

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

# VILLAGE BELL

Issue No. 191  
March 2013





UBA Meeting December 2012 - Ewenson Family (above) with the new plaque commemorating Keith Ewenson. Eleanor Taylor and Oksana Heywood (right) with the reproduction of the Cardinia Embroidery.



### Ash Wednesday Memorial Service

A service to commemorate 30 years since Ash Wednesday, 16 February 1983, was held at St John's church on Sunday 17 February 2013, and was attended by several hundred people. A great part of the service was dedicated to the fourteen fire fighters from CFA brigades who were killed fighting the fires on Ash Wednesday.

left: CFA Chief Officer Euan Ferguson carries the charred melted cross that was all that was left of St John's—destroyed in the fires—from a chapel built to remember the parishioners, citizens, and fire fighters killed on Ash Wednesday in Upper Beaconsfield, totalling 21.

right: The helmets represent the fire fighters who lost their lives. The stained glass window above is dedicated to Alison and Kerry Medwin, who perished on Ash Wednesday—wife and daughter of Barry Medwin. Inscription: 'He has taken me into the banquet hall and his banner over me is love.' Song of Songs 2:4.

left: The Hon. Alex Chernov, Governor of Victoria, The Hon. Ted Baillieu, Premier of Victoria, other dignitaries and all attendees at the service give an enthusiastic ovation to the fire fighters of Ash Wednesday (standing) including, two pews back, our own Stan Hamilton (left) and Eric Bumpstead (Captain on Ash Wednesday).



above: Upper Beaconsfield fire fighter, Nancy Boura, also a veteran of Ash Wednesday, chimes a bell as each of the names of the fire fighters killed on Ash Wednesday are read out by CFA Chief Officer Euan Ferguson. By Cameron Rocke

# Matt is "Citizen of the Year"

Helen Smith

Matt McDonald has been awarded Upper Beaconsfield's Citizen of the Year through his long and varied participation and service to the community. Since 1978 when Matt and his family moved to Upper Beaconsfield, Matt has been able to combine a full commitment to family and work, while working to strengthen and assist the local community.

He enjoyed a long and successful career as a schoolteacher and educational consultant and nowadays works with local community organisations and as a civil celebrant. Matt and his wife Anne brought up their three children in Upper Beaconsfield and became involved in local sporting clubs and community groups. Matt's love is his family, his wife and children Matthew, Ben and Elizabeth, and grandchildren. His community involvement includes:

1. 1983 President of the Upper Beaconsfield Association. This was the year of the Ash Wednesday bushfires and he was involved in the community recovery through his role in the UBA
2. 1993–97 Upper Beaconsfield Scout Committee
3. 1991–97 Upper Beaconsfield Fair Committee (and more recently the Village Festival)
4. From 1980 onwards, editor and member of the Village Bell, our community newspaper. The Bell aims to keep the residents informed about local events and issues, to foster a sense of community and to record the township's history. The Bell is also an outlet for local businesses to advertise their services
5. In 1981 Matt got together a basketball side with Glen Rutherford, Chris Leaver and others. The team went on to win the A grade premiership at Pakenham in 1982!
6. He helped set up the Peddlers Group in 2003. Peddlers organises regular bike rides which provide an outlet for active recreation and meeting new people
7. Helped those in need through the Upper Beaconsfield Care Group
8. Door knocked for Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal
9. Involved in the Men's Shed movement, assisting in the opening of the Gembrook Men's Shed and also at Pakenham, Emerald and Cockatoo. Member of the West Gippsland Men's Shed Cluster. Inaugural president of the Upper Beaconsfield Men's Shed

Men's Sheds are a real passion of Matt's. Research has found the isolation of retirement is detrimental to both the mental and physical wellbeing of men. Matt is a true advocate for men's health and he believes the Men's Shed provides men with an opportunity to socialise, keep active and give back to the community.

It is also obvious that Matt wasn't one who sat passively on committees, but one who followed

through his passions with action, whether it be in the writing of reports, lobbying authorities for action, or swinging a mattock to clean up a reserve.

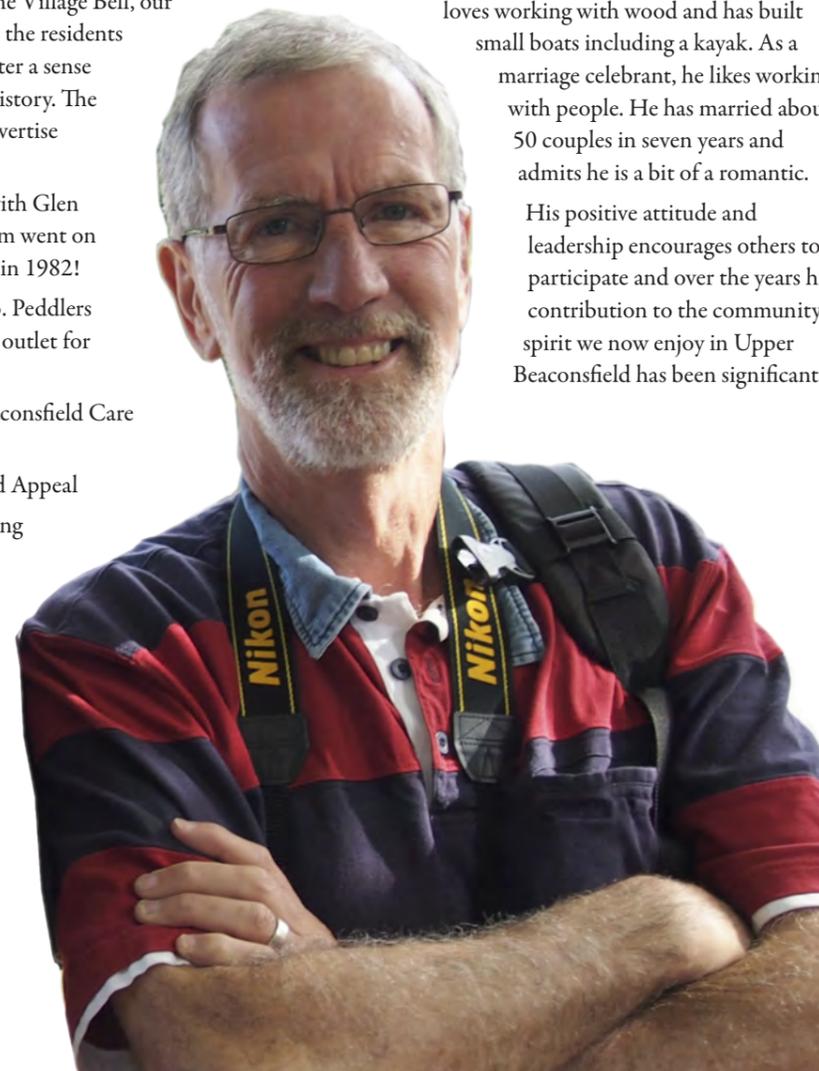
As one of the rotating editors of the Village Bell, Matt regularly attends the editorial meetings and collating nights. He has a great sense of humour and can be relied on to provide good advice and judgement on reporting local issues.



UBA President Jennie Vaughan and Mayor Brett Owen congratulate Matt as Citizen of the Year 2012 at the Village Festival

Another facet of his character is that he says he loves working with wood and has built small boats including a kayak. As a marriage celebrant, he likes working with people. He has married about 50 couples in seven years and admits he is a bit of a romantic.

His positive attitude and leadership encourages others to participate and over the years his contribution to the community spirit we now enjoy in Upper Beaconsfield has been significant.



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### Cover (smaller images):

Liam entertains the crowd with bagpipes. He is part of the recently formed "The Upper Beats Music Group"

Five-year old Ana-Victoria Malins' artwork "Tres Flores", displayed in the art competition. She chose flowers as a theme as she "thought they might be nice."

