

To all residents

Postage paid Upper Beaconsfield



Issue No. 154

December 2003

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Carols by Candlelight in the park

Upper Beaconsfield residents and friends are all invited to the Upper Beaconsfield Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve.

We are pleased to let you know that Greg Ross will once more comper the carols at the Keith Ewenson Park on Salisbury Road. Thank you in advance, Greg.

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.

The UBA will have refreshments for sale outside the old tennis clubroom. The refreshments will be delicious with a sausage sizzle, tea, coffee, and soft drinks. Ron Fisher and his group will be there from about 7pm.

We expect that Santa Claus 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 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

Diary dates

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 3 Dec | UBA Christmas meeting CComplex 8pm |
| 10 Dec | Deadline for Citizen of Year nomination |
| 13 Dec | Tennis Club Christmas Party |
| 14 Dec | Petrucelli Studio Open Day |
| 20 Dec | Pony Club rally |
| 22-24 Dec | Bloodbank at Pakenham |
| 24 Dec | Christmas carols in the Park |
| 15 Feb 2004 | Annual tennis fun day |



Community bus
 Citizen of the Year nomination
 Amateur radio enthusiasts work for Red Cross
 Neighbourhood Watch appeals for volunteers

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Subscriptions

Your \$5 subscription gives you the most informative read every three 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? Subscriptions are renewed in January. To be put on the mailing list please contact Cheryl O’Gallagher tel. 5944 3209.



Seeking interest in the Community Bus

The Committee of the Community Centre has recently reviewed the future of the Community Bus, and has decided to seek expressions of interest from other community organisations or persons who may be interested in purchasing the bus and taking over the business of its hire to members of the community.

The original Community Bus was made available to the then Shire of Pakenham for use by the community shortly after the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983, and the Shire made it available to the Community Centre shortly after. There was initially great need for a community bus, and it was used for twice daily school bus runs, and by many other groups in the early years. The original bus has been replaced many times since, and it has been given many "homes" in the community by volunteers who have made space for it on their properties and ensured that it was always ready, clean and full of petrol, whenever it was hired. Our most recent bus carers, Gary and Ros Allison, have performed this role for several years, and we could not be more grateful to them for the care and time that they have devoted to the bus.

In recent times, use of the bus by groups associated with the Community Centre has ceased, with its use mostly coming from school and sporting groups from the wider area. The present bus, which is a 1995 Toyota Hi Ace, (12-seater), is due to be replaced, and on the basis of the current level of use, the Committee determined that it could not justify the purchase of a new vehicle by the Community Centre.

We would prefer to sell the bus as a "community bus" available for community hire as it has been previously, if this is possible. If you have any interest in the purchase of the bus, or any queries concerning its sale, please contact Sally Randall, on 5944 3484.

Support the Bell 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 2004.
- I understand that this subscription entitles me to vote at the bi-monthly meetings of the UBA
- Name of family
- Address
- Telephone Signed



Council news

Greetings to all the Upper Beaconsfield residents of the Beacon Hills Ward.

I am very concerned about the environmental vandalism which has occurred recently in the Beacon Hills ward. There seems to be a total disregard by some people about the importance of our beautiful environment. Trees which have lived in this area for many years have been destroyed without consideration of their importance to the ward and their beauty to the residents.

The Council has an extensive community campaign called 'Call before you Cut - Protecting our native vegetation'. This program provides advice on what is native vegetation, why native vegetation is so important and when a permit is/is not required. Please take a moment to inspect the Shire web site for more information.

The Friends of Cardinia Creek Sanctuary continue to work hard maintaining this wonderful wetland area. Next time you pass the sanctuary, located near the intersection of Emerald-Beaconsfield Road and Holm Park Road, take the time to walk through this wonderful area and enjoy the beautiful bush and wildlife.

Mr. Jeremy Wood, General Manager Planning & Environment for the Cardinia Shire recently addressed the UBA and provided an outline of planning issues which affect the ward and Upper Beaconsfield specifically. His talk was very informative and I would encourage residents to attend the UBA meetings to listen to speakers such as Mr. Wood.

The first sod was turned early in October and construction of the new Beaconsfield Community Complex is now underway. I look forward to the official opening of this great community facility in the second half of 2004.

The Executive members of the UBA met other members of the Beaconsfield Progress Association and the Officer Community Association recently at Council. The object was to facilitate a wider exchange of information between the three community groups to better inform residents of what is happening in the ward.

The feedback I have received indicates that this initiative was well accepted. I hope to keep the information flow continuing so residents are best placed to understand ward issues and provide value to community discussions.

**Cr. Garry Runge
Beacon Hills Ward**

Tel 9769 8152 Mob. 0417 110 616

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Next meeting The December meeting of the UBA will take the form of a Christmas get to know the members. You are invited to come along with a small plate of food. It is hoped that you will get to know people and enjoy some Christmas festivities.

Cr Gary Runge has been invited to give an update of Council activities.

The date is Wednesday the 3rd December 8pm at the Community Complex. We would love to see you.

Changes for the Village Bell

As you may have noticed, there was quite a gap between the last Bell and this one.

Due to the retirement of the Village Bell's volunteer chief printer Charles Wilson, and the coincidental occurrence of problems with the printing machine, the UBA has decided to alter the timing of the Bell. We thank Charles for his many years of volunteer service.

We have now arranged for the Bell to be printed by a commercial printer. This will cost us more per issue to produce. Even though we ask residents to contribute to the Bell, unfortunately only a small proportion of residents actually pay. We rely on advertisers to pay for the cost of publishing of the Bell, and we did not want to increase the advertising costs too steeply. The cost for advertisers is now \$80 for four issues.

