

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

VILLAGE BELL

Upper Beaconsfield Association

www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au

Issue No. 224

June 2021

'Homeless Wombat'

by Karen Alsop

www.storyart.com



Men's Shed turns tobacco kiln sticks into walking poles



These old eucalyptus sticks (poles) were used for 50-100 years in tobacco drying kilns in the Ovens Valley, Victoria.

Shed members have debarked, removed spurs and splinters and sanded the poles.



They then polished and finished them with a beeswax solution, and finally, a leather thong was added (some of them have a compass).

These refurbished poles are unique. They are distinct from the plastic and metal offerings that are mainly manufactured in sweat shop conditions overseas.

Available at the General Store or from the Men's Shed

Contact Noel for more information secubms@gmail.com

UBA presentation dinner for Citizens of the Year 2020



Mayor Cr Brett Owen and Caroline Spencer, UBA president presented the awards to Sienna Vulin (Young Citizen) and Ed Keon-Cohen (Citizen of the Year)



Salisbury House extension

The works on the extension of Salisbury House are making steady progress. Note how the concrete is contoured like weatherboard, to match the old building.

Stan Henwood award for Helen Smith

Upper Beaconsfield resident Helen Smith is a highly valued community member, having served on numerous committees over the past 40 years, including the Upper Beaconsfield Association, Village Bell editorial team, Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Building and Grounds Committee, and Upper Beaconsfield Festival Committee.

In recognition of her valued contributions, The Upper Beaconsfield Association awarded her, along with her late husband, Barry, The Citizen of the Year award in 1994.

Helen has been described by her peers as someone who energises committees, demonstrates initiative, a team player and 'the backbone of community life'. She has also organised successful grant applications for the Carols in the Park from Cardinia Shire, and recently a solar panel grant for the Community Complex from the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning. Helen's dedication to local committees and groups is highly admired by those around her. Described as a quiet achiever, Helen's in-depth knowledge of Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds reflects her longstanding commitment and contribution to the community.

Volunteer Reception and Stan Henwood presentation held on 20 May 2021 at Cardinia Cultural Centre



Local splash of autumn colour



Rainfall on St Georges Road

Month	45 yr av.	2020	2021
Jan	63.6	126.4	106.3
Feb	58.4	147.8	19.0
Mar	64.2	65.7	80.4
Apr	78.3	183.4	63.3
May	86.1	86.5	
Jun	80.3	53.2	
Jul	78.6	45.5	
Aug	85.7	111.9	
Sep	90.6	67.6	
Oct	94.3	100.2	
Nov	86.5	81.6	
Dec	80.4	70.9	
Total	947 mm	1,140.7 mm	

A simple equation

We expect February to be dry, but with only 19 mm of rain we were 39.4 mm below average and a whopping 128.8 mm less than last February.

March brought 80.4 mm, 16.2 mm more than average and 14.7 mm more than last year.

April saw 63.3 mm of rain, 15 mm less than average and another huge disparity, 120 mm below last year.

The three month total rainfall was 162.7 mm, 38.2 mm below the long term average of 200.9 mm.

For the year to date, we are 4.5 mm above average, but this positive result is skewed by abnormal January rains. Current rainfall is trending to drier than normal. May and June will be telling.

Drier than normal is the catchcry of climate change. Drier is the new normal. Addressing climate change is simply understanding the carbon equation. Produce less (burn less fossil fuel), consume more (plant more trees).

Simple? I guess not. But if you don't want less rain, it's an equation worth considering.

ANDREW REWELL



Dinner winners at the Pine Grove Hotel

The Open Air Burning (OAB) Advocacy Group have been



sponsoring a dinner for two at the Pine Grove Hotel for the past year. Some winners have not been aware that their OAB Fridge Magnet has a number which can win them a dinner and unfortunately missed out on an enjoyable night out. The value has now been increased to \$50 for a couple to enjoy a meal at the Piney. Please check the number of your OAB Fridge Magnet on the top right corner as per the arrow on the photo. If one of the three winning numbers below is yours, then you have won a dinner for 2 at the Pine Grove Hotel during the month listed. That will fully cover two Parma night meals, but alternatively you can choose from the range of pizza meals or the a la carte menu and pay the difference above \$50.

Winning numbers

chosen at random

June	416
July	326
August	1087

Congratulations if these are your numbers. Please ring the Pine Grove Hotel, on 5944 3524, during your winning month and book your two meals or order a takeaway. Please mention that you are the month's winner for the Open Air Burning dinner prize and bring your fridge magnet along to the hotel to show that you have the winning number. If you do win and enjoy a meal, we would like to hear from you. Please write your experience and send it to the Village Bell.

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

HARRY JENSEN,
OPEN AIR BURNING ADVOCACY GROUP

Saving tip

COVID-19 Health Care Card rates rebate for 2020-21

Eligible Health Care Card holders can apply for a \$50 rebate on the 2020-21 rates for their residential property (including vacant residential land).

This rebate can only be claimed for one property.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 787 624

Next public meeting



Upper
Beaconsfield
Association
general meeting
Wednesday

4 August 2021 at 7.30 pm.

We invite residents to come along, meet other residents and contribute to the well-being of our town.

Become a Village Bell supporter

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 Burrige, Kaylene Cox, Caro Letts, Cheryl O'Gallagher – **Layout** Marianne Rocke – **Photo editor** Cameron Rocke

Next issue: September 2021

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

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Citizen of the Year presentation dinner



This year, the UBA Committee organised a dinner at the Pine Grove Hotel to announce the 2020 Citizen of the Year. Normally we do this at the Village Festival, but as the event was cancelled this year, the UBA invited all nominees to a celebratory dinner. About 40 people, including friends and families attended on 31 March to acknowledge and honour their achievements. Mayor Cr Brett Owen, for the Beacon Hills Ward, attended the dinner to present the awards.

The Citizen of the Year program encourages community members to recognise the many ways that people from Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst and Guys Hill contribute to their community. Contributions include any of the following:

- Outstanding service to a community group/committee
- Organisation or participation in the completion of a community project/activity
- Demonstration of leadership
- Being an inspiration to others, demonstration of community spirit
- Display characteristics of fairness, charity and caring to others

The COY selection panel comprised five community members. The selection process presented a difficult task, as all nominees have contributed in exceptional ways.

2020 Young Citizen of the Year – Sienna Vulin

From an early age, Sienna has shown herself as a caring, hardworking young woman passionate about helping people less fortunate than herself. At 5 years of age, her first initiative

was to undertake fundraising events to open the Vulin Kinder through the Fred Hyde Foundation in Bangladesh. Each year, she continues to fundraise to meet the ongoing costs for running the kinder and its 100 students. Her other activities include volunteering for the Beaconsfield Junior Fire Brigade and assists with community events such as Clean-Up Australia Day, Village Festival, Upper Beaconsfield Carols, and the CFA Open Days.

2020 Citizen of the Year – Ed Keon-Cohen

Following the 1983 Black Saturday bushfires, Ed recognised the need for alerting the community about the potential danger of bushfire and other emergencies in Upper Beaconsfield. Community safety drove his motivation. He began the arduous process of establishing an electronic warning system in consultation with the local CFA, Victoria Police, and other emergency responders. While telecommunications advances helped the process, winning cooperation from all parties proved the bigger challenge. The now successful not-for-profit message service sends messages to registered users. For a modest \$5 fee, the system keeps residents informed about potential or specific threats in the local community, including code red days, total fire ban days, and fire restrictions.

Nominees

Adrian Hall

During his three-year presidency of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre, Adrian contributed significantly by willingly dedicating his expertise to the committee to ensure the Centre's

future. His professionalism and compassion provided endless support from handyman maintenance to HR advice, in addition to generously offering advertising and signage.

Debbie and Ian Pinney

Debbie and Ian first became involved in Upper Beaconsfield community groups such as the Scouts, where Ian became a leader and Debbie was treasurer. In more recent years both Ian and Debbie have become fully involved in the CFA, and in 2018 Ian became

brigade captain. His strong focus is on community preparedness, recruitment, and equipping the brigade. He volunteered for deployments in fighting bushfires in other areas, including interstate. Debbie joined the CFA Auxiliary as treasurer. Her fundraising efforts produced excellent outcomes for the brigade. She was co-founder of Caring Connections, which helps people at risk to Covid-19 or in need of assistance.

Mike Hall

Mike's ongoing contributions to the Upper Beaconsfield community include joining the CFA where he became 1st lieutenant and brigade's training officer, and later captain from 2016-2017. In 2016, he led a project to raise funds for the brigade with an "Open Gardens" event, which involved BUPS and local businesses. Mike is deeply involved in conservation and takes a keen interest in local affairs. He is a member of the UB Conservation Group, the UB Association, the CFA, and founder and current president of Cardinia Deer Management Coalition.

The Upper Beaconsfield Association acknowledges all nominees for their ongoing dedication to community leadership which benefits the whole community, and we honour them for their contribution and their families for their support. We would also like to thank all those who have nominated someone for the 2020 Citizen of the Year Award. Without your nominations, we would not have these wonderful community events that support and strengthen our community.

**CAROLINE SPENCER, PRESIDENT,
UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION**

Upper Beaconsfield Association

Safer Together Bushfire Mitigation Project



In the December and March issues of the Village Bell, I reported on the successful Safer Together Grant, which aims to help residents of Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst and Guys Hill understand how to protect biodiversity and manage fuel management on their properties.

The UBA Fuel Management Group, along with Forest Fire Management, DELWP, CFA, Cardinia Council and Melbourne University meet online every week to progress the project. All residents received the survey either by post or hand delivery. We have completed survey collection, which is the first stage of the project, and the

results will help us identify what priorities and ecological values are important to Upper Beaconsfield residents.

We are currently analysing the data and pulling together the complex issues surrounding community safety, biodiversity and fuel management. The results will drive the development of an online tool, which will be available to all.

Our ambition is to create a story about our areas, which would be something like *Parks Victoria's Bushfire Recovery Journey 2020-2021, Reflecting one year on*, but it would not be about bushfire recovery. It would be about

what matters to residents; how they can protect against fire and protect biodiversity. See storymap at <https://bit.ly/3huky3a>

On 2 June, the UBA hosted a community Zoom meeting to share the preliminary results and asked for community feedback. This collaborative pilot project is a first of its kind in Australia, and we are optimistic about its success.

CAROLINE SPENCER, CO-CHAIR, SAFER TOGETHER, PROJECT STEERING GROUP

Contact carolinespencer15@gmail.com for further information

Sealing the Roads in Upper Beaconsfield

Over an 8-year period, Cardinia Shire Council will seal 109 kilometres of unsealed roads as part of the Sealing the Roads Project. The Australian Government committed \$300 million funding over 10 years to Cardinia Shire Council and Yarra Ranges Council (\$150 million to each council) to seal roads in the Dandenong Ranges and surrounds. The funding results from an advocacy partnership between the two councils to improve unsealed roads.

Australian Government and property owners will co-fund the project through a special charge scheme. The funding package will provide a substantial contribution towards the cost.

Following almost two years of research

to determine the best roads to seal, staff from Cardinia Shire Council held meetings at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex. They discussed how the science determined the selection of roads, and answered residents' questions. About 30 residents attended the meeting that I joined. Residents raised several questions about the choice of roads selected for sealing and about why some seemingly needy roads missed out.

