

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

# VILLAGE BELL

Upper Beaconsfield Association  
[www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au](http://www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au)

Issue No. 219  
March 2020



Village Festival  
2020





**Village Festival 2020**  
 The successful Village Festival aimed to reduce waste, with St John's Church's mug libraries and BUPS enviro warriors ensuring that refuse was sorted correctly. Local produce was showcased in the hall, where a fabulous art show attracted many visitors.  
 Bottom right: The colourful graduation tree built by the Men's Shed and decorated by BUPS students.



*St John's Church congregation*



# Marianne and Cameron Rocke – Citizens of the Year

The COY award is made to encourage and recognise the importance and value of community service in Upper Beaconsfield, and to honour and acknowledge those citizens who have given meritorious service for the progress and development of this community and its residents.

The 2019 award, announced at this year's Village Festival, was awarded to Marianne and Cameron Rocke. Together they are a great community team.

Since 2007 they have helped produce the Village Bell in layout and photos and are part of the printing team. They have been regular contributors and editors of articles for the Bell over the years and Cameron's covers have been outstanding.

In 2012 Marianne took on the role of digitising the Bell using software, finishing this task in 2016. This means we now have every copy of the Bell available on the UBA website dating back to 1978.

Marianne has a strong interest in the history of Upper Beaconsfield which

started in 2010, after taking over our local history after the death of Charles Wilson. Marianne has continued his legacy, using and expanding on his records and photographic material, and writing local history articles.

Marianne set up her own website Upper Beaconsfield History where people can look up local names and places, and she is a member of local history groups.

Both Marianne and Cameron have been members of the UBA committee since 2017, where Marianne currently serves as treasurer.

Cameron has been a member of the local CFA for several years and is currently co-managing the and participating in rollout of the CFA's Property Advisory Service. He is a member of the Fuel Reduction Advisory Group and has initiated a renewed effort to establish both local community Fireguard groups as a part of the township resilience plan. Marianne is also a member of the Upper Beaconsfield CFA Auxiliary. Well done Marianne and Cameron!

## UB doctors say thank you

As we celebrate the first anniversary of the Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice here in Upper Beaconsfield on 28 February 2020, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the community, organisations, and businesses who have welcomed us and our staff at the clinic to the area. We are extremely pleased and proud that the community has entrusted us with its' healthcare.

The clinic is steadily growing in size and we are now seeing families from surrounding suburbs such as Berwick, Officer, Guys Hill Dewhurst, Emerald, Cockatoo and Pakenham registering with us. As a result of this growth we will see building works commence this month to extend our clinic and provide more consultation rooms. We hope that we will be able to continue to serve the community for years to come.

If you have any feedback or suggestions then please send it to [reception@ubgp.com.au](mailto:reception@ubgp.com.au) or call 9044 0750.

**DR ANSHU & DR PUNEET MALHOTRA**



UBA president Caroline Spencer with Cameron and Marianne Rocke

## Please support the Village Bell

If you enjoy reading the Village Bell, please consider an annual contribution of \$5 per household to help fund it.

**See page 4**



**Now open for autumn plantings  
Trees, shrubs, grasses, prostrate  
plants, wildflowers**

**Native plants from \$2 per tube**

**1 Halford Street**

**Open Fridays 9 am–4 pm  
0407 304 061**

**Casey Cardinia Heritage Festival 2020  
see page 18**

**Rainfall on St Georges Road**

Month	45 yr av.	2019	2020
Jan	63.6	13.2	126.4
Feb	58.4	25.2	
Mar	64.2	36.0	
Apr	78.3	22.8	
May	86.1	98.4	
Jun	80.3	66.6	
Jul	78.6	75.0	
Aug	85.7	98.8	
Sep	90.6	66.4	
Oct	94.3	47.2	
Nov	86.5	91.4	
Dec	80.4	25.4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>947 mm</b>	<b>666.4 mm</b>	

November rain of 91.4 mm, was lower than last year, but 4.9 mm above the long term average. A reversal of the drying trend seen in October.

December delivered a meagre 25.4 mm which was 55 mm below average. The aridity was again building. The drought to the north was creeping into our neck of the woods.

But January reversed the pattern, delivering 126.4 mm, a welcome 62.8 mm above average. Unusual for summer (thus far), the grass was green (mowing!) and the fire threat seemed less menacing. Whereas much of Australia has been impacted by intolerable dryness and destructive fires, over the last 3 months we have had 12.7 mm more rain than the long term average for the corresponding period.

A anomalous summer, but a drier year. In line with climate change, the 2019 rain total of 666.4 mm was 39.2 mm less than 2018, and a considerable 280.6 mm less than the average.

**ANDREW REWELL**

**Thank you to our supporters:**

Frank Archer & Caroline Spencer; Ann & Ray Benson; Andre Bokos; Erin Borg; Julie Born; Eric & Joyce Bumpstead; Linda Burrridge; Arthur & Hilary Day; Doug Field; Bronwyn Fitzgerald; Ruth Hainsworth; Stan Hamilton; Hapke Family; Helen Harman; Paul Higgott; Craig Hilton; Marie Howard; F & C Huisman; Harry & Diana Jensen; G & D Jones; Mark & Gail Kelly; Tony Knight; Caro Letts & Mike Hall; Noel Ling; Adam Martin; Mc Cann Family; Anne & John McCormick; Anne Mehla; George Moir; Kate Mudie; Chery & Fergus O'Gallagher; Annie & Mick O'Reilly; Brett Owen; Jenny & John Patterson; Debbie & Ian Pinney; Jenny & Lawrie Pritchard; Barbara Reid; Andrew & Sally Rewell; Leanne & Mark Ricketts; Marianne & Cameron Roche; Peter Rose; Sue & Peter Simmons; Harold Simpson; Rob & Bev Sinclair; Helen Smith; Roslyn Smith; Arthur & Joan Stephenson; Bob & Eleanor Taylor; Jackie Timmers; Peter & Trish Trewin; Gerry & Arnie Vullings; Nikki Ward; Doug & Jill Wilson; Fedir & Johanneke Woskobenko

**Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall**

Family functions,  
club fundraisers

**Bookings  
5944 3219**

**Cycling group**

Upper Beaconsfield Peddlers meet every third Sunday of the month for a social bicycle ride mainly on rail trails, shared pathways locally and inner city.

There are choices of a shorter ride of 30 km or longer ride of 50 km and we always stop for refreshments along the way.



Last year we have ridden The Capital City Loop, McClelland Gallery to Moorooduc, MuIn MuIn Trail, Djeering Trail (new sky rail from Dandenong to Caulfield) and the O'Shannessy Aquaduct Trail.

The only cost is Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre's annual membership of \$10.

Contact Cathy on 0421 556 560 for more information.

**Village Bell support** If you like reading the Village Bell, please help to fund it. All we ask is for households to pay a yearly \$5 support towards producing the Village Bell.

You can pay \$5 at the Community Centre, General Store or Post Office, or pay by

internet banking to Upper Beaconsfield Association Inc., Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000 account number 162 580 112.

Tag your payment with your name so we know who sent it. If you live outside the local area we can mail the Bell to you for \$15 per year. Thank you!

**Village Bell Editorial coordinator** Helen Smith tel 5944 3219 – **Layout** Marianne Roche – **Photo editor** Cameron Roche – **Advertising** Helen Smith and Kaylene Cox – **Subscriptions** Julie Born – **Mailing list** Cheryl O'Gallagher

**Next issue: June 2020**

**Send articles by 7 May 2020 to** editor.villagebell@gmail.com

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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA

*the voice of the community*

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**Cardinia**



# Festival – a fabulous community event

After a few days of stormy weather and a muddy set up, the sun came out and the Festival ended up a fabulous community event. Starting off in the morning with a successful Tower Fun Run, there was a high attendance of people all day.

Wrist band ride sales went well, so kids were having a wonderful time on all the rides and entertainment. Local community groups came together again to display what they do best! Buskers, the Band and Hip Hop performed very well for the crowds and many food stalls ran out of food. The reduce and recycle initiatives brought to this year's festival worked well, thanks to Carl Hirst and Jenny Pritchard, and those BUPS bin supervisors were just amazing.

## Art exhibition

Gail Kelly reported the Art Exhibition entries were up from last year and some wonderful local artworks were exhibited.

Art prizes were awarded to:

### Children under 10

- |     |                  |           |
|-----|------------------|-----------|
| 1st | <i>Waterfall</i> | by Finn   |
| 2nd | <i>Emu</i>       | by Olivia |
| 3rd | <i>Untitled</i>  | by Asher  |

### Children 10 and over

- |     |                                 |                   |
|-----|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1st | <i>Winston</i>                  | by Cody Baltissen |
| 2nd | <i>Droids of the Resistance</i> | by Jed Williams   |
| 3rd | <i>We will survive</i>          | by Isabelle Quirk |

### Adults

- |     |                    |                |
|-----|--------------------|----------------|
| 1st | <i>Animal Puns</i> | by Karen Alsop |
|-----|--------------------|----------------|

- |     |                   |                     |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2nd | <i>The Rock</i>   | by unknown artist   |
| 3rd | <i>The Magpie</i> | by Dianne Chikhaoui |

## Thank you!

### Volunteers

All those who put in the hard yards for the entire year and the critical angels that come out of the woodwork to help on the weekend. Special mentions to the Rovers and the CFA, Men's Shed and the Village Festival Committee.

### Sponsors and supporters

Cardinia Council, Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre, Upper Beaconsfield Association, Menarock Life Beaconsfield Upper (Salisbury House), Gazzola Farms, Jason's Restaurant, Bakers Delight, and Summer Snow Juice.

## Tower Run 2020

A great day with 284 registered, and 68 who did the tough tower two laps. The weather was perfect for a run and the different direction after the start was amusing and appealed to the trail runners.



won once again by the Beaconsfield Upper Primary School, Urban Landscapes for the water, Woolworths for the bananas, Runners World, Alex Scott & Staff, Star Newspapers, Barry and Kay Cox for the timing and to the Scouts, Rovers and CFA for their great job marshalling.

Special thanks to Brad Battin for surprising me with an announcement at the start, that he would give \$10 to the UB CFA for every person who beats Tom Gibson. I always start last and I did on Sunday, Brad inspired many to run faster. My time was 34.55 and 33 runners (six from the Tough Tower first lap) beat me, so thank you Brad.

Once again we are very grateful to our fantastic sponsors who assisted us. The Beaconsfield Community Branch, Bendigo Bank, who provided the trophies and medallions, RMBL for the group participation prize which was

Thanks also to Cardinia Shire for clearing and grading the run course, even though a lot of their good work was washed away on Friday! John Kral and Jason Heylbut did a great job setting up the Fun Run course around the festival site.



Most of all thank you to all the runners who participated and helped to make this a success and congratulations to all the medal and trophy winners.

See all results at [http://www.racetiming.com.au/RESULTS/results\\_2020.html](http://www.racetiming.com.au/RESULTS/results_2020.html)

**TOM GIBSON**



Three generations at the fun run: Tom, Tim and Elijah wearing his first fun run singlet

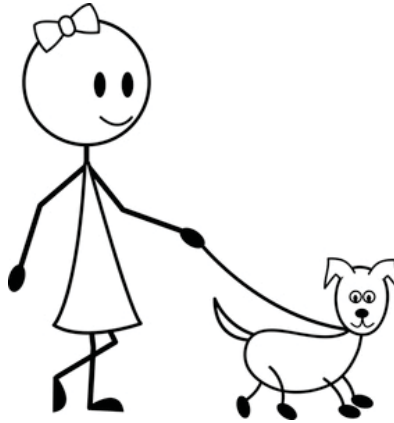
## Dogs off the leash at Harris Reserve?

At the end of last year Cardinia Council contacted the Upper Beaconsfield Association to gain some community feedback about a proposal to make Harris Reserve in Salisbury Road an off-leash dog area. The proposal was part of council's aim to develop off-leash parks in the shire. This was not to be a fenced area.

Quite a few residents who lived in the vicinity attended the February UBA meeting to give their concerns:

- If the off-leash area was promoted, more people would bring their dogs to Harris Reserve.
- There is no suitable parking at the reserve.
- The reserve is home to many native animals including echidnas, wood ducks and a mob of kangaroos. Dogs are notorious for chasing kangaroos, which can result in serious injury to both kangaroos and the dogs. Once the hunter instinct kicks in, owners cannot control their dogs.

- Residents reported that roaming dogs race up barking to fence lines and upset their confined dogs.
- One incident resulted when a dog spooked a horse being ridden in the reserve. The rider fell, broke a bone and needed medical attention.



The overwhelming view was that dogs and wildlife do not mix, and that we need to protect our parks. Owners can

still walk their dogs there, but they cannot let them off leash. If you see kangaroos, observe them, but keep your distance. Cr Owen, who attended the meeting, has taken the feedback to council and it is expected that Harris Reserve will not be a designated off-leash dog area. UBA also recommends better signage is installed there.

**HELEN SMITH**

Stop Press: Council held their monthly meeting on 17 February 2020, and resolved that Harris Reserve not be designated an off-leash area. This decision will please the significant majority of people who attended the UBA meeting. Thank you to Cr Owen and the Upper Beaconsfield Association for working together to achieve this outcome.

We should be grateful to have a councillor who listens to community concerns.

## Carols on Christmas Eve!

It seems so long ago already. It was a fabulous night with a great turnout in Keith Ewenson Park and a wonderful night of singing and music. It really is heart-warming how the community pulls together to contribute towards the Carols. A special thanks to all participants in the evening's music program under the direction of local musicians Lionel Bailey and Damien Bennett.

We acknowledge the following groups and individuals who helped make the Carols event possible.

1. The Upper Beaconsfield Association coordinated the event and the Community Centre provided the insurance cover for the event.
2. Cardinia Shire Council provided a festival grant to help cover costs
3. The Men's Shed's expertise in setting up and the refreshments
4. CFA provided Santa and the fire truck
5. Julie Born and the BUPS Parent and Friends for the lolly bags
6. The Community Complex Buildings & Grounds Committee
7. Thank you to the Scouts for the use of the marquee

## A nasty surprise

Be careful where you park along Salisbury Road near the Community Complex.

One staff member at the Early Learning Centre was shocked to see the damage to her car back in December. A vehicle had clipped her parked car and shunted it half onto the footpath, resulting in quite a bit of damage as you can see.

Salisbury Road is quite narrow, and when there is parking on both sides, drivers must proceed carefully. There is a lot of traffic on this road these days,

especially early mornings and mid-afternoon onwards. People should park off road near the Complex, especially larger SUVs. Side mirrors can be clipped by passing cars.

The offending driver did not stop and took off down the road. Luckily another motorist witnessed the incident and followed the driver, took a photo of the vehicle registration and reported it to police.

The Upper Beaconsfield Association is consulting with the Cardinia traffic engineer to see if any improvements can be made to the line marking.

