

"Split Rock", Split Rock Road, Upper Beaconsfield

Issue 134 June 2000

Upper Beaconsfield Association

GST will affect community groups

The Federal Government's tax reforms due to start on July 1 2000 will have considerable impact on the operation of community groups in Upper Beaconsfield.

I attended two presentations held for community groups, one by Cardinia Shire and the other by the Department of Natural Resources. It was a steep learning curve as I had to digest and understand dry economic terms relating to tax matters. Committees are considered to be "enterprises" for GST purposes, the same as businesses.

There are two separate issues here - whether to register for an Australian Business Number (ABN) and also whether to register for Goods and Services Tax (GST). It is recommended that committees register for an ABN - it is free and can be done electronically over the Internet if you are pressed for time. You have to give your office bearers' dates of birth and even though the form asks for tax file numbers apparently this is not necessary for committees. This is the easy part, but by the time you read this article the deadline for registering community groups for an ABN will be up - May 31 is the last day for registering. Committees need an ABN as payments can be withheld if you do not have an ABN. You also need an ABN to claim GST costs back.

The second issue is whether committees want to register for GST. This is the hard part. Most local committees come well

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Blitz on pets

The Council is planning to conduct random registration checks within Cardinia Shire to address the continuing problem of wandering and unclaimed pets.

Recent research indicates that there are at least 7,202 unregistered pets in the Shire. Owners who fail to register their pets do not contribute to the funding of essential animal control functions and unfairly increase the burden on those responsible owners who do register their pets.

Registration fees are directly used to fund a range of animal related services including:

- Supply of Council identification marker
- Lost and found service
- Animal control service
- Animal nuisance service

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VILLAGE BELL CREDITS

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Susan Pitman 5944 3684

UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY HALL
is available for -

- Fundraisers
- Engagements
- Anniversaries
- Club functions
- Crockery hire
- Chair hire

Bookings and enquiries
Helen Smith 5944 3219

NEW RESIDENTS

Grant Court
Tim Parkinson and Georgette Wehmoller

Sutherland Road
Gillian, Anton and Alex Merry

St. Georges Road
Mavis, Sharon, Robert and Adam Pedder

Michelle, Cameron, Tayla and Shaelee Stewart

Ray Allsop



DIARY DATES

- 7 June** UBA meeting
Community Room 8pm
- 19 June** Neighbourhood Watch meeting and guest speaker
Community Room 8pm
- 29 July** Christmas in July
Scouts fundraiser
Pine Grove Hotel
- 26 Aug** Toy Library Shopping tour

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

UBA update

Next meeting

The next general meeting of the Upper Beaconsfield Association is on June 7, 2000 in the meeting room at the Community Complex, beginning at 8pm.

We are looking forward to meeting the new senior officers at Cardinia Shire, Mr Geoff Rundell, General Manager Planning, and Mr Michael Ellis, General Manager Assets and Services will be at our next meeting to explain the responsibilities of their positions, which differ from previously. They could even answer questions.

Another speaker will be Rob Hansen, well known to many because of his involvement with the local cricket club and Berwick Secondary College. His current claim to fame is as author of 'A Century Partnership', the history of Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club.

Doctor for Upper Beaconsfield

The sub-committee endeavouring to obtain a doctor for Upper Beaconsfield is finding it very difficult but is battling on.

Unregistered pets blitz

As Town Committee we have been asked to spread the word that a blitz on the owners of the estimated 7,202 unregistered cats and dogs in the Shire is about to be undertaken.

Traffic in Berwick

In an effort to reduce traffic in High Street, Berwick potential alternative routes will be discussed at a meeting on Tuesday 22nd May 2000. The UBA has been invited to send representatives and two committee members will attend. A report will be given at this coming meeting.

Laura Levens

(Continued from page 1)

- Responsible pet ownership education animal welfare service

Cats and dogs must be registered immediately they turn six months of age and failure to do so will incur a \$200 infringement notice. Anyone wishing a registration forms to be sent out to them should contact the Community Laws team on 5945 4296. Cat traps are also available from the same number.

Our first land selector

It is extraordinary that Charles Lilburn Commins, a clerk working in the Legislative Council of Victoria, should have been the first selector in the Upper Beaconsfield area. Commins had a home in Hawthorn set on five acres, where he lived with his family. Why should he want land in the bush, and how did he know about it?

On the 10th May 1873 Commins selected 60 acres which he described as being 5 miles north east of Berwick on the track to Bourke's Creek. The nearest survey reference point was 3 miles to the south, near the present day Cardinia Hotel. When officially surveyed, it was stated to be on the track to the Acclimatisation Society's grounds - the same track but a different name, which suggests an answer to the question.

Also working at the Legislative Council was Mr Albert A.A.C. Le Souef who, in 1863 had been appointed Usher of the Black Rod, a sinecure, which allowed him sufficient free time to be the Secretary to the Acclimatisation Society. In 1870 Le Souef became the Director of the Society, in which capacity he selected 640 acres of land "out of the reach of man", a wilderness where he could release deer, pheasants, partridges and other species, hoping they would acclimatise and survive in the bush. His chosen site, was some 20 miles north of Berwick; and initially he used Bowman's Track to gain access. The region is now called Gembrook.

Le Souef must have told Commins of the wonderful views from the hills and of the access track, the only way a city clerk could possibly know of this lovely area. Commins' selection was roughly a rectangle, bounded on the west by the ascending track from Berwick and by what is now Salisbury Road on the northern side. The enclosed land is now occupied by Salisbury House and houses in McBride and Salisbury Roads. On early maps it is

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GST will affect community groups

(Continued from page 1)

under the turnover limit where registering becomes compulsory (non-profit organisations' threshold is \$100,000) so registering is optional.

