

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

Issue No. 194  
December 2013

# VILLAGE BELL

Upper Beaconsfield Association • [www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au](http://www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au)



*In Memory  
of  
Peter Petruccelli*

*P. Petruccelli*



*Clockwise from above: Doug Hughes laying wreaths on behalf of the RSL, Cardinia Shire Council, Upper Beaconsfield Association, Men's Shed, and Joyce Betheras – Lest we forget ; Brad Battin officially handing over the keys of the new firetruck to Captain Barrie Gray ; Sally Randall and Mayor Brett Owen planting a fruit tree to commemorate the opening of the Community Garden ; Sally and Brett cutting the cake to celebrate 30 years of the Community Centre ; Kinder kids thanking the members of the Men's Shed for making them musical rhythm sticks at the end of their concert ; Mayor Brett Owen officially opens the Upper Beaconsfield Men's Shed.*



# Community Centre celebrates 30 years



Sally Randall

## Community Centre celebrates its 30th birthday

The Community Centre was established in the aftermath of the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983, with its first meeting being held in June 1983.

We recently held a number of events to mark the 30th birthday of the Community Centre. This included an open day held on Sunday 27 October, a concert from the Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten as a “thank you” to the Men’s Shed on Monday 28 October, a morning tea hosted by Cardinia Shire Council followed by the official openings of the Upper Beaconsfield Men’s Shed and the Upper Beaconsfield Community Garden on Tuesday 29 October. We also held a morning tea for staff, volunteers and committee members on Friday 1 November. These events were well supported by the

community, despite the absence of power on the open day — thanks SP AusNet for your timing! It was great to see many people attending a special Teddy Bear’s Morning Tea at the Toy Library, and others crowding in to view the Crèche’s first Art Exhibition.



The CWA and the Men’s Shed provided us with wonderful refreshments on both days, and the committee would like to thank everyone who assisted in any way in making all these events a success.

The Community Centre has become an important part of the community over the 30 years, and there would be few households in the wider district which have not had some involvement in the Centre over the years, whether it be through attending a group or classes, serving on the committee or using the services of the Crèche. As community needs and interest change, it is also good to see that the Community Centre is able to adapt and diversify in the way that it meets those needs, with the openings of the new Men’s Shed and the Community Garden a fitting way to celebrate 30 years of service to the community. Many thanks to Brad Battin MP for his support at the open day and thanks also to Cardinia Shire Council, the Mayor Brett Owen and all the other councillors for their support of all our events and activities. More photos of the celebrations on pages 12 and 13.

## Upper Beac Men’s Shed

Matt McDonald (President)



### Men’s Shed opened

Matt McDonald, president, on behalf of the Men’s Shed members

Two years and two months since the beginnings of the Upper Beaconsfield Men’s Shed, and five months after receiving the building permit, the Men’s Shed was officially opened on Tuesday 29 October.

Bob Taylor introduced Matt McDonald, Men’s Shed president, who outlined the stages in the siting and preparation of the building, thanked the many significant sponsors and supporters of the Men’s Shed and gave some background for the movement. There are now more than 1 000 Men’s Sheds across Australia, with more than 100 000 members, and the idea is spreading overseas, with more than 400 Sheds in Ireland, New Zealand and Europe.

Sally Randall spoke on behalf of the Community Centre and the Community Complex Buildings and Grounds Committee, both very supportive of the Shed. The Mayor, Brett Owen, then spoke in glowing terms of Men’s Sheds in general, and of the commitment and hard work put in by the local Men’s Shed members in reaching this milestone, pretty much through their own efforts. Particular thanks went to Trevor Wilson, who provided the building, and Andrew Rowe who donated the sign for the Shed.

Brad Battin, in sending his apologies, said, “Can I please put on record my appreciation of all those involved in the Men’s Shed of Upper Beaconsfield. Men’s Shed is such an amazing organisation

and the work done by local people to build these meeting places is amazing. We have seen first-hand how these sheds change blokes’ lives, changes that encourages them to look out for each other, have a chat and all whilst doing things for the community they love.”

Members are quite aware that we are some way off from completion of the building for use, but much has been achieved, and it was fitting to celebrate our achievements as part of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Community Centre. The initiative to start a Men’s Shed came at least in part from Sarah Johnson, coordinator of the Community Centre at the time.

We have installed a ceiling in the building, lighting, fans and power points, put in a full wall of kitchen cupboards, cleaned and painted the interior, connected water, power, pipes for waste water disposal and a phone line. We are yet to build in the eaves, base boards and most importantly a disability access ramp. Planning to provide security is under way. A 10 000 litre water tank for fire-fighting use only has been installed, and a retaining wall on the south side of the building.

Meanwhile activities continue. We had talks from Ahmed the new pharmacist on managing pain from arthritis and Don Horsborough from the Puffing Billy Preservation Society, and a tour of Bill Ogilvy’s sculpture workshop.

An open invitation is always there for new members. We meet regularly on Wednesdays from 10 am to noon.

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

George Moir

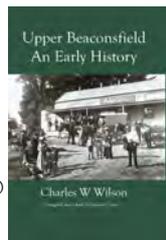
Month	45 yr average	2012	2013
Jan	63.6	60.3	26.6
Feb	58.4	82.3	60.6
Mar	64.2	60.0	69.4
Apr	78.3	114.2	30.9
May	86.1	128.5	132.2
Jun	80.3	146.3	90.5
Jul	78.6	64.6	63.1
Aug	85.7	71.0	98.5
Sep	90.6	86.9	117.9
Oct	94.3	65.6	78.4
Nov	86.5	48.8	
Dec	80.4	42.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>947 mm</b>	<b>969 mm</b>	

- The winter rainfall (June to August inclusive) totalled 252.1 mm compared to the average of 244.6 mm.
- The following spring months of September and October totalled 196.3 mm compared to the average of 184.9 mm.
- The year to date (January to October) resulted in a total rainfall of 768.1 mm compared to an average of 780.3 mm.
- Basically the first half of the year was drier than average while the second half of the year to date has been above average rainfall.

## Upper Beaconsfield – An Early History

*"A perfect Xmas present!"*

Copies of Charles Wilson's history are still available at Upper Beaconsfield General Store and Community Centre, or get in touch with Noel Ling on 5944 3735 [lingn@bigpond.com](mailto:lingn@bigpond.com) to order a book. Cost: \$45



## Red Cross

Barbara Jackson, Upper Beaconsfield Area Coordinator. 5944 3554

The Red Cross shop at Pakenham has been relocated to Treloar Lane, opposite the new shopping centre and next door to Centrelink. Both new and used clothing is available at very reasonable prices.



For those who like their Christmas greetings to support worthy causes, Red Cross Christmas cards, diaries and calendars are again on sale at the Berwick Mechanics Institute Library, High Steet, Berwick and are also available from Barbara Jackson.

**Subscribers 2013–thank you:** Judy Appleton; M Beck; Douglas & Nancy Bredin; Kay Cox; Laurie Fenton & Family; Doug & Brenda Field; Marylyn Gilberthorpe; Norman Gilberthorpe, Natalie Hoffman; Janice & Leigh Jeffs; Tom & Daisy Kilmartin; Veronika Mylius; T & J O'Donovan; Fiona Robe; Ray & Helen Robertson; Eileen Sharples; White Family

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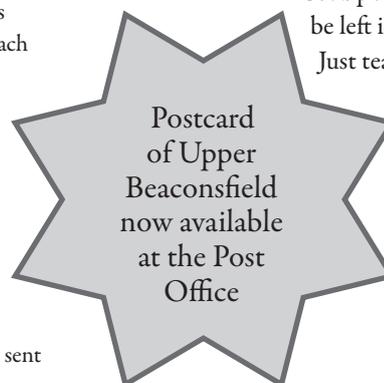
The Village Bell is our community's newspaper and is written, edited, compiled and collated by volunteers. It is produced 4 times a year and is delivered to every letter box in Upper Beaconsfield by Australia Post. Each household is asked to pay \$5 for their annual subscription which helps to pay for the Village Bell's production.

Subs for 2014 are now due and can now be paid at either the Community Centre, General Store or Post Office.

If you find it easier to pay by internet banking, please send payment to Commonwealth Bank of Australia,

Account Name: Upper Beaconsfield Association Incorporated  
BSB 063-549, Account number 0080-0228

Please tag your payment with your name and VB Subs so we know who sent it. Thank you to those who have subscribed this year.



Used postage stamps from your mail can also be left in the Red Cross box in the library.

Just tear from envelope leaving a generous amount of envelope around stamp to avoid damage.



2014 Village Bell Subs \$5

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your support!**

# Upper Beaconsfield Association



Jennie Vaughan, President Upper Beaconsfield Association, 5944 3457

## Talking about local issues

With summer approaching, the subject of bushfires is being discussed around the township. Spring has been a good growing season so clearing of bush and reduction burning-off, are being considered. The UBA is a public forum for residents to express their ideas for fire control, but the CFA is in touch regularly with UBA and other fire authorities.

With the launch of their new fire truck in October, it seems that preparations are well organised for the coming months.

