

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

VILLAGE BELL

Upper Beaconsfield Association
www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au

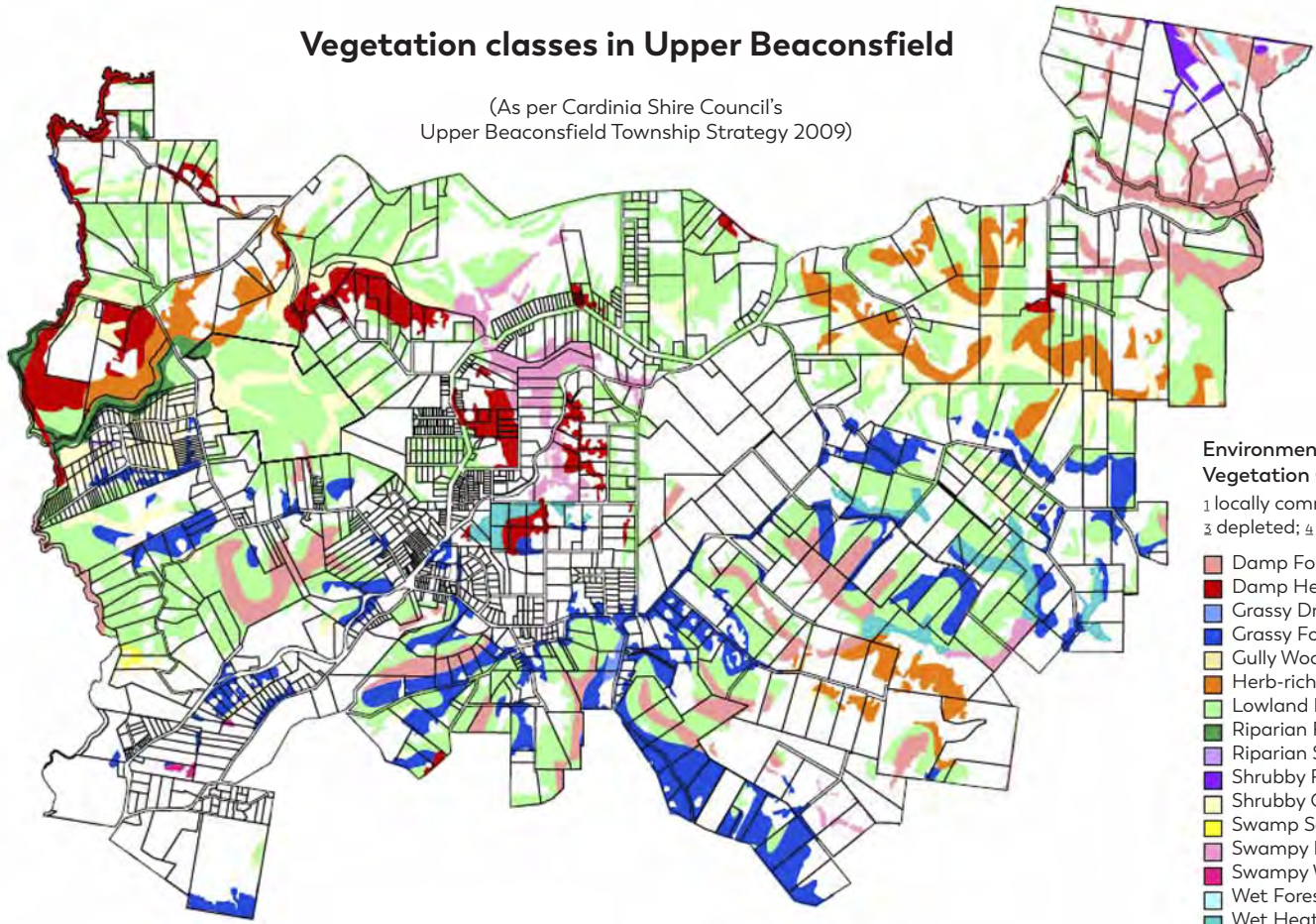
Issue No. 222
December 2020

*Season's
Greetings*

photo Rosz Smith

Vegetation classes in Upper Beaconsfield

(As per Cardinia Shire Council's
Upper Beaconsfield Township Strategy 2009)



Some plant communities you can find in Upper Beaconsfield



A successful Safer Together grant helps Upper Beaconsfield



In 2018, the UBA Resilience Committee began looking at the successful Monbulk Safer Together project with the aim of adapting the process for Upper Beaconsfield. Cardinia Council supported this initiative and was successful in gaining a six month grant. Hosted by Stewart Matulis, the first meeting was attended by representatives from 15 community groups.

The UB Safer Together project had three aims:

- Identify ways to improve fuel management in Upper Beaconsfield with the intention to reduce the incidence and impact of fire.
- Ascertain their priorities for fuel management in Upper Beaconsfield.
- Develop strategies to achieve fuel management priorities that will be sustainable.

Following a community survey, and community consultation three community working groups were formed to address three priorities:

- Increasing community/fire guard groups
- Open air burning advocacy

- Implementation fuel management zoning and actions guide

Following the conclusion of the project Cardinia Shire handed over the ongoing activities to the UBA.

Due to the complexity surrounding fuel management and the need for greater expertise, the UBA worked with DELWP to formulate a project under the Victorian government Safer Together funding scheme and was successful in achieving a grant for \$74,000 to understand how to protect biodiversity through fuel management.

The community sits at the core of this project, which aims to identify what priorities and values are important to Upper Beaconsfield residents and to establish a means to achieve these. With significant input from the local community the steering group plans to develop a tool to help local landowners identify what values they have on their properties, the range of vegetation management options available and how these may be used to enhance and protect the things we and our communities care about most.

The UBA co-leads the steering group which includes representatives from

the local community, DELWP, CFA and Cardinia Council. With the help of research and technical assistance from Monash and Melbourne Universities and technical advice from DELWP and CFA, the grant project aims to:

- Conduct surveys of the local residents to identify what priorities and ecological values are important to Upper Beaconsfield residents
- Use computer modelling to identify the effects and risks of these treatment options
- Use a structured decision making process in pulling together the complex issues surrounding community safety, biodiversity and local amenity to establish strategies which will give the local landowners the tools to make informed decisions on how to manage fuel on their property for their own and the communities' benefit.

The project is due for completion in June 2021, well before the 2021/22 fire season.

For more information contact Glenn Brooks-MacMillan on 0428 427 004 or email info@srea.org.au.

Managing our natural environment

Upper Beaconsfield is pro-actively taking on the challenge of fuel management to reduce the intensity of bushfires – refer to article above. It's never a bad time to take stock of our current knowledge, with the aim of constant improvement. The adjacent map and images show our local flora is not homogeneous, so it is unlikely that a one plan fits all approach will do. If we build out too much, endangered species may be put under more threat too.

Vegetation existing on any local piece of land has a human footprint. Bruce Pascoe's book *Dark Emu* – an interpretive compilation of numerous Australian explorers' diary notes – sets the agenda on understanding historical land management in Australia.

Briefly, Aboriginal civilisation was made up of villages of mainly fixed buildings of advanced functional architecture. Across the continent, high quality soil regions were used to grow native grains (that were reaped and ground into flour), and yams – an edible

tuber. Areas of poorer soil were left forested, and often regenerated ever so skilfully with fire – so that grasses for game abounded, and our multitude of native shrubs and flowering plants had an opportunity to flourish in these designated areas. Weirs for catching fish, abounded on river systems.

To enforce the myth of 'terra nullius', new colonists bringing in their sheep, ransacked these villages and weirs. In the same era on the 'mother island', the Scottish Highlands were being cleared to make way for sheep. Same technique – burn the thatched roofs of buildings rendering them uninhabitable. The Highlanders suffered starvation and exposure; also the Aborigines who were introduced to many new deadly diseases, and were further discriminated against because of the colour of their skin.

With the loss of Aboriginal knowledge, huge areas of previously open forest grew rampantly into a more 'impenetrable' style of growth. Mix

this with a dry period, hot summer winds, and a source of ignition and you get 'wild fire', an entirely white man's creation. Add the complicating factors of private property and expensive fencing to the equation, then you are faced with the modern predicament.

Casual observation from a long-time resident shows that our fire adapted flora 'behaves' in a way that encourages fire. Shrubs have a short life-expectancy, leaving dry skeletons, and mature trees shed copious amounts of sticks, leaves and bark at a rate faster than decomposition, leaving a build-up over time. After a fire, preferably not too hot, there is a flurry of competition between species to re-occupy the area.

However, not all plants need fire to re-establish. Some can germinate from seed at any time. Others coppice by sending up new shoots from the root base after any disturbance. Wetter forests, that only burn during periods

continued on page 7

Rainfall on St Georges Road

No greenwashing here

August rains were 13.1 mm above last year and 26.2 mm greater than the long term average.

September was 1.2 mm over last year but 23 mm drier than average.

October was 53 mm more than last year and 5.9 mm over the average.

Hence, rainfall for the quarter was 67.3 mm more than last year and 9.1 mm more than average.

For the year to date, we have had 988.2 mm compared with 549.6 mm

for the same period last year, or the average of 780.1 mm.

There is no fake news or greenwashing in our patch, we are genuinely way wetter than normal.

Feels like we are in the green, green hills of Ireland ... now that rhetoric may be a bit of greenwashing.

But who knows, with Trump gone, less tweets and more climate action could help us keep the green with no wash at all.

ANDREW REWELL

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	86.5
Jun	80.3	66.6	53.2
Jul	78.6	75.0	45.5
Aug	85.7	98.8	111.9
Sep	90.6	66.4	67.6
Oct	94.3	47.2	100.2
Nov	86.5	91.4	
Dec	80.4	25.4	
Total	947 mm	666.4 mm	

Dinner winners – check your fridge magnet numbers!

At last, hotels and restaurants are open for seated meals. Check the number on the top right corner of your Open Air Burning fridge magnet. If one of the three winning numbers is yours, then you have won a dinner for 2 at the Pine Grove Hotel to the value of \$20 per person during the month listed. That will fully cover two parma night meals, but alternatively you can choose from the range of pizza meals and the a la carte menu. You just must pay the difference above \$20.

Congratulations if these are your numbers. Please ring the Pine Grove Hotel, ph 5944 3524, during your

winning month and book your two meals or order a takeaway if they are available.

Please mention

that you are the month's winner for the Open Air Burning dinner prize and bring your fridge magnet to the hotel to show that you have the winning number.

The dinners for September and October have been redeemed.

Many thanks to our sponsors, The Pine Grove Hotel and RMBL Investments, Dandenong for their support of these dinners.



