

# UPPER BEACONSFIELD

# VILLAGE

# BELL

Issue No. 173 September 2008

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

Upper Beaconsfield Association

## Thirty years of Village Bells

*Charles Wilson*

The first issue of the Village Bell appeared in July 1978. This issue, No. 173, celebrates 30 years of publication.

### Village events leading to publication of first Bell

Early in 1973 the Berwick and Pakenham Shires were divided. Later that year feeling ran high when the new Pakenham Shire proposed to widen the road through Upper Beaconsfield.

Jeanette Ballinger, a former long time resident, remembers: "It was arranged that the Shire Engineer would meet the public at the milkbar to provide details. Such a crowd of irate citizens met the poor man that no explanations were possible – the meeting was postponed".

A group of villagers then decided that a village association should be formed, with the main objectives of giving the Upper Beaconsfield

public an official voice with the Council and ensuring that the rural atmosphere of the village and surrounding area was preserved. At the inaugural meeting, chaired by Councillor Ted Owen on 6 November 1974, George Silberbauer was elected President, Beryl Hails - Secretary and Jeanette Ballinger - Treasurer.

It was decided the association would be named the Beaconsfield Upper Association, later changed to the Upper Beaconsfield Association.

During 1975, an Association Constitution was drafted. Topics discussed included the proposed quarry at Officer, the possibility of reticulated water for the village (achieved in 1978), the removal of hazardous trees on Salisbury Road and the road widening.

John Milligan became President in 1976 and 1977. Discussions included the road through the village, traffic signs, the proposed

*continued on page 10*



*Beaconsfield-Emerald Road being widened in c1974, shown here intersecting with Quamby Road. Cameron Rocke says that an unforeseen effect of this "progress" was a continuing 30 year spate of regular car accidents because drivers sped up thinking the replacing smoother corner could be taken at high speed. (Photo: Phillip Rocke)*

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## Rainfall at Barkala, Beaconsfield-Emerald Road

George Moir

Month	40 yr average	2007	2008
Jan	65.4	61.1	26.0
Feb	55.4	26.2	48.0
Mar	64.7	61.5	22.6
Apr	77.9	20.3	53.6
May	88.0	82.2	43.8
Jun	79.8	89.0	60.2
Jul	79.6	112.5	74.4
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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>946.2</b>	<b>873.2</b>	

The low rainfall has continued over the last three months with the May to June period well below average, but in July only a minor shortfall. This has resulted in a year to date (end of July) total rainfall of 328.6 mm compared with the 40-year average of 510.8 mm, a shortfall of 182.2 mm.

We are now in the position that spring rainfall must exceed well above average to produce a minimum of 700 mm for the year 2008 and, hopefully, the end of drought conditions.

# Ranges Ward

Cr Graeme Legge

The 'Upper Beaconsfield Township Strategy' is progressing to the point where it will shortly be presented to Council for endorsement (or otherwise). This (draft) document will then be available to residents for perusal and for comments. Written corrections, suggestions, omissions will be invited. In my opinion, it reads well up to this stage.

The above draft strategy includes reference to the recent public meeting in Upper Beaconsfield regarding 'Fire Refuges'. Those present concluded that while informal gatherings may well happen, the CFA view prevails that residents should either plan to 'stay and defend' or plan to leave. Mention is also made of current Open Air Burning.

The Council Budget for the current financial year shapes the main activities and projects in this present year. While always desiring to reduce the overall debt burden, it is reassuring to note that it's considered to be an entirely manageable amount.

Community Capital Works Grants have recently been announced with a number of beneficiaries being in Upper Beaconsfield. Another Ranges Ward resident has been announced as the winner of the Stan Henwood Award for widespread and long community service. He is Bob Farr, current President of the Gembrook Township Committee, notwithstanding his being 'The Fat Controller' at Puffing Billy's 'Thomas the Tank Engine's' outings.



# About town



## Council to get tough on unregistered recreational vehicles

Noel Ling

Cardinia Council is currently considering the introduction of By-Laws that will give Police (and/or authorised officers) the power to confiscate unregistered recreational vehicles that are used illegally on public roads and in parks. The definition of recreational vehicles includes monkey bikes, trail bikes, mini bikes and quad bikes. Motorised lawn mowers and tractors may also be considered as being in this category, if they are causing a public nuisance.

The Council are studying the effect of a By-Law introduced by Frankston Council in October 2007.

Under the Frankston Council rules, it is an offence to ride/drive these unregistered vehicles on roads and in public places, and they can be impounded by authorised officers.

## Kangaroos and dogs do not mix

Helen Smith

Living as we do only 10 minutes from the suburbs down the hill, we often forget how close we are to wildlife.

A recent incident involving our family dog should serve warning to other residents in Upper Beac. We live on one of the main sealed roads and I often take the dog for a walk along the track. One day, at about 10.30 in the morning, the dog noticed a very large kangaroo and took off in hot pursuit. They disappeared down behind the shrubbery at the back of a large block. There was a yelp and then silence.

Running down to see what happened I spied the dog, sitting in shock looking very sorry for himself. When he tried to walk he dragged a back leg and sported a wound inflicted from the kangaroo. A trip to the emergency vet and my wallet over \$800 lighter, the dog was patched up and on the way to recovery. He was lucky as the injury was not severe. The vet informed us that a month or so earlier another dog had been brought in with a ripped back.

A neighbour of ours recently collided with a kangaroo on Albers Road, which led to over \$3 000 worth of repairs to his car and the inconvenience of having to organise alternative transport while the car was repaired.

These things all go to show we must be aware that wildlife is all around us and that we need to be careful, and treat their presence with respect. We do not want to cause heedless damage to wildlife and the financial costs can be considerable too.



The first offence attracts a six months impoundment, a \$250 release fee and a holding fee of \$300. The penalty for a second offence is a 12 month impoundment, a \$250 release fee, and a holding fee of \$600.

The council can destroy any impounded vehicle if the owner has not paid fines within seven days of receiving a penalty notice. (At this stage, there have been over 70 vehicles impounded and 48 destroyed.)

Cardinia Council will be examining the overall effect of this By-Law at Frankston, after it has been in operation for one year (October 2007 to October 2008) and, based on the results, will consider introducing similar By-Laws.

Casey Council are also in the process of introducing a similar By-Law, and it is expected to be in place by the end of August.



## Village Festival 2009

Liz Grigg

The Festival will be back in 2009 due to popular demand and the continued support of the Upper Beaconsfield groups.

In 2008, some funds have been donated with thanks to the UB CFA and Scouts for their assistance in marshalling the Fun Run. If your group is interested in helping out in 2009, please contact the organising committee.

Calling all groups, clubs, organisations and businesses – home based and otherwise, to start thinking about your display for the next festival. This is a great opportunity to promote what we have to offer, as many more locals and outsiders attend each year to see and experience how special Upper Beaconsfield is.

The Tower Run will be back, with stalls, amusements and displays showing off Upper Beaconsfield.

Any one interested in helping out on the day, or leading up to the big event, please contact Liz at the Community Centre. Many hands make light work, and we have lots of fun preparing for the Festival too. The meetings are usually quick with all the jobs to do well documented.

The next Festival meeting will be on Wednesday 24 September at 8 pm at the Community Centre in the crèche.

For more information and entry forms closer to the day, you can find a link to the Festival website from the Community Centre site [www.ubcc.org.au](http://www.ubcc.org.au).



