



Issue 126 February 1999

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Trial bus service to commence 8 February

The trial of the bus service from Emerald to Beaconsfield Station and Fountain Gate via Upper Beaconsfield and Guys Hill is now scheduled to commence on Monday, 8 February, subject to final approval from the Transport Department. The service will be known as Route 838 and will be operated by Cardinia Transit on weekdays. Met fares will apply.

The route through Upper Beaconsfield will be along Stoney Creek Road, and then down the Emerald-Beaconsfield Road. The bus driver will stop for passengers if "hailed" or "requested" anywhere along the route between Emerald and Beaconsfield, provided that the stopping area is in a safe and legal position.

A flyer will be distributed to all residents in the area giving the timetable and other information before the commencement date.

This is only a trial. Whether the service continues after the three-month trial period depends entirely on how well it is used during this period. One issue that needs to be considered is how residents from say Split Rock Road or Brennan's Estate will access the service. This may require car-pooling or the establishment of a feeder service using perhaps the Community Bus. Please contact me if you are interested in participating in such a scheme.

Graeme Kidd 5944 3400

What we want to achieve in 1999

The UBA undertook and achieved many successful events and activities in 1998, but lets not dwell on these here. What is important is what we want to achieve in 1999.

If you have ideas and desires for community advancement or would just like to be on a team making it happen, then come to the next UBA meeting on the Wednesday the 3rd February 1999.

Reports for 1998 will be presented, quickly followed by an election of a new committee.

The guest speakers will come from the horse riding and pony clubs of our area.

We look forward to you joining us on this occasion.

Keith Ewenson
President UBA



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Village Bell Credits

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No material from this publication may be reproduced in any manner without the permission of the editor : Susan Pitman Tel: 5944 3684 Thanks to Eleanor Taylor for the masthead used in the last Village Bell. A last minute problem meant we had to use an "oldie, but goodie", one Eleanor had provided for an earlier Bell. - Editor.

Welcome New Residents

Ella and Eddie Corrales,
Hughendon Road

Rodney, Annalene and Lizette
Tredoux, Brennan Ave

Dan and Eileen Luscombe,
Stoney Creek Road

Craig Carter and
Sally Middleton High St, Guys
Hill

Support the Bell in 1999

It is time to renew your subscription to the Village Bell for 1999. Or if you haven't paid in the past, we would appreciate your support from now on.

The Bell is produced by volunteers and delivered to each household in Upper Beaconsfield, Guy's Hill and Dewhurst.

The Bell provides a valuable community function to keep residents informed about local issues and local events.

Businesses operators who live in the area and operate their businesses locally also find the Bell useful for advertising their services as residents wishing to find contact numbers go and grab the Bell first.

Those wishing to advertise please see the directory in the back pages. So don't delay and fill out the form below. As an additional service to ex-residents we will post the Bell to your new address. Please make sure you fill in the address correctly.

There is no need for locals to post the subs back - just pop into the Post Office and Ray and Julie will accept your subscription on behalf of the UBA.

Last but not least, the Village Bell editors' group sincerely thank Ray and Julie for their valuable assistance in helping with the Bell in many ways above and beyond the normal duties involved with operating the Post Office.



SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL - UBA AND VILLAGE BELL

I 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 1999.
 I understand that this subscription entitles me to vote at the bimonthly meetings of the UBA.

Name of family Address.....
 Tel Signed

Community Week 10th anniversary

Friday 12 Feb to Sunday 21 Feb

As this is the 10th successive year in which our Community has celebrated our uniqueness, we feel that Community Week can now be considered an institution in Upper Beaconsfield.

Commencing in 1990 the Community Care Group each February has sponsored and reminded all residents of what a special community we have and the need to get together on an annual basis to celebrate.

Following the tragedy of Ash Wednesday there came a wonderful response from all sections of the community helping and supporting each other, which resulted in a faster and better recovery than was experienced by other communities similarly effected. That this support for each other continues to the present day is the basis of much of the involvement of residents in the various community organisations in Upper Beaconsfield.

Community Week is always arranged to include the actual anniversary date of the Ash Wednesday fires - 16th of February - and is an opportunity for all residents to discuss their experiences or concerns about the current season with their neighbours.

Community Week events usually take the form of BYO barbecues or picnics on a street basis or in some cases where the street is larger, in sections of the street.

Mostly the hosts for the next year's gathering

are agreed to at the previous year's party but each year we contact key people in the various streets who take on the responsibility of seeing that someone organises this year's function in their street.

Please get behind the organisers of your street function and go along and you will be assured of a great time in saying "g'day" to old friends and getting to know any new residents and making them welcome.

Des McKenna

Entertainment Expo for Upper Beac

As part of Community Week the Upper Beaconsfield traders are organising an Entertainment Expo for Upper Beaconsfield. It will be held on Saturday February 20 at Charing Cross from 10am to 5pm. Any local entertainers who wish to perform at the Expo please contact Ray Allsop at the Post Office or Doug Field at the General Store.

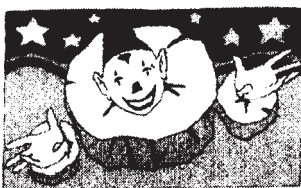
Trophies will be awarded for different categories including:

- Best Primary School
- Best Secondary School
- Best Open.



There will be a sausage sizzle and various stalls.

Ray Allsop 5944 3200



Village Fair!

Sunday 28th March is the date of the 1999 Village Fair. The Fair is a great opportunity for all of our local community organisations and business to raise money for their respective groups and to let the community at large know more about what they do.

It is an opportunity for the individual to raise extra funds. Please enter this date in your diary and work towards getting a stall together to sell your produce, provide food for the hundreds of spectators and generally join in the

wonderful community spirit that abounds in Upper Beaconsfield.

Attached to this issue of the Village Bell is a stall application form, see page 18.

The committee endeavours to ensure that duplication of stalls does not occur, so be quick and register your name.