Topics under discussion at UBA meetings have centred on the usual range, the "No left turn" signs, the Upper Beaconsfield Men's Shed, the village beautification scheme, requirements and nominations for the Upper Beaconsfield's Citizen of the Year, speed limits on local roads, the UBA constitution, Charles Wilson's history book, morning tea with the Cardinia Shire councillors and evacuation suits for students at the primary school.

Some of these topics will be dealt with elsewhere in the Village Bell. It is pleasing to note that 330 copies of Charles Wilson's book have been sold and 97 were still in stock late in October.

Residents are reminded that UBA public meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every second month. Our last meeting for this year will be on 4 December at 7.30 pm at the Community Complex. All welcome. Please come and share your thoughts and ideas with us about how we can improve our local area.

## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 5 February 2014, 7.30 pm

Special business: Adoption of the new constitution for the UBA as required by the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Draft copy of the new constitution is available on the UBA website: [www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au](http://www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au)

Upper  
Beaconsfield  
Association  
invites residents for the  
**Last meeting for  
2013 and a  
"natter and a nibble"**  
Wednesday 4 December at 7.30 pm  
at the Community Complex.  
We hope that we have a relatively  
short meeting, then we can all enjoy  
a drink, a few nibbles and a chat  
to celebrate the community  
spirit we all share.  
Please come along.

# Facelift for Upper Beaconsfield



## New plantings for Beaconsfield Emerald Road

Jenny Pritchard

The Upper Beaconsfield Beautification Group has worked very hard to get this project to proceed and after much red tape and a lot of procedures to follow, the splinter garden in Beaconsfield-Emerald Road is now complete.

The native plants (some indigenous) have been selected for their height and hardiness, traffic visibility and the tough environment.

A watering roster has been established to help the plants through their first summer.

We are very happy with the result and thank you Sally Randall

for supervising the contractors. Many thanks to the Upper Beaconsfield Association and the Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group for their support of the project, which enabled us to see it through to completion.

Thank you to the group members. It has been great working with such a knowledgeable group all with the same vision, to make Upper Beaconsfield even more beautiful.

The group has applied for two further grants in the current round of Council funding, in order to continue the beautification of Upper Beaconsfield, particularly in the area surrounding Charing Cross and the Tradies and Ladies cafe.

## Beautification grant for 16 Salisbury Road

Sally Randall

The Upper Beaconsfield Garden Group which has established the new Community Garden at 16 Salisbury Road were also fortunate to be granted one of the Shire's beautification grants to prepare and plant a garden bed in front of the new car park beside the Community Centre. This grant enabled the group to plant the bed with a mix of native flowering trees (NSW Christmas Tree), shrubs and groundcover plants, which will become a colourful and low maintenance planting in the future.

Many thanks to the Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group for their support in this project, and to Cardinia Shire Council for its assistance, including the provision of bollards to mark the boundary of the car park.





Liz Brandie, Secretary

## Extreme bushfire risk in UB

Upper Beaconsfield's bushfire risk has been classified as Extreme in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register. This assessment takes into account local factors such as vegetation, terrain and bushfire history.

Conditions indicate that it's going to be another busy fire season, it's been wet and it will be a warm summer resulting in lots of vegetation growth and lots of fuel for fire.

Last year was similar and we saw more than 4 000 fires burn 190 000 hectares in Victoria.

## Reduce your bushfire risk

- Remove rubbish, wood stacks, leaf litter and native shrubs close to the buildings. Homes with too much vegetation and other flammable materials close to them are difficult to protect from bushfires.
- Mow the grass around your home, trim overhanging branches and clear gutters of debris.
- Store flammable fuels and paint well away from the house.
- Have your bushfire bag packed and readily available including torch, radio, spare batteries, long sleeve jumper (woollen) or heavy cotton, long pants or overalls, leather gloves and head protection, smoke masks or nappies and sturdy boots.
- Keep ladders handy for roof inspection access (inside and out).
- Fit hoses to reach all parts of the house and garden, including one hose with fittings to be stored inside the house.
- If mains water is not connected obtain a high-pressure pump (petrol or diesel) bearing in mind during a bushfire you will most likely lose power.
- Decide and practise your fire plan including your pets and livestock – people die during fires trying to save their animals.
- Early in the fire season pack an emergency kit including important documents, photos, medications, money and clothes so you're ready to leave early.
- Check you have adequate insurance cover.

Even if your plan is to leave early, a well prepared home has a greater chance of not

being destroyed by bushfire.

## Your responsibility!

Don't rely on getting a warning – it is your responsibility to know when to leave so stay aware of your surroundings over summer such as strong dry windy days, wind change, smell of smoke and listen for sirens.

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bushfire. You need to act decisively in accordance with your Bushfire Survival Plan when bushfires threaten.

Your survival depends on your preparations and the decisions you make.

Leaving early is always the safest option.

Leaving early means leaving your area early in the morning, before there are signs of fire – not when you can see smoke or flames.

## Warnings, ratings and alerts

1. *Total Fire Bans* tell you what you can and cannot do to avoid a fire starting.
2. *Warnings and alerts* tell you what you need to do to stay safe when a fire has started.
3. *Fire Danger Ratings* tell you how dangerous a fire would be if one started – the higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. Download the Fire Ready app so you can check Fire Danger Ratings and warnings and alerts any time, any place. Find out your daily Fire Danger Rating on the board outside the UB Fire station and more on CFA's website.
4. *A Code Red Fire Danger Rating* is very rare and extremely serious. There have been no Code Red ratings in Victoria since February 2010, there have only been two Code Red ratings since it was introduced in mid 2009.

The time to leave is when the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red.

Homes aren't designed to withstand a bushfire during these conditions. Any fire that starts and takes hold will be so intense that you won't be safe to stay and defend your home – no matter how well prepared it is.

## Defending your home

Defending your home requires at least two fit and determined adults, at least

10 000 litres of water, protective clothing, appropriate firefighting hoses and pumps (not electric).

- You must have a bushfire survival plan including equipment and water ready at hand inside the house for dousing spot fires during and after inside and out.
- Regularly check your roof space for signs of sparks and embers. A child's water turbo blaster is ideal for this.
- Patrol the outside of your house looking for ember fires, including gaps and window ledges.
- Defending your home is not for the faint hearted; a bushfire approaching is the most frightening thing anyone can experience.
- Be aware the electricity will most likely be turned off; if your house is on mains water your water pressure level will drop considerably.
- You will be tired and awake all night as the fires continue throughout the evening.
- You will be in the dark with a torchlight coughing the smoke filled air surrounded by blinding smoke, hot flaming sparks and ash falling continuously around you.
- You will not know the path the fire will approach your house from due to possible wind change or additional fires started from forward ember attack.
- At this point it is too late to consider revising your decision to leave early, you are now committed.

Over summer fires can start at any time and spread quickly. Check Fire Danger Ratings and warning alerts on CFA's website, Facebook or Twitter account, or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or tune in to your emergency broadcasters – ABC Local Radio, commercial radio and designated community radio stations or SKY News Television.

For a full list of emergency broadcasters search the Fire Services Commissioner's website [www.firecommissioner.vic.gov.au](http://www.firecommissioner.vic.gov.au)

## Local warning systems explained

*Ed Keon-Cohen, Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification Coordinator*

*Ellisa Bourne, Community Education Coordinator, CFA Southern Metro Region*

The Upper Beaconsfield SMS Emergency Alert System has changed its name to the Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification System so as not to create any confusion with Emergency Alert.

**Emergency Alert** is the national telephone warning system delivered by police, fire and state emergency services. Anyone near a likely or actual emergency will receive a text message on their mobile phone, including locals, tourists, workers or other visitors from outside the area, as well as mobile phones with a registered address in the area. Emergencies may include fire, flood, or extreme weather events.

Emergency Alert is not used in all circumstances and will depend on the nature of the incident. The warning system sends voice messages to landline telephones and text messages to mobile phones within a specific geographical area as defined by the emergency service organisation delivering the warning message. If your phone, or your billing address is outside the nominated area at the time of an incident you will not be sent a message under the national system.

**The Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification System** is very different and does not in any way replace Emergency Alert. The local service is subscribed to by over 850 residents and is a volunteer community run notification system. To receive any emergency information from the local service you must first be a registered user. The Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification System uses a commercial SMS service (messagemedia) to send an SMS to all registered mobile phone numbers and ring all registered landline number and deliver a voice message. This is done automatically and simultaneously.

### Who manages the Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification System?

The administration is managed by the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre Inc. The Centre manages the database of phone numbers and holds the money paid by residents on trust. The operation side of the system is coordinated by a number of local residents and volunteers who have the ability to send notifications should they be required. Some of these organisers are local CFA members, Fire Guard group coordinators and other responsible local residents.

### How do I know if my number is registered properly?

On Sunday 8 December at 6 pm a TEST message will be sent to all registered phones (landlines and mobiles). It will confirm with residents that your number has been recorded correctly. If you do not receive a message then your number is not recorded correctly and you should contact the Centre to have it corrected.

### How do I change my information, opt in or out of the system?

If you wish to join contact the Community Centre with name, address and phone numbers and provide \$5 for each phone number. If your details change ensure they are updated. If you wish to opt out also contact the Community Centre, 10-12 Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield 3808, phone 5944 3484.

