

Village Bell

School extensions delayed

Another symptom of the growth in our area has become evident with the proposed rebuilding project at the Primary School being halted as a result of the contractors discovering that there is not sufficient clear space within the school grounds to accommodate the new sewerage treatment plant effluent drain lines.

This has resulted in an application being made to the Recreation Reserve Committee of Management to provide an area of clear land of sufficient size to allow installation of drains. The soil structure in Upper Beaconsfield is such that 240 metres of drains x 1 metre wide are required for the system to allow sufficient absorption of treated waste water.

As many residents would be aware, the reserve caters for the recreation facilities for cricket, football, riding club, pony club, scouts and the primary school as well as passive recreation for the community. These user groups are already feeling the effects of insufficient room for their activities. As most activity is concentrated on weekends, there has to be some sharing of areas and facilities by user groups, resulting in some congestion of traffic at times.

Members of the Committee of Management, who

are representatives of the user groups of the reserve, have concerns with this application, as it would require cordoning off a large area, which is currently used almost every weekend for parking of horse floats. The construction and consolidation period of the drain system will take approximately six months, and there is still some doubt as to how much activity can be conducted on top of the drains after consolidation.

There is already a septic tank system at the Igloo and another at the public toilet block opposite the kindergarten, each with effluent drain lines criss-crossing parts of the reserve. The kindergarten also has its own system.

Because the reserve is crown land owned by Department of Sustainability and Environment, its land use officers were brought into the discussion, as were Cardinia Shire Council officers and the Education Department. Due to the fact that treated wastewater is to be distributed into the drains, officers of the Environment Protection Authority have also been consulted, and there have been many meetings between interested parties over the last 1 months or so.

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And there's more

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School extensions delayed

(Continued from page 1)

The Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has suggested that the architects of the school project go back to the design stage and see if they can redesign the building program to allow retention of the existing sewerage system, which caters for the school population at present. This would mean repositioning of some of the new classrooms, but would not require a new treatment facility.

With the planned positioning of new buildings being over the existing sewerage plant, there can be no work commenced on the school until the issue of dispersal of effluent is resolved. This obviously means that the school redevelopment is now behind schedule. The issue is now largely in the hands of officers of the authorities and architects and we must wait for a resolution to be brokered.

Barry Smith
Secretary
Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve

Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre - *Origins & Onwards*

BOOK LAUNCH

**Thursday 14th October 2004
7.30pm at the Pine Grove Hotel**

Come along and celebrate the
history of Upper Beaconsfield
and the Community Centre.

Join us for light refreshments

Copies of the book will be available for sale on the night



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

Address

Telephone Signed

Local businesses have plenty to offer

In the last Bell we introduced Anita and Pramod Patel, the new proprietors of the local Foodwise Supermarket and Liquor Store. Since then we have been approached by numerous people suggesting we do an update on the other retail businesses in Upper Beac as there are so many new people to the area and our local businesses need your support. The Bell has taken up the challenge and interviewed some local traders to give us an idea what's happening out there in retail-ville.

First we spoke to John Adamson and Scott Hathaway from our True Value Hardware and General Store which is open Mon-Fri 6:30 am-7:30 pm, Sat 6:30 am-6 pm, Sun 8:30 am-4 pm. They essentially provide hardware, newsagent products, stock feeds and heating requirements, including gas and firewood. The hardware shop is really the focal point for the Upper Beac retail industry. They are 'in the know' about most things, so if you need to know anything come here! Their window is a plethora of information too ... it's great for finding out what's on locally and what's for sale.



If you are looking for some delicious bread, or something a bit sweeter, you need go no further than next door to the bakery. It is run by Yav Thai and Suiphia Quan who are expecting their second child within the next month! They are open Mon - Fri 6:30 am-5pm, Sat-Sun 6:30 am-2 pm. For larger orders you will receive a complimentary loaf of bread, or something sweet

of your choice. They also do a nice coffee or cappuccino which can be enjoyed at the table just outside.



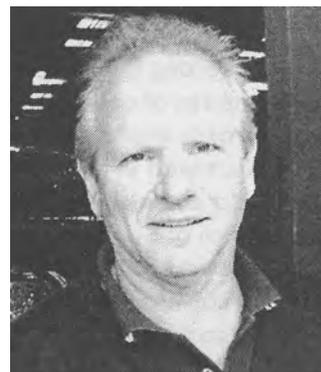
Peter and Carol Williams at Williams Family Butchers tel 5944 3260 have a great range of products including: fresh meats such as delicious homemade gluten free sausages, lamb, beef, pork, smoked ham, bacon, cabana, kransky, frankfurts, and fresh fish on Thursdays and Fridays, as well as eggs, honey and jams. They also have a fabulous spit for hire.

Open Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 6:30 pm and Saturdays 8:00 am-2 pm. Specials at the moment are: quality porterhouse steak \$15.99/kg and eye fillet \$24.99/kg. Orders may be left and they will deliver to your door.

Ly Meng at the pharmacy offers a range of services other than just medicinal supplies. These include: Medicare EasyClaim, photo developing, Home Medication Review, blood pressure monitoring, Medicare information to consumer, Bullivants Natural Health Products and free gift wrapping. The pharmacy is open Mon-Fri 9 am-6 pm, Sat 9 am-1 pm, Sun 9:30 am-12 pm. Ly Meng has a couple of great specials on at the moment...Oral B toothbrushes \$2 and Colgate Toothpaste \$2.30. Investigative journalism has revealed that she is competitively priced and is also very knowledgeable and helpful when purchasing medications.



At the bottom of the hill is very aptly Moonshine Motors ... just let your car roll down! ... which is run by Graham Cockerell, who has been in business here almost 20 years.



He has a number of strings to his bow which include: RACV and Towing Service Depot, the very recent and very handy 'Fuel For Sale' (including premium and diesel), accident repairs, classic vehicle restorations, \$70 service and safety check; including oil (up to 5L), free loan cars for servicing and repairs. Open

Mon-Fri 8 am-6 pm, Sat 9 am-1 pm.

Looking for a fine dining experience? Well we have two fabulous restaurants here. There's The Hind Quarter Steak House which does a delicious steak and a range of other great meals. It's next door to the hairdresser and is open for dinner Tues-Sun 6 pm-11 pm, tel 5944 3069. Then there's beautiful Kartoffelhouse Glendower Restaurant at 2 McBride Road tel 5944 4710. Open Wed-Fri 6 pm-midnight, Sat-Sun 11 am-midnight. It's also great for a coffee at the weekend, and if you're feeling decadent try one of their delicious cakes too.

