



FREE

Beaconsfield Banner

Vol. 20 No. 6 Bimonthly Publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association Inc. Dec 08/Jan 09

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Carols By The Creek

Sunday 21st December

8 pm Bob Burgess Reserve

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

Organisers of Beaconsfield's 2008 Carols by the Creek say they hope for a record turnout at this year's celebration at Bob Burgess Reserve, Beaconsfield, on Sunday December 21.

"This is a true community event," said Carols by the Creek 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, combined choir and more, along with the energies of hundreds of people as they celebrate the 'Reason for the Season - the birth of Jesus Christ.'"

Mr Brown said, "We are encouraging families to arrive early to stake their claim to a good vantage point, on the park at the rear of Taco Bill and Beaconsfield Pizza, and enjoy their own picnic. Blankets, chairs, cushions, coats and insect repellent are a must; easy access for disabled persons. (Watch for the man in the orange vest.) Music starts from 7.30pm with the Cardinia Civic Concert Band's overture from 8.00pm."

Candles and song sheets 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. This is a truly local event.



*Merry
Christmas*

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).

We always appreciate volunteer collators who can help with the Beaconsfield Banner once every two months - its straightforward and fun -- contact 97075053.

BEACONSFIELD BANNER ADVERTISING RATES

2009 Banner Advertising Rates GST Inclusive.

Advert Size	Per Issue
Full Page	\$185.00
Half Page	\$95.00
Quarter Page	\$50.00
Notice Board	\$25.00

Classified: Min \$3 for 5 words + \$1 for each 5 words thereafter plus GST

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www.beaconsfield.org.au

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BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Les Reader

Well here we are again facing up to the festive season, very shortly it will be upon us all. I hope that this short message finds you in great spirit for this time of the year when we think of things like love, peace and wellbeing for all.

As the Christmas season draws near and the year draws to a close we can look back on the year past and see what development has taken place in our town and we will look forward to how this will affect our lives in our town and community.

Just a gentle reminder for all that Carols by the Creek will be held again on Sunday 21st December, more details elsewhere in this publication.

Following council elections last month it was great to

see Brett Owen returned, he has done a great job for the community in general and has been of great assistance to the Beaconsfield Progress Association in particular, thanks Brett we all wish you well for your ensuing term in council. We also welcome new councillors George Blenkhorn and Collin Ross to the Central Ward of which the majority of Beaconsfield township is part of.

My thanks and best wishes go to all the committee and members of BPA. for their efforts during the year.

Finally to each and everyone, I would wish for you a happy, healthy and holy Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Yours in progress, Les Reader

Carols by the Creek 2008

A Beaconsfield Family
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Sunday
21 December

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Overture
from 8pm

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We thank many willing helpers including Frank Facey First National Real Estate, Beaconsfield HoME Timber and Hardware, Cardinia Shire, Olney family, Len McGrath, Berwick Builders Services, Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre.

CARDINIA SHIRE REPORT

by Cr. Brett Owen, Central Ward

I would like to take this opportunity to inform Beaconsfield residents of the results of the recent council elections. I was re-elected to continue representing you as one of three councillors for



Central Ward (Growth areas of Beaconsfield, Officer and Pakenham) for the next four years.

The two other councillors elected for Central Ward are Collin Ross and George Blenkhorn. I look forward to working with my two new councillor colleagues to ensure that Beaconsfield receives effective council representation.

I wish all residents a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



Newly Elected Councillors For Cardinia Shire



Back row L to R: Graeme Legge, George Blenkhorn, Stuart Halligan, Bill Pearson.

Front row L to R: Collin Ross, Brett Owen, Ed Chatwin.

See page 29 for contact details for elected councillors for Central, Ranges and Edrington Wards.

For more shire news visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au.

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SNIPPETS FROM THE ACCOUNTANT'S DESK

by Graeme J Taylor, C.A.

All taxpayers should be aware of the constant changes to tax laws and the publication of Determinations and Rulings. Some recent items noted include:

* The Tax Office is reviewing reducing the number of taxpayers who need to lodge a tax return, which would abolish claims for work related deductions.

* First Home Saver Accounts have been available from 1st October 2008 attracting tax free bonuses of 17% (maximum \$850 per annum) and interest taxed at a flat rate of 15%. Monies can only be withdrawn after four years of Contributions for the purchase of the first home or rolled-over into Superannuation.

* The Government Budget proposals to increase Luxury Car Tax from 25% to 33% and Family Trust Loss definition of 'Family' have been defeated or substantially modified by the Senate.

* A recent court case upheld the Tax Office issuing an amended assessment to a wage earner for additional cash wages assessable income in excess of the amount shown on

the PAYG Summary. In addition, incorrect return penalties were applied and a reduction in the Spouse Tax Offset for undisclosed cash wages of his Spouse.

* Both the Labor Government and the Liberal Opposition have initiated reviews of the Australian Tax System so expect future changes some of which may have major consequences.

* The Tax Office has issued a Draft Ruling on the requirements to be satisfied before payments are treated as Genuine Redundancy Payments and mostly tax-free. The Ruling aims to prohibit project and contract workers from claiming concessional tax treatment as well as for employees who act as both Director and employee.

Make sure that you discuss your accountancy and taxation affairs with your Accountant to ensure that you are aware of changes effecting you.





BPS Corner

The Value of Giving

This term the grades 5 and 6's focused on 'The Value of Giving'. Each grade selected a different charity which they then raised money for.

Grade 6G collected gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes, 45 in total, are on their way to Cambodia to be given out to children between the ages of 4 and 12.

Grade 5G raised money for the RSPCA and collected towels and blankets.

The school community benefited when Grade 5R visited junior grades and

helped students with their reading and spent time developing friendships.

6N chose the McGrath Foundation as their charity to support. They sold wrist bands to raise money to train more breast care nurses to support women with breast cancer.

To raise awareness of men's health 5M participated in November.