Therefore, from now on we will publish a Bell each season, timed to arrive with the start of each season (instead of every second month). Groups wanting to publicise any events in the Bell will need to plan ahead.

We also urge all readers to support the Bell by paying the annual subscription, see page 2.

Deadlines

The new deadlines for copy are: no later than the 7th of February (autumn issue), 7th of May (winter issue), 7th of August (spring issue) and the 7th of November (summer issue). As we are working to a tighter schedule, we cannot accept late copy.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

**Helen Smith
Village Bell Group**

Rainfall report

It is a pleasure to report our gardens and paddocks have had a soaking and above average rain has been received this spring. But there is not yet a significant gain in Melbourne's water storages. The 2003 rainfall seasons are as follows:

| Season | 2003 | 34 year average |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Autumn (Mar-May) | 234.5 | 239.0 |
| Winter (Jun-Aug) | 266.8 | 249.6 |
| Spring so far (Sep-Oct) | 200.8 | 194.6 |
| | 702.1 | 683.2 |

| Month | 34 yr average | 2002 | 2003 |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------|
| Jan | 66.7 | 63.3 | 26.4 |
| Feb | 53.5 | 74.4 | 29.2 |
| Mar | 68.2 | 29.4 | 68.4 |
| Apr | 78.2 | 57.4 | 114.1 |
| May | 92.6 | 79.6 | 52.0 |
| Jun | 81.9 | 68.7 | 49.0 |
| Jul | 79.4 | 48.8 | 126.5 |
| Aug | 88.3 | 49.7 | 91.3 |
| Sep | 94.4 | 56.7 | 80.4 |
| Oct | 100.2 | 69.5 | 120.4 |
| Nov | 83.5 | 32.3 | |
| Dec | 80.6 | 35.6 | |
| Total | 967.5 | 665.4 | |

George Moir

Readings in mm are taken at Barkala, Emerald-Beaconsfield Road

Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association (CRRRA)

At a public meeting at Maryknoll on 9th August 2003, a steering committee was formed to work towards establishing an association of ratepayers and residents in Cardinia Shire. The steering committee received encouragement and considerable interest was expressed in the formation of such a body.

Following its second meeting, with welcome input from various local town community groups and individuals, the steering committee has prepared a draft charter for the proposed association. If this meets with approval, the final process for setting up CRRRA Inc. can be undertaken at the next meeting.

It is important to note that the major task of this association will be to work for the best interest of all ratepayers and residents in the Cardinia Shire and, being independent and unaligned to Council, such an association would not replicate the function of township groups or councillors, but will communicate and work co-operatively towards achieving improved democratic process in local government and equity for ratepayers and residents in local communities throughout the Shire.

Enquiries:

Rosemary Davies 5968 53 15
Gloria O'Connor 5942 7739

Hitting the skids

A report in New Scientist magazine (13 September) has proved what many of us suspected about driving in rain after dry periods.

Research was conducted in the United States which analysed the relationship between 430,000 car fatalities between 1975 and 2000 and rainfall patterns in the same period.

The research found that the longer the dry period before rain the higher the number of deaths. A dry month with a downpour results in more deaths than a month with continuous drizzle. Statistics showed that after 21 days of drought followed by rain there were three times the number of fatalities.

This lethal result comes about with the buildup of oil and grime on the road and the human factor of motorists driving in rain as though it was still dry.

Next time you drive around the hills of Upper Beac, do a weather check and drive accordingly.

Nominate now for Citizen of the Year

The Upper Beaconsfield community has awarded Citizens of the Year to worthy residents since 1977. We want to hear from you if you know of someone who deserves a pat on the back for good work in the local community.

But do not delay; time is short as the deadline for nominations is Wednesday 10th of December. Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year 2003 will be announced at the Carols by Candlelight, to be held on Christmas Eve at Keith Ewenson Park behind the Village Hall in Salisbury Road.

You can nominate someone for junior (under 21 years at nomination) and senior (over 21 years) Citizen of the Year awards. Nominations may come from any individual or community group that knows of someone deserving of acknowledgement for their community work. Leave your nomination form at the Community Centre in Salisbury Road or post it to UBA, PO Box 86, Upper Beaconsfield 3808.

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 sub-committee which is newly formed each year.

Should a member of the sub-committee be nominated that person will stand aside and a replacement appointed. Membership includes two UBA committee members, two previous awardees, and one eminent resident.

Enquiries to Jennie Vaughan
President UBA
5944 3457

Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year 2003

Nomination Form

Please use block letters

NAME

AGE (if for junior award)

ADDRESS

Reasons for nomination (attach page if not enough room here)

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Nominator

Telephone

Citizens of the Year will be announced during the Christmas Carols, which will be held on Christmas Eve in Keith Ewenson Park behind the Village Hall.



Photograph: Jo Carter

Lest We Forget -

11 November 2003

The weather was warm and sunny as a small group gathered at the Cenotaph on 11th November 2003, the 85th anniversary of Armistice Day. At 11 am, we stood for a minute's silence in remembrance. We were joined by 7 grade 6 students from the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School and Principal Gordon Atkins. Each of the RSL members and the students placed a poppy on the memorial in memory of the fallen.

The grade 6 students came back to the RSL clubrooms in Halford Street (see left) and enjoyed pies and soft drink.

Jo Carter

'RECOM' in the fires

The bushfires that raged across Victoria earlier this year called forth that special something in our way of life - the willingness of people to volunteer their help to those in distress.

A number of our Fire Brigade members were involved in fighting the fires, whilst others contributed in different ways, including several residents who are members of 'Red Cross Emergency Communications' - RECOM - a small group of amateur radio operators from various parts of Victoria who have committed themselves to providing Red Cross with a sophisticated field communication system.

