



School upgrade finally going ahead

The primary school recently received the exciting news that the school upgrade will start soon.

Originally announced several years ago, the upgrade had been on the regional priority list for a number of years. As the school is 120 years old and in fact has only one permanent classroom, the upgrade is long overdue. The project had been kept on hold for various reasons, including school fires in other areas. Upper Beaconsfield finally got the go ahead in the state government budget announced early May.

Stage I of the project will cost \$1.5 million. The works will be tendered in the next few months with construction hopefully commencing before the end of the year and taking 12 months to complete.

There will be four new classrooms, new staff and administration facilities, the refurbishment of the current art room into two new classrooms and the refurbishment of the current staff room into a new visual arts centre. A new septic system will also be installed. The portable classrooms will have to stay until the new classrooms are completed. Stage I will be built in the area adjacent to the staff car park. Everyone will have the chance to see

the master plan on display soon in the foyer outside the general office.

The school administration, led by Principal Gordon Atkin and school council lobbied long and hard, liaising with relevant government authorities and local MP Tammy Lobato to achieve this result. Everyone involved should be congratulated for their hard work and vision. There are also plans underway for Stage 2, yet to be finalised, which will include more classrooms, a music facility and canteen.

Other news

The school, students' family and friends attended Education Week celebrations on Wednesday 26th of May 2004. Beaconsfield Upper Primary School will celebrate its 120-year anniversary on Sunday November 7th, 2004. Look out for more news later.

Kathy Sharp

And there's more



Toilet fiasco

Move to extend Salisbury Valley Trail

Platypus return to Cardinia Creek

Check your chimney!

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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.

The fight is still well and truly on

Readers of the Bell who have followed this issue over the past six years may be surprised to learn that the fight is still well and truly on. Unfortunately common sense has NOT prevailed. The new owners of the former CSR Quarry, Readymix (owned by multinational Rinker Holdings from Florida), are continuing their push to expand the Mt. Shamrock quarry into the Toomuc Valley.

We were successful in January 2002 in forcing Readymix to undertake an Environment Effects Statement, which involves a number of "independent" detailed studies to be undertaken so the community can judge the merits of the proposal on an informed basis before it is assessed by an independent panel.

The E.E.S. is fully funded by Readymix and the process is supposed to involve community consultation by way of residents' meetings and a Technical Contact Group (T.C.G.), which represents many community groups including the U.B.A.

We have found the so-called "consultation" to be little more than a sham and extremely frustrating for all the participants. Despite repeated requests for copies of draft reports, Readymix has refused and at one stage a TCG meeting was not held for over 14 months! When the reports finally arrived in March 2004 we were given only a matter of 5 weeks to comment on their scope. This is despite the fact that some reports were completed as early as July 2003! We also believe some reports to be inaccurate, poorly structured and heavily biased towards getting the answer that Readymix wants to hear. The effort and cost in wading through lengthy and complex documents is a serious drain on our very limited resources.

The original estimate by Readymix for a completed E.E.S. by July 2002 has proved to all of us that they are yet again encountering serious problems with this proposal.

Our best estimate now is for the Panel hearing to occur towards the end of this year, although with the standard of reports tabled so far, this may even slip into 2005.

We will be continuing our fundraising efforts, as we need to go the Panel fully armed to match the vast resources that are pitted against us. Your support for our cause to the benefit of the residents of both Upper Beac and the Valley who are affected by this proposal has been, and continues to be, greatly appreciated. As always, we welcome anyone in the community with skills or experience who feels he or she can help us to come forward.

Please feel free to contact any of our committee: Neville Bassett 5942 7284, Joy Carberry 5942 7298, Don Petty/Sue Robertson on 5942 7482 or myself Dan Quagliani on 5942 73 16.

Dan Quagliani, Vice Chairman
Save the Valley Committee,

A sub-committee of the Toomuc Valley Residents Association Inc.
BH: 0407 800 023 AH: 5942 73 16 E-Mail: dannyq@attglobal.net

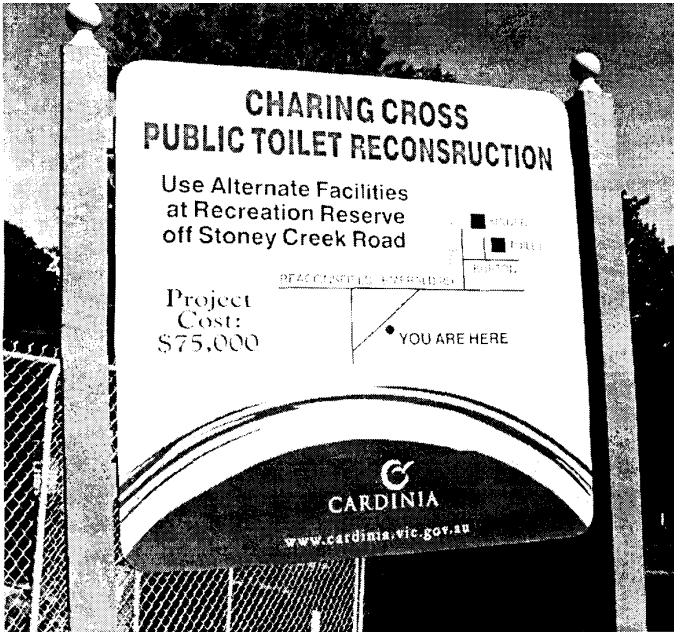
Support the Bell by subscribing now

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

YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AT THE GENERAL STORE IN THE VILLAGE BELL BOX

Over 8 months and still no toilet!



The rebuilding of the \$75,000 public toilet in Charing Cross has unfortunately turned into a fiasco. People visiting or passing through Upper Beaconsfield have been the losers in this situation, with local take-away food traders probably suffering as well. It is well known that a town with a good public toilet attracts visitors to stop for a while and buy their lunches and requisites.

Now the unfinished toilet block is turning into an eyesore, with weeds growing amongst the piles of bricks.

The latest news is that the portable loo will stay until the toilet block is finished. The shire board gives instructions to people to find alternative public toilets at the Recreation Reserve but the map is not very clear for outsiders to follow, see picture. Members of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Buildings and Grounds Committee have had the unpleasant task of cleaning up after people have used Keith Ewenson Park as a toilet. Not happy Jan!

