



A wonderful festival

Maree Cullinan

Saturday 16 February 2008 saw the running of the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival for its second year. What a beautiful day we had to celebrate the Upper Beaconsfield community and what we have to offer. The whole of the village area was buzzing with activity from as early as 8 am until well after 2 pm.

The fun run was held in ideal conditions, slightly overcast to keep the runners cooler. Councillor Graeme Legge fired the starting gun for our 65 entrants competing, with an age ranging from 7 to over 60 years, including a six week old baby in a pram and a couple of very competitive canine companions. Congratulations and well done to all our runners. The winner made it back in a time of approximately 22 minutes. It was great to see so many locals enjoying the undulating run. Thanks to the scouts for their magnificent start/finish banner and to the scouts and the CFA for marshalling along the course, with welcome drink stands at each tower.

Federal MP Jason Wood opened the Festival at 10 am, with presentations to the runners made by Graeme Legge and Jason Wood.

Once again thank you to the local groups and organisations that supported the festival by holding a stall and providing donations. Without this support this event would not be so successful. Thank you to the local businesses that have once again supported our community through donations and sponsorship:

Foodworks, Mitre 10, All About Stumps, D & M Norbury Fencing, Upper Beaconsfield Post Office and Village Massage Therapies. We must also remember those businesses outside of UB who have supported us — Alex Scott & Staff of Berwick, Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre, Nush Café, Camten Graphics, Rugged Up, Kea Sportswear, Star Newsgroup, RJ Sanderson Accountants, Beno's of Berwick and Computer Initiatives. Thanks to Cardinia Shire Council for the festival grant and Councillor Graeme Legge for his donation towards the Fun Run.

The stalls at Charing Cross had a wonderful day with the crowds milling and circulating all day. Brocqy's slushies at the Community Centre did a roaring trade and the HPV water was worth the wait. The Art Show was well attended; again showcasing what a talented community we live in. Thank you to Charles Wilson for his photography display of historical Upper Beaconsfield and some current day shots of the same location for reference. How much we have changed over the years yet without losing our character. It was great to see the Primary School rendition of Upper Beaconsfield in miniature on display. The bands played throughout the day at the two locations of Charing Cross and the Keith Ewenson Reserve and people took advantage of the chairs that were available to just sit and listen and also catch up with local residents that they had not seen for a while.

The Community Centre had their new proposed building plans on display in the hall. If you have any queries or comments they would love to hear from you. It is an exciting time in Upper Beaconsfield.

Special thanks to the volunteers and partners who helped on the day, and to the organising team of Liz Grigg, Wendy Smith, Bob Taylor, Maree Cullinan, Tom Gibson, and Tania Anderson.

What's on for next year? Please give your feedback and comments to any one on the organising committee or directly to the Community Centre.

Lots of photos on pages 10 & 11



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Neighbourhood Watch newsletter deliverers needed

Jenny Coughlin, NHW CAR6 Newsletter Editor

Do you enjoy a regular walk around Upper Beaconsfield and/or Guys Hill? Would you be able to help out by delivering the NHW Newsletter once a month? We need volunteers 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 Beac-Emerald Rd, from Luke Place to High St

Area 27: one side of Beac-Emerald Rd, from south end of Quamby Rd to north end of service road

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 42: both sides of Beac-Emerald Rd, from south end of Stoney Creek Rd, to north end of Sugarloaf Rd, and Yeramba Close

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. So if you are able to help out with one of those or wish to find out more, please give me a call on 5944 4475.

Beware the blocked drain

Charles Wilson

Recent heavy rains have been a salutary reminder to some unfortunate residents who have lost portions of their driveway, of the importance of keeping storm water gutters and drains clear of debris.

Two recent rainstorms have also caused considerable damage to roadways. In a steep part of Salisbury Road, the first heavy fall, resulted in a 15 centimetre deep gash, some 200 metres long in the earthen roadway between the storm water gutter and the sealed pavement.

Crushed rock was strewn across the road for a similar distance. The Council responded quickly and by the following midday, all debris had been cleared, and the gash filled with new stone. The cause — a blocked drain under a private crossover.

The next heavy rainfall had the same unfortunate result. The mess had been cleared but no one had thought to unblock the drain. A request to the Council solved the problem, but only after more damage was done. It is the

Rainfall at Barkala, Beaconsfield-Emerald Road

George Moir

Fortunately my prediction in the last Village Bell of a total rainfall of approximately 700 mm for the year 2007 (up to October) did not come to pass.

The final two months of 2007 produced above average rainfall, with a significant improvement in the spring total and the 2007 year total. This also compares better 39-year and 40-year averages of 948.2 mm and 946.2 mm respectively.

Month	40 yr average	2007	2008
Jan	65.4	61.1	26.0
Feb	55.4	26.2	
Mar	64.7	61.5	
Apr	77.9	20.3	
May	88.0	82.2	
Jun	79.8	89.0	
Jul	79.6	112.5	
Aug	86.5	59.0	
Sep	91.3	59.4	
Oct	94.4	38.6	
Nov	83.5	104.7	
Dec	79.7	158.7	
Total	946.2	873.2	

The following chart details the five month period, September 2007 to January 2008 inclusive:

Period	Average	Actual
Sep–Nov 2007	274.6	202.7
Dec–Jan 2008	143.8	184.7
Combined 5 months Sep–Jan	418.4	387.4



Council's responsibility to clear drains and culverts, but they need to be made aware of any problem.

The ideal time to check these drains is when it is raining; it is also a good time to remove any branches of rubbish that might contribute to a blockage. Leaves and other debris will quickly wash away. If the task is beyond you, a phone call to Cardinia Shire 1300 787 642 will bring a quick response.



About town



Roadside rubbish

Helen Smith

It was disappointing to see the trail of rubbish along Red Hill Road recently. First some mattresses, bean bags and children's furniture, then further along some discarded children's toys and other bits and pieces. Although spread over some distance, in two main lots of rubbish, it could have come off the one trailer. Now that the council has resumed the hard rubbish collection, this kind of behaviour is inexcusable and irresponsible.



Ivy stranglers

If you have ivy climbing up trees on your property or roadside reserve, please chop the ivy down at the socks and destroy the roots. If you allow the ivy to grow it will weaken and eventually kill the tree, which could then come crashing down in windy weather on your house. Like other weeds it is best eradicated in the early stages and not let go to be a big problem later.

Stop-press on agapanthus

People should dead-head their agapanthus as soon as possible now before they seed to stop the spread of this environmental weed.

Notice of Public Meeting

To be held on Wednesday, 12 March at 8 pm in the Club Social Room, Burton Road, for the purpose of electing four public members as community representatives to the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Inc. for a three year term. Members of the public are invited to put forward nominations and to attend this meeting. Nominees must be over 18 years of age and demonstrate a genuine interest in the Reserve. Nominations can be addressed to The Secretary, P.O. Box 28, Upper Beaconsfield 3808 or lodged at the meeting. Details from Secretary Barry Smith 5944 3219.

Walking on the roadside

Graham Jackson

Walking is a popular pastime for many residents of Upper Beaconsfield providing as it does both exercise and an opportunity to enjoy the delightful environment we live in.

I suggest to those who venture where there is no walking track or foot path adjoining the road that you walk on the RIGHT HAND side of the road. This means both the walker and any oncoming traffic are each in the line of sight of the other. This allows each to 'read' the other and instantly note any change in the situation and if necessary take avoiding action. It is very disconcerting to a driver to be approaching a walker from the rear and not be sure the walker is aware of his presence and the prospect that in a few moments the vehicle will pass close by the walker. In these circumstances any unexpected movement or action by either party can lead to an accident. When I am walking and a vehicle is approaching, I raise one arm in a salute. Not only is this a friendly gesture to another road user but it signals to the driver that I am aware of his approach.

Nice crop of thistles!

