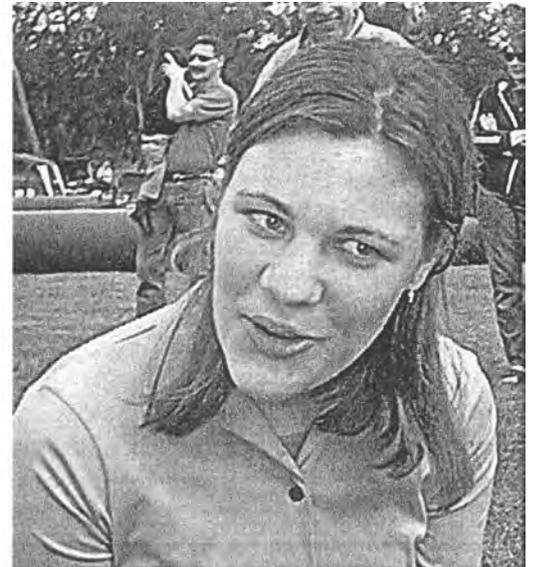


VILLAGE BELL

Issue 149 December 2002 Upper Beaconsfield Association



Citizens of the year awards

The Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year for 2002 is Laura Levens. She has lived in the district for 24 years. During this time she has been involved in, and has made a valuable contribution to, many community groups and activities including the UBA, the Conservation Group, Salisbury Gully Committee of Management, the Writers' Group and the Upper Beaconsfield Community Care Group.

She has also written several booklets featuring local flora and fauna and has conducted wild flower walks to help people learn more about our district. She has shown a genuine passion for Upper Beaconsfield.

Rachel Flynn is the winner of the Young Citizen of the Year for 2002. Rachel is an active member of St. John's Church where she runs a program for children in years 5-8, and helps prepare and teach Bible activities on Sunday mornings.

She is a high achiever at school, presently in Year 11, and is involved in many aspects of school life. She has also worked in voluntary capacity at Salisbury House Nursing Home.

Congratulations to Laura and Rachel!

Jennie Vaughan

*Photographs by Charles Wilson and Mike Flynn
Laura Levens is pictured with Rob Hansen (L) and Ron Fisher (R)*



Community Fair
Charing Cross
Carols by Candlelight
Preparing for bushfire

page 3
page 4
page 5
page 7

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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 Cheryl O’Gallagher tel. 5944 3209.

Welcome New Residents

Burton Road

Clelia, Shaye and Chiara O’Donnell

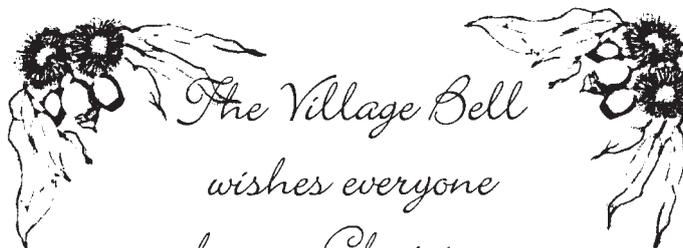
Foott Road

Linda, Robert, Charles, George, Sophie and Bob Stewart

Stoney Creek Road

Richard, Sally and Tess Rigby

Ray Allsop



*The Village Bell
wishes everyone
a happy Christmas,
a safe festive season
and a wonderful 2003*

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the Bell in many and various ways over the year



What do reindeer sing to Father Christmas on his birthday?

Freeze a jolly good fellow!

One time Father Christmas lost his underpants.

That’s how he got the name St Knickerless!

What do monkeys sing at Christmas?

Jungle bells, jungle bells..!

SUPPORT THE BELL IN 2003 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 2003.

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

Name of family

Address

Telephone

Signed

Community Fair



The Beaconsfield Upper Primary School and Community Fair, held at the School on Sunday 10th November, has been hailed as a great success. Proceedings began when School Council President Anne McCormick invited Councillor Keith Ewenson to officially open the Fete.

The large crowd in attendance was entertained by the School's choir, the Berwick Secondary College Band, and various bands, contesting the Battle of the Bands.

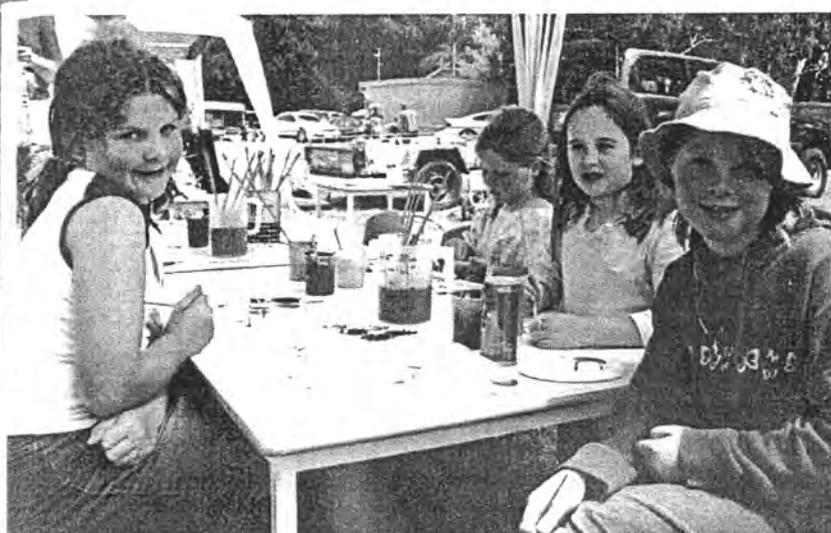
The Giant Slide and Chair o Plane were some of the many rides and amusements that kept the crowd, in particular, the children entertained for many hours. Food and produce stalls were kept very busy throughout the day. The day concluded with the Monster Auction and the announcement of the winners of the Battle of the Bands, Third Casualty.

Many thanks must go to the Fair Organising Committee, and of course, the families of our wonderful community. Well done everyone on making this community event a great success.

Rob Kay



Children had a great time at the fair with lots of activities to enjoy.



Charing Cross decision

You may recall that the Shire displayed a concept plan in the village and requested comments by the 11th of October. The matter became the subject of a UBA meeting with concerns of the proposal being forwarded to Peter McLean, Acting General Manager of Assets and Services.

A substantial response was received: personal letters, a petition and an amended design from the General Store. This round of displays is not the first. There were a least two other public meetings on the subject. When the report came to Council after considering all the public input the recommendation was:

1. That the modified concept plan for Charing Cross be adopted (submitted by General Store with proposed roundabout at St Georges Road intersection)
2. That those people who made submissions and the Upper Beaconsfield Association be notified of the Council's decision.
3. That preliminary design proceeds and funding options (in particular VicRoads) be explored for consideration on next year's works program.
4. Work proceeds on the upgrading of Charing Cross in accordance with this year's budgetary allowance including the toilet block construction.

In the report to Council it stated -"Consideration has been given to all comments made and the proposal of shifting the roundabout to the end of St Georges road is considered to have merit for the following reasons:

1. The location of the roundabout would be in the existing intersection and will minimize the amount of earthworks. It appears to have less impact on existing vegetation removal and a detailed design is required to determine the exact extent.
2. It still maximizes the park area made available by realigning Salisbury road.
3. The roundabout will minimize impact on the church (one of the concerns raised).
4. The roundabout will help control vehicle speed through the town."

