

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

# VILLAGE BELL

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

Issue No. 220  
June 2020

Still with the risk of a stumble,  
our COVID-19 path is getting brighter

photo by Mal Austin





## Anzac Day 2020



The 2020 Anzac Day service was delivered by video this year (photo top left). Otherwise Anzac Day commemoration had to be an individual affair, offering the opportunity for personal reflection. Maybe not such a bad thing once in a while. Over the morning many people, socially distanced, visited the cenotaph and wreaths were steadily laid.



**Candling in Brennan Reserve** Tree bark is very flammable, which the Upper Beaconsfield CFA "candling" exercise at the end of Brennan Avenue proved. The radiant heat emanating from just a single tree meant you had to take quite a few steps back to watch the spectacle. Reducing radiant heat stores makes areas safer for firefighters. Bark embers carried by the wind are also a major cause of spot fires. See fire brigade article on page 9.





# General Store under new management

1 April marked the beginning of a fresh era for the Upper Beaconsfield General Store, with new owners taking over the business. The great news? They're locals who had already been pretty active in the Upper Beaconsfield community.

Stephanie and Justin (JD) Davey, along with their three boys, Jed, Alex and Harry, have lived in Upper Beaconsfield for the past 5 years. Stephanie has been a teacher at Beaconsfield Upper Primary School, where Alex and Harry still attend. Jed completed Grade 6 in 2019, and now attends Berwick College. Stephanie and Justin are both leaders at the 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group, have previously run the local Auskick program and Justin is currently a committee member of the local Recreation Reserve and Scout Group.

After travelling around Australia for 12 months in 2019, travelling 45,000km and seeing many different towns, cities and communities across the country, there really was no place like home for the family. They returned looking for a new challenge, and the opportunity to take over the General Store was one too good to pass up. They are thrilled to be taking over a store that has such a

long and proud history in the local area.

Taking over during the COVID-19 pandemic has been a crazy first up experience. With so many people staying home and completing maintenance, renovation and gardening projects, the store has welcomed many new customers. Such a busy time has been combined with store renovations and a home/business schooling location. The boys have loved the opportunity to work on the counter, helping with the in-store changes, preparation of stock and of course playing in the yard.

By maintaining existing products and services, whilst adding some new ones, the goal going forward is to deliver an outstanding local service. There are some exciting plans underway, including the addition of some extra vehicles and machinery to improve delivery capabilities across firewood, gas, and garden supplies in particular.

The shed space to the rear of the store has been transformed into a retail area with an expanded range of stock and pet feeds, plumbing, rural and landscaping supplies. If there are things

you think the General Store should stock, they would love to hear from you!

Inside the retail space you may have noticed some major changes. A coffee house is being added, providing locals a new way to catch up with friends, get the latest news or even work from a cosy new space with a fireplace, couches and power points to be made available.

Finally, they are excited to launch their brand-new website at [www.ubgeneralstore.com.au](http://www.ubgeneralstore.com.au) along with a brand-new social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. Orders can now be placed online for gas bottles, firewood, water delivery, stock feed, garden supplies and more. New products and services will be added to the website regularly. Please check out the website or call in-store and they will be happy to help you.

## General Store history

Upper Beaconsfield has had three General Stores before the current store was built. Read their history on page 6.



**Rainfall on St Georges Road**

Month	45 yr av.	2019	2020
Jan	63.6	13.2	126.4
Feb	58.4	25.2	147.8
Mar	64.2	36.0	65.7
Apr	78.3	22.8	183.4
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>	

The climate trend is drier and hotter. The driest, hottest, and historically the most fire prone month, is February.

Well, it's not always like that. In February 2020 we had 148 mm of rain, nearly six times that of February last year.

March brought 66 mm, close to average. Then in April, the rain gods threw down 183 mm, more than 100 mm above the month's average.

For some things, 'on trend' may be fashionable, but this doesn't apply to our current rainfall patterns which are well 'off trend'.

For those who don't desire drier and hotter, being unfashionably wet is most welcome.

**ANDREW REWELL**

**Village Bell thanks**

Berglund-Dack Family; Adrienne Griffin; Kate Hutson; Laura Levens; Dot Pockett

**Open Air Burning (OAB) fridge magnet dinners postponed**

The COVID-19 restrictions have delayed the start of dinner prizes until we can be certain that hotels will not be affected by these restrictions. Cardinia Council has advised that they will mail the OAB fridge magnets in May. When you receive them, please

put these preferably on your fridge or keep them in a place where you can refer to the information on them.

The fridge magnets have a unique number in the top right corner which will be used to select dinner winners once everything is back to normal. The dinners will be provided at the Pine Grove Hotel and you will need to show your fridge magnet as proof of winning the dinner prize.

The Upper Beaconsfield OAB Advocacy group asks for your patience. The delay has been unavoidable, and we hope to begin in August. We anticipate announcing the OAB fridge magnet dinner winner's numbers in the next issue of the Village Bell.

**HARRY JENSEN**

**Upper Beaconsfield Hall bookings**

Unfortunately, many functions booked for the hall this year had to be cancelled due the ban on gatherings. This has resulted in a considerable loss of income for us. Some bills still must be paid and a water leak during February-March have added to our expenses.

We will be able to take bookings once restrictions are lifted, but it may take some time. People can tentatively book functions later in the year and can confirm once we know what is happening.

Enquiries 5944 3219 or helen.r.smith@iinet.net.au

**HELEN SMITH, SECRETARY**

**COMMUNITY COMPLEX  
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE**

**Update from Cardinia Beacons Hills Golf Club**

We opened for golf again from Wednesday 13 May. You must book prior to coming to the golf course. This can be done online via <https://www.beaconhillsgolf.com.au/cms/online-bookings/> or by phoning the pro shop on 5945 9230.

State and Federal Governments have put restrictions in place. Please see Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/beaconhillsgolf> for more details if you want to come and play golf.

**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!

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**Send articles by** 7 August 2020 to [editor.villagebell@gmail.com](mailto:editor.villagebell@gmail.com)

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# Upper Beaconsfield Association news



Community groups have found the COVID-19 lockdown difficult as gatherings have been banned. UBA ran a couple of online meetings to keep the committee and Village Bell group in touch.

The April UBA public meeting was cancelled. A council representative was to attend this meeting to speak about the open-air burning review. Cardinia Council has put the review on hold and is focusing on the COVID-19 emergency.

**UBA president Caroline Spencer** was invited to be a member of Cardinia Council Cardinia Relief and Recovery Committee which first met in February after the bushfire emergency. It then ramped up to weekly meetings to cope with the COVID-19 emergency. It provided an invaluable insight into the challenges of emergency management. Caroline found the hardworking council employees compassionate and willing to engage with the community. Community Connections grants of up to \$2,000 are now available to community groups to support initiatives that reduce isolation and improve the social, physical and mental health of residents. See details on the

council web site.

**Thank you Jenny Pritchard** for making the wreath of Australian native flowers which was placed on the Cenotaph on ANZAC Day.

This issue of the **Village Bell** was more difficult to coordinate as it was printed and collated by a skeleton crew to ensure we complied with physical distancing.

## Salisbury Road footpath

In March UBA learned that council planned to concrete the footpath from the Community Complex to Valley Drive. We could not discuss this at the April meeting. Council received feedback from a few residents. Opponents questioned the need for a concrete footpath when the existing gravel path functions well. Gravel multi-use paths and trails are appropriate for our area. Concrete paths are dangerous for horses and their riders as horses with shoes cannot get traction; they slip and fall on smooth surfaces. They are also prone to tendon and joint injuries when ridden regularly on hard surfaces. However, council notified the UBA that the concrete path is going

ahead. The Upper Beaconsfield Township

Strategy\* describes how retaining the rural character of our town is important for future planning. Why do people come to live in the hills? It is for the peaceful rural environment. Hard paving and solid fences are not as appropriate.

\* Details on Cardinia Council website.

**HELEN SMITH, UBA SECRETARY**

## Help for families

People have been experiencing increased levels of anxiety during the pandemic. There may be increased levels of family violence. It is a good idea to check in with friends or relatives who might be at risk.

Refer to the Cardinia Council online help hub at <https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/onlinehelphub> to find the appropriate contact numbers for assistance and support services.

Emergencies only — if anyone is in immediate danger call 000.

# Caring Connections of Upper Beaconsfield (CCUB)

It all began with a Facebook post on one of our local community Facebook pages. The post was inspired by a clear need to do something to help protect the members of our community who were at most risk to the effects of COVID-19. The response to the post was immediate and overwhelmingly positive. So many community minded people put up their hands to volunteer in some way to help.

Our first meeting brought together a small group of enthusiastic volunteers, who became the founding coordinators of the group we named 'Caring Connections of Upper Beaconsfield'. Our aim was to reach out to those in need of support while self-isolating who did not already have family or a support network around them. This could include anyone who with compromised immunity, the elderly, chronically ill, pregnant, parents of infants and those with disabilities.

A week after that first Facebook post we had many community volunteers ready to assist, but how could we reach everyone? We decided to use postcards to reach those most vulnerable. The next step was map out the geographical area that we wanted to

cover with our mail drop. This included Upper Beaconsfield, Guys Hill and Dewhurst.

Our six coordinators became area managers, each taking responsibility for an area within that zone. With the help of our most active community volunteers it took us around a week to deliver postcards to approximately 4,600 residents who were spread far and wide! We also had posters with spare postcards in all the local businesses in the Upper Beaconsfield township.

Our more tech savvy founding coordinators Fiona and Debbie have set up an email account, establishing a Facebook presence and sending out some surveys to establish a formal database of volunteers across each of our 6 local areas. By early April CCUB was officially set up with an army of volunteers ready and waiting to be mobilised to respond to people in need.

A huge thank you to everyone who registered as volunteers, some also agreeing to act as "street champions". It restores our faith in the kindness of people to see the response to our call for assistance. CCUB volunteers can

help with picking up shopping, a friendly phone call, urgent supplies, dog walking and collecting or delivering mail. So far,

we have responded to a handful of requests from community members. We have guidelines in place to ensure that our volunteers follow the latest government advice to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Given the slowing of the spread of the disease, we may not see the escalation of need that we initially expected, but we are ready and waiting to respond to requests as they come in. We encourage people to come forward with their requests for assistance, instead of trying to do things that may expose them to unnecessary risk. Even if you are feeling isolated and just need a friendly person to talk to, please pick up the phone and call the area coordinator listed on the postcard delivered to your home. We are here to help you!



**DIANNE EIBL, DEBBIE PINNEY, FIONA KNEEN, KARLEEN FROST, KRISTY PENTLAND AND TRUDIE DUNSTONE**  
CCUB FOUNDING COORDINATORS

# The 'General Store' in Upper Beaconsfield

Annie Seeley built the first general store on two acres of land situated at the corner of Salisbury / McBride Roads in 1885 (see Village Bell Sep 2019). She sold it to Mrs Ann Fraser on 8 Oct 1887.

