

FREE

Beaconsfield Banner

Vol. 21 No. 1 Bimonthly Publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association Inc. Feb/March 09

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BANNER POSTAL ADDRESS - PO. BOX 217, BEACONSFIELD 3807

banner@beaconsfield.org.au

www.beaconsfield.org.au

BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.

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

**Everyone
Welcome**

2009 MEETINGS

* **MARCH
17th**

* **APRIL
21st**

President: Les
Reader

Correspondence
to: P.O. Box 217,
Beaconsfield Vic
3807

Official Website:
www.beaconsfield.
org.au
Website contains
local information and
includes copies of
minutes and agendas.

LOCAL CFA CONTINUE TO SERVE

by Paul Hayes

As the Banner goes to print, Victorians find themselves in the grip of the worst bushfires in our State's history. We have all been shocked at the tragic loss of life, as well as countless homes and whole communities that have been wiped out.

We knew that Saturday 7 February was going to be

an extremely dangerous and demanding day for the emergency services of Victoria, and the fire services had put extensive efforts into pre-planning and resources on standby. But even with all this in place, the weather conditions were overwhelming and many fires were unstoppable.

Our members are deeply saddened by the terrible losses that many Victorians have endured, and our thoughts and prayers go out to them. Please know that this tragedy has hardened our Brigade's resolve to continue our work, both here in our local community or wherever we may be needed.



All is calm, all is bright ...

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at Carols by the
Creek**
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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 - it's 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

If you wish to advertise in the Beaconsfield Banner email banner@beaconsfield.org.au or contact 9707 5053

VISIT THE BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

www.beaconsfield.org.au

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BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Les Reader

Well here we are into 2009, to our banner readers happy new year to all.

This year we will see a lot of additions to our commercial face in Beaconsfield; the new development on the old Baptist church site and also the new supermarket which is in the course of erection. These will be favourable additions to our commercial centre and hopefully be an advantage to our whole community.

I was a bit sad when I came back from holidaying interstate to find so much evidence of untidiness around the town, e.g. at the rear of the shops, in Burgess Reserve, a great mess of rubbish and also a number of examples of vandalism around town - signs pulled out of the

ground and graffiti on a number of sites (thankfully council have removed the graffiti). We have had some very unpleasant weather (HOT) and we have to be very alert as far as fire danger is concerned.

We would all welcome some refreshing rain to help replenish our water supply and recover our gardens.

Finally a warm invitation is extended to anyone interested in the goings-on in our community to come along to the meetings of the Progress Association. They are held on the third Tuesday of the month in the Community Centre commencing at 7.30 p.m.

BEACONSFIELD ANZAC DAY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Planning is underway for our annual Beaconsfield Anzac Day Memorial Service.

**Proposed date
SUNDAY APRIL 26th '09**

Please note the proposed date for 2009. In previous years the Beaconsfield Memorial Service has been held on the Sunday prior to Anzac Day.

If anyone would like to be involved in the service or would like further information contact Margaret Boon 9707 5053



CARDINIA SHIRE REPORT

by Cr. Brett Owen, Central Ward

Council recently installed a school crossing in Station Street at Beaconsfield Avenue which commenced operation at the start of the school year. The speed limit in Beaconsfield Ave and Station St approaching the crossing has been reduced to 40 km/h. Council has also completed footpath improvements in the area. A concrete footpath was constructed from the St Francis Xavier College driveway, where the existing footpath previously ended, up to the Old Princes Highway. A concrete path was also constructed along Old

Princes Highway from No 86 to 124 to link the existing footpath network from Beaconsfield Avenue to the town centre.

The master plan for the reserve in Holm Park Road, Beaconsfield was adopted by the Council on 15 December 2009. The final master plan can be viewed on the Council's website under the 'sports and recreation - recreation policies, strategies and master plans' link. Council is awaiting the outcome of its \$500,000 submission for a Sports and Recreation Victoria Grant.

A landscape architect has been appointed to work with council and members of the Beaconsfield community to develop a landscape master plan for Beaconsfield Park situated at the intersection of the Old Princes Highway and Beaconsfield-Emerald Road. The park is prominently located at one of the entrances to the shire as well as the Beaconsfield Township and has heritage as well as environmental significance.

Nominations are now open for the Cardinia Business Awards. I encourage Beaconsfield businesses to consider nominating their own business in any of the 11 categories. Every business in the shire that has been operating for more than 12 months is eligible to enter. Entries for the

awards close on 14 April 2009. The award winners will be announced in May. For more information and to download nomination forms, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/business or contact Economic Development on 1300 787 624.



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News from the Beaconsfield Fire Brigade

by Paul Hayes

The new year has seen a busy time for the Brigade with many calls received and the weather warming up. As well as local calls the Brigade sent a tanker and relief crew to the Endeavour Hills fire on 30.01.09 and crews were also sent down to the Delburn Complex fires in Gippsland.

At the local level the Brigade was called to a grassfire in Mivkey Blvd Beaconsfield on 20.01.09 which was a total fire ban day. On arrival our crews found a fast moving grassfire running up a vacant block of land. The crews were thankfully able to bring it under control quickly.

The fire was started by a ride-on lawn mower's engine which ignited the tinder-dry grass. Residents are reminded of the dangers of using machinery such as mowers, trimmers, chainsaws, tractors, etc. on hot days and these activities should be postponed until better weather conditions.

The Brigade also wishes to welcome our new recruits who have recently completed their minimum skills training and our now full-operational members. Congratulations to David Bond, Gabriella Chapman, Cameron Polan and Shanthra Wickramasing on their achievements which are now adding to our very strong resource of personnel.

EVELYN ALL SMILES AT 100



Evelyn Kiely was all smiles as she celebrated her 100th birthday with her son Brian (pictured above) and his family who travelled from England and some

200 family and friends.

She received written congratulations from the Queen and the Prime Minister.



BPS Corner

Official Opening of New Facilities

At Beaconsfield Primary School we were very fortunate when building our new facilities the "Investing in our Schools" project was initiated. School Councillors and Staff decided that the

best investment that we could make for the future of our children was in two areas; a Technology Shed and to buy an Interactive Whiteboard for every teaching area.

The Technology Shed was developed as the new home of the Human Powered Vehicle program. It is a spacious and practical area that lends itself to big projects, provides a base where our children and their parents can design, build and maintain their vehicles and is much appreciated by all of our cycling and HPV children.

The Interactive Whiteboard project is one of the most ambitious educational investments in the area. The Interactive Whiteboards act like a big computer screen and they can do everything a computer

can do using your finger as a mouse; they are the newest teaching tool that Australian teachers are using in order to improve classroom learning. The Interactive Whiteboards are not just a way to bring learning, multi-media and the internet into the classroom, they also change the way our teachers teach.