What happens if you register for GST?

- If your committee operates under Cardinia Shire Council, monthly tax returns (called business activity statements) have to be carried out.
- Otherwise your committee must submit quarterly tax returns.
- Record-keeping must be meticulous and you must have a treasurer who is willing and able to undertake the extra paperwork involved. If you deal with businesses or individuals without ABNs you must withhold 48.5% of payments to them.
- You are able to claim back GST costs (called tax inputs).
- You must charge GST to people you deal with when your committee provides goods and services.
- Once registered for GST you must do it for 12 months.
- You must issue tax invoices with specific information on them.

What happens if you do not elect to register for GST?

Your committee will have to pay 10% GST on goods and services, but will not be able to claim it back.

Your committee will have to find extra money to cover GST costs. For example if you have received a grant from Cardinia Shire for capital works, the Shire will not pay for GST.

If your committee is registered for GST - some examples:

- Fundraising is subject to GST - you have to charge for admissions, memberships and you have to pay the Australian tax Office 10% of what you raise.
- Food and drinks sold for fundraising may be subject to GST. But check this one, as there have been changes recently.
- Payments cannot be in kind.

- Hiring of halls and rentals of meeting rooms will be subject to GST if the committee of management is registered for GST.
- Forfeited bonds are subject to GST.
- There are issues each committee must address if arrangements have been made with businesses before July 1 and which continue after July 1. Contact the ATO for information.

Why am I so cross?

People do not join committees to become tax collectors for the Federal Government. For some committees having trouble to fill office bearers' positions, this may well be the straw that breaks the camel's back. It will be seen as too hard and people will say, "Someone else can do it".

Committees are between a rock and a hard place: if they register for GST there will be a lot of work involved for the Treasurer. What if a treasurer wants to go away on a holiday during a period when the tax return is due?

Whether a committee elects to register for GST or not there are going to be costs involved. One local tradesman told me it had so far cost him \$4000 to become GST compliant.

If committees do not want to become tax collectors, they will be up for increased costs and unable to claim them back. If committees want work done they will have to pay higher charges as contractors pass their costs on. Recently the government stated that the CPI after GST is anticipated to be 5.75% per annum. I do not believe the government has thought enough about these issues and the considerable repercussions for groups at grass roots level.

Helen Smith
Secretary

**Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex
Buildings and Grounds Committee**

Be thoughtful of the opinions of others—there are three sides to controversy: yours, the other fellow's and the right one.

Local shops for local people

A recent article in the Bell about the drop in business at our own village pharmacy since the medical practice left town has given rise to considerable discussion about the relative health of our other local shops and services. We need these local businesses!

So the Bell has taken up the challenge and interviewed some local traders to give us all an idea of what's happening out there in retail-ville.

First off we spoke to the beaut boys at BUGS John Adamson and Scott Hathaway from our True Value hardware and general store. The boys say business is excellent and they have recently increased their capability to supply firewood for winter and at the right price.

And if you thought you had to go down the hill to get cash, John and Scott have EFTPOS and will happily provide cash.

Roger and Margaret Gordon at the supermarket also have EFTPOS - very handy for the grocery, fruit and veg shopping, and essential for the bottle shop. This customer is delighted with their range, enthusiasm and ability to respond to all requests so far including more vegetarian foods and wines from the local Paternoster vineyard. Roger reports good support from the local community and no drop in trade since the clinic closed.

Our inimitable baker, Michael Saunders was his usual articulate self when asked how business has held up. Surprisingly, Michael says he estimates sales down around 20% since the clinic doors shut. This is a shame because the bread, the service and the banter at our local bakery simply can't be beaten. I always overbuy because everything looks so good and fresh and I often end up freezing a few pies and pasties which always come in handy a few days later.

The Bell's final chat (for this issue) was with master butcher Peter Williams. Peter and Carol are keen as mustard to provide our local community with what they want at the price ' you want to pay.

Investigative journalism this week revealed that when compared with Safeway on 23 butcher's items, the Williams Butcher's shop was cheaper on 16 items and the same price on 5 items. Safeway was only lower (marginally) on 2 items. My own experience has been that the quality is outstanding. "Extras" stocked include apple juice, pickled onions, sauces and deli items

Peter estimates business down about 20% and to encourage us all to shop for more meat locally, he is introducing a frequent shopper program where every purchase earns you points towards your Christmas meat and poultry.

We all have to shop somewhere. Let's all think about how we can personally make a difference to our local traders by shopping locally when we can. We have the expertise, the range, the quality, the service and even the extended trading hours we need, right here in Upper Beaconsfield. Let's show our support by becoming regular shoppers.

What's in a name?

It was disappointing to see that Cardinia Shire Council has caved in to objections to the naming of the Paul Grove extension.