## Rainfall at "Barkala", Beaconsfield-Emerald Road

George Moir

Month	Average	2012	2013
Jan	62.8	60.3	26.6
Feb	53.4	82.3	
Mar	64.4	60.0	
Apr	76.9	114.2	
May	85.0	128.5	
Jun	79.1	146.3	
Jul	79.2	64.6	
Aug	87.4	71.0	
Sep	90.3	86.9	
Oct	95.4	65.6	
Nov	85.6	48.8	
Dec	80.5	42.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>940 mm</b>	<b>969 mm</b>	

- First half of 2012 (Jan-Jun) The total rainfall was 589.6 mm, 162.3 mm higher than the average of 427.3 mm
- 2012 rainfall was 969 mm, an excess over average of 22.5 mm.
- Spring (Sep-Nov) totalled 201.3 mm compared to average of 272.7 mm, a deficit to average of 71.4 mm
- Summer so far (Dec-Jan) total rainfall was 69.1 mm compared to average of 144 mm, a deficit of 74.9 mm
- Weather very variable over the last 12 months

## Berwick Lodge Clinic on the move

Locals may be interested to learn that the Berwick Lodge Medical Clinic is relocating to 9 Village Way, Pakenham on 12 March 2013, and will be renamed Lakeside Medical Centre. The Centre will be an expanded service to offer a wide range of medical services.

It is located at Lakeside Square shopping centre Cardinia Road Pakenham, which is off Cardinia Road between the freeway and next to the new Cardinia railway station.

This medical practice has its origins in Upper Beaconsfield, growing originally from Dr Charles Wilson on his property, Wildfell, in St Georges Road, to the house next to the Post Office with Drs Sally McDonald, Jenny Watt and Alexa Fredericks, in 1985. These doctors moved to the current Berwick address and are now moving to the expanded practice.

## Ann Fogarty's story • Forged with Flames

Born in rural England, Ann Fogarty settled in Australia with her husband, Terry, and was a resident of Upper Beaconsfield in the early 1980s. When a firestorm engulfed the bushland around Ann's home in St Georges Road, she and her young daughters were trapped in its path.

Ann protected the girls as a fireball swept over them and in doing so, sustained burns to 85% of her body, although neighbours rescued her. She was not expected to survive.

Ann has published her memories of the fires and her recovery in a book, co-authored with Anne Crawford: *Forged with Flames: a true story of courage and survival*, published by Wild Dingo Press. An interview with Ann can be found at: [www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2013/02/11/3687694.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2013/02/11/3687694.htm)

## Village Festival

Janet Cathie

Thank you to all who came along to the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival on Sunday 17 February, the atmosphere was great and it was fantastic to see so many people enjoying the day.

The weather although quite warm, brought many out to browse the stalls and enjoy an abundance of entertainment, activities and food.

The latest addition to the festival the 'sticky wall' (cover) proved to be a huge success, along with the ever popular bungee trampoline and rock climbing wall, while the little ones enjoyed the animal nursery, pony rides and the chair o plane.

Congratulations to recipients of trophies for the fun run, and our Citizen of the year, Matt McDonald – well done! Thank you to Brett Owen and Brad Battin for their assistance with presentations and starting of the fun run.

Thank you to the clubs/organisations and locals that have supported the UB Village Festival committee in preparation of the festival and on the day, special thank you to the CFA and Scouts for the brilliant work they do at the festival every year!

Congratulations to the festival committee on a magnificent effort.



Clockwise from top: Trophy winners of the fun run; the baby crocodile attracts much attention; a cuddly rabbit; a festive k9; the tawny frog mouth owl hardly ruffled a feather; swapping chairs

## Red Cross



Barbara Jackson, Upper Beaconsfield Area Coordinator. 5944 3554

The local members of the Red Cross held their first meeting for the year on 10 February 2013. It was sad to note as we met that two of the Unit's members passed away in late November and December. Both Sheila Purcell and Mavis Travis were long standing members and very dedicated to the work of Red Cross.

Mavis was well known for her work in organising the knitting of Trauma Teddies and sending them off to comfort many children at difficult times in their lives. Several members of the Unit will ensure Mavis' work will be carried on and will meet to learn the art of filling the knitted bodies of the teddies and adding facial features to give them individual personalities. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all who purchased Red Cross Christmas merchandise and also to the volunteer staff at the Berwick Mechanics Institute library who helped with the sales of cards and other items. Almost \$4 000 worth of sales was achieved.

A sausage sizzle was held outside Bunnings on Australia Day and raised \$1 450. Special thanks to the Lioness ladies for their organising skills and supplying equipment.

The members voted to send \$1 000 to Red Cross appeals for both flood and fire assistance.

Member Julia Litera attended a three day combined Emergency Services support group visiting towns and small communities in the fire areas of Gippsland. Several members have attended single incident fires giving assistance where required.

The next mobile Blood Bank will be held at the Narre Warren North Hall 25-28 March.



## Beautification group is active

Jenny Pritchard

Late in 2012, Secretary of the UBA, Noel Ling called a meeting of people interested in beautifying the village. From that meeting a group was formed to plan the revegetation of the central part of the village.

Our plans are coming along well and after meeting with Wendy Abbott, horticulturist from the council we will be applying to the council for a grant.

Initial plans for the improvement of the embankments on the East side of Beaconsfield-Emerald Road in the town were on display at the village festival for the community to see and comment on.

Graham Kneen (photographed with the display, right), took all the photos on display and created the information board. Graham is a member of the Upper Beaconsfield Beautification Group and a volunteer at the native nursery in Upper Beaconsfield.

For further information or to become involved, contact the UBA.



## A tidier town

Jo Carter

One year ago, I wrote of my concern about the shabby appearance of our village. This opinion was shared by many residents and local groups. We discussed these matters with local councillors. I am sure that you will agree that the general appearance of the village is much better. The roadworks which were finished earlier this year have spruced up edges of the road and the council workers recently slashed the very overgrown grass on the roadsides and council properties. A village beautification group has been formed and with the assistance of council grants, it will give the shopping precinct gardens a welcome makeover.

The festival committee cleaned up the front part of 16 Salisbury Road and sowed grass. They kept it moist and it has improved the look of the area immensely. Another newly formed group, the UB garden group, has been granted the use of the property at 16 Salisbury to set up a community garden. An article on this group is in the Bell. The group has had a couple of working bees and has a sample of their work ready for the

Village Festival.

The Post Office building is currently being painted and will enhance the street. The PO gardens are looking good.

We may see the day in the near future when we can say that we really are a Tidy Town.

## Work on 16 Salisbury Road

Malcolm Graham

On behalf of the Village Festival/Fun Run committee I would like to thank everyone involved for their assistance in getting the newly grassed area next to the Community Centre ready for the Village Festival.

The Men's Shed started with the removal of all surface rubbish. Then Rob Pavanello with his equipment and truck removed tons of further rubbish, he then brought in the top soil and prepared the area for

seeding. Men's Shed and others then sowed and raked in the seeds. The General store supplied more top soil and a donation of more seed and fertiliser was made by Home Hardware.

With the dry weather and the need for water, the CFA came in with tankers, and neighbour John Patterson has committed a huge amount of time and effort to watering and sprinkler rotations.

Finally Greg Whiteley from Turf Conditioning Services came in to save the day, with further sowing, mowing and conditioning of the area, finishing off the job beautifully.

Considering the heat and ground conditions and time constraints the area now looks great. Thank you to all who took part, a fantastic effort by all!!!

# Upper Beaconsfield Association



Jennie Vaughan, President Upper Beaconsfield Association, 5944 3457

## 2012 Annual report

Annual report time again and it can be claimed the UBA has been involved in several decisions which have led to benefits for the community. The obvious "opener" is the roadworks in the Village centre. On the whole, these are seen as successful even if they were not what the community expected. As is often said, "Time alone will tell".

A "Beautification Plan" has commenced through which it is hoped to unify the Village and help tidy up some unsightly areas in and around the shops.

Another achievement for the community in 2012 was the work done at 16 Salisbury Road. The final outcome for this land may not be realized in the near future, but the carpark and garden area are already making a contribution to the Community Centre.

A further project, which will provide valuable information for years to come, is the Charles Wilson book "A History of Upper Beaconsfield". The UBA has worked closely with Charles' family members to collate the material and get it ready for publication. The book will be on sale at the Upper Beaconsfield Festival.

In case you are not aware, the Ward boundaries changed during the year and when Council elections were held we were given an opportunity to "meet the Candidates" at a special meeting.