Cr Gary Runge explains in detail why the toilet building has stalled in his article inside the Bell, (see page 4).

Helen Smith

Champion fundraisers

Spotted in the Berwick Leader recently (May 11 2004) was a story about an Upper Beaconsfield family's tremendous fundraising efforts for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome charity.

The Le Brocq family has raised thousands of dollars over many years for SIDS charity and recently Jack Le Brocq was awarded Little Champ of the Year Highest Fundraiser and Country High Fundraiser.

As many locals may not have read the article we thought it was well worth a mention here. Jack was also featured in the March Bell story as a junior go cart champion.

Congratulations to the whole family—parents Nikki and Geoff, as well as brothers Jack, Bill and Harry. What a great effort!

The price of progress

When our family came to live in Upper Beaconsfield 30 years ago the Recreation Reserve precinct was a small country oval with a school nearby. The area was basically park and bushland with wildflower areas.

Then a new kindergarten was built on the reserve when it outgrew the McBride Road site. Later, after Ash Wednesday bushfires, a bigger oval and the Igloo were constructed, and the kinder rebuilt. A BMX track was put in for the kids. Demand for sporting facilities grew as well as the spread in educational facilities. The horse riding groups developed riding areas and clubrooms.

There are more demands being made by the various user groups for improvements. Parking has become an issue. There have been suggestions discussed in recent years for a new stadium and more lighting. There are proposals to use the BMX track area for more parking or for extensions to the kinder for growing enrolments. Some people have suggested asphaltting the car parking area.

My concern is that if we are not careful, the urbanisation of Upper Beaconsfield will turn Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve into an oval surrounded by a large car park and buildings.

The reserve committee has a difficult job balancing all the different user groups' needs. I hope that all improvements are undertaken in keeping with the attractive rural character of the area and to retain as much bushland as possible.

Helen Smith



CARDINIA Council news

I would like to start my Council article by thanking all the residents of the Beacon Hills ward, and particularly those from Upper Beaconsfield, for their support and encouragement given to me during the last 12 months. It has been a privilege to work for you as your local ward Councillor, now the real challenge begins as Mayor of the Cardinia Shire. My duties will extend beyond my ward to take in the interests of more than 50,000 residents in our Shire. I will continue to rely on your support as I work to provide leadership in one of the fastest growing municipalities in Australia.

I would like to thank the Upper Beaconsfield RSL for the invitation to be present at the Anzac Day ceremony on 25/04/2004. It was with pleasure that I laid a wreath on behalf of the Shire in memory of those gallant men and women who gave their lives to make this a better country.

The new Beaconsfield Community Complex in O'Neil road is well underway and looks certain to open in early October. A number of lucky residents had an opportunity to accompany me as we walked through the shell of the building. When completed this complex promises to be a major focal point for Beaconsfield and a great community asset for all residents in the ward.

I would like to remind you about the 50 kilometres of road sealing that Council has commenced. Our ward has done well with the following roads to receive sealing treatment: Split Rock Road, Brown Road, Payne Road and Toomuc Valley Road. The roads will be sealed and are at the top of the list for treatment.

Now for the toilet block. Council is currently working to resolve the issues of the public toilet in Upper Beaconsfield. Here are the facts. The builder constructed a slab that was not in accordance with the plans and is not deemed to be acceptable by the building surveyor. The builder was instructed to repair the slab or demolish the building. The builder, building surveyor and construction engineers have had a number of meetings and now agree that the slab cannot be rectified to satisfy permit requirements. The builder has not been paid for any works. Council is considering terminating the contract and received a quote from a competent builder who is prepared to erect the toilet block at no additional cost once the existing structure is removed. I appreciate the local concern in respect to this project, however it is something out of the control of Council. I have been working with the General Manager Assets & Services to resolve this matter and apologise for the inconvenience caused. We now look forward to a quality building being constructed.

Once again thanks for your continued support and I look forward to a great term as Mayor.

Cr. Garry Runge, Mayor

Beacon Hills Ward

Tel 9769 8152 Mob. 0417 110 616

Supermarket under new management



The shelves are stacked and the fridges are bulging. What's happening? Anita and Pramod Patel have taken over as the delightful new proprietors of the Upper Beaconsfield FoodWorks Local Supermarket and Liquor Store.

Anita is originally from Zimbabwe and Pramod from Fiji. They have been living in Australia for the last three years and, with their two teenage children, are currently living in Glen Waverley with plans to move to Upper Beaconsfield soon.

The supermarket reopened on 29 March 2004 and is open seven days a week from 7am - 7pm. Stock on the shelves is going to be gradually increased over the next few months as they satisfy the demand for customer preferences. On that note, I'm pleased to see a good drop of Cabernet Sauvignon in the cellar!

Sarah Sankey

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Local news

Two important concerns have been agitating the locals during the year. First is the hardy perennial of traffic problems. Tammy Lobato MP, Cr G. Runge and Mr I. Pope representing the UBA, met with VicRoads and Cardinia Shire representatives, which resulted in alleviation of some minor points. VicRoads are still resisting major works because this section of Emerald Road is not on the Black Spot list.

Second is the toilet block - indications are that a replacement contractor should be demolishing and rebuilding the inappropriately constructed existing building before too long. A third contractor has been alerted in case the second contractor is not able to respond without delay. UBA has requested a portable toilet block in the interval. Due to fears of vandalism this has been deemed inappropriate. Currently users are directed to use the Recreation Reserve toilets. Cr Runge has agreed to investigate the possibility that cleaners who were attending to the old block will be directed to perform those duties at the Recreation Reserve. The meeting considered it inappropriate to expect volunteers to take up the slack.

A resident has suggested that the UBA should look for suggestions from the community for using funds in hand. Our Constitution states that surplus funds are to be used for emergency relief or projects that benefit the community as a whole. There are plans afoot for a multi-purpose 'rotunda/stage' for use at the Carols by Candlelight and as a picnic shelter in Keith Ewenson Park, to which the UBA intends to make a donation. This is to replace the ageing truck, generously loaned on many occasions by the Russo Brothers. A preliminary design was exhibited at our April meeting. Ongoing support for Village Bell, as and when needed, requires financial reserves to be held.