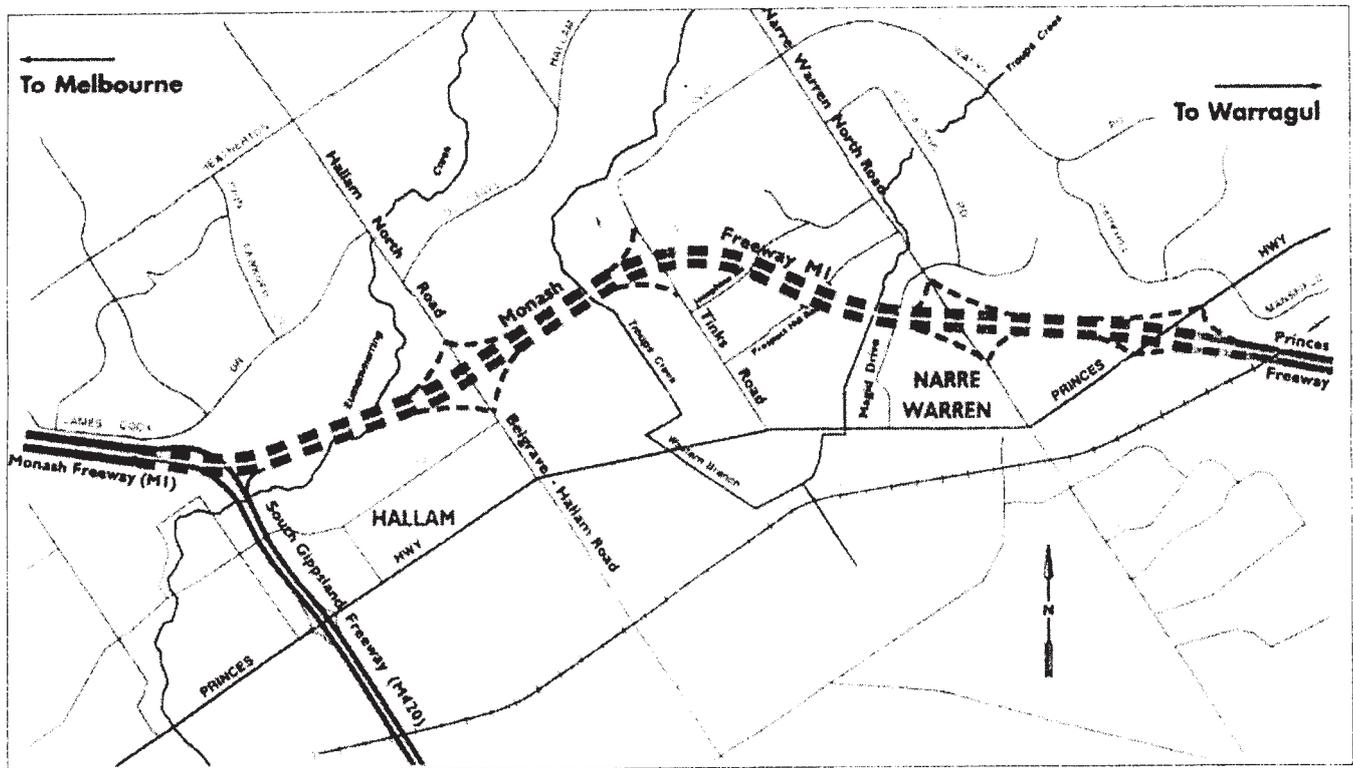
Council originally wanted the subdivision developer's name "Rosebank Lane" to be Paul Grove for reasons of logic and the likelihood of emergency services having trouble finding a road with a different name tacked on the end of another. But Rosebank Lane stays.

"Agapanthus Avenue", "Blackberry Court", "Ragwort Way" and even better, "Fire hazard Lane" might be more accurate choices for roads in future subdivisions in Upper Beac! But then they wouldn't sell would they?

In addition, residents appreciate consultation (via the UBA) when new roads are named in UB. There are many more appropriate names which could be used - for example, names of early settlers or indigenous plants.

Charles Wilson, Helen Smith

Hallam Bypass Project



Council Notes

My sincere thanks for the support you gave in returning me to the Cardinia Council. I am happy to act as your representative.

In keeping with a policy of open government would you note my mobile phone number is 0409 149535, fax number is 5944 4926, and my council email address is - kewenson@nex.net.au

Council has been considering the next stage of preparing the draft of Local Law no 4 (with reference to burning off). You will recall that over a thousand people objected to the first draft. Revisions were made and objectors were advised. A small number of concerns were raised from this revision. At the council meeting of the 3rd of April it was resolved that:

"A panel of three Councillors be appointed to conduct a preliminary hearing of submissions received.

That this panel determines appropriate public consultation, which could include exhibition on the web page, further hearings and further advertising.

That final submissions be received no later

than 1st June for determination by 30th June."

The Council resolved that the panel consists of Legge, Nickell and myself.

The group has had its first meeting to plan our approach. We realize the difficulty in designing an environmentally acceptable law that is appropriate in suburbia and the country. At the point of writing this article, the draft law had not been published on the Cardinia Shire web site, but it should be in the near future.

There is still time for public input. What is important is that the final product will be of benefit to the residents of the Shire.

The Council has been briefed by a Vic Roads representative on the Monash Freeway (M1) Hallam Bypass project, (see above).

On the subject of the Shire office location an open letter is being prepared to explain the process. The letter will go to the Associations and Town Committees for their information. Public comment will be considered prior to the final determination.

Cr Keith Ewenson

Melinda Conn becomes life member



Melinda Conn became a Life Member of the Upper Beaconsfield Kindergartens Association at its AGM in February this year.

She joined existing life members, Peter Meeking who was a founding member of the kinder and Mrs G. Colles (dec'd) - a former teacher.

On 6 April, Melinda's life membership was officially marked with the unveiling of a statue of a mother and child in the kinder grounds. It was dedicated in appreciation for the service provided over seven years as a committee member.

During the seven years Melinda spent four years as fundraising officer and her final two years as President. There was much achieved at the kinder during Melinda's years of service, including the rejuvenation of the Pre-Kinder in McBride Road

and the playground renovation last year at the Kinder in Stoney Creek Road.

Over the past decade, the pressures to provide higher quality services, with less funding and stricter regulations have been on an upward spiral. Without the support of people like Melinda who give so much of their precious time to keep the kinder running smoothly, and without the dedication of our very supportive community in Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds, the kinder would not be of the high standard it is today.

Sally Budge awarded with statue



In conjunction with Melinda's presentation, a new stone birdbath was unveiled by Sally Budge to mark the kinder community's appreciation for her efforts in designing and managing the implementation of the new kinder playground.

