



Township Strategy gets the go-ahead

Council has approved the project brief for preparation of the strategy plan for Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds, and will in the next couple of weeks be seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified consultants.

The purpose of the project will be to prepare a soundly based strategy for the development of the Upper Beaconsfield township and surrounds over the next 15 - 20 years which recognises and builds on the distinct character of the area.

A Steering Committee will be established to direct the study and to oversee the consultancy. This will comprise two Council Planners, a Councillor, and five community representatives. Council is seeking nominations for the community representatives.

Nominations should be directed to Mr John McCaffrey, Corporate Manager Planning, Cardinia Shire (5945 4207) as soon as possible.

(Continued on page 2)

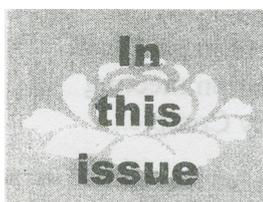
Focus on small business

The next general meeting of the Upper Beaconsfield Association will be held at the Community Complex at 8 pm on the 1st October.

The guest speaker will be Mr. Phil Allen of **Small Business Victoria**.

He will be discussing the impact of small business to the village community, community support for the commercial precinct of the village and other issues pertaining to running a small business.

All residents are encouraged to attend this worthwhile and interesting talk.



El Nino, fire and you

Beware, bone seed in Upper Beaconsfield

What you think of your town

New minister at St. John's

More enrolments needed at Kinder

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Meeting well attended

A public meeting was held at the community hall on the 14th August to discuss the Strategy Plan for Upper Beaconsfield. About 60 people attended. John Riddiford presented some summary results of the survey questionnaire. Cr Graeme Kidd chaired the meeting and John McCaffrey (Corporate Manager Planning, Cardinia Shire) gave a presentation regarding the engagement of a consultant to prepare the Strategy Plan.

A vigorous question time ensued after John's presentation. It was agreed that the following issues need to be considered as part of the consultant's brief:

- traffic and traffic circulation
- longer term solution for better circulation
- conflict between local traffic and through traffic
- objective assessment of environmental capacity and development options
- commercial and community facilities and their adequacy
- visual amenity
- geographic limits of strategy - extent of residential development
- tourism
- protection of the environment
- sewage effluent
- fire protection

John Riddiford

Strategy Plan *contd.*

It is proposed that the project will proceed through the following stages:

- ◆ initial research and assessment including consultation with appropriate agencies and with the community;
- ◆ the preparation of a background paper and a minimum of three optional scenarios for the future of the area;
- ◆ community consultation;
- ◆ assessment of issues arising from community consultation;
- ◆ preparation of a preferred strategy plan.

The strategy plan will give specific attention to:

- ◆ Environment Protection and Enhancement
- ◆ Subdivision and Housing Development
- ◆ Commercial and Community Needs
- ◆ Traffic Circulation and Management

Graeme Kidd 5944 3400

Volunteer group needed

Salisbury House is in the process of organising a Volunteer Group. Have you a free hour to come in and have a chat, play a game of cards or do some knitting or craft work? The ideas are endless. Please drop in and I will show you around the home and explain some of my ideas. Also, I am always looking for people to push wheel-chairs when I take the Residents out.

Our major fund-raiser at the moment is the sale of wine. This is also to commemorate 20 years of being a nursing home. Please don't hesitate to drop in and buy some.

Lyn Beard Co-ordinator
5944 3443

Dates for your Diary

October -

- 1 UBA meeting Community Complex 8 pm
- 2 CWA meeting Community Complex 10 am
- 6-10 Community Centre enrolment week
- 8 Community Centre meet the tutor morning tea 10 am
- 8 Conservation Group meeting Community Complex 8 pm
- 18 St. John' s Bush Dance Officer Hall 8 pm
- 20 Neighbourhood Watch meeting C. Complex 8 pm
- 27 October Kinder Toy warehouse visit
- 30-31 West Gippsland Group CWA Exhibition Pakenham

November -

- 6 CWA AGM
- 11 Service Centotaph 11 am
- 12 Fire prevention meeting Community Complex

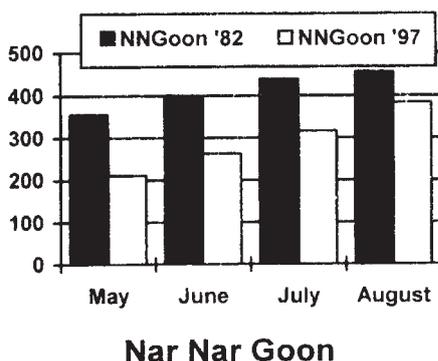
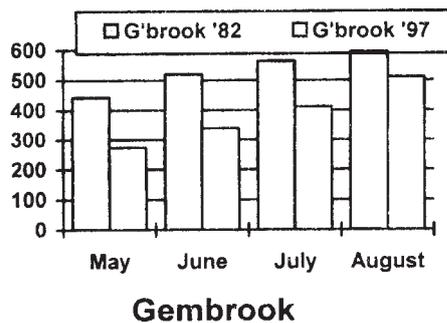
El Nino, fire prevention and you

The widespread effect of El Nino on the world's weather patterns is reasonably well known. There has been considerable publicity about the 11 months of below average rainfall. We are aware of this deficiency, some have had to purchase water regularly throughout this year, water the gardens and if you have been digging you will know how hard and dry the soil is. We must however recognise that even if there were to be a reversal of the cycle and rainfall were to return to 'normal', we would enter a summer with a very considerable rainfall deficiency.

The Bureau of Meteorology informs us that we are under the spell of the strongest El Nino since 1982. The CFA has been keeping an eye on developments and has made some comparisons with the 1982 season. The result, in part, is presented as follows:

At the end of July, Gembrook had had 152.2 mm less rainfall for 1997 than was experienced in 1982, Nar Nar Goon had a deficiency of 121 mm, at Upper Beaconsfield the situation would be similar. The following graphs may help our understanding of these figures:

CUMULATIVE RAINFALL - 1982 : 1997



In these comparisons we are comparing actual rainfall for the two years and not referring to average rainfall which would show an even larger deficit.

The CFA has recently published a leaflet entitled *"El Nino and the Bush Fire Threat"*. This and various other publications from the Meteorological, Agricultural, Forestry, Water and Emergency Services are all pointing in the same direction. We need to be aware of what might eventuate during the next few months.

What is the danger?

In answer to this question let us read straight from the leaflet...

"...fuels, ... in forests, will be drier. Drier fuels will ignite more easily and will burn more rapidly.

Because the fuels are drier they will burn hotter, and this can mean that firefighters and people in the fire area may be exposed to more radiant heat, making the fire more dangerous.

