

The Upper Beaconsfield

Village Bell



Corner of St Georges Road and Emerald-Beaconsfield Road, Upper Beaconsfield c1899

Issue 140 June-July 2001

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Guys Hill Store closed May 11th 2001

In 1906 Edmund Luke, the first "artist and photographer" employed by "The Age" bought 55 acres of land between Emerald road and Cardinia Creek. He farmed this land, and on the top of the hill built his home "Montuna", which he named after his two older children, Montague and Una. This land is now part of the "Montuna Golf Course."

A few years later he bought 18 acres of land to the north of his farm and subdivided it into 25 lots of varying size, some 1 to 2 acres. The smallest ones were 10 house blocks along Emerald Road; all are shown on the Plan of the "E.T. Luke" Subdivision, dated March 1917. Two streets are shown on the plan, Montuna Grove, and Victor Avenue, the latter being named after his son who was serving in the armed forces.

The allotment on the corner of the reserve and facing Emerald Road, Luke gave to his daughter Lilly, who promptly built a skillion shed on the site, and became the first storekeeper of a convenience store.

Australia Post used the store as a mail drop centre, where local residents could retrieve their mail, without having to go all the way to post offices at Beaconsfield or Upper Beaconsfield.

When Lilly married, her sister Una became the storekeeper.

In 1936 the storekeeper was a Mrs Guy, whose husband Herb, a builder, added to the building, making it a habitable dwelling, and turning the skillion into the present gable roof.

In 1942, Australia Post was approached with the request that the store become a licensed post office, which would enable Mrs. Guy to issue local residents with the food and petrol ration tickets that were needed during wartime. The request was granted, the post office being named "Guys Hill."

The store thus became a post office, convenience store, petrol station, news agency, and dwelling, and managed to trade profitably

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Federation feature on UB
Quarry update
Real estate signs
Brad Trewin Sydney Show success
Vale Charlie Debrincat

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Subscriptions UBA and Village Bell

Yes, it is that time of year again. Your \$5 subscription gives you the most informative read every two months. Cheques made payable to the UBA or cash can be left at the Post Office addressed to the Treasurer, UBA.

Are you moving and wish to continue receiving the Village Bell? To avoid time-consuming recordkeeping, 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.

Preventing and surviving a house fire

The CFA is holding a winter fire safety information evening, covering such issues as:

- the main causes of house fires and how to prevent them
- demonstrating the use of a fire blanket smoke alarms
- the various types of fire extinguishers and their correct uses
- home escape plans

Wednesday 27 June 2001, 7.30pm
Community Room
Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex

Existing community fireguard groups might like to ensure that a member can attend this session and distribute information back to others who are unable to attend.

All welcome

For more information please contact Michelle or Amanda at CFA Westernport Area Office tel. 9793 4088.

Ruth Hainsworth
5944 3036



PLEASE SUPPORT THE BELL BY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

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 2001.

I understand that this subscription entitles me to vote at the bi-monthly meetings of the UBA

Name of family

Address

Telephone

Signed

Council comment

Five mile road tip

Anyone who has visited the tip lately would say that the condition was less than desirable. The tip will close at the end of June 2001. The operators have been requested to tidy it up prior to the final capping process. It is planned that a privately owned transfer waste station will be established in Pakenham.

2001 Community and Business Directory

The new Cardinia Shire directory has been printed and will be progressively distributed. The theme is "Think Local, Buy Local".

Rural Residential Strategy

Remains on public display till the 15th of June. Copies of the Strategy are available from the Shire Office or it is possible to download from the Shire's web site at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au. Three public meetings are scheduled all commencing at 7.30pm. Two are at the Shire office on the 16th of May and the 30th of May, and one at Beaconsfield in the Community Centre on the 23rd of May.

Traffic

In Upper Beaconsfield a concept plan for the central area of the town was released for the first time at a public meeting arranged by the Shire. Stuart Castle spoke to the plan which sought to address the traffic problems, whilst consolidating the central parkland into one usable area.

Excessive speed of the motorist was a major problem through the town but the possibility of installing effective speed limiting devices was controlled by VicRoads and many options were not acceptable to them.

Comments continue to be sought. Maintenance upgrades will now proceed around the perimeter of the central area.

New community centre at Beaconsfield

The next stage of the new community centre has taken place and the business plan has now been finalized. You will see an advertisement seeking expressions of interest in the original hall site next to the hotel in the near future.

It was hoped that a commercial development could be enhanced and a civic feature included. If an acceptable concept was forthcoming the income from the sale would be applied towards the new centre.

Keith Ewenson

(Continued from page 1)

for many years. In February 1997, Pamela Trounson and Steve Rimmer became the store proprietors. Their enthusiasm and friendly approach soon gained them much local respect and support, but the level of trading was not what they expected, and it was soon apparent there were difficulties.

Added to this, within a few months Pam developed a health problem which put most of the load on Steve. Pam says she was most grateful for the wonderful support they received from local people during this very stressful period. Sadly, since that time a series of adverse events, all outside their control, have resulted in the business being no longer viable and with great reluctance they were forced to close the store on May 11th.

Steve, an experienced chef, is now working at the Montuna Golf Club; several people have said that if you are lucky enough to be free at lunchtime, a visit there will be a very enjoyable experience. Pam is now in much better health, and facing the future with courage. Despite everything she still retains her delightful friendly smile.

On May 9th, Australia Post advertised for tenders for a Community Postal Agent/ Licensed Post Office. Tenders closed on 18th May-the results are no yet known.

Charles Wilson

Extractive industry interest area now removed from Environmental Rural I zoning

For over thirty years residents of Upper Beaconsfield and Officer have been opposing Hillview Quarries' aim to develop a major hard rock quarry in an environmentally sensitive site located between Leppitt Road, Brown Road and Officer-Upper Beaconsfield Road. In the late 1980s residents formed the Quarry Impact Association (QIA) as a vehicle to represent the interest of the local community on this issue.

