

Beechmont Plateau Times

Issue 8

Thursday, 13 August 2009

Communities

It's a give and take thing

Often a Buyer will come up to the mountain and offer surprise at the lack of facilities. No picture theatres, shopping centres, fashion outlets etc.

I happily explain that we have something far more valuable; we have a community. I go on to say that you don't just buy a house on the Beechmont Plateau—you choose to join our community.

If we can accept that it is not our God-given right to be a member of this community; then what are our responsibilities?

Linda Munster popped in the other day, she is on the organizing committee for the Bollywood Ball. We can all help by pre-booking our tickets.

Greg McKenzie and Tom Ryan are on the 'Better Roads for Beechmont Committee', we can help by sending in photo's of accidents so they can put more pressure on the government to fix the road.

Kay's Mum, Diana was baby sitting her Grandson's dog "Dexter" and her neighbour Carolyn offered to take him for a walk each morning. Diana has entered the Beechmont Garden Competition is having a charity stall to raise money for the "Beechmont Crafters"

There is this bloke who is so modest that I can't name him, but I see him at every community function doing something to help, we can ring the school and offer to flip a burger or something.

Karen and Michael have worked so hard to create a clean, friendly restaurant where locals can enjoy a good meal and a glass of wine without having to drive down the mountain; we can help by supporting them during these cooler months.

David Weller is organizing the Beechmont Jazz this year as Lyn Tarlington has left the mountain. We can help David by returning the enclosed booking form so the P&C can work out the numbers.



Natalie from the Beechmont and District Horse Riders Club teaches our children to ride their horses safely and responsibly; you can help by baking a cake or some cookies for the charity stall at the garden competition.

I have eight starters for our inaugural Garden Competition; I need four more and interest from groups wanting to conduct charity stalls at the gardens on the Sunday.

It isn't a chore being a member of a community—It is an absolute pleasure and the trade off is the warm feeling you get that you are never alone; that there is always someone in the community you can call for help. **DG**

What a Snodger!

Regular readers of the Beechmont Plateau Times will be aware that I like to go fishing once a fortnight with my neighbor Graeme.

It gets us out of the house, for which our wives are eternally grateful, and there is something about dangling a line in the water that returns us to some semblance of normality, for which our wives are also eternally grateful.

We have a good system, I supply the boat and Graeme selects the time and place and does the cooking.

Unfortunately, Graeme's selection of Friday three weeks ago, turned out to be the coldest morning in living memory.

Still it wasn't all bad, that is a forty centimetre bream Graeme is holding, must have been over a kilo. **DG**



LIFE is like a nappy.

This revelation came to me yesterday as I surveyed two dozen of them, whiter and furrier than lambs, piled in my daughter's laundry.

She has just delivered our eighth grandchild. Jacob. It was going to be Jake, but they decided you need at least two syllables so they know when you're angry.

When I saw him, shortly after he was born, I was elated, naturally. I stood contemplating the continuation of our ancient, if fairly ordinary, lineage; I recalled the smell of my own babies, which was so delicious I began to understand cannibalism; I considered the joys of grandparenthood, and being dragged around playgrounds by someone 60 years my junior until I drop dead of a heart attack.

Then I saw the nappies.

My whole life flashed before me and I realised – I'm a nappy!

I started out bright with innocence and fluffy with ignorance; then I discovered that, like nappies, I could expect to be poo-end on at least once daily, run through the mangle, again, at least once daily, and hung out to dry where the wind will blow you every which-way.

Finally, like a nappy, I've grown old and started falling to bits.

But I've discovered I enjoyed being a nappy. Protecting someone's backside is a noble calling. But it's too late – I've been relegated, so to speak, to polishing the car.

Soon even that will be beyond me, and there'll be one last menial task, like mopping up the cat's poo, before I'm thrown in the garbage bin.

Oh, they might be sorry to see me go. As they take their foot off the pedal and drop the lid they might say something like: "It's amazing how useful these nappies have been since the kids grew up."

Then the lid will clang shut and that'll be the end of it. Of me.

What's the point, then? I hear you ask.

The point is: it doesn't matter. I can't speak for the nappies, but I've enjoyed it. I am enjoying it. And when it comes to chucking me in the bin they'll find me clinging to the bedpost like a goanna to a tree.

I'm not here to collect epitaphs. I'm here to have fun – and I'm having it. I even had it when I was being pee-end on (literally) by a long line of offspring with less bladder control than I hope to have when I'm 90.

And it's still happening!

I'd forgotten how far up the bookshelves a three-year-old can reach. I'd forgotten how long they can hold their breath; I'd forgotten what it's like to have a kid in the car asking: "Arewethereyetarewethereyetarewethereyet?"

But it's coming back to me.

And this time I'm only the grandfather. Life as a nappy might not smell of roses much of the time, but if it postpones that one-way journey to the great garbage bin in the sky, I'll take the job.

You can read more of local writer Colin Pearce's aimless thoughts at www.takingthepearce.com.au

Hang in there! The Recession is just about Beaten!

That's right, it is safe to buy and sell property again.

No it doesn't mean you can sell at \$100,000 over market value; it just means well presented property priced at market value is getting a good reception and we are now short of stock again.

In fact we are desperately short of normal three bedroom homes in Lower Beechmont and Beechmont.

It will only cost you a cup of tea to get a professional appraisal of the value of your property in this market.

We have Buyers waiting for your home! DG





“Crafters of Beechmont” Luncheon Sanctuary Cove August 2009

“The ladies from “Crafters of Beechmont” left their needles behind today as they celebrated lunch at George’s Seafood Restaurant at Sanctuary Cove. It was a wonderful friendly day, made all the better by the great weather which put smiles on all our faces.