After reading this, each and everyone of us needs to stop and think about how we can personally make a difference to our local traders and community by shopping locally. We have the expertise, the range, the competitive prices, the quality, the service and even the extended trading hours we need, right here in Upper Beaconsfield.

To be continued in the next Bell when we will be featuring the Milk Bar, Hairdresser and Fish & Chip/Pizzeria shop.

Photographs Jo Carter



CARDINIA Council news

The saga of the Charing Cross toilet block has come to an end. Now I have some good news for the residents and visitors to Upper Beaconsfield. On 26 July

2004 work commenced to rebuild the toilet block. As I previously indicated Council was involved in legal action over the construction of the toilet block. That action has now been resolved so we can get on and rebuild at no additional cost to the community.

I was delighted to visit the McBride Road Pre-Kindergarten in mid July to announce a Capital Works grant of \$34,000. The funds will go towards extensions of the Pre-Kindergarten and sails at the Stoney Creek Road Kindergarten. As I said at the announcement it is great to see how the committee of management have worked so hard to achieve this great goal and this demonstrates how communities can make things happen.

Work has commenced on Connecting Cardinia; the construction and sealing of 50 kilometres of unsealed local roads in the shire. This innovative roads improvement program involves a long term contract with Works Infrastructure P/L to design, construct and maintain 13 local arterial roads at a cost to Council of \$17 million.

It is pleasing to see that the following roads have been identified in the first group for construction. Split Rock Road (Leadbetter Rd - Beaconsfield Emerald Rd) 1.5 km

Brown Road (Officer Upper Beaconsfield Rd - Toomuc Valley Rd) 4.8 km
 Officer Upper Beaconsfield Rd (Full length) 4.1 km
 Payne Rd (From seal on O'Neil Rd - seal on Payne Rd) 2.8 km

Congratulations to the Beaconsfield Junior Football club and to all the mums and dads for all the hard work they do to make such a successful club. Both my boys played with the BJFC and I have fond memories of waving the flags on the Upper Beaconsfield Football ground. Again this is a demonstration of the dedication and commitment our community has to making this such a great shire in which to live.

If you are interested in listening to local radio try 3MDR, 97.1 each Thursday at 1 pm. I am doing a radio show, with the presenter, called 'Shire Talk'. For one hour I discuss issues affecting the shire and the community. It seems to be gathering quite some interest.

Don't forget to read the magazine published by the shire called 'Connect Cardina'. We deliver 20,000 copies to every household in the shire every six weeks. If you are not receiving your copy please contact Andrea Ferris 59454258 at the shire.

Cr. Garry Runge,
Mayor Beacon Hills Ward
 Tel 9769 8152 Mob. 0417 110 616

Welcome to new residents
 Edward, Jo, Ruby and Amelia Keon-Cohen
 Berglund Road

Rainfall report



May did not reach average rainfall, but June made up the deficit by recording 142.7 mm (average 80.6 mm).

The relevant year and season rainfall to date are: Summer (including Dec 2003) actual 164.3, average 198.0. Winter to date 199.6, average 236.8 Calendar year January to July actual 499.8, average 516.2.

Hopefully spring rains will approach average and will determine the extent of restrictions in the future.

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	1 14.1	107.4
May	91.1	52.0	54.8
Jun	80.6	49.0	142.7
Jul	79.9	126.5	65.1
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	

UBA news

We hadn't quite become blasé or philosophical about the public toilet situation but we were chuffed to note that our mayor, Councillor Gary Runge, had every confidence that this time a new building contractor would proceed without undue delay.

Upper Beaconsfield Strategy Plan

A review of Upper Beaconsfield Strategy Plan is expected to proceed during the next six months as part of Council's anticipated actions on this topic. Council hopes to strengthen all strategy plans in relation with the Shire planning scheme. UBA is looking at the six year old strategy to discover what has been achieved, what needs changing and what new issues have arisen as preparation for the time when Council is ready to fly in to action. Residents' ideas .-will be called for in due course.

Local road strategy

Local road strategy was exhibited at Shire offices and the bookmobile until 27/8/2004. Points that are important for Upper Beaconsfield include that (p80) ' ... council has been unable to obtain satisfactory levels of State funding through various programs provided by the State.' E.g. speed controls throughout (sic) townships (p97).

(p97) 'Program delivery' one aim is to enhance indigenous vegetation communities, fauna habitats and corridors.

(p99) All roadside works shall ensure that roadside conservation values should be enhanced.

Key Actions:

- Ongoing training of outdoor staff and contractors
- Ongoing monitoring of conservation value and weeds
- Development of environmental management plans for all works undertaken on local roads.

Waste collections

In an effort to alleviate the unsightly heaps of waste left on footpaths and roadsides for inordinate lengths of time UBA suggested that regular collections less frequently, e.g. six monthly or annually, would be appropriate. This idea was rejected because it was considered not viable by contractor. A pity, because previously that system worked in a tidier fashion.

Rotunda

A committee of UBA /Community complex Buildings and Grounds Committee representatives has plans for a rotunda/picnic shelter for Keith Ewenson Park well on the way. Next stage is to apply to various organisations for funds.

L. Levens and N. Ridgeway
Upper Beaconsfield Association

Tammy Lobato

Many of you will already know from the leaflet I distributed about the exciting new capital works program for Upper Beaconsfield Primary School. For those of you who haven't caught up with the news, funding of \$ 1,572,000 has been allocated by the Bracks Government for major works.



The upgrade will include four general purpose classrooms and associated staff areas, a new administration facility, and the refurbishment of two general purpose classrooms into the previous art and craft centre along with the development of a new art and craft centre into the previous staffroom space.

The latest update is that works should commence by the end of September. I know that the community has been very keen for this upgrade to occur as these new facilities will greatly improve the learning environment for the children that attend.

Regarding the intersection at Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd, following my request, VicRoads have moved the 60 km/h signs on Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd to a more appropriate location further down the road towards Guys Hill and have also installed warning signs on the approach to the intersection of this road with St Georges Rd and Salisbury Rd. VicRoads have also agreed to assess the intersection to determine the need for further improvements.

The Shire of Cardinia has undertaken to install warning signage about the intersection on the two local roads which are Salisbury and St Georges Rds as well as to remove vegetation on the eastern corner of the intersection and to ensure that advertising signage is kept away from the sight lines for traffic.