# About town



## New playground for Upper Beac

Upper Beaconsfield has a fantastic new playground at the Recreation Reserve. Its location means it gets lots of use by Upper Beac primary students, 4 year old kinder kids and Saturday sport families – as well as other local families. The 12 metre flying fox, climbing circuit and toddler play structure appeal to all ages, so if you haven't visited yet, come and play!



The playground was financed by our local Cardinia Council and chosen in consultation with a group of locals including the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Committee who also arranged for the seats to be built and installed. Thankyou Garry King from the council and all those involved for making Upper Beaconsfield an even more child friendly place.

While we are on the subject of playgrounds, the facilities at the Keith Ewenson Park playground (behind the Community Centre) are halfway to being upgraded. The council has granted us over \$5 000 to add some toddler-friendly structures. We need to raise another \$5 000 in money, timber, mulch and labour ... then we will have some more fun equipment for Upper Beaconsfield's younger families. Contact Pru Borgert (borgerts@stepbystep.com.au) or Lynn Clash (c/o Community Centre).

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### YOGA GROUP CLASSES TIMETABLE

**BEGINNERS:** Monday & Wednesday evenings  
Wednesday mornings: 10-11 am

# Upper Beac Association

## UBA Quarterly Report

Jennie Vaughan, President UBA

At the May meeting of the UBA, the speaker was Gordon Logan from South East Water (SEW). He gave a brief outline of the proposed scheme for a sewerage system for Upper Beaconsfield. Letters will be sent out by SEW giving details to residents most likely to be affected. Questions were taken from the floor.

In June, the UBA meeting discussed whether membership of the UBA had increased. It was felt that more residents should be made aware of how to join the UBA and it was suggested that information should be provided in the Village Bell.

When asked if the 2030 plan for Upper Beaconsfield is being eroded, Council replied that residential zoning could be changed due to population increase being larger than planned.

A report has been received from the recent 'Four Towns' Committee meeting at Gembrook concerning a planned retirement village, work by the Transport Action Group, the Weeds Project and a suggestion that some of the Towns are a bit dreary and need jazzing up for Christmas. The UBA felt that Upper Beaconsfield has Christmas under control with the successful Carols on Christmas Eve at the Community Centre.

The UBA looks forward to spring and hopes the community will join in more vigorously with activities.

## Care Group in decline

Matt McDonald

After operating for almost twenty years, the Upper Beaconsfield Care Group may be about to cease operations.

The Care Group was set up after the Ash Wednesday bushfires to provide assistance to individuals and families in emergency need. The group has provided help in the form of one-off financial assistance (vouchers), friendly home visits, transport in an emergency, short-term domestic help, handyman help and firewood. Assistance has been given through generous members of the community who have volunteered their help.

The group has also arranged for the annual neighbourhood get-togethers in COMMUNITY WEEK. A Care Group newsletter was also circulated three or four times a year providing news of the group's activities and services.

Now, the Care Group has very few calls for help, and the committee needs new membership. We are also without a coordinator (who receives calls for assistance that come through the Community Centre) and a Secretary.

Those in the community who wish the Care Group to continue for the future, we need to hear from you. If you like to be on the committee, or take on one of the key roles, or be a volunteer for the group, please contact us: either the Community Centre or Matt McDonald on 5944 3860 or 0407 845 135.



The next public meeting for the UBA will be held on  
Wednesday, 1 October at 8 pm  
Community Complex  
\* Everyone is welcome \*

## Citizen of the Year Award for 2008

We would like to remind all UB residents about our Citizen of the Year Award for 2008. Entries for this award will close on 31 October 2008. You can use the entry form included here in the Village Bell and entry forms can also be found at the Post Office and the General Store.

Upper Beaconsfield has many wonderful people who freely volunteer their time, effort and expertise to a range of clubs and groups. The COY award is the community's opportunity to recognise and thank someone special each year.

Please consider nominating someone you know and believe is deserving of such recognition.

### UPPER BEACONSFIELD CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Nomination Form (Please use block letters)

Name: .....

Address: .....

Reasons for nomination: .....

.....

.....

Please attach another page if you wish to add more information.

Name of nominator: .....

Phone: .....

Send to: The Secretary, Upper Beaconsfield Association,  
PO Box 86 Upper Beaconsfield 3808

Entries Close: 31 October 2008

### Note from the editor:

The current Village Bell team requires assistance with all aspects of the Bell's production. If you can help, even in a small way, please contact:

Helen Smith – editing 5944 3219

Graham Jackson – printing 5944 3554

Noel Ling - collating 5944 3735

## Student support available from your local library

Casey Cardinia Library Corporation has tutor support for school students. It operates between the hours of 4 pm and 8 pm weekdays. 'Yourtutor' is a free and professionally staffed online tutoring service for students from years 4 to 12, and it is available for library members. Students can access this service at <http://www.cclc.vic.gov.au>



# UB Rural Fire Brigade

## Volunteer Awards

*Liz Brandie*

The Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade held their annual dinner at the Beaconhills Country Golf Club in July.

This was a very special night for the fire brigade to award our volunteers for years of dedicated service to the Upper Beaconsfield Brigade and the local community.

Captain Graeme MacGowan and President Joe Collins made the following presentations.

### **BRIGADE LIFE MEMBERSHIP:**

Wendy Thomson, Judy Irwin, Ray Allsop

### **20 YEAR SERVICE BADGE:**

Michael Schimizzi

**25 YEAR SERVICE BADGES** were also awarded to Doug Summons and Alan Dale but, as they were unable to attend the presentation night, they will be presented at a future occasion.

Auxiliary Secretary Pat Edwards presented the Auxiliary service award

### **30 YEAR AUXILIARY BADGE:**

Nancy Boura

Debbie Martin, the CFA Training Manager for Western Port Region, presented the following awards.

### **30 YEAR SERVICE BADGE:**

Nancy Boura

### **CFA HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:**

Nancy Boura

The CFA Honorary Life Membership is highly regarded in the CFA and our members were pleased to be present to witness this honour that Nancy truly deserves.

Nancy was not aware she was being honoured with this award and a surprise visit from her family to witness this event proved to be quite emotional for everyone.

Throughout the evening we had an assortment of raffles, door prizes and an auction with generous prizes donated by Alex Scott & Staff, Hind Quarter, Nush and the Upper Beaconsfield traders.

From the proceeds of the evening, our Auxiliary raised \$810.00 for the brigade.

Our Brigade would like to thank the Beaconhills Golf Club for providing a memorable evening for our annual dinner.

*from left to right: Michael Schimizzi, Wendy Thomson, Captain Graeme MacGowan, Ray Allsop and Nancy Boura*



## Complacency is not a plan

*Helen Smith*

It was disappointing to see a small turnout to the public meeting organised by Cardinia Shire Council on fire safety on 15 June at the Community Complex. A cold winter's day seems a long way from the issues of bushfire safety in the height of every summer. The Village Bell gives you a summary of this important meeting, as you may have missed a very interesting and informative session.

The meeting was introduced by Cr Graeme Legge and facilitated by George Wright, community fire safety consultant, with presentations by experts. Cardinia Shire fire officer, David Stewart, was also present to answer questions.

Duncan Maugham (from Terramatrix, a specialist bushfire risk management consultancy) spoke about some of the research into fire behaviour carried out since Ash Wednesday. Bushfires differ in behaviour, location and intensity. Fires can give as little notice as 15 minutes (the 1997 Dandenongs fire) to the slower burning Gippsland fires a few years ago which lasted for weeks. High intensity fires are just not suppressible. There are simply not enough resources for the fire brigade to attend every house in such a fire. Most homes are lost from ember attack, rather than direct contact with flames. A well prepared house will provide refuge during the passing of a fire front. But a house must be defensible if you wish to stay. Survivability depends on the amount of fuel around the house. People

have poor chance of survival if caught out in the open, either on foot or in a car.

