

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

VILLAGE BELL

Issue No. 192
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Upper Beaconsfield Association • www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au



Birds in Upper
Beaconsfield
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When Noeline Ling's dog Jack startled a creature in the bush on Downey Road, she wasn't expecting a 3 foot goanna escape up a tree in response (as photographed on Noeline's mobile phone). The Lings have never seen anything like it in their 24 years in Dewhurst.

*A fresh coat of paint and a new roof to the post office and renovations to the interior of the old milk bar—now a café—have really smartened up the centre of the village.
Cameron Rocke*



Anzac Day 2013

The president Eric Chaplin, and members of the Upper Beaconsfield RSL would like to thank the record number of residents and guests who attended our Anzac Day service this year. We would like to thank all of those people who bought tokens and the local businesses and organisations that support us: the Post Office, General Store, Golf Club, Pine Grove Hotel and the school. A very big thanks go to the Scouts who join us every year.
LEST WE FORGET.

Photographs: Peter Simmons, UB Scouts.



About Town

Helen Smith



No left turn!

The no-left-turn signs installed at Halford Street and the newly named McBride Road extension (locally known as No Name Road) have caused a lot of confusion and comment in recent months. VicRoads installed the signs because of safety concerns raised by residents who have difficulty exiting the Milk Bar and Halford Street.



installing the no left turn signs there and at “no name” road is causing other traffic problems and civil disobedience. The problem at Halford Street is caused by lack of visibility, but the authorities should consider how many other people are being impacted by the decision. Because of the continuing confusion, the problem needs to be solved as soon as possible.

But other residents believe there has not been enough consultation regarding the signs and the wider implications for other road users. The Upper Beaconsfield Association approached Cardinia Shire Council about the issue and criticised council for the lack of consultation.

The council decided to send letters to residents in the area seeking feedback on the situation. Paul Richardson, Manager Assets & Development stated in the letter that in the event of vehicles continuing to enter McBride Road extension, council with the support of VicRoads may consider a half-road closure!

People have always been able to left turn into Halford Street and “no name” road and find the new restrictions do not make sense. Even though police have booked a few drivers, many drivers are ignoring the signs.

A resident said that in 43 years of living on “no name” road she had seen only four relatively minor bingles at Halford Street. As a member of the CFA she is in a good position to know the facts about accidents in the area.

The school buses pick up and drop off students in “no name” road. It is more convenient and safer than in Salisbury Road. The buses continue to enter against the no-left-turn signs. The bus drivers would find it difficult to exit from the other direction because of the pedestrian refuge on Emerald Road.

Truck drivers accessing Salisbury Road to go to Pakenham also find the left turn at “no name” road easier than at the Salisbury and Beaconsfield-Emerald Road intersection.

If everyone obeyed the no-left-turn signs, the extra traffic at the Salisbury Road intersection could make it even more congested and difficult for other residents to exit St Georges Road.

One driver commented that when driving down “no name” road, the no-left-turn sign at ground level now obstructed her view. She could not see the cars coming from the right (she is short and her car is a sedan). She previously found this exit safer than the other intersection.

Some residents are now using the service road outside milk bar as a through road to avoid breaking the law. This is an unintended outcome of the new rule.

Drivers do have to be very careful when exiting Halford Street. But

Readers can report feedback by going to Cardinia Shire Council's home page.

An issue at the pedestrian refuge crossing

The steepness of the pathway leading to the crossing to the refuge is a danger. Wheelchair user Phil Jones found that his wheelchair is hard to stop at the roadway. He suggested that handrails are needed. We do have older residents who may slip or lose balance. Phil also questions why this walkway suddenly stops—when heading away from road. This is annoying for wheelchairs.

Albers Road stabilisation

During February 2011 significant rainfall was experienced throughout Victoria which resulted in a large amount of flooding and damage to infrastructure. The road embankment of Albers Road was severely damaged during these storms. Much of the road



embankment was washed away which has caused instability within the road with several areas experiencing considerable subsidence.

Following geotechnical investigations and recommendations a design was completed for the construction

of a rock revetment which will stabilise the road embankment. [In stream restoration, river engineering or coastal management, revetments are sloping structures placed on banks or cliffs in such a way as to absorb the energy of incoming water—Wikipedia.]

The Cardinia Council minutes (18 March) state that the road stabilisation works on Albers Road will be funded by the Natural Disaster Financial Assistance (flood recovery works) provided to local councils by the Federal Government. Council approved the \$260,992 tender submitted by Alliance Plant Hire.

But at the moment, activity seems to be at a standstill. So far barriers and speed limit signs have been erected. Workers have cleared the slope and removed a few trees. Hopefully works will get underway soon before wetter weather makes the road repairs more difficult.

About town



A tidier town

Jo Carter

Out walking on Saturday 17 May, I noticed that our village is looking a lot tidier than before. The public spaces are neat and tidy and the Post Office looks very smart, with a new roof and sparkling paintwork. It was a pleasure just walking to the school from the village centre. The school on that day was a hive of activity with a working bee in progress. The gardens and nature strip were looking



very good, and it was great to see so many parents and children having fun cleaning up and enjoying a small bonfire.

On the way back, the men's shed was also worthy of a mention. The work done around this area in Halford Street behind the Community Centre is paying off. Landcare has cleared out weeds and planted trees, and the men have cleared around their shed and have plans for so much more.

Of course, the Community Garden at Win's Place in Salisbury Road is looking good. The grass planted and nurtured by the Festival committee and the CFA in the summer is now attractive, the council is keeping it well. When the Village Beautification group gets their plans in action, I believe that we can indeed call ourselves a TIDY TOWN.

Limerick for our Scarecrow

Noel Ling

*G'day! ... I'm the scarecrow,
they call me Noel,
Getting rid of the birds, that's
my role,
I know I'm untidy and dress
quite scrappy,
But believe me, I'm really very
happy,
But Gee! ... there's a lot of splinters in that pole.*



Rainfall at "Barkala", Beaconsfield–Emerald Road

George Moir

Month	45 yr average	2012	2013
Jan	63.6	60.3	26.6
Feb	58.4	82.3	60.6
Mar	64.2	60.0	69.4
Apr	78.3	114.2	30.9
May	86.1	128.5	
Jun	80.3	146.3	
Jul	78.6	64.6	
Aug	85.7	71.0	
Sep	90.6	86.9	
Oct	94.3	65.6	
Nov	86.5	48.8	
Dec	80.4	42.5	
Total	947 mm	969 mm	

- The previous history average was 940 mm. The revised average is 947 mm, an increase of 7 mm.
- The summer rainfall (Dec–Feb) continued the drier rainfall of the second half of 2012. Total rainfall 129.7 mm (64% of average)
- The average rainfall in March was followed by a very dry April (30.9 mm) 39.5% of the 45 year average.

Platypus in Cardinia Creek

Dr Geoff Williams from the Platypus Co had advised us that the Cardinia Creek pl survey in March was successful. They located 3 new juvenile platypuses, two males and one female. So it was another good breeding season.



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Birds in Upper Beaconsfield

Fergus O'Gallagher, Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group

Winter bird observations

The area around Upper Beaconsfield has a large and varied permanent population of birds. Most gardens will have resident groups of magpies, wattle birds, eastern-spinebills and families of



Superb Fairy (Blue)-wren (female)

wrens. Careful observation will sometimes result in a sighting of the shy Grey Shrike Thrush.

During the autumn-winter period, we also receive visitors that



Gang-Gang Cockatoo (female)

come from their regular breeding sites to sojourn in Upper Beaconsfield.

Migrant birds include the beautiful Scarlet Robin. The male has a scarlet breast, black head and a distinctive white patch on its forehead. Breeding pairs forage for insects in more open country during this time of year.

Shortly, the Pied Currawong will arrive from the higher mountain areas. They are larger than the

resident Grey Currawongs and, being omnivores, will scavenge for insects, berries, lizards and any available animal food.

A visit to the Cardinia Reservoir is highly recommended at this time of year. As you walk across the causeway, Richard's Pipits will dart about, flicking their tails as they search for insects and seeds. In the water, Black Ducks and Grebes can be seen. With careful observation you will see the Greater Crested Grebe with its red face and blackish crest. This grebe can dive for nearly a minute as it hunts for insects, crustaceans and small fish. Another migrant to the dam is the Musk Duck which has a leathery pouch below its beak (used



Australasian Grebe

to make a loud whistle during the breeding season) and very stiff tail feathers. It can also dive for nearly a minute.

