

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

# VILLAGE

Upper Beaconsfield Association

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

Issue No. 226  
December 2021

# BELL



*Merry Christmas*

Sorting mail at the Post Office



Top left: Our chameleon elephant dressed for the part by Karleen Frost for all those Melbourne supporters in Upper Beaconsfield.

Top right: The Community Centre's 'Stickland' garden bed. See article on page 25.

Left: On 9 October 2021 the team at UB GP Practice immunised 262 people against Covid.

Below: Michael Prowse sent us great photos of birds he recently encountered: Clockwise from top left: Crescent Honeyeater, Superb Fairy-wren, Brown Thornbill, Striated Thornbill, White-browed Scrubwren, Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo.



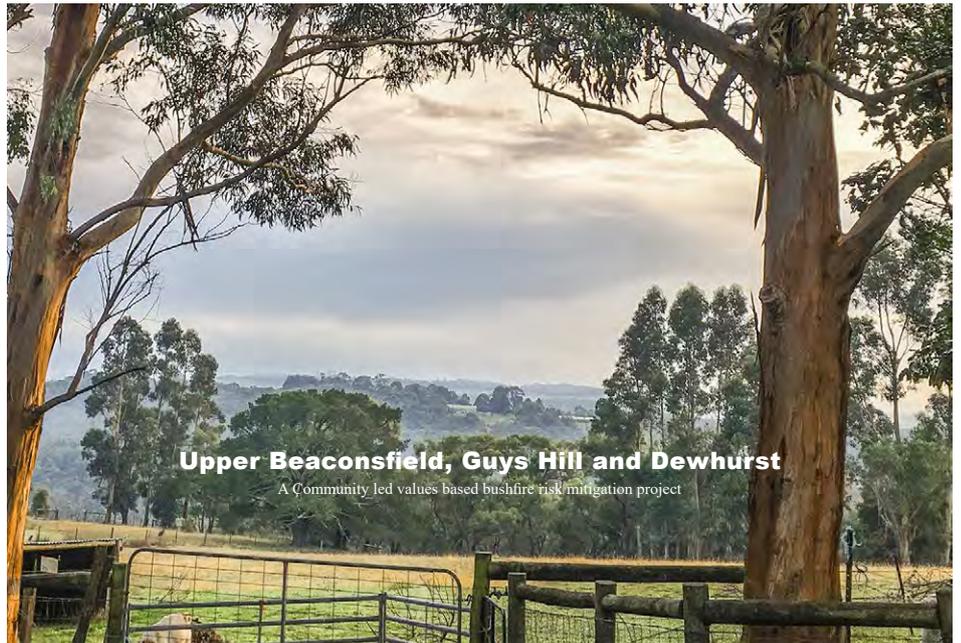
# A community led values based bushfire mitigation project: [www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au/storymap](http://www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au/storymap)

At the October UBA general meeting we presented the “Upper Beaconsfield Story Map” to a keen audience. With much excitement, Ange Wright, the steering group’s co-chair and other members, guided attendees through a tour of the project, affectionately known as the UBStoryMap.

This online guide is designed to help local residents make informed decisions about how to protect biodiversity and manage fuel on their properties.

The first you may have seen about this creation was the community survey held earlier this year. A high participation rate showed that the community has a great interest in investing their knowledge into this project.

*Continued on page 5*



## ‘Over The Road’

Just as locals are getting used to the new General Store, now partly a café, JD and Steph are opening a complementary licensed restaurant and beer garden ‘Over the Road’. The artist’s impression shows what customers can expect the new venture to look like upon completion. It will open on 3 December just as the ‘Bell’ goes to print.

*Continued on page 7*



## Christmas Eve Santa run and carols

Once again, Santa and his helpers will be making their way around the streets of Upper Beaconsfield this Christmas Eve on the back of one of our fire trucks spreading Christmas cheer and handing out lollies for the kids (big and small).

Santa will start his run from the North Pole and head down to Guys Hill, then back to St Georges Road, Brennan Avenue, the Cenotaph, Valley Drive, Stoney Creek Road, Grant Court, Burton Road, Paul Grove, Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, before finishing at the Upper Beaconsfield carols. You won't miss him. Make sure you give him a wave!

\* Check the socials closer to Christmas Eve for details about the carols.



A very wet King Parrot in the recent heavy rains making his own shelter under a natural umbrella

## 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	71.5
Jun	80.3	53.2	90.0
Jul	78.6	45.5	79.6
Aug	85.7	111.9	55.1
Sep	90.6	67.6	139.4
Oct	94.3	100.2	129.4
Nov	86.5	81.6	
Dec	80.4	70.9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>947 mm</b>	<b>1,140.7 mm</b>	

### Rainfall report

I write this as the world's leaders sit in Glasgow to mitigate climate change.

At the same time, in Upper Beaconsfield, we have had more rain than is usual.

Perhaps neither of these events are reliable predictors of the future.

Winter rain in August was light with 55 mm, less than half of last year's August rain, and 30 mm below average. Springing forward, however, September and October became much wetter. September more than doubled the rain of last year and was nearly 50 mm above the average. October, the wettest month, had 29 mm more than last year and 35 mm more than average.

For the three months we had 324 mm of rain, 54 mm more than average.

Wet ground and high winds meant trees down with frustratingly longer than usual power outages.

### Our climate outlook

What is to come?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report was updated in August this year. The 3 major findings were:

- Observed warming of the Earth's surface is attributable to human activities.

- Projected increases in future global mean temperature.
- Rising sea levels, and increased frequency of heat waves.

The IPCC report is the world's most reliable account on the causes and the consequences of climate change. The data is irrefutable and eclipses all views and opinions of climate change deniers.

For Australia, the prediction is not wetter, but drier. Our recent rain events are anomalies. Rain will become less, not more. Storms will increase in intensity. The fire risk will grow. All threats to our local environment.

Will the COP26 conference in Glasgow change our predicted climate course? Probably not any time soon. Right when we need visionary and brave leaders, the world is governed by reactive managers guided by self-interest over the greater good.

Protecting the planet is now a personal responsibility. We as individuals must act, altering how we think, how we behave and the actions we choose to take. We require the will to change our practices, and at times completely give some things up. This is not easy. Covid has taught us about a lot about human behaviours, some good, and some far less so. To maintain our amazing quality of life in Upper Beaconsfield, we must be willing to make both contributions and concessions.