## What types of information will be provided on the Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification System?

Information sent out will be advice in relation to fire danger periods, ensuring residents are aware of upcoming extreme and Code Red Days, notification of community meetings relating to fire and any other messages that relate directly to the Upper Beaconsfield community. It is up to each resident to follow the progress of an incident and make their own decisions as to their course of action.

### Can I rely on either SMS system for notification of a bushfire?

NO. You cannot rely on either of these warning systems. Emergency Alert will provide you with as much information as possible when there is a bushfire, but it is important to understand that bushfires can spread quickly threatening lives and property within minutes. If a fire starts nearby you may not receive an official warning before it impacts on you.

CFA's leave early policy is very clear that you may not be given warning of a fire and will never be told when to evacuate. Residents should have a fire plan well before a threat. You should not remain in the area in the expectation that you will receive a warning from this or any other information source.

### What do I do in an emergency?

Call 000 to report an emergency. In the event of a fire, monitor ABC radio 774 and official internet sites such as CFA or the Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667. Do not stay expecting to get a warning.

Further Information: Information on Emergency Alert is on the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

## Are you fire ready?

Fire Ready Victoria information session

Monday 2 December 3 pm - Beaconsfield Upper Primary School

Did you know fire authorities have assessed Upper Beaconsfield as having an EXTREME bushfire risk? Local residents and visitors need to be prepared and have a plan for when the fire danger is SEVERE, EXTREME, or CODE RED.

- Do you have a fire plan? How can you PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE?
- Will you stay? Will you leave early? If so what is your trigger to leave?
- What about the children? What's the procedure if they are at crèche, kinder, or school?
- Are your children aware of the family fire plan?
- Will you have left Upper Beaconsfield by 10 am on your trigger day?
- Where will you go?
- Have you made provisions for all of your animals?
- Do you have a backup plan if you can't leave?
- What are bushfire alerts?

If you need help answering any of these questions, then come along to an information session at BUPS on Monday 2 December at 3 pm where members of the CFA can assist you with up to date information.

# Vale – Peter Petruccelli (1934-2013)

Mary and Natalie Petruccelli and Cameron Rocke

In Italy, during World War II, a young boy named Peter picked up a round metal ball and was keen to collect the shiny ring attached to it. Secretly, for two weeks, he carried the object around in his backpack for he lacked the ingenuity to detach the ring. His father found him with it, and, in an empty gully, explosively showed him what he had picked up – a live hand grenade. Ironically, from then on, creativity and ingenuity became Peter Petruccelli's forte.

Peter was born in San Marco in Lamis, Italy in 1934 – the fifth child of six boys and a girl. He was painting from an early age, swapping chores in exchange for the use of his older brother's paints. At 16, after starting an apprenticeship in house painting, Peter was chosen to assist a master painter to do a fresco in a church – Peter the garlands and clouds, the master the figures. Peter was asked by the master artist to find a local model for the Madonna, and he cheekily (an attribute he had all his life) found the local prostitute, whose face appears on the fresco as the Madonna.

In 1956, at the age of 21, a solo exhibition cashed him up to sail to Australia to join his brothers.

He joined a brother in a luxury footwear enterprise, and he was painting houses again. In 1957 Peter enrolled at the National Gallery of Victoria Art School (now VCA) where he studied print making and painting. An etching scholarship from this school saw him go to the Central School of London, where he continued studying print making. He also worked in a printmaking workshop, a bronze casting foundry and you guessed it – painting houses.

Peter's next move was to study sculpture, etching and painting at The Academy of Fine Art in Rome. It was here that he met his future wife Mary, a fellow student from America, under the original auspices of teaching each other their native languages. In 1968 Peter returned with Mary to Burwood in Melbourne where they married and had their two children Natalie and Pierre. At this time, they were both contracted as secondary art teachers, and, in the evenings, conducted pottery and painting classes in their home studio.

Peter and Mary moved to Upper Beaconsfield in 1974 primarily to build a proper pottery studio to house several kilns Peter needed to build to run a successful ceramic production studio.

Petruccelli Ceramics, later renamed Stoney Creek Pottery,



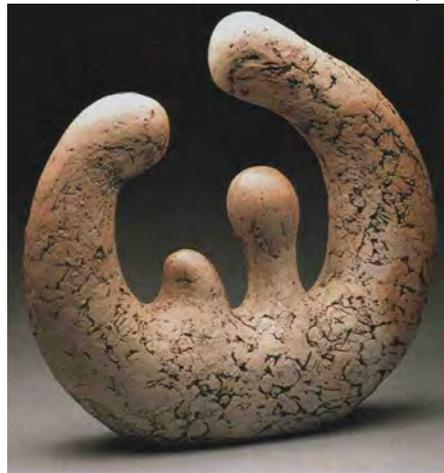
produced functional pottery with unique designs, glazes and brush decorations and was stocked throughout numerous galleries and craft shops Australia wide. He was also creating and exhibiting ceramic sculptures.

The property consisted of a gallery (where many locals purchased pottery), a newly built bluestone house (the stone sourced from streets in Collingwood and Carlton), a tree house for the kids with its own piano underneath, a grove of pine trees, and a massive vegetable garden – good open space was there to be used productively in Peter's opinion.

Peter's high standing as an artist and warm personality immediately earned him high respect in Upper Beaconsfield. At his memorial service last August, he was credited intricately as being open, sharing, generous, understanding, lovely, and had an infectious smile, a big heart, great humanity, always good motives, and made everyone count. As a result, numerous locals would nearly equate a drive down Stoney Creek Road with a visit to the Petruccelli's and would comment that every visit was special. Peter would be there to greet his guests bubbling up with enthusiasm and, on departure, they would be stocked with Peter's produce from the garden in one form or another.

While the family was in Sydney in February 1983, Ash Wednesday struck and destroyed their house and studio, and badly damaged the kilns. When the family decided to stay on in the cottage which the fires missed, Peter was straight into creative pursuits and a year later the studio was rebuilt, including a wood fired kiln to burn up the decimated pine forest remains. Peter vented his emotions artistically in the construction of ceramic sculptural forms – some of which were symbolic of community and family unity, and regrowth; while other sculptures contrarily were symbolic expressions of dishevel and fragmentation.

In a joint decision with his wife Mary, they decided to scale down their pottery production and employ just one other local potter, Jenny Conn, to work with them.



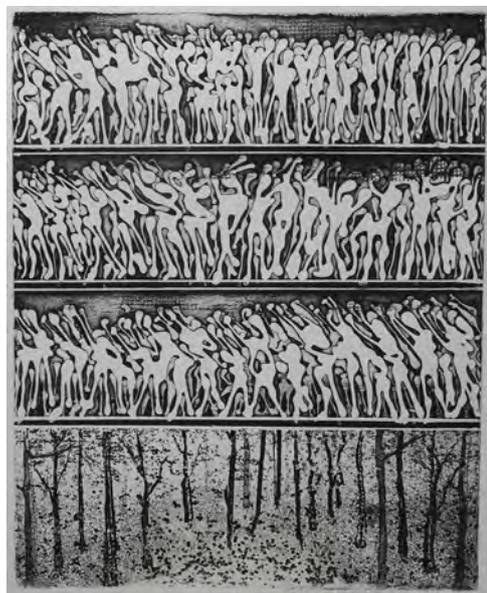
Ceramic sculptures inspired by Ash Wednesday: "Fragmentation" and "Family Unit"

Peter also redesigned (with local architect Paul Reid), and rebuilt the family home using wood, brick, slate, and bluestone. The house design incorporates numerous irregular angles. Peter also made shelves, benches, night stands and tables from huge slabs of the pine trees that had been fire damaged. A friend commented it was more that the house had been organically re-grown there.

During the fires when temperatures reached 1100 C, some one-inch thick slabs of stored coloured glass exploded into a multitude of small pieces. Peter innovatively formed a couple of feature windows by setting these shards into epoxy resin.

In 1995 Peter decided to give away ceramic sculpture and production pottery and went back to oil painting. A great deal of his paintings are a symbolic interpretation of environmental conditions, using realistic subject matter. His work ranges from larger than life natural flora, fruit studies and aging artefacts, painted with such clarity that they appear tactile; and to views of landscape through doors and windows with interesting objects sitting passively in the foreground, such as our cover reproduction of Peter's painting "Inside Outside".

At this time, art classes in pastel and oil painting were now being offered to adults two days of the week. Students at the memorial



service spoke of Peter as a talented and inspirational teacher (strict and demanding), and someone who: taught more than just art; gave strength to others; opened up opportunities; made people grow; ensured that classes were a pleasure; and brought out the

Etching: "The Crowd and Landscape" exploring overpopulation and degradation

individual in each student. The skills he taught his students are a significant part of his many legacies.

With Peter's accumulated knowledge from extensive reading in history, archaeology, architecture, on top of his artistic pursuits, a general visit and conversation with him left a guest with gifts of great wisdom. Even with Peter's artwork there was enough symbolism in there that his paintings would talk to you no matter what your level of knowledge was.