*Photo top left:
Life Members Peter Meeking and Melinda Conn
Above: Sally Budge*

Trudi Paton 5944 3060

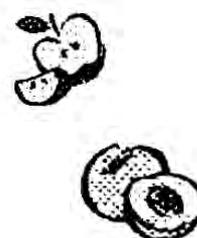


**Bellevue
Orchard**
J & R Russo
544 Brown Rd
Officer
5943 2390

BUY DIRECT & GET IT FRESH

Fresh local apple juice
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and apples

Bellevue Orchard supports Carols By Candlelight



Village Fair plans

The Village Fair Committee is well under way with our planning for the Fair on the last Sunday in November.

We are looking forward to combining some of the favourite past entertainment with exciting new ideas.

After looking around at other community fairs, we have a few ideas for stalls if your group is interested in trying something different, let us know.

The Committee would love to hear from you with ideas, expectations and thoughts regarding our community day.

The Committee is Bernadette McGougan, Denise Smith, Jane Harvey, and Janette Clydesdale.

David Bloom is coordinator of the Tower Challenge.

Leave your ideas at the Post Office or call us on 5944 4107 or 9707 2560.



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.

To be put on the mailing list please contact Cheryl Finn 5944 4007.

Tas Tiger sightings

March-April 2000

Names and exact locations withheld.

Cockatoo:

Late winter/early spring 1999; 6.45pm.

A Cockatoo resident saw an animal on her 22-acre property, which she describes as exactly like pictures of the Tasmanian Tiger. It was brown/ginger with many dark brown stripes and a long pointy tail. It was medium sized and was much more light-footed than a dog. The witness's mother has also seen this animal on a separate occasion.

Upper Beaconsfield

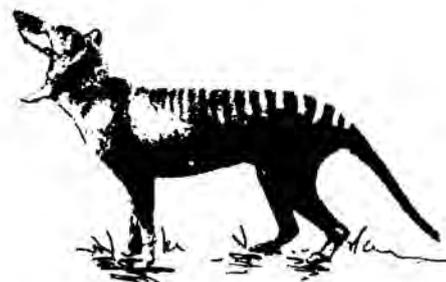
Oct/Nov 1999 and Jan 2000; both sightings around 11 am - noon.

A local resident saw an animal believed to be Tasmanian Tiger on two occasions as it travelled down her side fence and disappeared into an adjoining property. At first she thought it was a fox, but then realised it couldn't be. It walked very quickly with a "foxy sort of walk". She describes it as well-proportioned, a little bigger than a fox, fawny brown with a squat broad head and little ears. The tail seemed to be about two feet long and appeared to be hairless. The animal seemed to be holding the tail quite low, almost dragging it at times. The witness can't recall seeing any stripes.

Upper Beaconsfield

Sat 25 March 2000: 8 - 9pm

An animal believed to be a Tasmanian Tiger was seen running up a local resident's driveway. It ducked off into the garden. It was a very dark brown colour; a little bigger than a fox. It did not travel like a dog or a fox; rather, it seemed to lope.



Dindigul sojourn

I left Melbourne for India with 80kgs of luggage consisting almost entirely of donated tools which I hoped would not come to the attention of the customs officers at Chennai and some feelings of trepidation. I was after all heading off to parts unknown, to work in conditions unknown and in a situation where the English Indian Field Director of ICT, our partner agency, was still stuck in the UK.

After getting through customs without any complications and seeing two people waiting for me with a sign saying "Susan", the excitement took over as I commenced a memorable nine weeks in Tamil Nadu.

I lived in Dindigul, a rural city of around 450,000 people that is experiencing a period of rapid expansion. While not as developed as some of the larger cities it nevertheless has all the trappings of modern life overlaying a strong traditional Tamil cultural base. Shops in the busy CBD range from the large and well appointed to small stalls laden with goods of every description, fruit and vegetables or garlands of sweet smelling flowers. The roads are used by everything on two or four legs, including an elephant which is resident in the town, and two or four wheels. Fortunately nothing goes very fast and everyone remains remarkably good-natured about the chaos, so it works quite well. There are temples everywhere - exuberantly decorated and ranging from small to enormous. Religion whether it is Hindu, Christian or Muslim is a very real part of most people's lives.

The purpose of my stay was to set up a vocational training school for street children in Dindigul with funding from my organisation Oz Child, and Ausaid. Our Indian partner agency is the International Childcare Trust (ICT) which has worked in the area for ten years doing mainly village health and development projects at Kodaikanal high in the mountains behind Dindigul and in the rural districts adjacent to Dindigul. ICT had received funding from the ECU to assist in establishing a drop-in and residential centre for street children in Dindigul. Contrary to our expectations it had not commenced this by the time I arrived. The Chief Functionary of ICT is Rajkumar (people generally only use one name), an interesting person with great charm, considerable experience in the non-government field and a passionate concern

for the underprivileged. His English was more than adequate so communications were not a problem and we proceeded to work on establishing the two projects as an integrated whole. Just prior to my arrival he had rented a house in a suburb on the outskirts of Dindigul to use as the admin office for all the ICT projects. Rajkumar had arranged for me to have one of the rooms (complete with toilet and washing facilities) which was very comfortable once I got the mosquitoes under control.

I worked closely with Rajkumar, on the main project activities of recruiting and training staff, purchasing equipment, organising building renovations and identifying a target area for the outreach team to work in. Finding a building which could accommodate up to 60 children as residents, additional children dropping-in and two training centres for around 40 children at an affordable rent and in the target area, proved rather difficult and time consuming but gave me an interesting insight into how real estate works in Tamil Nadu. We eventually rented a peanut mill which had five large rooms used for storage, two other rooms used as offices and a large concreted area used to dry the nuts, which the owners were happy to modify to our specifications.