Here is an example. The Upper Beaconsfield Association (UBA) joined a Zoom meeting with Cardinia Shire Council who are wrestling with local laws that govern burning off.

Every time someone burns off to reduce fire risk, more carbon goes to the atmosphere which in turn, increases the broader fire risk trend.

There are those who believe they must be able to keep burning at will, and advocate for that, whilst others have shifted and now manage their properties with no burning at all.

The UBA committee supports the Council in reducing the practice of burning off.

For now, this does not mean no burning. It is about understanding the 'global' impacts of burning and to then wherever possible, reduce the amount

of burning. Shifting to mulching and having Council consider how they might make this easier for landowners must be a part of a considered range of alternative solutions.

My view is that for a very few, burning may be justifiable, for most it is no longer sensible or defensible. To hit zero emissions, burning will be abolished, so why not start some practice change now.

Whether the weather will keep heading towards an inhospitable environment is up to us – you and me. Our current beliefs and actions are worsening the climate. This can only mean that what we have been doing is now not sustainable. We must surely agree to commence a journey of changing what we do and how we do things.

ANDREW REWELL

### 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 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!

### Thank you to our Village Bell supporters

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**Send articles by 7 February 2022** to editor.villagebell@gmail.com

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# A community led values based bushfire mitigation project: [www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au/storymap](http://www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au/storymap)

continued from page 3

The development, design, collaborative approach and final product are a first for Victoria and possibly Australia.

This user-friendly project with well-chosen graphics includes the following:

**About the project** overviews how the project came to fruition, specifies how the community survey showed that residents place strong value on reducing the potential for, and consequences of bushfire while balancing asset protection and environmental conservation. UBStoryMap promotes shared responsibility between the community and agencies to understand and reduce bushfire risk on public and private land and explores what residents value most about living in this beautiful and high bushfire risk landscape where privately-owned land dominates the landscape. The aim of the UBStoryMap is to help residents understand more about our local landscape, its history, bushfire risk and biodiversity values. Long-term residents and those new to the area can make informed decisions about actions they might take to protect what



matters to them most. Importantly, residents have access to exploring the effects that various actions may have on biodiversity and bushfire risk.

**Our history** invites you to learn more about the past in our semi-rural area.

**Local landscape** explores parks and reserves, fire management zones, Bushfire Risk Engagement Area, and public land.

**Community survey** reveals what matters most to our residents and uncovered key aspects about community demographics and their values.

**Biodiversity** enlightens us about the 450 local fauna species identified, with 157 'threatened' species. Here you can watch and listen to the male lyrebird imitating many local bird calls.

**Bushfire history & risks** explains how the local bushfire history has impacted the area including the devastating 1983 Ash Wednesday fires.

**Actions you can take** offers general information on actions that residents might carry out as they manage their properties. The information outlines the potential impacts of these actions on bushfire risk and other values and links to key resources to aid residents' decision making.

**Have your say** gives you the opportunity to share with the steering group what you think and you can also contact me for further information [upperbeacstorymap@gmail.com](mailto:upperbeacstorymap@gmail.com)

To support our local community, this Safer Together funded project comprised many months of intensive, collaborative work, between the UBA, the DELWP Safer Together Team, the UB Conservation Group, the Southern Ranges Environmental Alliance, the CFA, and Cardinia Shire. Please take a peek and share this widely. A formal launch will be announced soon.

## The team

UBA: Caroline Spencer, Frank Archer  
UB Conservation Group: Mike Hall  
Southern Ranges Environmental Alliance: Glenn Brooks-MacMillan  
Safer Together: Ange Wright, Michael Jones, Emily Jordan  
CFA: Tim McKern  
Cardinia Shire: Stewart Matulis  
Melbourne University: Libby Rumpff, Sandra Penman

**CAROLINE SPENCER, CO-CHAIR, SAFER TOGETHER UPPER BEACONSFIELD BUSHFIRE MITIGATION PROJECT**

## Emergency notifications

### Attention newer residents of Upper Beac!

To receive any information from Upper Beaconsfield's own emergency notification system you must first be a registered user. Currently there are over 1100 residents subscribed. It is a volunteer community run notification/education/emergency information system. Messages will appear on your mobile from "U.B.InfoMsg"

Information sent out will be advice in relation to Fire Danger Periods, ensuring residents are aware of upcoming Extreme and Code Red Days, notification of community meetings relating to fire and any other messages that relate directly to the Upper

Beaconsfield Community. It is not an early warning system, but efforts will be made to notify residents of any immediate fire danger if time permits. The advantage of this system is that you will get messages to your phone wherever you are, even if out of the local area.

The administration of the system is managed by the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre Inc. If your details change, ensure they are updated. If you wish to join, contact the Community Centre with name, address and phone numbers and provide \$5 for each phone number. If you wish to opt out, also

contact the Community Centre.

Address: 10-12 Salisbury Road, Upper Beaconsfield 3808

Phone: 5944 3484

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## UBA updates

### Christmas carols in the park

The Upper Beaconsfield Association is still not sure if this event can go ahead, and whether we are able to comply with the Covid safe rules. We are waiting for the Victorian Government announcement due at the end of the November or early December when Victoria reaches 90% double vaccination. Watch out for announcements via social media.

### October meeting: Review of open air burning laws

Cr Brett Owen introduced Owen Hardidge – Manager, Regulatory Services Cardinia Shire Council.

Owen explained the previous open air burning laws were last revised in 2018. Council requested community feedback into the preview of the new draft policy in August 2021. There was a big response with over 400 submissions and 10,000 hits on the council website. Council is now collating the feedback and the decision is due by the end of the year.

Due to climate change concerns, Council is trying to reduce emissions. There are also detrimental effects of smoke pollution on public health. Open air burning contributes to climate change through the release of CO<sup>2</sup> into the atmosphere. The new policy aims to reduce the occurrence of open air burning in some areas and to encourage alternative methods of waste disposal such as mulching or green waste drop off. Council will

publish the report of the community consultation later in the year.

