

The VILLAGE BELL

Issue 148 October 2002
Upper Beaconsfield Association



Charing Cross—what's your opinion?

Debate is likely to become heated again in Upper Beaconsfield on the proposals for Charing Cross.

Cardinia Shire Council has put up concept maps in the General Store, Post Office and Community Complex showing suggested changes to the street alignment of Salisbury Road and a new roundabout near the church.

The new plan aims to improve car safety at the intersection of Beaconsfield-Emerald and St Georges Roads by the closure of the road adjacent to the park and a centre median along Beaconsfield-Emerald Road.

The plan also aims for a "village green" with an increase to the open area gained by the realignment of Salisbury Road. Plantings and landscaping will add to the greenery.

Comments are invited and must be forwarded to council by October 11.

The Upper Beaconsfield Association is holding a public meeting to act as a forum for all residents to attend and put their views. This will take place next week on Wednesday 8pm October 2 in the Community Complex.

A brief poll undertaken at the shopping centre recently showed that many residents have strong views. The main question is whether this plan will

make it safer for traffic flow as intended. St Georges Road residents believe that it will still be difficult for them to enter onto Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, from cars approaching on their left.

Scott Hathaway from the Upper Beaconsfield General Store believes the new plan will be detrimental to their business as car park spaces will be lost from out the front of the General Store. Butcher Peter Williams says people will find it more difficult to find their way into the parking area. The shopkeepers have put up a petition and residents can sign and add their comments.

Church members are concerned that the roundabout will be closer to the church and noise could be a problem for them. Enclosed in this issue of the Village Bell is a map and key to the proposed changes for you to study at your leisure. But don't leave it too long as you only have until the 11 October to comment. Residents are urged to attend the public meeting on October 2 at the Community Complex to air their views and listen to various sides of the debate.

Comments in writing should be forwarded to Peter McLean, Manager Assets and Development, Shire of Cardinia, PO Box 7 Pakenham 3810.



Coming summer bushfire danger
Charing Cross concept map
Speed limit debate
Golf Club needs new members

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Subscriptions UBA and Village Bell

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 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 Julie Born tel. 5944 3222.

Welcome New Residents



Emerald Road

Rick and Mandy Grosvenor

Fraser Avenue

Christine, Wayne, Olivia and Megan Keem

Ray Allsop

Dates for your diary

Oct 2	Public meeting re. Charing Cross, 8pm Community Complex
Oct 9	First aid course starts
Oct 10	Clover Cottage dinner
Oct 10,11,17,18	Red Cross training days
Oct 12	Fire Brigade auction
Oct 12	Trust for Nature open day
Oct 19	Open Day at the Kinders
Oct 26	Victoria Market Visit
Oct 26, 27	Trust for Nature open day
Nov 5	UB Pony Club Melbourne Cup Day Showjumping and Dressage Competition at Akoonah Park, Berwick.
Nov 7	Oaks Day function at the Pine Grove
Nov 10	Community Fete Primary School
Nov 11	Remembrance Day, Cenotaph 11am

SUPPORT THE BELL IN 2002 BY SUBSCRIBING NOW

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 2002.

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

Name of family

Address

Telephone

Signed

Coming summer bushfire danger

I can hardly think of a single year in which the fire brigade hasn't gone on about the coming summer bushfire danger. But there have been plenty of years without serious fires. "Wolf, wolf? No. The thing is that the wolf is almost always lurking out there and only needs one bad day and a bit of carelessness or criminality to come charging in. So, what of this summer? A wet spring, followed by a nice, damp summer would be great for the garden and keep the bushfires and skin cancer away. But it doesn't look as though it's going to be like that.

We've had no more than half the usual rainfall so far and the three-month forecast offers two-to-one that we won't reach the average by the end of the year. The same odds apply to a warmer-than-average first half to summer. El Niño is rearing his ugly head; all the main indicators have intensified over the last fortnight and, going by historical patterns, he looks like persisting until some time next year. It's not the prettiest of pictures: little moisture in the soil and small hope of replenishing it; warm, dry weather ahead, soil dries out early, and so does the vegetation. "All the better to burn you with, Grandmamma", says the wolf.

It is a bit sinister that the storm conditions early this month resembled the pattern of Ash Wednesday weather. Cool, rather than hot, of course, but it's a wind configuration that we haven't had for some time. Let's hope it doesn't become a habit by summer.

It might dry out quite suddenly if we get a spell of warm weather and the restrictions may come in too early for you to complete the task of cleaning up, removing potential bushfire fuel around the home. Several householders have already started. Now is the time to do it, when the surplus can be safely dealt with by burning. But check with the Shire first that it's OK to burn-off in your locality on the chosen day. If it is, and you're likely to put up enough smoke to alarm anybody, please let the brigade Captain, Graeme MacGowan, know beforehand (phone 5944 3374). That saves you the embarrassment, and us the nuisance of an unnecessary turn-out.

Brigade members are available (by prior appointment - we are all unpaid volunteers) to provide you with information on bushfire precautions that could

widen your margin of safety in, and around your home. If you are new to Upper Beaconsfield and haven't had any bushfire experience, we expect that CFA will run an information night here in November; you will find it most helpful. The date will be announced later.

Those of you who have electronically-controlled gates to your properties might give thought to what is going to happen if the fire brigade needs to get in when you are not there to open them. The delay might be costly. Please let us know if you have the answer. We don't - at present - and the problem has already arisen.

The brigade is holding its biennial auction on Saturday, 12 October. We are very happy to receive donations of suitable items or to auction particular items on commission. This year we will have not one, but two auctioneers to sell to you everything that you ever wanted at the highest possible price (in fact, nearly everybody has always been very happy with their superb bargains - the only dissatisfied customers being those whose bids were topped by others). The auction is an important source of the funds on which we depend for maintenance or purchase of the equipment we need to keep you safe.