I recently organised a fire prevention forum for residents in Gembrook, Emerald, Upper Beaconsfield, Cockatoo and other fire-prone areas of my electorate. There was a good turnout with around 50 people in attendance who generated a whole host of suggestions and ideas. These have been compiled and are being sent to the Shire of Cardinia, the Minister for Water and Environment and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

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Bus Services Improvement Plan

As part of the Greenhouse Strategy, one key Government policy is to improve the existing bus service levels and quality. This study includes the Cardinia Shire, and previous studies have found that the existing bus services within the Shire are inadequate, and did little to reduce the dependency on the private car. It also highlighted the fact that 40% of our residents do not drive or have a car available.

Presently public transport use within in the Shire is almost entirely focused along the East/West corridors with little North/South connection. The Department of Infrastructure, Monash University, and Independent Consultants conducted subsequent workshops. Interested parties that attended were Cardinia Shire, councillors, bus operators, Government representatives, UBA and local Community groups.

Present Route 838:

The Emerald to Beaconsfield & Fountain Gate bus route is the only one that travels through Upper Beaconsfield. The bus driver will stop for passengers in our area if "hailed", provided that the stopping area is safe. Similarly the bus driver will stop to set down on return journeys. The regular designated bus stop is at the Primary school on Stoney Creek road, and all timings relate to that bus stop. Departure Times are: 6.55 am, 10.30 am, 12.40 pm Return Times are: 1.00 pm, 2.44 pm, 4.50 pm There is no bus service on weekends or Public holidays.

Cardinia Transit figures show that total monthly passenger numbers on Route 838 fluctuates between 1,000 and 632, and few Upper Beaconsfield residents are able to use the present bus service provided. Although the bus connects to the Beaconsfield Railway Station, it was pointed out at the meetings that timings were unsuitable for working commuters traveling to and from the city,

educational institutions, hospitals and that there was no service for evening entertainment venues or weekend sporting venues.

Proposed changes of route 838: (Subject to priority funding)

- Provide a one-hour service frequency on weekdays & weekends, (with a future 30 mins service in peak times) and ensure connections with Rail services & bus Route 695.
- Extend all services to Fountain Gate, as existing services do not facilitate employees at Fountain Gate.
- Deviate services to Berwick Rail-station instead of Beaconsfield station, as Berwick station has a better interchange with other bus services, nearby Schools, Universities TAFES, Medical centres and Hospitals.
- Extend existing "pickup" and "set-down" passengers between Emerald Road to Fountain Gate shopping centre to improve service.
- Additional bus service to Fountain Gate arriving before 9.00 am.
- Additional bus services from Fountain Gate at weekdays leaving at 5:40 pm and 6:40 pm.
- Additional service on Friday nights leaving Fountain Gate at 9:30 pm, to facilitate late shoppers and end of cinema sessions, and also provide connection with Rail services at Berwick station.
- Improved time-tabling to co-ordinate with Pakenham services. (Forecast as being a major infra-structure centre)
- Bus priority route through Berwick shopping strip.

Bert de Haan
UBA

For more information about this study contact Mr. Charles Waingold, tel 9221 1927

Tammy Lobato

(Continued from page 5)

For those who were unable to attend the forum and who have concerns about fire prevention or other state government issues, I will be holding a mobile office in Upper Beaconsfield on 26th October. I have decided to hold this session in the evening to enable those with daytime commitments to have the opportunity to talk to me. The office will run from 7 pm until 9 pm, at the Pine Grove Hotel in Stoney Creek Rd. Appointments can

be made by contacting my office on tel 9796 1987. I am also holding other evening mobile offices in Emerald, Gembrook, Woori Yallock, Warburton and Launching Place.

Any queries and concerns can be directed to my office located at 1/5 Gloucester Ave, Berwick, VIC 3806. Tel: 9796 1987 Fax: 9796 1891 or by email: Tammy.Lobato@parliament.vic.gov.au



We are nearly through Term 3 and how the year has flown. We are experiencing an increase in the number of people using the Centre, which is wonderful. It is great to receive suggestions for new classes and feedback about those that we are already running. We are always looking for new tutors, so if you have a specific talent that you think we could use please pop in and have a chat.

Graduation night

On Monday 19th July a Graduation ceremony was held at the Pine Grove Hotel, see picture above. 16 students achieved Certificate III in Aged Care Work after undertaking a 12 months course at our Centre. Garry Runge, Mayor of Cardinia presented the graduates with their certificates and congratulated them on their achievement. Friends and family members were also present and helped to make the night a memorable occasion.

We have been a Registered Training Organisation for over 8 years. We deliver Certificate III in Aged Care Work and Certificate IV in Assessment & Workplace Training. Approximately 60 students each year graduate from these courses. If you are interested in undertaking either of these Nationally Recognized Training Packages please contact the community centre co-ordinators for further information.

Upgrade to crèche playground

Work on upgrading the outside play area at crèche is set to get underway soon, thanks to generous grants from the Cardinia Shire and the Andrews Foundation.

Crèche received also most \$15,000 from the Shire in its 2003/2004 round of Capital Works grants. The Andrews Foundation, a local charitable trust, gave a further \$5,000. A further \$5,000 is being sought in applications to various other charitable organisations.

The \$25,000 project will see our kids playing on level ground, covered in safety matting and new turf. The sand pit will be enlarged, a kid's garden included and shade sails constructed to protect from the summer sun. Wheelchair access to the playground will also be available.

It is hoped that work will be completed during the September School Holidays.

Many thanks to Cathy Briant for all her hard work and enthusiasm, which has definitely paid off with such a wonderful result to her grant applications.

Crèche Working Bee

A working bee is being organised for the end of August. The plan for the day is to undertake indoor painting. If you have some spare time on your hands and would like to assist please contact the Centre on 5944 3484. You do not have to have a child or grandchild in Crèche for this. We are happy for as many people as possible to help out on the day.

Australian Taxation Office-Free Tax Help

Was your income less than \$35,000 for the 2003/2004 financial year? Let a trained Tax Help volunteer assist you with your tax return. Tax Help is supported by the Tax Office. Please contact the co-ordinators at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre on 59443484 to make an appointment or for further information.

Scrabble

Do you have a Scrabble Board you no longer use, would you like to donate it to the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre. Our Numeracy and Literacy class would like to use this or any other sort of learning activity to provide them with variety in their class.

Please contact the Centre on 5944 3484 if you can assist.

Warning on gas heaters

In the last issue of the Village Bell we included an article about air quality problems caused by the poor operation of wood heaters. The hazards of unflued gas heaters have also been in the news lately.

The results of a study conducted by the Federal Environment Department over last winter were released recently. The study found that in two-thirds of the homes tested, levels of nitrogen dioxide were high. On average, levels of this gas were 10 times higher than outdoors. Some readings were up to 7 times higher than the acceptable level as set by the World Health Organisation. The study also found there was no difference between old and new heaters.