Helen Smith

Also spotted in the Red Hill Road area was this massive crop of thistles spreading right across a large grassed area behind



the wire fence around Cardinia Reservoir. Just who is supposed to be controlling the weeds in this area? The flower heads were just coming out in purple and it will not be long before clouds of thistle down will be spreading further beyond the fence into more bushland and private property. To allow the weeds to develop to this extent would destroy any hope of private property owners to keep their own properties clear of weeds.

Track repaired

It was good to see the council carry out repair work to the walking track along Stoney Creek Road (pictured on page 2), opposite the Pine Grove and down the hill to Stoney Creek. The heavy rain in December scoured deep ruts right down the track to the bottom of the hill. Much of the gravel ended up in the creek and clogged the roadside drain. This time effort has been put into shaping runoffs along the track at intervals, and also adding some rock to slow the runoff. Hopefully this should help this problem from re-occurring in future.



About town



Local success in calisthenics

Melinda Conn

Upper Beaconsfield resident, Chelsea Conn was recently selected as part of the Victorian Calisthenic State Team. The team will compete at the National Titles in July at the Burswood Theatre in Perth. Chelsea, who is 15 years old, has been a member of Berwick Calisthenic Club for the past 12 years. Calisthenics is a uniquely Australian, artistic sport, combining elements of gymnastics, dance, apparatus, song and march.

Berwick Calisthenic Club was established in 1969 and this year will begin planning for its 40th year celebrations in 2009. Many Upper Beaconsfield residents have been involved with the club in the past including 11 girls currently. If you have an interest in being put on a mailing list to receive information on the 40th anniversary celebrations or have some history to share please phone Sue Jones

0417 139 197. For any other enquiries please phone Melinda on 5944 4010.



Playground upgrade plans

Pru Borgert

There are 200 toddlers in Upper Beaconsfield and no public parks that are safe and suitable for little ones! A group of parents are fundraising to extend and improve the parks in Upper Beaconsfield, and we need your help.

We will apply via Cardinia Council for a grant, which will match dollar-for-dollar the value of all money/volunteer labour/goods raised. Due to the rigours of playground regulations, the cost of approved equipment, soft-fall surfacing and safe materials is higher than ever before.

Ways you can help

- Cash/cheque donations can be made at the Office of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre – ask for the Playground Account.
- Companies wishing to make a donation will be gratefully acknowledged as sponsors on signage at the park.
- Qualified and unskilled labour will be required in July–August 2008 when the playground equipment is installed. There will be digging, cutting, mulch/sand filling, concreting ... lots of fun!
- On building day, we will require food for the workers, sand, timber, soft-fall mulch.
- We would love to sell your homemade goodies and other items at markets.
- If you work for a playground equipment company, please let us know!

Market Stalls February to April 2008

We will be selling goods at local markets to fundraise for new playground equipment.

Ways to contribute:

- Make craft items, to be sold at market stalls
- Make jams and chutney to sell (please label with all ingredients, date and maker's name)

PLAY-UP @ UPPER BEACONSFIELD

For more information and updates contact Pru at email borgerts@stepbystep.com.au

Dear local community group

Letter from Catherine Raven

The Pakenham and District Agricultural and Horticultural Society has reached a point where we are planning the future for the show society. We have to question the local needs in regards to what sort of attractions are suitable and will attract people into the local area.

We feel that it is imperative to continue to bring agricultural aspects into what is becoming a suburban community. The only way to achieve this is to continue holding one of the largest agricultural

shows in the state and to bring to the show people who would otherwise not attend.

With this in mind we have decided to offer two tickets to each local community organisation to allow two of their members to attend the show on Saturday 15 March for free. All we ask in return is that they attend a meeting after the show to give us some feedback.

Could you please discuss this with your committee and forward the names of your representatives to the Pakenham Show secretary Catherine Raven at 7 Brigantine Court Frankston 3199, or phone 0408 117 709 or email pakenham_show@optusnet.com.au



Community Centre

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 18 March 2008 at 8 pm

Wendy Hiam & Liz Grigg (Interim Coordinators)

Our AGM will be held in the Community Room at the Complex on 18 March 2008.

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre is run by a voluntary committee of management made up from enthusiastic members from our local community. Everyone is invited to attend and new committee members are most welcome. A number of committee members are moving on to new endeavours so we need your enthusiasm and involvement. Nomination forms are available from the Centre. For more information please contact the Community Centre on 5944 3484.

Classes at the Centre in term 1

Computer classes include getting started, my computer, surfing the web for seniors, Email and Internet, more MYOB and digital photos.

Work and life skills classes offered include Ebay and information sessions relating to money management, property investment and shares. Ask for our special offer for multiple bookings.

Children's classes this term include drama, classical ballet, jazz and tap, kid's craft, music and movement for pre-school children.

For the creative types we offer acrylic and water colour painting classes and mandala classes.

This term we are running Tai Chi, Chi Ball, twilight golf, tennis and jazz and tap for over 16s along with our usual fitness and yoga classes.

Special interest classes include reflexology of the feet, chainsaw maintenance, crystals, genealogy and beer and wine making. Local history expert Charles Wilson will be running talks on the history of Upper Beaconsfield. These sessions are very informative and interesting.

The Upper Beaconsfield Peddlers meet the 3rd Sunday of the month with their bicycles to explore off-road trails and cafes with other cycling enthusiasts of all levels. All are welcome. Contact Alison Ryan

for more details on 5944 3984 or dpryan@bigpond.net.au

For more information on any classes, or suggestions for new classes phone 5944 3484.

Education and training

The Community Centre offers quality training in a number of qualifications. Tutors delivering these courses embrace the Centre's philosophy of encouragement and support offered to their students while obtaining a qualification. Students come from all walks of life, and for some returning to the education system is a daunting prospect. However, students have often made the comment that attending classes at the Community Centre isn't like 'school' and they enjoy the friendly and relaxed environment where they are treated as individuals.

The Centre offers the following Nationally Recognised Courses in 2008. If you would more information contact Alison, Liz or Wendy on 5944 3484.

- Certificate IV in Training and Assessment TAA 40104
- Certificate III in Aged Care Work CHC 30102
- Certificate III in Disability Work units (specific units offered to Aged Care students who wish to graduate with a dual qualification or enhance your existing qualification.)
- Certificate III in Children's Services CHC 30402
- Apply First Aid HLTFA301B (replaces Course in First Aid Level 2-21593VIC)
- Perform CPR HLTCP201A (replaces CPR-Apply Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Module VBP 112).
- Expressions of interest taken for Certificate IV in Training and Assessment-Gap Course TAA 40104.

Payment plans

The Community Centre policy is to offer classes to all members of our community

regardless of their situation. Many students take advantage of the option to pay off the course fees by instalments. This gives them the opportunity to gain a qualification they may otherwise be unable to afford.

Community feedback

The UBCC offers a diverse range of courses, activities, training and information sessions. We are always happy to receive any feedback or requests.

Please feel free to let us know about:

- Sessions you would like us to run.
- Sessions we are running that you would like to do if they were held at a different time and/or day.

Upcoming Courses

Term 2 classes are currently being organised with karate classes for children and adults and beauty tips for 10-16 year olds with our qualified beautician.

The full term 2 program will be distributed at a later date and will also be on our website www.ubcc.org.au.

Crèche

The Community Centre Crèche is open from 8.45 am to 4 pm. Places are currently available. To book phone 5944 3484.

Community Learning Project

Outlook Community Centre together with the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre, Cardinia Casey Community Health Service and the Pakenham University of the 3rd Age (U3A) are offering one and half-day "taster" classes to the local community during the school term breaks in 2008.

There will be a variety of courses in different locations within the shire. Some of the courses on offer will be computers, craft, health and wellbeing, art etc. Only cost will be a gold coin donation. Classes for your children will be organised if there is a need while you are in your own class. Are you a new resident to Cardinia Shire, wanting to get to know your community and meet new people? This is an ideal opportunity not to be missed.

