



Issue No. 175 March 2009

Online at www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year 2008 Barbara Jackson

Jennie Vaughan, President UBA

The recipient of the Citizen of the Year award for 2008 has been a resident of Upper Beaconsfield since 1970. Barbara Jackson has been involved in many local and neighbourhood organisations during this time. In the

early years she was involved in parents' committees for Pre-school, Primary School and Scouts.

Barbara was a CFA radio operator for many years and was also a volunteer for Red Cross patient transport. She has been a Berwick Library volunteer for 25 years.



Barbara has been an active member of the Beacon Hills Country Golf Club since 1986 and has served as club president, a committee member and board member.

Through most of her time at Upper Beaconsfield Barbara has had an active involvement in the Red Cross. She started as a collector and over the years has assisted in the Red Cross shops at Pakenham and Cranbourne. Since 1996 she has managed Red Cross Calling for the Upper Beaconsfield district.

In her spare time Barbara has written regular news items for the Pakenham Gazette and the Village Bell.

Barbara is a worthy recipient of the Citizen of the Year for 2008.

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December issue:

Copy deadline

7 May. Issue date

end of May

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Rainfall at Barkala, Beaconsfield-Emerald Road

George Moir

Month	40 yr average	2008	2009
Jan	65.4	26.0	10.0
Feb	55.4	48.0	
Mar	64.7	22.6	
Apr	77.9	53.6	
May	88.0	43.8	
Jun	79.8	60.2	
Jul	79.6	74.4	
Aug	86.5	89.4	
Sep	91.3	32.5	
Oct	94.4	46.2	
Nov	83.5	105.8	
Dec	79.7	82.3	
Total	946.2	684.8	

Highlights:

- November 2008-January 2009 rainfall: actual 198.1 mm; 40 year average 228.8 mm
- Calendar year 2008: 684.4 mm; 40 year average 946.2 mm

November and December last year produced better than average rainfall and resulted in a year total of 684.4 mm. This total just exceeded the 2002 total of 665.0 mm and is now the third lowest in my records over 41 years.

January followed with very low rainfall of 10 mm. The only lower monthly totals were in the months of February in 1983 (year of the Ash Wednesday bushfires), 1991 and 1997.

It looks like Victoria is becoming the desert state.

Congratulations

Weddings

A belated congratulations to Justin Soon from Upper Beaconsfield Pharmacy. Justin and Jessie married on Saturday 1 November 2008 and had a honeymoon on the Gold Coast.

David Ewenson married Sarah Fisher on 28 January 2009 in the gardens of their home "Sleepways" in Salisbury Road.

50th wedding anniversary

Congratulations to Jennie and Geoff Vaughan to their golden wedding anniversary.

Birth

Cathy and Michael Fischer on the arrival of your beautiful daughter

Alana Catherine

Born 28 August 2008

Weight: 8lb 15oz (4.06kg)

Length: 53.5 cm



Bush Fires

A community under stress

Graham B Jackson

My wife and I have lived in Upper Beaconsfield for almost forty years—it is a beautiful place and a delightful place to live and raise a family.

The population of Upper Beaconsfield is growing with many new homes—many of them large and expensive homes—being built. Nothing wrong with that, but I sense that the threads that bind our community are no longer as strong as they were when we came here. If there was one lesson we learned from Ash Wednesday it was that the bonds forged within our community in times of peace and contentment are the bonds that hold us together when our community is under stress.

There are times for every community when it will come under stress. Our community is no exception—look at the War Memorial in the village and the Ash Wednesday Memorial Park. I do not want to hark back to those occasions and others of past stress, but I do want to send a message to you about the future—your future and the community's future.

My impression is that many who have come here in recent years have seen little reason to bond to the community—little reason to make a commitment. 'Upper Beaconsfield is a nice place to live and a good place to buy property but we don't need any real involvement in the local community.' How wrong you are! Just look at the raw emotion showing on our television screens from those communities that have suffered so dreadfully in the fires. It is no more than chance that we were not the ones to be ripped apart this time.

Please—we need your commitment—we need your knowledge and your skills—your experience and, most of all, we need your engagement and your involvement. In return we offer our friendship and support and a community that will be stronger for the times when we will again be put to the test—as we most certainly will. All we ask is for you to join in our community, and to forge bonds with your friends and neighbours in our beautiful village of Upper Beaconsfield.

It saddens me that some of our organisations are languishing because of lack of new members—many of them are kept alive by older members because younger residents see little need for these organisations. Well take a long hard look at those that were put to the test this time and wonder how you would stand up to the strain without the support of committed friends and neighbours.

Message of support

The community of Upper Beaconsfield extends deepest sympathy to those communities who have suffered loss of life and property in the recent bushfires.

To those in our local community who may have family members, friends and acquaintances directly affected by the fires, please know we are all thinking of you.

"Narre Warren Fire Brigade"

*We lost our fire engine
and all the entire crew,
Volunteers that came to help
Friends, neighbours that we knew ...*

*The driver, our Avon lady
Dorothy Balcome was her name,
Friendly faces in our neighbourhood
all lost amongst those flames ...*

*I remember that day well
yet I was only so very young,
The pain that hit my then tiny town
and turned our homes around ...*

*I now live amongst those trees
and call Upper Beacy my zone,
Our community will never forget you
the sacrifice you made for our home ...*

*Today we have an even greater loss
Black Saturday bringing so much grief,
Help the ones that died like you
may their souls now rest in peace ...*

Natalie Brooks Roberts

16 Feb 2009

Bush Fires: how can we educate our residents?

Marg Jones

With this shocking tragedy unfolding around us regarding the bush fires—it occurs to me that it was purely luck and the will of the gods that Upper Beac wasn't in the news. I have been shocked by talking to some people that live in our area of Upper Beaconsfield whose made comments like "Upper Beaconsfield was always safe on Saturday", "it wouldn't happen again, we are too built up", or "Upper Beaconsfield is a different town from Ash Wednesday" and the comments go on and on.

On Saturday 7 February we did have a serious fire in Narre Warren North/Harkaway and that it was only the winds calming down and the quick action of the CFA that we didn't have a different story to print.

I am amazed when talking to people who live in our community who tell me that CFA meetings are boring, or that they have heard it all before or that they are simply too busy to attend the meetings and anyway if there is a fire they are going to get in the car and drive out of here.

I feel so passionate about this—knowledge and planning, I believe, is the key to survive in a bush fire. We as a family go every year to the CFA briefings to ensure that we are up to date.

I don't mean to go on, I just feel so emotional about what I am seeing and hearing from the media about what happened in the Kinglake and Marysville areas.



Bush Fires



Firestorms

Helen Smith

“A firestorm is a conflagration which attains such intensity that it creates and sustains its own wind system. It is most commonly a natural phenomenon, created during some of the largest bushfires, forest fires, and wildfires.”

This is the entry from Wikipedia and makes interesting reading. The Victorian bushfires 2009 have already been added to the list of major firestorms recorded in history. The article explains the physics of the firestorm and how it behaves in certain terrain. The article mentions Australian bushfires, and also describes the firestorms generated from the bombing of towns in World War 2.