At the last UBA meeting for 2012, i.e. the December meeting, we had a very good attendance. We were able to meet the new councillors, Letitia Wilmot and Tanya Baxter, welcome the Mayor, Brett Owen and farewell Councillors Ed Chatwin and Graeme Legge, who were both very supportive of the UBA and the local

community during their terms in office. Supper provided by Ian Rees from the Pine Grove Hotel was greatly appreciated.

The Christmas Carols evening was well attended and enjoyed by family groups. Thanks go to Tess Porz and her team for their part in the organisation of the evening.

Co-operation between the UBA and the Men's Shed has been beneficial to both groups in 2012.

On behalf of the UBA I would like to thank the people who help to make Upper Beaconsfield the friendly, comfortable place it is. Along with the co-operative committee members of the UBA we must also thank the Village Bell committee, who keep us in touch and up-to-date with matters around the Village and the surrounding district.

My personal thanks go to Noel Ling for his untiring efforts as Secretary of the UBA and for coping with the many duties over and beyond taking minutes, checking the correspondence, applying for grants and advising us of meetings.

Finally, thanks also to you who come to the meetings and give us reasons to keep the UBA operating.

## Allocation of committee positions for 2013:

President	Jennie Vaughan
Vice President	Anne McCormick
Treasurer	Jo Carter
Secretary	Ian Hollingsworth
Members	Eric Bumpstead, Mark Kelly, Tony Knight, Gary Hill, Jenny Pritchard, Peter Simmons, Noel Ling

## Treasurer's Report

Jo Carter

The Association started the financial year with cash in the bank, including cheque account and term deposit, in the amount of \$15 361.70

The written down value at 31 December 2012 (a reasonable assumption of possible sale value) of the assets owned by the association, Risograph and attachments, was \$7 185.

During the year, we received \$4 495 in grants from the shire, to assist with the costs of printing the Village Bell, 50% of cost of the Keith Ewenson Plaque and to help toward the beautification of the Village. The UBA paid the balance of the cost of the plaque. From another source, we received a grant of \$1 500 to help to cover any costs incurred by the UBA in printing Charles Wilson's history of Upper Beaconsfield. Subscriptions to the Village Bell totalled \$1 075.

Again this year, the main income of the association is earned through the work of the Village Bell editorial committee. The committee decided to introduce colour to the Bell. It was agreed that if the first colour edition could cover the additional costs incurred, it would be continued. Kay Cox, advertising co-ordinator, ensured that the colour advertisements covered the cost of paying for the colour printing, so the colour printing has continued. Income from advertising in the Bell was \$9 140. Again, an excellent job.

The printing of the quarterly Bell is done by a small team of volunteers led by Graham Jackson. The association is grateful to the Bell team for their ongoing efforts in raising the funds which ensure that the association can function efficiently.

The UBA association purchased an excellent copy of the Upper Beaconsfield and Dewhurst section of the Cardinia Shire embroidery for the cost of \$1 495. It has been hung on the north wall of the meeting room, for all of us to enjoy. The original embroidery hangs in the Cardinia Arts Centre. During the year, the UBA paid \$5 000 to Marianne Rocke for her work in digitising the first ten years of the Village Bell. You can view the work on the Upper Beaconsfield website.

The cash situation of the association currently stands at \$15 288.17 with \$11 001.66 on Term Deposit with Bendigo Bank and \$4 286.51 in the Commonwealth Cheque account.

The next UBA meeting will be held  
on Wednesday, 3 April at 7.30 pm  
at the Community Complex  
\* Everyone is welcome \*

# Where are they now? Des McKenna

Matt McDonald

*This is a new and hopefully a regular item in the Village Bell. A member of the editorial group will contact former residents of Upper Beaconsfield who have contributed to the community during their time here and then moved on to other parts. The editor would welcome suggestions and information about such former residents of the area.*

## Des McKenna

Des and Carmel McKenna lived in St Georges Road with their eleven children. Des was a very active and respected member of the community, providing assistance and support to many in the community as a long time member of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Care Group. Des was also instrumental in the establishment of St Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield and assisted in the guidance of the College in the early years. The Chapel at the College is named after him. Des has become a well-known sculptor of religious and other works, including the giant wombat in the City Square, Melbourne. Des and Carmel were both involved in the Hall Committee and were instrumental in arranging for the bell-tower to be built and the bell refurbished with the assistance of the villages of Beaconsfield in England and Tasmania. Carmel was very involved in the Kinder and school, and Des was a trustee of the new Kinder.

*Des, what brought you to Upper Beaconsfield originally?*

We came to UB as our oldest was due to start secondary schooling and I had travelled daily for 5 years from East Camberwell to Nestle in Pakenham. We decided either I changed my job to something in Melbourne or we moved closer to Pakenham. We had a month's holiday in a house in the hills overlooking the beautiful Tweed River Valley in northern NSW which changed our whole thinking about lifestyles and decided to look for something "in the bush".

*During what years did you live in Upper Beaconsfield?*

We lived in UB from January 1970 until November 2001 when we left because of our increasing anxiety about bush fire risk and the need for a smaller house.

*What was it about Upper Beaconsfield that you valued most?*

We loved the freedom of the children to grow up roaming in the bush and mixing with other like minded children. We loved the community life and the freedom from all the city restrictions. We coped with all the driving around to get kids to their various



locations because it meant we knew exactly where they were and who they were with.

*What were the highlights for you of your time in Upper Beaconsfield?*

Highlights were perhaps working with Peter Meeking to successfully get reticulated water to UB. Helping start Beacy junior football club and our involvement in the aftermath of the Ash Wednesday bush fires helping the general recovery.

*How did your interest in sculpting begin?*

A month before I was due to retire I was doing staff training programs and in a particular session the video started with the phrase "The average life expectancy of American executives who retire and live in Florida is less than 12 months." So I was determined to be busy and spent the first few months of retirement making kids toys etc before deciding I had to try something different and found people liked the first few sculptures I attempted.

*What are the highlights of your life since leaving Upper Beaconsfield?*

Since leaving UB we have been part of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Kyneton and have been involved in starting up and running for the Parish of a very successful Op Shop called "The Preloved Pedlar" taking over a shop which St Vinnie's couldn't make a go of. All profits from this venture stay in our area helping needy people and families in our general area with nothing going to the costs of a national operation as previously was the situation. As well we are involved in the initiation and running of a care group called "We Care".

We really miss the lovely people of UB and our old home which holds so many memories but we have also fitted in well and love the communities of Malmsbury and Kyneton and are very happy here.

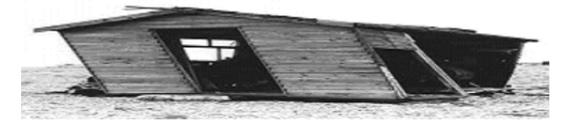
Our family are scattered all around Australia and beyond and we have been blessed with 28 beautiful grandchildren whom we enjoy and love dearly.

Des McKenna, Sculptor, Malmsbury, VIC 3446. Ph: 5423 2772 (Des' art works can be viewed at: [www.desmckennasculptor.com](http://www.desmckennasculptor.com))



# Upper Beac Men's Shed

Matt McDonald



For just over twelve months the Men's Shed has operated without a Shed! The men's group has been meeting in the 'Arts Annex', the former tennis club room. This is about to change. Cardinia Shire has granted a planning permit to locate the Men's Shed building, a relocatable classroom, on land occupied by the Community Centre. We are very grateful to Trevor Wilson, who donated the building twelve months ago and has stored it on his premises while permits have been sought.

With the locating of the building will come the need to connect services and provide appropriate access to the site and the Shed. The group eventually intends to be self-funded, but for this next stage we will be seeking grants and donations to set ourselves up. All assistance welcome!

The Men's Shed has been active, meeting every Wednesday morning from 10 am till noon. Recent projects have included the tidying up of 16 Salisbury Road, spreading mulch and trimming bush along the

access track on the East side of the Community Centre, installing the Keith Ewenson memorial plaque, building four 'A'-frame notice boards for the Village Festival, mounting the photo of the Shire embroidery and the Citizen of the Year Honour board in the Community Centre, completing the chook house with the Primary School and preparing for a stall at the Village Festival.

We have begun a regular segment to our gatherings in which one of the members presents a summary of their life's work and experiences – the first two of these have been very engaging and informative. It is evident that there is a vast amount of experience and expertise in the group.