Sincere thanks to all those who participated in this consultation process. The Council adopted the recommendation unanimously without debate.



CARDINIA

Change in ward boundaries

For the next municipal election in March there will be seven wards in Cardinia Shire. Each ward will elect one councillor. The wards will be known as:

- Beacon Hills (Beaconsfield, Upper Beaconsfield and Officer)
- Emerald (around Emerald township)
- Ranges (around Cockatoo and Gembrook)
- Westernport (Southern section of Shire)
- Bunyip (Including Maryknoll, Bunyip and south to Bunyip river road)
- Toomuc (Pakenham Upper and Pakenham north of highway)
- Pakenham (Growth corridor Princes Hwy in the north to Pakenham bypass alignment in the south)

The basic reason for restructure is growth. The Act stipulates the votes per ward be of equal value. The development in Beaconsfield and Pakenham created imbalance.

We chose single councillor representation in an attempt to bring the representative as close to the voter as possible.

I believe the Shire will circulate a newsletter to each resident welcoming them to the new ward in the near future.

Keith Ewenson

Enrol now for Pre Kinder Mc Bride Road Upper Beaconsfield

We are now taking enrolments for a 3 year-old group Wednesdays, one session 9.15am -11.45am.

To visit our Pre-Kinder or enquire about enrolling your child please call; Julie 5944 4904 or Monica 5944 4488

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Next meeting

The next general meeting will be held at the Community Meeting Room on December 4, 2002 at 8pm. Christmas cheer will be dispensed after this meeting and everyone is welcome.

Who would like to have their fingers on the pulse of things in Upper Beac? I have enjoyed knowing what goes on around the place. Planning matters keeps the committee out of mischief, sometimes attending VCAT hearings or consulting with council officers over a cuppa, attending township forums conducted over dinner, listening to and trying to assist with concerns of local groups, even a bus ride to see what was happening in a different part of the Shire and making sure information is available when a controversial issue comes to light. Camaraderie develops between members during all this and so far, no recriminations when I make a boo-boo!

Early next year we will be hoping that there will be an actual exciting election of committee members from more nominations than there are vacancies -almost made it last time until a very long-serving member dropped out at the last minute! Watch January 'Village Bell' for nomination forms.

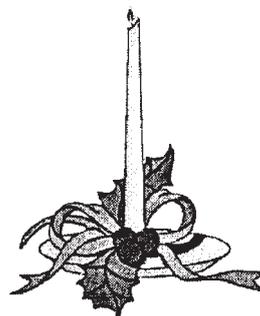
At the last general meeting two topics were discussed. A representative of Parklinks consultants described the potential for shared bicycle tracks and asked for suggestions of roads/streets that might be appropriate routes around Upper Beaconsfield. The UBA has not received any suggestions to date but maybe some who took forms away have returned them elsewhere. General business was dominated by discussion regarding traffic solutions for the Village centre and a list of points raised was forwarded to Council. We are pleased that the main concern has been heeded and it is now proposed to site the roundabout at St Georges Road intersection. As you would be aware this will not happen until Vic Roads comes good with some finance.

The Cardinia Shire has been notified of problem spots in St Georges Road footpaths and have undertaken to deal with them a.s.a.p.

Christmas carols are well into the planning stage for Christmas Eve.

Laura Levens

Carols by candlelight



We are pleased to let you know that Greg Ross will once more comper the Upper Beaconsfield Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve at the Keith Ewenson Park on Salisbury Road. Thank you in advance, Greg. We have again been fortunate to secure the services of Ryan Mackay as

pianist for the Carols. Ryan has entertained us and given us a good lead for the Carols for the past two years. We are delighted that he has agreed to help us again. The UB Primary School Choir will be an important part of the evening.

All we need now to make the evening its usual wonderful family occasion is reasonable weather and some support from the singers of Upper Beaconsfield. We know that you will all sing in fine voice on Christmas Eve, you always do, but we would like to have a practice with Ryan before the night, just to make sure we get the tempo right! So, please join us at the Community Centre on Wednesday 18 December at 8pm for a practice session. You are all most welcome, from young right up to not so young. If you want any more information about the Carols or practices, you can call me on 5944 3311 or Neil MacDonald on 5944 3782.

The UBA and Village Fair committees will have refreshments for sale outside the old tennis club-room. The refreshments are delicious, sausages, hot donuts, tea, coffee, soft drinks and chips. Funds raised help to fund the Village Fair. Ron Fisher and his enthusiastic helpers will be there from about 7pm.

A very important part of the festivities is the arrival of Santa Claus. We expect that he will make his grand entrance on the CFA truck at the Keith Ewenson Park at 8.30pm. All of the children love the opportunity to talk to Santa. The primary school mothers' group makes sure that each child receives a bag of goodies from Santa, and carol singing will start when we've all farewelled Santa and his helpers on the fire truck.

Santa Claus will be stopping at Grant Court at 7.45pm, Burton Road at 8pm, Paul Grove at 8.15pm before the Big One at Carols.

Jo Carter

Speed limits debate



Dear Editor,
A letter to the Editor published in the last Village Bell indicates that changes to the speed limit on the Emerald Beaconsfield Road, brought about by the increasing volume of traffic carried by the road, has led to frustration on the part of one motorist at least. His argument

seems to indicate a common attitude that through traffic should have priority.

I would argue that as we all pay registration fees and taxes we have an equal right to use the road whether we are going to or from work, dropping the children off at school, delivering building materials, or shifting a house. I would add to this argument that it is in all our interests that the road is used safely. For this to occur it is necessary for your correspondent, and those who think as he does, to change their attitude and respect the rights of others.

I am personally delighted that the speed limit through the Guys Hill area has been reduced to 60kph. I can now enter the Beaconsfield Emerald Road from High Street with some degree of safety. I can also exit from the main road into High Street with less chance of being abused, or overtaken by a car crossing double lines, when I necessarily slow to 15kph to negotiate the narrow, right angle entrance.

Extending the 60kph restriction to cover the whole section from Guys Hill to Upper Beaconsfield would further improve road safety while increasing travel time by less than a minute.

The 80kph zone commences just past the church. The road then sweeps through tight bends, indicated by several 50kph advisory signs, where it is unsafe to travel at 80kph. This is followed by a short straight stretch with an overtaking lane, which, while it is designed to decrease congestion, actually encourages risk taking.

I would be very happy for the Upper Beaconsfield Association to lobby for this change as I believe would other safety conscious motorists who use the road regularly.

Norman Baldwin
(address supplied)

Dear Editor,

I would like to inform Upper Beaconsfield residents of the valuable contribution Mal Austin has made to our community with his photographic expertise in the Conservation Group booklet, which is made available to all households in Upper Beaconsfield. Mr. Austin has also provided the cover photograph for the soon to be released UB Community Centre 20 year history booklet. Not all residents contribute to the community, and our quality of life, in the same way. Many never attend a UBA meeting but their efforts in other areas can be unique and invaluable.

I, for one, am grateful for his contribution in this one area of which I am aware. I also support his right to express his opinion, and from his letter to the Village Bell have no reason to suspect that he would break the speed restrictions once they are in place. On the contrary, the fact that he is law abiding is the cause for frustration, whereas those who are the danger on our roads are the ones who keep driving recklessly, and would not bother writing to the Village Bell.

