



VILLAGE BELL



Issue 132 February 2000

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Community Week

This year will mark the eleventh consecutive year that the residents of Upper Beaconsfield have celebrated the special sense of community, which we enjoy and which arose in the aftermath of the Ash Wednesday bushfires. At that time a sense of the need to band together and help each other meant that our community recovered from the disaster of the fires much faster and more successfully than many other communities similarly affected.

Community Week was initiated and is sponsored by the Community Care Group to celebrate this togetherness and to help bring a sense of good neighbourliness into our lives.

The timing of Community Week is always set to include the actual anniversary date of Ash Wednesday, 16 February, and this year is arranged for the period Friday 11 February to Sunday 20 February.

This covers two complete weekends and is an opportunity for all residents to get together and discuss their experiences of that time or just to have fun. It is particularly a great chance to get to know any of the new arrivals in your street and to welcome them into our community.

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

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Shire elections in March

Readers are reminded that the next Cardinia Shire election will be held in March. Voting is compulsory and will again be by postal ballot.

Our ward is Beaconhills, represented by two Councillors (currently Ted Owen and Graeme Kidd).

You are urged to enrol if have not done so already. Forms are available at Post Offices, or details can be obtained by ringing 13 18 32.

While nominations for Council do not close until 15 February 2000, some profiles of intending candidates will be published in this edition, see page 4.

It is known that former Pakenham Shire President and Upper Beaconsfield resident Keith Ewenson is to stand, as well as Ted Owen and Graeme Kidd.

Russell Williams

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Community



Week

New Residents

Hans Delange and Liz Whitehead and family
Fraser Ave.

Ian and Julie Walton and family - Leppitt Rd

Sharon Economedes
Foott Rd

Scott and Kerri Watson
Albers Rd

Ray Allsop

Diary Dates

Jan 27	Crèche reopens
27 Jan—4 Feb	Enrolment week Community Centre classes
Wed Feb 2	Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Buildings & Grounds C'ttee election 7.30pm
Wed Feb 2	UBA AGM 8pm Community Complex
Fri Feb 11—Sun 20 Feb	Community Week
Thu Feb 24	Community Centre AGM, Community Complex 8pm
March	Red Cross Calling

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE!

The Village Bell and UBA

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

I enclose \$5 being the family subscription to the UBA and the Village Bell for 2000. I understand that this subscription entitles me to vote at the bi-monthly meetings of the UBA

Name of family Address

Telephone Signed

Traffic study—meeting reports and comments

On the evening of Thursday 16 December some 35 residents attended a presentation at the Community Complex from Ove Arup & Partners -the engineering consultants appointed by the Shire to review the traffic problems in Upper Beaconsfield. During the presentation a number of plans were projected onto a screen to provide the audience with a good understanding of the various aspects of the traffic problem and the different engineering treatments being considered for ultimate presentation to Council.

There was general acceptance that the main problems were the intersections of Emerald Rd with both ends of Stoney Creek Rd and the Emerald Rd in the vicinity of the Salisbury Rd - St. Georges Rd intersection. Limited sighting distance for drivers, plus speed, were the main problems, with some additional aspects exacerbating each of the locations examined. For example, unsealed shoulders on the Emerald Rd at the Eastern end of Stoney Creek Rd allows gravel to spread across the road surface causing emergency braking.

The consultants provided indications of costs likely to be involved in the various proposals presented, with relocation of services such as power and telephone lines and the removal of large quantities of earth. Land acquisition is high on the list of expensive features to be avoided, or minimised, if possible. Unfortunately cost will be significant in deciding the Shire's reaction to the report.

The situation at either end of Stoney Creek Rd is well defined and the proposed course of action clear - improved visibility is the major recommendation. The most pressing need is at the Eastern end of Stoney Creek Rd where the consultants were in favour of an acceleration lane for traffic turning left out of Stoney Creek Rd onto Emerald Rd to enable vehicles to increase speed before entering the main traffic lane. Improving visibility back along Emerald Rd from this intersection would be expensive, because if done properly, it would involve land acquisition, shifting a lot of earth and the likely relocation of telephone lines, etc. The consultants also favour improved signage, clearing of obstructing vegetation - with regular maintenance - and other features.

The most contentious traffic issue is that

relating to the centre of the village where there is a complex of problems resulting from the "hump" in the road severely restricting sighting distance for traffic, plus the speed of the through traffic. Vehicles entering and leaving Emerald Rd to and from both St Georges Rd and Salisbury Rd are faced with a very hazardous situation due to fast moving through traffic with inadequate sighting distance, and hence minimal warning of approaching vehicles. Through traffic at speed makes this a daunting intersection, whilst pedestrians and horse riders seeking to cross Emerald Rd in the centre of the Village have to exercise a great deal of care if they are to avoid an accident.

Removing the "hump" will not solve the problem as it will increase the speed at which through traffic traverses the Village as well as posing problems for accessing and exiting the shops and the store etc. Some four different concepts were reviewed - three involved roundabouts at different spots on Emerald Rd. The fourth was based on separating the traffic lanes through the village.

The first three proposals involved siting a roundabout:

Either - just below the St. Georges Rd -Salisbury Rd intersection with Emerald Rd

OR - right at the St.Georges Rd -Salisbury Rd intersection

OR - near the Halford St intersection with Emerald Rd.

Space does not allow for a detailed comparison of the pluses and minuses of each of these proposals, however each involved closing off or realigning the end of Salisbury Rd and or closing off the "road with no name" where it meets Halford St.

Heh, this is starting to get complicated -you should have been at the meeting and you would have had the opportunity to learn all about the proposals and to voice not only your own views but also to ask questions and to hear the views and questions of other residents.

So - if there is another public meeting -

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(Continued from page 3)

and we hope there will be - then stir your stumps and come along and learn what is likely to happen to the centre of Upper Beaconsfield.