The children used their persuasive writing skills effectively to organise and support their cause, but also learned that they could understand and make a difference to the 'big issues'.



During the weekend of the 19/20 November, two HPV teams raced in the RACV Energy Break Through. Both teams, Catwoman and Superman entered in the triathlon which had three races – a time trial, obstacle and an 8 hour endurance race. The many hours of training and preparation by students, teachers and parents prior to the weekend paid off with great results.

Thank you to all the families who have collected cans for the HPV team. *Did you know that for every can we have collected the difference in the energy used to recycle that can compared to mining, can run a TV for 3 hours!*

This has been a great fundraiser for the team and so keep those cans coming in 2009.

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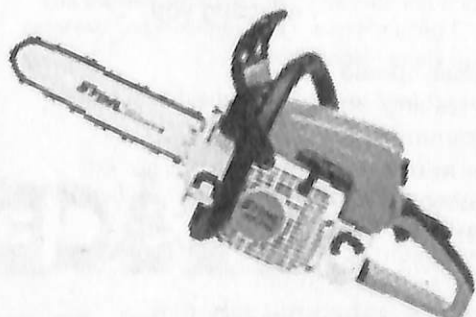
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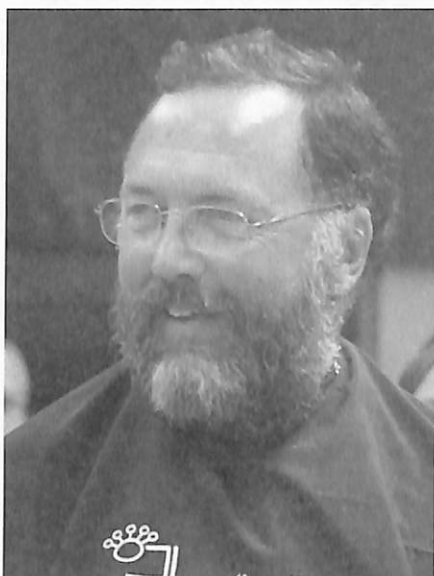
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**BEFORE**

Gary's BIG Shave

The highlight this term at Beaconsfield Primary School would have to be the \$4300 that was raised by the MO BROS and in particular over \$1000 that was raised for Mens Health. Reaching the target set by the Principal Gary Methven, resulted in him having his beard of more than 30 years shaved at a special assembly on 1st Dec.

Fellow staff members (pictured below) joined Gary prior to the full shave.

Organiser Rod McKenzie thanked everyone who donated prizes especially Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre and John from Hair Movement.

**AFTER**

Gary with John from Hair Movement



Gary and Mandy (Beac Veterinary Centre)

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St Francis Xavier College And Outward Bound Australia Celebrate 25 Years Of Adventure

by M. Chapman.

St Francis Xavier College Year 9's returned in September from their Outward Bound Australia adventure in the Snowy River National Park, celebrating a partnership of 25 years providing self discovery, personal challenge and growth for local youth.

Beginning in 1984, 100 Year 10 students bravely forged a path that would be followed by over 4500 students in the following 25 years, an experience that continues to be relevant in today's fast paced world.

St Francis Xavier College said the rationale for introducing outdoor education, as a compulsory part of the curriculum in 1984, was to challenge students in order to strengthen their ability to cope with change and

uncertainty and to build their self-confidence and levels of motivation.

Through the 25 years activities have included hiking, rock climbing, abseiling, rafting, highropes courses and perhaps the most demanding, cooking for a group of 18 fellow students each night. Each student has experienced a unique journey and holds special memories of the experience.

Peter Robinson of St Francis Xavier said he had found that Outward Bound inspires responsibility, self-reliance, perseverance, teamwork, confidence, compassion and a greater sense of community in the students, well beyond the expectations of those who pioneered the program.

Continued page 9

St Francis Xavier College And Outward Bound Australia Celebrate 25 Years Of Adventure

Continued from page 8

Mr Robinson has been personally involved as a group teacher and co-ordinator of the program for most of those 25 years and has a unique perspective on its success.

"The college has grown and evolved enormously since 1984. Society has also changed. An article published in 2004 described young people today as belonging to "the bubble-wrap generation". As a society we have become far more protective of our children. There is evidence that children today are less resilient because we shield them from risk. The need for programs such as Outward Bound has not decreased.

In fact, they have become even more important at a younger age," Mr Robinson said.

Outward Bound Australia

is the largest not-for-profit outdoor education provider in Australia, and provides personal development experiences in a variety of locations for all ages.



BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

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

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**
Christmas celebration
Dec 19th
'08

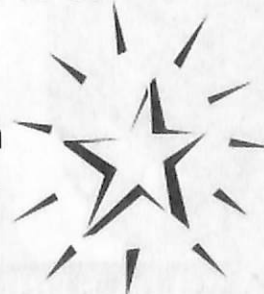
**February
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CARDINIA CREEK PLATYPUS KILLED - SEVERE BLOW TO REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

by Australian Platypus Conservancy

A highly successful conservation project in Melbourne's eastern outskirts has been put at risk by illegal yabbing. Work to reintroduce platypus to Cardinia Creek has received a severe setback in recent weeks with at least two animals reportedly drowning in yabby traps on the outskirts of Beaconsfield.

The platypus population in Cardinia Creek disappeared as a result of the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983. Since 2004, a number of platypuses have been released into the creek and carefully monitored

by the Australian Platypus Conservancy in hopes of re-establishing the population.

Dr Melody Serena, Conservation Biologist with the APC, said that successful breeding has occurred for the last three summers with at least eleven juveniles hatched.

"The fact that the Cardinia Creek population appears to be reproducing on a regular basis is a very positive sign that the platypus reintroduction project – the first of its kind in Australia – is well on the way to long-term success," said Melody. "However,

the totally pointless deaths of at least two members of this small population (which currently numbers around 20 animals) is a tremendous blow. There is also a major concern that other platypuses will be killed along Cardinia Creek if the use of illegal nets continues."

