



PUBLIC MEETING
TOWNSHIP STRATEGY
PLAN

8:00 pm
THURSDAY, 14 AUGUST 1997
UPPER BEACONSFIELD HALL

Cardinia Shire Council is about to appoint consultants to develop a strategic plan for the Upper Beaconsfield area to consider options on how the township might evolve over the next 15 to 20 years.

Mr John McCaffrey, Corporate Manager Planning, Cardinia Shire will lead a discussion on the issues that need to be addressed in the study, and you will have an opportunity to put your views on these issues at the meeting.

Out of these discussions it will be our aim to reach agreement on the terms of reference for the consultant's study.

Additionally we will also establish a small but representative steering committee to liaise with Council and the Consultant during the study.

CONTACT: Graeme Kidd
5944 3400

Talk on
Koori culture

Guest Speaker at the next Upper Beaconsfield Association meeting will be Cheryl Drayton.

Cheryl has previously worked with communities in Dandenong and the Kurnai Community of Gippsland (of which she is a member).

Cheryl is now working as the Koori Liaison Officer for the Southern Health Care Network which includes Dandenong Hospital and Monash Medical Centre. Her position covers community visiting as well as working within the confines of both hospitals.

Cheryl will talk about the Koori culture and her work.

Members of the community welcome.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD
ASSOCIATION

Next meeting
8pm, Wednesday 6 August 1997
at the Community Complex,
Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield

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QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOUR FOR DR JOHN FLOYD

Local metallurgist Dr John Floyd has been made a Member of the Order of Australia as an acknowledgment of his significant contribution to technology and to the environment through a metal smelting invention.

His top submerged lancing technology is a method of smelting base metal ores and concentrates and saving valuable materials by treating the waste. Thanks to John, this technology is now used commercially in Australia and overseas.

John set up his own company, Ausmelt, in 1981. Before that he worked for the CSIRO, researching solutions for problems in the tin smelting process. According to his wife Carolyn, John is "dedicated and down-to-earth" about his work.

John, wife Carolyn, and four children have lived in Upper Beaconsfield since 1983.

Ysabelle Hobson

VALE



SHIONA NOONE



We would like to thank everyone in Upper Beaconsfield who, in some way, gave help and support to our daughter Shiona. We know she appreciated all that was done for her.

Nickie and Mel Patton

MERITORIOUS AWARD FOR UPPER BEAC RSL PRESIDENT

Mr Frank Conn, President of the Upper Beaconsfield RSL, was awarded the Meritorious Medal of the RSL of Australia on 2 July 1997.

Mr Conn was presented with a gold medal on a blue ribbon suspended from a blue and gold bar, a miniature medal and a lapel badge. He also received a framed certificate of the award. The Medal was presented to Mr Conn by Sir David Smith, KCVO, AO, KStJ. The ceremony took place at the 82nd Victorian Branch Annual Conference at Flemington Racecourse.

Mr Conn served with the 2nd AIF for five years until 1945. On his demobilisation from the service, he joined the RSL.

In 1946 he spent a weekend in Upper Beaconsfield as the guest of a wartime friend who owned a holiday home in Armstrong Road. This started Frank's great interest in the area, and in 1948 he bought part of the Armstrong property. It was not easy to obtain building materials so soon after the war, and it was very difficult to have them transported to Upper Beaconsfield.

The house was finally completed and Mr Conn settled in in 1951. The following year he married Gwyn, who has been a stalwart of the Beaconsfield Golf Club for many years. Gwyn and Frank had three children, all raised in Upper Beaconsfield.

The Upper Beaconsfield Sub Branch of the RSL opened in Halford Street in 1951, and Mr Conn became a member of the branch in 1956. He has spent 41 consecutive years in office here, with 19 years as President. He leads the members and community at the Memorial Services on Anzac Day and Armistice Day each year.

Before he retired in 1985, Mr Conn travelled by car and/or train to Melbourne each working day. He remembers driving to Berwick station and travelling by steam train.

He received Life Membership of the RSL in 1981 and he also received Life Membership of the RACV in 1995.

Jo Carter

Welcome to new teacher at Pre-Kinder



The end of second term brought the departure from the Pre-Kinder of the popular Ches Mills. Whilst we were sad to see Ches leave (her back was playing up), the Committee is delighted to announce the appointment of Monica Fitzsimons to the position of Pre-Kinder teacher.

Monica is a qualified Primary Art and Craft teacher and has 10 years' experience teaching three and four year old children. She is delighted with her new appointment and is impressed by the lovely setting and excellent facilities at the Pre-Kinder. We wish her a happy future with us here in Upper Beac.

Any queries regarding enrolments for 1998 at either the Kinder or the Pre-Kinder, please con-tact Jenny Benbow - 03 9707 4451 or Teresa Cooper - 5944 4189 for more information.

Judy Riddiford
5944 3172

Cardinia Shire Environment Management Awards

Citizens of the Shire who have made outstanding contributions to management of environmental issues were recognized by the Shire in July.

Laura Levens received a framed photograph of the Helmeted Honey Eater as winner of the Individual Category, Cardinia Shire Environment Management Awards.

Laura was nominated by two local groups who gave the following reasons for their sponsorship:

- Inaugural member of the U.B. Conservation Group.
- Contributor to the group's booklet "Upper Beaconsfield - our Bushland Environment".
- Laura also distributes the booklet to new residents in the U.B. area.
- Author of "Walks Through Nature Reserves of Upper Beaconsfield".
- Provided assistance to the Shire's Roadside Vegetation Survey.
- Active member of the committees managing the E.A.Owen Reserve and Salisbury Gully.
- Regular contributor to the Village Bell publication on environmental matters.
- Environmental "watchdog" making submissions to Council on many environmental issues.
- Currently compiling a photographic record of the flora of Upper Beaconsfield.
- Assists residents with plant surveys on their properties.
- Placed a conservation covenant, through Trust for Nature, on her own property.

James Bradley is the other local person recognized by these awards. James was part of a group from Beacon Hills Christian College who won the Education and Training Environment Management Award. Their presentation was a T shirt with "Keep an Eye on Toomuc Creek" on the front and "Keep It Clean or Mutate" with a picture of a fish with three eyes on the back.

James, who is in Year 9 at Beacon Hills, said the students did a study of the creek and were horrified at the amount of rubbish they found. On Clean Up Australia Day the school walked right along the creek and cleaned up the rubbish.

Our congratulations to both Laura and James. As residents of the Shire we have good reason to be grateful to them for their hard work for our environment.

Jeanette Ballinger

If in doubt, leave it out!

Contamination of recyclables is the single biggest problem facing Cardinia Shire's recycling service.

An amazing variety of non-recyclable items seem to find their way into our bins, and create major difficulties for the sorters, not to mention occupational health and safety hazards! Most of the recyclables are sorted by hand, and items such as used nappies and syringes are a real risk.