It is believed that Ann Fraser bought the store for her daughter Mary, who together with her husband Joseph Thomas Johnson ran the store for about two years. They were in Upper Beaconsfield from Sep 1887 to Nov 1889, and their children went to school here. The next lessee storekeeper was Alexander McLean, followed by Henry Jabez Williams from 1891. From late 1893 Mary Johnson's sister Elizabeth and her husband James Patrick Kerwin, originally from Berwick, took over the storekeeping business. Shortly before Ann Fraser's death in 1894, the ownership of the property was transferred to Mary Johnson.

In 1896 the Government took evidence on the question of whether to select Upper Beaconsfield as a place requiring a narrow-gauge railway line. Kerwin appeared, and declared that getting freight from Beaconsfield up the hill cost him a large amount. He would benefit if a new railway came through Upper Beaconsfield. In December 1897 Kerwin applied for a colonial wine licence, which allowed him to sell wine and cider grown from Australian fruit. In 1900 he donated a flagpole and halliards (ropes to hoist a flag) to the State School. In spring 1902 the property was transferred to James Kerwin, who immediately sold it to John Garret Marsh. Upon leaving Upper Beaconsfield in Nov 1902 a farewell social in the Kerwin's honour was held in the Assembly Hall.

John Marsh, a chemist by trade, owned a 60-acre property on Carpenter

Road since 1898, where he planted a successful orchard. Their property was known as Gilolo and also as The Marshes. In 1904 Marsh instigated some of the clearing and planting of Charing Cross. John and Clara Marsh had two children. The elder son, John 'Dollie', died when he was 15 years old, and their second son, Cyril, died at Gallipoli, aged 22. His name is inscribed on our war memorial. Clara Marsh was the president of the Red Cross and War Relief Society in Upper Beaconsfield. She died at their home, Gilolo, in May 1919, a time that coincided with the 1919 flu pandemic. J G Marsh left the area shortly afterwards. His property with an 18 acre orchard was sold to the Crown to be used as a soldier settlement.

Marsh had run the store for about 18 months and in Feb 1905 sold it to Sylvanus Best. Little is known about Best, other than that he sold it to Susan and Abraham Halinbourg in August 1909. The Halinbours placed a caveat on the title on 18 Feb 1907, which is the most likely date for the business take-over by them.

The Halinbours had six daughters, the eldest was already married when her parents moved here. The youngest, Beryl, wrote to 'Aunt Connie' at the Weekly Times, where she explained that she went to boarding school and only spent the holidays at Upper Beaconsfield.

They sold the store to James Hopkins in February 1911. Hopkins was born in Cape Town, South Africa, and came to Australia in the 1880s. His great granddaughter explained that James Hopkins was a mean man, and tight with money. He was also deeply religious, so much so that no cooking

was allowed on a Sunday. The Sunday meal had to be prepared on the Saturday. James Hopkins decided to separate the post office from the store in 1914. Gladys Hopkins, his daughter, then aged eighteen years old, was the first postmistress in the newly built post office. The store had been let to Thomas Lee, a recent migrant from England, from 1913. In 1915 Lee bought land near Payne Road to establish an orchard before moving to Mildura in 1919.

In October 1915 James Hopkins sold the store to Adelaide Ward, who in turn sold him a 35-acre property of hers on Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, opposite the top entrance of Quamby Road. Adelaide Ward owned the store until April 1920.

During her ownership of the freehold a number of storekeepers sold their wares to the people of Upper Beaconsfield: William Henry Wilson was the storekeeper from Dec 1915 to Jun 1918. One of their daughters wrote on the Young Folks Page in the Weekly Times in 1916 that a new school and shelter shed had just been built in Upper Beaconsfield.

Wilson was followed by a short-term partnership between Frank William Allen Stickland and Thomas Peter Krüss. The partnership was dissolved on 30 Nov 1919, and they didn't pay the Council rates accrued against them.

In early March 1920 Upper Beaconsfield was surrounded by bushfires, and while the residents fought back the flames and succeeded in saving all dwellings, Krüss' store was not so lucky and it was totally destroyed. Krüss took over the freehold on 22 Apr 1920. The Council Rates were eventually settled by

Captain Alexander Rushall of Langower (now Jason's Restaurant) when he bought the land on 2 Jun 1920.

## Store on Salisbury Road

Krüss then proceeded to rebuild his store in a new location on Salisbury Road, on the allotment where the community garden and carpark are today. This was part of a larger property owned by Lucie Dupont. The 1919/20 Berwick Shire rate book suggests that

*Store on McBride Road  
photos c1915-1918*





Krüss was in the process of buying it, but failed to pay off the full purchase price. In any case, in August 1920 the property including the store were advertised for sale as a going concern, and bought by Frances Pringle. The title was transferred directly from Dupont to Pringle in June 1921. Krüss and his family left in late Oct 1920 and moved to NSW.

Frances Pringle had a daughter, Jean, who was married to John Nathan. John Nathan had been a grocer and storekeeper in Sandringham before moving to Upper Beaconsfield. At the time they had one young son, Douglas. A second son, Graham was born in 1926. In Sandringham John had been selling fertilised eggs for setting and continued as a breeder of white leghorns in our village. The family built a house at the rear of the store.

On Christmas Eve 1932 Douglas Nathan met with a serious accident, when a chemical experiment went terribly wrong. An exploding test tube sent splinters of glass into his right eye, and he was conveyed to the Eye and Ear Hospital for treatment. Just a few months later, he was mentioned in the local newspapers, for having installed an electric light system in the Assembly Hall, which replaced the acetylene



Nathan's store on Salisbury Road. Early 1920s

lights. John Nathan was also the president of the cricket club in 1933.

### Moving again

In an early subdivision the area around the Assembly Hall had been earmarked as a possible business centre of Upper Beaconsfield, with only Shorthouse's carting business located on the other side of the old Gembrook Road (Beaconsfield-Emerald Road).

The invention of the motor car changed the transport dynamics of

Upper Beaconsfield. The Shorthouse family had been in the village for over forty years, and had been conveying visitors to and from Beaconsfield railway station with their horse-drawn carriages. By the mid-1920s 'Boss' Shorthouse had replaced some of his horses with two six-cylinder Nash cars and a Chandler. This required a steep rise in fares, which the visitors did not appreciate. Not only was there no

*continued on page 8*



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**GIFTWARE**



*The General Store on Beaconsfield-Emerald Road. Early 1980s*

longer the excitement of the carriage rides, but the cars could carry fewer people in one trip, necessitating longer waiting times. Boss did not manage the transition well and was soon under financial stress. Shorthouse's buildings comprised of an old cottage, stables and other outbuildings, which all had seen better days. Captain Rushall came to Shorthouse's temporary rescue when he bought the freehold. We don't know what their arrangements were, but Rushall had a philanthropic nature, so may have let Shorthouse stay on favourable terms. In July 1926 a clearing sale was advertised in the newspapers. Shorthouse would have left Upper Beaconsfield shortly after. Rushall died in Dec 1926, and his entire estate was up for liquidation.

Meanwhile, Cormore Tea Rooms, which later traded for many years as the milk bar, had been established in about 1922. It was also in part operating as a General Store. John Nathan would have felt that his store on Salisbury Road was no longer in an ideal location for passing motor car traffic on the Main Gembrook Road. When the old Shorthouse property became available in mid-1928, Nathan bought the 3½ acres for £800. He immediately subdivided it, and sold about ¾ acres containing the Shorthouse dwelling and the adjacent outbuilding to Stella Denniston.

John Nathan employed John Glismann to build his new store where the old coach houses stood. Glismann renovated one of the coach houses to become Nathan's new general store, using some materials from the stables which were demolished. Nathan subdivided and sold further blocks of land north-east of his store.

Nathan's business in its new location was not plain sailing. Cormore Tea

Rooms at this time was run by the Funnell family, and at one time by their son-in-law Bill Wintle. In the early 1930s Wintle was proceeded against by John Nathan for having aided and abetted some youths to deface his shop windows by painting a 'pawnbroker' sign on it. Wintle was fined £3.

### Loveridge

The Loveridge family was already well known in the area. Alfred Ellis Loveridge senior had come to Berwick in the 1890s when he married Emma Crean, the daughter of a Berwick storekeeper. He took over John Crean's store in Peel Street about 1893. By 1912 he had moved his premises to High Street, next door to the Berwick Mechanics Institute. They also set up business in Ouyen where elder son Alfred Ellis Loveridge ran a hardware store. In February 1938 the younger son, James Shillingford Loveridge (known as Ford), bought Nathan's store in Upper Beaconsfield for £500.

A number of local people were associated with the Loveridge's store over its long existence in Upper Beaconsfield.

Loveridge used his Ouyen connections to recruit staff. Bill Noblet had spent his youth at Ouyen and came to work at Loveridge's store in Berwick in the late 1920s. The Dandenong Journal reported that on 1 Dec 1940 Noblet had taken over the management of the Upper Beaconsfield store. The Noblet family lived in St Georges Road, and was much involved in Upper Beaconsfield cricket. Bill Noblet suddenly died in

1967, aged only 60, and at this time had been in Loveridge's employment for 38 years.

William Henry 'Bill' Russell worked at the Loveridge store from the early days. At the beginning he was still living in Berwick, and had cycled daily up the hill. He was working as a counter hand and delivery man. The family then moved to Upper Beaconsfield, living in a number of rented houses, until buying Will Berglund's house next to the General Store. Rob Hansen writes in 'A Century Partnership', the history of cricket in Upper Beaconsfield: "Deliveries were accomplished by dint of the company bicycle at first or the luxury of the horse and cart while it was only in later times that the truck eased the chore of expediting household goods to customers." Bill Russell was associated with Loveridge's store for about thirty years, and took over as manager after Bill Noblet's death. After a few years his son, David 'Toke' Russell took over.

In 1973 Ford Loveridge transferred the title of the Upper Beaconsfield property to his two sons Alfred Ellis and John Shillingford Loveridge.

The Village Bell reported in Dec 1979 that Ellis Loveridge had confirmed the sale of the UB store to an undisclosed purchaser.

The new owners were George Decelis and Ron Ellis. In 1983 during the Ash Wednesday bushfires the store was destroyed. George and Ron, builders by trade they quickly designed the new shopping complex as we still know it today. It opened on 12 Sep 1983.



*Opening of the new General Store in 1983*

More recent storekeepers were Laurie and Sandra Fenton (1987-1996), Doug and Brenda Field (1996-1999), John Adamson and Scott Hathaway (1999-2011) and Mark & Gail Kelly (2011-2020). We welcome JD and Stephanie Davey, the new owners of the store.

**MARIANNE & CAMERON ROCKE**



# A different start to the 'quiet season'



Autumn through spring is the time fire fighters recharge their batteries after the summer fire-fighting period. Who would of thought we would be given all the time in the world, with COVID-19 taking its toll on us, too. A directive was implemented to prevent all non-essential station contact. No brigade training, no management or member meetings, and no social gatherings. Essential functions continue to keep the station prepared for emergencies – regular charging of portable radio batteries, weekly driving of our 4 appliances to ensure operational readiness, mail runs, collection of goods ordered, etc.

## Brigade incident reports

Below is a summary of incidents we have attended since the last Village Bell. As you can see, it's not always fires.

