

Beaconsfield Banner

FREE

Vol. 19 No. 4 Bimonthly Publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association Inc. Dec '07/Jan' 08

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**The Beaconsfield Progress
Association would like to wish
everyone a safe and merry
Christmas and a peaceful and
happy New Year.**



BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Meetings are held on
the 3rd Tuesday of each
month
7.30pm
Beaconsfield Community
Complex, O'Neil Road

EVERYONE WELCOME

**2008 Meeting :
February 19th
March 18th**

President : Les Reader
Correspondence to : P.O.
Box 217, Beaconsfield 3807
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Baptist Church Moves To Its New Home

See report on page 5



BEACONSFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

The Beaconsfield Progress Association and volunteers together with the financial support of the advertisers, distribute 2400 copies of the Beaconsfield Banner FREE to the residents of Beaconsfield every second month (February, April, June, August, October and December).

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BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Les Reader

Well here we are again approaching Christmas and the Holiday Season at a very fast pace. My hopes and prayers for all are, that you will have a happy and holy Christmas; pondering on the 'reason for the season' whilst enjoying the company of family and friends.

It has been an interesting year in Beaconsfield as we have worked along in our community to establish projects and opportunities for our town and district.

One notable project is to establish a community

bank and this has been taken up by a committee formed from the Beaconsfield Business Group and others and is going quite well.

"Carols by the Creek" will be another annual feature and will be held at Bob Burgess Reserve on 16th December. I would like to invite you to come and share in a time of fellowship and enjoyment with every from our community.

Finally I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

More Carollers expected at 2007 Carols by the Creek

Organisers of Beaconsfield's 2007 Carols by the Creek, say they hope for a record turnout at this year's celebration, at Bob Burgess Reserve, Beaconsfield, on **Sunday December 16.**

"This is a true community event", said co-ordinator Peter Brown. "It combines the enthusiasm of children from Beaconsfield Baptist Church in the very moving Nativity Procession, and the sweet singing of the Beaconsfield Primary School, and Berwick Youth Choir, with the big sound of the Cardinia Civic Concert Band and more, along with the energies of hundreds of people as they celebrate the "Reason for the Season" – the birth of Jesus Christ.

2007 Carols by the Creek, is anticipated by the community, as part of their preparation for Christmas.

Although the Christmas Story is more than 2000 years old, it continues to with a real message of peace and promise for all mankind.

Mr Brown said, " We are encouraging families to arrive early to stake their claim to a good vantage point and enjoy their picnic. (Food shops are near by.) Blankets, chairs and cushions are a must. Music starts from 7.30pm with the Cardinia Civic Concert Band's overture from 8.00pm. Candles and songsheets are available for a smile.

Beaconsfield Baptist Church and Beaconsfield Progress Association plan this Community Family Christmas Twilight Event with help from numerous big-hearted people. More information from Peter Brown 0428 178 413



CARDINIA

SHIRE REPORT

by Cr. Brett Owen, Central Ward

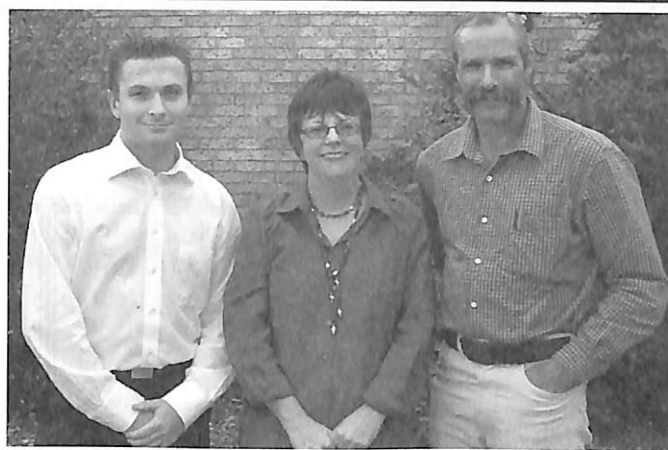
Council recently met with local politicians/candidates to advocate/lobby for funding for much needed projects. Meetings have been held with representatives from all major parties at the State and Federal levels seeking commitments to major initiatives crucial to helping council respond to our growth townships and the needs of our many rural communities. Items included:

-the need for new educational facilities
-roads (including a signalised intersection at

the Old Princes Highway and the commencement of the Berwick Bypass, Beaconsfield),
-funding for youth facilities/services, community infrastructure and recreational facilities such as Holm Park Road Reserve.

As chair of council's Youth Strategy Committee, I was extremely pleased that council recently adopted the Cardinia Shire Youth Policy and Strategy 2007-2011.

The key items of the Youth



L to R: Brett Owen, Kate Lempriere and Bill Ronald

Strategy include:

- The provision of a youth specific facility in the growth corridor
- Increased range of youth specific / targeted recreational opportunities
- Increased number of youth workers
- The provision of a youth bus outreaching young people across the shire

This strategy/policy demonstrates council's commitment to improving access to youth services, information and activities for our young people.

Council has completed the initial consultation with the community on the sporting needs of Beaconsfield. Using this research, a Beaconsfield sports plan and draft master plan for

the future Holm Park Road reserve will be developed and presented to the community for comment in early 2008.

The Pakenham Outdoor pool re-opened on the 17th of November. This refurbished facility in Anderson Street, includes a modern wet deck, improved change rooms and a new fun children's play area with water features. I encourage Beaconsfield residents to take the short drive or public transport trip to the pool which offers positive and healthy activity for everyone, particularly our young people and families.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

MEDIA RELEASE

Cr Bill Ronald is new Cardinia Mayor

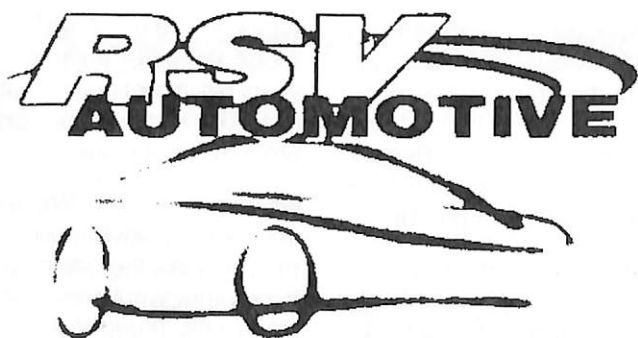
Councillor Bill Ronald is the new Mayor of Cardinia Shire Council.

Cr Ronald was elected Mayor at the statutory meeting of Council on Monday 3 December.

The lifelong Pakenham resident said he was proud and honoured to

accept the challenge of leading Council in what would be his 16th year as a councillor and the 140th year of local government in this area.

"Cardinia is now the fourth fastest growing municipality in Australia," Cr Ronald said.



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The Church Moves To Its New Home.

Over four hundred people turned up for the opening of the new building of the Beaconsfield Baptist Church. The 350 seat auditorium was packed and extra seats were needed for the over flow. The opening ceremony was followed by a huge afternoon tea. The meeting was honoured with the presence of our Federal Member, Jason Wood and our Ward Councillor, Brett Owen.