Upper Beac Association

Jennie Vaughan, President

At the December meeting of the UBA Graham Taylor, a local resident, was the guest speaker. He informed the meeting about trying to establish a branch of the Bendigo Bank in Beaconsfield. Questions from the floor were answered by the speaker. The key issues were the lack of access to ATMs in the area and the need to travel to Emerald or Berwick for day to day banking.

In General Business the topics covered included plans for Carols by Candlelight, storm water damage at the corner of Salisbury and Split Rock Roads, the Golf Club subdivision and the need to upgrade tracks along Split Rock Road.

It was suggested by Graham Jackson that a photo competition be organised for the 2009 Upper Beaconsfield Festival with the need for funding and prizes to be organised. The UBA is now developing the format and arrangements for the competition.

The first general meeting of the UBA for 2008 was held on 6 February; it was preceded by the Annual General Meeting. Most of the committee was re-elected and is looking forward to a successful year in 2008.

Residents are reminded that 2008 membership subscriptions (\$5 per household) are now due. The UBA needs membership funds to ensure the continuing publication of 'The Village Bell' and to work on behalf of the community to maintain Upper Beaconsfield as a great place to live. Please make payment through the mail or at select points in the Village (the Community Centre, the General Store and the Post Office) We need your support.

Reticulated sewerage services coming to UB

South East Water has announced that it plans to bring reticulated sewerage services to the Upper Beaconsfield community as part of its ongoing Backlog Sewer Program. The program has successfully provided much anticipated sewerage services to many townships previously reliant on septic tank systems, some of which were failing.

Village Bell printing service

Graham Jackson

The Village Bell is now the proud operator of a new RISOGRAPH RZ370 AW printer. This machine is capable of printing a range of paper sizes such as A3, B4, A4 and foolscap although A3 and A4 are most commonly used. Paper weights range from 46 to 210 grams/m². The printer produces its own stencil by either scanning a paper original or from a CD file entered via a computer coupled to the printer. Printing speeds are selectable up to 130 copies per minute. We presently have the ability to print both black and red. Hopefully we will be able to add further colour rolls should there be a demand. Each colour requires a pass through the printer, however

experience has shown very good register between our red and black print.

The reproduction of photographs is good however the end result depends to a great degree on the quality of the photographs supplied for printing. This is very much the case when there is more than one photograph to a print page and there is a difference in the density and contrast of the photographs. We have some capability to compensate but not a great deal.

The printer has quite a range of capabilities one of which is the ability to print "2 Up" meaning we can, for example, print two A4 pages on a single sheet of A3 paper such that the paper can then be folded magazine size – like the present format of the Village Bell. Tinted paper is also available.

**The next public meeting for the UBA will be held on
Wednesday, 2 April at 8 pm
Community Complex
Featuring presentation by SE Water on sewerage plans for UB
* Everyone is welcome ***

During a process of reviewing and prioritising townships for sewerage services some years ago, South East Water and Cardinia Shire Council agreed that Upper Beaconsfield Township should be included in the Backlog Sewerage Program. South East Water is now in a position to commence the planning and design phase of the Upper Beaconsfield Project with a view to commencing construction around mid 2009.

Under the Backlog Sewerage Program, sewerage facilities are provided to existing developed properties that are not suitable for continued use of septic tank systems. These properties will be identified by South East Water in consultation with Cardinia Shire Council. South East Water will present a program proposal to the April meeting of the Upper Beaconsfield Association and residents are welcome to attend. Alternatively, more information will be made available by South East Water via a community newsletter.

Carols

Neil McDonald

Once again, the Carols evening was very successful with the rain stopping early afternoon, just leaving things a little wet underfoot.

It was very well attended and our compere Greg Ross carried the show with his normal enthusiasm. For those people who helped to make the evening such a success, "THANK YOU". It is great to be able to rely on them for their continued support, but it would be even better if we could have more, younger volunteers to assist.

We hope to build a small pool of pianists so if anyone would like to be involved, please call Neil McDonald on 5944 3782.

The VB will print for non-commercial organisations and persons who are performing some form of public service, be it a sporting body, a charitable organisation and the like. Our charges are moderate and set to cover the costs of materials with a small margin to cover servicing and depreciation. Groups using the service can supply their own paper if they wish. The economics of using this printer favour longer rather than shorter runs. This does not mean short runs will not be considered but the cost per sheet goes up as the run size goes down, due mainly to ink losses when changing stencils.

We are unable to offer collating services.

If you are interested then give me a call on 5944 3554

Upper Beac Association

Citizen of the Year

Unfortunately, due to lack of nominations, the UBA regretfully announces that there is no COY for 2007. This has come about due to various reasons including withdrawal of some nominations and the fact that the nomination procedure was publicised late in the year when people were busy and did not have the time to think about and organise nominating someone. This year the UBA will look into ways of better promoting and organising the COY, so that local residents will have more time to recognise and nominate those members of the various community groups who are in fact doing such a great job. Note that since the Citizen of the Year was started in 1977, there was only one year when no single person or couple was awarded COY. Following the Ash Wednesday bush fires the COY was awarded to the whole Upper Beaconsfield community for the sterling task so many did to help get the community back on its feet.

Congratulations

Dianne and Ivan Golemac
on the birth of their son Austin
born 4 July 2007 3.05kg (6lb 7oz)

Photo Competition — 'Intrinsically Upper Beacy'

Cameron Rocke

Yes residents, get your cameras clicking. What we're after are those photos that capture the essence of what it is, to live in our beautiful village. For instance, capturing the unique roles that animals, plants, people — and their activities, landscape, buildings and structures play, to make Upper Beaconsfield tick. Samples of noteworthy entrants will be published in each edition of the Village Bell over the life of the competition. Remember, technical perfection is not the main criteria in selecting a winner, but it helps, so use your best camera available to generate entries. More details of the competition, including prizes and how to enter, will be posted shortly on our website. So snap to it.

Sample Entry: Roving Mist — Cameron Rocke



Ranges Ward News



Cr Graeme Legge

Upper Beaconsfield Sewer has now been included in the 'backlog sewer program'.

This news is welcomed. It has been planned to have representatives from South East Water attend Upper Beaconsfield Association Meeting in April to discuss the process and options such as local treatment and re-use or piping (back) to Beaconsfield.

The Village Festival feature of 2008 was perhaps the "Tower Run". Such creativity in the organisation of the program is commendable. Otherwise, well established 'favourites' continue to bring pleasure, don't they!

The review of Upper Beaconsfield's Strategy is expected to be completed by June 2008.

Current progression of the Review is based on community input from a previous occasion.

We look forward to the final outcome.

Our congratulations to those who attended an Australia Day event and a welcome to our new citizens.

Did you note that the promotion of bushfire preparation in Ranges Ward happily coincided with the hard and green waste collection before Christmas? The timing was appreciated by many and despite a few difficulties the collection was a considerable benefit. I can understand that a good many residents are already planning for the June collection which is only a few months away.

Beaconhills Country Golf Club currently has two applications with the Cardinia Council in relation to the proposed subdivision of golf club land and which could then be followed by the realignment of the subdivided titles to create seven saleable blocks (ranging in size from 1.5 to

2.8 ha) along McArthur Road. Residents are able to write to council both in support of the proposal and objecting to it.

Open Air Burning (according to the new Local Law on this matter) sees three zones in our townships:

- Zone 1: CBD — no burning without a permit.
- Zone 2: General residential areas of township — open air burning for fuel reduction or fire prevention permitted Thursday, Friday and Saturday between 9 am and 4 pm.
- Zone 3: All other areas — open air burning permitted during daylight hours except Sundays.

Mob 0418 318 392

Email g.legge@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Gembrook Electorate

Electorate news

Tammy Lobato MP

Upper Beaconsfield residents have joined the fight against genetically modified food crops. Laurie Pritchard is one resident to display a prominent **GM-Free Zone** sign at his property. The sign has become a talking point and has led to other residents contacting me to find out more about the implications of allowing genetically modified crops to be grown in Victoria.