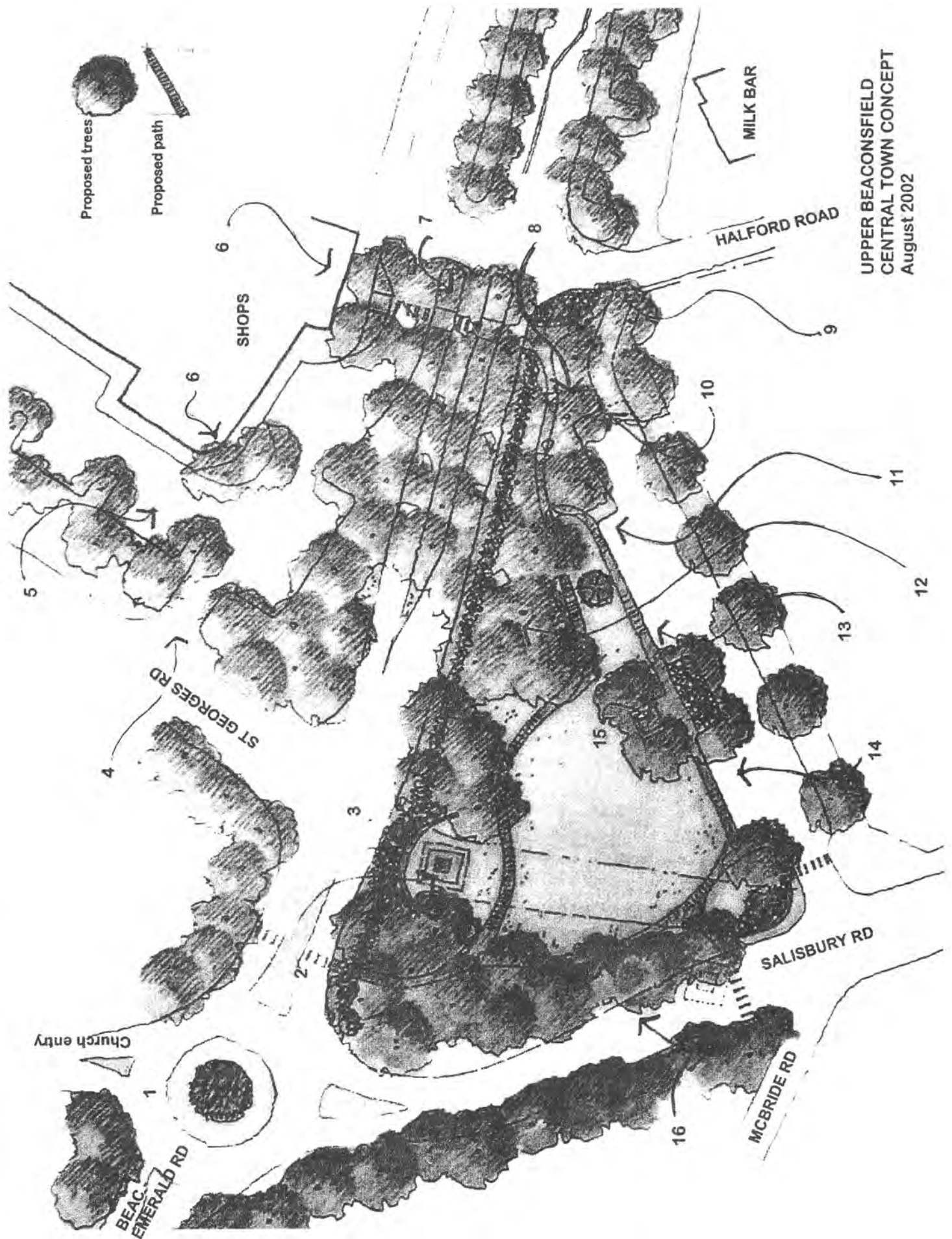
George Silberbauer
Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade

UB Fire Brigade Biennial Auction Saturday 12 October 2002

Donations of saleable goods required
Goods on consignment considered

Contact Eric Bumpstead (5944 3298)
Stan Hamilton (5944 3531) Peter Deering
(5944 3521) to arrange collection of items
donated to the auction.

Come along and support the Brigade



UB township proposals

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Key to map, page 4

1. Proposed roundabout
2. Proposed relocation of war memorial on raised mound
3. Proposed retaining wall
4. Proposed car park entry to improve circulation and accessibility into car park
5. Car park enhancement
6. Proposed planting to create a unifying theme between service road and car park
7. Proposed median refuge
8. Locate and protect orchid area
9. Removable bollards
10. Potential road closure
11. Mobile library site
12. Removal and remediation of remaining trees as per arborist report
13. Proposed location of additional car parking
14. Proposed location of additional car parking
15. Proposed new toilet
16. Proposed realignment of Salisbury Road

Next meeting

The next general meeting of the UBA will be held at 8pm on Wednesday October 2, in the Community Meeting Room at the Community Complex, Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield.

Bill Johnston, from Parklink, the consultants entrusted with discovering what the community would like incorporated in the proposed alterations to the Charing Cross/Cenotaph area, is expected to attend. Now is your chance to help design a new toilet/information block for Charing Cross, suggest a new position for the Cenotaph when Salisbury Road is realigned or make suggestions for pathways, plantings etc.

UBA participates in local forums

At the invitation of the Council, Committee representatives have attended the following forums:

Emergency risk management study, road safety planning and the next one, Tapping in to your community's hidden riches' will be in October. We also added to the appreciative crowd when Beaconsfield received a handsome cheque towards their new community centre from the state government.

Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year

Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year is to be announced at the School and Community Fete on November 10, 2002.

Nominations for junior (under 21 years at nomination) and senior (over 21 years) Citizen of the Year awards must be in by October 24, 2002.

Nominees should have lived in Upper Beaconsfield for at least five years and have made a significant contribution to the community. Ex citizens of Upper Beaconsfield may be nominated up to one year after leaving the area. They should display characteristics of fairness, charity and community spirit. They should not have received this award previously nor be a member of the Citizen of the Year committee.

Laura Levens

Nomination form

Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year.

PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS

Name:

Age (if for junior award)

Address:

Reasons for nomination:

Attach page if not enough room here.

Nominator:

Telephone:

Leave at Post Office for UBA, Box 86.



Paul Harris Fellowship for Pat

The 1998 Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year has been made a Paul Harris Fellow. Rotary Club past president Laury Gordyn presented this award recently to Pat during a Rotary function.

In 1968 Pat married Fred Edwards, and the couple have two children, Katherine born in 1971 and Melissa in 1973. The family moved to Upper Beaconsfield in 1976.

Pat's community work started at 16 when she was secretary of the Noble Park Youth Club and has included being a callisthenics teacher, guide and brownie leader, committee member and office bearer of Upper Beaconsfield kindergarten, primary school, tennis club, hall committee, CFA and UBA. Pat was involved with the starting up of the Beaconhills Christian College in 1982, and has seen it grow from 30 children in 1983 to its present position of opening a second campus in Berwick in 2003.