Why is this a problem? Unflued gas heaters have no chimney and release combustion emissions directly into a room. Some of these emissions, including nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide, are pollutants that harm your health. Be careful about using an unflued gas heater, especially if anyone in the house has heart disease or asthma, if anyone is pregnant or elderly, or if you have children.

To reduce exposure to these pollutants, heaters must be carefully operated according to the manufacturer's instructions. Make sure you:

- Leave the room well ventilated, with door open and windows open.
- Do not use in a small room, overnight in the bedroom, or in a caravan.
- Service the heater at least once a year.

Helen Smith

Editor's mailbox

Platypus update

The platypus were monitored for several weeks after their placement into Cardinia Creek (see last issue's report) and Geoff Williams from the Australian Platypus Conservancy was confident that the animals have settled into their new home very well. They had found their own natural burrows within 24 hours of being released. The animals were in excellent condition, feeding behaviour has been entirely normal and with nocturnal activity occurring both upstream and downstream of the release site. Further monitoring will be undertaken in spring.

Surveys

Upper Beaconsfield got two mentions in the daily newspapers in June. One survey on Melbourne suburbs buying habits found that Upper Beaconsfield spent the most on pet food. The other survey, on water consumption, showed that Upper Beaconsfield, near the top of the list, had reduced consumption by over 20% 2001-2003.

TXU

TXU sent letters to residents to advise that on two days power would be cut off due to works. Did you make alternative arrangements for the second day and then found upon arriving home that the power had in fact been on all day?! At least we didn't have to change the clocks again.

Road issues

Leppitt Road has 100 kph road limit on sections where it is unsafe to drive at this speed. This section should be 70 kph. A local resident was involved in a car crash recently when an inattentive driver didn't notice that he was driving more slowly than she was and ran into the back of him. **Ian Pope**

It was sad and disappointing to find two dead wombats along a small section of Leadbetter Road within a fortnight during July. Please slow down when driving on our bush roads at night and be aware of our wandering, nocturnal native animals.

Grading of the dirt section of St Georges Road between Brennan and Knaptown Avenues has been sub standard to say the least. The poor quality of grading has resulted in blocking some residents driveways, whilst others have had their drains completely obstructed. Maybe council could take it seriously that residents do actually deserve better than a goat track, and maybe a road width that actually allows two cars to pass. After all, if they can accomplish good roads such as Stoney Creek, maybe they could look at this side of Emerald - Beacy Road.

Spring cleaning

Spring usually tempts people to go through the wardrobe and cupboards. Pakenham has a number of charity op-shops that welcome donations of clean wearable clothing, manchester and bric-a-brac items. In addition the Berwick Community Op Shop has been serving the community for many years with annual donations to many worthy causes. The local fire brigade collects items suitable for rags. If possible, take the items directly to your choice of outlet, rather than use the charity bins - your donations are valued, but sometimes they can be spoilt by bins being used as receptacles for rubbish, causing contamination.

Recently heard of a 50 year birthday party invitation requesting "no presents please" However the dress code required guests to "dress from the op-shop of their choice". Great fun was had by discovering elegant, top design labels, or dressing totally out of character and age group, for just a few dollars. After the party give the clothes a wash or dry clean, return to the shop and they can go around again!

Barbara Jackson



Australian Red Cross was formed as a branch of British Red Cross in 1914 and in that same year seven ladies living in the Berwick area, Mesdames Scott Sharp, A.E. Thomas, L.D. Beaumont, W. Wilson, J.B. Pearson, C. Griffiths and J. Brown, initiated the formation of the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Branch of Red Cross.

Members are hoping to have some descendants of these enterprising and compassionate women attend an afternoon at Casey Civic Centre to celebrate the 90 year's history of the Unit on Friday 3 September. Dot White (who celebrated her own 90th birthday in April) and Marie Womersley will be presented with Red Cross 50 year service awards during the afternoon.

At the AGM of the Unit held in August, Helen Fyfe was presented with the 30 year award and Marion Limpus, Mavis Travis, and Dora Rooney achieved 10 year awards. Helen Hudson was awarded the 60 year service award in 2000 and still attends meetings regularly.

The Mission of Australian Red Cross is: to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found: to protect life and health and ensure respect for the human being, particularly in times of armed conflict and other emergencies: to work for the prevention of disease and for the promotion of health and social welfare: to encourage voluntary service and a constant readiness to give help by members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and a universal sense of solidarity towards all those in need of its protection and assistance.

With only a handful of members under 70, it is imperative that the Unit attract more members to enable the Unit to achieve 100 years of service to the community. At present the Unit relies on many Friends of Red Cross for fund raising and services, but a basic core of Unit members is necessary to be able to provide many Red Cross services to the community.

Red Cross has excellent youth programs and the unit would like to be able to bring them to the schools. If there is anyone out there, preferably with teaching experience or ability to relate with students, and has some time on their hands, we would love to hear from you.

Telecross is another program ideally suited to our area, but we have insufficient members to support this service. In the Telecross program, people who are isolated and at risk, frail and elderly, are given reassurance and personal contact through regular telephone calls from Red Cross volunteers. The volunteers activate an emergency procedure in the event of non-response to the pre-arranged call.

The registration of bush fire evacuees was given a very big work-out during the 2003 fires in Gippsland and

Fire Brigade



The brigade has been involved in various training activities during the last couple of months, which includes a trip to Pakenham Secondary College to assist in the training of the school's CFA youth crew. Also attending CFA's South East Training Ground for breathing apparatus and hot fire training.

Any residents of Guys Hill or Upper Beaconsfield wishing to join the CFA would be most welcome. Training is held on Wednesday 7.30pm and Sunday 9.30am.

We have recently welcomed three new recruits to the brigade. These members have now completed their minimum skills training and are now responding to brigade emergencies. For the last financial year the Brigade attended 75 emergencies.

For any further details or enquiries regarding joining the brigade please contact the brigade Captain Graeme MacGowan on 0408 443 374 or 5944 3374.

Message from the Captain

Reminding all residents to start planning for the coming fire season—particularly cleaning up around their houses and pruning along driveways so that fire brigade vehicles have easy access.

the North East areas of the State. Jenny Patterson will be conducting registration work-shops during October and anyone interested in this voluntary work can contact her on 5944 4511. Roster of work-shops is as follows: Thursday 7th Narre Warren police Station 8pm-10pm: Friday 8th RSL Hall, Langmore Lane, Berwick 12noon-2pm: Thursday 14th Cardinia Shire Office 10am-12noon. Friday 15th Cranbourne Complex 10am-12noon.