There have been numerous attempts by quarry proponents to obtain local and State Government approvals to transform this high conservation value site into a quarry. Residents' interests have been represented by the QIA at panel hearings, two parliamentary inquiries and numerous rezoning applications.

In 1988 the QIA made representations to the Cardinia Planning Scheme Panel Hearings regarding the conservation value of the land in the Beaconsfield Reservoir Corridor. In particular it opposed attempts by the Hillview Quarry Company to have more than 60ha of land on Leppitt Road exempted from the Environmental Rural I Zoning proposed by the Shire. Many reports generated by QIA or independent consultants on its behalf helped demonstrate the botanical and zoological significance of the land. Furthermore the hard rock demand and supply studies carried out by the QIA have clearly demonstrated that there is not sound reason to sacrifice this conservation area for the development of a quarry. The 1999 report of the independent panel that dealt with the proposed Shire planning scheme recommended that the proposed Environmental Significance overlay for the region be adopted.

It appears that the recommendations of the panel were adopted as, according to Department of Natural Resources and Environment, there are no extractive industry interest sites in the area as of 9/4/2001.

As at April 2001, the zoning for the main part of the property is Environmental Rural 2; a second area is Environmental Rural I, both with an Environmental Significance overlay. This means that Hillview does not need a permit to search for stone but it must not dig trenches or do bulk sampling. It also means that a permit must be applied for before any earthworks are undertaken. Should Hillview Quarries make another application to extract stone we could have another fight on our hands.

On June 12 2001 at 8pm, the QIA will hold its annual general meeting in the Crèche room at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex to elect a new committee. The QIA urges all residents in the area, especially new residents unfamiliar with the issue, to consider becoming members of the association. The annual membership fees of \$ 10 are used to fund botanical surveys, freedoms of information applications, report preparation and to cover administration costs.

For further information contact QIA treasurer Ross Jephcott on 5944 3202 or email rjephcott@onaustralia.com.au

Residents who just wish to be kept informed, please contact Garth Monscair on 50412878 or pagorno@ozemail.com.au

The support of residents on this long-running issue is essential if the interests of the local community are to continue to be protected.

Fedir Woskoboenko
Quarry Impact Association



Advertising signs update

In the last Village Bell we made mention of concerns regarding the proliferation of signs on the street corners, mainly in regard to houses for sale, often some distance away from the actual house.

The Bell Editors have received feedback from a local estate agent who recently had a sign in the township for which he had a permit, pointing out that there are rules set down by the Shire of Cardinia and yes, the signs are legal.

The Shire has advised that it requires permits for any roadside sign, any seat, table, etc. on a road or public place. They have regulations in regard to signs and where they must be placed.

No signs, for example, are to be on centre median strips or in the centre of any roundabout, they must not be obstructing the sight of drivers or pedestrians and they must be fastened securely so as not to tip or be blown over. Permits are issued for a specific time limit and signs must be removed on the day of expiry.

The Shire's Community Laws Officer stated that there have been breaches and the Shire officers have had to confiscate some real estate signs that have been erected illegally but in the main the real estate firms are aware of the regulations and abide by them.

The Shire is planning a special meeting with all real estate firms in the area to provide further information on the permits and the local law. The Shire is aware that there are certain favourite sites for the erection of signs to catch the eye and try to make sure that no more than one sign at a time is granted a permit for a particular spot.

So, yes the signs are legal if they have been erected with a permit. But if you find that a sign is obstructing your view, particularly when entering an intersection and is a traffic hazard, then you are able to contact the Shire Community Laws

Department and ask that the sign be placed in a better position. If you believe a sign is unlawful, once



again you can contact the Shire and enquire about its validity. If you feel that the signs are proliferating and have become a problem then that is a matter that needs to be taken up with our local councillor with a view to changing the local regulations.

