

Beaconsfield Banner

Vol. 13 No. 1. Bimonthly Publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association Inc. Feb2001/March 2001

ARTICLES FOR THE BANNER TO GO TO GLORRAINE HARDY 9796 1361, MARGARET BOON 9707 5053 OR BOX IN POST OFFICE
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www.beaconsfield.org.au

EXELOO [excellent loo]



(L to R), Cr. Keith Ewenson, Cr. Graeme Legge and Cr. Ted Owen conducting the official opening.



(L to R), Ted Horton presenting his poem to Mayor Graeme Legge.

The Beaconsfield Progress Association together with Cardinia Shire's Mayor, Cr. Graeme Legge, our local representatives Cr. Keith Ewenson and Cr. Ted Owen and the Honourable Gordon Rich-Phillips MP met with local residents to celebrate the official ribbon cutting [toilet roll in this case] ceremony on Saturday the 3rd of February 2001. Historically a date to remember in Beaconsfield's history. The start of the new millennium and the start of things to come for Beaconsfield.

An excellent ceremony, although on a very hot day, was experienced by those present who were treated to a refreshingly funny poem by one of our local poets, Ted Horton, and small chocolate meringues. For information about how to use

the exeloo, see index over page for article titled "How to Use Exeloo".

The Association would like to sincerely thank all those who participated on the day and to all those members of the committee past and present who tirelessly campaigned for thirty years to achieve this much needed facility. The name "COMFORT STATION" was chosen to try and keep a little bit of a 'village/rural' feel to our town in the light of the explosive growth occurring all around us.

Persistence does work as the Progress Association has found over the years and they will continue to liaise with the Council and our local Councillors to achieve the best for our long forgotten but now rapidly growing township.

BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Tuesday 20th March 2001
7.30pm

Community Centre
Beaconsfield Avenue
Beaconsfield [next to Scout Hall]

The Association achieves its best results if you the community tell us of your concerns.

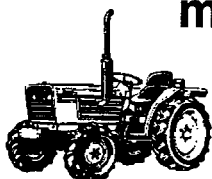
Projects we are working on are:

- Wood Street traffic issues
- traffic lights
- sealing of Kenilworth Avenue
- developers / new developments
- community complex
- strategy plan
- school traffic
- freeway access
- graffiti

What are your concerns?

Light supper shared after meeting
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NEWS FROM THE BEACONSFIELD FIRE BRIGADE

Hot dry conditions over the summer period have lead to a number of total fire ban days being declared already this summer. While conditions continue to be hot and dry, the Beaconsfield Fire Brigade has fortunately had to respond to a limited number of fires. Significant recent fires included:

On 3 & 4 January 2001, the Beaconsfield Brigade sent a tanker and two crews to Traralgon as part of a regional strike team. Crews worked in shifts around the clock to assist in the control of a large bush fire. While a tanker and crews were sent to Traralgon, the brigade's owned tanker and a crew remained in the local area in order to respond to any local fires or emergencies.

On 11 January 2001 as the temperature peaked near 40 degrees around 3.30pm, the Beaconsfield Fire Brigade supported by the Officer Fire

Brigade responded to a grass fire in O'Neil Road near LL Road. The fire had been started by a car which pulled off the road into long dry grass. Nearby residents managed to contain the spread of the fire until the brigade arrived, and Captain Ron Woodfine commended the quick actions of the residents which assisted in preventing the fire developing into a more serious incident.

Despite the hot weather, the brigade was also called out just before Christmas to assist a new homeowner in the Berwick Views Estate who was experiencing flooding as a result of runoff from heavy rain. Whilst most members finished the day wet and ankle to knee deep in mud, the brigade was able to construct small levees and drains to direct the water away from the house.

CONTENTS

Articles Welcome	15	Letter to the Editor	8
Advert-gran	23	Make & Mingle	6
Banner Deadline	23	Making Beac. Safer	21
Baptist Church	12	Mental brain teaser	15
Beac.Prog. Assoc.Meeting	1	Notice Board	17
Beac.Tennis Club	20	Progress meeting dates	2
BPS Corner	5	Mt. Misery	20
CFA	2	Mt. Misery Delivery	12
Coffee & Dessert Evening	4	Netball Club News	3
Congratulations	7	Our Natural World	21
Community Centre	10	President's report	3
Council News	4	Profile - Goodyear	15
Crosswired	19	Rainfall	21
Daylight Saving	13	Santa Visit	22
Did you know	13	Scouting About	22
Exeloo	1	Taxation Update	18
Flush With Pride	7	The Rules	7
Free Foot Health	15	Trivia Questions	15
For sale	23	Who do you call	9
Handyman	10	Wine and Food	22
How to use the loo	14		

PROGRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING DATES

20th March 2001 & 17th April 2001



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Angela McPhee

After many years of service to the local community Joy Bishop has stepped down as President of the Progress Association and I am honoured to have been offered the position. I hope I am able to fill her shoes. Joy will continue to take an active part in the Association and I look forward to her guidance.

Most, if not all of us, were attracted to Beaconsfield by its quiet rural surrounds. Sadly, with the township being absorbed by the south eastern growth corridor, this is no longer the case. With Berwick Views Estate well established and filling quickly, Panorama and Bowmans Track estates being established, and the Beacon Hill Rise Estate (between O'Neil and May Roads) on the drawing board our population is expected to grow six times over the next 10 years. Current commercial developments - the hotel redevelopment, supermarket site and offices, shop and showroom complex on the corner of Beaconsfield/Emerald Road, will see focus brought back into the centre of the township providing many services for the area.