The building and land together cost \$3.3 million. The Beaconsfield church community neither received nor sought any grants or external support. The church community is totally self supporting. The building was designed by the 160 people who attend the church. In both design and implementation it was a communal effort. The primary goal was to have a functional building with prettiness a secondary

consideration, although the final product looks mighty fine. The building has three main spaces, the auditorium used for Sunday services, a multi purpose hall and a substantial lobby.

For the last 21 years the church has made do with its old inadequate service station building and it was with much relief that the church finally moved out. Yet a new building does not mean a new church. The people and the programs are the same as ever. The church prides its self on being a useful part of the Beaconsfield community. Certainly a warm welcome would await anyone and everyone at any of the church's various services and gatherings.

The Pastor, David Morland can be contacted on the church's new phone number 9707 0777.

RAILWAY STATION CAR PARK SEALED



Sealing of the Railway Station carpark is almost complete with line marking to be done of 123 spaces ready for use in the New Year.

COMMUNITY BANK AT BEAONSFIELD

by Graeme Taylor

A Steering Committee is working to establish a Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank in Beaconsfield. The Beaconsfield District Community Bank will be available to everyone to service the banking needs of residents and businesses of Beaconsfield and neighbouring towns.

Since the initial concept approximately 4 months ago, the support of residents and businesses to the awareness program has continued to gain support as demonstrated by the successful launch on 31st October 2007. The Community Bank concept is supported by Beaconsfield Business Group and Beaconsfield Progress Association Inc.

The Community Bank model has already been successfully used by Bendigo Bank in establishing over 200 Branches. A Community Bank is operated under Franchise from Bendigo Bank and provides full bank facilities. The Community Bank is owned by members of the Community who subscribe for Share Capital (Minimum \$500, Maximum \$10,000) and are eligible for Dividends or Capital return when the Community Bank is profitable.

The majority of profits however are directed into Community Projects and Sponsorships eg. Schools, Sporting Clubs, Kindergartens, Charities, the Arts etc.

In order to proceed to the next stage of having a Feasibility Study and Business Plan prepared it is necessary to demonstrate to Bendigo Bank that there is sufficient support to establish the Beaconsfield District Community Bank. It is necessary to have pledges of support to raise Share Capital of approximately \$700,000. The Campaign for Pledges of support is due to be completed by January 2008 and Pledges of almost \$100,000 have already been received.

If you would like further details of a Community Bank or a Pledge Form your enquiries can be directed to:

Jim Byrne
9707 0400

Graeme Taylor
9707 1996

Ted French
9707 3830

Michael Muaremov
9769 9134

Gerald Treasure
9707 3436



Volunteers talk to residents about supporting the Beaconsfield Community Bank.



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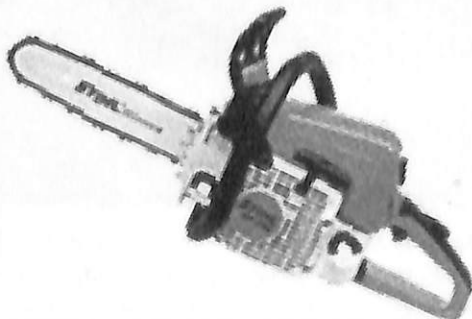
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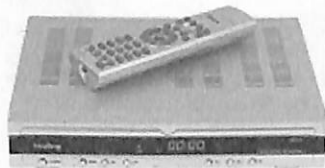
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NEWS FROM THE BEACONSFIELD FIRE BRIGADE

by Paul Hayes

Once again the year has flown by, and the summer fire season is fast approaching. The Beaconsfield Fire Brigade wishes everyone a happy and safe Christmas and summer holiday period.

Summer Fire Safety - Have you and your family prepared your Bushfire Survival Plan?

CFA is advising that people living in high risk areas need to be self-reliant to protect themselves against bushfires.

"You may not get someone banging on your door to warn that a bushfire is close," said CFA Brigade Support Officer Ellisa Bourne.

"You may not see a fire truck arrive at your house in the nick of time. This is why you should prepare your own bushfire survival plan now before the fire season gets started."

It is important that you obtain information about what needs to be done before making your decision. Will you leave early or stay and defend?

CFA recommends that people make their decision well before the summer fire season to either stay and actively defend their property or leave the area before fire threatens.

Research shows that many people make unsafe choices that can have serious consequences. CFA advises people not to stay with an unprepared property and not to leave their property too late such as when the fire is very

close, or return to your home during a bushfire.

If you would like a CFA "Living in the Bush" workbook to assist you with your plan call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 to obtain a copy.

Victorian Bushfire Information Line

The Victorian Bushfire Information Line is a 24 hour, seven days a week service which provides recorded information regarding fire restrictions, Total Fire Bans and information to assist you to prepare for the fire season. During the summer fire period you can obtain personal advice from trained operators from 8am to 8pm weekdays.

In the event of a major incident the information line can be staffed 24 hours a day in order to provide incident updates and advice on actions to take during bushfires. For example if you work out of the area but during the day a bushfire develops you could call this number to ascertain whether it is safe to return to your home. The number to call is 1800 240 667. It would be a great idea to program this number into your phone.

Alternatively check the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au for more information on preparing for the summer season.

KINDER VISITS

The brigade has had a busy month with the Beaconsfield kinder visiting the station. The children enjoyed looking over the trucks and also learnt some valuable lessons on fire safety at home.

MAKE AND MINGLE

by Ann Taylor

Make and Mingle had our Craft fair and quilt display again in November this year with many people from the community and surrounding areas coming to view the displays, enjoy the morning teas and purchase craft and craft supplies. With Beaconsfield Baptist church's new venue at the cnr. of Desmond Court and Old Princes Hwy we were able to have more stalls, a larger display and many more people participated. The Devonshire teas and light lunches were very popular and so delicious thanks to our wonderful team of helpers led by Jeanette, Ngaree, Jan, Marianne and Kelly.

This year the money raised will be used to provide the

freight for Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child project, which enables caring people to share God's love with hurting girls and boys in the far corners of the globe. By taking an ordinary shoebox and filling it with toys, educational supplies, hygiene, clothing, and something to love; the children who receive them actually have something to call their own. Boxes from Australia are sent to Cambodia and Fiji and are handed out by Australians who especially travel to these countries at Christmas time.

Samaritan's purse has become part of the Beaconsfield community with the children from Beaconsfield Primary

school and the members of Midway Group at the Beaconsfield Community Complex participating in the project.

Make and Mingle is a friendship and craft group that meets every Wednesday during school term 10am-12noon at Beaconsfield Baptist church cnr. Old Princes

Hwy and Desmond Court. We finish on 12th December and recommence next year on Wednesday 6th February 2008. We will have a range of crafts available for you to learn and you can also bring your own craft to work on or just come along to make new friends and have coffee and a chat.

Enquiries Ann Taylor 9707 1996



L to R: Jan Smallman and Jeanette Smythe from Make and Mingle at the Mornington warehouse sorting boxes for samaritan's purse.

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BEACONSFIELD BUSINESS GROUP (BBG)

I trust that you all are in good health and spirits, especially with the festive season fast approaching us. Since our last report, the BBG have continued working hard to "make a difference" to our town and community!

Since my last report, the momentum for the opening of our own Beaconsfield District Bendigo Community Bank has moved up to the next phase which is now asking interested community members to support it by way of non legally binding pledgers, which Graeme Taylor would report on in his own report. It is a very exciting time for our community.