Chris Wyborn (CFA Fire Safety Officer Westernport Area) said that the CFA commissioned a telephone survey over several fire-prone areas in the past year, including Upper Beaconsfield. It showed that although people in Upper Beac are better educated than in some areas, improvement is needed.

**The survey indicated that 33% of people would still leave their homes at a late stage if they felt threatened — a 'plan' the CFA does not endorse as it is the most dangerous, possibly lethal option.**

Chris Wyborn stated that it is up to the householder to decide whether to stay or go when a bushfire strikes. But are you physically and mentally strong enough to stay and fight a fire? Education and preparation are the most important things residents must do for themselves. All families should develop their fire plan, with roles for all the family members. Joining Community Fireguard groups is a very good idea. But Councils no longer support official fire refuges. This is because "refuges" gave people an excuse not to prepare their homes for fire if they thought they could go to the refuge if a fire came. If people leave it to the last minute to leave, they may try and drive through a fire area to get to a designated refuge. Driving conditions in these circumstances are dangerous as visibility is poor.

## Fire issues in Upper Beaconsfield

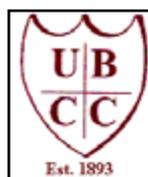
Discussion amongst the residents identified:

- Fuel buildup on roadsides. Emerald-Beaconsfield Road, the main exit out of Upper Beaconsfield, is bordered by dead trees and fuel and could pose a danger in case of fire when people try and drive down the hill.
- There are many dead-end roads in Upper Beaconsfield that restrict the ability to get out if the need arises.
- There is a buildup of fuel in public reserves and around Cardinia Reservoir. Earlier in the year, a fire that burnt out 10 hectares was started by people who thought it was "fun" to shoot flares into the reservoir area.
- There is fuel building up in the main creek reserves of Stoney Creek and Cardinia Creek.
- Local dams are not a viable source of water for fire fighting due to the drought.
- The standpipe is no longer accessible for locals to get their own water.

- Phones and power supply often fail during a fire emergency. Cordless phones will not work if power fails and mobile phones may not work if the system is overloaded. Keep an old fashioned phone in the house that will work if the power goes down, but obviously not if the telephone lines/poles get burnt.
- Former fire captain Eric Bumpstead identified that in the history of fires in Upper Beac, most fires have been located in and around the Stoney Creek and Cardinia Creek reserves. As these creeks are basically located north-south, the fires tend to travel along in these directions, depending on the wind at the time.

## Current CFA Captain, Graeme MacGowan, said that complacency amongst residents is a real problem. It is no good waiting until the fire is coming over the hill to organise your pump and hoses.

He recommended a minimum of 10 000 litre fire fighting water tank, but a 25 000 litre tank is a better size. As well as the current (at times complacent) residents, new families have moved into the area. All need to do their homework and preparation. The CFA has an excellent book called "Living in the bush: bushfire survival plan workbook" which all residents should make it their business to obtain. You can download it from the CFA website at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au> or you can request a hard copy to be mailed to you.



# Cricket Club

## New coach for Cricket Club

*Richard Edwards*

A new season is rapidly approaching and the Cricket Club has appointed a new coach.

Chris Pentland, a well known identity in local cricket circles for many years, will be the coach for 2008-09 season. Chris is a local resident living in Quamby Rd and over the last two years has run the "Milo Have A Go" programme at Upper Beaconsfield which has been very successful with about 70 participants each year. The Milo programme will again be running at the Cricket Club this season and is for boys and girls who are not old enough to play under 11s. It is run on Friday nights before Christmas so watch the school newsletter for starting dates.

Shawn Hassall remains President and also Secretary with Richard Edwards the Treasurer. Glen Kilburn is Vice President and Chairman of Selectors and Tony Joyce is the Junior Co-ordinator once again.

This season we will be running four seniors sides in the West Gippsland Cricket Association - 'B' Grade, 'C' Grade, 'E' Grade and a team in the one day competition, 'F' Grade. In the Juniors we will have one U11 side, two U13 sides & two U15 sides.

We are looking at an U17 side but feel we may be a year too early. However, if there are U17 cricketers in Upper Beaconsfield we do not know about, please call and register your interest.

Outdoor training for the seniors will commence at the Recreation Reserve on the

first Sunday in September at 10 am. Juniors are welcome to come along and train.

The Junior registration day will be held at the rooms at the recreation reserve at 4.30 pm on Thursday 28 August.

We hope to build on our very successful year last year and welcome all cricketers in the area to come along and play at your local club.

For further information, the following contacts will be only too happy to discuss cricket at Upper Beaconsfield.

President:

Shawn Hassall 0409 966 500

Treasurer:

Richard Edwards 0407 443 463

Junior Co-Ordinator:

Tony Joyce 0410 556 232

Our address for correspondence is P.O. Box 302 Upper Beaconsfield 3808.



# Flora and Fauna

## Wildlife Watch

Laura Levens

Well now! What's happened since the last Bell?

Not too much rain, not too much weed growth for my weeding prowess, no insects among the grasses, not even too many mosquitos and not too many tiny spiders.



Case Moth

walkers reported much the same in Critchley Parker Reserve, a Stoney Creek Road nature strip and Beaconhills Golf Club bushy areas. The flowers produced by the toothed helmet orchid were only 25% of their normal size.

*Epacris impressa*, in white and several shades of pink, and scented sundew were flowering and the tall greenhood was in bud. Leaves of sun, onion and donkey orchids are up and the love creeper will soon be putting forth small two-tone blue flowers on almost leafless stems. Look for it twining among grasses or perhaps covering a shrub in an open position.

Ferns were all in evidence. In my patch of bush there are only small species – necklace, screw and maidenhair and an austral cobra fern. This last is the least fern-like plant ever seen. Its leaf is shaped like a broad spear-head lying flat to the mossy rock and the fertile frond is a narrow spear-shape up to 6 cm long, neither is divided as in other ferns. This patch has several dozen plants that will entice wood ducks to feed on the roots. I do hope they leave some for me to photograph!

Now is the time to check your lawns and nature strips for wild flowers before getting on with the mowing. Where some are found just take an evasive curve around them until they set seed. Before too many seasons pass there could be an interesting wild patch just for you.

Back in January I found this 5cm long silken brick-red bag covered with white threads. It was attached to a species of senecio lying slashed and dead. Identification is proving a challenge for my invertebrates contacts. In fact, by 31 July, nobody knows except to say it must be a case moth. If you find one, keep it in a fine wire cage to see what emerges and take it to the Victorian Museum's Discovery Centre.

During a ramble among the bush in early July there were carpets of nodding greenhood

orchids, not only here as

## Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group update

Laura Levens

Did you know there is a wild area in Charing Cross? For new residents this is next to the Mobile Library site.

A small native grass, *Danthonia geniculata* or kneed wallaby grass, has survived mowing for years and years. *Pterostylis nutans*, the nodding greenhood, flowers every year. Two species of *Thelymitra*, sun orchids as yet unidentified, and onion orchids have appeared next to one eucalypt. The council gardeners no longer mow this space, which has allowed the greenhoods to establish more patches.

Our group became concerned that agapanthus, panic veldt grass and onion grass were looking to become prolific and a threat to these indigenous plants.

A project to remove these pest weeds has been started and continues on the Saturday morning after the second Wednesday of each month at 9.30 am, weather permitting. Members of the group and a couple of welcome empathetic volunteer residents attend with small two-pronged forks for an hour or so and attack these, currently, small plants. Probably, as spring approaches, weeding could be needed more often to prevent seeds maturing.