The Progress Association has recognised this change and will focus on ensuring the following:

1. That there is infrastructure in place to support the growing population.
2. Traffic safety issues like Wood Street, the intersection of Old Princes Highway and Beaconsfield/Emerald Road, and safe pedestrian access between the north and south of the highway.
3. That council assets are not sold as a short term measure to the long term detriment of the township (i.e. the old hall site).
4. That any development enhances the township.

Many of these issues are currently being considered by Council and the Association, i.e. the new Community Complex, traffic issues and the complex on Beaconsfield/Emerald Road. It is incumbent on both organizations to ensure that measures are not piecemeal, that all development will enhance the amenity of the township and make it a great place to live. It is essential this occur when the development is taking place, not afterwards. I hope the Association, the residents, traders, developers and the Cardinia Shire Council can work together to achieve this.

I look forward to your support and input in what will be a busy time in Beaconsfield!

I can be contacted at work on 9707 0590, home on 9768 9271 or email at mcphesols@ozemail.com.au

BEACONSFIELD NETBALL CLUB

Welcome to all supporters and players of the Beaconsfield Netball Club for the 2001 season.

It is fantastic that I can actually say that after our Netball and Football clubs were facing an uphill battle and being pushed up the highway. I'm sure that you've all been reading the local newspapers and keeping up to date with our fight against the VCFL. It is such a relief that after a lot of hard work and persistence the VCFL rolled over to enable us to be part of the West Gippsland League for the 2001 season. I would like to say a big THANK - YOU to the committee of the Football Club. While most of us were off enjoying our Christmas and New Year break these guys were "fighting the fight" for our club. I have no doubt that without their determination and persistence we would not be getting ready for the 2001 season.

Our biggest project this year is the construction of our new shelter area. This shelter will contain benches for home and away sides along with a scoring and timekeeping area and of course will be invaluable on those cold rainy days.

Training is underway for the 2001 season and we look forward to seeing many new and old faces for our Under 13, Under 15, Under 17, C Grade, B Grade and A Grade teams.

Please contact either Nicole Varty 9707 4051 or Maree Jones 9707 4369 for training times or any additional information you may need.

We would like to thank and welcome our past sponsors and hope that we can encourage continued support from our local businesses. If you can help us out please contact either of the above named.

Nicole Varty

President - Beaconsfield Netball Club Inc

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COUNCIL COMMENTS

by Cr. Keith Ewenson



CARDINIA

Council Wednesdays

In a radical departure from a long standing arrangement the Cardinia Shire has resolved to trial (for 3 months) Council meetings on 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 4.30pm. Councillors will meet for a Briefing on the Mondays prior to the Council meetings. General public may attend Briefing sessions by appointment.

Changes to Immunisation Sessions in Beaconsfield

Immunisation Clinics will now be held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Beaconsfield Community Centre on Beaconsfield Avenue at 9.00am to 9.30am. More information can be obtained from the Health Department on 5945 4295.

The Council Website

The Cardinia Shire Council website is worth visiting from time to time to see what's new. We are working on upgrading the site, however in the meantime we still adding interesting information like the new media release and youth pages. You'll find us at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au. We'd like your views on the site too; what you think would be useful to include in the way of information and what services you expect the site to deliver such as payment of rates. Send us an e-mail at mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au.

New Key Staff Members

In late 2000 Cardinia Shire Council welcomed Andrea Ferris as Communications Co-ordinator to look after the media relations, newsletter and other public relations matters.

Andrea can be contacted on 5945 4222. Also Derek Humes, Youth Co-ordinator. To be based at the YZONE in Pakenham, Derek will become a well known face to the young people of Cardinia. Derek can be contacted on 5945 4275.

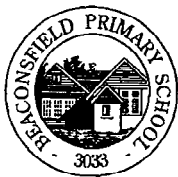
Cardinia Creek Flora and Fauna Sanctuary

A huge thank you is extended to the Friends of the Cardinia Creek Flora and Fauna Sanctuary for their tireless efforts. Judy Smith, Linda McLaren, Heather Holtham and John Morgan and friends consistently give many hours of their time weeding and planting and generally caring for the Reserve.

Being listed as having State and regional significance by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Sanctuary is vitally important to Cardinia as a linear wildlife corridor and one of the few remnant areas of river frontage native vegetation.

Council contributes to the work of the 'Friends' with a small monetary allowance as well as tools, herbicide, protective clothing and other equipment. An arrangement has been made with Correctional Services for assistance 3 days a week to complete maintenance projects such as the boardwalk.

Volunteers at the Sanctuary are always welcome, the 'Friends' can be contacted by telephoning Judy on 9707 1402.



BPS CORNER

*What's Happening at
Beaconsfield Primary School.
by Maurice Potter - School Council President*



Andrew and Elizabeth Bartlett together with their mother Jeanette (pictured centre) unveiling the Jim Bartlett dedication plaque.

During the last days of the year 2000, a simple evening ceremony led by Murray Johnston and attended by approximately 100 people, dedicated a new playground to the memory of the late Jim Bartlett. The playground replaces a former playground built to honour Jim's input into the school as a school councillor and community

member. Andrew and Elizabeth unveiled the dedication plaque now attached to a seat constructed from old school house bricks.