Winning numbers

chosen at random

December	258
January	710
February	551

HARRY JENSEN,
OPEN AIR BURNING
ADVOCACY GROUP



Free green waste drop-off for Cardinia Shire residents

Lysterfield

Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre.
840 Wellington Rd, Lysterfield
Friday 4 – Monday 7 December 2020
9 am – 4 pm

Village Bell thanks

P & S Amos; Robyn Cannizzaro; Mirella Fiorese; Cathy & Michael Fisher; Cathy Hermans; Marie Howard; L & J Jeffs; Peter & Vivien Lipshut; Russell Family; Liz Stevenson; Julie & Daryl Timms; Linda Tormey

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

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

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

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

Village Bell editorial coordinator Helen Smith tel 5944 3219 – **Editorial team** Julie Born, Linda Burrridge, Kaylene Cox, Caro Letts, Cheryl O'Gallagher – **Layout** Marianne Rocke – **Photo editor** Cameron Rocke

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Send articles by 7 February 2021 to editor.villagebell@gmail.com

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About town

Car accident at the Church

On 8 October 2020, a spectacular incident resulted from a collision at the Emerald Road intersection near the church. One of the vehicles exited the intersection on the diagonal, across the nature strip, through the low post and rail across the garden bed, over the bank, and landed on the driveway right beside the front corner of the church.

We have learned the collision resulted because a vehicle coming out of Salisbury Road failed to give way to a vehicle travelling along Beaconsfield-Emerald Road. It was not the result of any confusion regarding cars coming out of opposing streets and having to give way.

Fortunately, no one was seriously injured, although the two vehicles were worse for wear.

The accident is a reminder that all vehicles on Emerald Road have the right of way, and drivers entering from Salisbury Road and St Georges Road must give way. Traffic through this intersection is getting busier as more people than ever before are driving through Upper Beaconsfield to and from other places. Take care and be patient when navigating this intersection.

Salisbury House extensions underway

Menarock Salisbury House has commenced the development of a 30-bedroom addition to the existing 60 bed residential aged care facility on the site to the western side of the existing building. The additions will comprise three levels – a basement car park, and the ground level and first floor contains

the new bedrooms and includes sitting and dining areas. “Salisbury House” is a former nineteenth century resort building and has historic significance to Cardinia.

Local drivers are urged to be careful when travelling along Salisbury Road, or parking in the vicinity. There may be many trucks making deliveries of building materials entering and exiting the building site in Salisbury Road.

Carols cancelled this year

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have cancelled the Carols in Keith Ewenson Park. There was too high a risk posed by many people and families from a variety of locations gathering in our small park. Victoria has done a great job in beating down the spread of the virus. As demonstrated in outbreaks in other places, the virus spreads quickly. Hopefully by Christmas 2021, there will be a vaccine available.

Upper Beac Citizen of the Year

The annual COY dinner is normally held in early November. It was cancelled this year due to COVID-19. However, the 2020 award is going ahead. Do you know someone who is doing great work in our community in Upper Beaconsfield? Then please forward a nomination.

The two categories to the award are Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

Nomination forms for the 2020 COY have been emailed to community groups and residents. The deadline for nominations is 31 December. Information details included with the nomination form include who is eligible, and the evidence needed to support your nomination. Young COY comes with an award of \$100.



Next public meeting

Upper Beaconsfield Association annual general meeting Wednesday 3 February 2021 at 7.30 pm. We invite residents to come along, meet other residents and contribute to the well-being of our town.

If you want a digital copy of the form, please email UBA secretary Helen Smith on helen.r.smith@iinet.net.au

Keith Ewenson Park playground upgrade

Cardinia Shire Passive Reserves Project Officer Shane McGrath recently visited the Community Complex and outlined the options for the new playground to the UBCC Buildings & Grounds Committee and the Community Centre. It was followed by a site inspection to show the other improvements for the park. As well as the new playground, the plan will include a new pathway for better access, improved picnic table and seating, and improvements to the BBQ. A new boundary fence will go along the side and back of the playground.

The works will commence in February and take 8 weeks to complete. Residents will need to keep children away from the works. Hopefully it will be open in time for autumn and there will be nice weather to enjoy the improvements.

“Think Local, Support Local” Christmas competition

To build on what makes our community is to continue to support each other by being kind and lending a helping hand when we see someone in need. As part of this generosity of spirit, I am sharing with you the importance of “Think Local, Support Local”. I am running a competition to support this initiative, where I am asking residents to nominate their favourite local business and go into a draw to win a voucher to spend over Christmas at the store they nominated. Entries will be accepted until 11 December and will be drawn

on 12 days throughout December. You can enter the competition by going onto my website; bradbattin.com.au.



Santa schedule



We are pleased that the annual Christmas Eve CFA Santa run will still go ahead this year.

Grant Court	7.00 pm
Paul Grove	7.20 pm
Rec Reserve	7.45 pm

There will be an opportunity for COVID safe photos with Santa and the CFA truck at the Rec Reserve.

If you see Santa driving around town spreading Christmas cheer, be sure to give him a wave.

From our local shops

Post Office

Just a reminder from the Post Office that all parcels should be collected as soon as possible. It will be getting busier than ever soon for Christmas.



Residents would like to thank the great effort by our posties, particularly John Russell and Kate Hutson and others for a sterling effort this year due to the extra deliveries brought about by more people ordering products online throughout the pandemic lockdown.

Message from Up the Hill Bakery

We would like to sincerely thank all our customers for their support in what has been a challenging year for everyone. Many customers, and indeed the wider community, have faced upheaval in their lives. Some have had extra work pressures, some have had no work, others were trying to juggle working from home and teaching kids! Then there are those who faced health

issues, the passing of loved ones and mentally struggling to cope with life.

The staff would like to thank our customers for sharing this crazy journey with us and allowing us into your lives. We really appreciate you and the wonderful uniqueness you all bring to our little bakery. Big thank you to all our wonderful staff at the bakery too. You guys are awesome!

LISA SYKES

Merry Christmas from Foodworks

I would like to thank everyone in the community for their support during the lockdown. Also their patience when deliveries were delayed, and shortages on grocery and goods due to high demand in the March/April period.

Thank you again for your continued support after restrictions have eased.

As most of you know, my husband had an emergency operation at the end of October, and I am humbled by the offers of help from the community. Pramod is recovering well.

Thank you all once again.

ANITA

The Village Bell thanks you



We hope everyone has enjoyed reading the Bell throughout 2020. Our aim is to strengthen Upper Beaconsfield's sense of community by keeping residents informed of current and past news and events.

This is the time of year to thank all those in the community who make our community paper possible.

Best wishes to all for the coming festive and holiday season and keep safe!

What's new at The General Store

Many thanks to all the locals for supporting the store during the lockdown. Your support has enabled us to employ more local staff. The water truck is now available for delivering water to people on tank water. We have Christmas products and hampers in store for gift ideas. More sit-down areas are now available for patrons enjoying coffees and food. Book online via our website.

STEPHANIE DAVEY



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SCOOPED ICE CREAM

CONFECTIONARY

Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex announcement

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Building & Grounds Committee triennial meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 February 2021. This is a committee of management for the Department of Land Water Environment and Planning. Interested residents and people with facility management skills are invited to join this group which looks after the Community Complex (including the

heritage listed hall) in Salisbury Road. This is a different committee to the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre Inc, which is the major user group at the Complex, and is a neighbourhood house. For more information contact Helen Smith, secretary helen.r.smith@iinet.net.au

Now that gathering restrictions are being lifted in venues, we will be able to take hall bookings for the new year. Maximum numbers in the hall to be confirmed as soon as we have definite details.

Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall



Family functions,
club fundraisers

Bookings please
leave a message

5944 3219

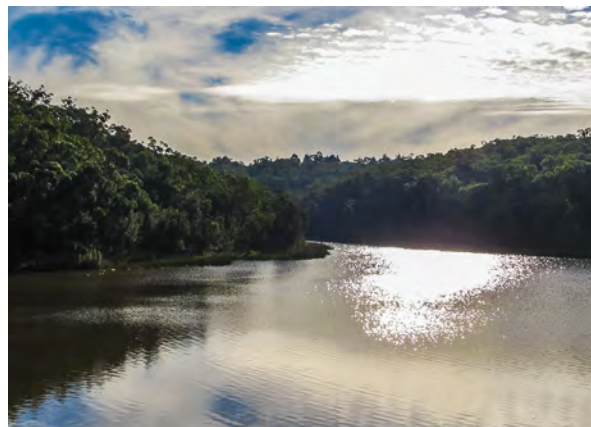
Update on the Beaconsfield Reservoir

- Melbourne Water (MW) has commissioned a detailed engineering/feasibility study on its preferred option. This study should confirm capital costs, technical feasibility and whether the project meets the environmental, public amenity and passive recreational objectives.
- We understand that MW is close to finalising its proposal and will then actively engage with the local community.
- The UBA is in the process of drafting an open letter to MW urging it to provide an update on the project and engage with the community for feedback.

- The local community has many passionate groups who wish to see this defunct and largely inaccessible public asset turned into an environmentally sound facility suitable for passive recreation.
- The UBA seeks a meeting with MW to understand the current status of the project and the timetable for community consultation.

- In this issue of the Village Bell the UBA has decided to delay any publication of articles by members of the community until MW releases its latest plans.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION



Some residents have formed a Facebook group: 'Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir'. Contact www.facebook.com/groups/savethebeaconsfieldreservoir/, or email save.the.beaconsfield.reservoir@gmail.com

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of extreme drought may take an extraordinarily long time to regenerate, and may need to get their stock from small areas missed by a fire. It is standard practice in major controlled burns, that 'no go' areas are marked out, to protect fire sensitive species.

On smaller private properties, various new mulching machines – not totally destructive and affordable to buy or hire – may be of great use instead of us relying on fires to clear or regenerate these areas.

Conversely, is efficient small fire burning of tree refuse really such a problem if it emits less carbon than the enormous amount growing trees pull back from the atmosphere in return?

Landowners and experts on flora management need to learn to trust each other. We need to defeat the maxim that 'common sense is not so common'.

CAMERON ROCKE



An example of human effect on the local landscape. A thickly forested area no longer maintained by Aborigines, which was described as having a magnificent fern gully (picture 1), is subsequently cleared (picture 2) by another owner. Later, this piece of land was largely left untouched for 20 years, and the vegetation (including weeds) made a comeback (picture 3).

During the Ash Wednesday fires the area was still cleared. If it had been forested, it would have posed a major threat to several buildings in the centre of Upper Beaconsfield, spared by the fires. In the distant future, the composition of this land may change again according to the new owners' beliefs.

Prepare your property for the fire season



Usually at this time of year we are talking about fire restrictions. This year things are slower to get off the mark. At the time of writing this article there was no known introduction date for fire restrictions, however, that does not mean that there will be no fire restrictions.

If you have not done so already, you need to prepare your property NOW. This means cutting long grass, removing excess fuel, moving wood piles away from the house, and cleaning gutters.

Recent rains and a La Niña weather pattern has the BOM predicting above average rainfall for the spring and early summer seasons for much of south eastern Australia with an increased likelihood of tropical cyclones in northern Australia.

This year leading up to summer, the conditions are quite different to last season where tragically 34 people lost their lives and a staggering 3,500 homes were lost across the nation. Last season NSW and QLD fought catastrophic bushfires in Oct/Nov after prolonged drought. Then it was East Gippsland's turn towards the end of the year and in the early part of 2020. Whilst there is a slower start to the fire season this year, there is no room for complacency as we know that fire can take hold and spread quickly with disastrous effects.

