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# UPPER BEACONSFIELD VILLAGE BELL

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Issue No. 170 December 2007

Online at [www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au](http://www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au)

Upper Beaconsfield Association

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## Carols by candlelight on Christmas Eve

*Neil McDonald*

Christmas is coming soon, so set aside Christmas Eve to come along to the annual carols night. This is a pleasant, long standing community and family get together held in Keith Ewenson Park at the rear of the Community Complex in Salisbury Road.

We look forward to welcoming Greg Ross as compere. You all know the carols so come along and join us.

The UBA and Community Complex Building and Grounds committees will have delicious refreshments for sale, including a sausage sizzle, coffee/tea, soft drinks etc. with Ron Fisher and his team commencing at 7 pm.

Santa Claus will make his grand entrance on the CFA truck at the Keith Ewenson Park at 8.30 pm giving the children the opportunity of talking with him.

The primary school Parents and Friends Association make sure that each child receives a bag of goodies from Santa, and carol singing will commence when we've all farewelled Santa and his helpers.

Santa Claus will be stopping at Grant Court at 7.45 pm, Burton Road at 8 pm, Paul Grove at 8.15 pm before arriving at the Centre at 8.30 pm.

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### Pianist Wanted!

We are in urgent need of a pianist for the Carols. If you can help, please contact Neil on 5944 3782



*Photograph: Ruth Hainsworth*

Village Bell December 2007

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## Neighbourhood Watch newsletter deliverers needed

*Jenny Coughlin, NHW CAR6 Newsletter Editor*

Each month, except for January, a NHW newsletter is hand delivered to almost 1 000 houses in the Upper Beaconsfield and Guys Hill areas. We have almost 50 volunteers involved in this process.

From time to time, we seek new volunteers to help with the delivery of the newsletter, usually when a current volunteer moves out of the area or is no longer able to help. This is one of those times. We need people to help out as Zone Representatives (newsletter deliverers) and the details of the areas involved are as follows:

### Guys Hill

*Area 1:* One side of Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd from Luke Place to High St

*Area 27:* One side of Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd from south end of Quamby Rd to end of service road (just near where the overtaking lane starts)

*Area 29:* Myrtle Gve, Quamby Ave, Buchanan Rd, and one side of Quamby Rd from Myrtle Gve to Buchanan Rd

### Upper Beaconsfield

*Area 6:* Both sides of Brennan Ave from St Georges Rd to Fraser Ave, and all of Fraser Ave

*Area 34:* Both sides of Salisbury Rd from Corringham Rd to Leppitt Rd, and Carpenter Rd from Salisbury Rd end to Dickie Rd

*Area 42:* Both sides of Beaconsfield Emerald Rd, from south end of Stoney Creek Rd, to north end of Sugarloaf Rd, and Yeramba Cl

### Upper Beaconsfield/Dewhurst

*Area 46:* One side of Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd from just north of Split Rock Rd, to Blue Ridge Rd, and Bimbimbie Dve and Blue Ridge Rd

A police check will need to be completed if you aren't already a NHW volunteer.

We also have a number of committee positions that only entail 1-2 hours work a month.

If you can help out, please contact Jenny Coughlin on 5944 4475.

## Congratulations!

To Scott and Karen Hathaway, a son  
**Nathan Charles**  
Born 6 August 2007 8lb 6oz  
Brother for Bryce, Brent and Jessica

## Rainfall at Barkala, Emerald-Beaconsfield Road

*George Moir*

The previous report indicated a return to Upper Beaconsfield average rainfall, but unfortunately the next two months, July and August, recorded 59mm and 59.4mm respectively, a total of 63.3mm below average. The winter readings June to August were 12mm ahead of average. The year to date rainfall for 2007 is 609.8mm compared to 594.2mm in 2006. This result indicates another year of low rainfall (vicinity of 700mm) may be coming up, compared to the current average over 38 years of 950mm.

Month	38 yr average	2006	2007
Jan	65.2	81.1	61.1
Feb	56.1	60.1	26.2
Mar	65.2	49.9	61.5
Apr	78.5	107.4	20.3
May	88.3	82.7	82.2
Jun	81.4	12.3	89.0
Jul	78.6	85.5	112.5
Aug	88.4	41.9	59.0
Sep	93.3	47.6	59.4
Oct	97.6	25.7	38.6
Nov	83.7	54.8	
Dec	78.4	47.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>954.7</b>	<b>696.2</b>	

## Your responsibility – dead or alive!

*Kaylene Cox*

We all know that we need to look after our animals. We need to keep them fed, watered and housed safely. But, did you know that we are also required to look after them should they die?

There are strict EPA Waste Management guidelines on the disposal of dead animals. You can't leave your dead cat or dog out on your front nature strip to rot ... so likewise, you cannot leave a dead farm animal in your paddock.

Removal options include the knackery, rendering or composting plants or landfills that accept dead animals.

Should EPA permission be given for burial of the animal on site, they must be 300m from houses, have a metre deep backfill, be well above the water table and well away from water holes and courses, on elevated land – sloping less than five percent, etc. Download the EPA brochure "WASTE MANAGEMENT ON FARMS" at <http://tinyurl.com/yoece8>

If your neighbours lodge a complaint to the Council you will be serviced with a notice to promptly dispose of the animal within the EPA guidelines, or risk a fine from the Magistrates Court. Besides, it is much easier to dispose of an animal while it is still fresh, rather than find yourself shovelling 'bits' of oozing, rotting flesh into plastic bags three weeks later!

**BE RESPONSIBLE:**

If you are going to have animals on your land then give some thought to what you might do when they die. At a time of such trauma, if you have a plan in place, it's easier for everyone.



# About town



## What's in a fence?

*Helen Smith*

There appears to be a trend for property owners to put up solid front fences in Upper Beaconsfield. One can understand the need for privacy and safety, where people feel the need to protect themselves, their children and animals. But a solid fence has some negative implications for neighbours and passers by, as well as for owners.

A solid fence has the effect of shutting out the neighbourhood. The message is "don't look in", or "keep out", or "I don't want to know you".

In addition, if neighbours cannot see your place properly, then they may not realise there is someone in there up to no good, like loading up a van with your electrical goods. Some of these fences have security gates which in an emergency situation, such as bush fire, may prevent access by the emergency services.

A solid fence can also detract from the view and also spoil the streetscape. A solid fence spoils the "borrowed view" from inside a property as the fence blocks the attractive more distant landscape. A solid fence makes the front yard seem smaller.

Property owners need to balance the need for privacy and security while considering the effect on the neighbourhood.

A good compromise is a fence, which acts as a boundary, but doesn't block everything

out. The kindergarten fence in Stoney Creek Road (pictured) is a good example, as it blends into the landscape but keeps the children safe.

It doesn't need to be 6 foot high to delineate the boundary. It can be a fence that allows lines of sight and light to come through, for example a wire fence, picket, post and rail, metal railing or slat fence. Such a fence will also allow foliage to poke through or attractive climbers to drape over it.