The closure of year 2000 saw the retirement of favourite teacher Carolyn Johnson. Carolyn has decided that 35 years teaching, the last 15 with Beaconsfield Primary, is long enough. We wish her a long and healthy retirement and will always be pleased to see her take up her offer to fill emergency teaching duties.

No doubt the new year will be just as exciting as 2000 for Beaconsfield as we grow. We start the new year with 324 pupils in 13 classes. Plans are already underway to hold our traditional fete, proposed for Sunday 6th May.

Finally, we advise the winners of our 2000 Raffle were:

1st. G. Furlong 5430

2nd K. Lang 4990

3rd E. Eyk 4613

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MAKE AND MINGLE

by Ann Taylor



Come along to meet new friends and to do some crafts.

glass painting, a new range of greeting cards, patchwork and applique, painting and decoupage. You can bring your own crafts to work on or just come along for a chat.

We meet every Wednesday during school term for craft, friendship, a cuppa and a chat. This term we will be doing

Join us at Beaconsfield Baptist Church Old Princes Highway, Cnr Souter Street, every Wednesday 10 am to 12 noon. Enquiries - Ann Taylor 9707 1996.



Diane, Karen and Glenda with Folk Art Painting examples.

COFFEE AND DESSERT EVENING

Ladies Ladies Ladies
Come and enjoy a night out.
Delicious desserts and coffee.

When? Friday 23rd March 2001
Time? 7.30- 9.30pm
Where? Beaconsfield Baptist Church
Old Princes Hwy / Cnr Souter Street
Melways 111J12
Speaker: Vicki Mustafa
Middle East Missionary and Youth Worker

Cost: Tickets \$5 each
Contact: Ann Taylor 9707 1996
Pam Wasilenko 9796 1318
Elsie Wheatland 9700 1405
Bookings essential by 16th March 2001

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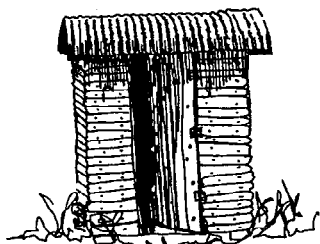
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BERWICK**

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THE PROGRESS **ASSOCIATION FLUSH** **WITH PRIDE**



The new toilet has opened, hoorah at long last!
After consultation, plans and paperwork passed.
It's been a long wait for those with both legs
crossed and so many proposals
that the bureaucrats tossed.

Was it position or funding that had it deferred
Or was the Association not loud enough heard?
Lobbying began well before seventy two
When our public hall went, along with the loo!

The Bypass bypassed and our population doubled
Then louder the issue of a Comfort Stop bubbled.
In the interim we got one South of the Creek –
But it's a long walk to go from the shops for a leak!

Finally the Association created such a great stink
Convincing the Council to have a rethink....
CEO and Councillors eventually stepped in
To stop the uproar and quell all the din!

We're now proud of our new lav with fresh sanitation
And press button doors, its quite a sensation...
Its Unisex too and dispenses nice music
If you don't believe then go try and use it!

The Bard of Beacy.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Paralympian, Joanne Bradshaw from Upper Beaconsfield who was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). The OAM was awarded to Joanne for her contribution to the 2000 Sydney Paralympics.

In October, The Banner featured a story about Joanne and her determination to fulfil her goals. Joanne competed in the Shotput, Discus and Javelin at the Paralympics and successfully won a gold medal in the Women's Shotput.

THE RULES

The FEMALE always makes THE RULES. THE RULES are subject to change without notice.

No MALE can possibly know all THE RULES. If the FEMALE suspects the MALE to know all THE RULES, she must immediately change some or all of THE RULES.

The FEMALE is never wrong. If the FEMALE is wrong, it is due to a misunderstanding which was a direct result of something the MALE did or said wrong. The MALE must apologise immediately for causing said misunderstanding.

The MALE must never change his mind without the express written consent of the FEMALE.

The FEMALE has every right to be angry or upset at ANY TIME. The MALE must remain calm at all times, unless the FEMALE wants him to be angry and/or upset.

The FEMALE must, under no circumstances, let the MALE know whether or not she wants him to be angry and/or upset.

The MALE is expected to mind read at all times. The MALE who doesn't abide by THE RULES could result in bodily harm.

If the FEMALE has PMS, all THE RULES may be null and void.

The FEMALE is ready when she is ready.

The MALE must be ready at all times.

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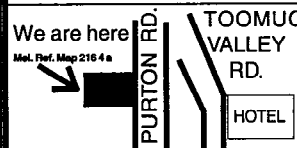
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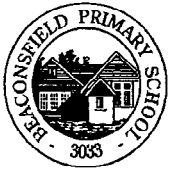


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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WHY DO WE PAY RATES?

In my 45 years of residing in Beaconsfield, I have never requested anything to be done from the Cardinia Council, except for the last two years.

Unfortunately, I reside near a very neglected property where the blackberries grow in abundance and of course over all the neighbouring fences. When a request was forwarded to the council to have this property cleared of the blackberries and high grass, which is a fire hazard, the reply from council was "If we cannot see the property from the road we do not bother about it". But all the neighbouring properties pay their rates and isn't it their right to have action taken to make sure their properties are not hampered by this fire risk neglected property? Why should all the residents be paying for weed killers to control the weeds and blackberries from the fence lines to their properties?

Is the Council pride only reserved for what the eye sees and not concerned at all by the frustration and the lack of respect from the people who live in their Shire?