A recent visit to the Victorian Parliament by Canadian farmers has indicated that supposed segregation of GM canola crops from GM-free crops does not work. Farmers in Canada trying to keep their food free from GM have had to bear the responsibility and the costs of doing so themselves and came to Victoria to warn our farmers against GM.

This does not bode well for our state with the moratorium on GM canola set to expire at the end of February. Residents wanting further information, or to find how to assist in the campaign to **Keep Victoria GM-Free**, should contact my office.

On 18 February I was speaking at the graduation of students from Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre who have successfully completed the requirements for the Certificate III in Aged Care and the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. I am always thrilled to attend these ceremonies and to celebrate as people embark on new careers and opportunities. The community centre does a remarkable job in enabling people to complete these studies in the local area as well as provide a range of recreation and leisure opportunities.



For those wishing to speak to me in person, I am conducting mobile offices again this year throughout the electorate, including in locations such as Warburton and Powelltown. The next Upper Beaconsfield mobile office will be held on 22 April at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex, and appointments can be made by telephoning my office on 9796 1987. Alternatively, arrangements can be made for earlier appointments at my Berwick office.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at tammy.lobato@parliament.vic.gov.au at any time.



Flora and Fauna

Trust for Nature open day — Protecting native bushland

Neil McDonald

The annual get-together of property owners within the Shire of Cardinia who have protected their native bushland with 'Trust for Nature Conservation Covenants' will be held on Sunday 27 April from 12.30 pm at "Cherry Ridge" 35 Barnes Drive, Guys Hill, 3807.

Melways Ref: 212 D2



The group's aim is to raise the profile of the Trust's work in relation to Conservation Covenants while getting to know each other and their properties.

The afternoon will consist of a BYO picnic lunch and drinks, an

informal discussion on the Group's activities and a guided tour of the property.

Various Trust for Nature staff will be attending and bringing everyone up to date with current developments.

Any landowners wishing to learn about the Trust's work and the Cardinia Shire's Rate Reduction and Biodiversity Incentive Scheme for covenanted properties are most welcome to attend.

Trust for Nature focuses on landscape scale conservation using land purchase, conservation covenants and a Revolving Fund. Trust for Nature is a non-profit organisation which works to protect remnant bushland — forever.

For further information contact Neil McDonald on 5944 3782 or email: neilmcd@cyberspace.net.au



Genoplesium despectans



Flora and Fauna

Indigenous garden plants are a good choice

Margaret Cromb

Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery

As I write this there is a steady fall of gentle rain and no need to water the vegetable garden. A beautiful day!

Probably most of us now have a garden which requires minimal watering, maybe we have done away with lawns and are using mulch extensively. Indigenous plants are adapted to our local conditions and require minimal maintenance. Cutting them back after flowering will keep them compact and green — now is a good time to do this. Grass tussocks benefit from being cut back severely at this time — they will come back green and lush after rain.

If you plant in autumn after the first soaking rains your plants will establish in time for summer. Small understorey plants will attract small birds around your house and are an endless source of pleasure. The addition of a water bath is a bonus for the birds and for you.

The nursery has a range of plants from grasses and groundcover to trees, all priced at \$1.50 per forestry tube, or \$1.30 each if you buy more than 50 tubes.

We also have plants for wetland and dam areas, ideal for establishing frog habitat.

If you have a roadside verge you would like to plant up as a screen you could approach the Shire of Cardinia for funding. Not only does this eliminate the need for mowing, it also provides habitat for local birds and wildlife. You will be aware that roads within a kilometre of the Upper Beaconsfield township are to be weeded by council contractors. Replacement indigenous plants are being

offered to those interested. Hopefully this will encourage people to deal with weeds on their side of the fence.

If you would like some advice or just to look around we would welcome a visit. We are open on Fridays from 12 noon–5 pm or by appointment, phone 9707 2415.

Cardinia Catchment Landcare Inc.

Margaret Cromb

The start of a new year, 2008, can you believe it!

We intend to start as usual with a visit to properties planted 3 years earlier, always an interesting and usually very encouraging event.

Our first meeting is at the end of the month when we will set dates for the Landcare plantings for this year. Ten already, plus three or four others doing their own plantings.

This involves a lot of work and a lot of Sundays. If anyone would like to join us they would be very welcome. It's fun and very rewarding. No experience required and all materials provided, including lunch.

As well as the activity on private land we are continuing to work at Beaconsfield Park, Beaconsfield and restoring indigenous vegetation to Cardinia Creek through a Melbourne Water Grant.

At the Berwick Show we shared a display with Melbourne Water alerting landowners to the funds and assistance available for bushland and creek restoration.

If you have any enquiries contact Margaret Cromb on 9707 2415 or call at the Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery on Fridays after 12 noon.



Wildlife Watch

Laura Levens

Talk about famous last words! December eventuated as the wettest here since 1983. I recorded 193.5 mm over eight wet days.



Hyacinth Orchid (*Dipodium roseum*)

In spite of that this year only amounted to 849 mm. My theory of what the year ahead holds depends on the experience of campers at Rosebud between Christmas and New Year: if they get washed out the year will be wet otherwise it will be dry. Will that heavy rain just before Christmas be too early to have the same effect or will my theory be blown?

Another question — why are cool changes so tardy in effect? Remember when a change would arrive, whipping through in a cloud of dust and litter along the street bringing a temperature drop in a few minutes?

There was a good crop of pink hyacinth orchids and small tongue orchids, but few lemon-coloured common wedge-pea and no red and yellow pea flowers on the small shrub, *Platylobium obtusangulum*. Coming up is the time to watch for small green, heart-shaped leaves with purple backs that belong to gnat orchids. A shy purple-flowered orchid that blooms

among grass is the sharp midge orchid. They both flower between April and June. *Epacris impressa* or common heath could be expected in April.

Populations of two species of beetle exploded during December. The honey-brown beetle (*Econolagria grandis*), the adult of the small black grub often seen skeletonising dead gum leaves, has been busy eating both dead and green plant material. A soldier beetle with dull olive-green wing covers and an orange belt (*Chaliognathus lugubris*) emerged in hundreds and indulged in an orgy of group sex on shrubs and grass clumps.





Village





Festival





Upper Beac CFA

Dedicated to the safety of our community

Liz Brandie - Secretary UBRFB

Our brigade has cause for celebration this year with three of our members receiving their Long Service Badges, presented by the CFA — Eric Bumpstead 50 years, Stan Hamilton 50 years and Rob Irving 25 years.

Eric Bumpstead was captain during the time of the Ash Wednesday fires that devastated Upper Beaconsfield, resulting in tragic loss of life and property in our community and surrounding districts. Stan Hamilton, Rob Irving and many of our current volunteers fought the fires tirelessly to protect our residents. This was an event we hope never repeats itself and we still remain vigilant.

These men are dedicated to the Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade and the safety of our community, and we warmly congratulate them for a job well done.



This year, marking the 25th Anniversary of the 16 February 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, we held a wreath laying service at the Critchley Parker Reserve Memorial for the fire fighters who lost their lives during the Ash Wednesday fires. Eric Bumpstead spoke of learning from tragic past experiences and putting that knowledge into future brigade training and exercises.

Are you prepared?

CFA has been conducting Fire Ready meetings in our area to provide information on personal safety and home protection should a bushfire threaten your property, including information on protecting your family and yourself during a wildfire, what you can do to help your home survive a wildfire, fire behaviour, weather and high risk days, how houses burn and personal protection, water, fire fuels and property access and road travel during wildfire.

The most important decision with the onset of a bush fire is: "Will I stay or will I go?"

Listen to the radio station 774 ABC Melbourne on the AM band to receive important fire updates of the progress of fire/s from the emergency services. Be aware the electricity supply could be cut due to fallen trees, so make sure your emergency radio is battery powered with adequate supply of spare batteries. (The old-fashioned transistor radios can be bought cheaply.)