The platypus is listed under the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975 as a notable wildlife species. The Department of Sustainability and Environment is investigating the recent deaths and warns that anyone killing platypuses will be prosecuted. DSE's Senior Wildlife Investigator Mike Sverns said, "This matter is very serious, jeopardising the local recovery of a species that is under pressure across Victoria because of habitat loss and climate change." The penalty for killing platypuses is a fine of up to \$12,000 and/or a year's imprisonment, with a further \$1000 fine for any additional wildlife taken.

"We are seeking more information on the use of illegal cray and yabby nets along Cardinia Creek. Anyone who has witnessed this activity should contact DSE so appropriate action can be taken," said Mr Sverns. "We would also appreciate any information that might help us locate the carcasses of the two recently killed platypuses, to assist ongoing research by the Australian Platypus Conservancy."



Many different air-breathing animals – including tortoises, waterbirds and the native Australian water-rat as well as platypuses – can drown in the opera house and similar enclosed nets used to capture yabbies and crayfish. Hence, it is now illegal to set such nets in public inland waters throughout Victoria. Instead, it is permitted to catch yabbies and crays using either a baited line with no hook or open basket-type hoop nets. The illegal use of opera house nets attracts a penalty of \$500 if issued with an infringement notice or a heavier penalty that can be imposed by the courts. Members of the public are encouraged to report fisheries offences by ringing either 136186 (DSE information hotline) or 133 474 (DSE fisheries hotline).

For more information contact:
Geoff Williams
Australian Platypus Conservancy:
Tel: (03) 5157 5568
Email: platypus.apc@westnet.com.au

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MAKE AND MINGLE

by A. Taylor

EVELYN KIELY will be turning 100 this month, she was born in 1908 on December 29th in Prahran with her brother and sister and grew up in South Yarra and went to school at St Joseph's.

She left school at age 14 and went to work sewing clothing in Melbourne.

She met her husband William George and was married when she was 24. Her husband worked as a carpenter and also in hospitality. They adopted their son Brian when he was 10 days old and became a close-knit family.

The Kielys lived in Ormond and their son studied to become an engineer and then later travelled to England where he

became a master at a college in London. He is married and lives in London. Evelyn now has 4 grandchildren and one



great-granddaughter. She has travelled to England 16 times to visit her family.

Evelyn and George were happily married for 65 years.

Not long after George's death Evelyn suffered a stroke and after she recovered she moved to accommodation in Berwick, which has been her home for the past 7 years.

She has made many friends in the area and loves going to MAKE AND MINGLE each week. She still enjoys craft and

has done glass painting for many years and made some beautiful pieces. Just recently she has started bead work and has made some lovely necklaces and bracelets. She meets friends for coffee each week at Tarts and also goes to Evergreens retirement group once a month.

MAKE AND MINGLE is a Friendship and Craft group which meets each Wednesday 10am-12 noon during school term at Beaconsfield Baptist Church, Cnr Desmond Crt and Old Princes Highway. We return Wednesday 4th February 2009. We hope to include Stump work embroidery, Old style knitting boxes and bookmarks, fabric painting, photo albums, knitting and crochet and greeting card making and you can bring your own craft to work on.

Enquiries - Ann 9707 1996

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY EVELYN

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Sunday -		9.30am. - 6.30pm.



Be Safe This Summer

by Tammy Lobato, MP Member for Gembrook

Terrific news for young people and their families in Beaconsfield is that the NightRider bus services have been extended with both Berwick and Beaconsfield now included on the NightRider routes.

The new Cranbourne Loop NightRider will depart from the terminus at Lonsdale Street Dandenong, running in both clockwise and anti-clockwise directions, from 1.30am until 5.30am on Saturday mornings and from 1.30am until 7.00 am on Sunday mornings.

The service connects with all the City to Dandenong NightRider buses, which means parents can be assured that young people enjoying a late night in

the city can get home safely. With NightRider ticketing part of the Metcard system, it is also an affordable way to arrive safely home. Timetables are available on-line at www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au or by contacting my office.

With summer holidays almost upon us, I urge all residents to prepare for the forthcoming fire season and familiarise themselves with fire regulations. It is vital that everyone takes steps to ensure their homes are safe by cleaning out gutters, pruning vegetation, storing gas bottles and other inflammables with care, and preparing a fire safety kit. I have published a Fire

Season Calendar which includes all emergency telephone numbers plus handy hints to keep people and property safe. These are available from my office on request. A website has also been set up to assist residents with fire season preparation at www.fireready.vic.gov.au or visit the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

Summer is also the season when we need to take particular care about our water usage. The new Target 155 campaign is designed to encourage all residents to limit water consumption to 155 litres per person per day. Target 155 combined with Stage 3a water restrictions will achieve similar water savings as Stage 4 while offering greater flexibility, as people can choose how they use water. Average water use during summer is 180 litres per person while the average across the year is 165 litres per person. Simple things like installing efficient showerheads, reducing shower time and using greywater or rainwater on gardens can enable households to meet the target of 155 litres per person.

Melbourne's progress on achieving Target 155 will be measured weekly and reported every Friday on the website at www.target155.vic.gov.au. Residents have done a magnificent job of saving water so far and I'm sure there will be enthusiasm for this new voluntary program to help us all continue to save water.



The Parliamentary Environment and Natural Resources Committee, of which I am a member, is currently investigating Melbourne's water supply needs and examining the merits of further water savings that can be achieved by increased conservation and efficiency efforts, the collection of stormwater, the re-use of treated waste water, the use of groundwater, and small locally based desalination plants. Our report will be finalised soon and I will ensure to communicate the findings to residents. In the meantime, please keep saving water and do not hesitate to contact my office for any further assistance or advice.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Tammy Lobato MP
Member for Gembrook
1/5 Gloucester Ave
Berwick VIC 3806
Tel: 9796 1987
E: Lobato@parliament.vic.gov.au Tammy.