Yours faithfully,

Ruth Hainsworth
(address supplied)

Citizen thank you

Dear Editor,

Please allot some space for me to thank whoever it was that nominated me for Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year and also the members of the sub-committee who made the choice. I was so surprised and flabbergasted that words failed me on November 10. The memento of a piece from the hands of local potter, Jenny Conn, is beautiful.

It is very easy to become a volunteer in Upper Beaconsfield except for choosing which group to join. There is such a wide range of charitable and interest groups in which to participate. Never feel shy about offering your talents. The result will be an enthusiastic welcome, and friendships will develop as projects are undertaken. I have enjoyed developing confidence and skills in many areas including keyboarding, the natural environment, and talking with new friends in or out of Salisbury House.

So thank you one and all.
Am I allowed to retire now?

Laura Levens

Brigade needs new members

Face the fact that Upper Beaconsfield is exposed to high bushfire danger almost every summer. This summer is a real swine.

If you haven't yet made yourself familiar with how bushfires behave and how you may be able to defend your family and home against them, you must have your head deep in the sand. Contact the brigade and we will be glad to help you with information and advice - that's a lot better for all of us than our having to come and rescue you and your premises from a fire that could have been avoided, or quickly contained by you. And it's pretty obvious that we may not be able to do that if there is a big fire going and all our resources are already committed to it. Hard fact. Nobody likes it, but it won't go away.

The captain, Graeme MacGowan, can be reached on 040844 3374, or the secretary, George Silberbauer, on 9796 2226, for information.

Thanks to your generous donations over the years, the brigade has a good inventory of appliances and equipment-never quite enough, but sufficient for most needs. However our inventory of volunteer firefighters isn't quite so good. Money can't buy them, nor does the CFA issue them to us. We have a good bunch of well-trained women and men. Some have a great deal of experience and the others have very little, if any green left on them. A few of us antiques are so old that CFA headquarters is always asking whether our use-by dates should be followed by "BC".

So, another hard fact is that we badly need new members.

What's involved in being a volunteer firefighter? Male or female, you should be 18 or older, physically and emotionally fit, have a clean police record and able to commit yourself to a three- or four-hour training session each week (Wednesday nights or Sunday mornings). Firefighting is a rather technical business these days, and there are uniform syllabuses, programmes and standards for the training of recruits and upgrading of qualified members. These cover all aspects of firefighting relevant to each brigade's area and types of emergency. Volunteer fire brigades aren't military units, so the discipline is a bit informal. But coherent, capable co-operation is essential when the chips are down, so you must be ready to follow the leader's instructions. Dead, or broken firefighters

aren't heroes - they're liabilities to their colleagues, so safety is paramount. We don't need gung-ho cowboys of either gender. After all the training comes experience. A lot of it comes in exercises; the rest in real emergencies and, eventually, you find that you're a reasonably proficient firefighter able to do something useful for others when they really need it - often at very inconvenient hours. That's all the reward you'll get. We've never found a bank manager who is impressed by it, but does allow you to feel good about yourself sometimes. If you think this could be your scene, give it a go. But, please, only if you're going to stick with it. A lot of other volunteers' time and effort, and many other resources are invested in training a recruit and it's nice to get back the dividend of a competent firefighter.

George Silberbauer

Preparing for bushfires

Did you go to the Upper Beaconsfield CFA meeting on 12th November? John Legione from Bunyip CFA presented to a gathering of approximately eighty people. It was a thoroughly informative and constructive evening. If you didn't go, and especially for newcomers to Upper Beaconsfield, there were seven main points he discussed which are summarised below.

What determines fire behaviour?

There are three elements that influence fire behaviour: fuel, weather and topography.

Fuel: How much is there around your property? For example, leaves, branches, wood, trees, and vines, which includes any climbing plants and how is this fuel stacked?

Weather. Includes wind, relative humidity, last rainfall and temperature.

Topography: Aspect: Are you on the north side of a slope? If so, your property will get more sun and will therefore be drier than a property on a southern slope. If you are on a southern slope there's probably more fuel. Slope: Fires going up slopes move much faster than fires moving down slopes.

We as residents can control one of the above

(Continued on page 8)

Preparing for bushfires contd

elements...fuel. By reducing fuels you reduce the intensity of a fire and therefore you will have started to protect yourself and your property.

How do we recognise a bad day?

We can all recognise high risk fire days. The sun is searing, it's very windy, dry and the temperature is high. How often do high-risk fire days occur? From now until the end of April is a fire danger period this season. During this period of time there will be ten to twelve days of extreme fire danger.

Embers—what are they?

Embers are little sparks that get into air currents and fly around. They are known to travel up to 30kms. They precede a fire front and also when a fire front has passed, which usually lasts 10-15 minutes, you are left with thousands of embers and this is called an 'ember attack'. So before and the following six hours after a fire front has passed are critical and this is when you should patrol your property vigilantly and extinguish embers. Chris Carson, CFA community safety development coordinator said In Ash Wednesday, 80 per cent of the 2079 houses that were lost were due to embers landing in gutters, window sills, decking and pot plants.

Are embers difficult to extinguish? No. You do, however, need to be proactive in extinguishing them. You can use your foot, a mop, buckets of water and a fire pump.

Radiant Heat. What is it?

Radiant heat is referred to by the CFA as the killer in a bushfire. If you put your hand near an open flame, an electric heater element, or electric light bulb, you can feel the radiant heat it generates. Draw your hand away and the amount of heat you feel on your skin decreases. Put something between your skin and the heat source and again, your skin immediately feels cooler. So remember in a bushfire distance and shielding protect you from dangerous exposure to radiant heat.

What can you do to shield yourself from radiant heat?

Protect your exposed skin areas. Put on natural fibre long pants and light long-sleeved wool jumpers or close weave cotton shirts or overalls. Wear good solid footwear, preferably leather, and a sturdy hat. Use a dust mask or a small wet towel or nappy and goggles to protect your face and eyes and leather gloves to protect your hands. If you don't have some of the

above items go to your local op shop.

Take Cover: As the fire front passes, which usually takes 10-15 minutes, radiant heat levels become extreme. Your clothing may not be sufficient to protect you at this time. Radiant heat cannot penetrate through solid objects, which means your best protection is inside a well prepared house. After the fire front has passed go outside and patrol your property and extinguish embers and spot fires.

Stay or go?

It's entirely your decision. The CFA recommends you either stay or leave EARLY. If you see flames that's not early. Listen to the weather reports and perhaps use a total fire ban as a 'trigger' to leave early. A late evacuation is a deadly option. Roads are dangerous places during a fire and you could get trapped. Where do you go if you decide to leave early? A shopping centre, the cinema, relatives or friends. The CFA in Victoria cannot make you leave your property, however, they can stop you from returning if they feel there's a risk. If you decide to stay, you MUST actively defend your property. To do this you need to have a total understanding of bushfires and how to protect yourself and be thoroughly prepared.

Have an action plan on the day of a fire

Due to lack of space this section has been held over. Contact the brigade for more information on an action plan.