In Victoria, the police are responsible for registering all persons involved in a disaster. However, in many instances they delegate this task to Red Cross who have teams of people trained to carry out interviews and record personal details. In the past these records were relayed to Red Cross HQ via couriers - now they are transmitted digitally via either radio, telephone line or sat. phone, direct from the field into computers in Red Cross HQ where the information is immediately available to those manning the enquiry desks or to the recipients of messages. The objective is to draw phone enquiries away from the disaster area - signals are digitized so that to the casual listener they are nothing more than tones thus ensuring privacy in the transmission of personal data.

Field teams are equipped with radio transmitters, generators, laptop computers etc plus field equipment to enable them to operate unsupported for several days. Operators are able to key in registration data, messages etc

into the laptop and transmit this via the telephone system, by radio or by satellite phone as circumstances warrant.

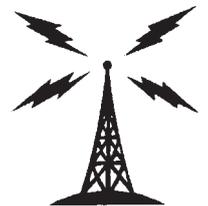
During the fires RECOM had 3 teams in the field, over a period of 16 days, in the areas of Mitta Mitta, Bright and Omeo - they handled some 1600 registrations plus messages and situation reports. The field teams were assisted by support stations in various parts of Victoria operating on a roster basis around the clock...

It is particularly pleasing to know that RECOM owes its genesis to one resident of Upper Beaconsfield who conceived of the service and by dint of much hard work brought it to its present state of readiness. This has been done at little or no cost to Red Cross Victoria. It now appears the RECOM system will be adapted to meet the emergency needs of other states.

So, when you see a gaggle of antennas in someone's garden or on a roof, just give a thought to how amateur radio stands ready to assist in times of disaster and danger.

Graham Jackson

P.S. One of our RECOM operators on a recent sailing trip off the WA coast was called upon by the ship's doctor to arrange for urgently needed medication to be waiting at the next port of call - a task that was successfully carried out with the help of 'hams' in Woollongong and Townsville who relayed messages to a medical clinic south of Perth.



Clean up before summer!



Now is the time to start preparing for a fire free summer if you haven't already. Reducing the flammable material such as leaf litter and dry grass around your property will reduce the intensity of a fire if it does happen. Together with mulching and tipping, under council laws, burning of vegetation may be undertaken prior to the commencement of the fire restrictions. Your local fire brigade may be able to assist you with burning of large amounts.

Dangers of Deadlocks

Recently, you may have heard that another person has died because she was unable to get out of her house that had caught fire. She had locked the deadlock from the inside and put the key away. Remember to leave the key in locked doors in case you need to get out in a hurry.

New Members Welcome

The brigade is currently taking on a group of new members. If you missed the information evening, it may not be too late. Contact Ron Sawyer on 5944 3055 to arrange briefing or just come along to training at 7:30 on Wednesdays.

Storms batter Upper Beaconsfield

Strong winds and rain have led to 13 call outs for the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade during July and August. Trees have brought down power lines and blocked roads that account for most of the call outs.

Moving Speed Limit Signs

Everyone should have noticed by now that the speed limit on Upper Beaconsfield's most dangerous piece of road has been reduced from 80 to 60.

For those that haven't noticed, it is the 500m on Beaconsfield Emerald Road south from St John's church. Let's hope this stops this piece of road from attracting so many accidents.

Ron Sawyer
President UBRFB

Fire Brigade Auxiliary

The Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade Auxiliary welcomes new members to our Committee. If you would like to join, we meet on the last Tuesday of the month (except December) at 8pm in the Fire Station. Our meetings are not lengthy and take one hour approx.

Our main aim is to raise funds for the Fire Brigade to help them purchase all the necessary equipment required for fire fighting and also training.

Our Office Bearers at present are: P. Edwards (President), S. Bliss (Vice-President), S. Hoffman (Treasurer) and J. Green (Secretary). Please feel free to contact any of us if you would like to join - or better still just come along on the last Tuesday of the month.

Rags - Once again we are asking residents for donations of clean rags, clothing, etc. These can be left at the U.B. Milk Bar next to the Fire Station. These are cut up and sold in big bags to several businesses. Anything that is not suitable for rags is donated to the Berwick Op Shop who, in turn, give the Fire Brigade a very large donation each year.

Joan Green (Secretary)
5944 3962

When can you burn off?

Times permitted for burning off are as follows-

From 15th May to 30th September (each year)

Burning days: Friday and Saturdays (all land)

Burning hours: 8.00am to 5.00pm

From 1st October to 14th May (each year)

except during fire danger period:

Burning days: any day (all land)

Burning hours: 8.00am to 8.00pm

- Burning is only for fuel reduction or fire prevention.
- Burning must be controlled and supervised by a responsible adult.
- Adequate means to extinguish the fire must be readily available

Cardinia Shire Council

“Back to front pub” looks in new direction

The Pine Grove Hotel always seemed to have been built facing in the wrong direction, but now one of Upper Beaconsfield's favourite "watering holes" is undergoing an interesting metamorphosis with the addition of wide deck at the southern end of the building.

This will include bar and dining facilities. There will be seating for 200+ people to dine al fresco, or to just sip a cool drink and enjoy the wonderful view over the vineyard and in the distance the Harkaway hills.

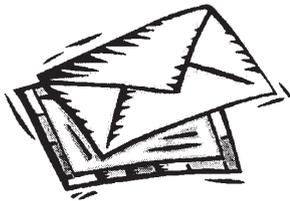
On Sundays a jazz band will add to the pleasurable experience. The new deck is expected to be open at the end of November. Next year, the management is planning to hold an open day to showcase the new look, so locals, keep a look out because you are invited!