The land where the pine forest once stood before Ash Wednesday was progressively planted out with fruit and nut trees and a small vineyard, and a pizza oven was built just outside the house. Hence a visit always entailed the provision of great food and homemade wine.

Peter also loved cricket (yes, someone from an Italian background actually loved cricket), and fishing – his own way. A lifelong friend mentioned they would go fishing for eels in creeks and they would marinade and smoke them. Strangely, Peter took a whole lifetime to express to this friend that he wasn't a big fan of smoked food. On another trip to Lang Lang, Peter was so enthused that he failed to listen to the locals' warnings to walk only where there are thick layers of seaweed under your feet. Hence, Peter sunk promptly up to his chest in the coastal mud. However, there was also an instant meal of edible shellfish oozing all over him from which he took immediate advantage.

The lexicon used to describe him as an accomplished artistic being, by family and friends and peers at his memorial service had a very broad scope to it. He was termed as 'talented, insightful, and inspirational' as well as 'giving others pleasure in seeing his art, and a story teller through his art.' He was an international artist who produced contemporary work, instilled with the broad intellectual knowledge of art that so greatly assisted him in his various disciplines. Needless to say – he had an enormous passion for life.



Ceramic sculpture: Concept in clay

## Salisbury House: the first 80 years

Margaret Royle Knowles

The idea for this short book about the guest-house years of Salisbury House arose initially from providing information to grandchildren. From time to time teachers have asked them to quiz their grandparents about their early years. My parents owned Salisbury House for 33 years and I lived there from babyhood until I left to marry. In telling my grandchildren about my early life I realised it was far from typical – most children do not grow up in a guest-house.

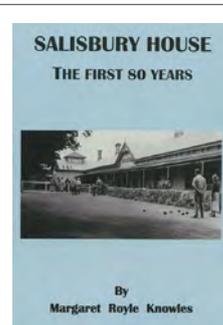
Since so many old buildings had been destroyed by tragic fires, I became aware that Salisbury House was one of the most historic buildings remaining in the area. This influenced me to find out when and by whom it was built and who had been the owners prior to my parents.

In this book I report what I've been able to ascertain of the history of Salisbury House and provide some detail of what it was like to grow up in this guest-house environment during the 1940s and 1950s. I've described how children and adults spent their time

when on holiday. A well-known Melbourne photographer, C. Stuart Tompkins, produced a series of black and white postcards for my parents. These, together with some personal photos, add a pictorial view of life at that time.

From the 1960s, with more and cheaper cars, higher incomes, the possibility of plane travel and the advent of freshly-constructed and well-appointed motels, traditional guest-houses for the most part disappeared. I hope that this small publication will stir up some happy memories for more senior citizens who may have holidayed in guest-houses before the 1960s. The youth of today possibly find it hard to imagine a holiday in a country guest-house with no television and no computer games but I hope, when they walk or drive past Salisbury House, they will gain some feeling for life there in times gone by.

The book is available at either the Upper Beaconsfield Post Office or General Store for \$14.95.





## Vale Roger Haywood (1944-2013)

*Ocksana Haywood*

### What's the definition of community?

**A social unit of any size that shares common values.**

That largely defined how Roger felt about where we all live. We share common values.

Roger Haywood lived in Upper Beaconsfield for over thirty three years. It was easy to make friends and join in activities. This inclusion in the community made it so much easier to rebuild the home after losing it on Ash Wednesday.

Against this backdrop of renewal, Roger contributed to working bees from kinder, through to school on to scouts and then joining the fire brigade. This cemented friendships amongst this community and he was looking forward to the next mateship chapter sharing in the new Men's Shed.

Roger started life on a dairy farm in England, the youngest of four children. He came out to Australia on the ten pound pom scheme and embraced the lifestyle, always appreciating the blue skies. He kept very strong ties with his family and friends in the UK, most of whom visited him here, soaking in all the exoticness Australia had to offer — kangaroos, mangoes and mosquitoes. As times changed he embraced the opportunity to travel and visit both his old home and many a location that had been on his wish list such as Egypt, the US and China. But his happiness at switching the kettle on in Upper Beaconsfield couldn't be replicated anywhere else. Next would be his walk around the garden and a wave to the neighbours. Then the computer would go on and the stock market would be appraised. A private man, content in his home amongst his family and friends. He died on 12 August after a year-long journey with pancreatic cancer. As we, his family, adjust to our lives without him, we hugely appreciate the care of our community.

Roger's quiet presence, wry humour and volunteering forged strong links in this community. He really appreciated the wonderful support given so freely during his illness which reflected the high regard in which he was held.

### Nominate now for COY

The 2013 COY award nominations are now open. Nomination forms are available from the Post Office, Community Centre, and General Store. These forms should be completed and returned to the UBA Secretary PO Box 86 Upper Beaconsfield.

The closing date for the 2013 nomination is 31 December 2013. Please note this date in your diary/calendar and consider nominating someone you know who is doing great work within the community. Anyone previously nominated but unsuccessful, can be renominated for 2013.

After the December closing date, the UBA will form a sub-committee to assess all of the nominations. The COY winner will be notified, and an award ceremony will be held at a Village Festival on 16 February, 2014.

**NOMINATE NOW!**

### Carols on Christmas Eve

— a great community event

*Tess Porz*

It's time to start practising those vocal warm-ups for the 2013 Upper Beaconsfield Carols in Keith Ewenson Park on 24 December. The park is located at the back of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex in Salisbury Road. Come along and join our talented local singers and musicians!

Activities for children begin at 7 pm. Ron Fisher and his band of happy helpers will be cooking up a sausage sizzle storm outside the Arts Annexe. Tea, coffee soft drinks and candles will also be available.

There have been whispers that Santa himself will travel around on the CFA truck, visiting Grant Court at around 7 pm, Burton Road 7.15 pm and Paul Grove at 7.30 pm. His last appearance will be at the community carols about 7.45 pm. Once the jolly man in red makes his final exit the more traditional part of the evening will begin at approximately 8 pm.

Bring along your picnic rug, food and good cheer. Please note that carols will go ahead regardless of the weather. If it is wet the community hall will be our refuge.

### The Village Bell thanks you

We hope everyone has enjoyed reading the Bell throughout 2013. Our aim is to strengthen our community by keeping residents informed.

This is the time of year to thank all those in the community who make our community paper possible. Residents provide support in a multitude of ways including contributing ideas, photos and articles and paying their subscriptions. Our Bell team includes editors, graphic designers, the printing and collating volunteers, distribution and mail out organisers, subscriptions manager, treasurer, an advertising coordinator and a web master who updates the Upper Beaconsfield Association web site. Some people have been supporters since the Village Bell's inception over 30 years ago — an amazing record.

Many thanks go to the advertisers who support and service our local area and provide the funds for us to publish.

Best wishes to all for the coming festive and holiday season and keep safe!

## Connecting our community

*Yvette Hayes, Centre Coordinator*

The essence of our Community Centre is to “connect our community.” We do this through various activities and educational programs including plenty of regular courses such as our exercise classes, yoga, golf clinics, cooking classes and computer courses. In addition we are adding new courses. Our new Job Ready course helps people gain employment and it's free.

### **“Job Ready” return to work, return to study. No cost — free!**

2 days per week over 2 weeks, starts 9 December.

This course is ideal for anyone wanting to increase their job searching skills. The course covers understanding the job market and where to look, how to write a professional resume and cover letter, how to address selection criteria, how to increase your interview skills and what study options and funding options are available. Full details can be found at [www.ubcc.org.au](http://www.ubcc.org.au) or call the UBCC on 5944 3484 to enrol now.

## 2014 planning is in full swing

We will be moving to a semester program which will cover courses and activities from January – June, with the 2nd semester from July – December. We are also going to “Go Green” in 2014 and focus on “Sustainability”. In addition we are building stronger ties with groups such as the CFA, schools and community groups in the area through a central events calendar.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish the community a very safe and peaceful Christmas. We thank you for your support throughout this year and look forward to seeing you all in 2014.

## Important dates

Crèche Christmas party – Thursday 5 December 2013

Centre last day - Friday 20 December 2013

Centre reopens - Wednesday 29 January 2014

## New training opportunities at the Community Centre

*Kim Slingo, RTO Coordinator*

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre is busy planning their new learning programs for 2014 and is pleased to announce some new opportunities.

We are committed to providing you with a rewarding educational experience that strongly links formal learning with professional vocational practice through developing positive relationships with industry and engaging passionate industry trainers.

Our current courses include the traditional Certificate III in Children's Services as well as Certificate III in Aged Care and Home and Community Care and First Aid, Asthma and Anaphylaxis training. To provide additional career pathways to the community we are now planning to offer additional courses including Certificate IV in Disability Services, Food Handling, Certificate IV in Aged Care, Certificate III in Business, and Certificate IV in Small Business Management in 2014.

Please contact Kim or Cathy on 5944 3484 if you have any queries or to register your interest in any of these courses.

