

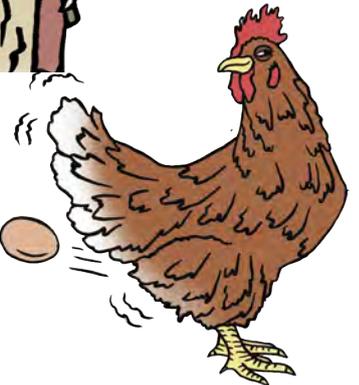
UPPER BEACONSFIELD

VILLAGE BELL

Upper Beaconsfield Association
www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au

Issue No. 211
March 2018





Village Festival

Illustrator Lawrence Santanello's impressions of our Village Festival where the animals are a bit more "wild" than usual.

Tony Knight – Citizen of the year 2017

An extremely popular and well known personality around Upper Beaconsfield

Tony has been a resident of Upper Beaconsfield since 1987 when he made a tree change from Springvale with his wife and family.

Tony, now a sprightly 82 years old, was a printer for most of his working life with institutions such as the Herald Sun, and also Fleming Printers. He still continues to work at Sandown and Caulfield race courses on the gates, and just recently retired from 15 years working at the MCG.

What you may not know about Tony—his real name is Vernon, and he was a very talented and skilful footballer when younger (not in the ruck though), and until 10 years ago, was a very active and accomplished ballroom dancer.

In his time at Upper Beaconsfield he has been a UBA committee member, and was also a founding member of the Men's Shed. He was an original committee member of the Shed where he spent considerable time assisting in the planning and setup and also considerable time helping formulate the Shed's aims and plans for the future.

One of the major contributions Tony has made and keeps making to the community is as a volunteer for any activity where any type of assistance is needed. A lot of time has been spent around the Community Centre, cleaning up leaves and rubbish, pruning trees, and often mowing surrounds. You are likely to see him around the Centre at any time of the day performing some task and chatting to others. If a resident needs help, you will see Tony there.

Tony is at the forefront with the UBA Carols by Candlelight, and for many years has been one of the organisers and workers who help set up the venue for this event.

At the Village Festival, you will always find Tony contributing in the lead-up setup and running of the event. During the Festival itself you will find Tony at the UBA stall,



distributing pamphlets, recruiting new members, and handing out kisses where necessary.

At the Men's Shed, Tony is the first to volunteer for any project, and has very much come to the forefront with the efforts required in running the fundraising events such as the sausage sizzles.

As an example of the esteem that Tony is held by the other members, he was awarded the "Golden Sausage" award for outstanding contributions for the sizzles. This may sound like a trivial humorous award, BUT it is

not ... it is a recognition of the outstanding contributions he has made to the Shed in the area of fundraising.

Tony also organises catering and supplies for the Shed, and you will also find him in the workshop helping with woodworking projects ... and you often hear Tony say "What do you want me to do now". An indication of his willingness to help in any way he can.

You will also find Tony at the quarterly Village Bell collating where he has rarely missed a session of folding and bundling

the copies of this newsletter, along with his unique sense of humour and attempts to convince us that Melbourne Football Club will win a flag soon.

There is another side of Tony, that everyone sees, but not everyone realises—the value that he is to the community.

Rarely a day goes by that Tony doesn't go down to the local store for the paper, and this task often takes hours, because there is hardly a

person around who Tony doesn't

know, and he greets them all and spreads his infectious cheer and humour to everyone. He never leaves anyone feeling down or unhappy.

There is no doubt that Tony is a wonderful example of exactly the type of person that a community needs, and it is appropriate that he is recognised as the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year 2017.

NOEL LING

More about the Village Festival on page 14



A large contingent of Tony's family were there for the celebration

Restoring the hall's fireplace

The Upper Beaconsfield Hall was built in 1884 and back then it was the hub of the community. Today it still serves the community in many ways. It is heritage listed and last year the weatherboards and windows were repaired and painted. This was done courtesy of the Council and the work has given life back to the hall. To continue with more restoration work, the Committee has removed the pine panelling from the fireplace and will repair and paint the brick work, and also replace the mantle and skirting. If there is anybody with old family photos of the fireplace with its mantle in place we would love to have a copy so that we can replace it with one that will match the original as closely as possible. We are also looking for old photographs of events such as dances, indoor sports, tennis matches, meetings or functions held in and outside the hall, or even around the town to display on the walls inside the hall. All photos will be returned and the ones selected will be scanned and copied. If you can help out, could you please drop the photos into the Community Centre office with your contact details and address them to Buildings and Grounds Committee or contact Sue Simmons on 0407 304 061.



SUE SIMMONS

Rainfall at "Barkala", Beaconsfield–Emerald Road

Month	45 yr av.	2017	2018
Jan	63.6	51.8	54.6
Feb	58.4	87.1	
Mar	64.2	57.4	
Apr	78.3	121.2	
May	86.1	49.6	
Jun	80.3	46.1	
Jul	78.6	50.3	
Aug	85.7	90.3	
Sep	90.6	83.1	
Oct	94.3	67.4	
Nov	86.5	37.6	
Dec	80.4	141.7	
Total	947 mm	884 mm	

The rainfall for some months of 2017 was on an increase, but rainfall arrived spasmodically. This meant heavier falls at times, but less rainfall at other times. January 2018 continued in this way with one fall of over an inch of rain. More watering of gardens was needed between the less frequent rains.

GEORGE MOIR

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Thank you to our supporters:

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Next issue: June 2018

Send articles by 7 May 2018 to editor.villagebell@gmail.com

The Village Bell is published by Upper Beaconsfield Association Inc., PO Box 86, Upper Beaconsfield VIC 3808. Incorporated 1987. Inc. No. A0012780S

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Keeping the community informed

The Upper Beaconsfield Association AGM was held on 7 February and a new committee installed. We

welcome Caroline Spencer to the committee. As reported at the meeting we have had a productive and positive 12 months under the leadership of Jenny Pritchard with the support of the committee and UBA members. Many thanks go to retiring committee members Peter Simmons and Caro Letts.

The Village Bell continues to bring interesting, informative articles and news every quarter. If you missed any issues of the Village Bell you can access them in full colour online on the UBA website. Residents please note that you can collect a copy of the Bell from the IGA and the General Store if it doesn't arrive in your letterbox. Community groups are encouraged to use the Bell to publicise their activities as there are always new people moving into our town and need to know what is available and who to contact.

We also use our Upper Beaconsfield Facebook page to publicise local community events, groups and news.

We invited visiting speakers for many of our public meetings covering such areas as fire restrictions, local speed zones, helmeted honeyeaters and emergency management. We welcome all residents to attend and give your views on various issues. Our Ranges Ward councillors normally attend and this is a good way to keep the dialogue going. By becoming a UBA member we will send you the public meeting minutes to keep you updated.

The UBA is closely involved with the annual Carols in the Park on Christmas Eve, awards the annual Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year in recognition of good works done in the local community and we provide sponsorship to the Village Festival. We also provided UBA Junior Community Awards to two BUPS students last December.

HELEN SMITH

2017 UBA Junior Community Award

Andre Bokos, UBA Vice President and I attended the BUPS Grade 6 Graduation Ceremony on 21 December 2017. We went on behalf of the Upper Beaconsfield Association to



Andre Bokos, Hayley Joiner, Olivia Knight and Harry Jensen

present the UBA Junior Community Awards to two students who had impressed their teachers with community minded service throughout the year. The students were selected by a committee headed by Mrs McGill.

Although the awards are open to students from all year levels and not solely grade 6 students, the two recipients, Olivia Knight and Hayley Joiner who are both from grade 6, demonstrated strong leadership qualities and constantly showed care and compassion for those around them. We hope that they act as exemplary role models for this year's students.

For their efforts throughout the year the two girls received from the UBA a certificate of recognition, plus a \$125 financial reward for their effort and achievement.

The UBA has decided to make this an annual award and hopes that this year's students at BUPS will consider doing some worthwhile community involvement and participation during the year. We are committed to encouraging our younger members in the community to help others and to contribute with beneficial work either at the school or community level.

HARRY JENSEN, UBA COMMITTEE

Carols on Christmas Eve

A beautiful night, good music and a happy crowd made the Carols a great success again.

We nearly had to think about cancelling when our music organiser Helen De Jager became ill in November and spent a period in hospital. Fortunately Tess Porz took over arrangements and we congratulate her for the great effort she put in. Her daughter Kate took on the MC role for the evening and charmed everyone with her confidence and presentation. Many thanks also go to the singers, musicians and the sound crew for their participation.