Val Ewenson



A view of the deck under construction. Photograph Helen Smith

Postcard from Europe



Growing up in Upper Beacy has definitely influenced and shaped the way I perceive and enjoy life. I have grown from being a little girl playing in the huge gum trees of Sutherland Road with my imaginary

friend, into a young woman of 21, travelling the world solo.

From February through May this year I left the comforts of home and made my way through a few of the many countries of the UK and Europe. I saw so many different cities and towns that I can hardly remember the names of some of them.

First stop was London, which absolutely terrified me to the point of calling Mum and wanting to come home. A city with about the population of Australia can be a bit overwhelming, even more so when Army tanks greet you at Heathrow airport and a protest group of over 1 million people is outside your hotel room in Piccadilly Circus! Not knowing a single person made it quite scary. It was such a culture shock when your roots are little old Upper Beac, where everyone seems to know everyone and will always find time to stop and chat. I managed to find a bit of solace in Hyde Park, where I could escape the hustle and bustle, the swarms of unfamiliar people and have a bit a quiet time; just me and the squirrels and a bag of peanuts.

I loved London and what it had to offer. The history, the art, the musicals and architecture. I went for a day trip to Bath, and on the way stopped at Stonehenge. Funny how a bunch of old rocks can be so amazing and mysterious. Kind of like when you were little and on the way to Emerald, you'd always try to make your parents stop at Pink Elephant Rock!

From the large cities full of people, no matter how much history and art, it wasn't a surprise that my favourite place from my travels was a small town, Lauterbrunnen, in Switzerland.

The scenery was amazing, with the white capped mountains and waterfalls everywhere you looked. I felt so much more comfortable there. The small main street where all the locals were friendly (and spoke English!), the nature walks and peace and quiet. One of my favourite days was when I got to see the world from the highest accessible point in Europe. The view of the world from so high up blew me away. Looking across countries, there was no way you'd ever know there was a war being fought only hours away. No noise, no fighting, just peace and quiet.

But you can't wake up in Switzerland to the sound of a couple of kookaburras outside your bedroom window. So I've decided that as much as the rest of the world is interesting, beautiful, different and worthy of exploration, a three month trek was long enough to make me appreciate home even more.

Alaina Rusiniak

Thank you

Over the last eight months I have experienced three large operations and four very extensive hospital stays.

The help and kindness my husband, daughter, mother and I have been shown over this period has made a very difficult time so much easier to endure.

It's hard to find the words to express just how much my family and I appreciate the overwhelming support shown to us by so many members of the Upper Beaconsfield community.

A very special thanks in particular to the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre co-ordinators Maree and Alison, also Michelle Neyland, Anne Inkster, Sally Randall, the wonderful Creche staff and the Care Group for their amazing efforts, help and friendship.

A huge thanks also to so many other people (too many to list) for all the cards, flowers, gifts, get well wishes and acts of kindness I have received over this time.

We feel very lucky to be part of such a special and caring community.

Julie, Grant and Georgia Sievers

Mr Squeaky from Upper Beacy

At Salisbury House there lives a wee mouse,
And nobody knows that he's there.
Any crumbs on the floor he'll nibble
and gnaw
And he scampers when anyone's near.
He lives in a cupboard like Old Mother Hubbard
With a wife and a whole mob of kids.
He's ever so sneaky and ever so cheeky,
And he wouldn't leave Salisbury for quids.



A little rhyme for Ruby

"Who can this be who jumped over me?"
Said Floppy the little brown doggy.
"It's only me, who else can it be?"
Said Croaky the little green froggy.

"You jump so high way up near the sky"
Said Floppy the little brown doggy.
"You too can jump high if only you try"
Said Croaky the little green froggy.

Up from his log sprung Croaky the froggy
To a duck pond all muddy and boggy.
Like Croaky the frog, Floppy jumped into the bog.
What a wet, muddy, soggy poor doggy.

Wally
Salisbury House

Help urgently wanted

Neighbourhood Watch needs your help to remain active in Upper Beaconsfield/Guys Hill.

For a number of years now, NHW has relied on the services of a very small group of people to fill committee positions and attend meetings. As this number dwindles the survival of our NHW programme becomes very tenuous. The following positions must be filled:

Area coordinator: Our current co ordinator has had to resign due to ill health. This position does not require a huge commitment of time. Meetings are held every second month and usually only go for 30-45 minutes. The actual workload would add up to an hour per month.

Zone leader: A zone leader delivers bundles of newsletters to zone reps once a month. The letters 1 are delivered to your door and you are required to deliver them to about 10 reps. A vacancy currently exists in the Berglund/Sugarloaf/Emerald Road Area.

Zone representatives: Neighbourhood Watch would not exist without our zone reps. They are the people who deliver the newsletter to your home once a month. Each Zone Rep is given a cluster of houses in their area to deliver to. The following streets currently have vacancies for a zone rep. Do you live in any of these streets?

- Service Rd Guys Hill
- Lenne Rd O 'Neill Rd
- Buchanan/Quamby/Wattle/Fern/Seabreeze
- Carpenter/Officer Rd
- Dickie Rd
- Split Rock Rd
- Corringham/Fairhazel
- Part of Emerald Rd
- Blue Ridge Rd

If you can help fill any of these positions or even attend one meeting a year it would be of great help. Please phone Melinda Conn (acting area co ordinator) 5944 4010. Meetings are held 3rd Monday of even months 8pm at the Community Complex.



Do you need a place for a meeting?

If any community group or individual needs to hold a one-off meeting at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex this must be booked through Helen Smith, Secretary of the UBCC Buildings and Grounds Committee.