Many cockatoos and rosellas are in residence also. At this time of year, flocks of Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos are feeding in the hakeas and pine trees; also pulling the wattles apart in search of grubs. Long Beaked Corellas have moved to our area recently from western Victoria. They take great delight in ripping up the fairways at Cardinia Beaconhills Golf Links as they use their long bills to excavate for bulbs and roots. The front page photo shows the Gang Gang This member of the cockatoo family travels here from the more densely forested regions of Victoria. They gather in flocks and will return each day to the same tree until they have exhausted the supply of seeds.

Bird watching can add great enjoyment and interest to any walk around Upper Beaconsfield in the winter months.



Black Cockatoo

Cover photographs:

Main image: Grey Shrike Thrush, clockwise from main image: Yellow-rumped Thornbill, Scarlet Robin, Gang-Gang Cockatoo (male)

Upper Beaconsfield Association



Jennie Vaughan, President Upper Beaconsfield Association, 5944 3457

At the annual general meeting in February, we farewelled three committee members: Arthur Day, Ann Johnson and Ocksana Haywood and thanked them for their contributions to the UBA. We welcomed three new members—Jenny Pritchard, Gary Hill and Peter Simmons and we look forward to working with them.

There has been one major change of office-bearers. Ian Hollingsworth has replaced Noel Ling as UBA secretary. Noel was thanked for the excellent job he did as secretary and at his suggestion it was decided to delegate some of the secretary's duties to other committee members to share the load.

At the April meeting the problems of Neighbourhood Safer Places and Open Air Burning Policy were discussed at length with Cardinia Shire Council's municipal emergency manager, Myles O'Reilly, the Mayor and Councillors Baxter and Wilmot in attendance. It seems as if there has been a good response from citizens in regard to these topics as many submissions have been made to Council.

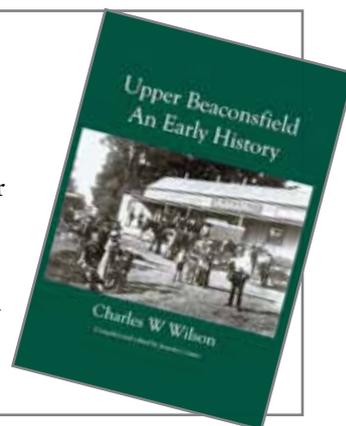
When the problem of untidy conditions at Elephant Rock was mentioned at our meeting, there was discussion about the status of the area. Originally it was a "Look Out" and picnic facility but with the trees growing up and Vic Roads storing road metal there, it is now quite unattractive. Council has agreed to carry out maintenance at Elephant Rock every two months.

Charles Wilson's "Upper Beaconsfield: an early history" first went on sale in February and has been very popular. As it has now sold out the UBA has decided to print a second run of this book.

UBA has been pleased to see more citizens coming to our bi-monthly meetings. Please come and share your ideas with us to help keep Upper Beaconsfield the friendly place it is.

Upper Beaconsfield An Early History

Fresh copies of Charles Wilson's history are now available at Upper Beaconsfield General Store, Community Centre, Post Office or get in touch with Noel Ling on 5944 3735 lingn@bigpond.com to order a book. Cost: \$45



The next UBA meeting will be held on
Wednesday, 5 June at 7.30 pm
at the Community Complex
* Everyone is welcome *

Mission statement of the UBA

Jo Carter

The current executive of the UBA would like to remind all residents of the beginnings and purpose of the Upper Beaconsfield Association.

In late 1973, just after Berwick City and Pakenham Shire had been divided, an interested group of Upper Beaconsfield residents started visiting Council meetings. This group was nicknamed by the councillors, "The Council Watch". This group called meetings of interested residents together to meet with the shire engineer to discuss the controversial topic of road widening, and the response was so strong that the "Council Watch" decided to form an association to give the village an official voice with council.

Councillor Ted Owen, father of our current mayor Brett, chaired an inaugural meeting in November 1974.

The UBA was incorporated by 1986 and the constitutional aims are:

- To influence development in Upper Beaconsfield and district so as to retain, as far as possible, its present character and atmosphere.
- To facilitate communications with the shire council, and any other authorities, in matters pertaining to Upper Beaconsfield and district.

The executive, committee and members of the Upper Beaconsfield Association still strive to meet these aims. We have a strong relationship with our local members, who are present at most of our general meetings.

Thank you to the first treasurer of the Association, former resident Jeanette Ballinger, for allowing me to use information from her early Village Bell articles.

see www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au/archive.html
Issues 056 (May 1987) and 057 (July 1987)

Help keep
Upper Beaconsfield safe



Report a hoon
'you can be anonymous'

Call Crimestoppers on
1800 333 000

Quote the registration, make and model of the
vehicle to help keep our community safe.

Upper Beac Men's Shed

Matt McDonald (President)

Men's Shedders have a shed!

The building

Great rejoicing as the Men's Shed building finally arrived on site on Monday 13 May. After fifteen months of preparation and efforts to secure all the required permits we were able to let Trevor Wilson know that all was in order to locate the building on the Halford Street side of the Community Complex land. Trevor and his sons operate the C. D. Wilson & Son building relocation business and very generously donated the relocatable building to the Men's Shed. They also prepared the site, poured the foundation pads and delivered the building free of charge. Many thanks Trevor, Brad, Darren, Jack and Rhys, whose generosity and expertise were greatly appreciated.

Work begins now to refurbish the building and arrange for services to be connected. Members will also be upgrading drainage and vegetation around the site.

We have 22 financial members and as many again who attend some gatherings. Between 15 and 23 participants attend every Wednesday.

Other activities

- The Primary School chook shed has been completed, due mainly to the work of Michael Oliver and other members. It is yet to be decided when the hens arrive. We look forward to the grand opening.
- One member has started first aid training and six members have enrolled to take part in food handling training at the Community Centre.
- Men's Shedders ran a fund raising sausage sizzle at Woolworths in Emerald in April, and we are booked in to run a second one on 8 June.
- We will be assisting the Garden Group to prepare a site for a garden shed on 16 Salisbury Road.
- Members of the Men's Shed group have been giving short talks on their own life experiences. These have been very engaging and informative. We have also had presentations from an apiarist and a solar heating expert. Talks are planned on the history and use of computers.

Benches around the town

The Men's Shed members in consultation with the UBA are developing a proposal to build and locate a number of bench seats around the town. Suggestions of designs and locations are welcome. Appropriate permissions and conditions will be adhered to.



Finances and equipment

The Men's Shed has received donations of tools and furniture from other Men's Sheds. We are constantly applying for grants to assist in setting up our shed.

We would be grateful for any donations in the form of money or items such as ladders, carpenters' horses, basic tools, and cooking and cleaning items.

Contact the Men's Shed:

Matt McDonald 5944 3860 / 0407 845 135

Noel Ling 5944 3735 / 0414 443 735

Garden Group

Traci Newham

The Garden Group has held a couple of working bees at the community garden at Win's Plot. We have moved part of a mountain of mulch, and we are very pleased with the progress made with this lovely area. We have some more boxes which we will shortly be planting with more vegetables.

Group members recently enjoyed a picnic in the garden, eating a delicious salad, pasta and sauce made with vegetables and herbs grown by ourselves, plus home made bread. We have enjoyed a very informative visit to a thriving local orchard and to a beautifully designed and fruitful home garden. In June we plan to have a demonstration on pruning fruit trees, using Win's blighted trees as example.

The group has received a council grant to beautify the strip on the Salisbury Road side of the garden. It will be cleared and planted with attractive and low care native plants.

As our planting capacity is growing, we want to encourage anyone who is interested to join us and enjoy the friendship and knowledge of our group. Contact Traci 0407 093 420 or the Community Centre for details.

Vale: Gwynneth Lucy Conn 1922–2013

Jenny, Simon and Andrew Conn

Gwynne Conn was a long term resident of Upper Beaconsfield having moved here with her husband Frank in the early 1950s. Frank had purchased the land when he returned from World War 2 and built a two-roomed weekender. They liked the area so much they decided to move here permanently. Both loved the bush and the beautiful outlook to Western Port Bay from the house. Three children came along—Jenny, Simon and Andrew—and the house was extended to accommodate the growing family.