In Upper Beaconsfield we are fortunate to have larger house blocks and wider nature strips, with more trees and shrubbery, so

privacy is not such a problem as in other more densely settled areas. We also live in an area where the crime rate is comparatively low.

Personally, I like my neighbourhood to be open and welcoming. If I go for a walk I can have a brief chat with neighbours if I see them. It is good for the health of a community if these types of exchanges are possible. But if everyone puts up solid fences then areas including Guys Hill and along Emerald Road and Stoney Creek Road, etc in Upper Beac will look like roads through walled corridors.



## A new Justice of the Peace

*Jo Carter*

In June 2007, Russell Williams of 33 St Georges Road Upper Beaconsfield, became a JP. Justices of the Peace are respected citizens who are entrusted by their community to take on special responsibilities within the legal system.

Russell and his wife Fay moved to Upper Beaconsfield at Christmas 1973, when Russell was appointed principal at Pakenham High School. He worked there for 8 years, and then served 5 years as principal of Dandenong High School.

In the years since retiring, Russell has been involved in community projects, playing and teaching bridge, and producing a newsletter for the Berwick Bridge Club.

Russell served on the editors committee of the Village Bell, and was an excellent proofreader.

With the growing population of Upper Beaconsfield, there is a need for another Justice of the Peace to ease the workload for Keith Ewenson, our long standing JP. Russell, with Keith's support and recommendation, applied to become a JP and was successful.

Call 5944 3403 if you need his services.



# About town



## Proud to be Australian (at long last)

*Jo Carter*

I became an Australian citizen in a ceremony at Cardinia Civic Centre on Wednesday 29 August 2007 at 7 pm.

I arrived in Australia from England in November 1952 — 55 years ago, and have been married to an Australian citizen, Barry Carter, since April 1954. My three children and five grandchildren were born in Australia as were my daughter-in-law and sons-in-law. All of them were present at the ceremony, together with my two naturalised sisters.

When I arrived in Australia with my mother and sister, we were British subjects, Scottish; and Australian-born citizens were British Subjects, Australian. We all had the same voting rights and responsibilities, so becoming an Australian citizen did not seem to be too important. For the last 25 years, my family has urged me to take the big step and it was with great pleasure that I finally did so.

The ceremony was performed by the mayor, Kate Lempriere, and it was a moving experience for me. There were 78 new Australians and we represented 14 different countries of origin. We were each presented with a native plant after the ceremony.



*The new Aussie with her five grandchildren and the mayor.*

## Who will be the next Citizen of the Year?

Nominations are now open for the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year 2007.

Forms are available at the Post Office and General Store for you to nominate your favourite community person. The deadline is 13 December, so don't miss out. Post your nominations to UBA Secretary, PO Box 86, Upper Beaconsfield 3808.

This year we are seeking citizen of the year, and junior citizen of the year. The junior should be under 18 years at the close of nominations. Presentation of the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen/s of the Year will take place at the Village Festival in February 2008.

## The new chemist

Meet Natalie D'Amico, new manager of the Upper Beaconsfield Pharmacy.

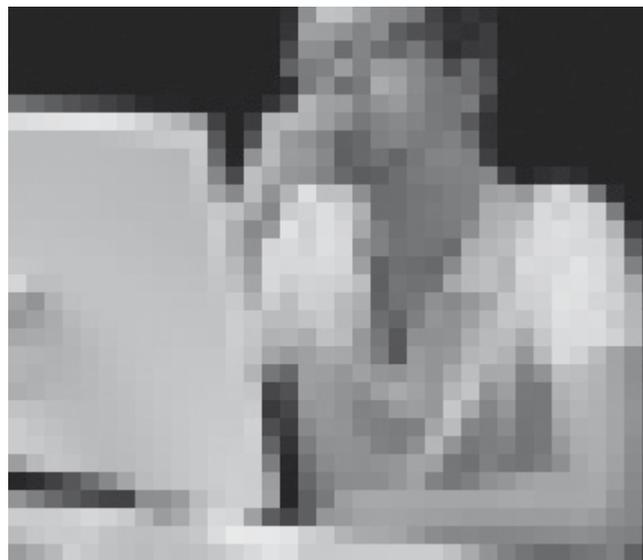


"I completed a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne University and worked in a clinical pathology laboratory, but I wanted a job where I had more contact with people. I finished my studies at the Victorian College of Pharmacy in 2005 and trained at a large pharmacy in Burwood East. I am currently completing a Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice on-line.

"2007 has been a big year for me: I married in March, enjoyed a trip to Europe during July/August, started my new job and am currently renovating my house. I have made the move from a big busy pharmacy to small, friendly Upper Beaconsfield so I should actually have time to talk to people, imagine that!

"The pharmacy is looking quite different and I am happy to help customers find any product they need. We offer a free in-home medication review service where you can sit down with a pharmacist to discuss your medicines. Come in and ask for details."

The pharmacy opening hours have changed, we are open Mon–Fri 9 am–6 pm, Sat 9 am–12.30 pm and we are now closed Sundays and public holidays.



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# Community Centre

## Centre news

Wendy Hiam

Our coordinator Pam Edwards left us at the end of term 3 and we wish her happy trails with her beloved horses. Wendy Hiam and Liz Grigg have been filling in as interim coordinators for term 4 until we find a replacement.

Our Community Centre Christmas celebrations will be at the Pine Grove Hotel on Friday 7 December from 1–3 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for all members to come together and celebrate Christmas

and the busy year that is coming to a close in a relaxed atmosphere. Please RSVP the Community Centre on 5944 3484 by 1 December if you can attend. All are welcome.

We are offering Nationally Recognised Training in *Certificate III in Aged Care Work*, *Certificate III in Children's Services* and *Certificate IV in Training and Assessment (TAA)* in term 1, 2008 and are currently taking expressions of interest for *Certificate IV in Training and Assessment – Bridging course* for next year also. If you

are interested please contact us on the number above.

With Christmas fast approaching our ever popular *Gingerbread houses for children* class has limited numbers available. It is held on Tuesday 4 December from 4–5.30 pm. This class is lots of fun and a delicious addition to the Christmas table that the kids can contribute. There are still places available for term 4 in *Soy candle making*, *E-Business*, *Word for beginners* and *Jewellery for special occasions*. If you have interest in any of these please speak to Kirsten at the Office.

## UBCC Crèche

Jo Keon-Cohen

Term 4 has been very busy at the crèche with the children completing lots of craft and activities based on the spring racing carnival, and getting reading for summer with lots of beach-themed songs and stories. Staff always have mixed feelings at this time of year as we



prepare to wave off some of our children to kindergarten and school. It is sad to say goodbye to the children, as we have known them since they were babies, but so exciting to see them growing up and moving on.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new batch of children into the crèche family for 2008, and remind you that enrolments for 2008 can be made from Monday 26 November. For information please contact the crèche during business hours.