Group meetings are held at the Arts Annex, Community Complex, Salisbury Road on the second Wednesday of every month, except January, at 8 pm. Contact Laura on 5944 3828.

Our annual general meeting is due to be held on 10 September 2008 at 8 pm.

The venue is the Arts Annex at the hall complex.

We anticipate that a representative from the management committee of the Beaconsfield Nature Reserve will be there to update their vision for the Reserve.

Contact: Laura 5944 3828

## Weedbusters Week

Weedbusters Week, September 1–7, is funded by Natural Heritage Australia and Weeds Australia.

The purpose is to raise awareness of the problems that feral plants from gardens and farms can cause, such as reducing natural habitat that causes loss of delightful native wildflowers. Many farmers have already heeded Landcare's lessons about the advantages of removing cattle from stream banks and planting windbreaks that also act as wildlife corridors.

This year the Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group is planning an information and weed removal event in Charing Cross at the corner of Salisbury Rd and Emerald-Beaconsfield Rd between 9 am and 11 am on 6 September 2008.

Members of the public are welcome to try their hand at identifying the exotic plants or the orchids and indigenous grass trying to survive their onslaught. The only tool needed to help remove weeds is a small two-pronged fork if you want to join the search and destroy effort.



# Flora and Fauna

## Cardinia Catchment Landcare

*Margaret Crompton, President*

### Plantings for 2008

We have just completed our planting days for this season – six in all involving 3 000 plants. Additionally, a further 3 500 plants have been planted by landowners themselves or by Yanggai Environmental Services or a Greencorp team. Some property owners in Clyde and Cardinia have used the direct seeding method to establish corridors of indigenous vegetation for windbreak/habitat purposes.

Our planting days have been well attended and landowners have involved their family and friends. The last two, which I didn't attend, finished at 11 am – which indicates how little I am needed! We have learned over the years how to work as a team and are now efficient in our approach. Having the holes dug beforehand by the Greencorp Team or by the Yanggai Team has made a big difference – hopefully this option will be available in the future.

### Public land project

Our project on public land at Cardinia Creek at Beaconsfield Park is progressing well. Last year's planting is establishing well and a further 1 000 plants have been planted by Yanggai. Hopefully we can complete the second stage in spring which will complete the project. We are working with DSE and Melbourne Water in this area and hope for a much improved environment for Cardinia Creek. The Friends of Cardinia Sanctuary continue to work in their patch and we get together for the Clean Up Australia event – truck loads of rubbish result each year. As we improve the riparian verge we will, hopefully, improve this situation.

### Platypus in Cardinia Creek

Improving the riparian verge of Cardinia Creek should enable the platypus population to establish in the Beaconsfield area. Our group has donated \$1 000 to the Platypus Conservancy recently to enable them to keep monitoring the platypus release program – one or two lucky people will be included in the night survey in the coming months. Ian Chisholm has successfully applied for a Greencorp Team on our behalf to work specifically on Cardinia Creek – they commence in September and will greatly enhance what we are able to achieve.

Two of our members continue to carry out regular water monitoring on the Cardinia creek.

### Website

We have developed a website for the group and will be using it to keep in touch with our members and, hopefully, attract others. Visit us at <http://www.cclg.net.au/>

### Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery

The Upper Beaconsfield Indigenous Nursery is growing and expanding – again! Another fence move shortly will give us more space. Thanks



to the volunteers who assist whenever they can in this venture. We welcome assistance from anyone in the community who would enjoy nursery work – no experience required / on the job training.

The nursery is situated at 1 Halford Rd, Upper Beaconsfield (behind the Post Office) and is open on Fridays 10 am–12.15 pm and 3–5 pm. Information and plants are available.

### Planting trailer

Our new planting trailer is now well christened and has helped in our efficiency.

### Water tanks

We are in the process of installing water tanks at the Nursery so as to be independent of mains water. Thankyou for the community support we have received and to the federal government for the funding.

Our association with the Cardinia Environment Coalition is important and valued. We will be working with the CEC to implement a Bio-links strategy in our area. This will be funded through the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority and will enable us to be more strategic in our approach. The idea is to create habitat links throughout our region through the 'Spirit of the Bunyip' project. If you are not aware of these developments you will be hearing more about them. If you are interested, I would encourage you to attend the CEC AGM at the end of the month where the CEC Bio-links strategy will be launched.

### Landcare facilitator

We have said farewell and thankyou to Julie Weatherhead, our Landcare facilitator, and are waiting for someone to replace her. In the meantime, Peter Ronalds is doing the job of two facilitators and we are grateful to him for his commitment and hard work.

### Urban landcare

We have a vision for an urban Landcare movement which would take indigenous vegetation and habitat into the urban area along wide road verges and linking to smaller urban parks. This would encourage our birds and butterflies into urban gardens. We are to present a proposal to Casey Council's Environment Advisory Committee and are hopeful of getting funds for this purpose.

### Annual General Meeting

This has just been held and has resulted in a new committee.

Our guest speaker was Andrea Murphy, an archaeologist who lives in Upper Beaconsfield, who spoke on the subject of local Aboriginal history and culture.

It is amazing what is happening in our local area in terms of researching sites and gathering information which is unknown to most of us. Andrea will be leading a group through the Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve to explain the history of this site in the future – so watch this space!

# Thirty years of Village Bells

*continued from page 1*

quarry, a bus service, and a request to Telcom that Upper Beaconsfield should be included in the metropolitan area.

In May 1976, John, feeling that everyone in the village should be aware of the Association's activities, distributed, at his own expense, an Association newsletter, following this in 1977 with a second newsletter.

Graham Jackson was elected Association President in 1978. Many matters of local interest were raised and it was generally agreed that John Milligan's newsletters were an excellent idea.

At an Association meeting on the 7 June 1978, 120 people were present. Over the next few days the possibility of a newsletter for Upper Beaconsfield was discussed. It was decided a newsletter could be produced, to be called "The Grape Vine". A little later it became "The Bell", two days later "The Village Bell". (Roger Francey's Diary)

Members of the first editorial committee were Roger Francey, Graeme Kidd and Paul Easton. Roger was the editor and printer of the first Village Bell. Sandra Francey typed the copy.

Issue No. 1, dated July 1978, was 10 pages of foolscap, containing information contributed by 30 community members – there were no advertisements. They were introduced in Issue No. 2.

Roger, using a Gestetner machine, produced 500 copies – 420 for Upper Beaconsfield and 80 for Guys Hill. To satisfy demand, an additional 45 copies were printed the following week.

Some extracts from Roger's first editorial page:

"Historically a village bell has served to bring a community together ..."

"The Beaconsfield Upper Association has as a primary aim, the retention of the character and atmosphere of the locality ..."

Under a heading Co-operation or Confrontation, Roger wrote: "Ideals are relatively common, their achievement relatively rare. In attempting to swim against the current of normal suburban development we are certain to meet opposition from without and within the community; however, opposition does not mean confrontation ..... we must explore things we have in common ... before we look for things to disagree about".

"The Village Bell" had been forged by the Beaconsfield Upper Association.

Two months later, Graeme Kidd produced the next issue of 600 copies. It was decided to publish every two months, alerting villagers to the date and agenda of the next Association meeting.

These two Bells were collated by a small group of friends, a big task: it became apparent it needed to be properly organised. At the next Association meeting a "Village Bell" subcommittee was formed to edit, print, collate and distribute the Bell. Since then there have

been between 5 and 10 in each editorial group, members taking turns to be editor. Consequently, over 30 years, the Bell has had a great many editors.