Fire Danger Period

The CFA declares the Fire Danger Period (FDP) each year on a municipality basis in consultation with key stakeholders and relevant authorities. Several factors are taken into effect when declaring the FDP, but the main ones are recent rainfall and grassland curing. Some of our neighbouring municipalities may enter the FDP slightly before or after us in Cardinia Shire, depending on their driving factors.

There will be a mandatory two-week notification period once the FDP is declared, with advertising across many platforms including the fire brigade and local community Facebook pages along with the CFA and Cardinia Shire web sites.

Once the FDP is declared in our municipality, open air burning for fuel reduction is no longer permitted no matter how innocuous or small a pile it may seem. Victoria Police will be

automatically notified of any illegal burn offs during the declared fire danger period.

Either way, it is incumbent on you the resident/land owner of a property living in one of the highest fire danger localities in the state to be aware of the rules about what you can and cannot do during the Fire Danger Period and on days of Total Fire Ban. For more information head to the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can

Fire Danger Ratings

You have all seen the Fire Danger Rating signs on the roadside, but do you know the science behind what each category means? The ratings are updated daily and can be found on the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/central-fire-district

Low Moderate/High/Very High

If a fire starts in these conditions, it can most likely be controlled and homes can provide safety. Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk. Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe. Check to see if permits apply.

Severe

Expect hot, dry, and possibly windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable. Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.

Extreme

Expect extremely hot, dry, and windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable, and fast moving. Spot fires will start, move quickly, and come from many directions. Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.

CODE RED

These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. Most homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas on these days.

Fire Danger Ratings should form part of your overall fire plan and can be a helpful tool when considering your trigger points on whether to leave home or stay on a day of fire danger.

Each family/property will have different trigger points and circumstances for leaving. You may have a plan A, but what about a plan B? What if the road is blocked by a tree? What if the fire is preventing your escape? Is there another (safe) way out? Where will you go? Who will you tell? What about the pets? Has anyone checked on the elderly neighbours? Do you have adequate equipment and resources at home to stay and defend? Head to the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare for more information about creating a fire plan.



What can I do to stay informed this summer?

Vic Emergency App. Download on your mobile phone. It keeps you informed of any impending danger (fire or otherwise) in the immediate or surrounding area. If you need a hand to set it up properly please don't hesitate to contact us at the fire brigade.

Battery radio. Tune into emergency broadcasters such as ABC Radio Melbourne (774 on the AM band), in the event of a power failure. Keep spare batteries.

Upper Beaconsfield SMS Fire Alert System. Add your phone number(s) to this local service to receive important notifications in the event of an emergency. This is not connected or related to the Vic Emergency App. It is an additional service that you can subscribe to for a small fee of just \$5 per phone number. For more information and how to join, phone the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre on 5944 3484, or visit www.ubcc.org.au/sms-fire-alert-system

Facebook. Follow the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade on Facebook where we will post information and updates of any incident or event likely to affect residents.

There is more than one place to receive information. Always ensure that the information you are receiving is the latest and up to date information.

Brigade activities

The Covid-19 pandemic forced us change the way we do things around the brigade. With reduced numbers and contact hours allowed at the fire station, we had to schedule training differently to cater for the capped numbers, and all meetings were online.

Either way, our eager fire fighters have been busy conducting our mandatory pre summer requirements and important skills maintenance. This season we hope to have three new recruits who have been with us since the early part of the year signed off in time to join us. We welcome new

members Tracey, Tash and Ian to the team.

Callouts

We had eleven callouts since the last Village Bell including a stint of six calls in six days in early September. 10 calls were primary calls and one support call.

4 x grass and scrub fires

1 x motor vehicle accident

3 x structure fires

3 x false alarms

Thank you

We have received generous donations from members of the community and some business organisations. We thank them all. It has enabled us to purchase much needed operational equipment such as the addition of two iPads which will make our life easier in the field utilising features like mapping.


On behalf of the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade, we wish all residents a happy Christmas. After a challenging 2020, may we all look forward to return to some normality in 2021. Stay safe this summer.

IAN PINNEY, CAPTAIN



Victoria, you know fire.

Victoria was hit hard in the 2019-20 fire season. The 2020-21 season is coming and you know as well as anyone how important it is to plan and prepare. Ensure your home is fire ready, ensure your family knows your plan, and be ready to leave early.

How well do you know  fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to vic.gov.au/knowfire

Protect the skin you are in

With sun shining and restrictions lifting, we all want to go out and enjoy the weather. But do not forget about protecting your skin from sun damage.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2017-18, nearly one in three people (30.8%) had skin cancer. It has been estimated that at least two in three Australians will be diagnosed with some form of skin cancer before the age of 70 years (Staples, 2006).

Skin cancers are divided into basal cell cancer (BCC), squamous cell cancer (SCC), melanomas and others.

Basal cell cancer

BCCs are the most common skin cancer especially in white and fair-skinned people. It's rare in dark skinned individuals. It appears most commonly at sun exposed areas especially head and neck areas. However, it can develop at any part of skin. It can manifest as a small pink or red spot or a pearly lump. BCC is a slow growing cancer and rarely spreads to other parts of the body. However, it can be locally invasive and can damage nearby structures.

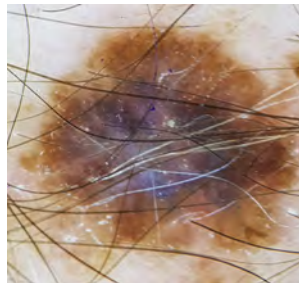
Squamous cell cancer

SCCs are second most common skin cancers and like BCCs they are also more common in older people. Like

BCCs, SCCs are also more common in sun exposed areas. However, any area of skin can be affected including oral mucosa. It typically starts as a small crusted or scaly area of skin with a pink or red base. It may grow into a lump which can sometimes ulcerate or bleed from time to time. They spread faster than BCC and can also spread to other parts of the body. However, it is rare and most are treated before any spread occurs.

Melanomas

Melanomas (below) are the least common type of skin cancer but the most serious. It's the fourth most common cancer in Australia. Amongst all skin cancers, melanoma is most likely to spread to the whole body and hence an early detection and treatment can be curative in most cases. Most of the melanomas arise on normal skin and small percentage on existing pigmented lesions.



It's common for children and young adults to get new moles; however, if

you notice a new mole after the age of 25 (and especially after 40) then you should get it checked by your doctor. If you notice any new growth or dark area of skin or new change (in shape, size or colour) in an existing mole then again you should see your doctor. A history of skin cancers or family history of melanomas increase your risk as well and warrants regular skin checks. The more moles a person has, the higher the risk of melanomas.

Remember, a skin cancer which may be very easy to treat in early stages can be a difficult thing to treat in late stages.

Prevention

Since most skin cancers are caused by excessive exposure to sun, sun protection is the best prevention for skin cancers. There are some apps which can tell you the UV index for your area and when sun protection should be used. The skin should be protected with sun screen, hats and protective clothing especially when the UV index is 3 or more. In particular, children should be protected from the sun. Sunburn or excessive exposure to sun in childhood is the most common causative factor for skin cancer in adulthood.

PUNEET MALHOTRA AND
ANSHU MALHOTRA

UPPER BEACONSFIELD GP PRACTICE

ADVERTISEMENT

THANK YOU FOR HELPING USTO BRING OUR CASE NUMBERS DOWN AS WE REOPEN THE STATE

We have worked so hard, and sacrificed so much this year, to bring our Covid numbers down, and to manage and control individual cases, clusters and outbreaks.

And this work has paid off.

Our collective efforts have enabled us to begin reopening the state, as we start the long road to recovery and reconnect with our families, friends, local businesses and communities.

Information about the many changes that are occurring across Victoria, and the support that's available is at www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au or on the Coronavirus Hotline 1800 675 398

As always if I can assist please call 1300 103198 or email me at Harriet.shing@parliament.vic.gov.au

Please maintain physical distancing and good hygiene, and wear a mask when you leave home.

If you have any symptoms at all, please get tested urgently and stay home until you get your result.

These ongoing steps will protect us all as we reopen and enable us to invest in a safe, sustainable and supportive recovery.

LET'S STAY SAFE TOGETHER

Harriet Shing MP

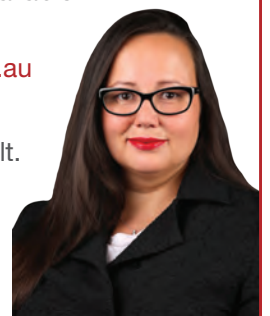
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Authorised by H Shing, 216 Commercial Rd, Morwell. Funded from Parliamentary budget.



Electronic prescriptions

At the end of September electronic prescriptions were introduced in Victoria. Instead of doctors printing a paper script for the patient to hand into a pharmacy, an encrypted code is sent via text message to the patient. Patients are then able to go to any pharmacy to fill their prescription without worrying about forgetting or losing it. This makes it much easier, especially for telehealth appointments, as patients will receive their scripts straight away without having to go and pick it up or wait for it in the mail.

Instructions

- Step 1: Open the text on your phone and click the highlighted link
- Step 2: Scroll all the way to the bottom to the barcode (**not** the QR code)
- Step 3: We will scan the barcode for you and dispense it
- Step 4: If you have multiple medications, go back to the text and repeat steps 1-3

FAQs

How do I find the electronic prescription?

They are sent as text messages, so go

to the messages app on your phone.

When you receive the text prescription, it will always come from the same number, so it is a good idea to save the contact in your phone labelled "E-scripts" so you can find it easily if you are not getting it dispensed straight away.

What do I do with the text once it's been dispensed?

You can delete the individual message to avoid confusion.

Why do I get another text while I'm waiting for the medication to be dispensed?

Often prescriptions come with repeats and each new repeat is a new code that is sent to your phone for future dispensing. Once you scan in a script to our system electronically, we are able to access the rest of the repeats on our system when you come in next time, so you do not have to worry about finding the text messages each time you come in. But if you are at another pharmacy, you will need to access that new code to get your next repeat.



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Monday	8.30 am – 6 pm
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Thursday	8.30 am – 6 pm
Friday	8.30 am – 6 pm
Saturday	9.00 am – 2 pm

Community Garden

Looking at veggies through green-coloured glasses

I love visiting our community garden. I enjoy having a sticky beak at what the locals have been planting, pulling up, mulching, and composting. I like seeing the produce at the various growing stages. More than anything else, I love to have a nibble while I am there – much tastier than a vitamin tablet!

With the deadline for the Bell looming I decided to see what was ready to harvest to publish a recipe around.

As I did my lap I saw teeny tiny little radishes, luscious bean vines, carrot seedlings, broad bean and chive flowers, pumpkin seedlings, and our mulberry tree (sans mulberries).

Exciting yes, but what can we pick? For a minute I couldn't think of anything – there were no green beans, juicy red tomatoes or crunchy apples. I was racking my brain until I finally snapped out of it! What lay before me was an abundance of food; I just needed to think a bit differently.