Our Village Fair is becoming more and more successful each year and this will continue with the support of the wonderful community organisations and individuals.

If you have any new and bright ideas to share with us or if you have any queries, please contact us.

Denise Smith 5944 4107
Janette Clydesdale 9707 60

Neighbours

Neighbourliness takes many forms. One form is shown by those who, even in the sparsely populated parts of Upper Beaconsfield, are considerate of the well being of neighbours.

But it is possible, even in timbered areas, to show a lack of sensitivity to the discomfort caused by interference to radio and television reception by the use of power equipment, lawn mowers and other noisy tools. In such areas, neighbours may be unaware of the distance which noise travels, especially late at night and early in the morning.

Apparently there are no Council By Laws about such matters, but this may change shortly. There are, of course, Environment Protection Authority regulations about noise pollution.

These regulations place restrictions on noise from such appliances as mowers, saws, compressors and power tools in the evenings (after 8pm) and early mornings (before 7 am). Moderate noise from air conditioners, pumps, musical instruments and sound equipment is permitted until 10pm.

Cardinia Shire Council rightly places an emphasis on communication not confrontation. Most people are prepared to meet the requirements of the sick, the very young or very old, shift workers, etc. when asked. If a reasonable approach is rejected, complaints about parties or stereos may be made to the police and complaints about barking dogs or noisy workshops should go to council.

Note that noise in the work environment is the responsibility of the Department of Labour.

People operated power tools should have suppressors to obviate interference to radio and television sets in the area.

Above all, please remember that is nearly as hard to choose your neighbours as it is to choose your relatives! And yet we must all make a real effort to get along together. Not everyone is as fortunate as the writer, situated at 33 St George's Road between the Orrs and the Carpenters. But the house is not for sale!

Russell Williams

Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Committee

Tri-ennial meeting
Wednesday, Feb 10th
8.00pm
Club Social Room
Burton Road



This meeting is for the purpose of electing three public members and seven user group delegates for the next three year period. Members of the public are invited to attend this meeting.



Details from Secretary
Barry Smith 5944 3219.

St John's first christening

I was christened on the 23rd February 1924. I was the first baby to be christened at St John's Church in Upper Beaconsfield. I was christened by the late Reverend R J Cole of Berwick.

Reverend Cole used to drive up the hill to Upper Beaconsfield from Berwick in a horse and buggy. He would tether the horse to one of the trees on the bottom side of the church.

My father was the late Harold Edwards. He used to mix the fuel for the lighting of the church. It was lit by gas. The little shed was on the gully side of the church under the building. That was done every Sunday morning.



Mrs. A E Jones
Cranbourne Elderly Hostel
Box 333
Cranbourne 3977.

Year	Citizen of Year	Young Citizen
1977	Eric Bumpstead	
1978	Marie Howard	
1979	Joan Medwin	
1981	Roger Francey	
1982	John Milligan	
1982	Brian Dickinson	
1983	All citizens	
1984	Charles Wilson	
1985	Beryl and Stan Hamilton	
1986	Des McKenna	
1987	Keith Ewenson	
1988	Joyce Bumpstead	
1989	Ray and Elva Ratcliff	
1990	Nancy Boura	
1991	Julie Jamieson	
1992	Jeanette Ballinger	
1993	Tricia Trewin	
1994	Helen and Barry Smith	
1995	Judy and George Moir	
1996	Graham Jackson	
1997	Peter Meeking	Tracey Timms
1998	Pat Edwards	Nina Van Vliet
1999	?	?

Citizens of the Year

The time is drawing near for the close of nominations for the Upper Beaconsfield Citizens and Young Citizens of the Year awards for 1999.

We are looking for nominations for people you think have contributed in some way to the community. You may know someone who has worked hard on a committee that provides a service to the community or someone who has shown leadership, caring or inspiration to others.

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

Details of eligibility for both awards and nomination forms can be collected from the Upper Beaconsfield Post Office. Direct the completed forms to the Chairperson, Citizen of the Year Awards, PO Box 85, Upper Beaconsfield. Nominations close in March.

Anne McCormick
5944 3502

Notes from Council

Burning Off

The proposed change to the local law on burning off has certainly generated some heat, and we thank the very large number of residents who made submissions on this issue. Clearly the majority considers the proposed changes too dramatic for the Hills area and those concerns will be taken into account in framing the new local law.

It is proposed that Councillors prepare a new draft for discussion in early February. I expect that I should be able to give the likely content of that draft at the UBA meeting on 3 February.

Roundabout

Following discussions between representatives of the UBA and the Village Traders, Council has prepared a plan for a roundabout at the intersection of the Emerald-Beaconsfield Road and St Georges and Salisbury Roads. This plan is on view at the General Store. We will now be pushing to have construction included in the program of works for 1999/2000.

Senior Citizen of the Year

Nominations are invited for the Premier's Award for Senior Citizen of the Year in the United Nations International Year of Older Persons. This award recognises the contribution of older Victorians to the community and is jointly presented each year by the Victorian Government and the Council on the Ageing.

Persons nominated should be Victorian residents aged 60 years or more who, during their later life, have made outstanding contributions to the community. I can organise nomination forms.

New Bookmobile Ready to Roll

Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation staff is at this moment putting the final touches to their new Bookmobile, and are expecting it to be on the road by the second week in February. The trailer has been funded through a grant from the Victorian Government, while Cardinia Shire has provided the new prime mover.

Another initiative of the Library Corporation will be the distribution of a library kit to all children in the region beginning school this year.

Graeme Kidd 5944 3400

When Santa Claus came to town



The Christmas Eve Santa run has become an Upper Beac tradition. The fire brigade tanker touring the streets playing Christmas carols, with Santa distributing lollies to the kids, and finally delivering him to the crowd

waiting at the Community Centre.

The last two years though have seen Santa hurry past the children waiting at Paul Grove in a wail of sirens and without a lolly in sight.

Yep, Santa is a firefighter at heart.