**HELEN SMITH**

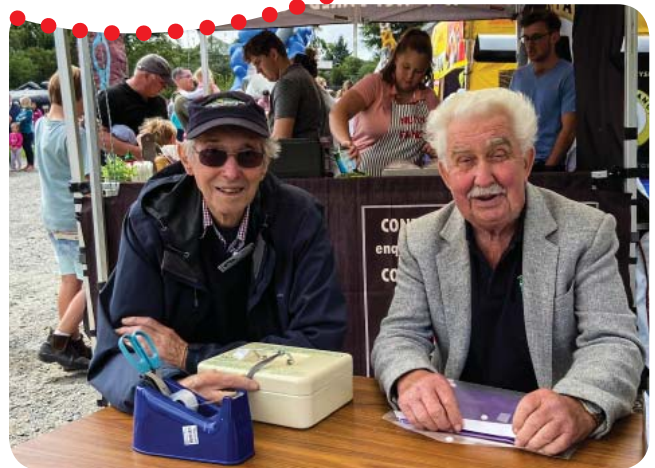






VILLAGE FESTIVAL  
PARTY  
CAPTAIN KOALA,  
RUNNING, DANCING, PLAYING,  
CUPCAKES TASTED THE BEST!  
FAMILIES.

A cinquain poem by Eva (10)



## Home insurance and BAL

Last December over 100 residents attended BUPs Stadium for an information night about home insurance and Bushfire Attack Levels in high bushfire areas. Hosted by the Upper Beaconsfield Association, the evening was organised through the efforts of Malcolm Graham and the UBA Community Resilience Committee led by Caroline Spencer.

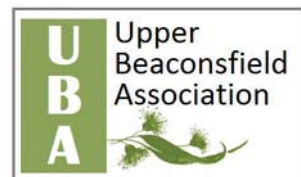
Speakers were Claire Cordingley from the Insurance Council of Australia and consultant Phil Walton spoke about Bushfire Attack Level ratings.

Claire asked people to check if their home insurance policy was sufficient to cover such things as asbestos removal, demolition and removal costs, smoke damage, planning permits and

replacement of solar panels, etc. People who live on larger blocks may need to consider farm insurance to cover fences and outbuildings. Re-building after bushfires is much more expensive than people realise. New houses need to take into account the specification according to the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL), which determines the type of construction for the rebuild. Each property has an individual assessment and depends on the proximity of a house to the bush and likelihood of direct flame attack.

The Q&A discussion on these issues gave everyone a lot of food for thought.

HELEN SMITH



*Next public meeting*  
**Council  
announcement on  
Open Air Burning  
review**

**Wed 1 April at 7.30 pm  
Community Complex  
All welcome**

# An impactful bushfire season starts 2020

The words of Dorothy Mackellar's poem *My Country* ring loudly, as this year starts as a stark reminder about the tumultuous way 'the beauty and terror' of our 'love of a sunburnt country' turns topsy-turvy in an instant. Around Australia, farmers, emergency services and too many communities shattered from their hell bent efforts to save their communities, continue to counter the scourges of drought, fire, and the flooding rains.

'Australia burns', the international media write, while the Financial Review reports that cancelled trips from overseas holidaymakers could cost \$4.5b by the end of the year, and, out of respect, Tourism Australia pauses its \$45m international advertising campaign. It seems the world weeps as Australia burns, revealing a much deeper caring nature that belies headline news about Syria, Iran, North Korea, Trump, Brexit, or Megxit. The prodigious outpouring of global donations, which nudges \$500m, also reminds us about the extraordinary human kindness that flourishes during times of disaster and need.

Those of us with desk bound jobs might feel helpless as we watch people from a multitude of different agencies making

significant community contributions to saving lives, homes, farms, cattle, wildlife or the forests themselves. We see those fighting fires, evacuating holidaymakers and residents, caring for wildlife, assessing damages, or carting water. We see remarkable initiatives such as the Sikh Volunteers Australia, who headed towards East Gippsland with a van, packed with vegetarian food and water to feed the hungry, and became accidental media heroes.

As the bushfire emergency, and now weather crisis subside, these events transition slowly from response to recovery. As communities emerge from the waves of destruction and find ways to build back stronger, the resilience narrative looms large and strong. Communities around Victoria have shared their resilience stories about how they build their resilience before, during and after disasters. Their experiences provide valuable lessons that could help disaster-affected communities navigate their way to building back stronger. Replicating or adapting proven resilience activities to the needs of particular communities not only helps bond people during times of great need, but also helps people learn from the lessons of others and saves wasting valuable resources.

Saving valuable community resources was an important aim for the Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative when we decided to promote these significant community efforts and contributions in the Compendium of Victorian Community-based Case Studies, which offers ideas to all communities to build the resilience of their community.



Free access to the Compendium provides a resource for all people from across all sectors, council boundaries and community groups to deliver resilience-building projects that help Victorian communities become even more viable, sustainable, liveable and prosperous, today and long into the future.

Visit the <http://www.monash.edu/compendium> or contact Caroline Spencer for more information [caroline.spencer@monash.edu](mailto:caroline.spencer@monash.edu).

**CAROLINE SPENCER**

## Generosity in the aftermath of disaster

It's Friday. It's hot, windy and predicted to get to 43C in Melbourne. A Total Fire Ban day, with the fire danger rating at severe. Certainly, a day to be checking the fire apps. So far, our little pocket of bush remains safe. But it seems most of East Gippsland has burnt already and so much of eastern NSW and even Queensland.

Already 33 people have died. So many homes, properties and sheds and equipment lost. So much forest, grassland, so many animals, native and stock. It seems so overwhelming, so hard to help, contribute in some way. But we do, as a nation, a region, a small community, an individual. We all want to help in some way.

My partner is away on another CFA strike team in East Gippsland. It got me thinking about all the different things so many people are doing to help in this crisis. And will continue to do later, when the fires are out.

In no particular order, this is what groups and individuals in Upper Beaconsfield have been doing since we

realised just how bad this fire season was going to be.

### Upper Beaconsfield CFA

Since November about 20 local CFA firefighters have been deployed to over 20 fires in NSW and East Gippsland: places like Buchan, Mallacoota, Sarsfield, Mt Hotham, Ensay and many more. The Fire Brigade Auxiliary has been fundraising with Captain Koala and at the Village Festival, and occasionally picking up returning strike teams off the 2 am bus.

It seems that no sooner had our new Ultralight been delivered than we were asked to send it to Swifts Creek. It stayed there for a couple of months and has only just returned, much appreciated and well looked after by the Swifts Creek Fire Brigade.

### Need for Feed

This organisation was founded in 2006 by local Graham Cockerell with mates Barry Medwin and Doug Hamilton, also locals. Graham is still the tireless coordinator of the NFF project of

Lions Club. It is the major supplier of emergency stock feed and transport during times of fire, drought or flood in the state, including government and private agencies combined. Using semi-trailers and utes and everything in between, Need for Feed has delivered over \$5,000,000 worth of aid just during this crisis alone — hay, silage, and more to fire affected areas, wherever it's needed, in Victoria or interstate. No doubt their help will be needed for months to come. You can check the Need for Feed Disaster Relief FB page, or [needforfeed.org](http://needforfeed.org) if you would like more information on upcoming events, news, if you would like to donate, or if you need assistance.

### Carlei Winery

The winery held a CFA Bushfire Appeal Charity Fundraiser on 18 January. They raised \$11,528.50. Half of this went to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund, and half to our local brigade. Not only did many local small businesses make generous donations, but the winery

*continued on page 9*



*continued from page 8*

staff also donated their time to help make this event such a big success. So impressed by this, one anonymous attendee put \$400 in the tip jar. This was then re-donated back into the fundraiser jar. Awesome. See the Carlei Winery FB page for further details.

### **The Upper Beac Men's Shed**

The Sheddies held a Bunnings sausage sizzle in Pakenham on 18 January. They raised \$1710, all of which will be donated to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund. On Tuesday 25 February at Tommy Griffin Park, the Men's Shed held their Free Pancake evening. The collection tin was out, and all proceeds to be donated to BlazeAid. Results will be announced on their FB page.

### **Beacy Bandits basketball team**

This team, full of enthusiastic Upper Beacy basketballers, is donating 39 basket balls to Taree (NSW) Basketball. The basketballs will be distributed to Taree junior players affected by the fires. The Bandits wanted to help the kids try and get back to a bit of a more normal life, and just have fun throwing a ball around with mates.

In addition, they held a barbecue on 15 February at the Pakenham Basketball Club as a fundraiser for the Clifton Creek (near Sarsfield) community. The Clifton Creek Primary School and all their facilities burnt down leaving the kids (ten in all) with no school, no sports equipment or any other amenities. The Bandits will match dollar for dollar for all proceeds from the barbeque, and any merchandise sold, or donations made. Proceeds will go to replacing sporting equipment. The Bandits are also sending ten basketballs to Clifton Creek, one for each child. Check the Bandits FB page for more information.

### **Split Rock Rovers**

The Rover crew — part of the 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group — in

mid-January helped pick up bigger household articles such as tables, chairs, beds and dressers from local donors, loaded them onto a large truck and these were then sent to people affected by fires.

### **Green Circle Plant Nursery**

Our local volunteer native plant nursery has donated proceeds from plant sales to four groups: Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund, Zoos Victoria Emergency Wildlife Fund, Need for Feed and the Upper Beaconsfield CFA. In all a total of \$3,500, which is quite a few plants!

### **Upper Beac Conservation Group**

UBCG will donate \$1,000 to local wildlife shelters Locky's Legacy and Back To Nature, including proceeds from the village festival and fundraisers.

### **Pouches group**

Kim Jose and her band of magical stitchers have sewn over 100 pouches and wraps of all different sizes to house orphaned and injured baby joeys, possums and wombats. These are being distributed to carers in many areas who look after these precious little ones till they are old enough to be re-homed or hopefully released.

Kim and her children have also made



thousands of emergency relief kits containing toiletries and other essentials for distribution to affected areas.

### **Wildlife and water fountains**

Phil Maxwell has made water fountains. Using materials (PVC pipes, caps and elbows) generously donated by Reece's Plumbing Pakenham, as well as star pickets donated by Euan Laird and Adam Tanner, Phil has so far made and taken over 30 of these down to Bairnsdale to be distributed through the many burnt out areas in East Gippsland.



### **Fauna balls**

Katherine Brandenberger started on a project to make fauna balls as a food source for starving wildlife survivors in what's left of their burnt-out homes. See her article on page 10.

### **Food for wildlife**

At the beginning of February, Annie and Mick O'Riley went on a wildlife relief run. They headed up to a wildlife shelter in Myrtleford to deliver rodent proof containers needed to store food, milk powders and sundry items that rats and mice love to eat. Most carers are not funded at all by anyone, so everything helps, especially now when many are looking after significantly more animals than usual. They then drove over Mt Hotham via the Great Alpine Road to the Snug Wildlife Shelter at Cassilis near Omeo. Here they delivered a load of sweet potatoes. Turns out these are an excellent emergency food for wombats: they are seed free, so don't introduce weeds into an already fragile environment, last well, have a good moisture content and are similar nutritionally to other root-based sources wombats would dig for.



- ◆ Physical fitness centre located in Beaconsfield Upper
- ◆ Ladies only group sessions
- ◆ Over 55s functional fitness
- ◆ Personal training
- ◆ Semi private sessions

Kate MacDonald 35 Berglund Road



0432 352 032





# Balls! A Facebook fiasco

If you are anything like me, you no doubt watched, with horror and despair, the catastrophe of our latest bushfire crisis unfolding in real time, wherever you turned — TV, radio, newspapers and social media. Perhaps you donated to the over \$457 million raised for fire services and bushfire affected communities? I did, but as the relentless horror dragged on my money felt increasingly inadequate, I wanted to do something!

So, when a girlfriend invited me to join a Facebook group making 'Fauna balls' to supporting wildlife rescuers, I was out the door in a flash, Kazballs recipe in hand, but by the time I'd returned with the ingredients, it was all over.

To help me understand what bought this viral juggernaut to such a sudden and complete stop, I spoke with the organiser of the ARC Victoria Wildlife Fauna balls group, Cindy Curran.

Curran, who operates a dog rescue, explained that she was a member of ARC Victoria, a local branch of Animal Rescue Cooperative Australia, a Facebook group that began shortly after the bushfires started in NSW with "the goal to work with community, rescue organisations and many others to grow a well-supplied and supported national rescue network."

Shortly after joining, a discussion began about creating a short-term emergency food source that rescuers could leave behind in fire damaged areas for surviving wildlife. The noise became so loud that the admins called out for someone to set up a dedicated group just to deal with this fauna balls' issue and Curran bravely put her hand up.

With advice from a specialist zoologist and a commercial chef, they came up with a stable, high energy fauna ball recipe they named 'Kazballs' after the zoologist who'd designed it to support a wide range of wildlife with an extended safe consumption period. However, being a wet food, they would need to remain frozen until required.

This is where Curran's group really shined, within four days she'd attracted over 1000 members and tells me "those first few days were just great, everyone was extremely cooperative and collegiate, as soon as I needed anything, someone would step up". She used the Department of Education website as her guide for breaking up Victoria into districts, then working to establish a comprehensive network of 'micro hubs' — people offering to

act as a local drop-off point within each district who'd agreed to store as many fauna balls as could fit into their domestic freezers until called for by shelters or rescue organisations.

Curran says "For a project like this, the fires happened at the right time; I mean there's never a 'right time' for a catastrophic bushfire, but being school holidays we had a lot of families rolling balls with their kids then posting great photos online, which helped us spread the word".

With feel good virality fauna balls being rolled in homes all over the state and the micro hubs began filling up; that's when the trouble started.

The first challenge came on day 4; a Swinburne University group held a fauna ball rolling event, but instead of going through the ARC micro hub network as requested; they decided to deliver the balls directly to Wildlife Warriors and, to their great disappointment, were turned away. See, Wildlife Warriors, weren't yet even aware of this new initiative, let alone in a position to freeze several kilos of fauna balls.

"The thing with the Swinburne group broke my heart" says Curran "the whole reason we set up the micro hubs was to avoid confusion and take pressure off the frontline services; they had enough on their plate without having to worry about managing cold chain donations" Then on day 5 one micro hub volunteer insisted the group call a blanket halt to fauna ball production because she was being inundated and couldn't take in any more. When it was suggested that a second hub was needed in her district she became hostile and territorial; Curran laments it was the beginning of a new sort of tension that hadn't been there in the beginning, egos were suddenly getting in the way of the greater good.

But the fatal blow came later that day with what Curran calls 'The Post' — a message left in the group by a new member, with a faceless profile, going by the name 'Peter'.

In the post Peter was issuing an urgent warning to stop the project because it was killing native wildlife. He claimed he had just taken a dead sugar glider to a university and an autopsy revealed the cause of death was the innocent creature ingesting one of our 'toxic' fauna balls. Some members of the group tried to get more information from Peter, challenging the when,

where and how of his claims, especially given that the fires were still actively raging and none of the wildlife rescue teams had been allowed into affected areas, let alone distributed any of these fauna balls, but Peter wouldn't respond.

Others tried fact checking with universities only to discover that they were still all on summer hiatus.

"I guess you'd call it 'Fake News'" says Curran. "I can't understand why anyone would do something like this, because it can't be to protect wildlife!"

Curran, and other ARC members tried to reassure the public that their recipe was designed by a zoologist and, provided everyone worked with their local micro hub to keep the cold chain going, these fauna balls were a safe short term substitute for vulnerable native animals that had survived the fires but lost their regular food supply.

But the rumour had spread like wildfire (pun intended) and soon all the online talk was about how fauna balls were killing native animals, despite the obvious irony that these animals were actually dying and, as Curran says "we hadn't even had our chance to help!" Distressed by these unwarranted and unfounded attacks ARC Victoria issued a directive for Curran to shut the fauna balls Group down; within 24 hours the ARC Victoria group would also completely disappear from Facebook.