This enjoyable event could not take place without the contributions made by various community groups and individuals. Thank you Cardinia Shire (sponsor), Community Centre, Upper Beaconsfield Association, Men's Shed, Fire Brigade, Community Complex Buildings & Grounds Committee, Beaconsfield Upper Primary School PFA and Julie Born.



**UBA General Meeting
at the
Community Complex
Wednesday
4 April
at 7.30 pm**

Australia Day honour for local resident

CHESTER KEON-COHEN AM

Chester studied law at Melbourne University and graduated in 1964. He worked as a solicitor between 1965 and 1969, including a period in Dandenong and Berwick with F. R. Monotti and Co. In 1969 he became a barrister and was self-employed until 1988 when he was appointed a Victorian County Court Judge. In this role he worked extensively in Ballarat and Mildura. Chester continued this role until 2001 when he retired due to ill health.

Chester had been diagnosed with dilated cardiomyopathy in 1994, a condition which damages the heart muscle. He joined the Cardiomyopathy Association in 1995 becoming its president almost immediately. He remained president until 2005 and was made an honorary life member for his services to the association. Under his presidency the association became incorporated and Australia wide. The association is available to anyone associated with one of the various forms of cardiomyopathy and is of great assistance to enabling understanding of the condition. It also became involved in research into this disease. Although a lifetime condition it can be managed with medication and Chester has also undertaken regular exercise, ceased drinking alcohol and used a CPAP machine to assist sleep.

During much of 1995 after his diagnosis he was not able to sit in court. However, during this period out of court, Chester, with the absolute support of his chief judge, set about introducing various reforms and measures into the court system which are now part and parcel of the court systems throughout Victoria and other states. The reforms and measures include video conferencing, which was eventually accepted by the government in 1996, and which is now extensively used in every facet of court life; judicially enforced and now compulsory mediation in every civil case before trial—a process which results in many early settlements; also a number of cost and time saving changes in pre-trial civil litigation. Chester was also responsible for the introduction of security in County Court buildings in Victoria—a concept that has been adopted throughout the



Chester and Sue Keon-Cohen

court systems. Chester was also one of the judges involved in the classification of injury cases and the defining of ‘serious injury’.

Outside of the law, Chester served as a councillor on the Kew City Council between 1985 and 1988 prior to his appointment as a judge. He was also a committee member and lay vice-president of the Asthma Foundation for a period of 10 years. Subsequent to his retirement Chester has from time to time been called upon to assist the community and on one occasion was called upon to chair a difficult meeting of the Upper Beaconsfield community.

Since 1982 Chester and Sue have been blueberry growers and continue to produce organically certified blueberries and other products from their farm Emily Hill Farm in Dewhurst. They have been original members of the Australian Blueberry Growers Association which Chester, in his legal capacity, helped to establish.

Chester is very humbled and honoured to have received this award. It is a great thrill and very exciting for him and his family.

SUE KEON-COHEN

Cardinia Shire’s Australia Day 2018 Citizen of the Year award

On Australia Day at a ceremony held at the Cardinia Cultural Centre, Upper Beaconsfield’s own Malcolm Graham was honoured with the award of being the Cardinia Shire’s Citizen of the Year for 2018. This announcement was made in conjunction with the new citizens’ ceremony.

The award was presented by the Mayor, Cr Collin Ross. He congratulated the winner and nominees and thanked them for their commitment and contributions towards fostering an inclusive, vibrant and diverse community.

Malcolm was nominated by the Upper Beaconsfield Association after receiving the 2016 Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year award. This was in recognition of his significant contributions to our local community for almost 40 years.

In his acceptance speech Malcolm praised other hard working volunteers who selflessly give their time and effort in support of our local community –“it’s because of them that Upper Beaconsfield is a great place”.

Malcolm has been an active member of our Upper Beaconsfield community since the early 1980s, volunteering for a number of community-based organisations including the CFA, Scouts and Neighbourhood Watch.

For the past seven years, Malcolm has worked tirelessly to support the annual Village Festival, which brings residents together to celebrate the wonderful community we live in.

PETER SIMMONS

Ranges Ward Report

Cardinia Shire Citizen of the Year—Malcolm Graham

Congratulations to Upper Beaconsfield's Malcolm Graham who was awarded Cardinia Shire's 2018 Citizen of the Year on Australia Day. Malcolm has been an active member of the Upper Beaconsfield community since the early 1980s, volunteering for a number of community-based organisations including the CFA, Scouts and Neighbourhood Watch. Malcolm has also worked tirelessly to support the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival. Well done Malcolm.



Community Emergency Resilience— Upper Beaconsfield Pilot Project

Cardinia Council has recently worked with Resilient Melbourne in considering a Community Resilient Framework across the township of Upper Beaconsfield. The aim of the pilot project is to provide a greater understanding of how the whole community can better foster and develop community resilience and connectedness when faced with

Roadwork updates

Tradies and Ladies Café. The service road at the front of the café has been asphalted recently and is nice and smooth instead of a lumpy patchwork of repairs. Parking bays are marked to assist parking. However, each end of the road, which was repaired by council contractors, is not finished. VicRoads will complete the end sections where they join Emerald Road, which is under their jurisdiction. Talk about a demarcation issue! The completion of

the project could not be done before the Village Festival because runners will be using that section for part of the Fun Run Tower Challenge. There will be changes to the intersection with Halford Street and Charing Cross to stop people making illegal left turns. The café will also have a section of one way traffic. Please watch out for those changes and obey the signs.

Salisbury Road. We have been notified that sections of Salisbury Road will also be resealed this year. Line marking of the centre of the road and parking

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<i>Cr Jeff Springfield</i> M: 0427 383 810	E: j.springfield@cardinia.vic.gov.au F: facebook.com/CrJeffSpringfield

an emergency. Over the coming weeks, Cardinia Shire Council staff will meet with a broad range of community groups to seek community input on resilience to emergencies within Upper Beaconsfield.



Neighbourhood Safer Place

Council received a request from the Upper Beaconsfield Association to consider Upper Beaconsfield Recreational Reserve as a 'Neighbourhood Safer Place.' A 'Neighbourhood Safer Place', also known as a 'Bushfire Place of Last Resort' (NSP-BPLR), is a place of last resort when all other bushfire plans have failed. Council will liaise with the CFA and other key stakeholders to consider the request.

Hills Hub

After many years of planning and working with the community, a building contractor has been appointed and site establishment works have begun at Hills Hub in Emerald.

The Hills Hub, which will be located adjacent to the Emerald Library, will integrate a range of community groups and programs including a multi-purpose community space, Emerald U3A, Emerald Men's Shed, 3MDR community radio station and the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Project group, enabling and supporting various volunteer and community initiatives.

Consolidating these community groups under one roof will better connect people in the community, providing greater access to community activities, skills-based learning, and local business information. This project responds to emerging needs of local residents.

Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival

Thanks to the Upper Beaconsfield Festival committee, volunteers and all involved that made this year's festival a success. It was an enjoyable day had by all.

COUNCILLOR BRETT OWEN

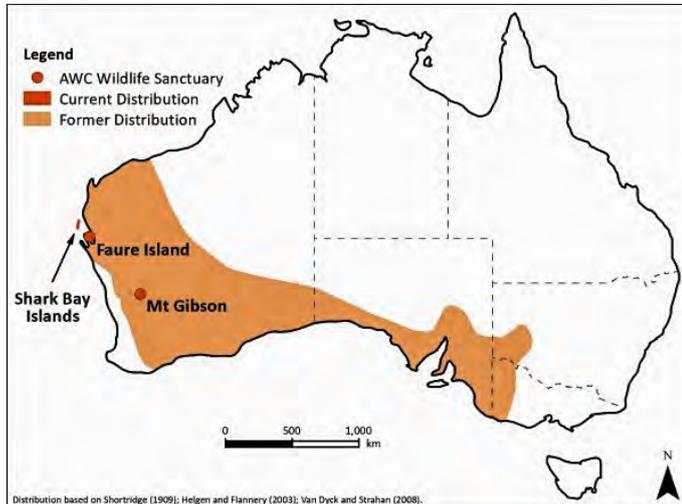
areas in the vicinity of the Community Complex will not be completed until the road is resealed. The UBA public meeting in April will once again have the Cardinia traffic engineer coming to speak on these changes and speed zones.

Burton Road. The short section of sealed road to access the school and kindergarten entrance is also going to be widened slightly and resealed in April.

HELEN SMITH

What I did in the holidays

Six pairs of eyes anxiously scanned the clear blue Western Australian skies, all waiting for a small plane to appear with a very precious cargo aboard. And suddenly there it was, just a dot in the east, making a loop, preparing to land on the dirt airstrip where we were gathered. A few more minutes, then we could hear the buzz of the engine and before we



Historic and current distribution of Banded Hare-wallabies. (Graphic courtesy of AWC)

knew it, the plane was down, landing with scarcely a bump and taxiing back towards us. AWC ecologists Dean, Noel and Nicola gathered their paperwork, and walked quickly towards the plane. Joe (Mt Gibson sanctuary manager), Mike and I (vollies) stayed back a little to let them do their work.