- 15 calls in total; 10 primary (our own response area), 5 supporting other brigades
- 3 x false alarms
- 2 x rescue (1 x adult, 1 x child)
- 4 x structure fires
- 1 x non-structure fire (car)
- 2 x motor vehicle accidents
- 1 x child locked in car
- 2 x grass and scrub fires

On Friday, 17 April, our brigade attended a 4000-bale hayshed fire



at Eight Mile Road, Nar Nar Goon. We supplied our 7500 litre collapsible collar dam (basically a large round swimming pool) as the rural property was not on a reticulated water supply and the nearest mains water was 30 minutes away return. This job was one of the longest singular incidents I can remember in my time in the brigade. We started at 7 pm and arrived home at 3 am (8 hours). There were 15 tankers present, and 13 of Cardinia's 16 brigades were represented.

## Rest in peace

The tragic death of four police officers in April was a stark reminder of the sacrifices and courage that emergency services workers often face whilst performing their job. As a tribute and mark of respect to the four police officers killed, our siren, along with many others around the state, was sounded 4 times at 5.40 pm on Wednesday 29 April - exactly one week after the incident. Please remember to slow down to 40 kph when passing ANY emergency vehicle with red and blue lights in operation.

## Brennan Avenue candling

In March the brigade candled around

25 stringy bark trees in the Brennan Bushland Reserve, which is the site of a proposed fuel reduction burn. Candling involves burning the extreme bark hazard off trees to reduce spotting and ember hazard during reduction burns and bushfires. Spot fires are a major hazard for firefighters and communities and candling can reduce potential spotting (see photos on page 2).

## Winter fires

Winter is traditionally the time we see more structure fires related to wood heaters and flues not being maintained or cleaned properly. If you run a wood heater make sure your heater/flue is cleaned and inspected at least once EVERY YEAR. If you are sitting on the couch reading this – it's not too late! If you can't do it yourself, it's worth employing a chimney sweep to do it properly. The build up of creosote in the flue and chimney cap can not only lead to a fire, but also makes for ineffective burning and operation of your heater. Residents running gas heaters should also have their heaters inspected annually for the risk of deadly carbon monoxide leakage.

## Slip-on appliance for sale

The extended summer with the East Gippsland fires and COVID-19 put the brakes on for a while, but the 2011 decommissioned Nissan Patrol 4WD Slip-on appliance is now for sale via private tender. Closes 21 June 2020.

## Always looking for volunteers

If you are interested in joining the fire brigade, now is the perfect time while the quieter winter season is upon us. We can train you up ready for next summer. Training is Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings. Contact the fire brigade on 5944-3303 or email [ian.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:ian.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au) for further information.

Stay safe and warm this winter.

**IAN PINNEY - CAPTAIN**



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### COVID-19 Upper Beaconsfield

So COVID restrictions to Upper Beac they've come,  
To cause quite a drama, a real, "What's going on?"  
Our little community, our tiny part of the world,  
Has been changed nonetheless, for bad and for good.

Grandparents are missing out on giving grandkids a hug,

Parents are wishing they could "sit down" at the pub!  
The community is rallying to support local business,  
They may, "bump" into someone they know, not with the 1.5 restrictions!

Because life at the moment is like a game of chess,  
Keeping a social distance has put us in a mess.  
Footy, tennis, cricket, scouts, the horse and pony clubs,  
Have battened down the hatches, along with golf and BUPS.

The church, CFA, Men's Shed and community centre too,  
Have closed their doors for now, to protect me and you!  
The children are still taught, at home now, every day,  
And each family does it differently, in their own unique way.

Everybody has journeyed, with or without a job,  
Doing the best they can, each day, in our Upper Beacie mob.

One day, when this is behind us, we will all look back  
with wonder,  
And marvel at the way we coped, with the Coronavirus blunder.

LISA SYKES

## Do you snore?



Snoring is coarse sound made by vibrations of the soft palate and other tissue in the upper airway. Snoring can originate anywhere from the nose, oropharynx or the base of the tongue.

It is most common during sleep as our throat muscles relax and this can cause airways to narrow. This relaxed tissue vibrates as air moves back and forth across it, making the characteristic noise.

About 40% of men suffer from snoring, at least on some nights. This percentage is smaller for women (around 30%). About 15% of people snore on most nights. Snoring can affect any age group. Approximately 12% of children snore and 2% have obstructive sleep apnoea. It appears to run in families and becomes more common as one gets older. However, men become less likely to snore after the age of 70.

### What raises the risk of snoring?

- \* Being overweight/obese
- \* Drinking excess alcohol and cigarette smoking
- \* Blocked nose
- \* Sleeping on your back
- \* Nasal conditions like polyps, allergies, hay fever
- \* Large tonsils or adenoids
- \* Some medications such as sleeping tablets, oral steroids, epilepsy drugs, muscle relaxants
- \* Pregnancy

Snoring can be troublesome for the person and the persons they live with. Sometimes the snoring can be so loud that



# UpperBeaconsfield

P H A R M A C Y

**53 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd**

**Upper Beaconsfield**

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### Opening hours:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>9 am – 6 pm</b>
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<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9 am – 6 pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9 am – 6 pm</b>
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it can wake the person themselves. Though, in many cases, people do not realise that they snore. Snoring can also cause a dry mouth or a sore, irritated throat upon waking.

Obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA) is a serious medical condition where a person has symptoms of snoring and partial or complete obstruction of throat while sleeping. A person with sleep apnoea stops breathing for a short period of time which can wake them up. They then start breathing again and go back to sleep. This can go on the whole night sometimes without the person being aware of what is happening. It can lead to disturbed sleep and daytime sleepiness. A person's mood can be affected by drowsiness. OSA can cause stress on your body.

Statistically, approximately 9% of women and 25% of men in Australia are thought to have clinically significant OSA plus 4% of men and women have symptomatic OSA. The prevalence of obstructive sleep apnoea in Australia is probably increasing due to the 'obesity epidemic'. Despite this, a large proportion of Australians with OSA remain undiagnosed and untreated (reference Snore Australia).

Sleep apnoea can occur at any age. Children can have sleep apnoea due to enlarged adenoids and tonsils. In adults, obesity is the strongest risk factor for developing sleep apnoea. Middle-aged men have higher chances. There is much evidence to suggest that OSA increases the risk of high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, type-2 diabetes, depression, impotence, mood disorders, along with motor vehicle and industrial accidents.

If you suspect that you have sleep apnoea or snore it is advisable to see your GP as soon as possible. They will discuss your symptoms with you and organise some tests. It may be possible to organise a home-based sleep study that measures your sleep, breathing and oxygen levels. You may need to see a specialist or sleep clinic.

The most appropriate treatment for sleep apnoea varies according to the severity of OSA, age, body-weight, degree of daytime sleepiness, alcohol-consumption, medical history and the anatomy of the upper airway.

For people with a mild level of OSA or snoring only symptoms, losing weight, decreasing the amount of alcohol consumed in the evening, reducing

smoking or adjusting the sleeping position may be all that is needed. Most people have more OSA

episodes whilst sleeping on their backs.

For moderate to severe forms of OSA the treatment consists of either continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) or an oral appliance. CPAP treatment involves using a small machine to pump air at a continuous pressure through a mask worn over your mouth, nose or both. CPAP remains the 'gold standard' treatment for OSA.

An oral appliance (mandibular advancement device) is fitted by a dentist and is like a double mouthguard which goes over the upper and lower teeth. It is particularly useful for snoring and mild to moderate sleep apnoea.

If you or anyone in your family are troubled by snoring, consult your GP and discuss. The treatment can be life changing for you and your partner!

**DR ANSHU MALHOTRA**  
**DR PUNEET MALHOTRA**

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# COVID-19 in perspective

## A look at some history of disease

### Quarantine

Over the centuries, people understood the importance of quarantining for stopping the spread of disease. In the Middle Ages, ships arriving in Venice from infected ports were required to sit at anchor for 40 days before landing to protect coastal cities from plague epidemics. Quarantine was derived from the Italian words *quaranta giorni* which means 40 days.

### Sydney, Australia 1789

Fifteen months after the First Fleet arrived to establish a penal colony in NSW, a major smallpox epidemic broke out. The British colonists, most of whom had been exposed to the disease during their infancy, were little affected. The outbreak was not detected until members of the Aboriginal communities living between Sydney Cove and the Heads were found, according to Newton Fowell, 'laying dead on the beaches and in the caverns of rocks'. Without previous exposure to the virus, Aboriginal people had no resistance, and up to 70 per cent perished.



THE QUARANTINE STATION.

### Point Nepean, Victoria 1852

The new Victorian Government established a small quarantine station at Point Nepean, a safe distance from Melbourne, to cope with the influx of immigrants following the gold rushes. Before the original building was completed the *Ticonderoga* arrived after an 80-day voyage from England with many of the eight hundred passengers and crew affected by typhus and scarlet fever. Because of the lack of amenities and overcrowding, fever developed amongst the passengers, resulting in 100 deaths during the voyage.

On arrival at Portsea, the survivors were quarantined, and tents had to be

erected to accommodate the overflow from the existing buildings. Here another 82 of the ship's passengers died. Deaths were so sudden that coffins were unobtainable, and burials took place without them.

Construction of the permanent buildings of the Point Nepean Quarantine Station began in 1856. Over the years, despite penny pinching and the push to subdivide the land into rural estates, and other difficulties, the facilities were gradually improved. Ships were stopped at the quarantine station to check the health of passengers for diseases including typhus, smallpox, and tuberculosis. In the early 1900s after Federation, the Commonwealth Government took control of the Quarantine Station. When not used for quarantine, the buildings were used for other purposes including camps. The Army occupied the Point Nepean facility for military uses from 1952.

In 2009 the Quarantine Station became part of the Point Nepean National Park, where visitors can visit the Point Nepean Fort and the Quarantine Station Museum.

### Spanish influenza pandemic, 1918-1920

Originating during the final months of the World War 1 the Spanish flu spread rapidly through military personnel already weakened by the strain of combat. The first cases were detected at Fort Riley, Kansas in the United States, and then in New York. It eventually spread all over the globe, even to Pacific islands and the Arctic. More people died from the influenza pandemic (50-100 million) than had died during the World War 1 (18 million).

In Australia, despite a swift quarantine response in October 1918, cases of Spanish flu began to appear in Australia in early 1919. About 40 per cent of the population fell ill and around 12-15,000 died as the virus spread through the country. Some Aboriginal communities recorded a mortality rate of 50 per cent.

In Melbourne, the Royal Exhibition Building was used as part of the local battle against the post-war influenza pandemic, it was transformed into a Spanish flu hospital between March and August 1919, treating more than 4000 people.

The Spanish flu was brought in by

passengers arriving by ships. Tensions developed between the states and the federal government. Each state made their own arrangements for handling and containing outbreaks, including organising their own border controls. The sobering thing about the Spanish flu was that it came in three waves, between March 1918 and June 1920. The second wave was the most virulent.

HELEN SMITH

### More information

National Museum of Australia, Nepean Historical Society, Parks Victoria, Heritage Council Victoria, Smithsonian Magazine, Trove National Library of Australia.

### Edited minutes from Berwick Shire Council 1919

In February 1919 20 cases of pneumonic influenza were reported.

