



ISSUE NO 121 APRIL 1998

UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION

Quarry proposal alarms Toomuc Valley residents

Residents of Toomuc Valley and surrounding areas have expressed alarm at the proposed expansion of the CSR Readymix quarry at Mt Shamrock Road, off Gembrook Road.

At an initial meeting on 19 February, concerned residents learned about the full extent of plans by the quarry to encroach into Toomuc Valley.

Once the extent of the CSR proposals were outlined and the scale fully understood, it became apparent that many other people from Upper Beaconsfield to Pakenham and surrounding areas could be adversely affected and that a full public meeting should be held to inform all interested and affected people.

This meeting of the Toomuc Valley Residents Association was held on 5 March and was attended by approximately 150 people, including Councillor Ted Owen and the Hon Rob Maclellan. The meeting unanimously resolved to support the Toomuc Valley Residents to completely oppose the proposed development.

The quarry company is in the process of buying 87 acres of farm land which abuts the western side of the existing quarry, a property known as "Hillside", at present owned by the Whiteley family. The

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New committee

At the Annual General Meeting of the UBA chaired by Cr Graeme Kidd in February the enthusiasm was so great that thirteen people were elected to the committee. In the future there will need be an addendum to the constitution to enable this to occur. (The constitution states nine.) All participation will be welcomed.

The committee consists of Pat Edwards, Daphne Hollingsworth, Chris Cowley, Ron Fisher, Roger Gordon, Graham Jackson, Neil McDonald, Janet Wilson, Jeanette Ballinger, Jo Carter (Treasurer), Wendy Jennings (Secretary), Ann McCormick (V President), and Keith Ewenson (President).

Next UBA meeting:

Wed 1 April 8 pm at the Community Hall.

'Township Development Committees' with a speaker from the Cardinia Shire Management Team.

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company plans to add this parcel to an area of approximately 100 acres which it holds on the north side of the quarry, facing Toomuc Valley Road.

All of the land in question rises steeply from the Valley to form a huge hill, which is a prominent landmark in the area. According to discussions already held between residents and quarry management, extraction of metal could result in the hill being reduced in height by approximately 30-40 metres along its entire length, down towards Toomuc Valley Road. Plans include provision for a 20 metre wide easement from the quarry into Toomuc Valley Road, at the intersection of Hein Road.

The residents are concerned about the impact the proposed quarrying would have on the

amenity of the area, including the degradation of the beauty of the Valley, the effect of noise and shock waves created by blasting, the increase of quarry traffic if a road were to be opened into Toomuc Valley, and the dangers of land slippage on the hill, which already bears the scars of erosion.

Anyone who was unable to attend the Public meeting last week and would like further information or to lend their support to the Toomuc Valley Residents can contact either myself on 5942 7316, Don Petty 5942 7482, Anne Yates 5942 7226 or Kathy Weston 5942 7282.

Daniel Quagliani

Toomuc Valley Residents Association



View across towards the hills in the area of the proposed quarry

Concerns identified at the Toomuc Valley Residents meeting on 19 February

- ◆ Effects on water table.
- ◆ Land slips (area has been declared a land slip area).
- ◆ Pollution to local watercourses.
- ◆ Visual pollution.
- ◆ Noise pollution.
- ◆ Affects of quarrying on properties & housing: values, structure, lifestyle.
- ◆ Traffic.
- ◆ Heritage: history of the Valley and its value to the community.
- ◆ Archaeological significance. Potential aboriginal site. (Other sites include Mt Ararat, Mt Cannibal.)

People who wish to register a protest should write to their local Shire Councillor at the Municipal Offices (PO Box 7, Pakenham 3810) or by facsimile on 5941 3784.

VILLAGE FAIR



Saturday 4 April
Recreation Reserve
11 am - 5 pm



Fun for everyone!

- ✓ Animals on the Move
- ✓ Face painting
- ✓ Arts and crafts
- ✓ Rat Club
- ✓ Fire Brigade demo
- ✓ Harley rides
- ✓ SES display
- ✓ Car boot sale
- ✓ Push cart derby
- ✓ Circus Maximus
- ✓ Slot cars
- ✓ Climbing wall
- ✓ Pony rides
- ✓ Train rides
- ✓ Cactus saloon
- ✓ Sherbrook Archers
- ✓ Talent quest
- ✓ Games and competitions



DON'T MISS THESE ATTRACTIONS!

9 am start Fun Run

11.30 am Humphrey B. Bear

12.30 Red Faces/Talent quest

1.30 pm Circus Maximus

2 pm - 4 pm FREE vintage fire engine rides

3 pm Whitman's Airship



Lots to eat and drink



Why not get the family together -
Mums, Dads, Grandparents, boys and girls and join the fun!
If you have something you want to promote, display or sell to people attending the Fair
Stall spaces are available see next page.

Stop Press

Congratulations to Cr Graeme Kidd who has been elected to succeed Cr Edwin Hume as Mayor of Cardinia Shire Council.

Citizen of the Year 1998



Each year a group meets to select the Citizen of the Year from the entries received.

This group is organized by the Upper Beaconsfield Association and is composed of UBA Committee members, previous Citizens of the Year and prominent citizens.

In 1998 those making the decision are: Julie Jamieson, Laura Levens, Anne McCormick, Neil McDonald and Trish Trewin.



Village Fair stall sites

We still have a number of stall sites available for the Upper Beaconsfield Village Fair on Saturday 4 April 1998, 11 am to 5 pm.