The Council staff took on board a range of questions from concerned residents. They offered local inspections to assess needy roads and will report to residents about their concerns.

CAROLINE SPENCER

Thank you to our Village Bell supporters

Sandie Bliss; Brenda & Doug Field; Bronwyn & Mike Fitzgerald; Carol Gibson; R & D Grant; Adrienne Griffin; Mary & Mark Griffin; Liz & Michael Haussegger; R Hawke; C Hermans & D Bolch; Peter A Hill; Daryl Hopkins; F & C Huisman; G & D Jones; Ron Kerpen; Le Brocq family; Ebony Marchetti; Neil & Pam McDonald; Mary & Denis O'Brien; Resident from Fox; Phillip Rocke; Sarah & Andrew Sankey; V & M Steidle; Peter & Trish Trewin; David Vinen; Fiona Walker; John & Sue Wall; Nikki Ward and unnamed supporters

To become a Village Bell supporter see page 4

What's happening with the Village Festival?

As you know, Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival was cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

The Festival committee has held some meetings to start festival organisation for next year. The date is still up in the air.

We are considering moving the date, due to the high chance of hotter weather in February. There could be a busier fire season next year. We also need to look at when other local events are being held.

Can you help?

- Volunteers to help with stalls, traffic control, art show and marketing

- Manpower on the day for setting up and marshalling
- Local businesses to sponsor the Festival

New ideas needed!

We would also like to hear some new ideas and suggestions for the festival to be considered by the committee. Contact us via Facebook, or email.

Upper Beaconsfield Festival Committee

Facebook: [UBvillageFestival](https://www.facebook.com/UBvillageFestival)

Email: ubvillagefest@gmail.com



About Town

Community Complex garden to get a facelift

We have been lucky enough to receive another grant from Cardinia Council to continue beautifying the Upper Beaconsfield Village.



In May, work commenced to remove all the plants in front of the Community Complex building. Soil improvement will follow, then new plantings will take place. Many of the old plants had grown too large and leggy. The new plants will allow a better view of the building and enable easier access.

**JENNY PRITCHARD,
BEAUTIFICATION GROUP**

Hoon drivers

On a couple of occasions over recent years, cars have been driven around the east carpark at the Community Complex, doing doughnuts and tearing up the lawn. Most recently in April, someone drove around the carpark and lawn area at 3 am. It was a white dual cab ute making enough noise to wake up the neighbours, and left a trail of damage. Residents if you see incidents



like this, try and get a photo or note the numberplate, if safe to do so, and report it to Crime Stoppers.

Community Facebook pages often also report bad behaviour from drivers. There are idiots out on the hills' roads endangering life, property, and wildlife. If you see people driving in a manner to put the safety of themselves or others at risk, or know the identity of people who repeatedly engage in risky road behaviour, you can confidentially report dangerous driving online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au. You can also call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 and speak to an operator. If you are reporting as it is happening, call 000.

Dogs kill family pets in attacks

A local resident contacted the Village Bell about a disturbing attack on the family's elderly pet alpacas, in two separate attacks around Easter. The resident lives on a larger property in the Salisbury Road area. A few days before Easter two alpacas disappeared. It was originally thought they may have died, but on closer examination they had been savaged or chased to their deaths.

The second attack a few days later resulted in the death of three more

alpacas. Barking was heard on Easter Sunday and Monday. Two dogs, a black and white great Dane and a large Alsatian, were seen heading off down the paddock towards White Lane or Norbury Road. The owner then discovered three more dead alpacas. One was caught up in fencing.



A photo of the dogs was taken, and the incidents were reported to Council. Council now has identified the owners and issued two penalties for each dog. Residents be warned. All owners must ensure their dogs do not wander away from their own properties. Once dogs have got the taste for chasing and killing, any pet sheep, goats and other animals are not safe.

Update: In early June another attack by two dogs took place on five animals on another property in Upper Beaconsfield. This time two alpacas and 3 sheep were killed.

This is extremely distressing for the family concerned. It is believed the same two dogs were involved. The council ranger has been notified.

People who live in Upper Beaconsfield must take responsibility for keeping their dogs confined when they are not home, as many people on larger properties keep other animals.

HELEN SMITH

Playground Opening

Keith Ewenson Park

10-12 Salisbury Road

SATURDAY 31 JULY

10 am to 12 midday

Families come along
and try out the new equipment

•BBQ • Face painting • Coffee van

Petting zoo • Showbags



Vaccine clinic at

Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice

Covid vaccinations are now available at the Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice for people **over 50**. To make a booking visit the UB GP website: <https://ubgp.com.au/>

Whither the weather

Where does it come from, where does it go to, who knows? who cares? – we do. The people at BOM (Bureau of Met)!

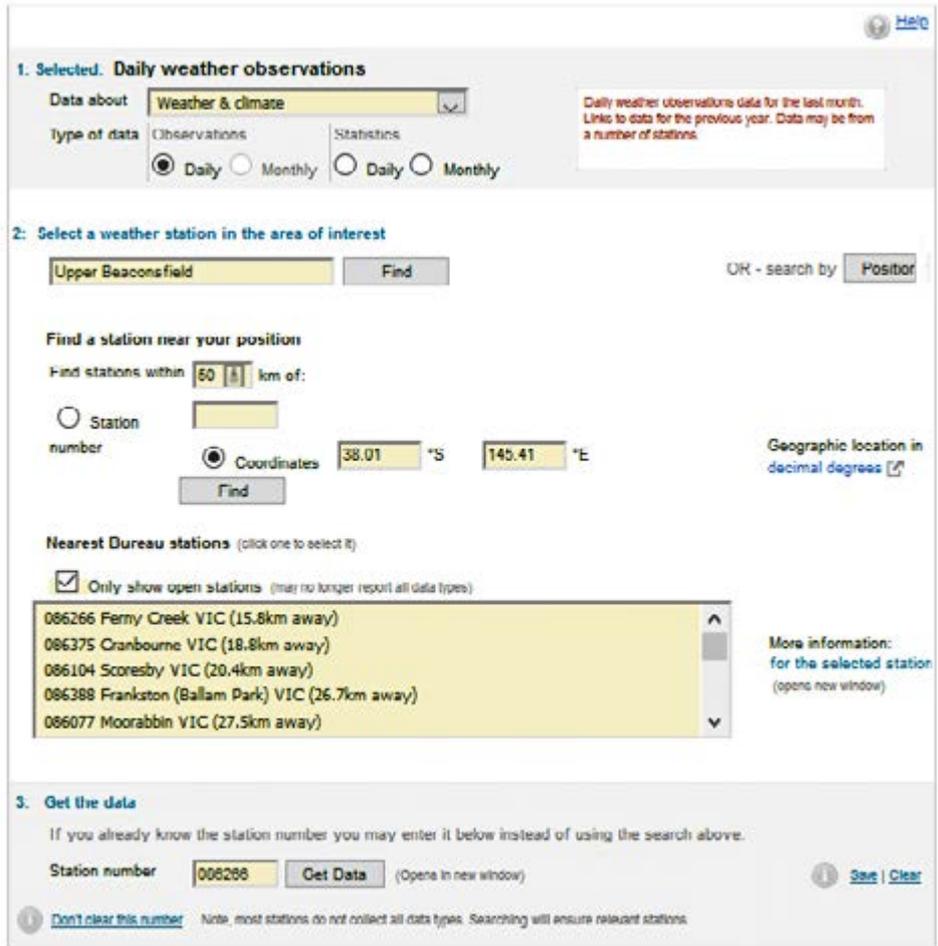
So how can anyone find out the what/where/why/who/when and how of the everyday weather? It depends on what you want and what is available, as with most things in life.

So, for example, if you want a recent history of local weather – like maximum temperature – then type in ‘bom automatic weather station data’ in your favourite search engine. Do this search and find the link: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

When you open the link it shows a window like that on the right. Now select from options in each box, I will select the following:

1. Data about = Weather & Climate
2. Area of interest = use position search, give latitude/longitude for Upper Beaconsfield, and it shows the nearest available AWS stations. Select station number 086266 (Ferry Creek), which is the nearest.
3. Get the data, enter the Station number 086266, and this will show Ferry Creek, Victoria June 2021 Daily Weather Observations – but only up to today – no future weather casting here.

But in the new window below the chart you can see: ‘Other times and other places’ The last 14 months of Daily



Weather Observations for Ferry Creek, Victoria are also here on this web site: May 21 Apr 21 Mar 21 Feb 21 ...’, so

now click on Apr 21 and since Apr has gone we get the full month of data!
GREG ROFF

Ferry Creek, Victoria April 2021 Daily Weather Observations

Date	Day	Temps		Rain	Evap	Sun	Max wind gust			9 am			3 pm								
		Min	Max				Dir	Spd	Time	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP	Temp	RH	Cld	Dir	Spd	MSLP
		°C	°C	mm	mm	hours	km/h	local	°C	%	gh	km/h	hPa	°C	%	gh	km/h	hPa			
1	Th	12.2	25.6	0			WNW	22	11	24	18.6	50	NW	6	1024.2	24.5	36	WNW	4	1023.8	
2	Fr	16.7	27.0	0			NE	11	12	48	21.5	44	NW	4	1027.4	26.1	35	SSE	4	1025.5	
3	Sa	18.5	26.9	0			NNE	31	12	59	21.1	50	N	6	1023.9	26.1	35	NW	11	1020.8	
4	Su	16.7	25.9	0			NW	20	10	53	22.4	46	NW	7	1019.8	21.5	56	SSW	6	1018.4	
5	Mo	10.7	15.7	0			SE	28	21	52	12.1	81	ESE	6	1022.4	15.1	64	ESE	9	1021.2	
...																					
28	We	6.5	16.0	0.4			N	13	10	57	11.2	97	SW	2	1025.5	15.4	67	SW	4	1023.2	
29	Th	7.7	17.9	0.2			NW	15	12	43	13.5	75	NNW	2	1024.2	17.2	55	WNW	2	1023.4	
30	Fr	11.9	20.0	0			N	20	12	56	16.2	57	NNW	4	1027.1	19.1	43	NNE	7	1025.5	
Statistics for April 2021																					
Mean		9.1	16.1								12.1	80			4	1019.9	14.8	66		5	1018.4
Lowest		1.7	8.6	0							5.8	44	Calm	1007.1	7.4	35	#	2	1006.6		
Highest		18.5	27.0	59.0			N	54			22.4	100	#	9	1028.7	26.1	98	N	13	1026.9	
Total				140.2																	

IDCJDW3102.202104 Prepared at 13:01 UTC on Friday 14 May 2021

What is offset planting?

If residents want to build a new house, extension, or shed on a property, there are many procedures and steps to follow. As well as applying for a permit for the building, you may need a planning permit if you must remove vegetation to start your building project. Part of the permit may require you to do offset planting as part of a revegetation plan to replant specific number of plants and trees, to offset the vegetation that has been removed. Before you remove, destroy, or cut back vegetation on your property, you need



to check that you are permitted to do this. Native vegetation are plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs, and grasses. It can be difficult for people who are not trained experts to identify areas of native vegetation that do not include trees. Some of the things to look out for include:

- unimproved pasture – this often includes native grasses
- areas of 'bush' or 'scrub' – particularly on undeveloped blocks, this may include a variety of native plant species
- low-lying areas that will fill with water after rain – these may be wetlands, particularly if they contain reeds
- rushes or sedges
- native trees – particularly large old trees, both alive and dead

For more information on planning and building permits see https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/planning_and_building



Come and talk to us at the Green Circle Plant Nursery right in the centre of town, if you need plants for revegetation on your property. A variety of indigenous plants provides valuable food and habitat for many birds, animals, and insects. This is so much better for biodiversity and the environment, than for example, just planting a hedge of just one species of photinias, or conifers.