## UBCC Crèche

*Kylie Briffa, Crèche Coordinator*

The children have thoroughly enjoyed creating and expressing themselves via their artwork which was beautifully presented in the Crèche Open Day Art Exhibition as a part of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre 30th birthday celebrations held in October. The Crèche also hosted The Reading Tent as a part of the open day to encourage and enhance the value of early literacy in children aged 0–6 years. This forms the foundations of lifelong health benefits in the form of increased intelligence and psychological wellbeing as presented in a recent early literacy conference in Sydney this year. The benefits of reading to your child are astounding, so pick up a book and read, read, read!

The Crèche will be hosting our annual UBCC Crèche Christmas party Thursday 5 December 9.30–11.30 am in the hall. Santa will be there, children's disco, balloon art and morning tea. All welcome with a gold coin donation for entry. Santa photos will be available for purchase on the day.



Sunday 16 February 2014 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex.

Come along and enjoy the sounds of our talented musicians, while browsing the stalls or just relax under a shady tree with a latte or an ice cold drink. Our local community groups will cook up a storm. There will be plenty on offer next year, with a great selection of scrumptious food and drinks for everyone to choose from.

The kids can go wild with the \$10 wristband giving them unlimited access to rides and activities for the whole day!

The ever popular charity Tower Challenge fun run/walk starts at 9 am.

Trophy presentations and ‘Citizen of the Year’ awards will take place once again at 10.30 am, with the ringing of the bell to become an annual ritual at the festival.

Applications and general information: [www.ubvillagefest.org.au](http://www.ubvillagefest.org.au)

Email enquiries to: [ubvillagefest@gmail.com](mailto:ubvillagefest@gmail.com)

**Sunday 16 February**  
**Upper Beac Village Festival**

• Community Centre 30th birthday celebrations •



Brad Battin and children with the Community Centre birthday cake



Community Centre staff members, from left, Kylie Briffa, Yvette Hayes, Kim Slingo, Cathy Fischer



Marlene Norbury, well loved Crèche staff member, at the Crèche art show



Men's Shed members sizzle up a storm

A great turnout for the Men's Shed opening

• Opening of Community Garden •



Mayor Cr Brett Owen cuts the ribbon at the opening of the community garden with Sally Randall, Community Centre president

• Opening of Men's Shed •



# Wildlife Watch

Laura Levens



Rainfall and strong winds have been regular events. For the first time in ten years our tanks are full of water collected from four squares of carport roof! At the end of October our rainfall total was 84.5 mm.

Wildflowers are being a bit reluctant to put on a good show or they do something odd. Nodding greenhoods were less numerous, and only three of the other eight greenhood species I usually find here have flowered. Toothed helmet orchids produced very small blooms and died off just before the really good rain in June and then their leaves came up again about three times larger than usual! I saw a few spurred helmet orchid plants, but no flowers.

I managed to walk among the trees on a calm and sunny day mid-October and found a very dehydrated *Gastrodia sesamoides* or cinnamon orchid. This orchid's brown stem is leafless and comes up curved like a walking stick, straightening as the flowers open. Twining fringe lilies were there; a few everlasting daises, trailing goodenia and sorry heads of milkmaids were scattered about. One enthusiastic flower is the glowing golden Australian buttercup. The first sweet hound's tongues are ready to perfume warm evenings.

Temperature influences sun orchids' flowering. 26 degrees at least needs to occur exactly when the buds are ready otherwise they self-pollinate. We humans just need to be in the right place at the right time. I went looking for these in 27 degrees on 2 November and not one did I see. Plants that I had marked had disappeared.

At the end of 2012 we discovered a sun orchid that had not previously been reported this far east. The last report was from inner Melbourne in 1908.

*Thelymitra heimalis* (pictures right) is pale mauve with a few darker spots on pointed petals.



## Vale Bert Levens (1919-2013)

Matt McDonald

The Levens family, Bert's ancestors, settled in Victoria in 1854. Bert was born on 3 December 1919, just after World War I, in Collingwood, where he spent his early childhood. This led to a life-long devotion to The Magpies. Bert's longevity set a new record for the Levens family males.

His family moved to Parkdale in 1927 and Bert attended the Mentone Primary School and Mordialloc Secondary School. He began a plumbing apprenticeship at 14 with Thomas



Walker, a plumbing firm. When attending night school at Caulfield Tech, he sometimes slept past Parkdale through to Frankston, the end of the line, on the way home. The firm expanded and went into industrial air conditioning and plumbing for the chemical industry, ships, factories and oil rigs. Much of their work was in buildings in Melbourne's CBD. Bert's experience and expertise grew with the firm and he eventually became a senior manager with Thomas Walker. He worked for Walkers for 56 years.

He also played cricket for many years.

Bert met Laura at his cousin's place. The two struck up a friendship and were married in Wesley Chapel in the city in 1948. The children were known to refer to Bert as a cradle-snatcher. Being too polite to inquire how old Laura is we can only assume that she's much younger than Bert! The children were born: Andrew, Mary and Ann.

## Tree change

Laura and Bert moved to Upper Beaconsfield in 1979 as a true tree change. Together they developed a deep love of the land and the local flora and fauna.

Bert was very devoted to his veggie garden – and they both dedicated themselves to eradicating invasive weeds and observing and recording bugs and beetles.

We know about Laura's devotion to finding, photographing and describing a huge range of beetles, spiders and insects. Recently Bert himself found a sun orchid identified as *Thelymitra heimalis* (pictured left), unusual in these parts and last observed many decades ago in Brighton.

Bert and Laura travelled widely around Victoria, Central Australia and the outback.

Bert was a great story teller – and would provide great detail if you had the time! These are some of Bert's tales of childhood and later:

- He and a cousin were playing in the yard with a bow and arrows. The cousin was poking his head over the fence to check for passers-by. However, Bert was lining up the arrow through a hole in the fence and fired the arrow which went through the milkman's hat. The milkman was not happy, and brought his complaint to the front door.
- Travelling in the outback they came across a huge flock of budgerigars – potentially a great photo opportunity. Bert figured that if he got out and ran around in the bush, the birds would come swarming out and cameras would capture them. He did a lot of running around but the birds were gone.
- Bert was a pillion passenger carrying some packages on a motorbike on the corner of Flinders and Spencer Streets. When the lights went green Bert was left sitting on the road.
- While riding a bike himself on another occasion, he told of

being pursued by the police and giving them the slip.

## Ash Wednesday

Bert and Laura lost their house in Leppitt Road in the Ash Wednesday bushfires. They were fortunate to survive, and were determined to rebuild – in a more fire-resistant way.

An American academic was

*continued on page 15*

*continued from page 14*

running a course in landscape architecture at RMIT and took on Laura and Bert's ideas as a class project. They adapted one of the student's designs and built the new house into the side of the hill, then covering it with soil and fitting fire-proof shutters to the windows.

They have lived there safely and comfortably since, although Bert never lost his great fear of bushfires.

Bert underwent a quintuple heart by-pass at 84. As he recovered in hospital he was a little disoriented and caused some bemusement when he was found wandering in the maternity ward. He did recover, and kept pretty good health until recently.

Bert had a life-long love for classical music, especially choral works by the great composers. Indeed he sang some of the classical works in a choir for many years.

Bert was married to Laura for 64 years. As well as his three children he had eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Bert was remembered by his daughter-in-law Althea as "a loyal, hard worker; he was a perfectionist. He was a devoted husband and father, a knowledgeable man and a keen gardener and handyman".

## Fire in the wire

*Helen Smith*

Did you see the 4 Corners program Fire in the Wire in October? It was about the deadly bushfires and the link with electricity lines being the cause of many of these fires.

"For Australians bushfires have become part of life. What if many of our worst fires are in fact very much like industrial accidents which could have been prevented?"

If you missed the program see [www.abc.net.au/4corners/](http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/) There is a lot of background information on the program. You can also view the program itself if you have good bandwidth.

# Where are they now? Jeanette and Ken Ballinger

*Jeanette Ballinger*

*Jeanette and Ken Ballinger lived in Upper Beaconsfield from 1971 until 1998, firstly in Manestar Road, then Yackatoom Road, where they built a large shed first, then followed with a large home. Both Ken and Jeanette had extensive involvement in the Upper Beaconsfield Community and Jeanette was Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year in 1992.*

After living in Canada for 9 years (partly in the country) we bought into East Burwood but found it too urban for us and moved to Upper Beaconsfield in 1971. My first job was as treasurer for the kindergarten in McBride Rd in 1972. Joining is a great way to meet people.

Ken was member of the Fire Brigade for a while and became Mr Fixit for washing machines and pumps etc.

I started the Upper Beaconsfield Association with Beryl Hailes, calling a meeting in the Billings' home and then the first meeting in the hall with councillors and others. Beryl was the first secretary and George Silberbauer president and I became treasurer, a position I held for many years, only leaving it to become president in 1982. It was the most successful thing I started except maybe for the Christmas Carols. I also worked on the Village Bell editorial committee for years.

Together with neighbours we started a shopping group, buying wholesale and sharing with Pam Chaplin, Judy Greenaway, Judy Sewell, Trish Bellgrove and Jenny Magee. It worked well for some years until

it became too much work.

We enjoyed our monthly ordering meetings so much that we still meet whenever possible.