I asked Curran what happened to the thousands of fauna balls that had already made it into micro hub freezers, and she tells me she doesn't really know. "One woman began a new group offering to bake them into dog biscuits to sell as a fundraiser, but she had young kids and I think it became too much for her".

Despite her superb efforts coordinating this great idea I ask if she is upset it that ultimately it failed to launch, she replies "What can you do? It's Facebook!" and she's right, it is Facebook; this wild new frontier where one minute you're trending and the next you're being torn apart.

I get the impression Curran hasn't been put off though and is still championing grassroots Facebook groups. Before we end our call she points me to a couple of projects that are still going strong including Empty Esky and Animal Rescue MacGyver Makers Guild and suggests anyone looking for practical ways to help our bushfire impacted native wildlife join them.

So, go do that, I have.

**KATHERINE BRANDENBERGER**



continued from page 9

## Wildlife shelters

There are other local shelters taking care of injured and orphaned animals from bushfire affected areas. These include the Gembrook Wildlife Shelter, that has been operating in the hills region for over 30 years. They are currently looking after some older wombats evacuated from East Gippsland.

In Pakenham Upper Lyndel Chalmers and Don Smith of Locky's Legacy have four extra juvenile wombats in their care — and they need a new enclosure quickly before they grow out of their nursery!

These projects are immediate, and many will be ongoing. Many other organisations will be lending their time and skills in the months to come.

## BlazeAid

BlazeAid will be replacing countless thousands of kilometres of fencing in the next few months. A few locals will be involved with this: Steve and Tracey Limb have been in Bruthen. And there's a few more working out when they have time. If you'd like to be involved with BlazeAid see their webpage [blazeaid.com.au](http://blazeaid.com.au), or their FB page.

## Conservation Volunteers Australia

Caroline Spencer and Frank Archer will be working with CVA on revegetation projects for areas destroyed by fire, as well as protecting and rehabilitating damaged areas. For information about this group see [conservationvolunteers.com.au](http://conservationvolunteers.com.au)

## Ausnet

And thank you to SP Ausnet contractors, who once the day's work is finished, have been taking their bucket trucks out into the remaining forest to collect branches and leaves to be distributed to areas where there's little left for the local wildlife to eat. I can't help feeling that other contractors are also doing a bit extra too.

Apologies to anyone I have missed — it's hard to keep track when there is so much going on. No doubt there are many people planning what they might do in the months to come. It might be as simple as giving a hand to a family member or just listening to someone who has been through the trauma of these fires.

Those who have been through the 1983 fires here in Upper Beaconsfield know how important little acts of kindness can be.

CARO LETTS

# Local wildlife shelter needs our help



Lyndel and Don are caring for four wombats that were evacuated from bushfires. They have an extra 4 mouths to feed and house at their already busy Locky's Legacy Wildlife Shelter (not for profit), in Toomuc Valley Road, Upper Pakenham. Lyndel and Don are in desperate need of a new enclosure before the juvenile wombats grow too big for the nursery. They have received one small grant which has enabled them to start this project but it is less than 1/10 of what they need to complete the enclosure to house these animals until they are ready for release. Lyndel and Don are active members of the animal emergency system in our wonderful community and care for a wide range of native animals at their beautiful shelter on the edge of Chambers Reserve.

We are hoping that with your help we can all pull together to show what our wonderful community can do.

We will also be doing two working bees to erect the enclosure and any help with this would be very welcome. Please consider making a donation either of materials, products or of labour to this local cause.

GoFundMe page:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/wombat-enclosure-pakenham>

Direct Deposit: Westpac Lockys Legacy Wildlife Shelter, BSB 033 636 Account 375 001

**ANNIE O'RILEY**  
[annieoriley@gmail.com](mailto:annieoriley@gmail.com)  
 UPPER BEACONSFIELD WILDLIFE  
 ROAD TOLL SURVEY GROUP

## What we need

Van Steensel Timbers at 421 Princes Highway in Officer has our "wish list". You can purchase and leave with them any of these items for us to pick up before our working bee.

### Wombat enclosure

• 1800mm x 20m Cyclone style diamond chain mesh fencing for ground barriers	\$210 / roll	(8 needed)
• 3.6m colorbond fencing (ironstone colour)	\$61.05 / sheet	(40 needed)
• 3.6m clear corrugated roofing panels	\$49.86 / sheet	(40 needed)
• Bags of concrete	\$7.15 / bag	(15 needed)
• 3m treated pine fence posts	\$19.50 each	(50 needed)
• 3m (100 x 100) cypress pine posts	\$38.70 each	(4 needed)



# Bushfire emergency

## Condolences

The Upper Beaconsfield CFA sends condolences to those who lost family and loved ones in the recent fires across the country. Tragically there were fire fighters and an American air tanker crew who lost their lives in the line of duty, along with several forest fire management workers in Victoria. Our thoughts are also with those who have lost homes and properties right across the country.

Whilst keeping us informed of the unfolding emergencies, the media saturation and sometimes dramatic pictures coming in from right across the country can bring painful memories flooding back for many residents who suffered loss or endured heartache in previous fires such as the tragic 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires or the 2009 Black Saturday fires. Even the smell of smoke can be an unwanted reminder for some. We feel for those members of our community too.

## East Gippsland Complex Fire

Who would have thought that a series

of lightning strikes on the 21 Nov 2019 in remote areas of East Gippsland would lead to one of the biggest and longest fire campaigns since 2007? That's exactly what has happened in East Gippsland over the last few months.

The fire behaviour experienced in the early days of the East Gippsland fires was not seen or experienced before for that time of year. Usually we would expect to see that fire intensity and behaviour much later in the summer season such as February when everything has generally dried out. The Bunyip State Park fire last year started on 1 March. In the lead up prior to this devastating fire, the East Gippsland region had endured three years of below average rainfall. All it needed was a spark in the form of the lightning strikes.

The residents of many communities in the East Gippsland region have experienced many fires over the years. Places like Dargo, Omeo, Swifts Creek, Ensay, Tambo Crossing, Bruthen, Buchan, Gelantipy, Nowa Nowa, Orbost, Cann River, Marlo, Mallacoota and other localities are either nestled peacefully amongst meandering hills and valleys or near idyllic coastal

retreats and getaways. But they are also surrounded by lots of big beautiful trees and forests that are now vulnerable to the spread of fire!




## Spare a thought

Whilst it is hazardous for those with respiratory conditions when that annoying bushfire smoke blows in for a day here and there, spare a thought for the residents of the communities in East Gippsland who have been amongst those terrible conditions almost every day since late November.

They have been living and breathing this fire for months now. Can't go outside to go to work without being in smoke. Can't go outside to the park to play with the kids without being in smoke. Can't go to the shops without being in smoke. Can't hang the washing out without it being in smoke. Can't play tennis, cricket or footy without it being in smoke.


## Our part in the East Gippsland fires

Since late November, the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade has proudly sent approximately 20 of its active




**A single ember can spread bushfires as far as 40km.**

Burning embers from bushfires can travel up to 40km, starting new fires in seconds, destroying homes and making escape impossible. If the Fire Danger Rating is ever extreme or above, don't hesitate. Leave early.

**How well do you know fire?** 

**Plan. Act. Survive. Go to [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au)**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





volunteer members away on three-day deployments at various times to different locations in East Gippsland. Many of these members have taken time off work and spent time away from family and friends to help those in need.

Some flew into the Mt Hotham airport from Moorabbin in light planes and worked out of Omeo, Swifts Creek, Benambra and throughout the Tambo Valley alongside workers from Forest Fire Management Victoria fighting fires. They performed essential and strategic back burning operations and provided asset protection to communities and properties.

Some were deployed by bus to the Swan Reach staging ground to work on a peat fire burning underground near Bairnsdale. Some went to Orbost and Marlo to perform blacking out and back burning operations. Some went to the Cape Conran area and experienced some very hectic scenes in protecting communities. Others went to Buchan and Bruthen in the early days to provide asset protection and extinguish spot fires from falling embers.

There have been more than 20 deployments that we have provided assistance to. That's the thing about the CFA. When the chips are down, you know that you can rely on fellow members to help. That's why we do it. They will do they same for us one day. I know it!

The people in the communities we have been visiting have been very grateful for our presence and assistance. It has provided them a sense of reassurance.



It has been a harrowing time for some communities. One day they are looking to the west watching the fire approaching towards their town only to wake up and find that there has been a wind change overnight and they are now about to become impacted by a fire from the east! One of the fires made a run of 24 km overnight one night in fairly benign conditions. That's how dry it was.

### **There is always someone else worse off....**

In the early part of the fire, our brand new Toyota Landcruiser Ultralight appliance (just put into operational service 2 weeks prior) was asked to form up a strike team with other appliances from our district and was housed at Bairnsdale with the crew from our brigade taking it in turns to go down and rotate through three-day deployments. That changed in early

December when the CFA hierarchy made an executive decision based on operational needs to second our Ultralight appliance to the Swifts Creek Fire Brigade which was deemed to be in more need of it than us. This happened right across our CFA district with many other brigades also losing their appliances to other East Gippsland brigades in need of additional equipment. There is an old saying in the CFA. "Fight the fire you've got rather than the one you might have" and they sure had a fire!

We gave up our new appliance knowing that there were others that needed it more than us. Coincidentally, early in January whilst on deployment to that region, we came across it with two members from the Swifts Creek Fire Brigade (see photo above) high up on a hill on a remote farmland property near Brookville, 15 km west of Swifts Creek.

The loss of our new Ultralight appliance temporarily allowed us to return our old Slip On appliance back into service ensuring that we were still able to provide full turnout capability to our residents and response area.

We are pleased to report that our new Ultralight appliance was returned to us on Wednesday 29 January detailed, cleaned inside and out and in good working order after providing valuable service to a brigade in need for the last couple of months. We would like to sincerely thank the Swifts Creek Fire Brigade for taking such good care of our new appliance and wish them well with their ongoing battle, which is not over yet.

### **Fire brigades merge**

In the coming months you will no doubt hear about the upcoming introduction of FRV (Fire Rescue Victoria) which



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[www.chimneysweeps.com.au](http://www.chimneysweeps.com.au)

*Sweeping Victoria!*

MEMBER OF



*continued on page 14*



*continued from page 13*

is a merge of the MFB (Metropolitan Fire Brigade) and the CFA career staff. Officially this will take place from 1 July this year. This will leave the CFA as a volunteer only member organisation. The Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade has always been a 100% volunteer member brigade and remains largely unaffected by the change

Other nearby CFA brigades such as Pakenham, Hallam and Cranbourne which are currently known as integrated brigades that accommodate both career staff and CFA volunteers together, will undoubtedly endure significant change. For us, it is business as usual, and rest assured our dedicated volunteers will continue to provide you, the community, our ongoing support.

### Fire danger period

Question. Now that we have had a bit of rain, surely it's ok to burn off a small pile of green waste in the back yard or the paddock to get rid of it, isn't it? Answer. **NO, ABSOLUTELY NOT.**

The fire danger period was declared back in December and remains in place until 1 May 2020 (unless otherwise

notified). This means no burning off of any sort until restrictions are lifted. The restrictions are there for a good reason. We still have a couple of months of traditional fire weather left and history has shown us that February and March and even April can contain weather conducive for the spread of fire. It still wouldn't take much in some areas for a fire to get going even after a little bit of rain. To find out what you can and can't do in the declared fire danger period and on days of a Total Fire Ban, please visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can)

### Auxiliary in action

Thank you to our wonderful fire brigade auxiliary members who continue to support the operational side of the brigade with creative fundraising ideas and activities. One of the recent success stories was the availability of the CFA Captain Koala plush toys. We sold out our initial stock after advertising on Facebook and purchased more for the Village Festival. They too sold like hot cakes. We have ordered more and they should be arriving around the end of March. They are \$20 each and all proceeds to go directly to the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade. If you missed out and would

like to order one or more, please get in touch with the brigade via Facebook, phone 5944 3303, or email [debra.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:debra.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au). We can also post them out to anywhere in Australia for an additional \$10 each.

### Bushfire fundraiser

Back in January, the Carlei Estate Winery held a very successful bushfire relief fundraiser function raising over \$11,000, with proceeds very generously split between the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund and the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade. Our thanks to Rebecca and staff (who donated their wages for the event) and the wonderful generosity of all those who contributed on the day. Thank you so much. The money will be spent on purchasing new equipment to better serve the brigade and local community.

### Join the CFA

If you are interested in joining the fire brigade either as a volunteer fire fighter or perhaps as an auxiliary member who helps behind the scenes, we would love to hear from you.

**IAN PINNEY, CAPTAIN**

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD FIRE BRIGADE**

## Open Air Burning fridge magnet

The Upper Beaconsfield Open Air Burning Advocacy Group have designed a fridge magnet giving property owners simple but effective guidelines for conducting safer fuel load reductions and burn offs.

It does more than just provide handy information as it lists important dot points for safer burning, with

emergency contact details and websites for the CFA and Cardinia Council where you can find more information. It should be kept in a prominent place such as your fridge door for referral when you are doing open air burning.

Please don't lose your fridge magnet. The OAB Advocacy Group has organised a free dinner for two at the Pine Grove Hotel to the value of \$40 each month

of the year. Monthly winners will be drawn using the number which is printed in the top right corner of each fridge magnet.

To begin with, once everyone in Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst and Guys Hill has received their fridge magnet from Cardinia Council, the winning numbers will then be announced in the next

Village Bell. Winners can call the Pine Grove Hotel on 5944 3524 to arrange their dinner booking and bring the fridge magnet as proof.

These dinners are expected to operate for the next 12 months and will continue for the sponsorship period. We hope that you will enjoy these meals and continue to refer to the OAB fridge magnet whenever necessary, plus keep checking the Village Bell to see if you have won.

**1002**

## Open Air Burning



- Choose a safe day for burning off
- Register Burns with the CFA 1800 668 511
- Read Council Local Laws to check conditions and to see if you need a permit
- Be prepared with a hose trigger spray, bucket or backpack. Refer to photo
- Rake to control the fire
- Have an adult watch the fire at all times
- Consider neighbours and traffic with smoke
- Make sure your burn off is completely extinguished before leaving it unattended
- Fire Emergency ring 000

You can find out when the Fire Danger Period is declared by visiting the CFA's website.  
<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/>

For current Open Air Burning Policy details, visit the Cardinia Shire Council website  
<https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/burningoff>

This magnet was produced as part of the Upper Beaconsfield Bushfire Fuel Management Project

The dinners are being kindly provided as a community service by both the Pine Grove Hotel and RMBL Investments Limited, Level 5, 225 Lonsdale St, Dandenong.

Proudly supported by the Upper Beaconsfield OAB Advocacy Group, the Pine Grove Hotel, RMBL Investments Limited and Cardinia Council, 2020.

**HARRY JENSEN,  
CONVENOR**



Letter to the editor:

# Is enough being done to protect our town?



On February 16, 1983 (Ash Wednesday) a 9pm wind change from the south west drove the fire from the townships of Officer, Beaconsfield and Guys Hill, in a north easterly direction to St Georges and Leppitt Roads and beyond. Our family farm was ravaged by the wildfire and the only structure left standing was the small home. The only animals that survived were some maimed cattle. 25 years of labour and sacrifice gone in a few minutes. It took 20 years to rebuild or redevelop what had been taken from us. Others suffered even greater loss — the lives of loved ones. Many homes, property and town structures were destroyed. Property values tumbled immediately and selling property was difficult.