Green Circle Plant Nursery is located at 1 Halford Street, Upper Beaconsfield.

Hours Fridays 10–4, and Saturdays 10–1

Email: info@greencircleplantnursery.net.au

Phone: 0407 304 061

<https://greencircleplantnursery.net.au/>

Upper Beaconsfield – Facts and Figures

4,739 residents (estimated) lived in Upper Beaconsfield and district in 2020

50–100 scripts are dispensed at the UB Pharmacy each day.

The op-shop at St John's Church is open **9–3 Thurs & 9–1 Fri**

348 students go to our school and they have a staff of **30**

The distance from here to Melbourne is **48 km**.

The largest age group of UB residents is **5 to 19 years**.

So far this season **360** tonnes of firewood have been delivered to the General, that's 9 B-doubles and trailers.

35,000 holes of golf are played at Beacon Hills each year and they have **603** members.

60 residents live at Salisbury House and when the new extension is completed they will have room for **30** more.

30 loaves of bread are baked at our bakery each day.

Green Circle Nursery propagated **10,250** plants (not bad in a Covid year) and scrubbed & sterilised **8,000** tubes.

The land area of Upper Beaconsfield and district is **54 km²**.



JULIE BORN

profile.id.com.au/cardinia/about?WebID=110

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Rambling on

Wandering through the forest in mid-autumn, I was just musing on how our wildflowers are all in recess until they start popping out to cheer up our winter, when I came across a large patch of white heath, flowering and budding away prolifically! By the time this Village Bell is issued, our bushland will be happily into its winter-summer programme of flowering, seeding and growing. Apart from the vibrant explosions of wattle trees, our bushland cannot be accused of flaunting its flowering flora – most flowers are small, low-down, scattered or isolated. It makes looking for them a more interesting challenge during your walks and all the more rewarding when you find something special! Last year was 'orchid year' par excellence! I wonder what will pop up over the next few months.



Actually, speaking of flaunting colour, what an autumn blaze we have been treated to

this year! The ornamental pears and pin oaks have been absolutely on fire with an extraordinary range of yellows and oranges right through to rich dark reds. Down through Valley Drive and along the Charles Wilson Walk – those dragons at #3 have been very busy and left their flames everywhere!

The exotics are splendid and beautiful and I enjoy them – they are like dessert, an ephemeral sweet topping to the good, solid, daily 'main meal' of our bushland. In amongst the grey-green trees and understorey of the forest is 'home' – looking for colourful fungi, vivid green moss on granite boulders, secret places visited by few, beautifully shaped tiny flowers surrounded by the wallaby grasses, the thump/thump of a shy swamp-wallaby hopping away, a dense bush absolutely twittering with blue-wrens, the call of a golden whistler high overhead, a glimpse of a scarlet robin wintering here from the High Country so many special things to look for and be thankful for as we walk in our local forests. Happy rambling!

RosZ SMITH



Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

Hosted by

CWA Woorinyan Beaconsfield Upper

Every dollar raised helps support those impacted by cancer

Come and hear **guest speaker** Janette Large CEO of Women's Property Initiatives

Women's Property Initiatives is a not for profit, community housing provider. WPI creates new beginnings for women and children at risk of homelessness by providing permanent and affordable homes, access to support and ongoing advocacy. They have provided homes in various Melbourne suburbs since 1996, including Pakenham and Beaconsfield.

**St John's Anglican Church
Upper Beaconsfield**

10 am Friday 25 June. \$10 entry

RSVP Barbara Reid 0403 577 720

Tracey Kyle 0407 810 271



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HAMPERS & GIFTS

SCOOPED ICE CREAM

CONFECTIONARY



Some thoughts from St John's

I woke up this morning and as I snuggled back into the blankets, I am reminded that there is no way to deny that the weather has changed. It is bitterly cold. I'm sitting here in my Oodie, with a hot cuppa and the heater on remembering the good old days of a few months ago where I could go outside in sandals!

This change of season has reminded me that not only the weather changes, but so many parts of our lives. We all have seasons of life that seem to ebb and flow, warm and sunny and then sometimes downright bitter cold. Some of you reading this may be in a hard and difficult place right now, others may feel they are basking in the sun despite the weather outside. Life does not seem to be easy sometimes and when those ups and downs of life hit us, it can be difficult to navigate them.

I have learnt over the years how to survive and even to sometime thrive in those life changes. It is not always easy. As you may have guessed, it is my faith in God that has helped me. Like a tree with strong roots, as my faith has grown I have gotten stronger. So, when the storms and bitter winds blow around me, my branches may sway and snap a little, but I will not get blown away. I am secure in the knowledge that God is with me, that I have an eternity waiting, and that I am loved. The thing that holds me secure is that this love is not conditional on my 'goodness' or if I have failed or fallen or made mistakes, I am still loved. You may never have thought of God like this.

Or you may have questions, or thoughts and if you do, I am more than happy for a cuppa and a chat. If you are in a storm right now and you need to vent, scream, cry, or just shout the injustice of it, with no judgement, no expectations or pressure. Then please call me. I am happy to help you find your deep roots to help you weather the storms.

Our Sunday service is at St John's at 9.30 am, and all are welcome.

REV SHANNON LEE

Stan Hamilton – Cardinia Shire Senior Citizen of the Year

Presented at Cardinia Shire's Australia Day Awards Monday 25 January 2021

Although he moved to Pakenham some years ago, Stan has been a long time and valued member of the Upper Beaconsfield community. In fact, he and his late wife Beryl were made Upper Beaconsfield Citizens of the Year back in 1985. And despite 'being closer to 90 than 80' he is still active in local community groups.

CFA

In 1957 Stan joined the Upper Beaconsfield Rural Fire Brigade, now the UBFB. He has had a long and active career both in a leadership capacity at district and local level, on the fire ground locally, and on strike teams all over Victoria. Over the years Stan has won many awards, among them: Honorary Life Member (1991), the National Medal (15 year service, fully trained, fit for duty and ready to engage in the CFA's primary function of fire suppression and fire prevention) (2001), and the 60 year service award (2018). He has served as a lieutenant in the local brigade and as a deputy group officer.

In 1983 Upper Beaconsfield suffered the devastation of the Ash Wednesday fires. Despite an injured hand, Stan was in the thick of it. The following Christmas, dressed as Santa, Stan was handing out lollies to the kids of Upper Beaconsfield from the back of a fire truck. Stan continued in this role for the next 20 years. It is a tradition that continues to this day.

Windermere

Stan has always wanted to help kids in need. For many years he was a fundraiser for the Windermere Foundation. At Christmas and Easter, he and his work mates at the City of

Berwick collected soft toys, many of them pre-loved. Beryl would wash, patch, and sew new eyes for them; the toys were then wrapped (with an Easter egg at Easter) and Stan would deliver a ute load of toys to Windermere. From there the toys were distributed to their new homes.

Yakkerboo (greener pastures)

Since 1976 Pakenham has celebrated Mr Yakkerboo, the town's mythical swamp bunyip character. Every year there is a street parade, a carnival and market. Since the beginning, Stan has been there as a volunteer and as a contributor. The parade is lead out by a large collection of vintage vehicles. Stan is always there with one of his immaculately restored trucks. (You might have seen Stan or one of his vintage trucks at the Village Festival). Recently he has added a giant remote-controlled gorilla to his display, much to the delight (or chagrin) of the crowd. The gorilla is not always well-mannered, tending to spit or pee on onlookers. But it is always entertaining.

Need for Feed

NFF is a Lions Club project run by local Graham Cockerell from Moonshine Motors. It provides feed for stock affected by drought, bushfire, or other natural disasters. Since the project began in 2006, Stan has donated his time, trucks, and hay to deliver quality feed wherever it is needed.

Apart from all this Stan has exhibited and been a volunteer at the Berwick and Pakenham Shows, and found time to be a community bus driver.

In 2005 Stan and Beryl were honoured with a Pride of Australia award. These are given to 'ordinary' Australians who show great courage, or those who volunteer to raise funds or help others in need.

2020 has certainly been difficult for everyone, and volunteer organisations of all sorts have been affected. Hopefully 2021 will be easier all round. All "vollies", whatever they do, are keen to get back to work. Stan is no exception.

CARO LETTS



How to lasso a wombat

Shortly after lockdown ended, Mike and I decided to have a nice relaxing weekend in the camper trailer in a quiet little campground near the Prom, with our friend Amanda. Great spot: beautiful beaches, rolling forests behind, scenic views, sheltered camp sites and plenty of walking tracks. After setting up camp we decided to go for a walk. That was where we met Matt and learned how to lasso a wombat. Which as you can imagine is not easy.

Matt was looking for a wombat. I said we'd keep an eye open. Then we met a woman who was also looking for a wombat. Same wombat? Presumably. Then we met Max, the wombat of course. We figured it had to be him because he had a bad case of mange.

Of course, we didn't have Matt's phone number and Max had no idea, so we rang the local wildlife carer, Sarah, whose number we managed to google despite near zero phone coverage. Sarah rang Matt and 15 minutes later, there he was.

"What's the plan?" we asked. Matt said that we were going to catch Max and he would take him to Sarah who has new facilities specialising in wombats. Sounded good. How are we going to catch him? Matt beamed and pulled out from the back of his old SUV a very tattered blanket and two small and battered plastic washing baskets. Apparently, we were going to throw the baskets over Max then wrap him in the blanket.

You can guess what Max thought about this. He was not cooperative at all and after the third attempt ended with another hole in the basket and further disintegration of the blanket, not to mention all three of the humans face down in the dirt, Max had had



enough and scampered back to his burrow up the hill.

Back at camp, Mike realised he'd left his camera back at ground zero, about 300 m away. So back he went, and who do you think had reappeared? Max of course. He was grazing contentedly as though nothing had happened. Bear in mind his eyesight is not 100% due to the mange.

Mike could see Matt in the distance sadly staring out to sea, so he called him back, pointing to Max. Matt brightened up and came jogging back with the washing baskets, the blanket – and a long rope. "We'll just have to lasso him", said Matt. "I've seen them do it with koalas." In a tree, with people who know what they're doing. But not with a rope exactly, more like a purpose designed padded piece of equipment so the koala doesn't get hurt.

Mike did point out that Max does not really have a neck and had already proved to be stronger and smarter than the three of us combined. But Matt was not deterred. So now we had Matt tiptoeing along behind Max, slowly and carefully, lasso in hand, followed by Mike with washing baskets, blanket visibly disintegrating, and the coiled long rope, which was doing its best to unravel. Each time they got close enough to drop the lasso on Max's unsuspecting head, Max would sense all was not well and skip forward, turn his head suspiciously then return to his lunch. The three of them continued this slow and stealthy pursuit for about 15 minutes. Then suddenly Max twigged.