Gwynne's involvement with the local community started in the 1950s when the children attended the local kindergarten in McBride Road and then the Beaconsfield Upper Primary School. She was on their respective committees and was busy with family and also supporting Frank with the RSL. She continued her involvement with the RSL by organising many fundraising functions, assisting on committees, with fetes and the Anzac Day activities. Gwynne was recognised for her dedication and was the first lady to be given honorary RSL membership.



Gwynne worked locally at the Berwick Newsagency and then Berwick Bush Nursing Hospital. When she retired she took up golf again, a game she had played with her father in Mirboo North as a teenager. She joined Beaconsfields Golf Club as a lady member and enjoyed both the golf and the social activities. Gwynne was known for her sense of humour and willingness to give anything a go. She always featured prominently in the annual Christmas breakup shows.

Gwynne loved Upper Beaconsfield and she had many friends in the community. She knew all the local shop proprietors and would have regular chats with them when she did her shopping. Gwynne liked the environment, her garden and loved the wildlife, especially the many birds which would arrive like clockwork onto the back deck ready for feeding. She instilled the

love for this area in her children and we have all moved back with our families to enjoy the community first discovered by our parents many years ago. Gwynne was able to live independently at home to the age of 91 years. She will be missed.

Vale: Elva Ratcliff 1923–2013

Compiled from information provided by Elva's family

An active member of our local community

Elva Ratcliff, a long time and well-loved resident of Upper Beaconsfield, passed away in February of this year shortly after reaching her 90th birthday.

Elva met her future husband Ray when working at the Commonwealth Bank in Melbourne, and they were married in 1949. Both Elva and her husband Ray contributed in many ways to the several local suburban communities where they lived with their children Bruce, Peter and Jan.

By 1977 Ray had had enough of the bank and he and Elva decided to buy the Post Office here at Upper Beaconsfield. They renovated the residence, kept a couple of sheep and eagerly embraced life in a country town. They both developed an encyclopaedic knowledge of the residents and the district. Elva joined the Earth Culture Exchange, was Treasurer at St John's Church, joined the CFA and trained as a radio operator, and typed the Village Bell and the parish newsletter. In the 1970s Elva began volunteering at the Citizens' Advice Bureau



at Mentone, and continued this at Dandenong after the move to Upper Beaconsfield.

In 1983 the Ash Wednesday bushfires devastated the local area.

Elva worked all evening and all night of that Wednesday on the CFA radio. The Post Office became a 24-hours-a-day communications and counselling centre straight after the disaster.

Charles Wilson in his newly released book about the history of Upper Beaconsfield wrote of Ray and Elva "they were magnificent, providing assistance and support for distressed victims at any hour of the day or night, as well as keeping a record of the whereabouts of most of the town population."

Although Ray and Elva didn't lose any property, they were deeply traumatised by the fires, and they sold the Post Office the following year. They built a new house on land just out of town in Split Rock Road, but in 1990, both aged in their sixties they moved back to the town centre at 12 St Georges Road.

Elva had developed a keen interest in craft and embroidery and she and some other ladies started the “Wednesday Craft Group” to provide an outlet for local women who were dealing with the emotional turmoil of the fires. Elva continued to attend this group right up to not long before she died, and the friendships she had there were incredibly important to her.

By 1995 the house and garden at St Georges Road were proving to be too big for Ray and Elva and they decided to move to the Fiddlers Green retirement village in Berwick. At Berwick Elva immediately launched into village life, becoming a member of the Fiddlers Green Residents’ Council and being heavily involved with U3A. Then in 1997 Ray was diagnosed with cancer and died. After 48 years of marriage, Elva was a widow. Typically, she determined not to be lonely and miserable, but to fill every day with activities. She met with various friends for lunch or coffee on certain days of the week when she wasn’t with the “crafties”. Her friends were

immensely important to her and they helped each other through many ups and downs.

In the last year of her life she suffered health problems and with the deterioration of her eyesight she found it frustrating that she could not manage her craft work. She returned to Upper Beaconsfield to spend her last months in Salisbury House. She even attended the Carols by Candlelight on Christmas Eve.

One of her grandchildren said “I think it’s fair to say that both my grandma and grandpa demonstrated ably that if you can contribute, you ought to. Even at young age I understood how important they were to this community—through the CFA, St John’s Church and any number of other activities they participated in. Wandering around Upper Beac with them it was always clear that they knew everyone and everyone knew them.”

Ray and Elva Ratcliff were jointly awarded Upper Beaconsfield Citizens of the Year in 1989.

Where are they now? Sue and Peter Gray

Matt McDonald

Sue and Peter Gray lived in Upper Beaconsfield for twenty-eight years from 1978 until 2006. They and their house survived the Ash Wednesday bushfires but they were greatly affected by the fires, living as they did in the Brennan Avenue estate. Part of the UBA response in the aftermath of the fires was to seek funding for a community coordinator to assist families in the recovery process. Sue Gray was the first coordinator and held the position for several years. The present Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre grew from that position. Sue performed the role with great skill and sensitivity, and after her experiences in the role was invited to assist in the recovery of communities after major catastrophes such as the Newcastle and Los Angeles earthquakes. Sue and Peter’s son Aaron played pennant golf for Beaconhills Country Club for several years. Peter and Sue now live in Flinders. Sue provided their story below.

We were attracted to Upper Beaconsfield by the beautiful bushland environment and the sense of community we experienced through friends and involvement with the tennis club.

For us the highlight of living in Upper Beaconsfield was definitely our involvement in the local kindergarten, school, tennis and golf clubs and the Community Centre where we all made lifelong

friends. Our experiences following the Ash Wednesday bushfires demonstrated the special nature of the community and the many wonderful people in it.

We were attracted to Flinders as we had enjoyed family holidays in Flinders and thought it would be a great place to retire to with the golf club, bowls club, the beach and a good pub! We were also attracted by mains water, flat ground and a reduced risk of bushfire in a small community. Friends from Upper Beaconsfield already lived here.

Since leaving Upper Beaconsfield we have had great pleasure from establishing a large native garden which we have opened to the public as a fundraiser for local charities. We have both retired and travelled extensively in Australia and also Europe, Turkey, Indonesia, Borneo, Southern Africa and Japan.

Our community involvement these days includes walking regularly with a local walking group, playing golf (Peter), volunteering with the Op Shop and Dad’s Army at the Golf club. Peter is honorary secretary for the Bass Park Trust. I was a volunteer with the Cranbourne Botanic Garden but that has had to be suspended to allow for supporting aged parents at home and in care.

When people ask us what it is like living in Flinders we often say it is like living in Upper Beaconsfield, but by the sea. Flinders has a small permanent population and a strong sense of community with plenty of groups to be involved with and many interesting and friendly people who have been very inclusive to newcomers.



At the Cape of Good Hope



Peter and Sue Gray with Aaron and his partner Katie Backholer in the slums of Indonesia. Katie was working there as an AusAid Ambassador

UBMG....music for the community by the community

Caroline Doerig

Upper Beats Music Group was founded in 2012 by community members in the local area. We meet monthly in Upper Beaconsfield, and our aim is to promote amateur music workshops and performances, and to have a good time sharing local talent.

We welcome musicians of any age, any standard, any instrument and any voice. The group enjoys a variety of music ranging from popular to folk, Celtic to classical, as well as some "home-grown styles". As one member commented, "You never know what you're going to get with UBMG!"



Listening is as important as performing, so the group is open to all who just want to sit back, relax, and soak up the music.

Join us!

- Where: St John's Church Hall, St Georges Road, Upper Beaconsfield
- When: 2nd Sunday of the month
- Contact: Helen 5944 4428 or Caroline 5944 3203
- Cost: \$5 donation per musician
- Next session is being held on Sunday 8 June, from 3–5 pm



African Drumming Workshop

- What: African Drumming Workshop, run by Full Circle Drumming from Belgrave see <http://www.fullcircledrumming.org>
- Where: Upper Beac Community Hall
- When: Saturday 22 June from 10 am–11.30 am All ages, all welcome
- Prices: Children under 16: \$15; Students: \$20; Adults: \$25
- Bookings: phone Caroline: 5944 3203 or book by SMS: 0437 229 439

Keeping up with maintenance

Bob Taylor, President Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve

Over 2012 the Reserve saw lots of action especially on the maintenance of the oval and some improvements in the passive recreation and riding areas. The oval was kept in good condition all through the winter and came into summer better than for many years thanks to the work of Euan Laird and the Beaconsfield Junior Football Club. It has a good matt of grass and even the cricket practice run ups area is wearing relatively well during this cricket season.