Gilda Hansen

More on signs

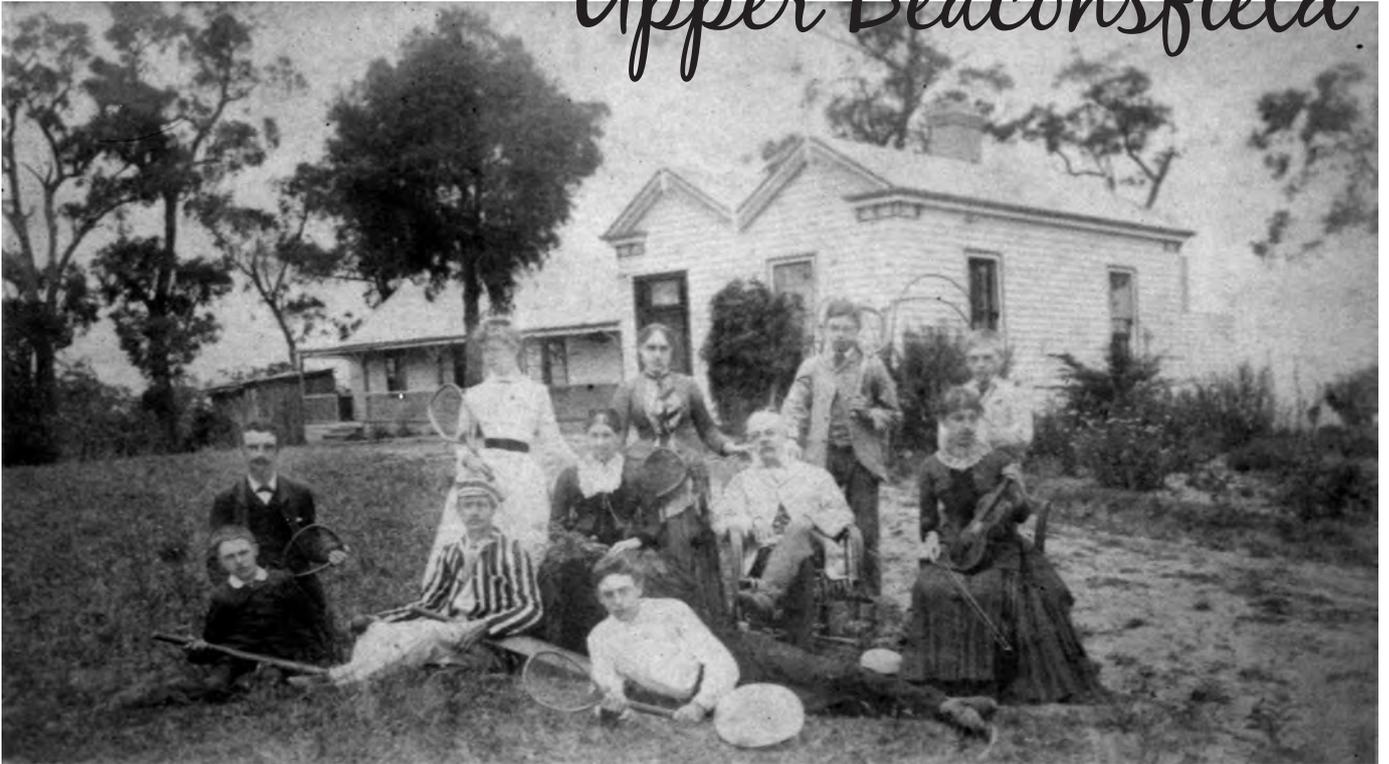
Permits or not, large-sized real estate boards are a distraction and an eyesore at intersections. The latest signs are two large-sized boards side by side at the intersection near the Cardinia Hotel and near Montuna, the latter having two signs to advertise the same property (see photographs).

Perhaps the housing developers at Beaconsfield have exaggerated this trend by their huge signs at the highway and other real estate firms feel they have to compete by having their signs large as well.

I believe Council needs to look at this problem and establish stricter guidelines for all real estate firms and developers. Anyone visiting this area after a few years absence would be horrified by the visual pollution of signs that are growing like cancers in our locality.

Helen Smith

Upper Beaconsfield



Professor Halford and family at St. Georges Hill

This home was built in 1876 for Professor Halford, the founding Professor of Medicine at Melbourne University. Halford was the first to own freehold land in Upper Beaconsfield and named the street outside his home St Georges Parade, now called Salisbury Road. Halford was much admired in the village, a trustee of both the hall and the church land. He was honoured by having one of our first streets named after him. The house was destroyed by fire about 1948.



Newstead Forest was built in 1883 by Miss Moon, who with her friend Miss Elphinstone Dick, were renowned teachers of Swedish exercises to Ladies Colleges in Victoria. For some years, the pair would commute daily to the Melbourne Colleges, and weekly to Ballarat Colleges. The house survives in A'Beckett Road.



in Federation days


SALISBURY HOUSE,
 

UPPER BEACONSFIELD.

Mountain Air. 1,200 Feet above Sea.

COMMANDING AND VARIED VIEWS.
 VERANDAH ALL ROUND. FERN-GULLIES.
 TENNIS. ALL HOME COMFORTS. STABLING.

MISSSES A. & A. HEDRICK.

Coaches Meet Trains.

Salisbury House

This photograph is believed to have been taken on Federation Day, 1901. Salisbury House was built in 1888 for George Craik, who named it "Kincraik". His wife managed the guesthouse until 1895 when the Misses Hedrick became the proprietors, changing the name to Salisbury House.

Tariff

35/- per week

7/- per day

Children under 12 half price Fires in bedroom 1/- per day extra.



The General Store

100 years ago, James Kirwin's general store occupied the site of what was to become Councillor Ewenson's garden in McBride Road.

In 1893 it became our P.O., after fire destroyed the previous one. Fire also destroyed this building in 1918.

What's happening at the Community Centre?

Presentation to Alison Ryan

A presentation was recently made at a special general meeting of the Community Centre to our staff member Alison Ryan, to recognise her ten years of employment in accounts administration at the Centre.

Alison has an indispensable knowledge of all aspects of the Community Centre both past and present and has made a huge contribution to its growth as a result of her commitment. She has at the same time also maintained an active involvement in many other organisations in the community, and has been a popular tutor of our ceramics classes over a long period. Alison was presented with a silver tray and flowers as a mark of our appreciation for her talents and her hard work.

Extension of the office

As a result of having obtained funding through the Shire of Cardinia's Capital Grants Program, the Centre will shortly be in a position to undertake an extension of its office. This Centre has long outgrown the present office which is too small to provide comfortable working conditions for the staff or a convenient system for meeting our members' needs. As a result of the extension, the front door of the Centre will be relocated around the corner. It is hoped that the building work will be completed during the next school holidays in early July in order to minimise inconvenience.

Courses

Term 2 has seen the commencement of a new intake for our "Personal Care" course (Certificate III in Community Services - Aged Care). This is an accredited course which qualifies graduates as personal carers for the elderly and disabled.

Our daytime computer courses at Minibah have proved to be as popular as the evening courses, which have been held for some time at the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School, and have enabled a greater range of people to participate.

Look out for the program for courses in Term 3, which should be available early in July. If you do not receive a program in the mail, please contact the

Community Centre to be included on the mailing list. Please enrol as early as possible to avoid disappointment, as some classes fill very quickly.