The Garden Club was started with Judy Moir, mainly to visit lovely gardens in the area, using the community bus to go as far afield as Bendigo. Charles Wilson, Ken Dow and Ray Ratcliff were like three naughty boys.

I remember Ray catching tree branches with an umbrella (he had a good reach) and Charles collecting seed. He and Yvonne grew some good shrubs and trees that were for all of us. They also turned the sprinklers on when we were listening to a lecture in some nursery. The poor lady nearly had a heart attack.

We also had a Spinners and Weavers Group which gave pleasure for a lot of years. Not to mention a Wednesday night at the Pub, which is still going.

We are now in Fryerstown, an old gold mining town in central Victoria. It once had 2000 people, hotels, churches and a race course. It now has 400 people and no shops, some ruins, but we are told a lot of the old building materials were used for newer houses over time. Our only regret is picking an area which is so fire prone.

We live in an intentional community of 8 families and 11 blocks of land. We own 3/4 of an acre and the Body Corp,



made up of all 11 owners, administer the remaining 310 acres. We have an orchard and community buildings and have plans for a big community garden. We are by far the oldest in the group and joined because we saw it as giving us the joy of a lifestyle of country living like Upper Beac without all the individual work. To a large extent this has worked.

Our son, Jay, and his wife are running a café/bakery at Portland. Our daughter, Kirstin, is running a group of women picking items in a big warehouse and shipping them out to stores and raising two lovely and talented daughters.

Ken is Communications Officer for the local CFA and Mr Fixit for all the machinery in the community. I am treasurer for the Newstead Spinning Group, the Old School Restoration group and the 16 mm Film Group meeting once a month in Fryerstown. Our only real change is age and we still appreciate the joys of living in a small community.

# Primary School (BUPS)

Nick Karanzoulis, Principal



## School production 100 Year Rock

We witnessed another example of what an effective team can achieve when all are working towards a common goal, such as the school production. All the children are to be congratulated on their outstanding performance on the night. To take to the stage is always a challenge, even more so when there are almost 700 family and friends in the audience, bright lights, cameras and scattered microphones to capture every move and sound that the children produced.

Thank you to so many parents who have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with each class. The parents were responsible for the costumes, make up, dances and props. Assuming the role of coach, the parents have been pivotal in the skilling of the children, choreographing the moves and providing support to the children as well as the class teachers. Such an experience provides children with a practical learning opportunity on the importance of team work and supporting one another. The prompting by the principal actors of one another when a "senior moment" was fast approaching was wonderful to see and added humour to the occasion. To see the joy in the children's faces as they performed was priceless.



## State champions

Congratulations to our girls hockey 7s team on their outstanding performance at the state finals, played at the Footscray Hockey Centre on Thursday 12 September. The team played against the best teams in the state, remaining undefeated for the season and conceded only three goals. In the grand final, they played a very determined Boort P-12 team, winning the match 3-0. The team consisted of seven girls: Amy Lawton (grade 6), Tegan Langeveld (6), Marion Doerig (6), Phoebe Thompson (5), Stacey Langeveld (4), Josie Lawton (4) and Alice Calderwood (4). Thank you to coaches Julie Lawton and Sonia Langeveld for preparing the team so well. Reaching the finals is a huge achievement; to win the state title is something special! Well done BUPS!



## Melbourne Water Conference

A group of our high achievers were an integral part of this year's Melbourne Water Conference that was held at Etihad Stadium/ Collingwood Children's Farm. BUPS children were invited to present their message about healthier waterways through the song that they wrote and choreographed. As one of twenty schools in Victoria that have been accredited as a "5 Star Sustainable School", caring for the environment is a priority and comes naturally when we discuss the future of our planet.

## Upper Beacy Cup

It has been a long tradition at BUPS to run the Upper Beacy Cup as a fun learning event, based loosely on the Melbourne Cup. Our Cup involved the prep children, together with their grade 6 buddies, run through an obstacle course over 60 metres. Fashions on the field are held prior to the "races", with our junior school councillors leading the parade. The grade 3 and 4 children collaborate in small groups to the erection of gazebos and the "bird cage". Lunch is had on the lawns of the footy oval and included a sausage sizzle and orange juice. Congratulations to our 2013 winner Cody Kannengisser and buddy Breanna Astle.

## Connection of children services at Upper Beaconsfield

Preliminary talks are under way between the Upper Beaconsfield

Community Centre, the UB Crèche, the UB kinder, the pre kinder and our school to reflect on the services that we provide as individual learning centres and what connections can be formed between us to deliver even a better service

to the children of Upper Beaconsfield. Living in the 21st Century is exciting with all that is on offer. As a community, we need to continue to work on building relationships and making connections with others around us. Having an understanding of the learning services available develops a greater appreciation of the “village” setting. Already, some of our prep children have visited the UB Crèche to read to the younger children and share some of their experiences about starting preps this year. Similar arrangements will be made with Salisbury House, a landmark in Upper Beaconsfield for the past 80 years.

### Grade 3/4 Forest Edge Camp

Our school’s grade 3/4 camps and outdoor education program



aims to provide children with a variety of settings where important life skills such as getting along, organisation, socialisation, independence, interdependence, team work, an understanding and appreciation of the environment are developed. The two camps that are attended are the Forest Edge Camp at Neerim East, this year, and the Camp Manyung in Mt Eliza in 2014. I was fortunate enough to spend a day with the grade 3/4s at Forest Edge and be present as the children experienced the “wow!” factor with their first impressions of the camping grounds and the variety of activities/experiences they had. Experiences included the flying fox ride that appeared one kilometre in length, a swim in a crystal clear stream, archery, climbing wall, bush cooking, building a waterproof hut, the tackling of the low ropes course and a three-minute bounces on the trampolines. I would like to thank our parent helpers for making this camp even more enjoyable through the enthusiasm and support that they provided to the teachers and children.

### Same Santa visits BUPS for 42 years in a row!

It has been a very long tradition that each year, when Santa visits us, children present him with gifts that he can give to children who are less fortunate than ours. This year marks the 42nd consecutive year that Santa (Colin Goldsmith) will visit us. What a lovely gesture by Colin and also the children of Upper Beaconsfield to do something special for those children who will be doing it tough this Christmas.

On behalf of children, staff and parents of Beaconsfield Upper Primary School, I would like to wish one and all a merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

# Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten



*D’Arne Fisher, Upper Beaconsfield Kindergartens Association.*

### A great year at Kindergarten!

We have been lucky enough to have a new playground built at our 4 year old Kinder, and also a fantastic new digging patch made at our 3 year old Kinder. The children have loved both of them and they have really added to our fantastic outdoor spaces. All of the projects undertaken at Kinder are made possible by either our fantastic fundraising, or by applying for grants to assist with these. This year we have had Amanda Charles and Helen Preston who have both been amazing in their roles and put so much time and effort in, which we truly appreciate.



We also couldn’t have such an amazing Kindergarten without our wonderful committee. They give up their valuable time to help contribute and run both our centres. We thank those who are moving on this year for all their hard work, and also thank those that are staying on for their continued support. It’s hard to name everyone, but in particular a big thank you goes to Tracey Waderton for her many years on committee in a number of roles,

and over the past two years taking on the challenging role of president.

We would also like to thank our staff members, who have such enthusiasm and passion for their jobs. They do an amazing job at supporting and nurturing our children, as well as providing an environment that allows for so much fun!



Finally to all our children and families, we wish those moving on all the best in their future travels and for those back again next year have a Merry Christmas and a safe break, and will see you back in 2014 ready for lots more fun and good times!

Stay up to date with all the kinder news at [www.upperbeackinder.org.au](http://www.upperbeackinder.org.au) [www.facebook.com/upperbeackinder](http://www.facebook.com/upperbeackinder) Kindergarten’s phone number is 5944 3822

# Ranges Ward

Cr Letitia Wilmot

Cr Tania Baxter  
Cr Leticia Wilmot  
Cr Brett Owen

Ph: 0427 528 358 t.baxter@cardinia.vic.gov.au  
Ph: 0427 135 879 l.wilmot@cardinia.vic.gov.au  
Ph: 0418 993 370 b.owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au



It's hard to believe that we are only weeks from the end of another year. And it has been a very busy year for Ranges Ward. Many great projects have been undertaken over the last 12 months and it is great to see so many fantastic outcomes for the community.

In October as part of the seniors celebration the ward's councillors invited senior residents to attend a morning tea at the community hall and it was wonderful to see so many attend. Many were familiar faces but there were also a lot of new people to meet and have a chat with. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

On this day we also celebrated a couple of other very important events and occasions. Firstly was the opening of the Upper Beaconsfield Men's Shed. A fantastic example of what can be achieved with very little financial input when a group works together and involves the community and the resources from within the community. Congratulations to all involved and we look forward to the Men's Shed being involved with many community projects in the future.

The Community Garden was also opened on this day and the Mayor Cr Brett Owen had the honour of helping to plant a tree in the orchard. This is another very resourceful group that recycle as much as possible and have completely changed the look of this area as well as the usefulness of it. Congratulations to all involved.

We also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Community Centre. This centre is a fantastic asset to the community, providing so many incredible services to the residents in Upper Beaconsfield and beyond.