Given what has happened on Ash Wednesday, Black Saturday, and recently in vast areas of the coast and Great Dividing Range in East Gippsland, New South Wales and Queensland, my question is, "Is my community any safer today than it was in 1983?" Have we made any headway in protecting this community? Regretfully the answer is no. Countless meetings, discussions, debates, seas of red tape, 'it's all too hard', buck passing, have provided disgracefully little progress or effect.

Council says change must come from the community itself. The public owns private holdings and some major infrastructure — the shops, the Pinegrove Hotel, the Nursing Home and the like. Other owners include DELWP, Cardinia Shire Council, the Education Department, Vic Roads, and Melbourne Water. There is no major consensus between these organisations. The community itself is divided by those who want to protect every twig and leaf and those who see it necessary to change the landscaping of the township and surrounds.

Someone needs to give us some direction towards protecting the Upper Beaconsfield community from the devastation of wildfire. To this end I keep coming back to the Cardinia Shire Council as the authority that should protect the hills townships. After all it takes our rates, it controls the planning, it produces reams of regulations on what one can't do. In effect it controls our lives, but does little to protect us.

Councillors constantly tell us there is no money. If you want to do something then we must apply for this grant or that grant; a process which is limited, is time consuming and mostly frustrating. Little is achieved in protecting the community.

When councillors are challenged as to the tens of millions of dollars being spent on the sporting edifices and parklands of the growth corridor, and nothing spent on protecting the Upper Beaconsfield community the platitudes and reactions are embarrassing. In the event of another wildfire event, the likelihood of loss of life in the growth corridor is likely nil, so why do they get most of the money "pie"?

Over 36 years the Council has largely ignored its responsibilities to the people of the hills' communities. A couple of communities have been able to make some ground in protection and I admire them for it. But they should have had an easier experience.

## Issues of concern in Upper Beaconsfield:

1. **Place of Last Resort.** The focus is on the Recreation Reserve. There was an onsite meeting fifteen months ago involving Council officers, CFA representatives, and members of both the Reserve committee and UBA Resilience Committee. I applaud the work that the Reserve committee has done towards creating a place of last resort, yet we still don't have one. Why not? Because it still does not meet the requirements of the CFA. Why isn't Council going in hard discussing the requirements with the CFA and helping to make it happen. Tell us what is required. For everyone's sake just do it.
2. **Roads.** All roads in and out of UB have been seriously neglected by both the Cardinia Shire Council and Vic Roads. They are unsafe with dead trees, overhanging trunks and branches. A catastrophe awaits people trying to exit the township during a wildfire event. Notice how Ausnet clears the vegetation from its powerline network to mitigate bushfire, with no questions asked. Why can't Cardinia Council follow suit along the road reserves? Issues can be overcome, so get on with something year by year and make a difference.
3. **Community infrastructure.** The public and private infrastructure within the township must be protected at all costs because the community can bounce back quickly from a wildfire event if it does not have to work out of a "tent city". After 36 years I am not aware of one sprinkler system having been installed on the Hall, the Kinder, the Pre School, the Community

Complex, the Men's Shed, the Primary School, the shops, the Church, the Hotel or the Nursing Home. On Ash Wednesday the town water supply system failed. We have been told by Melbourne Water that new pumping arrangements are in place and we can be confident that supply will not fail next time around. Why is there a delay with "sprinkler" systems?

4. **Landholdings — public and private.** Landowners in UB need to be particularly involved in helping to defend the community through better practices in managing their land. Many properties are currently undefendable. The ways to do this this will no doubt be debated ad nauseum. Some work is underway involving prescribed zoned areas around the township. We hope this project will soon produce results. Again, Cardinia Shire Council should take the lead role. There is a bush lot in the township centre held by absentee owners. In the event of a wildfire in my opinion that property is not safe, and the owners should be responsible for making it safe. Where are you Cardinia Shire Council?

Finally, I draw your attention to an amazing biography of Ann Fogarty, a local survivor of Ash Wednesday. A resident in St Georges Road at the time, she was caught out by that terrible event. While protecting her two young daughters she was hit by a massive fireball and sustained burns to 85% of her body. She was the only burns survivor with that degree of trauma. Her daughters escaped injury. I urge you to read her biography "Forged with Flames", published by the Wild Dingo Press.

A beautiful and courageous woman who admits her "enchantment" with the natural environment but never expected the brutal outcome it would bring to her. But is her suffering and plight to be for naught? Is the sacrifice of our volunteers and locals who died on Ash Wednesday for naught, if we allow a re-occurrence of that event? The best way to honour all of these special people is to make our community safe from wildfire.

We should be outraged that after 36 years little has been achieved. It's time for the local community to find a way. We need to approach a person renowned in the state for his/her outstanding emergency management credentials, and willing to take on such a project — now.

ANDRE BOKOS



# William Brisbane—a pioneer of the district

William Brisbane was born on 16 March 1842 in the Scottish town of Perth. At age twelve he accompanied his father, William Brisbane senior, on a journey to the Victorian goldfields on board the ship 'Henry Ellis', arriving in Melbourne on 10 March 1854. His mother and four siblings stayed in Scotland.

William Brisbane senior had been a pawnbroker and cork cutter in Scotland. His brother James had already come to the colony of Victoria in 1840 and James' sons and a daughter later settled in Berwick, as soon as land was available there. Brisbane Street in Berwick is probably named after James' branch of the family.



William Brisbane the elder  
From "Berwick Mechanics Institute  
and Free Library: a history"

After five years on the goldfields, William senior set up a shop in Berwick, in partnership with young William, selling items like homewares, groceries, jewellery, and medicines for both humans and livestock. The store is believed to have been located along the Princes Highway, opposite Edrington Park and next to today's Jack Kirkham Reserve.

Between 1863 and 1867 William senior bought a number of town blocks, in what we now know as 'Old Berwick', some of them jointly with his son William. A brother and a sister of young William, and two of his nephews would later migrate and settle in Victoria also.

William Brisbane senior died on 19 Oct 1875 and he willed his real estate to his daughter Elizabeth and £100 each to his other three children. The inventory of his will, as drawn up in 1877, showed that he then owned all his real estate together with his son William as 'tenants-in-common' in equal shares. The value of his assets was listed as £312 in property, no cash or

other possessions, and debts to young William of £80. Young William had to agree to sell the properties – which he didn't – before they could be put on the market, stymieing the anticipated distribution of the proceeds.

William carried on the store, and used some of his capital to move into saw milling. An ad about the shop in one of the local papers in October 1877, shows a great amount of timber products, and reference to a steam powered timber mill, which we know operated close to Beaconsfield railway station.

**Storekeepers, &c.**

**W. BRISBANE,**  
**STOREKEEPER,**  
**BERWICK,**

**H**AS constantly on hand a large supply of Crockery, Ironmongery, Drapery, Groceries, Corrugated and Bar Iron, Window Sashes, Glass Doors, Soft and Hard Wood Timber of every description, Room Paper, and general House Fittings.

*Agent for William Adamson, Seedsman, Melbourne.*

A First-class assortment of Seeds always on hand. Also a very fine collection of Jewellery, including Gold Lockets, Rings, Brooches, Earrings, &c., &c.

*Agent for the Standard Fire and Marine Insurance Company, and the Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society.*

A Large Supply of Patent Medicines, including the Datura Tatula, and Johnson's Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites. Horse and Cattle Medicines kept.

*Agent for Nicholson and Ascherberg, Pianoforte Manufacturers and Importers, Collins street, Melbourne.*

**Sawn Timber in any quantity. A large  
Steam Mill constantly at work. 62ced**

## Upper Beaconsfield

In 1876 William ventured into acquiring some land in Upper Beaconsfield, and in time would become a prominent estate agent, land valuer, arbitrator and an 'energetic and successful' auctioneer.

Brisbane first selected the 20-acre allotment 64, parish of Pakenham, on 7 July 1876. The location of his selections can be seen on the map on page 17. He fenced his land and cut firewood. Immediately afterwards on 24 July he selected a nearly adjacent 72-acre block, allotment 78. To finish off, on 26 July he selected 40-acre allotment 77.

Trumping all of the above, in early September 1876 Brisbane seized the opportunity to buy insolvent Henry Snell's 318-acre selection in the Sugarloaf Road region of Upper Beaconsfield. This selection straddles the boundary of the parishes of Gembrook and Pakenham – the northern part is known as allotment 1A section D parish of Gembrook, the southern part is allotment 60



William Brisbane the younger.  
From "Encyclopedia of Victoria"

parish of Pakenham. Snell was one of the first permanent settlers in the Upper Beaconsfield area. He had built a 7-roomed house in the vicinity of today's Corringham Road, which survived until about 1935. This property was officially held by Brisbane, but had some significant mortgages attached to it.

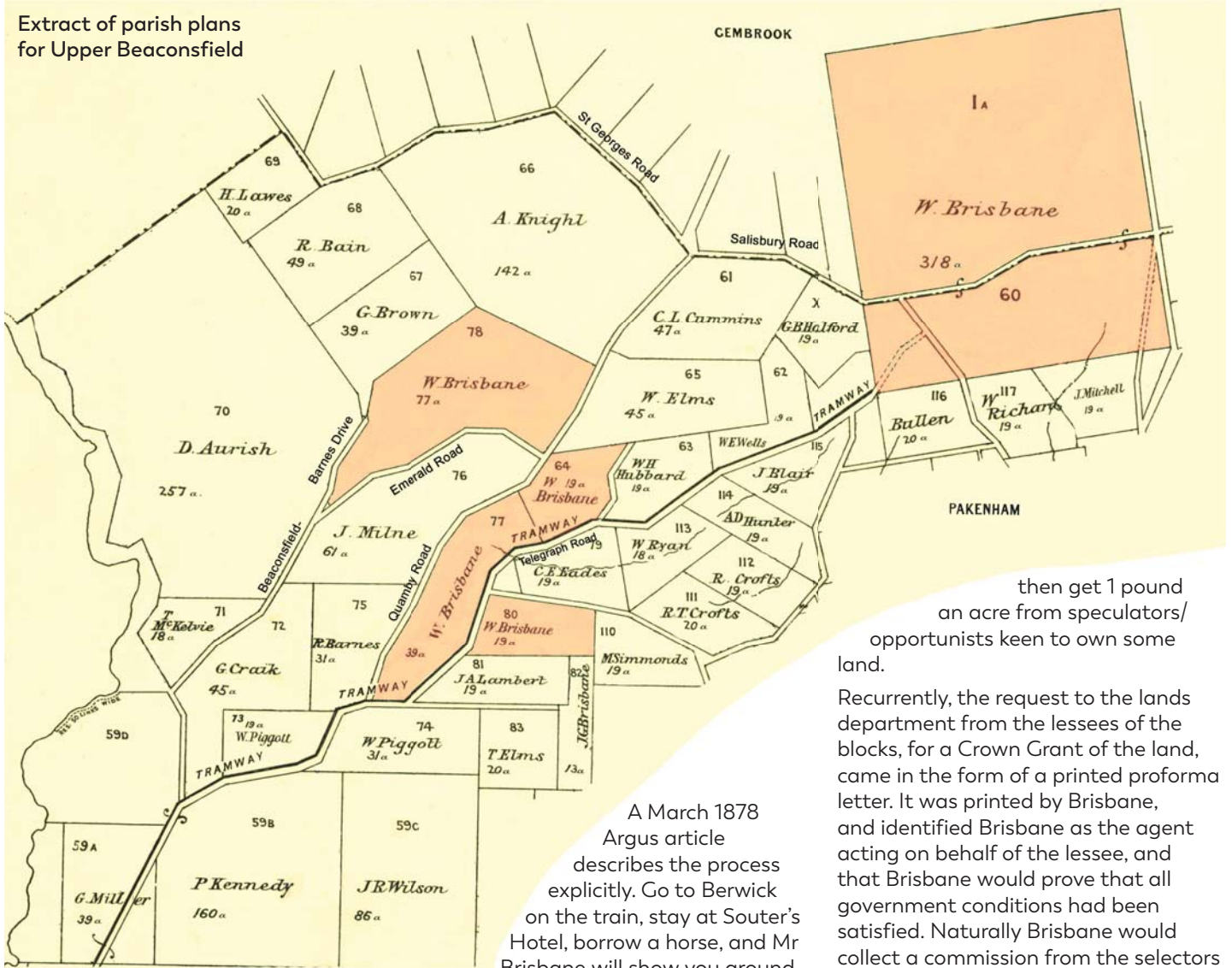
Improving the land in those days meant clearing and fencing your properties. With a hungry mill needing more and more timber, we can assume Brisbane was only happy to clear his own land and sending logs to the mill. Later developments would prove that this supply was not nearly enough for Brisbane's purposes.

The above activity was hardly enough to test Brisbane's capabilities. His grandest design would have probably started upon being acquainted with Charles Souter, publican of the Gippsland Hotel at Beaconsfield. Souter had a hand in gold prospecting activities at the Haunted Gully diggings, where the Beaconsfield Reservoir exists today.

Somehow Brisbane became aware of Section 49 of the Land Act 1869, and saw a very lucrative opportunity on many levels. Section 49 was intended for diggers – where they were allowed to annually lease a block of land no more than 20 acres near a digging site, for cultivation while they were digging, for the princely sum of 1 pound per annum. If this block was found to be auriferous, it could be returned back to the miners for exploitation; if not, as long as the block was cleared and



Extract of parish plans  
for Upper Beaconsfield



**At Souter's Gipps Land Hotel, horses, guides, and good accommodation may be had on the most reasonable terms, and every information necessary for selectors can be obtained from the landlord or from Mr. W. Brisbane, store-keeper, of Berwick, who has pointed out the land to the majority of the selectors, and has made himself familiar with the whole of that part of the country.**

fenced an application could be made for a Crown Grant (a purchase) from the Government, generally at 1 pound an acre. A loophole in the law was that you didn't have to be a digger to apply for this special lease. It was common that under other sections of the land act that to obtain a Crown Grant of land, you had to clear, fence, make shelter and occupy your block for a period of time first.

In Upper Beaconsfield, there was much waste (uninhabited and wild) land, accessible by getting to Berwick by rail, then on foot or on horseback. Section 49 offered an opportunity to obtain this fresh land, without need for occupying it, and with minimal improvements. Brisbane 'went to town'.

plans) of Upper Beaconsfield, shows vast areas mysteriously divided into just less than 20 acre blocks – shaped by Brisbane's forays for desirous selectors. The lands department was entirely complicit by allowing final surveys to contain perfectly fitting road access to every block – ie better to draw in some lease money from what was described as degraded granite waste land generally considered poor for cultivation, and

A March 1878 Argus article describes the process explicitly. Go to Berwick on the train, stay at Souter's Hotel, borrow a horse, and Mr Brisbane will show you around

the district and assist you in selecting a block of land. By then, the article states, that most of the country within five miles of the railway had already been selected, but there was more country further north.

Viewing the original land ownership maps (parish plans) of Upper Beaconsfield, shows vast areas mysteriously divided into just less than 20 acre blocks – shaped by Brisbane's forays for desirous selectors. The lands department was entirely complicit by allowing final surveys to contain perfectly fitting road access to every block – ie better to draw in some lease money from what

then get 1 pound an acre from speculators/opportunists keen to own some land.

Recurrently, the request to the lands department from the lessees of the blocks, for a Crown Grant of the land, came in the form of a printed proforma letter. It was printed by Brisbane, and identified Brisbane as the agent acting on behalf of the lessee, and that Brisbane would prove that all government conditions had been satisfied. Naturally Brisbane would collect a commission from the selectors for these services. However, Brisbane managed to extract further profits from these selectors, with a plan that meant some selectors barely had to lift a finger to get their land.