The Interactive Whiteboards are a transformational technology, changing what we learn and how we learn. To the politicians who created or supported the Investing in our Schools Program and the teachers and parents who developed and supported our Interactive Whiteboard Project; thank you on behalf of the Beaconsfield Primary School Community.



The Cycling and HPV Team with Gary Methven, Principal, and Anthony Cole, P.E. Teacher, outside their officially opened technology shed.



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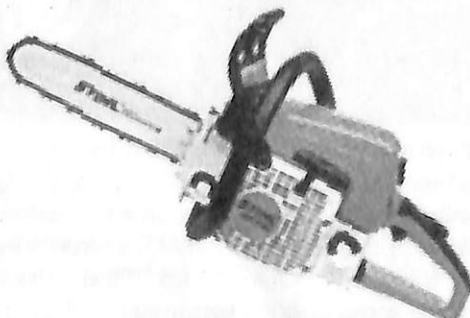
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BEACONSFIELD DISTRICT COMMUNITY BANK

Graeme J Taylor - Director

The December and January period has been extremely busy for the voluntary Steering Committee Members responsible for setting up a Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank in Beaconsfield. As a result of the very positive Feasibility Study conducted by external consultants it was decided to proceed with the establishment of a Community Bank, Beaconsfield District Community Financial Services Ltd, A Public Company has been incorporated with eleven Steering Committee Members accepting roles as Directors, with Michael Muaremov as Chairman. The Directors live or work in Beaconsfield, Officer or Beaconsfield Upper, truly

reflecting the community base of the Bank. A Business Plan has been completed and Australian Taxation Office Registrations have been completed including ABN.

The next stage is to issue a Prospectus, which is currently nearing completion and is necessary before shares can be issued. The Prospectus will include extracts of the Feasibility Report and Business Plan, an Independent Accountants Report as well as statements from Bendigo Bank. The Directors are completing Due Diligence matters in conjunction with our solicitors. The Prospectus will be provided to all persons who have completed Pledge Forms

and is available to anyone in the community interested in subscribing for shares. The Share Capital to be raised is approximately \$720,000 and Pledges are still being accepted.

Once the Prospectus is issued a Public Meeting will be held to launch the Company and subscription of shares (bring your cheque books and tax file numbers). The meeting date will be publicised including letters to Pledges.

After the minimum Share Capital has been received, the Community Bank can formalise a Lease and then proceed with the fit-out of the Bank premises to be located at the old Baptist Church site. In addition, staff will be employed and



undertake training of 4-6 weeks.

When all the above is completed the Community Bank will be ready to open hopefully in May or June. I urge all Pledges and potential Shareholders to attend our launch to be held at the Beaconsfield Community Centre and subscribe for Share Capital and let's get this Community Bank open. If you have any enquiries contact Michael Muaremov 9769 9134 or Graeme Taylor 9707 1996.

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SNIPPETS FROM THE ACCOUNTANT'S DESK

by Graeme J Taylor, C.A.

TAX BENEFITS OF SCHOOL COSTS

For many years the only tax deductible claims to be made for costs of Primary and Secondary School Children Education, was if Donations were made to a Building Fund or Library Trust Fund. From 1st July 2008, certain expenditure may be eligible for an education tax refund of up to \$375 for each Primary School Child and up to \$750 for each Secondary School Child.

Eligibility

The tax refund is means tested and is available to families entitled to Family Tax Benefit Part A. In addition, it is available if you were ineligible for Family Tax Benefit Part A only because the student received a government benefit or pension, eg. Youth Allowance.

Calculating Tax Refund

The tax refund is calculated at 50% of eligible expenses up to the maximum expenditure of \$750 for Primary School Children and \$1,500 for Secondary School Children. The amount is a refundable Tax Offset and will be claimed in an income tax return or by completing a Special

Claim Form. The maximum claim amounts are pro-rated if a child begins or leaves School during the tax year. The transition year from Primary to Secondary School entitles the higher claim applicable to Secondary School Children.

Eligible Expenditure

It covers the costs of laptops, home computers, printers, drives and other computer costs, internet expenses, educational software, text books, learning material, stationery and prescribed tools of trade for TAFE apprenticeships.

However, eligible expenditure does not include School Fees, Uniforms, Excursion Costs, cost of equipment for activities, eg. sport, library fees, school travel costs, tutoring costs and musical instruments.

It is recommended that you retain receipts that may be eligible for the Education Costs tax refund to enable an appropriate claim to be made when preparing next year's income tax return. If in doubt, discuss with your Accountant.

1st BEACONSFIELD SCOUT GROUP

by Roger Gordon

We expect a great year for scouting in Beaconsfield. Our scout and cub meetings will start in the second week of school term and already we have an exciting programme for both sections. Scouts will be going on three camps this term. A troop camp to fine tune our skills and get to work as a team; an activity camp or a visit to the air show and a long weekend camp to obtain nights under canvas and have an interesting, challenging and fun time while getting ready for the jamboree at the end of the year.

Our scouts met on Thursday from 7pm to 9pm mainly at the after school care building at the Beaconsfield Primary School.

Because we are expanding we need another adult leader. This can be any adult over 18 years of age with a volunteer background either in scouting, CFA, SES, or similar organization, or somebody like me who does not have this background but wants to put back something for our younger generation. We will train you at no financial cost to you and make sure you have a great, rewarding time being a scout leader. There is also substantial reduced cost if you have children wanting to join our group. If you are interested please contact me.

Cubs are well and truly underway in Beaconsfield. We have one very experienced leader, Simon,

who will guide our progress and two new enthusiastic leaders, Michele and George, who will ensure our Cubs have a great productive time on Tuesday nights between 7pm and 8.30pm at the after school building at BPS.

Our weekend activity this term is a Billy Cart Derby where all the cub packs from our district attend along with family and friends. In the past it has been a great day and this year is expected to be even better.

If you would like your sons or daughters to come to one of our Scout or Cub meetings please ring Roger Gordon on 97072414 or gordon@cyberspace.net.au to make sure where we meet and get an idea of our programme, costs, etc. We have a special offer where they can attend three meetings without any cost to you to see if they would like to join.

We look forward to hearing from you.



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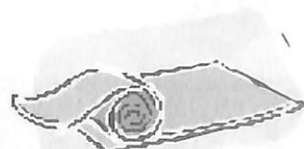
Classes are designed for young and old alike, beginners and intermediate students and include a gentle series of physical movements that will improve flexibility, build physical strength, promote better breathing, ease stress, reduce back pain, build self-esteem and help normalize your weight. Exercises are simple and non-competitive and you are encouraged to move at your own pace.

