group is currently considering how such a survey could be done.

## Rehabilitation Works - Emerald-Beaconsfield Road

Graeme Tutt, Cardinia Shire Corporate Manager Services has provided the following information on the current roadworks -

This road is a Declared Main Road and as such the works have been undertaken by Council on behalf of VicRoads. The scope of the works and the pavement treatment are nominated by VicRoads who provide an

appropriate amount of funding in accordance with overall funds availability.

The treatment adopted in this case is a two coat bituminous spray seal over a geotextile fabric, designed to preserve pavement integrity by sealing the surface. With this treatment the profile of the existing pavement will not be greatly improved unless extensive asphalt regulation is carried out prior to the application of the fabric. In this case funding was only sufficient to carry out minor regulation work.

By the time you read this, the contractor will have returned to finish the run at the southern end and line marking should be close to completion.

**Graeme Kidd**

## FREE INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS

- Free Gov't influenza vaccination campaign for all persons aged 65 years and over.
- Also for chronic sufferers with cardiac, pulmonary or renal disorders, residents and

- staff of nursing homes and chronic care facilities; as well as adults and children on immuno-suppressive therapy
- Vaccinations are available from your local doctors.

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