Pat was a fire fighter on Ash Wednesday 1983, she was in the first women's team of six as soon as CFA allowed women fire fighter. She is still a very active member of the CFA and auxiliary.

We do not have many community service groups in Upper Beaconsfield that have not been assisted and improved by Pat's gracious and willing help. Pat works in a full time position as directress with the United Childcare Centre in Hampton Park, and is long serving member of Inner Wheel, UBA and other groups. Pat was made Citizen of the Year for the Shire of Pakenham in 1994.

We are proud to have such a community minded resident. Congratulations, Pat.

Jo Carter

Fire Brigade Auxiliary

New Members

The Fire Brigade Auxiliary has been pleased to welcome three new members in the past year: Jean McDonald, Ruth Merriman and Jeanette Somerville. Membership in the active Brigade is not a requirement for the Auxiliary, which is a fund raising and support group for the firefighters. The Auxiliary meets at 8:00 pm on the last Tuesday of each month, at the fire station, and all community members are welcome to join. Interested men and women should contact Auxiliary President Pat Edwards on 5944-3610.

Brigade Auction 12 October

The Auxiliary will again be providing hot and cold food and drinks from early morning during the Brigade Auction, and will be selling cakes and other home baked goods on the day. We will also commence selling tickets for the Annual Raffle, with prizes to be drawn in December 2002. All donations for the Cake Stall are gratefully accepted on the day; donations of saleable goods for the Auction are also encouraged - contact the Brigade about drop off or pick up.

School Fair in November

The Auxiliary will run the Tea Room during the Fair, offering fresh food and drinks, including Devonshire teas, in the relaxed setting of the Cricket Club rooms. All monies spent by community members at functions such as the Auction and the Fair provide direct financial support to the Brigade, which we acknowledge with thanks.

Other Donations

Moving house, spring cleaning, redecorating and tossing out the old for the new?? The Auxiliary always welcomes donations of clothing, old sheets, curtains and other materials that can be cut up and sold as rags, another of our fundraising activities. Please leave donations at the Upper Beac Milk Bar, next to the station.

Colleen Lazenby 9796 2226

Primary school's Arts Festival a huge success

An Australian "Outback Extravaganza" was the main idea behind the School's recently held Arts Festival. The appreciative audience was treated to an arrangement of Outback songs and ballads, aboriginal dances, comedy skits, choir and poetry recitals. Many thanks to all staff, parents and children who took part in this production, in particular the concert organisers Julie Grey and Rhonda Clifford.

Other events to note have been the arrival of our new relocatable classroom and the soon to be paved pond area. The School's master Plan has moved into the next phase of consultation and will possibly see construction begin of the new school buildings in 2003/2004.

Fourth term will see another busy term for all members of our school community. The School will be expecting a huge crowd to attend our Community and School Fete to be held on Sunday 10th November. The PFA will once again be busy organising fund raising activities to cap off a highly successful year.

Students from grade six will once again compete in the RACV Energy Break Through at Maryborough, at the end of November. Grade three students will be attending a school camp, the second week into term four.

Gordon Atkin

Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten & Pre-Kinder

OPEN DAY

**Saturday 19 October, 2002
10.00am—12 noon**

Kindergarten Stoney Creek Rd
Pre-Kinder 3 McBride Road

Meet our staff, Deb, Monica and Lyndall.

Enrolment Enquiries:
Kinder Sally 5944 3390
Pre-Kinder Julie 5944 4904

Beaconsfield Upper Primary School

Monster Community Fete
10th November 2002



Interested in having a stall at our Monster Fete?

Contact June on 5944 3591 (school hours)

Get in quick, as there are only limited spaces available.

School holiday fun

There are some great holiday activities available these school holidays at Casey-Cardinia Libraries. Included in the program are story times, songs, take home craft activities, Ashley Barnett's Magic Show, The Knockabout Theatre Company and The Purpletown Puppets. The Mobile Library is also featured in the Holiday Program and is hosting "Ladybird, Ladybird.....", with stories and rhymes. This will be held at Cockatoo in the Bowling Club car park on Thursday 3rd of October, 2pm-2.30pm. Bookings are required for all sessions and a \$1 charge per child applies to some activities.

For more information and session times please phone:

5995 3611	Cranbourne Library
9700 7117	Endeavour Hills Library
9704 7696	Narre Warren Library
5941 2036	Pakenham and Mobile Libraries

The Mobile Library is at the rotunda in Upper Beaconsfield every Tuesday from 11.30-1.30 We have books, magazines, CDs, CD ROMs, adult and children's videos and talking books on cassette and CD all available for loan. Membership is free so why not bring the kids along over the holidays and browse through our fantastic collection.

Julie Born

Speed limits spark heated debate

Dear Editor Village Bell

I know this letter probably goes 'against the grain' of the message of your newsletter but I would appreciate it being printed if only to see if there are others who feel like us or we are very much out of step with the community.

Could you please have a member of the UBA explain through your newsletter the actual right they seem to, or believe they have, to presume to speak correctly for the community when they lobby such bodies as Vic Roads?

We have lived here quietly for 18 years and have not attended any UBA meetings or the like - thus we are prepared for accusations that may come in reply that we should have etc, - and have always read Village Bell with interest and appreciation mainly in the area where infrastructure or change of conditions affects us all.

We appreciate that there are people who give of their time to help our community just as we give of our time in some organisations outside this area, and we would not want to discourage them. What we question is a seeming presumption that when it is announced through your newsletter that some change has been lobbied for around the district that we all agree with this change and hope that it comes about!

More particularly, in the last few years, there seems to exist an attitude that the car - which most of us use - is "the enemy" and must be slowed and hindered at all costs. Also that all drivers are selfish speedsters who have no regard for our community, They don't live here, they just selfishly "intrude" into our precious space on their way to somewhere else and don't even have the consideration to have a man with a red flag walk in front of them!

Who exactly is it that decides these changes are needed? Do they even own cars? What expertise do they have and who gave them this apparent right they appear to have that convinces authorities that they speak for us all?

With the expectation that many people may think me selfish and out of step or at the very least "community incorrect" (this is a cousin of 'politically incorrect'), I refer specifically to some of the changes that have been made already to our roads and others that were announced as being asked for in your last letter.

We hate the new 60kmh limit around Guys Hill after so many years of having a more realistic 80 kmh up and down the hill and find ourselves annoyed every time we get to it! We don't remember anyone asking us for our opinion on this - it was just asked for apparently on our behalf.

We are at a loss to see all these supposed traffic problems that apparently exist around the village and think that even with the increased through traffic we all seem to be getting on OK!