And just as he turned to make a run for it, Matt sprang, dropped the lasso, and somehow managed to catch Max round the neck and under his left front leg. Mike bundled Max up in the blanket, threw the washing basket on for extra strength and Matt basically hogtied him, but not very effectively. "Now we'll carry him back to car and I'll head straight to Sarah", he beamed.

Max was having none of it. It was going to be a bit of a

struggle to carry a grumpy wombat to the car which was about 500 m away. I went back to collect the car. Sadly, I had not used gears for 40 years and I bunny hopped my way back. Max now resembled an enormous cocoon, and Mike appeared to be wrestling with the snake-like rope. But the crowd of holiday makers, especially the kids were entranced, captivated and obviously quite in awe of all this. Best holiday ever!

We bundled Max, the blanket, the rope and the two washing baskets into the back of the car and Matt decided to tie the rope to the luggage handle. To no avail really. Eventually Mike threw the rest of the rope in, propelled Matt into the driver seat and wished him good luck. The car took off. By the time it reached the exit of the campground, Max had escaped, clambered into the back seat, and continued to ask if they were there yet for the 15 minutes it took to get to Sarah's.

Somewhat shellshocked, Mike and I returned once more to the camper trailer, reassuring all and sundry as we went that Max was fine, was going to be treated for his mange and would then live happily ever after – which was more than could be said for us at this point. Max would now be under Sarah's expert care and nurse him back to health over the next couple of months. Max could then be released back into his home and all would be well.

45 minutes later the phone rang. It was Matt. 'I'm here with Max', he said happily. "We've decided to release him back into his territory and give him his treatments in situ". Mike went back to the entry gate and let them both back in. It was dusk but we figured Max would know where he was. He was now enclosed in a strong purpose-built wombat box. Matt opened the door with a flourish and after a moment or two Max emerged, unfazed and happy to be home. He started to eat immediately.

Mike and I could only stare in utter astonishment. Max was now brightly, iridescently fluorescent pink. He had been sprayed with Cetrigen as part of the treatment to combat the skin infections that mange mites bring. He



really looked quite stunning. We went back to camp to find Amanda now at least partially awake. 'Did I miss anything?', she asked.

Next morning, we saw Max again, now surrounded by a group of kids and adults all trying to work out what exactly had happened to him. He was completely unfazed by his new superstar status.

Further on we came upon Matt, Sarah and the campground manager all discussing Max's new health care plan. Max will now be left to do his own thing on his home ground. Matt will apply his treatment from a container on the end of a long stick. He will need regular doses for about two months. They also checked his burrow just in case future treatments need to be applied via the burrow entrance.

So far this has worked well. Matt is pleased with Max's progress. Max looks a lot happier, and hairier. He enjoys the sweet potato that Matt offers as a bribe. As Max's health improves, he's becoming a little harder to track down. Maybe at some point he will need to be treated via his burrow entrance. I'm sure Matt will make it happen. Especially with Sarah and her team to guide him.

What is wombat mange?

It is an infectious disease caused by a parasitic mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei*. These mites can only be seen with a microscope. Sarcoptic mange can affect many different animals – wombats, swamp wallabies, bandicoots, foxes, dogs and, yes, people (though for us it is self-limiting). It has recently been diagnosed in koalas. It was most likely introduced to Australia by European settlers and their domestic animals. It is an increasingly important and significant threat to many species and is considered the most significant disease threat to wombats.

The mites burrow into the skin and cause intense irritation, pain, scratching, thick crusty skin lesions, open infected wounds, hair loss, weight loss, and in severe cases, blindness, and death. Wombat behaviour changes as well. Usually they are nocturnal, coming out to feed at night. But as the disease takes hold they wander around during the day, increasing their chances of being hit by a car or harassed by a dog.

Wombats may be more affected by this disease more than other animals because they are a burrowing animal. Mites usually survive only about three days off their host animal but can survive longer if conditions are suitable.

Burrows provide what mites like – warmth, humidity, and darkness. With increased survival time comes increased opportunity to infect more animals. Although wombats are solitary and do not co-habit in burrows, they do access a number of burrows in their territory. They usually use a burrow as sleeping quarters for four to ten days, then move onto the next burrow. Once an infected wombat moves out, the next wombat to move in can likely pick up those mites. Other possible sources of contamination are live wombats who have the disease and those who have died of it. It is important to try and dispose of these dead wombats quickly. Burial is an option. Most vets will also dispose of them, but you would need to ring your vet first for advice.

It is possible to treat this debilitating and painful condition. Clearly lassoing your wombat is not actually the best option for starting the process. I have included an article by Jenny Mattingley who does know what to do and has been treating wombats successfully for over 30 years.

Research is currently underway for longer lasting treatments that are still effective when applied less frequently with some promising results so far.

CARO LETTS

UPPER BEAC CONSERVATION GROUP

Mange treatment for wombats

Mange is a dreaded condition in wombats. It is not a disease caused by a virus or a bacteria, but an infestation of the mange mite. Untreated, the wombat will die a slow and agonising death.

Many wombats live on private land and their health and wellbeing is dependent on the landowner's interest and until recently it was thought nothing could be done to help these wombats.

Good news ... mange can be treated!

Wombats suffering from mange can be seen grazing during the day. We need



before treatment

Wildlife rescue contacts

Locky's Legacy Wildlife Shelter

0431 635 858 or 0425 726 942

WISH

Wildlife Incident Safe Haven

Sarah Cooke 0402 393 667



after treatment

to know where these wombats live so they can be treated. Anyone interested in helping can phone Locky's Legacy Wildlife Shelter 0431 635 858 or 0425 726 942. Your involvement can be as simple as letting us know when you see a wombat with mange, or you might like to take an active role in treating.

So, how do I treat mange?

The product approved to treat mange in wombats is Cydectin/moxidectin 'pour on' for cattle and red deer. An appropriate dose needs to be applied every 5–7 days for 5–6 weeks. The treatment is simple and can be administered by informed volunteers. Medication and training provided. This is the best chance of keeping properties and areas clear of mange.

For more information on how to treat a wombat with mange check out www.wombatprotection.org.au/mange-disease. Photos show wombat before treatment and again 10 weeks later free of mange.

JENNY MATTINGLEY

Council news for Upper Beaconsfield



Pavilion upgrade for the Recreation Reserve

Council acknowledges the recent community petition to council requesting council prioritise the redevelopment of youth, scout, community, and sporting facilities at Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve. Council has committed funding to prepare a buildings masterplan and concept design and associated cost estimate for this proposed new pavilion. Council is working with the reserve committee of management on this design. The funding for the construction of the full upgrade is in council's 10-year capital works program.

I will continue to advocate to have council and the state and federal governments financially commit to deliver this much-needed upgrade.

New public toilet at the reserve

The planning approvals for the new public toilet facility at Upper Beaconsfield Reserve are progressing. The new toilet block is proposed to be located adjacent to the existing toilet block. The existing toilet block will be removed as part of the project.

Equestrian Strategy Review

Council is currently reviewing our Equestrian Strategy (2014) so we can improve and strengthen horse riding opportunities and participation in Cardinia Shire. As part of this review, we are seeking your input. The information you provide will help council understand how you use equestrian trails and facilities, current and emerging trends, and support ongoing implementation of the strategy.

To have your say or for further information please visit Cardinia Council website or call 1300 787 624.



(Photo courtesy Click Capture Photography)

Better Local Roads – Sealing the Hills

Sealing the Hills will be delivered as a series of individual projects on 164 prioritised roads over the next nine years as part of Council's overall Better Local Roads program.

On Wednesday 21 April council provided a general information session about Sealing the Hills and the proposed roads to be sealed in Upper Beaconsfield. There are 15 prioritised roads located in Upper Beaconsfield.

Council recently completed an initial draft design for Armstrong Road, and has started consultation with landowners for a Special Charge Scheme. Landowners in Armstrong Road recently joined us at a community information session held on Wednesday 5 May at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex. Council will be considering feedback to determine overall support for the program, and should majority support be obtained it is anticipated that works to seal Armstrong Road would start early 2022 and take around six months to complete.

The next package of roads to be considered for sealing in Upper Beaconsfield include: Young Street, Morris Road and Burton Road. These roads are currently being put out for a design tender. They are scheduled for special charge scheme consultation from September 2021 and if majority approval from landowners is obtained, for each of these roads, they are scheduled for sealing in September 2022.

Telegraph Road, Carpenter Road and Dickie Road have been given high priority due to their connectivity and importance to the local road network and will be sealed as non-special charge scheme roads. Telegraph Road is still in the process of obtaining arborist and ecological assessments with a final start date to be announced. Carpenter Road and Dickie Road are currently scheduled for sealing in September 2022.

For more information about Sealing the Hills call council on 1300 787 624, or search for better local roads on the council website.

**CR BRETT OWEN, BEACONHILLS WARD,
MAYOR CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL**

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

Influenza season is starting

In the midst of this Covid pandemic we must not forget about the influenza season which is predicted to be harsh this year. Influenza (flu) is a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract. It can cause severe illness and life-threatening complications including pneumonia.

The virus is transmitted through droplets and bodily fluids. It easily spreads from person to person, and it is more common in winter. It is not the same as common cold and can

cause more serious complications like bronchitis, croup, pneumonia, brain inflammation, brain damage, heart, other organ damage and death.

Who is affected?

Flu can affect people of all ages. Certain individuals are at a higher risk like children under 5 years, people above the age of 65, immunocompromised people, who have long term medical conditions, smokers, obese individuals, pregnant women, Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islanders.

Long term conditions like heart disease, lung disease, liver disease, Down syndrome, diabetes, blood diseases, and kidney disease can increase risk of having severe illness or death from flu infection.

Symptoms

Flu symptoms include runny nose or sneezing, cough, sore throat, fever & chills, headache, body aches, vomiting and diarrhoea.

Symptoms usually start about 1–3 days



continued from page 14

after catching the flu and can last for 7-10 days. Some people develop mild symptoms whereas some can develop serious complications as listed above requiring hospitalisation.

Spread and diagnosis

Flu spreads when you inhale the droplets from infected person's cough/sneeze. It also spreads through direct contact with bodily fluids from an infected person or touching your face/mouth/nose after touching infected surfaces. The doctor can diagnose your flu by the symptoms and by doing a swab from your nose or throat.

The flu spreads easily through families, workplaces, school, childcare centres and aged care homes. If someone has flu, they can start spreading 24 hrs before developing symptoms to 1 week after start of symptoms.

Last year there were minimal to nil cases of flu due to people using improved hygiene practices, social distancing and higher flu vaccine uptake. It is predicted this year there will be higher number of cases of influenza and hence the importance of taking the flu vaccine.

Treatment

Most of the mild cases get better on their own and need symptomatic treating like resting, keeping up the fluids, simple analgesics like paracetamol and Ibuprofen. Steam inhalation and humidifiers help in symptom control. Serious cases of flu sometimes require oral antiviral medications or hospitalisation. Severe flu cases can lead to death as well. Antibiotics should not be used to treat flu as it is a viral infection and antibiotics help only bacterial infections.

Prevention

To prevent the spread of flu it is essential to maintain social distancing from the infected person. Sneezing or coughing in the elbow or in a tissue and then hand washing is imperative to prevent the spread of flu.

Flu vaccine is the best prevention against flu. The vaccine protects you from contracting flu and getting serious disease. The flu virus strain constantly changes, and the vaccine is updated each year with new strains. Hence is it important to have the flu vaccine each year. It is recommended for everyone above the age of 6 months.