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THE VOICE OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

by David Morland

Cameron Watt is not a household name but let me tell you his story. In 2004 he was sentenced to four years imprisonment. He was 29 with a wife and three little kids. Until that moment he had never so much as had a speeding fine. He had a degree and he and his wife were church goers. So how did he end up in jail?

He was the Assistant General Manager of Baptist Investments and Finance Ltd. It was a position with a great deal of authority and he used his authority to set up some very lucrative but unauthorised investments. So lucrative that he was able to siphon off cash for his personal use without anyone being the wiser. That is until the planes hit the towers on 9/11. His clever investments failed and in the wash up his unofficial personal payments were exposed.

At his trial his barrister argued that Cameron thought there was nothing illegal in using some of the excess profits for his personal use. In the trial his barrister asked him, "Do you believe what you did was dishonest?" He was supposed to answer, "No, of course not." But as he stood there he had a moment of self-realisation.

He knew everyone was expecting him to give the standard answer and to go on trying to show the world that he was innocent. But in that instant he finally accepted that what he had done was wrong. In that second he decided to be true to himself regardless of the consequences. He answered "yes". The judge stepped in and asked him to reconsider his answer. But there was nothing to reconsider. The truth is he had done wrong and now for the first time he was admitting it to himself.

Cameron went to jail because of that answer. But he went to jail a free man for he was a man who was no longer tied up in the world of self-denial. There is nothing more freeing than living in the truth no matter how painful that truth. (You can read more of Cameron's story in Bright Lights Dark Nights. By Simon Smart P 95).



Orthopaedic Surgeon comes to Beaconsfield

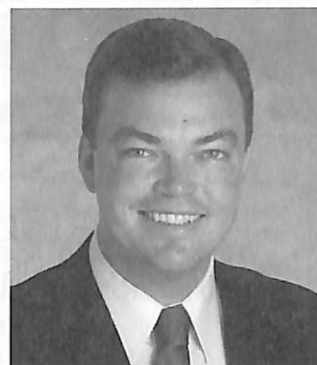
Highly regarded and successful orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Wing Tip Wong is now performing specialised surgeries by request at the Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre. Some of you may have already had the pleasure of dealing with Dr Wong at Werribee, Kensington or Hallam and will no doubt be delighted to hear that his expertise is now available closer to home. For those of you who don't know Dr Wong, he has an impressive list of credentials that includes being the consultant surgeon in orthopaedics and neurosurgery at the University of Melbourne where he also lectures and tutors final year Veterinary Science students. He has

had numerous journal articles published and is heavily involved with ongoing educational programs for veterinarians both locally and abroad.

Several weeks ago he performed knee surgery (cruciate ligament repair) at the Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre and was so impressed by the facilities and staff that he is keen to come back if needed in the future. He is also happy to offer his consulting expertise to the clinic: doing referral consults at the clinic for your pets, interpreting radiographs and discussing complex orthopaedic cases with the team of vets at the

Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre.

It is commonplace during football season to hear about cruciate injuries prematurely ending the season of a number of players. This same injury is becoming increasingly common in both older dogs and their younger, highly active counterparts. As a result, advancements in veterinary orthopaedic surgery are currently being made at a rapid rate, so to have someone like Dr Wong who is at the forefront of such developments working out of our clinic provides a real bonus for your four legged friends.



Christmas and New Year Wishes

by Edward O'Donohue,
MLC, Member for Eastern Victoria

With December now already upon us and Christmas only a couple of weeks away I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone well for the festive season.

While many will be planning travel, relaxing or spending time with family and friends the roads will no doubt get busier, but it is important that we remain patient and safe while driving on Victoria's roads.

As Christmas and the New Year are celebrated I hope that it is a joyous and happy occasion for everyone. I wish all Beaconsfield Banner readers the best for the New Year and a happy and safe holiday period.



Thought of the Moment



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OPEN DAY SUCCESS

by José.

The Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre Open Day was held on 25th November 2008.

The weather did not look promising, due to cold winds and much needed rain, but as the day went along, the rain stopped, the sun shone and we all had a fantastic day.

There was plenty of activity throughout the centre, with the art exhibition and demonstrations in Hey Dee Ho, Yoga, Line Dancing, Chikung, Strength Training Exercising and Children's Dance.

Also on offer were tutors to discuss courses they run, including Scrapbooking, Quilting, Folk Art, Soy Wax Candles Paintings, Mosaics, PergamanoCards and Creative Painting.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the success of the day and to the winners of the wonderful raffle. Prizes that were kindly donated by our very supportive sponsors, many of those are local businesses in Beaconsfield.

The children (and adults) queued for the great face painting that was on offer and not forgetting the amazing balloon man - the designs he could do were to be admired.

On behalf of the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre, may we wish you and yours a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas season and a prosperous 2009.



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by Centre Co-ordinator - Miriam Gillespie

We are nearly at the end of another busy year and we want to take this opportunity to thank all our members for their wonderful support during 2008. Our Centre seems to be getting more community involvement each year and we appreciate everyone's interest and participation.

Our new Committee of Management

In October we held our AGM and we now have a new committee in place:
President: David Lee
Vice President: John Meyer
Secretary: José Meyer
Treasurer: Denise Heinze

General Committee:
Margaret Boon, Gwen Neve, Helen McDougall, Nicole Kennedy.

Our subcommittees have developed and been more active this year and we appreciate the nominations and assistance of Nicole, Natalie, Jenny, Fay, Nicole, Di, Helen, Pauline, Lois and Anne Marie on our children's, promotions, building and general subcommittees.

Volunteers & Tutors

Thank you to the wonderful people who have volunteered with us during the year. We would not survive without our

volunteers who helped out with many tasks.