Someone has recently suggested that the 80 kmh

limit that begins just before the entrance to the Emerald end of Stoney Creek Rd should begin at the Emerald end of the "VEC straight" because drivers are not capable of stepping on their brakes without at least 5 minutes warning before the oncoming curves.

Now the straw that breaks this reader's back and has led to me asking these questions on paper, is this ridiculous suggestion that all we ignorant and low-skilled drivers can't cope with changes in speed limits that exist in this area and we need to have the security and simplicity of one limit right along the main road. It is noted with irony that the limit suggested of course is 60 not 80 km, a further reduction to all us law breaking speed maniacs. Again, this was just noted in your letter as a matter of fact announcement that we should just all accept without complaint.

Could I please point out a few facts to these people who seem to believe that we are all in need of these changes and restrictions? Have they ever driven from Emerald to Berwick and been stuck behind a slow-moving truck, horse float and even more commonly on this stretch of road, tradesman's vehicle? There are perhaps just two places to pass in the whole section. One of them is at the VEC and as I walk there everyday I see many drivers taking advantage of this stretch because they know they will be stuck all the rest of the way if they don't. Moving the 80kmh sign to the start will remove this opportunity as it has on the straight past Montuna Golf Club since it too became 80kmh.

It may not have been noticed but modern cars are extremely capable of going around corners these days even at 80km h.

Even in other parts of your newsletter is the local driver vilified and found guilty without any evidence. Some wombats and wallabies have been killed near the wooden bridge by cars therefore it is written as fact that cars travel too fast on this road. I have had two accidents on this road myself because in the wet the wooden surface of the bridge is like ice and my car has just slid right off but I have seen nothing noted about this condition; animals are more important than humans in cars.

I disagree with these latest road changes and the proposals and I don't like the idea that VicRoads or the council will implement them believing that we all want them just because the UBA seems to have convinced them that they represent us all! They don't represent my opinions and, as asked at the beginning, I would like some explanation to be printed that sets out how they think they do.

Selfishly and outrageously yours,

Mal Austin

..... and two replies

Dear Mr Mal Austin,

You have already pre-empted most of what I might say about your letter. By staying silent for 18 years you have been one of the silent majority who are presumed to be satisfied with what is occurring. Maybe if you communicated more frequently with the UBA it would prevent another such choleric outpouring. They are all members of the community like yourself, who are trying to make a difference to the quality of life in Upper Beaconsfield.

In general terms VicRoads is responsible for the approval of speed signs and they work within the State Law. There has always been a close relationship between residential density and a lower speed limit. In recent times the State Government has drawn attention to the fact that a lower speed would minimize accident problems and have legislated accordingly.

The UBA responded to a complaint from members of the public who were concerned at the speed that people were driving through Guy's Hill making it extremely dangerous for them to exit their property. VicRoads in this case, agreed and responded by lowering the speed limit. I don't like it either, but I respect the fact that the people in that area now feel safer in their environment.

With regard to the issue which has finally brought you out of your shell, the suggestion that the speed limit along Emerald Road should be 60kmh all the way to the southern end of Quamby Road from the southern end of Stoney Creek Road. This is unrealistic in my opinion and is unlikely to be approved of by VicRoads. The same applies to any other unrealistic proposal.

I think you were right when you signed yourself "selfishly and outrageously yours". You are taking all these issues much too personally. None of us like the speed restrictions imposed on us, we all find it difficult to slow down to the required speed. However, I am sure the Fire Brigade would be happy to inform you of the dozens of calls they turn out to each year (voluntary I might add) to remove cars from around trees and occasionally bodies from cars. These are the types of drivers that I don't wish to intrude into my "personal space".

The UBA acknowledges you are a part of the majority of the community who seldom if ever are present at meetings, but we are pleased that you read the publication produced by the organisation to keep you informed with what is going on.
Yours truly,

Keith Ewenson
Vice-President of the UBA



Dear Editor,

A very interesting letter but one from a person, I feel has missed the point.

Our main concerns have been raised after witnessing many accidents and near misses. Most of these have been the outcome of excessive speed and not knowing the road with its awkward cambers etc. I agree perhaps 60km was a bit drastic, 70 may have been better, but we are not talking about this limit at the VEC end of the road.

I have travelled the Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd to Cockatoo for 10 years and have not often been held up by slow moving vehicles except around the very dangerous corners between the two ends of Stoney Creek Rd where it is impossible to go faster anyway.

From the evidence of accidents along this stretch in the form of white crosses that should be obvious to all.

Once past this stretch the majority of traffic, heavy and light, speed up anyway, it just needs patience. Outside the VEC there is a particular concern because of turning vehicles, not slow ones moving along the road. Once past there the traffic could resume normal speed.

Overtaking, impatient drivers along this stretch have no hope of seeing that floats etc. may be turning.

Karen Perrin
Dewhurst

Did you notice?

... the lovely show of daffodils bordering the driveway at a property in Guys Hill.

... more children wearing bicycle helmets.

... the church extensions coming on well and looking good.

... the magnificent display of wattles flowering this year.

Ferals—not in my bock yard!

The growing season is kicking in and now is the time to carry out an audit for ferals. (Environmental weeds I mean, not teenagers.) Likely ferals around your place in Upper Beaconsfield are:

Aggressive native plants (not native to this area) include:

- x **Pittosporum.** Attractive small tree with shiny green leaves, small creamy white flowers. Birds eat the seeds and spread them in their droppings. Many are growing in Stoney Creek Road area.
- x **Cape wattles.** Ferny dark green leaves, cream flowers in summer. (See near the kindergarten)
- x **Cootamundra wattle.** Grey-green leaves, lovely yellow flowers in winter/spring.

Introduced plants gone feral include:

- x **Agapanthus.** Strappy leaves, lovely blue flowers in summer on long stems. Many people plant them along driveways, so cut the flower heads after flowering so they do not seed or they will take over.
- x **Ivy.** Jekyll and Hyde. Dainty and attractive when young as a ground cover but when mature it rampages, the leaves become coarse and large and birds eat the seeds and spread them everywhere. Ivy will climb up trees and eventually kill them. If ivy has grown up a tree, cut all stems leading up the tree and the upper part will die off.
- x **Blackberry**
- x **Pines.** Seedlings are coming up everywhere.
- x **Ragwort.** Yellow flowers, grows in paddocks and is rampant if let go.
- x **Spanish heath.** Waist to chest high shrub with tiny leaves and massed with tiny white bell flowers; just finishing flowering now (see along road into golf course).
- x **Spanish broom.** Tough woody shrub with yellow, orange and red pea flowers

Nature strips and roadsides

In Upper Beac these range from all grass and mown within a millimetre of their lives to never been touched resulting in a tangle of wiregrass, trees, weeds and shrubs. It is best to aim for something in between. Keep your nature strip under control by removing weeds and fire hazards, but watch out for and protect those little

treasures like native orchids and white and pink heath. Mow along fence lines. One year I observed one nature strip reduced nearly to bare earth by one over zealous property owner. Previously a scattering of low growing native plants had grown there, often visited by butterflies. This area was not in my opinion a fire hazard at all.