Because these ...fuels burn hotter, more water may be needed to extinguish the fire. But water for firefighting may be in short supply in most rural and forest areas, and this will make the job of firefighting even more difficult...

Summer is always dangerous, because Victoria ... is one of the world's worst wildfire zones.

If the El Nino 'dry' continues as predicted, Victoria faces conditions like the 1982-83 summer...

The El Nino makes the outlook ominous."

We who live in areas such as Upper Beaconsfield and who enjoy the bushland surroundings are particularly vulnerable. However people can protect themselves and their homes.

- We must firstly be aware of the danger
- We must find out what they can do to prevent fire and to survive fire
- We must take action as individuals or community groups of neighbours to eliminate or minimise risks.

What should you do now?

- Plan ahead to survive if a bushfire comes
- Read the bushfire information boards near the Community Centre

(Continued on page 4)

BEWARE!!**Bone seed weed found
in Upper Beaconsfield**

Six mature plants of bone seed weed have been found in Carpenter Road. This South African weed is an aggressive invader which has caused great damage on the Mornington Peninsula and has also been found in Emerald but never before in Upper Beaconsfield to my knowledge.

It is easily recognised by its clusters of brilliant yellow daisy-like flowers. The petals have lines running lengthwise, and the leaves have deep serrations in their margins (see illustration).

If you see it, please remove all the plants and their roots immediately.

The fruit containing its seed is a green or reddish berry - if these are present, remove them from the plant and destroy them.

Charles Wilson

Citizens of the Year - 1998

Now is the time to start thinking about who you could nominate for the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year.

Someone you know who has contributed in some way to our community. Someone who has worked on a committee that provides a service to the community, or has shown leadership, caring or inspiration to others.

By nominating someone you will be helping to encourage a recognition of the importance and value of community service in Upper Beaconsfield.

Details of eligibility for both the Citizen and Young Citizen can be collected from the Post Office. Completed application forms should be directed to :

**The Chairperson,
Citizen & Young Citizen of the Year
Awards,
PO Box 85,
Upper Beaconsfield 3808.**

Applications close 5 March 1998, and winners will be announced at the Village Fair.

(Continued from page 3)

- Attend the Community Meeting planned for the **12th November** to help us all prepare for the coming summer fire period.
- Join or start a Community Fireguard group in your street.

For more information,

Contact one of the local Brigade Officers whose names and phone numbers are on your Fire Emergency Card.

For Fireguard contact Rob Mountain phone 5944 3631, fax 5944 4467

For internet explorers, the Bureau of Meteorology at <http://www.bom.gov.au>

A final comment from the Brigade. We are all volunteers and we all can only find a finite amount of time each day, so the sooner you make contact with us with your requests, the more chance there is that we will be able to help. If everyone leaves it until mid November we are very likely to run out of time.

Rob Mountain

**Going Out?
Need a Babysitter?**

Why not join the Babysitting Club!! We are a local group of Mums who mind each other's children for points.

If you are interested in joining or want more information please call the co-ordinator Wendy Jennings 5944 4023.

Secretary of the month for the coming months will be:

September	Kerryn Redpath 5944 3793
October	Julie Whitely 5944 4242
November	Alison Ryan 5944 3984
December	Sue Bailey 5942 6259

Strategies, Strategies, Strategies!

Cardinia Shire Council has been busy over the past few months developing strategies covering a number of areas. All of these have involved community participation. It is probably worthwhile summarising the purpose of each of these and their current status.

The Community Plan 1997-2000

This document focuses on the crucial issues which will benefit our community in the medium to long term. It establishes priorities to guide in the allocation of resources. It sets achievable goals for the period 1997 to 2000 which will continue to be reviewed and, as necessary, revised.

The following priorities have been established:

- Economic development
- Road System Development
- Flood Mitigation
- Environment Management
- Catchment Management
- Hydraulic Services
- Township Development & Community Services
- Service & Business Orientation
- Strategic Projects
- Financial Management.

This document is now available from the Shire.

Municipal Strategic Statement

The Municipal Strategic Statement identifies how broad state planning policies will be applied in the local context. It ensures that the Cardinia Shire Planning Scheme reflects the local issues and characteristics of this municipality by setting out the policies of Council in relation to the use, development and protection of land in the Shire.

The MSS addresses the issues identified in the

Community Plan and establishes strategic directions in response to those issues.

The MSS now becomes part of the new Cardinia Shire Planning Scheme.

Cardinia Shire Planning Scheme.

The State Government late last year formulated a new set of zones and required all Municipalities to revise their Planning Schemes to incorporate these new zones. Cardinia Shire has now done that. The Scheme, including the MSS, is now on exhibition until November. As far as possible this new Scheme has been developed by translating old zones to an equivalent new zone. No major changes to zoning have been made.

Township Strategy Plans

A number of Township Strategy Plans (Gembrook, Emerald) have already been completed and others including Upper Beaconsfield and Beaconsfield have been started. These strategy plans will give a framework for development in each area for the next 15 to 20 years. They will in effect become a sub-set of the broader strategies and plans for the Shire.

Shire Recreation Plan

Consultants have completed a broad appraisal of the existing recreational facilities throughout the Shire and have made recommendations for development of facilities in the short, medium and long term.

This plan is now on exhibition until 6 October, and it is strongly recommended that those who have an interest in this area make comment on the proposals to Miriam Gillespie at the Shire (5945 4334).

Graeme Kidd 5944 3400

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

Singers wanted for Carols



Christmas Eve in Upper Beaconsfield is a time when the community comes together and enjoys a sing-a-long and the children mob Santa Claus.

Planning is underway now. We have our pianist and our sound equipment booked, and Greg Ross has generously agreed to be with us again.

We need some singers to stand in front and lead the singing. No previous experience necessary, you only need to make a good noise -- in tune! The children from the Primary School will be joining the group for a few Carols and will sing the only solos for the evening.

One rehearsal will be held in December. We only need 10 or 12 people to start off the singing and back up our compere — please help. Can you just imagine what it would be like if we had 30 or 40 people up

front, there has to be that many people in Upper Beac who can carry a tune.

If you feel you could help please call Jo Carter 5944 3311 or Neil McDonald 5944 3782.

The War Memorial

Although we bought our cottage in Salisbury Road nearly 7 years ago, there is such a lot of history and legend of Upper Beaconsfield about which we still have to learn.

While walking our dogs, I have often stopped at the War Memorial in the centre of the village, on Salisbury Road opposite Charing Cross. I read the names of the fallen heroes and have wondered about them. What sort of people were they before they gave their lives for their country? What families and friends mourned them and remember them still?

I mentioned my interest in the "Cenotaph" recently, and Charles Wilson, local historian and source of interesting information, has supplied me with his notes on the memorial. I am fascinated with the subject, and if any of our residents has information about the people named below, I would appreciate any communication. I would be happy to talk to anyone who would share their memories with me. My number is: 5944 3311.