So this instalment is all about thinking outside the veggie box. For example, radish tops make the most incredible sautéed greens, beetroot leaves can be added to salads, bean shoots are wonderful fresh or in a stir-fry. Broad bean and chive flowers are a tasty garnish. Have you tried stuffed and fried pumpkin or zucchini flowers? Broccoli stalks can be eaten any number of ways, and the leaves of cauliflower can be treated exactly as cabbage. Even mulberry leaves can be eaten if cooked correctly, and just like grape leaves, used as the wrapping for dolmades.

Furthermore, if you find your coriander, fennel, mustard, or parsley has gone to seed ... guess what? You now have seeds! Shake and catch them in a cotton pillowcase.

Eating more of the plant is healthier for



you, and better for the planet. It also saves you money, which means you have more time to do the things you love, like gardening, or eating with your best friends!

CARL HIRST

COMMUNITY GARDEN GROUP



Sun orchid *Thelymitra* sp

Rambling on

Human beings evolved to live at walking pace, in a tribal or village environment, in close connection with their immediate world.

And haven't we been doing a lot of that in the past several months! How lucky are we to live in a rural village, surrounded by remnant forest and farm fields, so that our daily "isolation health walks" can be productive and interesting nature rambles!

After a cold wet winter, the spring flowers in gardens and forests have been awesome. Some of the azaleas and rhododendrons have been virtually solid blocks of brilliant colours; then there was the variety of colours and shapes amongst the camellias. I really enjoyed some peoples' bulb gardens – I even saw a triple daffodil.

Then there are the garden sculptures to look out for – these have come a whole lot further in recent years than

the ubiquitous gnomes and cutesy concrete kiddies. Have you spotted the amazing Dragons at number 3? The flying watering cans at number 71? The emus at number 50? There are so many more to keep an eye out for!

The Harris Reserve wetlands have been a bit squishy underfoot, but the pondage is absolutely buzzing with happy frogs. And the blackberries are loud and busy with families of blue wrens – if you stay still and watch for a few minutes you may see one of the blazing blue boys! A dramatic presence here too is the white necked heron, a large and noble bird which seems to be either resident or a very frequent visitor.

Out in the forests, the variety of indigenous orchids has been wider than I have ever seen. These are all small and need some careful searching out, but the effort makes them even more special. In one short section of forest near St Georges Road were five different species, as well as five lilies. They have a short life and are not present every year, so it pays to admire and photograph them as soon as you see them.

RosZ

Green Circle Plant Nursery back up and “growing”



Did you know that the Green Circle Plant Nursery has been a part of the Upper Beaconsfield community for over thirty years?

Early days

Its humble beginnings were started at the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School not long after the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires by the school's enthusiastic environmental science teacher Lois Rooke. Lois was a local resident of Guys Hill at the time. Working from inside the old caretaker's garage, and with the help of a few mothers, the children from grades 1 and 6 were shown how to propagate local native plants. They later planted these around the school grounds.

Plants were also grown for the mothers' club for fund raising sales and for hand outs to welcome new residents to Upper Beaconsfield.

Helmeted Honeyeaters

One of the children's most important achievements was growing trees for the endangered Helmeted Honeyeater which is the school's logo. These birds were in Upper Beaconsfield until they were wiped out by the bushfires in 1983. The only remaining population left was in Yellingbo which was under threat from loss of habitat. When the trees were ready, they and the children were taken to Yellingbo. The children planted

the new trees and a sign was erected to mark the occasion. The trees are well grown now and you can just still see the wooden sign from the road today.

First move

The land that the old garage was on was required by the school for other purposes, and the future of the fledgling nursery was in doubt until one of the volunteers offered her back yard for the nursery to operate from (bottom left). The newly formed UB Conservation Group headed by Lois Rooke, Laura Levens, Dr Charles Wilson, Sue Harris and many others, ran the UB Indigenous Nursery for a few years from there in Paul Grove until it outgrew the space available.



volunteers. It provides plants for the public, community projects, schools, kindergartens, councils, land care groups etc. Money raised goes towards improving the infrastructure of the nursery, as well as donations to various sectors, community projects, CFA, UBA, bushfire relief, Healesville Sanctuary, etc.

Along with many other non-essential businesses the Green Circle Plant



Move to Halford Street

In 1996 the Conservation Group was granted permission by the Cardinia Council to move to its present location in Halford Street, which was the old site of the Upper Beac Fire Brigade. After a few years the nursery's name was changed to Green Circle Plant Nursery when Cardinia Landcare took over its management. In 2015 the nursery was back in the hands of community volunteers, and today it is still run by a dedicated group of

Nursery had to close its gates because of COVID-19. Plant orders for clients still had to be grown in the hope everything would return back to normal soon, and with a couple of volunteers we managed to get the job done. With our Covid-Safe Plan in place and permission granted from the Cardinia Council, we were ready to reopen on 13 November 2020 – lucky we are not a superstitious group. The new hours for the nursery are Fridays 10 am to 4 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm.

On 18 December we will close for Christmas and will be back in February. All the volunteers from the nursery wish everybody a wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy New Year. See you again in 2021.

SUE SIMMONS



Platypus in trouble

With everyone focussed on the COVID-19 pandemic, people may have missed other news. Climate change is looming, in ways that affect plants, animals and us humans.

There is sobering news about the precarious future of the platypus in Australia. A recent news item states the platypus has lost 22 per cent of its habitat Australia wide in just 30 years, leaving it likely to meet the criteria for threatened species. Dams, over-extraction, land clearing, pollution and predation by feral dogs and foxes were among the main threats, which together could have caused half of all platypuses to disappear, according to the researchers. [ABC News 24 November](#)

Another news item stated that in Victoria, the state's Scientific Advisory Panel has recommended platypuses are at high risk of becoming extinct in the wild in the coming years and should be officially listed as vulnerable to protect them. Platypuses at one time were widely distributed in waterways across the state – except for Wilson's Promontory and the Mornington Peninsula. The panel describes the current distribution of the species as "severely fragmented". "The primary threat to platypuses appears to be a reduction in surface water and flows due to drought, altered flow regimes, and water extraction for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes," the report said. [ABC News 13 November](#)

Upper Beaconsfield used to have platypus in Cardinia Creek at one time, but they were wiped out in the Ash



Ornithorhynchus anatinus (platypus) John Gould print image dated 1863. (Wikipedia Commons)

Wednesday bushfires in 1983. In 2004, The Australian Platypus Conservancy reintroduced platypus into Cardinia Creek, and monitored them for many years. They reported finding some healthy juveniles for a while. Then Melbourne Water took over the role of monitoring the creek.

In 2018 I made an inquiry to Melbourne Water about the status of the Cardinia Creek platypuses. MW replied they conducted some environmental DNA sampling in 2016, which involves taking a water sample to identify whether platypus are present. It is an accurate method and sheds light on their distribution. Platypus DNA was detected in two of four water samples collected from Cardinia Creek between Ballarto Road, Cardinia and Chadwick Road, Upper Beaconsfield.

MW stated that in 2017 only one platypus was found, in the upper regions of the creek, north of the highway. Numbers have been steadily declining over the past 10 years.

Habitat quality declines substantially downstream of Prince Highway and appears unlikely to support a resident population. MW currently looking at platypus

management across the Melbourne Water region and trying to address small, isolated, and vulnerable populations including those in Cardinia Creek.

With the large population growth, spread of housing estates over recent years, and drought it is no wonder platypus are in trouble.

For more information on the Melbourne Water platypus census, and how you can help, see www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/be-citizen-scientist/platypus-census

HELEN SMITH



Platypus in Broken River Queensland (Wikimedia Commons)

Simple changes in behaviour can help reduce platypus deaths. You can play your part by:

- picking up litter to prevent entanglement
- keeping dogs on a leash around waterways
- picking up after your dog to prevent water pollution
- report the use of illegal Opera House nets via 24/7 phone line: Reporting illegal fishing – 13FISH
- always taking all fishing line home to prevent entanglement
- installing a water tank or rain garden to reduce stormwater pollution
- never putting anything down a stormwater drain

Cardinia Deer Management Coalition

**Hurray, the Victorian Deer Control Strategy has been released,
... but ... oh dear ...**

The Victorian government has finally released its Deer Control Strategy after more than two years since the release of a draft strategy. We were hoping that the long wait signalled a major revamp of the draft policy which received overwhelmingly negative feedback. It turned out to be an opportunity missed; two years lost in which the deer population may have grown by as much as 50%. There are still no set goals, no timelines and no serious funding.

The strategy is not without its merits in that the government acknowledges the severe problems the ever-increasing feral deer invasion is creating for the environment, agriculture, landowners and road users. It has removed the requirement for managers to apply for a permit to control deer on public land. However, there is no urgency in its approach. Signalling an immediate injection of \$1million into peri-urban deer control sounds good, but this is but a tiny fraction of the funding needed in that area, let alone across the entire state.

Quiz: what do you call an introduced animal that is destroying farmer livelihoods, altering our native habitat, reducing biodiversity, encroaching onto private land, destroying Landcare revegetation efforts and private gardens, is an ever-increasing danger on our roads and is listed as a key threatening process under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act?

Answer: In all of mainland Australia they are called a 'pest animal', except here in Victoria where they are a 'protected species'.

The strategy failed to take the opportunity of calling deer what they are: a feral pest. This may be because listing them as a pest, along with feral pigs, rabbits and foxes, requires that government agencies take measures to control them on public land, meaning that government would be compelled by law to take action and set aside funds to do so. The other states have managed to cross that bridge, why not Victoria?

The Cardinia Deer Management Coalition (CDMC) will continue to advocate for appropriate policies and increased efforts and funding from the government to tackle this escalating problem in the hope of avoiding

irreversible damage to our environment. To improve our reach, a major initiative is being led by one of our group members, Johannes Wenzel, with the establishment of the Victorian Deer Control Network (VDCN).

The purpose of this new network is to bring deer control groups from around the state together to encourage better communication of ideas, knowledge and research and to enhance and increase the efficacy of deer control advocacy and deer control across the state. VDCN, even though in its infancy, has already attracted over 60 like-minded groups, and aims to have its first meeting within a couple of months.

In the meantime, we will continue in our efforts to assist local private landowners with advice on controlling deer. If you wish to know more or would like advice on how to engage a hunter to cull deer on your property, please contact us at info@cardiniadeer.org.au

In other news

Covid-19 has limited our ability to get out and talk with property owners and hunters to control deer, but with the easing of restrictions, more activity should now be possible.

Recently, the CDMC decided to affiliate with Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI); this has now been completed. LVI objectives align closely with our major goal of protecting the environment. It also offers us better access to similar groups, the ability to share knowledge and better channels for communication.



Affiliation also provides us with a comprehensive insurance policy.

The aerial survey we had planned for spring has been put on the back-burner due to Covid-19, but we have rescheduled the survey for the cooler months of autumn, 2021. We also intend to undertake some ground survey work next year, which will be a tremendous opportunity for anyone wishing to get involved in citizen science. For information about these surveys, please have a look at our website or send us an email.

Lastly, we are always looking for new members with ideas and skills or anyone who would simply like to support our mission. If you are interested in protecting our environment and concerned about the issue of feral deer, please think about joining the CDMC. Annual membership is \$10 per family and the more members we have, the stronger our advocacy will be.