In between doing work that was directly project related, I visited a number of other agencies and attended various meetings and village development activities. I was invariably asked to talk on the theme of the gathering - domestic violence (in Australia), health and the environment (in Australia) etc, as well as why I was in Dindigul. I also filled in for the computer operator who left half way through my stay to do a postgraduate teaching degree and practised my Tamil. While I was there I lived much as any middle class professional in Dindigul does. I used to start work at around 9.1 shopped at the local self-serve, bazaar or the farmer's market and commuted by bus, auto, (occasionally riding side saddle on the back of a motor bike) or was driven in a jeep. I watched TV (at my neighbours), sat out in the cool of the evening with others in the street and ate delicious home-cooked meals sent in this case each lunchtime by Rajkumar's wife.

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Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit

Once again the residents of Upper Beaconsfield have responded magnificently to the March Red Cross Calling. I am delighted to report that a record amount of \$5,122.40 was raised. This was \$718.95 more than the 1999 collection and the first time over \$5,000 has been donated.

Many residents comment favourably on our policy, where possible, of having the same volunteer call in the same area each year. Quite often the caller is greeted as a friend on an annual visit with a welcoming "I've been expecting you and put a note aside on the dresser", or invited in to catch up with family news over a cup of tea.

With the help of eight first time callers Sandra Mew, Carol Ronalds, Anita Rowe, Bev Sinclair, Doug Field, Barry Gates, Matt McDonald and Gerald Williams, and approximately 30 regular volunteers meant that all areas were covered this year. The Upper Beaconsfield Rover Crew tackled the difficult Mount Misery area with youthful enthusiasm and raised \$416.80. I thank them all for a job well done!

Thank you also to Jill and Fred Ward at the Pine Grove for allowing Red Cross to leave a collection tin on the bar throughout the year and to the patrons who generously put change coins into it.

Red Cross appreciates the generosity of the Upper Beaconsfield residents.

**Barbara Jackson Chairman
Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit**

BABYSITTING CLUB

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

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

If you are a new resident or just wanting some information on the club, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Cathie Usher
5944 4183**

Secretaries of the month

May 2000	Teresa Cooper
June 2000	Cathie Usher
July 2000	Judi Fenby

Foster carers needed

Upper Beac is a great place to bring up kids. Have you every thought of sharing your home with a foster child?

The commitment required can range from providing an overnight stay when there is a family emergency, a regular weekend a month respite for vulnerable parents who need a break to longer placements when the families are in crisis or the children are at risk and so cannot remain at home. Foster care supports families by providing safe and loving care for their children until they are able to return home.

With around 130 children in foster care at any one time Oz Child is always in need of more

Foster Carers. Foster Carers are ordinary people who do an extraordinary job. They share a love of children and a concern for the well being of families. Foster Carers are provided with initial and on-going training by the Oz Child social workers and are an integral part to of the team.

Information sessions are held regularly at Dandenong. For anyone interested in volunteering to become a Foster Carer, the next information session will be held on Wednesday 7 June, 7-9pm at the Oz Child office located at 1536 Heatherton Road. Interested people are warmly invited to attend.

Please phone 9791 7066 for more information.

Susan Pitman



Upper Beaconsfield Community Care Group Notes

Review of Operations

During 1999 the Committee focused on a review of the Care Group's operations, looked at most areas of our activities in a critical manner, in many ways refined our procedures, and redefined where we were heading as an organisation.

This was an extremely rewarding process and while many procedures were unchanged many others altered to the benefit of our ease of operation.

The review was considered necessary as we are a new group breaking new ground in what was then our first ten years of operation.

Our Year of the Volunteers

The one area that we did not address adequately in 1999, was that of our volunteers and the newly elected Committee has decided that our volunteers and their needs will be the major focus of the Committee during 2000.

We have already begun contacting volunteers about changes to their availability and areas of volunteer activity. Over the coming months we will address such issues as how we introduce new volunteers to the Group, how we assist with their training, and will later survey all volunteers as to their feelings about their tasks and their relationship to the Care Group and their coordinators.

We trust that this will be a valuable ongoing exercise for our very valuable volunteers without whose generosity of time there would be no Care Group operating in our community.

It is worthwhile recalling that during 1999 we averaged more than three calls per week for

assistance resulting in more than seven "visits" per week to help residents.

Our volunteers do a remarkable job.

Maybe you would feel like joining them or helping our group financially if you are not in a position to become a volunteer.

Brochures are available at the Community Centre and the Post Office or are included in our newsletter, which is delivered to all residents quarterly.

What does the Care Group do?

We match the community's needs with the community's talents and skills. We offer free to all residents of Upper Beaconsfield, Guy's Hill and Dewhurst:

- * domestic help
- * emergency meals
- * emergency child minding
- * emergency transport
- * handyman skills
- * ongoing friendly visiting
- * outside work

Rarely are we unable to assist with requests outside this list or at worst are able to refer you to a more appropriate source of assistance. To contact us, telephone any of the following members -

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

Des McKenna

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As everyone works six days a week the opportunities for sightseeing were mostly limited to Sundays. Dindigul is right off the tourist track - I only saw three non-Indians in all the time I lived there and none were tourists. However I did spend some time in Kodaikanal, an old colonial hill station in the mountains. I travelled to several nearby towns famous for their temples, attended the betrothal one night and the wedding the following morning

of Raj's nephew in his home town some six hours away on the coast and travelled some eleven hours by bus across the mountains to Kochi (Cochin) in the state of Kerela. There were times, mostly at night, when it was lonely, times when it was frustrating - you spend a lot of time sitting waiting for things to happen - but on the whole it was an unforgettable experience.