Volunteers

The Community Centre relies upon voluntary assistance in order to run as efficiently as it does. If you would like to assist in any capacity, please contact one of the co-ordinators. Your volunteer hours are recorded and can qualify you to participate in one of our courses free of charge. You can also receive free childcare in our crèche while working as a volunteer. (Some limits do apply.)

Crèche

Childcare is available, from Monday to Friday, from 8.45am to 4.00pm in our excellent registered class I crèche. You can use the crèche while you attend classes or for occasional care. Please feel free to call in and visit the crèche if you have not used it before.

Sally Randall

Welcome new residents

Stoney Creek Road

Julie, Grant and Georgia Sievers
Lyn and Aaron Samwells
Natalie and Paul Laroche and family

Sutherland Road

Alice, Bob and Tracey McLaughlin

Emerald Road

Philip, Cathy, Samantha and Curtis Opsblum

Grant Court

Ashton and Katie Wynne-Yorke

Sugarloaf Road

Adam Mosterd

Ray Allsop Post Office

Bellevue Orchard

J & R Russo
544 Brown Rd
Officer
5943 2390



BUY DIRECT & GET IT FRESH

Fresh local apple juice
Freshly crushed on the orchard
Peaches, nectarines and apples



Bellevue Orchard supports Carols By Candlelight

Upper Beaconsfield Association report

UBA hosted a meeting (10/4/2001) where Stewart Castle, Manager Technical Services, Cardinia Shire, explained a proposal which could help slow traffic through Upper Beaconsfield. See council report.

Village Fair

The final Village Fair has been and gone. No one has come forward to form a new committee. The committee which ran the 2000 Village Fair reported a profitable event. Apparently a comment made by one group 'We don't need the money' must also be the case for everyone else.

Promoting the area

The UBA has submitted the following for inclusion in a tourist brochure being produced by Puffing Billy Country Tourism Inc.

Blessed by beautiful scenery in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges and little more than one hour from Melbourne CBD, Upper Beaconsfield can be approached via Pakenham, Beaconsfield or Berwick via Princes Highway, or from Emerald along Emerald-Beaconsfield Road. Gold miners were fossicking in the gullies in 1878, the school and hall opened in 1884. Due to bushfires few original buildings exist. The hall, milk bar and Salisbury House, now an old peoples home, are some of these. St Johns Church, rebuilt after the 1983 bushfires, is a landmark at the southern entrance to the shopping centre.

Not necessarily in order of importance, attractions include four B&Bs; five varied/assorted eating establishments, from elegance to take-away; a hotel and a winery; two golf courses, tennis courts, recreation ground which includes a BMX track, barbecue and swings; children's playground at the hall/community centre complex; three strategically situated toilet blocks; six nature reserves for delightful walks; Ash Wednesday Memorial Garden and Charing Cross for contemplation. Victorian Equestrian Centre, Emily Hill Berry Farm and Cardinia Reservoir, overlooked by Elephant Rock lookout, are to the north on Emerald Road.

The shopping centre is down to earth: post office, general store/garden supplies, supermarket, chemist, hairdresser, milk bar, pizza shop, butcher and baker. Maybe there is a candle maker among the several art and craft people who have their studios or workshops nearby. Cardinia bookmobile visits every Tuesday mid-day.

Subdivisions

This association has supported an Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group's submission opposing a proposed subdivision of 6.5ha to three lots.

The uncleared site is in the swamp on Emerald Road opposite Sugarloaf Rd, which is within the Upper Beaconsfield Strategy Plan boundary. Points made include protection of the swamp and down stream water quality as area is part of Westernport catchment, site abuts the stream-side reserve, UB strategy plan recommends 15ha lots in this area.

Due to both groups becoming aware of the application very late in the process, council has agreed to implement notification to Township Committees of future relevant applications.

No more Fire Refuges?

Anthony Hester, representing the Shire, who was unable to keep his appointment at the April general meeting, attended the last UBA committee meeting. A fire fighter and the proprietor of a designated refuge were also present.

Anthony led a discussion about the need for refuges in the community considering that individual emergency plans were being encouraged. Whether staying or leaving, a refuge should be unnecessary.

Most of those present planned to stay but thought refuges were needed for transients caught in an unfamiliar area, for people who changed their minds and decided to leave a bit late, as a temporary site for people to wait prior to returning home to extinguish spot fires and also as places where others could find friends and relatives before relief depots are established.

Local news

A request has come from Lisa Dodd, journalist, of the Pakenham Gazette for news from Upper Beaconsfield which is her particular responsibility.

Any issue, event, or snippet of local interest from groups or individuals, will be welcomed whether it seems worthy or not. Let the journalist decide!

Laura Levens

Beaconhills Country Golf Club



The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Newton, Grant & Spencer Pty Ltd as the organisation responsible for preparation of the Golf Course Masterplan. The company comprises Jack Newton (Professional), Graeme

Grant (former Superintendent of Kingston Heath Golf Club) and John Spencer (current Superintendent at Huntingdale Golf Club). They have a very strong track record in golf course masterplans and draw on many years of experience in the industry, including working with local communities and the environment.

The masterplan process is simply one of planning for the future. It will become a blueprint document for the Club to schedule on-going works in a co-ordinated manner and with the support of members. Following the formation of a brief prepared by the Club, the masterplanners will produce a draft document for discussion.

Items to be considered in the brief will include the length of the courses, bunkering, drainage, the location of the maintenance facility, the size of the greens, tee locations, flora and fauna management amongst others. Future course works always depend on the availability of funds, and this will be the case here. The Board has not made any decision beyond approval of the masterplan document. The first draft is expected to be on display in July.

At time of writing the men's B Grade Pennant team has qualified to play in the final at Sorrento Golf Club on 27 May and the A Grade

has a very good chance, with one more round to play, to also bring home a flag.