The final proposals from the consultants will provide some exciting possibilities for not only dealing with our traffic problems but perhaps also expanding the parkland in the centre of the village.

**Graham B Jackson -Traffic Committee
Upper Beaconsfield Association**

Letters to the Editor

Ove Arup & Partners

Ove Arup and Partners was commissioned by the Cardinia Shire Council to investigate traffic safety issues associated with the Beaconsfield-Emerald Road in the vicinity of Upper Beaconsfield. A public meeting was held on 16 December 1999 to report our preliminary findings, obtain public feedback and provide direction for the remainder of the study. Outcomes of the meeting are summarised as follows:

Four options for treatment at or near the Salisbury Rd/St Georges Rd intersection were presented and discussed. Support was divided between Option 2 (a roundabout at St Georges Rd) and Option 3 A (a roundabout at the crest between St Georges Rd and Halford St). A detailed feature and level survey has been commissioned to permit concept design to be undertaken for these two options, which will allow more detailed evaluation to occur.

The two Stoney Creek Rd intersections were discussed. A detailed feature and level survey has been commissioned at the eastern intersection to permit improvements to be designed.

There was general discussion of other traffic issues in the area, including the likely impacts of future residential development.

At the conclusion of the design and evaluation activities resulting from the public meeting the findings will be presented to the residents of Upper Beaconsfield via a questionnaire. The feedback that Ove Arup and Partners receive in response to the questionnaire will contribute to the development of an implementation plan for consideration by the Council.

David Wintershoven

Community Week

Continued from page 1

Many of the hosts for this year's gatherings would have been agreed at last year's function but each year we contact key people in the various streets who take on the responsibility of seeing that someone organises this year's party.

The host of a function just needs to provide the location - usually outdoors, barbecue facilities and toilet access. Visitors bring their own food and refreshments.

Please get behind the organisers of your street's function and go along to say "g'day " to old friends and greet the new arrivals. You will be assured of a great time.

**Des McKenna
5944 3516**

Cross road danger

At the recent public meeting on 16 December 1999, a 'preferred option' presented by the Shire Consultants to solve the traffic problems of Upper Beaconsfield proposed a roundabout in front of the General Store which gives no access to residents exiting St George's Rd.

This option, in my opinion, not only gives no solution to the current problems facing residents exiting St George's Rd but in fact will increase their difficulties, particularly at peak traffic times.

Most residents who exit St Georges Rd will see this as the most dangerous intersection in the Village.

It is imperative that we have direct access to the proposed roundabout.

Whilst this project is in its early planning stage it is essential that we get it right now - it will be too late when all the planning is completed.

It is most important that residents affected become aware and involved and attend the next public meeting to express their concerns.

Des McKenna

Disappointment as doctors relocate

From the 28 January 2000 our medical centre will close.

Drs McDonald, Watt, and Fredericks who have given great service to Upper Beaconsfield residents for the last 15 years, have, despite many efforts to avoid it, been forced by the constraints of time, family, and finance, to concentrate their work at the Mansfield Street clinic in Berwick.

All medical records will be moved to this clinic to enable the doctors to maintain their service to this community (tel. 9796 2111). They will continue to provide the same after hours and home visit service to existing Upper Beaconsfield patients.

For almost twenty years the village has enjoyed the convenience of a local medical surgery, and many people have expressed disappointment at the closure of the clinic.

For the last 12 months the doctors have been advertising for an assistant or principal to take over the Upper Beaconsfield practice without success. This is not surprising as it is well known that there is a great shortage of rural doctors and that both the, Shires of Sherbrooke and Cardinia have a significant deficit of GPs.

In the hope of finding a way to attract a doctor to the town, the President of the UBA, Keith Ewenson arranged for the UBA committee to discuss the problem with Dr McDonald. At this meeting it emerged that the closure is the result of a very complex situation, involving some of the following facts - the Upper Beaconsfield area could only support one doctor, and as the Federal Government do not consider it a rural area of need, no financial assistance would be available to an incoming doctor.

At the present time 40% of GPs are women, who usually do not wish to work alone, often wish to work part time, and have expectations of a reasonable lifestyle, allowing them to spend time with their family. This means we would need more than one doctor to run the clinic.

Regarding the clinic building, Dr McDonald stated that an incoming doctor or other professional persons could lease it, otherwise it will be sold.

Please support our local pharmacist

With the close relationship of the doctors and the local chemist now threatened by the relocation of the doctors, it will become very important that we continue to support our pharmacy, if we are to retain this facility for the village.

Charles Wilson

More vigilance needed

It seems that we work our way through one lot of youthful mindlessness only to be further confronted by more of the same.

A few weeks before Christmas the Primary School fell victim to an act of complete senselessness when an owner of allegedly, a metallic blue Holden, decided to pour oil and sand on the basketball courts. This was then proceeded by wanton 'burnouts', which ripped through the surface and caused over \$7,000 damage.

Mindlessness or calculated destruction? The school had benefitted from the generous donation of this basketball court from a benevolent parent. To reinstate this loss the same parent's generosity was again tested.

On Friday evening 14 January, following the U12 cricket match played on the oval, a similar act of blatant damage took place. This time the oval was the victim. The gate was smashed from its hinges (with the padlock still closed) and a driver decided to inflict damage to the pitch by spinning tyres and leaving rubber residue.

Communities rely heavily upon volunteers who give their time to supply facilities for all who live in a place like Upper Beaconsfield.

Now the gate must be repaired, the pitch ultimately costing over \$1500 will be

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Profiles of candidates for Council

Graeme Kidd

Graeme Kidd has lived in Upper Beaconsfield for the past 25 years. In that time he has been actively involved in community activities, including as a founding editor of the Village Bell, as a long-time member and president of the Hall committee, as a long-time member and sometime President of the UBA, as a member of the Scouts Group committee, and as a School Councillor of Berwick Secondary College.