Cr J. Pearson reported that the Berwick State school had been converted into a temporary hospital, and a matron had been placed in charge. Necessary material had been purchased for the hospital, and this could eventually be sold. He moved to erect a shelter shed, to be utilised as a cookery department. A local ladies' committee had also been appointed, and provision had been made for 24 beds at the hospital.

The council secretary read a letter from V. Treloar, whose billiard room at Pakenham had been closed, and Treloar claimed £2 a week compensation.

Cr Stephenson said that Mr Treloar had a grievance, as other billiard rooms in the shire were allowed to remain open. The council should ascertain its position in regard to enforcing the regulations. In Cr Stephenson's opinion the billiard room in question should be allowed to remain open.

The secretary reported that halls in the shire, and public libraries, had been closed. Cr Bailey moved to have all billiard rooms closed. Cr Anderson seconded. Cr Martin asked what was the use of closing billiard rooms and allowing hotel bars to remain open? The secretary suggested an amendment of the resolution, to the effect "that the health regulations be carried out," which was agreed to.

On motion of Crs Anderson and Martin, "that a letter be sent to the public health department, pointing out the absurdity of closing billiard rooms whilst leaving hotel bars open."

Cr Stephenson moved "that the attention of the health authorities



be also directed to the fact that people were allowed to visit patients indiscriminately, in town, and then return to their homes in the country, without due precautions being taken, which thus seeded to spread the epidemic."

At the April meeting of the Berwick Shire councillors reported 17 further local cases.

Cr Martin referred to the seriousness of the position, and said that if they were forced again to the practice of converting State schools into hospitals,

the educational system would be seriously hampered.

Cr J. Pearson agreed with the remarks of Cr Martin. In Pakenham he thought the show shed should be utilised as a hospital.

Cr Stephenson said that, whether the schools were utilised or not, they would have to be closed down—if another outbreak occurred.

Cr Dore said there was no occasion to create a scare, and he did not favour again closing the schools. Every year

they had an epidemic of influenza and he was opposed to closing the schools.

Cr Anderson pointed out that Cr Dore was wrong in referring to the influenza as being just a seasonal flu. The cases were not at all similar.

Cr Martin referred to the fact that, in all probability other buildings could be utilised as temporary hospitals, without interfering with the educational system.

**SOUTH BOURKE AND  
MORNINGTON JOURNAL**

## COVID-19: A poem

*There's a lot more to it than just well COVID-19,  
I guess you could say a large oddly shaped bean.  
It's stressing everyone out and making people go crazy,  
all we're doing is staying home and being lazy.*

*Everyone's isolating: stuck at home,  
you can't even go to the shops to get your dog a bone!  
No parks, ovals or table and chairs,  
no one can come out to scare off the bears.*

*Hours and hours of waiting for the shops,  
to make it worse you're surrounded by cops.  
Want to see friends and family bad luck you're stopped by a wall,  
"hey virus you can stop now, no one's having a ball".*

*Everyone's angry, make this stop,  
nothing like this has ever happened it's such a big shock.  
Still no cure we're all asking "what are we gonna do?"  
Could toilet paper work? I'll get some from the loo.*

*Essential workers all the pressure's on you,  
no excuse not even a poo.  
You can't escape it's already spread,  
there's nothing else to do except lie in bed.*

*Home-schooling you must be kidding me,  
I just want to go out there's way more to see.  
No parties or staying up late,  
just put me in a fishing rod I'd rather be bait.*

*No basketball, netball, everything's stopped,  
first hand shaking and now the lot.  
Everyone's stocked up,  
and this time a lot more than a cup.*



*Turn on the TV what do you hear?  
Corona Corona, screeching in my ear.  
Wash your hands and stay at home they say,  
"no just go away".*

*Most boring Easter ever,  
Corona you're so clever.  
While we're stuck in our bungalows getting the opposite of  
homesick,  
we are screaming: can I please go out just one kick?*

*Want exercise, you'll have to walk,  
don't drive or you're going to get the talk.  
I'd get used to who you live with  
and no it's not a myth.*

*I want to see my family every day  
I would do anything, even pay.  
Our dreams of going on a trip have been crushed,  
they've actually turned into a Slurpee and been slushed.*

*I don't know anyone who's not just sitting and waiting,  
this is so silly my whole body's aching.  
We all have to stay 1.5 metres away,  
it will be years till the next time I say hooray.*

*Everything's shaped like a pear,  
tell me again how rare?  
Masks and gloves they've all disappeared,  
anyone would agree we need to be saying they have reappeared.*

*Everyone's run out of food what are we going to do?  
Okay it's official no one thought that through.  
Corona Corona you have made us puff,  
Corona Corona, we have had enough!*

EVIE DUNSTONE (10 YEARS OLD)

## Thoughts on our lockdown

Community, even when socially distanced has always been important to me. I spend a bit of time on social media, especially connecting with family here and overseas. I regularly check our UB Facebook pages to keep updated and involved with what's happening around us. And although in the middle of an unprecedented pandemic, it has been wondrous to see that the true Aussie spirit lives on around us.

Community contributes so much. Recipes ... to keep the kids busy. Ingredients ... to share in case you are short. Jigsaws ... break the

boredom and test the strength of your relationships! Small businesses ... great products, new awareness. Anzac Day ... commemorated on our own but united as one. Funny Facebook pages ... laughing at ourselves and others and sharing our thoughts, photos and videos with our fellow neighbourhoods. And the list goes on.

I have appreciated all who have helped us survive this lockdown and so I got involved myself. Our neighbours in Garfield set a challenge one day early on to express how they were affected by COVID-19. All readers were welcome and within a couple of hours there were some clever responses. The Pakenham Gazette also got on board and

published several of the poems offered.

I believe a laugh can be found anywhere if you look hard enough, and I'm sure our humour has helped us make it through. This was my contribution.

Distance is the tyranny  
That keeps us all apart,  
Or maybe it's the beans we ate,  
That make us want to fart.  
It's more likely the Corona Virus  
And fears of nasty flu'  
That makes social distancing essential  
For me and hopefully for you!  
Apologies for uncouth analogies!

VICKI WATSON



# Women to women. Influenza epidemic. What to do.

THE ARGUS, WED 12 FEB 1919, p10

It is a matter for congratulation that although the influenza epidemic has definitely taken possession of Australia, its progress has been slow enough to allow the majority of people to be well prepared. In other countries attacked by this disease, few families escaped infection. It is important, therefore, that every household should be prepared to deal with it should a case occur. The general rules for avoiding infection have been published so often that everyone should now be familiar with them. But it may be as well to repeat them. Keep out of all crowds and avoid trams and trains as far as possible. Live as much as possible in the open air, and keep the house doors and windows open night and day if possible. Use disinfectants freely about the house and in the bath. Bathe daily. Wash the hair frequently. Keep the premises clean in order to keep down the fly pest, and keep all food covered in order not to attract flies into the house. Keep calm and unafraid. Fear lessens the power of resistance. Remember that most of the patients recover. Take all precautions, but think as little as possible about the epidemic, and try to keep the home cheerful and the children happy and occupied. Have ready in the house a supply of butter muslin, and a few made-up masks. Keep a bottle of some inhalant handy, and use it on handkerchiefs when going out, but do not inhale frequently or unnecessarily. A supply of formalin, cyllin, or some other disinfectant should

be kept in the house, so that there will be no rushing to get in supplies in case the influenza attacks the family.

All cases of cold should be treated carefully, especially if there is any feverishness. An ordinary cold may predispose the sufferer to an attack of influenza. Directly any member of the family seems to be suffering, put the patient to bed. One room in each house should be set apart for a possible case, and should be prepared as far as possible. Remove all unnecessary hangings and clean the room out thoroughly, using a disinfectant in the scrubbing water. A room without a carpet is preferable, though a rug or two may be used on the floor. See that plenty of clean linen and blankets are available, including a sheet to be saturated with a disinfectant solution, to hang over the door. The person who is likely to have to do the nursing should have a couple of plain cotton dresses in readiness, and a print or muslin cap to cover the hair completely. All these things can be done without upsetting the routine of the house, and the room to be used for patients may be used by the family in the ordinary way until a case of influenza occurs. But if the preparations are made, time and worry will be saved if a case does occur. The room to be used should be one which can be isolated satisfactorily, and it must be an airy room with good windows. If necessary, the drawing or sitting room ought to be used without hesitation.

is needed, provided the patient is kept in bed. Until the patient is absolutely well he—or she—should stay in bed, and even in very mild cases it is safer to keep him—or her—isolated for a week longer, because a mild case may infect others just as badly as a severe one. The following directions, given by the superintendent of the Melbourne Hospital, should be kept for reference in every house: -

"In cases where a doctor is not procurable patients should be put to bed at the first onset of symptoms, and kept there until the temperature has been normal for seven days. Headache and backache can be relieved by aspirin or phenacetin, fever by warm or cool sponging. Inhalations of Friar's balsam are useful for the cough. Bowels must be kept freely opened by means of salts or calomel. Copious drinks of milk and water, milk and soda, lemon or orange, should be given and all diet should be fluid. Patients should be isolated, and attendants should wear a covering for the hair, a mask covering nose and mouth, and a gown. Improvement is evidenced by lowered temperature, lessened cough, and quiet breathing, with diminution of pains and aches. All cases showing symptoms of pneumonia should be seen by a doctor as early as possible, as these cases cannot be treated otherwise. Dangerous symptoms are extreme blueness, with pallor and sweating, rapid respiration with rattling in the throat, rapid pulse, delirium, and stupor. These symptoms are always extremely serious, and call for urgent medical advice. Inmates of infected houses should remember always that they themselves are sources of infection, and should be scrupulously careful about mixing with other people.

It is important to remember that infection is conveyed chiefly by sputum or mucous. Patients should be provided with plenty of soft, clean old cotton rags for use in place of handkerchiefs. A supply of paper should be kept handy, and each rag, after use, should be wrapped in paper and burnt at once. Cups and other vessels required for the patient's use should be kept by themselves, and used by no one else. The scrupulous observance of all these precautions will do much to protect other members of the family and the community generally.

By VESTA.

## Shire of Berwick PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA

**I**N view of the possibility of an outbreak of Pneumonic Influenza, the Public Health authorities wish to make provision for opening a Hospital in Berwick, if necessary. So that everything may be in readiness, it is requested that all who can help by lending Bedding, Beds, Linen, Utensils, &c., will send their names and address to Councillor J. B. Pearson, Berwick, or Shire Sec., Pakenham, with list of articles. In the event of a serious outbreak, it will be essential that every householder, in his own interest, should assist. Those who can assist in Nursing are also asked to send their names.

**JAMES J. AHERN,**  
Shire Secretary.

The local town or shire clerk should be notified at once if a suspicious case occurs, and a doctor should be sent for if possible. The patient should be got into bed and a dose of aperient medicine given at once. Epsom salts, castor oil, calomel or any other recognised opening medicine may be used, but the dose must be effective. Only liquid food should be given, with plenty of drinks. In cases of mild influenza or ordinary cold, this treatment will probably be all that



# Learning how to be part of the community

When we moved to UB six years ago we didn't really know anyone, and although we have terrific neighbours, we were looking for connections beyond the boundary fence. I was wrangled into the Conservation Group when Mike, a few doors up, noticed us planting many hundreds of trees 'down the back'.