Two of the ladies' pennant teams won flags in 2000 and were advanced to Division 1 and 3 this year. With several of the lowest handicap players not available for this pennant season, the teams performed well and were able to keep their places in the higher divisions.

The lady members' Foursomes Championship was played in May over two weeks. The winners this year were Ann Felgate and Christine Grand-Court.

The annual golf trips to the Murray River courses will take place in late May. The ladies are based at Cobram and the men head for Yarrawonga and all look forward to an enjoyable week of golf on the river courses.

The Henry Griffiths club fitting system, probably the most sophisticated in the world, is now available at Beaconhills. Contact: Club Professional Mark Griffin 5944 3630. The Pro Shop now stocks the excellent Cleek waterproof clothing and also a good range of Nike shirts. Gift vouchers are available at the Pro Shop and can be used for lessons, clothing or equipment.

Social events:

June 15 Seafood night with entertainment July 7 Club Dinner Dance with entertainment. Enquiries on social events to Andy Conn 5944 3309. Visitors welcome. Book early.

Barbara Jackson
5944 3554

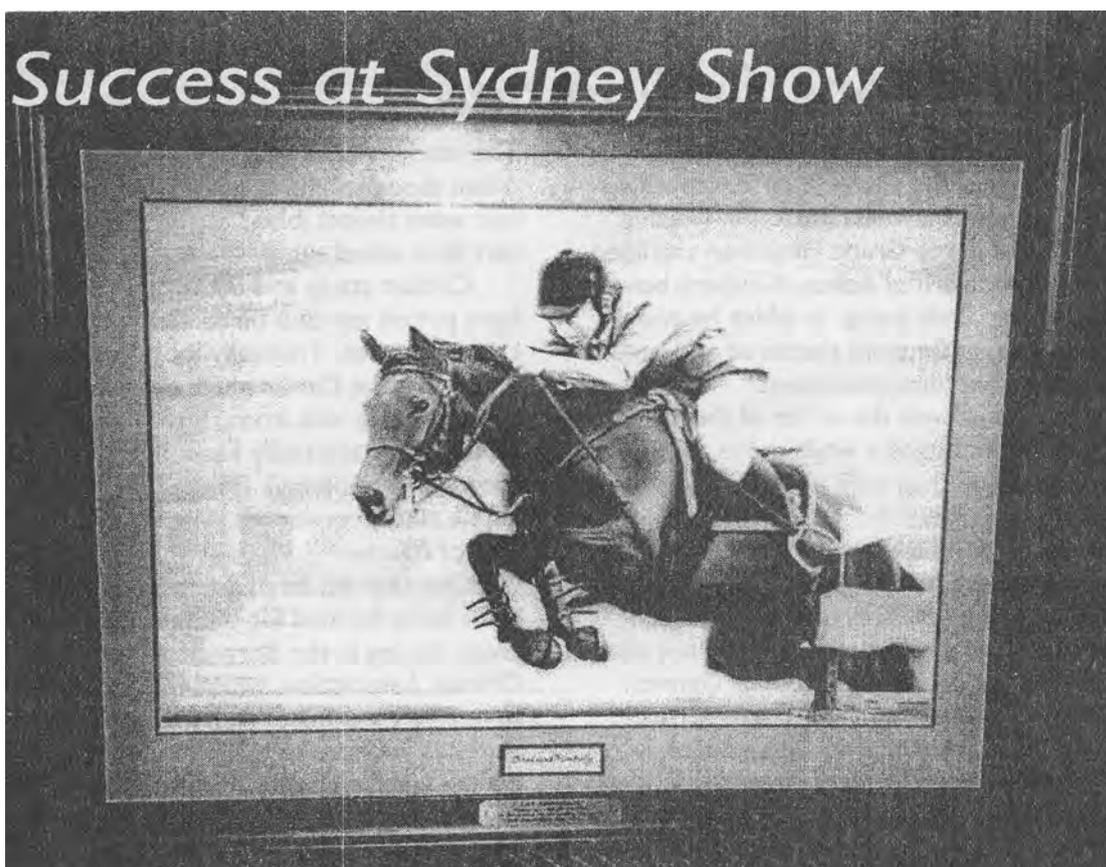
Casey Choir wants you!



New members wanted: men bass and tenor, women alto.
If you enjoy singing and would like to be a part of our Casey family choir we would love to hear from you. Two of our members are from Upper Beaconsfield.

Contact Pamela Thompson on 9796 1727

Lorraine Tenby



Brad Trewin, who recently retired as Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club's District Commissioner, gained a fantastic result at the recent Sydney Royal Easter Show when he finished equal second in a world cup qualifying round.

Brad was riding Miss Sully, a mare whom Brad bought in 1995, and who had been retired from the race-track because of her modest performances. She has proven much better in the show jumping arena and is now regarded as one of Australia's best jumping mares.

The Pony Club recently recognised Brad's outstanding contribution to the club by electing him as a life member. He was presented with a beautiful oil painting of him riding Miss Sully over a jump, (see photograph).

In 1998 at the age of 22, Brad began a three-year stint as the club's District Commissioner and retired from the important position recently when he married Katie Holroyd.

Brad has an excellent rapport with children. He joined the club as a riding member at the age of eight. When he retired as a rider from the club at the age of 21, he had attended 127 rallies out of a possible 141. He was known as an exceptional

games rider during his pony club days and captained winning state championship teams in 1992 and 1996. He was also a member of the Victorian Pony Club team in 1991 and 1996. Brad was the driving force behind the formation of a most successful junior committee in the West Gippsland zone. This has become the model for other zones.

In 1994, Brad received 4th Award of Merit, the highest honour for contribution to Pony Club by a member, and in 2000 was awarded the prestigious Australian Sport Medal.