We appear to have resolved concerns about large water bills, perhaps due to underground water leakages from the oval irrigation system and now need to budget for an annual check up of the system. Euan Laird and Nick Fabien are the irrigation computer experts now and with a dry summer for the first time in three years we have needed to water to maintain the growth and grass coverage.

A most generous offer from John Coinu of Melbourne Building Technology, a parent with the Beaconsfield Junior Football Club, to renovate the change rooms at no cost to the committee or club was received, accepted and implemented in quick time and the football club presented a thank you plaque to him on behalf of the Reserve. It has made a huge difference to the change rooms which are now light and bright.

The ceiling lights in the Igloo were repaired and refitted by another white knight after some damage.

The Igloo heaters are non functional and in need of repair or replacement and this will be a possible item for a Cardinia Shire Council grant to be lodged by the Scouts.

The bank behind the crickets net was finally walled with sleepers, cleared, dressed and planted using the grant we received for the Shire some time ago thanks to the work of Richard Halliday and Matt Fenner.

A preventive cool burn by the CFA of the horse riding area took place in March 2011 and we engaged a clear up and burn of the remaining undergrowth in 2012. But the final clean up is yet to take place due to wet and then suddenly dry weather conditions.

Thank you to all committee members.

Thank you to Euan Laird, Nick Fabien, Matt Fenner, David McKenzie, Liz Grigg and Andi Ketteridge for your contributions to the improvements in the facilities on the Reserve over the past year.

Particular thanks to our retiring secretary Pam Edwards who joined us as the Adult Riding club member in 2009 and assumed the secretary role with her business skills and then moved to community membership in 2011.

Richard Halliday is stepping down as treasurer, though staying on the committee. Richard has been a community member and treasurer since 1998 and has been a valuable guide to us all for the correct management of expenditure. The Reserve has also benefitted from his eye for vegetation conservation and fire management over the last 15 years and will continue to do so.

Liz Brandie, Secretary UBRFB

Open air burning

Fire danger periods are based on local conditions and take into account fuel moistures, fuel loads, grassland curing, weather and rainfall. They are a seasonal declaration.

The fire danger period has now ended in Upper Beaconsfield but before you burn off, lighting of fires may be fully or partly restricted under legislation and by-laws administered by municipalities and Department of Sustainability and Environment.

A person is guilty of a serious crime if he/she intentionally or not lights a fire in dangerous weather or fuel conditions, or lights a fire that damages another person's property.

- It is important the residents take extreme care when burning off
- If a fire is left unattended in windy conditions it can spread quickly and can burn into bush land or onto neighbour's properties

- Check local by-laws before burning off and never leave a burn-off unattended
- Tell your neighbours and notify the Vicfire Burn Off Line on 1800 668 511
- Check the weather forecast before you burn-off
- Never burn on dry, hot and windy conditions

CFA Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said although the weather has cooled down the state is still extremely dry and ready to burn, but as we have seen this fire season fires start easily and travel fast. They can threaten properties and even kill, people should never be complacent.

People should have a fire plan and prepare for the event of fire.

For more information please visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667

Queen's Birthday honour for Alan Dale

The Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade members are proud to congratulate Alan Dale for being awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal, nominated in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Alex Chernov AC QC Governor of Victoria presented Alan with his medal on 2 November 2012 at a ceremony at Government House.

Alan has been recognised for his leadership



Alex Chernov AC QC Governor of Victoria presenting Alan Dale with his medal



Alan Dale with his daughter Jessica

and vision, extensive operational experience, training and outstanding commitment to excellence and the continuous improvement within the CFA.

In the 43 years Alan has been in the CFA he has enjoyed and been inspired by skills achieved by training hard then putting the training into action and improving these skills continuously.

Alan first joined the CFA as a volunteer in Dandenong in 1969 aged 23. He enjoyed the skills he learned with training and continued for another eight years realising his ambition of making CFA his career and spanning 30 years as a career firefighter.

Alan moved to Upper Beaconsfield in 1979

and joined Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade as a volunteer as well as being a career fire fighter in Boronia Fire Brigade for 30 years.

Our brigade is thankful he continuously shares his training skills and knowledge with our brigade improving our skills as a rural fire brigade to prepare us for the challenges of the future.

When Alan is turned out to a serious incident as a fire fighter he finds it hard not to be affected with tragic events but this is what inspires him on ways he can do better next time.

Alan is currently a volunteer at Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade and the Senior Station Officer at the Boronia Fire Brigade.

History Snippet: The packing shed

Marianne Rocke

Who has been sleeping in my house? This recent TV series has inspired me to look at the history of properties in Upper Beaconsfield, and the first I looked into is Wendy Thomson's garage, formerly the Victorian Orchardists' Co-operative Association's packing shed, on the opposite side of Halford Street from the milkbar/café.



Early selection of the property

In 1879, Thomas Jacques Martin, involved in the insurance industry, selected 20 acres which includes the land where the shed stands today. In 1889 he subdivided the land, and sold a small number of town lots. On his death in 1896, his estate was insolvent, so all his landholdings went to the City of Melbourne Bank.

Early in the 20th century Emma Shorthouse bought a number of town lots along Halford Street which had been subdivided from the original 20 acre selection. These lots remained vacant land, and since she kept horses, she may have grazed them there. After her death in 1918, George Hodges Knox, an orchardist, bought the packing shed lot.

The orchardists had recently built a packing shed near Beaconsfield Railway station. It was formally opened in May 1918. It soon became clear to them that its location was impractical. They had to cart the fruit to Beaconsfield where it was graded and packed, and then they had to return to the shed to pick up the reject fruit. It was decided that the shed had to be located closer to the orchards, and plans were put in place to physically move the shed to Upper Beaconsfield.

Knox may have secured the land from the Shorthouse estate to facilitate this – the land was transferred to the Victorian Orchardists' Co-operative Association (VOC) on 9 February 1921.

The Pakenham Gazette reported on 28 January 1921 that the Berwick Shire Council had passed a motion, "that the engineer do whatever work is necessary to give access to and from the fruit packing shed in course of erection at Beaconsfield Upper."

The move would have been quite an undertaking. The shed had to be dismantled, the individual pieces marked, so that they could be

re-assembled when they arrived in Upper Beaconsfield. Looking at the beams in the garage today, one can still see markings like No. 2 Railway, No. 2 Road, and other beams have roman numerals scratched into them. It has

been reported that a bullock team conveyed the parts to their new location.

It was decided to use two thirds of the building at the new site, and the final third as an extension for the North Beaconsfield shed at the corner of Split Rock Road. (On the photograph below it can be clearly seen that section of the shed left of the dotted line has the same architecture as the packing shed on the left).

In June 1923, the shareholders decided to liquidate the VOC, as the company had accrued a big loss. The liquidators put the packing sheds up for sale by tender in October 1923, and as the successful tenderer was Judge Bevan of Pen Bryn on 12 November 1923.



On 7 Dec 1923 Berwick County Times reported that

"Much interest is being taken in our new motor garage. The old packing shed has been fitted up with ramps, pits and benches and a large petrol shed is being built apart from the main building. This undertaking fills a long felt want as visitors or residents will now be able to garage their cars for the night or week-end at a nominal fee. Motors are gradually taking the place of our horse drawn coaches and shortening the rather tedious journey from the station."

In November 1929 the Argus newspaper reported that thieves had forced the petrol bowser, and 100 gallons of petrol had been stolen.

There are only two early photographs surviving. One is a postcard of Charing Cross, probably taken in the late 1930s showing the word 'Cars' on the corrugated iron roof. The other is the photograph (featured) of the



Village Bell June 2013

'Back to Upper Beaconsfield' event in January 1935, in which only an extension, used as an office and entrance, is visible. This extension survived until about 1970, when Ric and Wendy Thomson had to remove it. There are still signs of the extension's roof flashing visible on the wall of the main shed today.