This year the emergency call was to a "motor vehicle accident, possible persons trapped" on Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd just south of the Church. Luckily there was no one trapped or injured, and after giving the children involved in the accident a Trauma Teddy bear and lollies, Santa and the tanker were quickly released back to the lolly run.

Giving Trauma Teddies to kids involved in fires or accidents is nothing new, but we believe that this may be the first time that Santa himself was there to make the presentation!

Crew were also released to fulfill another long-standing commitment to help residents of Salisbury House across to the carols.

The remainder of the Brigade were committed to the accident for over an hour providing traffic control and fire coverage during the tricky process of removing a car and caravan from against the steep cutting wall. The young Darwin family involved in the accident then enjoyed the hospitality of the Upper Beac Fire Station whilst waiting for family from Ferntree Gully to come and collect them.

Later in the night (after Santa had completed his official duties) the Brigade were out again to clear a tree fallen across Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd just north of the village. We got back to the Fire Station just in time to go and help pack up the stage after the carols had finished. At least the quality of the singing would have been improved by our absence!

A busy night for the Upper Beac Fire Brigade, attending 2 emergency calls, providing shelter and comfort to a family in distress, distributing lollies to a couple of hundred kids, and helping our senior

citizens enjoy the spirit of Christmas, but all in a days work for Santa!

Thanks

We would like to thank all those who have contributed to our new truck fundraising appeal. The result has been very encouraging with \$11,000 raised to date, but there is still a long way to go.

If you wish to contribute you can make cheques payable to Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade and send to Upper Beaconsfield Volunteer Fire Brigade, 30 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd, Upper Beaconsfield 3808, or leave donations at the Upper Beac Post Office. Receipts will be issued and donations are tax deductible.

Turnouts

In addition to the turnouts described above the Brigade has, since the last Village Bell, responded to a fatal motor bike accident, and supported Beaconsfield to a chimney fire and Emerald to a false alarm.

Jon Boura
Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade

Red Cross Calling

The Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit will once again be conducting the Red Cross Door Knock during March in Upper Beaconsfield. We try and keep the same callers servicing a particular area each year so they become known to the residents, but for various reasons some callers are not available and we need to recruit several new callers. If you feel you can help Red Cross by assisting with the door knock, I would appreciate you contacting me on the phone number below.

The support of Upper Beaconsfield residents is much appreciated by Red Cross and it was nice to have the winner of our Christmas Raffle, a bride doll beautifully dressed by Mrs Claire Page of Berwick, won by Bev Sinclair of St Georges Road. Tickets were sold in both Berwick and Upper Beaconsfield and raised in excess of \$400.

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Teresa Flynn and Elliott Haskins of Beaconsfield Upper Primary School for being selected for the Upper Beaconsfield RSL Education Encouragement Award.

This very special annual award has a long history with the school and recognises the student's outstanding achievement, effort and attitude at the grade 5 level.

At a special assembly in the last week of school, Mr. Frank Conn (RSL President) and Mr. Barry Carter presented the students with their awards. Not only were the students delighted with their award but their parents and families were pretty excited too.

The school is very appreciative of the wonderful support that it receives from the Upper Beaconsfield RSL and we look forward to continuing the tradition.

Another very prestigious award is the Grade 6 Peer Award sponsored by the Beaconsfield Upper School's PFA. This award is voted upon by all of the grade 6 students at the school and recognises the students as wonderful role models in their achievements and attitudes to all parts of school life.

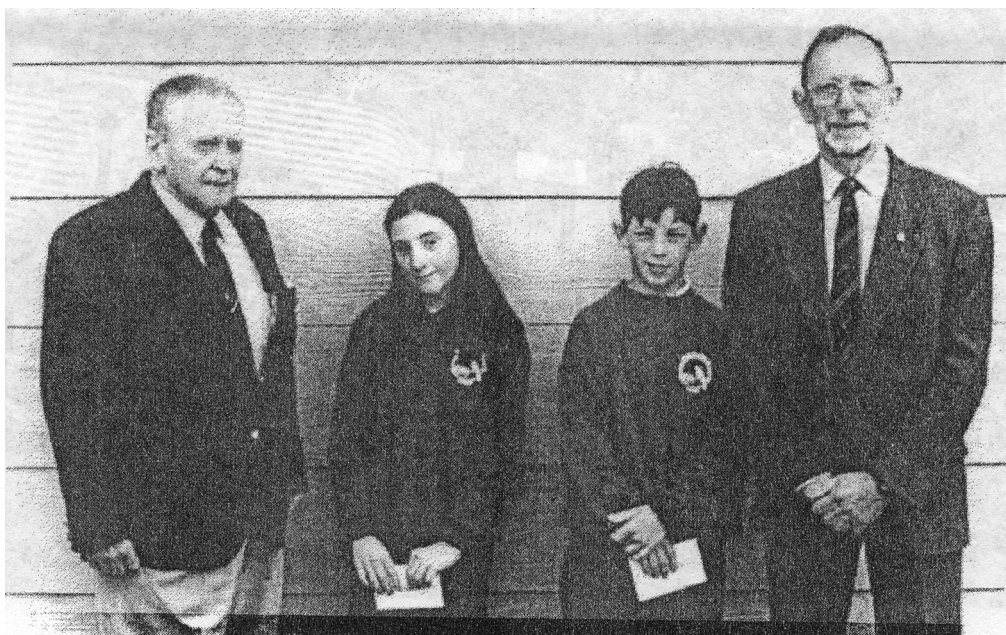
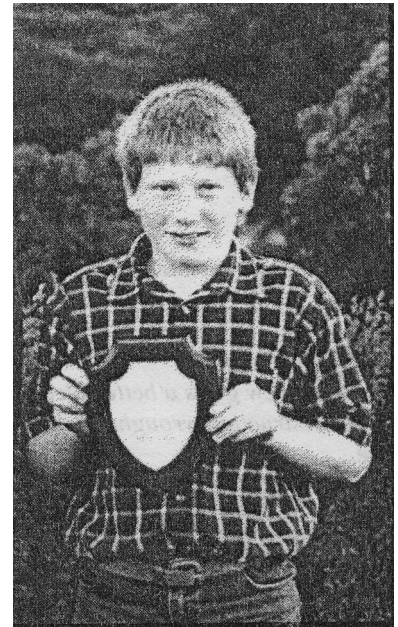
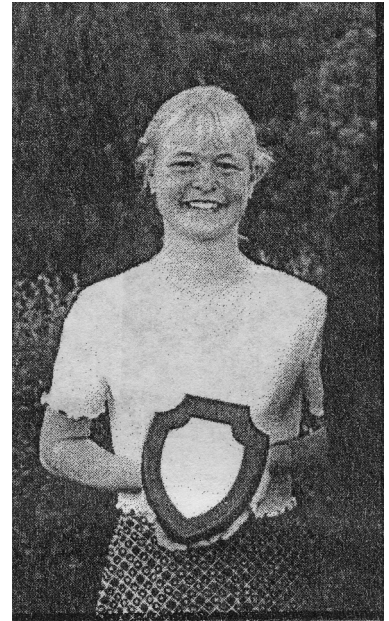
This year's very popular and worthy winners Erin, Wilkinson and David Born, are pictured on the night of the school's Graduation Ceremony at the Beacon Hills Golf Club.