The main themes in the submissions from residents included:

- The 25-metre rule – unintended consequences meant that most property owners could not meet this rule
- When burning off is allowed – hard to get consensus on this rule
- Process for permits – people were concerned about fees (no fees applicable) and time frames
- Green waste services – more options needed for people who do not want to burn off and create more emissions

### Annual General Meeting Wednesday 5 February 2022 at 7.30 pm

The UBA invites residents who are interested in local issues and community activities to attend the

annual general meeting. We welcome new faces and urge residents to put their hand up to join the 2022 committee.

### Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year 2021

Do you know someone who is doing great work in our community in Upper Beaconsfield? Then please forward a nomination. The two categories to the award are and Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

Nomination forms for the 2021 COY are being emailed to community groups and residents soon. The deadline for nominations is 31 December. The nomination form includes who is eligible, and the evidence needed to support your nomination. Young COY comes with an award of \$100.

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

HELEN SMITH

## Upper Beaconsfield – Facts and Figures

Graham Cockerell's Need for Feed truck holds **48** large round or **42** large square bales of hay.

Santa hands out over **400** lolly bags to the local children on Christmas Eve from the CFA fire truck.

An alteration to the tennis facts from the last issue: there are **88** adult members, **52** night time only members, with a total of **94** people playing night tennis.

Our CFA has **4** appliances. The biggest one holds **2350** litres and can deliver **900** litres per minute. The oldest appliance is **30** years old and the newest **2**. On average the CFA attends **55** callouts per year.

The Upper Beaconsfield Pony Club has **33** members and meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the UB Recreation Reserve.

Our November average high temperature is **21.9** degrees. (As I write this it is 11!) Our hottest maximum November day was **39.1** degrees on 26 Nov 1997 and the coldest minimum was just **1.5** degrees on 2 Nov 1998. Our hottest November on record was in 2009 with an average maximum of **26.2** degrees.

The updated vaccine numbers from the Upper Beaconsfield GP Clinic are now over **4400**. They have managed to do about **300** vaccines on each of their vaccine days. They would like to

thank the whole community for their support and the people who help with the smooth running of these days.

Our supermarket has been run by Pramod and Anita Patel for **16** years. They are open 7 days a week, 7.30 am–7 pm Monday to Saturday and 8 am–6 pm on Sundays a total of **79** hours. This hard-working couple are there for us **363.5** days a year and are open the most hours out of any of our shops. They are only closed on Christmas Day afternoon and Good Friday.

From the 2016 census:

- The median age for an UB resident was **41** compared to **38** for the whole of Australia.
- There were **931** private dwellings.
- **80.8%** of us were born in Australia compared to **66.7%** for the whole of Australia.
- Unsurprisingly **98.9%** of UB's dwellings are separate houses compared to **72.9%** Australia wide.
- **329** houses were owned outright and **446** were owned with a mortgage. **41** were rented.
- **381** households had **3** or more vehicles.
- **780** homes have the internet.

I wonder how many of these stats will have changed in the latest census? Stay tuned!

JULIE BORN

### 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



## ‘Bell’ history article wins award

The Community Newspaper Association of Victoria awarded Marianne Roche’s article “In remembrance of Fred and Annie Sheard” winner of the history category at the recent CNAV conference and awards.

The judge said:

*This is an interesting story about a local mystery – the murder of Beaconsfield couple, Fred and Annie Sheard, one hundred years ago in June 1921. The couple in their early 70s lived modestly on their small farm but on the morning of 13 June 1921 a neighbour who had*

*come to buy milk from them could not rouse them, the police were called and the bodies of the couple were found, violently murdered and the house ransacked, robbery being the likely motive. A man was arrested, an inquest was held that named the murderer and others, but the case was later abandoned by police and no-one has been punished for the crime. A sad and tragic end to a friendly old couple.*

*A well written, well researched story about a traumatic part of the history of Beaconsfield.*



### ‘Over the Road’

*continued from page 3*

Opening times will be 11 am – 9 pm Tuesday to Sunday and is intended to create an atmosphere suitable for families, and you can expect burgers, wings, chips and a menu suited to casual dining.

Anyone visiting the village would have seen works starting back in July, and a carpark full of tradies’ utes and vans, who all happen to be local at JD’s insistence. A local theme again surrounds the ethos of running the business. The staff, mostly locals, will alternate work between the General Store/Café and the new restaurant.

The head chef, Bonnie, when riding her horse up to the take-away window at the General Store to get a coffee enquired about any vacancies, and upon further discussions has been appointed to the position.

On a preliminary tour JD pointed out how the old roof metal has been re-used to line the decking and the shed which will form a new outdoors bar. The local beautification group, who are completing works at the Community Complex, have shown some interest in blending the new works into the rural environmental feel that has been created around the village. A nice view to the Dandenongs is also visible from the outdoor picnic table settings.

Indoors at the rear of the building a private dining/meeting room has been created which can hold about 12-15 people. The rustic sliding doors to the room are very attractive. They are made from quite a few of old studs, surplus from renovations at the historic ‘Crail’ property, and have been formed into huge barn style doors.

The kitchen is near completion and the final tidy-up before opening is under way.

facebook: @overtheroadrestaurant

**CAMERON ROCKE**

## Cardinia Shire emergency management

### Community representatives appointed

The Cardinia Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) has recently invited two community representatives to join the MEMPC for a two-year appointment, after an ‘expression of interest’ process. I have the pleasure of being one of these two new appointments. A part of our role as community representatives is to provide a two-way communication between the Cardinia community and the MEMPC.

Effective in 2020, emergency management legislation was amended to reform the MEMPCs for municipal districts. The MEMPC is now the peak strategic and decision-making committee for the Cardinia Shire’s municipal emergency management plan, and falls under wider regional emergency management planning committees.

The committee includes sufficiently senior members from key agencies, to participate in the committee’s decision-making and act on behalf of their agency. As of 2020, the Emergency Management Act stipulates two new full members, representing the community must be part of the committee.

I am aware from my current involvement in a number of other emergency-related activities and groups, that the Cardinia emergency management team, under the leadership of Stewart Matulis, provides strong and community-informed emergency management planning for response, recovery and resilience initiatives.

The recent storms that we experienced raise two particular consequences for review and discussion at the Cardinia MEMPC. Firstly, the potential danger of selected trees along major ingress and egress roads in Upper Beaconsfield, and possibly in other parts of Cardinia Shire. Secondly, the lived experiences of prolonged power outages, and their impacts on community safety and wellbeing.