There is anecdotal evidence that during World War 2 the garage was used as a packing shed again. Doreen Bevan remembers walking past and seeing the packing shed in operation, always hoping that the packers would give her an apple. During the Second World War the Apple and Pear Marketing Board's acquisition plan was to purchase all the state's production of apples. Tom Black of Upper Beaconsfield was on this board, so you can imagine that the shed was being used for this purpose. The building, however, remained in the ownership of Judge Bevan until October 1945.

The next owner was Samuel William Tetley, who in late September 1945 advertised in the Argus an auction sale of his household possessions at the 'Packing Shed'. As he had sold his house, 'Applecross' earlier in the year, he may have removed his possessions to the shed at this time.

Tetley did not own the shed for long, William and Isabel Bassett, grocers, who lived in St Georges Road owned it from May to September 1946 – they moved to Belgrave shortly after.

Tom Brady

Some residents may remember the next owner. Tom Brady, a poultry farmer, residing on Wellington Road, Clematis, bought the property on 3 September 1946 and held it until his death in 1962. He was born in Christchurch in 1894 as James Frederick Tahua Flint. His parents separated while he was a boy, and his mother started a new family, Tom taking the name of his step-father, Burnside. He enlisted in the New Zealand army in 1917, but did not see active service. He was 5' 7", with a fresh complexion, light brown hair and blue eyes, but was described by the army as having a 'poor physique'. He spent nearly two months in hospital suffering from gingivitis, a painful infection of the mouth, most commonly associated with poor nutrition and a lack of taking care of one's teeth. In 1919 he married Reine Gordon, but the marriage did not last. They divorced in 1923.

It is unclear when Tom Brady migrated to Australia, but it is said that he changed his name in the early 1920s, which may have been his way to escape from his marriage.

The 1949 electoral roll states that he moved to Upper Beaconsfield. He fitted out a small corner of the shed to serve as his living quarters, with a still existing sign above it, saying treasurer.

The room had a fireplace, the chimney still exists.

Bill Russell, who used to manage Loveridge's store, described him as Tom "Sport" Brady, a former garage owner from Melbourne. Stan Hamilton recalls that

Tom must have been a mechanic at some time, as he owned a lot of tools that other residents did

not have. Amongst other tools he had a honing machine which he hired out to the locals. Tom also bought and sold cars and trucks as a side line. Stan remembers his taxi service, and that he would take Rev and Mrs Howard-Smith, of Lo Yuan, in Split Rock Road, on tours every Sunday afternoon for a 2-3 hour drive. The elderly couple didn't drive, and this was their only way to get about. He also occasionally took them shopping in Dandenong.

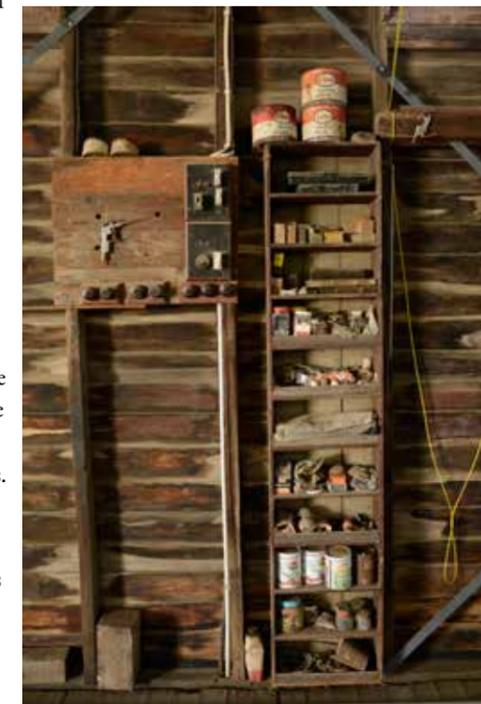
Stan said that Tom Brady had a 2 shilling coin glued to the floor of the garage, and watching as customers trying to conceal it with their foot, waiting for Tom to turn his back so that they could pick it up. It was Tom who had the last laugh.

In late 1961 Tom was admitted to Royal Park Psychiatric Hospital where he died in July 1962. In his will he left most of his property, valued at about £10,000 to his sister in New Zealand, except for his



1956 Holden car, which he gave to Muriel Dowling, a teacher, who lived on Salisbury Road.

George Thomson, owner and resident of Cormore Tea Rooms (previous name of the milk bar / Tradies & Ladies) had been Tom's friend. George became the next owner of the packing shed and



Brady's other landholdings. After George's death in 1965, his widow Mag, and son Ric, moved to the packing shed, where Mag would stay in a caravan, and Ric in Brady's room. In 1967 Ric Thomson built the existing house and a granny flat for Mag. The packing shed was used as a private garage.

Today the shed is privately owned by Wendy Thomson, who has recently re-roofed the shed, an improvement that will extend the life of this historic building, tied to the history of Upper Beaconsfield's extensive orchard past, and the transition from horse and cart to motorised transport.

sources: Berwick County Times, Pakenham Gazette, The Argus, Title Certificate, Tom Brady probate, New Zealand Military Files, Electoral Rolls, Doreen Godtschalk, Stan Hamilton, Wendy Thomson

Ranges Ward

Cr. Tania Baxter Ph: 0427 528 358 t.baxter@cardinia.vic.gov.au
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



Consulting the community

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the many and varied community consultation feedback opportunities lately. We received unprecedented input from draft policies like the Open Burning Plan, Neighbourhood Safer Places of last resort, review of the Roads Management Plan, 2013-17 Council Plan and the Tourism Strategy.

Please continue your engagement with Cardinia Shire Council as this ensures that we hear the needs in the community and do our best to meet them. The draft council budget is now available for you to comment on, as is the Strategic Resource Plan, and we encourage you to have a say on how your rates are spent.

At the recent MCO (mobile councillor office) some of the community concerns included the confusing VicRoads signage newly installed at the entrance of Halford Street, submissions on some of the above draft policies, the need for older citizens accommodation and emergency vehicle evacuation planning, as well as some merit items to be followed up and the suggestion we advertise in the Beaconsfield Upper Primary School and Kinder newsletters to promote the event more fully. These MCOs are a fantastic opportunity for you to meet your ward councillors and have a say on local issues.

Congratulations to the Upper Beaconsfield community for their successful grant funding applications recently, in particular the Beautification Grant submissions. We look forward to working together with you to see these proposals become a reality.

And last but not least, congratulations to our Mayor, Cr Brett Owen, and his wife Jackie on adding to population growth of our shire by the birth of their son, Will Alexander, a brother for Max. We wish them all health and happiness and no doubt we will be seeing this new arrival in the local paper before long.

You can also contact us on Facebook:

- councillor.tania.baxter
- LeticiaWilmot.Ranges or "Friends of Ranges Ward in Cardinia Shire"
- BrettOwen.CardiniaShire

Shire Information



Draft budget and council plan out now! Council invites feedback

Community members are invited to comment on Cardinia Shire Council's draft 2013-14 budget and 2013-17 plan, both on public exhibition until Wednesday 5 June.

See http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=4172

Hard copies are on display at the council offices and Pakenham, Emerald and mobile libraries.

The draft council plan identifies the key challenges for the coming years and outlines the action council will take to address these challenges.

Written submissions should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, and be delivered or sent to the Cardinia Shire Council offices, Henty Way, Pakenham, Victoria, 3810.

Email submissions to mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

All submissions will be heard at a special council meeting starting at 7 pm on Monday 17 June and considered in accordance with section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

For further information regarding the draft budget and the council plan, contact 1300 787 624.

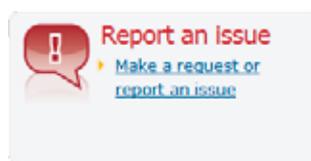
Council Merit System

This is a system that can be used to report issues to Cardinia Shire Council. These can be any issues affecting residents and ratepayers or the general area that you feel requires actions or responses from

the council.

There are 3 different ways you can get an issue recorded, without having to go down to the council offices.

1. Call customer service on 1300 787 624
2. Go to the council web site - <http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au> and click on



Follow the prompts—you will also be given the opportunity to upload a photo that will help identify the specific problem

3. Use the Cardinia Shire Council smart phone app to submit an online form. See the council web site noted above, in the section under "Quick Links" for info on downloading the app.

Once the request is processed, you should be contacted by a customer service officer and a merit reference number will be allocated.