Brad began to concentrate on showjumping in the late 1980s and his later teaming with Miss Sully has brought the pair plenty of success - 47 first, second or third placings in events in Victoria and New South Wales. He has won two Berwick Show Society "Showjumper of the Year" awards and has twice been awarded the Port Phillip Affiliated Agricultural Societies Showjumper of the Year award.

Although Brad no longer has any official title with the Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club, he will be returning on occasions as an instructor.

Marlene Kelly

Dark maroons fly flag again

After reorganising itself and appointing Nick Meyers as Captain Coach of the Club Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club enjoyed a stellar season in which it slipped into the B grade Grand Final then snatched victory from the cavern of defeat. A superb bowling performance from Dale Irving, in which he took 6/25, left neighbours Emerald shattered and lamenting yet another finals disappointment.

Celebrating hard was the order of the day for a band of younger enthusiasts while those a little more experience on their side were able to enjoy the brief claim to fame.

The presentation night was enjoyed by all on Friday April 27 at major sponsors the Pine Grove Hotel. The club is deeply appreciative to Jill and Fred Ward for their continued support but it also owes a debt to the Beaconsfield Upper General Store, the On Course Golf Shop, Upper Crust Pizza as well as the Hindquarter Steak house who also provided significant financial support.

The club's AGM was held on Monday May 21 and farewell was bid to a number of committee persons who had rendered valuable service to the club during the past few years. These included Richard Williams Treasurer and Secretary over the last six years; Bob Taylor, Chairman of Selectors for three years and Arthur Winzar committee man in recent times. It was particularly pleasing to have presented Bob Taylor with life membership at the presentation night for his long service and club membership since 1985.

The club has now regained a position in the Premier Grade in the West Gippsland Cricket Association and is looking to consolidate in A grade. Nick Meyers has been reappointed as club coach so everyone is keen to build on the good work climaxed in the grand final.

Cricket on the village 'green'

(From the diary of a young cricketer - Bert Shorthouse the youngest face in the club photo of 1893)

Sat. October 5 1901. "It is almost time to walk up to the cricket ground. We have transferred our matches from Shorthouse's paddock to the recreation ground, which we bought from Mr Priestley.

This morning I have been driving one of Dad's drags down to the station at Beaconsfield to pick up passengers who are staying at Salisbury House for

the weekend. It looks like a really busy weekend for the local guest houses as over two hundred folk from Melbourne arrived on the two trains.

The road is not in very good condition though and a couple of old folk were almost jolted out of the cart by a wheel rut.

Cricket starts at 3.00pm and I have put on my club tie to wear with my other cricket clothes. I'm really looking forward to playing against the Cardinia Creekers from down the hill. We had a visit from Hugh Trumble last week so the chaps are really keen. Hugh recently took a hat trick for Australia (as they are now called after all the states combined). The test was against England of course.

Our club has been going for eight years now since being formed for the first time. The fellows enjoy playing in the Berwick and Dandenong Cricket Association, which was formed for the first time two years ago. We have agreed to arrive-early today as we have to pull out a lot of bayonet grass before we can play, to make the ground smoother. My bowling hand will be a little the worse for wear after that effort.

Dad (Bert) is opening the innings today with Hans Glismann. They have formed a great opening partnership despite being a lot older than the rest of us and Hans' knees aren't much good any more -he knows how to turn an easy three into a risky single.

We have fourteen players registered but are struggling to field a team today because of the number of Melbournites visiting the Village for the weekend. Spring turns Upper Beaconsfield into a virtual haven as people come up here to enjoy the rarefied air which is supposed to be good for your lungs. There are pretty walks in the fern gullies below Salisbury House which are very popular.

Well I'd better pack my bat and pick up the plate of scones with jam and cream for afternoon tea otherwise I'll be late. The Cardinia Creekers will be a pushover so I don't want to miss the fun."

If you want to know more about local history read Rob Hansen's history of our Village contained in his recently released work "A Century Partnership" (contact Rob if you require a copy). Upper Beaconsfield cricket was certainly very different in Federation Victoria to that of the infant years of the 21st century - one hundred years later.



Rob Hansen
5944 3871

Wildlife Watch with Laura Levens

To begin with here are two telephone numbers which may come in useful. For help for orphaned or injured fauna ring Wildline on 0500 540 000 for directions to nearest wildlife refuge.

To avoid false-alarm fire calls, perhaps made by a well intentioned passer-by, notify VicFire by calling 9887 7766 about half an hour before you are ready to start a burn.

Didn't the bush shine after the rain which fell just before Anzac Day? Doesn't everyone feel better after a shower? Moss is green again and grey lichen on rocks has lost that shrivelled appearance. Some dead looking eucalypts responded to the March down-pour with new leaves and poa grass which we slashed a day or so before grew six inches in five days!

Plants which have happily survived the dry times in our house garden, with only rain water, include sweet bursaria, burgan, several different species of correa, bitter pea, hop wattle, scrub sheoke, Grevillea alpina, G. rosemarinifolia, a lemon bottle brush and a prostrate myoporium. All are small to medium native shrubs. Only the last two are not locals.

Dendrobium orchids planted in the open survived, some shrank a little but will come back, as one did after Ash Wednesday's heat. The end of April and I couldn't see any flower buds on a pot of pink nerines but the white one has two or three. Different from usual when pink has been prominent.

I look forward to flowers on nodding and tall greenhoods, common heath, honey pots on prostrate acrotriche, veined helmet orchids, grevillea alpina, prickly tea tree, creamy-green flowers on our local correa, and erect guinea flower in various reserves around Upper Beaconsfield. These should all bloom before the next Village Bell comes out.

Buy and plant natives

From 1 June, Margaret Cromb will take over the running of our plant nursery at 1 Halford Road, Upper Beaconsfield.