It could have been us!

Here is an extract from the article “Complacency is not a plan” in last September’s Village Bell, about last June’s fire education meeting organised by Cardinia Shire, which was poorly attended.

“CFA Captain Graeme McGowan 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 recommends a minimum of 10 000 litre fire fighting water tank, but a 25 000 litre tank is a better size. Chris Wyborn 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 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 CFA does not endorse as it is the most dangerous option. As well as the current (at times complacent) residents, new families have moved into the area.”

All need to do their homework and preparation.

Media coverage

The emergency coverage provided by ABC 774 was excellent. We had the radio on day and night listening to the updates which were up to date and on the spot. People were able to send text messages to

774 while things were actually happening. This meant that although we could see and smell smoke at times, we knew where the fires were. Even if the power goes down, with batteries in the radio you can still get radio reception. The CFA web site also provided good information on the fire incidents all over Victoria. The television coverage on those critical couple of days was poor.

A million different stories

Everyone has been deeply shocked by the news and events surrounding the recent disastrous and tragic fires. In my own workplace at Berwick Secondary College, one colleague had a brother and his wife who were in Marysville on that Saturday. They and their neighbours had prepared blankets and necessities, secured their houses and were prepared to wait out the fire. The fire swooped in and smoke soon came up through the floorboards, house already alight. They decided to run for the garage and they got in their car, parked inside. The temperature in the car was severe, but they survived. The extra layer and protection provided by the garage wall prevented direct heat radiation. When they eventually ventured out, everything in their street was destroyed.

Other colleagues were also directly affected: homes destroyed in their street, Narre Warren South (a fire started by two 14-year olds), Narre Warren North fire in Crawley Road (a fire started by man using an angle grinder), paddocks and fencing destroyed in Labertouche.

Not safe in the suburbs

There have been stories that many people in the suburbs had no idea what was going on. They had their curtains closed; they watched television with the air conditioners on whilst outside their homes a drama was unfolding.

Thank You

Jo Keon-Cohen

Thanks to everyone who has donated goods for the bushfire relief effort. I would also like to thank everyone who has helped to pack and sort, and who has organised fundraisers.

Green waste cleanup to boost fire safety

Cardinia Shire Council is offering a special free green waste collection and drop-off service to help residents clean up around the home and keep their properties fire safe.

The initiative will run from 17 February to 13 March 2009 and gives residents the choice to either have their green waste picked up for them via a book-in collection service or to take it themselves to the recycling facility at Pakenham. Both services are at no charge.

Mayor Cr Bill Pearson said he hoped people would take advantage of the chance to

dispose of material such as tree branches, clippings, prunings and other green waste.

“The recent bushfires have prompted many residents to take a close look at their homes and assess whether they could be better prepared in the event of a fire. Many residents have contacted Council to ask for advice as to how best to make their properties safer.

“It’s a free service, and we are also looking at other ways to help make Cardinia Shire even safer,” Cr Pearson said.

Residents must contact Council’s customer service centre on 1300 787 624 to either make a booking to have green waste

collected or request a free tip voucher to drop off their green waste themselves.

General Manager Assets and Services Mike Ellis said the special initiative was in addition to Council’s existing twice-yearly hard and green waste collection.

Residents wanting to have their green waste collected can leave up to two cubic metres of bundled green waste on their nature strip for collection. Trees branches must be no more than 1.5 metres long and 15 centimetres in diameter. Small containers of loose green waste will also be collected.

For more information, contact Cardinia Shire Council on 1300 787 624.



UB Rural Fire Brigade

Fuel reduction burns

Liz Brandie, Secretary

Our brigade has been preparing for an extreme fire season this summer due to the build up of dry fuels, bark, grasses and leaf litter in areas that have not burnt during recent years and continue to build a bed of litter.

You will have noticed our brigade managing controlled burns in order to create safe corridors to help access the fire when it

is small, as this assists in fire control and prevents the risk and magnitude of a wildfire event.

Bushfire in Victoria is an inevitable natural event and we live in a high-risk area.

Fire has helped shape the Australian environment for thousands of years and is essential to the survival of many plant and animal species.

We pay particular attention to burn the

fibrous bark of gum trees, particularly stringy bark and ribbon bark; they act like a candle during bushfire taking flames to the crown of the tree then float burning embers spotting ahead and starting other fires.

Embers can also land on fine fuels such as leaf litter near buildings and start small fires that can grow and ignite heavier building materials; most houses that burn down during a wildfire ignite from ember attack.

Bushfires

Liz Brandie, Secretary

Since writing the former article our worst fears have been realised.

CFA and the Bureau of Meteorology made the forecast of dire warnings with high winds and temperatures for Saturday 7 February.

CFA immediately had all brigades deployed on red alert and others standing by. At the time of writing we are still remaining on red alert.

Upper Beaconsfield deployed strike teams to the Narre Warren North and Gippsland fires. The threat of fire is still current as we nervously watch the Bunyip state forest and Murrindindi fires.

Our brigade reminds residents to continue with their fire ready plans and clearing of properties and remember to make your decision EARLY if you plan to leave

Do not wait to be told to evacuate, listen to the ABC or consult the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au for updates and make your decision.

In addition to your fire ready plans, if you are in threat of a fire approaching remember to bring your hose and hose fittings inside



the house so you can put out embers once the fire has passed.

Do not operate any machinery outdoors as this could cause a spark to ignite grasses that are tinder dry due to lack of moisture.

For those of us who experienced the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983, our present experiences are a reminder of just how tragically the force of nature can destroy lives and property. Our hearts go out to everyone affected by the current fires.

Ironically we are holding a wreath laying ceremony on Monday 16 February 2009 at the Critchley Parker Memorial to remember the 11 fire fighters who lost their lives fighting to save Upper Beaconsfield and it is all happening again.

Community Meeting—18 February

Cameron Rocke

The meeting, conducted by our local fire brigade captain Graeme McGowan and other representatives from the CFA, was attended by several hundred residents. It commenced with an explanation of the fire risk posed by the now smouldering fire in the Bunyip State Park. Should any E or N/E wind flare up any remaining embers and cause spot fires between ourselves and the original fire, CFA strike teams are on immediate call to contain them promptly.

A question and answer session followed. Answers to the most commonly asked questions are summarised below. In the event of bushfires reaching us from the above or from some other cause you may wish to defend your home and property if you have a well thought out, viable bushfire plan. If in doubt, evacuate early. The earliest warnings you will probably get is by staying tuned, on a battery powered radio, to 774 ABC Melbourne on the AM band.

To get the most timely and detailed information in order for you to make a viable bushfire plan, you should annually attend the fire-guard meetings and information sessions. Notice of these meetings is by an across the board mail drop in our area. To do fuel reduction burns you need to get a permit from the council or the DSE before the CFA can conduct such a burn.