If you elect to leave your property, leave early — don't wait for an evacuation warning as it may never come and by then it will be too late to evacuate.

It is physically impossible for the Emergency Services to alert every household in Upper Beaconsfield, as by that stage our members of the brigade are busy fighting the fire.

If you feel confident that you are physically able to defend your property, you should bear in mind during a bushfire water pressure in the mains will decrease dramatically due to the heavy demands and often the electricity supply will be interrupted. An independent water supply and pump is essential.

Have you prepared your property by clearing the roof gutters, dead branches, long grass and leaf litter from around your house including firewood stacks?

Do you have an emergency personal protection bushfire kit FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY already prepared and easily accessible? It should include:

- Transistor radio
- Batteries
- Torch
- Cotton overalls or loose pants and shirt
- Woollen jumper
- Sturdy leather boots and woollen socks
- Leather gloves
- Disposable face mask or nappies
- Hat (not synthetic)

Remember clothes made of synthetic materials will melt. During a bushfire it is very important to shield your body from radiant heat.

Did you know?

- A bushfire doubles its rate of spread (speed) for every 10 degrees of uphill slope.
- During a drought the dryness of the bush and native grasses will contribute to a more intense wildfire.
- Forest fires can travel up to 5 km/h and grassfires up to 18 km/h.

For more detailed information contact: Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667, or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Beaconhills subdivision

Strategy or subdivision?

*Graham Jolly and Albert Mew
Committee Members Upper Beaconsfield
Local Residents Group*

On 24 January 2008, a group of Upper Beaconsfield residents concerned about the implications of the Beaconhills Country Golf Club subdivision proposal held an information session in the Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall. They invited the golf club, the Shire of Cardinia Planning Department (who declined), and the Green Wedges Coalition to provide speakers, followed by a community member of the steering committee responsible for the Upper Beaconsfield Township Strategy.

Beaconhills CGC aims, via an extraordinary two-step process, to get around local and State planning policy prohibiting residential development outside the township boundary. The club claims sacrificing nine holes of the Lakes course to create a seven-lot residential subdivision along McArthur Road is the only practical way to buy itself out of its financial problems. The bigger issue, however, is not the viability of the golf course, but whether or not subdividing to an average of less than two hectares is permitted in the Rural Conservation Zone when the Planning Scheme specifies a minimum lot size of fifteen hectares. More important still is how such a precedent would affect the long-term future of Upper Beaconsfield's rural bushland character so cherished by the community.

Louis Delacretaz, a green wedge policy expert and ex-mayor of Yarra Ranges, was closely involved in the development of the State Government's green wedges legislation. He explained why the golf club's proposal conflicts with its protective policies and described the likely detrimental repercussions for both Upper Beaconsfield and the other 11 green wedges around Melbourne should the current applications be approved.

Danie McNeil, the golf club's general manager, then described the proposal and the planning mechanism by which the club hopes to achieve it. She suggested firstly, that the club has done all it can to reduce expenditure and secondly, that substantially more must be spent on improvements in order to turn around its dwindling membership status. She conceded, however, that the sell-off would not necessarily guarantee the club's long-term viability.

Finally, Lindsay Byrne outlined the relevant parts of the Upper Beaconsfield Township Strategy, explaining that several aspects of the Beaconhills CGC proposal appear to be outside the meaning and spirit of this document, forcing Council to choose between supporting either the application or the Strategy. He said planning applications should be viewed in the context of the legislation as a whole. It is inappropriate for anyone to seize upon one small section

that, viewed in isolation, might appear to support a proposal with the expectation that the responsible authorities and the community will disregard the overall intent of the policies.

The meeting was a genuine attempt by the residents to provide a forum for open discussion and for important queries to be answered. Nevertheless, a number of issues remain unresolved, including:

- This application, if approved, would set the scene for future residential subdivisions of green wedge land and subsequent loss of Upper Beaconsfield's special bushland amenity.
- It would set a dangerous precedent for basing planning decisions on landholders' financial circumstances.
- It would create traffic and road maintenance problems, placing an unfair burden on McArthur Road residents.
- Residential developments are required to provide services such as water and reticulated sewerage. These are not available.
- Even if manipulating the legislation could provide a loophole, why would Cardinia Shire Council support such a device and compromise its own Planning Scheme?
- No satisfactory explanation has been given for putting the clubhouse on a separate title.
- There are significant environmental constraints with the site and its zoning that have not been addressed, including those identified in the Upper Beaconsfield Township Strategy.
- Other golf clubs have solved their financial problems without resorting to selling land.
- This would be the third sell-off. Relying on this strategy to stay solvent is unsustainable.
- The club could turn around and sell all or part of the remaining land in the future, because a Section 173 Agreement prohibiting further subdivision can be simply nullified by agreement between the club and Council.

The Cardinia Planning Scheme and related strategies have been designed to protect the amenity of the community in the interests of both current and future generations. Surely the integrity of the Planning Scheme and the long-term survival of the area's special character are the issues of paramount importance here.

No-one wants to witness the demise of the Beaconhills Country Golf Club, but this is not an application for financial or management assistance. It is an application to create seven lots with a total area less than the minimum stipulated in the Planning Scheme for a single lot. Its approval may or may not help the club to survive, but it will more likely spell the beginning of the end of Upper Beaconsfield as we know it.

Nick Karanzoulis

Principal Beaconsfield Upper Primary School

Smooth start to year

We have had a smooth start to the 2008 school year with 42 new Preps starting their formal education at BUPS. Our extensive transition program has made the settling in process an enjoyable one, with most Preppies showing confidence and enthusiasm for an exciting year's learning ahead. Parents of the new Preps and new families to BUPS were welcomed with a BBQ tea organised by the PFA.

Work on our new building is proceeding according to schedule. We anticipate moving into the building at the end of April.



As part of our school's induction program, the whole school has participated in the Celebrating BUPS unit in the first three weeks of the school year.

The unit has included sessions on Getting To Know Me And You; Appreciating Similarities And Differences; Liking Me Liking You; Identifying And Communicating Feelings; Being Positive and Bullying. Activities have included a swim carnival, a Teddy Bear's Picnic and workshops with Circus Maximus. The unit came to a meaningful end with our school's involvement at the Village Festival where the HPV carts were available for our community to enjoy. The children's art work was on display and parents looked after a couple of food stalls, truly reflecting our ethos that BUPS is a part of the community.

Swimming

In early February, we saw sunshine, smiles and wonderful swimming prowess from our children at the swim carnival. We had a wonderful band of parents helping judge on the day as well as cheering on the children and putting up shade tents. Their support was invaluable. Congratulations to Guys Hill House that took out the honours on the day. The swim team has been training in the mornings before school in preparation for their participation at the interschool swimming carnival at the Oasis Pool in Dandenong, later this term.

Captains

Our student leadership team is headed by our two school captains, Alice Kludass and Daniel Smith. They received their badges at a special assembly



where Murrundindi, Head man of the Wurundjeri Clan presented the children with their badges of responsibility.

Youth leadership

Children in grades 5 and 6 are participating in an excellent Youth Leadership Program over eight weeks. A consultant from Advanced Presentation Skills is teaching children speaking and leadership skills that are essential to an individual's effective communication and a positive contribution to society in future years. The course will provide opportunities for the children to acquire skills that can be utilised at school, at home, at secondary school and eventually, in the work place. Children have been preparing and rehearsing speeches as well as making off the cuff speeches to their peers. The program will conclude with a "graduation night" where the children will present to the parents.

2007 update

In November, twenty students from Beaconsfield Upper Primary School went to Maryborough in country Victoria to participate in the RACV Energy Breakthrough. The RACV Energy Breakthrough is an exciting program designed to provide opportunities for students, teachers, parents and local industry to work together to design and construct a vehicle, a machine or innovation in technology that will represent an energy breakthrough.

BUPS entered two teams in the Human Powered Vehicle Try-athlon and one team in the Crafty Designs water technology competition.