Some readers may already know Margaret as an artist in watercolours, others may have enrolled at her painting courses at the Community Centre.

The nursery will continue to operate each Friday from 12-5pm or by appointment. The contact number will now be 9707 2415

Forward planning is needed for that planting project

While we try to stock a diverse range of local plants, it is not practical or economical to carry large numbers of plants in stock. Most seed is collected in Summer and sown in late Summer for Spring tube stock, and in early spring for Autumn stock.

By ordering in advance you can have your choice of plants grown from seed collected in your area, for planting at your preferred time of year.

Gladys Aarons

Tasmanian tiger on the prowl again

An unusual animal, believed to be a Tasmanian Tiger, was spotted by a local husband and wife on their Upper Beaconsfield property on Saturday 24th March 2001 at approximately 8.25am. Seen at a distance of about 100 metres, the animal is described as a bit bigger than a fox, "dirty fawn" in colour with unusual markings. Particularly noticed was the long straight tail with a thick base, tail was about 1 metre long.

This is the second time that Mrs X has seen this animal. The first time was at a location near the centre of the village.

Ysabelle Hobson 5944 3273



Red Cross doorknock

Once again the residents of Upper Beaconsfield have been wonderful supporters of the annual March Red Cross doorknock.

The total figure raised in the area which includes part of Dewhurst, Guys Hill and a small section of Beaconsfield north of the highway, was \$5,390.85. This was a record for the area and an increase of \$268.45 on the amount raised last year.

All Red Cross callers are unpaid volunteers. Approximately forty volunteer callers, plus members of the Upper Beaconsfield Rover Crew cover the area and I thank them all for contributing their time again this year. Thank you all residents for your generous support of Red Cross.

All cheques donated to my callers are banked directly to the unit's account in Berwick and were not involved in the robbery at Red Cross headquarters in South Melbourne, during the Easter break. If a cheque or credit card donation was sent direct to headquarters prior to Easter, donors are asked to check their credit card accounts for any unauthorised entries. If a cheque in favour of Red Cross has not been drawn on their account, donors are asked to telephone 9685 9970.

The Annual General Meeting for the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit will be held on Friday 13 July at 10am. Guest speaker will be Joanne Bradshaw. At present only three members of the Unit live in Upper Beaconsfield. Many "Friends of Red Cross" live in the area, but the unit certainly is in need of more active members. Enquiries from potential new members would be greatly appreciated.

Barbara Jackson
Unit Chairman 5944 3554
Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit

Vale

Charlie Debrincat

Upper Beaconsfield friends and neighbours were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Charlie Debrincat on 28th March 2001. Charlie aged 57, died after a battle with cancer, which had unfortunately progressed quickly and many locals were in fact unaware that he was ill.

The Debrincat family has lived in Upper Beaconsfield for 23 years. The children attended local schools and still live in the area. Charlie and Doris liked the area so much that when their first home became too large after the children left home, Charlie built a new house next door for him and Doris to live in for their later years. They moved in only last year, in July.

Charlie was born in Malta in 1943, the 5th son of eleven children and lived in a traditional stone farmhouse in the village of Gozo. He migrated to Australia when he was 17 and later learned the trade of bricklaying. He was such a hard worker that he developed a reputation as a "gun" brickie because of the large number of bricks he could lay in one day. Charlie was an uncomplicated man who loved the simple pleasures of life-his family, his shed, his fishing and his vegetable patch. His good friend and neighbour Ken Syphers delivered the eulogy at the funeral.

Deepest sympathy to Doris and children Julie, Martin and Joseph and their families.

Helen Smith

UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY HALL



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

Bookings and enquiries Helen Smith 5944 3219



Playground renovation for Pre-Kinder

To improve safety of the playground used by the children using the McBride Road centre for Pre-Kinder and playgroup purposes, new playground equipment will be installed over the coming weeks.

The renovated playground will include a quiet area for children's fantasy/dramatic play, story reading or picnics. There'll be a new fortress structure that will include a slide, climbing net, and lots of other fantastic (removable) fixtures to challenge the children's development. There'll also be increased area for the climbing frames, tunnels etc. The finished result is sure to thrill children and parents alike.

A very successful working bee was held on 5th of May, which saw families joining to assist the removal of much of the old equipment that failed to comply with current safety standards. Many thanks to the Cooper, Schoonderwaldt, Dean, Conn, Wishart, and Steel families for their tireless efforts to make the day a success.

An auction is planned for the sale of some of the old pieces of equipment such as the slide, track ride, tyre swing bridge and monkey bars. If you're interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact Sally Steel 5944 4550.

Grandparents and special friends visit the Upper Beaconsfield Kinder

Two wonderful days were spent at kinder this week, enabling the young and young at heart to enjoy some special times together. The morning started with many dozens of scones being made by the children, which were later served with jam and cream for a grandparents' Devonshire tea.

After showing their special guests around the kinder and demonstrating some of the terrific things that they do there, the children put on a concert for the

very proud onlookers. With a bit of encouragement the onlookers were soon out of their seats taking part in the hokey pokey and 'wiggle it' song. The time passed quickly and lots of fun and laughter was shared by all. The duty mums helping out on the day in the kitchen did a great job too!

Enrolments

It seems that people are enrolling their children ever earlier for kindergarten these days. So as not to miss out on your placement, kinder children can enrol from their second birthday. Pre-Kinder enrolments are accepted from birth.

Kinder and Pre-Kinder Open Day

An Open Day is planned at the Kinder in Stoney Creek Road (adjacent to primary school) for Saturday June 16th, 10:00 to 12noon and at the Pre-Kinder (3 McBride Road) on July 25th. Visit our centre and meet Deb and Lyndall at Kinder, and Monica at PreKinder to discuss your child's needs and gain some insight into the program offered in 2002.