For more information, lots of interesting articles and the latest news, check out our fantastic website at www.cardiniadeer.org.au

**MIKE HALL, PRESIDENT,
INFO@CARDINIADEER.ORG.AU**

Lockdown in the Men's Shed

Like most of our community, the Shed guys haven't been able to have their normal face-to-face meetings. So we introduced zoom meetings and after a very short time, most of the members had mastered the app. We were holding weekly meetings; some with a guest speaker, but most just have a discussion topic such as 'what's your favourite town in Australia?' or 'what's your favourite joke?'

Luckily we are now able to have real meetings at the shed, but these need to comply with the new normals of our current Covid restrictions. Our meeting is on a Wednesday morning from 10 am-1 pm, but currently with restricted numbers.

Selling hot sausages is one of our main sources of income and this week we were happy to see a couple of the larger stores announcing this can start again next month. Our best ever sausage sizzle was earlier this year at Bunnings Pakenham. It was an extremely long, hot day, we sold lots and lots of sausages and all the profit was donated to the bush fire appeal.

Now things are heading in the right direction we are trying to plan future projects, such as a tool-sharpening day for the UB community.

RON KERPER, PRESIDENT



New shoes

I opened the orange box and weighed them in my hand. So light. So stylish. I couldn't wait to see where they would take me. I don't run much anymore but I walk with purposeful strides. I like to get the heart rate up and walk k's rather than blocks, which is easily done when you live in Upper Beaconsfield. Hills in every direction.

I walk for exercise. I walk to catch up with friends. I walk when I am sad or anxious. I walk because it always does me good. No phone or ear buds to drown out the crunch of gravel under my feet, birdsong or the wind in the trees. I do not want to miss a thing. I talk to H-dog more than I should but I know he listens.

And so I walk.

Before the travel restrictions I loved to walk along the beach at low tide. H-dog racing with unbridled glee across the rippled sand or keeping pace fifty metres out, an invisible leash connecting us, as I stride along the shore, with my visor barely breaking the glare from the sun. Exploring along rocky sandy paths; through dappled tea-

tree and sheoaks, down to a ragged sandstone ledge or a glimmering horseshoe bay.

As travel restrictions tightened and the sun refused to shine, I found new paths to walk, closer to home. My shoes squelch and slip along steep muddy paths beneath a canopy of ferns. Laughing, we desperately grasp onto slimy trunks to prevent us falling, with mud spattering up our leggings. I had to scrub my, not so new, shoes after that.

Chin buried in my scarf, hands in pockets, I walk on concrete paths around a small lake, which provides refuge for ducks and waterhens. I walk the crunchy paths alongside the concrete aqueduct, surprised that there

are more dogs and walkers each time I visit. I walk the great stone wall and its shady paths and boardwalks through temperate rainforest – amazed I only discovered this recently.

Greetings are exchanged with friends not seen for months. A well-travelled colleague longs to escape to the sun of Portugal. Friends train their exuberant pup to walk on a tartan leash and encourage her to welcome the hands of strangers. My neighbour in his functional hiking boots reminisces of overnight hikes in Tasmania and dreams of trips to outback towns. A friend, with her funny little three-legged dog, lights up as she chats of her joy at becoming a grandparent for the first time.

The days are warmer now and the return of sunshine is a godsend. H-dog listens at the door. My shoes are sagging and filthy. I think about ordering new ones, but I can't part with the old ones. They remind me of places I have walked. They remind me of those I have walked with. They remind me of aloneness, and friendship. I have walked hundreds of kilometres in those shoes in the strange last year. It always does me good.

ROSEMARY RUSSELL



Unexpected ending to desert trip

Mid November. Finally lockdown is easing. And much as we love UB and our various Covid projects (including a new 100,000 litre water tank), we felt we needed a week's breather from it all. With some Covid restrictions still in force, we needed to find a spot somewhere in Victoria. We settled on the Little Desert National Park. Spring up there has been good, so there would probably be plenty of birds and maybe some wildflowers still on show.

We surveyed the weather forecast and noted Sunday would likely be hot and a little windy, but the rest of the forecast looked reassuringly mild. From November on (and sometimes earlier) we are always mindful of the weather. Hot? Windy? Humidity? Drought factor? Bushfire season. Usually we wouldn't be away from home this time of year, but it seemed our slim window

of opportunity had opened up. So we grabbed it.

Not much to organise: we dusted down the camper trailer, threw in the essentials - clothes, food, camera, binoculars, left the phone number of the vet on the fridge door, waved the boys goodbye and took off.

Five hours later we were set up on the banks of the Wimmera River, in the Little Desert National Park, just south of Dimboola. A lovely peaceful place full of red gums, native pines, wallaby grass and drifts of yellow and purple wildflowers among the sand. Just what we were looking for ... until the



Diamond Firetail

first of a few dirt bikes shot through our campsite, followed shortly by their mates in a turbo charged four wheel drive. Apparently they were filming the motorbikers' exploits with a helicopter-sized drone. Then the chainsaw started. Clearly we weren't the only ones needing some time out.

Things calmed down at dusk as



Red-rumped parrot (male)

everyone came back to camp, cooked dinner and settled down around campfires to talk and tell stories. This was more like it.

The next day, Sunday, dawned and we took off on a walk early to beat the heat. It was actually quite cool and fortunately the expected wind had not arrived. The walk was great – a local birder had told us that the Wimmera was ‘going off’. He was right – birds around every corner, plants in full bloom, and roos with overfull pouches. We wondered if maybe Sunday was going to be just another beautiful day, not the predicted 37°C and winds NNE 25-40 kph with possible thunderstorms late in the afternoon. With limited phone reception it was difficult to get an update on the forecast.

Over lunch we planned our afternoon walk along the river. Around three the wind started, swirling fine dust through the campsite. Behind it came a dry thunderstorm – the winds increased and we started to see lightning flashing earthwards. Around four, two CFA vehicles cruised through. Now we were very alert, though not too alarmed. No smoke to be seen at least. Mike tried to check the VicEmergency app on his phone but couldn’t connect. Luckily my phone was able to get one bar of 3G, just enough, but very slow.

Not much to see there except a swathe of trees coming down as the winds increased across the state. Hattah and Big Desert NP reported fires, but Little Desert was OK. And while there was a Total Fire Ban in the Mallee, the Wimmera and the Little Desert National Park were unaffected. Both have been in the Fire Danger Period for over a month.

We postponed the walk for a bit. Our fellow campers were relaxed, dozing over a book, some with beers in

hand, cooling themselves in the river. The wind and dust increased and we wondered if we could smell smoke or were just imagining it. We rechecked VicEmergency and there it was. Two fires about 10 km west of us with a northerly blowing and a wind change expected in about five

hours, your typical Victorian late south westerly change. Potentially we could then have a broad fire front heading straight for us driven by 40+ km/hour winds. VicEmergency had now issued an Alert for our area.

We made our plans, then visited neighbouring campsites just to make sure everyone was aware of this development. No-one was. It seemed that no-one had downloaded the VicEmergency app, or were even aware it existed. But we no longer really needed the app – a large black smoke plume now towering overhead. I checked it anyway to find the Alert had been upgraded to Watch and Act. So we did.

A CFA local in a four wheel drive came racing through, the driver shouting out that it was time to evacuate. We all waved back and thanked him for coming.

We ran back to the camper trailer, having decided to pack in a calm and methodical manner and head back into Dimboola. No tent trailing behind the trailer like a scene from Priscilla Queen of the Desert for us.

It was around five. There was plenty of time – unless the wind change came early. All went well and shortly after that we were heading out with quite a few others. Some had packed up

When travelling in Victoria it is wise to have the VicEmergency app so you can be alerted to and stay abreast of developing issues.

Make sure you know the rules relating to the lighting of campfires in the Fire Danger Period.

If you get a ‘Watch & Act’ alert, don’t hang around. Act. If you don’t, it puts your life in danger and wastes the local emergency services’ resources as they have try to rescue you. This puts their lives in danger, when you should not still be there.

their tents or hitched up their vans; others had leapt straight into their cars, leaving their gear behind.

At this point the phone rang. It was number two son, presumably checking on his parents’ welfare. I explained we were nearly in Dimboola having left the Little Desert, all was well and thanks for his concern. The phone went dead. Not unusual up here, so a bit later I rang back.

‘That’s good’, he said. ‘Glad you’re OK, but I had no idea anything was wrong. I was actually ringing to let you know that we’ve got a bit of a problem here. Sorry but you might need to come home’.

As we started down the highway, we could really only think of our last glimpse of that beautiful campground. On a 37°C day with a fierce wind howling, and a fire raging only 10 km away, two groups of people were sitting around a large bonfire. Unbelievable! And actually illegal. While it was not a TFB day in the Wimmera, during the fire danger period you can only have a small fire – if you need heating, or for cooking. Neither applied here. It was

just reckless. Someone had stopped to make sure they understood what was happening, and that we had been told to evacuate. They were waved on. ‘She’ll be right – you lot are panicking over nothing’. Mulling over this, we rang the police. They thanked us and said they’d send someone straight out.

Two days later the fire is at last contained, though not yet classified safe.

CARO LETTS



Wimmera River

A swimming pool for Upper Beaconsfield

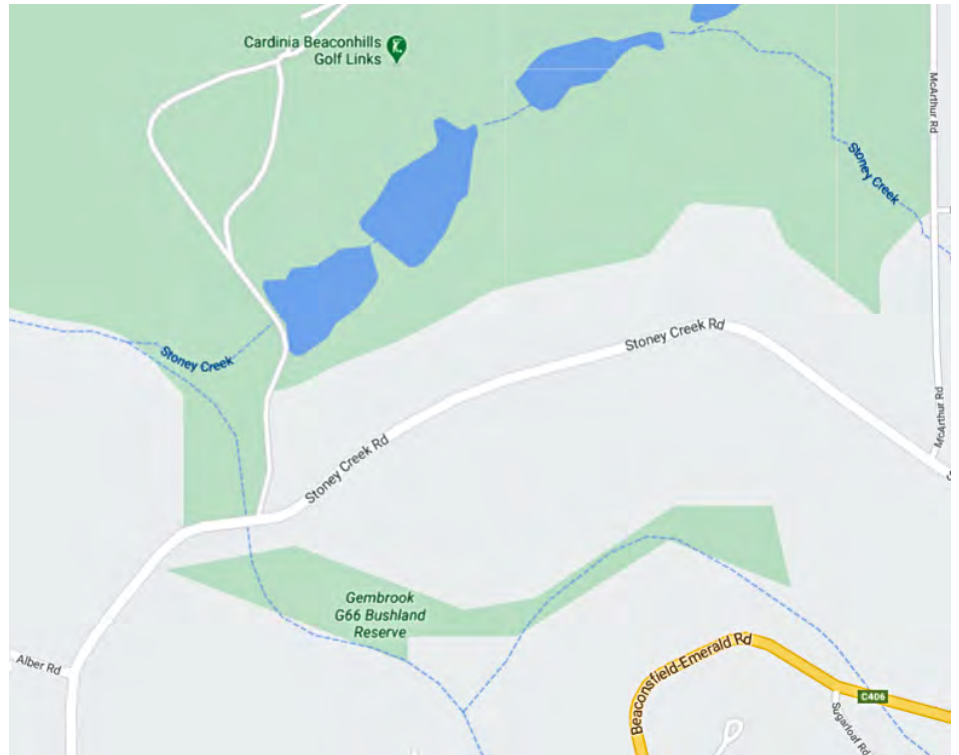
In the 1920s campaigns were started to encourage people to learn to swim. Coastal towns were naturally first to organise a 'learn to swim week', like the one at Geelong in 1923. They then spread further afield, and 'The Herald Learn-to-Swim campaign' in 1928 had support from the Shire of Berwick. The Shire secretary explained at a Council meeting that committees had been formed with the aim to improve existing pools in the district. Details about public pools at this time are sparse, but there was a swimming pool in existence at Gilwell Park, Gembrook, for use by the Boy Scouts' Association.