## Printing

In the early years, printing was done by volunteers using the Pakenham Consolidated School's offset printer, but it was a dirty job and the printer was not always available.

About 1980 the Association acquired an old Gestetner machine requiring copy to be typed on waxed stencils – Elva Ratcliff remembers them well. This machine was lost when "Wildfell" was destroyed in the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires.

In the aftermath of the fires the Village Bell, printed by the Council, was an invaluable tool for informing and advising villagers of their options for dealing with house debris, dead stock, accommodation

and medical matters, the availability of toilets and laundry facilities, welfare and support services, and Council decisions.

Ten post fire Information Village Bells were produced between February and October 1983, a reminder of the difficulties faced by many residents at that time.

For 15 years after the fires, George and Judy Moir printed the Bell on a Gestetner machine kept in a spare bedroom. This machine had an associated scanner, avoiding the problem of typing on the easily damaged waxed stencils.

With the aid of a Council grant and money left to the Association by the late Miss Dorothy Marsden, a used Risograph printer was purchased in 1998.

This machine greatly reduced the printing time, an important matter as each issue, now on A4 paper, was 24 pages, requiring almost 28 000 pages to be printed, and 1 150 copies to be collated.

This printer became unreliable in 2003, and for a time the Bell was printed by DJ Printing.

Last year a new Risograph was bought by the Association. This machine prints on A3 paper, the printed paper is then folded into four A4 pages – the physical format of the recent Village Bells.

Computers have made a big difference in putting the Village Bell together, including desktop publishing, digital photographs, submitting of articles by email and printing the Bell directly from CD-ROM.

*"The Beaconsfield Upper Association has as a primary aim, the retention of the character and atmosphere of the locality ..."*

# Entry Form

Generous prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in each category. Winners and placegetters will also have their photographs professionally framed at no charge for display at the Village Fair. Exact prizes will be publicised very shortly at the entry boxes

## 'Intrinsically Upper Beacy' Photo Competition

*Catching a fantastic moment, an odd spray of light, showing someone's indoor or outdoor creations, freeze framing something that's moving fast, capturing the right set of dazzling colours or matching soft pastels, reflections, quirky animals or people, unbeatable views or landmarks, experimental or artistic – we want to see all of your Upper Beacy images.*



**Be sure to read the information about the competition overleaf, and then enter your details below.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Images Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Category (please tick box)     Open     Junior (Fifteen Years and Younger)

Entry Fee is \$5.00 for up to five images (refer to condition 2 overleaf)

Your photograph(s) must be enclosed in a plastic or paper envelope, together with the entry fee. Please write your name and street address and a 'title' for your image on the rear of each print.

Colour or black & white photographs of all shapes will be accepted, and must not exceed A4 in size (no larger than 210 mm x 297 mm).

- I certify that my entry complies with the terms and conditions overleaf, in particular that I have permission of the people appearing in my photographs as per condition 10.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Boxes at the  
Post Office and  
General Store

**Happy snapping!**

## 'Intrinsically Upper Beacy' – Conditions of Entry

- 1 Entries may be colour or black & white in hard copy print form up to A4 size (no larger than 210 mm x 297 mm), and are to be deposited in any of the entry boxes – located at the General Store and the Post Office – accompanied by the official entry form. Additional entry forms are available at the entry box and can be downloaded from the internet.
- 2 Each participant may enter up to five images. Images can be progressively entered throughout the term of the competition. An entry form must be submitted with first image/images entered and a \$5.00 entry fee paid. A separate entry form must be completed for any following images submitted, but there is no additional fee payable beyond the initial \$5.00.
- 3 There will be one category for participants age 15 years old and younger, and an open category. Should entrants aged 15 years old and younger, wish to enter in the open category, they may do so.
- 4 All entries must be photographed either in Upper Beaconsfield, or be of Upper Beaconsfield. Incidental inclusion of surrounding areas is acceptable. I.e. so long as the main subject of the photograph is a part of Upper Beaconsfield.
- 5 Photographs must be the work of the entrant.
- 6 Copyright of the photographs is retained by the photographer, but the entrant permits their entries to be published in The Village Bell, on the Village Bell website, and a hard copy print to be used by The Village Bell for display purposes and for promotion of future competitions.
- 7 Judges and their families are not eligible to enter.
- 8 Entry is for Upper Beaconsfield residents and their families, former long standing residents, and regular visitors who spend a significant portion of their time in Upper Beaconsfield. e.g. workers, carers.
- 9 The Village Bell discourages and takes no responsibility for any illegal or unsafe actions by any entrant to produce an image. If any such behaviour is depicted in an entry, it will be disqualified. The Village Bell will not be liable for any injury or loss sustained by any person taking part in this competition.
- 10 Where people in photographs can be clearly identified, their permission to allow the image to be used in the competition must be obtained.
- 11 Professional photographers are excluded from entering.
- 12 Apart from judging images, the judges will administer all business emerging from the interpretation and application of the competition's terms and conditions. The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 13 Entries close on 16/01/2009 at 5 pm.
- 14 The winners will be notified before the Village Festival 2009 in writing.
- 15 Photographs will not be returned to entrants at the conclusion of this competition.
- 16 It is not implied in any way that images used as samples to promote the competition in future copies of the Village Bell, will be winning photographs in the competition.



# Community Centre

Our centre has been supporting the Breast Cancer Comfort Cushion organisation through our wonderful and talented Craft support group which meets every Tuesday morning in the Arts Annex. The ladies have been creating and decorating medical equipment cloth bags and scented neck supports which are given to Oncologists so they can forward them directly to people who have been diagnosed with cancer. The materials are donated along with the generous contributions and creative enthusiasm of craft groups like ours. The association raises money through raffling some beautiful bags. Tickets for this worthy cause can be purchased from the office and it will be drawn on Pink Ribbon Day in October.

Christmas is fast approaching so the Centre will be offering a selection of classes to help you prepare. We will be running gift making classes including easy to make beautiful soaps, homemade face cream, Non toxic Christmas candle making, Christmas themed edible treats to decorate gifts or just to enjoy at Christmas time. Christmas craft for children will be offered for the creative school aged children giving them an opportunity to make their own gifts.

Younger children will be treated to Music for toddlers and "Fairytoria" classes where they can hear stories and be creative too. The Centre will be offering a night time MYOB special introduction and daytime basic computer classes. Our qualified Karate tutor will continue to run fantastic kid's Karate classes. These are great for balance, poise, discipline and confidence.

We will be offering night time Spanish, Reflexology, Meditation, Hip Hop and much more.

Currently on offer is a Beginners Computer Learning Package which includes introductory lessons on Word, PowerPoint, Internet, Email, and Excel. Limited places remain.

This term, language classes include Italian and French. We offer classes in Basic Meditation for those wanting to develop skills in relaxation and to enjoy better health.

Children's classes this term include Karate, Drama, Classical Ballet, Hip Hop and Jazz and Art.

For the creative types, we offer Painting and Drawing and Watercolour painting.

We also have Strength Training, Aerobics and Yoga classes.

Special Needs classes in snack cooking, Numeracy and Literacy, Craft and Gentle Exercises are designed for those who need extra support.

If you would like more information, or have suggestions for classes, please contact Wendy on 5944 3484.

## Nationally recognized training qualifications

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 following nationally recognized courses are offered by the Centre in 2008. If you would more information, contact Liz on 5944 3484.