Perhaps you noticed SAM (speed advisory monitor) standing in Emerald Road, during the first week in April, chastising speeding drivers and patting others on the back. Cr Runge organised this first outing in Cardinia, since acquisition by Cardinia and Casey councils, in the hope that it will have had an effect on traffic safety through that section of Emerald Road. It was interesting to learn that many of the early birds driving to work were the main speeding culprits.

Laura Levens

We are looking forward to hearing the following speakers during the year:

Learn about orchids

Wed June 2: Robin Allison and Fred Elliott will present a talk on local terrestrial orchids. Their collection of slides is excellent and comprehensive. Time: 8pm at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex in Salisbury Road.



Emergency communications

Wed August 4: John Patterson, leader of a group involved in setting up the Red Cross Emergency Communications System (RECOM), has agreed to enlighten us about the work involved.

Bouquets and brickbats

- Bouquets to residents who lopped the heads of their agapanthus before seeds dropped.
- Brickbats to residents who did not request pick-up of hard rubbish or garden prunings before depositing them on the nature strip.
- Bouquets to drivers who observe the speed limit signs when travelling through Guys Hill and do not sit hard on your bumper.

Anzac Day 2004



The new plaque commemorating the Korean War servicemen can be seen on the side of the monument.

Photograph Val Ewenson

By 11 am on Sunday 25th April, a crowd of about 50 people had gathered around the Cenotaph in Salisbury Road and across the road in Charing Cross. The weather was wet and windy, and the group sheltered under umbrellas.

RSL president, Mr Eric Chaplin welcomed the Mayor of Cardinia Shire, Mr Gary Runge, and his wife to the service. He also welcomed all of the residents and friends. The mayor laid a wreath on behalf of the shire, and friends and relatives of the fallen servicemen laid flowers in their memory.

The local scout troupe was in attendance and each scout laid a poppy on a cross in remembrance of the servicemen honoured on the memorial.

The Korean War Veterans' Association offered a plaque to the Upper Beaconsfield RSL. This plaque commemorates the Australian servicemen who served in the Korean War. Mr Runge unveiled the new plaque; it can be seen on the east side of the Cenotaph.

After the short service, the large crowd walked to the RSL clubrooms in Halford Road for morning tea and other refreshments.

Jo Carter

Bell subscriptions paid March 2004

Berwick Mechanics	Godbehere	Medwin
Blewett	Hainsworth	Miller
Boura family	Hamilton	Moon
Boynes	Harvey	O'Brien
Carter/Middleton	Hausegger	Pickford
Cougan	Hill	Preston
Crabtree/Eldridge	Hooper	Robertson
Dack family	Howard L&M	Runge
Darlington	Howard M&M	Sankey
Day & Sironi	Hughes G	Schoonderwaldt
Dow	Hunter Bentley	Schroeder Herb
Easton	Jephcott	St Johns Anglican
Evans	Jones AR	Stewart
Fenton L&S	LeBrocq	Wall
Field	MacRee	Williams F&R
Flynn	Marshall	
Francey	McKenna	

Salisbury Valley Wetlands Trail

Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club and Adult Riding Club welcome the completion of the long awaited trail along the Wetlands Reserve of the Salisbury Valley Development. This multi-use trail has been negotiated very successfully by Council for use by equestrian, cycle and pedestrian commuters and will be a picturesque addition to the available road verge trails in the area. It will also allow viewing of what promises to be an interesting Wetlands area without intrusion. Thank you council for the hard negotiating work !

What about connecting the trail to Emerald Rd? Pretty obvious!

Further negotiations will need to be undertaken to try to link this trail to the corner of Emerald and Stoney Creek Roads. Then the community will have an excellent, safe, off road route for horse riders, pedestrians and cyclists heading toward the school, kindergarten, oval, tennis and equestrian facilities which will bypass the vehicular traffic around the township.

Expressions of support for this track linkage would be welcome at this stage. Please address them to M. Fitzgerald, PO Box 20 Upper Beaconsfield. (Just a short note of endorsement will do).

M. Fitzgerald

Tracks and Trails Officer
Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club

Platypus return to Cardinia Creek



Star of the show—a healthy young platypus

Three juvenile platypuses (*ornithorhynchus anatinus*) have been released into Cardinia Creek as part of a joint project between the Australian Platypus Conservancy and Melbourne Water.

Platypus once inhabited Cardinia Creek but the local population was destroyed during the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires. The river environment has now recovered sufficiently to provide a bountiful supply of yabbies, invertebrates and insects for the new inhabitants.

The platypuses will be monitored closely over the next few months by radio tracking devices and, if they adapt successfully, three more animals will be introduced next year with the ultimate aim of introducing up to 10 platypuses into the creek.

The actual site of the release has been kept secret to protect the animals from disturbance, but the re-introduction was witnessed by Cr. Garry Runge (pictured) and several local residents.

The platypuses (two females, one male) were sourced from the Tarago and Labertouche Rivers, both of which have large platypus populations.

Platypus are active from evening to early morning. They sleep in burrows just above water level, usually with entrances under tree roots. They hibernate between May to September in the southern states. Females commence breeding at two years of age. Food is obtained by sifting the river bed with the bill. It is stored in cheek pouches whilst underwater, then chewed and ground after surfacing.

Cheryl O'Gallagher

(With thanks to the Age, Herald Sun and L. Cronin's "Key Guide to Australian Mammals")



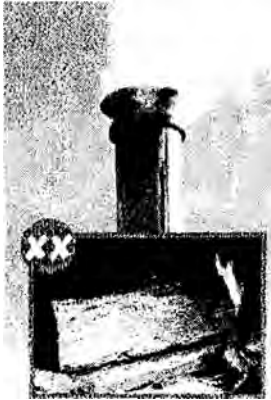
Dr Geoff Williams from the Platypus Conservancy, left, gives Gary Runge a closer look.

Photographs by Jennie Vaughan

Check your chimney!

People who leave their fires smoking, especially on cold still nights, should realise that this practice causes a severe reduction in air quality. One night recently, the smell of smoke hung around all night and went right through the house. The culprit chimney was spotted the next morning

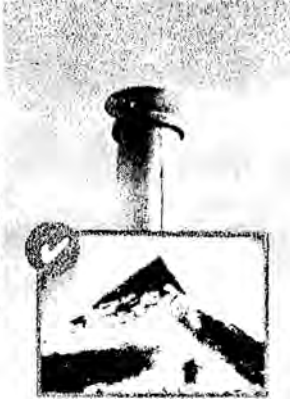
a few doors away, a thick plume of smoke pouring out. Because the air was still, the smoke accumulated and lay in a blanket over many homes in the vicinity.