Council also said that the blackberry problem was now taken over by the Conservation Department.

Council was also contacted about rats coming from this neglected property, but once again their reply was that the Environment Department had taken control of those problems. The Department made a feeble attempt to the owner, by letter, but nothing much if anything at all was done. Once again residents footed the bill for rat killer, as everyone knows rats are a health risk.

When the garbage bins were changed to the yellow/green bins there was talk of ratepayers paying for each collection or by weight. I am very aware of recycling, composting etc. and as my bin is emptied once a month only, I find paying \$115 for 12 collections quite exorbitant. Council information is that they are still considering a fairer form of collection and payment. But how many more years do we have to wait for some action? Not as long as Beaconsfield has waited for the much needed toilet block I hope!

The dangerous traffic problems in Lyle/Mahon Avenues are horrendous. This is where a two-lane road is made into a four-lane road, where one cannot see a small child blindly dashing across the road to the car parked on the opposite side. There is certainly provision in the existing roads to make these roads a one-way in school hours.

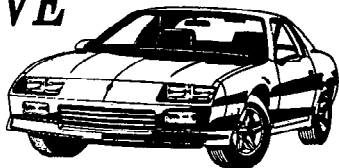
With each year my rates have been increasing, with this year's rates going up by \$200. Why? I placed an objection to the increase in rates three and a half months ago and have been informed there may be another months wait for a re-assessment. Just great!

May I suggest to the Cardinia Shire that they cease building houses on every spare square inch of ground and concentrate on existing properties and allowing the Beaconsfield residents to be proud of their township? After all isn't it our rate money that allows the council to work for and improve facilities in our township?

With all the negativity I've received these past two years from Council, I can't help but ask, "Why DO we pay rates?"

Beaconsfield resident. (Name and address supplied.)

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If dog attack - call 5945 4222 John
Van Rensch at Shire.

If dog attack on week end -call
Shire 5945 4222 and follow prompts.

If you find a dead animal on the road -
call Shire 5945 4222

If you find an injured animal on the road
call - RSPCA 9224 2222

If you see a street light out -
call Electricity Company 131 799

If you see phone box damaged -
call Telstra 132203

If you see graffiti at railway station -
it is checked daily, report submitted and
fixed up within 48 hours.

If you see graffiti around town -
call Glorraine 9796 1361

If you have trees/shrubs disappearing
from your nature strip - call Shire 5945
4222 and ask for Parks and Gardens.

If you find a needle lying around town -
call Shire, Health 5945 4290 who will
collect it within one hour of your call.

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BEACONSFIELD'S HANDYMAN

by Phil Collins

The good thing about the 50 kph limit in built up areas is that I won't have to speed up when I see the signs now.

A heavy mirror fell off the wall. It lasted ten years. It had been glued to the plaster using large blobs of Liquid Nails. To hold it there while the glue dries they had used heavy duty two way tape. I couldn't think of a better method so I did the same again.

The cut and fill method of leveling a site prior to building was recently criticised by Don Burke on "Burke's Backyard". Quite recently I encountered water rising through a fine crack in a slab. The water from an unknown source travelled along under the slab and up into the building. Imagine the cost of tracing



the source and fixing the problem.

Our home backs onto the new Bowman's Track development. The earthworks, drainage, road making and clearing those 'dreadful' 100 year old trees involves months of roaring diesel engines, piercing reverse warning buzzers and dumping a depth of 2 metres of filling at our back fence. The noise, the dust and the resultant ugliness is a high price to pay to convert peaceful grazing land into suburbia.

If you are planning to freshen up your home with some Autumn painting, some wall tiling, some new steps, fix that sticking door, repair your trailer, customise the cubby or kennel - I am your man.

Phil Collins 9707 4225

COMMUNITY CENTRE PREPARES FOR A BUSY YEAR.

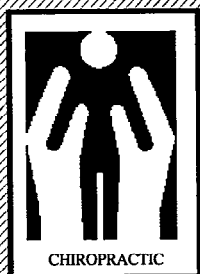
The term 1 programme is well underway with all the regular groups resuming in early February. However all groups welcome new members at anytime during the year.

At our community centre you can learn with others in a friendly way by joining classes and activities offered.

We have encompassed fun, leisure, fitness, computers, arts and crafts classes for adults and children.

If you want any further information or a programme, to be mailed please call Jeanette 9707 3449.

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The Progress Association has asked the Banner sub-committee to find a way to re-commence delivery of the Banner at Mt. Misery. The task was found to be too dangerous for a young person on a bike and the postage was too much.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who is a 'walker' on the mountain who would help deliver the Banner on a bi-monthly basis. Even if it was only your street it would be most appreciated by the people who don't get an opportunity to get a copy of the Banner. Please phone Glorraine on 9796 1361.

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Church Services: Sunday 10.30 am and 7pm.

Happening (Sunday School and Bible Study for all ages) Sunday 9am

Junior Youth Group:

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Contact Church Secretary, Colin Brewer 5943 1294

Our Interim Pastor is Rev. Norman Pell

Our new Pastor David Morland will be inducted at the church on March 25th, 2001.