New members always welcome. For further information, phone Matt McDonald on 5944 3860/0407 845 135 -fivemac@netspace.net.au or Noel Ling on 5944 3735/0414 443 735 -lingn1@bigpond.com.

## Food for thought

Helen Smith

### Mobile phone coverage in emergency situations

An article in the Herald Sun on 8 February 2013 attracted attention recently. It related to the Mornington Peninsula, but may apply to the Dandenongs as well.

CFA Peninsula Group Officer Tony Brown highlighted that mobile phone coverage problems were "a recipe for disaster" in an area he said was "no stranger to the threat of bushfire".

He also raised concerns that vital communications between emergency services agencies had become unreliable because the mobile phone network could not cope with the demand from the extra 1.5 million people who visit the area in summer. He said brigades reported that phone calls frequently dropped out, emails banked up and wireless services on Arthurs Seat only worked after 10 pm.

Mr Brown said the Government's mobile phone warning system "depends upon the phone system . . . transmitting warnings and information about current life risk situations".

### Desalination water and Cardinia Reservoir

AquaSure 17 December

Aquasure confirmed that the desalination plant had successfully completed the required 30 day continuous production

test. The test involved the plant operating at its full capacity, producing 450 000 m<sup>3</sup> of high quality drinking water per day and delivering it to Cardinia Reservoir.

Herald Sun 12 January

The Herald Sun reported that Bureau of Meteorology senior forecaster Terry Ryan said the state's present climate boosted the case for the embattled desalination project, while drier conditions had ensured the state was dangerously parched for the bushfire season. "Our spring rain has failed, (the) summer rain has failed and this month is also proving to be below average (rainfall)," he said. Mr Ryan said while other dams across Melbourne were hovering at 80 per cent capacity, the controversial Wonthaggi Desalination Plant—which flows into the Cardinia Reservoir— was the only water supply "going up".

The Age 31 January

It's easy to forget that when the plant was announced Victoria was barely a year away from running out of water. The psychological impact of this possibility should not be underestimated. It was an almost unimaginable prospect. Yet by 2009 the Thomson Dam—Melbourne's largest— had dwindled to just 16 per cent of its capacity.

The Bureau of Meteorology reckons some part of Australia experiences a drought on average every 18 years, although the time between severe droughts can vary from four to 38 years. Victoria's desalination plant has been built to last 100 years. In the

absence of new dams, it is almost inevitable Victoria's desalination plant will be needed at some point, particularly with Melbourne's population swelling by around 80,000 people a year.

At this point, instead of seeing it as a white elephant, it might be viewed as a necessary insurance policy—albeit a fairly expensive one.

Melbourne Water

In the 7 February weekly water report, Melbourne's water storages shed almost 10 billion litres over the past week with the continued warm and dry weather taking its toll. The decrease came as the major catchments received an average of just 3 mm of rain. This was well below the long term norm of 16 mm. The volume of stream flow into the major reservoirs was also well below historical levels. The 1.3 billion litres of stream flow was 68% below the 30-year average for the period (4 billion litres). Water storages are now 77.6% (1,406 billion litres) full, compared with 64.9% (1,177 billion litres) at the same time last year, a difference of 229 billion litres. Melburnians used an average of 196 litres of water per person per day over the past week.

Sources:

RTF Media Release at [www.aquasure.com.au/](http://www.aquasure.com.au/)  
"State is parched as rainfall runs down to a trickle" Herald Sun January 12, 2013  
"Damming the desalination plant's cost denies its usefulness" The Age January 31, 2013  
"Melbourne Water weekly report" 7 February <http://www.melbournewater.com.au>

# Ranges Ward

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Cr. Leticia Wilmot Ph: 0427 135 879 l.wilmot@cardinia.vic.gov.au  
Mayor Brett Owen Ph: 0418 993 370 b.owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Welcome to a new year of the Village Bell newsletter; as your local Councillors we hope to use this regular spot to inform you of what's upcoming with Cardinia Shire that might affect our Ranges Ward residents. Please feel free to contact us if there is something further you wish to discuss.

## Mobile Councillor Office "MCO"

We invite you to meet YOUR Ranges Ward Councillors to chat about your concerns and ideas. The first was at the Emerald U3A in February and the second will be at the Beaconsfield Community Centre on Saturday, 16 March, 3-5 pm. We will be visiting the other Ranges Ward towns as well. The details of these MCO visits to further towns will be advertised via the Council website and your local newsletters. Further to this, we are looking at securing a regular spot on 3MDR radio (FM 97.1) to increase our availability to you. Please check the station website for further details when available.

## New Council policies

The next couple of months will see the release of many important and detailed draft policy documents. Being "drafts" means that they are the root point for community consultation; forming a base for dynamic development. These include

- The Beaconsfield Structure Plan
- The Draft Open Air Burning Policy
- CFA Neighbourhood Safer Places review recommendations

## Cardinia Shire Tourism Strategy

Noel Ling

The Shire of Cardinia has released a draft Tourism Strategy with the aim of producing the framework required to establish a viable Tourism Strategy for the Shire.

The Shire is inviting feedback from the Public.

"We look forward to receiving quality feedback from the public and champion future industry leaders who can work with Council on the strategy's action plan," Cr Owen said

The strategy's objectives are to:

- identify the Shire's tourism strengths
- identify options for a tourism brand
- define Council's role in supporting tourism
- identify opportunities to enhance existing tourism businesses

- Emerald Spatial Plan
- The Draft Tourism Strategy

The Draft Cardinia Shire Tourism Strategy is now open for public consultation (see below). This is the opportunity for you to help shape tourism in Cardinia Shire.

It also needs to be noted, that each of the other above Plans/Policies have community consultation campaigns in place and everyone will get a chance to have their say. Please keep an eye on your local newspapers, notice boards, the Cardinia Shire website as well as your Councillor's facebook pages for further information.

Further to this concept of community engagement, we want to remind Cardinia Shire residents of our modern Merit System of reporting an issue to Council. Residents and ratepayers are encouraged to notify The Shire Officers of Council-related issues and problems affecting them, by using this system.

From our website page, or by downloading the latest app to your smart phone, you can submit an online form to advise Council of an issue. When you submit your form, the website will provide you with a reference number. If you don't like the online method you can also call Customer Service on 1300 787 624 during office hours to obtain your Merit Number.

Once your request or report has been entered into Council's customer tracking system, it will be allocated to the relevant business unit for attention. You will be

contacted by the customer service officer who enters your request to confirm the lodgment.

You can use these numbers to refer to your submission if you need to contact Council's Customer Service Centre again regarding the same issue.

And finally, Council is in the process of formulating the next four-year council plan! So, if you have some time and want to have a say, please consider emailing your responses to the following ideas:

- What do you like about where you live?
- If you could change one thing what would it be?
- What would make Cardinia Shire a better place? What do you think Council's priorities should be over the next four years?

Thank you to the Village Bell for making this connection between the community and Council possible.

- identify linkages to enhance Cardinia Shire as a destination.

The public can download or view the Council Draft, and/or the draft summary from the following site:-

[http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page\\_Id=3698](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=3698)

Hard copies are available by contacting Council on 1300 787 624.

Residents can send written feedback via Email address [ecodev@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:ecodev@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

or post to:

Cardinia Shire Council (Economic Development),  
PO Box 7  
Pakenham 3810

### Submissions close Friday 15 March 2013.

The UBA urge all residents and organisations that have suggestions or thoughts regarding tourism in Upper Beaconsfield, or Cardinia in general to read the draft and provide the Shire with your feedback.



# UB Rural Fire Brigade

Liz Brandie

## CFA Strike Teams

Multiple strike teams from Upper Beaconsfield were sent to Tasmania and the Heyfield fires recently in order to maintain fire control lines and to black out existing fires still burning, mainly tree trunks and roots. If these continued to burn they could start another bush fire if the wind and conditions were right.

Fire fighters travel by bus to the facilities provided, usually rows of containers on a football ground. There they are given sleeping bags, sheets and a pillow. Tents containing stretcher beds are erected in rows on the football ground. There are also numerous containers with showers, toilets and washing facilities.