Mark Carver, Assistant Principal
5944 3591 (B), 5968 8946 (H)

Photos: Top right - Erin Wilkinson

Centre right - David Born

*Below - RSL members Frank Conn and Barry Carter
with Theresa Flynn and David Haskins*



Remembering Ash Wednesday February 1983

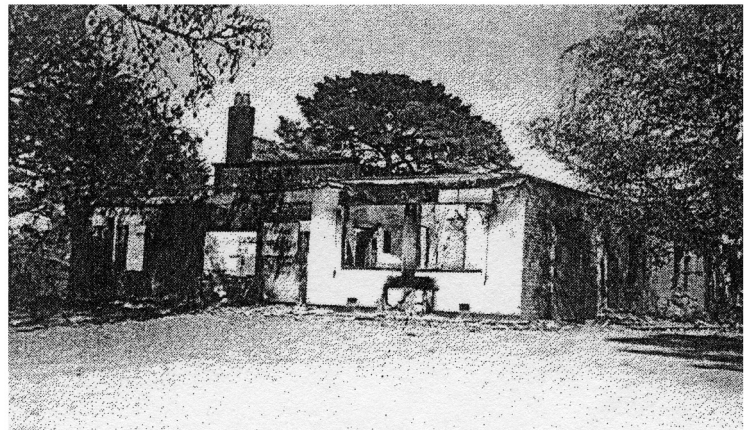


The photographs over the next two pages show the destruction of the fire and the resilience shown by people rebuilding their lives afterwards. The Pine Grove history illustrates how fire has been a part of Upper Beaconsfield since the early days.

The Pine Grove Hotel

The old hotel, above, was built in the late 1920's. The earlier one burnt down in 1926. Before 1879, the local bar was situated in the same building as the Post Office!

Right
Front view of the hotel after the fire.



Below
The rear view gives a better idea of the destruction wrought by the fire.



The Pine Grove Hotel

The Hotel reopened after the fire and patrons made use of the tents erected in the grounds. Later, sheds were erected. Note the mobile refrigeration.



Like many fire-affected families in Upper Beaconsfield, publicans Frank and Eve Samson and family lived in caravans for six months until the Hotel residence was completed in October 1983.

In June 8, 1984, 17 months after Ash Wednesday, the first beer in the new hotel was poured at 10am. By 12 o'clock there was a large crowd in attendance for the opening of the hotel by Mr. Arthur Ashe. As expected the crowd stayed and even more came throughout the long day and with that crowd was the largest beer sales the Pine Grove ever sold. Beer flowed constantly for the best part of thirteen hours and a record 10 barrels of beer was consumed.

Acknowledgement

The photographs and information are from Brett Sansom's local history study conducted in 1984 whilst he was a student at Berwick Secondary College.

Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library

The Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library is looking forward to a great 1999. We have a huge range of toys, puzzles and games for your children, so please feel welcome to come and have a look. We are open on Thursday mornings 9.30am - 11.30am during the school term, commencing 4 February. We look forward to seeing you.

The Toy Library is selling many of our pre-loved toys to make way for new toys for the children. These will be available for viewing on 18 March and will be sold to the highest bidder. Offers can be made on the day and we will notify buyers the following week.

Easter Raffle

Tickets will be on sale shortly for our huge Easter raffle. The Toy Library will offer three enormous baskets of chocolate eggs for 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Great value at 50c a ticket or 5 for \$2.00. See any Toy Library member or our stall at the Village Fair on 28 March for tickets. The draw will take place at the Village Fair.

Fiona Schoonderwaldt

Community Centre news

By now the 1999 term 1 program for the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre should have been delivered to all residents of Upper Beaconsfield. We hope you find something of interest in the program. Once again we have a great choice of courses ranging from craft, health/well-being, fitness, computer training and certificate courses. For further details on two of our courses, see the articles on Botanical Art and Aerobics in this issue of the Village Bell.

The certificate courses include a new Personal Carer course scheduled to start 9 February and a Creative Writing course for those interested in enhancing their writing skills and maybe have some thoughts of publishing. The environment at the Community Centre is relaxed and friendly and it is a great place to learn, meet new people and become involved in the local community.

If there is anything that you would like to see included in our program, please do not hesitate to contact either Anne or Sue on 5944 3484. Also if you are interested in tutoring we would love to hear from you. We also offer a Workplace Training Cat 1 course for those interested in obtaining training qualifications.

The AGM for the Community Centre is scheduled for Thursday 25 February at 8pm. For those interested in becoming involved in the Centre as a volunteer or a member of the Committee of Management, or for those people just curious to know what the Centre is all about, please come along. We look forward to a busy, successful and happy 1999.