Large amounts of smoke are produced when a new fire is loaded with too much wood too soon. Build the fire up gradually with smaller pieces first and keep the draught open.



Although the wood is now well alight, there is not enough air to produce a clean burn. Open the draught.



Fire is burning well and efficiently. Little or no smoke, with bright coals.

The graphics here were obtained from Wingecarribee Shire Council in the Southern Highlands of NSW.

The environment there is very similar to that of Upper Beaconsfield's rolling hills and valleys with bushland.

The wood smoke problem there has led the council to offer cash incentives to replace old heaters, to send council roaming patrols out in the winter to locate problem heaters (or owners) and a public education program.

See <http://wingecarribee.local-e.nsw.gov.au/environment/12/>

Bus timetable

Bus Route 838 Fountain Gate to Emerald (via Beaconsfield) weekdays only

Fountain Gate Shopping Centre	12:40 PM	2:24 PM	
Berwick Shops (High Street / Gloucester Avenue)	12:45 PM	2:29 PM	
Beaconsfield Railway Station (Beaconsfield Avenue / Woods Street)	12:50 PM	2:34 PM	4:40 PM *A
Upper Beaconsfield Primary School (Stoney Creek Road / Lenne Road)	1:00 PM	2:44 PM	4:50 PM
Emerald (Main Street / Kilvington Drive)	1:20 PM	3:00 PM	5:10 PM

Bus Route 838 Emerald to Fountain Gate (via Beaconsfield) weekdays only

Emerald (Main Street / Kilvington Drive)	6:35 AM *A	10:10 AM	12:20 PM
Upper Beaconsfield Primary School (Stoney Creek Road/ Lenne Road)	6:55 AM	10:30 AM	1 2:40 PM
Beaconsfield Railway Station (Beaconsfield Avenue/ Woods Street)	7:05 AM	10:40 AM	12:50 PM
Berwick Shops (High Street/ Gloucester Avenue)		10:45 AM	12:55 PM
Fountain Gate Shopping Centre		10:50 AM	1:00 PM

*A Bus trip does not go to/from Fountain Gate Shopping Centre



Upper Beaconsfield residents have once again supported Red Cross magnificently during the

March Red Cross Calling door-knock. This year's donations were \$5,694, down slightly on last year's record amount of \$6,318.65. The Red Cross tin on the bar counter at the Pine Grove Hotel contained \$26.50 plus three (sticky) Christmas candy canes!!

Thank you to all residents who welcomed the volunteer callers on their annual visit and responded with very generous donations. Unfortunately, one area was not covered this year due to lack of sufficient callers. The area covered includes Upper Beaconsfield, Guys Hill, part of Dewhurst and a small section of Beaconsfield, north of the Highway

Collecting for the first time were Brenda Bignold, Joyce Bumpstead, Leonie Collins, Sarah Sankey, Ian McLean and Brad Mars. They joined the many other 'Friends of Red Cross' who make this door-knock so successful each year: Peg Bellair, Sandie Bliss, Rosemary Bryen, Jan Carmody, Dianne Conn, Lesley Davidson, Kathy de la Rue, Beverley Dow, Margaret Edwards, Wendy Erwin, Doug Field, Barry Gates, Carol Gibson, Anne Hutchinson, Barbara Jackson, Anne McCormick, Matt McDonald, Bernadette McGougan, Karen McQuilten, Albert and Sandra Mew, George Moir, Sue Ogilvie, John Patterson, Susan Pitman, Heather Studham, Jamie Tainton, Ann and Graeme Taylor, Wendy Thomson, Jennie Vaughan, Gerald Williams and Yvonne Wilson. Thank you all for your willing assistance.

It is sad to report that early in May, the Unit lost one of its most delightful members when Mrs Annabel Ford passed away. Annabel, a former resident of Upper Beaconsfield, led an extremely interesting life and was a member of the Unit for over fifty years. Until a short while ago Annabel was attending Unit meetings and could be seen zipping around Berwick on her motorized scooter. Annabel, aged 97, enjoyed exercising her brain on the "The Age" cryptic crossword each day and was a most enthusiastic raffle ticket seller - not many could walk past the raffle table in the High Street, or outside Ritchies, when Annabel was in charge!

On a happier note, Mrs Dot White celebrated her 90th birthday in late April.

The Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit will also be 90 years old in September. The Unit will be planning a celebration and hopefully a drive for new members will be successful. Red Cross is supported by many 'Friends of Red Cross' but numbers of actual members of Units are falling dramatically as age is catching up on members who have actively supported Red Cross since the Second World War.

The Unit meets at the RSL Hall, Langmore Lane, Berwick on the second Friday each month at 10.00am. Chairman Helen Fyfe (9707 1059) and Secretary Marion Limpus (9704 1924) would welcome any enquiries.

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554
Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit

Rainfall report

The summer period (December 2003-February 2004) finished with a total rainfall of 164.3mm (average 198.0mm). January was average, but February very low.

Autumn brought average rainfall to date with March low and the second half of April very high. The year to date is 237.2mm, average 264.6mm.

The water situation will improve if May holds up to its past average of 91 mm (3rd highest) and spring rainfall is normal this year.

George Moir

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

Month	36 yr average	2003	2004
Jan	65.5	26.4	70.3
Feb	53.4	29.2	22.1
Mar	67.1	68.4	37.4
Apr	78.6	114.1	107.4
May	91.1	52.0	
Jun	80.6	49.0	
Jul	79.9	126.5	
Aug	87.3	91.3	
Sep	93.0	80.4	
Oct	99.9	120.4	
Nov	81.1	47.1	
Dec	79.1	71.9	
Total	956.6	876.7	

Cricket Club news

The Cricket Club finished the season well with A Grade and C Grade having good wins against Catani in the final round. E Grade had a bye so this means all senior sides were undefeated in the last game. Also the mighty U12 side broke through for their first win of the season, which was great to see.