The water technology students did a fantastic presentation with a rap about caring for our planet and their solar and air powered craft was successful in making the distance across the water channel. Slightly more tail wind may have helped their speed! The six members of the 'Rock Stars' team were delighted to receive an encouragement award for their team work and efforts.

The sixteen HPV team members have worked hard all year, training, competing in endurance events, improving their

vehicles, fundraising and working as a team to write a display and presentation about their journey to Maryborough, and about the environmental initiatives they have been involved in with the school community. For the HPV Try-athlon event teams of eight are judged on a display and presentation, design and construction, a sprint relay, obstacle course relay and an eight hour endurance race. The 'V8 Chickens' team consisting of four girls and four boys, won all track events and were awarded first place overall in the primary schools section. The all boys team, 'Rev'd Up' had to compete in the open section against secondary schools and came fifth overall which is an amazing feat! 'Rev'd Up' also won first place in the Display and Presentation category of the Try-athlon.

The students, parents and teachers involved in the event displayed values of team work, persistence and community spirit and had a fantastic time over the four days.

For the 36th year in a row, children at BUPS were visited by the same Santa in the last week of the school year to collect the lovely gifts from our children. Santa's helpers (Salvation Army) deliver the

many gifts and toys to children that are less privileged than ours. This is a great tradition at our school and we feel rather proud of the smiles that we put on those special children's faces.




Toy Library

Marie Rogers

This year will be Toy Library's 25th year in operation thanks to the ongoing support from local families. And like many toy libraries we are run by a committee of volunteers and supported by members who volunteer for duty and involve themselves with our fundraising events.

On Committee this year are Kathryn Smith, Kylie Tymensen, Cathy Fischer, Marie Rogers and we welcome back Cathy Pagenstecher. We also wish to thank Susi Sironic and her family for her dedication and doing a great job on the toy library committee for the past three years.

Our 1st meeting for the year highlighted many achievements made in 2007 and some exciting up and coming events for 2008. Last year we purchased 50 new toys and puzzles costing just under \$2 000 and will continue to update and replace our well loved toys.

To restore some of the toy library's history it was decided that we keep the original 'Teddy' logo as part of our correspondence stationery and promotional material. Available archive records show that the logo was first used some time prior to 1994 and has some significance and recognition to past volunteers. We are proud to use it 14 years on.



For Sale: Inflatable jumping castle

As mentioned in the last Bell we will be selling some of our ageing but favourite toys, games and puzzles to make room for more new toys. This popular castle is suitable for small areas and safe for young children, can take up to 18 kg at one time. Price \$30. Try before you buy also available for viewing at Toy Library. For further information contact the Community Centre on 5944 3484

Wanted! New or pre-loved maternity and children's wear

This year we will be having a Mums and Bubs Stall. Our first mini clothing market will be held at toy library on Saturday 15 March and the following Thursday 20 March during library times and if successful will be repeated later in the year. You may find a bargain or two and you will be helping the Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library. We require maternity, baby and kids clothing and shoes – please leave clothing at toy library during toy library opening hours only, thanks, or contact Cathy on 5944 4919.

Cookbook

Do you have a favourite family recipe that is popular, quick

and easy, yummy or just a kid's favourite?

If so, and if you would like to share it with others as part of a printed cookbook, send us your recipe at bktymsen@yahoo.com.au Handy cooking hints, food storage and cooking techniques, easy kid's snacks, lunch and dinner ideas, healthy slices, short, funny cooking stories or sayings are also welcome.

Annual Shopping Tour

Put Saturday 13 September in your diary! It's on again, planned to be the best ever — showbags, prizes, great food, lots of outlets and fun. Some feedback from previous tours: "Highly recommended" "One of the best tours I've been on", "Let me know when the next one's on", "This is my 4th tour with UBTL and I'll be back in 2008", "Had a great day out and got lots of Christmas gifts out the way" and "Loved morning tea!"

This all day fun-packed tour will be booked out quickly. If you would like to join us or want more information send your emailing details to Kathryn at dkbe@aapt.net.au

2008 Toy Library membership now open

Still \$20 per year plus \$10 Community Centre membership, if not already a member. Open Thursdays and Saturdays 9.30 am–10.30 am during school term. Want to be on our mailing list? Send your details to Kylie at bktymsen@yahoo.com.au or drop into the library and see our fantastic range of toys while you are there at the Community Complex, Salisbury Road Upper Beaconsfield, tel. 5944 3484.



Upper Beac Pony Club

A galloping start to a busy year ahead

Marg Jones

After nearly six months of no pony club activities due to the equine influenza outbreak in NSW and QLD last year the restrictions on local horse competitions and gatherings have finally been relaxed. This means that it's back to business for the Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club.

The year started off with the Christmas Gymkhana which we held in mid January (deferred from last year due to EI restrictions). It was great to see everybody back and having fun again. With four rings going, the Show ring, Pony Club, Handy Mount and Show Jumping it kept all riders and their parents very busy and it was pleasing to see that everybody went home with a ribbon. Thanks to all the 'behind the scenes' volunteers who make these type of events

happen — scorers, canteen people (who kept us well fed all day), the ring marshals and those who set up and take down the rings and equipment.

As well as our monthly rallies (held on the 3rd Sunday of the month), this year we are looking forward to a riding camp, zone game competition, combined training day and our major fundraiser for the year, the Cup Day Show Jumping Event.

Our Annual General Meeting is fast approaching and will be held on 28 March at the Pine Grove Hotel.

Should anyone in our community be interested in joining our club, please don't hesitate to contact us on 5944 4321 to learn more about this wonderful youth movement.



Cricket Club

The finals race

Andy Haythorpe

As the end of the season approaches everyone's attention turns to the finals race.

Scott Pitcher's B grade squad is having a solid season so far, putting in consistent performances. They are sitting pretty at the top of the table, hungry to go all the way this season. The whole club is behind you guys and good luck for the finals.

Shaun 'Headbutt' Hassall's loyal crew of soldiers have marched up the ladder from 10th to 4th in the last three rounds. A crushing outright win over a despondent Beaconsfield

side catapulted them into finals contention. If they can maintain this level of cricket anything seems possible come March.

The F Troopers are on the brink of a finals birth sitting just outside the four by one win. Keep up the great work troopers, listen to your wise leader Stuart Black — he will guide you towards greatness. Don't forget to keep the fluids up boys; you don't want to get dehydrated.

U15 White are a great bunch of kids led by the Hassall brothers. They have had a competitive year playing great cricket. Keep enjoying your cricket boys as you have a bright future ahead of you at the UBCC.

The Maroons led By Rob Kay have had a great year so far with the finals looking promising for them. All the best for a super finals series lads.

Briffa's blasters the U13 Whites are enjoying a rewarding year. They have had some memorable wins putting them in good stead for next year.

Duff man's U13 Maroon side are firmly in the top four looking forward to a successful finals campaign.

I hope all the U11s have had an enjoyable season so far. Thanks to Johnny Mac and Joycey for all their efforts.

Again best of luck everyone as season 2007/08 looks to be an encouraging one for the club. Hope to see you all back in 2008/09 as an exciting chapter for the club seems only a turn of the page away.

Upper Beac Tennis Club

The summer season comes to a close at the tennis club

Callen O'Brien

Are there any ladies out there looking for a hit of tennis during the week? The Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club has a few midweek ladies teams and can always do with extra permanent players or emergencies to fill in. We have teams in both the Peninsula Tennis Association and Dandenong District Tennis Association, so you can be guaranteed to play at some great clubs. Midweek ladies is a fantastic opportunity for a good hit of tennis, an always impressive lunch as well as a chance to socialise with many other ladies. If you are interested in finding out more, please call Jenny McCormick on 5944 3617.