If you haven't been contacted within 2 weeks, you should follow up with customer service. If you are still unhappy with the response after this, contact your Ranges Ward councillors.

Don't wait for someone else to report an issue, do it yourself.

Remember, if council isn't aware of a problem, you can hardly expect it to do something about it.

Wildlife Watch

Laura Levens



In last Wildlife Watch I noted that tadpoles in our small pools were taking an extra-long time to become frogs. They have been there since end of November. I consider that the weather hasn't really broken but the tadpoles have tiny legs at last. Maybe they can see a future where we will find it hard to do any open air burning this year. Rain at our place is little more than half the long term average for April. Just enough for a few panic grass plants to grow but hardly any other species yet.

About nine years back I was puzzled by grass protruding from a hole in a gum tree (below) and eventually discovered that grass-carrying wasps (above) build



nests in tunnels that moth grubs have vacated (right). They carry grass leaves through the air to pack inside, add a food supply, lay their eggs, pack more grass in and leave. Last May 2012, I discovered another nest in some firewood and kept it in a large plastic bag hoping to discover what the wasp might be. I left the bag where I would see it often and looked every now and again for flying wasps.

After six months I looked less frequently. After a peek at Christmas, then in mid-March I decided to throw it out as surely the eggs must be infertile or maybe hadn't been there at all. Believe me or not there were three dead and dry 2 cm long wasp bodies

among the litter! A bit disappointing as it doesn't give an accurate passage of time. Not much of a researcher, me!

I go for inspection walks about once per week but there is precious little to see among the grass and sedges here. There were a few nodding greenhood plants and one solitary mosquito orchid with buds near Leppitt Road. I have seen some fungi: one tiny grey one in the gutter alongside the road where water tends to lie and a big orange one that grows in clumps to attack tree roots. Kangaroos and wallabies have peered in the lounge room window after drinking from the birds' water dish.



Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group

Mike Hall

The group welcomes anyone with an interest in conservation and the local environment to come to our meetings. If you have a local environmental issue you wish to raise, please feel free to do so at the meeting or contact us directly. New members are always welcome.

Change of meeting days

The UBCG has changed their meeting day to the second Thursday of every month. It will be held at 8 pm in the Arts Annexe at the Community Complex. For further information please contact Mike Hall on 5944 4208 or email mhall@pacific.net.au

Editor: The Conservation Group's DVD "The Nature of Upper Beaconsfield" which was on show at the Village Festival is still available if you missed out on a copy. Contact Mike, see above. I enjoyed viewing my copy which features the birds, animals and plants of Upper Beac, with great photographs and music.

The Community Centre provides great services for you

Loads of laughter and fun at UBCC Crèche

Kylie Briffa

We welcome our newest families into the UBCC Crèche and look forward to many fun filled and educational days together.

We have had a lot of fun and interesting experiences at Crèche so far in 2013. Some highlights include many sessions spent cooking delicious scones, Greek breads, pancakes and making fruit salad and popcorn to name a few and having discussions about healthy foods.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming a regular visit from a Salisbury House resident to read stories and engage in play with the children, which has fostered a lovely sense of community. We have also had librarian visits to conduct story time to facilitate and educate the children's love of books and reading.



left to right, Olivia, Danielle (resident of Salisbury House) and Paige.

And we welcomed the addition of our UBCC Crèche tadpoles! The children have been enjoying watching the tiny tadpoles grow and look forward to witnessing the amazing transformation into little frogs.

With many wonderful experiences to come, UBCC Crèche is the place to be!

You and your family are most welcome to pop in and meet our warm and caring Educators and have a look at our Crèche. Your children will love it!

The Registered Training Organisation (RTO) at your Community Centre

Fiona Kneen

Recently I have had the pleasure of being part of two exceptional

groups of people who have concluded their classes as students of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre. One was a group of early childhood educators (Certificate III Children's Services students) and the other was a group of carers (Certificate III Aged Care & Home and Community Care students). I am so proud and thankful that I assisted in the education of these amazing people from our community. As both a parent, and a daughter, I am confident in the abilities of the graduates of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre to educate the children of our community and to care for those in the community who require assistance.

See a photo of some of our 2013 Aged Care and Home and Community Care Certificate III students above.

Is it time for you to make a change, or make a difference? Why not consider one of our courses, the sooner you start, the sooner you can make a difference!

Our available courses include:

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

Class commencing June 4, enrol now, as the class is filling!

- Diploma of Children's Services (CHC50908)

Tuesday evenings. Rolling enrolments taken at any time—enrol now!

- Cert III in Children's Services (CHC30712)

Monday (9 am–3 pm) class available now and an evening class is commencing in term 3, so get your enrolment started now!

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 and enrolments.

2013 annual general meeting

Sally Randall

The Community Centre's annual general meeting was held on 20 March 2013, at the Community Complex. At the meeting, the outgoing long-serving committee members were thanked for their work on behalf of our community. Linda Groom, Anne McCormick, Phil Randall, Shirley Stephens, Mark Stephens,

Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten



D'Arne Fisher, Upper Beaconsfield Kindergartens Association.

Wow, how time flies when you're having fun! It's hard to believe we are already into term 2 and getting ready to bring our winter woollies out.

We have had lots happening at both kindergartens. In particular the children have loved exploring our wonderful natural playground environments that we have at Upper Beaconsfield. The outdoor play spaces are filled with things to explore and find and the autumn leaves and colours make it a very special place to be.

We held our open day at both kindergartens on Saturday 18 May. These open days give children and parents the opportunity to come along and meet our wonderful staff and learn more about our beautiful learning environment first hand.

Amanda and her fundraising team have been doing a great job this year with a number of successful events including the Upper Beaconsfield Festival, welcome afternoon tea, hot cross bun drive and the high tea at "Eighty One" restaurant in



Berwick. So far this year we have raised over \$850 which all goes directly back into the kindergartens.

Our major fundraiser for the year is fast approaching! We are holding our auction night on Saturday 20 July at the Pine Grove Hotel, with a "Wig or Crazy Hair" theme! If you would like to join us for a fun night or you are a local business that would like to donate something for the night, please contact our fundraising manager Amanda Charles on 0400 347 968

Tickets are \$55 for a three course meal, with drinks at bar prices. Last year was a huge success and with the support of the Upper Beaconsfield community it is sure to be another great night!

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the exciting happenings at our wonderful kindergartens!

We have also launched our new website which you can check out at www.upperbeackinder.org.au

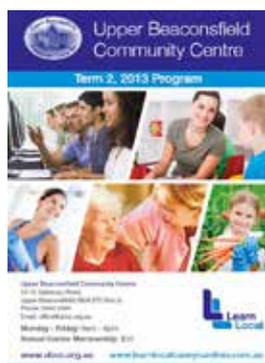
For parents with enrolment queries, please contact us at info@upperbeackinder.org.au or by visiting our website which contains all the necessary forms and information.



Traci Newham and Jen Southgate have done a sterling job at the Community Centre over the past years. A new committee was elected for the coming year with Karen Cartwright, Noel Ling, Ian McLean, Trina Mazzone, Traci Newham and Nikki LeBrocq joining the team on the committee.

New look for the UBCC Term Program

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre Term Program has changed its image, now sporting a new professional approach.



The Centre still provides an open doors community attitude, with a warm and friendly team awaiting you. The program has many new classes and courses on offer, ranging from young children through to adult education.

Term 3 is fast approaching, so keep an eye out for the new program. If you don't receive one in your area please contact the Centre on (03) 5944 3484 and request a copy be sent directly to you.

'Beautification' of our village

Sally Randall

Jenny Pritchard has reported briefly on the success that the Upper Beaconsfield Beautification Group has had in securing funding from the Cardinia Shire Council, which will cover a planting project in the centre of the village.

It is hoped that this work will be carried out over the winter months. The UBBG brought together a number of local people with a range of expertise and interest in both our indigenous flora and in beautifying our village, and came up with an excellent plan for the replanting of the beds around the shops.

This group committed a great deal of time to the process and worked co-operatively to come up with some planting plans which will provide interest through the year and also increase safety in the parking areas outside the shops, increasing visibility for pedestrians and drivers. We are very much looking forward to watching these plans become a reality this year, and hope that further projects will follow.