A Grade finished the season in 9th position out of 12 spots with 4 wins and at least were competitive in all games except the one against Merinda Park where the opposition managed 400 in the day's play. Eight dropped catches contributed to this huge total. That match aside, the senior team of the club did reasonably well considering seven of our top players from the previous year retired, had a year off, moved interstate or moved on. Unfortunately this had a bad effect on our overall numbers and affected the 2nds playing in C Grade and the 3rds playing in E Grade.

Both sides, especially before Christmas, fielded sides of 8 or 9 players but after the break when our numbers were better, both had some wins. C Grade in fact won the last 3 games of the season.

We were fortunate to gain the services of Steve Carr from Berwick who played some junior cricket at Upper Beaconsfield in the U 16's a few years ago. Steve is a very good batsman who made 476 runs at an average of over 39 which was the best batting performance from an Upper Beaconsfield cricketer for many years. Needless to say, Steve won the batting trophy and also the team/club champion for this season. The bowling trophy was won by our leg spinner Scott Pitcher who took 24 wickets at an average of 23.2. Scott and Steve both played in the West Gippsland Country Week side with Scott taking 6 wickets in one of the games. Paul Matthews also bowled quite well and nearly won the bowling award when he took 6 wickets in the final game. James Haupt had a very good first year in the senior side as our new ball strike bowler and worked up very good pace. James had played junior cricket at the club previously and proved to be a very handy pickup. Unfortunately, he is studying in Ballarat this year but we are hopeful he may want to drive back each weekend to play next season. Steve Carr has indicated he will play on at Upper Beaconsfield next year, so that is great news for the club. Luke Pitcher and Dave Taylor also played some very good innings and are both very accomplished batsman at this level.

A Grade continues to be a reasonable side in the top level and are really only a couple of good players away from being a real force in the competition. However, this could be said about most of the clubs, so the challenge for us is to attract players to the club, especially those who live up here but play for other sides or in other competitions.

C Grade finished the season off well with three wins in a row and also finished 9th.

The top batsman was Chris Reid who was very consistent making 236 runs at 28.3. The bowling trophy was won by Michael Preston with an average of 22.7 and the team champion was Dave Edwards who had his best season at the club making 169 runs and taking 13 wickets.

E Grade was well led by David Green who had to contend with many weeks of having only 7 or 8 players making it almost impossible to play good cricket, but he was certainly the standout player and won the bowling trophy. The evergreen president, Rob Hansen, won the batting trophy because no one could get through his rock solid defence. Speaking of Rob Hansen, the cricket club and the community of Upper Beaconsfield should thank Rob because he was the main force behind the cricket club reforming 20 years ago and now it is up to others in the club and the community to continue supporting this organisation because Rob is stepping down from the club and moving out of the area. So, to Rob, a heartfelt thank-you for all the work done for the cricket club over the last 20 years both within Upper Beaconsfield and through the cricket association.

Another person who has helped a great deal this season once again was Paul Halfpenny in his capacity as coach. Every week he would turn up to coach players and offer support, no matter the number attending training. As the captain of the victorious A Grade in 1993 and one of the league's premier players over a long period of time, Paul has plenty to offer in this capacity.

The Junior teams had a slow start to the season. We fielded U 14 and U 12 teams with Rob Hansen and Greg Eagle in charge of the U 14's. Most of the players came from outside the area and, with a large number going to Haileybury, it made it difficult to field a side every week. However, the main job of a cricket club is to provide a game of cricket for all ages and all levels and at least we did this. A number of the senior players helped out on Saturday when Rob went off to do his local area broadcast on the cricket show and the club would like to thank them for their support.

The U 12s were quite a success story with five players turning out for the first match but by the end of the season 17 players were lining up under the coaching of Grant Andrewartha, culminating in their first win in the last game of the year. I helped with coaching on Thursday nights and what stood out was the huge improvement in the players from the start of the season to the end. I hope all 17 will play again next year in the U 14 and U 12.

A number of the U 12 players will move up to the U 14 next season so we will need more players at both levels. If you would like to play cricket next season but have not had a go before, come along and give it a try. If you live in the area but play elsewhere, how about giving us another try? We intend to be much better organised next year because there is no doubt we were not at the start of last season for the juniors and, consequently, there was not a great deal of interest. However, with the great efforts of the U 12 in recruiting so many players, it gives us hope for next season.

Ideally, we would like to field an U 16 team if there is enough interest, but this is traditionally the hardest level to fill throughout the association.

The U 12 batting award went to Tom Jennings, the bowling award to Sean Smith and Matt Hutson and the coaches' award to Alistair Conn. All the other players received a participation trophy and it seemed the parents had a great time at the Friday night BBQs during the game.

(Continued on page 12)



Beaconhills Country Golf Club has been a hive of activity over the warm summer months, and now as the air gets colder and the days get shorter, we reflect on the golfing triumphs of the first half of the year.

A majority of the Honour Board events have been played, completed and awarded to the victors. The 2004 Beaconhills Country Golf Club Championships were held in February and saw the course in magnificent condition, thanks to course Superintendent Rob Ryan and his staff. Brad Crowley commenced the year in fine form winning the Club Championships with a nail biting victory over the third round leader and eventual runner up, Joe Marsiglio. Peter Fredrickson won his first B Grade Club Championship beating Ian McLean, a former six times club champion. William (Billy) Sheehan won the C Grade Championship from Rob Darlinson who was the runner up, which now has Billy on the Board as a Champion in the 1970's for B Grade, 1980's for the Veterans Championship, and now the 2000's for the C Grade Champion. The Veteran Champion was Upper Beaconsfield local Les Richards, while up and coming junior Nathan McMullen won the Junior Championship. The net champions for each grade were decided a week earlier with Joe Marsiglio winning A Grade, John Dawe triumphing in B Grade and Peter Thornton proving too good in C Grade.

The Brian Balcombe Matchplay Championship was conducted immediately after the club championships. Brad Crowley added to his superb year, winning A Grade by overcoming junior Tim Angwin 7/6 in the 36 hole final. Luke Wanless won B Grade against Simon Conn 4/2 and Brett Stringer was the victor in a tough battle against Bert Gruber in C Grade I up.

The Ladies also conducted their Championships in February this year, making the most of the weather and excellent course conditions. Marilyn Ford won her eighth Club Championship, Anne Madigan won her first B Grade Championship, Nancy Cockram successfully defended her third C Grade Championship in a row, Lesley Davidson was triumphant in D Grade and Lorraine Baxter secured the Veterans' championship.