If you are unsure of the situation on any particular day, please phone: **Victorian Bushfire Information Line Phone: 1800 240 667**



Community Centre

Wendy Hiam

Welcome back to The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre for 2009. It is an exciting start to the year for us all at the centre and we look forward to seeing you at the centre soon as you undertake a course, participate in some of our exercise classes or join in with some of our interest groups.

2009 begins a new chapter for the community centre. Glenda Waller has joined our team as the centre manager. Glenda comes to our centre with 15 years experience working within the community sector at The Basin community house and at Warragul community house. She has a passion for communities and sees them as being an important part of all of our lives, especially with families becoming more separated from each other and times becoming tougher. "I see the community centre as being a one-stop shop for Upper Beaconsfield, where people can come for formal and informal education, personal support, leisure activities or to use our crèche facilities. I am looking forward to getting to know, and working with the community of Upper Beaconsfield." Glenda has been involved in a voluntary nature with the Gippsland women's health service, housing co-operatives and is dedicated to strengthening communities.

We also welcome Sally Rigby to the community centre team as the new bookkeeper. Sally is also well known in Upper Beaconsfield as a dynamic member of many committees and groups since her arrival in Upper Beac. Sally has been part of the Kinda, Toy Library, and crèche committees.

Classes at the Centre in Term 1

Computer classes have filled very quickly this term. Our basic computer learning package which covers basic skills on your home computer has been very popular. The next level on from the basic class is 'Basic business presentation skills' and runs on a Tuesday morning.

Children's classes this term include playschool hour for preschoolers, drama, classical ballet, hip-hop, karate and primary and secondary school levels of cartooning.

Special interest offerings include singing for adults, pushbike maintenance, reflexology and our language classes. We have French and Italian beginners and advanced/intermediate, and Spanish conversation classes especially for those going overseas who want to learn their language of choice. Classes for people with special needs continue to be popular with life skills, numeracy and literacy and gentle exercises well attended.

For the creative types we offer painting with mixed media and water color classes and sewing for beginners.

This term we are running strength training and group exercise (Aerobics) twice a week, pilates in the morning on Wednesdays and Thursdays and hip-hop for high school students along with our usual yoga classes. Twilight golf class has been a perennially popular class in the warmer months during daylight savings as well. The walkers leave every Monday morning from under the elm tree at 9.15 am for those who want to walk with company each week.

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. Alison Ryan is the contact person to obtain more details. Her phone number is 5944 3984 or dpryan@bigpond.net.au. All are welcome.

Please contact the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre on 5944 3484 for more information and starting dates.

Nationally recognised 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 recognised courses are being offered by the centre in 2009. For more information contact Liz on 5944 3484.

- Apply First Aid
- Perform CPR
- Certificate IV in Training and Assessment
- Certificate III in Aged Care Work
- Certificate III in Children's Services

With expressions of interest taken for

- Certificate IV in Training and Assessment – Gap Course
- Diploma of Children's Services

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.

Crèche

The Community Centre crèche is open from 8.30 am to 4 pm. Places are currently available. For bookings phone 5944 3484.

Annual General Meeting – 10 March 2009

New committee members are welcome. Your enthusiasm and involvement in your local centre would be greatly appreciated.

Our AGM will be held in the Community Room at the Centre on 10 March 2009 at 8 pm.

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre is run by a voluntary committee of management made up from enthusiastic members from our local community. All positions on the committee will become vacant at this time. Nomination forms are available from the centre. If you would like more information please contact the Community Centre on 5944 3484.



Community Centre

Alison Ryan farewelled

Wendy Hiam

The community centre has been going through a period of change and growth recently, which has been an interesting and challenging process for us to have gone through. As many of you will be aware, at the end of 2008, Alison Ryan finished in her role as finance co-ordinator at the centre, but we hope that this will not be the end of her association with the centre. Alison has had a long history with the community centre as a tutor, committee member and a staff member. She joined the staff of the community centre in January 1991 as bookkeeper, and her involvement in the centre grew over the years and she became an integral part of the centre. As well as her commitment to the community centre, Alison has been involved with other groups around the area, being a member of the kindergarten committee and part of the parents and friends at Beaconsfield Upper Primary School and at Beaconhills College. Alison has participated on the UB hall and building and grounds committee, and the Toy Library. In 2005 Alison was presented with the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year Award, and was named as the Cardinia Shire's Top Citizen. The book "Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre: From the Ashes" was compiled by Alison and others to commemorate the journey of the community centre as it grew 'out of the ashes' following the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983 which devastated the area.

More important than the positions held and the committees joined, Alison's commitment to the community centre and the community

of Upper Beaconsfield was a very personal one. She was often the first person that people moving into the area met as they came into the centre, and always had a friendly greeting and time for a chat with people coming into the centre for courses or information. Alison took the time to get to know people and their families, remembering names and making everybody feel important. We hope that this input and passion for her community will not be lost. Alison was joined at the centre by friends and colleagues for a farewell lunch on her final day in December.



Alison Ryan (on right) and Evy O'Connor

Upper Beac Association

UBA Quarterly Report

Jennie Vaughan, President UBA

During the last three months matters of local concern have been discussed by the UBA.

The Township Strategy draft was brought to residents' attention with copies being available at four locations for borrowing. Residents were invited to make comments on the draft to Cardinia Council. This draft is to be used as a guide for planning schemes in the future but some residents felt it would be out of date before it was implemented because of the time lag.

Some discussion took place concerning the Beaconhills Golf Club plans for subdividing seven blocks for residential purposes. There was opposition to the proposal and nothing can be decided until an appeal has been heard by VCAT in March.

The Council elections on 29 November created interest and the incumbent Councillors were re-elected.

In December the 4 Towns Committee quarterly meeting was held at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex. Topics of

mutual interest were discussed and as the hosts we were pleased to meet members from the other three towns, Gembrook, Emerald and Cockatoo.

The Christmas Eve Carols by Candlelight were successfully held with a new master of ceremonies. Peter Brown was in charge as our longstanding MC, Greg Ross, was on safari in deepest Africa.

Sergeant Phil Delaney from Pakenham Police reported in December that there continues to be break-ins and criminal damage at the Primary School. Hoon drivers were reported by several residents and Sergeant Delaney suggested ringing 000 to alert police.

At the AGM of the UBA, held in February, office bearers and committee members were elected for 2009. Two new members were welcomed to the committee; they are Sharon Pedder and Noel Ling.

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



About town



Bibbulmun Track

Jennie Vaughan

A well-known walking track with the intriguing name of Bibbulmun attracted four Upper Beaconsfield residents in early October of 2008. Planning for the journey started in 2007 as the track is in Western Australia. It starts near Perth and goes south near or along the coast to Albany; the total distance is about 900 km. We only aimed to walk for seven days or parts thereof and were assisted by two guides and a bus.

The Upper Beaconsfield party was joined by four friends from Melbourne, all with some walking experience. One Sunday morning we were picked up in Perth at our various hotels at 7 am and we headed south for a town called Harvey where we had morning tea prepared by the guides. Then we went on to Bridgetown for a picnic lunch before visiting the Diamond Tree which is used as a fire-spotter's lookout. One of our group climbed the tree but most of us preferred to admire the tree and the diversity of vegetation in the area.