*"It takes a village to raise a child"*

## The Babysitting Club

Sarah Sankey

The Babysitting Club involves a group of local women who baby sit each other's children.

The club works on a no pressure points system:

1 point per hour 7 pm–midnight  
2 points per hour before 7 pm & after midnight.

It's a great way to meet mums and families.

It's a no cost babysitting service, just your time when you are available to help another mum.

Please contact Sarah Sankey for further information  
Tel: 5944 3415



## Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival

The Festival Committee

"Explore our village, enjoy our community"

The second community festival will take place on Saturday 16 February 2008, from 9 am to 2 pm. It will be a fantastic community event, which will be held in community week 2008. To make the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival even better we encourage the whole community to participate either by coming along on the day and joining in the fun or being involved in a stall.

We are already receiving a lot of interest from businesses outside of our area, but we are encouraging local businesses to participate. This is our community festival and it would be wonderful to have all our businesses participate.

The day will start at 9 am, with the running of a "Tower Run" from the centre of the village to the water tower and back to the main festival site. We anticipate approximately 25 community groups running stalls and events to promote their sport and organisation from Babysitting Club, Scouts, Tennis Club, to the Village Bell Group. School bands are being asked to perform to entertain the visitors as they wander through exploring the village.

A general theme for the event will be an "Arts Festival". From our pre-school children to an open level, art will be displayed throughout the community centre building; with sculptures supplied by various community groups on display around the township leading up to the Festival.

List of activities we are hosting include:

- Jumping castle
- Specialty car displays
- Climbing wall
- HPV vehicles
- Animal farm

This is a non-profit event with all profits going to run future events or put back into the community.

If you are interested in getting involved on the day or would like to book a stall please contact, Liz Grigg at the Community Centre on 5944 3484 or on 0412 312 271.

# Upper Beac Association

## General Meeting

Jennie Vaughan, President

At the October general meeting of the UBA local rate-payer Graham Jolly made a presentation on global warming. He is concerned about greenhouse gas emissions in Cardinia Shire and advocates an auditing of these emissions by the shire. He referred to the community audit carried out by Castlemaine Council. A copy of his report is available through the UBA Secretary.

Councillors Legge and Chatwin gave comprehensive reports to the meeting, highlighting the free collection of waste chemicals, weed management, youth leadership, Salisbury Gully, road traffic management and capital works grants for the community of Upper Beaconsfield.

Sergeant Phil Delaney gave a report from Pakenham Police and invited questions from the meeting.

There was considerable discussion about trees along roads and whether they constitute a fire hazard or whether they should remain if fallen, or felled, as habitat for wild life. It was decided to write to the CEO of the shire to clarify the matter as we are a fire-prone area.

## Bus Timetable Route 838

### Mondays to Fridays

#### Route 838:

#### Emerald–Fountain Gate

Emerald (Emerald Village / Main Street)

6:35 am                      10:25 am                      12:25 pm

Beaconsfield (Beaconsfield Plaza / Woods Street)

6:56 am                      10:47 am                      12:47 pm

Berwick (Berwick Railway Station / Reserve Street, Bay 3)

7:01 am                      10:52 am                      12:52 pm

Narre Warren (Fountain Gate SC / Overland Drive, Bay 3)

7:14 am                      11:08 am                      1:08 pm

#### Route 838: Fountain Gate to Emerald

Narre Warren (Fountain Gate SC / Overland Drive, Bay 3)

12:30 pm                      2:20 pm                      4:30 pm

Berwick (Berwick Railway Station / Reserve Street, Bay 3)

12:40 pm                      2:30 pm                      4:40 pm

Beaconsfield (Beaconsfield Plaza / Princes Highway)

12:47 pm                      2:37 pm                      4:47 pm

Emerald (Emerald Village / Main Street)

1:12 pm                      3:00 pm                      5:12 pm

Note: Most concession card discounts apply (proof required), Children under 4 travel free.

Upper Beaconsfield residents may hail the bus anywhere along the route Emerald to Beaconsfield, providing there is a safe stopping place. Buses arrive in Upper Beac (Burton Rd bus stop) 14 minutes after departure time in Emerald. [www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au](http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au)



The next general meeting for the UBA will be held on  
**Wednesday, 5 December at 8 pm**  
**Community Centre Meeting Room**  
 \* Everyone is welcome \*

Letter:

## Global warming – where can you start?

Graham Jolly

The main cause of global warming is greenhouse gas. Everyone can help reduce their carbon emissions by following this plan:

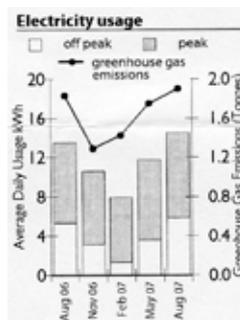
- To start, determine your yearly greenhouse gas emissions for electricity, gas and combustible fuels consumed via car, truck, mower, chainsaw and tractors etc. Record your greenhouse gas emissions. These are shown on your utilities bills. There are greenhouse gas emission calculators available online that make this easier to work out, see Environment Protection Authority Victoria.
- Determine what changes you can make on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis as an environmental requirement that could be a cost to your household.
- Set yourself small personal targets that you believe you could achieve to reduce your greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. plant trees to offset greenhouse gas emissions.
- Review your personal plan at your predetermined time intervals throughout the year.
- Ask questions until you have a clear understanding about how you and your family contribute to greenhouse gas and the overall effects on the world climate change.
- Encourage your whole family with any changes you intend to make in your household and your lifestyle.
- Go through the same process at your place of work.

Make this community a better place for future generations, our children and ourselves.

I urge all residents to start now, not tomorrow.

*\*Note from the Editor:*

It was embarrassing and shocking to read in the newspaper recently that on a per head basis, Australia had the sixth highest emissions of carbon dioxide in the world — 19.36 tonnes per head in 2004, roughly three times that of Sweden and Switzerland, more than five times that of China, 19 times that of India and 72 times that of Bangladesh.



# Ranges Ward News



*Cr Graeme Legge*

Council is actively preparing for bushfires and summer. Roadside slashing has commenced and notices have been sent to owners of vacant land. We, property owners, should be progressing with our home property preparation, too. In this way, we help ourselves, our neighbours, the community and our brigades.

Council's 'Detox your Home' scheme, where unwanted chemicals, paints and oils were able to be disposed of, was widely used. If you missed out this time – plan to use the scheme next year.

## **(Drink) container deposit legislation**

Wonderful progress was made at the October Council Meeting when Council agreed to contribute a submission in favour of (Drink) Deposit Legislation at the National Packaging Covenant mid-term review scheduled for 2008.

Council's hard and green waste collection will require three separate vehicles: one for green waste, one for scrap metals, white goods and

e-waste (computers, monitors) and the third for residual hard waste. Mattresses will also be collected. The company involved cleans and sanitises or recovers usable mattresses and provides them to charity organisations for re-distribution. Unsuitable mattresses have the covers removed and used to make carpet underfelt and the metal components recycled. (This accords with the principles of Council's Waste Management Strategy of reducing waste to landfill.