Conservation Group news

Ragwort

There is ragwort on a roadside near you! Every brilliant yellow flowerhead had the potential to produce thousands of new plants.

It is important that all flowering heads are removed and placed in bags before disposing with household rubbish or being taken to the tip.

Blackberries

There is still time to spray blackberries which are growing strongly after the recent rain. The UBCG has spraying equipment for hire at \$20 per day.

The 50 litre tank can be transported in the boot of a car and the pump operated from the car battery. For hire contact 5942 7571 or 5944 3828.

Native grasses

Our nursery has a limited amount of fresh kangaroo, wallaby and weeping grass seed for sale in packets.

These grasses are high in nutrition for grazing stock and can be used to over-sow existing pasture. Weeping grass also makes a beautiful, low maintenance lawn.

The nursery is open each Friday between 12 and 5pm, or by appointment. Ring either of the above numbers.

Gladys Aarons

From the UBA December meeting

Council property for sale?

Following the recent general meeting on December 2, 1998, the UBA agreed to request that Lot 10 Craik Road, Upper Beaconsfield be taken off the list of Council properties that are being considered for sale.

The UBA believes the sale of this land would have serious environmental impact on the area and feels strongly that it should not be considered for sale.

Sue Harris, Environment Management Officer has previously inspected the area, in September 1997, along with local resident Mr. Frank Brunda. Ms Harris stated in a letter to Mr. Brunda, following inspection of the property, that the Council has decided to apply for Land for Wildlife status for this reserve.

Speakers from community groups at the meeting

Helen Smith from the U.B. Community Complex Building & Grounds Committee explained that this group was responsible for the buildings and grounds at the Complex with over \$10,000 per year running costs. The committee would like to see further development in the park, including outside toilets for park users and possible stage setting for the Carols. Graeme Kidd stated our area is the only area in the Shire that hasn't requested toilets!

Barry Smith from the Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group outlined the importance of the scout group providing for the youth of the area, from the Joeys (6-8 years of age) through to Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers (up to 25 years of age). There are over 100 youth members in the group. More leaders are desperately needed. Leader's children's fees subsidised. Fundraising is an important function as expenses running the group are quite high. The aim of scouting is to develop children as they grow. They focus on bush craft, community service and becoming better citizens.

Thanks to Helen & Barry for their presentations.

Jeanette and Ken Ballinger

A presentation was made to Jeanette and Ken with many thanks for their contribution to community life in Upper Beac and wishing them well in their new home near Castlemaine.

Other items from the meeting

- As different festivals within the Shire receive different levels of funding the Village Fair Committee was encouraged to pursue additional funding for fair.
- The Community Centre has received an increase in its funding from the Shire for 1999.
- Traffic Flow through U.B. has been discussed at a meeting with the Shire CEO. Report of meeting to be circulated in the next edition of the Village Bell.
- New regulations relating to food handling will be circulated when available. They are to take effect from Sept. 99.
- There was encouragement for everyone to support the trial bus service in U.B.
- Burning off in residential areas will not be not allowed, even in incinerators. Nonresidential area must give 24 hours notice to CFA prior to a burnoff. A green waste collection is to be started in the future.
- Speed Limit 60kph has been extended on Salisbury Road beyond Split Rock Road.
- Speeding - the Cardinia Pub locale is to be placed on 'special attention list' by the police.
- AGM in February 1999.

Wendy Jennings



Advertisement - Publishing Services. Do you need assistance in layouts, presentation and writing of your documents and promotional materials? Design, layouts, logos, artwork, on-screen presentations, scanning, photo restoration, writing and editing. Contact us on 5944 3219.

Community Care Group Notes

Bushfire Safety

In a bushfire situation we need to remember that there are people in our community with special needs who may be unable to take the necessary decisions to ensure their own safety in an emergency.



These could be elderly, disabled or even mothers at home without transport.

If you are aware of any residents who might be in these risk categories would you please discuss this matter with them.

The Shire of Cardinia have produced in conjunction with the CFA a pamphlet and action plan card and have available someone who will visit in the home to discuss what needs to be arranged.

Copies are also available from the Care Group. Don't think someone else has taken action if you know someone in the special needs category - check that arrangements have in fact been made.

Training Video for Volunteers

A very excited group of actors and organisers commenced filming of the training video in December. It was a very hot day but from all reports this did not deter the participants who were obviously thoroughly enjoying their participation.

We look forward to the completion of the project, which will provide a valuable tool for the Community Care Group in training of our volunteers.

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will take place as usual during the third week in March.

This year we will have a few vacancies on the Committee. Being on the Committee involves being a volunteer and also attending a short monthly meeting. We would welcome any interest from our present membership or from residents who may have been thinking about becoming one of our volunteers.

The task is not difficult or onerous and is certainly most satisfying.

Can We Help You ?

The Community Care Group offers emergency assistance to all residents of Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst and Guy's Hill irrespective of their personal circumstances.

We can be contacted by phoning Des on 5944 3516, Glenda on 5944 3884 or Annette on 5944 3574. Brochures setting out our services are available at the Community Centre or the Post Office.

Des McKenna 5944 3516

Leaders are urgently needed

The Upper Beaconsfield Guides had a busy and enjoyable year in 1998 with both junior and senior girls participating in a variety of activities including hikes, camps, horse riding and craft activities.

Thank you to leader Jenni Brennan (Brownie leader) and Karen McQuilten (Guide leader) for their hard work and leadership over the last two years.

Both Jenni and Karen resigned at the end of last year and we are now urgently seeking new leaders for 1999.

Training is provided and Jenni and Karen would be happy to assist any new leaders to settle in.

It is possible to job share these positions and Brownie and Guide meetings can be run together if necessary.

If no new leaders can be found soon Upper Beaconsfield Guides will have to fold. If you think you may be able to help the Guides keep running, please ring Belinda Dwyer 5968 6859, or Lesley Cleary 5944 4141.