The Mayor of Cardinia, Councillor Gary Runge, has recently made a donation from Ward funds to Red Cross Emergency Communications (RECOM) which will enable them to further equip another unit for field service. RECOM was initiated by John Patterson of Upper Beaconsfield and grew as a result of his determination to see Red Cross Victoria serviced by a communications group, able to operate in difficult and demanding emergency situations.

Christmas preparations will be underway before the next Village Bell is produced so it is timely to advise that Red Cross Christmas cards, diaries and calendars will again be available from the Berwick Mechanics library or from Barbara Jackson 5944 3554. The cards are of excellent quality and many feature Australian themes. Remember used postage stamps can be dropped into the Red Cross box at the library, throughout the year.

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554
Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit

Cardinia Catchment Landcare

Thanks to a wonderful wet winter we have successfully planted 1,500 plants into five different properties during autumn and winter. These include two properties in Harkaway, one in Officer, one in Upper Beaconsfield and another Council owned piece of land in Harkaway. The latter we have begun revegetating after weeds and rubbish were removed by Casey Council and adjoining property owner Pioneer Quarry. Some of these properties will be revisited in spring for further planting.



We have learnt from experience that we can comfortably plant 500 plants in a morning followed by lunch. Our planting days are held on Sundays from 9am -1 pm and we welcome volunteers, so if you would like to be involved please get in touch.

We have also learnt that planting during autumn is much more successful than planting during spring as the plants have a chance to establish over the wet months rather than during the dry, hot months of summer. Having said that, I have been amazed at the survival rate of plants which were planted at the start of summer and have survived without assistance. Some which looked dead are re-shooting and growing well.

Julie Weatherhead, our Landcare Facilitator, is available for advice and we are happy to visit anyone who would like assistance or advice in relation to weed problems, revegetation or wetland issues. If you decide to use Landcare resources, plants, guards and weedmats are free and you will receive assistance with planting. Fencing to exclude stock is also subsidised; in the case of a waterway it may be completely covered. All you need do is help other landowners out with their plantings when possible.

The Cardinia Environment Coalition, an umbrella body for Landcare and Friends groups in Cardinia, is to hold its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday August 18th at 7.30pm at the Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham. A proposal for the future of the Beaconsfield Reservoir will be presented with a guest speaker from New Zealand present to speak on a similar venture there. You are encouraged to attend.

**Margaret Cromb
9707 2415**



Halford Road, Upper Beaconsfield. Phone 9707 2415.
Open Fridays 10.30 am-5 pm or by appointment.

The nursery continues to be busy and to bring in funds for the Landcare group. We work within a network of local indigenous nurseries and look forward to including the new C.E.C nursery in this. The demand for indigenous plants is continuing to grow and there is still much unmet demand. I would like to think this means the majority of local people value their indigenous vegetation but know that the amount of clearing occurring in Cardinia far outstrips the amount of revegetation. With the pressure of urban development in the growth corridor this will only increase.

Apart from Landcare most plants go to Friends groups and to many local schools, many with large new campuses, who are aware of the value of local plants, as well as to the Shire of Cardinia and the City of Casey for planting into parks. Local people wanting to re establish understorey to attract birds and wildlife also call in regularly. You may have noticed our new sign out on Fridays outside the Milkbar. If you haven't already called in you would be most welcome. Most of the larger stock has gone for autumn/ winter plantings but many wetland plants are still available and there are thousands of plants ready to take off when the weather gets warmer.

We have a core of great volunteers coming in to help in the nursery on Fridays but are always pleased to see others if this appeals to you.

Our stock includes trees, understorey - mid and lower, groundcovers - including wildflowers, creepers , grasses and wetland plants suitable for ponds and waterways.

Enquiries: call in, or ring Margaret Cromb 9707 2415.

Beaconhills Golf Club: a brief history



In 1878 Charles Schlipalius selected and was granted the lease of 309 acres of hilly bushland on the "Narre Warren to Gembrook Track," now Redhill and Lewis Roads, the northern boundary of the golf club. Stoney Creek and Stoney Creek Road formed the southern side of his selection.

In 1910 Schlipalius, keeping 20 acres for himself, sold the lease of 289 acres to Charles Morphett of "The Point" South Australia, who held it until 1926, when it passed to Charles Ford. In November 1929, Ford purchased the freehold, financing it by mortgaging the land to the Colonial Mutual Assurance Company. Ford was an imaginative, ambitious and enterprising man who ran a large reception centre and restaurant in Melbourne.

He not only realised the value of the site for a golf course, but also envisaged a guesthouse capable of accommodating 100 guests, with tennis courts, croquet lawns and a swimming pool nearby. He planned to dam the bottom creek and make a lake big enough for sailing, hence his name "The Lakes" for the course. In 1927 he employed well-known Melbourne golfer Dick Banks to design the layout. At that time the local area was depressed, and unskilled labour was plentiful, so by 1928 the land for the first nine holes had been cleared, all large stumps had been removed by bullock team, and the second nine holes were defined. These 18 holes approximate the present "Hills Course." A full page advertisement in the Weekly Times of October 1928, see above, stated "The Lakes Golf Links", is the finest and most picturesque in Victoria, and will be opened in December, but a photo of the first tee shows fairly rough country and other photos of the course indicate there was still much to be done. There is no water in the lake site.

Ford employed Peter McArthur, a young farm labourer living next to the planned course, who had strong horses and good ploughs so necessary for this rough and hilly country, to plough, harrow and sow down the first eight holes with clover and rye grass.

About 1929-1930 the guesthouse was built. In the early 1930s this elegant colonial-style guesthouse, largely built from local timber and stone was the finest reception centre in the district, older residents remember attending wedding receptions there. Its residential capacity was

much less than Ford had hoped, only 20 to 25 guests.

This building, now the Club House, has been extended and extensively modernised over the last 30 years.

Ford had many financial problems; expenses were high and income below expectations during the depression years of the 1930s, forcing Ford to sell the property to Frederick Neil Adcock in 1936. Adcock had similar problems, resulting in the property being passed to the mortgagee, Colonial Mutual

Assurance, in the early 1940's. The company used it as a staff facility until 1947, when the Beaconhills Country Golf Club was formed. To raise needed funds in the 60s and early 70s, the committee sold some thirty acres of land on Stoney Creek Road as housing blocks, providing the lucky owners with great views over the course.

By 1970 sufficient funds were available to allow the Hills Course to be redesigned, extended, and greatly improved.