## **Fire prevention plan**

The Municipal Fire Prevention Plan 2007-2010 has been adopted by Council. The Plan has been thoroughly considered by the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee which consists largely of brigade delegates plus other stakeholders. Open Air Burning: The Municipal Fire Prevention Committee has also recommended changes to this portion of Local Law 10. We are grateful to the Fire Prevention Committee for its consideration of this issue.

May Christmas lift your spirit and be a blessing to you.



# Gembrook Electorate

## **Fire protection plans**

*Tammy Lobato MP*

As another dry winter finally passes and another hot summer looms large, the people of Upper Beaconsfield know better than most the perils of the bushfire season. I too am very alert to the dangers, as my electorate, as well as Upper Beaconsfield, also covers areas of very high fire risk such as Cockatoo, Warburton, Gembrook, the Bunyip State Park, Powelltown, the Yarra Ranges National Park, Pakenham Upper, Warburton and as far west as Belgrave.

The residents in townships around the Dandenong Ranges rely heavily on the commitment of emergency services workers, both paid staff and volunteers, to provide a safe and secure environment. Since the disastrous loss of life and property in this area during Ash Wednesday almost 25 years ago, technology has improved and our knowledge of fires has increased so we are better placed to deal with the bushfire threat. Nevertheless, the topography of the land remains difficult and the distances between townships can prove extremely challenging. When emergencies do occur, backup can be some distance away.

Last year's fires have led to improvements for the forthcoming season. In Victoria, the Department of Sustainability and Environment has recruited 200 seasonal firefighters and an extra 400 will be joining in coming weeks. More than 80 fuel-reduction burns have been carried out and more are planned, with 130 000 hectares targeted in this year's burning program.

New refuelling tankers for aircraft that allow planes to be refuelled on the fireground, rather than having to return to an airport, will be

in use for the first time. This will help with a faster turnaround time for aircraft. In all, there will be 34 aircraft in use this year including the Erikson Airplane 'Elvis'.

In terms of funding, an extra \$7.5 million has been invested in protective clothing and equipment such as generators, pumps, sleeping bags and chainsaws. \$3 million has been spent on community education programs to help all Victorians be prepared. \$80 million was allocated in this year's state budget to strengthen the capacity of our emergency services to respond to bushfire but despite extra funding and system improvements, the very nature of firefighting means that people are placed at risk in the service of their communities to protect lives and property. This is a dedication that deserves our outmost praise and I congratulate all CFA and DSE staff and volunteers who have again made a commitment to assist with this bushfire season.

The CFA has made enormous efforts to educate the public and encourage all households in fire risk areas to develop bushfire survival plans and make appropriate preparations around their homes. I would urge all residents to ensure they have taken the necessary steps before summer arrives. Let's all do the right thing and prepare our properties to ensure others are not placed at unnecessary risk on our behalf.

As always, please phone me if I can assist you.

Tammy Lobato MP

1/5 Gloucester Ave Berwick VIC 3806 Tel: 9796 1987

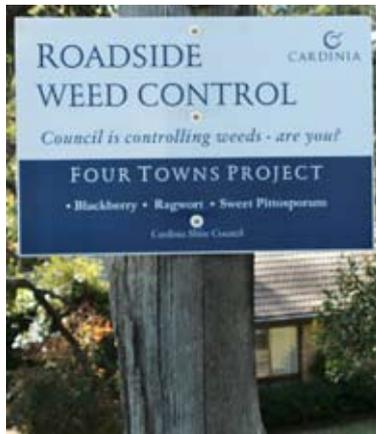
Email: [Tammy.Lobato@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:Tammy.Lobato@parliament.vic.gov.au)

## Weeds — a big threat to bushland

David Latter

Arising from a joint meeting of the township committees of Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook and Upper Beaconsfield on the issue of the large weed problems in the area, the Cardinia Shire Council is undertaking a roadside weed cleanup of the four township areas.

The weeds being targeted are sweet pittosporum, blackberry and ragwort. All residents in the four towns should have received a weed identification guide. We need you to use the guide and to start removing weeds from your land. While the nature strip normally is the land owners responsibility, this program we hope will be a catalyst for change for the removal of these environmental weeds.



### Sweet pittosporum

These plants are one of the biggest threats to the region's surviving bushland. They are exceptionally invasive in this region and studies have shown that if left unchecked will reduce the biodiversity in our bushland by a massive 60%. This has already happened in many valleys near Tecoma as can be seen from the train line. Their dense canopy and height up to 14 m out-competes all other plants.

These plants have just finished flowering with white sweet-scented flowers and will very shortly develop orange berries. Look for the distinctive shiny leaves with wavy margins as well as the berries that form in autumn.

As a listed environmental weed in Cardinia, as long as the trunk diameter at 1 metre above ground level is less than 30 cm (which would be almost all of them) then you do not require a permit to remove them. While small plants can be pulled out, the large ones are a little harder. They can be cut down and the stump can be immediately painted with herbicide but my preferred method of killing them is to use the "drill and fill" method. This is done by using a battery drill with a drill bit around 10mm to drill a series of holes as close as practical to the ground around the trunk of the tree between 30 to 50 mm apart. Any further distance apart will allow the tree to survive. The holes should be steeply angled down into the tree and must be filled with straight glyphosate 360g/L (Roundup™ or an equivalent brand) within 30 seconds of drilling each hole. If a longer time is taken to inject the glyphosate then the tree will start to seal the hole preventing the uptake of chemical. I drill the holes up to 80 mm deep into large trees, less for smaller ones.

Do not remove the tree until it is totally dead, I leave them standing in bushland. Please note that this method is also used for some other serious environmental weeds, notably sycamores, cedar wattle and holly. Treating weeds this way when they are stressed (as in middle of summer) can result in a poor kill rate. It is now a very good time of year to kill them all. Please help our environment by killing these weeds now.

If you would like to help by killing your pittosporums but need guidance, then email [igor@rmit.edu.au](mailto:igor@rmit.edu.au) or if you are not on email, please call BH 9925 2495



## Flora and Fauna

### Indigenous plant shelter belts are invaluable for farms and wildlife

Margaret Cromb, Cardinia Catchment Landcare Inc

We have had a busy year planting into nine different sites over autumn and winter. Most of these sites were in Cardinia and Clyde in the flat country near Westernport Bay. They were properties with no tree cover and exposed to extreme conditions of heat and cold which adversely affect stock. Many also have problems of salinity and most, surprisingly, have small numbers of bandicoots living under sheds or in drains.

So, over some years we hope to change the landscape in this area and provide habitat for native species of birds and animals.



bandicoots

The planting of wide shelterbelts of indigenous vegetation has been shown to improve the productivity of the land and to modify extreme temperatures. They also support birds and bats, unlike cyprus hedges which support nothing and are susceptible to salinity.