Beaconhills Country Golf Club's Lady Members held their annual charity day for the Walter and Eliza Hall

Institute of Medical Research in March. The field of 98 enjoyed the fundraising spirit of the day with a charity stall, raffles and 'betting hole.' Representing the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Alison Marty spoke of her work as a researcher at the Institute, searching for answers to the still too prevalent, worldwide problem of malaria. On behalf of the Institute, Alison thanked Beaconhills for its past and continuing support. Since its inception, the charity day has contributed more than \$40,000 to this worthwhile cause.

April 1st was no fool's day for the 80 professionals and 170 amateurs who took on the Old Course at Beaconhills Country Golf Club, competing in the A & L Windows Pro Am. A new equal course record was shot by professional Phil Hodge, 66, which saw him take home the winner's cheque. The Cooper household from Upper Beaconsfield were amongst the winners on the day with Ashley and Jimmy teaming up to walk away with 3 coffee makers and two disk-mans! A big thank you to all the sponsors who were involved in the day, particularly major sponsor A & L Windows. Without such support the Pro Am could not entice top class professionals to the local area which included in 2004, Scott Laycock, Mike Harwood, David Diaz, David Bransdon and Shaun Somers.

The Ladies at Beaconhills have been on a high in recent times with the section four team winning their division in the 2004 Mornington Peninsula District Women's Golf Pennant. Led by team captain Ros Harding, the team consisting of Karen Pritchard, Veronica Green, Bev Eckhardt, Libby Anderson, Lee James, Maria Grant, Mary Padman and Rosalie Leake were undefeated as a team for the season. The division one ladies team maintained their position and showed true determination against some strong opposition. The men are currently in the middle of their pennant season with both the division one and reserve one teams in strong positions near the conclusion of the fixture. We wish them well for the remaining matches.

Beaconhills Country Golf Club celebrated Honorary

(Continued on page 12)

Cricket Club (Continued from page 10)

To make it all work next year we need plenty of help from the parents with the juniors, better liaison between the seniors and juniors and more players at senior and junior level. To run three teams at seniors we need at least 40 players (30 full time and 10 part time); the juniors need about 14 players at both age levels. If there is enough interest for an U16 side we will put one into the competition also.

If you wish to play at any level we need to know by August because that is when we have to nominate teams in the WGCA.

If you just want to be a social member, that's fine. If you would like to help out around the club, we would welcome you. The cricket club belongs to the whole community and has been very successful over the last 20 years but it is time to set the club up for the next decade and it requires anyone interested to step up. Let's do it this year! If you would like to contact the cricket club in relation to helping, playing or coaching, I can be contacted on the number or addresses below. This club belongs to the whole community but will only survive if people who live in Upper Beaconsfield take an interest. It is very easy to go to other clubs because they have more facilities, more coaches and so on. But, ultimately, the survival of the club depends on having strong junior representation especially in the U12 and U14. If this is to happen it will require input from parents and the local community. So, to everyone, I say "how about having a go" and let us have this representation.

Richard Edwards Secretary

59443 463

P.O.Box 37 Upper Beaconsfield
email redwards@hotmail.net.au

(Continued from page 11)

Member Dot White's 90th birthday in April. A local Upper Beaconsfield resident and a member since 1966, Dot was picked up from her home by "chauffeur" Gillian Lewis who drove her around the Old Course in a decorated cart to be greeted by all the players. During lunch Dot was pampered and spoilt with a special table for her golfing friends Gwynne Conn, Alice McKenzie & Wilma Larkins and her bridesmaid from 1951, Esme Riley. The lady members are extremely fond of Dot, who comes up to have lunch every Wednesday to enjoy the friendship and camaraderie of the day.

Beaconhills Country Golf Club prides itself on our club culture which fosters friendship, camaraderie and great memories. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for actively participating in the club's events and functions which have been held in the first half of the year and we welcome guests to come and experience Beaconhills Country Golf Club hospitality.

Danie Myers

Administration Manager

Community Week with a 5am finish!

Community Week has been celebrated in Upper Beaconsfield for over twenty years each February. Celebrations usually take the form of a street gathering and barbeque. At least 16 neighbourhoods gathered to mark the occasion this year, and one group may have set a record - their barbeque lasted till 5 am!

Each year the Care Group Committee contacts a convener for each neighbourhood and the resultant events vary to suit each area. Thanks to Neil McDonald who puts up the Community Week Banners each year to remind us that the street gathering season is at hand. Also thanks to those who convene the local events.

Care Group AGM

The A.G.M. of the Care Group was held on Thursday 20 May at the Community Centre. Cardinia Shire Senior Citizen of the Year, Randal Webster, was the guest speaker. Care Group volunteers received an invitation to the meeting, and all residents were welcomed.

New Residents Kit

A 'New Residents' Kit' has been prepared by the Care Group Committee. The kit contains information about the many community groups active in the community and is available for new residents at the Post Office.

Care Group Activities

The Annual Report of the Care Group records another active year for the committee and volunteers. The main areas of assistance provided for residents are friendly visits, transport, emergency financial relief, practical home help and emergency firewood supply. The Care Group is able to provide these services through funding received through the Shire, donations from locals and through the generosity of the 60 or so volunteers who give of their time and energy.

Donations are always welcome. Those with supplies of firewood surplus to their needs or with time and energy to assist in the gathering and distribution of firewood could contact Matt McDonald on 5944 3860. President of the Care Group is Barry Medwin (5944 3551) and the Coordinator is Annette Walker (5944 3574)

**Upper Beaconsfield Community
Care Group**



Scouts participate in varied activities

A few weeks ago all Grades 3/4 at the Primary school took part in a short programme of activities that were provided by Leaders from the Upper Beaconsfield Cub Pack.

The Pack is part of the Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group which currently has vacancies for younger members of Cub age. The Upper Beaconsfield Group consists of 5 sections whose activities cater for boys and girls from 6 to 25 years of age; sections are led by trained volunteer leaders.

The Pack joins in with other Cubs in Cardinia Shire in participating in outdoor weekend activities such as Billy Cart derbies, Swimming Sports, Anzac Day and Pack Holidays in the bush.