I know that you have all noticed the War Memorial, and many of you have attended the remembrance services conducted there on 25th April and 11th November each year by the RSL. On the north face of the memorial are the names of the men who did not return from the "Great War" or the "First World War"

of 1914-1918. These were:

Captain L. L. Smith - Lieutenants C. B. Berglund - W. B. Kerr and C. G. Marsh - Sergeants E. W. Ladd and R. J. Tyler - Drum Major J. Berry - Corporals W. J. Knapton - Lance Corporal W. G. Heppner - Trooper F. L. A'Beckett - Gunners C. A. Linton and G. R. Shanks - Privates H. Bailey - H. Coulson - E. C. R. Evans - G. Gibbs and J. Tucker.

The inscription on the west face is in memory of the men of Beaconsfield Upper who gave their lives in 1939-1945 (The Second World War). These were:

Royal Australian Navy: Ordinary Seaman C. P. Potter - AIF - L/Bdr G. M. Griffin - Driver W. Holmes - Royal Australian Air Force - Flying Officer P. B. Dennett - Flying Officer M. J. Martel - Leading Aircraftsman R. C. Walker.

The War Memorial was unveiled by General Elliott on the 21st May 1920.

The names on the north face reflect many of the roads around the village - Berglund, Knapton, Hepner, A'Beckett and it is interesting to stop at the memorial and think of the sacrifice made by all of the men named there and their families.

There will be a service at the "Centotaph" on Tuesday 11th November at 11am.

Jo Carter

What you said about the town ...

Summary of the Upper Beaconsfield Questionnaire

In late August 950 questionnaires were distributed to residents of Upper Beaconsfield and Guys Hill to get information on what you thought of the area now and what issues you felt needed to be addressed as we move into the future. We received 311 replies which is a marvellous response for this type of questionnaire. Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire and for your thoughtful answers.

The analysis was broken into two parts, the first covering questions 1 to 25, and the second covering questions 26 to 31. **George Moir** and **John Riddiford** individually carried out the mammoth task of analysing each of these parts. We are extremely grateful to them for the effort they

put into this activity as well as for presenting the outcomes in an intelligible and useful way.

There are still some questions that have not been fully analysed but it is our intention to bring all information together in a report which we hope will be available within the next month or two. This information will provide valuable input to the Consultant developing the Strategy Plan for the township.

Answers to selected questions are given in the accompanying tables on pages 8-9. A summary of issues highlighted in the survey is given below.

Graeme Kidd 5944 3400

Summary of issues

Questions 27 and 30 were designed to highlight issues of concern as we move into the future. The first of these questions asked what factors should be taken into account when determining the number of people the area can sustain, while the second asked what additional facilities/services would be required if the population were allowed to increase. The responses to these two questions are summarised below (*note that the totals are greater than 311 because respondents were able to nominate more than one issue*):

ISSUE	FACTORS AFFECTING GROWTH	FACILITIES/SERVICES REQUIRED
Road conditions	76	38
Traffic flow / safety	27	20
Public transport	37	123
Environment protection	93	5
Retention of rural environment	46	-
Sewerage	89	32
Drainage	21	2
Town water	13	11
Mains gas	11	39
Commercial facilities	9	36
Community services	7	7
School capacity	22	8
Police	1	8
Facilities for elderly	2	2
Postal delivery	-	4
Library	-	5
Fire safety	7	2
Recreational facilities	6	30
Footpaths/walking tracks	3	5
Equestrian trails	2	4
Parks/reserves	0	3

Survey responses

Note: The number of responses for each question is shown in brackets. The percentages refer to this figure

	Percentage	No. of responses		
1. Do you:				
(a) own or are you purchasing this property?	97 %			
(b) lease or rent this property?	3 %	(308)		
2. What is the size of this property?				
(a) 0.1 ha (one-quarter acre) or less	11 %			
(b) greater than 0.1 ha, up to 0.4ha (1 acre)	28 %			
(c) greater than 0.4ha, up to 2ha (5 acres)	30 %			
(d) 2ha or larger	31%	(307)		
4. How long have you lived on this property?				
(a) less than 1 year	5 %			
(b) from 1 to 5 years	20 %			
(c) from 5 to 10 years	22 %			
(d) longer than 10 years	54%	(308)		
6. Have you any immediate intention of selling your property?				
(a) Yes	7%			
(b) No	91 %			
(c) Not thought about it	2%	(300)		
7. Would you consider selling part of your property?				
(a) Yes	11%			
(b) No	74 %			
(c) Perhaps	8 %			
(d) Would like to but cannot because of zoning restriction	6 %	(296)		
8. Are you likely to be applying to sub-divide your property in the Upper Beaconsfield area in the future?				
(a) Yes	37			
12. Have you found problems with living in this area?				
(a) Yes	46 %			
(b) No	54%	(304)		
14. Degree of control	More	Same	Less	
(a) control over the number of houses permitted in Upper Beaconsfield/Guys Hill.	43%	46%	11%	(294)
(b) control over subdivision in Upper Beaconsfield/Guys Hill.	54%	34%	12%	(294)
(c) control over the felling of native trees and clearing of vegetation.	30%	57%	13%	(297)
(d) control over water draining from one property onto another property.	50%	49%	1%	(285)
(e) control over wastewater leaving property boundaries.	56%	44%	-	(290)
(f) control over noise in this area.	18%	80%	2%	(292)
(g) control over the number of pets allowed on each property.	24%	71%	4%	(295)
(h) control over the impact of pets on the neighbourhood.	45%	55 %	-	(296)

Anyone for tennis?

Some years ago, when the Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club moved to its new location at Sutherland Park, four tennis courts and the small club house were left in the grounds of the Community Complex.

One tennis court was turned over into much needed car parking while the two below the Complex have been turned into an attractive park and playground area now known as Keith Ewenson Park. The last remaining court is still in use today, free of charge to anyone who wants to have a game.

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Buildings and Grounds Committee have undertaken to keep the Park mown and weeds sprayed. The j committee receives no financial assistance for the upkeep of Keith Ewenson Park,

However we believe that anyone who uses the tennis court should do their bit to keep the court in reasonable condition. We ask that users bring tools occasionally and help clean up the court and its surrounds.