Other properties we planted were in Officer and Upper Beaconsfield involving gullies and shelter belts.

Apart from these there were numerous people who chose to do their own plantings but obtained plants, guards and fencing subsidies through Landcare.

Our group is working on restoring riparian vegetation at Beaconsfield Park in Beaconsfield through a Melbourne Water grant. The first stage has been completed and the second will take place in autumn, 2008.

*continued page 9*



# Flora and Fauna

We welcome enquiries from anyone interested in assistance with revegetating their property, protecting their waterways or just advice on land management issues.

At our AGM we heard from Geoff Williams from the Platypus Conservancy about the release of platypus into Cardinia Creek. We were excited to learn of the success of this program. The platypus are doing well, have reproduced and are working their way down the creek. This is an obvious reason to work on the condition of the banks and vegetation from Guys Hill through to Beaconsfield.

We have a water monitoring group which takes regular readings of the condition of Cardinia Creek at three sites. This has been happening for some years now. It is a concern that so much rubbish is continually being dropped in Beaconsfield beside the creek.

Not only does it impact on the quality of the creek at this site but also ultimately on Westernport Bay.

Some weeks ago we participated in an information and plant give-away day at Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve – once the reservoir. It was a great success with neighbours of the reserve participating and showing interest. A supporter's group is being formed and its members will support activities such as weeding and other on site work as well as other activities to be organised. The management plan for the reserve has taken a lot of work by many people but is due to be released before the end of the year. It is intended to have a public launch of this together with an appropriate activity. If you have an interest in becoming involved please let us know.

## Wildlife Watch

Laura Levens

The green stick/leaf insect mentioned in the last Village Bell is named *Tropidoderus childii* or Child's stick insect. It lives among the canopy of eucalypts.

*Have you ever seen this?*

A butcherbird picked up a piece of meat from the ground along with a dry blade of grass. It managed to swallow the meat but the grass stuck part way. The bird lay down on one side, grasped the grass with one foot and yanked!

*Or this?*

A young wallaby was joyously bounding around and over clumps of grass and sedge while the mother fed peacefully nearby occasionally checking his whereabouts, until youngster bounded over one clump directly onto mother's head! She reacted by giving child a clout around its ear!

Kangaroo grass supposedly got its name from the shape of the flower-heads. Now I am sure it is because the grass is a gourmet meal for eastern grey kangaroos. They have eaten the grass on our roof far enough down that it no longer makes an efficient contribution to insulation. Wallabies seemed never to touch it. Now we shall see whether the accepted idea that regular browsing improves the growth is correct. As of late October the kangaroos are not touching the flowers of kangaroo grass.

Still low rainfall here but a goodly number of wildflowers have bloomed. But why were there not even buds on black wattle?



## Facts about mistletoe (from *Land for Wildlife notes 26*):

- Mistletoes live about thirty years, eucalypts about 150 and dead mistletoe is often seen on trees in native forests. Trees that are apparently killed by mistletoe are usually in disturbed sites and already under stress from modified conditions.
- At least forty-one species of birds use its copious nectar flow maintained even during drought.
- About thirty-three bird species, including the little lorikeet and mistletoe bird, eat the berries.
- Brushtail possums eat the leaves.
- Caterpillars of the Imperial white butterfly, common around Upper Beaconsfield, also eat the leaves and grow and pupate on the plant.

## Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery

Margaret Cromb

The nursery has grown in excess of 40 000 plants during the year which have all been planted into Landcare sites, Melbourne Water sites, for the City of Casey, Shire of Cardinia, friends groups and for local residents.

There are still plants available for small plantings for those able to water during the establishment phase. On the whole it is now wise to wait until autumn. However preparation can occur at any time in terms of weed control and mulching where appropriate. If you want any advice or to order plants call at the nursery on Fridays after 12 noon, or make an appointment on 9707 2415.

We are very pleased to have obtained a community water grant which will enable us to be self sufficient in our water use; a considerable issue with watering over summer.

All the best for your garden over summer. If you haven't already considered using some indigenous plants in your garden why not call in and see what is available? There are some beautiful local plants and all indigenous plants will survive local conditions better than any others, as well as providing habitat for birds, butterflies and native animals.

# Kindergarten and Playgroup

## Kinder and playgroup news

*Susi Sironic, President*

We've had a great year at both kinders and we're still looking forward to a wonderful Christmas program nearing the end of term four. I just love the hand made Christmas artwork and decorations the kids bring home at this time of year.

We have had a very successful fundraising year and I give a huge thanks to the fundraising team and the community for your support. We have purchased new outdoor climbing equipment, great wooden puzzles, a variety of toys, mirrors and some new furniture for the kids as well as spending money on building maintenance items such as flooring, heating and the external fire sprinkler system currently being installed. This is not only for our use but will be used by many more families in the years to come.

Upper Beaconsfield is lucky to have two kinder facilities (McBride Road and Stoney Creek Road) because this allows us more flexibility to meet demand. During the year we have received enough 2008 applications to start a third three year old kinder

group and we have the facilities to accommodate the extra children. So in the McBride building during 2008, play groups will run on Monday and Friday mornings and pre-kinder on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We still have vacancies for our three year old program and we're also taking enrolments for playgroup. Kinder enrolments are taken from age 2 and pre-kinder enrolments are taken from birth.

For Kinder please ring Nardia on 5944 3996

For Pre-Kinder please ring Karine on 5944 3238

For Play Group please ring Melanie on 5944 3240

One final piece of information for some families who think they may not be able to afford to send their children to kindergarten — if your child holds a Commonwealth Health Care, Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card or Visa 786 or 785, then they will be eligible for full subsidy for four year old kinder and no extra costs will be incurred. Kindergarten is a fantastic start to your children's education.

## Going from strength to strength

*Marie Rogers*

What a fantastic year for Toy Library. 28 members joined this year. 50 new toys, puzzles and games were purchased with more on the way. We have so many toys that we

are overflowing our once suitable premises. Purchasing clear storage boxes for many of the toys has eased our storage problem slightly, making them more visually appealing and accessible and with our stocktaking planned for December/January this will give us the opportunity to decide what stays or goes. Look out in 2008 for some very cheap, but good quality toys for sale from Toy Library.

Opening on a Saturday has become very popular, allowing parents, grandparents and carers an optional day to the usual Thursday. So mums, if you'd like a sleep-in on Saturday morning, just send dad and the kids off to Toy Library. They'll have a ball! We are open Thursday and Saturday 9.30–10.30 am (except public and school holidays).

Social and fundraising events have been very busy and successful this year. Committee members have been working hard organising many events including the Village Festival, book and toy displays, two raffles, two silent auctions, a Tupperware demonstration, sticker and toy catalogue sales, annual shopping tour and the Cardinia Parents' Forum/Expo. Not only did we have fun being involved in the above events but also enjoyed sharing them with our winners, members and their families.