During the term I holidays in 2005 they will have the special opportunity to take part in the Cuboree, a four night camp under canvas with 2500 other cubs from around Victoria held at nearby Gilwell Park, just north of Gembrook.

The Cub Scouts (for 7-10 year olds) meet in the Igloo next to the school on Mondays from 6.30 to 8pm. The 6-7 year Joey Scouts are currently in recess but the 10-14 year old Scouts meet on Thursdays from 7.30 -9.30, the 14-17 year old Venturers meet with Pakenham and the 17-25 year old Rovers meet on Mondays, from 8pm-10pm.

The Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group is part of the largest voluntary educational youth organization with 27 million members worldwide, 80.000 in Australia and 23.000 in Victoria.

The aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual development of young people so that they can take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens in their local communities.

The method we use to achieve these aims is to provide activity programmes based on fun which develop new knowledge and skills, encourage team work, create leadership opportunities and provide an environment for social interaction which complements the values and curriculum provided by formal schooling and the personal growth within our own families.

If you would like to take this opportunity to have your child join any of the 5 sections, please contact either of us for further information.

1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group

Bob Taylor, Acting Group Leader, 5944 3645
Barry Smith, Group President 5944 3219.

Upper Beaconsfield scouts and leaders braved the elements to participate in the 2004 Anzac Day ceremony at the Cenotaph at Charing Cross.

Photograph B. Smith



Wildlife Watch

Autumn diary

1/3/2004: Walked down hill, didn't see any thistles or ragwort so maybe dry weather has discouraged those pests. Blue wrens back in sedges near tanks. Heard rufus whistler. Magpies seem to have discontinued breeding after fledging five young.

12/3/2004: Pied currawongs are around again. Kookaburra, magpies and butcherbird are still begging for meat. Black sheoaks male flowers showing, teatree and hop wattle shooting from desiccated, leafless sticks.

19/3/2004: The only indigenous plant in flower is the small dodder laurel, tiny white balls on twining stems among grasses.

28/3/2004: Visitors to the water dish today included superb blue wrens, scarlet robins, white eared honey eaters, grey fantail, red-wattle bird, peewee, magpies, little wattle bird, crimson rosellas, king parrots, kookaburras, grey thrush, striated thornbills and brown headed honey eaters.

9/4/2004: Another walk through my patch of bush yielded one spear thistle and the first greenhood orchid leaves. So far mosquito orchid plants have not shown. My records show that start of their flowering has varied between April 4 and May 15.

11/4/2004: Took a walk in a different area of my patch of bush where several species of orchid usually flower and there I found one solitary mosquito orchid plant. Only 4mm rain so far this month, which is probably affecting the flora and possibly also field mice and antechinus, that are usually causing havoc inside at this time of year, but haven't appeared.

16/4/2004: Another walk among the trees at the bottom of the hill before the rain. Found red-tip greenhood and sharp midge orchid, slender stems holding small green and red flowers above the grass.

20/4/2004: Have read in a Birds Australia article that grey falcons are rarely seen as far south as here. I have seen it twice in several years and heard its call, similar to a small dog yapping in groups of five.

Laura Levens

Certificate of Merit awarded to Robert Shreeve



Victorian Governor John Landy presented awards recently to Scouting personnel who were recognised for their good service over a long period. Upper Beaconsfield Scout Leader Robert Shreeve received the Certificate of Merit award at the ceremony at Gilwell Park.

Robert joined Upper Beaconsfield after the Beaconsfield Group went into recess several years ago. He has dedicated many hours to give assistance to our scouts in attaining achievement badges and qualifying for attendance at the last two Australian Jamborees, as well as accompanying Duncan Wood to the World Jamboree in Thailand last year. We congratulate Robert for his award.

Our Group Committee has been busily gearing up our fundraising activities with several parents and scouts assisting with car park marshalling for the recent Puffing Billy Great Train race at Emerald Lake Park, as well as commencing our firewood raffles for the winter months. Congratulations to the Kingshott family who won the last raffle in May. We thank residents for supporting this activity.

Were you a scout? Did you enjoy the time spent in this organisation? It would appear that there are a number of past scouts out there who may be willing to join our Group as leaders and help provide opportunities for young people today. Contact Acting Group Leader Bob Taylor 5944 3645 or Group President Barry Smith 5944 3219 if you would like information.

Babysitting Club

The Babysitting Club is a group of local women who sit each other's children. The Babysitting Club works on a no pressure, points system.

- 1 point per hour between 5-7pm
- After midnight, 2 points per hour
- A great way to meet mums and families
- A no cost babysitting service
- Give your time when you are available to help

Interested?

Contact Cathie Usher 5944 4183

Community Centre

AGM

The Centre had its Annual General Meeting on the 22nd March, 2004. The meeting was well attended and new office bearers were sworn in.

New Committee for 2004:

President: Sally Randall
 Vice President: Wendy Hiam/Julie Sievers
 Secretary: Judy Graves
 Treasurer: Cathy Usher
 Creche: Julie Sievers and Belinda Conibeer

We welcome everyone on board and look forward to a year of growth and fun. A big thank you to all office bearers and committee for their support during 2003, especially those who have moved on.

By now you have all seen the range of activities, support groups and services we run. One of the Community Centre's functions as a Neighbourhood House is to provide a friendly atmosphere where residents can come to familiarise themselves with the local services and organisations within their community. It is a good starting point for new residents and for those who may not have many other contacts in the local community and wish to make new contacts.

If you have a specific need or just wish to pop in, please know you are always welcome, if only for a friendly chat and a look around.

New sliding door

As many of you may have noticed we now have our automatic sliding door which was installed during the term break. After a few teething problems the door is working very well. It has made life so much easier for people with

prams, those in wheelchairs and those with their hands full. Thank you to all involved in this project.

Program for Term 2

Our program for this term is well underway. Again we have had an amazing response to our program. Our membership continues to grow and grow.

Ideas for Term 3

We are always looking for new ideas to include in our program. If there is something in particular you would like to see on offer, please drop into the Centre and let us know.

Volunteers wanted for tax help 2004

The Community Centre is involved in TAX HELP 2004, which is sponsored by the Australian Taxation Office. Tax Help is a network of community volunteers who assist people on low incomes with their tax returns. Tax Help operates from July to October each year. The ATO provides volunteers with comprehensive training to complete basic income tax returns together with ongoing support including a telephone hotline.