Helen Smith

(Continued from page 8)

- 17. Where did you move to this area from?**
- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| (a) Overseas | 3 % | |
| (b) Interstate | 4 % | |
| (c) Melbourne area | 66 % | |
| (d) a country town or city | 5 % | |
| (e) a rural location | 11 % | |
| (f) the Pakenham/Beaconsfield/Berwick area | 11 % | (305) |
- 18. How many vehicles are normally kept at this household?**
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| (a) None | 0.5 % | |
| (b) One | 10 % | |
| (c) Two | 61 % | |
| (d) Three or more | 28 % | (307) |
- 24. Do members of the household participate in programs organised by the Community Centre in Salisbury Road?**
- | | | |
|-----------|------|-------|
| Yes | 38 % | |
| No | 58 % | |
| Sometimes | 4 % | (296) |
- 25. Do members of the household use a library?**
- | | | |
|-----|------|-------|
| Yes | 62 % | |
| No | 38 % | (302) |
- By Branch:**
- | | |
|--------------|----|
| Pakenham | 48 |
| Mobile | 49 |
| Berwick | 73 |
| Narre Warren | 98 |
- 26. In 1982 the population in the 3808 Postal Area was approximately 2,200. In 1997 it is estimated to be approximately 3,400.**
- Do you consider that the rate of growth over the next 15 years should be
- | | | |
|------------------------|------|-------|
| (a) less than this | 51 % | |
| (b) the same as this? | 37 % | |
| (c) greater than this? | 12 % | (300) |
- 28. Do you think there is a need for more recreational/sporting/cultural/ educational/commercial facilities and services to serve the current population of Upper Beaconsfield/Guys Hill?**
- | | | |
|---|------|-------|
| (a) Yes | 28 % | |
| (b) No - they are appropriate and adequate. | 72% | (291) |

Cardinia Shire report

Hard Garbage Service

The last Hard Garbage Collection was in 1995, since then it has been abandoned as the service was paid for by all rate payers but only accessed by a few (25-30%). To re-open the Collection would equate to a rate increase of 1% approx. Council therefore resolved to:-

- a) Provide inquiring rate payers with a list of local contractors providing a hard garbage collection service.
- b) Defer any decision on hard garbage collection pending the outcome of council's waste management study to be completed in early 1998.

A motion was moved that provision be made in the 1997/98 budget for a hard garbage collection but this motion was defeated.

Declaration of Termite Infested Areas

The entire Shire of Cardinia was declared a termite infestation area following discovery of termite activity in previously 'undeclared areas'.

A recommendation on the new levels of protection being contemplated by the Council on behalf of its residents will follow.

Rezoning Applications

Over the past 6 months a number of applications for rezoning have been submitted to Council. The status of these is as follows:

Amendment L134 Paul Grove

The Panel recommended that this Amendment be deferred until a strategy plan for Upper Beaconsfield is completed.

Amendment L135 58-60 Beaconsfield-Emerald Road

Rezoned from Landscape Interest to Country Residential 2 to allow subdivision of land into 4 residential allotments (1.5-2 Ha)

Amendment L138 27-29 Burton Road

Site-specific control within the Landscape Zone to allow subdivision into 2 lots.

Amendment L140 84 Split Rock Road

Site-specific control within the Landscape Zone to allow subdivision into 2 lots. Heritage qualities to be protected.

Amendment L141 Salisbury Road

Withdrawn pending completion of Strategy Plan.

Chris Cowley



Local garden open day



Carol and Pat Murtagh of Corringham Road have been asked to "show" their garden in the New Garden Section of the Australian Open Garden Scheme.

Carol and Pat built their home in Upper Beaconsfield in 1994 and their block of land was a former horse paddock covered with blackberries. From this beginning, they have cleared, slashed, hoed and planted a delightful informal garden. They have planted 160 roses, mainly David Austin and other rambling and climbing varieties. These are planted throughout the garden.

In November 1996 they were approached by a selector representing the Scheme to enquire if they were interested in being considered for inclusion in the Australian Open Garden Scheme. They gave the matter a lot of thought and they agreed to the request.

Ms Georgina Till, the selector, came to Upper Beaconsfield and inspected the garden and she supported their inclusion in the Scheme.

The name of the garden is **Roleigh Meath** and is Garden 565 in the Australian Open Garden Scheme book.

Roleigh Meath, the Corringham Road garden, will be open to the public on 17th and 18th January 1998 and again on Thursday 22nd January. The AOGS charges \$3.50 per adult for the tour of the garden and it donates its portion of entrance fees, 40%, to charities. The owners of the garden will distribute their share of the fees to their favourite charities of which the RSPCA is one. Carol Murtagh is treasurer of the local CWA and the CWA members will sell cool drinks and refreshments on the open days. Details will be available later.

The editors of the Village Bell wish to congratulate Carol and Pat on the transformation from horse paddock to Open Garden scheme in just over 3 years.

Jo Carter

More Tasmanian Tiger sightings

The Tasmanian Tiger article (Village Bell Issue 117 - Aug 1997), which was reprinted in the Pakenham Gazette on Wednesday 20 August, has created much interest. Several people have contacted us with accounts of similar sightings in the Upper Beaconsfield area.

Note - Names and locations withheld by Editors, but sightings (1) and (2) occurred in the same general area. Sighting (3) occurred not far from where the Floyds saw the animal described in the previous article. Sighting (4) is very recent.

(1) About this time of year, two years ago at approx. 1 pm on a bright still day, ----- was riding his motor bike along ----- Road towards Upper Beaconsfield. At the bottom of a big hill he saw an animal eating in the middle of the road. It was the size of a small heeler and had a head like a dog but with a blunt snout and pointy ears. It was a greyish colour with stripes which were faint near the shoulders and becoming more distinct towards the tail. The tail was short and thick, he thinks, but he had a foreshortened view as the animal was looking towards him, and he doesn't recall noticing the tail as the animal ran off — it was all so quick. It sprinted off to the right with cat-like movements. It was not a dog. Someone suggested it might have been a quoll, but he has looked at pictures and disagrees.

(2) Friday 30 May, approx 5.30 - 5.45 pm : "It was just on dusk as we were driving towards Upper Beaconsfield along ----- Road.

A strange animal crossed in front of us from the west side of the road and onto a bank on the east side. A little larger than a mature fox, it did

not look like a fox or a dog; nor was its movement characteristic of either of these animals. It had a distinctive loping gait, and its hindquarters sloped in an equally distinctive way. I joked to my wife that it was a Thylacine (Tasmanian Tiger) on holiday. I thought no more about it until I saw the Village Bell article which had been reprinted in the Pakenham Gazette. Now I wonder ..."

(3) In January 1996 ----- and family were driving along ----- Road towards the golf course at approx. 5 pm on an overcast but dry day. An animal eating in the middle of the road lifted its head, stared at them and moved very fast up a bank on the right hand side of the road. They all agreed it was not a dog. Larger than a fox, about the size of a small dingo; tanny/brown/or-angey in colour; skinny; stripes over rump; didn't notice tail; ears smaller than a dog's. -----'s wife thought the most distinctive characteristic was its dark eyes.