- In addition to our committee and subcommittee members, who give a lot of their time to our Centre, other volunteers have provided help in the office, looked after the out-of-hours use of the Public Internet Access computers, helped with the new front garden and helped out on our Open Day and special events.

Our tutors also put in lots of extra time to make their classes a success. Thank you to everyone who has put in that little bit extra to make our programs successful this year.

If you would be interested to share your skills with us as a volunteer or a tutor in 2009, please contact Mim

We wish all our members, and our Beaconsfield Banner readers a happy and safe Xmas and New Year season, and look forward to seeing you in 2009.

in the office to see what opportunities might suit you.

New equipment for strength training

We will start our strength training classes for over 50's with some terrific new equipment in 2009. If you enjoyed strength training with Rob or Vicki this year, or would like to try the program out next year, please join us in February. Our experienced instructor will be able to offer greater variety in these friendly classes. More details in our program booklet.

Our program for 2009

Most of our current popular programs will continue into 2009. Some may have different timeslots, so please look out for our Term 1 program booklet which should be delivered to households in Beaconsfield and surrounds in mid January.

New programs for 2009 include self-defence for mothers and daughters, crochet, cartooning, short storywriting and philosophy. Please give us a ring for any enquiries or ideas you have for programs.

BNC closing times for Xmas

Our final day for 2008 is Wed. 17th December. We will re-open on Monday 2nd February 2009.

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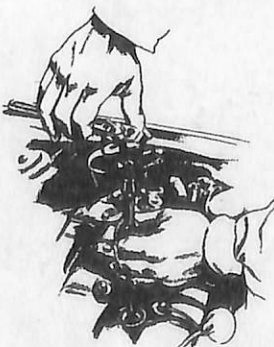
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KATH ROBERTS RESERVE

by A. Taylor

There are three reserves named after local identities of this town, Kath Roberts, Bob Burgess and Jim Parkes.

This month we will tell about Kath Roberts 1901-1992. Kath was born in Yorkshire, England and came to Australia with her family

The Roberts family ran a station store on the corner of Wood Street and Beaconsfield Avenue which they ran prior to World War I. The brothers built a house next to the store in the late 1920's where there was a well fed by an underground spring on the property which supplied water for the town in times of drought.

Kath Roberts and her husband Mac ran the general store on the highway near the bridge and then took over the Post Office from the Craven sisters in 1936. The post office was very busy with two mails in a day and

two out a day. Mail was also taken to Guys Hill and Upper Beaconsfield, sorted for private bags and boxes. Bill Watts also worked there, sleeping by the switchboard at night as it was a 24 hour exchange. When WWII came, Bill Watts joined the army and then Kath's daughters helped their parents. The post office was also an agency for the Commonwealth Bank, the centre for collection of petrol ration tickets and for payment of fortnightly pensions.

The Roberts family home still stands and has recently been refurbished and named 'Robert's Corner' after the family.

Kath Roberts Reserve was opened in 1989. It is at Melway 111K11 at the end of Kathleen Court and has a pathway from Amelia Close to Harbour Street. Next time you visit the reserve, you will know why it was given this name.

The old Station Store on the corner of Wood Street and Beaconsfield Avenue has long since gone, but it became the Grosby Slipper factory after World War II. About 30 girls worked there cutting out slippers and shoes, sewing, binding and putting in eyelets.

Some came by train to work, but the factory also employed many locals during the late 1940's and 1950's. It closed and the building was demolished in the 1960's.

(Thanks to Kath's daughter Pat Reid for some of this information and also some details are from 'The Cardinian Embroidery' edited by Eleanor Taylor)



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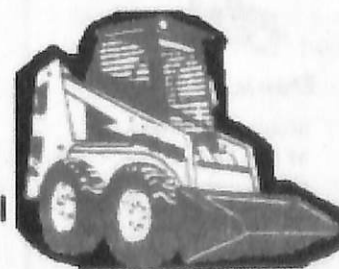
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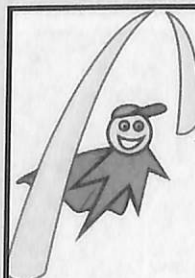
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BEAconsfield's HANDYMAN

by Phil Collins

I enjoy the lead up to Christmas, all the activity, plenty of work and the grass grows fast. When you are busiest is when you are most efficient. Somehow it all gets done and you have Christmas Day and it is all over.

I wonder if our P.M. Mr. Rudd can spare a moment to have Christmas away from running the world. It is like buying three or four shares in BHP then going to the Annual Meeting and telling the directors how to run the company. I learnt in business that it is all a matter of who has the most clout. Is it the bloke with the biggest army or biggest navy, or is it the bloke who owns the bank? Whichever it is, it isn't the bloke who uses the biggest words or can speak foreign languages.

A country bus company was recently charged

as one of the fleet was clocked at 150 kph on the Hume Highway. They have the means of timing a vehicle over a measured distance. The bus operator queried the matter but was assured that his vehicle averaged 150 kph over the measured distance. He pleaded not guilty and suggested that 2 similar buses must have broken the tape, one at the start and one at the end. As no registration numbers were recorded the charge was not proven.

Well I'm off now to patch some holes in a plaster wall, swing 6 or 7 doors, fit their locks and touch up the paintwork ready for the handover to new owners.

I hope we all stay healthy for Christmas, spare a thought for what started it all and please don't honk me because I drive at the speed limit.



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150th Game for Beacy

by Russell Vincent



Over the last 2 weekends I was fortunate enough to play my 150th game for Beaconsfield Cricket Club. The Beacy D grade side was full of veterans, most of whom I have had a long association with and who managed a good win against Kooweerup to help celebrate my milestone.

It is a great club to be a part of and has been a big part of my life since 1985 when I first started there.