Community Fireguard Groups

These are small groups of residents who, with the help of a CFA facilitator, work together to deal with a bushfire threat. These groups learn how bushfires behave and how they destroy lives and property. With this understanding, you develop the best strategies for your local community- strategies that work because you have community ownership and support. A CFA member will come in and guide your group and each group will discuss relevant fire issues. There is no cost involved and the CFA will have casual property fire inspections to help you with a fire plan. If you are interested in belonging to a Community Fireguard Group ring the CFA Tel: 9793 4088

In summary, the contribution of the entire community is essential for fire safety and it has to be ongoing. If you would like further information a copy of 'Your House Survival Kit' is available free of charge from the CFA. Ring Michelle May or Darren Matthews Tel: 9793 4088

Sarah Sankey

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	56.7
Oct	100.2	139.8	69.5
Nov	835	94.3	
Dec	80.6	63.2	
Total	967.5	859.2	

Readings taken at Barkala, Emerald-Beaconsfield Road

Spring Rainfall

The first two months of Spring have seen a worsening of the drought and the water storage situation with the deficit for the year increasing to 205.9mm compared to the 34 year average.

With the introduction of Phase I water restrictions, there is an urgent need for above average rainfall during November and the Summer months with compliance to the usage restrictions to obviate the need for increased restrictions.

Drought conditions commenced in the last three months of 1996 with a rainfall deficit of 88.6mm. The following five years (1997 - 2001 inclusive) compared to the 30 year average of annual rainfall of 979.0mm were 545.0, 903.7, 851.0, 914.1 and 859.2mm. This year is heading for an annual rainfall of 800mm or less.

George Moir

John Lewis

1939-2002

Family, friends and neighbours were shocked with the recent death of John Lewis, who passed away suddenly while at work.

The Lewis family made their home in Upper Beaconsfield in 1977, following periods spent in different parts of the world.

John and wife Gillian were both born in Ireland and had met there and married in Dublin in 1963. John's job with a cigarette company brought the couple to Australia in 1964 for a two-year stint in Melbourne where they lived in Armadale, and then another period was spent in Sydney. Soon after, a new position with Philip Morris brought the family back to Melbourne, to a new house in the market garden area of Dingley. In 1974 John's working life took another turn with the family (and three children) moving to Pakistan as he was helping to set up a new series of factories. Their lives during this period were very interesting to say the least, including trips through the Khyber Pass to Kabul and the Himalayas. They enjoyed living in a large house with servants.

By 1977 John and Gillian (now with four children) had returned to Melbourne and they soon moved into their home in Corringham Road. John took a factory manager position at Heinz in Dandenong in 1980.

John became involved in Upper Beaconsfield Rotary Club, which was formed after Ash Wednesday 1983, then later joined Berwick Rotary club when the Upper Beaconsfield club closed down. John held the position of president and secretary and was also made a Paul Harris Fellow. They welcomed many Rotary exchange students to their home and became involved with many other activities the Rotary Club supported. The Lewis family enjoyed playing sport and John coached Aussie Rules U/13 at Beaconsfield for two years. John had also developed a love of doing tapestries, a hobby he started in Pakistan where there was no TV, and the Lewis home walls are adorned with his artwork.

After a couple of career changes, in 1996 John began working for Workcover as a conciliator, a role he enjoyed and got great satisfaction from. It was a great pity that he did not get to enjoy a planned retirement with wife Gillian.

Deepest sympathy to Gillian and to their children and grandchildren.

Nancy Dawson Guest 1909-2002

Nancy Guest (nee Hamilton) was born in a small town near Glasgow, coming to Australia in 1923 when her family migrated here. In the late 20s she spent some time in France, where she met several French wool buyers. One was Charles Martell who owned a house in Upper Beaconsfield, another Henri Renault whom Nancy married in Melbourne in 1930.

In the 1930's Nancy and her husband often visited Charles Martel who owned "Mon Desir" now known as Glendower in McBride Road. Martel was a perfectionist, the paths were swept, the garden beautifully kept, and peacocks strutted the grounds. Nancy became very fond of Upper Beaconsfield.

In April 1949 Nancy remarried. Her new husband was Thomas B. Guest, the head of the Guest family, one of Victoria's leading biscuit manufacturers.

A few months before the marriage Tom bought "Yuulong" in Salisbury Road, almost certainly encouraged by Nancy. After extensive renovations and adding a cottage the Guests moved in during October 1949, and rapidly became active members of the community, their home especially noted for its hospitality.

Nancy was elegant, charming, gracious, a lady with "style", described by some as a "grande dame". Intelligent, quick-witted with a great sense of humour, sometimes mischievous, always outgoing and friendly, she was well known for her generosity. She retained her love of Scotland, and had a great repertoire of Scottish songs, which she loved to sing to delighted audience at the end of a lunch or dinner and, if encouraged, would happily recite extracts from Robbie Burns' poetry.

When the Upper Beaconsfield RSL received its charter in 1951, Tom became the Founding President, a role he filled very capably for 20 years. Fund raising was an important activity, and needed a Ladies Auxiliary.

Nancy agreed to become President of the auxiliary if Nell Fullerton (now Turnbull) would be her Secretary. Both were great contributors for many years.

Nancy nursed Tom for almost four years before he died in 1974. She continued to live at Yuulong for several years, enjoying the lovely garden she had built up over almost thirty years before circumstances forced her to move to Langmore Lane in Berwick, where she spent the remainder of her life.

Charles Wilson



Angie Schimizzi 1950-2002

Friends and family filled St Michael's Church in Berwick on Friday 8th November for a joyous celebration of the life of Angie Schimizzi, wife of Mike and mother of Bianca,

a woman well known and loved in our community. Many will remember Angie as the lovely, dynamic woman who ran the medical centre for the Upper Beaconsfield doctors before they relocated to Berwick. Since Angie and Mike moved to the village from Noble Park in 1979, few people would not have been touched by her charm and sense of fun, her compassion and generosity.

Angie was born in Switzerland and, with her Polish parents, migrated to Australia when she was nine months old. Her father died when Angie was just 13 and she became the carer of the family, a role that she carried into all aspects of her life. Angie and Mike met at the ANZ Bank and married in 1971, welcoming their beloved daughter Bianca in 1976. Speakers at Angie's funeral talked of how her role as loving wife, and devoted mother and friend to her only child were simply an extension of her personality. She was also a role model in her professional life, displaying an enormous capacity for work in running the surgery while still managing to be everyone's best friend and confidante.

Theatre and music were a family affair for the Schimizzis, involving them with a group of like-minded friends, as well as the "Parents for Music" at St Margaret's School, where Bianca was a theatrical and singing star. Angie's creativity, intelligence and fun-loving nature were well suited to the laughter and enjoyment of such occasions. Along with her friends and family, those of us in the village will remember Angie as an endearing person, a cherished friend for life, a kindred spirit, loyal, courageous, generous and inspirational, particularly her strength in the face of the adversity of her illness. It was a privilege to know Angie Schimizzi and it was the good fortune of anyone who met her to be a part of her life. Fond memories remain, but we shall miss her very much.

Our deepest sympathies to Mike and Bianca.

Colleen Lazenby

Wildlife Watch

In my patch of bush, birds have been doing what comes naturally. One of the forty visitors at our Trust for Nature open-day spotted a grey fan-tail nest high in a blackwood, and a male magpie has brought two begging young for scraps of meat. Where is the female? Aerobic butcherbirds are entertaining us for the same purpose. As I write this in an early morning I can hear their liquid notes announcing their presence outside the kitchen window.