(4) In mid-August 1997 at 7.30 am -----'s 12 year old son called him to the window with the words "There's things over the road with stripes on".

----- got to the window in time to catch sight of the last two of five animals to disappear into the scrub. He described them as "More like large greyhounds with stripes on their flanks." They had the shape and movement of greyhounds and were "fauny darkish brown". The properties in the area range from four and a half acres to 20 acres, all timbered, with some virgin scrub.

Carolyn Floyd and Ysabelle Hobson

Plant pots wanted!

Recycle your plant pots - Minibah Nursery wants them!

The nursery is a vocational program of Minibah Adult Training and Support Service (ATSS). If you have lots of pots we can pick them up. Small quantities can be left at Ann McCormick's home at 11 Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield (opposite the Community Complex). Minibah can be contacted on 5941 1535 or 5941 1583. Ask for Allan Young.



New minister for St. John's

Following the departure of Rev. Tom Stokes, a new minister has been appointed to St John's. He is Rev. Michael Flynn, who with his wife Alison and their children Rachel (12) Teresa (10) Sharon (9) and David (20 months) will take up residence at the vicarage in Salisbury Road shortly. Michael's induction as Vicar of St John's will be celebrated on Tuesday 7th October 1997 at 8pm.

A warm invitation is extended to the community to participate. A supper will be served afterwards. Please contact Kath Florance 5944 4463 if you will be attending.

Michael is new to the ministry, being ordained in 1995. He comes from St Mark's Emerald where he has served for four years, part-time as he was completing his Theology Degree, then as Assistant Minister.

Before studying for the ministry, Michael worked in Marketing and Computer Programming. He has a degree in Science, majoring in Psychology and Statistics, an interesting combination as preparation for studies in religion. His decision

to use his talents within the church arose from his religious beliefs and his concern for society and individual people.

He acknowledges that we live in a society whose values are largely post Christian. The morals and ethics which used to underpin society have been publicly examined and discarded without much regard for the downside.

We seem to have increasing youth suicide, relationship problems and trouble with caring for children and old people, and a growing sense of personal meaninglessness.

There is a need for for what is called "Values Education" in the State system, and Michael believes that the church has a lot to offer. Many of the successful societies on our planet are based on spiritual values.

St John's is the only church in Upper Beaconsfield, and while it is Anglican, the congregation welcomes people from any denomination to share in its life.

P Roche

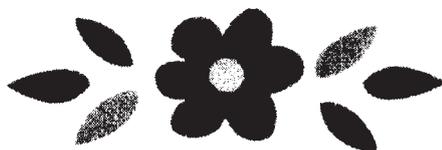
Craft, flowers and cooking

Meetings of the Upper Beaconsfield Country Women's Association branch are held on the 1 st Thursday of each month at the Community Complex.

The next meeting is October 2nd at 10 am. November 6th is our annual meeting with selection of office bearers at 10 am followed by lunch with our Group President. The Branch meeting is at 1.30 pm.

The West Gippsland Group Craft, Flower and Cooking Exhibition is taking place at Pakenham Public Hall John Street on 30th and 31 st October. Come and have a look at the lovely goodies on show.

New members are always welcome. Contact Betty Mars President 5944 3214 or Daphne Brown Secretary 03 9702 2568



**St. John's
Upper Beaconsfield**

**BUSH
DANCE**

**at the Officer Hall
18th October 1997 8pm**

Tickets \$10 single
Family \$30 Supper provided
Contact Jo Rankin 03 9707
1069 All welcome

More enrolments needed for Kinder

The number of children enrolled at the Upper Beaconsfield Kinder for 1998 is only 31. A few more children are needed to enable the Committee to run two groups.

Do you have a child, neighbour, grandchild or friend who has not yet been enrolled for Kinder next year? They do not have to live in Upper Beaconsfield to be eligible to attend.

The Kinder Enrolment Officer, Jenny Ben-bow (03 9707 4451), would be happy to provide more information to anyone interested in enrolling and inspections of the Kinder are welcome.

Apart from the pleasant surroundings and quality facilities, a "Kinder to Primary School"

transition programme is also offered.

Toy warehouse visit

Following the successful group visit to the Toy Warehouse in 1996, Melinda Conn is organising another trip for Monday, 27th October from 7-9.00 pm.

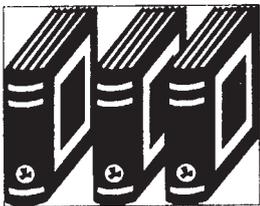
The Toy Warehouse is the largest toy wholesaler in Victoria and is not usually open to the public. This is a great opportunity to make those Christmas purchases at wholesale prices.

Brands stocked include ABC, Tonka, Playskool, Fisher Price and Bananas in Pyjamas.

All members of the community are welcome. Please phone Melinda on 5944 4010 to register your interest.

Judy Riddiford 5944 3172

Exciting developments at the Primary School



Term 3 has seen many exciting developments at the Primary School. Local residents may have noticed the building works being undertaken at the school earlier this term, including

the relocation of some classrooms to form our Junior Learning Centre. This was part of our Major Maintenance Project worth \$254,000 which included refurbishments like painting and new carpeting in most classrooms.

The Junior Learning Centre encloses 6 classrooms and also provides plenty of new open work space to be used for drama, displays, activity groups as well as being a great wet weather area. It has turned out to be a very attractive environment - well lit, warm and inviting - the response from staff, children and parents has been very positive.

We have also established the Computer Lab. This is a network of 15 computers in the Library, in addition to our classroom computers, enabling whole grade lessons. Teachers have undergone some intensive professional development and are introducing the children in all grades to some

exciting software packages as well as exploring features on the Internet.

At Upper Beaconsfield we think we have a great school - big enough to attract resources and offer varied programs and small enough to cater for each child and their particular educational needs. Our students have a very high record of success in their secondary school careers.

Beaconsfield Upper Primary school is a key focus of the Upper Beaconsfield Community. We enjoy the support of our families in terms of fund-raising, classroom volunteers, etc, but we also provide community support by helping to establish social contacts between families.

Enrolments for 1998 are now being taken. We welcome enquiries from parents of any primary school-aged child, whether just beginning school or considering transferring from other schools. We are keen to talk with parents and provide tours and information about the excellent programs our school has to offer.

Linda Burridge
School Council President 5944 3168

1997-98 NHW COMMITTEE**Still a bun short
of a bunfight**

The election of a new Committee at the Neighbourhood Watch Annual General Meeting on Monday 18 August had no surprises in store. The same old friendly faces will continue the good fight for the next 12 months. But we are still

one short of our full complement (and our meetings are far from bunfights!) If you can spare a very small amount of time to fulfil non-arduous Committee duties, please ring Lorraine Barnes. We are also short of a Group Leader and Zone Leaders to deliver newsletters in Zones 17 (Manestar/ Red Hill Road), 38 (McKenzie Road), and 40 (Salisbury Road - approx 25 houses).