If you have handicrafts, homemade jams, preserves, pottery or craft work of any type, why not have a stall and make some extra cash. Stall sites are only \$10 each, or \$15 for a powered site. Display and Information booths or stalls are also welcome.

Please phone Denise Smith on 5944 4107 or pick up your Stall Application Form from the Post Office.

Is 'Grouse' recycled also?

Two gentlemen were discussing ways to enable one to speak with the lady he loved, who had been refusing to see him. The lover suggested that the older man, a mutual friend, invite both him and his love to visit. The lady would not be told that her swain would be present.

The friend's comment was "Cool!"

This is a scene from *The Moonstone*, written by Wilkie Collins in 1868!

Notes from Council

New CEO for Cardinia Shire

Council has appointed Mr Don Welsh to the position of CEO of Cardinia Shire following the resignation of Mr Jim Stevenson earlier this year. Mr Welsh is currently CEO of Colac Otway Shire and is expected to take up his appointment within the next month.

Community Capital Works Grants

Application forms and guidelines for the Shire's 1998/99 Capital Works Grants have been sent to community groups, with applications closing on 3 April, 1998. Any group that has not received notification should contact John White, Community Liaison Officer, on 5945 4345.

Graeme Kidd 5944 3400

Anzac Day 25 April 1998

Mr Frank Conn, the president of the Upper Beaconsfield branch of the RSL, will conduct the Anzac Day service at the cenotaph in Salisbury Road on the morning of Saturday 25 April 1998 at 11 am.

The simple ceremony, at which the local troop of cubs and scouts will lay poppies at the cenotaph in memory of the fallen heroes of the world wars, will be followed by a morning tea in the RSL club rooms in Halford Street. You and your friends are welcome to join the RSL members on this annual occasion.

Jo Carter

Upper Beaconsfield Safety House Program to close?

The Safety House Program has been running in our community for over 12 years. It has provided security for our children when travelling to and from school or out and about at play. We have been lucky until now to have an ongoing committee to carry out the very few jobs required to maintain this program. Unfortunately, we now find ourselves in a position of not having enough people remaining on our committee after our annual meeting which will be held in April.

Despite advertising this fact in our primary school newsletter, we have unfortunately had no one come forward offering assistance, which has

been very disappointing. Our last possibility of keeping the Safety House Program going is by receiving help from the general Upper Beaconsfield community. I urge all parents of young children to consider the benefits of living in a town served by Safety Houses. It would be a step backwards if we had to fold, as many small communities, such as ours, are only now becoming Safety House towns, whereas we have benefited for many years. We would be very pleased to hear from anyone willing to help.

Please phone Julie Born on 5944 3222.

Stop 'n shop in UB

Consultants engaged to oversee the new UB Strategy Plan mentioned at the last public meeting that approximately 80% of shopping by UB residents is done elsewhere. To keep you all informed, here is a brief guide to what's available or happening at your local shopping centre.

Kelvin, our butcher, is having great success with boned and rolled chicken marinated in honey, ginger and orange. Enough for all the family. Just bake in the oven for 70 minutes. Excellent cold.

Julie's Hair Shack is open Thursday nights until 9 pm for those who have trouble finding time for a haircut during the day.

Japonica Jelly has introduced a Sunday buffet at lunchtime for \$18 per head. Another wine tasting of Paternoster Wines plus excellent food will be held on Friday 27 March.

At the baker's, Mike is still selling white loaves for \$1.

Have you tried one of Adam's 'hamburgers with the lot' for \$4 from the milk bar? Enough for two and absolutely delicious while watching a rented video.

Perhaps you are going overseas and need to renew your passport. Save time and go to Carol's chemist for flattering (only joking) passport photos.

Did you know you can ring Moonshine Motors direct for RACV service and accident towing? Just ring 5944 4111. Beats sitting in that phone queue.

If you need water, ring Doug at the General Store and your requirements will be delivered promptly along with any garden and animal feed orders.

Arts'n'Things has a wide selection of local art. Sue's shop is open Wednesday afternoons and weekends. Currently, she has an exhibition of Danny Rutherford's art. Danny has been invited to Vienna this year to further his art studies.

Peter's Pizza and Fish & Chips is a good place to stop on the way home. Pizzas are half price on Monday and Wednesday nights.

And while on your way home, why not stop at your local licenced supermarket for any last minute requirements? We are open until at least 7 pm. The beer's always cold, or you could try a bottle of wine with your evening meal.

Check out the next Village Bell for more great buys at your local friendly shopping centre.

Roger Gordon 5944 3255

In Memoriam

All of us at the General Store are sad to advise that Midnight, our black cat, has unfortunately left us and gone to Pet's Heaven.

She will be greatly missed by us and I'm sure by many others, not least by Byron, our ginger cat, whose companion has now departed him.

Midnight has been buried close to home in one of her favourite spots near the store, where she spent many hours snoozing.

Phew !!! Looks like we got off lightly

1997/1998 Fire Season

In the last Village Bell I wrote . . .

'This means that we will be facing conditions conducive to high intensity forest fires. It doesn't mean that Victoria will experience Ash Wednesday-like fires, it certainly doesn't mean that it will happen to Upper Beaconsfield again. But it does mean that, unlike most summers, there is the potential for them to occur, and it could happen to Upper Beaconsfield again.'