Above: Team mate Jamie Ingham captured this shot of me playing a leg glance during my 150th game for Beacy



Photo by : Russell Vincent

Pictured left, Mark Betheras is presented a plaque honoring his selection in the best 12 cricketers of the last 50 years in West Gippsland Cricket. Steve Kearn ex-Beaconsfield President and now Chairman of the Association makes the presentation and congratulates Mark. Mark is a true legend who Beaconsfield Cricket Club is proud to have had as their own.

OUR NATURAL WORLD

by Peter Hansen

Once again another Christmas is upon us. Surely it was only weeks ago that we had the last one? Why do they seem to come so quickly? As a child it seemed like an eternity between them so what has changed? Is it just the frenetic pace of life or the gathering of the years that encroach upon us with silent intent?

Has the meaning altered over the years; I believe they have and not altogether in a good way. The commercial aspect is now the catch cry with retail business viewing the approach of the festive season with concerns about their business earnings rather than other aspects of the Spirit of Christmas. The most famous and well

known figure around the world is of course Santa Claus. This mythical figure is the idol of all children as he represents the bringer of presents. His ancestry goes back on the one hand to the Norse Yule Gods, and on the other to St. Nicholas, a fourth century Bishop of Myra about whom little is known, but was alleged to have been a protector of children and unmarried girls. He was the one credited with the practice of putting presents or money into stockings hung up overnight. Santa was supposed to ensure that only children who had been good through the year received presents and those that hadn't were punished by a hairy creature called

Grampus who travelled with him on his present delivering run. A story that wouldn't hold much water with today's savvy kids!

The celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ is of course the historical reason that we have Christmas based on the Nativity scene in the town of Bethlehem. So little is known of the Nativity that the year and date of Christ's birth has always been open to dispute. Jesus left no writings of his own and the only contemporary account of his life is found in the reports of the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate and concerns his death. Of the Gospels only those of Matthew and Luke mention Jesus' birth.

Regardless of theological disputes and errors of time and place the story of Jesus and Christmas is one that has become a world wide celebration of an extraordinary being that

came to beam a new light of hope onto the suffering human species. He spoke of a different view of life and how to live it and gave simple rules which everyone could understand. His messages of peace and revolutionary philosophy was the antithesis of the brutal rulers of the day and his fate was sealed and the cross was born from a device of cruel brutality, becoming the most recognizable religious symbol in human history. This very act was the undeniable proof of the need for a change in human behaviour and thinking.

I hope that your Christmas celebrations are rich with love and all things good as family and friends share the gift of life with you all. The food and gifts are important but it is the connection of spirit that is vital.

Spare a thought for the special soul responsible for it all.

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Best wishes for Christmas
and coming year,
Thankyou for all your good
community work

Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival & Fun Run

**Saturday 14th
February '09
9am -2pm**

Charing Cross
Reserve and
Community Centre
Upper Beaconsfield
Contact 5944 3484
or www.ubcc.org.au

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS ALWAYS WELCOME

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.

DEADLINE FOR BANNER ARTICLES

January 20th 2009

POET'S CORNER



Happy Christmas

Little to do,
feeling bored?
Open the fridge
where the cheese is stored !

It's party time,
you're feeling fine,
go get happy,
- down more wine !

Four in the box,
you can't leave them
there:

your favourite confection

choc'late éclair !

With good friends,
you have no fears
two for the road
and drink three more
beers !

This world goes now
at break neck speed,
spinning along
with insatiable greed.
But with drought and
famine,

floods and war,
what do we need
second helpings for?
Just look round
- we're all going pear
shape

ignoring the truth
of the measuring tape !

Obesity makes
us all depressed
while in the third world
they're all starved and
stressed.

Yet, I know I shouldn't
- but perhaps I could,
have just one more
serving
of Christmas Pud ?

TH

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YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

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STATE

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Central Ward - Brett Owen Ph: 0418 993 370
 Collin Ross Ph: 0428 598 491
 George Blenkhorn Ph: 0429 139 902
 Ranges Ward- Ed Chatwin Ph: 0400 920 551
 Graeme Legge Ph: 0418 318 392

CITY OF CASEY:

Edrington Ward- Daniel Mulino
 Simon Curtis

FEDERAL**Latrobe****Jason Wood, MP**

Phone: 9762 4066BH Fax 9762 9847
 Office: 83 Boronia Road, Boronia. Vic 3155
 Email: jason.wood.mp@aph.gov.au

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**Gembrook****Tammy Lobato**

Telephone: 9796 1987 Fax: 97961891
 Email: Tammy.Lobato@parliament.vic.gov.au
 Office: 1/5 Gloucester Ave, Berwick, 3806.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**Eastern Victoria Region****Edward O'Donohue, MLC**

Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure and Resources

Telephone: (03) 5941 1112 Fax: (03) 5940 0316
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THE COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF BEACONSFIELD INC

Probus is an association of active retirees who join together in clubs, the basic purpose of which is to provide regular opportunities to keep their mind active, expand their interests and enjoy fellowship of new friends.

PRESIDENT NORM MC PHEE AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF BEACONSFIELD CORDIALLY INVITE INTERESTED PARTIES TO COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10 AM at the Beaconsfield Community Centre, O'Neil Road Beaconsfield

For further information please contact, President, Norm McPhee 03 9707 4546

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- St. Francis Xavier College is a co-educational College with a Junior Campus located in Berwick for students from Years 7 to 9 and a Senior Campus in Beaconsfield for students from Years 10 to 12.
- St. Francis Xavier College offers a Leadership program, a wide range of VCE subjects and an extensive TAFE program.
- St. Francis Xavier Old Collegians are in their 2nd year with the VAFA. Their Home ground is the Beaconsfield Campus oval. Games are played at: Reserves – 11.40 a.m and Seniors – 2.00 p.m. All games are listed on the College Website.