Susan Pitman

Early settlers in UB

(Continued from page 3)

shown as Commins Hill.

At that time most land selections were made for farming purposes, there being an obligation under the 1869 Land Act for the selector to reside on his land for three years, to fence it, and cultivate at least a tenth of it, before he could buy the freehold from the Crown.

On 2nd May 1876, Commins applied for such a grant. In his submission he stated that he had resided continuously on the property as required, that he had fenced the property, that he had built a slab house, a bark stable and also a shed, these improvements he valued at £25. Regarding cultivation he wrote "the land was worthless, and too steep to plough, but he had cleared trees and scrub, and raked seed into the land." He also stated he had no neighbours.

There is no way Commins could have resided continuously on the property, and worked as a clerk - a fact recognised by the land board. He also lied about his neighbour, as Land File 75/368/49 shows that Professor Halford, the first Professor of Medicine at Melbourne University had selected 20 acres, abutting on Commins eastern boundary on the 1st February 1875, and had completed a house there in 1876. Despite these discrepancies Commins was permitted to purchase 47 acres of his selection. It is apparent that Commins wanted the land for its wonderful views, and chose a large block in the expectation he could subdivide it later, as indeed he did.

A third selector was Johann Glismann who selected 115 acres on Stoney Creek on the 15th February 1875, just two weeks after Halford. Henry Snell also selected land about this time, but it is undocumented, the Crown Grant being purchased by William Brisbane in October 1876.

Charles Wilson

Land File information provided by the Public Record Office

Upper Beaconsfield NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



All residents are invited to attend our next meeting on Monday June 19, 8pm at the Community Complex. Our guest speaker this month will be David Bull (Funeral Director). David will cover such topics as:

- The role of the Funeral Director
- Costs
- Types of funerals
- Coping with grief

The business side of NHW meetings is very brief and informal. Our guest speakers and our regular police representative make the meetings very informative and interesting.

If you are reading this and no longer receive a regular NHW newsletter it may be because you no longer have a zone representative in your neighbourhood.

If you think you could take on this role please ring Melinda Conn, 5944 4010. A zone representative simply ensures that each household in their street or neighbourhood receives a newsletter each month. This is a vital way of ensuring NHW remains alive and active in Upper Beaconsfield.

Melinda Conn 5944 4010

Smile!

**it takes 72 muscles to frown
and only 14 to smile!**

FOR SALE: As new timber veneer computer desk 104x60cm; retractable keyboard shelf; corner hard disk and monitor shelf; paper organiser on top; 2-shelf cupboard on right. \$85. Ring Susan 5944 3684

WILDLIFE WATCH



Neighbour's cattle were supervising my removal of Spanish heath on one of my forays down to the back of our place.

Small, almost colourless spiders were running in all directions, grey fantails and thornbills flitted and twittered and yellow robins cocked bright eyes over disturbed soil. Grass skinks streaked away. I saw the tail of one quite a bit larger than usual as it wriggled from among some dry grass. Out flashed my rubber-gloved hand and caught it! I was more surprised than it was, especially as what I held was a white-lipped snake! It was about eight inches long, silver grey on the upper surface with a beautiful, pumpkin-orange belly. Jet black eyes kept watch as a forked tongue flickered from between brilliant white lips. After the first alarmed wriggle it didn't struggle and calmly slithered away when I opened my hand.

I was out of bed just before one recent dawn when hubby said, "Turn the light on! There's a mouse on the wall." Sure enough there it was, dark coloured and scared. I raced up to the kitchen to get an ice-cream container on the theory that mouse could be caught underneath it. Back again. Mouse ran under the pelmet. I lined up where I thought mouse would appear. Mouse came out and ran down the wall. I lunged with the container and tripped on the hem of my nightie. Mouse ran up the wall and stopped. Then we noticed that it was an antechinus. Its nose is longer and sharper than that of a mouse, and its tail is shorter in proportion to the body than that of a mouse. Antechinus ran from the perceived enemy with the ice-cream container and we lost it behind furniture. I hope that we are not made aware of its continuing presence by a bad smell.

During my walk down the hill I saw many patches of greenhood orchid leaves and gnat orchids in flower. Along the front boundary, leaves of a large sun-orchid are also up a month or so early, flowers are not expected until late October. Upper Beac's own *Grevillea alpina* will soon be attracting honey eaters again. Look also for pink or white common heath. Have you noticed that some of the dead-looking hop wattles are shooting from the base?

Laura Levens

Cricket Club AGM of promise

The most notable feature of Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club's Annual Meeting was the hope that the coming season could yield an upsurge of activity.

The A.G.M. was held on Tuesday May 16 at the Pine Grove Hotel. The meeting was introduced to Nick Myers who has been appointed Captain Coach for the coming season. Nick has recently played with Baden Powell Cricket Club in the Provincial division of the Mornington Peninsula Cricket Association. A left arm orthodox bowler and middle order batsman Nick urged members to enjoy their cricket but he commented that, "the best way to enjoy your cricket is to be successful and win."

At the meeting Rob Hansen was reelected President while Bob Taylor and Clarry Bouchier took up the positions of Vice Presidents. Steve Paine was re-elected Secretary, Richard Williams Treasurer once more while Arthur Winzar, Peter Brennan and Nick Myers were selected as committee members.

At the meeting's conclusion there was a demonstration of the Club's new Web page which members, families and supporters can access. President Rob Hansen commented that this innovation offered a huge potential for spreading the exploits of the club. At www.vicnet.net.au/~ubcc people can discover what the club is doing. Peter Brennan was thanked for his efforts to date in setting up the web site.

Rob Hansen

Cardinia Combined Churches Caring—The 4 Cs

The Cardinia Combined Churches Caring runs a food bank which is open to all residents within the Shire who may be in crisis or experiencing financial difficulties. We are a totally voluntary organisation and our entire cash flow is absorbed by the purchase of food items.