He told me about the group, and it sounded great, so I joined! Upon joining I instantly made friends, which makes sense because we are all positively passionate about our environment.

One thing led to another, and I got onboard with other community groups. Now, a few years down the track, and in the crazy time we are in, I feel great relief that I can rely on my community for food, plants, home-made biscuits, post hole shovels, corrugated iron, internet cables, but most importantly advice, education, stories and a good laugh! Being part of the community has built our resilience, keeps us occupied and with purpose, and we can rely more on local, sharing and gifting economies, rather than supporting big supermarkets and green sheds.

Back to the Conservation Group and how we are managing during isolation. First of all, we stay in touch by phone or email, share funny stories and 'show and tell', identify plants and animals, even eggs! Our monthly meetings are conducted online, and that works well and keeps us connected. Prior to COVID-19 we were working hard keeping our local walks open to the

wider community. Recently we shared a post on some of the many walks here in UB on our Facebook page. This led to a doubling of our membership overnight! We are also preparing for the future, as there is plenty to do, administration, education and promotion. The only thing that has really stopped for now are our monthly working bees.

We encourage the wider community to join our Facebook page, where we can share stories from our walks or from the backyard, provide education, and inspire the community to protect and celebrate our unique environment. Upper Beaconsfield is home to a great deal of significant flora, fauna and critical habitat. So spread the word and let us enjoy and marvel at its beauty, whilst conserving what is so special to us.

*"In times of crisis, the natural world is a source of both joy and solace. The natural world produces the comfort that can come from nothing else."* – David Attenborough

**CARL HIRST**

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP**

## St John's news

What a time we live in! Like many other groups out there, we here at St John's have encountered a steep learning curve when it comes to connecting and celebrating together in a new found way. Zoom has become a great friend. With e-mail chains, hours of phone calls and Facetime calls we have been working to stay connected and to find a little joy.

One of the great things that I have found in all this and didn't anticipate, is the opportunity to include (via Zoom) the many wonderful pets that St John's folk have. We have been doing church services at home then joining together via Zoom for morning tea. Normally we don't encourage pets at morning tea, but it has been awesome to share a cuppa and hear the stories of the wonderful pets sitting on people's laps. They are all so darn cute!

If you have been past the church building, you may have noticed our attempt to be creative and bring some smiles to those going by. We have been dressing up our old rugged cross that was hiding under branches of the tree at the front of the property. After some

pruning and creativity, the decorations that we normally put inside were brought ... outside! So far we have seen it decorated during the Easter period and Anzac Day. Keep an eye out for more.

We are aware that this time can be very lonely, and if you are struggling and want a new challenge, then on your way around town, drop by and



pick up a puzzle, board game or book from the front of the church. These are donated items from the Op shop and we are giving them away for anyone to enjoy. We can't guarantee all the pieces of the puzzles are there, which in my opinion makes it even more exciting. Will it or won't it be complete! Please sanitise before use.

On a final note I want to personally let people know that I am available to chat. If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me. Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee and a chat and to show us your amazing pets on a Sunday morning at 10.30 am via Zoom. It's as simple as contacting me at Shannon.m.lee@outlook.com and I can send you the link. I can help you practice setting up Zoom so that you are ready to meet new people, or reconnect with others on a Sunday morning.

We are all in this together, and I, like all of you, can't wait to be able to again meet together in person, but until then, we are doing all we can to stay connected.

Blessings

**REV. SHANNON LEE**

# Primary school during the lockdown

In this challenging time, it has been wonderful to see our incredible school community coming together to support each other. Never have teachers, nor students been put into this situation of trying to work and learn from home. Some days are overwhelming, but we remain positive and proactive.

The staff at BUPs have embraced the challenge and each day we do everything we can to help our students and their families. We have provided fun, meaningful and engaging learning tasks from each subject area. Our biggest focus is on the wellbeing of our students and to ensure families can feel they are not alone in this enormous task.

I know I speak for all at BUPs, when I say how grateful we are for a school and staff that support and help each other. We are thankful for our leaders who are guiding teachers, as well as being at school each day providing for the students still attending, due to their families being front line workers.

On behalf of everyone at BUPs, I would like to congratulate every family on the terrific job they are doing to work with their children, and keep them happy, safe and smiling. To our students, we are so proud of you, and we simply cannot wait to be back together at BUPs, leaning and celebrating together.

**KELLY BALTISSEN**

Teaching and learning from home have been a big adjustment; not only am I a school teacher, but also a mother to school-aged children — one in grade 4 and two in high school. Usually I do not have to wear two hats at one time, and I find myself juggling between the two. I am grateful to be able to see the way my children learn and assist them. But I miss the gorgeous smiles on my grade's faces each day. I cannot assist them face to face with their learning, or teach them new concepts, or sit down to listen to them read. Thankfully, we live in a technological world and can still communicate with our students by making phone calls to families each week and performing live sessions.

**MELISSA BORG**

## Students have their say

(a compilation from a range of children of different ages)

### What do you like about being home during the lockdown?



• That we get to ride our bikes when we have a break in schoolwork.

• I love being at home, so I don't mind lockdown and I get to do the schoolwork in my own time.

• I get to spend more time with my family

• I go to bed a little bit later and sleep in a tiny bit more. I play more video games and get to spend more time with my animals and people that live with me.



### What fun things have you enjoyed doing?

• I have enjoyed doing puzzles

• I've enjoyed cooking, playing computer games and chatting with friends. Going for walks and rides and video calling family.

• I enjoyed our home-made survivor course



### What do you miss about school?

✏ I miss playing with my friends and playing basketball at lunch time and snack. I miss seeing my prep buddies. I miss hanging with my mates after school.

✏ Playing with my friends

✏ My teachers

✏ I miss my friends, Miss Bate, Mr Andrews and all the teachers, Mrs Miles and Sarah and Kathryn and the computer lab.



### What sort of things have you been doing?

♦ Schoolwork, riding our bikes, playing outside, finger knitting, camping in the paddock, spending more time together, drawing, using air dry clay, reading books, writing letters to family and friends, making obstacle courses, shooting netball goals, playing in our outdoor sandpit kitchen, having campfires, playing piano and guitar

♦ Lots of drawing and doing lots of scootering and bike riding  
♦ Playing Fortnite, schoolwork, cooking, cuddling dasher my cat going for walks and riding my bike.  
♦ Playing my Switch and building Lego



### How is your day different than usual?

- Daddy is home and we get to see him
- No friends around.
- We get to spend more time playing with our dogs.
- Everything is different.

• I'm not allowed to see my friends and the rest of my family. I have to do schoolwork at home. I don't get to play any sport or go to training. I used to have sports five days a week.



### What new things have you learned?

- ♦ Cooking breakfast
- ♦ I've learned how to use a laptop and google classroom. I've learnt how to make bread.
- ♦ Playing the piano and I've improved on the guitar. We've definitely learnt a lot more about using technology.
- ♦ I've started learning to play the piano.
- ♦ Planting a veggie garden

### Other school news

Beaconsfield Upper Primary School has been notified that funding has been approved from the State Government to improve facilities and infrastructure to support students and staff with disabilities. The Accessible Buildings Program will enable the school to provide accessible ramps and building modifications to ensure students

and staff have access to appropriate facilities. Emma Tiberi and the PFA members are working hard to keep students and families connected and provide opportunities to get together online and have some fun. They have run quiz competitions and an online disco for the children and their families.

**BUPS NEWSLETTER 5 MAY**

### School at home

All the week days I do home schooling, it's fun, because you get to finish at 3.00, but the bad side is you don't get to see your friends. If you want to see your friends you have to face time or zoom. If you're not zooming you can play with your dogs or toys.

I like playing with my lego, writing

narratives, playing with my dogs and riding my bike. Those are my top 4 things I like to do when I am home schooling. After school I might even like to order some lego online so I can build. After school or at lunchtime you can go on the tramp or go on a big walk to the shops and back to get some exercise. I like my dog Rarchie because I can sit on him and he can sit on me – he is very,

very big like a horse.

I made a vending machine on one of my home schooling days – it was fun. I made money, food, and played. After a few days I painted my vending machine. It was very hard to make.

These are so many things you can do when your home schooling. Have fun!

**MARLEY WHITE**

## Multi-purpose trails in Upper Beaconsfield

During this time of self-isolation, many of us have discovered the variety of trails throughout our unique township. More than ever, locals are absorbing its beauty and appreciating the tranquillity of a village atmosphere in a semi-rural community. Now is the perfect time to encourage a healthy lifestyle by improving our trail network.

Upper Beaconsfield is unique as we have multi-purpose trails which are specified for walkers, joggers, trail runners, bike riders and many include horse riders. Unfortunately, while walking or riding on many of these trails it would appear that we are gradually losing our gravel surfaces to more and more concrete or bitumen sections.

Just a couple of examples are the path along Stoney Creek Rd which used to be gravel for its entirety and Foott Rd itself which horses can't safely be ridden on as it's been sealed without an alternative gravel footpath/trail as an option. These two examples form part of the "multi purpose trail" network in Upper

Beaconsfield, which is officially meant to be kept maintained and suitable for all users including horses.

Another trail which has been severely neglected follows the Cardinia Reservoir



fenceline for several kilometres all the way from Red Hill Rd to at least Bourkes Creek Rd. A cleared gravel path would allow for hikers, walkers, runners and riders to make the most of what we have on our doorstep while enjoying the beautiful scenery of Upper Beaconsfield and adjoining locations, potentially even as far as Emerald.

I'd encourage anyone who'd like to see the more natural aspects of our town saved, to contact Cardinia Shire and let them know that we wish to retain Upper Beaconsfield's village appeal and semi-rural atmosphere which could be achieved by maintaining and improving access to the numerous trails available for us to enjoy.

Search for Equestrian Strategy and Upper Beaconsfield Township Strategy on the Cardinia Shire Council website to see just what trails we have available and the many specific purposes they serve.

WENDY CORNTHWAITE



## What's happening at the Green Circle Plant Nursery?

The nursery has been closed to the public while the virus emergency has been in place. However, we have been working hard behind the locked gate taking care of the plants, keeping them watered, pricking out seedlings and preparing orders for our customers. Two or three volunteers have been able to work, keeping at a distance. As soon as restrictions are lifted we will let you know via social media. Then we will be open for retail customers again on Fridays!

Facebook Green Circle Plant Nursery  
<https://www.facebook.com/GreenCirclePlantNursery>  
<https://greencircleplantnursery.net.au/>

## Community Garden Thai pumpkin soup

Pumpkin is so versatile; you can eat the seeds, skin, flesh and leaves. This delicious recipe ensures you make the most of the whole pumpkin, so there's no waste, which means more food and nutrients for you! Our garden provides many benefits to our community. It gives us access to food that is fresh and locally grown, which is cheaper and healthier for you, and better for our planet. Engaging in the garden builds resilience and strengthens our community bonds.