Black wattles that have not flowered for two years, because grubs of a leaf-eating beetle took all the buds, burst into creamy froth and bluebells are nodding among kangaroo grass. Several different wallaby

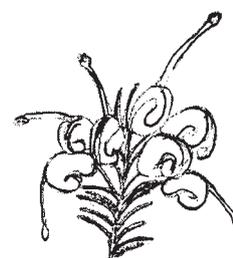
grasses, one with a silvery sheen and red anthers, plume grass, delicate love grass, weeping grass and tall poa are all flowering now.

Wildflowers have been scarce in my patch of bush this spring but bluebirds and I enjoyed the following selection that flowered in the beds in front of the Community Centre. They would provide a good base in a waterless garden for a beautiful, more ambitious project, perhaps a showpiece for city dwellers to emulate.

These plants can be obtained from the Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery, Halford Street, at appropriate times of the year.

Laura Levens

<u>Species</u>	<u>Common name/description</u>
Acacia myrtifolia	myrtle wattle
Arthropodium strictum	chocolate lily, mauve flowers
Banksia marginata	silver banksia
Banksia spinulosa	hairpin banksia
Brachyscome multifida	cut-leaf daisy
Chrysocephalum apiculatum	common everlasting, with silver-grey foliage
Chrysocephalum semipapposum	clustered everlasting, with grey-green foliage
Correa reflexa	common correa has red or cream/green flowers
Correa baueriana	chefs cap correa
Dianella tasmanica	Tasman flax-lily, deep blue flowers, purple berries
Dillwynia sericea	showy parrot pea
Epacris impressa	common heath, Victoria's floral emblem
Eriostemon myoporides	long-leaf wax flower
Goodenia ovata	hop goodenia, a tall shrub
Grevillea alpina	Upper Beaconsfield form of cat's claw grevillea
Grevillea aquifolium	holly leaf grevillea
Hakea nodosa	yellow hakea
Helichrysum scorpioides	billy buttons
Hibbertia riparia	erect hibbertia, masses of yellow flowers
Indigofera australis	Austral indigo
Kennedia prostrata	running postman
Ozothamnus ferruginus	tree everlasting
Patersonia occidentalis	long purple flag
Platylobium obtuanguulum	common wedge-pea
Pultenea hispidula	rusty bush-pea
Wahlenbergia stricta	tall bluebell



Conservation Group important announcement

We regret to announce that the mulcher will no longer be available for hire. Eric Dodge, who has maintained the machine and organised the hire programme, deserves recognition for the hours he has spent over the past several years running this excellent money-spinner for the Group.

Our group also wishes to express appreciation to the customers who did their bit for the environment by mulching prunings or storm damage.

Please continue your good environmental work by tirelessly destroying ragwort and deadheading agapanthus flowers as they fade.



hatch?" Ray and Julie's younger daughter, Melanie also worked part time in the Post Office for three and a half years while studying nursing. Melanie has recently returned from overseas and has started work at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Ray and Julie have done more than just "run" our Post Office. They have also been active members of our Community. Ray has been a member of the Upper Beaconsfield C.F.A. since 1987 and Ray and Julie were honoured with the 2000 Citizens of the Year Award. A presentation was made to Ray at October's UBA meeting

awarding he and Julie life membership of the UBA.

Both Ray and Julie have said the most enjoyable part of their work has been the wonderful social interaction of their customers making the Post Office a way of life and not just a job. Ray and Julie will be moving to Berwick at the end of November. Although they will be sorry to leave, they are looking forward to spending more time with their grand children and travelling. We wish them good luck and happiness for the future and they will be greatly missed by us all.

Please extend a warm welcome to Ros and William Morcom who will be our new Post Office managers. They are certain to have a busy start to their Post Office life leading up to Christmas.

Julie Born

Thank you

Many thanks to the volunteers who assist in collating the Bell. Karen Perrin is now our coordinator, having taken over from Ray Allsop. She rings various community groups to provide the 12 or 15 bodies needed to collate and staple the Bell. Normally this job takes about 1½ hours and is quite an enjoyable activity where you can catch up with people. With the number of groups in UB, each group usually gets asked once every two years to assist.

Happy Birthday Isabel

Four generations of the Francis family met together for a birthday lunch at the Upper Beaconsfield Hall on Saturday October 12.



The occasion was the celebration of the 101st birthday of Isabel Francis. Isabel, now a resident at Salisbury Nursing Home formerly lived at Emerald. Isabel was pleased to see her family, many of whom came from interstate for the event.

Community Centre news

We are fast approaching the end of yet another year at the Community Centre and what a busy year it has been.

The Centre has had two very significant events happen this year. The first was the official opening of our new crèche extension in Term 1 and the second was the opening of the new computer room at the start of term 3. Both facilities were opened by Cardinia Shire Mayor Keith Ewenson and we would like to express our thanks to Keith for his support of these two projects.

This was a year of experiencing community involvement at its best. It was through the joint efforts of various groups and a wonderful team of volunteers that both these projects were accomplished. We would like to thank all of those volunteers and groups; it would not have happened without you.

Oaks Day

Our Annual Oaks Day luncheon was held at the Pine Grove Hotel on the 7th November. I did not think that Oaks Day 2001 could be topped but I was wrong. This was a HUGE DAY.

The event was again organized by Anne Bragagnolo with the support of her husband Loris.

The day was attended by 109 people, who enjoyed champagne and hors d'oeuvres on arrival followed by a delicious 2-course luncheon and finished with coffee and chocolates.

Lunch was followed by a fashion parade, which featured many of our Centre members and committee as models. They did a great job and we thank them for their support on the day. Wombat Fashion of Fountain Gate provided garments for the parade.

This was our major fundraising event for the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre and raised much needed funds. The feedback from those who attended was positive, with many people telling us what a great day they had and how well organized it was. Local traders and supporters, as well as businesses outside the local area donated the prizes for raffles and sweeps.

A special thank you to the Pine Grove Hotel for providing a lovely venue including a large screen TV and betting facilities as well as a wonderful meal that was enjoyed by all.

The success of this event can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of the organizer, Anne Bragagnolo.

Anne has worked tirelessly to secure donation and sponsorship for this fundraiser. All who attended will agree that the professionalism and commitment shown by Anne must be commended. We would also like to thank the volunteers who helped Anne on the day.

Congratulation Anne on yet another (bigger) Oaks Day Luncheon, job well done.



Crèche Christmas Party

Crèche will be holding their annual Christmas Party for all preschool age children in the area. There will be lots of entertainment and some special treats for the children as well as a visit from Santa.

The Party will be held in the Hall on Monday 16th December at 11am. Please RSVP to the Centre on 5944 3484 by 9th December.

Christmas cheer with your centre

Join with friends and other Centre users to celebrate Christmas on Friday 6th December. With everyone experiencing a very busy year that has been filled with many challenges on a local and global level, we would like the opportunity to catch up with everyone and say Merry Christmas. This luncheon will be held at Dante's Restaurant in Berwick and will be a own cost. Transport available on request for gold coin donation. To secure your place please contact the Centre by 2nd December.

Committee For 2003

What a great way to get to know your local community, have you thought of joining our Management Committee. It is our aim to ensure that our Committee is representative of the whole community, so if you would like to contribute to a valuable community resource we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact the office on 5944 3484 for more information.

Volunteers

The Centre can always do with more assistance. We have so many people in our Community who have such valuable skills that our Centre could use. If you have any free time or would like a break from the kids, we offer free childcare whilst you are brushing up on your office skills. For more information please contact the Centre.