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BEAconsFIELD BUSINESS GROUP (BBG)

by Michael Muaremov

I trust that all of you, your families and friends have had a great and relaxing Christmas-New Year period. The Annual "Carols by the Creek" was a great night although my family and I weren't able to attend due to family commitments. However, it was encouraging and a pleasure to hear that many people did turn out from our town and adjoining areas on the night. On behalf of the Business Group & the Township, I would like to thank the Baptist Church for organising a great night.

Since my last report, the momentum for the opening of our own Beaconsfield District Bendigo Community Bank has continued and is still growing. At the time of writing my report, our pledges exceeded the \$750,000. However, it's still not too late to put in your pledge if you haven't done so yet. For more information relating to the progress of our Bank, please read Graeme Taylor's report in this edition of the banner.

On other community projects, the Street Scape Sub Committee met this week with council representatives again and have since submitted our 'vision' to Council regarding how we would like Beaconsfield Village to look like. We are aiming to have a 'conceptual' drawing for public comment in the coming months.

Regarding the resurrection of the 'Beaconsfield Fair' the Sub Committee, unfortunately due to time constraints faced last year,

were unable to bring it to our town. However, we are confident that it will be something we can all look forward to towards the end of the year. You don't have to be in business to be involved. For more information see below for contact numbers.

As many of you have seen, the Beaconsfield Hub, located on the old Baptist Church site/formerly the old Roadhouse, is now complete. We have been informed by the Developer that the first of the tenants/businesses, will be opening soon. Furthermore, the Shopping Complex at the back of Aldis is scheduled to open later this year, which will give our town all services without having to go to neighbouring towns for our basic requirements.

In closing, we encourage anyone that is in business to come along to our BBG meetings 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 25th of February. We encourage all business owners who 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 myself on 9769 9134.

MAKE AND MINGLE

by A. Taylor

MAKE AND MINGLE is the place to go for friendship and craft on Wednesday mornings 10am - 12noon during school terms at Beaconsfield Baptist Church, Cnr. Desmond Crt. and Old Princes Hwy Beaconsfield.

Whether you are new to our area or have lived in the town for a while, you will always find a warm welcome on Wednesdays.

Our venue is air-conditioned and morning tea is provided. We have craft ideas you can try or you can bring your own craft to work on or just come along for a cuppa and a chat.

This term some of the crafts

available will be stump work embroidery, photo albums, fabric painting, needle cases, bookmarks and pincushions, glass painting, ceramics with painting and decoupage, knitting and crochet, embroidery and greeting card making.

We want to specially thank Dulcie who has donated some beautiful craft books and magazines to our group.

Our friend Evelyn Kiely celebrated her 100th birthday in December and her son Brian and his family came out from England for her celebrations (see page 5 for photo).

Enquiries about the group contact Ann 9707 1996.

Snap Shots Taken At Christmas Celebrations



Betty, Re and Margery enjoying Christmas Party '08



Ngaree, Marianne, Coral and Jan enjoy the music of Lyn and Rob Hamilton (Swordwords)

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Saturday -		8.30am. - 8.00pm.
Sunday -		9.30am. - 6.30pm.



SCHOOL START BONUS

by Tammy Lobato, MP Member for Gembrook

Good luck to all school students as they commence the learning challenges for the year, especially for those in Prep and Year 7 who have to face a new school environment, which can be both exciting as well as a little daunting. Parents of Prep and Year 7 students should have received a \$300 bonus from the Brumby Government to assist with the purchase of books, uniforms and other school necessities. If you have any queries about the School Start Bonus, please contact me for assistance.

Fantastic news resulting from the State Government's \$38 billion Victorian Transport Plan is that noise barriers are to be installed along the

Princes Freeway East in Beaconsfield and Berwick at a cost of \$12.3 million dollars. The barriers will be erected outbound between Soldiers Rd and the O'Shea Rd overpass (including the area parallel to Brookvale Close) and inbound between Clyde Rd and Soldiers Rd. Road traffic noise has been a significant issue for local residents and the installation of these barriers will, I know, provide welcome and long-awaited relief from excessive noise.

Other exciting news from the transport plan is that a new train station will be built at Lakeside in Pakenham, near Cardinia Rd. In addition, \$1 million has been allocated to Clyde Rd

in Berwick to develop plans and full costings for its future duplication between Kangan Drive and High St, which will also involve removal of the existing level crossing. This section of road will also double in capacity from two lanes to four lanes.

On a different note, I am pleased that funding for the Public Internet Access program has again been allocated to Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre (BNC). This State Government grant of \$7500 will ensure that Beaconsfield residents continue to have free internet access for a further two years. Ensuring all members of our community have the opportunity to access modern technology is important.

The BNC, through its dedicated staff and volunteers, provides a wonderful range of programs and services for local residents. If you are unfamiliar with the centre, it is worth paying a visit, so you can meet other local people and investigate courses that may interest you.

On an environmental note, Cardinia Shire Council has received a \$30,000 grant from the State Government to tackle invasive roadside weeds in the municipality. Weed control, like all areas of environmental concern, really need to be a partnership between all levels of the community. The website of the Department of Primary Industries at www.dpi.vic.gov.au



vic.gov.au provides a host of information about prohibited weeds, including photographs for ease of identification. Protecting our landscape and our farming areas from weeds requires vigilance on all our parts.

Thanks to all residents who have kept their water usage down to 155 litres of mains water per person per day. If you want further information about how to reduce water usage and reach the target, the website at www.target155.vic.gov.au can help. Reducing shower times to a maximum of four minutes and installing an efficient showerhead is one of the simplest and most effective things you can do. Please contact South East Water on 131 867 for information on how to exchange your showerhead or visit the website at www.sewl.com.au.

Please contact me for any assistance or advice you may need on matters of state government responsibility.

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THE VOICE OF THE BAPTIST CHURCH

by David Morland

The pleasure of sharing

By world standards our government is generous. What we call our "safety net" is there for us all. It is Centre Link's role to make sure none of us need go without the basics of life.

I read an article by Babette Smith (The Australian 24 Jan 09., Feature Page 6) in which she argues the willingness to pour so much into our welfare system is the product of a particular historical event.

In 1788/89 our country was nothing more than a fledgling convict colony and it was in dire straits. The food supply was diminishing rapidly. There was simply not enough to eat and no one knew when the next shipment of provisions would arrive from England. Governor Phillip overruled every expectation of that class-ridden society and passed an edict that what food

there was would be shared equally.

He made it clear that the humanity of the most unworthy convict was as important as his own. Smith argues that from that day, deep within the Australian psyche the conviction grew that the common-wealth of Australia should be shared; that while there is any wealth left in this country at all it will be shared with the most undeserving of our citizens. I would dare say there are also other factors at play in the maintaining of our Centre Link; but this I believe - there is something inherently decent about sharing.