Most contamination, however, seems to be as a result of people thinking that they're doing the

right thing. Plastics seem to be the biggest source of confusion, with well-intentioned people putting plastic shopping bags, margarine containers, and ice cream tubs (none of which are recyclable!) into the recycling bin.

Recycling properly is easy! All you have to do is put **only** the following items into the recycling side of your bin (under the **yellow** lid). Anything else is going to be a contaminant!

As 'Dipper' says in the commercials - "If in doubt - leave it out!"

Please ring Council's Health & Regulation Unit for further information on 5945 4295

PLASTIC BOTTLES

Recycle **only** 1 or 2 in the chasing arrows triangle, or with a rocket bottom, e.g. Coke bottles - typically includes soft drink and juice bottles milk bottles and cream jars and some coloured detergent bottles.

GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS
unbroken if possible



STEEL CANS
including aerosol cans but not paint cans please!

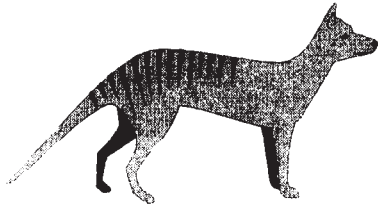
ALL PAPER
including magazines and phone books

LIQUID PAPERBOARD
Cardboard
(Milk cartons)

ALUMINIUM CANS

CARDBOARD
Corrugated boxes broken into flat panels, please -you get more in that way and it doesn't jam!

Tasmanian Tigers in Upper Beaconsfield?



The Tasmanian Tiger was declared extinct when the last known specimen died in captivity in a Hobart zoo on 7th September 1936. However, there have many reported sightings since - and not just in Tasmania. According to a recent article in *The Age* there is a growing body of anecdotal evidence to suggest that the Tasmanian Tiger (alias thylacine, marsupial wolf, zebra wolf and zebra opossum) is alive and well and living in South Gippsland. It was only after seeing this article and the pictures that went with it, that local resident Carolyn Floyd could put a name to the strange creature she glimpsed on the outskirts of the Upper Beaconsfield township nearly two years ago. (Editor's Note: the location of the sighting has been withheld.)

Sunday 17 September 1995:

Driving along-----at 12.55 pm today, John and I saw an animal crouched in the middle of the road eating. Its head shot up as we approached and it turned to run to the left ... then changed its mind, spun around and ran to the opposite side of the road and sprang up the bank, lost in the long grass.

"Was that a fox?" we both asked, for it wasn't all that a fox should be. It was smaller and sleeker; its spine sloping down over back legs. Gold/brown rather than red/brown, short haired. Its tail was thin, dark and banded with white at its tip. Its muzzle was very dark also, almost black and the movement was somewhat cat-like. But it was not a cat... We both had the impression that the snout was blunt, not pointy. We did not notice the ears.

The day was warm and sunny - the road dry, the area shaded by gums.

Carolyn, who has a Diploma of Professional Writing and Editing from Holmesglen College and who is currently writing a family history, often jots down notes like the above in the hope that they may come in handy one day. Two years later, what Carolyn remembers best about the strange

creature is the stripes, the curious way the spine sloped to the tail, and the cat-like movement. These characteristics are commonly described by people reporting Tasmanian Tiger sightings. However, contrary to Carolyn's description, a Tiger is larger than a fox and is nocturnal. The *Age* article describes it as "the largest carnivorous animal of recent times ... Males weighed up to 35 kilograms. It stood up to 60 centimetres at the shoulder, and had 15-20 dark stripes running across the back from shoulder to tail. The female could carry up to four young at a time in its pouch" .

If what Carolyn saw was indeed a Tiger, then it must have been a youngster, not yet full-grown, and hungry enough to overcome its habitual shyness to scavenge off the roadside.

What would a Tasmanian Tiger be doing on this side of Bass Strait anyway? According to *The Age* article, wealthy colonial landowners of the 1800s had a veritable field day importing all types of animals from interstate and around the world, including deer, camels, llamas, ostriches, mongooses and, of course, rabbits and foxes. And the traffic wasn't all one way: Tasmanian possums were sent to New Zealand (where they are now vermin) as early as 1840. There were also attempts to introduce Tasmanian devils and koalas. Red-necked wallabies were sent to England and Germany where they apparently still live in the wild. It seems very likely that the Tasmanian Tiger might have been among animals shipped interstate and abroad. In fact in 1912 a Tasmanian animal dealer is known to have acquired several Tigers for the Melbourne zoo and other buyers. The same dealer, James Harrison of Wynyard, also supplied other species of native animals which were released at Wilsons Promontory between 1900 and 1941. Sightings of the Tiger in South Gippsland (the first one was near Wilsons Prom in 1915) cover the coastal area from Wonthaggi to Loch Sport.

So is it possible that one or more elusive Tasmanian Tigers could have found their way to Upper Beaconsfield and decided to stay, making their home deep in a thick pocket of bush, avoiding contact with humans, and emerging only to hunt? Nobody knows. And considering we humans have already made a pretty concerted attempt to wipe them out on their home ground, perhaps it's better if nobody ever finds out.

Ysabelle Hobson

THE CRIME PAGE

Neighbourhood Watch asked Sergeant John Ristell (Pakenham Police) to answer some of your most commonly asked questions about the Police, crime and the Upper Beaconsfield community.

NHW: Pakenham Police Station is listed to become a 24-hour station. When is this due to happen and what does the term "24-hour station" actually mean?

SGT RISTELL: No actual date has been set, but it is recognised that population growth in the Pakenham area means that a 24-hour station, complete with 5-6 extra staff members, is necessary. "24-hour station" does not mean that the Pakenham station will be open 24 hours a day. It simply means that a police vehicle and two Police officers from Pakenham will be available to attend to calls from the public at all times. Pakenham Station will probably close about 11 pm, although the vehicle will remain on the road. And don't forget that the Upper Beaconsfield area is also serviced by Narre Warren Police, so you are well covered.

NHW: Can one vehicle service the needs of the entire area?

SGT RISTELL: There is only one vehicle on the road now. Most police stations, even the larger ones such as Narre Warren, only have one, or occasionally two, vehicles on the road at any given time. But we all work together, back each other up. If you call Pakenham Police or D-24, they then call the vehicle from your area. If it is not available, a vehicle from another area, probably Narre Warren, will be asked to attend. If the Narre Warren vehicle is also busy, Emerald will be contacted, then Dandenong, Belgrave and so on. Of course, this depends on how urgent the matter is.

NHW: How do you decide how urgent a call-out is?

SGT RISTELL: We have to prioritise calls, according to how urgent they seem. This means we rely heavily on the information we get from the caller, and we also have to exercise some common sense. Obviously something like an armed robbery

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Annual General Meeting

Monday 18 August 8pm
Community Complex
Salisbury Road

*Become an active member of NHW.
Improve your quality of life by helping to eliminate
crime in Upper Beaconsfield*

would be a Priority One. A house burglary, where the offenders have long left the scene, would receive a low priority.