Merry Christmas

On behalf of the Committee of Management and the staff at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre we would like to thank all those people who use the Centre and for their continued support during 2002. It is through your patronage of the Centre that we can continue to grow and offer a diverse program to the community. A special thank you to all our volunteers who continue to offer their valuable time and expertise in the day to day running of the Centre. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe New Year.

Maree Cullinan
Coordinator

A busy year at Kinder



It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2002. The children at Kinder and Pre-Kinder have had a very enjoyable year so far, with many exciting experiences that they will treasure for years to come. The Kinder groups are now busily preparing themselves for the transition to school next year, while the Pre-Kinder children plan their move to Kinder.

The Open Day for the Kindergartens was held on the 19th of October with many people taking the opportunity to visit the wonderful learning environments at both Centres and to find out more about the programs. Many people visited the Pre-Kinder expressing interest in enrolling children for next year. Our waiting list quickly grew and we are now pleased to be able to offer a third Pre-Kinder group for one session per week, on Wednesdays, for 2.5 hours. There are still some places available. If you would like to enrol your child or you know of a friend or family member who may be interested, you may contact our Enrolments Officer, Julie on 5944 4904.

During the year the Committee has been investigating the possibility of extending the McBride Road Centre. The decision to go ahead with the extension in 2002 was reliant upon establishing a third 4-year old group. As we were unable to obtain adequate enrolments we have decided to suspend this project until next year. Much of the groundwork has been done, so next year will focus on obtaining the funding for the project from a variety of sources. It will, again, be an exciting year for the Committee.

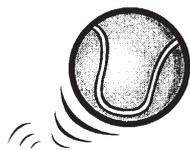
The Kindergartens have also had a very successful year in fundraising and would like to thank everyone in the community for supporting our fund-raising efforts throughout the year. A big thanks to the Fundraising Sub-Committee also, who have made a huge effort this year to organise all of the activities. Another group of people who have provided fantastic support to the Kinders this year are those who donated products and services for our raffles and auctions. These included:

Hindquarter Steakhouse, Taco Bill Beaconsfield, Onya Restaurant Beaconsfield, Settlement Hotel Cranbourne, Beaconsfield Swim School, Splash's Swimming School Berwick, Creations by Kerry, Beaconsfield Chiropractic Clinic, Beaconhills Country Golf Club, Play Days Doveton, Alison Kane Naturopath, Berwick Massage Therapy, Vanity Plus Nails and Beauty Beaconsfield, Nerida James Natural Healing centre Emerald, Knot Just Wooden Toys Beaconsfield, Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library, Emerald Kids Wear, Bimbimbie Farm, Beaconsfield Tyre and Mechanical, Jetset Belgrave, Hardy's Mitre 10 Pakenham, Berwick Inn, Upper Beaconsfield Pharmacy, Upper Beaconsfield Milk Bar, Upper Beaconsfield General Store, Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre, Emerald Photo Lab, Emerald Body therapy, The Home Fruit Supply, Uppercrust Takeaway Upper Beaconsfield, Christina Bristol - Hand Made Dolls, The Peake family, Dr Walters Vasectomy Centres, Vermont South, Ringwood & Eltham, Upper Beaconsfield General Store, Garden City Plastics, Emerald Body Therapy, Chris & Marie's Plant Farm, Emerald, Beaconsfield Tyre & Mechanical, Summit View Lodge, Mirimbah, Christina's Hand Made Dolls, Green Vineyard Winery - Upper Beaconsfield, Pakenham Hotel, Montuna Golf Club, Playdays Doveton, Melaleuca Lodge Beaconsfield, Pakenham Tyre Mechanical, Structural - Port Melbourne, Boronia & Wheelers Hill Pool & Spa Pumps (Upper Beaconsfield), Kids Space - Play Centre Cheltenham.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to wish everyone a very safe and happy Christmas and look forward to meeting a lot of new Kinder families in the new year.

Cherylle Hampton
Vice President (Marketing) 2002

News from the court



Christmas Party

The Club's Christmas party will be held on the 14th of December. It will start at 6:30pm with Santa arriving at 7:30pm. There will be a free barbeque with lollies and ice creams for the kids, BYO drinks or the Bar will be open. The Christmas party is a great way to catch up and a chance for all new members to meet everyone. The lights will be on so everyone will have an opportunity to have a hit as well.

Tennis Fun Day

The annual Tennis Day will be held on the Sunday 16th of February between 11am and 4pm. The day is totally free and there will be games, prizes, giveaways and barbeque lunch. The day is always great and everyone is welcome even if you have never picked up a racquet before. The day is fun and uncompetitive and we would like to encourage anyone who would like to give tennis a go to come along and have a good time.

Competitions

The junior season is now well underway with everyone having an enjoyable time. The Junior Committee would like to remind all players that the dress code is being actively policed this season. If you are unsure of the dress requirements please see the regulations on the notice-boards or speak to one of the junior committee.

Anyone interested in playing juniors or with any junior related question should contact Phil Scott on 5944 3909.

The Midweek ladies teams are now finalised, the teams can be seen in the clubhouse with competition starting in early February. However if you are interested in being an emergency or playing full time please contact Anne on 59 443 552 as we are always looking for new players.

The seniors' season is now well under way with most of the teams doing very well. Anyone considering playing in the upcoming Victorian Tennis Series (formally the Pennant competition) please contact Nick Gamble as soon as possible. Anyone interested in playing in any seniors competition or with any senior related question should contact Nick Gamble on 5944 3756.

Anyone interested in coaching for term one 2003 should contact our coach Paul Osborne on 9707 1119 or 0413 594 633. Paul will be running a holiday clinic once again probably the week of Jan 20-24. Please contact Paul for further details.

Nick Gamble

Cricket team displays grit



Upper Beaconsfield's young cricketers seem to have developed a grittiness in their approach to matches recently. The club's coaching panel has been instilling the need to develop more belief in themselves and the A grade side certainly appears to be showing the strength to fight till the end of each day's play. Paul Halfpenny, Richard Edwards and Rob Hansen have divided the tasks among themselves and a leadership group is assisting with the jobs required at practice.

Our young players are also improving in the junior ranks. New coach Ray Thompson has the U. 2s working well and constantly improving. A Buddy system has been put into effect and each pair of players is battling for the Bayard family trophy awarded at the end of the season on the basis of performance and appearance at matches.

The social committee has organised a number of events so far — the Cocktail Night was an excellent event. Male participants wore their worst ties and shirts, while the ladies came attractively dressed in outlandish garb. Rohan Escreet, wearing beautiful purple flares, and Georgia Gibbs in a fluorescent green mini took the prizes for the worst outfits.

The club has replaced its centre wicket and thanks those who assisted with this process, including the Shire of Cardinia who provided dollar for dollar funding. Hopefully the work on the practice wickets will begin soon.

The club is running a Hamper Raffle again before Christmas. Club supporters and members are asked to provide donations as well as selling the tickets. Last season three hampers were put together and winners for the three hampers were selected. Tickets will be on sale till December 21 when the draw will be made at the Break-up.

Rob Hansen



Community Care Group

Our Spring newsletter should have arrived in your mailbox in the last few weeks. Guys Hill

area is distributed via the Beaconsfield Post Office since the closure of the Guys Hill Post Office/Milkbar. If you haven't been receiving our quarterly newsletters please make contact with the Care Group so that we can rectify this.