Did you make it to our Christmas party in early December? We had a fantastic night and a great turnout of members, with everyone witness to some high quality tennis. Congratulations to Brett Hillier for

defeating Sam Hall for his first men's singles title. Peter Puts and Michael Blackman defeated Matt Hendrie and Adrian Winther in the men's doubles; Laura Scott defeated Sophie Gajnic in the girls' singles; Sam Hall defeated Adrian Winther in the boys' singles. Well done to all who competed; the standard of tennis was fantastic. Those who attended the Christmas party also got the opportunity to enjoy the annual spit roast which is always a huge hit. Santa also paid a visit with lots of little sweets for the kids.

The club has only a few more weeks to go in the summer season. Best of luck to all of those teams competing in the finals and well done to all competitors throughout the season. As summer comes to an end, registrations begin to fill for the 2008 winter season. Anybody wanting to play Saturday competition can call Callen on 5944 3430. If there are any juniors interested in playing, please contact Leonie Collins on 5944 3596 for more information.

Night social hits are starting up again at the moment, so if you wanted to have a hit and to socialise after work, contact Ian Stanley on 0417 581 001 for information on Monday night tennis, Nick Gamble on 0438 443 756 for Wednesday night tennis or David Harvey on 0400 457 505 for Thursday night tennis.

Thanks to everyone who came along for the first UBTC Social Night of 2008 on the evening of the Australian Open men's final. Being the Sunday of a long weekend meant that most of us could enjoy the game without having to worry about getting up early for work on the Monday morning. We had all of the available courts being used for a hit from about 4 pm and I cooked up a world class BBQ of snags and onion in bread for everyone for dinner. I think everyone would agree that it was a great success and we hope to continue these social nights more and more into the future.

Upper Beac Riding Club

Riding club soldiers on

Caroline Taylor

Upper Beaconsfield Riding Club was forced to be creative during recent equine influenza bans to keep the club functioning without horses. Club president Pam Edwards said that club members still wanted to meet, so they had to devise other horse-related activities to keep members amused until the ban on horse gatherings was lifted.

Given that planned fundraisers, such as a navigation ride through Upper Beaconsfield, had to be postponed, the club organised an alternative competition that met all the bio-security requirements, while still keeping the competitive spirit alive. The club's first video dressage competition allowed competitors to film their tests at their own arenas, safely away from other horses, and send them in to be judged by an official HRCVA judge against others of their own level.

While it was quite a change to sit in a clubroom and watch television, instead of sitting at the edge of an arena, it was an enjoyable and entertaining experience, with the luxury of instant replay. The judge's comments were written on each competitor's test and ribbons returned for the lucky placegetters, who received their results via mail the next week. Twenty-five riders entered from clubs across Victoria, and interstate. Pam said 'This was a great opportunity for everyone — particularly those new to dressage

and for those who know they perform better without the nerves generated by the competition atmosphere.'

The club's activities are gradually returning to normal, as the restrictions are eased, and UBRC will host its annual dressage day again on 4 May at Akoonah Park in Berwick. For any information on the club, go to www.ubrc.com.au





Upper Beac Scout Group

Confident young people

Janet Granger-Wilcox – Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group

I vividly remember my Queen's Scout expedition (and so probably does the village masseur, Kathy McGrath, who was also on it!) Halfway down the Tambo River we broke a canoe. It was getting on dark, we were nowhere near civilisation, and there were no such things as emergency beacons.

But we had been in Scouting long enough to know what to do. We camped for the night, found our way to the nearest farm the next morning, and soon had our Venturer leader on his way to pick up the broken canoe. We continued, and completed, the expedition.



L-R: Max Hudson, Callum Stevens, Jordan Whalley, Jake Thomas

Cub Scouts all help each other, and try to help other people too.

Each week you'll get together with other boys and girls your age and be led into adventure! You'll wear your own Cub Scout uniform to show you're one of us. And you'll be able to collect special badges to put on your uniform to show your achievements.

We spend weekends away together camping, fishing and exploring. We go to sports meetings, visit factories, go to the zoo, the museum, or the fire department headquarters. We learn bushcraft, and we learn how be kind to the environment.

There's a lot more Cub Scouts do too. Why not come along and find out? The Upper Beaconsfield Cub Scouts meet on Monday nights and new Cubs are always welcome. To have a chat about joining, you can phone our Group Leader, Paul Deady, on 5944 4248.

In the next few Village Bells, we'll tell you what Scouts (10½–14½ years), Venturers (14½–18 years) and Rovers (18–26 years) get up to!



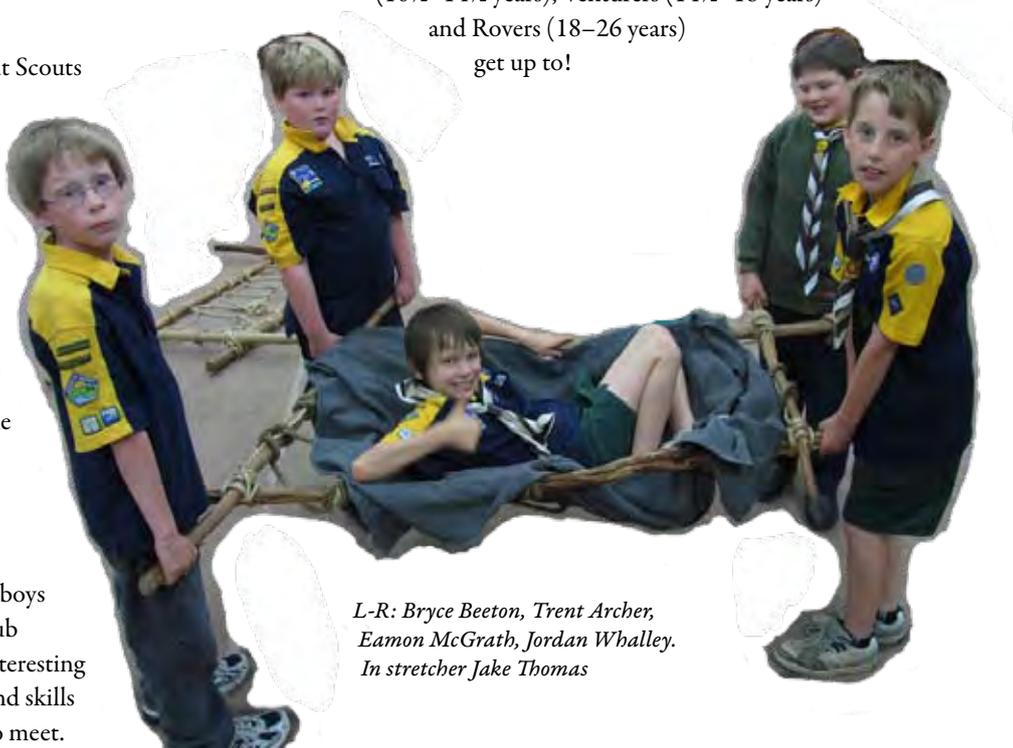
Abseiling: James Cunningham

Skills like canoeing are great to learn, but Scouts Australia uses those skills as a means to an end. We develop young people who are confident, who know how to use their initiative, and whose values are shaped by teamwork, camaraderie and respect.

The Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group has recently had an influx of new leaders and youth members. Maybe this year — the Year of the Scout and the centenary of Scouting in Australia — is the year to join!

Cub Scouts

Our youngest section Cub Scouts is for boys and girls aged from 7½ to 10½ years. Cub Scouts have a lot of fun doing a lot of interesting things! There are games to play, codes and skills to learn, places to see and new friends to meet.



L-R: Bryce Beeton, Trent Archer, Eamon McGrath, Jordan Whalley. In stretcher Jake Thomas



Australian Red Cross

Red Cross Calling needs more volunteers

Barbara Jackson

Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit

Red Cross volunteers are out in the community collecting for the annual Red Cross Calling doorknock usually held in March, but because of an early Easter this year it is taking place from mid February to mid March. Volunteers collecting for the first time are Gary Boynes, Jane Darlington, Vivian Fisher, Ian Frankcombe, Joyce Hammond, Ali Hudson, Tony Knight, Jennifer McCormick, Trudi Paton, Anita Rowe, Kevin Seaman and Sue Weidemann.