The upcoming Fire Season stimulates us to review the status of the terms ‘Neighbourhood Safer Places’ (NSP), ‘Bushfire Places of Last Resort’, and where they are located throughout the Shire. We are aware that such places have been recently designated in Emerald and Cockatoo, and that a location in Upper Beaconsfield is still under consideration.

The above designations should not be confused with community fire refuges, relief centres, recovery centres or assembly areas, each of which have different and specific purposes. It is timely to ensure that all such community safety and support measures are identified and promoted to the community throughout the Shire. If you would like to have input into the Cardinia MEMPC please feel free to contact me by email in the first instance at francis.archer@monash.edu I will prepare feedback reports from the MEMPC for each issue of Village Bell.

**FRANK ARCHER**



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# Around town

What can be said about the last three months? We had a surge in Covid-19, storms, blackouts and even an earthquake which was felt throughout Victoria. People joked that maybe a zombie invasion was coming next!

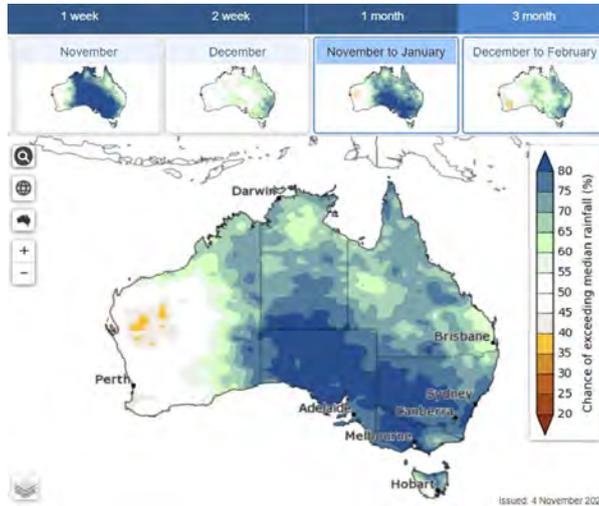
But we are trying to bounce back after setbacks and have found ways of doing things. Upper Beaconsfield residents stepped up to get vaccinated and the local GPs have continued a marvellous job of vaccinating the community. At one stage in late October there were no active Covid-19 cases in 3808. But some more cases were reported again in November. Everyone must remain careful as the virus has spread everywhere.

## Storm damage

The recent storm had a significant impact on Upper Beaconsfield. Residents were left without power for days, particularly in the roads further out of town. Not only was power down, but people on tank water also had no working water pumps. The phone network was also affected, and it makes you wonder how the sewerage pumps were able to function as well. There was a considerable build-up of fallen trees and branches after the storms. In addition, the branches that were cleared from powerlines were left lying on the roadsides. Hope these are removed soon.

## A wet winter and spring

The La Nina weather phenomenon this year has resulted in a higher rainfall than usual. This has led to tremendous grass, shrub, and tree growth. I used to be able to see the Upper Beaconsfield



water tower from the back of my place. I can't see it any more due to the tree growth. Residents will need to get busy to deal with fire hazards as soon as possible.

During La Nina, the trade winds strengthen, increasing the temperature of the warm water north of Australia. Cloudiness and rainfall north of Australia are enhanced.

The BOM says a wetter three months is likely for eastern two-thirds of Australia. November to January rainfall is likely to be above median for eastern WA, the NT, SA, Queensland, NSW, Victoria, and most of Tasmania (chance of exceeding median is greater than 60%), with parts of SA and western parts of NSW and Victoria very likely to be above median (chances are greater than 80%).

See [www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/)

## Community Complex news

Finally! The new solar systems are being installed on the crèche roof and should be in operation by the time you read this article. One solar system will service the east side of the building and the second provides power to the hall and Men's Shed. All users at the Complex

look forward to considerable savings by the reduced power bills. This project was funded by the Victorian Government's Solar on Public Buildings Program.

## A close shave

Recently, a partial power outage at the Community Complex caused concern – not another tree down somewhere over the powerlines! Quick thinking Sarah Stickland (Community Centre manager), immediately called in the electrician to check. He found one of the fuse boxes at the front wall of the hall was damaged, with

evidence of scorched metal and melted material. Both fuse boxes have now been replaced. The weatherboard hall, built in 1884, has survived bushfires and storms, and now a potentially dangerous electrical fault.

## Hall bookings to open

With the 90% Covid-19 full vaccination rate achieved, the Victorian Government lifted most restrictions in late November. Bookings and inquiries for weekend family functions in the hall from December onwards can be made by leaving a message at 5944 3219 or email [helen.r.smith@iinet.net.au](mailto:helen.r.smith@iinet.net.au)

## Hoons on the back roads

The Pakenham Gazette recently reported that people were recklessly driving their 4-WDs across the Cardinia Creek and along the back roads in the area between Upper Beaconsfield and Harkaway. They are a danger to residents and horse riders. Apparently some drivers are quite aggressive. Police need numberplates so they can charge offenders. Perhaps someone could place a hidden camera nearby.

HELEN SMITH

# HomeMade for UB

Our village is blessed with some amazing people doing some amazing things, for example: Graeme of Moonshine Motors who set up and still runs 'Need for Feed'; Annie, Lyndel, Reg, Jenny, Sarah and all the other volunteers involved in wildlife rescue, care and research.

## How can I support them?

Since July I have been undertaking a fundraising effort called 'HomeMade for UB'. Using my love of cooking plus some tried and true recipes, I make edible goods like honey toasted

muesli, cakes, breads, jams, icecream and yoghurt. Friends, neighbours and acquaintances have been buying these products for the cost of the ingredients plus \$2-4 extra per item. Since starting up, \$530 has been raised and given to the previously mentioned great services. Packaging costs are kept as low as possible by using re-useable/returnable containers. It is a win-win-win situation as I get the joy of cooking, clients get a quality

homemade product for little more than ingredient cost and a local volunteer service gets a donation! Thank you to Lisa of Up the Hill Bakery for her



support through donating a bag of bread flour. I am very grateful to Sue and the Green Circle Nursery for allowing some items to be sold at the desk there and, also, to regular clients who keep coming back for more! If you would like to support our volunteers by eating (!) give me a call!