NHW: What if someone calls you about what initially rates as a low priority situation which turns out to be more serious?

If a member of the public calls us about, say, a domestic argument going on next door which then becomes violent, we rely on that person to call us back and let us know that the situation has changed. The call will then become a higher priority and will be attended to more quickly.

NHW: So Police respond to every call?

SGT RISTELL: Always, but the manner of response depends on the urgency of the call. Each Police member keeps a running log which details calls to Police, jobs done, etc. The Supervising Officer checks these logs. If something hasn't been attended

to because (perhaps there has been a change of shift), the Supervisor makes sure that officers on the next shift are aware of the matter.

NHW: If a house burglary is a low priority matter, what should people do while they're waiting for Police to attend?

SGT RISTELL: Try not to touch or disturb anything that may give us evidence - eg., a broken window or open drawers or other objects which may have fingerprints on them. But try to ascertain what has been stolen. Make a list, and note the

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

approximate value of any missing items. Talk to your neighbours: find out if anyone saw or heard anything. We will talk to them as a matter of course when we arrive, but it helps us enormously if we can be pointed in the right direction from the start. When the public helps us out like this, it saves us hours, which means we can act more quickly to start tracking down offenders. It also means that we can move on more quickly to the next job. It's the principles of Neighbourhood Watch in action - members of the public and Police working together to stop crime.

NHW: Does a person have to give his/her name to Police if they 're reporting a crime and they fear some sort of reprisal?

SGT RISTELL: No, although naturally we prefer to know a caller's identity so that we can get in touch with them again if we need to. But

we're not in the habit of passing on those sort of details to offenders! Sometimes we'll get a call from someone who wants to report a noisy party next door, but doesn't want their name known for fear of upsetting the neighbour concerned. Naturally we respect this. And if a person wants to report any sort of crime at all but doesn't want to give any details at all, including their name, we will still act on the information.

NHW: What is your advice to any person who is tentative to call Police for fear of bothering them over what may turn out to be a trivial matter?

SGT RISTELL: Never be afraid to call us. It doesn't matter to us if the matter turns out to be trivial. We get paid by the hour, not by weight!

Ysabelle Hobson

KRISTY HARTY MURDER

Police investigators are pursuing new leads in the Kristy Harty case, having received information that Kristy was seen at the intersection of Princes Highway and Gladstone Road in Dandenong at 3.30-3.45 pm on 17 June. Police believe Kristy spoke to the female driver of an early model maroon Holden sedan and shortly afterwards got into a white tray truck driven by a man. [Source: Media Release -Victoria Police, Media Director's Office]

New information suggests that Kristy caught the Dandenong train to Beaconsfield or Pakenham on the evening of 17 June.

Police are still anxious to hear from anyone who may be able to provide more information. If you heard or saw anything which you think may have bearing on the investigation, no matter how small and insignificant this information may seem to you please contact Crime Stoppers on 1 800 333 000 or the Homicide Squad on 03 9865 2770.

Free after hours legal service

The Pakenham Citizens' Advice Bureau is now offering a free legal advice service to people unable to attend their office during normal business hours. The service consists of "advice only" sessions with local solicitors who are providing their professional advice without charge. Should you wish to take a legal matter further or require legal assistance in the way of correspondence, etc, then normal charges will apply.

The service commenced on Tuesday 13 May and is available by appointment on alternate Tuesdays from 6.30 - 7.30 pm. To make an appointment, contact Pakenham Citizens' Advice Bureau, 68 Main St., Pakenham, Phone 5941 2377. Office hours are 10 am - 3 pm Monday to Friday.

All spruced up!

Recent visitors to the Community Complex will notice that various inside areas of the building have been spruced up with paint and other improvements. The men's and ladies' toilets in the Hall section have been renovated with new tiles, a new paint job and new vinyl flooring. Earlier in the year new vinyl was laid in the kitchen to complete the renovations there. The Community Centre was also able to obtain funding to refresh the painted walls in the offices and foyer area.

The community has a very valuable asset in this collection of buildings. The Buildings and Grounds Committee works hard to keep the Complex in good condition. If you'd like to have a look at the improvements for yourself, feel free to drop in. The Community Centre is open weekdays 9am-3pm. If you are thinking of hiring the Hall for a private function and can't get there during the day, contact Helen Smith to arrange an after hours inspection.

Dangerous branches

A private contractor was recently engaged to lop many dead branches off three large gums in the Keith Ewenson Park at the rear of the Complex. The Committee became concerned when several dead branches came down after windy weather. The Park is sited on Crown Land (not Council land) and falls under the umbrella of the Department of Natural Resources; however the Buildings and Grounds

Committee had to pay the contractor out of its own funds. Where does the buck stop in these times of government cut backs?

Meeting nights

Over the last couple of years the Complex has been busier with weekly classes at night. Local community groups were finding it difficult to find a vacant space at the Complex to hold their meetings. The Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Community Centre Committee are now working together more closely to ensure that community groups have a venue for their meetings.

At present Wednesday night is the most popular meeting night. The Upper Beaconsfield Association has meetings on the first Wednesday of the month, the Conservation Group on the second Wednesday and the Buildings and Grounds Committee on the fourth Wednesday. If any other group wants to be sure of their meeting venue they could schedule their meetings for the third Wednesday night.

In any case, any group not sure of their venue should ring the Community Centre 5944 3484 a day or two before to confirm.

The Club Room near the tennis court is also being used more and more as a meeting and class area.

Helen Smith 5944 3219

Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex
Buildings and Grounds Committee

Village Bell Credits

| | |
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Ysabelle Hobson Ph: 03 5944 3273**

CARDINIA SHIRE Strategic Plan Report

Please don't be confused by all the Strategic plans rattling around in our area now! The questionnaire you have just filled in was for the Upper Beaconsfield/Guys Hill area and we hope the information will be considered very seriously when Cardinia Shire commissions its Strategy plan for our area.

On Wednesday 26 May, the Cardinia Shire Council hosted a Strategic/Corporate Plan Community Panel for Cardinia Shire. This meeting was for the whole Shire and about 100 representatives attended from a wide range of organisations with diverse interests throughout the Shire. The purpose of the panel was to provide community input and guidance on the important issues affecting the future of Cardinia Shire.

The evening consisted of briefings from councillors and Council officers on the current position, progress made on important issues and future challenges facing our Shire. Participants were split up into nine groups throughout the workshop sessions, U.B. being represented on most of the tables.

Major issues of concern to the communities were:

A by-pass road for Pakenham
Economic Development
Employment
Road systems
Hydraulic services
Environmental management
Tourism
Financial Management
Township development and facilities.