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The area will be policed in an effort to have the traffic issue sorted out before the traffic lights at Beaconsfield/Emerald Road and the Old Princes Highway are *installed within the next 12 months.*

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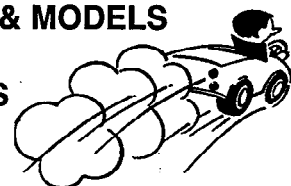
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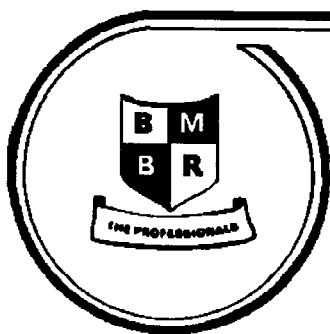
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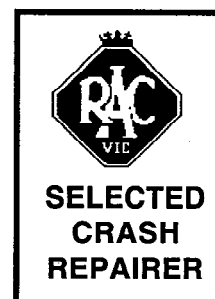
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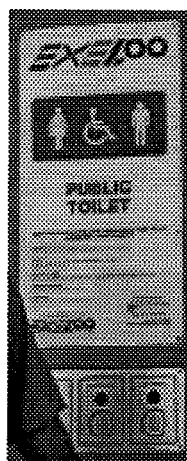
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You have to press the button to enter. You have to press button to close door once inside, however the door will close after 2

minutes if you just stand there.

You do not have a button to push to make the toilet flush as this will happen automatically once you open the door to leave or as you wash your hands.

Everything is literally automatic. The toilet paper is dispensed by pushing the button. A fully automatic wash station dispenses soap and water and then blows air to dry your hands by just putting your hands under the three sections marked.

The loo will lock up for a short time after so many uses, while it self cleans by

spraying high pressure water and cleaner around the entire cubicle and will then re-open. If there is a power failure the doors can be opened manually from inside.

To address the many concerns about the availability of use, there are restricted opening hours.

The loo will be monitored by workers three days per week and by local residents daily. If there are any problems you can report them by phoning the number shown on the outside of the loo or phone Glorraine Hardy on 9796 1361.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Small children have to be accompanied by an adult otherwise the sensor may not detect they are there. If the door closes on an unaccompanied child, who cannot reach the 'open door button' you will have to wait 10 minutes before an alarm will sound and the doors will automatically open.

If you require any further information or wish to report damage, a water leak or graffiti please phone Stephen Fernee at Cardinia Shire 5945 4222.

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Mark can be contacted on 9707 1593. Business hours are 8.30am until 5.30pm Monday to Friday. Saturday 8.00am until 2.00pm.

TRIVIA QUESTIONS

1. How many teeth are there in the smile of the Luna Park Face?

2. How many sail shapes or half crests are there in the roof of the Sydney Opera House?

3. Which is further from Melbourne?

Perth or Townsville.

4. Which famous Australian Rock Band got its name of the handle of a vacuum cleaner?

5. Which Melbourne Private Club maintains a strict Women Only Ruling?

Trivia Answer.

1. Fifteen 2 Ten 3. Perth at 3432 Kms. 4. ACDC 5. The Alexandra Club.

cont..... page 20

WANTED PLAYERS

Tuesday Night Beginners to B Grade Unisex.

Players eligible, 14 years and upwards, standard can be a beginner to accomplished player. Basically the comp is for people whom want to play tennis, to get out for some exercise and meet other people in the community in a social atmosphere. Enquiries contact Margaret Chatfield on 9707 2016.

Court Hire. Margaret Chatfield on 9707 2016.

BRAIN TEASER. MENTAL ARITHMETIC

WHAT IS GREATER

a. Half a dozen times half a dozen dozen.

OR

b. A dozen and a half times a dozen and a half?

ANSWER A = 432

AS AGAINST B. = 324

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Cardinia Community Health Service and Australian Podiatry Association are conducting a FREE foot health check and information service on Monday April 9 and Tuesday April 10, 2001 at Cockatoo Community Health Centre, McBride Street, Cockatoo and Pakenham Community Health Centre, Princes Highway, Pakenham.

Please ring Pakenham on 5941 0500 or Cockatoo 5968 8146 to book your place or for further information.

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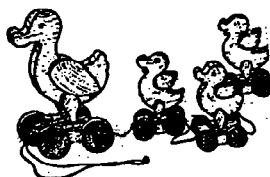
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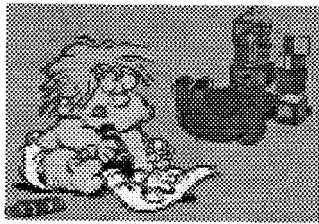
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TAXATION UPDATE



Whilst all businesses have gone through a big learning curve in the past twelve months with the new GST tax system, the Government has been active in proceeding with further tax reform. The Government has now introduced draft legislation for significant changes to the taxation of business income with the New Business Tax System (Simplified Tax System) Bill 2000(STS) which was introduced into Parliament on 7th December 2000. The new tax system is to affect eligible businesses in income years commencing after 1st July 2001.

The main features are:

- STS is available for businesses with a turnover of less than \$1m and depreciating assets (other than land and buildings) of less than \$3m.
- Under STS ordinary income is generally assessable when received and expenses deductible when paid. At present, most businesses are required to pay tax on income earned but not yet received (i.e. on trade debtors) but are allowed deductions for expenses incurred but not yet paid

(i.e. on trade creditors). This may defer tax if trade debtors are high and trade creditors low. It would assist businesses on a cash basis for GST purposes.