On the border of Beaconsfield and Berwick a swimming pool was erected on Cardinia Creek, and the Cardinia Creek Swimming Club was formed. Working bees were held in January 1929 to erect dressing sheds, and the pool was officially opened on 9 February 1929. The pool was still being used in 1944 when there was an enquiry to the Shire of Berwick about the establishment of a piggery upstream, and its potential to contaminate the pool.

In the hills, a public pool was mooted for Gembrook in the early 1930s, but the project had not advanced by 1940. Cockatoo established a swimming pool on Cockatoo Creek in the late 1930s. Emerald acquired 118 acres from the Nobelius estate, and established Lake Treganowan (now Emerald Lake) with a caravan park, swimming pool, dressing sheds and a kiosk. It was opened in 1940, but the official opening ceremony was only held a year later in January 1941. Work was finally started at Gembrook in 1942, but suspended when the Department of Public Works appealed to the Shire of Berwick to cut out all unnecessary work. Although Council moved that the money be re-granted after the war when labour and materials were available. The pool was eventually finished, but was soon considered to be dangerous, and in the early 1950s moves were underway to either improve the safety of the pool or find a new site.

A pool in Upper Beaconsfield?

A proposal to establish a swimming pool was aired at a public meeting convened by



council in May 1945. The Shire engineer, Henry Leslie Keys, had investigated two possible sites on Stoney Creek. The first site was on the northern side of Stoney Creek Road, about 300 metres downstream from the Stoney Creek bridge. The second potential site was on the southern side, on the old 'Beaconsfield North' township reserve adjoining the bridge. Although the preliminary estimates for clearing, excavating and constructing the bank were slightly higher for the second site at £200, it was considered the better

location, as it was closer to the current township and school, and no land needed to be acquired for it. An extra £200 for concreting a children's pool and erecting dressing sheds would also be required.

The 'Beaconsfield North' township reserve was gazetted on 21 May 1886. It is unclear what the intention of this reserve was, as by this time most of the settlement was located where it is today. The assembly hall was built in 1884, but the land surrounding it was private property. The main activity



in Upper Beaconsfield was surrounding the hall, store and the guesthouses. Perhaps it was thought that a secondary township could be established near the school in the future.

In 1888, Charles Schlipalius, the owner of the land that is now the golf course, certainly thought that this reserve should be cut up into quarter acre town lots. He was prepared to give land to Council for a road through his property in exchange for the proposed development going ahead. It is believed that he had a store in the vicinity, at the time. In 1947, the still existing reserve was changed to a 'site for public purposes and road.'

By the middle of August 1945 "The Upper Beaconsfield Swimming Pool Ways and Means Committee" had been formed, with Jack Royle of Salisbury House as chairman and William John Lang as secretary. On 31 August a dance was held at the Assembly Hall. This was followed by a 'Monster Bazaar' a week later. Lieut. Col. Rupert Sumner Ryan, of 'Edrington', Berwick officially opened the event, and in his speech "stressed the need for improved amenities in country districts and the value of swimming as a means of helping achieve national fitness." The organisers were thrilled that the event was very successful and £101 were cleared towards the project.

In January 1946 State Rivers approved the project, subject to a number of conditions. At times of low creek flow, and when the pool was not full, then the creek's flow had to be allowed to pass through undiminished (through a pipe and valve system) – a possibly onerous task. In February the Health Department notified Council that they had no objections either. A contract was granted to improve Stoney Creek Road, so it was suggested that the embankment needed for the swimming pool was to be constructed at the same time. However, in late May it was decided that conditions made it impossible for the bulldozer to clear the area for the swimming pool, and that this job should be held over to early summer. On Les Keys' inspecting the site, he recommended additional areas east and west of the pool site be applied for, to add to the reservation.

Further articles in the Dandenong

Monster Bazaar

ASSEMBLY HALL, UPPER BEACONSFIELD

SEPTEMBER 8th

Proceeds in aid of Swimming Pool Ways' and Means' Committees' Building Fund. Many attractive features:

Various Stalls and Competitions. Fruit and Vegetable Stall, Soft Drinks, Afternoon Tea, Cake, Sweets and Jumble Stall etc., Guessing Competition, Hoopla, Pacing the Chain, etc.

HOME-MADE CAKE COMPETITION

In conjunction with the above bazaar, a competition for the following has been organised: (1) Best Victorian Sponge Cake. (2) Best Decorated Sponge Cake. (3) Best Plate Scones. (4) Best Plate Mixed Biscuits, not exceeding 8 varieties. (5) Best Exhibit in Open Competition.

All the above MUST be Home-Made. All exhibits become the property of the committee and will be sold to aid funds. One prize will be given in each of the five sections. PRIZE 10/6 in each respective section.

An Official Opening will be conducted by COL. RYAN, M.H.R., at 3 p.m.

Come along and help make this worthy cause a success.

Journal suggest that there were not enough funds available from the Public Works Department for the project in late 1946. A year later, when Council applied for a subsidy towards construction of the pool and dressing sheds, the Department said consideration on starting the project had to be deferred again as it wasn't sure it could secure all the funds required.

At the end of June 1947 the Shire engineer, Henry Leslie Keys, who had been one of the main proponents for making the pool, announced his retirement, after working in his role for over 45 years. His successor was Ron Chambers, Keys' apprentice since 1933, who had just returned from war service, and had gained his engineer's certificate.

Chambers looked at the project and in April 1948 sought other expert opinion, confirming his impression that the pool would not be a success, and that it would likely be a white elephant. Hence, no swimming pool was going to be built for the Upper Beaconsfield locals. Councillor John Richardson, of 'Faldinghurst', another great supporter

of the project, also questioned its feasibility upon looking at the initial clearing of the area for the purpose. Council made a motion that all government moneys raised, be allocated for the improvement of Stoney Creek Road at the creek crossing – one of the initial key aims of the pool project.

The Ways and Means Committee was determined to spend the next twelve months investigating alternative sites, as they still had funds of £250 in hand and had an obligation to give the children of Upper Beaconsfield swimming facilities.

In January 1950 Lang approached Council for help, but neither the engineer, nor the councillors had any feasible suggestions. Cr Claud Harris suggested getting a water trough and have a concrete pool in the playground. Ron Chambers said that this idea had been mooted before, but that it would cost a staggering £11,000 – much more than council could afford. Other suggestions were a pool on Cardinia Creek behind Montuna, or combining with Pakenham Upper on Bourke's Creek, or Berwick at Manuka Road.

In 1954 the committee distributed their remaining funds. The Upper Beaconsfield Infant Welfare Centre was given a donation of £67, and the Secretary of the Mother's Club reported that "we are greatly indebted to the swimming club for a cheque for £59. It gave a wonderful lift to our funds."

MARIANNE ROCKE

Swimming pool anecdotes

"As teenagers we swam in a dam in Pakenham Upper. One adult guy jumped in and lost his false teeth! The water was the colour of clay. But the boys kept duck diving in and found the denture."

"In the 1980s, many an Upper Beaconsfield teenager swam in Aura Vale Lake near Emerald in blissful ignorance of any up-stream threats. Swimming was hence banned at Aura Vale, after it was proclaimed that agricultural runoff from up-stream may be a threat to health."

What's news in council 1300 787 624

"Imagine Cardinia"

Share your ideas to help us develop the Community Vision, Council Plan, Financial Plan and Council Budget. These plans help guide council's future strategic directions, so have your say and make a difference. Your input helps us develop integrated, long-term, effective, and transparent plans that meet the needs and expectations of our community.

The current round of consultation closes on 23 December 2020. Further opportunities for feedback will be available throughout the plans' development. The plans will be adopted by council in June 2021. Help create the future of your shire here www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/imaginecardinia

Elephant Rock

A draft landscape design for Elephant Rock has been completed and feedback is being sought from Melbourne Water, VicRoads, Cardinia Council staff, and several members of the community who have been strong advocates for the upgrade of the rock. Once the design has been finalised, council will seek funding for the implementation of this plan through Melbourne Water grants.

Equestrian Strategy review

Council will review the 2014 Equestrian Strategy next year. The strategy was developed to guide the future provision of equestrian activities in Cardinia Shire. The review will ensure the plan will reflect equestrian activities within the shire over the next ten years. The community will be engaged as part of the review process. Horse riding enthusiasts in Upper Beaconsfield please take note.

Seeking interest in connecting socially isolated seniors

Council is seeking volunteers to participate in a new social connection

project geared specifically for older adults. Are you concerned about the impact loneliness has had on the wellbeing of older adults in Cardinia Shire since COVID-19? If yes, you can join us to create a project that will help socially isolated seniors to be supported and connected in their own local communities.

We need 20 active older residents of Cardinia Shire who can give around 5 hours each week to help deliver this project over the next 12 months. If you are aged 55 years and over, have lived in your local community a few years, are friendly and enjoy helping others, have basic computer skills (support will be provided to participate in online forums), and hold a current driver's licence, this may be for you. Before you commit, you can join us for a project information session. To register: Email: mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au Subject: Ageing Well volunteering opportunity

Drop us a few lines about yourself and why this opportunity interests you. Please also provide your contact details. Registrations close: Fri 5 March 5 pm

COVID-19 news

The health and wellbeing of our community, supporting community members, and supporting local businesses continue to be council's priority. While there have been some changes required to some of our services, we are still here for you and working hard to deliver essential services.

Updates to council services

Current guidelines mean modifications to some council services. For up-to-date info about council facilities and services visit the council web site at 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.

COVID19 Online Help Hub

Our online hub features a range of information and is supported by a team of staff on hand to help you find the information you need. More info: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/onlinehelphub

Local groups can provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic, including financial support, housing assistance and food services.

If you are feeling lonely or isolated due to the pandemic – or if you're self-isolating due to age or health conditions – you can access social, emotional or practical support via the Community Activation and Social Isolation (CASI) initiative.

To access the service, call Victoria's COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398 and choose option 3, or call Council directly on 1300 787 624. We have received funding from the Victorian Government to deliver the program to the Cardinia Shire community, in partnership with the Red Cross, DHHS and our local providers.