The first Club Professional, Bob Neville, was appointed in 1960. In 1967 he was followed by Geoff Kelly, who passed the job on to his young brother Graham in 1975. In 1983 Graham was joined by Mark Griffin.

Following the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983 which caused great damage to the surroundings, the club continued to function, and very generously provided an area near the clubhouse for burnt-out families to park a caravan, and make use of the Club's toilet facilities.

Soon after the fires, the second eighteen holes, "The Lakes Course," designed by Kevin Hartley was opened "impressively" by Opposition Leader John Cain, who drove the opening ball straight into the lake!

Charles Wilson

Award-winning Post Office

Rosslyn and Bill Morcam, owners of the Upper Beaconsfield Post Office, were thrilled to receive "Licensed Post Office of the Year Award for Metro South and East". The award ceremony took place at the Victorian state conference, held at Sofitel Melbourne on the 31st July.

The award citation read: "In recognition of your commitment to achieving our shared goals of excellence in customer service, store image and growth in sales".

The Upper Beaconsfield Post Office achieved this award over 300-400 other eligible post offices. Well done, Ros and Bill!

Kids Corner!

Far Away

The clouds are raining,
The sky is grey,
The sea is lapping
Along the bay.

I see a seagull,
I see a ship,
I see another
Along a bit.

I close my eyes
And count to ten,
And I remember
Way back then.

The sunny days,
The whitest sands,
The blue sea water
Far from this land

Anonymous

Similes

I am as pink as a pig
I am as red as lipstick
I am as orange as a tiger
I am as yellow as the sun
I am as green as the grass
I am as blue as a blueberry
I am as purple as a plum
I am as grey as a computer
I am as black as a dog that rolled in soot
I am as brown as the stump of a tree

Lucy

Scienceworks trip

I went to Scienceworks. I had a great time. I saw a car on a track. I played with a car. It was made out of tin
by Chris P/! Moore

My class and I went to Scienceworks. We went on a bus for one and a quarter hour. We looked at lots of old toys. It was a toy museum. I liked the mirrors the most because they make you look fat and long.

Mikala P1/Moore

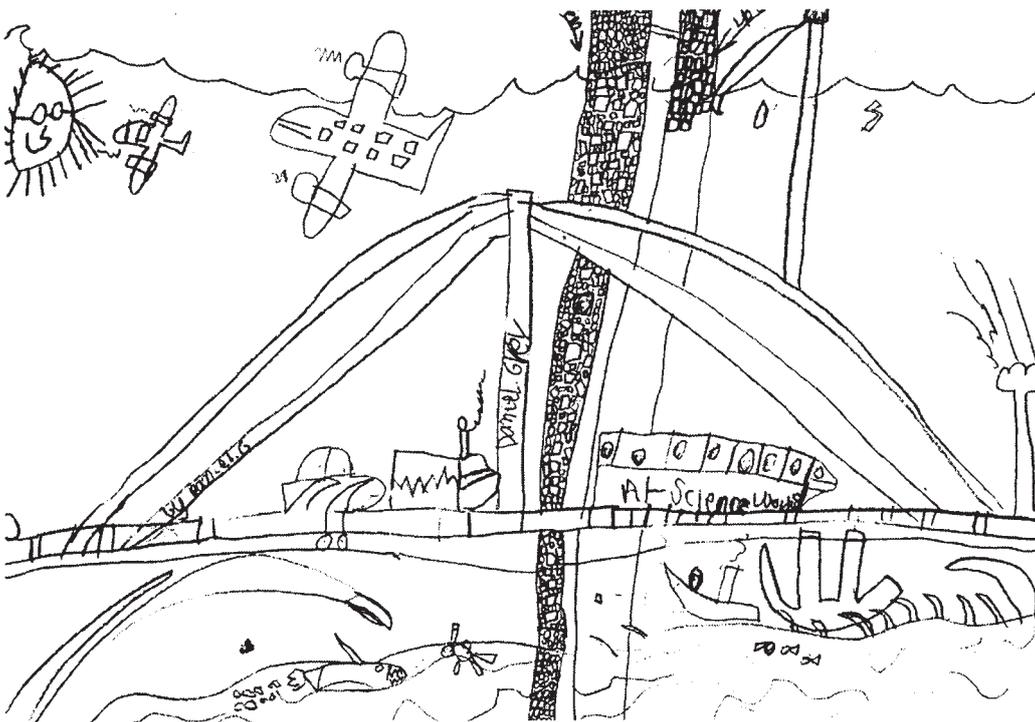
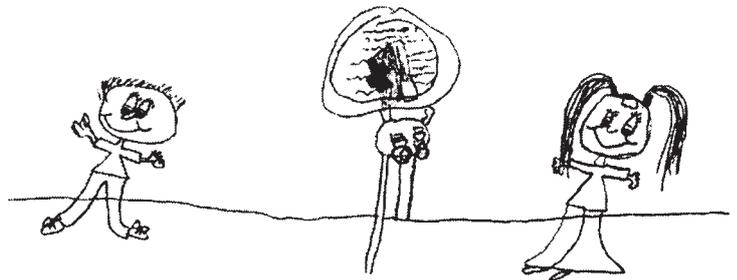
2J Fossil Dig - Upper Beac Primary

On Friday straight after play lunch we did a fossil dig. We got a bit of plaster each and we had to chip at it. We had to use tool's like paint brushes and spoons. We found leaves, rocks, seeds, bones and shells. On Friday we had to write in our special book. We all enjoyed it because it was so much fun.

Georgia and Brooke

We did the fossil dig on Friday right after play. We found a shell and a bone. We had fun. It came out of a pot. We found a bone at 12: 00 and a shell at 1: 00. We used a screwdriver to dig. We dug it up. The fossil pot was a circle.

Scott and Mitchell



Scienceworks drawings by Daniel, left and Grace above.

We would be thrilled if any children contributed to Kids' Corner!
To do so you may either leave it at the Post Office, or email it to Helen Smith
smith@netlink.net.au

120 Year Reunion

Sunday 7th Nov 2004

1-4 pm



- Refreshments provided
- Opening of the Centenary capsule sealed in 1984
- Sealing of the new capsule to be opened at the 150 years celebration
- History of the school
- Special commemorative items to purchase.
- Photos available on the day
- Memorabilia display

Help make this day a success

The school is interested in any photos or memorabilia, historical information regarding ex-members of the school and history of parent clubs (formerly known as the Mothers' Club) that you may possess so we are able to display them at our reunion. Photos with names and contact details on the back will be returned.