### Ingredients (can be substituted):

pumpkin (enough to almost fill your baking tray)	borrow from the neighbours)
1-2 carrots	curry powder
1-2 leeks	can of coconut cream
1-2 chilli	olive oil
fresh coriander (self seeds this time of year, or	salt and pepper
	3-4 cloves of garlic
	1 litre of stock

### Method:

1. Pre-heat oven to 180 degrees.
2. In a baking tray, put peeled and chopped pumpkin, garlic, chilli, carrots and leeks. Drizzle with olive oil, coating all the vegetables. Sprinkle with about 2 tbsp of curry

powder.

3. On a separate tray, put seasoned and oiled pumpkin skins and seeds – this will be the garnish.
  4. Heat about one litre of stock.
  5. Roast the veg in the oven until vegetables are soft. Roast the pumpkin skins and seeds until crispy and crunchy and reserve for later.
  6. Remove vegetables from baking tray and put into a saucepan on a low heat. Add stock to saucepan.
  7. Once boiling, turn off heat, allow to cool slightly and blend with a stick mixer until smooth.
  8. Stir in one can of coconut cream.
  9. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
  10. To serve, garnish with pumpkin skin 'chips' and crunchy toasted seeds, fresh coriander and more chilli, if you dare.
  11. Serve with toasty bread or warm roti.
- Yummy!



ANGELIE O'BRIEN



# Aerial survey grant for deer management

As you may imagine, COVID-19 has affected the Cardinia Deer Management Coalition (CDMC) too: meetings have been cancelled and visits with property owners are now done over the phone. But not everything has stopped.

## Aerial survey

CDMC has been successful in gaining a \$20,000 federal Communities Environment Program Grant. The funding specifically enables the CDMC to conduct an aerial survey of representative parts of the Cardinia Creek catchment to ascertain the numbers and locations of feral deer in this area. The results should allow us to determine a reasonably accurate estimation of the total deer population.

The survey will use a high-resolution thermal imaging camera to detect the heat signature of animals in the bush, farmlands and even through the canopy. The cameras can differentiate between deer, kangaroos and wallabies, and between wombats and possibly koalas. For the most part a helicopter will conduct an aerial survey, but we may need a drone for some of the more densely populated or difficult to access areas.

The CDMC is collaborating with Parks Vic, Melbourne Water and the Cardinia, Casey and Yarra Ranges Shires. All these shires are seriously concerned about the damage deer are causing the environment in this catchment. Melbourne Water recently undertook a deer survey in the Cardinia Reservoir, and Parks Vic and Cardinia Shire are considering the possibility of conducting vegetation, camera trap and/or sentinel species monitoring in this area.

This is an exciting and unusual project in that several government agencies and local councils collaborate along with a citizen's group to gain a greater understanding of deer — the most serious vertebrate threat to our environment since rabbits were introduced.

Providing COVID-19 restrictions do not interfere, the survey is likely to occur in July, probably in the very early morning. Beforehand, a personal visit or letter drop will notify property owners in the near vicinity.

The CDMC will post updates about the preparations for the survey on our website under the Science tab. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us email us at the address below.

## DeerScan

DeerScan is a free app which enables users to log deer sightings, damage caused by deer and deer control activities. It is one of several apps under the FeralScan umbrella, which cover other pest species such as rabbits, foxes, feral cats, pigs, camels, Indian mynahs and more.

CDMC is one of the first groups to start using the DeerScan app when it first came online in November 2018. Since then hundreds of sightings have been logged, enabling us to get a better understanding of the locations and numbers of deer in our area.

We strongly encourage all in our local community who are concerned about the impact of deer locally to download and start using the app. It is user-friendly and only takes a short time to record a sighting, and a photo if you have one.

You can use FeralScan as an individual, where only you can view your sightings,

but the CDMC encourages locals to become a part of our group within the app. This enables us to establish an overall

picture of local deer sightings, damage and control activities. Sightings can be viewed by group members and local details are not visible to outside users.

To help us with DeerScan, download the app and let us know so we can invite you to the CDMC group.

## More properties

The damage being caused by deer throughout Victoria is increasing. The CDMC can do more to facilitate property owners' efforts to control deer on their land and the more properties we can help the better.

Currently, because of COVID-19 restrictions, the ability of pest controllers to cull deer is limited. However, it is a good time to lay the groundwork for new properties, so they can be ready for culling to take place when the restrictions are eased.

Let us know if you would like assistance understanding your rights and the laws relating to controlling deer on private property and how to go about setting up a relationship with a controller.

More information

- Email us at [info@cardiniadeer.org.au](mailto:info@cardiniadeer.org.au)
- Website at [www.cardiniadeer.org.au](http://www.cardiniadeer.org.au) (formerly [www.cardiniadeer.com](http://www.cardiniadeer.com))

**MIKE HALL, PRESIDENT**

**CARDINIA DEER MANAGEMENT COALITION**



## 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

Exercise 'circuit style' with a buddy or two to get your mojo going or to just have fun getting fit

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Upper Beaconsfield

## Vale Oksana Haywood (1948-2020)

Oksana was a highly spirited force of nature and a caring, inquisitive soul who lived in the moment. She was an epicurean in the kitchen and a loving person. You always knew where you stood with Oksana. She was always ready to encourage others who needed help in being bold.

In terms of local community involvement, Oksana had been a brownie-guide leader, served on the Upper Beaconsfield Association committee, and was working towards being more heavily involved in the Men's Shed! Further afield, she volunteered at the Embroiderer's Guild Victoria, and judged at the Royal Melbourne Show in the textiles exhibits. She worked in the Casey-Cardinia library service, sometimes even popping into Upper Beac for work on the mobile library.

Born in Leicestershire to refugee parents, her first language in the home was Ukrainian. At high school she met her future husband Roger — he just did not know that at the time! At age 19 she decided she would emigrate with her family as "Ten Pound Poms". The whole family arrived at Station Pier in Melbourne, after a 6-week voyage. Roger opted to move to Australia as well and they married some 6 years later.

After running a business together, in 1982 they decided to move into Upper Beaconsfield, and because of its beautiful established garden they

chose 'Gwenelg' which was part of the larger property initially belonging to the Sutherlands.

But less than a year later they were burnt out in the '83 bushfires. It was a miracle the family survived the fire, sheltering in the garage they had only finished building three weeks prior. Oksana and Roger worked tirelessly to rebuild and re-establish the garden back to its former glory.

Aside from gardening, some of her other passions were embroidery, listening to talking books and reading, travel and connecting with friends and family. When reading, Oksana would read the first chapter of a book then the last one before deciding if it were a book that was worth reading. She sometimes struggled to recall the names or dates of places she visited but being a natural storyteller, she certainly told you how she felt while she was there, what she saw or who she met. But always upon returning home after yet another adventure she would assert that Upper Beac has the best views in the world and she loved living near family members.

In the last week of her life she travelled



with family to Horsham with Freddie Mercury blasting from the car speakers, and made sure that everyone she loved was okay with her imminent departure from 'bloody stomach cancer' which had been diagnosed 80 days prior. She lived a life brimming with passion, always stood up for what she believed in and for those who she cared for. She was surrounded by love and loved life. A wonderful mother who will be sorely missed by all her family.

*HEIDI AND RICHARD HAYWOOD*

## Vale Chester Keon-Cohen AM (1941-2020)

Chester was born in Melbourne, and was educated at Scotch College, then studied law at Melbourne University while resident in Trinity College. He loved all sport especially rowing and golf, but excelled in swimming, and was a life saver at Pt. Leo and later supported Pt. Lonsdale Life Saving Club where he and the next two generations of the family were also life savers.

Chester married Sue Renou in 1965 just after he graduated LLB. His legal career started with articles at Rodder, Ballard and Vroland, and was admitted to practice in March 1966. He worked as a solicitor, then transferred to the Bar. He read in chambers with Glen Waldron, later Waldron CJ of the County Court, signing the Bar Roll in April 1969.

Chester was a barrister from 1969 to 1988 when he was appointed to the County Court. He was well regarded as a hardworking, enthusiastic, firm, but fair judge, willing to speak out against improper practices, whether in business or government circles. He spent quite a lot of time away on circuit in Ballarat and Mildura.

Chester purchased the land, which became Emily Hill Farm, in 1980 when he came to Dewhurst to help his colleague and friend, John Roberts, purchase an extension to his farm. With advice from the Victorian Agricultural Department he decided to grow blueberries on this land. The first plants were planted in late 1982 just in time for the 1983 bush fires. After the struggle of drought and fire a lot

of replanting happened the following year. Although not living on the farm at this time, a packing shed was built in 1990 and he and Sue and others could stay overnight from that time. Being able to stay overnight made Chester realise that the peaceful environment amongst the wildlife, despite the hard work of establishing the farm, was very pleasant.

In December 1994, aged just 53, he was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy. Just prior to this he and Sue decided to build and move to live at Emily Hill Farm and despite the diagnosis the plan was carried out as the Kew family house had already been sold. The new modern corrugated iron house was frowned on by many of the locals, but Chester loved it and it wasn't long before he said he



would never leave the house and life at Emily Hill Farm. His wish became a reality.

From 1996 to his death in March 2020 he enjoyed life at Dewhurst and became involved with the local communities of Upper Beaconsfield and Emerald. The farm went through stages and was organically certified in about 1987 which continues to this day. Stages included growing advanced trees, being an inaugural stall holder at the original Pakenham Farmer's Market, growing citrus and restoring the indigenous vegetation where possible. Chester continued as a judge of the County Court until he retired in 2001 aged 60. Following his retirement his health improved enormously and he became more physically active on the farm, played a lot of golf and enjoyed the Pt Lonsdale beach house, where he played lots more golf. From this time, he went on several golfing trips, and trips with Sue; the Galapagos, Easter Island, Borneo, The



Antarctic, amongst others.

One of his last outings was to the Village Festival this year. He said he

wanted to go, so the wheelchair was loaded into the car and Laurie Pritchard pushed him around to see all at the Festival.

The 'children' were grown up by the time Chester and Sue moved to live at Emily Hill Farm, but all participated and helped on the farm in some capacity. Their youngest son, Edward, and his family moved to Upper Beaconsfield and now is heavily involved in the farm. Chester really enjoyed having this family and the granddaughters so close.

The diagnosis of Motor Neuron Disease in November last year was a dreadful shock but over the previous 18 months we all came to realise that something was very wrong. The doctors were unable to come to any conclusion but suddenly the diagnosis explained all his symptoms. He faced the inevitable outcome of his disease with great courage and died at the Pt. Lonsdale beach house on the 9 March 2020.

**SUE KEON-COHEN**

## The low-down on waste at the Festival

This year's Village Festival saw a huge improvement regarding 'waste', not only evident in the data, but in the cultural shift towards being waste wise. We must truly thank all of you, our community, for our collective achievements.

The numbers are in, and after weighing the bins at the end of the day we can report that 50 kilograms of valuable compost was reclaimed, 57 kilograms of material was sent to be recycled, and 46 kilograms of rubbish was generated, which ends up in landfill. Having these numbers gives us a benchmark to improve upon at the next festival.