A word from the Conservation Group

Neil McDonald recommends that information about methods of eradication can be obtained from the weed brochure stand at Community Centre or from Shire Offices.

If residents must have pittosporum growing, stick with male plants and get rid of female trees with berries.

Growing Australian native plants will attract birds (correas and banksias) to reduce amount of water required.

Visit the Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery and/or contact member of Conservation Group for advice. Neil McDonald 5944 3782

The word from Cardinia Shire Council

"Property owners or occupiers have a legal responsibility to remove noxious weeds from their own property and adjacent roadside reserves and to prevent the spread of certain environmental weeds from their property boundaries."

So sharpen up those tools and get to it!

Helen Smith



Halford Street. Open Friday 12-5pm .
By appointment, Margaret Cromb 9707 2415

Wildlife Watch

Already it's time to prowl around looking for ragwort plants. I found one in my patch of bush in September, on the verge of putting up a flower stem so it was fortunate that I was carrying secateurs to cut the plant off near ground level, and a small bag of cooking salt, a pinch of which I rubbed into the cut surface. Not a good idea if there are more than two or three plants.

Better finds were *Indigofera australis* shrubs covered in sprays of 'pea' flowers in many shades of pink, *Dianella revoluta* with tall stems getting ready to burst into nodding blue flowers above strap-like leaves, large patches of *Pterostylis nutans*, the familiar nodding greenhood orchid, that have been valiantly flowering in spite of the dry seasons. I noticed that 'our' unnamed pink and white *Caladenia* species has increased by one plant per year since we found it three years back. On walks along roadsides or in the bush it will be interesting to note whether the flowers usually seen bloom this year. Sun, onion, brown-beaks, bearded, leek and donkey orchids very often pepper the grassy understorey in local bush places.

The garden in front of the Community Complex has provided colour all year. In mid September hairpin banksia and myrtle wattle were particularly striking and a *Dillwynia*'s red and yellow pea flowers were just showing. Watch for bluebells, golden grey everlasting, crimson running postman and red/yellow *Platylobium obtusangulum* as you go to your meeting or class or take the littlies to crèche.

Go bush with Trust for Nature

Come Saturday October 12 two Upper Beaconsfield properties that have Trust for Nature covenants protecting the native vegetation will be participating in Bush Month. Walks, either self-guided or with knowledgeable escorts, will start at the stated times. Open properties will be adequately sign posted. The walk on the Miller property at 70 Blue Ridge Road, which begins at 10.30am, is described as not for the faint hearted or frail. After lunch a walk on the Levens property at 290 Leppitt Road, will begin at 2pm. Long

sleeved shirts, long trousers and sturdy shoes are advisable for both these treks.

Not too far away, at Upper Pakenham, a two and a half hour walk across two adjacent properties on Gembrook Road (Mel 314 E11) has been arranged for 10.30am on October 26. Also "Toograthalla", 250 Mann Road, Upper Pakenham (Mel 314 C9) will open on October 27 at 2.30pm.

Laura Levens

Rainfall report

Month	34 year average	2001	2002
Jan	66.7	30.7	63.3
Feb	53.5	22.7	74.4
Mar	68.2	65.0	29.4
Apr	78.2	161.7	57.4
May	92.6	23.2	79.6
Jun	81.9	65.6	68.7
Jul	79.4	51.5	48.8
Aug	88.3	85.9	49.7
Sep	94.4	55.6	
Oct	100.2	139.8	
Nov	83.5	94.3	
Dec	80.6	63.2	
Total	967.5	859.2	

Readings taken at Barkala, Emerald-Beaconsfield Road

Winter rainfall

Total winter rainfall continued the below average trend with only 167.2mm compared to an average of 249.6mm.

This deficit of 82.4mm increased the year to the end of August to 137.5mm (5 inches old measure). Heavy spring rain is now essential to eliminate severe drought conditions.

George Moir



The AGM of Region 8A (Vic.) Australian Red Cross was held in August, during which two Upper Beaconsfield residents were appointed to major roles in a region that stretches from Springvale to Bunyip and includes Cranbourne and KooWeeRup.

Jenny Patterson (Salisbury Rd.) is Regional Chairman and for a number of years has been in charge of registration training for the region. During October Jenny will be running a number of training sessions in our area and is looking for volunteers willing to learn the process of recording details of people evacuated during an emergency situation. Red Cross works in conjunction with the police.

Training sessions for October are on Thursday 10th at Narre Warren Police Station at 8pm. Friday 11th at Berwick RSL, Langmore Lane, 12 noon. Thursday 17th at Pakenham Shire Office 10am. Friday 18th at Cranbourne Complex, Cranbourne/Berwick Rd at 10am. Jenny can be contacted on 5944 4511 for more details.

Pam Jones (St Georges Rd) is the Regional Representative and is Emergency Liaison Officer for the region. Pam belongs to the Henri Dunant First Aid Unit, which meets at 7pm on the last Friday each month in the Dandenong Rehabilitation Centre, David Street, (behind the Ambulance station).

At this same location Pam and her husband Phil conduct the Red Cross First Aid courses. A 6-week course will start on Wednesday October 9th (6-9.30pm).

The Henri Dunant First Aid Unit attends many sporting events and will have a very busy time ahead with the Masters Games during October (more competitors than the Olympics) and Corporation Games in November. They will also be in attendance at the Commonwealth Games in four years.

Pam can be contacted on 5944 3171 for further information on the Unit or First Aid courses. She is also seeking volunteers to become Red Cross Purchasing Officers. These volunteers help during single incidents, such as house fires. Red Cross has an emergency service, which aids victims left without any help or possessions. The Purchasing Officer takes the family to choose clothing, toiletries and manchester from Target or K-Mart soon after the fire. The service must be used within seven days of the fire.