Primary School (BUPS)

Nick Karanzoulis, Principal



Term 2 has been a rather busy term with the staging of the following events: district chess championships, interschool sport, house cross country, district cross country championships, equestrian events at the VEC, the working bee, Education Week celebrations, open days, prep information nights for children who will start school in 2014, as well as the Prep Experience program for all kinder children.

formal education. The program includes our prep teachers visiting the local kindergartens, the kinder children attending sessions at BUPS in the prep classrooms, lessons with specialist staff as well as participating in the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) and the Fundamental Motor Skills program.

School tours take place every Wednesday morning from 9.15 am or at a different time by appointment. We look forward to welcoming the new families to our school. Enrolments are now taken for all that will be starting preps in 2014.

Bups Football League

The tradition conditions this term with the BUPS Football League Competition. This organised lunchtime activity provides children from grades 3 to 6 with the opportunity to enjoy playing a game of footy with some modified rules which include children playing a position to that of their peers from the same year level, a maximum of one bounce, and boys cannot tackle the girls. The teams are:

- Coventry Koalas (current premiers)
- Voss Vipers
- Barassi Blazers
- Hird Honeyeaters
- Skilton Sharks
- Dyer Bloods



Cross country champions

BUPS children did themselves proud at the district cross country championships earlier this month by once again winning the district competition. All tried exceptionally hard with 27 of them qualifying to compete at the division finals at the Mornington Racecourse on Wednesday 5 June 2013. Fit and healthy children who love to participate in a variety of sports, have been a feature of BUPS for a long time now.

2013/2014 Prep Transition Program

We are very proud of our extensive transition program that we have in place that prepares kinder children for their first year of

As well as keeping fit and healthy playing sport, the grade 5 /6 children incorporate the footy competition into their numeracy and literacy studies. The writing of match summaries, the calculation of data and use of statistics makes this practical learning exercise an enjoyable and rewarding one.

Wilsons Promontory Camp

As part of the grade 5 /6 outdoor education program, children spent five days at the magnificent Wilsons Promontory, participating in activities such as surfing, hiking and team building. Sleeping under the stars, appreciating the many natural daily events such as the sunrise and sunset, managing to co-habitate with the local fauna such as wombats and kookaburras, develops children's appreciation for Mother Nature. The extremely well organised



surfing school made it possible for just about all children to actually stand on the surfboard and experience the exhilaration of the surf.

Cardinia Beaconhills Golf Links



Ian Hollingsworth

Golf champions

It has been a busy time at the golf club over recent months. The club championships have been run and won, and good weather has seen many out on the course playing. The club championship took place in March, and is our major club competition for the year. Taking place over four rounds, we had about 130 players take part, and all enjoyed the course which was presented in great shape by Derek Wills and his groundstaff. The major title went to Robert Kelly, a five time previous winner, who proved too steady over the four rounds. He shot a total of 299 gross, winning the event by only one shot from Craig Perkins. The B grade title was taken out by Michael Haussegger with a total of 329, and although getting a bit shaky in the final, he had a big enough lead to hold on from Lionel Glasson to win by five shots. Our C grade winner was Matt Mytton finishing on a total of 359, with Jason Hirjee six shots behind in the runner-up position. Played over three rounds, Ivan Furyk took the Veterans title with a score of 234 from runner-up David Coates on 241, and young Jordan Denereaz won the Junior Championship shooting 229, winning by eleven shots from Hayden Nisbet on 240.

John Nowak was the winner of the Beaconhills Cup for 2012,



L to R: Ivan Furyk, Matt Mytton, Robert Kelly, Michael Haussegger and Jordan Denereaz.

an event played on Sundays. Each of last year's monthly winners played for the title in March, with John's round of square in the final proving enough to win. The Brian Balcombe matchplay championships have finished, with Club Captain Brian Meneilly winning A grade, Aaron Couper winning B grade and Peter Sierat taking out the C grade title.

Twilight golf on a Wednesday afternoon has come to a close, with the last round played on 20 March. There were good player numbers again this year, and it was Leigh Jeffs who won the main prize for the season, having an average nett score of 31.3 strokes. Brian Meneilly won the best average gross score with 35.3 strokes and David Brook took out the putting title by averaging 13.3 putts per round.

The ladies have plenty going on, with Suzanne Harvie and Marilyn Ford winning monthly medals, Janet Saunders winning both the Phoenix Plate and the 'Tee Up for Breast Cancer' day, and Judy Butler partnering with Lida Patak to win the Doris Chambers Foursomes title.

The Pennant season continues for our Div 1 team, with Div 2 having completed their season and just missing out on the finals spot. Div 1 needs a strong win in the final round, and the right results from some of the other teams if they are to reach the final and defend the title they won last year. Fingers crossed! Our Ladies Pennant team performed well, although missing out on the finals, and will be better for the experience next year. Thanks to all those who assist with the teams either caddying or by going along to support them, it does make a difference for the players.

Work continues with the sealing of our driveway and car parks. The roads leading in and out of the course have now been sealed, and work has now commenced on the car parking areas at the front and rear of the clubhouse. This work is being funded by the club, and is a further step in bringing the facility up to scratch so as to be able to compete in what is a very competitive golfing market.

Sadly, the Club has lost two of its longer serving members over recent times, with Denis Hooper and Gwynne Conn passing away. Gwynne and Denis had many friends here at the Club, both shared a joy for life, loved a good party and each had a willingness to give anything a try. Denis and Gwynne thankfully leave lasting memories in which we can all share, and our deepest sympathies go to their families.

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Upper Beac Scout Group



Anne Inkster

Scouting out and about

The Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group gives young individuals the opportunity to experience some amazing, engaging activities, learn new skills and make new friends.

The Venturer Unit currently has 25 members. They have been very busy and some of their recent activities have included a campfire pizza night, a hike in the Bunyip State Forest, a medieval “capture the flag” night, water fight and more.

Eleven of the Upper Beaconsfield Venturers competed at “Hoadley Hide”. It is a competition hike for Venturers over the Easter break. Teams have to plot out their hiking route for the weekend and get to and complete as many “stunts” as possible, where they use initiative and teamwork to meet challenges in first aid, construction, navigation, observation and much more.

Our participant team led by Tessa Cook did 29 stunts with an average of 33 points out of 40 for each stunt – an excellent effort.

Our competition team led by Brenden Boon became one of only three teams from across the state to be awarded an “A grade”. This means they are officially co-holders of the Hoadley Hide, and will have their names engraved on the plaques next to the original Hoadley Hide (which is now 61 years old). We believe this may be the first time a team from Upper Beaconsfield has won an “A grade”. The team was also presented with a mini “hide” to hang in the Upper Beaconsfield Scout Hall. Congratulations to all those who competed.

The Cubs are a young expanding group, some of the activities that they have recently been involved in include a swimming night, building bush shelters, and scouting basics like first aid, Jungle Book stories and knots.

The Scouts have come back down to earth after an awesome Jamboree in Queensland in January and have learned orienteering skills, water activities, and had a social event to the drive in. They were all interested to learn about Anzac Day prior to attending the Anzac Day service.

At the Anzac Day service on 25 April, at the Upper Beaconsfield Cenotaph, the troop was strongly represented by over 60 members of the Upper Beaconsfield Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and leaders. Each year they play an active role in the Anzac Day service organized by the RSL (a photograph of their turnout is on page 2).

These young individuals involved in the Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group are led and supported by a keen group of volunteer leaders. They are always looking for adult leaders to join this enthusiastic group so if you are interested in becoming a leader or joining as a Cub, Scout or Venturer please call Warren on 0437 023 086.

Remember that again the Scout group will be holding their famous wood raffle once a month, over the winter months. So please drop past the front of the general store and buy a ticket or two to support our Scout group and with the chance to win a load of firewood to help you keep warm through winter.

A serve from the Tennis Club



Darren Cordy

High quality tennis at your local club

The junior club championships were held on 23 March at the junior break up night after they were washed out at the end of 2012. The night was a big success, so much so that an extra pizza order had to be made to feed the large number of people who came to watch. The high standard of tennis from the future stars of the club was really encouraging and we look forward to seeing all the juniors playing again in the upcoming tennis season.

Peter Thompson has now stepped down as the junior coordinator. A big thank you goes to Peter for all his hard work coordinating the junior competition, even continuing to look after the juniors long after his kids had stopped playing. John Wall has now taken over as coordinator and if you have any enquiries with playing juniors, please don't hesitate to contact John.