Stoney Creek Road Upper Beaconsfield 3808
Phone: (03) 5944 3591 Fax: (03) 5944 3506

Major improvements on the way at kinder

Over two years of hard work has finally paid off and the Committee of 2004 are very proud to announce that the Kindergartens will be receiving 3 Capital Works Grants this year from the Shire of Cardinia to fund the following projects:

Pre Kinder Building Extension \$30,000 (Total cost approx \$75,000)

New Shade Sails at both sites \$4,530 (Total cost approx \$9,060)

Repainting interior of both sites \$3,360 (Total cost approx \$6,720)

Each of these projects is very important for the future of our kindergartens, and for the community of Upper Beaconsfield, and could not have happened without hours of volunteer time and support from many other people. In particular we must thank Marlene Fox, the former Children's Services Coordinator at Cardinia Shire, for her incredible support which was instrumental in the success of our application.

We must also thank the many families and sponsors who have supported our fundraising efforts over the past 3 years, enabling us to contribute a large portion of funds to the projects, while we have continued to upgrade the kinder facilities and equipment. We will also be applying to other organisations for top up funding, and we will continue with our fundraising activities.

All members of our community will have a fantastic opportunity to make their mark in history by designing personalised paving bricks. Details are outlined below.

Our committee has a huge task ahead to manage these projects through to completion. We will be looking for any kind of support our community can offer through volunteer labour, donation of materials and support for fundraising activities. You may contact me at any time if you have ideas, tips or want to lend a hand.

Cherylle Hampton

President

Upper Beaconsfield Kindergartens

5944 4082

Commemorative pavers

Here's a chance to have your family name recorded in history by purchasing a commemorative paver at a cost of \$25 each. Alternatively, your child or children can hand draw an image to be permanently engraved onto a paver.

You have the option of having your paver used in a pathway at PreKinder or Kinder, or perhaps you would like to have a paver at both.

This is major fundraiser that will help generate funds for the extension of our Pre-Kinder building on McBride Road, which will be enjoyed by many generations to come.

We hope that the community will support this great opportunity. If you know a family that has attended the Kinders in the past and no longer lives in the area, we would appreciate you passing this information on to them also.

Orders and further details can be obtained by calling Nikki Le Brocq on 5944 3343 or you can collect an order form at Kinder or PreKinder.



Supporting the community

Have you ever thought how lucky we are? We live in one of the most beautiful and peaceful countries in the world, we live in one of the most

beautiful and peaceful places within that country, and we live in a community that is supportive and caring for its local citizens.

The Upper Beaconsfield Care Group is the embodiment of that caring spirit. The Care group has a list of local people who have volunteered to offer assistance when needed. The volunteers provide assistance for those within our small community that occasionally need support.

Why do these volunteers do it? Certainly not for any personal or financial gain. They do it because they can, they do it because they get a sense of satisfaction from helping others, and they do it because they have that "community spirit" that makes Upper Beaconsfield special.

The spirit of Upper Beaconsfield has been with us for a long time. Back in the 1980's a Monash University research project looking at rural communities identified that 2 out of every 3 adult residents of Upper Beaconsfield were actively involved in one local community group or another. It was through this huge community involvement that the Care Group was created. How much more difficult must it be for new communities to kindle the level of involvement needed to even establish a local care group, let alone perpetuate enough volunteer involvement to make it a

viable, ongoing concern? In the 15 years our care group has been operating volunteers have provided over 4300 acts of support for local residents.

Of course this level of support can only be provided through a large pool of volunteers. By sharing the activities between many, the requests made of each, is minimised. Currently there are around 60 local residents who are able to provide support but additional volunteers are always needed. If you can provide any of the following then someone in our community would appreciate your help:

- Friendly visits
- Transport
- Domestic support or meals
- Child minding
- Minor handyman work

Remember that being in a pool of volunteers doesn't mean being perpetually asked to help, but when you can help, you never know, you may find it rewarding and you will certainly be perpetuating that Upper Beaconsfield spirit of local care and support. If you are able to provide occasional support just call the Community Centre on 5944 3484 and someone from the care group will call you.

Peter Dayson

Upper Beaconsfield Community Care Group

Wildlife Watch

I am writing this near the end of a damp and cold July almost devoid of fungi on our place, though a friend found a shiny, sticky yellow mushroom shape and a tiny ball on a horse-hair-like stem neither of which I had seen here before.

Just yesterday a lovely golden frog with chocolate brown stripes sat dangerously on a doorstep, looking up with shiny black eyes. Its striped pattern is unique to the striped marsh frog that usually sits concealed among reeds and rushes and usually begins calling in August. It is one of the southern frogs that do not have webbed toes.

On a walk through the bush I noted hundreds of nodding greenhoods and dozens of leaves of other orchid species. Some will flower during spring and others not until summer. One hardenbergia creeper spread a splash of bright purple over grass. Lilies and other wildflowers are also showing signs of life.

I've been organising my insect photographs and endeavouring to allocate names. A newly purchased publication titled 'A field guide to Insects in Australia'

(Zborowsky and Storey) would have been handy when the insect was in hand as it indicates distinguishing -points between similar species.

On the way through my albums I once again became enthralled by the multitudes of patterns on spider abdomens - the garden spider patterned like a Faberge Easter egg, the beautiful dark aquamarine coloured spider with long slender legs that came in on a silverbeet leaf, a small shield-shaped species with a black, white and yellow back reminiscent of a Fair Isle jumper and another I call a Star of David spider. There is a curled-leaf spider whose shiny ball-shaped abdomen has orange, black and white triangular slashes, and then there is the small flower spider, exactly mimicking tea-tree flower buds, that I only noticed because its captured beetle struggled to escape.

The smallest I have photographed had an apparently dark grey body only 3 mm long that showed a fawn and black intricate arrangement of dots in enlargement. The largest was the golden orb weaver sitting among sparkling threads. The female's body is about 2cm but the male's only 6mm.

Laura Levens

A club for kids and grown-ups



are my friends now. "A lot of us had family interstate and most of us used the club to enable us to go out at night. "I used the club for going out to dinner and to attend other evening functions.

"Another woman was on a committee, so she used her points to allow her to attend meetings. "New participants sometimes worry that they will be asked to babysit all the time, but you only "sit" for as much as you use the club. Cathie says the only "pay" rate is usually one point per hour, and after midnight or between 5-7pm when people are busy getting the evening meal, the rate is two points. "As the P kids get older, you tend to do more with them, take them out with you, so you use the club less," she said.

My daughter Amanda the other day asked me what fashions were like in the 1970s.