At time of writing, volunteer collectors are still needed to cover Payne, O'Neil, Telegraph and Hughendon Roads. If you can help by giving a few hours of your time to cover a section of these areas, please contact area co-ordinator Barbara Jackson (5944 3554).

Local residents are very generous supporters of Red Cross and during the doorknock last year donations amounted to \$6 656.90.

The Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit wishes to thank all who supported Australia Red Cross by purchasing Christmas merchandise. Volume of sales via the Unit was in excess of \$4 100. Included in this total was \$1 784.70 worth of Christmas cards, diaries and calendars sold by the volunteer staff at the Berwick Mechanics Institute Library. The Unit wishes to thank the Library

Committee, volunteer staff and borrowers for supporting Red Cross so generously each year.

The Christmas raffle was drawn during the Unit's Christmas lunch on 14 December. The raffle raised \$1 300 and lucky winners were Betty McKay, Hugo Taylor and Colleen Hodson. Thank you to all who purchased tickets.

Beaconhills Christian College again entered the Red Cross Murray Marathon and achieved great results. The commitment of the children, the school, families and support groups is greatly appreciated by Red Cross. Congratulations to all involved.

The Unit is looking to attract new members to keep the voluntary work of Red Cross going strongly in our area. The Unit has a proud history dating back to 1914, the year Red Cross was established in Australia. Unfortunately during the past year the Unit lost five dedicated long term members. It is with sadness the Unit said vale to Una Bear, Peg Bellair, Doreen Booth, June Pitcher and Marie Womersley.

My apologies for not representing Red Cross at the Village Festival this year as I was attending a family celebration in Perth. We really do need more Upper Beaconsfield members in our Unit!

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554



The good news from St. John's

Rev. Iain Hanson

The family of St. Johns pray that all readers had a blessed, happy and safe Christmas and that the New Year will bring you great blessings in whatever comes your way.

Our Christmas period was exciting and renewing as we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Often at Christmas we get the opportunity to meet family and friends of parishioners who are visiting them from rural Victoria or interstate, and sometimes overseas. And again this year was no different with guests from Canberra, the UK and recent migrants from Zimbabwe.

Our special Christmas family service was a great success. Puppets Fergal and Orio the monkey debated which was the best Christmas present ever, settling for a super soaker 1 million until they were reminded that it was Christmas and Jesus was the best gift ever.

And then we had the puppet Sherlock Hemlock, private detective, assist us to solve the mystery of Christmas. After a few false starts in which he went off to Bethlehem to find Jesus, and a few hints, he came to the conclusion that Jesus can't be found in Bethlehem these days, but

in our hearts, through the Holy Spirit. Every time that the puppets appeared, the toddlers' faces would light up, and even some of the parents had a good laugh at the jokes. We're now in the stages of planning another special family service for Easter, on Palm Sunday, 16 March at 10 am. All are welcomed to come and join us, and see what our puppets will get up to next.

All our regular activities are under way by now: playgroup, Christian religious education at Upper Beac primary; men's breakfasts; Bible studies and of course our regular services (8.30 and 10 am every Sunday; Salisbury House at 11 am every third Thursday of the month).

Our Easter Services this year will be: Good Friday at 9 am and Easter Sunday at 8.30 and/or 10 am. All are welcome to join us.

Rev. Iain Hanson

Church Office: 5944 3862

Web Address: www.stjohnsupperbeaconsfield.com.au





Beaconhills Golf Club

Danie McNeil

Graham Kelly retires

2 February was a busy day and night at Beaconhills Country Golf Club. It was the first round of the club championships, the new deck was opened and over 150 members attended the summer evening on the lawn to enjoy some great music, fabulous food and to recognise Club Professional Graham Kelly for his services to the club as he retired.



Graham has been the professional at Beaconhills since 13 December 1975 — a total 32 years. Graham began working with

his brother Geoff and then stood alone in 1975 and took on a young trainee by the name of Mark Griffin. Graham and Mark have worked together since then and Mark became a partner of the business in 1983. Mark is continuing at Beaconhills as the Professional.

Graham has had a distinguished career and is certainly well respected within the golf industry. Graham until recently was the chairman of the On-Course National Golf Shops and previously he was the Vice President of the PGA of Australia.

Many a story has been told about Graham, apparently it is he we have to thank for the clubhouse remaining after almost all was demolished in the Ash Wednesday bushfire. Of course it was a good idea at the time! Graham sought shelter in the dam while the fire passed, only to realise he had left the takings in his car; he risked his life to retrieve the money, which later Marlene had to hang out on the clothes line to dry as Graham had again taken shelter in the dam. I am sure Graham and Marlene no longer put their money on the clothes line, but it may be worth a look!

Graham has always had Beaconhills at heart and the service he has provided to both members and greenfee players has been appreciated. His knack for remembering people's names is amazing and his efficiency and professionalism has always been valued.

On Saturday 2 February 2008 Graham was presented with Honorary Membership in recognition of his service to the club. Member Stuart Butler presented Graham with the ancient Pro Shop Calculator, with its numbers worn off after many years of use which had been mounted with a plaque thanking Graham for the 'many good deals' that the same calculator had produced.

Graham in response thanked the club, the board and the members for the past 32 years, which he thoroughly has enjoyed. Graham warned Mark Griffin that he was now a member and he could make a complaint about him and then went on to recall the first time he ever met Mark and Andrew Conn (Beaconhills Hospitality Manager). The boys appeared in their school uniforms to play golf, as coincidentally they had

'missed the bus'. The bus service seemed to be particularly unreliable in the 1970s and Graham did wonder how it was they both managed to miss the bus together.

On behalf of the members, board and staff of Beaconhills Country Golf Club, we thank Graham for his service to the club and we wish him and his wife Marlene well in this new chapter of their lives.

NSD Homes Pro Am 29 February 2008

Paul Damjanovic the owner of NSD HOMES has come back on board for the third consecutive year as the major sponsor of the Beaconhills Pro Am. 2008 will see some exciting changes for the Pro Am with a Professional Shoot Out – UNDER LIGHTS, taking place on the 9th hole of the Old Course at the conclusion of the PM round.

Pros will shoot for the flag on the 9th from approximately 120 m and the winner will take home an extra bonus of \$500! That will certainly add to what is already a fantastic night with Rick & The Legends rocking out on the lawn, which is open to all of the local community to enjoy and there is no fee to attend. Beaconhills invites you to make a night of 29 February, which happens once every four years. Bring your picnic rug and dancing shoes and spend an evening at your local club.

Morning player field positions are still available for golfers for \$45, which includes a breakfast bacon and egg roll, golf with two professionals, prizes and lunch. Members from other clubs are welcome to enter and there is no green fee payable.

New memberships at Beaconhills

Beaconhills Country Golf Club understands that it is getting harder to make time for your golf and as a result have introduced a 6 month membership and a 9 hole membership. The 6 month membership is ideal for those with seasonal sporting commitments such as football, netball and cricket. Players can select either six months from 1 April until 30 September or from 1 October until 31 March. Alternatively if you only have a couple of hours for golf, a 9 hole membership fits perfectly. During daylight savings the club has twilight competitions on Wednesday nights with a hit off between 3 pm and 6 pm, with bistro meals available and guests welcome. Furthermore a new 9 hole competition has just commenced on Fridays which is open to members and guests accompanied by a member. The club has also been approached to develop a 'neighbourhood' membership and when it has been finalised, information will be provided to all the households in Upper Beaconsfield through a letter drop.

Beaconhills appreciates the support of the local community and

we encourage residents to enjoy our beautiful facility through green fee play, membership, joining us for dinner, hosting your next party with us or coming along to a free night of entertainment on the Pro Am Night. For any membership, function or club query, please don't hesitate to contact the club on 5945 9210.