Some comments and suggestions made were:

1. Cardinia Shire needs to improve its technique on selling itself as a desirable place for larger companies to establish their businesses. More astute lobbying is required to achieve this objective. The Catch-22 is that to encourage new business hydraulic services need to be in place to make it attractive for these companies to set up within the Shire.
2. Value added industries are required to take advantage of existing business ie., dairying, vegetables, fruit and poultry.
3. More emphasis is required on promoting tourism ie., hundreds of thousands of tourists travel from the City to Phillip Island to see the penguins but return without leaving any of their money in the Shire because few tourist attractions are listed en route.
4. We must protect our environmental assets ie., Koo-wee-rup swampland, catchment areas, creeks, waterways and Westernport.
5. We need improvement of the North-south road system.
6. Provision should be made for a cultural/arts centre, leisure and recreation facilities, a public park .
7. Provision for a future airport in the area was another interesting suggestion.

The evening provided an opportunity for stimulating discussion on a surprisingly wide range of issues and challenges. We hope the Council will be helped in formulating its forthcoming Strategic/Corporate Plan.

Neil McDonald and Jeanette Ballinger

Strategy Plan Questionnaire



You should have by now received the questionnaire which has been posted to residents of Upper Beaconsfield and Guys Hill. The information from this survey will form an important input to the forthcoming Strategy Plan study of the township.

If you have not received a copy of the questionnaire please pick one up from the Upper Beaconsfield Post Office or the Guys Hill Milk Bar, or contact me.

We would appreciate completed questionnaires being returned by **Friday, 1 August 1997.**

Offers of assistance to extract and analyse the data from the questionnaires will be gratefully accepted!

Graeme Kidd
5944 3400

BEACONHILLS COUNTRY GOLF CLUB

Congratulations to Gillian Lewis, Mary Padman and Margot Green for winning the Anglesea Bowl. Teams of three from 44 clubs competed for the most impressive looking trophy in very windy conditions. The Beaconhills team won by two points and they all agreed their long trip to the seaside was well worth the effort.

During the school holidays the junior members have had the opportunity to take part in clinics and competitions which have culminated in twenty players between the ages of 11 and 17 competing in the local section of the "Master Card Junior Championship". Congratulations and best wishes to Anthony Hocking, Peter Haussegger and Julian Simeth, the three Beaconhills players who have qualified to play at the Regional (State) level during September. The final round of the Australia-wide competition will be played late in the year at Sanctuary Cove, Queensland.

We would like to encourage more girls to take advantage of the excellent junior program at Beaconhills. Several lady members played in an event at Rossdale Golf Club during the school holidays and were surprised when the trophy for the longest drive was won by a quite small sized 12 year old! Maybe we have a local Karrie Webb out there somewhere.

Club professional Mark Griffin will be conducting more golf clinics during Spring. The dates have yet to be finalised. Anyone interested can leave their name and phone number at the Pro Shop (5944 3630) and they will be contacted when details are available. The Pro Shop at present has some good specials on clubs, including excellent quality starting sets for \$299.

Reciprocal arrangements for Beaconhills members have recently been formalised with Mildura, Murray Downs (Swan Hill), Corowa (50%) and Hume (Albury) golf clubs. Negotiations are continuing with another border club for a complete "Murray River package". In addition to these clubs Beaconhills members also

have reciprocal rights at 13 other clubs throughout Australia (all States except NT and ACT), one in New Zealand and one in Washington State, USA.

The lady members' 50th Anniversary luncheon will be held on Tuesday 5 August. An effort has been made throughout the year to trace current addresses of as many former members as possible, but if by any chance you have not received your invitation to this special day or may need assistance with transport, please contact Barbara Jackson.

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554

'Maybe we
have a local
Karrie Webb
out there
somewhere.'

Welcome new residents -

Linda and Paul Burch

Salisbury Road

Karl and Helene Meyer

Grant Court

Monique and Stephen Alderson

McKenzie Road

Bruce Vance and Toni Harris

Dickie Road

John and Helen de Jager and Family

Grant Court

Paul and Jan Lewandowski

Reed Avenue

Dates for your Diary

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat 2 Aug | Guides - Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser General Store |
| Tue 5 Aug | Beaconhills Golf Club - Lady members' 50th anniversary luncheon |
| Wed 6 Aug | Upper Beaconsfield Association - Meeting |
| Tue 12 Aug | Tree Planting Info Evening (see STOP PRESS) |
| Fri 15 Aug | Salon concert (see "Letters to the Editor") |
| Mon 18 Aug | Neighbourhood Watch AGM (see "Crime Page") |
| Sat 23 Aug | Scouts Trivia Night, UB Hall, 7.30 pm |
| Tue 26 Aug | Fire Brigade Towel Night Fundraiser, 7.30 pm Fire Station |
| Sat 6 Sep | Toy Library Shopping Tour Fundraiser (see article) |
| Sat 6 Sep -14 Sep | Freedom From Hunger Doorknock Appeal |

Caring for the community



Year to date

Each year the Community Care Group reaches more and more local residents who are needing help for a great variety of reasons. Last year was our biggest year with 70 referrals; of which 34 had been received by the mid-year mark. This year at the same point in time we have already acted on 44 referrals.

Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers all requests for assistance have been met. We still have many volunteers who feel they are underutilised, so if you need help or know of any residents who do, don't hesitate to contact us. Our aim is to bring the resources of the community to bear on the needs of the community. No job is too small or too large. All assistance is given free of charge. Any resident or family is eligible.

Firewood

Special thanks to those people who responded to our call for firewood donations. We will be contacting them about arrangements for pick-up.

Information Night

Thanks to those volunteers who attended our information night in June. We hope the exercise was worthwhile in giving you a broader picture of how our group operates.

Confidentiality

The Care Group operates on a basis of strict confidentiality. Any residents seeking assistance can be assured that the only persons aware of their being helped will be the Coordinator who takes the initial request for assistance and the volunteer who subsequently accepts the task. Other members of the group, including office bearers and committee, only receive statistical information so that strict anonymity is retained.

Community Care Group

Contacts: Community Centre 5944 3484, Glenda 5944 3884 or Des McKenna 5944 3516

THE COMMUNITY CARE GROUP

Aims to bring the resources of the community to bear on the needs of the community

- ◆ No job is too small or too large
- ◆ All assistance is given free of charge
- ◆ Any resident or family is eligible

Brigade Callouts

The Brigade has responded to nine callouts since the last *Village Bell*. These included an assist to Beaconsfield Brigade at a ruptured gas line, two motor vehicle accidents, a car fire, a call to the Upper Crust, and several false alarms.

Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade contact: John Boura 5944 4425

Nancy Boura

Lunches on the Menu ..

Meetings of the Upper Beaconsfield Country Womens Association branch are held on the first Thursday of each month at the Community Centre. The next meeting is 7 August at 1.30 pm after a social lunch at 12 noon. The following meeting is at the same time on 4 September. On 15 August we are having a lunch at a member's house to raise funds. Address - 21 Burton Road, Upper Beaconsfield. Cost - \$5/head.