At the beginning of each shift we are all briefed on the condition of the fire, locality and weather conditions, and tasks to be performed on the day. The CFA deploy multiple tankers and 4-wheel-drive vehicles on rolling shifts day and night. It becomes a logistical nightmare to house, feed and provide sleeping accommodation for thousands of fire fighters day and night, including support personnel such as mechanics, dozer drivers and ancillary staff.

The 4-wheel-drive vehicles with trays are fitted out with a tank, hoses and equipment we call a slip-on and these are used in conjunction with tankers. The smaller vehicles are more useful in bush environments as they can get into areas inaccessible to the larger trucks.

In each shift a strike team consists of 5 CFA tankers, numerous DSE personnel, a helicopter or light plane for fire spotting and back burning and bulldozers for creating accessibility for the vehicles

## Conservation Group

Mike Hall

The Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group put on a presentation in the computer room during the Village Festival on Sunday 17 February. It was put together with the help of students and staff from the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School, the Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group & members of the Upper Beaconsfield Community. The feature comprised both video and photographs of some of the wildlife & ecology to be found in the



and making control lines to stop the fire advancing into unburnt areas.

Control lines are made around the main fire by back burning towards the fire and dozer trails that cut a swathe through the debris and scrub leaving a wide track, with one side burnt. The unburned side is patrolled by tankers in case the fire crosses the track into the controlled area. Hot, dry and windy conditions are the worst, as they create a scenario that causes the fire to spot miles ahead of the front. These areas are monitored by fire spotting aircraft with back up from the ground crews and water dropping aircraft.

At the beginning and end of each shift, usually more than 12 hours, meals are either in the clubrooms or large marquee and can be managed by DSE, Country Women's Association or the Army depending on the locality and severity of the fire on the

Strike teams at Heyfield fires January 2013

community. These kitchens run day and night feeding thousands continuously. After a tiring, long, hot and dusty day the sight of a hot meal and a drink is very a welcome sight for all of us and we appreciate the work involved by everyone.

We are like an army, an army of volunteers and are pleased we can help other broader communities like our own knowing they will in turn help us when the fires threaten us.

Are you prepared and have you created your fire plan? Is your insurance up to date? Have you copied important papers and photos and left them with a relative in other areas just in case?

*Editor's note: We have just discovered our brigade's facebook page. Have a look:*

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Beaconsfield-Fire-Brigade/213867742032488>

Upper Beaconsfield area.

There was also be a wildlife diorama on display created by the students of the primary school (see page 15).

Thanks to all those who came and experienced the wildlife of Upper Beaconsfield as seen through the eyes (and cameras) of the local residents.

The Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group would welcome anyone interested in our local environment to come to our next meeting, to be held on Wednesday 13 March at 8 pm in the annex of the Community Complex.

For further information, please call Mike Hall on 5944 4208

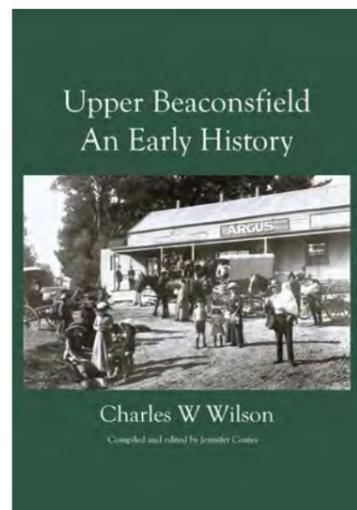


## Local history book launched

Helen Smith

On the 30th anniversary of Ash Wednesday 16 February, the Mayor of Cardinia Cr. Brett Owen officially launched Charles Wilson's long awaited "Upper Beaconsfield An Early History". The launch took place at the Pine Grove Hotel function room in front of many Wilson family members, residents, former residents, and well wishers.

Dr Charles Wilson "retired" and moved to Upper Beaconsfield in 1978 after practicing as a doctor in Melbourne and later as chief medical officer of Dandenong Hospital. Not many years later, during the bushfires Charles, his wife Yvonne and daughter Trish, survived the fires by sheltering in their swimming pool but their family home in St Georges Road was lost. Immediately after the fires Charles set up a temporary clinic in the grounds of Fassifern in a Beckett Road. Subsequently he and Yvonne bought a property in Salisbury Road where Charles set up



his practice in a 'portable' located on his land.

He came out of retirement to provide a service to the local community and his dedication was recognized with an "Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year" award and subsequently a similar award from the Shire of Pakenham. Charles' interest and involvement in the community endeared him to all who knew him. One of his many interests was to research the history of Upper Beaconsfield, using state government and local council archives, with the intention of putting it all together in a book. Unfortunately Charles passed away in 2010 before the book was written.

Charles' daughter Trish decided to ensure the book was completed and published. Trish involved Jenny Coates and Wendy Eldridge to sort, edit and collate Charles' research notes to the stage where his work was ready for publication. They have done a splendid job and, with support from the Upper Beaconsfield Association, have produced a book on the early history of Upper Beaconsfield that Charles would have been proud of.



*The publishing team*  
Back row: Jenny Coates (editor), Graham Jackson, Wendy Eldridge,  
Front row: Barbara Jackson, Trish Coulton, Ann Taylor



## Christmas Carols – thanks

Tess Porz

The 2012 Upper Beaconsfield Community Carols was once again a great success. The large crowd, of more than 400 sang along enthusiastically with the talented musicians and choir. Santa arrived in his red suit and matching CFA truck loaded with sweets which was a highlight for the local children (above). Many thanks to one and all who helped before, during and after the event. Your efforts are always greatly appreciated.

Photograph: Cameron Rocke

# Wildlife Watch

Laura Levens

Looking back to late January last year the contrast is dramatic: native grasses are no longer lush but have browned off showing scenery much like 1983 with everyone crossing fingers that fire won't recur. Hopefully residents have prepared



properties just in case. This is the fourth time since 1983 that January has had next to no rain.

The red and yellow pea flowers were prolific in late spring as also were white dogwood shrubs at Christmas time, they are drying off now. Tall pink hyacinth orchids were few. One small tongue orchid that has been a regular struggled to produce a very small flower but dried off before it was mature. *Gompholobium beuglii*, golden bush pea (pictured left), flowered well just after Christmas. A dozen plants of the cinnamon orchid, *Gastrodiasesamoides*, appeared near a large tree not too far from where one bloomed twenty years back. They also dried off before seeds matured. Native grasses put on a good show, too.

Weeds of course were still a bug-bear everywhere. To add insult to injury another *Senecio* sp has arrived in the Bathe Road-



*Senecio* sp. the plants of which were almost 1 metre tall

Leppitt Road area. At first sight it looks like ragwort and has the same potential to spread rapidly.

A couple of dramatic moths flew again after some years: one a lovely green and



*Pholodes sinistraria* female

one dark. It seems to have been a year for small moths and I have seen only one each of a ghost moth and the old lady moth that are quite large.

Numerous tiny colourful flies, 5 mm – 2.5 mm long, have been a



*Aenetus ligniveren* or splendid ghost moth

challenge to photograph. Wasps of many sizes and colours have also been more numerous this year except for European wasps of which we have noticed only two or three, now deceased. Is it a result of simple wasp traps put out last year?

## Wildlife diorama display at the Village Festival created by the students of the Primary School





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## Gembrook Electorate

Brad Battin MLA



### Upper Beaconsfield intersection

Works at the Beaconsfield-Emerald Road/St Georges Road/Salisbury Road intersection were completed just prior to Christmas and well ahead of the projected completion date of mid-2013.

The project included minor road widening, line marking, and the introduction of a pedestrian refuge, new lighting, signage and footpaths.

We have had positive feedback, and I am pleased that the community had a large input in to the final design.

The finished intersection will improve pedestrian safety and encourage lower speeds through the township.

### PSOs now at Berwick railway station

Protective Services Officers (PSOs) are now patrolling the Berwick railway station from 6 pm until after last train, 7 days a week.

This means rail commuters now have protection from violence, crime, and anti-social behaviour at the Berwick Railway Station.

There are now 240 PSOs making a difference across our rail network. PSOs complete the same level of training as all Victoria

Police members in dealing with anti-social issues and violent behaviour.

### Fines double for litterers

The fine for throwing a lit cigarette from a car window has been doubled to \$564 under the Victorian Coalition Government's new anti-litter campaign.