There were several keen photographers in our group, and some wild-life experts, so

discussions were frequent as to the names of the wild flowers and animals. This was to continue over the next week as south-west Western Australia has abundant species at this time. Our first walk, only 6 km, was in Shannon National Park and ended at our camp site where tents were pitched, swags laid out under the stars and the guides cooked the evening meal on gas burners on the bus's trailer. Early to bed to be ready for an early start next morning.

After packing up tents and swags and stowing all the gear on the trailer we travelled some distance by foot to arrive thankfully at Walpole on Nornalup Inlet



The Upper Beaconsfield friends at the top of Bluff Knoll; they are Jenny Pritchard, Chester and Sue Keon-Cohen and Jennie Vaughan.

for lunch before the next stage to Coalmine Beach where we set up camp for four nights in a proper caravan park with water and power. Each day we would be driven a few kilometres before setting off on foot through wonderful forests of karri and tingle trees in the Valley of the Giants. On another day we visited the Tree Tops Walk. On two of the days we walked along beaches, over rocks, up cliffs and across coastal heath.

The final day was a real challenge. After a 5.30 am start, we climbed the highest peak in the south west of the state, Bluff Knoll, which is in the Stirling Ranges National Park and is 1075 m high. On reaching the summit we were spoiled with a freshly brewed mug of tea and a magnificent view. After a not-too-easy descent brunch was served from the trailer in the car park and we spent the rest of the day in the bus en route 400 km back to Perth. Our final fling on Sunday morning, before returning to Melbourne, was spent in King's Park admiring the spring flowers and the recently planted large and very old, boab tree which had been road transported a few weeks before from the Kimberley region of WA.

Carols by Candlelight

Neil McDonald

Our annual Carols by Candlelight gathering was held Christmas Eve in very pleasant weather conditions, which ensured an excellent attendance.

The night was a great success with some new faces appearing thanks to our stand in compere, Peter Brown. Peter happily took

over in the absence of Greg Ross, who was enjoying a well earned break overseas.

Apart from compering, Peter sang and played guitar. He was supported by pianist Peter McLean and by cousin John on the saxophone.

Peter had a choir of seven singers, some of whom sang solo numbers. These were a great addition to the night's enjoyment. Peter

took the lead in encouraging audience participation, particularly the children. Santa was enthusiastically welcomed by what appeared to be a never ending queue of children, all anxious to meet the great man and receive their goodies.

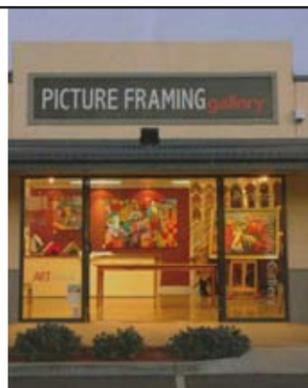
Ron Fisher and his sausage sizzle assistants did a great trade and had a very successful evening, ensuring the Hall Committee

will benefit financially as a result. To those who helped make the night a success, THANK YOU! I would also be very pleased to hear from a few younger members of our community who would be willing to assist in the setting up and packing up after the event. Phone me on 5944 3782.



picture framing • gallery

Shop 14A, Beaconsfield Shopping Plaza, Beaconsfield tel 9769 8766



Ranges Ward News



'Councillor Countability'

Graeme Legge

Upper Beaconsfield can look forward to the next step in the review of its Township Strategy. With the closing date for local submissions closing in late 2008, those submissions will be fully considered as part of the process. In my opinion the final document may be presented to council by mid-year.

Meanwhile the Village Festival will have been conducted and due pleasure and delight brought to young and old alike. I really enjoy communities coming together on such occasions. I express my appreciation of the work done to make these events happen.

At the time of writing, although the allocation of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure program has not been finalised, it can be stated that Ranges Ward will certainly be gaining its fair share.

The Annual Meeting of Upper Beaconsfield Association and the triennial meeting of Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Buildings and Grounds Committee were held on successive nights in early February. Alas, I had another commitment so I missed the former but I attended the latter. Such meetings are significant 'posts' in history as events are recorded over the reporting period and persons elected to positions of

leadership and involvement for the term ahead. I hold such people in high regard.

I encourage local groups with intentions to apply for council grants to avail themselves of council information nights as to the process and the information required in applications. Often the process is quite lengthy so better to commence soon. Councillors are at the receiving end of the process having to make decisions on the material within the applications. It needs to be complete in order that due assessments can be made. Assistance from council staff is readily available.



Gembrook Electorate

Tammy Lobato

Good luck to all school students who have commenced the new school year. I especially wish luck to those in Prep and Year 7. These students have to face a new school environment, which can be both exciting and a little daunting. Parents of these students should by now have received a \$300 bonus from the Brumby Government to assist with the purchase of books, uniforms and other school necessities. If you have any queries about the school start bonus, please contact me for assistance.

Also on the education front, the Federal Government has funded hundreds of new computers for local secondary schools used by Upper Beaconsfield families, including Berwick Secondary College (254 computers); St Francis Xavier (297); Beaconhills (266); St Margaret's (33); Mater Christi (160) and Emerald Secondary College (172). This will bring the student to computer ratio in these schools to 2:1 and is a terrific boost for local education.

Exciting news resulting from the State Government's \$38 billion Victorian Transport Plan is that a new train station is to be built at Lakeside in Pakenham, near Cardinia Road. Motorists will be pleased to learn that \$1 million has been allocated

to Clyde Road in Berwick to develop plans and full costings for its future duplication between Kangan Drive and High Street. This will also involve removal of the existing level crossing and doubling capacity from two lanes to four lanes. Noise barriers are to be installed along sections of the Princes Freeway in Berwick and Beaconsfield later this year, as part of the transport plan.

I am pleased that funding for the Public Internet Access program has been allocated to Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre. This State Government grant of \$7 500 will ensure that Upper Beaconsfield residents have free internet access for a further two years. The community centre has always served as an important hub for delivering a range of services and educational opportunities to local residents, and this PIAP funding will enable that to continue.

On an environmental note, Cardinia Shire Council has received a \$30 000 grant from the State Government to tackle invasive roadside weeds in the municipality. Weed control, like all areas of environmental concern, is a partnership between all levels of the community. The website of the Department of Primary Industries at www.dpi.vic.gov.au provides a host of information about prohibited weeds, including

photographs for ease of identification. It is worthwhile to familiarise yourself with these weeds so that you can play an active part in weed eradication.

Thanks to all residents who have kept their water usage down to 155 litres of mains water per person per day, despite the recent hot weather. If you want further information about how to reduce water usage, the website at www.target155.vic.gov.au can help. Reducing shower times to a maximum of four minutes and installing an efficient showerhead is one of the simplest and most effective things you can do. Please contact South East Water on 131 867 for information on how to exchange your showerhead or visit the website at www.sew.com.au.

Please contact me for any assistance or advice you may need on matters of state government responsibility.

Tammy Lobato MP, Member for Gembrook, 1/5 Gloucester Ave Berwick, 3806.