BERWICK CAMPUS

75 Ridgmont Drive
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Phone: (03) 9702 6588

Fax: (03) 9702 6599

Website: www.sfx.vic.edu.au



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BEACONSFIELD RAINFALL

TALKING WEATHER

by Nathan Boon

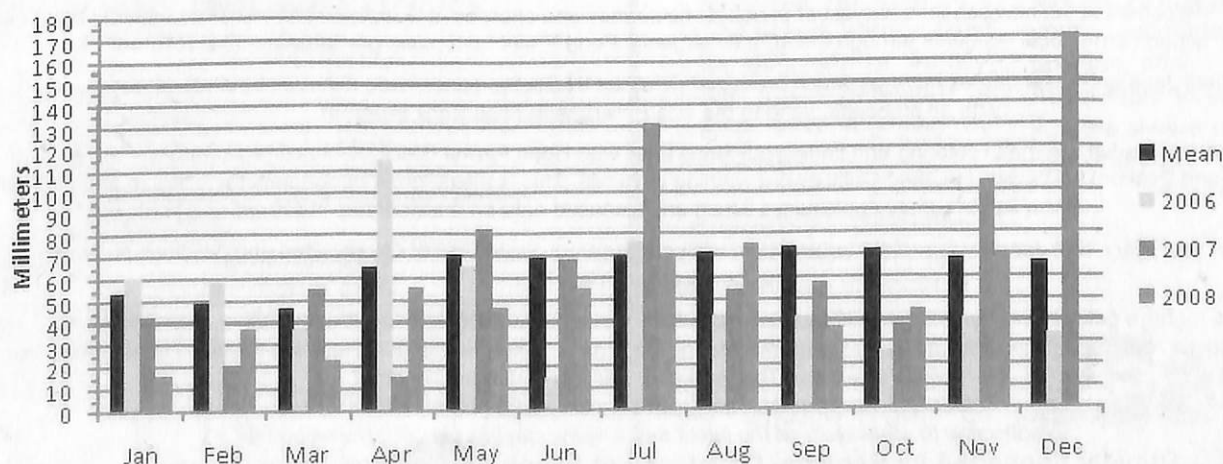
November saw an increase in rain for the year. There was 69mm of rain, this being our wettest month for the year. The rain fell over 7 days.

The total for the year has climbed to 528mm. This is 139mm behind at the same point last year. It is the driest 11 months of the year I had recorded since 1997 when there was 513mm. The wettest for the same time came back in 1989 when there was 842mm in the 11 month period.

Melbourne water storage is currently at 34.1%. This is significantly lower than at the same time last year when they were 39.7%. An interesting website to look at all these figures is the Melbourne water website www.melbournewater.com.au. It has all the latest information about water restrictions, water quality and dam levels.

Merry Christmas

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



COMMUNITY BENDIGO BANK FOR BEACONSFIELD

Graeme J Taylor, Steering Committee Member

Beaconsfield is another step closer to getting a Community Bank with the completion of the Feasibility Study. The Study, based on Survey responses from 450 persons indicated that the proposed Beaconsfield District Community Bank would be financially viable and should be profitable within a relatively short period of time. The Study did note however that further pledges of support of \$34,000 were needed to reach the \$750,000 Share Capital required to proceed.

Preliminary discussions have been undertaken for a suitable location for

the Bank and also with Solicitors to incorporate a Public Company and issue of a Prospectus. The Steering Committee is proceeding with these matters in the expectation of opening a Community Bank during early 2009.

This is an exciting time for Beaconsfield and surrounding Communities of Officer, Guys Hill and Upper Beaconsfield to establish a Bank owned by the Community where 80% of profits are paid to non-profit Community Organisations including Schools, Kinders, Sporting Clubs, Fire Brigades etc etc. The remaining 20% of profits is used to pay

Dividends or retained for Working Capital.

Anyone can pledge support with a minimum of \$500 as Share Capital. Pledge Forms that are available from some local businesses or by contacting Jim Byrne 9707 0400 or Graeme Taylor 9707 1996 allow Pledges to preferentially obtain the Prospectus and Share Application Form.

**"Together we
can get our
Community
Bank branch."**

The Friends of Beaconsfield Flora and Fauna Reserve

We have been busy removing Honeysuckle, Spear Thistle, Pittosporum, Holly, Solanum and Wandering Jew. The friends work on the fourth Sunday of the month. 9am -12md.

We would love to see new members come along and help improve the environment. This area is beautiful and we are very fortunate to have this in our area. Make it a New Year's Resolution to come and help.

Clean up Australia is on Sunday 1st March, 9am -12md, meeting at the south side of Beaconsfield Tennis Courts, Emerald Rd. Bring hat and gloves. Contact Judy Smith 9707 1402.

Cardinia Ranges

Farmers' Market

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quality - right on your doorstep.*

Summers harvest of fruits and locally produced festive goodies will make festive catering a breeze at the December Cardinia Ranges Farmers' Market.

December welcomes in the new seasons harvest of peaches, nectarines and cherries. It is also a traditional time for local people to support other local residents through the 4C's Emergency Food Relief fund raiser on Saturday 13 December.

Stallholders Jane and Peter James have yet again produced delicious traditional hand-made rich moist fruitcakes and puddings with all proceeds going to the 4Cs Emergency Food Bank program.

The farmers' market will make catering and finding gift ideas easy with Hope Farms delicious mince tarts, Tarago Farmhouse cheeses and Beaconsfield's own Haunted Gully award winning olive oils. This is also a great opportunity for locals to stock up on Snow Apple variety apple juices which are produced right on our doorstep in Officer.

Mark in your diary 10th January farmers' market which will be a Summer Taste Trail of Greek salad and delicious strawberry ice-cream recipes.

This month's gold coin entry donation will be supporting the Pakenham Girl Guides Association hall maintenance fund. The Cardinia Ranges Farmers' Market operates on the second Saturday of each month at Pakenham Racecourse, Racecourse Road Pakenham. The market is held from 8am until midday.