New members are always welcome. Contact Betty Mars (President) - 5944 3214 or Daphne Brown (Secretary).

Daphne Brown 5944 3994

New Image for Guides

You may have noticed that this article is headed "Guides" rather than the usual "Brownies and Guides". This is in keeping with the new image being promoted by our organisation. All members are now called Guides; 7-11 Guides, 10-15 Guides and 15-18 Guides, according to their age group.

Highlights of Last Term

Two Guides attended a horse riding camp at Mill Valley Ranch in Tynong. They had a whale of a time in spite of fairly torrential rainfall, and managed to come away each with their equestrian badge.

The SES from Pakenham paid us a visit, and at least half the group would like to join up with this very worthwhile cause when they turn 18.

A very energetic night was spent rock climbing at Seaford, with lots of parental participation.

A pizza and video night was a change of pace and a big hit with the girls, who'd like to do it more often, of course!

This Term

This term sounds as if it's going to be equally as busy, with a self defence night planned for the older girls, and Fathers Day craft for all. Four 7-11 Guides recently attended a Craft Day at Dandenong Guide Hall where they chose an assortment of things they'd like to make. For 20-30 cents per activity it's a fabulous day out. I remember going to these days when I was a Guide!

A sausage sizzle to raise money for August Action (formerly Cents for Service) is planned for 2 August outside the General Store. Any money raised will be used directly the girls decide what they'd like to do with it. Half must go to Guide Centre (formerly HQ), and at this stage at least part of the remainder looks like being donated to a local charity.

Calling All Potential Leaders

Thanks to those who continue to support us. If there are any potential leaders (any age) out there we'd love to hear from you. Like most community groups we are run by volunteers - but what a great time we have!

For more information please call Linda Wilkinson. Tel 5944 3987

Linda Wilkinson

Scouts Trivia Night!

The Scout Jamboree fundraisers are running this function on Saturday, 23 August. Come along for a family night of fun. Ring Jan for details.

Our firewood raffles are continuing with good support from residents. Winners for June and July were Ray Gwozdzewski and Pat Finn. Thanks to everyone for assisting our fundraising. We are particularly grateful to Liz Hausseger for a donation of wood for next year's raffles.

Youth numbers are still increasing and there are more on the waiting list. This means that we will have to form a second Cub Scout Pack in the near future and, coupled with some changes with present leaders, we require additional leaders in the Cub Scout and Scout sections. Anyone who would like the rewarding challenge of working with a

dedicated band of people to provide leadership for the youth of our community should contact Jan or Barry. Scout leader training is now recognised by the Victorian State Training Board as personnel and relationships skills management and will look good on your resume too!!

Seven of our leaders have undertaken additional training at average cost of \$225 each, which obviously eats into our budget considerably. We are looking into sourcing funds from various Government Departments and Trusts, etc. to offset this expense.

With the expected increase in leader numbers it has become our priority to proceed with our plans to extend the building behind the storage area to accommodate a leader and Group Committee meeting room. This will also require a source of funds which we are investigating.

(Continued on page 13)

RED CROSS CALLING

Berwick scores in Red Cross Raffle

The draw for the three cars took place on Friday 6 June at Red Cross Headquarters - with wonderful news for Berwick. The third prize was won by Kerry, daughter of Mrs Effi Mavropoulos of the Berwick Southside Charcoal Chicken Shop. Winners of first and second prizes were from Terang and North Fitzroy.

Successful Luncheon and Fashion Parade

This event, resulting in a profit of \$580, was held in late June at the RSL hall, Berwick. Trudie Gray Fashions of Bunyip provided the garments, and Effi and Kerry (D&K Catering Service) were generous with their donation of food.

One model attractively displaying clothing was Red Cross member Mrs Dorothy White of Upper Beaconsfield.

Blood Bank Dates

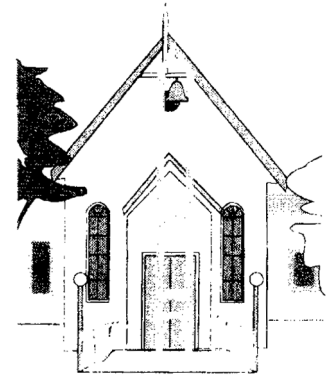
The Blood Bank has recently visited Narre Warren North hall and Pakenham. Tentative dates for next visits are 13, 14 and 15 October (Pakenham); 20 and 21 October (Narre Warren North hall). More details about this in the next issue of the Village Bell.

First Aid Courses

Phil and Pam Jones continue to be busy running First Aid and CPR (Resuscitation) classes. They have a new supply of baby, child and adult mannequins. Phil and Pam have moved house. New phone-03 9705 1536.

**Berwick/Upper
Beaconsfield Red Cross:
Marie Womersley
03 9707 1103**

UPPER BEACONSFIELD HALL



Available for hire
for your next
function.

Sunday bookings for day
time family celebrations also
becoming popular.

Enquiries and bookings
tel: 5944 3219

(Continued from page 12)

All Sections are enjoying busy programmes and include -

Joey Scouts ~ Games and crafts sessions.

Cub Scouts ~ Constructions, camp fire and swaggie night, swimming carnival at Cranbourne Pool, visit to the Police Station and achievement badge work. Seven new members have joined the Pack - Hayley Conn, Michael Cox, Blake Cunningham, Jake Golding, Emma Jennings, Chris McQuilten and Mark Simpson.

Scouts ~ Joint meeting with Bunyip Scouts, cooking, visit to Pakenham SES, joint meeting with Cub Scouts, bike bungle weekend, snow skiing day (when sufficient snow to go) and an overnight hike. Plenty of badge work being done to be qualified for the Jamboree in Brisbane next January. Luke Fisher has been made Troop Leader and six new Patrol Leaders and Ass't. Patrol Leaders have been on a

training weekend at Bell Park

Camp in Nyora. Andrew Hutchinson has come up from Cub Scouts. The Jamboree fundraising has been going well and another \$319 was raised at the sausage sizzle at Rainbow Supermarket in Fountain Gate last weekend.

Venturers ~ Hike at Cathedral Range, visits to - dental clinic, David Bull funeral parlour, God Squad and rock climbing centre. Also attended the Mud Bash rally with Rovers. New members from Scouts are Adam Dale, Peter Sheary and Peter Van Vliet.

Rovers ~ Mud Bash rally at Yea over Labour Day weekend, rock climbing, theatre night, pizza night, video nights. New members keep turning up and there are now some 25 names on the contact sheet.

**1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group Jan Carmody
5944 3655 Barry Smith 5944 3219**

Out of school hours child care

At the beginning of this year, responding to a need expressed by parents, Upper Beaconsfield Primary School Council began an After School Care Program. Initially this program had to be funded from fees and the school budget because all other funding applications had failed.