Very carefully five small cages, each containing a large pillowslip-sized bag, were unloaded. Inside those bags were five Banded Hare-wallabies, the first of these wallabies to set foot on the Australian mainland in 100 years. The excitement was palpable as the little marsupials were quickly checked and placed in the Troopie for the quick trip back to the Neville Tichbon Field Research Station, AWC's facility at Mt Gibson.

So what's this all about? AWC is the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, set up over 15 years ago when Martin Copley, a British-born Australian conservationist and philanthropist, realised that Australia has the worst mammal extinction rate in the world, and that an enormous number of the



remaining plant and animal species were listed as threatened with extinction. We are on the verge of losing a significant number of our amazing, unique wildlife due to habitat loss, predation by feral animals, chiefly cats and foxes, and damage done to the environment by non-predator feral animals such as pigs, goats and camels. He felt a new conservation strategy was required to try and reverse this.

AWC is a not-for-profit organisation that acquires land by purchase or through partnerships with landholders, and establishes sanctuaries; they then manage the land to achieve the best possible outcome for the habitat and its inhabitants. This is largely through feral animal control and fire management, appropriate to each different environment. Their whole strategy is underpinned by good science, data collection on all that is done, records, reviewing what is working and what isn't, then acting on what the results are telling them.

Now, back to Mt Gibson and our Hare-wallabies. Mt Gibson is about 350 km north of Perth and 200 km east of Geraldton on the border between the wetter wheat-sheep country to the south and the more arid mining country to the north. Its

130,000 hectares support an amazing variety of landscapes, plants and habitats for a large variety of mammals, reptiles and birds. From the beautiful eucalyptus woodlands to the outcrops and ridges of granite and quartz, from the huge waterless Lake Moore, to the greenstone ranges beyond, there is a bewildering number of different plant communities, many rare or threatened. There are at least 60 species of wattle, including a number that are unique to Mt Gibson. But despite all this, so many of the area's mammals are now locally extinct, largely due to predation, and most of these are endangered over the whole country. So AWC



Radio-tracking the new arrivals shows 98% survival rate so far. (Image courtesy of AWC)

has established a 7,800 hectare feral predator-free area. It is surrounded by a 43 kilometre fence, complete with floppy top, skirts at ground level and electric wires in the middle. It has proved very effective in keeping the predators at bay.

AWC will gradually reintroduce some of these now regionally-extinct mammals into this area. Already there are woylies (brush-tailed bettongs), stick-nest rats, red-tailed phascogales, numbats, bilbies and of course, now, our Banded Hare-wallabies.

At this point though, our little guys were still in their bags. It was about 11 am. They'd been netted the night before on Bernier and Dorre Islands, just off Shark Bay. These island refuges are two of the only wild places left that have no cats or foxes to harm them. The Banded Hare-wallabies have absolutely no instinct to steer clear of predators, and weighing about 2 kg, are just the right size for lunch. Their protection is only the stripes on their hind legs for camouflage. This is no obstacle for a wily fox or cat. They really can only survive where there are no predators.

From there they were carefully loaded onto a helicopter, flown to Carnarvon, transferred to a small plane and then flown to Mt Gibson. Quite a journey, but here they were at last. So close to their new home; no wonder we were all so excited, thrilled, but also relieved and well aware the job was not yet done.

First a quick check to make sure their radio collars fitted correctly and were working, and a little quiet time in the translocation room at the research station, temperature-controlled and very quiet, before their final, nocturnal journey into the feral predator-free area a few kilometres up the road. The science team was kept busy doing their final preparations. Sites had been chosen with great care within the fence to provide maximum food and shelter options. This would be a soft release, meaning they would have extra access to food and water; research has shown they do better this way.

As night fell, we were all back on deck. The convoy, three



Caro Letts, patrolling the fence line. All 43 kms.

in all, proceeded to the release sites. We walked carefully through the dark and silent bush carrying our little wallabies in their bags to their assigned release sites. Once there, the first bag was placed on the ground and slowly the wallaby was positioned to face away from us and towards the bush. The bag was rolled down. The moment of truth. Time for them to find their feet and start exploring their new home.

One by one our three were released. Each one took its time. Slowly, tentatively they looked around, getting their bearings before finally hopping off into the shelter of the scrub. In all, just five were released that first night but over the next four nights another 66 were caught and released at Mt Gibson, making

a total of 71, 35 male and 36 female. Over the next 10 years or so it is hoped the population will grow to about 3,000 animals. This should be a self-sustaining population. There are about 5,500 Hare-wallabies on Dorre and Bernier Islands and AWC introduced them to Faure Island in 2004. They also translocated a few to a fenced sanctuary on Dirk Hartog Island.

These Hare-wallabies are special. They are genetically different to all other living kangaroo species. They are the only surviving member of an extinct group of mostly megafauna kangaroos. The last wild animal was sighted in 1906 near the Victoria/South Australia border. Once they would have lived not so far from Upper Beaconsfield.

We felt privileged to be part of this program, even in such a minor way. The skill and dedication of the Mt Gibson crew is

inspiring. To date we've helped release woylies, and helped as the science crew has tracked numbats, checking on their babies. We've helped catch stick-nest rats for their health checks—weight, foot length, signs of disease, parasites. We also monitor the motion cameras which are used to monitor possible predator incursions. We have seen bilbies, woylies and mallee fowl, which indicates that these, too, are doing well. We patrol the fence, all 43 km of it and help with general maintenance. We have developed a particular expertise in pulling down fences that are no longer needed.

As holidays go, it can be hard work. But we love it.

If you are interested in learning more or would like to donate, you can always surf the web and check out the AWC website, www.australianwildlife.org; there's lots more to see.

CARO LETTS

(UPPER BEACONSFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP)



KIDS DON'T REMEMBER THEIR BEST DAY OF TV

1st UPPER BEACONSFIELD SCOUT GROUP

UNPLUG and JOIN THE ADVENTURE

FIND US AT THE IGLOO
 CUBS - 7-10 years - Mon 7-8:30pm
 SCOUTS - 10-14 years - Tue 7-9pm
 VENTURERS - 14-17 years - Mon 7:30-9:30pm
 ROVERS - 18-25 years - Thu from 7:30pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 Group Leader - Andrew Ewenson:
 leader@1stupperbeaconsfield.com - 0418 334 140
 www.1stupperbeaconsfield.com
 www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldscouts

FREE to TRY - Parents Welcome



Gwenelg on Sutherland Road

Crown allotment 7, section D, parish of Gembrook, was first selected by John Pegler, a contractor from Windsor on 30 August 1877. He obtained his crown grant in 1880, having fenced his property. In 1886 Henry Thomas Wardle bought the land, but there is no evidence that he ever lived here, and he sold it in early 1914 to Percy Clifford Anderson, who also bought allotment 8. He proceeded to build a home on allotment 7, in time to have a home to move into for him and his wife Ivy Marion Campbell. Both came from local families. They named their new house *Chillichill* after the town in NSW where Percy had been born. After six years the property was sold to Edward William (Bill) Harris, who renamed the property to *Halwill*, where *he* was born.

When Bill Harris advertised the house for sale in 1943 it was described as a gentlemen's timber residence with eight rooms, including a billiard or ball room, store room, verandahs and extensive outbuildings. At the time 11 of the 40 acres were cleared, the remainder was timber. Harris also had an orchard where Young Street is today.

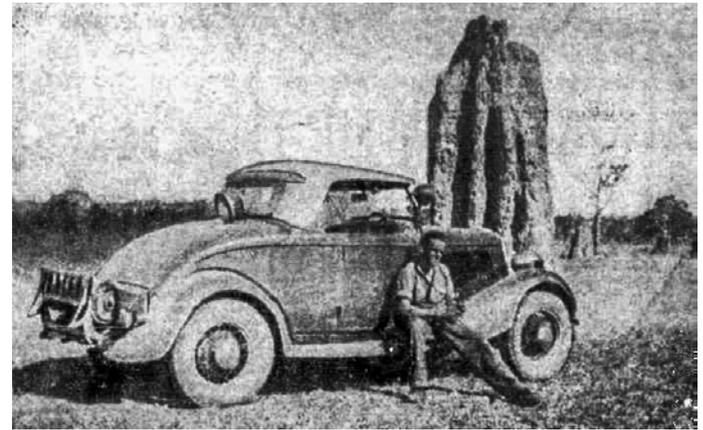
For a few years between 1943 and 1947, John Glencairn Scales and his wife Gwendolyn owned or rented the property and renamed it *Gwenelg*. They ran it as a guest house for a short time. Donald and Mary Sutherland bought it in 1948.