Contact Farmers Market Coordinator, Suzzi (03) 59450400

To subscribe to email alert- all the latest news :www.cardinia.vic.gov/farmersmarket

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Saturday 13th December
Saturday 10th January
Saturday 14th February



8am - Midday

Pakenham Racecourse

Ph: 5945 0400



BEAconsFIELD TENNIS CLUB INC.

TENNIS NEWS



**Beaconsfield Tennis Club wishes all a
merry Christmas and a happy, healthy
and prosperous New Year in 2009**



For those at a loose end over the holiday season why not give tennis a shot? Come down for a hit with a friend. Casual court hire for non-members is \$5.00 per person per hour (hard courts only) is payable at The Tennis Shop, 6 Princes Highway, Beaconsfield (next to Taco Bills) 9796 1055 or contact a committee member. En tous cas courts (the red ones!) are limited to member use only. Members are reminded that even if accompanied by a club member, non-members must pay the hire fee for public liability insurance purposes.

BTC Committee Grows

Our November AGM saw the election of one of our largest Committee of Management group. With the growing population of Beaconsfield and district and interest in tennis it is great to see voluntary management group in tandem. Congratulations to our new 2008/09 committee:

Ian Ayre (President), Adrian Walsh (Vice President), Maurice Potter (Secretary) Jenny Shinnars (Treasurer) Paul Rowbottom (Coach) and ordinary committee members, Jenny Ayre, Cathy Briant, Les Donaldson, Jeff Green, Colman Kenna, Andrew McKenzie-Smith, David Newsome, Rod O'Keeffe, Anja Potter, Emily Potter, Dawn Snelson, Helena van den Akker, Dave van der Koogh.

Please feel free to contact any committee member with regard to club information, issues etc.

Night Tennis Finals Results:

November saw completion of Spring season finals in our in-house tennis competition. While our club likes to see our teams strive to win it is more interested in promoting the fun of playing tennis, not just winning. Congratulations to all whom have participated throughout the Spring season and to the following finalists:

Tuesday day night A grade competition saw premiers "ERIC'S ELITE" – Eric Buchlar, Peter Bennett-Hullan, Emily Potter, Damien Janes and Rob White defeat runners up "RAT PACK" - Mathew Gray, Bret Stephens, Monica Hazler, Andrew Stephens and Janice Shillong. Congratulations to most improved player Danni McIntosh.

Wednesday night B grade conducted major and minor premierships. Major premiers "THE GOOD GUYS" – Mitchell Dale-Walsh, Jeannette Limpers, Elaine Cashman and Esala Guntlake were victorious over runners up "POT LUCK" – Emily Potter, Rob Limpers, Stella Saros, Kirsten Hill and Tracey Webber. Minor premiers "BJMask" – Brandon White, Karen Slater, Maurice Potter, Ashleigh Read and Jenny Anderson defeated runners up "White Angels" – Rob White, Linda Read, Joanne Sorensen, Cherine Kenna and Cyndie Fox. Congratulations to most improved player winner Damien Pratt.

New Night Tennis Season Commences in the New Year:

Mixed in-house night competition commences early February. Open to both members and non-members, this competition is really a great social event in both A & B grades. If interested in getting (back) into tennis, this is the competition for you. Give our co-ordinators Eric Buchlar (Tuesday night) or Anja Potter (Wednesday night) a ring, numbers below.

Mens Thursday Night A & B grade is currently mid season but can always accommodate new players at any time. Give co-ordinator Ian Craig a ring if you are interested in an immediate start on 9707 4507.

Club Contacts

President: 5940 1186
Secretary: 9707 4287
Treasurer: 9707 2575

Night Tennis
Tues Mixed A Grade: 0419 883 089
Wednesday Mixed B Grade: 9707 4287
Thursday Men's A & B: 9707 4507

Mid Week Ladies: 9704 6852
Junior Comp: 9702 5251
Coach: 0412 682 569

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.

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CARDINIA CATCHMENT LANDCARE NEWS

by Ian Chisholm, President

Volunteers from our Landcare group have recently been accompanying Bridgette McCallum (Landcare Facilitator for the Western Port Landcare Network), on property assessments in the area south of Beaconsfield.

During these visits we have heard some alarming stories about life on the land during recent hot summers:

- * cattle having to be destroyed after they stepped into large cracks in the ground;
- * stock dying because shelter was not available on days of extremely high temperatures;
- * a newly-planted windbreak struggling to survive because the farmer was forced to water his plants with underground

water, which was too salty for even the hardiest of indigenous plants. (It appears that the availability and quality - of underground water varies considerably in this area; property owners should seek advice from Landcare personnel or from Southern Rural Water, at KooWeeRup).

These property assessments, which are provided at no cost to the landowner, could help identify solutions to problems such as those listed above. Please note that the assessments are carried out on smaller hobby farms, as well as the larger properties to the south.

Ian Chisholm, President,
Ph. 9707 1435

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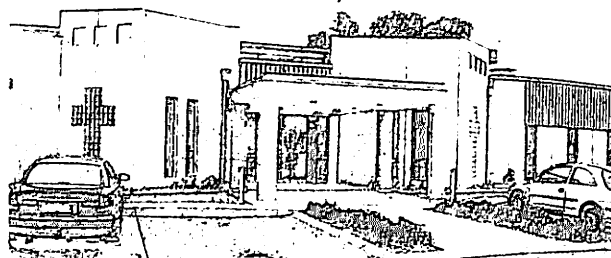
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- 6pm Church for young people and others with a light meal to follow

For Kids:

Kids Church 10.30am Sundays

For Young people:

Great children and Youth programs including Friday night High School drop-in centre (Phone Leanne on 0411 543 817 for more details)

For All:

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David Morland 9707 4160.



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Everyone at the
Beaconsfield Veterinary
Centre wishes all our clients
and their pets a very Merry
Christmas and a safe and
Happy New Year.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

For the month of December every client that visits the clinic will go into the draw to win a Christmas Hamper valued at over \$300.00



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