The Community Centre is the major user group of the facility and their timetable of classes means that care needs to be taken so that clashes do not occur and that there is in fact a space available for a meeting. To avoid any problems, please contact Helen first. Groups meeting regularly at the Complex already have a meeting time allocated.

Please note that the cost of a one-off meeting is normally \$20. Cardinia Shire Council does not provide the Complex "free" to users. The UBCC Buildings and Grounds Committee must meet the costs of running the facility from money raised by the rentals that are paid by users.



Vacancy

The UBCC Buildings and Grounds Committee is a small committee and after a recent resignation is currently operating with 5 members only. This committee needs new membership and support to continue working effectively for this important local facility.

If you are a member of any group meeting at the Complex, or a resident who would like to contribute to the community by volunteering, please contact me.

Enquiries Helen Smith

Secretary UBCC Buildings and Grounds Committee



It has been disappointing and a concern to members that negative and inaccurate media reporting

has damaged the image of Red Cross and the good work done by the organization, both locally and internationally. Upper Beaconsfield residents have supported Red Cross magnificently in past years and, hopefully, will continue to do so.

Jennifer Patterson, Regional Chairman of the Henri Dunant 8A Region reports that a recent independent audit by one of the world's leading professional services firms, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, into the handling of the Red Cross Bali Appeal has confirmed that there was no evidence of fraud or misuse of funds, but there were some weaknesses in communicating the issues to the public, which will be addressed. She believes the lessons learned will ultimately benefit those we seek to help.

Some of the important findings include:

- Management operated effectively;
- Systems, controls and guidelines, while not perfect, coped remarkably well given the complexity of responding to such an emergency;
- Australian Red Cross sought and received public suggestions for appropriate use of funds;
- Funds were allocated to the victims in a sensible and systematic way and will continue to be distributed;
- Administrative charges were currently at 4%.

Prime Minister John Howard has issued a statement on behalf of the Federal Government, endorsing the findings of the independent review on the way Australian Red Cross managed its Bali Appeal. In the final paragraph of

the statement he stated "Australian Red Cross volunteers are dedicated and compassionate people who work hard in Australia and overseas to care for those in crisis. Australians can be assured that their generous donations to the Australian Red Cross will continue to be used to help those most in need".

On a local note, Jennifer Patterson and Helen Fyfe, Chairman of the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Unit, recently assisted a Narre Warren family who had lost their home by fire and were in immediate need of basic clothing and bedding.

During October the Berwick Hills Unit held a very successful and enjoyable Trivia Night at the RSL Hall, Berwick and the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Unit's luncheon and presentation by "Matches" shoes and accessories was also well attended with many members and visitors delighted with their purchases.

The Christmas holiday season always sees a big drain on blood supplies. The mobile blood bank will be at Pakenham Hall Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 22, 23, 24 December. An additional day has been added to the normal session.

The Unit wishes to thank the Berwick Mechanics Institute Library for displaying and assisting with the sale of Red Cross Christmas cards, diaries and calendars. The cards and calendars are of very good quality and a number of items feature Australian birds, animals and wildflowers. Diaries include first aid information. Christmas merchandise is also available from Barbara Jackson (5944 3554).

Barbara Jackson

Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit

Cardinia Catchment Landcare



As we approach spring the bright yellow of wattles and the diversity of local shrubs and flowers in bloom is a joy to behold. Our winter rains have been substantial so we are looking forward to a good planting season this spring.

The 3,300 plants we planted onto properties last autumn are doing well - it is good to see them rising above their plastic guards.

The Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery is full of small plants waiting for some warmth before taking off. The demand for indigenous plants is increasing all the time as there is a growing awareness of their importance in spite of continuous clearing, particularly of understorey, by many landowners. The nursery is open to all on Fridays from 12noon-5pm or by appointment (9707 2415). It is situated in Halford St, Upper Beaconsfield. For large orders a lead-time of 6 months is required.

The Landcare network has begun a mammal survey of properties using hair tubes. These contain food that attracts the animal to the tube where they leave hair samples, which can be sent away for analysis. If anyone is interested in having this done on his or her property please let us know. There is a charge to cover the hair analysis. The information gathered is sent to a central authority and is important in determining the extent and range of our native animals.

By the time this goes to print we will have planted 3,400 plants during October and November into 5 properties from Clyde North to Upper Beaconsfield, Berwick and Harkaway. We have been assisted by the Pakenham Greencorp team in achieving this.

You might be interested to know that an audit has been completed of Landcare works since the first 3 Landcare groups were formed in 1999 in the Shire of Cardinia . 187 projects have been completed. \$822,000 has been spent, this money coming from the Shire of Cardinia, Melbourne Water, the EPA and from NHT funding.

The Shire of Cardinia gives \$20,000 annually which is particularly noteworthy as they do not stipulate where it is to be spent. The City of Casey also helps with funding in its area of responsibility. At least 200 hectares have been protected and 170,000 indigenous plants planted. The 3 original groups have grown to 9. Some landowners have 25% of their property set aside for indigenous vegetation which has actually increased the productivity of their land.

The Cardinia Catchment Landcare group is a recent addition to this network and is unusual in that it covers two local government areas.

We thank all the landowners who have participated and who are helping to restore the indigenous bushland, which makes this area a very special place. Especially we thank the volunteers who make it happen. If you would like to be involved in any way please get in touch.

Margaret Cromb (secretary)
9707 2415



Taking a breather after roadside planting, from left: Joan Szalman (president of Cardinia Catchment Landcare), Margaret Cromb (Secretary), Peter Hutchinson, Dr Michael Prowse and son Nicholas.

Street rubbish

We received an anonymous letter from a very annoyed resident complaining about the amount of litter in the streets of Upper Beaconsfield.