Well, I'm glad I underlined 'potential' and 'could'! Despite an exceptionally dry summer Victoria has escaped very lightly from wildfire. The summer began ominously with the huge Alpine National Park fire in Gippsland fought in remote rugged terrain by our colleagues in the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Since then whilst there has been little rain, there have also been few very windy "blow up" days.

The main dramas in our part of the world have been large fires at Langwarrin, Frankston North, a series of fires in the Seaford Wetlands, and a fire at Mt Dandenong. Total structural losses were two sheds. Slightly further afield were pine plantation fires at Wandong, forest fires in the Otways, and a fire with significant potential at Macedon (ironically on Ash Wednesday) which was stopped on the edge of the township.

Community Education

The last Village Bell also reported that 14 **Community Fireguard** groups were active in Upper Beaconsfield. A further 6 groups have formed over the summer. Self-help has always been a strong part of the Upper Beac culture and it is great to see so many of our community motivated to take control of their bushfire problem. Disasters happen to those who aren't prepared, and the Mt Dandenong fire showed once again the value of Community Fireguard in preparing the community.

The successful support of 20 active Community Fireguard groups involving 60 meetings saw **Rob Mountain** working on average two nights a week and most weekends - all in a voluntary capacity. A truly magnificent effort. If we had been unlucky enough to have had another Ash Wednesday, it is Rob and our Community Fireguarders who would

have made a huge difference to the outcome.

The other education program that many Upper Beac residents will have experienced is Bushfire Blitz - a series of street corner talks. More than 60 current volunteers were employed by CFA to deliver the program. One of these was our very own **George Silberbauer** who worked in Harkaway and Narre Warren North as well as Upper Beac. By all accounts George's sessions were both entertaining and informative. George was supported at the 14 Upper Beac street meetings by volunteers from the Upper Beac Brigade.

Turnouts

In the last couple of months the Brigade has responded to 12 emergency calls - 3 motor vehicle accidents, 2 grass/scrub fires, 2 rubbish fires, a coonara heater fire, and 4 false alarms including smoke from the Mt Dandenong fire.

Fire restrictions

Fire Restrictions were lifted on 16 March. This means that unless a Total Fire Ban is in force it is again legal to burn off, but Cardinia Shire Council regulations regarding burning off must be complied with. Until we get heavy winter rains the bush is likely to still be dry and escaped burn offs are a real possibility - so great care is needed.

Jon Boura, Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade

Conservation Group Nursery

The UBCG Nursery is run on a voluntary basis by members of the Group as a service to residents who live in and close to Upper Beaconsfield. The material propagated is collected locally and so belongs to our bushland environment.

We have on hand a range of plants, from trees and shrubs to ground-covers and grasses which are ready to plant in the ideal autumn conditions.

The Group would be pleased to grow for clients with specific needs such as a re-vegetation project, shelter belts or road screening.

Prices are \$ 1.00 per plant or 70 cents when bought in lots of forty.

The nursery is open between 12 and 5 pm each Friday or by appointment AH 5944 3690 or 5942 7571.

The Village Fair Tower Challenge - an 8Km Fun Run

The 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group will be conducting this event at the Village Fair on 4 April for everyone's enjoyment.

Starting at 9 am, runners will leave the Recreation Reserve and travel along Stoney Creek Rd, Emerald Rd through the Village and into Salisbury Rd, then into Split Rock Rd and McKenzie Rd to Tower Rd to the Water Tower. Return via Sugarloaf Rd and Salisbury Rd then back to the Reserve. A shorter course will be used for under 7 and under 12 years.

Entries are invited for the following categories: Under 7, 8 - 11, 12 - 16 and open. Team entries of 4 runners are invited for all categories

Entry fees of \$2.00 for under 12 and \$5.00 for all others. All proceeds will go to assist the running of the Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group - the largest Group in Cardinia District.

Entry forms have been distributed to homes, schools, community groups and are available from local shops during the next week. Enquiries to Tom Gibson at Alex Scott & Staff, Pakenham 5941 1111.

More news from the Scout Group

Our AGM and Reports night was held on 18 March to celebrate another fantastic year for our Group. Our Committee remains the same for the next year but we have seen resignations of two leaders in Ron Van Vliet and Julie Greaves, with Jenny Fiume leaving Joey Scouts at the end of this term.

New leaders are Andrea Shokavich, Derek Spargo and Robyn Duncan. With a strong demand at the younger age level, we have had to form a second Cub Scout pack to begin operation next term.

A full report of the year's activities is available upon request - contact Barry Smith if you would like one.

Barry Smith

President UB Scout Group
5944 3219

The Fun Run Course



Village Fair Car Boot Sale



Saturday 4 April 1998, 11 am to 5 pm

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Don't have a Garage Sale - pack it up and sell it at the Village Fair Car Boot Sale. For just \$10 per Car Boot.

For more information please call Denise Smith on 5944 4107 or pick up your Car Boot Application Form* at the Post Office.

*Same form as Stall Application, just cross out 'stall' and fill in relevant details.

Shire Minutes

Constitutional Convention

A Constitutional Convention of local government representatives to be coordinated by Cardinia Shire will be held in Pakenham on Saturday 4 April. Council have identified two subjects for debate from the following list. Numbers on the right indicate the topics adopted by other councils.