Tel: 9796 1987 Fax: 9796 1891

Email:

tammy.lobato@parliament.vic.gov.au

Village Festival

Liz Grigg

Thank you Upper Beaconsfield for a wonderful day. The 2009 Village Festival has been the most successful festival to date.

The day ran very smoothly, and enjoyed the best turnout of residents and visitors to the festival. The day kicked off with the Tower-to-Tower Fun Run challenge with a record number of entries, and the results were available promptly on completion. Congratulations to all our section winners, and to the two dogs who completed the run. Thank you to Tom Gibson and his able band of helpers including David Bloom who took on the task of seeking sponsors and equipment required to effectively run the event; and to the Scouts and CFA for marshalling and providing the drink stations on the course.

We thank Cardinia Shire for their generous grant which enables the Festival to offer a range of activities for the day, and to Councillor Graeme Legge who opened the Festival proceedings and presented the fun run medals. Special thanks to all the local groups, clubs and organisations who once again organised their volunteers to set up, man and pack up their stalls. It was a wonderful display. The dedication of volunteers and enthusiasts within Upper Beaconsfield is a wonderful testament to the passion within Upper Beac, and shows what a fantastic diversity is on offer within the township itself.

Special thanks go to Barry Gates who called his mates and provided such a impressive display of motorbikes; to Stan Hamilton who arranged for Bill Shelton and his 1935 2T Dodge truck; David Clash for bringing up the convertible Devaux this year; Graeme Wilson for his stunning Packard (and for driving my dad home all the way to Brighton); and Andy Freeman and his wife from Ringwood for their gorgeous Citroen. What treasures will the Festival committee find for next year? You had better come and see.

On behalf of the Festival Committee, Wendy Smith, Bob Taylor, Wendy Hiam, Tom Gibson and myself; I wish to thank the Community Centre committee for their support, without their contribution and assistance the festival would not happen.

Thank you Upper Beaconsfield for your support of the Village Festival, profits from this year's event will be donated to aid the bushfire relief on behalf of Upper Beaconsfield residents.





Flora and Fauna

Wildlife Watch

Laura Levens

Aren't weeds a perennial topic? During this last spring/early summer weeding has been slowed by trying not to destroy the painstaking work of spiders festooned at all levels of vegetation. Dozens of tailed and St Andrew's cross spiders built at about knee level, spiny spiders at chest height and garden spider webs can wrap around one's face at night. The first spiny spider builds a complete orb web but other specimens soon arrive to form a group in an intermingled untidy conglomeration.

Some spiny spiders built webs on shrubs near the main door and while Bert was looking at something else he accidentally broke one. By next morning the spider had rebuilt with the guy rope attached high up on the wall out of reach!!

There seems to have been many more sword-grass-brown butterflies fluttering around the burgan shrub outside our lounge room window while it was in profuse flower just before Christmas. Combined with another white flowered shrub, common cassinia, blooming at the same time my patch of bush reminded me of an English Christmas pictured on cards.

I noticed our manna gum shed its bark in the second week of January instead of November as it usually does. Why is that so I wonder? We cleared bark from around the base so that there would be more chance of saving it from a bushfire. It survived Ash Wednesday and we'd like it to live longer still.

A little while ago we watched crimson rosellas eat black scale insects from a tree but like most wildlife they don't eat every one of a food supply. I have seen them skin and eat caterpillars in a similar fashion to the way they deal with seeds.

Cardinia Catchment Landcare News

Neil McDonald

After the Festive Season break the group is back to business, holding its first meeting early February. We hope that the extreme hot weather conditions will abate and we see much needed rainfall.

Our sponsored Green Corp group has been busy removing a large infestation of flax leaf broom along the Salisbury Road roadside prior to moving to the corner of Split Road Road to tackle pittosporum and other assorted weeds. The group has also been involved in ongoing work at Salisbury Gully.

Further construction has been completed at the indigenous nursery in Halford Rd including an extension to our tank watering system as the demand for plants increases.

Landcare is one of the most successful and dynamic organisations in Australia, involving thousands of volunteers who are making a major contribution to revegetation, protection of waterways and weed eradication on both private and public land.

The general community could assist by removing noxious and environmental weeds from their roadside frontages in the knowledge that they can source replacement indigenous plants from our nursery.

Our group extends a very warm welcome to any person who would like to become involved in any capacity they see fit, whether it be at planting days, helping at our nursery or assisting in a strategic role.

Further information may be obtained at our website: www.cclg.net.au or telephone 5944 3782.



Vale Trevor Kenneth Nance

27 February 1945–15 October 2008

From the Nance family to our friends in the community of Upper Beaconsfield

Trevor passed away on 15 October 2008 after a very long battle with Motor Neurone Disease. His wonderful spirit and fabulous sense of humour had endeared him to all who have had the privilege of coming into contact with this inspirational man.

Trevor and Dawn lived at Warrington Park, 17 Lenne Road, Upper Beaconsfield for 30 years and brought up three daughters Melinda, Tanya and Melissa, who all attended the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School.

Trevor loved the natural country atmosphere of Upper Beaconsfield and the freedom from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Strong friendships made over many years still prevailed until his passing. Trevor hated the thought of leaving our beloved Upper Beaconsfield but we were no longer able to manage the property. It was very sad leaving behind the sounds of the bell birds and the beautiful gardens which Trevor created. We moved to Berwick, and Trevor stayed at home until he made the courageous decision to

have his Bi-Pap machine (breathing machine) withdrawn, and went into Bethlehem Hospital.

I would like to express our thanks from all of our family to all of yours. Thank you for the good times, and the many memories which will never be forgotten.

For those who don't know what Motor Neurone Disease is, it is an insidious disease that eats away at muscle tissue, the brain is not always affected. It can start in various parts of the body, immobilising every limb, even the voice box. One person is diagnosed somewhere in Australia every day.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Motor Neurone Association in Trevor's memory, they would be extremely grateful. (MND Victoria PO Box 23 Canterbury 3126)

We will be organising a ball at Crown Casino in conjunction with the Motor Neurone Association. We will advertise this in the Village Bell and we hope that some of the residents of Upper Beaconsfield will attend and support this wonderful cause.

Trevor's quote "Until we all meet again in a better place"

Thank You.

Pharmacy Information

Medications and the PBS

Justin Soon

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is a scheme whereby the government has agreed to subsidise certain medications. The majority of prescriptions written by General Practitioners will be covered under the PBS.

All PBS scripts should be the same price, in all pharmacies across Australia. The prescription items that vary in price between pharmacies are the private, or non-PBS items. It is these items that are advertised as being heavily discounted (i.e. 50% off etc.). However, you will notice that all the advertising regarding discounts on prescriptions will always exclude government subsidised items (i.e. items covered under the PBS.)

The PBS is available to all Australian residents who hold a valid Medicare card. This is why you must present your Medicare Card at the pharmacy when you have a prescription dispensed.

How much are you expected to pay for your medications?

The co-payment is the amount you pay towards the cost of your PBS medicine. Many PBS medicines cost a lot more than you actually pay as a co-payment.