We would also like to thank all those who took part in the work that has been done as part of the beautification grants that council

provided. The work looks fantastic and without the involvement of the community in this type of project the work probably wouldn't get done.

Over the last 12 months as your ward councillors we have attend many community meetings and celebrations and we have had the pleasure of meeting many of you. In April we held your first Mobile Councillor Office at the Community Centre where we invited residents to pop in for a chat or to have a talk about any concerns they had. It was a great turn out and we will be back in 2014 so we will let you know when.

We would like to thank you all for your support over the last year. We wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season and we look forward to working with you all in 2014.



## New Mayor Graeme Moore

Port Ward Councillor Graeme Moore was elected Mayor of Cardinia Shire on Monday 11 November.

Cr Moore said it was a privilege and honour to represent Cardinia Shire as Mayor. He thanked the councillors for their support and pledged to work closely with his colleagues and Council staff for the betterment of Cardinia Shire.

## R E Ross Trust donates 47 hectares for new bushland reserve

Shire media release

Residents of Upper Beaconsfield will be able to enjoy a wonderful new recreation reserve following a gift of 47 hectares of pristine bushland to Cardinia Shire Council.

Known as the Hillview Bushland Reserve, it can be accessed from Bathe Road.

The R E Ross Trust, through its subsidiary Hillview Quarries, has donated the area – the equivalent size to 25 MCGs – to protect local flora and fauna and for the recreational use of the community.

The land has important environmental conservation values and is now permanently protected by a Trust for Nature conservation covenant.

Cardinia Shire Council Cr Brett Owen said the land handover was a generous gesture.

"This area will become a wonderful asset for bushwalkers and bird watchers," Cr Owen said.

Mrs Eda Ritchie, chairman of the Ross Trust and a director of Hillview Quarries, said the company recognised the important conservation values of the area and the value of protecting it for the future.

Hillview Quarries originally purchased the land in the 1980s to expand the company's quarrying interests.

However the land was found to be surplus to its commercial interests, so the Trust requested Hillview set aside the 47 hectares for a reserve which the Cardinia Shire now owns on behalf of the community.

An adjacent seven hectares was subdivided into nine large residential blocks. These residential blocks, running off Bathe and Leppitt roads, are for sale and the proceeds will enable more charitable grants throughout Victoria.

Cr Owen said the gift of the reserve was an example of how business, local government and philanthropy can work together for the lasting benefit of the local community.



## Do the right thing with household hard waste and recycling

Helen Smith

It has been disappointing to see local residents are still putting TVs etc out for the hard waste collection, which ends up in landfill. Residents should keep an eye open for electronic waste recycling dates which council organises and advertises in your rates notice. Not everything recyclable can go in your recycling bin but lots of items can be taken to recyclers locally.

Do not put textiles, coat hangers or plastic wrapping in your recycling bin as these items jam the machinery and cause costly delays.

### Electronic waste

eWaste includes computers, televisions, kitchen appliances, radios, vacuums and other smaller household appliances. All of these items contain valuable materials worth recovering and some also contain many hazardous items that should not be sent to landfill. Computers pose a significant threat to our environment when they are dumped in landfill. They contain toxic chemicals such as cadmium, lead, mercury and benzene, which can leach into surrounding groundwater and ecosystems, as well as being composed of many precious resources like gold, silver and platinum which can easily be recycled.

### Other disposal options for computers

Byteback, a free service, is available to residents and small business owners in Victoria who want to get rid of unwanted, old and unused computers in a safe and sustainable way. Many Officeworks stores including the Pakenham branch now accept up to five computers for recycling during store opening hours. A comprehensive list of computer and eWaste recycling options is also available from Planet Ark's 'Recycling near you' website and through the National Television and computer recycling scheme website.

### Recycling whitegoods

Large white goods items such as refrigerators can be put out for the hard waste collection. These will be recycled. Other eWaste items will not. Whitegoods can also be taken to most scrap metal dealers.

See Cardinia Council's website for more details at <http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au>

## Advertised planning applications now online

Shire media release

Residents wanting to view advertised planning applications no longer have to visit Cardinia Shire Council's offices – the information is now online.

In a move that Cr Brett Owen said shows Council's commitment to improving customer service, a new web-based system means advertised planning application details can now be accessed anywhere, anytime.

"Council advertises many planning permit applications, usually for two weeks, to provide those who may be affected by the granting of the permit an opportunity to lodge a submission," Cr Owen said.

"Previously this information was only available from the Council offices. However, we understand that sometimes people don't have the time to come in and inspect these applications.

"The new system allows everyone to access the list of advertised planning applications via Council's website, and to look over the details of those applications.

"Our goal is to make Council more accessible and convenient for people in the community and this new system is another step towards achieving that."

Council receives about 900 planning applications each year, of which around 40 % are advertised. The type of planning applications advertised include proposals for sheds, subdivision, multiple houses and commercial developments.

To view advertised planning applications, visit the 'Planning and building' section of Council's website.

# 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](mailto:upperbeac.toylibrary@yahoo.com.au)

## Toy Library's 30th birthday

Lots of families joined us on Sunday 27 October. Teddies, tigers and elephants were amongst the visitors who enjoyed a picnic morning tea and an opportunity to try out lots of toys available from the library. While the children enjoyed colouring-in and ink stamping, parents caught up with friends and members. Curious on-lookers stopped by to see what all the commotion was about before moving onto the Community Centre's other displays and open day events.



## New puppet toys

Come meet our new members. The fairytale puppet family, they feel right at home with our new puppet theatre and look forward to having their very own puppet show at your place.

The library also has other puppets and play characters for borrowing, so why not drop in and have a look. We have lots of family favourite games and puzzles too, such as Connect Four, twister and Jenga.



## Memberships

2014 memberships are now available. For only \$30 annual membership, it's affordable fun for families and carers.

The toy library closes for 2013 on Saturday 14 December and re-opens Thursday 30 January 2014.

Merry Christmas from the Upper Beaconsfield Toy Library.



# Gembrook Electorate

Brad Battin MLA



## Upper Beaconsfield intersection upgrade improves safety

The Victorian Coalition Government's \$400 000 upgrade of an Upper Beaconsfield intersection has delivered significant safety improvements to the town, according to a recent evaluation.

The works at the intersection of Salisbury Road and St Georges Road were completed at the end of 2012.

Member for Gembrook Brad Battin said that the government delivered funding for a pedestrian refuge, minor road realignment works, improvement to the intersection and a number of other associated works to improve pedestrian safety and slow traffic.

The report showed that the average speeds through the town have reduced by more than 10 km/h since the intersection was upgraded.

The average weekday speed of traffic heading towards Emerald was 67.3 km/h when speeds were assessed prior to the works in August 2011. In July 2013 the average speed was 53.7, a reduction of 20 per cent.

Improvements were recorded for all other traffic directions across all time periods.

Pedestrian safety has been improved through the reduction of speed and the installation of the refuge. Accessibility was also improved with the removal of stairs from the Beaconsfield-Emerald Road and McBride Road intersection.

The report also indicated the potential for some minor line marking and signage improvements, which VicRoads has since acted on.

"As promised to the local community, VicRoads commissioned an evaluation of this project, which was completed in July this year," Mr Battin said. "I am pleased that this commitment has delivered a safer town centre for Upper Beaconsfield."



## Federal and State Government launch location-based emergency warnings

Federal member for La Trobe Jason Wood and State Member for Gembrook Brad Battin have welcomed the launch of a location-based emergency alert system that will be sent across all Australian mobile phone networks during emergencies.

Mr Wood said the Federal Government had invested nearly \$60 million towards establishing the emergency alert telephone system used by emergency service agencies. "The location-based enhancement to the emergency alert system means anyone near an emergency will receive a text message on their mobile phone," Mr Wood said. "Previously, emergency alert messages were sent to mobile phones with a registered address in the emergency area, meaning tourists, workers or other visitors from outside the area would not receive any warnings. "This service is designed to reach

active mobile phones that are roaming Australia's networks. It is an important development is another step towards improving the safety of Australians."

Mr Battin said that the location-based emergency alert system was the final milestone in the national telephone-based emergency warning system, which was led by the Victorian Government. "This is an important and timely development for the communities in Gembrook and La Trobe, prior to the coming bushfire season. This

technology could help save lives. However, people should not rely solely on one source for emergency information. It is important that people stay aware of outside conditions, tune in to the radio and check emergency services websites." Mr Battin said the Victorian Government contributed \$8 million and led the four-year national project to deliver the location-based emergency warning capability.

# Introducing Jason Wood

Jason Wood, MP Federal Member for La Trobe



Throughout my life, I have always been heavily involved with my local community. I attended local state schools, played sport, worked with environmental groups and was involved in cleaning up after the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires. I have worked as a local police officer both in the uniform section and also as a detective. As the Member for La Trobe between 2004

and 2010, and currently in 2013, I have the honour and privilege of being your voice in Canberra. Together we were able to secure funding for key projects in the past such as the Bryn Mawr Bridge, Timbarra Community Stadium, performing arts centres in Upwey and Emerald, and funding for water tanks in every scout hall in La Trobe, indeed across Australia. I am looking

forward to helping La Trobe grow again, and hope to focus on prevention of youth suicide among many other things.