Now, after a highly successful six months' trial, an offer of Commonwealth funding (gratefully accepted) means that the program will continue. In addition, Before School Care has been available since the beginning of Term 3. (The school is not offering a Holiday Program because of other programs available in the area.)

In spite of its shoestring budget the staff have run a varied and interesting program for around 20 children each weeknight in the Multipurpose room. Initially reliant on school resources such as books, activities and sporting equipment, the Program is slowly gathering its own collection of toys and

other equipment. The children range in age from grade sixers to preppies (and even the odd kinder kid) with many users coming on a casual basis. We have also offered All Day Care on Curriculum Days and an extended program on the last day of the term (early release).

Families who might need after school care and who have children attending other schools in the area are welcome to use the service. Arrangements can be made to meet school buses travelling to or through Upper Beaconsfield.

Details (times, fees, etc) of the Out of School Hours Child Care Program can be obtained from the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School on 5944 3591 (school hours) or from Mrs Bernadette Haythorpe, Program Coordinator, on 5944 4391 (after 3.30 pm.)

Bernadette Haythorpe



Toy Library

The toy library has had a terrific first half of the year. Our committee has had a change of face, and we say "thank you" to those members who have given us so much help and support but who have now sadly left us. We have been delighted to welcome a number of new members and would certainly welcome any new families who are interested in borrowing from our range of hundreds of toys. Don't forget - Toy Library coincides with the Health Centre and Playgroup on Thursday mornings 9.30 am - 11.30 am during the school term. Cost \$4 per quarter; \$16 per year - terrific value.

Fundraiser: Shopping Tour

This year our successful fund raising efforts have contributed to the purchase of over \$1000 worth of puzzles, games, construction sets and activity and fantasy toys to add to our ever-growing library. Thank you to the community and all our members who continue to support us.

Our next fundraising activity will be a Shopping Tour on Sat 6th September. We will visit over 10 great bargain outlets for fashion, leather-goods, gifts, Manchester and children's wear. For \$20 per person you will be driven around in a deluxe coach. A two-course lunch is included in the price. It's great value, will be great fun, and the Toy Library makes a percentage on all sales, so we can purchase more toys for your children. Ask all your friends, relations and even your neighbours. But you'll have to be quick: all monies must be paid by 6 August. Forward your \$20 to the Community Centre or contact Fiona on 5944 4087. We look forward to meeting you on the day.

Fiona Schoonderwaldt (Coordinator)

Fire Brigade Theatrics



A recent theatrical production in Upper Beaconsfield was reviewed by noted critic GBS (George Bertrand Silberbauer).

The retirement of Eric Bumpstead (after a quarter century of Captaincy of the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade) was honoured on Saturday 21 June at a dinner attended by 112 friends, members and former members of the Brigade. After the meal that well-known group of theatrical firefighters, the Upper Beaconsfield FALSE ALARM PLAYERS, presented an eight-act musical drama "Life's Rich Pageantry". Somewhat loosely based on the life and times of Captain Eric, it depicted several scenes from his career in the CFA. The impact of the production is best illustrated by the following selection of comments by sundry theatre critics and the glitterati of entertainment.

"Now THAT'S the way to handle a handover." *Hong Kong Bugle* ("Honkers Honker").

"Another theatrical masterpiece for Victoria - how does Ken-nett do it every time." *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

"Unique - we hope." *The Times*, London.

"Not really in strict accordance with CFA Regulations." *The Fireman*, Melbourne.

"Thou shalt not write, produce, nor act in light-hearted theatricals about your Captain." *Country Fire Authority Regulation No. 987789 (12321) (12) (iv) as amended*.

"Several players remembered a good many of their lines." *Pakenham Gazette*.

"Thanks to the orchestra's excellent overtures before each number, the tunes were clearly recognisable - at that stage, anyway." *The Age*, Melbourne.

"Can the Honourable Premier assure the people of New South Wales that this production will eventually be seen in the Opera House?" *Hansard*, NSW Legislative Assembly.

"Ian Symons was particularly memorable as one of Eric's Angels." Ian Symons, in a letter to his mum.

"So many galahs, confined in so small a space." *Bird Observer's Daily*, Geelong.

"With Life's Rich Pageantry opening on the 21 st June, we now know why Sunset Boulevard closed early." *Journal of Municipal Pest Control*, Darwin.

"Interesting ... **very** interesting." *Psychiatric News*, Kodiak, Alaska.

"Look what they've done to my song, Ma." William Schwenk Gilbert, in a letter to his mother.

Dear Editor

I have been happily teaching Japanese language and culture in the Community Centre since Term 2. It's very nice to share my knowledge with some local people and I was glad to see that they have been very interested in Japan.

An invitation

In August I will be able to introduce you to another part of Japanese culture. My sister Tamiko, who is an opera singer, and her accompanist Ikutada Nagata, who is one of the leading pianists in Japan, are coming to Australia to perform some concerts.

They performed in Euroa, Benalla, Swan Hill and South Gate two or three years ago, and their concerts are going to be held in Benalla and Swan Hill this time.

They are going to have a small salon concert at my home in Upper Beaconsfield on Friday night 15 August. The program will be Japanese songs, arias from operas and some popular light music. There will be a small admission charged. If you are interested, please contact me on 5944 3226 before 7 August.

Ayako Mizushima
Foott Road,
Upper Beaconsfield.

Wildlife Watch August 1997

Our efforts to build up our firewood heap are often delayed by the things we find to wonder about inside the timber. One day we felled a tall, slender dead sapling - after making sure there weren't any hollows which might harbour soft cuddly animals.

What a collection of not so cuddly creatures scuttled, sidled, soared and squashed as the tree hit the ground! Intricate white, cream and grey patterns on the wings of moths which fluttered off the bark had provided perfect camouflage until they moved.

Long-legged flat brown spiders scattered in all directions as we removed bark. Chunky spiders with pale grey geometric patterns on their charcoal grey bodies plunged from knot holes. Black native cockroaches broke a communal group to seek more cover. Round orange beetles with black heads, and satiny midnight-blue beetles wandered away, seeming confused by sudden daylight.

Fat creamy grubs with brown heads had tunnelled into the trunk to await their destiny which this day was kookaburra food. Given the chance they would have metamorphosed to spiny longicorn beetles. These large beetles have a chestnut brown body, light brown wing covers and spines along the edges of their legs.

Another resident discovered among the tunnels was a wee beastie with a startling strong, though harmless, nip. The tree grasshopper has a sturdy, pale fawn body 5-7 cm long with a light green abdomen, feelers one and a half times as long as the

body waving in all directions, strong hind legs for jumping and four smaller legs with a row of spikes on the trailing edge. The bulbous black eyes of this specimen held an extremely offended expression. Wouldn't yours if your house had been deliberately destroyed? I couldn't remove it from my finger without causing it damage so there it clung until good and ready to let go.