In a land dispute between a Mr Bell and Mr Williams on a 20 acre block, John Yeoman a bailiff stationed at Berwick wrote '... I saw the clearing and fencing mentioned therein done by Mr Brisbane for the applicant Mr Williams.' We contend that Brisbane may have charged selectors a very concessional rate, or nothing for clearing someone's block, in return for the excess timber equally making its way to Mr Brisbane's timber mill in Beaconsfield for free or at little cost. An advertisement below locates his mill in '... the centre of the 20 acre blocks in the parish of Pakenham,'

**H**AVING erected a first-class Sawmill in the centre of the 20-acre blocks in the parish of Pakenham, I am prepared to **SUPPLY BUILDING and Fencing MATERIAL** at very moderate prices. I have also erected a Brickyard at the same place, and can supply them at less than Melbourne prices.  
**W. BRISBANE.**  
Berwick, September 15. 1877.

continued on page 18



continued from page 17

selling timber for building or fencing for those not involved in such a scheme.

### A tramway

A regular bug-bear of timber getters, or even farmers hauling their produce out of and around the Shire of Berwick was the state of the roads – winter quagmires often being referred to in Council notes. Brisbane thought he might have a partial answer.

Between his saw mill at Beaconsfield

Brisbane managed to get all the private land holders required to provide a way, no mean feat in itself. But the tramway had to cross the Princes Highway and Beaconsfield-Emerald Road to complete its journey. Council and Government were describing this predicament as an individual ‘monopolising the roads to the exclusion of other people,’ that is, not at all complimentary. No traction could be made on satisfying that concern, so the tramway project was scuttled before

works started. There were insufficient funds to even pay a lawyer on the board, who did the legal work to set up the company.

### Beaconsfield House

During 1877/78 Brisbane built the “Berwick Sanatorium” also known as Beaconsfield House, on the 318-acre allotment 1A. It was situated on the highest position on Salisbury Road, now known as “Pen Bryn”. The sanatorium and a non-official post office under the name ‘Beaconsfield’ were opened on 1 October 1878. Telegraph facilities became available in April 1879. See also: [www.upperbeaconsfieldhistory.org.au/bighouse.htm](http://www.upperbeaconsfieldhistory.org.au/bighouse.htm)

### Brisbane broke!!

Unfortunately, not everything in William Brisbane’s life was going as well. He was in financial trouble, but to what extent is puzzling. For his large 318-acre property in Upper Beaconsfield he had taken out various mortgages, and he had debts in other places.

‘The Age’ of 12 March 1879 reported about a meeting of creditors where a resolution under the Insolvency Statute for “liquidation by arrangement” was passed. Brisbane’s estate balance sheet showed secured liabilities £5,077 13s 6d; unsecured liabilities £6,579 16s 11d; and assets of £11,795 17s 10d. The assumed surplus was £138 7s 5d.

Beaconsfield House with 40 acres of land was first advertised for sale on 8 December 1879. It was then advertised for lease, but ultimately sold to James Walford. It reopened on 8 October 1880.

With an assumed surplus, one wonders why Brisbane didn’t sell off some of

his personal portfolio of properties in Berwick, Upper Beaconsfield, and other places, to meet creditors demands, rather than being wound up ignominiously of all his assets. Although his assets were carved up, Brisbane made sure the sawmill assets were swiftly made his business partner’s sole concern, beyond the administrator’s reach.

In June 1880, details of one of the many debts Brisbane owed came to light. Three months before his father’s death, on 12 July 1875, his father had become guarantor on a loan taken out by young William from the Bank of Victoria to the tune of 500 pounds. By 1880 £300 of the debt still had not been repaid. The estate of William the elder was held in paralysis, as young William refused to sell any of the land he had half a share in with the estate of his father. The bank lost patience, called in the money, and accepted some of William’s personal property as payment for the debt.

Brisbane walked away from this “liquidation by arrangement” disaster with his tail temporarily between his legs. It was never publicised as a bankruptcy, which implies creditors were getting some pennies in the pound for the money they were owed by Brisbane. The laws back then imposed no bans on Brisbane to continue trading, so he bravely started again with saw milling and real estate trading, winning the trust of new business associates.

There is a lot more to Brisbane than can be covered in one article. His forays into being a Shire councillor are covered in Charles Wilson’s book.

We will continue to investigate his enigmatic life in future Village Bells.

MARIANNE & CAMERON ROCKE

## LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

It is to be hoped that the pluck exhibited by Mr. Wm. Brisbane of Berwick will meet the recognition by the public which it deserves. He has arranged for the completion of about five miles of tramway into the beautifully romantic country behind the township of Berwick. About fifty men are now employed on the work of making the tramway, and we understand that Mr. Brisbane has been promised a siding to the Gippsland line when completed. At the rate at which the land is being taken up in 20 acre blocks by the well-to-do people of Melbourne, there will be soon quite a large township, and a more beautiful spot could not be found in which to enjoy repose from the turmoil of the business of life. At the last meeting of the Berwick Council plans were exhibited of the route of the tramway, drawn by Mr. G. W. Robinson for Mr. Brisbane.

A MEETING of gentlemen interested in the CONSTRUCTION of a TRAMWAY from the Gembrook Ranges, near Berwick, to the Gippsland Railway line, will be held at Scott’s Hotel, Great Collins-street west, on Monday, the 10th inst., at half-past 4 p.m.

W. BRISBANE.

Berwick, 5th December, 1877.

and his 318-acre property, Brisbane requested all land owners along the Cardinia Creek valley to excise a narrow portion of their land to construct a horse drawn tramway, for the purpose of ferrying goods and passengers along the route (see parish plan on page 17). A company was subscribed to by some of these land owners and other prominent Upper Beaconsfield settlers, but calls for the full investment needed were put on hold, and just as well for all of those involved.

1899 Illustrated Guide to the Beaconsfield Ranges Available at



**Green Circle**  
Plant Nursery  
General Store and Community Centre

\$20

## Casey Cardinia Heritage Festival 2020

Find out about the history of our local area or your family at the Casey Cardinia Heritage Festival. Local Historical Societies and the Narre Warren & District Family History Group will have displays.

**Sunday, 26 April**  
**from 10 am to 2 pm**

Officer Public Hall,  
Tivendale Road. Free entry.

More information: Heather Arnold  
0437 047 180



# Deer destruction continues

Scarcely a week goes by without another article in the press about deer and the impact they are having throughout Victoria and Australia. I saw one article on ABC online a while ago about a NSW farmer.

*Beef producer Ted Rowley is tired of killing wild deer on his property near Jindabyne in the New South Wales Snowy Mountains.*

*"When it's minus 14 degrees Celsius and I go out shooting deer on a motorbike, I'd rather be on a sheepskin rug in front of the fire with a glass of good shiraz," Mr Rowley said.*

*As many as 300 deer a night graze the 340-hectare property, limiting the number of beef cattle Mr Rowley can carry. Feral deer also damage native vegetation, foul waterways by wallowing in them, and transfer disease to sheep and cattle.*

*Mr Rowley says more than 5,000 deer have been shot by five landholders in his region in the past year.*

ABC, LANDLINE BY PRUE ADAMS 20 JUL 2019

A shocking story! I'd seen Ted speak at a pest species conference, where he, supported by his wife on stage, was close to tears as he recounted his story and his dismay at being forced to kill animals just to keep their farm afloat. It's not what he ever wanted.

Fortunately for Ted and other NSW farmers, the NSW government recognised the significance of the problem and changed the status of deer from "protected" to "pest" species. This leaves Victoria as the only mainland state not to declare deer as a pest species.

Fortunately, the emergence of stories about groups, councils and government agencies who are acting on this growing problem provides good news

about new initiatives such as:

- controlling deer numbers on public and private land
- fencing off areas or installing tree guards to protect livelihoods or environments
- advocacy to governments or agencies
- collecting data, often with the help of community groups in citizen science projects.

If you want to know more, the Cardinia Deer Management Coalition (CDMC) website has links to many articles, videos and podcasts about deer and environmental issues. Have a look at the video called The Wolves of Yellowstone if you want to see the impact of how changing just one small component can have on an environment.

The website provides interesting information — explaining the mission and vision of the CDMC, how you can get involved either as a land owner, a hunter, through citizen science or joining the CDMC to help us achieve our mission and protect the biodiversity of our region. You can find articles on the history of deer in Australia, information on fallow and sambar deer, their environmental impact and the current methods of living with or controlling deer. Check it out at [www.cardiniadeer.com](http://www.cardiniadeer.com)

## How you can get involved

We are always on the lookout for property owners who are interested in playing a role in deer control, whether for their own property or for the broader community and environment. If you are interested or if you are not sure and would like to know more, either give us a call or send an email and we can

discuss whether it would be possible or appropriate to consider controlling deer on your land. We can discuss any issues or concerns you might have. This will at least enable you to make decisions based on a better understanding of the issues involved. All correspondence will be kept confidential and adheres to privacy legislation.

## Breaking news!

1. CDMC is now an incorporated entity and officially called the Cardinia Deer Management Coalition Inc. This will give the CDMC group a better legal status, give members better legal protection, and the CDMC will have greater access to government grants.
2. We have been successful in applying for a Federal Government Communities Environment grant to the tune of \$20,000. This will go towards an aerial survey of deer numbers and distribution within the Cardinia Creek Catchment. This is an exciting project which has never been achieved in the peri-urban space in Australia and will be using cutting edge technology and data management to establish the extent of the local deer problem. We will be publishing regular updates about this project on the CDMC web page.

## More information

- CDMC hold general meetings every three to four months and sub-committee meetings every 4–6 weeks.
- If you would like to join the CDMC, check out our website at [www.cardiniadeer.com](http://www.cardiniadeer.com) or email us at [cardiniadeer@outlook.com](mailto:cardiniadeer@outlook.com)

**MIKE HALL, PRESIDENT,  
CARDINIA DEER MANAGEMENT  
COALITION INC.**



## Shape Shifters Health & Fitness Boutique Gym in Upper Beaconsfield

### Ladies over 40 Get Your Body Back

Complete Fitness and Nutrition Coaching to help manage menopause, regain energy, and aid fat loss  
Working one on one with a program using yoga based principles fused with low impact strength training

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Karenne Gregory  
Reg: Kinect KA19331  
E: [karenne@sshf.com.au](mailto:karenne@sshf.com.au)  
A: 5 Young St,  
Upper Beaconsfield



## Vale Barry Carter

Barry Leigh Carter was born on 15 October 1931, second son of Edna Florence Carter nee Holdsworth and Sidney Thomas Carter of Williamstown.

Barry had a happy childhood in Williamstown where he attended the Primary School, then Williamstown High, and completed his schooling at Wesley Grammar in Prahran. He enjoyed the sports program at Wesley and played ruckman in one of the school's Australian Rules football teams.

Barry had an interesting life growing up during WW2. His father was a career officer in the RAAF and was CEO of Tocumwal RAAF station. Barry continued school in Melbourne, staying with his aunt during term, and visiting his parents in the holidays. Later Barry joined the Scottish regiment in Hawthorn and served for about 2 years.

On leaving school in 1948, Barry started work at Duco Dulux in South Melbourne, as a cadet salesman. At the beginning of 1953 Joanne Cummings started work at the company, met Barry and they married in April of 1954. They built their first home in Blackburn and in 1959, Barry became a father to

his first child Craig. Two years later their daughter Traci was born.

Barry's career flourished, with promotions along the way. He worked for a period at the company's head office in Melbourne, then in early 1968 accepted a managerial role

which required the growing family to move interstate to Sydney. In 1968, youngest child, a daughter Donna was born. They all transferred to Sydney and settled happily there for 4 years, before Barry requested a transfer back to Melbourne. They built a new home in Donvale and lived there happily until 1991 when they bought a run-down Californian bungalow built in 1936 on 3/4 of an acre in Upper Beaconsfield.

By this time, two of his children were married and independent and Barry took early retirement after 43 years of service. He enjoyed travelling to the cottage and cleaning and painting it. During this period, he occasionally stayed overnight at the "new" house, and later helped to oversee a



restoration and extension to the house. He joined the local RSL and was a loyal member until recently.

Barry joined a group of volunteers who looked after Salisbury Gully, a local beauty spot. The board was made up of Laura Levens, Neil McDonald and Keith Ewenson and Barry. The active group worked hard until the Gully suffered some

vandalism, and the board members realised their average age was late 70s.

In the early 1990s, Barry and his grandsons were part of a team of volunteers who spent Christmas Eve climbing up ladders and stringing lights around the Keith Ewenson Park for carols in the park.

Barry was a gentle, quiet man, who enjoyed his family life above all else. He was a strong supporter of Melbourne Football Club and Test Cricket, but even keener on his family's involvement with junior football. Barry was enjoying respite care in a care home in Burwood when he passed away last December. He is missed by his family and many friends. One of nature's gentlemen.

JOANNE CARTER

## HARRIET SHING IS YOUR LOCAL MP FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION IN THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT'S UPPER HOUSE.

As well as being your elected representative with the State Government, she is also the Parliamentary Secretary for Mental Health, Parliamentary Secretary for Equality and Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries.

She is a Co-chair of both the Health and Human Services Working Group and the Justice Working Group within the Equality portfolio.

Her dynamic, dedicated work ethic and strong advocacy for Gippsland within the Victorian Government has led to record funding for local infrastructure and services across state budgets since being first elected in 2014, and she has driven unprecedented support from the Victorian Government during periods of large scale change and transition.



216 Commercial Road, Morwell VIC 3840 P: (03) 5134 8000

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# Strengthen community networks and capacity

## Successful Australia Post Community Grant 2019/20

The Upper Beaconsfield Association (UBA), the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre (UBCC), and the Monash University Disaster Resilience Initiative (MUDRI) recently won a \$10,000 Australia Post Community Grant. The grant aims to mobilise the Upper Beaconsfield community to co-design neighbourhood connections to strengthen community networks and capacity. This year, Caroline Spencer, UBA President, Sarah Stickland, UBCC Manager, and Cathy Fisher, Project Officer, will connect with community leaders and community champions to create a group of like-minded people who would like to benefit the Upper Beaconsfield residents with increased community connections and stronger social networks.

### Why does the Upper Beaconsfield community need this project?

In 1983, bushfires devastated Upper Beaconsfield with too many lives and homes lost. Since then, many new people live in Upper Beaconsfield while others have left. New residents know little of the Ash Wednesday experience. Similarly, power outages, because of storms, threatened livelihoods for extended periods. The UBACRC advocates for the safety of community through better community connections and stronger networks, yet the UBCC reports confusion and lack of information about

community volunteer groups and struggles to engage and connect the community. Little clarity exists about who does what and where to find information. This leads to frustration and discontent. Small groups work in isolation with insufficient collaboration while community members in-need remain uncertain about finding support and 'fall through the cracks'. During disruption, this disconnectedness leads to less than desirable outcomes. While community leadership has 'a will' to address this challenge, 'the way forward' remains unclear to individual groups and residents. This project aims to address these challenges with a structured process to mobilise people in their place within the community achieving long-term sustainable change. Research shows connected communities are better able to mitigate adapt and thrive in the face of acute shocks and lingering stressors.