## Shopping tour fundraiser

Our annual shopping tour was in October this year; we combined with the U. B. kinder which was a great success. It was a lot of fun and a chance to meet some of the local mums too. We had a full coach of 49 ladies, all eager to hit the 13 outlets planned.



## Toy Library

A scrumptious morning tea was included as well as a two course lunch with bottomless champagne!

By late afternoon our weary shoppers were heading home to be entertained by our fabulous hostess who kept us laughing with her tales and jokes. During our travels our driver made sure we were comfortable and unaware of the difficulties he faced trying to manoeuvre the coach in and out of some of the small streets on what was to be the busiest shopping tour day of the year. If you would like to come along next year and have a great day out, please contact Kathryn Smith at [dkbe@aapt.net.au](mailto:dkbe@aapt.net.au) and she will add you to the list.

We have also increased the number of toys each member can borrow from 4 to 5 items which consists of 1 large toy and 4 smaller toys or puzzles.

Membership will continue to be only \$20 per calendar year. Imagine having access to over 400 toys including ride-ons, roller coaster, jumping castle, play sets, baby toys, musical and educational toys, dress-ups, puzzles, games, videos, DVDs and a whole lot more for only \$20! Gift vouchers are also available — a great idea for Christmas!

Toy Library will close for 2007 after Saturday 15 December with the last Thursday being 13 December; we re-open next year Saturday 2 February. We look forward to meeting our new and previous members in 2008. Happy Christmas.

## Community is our strength

*Nick Karanzoulis, Principal*

What a sensational time was had by members of the Beaconsfield Upper Primary School in August as thousands of people joined our children, parents, teachers and their partners for the annual Defence Lake Attack — a walk/run around Albert Park Lake oval. We all felt very proud as the BUPS community were doing something special for charity, our own health and wellbeing and of course, our school. Our intention was to have more children represent our school in the 5 kilometre event than any other school in the State. That we did and we managed to win a Toshiba photocopier valued at over \$8 000.

Within our great community, we have many outstanding athletes. One of our boy teams, one of our mum teams and Liam L. from grade 6 did extremely well, Liam finishing 77<sup>th</sup> out of about 800 participants in the 5km event.

To have so many members of our community present in an event like this reflects the strong community connectedness that is present at Upper Beaconsfield. We certainly upheld the school's motto of "Excellence in learning, community and environment".

## Prep orientation

Our extensive Prep Orientation Program is now in the final stages as parents and children make the quantum leap from kindergarten to primary school. This term, parents have been involved in an information program about our school, their child's first year at school and the learning process that children go through as we take them from the age of 5 to the age of 12. The children have been involved in lessons with the Prep teachers as well as specialist staff. The new Preps will meet their Prep buddies and Prep teachers on Tuesday 4 December. All are looking forward to their first day of school which will be Thursday 31 January 2008. All other children will be starting school on Wednesday 30 January with the teachers commencing their year on Tuesday 29 January 2008.

## New building update

Unlike the delays that were caused by the many underground finds with our building works in 2005, the current building works



are progressing with very few hassles. The new building will be constructed on a concrete slab, have a steel framework and with brick external walls. Rainwater tanks will service the toilets and we hope to install a sprinkler system on the roof of the new buildings in the defence of any bushfire attacks. The children thoroughly enjoy the experience of seeing their new school being built from the foundations up. In addition, there will be a new longer and wider basketball court built to cater for our fit and healthy children. We anticipate moving into our new building in late April.

Meeting the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century learners is a challenge for all educators. Our current and future learners will have the opportunity to learn in an ideal learning environment that our new building will provide, which in fact will be rather different to the way that most of us learnt. Rather than simply teaching children, we will educate children for the future according to their individual learning needs.

## Community water grant

We have been fortunate to have received \$50 000 as part of the federal government's community water grant. The grant will enable us to conserve the use of fresh water through the installation of rainwater tanks, self closing taps, a "no flush" urinal system, an automatic water usage meter reading system and an ongoing web based monitoring program. A lot of these features will be incorporated in the operation of the new building.



## Holiday "fun" is no joke

*Helen Smith*

During the last September holidays, the local primary school was targeted by vandals one night. They broke 15 windows, kicked in cement sheet walls and smashed many bottles (alcohol) on the paved areas around the school. All up this caused a \$3 000 repair bill, money which could have been much better spent elsewhere. Such a waste!

The school would be very grateful if all residents can keep an eagle eye on the school and grounds over the weekends and particularly the coming summer holidays.

Any suspicious group activity should be reported directly to the police on 000 and or the Department's Emergency Management Centre on 9589 6266.



# Upper Beac CFA Auxiliary

## Auxiliary's fundraising success

*Pat Edwards, President UBRFB Auxiliary*

The Annual Fire Brigade Dinner was a roaring success. Thanks to Andrew and staff at Beaconhills Golf Club. During the night a highlight was the raffle. The Brigade was overwhelmed by the generosity of the local shops in Upper Beaconsfield, Berwick and Pakenham. Many thanks for your support.

The Auxiliary has been busy over the last few weeks. This time of year there are controlled burns. The Auxiliary is asked to offer a light meal for the brigade and other brigades that assist.

Cup weekend was also a great success. Thanks go to Dot and Jim Evans for offering the Brigade the opportunity to raise funds for needed equipment. We sold Devonshire teas and sausages at the magnificent Clematis Cottage open garden day. Thank you to all who made the delicious scones and helped on the stall.

The Auxiliary is always looking to cut up rags to sell. If you have any cotton items that have seen better days, save them for the Brigade. Drop them off at the Fire Station in the large green bin down the side of the building.

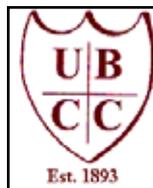
The Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade totally operates with the support of local residents who volunteer their time. If any person is interested in joining this team or helping in any way, contact the fire station 5944 3303 and leave a message.



## 2007/08 season

*Andrew Haythorpe*

The 2007/08 season has begun with the Mighty F Troopers undefeated after 4 rounds. With F Troop lead by the fearless Stu Black anything seems possible; keep up the great work boys. B Grade started with a great win against our arch rivals Beaconsfield bringing the Little Ashes back up the hill where they belong. I would like to welcome Tom Urwin to the club. Tom has ventured over from England and is off to a promising start



# Cricket Club

for the Dark Maroons. C Grade is headed by the majestic Shawn Hassall, they are off to a slow start but there is no lack of enthusiasm and the boys are not far off a win. Hopefully we can maintain the good numbers and hard work at training — it will pay off making 2007/08 a year to remember.

**CARDINIA** "Maresi! I like it!" VASILI  
 RECYCLED ORGANIC  
**Mulch and Compost**  
 FREE DELIVERY OFFER - CONDITIONS APPLY  
**From only \$30 m<sup>3</sup>**  
 Pakenham Sand and Soil 29 Bald Hill Road Pakenham 5941 1000  
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 Ranges Garden Supplies 420 Belgrave-Gembrook Road Gembrook 5968 1295  
 Supported by Metropolitan Waste Management Group and Sustainability Victoria

The juniors have started solidly with most sides notching up a win. We have two U15 and U13 sides as well as one U11 side. I hope everyone has a great season with lots of success.