- Certificate III in Aged Care Work
- Certificate III in Disability Work units
- Certificate III in Children's Services
- Apply First Aid
- Perform CPR
- Real estate

## 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.

The Upper Beaconsfield Peddlers meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month with their bicycles to explore off-road trails and cafes with other cycling enthusiasts of all levels. Alison Ryan is the contact person to obtain more details. Her phone number is 5944 3984 or [dpryan@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dpryan@bigpond.net.au). All are welcome. Please contact the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre on 5944 3484 for more information and starting dates.

## 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 or sessions we are running that you would like to do if they were held at a different time and/or day.

## Crèche

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

## School term break classes at community centre

Funding has been received from Adult Community Further Education to enable one day taster style classes to be run to introduce you to what is available in your neighbourhood. Partners in the funding are UBCC, Outlook Community Centre, Cardinia-Casey Community Health Service and Pakenham U3A. This term break we are offering the following at Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre (see below). If you would like more information or wish to enrol, please call Alison on 5944 3484.

## Botanical gardens in spring

Would you like to visit the Melbourne Botanical Gardens in spring with other garden enthusiasts? A bus trip has been organised for Saturday 4 October leaving the Community Centre at 9.30 am, returning late afternoon. Cost of \$5 includes bus and picnic lunch.

## Strength training

Strength training has many benefits – it improves your overall health, muscle and bone strength and aids prevention of osteoporosis. This is a non-impact exercise you do at your own pace. Come along to the Community Centre and try a class on Monday 22 September 11 am–12 noon. Cost is gold coin donation and a light lunch is provided after the class. If you enjoy the class you might like to join our current classes, run on a Monday and Wednesday during the school term.

# Kindergarten News

*Kristy Pentland*

The year is just flying through once again and I'm thoroughly enjoying my inaugural position as President. This year has seen us open our doors a little wider at our Pre Kinder in McBride Road. After hearing that many children had missed out on a position at three year-old kinder in Beaconsfield, our committee agreed to run an additional day of programming. This meant that we could welcome another twenty children to our lovely kinder. All sessions are being taught by Trish Hill who has been with us since 2004. Sadly for us, Trish recently announced her plan to retire at the end of this year. Trish is moving to a townhouse closer to the city where she can look forward to playing babysitter as her own six children start creating a kinder of their own. We wish Trish the very best and look forward to a very special kinder concert at the end of the year to finish her time at Upper Beac.

At the four year-old kinder we are enjoying success on many different levels. At the start of the year, our children produced some amazing art work that our teacher, Therese Collings, entered at the Berwick Show. To ours, and the children's delight, we won! The blue ribbon now takes pride of place in the foyer. In May the children invited their mums to a special night session to celebrate Mother's Day. This was a lovely night where mums got to come in and share one on one time doing special activities with their kinder child. From my experience one on one time with three children is a rarity. We also celebrated Grandparents Week by inviting any and all grandparents to come and have a special time at kinder. It was lovely to hear grandparents speak of times when their own children had attended the Upper Beac Kinder. Recently, the children attended a special Science Night session at kinder. The kinder was transformed into a NASA space station that all the children and parents loved. However, the highlight of the night was the launching of a real life rocket from the kinder yard. Thankyou to the Scarborough and Smith families for helping with the rocket launch.

Having recently sat with Helen Smith at the Cardinia Shire Grants Evening, it was lovely to hear her reflect on her years in Upper Beaconsfield. Many people may have attended our kinder in the past or had family members attend. I'm pleased to say that this history has not been lost. Earlier this year our teacher found a box of historic documents in the roof of the building. The collection contains original minutes from meetings held in 1945 right through to 1994. There are student registers and photos along with many other documents. The originals are being archived at the Narre Warren Library. However, if you are interested, we have photocopied the entire collection and have them on display at the kinder. Please phone the kinder for more information.

Offers for kinder placements have been sent out recently, which should serve as a reminder for all parents to please enrol your child as soon as possible. 2010 is almost full and 2011 is filling fast. Avoid disappointment - enrol now.



## Beaconsfield Upper Primary School

*Nick Karanzoulis, Principal*



The simple act of planting a tree can set in motion a lifetime of environmental awareness. Tree planting is part of our school's Sustainability Action Plan that also includes reducing our school's footprint, with the installation of water tanks, a vegetable garden, composting, waste reduction and recycling. Our school's fantastic and valuable participation in Schools Tree Day 2006 and 2007 has contributed to a total of over 300 000 volunteers planting 1.6 million native trees and shrubs. Beaconsfield Upper Primary School has taken real and positive action to help combat climate change and protect our wildlife by planting native trees and shrubs on Planet Ark's Schools Tree Day 2008 earlier this term.

Our BUPS Singers will join another 950 primary school children in Joining The Chorus Choir as part of the Victorian State Schools' Spectacular for three huge performances at the Vodaphone Arena on 6 and 7 September. This will be a thoroughly enjoyable experience for the children. The children will benefit from the experience of being directed by the two best choir conductors in the state and learning to sing as one voice in such a powerful way. Thanks to parent Jo Clausen for giving our children this once in a lifetime opportunity.

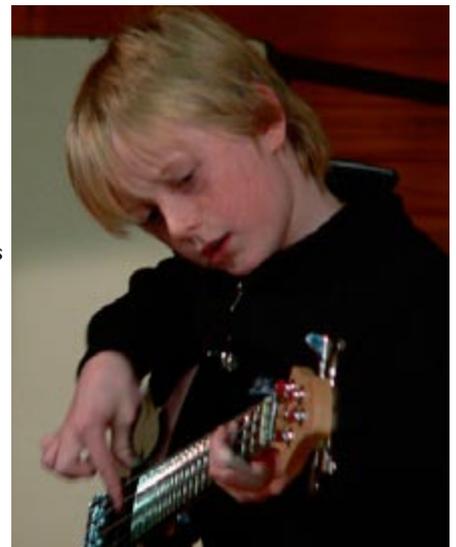
We have been blessed to have had Kathy Sharp as our Assistant Principal of BUPS for the past 5½ years and we will sadly miss her care, passion, enthusiasm, professionalism and laughter. On behalf of our community, I would like to thank Kathy for being a part of BUPS and wish her all the very best in her new role of Principal at James Cook Primary School.

Kathy has made an outstanding contribution to BUPS and our community. Her contribution with physical education and sport has enabled many children to experience success and joy through their involvement in sporting events. Consequently, our school has been very successful with athletics, cross country, swimming and, of course, the team events. Many teams have reached district, regional and some, state levels.

As curriculum coordinator, Kathy has led our staff in the right direction with the introduction of the Victorian Essential Learning Skills (VELS), the new school reports and extension programs for those children who are achieving above the expected VELs levels. Kathy has had an excellent rapport with our PFA and been an integral part of school council, especially as treasurer.

I would like to warmly welcome Kerrie McDonald to our school as our new Assistant Principal. Kerrie comes to us after many years at Pakenham Consolidated School, where she has held a variety of roles including that of classroom teacher and also leadership positions.

Our first and very successful soiree for the year was held recently in our multi purpose room. We witnessed the children play instruments such as guitar, drums, recorders and the keyboards as well as vocalists, duets and a performance by our BUPS singers. Like all parents and teachers present, I was overwhelmed by the quality and confidence of our young performers. Every single child is to be congratulated on their effort and how well they combined with others on the night. I would like to thank Mr Noel Brown for organising the evening and bringing the instrumental staff to work so well with the children. Our instrumental staff, Alex, Mirra and Amanda, have done an excellent job in complementing our Performing Arts program and I thank them for this.