The resident often goes out walking to enjoy the local scenery. Unfortunately this enjoyment is marred by seeing so much rubbish lying about on the roadsides and paths. People who drive past in their cars travel too fast to notice the amount of rubbish and are too busy concentrating on the road.

The resident pointed out that many walkers in fact pick up the rubbish and take it home to be placed in a rubbish bin. But the rubbish is back next time they go out walking.

"Picking up other people's rubbish is not a nice task; it is only made acceptable by knowing that you are helping to keep our village and its surrounds clean and lovely. It is remarkable how much rubbish our silent street cleaners collect. We don't like picking up other people's rubbish. When you throw that can out of the car, or that fast food wrapper, or any other piece of litter, it is picked up by someone who has a deep feel for the beauty you are thoughtlessly degrading."

The thoughtless act of throwing a piece of rubbish out of the car window or down on the ground only takes seconds. Plastic takes countless years to degrade and spoils the beauty of the local area for others.

Editor

Wildlife Watch

Magpies, kookaburras and butcherbirds have been begging outside my kitchen window since early October and white-throated tree creepers were building in a small hollow in an old eucalypt. These signs indicate that there should be a good chance of seeing young birds when walking through our local reserves.

Start with Salisbury Gully, a steep fern gully in McBride Road (Mel 212 HI). Critchley Parker Junior Reserve, which has long slopes among a damp sclerophyll forest, can be entered from St Georges Road (Mel 210 E11). E. A. Owen Nature Reserve offers a different ecological experience along a steepish track that winds up and down dry hillsides and across creeks (Mel 212 K8). These three places do not have toilet facilities on site.

Two quiet places near to the centre of Upper Beaconsfield are Sutherland Park in Stoney Creek Rd behind the tennis courts, and a small patch of bush entered from Burton Road around the corner past the pony club. There are toilets, barbecue facilities and children's play equipment at the sports ground nearby.

Further out is Chambers Reserve in Burke Creek Road, off Emerald Road (Mel 313 G7). It is Cardinia Shire's largest council-owned reserve. The more than 120 hectares include a picnic ground, a car park and many different habitats from fern gullies to dry hilltops. Special birds that may be seen are lyrebirds and tiny brown southern-emu wrens with tails like miniature emu feathers. Koalas have also been known here but are at risk crossing the road so take care.

Take your wildflower book and keep an eye out for red and yellow parrot peas, cream rice-flowers, blue stars, golden everlasting daisies and tall pink hyacinth orchids. A patch of oval grey green leaves hugging the ground might catch your eye. Distinct pale veins identify them as *Cyrtostylis reniformis*, or mosquito orchid. This is the first time I have seen it on my place since 1983. Why would they appear after so long a dry period? I had assumed that they were a species that only flowered after fires. Wrong again!

Laura Levens



Nature trail now complete at Bunyip State Park

The Button-grass Nature Walk has come a long way from the original track. Many years of extensive unmanaged recreational use had seen massive problems of soil degradation, habitat destruction, erosion and large areas of poorly drained bogs.

In an effort to preserve the natural values of this track, and restore its former habitat, the foresight from members of the Friends of Bunyip State Park, in conjunction with Parks Victoria Rangers from Gembrook Office, meant the undertaking of extensive Conservation Works on this track, to restore it to a walking track with profound ecological significance.

The Button-grass Nature Walk is a self-guided walk with 20 numbered posts each with points of specific interest. This 3km walk is graded easy, and will take you on a circuit around the Button-grass Creek Watershed area, which has the largest stand of naturally occurring Button-grass (*Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*) species in Victoria.

It features a unique habitat of wet heath land, which is home to several fragile plant species, some rare to this area. This includes the Swamp Bush Pea, which is a nationally classified species, as well as the tiny Blue *Dampiera*, Club Moss, and other wet heath land plants, which are always a thrill to discover at your feet as you walk.

The surrounding Heathy woodland, features a variety of Stringy Bark, *Hakea*, *Acacia* and *Melaleuca* species just to name a few. Binoculars are a must have on this walk as the bird life will not disappoint, including the rare Southern Emu Wren. The track also boasts terrific views of the surrounding Black Snake, Weatherhead, and Blue Ridge Ranges.

The Friends of Bunyip State Park invite you to visit this unique conservation project. Maps and Buttongrass Nature Trail notes can be obtained from Parks Victoria, Gembrook.

For further information about Friends of Bunyip State Park contact President **Marianne Sawyer** 5944 3055

What's happening at the Centre?

We are well on the way into 4th term; where has the year gone? Again courses have been well attended. Some of the new classes that were on offer for Term 4 and will be made available in 2004 were - Pilates, Belly Dancing, Karate, Tennis, Drama, Photo Impact and Digital Cameras.

Plans are now underway for our program for 2004, so if there are any courses in particular that you would like to see happen, please call at the Centre and have a chat.

We would like to thank all the members of our community who have made use of the computers in our computer room this year. This wonderful facility was financed as an E Gaps project (funding being provided by the State Government) and co-ordinated by the Shire of Cardinia, and was something which the Committee always wanted in the Community Centre but never thought we could afford. Of course, such a facility requires constant maintenance, and the reason our network is so user-friendly and so reliable is the expert attention it has received from Michael Cullinan, who has never failed to answer our calls for help and who has put every possible safeguard in place to ensure that the system is as good as possible.

We will endeavour to make the computer room available for use throughout the Christmas holiday break as frequently as possible, so that you can send and receive Emails or use the Internet. But to open the room we will need help from people who are familiar with the system, and who can make themselves available to supervise use of the room for an hour or two. If you could assist in this way, please contact the Co-ordinators who will be creating a roster for the holiday period. Please contact the Centre closer to the holidays to check when the room will be open.