ROSZ SMITH  
0427 476 316



## “Need for Feed” and a giant U turn!

A couple of weeks ago a friend and I were sitting at Charing Cross having a catch up over a cup of coffee when we noticed the Need for Feed truck with its huge load of hay being driven up the service road towards the General Store. Most locals have seen it parked outside Moonshine Motors.

We presumed that it was heading down to Beaconsfield, but instead of continuing down the hill it turned left into Salisbury Road. We then decided it was going down through Pakenham to head out along the Princes Highway. However, as the truck slowly eased its way up the hill followed by a couple of cars it stopped in front of the old post office. It then started backing down Salisbury Road and the following cars also had to reverse.

With the utmost skill, the truck reversed into McBride Road, and after the angle was adjusted a couple of times, it was driven straight across the road at the top of Charing Cross and out onto Emerald Road, this time facing north towards Emerald. It re-entered the service road and parked back in front of Moonshine Motors. That, we decided was how you do a U turn in a giant fully loaded semi!

The driving skills on show were that of Graham Cockerell, the owner of Moonshine Motors and the “driving force” behind the Lions Club’s Need for Feed program. The following morning Graham and his load of 42 large square bales of hay left for the long drive to the most northerly sheep station in Australia. This station is 30 km from Hughenden in Western Queensland which is 376 km west of Townsville and 2263 km from Upper Beac.

Graham’s was one of 19 trucks all heading to Hughenden. At the same

time nine more trucks were on their way to Quilpie, also in Queensland. Drivers are only allowed to be behind the wheel for 12 hours a day and the journey up to Hughenden took Graham over two days. Covid regulation border passes were required for all state border crossings. The cost of fuel for this long trip was \$3,000 as the truck only does 2 km per litre when fully loaded. Graham has 4 x 400 litre fuel tanks on board which cost \$2,500 to fill. He enjoys these road trips and the catch up with other drivers at the night-time stop overs, and takes his dog Tilly with him for company. Earlier this year 200 truckloads of hay were also delivered to the mid-north NSW coast following floods.

Need For Feed began in 2006 to help drought, flood, and fire affected farmers in rural communities in Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland. These deliveries are made free of charge and over 700 truckloads, valued at \$6.5 million, were delivered to those affected by last summer’s bushfires. As well as fodder, the deliveries are accompanied by household hampers, personal care packs, Lion’s teddies and toys, and food for the farm dogs.

Need For Feed is now in its 15th year and relies on volunteers and donations. It also has a core group of Lions Club members who are involved on a day to day basis and is a registered charity. For all the truck enthusiasts out there, there are some great You Tube clips of the truck convoys making their valued deliveries. Need for Feed also has a Facebook page and donations are always welcome.

More information can be found at [www.needforfeed.org/home-1.html](http://www.needforfeed.org/home-1.html)

**JULIE BORN**

## Opening of the new playground at Keith Ewenson Park

It was with great pleasure and as my last official duty as Mayor to be part of the official opening of the upgraded playground at Keith Ewenson Park. This new playground was jointly funded by council and the state government.

The upgraded playground looks fantastic. I thank the community, particularly young people, who provided input into the design of the new playground. Council listened to the feedback and I’m proud that we’ve been able to create a playground that caters for children of all ages.

It was also great to again recognise the community service and contribution of the late Keith Ewenson and share the opening with the Ewenson family.

### McKenzie Road update

Council has determined that the status of the fire access track section of McKenzie Road will remain unchanged and locked gates will not be installed. Appropriate signage will be erected at either end of the fire access track section and the road surface will be improved to ensure the track remains accessible for vehicles. The improved road surfacing works will not change the alignment or width of the road to avoid any environmental impact or loss of trees.

### Weed control grants

Applications are open for our 2021–22 weed control grants. The grants are available to help landowners and community groups control noxious and environmental weeds on private property and bushland reserves. Grants of up to \$350 per landholder or \$750 for community groups are available [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/weedcontrolgrants](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/weedcontrolgrants)

### 2021-22 Community Capital Works Grants Program

Successful applicants of Council’s 2021-22 Community Capital Works Grants Program have been announced. The Community Capital Works Grants Program strengthens Cardinia Shire by assisting community groups to improve community and recreational facilities, which in turn supports community networks and enhances wellbeing.



Cardinia Shire Councillor Brett Owen officially opened the new playground on Saturday with his son Max, Councillor Jeff Springfield, Tien Kieu MP, Member for South Eastern Metropolitan and Keith Ewenson's son Andrew and his wife Rachel, Keith's wife Val and Keith's daughter Leslie

Congratulations to the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre and the Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten who have both received a grant to upgrade their facilities.

### Have your say on upgrades to Upper Beaconsfield BMX track

Community consultation on the Upper Beaconsfield BMX Track is currently open at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay) and closes on **6 December 2021**. Located in the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve, Council is improving the BMX track in its existing location to

support the noticeable increase in BMX participation.

Council has engaged "Common Ground" to design and construct the Upper Beaconsfield BMX Track.

With the support of Common Ground, Council will be engaging with the Upper Beaconsfield community, Upper Beaconsfield Primary School, and the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Community Asset Committee on track design. Council will then present the proposed design to the community, with construction expected to commence early 2022.



Community Centre manager Sarah Stickland, Jenny Pritchard, Sue Simmons with Cardinia Shire Councillor Brett Owen



### Recycling reminder

To help residents recycle correctly, council has sent every household in the shire an instructional letter and weatherproof 'acceptable items' recycling sticker. The sticker can be placed on your outside recycling bin or somewhere inside your home. Email [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au) if you'd like an extra sticker.

Council's bin inspectors are out and about checking bins and those households doing a great job go in the draw to win a weekly voucher. Constructive feedback is also given to those who may need a little extra help.

Don't forget we also have helpful posters and colouring in sheets illustrating what goes in each bin, available to download from our website at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/educationprograms#section-5-free-downloadables](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/educationprograms#section-5-free-downloadables)

### Merry Christmas

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council, I'd like to wish all Upper Beaconsfield residents a very Merry Christmas and enjoyable festive season. Keep safe everyone.

CR BRETT OWEN

### Live local, work local, employ local

Casey Cardinia Jobs is a one-stop-portal for employment in the Casey Cardinia region.