Tax Help has been in existence nationally for 15 years. Last year 1,929 volunteers operating from 926 centres assisted approximately 72,000 clients throughout Australia.

There is a community need for a Tax Help Centre to be established in our area. In order to do this, we need volunteers who are willing to give their time and undertake the training offered by the ATO.

Please contact Alison or Maree in the office on 5944 3484 if you are able to assist, or would like more information. A volunteer duty statement and volunteer role description is available.

Autumns past

Times of spiders' webs
 Picture book exquisite
 Times of wafer spiders
 Fleeing harvested firewood
 Pink and white times of heath,
 Fungi's thrusting colours
 Surprised in grey-green grass,
 Wallabies with joeys
 And radar ears, browsing.
 Times of falling fog
 Smoothing, softening angles,
 Valley mist warm tinted
 In exploring daylight.
 Times of crisp, calm mornings
 Tranquil sunny days
 With life's autumn this way
 1 will not mourn
 My summer's end.

LL

Between two shores

I stand between two shores
 Roll of surf crashing
 Elements of nature like a beast
 Like a rock star on stage
 Wipe me out and
 Carry me far away
 Rip swell
 Golden sun make it
 Make it with nature
 Put it out there
 Out there with nature
 Ride it, ride it fast
 Ride it to the end
 It's what elements provide
 Wait, wait for another day
 Mother nature wipes me out.
 Matthew A.

Writers' group poems

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UBRC Dressage Day

25/4/2004

The Upper Beaconsfield Riding Club is pleased to announce its discovery of "How to Break a Drought" - we hold a Dressage Competition Day and it rains and rains and rains...

On one or two days a year, the Riding Club has the privilege of using the beautifully grassed sports oval. To share this privilege we hold our Dressage Competition, with four arenas on the oval whilst our usual sand arenas are excellent for warming-up.

Competition pre-preparation starts many months before the event, with the hard-working sub-committee booking judges, arena equipment and ribbons; organising prizes, sponsorships and donations, advertising and entry forms. Catering for hungry riders is offered to local Community groups - this year the local Primary School auxiliary raised some money for the school by catering for us.

Closer to the date, there are phone calls to field, entry forms to process and that enormous job: allocating times! Robyn did this for the first time this year and did a sterling job catering for peoples' requests and juggling test times for people with multiple entries.

Phew! I must say I have the greatest admiration for those people who rode four or more tests in one day!

On the day itself, Club members are up at the crack of dawn to set up the arenas and prepare the facilities. Throughout the day Club members are rostered to marshal, gear-check, 'gofer', steward, clean-up and do those complicated sums to find the scores.

It really is a true team effort - and also heavily involves some non-horse spouses!

The sports oval looks absolutely sensational with horse floats dotted around the ring-road and beautifully turned-out horses with riders in their Club colours showing up against the rich green. To me it always seems to be an unhurried scene, not too crowded; only one horse had a complete 'hissy fit' and had to withdraw.

Even under the damp conditions, the grounds held up very well - the excellent riding surface was a real credit to the maintenance crew!

The Club extends its heartfelt thanks to all its sponsors who assist so importantly with costs and prizes: Plant and Equipment Finance P/L, Hiform, Grayline, Pakenham Equine Centre, Horseland, Joseph Lyddy, Pakenham Produce, Happy Horse Rugs and the Virtual Tack Shop.

And, of course, we cannot close without congratulating all the competitors for smiling through the cold, damp conditions, doing their best on the day. The UBRC Beryl Hails Memorial Trophy was won by Anne Livera and Lindy. The other major (jackpot) prize-winners were:

Level 1 : Cheryl Cunico and Taurian
 Level 2 : Jennifer Smith and BP Jacob
 Level 3 : Lucynda Baggio and Kencyndale Shallico
 Level 4 : Pamela Christie and Moonsong
 Level 5 : Denise Butler and Clairborne
 Let's try it again next year everyone!

Roslyn Smith

Pony Club news

Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club members are delighted to have had the opportunity to ride the new Salisbury Valley Track offering a pleasant off-road diversion while on rides around Upper Beaconsfield. They are well aware and appreciative of the safety advantages of having this trail not only for riders but other users as well.

We would like to congratulate the UBPC Games teams on their efforts recently at numerous 'Games' Competitions including the State Qualifier games. It takes great dedication to meet regularly for practice regardless of the weather, and all members are enjoying the challenge of learning and refining their skills. They are all doing really well and it is great to see the enthusiasm of these UBPC riders.

Special recognition needs to go to those individuals who have won individual awards over past few months and were presented with their trophies at the recent Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club presentation night.

Ann Bentley's Horse Mastership Award - Junior; Tiffany Mahoney, Intermediate; Jessica Castricum, Senior; Claire Fitzgerald.

The Trewin Family Junior Award U13; Stefan Weimann, **Linda Brodie Award** 13/14 Kahli Commerford, intermediate Award 15/16; Sarah Mahoney, **Associate Award**; Tracy Timms, **Jenny Magee Award**; Jessica Kludass, **The "Gria" Memorial Award**; Charlotte Oldenburger, **Kelly Family Instructors Award**; Sasha Henstock **Achievement Award** Katja Weimann, **Dot and Brian Pockett's Team Award** went to Roberston.

We would like to congratulate Anna Boura who has been competing successfully in the Agricultural Shows. Well done Anna!

Congratulations also go to those riders who have competed individually around suburban and country Victoria. In particular, Katja Weimann - Tonimbuk Horse Trials 1st, 3rd and 7th receiving a Trophy for best performed rider in the Cardinia Shire. Also at Wandin Park Horse Trials 1st, 8th and 5th. Lilydale Horse Trials 1st. Finally, Katja recently won the Award of 'Eventing Young Rider of the Year' 2003.

Well done Beccy Woff and Katja for the wonderful effort recently at the State Pony Club Dressage Championships. Competing in grade 1, Beccy came 4th and Katja 1st.

Another special event has been the opening of our memorial garden to acknowledge all those horse friends that have 'gone to horse paradise'. Without our equine friends, none of our UBPC ventures would be possible.

Alannah Dore

5944 3538

Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club
 alannah@holisticliving.com.au

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