Enquiries about enrolments and the open day, please contact:

Kinder - Annelene Tredoux 5944 4635

Pre-Kinder - Donna Parker 9769 9937

Playgroup enquiries: Sally Steel 5944 4550

Next committee meeting:

Monday 4th June, 7:30pm, 12 McArthur Road, Upper Beaconsfield. All welcome.



Photographs taken on Grandparents day

CONTACT PEOPLE FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Please contact Gilda Hansen on 5944 3871 if you have any alterations or additions to this list.
We greatly appreciate your assistance in keeping this list up-to-date.

Organisation	Contact	Phone Number
Babysitting Club	Cathie Usher	5944 4183
Beaconhills Golf Club	Barbara Jackson	5944 3554
Community Centre, Bus & Playgroup	Anne McPhie Marie Cullman	5944 3484 (bus. hours)
Community Complex B&GC and Hall Bookings	Helen Smith	5944 3219
Conservation Group	Laura Levens	5944 3828
Council	Keith Ewenson	5944 3372
Cricket Club	Rob Hansen	5944 3871
C.W.A.	Daphne Brown	9702 2568
C.W.A. - Woorinyan	Jean Cox	5944 3354
Fire Brigade	Graeme MacGowan Capt. George Silberbauer Sec.	5944 3374 9796 2226
Fire Brigade - Women's Auxiliary	Colleen Lazenby	9796 2226
Neighbourhood Watch	Melinda Conn	5944 4010
Netball Jnr. & Snr.	Peter Brennan	5944 3916
Pony club	Marlene Kelly	5944 3487
Pre-school & Kinder	Trudy Paton	5944 3060
Primary School Council & PFA	Gordon Atkin	5944 3591 (sch.hrs)
Quarry Impact Assoc.	Fedir Woskoboenko	5943 2435
Recreation Reserve	Bob Taylor	5944 3645
Red Cross	Barbara Jackson	5944 3554
Riding Club	Lesley McKay	9707 2892
R.S.L.	Eric Chaplin	5944 3312
Scout groups	Barry Smith	5944 3219
St. Johns Vicarage	Rev.Michael Flynn	5944 3862 (bus.hrs)
St! Johns Youth Club	Rev.Michael Flynn	5944 3862
Stoney Creek Residents' Group	Ken Syphers	5944 3580
Tennis Club	Nick Gamble	5944 3756
Toy Library		
U.B.A.	Laura Levens	5944 3828
U.B. Care Group	Des McKenna	5944 3516

Diary Dates June July 2001

June 6 UBA meeting Community Room 8pm

June 12 Quarry AGM in the Creche at the Community Complex 8pm

June 27 Fire information evening 8pm Community Room at the Community Complex.

July 13 10am Red Cross AGM Berwick

Youth ministry at St John's

Our aim at St. John's is that young people may know what the bible teaches about God, how they can apply this to their lives, and also that they can form friendships to help each other out in day to day life.

For Grades 5 and 6, and Years 7 and 8, we are currently running a group by the name of 'Glue'. This is a program consisting mainly of fun games, often involving eggs or chocolate. It also involves a short time where we a look at particular issues, and discuss ours and God's place in them. Anyone is free to ask any question-and hopefully our team of leaders can help search out an answer -if there is one! Glue runs on Friday nights during most weeks of school term, from 7:30 to 9pm. The cost is \$3, which includes snacks and pays for all the items used in the games.

For older teens we are running a group called DG3. This is a group that caters for those who want to look at the bible in more depth, and live out what they believe. It's on the first and third Sunday's of

each month at 7pm, but for a venue you'll have to get in touch with me at the number below, as the venue often changes!

For further details call me, Paul Hughes, on 0401 070 968 or e-mail me at aerosmith@hotmail.com



St John's Anglican Church

Mike Flynn (Vicar)

5944 3410

Local rainfall figures

Readings taken at Barkala, Emerald Road Upper Beaconsfield. Rainfall shown in millimetres.

In the last rainfall report provided for the Village Bell in October 2000, I indicated that heavier rain was due. Unfortunately we experienced a dry end to Spring 2000 and Summer's rainfall was well below average.

March 2001 had average rainfall. The first half of April was dry, then the heavens opened for four days. The rainfall over these four days was 57.5mm, 28.2mm, 40.3mm and 23.5mm, a total of 149.5mm. April's total was 161.7mm.

Since that time to the middle of May only 6mm of rain has fallen.

We look forward to a mild Winter and Spring with above average rain to fill our reservoirs.

George Moir

Month	33 year average	2000	2001
Jan	67.8	84.2	30.7
Feb	54.4	44.1	22.7
Mar	68.3	28.2	65
Apr	75.7	72.7	161.7
May	94.7	155.2	
Jun	82.3	56.9	
Jul	80.3	49.9	
Aug	88.4	58.2	
Sep	95.6	141.4	
Oct	99.0	122.4	
Nov	83.2	30.2	
Dec	81.2	70.7	
Total	970.9	914.1	280.1

Harpfields



Harpfields was built by one of our outstanding pioneers, William H. Goff, a very active public figure. He was a trustee and treasurer of the Hall, a trustee of the church land, and also a Shire Councillor for 12 years, twice being elected Shire President.

A brilliant teacher, he was headmaster of all Saints College in St Kilda. Harpfields was destroyed by the Ash Wednesday fires; the new Harpfields was built on the site by the family.

Acknowledgment: Many thanks to Charles Wilson for providing the old photographs and the history behind them for the features on Upper Beaconsfield in Federation days.



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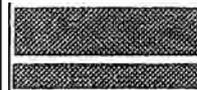
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