The following groups are eligible for free annual influenza vaccination under the National Immunisation Program:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over
- Children aged 6 months to under 5 years
- People aged 6 months or over who have certain medical conditions that mean they have a higher risk of getting serious disease
- Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy
- People aged 65 years or over

Get your flu shot at bulk billed flu vaccine clinic at Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice.

Remember, by getting the flu jab you are not just protecting yourself, but you are also protecting the people around you and most importantly you are helping to prevent the spread of infection in the community.

**DR ANSHU MALHOTRA
DR PUNEET MALHOTRA**

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD GP PRACTICE
WWW.UBGP.COM.AU PH: 03 9044 0750**

Please note that you should leave a minimum of two weeks between getting your Covid-19 vaccination and your flu shot.



UpperBeaconsfield PHARMACY

Local, convenient and compassionate pharmacy care and advice

53 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd

Upper Beaconsfield

Phone 03 5944 3881

www.ubpharmacy.com.au

facebook.com/Upperbpharmacy

Opening hours:

Monday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Tuesday 8.30 am – 7 pm

Wednesday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Thursday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Friday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Saturday 9.00 am – 2 pm

Check It! Before You Chuck It

There are new ways of recycling being developed as the authorities work out better ways of dealing with our "rubbish". Plastics are a particular problem. Much of the labelling was confusing, with a series of triangles with numbers. People previously put soft plastic bags and wrappers into rubbish bins. But these bags often escaped and blew away in the wind at tips, and became a real environmental hazard, especially marine environments where turtles, whales, and other creatures ingested these bags with fatal results.

A scheme was developed some years ago to put soft plastic bags into another soft plastic bag and take it to outlets where they have REDcycle collection bins for "bagged bags".

Now there is a new campaign called "Check It! Before You Chuck It". This encourages us to always check the Australasian Recycling Label (ARL) when disposing of packaging. The new ARL labels ensure packaging is disposed of correctly and can be recovered for future use in new products.

Recently I noticed a chocolate wrapper had new label information about recycling the wrapper, and my bread bags had new information as well. Not all wrappers are labelled yet, but it is growing.



So the new recycling logos are now more specific and state **what** is the component, and instruction **where** to recycle it. I put the recyclable soft plastics in my bread bags and take them to Woolies. Perfect! If the item cannot be recycled it has a bin logo.

Planet Ark's Recycling Near You

Other labels are being used for other recyclable items, so look out for them. There is excellent information on all sorts of recycling at <https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/arl/>

HELEN SMITH

Beaconsfield Reservoir Council resolution 17 May 2021

1. Note the officers report.
2. Recognises the Beaconsfield reservoir and nature conservation reserve as a place of highly significant environmental, community and cultural importance for our region. A wonderful natural asset that has great potential for community and environmental benefit into the future.
3. Requests that all responsible State Government authorities work together with the local community to develop a long term strategic plan that delivers the best outcomes for the environment and community interests.
4. Requests that no further works are to be considered or proceed with the reservoir's dam wall until such time this future strategic document is developed and created.
5. Advocate to the relevant State Government departments to undertake a thorough environmental assessment of the reservoir and the greater BNCR including a report on the impact that any future developments would have on the environment within.
6. Request that Melbourne Water make publicly available the safety assessment report which has identified the potential risk of the reservoir wall failing.
7. Acknowledges the petition which is currently before the State Government of Victoria which is requesting the retention of the current reservoir water level.
8. Highly commends the work that the Cardinia Environment Coalition has undertaken in managing the reserve and advocates for ongoing recurrent funding to manage the BNCR into the future.
9. Advocate for the State Government to assign the Park Manager role to a State Government Agency for a significant reserve of regional importance.
10. Indicates support for the improved recreational facilities and greater access to the Reserve for the general public.
11. Is supportive of Melbourne Water taking necessary action to ensure the safety of our community and we ask that thorough community consultation and communication is undertaken regarding any future plans or developments for this site.
12. Requests a future report be presented to Council responding to the additional information to be provided by the Victorian Government and Melbourne Water and a further report to respond to Notice of Motion 1058 when the information is made available.



Wipe off ten for wildlife

We have all heard of the TAC message 'Wipe of five, or wipe out lives'. An easy to remember motto to save wildlife at night is, 'Wipe off ten for wildlife'. Travelling 10 km/h slower at night, yes double the TAC plea, makes sense because animals behave erratically or just freeze under headlights. You may also need to take evasive action to protect you, and your car – so much safer and precise if you are travelling significantly slower. Getting home a few minutes later, or organising yourself to leave a few minutes sooner if you are going out at night may be all that is required to save a lot of grief. Bright driving lights can be a real asset for spotting wildlife, or a curse for reasons already mentioned.

Those who drive vehicles with bullbars, should not think of this feature as a tool of impunity. You may not be as safe as you think if you can consider the height a kangaroo can jump. Being so arrogant that you can think that you can wantonly destroy anything that nature puts in your path, has never worked for humanity, either now or throughout any time in history. Show some compassion.

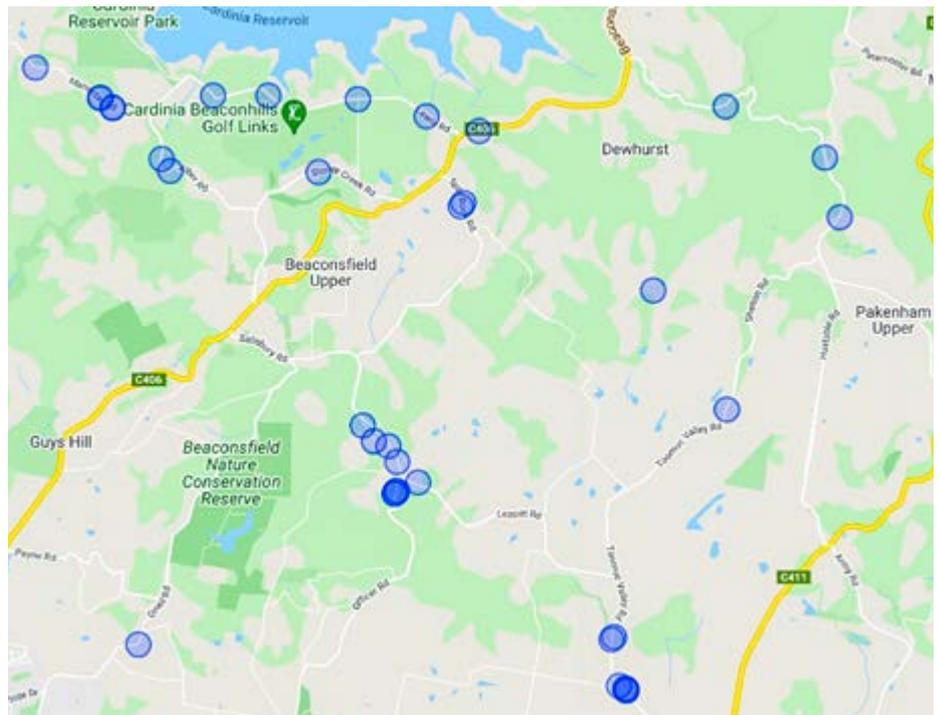
Over the month of May, local wildlife rescuers and carers were called out to 38 suspected roadkill-wildlife incidents in the Upper Beaconsfield area.

Of these call outs:

20 kangaroos, 9 wombats, 6 wallabies, 2 possums, 1 owl

Native animals were pouch checked – with 6 joeys included in the above numbers. 68% of animals were dead on arrival, most others were euthanised soon after, unfortunately. One of the joeys was taken into care, and is still thriving. Sadly, the rest of the joeys were not viable, some too young and others with injuries too severe.

Of these 38 animals recorded, 10 were on just one day (19 May) and a further 8 were recorded over a single 2-day period (30 to 31 May). As you can see



on the map, there were some definite cluster areas emerging this month, with a section on Toomuc Valley Road, and another near the intersection of Salisbury/Leppitt/Officer Roads.

Once again a huge thanks to our rescuers who go out at all hours to attend to these animals, sometimes over and over again on the same night. Thanks also to the people who take the time to stop and call us to let us know of an animal that has been hit – this can result in saving a joey, or at least allowing an injured animal to have a compassionate death.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD WILDLIFE WATCH

Are you smoking too much?

While walking around town on a recent lockdown exercise session, it was noticeable that there was a lot of smoke in the vicinity from wood heater flues, and someone was burning off damp leaves in their yard. It was a still day and the smoke was hanging around. This is a good time of year to remind residents, especially new residents, about the dangers of wood smoke.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture Water and Environment states that wood heaters



provide effective household heating. Wood heaters pollute less than open fireplaces but can still be a major source of air pollution if you do not operate them properly. Fine particles

in wood smoke cause many environmental and health problems. They are a major source of air pollution in winter when people use wood heaters for home heating.

The key pollutant from wood fires is particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5). This is harmful to human health, particularly for high-risk groups such as

pregnant women, children, the elderly, and people with respiratory illness.

The health problems associated with wood heater smoke include asthma, chronic lung disease, heart problems, premature births, and deaths. Some pollutants from wood smoke, such as particles and formaldehyde, are carcinogenic.

- Make sure your wood is dry.
- Operate your heater with sufficient air to burn efficiently, without smoke.
- Don't load the fire box up and then shut the flue down.
- Burn off on days with some breeze to disperse smoke, rather than on still days. Make sure the prunings, and leaves are dry, not green.

More info: <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/air-quality/woodheaters-and-woodsmoke>

HELEN SMITH

In remembrance of Fred and Annie Sheard

Annie Cocking was born in about 1847 in Weston, a small hamlet in Nottinghamshire. She was the eldest of ten children. Her father farmed 30 acres, but according to the census returns, Annie seemed to have grown up with her mother's sister and her husband, a blacksmith, at East Retford, a few miles north of Weston.

Frederick Sheard was born on 29 Feb 1848 at Rawdon, Yorkshire. His parents were woollen weavers, and he had three sisters. Today Rawdon is part of Leeds. By age 13, Fred was an errand boy, and ten years later, in 1871, he was working as a groom at stables of a farmer east of Leeds. Annie Cocking had found work at the same farm as a laundry maid.

They married on 24 March 1877 in Annie's home village, and two years later made the long journey to Australia, arriving in August 1879.

Newspaper reports detailed that Fred worked for a time as a kangaroo shooter in New South Wales, and as a stockman in Queensland, before they came to Beaconsfield in 1885 where they bought Patrick Kennedy's crown allotment 59B in the Parish of Pakenham, a farm of 64 acres. This farm was situated on the south side of Quamby Road.

Early Beaconsfield

Beaconsfield was a rural area when the Sheards moved here. There were few neighbours. The landowners who may have lived close by were William Piggott and Frederick Illingworth who both soon went to Western Australia. A bit further up was George Craik's first guest house, which in the 1890s was utilised as an inebriate's retreat. The Barnes family, their near neighbours, were good friends. Renselier Barnes, a widower, was described as an invalid who was supported by his children, Isabella, Minnie and Renselier. He died in April 1886 of tuberculosis. Alice Barnes, Renselier junior's wife, said in 1921 that they were treated by the Sheards like they were their own children.