Living near the very top of the sapling was a family of tiny brown ants: this piece we left standing against a tree in the hope they would establish somewhere else. At the apex of the sapling we found a pale milk-coffee coloured fungi species, soft and thickly clustered like the fringe on a floor rug, each "thread" white tipped and about 5.5 cm tall.



While the wood was being split a pair of yellow robins arrived to enjoyed a feast of termites which had been busy converting heartwood to sawdust. We took a break to watch the activities of these little grey and yellow birds which, though they seemed so confident, still kept a bright black eye on what we were doing.

In the first few years after Ash Wednesday magpies were

keen to include European wasps in their diet. Now they have lost interest and this day they left it to us to dispatch one which we discovered hibernating in a crack.

Recently satin bower birds have been sighted in local gardens. This bird nests 2-15 metres above ground among dense forest from September to January but comes into more open areas at other times.

Bowers used for display are constructed of grass painted with ash mixed with saliva. The deep blue male cares for the bower all year, decorating it with blue feathers and pieces of man-made blue rubbish. Females are green with a pale blue overtone, and their front is marked with a conspicuous fish scale pattern. Both sexes are about 30 cm long and have violet eyes rimmed in red.

Have you noticed that some of the apparently dead eucalypts in and around Upper Beaconsfield, particularly those with deciduous bark, are producing new leaves along their trunks?

Laura Levens

STOP PRESS

Cardinia Shire Council is allocating funds to individuals and community groups for the enhancement of the Shire through tree planting. Funds will be granted on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Closing time for applications is 3 October.

The Shire is holding an information evening about the tree planting program on Tuesday 12 August, 7.30 pm at the Shire Offices. For more information about the program or to RSVP for the meeting, phone Sue Harris 5945 4272 (BH)

Bunyip Byways

You will have noticed the signs Bunyip Byways which have appeared throughout the Shire, signposting the Bunyip Byways Trail.

In an endeavour to attract tourists to the area, the Casey Cardinia Tourism Association has drawn up a trail which promotes the many interesting features and places of natural beauty within our communities.

The name 'Bunyip' (Buneeep) is derived from a local WOONGI (aboriginal) legend of a mystical water-based creature TOO ROO DUN who lived in the great Koo-Wee-Rup swamp.

The cost of the Trail has been met by grants from the Federal Department of Tourism, and Casey and Cardinia Councils. The Trail forms a circular route through Berwick, Harkaway, Cardinia Reservoir, Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook, Tynong, Bunyip, Garfield, Cora Lynn, Bayles, Koo-Wee-Rup, Tooradin and Cranbourne.

There is a Bunyip Byways tourism map available which will assist travellers to find both well known and lesser known places of interest to explore. The *Beaconhills Golf Club* and the local restaurant *Japonica Jelly* are noted on the map. And of course we have many walks in Upper Beaconsfield which are not mentioned in the Bunyip Byways Trails.

"This area does have significant attractions and natural features," says Ian Hall of the Tourism Centre. "We want visitors to view the wildlife on the edge of the City, walk in the nature reserves and bushland, as well as try the wine, buy the antiques, visit the nurseries, eat the natural produce and relax in the many restaurants and pubs."

For more information on Bunyip Byways, contact Neil Jacobs on 5945 4246.

For a free Bunyip Byways map and inventory of local attractions and features, phone 5945 4303 or pick one up from *Japonica Jelly*, *Beaconhills Golf Club* or the *Pine Grove Hotel*.

Jo Carter

Trivia Night

Scouts Jamboree Fundraiser

Upper Beac. Community Hall
Saturday August 23
7.30 for 8pm start

A fun-filled family night

BYO drinks, nibbles & glasses
Supper provided

Tickets Ring Jan Carmody. Tel 5944 3655

Freedom From Hunger Doorknock Appeal

FREEDOM
FROM
HUNGER
APPEAL

It's time for the annual Freedom From Hunger Doorknock appeal again. Thank you to all those good people who have responded so generously in previous years. We look forward to your continued support. I will be contacting the special people who help out each year with doorknocking, and hope you will all be able to take part again. Anyone else who would like to help would be most welcome.

Doorknock Dates :

Sat 6 September - Sunday 14 September.

COMMUNITY AID
ABROAD
Des McKenna
5944 3516

ROB IRVING - NEW FIRE BRIGADE CAPTAIN

The new Captain of the Upper Beaconsfield brigade is Rob Irving, a young man whose fresh faced appearance belies his long experience in fire fighting and his solid credentials for the job. At 32 years old, Rob is one of the youngest captains of a Country Fire Authority brigade.

Captain Irving is beginning his sixteenth year as a volunteer firefighter. He first joined at 16 years of age when he lived on Foott Road with his parents, both of whom were local vets. Rob's mother and sister Jan continue to live at the family property running a thriving publishing business and Jan's legendary Clumber Spaniel Kennel. Rob attended school in Harkaway and after finishing high school in Pakenham and Taylor's College he completed his degree at Monash University.

Rob and his wife Susan Barasits are residents of Albers Road where he now spends four days a week managing the property and three days working on other farms. He is also a writer whose devotion is poised somewhere between a hobby and a serious pursuit. Sue is a social worker for the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organisation and an accomplished pianist.

Rob sees the Captain's role as that of chief operational officer and manager of the brigade, with his primary responsibilities being the smooth running of the organisation, superior emergency response and fire prevention. Some minor redefinition of tasks for brigade officers has already taken place to bring those categories into line with the needs of the community. Training will continue to be an important focus for members. Involvement of residents in fire prevention is essential and Rob is particularly pleased that four Community Fireguard

Groups have been activated in recent months, bringing the total to eight for the village.

One of the big challenges for the future of the brigade will be the upgrade of equipment and ageing vehicles. Within the next few years, the Upper Beac Support 2 appliance will need to be replaced with a small tanker fitted with an appropriate sized pump. The Captain is hoping that financial assistance from the Authority, brigade funds and community support can be combined to cover the \$80,000 plus costs of such a purchase.

Increased population and greater housing density are both issues of concern for the village but Captain Irving is confident that our volunteer firefighters are well prepared to handle any emergency. The UBRF Brigade has an excellent reputation and skills levels are very high.

The tradition of a strong relationship between the community and the brigade also continues under Rob Irving and he urges any individual or groups to contact him on 5944 4113. Residents interested in Community Fireguard should contact Rob Mountain on 5944 3631.

Colleen Lazenby

Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade Auxiliary



Towel Night

"Fawly Towels"

Towels Linens Robes

Tuesday 26 August
7.30pm at the Fire Station
Light supper provided

Information Colleen 03 9796 2226

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

Use local firms when ordering plants and flowers

A gift of flowers or plants can say so many things. Flowers can be festive and celebratory, offer a special message for a bereavement, affirm love and affection or underline congratulations with colour, fragrance and texture. No wedding would be complete without them. Cut flowers in a beautiful vase or a glorious plant in an attractive container brighten any winter day and are especially welcome at this time of year.