On other community projects, the established a Street Scape Sub Committee has meet with council representative's again and are working on what we would like Beaconsfield Village to look like. We are going through the information that was provided by the council in order to put together the type of Tree planting in the Business District (along Old Princes Hwy to Horner Street and Woods St to last shop/fire station) Ideas that have been floated are Collins Street replica's and Ornamental Pear Trees along the nature strips in front of the business district, public furniture such as seats, tables, rubbish bins and bollards, just to mention a few. We are quiet excited about the support we have received from the Council's staff, Frances Grigorio Business Economic Development

Officer) and Wendy Abbot (Council Aborist). A Sincere thank you to both ladies for their keen support.

Since my last report, we have also established a Sub Committee for the resurrection of the Beaconsfield Fair' that used to be part of our town's social calender many years ago. We are working together in order to make this happen in the new year and would like to invite any member of the community whom would like to be involved with making this a huge success that we all believe it has the potential to be. You don't have to be in business to be involved. For more information, you can contact myself on 9769 9134 or Vicki O'Callaghan on 9769 8722.

In closing, we encourage anyone that is in business to come along to our BBG meeting that are held every month on the last Wednesday of each month at 6.00pm at the Beaconsfield Community Centre and our next meeting is scheduled for the 28th of November. We encourage all business owners whom wish to contribute in a positive, proactive manner to attend our meetings and together we can make Beaconsfield Village the preferred place to do your shopping.

If you wish to contact us, you can call our Secretary, Vicky O'Callaghan on 9769 8722 or Michael Muaremov, President on 9769 9134.

Warmest Regards, On Behalf of the Beaconsfield Business Group, Michael Muaremov

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FROM THE ACCOUNTANTS' DESK

by Graeme J Taylor, C.A.

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

The receipt of rental income from an investment property requires inclusion in an income tax return of the owner(s) as well as claims for deductions incurred. Statistics provided by the Australian Taxation Office disclose that overall rental deductions claimed exceed rental income resulting in net income tax benefits to taxpayers. Due to the significant cost to income tax revenue, the Australian Taxation Office has a compliance program to review and monitor amounts of rental income and deductions disclosed in income tax returns and particularly for new property owners.

Some matters to be borne in mind when disclosing rental property transactions are:

1. Rent received when tenanted privately particularly to relatives, must be at market rentals otherwise deductions can usually only be claimed to the amount of rent received.

2. Repairs and Improvements – initial repairs before the property is rented and any renovations are usually not deductible and are added to the capital cost. Repairs that are deductible include expenses to bring a property back to the condition at the time of purchase.

3. Interest paid in connection with monies borrowed

and directly applied for the purchase of a property including stamp duty, legal fees, capital renovations etc are deductible. However, difficulties occur in claiming a deduction for interest if loans are mixed with an existing loan or where loans are re-negotiated.

4. Travel costs can be claimed by the owners if needed to undertake repairs, property inspections etc however records of trips must be maintained.

5. Expenses can only be claimed in respect of the period that a property is rented out or genuinely made available for rent. Taxation Ruling IT2167 states the Australian Taxation Office view on what constitutes the property being available for rent and includes coastal and holiday homes.

6. Depreciation Capital Allowances can be claimed on plant, equipment, fixtures and fittings and also the building cost if built after the mid 1980's. If the property is relatively new it would be advisable to obtain a Quantity Surveyor's Report to claim these deductions.

The disclosure of rental property income and expenses should be carefully examined as the Australian Taxation Office undertakes compliance activities. If in doubt you should discuss any relevant matters with your Accountant.



L to R : Pam Clark and Ellie Dodd

Pam Clark and Ellie Dodd have crossed thousands of children and their families in the many years that they have been the crossing ladies in Beaconsfield. Each morning and afternoon, no matter the weather conditions children hear the familiar whistle sound and with warm greetings are safely crossed over the busy Princes Highway.

Pam began working at the Beaconsfield crossing in 1986 and Ellie became part of this well known team in 1991 and together both have seen the increase in traffic and the number of children using the crossing daily.

Now Ellie and Pam have the addition of traffic lights to help them and are horrified at the many cars that still speed despite the new lights.

They are constantly aware of the unpredictability of young children and

NEW LIGHTS ASSIST CROSSING LADIES

keep a watchful eye on both children and drivers because some times drivers do not stop.

During the limited time Ellie and Pam are at the crossing they will continue to provide pedestrians with a safe crossing option.



POETS CORNER



HERE IS THE FORECAST

The climate change that we had to have, its come, its here to stay ! Will it affect our daily lives - turn night time in to day ?

Of course, a 'sea' change is good when we retire but will the ocean sink our plans ? An inch or two, will it spoil the view cos rain can't fill the dams ?

Yet , its my children's children who worry me, the change rammed down their throat .

Climate change at school's not right , 'greenie' teachers vote.

A flood of tears comes with fears about ozone global warming, - cold comfort when they note no change, another day is yawning.

Level four the dams are low, time is running out , yet recent rains on paddocks dry sow seeds for growing doubt.

Gloom and doom, we'll all be roon'd as Hanrahan once said ! But, climate change won't end this world until, well after we are dead !

TH. 7.07

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STUDENTS VISIT PARLIAMENT HOUSE



Pictured Tammy Lobato with students at Parliament House a See report page 13.

Breast Cancer Research Supported By All Ages

The Hype #1 Youth Gym's Personal Training Club and The Juicee Bean Café would like to thank all those locals who attended their first Pink Ribbon Walk & Breakfast held on Sunday 21st October at the corner of Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd and the old Princes Hwy.

The event raised over \$500 for this important cause and although the day was extremely hot, the walk around the lake was pleasant and followed up with delicious breakfasts by all. Pictured is grandmother Janet out with her young grand-daughter enjoying the sunshine. Anastasia doing a full lap at nearly 2 was the youngest participant, whilst the most senior was another local grandmother Elbie Fletcher who at nearly 80 years of age joined her family for a full 5 laps! Quite

inspirational considering one lap around the lake is a bit further than a full sized oval.

The event also showed many people how lucky we are to have a lake right in the heart of Beaconsfield, complete with fish, eels and ducks for the kids to watch. Summer will no doubt see many locals taking their daily walk around it.



STUDENTS VISIT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

by Tammy Lobato, MP, Member for Gembrook

It has been pleasing to see the progress that has been made with the works at the Beaconsfield train station car park. Once works are completed, 123 fully sealed car parking spaces will be available for commuter use. Along with the recent \$230,000 upgrade to the pedestrian crossing, the car parks are another step towards improving the amenity of the station.

Also new to Beaconsfield are the pedestrian lights installed on the Princes Highway outside Beaconsfield Primary School and funded through the State Government. The crossing is known as a PUFFIN crossing, which means that it has sensor technology that can track a pedestrian's progress across the road and adjust accordingly the amount of time they need to cross. I have already received tremendous feedback from parents

saying how relieved they are that their children can now cross, not only with the assistance of the ever-reliable "lollipop" crossing attendants but also now with traffic signals.