There is something remarkably majestic about a society that cares for its most vulnerable members and equally there is something remarkably splendid about a person who cares enough to watch out for their neighbour.



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Community Action Gets Results

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



After seven long years, numerous public meetings and the ongoing petitioning of State Ministers the residents of Beaconsfield should be proud of their dedication to achieving sound barriers along the Monash Freeway at Beaconsfield.

Sound levels have long been a problem for the many Beaconsfield residents living within proximity of the freeway and with continual State Government blame-shifting and excuses, there is hope that the sound barriers will finally be installed.

Although the sound barriers were past election promises that the State Government continually failed to deliver, the commitment and dedication shown by the members of BICRAG has

proven successful.

Through the hard work of BICRAG the State Government was forced to acknowledge their failure in providing any form of noise reduction along the freeway.

The efforts by BICRAG go to show how positive, dedicated and active community members can achieve results for their community.

While it is pleasing to hear that the people of Beaconsfield will have reprieve from the freeway noise there continues to be other projects in Beaconsfield that require State Government attention.

The Beaconsfield Railway Station continues to be inadequate, the future of the old community hall site is uncertain and the

need to install lights at the intersection at the eastern end of the Old Princes Highway remains.

While there is more to do for the people of Beaconsfield I will continue to lobby the State Government and through positive community action we can get results for Beaconsfield.

I would like to take this opportunity to also wish all readers a very happy, safe and successful 2009.

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TAKE CARE OF YOUR PET THIS SUMMER

by Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre

Summer can be a taxing time for our four legged friends. So here are some handy hints for making the warmer months safer, more bearable and fun for all creatures great and small.

Safety in the sun:

Never leave your pet unattended in a car. Even if you've wound the window down and are only going out for a short time. It only takes a few minutes for the temperature inside a car to reach dangerously high levels.

If your pet can't be kept indoors, ensure that they have access to shady areas and that there is

always plenty of fresh water available to them.

Beware of snakes. Take special care in areas where there is long grass, down by creeks and rivers, and even in overgrown backyards. If you suspect your pet has been bitten by a snake seek veterinary attention immediately.

Slip slop slap. Animals, like humans, can fall victim to the harsh Aussie sun. If your pet enjoys sunbaking, has light coloured skin, ears or nose then applying sunscreen is highly recommended. Always use pet approved sunscreen that is free of zinc as some human products contain

this substance which has the potential to be toxic to your pet if ingested.

Around swimming pools, treat your dog as if he/she were a child. If you have a new puppy, dog or swimming pool, actively teach them how to swim and how to get out of the pool unaided. Never leave your pet unattended around a swimming pool and ensure all pools are securely locked and enclosed.

Cooling off can be fun:

Here are some tips for keeping your pet comfortable and entertained on days when the mercury soars.

Make frozen treats. Create fun filled ice blocks by filling an empty ice cream container with water and placing non perishable

treats such as dry liver at the bottom. Your four legged friend will get hours of entertainment out of trying to lick his or her way to the prize inside.

Cats may be less impressed with the ice blocks so try offering your purring friend bits of frozen chicken or even a whole frozen chicken carcass. Or alternatively just place some small ice cubes in your cat's water bowl to encourage them to drink more.

Provide your pooch with his/her very own swimming pool! Shallowly fill a children's wading pool with water and let your dog splash all their heated worries away. Ensure that the water is not too deep - i.e., water should be shallow enough for your dog to walk through easily.

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by Centre Co-ordinator - Miriam Gillespie

A warm welcome to everyone. The holiday season has once again come and gone, and now we are looking forward doing new and exciting things throughout the year ahead.

Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre is now taking bookings for the following classes:

In art and craft –
Basically Patchwork
Mosaics
Watercolour Portrait



French Polishing/Furniture Restoration
Painting with Acrylics
Pergamano
Crochet
How to use your Compact or SLR Camera
Candle Workshop

In health and wellbeing,
why not try – Qigong and Meditation
Line Dancing (Both beginner and intermediate)
Strength Training for over 50's
Yoga
Philosophy
Self Defence
There's also Midway for the over 60's ladies, or try the short story class.

There is plenty in store for

the children with classes for all ages in not only dance but creative painting too.

Playgroups begin as from 2nd February, with ages ranging from 18 months through to 5 years.

For those that wish to have a break from their little ones, why not let the children enjoy a break too, with our occasional care program, run by our qualified and experienced staff.

Toy library will begin again on 2nd February, as will the 3 year old program.

Children's Room Hire:
Are you looking for somewhere to hold a children's party? If the answer is yes, then we have a great venue for you! Our children's room has a kitchenette and playground for the children to enjoy. Come in and see what is on offer and the staff will only be to happy to assist with your inquiry.

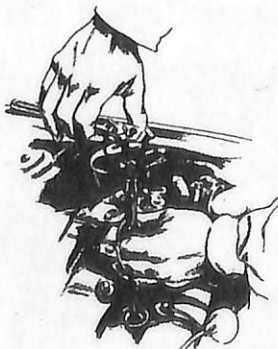
Pictured are snap shots taken in classes held at our centre.

Above left: In a Pergamano class.

Above: Ted demonstrating his skills during his art classes.

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BOB BURGESS RESERVE

by A. Taylor

This park was established and named after local identity BOB BURGESS, a popular fellow who faithfully served the Beaconsfield Fire Brigade for over 30 years.

The Bob Burgess Park is located beside Cardinia Creek at the Old Princes Hwy Bridge, behind Taco Bills. This park is well known as the venue for Beaconsfield's Carols by the Creek and as a favourite picnic ground and walking area.

Robert James (Bob) Burgess was born in Berwick 31.1.1938. He grew up in Officer and attended Officer Primary and Dandenong High Schools.

He joined the Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade at the age of 16 and quickly rose through the ranks and at age 23 was elected

Captain, a position he held for 20 years.

He represented the Brigade on the Regional Council as delegate from the Berwick Pakenham Group becoming 1st Deputy Group Officer, involved with Fire prevention Committees, regional Training Committees and was President of the Region 8 Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association. He received Life Memberships from V.R.F.B. Association, Pakenham Group, Beaconsfield R.F.B. and to his great delight he received the National Medal in 1987.

At the time of his

death he was Group Communications Officer and it was his ambition to see one network and combined communications over the region.

He had many years of experience fighting fires around Victoria and New South Wales and was at times selected to lead a Task Force and was a popular leader.

Bob married Bev in 1960 and they were blessed with four children, Leonie, Glenys, Judith and Gregory. In 1986 Bev and Bob were awarded the Telecom Award for Community Service, mostly due to their involvement in their children's activities.