The Constitution as a National Symbol... 2
 Parliament & the Election
 of Representatives.....0
 An Australian Republic.....14
 The Federal System.....5
 Citizens & Rights.....6

Dust suppressant program

A report for the current financial year which covers low cost stabilisation procedures for unsealed roads considers the following points:

- ◆ Unsealed road network
- ◆ dust suppressant description
- ◆ Past/current program
- ◆ Review of the program and its effectiveness
- ◆ Options available now and in the future
- ◆ Alternative treatments

Current expenditure on unsealed pavement maintenance is approximately 1.4 million dollars per year. The total length of unsealed road in the municipality is 980 km, with the cost of treatment \$250 per 100 metres. In 1997/98 17.5 km of road has been treated with roads carrying 300+ vehicles per day receiving priority.

In our area, Split Rock Rd (2.4 km) carries 430 vehicles per day.

C Cowley

Township Committees

Cardinia Shire Council is exploring the idea of establishing Township Committees within the Shire. There are many different ways such committees could operate, and at this stage the Council has no agreed arrangement. Elsewhere in this issue Keith Ewenson reports on a community forum held at the Shire Offices earlier this month where some possibilities were outlined and issues debated.

It is most likely that there will be different implementations for different townships. Some may prefer a purely advisory role, while others may evolve to take on contracts for management and development of agreed services and facilities within their township area. Some townships may in fact opt not to have a formally established committee, but continue to rely on existing relationships with Council.

If a Township Committee is to be effective I believe it will have to meet these criteria:

- ◆ it will as far as possible be broadly representative of all interests within the township;
- ◆ it will not over-ride existing community groups in terms of their rights, functions and responsibilities;
- ◆ it will have a formal relationship with Council;
- ◆ it will advise Council on the implementation of Council policy within the township;
- ◆ it will facilitate a coordinated community approach to the development and maintenance of facilities and services within the township.

The UB Strategy when it is finalised will propose a range of broad principles to be applied to the future development of this area. If the strategy is to have a useful long-term value those principles must be translated to plans which, in turn, will require to be implemented. An UB Township Committee would, I believe, be an effective and valuable way to facilitate this process.

Cr Graeme Kidd 5944 3400



Upper Beaconsfield Strategy Plan

The development of the Strategy Plan is progressing well. During February Council distributed a discussion paper prepared by the consultants GHD Planning to all residents, and this was followed by a well-attended and lively public meeting on 25 February run by consultant Chris Robinson.

He postulated a number of different scenarios for the development of Upper Beaconsfield, addressing different elements that would need to be taken into consideration in the development of a position for each of these, and highlighting possible actions that could be taken under each scenario.

As an outcome of community input and feedback the consultants are now preparing the draft strategy. The draft will propose broad principles to be applied under each of nine action areas, including economic & retail, community, ecology & natural systems, transport, residential development, open-space & recreation, infrastructure, and fire management.

The draft strategy will be put on exhibition towards the end of March and will be open for comment and discussion for one month.

Cr Graeme Kidd 5944 3400

Township Development Community Forum

A Township Development Community Forum was held at the Shire offices on Thursday 5 March.

The Hon Rob Maclellan introduced the subject to 150 representatives from across the shire. We were told of the success story of the Lang Lang Township Committee, where a rural town in decline is being improved by a committee representing 26 groups.

The perceived benefits of Township Committees were:

- ◆ United voice.
- ◆ Delivery of services more needs/demand driven.
- ◆ Scarce resources better targeted and more efficiently used.

Perceived risks of Township Committees were addressed with the following points.

- ◆ Council is not looking to avoid its public service obligations.
- ◆ Council will not force committees into accepting responsibilities.
- ◆ No reduction in service levels or funding is proposed.
- ◆ There will be no extra layer of bureaucracy imposed.

The forum considered two models for committees. Model 1 acted simply as an advisory body, recommending to council what should be undertaken within the town.

The second model acted in a management role. It not only sought funding but also let contracts to undertake the work. It had a legal status of S86 with powers delegated by council.

The next stage would be to report to council on the endorsed concept, prepare operational framework and liaise within individual township groups.

The establishment of Township Committees will be community driven with local ownership 'hand balling ball to the community from council'. The Hon Neil Lucas, in summing up, said this was a way of returning the larger local government to the community roots.

Keith Ewenson



See us at the Village Fair

The UB Community Centre will be at the Village Fair. Come and ; visit our stand displaying samples of the exciting things you can make in the Term 2 craft classes, and information on our Health and Well Being, Work and Study, Fitness, : Special Interest, Special Needs, Kids classes, Computer and Support Groups and the Centre's crèche.

If you have a sweet tooth come and enjoy some of our yummy Fairy Floss.

Survey not junk mail

By the time your read this, you will have received a survey in the mail addressed to residents. This is a very important document and vital for the successful development of the UB Community Centre.

The survey has been specifically designed to establish what direction and future development the centre needs to take to fulfil the community's needs and uses wherever possible.

Please **DO** take the time to fill the survey out and make plenty of constructive comments. The centre is there for your use and we need to know what you would like to see happen there - be it more dancing classes, stress relieving techniques, fire prevention sessions or children's activities - whatever classes you would like to see, the times they run, and whether or not they are affordable. Any constructive comments, however big or small, would be appreciated.

We would appreciate it if you would take the time to fill out the survey and return it to the centre by 6 April 1998. Please use the reply paid envelope or drop the survey off at the centre.

Take a breather . . .

Do you have young children? Would you like to have a few hours to yourself occasionally? Would you like a few quality hours with a newborn, without your toddler constantly demanding your attention? Would you like to go shopping or keep appointments on your own?