He has a strong interest in environmental issues. For over 15 years he chaired the Quarry Impact Association whose objective was (and still is) to protect botanically significant land in Leppitt Road from quarrying. He was a member of the group which formulated the Shire's environmental strategy, and remains a member of Council's Environmental Management Advisory Committee.

Graeme has been a Cardinia Shire Councillor for the Beaconhills Ward since the rein-troduction of elected Councils in 1997, and was Mayor in 1998-99. As part of the Council team he has worked hard to improve amenities across the Shire, and to improve Council performance and accountability. As Mayor he initiated the formation of Council's innovative Youth Task Force and remains Chairman of that group.

In this township he has been a major force, in conjunction with the UBA and the community, in establishing the Upper Beaconsfield Strategy, and particularly in following up the strategy with clearly defined actions. The current discussions on the traffic issues in the township are an example of the effectiveness of this approach.

Graeme Kidd's new contact numbers:

Mobile: 0418 569 128
Email: gkidd@nex.net.au
Fax: 5944 4416
Business hours: 5942 5876
After hours: 5944 3235

Keith Ewenson

Keith Ewenson has declared his intention to nominate as a Beaconhills ward candidate in the forthcoming council election.

He aims to address the following concerns:

- Restore service standards
- Support of planning scheme
- Improve attention to community input
- Consider environmental concerns sympathetically
- Restore openness to activities and communication with the public

Should he become your representative, he asserts that he will work hard to address these and other important matters of concern to you.

His participation in community life includes involvement with:

- Upper Beaconsfield Association
- Community Information,
- Cardinia District Scouting Association
- Australia Day Committee,
- Cardinia Salisbury Gully Special Committee of Council
- Justice of the Peace
- Returning Officer for Government Elections

Keith's direct involvement in the community guarantees that he has a firm grasp of current issues. Keith's consultative style always shows a willingness to listen and to act on concerns communicated to him by members of the public.

Keith Ewenson's contact numbers are:

Phone and fax: 5944 3372
Email: kevme@netlink.net.au

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Candidate profiles contd

Ted Owen

I have been a Councillor for 26 years sitting on the Shire of Pakenham and the new Shire of Cardinia. Over that time I have served two terms as Shire President. I am married and have four children (all of whom have grown up in the area). I also work in local government and have been employed for many years as an Environmental Health Officer in a neighbouring Council.

I was a major player in many of the Shire of Pakenham and Shire of Cardinia's achievements and have served on a variety of different Shire committees. This experience has given me a strong background knowledge of Shire finance, welfare, administration, planning and corporate objectives. I also take an active interest in local community and sporting activities.

Whilst keen to maintain stability and old fashion values I also look forward with an open mind to the innumerable issues that this growing municipality will face in the future.

I believe my experience, dedication and personal attention to individuals' problems will benefit everyone.

Some of my policies for the Upper Beaconsfield area are:

- To ensure that the Village atmosphere and amenities are maintained in the future
- Sensible planning to protect the environment
- Opposition to extraction industry and other major developments in conservation zones
- Public ownership and use of Upper Beaconsfield Reservoir and Bunyip Main Race
- Continued road improvement program Support for small town business, to ensure their viability
- Improved services, such as public transport

In conclusion I would like to thank you all for your part and continuing support over the years, and should you have any Council problem or seek any advice or would like a personal interview I can be contacted on 0419 524 777.

Ted Owen

Farewell to the Jennings family

Upper Beaconsfield has lost a young family who has made a major contribution to our community since arriving here seven years ago.

Of course, I refer to Wendy and Jim Jennings and their children Emma, Tom and newly arrived twins, Michael and Peter. Wendy and Jim have been very committed to community activities and have endeared themselves to a large circle of friends, who are very sorry to see them leave Upper Beaconsfield.

Jim is a long-term employee of Coles Ltd and was transferred here from Sydney in 1992. He has been promoted to Merchandising Manager for South Australia and the family has taken up residence in Adelaide.

Wendy held the positions of President and Secretary of the kindergarten over a four-year period, and she accepted a position on the UBA committee with two of these years as Secretary. Jim was a driving force on the Village Fair Committee and presided over major changes and improvements to the running and format of the Fair. His skill at cooking donuts is legendary.

Wendy and Jim each and jointly made a great contribution to our community, and did so while raising their young family and coping with continuing study courses - Jim in business administration and Wendy in nursing.

They had mixed feelings about leaving a place they had grown to love, but both recognise that in Jim's career, interstate moves are inevitable.

Upper Beaconsfield will be the poorer for this family's leaving. We have sent them on their way with the very best wishes of a grateful community.

Neil McDonald



UB Association update

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Upper Beaconsfield Association will be held at the meeting room at the Community Complex at 8pm on 2 February, 2000. Nominations for committee positions will be accepted from the floor if necessary. Feel welcome to become involved in community affairs such as planning for Upper Beaconsfield's future, Village Fair and Christmas Carols.

The next General Meeting of the UBA is on 2 February 2000 at the Community Complex, following the AGM. The Puffing Billy Association has agreed to give a presentation on their work. The public face of this organization is well known but behind the scenes an enormous amount of activity takes place. It should make fascinating listening.

Traffic problems

On 16 December 1999 a public meeting, hosted by the UBA and attended by representatives from Ove Arup and Partners, consultants for the Upper Beaconsfield Traffic Study, was held at the Community room. They provided statistics on traffic movements and volumes, and the generally high accident rate. Several options for relieving perceived traffic problems were offered.

Three options were given: a roundabout, a traffic island near St George's Road in Emerald Road, closure of the un-named street where the bookmobile parks, the need for an alternative route around the shopping area and remedial work on the northern intersection of Stoney Creek Road with Emerald Road.

These combined to provoke lively discussion. The proposals are quite preliminary and the UBA expects there will be occasion provided for further public input.