We also know where our challenges now lie. Some of the packaging our stall holders use might be theoretically recyclable, however is not accepted by our contractor, or is the wrong shape and size to be able to be sorted at the facility. Disposable coffee cups are another huge issue, and although we saw lots of keep cups, and estimate about 70 mugs utilised from the mug library, 335 disposable coffee cups remained onsite. Sadly, these cups cannot be composted or recycled. We

urge the community to get behind the mug library or bring their own keep cup next time, and we will work hard to give you an incentive to do so.

We are striving to do our very best because pollution caused by our event contributes to environmental degradation, species decline, and has human health impacts. We have a responsibility to our community, and to planet Earth, to have the most environmentally friendly festival possible. We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of the world; every day is a reminder that we are part of nature. For this reason, our commitment to the environment seems compounded and even more worthwhile.

Whilst shoulder deep in a wheelie bin (perhaps not the best timing), I was asked if I really thought what we were doing was worthwhile. The answer was YES! The positive flow-on effect from the festival has been highly evident and truly uplifting.

Firstly, Cardinia Shire councillors took the time to personally thank us for our work. The council is singing our praises,

to quote "an outrageously successful towards zero waste event". News of our waste wise event was all over Facebook and in the local papers. We have been nominated for the Tidy Towns awards. The festival may be used as a case study in resources to help other event organisers to become more waste wise. We have been contacted by other events for advice. To this day, we are still receiving emails, and getting stopped in the street with words of endorsement and encouragement. We have influenced positive change beyond the day and our immediate locale.

The festival reflects our community, you have inspired us to do better, and we have and magnified this beyond expectation. Thank you everyone.

**CARL HIRST**

*\* And thank you Carl Hirst, Jenny Pritchard and Beaconsfield Upper Primary School, with Cardinia Council support, for all their hard work in making the waste reduction drive happen.*

**VB EDITOR**

# Cardinia Shire Council Coronavirus updates



The health and wellbeing of our community, supporting community members, and supporting local businesses at this time continues to be Council's priority. While there have been some changes required to some of our services, council is still here for you and working hard to deliver essential services. Please stay safe and well informed while we distance, not disconnect.

## Updates to council services

Current guidelines mean modifications to some Council services. For up-to-date info about facilities, services, events visit: [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus). Our customer service centre at Officer is temporarily closed, but you can still contact us by phone or email, or access a range of online services via our website.

## Coronavirus Online Help Hub

The online Help Hub features a range of useful resources and information, supported by a dedicated team of staff who are on hand to help you find the information you need. See [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/onlinehelphub](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/onlinehelphub).

## Local support directory

Local groups can provide support during the coronavirus pandemic, including financial support, housing assistance and food services. To view the directory visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

## Community & Business support package

Council's support package assists community members, support groups,

and businesses to cope with the financial impacts of the coronavirus pandemic, and includes:

- Coronavirus Online Help Hub
- Dedicated 'Call Back' support team
- Business Concierge service
- Rent relief options for commercial tenants in Council properties
- More time to pay animal registration renewals
- Faster payments for suppliers and contractors
- Rebates for some business fees and charges
- Extended rate instalment due date
- Interest-free periods for rates
- Rates payment plans
- A rate rebate for eligible Health Care Card holders

People experiencing financial hardship are strongly encouraged to contact Council. Details at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus).

## Community survey seeks to better understand local needs

Help Council better understand local needs throughout the pandemic by completing a short, anonymous survey. The results of the survey will help guide our response and recovery efforts, assisting us to plan services and programs for both immediate support and recovery. The data gathered will also be used to understand how community needs change in relation to different stages of the pandemic, to help us plan for future pandemics. The survey is anonymous and will

take around 15 minutes to complete.

More info: [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)

## 'Connecting Cardinia' online: distancing, not disconnecting

Upload images and videos, share stories and ideas, and stay connected at this time online at 'Connecting Cardinia'. Whether it's sharing teddy bears in windows, tips to stay active, or home schooling set ups, you can join in at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connectingcardinia](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connectingcardinia).

## Bringing books to you

Casey Cardinia Libraries has launched a free, home delivery service to ensure library books, DVDs and other items are still available despite library doors remaining shut. [www.cclc.vic.gov.au/home-delivery](http://www.cclc.vic.gov.au/home-delivery).

## Videos at home

Casey Cardinia Libraries is also providing an online video library to continue entertaining both adults and children. This includes Baby Time, Tinies Time, Storytime and Sid Explores, see [www.cclc.vic.gov.au/library-at-home](http://www.cclc.vic.gov.au/library-at-home).

## Kinder applications

Applications are now open for three and four-year-old community kindergarten in 2021. To be considered for a first round offer the final date for new applications is Friday 26 June. [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten)

**CR BRETT OWEN**  
**RANGES WARD CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL**



## Brad Battin MP

During these challenging, unprecedented and unpredictable times, it has been incredibly heart-warming to see how my local community has come together to support one another. The Gembrook electorate has stepped up to stick by their local businesses in their time of need, even though many households are experiencing financial uncertainty

themselves. From safely buying takeaway, supporting the local butchers and their local personal trainer, they are ensuring that their favourite businesses will still be there when this crisis is over.

I also want to mention the small business owners in the Gembrook electorate are doing everything they can to adapt to these times and keep as many of their staff employed as possible. As I have said before, supporting local business is supporting local jobs. I am so proud of the communities in the Gembrook electorate for understanding the importance of shopping local and sticking by our local businesses during this difficult period.

I believe one positive to come out of

this pandemic is the stronger bond our community has formed during this challenging time and the stronger connection the people in the Gembrook electorate will have with one another.

You can contact me anytime via [brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au) or call my office on 5953 0216, and I will get back to you. Keep your family safe, take care and please think about our health workers on the frontline before deciding to break any of the rules.

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





## Community Centre update

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre is currently closed, except for the Early Learning Centre which is operating as normal.

We are devastated that we are unable to offer our term 2 programs, Toy Library or invite our amazing volunteers to participate at the centre, however the health and safety of our staff and members is most important to us.

Keep your eye on our Facebook page and our website [www.ubcc.org.au](http://www.ubcc.org.au) for any updates to our restrictions. We will also be offering avenues of support whilst in isolation, including zoom IT programs, social connections and community updates.

We look forward to seeing you all at the centre after the pandemic restrictions are over. Please look after yourselves, and reach out via phone if there is anything we can do to help.

**SARAH STICKLAND, CENTRE MANAGER**

## Early Learning Centre is still open



would love your children to learn and play with us!

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).



**ELLI HEATH**

The children have engaged in many different learning experiences across the beginning of this year. The children enjoyed the indigenous experiences for Australia Day and learning the meaning behind Anzac Day. The children have loved the new addition of meals to our Centre this year, which has also inspired us to do more cooking together as a group.

We have also been talking a lot about germs lately and assisting the children in being safe with reference to the disease COVID-19. We have been incorporating many different precautions to ensure that our centre remains a safe space for children to attend.

At this time, we are still accepting new enrolments for essential workers and



## Auskick delayed this season

Late March should have seen the start of the 2020 Auskick season, but due to the COVID-19 crisis it was clear early on that the chance to use the oval would be impacted, with a significant delay to the start of the season.

Through the uncertainty though, at Auskick we are doing all we can to maintain the momentum the club has enjoyed over recent seasons in a hope that when we do get a chance to take to the oval, our Auskickers will be ready and excited to get back out there to show off their skills.

Once the lockdown started, the Auskick community got together to make footys available for Upper Beaconsfield residents to use to hone their skills in their backyards. The initiative proved incredibly popular with over 30 footballs picked up by local children.

This earned coverage in The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald.

We're also posting regular updates on



the Facebook page with some activities to do in the safety of your backyard, as well as sharing some videos of what the countries best AFL players are doing at home to keep their skills up.

This year, Kris and Emma Tiberi handed over the head coach/co-ordinator role to me. When the season kicks off we'll be in search for a team of parents to help with the running of the activities each week, as well as a "head chef" to take care of the sausage sizzle which provides important funds to the club, and (if we're honest with ourselves) is a highlight of the day for many!

In the meantime, we will regularly post on the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ubauskick](http://www.facebook.com/ubauskick), so be sure to follow the group and stay tuned!

Looking forward to seeing you all out there as soon as it is safe!

**NICK PAYNE  
UPPER BEAC AUSKICK**

## Pony Club during lockdown



I hope everyone is staying safe in this uncertain time. Unfortunately, our Pony Club grounds and even the cross country and public arena are closed due to COVID-19 restrictions. We ask you as public to please not ride there for your own safety.

Pony club managed to hold our March rally just before the restrictions came into place. It was an enjoyable day which included dressage, cross country, show jumping and games.

To keep our members connected, pony club held an annual Easter dressage competition. It meant members got creative on their own properties, by mapping out dressage arenas. It was lots of fun dressing up and recording



our activities. The winning entries won Easter eggs for prizes—delicious!

Our pony club is continuing fun activities to do with our ponies to keep us all connected.

Most of us are riding when we can. It keeps up the fitness for horse and rider so that when life returns to some normality we can return to Pony Club. We are also hopeful the eventing season will return too, so that we can represent our Pony Club. With the wet weather setting in just a reminder to watch your horses' hooves for greasy heel, mud fever and hoof abscess. Take care everyone—we all cannot wait to get back out competing.

**TYRA BRAACK-NOON**

## Teaching old dogs new tricks

As the coronavirus pandemic shuts down our normal public activities, a new kind of life is opening up online. For the younger internet savvy, this transition is relatively easy, but not so for many of the older generations who are not as comfortable with this technology.

With the aim of keeping up communications, we have been sending out more emails. Even though most are just humour, it is a good first step and at this point I'd like to thank Ron Van Vliet for his efforts in this area.

Who says you can't teach old dogs new tricks? We have just started using the video-conferencing app Zoom. Some of the shed members have experience with apps like Skype, but not many with Zoom.

Our initial aim was to have a committee meeting on Zoom. A couple of us started playing with the app and when we were comfortable, we asked the rest of the committee to install Zoom. Our first scheduled committee meeting was hilarious: some had no picture, some no sound and some had nothing. The meeting was abandoned. We then spent time with each member sorting out problems and the next meeting was a success. The next aim is to try and have a meeting with as many of shed members as possible.

### Before the pandemic restrictions

Robert Panjkov, the famous dentist from Beaconsfield, who was the winner of the Victorian Premier's Sustainability Award, gave us a talk about what helped him win this award. The winning factor was the 126 solar panels on his roof that have generated over 80 megawatts of power in just over four years.

### Our meetings

The Shed is located at the rear of the Community Complex with entry from Halford Street and when all the current restrictions are lifted, we will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 am–1 pm. New members are always welcome, come along 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: [secubms@gmail.com](mailto:secubms@gmail.com) [www.facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldMensShed/](http://www.facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldMensShed/)

**RON KERPEN, PRESIDENT**



### Homeless blanket and coat appeal

May I pass on the sincere thanks from many of the recipients of the homeless blanket and coat appeal.

A plea for help was initiated by Dandenong Police and St James' Church across the road.

A request was then made to the Berwick Opportunity shop for assistance.

Other Men's Sheds such as Emerald and Akoona Park also assisted and much was collected, sorted and transported to various outlets.

Here at Upper Beaconsfield the Shed received special permission to open to act as a collection point.