A single incident training day will be held during November at St Catherine's School, Clyde Rd,

Berwick. Purchasing Officer volunteers must be willing to undergo a police check.

To help aid the work of Red Cross, Berwick Mechanics Institute library is once again selling Red Cross Christmas cards, diaries and calendars. Used postage stamps can also be left at the library.

The Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Unit thanks Mrs Claire Page and Jack Gibson for their donation of a teddy bear sitting in a rocking chair for the Unit's Christmas raffle. Claire is well known for the beautifully dressed dolls she has donated to Red Cross over past years and Jack with his interest in woodwork, produces items to complement Claire's handwork.

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554

Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit.

Netball Club news

The winter season is nearing its completion with grand finals being played on Sunday 15 September at Pakenham Stadium. 13 & Under Lightning and 15 & Under Storm have both been successful in reaching the grand final and at time of print the results are yet to be decided.

End of season presentation was also held on Sunday 15 September with team members in both 11 & 13 and Under sections receiving participation trophies. Best & Fairest for 15 & Under Voodoo Dolls was Emma Martin, Runner-Up Larissa Burn and Team Award was received by Laura Brennan. Best & Fairest for 15 & Under Storm was Charlotte Oldenburger, Runner-Up Emma Wallace and Team Award was received by Jessica Jamieson. Presentation was followed by a sausage sizzle.

Congratulations to all trophy winners and best of luck to all players for the approaching summer season.

Summer season begins on 8 October and as usual breaks during the end of year school holidays and concludes on 6 April 2003. The Club has teams being represented in 11 & Under, 13 & Under, 15 & Under and midweek seniors. Teams registration closes on 20 September, however, if there any interested players in any of the age groups please contact either Peter Brennan, Secretary on 5944 3916, Lynette Cousins, Treasurer ON 5944 3429, or myself on 0410 573 601 as soon as possible. New players are always welcome.

Susanne Tozer

Campaign needed to increase members



The Member Forum, held on 7 August, was very well supported with more than 150 members in attendance.

The Club President, Geoff Brooks, outlined a number of issues facing the Club over the next 12 months, indicating that the Board

could not afford to endure another financial year like this one, where revenues fell by more than twenty percent.

It was pointed out that the cost of maintaining two golf courses is much higher than the outlay for an eighteen-hole facility, and revenues must therefore be much greater as well.

Competition in the market place, the trend away from Club memberships toward casual play, and a higher cost base have all been factors which have placed extreme pressure on the Club's cash flows.

The members were presented with a number of measures that could be adopted to stabilise the operations of the Club, and it was agreed that a joining fee amnesty should be offered for new members, along with a rebate for existing members who proposed those new candidates for membership.

The members have responded well at this stage, however the target of 100 new members is still a long way from being achieved. The presentation also included some of the longer-term issues that the Club faces.

All members have identified the need for an improved Clubhouse facility, the need for an upgraded and asphalted driveway, more car parking, and continued golf course improvements. Naturally, such works are very expensive and the Club does not have reserves on which to draw.

The need to borrow funds is one of the options available to the Board, and it has requested PGA Links Management, who is consulting to the Club on a range of matters to investigate ways to increase the value of the asset in order that the maximum funding can be obtained. That may involve rezoning part of the Club land, although it is NOT the wish of the Board to proceed beyond that stage.

The focus is on increasing membership numbers, and attracting green fee players to the facility, and a strong marketing campaign will be launched shortly to capture those golfers.

With school holidays upon us again, Mark Griffin is conducting coaching clinics for junior members in September and beginner golfers in October. Interested persons should contact the pro shop on 5944 3630.

There have been two 'Aces' since the last newsletter, with Darryl Ottaway (1st Lakes) and Errol Hermann (15th Old) joining the Hole-In-One Club. Congratulations to both members.

The Winter Cup event was won by Eric Booth and Ken Johnson who defeated Andrew Grant and David Crowe on the first extra hole, in a very tight match.

The August Mixed Event was won by Captain, Dennis Crowley, Lady Captain, Cora Shovelton, Lady Handicapper, Ann Felgate, and Ron Norton, who recorded a score of 113 points in the Irish Foursomes.

The Founders Trophy was won on the second extra hole by David Kelly.

Seniors Pennant is underway and is played each Friday until the end of October. Spectators are welcome.

Andrew Austin
Secretary Manager

UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY HALL



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

Bookings and enquiries
Helen Smith 5944 3219

Why I live where I do

I live where I do for reasons both practical and personal. The practical is that Upper Beaconsfield is close enough to most things that my family needs in everyday life, school, shopping, banking, eating out and most of our friends and family are not too far away.

I can meet a friend in Berwick for a coffee or lunch, choose from a wide range of cafes or restaurants, be part of the latte set and then be home to my private patch of peace and quiet within ten minutes.

But what I like most about Upper Beaconsfield is that while it is close enough, it's also far enough away. Far enough from the rapidly expanding suburbs that are spreading along the highways and main roads around Berwick and the increasing traffic that comes with the population explosion.

I enjoy the glimpses of the Dandenongs that can be seen from my house and different points around the village. I like the glimpses of the Dandenongs better than actually living right in them as I did for many years. I didn't enjoy the colder climate, the fog or the drizzle, not to mention the occasional sleet!

I enjoy the wonderful variety of trees around Upper Beaconsfield and the birds they attract. I especially enjoy all the different species of parrots that I see every day, the crimson rosellas, the paint-pot-bright eastern rosellas, the pretty galahs, the slow moving yellow tailed black cockatoos and their raucous cousins the sulphur crested cockatoos. And when the apples are ripe in my back garden, the beautiful king parrots come to visit.

I love all the trails and tracks that abound in the area I live in, giving the freedom to horse riders and bush walkers to explore the country side so close to home.

When my daughter was younger she and her friends would ride their horses out of our front gate and up St Georges Road to the milk bar. There they would tie up to a rail, then sit in the sun outside the milk bar to eat potato cakes while the horses waited patiently. I like that. I don't think there are many places as close to suburbia where kids can do that.

I enjoy the sense of community that living in Upper Beaconsfield offers. I like the fact that I know every time I'm at the General Store or the Post Office or Supermarket that I will most likely meet a friend

and that the person serving in the shop knows me, probably knows my name. I like the fact that I know there won't be a huge queue at the post office, or anywhere really. Pulling up right outside the door of where I want to shop is much preferable to hiking across a huge car park and battling around a big supermarket to then wait in line at a eight items or less lane, all to buy a carton of milk.