# Australian Red Cross

*Barbara Jackson*

The Annual General Meeting of the Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit was held during July. Joy Amos retired as Chairman after serving two years and Wendy Keogh was welcomed as the new Chairman. Helen Hardiman takes over Wendy's previous position as Secretary and Mavis Travis remains Treasurer.

These women are also members of the Berwick Lioness Club. It is not uncommon to find the same people serving the community on several committees. It gets back to the old adage "if you want to get something done, ask a busy person".

Approximately twenty members attend the Unit's monthly meetings held on the second Friday each month at 10 am in the Berwick RSL Hall, Langmore Lane. At present, there are only two members living in Upper Beaconsfield which is a pity, because in past years Upper Beaconsfield has had a good representation of members right through the Unit's 94 year continuous service. The Unit was formed in 1914, the year Red Cross was started in Australia.

Apart from raising money, the Unit has members rostered to man the phones at Narre Warren for Telecross, a service which contacts elderly and frail people living alone each morning to make sure they are well and not needing any assistance. Some members work in the Red Cross shops at Pakenham and Berwick. Hospital visiting and community contact with people in nursing homes (many of whom don't have relatives to visit), is a service enjoyed by caring members. Blood donors at the mobile units at Narre Warren North, Berwick and Pakenham will be familiar with Red Cross volunteers serving refreshments.

Red Cross Breakfast clubs are now in several schools in our region with Pakenham Consolidated one of the latest. Teachers can't stress enough the importance of a nourishing breakfast before starting classes. No longer do they have the mid morning problems such as lack of concentration. Children are taught the value of good food, social skills and the responsibility of helping with the preparation and washing up. Red Cross is most appreciative of the support by Sanitarium Foods, Brumby's, Bakers Delight and others who contribute to this programme, as well as the volunteers who freely give their time to assist.

Another service helping the young is the SAM (Save a Mate) project. Volunteers are very well screened and trained to assist young people, usually still teenagers, who have problems with drugs and alcohol.

Red Cross and Red Crescent have members in 186 countries ready to assist with the big issues of natural disasters, wars and the aftermath, tracing services for people displaced, right down to the not so newsworthy, but very essential delivery of clean water and sanitation to communities.

Small ways to assist raising money is by saving used stamps, purchasing Christmas cards, supporting the Red Cross new and used clothing shops (and also the wonderful Berwick Community Op-shop in Clyde Road which raises an incredible amount of money and supports Red Cross and many local clubs and services).

Used stamps can be left at the Berwick Mechanics Institute Library in High Street, which will also be the place to purchase Red Cross Christmas cards, calendars and diaries from mid September. Christmas merchandise is also available from Barbara Jackson.

The unit is holding a fund raising function, open to all, on Friday 26 September at 10 am in the Berwick RSL Hall. Gifts suitable for Christmas and other occasions will be available for purchase. A light luncheon will follow.

The Red Cross Mobile Blood Bank will be at the Berwick Leisure Centre, Manuka Road on Friday 12 September, Narre Warren North Community Hall for four days from Tuesday 30 September through to Friday 3 October. The unit will be at the Cardinia Cultural Centre in Pakenham during November. The Red Cross phone number for appointments is 131 495.

Enquiries for any of the above can be directed to Barbara Jackson 5944 3554. New members to help keep the Unit's long history of service viable would be particularly welcome.

## **To the Editor,**

In the latest Headmaster's Update from Beaconhills College (Pakenham Campus in Toomuc Valley), three of the five students who were mentioned as doing well in their VCE are all local and went to Upper Beaconsfield Pre-Kinder, Kinder and the Primary School together.

This is an extract of the text:

"Alex Milenkovic received individual recognition with the presentation of a Premier's Award for high academic achievement in Systems Engineering. He also received a Top Design Award for Systems Engineering, with his home security system chosen as one of the top nine folios from across the State".

"Laura Griffin and Lauren McCormick were honoured with selection into the 2008 Top Arts exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. Laura and Lauren were selected from over 2 000 students to display their work in the prestigious Top Arts at the National Gallery. Lauren created an intricate and detailed study of the human anatomy presented on hand-made paper. Laura used printmaking techniques to create magical compositions, assembling the displayed piece using traditional weaving techniques".

Regards,  
Mary Griffin



# Upper Beac Pony Club

Marg Jones, 5944 4321

While talking to people in our community the question is often raised “what is pony club”? I thought I might use this forum of the Village Bell to spread the word about this amazing, international voluntary youth organisation for young people interested in horses and riding. It is represented in 15 countries and has a membership exceeding 102 000 – making it the largest association of riders in the world.

The movement originated in Britain in November 1929 as a scheme to encourage young people to ride, whilst providing the opportunity to benefit from instruction at a higher standard than many could obtain individually. The first overseas branch was formed in Gibraltar in January 1930.

In Victoria, Pony Club membership is open to people less than 26 years of age, of any riding ability. Membership of a Pony Club provides children and young adults with the opportunity to build and develop character, responsibility and consideration for others through their involvement with a living animal, which is an excellent medium for developing these attributes. Riding is also one of the few sports where males and females can participate on an equal basis.

### The Pony Club places in order of importance:

- The safety of the rider**
- The comfort of the horse**
- The enjoyment of the rider**
- The progress of the rider**

The Pony Club aim is not to produce individual riders of exceptional ability, rather to help ALL members improve their riding skills and to enjoy the experience.

Upper Beaconsfield aims to cater for all riders of all levels of abilities. During our monthly rallies which are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, all riders participate in dressage, jumping, active riding and a horsemastership lesson. All lessons are conducted by qualified riding instructors. As you can see by our photos, the children have a great time not only learning, but also socialising with other children in their



community who share their passion for horses.

Recently, our club held a Combined Training Day (Dressage & Show Jumping) which was a huge success and lots of fun for all riders. Many thanks to all the kind people who volunteered their time to run the event. The club is now focusing on our main event for the year – our Show Jumping and Dressage Day which is to be held at Akoonah Park, Berwick on Cup Day in November.

In the recent Cardinia Shire Grant announcement our club was fortunate enough to receive a grant to assist us in the building of a water jump for our Cross Country Course. Many thanks again to all the hard working committee members who put in many hours of work preparing the grant / project applications to the shire.

We hope you don't all get too tired from watching the Olympic Games over the next few weeks! Many of our equestrian team members started their early riding careers at a pony club just like ours at Upper Beac!

So, to all those young riders out there who aren't already members of a pony club, have a think about the benefits of joining our wonderful club. If you are interested, please give us a call or visit us at [www.upperbeaconsfield.ponyclubvic.org.au](http://www.upperbeaconsfield.ponyclubvic.org.au) to look at the advantages of joining our club.

**Happy riding!**





# Beaconhills Golf Club

## Beaconhills Golf Club's Golden Girls

Mary Griffin

Always the most popular table at lunch on Wednesdays at Beaconhills Golf Club is the one near the fire where a small group of women fondly labelled "The Golden Girls" congregates. They may not have played golf that day but they are deeply interested in the exploits of the other ladies who have been battling the golf course. Adventures at this wintery time of year can range anywhere between the heroic and slapstick, so there is plenty to tell.

Included among the popular crew, which includes Alice McKenzie (a member for 38 years) and Wilma Larkins (a member for 35 years) are Upper Beaconsfield's very own Dorothy (Dot) White and Gwynne Conn.

Dorothy White is now 94 years old and has been a member for over 42 years and is a former president. She has always been the most welcoming and gracious of ladies. The "Dorothy White Perpetual Trophy", played for every year, is all the more treasured because it is presented by Dorothy herself.