1969 - The group of volunteers on the morning the old fire station was repositioned in readiness to build the current station. Pictured L to R: Barry Chester, Alan Burgess, Arthur Adamson, Bob Burgess, Kane Harris, George Boulds, David Hoare, Bruce Adamson, Peter Aurisch, Graham Aurisch and Bruce Stranger.

BOB BURGESS PARK

(Continued)

Bob was a humble, quiet man with a respect for everyone and a great sense of humour.

He worked in a number of jobs, bridge building, plant operating, driving, powder man, mine managing, instructing, easement supervisor and grounds caretaker.

He worked for the State Electricity Commission of Victoria for 31 years and then left and obtained a Bus Driver - Maintenance position at St Francis Xavier College in Beaconsfield. Even only being there for

3 years, his impact on the school was tremendous and they have retained his memory by planting a tree and have named a carer group (pastoral) house after him. He related well to young people- he didn't "talk down" to them and they had a great respect for him. Sadly Bob died in 1993 aged 55.

Bob has been recognized by the CFA with The Beaconsfield Fire Brigade "Bob Burgess Fire Fighter of the Year Award" and Region 8 "Bob Burgess Memorial Award". The criteria for both these

awards is very high, with the stipulation that if there is no one deserving, it won't be presented. If Bob couldn't give 100% he didn't do the job.

The Community of Beaconsfield named the Bob Burgess Reserve in Bob's honour and this Reserve was dedicated to Bob to remember his outstanding and selfless service to the community and his love for the outdoors particularly the Cardinia Creek.

The area of the Park is 1.103 ha, Melway 111 H11 and contributes to the preservation of the environs of the Cardinia Creek.

Bob's wife Bev is very active in the local area teaching line dancing at the Beaconsfield Community Complex and famous for her delicious passionfruit sponges.

Bob was one of seven children and the Burgess house in which they grew up in Officer was a tiny house called Firwood made from bricks of different colours. It was first built in



Bob age 18 with his 1934 Roadster

1891 as part of the H.J. Rix property and purchased by Bob's parents Maurice and Helen in 1921, where they raised their family. It is of historical significance and can still be seen today on the Old Princes Hwy in Officer and also on the Beaconsfield/Officer Panel of the Cardinian Embroidery worked in Canvas work by Barb Morrison and Bev Burgess.

The original eight panels of the embroidery can be viewed at the Cardinia Cultural Centre and a photographic replica of the Beaconsfield/Officer panel is on display at the Beaconsfield Community Complex.



Bev and Bob Burgess (right) receiving Service award.

NATIONAL TRUST PROJECT-AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP

"PAGES FROM THE PAST"

by R. Crofts

The Casey Cardinia Branch of the National Trust is keen to encourage local support for its most recent project—a brief history of some of the most interesting aspects of our local history.

While a number of comprehensive histories of the two regions have been published in the past, the Trust hopes to put together a booklet of "Pages from the Past" to give readers a taste of our

fascinating heritage, and encourage them to read more widely in particular subjects. Topics to be covered, in text and photos, and in brief summary form, include the story of notable early settlers, schools, hospitals, transport, local government, sport and recreation, churches, hotels and businesses. Specific titles will cover, for example, the Avenues of Honour in Casey Cardinia, the Armitage

Family and Holm Park, the settlement of Maryknoll, and guest houses at Upper Beaconsfield.

Since its inception six years ago, the Casey Cardinia Branch of the National Trust has aimed to raise awareness of the importance of our heritage and the need to conserve important links to our past, in terms of both the built as well as the natural environment. It hopes that "Pages from the Past" will

encourage local residents in Casey and Cardinia to be aware and proud of their past and committed to the preservation of our heritage.

If any readers are able to help with information, photos or contacts to assist the project, the Branch would be delighted to hear from them. Please ring the President, Ruth Crofts (9707 1518) or the Vice-President, Ian Good (9707 5160)

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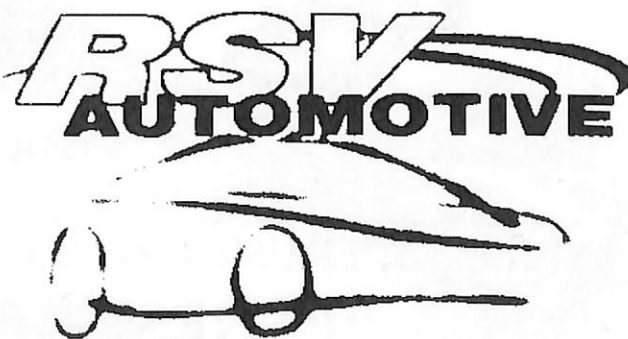
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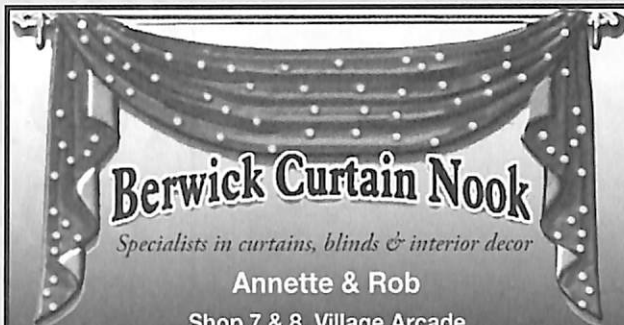
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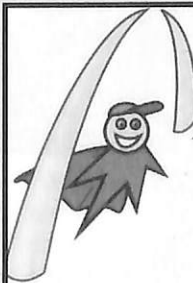
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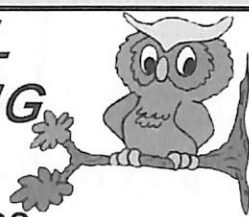


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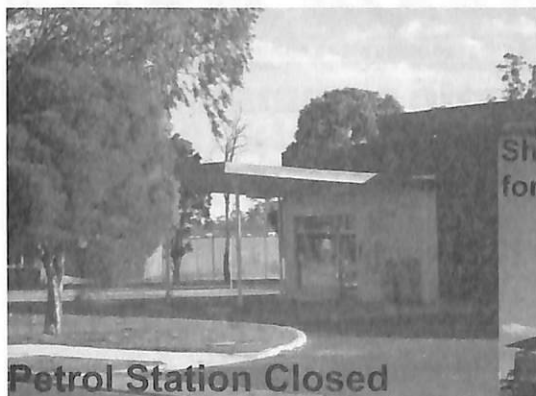


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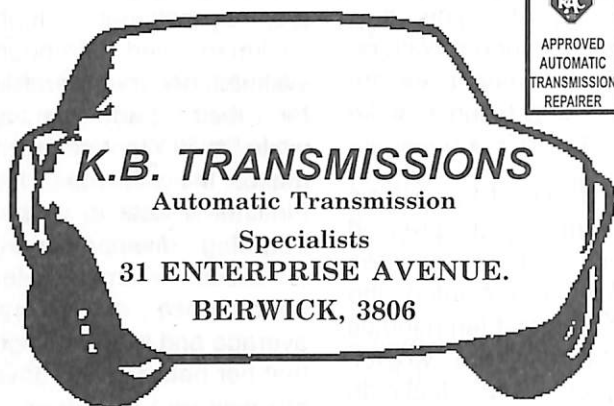
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BEAconsFIELD'S HANDYMAN

by Phil Collins

It surprises me that people have trouble finding me in the telephone directory. It is listed on page 313 in the far left column three quarters of the way down. It says Philip and Elaine Collins. Of course the Banner is an easier way of finding it.