- A STS entity can elect not to undertake a physical stocktake provided it can be reasonably estimated that the stock value has not increased by more than \$5,000 from the start to the end of the financial year. In this case, the value of trading stock on hand at the end of an income year is the same as at the start of the year.
- Assets costing \$1,000 or less are immediately deductible. Depreciating assets over \$1,000 are allocated to a STS pool with an accelerated depreciation rate of 30% WDV.
- If an STS business opts out of the system, it must wait 5 years before re-entering STS status. Entry and exit rules prevent double counting or omissions of income and deductions.

All eligible businesses should be carefully reviewed for the benefits and disadvantages of entering the new simplified tax system as opting in and out has long-term implications. These matters should be discussed and planned with your Accountant to enable a transition from 1st July 2001.

GRAEME J. TAYLOR C.A.

CROSSWIRED

by David Griffiths



Advertisements for films are everywhere. How much does it affect our decision in what films we watch? Not much. Then how come I find myself queuing up to see "What Women Want" when I loathe Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt? The answer is simple I've heard and seen so many advertisements for it I start telling myself it must be okay. If advertising can persuade us to see a film, how often does it persuade us to **not** see a film? What we need to tell ourselves is that advertisements we see are the idea of some advertising executive and their selling point maybe very different to what the film's writer or director wanted to get across.

The best example of this is the film "Clueless" (starring Alicia Silverstone). What was billed as a teeny bopper fluff is now hailed by hardened film critics as a film that has a valuable message about modern society (especially around relationships and friendships). Yet how many people haven't seen the film because they still have the teeny bopper factor in their head.

I myself have avoided or nearly avoided films because of their advertisements. I, since 1999, had avoided seeing "Varsity Blues" thinking it was just another typical American gridiron movie. However, I finally gave in this year and saw it (because I'm a hardened Dawson's Creek fan and

wanted to see James Van Der Beek in another role) and found that the film instead of glorifying gridiron players, showed what hell teenagers can be put through.

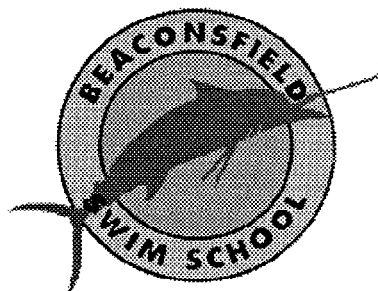
The same also happened to me at the cinemas this year. I made a pact not to see "Centre Stage" which seemed to be just dance film. But when forced to watch it by my companion I found it was, again, a film we can learn from. Even this summer three films have been advertised

incorrectly. "Bring It On" appears to be a cheesy-teenage comedy only to have brilliant choreography and a story about the different levels of success behind it. Likewise "Coyote Ugly" has been billed as a film for the pervy trench coat cinema goer, but is a film that can be enjoyed by both females and males. Sure the story is a little old (young girl travels to big city with the aim of seeing her names in lights), but Gina Wendkos has found a fun and new way of telling it (and it has a killer soundtrack to boot). Lastly comes "Vertical

Limit". It appears to be an all action thriller, but behind all the action is a little message and a boot in the backside for the rich companies in our society.

They say don't judge a book by it's cover, likewise don't judge a film by it's advertising.

"Clueless" and "Varsity Blues" should be available from Beaconsfield Family Videoland now, however you will have to wait until later this year for "Centre Stage", "Bring It On", "Coyote Ugly" and "Vertical Limit".



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BEACONSFIELD TENNIS CLUB NEWS

by Margaret Chatfield

Welcome back to 2001. We are looking forward to another busy year with tennis, also functions and projects to be carried out.

MIDWEEK LADIES SPRING SEASON 2000 RESULTS
Congratulations to the two teams whom succeeded to become Premiers.

Wednesdays Section 6 Team : Joy Douglas, Chris Clinnie, Jo Underwood, Julie Mason, Lorraine McCreadie.

Tuesday's Section 7 Team : Sue Barker, Jo-anne Proctor, Julie Mason, Lorraine McCreadie, Tina Nicola.

Julie Mason and Lorraine McCreadie had the privilege of playing in both Premier teams. Congratulations to you both. Contact for Midweek Ladies :- Glenda Gorton, phone 9707 2906.

NEW FOR SENIOR PLAYERS - SOCIAL.

Any senior people wanting to play tennis socially in a group on Friday mornings, please contact, Margaret Chatfield on 9707 2016.

MOUNT MISERY

A few notes from Joan Armitage, a long time resident:

When we bought this land we now live on in 1966, we were told there had been a community of Chinese gold seekers living on the hillside in the 19th century. They used to walk to Upper Beaconsfield and Emerald are panning for gold. It was rumoured there may be gold hidden by the men on the 'mount'. (Maybe the misery is that no one has found it!!)

Another story is that the few Colonials who sought to settle here found it impossible to graze their animals or grow crops

owing to the solid rock formation. Finally, the tale of the "Ship Watchers" is correct. A plaque was set into the left side wall of Cooina Road a few metres past the bend. It was placed there by members of "Pakenham Councillors" among whom was Robert (Bob) Armitage, the Works Engineer. 'Misery' is found everywhere - happiness too - as we have found.

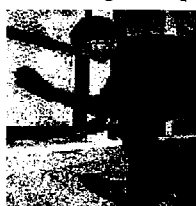
NB: There were only 4 houses in the local area (Cooina Estate) when we purchased our 2 acres. We loved the wild life - wallabies, echidnas, wombats and I'm told a few koalas had been sighted. All gone now!

eclipse

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OUR NATURAL WORLD

by Peter Hansen

The stories of "Ghosts" and hauntings have intrigued men and women since the beginning of time, with the majority of reports coming from overseas, particularly from the British Isles and Europe, but we in Australia have just as rich a history in these matters as any other place on earth. It just doesn't go back as far. Australian ghost stories could fill many books, and one of the most famous investigated and recorded was the case of "Fishers Ghost", of the year 1826.