I was delighted to welcome students from Beaconsfield Primary School recently to Parliament House in Spring St, Melbourne. I was able to conduct a tour for them through both the building and the grounds of the Parliament and they were able to listen to debate in both the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) and the Legislative Council (Upper House). They also had plenty of intelligent questions about how Parliament and Government works and about the role of a local Member of Parliament. I commend the school for encouraging students to learn the fundamentals of how our democratic system works, so that they will be able to be active

and informed citizens. The students seemed to really enjoy their visit and were quite amazed with the building itself. For those residents who have never been to Parliament House, regular public tours are conducted and there are annual open days. Alternatively, you may want to attend when Parliament is sitting to hear legislation being debated. Please contact my office for further information or visit the website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au

As another hot summer looms, emergency services workers, both staff and volunteers, are preparing for another high risk fire season. \$80 million was allocated in this year's state budget to strengthen the capacity of our emergency services to respond to bushfire. Additional firefighters have been recruited, fuel reduction burns have been carried out, an extra \$7.5 million has been invested



in protective clothing and equipment and \$3 million has been spent on community education programs.

New refuelling tankers for aircraft that allow planes to be refuelled on the fireground rather than having to return to an airport, will be in use for the first time. In all, there will be 34 aircraft in use this year including the Erikson Airplane 'Elvis'.

We can all assist this fire season by ensuring our properties have been cleared appropriately and that bushfire survival plans are in place. We all have a role to play in minimising the dangers.

Please take care this Christmas and holiday season and please do not hesitate to contact my office on any matters of State Government responsibility.

Tammy Lobato MP
Member for Gembrook
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How To Make Pet Health More Affordable....

By Steve, Beaconsfield Vet

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Recent advances in technology and knowledge has meant that the standard of animal treatment now parallels that of human medicine. State of the art equipment and surgical techniques are available for your pets. Although highly effective and successful, these treatments can be very expensive, in excess of \$4000.00.

To ensure that you can offer the highest level of care to your pets when they need it most, we recommend pet insurance for pets of all ages. Young pets can benefit from complex orthopaedic (bone) surgery

to correct hip or elbow dysplasia before arthritis becomes a problem. Older pets can benefit from joint replacement surgeries, chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

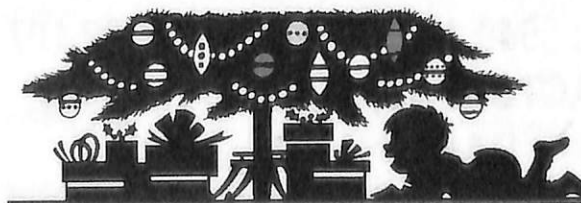
Pets of all ages can access specialist treatment for skin allergies, eye injuries, broken bones, spinal injuries, knee reconstructions and more. Some insurance plans also reward owners for disease prevention including vaccinations and worming. Taking out a pet insurance plan before you encounter any problems, can lead to a stress free relationship between you and your pet. It can be very cost effective, but as with any insurance, we only really appreciate it when the need arises.

For further information drop in for a brochure or search on the internet.

Wishing you a safe and joyous festive occasion from all the staff at the Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre.

Community Donation

Our \$500 donation for this edition goes to the Berwick Secondary School, helping students to experience travel abroad.



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FRIENDS OF CARDINIA CREEK

by Judy Smith

Friends of Beaconsfield Flora and Fauna Reserve have had a busy year removing environmental weeds and improving the bush. Some of the weeds we have been removing are pittosporum undulatum, wandering dew, broom, ivy and thistles. The birds help to spread these weeds from some these plants by eating the berries. Please help by removing these weeds if you have them in your garden.

along Emerald Road Beaconsfield and is a lovely place to walk, see the indigenous plants and listen to the birds.

The Friends would welcome more helpers at their monthly working bees on the fourth Sunday of the month except December. Morning tea and tools supplied. We are so lucky to have this reserve in Beaconsfield. Please come and help. Ring Judy Smith if able to attend, 9707 1402.

The Reserve is

A WORD FROM WOOD

by Jason Wood,
Member for La Trobe



Note from editor:

Liberal candidate, Jason Wood, will continue his role as La Trobe MP after a tight battle with Labor candidate Rodney Cocks.

Mr. Cocks recently conceded defeat with many votes left to be counted.

We invite Jason to continue to give regular articles in 2008.

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Thought of the Moment

The ornament of the house is the
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Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803 - 1882
American Essayist, poet and philosopher



BPS Corner

Kahootz Competition

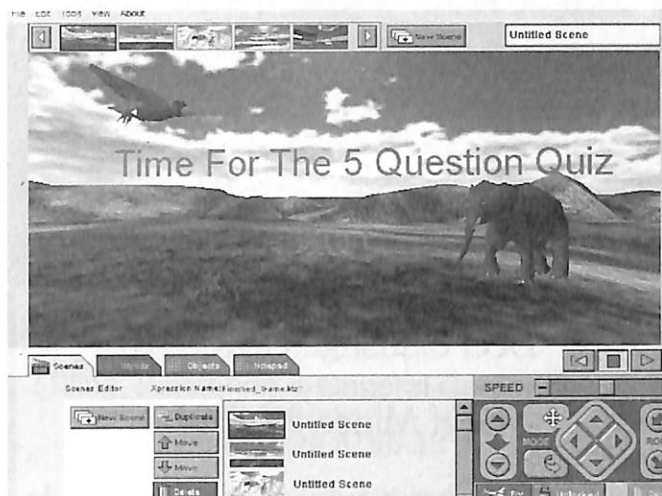
by Jordan Ball

Try-athlon H.P.V. Series

Written by John Perrin,
President Casey Cardinia
HPV & Cycling Club

Perhaps the clearest demonstration of the emerging strength of our local schools, came in the "Try-athlon" HPV series of events, where local schools won 19 of the 21 available prizes. The "Try-athlon" event is aimed as a challenge to the younger riders. It is a series of three different trials, which include

"Time Trial", "Obstacle Course" and "Endurance Trial". Students are also assessed on "Design & Construction", as well as "Display and Presentation". Points are then aggregated and prizes awarded to the "Overall" and the "Runner Up - Overall". This event is then further divided into three sections, based on the age of the riders, and the size of the school. Beaconsfield was awarded Runner Up Overall and Design & Construction.



In the early Days of October we had an email from the Kahootz competition organizers saying that I, Jordan Ball had been selected to be the representative for Beaconsfield Primary. Soon the following Monday, Linda Amos (my I.T. teacher), my mother (Birgit) and myself went into Melbourne for the Competition Award Ceremony to be held at the Gene Technology Access Centre.

We got there early so we sat and ate a bit of lunch but I felt too nervous to eat

too much. Then we waited and waited and waited and waited more until the presentation was about to begin. It finally began at 1:00 o'clock. Our M.C (Master of Ceremony) was a guy named Damien. He was really funny. It turned out the he is a comedian that had also played a part on the Wedge.

There were a number of categories including Primary and Secondary Movie Maker, Primary and Secondary Game Maker and Primary and Secondary Expressions and then there was a category for the Special Developmental Schools.

When they got up to my category I was still nervous. They started with the Honorable Mentions. At the end of the mentions I realized that they had not called my name, so I thought that I had not even made it into the Honorable Mentions list but then I realized that I had won!

I won two packages of music software called Groovy Music for the school, one package was for Grades prep-2 and one was for Grades 3-6s.