Most of us are stunned by the events of Feb. 7th, the ferocity of the fires after so many years of drought leaving so much fuel. The high temperature transformed our community into an inferno waiting for ignition.

The loss of property and life's possessions may temporarily halt the terrible wastefulness that has become common. We can channel our excess clothing, hardware, furniture etc into the hands of the victims.

I often buy doors for

internal use – they cost \$63, the lock passage set costs \$29.75 – but if you specify a door with 2 panels of glass – count on \$300 including delivery. A lock and hinges of a plain but off-standard type, count on \$300 including delivery.

The so called "Earth Racer" is a futuristic boat which recently visited our shores. It is a tri-hulled machine designed for high speed, it runs on bio-diesel fuel which I don't think is easy to obtain. This so called new design closely follows the boat which John Cobb made his water speed record attempt in 56 years ago. The big difference is that Cobb's boat was powered by an aircraft jet engine.

Well that is a useless piece of information, far better you ring to discuss a job that needs doing.



BERWICK SHOW

**Saturday 28th February
Sunday 1st March '09.**

Akoonah Park, Berwick



X- WIRED

by David Griffiths

For a reviewer there are telltale signs that a film might be bad before we even set foot in the cinema. Sometimes the marketing gives it away... if a film needs a lot of publicity then generally the signs aren't good. If the distributor offers reviewers food on a day when there isn't more than one film being screened then you can pretty much tell you are in for one film.

All the signs were certainly there for 'Australia', the food was on offer, the publicity was out there for all to see and in

Australia's case Director, Baz Luhrmann was in the edit suite less than a week before the film's release to the media.

'Australia' tells the story of Drover (Hugh Jackman) and Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman) who come together to save the outback station that Sarah is left to look after after the murder of her husband. Sarah struggles to adapt from England to the harsh outback and her life is made harder by the fact that King Carney (Bryan Brown) and Neil Fletcher (David Wenham) will stop at nothing to see Drover

and Sarah fail. Sarah also battles to protect a young Aboriginal boy, Nullah (Brandon Walters) whom the authorities are desperately trying to make move to a mission.

This is one of those films that will have you impressed at one moment but then greatly disappointed the next. The first ten minutes of the film are woeful. Kidman and Jackman are forced to work with a script that makes both their characters seem like 'comic send-ups' of what they should be. It seems dangerously out of place, as for the rest of the film the characters are 'normal'. While this trick worked in Baz Luhrmann's 'Moulin Rouge' it fails miserably here.

The storyline of the film often lets down its audience during the film and some of the blue screen shots used are the worst seen in cinema since the 'Chronicles Of Narnia' series. And while the cinematography of capturing the outback works wonderfully, the scenes depicting the bombing of Darwin are very average indeed. Luhrmann tries in vain to emulate the shots used by Michael Bay in 'Pearl Harbour' but just doesn't manage to do it.

There are several things that do save the film

though. Some of the acting performances are sensational. Hugh Jackman and Brandon Walters deserve awards for their performances while David Wenham even makes the villainous Neil Fletcher a treat to watch. The big disappointment is Nicole Kidman. Her performance is below average and is a sure sign that her better acting days are well and truly behind her.

The other thing that makes 'Australia' watchable is the fact that the film does allow the audience to care about what happens to some of the characters. I'd be lying if I said that my heart wasn't in my mouth at various times when Drover and Nullah's lives are at risk, but even then it did seem that Luhrmann didn't exactly know how to draw out the suspense for as long as he should have.

When viewing 'Australia' the most important thing to do is to enter the cinema with the thought that you are going to see 'just another film' and close your mind to thoughts like 'this is an Oscar winner' or 'this is the film that will save Australia's film industry'. 'Australia' is well worth the price of admission, just don't expect an absolute gem.

Happy film going! Get Wired!

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OUR NATURAL WORLD

by Peter Hansen

"Work should be performed in the spirit of worship." So said Napoleon Hill, famous author of motivational books. Numerous studies at various medical centres have agreed that people live longer, healthier lives if they are satisfied with their jobs. We spend one third of our lives practising our chosen vocation. If we are unhappy at work it is bound to carry over into the hours after work, and this unhappiness can lead to ill health and physical deterioration, not to mention depression and substance abuse.

It is surprising how many people are presently with health problems that can be directly attributed to their work situation. They

just hate what they are doing and spend their working hours filled with hostility, resentment, and frustration, accomplishing little on the job or in life. At home they may vent this resentment in smoking, drinking and overeating. Their sleep is disturbed by worry over work and the dissatisfaction that stems from it.

Much domestic violence is another effect of these feelings of unhappiness. They often look haggard, tired expressions on their faces, complaining of symptoms such as Migraine, heart palpitations, insomnia, obesity, hypertension and anxiety. They often look and feel older than their

chronological age.

There is no doubt that people who work hard at a job they love are less likely to suffer the ailments of those who are unhappy at their work. There is some truth to the saying, "too busy to get sick."

Our mental and emotional health is very important to the physical wellbeing so our work life can give us that sense of meaning in our lives which in turn creates a strong immune system which imposes what we term "health" on our entire being. If we have truly found a sense of meaning in our lives enhanced by work we find enjoyable then we are bound to enjoy good health and are more likely to age well and better than many others who have not got these important factors in their lives.

Emerson put it beautifully when he said, "People do not grow old; when they cease to grow they become old."

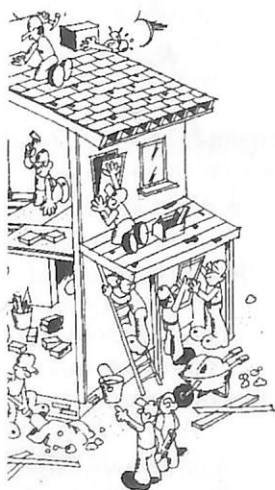
Feeling in life is so very important. People who feel useful do not deteriorate or get unhealthy. Rooted in satisfaction with themselves they make the collective teamwork prosper. The social aspect of the workplace cannot be overestimated as we are social creatures and much of our inner satisfaction comes from the pleasure of friendships within our current workforce which adds to the happiness of working, and this also creates a healthy terrain for the individual.