Donald Sutherland was born in London in 1898, but grew up in Barking, Essex, where he trained in optometry. Don had served some time in the British army in WWI, then emigrated to Australia. He found work in Tongala. Mary came out in 1925 to marry him. She came from Shepton Mallet in Somerset and was a chemist. They spent about

five years in Tongala, where Mary became the first pharmacist in the town. At her funeral she was remembered

as a "very attractive young woman who carried herself beautifully. In her white chemist's gown, with her dark hair dressed back into a bun, she was without doubt a great acquisition to Tongala". After some time in England where Don did further studies, they moved to Benalla. Here Mary worked as a chemist and Don as an optometrist.

In 1937 Don Sutherland and a partner participated in the '6000 miles dash'. In their 1934 Ford V-8 Roadster they broke all records between Adelaide and Darwin and Melbourne and Darwin. The pair drove day and night for twelve days, encountering boulders, sand and dust storms through the



A rest for a minute in Central Australia. Don Sutherland's partner J. R. Balmer on the return journey from Darwin.

outback. Shortly afterwards Don had plans to participate in the Monte Carlo Rally. After returning to England war broke out and they were forced to remain there. Don obtained his pilot's licence and was then attached to the training branch of the RAF during hostilities.

They returned to Australia in 1947 and bought *Gwenelg*. Mary kept a garden, horses and bred English Setter dogs, and Don started to serve the local community by offering optical services. He also consulted in Pakenham, and from 1958 to 1962 had an optometrist's practice in Warragul, now known as L & F Eyecare.

In 1934 Don had also been appointed a Magistrate (Justice of the Peace) for the Northern Bailiwick of Victoria, and after his return from England in 1948 in the Central Bailiwick of Victoria. From 1956 he acted as Deputy Coroner at Berwick. At the time he was believed to be the

AN INVITATION

FORMERLY an Optical Practitioner in Benalla, and until recently in England, MR. DONALD J. SUTHERLAND has purchased a property at Upper Beaconsfield.

Mr. Sutherland, who is a Fellow of the Spectacle Makers' Co., and a Freeman of the City of London, will be pleased to see residents of the district requiring optical attention at his home by appointment.

The address is "Gwenelg," Upper Beaconsfield, and the telephone number Beaconsfield Upper 12.

Dandenong Journal, 17 March 1948



Casey Cardinia Heritage Festival "150 Stories from our Past"

Sunday 6 May 2018, 10am-3pm
Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall
10-12 Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield

- Discover 150 stories of our local history.
- Explore the local history of your family or suburb.
- See displays and artefacts from local heritage and historical groups.
- Chat with local historians.
- Music throughout the day.
- Delicious snacks by the Upper Beaconsfield CWA.
- Local history book for purchase.

Free entry.
All welcome.



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longest serving magistrate in Victoria.

As the Berwick Shire Council was holding elections in August 1949, he nominated as a candidate against Claud Harris. Claud won by 106 votes, due to his popularity, and long association with Upper Beaconsfield.

Don was a foundation member of the local RSL, and Mary was very much involved with Legacy and the Red Cross.

In 1970, five years before Don died, they sold allotment 8 to a developer who subdivided it into 18 blocks, between Lenne and Sutherland Roads. One acre at the back of the allotment was retained for municipal purposes. After Don's death Mary sold the remainder of her property and moved to Berwick. This land was sub-divided into some residential blocks and a sizeable portion became municipal land. Today it forms Sutherland Park, which houses the tennis club.

Mary Sutherland carried on bravely on her own at Wilson Street until 1987 when she had to become a patient in the Highland Park Nursing Home at Upper Beaconsfield, where she was well cared for in her last years. She died in 1991.

Gwenelg was lost in the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires.

MARIANNE ROCKE

The bridge

Down in the Dingley Dell, in the shade of the magic faraway tree, by the crystal waters of Ripplebrooke, hidden quietly in the shade of the feathering ferns, shrouded in the mists of time and serenaded by spectacled frogs and jewelled hummingbirds, a stunning discovery was made by a tight-knit group of intrepid explorers fighting their way through the impenetrable undergrowth. An ancient structure made by a long-forgotten civilisation—a bridge of such ingenuity and craftsmanship that modern engineering texts will need to be rewritten.

Well, not all of that is entirely true. The Dingley Dell is in Sutherland Park, closer to Sutherland Road, the trees are in fact messmates, the stream is a small tributary to Stoney Creek, the frogs; pobble bonks and the birds; eastern spinebills, grey fantails, red-browed finches and New Holland honeyeaters. The ancient civilisation was in fact Eric Dodge, who maybe just feels that way. And the craftsmanship, whilst formidable was scarcely noteworthy other than to friends.

This story goes back to a comment at an Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group meeting last year, lamenting the loss of a pretty walking trail that meandered from near the tennis courts, through some beautiful and diverse native vegetation, to the bottom end of Sutherland Road. Created in about 1993, it had long fallen into disrepair, reclaimed by the bush. The decision was made to resurrect the path and shortly afterwards a working party was underway to re-establish it. It was during this first foray that the old bridge was revealed from under the ferny overgrowth. A little the worse for wear, with tired (rotten) decking, but most of the supporting beams and stumps were in good order.

Given there was no other way of traversing the track other than over the bridge, plans were put in place to reconstruct (renovate?) it. Tools, fasteners and timber were assembled over the next couple of months, plans were drawn up, (somewhere in Eric's head, we are told) and the troops coordinated for the big assault. Over two working bees the old rotting timbers were extracted (the hardest part of the job), and the new structural timber attached and the new decking boards installed.

The best part of the job? Working with enthusiastic committed people, in a beautiful setting on a worthwhile community project. Does it get much better than that? Well, there was the little thing of the double chocolate mousse cake, with chocolate icing and Lindt chocolate ball decoration for morning tea. But that was entirely incidental; I'm sure everyone would have turned up anyway. Relatively sure.

We now have—starting about 40 m northeast of the Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club and finishing at the bottom end of Sutherland Road—a beautiful little 200 m track meandering through some of the most beautiful, lush and diverse vegetation, adjacent to a semi-permanent stream. It is open to everyone, all year.

We are holding a competition to name the bridge, so if you have a suggestion, let us know (contact details below) and you will be in the running for a major prize!

Many thanks to Eric who masterminded the operation and the usual suspects who pitched in to help: Sue, Ross, Peter, Fergus, Mike, Camilla, Carl and Caro, who supervised the catering.

The Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group are a team of locals dedicated to preserving our local environment. If you would like to join, or if you would like to be involved in future working bees, or have any conservation issues you think need to be raised, please call Fergus O'Gallagher on 5944 3209 or email fergusogallagher@bigpond.com

The UBCG meets on the second Thursday of every month at 8 pm in the annexe of the community complex. All welcome.

MIKE HALL



from left: Eric Dodge, Fergus O'Gallagher, Mike Hall (seated), Peter Rose, Carl Hirst, Camilla Graves, Ross Jephcott

Landcare legend: Glenn Brooks MacMillan

Glenn Brooks MacMillan lives in Guys Hill with his family. He is an avid Richmond supporter; president of Cardinia Catchment Landcare (CCLG); and Landcare Facilitator for the Southern Ranges Environmental Alliance (SREA). Glenn is instrumental in helping community groups achieve great conservation outcomes.

What inspired you to become involved in conservation/Landcare?

My wife, Kelly, introduced me to conservation issues in my early 20s. My parents enjoyed taking me to places that today I am passionate about saving, but back then it was more about enjoying the environment rather than helping it. My main inspiration initially was to protect the environment from being destroyed by people. I was also very impressed with what John Walmsley was doing with sanctuaries throughout Australia. Conservation soon turned into enhancing and improving, and now returns a profit both financially as well as socially. Money really does grow on trees.

When did you start and in what way?

We started in the late nineties purchasing properties and protecting them under conservation covenants. We didn't know a lot about how to manage the properties but we taught ourselves by going to events, liaising with experts and undertaking training through conservation and land management programs. We soon built a network of like-minded people. We began to form new groups, and join old ones, to learn more and leverage knowledge to deliver results. My profession in engineering soon moved into environmental projects, which eventually enabled me to operate my own conservation company.

You are an excellent mentor. Did you have one? How did they encourage you?