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THE VOICE OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

by David Morland

Precious Life

Wednesday 7 November was a terrible day at Jokela Secondary School in Finland, which has 400 pupils. During a lesson mid morning a young gunman came to the school and opened fire killing five boys, two girls and the female principal. The 18 year old gunman then shot himself. Before he went on his rampage Pekka-Eric Auvinen posted a video of himself on You Tube along with other blogs. There he shares his understanding of life and reality.

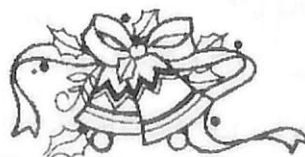
For Pekka-Eric there was no ultimate purpose for life. He speaks of humanity being over rated, of death not being a tragedy and not all human lives as being important. He said he saw himself as one who should eliminate all who were unfit for the human race. It was as if he saw himself as helping evolution along by removing inadequate people from the gene pool.

Pekka-Eric Auvinen was manifestly a deeply disturbed teenager. Nevertheless it worries me that when he tried to figure

out the meaning of life his only picture was one of being part of a species that had evolved from the slime and in which the individual was of ultimately no value.

Pekka-Eric Auvinen had followed to its logical conclusion the theory of the evolution of humans. For Pekka-Eric Auvinen humans were nothing more than the next step along the never ending development of life. The fittest will survive and the weakest will not and should not. And so for Pekka-Eric Auvinen the individual, including himself, was of no consequence at all.

There is another view of the life which says God created. If this view is correct then every individual is significant and precious. We did not simply come by accident from the some earlier primitive form of life. We were specifically designed to live lives that are useful and helpful. If God is our creator then every one of us has a meaningful and important life to live.



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If there is something you would be interested in doing and it is not offered, please see BNC staff who will be only too happy to assist with your enquiry.
Our booking week 29 January to 1st February.

Wishing everyone a safe and merry Christmas and happy New Year. Look forward to seeing you at the centre in 2008.



Photos from our successful Open Day in November. Above: Line dancing demonstration.



Left:
Harry
on the
computers



Right:
Linda
with her
Folk Art.

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Arbor day 1907

BEACONSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL HISTORY

by Ann Taylor

The last issue of the Banner detailed the opening of the fantastic second stage of the Beaconsfield Primary School's new facilities.

Did you know that the school is over 100 years old?

The book *The Cardinian Embroidery* edited by Eleanor Taylor provides history p. 24.

"Beaconsfield Railway Station School no. 3033 was officially opened on June 5th 1890 and celebrated its centenary in 1990. For a few years from 1891 this school

was known as lower Beaconsfield State School, but changed back. The railway station part of the name was dropped in 1951. The first school room was brick and measured 18'x24'- unusually large

and solid for a school building of this time. In 1930 a weatherboard room formerly part of Narre Warren School was brought to the school and a new office and classroom were added in 1955.

Since then many other buildings have been added including the purchase in 1974 of the site office of the Cardinia dam to be used as a hall, canteen, storage area etc. The original buildings were demolished in 1997 and replaced with a new school complex where some of the original handmade bricks, windows frames and a door step from the old school have been incorporated into the new buildings.

The freestanding brick pillar at the entrance to the school (shown in the embroidery) is built from the original handmade bricks."

If you would like to read more about the school and its history you can read Audrey Dodson's book *Beaconsfield PS. 1890-*

1990; The School and its District. Available from local libraries.

Many of the students from Beaconsfield Primary added their stitches to the name panel of the Embroidery and you can view the completed panels at the Cardinia Cultural Centre at Lakeside Pakenham.

You can also purchase souvenir books and cards available from Cardinia Cultural Centre and Beaconsfield Community Centre.



Shelter shed at Beaconsfield Primary School - 1908



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Pictured are the Original bricks that are incorporated in the free standing pillar.

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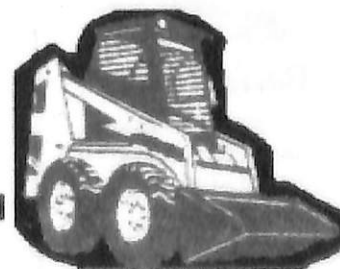


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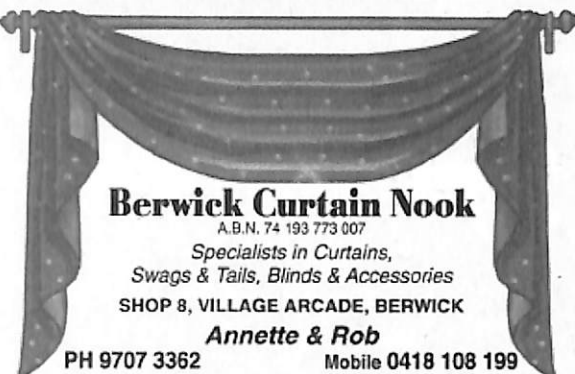
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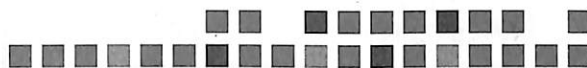
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BEACONSFIELD'S HANDYMAN

by Phil Collins

Phil would like to wish his friends and customers a safe and happy Christmas and he looks forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

At the time of printing Phil Collins was unwell and recuperating in hospital. We all wish Phil a speedy recovery and hope that he has a joyous time with his family this Christmas.

HOME VIDEO FINALISTS

David and Susan Kent with their three children were recently one of six finalists on Australia's Funniest Home Video Show.

The video features David and his phobia of spiders and a failed attempt to catch a huntsman. With the huntsman making a reappearance several days later, this made for another hilarious filming moment.

To be one of the finalists from the hundreds of

video sent in was truly an amazing experience. The Beaconsfield family were rewarded with a trip to the Gold Coast for the finals but the grand prize of \$200,000 didn't come their way.

However, there will still be plenty to laugh about and be thankful for in the Kent household this Christmas, whilst making sure the video camera is always ready to roll.



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1st March - Easter Chocolates and Easter Eggs

5th April - Decorating Cup Cakes and Barista Coffee Making Demonstration

3rd May - Scones, Sponge Cake and Biscuits

7th June - Bus Tour to cake shops

5th July - Christmas in July - Poinsettias, Holly and Berries and Xmas Rose plus a full three course Christmas Lunch

2nd August - Floodwork on plaques

6th September - Brush Embroidery

4th October - Sweetpeas and Iris Flowers

8th November - Cake in a Day - Xmas Cake and Xmas Baubles

6th December - Gingerbread Houses and Gingerbread Men



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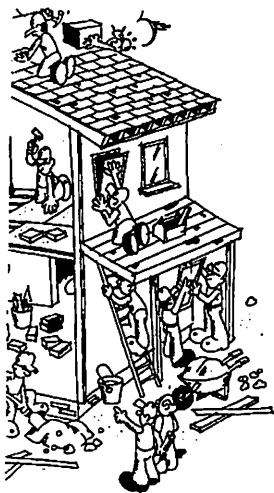
If you, your club or organisation has an article or photo they would like to submit to the Beaconsfield Banner, please email to banner@beaconsfield.org.au with contact details for verification.



We always appreciate volunteer collators who can help collate the Beaconsfield Banner once every two months - its straightforward and fun - a great way to meet other residents - contact 97075053 for more information.