Well, the Community Centre provide a crèche for you. We provide a warm, caring, safe environment for your children to interact with other children and have fun. Our qualified staff are in attendance at all times and are there not only to look after your children, but to help and advise if you have any concerns or problems with your children as well.

We are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8.45 am to 4 pm and you can leave your children with us for half an hour or all day if you wish. We provide course care (care for children when their parents are doing a course at the Community Centre) and occasional care and we are open to all children from 6 weeks to 6 years old.

The crèche, as part of the Community Centre, is a non-profit organisation and is partially funded. This enables us to provide childcare at very reasonable rates and makes it accessible to everyone in our community. Our fees are:

Course care: Single child-\$1.50/hour; Family-\$2/hour

Occasional care: Single child-\$3/hour; Family \$4/hour

All day special rates: Single child-\$15/day; Family-\$20/day

We are very proud of the facilities and level of care that we provide to the children in our community. Why don't you come down and have a look for yourself.

Babysitting club

Our annual social function will be on Tuesday 7 April at 7.30 pm at the Pine Grove Hotel.

This will be a good opportunity to meet new members and to also review the functioning of the club. Please RSVP to Wendy Jennings 5944 4023 by 6 April. Newcomers most welcome!

Secretaries for the coming months will be:

April	Anne Hutchinson 5944 3552
May	Judi Fenby 5944 3042
June	Jean Dayson 5944 4132

Wendy Jennings

Recipe for a "Friendly Cake"

Upper Beaconsfield CWA

Ingredients

- 1 Several Friendly Ladies
- 2 A Quantity of Talk Time
- 3 Tea or Coffee to Taste
- 4 Numerous Meters of Craft Materials
- 5 Some Kilo's of Community Interest



Method

Mix Friendly Ladies, with the Tea or Coffee. Add the Craft Materials and fold in the Talk Time. Blend all of the above with the Community Interest. Place together in a warm environment for 1 -2 days a month depending on taste. New members welcome and desperately required

For further details please call: Carol Murtagh
Treasurer CWA Upper Beaconsfield
Tel 5944 4110

Kindergarten vacancies

Vacancies are still available at both the Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten.

If you would like further information, please phone the Kindergarten Enrolment Officer, Lee Jameson, on 9796 2989 or Pre-Kindergarten Enrolment Officer, Karen Wellard, on 5944 3165. Please watch out for the Kinder's Plaster Painting Tent at the UB Fair on Sat 4 April. For \$3 Children are able to purchase, paint and take home their Art Work!!!

Activities galore for the Upper Beaconsfield Guides

Guides are well under way for the year, with many fun and exciting activities planned.

The 7-11 age group ably led by Jenni Brennan have started the year with a canoeing excursion to Aura Vale Lake, which proved to be extremely popular. Other activities include decoupage, a combined night with the Joey Scouts, a pool party, cooking night and the ever popular 'bring-a-friend'.

Guides 10-15 years have been kept busy with a visit from the Venturers to teach them some rope tying skills, and gadget making with new knots just learned. Thinking Day, which is held to celebrate Baden-Powell's birthday, involved an international theme with the girls bringing food from another country to share.

Other activities include a bike hike to Pakenham, terracotta clay modelling, compass work and orienteering, and chocolate making. Clean up Australia Day provided a perfect opportunity for the girls to clean up papers and rubbish from around the Igloo and surrounding

streets, and with the Joeys a part of this community service, as the old saying goes, 'Many hands make light work'.

The 10-15 age group in particular are encouraged to organise their own program, with supervision and direction from their leader, Karen McQuilten. Some of the girls are working towards their Queen's Guide Award, which involves quite a lot of badge work, community service, and an understanding of Guiding.

If anyone out there is interested in becoming a Leader for either age group, we'd love to hear from you. Our ideal is to have three leaders per group to ease the pressure on the current leaders. At present we have only one leader per group, and rely on parent duty rosters to help out each week.

Any enquiries please ring **Linda Wilkinson** on 5944 3987.

Annual Report

Upper Beaconsfield
Community Care Group



By the time this issue of the Village Bell is published we will have conducted our Annual Meeting on 24 March and have presented our Ninth Annual Report.

Guest Speaker of the night was Ms Tracel Devereux, Manager of Cardinia Care who explained to us the changes which have occurred in Cardinia Shire with the privatisation of services to the community.

The success of the Community Care Group has depended absolutely on the generosity of our more than 70 volunteers who willingly give of their time and talents to assist those in our community who find themselves in need of our services.

Following are some of the issues raised in our Ninth Annual Report:

- The loss we suffered with the passing of our treasurer Ray Ratcliff.
- The growth of our Group's contribution to the community as shown by the statistics of recent years.

Year	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97
Total referrals	36	54	48	77	70	110
Total visits	89	102	158	646	435	552

The biggest increases in referrals were in emergency relief, frozen meals, transport, child care and home repair.

- Emergency, rent and fuel assistance amounted to more than \$3000 over 1997. These funds are provided by the Federal Government to assist low income families and individuals.
- A small annual grant from the Cardinia Shire and donations from local residents cover the administrative needs of our group and we gratefully acknowledge and thank these donors.

If you would like to know more about the Care Group or would like to help in some way contact Des on 5944 3516.

Des McKenna

Toy Library news

The UB Toy Library has a huge range of toys to suit newborn to school age children.

New members including grandparents, mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles or even a friend are most welcome. Come and have a look at what we have to offer. We have small toys such as puzzles, trucks and dolls right up to big toys such as small cars, gyms, kitchens and garden see-saws.