My parents always encouraged me to do what inspired me, working hard to keep the bills paid while I pursued my passions. My sporting activities also exposed me to some very dedicated and capable people who have achieved so much in their lives. They taught me to persevere with my passion and before I knew it I was successful in my own career. Working for a large company I was able to share my experiences and knowledge, helping others to reach their goals. Helping people achieve things in conservation



is a very important part of my day. The skills you get from working in conservation can be used in everyday life no matter what you decide to do.

What achievements are you most proud of?

My greatest achievement is seeing my hard work succeeding. When you spend so much time weeding or planting trees you sometimes think is this going to work or is it a waste of time? Conservation takes time and sometimes when you come back to a site 10 or 20 years later you can see your hard work has paid off. However, this is not always the case, so you need to try different things. And when people step in and ruin all your good work – that takes another set of skills! But undoubtedly my best achievement has been in turning my career around. I am now able to provide for my family financially, I have flexible working arrangements and work in a field I am so passionate about. My career is a major influence in me getting up in the mornings. Seeing Richmond win a grand final was hard to beat!

Hopefully you are to remain with Landcare into the foreseeable future?

It has only been in the last five years that I have come across the term Landcare. For most of my life it has been about conservation. I can't see anything changing into the future as I slowly bringing the two together, Landcare and conservation. It will take time, and fortunately I have lots of time, so the future is looking good.

If you would like to be involved in local conservation projects you can contact info@cclg.net.au

NAOMI POWER

We are now open

After a break from retail sales over summer Green Circle is now open again on Fridays 9 am–4 pm.

Now autumn is here with cooler weather and some more



rain, it is time to replant your gardens and re-vegetate your properties. Most of our stock is indigenous to the Upper Beaconsfield area and suited to local conditions.

When planted in autumn these plants will establish quickly and put on good growth before next year. Very economical at only \$2 per tube.



Volunteers: We welcome volunteers.

Call in and see us in Halford Street, Upper Beaconsfield.

Enquiries: 0407 304 061

Facebook: Green Circle Plant Nursery

Web: <https://greencircleplantnursery.net.au>

SUE SIMMONS

Fire Brigade - Captain's log



We hope that 2018 has started well for you. Santa loved his visit to the local Carols by Candlelight and was delighted to see so many boys and girls. The town really does come out and shine on Christmas Eve each year and we are always grateful to be a part of such an amazing community.



For us, it has been a good, relaxing and quiet fire season thus far, but remember, this fire season is not yet over; there are still a number of hot days and weeks to come. We would like to remind residents that just because we had a good amount of rain and some cooler weather in December, it doesn't mean that we are out of the fire danger period.

The local patch has been quiet but the brigade has been

helping out around the area and preparing for what might lie ahead.

Our brigade responded to a large fire in Carrum Downs on 6 January. This incident occurred in the afternoon on a hot day and over 300 firefighters were required to fight the blaze. Our brigade was asked to send two of our appliances—our Big Fill (as seen on the front page of the Herald Sun) and our little Slip On. We also had one of our experienced members, Robbie Irving (left), attend as a Strike Team leader.

This was a great reminder how quickly fire can spread, even in a built up area. We ask that you keep an eye out for suspicious activities and report if you see anybody attempting to light fires or throwing cigarette butts out of cars.

We would also like to reiterate a couple of points:

- Be mindful of emergency services especially when the lights and/or sirens are on. When responding to an incident we have a lot to think about, especially if it is not in our area. Please, when you see the lights and hear the sirens behind you, pull over when safe and stay out of the way until the appliance passes. Before rejoining traffic please check there are no other appliances following!
- Just because we have a few cold days or had a bit of rain, this does not mean that you are able to burn off. We are still in the fire danger period, i.e. there is a potential for the fire to smoulder and reignite later when it could be hotter and windier.

Remember we are always looking for new fresh enthusiastic firefighters and auxiliary members. If you feel like you have what it takes, want to do things that not many others get the chance to do and want to do something for the community with a great bunch of people, please call Ian Pinney on 0409 815 567 or come and join us for training which is held every Wednesday 7.30 pm and Sunday 9.30 am.

**SCOTT HUIJBREGEN, CAPTAIN
UPPER BEACONSFIELD FIRE BRIGADE**



Village Festival celebrates our community

Mild weather and a great turn out by residents and visitors, stallholders, displays by community groups and all those participating ensured that the Village Festival on Sunday 18 February was the best ever according to organisers. "The stalls had beautiful home wares, delicious food and fun rides. The committee work tirelessly throughout the year to make it a great day for all. Thank you to our sponsors who support us. A special mention also goes to the vintage cars and truck owners, the volunteers who help on the day and the understanding residents of Halford Street. Finally, thank you to our community; you are why we do it. We hope you enjoyed as much as we did. Upper Beac you are a wonderful place to live!"



Thank you sponsors and donors

Cardinia Shire Council, Bendigo Bank, Alex Scott and Staff, Urban Art Landscapes, Worthy Events, Star News Group, Upper Beaconsfield Association, Runner's World, Bakers Delight, Shanikas, Jason's Restaurant, Coach House Dairy, UBE Bar and Eatery, Hope Farm Bakery, Summer Snow Juice, RL Smith Saddler, Upper Beac General Store, Beveridge Williams, Favero Gardens, Gazzola Farms, Carlei Green Vineyards, The Langham Melbourne, 9Mile Orchard, Pine Grove Hotel, Your Accounting Team, Jims Antennas and Paul Cootes. More Festival photos see <https://www.facebook.com/UBvillageFestival>



Well done BUPSI!

A big shout out to the grade 5 and 6 students who came up to the Community Complex on Friday prior to the Festival with their teachers and parents to help clean up.

Tower Challenge

The Festival kicked off early in the morning and the Tower Challenge and the Tough Tower Run (2 laps) was hotly contested by over 180 runners of all ages and abilities. The full list of results and times of all competitors can be viewed online at *My Race Result*: <http://my.raceresult.com/86663/?lang=en>

Citizen of the Year

Later in the morning, popular long time resident Tony Knight was awarded Upper Beaconsfield's 2017 Citizen of the Year.

Bumper Art Exhibition

A wonderful array of artworks was presented to advantage with excellent lighting in the heritage hall. There were 180 entries in the art show and over 500 people voted. Results:

Adults 1st *Emu* by Susan Marais, 2nd *RUOK?* by Leanne Hutchinson, 3rd *Green Sea Turtle* by Dianne Chikhaoui
Children 1st *Callista* by Scarlett Daly, 2nd *Man's best friend* by Luke Greenshield, 3rd *Shelly the dolphin* by Mikalya Naismith



Armed with rakes, buckets and brooms they made short work of the fallen leaves, twigs and branches in the area around the building. As it was the 35th anniversary of Ash Wednesday bushfires, they also took the opportunity to view the memorial and signboards at the nearby park.

HELEN SMITH

Wanted—Musical coordinator

For the next Carols to go ahead in 2018, we are now looking for someone new to take over the role of coordinator of the music program of the Carols. The Carols operate with a modest budget organised by the UBA. We can provide contacts of participants and the sound crew. We would like to hear of any solutions, suggestions or ideas. We need to appoint a coordinator earlier in the year—not leave it to the last minute, so that enough time is available for planning the event.

For more information contact Helen Smith UBA secretary on 5944 3219 or email helen.r.smith@inet.net.au

Happy 90th birthday Maria Montagnese

Maria Montagnese, or Nonna as she is fondly known by everyone, was born in a little town in southern Italy called Ariolla in February 1928. She was married to Nicola (Nic) in 1947. With two young daughters and a third child on the way, Nic migrated to Australia in 1953 to make a new life for his wife and family. But it wasn't until 1959, after six years of raising her young family on her own, that Maria could make the long journey to Australia to be reunited with her husband.

On arrival they all lived together with their extended family in Kensington, Victoria, before making their own home in Upper Beaconsfield.

Their new home consisted of a small weatherboard house on a few acres in the middle of the bush. It was built in approximately 1885, with three bedrooms, two with their own fire place, a small lounge room also with an open fire, kitchen fully equipped with wood-fired stove, and a bathroom. The toilet and laundry were both outside (which made for a very chilly visit during the cold winter nights).

The property was also an egg farm which housed two thousand chickens. Every day, the family would get together, collect and wash the eggs and get them ready for when the Victorian Egg Board came to pick them up. It was hard work but Maria never complained. She loved her new life and felt it was a wonderful place to bring up her family.

A year after moving to Upper Beaconsfield, they welcomed the arrival of their fourth child, a baby girl.

Maria and her family were the only Italians living here at the time and it soon became known that Maria was an excellent cook of Italian food. The children's friends would often visit after school and on weekends to try this delicious new food. Fresh home made bread, pizza and pasta were always in supply for any visitors, and to this day, if you visit Maria, you always leave her house with a full tummy and a parcel of fresh home made food.