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OUR NATURAL WORLD

by Peter Hansen

"We are not here just to survive and live long..... We are here to live and know life in its multi - dimensions to know life in its richness, in all its variety. And when a man lives multi - dimensionally, explores all possibilities available, never shrinks back from any challenge, Goes, rushes to it, welcomes it, rises to the occasion then life becomes a flame, life blooms."

Thesewordswerewrittenby Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh an Indian Guru of world renown, and captures the essence of existence well. Even with all the benefits and comforts of our civilized world, we need something more, a sense of purpose, of real meaning to our lives.

Without this the spirit feels unfulfilled and in its search for meaning will often explore the less desirable aspects of life, such as drugs and alcohol abuse, gambling and a variety of diversions that can be destructive in their lives. The reverse side is that many people will do good works in this search, such as overseas service as missionaries or aid workers in ravaged countries, and charitable work in our own country. The list of possibilities is endless but it all boils down to the same thing, a journey to give meaning to that individual life, and it is a well known fact that giving service to others is life affirming to the giver. They experience a joy and satisfaction that fills that need to feel meaning.

Oneofthegreatestbooks on our subject was written by a Jewish Doctor/ Psychiatrist called Victor E. Frankel. He was imprisoned by the Nazis in WWII, and suffered the hell of these camps.

He survived, and after the war took up his practise again, but as a result of his experiences and the witnessed suffering of others, he evolved a whole new branch of Psychiatry called Logotherapy, which is now recognised world wide and is based on the core belief that man's primary motivational force is his search for meaning. A powerful force that will not be silenced. The American Journal of Psychiatry said of his book, "Perhaps the most significant thinking since Freud and Adler. Unconditional faith in an unconditional meaning is Dr. Frankl's message to the reader." A great read for seekers of truth, as to our core needs.

Coming back to our own every day lives which is seldom touched by world shattering events, we are still engaging in our own search for meaning but on another level, no less important or urgent, but our needs may be nourished by everyday events that match our lives. It may be the satisfaction of raising a family to the best of your abilities, it may be giving service as a carer to a family member or close friend, ensuring that your home is full of love and understanding, pride in the way your work is providing for the family's needs, etc, etc. Once again the list is endless and individuals will have different interpretations of what it is that gives them the meaning in their particular lives.

Just remember that meaning can be extracted from all levels of life; the body's needs are important but the spirit has needs that are of the spirit alone. To find meaning is to find true happiness.



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CROSS CULTURE

by David Griffiths

I've always been a firm believer that a musician's private life is their private life and their music career is their music career. They are separate things and a true professional knows how to prevent one from affecting the other. This has been well proven over the last few years with stars such as Amy Winehouse and Pete Doherty. No one would argue with me that they are very troubled stars, but they have overcome their private lives to release some of their best music ever over the last few years, now Britney Spears can also be added to that list.

2007 has been a write off for Spears personally. There's been a divorce (although some might say getting K-Fed out of her life is a blessing), custody battles, lewd behavior and her disastrous performance at the MTV Awards. However Ms. Spears has managed to sweep all that behind her with her new album 'Blackout' an

album that outclasses and outshines anything she has previously released.

There is an edge of maturity around 'Blackout'. The whiny, repetitive pop that made Spears a household name has been replaced with songs so heavy with drum 'n' bass that even the hardened dance fans will be queuing up for this one.

The secret to 'Blackout's' success is that Spears has surrounded herself with the right kind of people. The Neptunes produce a track, the newly-popular Keri Hilson does backing on a couple of tracks and a majority of this album was worked on by people from the most-pop-friendly country in the world... Sweden.

For all her faults Spears still knows how to deliver the perfect pop album, tracks such as 'Gimme More' get stuck in your head very easily while 'Radar' may well be one of

the best pop songs of this decade. It's also marvelous to giggle as Spears lashes out at the press in 'Piece Of Me', a track which sees her describe herself as Miss-she's-too-thin-she's-too-fat.

Being Christmas time there are also a number of great albums floating around at the moment that will make the perfect stocking fillers. Two of the best Aussie bands going around at the moment, 'Famous By Association' and 'Angela's Dish' have new albums on the shelf and there's also a terrific compilation out at the moment that is not only chockers with good music, but also helps support a good cause... our farmers.

The 'Bundy Rock' compilation is a great album for any fans of the music played on Triple J.

All up this is a good compilation, yes it's got some tracks that you'll have heard over and over

like 'Do-Do's And Whoa-Oh's' by Kisschasy, 'Black Fingernails Red Wine' by Eskimo Joe and 'Catch My Disease' by Ben Lee, but they're great tracks, and you can never get too much of a good thing, right?

Where this album needs to be congratulated is that it contains great Aussie acts like Something With Numbers, 67 Special, The Hot Lies and The Scare, bands that are normally overlooked by commercial compilations. The other great thing is bands like Dallas Crane and You Am I have donated tracks that haven't been over-used before.

Well worth a look for Aussie music fans.

A Merry Christmas to all of you and I look forward to bringing you more music news in 2008.



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Clean up for Christmas

Pakenham, Beaconsfield and Officer residents have been encouraged to take the chance to clean up before Christmas.

Cardinia Shire Council has responded to requests to resume a shirewide twice-yearly collection of green and hard waste.

Residents in Central Ward will have their rubbish collected in the week beginning Monday 17 December.

Central Ward Councillor Brett Owen encouraged residents to take advantage of the hard waste collection. "This is a perfect opportunity to have a good clean out prior to Christmas," he said.

"Previously residents had

to contact the Council to book in a pick-up. That's no longer the case.

"This improved service will cover the entire shire and the rubbish will be picked up by Council's contractor at the designated times, without residents having to phone ahead to request a collection."

Cr Owen said suitable items for the collection included scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, small car parts and whitegoods. Tree branches tied in bundles and less than 1.5 metres long and 15 centimetres in diameter will also be collected.

From one week before the advertised collection date for their area, residents

can leave up to two cubic metres of hard and green waste on their nature strip for collection.

A second collection will be in all wards in June/July next year.

To help with recycling, Cr Owen asked residents to please place green waste, mattresses, scrap metal and remaining hard waste in separate piles.

Items that will not be collected include batteries, asbestos sheeting, chemicals, large car parts, tyres, gas bottles, car springs and any other dangerous materials.

The collection is being carried out for Council by WM Waste Management

Services, who can be contacted on 9721 1915.

Go to Council's website www.cardinia.vic.gov.au and look under garbage and recycling, then hard and green waste kerbside collection for more information.

If you require clarification on what ward you are in contact Council's customer service team on 1300 787 624.



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TALKING WEATHER

by Nathan Boon

With summer now here and the weather warming up, now is the best time to conserve every drop of rain that falls.

In the last 2 months we have seen 142mm of rain fall. 38mm in October and 104mm in November.

The rain fell over 12 days with 6 days in October and 6 days in November.

The 2 monthly total was not the highest recorded for these two months. This was recorded in 1992 when 251mm of rain fell.