Closure of medical clinic

Discussion around the Village has centred on the announced closure of the medical centre.

The three doctors Sally, Alexa, and Jenny, who have given such caring service for varying spans of time, will certainly be sadly missed. We wish them well.

The loss of the medical centre removes an important reason that makes Upper Beaconsfield an ideal hometown for most residents. The general

feeling is distress and, on the part of new residents, disappointment in the loss of one of the main reasons for feeling that Upper Beaconsfield would be a good place to live.

We understand that exhaustive, unsuccessful efforts were made to find another doctor to assist in the practice. The UBA has written to Dr Sally McDonald with an offer to do anything possible to perhaps retain the medical centre.

We have no further news on the Bea-conhills Country Golf Club development proposal at present.

Laura Levens

Here's food for thought..

With all the hype about the new millennium and the Y2K bug, it has been easy to forget that in just a few months we will have to grapple with the intricacies of the GST.

In particular people are uncertain about how the GST may affect the running and finances of community groups. It is believed that Cardinia Shire is making inquiries and may be conducting meetings on the GST.

More vigilance needed

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replaced and further volunteer time is needed to raise the funds.

An act like this strikes at everyone in our village. The police have been investigating both cases, but the community needs to raise its vigilance to observe and report any suspicious behaviour.

Many people use the Recreation Reserve for walks, playing games, exercising dogs and horses. The Cricket Club and the Primary school urge all residents to again support one another by curbing the anti-community actions of the few.

Rob Hansen

Julian

25.5.1981 -7.1.2000

Julian Simeth-Hackling was killed tragically in a motorbike accident in Thailand on 7 January. He was 18 years old and this was his first overseas trip. A large motorbike hit his smaller scooter and he died at the scene. His mate also came off his motorbike but we were spared the loss of a second fine young man. He has some scratches and a pretty big heartache, although he and all Julian's closely-knit group of friends are drawing great strength from each other.

Julian grew up in Upper Beaconsfield with his family Marilyn (Tom and Adrienne Griffin's daughter, Mark and Stephen's sister), John, Troy, Jenna and Nadia. I think many people will remember the cute, little blonde kid who rode his bike around Upper Beaconsfield and who worked in the Milk Bar and Beaconhills Pro Shop. You might even remember his dog Bluey whose favourite food was an Upper Beaconsfield Primary school lunch.

When Marilyn, Jenna and Nadia moved to Merimbula, Julian went with them. He missed his friends in Upper Beaconsfield and he and his mum felt he had more job opportunities in Melbourne, so he came home. He had been living with us, his Uncle Mark and Auntie Mary and his cousins Laura and Amber for nearly two years up until his death. He was working at his first full-time job at A&L Windows in Hampton Park. He gained his driver's licence and saved hard for his first car and his bright green motor bike and very lairy helmet. He was an extremely talented golfer and won the club championship at Beaconhills in 1998. He was runner-up in 1999 and was also the junior club champion.

A funeral was held at Beaconhills Golf Club on Wednesday 13 January to celebrate Julian's life. The number and calibre of people who attended the funeral and who have sent flowers is a tribute to his memory. Marilyn, John and family are very touched by people's kindness. Thank you on their behalf.

Julian was a sweet, kind and fun-loving boy with an angelic face and a big heart. He was full of integrity and had big plans and dreams. We are never going to think it is fair that Julian has gone, but he will always have his own special place in our hearts.

Rest in peace Julian

**Mark and Mary Griffin
5944 3611**

Passage to India

Well-known local resident, Susan Pitman, is taking a new direction for two months -north to India.

Susan will be working with OzChild, helping set up a vocational training program for street kids in Dindigul, Tamil-Nadu in Southern India. Ozchild is part of a large partnership agency running a number of similar programs in India and Bangladesh.

A grant from OzAid has enabled OzChild to send Susan to Dindigul to set in motion a program for training boys in automotive and mechanical repairs and girls in sewing. The area supports large automotive and textile industries.

Locals with the skills required are recruited to provide the training for the street kids - Ozchild provides the money and energy for the initial setting up of the program and it will then be overseen by a large international aid agency.

Susan has already left, flying to Madras and then a thirteen-hour train journey to Dindigul accompanied by luggage containing tools donated here in Australia for the program.

She hopes to be able to find time in India to write a small article for the Village Bell's next edition and we look forward to that.

Gilda Hansen



Community Care Group notes

Community Survey

On Referendum Day, 6 November, members of the Group Committee interviewed residents leaving the polling booth at the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School and asked them to respond to a short questionnaire.

We are grateful that all of the 96 residents approached responded positively and were most helpful, which made the committee members' task most enjoyable.

The questionnaire followed up a similar exercise performed in 1992 when we surveyed 83 people outside the General Store and Guy's Hill Milk Bar and sought to determine how many residents were aware of our Group and its services.

Awareness of the Care Group has risen from 65% in 1992 to 75% in 1999, with knowledge of it coming from reading the Village Bell and our quarterly newsletter or from personal contact either individually or by friends.

Only 65% of respondents had a good knowledge of the services offered by the Group. In the November contact 86.5% said they would contact the Group if they had the need compared to 59% in the 1992 survey.

Whilst there is still obviously much room for the Care Group to improve its profile in the Community it is obvious that the measures taken following the 1992 survey have been having an effect.

Special thanks to all those people who gave us their valuable time in the conducting of the survey - it is much appreciated.

One of the issues raised as possible ideas for new services was the needs of elderly or those without transport in getting their shopping done. We would like to hear from anyone who has needs in this area.

Community Week

As you have read in the special lead article Community Week is to be held from Friday 11 February to Sunday 20 February and we urge every resident to take part in their street's function and enjoy this celebration of special sense of

community. If you are unsure of what has been organised we could put you in touch with the person nominated as the organiser in your area.

Our special thanks to Andrew Rowe of Cardinia Signs who each year updates our Community Week banners with the relevant information. Thanks Andrew.