### How will this project address this need?

Combining collaborative groups, efforts and information across the community would strengthen the capacity of Upper Beaconsfield residents by engaging more fully with community and neighbours; and to act in the face of adversity before, during and after disruptive events. By connecting our community groups together, we strengthen local resources and are more likely to network effectively to meet community needs, rather than working independently. Having shared

information and networks will unite the community, and provide an avenue for local business to promote their services, local people to provide support to others, and for those who need support, to get it.

### How will this project build on local knowledge and/or make use of local resources?

This community-driven project, embedded in the Upper Beaconsfield community, uses local resources and knowledge to drive the CoDesign methodology to identify and build on current strengths. Consultation between the two leading community organisations reveals no knowledge of other groups undertaking or addressing the need to enhance cross-community capacity or to strengthen community networks. Thus, by partnering with the two lead Upper Beaconsfield community organisations, both with umbrella functions and underpinned by community-based activities, and both willing to contribute collaboratively in the project, provides a solid platform to build-on and develop local knowledge and existing strengths to improve capacity and connections. As part of the CoDesign methodology, this community-led approach enables community groups and local businesses to come together to use local knowledge and resources to breathe new life into existing community activities.

**CAROLINE SPENCER, CHAIR UBA CRC**



Sustainable Development Goal 17, Partnerships for the Goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will guide the grant.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges

we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The 17 Goals are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve them all by 2030.

A successful sustainable development

agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society. These inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local level.



# Asthma



According to statistics, one in every nine Australians suffers from asthma making it a very common condition. It is a chronic condition where a person has sensitive airways, which become hyper responsive and constrict easily on exposure to stimuli/triggers. Symptoms such as chest tightness, wheezing, shortness of breath and cough can occur and, if they are significant and troublesome may produce severe difficulty in breathing. This can become a medical emergency requiring an ambulance and hospitalisation. It is more common in males under the age of 14, however, above the age of 15, asthma is more common in females. Sadly, the hospitalisation rate is greater in children than adults. In severe cases it can be fatal. In 2017, there were 441 deaths due to asthma in Australia.

Some things that can predispose a person to asthma include:

1. A family history of asthma, eczema, hay fever or other allergic disorders.
2. Children suffering from allergies are said to be 'atopic'. If they have one allergy, they are more likely to get another one. Children with atopic

disorders are more likely to develop asthma.

3. Exposure to tobacco smoke (especially if started early in life).
4. Air pollution from fires, traffic and industry.
5. Some workplace chemicals.
6. Premature and low birth weight can be risk factors.
7. Recurrent bronchiolitis. Bronchiolitis is caused by a virus and affects breathing in children. If your child has had a lot of bronchiolitis, then they have higher risk of developing asthma.

Various factors – known as triggers – can set off an attack. Common ones are: cold and flu, dust mites, exercise, pollen and smoke. Air quality – poor in thunderstorms and bushfires – can often trigger asthma. Hormonal changes during puberty, menstrual cycles, perimenopause and menopause have also been known to trigger asthma. Emotions like laughter, crying and stress can be triggers too. Exposure to pets, mould and fungi are other known triggers.

Diagnosis is mostly by clinical history and examination. Patients with symptoms can be tested sometimes with breathing tests. Once diagnosed,

it is important to be aware of triggers and symptoms and to discuss treatment with your doctor.

The main aim of treatment is to control the symptoms and ensure you can lead a healthy normal life, while taking only as much medication as is needed to keep well. The main method of treatment is the use of inhalers. There are two types – preventers and relievers. Preventers help to reduce inflammation in the airways and hence should be taken daily. Relievers are fast acting and help to reduce symptoms of asthma. If you have been diagnosed with asthma, you should carry relievers with you at all times.

Severe asthma affects 3-10% of patients and is the most serious and life-threatening form. Each person with asthma experiences it in different ways. Their symptoms and triggers, responses to medicines, energy levels and impact on daily life are unique. Plus, these things can change over time.

If you have any concerns about asthma or think you or someone in your family may have asthma, please discuss it with your doctor.

*DR ANSHU MALHOTRA*

*DR PUNEET MALHOTRA*

*UPPER BEACONSFIELD GP PRACTICE*



# UpperBeaconsfield

## PHARMACY

**53 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd**

**Upper Beaconsfield**

**Phone 03 5944 3881**

**Opening hours:**

**Monday 9 am – 6 pm**

**Tuesday 9 am – 7 pm**

**Wednesday 9 am – 6 pm**

**Thursday 9 am – 6 pm**

**Friday 9 am – 6 pm**

**Saturday 9 am – 2 pm**

# Reflections on the current coronavirus crisis

We have endured a crisis laden summer. Searing bushfires carpeted vast areas with subsequent extensive smoke haze, and rain 'relief' in the form of floods, and now coronavirus.

An Australian National University (ANU) survey of bushfire exposure (18 February 2020) revealed that although only 14% of the 3,000 respondents had experienced direct exposure to the bushfires, nearly 80% indicated that they had been indirectly affected – travel plans disrupted, smoke effects, anxiety etc.

Although the coronavirus is not yet a direct health crisis in Australia, it too already has had significant indirect effects on many Australians – chaos to tourists in China, the home tourism industry and the economy.

The coronavirus presents as an entirely new virus. Hence it is not '**endemic**' (entrenched/commonly occurring), for example chicken pox. Isolated clinical cases in humans in China quickly expanded into multiple cases, in a defined location, becoming an '**outbreak**'. Despite significant mitigation endeavours, the virus spread rapidly to other parts of China, becoming an '**epidemic**'. The virus quickly spread internationally causing clinical cases in a number of countries making it a '**pandemic**'. As of 18 February, 15 cases have reached Australian shores.

Viruses are microscopic, single cell living organisms. To perpetuate they need to gain access into a living body, either animal or human, where they infiltrate specific cells. The coronavirus, infiltrates the cells lining the airways. The virus undergoes an **incubation period** while it multiplies within the host cells, without causing symptoms to the unwilling host. During this period the virus may spread to others. Some 7 – 10 or 14 days later, the virus floods the host's body via the circulatory system and causes symptoms like fever, muscle aches and pains, coughing, shortness of breath and now is referred to as an **infection**. Sadly, for some people, **complications** may develop, for example, pneumonia or organ failure, which may result in their premature death.

For most, the body's defences will counteract and remove the virus, in

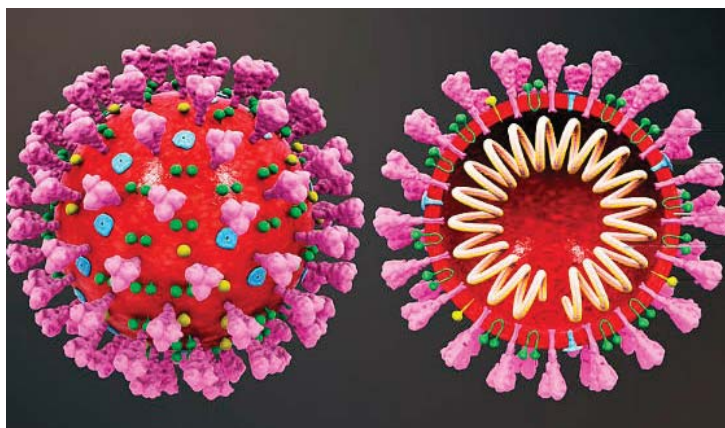


image: [www.thepharmaletter.com](http://www.thepharmaletter.com)

which case the person recovers and will have **immunity** to further contact with this specific virus. Presently, there are **no vaccines** to prevent an infection, and **no antibiotics or other specific medications** are available to treat infections from this virus. You can treat the symptoms, for example with Panadol to reduce fever, cough mixture to reduce coughing, but none will kill off the virus. The healthier and stronger we are before being infected the better chance we have in fighting off the infection.

Hence, in the setting of viral illnesses, notably the current coronavirus, **we are all susceptible**, so prevention and mitigation are crucial measures. Understanding how coronavirus transfers from person to person helps us to modify our personal behaviour.

## Coronavirus can be spread to others by:

- coughing fine droplets that may be breathed in by another person, especially those up to a metre away
- touching a door handle or furniture surface that an infected person has coughed on – the virus then transfers from the hand to the airways, say when eating, brushing teeth, shaving, applying make-up, etc.
- by shaking hands with an infected person who recently coughed into their hand – again the virus then transfers to the airways

The virus remains alive and active on surfaces for some hours – the length of time for the coronavirus is not yet confirmed.

Across society, other plans can be used to prevent exposure to the virus. A specific aim is to separate those infected from those not infected. This

is called '**social distancing**' which may range from keeping at least a metre away from others, not aggregating in groups, for example at school or universities, in shopping centres, GP clinics etc.

Stricter social distancing can vary from voluntary home isolation, to compulsory home or institutional isolation. It is a challenge to apply this during the incubation period, as the

person may not know that they are carrying the virus. To those with symptomatic infection, medical isolation is applied for the duration of their symptoms, plus a buffer couple of days. Where doctors know someone who has had contact with another person with possible contact with the virus at either the incubation or symptomatic stage, a further precaution is to apply social distancing to anyone who has been exposed to that person, that is 14 inconvenient days of isolation.

## Other strategies to prevent exposure include:

- avoid travelling to infected areas
- wearing an approved mask
- not coughing into open air or onto your hands
- only coughing into a clothed elbow or a tissue and discarding the tissue thoughtfully
- wiping exposed surfaces with detergent or alcoholic swabs
- **using hand sanitisers** which are now commonly provided in public places such as shops, commercial businesses and travel points.
- maintain a sound level of health and fitness as a preventive strategy.

If you do become symptomatic with a possible viral illness, it is preferable to arrange a house call by your GP than sitting in a crowded GP waiting room, or if this is the only alternative, at least let the reception staff know you are symptomatic before arrival.

Further information is provided by the Victorian Department of Health at <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

FRANK ARCHER



# A sea of change and exploration at our kindergartens

2020 brings big changes to our Upper Beaconsfield Kindergartens. At the end of last year one of our wonderful kindergarten assistants Robyn Mete made the decision that it was time for her to step away from kindergarten. Robyn has some very exciting times ahead with grandchildren on their way. We will miss Robyn and thank her for all she has given to the many children and families in Upper Beaconsfield and beyond for many years.

With Robyn now departed as well as Therese Collings earlier in 2019, our kindergarten had two big roles to fill. And we couldn't be happier with the outcome.

We are excited to welcome Seona Charles to the position of kindergarten teacher. Seona will share this role with the amazing Jackie King who will continue as our pre-kindergarten teacher and will now work as our kindergarten teacher one day a week. Rashmini DeSilva will now work full time as kindergarten assistant filling Robyn's role. Thank you to all three of you, we are so privileged to have you.

**LEAH TOMEK**

## Kindergarten report

It has been lovely to welcome all our new, returning and existing families back into our kindergartens. We have been greeted with smiles and warmth from all our families. The children have been so eager to explore their new learning environment and have particularly enjoyed the water play outdoors. This has prompted lots of small and large group interactions along with turn taking and negotiating skills as the children have worked together to collect and cart the water throughout the garden and into our pond.

Over the holidays the children were sent a letter and were asked to do an illustration that they could bring into kinder. Many of the children illustrated their holidays. When describing their pictures, we discovered that many of our children had been holidaying by the beach. Our program reflects these conversations and the children's interests through a variety of sea experiences set up for them. The children enjoyed exploring these play spaces throughout the week. To further

extend on these interests we have an upcoming dress up day we call "Commotion in the ocean", after one of our favourite story books. We will also be having an incursion in March from the Drama Toolbox with the theme 'Under the Sea'. We look forward to exploring this topic further and an exciting first term.



*Seona Charles*



## A little about me ...

I grew up in Upper Beaconsfield and attended both the local kindergarten and primary school. My first job at the age of 16 was at the primary school after-school care program. I then went on to study my Certificate III in Children's Services and my Diploma of Children's Services whilst I worked in local childcare centres and kindergartens. In 2009 I completed my Bachelor of Education and I have been teaching in kindergartens around the local area ever since. I am very passionate about my role and find it so rewarding. I am very excited to be joining the amazing team at Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten and return to the beautiful kindergarten I once attended.

**SEONA CHARLES,  
KINDERGARTEN EDUCATOR**



## Toy Library

The library is open again for another year. Members can borrow up to 5 toys for 2 weeks, change them over weekly, or borrow our larger and ride-on toys including a jumping castle for their child's next party.

We are currently open every Thursday during school terms between 11 am and 12 noon and invite you and your family to come in and discuss your toy needs.



### 'Please let us know'

This year we were planning to open on a Saturday or Sunday (a very popular time for toy libraries) but unfortunately we are unable to offer this option due to current low volunteer numbers and their availability.

It would be extremely helpful for us to know if there is a preferred time during the weekday that would suit most families. If you were thinking of joining the Toy Library but find our operating hours don't suit "please let us know" a more suitable time.

You can email us at upperbeac.toylibrary@yahoo.com.au or the Community Centre at office@ubcc.org.au. Volunteers are always welcome.

**WANTED** We are looking for strong, clear, zip bags and clear boxes with lids (both with or without handles) to help store and organise our toys and puzzles. All sizes accepted. Clean



second-hand bags in good condition, such as clear doona/blanket, travel/cosmetic bags or clear utilities/tool/

lunch boxes are perfect.

Items can be left at the Community Centre office Monday to Friday between 9 am to 3 pm or at the Toy Library during open hours. Thank you.

The Toy Library is located in the Community room at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre. Phone: 5944 3484



MARIE ROGERS

## What's new at the Early Learning Centre

We had a fantastic start to term 1 here at Upper Beaconsfield Community ELC. We now serve nutritious and fresh meals to the children daily. This is a fantastic addition to our program.

The children have been enjoying the variety of fresh foods cooked daily by our chef.

This term we are working on continuing to develop strong connections with children and their families. The children have enjoyed engaging in sensory play experiences such as fishing using plastic fish and numbers, finger painting, water play and much more. The children loved taking care of our Centre's vegetable garden and regularly assist us in watering and picking the vegetables and fruit.

We have limited vacancies available for full and half days so come in for a free orientation session with our friendly team of educators and see how wonderful the centre is for you and your children.

Contact the ELC at the Community Centre on 5944 3484, email us on [elc@ubcc.org.au](mailto:elc@ubcc.org.au) or visit us at 10-12 Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield. More information can be found on our website [www.ubcc.org.au](http://www.ubcc.org.au).



**Where kids meet kids and mums meet mums**  
(and dads, grandparents and carers)  
Newborn – 5 years

### EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Parent run playgroup with toys, free play, craft, outdoor space with sandpit, playground, and a shed full of toys.

3 McBride Road  
(Pre Kinder Building) Enquiries: 0400 193 190





# An exciting start to the BUPS school year

We are all excited to be back for another dynamic year of learning at Beaconsfield Upper Primary School. We welcomed a number of new families into our community as well as seen



many of our treasured families return with another family member entering Prep. Preps had a happy and confident start to the year, all staff and students have embraced our newest little friends and we had a lot of fun getting to know each other.

As well as having many terrific staff return from maternity leave, we also have welcomed our newest staff member and new Assistant Principal, Kellie Backman.

We are excited to show Kellie what a truly special, close knitted and fantastic community Upper Beaconsfield is. She comes to us with much enthusiasm and experience, so we are looking forward to this new era for BUPS.



This year we have many wonderful experiences planned for all our learners. We are looking forward to sharing many experiences with our local community both in and out of the school. As our motto states, we are not just a school, but part of the community.