Burning off

You will have read recently that the council is considering a change to the local by law on burning off. If your property is less than 2 acres (.8ha) you will not be allowed to burn sticks and other rubbish without a permit.

This will adversely effect many of the residents of Upper Beaconsfield. We believe that the amount of dry leaves, sticks etc which will accumulate around a small property will quickly become a fire hazard. The by laws also propose that it will be illegal to store flammable material in and around the property. Many of the residents have wood burning heaters and hot water services, and it is not uncommon to see stacks of logs dotted around

the property in preparation for the colder weather. The CFA have expressed concern about the hazards of loose fuel accumulating around local homes. Although it is anticipated that the council will provide two garden refuse collections per year, anyone living on a treed block in the area will agree that this will not begin to solve the problem.

The council has received in excess of 700 letters from residents setting out their disagreement with the changes to the by laws. If you wish to make your voice heard on this matter, you can write immediately to the Cardinia Shire Council Henty Way, Pakenham. Deadline for your objections is January 31st!

Jo Carter

Fun and fitness go together

General fitness is something that should be an important part of all our lives. Whether that New Year's resolution is enticing you, or you are trying to gain back your figure after having a baby or getting fit for a particular holiday - what ever your reason - aerobic exercise and walking are a great way to improve your fitness levels.

Keeping fit is not only physical but mental as well. Exercise promotes wellbeing in many aspects of life, while resulting in a brighter and more energetic perspective.

Some people may feel a little intimidated by big flashy gyms but need some encouragement. The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre offers aerobic and walking sessions with qualified experienced instructors, who will encourage you to work at a pace to gain fitness but still have a lot of fun in a very relaxed atmosphere.

Day and night time classes are offered. Crèche facilities are available for daytime classes for the parents who wish to come along. Bookings for the crèche are essential.

Walking for fun and fitness takes place on Mondays 9.15am-10.15am. Weather permitting the group goes out from the Community Complex for a good walk and exercise around Upper Beaconsfield. There are some hills involved and then the group goes back for some stretching exercises.

Rosemary Meredith leads this class. Rosemary has recently upgraded her Vic Fit aerobics teaching qualifications and regularly attends workshops covering all aspects of aerobics from styles, safety and products.

General aerobics classes are also offered with step routines, hand weights and stretching on Monday nights, Wednesday mornings and nights and Friday mornings. Qualified Vic Fit instructors Jill Cunningham and Judy Mack lead these sessions. The classes begin with free "come and try week" on February 1, 3 and 5 from 9.15am-10.15am. This is an opportunity to investigate without cost the prospect of fun and fitness locally. The term classes will follow with day and night classes starting 8 February. It is necessary to contact the Community Centre between 27 January and 5 February to enrol for classes. Contact the coordinators on 5944 3484 for times and costs.

Sarah Hassall

Do you have time to spare?

Can you read, play the piano, sing, act, garden? Then I would like to hear from you.

I have recently become Activities Officer at Salisbury House and I would like to start a "Friends of Salisbury House" group. Salisbury House is a private nursing home in Upper Beaconsfield with about 45 residents.

Unfortunately many of the residents cannot leave the home but would love to have visitors and be involved in activities. If you are interested in the above or have time to help with wheelchair outings please phone me on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday between 1pm and 4pm on 5944 3443.

Jane Poulton

Explore botanical illustration

Living in outer Melbourne has many rewards. A more relaxed pace, less pollution and an attractive landscape all add to the charm of our locality.

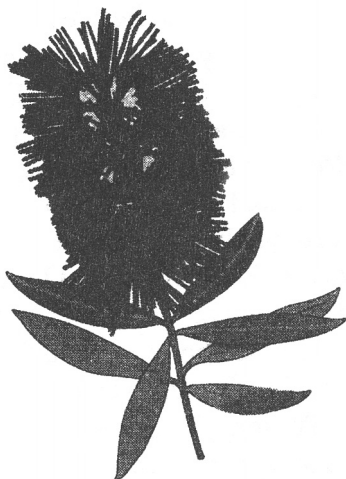
An appreciation of nature can be expressed through art. Marg Castle has devoted much love and time to painting and drawing both local and statewide flora. For twenty years she taught respect of landscape and life as well as technical applications of painting and drawing to art students of Australia and New Zealand. After exhibitions and residencies, Marg Castle has now settled to offer her skills as teacher and artist at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre.

She will begin her course with an introduction to basic drawing skills, colour mixing and techniques applicable to botanical illustration. The course will lead to the detailed techniques of translucent watercolor. Marg hopes to develop students' skills in both drawing and painting so they can express their own passion for plants and flowers.

The course will commence on 12 February for 7 weeks' duration, between 10am-12pm Fridays. The cost will be \$120, plus materials at approximately \$80 - these may be shared.

The course provides a wonderful opportunity to bring the beauty of outdoors into the home with magic and elegance. Contact the Community Centre on 5944 3484 for further details and enrolments. Enrolments will be taken from 27 January-5 February at the Centre. Places are limited, so book early.

Sarah Hassall



Murray Marathon

Local paddlers who were winners in the 1998 Mars Murray Marathon included Cameron Grant from Pakenham and Sophie Mebalds of Emerald who won the TK2 Mixed Junior 14 Class. Approximately 1000 paddlers entered the Marathon coming from many areas of Australia and overseas.

It is expected that \$100,000 will be raised for humanitarian services. Congratulations to all local and district entrants.

Major Raffle

Books of 10 tickets will be available from now on. There will also be public selling in Berwick and Upper Beaconsfield. Prizes are again attractive - Toyota Celica (1st prize), \$3000 spending spree (2nd prize) and \$2000 spending spree (3rd prize).

Sydney-Hobart tragedy

A section of news in daily papers centered on volunteers - in particular around the Mallacoota area. There were 20 helpers from the local Red Cross Unit. It is said, "They wrapped the survivors in blankets and love. They took away their wet clothes to wash and dry at home. They fed the men and gave them tea and sympathy. They listened".