A successful and enjoyable Trivia and Auction night was held on 17 November. Congratulations to Andy Haythorpe and Stuart Black who won the 2007 Igloo World Cup, well done World Champions. Commiserations to Scott Pitcher and Marcus Gehling. It was a hard fought battle that went down to the wire.

*Mulch and compost offer valid to 14 December 2007 only*

# Tennis Club

## Christmas is on its way to the Tennis Club

*Callen O'Brien*

I know it's scary to think about, but Christmas is not too far away! That means that the well-renowned Tennis Club Christmas Party is just around the corner. On Saturday 8 December make sure you gather up the kids, family, friends and anyone you can for a great night at the club. The grand finals of the club championships will be played, so you can expect to see some great tennis. We may even get a special visit from Santa if all goes well. We have a delicious spit roast setup on the night and plenty of food, drink and entertainment to satisfy any appetite.

The qualifying doubles were held on 25 November. Those of you who came along had a good (or at least fun!) hit.

Thanks for everyone who was involved in the recent working bee at the club. It's always a great opportunity for members to help out the club for a few hours. Unfortunately if we all enjoy our great club without any contribution then it is left to a dedicated few to carry the burden of all of the work. If you didn't get the chance to lend a hand, please make sure you try to give a few hours of your time on the next working bee. As they say, many hands make light work.

All of our summer competitions are well and truly underway, so good luck to all competitors. We had a very successful winter competition with two outstanding results. Special mention goes out to:

- The B Special 2 team in South Gippsland district consisting of Mark, Di, Cam, Jacko, Elaine and Caitlin. They dominated all season and deserved to bring home the flag.
- The Grade 9 Pennant team of Cal, Pete, Matt, Ben, Jonathan, Adrian and Nick for winning the first ever pennant flag for Upper Beac and making the grand final of the sectional championships. Outstanding effort!

In the latest club news, the hitting wall is now all up and running and can be used as a warm up before a proper hit. We aim to have some fencing put up soon to try to stop your tennis balls from rolling too far away! We also have approval for the water bore that



will hopefully be underway by the end of the year. The bore will hopefully solve many of the club's water restriction problems and allow us to use all of the courts as required without damaging them.

Hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party and we wish everybody a very Merry Christmas.

# Pony Club

## Equine flu has major impact on local community

*Marg Jones*

Since the announcement in August that Equine Influenza (EI), had hit the shores of Australia, the rippling effect of this highly infectious and dangerous disease has hit all locals involved in the horse industry, i.e. owners, farriers, feed store merchants and horse transport operators. To date it has been officially reported that EI has been contained to NSW and QLD states only.



Our first experience in Victoria with this virus was that we had 'lock down' mode in which it was illegal for any horses to travel outside their own properties. The second stage was that it was decided that all horse events be cancelled. The last stage which is still current is that it was strongly recommended that all competitions be cancelled unless very strict biosecurity guidelines were adhered to. Our advice is taken from the Pony Club Association of Victoria (PCAV) which is a member of the Australian Horse Industry Council, a body made up of all the recreational horse interest groups — i.e. pony clubs, adult riding clubs, pleasure riding and breeding — basically all horse groups other than the racing industry.

For us at Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club it was decided as we are a group of volunteers, these biosecurity measures were impractical for us to enforce and manage. Therefore, our major fundraising event that we hold on Melbourne Cup Day had to be cancelled. All rallies for the year (which are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month) including our Christmas Gymkhana, have also been cancelled.

The club is hoping to hold our Christmas Gymkhana in late January 2008, but are waiting on the advice from the Pony Club Association of Victoria in conjunction with the Australian Horse Industry Council as to when normal activities can be resumed.

While the above has stopped all horse riding activities for the club, we have still been busy planning for un-mounted rallies where the riders can still come together to keep the social contact. We are looking at holding a sleep-over at the club grounds (for humans only) which our very active junior committee is arranging. The club held a very successful working bee at our club grounds and we are also looking at updating our cross country course.

We are all hoping that this terrible epidemic does not cross the border into our state and we are apprehensively waiting on the official bodies to advise when we can resume 'normal' activities.

On behalf of the Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club we would like to take this opportunity to wish to you all a safe, relaxing and happy Christmas with your loved ones and we all look forward to a 2008 being a EI-free year for our state!



# Beaconhills Golf Club

## Changes ahead for Beaconhills Golf Club

Mary Griffin

Beaconhills Golf Club can no longer sustain 36 holes. When the new Lakes course was built in the 1970s there were far fewer golf courses in the area. The club needs to sell a section of the Lakes course land in order to rid itself of debt and make the necessary improvements to survive into the future. The sale of land in Upper Beaconsfield is always an emotive issue but hopefully it is understood that the golf club's members have made this decision reluctantly and with every appreciation that Beaconhills is a rare and valuable asset which they wish to preserve as intact as possible for future generations.

In late October, Beaconhills Golf Club president Doug Eastick invited residents living in the area around McArthur Rd to an information meeting; approximately thirty attended.

The original plan was to realign the club's existing titles to create three very large blocks, but this was no longer possible as one title could not be used. A change of plan was necessary. Three complex reports have recently been lodged with the Council. Two relate to the proposed sale of land in McArthur Rd and they have been submitted to council at the same time and have been linked for reasons of transparency.

The proposed changes involve subdividing the largest of the club's titles to realign the created titles to the area down McArthur Rd. Seven large blocks are planned, ranging in size from 3.75 to 7 acres. Residents were given a copy of the proposed boundaries of the blocks, which included building envelopes which are restricted to areas where there were fairways, to minimise tree removal. A walking track allowing access from McArthur Rd to the golf course is included, as are two easements. Much of the course proposed for sale is no longer in play, although it will not be until the new long par five is created that the course can be played in its permanent format and the remaining holes shut down.

The other proposed change is the need to remove some native vegetation between two golf holes, in order to make one long signature par five around the artificially constructed lake, which you see to the right as you drive in. The combining of the two holes is the most efficient and least intrusive way of making necessary changes to the Lakes course in order to reduce it from eighteen holes to nine.

Possible offsets include the planting of over 600 trees (to replace 28) and the protection and enhancement of some large and significant areas of bushland, as identified by the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Volunteers have already begun the removal of encroaching cedar wattles (an environmental weed) in targeted areas. As many areas of Beaconhills' Old course remain as it was when originally carved from the bush in the 1920s and 30s, this has created corridors of protection. The most significant areas of bushland run around two edges of the course parallel to two long Par Fives – for those who know the Old course, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> holes.

The club is aware of its environmental responsibility and is actively pursuing Land for Wildlife status.