As from April 19 we are now situated at 63 Henry Street Pakenham and our hours of attendance are from 10.30am to 2.30pm, Mondays to Fridays.

Beaconhills Country Golf Club



It has been a great pennant season for Beacon-hills Country Golf Club. The lady members have won flags in two divisions of the Mornington Peninsula Women's Pennant. Division 2 captained by Ann Felgate included Christina Beltran who earlier in the year

broke the women's Lakes course record and current club champion Catherine Hammond. The team was undefeated during the season winning all six matches against Berwick Montuna, Eagle Ridge, Flinders, Sorrento and Mornington Blue and Yellow teams.

Division 4 team members played with dogged determination over the final two weeks to win the flag for their captain Jenny Browning whose husband lost his life in a tragic accident just before Easter. Annette Phillips captained the team over these final weeks and was magnificently supported by team members Paula Mitchell, Rosalie Leake, Wendy Bane and Lyn Treloar. This division was very closely contested with Beaconhills winning the flag by a half game over Mt Martha.

At time of writing the men's pennant is still in progress, but the Grade team has won all their matches and gained a place in the grand final. The team includes Pete Haussegger, Aaron Gray and Jamie Boyd. B Grade were one game short of a place in the grand final.

The Under 18 Juniors playing handicapped match play won the Peninsula District Division 4 flag. The team played against Berwick Montuna, Devil Bend and Mornington. The team was captained by Tim Major and included Upper Beaconsfield boys Aaron Price, and Stephen Corney together with Leigh Boyle, Sean Devlin, Kristian Drangsholt and James Marsh.

The Under 15 juniors have also tasted success by winning the Chirnside Park Challenge Shield, an 18 hole team event. The team of 12 included two girls Rebecca and Fay Harford and local boys

Andrew Hutchinson, Greg Hamilton and Brent Cameron.

J-Team news: Tim Angwin has passed 'Eagle' status and will now be the second boy to proceed to the highest 'Norman' level. Four members have passed Par level.

The lady members Foursomes Championship was played during May. Winners were Marilyn Ford and Rosalie Leake. Lyn Treloar and Judy Butler won the Nett trophy.

Beaconhills welcomed new club manager Andrew Austin in mid-May. Andrew was previously assistant manager at Victoria Golf Club.

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554

UB Toy Library

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Mothers' Night at the Kindergarten



On Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th of May, we celebrated Mother's Day at the kindergarten. Invitations were made by the children and handed out to each mum inviting them to a special evening session at the kindergarten from 6:00 to 7:30pm.

On previous occasions, Mother's Day has been celebrated during the day. As some of our mums work during the day, attend courses or have other children to look after, we decided to celebrate at night time. This meant that dads were responsible for dinner on these evenings.

The evening was organised for mums and their child to spend time together. Parents participate in the program every day but the routine of the session can make it difficult for parents to spend time with their child. On this evening the mums had no other responsibilities other than being with their child.

At 6:00 o'clock the children and their mums began arriving. The children were very excited about attending the kindergarten at nighttime.

The children were instructed to choose activities and mum must participate as well. Activities that were available for mums to do were drawing, puzzles, fingerpainting, goop (cornflour and water mix), pasting, blocks and many more. The room was filled with laughter and children calling their mums to move onto the next activity.

After we had a play at the activities, we packed up and sat together on the mat. The children sang songs using musical instruments. We then asked our mums to join us in 'The Shoemaker Dance'. To

complete our musical performance we sang 'I Love My Mummy'. This was beautiful and made our mums feel very special.

We completed the evening by having supper, which the children made themselves and presenting the mums with their Mother's Day presents. The children had made an autumn picture, decorated a coaster and card (which included a tea bag).

Our mums are very special to us and everyone had a great time. The children are looking forward to having dad come to kinder in September.

Heidi Wutzke

One parent commented, "John and I really enjoyed the Mother's Day Activity night. It was a real "adventure" going to kinder in the dark. It was great to enjoy the activities together and the singing and dancing was a lot of fun. It was very special to both of us to spend this time together. Thank you Heidi and Lyndall."


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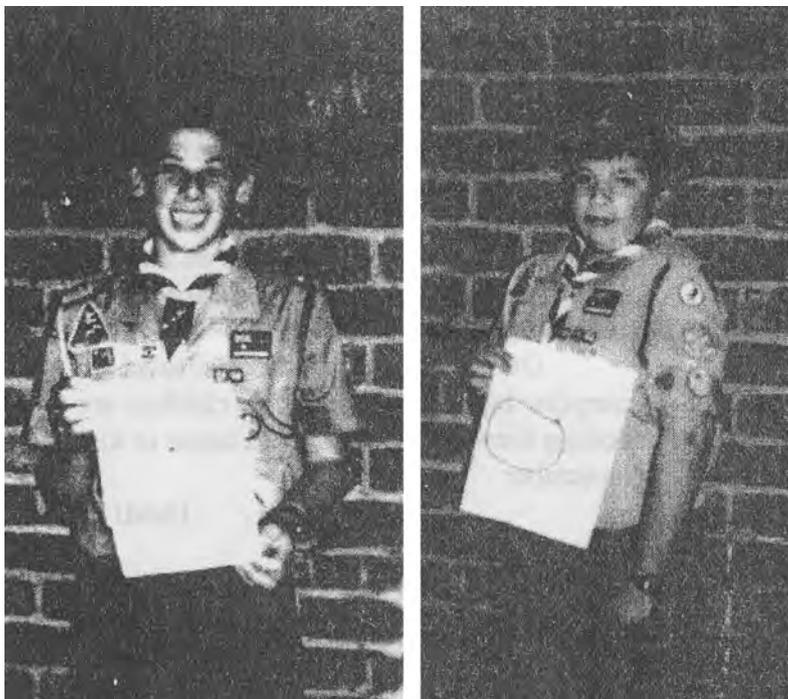
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Green Cord awards for local scouts



On 4 May Paul Boynes and Craig Wood (pictured above) were presented with their Green Cords (Premier Scout Award) in a formal ceremony at the Upper Beaconsfield Scout Hall.