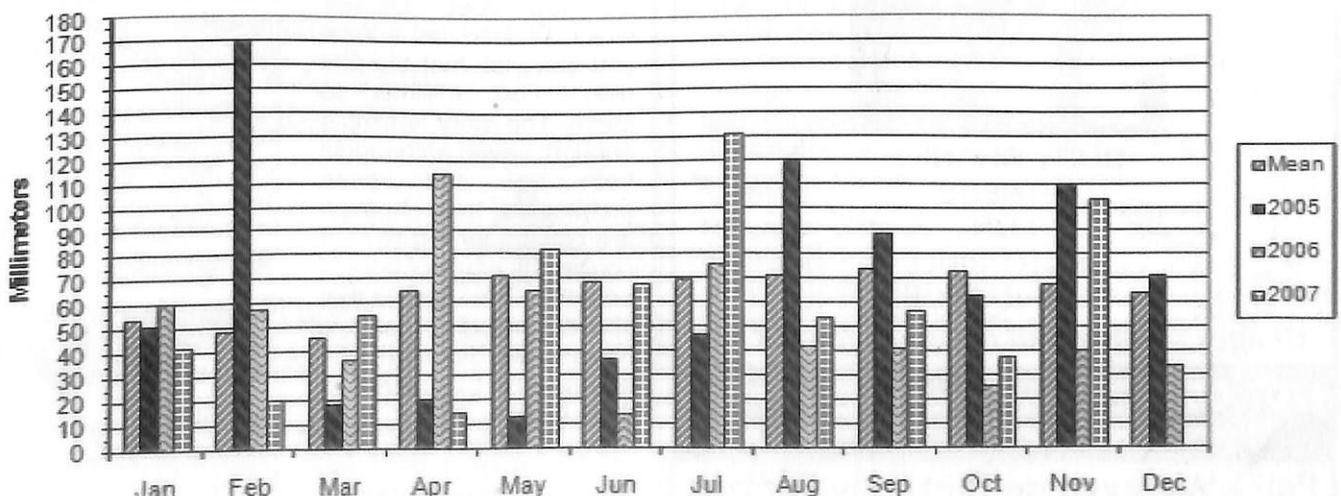
The total for the year is 667mm, this is already 58mm more than last year and there is still a month to go.

Victoria's water storages are currently at 39.7% full.

BEACONSFIELD RAINFALL



These figures are taken in a home rain gauge and are not kept for the Bureau of Meteorology.





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X-Wired

by David Griffiths



I recently had the pleasure of catching up with one of Australia's best up-and-coming film directors, a man by the name of Shane Abbess. What impressed me about Shane is that he isn't one of these filmmakers that have had everything handed to him on a gold platter. He has worked jolly hard for his debut feature film, 'Gabriel' to come into fruition.

Lots of Aussie filmmakers have recently tried to make an independent feature, but most of those have been a dialogue-driven drama with very few, simplistic sets, Shane's is very different to that... 'Gabriel' is a 'Gothic-western' set in a post-apocalyptic city, we're talking about a movie on the scale of 'The Matrix' or 'Underworld' series... but all filmed on a budget of under \$150,000. Shane is a filmmaker who is willing to bleed for his craft, he raised his \$150,000 by working as a furniture removalist and when he was \$20,000 short to finish the film, his boss sold his car to fund it.

So how does 'Gabriel' look? Well to be honest you can't tell that the film didn't cost millions to make. The story is simple enough, seven archangels from hell and seven archangels from heaven are battling for the right to control the souls of people on earth. The catch is that six of heaven's angels have been defeated and it is now up to 'Gabriel' to save the day.

In the way it is shot, 'Gabriel' is a masterpiece,

every shot captures the doom-and-gloom of this new world and the ever present rain and thunder adds an atmosphere that has to be seen to be believed.

'Gabriel' is also well cast. Newcomer, Andy Whitfield is terrific in the role of 'Gabriel' while ex-model, Erika Heynatz steals the show in her role of the very evil, Lilith.

There is nothing B-Grade about 'Gabriel', this is movie that Australia should be proud of.

Another great Aussie film doing the rounds at the moment is exactly the opposite in pace to 'Gabriel'. 'September' is the feature film debut of director, Peter Carstairs (who was under the watchful eye of the legendary John Polson). Set in the wheat belt of Western Australia during 1968, 'September' is a coming of age story about two 16-year-old boys. There is the white farmers-son Ed (Xavier Samuel) and Aboriginal Paddy (Clarence John Ryan). This is a film that explores mateship, segregation, love and above all family. A superb script and outstanding performances from Samuel and Ryan just adds to a film that has the most beautiful cinematography since 'Somersault'.

'September' may well be a slow film, but it is defiantly worth sitting through.

Merry Christmas everybody and happy film going! Get Wired!

Outstanding Results Achieved by Local Schools at the 2007 RACV Energy Breakthrough

The RACV Energy Breakthrough was held again in Maryborough, Central Victoria, over the election weekend. (22/Nov to 25/Nov).

Many hundreds of Cardinia & Casey residents visited Maryborough, supporting their children and their schools. Local schools from around the Beaconsfield area were again in attendance and performed very well. Some of the local schools who participated at Maryborough this year included: Beaconsfield, Beaconsfield Upper, Berwick Secondary, Berwick Primary and St Margarets School.

The Local HPV & Cycling Club were very pleased to see many other schools from within the Casey & Cardinia area also strongly represented, with two new participants from Cranbourne West Primary and Koo Wee Rup SC, who have been helped by the

local club to get started.

Some of the prize-winning results and performances include:

Berwick Secondary College's new All-girls team "Berwick Birds", who not only won their category, but also set a new event record for the distance traveled in 24 hours by an all-girls team.

St Margarets School took second place in the all-girls category. The girls were using a new (very different) vehicle for this event, and had no prior opportunity to train in it.

Several "Beacy residents" had leading roles in our preparation for this event, and especially helping with the regular training. For any information on becoming involved with this great activity, please visit our club web site www.cchpvcc.org.au or simply drop into the Primary school and ask for how to get involved! John Perrin

Add an International Dimension to Your Family

by I Watkins

Broaden your children's International understanding or assist them with their foreign language studies at school. EF Foundation for Foreign Studies is seeking families in the Beaconsfield area willing to voluntarily host an overseas student in their home. EF has 50 students arriving in late January 2008 requiring host families.

If you can provide a bedroom, a place at your table and a kind loving environment for a young person from another country, you've got what it takes to be a host family.

Exchange students are in Australia for periods of 6 or 12 months and aged from 15 to 18 years. They will be attending local secondary schools and are expected to complete a full school curriculum maintaining at least a "C" grade in each class. Students are selected based on maturity,

adaptability and academic motivation with all students speaking English, although proficiency may vary depending on the curriculum taught in their home country.

All students provide their own spending money and are covered by full medical Insurance and the natural parents remain the legal guardians. EF Foundation takes legal responsibility for the students during the course of the programme.

Try hosting a German, Italian, French or Japanese student if your children are studying these subjects at school. How about a student who loves Tennis, Horse Riding or Basketball if your children are into sport. International exchange students can bring a new outlook into your family life.

For further information on hosting a student you may ring your local EF student co ordinator Ian Watkins on 59814006 after hours, free call 1800 251 877 during business hours or log on to www.effoundation.org. EF is an official exchange programme registered with appropriate government bodies world wide with offices in 30 countries on 5 continents.