When a request for help with bedding and coats was put on Facebook the floodgates opened, scoring some 50,000 hits (we went "viral").

Last Wednesday, 20 May, all goods were collected and distributed to the following places:

1. Berwick Op Shop
2. Dandenong Police Station
3. St James' Church Dandenong
4. Avalon Centre Malvern
5. BK-2 Basics Melbourne

All bedding and coats donated that day were circulated to the homeless before nightfall.

There are so many to thank, including the public, and the many volunteers who assisted in collecting, sorting and distributing.

Also a special thanks to Nicky Turner, St James' Church, Berwick Op-shop, Emerald Men's Shed, Akoona Park, Cardinia Shire Council, Casey Council, Brad Battin, Brett Owen, Harriet Shing, Kristen Jackson, Margaret Ruse, Adriana de Haan, and Noel Ling.

**BERT DE HAAN, SECRETARY**



# Record breaking 19/20 season for the Maroons

Last season Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club fielded eleven teams—the most since re-formation in 1984. Eight of those competed in finals, six reached the grand final and three were premiers.

The talented district team, headed by Dan Brennan, only lost one match and was playing its strongest cricket at the end of the season. Our U16s, mentored by Chris Pentland, enjoyed an unchallenged record with some players stepping up to senior cricket – even at the district level. The U14 Red team, coached by Luke Williams and Brad Trembath, also took the premiership, adding to the club's silverware. A success attributed to a well-managed coaching staff, led at the junior level, by junior coordinator Melanie Naismith.

Congratulations are due to all coaches, assistants and team managers for their fine work throughout the season.

The club has been working with stakeholders to upgrade facilities to provide change rooms and toilets for our females, as well as a staged development plan to serve our needs in the future. Cardinia Shire has now budgeted to support this project, as has the Federal Government through local Latrobe Member Jason Wood. The club would like to thank our local councillors for their support; in particular Cr Brett Owen who has backed the project for a number of years and lobbied hard to ensure Shire support.

The UBCC will utilise technology for its AGM in the near future and hopefully cricket can return to normal as soon as is practicable.

**ROB HANSEN**

*Photos from top:  
U14 Red Premiers 2020;  
U16 white; U14 white*





## Updates from the Rec Reserve

The Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Committee has met on the second Wednesday of the month except January for the last thirty-five years since 1985, when the committee was restructured by DELWP after the Ash Wednesday fires and the construction of the oval.

Thank you to current committee members for their attendance: Andrea Cockayne—Beaconsfield Junior Football Club, Ian Norbury—Scouts and treasurer, Roz Smith—Riding Club and secretary, Travis Delarue—BUPS, Shawn Hassall—Cricket Club, Andrew Ewenson (vice president) and I were community members. I particularly thank office bearers for their commitment to investigating the improvement of the reserve facilities.

We have investigated options for new unisex shower and toilet facilities to accommodate girls' cricket and football, umpire facilities and new public toilets to replace the antiquated existing facilities. We are examining plans for a new set of compliant changing rooms built on the track adjacent to the current buildings which meets AFL, Cricket Victoria and Cardinia Council

guidelines and suits the Scout Group. This, however, is dependent on costing and available funding.

Our lobbying of MHR Jason Wood at the federal election in May 2019 resulted in \$500,000 for this project. Our three Ranges Ward councillors Brett Owen, Jeff Springfield and Letica Wilmot provided \$50,000 for employing a designer of the project in Cardinia Council's 2019/2020 budget. The council announced another \$450,000 in the 2020/2021 draft budget published on 14 April with confirmation due in May after public comments. The council employed 3D Design from Pakenham late in 2019. After several meetings plans were developed to meet user group's needs. However, the pledged \$950,000 is not sufficient even for the existing plan and we may require a master plan, staged building, and more funds to fully address all the improvements needed.

We appreciate the commitment of our councillors for providing funds for the project and to Cr Brett Owen who has led the drive to secure the funds for girls changing facilities over the last three years.

We continued our program of fertilising, verti-draining, sowing, and spraying for weeds on the oval. The recent rain has ensured the oval is in excellent condition. With no current football, the oval will get a rest over much of the winter until the COVID-19 pandemic is over.

We cleared more vegetation inside the fence between the oval and the horse-riding area to provide a safer refuge area in Upper Beaconsfield for the fire season. A commitment to remove the heavy undergrowth on the northeast bank below the oval fence has yet to be undertaken with Cardinia Council funding, under the supervision of the Cardinia Environment Coalition.

The walking track through the horse-riding area along Burton Rd has not progressed significantly as the pile of gravel for completing the track has been removed by some unknown persons! The old cricket net has been removed and the Scout storage container painted to better blend in with the buildings. A new light tower for the oval has been installed to replace the unsafe one removed several years ago.

**BOB TAYLOR AM, PRESIDENT  
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## Scouts during lockdown

In February we attended the Village Festival and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to share Scouting with our wider community. We did push carts, a lolly hunt, and several other activities around the festival. Our Rover Crew were again actively involved in helping the Tower Run. Many new families expressed an interest in joining the Scout group, with new Joeys, Cubs and Scouts coming along to our first term sessions. Then everything changed!

Like all businesses and community groups, the threat of COVID-19 changed many of the things we were doing previously. We have all been through what we hope will be a once in a lifetime experience. We have needed to endure what until recently could only be imagined in the worst movie script. We have however started to emerge out of it relatively intact.

All our sections have resumed this term with some sort of online program through use of video meeting platforms. Whilst this is no substitute for what we normally do at Scouts, it will however keep the sections connected until such time as we can get back together in person. The Scouting program will likely resume in line with school attendance, however with the possibility of small groups soon being permitted to meet, we might even be back a little earlier on a modified program.

To help the local Scouts community we will not be charging fees this year, deferring fees until March 2021. This is an opportunity for new families to try scouting too, so hopefully as things resume there might be an opportunity for new members to try out Joeys (5 to 7), Cubs (7 to 11) and Scouts (11 to 15).

Hopefully, this will also help local families.

We will still need to find a way to cover the costs of insurance, administration and some other maintenance expenses, so we will be doing some fundraising in the coming months as a group to help support all of our families and volunteers through this tough time.

Thank you to all our leaders who are all going outside of their comfort zones to help support and connect with our youth online. It is greatly appreciated by all.

**JD (CHAIRMAN) &  
ANDREW EWENSON (GROUP LEADER)**



## A serve from the Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club

The Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club, like most of our community sporting organisations, has had to close our gates while stage 3 COVID-19 restrictions have been in place. The restrictions and closure of the club have delayed the start to our junior and senior winter seasons and paused our mid-week ladies and night competitions. The restrictions have also meant that all tennis coaching had to be put on hold for the time being. While this has been frustrating for our members and our club coach Karen, it has been necessary to protect our community.

During this time, our members have had to find other ways of staying active and healthy, and those of us who normally play on the weekends have been enjoying the temporary break in routine. Our juniors and their families are also enjoying the Saturday and Sunday morning sleep-ins while they last! We look forward to getting back on the court with renewed enthusiasm when the time allows.

We continue to be guided by government authorities and Tennis Victoria, and will be re-

opening our gates for our members and the broader community as soon as we are able. We are hoping that this will happen late May or early June.

When our gates re-open why not give tennis a try if your family's sports are not yet back up and running. Depending on the remaining social distancing restrictions, Karen will hopefully soon be able to offer private lessons again, which many of the kids will be looking forward to. A reminder that Karen offers a wide range of coaching at the club to all members of the community, including ANZ Hot Shots, Squad Coaching, private & semi-private lessons and Cardio Tennis

(which I am sure a lot of us will benefit from to help burn off some of those isolation kilos). All of these coaching offerings will return as soon as possible once the restrictions are lifted. Please keep an eye out for updates on Facebook as they become available. If you would like further information about tennis coaching, Karen can also be contacted on 0403 454 554, karen@ultimatetennismelbourne.com or <https://www.facebook.com/UltimateTennisMelbourne/>

### T-shirt design competition

Finally, we would like to remind our junior families that we have a club t-shirt design competition underway. Why not use this spare time to design an amazing t-shirt for our club members? The winner will get a free t-shirt and will have their design used as the new club t-shirt for all members. For more details, please contact the club committee. See you on the courts before too long!

**UBTC COMMITTEE**



# Upper Beaconsfield Runners – How COVID-19 has affected us

It has been a long time since our last Friday morning group run on 20 March and the initial shock of the lock-down laws has died down, but only just. On that particular morning I was (somewhat naively) trying to keep just that one hour out of my week as normal as possible while the COVID-19 disease had started to not only take over its victim's immune systems but also our media here in Australia. Myself and 6 other runners took off up to the water tower like some of us have done nearly every Friday morning for close to two years. It was a familiar feeling. Arriving at the school portico to find out who has braved the early morning rise out of bed, seeing the regulars and the new faces, feeling the cold air on your own face, and hearing the sounds of the birds and familiar conversations with understanding voices as you catch up on the events of the past week. This day was a bit different though. For all the familiarities, there was an almost unspoken agreement that we'd stay 1.5 metres away from each other. The rules were already common knowledge and 'social-distancing' was a phrase we'd all heard a lot of in the previous week. Usually there'd be the odd fist bump, hand shake, high five, hug and/or sweaty arm around each other for a post-run photo and we'd have silly grins on our faces that we couldn't possibly hide. This time the smiles were there but so was the distance between us.

As that day went on, I was starting to feel a bit guilty about a run I had planned with a large group the next morning. The easy way out was to think of it as a kind of last hurrah before what I thought could become a complete lockdown (a bit like our

PM going to the footy on a weekend and not implementing the new social gathering laws till the following Monday). The message that sealed my fate was one which urged people to think of the medics on the front and suggested those who blatantly ignore the message to stay home were simply being selfish and potentially adding to the severity of the pandemic. I not only thought of those amazing front line medics but also loved ones going through chemo, kids with conditions that make them more susceptible to illness and of course the elderly, including my father. While I try not to judge what others do, I knew what I had to do to play my small part. Then and there I pulled out of the next day's group trail run, went out to the garage and started setting up for my self isolation ultra marathon.

The 30-metre course was set up complete with aid station, music, an amazing support crew of our twin 10 year old daughters and some brilliant planning that meant I ran right past the beer fridge for refreshments. Total number of laps covered was 1720 which added up to over 50 km but my GPS watch lagged and FINALLY reached 43 km, a point where I could finish knowing for sure that I'd run an ULTRA marathon (any distance over a marathon, 42.2 km). It's been amazing to see so many other people all over the world doing runs on their own properties and a Facebook page



dedicated to isolation running.

UBR is in hibernation mode at the moment. We are adapting though. Some of us have set ourselves solo challenges such as exploring new trails, roads and areas of our own town from our doorstep, covering a certain daily or weekly distance, buying a treadmill for home (something I never thought I'd do!) and of course getting ultra loopy on our own property! We look forward to those early Friday mornings, when once again we'll run around our beautiful, quiet town. Maybe, when we're allowed to, we'll see some new faces of any age or ability running with us but until then, we hope everyone can stay safe.

**DREW DUNSTONE**

The Upper Beaconsfield Runners group can be found on Facebook or alternatively Drew Dunstone can be contacted on 0459 220 059.

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