A lit cigarette thrown from a window could easily start a bushfire – people who do this, especially while driving through high risk areas, should be held to account.

Every Victorian has a responsibility to care for our environment and I encourage locals to report litterers by visiting the EPA website or by phoning the hotline.

The Coalition Government is cracking down on litter through education, investment in infrastructure and enforcement. Each year about 14 560 tonnes of litter is generated across the state, leaving the community with an annual clean-up bill of around \$78 million.

To report litterers visit [www.epa.vic.gov.au/reportlitter](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/reportlitter) or call 1300 EPA VIC (1300 372 842).

# Community Centre



## Annual General Meeting

The Community Centre's Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 20 March 2013, at the Community Complex. Everyone is welcome. All positions on the Committee of Management will become vacant and we are seeking some new Committee members, as several Committee members will be retiring after many years service. If you have any queries about the meeting or positions on the Committee, please contact the office on 5944 3484.

## Thirty years at the Community Centre

In June this year, we will celebrate thirty years since the Community Centre was established. I can hardly believe that a further ten years have gone by since the publication of Alison Ryan and Ruth Hainsworth's book "From the Ashes" which recorded the first twenty years of the Community Centre's history. We will be organising an appropriate event to celebrate the Community Centre's anniversary later in the year.

## Accredited training at your Community Centre. -

Fiona Kneen

A new year, brings with it new opportunities! Why not take advantage and join a new course and make this YOUR YEAR to a new career?

The Community Centre has a new Certificate III in Children's Services (CHC30712) with class commencing on Mondays from 9 am to 3 pm, and a Thursday evening class which runs from 6 pm to 9.30 pm (during school terms only). This qualification is the minimum required for those who wish to work as an early educator in a childcare setting, crèche, kindergarten or family day care. With recent government changes this is an industry which requires more workers—it's a great time to get qualified and change careers!

Don't forget we also have courses in; First Aid, CPR, Anaphylaxis and Asthma Management offered throughout EVERY term – drop in and see us for dates & enrolments, you may even be eligible for funding from the Shire of Cardinia which covers half the cost.

Other courses available include:

Cert III in Aged Care (CHC30212) & Cert III in Home & Community Care (CHC30312)

Next day class commencing in Term 2, enrol now.

Cert IV in Training & Assessment (TAE40110)

New evening class commencing in Term 2, enrol now.

Diploma of Children's Services (CHC50908)

Tuesday evenings – rolling enrolments taken at any time, enrol now!

## Childcare at the UBCC Crèche

Kylie Briffa

Our crèche became a Long Day Care Centre in 2012 as a result of the withdrawal of the State Government's "Take a Break" childcare funding. The loss of this funding and other changes associated with offering Long Day Care raised many challenges for the Crèche. In order to ensure that Crèche remains as a viable part of

the Community Centre, we are this year trialling a new system of booking, with parents and carers able to book either or both of two 'sessions' each day; the morning session from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm, and the afternoon session from 12.30 pm until 4.30 pm. A booking for either session costs \$40, or children can be booked in for the full day for \$70. We have endeavoured to keep our fees as low as possible, and they are still well below the fees charged by commercial day care centres. If you would like to visit our Crèche and talk to our experienced staff, please drop in between Monday and Friday, or phone the office on 5944 3484. We still have some places available on most days, but they are filling quickly now that the older children are back to school.

## Change of policy during fire season

Sally Randall, President

Please note that the Community Centre has now changed its policy in relation to Total Fire Ban days in response to changes in government policy. The Community Centre, including the Crèche, will no longer close on all Total Fire Ban days. The Centre will close on all days of Extreme Fire Danger and Code Red days. The Committee of Management will also close the Centre on days of high fire danger, or if local conditions have deteriorated. Every effort will be made to contact those booked for classes or for Crèche in those circumstances.

## Upper Beaconsfield Garden Group

Traci Newham

This informal group, which was only recently formed, has already made great progress with the establishment of Upper Beaconsfield's first "Community Garden." It is sited adjacent to the Community Centre at 16 Salisbury Road, known to some of us as "Win's garden". The Shire of Cardinia has been very supportive of our initiative to establish a community garden focused on food production. This was deemed to be most appropriate given the existing fruit trees on the site. We have also been very fortunate to win a grant from "Be Natural" in conjunction with the Cardinia Catchment Landcare Group, which will enable us to make a start with some basic items needed to establish the garden.

This area will not only become a wonderful social space for our community, it will also provide opportunities for the sharing of



knowledge and expertise in relation to gardening and growing food in Upper Beaconsfield. At this early stage, the

established asparagus bed.

The members of the group have also

members are establishing a number of vegetable patches in recycled apple crates, using different methods and trialling different crops, that we all can learn from. Over the winter we will also undertake and learn about the pruning of the fruit trees and the revitalisation of the

commenced discussing the other types of activities they would like to undertake. We expect that these will include; visits to gardens of interest and classes or workshops about all aspects of gardening and food production.

If you would like to join the Garden Group, please contact the Community Centre office on 5944 3484 and register your interest.

*Photographs: (previous page) Tireless workers establish the garden beds; clockwise from top: Sally Randall; Noel, the scarecrow, guards the finished community garden; Jo Carter, Sally Randall and Traci Newham*



# Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten

Tracey Wadelton, President, Upper Beaconsfield Kindergartens Association.

The start of 2013 has begun wonderfully with the children settling in well at both 3 and 4 year old Kinders. This year sees us reaping the rewards of a previous year of hard work with significant changes in the Early Learning Sector and the introduction of the National Quality Framework and 15 hours of kindergarten for 4 year olds.

I'm so proud to be a part of a caring, concerned, hard working and collaborative kinder community, including the families, committee and particularly our teachers and assistants. In the lead up to implementing 15 hours of kinder and completing a Quality Improvement Plan for our kinder, all of these individuals have contributed significantly. All this makes 2013 particularly special as it is a year in which the welfare and wellbeing of the children has been top of mind when considering things like staffing, hours, rosters and programing.

This year our four year olds will be doing 5 hours of kinder for 3 days a week, which is a big jump for a lot of these children. As a result of these changes, we have employed new staff members, Robyn Mete and Jaclyn Tannock and also welcome our additional assistance from Yooralla staff, Kim Paterson and Kendal Sepecan. We also welcome back our loyal assistants Natalie Trembath and Lisa Hunter, as well as our Director and teacher extraordinaire who celebrates 10 years at the Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten this year. This means that our kinder is leading the way in implementing future compulsory new staff to children ratios and that our children have an abundance of qualified, and nurturing staff to attend to

them on every day.

In addition to these changes to the four year old kinder, we have decided to implement the new national standards into our 3-year-old program. Whilst our 3 year old kinder is at the moment still governed by Victorian laws, it is with pride that I can say that we are certainly striving to exceed those guidelines and are also in line with national standards. Our 3-year-old program is headed up by the amazing Briony McKelson, who has blown us away with her creativity and wonderful imagination in teaching our children. Briony has again teamed up with Alison Jones, a long standing and invaluable member of our team, who's caring and loving nature with the children puts many parents' minds at ease when leaving their babies, sometimes for the first time in someone else's care.

Our fundraising team this year is headed up by local Amanda Charles and we have already begun our fundraising year with a welcome afternoon tea at the Pine Grove for parents and a presence at the Village Festival. No doubt under her guidance we will have another successful fundraising year.

I could talk all day about the pride and joy I feel being a part of this wonderful kinder community, but I won't, I will simply say, please look out for us at fundraising events like Bunnings BBQ's, or when we are selling Easter treats. In particular, I'm sure we will have another big social fundraiser this year, so stay tuned for details and support our local Kindergartens.