This story was so authenticated that it received world wide publicity, and also published in a magazine edited by the great Charles Dickens in 1853. The full story reads like a well written "whodunit", and is contained in a book written by Frank Cusack in 1967, entitled simply, "True Australian Ghost Stories".

Frederick Fisher was 35 years old, when he met his death at the hands of a man called George Worrall, near the N.S.W. town of

Campbelltown in 1826, and the only reason the killer was caught and brought to justice, was because of the sighting of his ghost, or more correctly, his "unquiet spirit", and this sparked off a line of determined investigation that was quite extraordinary for those very early and rough days of Colonization. Fisher was an interesting man, being the first man in N.S.W. to attempt to make paper in Australia. He owned land in several districts, and also worked a farm of 30 acres successfully. Not a bad effort for a man who came to these shores as a convict.

Worrall, a neighbouring farmer, weaved a web of lies and deceit, that would do Hitchcock proud as a movie plot, eventually persuading all and sundry that Fisher had fled to England to escape the clutches of a designing woman. He further forged letters purporting to have been written by Fisher, giving Worrall authority to sell all his lands and possessions and making Worrall his Executor. This

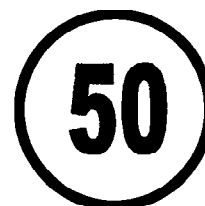
was all carried out over a period of approx. 2 years and was very convincingly done, fooling friends and the authorities of the day.

This incredibly detailed scheme started to unravel only when a local farmer, one David Weir, was coming home late one night and saw Fisher seated on a rail of the bridge, which carried the road he was on. He reported seeing Fisher as though in the body, and thinking that Fisher must have returned from England, as everyone thought that was where he had gone, he stopped and called out greetings to the man he well knew. Receiving no reply, he impatiently kept going, probably annoyed at this rudeness. A week later he passed the same spot, this time giving a lift to the local Constable, and another friend. All three saw Fisher sitting on the same rail, although this time the light seemed to shine right through him, as all attested later. Farmer Weir was a brave man, walked right to the spectre, and spoke to it, placing his hand on the shoulder of Fisher, but it was thin air, although he looked reasonably solid. The Ghost

pointed in a certain direction and Weir suddenly realized that this was a genuine Spirit sighting, telepathically understanding that Fisher was telling him he had been murdered, and pointing in the direction of his bodily remains. He also displayed a gaping and bloody wound on his forehead, which was clearly visible to the three men.

His body was eventually recovered a short distance from the haunted bridge, and George Worrall was soon arrested, tried for murder, and hanged on the 6th of Feb. 1827. This case has the unique position in Australian Jurisprudence, of the murdered man's appearance leading directly to the arrest and execution of his own killer, and created much controversy at the time. His ghost was witnessed by others, who only spoke out about it after the revelations of others were made public, so it was regarded as a genuine case of Spirit manifestation, and is Australia's premier haunting story.

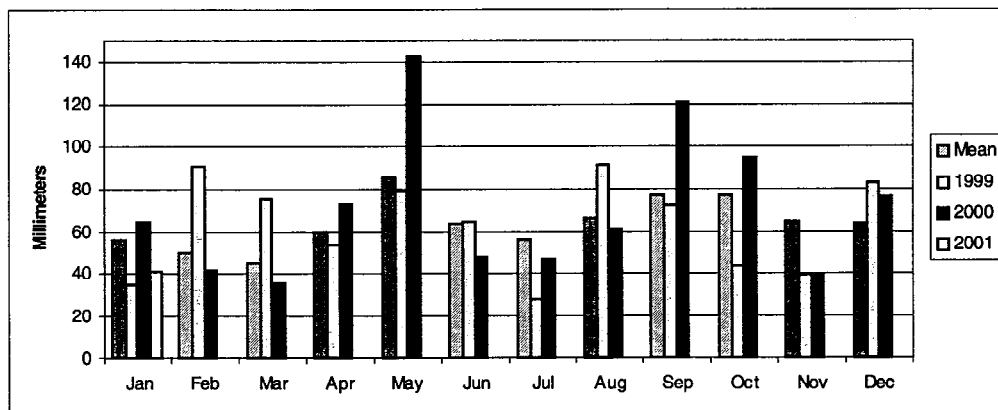
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BEACONSFIELD
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Beaconsfield residential streets have a 50 km/h speed limit.

Remember if there is no sign, its 50 km/h.

BEACONSFIELD RAINFALL



WINE AND FOOD

by Keith Goodman

Surya Indian Restaurant has settled in now after 10 months (doesn't time fly) to become one of our regular local haunts – mainly for take away. We like the Onion Bhajia, the Butter Chicken, the Chicken Korma and either the Kashmiri Pulao or Lemon Rice. Friends regularly drive from Pakenham for the food. Also BYO.

We know of many people who drive a long way for the home cooked style meals at the Beaconsfield Hotel. We tend to eat from the Specials Menu, recently a Mushroom Risotto and an Oxtail Soup (which was a meal on it's own) were great hits. The Wine List while basic is good value e.g. Banrock Station Shiraz Cabernet \$10.50.