Maria has always been self-sufficient, making her own soap, growing her own fruit and veggies (enough for the whole extended family), and making jams, salami and other preserved meats. She loves tending to her garden which she does everyday and takes great pride in watching it grow.

Maria worked for a while at Barkers' orchard in Beaconsfield, before getting a job at Nestlé in Pakenham. She was employed there for about 20 years, a well respected and hard worker. She loved her work, but had to retire early to

look after her husband Nic who had fallen ill.

Although living in such a peaceful and natural environment is beautiful, it did not come without its devastating times as well. In February 1983 Maria and Nic came face to face with the terror that were the Ash Wednesday bushfires. After being evacuated to the local tennis courts (then behind the Hall) with some of the community, they were trapped till the fire front had passed. From there Maria and Nic were taken to stay with family in Hallam where it was safe. They later learned that members of the local community, including Maria's son and son-in-law, used water from their backyard pool to try and save their home and the homes around them as the fire front raged towards their property.



As soon it was safe, they returned, having no idea what they would find. At the time, they were one of the lucky families. They still had their lives and their house was intact. The fire had come right to their front fence; fortunately a change in the weather saved their property.

Sadly though, due to unforeseen circumstances, their beautiful old home burnt down a couple of years later anyway. Maria and Nic were too proud to stay with anyone as they did not want to be a burden. The garage that was separate from the old house was converted to a makeshift home where they lived until their new house was built, while continuing to have the growing family over for Sunday dinner every week.

Today Maria still enjoys living in Upper Beaconsfield in the home

that was rebuilt by her son, using some of the materials from their original homestead. In 2017 she became a great great grandmother, making her the oldest of five generations in her family, and this year she is celebrating her 90th birthday. To this day, her happiest times are when the family she is so proud of comes together. She loves Christmas and other times of festivity when all 55 members gather around her to celebrate.

She still cooks every day on her wood fired stove and every Sunday she has the majority of the family over for dinner. She still tends to her garden daily, and supplies fresh fruit and vegetables to her friends and now very large family. She is the proud mother of her four children, Nonna to her 12 grandchildren, Nonna Nonna to her 25 great grandchildren and Nonna Nonna Nonna to her great great grandchild.

Happy 90th birthday Nonna.

With all our love.

ANDREA MACINTOSH

Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre



Call to action!

The Community Centre has been an important part of this community since its creation just after the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983. The Community Centre has grown over the years, now employing a number of people, and managing substantial finances. Through all of this, it has depended upon local people to form a voluntary committee of management each year.

From time to time, we have seen big turnouts at our annual general meetings, when the local community has shown that it really cares about what happens at the Community Centre. But most of the time, our community just assumes that someone else will take care of things! There's a few of us on the committee who have been doing this for many years. We need a break!

I will be stepping down as president at this AGM, and while several members of the committee are prepared to continue on, we need some new members to step up and take a turn at guiding this organisation. I think most people would agree that they want to have a Community Centre, but we really can't take its existence for granted!

All positions on the committee will become vacant at the AGM. Without a committee, the Community Centre cannot exist and it will not continue to exist if more people do not get involved. Don't assume that someone else out there will always step up year after year to do this.

Even if you are not able to become a member of the committee, if you want to have a say in deciding who will lead the Community Centre for the next year and the direction that they want to lead it, please come along to the meeting, vote, and have your say. If you're not already a member, become a member now – it's only \$10 for the year, which gives you the right to vote at the AGM and to participate in all our courses and activities through the year.

While we welcome nominations from people who have skills in areas such as business, marketing, children's services or community services, regardless of what your

skills are or what your background is, you can represent the needs and wishes of your community and contribute to an organisation that offers something for all of us. It's a commitment for one year only, with meetings once a month in the evening.

If you have any interest in joining the committee, or if you would like to nominate someone else as a committee member, please contact the office on 5944 3484 to obtain a nomination form.

The Community Centre's AGM will be held on Monday, 19 March 2018 at 7.30 pm at the Community Complex.

SALLY RANDALL

UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE
10-12 Salisbury Road Upper Beaconsfield VIC 3808

Annual General Meeting

Do you love our local community facilities and want to make a difference? Become a volunteer committee member today!

The Community Centre's Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Monday 19th March 2018 in the Community meeting room, 10-12 Salisbury Rd Upper Beaconsfield.

All positions on the committee of management will become vacant - President, vice president, treasurer, secretary & general committee members. We are seeking new dynamic volunteers for our committee for the 2018/2019 year. Ideally you will have skills sets to complement our industry and be actively involved with the needs of our Centre and local community.

Call 5944 3484 for job descriptions and additional information. Everyone welcome!

The Committee meets every 3rd Monday of the month at 7.30 pm.

MONDAY MARCH 19 | 7.30 PM

Why not try our **NEW** Introductory Sign Language workshop starting in term 2? Conducted by VicDeaf these classes are a perfect introduction to basic Auslan for everyday one on one conversation. Learn the alphabet, numbers, greetings, time, colours, money, places, sport... and heaps more! A great asset to have to communicate socially or in a professional workplace...medical staff, police, emergency & welfare workers.

BEGINNERS AUSLAN

Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre | 10-12 Salisbury Road
Upper Beaconsfield VIC 3808 | T. (03) 5944 3484
E. bookings@ubcc.org.au

Monday Nights
Starts 30th April
till 4th June 2018
6 Weeks 6pm - 8pm
Full Fee \$248
Conc \$233
Under 16yo \$173

Toy Library closed 

We are sorry that we will be closed until term 4 2018. For more information contact the library.

Email: upperbeac.toylibrary@yahoo.com.au or phone the Community Centre 5944 3484 or Marie 0428 186 688.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause

MARIE ROGERS

ELC – Catering for all your needs

Our Early Learning Centre is open and accepting new enrolments. We are situated in a beautiful rural setting and our team of experienced educators offer quality care for up to 26 children aged from 6 weeks to 5 years. We are only minutes away from Berwick, Officer, Pakenham, Beaconsfield, Emerald and Harkaway. If you are working or just need some “me” time, come and take a tour.

With the warm weather the children are currently enjoying the outdoor playground and garden, picking strawberries and waiting for our tomatoes to ripen. One of the ELC parents, who specialises in horticulture, has been showing the children how to grow and look after plants. She is donating a variety of vegetables and fruit seedlings – so watch out for our up-and-rising Little Green Thumbs in the near future. We offer an indoor/outdoor program and encourage children

to make independent decisions while increasing their self-help skills, based on their age and individual capabilities. Our educators lead by example, nurture through play, and develop a sense of belonging while building on social experiences. Our program develops learning interests, whilst taking into account culture, strengths, abilities and links to the Early Learning Years Framework (ELYF) 20. Both rooms and our outdoor playground are accessible to all age groups,

so siblings will be together, not separated as can happen at other centres.

As we are a community ELC, our fees are low to ensure we can help as many families as possible, and we offer half and full day sessions. Families who are eligible through Centrelink can have their fees reduced with Childcare Rebate (CCR). Further reductions are available with Child Care Benefit (CCB).

NATASHA JONES



Times:
Mornings \$50
 7.30 am–12.30 pm
Afternoons \$50
 12.30 pm–5.30 pm
All day \$90
 7.30 am–5.30 pm
Vacancies in both rooms
 0-5 years
Contact 5944 3484



Kindergarten back in full swing

Kinder is back in full swing and we love having full numbers across our three and four-year-old programs! We have embraced the warm weather, and the children are enthusiastically serving pretend ice-cream from the “ice-cream” shop at three-year-old kinder, and exploring sea animals and other ocean objects in the four-year-old program.

At the beginning of February, we held our welcome BBQ and AGM. It was lovely to meet many new families this year as well as to welcome back some familiar faces with their second, third or fourth children attending our kinders.

We also appointed our 2018 committee and said a fond

farewell to those parents who volunteered their time throughout 2017 (and some in prior years also). We would like to sincerely thank all members of our community who continue to support our kindergartens. Whether it’s buying a raffle ticket for a meat platter at the Pine Grove Hotel, attending our annual auction nights or donating time or goods, your support is so appreciated. We are grateful to be part of a community that continues to help make our kindergartens great.

We look forward to all that 2018 is sure to bring with such a wonderful group of little people to explore with.

LEAH TOMEK

An interview with Jack Le Brocq

25 year old Jack Le Brocq reflects on his childhood in Upper Beaconsfield and talks about what it's like to be a professional racing car driver.

** Did living in Upper Beac make it difficult for you when you first started competing in motor sports?*

No not at all. Back in the Go-Kart days, Upper Beac was quite centrally located to the tracks around Victoria. Motorsport in general is very much an Australian and worldwide sport so it doesn't matter too much where you come from. Most of the time we are catching a plane to the next event.