We are open every Thursday from 9.30 am to 11.30 am during the school term at the Community Centre.

Village Fair

This year we are once again drawing an Easter Raffle on 4 April at the Village Fair.

Third Prize: A Big basket of Easter eggs.

Second Prize: A Big, Big basket of Easter eggs.

First Prize: A Big, Big, Big basket of Easter eggs.



Tickets can be purchased on Thursdays from the Toy Library or outside the General Store on 21 March and, of course, at the Village Fair. The Toy Library will again have a stall at the Fair selling our wonderful, yummy lollies. We will also have a selection of toys to show and try, so bring along your children to have a play.

We are also looking for new committee members. Meetings are once a month on a Tuesday night. If you are interested please contact the Community Centre on 5944 3484.

See you at the Village Fair.

Kim Bilton

Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club

Another home and away series has drawn to a close and the finals are upon us. At the time of writing it is the eve of the semifinals.

Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club has two senior teams (C Grade and E Grade) and two junior teams (Under 16 and Under 14) in the finals. At the time of reading, the final series will have been completed -hopefully four premierships for Upper Beac.

Our A Grade team narrowly avoided relegation and will continue to play in the top level of the local competition next season. Improvement from current players, together with a few new recruits, will see the side move up the ladder.

The Under 12 team were runners-up in their end-of-season

knockout competition. It was a great effort by all players to win through to the Grand Final. Well done.

Noblet Award

Counting for the Noblet Award (awarded to the best player across all four senior grades) was held recently. This year's winner was John Stinear - a very worthy and popular recipient. Congratulations John.

Junior Presentation Night

Junior Presentation Night will be held at the Pine Grove Hotel on Sunday 29 March commencing at 5 pm.

Senior Presentation Night

Senior Presentation Night, also at the Pine Grove Hotel, will be held on Sunday 5 April commencing at 7 pm.

In the next edition of the Village Bell, we will let you know how the teams went in the finals and list all of our award winners.

Richard Williams

Sister Anna has lost the banner

How many people remember a CHRISTMAS CAROL BANNER put up each Christmas to advertise the Carols?

Would it be languishing in your garage — under your house — do you remember if it was wrecked or lost?

Finding it would save us the cost of a new one. If you can help, please contact **Jeanette Ballinger** 5944 3395.

Bridge Closure

Roadwork signs on Boundary and Manestar Roads indicate that work is due to start on the Manestar Road bridge on Thursday 26 March.

The bridge will be closed for repair from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm daily until 9 April.

Notes from the Upper Beaconsfield Association

At the March committee meeting of the UBA, two members of the Toomuc Valley Residents Association advised the committee of their concerns regarding the plans of CSR to purchase land to extend the Toomuc Valley quarry.

They appealed to the UBA committee for support in their efforts to stop council approval of the extension. We will hear more of their efforts in the near future.

You will be aware of a plan by the council to sell the Shire 'offices on the hill' in Pakenham, and to relocate the services to some other location. A subcommittee of the UBA is looking into this matter, and you will be advised of its findings.

There has been some discussion on the future of the Beaconsfield water race (Leppitt

Road). Charles Wilson and his subcommittee are investigating the possible uses of the area.

The UBA committee hopes that members of all other service groups and associations in the community will avail themselves of the forum offered by the UBA general meetings to make their aims and achievements known to the community in general.

The UBA, through its voice, the Village Bell, invites each of these groups to publish an article on its activities. We would like to see this alliance extended, so that each group in turn could present an oral report on its activities at the UBA general meetings. This matter is being pursued.

You are cordially invited to attend the April meeting detailed on page 1.

Jo Carter 59443311

Tennis Club is expanding in 1998

1998 promises to be an exciting year for the Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club. Plans are well underway for lighting of another court and proposed extensions to our existing clubhouse. We are hoping to be successful in our application for a Capital Works Grant through the Shire to help subsidise these improvements.

Family Fun Day

On Sunday 22 February our Club took part in a Family Fun Day in association with Tennis Victoria. The weather was perfect and this event was an outstanding success with 218 people taking part. Various activities were social tennis for the whole family including tennis coaching for children and adults, live videos of players, racquet stringing demonstration, measuring serves with radar gun, and practising with the use of ball machine. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes. A special thank you to our coach Lois Plowman, together with Julie Born and Anne Hutchinson who did a fabulous job in organising this event.

As a follow up to this day a tournament has been proposed for Sunday 5 April. Men and Ladies welcome. Find a partner and give Lois Plowman a ring on 5944 3969 if interested. All coaching enquiries should be directed to Lois on this number.

Saturday competition

Saturday competition for both Seniors and Juniors is almost over. Section 1 Seniors - lost Preliminary Final. Section 8 Seniors - missed out by only 2 points for a place in the four. This was a great effort for first Saturday Competition for these

players. Section 6 Mens Competition have finished 2nd (Caulfield-Carrum Tennis Association). They are determined to bring home a flag (we hope its a big one). Good Luck Fellas.

Michael Zerbst is our Saturday Coordinator - please ring him on 5944 3619 if you would like to play Saturday competition.

Junior Sections 9, 11 and 14 teams are about to play in their preliminary finals - Best of Luck Everyone.

An end of season pie night was held on Friday 13 March. The next event for our Juniors will be the Club Championships on 22 March.

Grading is well underway for next season. Any queries can be directed to Liz Haussegger, Junior Coordinator on 5944 3461.