Amanda is a schoolteacher. Like many other young women her age she has a "partner" and they have bought a house together, the young couple was going to a football club's 70s party and wanted ideas on what to wear. I looked at her in astonishment and said, "Amanda, fashion was the last thing on my mind in the '70s!"

By Christmas 1976, when I was 25, I had my hands full with four children under four, Amanda being the youngest. Maternity wear was not the sort of fashion my daughter wanted to hear about, and even though I had returned to work by 1978, I had no use for the latest fashions in my wardrobe. "Going out" to parties was largely a non-event.

It would have been lovely for my husband and I to regularly socialise with our friends and attend evening meetings or functions, but babysitting was a major problem. We paid for childcare while we worked during the day and couldn't afford to do the same at night. A babysitters' club would have been a wonderful solution.

If I had been living in Upper Beaconsfield I would have been able to join such a club. In 1974, young mother Sheila Kidd, and her friends, Julie Jamieson and Jasmine Hewson, formed a club to meet their babysitting needs.

What a wonderful "sanity saver"!

The club, which was modelled on a similar club in North Fitzroy, has been remarkably successful. Now in its 30th year, it works on a points system, whereby parents look after each other's kids and earn points, which they can redeem for babysitting. Besides enabling parents to a little life for themselves, it's a great way to meet other mums and families.

Cathie Usher, the club's coordinator for the past four years, became involved about seven years ago with her firstborn. "We had no family living nearby and had recently moved here," Cathie said.

"The only way for us to get a babysitter was to join the club.

"It cost nothing and I got to meet a lot of women who

"We have a secretary for two months at a time, and the role gets passed around so everyone knows how the system works."

The club, which had 33 members in the 1970s, still has more than 10. "We tend to keep the boundaries to Upper Beaconsfield and Guys Hill," Cathie said. "At the most, you have maybe 15 minutes to travel to babysit, and here everyone knows you".

Upper Beaconsfield Babysitting club coordinator Cathie Usher can be contacted on 5944 4183.

Article by June Alexander and reprinted with permission from Berwick-Pakenham Gazette, 23 June 2004.

Photograph also courtesy the Gazette.

Toy Library



For those of you who have young children there is a wonderful Toy Library right here in Upper Beac. It's located in the Community Centre and is open every Thursday from 9:30-10:30 am.

At a cost of \$20 per annum you may borrow toys ranging from puzzles through to large toy cars. All members are asked to help out with a couple of duties a year. If you have any questions please contact Michelle Gale at mrsmgale@bigpond.com.au or on 5944 3899. People who are already members, please put your name down on the duty roster which is located in the Community Centre.

Shopping Tour

Also, the annual Shopping Tour is coming up. It will take place on Saturday 4th September. All details are available through the Community Centre tel 5944 3484. It's a full day of shopping and fun. We'd love you to come along!

Michelle Gale

Get ready for the new season



The new season is fast approaching at the cricket club and the new committee has been working hard behind the scenes for the coming year.

Practice will be starting at the Clayton indoor centre on Sunday August 8th and continue every Sunday in August until we can start outdoors on the first Sunday in September at the Upper Beac recreation reserve. The address of the Victorian Cricket Centre is 13 Duerdin St Nth. Clayton Melways reference 70 J10

The club will once again be fielding three sides in the seniors "A" grade, "C" grade and "E" grade, so we need players to start letting us know of their availability to play because we must nominate our teams by the WGCA affiliation meeting on the 23 August.

Steve Carr is going to captain the first side with Paul Halfpenny again acting as coach. There is to be a practice match against Baxter at the Upper Beac oval on the Sunday after the grand final of the AFL. This is the last Sunday before the start of the season, so come on all you prospective players start limbering up.

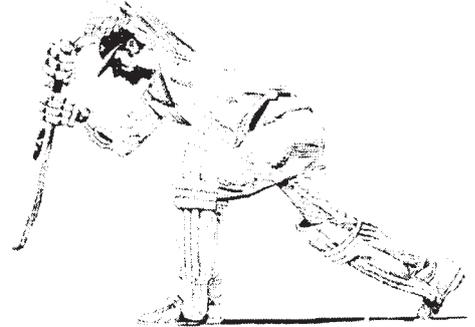
The juniors hope to build on the numbers success of the U12 last year. There will be a number of these U12 players moving up to U14 this season and they will be coached by Grant Andrewartha probably on a Wednesday night. The U12 will be coached by Tony Joyce on a Tuesday or Thursday night. Tony's two sons will be playing at U/Beac again this year after a year away in Tasmania. Please watch out for the junior registration day in the middle of September at the clubrooms. This will be notified in the school newsletter. In regards to the U 16 team, we will be happy to form a team if there are enough players interested, otherwise we will again join with Officer as a combined team.

There will be no more pub meat raffles. Instead the Pine Grove Hotel will run a slab raffle every Thursday night on behalf of the cricket club.

Our major fundraiser this year will be an auction night to be held at the Pine Grove Hotel on Friday the 19th of November at 7.30pm. All members of the cricket club seniors & juniors are welcome as are the rest of the community to form tables at \$20.00 per head. This will include a carvery meal and the chance to win a \$500.00 door prize. Already we have a jumper signed by the Richmond football team, a Western Bulldogs jumper

signed by the team, and a Melbourne jumper also signed. A bottle of 1981 Grange Hermitage has also been donated for the night. We would like all members of the cricket family to donate and come along for a great night in November.

The nets have been repaired, so we won't have to put up with the balls going through the back of them this season which will make it much safer for all concerned. This has been brought about by the fact the club received a grant of \$2000.00 from cricket Victoria to repair the nets.



We are looking for all players to get sponsors for themselves of \$100 each and are looking for new club sponsors to go on the cricket shirts, which will be available this year to all seniors and juniors. There will also be training shirts or polo shirts to wear after games, which will display all the club sponsors. These will be available at a reasonable cost. Banners of major sponsors will be displayed at all home games, but will be taken down at the end of the days play so as not to intrude on the amenity of the Upper Beaconsfield recreation reserve.

So now we need action! We need to start practising and commit to playing cricket at Upper Beaconsfield this year. For further information contact Richard Edwards on (h) 59 443 463 or (w) 9704 7563 or 0407 443463

Richard Edwards
Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club

Cardinia Civic Concert Band

Two Seasons Concert
With guest artist Angalie O'Brien

Sunday 12 September 2 pm

Cardinia Cultural Centre

Lakeside Boulevard Pakenham

Adults \$16.10

Concession and children \$11.10

Bookings 1300 887 624

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For details please contact: Jenny and Paul Pascoe, 03 9521 8261 or 0418 170 861.

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