I live where I do because it serves my needs in an everyday practical sense but also serves my needs in a spiritual way too. The satisfaction I get from the enjoyment of the area, the flora and fauna, the community activities and the people that I know, feeds my soul too.

Lesley Cleary

Upper Beaconsfield Writers' Group



The Writers Group is an informal group that meets at the Community Centre each Wednesday 9.30 to 12pm. New members welcome. Thank you Lesley for this article. The Village Bell editors invite residents to submit articles about local matters and news.

Thank you!

Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library would like to thank the following businesses for their support during our recent fundraiser:

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1 Hour Photo Lab Emerald

Body Therapy

Robert Gordon Pottery

Splash's Swimming School

Upper Beaconsfield Foodwise

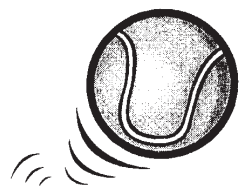
Upper Beaconsfield General Store

Upper Beaconsfield Pharmacy

The shopping tour was a great success and funds raised will go toward purchasing new toys and puzzles to update our great Toy Library!



News from the court



Our new committee was elected at the AGM in August. The new committee would like say- to thank the previous committee members, especially the outgoing president Ian Jackson, for their hard work on behalf of the club and its members.

The new committee is:

President: Anne Hutchison 5944 3552

Vice President: Marita Meeking 9707 5884

Treasurer: Ian Jackson 0403 208 047

Secretary: Judy Fenby 5944 3042

Junior Rep.: Phil Scott 5944 3909

Ladies Rep.: Anne Hutchison 5944 3552

Seniors Rep.: Nick Gamble 5944 3756

General Committee:

Ian Haythorpe 5944 3896

Mark Buttler 5944 3177

Cameron McCormack 9707 5519

Mary Winther 5944 4796

Seniors

In the senior season that has just been completed we had all five sides make it to the finals. Both of our sides entered in the Waverley and Districts Association made it to the grand final and won their respective premierships. Congratulations to both sides. The summer season of senior's competition will commence in early October. Any seniors related inquiries should be directed to Nick on 5944 3756.

Juniors

In the junior season that has just been completed we had 13 teams entered, of those sides 8 made the finals, 6 made the grand final. With sections 4 Blue, 12, 18 and 19 winning the premiership and sections I and 4 Blue runners-up. We would like to congratulate all our juniors that have represented our club so well over the past season. The summer season of Berwick and Districts Tennis Association will commence on the 14th of October and we wish all the juniors well. Any junior related enquiries should be directed to Phil on 5944 3909.

Midweek ladies

The ladies are currently halfway through their season with all teams still with a chance of making the finals. Any midweek ladies enquiries should be directed to Anne on 5944 3552. Entries for next season will be opening soon so look out for the list in the clubhouse.

Ian Gamble

Queen Victoria MARKET

The Queen Victoria Market is more than just Melbourne's shopping mecca - it is an historic landmark, a tourist attraction and an institution for Melbournians.

Spread out over 7 hectares it is the largest open-air market in the southern hemisphere. There are almost 1000 traders who sell everything from exotic Australian fruit and vegetables; local and imported gourmet foods; fresh meat fish and poultry to hardware, manchester, clothing and artifacts and souvenirs.

The Market Precinct area abounds in cafes, Asian fast food outlets, Italian eateries, French patisseries and food marts, all providing great value for money. The bustling delicatessen section of the Queen Vic Market also provides a feast of delicious snack foods, all freshly made and piping hot.

The Community Centre and the Community Complex Buildings and Grounds Committees are running a bus trip to the Victoria Market on Saturday morning October 26. If you would like to join this fun outing without the worry of parking in the city and with plenty of storage in the bus to bring home your purchases, then we want to hear from you. The cost will be \$ 15 per head with tea/coffee provided. Please phone the Community Centre on 5944 3484 to book your seat. Payment with your booking please. Enquiries: ring Ros Allison on 5944 3121.

SATURDAY 26 October
8am departure, 1pm return.



Maroons prepare for new season



Est. 1893

Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club is preparing for the oncoming season and hopes to be ready for the challenges of the coming year. We still need recruits. If you considered playing cricket - continuing your career - maybe

you currently play somewhere else - or perhaps you considered dusting out the whites and taking it up again. We would make you feel most welcome.

So far we have travelled down the pre-season path and are slowly warming to the task ahead. The coaching panel is working hard to improve our batting skills. Past A grade premiers coach Paul Halfpenny has been chipping away with batsmen in the nets to improve their batting skills. John Brierley will also be there to lend a hand and the training schedule has been warmly accepted. (You can access details on our website through www.upperbeaconsfieldcc.com)

A meeting was held at the convivial surrounds of our major sponsor, the Pine Grove Hotel, to establish a leadership group, which will take on the task of club discipline and assisting with training. We believe that this will be a first in the W. G. C. A. Garry O'Sullivan, recently Football Manager for the Richmond F.C., and current talent scout for the Port Power, has assisted with this procedure and offered timely advice.

On Friday September 13th our annual Junior Registration night was held up at the ground and was followed by a BBQ. We will have teams in the U. 12s under the auspices of Coach Rob Hansen, U.14s led by Greg Newham, as well as U.16s coached by Peter Brennan. Two recent Kanga Cricket clinics were held at Upper Beaconsfield Primary School as well as Beaconhills College. Regional Cricket Manager Jason Mathers assisted Gippsland Region's Rob Wood as well as Peter Brennan, Luke Pitcher and teachers from both schools to put pupils through their paces.

As well as this, the club's Annual Golf Day was held at the Beaconhills Country Golf Club on Sunday September 15. Previous winner Shawn Hassall was forced to work very hard to defend his title from 2001.

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Prizes and a snappy supper were enjoyed later at the Pine Grove Hotel.

Finally the club is extending the offer to members of the public to become social members. For a mere \$50 you receive a number of benefits including a chambray club shirt. If you are interested in taking up this offer - you will be made welcome at all our games during the season - please do not hesitate to contact Scott Pitcher on 5944 3606.

Rob Hansen

Whats coming up in term 4 at the Centre?

The Community Centre is again looking at a busy Term 4. With Christmas classes and activities being planned we are looking forward to enjoying the festive season with our community. This is a time to reflect on the year and spend time with family and friends.

We are catering for the children by providing a variety of fun classes - Gingerbread House, with lots of lollies and mess, Christmas Craft - decorations and keepsakes, and our ever-popular Cartooning Class will be running again.