Mid Week Ladies competition is well underway with 9 teams currently playing. Any interested players can contact Julie Born on 5944 3222.

Night Tennis

Night Tennis is just as popular as ever and all our competitions are well underway for Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Any interested players can contact Greg Whyatt (Monday Coordinator) on 5943 2472 or Phil Born (Wednesday Coordinator) on 5944 3222 or Paul Rodrigez (Thursday Coordinator) on 5944 3409.

Any general enquiries regarding membership can be directed to Eve Morgan on 5944 3583.

Jenny McCormick
Secretary



Stolen from kinder

Over the Christmas period the kinder in Stoney Creek Rd was broken into and a Samsung stereo/cassette player stolen. This piece of equipment plays a vital part in the kinder routine. We would like to hear from anyone who knows its whereabouts or it would be greatly appreciated if it could be returned directly to the kinder.

Nikki Lebrocq 5944 3343

Horses and the environment

The Conservation Group is overjoyed when owners of properties care for the beauty of the area. One purchaser of a property over-run with ragwort has industriously and persistently worked to remove this dangerous noxious weed.

It would be lovely if more horse owners would care for the environment in as diligent a fashion.

The group is very concerned at the amount of indigenous vegetation being lost or degraded as a result of stock (particularly horses) being allowed to graze in bushland area.

This practice is environmentally disastrous. Understorey is trampled, trees ringbarked, weeds spread and soil compacted leading to rapid degradation of another area of Upper Beaconsfield.

Our native vegetation is an important, attractive and valuable characteristic and every effort should be made to protect it as part of the uniqueness of Upper Beaconsfield.

It is very disturbing to see stock being used as a method of clearing vegetation and we believe the Shire Council should be more vigilant in its efforts to put a stop to the behaviour.

The community has responded in a positive way to fire education. Perhaps a similar education programme should be aimed at some horse owners in relation to environmental protection.

Neil McDonald

Red Cross

No final figures are as yet available. All Red Cross members were delighted to have the catchy jingle 'Knock on every door' back again on TV.

Red Cross drivers

Once again Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Unit is appealing for volunteers to drive patients to appointments particularly in the city area. Drivers use their private cars, are covered by Red Cross insurance and are reimbursed for the number of kms they travel. The ideal situation would be for couples who have recently retired to contribute to Red Cross in this way.

Catering conference

A catering conference was held in the Cardinia Shire Offices on Friday 27 February. This brought together Regional Red Cross officers and volunteers on catering lists. The main aim was to learn about more effective catering in emergency situations such as fires and floods. Officers representing CFA, SES and police were also present.

Youth Co-ordinator Margaret Phillips

It was with sadness that members of the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross and many other local groups heard of the death of Mrs Margaret Phillips on 19 February after a long illness. Margaret became a member of the local Unit in 1961 and for most of that time was the Youth Co-ordinator for schools at both Regional and Unit levels. Margaret seemed 'to walk everywhere', always carrying Red Cross literature which was of interest to students in both primary and secondary colleges.

Is there someone out in the community who would volunteer to take over this most rewarding position?

Date change for April meeting

Due to Easter the meeting date has been changed to Friday 17 April at 10 am at the RSL hall in Berwick. New members from Upper Beaconsfield would be warmly welcomed.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Upper Beaconsfield Village Fair committee for their win in the Cardinia Shire 1998 Australia Day awards. Certainly well deserved.

Marie Womersley 9707 1103

Beaconhills Country Golf Club

After losing our very highly regarded Course Superintendent Stuart Laing to Long Reef Golf Club, Collaroy NSW, we welcome back to Beaconhills Robert Ryan, who has recently been appointed to fill Stuart's position.

Robert trained and worked under Stuart at Beaconhills before taking a position with Warracknabeal Golf Club. Other changes to groundstaff positions are as follows: Tim Bayard promoted to Assistant Course Superintendent, Barry Auhl promoted to Leading Hand and Chris Stanley joins us as an AFL trainee on the groundstaff. Congratulations to all the above and to Greg Tivendale (Groundstaff) for being selected on the Richmond AFL Rookie list.

The 1998 golfing season officially opened late in February and already players are in the Pennant matchplay. Congratulations to all players who have been chosen to represent Beaconhills.

Two major events, with trophies donated by Dot White, Moya Ross, Margaret McKenzie, Joyce Connan and Mary Hall in appreciation of the friendship and assistance given to them by club and district members when their homes were burnt during the Ash Wednesday fires, have been played. The district event was played once again on 16 February and the weather was totally opposite to that of 1983. Players competing in the event at Portsea were struggling to keep their footing in the very cold, wet and windy conditions. The Beacon Plate was won by Devil Bend Club and the Phoenix Salver, the club event, was won by Cora Shovelton with the fantastic score of 47 points.

Lady members have competed in several Bowl events with the best result being the team of Anne

Kroon, Gillian Lewis and Barbara Jackson runners up for the Croydon Bowl.

Club professional Mark Griffin reports that clinics are going well and the fifty players enjoying the 'stress free' golf on a Monday morning, organised by Assistant Manager Cathie West, are having a great time. Many have taken advantage of the special six month nine hole membership for \$100 and the lady members look forward to when they take the next step and join as full or weekday members. We cannot stress enough the wonderful friendships and advantages of being a club member. Once you have your club handicap you can enter events at the clubs throughout Australia and by special arrangement overseas. Do call into the clubhouse and have lunch with the ladies any Wednesday.