All work involves some routine and may even have boring bits but the focused person who is disciplined will look at the bigger picture and not let small irritants take away the overall satisfaction of their chosen work.

As Franklin Adams put it so well, "Health is the only thing that makes you feel that now is the best time of the year."

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CROSS CULTURE

by David Griffiths

Music makes a great gift at any time of the year so if you are looking for a present for Dad to show him you care than you may want to check out the 'Top Gear Australia' Soundtrack. Yes the show is painful to watch and just plain sucks but the soundtrack is actually okay.

Classic tracks like 'Bow River' by Cold Chisel, 'The Right Time' by Hoodoo Gurus, 'To Her Door' by Paul Kelly and 'Eagle Rock' by Daddy Cool feature. Then the producers of this soundtrack really need to take a bow for they have included great songs like 'Under The Milky Way' by The Church and 'Streets Of Your Town' by The Go-Betweens.

Of course you would expect songs that are something to do with cars and the road and sure enough tracks like 'Driving Wheels' by Jimmy Barnes,

'1976 Coaster' by Ash Grunwald and 'Amazing' by Alex Lloyd (well since it's in a car commercial I always think of cars when I hear it now) are also included.

But what makes this a great present is if your Dad plays it on those long summer holiday drives. It won't bore the younger members of the family either as it also includes newer songs by artists such as Liam Finn, Red Riders, 78 Saab and Youth Group.

A good little collection to have as a road-trip album.

See you next time!



4C's Volunteers Wanted

4C's is a major Crisis Relief Centre in the Cardinia Shire and we are presently looking for volunteers for our centre at Pakenham and our Charity Store at Garfield. Studies suggest that volunteering leads to improved physical and mental health, increased self-esteem and confidence.

Volunteering at our centres is a great way of making new friends and improves your sense of belonging to this community. Your time given can vary from 2 hours to 5 hours depending on where you are working.

You can make a difference and for those interested please contact Sue on 59 412268.



NEW DAWN

Magpie black, balanced on wire
flutters off squawking
up tree higher.

White washed breakers,
misty sea blue
clouds pastel pink,
framing the view

Single lone light - fishing
craft ?

See now the Ibis
- strung out aft

Gold orb rising, the
scene it lights
low sun smiles,
cold wind bites

Tug boats plough
through head of the bay,
against the tide
starting day.

Dandenong Ranges
asleep in view laying in
bed, of soft orange blue
Appearing south, now
clear to me, tall pines
green, silhouette sea.

Long shadows streak
over pastures fallow,
follow your eyes
down to beach water
shallow.

This surfer's paradise
cold lonely spot

but look down there
they're a happy lot.

Mushroom cloud in
cotton wool vest
cerulean blue sky,
nature blessed.

Nobbies Rock, far focal
point

seals island horizon
with western disjoint.

Wild grasses waving
welcome sun greet new
day just begun.

Through the gorse bush
and prickles on roadside
brow,

suns rays are peeping
warming us now !



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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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TALKING WEATHER

by Nathan Boon

The weather in January was like no other I have seen. Beaconsfield went through the 3 hottest days in a row that I can ever remember.

There were 3 days in a row that were all over 43c. The hottest day was on the 30th when it reached a scorching 45.1c. There was very little rain in January with Beaconsfield only recording a total of 15mm for the month. This is the lowest total since 1997 when there was only 11mm.

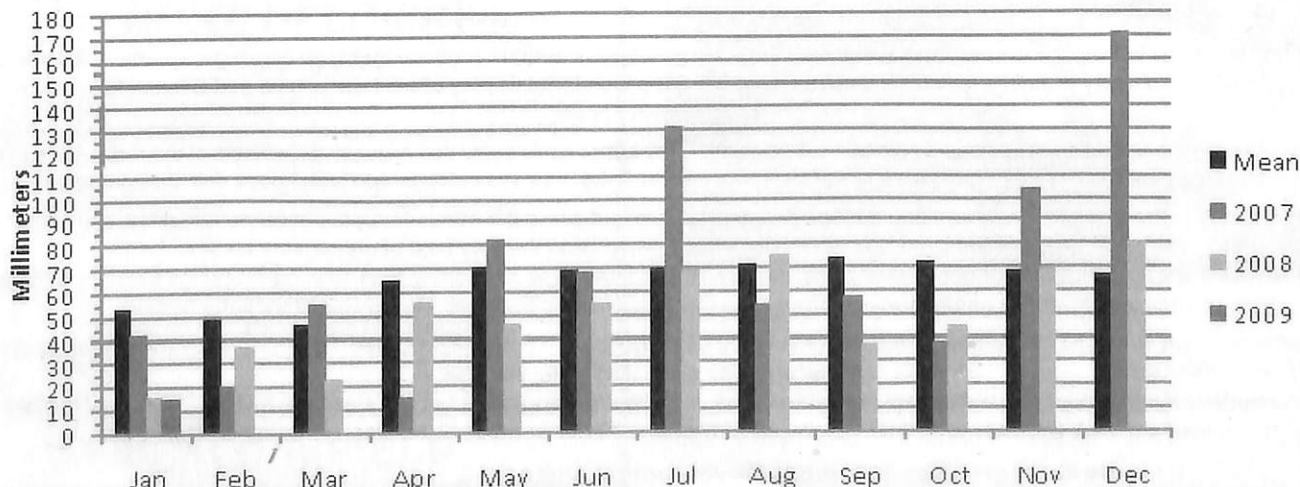
In 2008 we received a total 609mm of rain for the year. This was below average for the year. The total for December was 81mm. The rain fell over 8 days with 48mm falling on the 13th.

With the weather still at its most extreme, it is important to save as much water as possible. Melbourne's water storage is currently at 32.1%.

With the sun at its most deadly it is important to Slip, Slop and Slap

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

BEACONSFIELD RAINFALL



RECORD CROWDS GATHER AT CAROLS BY THE CREEK



The Annual Carols by the Creek was a warm and family oriented event.

A record crowd gathered on the Sunday prior to Christmas to enjoy a programme reflecting the Christmas season.

Compere Belinda Waterhouse, introduced the Nativity Procession of the Beaconsfield Baptist Church, members of the Cardinia Civic Concert Band, Combined Choirs, Beaconsfield Primary School Choir, Berwick Youth Choir, Beaconsfield

Progress Association plus more who all entertained the hundreds of people who gathered on the banks of the Bob Burgess Park.