# Upper Beac Pony Club

Fiona Thompson

Our annual gymkhana was held on 9 December 2012 with good numbers ensuring that all classes were hotly contested. Our sincere thanks to the sponsors of the day, particularly Jen and Craig Brodie from Total Tree Contracting who sponsored the Fancy Dress prize. This went to Tori Ling and "Wally", who did a very convincing impression of an ambulance. Other trophy winners were: Simone Memorial trophy: Hannah Sykes and "Pisa" Chicka Memorial trophy: Tegan McKenzie and "Josh" Junior Handymount trophy: Tahlia Ricketts and "Donny" Senior Handymount trophy: Maeve Thompson and "Dreamy", Tori Ling and "Sox" Blue Print Cup: Hannah Sykes and "Pisa", Tegan McKenzie & "Josh" Ice King: Alice Kludass and "Kwilas Quest" Fancy dress: Tori Ling and "Wally"



Tori Ling on Wally the ambulance



Maeve Thompson on Dreamy

The summer series of show jumping days is being held again this year and will be a timely warm-up for the PCAV state championships. The first two days have been held on 19 January and 2 February, with the final day held on 16 February. All grades are catered for, in PCAV and Open sections, so everyone was invited to attend. Horse and rider combinations participating in all three days will be eligible for Series

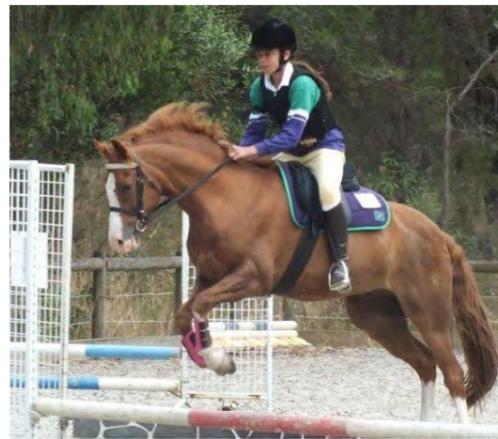
Winner. Further information and results about the event are available from the club's website [www.upperbeaconsfieldponyclubvic.org.au](http://www.upperbeaconsfieldponyclubvic.org.au). Results are also available on the website but, in short, the current leader overall is Cassidy Ronalds from Berrys Creek (Open E grade) with the highest ranked UBPC member being Kyleanne Bekker (PCAV E grade).

# Primary School (BUPS)

Nick Karanzoulis, Principal

We warmly welcomed back our students, parents and teachers a few weeks ago now. Also, a warm BUPS welcome to our new Prep parents and new families in other grades. The new children have settled in well in their new environment. We have had a smooth start to the year following the detailed planning that took place last year. This year we have just under 300 students, 13 grades and specialist staff members in Literacy Support, High Achievers, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Physical Education, Indonesian,

January has otherwise been a quiet month for the club. There was no rally held, though interested riders were able to participate in the various clinics and ARC activities available. Riders, horses and particularly parents benefit from some down time, especially when the weather is hot, so we were all back for the February rally, refreshed and ready to go again.



Showjumping Day 1 Jessica Kiker on Chloe

Student Wellbeing and ICT (Information and Communication Technologies).

Our average grade size is 21, with the smallest being 18 and the largest 25. Listening to children talk about how they spent the summer vacation says so much about their family values and what is important to them in life. Without question, time together with the family rates rather highly when reflecting on how we like to



spend our spare time. At the start of each year, all grade levels are involved in our Celebrating BUPS unit of study.

Building relationships, establishing good practices, setting goals, setting high expectations of each other and getting along with others are essential concepts that we regularly address.

## 2013 Student Leaders

Congratulations to the following children who have been appointed to the various student leadership positions for 2013: Amy L, Joel C, Phoebe W, Luke B, Romanie M, Daniel V, Kate P, Oliver V, Jacqui D, Trent E, Abbey J, Jacob H, Shelby C, James G, Sinclair L, Tia H, Dougal R, Tegan L, Dylan C, Carly M, Breanna A, Rhiannon G, Laura M, Fiona J, Kione H, Abby K, Marion D, Adam R, Jessica J, Sam H, Tilly N and Michaela F.



Our 2013 School Captains are Amy Lawton and Joel Clausen

Village Bell March 2013

## House swimming carnival

Our House swimming carnival was held at the Pakenham outdoor pool on 7 February. The weather was ideal, enabling all children to enjoy the healthy activity of swimming in novelty events and in



winning House Captains, Jacob and Abbey

competitive races that produced our school swimming team. Last year's winner, Emerald, was once again our winning House. Guys Hill was runner up, with Cardinia third followed by Dewhurst. Our school team was competing at the District Swimming Championship on the 22 February at the Doveton Pool.

## Bushfire Preparation

On the 30th Anniversary of the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires, it's more important than ever for our school to prepare well, once again. With the support of the Upper Beaconsfield CFA, the Department of Education and the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (Pakenham), we have developed an Action Plan that has prepared us to deal with the threat of bushfires. We regularly practice our evacuation and lockdown drills, and teachers address the bushfire issue in an age appropriate way in their classrooms. In a real emergency, an SMS will be sent to all our families advising them of the situation. The school is also a member of the Upper Beaconsfield SMS notification system.

## Veggie Garden

Children are currently harvesting our first crop from our new vegetable garden which also includes a magnificent chook pen. Each grade has an allocated time in the vegetable garden, ensuring that the crop has the ideal growing environment and necessary care. Children are required to document their involvement and the growth of the various vegetables. Their appreciation of vegetables and gardening has led many of our children to have a go at gardening home. The enjoyment of preparing meals with the fresh vegetables is a fantastic life experience, bringing the plant life cycle to an end. Children are very grateful for the watering that was done by the Sankey family during the rather hot and dry summer holidays.



# Cardinia Beaconhills Golf Links

Ian Hollingsworth

With summer coming to a close, the holiday season has been a good one for the Club and for all those who have played over the period. With much watering, the course has remained in great shape considering the little rainfall we've had, and we cross our fingers for some rain soon. Just as the rain will stop people going out to play, so too does extremely hot weather, thankfully most of the very hot days seemed to fall on weekdays over summer, and did not greatly impact the busy weekend periods.

Christmas was well celebrated at the Club with the Kids Xmas Party held in December, with everyone in attendance and especially the kids, having a great day. Thanks must go to the CFA for ensuring Santa's safe delivery, with sirens and lights announcing his arrival, causing much excitement amongst the kids. Many thanks also to Santa's helpers, Andrew & Denise Toon, Brian Meneilly and to all the parents that assisted on the day. It was a great success!

Notable results over summer saw Club Captain Brian Meneilly partnering with Andrew Lafferty to win the 2012 Summer Cup in December, defeating Wayne Boyle and Billy Sheehan in a close final winning 1 up. We've had several Hole In One's, with Randall Hampson, Alec Greig, Brian Ludecke, Chris Rann and Tim Smith all achieving every golfer's ultimate wish, and making all in the bar happy as there's a free drink for all in the clubhouse. Chris Rann has amazingly had two holes in one in two weeks whilst playing twilight on a Wednesday evening: same hole, same

club, same result, and that makes for three inside a 12 month period, unbelievable! Young Patrick Coughlin (13) won his first Monthly Medal in December with a nett score of 65, and has now dropped his handicap down to 20 after much golf over the holidays, having also had several good results in district events. Another youngster, Jordan Denereaz, won the Peninsula District Golf Association's Order of Merit for 2012, both Senior and Junior, having had several good finishes during the



season, winning the Eric Lucas Matchplay Championship and has also had many other notable results, well done Jordan.

The Club is again running a series of 'Give Golf a Go' clinics for ladies interested in playing the game. Commencing in February on a Sunday and Tuesday, we've had nearly 30 ladies register to take part. These four session clinics are run in conjunction with Golf Victoria and are a great way to learn the basics of the game in a low stress and fun

way under professional guidance.

The Ladies slow down a little over the summer months, playing their 13 hole comp for the Betty Forster Memorial Trophy on a Wednesday. The winner this year was Marie Thomas, with her best four scores amounting to a total of 181 nett. A clear winner, Marie has played some great golf over summer, and continually broken her handicap in the process. Ann Felgate was runner-up to Marie with a score of 198 nett. The Mixed Foursomes Championship was won by Laura Griffin and Andy Conn with a gross score of 76, winning by two shots from Jenny Chandler and Brian Meneilly. Jenny and Brian did however win the nett event from runners-up Denise Toon and Ian Hollingsworth.

The Pennant seasons for both men and women will again commence soon, with both squads already holding practice rounds to assist in finalizing the teams. The men's team will attempt to defend the title won last year and with a strong squad of players to choose from we hope that they can emulate last year's efforts.