IT volunteer needed

Do you have some spare time and have an interest in IT? We are presently looking for a volunteer who is suitably skilled to assist our IT person. This role would involve assisting in the maintenance and upkeep of our computer

systems. Please contact the Coordinator on 5944 3484 for more details.

History

A highlight to look forward to is the upcoming publication of a book that will cover the twenty year history of the Community Centre. The book has been compiled by Alison Ryan and Ruth Hainsworth, two members of the community who have devoted countless hours to the keeping of records relating to every aspect of the Community Centre. Look out for publicity regarding details of the launch of the publication.

New door

Earlier in the year we were fortunate to receive a grant from the Shire of Cardinia for the installation of an automatic front door. (We did not, however, receive a grant for the installation of wired smoke detectors as previously reported.) We hope that the automatic front door will be a great help for people with prams and arms full of children heading for the Crèche, for people in wheel chairs and those with their hands full of art and craft or fitness gear. We look forward to the installation of the new door, probably over the holiday period.

Thanks

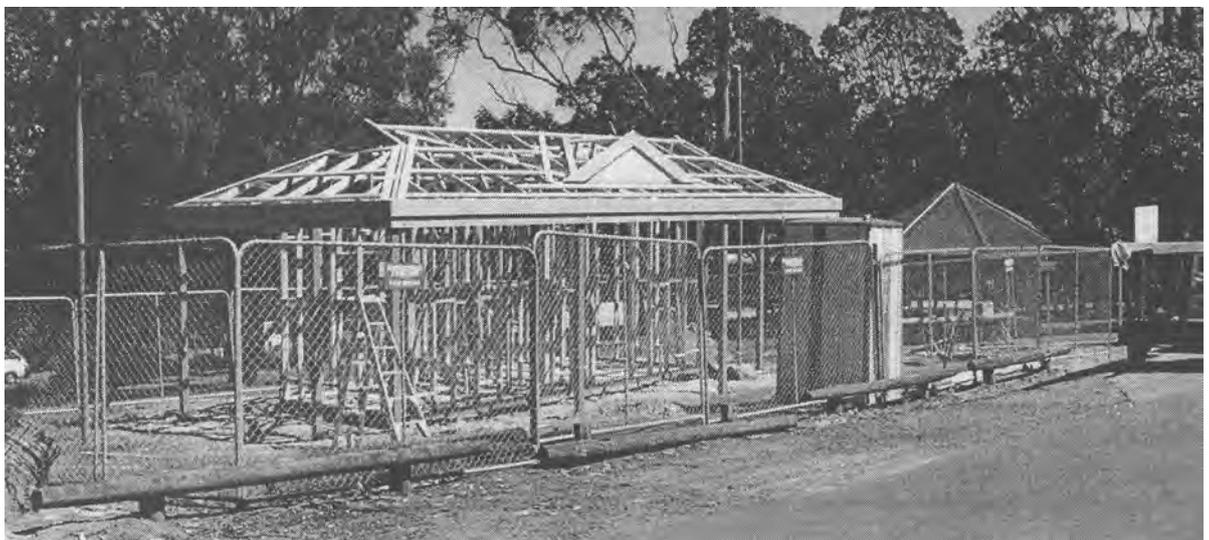
We would like to take the opportunity to thank our staff, our volunteers, our tutors and all who use the Community Centre for their support throughout the year. I would also personally like to thank everyone on the Committee, as well as those on the Crèche and Toy Library subcommittees for your efforts, your talents and your good cheer all through the year. By participating you have all contributed so much to the continuing growth of the Community Centre and you make it what it is. On behalf of the staff and Committee, I would like to wish everyone a very merry and safe Christmas and new year, and look forward to seeing you all in first term of 2004.

Maree Cullinan

Charing Cross update

Picture right: The new toilet block under construction and the refurbished pavilion at Charing Cross.

Photograph: Helen Smith



Another year of Kinder nearly over



Last term the children from Kinder braved the windy cold weather for a trip on Puffing Billy. Despite the cold conditions all the children had a wonderful time, singing songs while waiting for the train and waving their flags they made at Kinder for the train trip. While at Emerald Park Lake the children were given a fun and entertaining talk (and some didgeridoo playing!!) from the Park Ranger. They then went for a nature walk around the park.

For most of term three the children studied a Multicultural Program. This included lots of cooking (and eating!) foods from around the world (with the help of many of the Kinder mums and families).

To finish off the term the children turned to the night sky with the theme "Transport into Space", where the Kinder was transformed into a spaceship! As part of this theme the Kinder held a night time session enjoying an evening of scientific experiments and moon watching with mums and dads. They also had an excursion to the Kew Traffic School with their bikes to learn about road safety.

Starting off in Term 4 the children learned all about responsible pet ownership, where they had the chance to take their favourite pet to Kinder. They also learned about dog safety, which is a very important issue for young children.

The children will finish off the year with their Christmas concerts early in December.

Pre-Kinder News

Last term the children from Pre-kinder were entertained by Jeanette from Dove Puppets with a show about mermaids and pirates. The children were absolutely engrossed by the whole performance, and particularly enjoyed going backstage to have a turn themselves. The final week of term three became a week of festivities with a dress up day. Early this term the kids at Pre-Kinder enjoyed a visit by the Mandara farm where they got to feed the farm animals. Pre-Kinder children will also finish off the year with their Christmas concerts.