In 2009, the maximum price for a PBS prescription is \$32.90 (for Medicare card holders) or \$5.30 (if you also have a valid concession card). However, the government will only subsidise the least expensive brands. Thus any brand price premiums (for non-generic brands) are an additional cost (to patients) on top of the co-payments. The co-payments are determined by the government and adjusted on 1 January every year in line with the Consumer Price Index.

Private patients are those who are not entitled to a Medicare card, for example overseas visitors, and are expected to pay the full cost of the medication. In some cases, this can be quite expensive.



Pilates and Yoga

Pilates

We provide a fully equipped pilates studio in a totally private, most beautiful, natural scene. Pilates is a therapeutic, full body workout, it tones the muscles, improves blood circulation and body awareness. You will gain general health, fitness, longer and leaner muscles, strength, great abdominals, better posture, healthy spine and skeletal system. Once you start pilates you will never want to stop. It will become a habit, something you will look forward to. We offer private pilates, semi private and small groups with pilates equipment.

Our mat classes are very popular. They start on Thursday 5 February 2009, from 7–8 pm. A 9 week class costs \$100. Bring your own mat.

We also offer therapeutic pilates for people with bad backs. To make an appointment, contact us on 5944 4736 or 0418 235 093.

Yoga

Yoga is the best foundation in life. Yoga will rejuvenate every part of your body, stretching and toning the joints, muscles, spine and entire skeletal system. It has a preventive and curative effect on internal organs, glands, and the nervous system, keeping all parts of the body in perfect health. Breathing relaxation and medication will increase clarity and mental power, positive thinking, and peace of mind. Only small classes are available on Monday 9 February, 7–8 pm and Wednesday 11 February, 7–8 pm. To make an appointment, contact us on 5944 4736 or 0418 235 093.

Naturopathy

Includes:
• Iris diagnosis
• Allergy testing
• Lose weight
In today's world obesity is an increasing epidemic. It is time to make a choice and fight back for your health. With a close observation with our



qualified naturopath you can lose weight safely and permanently. Naturopathy can also help with cancer, arthritis and many other ailments. To make an appointment, contact us on 5944 4736 or 0418 235 093.

Massage

We offer spa sauna, remedial or relaxing massage in a total private and serene environment.

Mud Therapy

Degenerative diseases are spread today all over the world. More and more people are suffering from rheumatic and arthritic conditions and lower back pain. Until now no miracle drug has been found. The only way to improve your health is to closely monitor your diet and mud therapy. Mud contains natural antibiotics, vitamins and minerals in a large quantity. Mud penetrates the skin, entering the bloodstream so the whole blood circulation improves. It also softens the muscular system and relieves arthritic conditions. To make an appointment, contact us on 5944 4736 or 0418 235 093.

Look after your greatest asset, yourself.

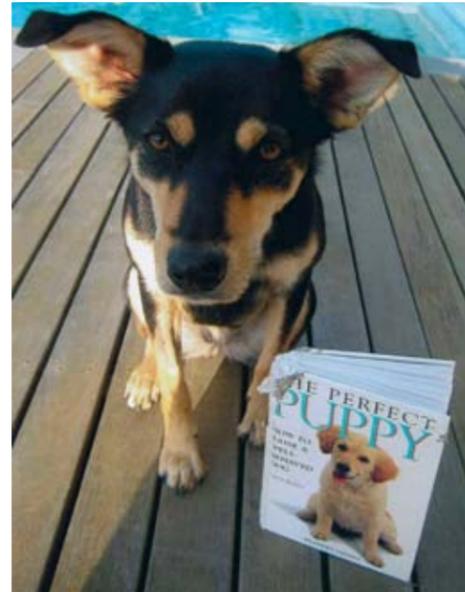
Indulge yourself because you're worth it!!! Call: 5944 4736 Mobile: 0418 235 093



New residents Ross & Tess Porz (above) won 1st and 3rd prize with their entires "Sunset" (left) and "The perfect puppy?" (below)



Helen Smith won 2nd prize with "Cardinia Reservoir Panorama"



UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION
VILLAGE BELL
"Intrinsically Upper Beacy"
Photo-Competition



Ben Bowman (below) with the above entry "Split Dog" won 2nd prize in the Junior section



"The Rise of Helios" - Winner in the Junior section by Lochie Newham



"Grasshopper" by James Randall won 3rd prize



Cameron Rocke



Festival goers admire the prints in the 'Open Section'

Laura Dean's "The Walk"—a highly commended image



"Anyone for Tennis?" by Sharon Blyth—a highly commended image



A two second time lapse photo of those admiring the winning entries in the Junior section.



A bit of healthy exposure for some unplaced junior entries—Kirsten Yorke's untitled entry (above), and "Rose in full bloom" (below) by Beau Ellis Bliss.



The competition came to its spectacular conclusion at The Village Festival. The winners' and place getters' images were beautifully framed and displayed, with the other highly commended images nicely mounted as well. Since the images were judged from both an artistic and photographic point of view by Peter Petrucelli, Margaret Cromb and myself, each participant's entry had to jump several hurdles to get into the placings. Hence the various qualities in the images were of the highest standard and a pleasure view at the festival. We thank Keith Ewenson for making the formal presentations to all the winners.

The collective wisdom of a good number of participants and many viewers was that our display would have been more complete if all of the entries had been displayed. At this stage we can't find any good reason for not adopting this suggestion for future competitions. In the meantime keep all those cherished photos that are 'intrinsic to Upper Beacy'. The whole community may affectionately identify with them and you may get due recognition for taking and sharing them in the coming year.



Primary School news

Good start to the year

Nick Karanzoulis, Principal

We have had a smooth start to the 2009 school year with three new teachers, Bec Hand, Shaye Bradbury and Chris Pentland, joining BUPS for the first time. Our 44 Preps started their formal education with ease, following our extensive transition program from kindergarten to primary school. On the first day, mums, dads, grandparents, grade 6 buddies and our support staff welcomed the excited preps who, hopefully, will be completing their year 12, VCE or similar, in 2022. The date alone sounds so futuristic and almost science fiction. However, it is a reality and we will continue to prepare our students to be highly functional and successful young adults in the year 2022. This includes the implementation



of the pedagogy that skills and develops our children academically, physically, socially and emotionally.

We have welcomed our prep parents and new families to BUPS with a BBQ catered for by the PFA. An information night and 'Getting to know you sessions' have helped to build a healthy relationship between the children, teachers and parents.

Recently, Tammy Lobato MP, Member for Gembrook, presented all the student leaders, including Junior School Council, Environment Captains and House Captains, with their leadership badges. This year, the school captains are Monica Bilton and Brendon Cooper.

Student leadership will play a significant part as we prepare our children to be more responsible for their learning, decision making and their actions overall.



Toy Library



Marie Rogers

While most of us were enjoying a well deserved break over the summer holidays, including myself, the toy library committee ladies were busy sorting through the many toys we have managed to acquire over the years, to make the library even more

also plan to purchase some new inflatable tunnels, slides and castles, occupational and fantasy dress-ups and more challenging puzzles and games for the older children.