Our current project is making quilts for “PROJECT LINUS”...which is a group from Brisbane who donate quilts to children up to 14 years who go in for cancer treatment in a number of hospitals around South East Queensland. These children then get to keep their quilts after treatment. Any excess quilts are given to hostels and other groups around S.E. Queensland as needed. Our first delivery of approximately 20 quilts is just about ready to be donated to Linus.

It is a wonderful project, with the group meeting at Beechmont Hall on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month 9.30 am - 12 noon. We would love to see some new faces, do come along and enjoy a fabulous morning tea, a laugh and a chance to make new friends... please feel free to give Phyllis McKenzie a phone call on 55 333 519 for any additional information.”



June is justifiably proud of her new garden at Doncaster Drive.

Gardeners; It’s Time to Register For the Beechmont Spring Garden Competition on Sunday 25th October

With 10 entries we now need just two more to make this day a resounding success. I have to say that the response to the “Spring Clean Garage Sale” was less than impressive, so the decision has been made to combine the two and hold both on the same day. We have all the signage for the garage sale so just let us know before the date and we will deliver it to you. Also, I would like to see interest from the School, Fire Brigades Horse Club to run cake stalls,

plant stalls? To raise money for their organizations

We are proposing to have each garden “Open to Inspect” so that the community can gain ideas for their own gardens. Remember, any sort of garden can enter. Call Kay on 5533 1033

- 1st prize \$1,000** donated by Beechmont Mountain Sales
- 2nd Prize \$500**—Bunnings Nerang
- 3rd Prize \$250**—Laurel Cottage

Organic Gardens Tour August 29

Beechmont Business and Enterprise Network (BBEN) and B-Fresh invite Beechmont locals to our first ever organic garden tour on Saturday August 29 between 9.30am and 11am at the Summit.

The Trulson and MacKinnon families of Bibaringa Close in the Summit Estate are opening up their organic veggie gardens for anyone interested in yarning about the basics of local growing. This is an informal, down-to-earth, neighbourly process of sharing information amongst like-minded gardeners.



Cost is \$5 per person or \$10 per family and includes morning tea as well as a tour of both families’ gardens and information exchange. We’ll meet at 9.30am at 37 Bibaringa Close – outside the Summit. All proceeds from the tour will go to B-Fresh to support this important community-run, fresh food enterprise.

BBEN and B-Fresh plan to organise tours to other local backyard gardens as well as host practical workshops in food preserving, baking and cooking. Please let us know what you’d like to see and do in this exciting field of local and home-made food so we can plan future events for locals.

To RSVP for Saturday August 29 or discuss future workshops and tours please contact Wendi Trulson on ph: 5533 3835 or em: wendit@optusnet.com.au

Beechmont Mountain Sales



BEECHMONT BOLLYWOOD BALL 17th OCTOBER

Come dressed for fun in your best "Bollywood" style

Mark this off on your Calendar and get your costumes ready!

In aid of the Beechmont Fire Brigade at Beechmont Hall

Enjoy a three course meal and "Bollywood Entertainment"

There will be raffles and games; get a drink from the licensed bar

Loads of fun for adults only.

"Children will be Curried"

Parting Comment

For heavens sake; does Australia really need three levels of Government? Ask around your family now and I bet you can't name another State Minister apart from Anna Bligh.

I think we need a much stronger (and accountable) local council which represents their constituents rather than minority lobby groups; with the Federal Government taking proper responsibility for major services and infrastructure.

It must cost a bloody fortune to fund the State Governments when most of the time they are doubling up on the Federal Government anyway.

You guessed it, I just received my tax bill. Comments please. DG



It's always a good idea to watch your Back

Love to Garden?

You can turn your garden's surplus into extra income...

Backyard organic growers on Beechmont are earning between \$20 and \$100 cash each Sunday morning at the B-Fresh fresh food stall at the Old School Site.

Whether you have just a few herbs and salad greens or a steady supply of seasonal, spray-free fruit and vegetables, B-Fresh welcomes you as a local supplier.

B-Fresh operates at the Beechmont Old School Site every Sunday morning between 8am and 10am, and at the monthly Beechmont community markets (3rd Sunday of the month) between 8am and 12midday.

Local suppliers and customers are always welcomed with open arms. Supply or buy local organic fruit and vegies, free-range eggs, honey, jams and preserves, coffee, tea etc.

For more information contact Lisa Groom on ph: 5533 3125 (a/h) or em: lisa@parktours.com.au



Beechmont Market September 20

Old School Site Cr Beechmont/Binna Burra Rd
UBD Map 45/65

8 a.m. - 12 noon

Music: Jackie McDonald 10 a.m. Latin & Rock
New Stallholder & Performers welcome - Bookings essential
Contact: 0452333263 or cheryl@bigpond.com.au

Advertising Opportunity for Local Business

The Beechmont community is lucky enough to have its own community website, hosted and coordinated by the Beechmont Business and Enterprise Network (BBEN):

www.beechmont.org.au

One of the website's key features is our local, online Business Directory – Beechmont's virtual main street – where many residents source local goods and services from local businesses.

BBEN is now offering local businesses the opportunity to increase their presence on the Beechmont community website by having their own display advertising on the website.

BBEN president Sally MacKinnon said, "Not only will this display advertising showcase our home-grown businesses at very reasonable prices, they will also help BBEN generate income to support the ongoing management and improvement of the Beechmont community website.

"It's a win for our local business and our local community, which is what BBEN's mission is all about."

The website advertising will be available in two sizes and priced as reasonably as possible for small to medium sized local businesses.

For more information or to obtain a quotation, please contact Emily Pearce, BBEN's website coordinator on ph: 5533 1158 or info@emweb.com.au