We will be offering Christmas classes for adults - so the kids don't have all the fun. These include - Gingerbread Houses for Adults, Beautiful Handcrafted Christmas Keepsakes (call at Centre to see display). We also have Wildflower Wander as a family activity, or just bring the kids.

Again we are offering a range of computer classes in our new computer room. On offer are Basic Computer 1 - Day/Evening, Basic Computer 2 - Day/Evening, Internet - Beginners and Advances, Intermediate Access and Publisher. These classes book quickly so make sure you contact the Centre in enrolment week to secure your place.

Our new computer room is open for free Internet access. This is a great way of "surfing the net" via broadband or setting up your own email account and staying in touch with family and friends. Please contact the Centre for more details.

Oaks Day Function

The Annual Oaks Day Luncheon will be held at the Pine Grove Hotel on Thursday, November 7th. This is an event not to be missed. As you arrive at the Pine Grove you will be greeted with a glass of champagne and hors d'oeuvres, to be followed by a delicious luncheon to be served at your table.

There will be a fashion parade by Wombat Fashions. Competitions will include "Fashions on the Field" and "Most Glamorous Hat". There will be many opportunities to go home with lovely prizes from raffles and lucky door prize. Race sweeps will take place during the afternoon.

Cost is \$35 for the day and tickets can be booked through the Centre on 5944 3484.

This event is a great day out and is our biggest annual fundraising event for the year.

Crèche

Position vacant - Child Care Worker Level III commencing Term 4. Friday each week, 8:45am to 4:15pm. If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please contact the Centre on 5944 3484 to obtain a job description.

- Our Crèche is looking for donation of the following and contact the Crèche if you can assist.
- Mini Bar Fridge
- Construction set eg. mechano, lego or mobilo
- Outside bikes (various sizes for different ages)
- Matchbox cars
- Any other toys your children may have grown out of and are looking for a loving home.

Christmas party

It is that time of the year again for us to be thinking about our annual Christmas party. The party is held at the Community Centre for all pre-school aged children in the area.

There will be lots of entertainment on the day and special treats for the children to enjoy.

Please ring the Centre in November for dates and times.

Courses on offer for 2003

- Certificate III in Community Services (Aged Care Work)
- Certificate IV in Assessment & Workplace Training
- Level 2 First Aid

Please contact the Centre for more details on 5944 3484.



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Leah wins service award

Leah De Vries from Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club has been awarded the Pony Club Association of Victoria (PCAV) highest service award for pony club members.

This award is presented to club members who have shown by their actions, service to other club members, parents and concern for the overall welfare of the club itself. Leah has been president of the Junior Committee for the past 3 years and has been involved in fundraising, social activities and establishment of a memorial garden in the club grounds. The club congratulates Leah on her achievement.

Short Listed for EFA Young Rider 2002

Katja Weimann, a long serving member of Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club (UBPC) has been nominated and short listed for the EFA 2002 Horseland young event rider of the year. Riders nominated for this award must submit a questionnaire detailing aspirations in the horse industry, horse and rider training timetable, and performance achievement throughout the past year.

Considering this time commitment, training and a tertiary study course the club commends Katja and congratulates her on the short listing. We wish her well in the final selection process.

Prince Phillip Mounted Games - Cannibal Creek

UBPC was well represented at this games event in July. A junior team consisting of Gemma Bartlett, Kathleen Appleton, Jesse Andrewartha, Stephan Weimann and Jessica Knowles competed in games for the first time, the team was 4th in the Junior Games and won 1st for presentation on the day. The senior team consisting of Jillian Fitzgerald, Victoria Ling, Lucy Johnson, Simone Oldenburger and Charlotte Oldenburger won the Senior Games competition. Well-done teams. Fellow Pony Club Members Meaghan Timms and Claire Fitzgerald trained both teams, (also ably assisted by members' parents).

Coming Events

On Tuesday the 5th of November, UBPC will be holding its annual Melbourne Cup Day Showjumping and Dressage Competition at Acoonah Park, Berwick.

We are proudly supported by Berwick Chrysler Jeep and Daimler Chrysler Australia.

If you are free on the day why not come and watch 200 pony club riders from around Victoria competing. Free entry into grounds, food and drink available all day.

Catherine Oldenburger

Local wattles

This year the display of wattles in Upper Beaconsfield was particularly magnificent. The peak flowering season for wattles locally is August and September and this provides a welcome touch to an otherwise drab time of the year.

Driving up the hill from Berwick, the patches of gold scattered through the bush glowed like sunshine. Other striking displays of wattles could be seen near the corner of Albers and Stoney Creek Roads and along the eastern section of Stoney Creek Road.

The wonderful thing about wattles is their variety. Over 90 species grow in Victoria. Flowers range in colour from cream, lemon to deep gold.

The flowers can be small firm balls, to fluffy balls to large globular trusses. Flowers can also be rod-shaped. Leaves (actually phyllodes) can be fernlike, feathery, prickly or leaf-shaped. Wattles can be small insignificant shrubs to large trees.

The main varieties growing in Upper Beaconsfield include:

- Acacia pycnantha (Golden Wattle)
- Acacia melanoxylon (Black Wattle)

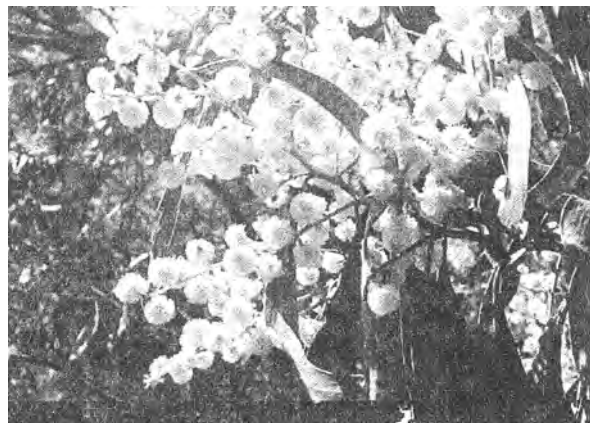
- Acacia elata (Cedar wattle)
- Acacia dealbata (Silver Wattle)
- Acacia baileyana (Cootamundra Wattle)
- Acacia myrtifolia (shrub)

A good exercise is to go on a walk or drive around Upper Beaconsfield and see how many different wattles you can identify. Put it in your diary for next year.

Helen Smith

With reference to previous articles in the Bell by John Reid and Charles Wilson.

Pictured below: Golden Wattle, Stoney Creek Road.



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