Video

Several local organisations have now taken the opportunity to view our locally produced video and this is available to any Group in the district to help inform their members about the Care Group.

What does the Care Group offer?

All residents of Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst and Guy's Hill or persons working in these areas are offered our services free of charge.

We are open for business any time, any day of the week.

Services are offered irrespective of personal circumstances - there is no means test!

We offer emergency home help, child minding, emergency transport, frozen meals during that family emergency, friendly visiting and minor emergency handy man help.

If you need help and don't know where to go - call us. If we can't help we will point you in the right direction to get it. Best wishes to all residents for the year 2000.

Contact numbers

Des McKenna	5944 3516
Annette Walker	5944 3574
Glenda Matthews	5944 3884
Community Centre	5944 3484

Shire calls public meeting for election

Cardinia Shire has called a public meeting to elect a new committee for the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Buildings and Grounds Committee. This meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 February at 7.30pm in the Community Room, prior to the Upper Beaconsfield Association AGM at 8pm.

The UBCC B&GC looks after the maintenance of the community hall, the meeting rooms, the maternal and child health room and the creche on behalf of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The committee also maintains the adjoining park and playground. This is Crown Land, not Cardinia Shire Council property.

It is important that these vital community assets continue to be well looked after. Upper Beaconsfield residents and their children are able to enjoy picnics, play tennis and use the playground. Many attend the Carols by Candlelight there on Christmas Eve. Local people also make use of the rooms for classes and meetings or their children attend the crèche.

If you are a community-minded person and have an interest in furthering the development and improvement of these community facilities please come along to the meeting.

In particular, greater community group participation is urgently needed. Community groups that use these facilities must send along a delegate so that the group's views may be represented properly. Groups that use the facilities include the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre, Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library, Upper Beaconsfield Community Care Group, Upper Beaconsfield Country Womens' Association, Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group, Upper Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Watch, Upper Beaconsfield Association, the Maternal and Child Health Centre and the Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club.

For further information please contact Helen Smith on 5944 3219.

Notes from Council

Hard and green waste collections

Bookings for this service are essential. Bookings can be made by telephoning Council on 5945 4348 before 12 noon on the WEDNESDAY before the collection week.

The collection week is the week commencing on the first Monday of the month. So the next collections will take place in the weeks commencing 7 February and 6 March.

Road improvements

\$65,000 has been allocated for rehabilitation works to Salisbury Road in Upper Beaconsfield to improve vehicle access, safety and roadside drainage. Forming part of Council's asset renewal program, the works will involve reconstruction and rehabilitation of approximately 500 metres of road to the intersection with Beaconsfield Emerald Road. Works are to commence in mid February and the project is due for completion by early April this year.

A VicRoads grant of \$52,000 under their Black Length Funding Program has been allocated towards safety improvements along the Beaconsfield Emerald Road from Quamby Road, Upper Beaconsfield. Improvements will include shoulder sealing, installation of guardrails and improved delineation (reflectors, line markings and guideposts). This project will be undertaken during March this year.

Traffic management

The Consultants engaged to undertake this study in conjunction with the Upper Beaconsfield Progress Association have analysed the traffic management issues in the township. They presented a number of possible solutions to a well-attended and lively community meeting prior to Christmas.

These will now be further assessed and a final report presented by the end of March. The findings of this study and the necessary works identified will be incorporated into Council's capital works programs in ensuing years.

Cr Graeme Kidd 5944 3235

Juniors active at Beaconhills Golf Club

The holiday period has seen many locals, including a large number of children, enjoying the great 36-hole course we have in Upper Beaconsfield. Beaconhills has gained enormous recognition as one of the leaders in Junior development with its established "J" Team. Sharon Taylor has recently been appointed to the position of Junior Coordinator. Sharon is an enthusiastic golfer and joined Beaconhills after participating in the "low stress" Monday golf. Sharon won the best aggregate nett trophy for the 1999 lady members' championship and has two sons, Dylan and Ben, active members in "J" Team participation.

Melanie Holmes-Smith, the current Under 18 Australian Junior Girls Golf Champion, joined in a friendly game with some up and coming junior golfers at Beaconhills during December. Melanie, who plays from a handicap of 2 and has represented Victoria and Australia overseas, was invited to play at Beaconhills by Stacey and Brianne Arthur, daughters of popular members Warren and Wendy, former residents of Upper Beaconsfield.

Stacey and Brianne are involved with the Women's Golf Victoria Girls Golf Club and have won several junior events in the Under 15 section of the club. Stacey, aged 10, is the 1999 Under 15 Nett Champion at Beaconhills. Brianne, at just 11 years of age, has her 18 hole registered handicap and convincingly won the Under 18 section of the Victorian Golf Association Summer Tournament played at Yarra Valley Golf Club during the school holidays. Brianne lost 9 shots off her handicap after this excellent round bringing her handicap down to 32.

Brianne competed in the Under 14 section of the 54 hole Australian Girls Junior Championship held over three very hot days at Keysborough Golf Club. Players came from all over Australia to compete. Brianne is to be congratulated for her excellent result of being placed 12th overall (gross scores) and in doing so taking another two shots off her handicap. She also combined with two other Victorian girls to take out the State Trophy - the British Salver - for the best nett aggregate score over the three rounds of the championship. Sixteen year old Christina Beltran, playing from a handicap

of 12, represented Beaconhills impressively in the Under 18 section of the Championship. Congratulations also to 13 year old Andrew Hutchinson for winning the 1999 Perce Morling Open Junior Championship at Woodlands Golf Club. Andrew currently plays from a 22 handicap.

The Twilight competitions on Wednesdays and Fridays during Daylight Savings have provided an opportunity for juniors to hone their skills and enjoy low-key, relaxed competition with members. Hit off times start from 3pm. Bistro evening meals are available on both days.