The driveways and carparks are soon to be sealed, and this will make for a much more pleasant and a far less 'bone jarring' experience for all those coming up to the Club. We anticipate that work will commence in late February or early March, and will take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete. This long overdue work will be the first of several capital improvements to take place over the next few years, and will help improve the facility into what it needs to be to compete in today's very competitive golfing market.



## A serve from the Tennis Club

Darren Cordy on behalf of the UBTC committee

### Summer 2012/13

2012 at the tennis club finished with the Club Championship grand finals which were played at the Christmas party on 1 December 2012. Unfortunately the rain intervened before the Junior club champion games could be played and these have been re-scheduled for Saturday 23 March at 6 pm to coincide with the Juniors' break up night. Everyone is welcome to attend and watch the high standard of tennis on the night.

A big congratulations to the senior club championships for 2012:

- Senior men's singles – Sam Hall (winner) and Jonathan Collins
- Senior ladies' singles – Di Eibl (winner) and Caitlin Butler
- Senior men's doubles – Sam Hall/Matt Barton (winners) and Matt Hendrie/Jonathan Collins
- Senior ladies' doubles – Di Eibl/Kerrie Puts (winners) and Lisa Hannan/Belle Hannan



### Primary School tennis lessons

Tennis lessons for students at Upper Beaconsfield Primary School are planned for this school term, following a successful trial in November. 30 racquets were purchased with a generous donation from the Bendigo Community Bank, and the club is subsidising the cost of these tennis lessons for the students.

### Working bee

The next working bee is scheduled for Sunday 17 March and it would be great to see everyone at the courts from 10 am to assist with keeping the courts and surrounds in the best condition possible.

### Night tennis

Night tennis continues to be popular with people playing on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. If you are interested in playing or even being an emergency to fill in occasionally, please don't hesitate to contact the club on 5944 3071

## Upper Beac Scout Group

Kathy McGrath

We ended the year with a full group break up at the Berwick Bowling Club for a night of bare foot bowls. Cubs, scouts, venturers, leaders and parents had a fun time showing off their bowling skills!! It was a perfect opportunity to thank all our leaders for the time and effort they put into ensuring their sections run full programs. This means that opportunities are provided for everyone to reach their full potential and to learn a large variety of skills. A huge thank you to the Berwick Bowling Club. Everyone commented on what a great night it was.

An excited and slightly nervous group of 23 scouts and 3 leaders arrived at the igloo at 5 am on New Year's Day, to depart for the 23rd Australian Jamboree in Maryborough, Queensland. After a 30 hour bus trip they had 10 days full of action packed fun. Some of the activities included abseiling, flying foxes, circus activities, smashing cars, building tables, visiting Australia Zoo and that was only during the



Jamboree: Rock Climbing: Stacey Young

day. At night they had acts like: Reece Mastin, Timomanic and Jessica Mauboy. Whilst having a blast, scouts had many life-long learning experiences such as team work, leadership, social skills, cooking skills and others.

When the scouts arrived home at 7 am on the morning of the 14th, I am sure they were centimetres taller than when they left. They were definitely dirtier and smellier!! Although they were all exhausted there was

or come down on one of the nights.

### Coaching

For anyone interested in coaching, the following programs are offered at the club:

- Tiny Tacker motors skills program for age 3-6 years
- Hot Shots tennis program for age 5-12 years
- Technical and Tactical for age 7-17 years
- Privates and Semi privates for all ages and standards

Please call Rob on 0448 065 158 to find out more.

### Court maintenance

The hot weather over summer has played havoc with the courts and it has taken weeks to get them back to a playable condition. Many thanks to Nick Gamble for the countless hours of work required to repair them.

Enjoy the rest of summer and hope to see you at the courts.



Upper Beaconsfield Scouts and Leaders at the Jamboree with Bob Taylor

enough energy for smiles and excited chatter exclaiming what a fabulous time they all had.

The camps in February 2013 included the venturers having a beach camp and attending 'Anything Goes' at Lardner Park. The scouts had surf lessons and a beach camp at Phillip Island.

If you would like to join the fun contact Warren Makings on 0437 023 086 or wozza23@bigpond.net.au



Jamboree: Tara Wood on the Quad Bike.

# Toy Library

Marie Rogers



Toy Library is located at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre  
Open Thursday and Saturday between 9.30-10.30 am during school term  
Phone the Community Centre on 5944 3484 for more information  
or drop us a line at upperbeac.toylibrary@yahoo.com.au

## Toy library open for borrowing

Need some new toys without the expense?

The Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library has reopened for 2013 with its huge range of toys, puzzles, games, costumes, DVDs and ride-on vehicles.



We stock the latest 'cool' toys and quite a few 'old' favourites too, as guided by our members' suggestions.

Annual memberships are now available – only \$30\* (\*plus \$10 Community Centre membership, if not already a member). We are conveniently located at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre.

Membership offers endless library use until mid-December 2013. Up to five toys can be borrowed for one or two weeks at a time.

Perfect for parties, when friends come over or when the grandchildren visit. Members do duty (assist at the borrowing desk) once a term and assist just 4 times a year. It's a great way to meet local families and be involved in the community while seeing the many toys available. Most of all it helps keep the library going.

Like those of us on the toy library committee, members may even find assisting others and having some time out from the daily routine enjoyable.



As always, we welcome new committee members to join our small and friendly group of parents; grandparents are also welcome.

We'd love to hear from you, especially if you love toys and everything else that goes with them.

We're looking



forward to celebrating our 30th year with you. Drop by and have a chat.

Brad **BATTIN**<sup>MP</sup>  
State Member for **GEMBROOK**  
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# Renton Lewis local triathlete

Laura Smyth, MP Federal Member for La Trobe



The Local Sporting Champions program is an Australian Government initiative designed to provide financial assistance for young people aged 12-18 towards the costs associated with their travel, entry to competition and coaching.

Renton Lewis, a 16 years old from Upper Beaconsfield, was thrilled to receive his award after representing Australia at this year's triathlon world championships in Auckland in October. "I just love the sport's three different disciplines and I love being active," Renton said. "I am very happy to receive this grant."

Renton took up triathlon as a sport three years ago to help him get over a tennis injury and found he really enjoyed the three disciplines. Last year he



(from left) Samantha Prime, Renton Lewis, Ms Smyth MP and Rachael Guy

also competed in Canberra in January and won his age group event. He then went to the world championships in Auckland in October and in December he competed at

Runaway Bay in Queensland, where he was invited to stay on and train at a fully funded training camp.

When preparing for competition the training is full on, and he trains 7 days a week. At the moment Renton is taking a well earned rest to help him get over an injury. We wish him well with his sporting future.

Laura Smyth MP encourages young athletes and teams to apply for funding support to help them compete at the highest level. For more information on the Local Sporting Champions program visit the Australian Sports

Commission website: [www.ausport.gov.au/](http://www.ausport.gov.au/) champions to see when and how to apply for a grant.

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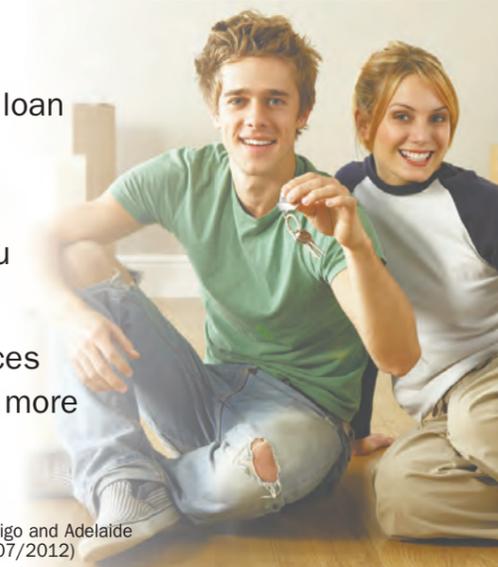
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Upper Beaconsfield residents – drop in (great coffee!), no charge for first appointments

or call Jen Southgate or Ashley Davidson on 5944 4813.

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## Upper Beaconsfield An Early History



Charles W Wilson

Compiled and edited by Jennifer Coates

Available at Upper Beaconsfield  
General Store / Community Centre / Post Office  
or ring / email Noel Ling  
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