You can contact me by visiting my office at 3/16 Langmore Lane, Berwick, via phone on 9768 9164 or on my website: [www.jasonwood.com.au](http://www.jasonwood.com.au)

# A serve from the Tennis Club



Jonathan Collins

The winter season is nearly over and the summer season is upon us. For the club, the past few months have been extremely eventful. With many different occasions, including working bees, club championships, as well as the beginning and ending of seasons, the club has been kept very busy.

## Seniors

The senior winter season rounded off with varying success. Out of the 4 teams which played, including both Waverley competition and pennant, two teams made the finals which was a great effort. The B grade men's doubles was able to make the grand final but was just beaten on the day. Well done to all the teams and especially those who were able to make the finals.

The new season has already begun and we have five teams representing the club including three singles/doubles, one mixed doubles and one men's doubles all in the Waverley competition.

Also in senior news, the club championships were held on 27 October. The weather was a bit of an issue in the morning but overall the day was a great success. It was fantastic to see the high number of participants on the day which showed the positive growth that our club is still making. After the day was over, we were left with the finals:

Men's Singles: Brett v Sam

Women's Singles: Sarah v Kyla

Well done to all those who competed on the day and good luck to those competing in the finals.

## Juniors

The 2013 winter season rounded out with one team successful in the president's shield. This was a great effort by the team which played a high level of tennis. We were also represented in three preliminary finals. Unfortunately these teams were unsuccessful but all played well throughout the entire season.

The new junior season has begun. Upper Beaconsfield now has nine junior teams. This is an increase from previous seasons which is due to new players coming up from the lower grades which is fantastic to see. It is good that we are also still represented by the higher sections too. The season so far has been going well and we hope to see the teams continue in a positive direction and maybe even bring home a premierships or two!

Junior club championships were held on 20 October. Once again, participation was at a high standard. The events included open boys singles, open girls singles, b grade and c grade. The finals to be held at the Christmas party are as follows:

Boys open singles: Nathan v Michael

Girls open singles: Sarah v Kyla

B-grade: Mia v Samantha

C-grade: Patrick v Jordan

Good luck to those involved in both the club championship finals as well as everyone involved in the 2013/14 summer season.

## Working bee

The club working bee was held on 13 October. The main goal on the day included gardening as well as putting in a retaining wall between courts one and two. There have been various other developments at the club which is a credit to the club. It would be great to see more people at the working bee next time around which will take place sometime in March.

## Christmas party

Ho ho ho! Christmas is upon us which means that the annual Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club Christmas party is nearly here. There are many features of the Christmas party which involve the club championship finals, social hitting as well as Santa making a special appearance! The Christmas party takes place on 7 December.

## Night Competition

Night Competition is available for the social player to suit your personal level of skills from beginner to advanced on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Contact us: [facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldtennisclub](https://www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldtennisclub)

[www.tennis.com.au/upperbeaconsfield](http://www.tennis.com.au/upperbeaconsfield)

## Snippets from

[www.trove.nla.gov.au/](http://www.trove.nla.gov.au/)



Trove, the web site run by the National Library of Australia provides fascinating insights into the early days of our district. By typing Upper Beaconsfield into the search engine you can access Australian and online resources including books, images, historic newspapers, maps, music and archives. Though brief, the items are often intriguing.

*18 June 1914, Dandenong Advertiser and Cranbourne, Berwick and Oakleigh Advocate*

UPPER BEACONSFIELD. The business of the post-office has been transferred to a special office, which has been built onto the new residence of Mr Hopkins. The telephone line has been connected with Lower Beaconsfield, so that the district is now in direct communication with Melbourne. The office, which was opened for business for the first time on Saturday, is in charge of Miss G. Hopkins.

*8 June 1892, South Bourke and Mornington Journal*

Berwick Shire Council: Correspondence: From Louisa Flannagan, Erin street, Richmond, stating that through the inaccessibility of the road leading to her property at Beaconsfield, the house had become quite isolated, and praying that the council take immediate steps to improve the road.-On the motion of Crs Goff and Sykes, that clerk of works inspect the road in question, and report to the council as to the best means of dealing with the subject.

*23 July 1914 Dandenong Advertiser and Cranbourne, Berwick and Oakleigh Advocate*

UPPER BEACONSFIELD. The new road from Officer to Beaconsfield Upper is now well in hand. For about two and a half miles at the Officer end the road has been fully formed, and the upper portion as far as Flannagan's Track, is being rapidly completed by means of a steam plough worked by a team of horses. Blasting operations at the Beaconsfield end are in full swing all along the granite range. The Rev. Dr. and Mrs Adeney have been spending a few days with Mr and Mrs P. R. Hurditch, at "Pen Bryn." The visitors were much interested in observing the Australian birds, and in watching clearing operations by means of blasting, and the ploughing of virgin soil.

# Upper Beac Pony Club



Leanne Ricketts

## Improvements at pony club grounds

Many exciting changes are happening around the pony club grounds including a major upgrade to our cross-country course, as well as some new stalls thanks to the riding club. New tracks have been made and jumps are being designed to make a fantastic and safe course around the grounds. Thanks to a grant received by the Cardinia Shire we have been provided with the funds to make these improvements which are well and truly needed and will be appreciated by all in the riding community.

Our August rally was held at Adam Wootten's property in Yarra Junction where the kids were able to get out of the wind and rain for the day and enjoy some great jumping lessons indoors. Some lovely weather was a welcome surprise in September where we held a variety of lessons, from flat, fun and games, poles, lunging, jumping and cross-country.

October held our annual visit by horse dentist Mark Burnell, where our horses should now be sporting bright, white smiles, but most importantly feeling more comfortable. The kids enjoyed a morning of flat and jumping lessons before an afternoon presentation by our local CFA about bushfire awareness with horses. With the coming fire season it is important to all of us to have a plan which



also includes our horses, and many people commented about important details they hadn't previously thought about and how much information they gained from this. Many thanks to the CFA volunteers for this great presentation! To finish off the day we decided to get a little dirty (and colourful) by repainting our show jumping poles, which now look wonderful thanks to some hardworking kids and parents who took on this task and had a bit of fun in the process!

It was all fun and games in November with our annual Games Rally.

The kids spent the morning polishing up their skills around bending poles, flag, drum and sack races to be ready for the afternoon competition. It was great having so many participating with kids (and ponies) of all size and ages having a go, and are all congratulated as nobody fell off this year! A flour race at the end turned into a flour fight to top off the day. Thanks once again to Tori and John Ling for their help and expertise in running another successful and fun games day.

Coming up in December is our Christmas gymkhana, with many events for all the kids to participate in, including an opportunity for one member to be chosen to represent the club in the Evan Henry event at the Berwick Show. There will be a fancy dress to finish off the day and maybe even a visit by Santa!

<http://www.upperbeaconsfield.ponyclubvic.org.au>



## New equine agistment and rehabilitation centre

Wandarrah Estate, a new premium agistment and rehabilitation centre in Upper Beaconsfield, is set to become a world leader in sustainable equine management, working in harmony with the environment, whilst also complementing a horse's natural desire to express normal behaviours and social activities.

Owned by local residents, Mark Evans and Rebecca Feasey, Wandarrah Estate began as a blank canvas in mid 2013. It is

managed by Rebecca, a self-confessed horse enthusiast, who currently studies a Bachelor of Equine Science and a Diploma in Equine Podiotherapy, in addition to her volunteer work with Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria.

The name, Wandarrah Estate, is indigenous for meeting place, reflecting a facility for both humans and horses to interact, learn and from friendships with one another.

"We aim to be recognised for our premium service and exceptional equine experience and knowledge, supported by the latest

research in equine science" says Rebecca. Wandarrah Estate will also be running ongoing educational workshops and clinics, open to horse owners and enthusiasts. Their upcoming February workshop 'Horse psychology and behaviour' will be presented by Wrangler Jayne, founder and creator of 'Natural Horsemanship with Heart'.

Wandarrah Estate will officially open in 2014. For more information, please visit [www.wandarrahestate.com.au](http://www.wandarrahestate.com.au)



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**News from St John's**

**Celebrating Christmas**

Saturday 21 December 6.30-8.00pm  
**A Community Christmas Concert**  
 with songs, music, puppets and multi-media  
 @ Saint John's Anglican Church. Entry by donation.

**Christmas services**

- Tuesday December 24 Christmas Eve 9.30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist
- Wednesday December 25 Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Day Eucharist

**Kids Church at St John's Upper Beaconsfield Meets Sundays 9:30-10:30am**

- ♦ Fun ♦ Games ♦ Stories ♦ Music
  - ♦ Cooking ♦ Arts and crafts
- www.stjohnsupperbeaconsfield.com.au  
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## Carols on Christmas Eve

24 December 2013

Keith Ewenson Park – Upper Beaconsfield

Children's activities from 7 pm

Traditional carols begin at 8 pm

Sausage Sizzle outside the Arts Annexe

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and candles available

Bring along your picnic rug, food and good cheer.



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