Red Cross Calling

Chairperson of the local unit, Barbara Jackson, will once again be working as Area Organizer for Upper Beaconsfield. Should she need more callers please offer your services, as Red Cross Calling - the Door Knock is the chief money raiser for Red Cross community services.

Emergency Services

Although Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Unit does not have a meeting during January, members of catering, registration and first aid teams are on call for emergency situations, especially during the summer months when everyone fervently hopes there are no major disasters, especially fires.

Marie Womersley 9707 1103

Carols by candlelight 1998

The Keith Ewenson Park behind the Community Complex was a hive of activity during the afternoon of Christmas Eve, 1998. Neil McDonald and his team of locals toiled under the 40 degree sun, preparing the park for the community celebration of Christmas, with Santa Claus and carol singing.

We were worried for a while in the early evening when the rain storms hit Berwick and seemed to be coming towards us. At 7.00pm, a few stalwarts were huddled under umbrellas in the park and we were considering how well the carols would go in the Hall!

We are a fortunate community in many ways, the weather cleared, and we had a glorious, balmy night. The showers had cleared the dust from the area and the crowd gradually swelled to full capacity.

Ron Fisher and his tireless band of sizzlers and doughnut makers worked on, feeding the hordes and raising a goodly sum towards the Village Fair expenses.

We were again fortunate to have the use of the "sound stage" (in its daily guise it is a truck.) Nick Russo of Brown Road Officer was kind enough to make this truck available for our use, and the afternoon "toilers" gave it a festive air with fairy lights. The keyboard was set up for Sue Irving, our talented pianist, and microphones for the Upper Beacy Singers.

As always, our inimitable compere, Greg Ross led the proceedings. Greg gives up his valuable time to us each year. We appreciate this, especially as he has been busy producing "Godspell".

He called on the services of the UB primary school choir under the direction of Fiona McKenzie. Throughout the entire evening, there were large groups of children singing strongly and happily following Greg's encouraging lead. Two of our local singers, teenagers Jade and Rebecca, treated us to solos and duets with Greg.

This was the last Carols to be organised by Jeanette Ballinger, the organiser of the very first Carols. Jeanette and Ken have moved to the Kyneton district, but were able to join us for the evening. Jeanette was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

After singing our way through the songbook, the carolers sang their way home and we hope to a happy Christmas day.

Jo Carter

Duelling paddles

Once again two locals were represented in the Red Cross Murray River Marathon held over the New Year holiday period.

Chad Meek of Thwaites Road, a member of the MARS team in the K1 International Relay, despite battling a tendon injury for much of the race helped his team to second place in this event. Chad is a former World Champion in the K1 Marathon event.

Keith Colomb of St. Georges Road, a member of the Leaver Landscapes team, also competed in the K1 International Relay. Keith's team came third in the event which comprised of five teams, two of which were in the Veteran class.

Gilda Hansen



Pre-Kinder vacancies

Upper Beaconsfield three year and pre-kinder which is situated in McBride Road, has vacancies still available for 1999.

The pre-kinder is a purpose built, separate centre with safe and attractive play areas in a rural setting which has been specifically designed for 3 year old pre-kinder children.

The pre-kinder has a friendly and qualified early childhood development teacher who offers a diverse program aimed at meeting the developmental needs of each child.

For enrolment information please contact the enrolment officer, Karen Wellard, on 5944 3165.

Nikki Le Brocq

Beaconhills Country Golf Club

The Annual General Meeting was held early in December with only one change to the Board of Directors. Immediate Past President John Barker has retired from the Board after serving Beaconhills for the past seven years, holding the position of President for five years. The club remains greatly indebted to John and the Barker family for their contribution and generosity to Beaconhills over many years. Paul Rubens, the last President of the former Emerald Golf Club is our new Board member. President Leigh Jeffs and Captain Brian Wills continue in their present roles for 1999.

Ettie Guilfoyle's two year term as the lady members Captain has been completed and we now have another Upper Beaconsfield resident as Captain. Gillian Lewis has taken on the onerous task and will no doubt cope with the heavy work load with great efficiency. A special thank you to Ettie for a job well done! The lady Captains and Handicappers over the past few years have had to contend with variations to the WGA system of handicapping. Significant changes became effective on 1 January 1999 with the introduction of CCR (Calculated Course Rating) for women's competitions.

Over the summer period several new lady members have joined as full members after their initial 6 month 9 hole special membership had expired - one is Margaret Mitcham, well known to many members as a former teacher at Upper Beaconsfield Primary School.

Beaconhills once again hosted the Commonwealth Bank Business Women's Golf Tournament during January. An excellent field of players from 16 clubs ranging in distance from Sale to Geelong competed in the stableford competition, which was won by Catherine Hammond of Beaconhills with 40 points. Runner up was Wendy Mowley from Sale.

Club Champion 17 year old Julian Simeth represented Beaconhills and Victoria extremely well when he played in the final round of the PGA National Junior Championship played at Royal Pines Queensland. Congratulations to Julian who was fourth in the competition.

Julian together with Christina Beltran, Leigh Boyle, Zoe Clark, Aaron Gray and Andrew Hutchinson were selected by the club/PDGA to attend a day at the President's Cup as ambassadors for the Victorian Golf Foundation. Of particular significance were Andrew Hutchinson's efforts in raising \$500 in pledges to the VGF, to show his gratitude for being selected.

Paradise Hotel, Clematis sponsored a Junior Pro Skins shoot out over 9 holes, with professionals Mark Griffin, Scott Laycock and Stacey Doggett. Stacey is one of the new faces in the Pro Shop, but unfortunately we will be losing her to America in March. Stacey has had several interstate wins recently and all at Beaconhills wish her good fortune in USA. Best wishes also to Mark Auhl on his appointment as assistant professional at Cranbourne Golf Club.