Thank you to the many who gave their time generously to ensure the success of this event including the performers, committee, CFA and St. Johns.

A truly local event that is once again scheduled for the Sunday prior to Christmas 2009.



Pictured left - Alan Chatfield who has been a member of the band since 1954.

Photo courtesy J. Sheppard.

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Cardinia Shire's autumn harvest of apples and chestnuts will be celebrated at Cardinia Ranges Farmers' Market on Saturday 11 April at Pakenham Racecourse from 8am until midday.

In addition to all the regular farmers' market stallholders selling delicious autumn produce there will be a wide variety of activities happening on Saturday morning; including chestnut roasting and a wonderful display of heritage apples and a bountiful harvest of locally grown apples.

Kids will have the chance to meet Aussi Apple who will be giving away lots of apple treats and prizes to the winners of the Aussi Apple and Mr Chesty colouring competition. Mums and dads can get in touch with their inner child in the Great spoon and chestnut race.

Little cooks in the kitchen master cooking classes will start at 9am and present a menu of apple pancakes and fresh apple juice.

This is bound to be popular with children who get to taste the very best of our regions apples.

If that wasn't enough to whet your appetite, organisers are also delighted to be supporting the Pakenham Springs Primary School's edible community garden project through the Cardinia Ranges Farmers' Market Sponsorship Scheme.

Come on down early and get yourself breakfast before you start shopping. There will be coffee, hot chocolate plus free range egg and bacon rolls - all cooked while you wait.

Remember if you would like a monthly reminder email of "What's Happening" at the Cardinia Ranges Farmers' Market visit our web site www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/farmersmarket or contact Suzzi Carter- Madej on 59450400

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Saturday 14th March
Saturday 11th April
Saturday 9th May



8am - Midday

Pakenham Racecourse

Ph: 5945 0400

Barooga Masters Tournament

by John Scales

Beaconsfield competed in the annual Barooga Masters Tournament (19-22 January 2009) for a fourth year.

Beaconsfield V Gippsland 2 - Game One: Barooga No.2 Oval - Tues. 20th Jan '09

After winning the toss Beacy couldn't contain themselves when they thought they didn't have to field in the extreme mid-afternoon heat. Being one for eight in the first over was not a good start, however it was another 41 runs before the next loss. Solid partnerships prevailed, eventually bringing the score to 199 at the close after 40 allocated overs. It was an absolutely tremendous performance by Andrew Mercier retiring

on 40 and then coming back to finish with 84 runs in total. Newcomer to Masters Cricket Don Kerslake contributed 33, while John Scales (13), Shaun Sinclair (12), Wayne Holden (11) and Alan Sauvarin (11) all reached double figures. The opening bowlers of Ross Mitchell (2/23) and Shaun Sinclair (3/21) had Gippsland three for nine in the 5th over and at five for 26 in the 8th over and the result was all but over. A few late order runs brought their total up to 130 in the 34th over. While four of the bowlers picked up one wicket each, it was Man of the Match, Mercier (2/15) who claimed two wickets at the end. A good win taking the Tigers to the top of their pool.



Photo by : Russell Vincent

Andrew (Bagga) Mercier dominated games 1 and 3 with the bat and missed highest aggregate score for the carnival by only 5 runs. (Bad luck about the duck on day 2)

Beaconsfield V Shell Harbour - Game Three: Main Oval - Thurs. 22nd Jan. '09

The score was always going to be a good one after Mercier and Craig Jennings had reached the retirement score of 30. The retirees returned to boost the score to all out for 172 after 28.1 overs. Mercier finished on 38 and Jennings showed his true form making 44. The game was set up when opening bowler Sinclair took two for 11 in his five overs. Shell Harbour finished nine for 141, going down by 31 runs. It is now three years in a row the Tigers have beaten Shell Harbour.

Wrap Up: Second in pool B with two wins and a one run loss.

Andrew Mercier scores 84, a Duck and 38 to just miss out by five runs on the most runs by an individual in the tournament.

Craig Jennings wins the master blaster award (most sixes) putting three over the fence on countback (most fours). All players made good contributions at some stage during the competition. Once again it was a pleasure to play on such excellent surfaces.



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Photo by : Russell Vincent

Spotty (Craig Jennings) new to the club this year and winner of the master blaster at Barooga (most 6s hit)

Beaconsfield Banner

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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.

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

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DEADLINE FOR BANNER ARTICLES

March 20th 2009

CARDINIA CATCHMENT LANDCARE NEWS

by Ian Chisholm, President

In a recent edition of "The Banner", reference was made to the poor condition of the southeastern section of Beaconsfield Park, adjacent to the Princes Highway and Beaconsfield/Emerald Road intersection. It was assumed that Vic Roads had responsibility for maintaining this part of the Park.

It now appears that Vic Roads policies require the local Council to maintain this land, even though it is reserved for possible future road works.

Our Green Corps team is assisting Council, by removing rubbish and woody weeds from the site. However, decisions are yet to be made as to

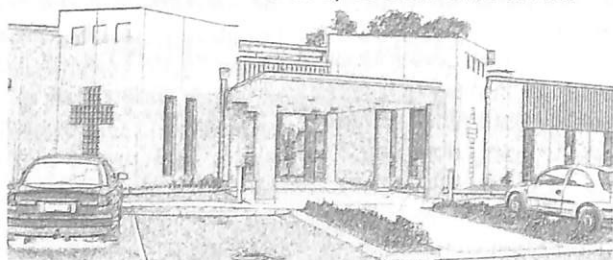
how this strategic piece of land can be incorporated into the Master Plan for Beaconsfield Park.

Landcare members have also been addressing the issue of protecting platypus in Cardinia Creek. Two platypus died last year when they became trapped in illegal "opera house" nets, but the use of fixed nets of all types is a constant threat to the platypus population in Cardinia Creek. The Australian Platypus Conservancy will soon be undertaking a Community Education project in the local area and our members will be assisting with this project.

Website; www.cclg.net.au

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14 Wood Street Beaconsfield



"The Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre supports local community groups with bi monthly donations."
Donations to date - \$16,000.

* 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

Everyone at the Beaconsfield Veterinary Centre would like to congratulate one of our nurses Leesa, who just recently got engaged to her partner Matt, we wish them all the happiness together



RAFFLE WINNERS



Congratulations to Emily Potter who won our \$300.00 Christmas Hamper, I'm sure Kobi loved his special treats.

Congratulations to Adam Forster & Nicole Murray winners of our new email Newsletter competition, to receive our newsletter just contact the clinic.

"BECAUSE WE CARE"

www.beaconsfieldvet.com.au