If you live local and want to work local, sign up and become a member today to receive the full benefits of this portal – it's free!

Are you a local businesses looking for new staff and want to employ local? Job vacancies can be posted on this portal at no cost.

This service is provided by the City of Casey and Cardinia Shire Council. Our mission is to help local businesses grow as well as attract new business to the region, so that live local, work local, employ local becomes a reality for our residents and business.



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

# Cormore Tea Rooms and the Funnell family

On Easter Tuesday in 1922 a land auction was held in Upper Beaconsfield to sell “22 choice mountain gems,” which included fourteen half acre township blocks.

The land was owned by George Wilson Martin, a local farmer who moved into the real estate business and valuation of land. For over twenty years he had been a councillor of the Berwick Shire Council. He had acquired the land in the township in 1912, and together with two other agents, Robert Allan and Frederick William Werrett, had grand plans for the future of Upper Beaconsfield. The land was under mortgage to Carl Johan Hjalmax Nissen, a Swedish born hotel keeper, merchant, racehorse owner and investor. It was probably his financial pressures that initiated Martin’s ‘Upper Beaconsfield Township Subdivision’, which dated back to the 1880s.

## Cormore is built

About three years before this auction Harry George Burton and his wife Isabella had bought lot 24 on the corner of Halford Street and Beaconsfield-Emerald Road. During 1919/1920 he built a substantial weather board tea room with adjoining billiard room. They called it “Cormore Tea Rooms”. Business seemed to be quite good, and newspapers reported that a Sydney resident had invited her family and friends for afternoon tea at Cormore. “Pleasure was expressed at the service and the delicious home-made scones and cakes provided. This tea room should become very popular for this kind of social entertainment.” Harry Burton expanded and bought the 14 township lots along Halford Street. He paid council rates for only a short time. A full title for those lots never changed hands to him. By mid-

**ALSO CORMORE TEA ROOMS.**  
 Situated in the township of Upper Beaconsfield, adjoining Post Office, Hall and Store; land 100 feet by approx. 250 feet depth, facing main metalled road, upon which is erected a substantial shop and dwelling known as “Cormore Tea and Billiard Rooms,” comprising 8 substantial rooms, including tea and billiard room, bath room and sleep out, detached wash-house woodshed, stable, etc. The remainder of the ground laid out in fruit garden; splendid lot of apple trees, very best varieties.  
**Terms Easy. at Sale. Certificate of Title. The Owners are Determined to Sell. Further particulars apply:**  
**W. H. A. RODD & SONS, Auctioneers, Dandenong.**

1924 Harry Burton had started working as an estate and insurance agent.

The title for the Cormore property was transferred to Isabella Burton on 6 September 1922. A mortgage on it from Robert Allan was listed on the same day, and a further mortgage a year later. They must have been in financial trouble as by early 1925 Burton advertised a business, likely Cormore. Then on 14 July an auction was held for both the business and the land. It is unlikely that a buyer was found, as only two weeks later, Allan foreclosed, and the title was transferred to him. Since the introduction of the car, patterns of tourism changed and tourism trade had declined in Upper Beaconsfield, and with it the business at Cormore. It is not known for certain who ran the tea rooms for the next few years – Isabella Burton may have stayed on.

On 28 January 1928 Allan and Werrett held a sale which included Cormore.

## The Funnell family

Frederick and Amy Funnell were tenant farmers at Birch Grove, Sussex, England, and had four children, Fred, Arthur, Queenie and Robert. Their eldest son, Fred, joined the navy, but jumped ship in Sydney. The rest of the family migrated to Melbourne in late 1913 and they re-united in Upper Beaconsfield, where they initially worked on the large Bryn Gwyn farm on Split Rock Road.

The Funnells soon bought 100 acres along Sugarloaf Road, an area that had been divided into five acre lots in the 1880s. Funnell Road runs between some of these lots. They cleared the land with an axe and a crosscut saw, then established a 20 acre orchard. When the orchard proved successful they built their comfortable house,



“Birch Grove”. In 1930, while they were living at Cormore, a fire destroyed their house.

## Louisa Horner

Before coming to Australia, Amy Funnell had a close friend – Louisa Baker (nee Horner). Family recollections are that the two women may have met through the Suffragettes movement. Aged 24 in 1894, Louisa had married Daniel Baker, a widower, then 63. He had a rich military history, and was then a King’s Messenger/Royal Bodyguard. Shortly after their marriage they took part in “The Dunmow Flicht”, where married couples enter a “trial” by six maidens and six bachelors that in ‘twelvemonth and a day’ they did not wish themselves unmarried again. Daniel Baker recounted that he met Louisa, a hospital nurse, at a picnic party in December 1893. Three weeks later they married. They won the flicht of bacon after they had satisfied the judges.

Daniel and Louisa had one daughter, Victoria, born in 1899. Daniel died in 1906 leaving Louisa a single mother. As Louisa had to work, Victoria spent a lot of time with her grandmother. When Louisa’s mother died in early 1912, she wrote to her two brothers who had gone to Australia in the 1880s, informing them of their mother’s death. She also enquired if they thought she could give her daughter a better life in Australia. James Horner, then living in Melbourne with his family, sent her tickets for the journey. They arrived at the end of December 1912.

## Samuel Smith

When Victoria finished school at age 14, she went to work in the offices of Samuel Smith, who was the proprietor of “S. Smith and Co.”, a well-known varnish manufacturing business. Samuel Smith had come to Australia as a widower with five children in 1890. He remarried in 1900 and had a daughter, Catherine, known as Marie. By late 1913 Samuel had been widowed twice more, and married Victoria’s mother Louisa Baker the following year. Victoria

**Up In The Hills**  
 When Visiting **Beaconsfield Upper**  
**DON'T FAIL** to call at  
**“CORMORE” TEA ROOMS**  
 For Morning or Afternoon Tea,  
 and enjoy the Picturesque  
 Scenery from our Up-to-date  
 Premises.  
 Cool Drinks. Home-made Ice Cream.  
**HARRY G. BURTON, Proprietor.**



Above: Cormore Tea Rooms at the Upper Beaconsfield Reunion in 1935.

recalled that he treated her and her step sister Marie equally.