1999 Veterans Champion and former Club Champion Ian McLean was successful in winning the 9-hole A Grade scratch event, the 27-hole A Grade handicap event and the overall 54-hole A Grade event at the 26th annual Victorian Teacher's Golf Championship.

Club professional Mark Griffin will be conducting a clinic for beginner golfers on Wednesdays starting February 23 and running for five weeks. The cost is \$60 and the one-hour lessons start at 10am. Mark is also running a five-week twilight golf clinic as part of the Community Centre learning programme. This course starts on Monday 14 February at 6.30pm and costs \$60.

All members of Beaconhills were shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic accident in Thailand that took the life of Mark's nephew Julian Simeth. Julian was a very talented young golfer and with his pleasant, courteous manner was an inspiration and example to all the juniors. Julian was the 1998 Club Champion and the 1999 Junior Champion. Members extend their sincere sympathy to Julian's family.

The Annual General Meeting for the club was held early December. Leigh Jeffs has stepped down from the role of President after holding the office for two years. The new President is Ivan Furyk. Brian Wills' term of Captain has also ended. The new Captain is Shane Lee. Bronwen Robbins is the new lady members' President and Gillian Lewis starts her second year as Captain.

In Administration, Sandra Canning has been promoted to Assistant Manager and will carry on the good work done by Cathie West in

(Continued on page 16)

Wildlife Watch

Isn't nature wonderful? Most of those tattered black wattles have been decking themselves in bright green new leaves since the end of December. Might have known they would. After all being chewed by caterpillars is a natural enough event, in the same category as fire and frost and flood and drought. New growth normally follows flowering, which usually occurs during early November.

As a result of the wattles not seeding, the exceptionally beautiful common bronze-wing pigeons have been making frequent head-bobbing visits to the seed tray. They stand on bright pink legs, iridescent blue, gold and green on their wings gleaming brightly in the sunlight. The male sports a cream forehead patch and both sexes have a white stripe below the eyes; their breast is smudged pastel grey and pink, and when they fly, bronze under-wings are revealed.

In spite of the low rainfall, hyacinth orchids put on a good display all around the district. I have admired the various blues of tall-lobelia, bluebells and Dianella; bright lemon wedge pea, cream scented-candles, multitudes of small, yellow, native oxalis with dark leaves under the eucalypts, some of which also have flowered early. Cassinia and grasses seemed to set seed quickly this season. There were even tiny, bright red fungi among fallen bark, dampened by welcome rain that fell just after Christmas. Did you notice golden spray by the swampy area north of the Village in Emerald Road?

Wildflowers to watch for in the next couple of months include gnat orchid, silver banksia, Hakea nodosa, and sometimes the small tongue orchid can be so late.

Laura Levens

A word from the editors

If you are interested in joining the Village Bell team we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Charles Wilson 5944 3008, Carolyn Floyd 5944 2618 or Helen Smith 5944 3219.

The editors also invite any artists young, old or in-between to submit mastheads for future issues of the Bell. Take the measurements of the current Bell masthead to obtain the dimensions.

Contributors of articles to the Bell please submit their copy on disk as well as a paper copy. We prefer that you save your word processing file as a text file (go to save as text file). This is safer, no viruses! Do not worry about formatting, the plainer the better (no bold, avoid tabs and all capital letters). Thanks.

RSL News

Just a short report from the Upper Beaconsfield RSL, thanking those who attended the 11 November Remembrance Day, with a special thanks to Mark Carver and the Grade Six students who attended.

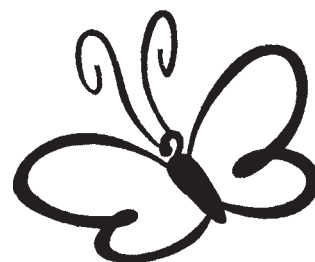
It was also a great pleasure for myself and Geoff Davidson to present on behalf of the RSL, 'Awards for Achievement,' to two students at Upper Beaconsfield Primary School. I believe this will be more formally reported on by the school.

The members and their wives enjoyed a pleasant barbecue dinner on 23 December at the Club Rooms in Halford Street. Peter Emberson proposed a toast to the memory of comrades Royce Thomson and Frank Conn who died during 1999. They were both sadly missed at the celebration.

The RSL has welcomed the sons of Royce and Frank as associate members of the group.

Happy New Year, from all at the RSL.

**Eric Chaplin
Jo Carter**



What's happening at the Community Centre?

AGM

The UBCC AGM is to be held on Thursday, 24 February at 8.00pm. Are you thinking of joining the Committee of Management (new committee members are needed), becoming a volunteer or finding out more about the Centre? All are welcome to attend.

Program

Hopefully by now all residents of Upper Beaconsfield have received our Term 1 Program. If you haven't, please contact the Centre on 5944 3484. The program outlines the many courses/ interest groups that can be undertaken at the Centre. As usual, courses range from Certificate courses through to graded computer classes, craft, fitness, health/well being. The Centre also houses groups such as Writers, Midway, Craft and Cancer Support groups.

Certificate 3 in Community Services - Personal Care

Due to the great success and demand of our Personal Care Course we are commencing a new intake for the year 2000. This will run on a Monday from 9.00am to 3.30pm, commencing in February and finishing in June 2001. The course qualifies the graduates to become personal carers for the elderly and disabled. It covers many aspects of care, first aid, work environment issues and many other areas of study. Please contact the Centre if you are interested as we have had many inquiries for this new intake.

Other courses

The area of Assessment and Workplace Training is also a regular feature in our program. The Certificate IV Course is most rewarding and is run by Lynne Baxter, whose presentation, style and enthusiasm make this a most valuable and enjoyable course. It covers the former Category I, which looks at the presentation of effective training sessions, and Category II, which is designed for those intending to manage training programs.