1997-98 Committee

Area Coordinator: Lorraine Barnes

Asst. Area Coordinator: Lee Eldridge

Secretary: Mirella Halfpenny

Treasurer: Brian de Kok

Newsletter Editors: Piers and Ysabelle Hobson

Committee: (1) David Myers, (2) Danny Ryan, (3) John Bignold, (4) ???

NEXT MEETING:

Monday 20 October 1997

8 pm, Community Complex

Lorraine Barnes 5944 3624

Bell contributors please note!

We would appreciate that, if possible, articles for the Village Bell be handed in on disk as well as a hard copy (i.e. on paper) so the articles can be proof read more easily. Please label your disks so they can be returned. Also, please name your word processing files clearly and logically.

We accept files in Word v.2, 6, 7; Wordperfect v.5, 6 and Works v.3, 4. Just type the article out in a basic format—no fancy fonts, no complicated tabs etc. and not all capitals. Thanks!

Village Bell editors

Red Cross News**Evacuee
Registration
Service**

Following a major disaster it becomes necessary to organise registration of evacuees from the area. This is an important and essential service co-ordinated by the Red Cross. Sessions are held using local volunteers each year during September and October as a practice for a real disaster. One session has already been held in Upper Beaconsfield, and another is scheduled for Berwick on Friday, 10 October. This will take place in the RSL Hall in Langmore Lane commencing at 1pm approximately.

If you would like to participate in this training session, please come along. If convenient bring your lunch and join Berwick/ Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross members at their meeting at 12 noon.

Street Stall.

The annual street stall will be held in High Street, Berwick, on Friday, 21 November 1997. Donations of saleable goods would be most welcome. The stall will be well stocked with a variety of merchandise.

Christmas Cards.

Red Cross Christmas cards are now displayed in the Berwick Library. A 'selling session' will take place in the Upper Beaconsfield shopping centre at a later date.

Miss Glismann.

Members were saddened to hear of the death of Miss Glismann at the remarkable age of 100 years. Miss Glismann supported local Red Cross over many years with her donations of woollen rugs.

M Womersley
03 9707 1103

For Sale 4 x 15" "Cheviot" brand mag wheels. Exc. condition. Suit Commodore. \$400 Please ring AH 5944 3461

Guys Hill Milkbar

The owners of the Guys Hill Milkbar, Pamela Thomson and Steve Rimmer, had high hopes when they took over the business seven months ago. The couple, who met when Steve's son started going out with Pamela's daughter, worked hard to increase the stock and services in the early months.

Steve is a City & Guilds of London trained Chef whose wide range of experience includes working in the Mayfair and Claridges Hotels. Plans for the business included a tea garden and coffee shop next door and the introduction of a tattslotto agency. Sadly for health reasons Pamela and Steve have had to put the milkbar on the market. In the meantime

Steve is putting his background in the catering trade to good effect by concentrating on the takeaway side of the business which will include a range of gourmet plated salads in the warmer months.

The Guys Hill Milkbar is open from 5:30am to 9pm six days a week with a sleep-in for Steve on Sundays when it opens at 6am. Full Post Office facilities are available including EFTPOS.

Steve summed up his and Pamela's experience in the milkbar by saying, "We absolutely love it here and are devastated to be leaving. We understand small community lifestyles and we love being an integral part of it. The milk bar is all about old-fashioned cornershop values and service."

Susan Pitman

The "Happy Apple" has something to smile about

If you've driven through Guys Hill lately you may have noticed some changes to the sign outside Eric and Joyce Bumpstead's property on the corner of Beaconsfield/Emerald Road and High Streets. The apple's happy grin is even wider, and the word "potatoes" has been removed.

That's because you can now buy much more than potatoes and apples at the sign of the Happy Apple. Joyce and Eric, so well-known to many of us, are still around, but part of their property has been taken over by Sharon Hocking, who, only a few months ago, decided to give the roadside fruit and vegie business a go herself.

Sharon is convinced fate played a part in the decision. The very week she decided to extend the range of produce already on offer journalists from The Sun newspaper (who just happened to be passing) drove in and asked if they could write an article about the business. The piece was called The Fruitful Finger of Fate.

And certainly the business has never looked back. Sharon now stocks a full range of fruit and vegetables, local free range eggs, jams and pickles,

and horse carrots. Sharon is already making plans for summer, and will be selling Christmas trees for the festive season, as well as cartons of fresh-picked apricots from Swan Hill.

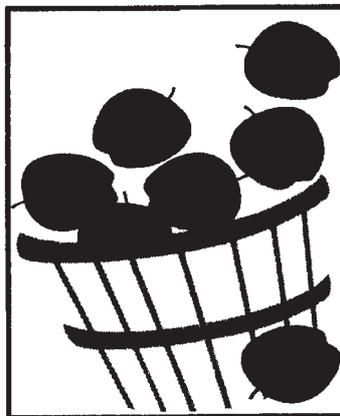
Sharon, who lived in Berwick for nine years before moving to Guys Hill, is thoroughly enjoying her new venture. She loves chatting to customers and has noted that locals seem to be a warm and friendly bunch. She has three children, Louise (14), Jason (12) and Shaun (9), who all help out in the shop. And Eric Bumpstead is, Sharon says, her right hand man.

The shop is open seven days a week; 9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri and 9am-5pm on the weekends. But for people who

work or simply can't get to the shop during business hours, Sharon is offering a very special service.

You can order your fruit and vegies in advance and pick them up out of hours. If you haven't already received an order form from Sharon, watch out for one in your letter box over the next few weeks - or phone Sharon on 5944 4305.

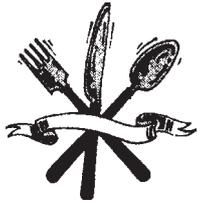
Ysabelle Hobson



Welcome to these new residents

Andrew & Kitty Kiker, Sugarloaf Road
Tony & Jill O'Donovan, St Georges Road
Kath & Bob Florance, McKenzie Road

James & Jenny Coughlin, Stoney Creek Road
Bev & Ken Naughton, Harpfield Road



Eating Out on Wednesdays

Japonica Jelly has begun a new Wednesday night venture, when you can join other diners at a specially provided community table. Getting local residents together for a night out was the idea of Jasmine Hewson, the restaurant's owner, who says that it's proving very popular. New residents and old, lone or group diners - joining the community table gives everyone a chance to get to catch up with neighbours and turn acquaintances into friends.