Participate in a community survey

Help council better understand local needs throughout the pandemic by completing a short, anonymous survey. The results of the survey will help guide recovery efforts and assist planning services and programs. The data gathered will also help plan for future pandemics. The survey is anonymous and will take around 15 minutes to complete. More info: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

CR BRETT OWEN

Brett Owen elected to the new Beacon Hills Ward

The Cardinia Shire Council elections took place in October. I am honoured and humbled by the support I received to be elected to be your representative. I look forward to being your voice on council.

CR BRETT OWEN

Mayor and Deputy Mayor elected

Congratulations to Cr Brett Owen and Cr Jeff Springfield, who were elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Cardinia Shire Council for 2020-2021.



Cardinia Shire Council Community & Business support package

Council's support package assists community members, support groups, and businesses to cope with the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and includes:

- COVID-19 Online Help Hub
- Interest-free periods for rates
- Rates payment plans and rebates for eligible rate payers
- Business concierge service
- Rent relief options for commercial tenants in Council properties
- Rebates for some business fees and charges

Business online portal

Buy local map: A map for business operators to add their business to the map to show they are open, and for residents to find local businesses or give a shout out to local businesses they love!

Business support: Info about support available to businesses including financial assistance, training opportunities, events, links to free online learning resources, wellbeing information and business tips.

Supporting outdoor dining

Local hospitality businesses are encouraged to contact council to discuss their proposals if they are looking for expanded outdoor dining opportunities as COVID-19 restrictions ease. Our officers can assist with fast-tracking permits to get businesses trading as quickly as possible. For information on a dining permit, see

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/
outdoordining](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/outdoordining)
phone 1300 787 624
email
business@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Contact Mayor Cr Brett Owen

Email
b.owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Phone
0418 993 370

Facebook
Councillor Brett Owen - Beacon Hills Ward, Cardinia Shire



Wow, what a year

As we now approach the Christmas period, your local Scout Group will

again be selling Christmas Trees from the retail precinct. This will be manned on weekends by our youth and leaders, and during the week you can pick up a tree via the General Store who will hold them for us. This is a major fund raiser for our group so we are very grateful for your support.

Throughout the lock down we have continued to meet as possible online, but as of November have returned to meetings across almost all sections. Thank you to our leaders, youth and families for the support over this period.

We will be doing a major recruiting drive come January next year, inviting all Upper Beaconsfield youth to come and try Scouts. This is an opportunity for youth to reconnect

with nature, make new friends and get active. Our Joeys group is for ages Prep to age 7, Cubs is 7 to 11, Scouts is 11 to 15, Venturers 15 to 18 and Rovers 18 to 25. We are also looking for leaders and assistants to help running our great programs. Scouts really is for everyone, we'd love you to come and check it out. Fees have been waved until mid-next year, with the only expenses being for uniforms, events and camps as attended.

Contact Andrew on 0418 334 140 or leader@1stupperbeaconsfield.com

We will also be looking for committee members to join us, helping the group behind the scenes with fundraising and administration. If you

want to get involved, you would be most welcome. Here's to the end of 2020 and a great 2021!

ANDREW EWENSON
(GROUP LEADER)

AND JD DAVEY
(GROUP CHAIRMAN)



Upper Beaconsfield Peddlers

It's so good to be able to get out and ride freely again with the lifted restrictions. There are rides for all levels of fitness and experience. The



group meets for regular rides every 3rd Sunday of the month and for those who are keen there is usually a ride most weekends and midweek evening rides during day light savings.

I should make one thing quite clear, we don't ride around Upper Beaconsfield due to the hills. There are so many bike trails we explore locally and regionally. We very rarely ride on roads, I'm always excited when there is someone joining

us who hasn't ridden a particular route to be able to show them somewhere new to explore. Usually there is a choice of rides starting from 30 km extending to 50+ km. Give me a call to chat about joining us. Places we have ridden are – Dandenong Creek Trail, Lilydale to Warburton trail, Phillip Island, Wonthaggi trail, O'Shanessy Aquaduct Track Warburton, Capital City Trail, Muln Muln Trail, Djerring trail, Peninsula Link, East Link and many more.

CONTACT CATHY ON 0421 556 560 or
BOLCHE@BIGPOND.COM.AU





Welcome back to the Community Centre!

After experiencing such a difficult year, the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre is so excited to be recommencing classes and seeing our wonderful community once again come through the doors.

We are currently offering several lifestyle classes including circuit and strength training, Pilates, yoga, meditation, and dance. These classes suit all levels and experience, so new participants are always welcome.

In 2021 we will be offering digital literacy classes for advanced and beginner students, computer classes and website building classes. These classes will be offered in our centre or Zoom in from the comfort of your own home. In addition, we will have event management, public speaking, resume writing and interview tips, and language courses on offer. Keep a look out on our Facebook page and website for further information.

The Community Centre is in the process of incorporating Foodbank into its offering for the community. Further information will be available in the coming weeks.

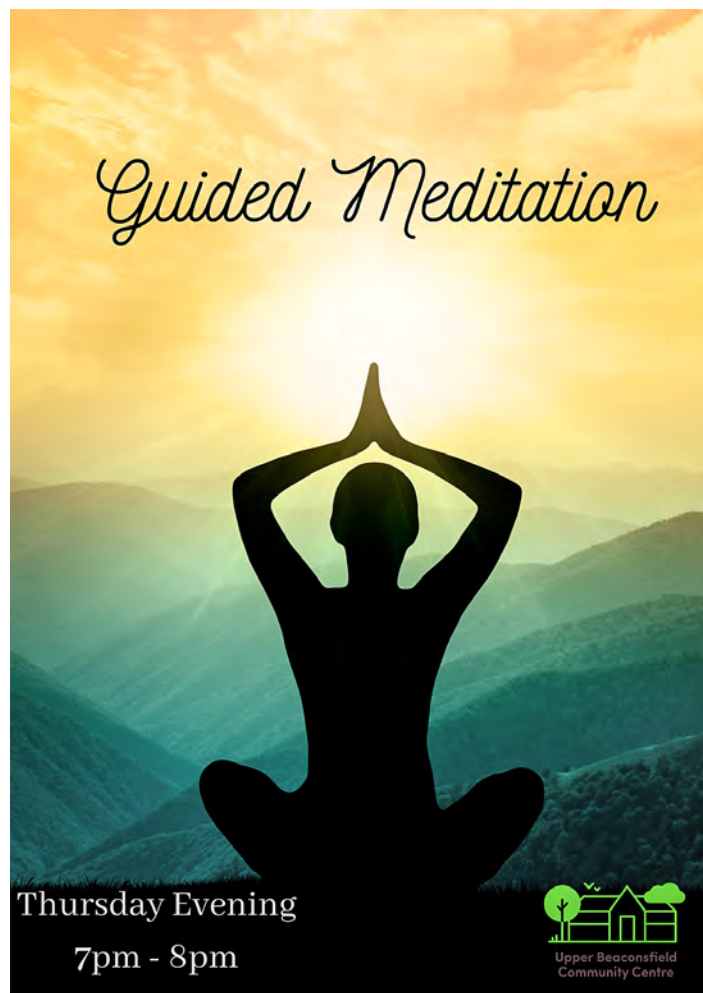
Please remember that the Community Centre is here to support, so if there is anything that you need, or would like to see offered at the Community Centre, please don't hesitate to give us a call on 5944 3484 or drop in for a chat.

**SARAH STICKLAND, MANAGER,
UPPER BEACONSFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE**



CIRCUIT TRAINING

Monday Night 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Wednesday Night 6.30pm - 7.30pm



Early Learning Centre continues to provide a valuable service

With a large influx of new children enrolling at our service recently, the children have enjoyed forming new friendships. We have an ongoing focus of assisting the children in developing positive social skills and learning how to

navigate play within a social context. We continue to discuss the importance of hygiene with children surrounding the current COVID-19 situation and have very thorough cleaning practices

in place to ensure our centre assists in protecting the wellbeing of all.

We have explored many exciting topics within the ELC recently including healthy eating, aboriginal symbols, sustainability, dinosaurs, birds' nests and much more. At this time, we are still accepting new enrolments and would love your children to learn and play with us! We have limited vacancies available for full and half days so please feel free to enquire.

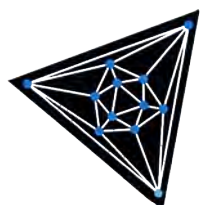
Go online for a virtual tour of the centre!

For those parents who have not visited us yet, you can view a wonderful virtual tour online of our facilities. Go our new website at <https://www.ubcelc.org.au/> to find out more information about what we offer.

Alternatively, you can contact the ELC at the Community Centre on 5944 3484, email us on elc@ubcc.org.au or visit us at 10-12 Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield.

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UPPER BEACONSFIELD
COMMUNITY
EARLY LEARNING CENTRE



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M: 0418 303 843

Karenne Gregory
Reg: Kinect KA19531
E: karenne@sshf.com.au
A: 5 Young St,
Upper Beaconsfield

Yippee – BUPPS is back!

What a wonderful start we have had, coming back together to learn and support each other with big smiles and much enthusiasm. It is so lovely to see friends being reunited, the excitement on faces each day just says it all.

As you can imagine, during remote learning teachers, students and families had both good and bad days. We congratulate families on the resilience and persistence shown during this time. Once again, we have seen that BUPPS is not just a school but part of a very special community. Families have adapted well to the new drop off and pick up routines. We thank everybody for their patience with this process and we look forward to welcoming parents and families back onto school grounds as soon as possible.

A focus this term is wellbeing, making sure each student's transition is positive and calm. We are practising social distancing and keeping up good hygiene. Despite the lockdown, many little projects were completed. We were granted funding to update and cater for disability students. This has provided new ramps into classrooms and access to the oval has been put in place. In

the main buildings, automatic doors now provide touch free entrances. We have also created a playground that is accessible to all.

Internally, walls were demolished to open up corridors and pokey offices

in our central building to create a new cosy library space. Outside, our front entry received an update in line with bushfire regulations. It features



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'values' signs which were the result of our 5/6 kids surveying the BUPS community about what was most important to them. Our fantastic teepee structures (created by the Men's Shed last year) were completed with the addition of a winding dry creek bed. These outside projects were parent-driven, led by Annabel and Kellie, with

their great support crew – Craig, Luke, Trudie, Gil, Katie and Ben. Currently, the team is working on updating gardens where established foliage had to be removed to comply with bushfire regulations. We are very grateful to have such hard working and talented parents in our community – thank you! Thank you to all our wonderful

community for your support during this crazy year. We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to BUPS in 2021.

With gratitude,

THE BUPS TEAM



An amazing year at kinder

Well 2020 has certainly been a year like no other. As with almost every area of life, kinder has looked quite different this year. We would like to say a big thank you to all our fabulous educators who worked tirelessly and found a new level of creativity to keep our little community members engaged in online kinder. It was an amazing achievement!