As time went on the area was slowly settled, first Craik's former property was subdivided into 10 acre lots, then came

the Quamby subdivision which was initially a weekend campsite for a multitude of owners. The Luke family settled at Montuna, and in 1915 the properties around High Street were also subdivided.

The Sheards' property was mostly re-claimed ti-tree flats, and initially Fred would have grown cereal and root crops, and tended to a small orchard. In his later years he concentrated on dairying, and sold milk and cream to neighbours, and surplus calves at the market. They also kept fowl, and Annie would make her own wine from grapes she grew. Everyone in Beaconsfield knew the Sheards. Fred was nicknamed "Old Cock Robin," because he cheerfully whistled while working. Annie tramped every week to the railway station, a walk of three and a half miles to fetch the newspapers. The couple did not have any children, but Fred's nephew had been staying with them at one time, before he moved to the Mildura region.

A fateful theft

In about 1916 a young boy, Reggie Brown, moved to Beaconsfield with his mother, one of his sisters and his mother's new partner Adam Cook. It is not known where they lived exactly, probably somewhere on the Quamby Estate. Reggie used to go to the Sheards to buy milk. He was about eleven or twelve years old at the time. One day when he went there, the Sheards were not at home. He was curious, and decided to have a look around the house. In the bedroom he discovered a box, and inside he found some rolled-up bank notes. He helped himself to a ten-pound note, but was certain that there was a lot more money there. Fred Sheard soon

realised he was down ten pounds and immediately suspected Reggie. At first Reggie denied that he had been in the house, but when Fred said he would go to the police, he owned up, and returned the money. He probably did not tell his parents what had happened, as his mother sent him to buy milk at the Sheards a few days later. Fred Sheard refused to sell him milk. On his return home Adam Cook was sent to the Sheards to sort things out, only to discover what had happened. The family left Beaconsfield shortly afterwards.

A few years later, in early 1921, Adam Cook, by now no longer living with Reggie's mother, spent a short time with a fellow hawker and dealer, Theodore Henry Christensen, in the Romsey and Lancefield area. One day Cook told Christensen about Reggie and the £10. Christensen was born in Victoria, but spent some time in Western Australia where he spent some jail time for stealing a cash-box from a hotel. In 1915 he enlisted and served 2½ years overseas. Details of his service are sketchy, and it is doubtful that he spent any time at the front. He married a widow with four children, in Dorset. Shortly after, in 1917, he was discharged from the army as being permanently unfit for war service. In June 1920, Harry, with his wife and now five children were repatriated to Melbourne.

Around the same time Christensen offered some lodgings to a Mr John King, also known as John Matthews. They may have known each other in Western Australia. King was a (violent) career criminal, who had recently been released from jail. King and his siblings had grown up as state wards after their father's death when John was about 11 years old. At the end of his "upbringing" with the Christian Brothers in 1887 he joined a larrikin gang that took pleasure in fighting police. He turned into a violent thug. In 1889 he held up a man in order to rob him, and shot at him when the man had the tenacity to shout "police." After a stint in prison he went to Western Australia, South Australia, South Africa, and New South Wales, serving many jail terms, before resuming his criminal career in Victoria. Christensen passed on Cook's story of Reggie's ten-pound grab from a roll of banknotes, to John King.



The Sheards' farm on Quamby Road

Back in Beaconsfield, on the morning of Monday, 13 June 1921, John Larkin, who lived on the Quamby Estate, headed to the Sheards to buy milk. He quickly realised that something was not right. He did not find the old couple and the milk was not ready. He also noticed that their fowl were still locked up. He went across Quamby Road to consult Mrs Warmbrunn, who lived in the house closest to Sheards' farm. A little later Alice Barnes joined them, and together they



Fred and Annie Sheard

his wife he was going sheep shearing in the country. Warrants for his apprehension were not successful.

Coroner's inquest

Shortly before the coroner's inquest began on 12 August 1921, Adam Cook went to the police informing them that he had told Christensen about Reggie's theft of Sheard's money. Although he had met John King in Western Australia, he did not know that King and Christensen lived together

around the time of the murders. The coroner took about 25 statements over the course of the inquest. Among them, Winifred Blackburn, King's mistress at the time, gave the most damning evidence. She stated that King told her that he had to get up early on Saturday morning. On Sunday evening he informed her that he wouldn't be home that night as he had business in Beaconsfield to attend, and that he would come into some money soon. King was also in possession of a blood-stained suit, but forensics were then not advanced enough to determine whose blood it was.

When Constable Lombard arrived from Berwick he discovered the bloodied bodies of the old couple. They had been violently murdered. There are numerous articles in the newspapers of the day, so I won't repeat all the gory details. The state of the house suggested a hurried search for money. Constable Lombard sought the help from detectives who took over the case. Black trackers were brought from Dandenong to assist in searching for any clues – to little avail.

The people of Beaconsfield were devastated that such a friendly old couple had met such a terrible death. Gossip ran rife – hawkers, who regularly offered their wares, men who took the opportunity to seek shelter in barns overnight, and any strangers, all aroused suspicion.

The well-attended funeral was held by Rev James Wilson at the Berwick Cemetery on 16 June 1921. The grave remains unmarked.

Locals interviewed

A number of people in Beaconsfield were interviewed by the police, and they recalled seeing a yellow car in the area on Saturday morning 11 June. A man had asked Alice Barnes' daughter Nellie if she could tell them where a Mr 'Shell' lived. After she fetched her

mother, the man repeated his question, and Alice Barnes asked him if he meant Mr Sheard, which the man said was right. Other witnesses reported that there were three men in a yellow car they saw. Only one of the men spoke. The publican at Cardinia Park Hotel, as well as a labourer lodging at the hotel, recalled a man asking for a bottle of beer on Saturday morning, saying that he was with some others and that their car was parked nearby. Both described the yellow car and the man who got out of the car, but they did not see any of the other men clearly.

As the police made no progress in finding a motive for the killings locally, they concentrated on the men in the yellow car. On 28 June they arrested John King. He was remanded in custody as the police made further inquiries. The police also arrested a second man, Edward Jenkins, the owner of a yellow car, who was a regular driver for criminals – including Squizzy Taylor. Shortly after the arrests, the detectives drove the two men to Beaconsfield in the yellow car to find out if any of the witnesses could identify either the car or the men. Nellie Barnes was certain that the man she spoke to was neither King or Jenkins, but she thought the car was a match. The publican and the labourer both said that the man who spoke to them was not King, another witness said that the man he saw was not clean shaven like King was now. Yet another said that although the car he saw was yellow he thought that the shade of yellow was different.

As Jenkins had documentary evidence that his car was garaged on the night in question, and his girlfriend gave evidence that he was at home, he was not remanded. However, the police believed that they were lying and the garage records were falsified.

Christensen, meanwhile, disappeared from Melbourne in early July, telling

around the time of the murders. The coroner took about 25 statements over the course of the inquest. Among them, Winifred Blackburn, King's mistress at the time, gave the most damning evidence. She stated that King told her that he had to get up early on Saturday morning. On Sunday evening he informed her that he wouldn't be home that night as he had business in Beaconsfield to attend, and that he would come into some money soon. King was also in possession of a blood-stained suit, but forensics were then not advanced enough to determine whose blood it was.

Both Jenkins and King insisted that they had not met before they were taken to Beaconsfield by the police. On conclusion of the inquest the Coroner found that on 12 June Frederick Sheard and Annie Sheard were struck and killed by John King, alias Matthews, and by another man not yet identified, aided and abetted by Edward Jenkins, and that King and Jenkins were guilty of wilful murder. They were committed for trial at the Supreme Court, Melbourne on 15 September.

On 14 September it was reported that the Crown Law department had abandoned the case. It was felt that the case against either of the men was not strong enough to secure convictions.

The Sheards' farm and livestock were put up for auction on 4 August and realised good prices. The new owner was Henry Ferguson who with his family resided in Beaconsfield for many years.

MARIANNE ROCKE

Sources:

Coroner's Inquest VPRS30/PO/1938 491
Grisly and gruesome: Shocking, callous and cruel
www.heraldsun.com.au/podcasts/in-black-and-white

Deer surveys underway

By the time you are reading this article the long-planned aerial survey of the Cardinia Creek catchment should have been completed. If not, my hair will be a little greyer and even Johannes might have stopped smiling. It has been a long time in planning, and mainly due to Covid, beset with roadblocks, but hopefully by now, the results should be in. We can hardly wait.



But resting on our laurels is not an option. The completion of the aerial survey is the trigger for the start of the vegetation impact survey. This survey is designed to measure the damage caused by grazing deer on our indigenous vegetation measured against rises and falls in the deer population. It does this by assessing the vegetation damage at 5 metre intervals along a 150 metre transect, and at each plot doing a scat count. In mid-May, a group of 12 local



volunteers attended a training session at the Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve, led by Dr Ami Bennett from Melbourne University on how to conduct the survey. These volunteers will, in turn, pass this knowledge on to more volunteers who will carry out the survey on multiple transects over the next two or three months.

It is important the surveys are carried in this time frame so the evidence gathered can be matched against the data obtained by the aerial survey. For example, the scat count data can be correlated against the deer population revealed by the aerial survey. Then, when the vegetation surveys are carried out in the future, a change in the scat count can give us an indication of the deer population density at that time.



As you might guess, it is a complicated effort to pull all this together. We have been in discussions with scientists at Deakin University, in the hope of developing a longer-term relationship with them. Deakin have been involved in research into feral deer for many years and are already actively helping monitor deer numbers and environmental impact in this area. Their support would be a massive boon to our efforts. We expect these negotiations to conclude soon; hopefully, we will have news of the progress in discussions with Deakin Uni in the next Village Bell.

Outside our group, there is a lot happening in the feral deer space right now. Governments, both national and state, and local councils are becoming increasingly aware and concerned about the consequences on the rise of the feral deer population throughout Australia. More money is being made

available both for control and research into the issue and groups



such as the Victorian Deer Control Community Network are enabling collaboration across the state to enhance the sharing of knowledge and improve deer control advocacy.

As always, we are looking for help in our efforts to protect our environment through humane deer reduction. If you would like to help with the vegetation survey, would like advice regarding deer on your property or think you have skills which could help with the management or administration of the CDMC, contact us on info@cardiniadeer.org.au

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

Exploring new things at the Early Learning Centre

We have explored many exciting topics recently including all things bees, shapes, insects and much more.



We recently had a local beekeeper come to the centre and do an incursion with the children where they were able to learn so many exciting things and see this process firsthand.

We have been learning about many different things through play including shapes, counting, sharing, building friendships, self-help skills and so on.

We 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.



Please have a look at our website (www.ubcc.org.au) for more information and for our virtual centre tour.

Contact the ELC at the Community Centre on 5944 3484

Email us on elc@ubcc.org.au

Visit us at 10-12 Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield.

**ELLI HEATH
DIRECTOR ELC**

BUPS – ANZAC Day, running and presents



BUPS is slowly returning to a pre-Covid normal. We are still unable to have parents at assembly, but we are

trying to provide opportunities for our community to be involved.

We recently welcomed parents to

our ANZAC Day ceremony and our annual cross-country event. As usual our school captains and junior school council members led our ANZAC day ceremony. Our students take this role very seriously and rehearse their parts at home to ensure they demonstrate the respect they know these occasions warrant. Many families placed flowers under the flagpole and after school these were taken to the town memorial and laid to show our respect.