Live music is now also on offer at Japonica Jelly on many Wednesday nights. Two guitarists and a vocalist known as "Three's Company" have been a big hit with diners. Up and coming attractions include musician Michael Meeking (son of Peter - Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year), and vocalist Janine McKie, who was a finalist in a recent contest at Choo Choo's in Emerald. On Wednesday 8 October, Japonica Jelly will help to celebrate the Woorilla Arts Festival with poetry readings.

The popular Thai banquets will continue every so often (and not always on a Friday night), and a

Japanese banquet is also planned. On Thurs 2 October there will be a Wine-makers dinner, with wines from local Paternoster Winery to accompany a specially-prepared menu. Japonica Jelly is now fully licensed. Jasmine advises that bookings are essential for any occasion.

And Wednesday is Pasta Night at the Pine Grove, with pasta and salad provided for \$7 a head. There are four specially prepared pasta dishes to choose from, and the full normal menu is still available for anyone who'd prefer to make a selection from the wide range of meat and fish dishes.

The Pine Grove still offers its special Carvery lunch every Sunday (a three-course meal for \$15.50), and is gearing up for the Cup Day celebrations which were so popular last year. You can watch the Big Race on the TV sets which will be set up specially. Mystery Bets and a Lucky Door prize will add to the festivity and fun of the occasion.

Both Japonica Jelly and the Pine Grove will be open for Christmas with the Pine Grove offering a four-course lunch for \$48. Bookings are already flowing in thick and fast. If you're thinking of eating out on Christmas Day, or looking for a place to hold your Club's Christmas function, book now!

Japonica Jelly 5944 3069

Pine Grove 5944 3524

Tennis Club news

Our AGM is over, and another year has passed. It's encouraging to see a few more new faces taking an interest in the running of the Club. Ian Jackson is our President, Elsie Bennett - Vice President, Eve Morgan - Treasurer, Jenny Mc-Cormick - Secretary. Other members on committee are Julie Born (Mid Week Coordinator), Liz Haussegger (Junior Coordinator), Michael Zerbst (Saturday Coordinator), Mark Bellgrove and Geoff Whiting.

We have just finished Winter Competition for both Juniors and Seniors. Congratulations to our Section 10 Junior team in making the finals. Congratulations too to our Section 1 Senior D.D.T.A. team in reaching the Semi's and our fourth position to be runners up. Great Effort!!

Our Juniors wound up the Winter Season with a Presentation 7 Pie Night which was very enjoyable. It also gave the juniors a chance to play under lights. There are 12 Junior teams playing in the forthcoming Summer Season. We wish you the best of luck and hope you have an enjoyable season - and maybe a flag or two!

There are 4 Senior teams playing in the coming Saturday Summer Season - 1 in West Gippsland & District Association, 1 Men's team in Caulfield / Carrum District and 2 teams in a new combined competition with Berwick & District and Dandenong & District Associations.

There are 8 teams playing in the current Mid Week Ladies competition. They are half way through their Spring Season.

(Continued on page 17)

A-walking we will go!

Dandenong Valley Bush Walking Club

The DVBWC has a varied program of day and overnight walks covering all areas of Victoria. Recent walks have included Wilson's Prom lighthouse, the Maribyrnong River, Lysterfield State Park and the Grampians. The Club also organises extended excursions for members to other parts of Australia as well as overseas. Over the Christmas break for example a group will follow the McMillan Track across the Victorian Alps for ten days, and next year it is proposed to walk in the Budawangs in NSW. South America is also on the cards!

The Club usually organises a couple of skiing weeks during the season - this year at Baw Baw and Jindabyne. Once a month there is also a bicycle excursion. Other activities include theatre nights and social events.

Information about the

program and membership enquiries can be directed to the Secretary, Marj Millard on 03 9707 2970.

Berwick and District Bushwalking Club

The Club has active and friendly members ranging from early 20's to a healthy and fit mature age. Members can walk every weekend, either on Saturday or Sunday, and the walks cover parks, beaches, rivers and bushland. The leaders are encouraged to make the walks contrasted with easy to medium grading.

Base camps this year have been at Rawson, where members walked to Walhalla and Erica, and the Otway Ranges where the ocean views and artistic scenery were a photographer's delight. The Club will be participating in the Federation Vic Walk at Wilson's Prom in November, and over the Melbourne Cup weekend a camp and

caravan bushwalking 4 days at Mallacoota has been planned.

Socially the group enjoys counter meals, dinners, art shows and other events. Members come from as far as Catani, Pakenham, Upper Beaconsfield and Springvale. Walks usually start at 8:30am in the Wilson Street carpark behind the Commonwealth Bank. If you would like to know more about the Berwick and District Bushwalking Club then call Barbara Haw on 5941 3225

VILLAGE BELL CREDITS

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(Continued from page 16)

Local members and friends are enjoying great tennis under lights three nights a week: Monday and Thursday nights for Beginners to Intermediate standard, Greg Wyatt Coordinator - 5943 2472, Wednesday night for the more advanced players, Phil Born Coordinator - 5944 3222.

Night Tennis has become very popular and is open to all - you don't have to be a member of the club to play. If you would like to play or be an emergency please contact the above Night Comp. Coordinators.

We are very proud of our excellent facilities and members are encouraged to make the most of what we have to offer. We have just had two new outdoor picnic tables constructed which helps provide a perfect setting for those Summer B.B.Q./Tennis days.

New members are always welcome - any enquiries re membership can be made by phoning Eve Morgan - 5944 3583; Ian Jackson - 5944 3455; or Jenny McCormick - 5944 3617.

Jenny McCormick

Cricket Club News

The new cricket season is just around the corner. This season the club will field four senior teams and three junior teams.

The club is eager to recruit new players - of any age and any standard.

If you are interested in playing come on down to training or contact Rob Hansen (5944 3871) or Richard Williams (5944 4075).

Training nights are:

Seniors Monday and Thursday

U/12 Thursday

U/14 Wednesday

U/16 Tuesday

Socially we hold several functions during the year which all families are invited to attend. We promote ourselves as "The Family Club" and would love to have more families from the Upper Beaconsfield community involved.

Richard Williams

Community Centre

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre has a very broad program arranged for Term 4, from Christmas crafts and computer courses to resume writing etc. A "Meet the Tutor" morning tea to be held on Wednesday, 8 October from 10:00am to 12noon will provide an opportunity to meet the tutors for Term 4. Come along to see what the Centre has to offer, to share a relaxed cuppa with friends and tutors, and to enrol for Term 4 classes. Enrolment week is from Monday, 6 October to Friday, 10 October.

Ann Inkster
5944 3484

Community Care Group



1997 continues to be a busy year for our group with a steady flow of referrals over the year to date. Last year we received 70 referrals but we have reached this number by mid-September with three-and-a-half months of the year still to run.