Beaconsfield Fish and Chips has new proprietors in Mark Liao and his wife Yan Huang and they are doing a great job. We like our chips well done and not wrapped till we get there and we think they are our "best yet". Their smiling faces are a welcome addition to Beaconsfield.

Recently enjoyed an outstanding family dinner watching the sun set over the bay at Donovans on the St Kilda Esplanade. Two wines stood out, the Mitchelton Blackwood Park Riesling 1993 and the Narkoojee Chardonnay 1999 a multiple Trophy winner. Our daughter Megan asked "Do they all age like this?" Well some do. The Peter Lehmann Reserve Riesling 1995 (\$20) is close to as good and the

current Leasingham Riesling 2000 (\$10) is a fabulous drink now wine or one to put away for up to 10 years. The Narkoojee from Gippsland was served with Char Grilled Leader Prawns from Queensland, for me one of the best food and wine combinations of the last couple of years.

Other wine recommendations are: Red – one of the outstanding quality/bargains of recent times is the Water Wheel Shiraz 1999 (\$15) a deeply purple coloured shiraz which just hangs on the glass with an intense blackberry, fresh pepper and licorice flavours in the mouth. Drink now or keep for 5 – 10 years.

White – Two lovely full flavoured and not expensive Chardonnays currently available are the Ashwood Grove 1999 (\$9) and the McWilliams Hanwood (\$8), both done well at Shows.

Sparkling Reds– The Seppelt Sparkling Shiraz 1994 or 95 or 96, all likely to be available (\$15), has long been the family favourite. Nick's Wine Merchants currently has a McClaren Vale Sparkling Shiraz Cleanskin at \$10 for current drinking.

A favourite quote from Keith Dunstan's latest book "The Wine Dictionary" – "Wine, The cleverest thing God invented after sex. Wine lasts longer and causes infinitely less trouble".



SANTA VISITS

Beaconsfield Child Care & Early Learning Centre had a special visitor on the 19th December 2000. Santa arrived on time with the help of some exciting transport thanks to the Narre Warren Police Station. Santa and the staff were kept extremely busy giving out all the presents. This was our biggest event yet with over 86 children attending the Centre. All the children spent some time with Santa before their break up party for the year. Our thanks go to all those parents who helped organise the event this year and for the gifts donated to the hamper raffled by Santa at the end of the day.



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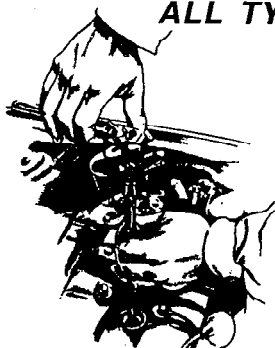
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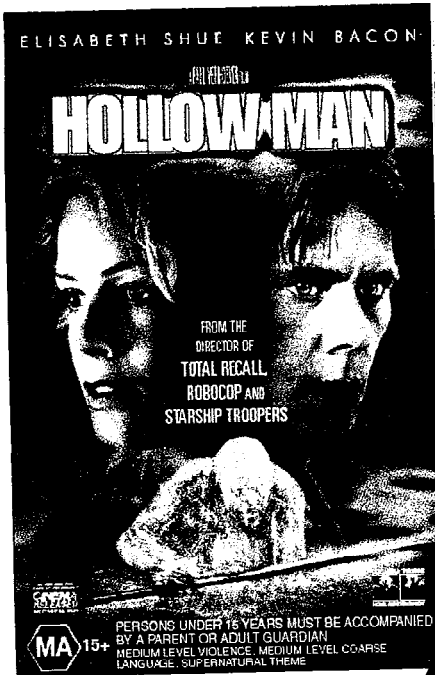
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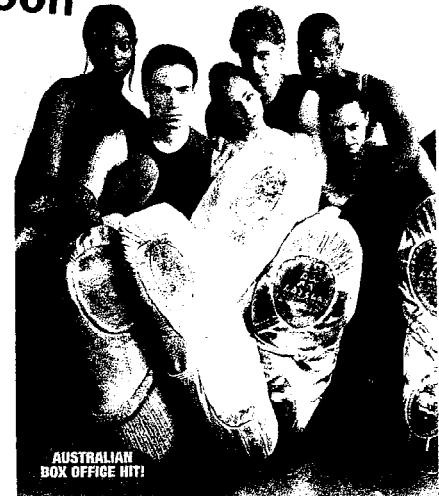
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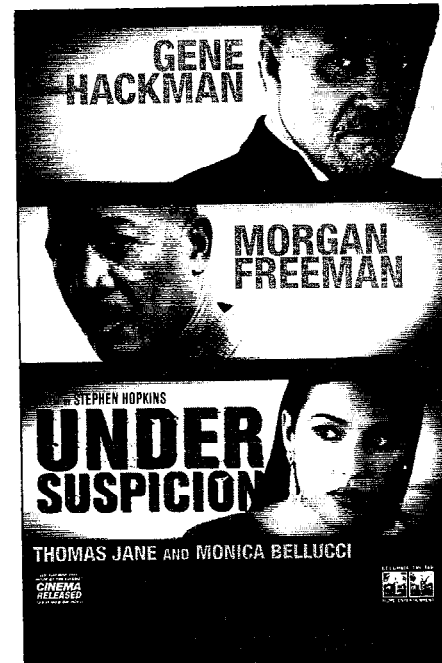
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