After our ANZAC assembly we ran our cross-country event. It was a lovely day and wonderful to be together again to celebrate the unique community feel we have here at BUPS. Everyone participated, with students running different courses depending on their age and grade level. The senior students are very competitive but show great sportsmanship. It was delightful to see the big smiles on our newest prep students as they passed the finish line.

On Friday 7 May we welcomed all our mums to a special morning event. We met outside, gave our mums a little surprise and then sat with them and read a story. Mums were welcome to stay once the students return to class and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee, a biscuit and a chance to catch up. Meanwhile, students snuck down to the gym to buy a wonderful present for Mother's day.

To find out more about our great school please visit our website www.bups.vic.edu.au and join our Facebook page.

VICKI MILES



UBA Junior committee



Late last term, we met with Jenny and Andrew from the UBA (Upper Beaconsfield Association) to discuss things we would like to see in our community. We talked about more labelled bins in Upper

Beaconsfield, getting the community veggie garden back up and running, and getting the BMX track updated so it's safer. We will soon be meeting with the Cardinia Shire Mayor, Cr Brett Owen, to discuss our ideas for the BMX track. As a thanks for our involvement, Jenny and Andrew presented us with Junior UBA Committee badges. We feel honoured to wear the badges and represent kids' ideas with pride.

ELLA, KOBE, ELLA AND JACK

Community Centre holds its first school holiday program

Thanks to the community for their interest and support in our first ever school holiday program this last term. Children were enthused to try out the yoga, reading and storytelling, art workshops and movie sessions.

With specialist tutors engaged, we held a number of workshops allowing children to try something new or something they already love. The movie



lunchbox days and art workshops were a hit and booked out fast. There was a real buzz in the hall on Wednesdays with budding artists creating their very own take-home arty masterpieces. The joyful expressions as they left with their collage pictures, character stress-balls and colourful woollen pom-poms was priceless.

We look forward to inviting children back to the Centre for the next school holiday program. Let us know if you

have any suggestions or specific activities your children would be interested to undertake.

What's on offer at the Community Centre?

To see the current and upcoming workshops and classes at the Centre, please visit our social media pages, the UBCC website, or pop in and pick up a copy of our printed program.

You'll find lifestyle classes, first aid courses, some excellent new adult education workshops and IT programs to name a few.

We're always looking for new tutors to teach interesting workshops. What's your talent? Perhaps you would like to take a workshop and share your expert knowledge and skills? Reach out and let us know, we'd love to have you on board.

Toy Library is now up and running – call us to arrange a time or find out more.

Giving back to the community – Upper Beacy Bags

“Upper Beacy Bags” are a community driven voluntary group using the Boomerang Bag model to create reusable, environmentally sustainable bags. We welcome you to join this dedicated group. Contribute to the

group by sewing, pinning, cutting, ironing, or simply joining in the chat and making cups of tea.



Some fantastic results over the past 12 months now present a great opportunity to re-distribute the money back into our wonderful community as promised. If you know someone in need, please get in touch and nominate them for a complimentary service or food hamper. For example, firewood, gutter cleaning, grass mowing, and winter food staples. Be assured that this will be a discrete and private process.

Community consultation questionnaire

A sincere shout out to all members of the community who have taken the time to complete our recent questionnaire. We are currently working through the responses and look forward to better serving our diverse community based on your feedback.

10-12 Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield, Phone: 5944 3484

Email: bookings@ubcc.org.au

Website: www.ubcc.org.au

Melbourne Youth Chorale news

MYC (formerly Berwick Youth Choir) is bouncing back after nine months of online learning in 2020. We emerged from lockdown without a rehearsal venue and significantly depleted numbers. Now with over 60 choristers and having settled into Beaconsfield Neighbourhood House, MYC is rapidly rebuilding repertoire and confidence.

In addition to our teachers Caitlyn Bosch, Simon Loveless and Monika Harris we also welcome Angela Patti and Sofia Imperatore to the team. With



the Covid environment necessitating teachers stay home with the sniffles, some of our senior choristers have also had the opportunity to step up into tutor roles from time to time.

We are excited to announce that choristers in MYC's main performance choir, Jones, have been offered a wonderful opportunity to perform with Opera Australia at Bunjil Place in Carmen. Because of the pandemic uncertainty the timeframe for this project has been very tight and our staff and choristers have risen to the challenge. For some of our choristers, learning French is new!

We look forward to our Jones Day-Camp on 5 June. Already postponed from February because of the snap-lockdown, we are hopeful that this time the camp will go ahead. The camp is

an opportunity for choristers to put concerted work into their performance repertoire and engage in some team-bonding activities.

Established by Jean Heriot in 1986, MYC celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2021. Jean's legacy of quality Kodaly music education in a caring educational community is embraced by MYC's current leadership team.

We offer the gift of music to every child without prejudice on a 'pay what you can afford' basis. In addition to choral training, MYC's comprehensive Musicianship theory program sets MYC apart from many other choirs and equips choristers for a career in music. We are glad to be able to offer this opportunity to every child regardless of their financial background. Watch out for our GoFundMe and Singathon campaigns in June/July!

If you'd like to provide a business sponsorship please contact Kerry at manager.myc@gmail.com

KERRY ALEXANDER

www.melbourneyouthchorale.com.au

Quieter time at the Fire Brigade

After an uneventful 2020, the 2021 fire restrictions were lifted early due to cooler and wetter weather.

When setting the fire danger period regional CFA consults with DELWP, local brigades and municipal councils, considering things like drought factor, grass curing and weather events. Restrictions are imposed on a municipality basis, which means if Upper Beaconsfield is high risk, then all other localities in the Shire of Cardinia fall under the same conditions. This can get tricky to interpret and manage in localities like Emerald or Cockatoo that have bordering municipal boundaries with differing risk factors.

In between fire restrictions, the laws regarding burning off fall under the relevant council's open air burning policy. For more information on regulations in Cardinia Shire please visit <https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/burningoff>

In these cooler months wood heater flues and caps should be cleaned to remove the build up of highly combustible creosote – the black/brown residue that sticks to the inner walls of your chimney. The main cause of creosote build-up is the burning of wet or unseasoned wood. If you have not had your wood heater inspected and cleaned this year, it's not too late!

New doors for the fire station

We received a Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grant to have motorised doors installed to the fire station engine bay. The state government funded program contributes \$2 for every \$1 of ours. Our

existing doors are manually operated, bi-fold, counterweight doors which are noisy, cumbersome and heavy to close. The new doors will be electrically operated with remote controls in each of the appliances. This will save time and add an additional element of station security. We expect the new doors to be installed in the second half of 2021.

Tanker 1 replacement?

We are still waiting for our 30 year-old ageing CFA supplied Tanker 1 to be replaced. It is "in the current build program" but we have not been provided with a precise delivery date.

Biennial brigade elections

In April we held our biennial brigade elections. The new positions, to take effect on 1 July bring a good blend of experience and enthusiasm.

<i>Captain</i>	Ian Pinney
<i>1st Lieutenant</i>	Andrew Lloyd
<i>2nd Lieutenant/ Chairperson</i>	Emma Vulin
<i>3rd Lieutenant/ Comms</i>	Clint Patzack
<i>4th Lieutenant/ Training Coordinator</i>	Ian Rees
<i>Community Safety</i>	Claire Pagenstecher
<i>Secretary</i>	Stefan Ziemer
<i>Treasurer</i>	Debbie Pinney
<i>Driving Coordinator</i>	Graham Matthews
<i>OHS</i>	Bob Sanders

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of outgoing committee

members Steve Limb, Adrian Kerr and Annaliese Bristol.



Call outs since the last Bell

- 4 x motor vehicle accidents
- 2 x grass and scrub fires

Firefighter training during winter

With the relaxation of Covid laws we have resumed face-to-face training and many of our firefighters are undertaking additional courses to further their skills and knowledge – courses such as Low Structure, Suppress Wildfire, Crew Leadership, Breathing Apparatus, Low Voltage Fuse Removal, Advanced Pumping Operations, A-Class Foam Operations, Drive Emergency Vehicles and Drive Off Road. Generally these courses are undertaken on a weeknight or weekends. A few of our newer recruits are undergoing their General Fire Fighter training.

What does it take to become a CFA volunteer?

We welcome new recruits to the brigade. It doesn't matter what you have/haven't done, whether you're working/not working or if you are young or old, as long as you are reasonably active. We have a large cross section of members, all people who live in and around Upper Beaconsfield who want to provide a meaningful community contribution.

All training and PPC equipment is provided. The biggest investment required from members is their time. For new recruits there is a minimum entry level General Fire Fighter qualification, which is a mix of theoretical and practical training modules. We also have practical training at the brigade (Wednesday evening and/or Sunday morning) to get up to speed and learn about the operation of appliances and equipment. New recruits can expect to take 3-6 months to get through the training, depending on the amount of personal time invested.

Once qualified, members are issued a pager and are able to respond to fires and other emergencies 24/7, 365 days per year. On average the brigade attends 55 calls per year. Due to availability some members may attend many calls, others only a handful.

If you would like to know more, send an email to ian.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au or leave a message at the fire station on 5944 3303.

CAPTAIN IAN PINNEY

Fire Brigade rags

The rag bins at the fire station have recently received a roof, so that the donated clothes remain dry, making handling easier for the volunteers of the Fire Brigade Auxiliary.

We accept clothes (preferably cotton), sheets, towels, etc. that can be cut into rags suitable to wipe machinery or clean up spills. We also accept articles that can be given to the Berwick and Pakenham Op-shops, who are generous supporters of the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade. Woollens, curtains, socks, underwear etc are not suitable.

Tradespeople can support the brigade by buying a bag of rags at \$2/kg.





Change happens

As a community we have experienced a significant amount of change in our personal lives, in our community, and for some of us there has also been an impact on our business. We all know someone who has also done it tough and with the support of family, friends, and the community I hope that most people are continuing with a sense of experiencing the good in life. I hope that as we move into this year with vigour and a determination to succeed, we embrace all that is new and consider how we engage with some things that may not be the same as we have known but can move us towards being a stronger community.

There will be further change to come our way in October this year, as there is a review of Victoria's State electoral boundaries or what is known as a redistribution. This is done to ensure that each electorate has about the same number of enrolled voters and all Victorians have equal representation in Parliament.

The Liberal Party of Australia (Victorian Division) has proposed in its submission 1 March 2021, to split the Gembrook Electorate into two. It is proposed to create two new electorates: Pakenham and Berwick. Based on Stage 1 of the presented submissions, the proposed electoral boundaries will be released, and stage two submissions open on 30 June 2021. Public hearings for the stage two submissions are 16–20 August 2021 and final electoral boundaries released on 28 October 2021.

I assure you that as your Member of Parliament with a strong sense of community engagement, I will continue to work for my electorate as the boundaries are determined in October 2021.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

BRAD BATTIN
5953 0216

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Website www.bradbattin.com.au,
Twitter @BradBattinMP, Facebook
BradBattinMP, Instagram @
bradbattinMP, Linked In Brad-BattinMP
and YouTube – Brad Battin.

We're busy at the Men's Shed

After the lost year, 2020, and a stop/start first quarter due to COVID restrictions, we are back in the business of doing what the Men's Shed does.