By now Louisa Smith and Amy Funnell had rekindled their friendship. In 1922 Victoria Baker married Amy's son, Fred Funnell. Initially they lived in Kensington with Samuel and Louisa Smith, and worked in the family company. Fred studied chemistry at the Brighton Technical College in 1924 and 1925. Realising that Victoria was more suited to this field, she attended the Working Men's College (now RMIT) and studied both organic and inorganic chemistry in 1930. The following year their only son, also called Fred, was born. By now they were living in Brighton, but

weekends were often spent in Upper Beaconsfield. After Samuel Smith's death, his company was jointly owned by Victoria Funnell and her stepbrother Samuel Smith.

In 1925 Samuel Smith's younger son, Sydney Henry Smith, came to Upper Beaconsfield. He bought some of Fred Funnell senior's land, and established the Grasmere property. He also worked as a painter. His two children attended the Upper Beaconsfield Primary school for some time.

Amy's and Fred's only daughter Queenie had married returned soldier William Henry (Bill) Wintle in 1922, and they settled on a large soldier settlement block in Gippsland. As for so many other returned soldiers, it didn't work out, and they came to live at Upper Beaconsfield. The Funnells thought that Cormore Tea Rooms

would be a good business opportunity for them, and bought it when the shop came up for sale in January 1928. However, after only a few years, Bill Wintle found a more exciting opportunity, when he first accepted a job in the public service at Maribyrnong, and then when he was appointed as peace officer at Yarralumla in Canberra to take on guard duties at Government House, a position he would hold for 25 years.

Looking for someone else to take over the tea room business, the Funnells invited two of Victoria's cousins, Thomas and Charlie Horner to come to Upper Beaconsfield. They had lost

*continued on page 14*



Victoria and Fred Funnell



Back from left: Amy Funnell, Marie Baker (nee Smith), Louisa Smith with friends

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their jobs due to the 1930s Depression. Charlie and his wife Johanna were an enterprising couple. Johanna ran the tea rooms, and Charlie extended the southern end to include a grocery business. Victoria Funnell would visit them on Friday nights, do their books, bank the takings and get a list of requirements from the wholesalers for the following week. However, in 1936, Charlie returned to his old job as a plasterer in Melbourne.

Fred Funnell senior died in November 1936. According to his probate at the time of his death he was the owner of the Cormore property, then valued at £500. The title, however, was only transferred into the names of Amy Funnell and their son Fred on 5 May 1941. Just a few weeks later the freehold was sold to Charles Alexander Berglund, probably to aid his son Will, who ran a green grocery store there for a time. Previously such a business



Louisa Smith and Victoria Funnell at White Lodge, Stoney Creek Road, with Louisa's grandsons Fred Funnell and John Baker



Cormore Tea Rooms before the name was painted over (above)  
Ric Thomson leaning on the bicycle (below, c1943)



had been conducted by James Paxton on the opposite side of Emerald Road, before he moved to Berwick in mid-1937.

### George Thomson

In October 1943 Cormore was sold to George Thomson, but the family may have been living there before that date. For the next 28 years, George, with his wife's help ran a milk bar in the building. The old Cormore name was painted over, and George erected a sign "G. J. Thomson Real Estate Agent." George Thomson had started working on local orchards in about 1927. He married Margaret Robinson in 1936, their son Ric was born in 1937. George started to buy real estate in Upper Beaconsfield in 1940, buying properties along Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, as well as land on Halford Street. Their second son Clive was born in 1944. He died

of kidney failure aged only 19. George Thomson died in December 1965, Margaret in 1996.

### Funnells at White Lodge

In 1935 Victoria Funnell had bought the 18-acre crown allotment 5 Section D, through which the then new Beaconsfield-Emerald Road ran. On the smaller part, being just over three acres on the corner of Stoney Creek Road and Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, she designed and built "White Lodge", a house still standing today. The title was transferred to her mother, Louisa Smith, and the house was completed for their Christmas party in 1937. After Louisa's death the property reverted to Victoria. Around this time Victoria's step-brother Samuel retired, and Victoria bought his share of the company. To be able to pay him, Victoria had to sell her Brighton property, and came to live at "White Lodge", commuting to work in Kensington every day. After her husband's death in 1965 she moved back to Brighton. In the early 1970s 'White Lodge' was sold to John and Kathleen Poole, who were associated with the local RSL.

Amy Funnell died in Canberra on 6 June 1949, where she had spent the last few months of her life with her daughter's family. She was buried in Berwick Cemetery. Her other sons stayed in the area until the 1960s and 1970s respectively. Arthur 'Digger' Funnell had returned from the First World War with severe injuries, and lived in a shack on Amy Funnell's original property. Robert worked for the Berwick Shire Council, and lived in St Georges Road.

MARIANNE ROCKE

# A principal residence

Long-time resident Annette Walker reported recently that an elderly lady briefly visited the Beaconsfield Upper Primary School in November. Her name was Amy Crosbie (below). Some parents who had children at BUPS in the 1980s will remember her. Her late husband, John Crosbie, was a former principal at the school.



Annette said, "Amy, fondly known as Mrs Cros, acted as office receptionist, nurse, cooking teacher and settled upset kids. She was loved by everyone, young and old. Amy turned 100 last January!

She has an amazing memory of her days at the school. Her love and support especially after Ash Wednesday was a real asset to the parents and kids. Some of the present school mums will remember Mrs Cros from when they were students. An amazing mum, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend to so many".

This view of this popular couple was echoed in this Village Bell report in December 1983, about the Crosbie's departure from the school in 1983, when they retired to live on the Mornington Peninsula.

*"Mr Crosby was appointed Principal here in 1978. He was born in England and served in the Royal Air Force for five years during the war. He began teacher training in London before coming to Australia in 1948 and completing his training at Geelong Teachers' College.*

*His teaching career has taken him to*



The house in its original location (above) , and on the back of the tuck (below)

*Chelsea, Cheltenham, Hanging Rock, H.M.Prison Pentridge, Langi Kal Kal Prison (neither as an inmate), Yering, Swift's Creek, Romsey, Eaglehawk, Hastings and finally, Upper Beaconsfield.*

*The school has increased its enrolments during these years, from 250 to over 300. The library and multi-purpose room have been built, and the recreation reserve, incorporating part of the school ground, is being constructed. There is much more community involvement in the school than there was previously.*

*John pestered the Education Department into providing a fire hydrant and a long hose, which enabled the school and residence to be saved in the fires. John and Amy will be moving to the Mornington Peninsula and are looking forward to a lot of relaxing and a little travel. John will be remembered for his devotion to the children and his loyalty to the staff; Amy for her clerical work and 'mothering' of the children."*

Many Upper Beaconsfield residents do not know that the Crosbies lived in the principal's house, located at the southeast front corner of the school grounds, where the playground is now. The modest house had been there since 1952. It had been built by the Education Department after residents lobbied the government to provide a house as the headmaster Mr Wood had been unable to obtain suitable accommodation for his family.