Frozen Meals

The freezer has been removed from the Community Centre as there was not a large call for this type of help, and some meals were spending too long there. The Care Group is still happy to help out families and individuals in need of meals so feel free to make referrals to our co-ordinators if you know of an emergency need. As a neighbour or friend you can initiate this assistance or any of our other services such as transport to doctors' appointments, friendly visiting, outside work or replenishing wood supplies by contacting our coordinators Annette Walker and Barry Medwin. We encourage every member of our community to be alert to people's needs and aware of the Care Group's ability to provide a range of supports to those living in Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst and Guys Hill.

Medi Alarm

The Care Group has a Medi Alarm available for hire, ideal for a frail older person living alone who may be at risk of falls. By activating a button on a chain around the wearer's neck, help can be reached quickly through a telephone contact system. If you know of anyone in our area who could benefit from the use of our Medi Alarm, please contact the Care Group co-ordinators.

To contact the Care Group:

Community Centre	5944 3484
Annette Walker	5944 3574
Barry Medwin	5944 3551

Margaret Edwards



Red Cross Emergency Services will be holding seminars for volunteers in Single Incidents (providing fast assistance for families in distress, such as individual house fires etc.), and Catering at St Catherine's College, Clyde Road, Berwick on Sunday 8 December. More volunteers are always very welcome and needed! Further information contact Kath Gibson, mobile 0419 158 575. Kath has taken over as Emergency Liason Officer replacing Pam Jones, who unfortunately has undergone major surgery recently. All connected with Red Cross wish Pam a full and rapid recovery.

A lunch and demonstration by "Essential Additions" featuring handbags, wallets, travel goods, hats etc., was held by the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit during November. This was an opportunity to shop easily for Christmas gifts and help raise funds for Red Cross.

The Unit has forwarded \$300 to the Farmhand Drought Appeal.

Red Cross Christmas cards, diaries and calendars are on sale at the Berwick Library. Diaries include first aid advice, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation (illustrated), metric conversion chart, holidays throughout Australia and other useful information. Calendars feature Australian birds and flowers. The items are also available from Barbara Jackson (5944 3554).

With the Christmas mail ready to start soon, it is a good time to remind residents they can help Red Cross by saving stamps, just tear from envelope leaving at least 1 cm around the stamp. They can be left at the Berwick library or phone the above number for collection.

Tickets are selling well in the Christmas Raffle of a teddy bear in a rocking chair donated to the unit by Claire Page and Jack Gibson. The raffle will be drawn on 13 December at the Unit's meeting prior to Christmas lunch at the Pine Grove Hotel, Upper Beaconsfield.

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554

Berwick Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit

CLEANER WANTED—for Community Complex, approx 6 hours per week, term time.
For more details contact Helen Smith 5944 3219.

Toy Library needs you

Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library is owned by the community. We own it, we support it, we manage it, we use it and if we are not careful we will lose it.

After the Ash Wednesday Fires a group of enterprising mums formed the Toy Library, helping the local children to have a greater variety of toys following the huge loss to many families. The tradition and support from the community is still strong, with the annual fundraising events, like the Shopping Tour and Easter Raffle. All the funds go towards new toys. The Toy Library relies totally on local support to update or replace toys and is run completely by volunteers. Thank you.

We need more help. If there are no new committee members next year (starting March) the Toy Library will have to close its doors.

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre happily supports the toy library in a variety of ways, one of which is use of a room to store the toys. Borrowing and returning toys can be done Thursday mornings between 9.30 am - 10.30 am at the Community Centre. New Members are always welcome to pop in for a chat and to have a look at the great range of large and small toys available for babies, toddlers and older children.

For more information about our toy library, or if you can help us out as a volunteer Committee member, phone Lisa on 5968 4945.



Burglaries solved

The most recent meeting of the Upper Beaconsfield/Guys Hill Neighbourhood Watch Group took place on October 21st in the Community Complex, Salisbury Road.

Among the items discussed those present were very heartened to hear from two Police Officers from Pakenham Police Station, SC John Epskamp and Leading SC Stuart Halligan that a number of the burglaries that occurred in Upper Beaconsfield during September had been solved.

This was due to the useful observations made by a number of neighbours of the targeted houses. The criminals responsible for the burglaries were captured and charged with dozens of offences. In other words Neighbourhood Watch at work!

Also these officers outlined the Party Safe Program, which is a Police Initiative designed to assist in making the holding of a party safer. Details can be obtained from Pakenham Police.

The previous Meeting was the A.G.M. held on 19th August at which all the committee positions were declared open for election, with the following people being duly elected for the coming year:

Area Co-ordinator	Roger Haywood
Assistant Area Co-ordinator	Lorraine Barnes
Secretary	Lee Eldridge
Treasurer	Melinda Conn
Newsletter Editor	Jenny Coughlin
Safety & Street Signs	Peter Hapke

I would like to say a big thank you to all of the Committee members for their time and dedication.

Lastly, if anyone doesn't receive a NHW newsletter and would like to, could they please give me a ring on 5944 3767

Roger Haywood



**Bellevue
Orchard**

J & R Russo
544 Brown Rd
Officer 5943 2390



BUY DIRECT & GET IT FRESH

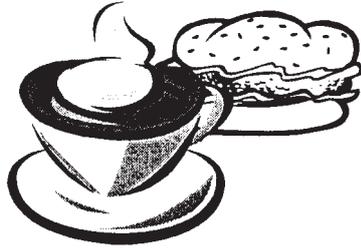
Fresh local apple juice
Freshly crushed on the orchard
Peaches, nectarines and apples



Bellevue Orchard supports
Carols By Candlelight

New faces at the milk bar

Alen and Andrea Barrie, together with their partners Chris and Steven Scott, took over the Upper Beaconsfield Milk Bar on the corner of Halford St and Beaconsfield Emerald Road three months ago.



Alen and Andrea have lived in Upper Beaconsfield for over 6 years. Andrea has extensive office accounts experience and Alen, a fitter and turner by trade, has worked in the car industry and as a white goods manager.

Partners Chris and Stephen, who live in Hampton Park, both work for the Dandenong council. The couples were neighbours for 11 years and have remained very good friends.

Andrea and Alen have been interested in buying a business for some years, and regard the Milk Bar as too good an opportunity to miss. Their partners agreed to work in the shop every second weekend to give Andrea and Alen a break.

The new owners have introduced a cappuccino machine and have put more tables and chairs outside for customers' convenience and comfort. The Krash burgers, and fish and chips, are very popular.

The proprietors will shortly be producing a new lunch menu, and will also be doing breakfasts at weekends.

The Milk Bar is open from 7.30am to 9pm weekdays and 8.30am to pm weekends.

Jo Carter

Interested in joining the Village Bell team?

We have vacancies in the editorial group and the printing group. Or you may like to volunteer to help with collating every two months. Please contact Helen Smith 5944 3219 for more information. Qualifications: the ability to work in a team and a desire to foster community spirit.

New business for local identities

Earlier this year Carol Gibson and Lynn Simmons took over "Berwick Basketeers" from another local, Carole McCulloch. Berwick Basketeers creates gourmet food and gift hampers for special occasions such as birthdays, weddings, baby arrivals and housewarmings.

The business is based in Upper Beaconsfield at Carol's home. People who remember Carol and Lynn from their days at the Pharmacy will realise that they are in their element, surrounded by good things to eat and pretty ribbons and bows.