As we have some 70 volunteers on our books in various capacities we can still cope very well with any requests from the community which fall into the type of service which we are offering.

People seeking help are assured of complete confidentiality -the only people aware of who is being helped are the co-ordinator who receives the request and the volunteer who ultimately assists.

We recently asked volunteers to fill in a confidential questionnaire which have mostly been returned. However a few are still outstanding and we ask those volunteers to kindly complete and return them as they will greatly assist our co-ordinators in their work.

The Care Group can be contacted by phoning

The Community Centre 5944 3848

Des McKenna 5944 3516

Berwick Secondary College 20th Birthday

On the weekend of 8/9 November the school is holding two days of festivities to mark its 20th year as an educational institution in the Berwick community. Just over 20 years ago Dr Bruce Coller and his High School Promotion Committee received the welcome news that Berwick would receive a secondary school. Since then developments have accelerated and the place would be almost unrecognisable to a student of 1977.

The Birthday will take the form of a gathering in the Leisure Centre on Saturday, 8 November. Past Principals, Staff, School Council Presidents, School Captains and other dignitaries have been invited. An Art exhibition, video highlights and memorabilia display will form part of the impressive activities planned for the night. On Sunday, 9 November there will be a giant family barbeque. Participants will be able to visit the Art exhibition, tour the school and witness many student musical as well as dramatic performances.

All past students, teachers and friends are invited to attend the celebrations. Because of the huge task of obtaining names and addresses we are asking people to ring the school (03 9707 2859) to provide us with details of addresses so that information can be forwarded. Please contact the School for further details.

Streetlife Program

During the past 12 months a state government pilot program called Streetlife has been in operation, coordinated from Cardinia Shire offices by Alan Gurr. The program aims to revitalise commercial strips and town centres by encouraging traders and local communities to work together to identify specific needs and solutions.

Upper Beaconsfield, Beaconsfield, Cockatoo, Gembrook and Bunyip have joined the program this year bringing to ten the number of towns involved. In the next few weeks local residents will be asked to respond to a retail survey that seeks information about shopping habits and attitudes. This will be followed by a community information meeting.

Across the Shire traders will participate in seminars and workshops on visual merchandising, marketing, development and planning. It is hoped that this coordinated approach will lead to a reduction in vacancies, provide a support network for the traders, enhance employment, increase shopping opportunities and contribute to overall community harmony.

Streetlife worked with Pakenham traders over the last nine months to develop clear, simple retail signage located on the Princes Highway. The purpose was to identify the commercial heart of the town to the south. The signs received funding from the Shire and from the traders themselves. Mr Gurr indicated that funding may be available in the future for similar signage unique to each village, for upgrade of entrances to commercial centres or enhancement of the environs around retail areas.

Upper Beaconsfield traders are enthusiastic about the program and pleased with the support they are receiving as a result. Networking with other small businesses with similar concerns throughout the Shire is a real benefit. They acknowledge that the local shops must give people a reason to stop and will be working toward that goal with the help of the Streetlife program.

The continued vitality of the shopping areas of many of the towns and villages in the Shire may well depend on such a program and the added boost that it offers to the strong ethic of self help that lies at the heart of our small communities.

Colleen Lazenby

Scouts say "thank you"

Thank you leaders

All sections are enjoying many and varied activities and we thank our leaders for their continued devotion to ensure that your children gain the most from their time spent in scouting. We are confident that they will be better citizens from the experience.

We offer our special thanks to members of the Rover Crew, who are spending a great deal of time assisting the other sections with their activities. This is a tremendous contribution by a terrific group of people.

In an endeavour to improve the quality of scouting, our Association is urging all leaders to continue with training. We see this as desirable and support our leaders as much as possible to achieve their highest potential which we are sure will benefit the youth members as they pass through the ranks from Joey Scouts to Rovers.

Thanks to the community

We are grateful to members of the community who continue to support our regular fundraiser by buying tickets in our firewood raffles. The last two winners were J. O'Donovan from St Georges Road and K. Slater from Salisbury Road. There will be two more raffles run this year so if your wood pile is getting low, keep an eye out in front of the General Store in late September and October. Leader training comes at considerable cost and, as we are no longer receiving a subsidy from Shire funds, support of the raffles is greatly appreciated.

The Trivia Night

This function, held for Jamboree fundraising, was a great success and it has been decided to run this night as an annual event. We also intend running our Bush Dance annually and have booked for March 28 next year - put this date in your diary now.

Barry Smith 5944 3219

Working to protect the environment

The Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group has invited prospective members of the proposed Cardinia & District Environment Council (which is about to be formed) to the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 8 October at 7:30pm at the Community Centre. It is expected that the Council, when formed, will provide a forum for the discussion of planning and environmental issues and policies.

The formation of the Council is seen to be timely, given current policy issues such as the Municipal Strategic Statement prepared by Cardinia Shire and the EPA's State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP) for Westernport Bay. Some of the proposed aims of the group are expected to be -

- to actively work for the preservation and conservation of the environment;
- to promote strategic and sustainable land use planning;
- to develop community awareness of planning and environment issues through community education.

Members of the community are most welcome to attend.

Neil McDonald 5944 3782



Keeping an eye on community health



The Sherbrooke and Pakenham Division of General Practice commenced in 1993 and is funded by the Commonwealth Government. Sixty-one of our local general practitioners are members of the Division which is seeking advice and information from consumers with the object of improving community health.

The Division has established a Consumer Reference Group CRG, which meets bimonthly and has representatives from many of the local health support groups.

The tasks of the CRG will be to pass on information from consumers, and also to provide a pathway for any new skills which CRG members may learn during training programs, to be taken back into the community.

Anyone interested in participating in this project or obtaining more information should contact the Division on 5968 5677

UBRFB Auxiliary

Auxiliary members wish to thank everyone who attended our recent Towel Night fundraiser at which participants purchased towels, sheets, tablecloths and dressing gowns in a wide variety of colours and patterns. Many thanks for your support.

Anyone wishing to donate old towels or any other clothing or yardgoods is encouraged to pass them along to the Auxiliary. They will be put to good use for our Rag Sales, another fundraiser for the Brigade. Our rag supplies are very low at the moment and we have customers waiting for more. Please leave appropriate goods at the Upper Beac Milkbar or call Nancy Boura on 5944 3632.

Congratulations to Dot Pockett on assuming the Presidency of the Auxiliary in a mid-year changeover. Members were also very pleased to see Beryl Hamilton back at the August meeting after an unaccustomed absence and are happy to welcome our newest member Celeste Jordan!

Colleen Lazenby

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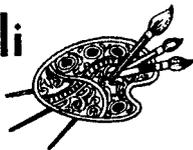
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