** What was it like for you growing up here?*

I loved growing up in Upper Beac and have terrific childhood memories of always being out and about on my bike, having a hit of tennis up at the courts, playing golf at Beaconhills, competing in HPV at BUPS and keeping active. I have some really close friends from Upper Beac who I met at primary school and we catch up regularly. I was very lucky to have grown up in Upper Beac.

** Did you go to school locally and were you involved in any local sports clubs?*

I went to the local 3 & 4 year old Kinders, then the Beaconsfield Upper Primary School and finished off my schooling at Berwick College which were all great. I played tennis at the UB Tennis Club for years, played golf at Beaconhills and also played basketball in a few teams over the years.

** At only 25 years of age, you already have quite a long history of motor sport racing behind you. How did you get started?*

It all started for me through my parents. Dad was racing karts as I was growing up and me being a boy I was hanging onto the fence watching him from a very young age. (As I was told anyway) I had my first go-kart at 7 years of age and it just went from there. It was very much a family thing as we would travel around the state and country racing on weekends. Some great memories.

** How old were you when you started racing cars and do you remember how you felt competing in your first race?*

I had my first car race when I was 16, a few weeks after my birthday. I was actually practicing in our Formula Vee at the age of 14. The first race was very exciting, I learnt a great deal from the Vee racing and had a great time. I loved every moment.

** In 2012 you were selected as one of only 18 drivers world wide to join the FIA Young Driver Excellence Academy in Austria and you won the Top Fitness Assessment award chosen from that year's inductees. That would have been very exciting and a great*



Jack behind the wheel of the Tekno Autosports super car

experience for you. It must seem like a long time ago now, but do you remember much about your time in Austria?

It was a great time being involved in such a cool program. We learnt racing techniques from Alex Wurz who is an ex F1 driver, health and fitness, media and made some important contacts. It gave me a good chance to experience a few different countries as well throughout Europe and I met so many cool racers along the way who I keep in contact with. Fitness has always been a very important part of my race routine and to be recognised as being the fittest amongst those guys was pretty special. At the time I was also a member of the VIS for two years and attended the AIS for training camps which has put my fitness in good stead for the future.

** Have you raced overseas apart from when you were at the academy in Austria?*

I have competed in the UK back in 2011. I raced at the Silverstone F1 circuit and also in the Formula Ford Festival at Brands Hatch as well, which was basically the world championships for the category at the time. It was a great experience where I won the pole position and also the first race. We unfortunately had a gearbox problem in race two when we were leading which ruined our weekend. Great experience and I learnt so much from it. It's a different world with how they do racing in Europe!

** Have you raced many different types of cars?*

I have raced many different kinds of cars in open wheelers, Formula Vee, Formula Fords and Formula 3, some with no wings and added downforce all the way to cars that look like a smaller version of a Formula 1 car. I have also raced many sedans and sports cars from V8 utes to V8 supercars and also a Mercedes SLS GT3 car which was an immense amount of fun!

** Do you have a favourite race track?*

Bathurst and Phillip Island are my favourite tracks. Bathurst for the atmosphere and the race that it is and Phillip Island for how fast the circuit is! Both are heaps of fun.

* Which racing car drivers, if any, have influenced your driving and do you have one in particular that you admire?

There are a couple of drivers who I have always followed, but here in Supercars I have always looked up to Craig Lowndes. The way he goes about his job is amazing and he is always smiling and giving his time to the fans. Funnily enough I will be sharing a garage with him in 2018 which is pretty exciting!

* There must be a huge number of people working behind the scenes in motor racing. This year you are driving for the Tekno Autosports Team. How does the team work and what's involved getting you and your car ready for a race?

The amount of work that goes into getting these cars ready is crazy! It is a very busy schedule with 16 race weekends plus all the testing so everyone in the team is kept very busy. We have 10 full time staff who are dedicated to preparing and running the car and getting it to every event. With the team only being a one car operation we are quite small compared to others with four cars who have between 50-60 staff.

The car is stripped back after most events and everything is



Jack Le Brocq with his parents Nikki and Geoff

monitored with how many klms and hours that it does. It is all swapped out and serviced regularly, as reliability and the efficiency of every piece on the car is very important as the time on track is so close and tight.

The team also has 2 full time engineers who work together on making the car go faster and also easier for me to drive.

* It must be very exciting racing cars professionally. Do you ever feel worried about being unsafe while you are racing or is there too much else to think about at the time?

The cars we drive are very safe. There have been some injuries over the past years but that's all part of it just like any sport. Its not something you can think about though as you can't afford to never give it 100% on track.

* Do you have any other interests apart from your racing?

I do quite a bit of fitness work in the gym, I also enjoy cycling and I try to get out on the golf course as often as I can so that definitely keeps my mind off the race car at times. I've recently moved to the Gold Coast to be near the team so I'm planning on taking advantage of the warmer climate and learn how to paddleboard with the bull sharks!

The 2018 Supercar Championships kick off with the Adelaide 500 on 1-4 March. We wish Jack good luck for this race and for his future in motor sport racing. Upper Beac will be watching with special interest!

JULIE BORN

This is the 4th in a series of interviews where young people who have grown up in Upper Beaconsfield have answered questions about their childhood and what they are doing now. We are keen to hear from any one who would like to be featured in future publications of the Village Bell. Please contact the editorial team at editor.villagebell@gmail.com



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1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group

1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group is constantly evolving and offering fun, friendship and enriching programs for our local youth aged seven to 25.

A new year brings new and exciting plans for our group. We will be busy in first term with all sections of our group active at the Village Festival. Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers will participate in a group camp which will involve over 80 youth and 20 leaders right here at the Recreation Reserve. Later, they will participate in Clean Up Australia Day helping to look after our beautiful community.

We have established a new web site and Facebook page, which we would love members of our local area to follow. Please check us out at www.1stupperbeaconsfield.com and www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldscouts/

Joeys

1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group is looking to start a Joeys group (ages five to seven) in 2018 and is requesting expressions of interest for both Joeys and leaders. Joeys is all about having fun, making friends and learning about scouting.

Please contact Justin Davey (JD) on 0418 539 610 or email chairman@1stupperbeaconsfield.com for more information or to express your interest.

Cubs

In 2017 the Cubs saw out the year at a District Billy Cart Camp. Working together as teams really well, they won the slalom and cross country events. The camp ended with a huge water slide to cool off before tumbling into the mud at the bottom. They had a blast trying to be fastest down the slide.

The Cubs also had a fantastic day at the Moorabbin Airport. They were not only allowed in the pilot's seat, but also got to operate the control levers. They were all very excited when they were upgraded from a single engine plane to a \$4 million luxury model.

Cubs have started back this year and are looking forward to all the exciting activities planned.

Scouts

Late in term four, our Scout Troop attended the Gilweroo activity camp with 2,000 other Scouts from all over Victoria. This is always a fun filled

weekend away and a chance for the Scouts to participate in many adventurous activities: the challenge valley obstacle course, bubble soccer, rock climbing and a massive mud slide to name a few.



In early January, seven of our Scouts were able to attend a week long camp called Bayjam at Bay Park in Mt Martha. Along with 1,200 other Scouts they experienced activities such as water sports at the beach, a trip to Melbourne to visit the MCG and Artvo, and they rode the Arthur's Seat Eagle. This camp was a prelude to the upcoming Australian Jamboree which will be held in South Australia in January 2019.

First term's plan is already action packed. There will be team building exercises, geocaching, the Top Gear Scout camp with patrol challenges involving BMX and billy kart races, hot laps in a motorsport car, and those over 12 can obtain their CAMS license and drive under instruction.

Venturers

1st Upper Beaconsfield Venturers welcome participants aged between 14 and 17 years old. This age group can be a tough one for teenagers and Venturers provides a great opportunity to develop mateship, leadership, find fun things to do in a supportive environment.

What do we get up to? A lot of fun! Venturers enjoy interstate, national and even international travel experiences. We take time out to work on mental and physical well-being. You can learn to fly, abseil down cliffs

or climb mountains. Camping steps up to a whole new level of adventure, with snow challenges, rafting, horse riding and scuba diving. It's all about healthy risk-taking, when so many young friends are making unhealthy choices. We welcome

All sections of our Scout Group meet at the Igloo, Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve.

Cubs (7-10 years)
Monday 7.00-8.30 pm

Scouts (10-14 years)
Tuesday 7.00-9.00 pm

Venturers (14-17 years)
Monday 7.30-9.30 pm

Rovers (18-25 years)
Thursday from 7.30 pm



new members and would love to meet you at Venturers!