KELLY BALTISSEN

## BUPS garden award

This item was too late for the December Village Bell, so we thought we should include it in this issue.

Last year, to celebrate World Environment Day, the school students were involved in a major replanting of the school grounds with Australian natives. New gardens were designed, including an updated sensory garden and the new play areas for the

students which included noughts and crosses tables on old stumps, a tee-pee area and a friendship tree.

The BUPS Environment Team applied for an awards grant with the Victorian Schools Garden Program and were selected as finalists.

Late November a group of teachers, parent volunteers and students attended the awards ceremony at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Melbourne. BUPS won the award for the "Most Engaging Garden for Play", receiving \$1000 to purchase more plants for the school garden.

The kids loved meeting Costa and were so inspired by his motivational speech about "spreading the word" on the impact that each person can have on their own school, the community and therefore the world.

ANNABEL HILTON



left: BUPS students with the Graduation Tree built for them by the Upper Beac Men's Shed.  
Above: The BUPS Environment Team meeting Costa Georgiadis at the awards ceremony



# Where things get done (eventually)

Welcome to the Men's Shed for another year of community involvement, our tenth year of operation, with a hardy rag tag bunch of the nicest blokes you could ever hope to meet. When I joined the Shed it was for a variety of reasons, but one stands out above all — to discover the story behind the smiles of other men I had met in the community but did not really know. This is as important to me now as it was then, as we have a goldmine of talent in our members, all willing to share the story of their life and times.

Not wanting to let the grass grow under our feet we were back in action in early January after a short break, planning for the year ahead. We always start our weekly meetings with a bit of humour, and one of my favourites is "If a man says he will fix it, he will, there's no need to remind him every 6 months" — does this remind you of anyone you know? Laughter undoubtedly IS the best medicine.

## Community projects

Members delivered and installed a wooden graduation tree at Beaconsfield Upper Primary School to hang wooden leaves on individual designs by graduating students.

## Christmas luncheon

Held at the Cardinia Park Hotel in December, this popular annual event was attended by 46 members and partners. We all enjoyed a delicious two course traditional, and not so traditional for some, Christmas fare meal and refreshments. Thanks once again to the lovely people at 'The Cardy' for welcoming us.

## Carols by Candlelight

The Shed was privileged to run the sausage sizzle at this popular family event on Christmas Eve. The weather on the night was perfect, and from our perspective on the lofty heights of the Arts Annexe everybody had a great time. My appreciation to those Shed members who put aside their family commitments on the night to wholeheartedly contribute to the success of this community event.

## Shed projects

Our focus has been on making items for sale at the Village Festival. The Shed has successfully run a hot dog stall from the Arts Annexe for many years, but it is felt by members that the worm has turned toward professional food vendors. No regrets — we have enjoyed the experience over the years and have turned our efforts toward promoting our skills and the benefits of Men's Sheds.

## Bunnings sausage sizzle

On 18 January at Bunnings Pakenham, we had very successful day selling the best sausages and onion that money can buy. It was a reasonably



warm day over the hotplate, as one of our members can testify, needing a bit of TLC when he had a heat related 'outage'. The entire profit of \$1,710.20 from the day was donated to Gippsland Bushfire Relief. We were completely blown away by the ready donations from our customers — everybody was feeling the pain of those affected. This has special significance to those of our members who experienced the trauma of the Ash Wednesday fires in Upper Beaconsfield in 1983, and who have indelible memories of the overwhelming assistance we received from our fellow Aussies at the time.

## Pancake evening

Men's Shed sponsored this free community event in the Tommy Griffin Park at Grant Court on Shrove Tuesday evening 25 February. 'Bounce Around' provided a free jumping castle for the evening. The Men's Shed is donating to the Gippsland Bushfire Relief and any

additional donations were appreciated.



## Other activities

### • eBay courses

Selling (advertising, timing, auction or buy now pricing) and buying (how to, sniping, delivery costs, insurance) have been held by our own shedtinkerer in recent weeks. We had a sale of a vintage motor spirit can as a real-life exercise for the members.

### • Electricity price comparisons

A comparison of members' electricity accounts was conducted in the Shed recently. This has become a nearly annual revisit for us, and this time around concentrated on the increase in service charges and the upward trend of off-peak price increases. At least one member has benefited from making enquiries with his supplier.

### • New members

Our numbers have increased by three recent new members Geoff, Brian and Brian. One contact was made at our recent Bunnings sausage sizzle, another came about through a recent retirement from the workforce. Please feel welcome to join us in the Men's Shed if you are looking for a new interest, or just to enjoy the company of other like-minded men.

### • AGM to be held in March

## Where are we?

The Shed is located at the rear of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex with entry from Halford Street. We are open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 am–4 pm. New members are welcome. Come on a Wednesday morning when we have a meeting of all members. Share a coffee and biscuit and a yarn with us, and find out more about the Shed. For more information contact:

- Noel Ling on 0414 443 735, or email [secubms@gmail.com](mailto:secubms@gmail.com)
- [www.facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldMensShed/](https://www.facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldMensShed/)
- <https://sites.google.com/site/upperbeaconsfieldmensshed/>

**PETER SIMMONS, VICE PRESIDENT**



# Cardinia Shire Council



## Road resealing – resurfacing program

Stoney Creek Road from no. 123 to Beaconsfield-Emerald Road was recently resealed. Other resealing projects are also scheduled for Lewis Road (return Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd to end of seal), Split Rock Road (north side of Norbury Road to intersection Leadbetter Road), and McBride Road (south of no. 2 to Salisbury Road) as part of Council's 2019/20 Capital Works Program (Road Resurfacing).

## Upper Beaconsfield Recreational Reserve Change Rooms Upgrade

Council has engaged an architectural services consultant is are working closely with user groups on the concept plans for the provision of upgraded unisex change room facilities and improved umpire and public toilet facilities at the reserve.

## Get set for Mobile March

It's the 10th year Cardinia Shire schools are taking part in 'Mobile March', where during the month of March students from across the Shire are encouraged to walk, ride, scoot or skate to school. National Ride2School Day is also on Friday 13 March. If active transport is a challenge, schools are encouraged to support children to participate in laps around the footy oval or basketball

courts, so that all children have the opportunity to participate. The most active school wins the 'Mobile March' trophy. If you would like more information about Mobile March in your area, please contact Cardinia Shire Council.

## Fire preparation

Cardinia Shire Council conducts fuel reduction works on Council managed properties to help protect life, property and the environment from the threat of bushfire and to maintain the health of plants and animals.

In early February, the Shire completed mechanical fuel reduction within the south west corner of Brennan Bushland Reserve to reduce near-surface and elevated vegetation. Trees that were a risk of falling due to poor health or broken limbs were also treated during this works. These works will complement the existing fire breaks along the boundary of the reserve. Environmental controls were put in place to protect significant habitat trees and logs with the works area.

These works were completed after consultation with local residents and fireguard groups as part of the Council-managed Upper Beaconsfield Bushfire Fuel Management Project.

As a resident, there are also important things you can do to prepare. For more information see: <https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/prepareforfireseason>

We have also commenced our Fire Hazard Inspection Program, where we inspect properties in the lead up to summer and during the CFA declared Fire Danger Period to ensure they are properly prepared for the fire season. If you do not prepare your property, you may be issued with a fire prevention notice.

Council hosted a stall to promote bushfire safety, emergency preparedness and evacuation kits, and green waste options at the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival in February. Thanks to those residents who visited the stall. It was great opportunity for council to provide advice and answer resident questions.

## Neighbour Day

Neighbour Day is being held on Sunday 29 March. Council encourages all residents to get to know their neighbours – knowing your neighbours can help build friendships, welcome new people to the area, provide support in times of need, help reduce social isolation and promote tolerance and respect. Learn more at [www.neighbourday.org](http://www.neighbourday.org)

**CR BRETT OWEN**

# St John's Church

Many reading this will have kids of your own or know children who started back at school in January. Starting something new or even going back to something after a long break away can be exciting but also hard, and perhaps a little frightening. We all know the feelings, the anticipation, the excitement and the worry, all mixed together. Even as adults, I don't think that it ever changes.

This is particularly true when I listen to people telling me stories about their experiences with Church, both good and bad. It often starts with "I used to go when I was little", or sometimes the complete opposite "I have never been" or the classic, and my favourite "if I went into church the roof would cave in" (you would be surprised how often I hear that one). It never has by the way! It is part of my job to help people look

at the world and ask the big questions about God, life and eternity. Part of it, is this journey into something new or helping them journey back into something after a long absence. For me, that journey is into faith.

It is interesting to chat to people and ask the question, "what do you think about God?" I get many different answers. Some respond with the answers given to them as a kid, but, as an adult, have never reflected on faith. Others have never really engaged with it and have few opinions or thoughts, except what they see in the media. Others hold very strong opinions about Christian faith but have never opened the Bible themselves and may never have been to church. Sadly, some have been wounded or failed by the church and then write God off. On the other hand, some people are very open to checking out what Christians believe, about reading the Bible and finding out for themselves if this 'God stuff'

actually matters, if he might be real, and if he is, then what to do about it?



We are about to head into one the most powerful and wonderful parts of the Christian calendar, we call it Easter. My encouragement to you is to take this opportunity to stop, think, and reflect. To ask yourself the big questions and to explore if Jesus is really who people say he was.

You are welcome to join the St John community on a Sunday at 9.30 am or to attend our Easter service on 12 April.

**REV. SHANNON LEE**

See a photo of our congregation on page 2

## Brad Battin MP

These past few months have been challenging for our beautiful country. The bushfires that have ravaged our state have been devastating, but they have also reminded us what it means to be Australian. The mateship and courage I have seen on the fire ground over summer has reinforced my image of what our country stands for. From volunteers to firefighters to truck drivers and farmers and everyone in between the efforts being made to look out for one another has been incredible, one might even describe their efforts as 'Australian'.

However, it's important to remember that we are still in the fire season; thus I urge everyone to stay informed about the current status of the bushfires by

utilising the Vic Emergency App or website and staying alert and prepared. This involves reviewing, updating and practising your current bushfire plan. If you are unsure of the precautions you should take reach out the Upper Beaconsfield CFA for assistance.

On another note, a new year has begun this means our delightful community spirit will be back in full swing, with one of the first events of the year being the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival. I would like to congratulate all those who competed in the Tower Run and thank everyone involved for doing an excellent job in making the day possible.

As the school has also returned for another year, I would like to wish all students an excellent year full of fun and learning. I also want to assure the community I am continuing my



fight with the Minister for Education and the Andrews Government on making students in your town who attend Berwick College eligible for the conveyance allowance.

My office door is always open, please do not hesitate to visit or email me via [brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au) if there is anything you would like to raise with me.

**BRAD BATTIN MP**  
**LIBERAL STATE MEMBER FOR GEMBROOK**

## A serve from the Tennis Club

Whether you like the result of the Australian Open or not, we can all agree how lucky we are to have a world event like this in our own backyard. Men's tennis arguably has the best players of all time currently competing against each other and in women's tennis we have Ash to cheer for. What a great time to be involved and enjoying tennis in Melbourne!

Have you thought about picking up a racquet? From a 5 year old picking up a racquet for the first time in our Hot Shots program through to a 76 year old playing night tennis, UBTC caters for all age groups and all skill levels. It's great exercise (much cheaper than your gym) and very social (check out the range we have in our bar!)

As the summer season starts to get to the pointy end for juniors and seniors, we look forward to seeing each section finish off strongly. Premierships are the prize we all strive for, but really we want to see individual growth and enjoyment of each player and every team each season. If you love playing and give it your best, what more do we really need?

### Club championships

In saying that, we love a bit of healthy competition! At the Club Christmas party we held the finals of our senior club championships. Some cracking tennis and a great night, so congrats to everyone involved. Special mention to the finalists below:

Women's singles – Chloe S defeated Claudia E



*Our women's doubles finalists*



*Our men's finalists with Matt our VP the rose in between two thorns*

Women's doubles – Chloe S and Claudia E defeated Di E and Leanne R

Men's singles – Sam H defeated Jono C

Men's doubles – Jono C and Matt He defeated Darren C and Cal O



### Working bee

Lock away Sunday 3 May 2020 between 10 am and 12 noon for the Club working bee. There is always plenty to do before winter starts to set in, so let's get many hands along to see if we can make some lighter work of it.

With term 1 well and truly underway, coach Karen and her team at Ultimate Tennis Melbourne are keen to support those budding Australian Open stars (and those just keen to improve themselves). We had a hugely successful holiday program run through January, so make sure you sign up early for the next holidays once Karen announces the dates. Karen offers a full range of programs, including Hot Shots, group lessons, semi-privates and privates, squad coaching, Cardio Tennis and a school program. For more information or questions about coaching options, please contact Karen direct on 0403 454 554 or [Karen@ultimatetennismelbourne.com](mailto:Karen@ultimatetennismelbourne.com).

For any general Club information, contact us at [upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com](mailto:upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com) or [www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldtennisclub](https://www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldtennisclub).

**CAL O'BRIEN**



# Cardinia Beacons Hills Golf Club

The 2020 Club Championships are underway although they were put back one week due to rain causing the cancellation of the first round when the course became unplayable for the afternoon field. It was, however, a perfect day when Jenny Chandler and Cam Whiting won the Mixed Foursomes Championships. It was a tight contest, taking Cam and Jenny four play-off holes to beat Ann Felgate and Matt van der Kraan.

A novelty Par 3 event was held for the first time at the club in January. Music and commentary were tailored to suit each golfer and this made for a very entertaining occasion. Four players hit in turn to the 9th green and an ever-decreasing number contested. Amongst players knocked out were the reigning club champions, Laura Griffin and Joel Simons. Eventually three remained: the reigning Veteran Champion, David Crowe, A Grade pennant player, Cam 'Fish' Whiting and John Makarucha who edged out another A Grade pennant player, Craig Perkins. Craig had, until then, been the strongest performer of the day. John's valiant showing ended but he did win the nearest to the pin for the day. The ultimate winner was David Crowe; his hours on the practice fairway paying dividends.

The Dennis Crowley Summer Cup, begun before Christmas, has been completed. Finalists contesting were Kev Candy and Wayne Hassall versus Basil Bate and Mike Kiely. The competition is a knockout matchplay format with Kev and Wayne being the winners on the day.



Mixed Foursomes winners  
Jenny Chandler and Cam Whiting

A hole in one on the 15th hole



of the Hills Course became a rarity on a Saturday as soon as a jackpot prize was allocated to it. Other holes continued to be aced while the jackpot on 15 grew to over \$5,000. The drought was finally broken when Ross Millard holed out and claimed the dollars – the jackpot has now been reset. Ann Felgate was also in the money when she holed out on the 6th although not quite to the same degree – she won \$50 in the 'lucky numbers' on the same day.



Summer Cup winners  
Kev Candy and Wayne Hassall

We are sad to report the passing of our popular member Ted Fleming. Ted was a former resident of Upper Beaconsfield, then Loch Sport but most recently Pakenham. He never gave up and was fit and played golf well into his nineties.

After the recent successful renovation on the front nine of the Hills Course, more of our golf fairways are now a drought tolerant couch grass.

Wednesday Twilight golf has continued without missing a beat. The informal 9-hole competition has always been a popular way to break the week for golfers and the bistro (from 6 pm), which runs in tandem, is working in the same way for non-golfers. No handicaps or bookings are required for the twilight golf which costs \$9 for members and \$14 for visitors. If you would like to reserve a table for the bistro please call Andrew, Nat or Vikki on 5945 9210.