Senior competition has started again with teams entered in pennant and Waverley district competitions. The tennis club is fortunate to have a grade 2 winter pennant team playing for the club this season. Tennis in Victoria only goes as high as grade 1, and the level of tennis that is being played at Upper Beaconsfield is amazing to watch. If you didn't get the chance to make it to the Australian

Open this year, you will be able to come down on Saturday afternoons and watch some remarkable tennis for a fraction of the price (i.e. free!).

Now daylight saving has finished, night tennis lives up to its name and 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 or come down on one of the nights.

The hard court was resurfaced in January and has been changed to a mod grass court. The change in court surface will make it safer and better for everyone to play all year round and is a favourite of the juniors and weekend sloggers alike.

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 13 August in the clubrooms from 7.30 pm. All members are encouraged to come along to discuss the future of the club and this year the club has had to redo the constitution as directed by Consumer Affairs. A new copy of the constitution will be emailed to all members prior to the AGM. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of the committee members.

Upper Beac Pony Club



Fiona Thompson

Pony Club successes

Following on from our annual gymkhana in December, Millie McDonald represented our club in the Evan Henry Memorial Event at the Berwick Show in February. With the beautifully presented "Hamma" (far from his usual shade of off-white), Millie acquitted herself extremely well in all disciplines and ultimately won the prestigious event. We are all so proud of Millie and Hamma, and their support team – well done!

The three day Summer Series recently concluded, with our very own Hannah Sykes taking out first place overall, in the PCAV F grade, as well as 5th place in the Open F grade. It is an outstanding result for Hannah and "Pisa". Another UBPC member, Kyleanne Bekker riding "Little Miss", did a wonderful job to come second overall. Unfortunately Hannah has since sustained an injury at a competition and we all wish her a speedy recovery.

The UBPC show jumping day was held on 7 April at the Lang Lang Showgrounds, home of the Port Phillip SJ club. With competitors representing many clubs from the surrounding area, classes were full particularly in the middle grades. The Sykes family featured once again in showjumping. Older sister Jess Sykes, riding "Flicka", was Reserve Champion in the PCAV D-grade section. Thanks to the magnificent efforts of a dedicated few parents, essential funds were raised to put back into the club.

On 28 April the Games and Musical Ride teams competed at Drouin PC in the zone competition, which is a state qualifier. While the Games Team didn't have the best of days, the Musical Ride Team members won their section and have qualified for the state competition in June. Congratulations to Tori Ling, Millie McDonald, Jess Kiker and Ellie Boura.

In what has become an annual fundraiser for breast cancer research, we once again held a Pink Rally Day on 19 May. Riders, horses and parents were all encouraged to wear as much pink as they possibly could and proceeds from the canteen were donated in support of this worthy cause. Last year saw some very creative combinations of white ponies and pink spray paint; this year the challenge was on to encourage some dads to step out in their favourite pink shirt!



The Musical Ride Team comprising (l to r): Ellena Boura, Jessica Kiker, Tori Ling and Millie McDonald.



Millie McDonald on Hamma, receiving the Evan Henry Memorial Trophy at the Berwick Show.

Factory farming

Danielle Mosterd

Hi, my name is Danielle and I am 14 years old. I am writing this letter to you to raise awareness of the Make It Possible campaign. This campaign is a non-profit organisation run by Animals Australia trying to stop factory farming.

Did you know that factory farming contributes to climate change more than all the planes, trains and cars in the world combined? Factory farming is the number

one cause of animal cruelty today. But we have the power to change that. Did you know that pigs can learn their own names and have the intelligence of a 3 year old child? And that chickens can recognise over 100 faces? All animals deserve a life worth living, but factory farms deny them of this.

Some practices include keeping the pigs and hens in cages so small they cannot turn around in. Chickens often cannot stand properly and they cannot reach water or food. Animal procedures are performed

without anaesthetic. Their lives are short and brutal.

Factory farming has only continued because it is hidden from public view but we have the power to change that by going to www.makeitpossible.com. You can sign a pledge and send letters to raise awareness. Never buy factory farmed products or caged eggs and always buy free range. There are lots of things you can do to help stop factory farming. So how are you going to help make it possible to stop factory farming?

Toy Library

Marie Rogers



Toy Library is located at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre
Open Thursdays and Saturdays 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

Horsing around at the UB Toy Library

The other week I had the pleasure of watching a few young children playing at toy library—galloping, stomping, neighing and racing each other, followed by a few squeals and calling out to one another in excitement. They were busily playing with the toy library's hobby horses while mum searched the shelves for toys to borrow. If they'd been dressed up in a jockey costume ("we must get a few of those") it would have been even more of a wonderful sight.

Just seeing the joy on their faces and the fun that they were having made me think how lucky the Upper Beaconsfield community is to have its own toy library, having access to the many exciting toys we have to offer. As a few more children arrived, the squeals and stomping became more intense. After a short time the mums quieted things down but not before borrowing the horses.



A puzzling thought?

Did you know that the first jigsaw puzzle appeared around 1760, when a British engraver and map maker, John Spilsbury, mounted a world map on a sheet of wood, then carved around each individual country. He continued to use his product as an educational tool and an aid in teaching geography. It soon caught on with the wider public, remaining the primary use of jigsaw puzzles until the 1820s. In 1880 the first jigsaw for children was made. Puzzles continue to keep us amazed and 'puzzled' – some taking weeks to complete.

Puzzles can help children learn basic skills (colours, counting and



alphabet), solve problems, compare patterns and learn about their world (animals, signs, maps, transportation, art, careers, just to name a few). As children grow, their interest in puzzles may become more focused on puzzle topics that hold their interest—sports, horses, and space are popular themes.

The toy library has around 85 puzzles for you to borrow covering age groups from 6 months to 6 years (with some suitable up to 8 years). With the wintery days ahead, borrowing a few puzzles each week should keep your children busy while indoors.



Our email address is OK!

Recently there were some dramas with our yahoo email address. We are pleased to inform our members and associates that these issues have been resolved and that our address is up and running and remains the same.



I think I can hear those horses galloping back to toy library – see you there!

Anzac commemoration grants

Laura Smyth, MP Federal Member for La Trobe



During Anzac commemorations in April I paid my respects to our servicemen and servicewomen at the Beaconsfield Anzac Day memorial service.

Between 2014 and 2018 Australia will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the First World War.

\$100 000 is being made available by the Federal Government to each electorate including La Trobe to help enable community groups to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian service personnel in the First World War.

More information is available on the Anzac Centenary website www.anzaccentenary.gov.au.

Examples of eligible activities under the program include:

- public commemorative events;
- new First World War memorials or honour boards;
- the restoration of existing First World War memorials or honour boards;
- the preservation, interpretation and display of First World War wartime and military memorabilia and artefacts; and
- relevant school projects

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Brad Battin

Member for Gembrook

The 2013/14 State Budget delivers a strong investment in infrastructure and ensures Victoria keeps pace with population growth while maintaining its strong financial position.

This includes several multi-million investments in the Casey-Cardinia Growth Corridor, which will improve amenities for local residents and prepare for future growth in the region.

Locally, the budget includes funding for the duplication of Cardinia Road, funding to complete the Berwick Trades Career Centre, funding to rebuild Emerald Primary School, and more than \$20 million to improve services on the Dandenong Railway line.

First home-buyers looking to build a home will also benefit from an increase to the First Home Owners Grant, which is now \$10,000 for newly constructed homes. Stamp Duty concessions of 40 per cent have been brought forward for all first home-buyers.

All home owners will benefit from changes to the Fire Services Levy, which will save residents in Cardinia, Casey and Yarra Ranges more than \$100 on their insurance bill.

\$33.7 million over the next two years will boost the planned burning program, as recommended by the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

I am pleased the Victorian Coalition Government has delivered a budget with a strong focus on infrastructure. There are many other initiatives will benefit the Gembrook electorate. If you would like to know more about the State Budget, please contact me on (03) 9796 1987 or through my website www.bradbattin.com

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The Village Bell is our community's newspaper and is written, edited, compiled and collated by volunteers. It is produced 4 times a year and is delivered to every letter box in Upper Beaconsfield by Australia Post. Each household is asked to pay \$5 for their annual subscription which helps to pay for the Village Bell's production. Subs for 2013 are due in January and can be paid at the Community Centre, General Store or Post Office.

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