Over 90 people were in attendance including Victorian Scout Branch Commissioner Adrian Walsh, Eastern Region Commissioner Bob Taylor and Cardinia District Commissioner Joan Horton, school teachers as well as many scouting and family friends.

Paul and Craig worked hard to achieve their award, including many camps, hikes, and badge work. They both showed strong leadership skills in being patrol leaders where they organised activities including hikes. Craig was Upper Beaconsfield Scout of the Year in 1998 and Paul in 1999. Paul also became troop leader where he was especially helpful in assisting the leaders.

A further ceremony held at Hawthorn Town Hall on 20 May when the Victorian Governor General presented the boys with their certificates.

Andrea Shokavich
Group Leader

Change of leaders



We welcome Andrea Shokavich as our new Group Leader as we negotiate a reshuffle of leaders this year.

Andrea leaves Rob Shreeve (transferred from Beaconsfield), Martin Parker (moved up from Cubs) and Bruce Norbury to run the Scout Section.

Joey leaders Chris Cunningham and Jane Harvey were farewelled at the end of last term.

Cathy Hermans and Rachel Patterson (one of our Rovers) are in training to lead the Joey Section. They are assisted by Peter Florance as a permanent parent helper, and another parent or two considering training as leaders.

We still have a shortage of Cub leaders with Wendy Wood and Peter Johnson being joined by Shane Boon, who is beginning his training after assisting as an instructor for several terms while waiting to reach 18 years age.

Long service awards

Several of our leaders have reached milestones this year with Jenny Conn achieving 15 years, Bruce Norbury & Brian Wood 5 years, and District leader Lyn Fisher awarded her 35 years certificate at the District AGM recently.

Our congratulations go to Jenny Conn who has been recognised in the Scouts Australia Victorian Branch Good Service Awards in March and was presented with the Certificate of Merit.

Barry Smith
President

Anzac Day

Tuesday 25th April 2000

The traditional ceremony to commemorate the Anzac Day landing of 1915 was held at 11 am on 25th April. This is the first service of the new century and the 85th anniversary of Anzac Day.

Mr Eric Chaplin, President of the RSL, conducted the service. It was Eric's first Anzac Day as president. The Vicar of St. Johns church, Reverend Michael Flynn, led the assembled group in the Lord's Prayer. One of our local councillors, Mr Keith Ewenson, laid a wreath on behalf of the Shire. Members of the community laid wreaths and flowers on the cenotaph in remembrance of their family and friends. The local cubs and scouts paid tribute to the fallen heroes of Upper Beaconsfield by laying a poppy on the cenotaph.

In a moving tribute, Eric read out the names of Upper Beaconsfield RSL members who have died since the club opened. Sadly, three more names were added to the list this year. Simon Conn and Ian Thomson laid a wreath in remembrance of their fathers, Frank Conn and Royce Thomson, who died during 1999.

Mrs Gwynn Conn was made a life member of the Upper Beaconsfield RSL in recognition of her many years service to the group.

After the ceremony, the Vicar, Councillor Ewenson, the Scout troop and many friends joined the RSL members at the clubrooms in Halford Road for refreshments.

Jo Carter

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Advertise to "swap" or "give to a good home". Hand your classifieds into Ray and Julie at the Post Office.

LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE BELL?

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.

We still need more volunteers including writers for articles and artists for mastheads.

In particular, we need someone to help out with the printing. This would suit someone with a mechanical aptitude and a few spare hours available to assist with the printing. Don't be shy— just contact Charles Wilson.

ARTICLES FOR THE BELL

If possible, please submit your articles to the Bell on disk as well as a paper copy. Name your disks so they can be returned and you can collect them at the PO.

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).



Recreation Reserve news

No doubt many residents will have heard some controversy with usage of the facilities for cricket and football over recent weeks. The facts are that there are six user groups involved at the Reserve and they all have an area of which they are the "principal user".

Scouts, Cricket and Football share the Igloo complex with each having their section for which they are responsible, and each have spent money on developing those sections.

The constitution calls for an agreement to be reached when a user wishes to use the facilities of the principal user of another section, with general good housekeeping and care being the basis of that agreement. The Cricket and Football Clubs have had such agreement to use the Cricket Room over past years. There have been times when very wet conditions have caused clay to be walked inside and the new carpet became quite dirty.

Some property damage had occurred and the effectiveness of cleaning became a concern. A new agreement was needed to address the issues.

Agreement between the two Clubs has been reached and the Committee has taken steps to alleviate the clay problem with additional gravel to the roadway and mulching of the clay bank being carried out recently.

Security became an issue when evidence of unauthorised entry to the Cricket Room was discovered and a change of keys was arranged by the Committee to keep control over who had entry, with new keys being issued to authorised users.

The Football Club made a request to the Committee of Management last season to install a mobile food van between the Club Rooms for use as a canteen. This was rejected and a joint project between Cricket and Football Clubs to extend the building to fill in the area between rooms was suggested and agreed to last year. A grant from Cardinia Shire was obtained but, with the emergence of rumors of a new sports facility in O'Neil Rd, the Football Club decided not to participate with the extension. The Cricket Club is now undertaking this project on its own, with work to begin soon.

Barry Smith, Secretary

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