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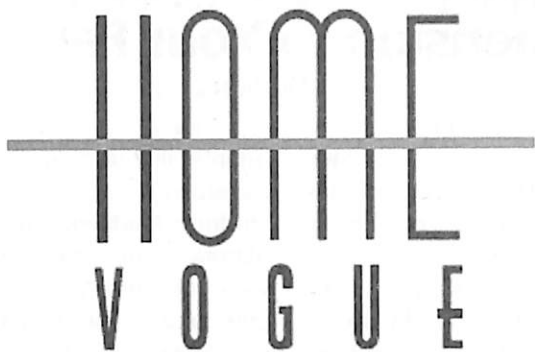
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BEAconsFIELD CRICKET CLUB NEWS

by Greg Tomamichel

Beaconsfield Cricket Club continues to grow in season 2007-8, with the junior teams numbering 12 and the seniors expanding to 7 sides for the first time. This makes the club a very busy place each week of the summer, with around 200 members all enjoying regular active recreation.

With so many sides there is a range of results for the season. A Grade have won 2 of its 3 games and is performing well under new coach Ryan O'Connor and captain Jason Dodd, ably supported by Brad Miles as vice-captain. The other senior grades have had a wide range of results, including outright wins and outright losses, and

very great gritty wins in between.

The junior grades are all very competitive and show improvement all of the time, particularly those boys who are new to cricket.

Our Melbourne Cup day event was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. A reminder that our Trivia Night will be on Saturday 23 February - please see anyone on the committee for details.

To all our members and to all of the Beaconsfield community, a Merry Christmas and a safe and successful 2008.



Photo by : Russell Vincent

Pictured: James Johnston playing for the Beacy U 17s hits a boundary against Nar Nar Goon





BEACONSFIELD TENNIS CLUB INC.

TENNIS NEWS

HOLIDAY TIME – TIME FOR TENNIS

HIRE A COURT: With the holiday period just about upon us why not consider having a hit of tennis. Beaconsfield tennis courts are available for casual hire (non member) at \$5 per person. So if you have ever considered having a hit of a tennis contact The Tennis Shop 9796 2767 during business hours or after hours any committee member below by appointment. Please be aware committee members are all voluntary so please consider the hour when calling.

CONSIDER NIGHT TENNIS: Our in house summer/autumn night tennis competition season will be commencing February 2008. With levels suitable from the less experienced to those of a competitive nature and open to both members and non members, this is the means of getting into tennis. Contact our co-coordinators Anja & Maurice 9707 4287, Jeff 9707 2909 or Craig 9707 4507.

WATER SAVING: Our water saving initiative is now under way with water tank to be installed as we write.

Club Contacts

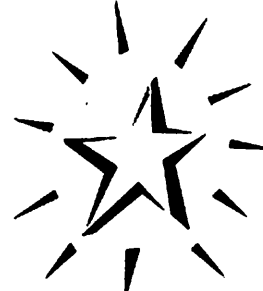
President: 5940 1186	Monday Night age 16-22yr: 9796 2767	Mid Week Ladies: 9704 6852
Secretary: 9707 2575	Tuesday Mixed A Grade: 9707 2909	Junior Comp: 9702 5251
Treasurer: 9707 4287	Wednesday Mixed B Grade: 9707 4287	Coach: 0412 682 569
	Thursday Men's A & B: 9707 4507	

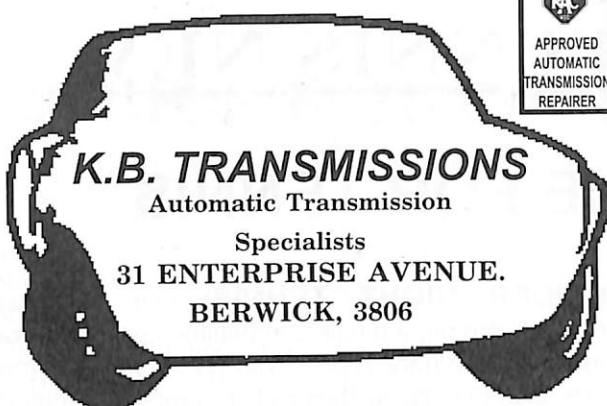
Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year

From Reflections Hair Design
to all our Clients, Neighbours and Friend's!
Inge & Pete

We are open till Monday 24th
Reopen: 28th December
then Business as usual

2/70 Princess Highway Beaconsfield
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Beaconsfield Banner

ARTICLES WELCOME

Have your say on local issues, submit anecdotes about Beaconsfield past/present, letters to the editor or articles of general interest are welcomed.

All articles in relation to births, deaths, marriages, welcomes, farewells are gladly published free of charge.

These can be emailed to banner@beaconsfield.org.au or be left at the Beaconsfield Post Office.

All articles must contain the contributors name and contact details for verification purposes.

BANNER DELIVERY

Anyone who is interested in receiving the Banner by post this can be arranged for a pre-paid cost of \$9. per year.

Please send name, address to:
Treasurer, Beaconsfield Progress Association,
P.O. Box 217. Beaconsfield. 3807

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Some articles and photo's are covered by copyright. Please have the courtesy of contacting us if you wish to copy any part of the Banner.

4C's

On behalf of our centre, we are once again doing Christmas hampers and toys and if there is any one in the Cardinia Shire who thinks they may need these that they need to come to our centre at 1 Main street, Pakenham to register.

These hampers will be collected on 17th & 18th December and our centre will then close till the 7th January.

We would also like to thank all those in the community who have helped or donated during 2007 to our work within the community and we wish everyone a merry Christmas.

regards,
Jeni Mathieson, Director
Cardinia Combined
Churches Caring.

BIRTH NOTICE

Dawn and Alan Gourlay proudly announce the birth of their 5th great grand child. To Jodi (Gourlay) and Scott Mann a beautiful daughter "Caitlin Emily Daphne". A dear little sister for Lachlan and Joshua, second grand daughter for Gary and Gail Gourlay and great niece for Susan.

CONGRATULATIONS 60th Wedding Anniversary

Marg and Peter Aurish recently celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

CARDINIA RATEPAYERS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION INC. (CRRA)

by Gloria O'Connor

crravic@yahoo.com.au
PO Box 161 Officer. 3809.
5942 7739 / 0419 135712
www.crra.org.au

Congratulations to Dot Murphy and co. on the grand reopening of the Pakenham 50 m. outdoor swimming pool - and well done,

Cardinia Shire Council on delivering this long overdue project!



Peace

DEADLINE FOR BANNER ARTICLES

January 26th,
2008

banner@beaconsfield.org.au

(articles can be posted or emailed)

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 - **Wide Variety of Plants**
- Plus much more.**

Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre



9769-8777

14 Wood Street Beaconsfield



"The Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre supports local community groups with bi monthly donations."
Donations to date - \$12,500.

* Consultations / Vaccinations	* X ray Facilities
* House Visits	* DIY Hydrobath
* Desexing	* Free Puppy Pre School
* Microchipping	* New Clients receive 10% off first consultation
* Dentistry	* Pet Merchandise

-Centre Hours-

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM - 7PM

SATURDAY 8.30AM - 4.30PM

- UPCOMING EVENTS -

December Every client that visits the clinic in December will go in the draw to win a Christmas Hamper valued at over \$300.00.

HYDROBATH SPECIAL:

NEW hydrobath card

Every 5th hydrobath is FREE

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