Club professional Mark Griffin will be conducting a five-week twilight golf clinic starting Monday 5 February between 7-8pm. Cost is \$60. Bookings via the Community Centre.

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554

Talk on

Tasmanian Tigers

Thirty-six times, since 1949, have residents of Upper Beaconsfield sighted an animal that resembles the typical description of the Tasmanian Tiger, or thylacine.

On a database consisting of around 1900 sightings, Upper Beaconsfield's share contributes to the BIOCLIM team getting closer to discovering true populations of Tasmanian Tigers in the south-east region of Australia.

At least, Peter Chapple, of the Australian Rare Fauna Research Association, believes so. Completing his Ph D in Science, Peter is compiling data to formulate his thesis on the alleged sightings of the tiger in Victoria and New South Wales. The Association hears of 100 - 200 sightings per year.

Together with Henry Nix of National University, Canberra, Peter is working to ascertain the likelihood of all sightings being of the same species. The team uses environmental and dietary clues, as well as latitude, longitude and altitude - "not attitude!" jokes Peter - to gauge consistency and to recognise patterns in the supposed habitats of the tigers.

Peter's dedication to his quest has spanned eighteen years, which he believes would make it "foolish to stop now." After 7000 research hours and 900 field trips, he says the team is so close to knowing more, and will await the green light from BIOCLIM. BIOCLIM will consider whether to go ahead with research or whether there is need to reassess the direction of the study.

Peter Chapple will be presenting a talk at the next UBA meeting, April 7 1999. Residents of Upper Beaconsfield (and/or neighbouring areas) may have seen, or may be unsure of seeing, a Tasmanian Tiger. The meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for those people to ask questions of Peter and describe to him what they have seen. Peter is looking forward to this opportunity himself and will be showing slides and pictures of the tiger in various environments, postures and behaviors. He will be playing recordings of different calls, to aid

(Continued on page 17)

Wildlife Watch

I was invited to visit a property at Garfield North late in 1998 to identify grasses in a paddock. The owner had his suspicions that most were indigenous species but because of the history of the land he was unsure.

When the present owner acquired the land it was showing the result of over-stocking with horses: the paddock was mostly bare of vegetation. After grass began to reappear cattle were brought in and grazed there for six years. Finally they too were removed.

Now, two years later, I was amazed to discover a lush growth of kangaroo, weeping and wallaby grasses, intermingled with the occasional pasture grass. Each of these grasses has high nutritional value for stock, (see *Native Grasses* by Meredith Mitchell). Ten grams of sparsely scattered seed of these species is enough to start a five acre paddock on the way to becoming an animal-feed source during drought.

Appropriate management including hardly any fertilizer (or even none) and light grazing in spring should produce reasonable cover in two or three years.

More amazing still there are hundreds of sun orchids and small ground cover plants including one known in nurseries as the 'arthritis plant' because of its reputed healing properties for that affliction.

In another paddock there was a lone mature eucalypt which is now surrounded by healthy seedlings up to 1.5 metres tall. A study conducted in NSW by Walpole and Chilcott found that pasture output was at its highest level when the proportion of tree area is 34%.

Some landholders have created alternative income from windbreak trees such as supplying flowers and foliage to Victoria market. One couple developed a tea-

tree oil business employing 50 people and someone else is responding to overseas requests for Australian insects by operating a captive breeding project. There's an idea! Even native cockroaches are in demand.

Speaking of drought food, native raspberries have been more tasty and succulent this year than I have tasted in almost twenty years. *Dianella* species berries never fail if I manage to get to them before the wallabies and magpies have their feast. But what has happened to the pollinators of black wattle? Not one seedpod on the usually productive trees here and my source of golden wattle seeds has completely malformed pods. Blackwood wattles have been almost seedless for two or three years. Anyway the beautiful common bronzewing visits the seed tray more frequently as a result.

Pink hyacinth orchids and both species of tongue orchid have flowered in the expected places and prickly geebung began flowering early in January. The globular seedpods of this species hang on the plant for almost twelve months before turning black and dropping.

Two lilies having 'blue grass lily' as their common name flowered during December. *Caesia* species has pale blue flowers arranged along the stem. *Thelionema caespitosum*, which is also known as tufted lily, has an umbell of dark sky-blue flowers at the top of the stem. Both have narrow grass-like leaves. During the next couple of months look for dagger hakea in a mantle of white flowers and dagger-shaped seedpods. Orchid season begins around the end of February with the appearance of tiny dark red midge orchids and emergence of purple backed, heart-shaped leaves of the gnat orchid.

Laura Levens

(Continued from page 16)

in recognition of sounds people may have heard at the time of the sighting. Peter will have on show casts of tiger footprints, which may compare well to prints residents have found on their own property. Peter's ambition is to prove the existence of the thylacine species, and for the government to provide funding towards further research into habitat and behaviour. He does not want to clear land, or create new 'National Parklands' for the tigers, if they are surviving well in the existing environment. He is "not mad keen on captive breeding programs," and says that taking current reports on face value indicates no threat of extermination. People providing reports are some kind of protection

to the animal, where they are providing also the environment in which the tiger is obviously surviving. To clear this land, or to section it as parkland, subsequently takes the land from its documented owner and also changes the habitat of the tiger where it had indeed been comfortable. Peter's research is earnestly trying to establish the tiger's existence and can only be bettered by more information. The coming meeting is bound to provide the forum where those who have seen 'something' - they may be unsure exactly what - can talk to Peter and help his search get closer to success.

Sarah Hassall

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* * * *

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Contact Address :

Contact Person :

Telephone :

Person Responsible for Stall on the day :

Name :

Telephone :

POWER: YES / NO

(Please circle as appropriate)

(NB. Tents, trestles, extension leads etc. are to be supplied by stallholder)

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(NB. All food sellers are invited to sell drinks)

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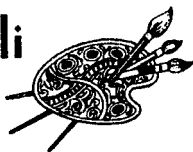
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