MATT VAN DER KRAAN



## Auskick

We're back for 2020 and would like to thank Emma and Kris Tiberi for their efforts in running Auskick last year. This year we have a new head coach. Congrats, and welcome Nick Payne to our head coaching role for 2020. Nick helped Kris last year, ran Woolworths Cricket last season and we can't wait to have him looking after our Auskick program in 2020.

We hope you had a chance to stop by at the Village Festival to say hello to Nick and JD.

Follow along with what we are up to on [www.facebook.com/UBAuskick/](https://www.facebook.com/UBAuskick/) and register now on [www.aflauskick.com.au/register](https://www.aflauskick.com.au/register) for Season 2020.

### Upper Beaconsfield Schedule 2020

Auskick's first session for 2020 is on Saturday 18 April with a free Auskick open session. The season starts off on 2 May and will go through to 1 August, (except for public and school holidays).

JUSTIN DAVEY





## Maroons look to the future

Season 2020 has produced a high degree of success so far for Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club as the club continues to strive for development and strong growth.

At this stage of the season nearly all teams are positioned to enjoy a tilt at the finals. The first eleven is currently the top club in its grade while other teams are high up on their individual ladders. Centuries have been scored by Chris Pentland, Matt Hutson,

and Bath Perera while great bowling performances have been recorded by Ethan Hollings and David Westra.

At our Whole Club Training night before Christmas canteen manager Bob Carlyle served 105 meals for the Thursday Dinners which continue to be popular. If you would like to join us contact Jodie Johnson to book. (0473 453 089).

Our biggest development has been the initiation of a Scope Committee to

produce a new extension to the clubrooms which will cater for female cricketers with new change-rooms and amenities that meet current Australian standards. The club is working with the Shire of Cardinia following election promises from La Trobe Member of Parliament, Jason Woods, as well as proposed funding from the Shire to build the new facility. This may be the first stage of a thorough rebuild of the

37 year old complex which was originally erected after Ash Wednesday.

The community needs of today are very different from those so long ago. Anyone with queries could contact UBRRC Chairman Bob Taylor, Rob Hansen or UBCC Secretary Shawn Hassall.

The accompanying photo was taken at the Whole Club Training event which has been a highlight of the season's training nights.

**ROB HANSEN**



## 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scouts

We're back for another year of Upper Beaconsfield Scouts, and are looking forward to a massive year ahead! This year we have a Kangaree (big event for our 5 to 7 year olds), a Cuboree (our 7 to 11 year olds) and Oz Venture (our 15 to 18 year olds). Scouts is all about developing independence, seeking adventure and building resilience. Major events like these help kids become the best version of themselves, learning new skills, building new friendships and learning what they can really do. Many people travel to Upper Beaconsfield to join our group, right on your doorstep! We encourage more of our community to join us. We cater for ages from 5 to 25 across Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers. Get in touch if you'd like to learn more, and follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/1stupperbeaconsfield](https://www.facebook.com/1stupperbeaconsfield)

### Group Leader report

The end of the year is traditionally a quiet time for us at Scouts. However, last year we decided to sell Christmas trees to help us with fundraising. We didn't know how this would go, but thanks to the generosity of the local

people and the support of our parents and leaders, we were able to make it a great success. We hope to increase sales next year with more people knowing they can source their trees from a local organisation. If you bought a tree from us, thank you!

We have a statewide camp coming up for our Joeys section this term which will be a very exciting outing for a rapidly growing section of our group. All the other sections are getting back in the swing of the new year. We are getting a number of inquiries from potential new youth members and the doors are always open for new Joeys, Cubs, Scouts, Ventures and Rovers. If you saw us at the festival, thanks for saying hello and we hope to see you come along to one of our nights soon.

### Joeys (5 to 7 years old)

Our Joey's section is absolutely thriving! We have made a strong start to 2020, with new members bringing our numbers into the high teens. Term 1 is focused on camping, and we are super excited about the upcoming Kangaree over the long weekend in March.

Kangaree is a state Joey camp, with numbers expecting to exceed 1000 Joeys. Our Joeys will be camping in tents, and participating in a wide range of outdoor activities including challenge courses and team activities. Each evening, we will join the camp for night time entertainment. We have around 10 Joeys and 5 leaders attending Kangaree, travelling to Lardner Park by bus. Our camp preparation includes learning to pack and keep a tidy bag, cook a camp meal and work together as a team.

### Cubs (7 to 11 years old)

Welcome back, we hope everybody enjoyed their Christmas break. We sure needed a break after such an exciting time in term 4, being exhausted from our bike camp at Cowes. It is tiring riding bikes to the beach, swimming and exploring on the beach all day. And of course you can't go to Philip Island without visiting our furry friends at the Koala Park!

This year is a very special year in Cub Scouting as we anticipate the 10th





Victorian Cuboree which is held every 3 years. On 28 September approximately 3,600 Cubs and over 1000 leaders will attend the 4 night camp at Gilwell Park, Gembrook. So in Term 1 we will be ensuring Cubs wishing to attend are ready. Any new Cubs joining this year are more than welcome to attend as long as they have completed their CampOut Badge.

We look forward to a fun summer term 1 with highlights such as District Beach Day at Sorrento where Cubs will get to sail, kayak, and for those who are daring enough, jump off the pier. And to finish off the term a sleepover movie night in the Igloo.

### Scouts (11 to 15 years old)

The Scouts at Upper Beaconsfield have again had an action packed year and we are looking forwards to continuing the challenges and fun in 2020. We have just had our first camp for the year which was a relaxing beach camp at Cowes, Phillip Island. The scouts spent the weekend on the beach, in the water and jumping off the local pier.

We have our district water tactics night this week which will involve roughly 100 scouts and leaders participating in a series of structured water fights over 90 minutes with an overall winner announced at the end of the night.

Later in the term we will have another district camp which will be in Officer which will be a water activities camp where the scouts compete for the title of Victorious Viking or Captain Jack Sparrow, for the Pirates.

We also have bike hikes, challenge nights and a end of term party night to look forward to ... and all of that is just term one for 2020.

### Venturers (15 to 18 years old)

Venturers is an opportunity for your children to make friends and learn about leadership. As our youth grow older and move from Joeys through to Rovers, each level they move up they take the lead more and more on what they do and how they do it. Our Venturer program is led by our

members each term, coming up with great ideas based around what they are interested in. This Term we had a beach camp weekend down on the Peninsula and are looking forward to the next Anything Goes, a massive program of fun and adventure.

### Rovers (18 to 25 years old)

Rovers are all about service, adventure and fun. With all of the challenges around Victoria, our Rovers wanted to get involved with the Bushfire Recovery. They volunteered their time with furniture collection after the Gippsland fires.

This term they attended the Surfmoort where 16 of our local Rovers went along over the Australia Day weekend for fun in the sun.

Word is getting out on our great program and group of Rovers, and we have welcomed a number of new members to the Crew, even welcomed back a number of ex-members too!

There is a large Gang Show (performing arts) coming up this year in which a number of our Rovers are participating, as well as a World Moot being held in Ireland this year.

JUSTIN DAVEY



## Pony Club gymkhana

Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club finished off 2019 with another magical day for their annual Gymkhana. The gymkhana is always a day where members get to have fun. It is also the day to show off how they improved with hard work and dedication throughout the year. There are many opportunities for the riders to compete in different events, catering to all ages and riding abilities. Upper Beaconsfield has some long standing competitions with winners of these awards going on to represent the Pony Club at other events through the year. This year's winners of the Ice King (highest scores from both show ring, fun ring and handy mount) were Holly Kleverlaan (champion), Maddison Sitas (reserve), Tahlia Ricketts, Georgia Dunstan, Hannah Sykes. We would like to congratulate our riders for their hard work on the day, this is a great achievement. Holly Kleverlaan represented Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club at the Berwick Show last weekend. February marks the start of the Pony

Club year 2020, with a twilight rally after the summer break. The rally is run differently with members having their classes in their house teams and a games competition at the end of the night. This means a mixture of ages, horses and riding abilities all together in a group for their lessons on games. This year's twilight rally certainly was a wet way to start the year. The mix of older and younger riders had to work as a team in the relentless rain to make the afternoon a success. Learning how to perfect their games skills.

As a thriving club we are raising resilient riders to understand riding in the rain is all a part of the sport of horse riding. The enthusiasm and commitment of our members creates a lot of passion in our riders. 2020 is set to be a great year for our members to grow and achieve their personal goals while having fun with their fellow Pony Club members.

TYRA BRAACK-NOON



### Horse dentistry for the 21st century

- Performance floating for competition horses
- Remedial dentistry / bit seating
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UPPER BEACONSFIELD

# COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

*...where there's something for everyone!*

## THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLES:

Hall Hire - Page 2

Mug Library - Page 3

UB Toy Library -  
Page 3

Early Learning  
Centre - Page 4



*Cathy Fischer - Administrator*

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre reception is open from 9am till 3:00pm Monday - Friday.

Interested in a course? Would you like to receive our term program by email? Would you like to become a tutor?

Give us a call on 5944 3484 or email [bookings@ubcc.org.au](mailto:bookings@ubcc.org.au).

## UPPER BEACY BOOMERANG BAGS HIT 500

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The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre Boomerang Bag group, formed in September 2018, is lead by the very talented Anna Konency and assisted by an incredible team of around 10 volunteers. The team meet every second Tuesday in term in the Community Room. Together they've just made their 500th bag - well done ladies!

Cathy Fischer recently bought four bags as part of a house warming gift, saying that "they're a great alternative to wrapping paper". She went on to say that "they're a great idea for Easter or Mothers Day too".

Bags are available to purchase from the Community Centre, Up The Hill Bakery and Foodworks for \$3 each or 4 for \$10. Grab yours today!

Why not join our fun little social group - no sewing skills required!  
Team Meeting Times : Every 2nd Tuesday 10am - 12pm during term.  
Meeting Dates : 10th Mar; 24th Mar; 21st Apr; 5th May; 19th May; 2nd Jun; 16th Jun.

Everyone most welcome! All donations gratefully received.



## #BEGINNERS BINGO!

Beginners Bingo is coming to the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre!

Specifically designed for anyone who has never experienced playing this fun game before.

Great prizes, lots of fun and laughs!

More information to follow in our term 2 program.

MEET OUR TUTOR:

## JANIE HUTCHINGS



If you've attended one of our computer classes chances are you've met our IT tutor - Janie Hutchings.

Janie has been a tutor at our Centre since 2012 and has extensive experience on helping students fully utilize their technical devices.

She also has a keen eye for small business marketing design and promotion.

Have you considered joining Janie's Web Design class on Tuesday night where you work on your own project at your own pace. Only basic computer skills required. Join anytime.



## COMMUNITY HALL

Built in 1884 the Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall is an historical treasure in the Upper Beaconsfield community. In the early days the hall was used for concerts (with its own organ and piano), dances and formal balls, exhibitions, smoke nights and religious services. The hall was also used as a school and served as a Civic Centre for the community. In 1887 it also contained a public library (Mechanics' Institute) with over 1,000 books. The supper room was added in the 1950's. Over the years many groups have been associated with the Hall.

In 1983 after surviving the Ash Wednesday bush fires it was a hub of support & comfort to the many effected in the terrible aftermath. A "Drop in Centre" set up by the CWA was maintained for many years for those needing support. Today it's still a major part of the community with Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre activities, an Early Learning Centre, Carols By Candlelight, Village Festival and so much more!

## COMMUNITY #ROOM HIRE

Did you know that the Community Centre Hall, Arts Annex or Community Room are available to hire?

### Weekend Hire

Parties or weekend functions can be made by contacting Helen Smith, Secretary of the Buildings & Grounds committee.  
**5944 3219 [helen.r.smith@iinet.net.au](mailto:helen.r.smith@iinet.net.au)**

### Weekly Hire

Room or program hire inquiries can be made to Darlene Stillwell, Program Coordinator of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre.

**59443484 [bookings@ubcc.org.au](mailto:bookings@ubcc.org.au)**

Have a look at the space available on our website - [www.ubcc.org.au/hall-room-hire](http://www.ubcc.org.au/hall-room-hire)

**DAY LIGHT SAVINGS ENDS 2AM SUNDAY  
5TH APRIL 2020 TURN CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR**



## UPPER BEACONSFIELD #MUG LIBRARY



Carl Hirst - Mug Library

Carl Hirst was recently involved with the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival's "Waste Wise" initiative in an effort to decrease the carbon footprint. Patrons were encouraged to bring along their own straws, cutlery and containers to the event. As part of this initiative recycled mugs were donated from our local Op Shop for use as an alternative option at various coffee stands. It was a great success with coffee cup waste substantially reduced.

Carl has now set out to offer a new program..a Mug Library.

Mugs used at the Village Festival are now available from the Community Centre for anyone to borrow.

Carl explained, "the mugs are available to be used by any individual or community group wanting to make a difference to our environment. Perhaps using them for family parties or picnics or anyone hiring a room at the Centre for a meeting".

Great idea Carl!

Definitely consider this for your next function!

## #TOY LIBRARY

Did you know that Upper Beaconsfield has a Toy Library (UBTL)?

*What is a Toy Library?*

A Toy Library is where you can borrow a range of games, toys, dress ups, etc., that are suitable for children from 6 weeks to 6 years. These toys on offer are designed to support your child's skill development and imagination.

*How does it work?*

At UBTL we offer a large variety of fun, quality and educational items. A yearly subscription of only \$30 allows families to borrow 5 items for up to 2 weeks at a time.

*Where are you located?*

The UBTL is located in the Community Room of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre, 10-12 Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield 3808

**So when are you open? \*\*NEW HOURS\*\***

**The UBTL is now open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9:30am - 2:30pm during term.**

*What types of toys are available?*

We have over 460 toys, puzzles and games including : baby toys; play & activity sets; puzzles & games; DVDs; educational toys; electronic toys; dress ups; construction toys; Leap Frog reading system; musical instruments; cars/trucks/tracks; prams & dolls; ride on vehicles; trikes & scooters; sport & outdoor play sets; slides/tunnels/tents roller coasters; water & sand play equipment; party & circus fun and two jumping castles!

We have too many toys to tell you about...why not come down and have a look this week!

## NEW #ART WORKSHOP COMING TO THE CENTRE IN APRIL

Our newest tutor Karen is joining our team next term. She has over 40 years experience in art & craft teaching and would love to offer our community a wellness by colour program. Through abstract art she will explore the energies of different colours and the powerful qualities of what each art style can do to assist in individual wellbeing. More information to follow in the term 2 program.



# UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY

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**Have you considered the Upper Beaconsfield Community Early Learning Centre for the care of your precious baby or toddler?**

Our ELC caters for children from 6 weeks to 5 years and provides a family friendly environment with wonderful experienced educators. Open Monday to Friday, 48 weeks of the year from 7:30am -5:30pm.

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- \* *Community garden project for the children*
- \* *Free orientation sessions available*



We are now serving meals daily including breakfast, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and a late snack cooked by our in-house chef, Kristine. We had a special treat today of fresh homemade chicken nuggets and wedges cooked from scratch!  
[www.ubcelc.org.au/our-menu](http://www.ubcelc.org.au/our-menu)



The children love our weekly music program with Tess. The children have great fun practicing counting, rhythm and enjoy learning and playing new musical instruments.



The children demonstrated fantastic social skills as they shared their ideas and worked together to create a campfire in the sand.

They enjoyed story time with Irene and were very proud of their creation.