Hoping to improve your fitness and lifestyle in the New Year? We have classes



in yoga, aerobics, Tai Chi, meditation and guest speakers on Shiatsu and Bowen Therapy, as well as a dream workshop for beginners.



Craft classes this term include calligraphy, book binding, leadlighting/copper foiling, water colour painting, botanical illustration and much more. Due to the great success of the advanced Italian class, we are now offering a beginner's Italian.

If you are interested in enrolling in a class or you would like some more information then please contact the Centre on 5944 3484. Enrolment time is from 27 January - 4 February and classes start 7 February or after.



Crèche

Crèche will reopen on 27 January and once again will operate five days per week. Maybe it's time to do a course while you leave your child/children in the capable hands of the wonderful crèche staff. Or maybe after the holidays you need some time out. Bookings are essential; call 5944 3484.



Red Cross Calling

Volunteers needed

The Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit will once again be conducting the Red Cross Door Knock during March in Upper Beaconsfield. Approximately 35 unpaid volunteer callers are needed to cover the area.

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 Anne McPhee of Sutherland Road. Anne was a first time caller for the door knock last year.

Barbara Jackson
5944 3554

Babysitting Club

The Upper Beaconsfield Babysitting Club is a group of local mothers who babysit each others' children in their own homes.

As the children don't have to be taken out of their houses on cold nights, the club has proven to be very successful and convenient. The club is based on a point system and is a no-pressure arrangement.

If you are a new resident and you would like to know more about the babysitting club, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you have previously tried to phone me, please try again as I have had some problems with my answering machine and may have missed your call.

Secretaries of the Month

March 2000 Julie Whiteley

April 2000 Marianne Sawyer

May 2000 Judy Prowse

Julie Whiteley 5944 4242

Functions and parties

Community Hall

Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall
Bookings and enquiries
Helen Smith 5944 3219

Country Womens' Association Upper Beaconsfield

Our meeting day is held at the Community Hall on the first Thursday of each month. For information regarding times, etc., please ring any of the names below.

The Year 2000 Committee is as follows:

Mrs Betty Mars President 5944 3214

Mrs Daphne Brown Secretary 9702 2568

Mrs Coral Nicholson Treasurer 5941 3222

Mrs Lorraine Tenby International 9702 1670

Mrs Carol Murtagh Publicity 5944 4110

Young cricketer performs admirably

James Haupt, a promising young U14 cricketer enjoyed a great week representing the West Gippsland Cricket Association in mid-January during the Gippsland Country Week carnival. James was named as Player of the Series for West Gippsland following his consistent performance over the week, which culminated in the WGCA team winning the grand final against Traralgon at Warragul.

James, the son of UBCC club sponsor Michael Haupt from the Upper Crust, was the top wicket-taker and best run-scorer for the West Gippsland U14.s. Earlier in the week James had scored a valuable 49 and followed this with a match winning 44 but he was also able to consistently chip in with regular wickets. Recently James played his first senior match with the club's thirds and bowled very intelligently in the one-dayer before Christmas. The cricket club would like to congratulate James and trusts that his development will continue at the same pace.

The club ran a very pleasant break up before Christmas where everybody enjoyed the barbecue and the auction that followed. Father Christmas appeared, resembling one of our committee members who had a very similar looking head, and he presented showbags to all the young people present.

Thanks for the success of this function are due to Grant Andrewartha who provided games, the Bayard family for their generous donations - including the NSW BLUES bat, which is being raffled.

Other generous donors were Green Vineyard, Glen Rutherford, Beaconhills on-course golf shop, Chris Paine and Richard Edwards ChemMart pharmacy. Thanks are also due to Jean Drayson and her family for giving up time to decorate the rooms.

Our club paused for a moment before all senior games on Saturday January 8 to reflect upon the life of Julian Simeth, a former UBCC junior cricketer and friend of those associated with Upper Beaconsfield. The club wishes to extend its sympathy to brother Troy, also a former player, and the whole family. We have many happy memories of Julian.

Rob Hansen

Return of the native

Bob Jackson, who was only one month old when his parents moved to Upper Beaconsfield, attended the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School and later Pakenham High School.

He gained an apprenticeship with William Adams as a diesel fitter working on Caterpillar earth moving equipment, road transport and stationary diesel engines.

Bob did exceptionally well at his apprenticeship, winning a Silver Medal at the Workskills Olympics, several prizes at Batman College and finishing with the unique distinction of earning his trade qualifications in three areas -Heavy Stream (Earth Moving Equipment), Road Transport and Agricultural Mechanics.

He has had varied experience since finishing his apprenticeship in 1992, with the last four years spent working on agricultural equipment.

Bob has returned to the area and now lives in Paternoster Road, Cockatoo where he has started his own business under the name of Rural Mechanical Services, offering services on diesel powered equipment.

We wish him well for the future and welcome him back to the district.

Gilda Hansen

Beaconhills Golf Club

(Continued from page 12)

her introduction of the Monday low-stress golf programme.

Michelle Hassan has been appointed Client Services Officer, the position formerly held by Sandra.

Michelle comes to Beaconhills after five years at the Hawthorn Club.

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554

Carols by Candlelight

Upper Beaconsfield residents know how fortunate we are to live in this lovely community. The 1999 Christmas Carols proved once again that we all appreciate this privilege.

Santa Claus arrived on the CFA Fire Truck, with loud ringing of the fire bell. The children crowded round him for their annual chat and to receive the bag of goodies provided by the school Parents and Friends (thanks!).

At dusk, after farewelling Santa and the volunteers, Greg Ross led the UB singers and the community in singing our favourite carols. Greg invited his friend, David, who is currently involved in the New York musical theatre, to lead the crowd in a couple of the carols. We realise how much Greg contributes to the success of our Christmas Eve, he gives us his time, talents and enthusiasm freely, and he has our grateful thanks.