Many people turn to integrated florists, supermarkets or chain stores for their purchases, but did you know that there are three specialists right in our own area who cover the full range of services?

C&A Boon and Sons

in Officer is an inexpensive option for lovers of cut roses. Boon's supplies many of the retail outlets with blooms, and loaded trucks leave the McMullen Road and Officer/Upper Beaconsfield Road greenhouses in early morning darkness, six days a week, for the wholesale market in Melbourne.

Boon's was established 26 years ago and today is a flourishing business specialising in roses, with annual sales of \$2.5 million. At this time of the year the staff cuts about 10,000 stems for sale weekly; in the summer up to 30 staff are busy cutting and wrapping twice that many flowers. In the week preceding Valentine's Day 1997, Boon's processed half a million roses! The automation in their sophisticated greenhouses is not only fascinating, but contributes greatly to the superior quality now demanded by the industry.

Boon's is not equipped to handle routine walk-in trade but you can phone and order roses

which will be set aside for pick-up. They are sold in bunches of 10 stems with tightly furled buds and no other cut flowers or greenery are available. There are currently 30 varieties in the Officer greenhouses where a wide range of colours and unparalleled freshness are on offer. While red, yellow and white are the most fashionable colours at the moment, new roses coming over the next years will include mauve and red/black.

This company is particularly worthwhile for those times when the price of 100 roses for a large event, or 50 flowers for that milestone birthday or special occasion looks a little daunting elsewhere.

At the wholesaler, fifty roses 30 cms (12 in) long are only \$25.00 - that's just 50 cents a stem. In lengths of 40, 50, and 60 cm the prices are \$6, \$8 and \$10 per bunch of 10; 70 cm beauties are just \$12 a bunch. The C&A Boon company is a 10 minute drive from our village; call them on 5943-2290 and save significant money by using a local supplier.

Two outstanding options exist in our area for those ordering flowers and plants for delivery or presentation to others (and don't forget yourself and your own home!) and for BIG occasions.

Lorna Brooksbank

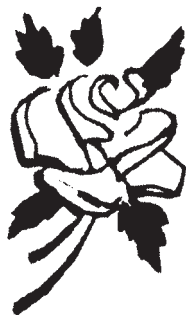
One supplier is Upper Beaconsfield's own florist Lorna Brooksbank whose beautiful arrangements, corporate and wedding work have built an excellent reputation over the

years. Never one to use a cool room, Lorna is famous for beginning the laborious task of wiring each bloom and constructing every wedding bouquet and table piece on the day, for maximum freshness and impact - which means that her busy days start at 2:00am. That kind of attention to detail is much appreciated by her satisfied clients.

Lorna began her career in Melbourne at the noted Ireland's florist, after which she taught at the

Boon's tips for longer lasting roses

- ✿ Re-cut the base of the stems to expose a fresh surface.
- ✿ Reduce destructive bacteria by adding a dash of vinegar and changing the water every couple of days.



(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

Dandenong and Box Hill TAFE before running her own business in Pakenham for 15 years. In addition to a thriving florist shop, Lorna produced dried and silk arrangements for sale at major department stores such as David Jones. Along with offering personalised floral services, she acts as a judge for area flower shows and continues to teach one day a week.

Lorna works from her charming new residence in Berwick where she specialises in flowers for weddings and large events, arrangements for dinner parties, dried and silk flowers for the home or office and individual arrangements for local delivery. Years of experience and an enviable reputation make Lorna Brooksbank's work very popular and a one day advance order is required for delivered flowers. Contact Lorna on (03) 9769-5356 and take advantage of the local availability and extraordinary talents of this floral artist.

The City Gardener

For local and Australia-wide delivery of spectacular plants with special features, you can't do better than The City Gardener, also located in Officer. The Whiteside Road nursery is the heart of a thriving business whose owners Rob Grant and Murray Collins began the trend in boutique nurseries when they opened their first establishment in Armadale. Growing and shipping their own stock evolved into a full time undertaking and all their work now originates from Officer.

The Grant family has a 150 year history in our area beginning with Thomas and Ern Grant, both Upper Beaconsfield orchardists. The Officer property was once a pear orchard but has operated as a nursery for the last 24 years. The business employs 8-10 people annually, including family member and manager Joan Grant Beechy.

The City Gardener specialises in perennial plants, bulbs, herbs and a small range of garden related gifts. Plants are potted up in attractive reusable containers which arrive tied with colourful ribbon and securely anchored in custom made cardboard boxes with lids. For a standard handling charge items are delivered everywhere in Australia except Tasmania and WA (because of Dept of Agriculture restrictions). Overnight delivery to most capital cities and same day in the Melbourne metropolitan area is promised.

The range includes a spring bulb collection

bursting with 19 colourful blooms in a two handled tin tub, a lavender combination in a 10 litre oval tub and wooden planter boxes overflowing with a variety of lettuces or culinary herbs with marigolds for colour. You can send a miniature cottage garden in a tub of charming pink, purple and white plants or a classically beautiful gift of a white or pink rose bush in a painted container. Fuchsias in baskets and masses of summer blooms in boxes and pails look spectacular. At the nursery they have assembled tubs of cheery violas and baskets of velvety cyclamens. For the Christmas season a red rose bush is delivered in a golden tub accented with ribbons.

A range of White Rose soap and hand cream, gardener-tested at the nursery, and a straw sun hat and gloves are available year round as is a brightly packaged starter kit of seeds and instructions for children. Other services include plant and tree hire (for the next time you need 35 potted trees for that garden party!) as well as specialised landscaping and consultancy services.

The City Gardener's premium quality plants in their attractive containers offer excellent value for money, with prices starting in the \$40 to \$50 bracket. The immediate impact of the boxed flowers is quite spectacular, but the effect can be enjoyed each year after the plants are transferred to the outdoor garden to bloom again. For certain occasions such as the passing of a beloved friend or family member, the birth of a child or as a housewarming gift, the plants will continue to remind their recipient of the thoughtfulness of the sender.

While the range is small, it does change each season and a colour catalogue is mailed out to customers four times a year. Like C&A Boon and Sons, the City Gardener is not set up to accommodate walk-in clients and the majority of their business is handled by phone. Contact them on free call 1 800 817 869 or local call 03 9707 4410 to add your name to their mailing list and to receive the August catalogue.

Whether for your own home, to mark an occasion for friends or family or for other special purposes take advantage of the services of our local suppliers and you won't be disappointed.

Colleen Lazenby

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Accredited coaches available (free)
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with views to the Bay, set in 2 acres of formal gardens.
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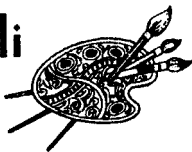
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