Term four was exciting as we welcomed children back again into kindergarten. To add to that we have a brand-new sandpit at our four-year-old kinder which the children love. Due to the continued hard work of our Parent Advisory Group (PAG) we are also looking forward to more works at both kindergartens next year to keep our

kindergartens vibrant and exciting for our children.

We are excited to be meeting and welcoming new and returning families to our kindergartens for 2021. We wish everyone in our community a lovely Christmas and New Year, and hope to return to kinder as we all know and love it, next year.

From our educators

To our wonderful kinder kids and families, you have amazed us in so many ways with the challenges you faced this year. We feel as though we have not had enough time with you, but we are also happy and excited for the adventure that awaits you all next year.

You came back to kinder this term with confidence, new ideas, interests, and knowledge. What a great job your families have done while you have spent so much time at home. You have settled back into kinder this term with ease, and excited to see one another again. We are thankful we had this term to finish the kinder year off with you all. We will never forget this year and the kinder children and families of 2020. We wish you all the best with your new learning journey next year – what superstars you will be!



LEAH HENZEN
UPPER BEACONSFIELD KINDERGARTENS

More shade to protect Victorian school kids from skin cancer

The Victorian Government is installing more sunshades in school playgrounds and outdoor areas. Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing, has announced that two nearby schools will share in over \$1.3 million from the latest round

of funding from the School Shade Grants Program.

Harkaway Primary School will receive \$20,500 in funding for the repair/replacement of existing permanent shade while Nossal High School in Berwick will receive \$25,000 for the establishment of permanent shade and the purchase of sun protective items.

The program forms part of the government's Victorian Cancer Plan 2020-24 which sets out a target to halve the proportion of Victorians diagnosed with preventable cancers by

2040. In 2018, melanoma was the fifth most common cancer in Victoria with 3,096 new cases diagnosed and sadly 291 deaths.

Harriet Shing said: "It's great for kids to spend time playing outdoors and keeping active. These grants mean students can still enjoy the outdoors while having the necessary shade to be protected from the sun. Skin cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer in Australia. It's important we give Victorians the protection they need to stay SunSmart."

Reflections on the past year, preparing for the future

As Christmas approaches, many people will reflect on the year that has been and look towards the future for new beginnings. I often feel this time allows us the opportunity to contemplate and consider the future and the joy that can be part of this journey of discovery and hope.

As COVID-19 restrictions ease and we can begin to reignite old friendships and relate to each other as a community again, we can take solace in the beautiful place we live in. It is important to hold the essence of what makes us a community at the forefront of who we are and why we live where we do.

As we move into summer with a sense of light-heartedness, I encourage you to also remember that we are now in the fire season. Please stay aware of all guidelines put out by the CFA, look out for each other and be fire ready in your community.

I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas, filled with lots of fun and laughter, time spent with those who are special to you and the joy of making special memories.

The office will be attended over the Christmas period and closed on public holidays. You can still contact me with any ideas or concerns on 5953 0216 or



Shemane Nathanielsz – Community Liaison officer via Shemane.
nathanielsz@parliament.vic.gov.au

BRAD BATTIN
MEMBER FOR GEMBROOK

On coming out of lockdown

Coming out of lockdown is so exciting, but I see a bump in the road ahead of us. When we first went into lockdown, myself, my kids and almost everyone I know was bitterly disappointed that they had to abruptly give up the things they loved. We understood why, but the grief was real.

No school friends to run around with, no swimming lessons, no family history meetings, no riding club or Scouts, or even Church services or the CWA. Things changed abruptly and fast and it took such a long time to adjust. Once the second lock down hit, parks remained closed, more shops closed, and we couldn't get our hair cut; I think we all took a deep breath and thought ok we get it and we can do this! But it

was hard. And it was lonely. And it was isolating.

Now that schools are back, restrictions are easing, and I no longer need to supervise a 4-year-old on Kinder Zoom calls – that was a life altering experience in itself! I feel we are on the right track to a new normal. But what happens next? I sat down this week with my calendar and I must admit I was a little overwhelmed. Netball training and games starting back, swimming classes, Church services, doctors' appointments in person not just online, haircuts, two kids having birthdays, Christmas planning and shopping, drop off and pick up at school and kinder, lunch boxes and I actually had to put petrol in my car! It is



now all a little overwhelming! Pre COVID this would be considered a light week! But now, after doing few scheduled activities for so long I have to take a deep breath!

I see a collective tiredness in the future of our state. A collective shout for joy that we get to see each other, but it also feels like we are hitting the ground running and we are ploughing headfirst into Christmas. At St John's we are feeling the same. We rejoiced that we had our first service in person (outside) in 31 weeks on Sunday the 1st of November. It was a real and present joy, and I was floating on a cloud for days afterward. I am very conscious though, that as everything goes back all at once, it will be easy to get tired, and overwhelmed. It may be difficult to say 'no' to the many things you will be invited to just because you feel a little overwhelmed. Especially when "we haven't seen each other months" is mentioned again.

Coming into Christmas, with joy in our hearts, can I encourage you to stop and take a little breath. The next few months may be exciting and far more exhausting than we ever imagined. Be kind to yourself as we re-enter the world.

REV SHANNON LEE
ST JOHNS ANGLICAN CHURCH



Looking forward to riding out with our ponies



No riding, no pony club rallies, no happy “good mornings” at the grounds, no inter-action with peers made 2020 a year best forgotten! We understand that what we learned has changed how we undertake tasks and carry on into the future; but with relief and happy smiles we look forward now to rallies in November and December. Seeing friends again; chatting; talking to our instructors; hoping our ponies will be fit enough after months of little or no work.

There were times when it seemed no-one in authority understood anything

about The Horse! Hopefully, that has changed and hopefully riders who felt they had “gone backwards” without lessons or the ability to practise, will quickly – with Pony Club instructors – be back at the top of their game. It will not be easy, but it is very achievable even allowing for unfit horses, spring grass making them silly, laminitis, no roadwork in most cases, falls and loss of confidence. We will be OK! We are now moving forward!

Riders, parents and instructors came up with innovative ideas and lessons online over the past months, but it

just wasn't the same as riding out. Let us all work together to do our bit in ensuring we can always ride, always have a pony club and that home schooling is a thing of the past. Let us hope the next picnic with our horses in Chambers Reserve does not include the obligatory mask. Let us put out a helping hand to any of our members who need it!

HELEN COLLIVER

UPPER BEACONSFIELD PONY CLUB



Teeing up at Beaconhills Golf Club

We are back and appreciating our beautiful course and clubhouse more than ever. Many new players are also discovering what we already knew: that golf is a sport for all ages and abilities – a game combining fun, friendship, exercise and fresh air. Regular golfers are noticing that during the lockdown not only did maintenance continue but various improvement projects have been completed. If you are tempted to a game by the weather and our newly won freedom, please give the pro shop a call on 5945 9230 as due to COVID-19 protocols all golf rounds, including social, need to be booked in before play.

It was coincidental but there was a changeover in the pro shop during the lockdown. After two years, Mark Auhl and Tim Angwin decided to move on with our best wishes for their future endeavours and many thanks for their hard work from all at the club. The new professionals Dylan Higgins and

Bryce Bell (below) come to Cardinia Beaconhills from positions with the PGA and bring a wealth of experience. Dylan and Bryce have previously



worked as assistant professionals at Keysborough and Southern Golf Clubs respectively. The golf shop at Cardinia Beaconhills is open seven days a week so if you are interested in lessons or have an equipment need, please contact Dylan or Bryce on 5945 9230.

We are now able to serve bistro meals not just inside the clubhouse but also under the veranda and on the deck, according to the current COVID-19 rules. We also have an outdoor bar van set up for the fine weather. The Wednesday Twilight Bistro and the Sunday Summer Sessions have both resumed. Please contact Andy Conn on 5945 9210 for all enquiries and table bookings as, similarly to the golf, bookings are now a requirement.

MATT VAN DER KRAAN, CLUB MANAGER



Cricket season getting underway



The Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club has worked very hard to ensure our club abides by the COVID safe training rules set out by the Victorian Government and the DHHS to ensure we minimise the risk of an infection spreading through our club. Instructions have been forwarded to all members. Training commenced in early November.

If you are planning to attend training, members need to understand and accept the procedures we have adopted. We ask that all families and friends of UBCC understand that this is a season like no other.

Don't hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries with:

Kyle Gibbs 0459 993 304
kylegibbs29@hotmail.com

Melanie Naismith 0409 136 044
rob.n.mel@bigpond.com

KYLE GIBBS, PRESIDENT
UPPER BEACONSFIELD CRICKET CLUB



Toyota "Good for Cricket" raffle

This club fundraiser will continue till just after Christmas. You still have a chance to enter and win yourself something special. 12 prizes altogether! Three cars – finest in technology. All funds raised go back to UBCC. As we come out of COVID, here is your chance to enjoy the fun! We look forward to you keeping up to date with all things Maroon – see our Facebook page as well.

<https://toyotagoodforcricket.raffletix.com.au/upperbeaconsfield>

ROB HANSEN

A serve from the Tennis Club



Following on from the recent State Government announcements concerning the COVID-19 restrictions the club was able to reopen on 21 October for limited social play, and then with the restrictions being eased, further competition tennis resumed in mid November.

The club is looking forward to getting all of its competitions back up and running and players back on the court after what has been a very disruptive year. All competitions, social play and coaching will be following a strict set of guidelines and rules to ensure that the club remains a safe environment for all players. Due to the nature of tennis and it being one of the safest sports due to its non-contact nature and the limited number of players on the court the club is hopeful that all existing players will return. We also hope to attract some new players and members that would like to give tennis a try. If you are interested in finding out more about what we have to offer including our range of competitions, please get in contact with us (upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldtennisclub) and we will be happy to answer any queries.

The easing of restrictions has also allowed Karen back on court coaching and she once again offers her full range of coaching options, in line with the remaining restrictions. These include Hot Shots, group lessons, semi-private and private lessons, squad coaching, Cardio Tennis, a school program and holiday programs. Anyone interested in arranging coaching please contact Karen on 0403 454 554 or karen@ultimatetennismelbourne.com.

Karen's coaching business, like many other businesses across the state,

has been significantly impacted this year due to the restrictions so we encourage everyone, where possible, to support Karen and book in for a lesson or two.

The club held its AGM on 18 November where all committee positions were declared vacant and a new committee appointed. Welcome to the new committee and thank you to the outgoing committee for all their efforts over the past 15 months in what has been a trying and challenging year.

At the time of writing the committee are still discussing and finalising how the 2020/21 membership structure and fees will look given the significant impact of the COVID-19 restrictions this year including the complete closure of the club for many months. All 2019/20 financial members will be provided with an update as soon as the committee have finalised the membership structure and fees for 2020/21 financial year. We thank all our members for their ongoing patience and understanding.

A decision is also yet to be made on the club's Christmas party which is usually held in early December. The club is hopeful to be able to hold some form of Christmas party, however it is expected that this will have to look somewhat different to prior years to ensure all restrictions that remain in place and adhered to. All members will be provided an update when a decision on the Christmas party has been made.

On behalf of the UBTC committee, please stay safe, and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

SCOTT COLLARD, UBTC



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