Fundraising

The Music Trivia Night held in August at the Beaconsfield Golf Club was a terrific night and was enjoyed by all the Kinder and local community. We would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous

donations. Beaconsfield Golf Club, Upper Beaconsfield General Store, Hindquarter Restaurant, Manhattan Electrics, Denise Smith, Darren Anderson, Cafe Bel Posto, Emerald 1 Hour Photolab, Beaconsfield Tractor & Mower, Beaconsfield Podiatry, The Beauty Spot, Temple Hairdressing, Beaconsfield Hotel, Beaconsfield Swim School, Castello's Hotel, Pakenham Inn Tavern, Autobarn, Nestle, Darren Spargo Photography, McDonalds, Hungry Jacks, Subway, Sundaze, Berwick Tattsлото Shop, Berwick Inn Hotel, Healthy Life Health Store, The Apple Pot, Berwick Springs Hotel, Vitality Weight & Health, Paul Sadler Swim School.

Enrolments

If you have enrolment enquiries for Pre-Kinder, contact Karine on 5944 3238 and for Kinder contact Sally on 5944 3390.

Philippa Meyer

Vice-President (Marketing)

Upper Beaconsfield Kindergartens

Photo: Upper Beac Kinder children ride the tram at the Kew Traffic School

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News from the court

Club Championships

We would to congratulate our 2003 Club Champions. Men's Singles: Darren Cordy; Ladies' Singles: Laura Scott; Men's Doubles: Robert Scott and Peter Puts; Ladies' Doubles: Caitlin Butler and Samantha Cashen.

Both singles matches were very close with both Laura and Darren winning in three very entertaining sets. Laura defeated Caitlin Butler 1-6, 6-4,6-1, while Darren defeated three time defending Club Champion Robert Scott 7-6,2-6,6-3. Commiserations to both Robert and Caitlin who played very well.

We would like to thank and congratulate everyone who participated in the Championships over the three weeks and especially thank all the finalists who put on some great tennis. The presentations for the Senior Club Championships will be held at the Christmas party.

Christmas Party

The Club's Christmas party will be held on the 13th 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 chance to catch up and a chance for all new members to meet everyone. The lights will be on so everyone will have a chance to have a hit as well.

Tennis Fun Day

The annual Tennis Day will be held on the Sunday 15th 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 great time.

Interested in playing tennis?



Tennis Anyone?

Anyone interested in playing tennis at UBTC should contact Nick Gamble on 5944 3756 for seniors and Pennant enquiries, Tennis Phil Scott on 59 443 909 for junior enquiries, Mary Winther on 5944 4796 for midweek ladies enquiries

and Paul Osborne on 9704 5077 for coaching enquiries.

Nick Gamble



Gift of the gab pays off

Are our political leaders of the future growing up right here in Beaconsfield Upper? You would certainly think so by the way two Grade 6 students, Brooke Cunningham and Kirsty Allen, performed in the Primary School Public Speaking Competition. The Rotary Club of Pakenham conducted the competition in the magnificent auditorium at the Cardinia Cultural Centre on September 2 2003.

Seventeen students from local primary schools competed in the competition, speaking on a variety of topics ranging from the United Nations Year of Water, the SARS virus, Space Exploration, the Stolen Generation and Australian Art.

Both girls from Beaconsfield Upper Primary chose to argue that Australians should be looking to the future in improving the quality of life for Aboriginal people, as this was relevant to what they had been studying at school.

Brooke and Kirsty had both written fantastic speeches and were outstanding with their delivery, demonstrating great poise and composure. Their fluent addresses ensured Brooke first place and Kirsty second place in the competition, making it a double scoop for the girls from Beaconsfield Upper.

Thanks to the generosity of the Rotary Club of Pakenham, the girls have not only won cash prizes for themselves, but they have also won a combined prize of \$800 for their school. The two girls will be involved in deciding how to best use the money to ensure that the children of Beaconsfield Upper Primary School all benefit from the great effort of both Brooke and Kirsty.

Sherrin Kirby



Pony Club report

Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club has been having lots of fun at its rally days during the past few months. Enduring all sorts of weather, the members have been learning new riding skills and have been establishing good, safe behaviour around their horses whilst enjoying their sport.

The annual Melbourne Cup Day competition, held for the first time at Ayr Hill, was a great success. Pony Club members from all over Victoria attended and participated in the disciplines of show jumping and dressage and also had the opportunity to enter the fun ring, mounted games and handy mount activities.

After a very long, cold winter, riders and parents are looking forward to more rallies and better weather for the rest of year.

Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club is a club that has always relied heavily on the support of senior members and parents of the younger members. This is what has given the club its great reputation for so long, and has given so many kids such a great time.

Anita Rowe

Remembering horse and pony friends

The Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club is erecting a memorial garden in its grounds to honour horses and ponies that have unfortunately been lost over the years. Former pony club member Leah De Vries started this project, which is near completion.

If any other present or past club members would like to include their horse or pony's name in the garden please contact Catherine Oldenburger on 5968 4661. A plaque costs \$ 17.

Once the plaques are completed, the club intends to hold a commemoration and officially open the garden, hopefully at the rally on December 20th .

Petrucelli Art Studio

Open Day

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 Petrucelli's Stoney Creek Road Studio on December 14 to their 5th annual Open Day.



Adult students have participated in classes throughout the year on Sundays and Mondays under the guidance of Peter Petrucelli. During the warmer months classes were held outdoors in the picturesque surrounds of the studio and at venues further afield including Phillip Island and Aura Vale Lake. Still life studies and portraiture classes were conducted within the studio. A selection of works completed by students during the year will be on display.

Peter and Mary extend an invitation to all interested residents of Upper Beaconsfield to join them on their open day - December 14, 11am to 5pm at 102 Stoney Creek Road. Ring 5944 3224 for further information.

Cheryl O'Gallagher

Note To see examples of Peter's art go to <http://www.geocities.com/peterpetrucelli/>

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