We held our AGM on 2 March, with president, Ron Kerpen, retiring after completing a three year term. Noel Ling was elected as the new president along with a supporting committee to lead the group forward. We thank Ron for his leadership, especially throughout the difficult period of COVID restrictions during 2020 when the Shed suspended operations for a period. Fortunately, Ron and others initiated us into the "joys" of Zoom, so at least we had a good level of communications.

So – what have we been up to this quarter?

- We have welcomed two new members (Charlie and John)
- We have held two sausage sizzles (Bunnings and Coles) which, despite inclement weather, were very successful
- We started the metamorphosis of 50–100-year-old tobacco sticks from the Ovens Valley into hiking poles. (Yes, that is a real word). We are now in the marketing stage – see the photo and advertisement in this edition. This project has involved many of the Shed members and we expect it to last for a couple of years. We thank Charlie Hall – a new member – who provided us with the opportunity to get involved in this very interesting project.
- Several tasks requested by community residents/groups were completed in the workshop
- creation of wooden spokes for a 100-year-old dray
- conversion of an old side table to a bird feeder
- community seat repairs
- production of timber running boards for a 1937 Bentley
- production of several small items in the metal work section
- Internally in the Shed, we have recommenced painting of walls and building new storage



drawers. We are investigating an appropriate air filtration machine(s) to ensure the safety of all who attend the Shed. Fluorescent lights in the meeting room are being replaced with the more efficient LED lighting

- Several members attended the Anzac Day service and Tony Knight laid a wreath on behalf of the shed
- On 12 May, a big event occurred with our Shed hosting delegates from 30 sheds from the south west areas of Gippsland. This event consisted of presentations that took place in the Community Hall, followed by a gourmet meal in the Men's Shed.
- And – what plans for next quarter?
- At least two more sausage sizzles
- Some working bees around town
- Continuance of hiking pole project
- Hopefully, welcoming a couple of new members.
- We are also resurrecting the 'gourmet' meal for the last Wednesday of each month. That is a great day to come along to see what we do
- Possible stall at Akoonah market

We are looking for new members. The Shed is open Tuesday 9-4, Wednesday 9-3, Thursday – on request. Come up on Wednesday morning when we have a meeting of all members, and share a coffee and biscuit with us to find out more about the Shed (we don't bite). The Shed is in Halford Street; parking is available in the RSL carpark.

Contact Noel Ling (President) on 0414 443 735, or secubms@gmail.com for more info.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldMensShed/>
Web Site - <https://sites.google.com/site/upperbeaconsfieldmensshed/>

NOEL LING

Pony Club members are back!

In such a contrast to last year, our Pony Club members are delighted to participate in our monthly rallies together as a whole club, enjoying full days of riding lessons and socialising over lunch.

2021 kicked off in February with a twilight mounted games challenge in house teams. The competitive streaks came out in many of our riders and horses as they vied to earn points for their team through relay races in bending, baton, tent pegging and, the hilarious donut eating race. This was our first rally as a whole club in over

12 months and it was so lovely to see the older riders encouraging the young ones in their house groups, as well as the care children took of their ponies on such a hot afternoon.

The weather for the March rally also tested our riders, with a cold snap and rain most of the day. Spirits were high however and the kids showed resilience as they took part in show jumping, cross country and a local trail ride. We also had dressage with a little difference, where the members learned to ride in pairs and formations, working with their horses to keep pace

with each other and be aware of where the other riders were, to complete a routine as a team.



In April we held an overnight camp at Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre, where the riders experienced camping out next to their horses, fun games in the evening such as the good old three legged and wheelbarrow races and limbo, resulting in much laughter and luckily no injuries! We enjoyed a spectacular roast dinner thanks to Emma and the canteen crew, followed by a campfire and bed. On the Sunday, the kids were all up early checking on their horses and preparing for the day of riding. Members took part in dressage and show jumping, as well as two cross country lessons to take advantage of the opportunity on the huge course, where riders challenged themselves through many different obstacles and jumps, with the water jump being a huge hit. Jake's comment when going with the instructor to the large water jump, was "it's not a creek it is a river!" The weekend ended with many tired but happy kids, ponies, and parents.

After a break from competitions in 2020 we have had several members representing the club at various events this year, which is fantastic to see.

We also welcomed some new members, and still have room for a few more. If you are interested in joining pony club or doing a 'come and try' day, feel free to come by to see the fun at a rally at our grounds at the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Please contact us on memberships@ubpc.com

LAUREN WILSON



1st Upper Beaconsfield Scouts



We invite 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.

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.

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

All sections of our Scout Group meet at the Igloo, Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve.

Joeys 5-7 years
Monday 5.30-6.30 pm

Cubs 7-10 years
Monday 7.00-8.30 pm

Scouts 10-14 years
Tuesday 7.00-9.00 pm

Venturers 14-17 years
Monday 7.30-9.30 pm

Rovers 18-25 years
Thursday from 7.30 pm

News from the courts

The tennis winter season has just kicked off for the junior weekend completions with all senior completions, midweek ladies, and four nights of intra club social completions continuing. It is great to see the club back up and running and the courts being used after the lockdown in 2020.

2021 Junior Club championships

The championships and summer season break up was held at the club at the end of March. Congratulations to Jordan R, our junior club champ with the runner up was Hayden M. Our Junior Girls Club camp was Chloe S and runner up was Vivienne R. All the kids seemed to have a fun afternoon, followed by popular raffle with lots of prizes and pizza!

Yarrawonga 2021

Over Easter, more than 50 UBTC members and families made their annual trek to the Yarrawonga Easter Tournament. With the tournament being cancelled last year due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were excited to be able to travel and play in 2021. For

some members, 2020 was the first time in 20 years that they did not attend the 1,500-player tournament over Easter. Unfortunately, no grand finalist winners for UBTC. However, congratulations to Jordan R and Claudia E for making the under 17 mixed doubles grand final and Matt H and Caitlin B for making the B grade mixed doubles grand final. A great Easter weekend was had by all – lots of grass court tennis played, plenty of chocolate Easter eggs eaten and many camping memories made. We are all counting down the days to the 2022 tournament!

Coaching

We have a full range of programs including Hot Shots, group lessons, semi-privates and private lessons, squad coaching, Cardio Tennis, a school program, and holiday programs. Those interested in organising coaching please contact Karen on 0403 454 554 or Karen@ulimatetennismelbourne.com.

COVID update

If you attend the club for organised

competition AS A PLAYER, your attendance will be recorded, but if you attend for social play, as a parent supervising a junior, or any other reason please register your attendance by emailing the club email address, completing the online process at VisitSafe, or by using the QR code at the club.



New members

If you are interested in playing tennis the club offers a wide range of tennis to suit everyone! This includes night tennis, mid-week ladies, junior and senior competitions. Please get in contact with the club and we will be happy with any queries.

On behalf of the UBTC committee, we would like to see everyone back on the courts in 2021.

SCOTT COLLARD

Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club <https://www.tennis.com.au/upperbeaconsfield/>
Email upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldTennisClub>

Cricket Club end of season presentations



The different season that climaxed in March 2021 witnessed a large crowd of parents, players and supporters huddled under marquees outside the clubrooms to enjoy a sociable presentation event. Nearly 120 people gathered on the oval and applauded dozens of players who received recognition for their performances. It was a happy, exciting occasion.

Mel Naismith, our hard-working junior coordinator, led the event and announced that she was stepping back after three years of tight organisation that has created one of the most vibrant junior

groups in the West Gippsland Cricket Association. Therein arises the challenge. The club loses one volunteer and needs many replacements.

UBCC requires many volunteers to field nine junior teams – coaches, team managers, scorers – probably more than 25 volunteers. If we are

to stage the same number of teams, your support is required. Please contact one of our committee members if you are willing and able to help in any way.

At the WGC A Presentation afternoon, Katie Langeveld was awarded player of the year in the WGC A All Stars Girls competition. Simona Tidyman, premiership coach for the U14 Girls team, made an impassioned plea for clubs to enter more girls' teams to make the competition even more exciting. It would be great if Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club could expand the number of females playing cricket.

Organisation for the planning of the new pavilion is proceeding.

All user groups have forwarded details on planning items so that detailed drawings can be completed. Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Brett Owen presented the community petition to the Council and the project has subsequently received support from officers. A detailed set of plans can hopefully be now drawn up so that the project is included in forward estimates. Bob Taylor, the chairman of the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Committee, has been a strong

advocate and deserves praise for his efforts to bring the plans to fruition.

Come on Upper Beaconsfield parents, supporters, and friends – we need your help for the forthcoming season. Get on board to assist and maintain the momentum!

Rob Hansen
0412 080 592



Golf winners at Beaconhills

The 2021 Beaconhills Golf Club Championships resulted in Michael Jackson (below) claiming the club champion title for the first time, beating runners-up Brian Meneilly and Aaron Le Dan by 5 strokes. Laura Griffin (right), the winner of the women's championship over runner-up Suzanne Van Strien, added an eighth title to her name. Some fine golf was played over the four rounds.

The men's B Grade winner was Gavan Wills and the women's B Grade was won by Heather Hamilton. In C Grade Stephen Bailey beat Jeff Clowes in a one-hole play-off. Andrew Conn won the Veteran Championship and Daniel



Bradbury the Junior.

The Nett Championships were awarded after the first three rounds as follows:

Women's A Grade: Laura Griffin 224. B Grade: Heather Hamilton 226.

Men's A Grade: Brad Crowley 205. B Grade: Paul Ricardo 212. C Grade: Ethan Chandler 211.

The culmination of the 2020-21 twilight season saw congratulations go to Life Member, John Barker for winning the best overall nett. JB's 10 best rounds netted him an average result of -2.1 to par.

Thirty Beaconhills members enjoyed



teeing it up at Berwick Montuna against the same number of the home side. Congratulations Cora Shovelton on being Beaconhills' highest scorer with 37 points.

Congratulations to Barb Mars with her win in the Phoenix Plate. The Plate was donated in 1983 by five Beaconhills women who lost their homes in the Ash Wednesday bushfires.

The 2021 Henley Properties Beaconhills Pro Am was held on 17 March. Some of Australia's best professionals teed off fighting for the \$11k purse. In perfect weather, Ben Murphy was best on the day with an impressive seven under round of 64 to win by one shot over Tom Power Horan and Luke Hickman. Victorians Ash Hall and Ryan Lynch tied for fourth place at four under 67. Retired local professional Mark Griffin shot 68 to finish tied for sixth with Brock Gillard, Kyle Michel and another local, Berwick-Montuna based PGA Professional Brad McGill. Brad also holed a 4-iron on the 210 m downhill par 3 second hole to collect a \$20k prize thanks to Sear Insurance. To top off his day he brought home the winning amateur team of Cora Shovelton, Greta de Hoogd and Jean Wheatley. Congratulations to new club professionals Dylan Higgins and Bryce Bell for successfully returning this popular event to the Beaconhills calendar.

MATT VAN DER KRAAN
CLUB MANAGER
CARDINIA BEACONHILLS GOLF LINKS

Upper Beaconsfield Peddlers

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. There are rides for all levels of fitness and experience.

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,



Penninsula Link, East Link and many more.

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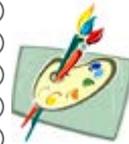


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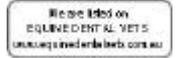
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