Things are becoming busy with the approach of Christmas. Carol and Lynn are happy to discuss individual needs and tailor a basket to suit requirements. They offer a large range of sweet and savoury foods and, as they have a liquor licence, can even include wine or champagne!

Enquiries can be made by ringing 9768 9077. Baskets are on display in the Berwick Guardian Pharmacy.



Street signs

When local residents, Dianne Conn and family, were recently travelling in Queensland, they noticed a street sign on entering a small township—about the same size as Upper Beaconsfield. It was in a similar position as our "Shopping Precinct" signs.

The sign read:

We love our kids we love our town,
Please, please, PLEASE slow down.

The Conn's thought it was right to the point -what do you think?

Where is the community we love?

As a long term resident of the Village of Upper Beaconsfield it appears that it is time to pause and review where we are heading.

We currently face the perceived worst fire season since 1982 when similar rainfall figures gave us those conditions which produced Ash Wednesday. Hopefully, we will not be tested again. But I wonder whether the community will respond so magnificently as it did then in adversity. Neighbour helped neighbour, residents scoured the whole community to assist those in need. Yet are we the same now as we were then? I'm not so sure!

Some trends seem to have emerged as time has passed. Many people have moved out, many have moved in - part of the usual turnover of society. Do you know your neighbours? Do you even bother to communicate to them or are you just too busy tied up with your day to day existence? We will need one another again if we are ever confronted with another Ash Wednesday type of disaster.

Some observations. Quite a lot seems to have changed over the twenty years since 1983. Some people want to erect fences to block out their neighbours and withdraw into their private worlds. What has happened to the wave that everyone used to provide whether you knew the resident or not?

I have spent many mornings walking along the track to the General Store since Gilda passed away but so few people ever bother to acknowledge my presence as they zoom to yet another precious day, bursting towards frenetic work. A wave used to be reflective of our community spirit. I'll wave back too if you choose this friendly gesture.

Upper Beaconsfield still retains a sense of community - the Bush Fire Blitz meeting attendance shows this. Let's retain those aspects of our Village which are worth preserving. You might need your neighbour sooner than you think.

P.S Thanks to all those residents who passed on expressions of sympathy on Gilda's untimely passing. I appreciated that greatly.

Rob Hansen

50 years residence - not yet Aussies!

On Melbourne Cup Day, November 5th 1952, my mother and my sister and I arrived in Port Melbourne on the M.V Somersetshire. We were migrants from Great Britain, originally from Scotland but living in England.

On Melbourne Cup Day, November 5th 2002, my sister and I arrived at Port Melbourne on the Spirit of Tasmania. This was the closest we could come to duplicating our arrival of 50 years ago.

Such a lot has happened in those 50 years, our mother died, we were both married, Jody to Joe Lexa (they have 5 children and 12 grandchildren) and I married Barry Carter (we have 3 children and 5 grandchildren).

Jody and I have always been a bit romantic about our arrival in this country - well, they called a public holiday in our honour, didn't they?

Ten years ago, we went to England, just the two of us, for a month so that we could leave England again 40 years on. Of course, we flew back and I came direct to my "new" home in Upper Beaconsfield.

This time, we wanted to arrive here on the same day, and our 10 days in Tasmania seemed a good thing to do. We had a great time in that wonderful state, and fulfilled our ambition to sail up the heads on the right day.

Now that we have lived here for 50 years and have added quite a few Australians to the statistics, our next move will be to be naturalised. Keith Ewenson has agreed to perform the ceremony for both of us, and we must now get our paperwork organised.

Victoria has changed a lot in the 50 years that we have been here, and we think the changes are great. My only regret is that we did not move to Upper Beaconsfield when we first arrived.

Jo Carter

What do reindeer say before telling you a joke?

This one will sleigh you!

Knock knock

Who's there?

Wenceslas who?

Wenceslas train home?

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas?

Thanks, I'll never part with it!

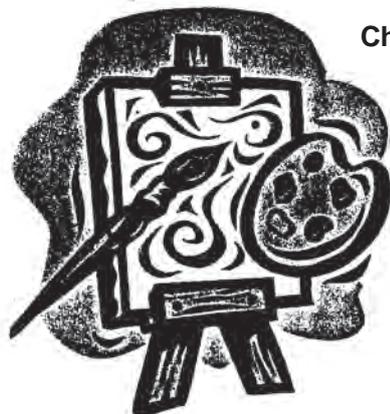


Open day at Petruccelli Art Studio

Are you interested in art? Have you ever considered trying your hand at oil painting or pastel? If so, come along to Peter and Mary Petruccelli's Stoney Creek Road Studio on December 15 to see what can be achieved by adult students of painting.

Students have participated in classes throughout the year on Sundays and Mondays under the guidance of Peter Petruccelli. During the warmer months classes were held outdoors in the picturesque surrounds of the studio, at local properties and at venues further afield including Phillip Island and Bob's Park. Still life studies and portraiture classes were conducted within the studio.

Peter and Mary extend an invitation to all interested residents of Upper Beaconsfield to join them on their open day - December 15, 11 am to 5pm at 102 Stoney Creek Road. Ring 5944 3224 for further information.



Cheryl O'Gallagher

Armistice Day 2002

The weather was glorious on Monday 11 November 2002. A group of 31 people gathered around the Cenotaph in Salisbury Road for the Remembrance Day service.

RSL president Eric Chaplin welcomed us and we held a minute's silence in honour of fallen comrades. After singing the National Anthem, Bill Toon and Peter Emberson laid a wreath on behalf of the RSL and then residents were invited to lay their wreaths in memory of family members.

Six grade 6 students from Upper Beaconsfield Primary School were invited to lay a poppy on the memorial. After the playing of the Last Post, the service concluded and all present were welcomed back at the clubrooms for morning tea.

Jo Carter

Local litter is everyone's problem

It was disappointing to walk around the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve last weekend and see the amount of rubbish lying around. This was only one month after a small group went around with bags and tongs and tidied up a large area during a working bee.

When analysing the type of rubbish left behind, it is clear all user groups of the area are responsible:

- School pupils' lunch rubbish-lots of plastic wrap from the sandwiches, fruit drink boxes and small food wrappers of the type sold in 12 or 20 to the packet that mums like to put in kids' lunch boxes e.g. Tiny Teddies, Twisties, Barbeque Shapes, etc.
- Adult rubbish-large chip packets, cigarette boxes, beer cans and polystyrene cups.

A problem highlighted by the distribution of rubbish is the fact that much of it is dropped a long way from where ends up. Wind blows the small items hundreds of metres away. There is a lot of rubbish lying about in the scrub down the oval bank and in the bush and long grass near Burton Road.

Next time you are in the vicinity, take a good look around. It is everyone's responsibility to do something about it. Upper Beaconsfield is a special place to live and we should look after it. With the suburban spread coming ever closer, the problem will only get worse if we do not make the effort. Each user group (primary school, horse clubs, cricket club, football club and scouts) at the Recreation Reserve should develop and maintain an environmental management plan to tackle the rubbish problem. Casual users of the area should take their rubbish home or place it in the bins located near the Igloo.

Helen Smith

You are invited to ...



Jenny's Christmas Pottery Sale

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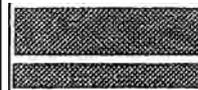
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