The Park was crowded with happy people of all ages, the Salisbury House residents had seats on the Hall verandah - courtesy of their CFA friends - and the grass was covered with families with folding chairs and rugs. There were sparklers amongst the candles this year, and it was a very pretty sight.

Neil McDonald had done an excellent job

of organising the event, his team of workers had set up lights and sound. We are indebted to Joe Russo of Brown Road, Officer for the use of his truck as the sound stage, and to Eric Dodge for driving it. Ron Fisher's team worked throughout the evening providing refreshments for the crowd. UBA president Keith Ewenson welcomed the Vicar of St Johns, Michael Flynn, to the microphone and Michael invited the group to coffee/tea and mince pies at the church after the carols and to the Christmas services.

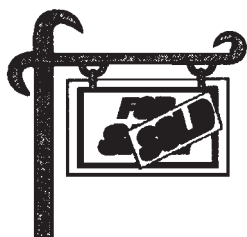
Thank you to pianist Melisah Maghanoy, to Nancy Dunn and her small group of singers and to soloists Rebecca and Linda. Thanks also to Helen and Peter De Jager who were emergency pianists. The UB Primary School choir, led by Fiona McKenzie, treated the crowd to some delightful singing.

For me, the highlight of the evening was when Greg called for ALL of the children to gather in front of the soundstage. They BELTED out Rudolph (with harmony!), Jingle Bells and Santa Claus is Coming to Town and loved every note!

This annual event is a lovely way to lead into the festive season, and we are pleased to see more and more people enjoying it each year.

Jo Carter

Local house prices



It has not been imagination, but house prices and sales have been on the move in Upper Beaconsfield. The Valuer-General's figures on Melbourne median house prices were published recently on The Age web site at www.theage.com.au. The figures for Beaconsfield and Berwick are also included here. But don't get too excited - some of inner Melbourne's houses have increased by 80% and more in the same period!

MEDIAN HOUSE PRICES	98 increase %	1998 median \$	1988 median \$
Beaconsfield Upper	39	205,000	147,000
Beaconsfield	58	142,500	90,000
Berwick	24	136,000	110,000

High achievers at Beaconsfield Upper PS



The school's Sports Awards for 1999 went to James Brown, Sarah Antoniadou and Jason Cousins, photograph on page 19. This was in recognition of their tremendous achievements and peer support across the school's many areas of sports involvement.

This involvement resulted in premierships in cricket, football, netball, kickball, cross country, Edwin Flack athletics carnival (schools in the Casey district) and the Hoop-time Basketball Challenge.

Congratulations to Jodie Zerst and Braden Michaluk of Beaconsfield Upper Primary School on being selected for the Upper Beaconsfield RSL Education Encouragement Awards for 1999.

At a special assembly in the last week of school, Mr Eric Chaplin (RSL President) and RSL member, Mr Geoff Davidson, presented the students with their awards. See photograph above.

This very special annual award has a long history with the school and recognises the students' outstanding achievement, effort and attitude in all areas of the curriculum at the grade five level.

The school receives wonderful support from the Upper Beaconsfield RSL and looks forward to continuing the tradition for many years to come.

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

The very popular and worthy winners in Caitlin Bulter and Tobias Godbehere, are pictured (right) on the night of the school's Graduation Ceremony at the Beaconhills Golf Club.

This year we also introduced the Principal's Award and the focus for this year's award was the Performing Arts. A delighted Chantelle McCormick and Daniel Werner received their awards from Principal, Mr Gordon Atkin. See page 19.



Mark Carver
Assistant Principal

More photos of student awards



Principal's awards were presented in Chantelle McCormick and Daniel Werner



Sports awards were presented to James Brown, Sarah Antoniadou and Jason Cousins

Village Bell subscriptions

Village Bell subscriptions and membership for the Upper Beaconsfield Association for the year 2000 are due in January/February 2000.

Are you moving and wish to continue receiving the Village Bell?

To avoid time-consuming record-keeping, it has been decided by the Village Bell editors that non-residents wanting Village Bells posted out to them should also renew their subs every January. If you have joined the mailing list later in the year, your subscription will still be due in January. Contact Carolyn Floyd 5944 3618.

Thanks to Cardinia Shire

The Village Bell would like to thank the Council of the Shire of Cardinia for their donation from the 1999/2000 budget of the sum of \$400 towards the cost of producing the Village Bell.

This is a much-appreciated donation for a publication that is so much looked forward to by the Upper Beaconsfield community.



Update your group's contact number



At this time of the year many community groups have elections for new committees.

It is important that contact names and phone numbers are updated, so that the Village Bell editors can contact the right person for information to be published in the Bell.

We will publish these in the next Village Bell so those interested members of the community can also contact your group for information.

If your community group has changed their contact person since early last year please telephone the name and phone number to Carolyn Floyd on 5944 3618.

Fresh local apple juice

Local residents, Joe and Robert Russo, who generously provide the truck for the Carols' sound stage, have a 'state-of-the-art' fruit-juicing plant at their orchard at 544 Brown Rd, Officer. The Russos have run this family-owned business in the area for over 45 years.

In 1952, Angelo Russo and four of his brothers purchased the orchard. Angelo's sons, Joe and Robert, now run the orchard, which grows mainly apples.

The business has expanded over time; extra cool storage and packaging machinery has been added and the business provides employment for up to 20 local people.

In 1997 a hailstorm damaged most the crop. The apples tasted good but looked a little spotty. This setback decided Joe and Robert to build the juice-making plant to utilise the hail-damaged apples. The juice made from these apples is superior to the usual apple juice because it is made from sound, fresh apples.

There is plenty of good quality fruit being packed at present. The fresh fruit and juice are both available directly to the public from the packing shed in Brown Rd, Officer. Entrance to the orchard is opposite Tivendale Rd.

Eric Dodge



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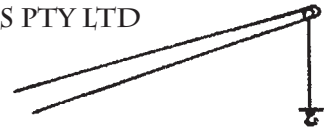
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