There is a policy of replanting the surrounds of tee areas on the course with indigenous grasses and this has been largely achieved. There is a propagation nursery on site and volunteers divide grasses when required. The areas where pine trees (another environmental weed) were removed from the course have been replanted with indigenous eucalypts—over 120 have been planted to date and are growing strongly.

The golf course has been running as 27 holes since 2 July and the adjustment as far as the golfers go, has been smooth. While the executive directors wait for the next step in the process, club life continues steadily. The course itself is in perfect spring condition, much assisted by two extra volunteer mowers and the clubhouse gardens are as beautiful as ever. Twilight Golf made its return on Wednesday 14 November. It is a nine hole competition which tees off from 3 pm and you do not need to be a member to play – three rounds gets you a Twilight handicap and for some strange reason the overall

Twilight trophy (awarded at the end of daylight savings) is the largest in the club's trophy cabinet. There are Bistro meals available in the clubhouse afterwards – there are also bistro meals running on the last Friday of each month and the dance floor is ready, and a group organised. There is a Seafood Night planned for Saturday 8 December – all are welcome and bookings are essential. If you have any queries, or would like to make a booking, please ring the office on 5945 9210 and speak to Danie McNeil (Manager) or Mary Griffin.



*Caption written on back of photograph taken in the 1920s: "Springs in the gully below the club house stretching back for a ¼ mile which supply the dam and pumping station for the golf links, greens and fairways, club house etc also Cardinia Creek obtained its supply from the property. Beautiful drinking water, also stocked with black fish."*



# Australian Red Cross

## You can support Red Cross in many ways

Barbara Jackson

Red Cross Calling Upper Beaconsfield Area Co-ordinator

The 2008 "March Red Cross Calling" doorknock will take place between mid-February and mid-March, because of Easter being early next year. It is not uncommon when collecting to meet residents whose homes were destroyed during the 1983 fires and to receive their grateful thanks for the assistance and support given to them by Red Cross.

Fortunately this area has escaped a major fire since the Ash Wednesday devastation, but Red Cross along with all emergency services is preparing for a hot, dry summer.

Upper Beaconsfield residents support the annual doorknock with great generosity and this year \$6656.90 was collected by approximately 40 volunteer callers in the area of Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst, Guys Hill and a small section of Beaconsfield north of the highway.

Each year for various reasons some volunteers cannot take part and I am always looking for some more willing volunteers to join the

dedicated group. Volunteers can do the collection any time during the 4 week period to suit their own circumstances. If you can help, please call me on 5944 3554.

Another way to support Red Cross is by purchasing Red Cross Christmas cards, calendars and diaries which are on sale at the Berwick Mechanics Library in High Street or by contacting me on the above number.

Sadly during the year three members of the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Unit, Peg Bellair, Doreen Booth and June Pitcher passed away. The Unit has had a proud history of continuous service since 1914 when Red Cross was formed in Australia. Unfortunately there are now only two active members residing in Upper Beaconsfield. The Unit has gained a number of new members this year and approximately 25 members attend the monthly meetings. Several of the members are enthusiastic Lioness's always willing to lend a hand and include both the Unit's treasurer and secretary.

To keep the Upper Beaconsfield part of the Unit name viable, an increase of active local residents is needed. The Unit meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month (except January) in the Berwick RSL Hall, Langmore Lane at 10 am. Enquiries welcome: 5944 3554.



## The good news from St. John's

Rev. Iain Hanson

The family of St. John's pray that all readers have a blessed, happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

Yes, it's that time again with Christmas coming up very fast, yet again. And that means it's time for our end of year activities, as some ministries close down for the holidays, and special services or celebrations for others.

Our playgroups have had an exciting and enjoyable year. This term they had a visit from *Lizzie's Lizards*, with a very hands-on encounter with lizards, snakes, frogs and turtles. By the time you read this, they would have had a teddy bears picnic, a beach fun day and a Christmas party. If you're interested in joining the playgroups, there are a number of places available for next year. They meet on a Wednesday or Thursday morning, 10-11.30 am, during school terms. Please contact Kyla Whitfield or Dawn Hanson on the church number or visit our website for more information.

Our Christian Religious Education teachers are drawing their year to an end at Upper Beaconsfield Primary. At the end of last term, they had a visit from our link missionaries, who have been working in Mexico for a number of years and were able to share with the children what life in Mexico is like. At the moment the teachers are preparing for the end of year CRE Christmas services, to be held at St. John's on Tuesday 11 December. All are welcome to join the

children for this service, timings of which can be obtained through the school office or church office.

Recently we held a gingerbread house-making evening, where the ladies had a great time of friendship. It's still not known what proportion of sweets and chocolates went to decorating the houses and what disappeared down throats. But around the area, families will be snacking their way through gingerbread houses on Christmas Day.

You are all welcome to join us for our Christmas services this year. On 23 December, we'll have our normal services at 8.30 am and 10.00 am. On Monday 24 December, our Christmas Eve service will begin after the Carols by Candlelight, at 11.00 pm. On Christmas Day, there will be one service at 9.30 am. Christmas can mean many things for many people, but we at St John's celebrate our great and glorious God coming into His creation, becoming like us, experiencing our life, reaching out to us, so that we can be reconciled to and have peace with Him. We pray that you may join us over this period, but if you can't, that over this busy and hectic period, you may know something of the peace He brings us all. Merry Christmas.

Church Office: 5944 3862

Web: [www.stjohnsupperbeaconsfield.com.au](http://www.stjohnsupperbeaconsfield.com.au)

# Shop locally – in Upper Beac



## Garage

Mon–Fri 8 am–5.30 pm

## Milk Bar

Mon–Wed  
7.30 am–8 pm  
Thu & Fri  
7.30 am–9 pm  
Sat 8.30 am–9 pm  
Sun 8.30 am–8 pm



## Supermarket

Mon–Sat  
7.30 am–7 pm  
Sun 8 am–7 pm



## General Store

Mon–Sat 7 am–6 pm  
Sun 9 am–4 pm

## Hairdresser

Tue, Wed, Fri  
9 am–5.30 pm  
Thu 10 am–late  
(by appointment)  
Sat 8 am–12 noon



## Indigenous Nursery

Fridays from 12 noon or  
by appointment 9707 2415



## Post Office

Mon–Fri 9 am–5 pm  
Sat 9 am–12 noon  
Post box empties at 4.45 pm,  
Sundays & public holidays 3 pm

## Bakery

Mon–Fri 6.30 am–5 pm  
Sat & Sun & public  
holidays 6.30 am–2 pm



## Pine Grove Hotel

Mon–Sat 10 am–midnight  
Sun 10 am–11 pm



## Pharmacy

Mon–Fri 9 am–6 pm  
Sat 9 am–12.30 pm  
Sun closed



## Cardinia Mobile Library – Charing Cross

Tuesdays 10.45 am–1.30 pm



## Glendower Kartoffelhaus & Restaurant

Wed–Fri 6 pm–late  
Sat & Sun 11 am–late



## Hind Quarter Steak House

Wed–Sat 6 pm–11 pm