Many will replace but also add to our already fantastic range of good quality and very safe toys. Well worth a look, but allow a little more time when visiting as we are bigger and even better than before.



We are currently looking for people to join our friendly and helpful committee.

Not only will you be able to borrow toys all year round and help with the running of this vital community service but you will be able to assist us with purchasing even more toys and benefit from the privileges of being a volunteer at the centre.

So, if you like buying toys that children will enjoy and

pleasing to the eye. They worked long hours over many days and their reward was well worth it. The result is a much cleaner, tidier library with more space to make way for the new toys arriving mid February.

Toys such as step 2, push around buggy, cosy coupe, fire engine for two, two up and down roller coasters, little helpers complete kitchen, real project workshop, John Deere; digger, roly tractor & trailer, little tikes; basketball set and construction site steamroller. More playsets such as Coko, bricks train track, ocean animals and many other educational toys and games are only some of the new purchases arriving. We

would like to contribute your ideas on the running of the library, come and see us at Toy Library. We meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month in a pleasant, social and relaxed atmosphere, we'd love to meet you and we look forward to meeting our new and previous members. With many 2009 members joining in December last year, it looks like a good year ahead for us.

Membership is only \$20 per family per calendar year, the best Toy Library value in Cardinia. Join now and get the full benefit of your membership, your children will love you for it. For more information contact the community centre on 5944 3484.

Being involved with Toy Library we get to see a lot of toys and know what children like, what works well, what is safe and the most appropriate, easy to clean and what lasts and is value for money.

It is suggested by many children's services, safety centres and associations that families seeking suitable toys for their children should consider joining a Toy Library to have access to a range of good-quality educational toys and to get advice on recommended brands and toys.

For more detailed information on safe and suitable toys go to these excellent websites:

www.ywcansw.com.au

www.kidsafe.com.au

www.rch.org.au/safetycentre



The good news from St John's

Rev Ronald Peterson

Services at St John's Anglican Church, Beaconsfield Upper are held on Sundays at 9.30 am and Wednesdays at 10 am.

St John's Playgroup begins in its new rooms in the lower hall in February. For registrations ring Kyla on 5944 4367. St John's Op Shop also commences trading in the lower hall in February, watch the notice board for days and times.

How many times have you heard someone

say, "This year things are going to be different, I'm turning over a new leaf?" Well, Christmas 2008 is quickly becoming just a distant memory, fading from our minds, the year is one twelfth over and the good intention that we had to make this year different from the last have mostly faded. As school starts back and all the normal daily, weekly and monthly activities that crowd our lives begin to snowball, without even realising it, we soon find ourselves in the same old patterns of life.

Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus is about new beginnings, new life, new hope, fresh starts. The potential that Christmas can have for our lives doesn't end at midnight on 25 December each year. The promise spoken by the angel to the shepherds holds true all year round, 'a Saviour has been born.' Coming to grips with the truth of that statement changes our whole perspective on everything and enables our new year to be a year of new beginnings.



March is Scleroderma Awareness Month

This will be the second national awareness month held.

Sunflower badges and information pamphlets on this uncommon condition will be available at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre and Toy Library during March.

For more details or to attend an information seminar contact

Scleroderma Victoria on 9288 3651 or via the web www.sclerodermavictoria.com.au



Australian Red Cross

Berwick–Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit

Barbara Jackson 5944 3554

Since writing my article in early February the Gippsland fires have escalated beyond belief and many areas throughout the state have suffered absolute tragedy and devastation. The response from the community has been overwhelming and the money channelled to the Red Cross Bush Fire Appeal has NO Administration costs. All money will be put to the greatest need over both short and long term recovery periods. Thank you to all who have organised fund raising events and to all who have given their support in many ways.

Thank you for your magnificent support of the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal. Your generosity has been overwhelming and very much appreciated.

There will be no March Red Cross Calling

this year. Thank you for your wonderful support in past years.

At time of writing this article, Red Cross volunteers have already assisted at the fires in Gippsland and in the other extreme, floods in Queensland. Internationally, Red Cross is continually working with the most disadvantaged people, in their most vulnerable times and in the most disadvantaged places.

All this takes a lot of money and with the current world wide economic downturn the need will be even greater for Red Cross services.

The Berwick/Upper Beaconsfield Red Cross Unit's Christmas raffle raised \$800. First prize of a large Christmas hamper was won by G. Condo of Narre Warren South. Second prize of vouchers kindly donated by Sages Restaurant went to B. Spicer,

Fountain Gate and the third prize of wine was won by G. Metz of Berwick. Thank you to all who supported the raffle.

Christmas cards and merchandise handled by the Unit resulted in sales of \$4355.10. Special thanks to the Committee and volunteer staff at the Berwick Mechanics Institute Library who enthusiastically support the sale of Red Cross Christmas cards, calendars and diaries in the library each year. This outlet is greatly appreciated by Red Cross and local residents who like their Christmas greetings to assist worthy causes. Sales via the library amounted to \$2072.40 of the total handled by the Unit.

A reminder that used postage stamps can be left at the library throughout the year. This small gesture raises a surprising amount of money. Eunice Welch of Red Cross Stamp Sales reports that \$10961 was raised last financial year and in the last six months \$6300 has been banked.



Upper Beac Pony Club

Pony Club activities off to a flying start

Marg Jones

Here I sit writing the Pony Club report on the hottest day in Victoria's history. We have activated our own personal fire plan and have everything ready to go.

The year started off with a very successful pony club camp which was held over the Australia Day weekend at Daylesford. All riders and their families had a wonderful time and are looking forward already to next year's camp. Thank you to the camp's organisers who did a fabulous job.

Our Christmas Gymkhana was held on 1 February after that very hot week, it was such a contrast from the original date our gymkhana had been scheduled. Our Gymkhana had been deferred from December when we experienced that



Saturday of very heavy rain – wish we could have that rain again! It was great to see everybody back & having fun. With four rings going, the Pony Club ring, Fun Ring, Handy Mount & Show Jumping it kept all riders and their parents very busy and 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 feed & watered all day), the ring marshals and those who set up and take down the rings & equipment.

Congratulations go to our major trophy winners for the day which were:- Ice King Award – Jesse Andrewartha Chikka Memorial Award – Grace Sutcliffe

Simone Memorial Award – Teille Robinson

This year will see two riders from our club represent us at the Pony Club State Championships being held on the 22nd February at Oatlands in both Dressage and Show Jumping. Well done girls and best of luck we know that you will do us proud: The riders who will be flying the purple and green colours on the day will be:

Clarissa Bentley Bell – riding Monty competing in GRADE 3 Dressage

Sasha Henstock riding Dottie Doo Little competing in C GRADE Show Jumping

Our monthly rallies will commence with a Twilight Rally. The riding committee is putting together a very full program for the year for the enjoyment of all riders.

Should anyone in our community be interested in joining our club please don't hesitate to contact us or go directly to our web site www.upperbeaconsfield.ponyclubvic.org.au to learn more about this wonderful youth movement.