Rovers

2018 is an exciting year for Rover Scouts as we are turning 100! To honour our centenary, Rover Scouts in Australia, and around the world, are throwing a year long celebration.

In 1918, Scouting in Australia was just a decade old. Australia's young men were returning from the Great War and young women were not yet included in the Scouting movement. In 2018, Rover Scouts come together as young people of different ethnicities, cultures and creeds, with a range of interests, skills, and abilities to make the Rover section the thriving and diverse community that it is today. Rovers for Rovers run the Rover section in Australia.

Here in Upper Beaconsfield our Split Rock Rover Crew welcomes not only Upper Beaconsfield locals, but also those from surrounding suburbs as we are one of the only local Rover Crews here in our area. Our participants are aged between 18 and 25. If you would like to know more, get in



touch with us.

If you would like to try Scouting, please contact our Group Leader, Andrew Ewenson on 0418 334 140 or leader@1stupperbeaconsfield.com.

DEBBIE PINNEY
UPPER BEACONSFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Auskick is back for 2018 right here in Upper Beaconsfield!

Last year we had 45 children participate, boys and girls from our local area, aged five through to ten years old. We're hoping to break that number this year and will have our annual Open Day on Saturday, 21 April 2018. All are welcome to come along, starting at 10 am. Dress in your footy gear, have a kick, a handball and some fun with our Auskick coaches. We'll have an obstacle course and various skills stations.

Last year we were recognised as being one of the leading Auskick centres in Victoria, receiving the AFL South East 2017 Coach of the Year award. As a finalist, we were also one of the top four centres in all of Victoria. This was great recognition for our program, our Auskick centre here in Upper Beaconsfield and all of our volunteer coaches and co-ordinators. We are always looking for new coaches, and if you are interested we encourage you to get in touch with us. Training is provided, and it's a lot of fun spending time with your children in a group environment.

Auskick sessions run from 10 am through to 11.30 am Saturdays at the Recreation Reserve behind the primary school. We hope you will come along to our open day, have a

kick and buy a sausage to support our local group. Auskick will resume straight after the open day, starting Saturday, 28 April 2018 for our first session.

You can connect with us online at www.facebook.com/ubauskick, register to join at <http://www.aflauskick.com.au/>, or call JD 0418 539 610 or Luke 0430 400 550.

JD AND LUKE (HEAD COACHES)
STEPHANIE AND SANDRA (CO-ORDINATORS)



Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club

2017 was a very busy and fun year for Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club. Many events were held and quite a few riders competed throughout the year at various competitions, including our successful Cup Day show jumping competition. We have also been busy fixing up our cross-country course and everyone is very excited to be using this at our next rally.



On 17 December, our annual Xmas Gymkhana was held and despite the extremely hot day, all the riders, parents, and judges did an amazing job in making sure the event ran smoothly and that there was plenty of food, water and shade so we could get out of the sun. There were multiple events which included a show ring, a fun ring and the handy mount course. Some of the events counted towards points and the top 5 riders with the highest points competed for the Ice King award with the winner representing our club at the Berwick Show in the Evan Henry event. Congratulations to Sarah Laukart for winning and we wish her the best of luck at the show. The last event was the fancy dress and everyone did a great job with their costumes and ideas which made it a very tricky decision for the judges, but it was a great way to finish the day.

TAHLIA RICKETTS



Ladies woodworking at Men's Shed

At the AGM in November, President Eric Bumpstead retired and Ron Kerpen was elected as his replacement. The shed guys would like to thank Eric for his great efforts through his term. We also thank the rest of the committee for their dedication.

Since last year, our workshop facilities have improved with the addition of both metal and wood working equipment. The introduction of a pottery wheel and kiln has been a success. Unfortunately some of our creations don't look professional, but with the help of Ian McLean our pottery master, we are improving.

To pay for this new equipment, we've been fundraising by selling gourmet sausages at the Berwick Cheese Factory for the last two years. We will be continuing to do so at Berwick Coles.

The Shed has also split firewood for a local resident who required assistance, plus we have completed the serving trays for D'Angelos Winery and bird boxes for the local Green Circle Nursery.

We also created small toolboxes for young people to put together at the Village Festival.

The shed guys were also involved with setting up for the Carols on Christmas Eve, plus selling their gourmet sausages to a hungry crowd on the night.

The shed resumed meetings during January and a highlight was a talk on how to use eBay by Ron Van Vliet. We aim to have a series of talks through the year about using various useful computer apps. Another interesting meeting was

when Emerald Mens shed visited us. They were treated to a lunch, cooked by Noel Ling, one of our Master Chefs.

Yes we know it's a Men's Shed, but as of the middle of February, the Community Centre is using the facilities to conduct a ladies woodwork class. The aim is to teach them how to use basic hand and power tools.

Nearly forgot to mention, we have actually made something useful, namely a trailer. We bought a basic trailer and modified it to suit our needs. One of its functions is as our portable barbecue.

RON KERPEN



Community Centre

Join a course in 2018

If you would like a program call us on 5944 3484 or send an email to bookings@ubcc.org.au with your details and we'll be sure to get one out to you.

This term we started the year with a new trainer for Circuit and Strength and a new Pilates course which began on the 15th February. The free walking group is on every Thursday morning at 9:30. We've also teamed up with Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House to share several computer courses including Building your own Website and MYOB. The Ladies Wood Working workshop is on Tuesday mornings 10am at Men's Shed. All our favourite courses are back – craft, meditation, fitness, drama – it's never too late to join!

Accredited courses

We offer accredited courses here at the Centre including Certificate IV in Bookkeeping, Certificate IV Accounting, Certificate IV in Leadership and Management, and Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. To find out more visit our website or call the office on 5944 3484.

The Poppy People



Our poppy group is growing and we have now made over 600 poppies. The team is well on the way to making thousands of them by Remembrance Day in November. New makers are most welcome. The next meetings will be held at the Centre at 11am on March 1st, April 5th, June 7th & July 5th. For more information call Vicki on 0409 794 527.

Website

Be sure to have a look at our website – www.ubcc.org.au. All our course details along with local community contacts and information can be found here along with information on our Early Learning Centre.

Facebook

The best way to keep up-to-date with all our news is to like us on Facebook. New courses, changes or offers will be posted on our page daily.

Program distribution

We're urgently looking for local community groups interested in fundraising or volunteers to assist in delivering our Centre program each term. We have a range of designated areas so you can select whatever suits you. Find out more by calling 5944 3484.

Tutors wanted

Do you have a talent or experience that you can share with others? We'd love to hear from you! Call Darlene on 5944 3484 and come in for a chat.

Darlene Stillwell, Program Coordinator



What's on at St John's

In December we celebrated Christmas with the primary school. This year the weather was perfect for their walk to and from the church. It was such a treat to see all the young people, teachers and some of the families.

We looked at the concept of building; when we build a structure, we need bricks and mortar. When we build our lives, the bricks are not made of clay, but of qualities. Using good qualities, we can build our lives in the best possible way. A Christian belief is that all good and positive qualities are of God, and he wants us to ask him for more and more building blocks of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self control.

The end of December saw the retirement of our long-term (8 years!) interim Vicar Robin Adkins. His final service and farewell party were well attended and included some visitors from his previous parishes. It is always so good to be able to celebrate and thank people!

While the Church and Bishop await a new permanent minister, our locum ministers Alan and Keith are keeping our weekly services going, and are also available if needed for baptisms, weddings, funerals or spiritual counselling.

Over February, one of our members ran a short series of Saturday afternoon Bible studies, helping us to exercise our 'spiritual muscles' in the lead-up to Easter.

The St John's Op Shop is open Thursdays 9-3:00 and Fridays 9-1:00. Thank you to everyone who comes in to browse, buy and chat. Thanks also to those who drop donations in to our little shed. Do remember, donations need to be clean and in good condition. The variety of things that arrive is amazing, making it a real little "department store"!

Our regular Sunday church service is at 9.30 am.

Rosz Smith

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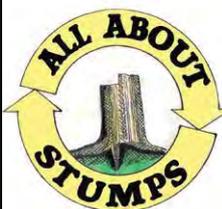
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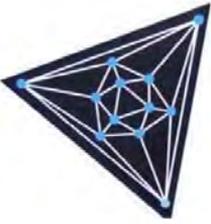
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When you shop at a major chain, you may find products a few cents cheaper, but your money is probably heading off to line the coffers of an International conglomerate.

By all means, spend wisely. Every dollar counts. By spending money in the local area, you are doing your bit to support our local businesses and ensure we keep the unique mix of shops and services that help make our community such a great place to live.

I attended the 2018 Berwick Show in February and handed out my shop local bags, which are always handy when shopping close to home.

Brad Battin
 Member for Gembrook

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