Free women's golf clinics for beginner golfers and students sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank and Women's Golf Victoria Inc will be held at Beaconhills on Sunday 19 April, 9.45 am-12.45 pm. Four sessions; bookings essential. Ring Pro Shop: 5944 3630.

The wonderful junior golf program at Beaconhills is appreciated by both parents and children. Many have their nine hole handicaps and are taking part in regular competition. Congratulations to nine year old Brianne Arthur, daughter of Warren and Wendy, for her recent win and to local boys Andrew Hutchison, Brett Hamilton and David Geschki for their recent successes. We would like to see more girls take advantage of this easy introduction to golf. The Beaconhills Juniors will be presenting a "Hole in one" competition at the Village Fair using modified equipment and soft "Go-Go Golf" balls, so do go along and show your skill!

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554



Berwick & District Scottish Country Dance Group

Acclaimed as 'The Ballroom Dancing of Scotland', Scottish country dancing (not to be confused with Highland dancing) can be enjoyed by people of all ages. Most dances are undertaken in a set of eight, are most enjoyable and a great way to keep fit. Groups and individuals are most welcome. We meet every Friday at 8 pm at the Berwick Masonic Hall, cost \$3.

For further information contact Andrew 9807 1436 or Louise 9802 3626.

Fireguard group forewarned

I felt such frustration, as a member of a Fireguard group, when I realised that I didn't have any way of getting early notice of fire outbreak that I obtained a CFA listening device.

Now this piece of equipment has allowed me to hear and understand what an efficient organisation we have compared to that in existence in 1983. To hear the fast response to alarms, to know that a system known as a Strike Force (back-up for brigades in potentially disastrous fire situations) is put on alert the day before a day of total fire ban, to hear the brigades respond in double quick time, to know that aerial surveillance is maintained all day in partnership with tower

watchers and Vicfire has been comforting.

Not quite to the stage of complaisance as Fireguard group members in this road will know. They have been alerted to listen to 3LO or 3MDR (97.1FM) twice this summer because of fire at Mt Dandenong which could have spotted in this direction.

I am thankful that there was no need to put the batteries in the radio, but I will admit that afterwards I wondered whether the alerts were a bit premature. I hope there is forgiveness in the hearts of the Fireguard members for any distress they may have felt.

Laura Levens

Be well informed!

Don't just wonder, find out. Pakenham Citizens' Advice Bureau, located in the Resource House, 68 Main st, Pakenham offers information on recreation, child care, pensions, services for the disabled and elderly, help for family, marriage and other personal problems.

Pamphlets and brochures cover these and many other subjects and there is even a map showing local and surrounding district tourist attractions. All literature and services are free.

Professional help is also available at the Resource Centre by referral.

The Welfare Officer is on duty Monday to Friday from 10 am to 4 pm; a Financial Counsellor on Monday and Thursday who can help you with your budget and sometimes intercede on your behalf with creditors.

For folk who can't come during work hours there is a free legal service every second Tuesday from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm with an attending solicitor. These services are by appointment only.

Call in and see us from 10 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday or phone us on 5941 2377.

Diary Dates

- March 29 Cricket Club Junior Presentation Night
- April 4 Village Fair
- 5 Cricket Club Senior Presentation Night
- 6 Closing date for Community Centre Surveys
- 7 Baby Sitting Club annual social function
- 17 Red Cross monthly meeting

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 1998.
I understand that this subscription entitles me to vote at the bimonthly meetings of the UBA.

Name of family Address.....

Tel Signed

Wildflowers in the Dandenong Ranges

Book review

"Wildflowers in the Dandenong Ranges", a beginner's guide by Laura Levens. Published by and proceeds to Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group.

'... 120 superb colour photos of species found in the Dandenongs - a pleasure to behold... Well done, Laura.' Vic Walk News.



This pocket size book pictures 120 wildflowers which grow throughout the Dandenongs. They were all photographed in the Upper

Beaconsfield - Emerald area and many also grow across south eastern Victoria. The collection is a mix of common and less often seen plants, though it includes less than half the total flora of the area.

To make life easier for novice wildflower finders the photographs are arranged in groups by flower colour on pages tinted the same colour. Each photograph is accompanied by a brief description which includes actual measurements of the plant.

Small size combined with a moisture proof cover with a rule on the back makes this book a practical item to carry on walks.

The book is available from Laura on 5944 3828.

UB Rural Fire Brigade Auxiliary

Many thanks to all who have provided old clothing for our Rag Sales. We have numerous buyers and are always happy to accept additional material for processing. Please leave all items at the Upper Beaconsfield Milk Bar or call Nancy Boura on 5944 3632.

The Auxiliary invites you to spend a relaxing time in our Tea Rooms at the Village Fair once again this year. You'll find us located in the Cricket Rooms inside the Igloo, where we will have chairs and tables set out. Devonshire tea and coffee, sandwiches, cordial, slices and frozen drinks will be available on the day. Baked goods and a new line of inexpensive greeting cards will also be on sale at our stall on the oval, next to the Fire Brigade Auxiliary Lady sign.

Look for the Brigade and Auxiliary members as well on 12 April outside Bunnings Hardware store in Narre Warren where we will be raising funds by running a barbecue out front. Our thanks to Bunnings for their generosity. We look forward to seeing you at the Fair and at Bunnings and, as always, the Auxiliary and the Brigade appreciate the continued financial and other support provided by the community.

Colleen Lazenby

Village Bell Credits

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