Upper Beac Tennis Club

Hot competition at the Tennis Club

Cam McCormick

Too hot for tennis?

Yes it has been a bit toasty on the courts recently, which resulted in most local competitions cancelling all matches on the last week of January and first week of February. West Gippsland toughed it out the first hot week, but thankfully sanity prevailed the following week with matches cancelled the day before after a forecast of 43 degrees.

Senior weekend competition

Anybody wanting to play Pennant Competition during winter should call Nick Gamble (0438 443 756) to enquire about likely openings in these teams.

Midweek ladies competition

The mid week ladies spring season finished on a high note with four out of five teams being represented in the finals. Well done to our DDTA Wed section 3 team (Kerryne Condos, Sheena Dunn, Anna Bowen, Jo Huijibregsen and Teresa Cooper) for being Runners Up. It was a fantastic effort from our DDTA Wed section 6 team (Wendy Brown, Rita O'Brien, Helen McRae, Sophie Westneat, Liz Paynter and Fiona Walker) to win the Premiers flag. Our one and only PTA Friday singles section 4 players (Leonie Collins, Carol Rose and Wendy Irwin) were also sporting grins from ear to ear with their victory, being Premiers of section 4.

Good luck to all as the 2009 season gets underway. We have six



teams entered, five Wednesday doubles teams in Dandenong & District Tennis Association and one Friday Singles team entered in Peninsula Tennis Association. We are lucky to have so many teams as many clubs are battling to find enough players for one team.

Our end of year celebration was well attended with an abundance of Christmas cheer and champagne to toast another successful year. We are always on the lookout for more players to join the mid week competition, even just as an emergency. Please phone Jenny McCormick on 5944 3617 if you are interested in playing.

Junior competition

The Junior summer season will finish at the end of this term and the new winter season will commence late April. Registrations for the winter season are now being taken and will close on Sunday 15 March. The UBTC has 11 teams spread over 22 sections, so if you are a new player joining the club we are able to slot you into the appropriate section. Registration forms can be collected from the clubhouse at Sutherland Park Reserve (off Stoney Creek Road) or you can phone the junior co-coordinator Nikki Le Brocq on 5944 3343. Junior lessons are run at the club by Ossie's Tennis Coaching on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. For further details please make contact with Paul Osborne on 0413 594 633 or Rob Scott on 0407 643 909.

Night tennis

Playing tennis in the relative cool of the evening is a great idea during summer, so come along and have a go. Most nights still have places available—anyone 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	5944 3385

To join-up as a member, contact our treasurer Callen O'Brien (5944 3430) for a membership application form.

Christmas party and club championship finals

The Christmas party was a huge success. Santa again made an appearance, the recently purchased radar gun was peppered with fast (and not so fast) serves by party goers, and all club championship finals matches were played in great spirit through dusk and into the night.

Congratulations to the finals contestants

Senior mens singles: won by Paul Osborne (R/up Jonathan Collins)
Senior mens doubles: won by Matt Hendry & Adrian Winther (R/up Rob Trotter & Jonathan Collins)
Junior girls singles: won by Melissa Butler (R/up Sophie Gajnik)
Junior boys singles: won by Jonathan Collins (R/up Ben Kirchert)

Still waiting to be boring...

Unfortunately we are still waiting for Council to put in the bore pump. We have laid the electrical and water pipes ourselves, so when Council comes good with the pump as promised we can finally water our courts with much needed bore water.

Hope to see you at the courts soon.



Beaconhills Golf Club

Mary Griffin

In December last year, Beaconhills Golf Club's Junior Pennant team won the Section 6 flag in the VGA metropolitan competition and progressed into the finals. The first was on a wet Friday on 12 December: Beaconhills Junior Pennant (Section 6 flag winners) versus Woodlands (Section 1 flag winners). The game was played at Churchill Park and it did not stop raining. Six players from each club teed up and the end result was tied 3 all which meant a sudden death tie breaker between the number 1 player from each team. Woodlands played first, a wood down the middle. Beaconhills player Hayden Nisbet cut his drive, missed the fairway and was behind a tree. The Woodlands player hit onto the green, short left, leaving a 25 foot putt. Hayden played the shot of the day to 15 foot, leaving a nice uphill putt. The Woodland player's putt raced past just missing. Hayden lagged his putt to 4 inches. Woodland 3 puttied – Beaconhills won!

The second final was on an overcast afternoon at Northern Golf Club, Beaconhills versus the undefeated Rossdale. Beaconhills won the match 4/2.

In the "grand final" at Ranfurlie Golf Club against Riversdale Golf Club, Beaconhills fought hard but went down. Nonetheless they were the second best club out of the 42 metropolitan clubs entered in the VGA pennant.

Beaconhills players for the year were: Ben Taylor, Hayden Nisbet, Daniel Cann, Lisa Teo, Kim Murray, Amber Griffin, Chris Broom, Tristan Nowak, Al Conn, Andrew

Cameron, and Harrison Whykes. Well done team!

Information for parents – under 15 membership

Beaconhills Golf Club has a strong commitment to junior golf—why not take advantage of it? Under 15 membership is an ideal way for your child to start playing golf. The under 15 category of membership allows juniors playing rights on weekdays any time other than member competition times, and Saturdays and Sundays after 2.30 pm (2 pm outside daylight savings hours). It depends upon the child but the suggested time to begin is around 9 or 10 years of age. The Beaconhills Country Golf Club Junior Development program commenced in 1994 to promote and structure junior golf at the club and has developed and maintained a strong reputation.

The junior program caters for the specific needs of young players, by allowing them to develop their knowledge and skills in the game of golf in an environment where they are mixing and competing against other juniors. Players are encouraged to participate in a range of golfing and social activities that enable them to establish friendships and progress through junior levels to become adult members.

The Junior program is managed by a Committee including the Manager (Mrs Danie McNeil), Junior Director (Lindsay Martin, a trained teacher), Golf Professional (Mark Griffin), Junior Co-coordinator (Greg Broom) and parent members. The Beaconhills Junior program has produced

some excellent golfers under Mark Griffin's expert guidance. Mark is a AAA coach and consistently rated as one of the top 50 instructors in Australia.

Elements of the junior program include:

- Saturday afternoon competition Two stage 9 hole competitions, i.e. handicap/non handicap
- J team skills and golf knowledge development program including putting, chipping, long game, rules and etiquette
- J team has four levels: Par, Birdie, Eagle, Norman/Webb
- J team is optional, although encouraged by the Junior Committee
- Holiday clinics with golf instruction are provided by Mark Griffin.
- Girls' golf clinics are run monthly
- Junior Pennant
- Transition program to 18 Hole/ Under 16 membership
- Annual Junior U/15 Championships
- Social events including interclub events and Christmas party

The cost is \$175 for 12 months (1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 (but your child can start at any time)

If you have any queries, call Mary Griffin at Beaconhills Country Golf Club Stoney Creek Road UPPER BEACONSFIELD 3808 tel 5945 9210 membership@beaconhillsgolf.com.au

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