Gwynne Conn has 'only' been a member for 28 years but is Beaconhills' premier matriarch, although a modest one. Between Gwynne, her sons Andrew and Simon, her son-in-law, Ian Hollingsworth, and her grandchildren, Alistair Conn and Hayley Conn, the family has to date achieved 134 years of membership at the club.

Note: At Beaconhills, Wednesday is the traditional "Ladies' Day". Lady golfers play their competition round of golf and then meet in the clubhouse for lunch, to hear who has performed well on the day. Lady members, however, can play in any of the member competitions that the category they have joined entitles them to (Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat and Sun) and can, of course, practice on the course as well. Golf is great exercise and while those who have played tennis, hockey or softball always take to the sport very well, so do players who have never played any sport at all. Golfers with 18 hole handicaps at Beaconhills range in age from one little nine year old girl through to the over sixty-fives. A handicap allows all to compete on equal footing. New golfers are always extremely welcome – anyone interested should ring the club on 5945 9210 and speak to Mary.

There is no news to report on the applications for subdivision and realignment that have been lodged with Cardinia Council.



# Upper Beac Tennis Club

## Warm up with a winter hit at the Tennis Club

*Callen O'Brien*

Have you been up to the tennis club lately? We've just ticked over to the new financial year, so there's no better time to join. Here's what you get for your membership:

- Unlimited use of the best en-tout-cas courts around
- Access to inter-club competition on the weekend
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night social tennis under lights
- Use of hitting wall, table tennis and pool tables, as well as all of the other facilities the club has to offer

As the current Winter Season comes to a close, some teams continue to compete in the finals. Best of luck to all of those teams and well done to all competitors throughout the season. Now is the time to get into competition tennis (of many levels and age groups) as registrations begin to fill for the 2008/09 Summer season.

Anybody wanting to play Saturday competition can call me (Callen) on 5944 3430 and I will point you in the right direction.

Any ladies out there looking for a game during the week should also consider playing Midweek Ladies. 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. If you are interested in finding out more, please call Jenny McCormick on 5944 3617.

Night social hits continue throughout the winter and spring. Night tennis is so popular that we have just recently added Tuesday night

into the mix. If you want to be part of this new night and new group I would certainly recommend it. In fact, each of the four night hits are a great opportunity to have a wind-down (or wind-up!!), a good hit and some socialising after work. If you're at all interested in being a permanent player or even just an occasional emergency, please contact one of the following:

Monday Night (Beginner/Intermediate):

Ian Stanley 0417 581 001

Tuesday Night (Intermediate):

Leanne Ricketts 5944 3910

Wednesday Night (Advanced):

Nick Gamble 0438 443 756

Thursday Night (Beginner/Intermediate):

David Harvey 0400 457 505

It's been a long time coming, but it looks as though we are getting very close to having a water bore installed at the tennis club. We have been lucky that the courts have held their moisture well throughout winter, but as the weather warms up we rely on watering the courts. 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. We already have a large water tank installed, so this will reduce our dependence on rain.

The Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club held its Annual General Meeting on 12 August 2008. We wish the new committee all the very best and would like to thank departing members for their tireless work in the past 12 months.

## Upper Beaconsfield Junior Sports Programs

*Kristy Pentland*

### AusKick

We have just reached the conclusion of this year's Auskick season at Upper Beaconsfield. Once again it was the highlight of many young children's winter sporting program. Vanessa and Glen Robinson coordinated the program that catered for over 60 future football stars. Vanessa and Glen were assisted by a team of wonderful volunteer mum and dads. It provided a great social opportunity for the locals every Saturday morning, rain, hail or shine. Some of the highlights for the season included a visit by two Collingwood Footballers, an exhibition match played during half time at the Beaconsfield reserve and the annual parents and kids match (more so for the parents than the kids). Unfortunately, Vanessa and Glen are ready to hand over the whistle to a new team of co-ordinators.

If you're interested please call Vanessa on 0400 330 673.

### Biddy Ball

Chris and Kristy Pentland launched a new program for children wanting to learn the skills of basketball during term two. Children in grades 1 and 2 were invited to join Chris at the Berwick

Secondary College Stadium to be coached by a group of rising students from the college. The aim of the program was to get young children ready to play competitive basketball, following the same principles of AusKick and Milo Cricket Programs, while at the same time assisting the secondary students to develop the skills of coaching and peer leadership. Chris and Kristy were able to secure Australand as private sponsors for the program. This meant that, on joining the program, every child received their own basketball and BUPS uniform. They all looked terrific. After just 8 weeks of skill development three teams have been entered at Cranbourne Stadium. Skills training continues this term with the hope that all participating children will feel ready to join a team for the summer competition.

For further information contact Kristy on 0400 909 440.

### Milo Cricket

Yes, it's the middle of winter and we're all dreaming of summer sunshine. As we all know, with summer comes cricket. So, for all those future cricket stars, keep your eyes on the window at the General Store and the Milk bar, Milo Cricket will be returning to the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve in October.



# Toy Library

Marie Rogers

The committee have been busy again this year with their fundraising and running of the library. So far we have participated in the village festival, ran a silent auction, sold toothbrushes and cookbooks, sold sausages at Emerald, had a winter clothing catalogue fundraiser, a winter raffle and are currently running our popular toy catalogue sales. Coming up is our annual shopping tour and sausage sizzle at Bunnings Fountain Gate, all in September, with a few other plans closer to the end of the year which should keep us busy for a while. We currently have 38 members so there are still memberships available. Once you see what we have you will wonder why you haven't joined yet. Toy Library has the following new toys available for your little ones to enjoy:

- Sand/water play tub
- Pull-a-long Phone
- Sesame St. Pull-a-long
- Woody Jigsaw
- Kenwood Mixer
- Cricket set
- DVD's
- Stencils
- Musical Bus
- Dress-ups
- Garbage Truck
- Cement Mixer
- Cricket set
- Musical screen
- Musical chair
- Shape wagon
- Dinosaur Jigsaw
- Musical tree house
- Mighty Movers Puzzle
- 3 Little Pig Hand Puppets
- River run water fun park
- Rumble Wagon (2 seater)
- Team Walkers (2 sets)
- Care bear hopscotch
- 4wd and horse float set
- Fold out activity panel (6 panels)



Do you:

- ◆ Love buying toys for your family or wish you could buy more but storage is a problem
- ◆ Enjoy getting together over a cuppa, with a small group and would like to discuss and have your say in the future running and purchasing of toys of your local toy library
- ◆ Have skills in book keeping, organisation, fundraising, building and repair work, marketing or just want to help others and the community in a small way

Then become a toy library committee member. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 17 September 2008 at 8 pm, held at Toy Library in the Community Centre. Come and join us and see what we do, the fun is not only for the kids!

**S**upport the Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library

**H**ave a great day out

**O**n Saturday 13 September 2008

**P**ay only \$40 per person; includes morning tea, lunch with drinks

**P**ayable at the Community Centre, by phone or post: PO Box 2 Upper Beaconsfield 3808

**I**deal for shopaholics!

**N**o worries; sit back & relax on a hosted, luxury coach run by Melbourne Shopping Tours

**G**roup bookings welcome

**T**hree convenient pick up & drop off locations: Upper Beaceaconsfield, Berwick & Mulgrave

**O**utlets include: toys, cosmetics, mens, womens & kids clothing, manchester, books, shoes, & much more

**U**nlimited champagne with your lunch, showbags, prizes & lots of fun

**R**ing 5944 3484 today to book your seat

TOY LIBRARY IS OPEN THURSDAY & SATURDAY 9.30-10.30 AM  
DURING SCHOOL TERM