"Mr. Wood, who was a married man with four children, is living in a dilapidated old house only two rooms of which are habitable. Mr. Wood is held in the highest regard by both parents and pupils, and it is felt that the district is in grave danger of losing his services, as he cannot be expected to tolerate these conditions indefinitely." *Dandenong Journal, Wednesday 14 July 1948*

It took another four years until the new house was finally built. Mr Wood wasn't to enjoy the new residence, as he left

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Photo Trevor Wilson

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Upper Beaconsfield in July 1950.

This house was the Crosbie's home for six years. After they retired, local couple Sue and Trevor Wilson purchased the house. This was made easier by the fact that Trevor worked in the family business CD Wilson & Son Pty Ltd – manufactured home transporters – which the family still operates today.

I remember watching the Wilson truck

and trailer with the house on the back slowly progressing towards Emerald Road. One man was perched on the roof of the house to make sure no low branches got in the way.

During 1984, Sue and Trevor seamlessly transformed and extended the modest house into a large family home and raised their three boys there. Sue created a beautiful garden, which she was sad to leave in 1995 when they embarked on another project

in completing another house, also in Emerald Road.

Note that the Wilsons donated the mobile classroom to the Men's Shed, which they set up on Halford Street at the rear of the Community Complex, on DELWP land. This was the incentive to enable the Men's Shed to set up their meeting room, and later a large shed.

HELEN SMITH

## Exercise is medicine!

We all know that exercise is good for us, and something we should all be doing, but not many know the wide array of health benefits it carries, and how it can be used in prevention of certain health conditions. Recent research has found that it is safer for those with long-term conditions to be physically active. Exercise and physical activity make a person happier and more efficient.

### How can exercise help me?

Regular exercise is associated with a multitude of benefits and improves your

- Ability to complete activities of daily living and function
- Strength, flexibility, and bone health
- Balance and reduction of falls risk
- Brain health, including memory and attention
- Cardiovascular fitness – reducing blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Maintenance of a healthy weight

It is also important to recognise that increases in activity can reduce risk of obesity-related conditions, even in the absence of weight loss!

### What does exercise help prevent?

As well treating a wide variety of health issues, exercise is also a great tool for prevention of various health conditions such as:

- Cardiovascular disease
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Depression
- Stroke
- Certain cancers
- Dementia

### How much exercise to aim for?

For overall health and wellbeing, and managing common health issues, aim

to work towards:

- 150 minutes of cardiovascular exercise per week (5 x 30 mins at a moderate intensity). This might be 2 x 15-minute walks a day, or bike riding / rowing for longer durations. Depending on fitness levels or health conditions this may range from a low to high intensity.
- 2–3 sessions per week of muscle strengthening exercises are best to maintain strength for day to day function. Aim for 6–8 exercises of multi-joint exercises targeting major muscle group, e.g., squats, rows and pressing exercises. Instead of a simple leg extension you might choose to do a chair squat or similar variation. This targets multiple joints and muscle groups placing demands on the body like movements we complete day-day. An upper body version of this might be choosing a push up (wall, kneeling or traditional version), which targets the shoulders, chest, arms, and core vs a simple arm curl which only uses the biceps.
- Balance exercises should also be included to reduce risk of falls. This might include marching on the spot, step tapping exercises in different directions, and depending on ability practising a single leg stance. Ideally aim for 3 sets of balance exercises 2–3 days a week (or you could even include this within your strength training sessions)
- Regular stretching exercises each day maintain your flexibility and motion and joint mobility. If stretching prior to exercising, dynamic stretches are best to prepare the body for movement. Dynamic stretches examples include shoulder circles, back rotations, or side bends. Aim to complete 10 reps by moving in and out of the range of motion in a continuous but controlled manner, eg. 10 seated

trunk rotations left to right.

- Static stretches are a great way for further mobility and flexibility improvements, but also are important as part of a cool down. An example of a static stretch would be a seated trunk rotation – moving to the point in which you feel the stretch but then holding for 15–30 seconds. Big deep breaths are encouraged during any stretching so your body can relax into the movement to allow a successful stretch to occur.

It's important to note that if starting from zero, don't aim for 100% straight away. Always start off slow and build gradually. This might mean two light walks a week vs five, two bodyweight strength sessions vs three and stretching on alternate days for recovery and flexibility. If you aren't quite sure where to start or have a history of injury or chronic health conditions, speak to your doctor who can refer you to an exercise professional for more support.

Try a range of different exercises to see what you enjoy, as you are more likely to stick to them! Exercise can be a great form of social interaction too. This could range from having a hit of tennis with a friend, lawn bowls, or joining a local walking group. Remember, exercise is a great tool and something we have in our own control to help improve our health and quality of life. That's why, after all – exercise is medicine!

If you would like to discuss more about the benefits, please speak to your GP.

LAUREN MERCOVICH, ACCREDITED  
EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGIST  
DR ANSHU MALHOTRA, GP  
DR PUNEET MALHOTRA, GP  
UPPER BEACONSFIELD GP PRACTICE



# Upper Beaconsfield: towards zero bushfires

With the upcoming summer fire season we should remind ourselves of the legislated restrictions related to the Fire Restriction Period, days of Total Fire Ban, and just prior to these, Cardinia Shire's Council's Open-Air Burning policy. Over the past 10 years, the council's data, based on CFA

information, shows that there have been approximately 60 fire incidents requiring a turnout, per year, caused by 'human generated' fires in some capacity, including approximately 5 fires per year in Upper Beaconsfield. Anecdotally, the real figure is regarded as being higher than the official figures.

One would suggest that these 'human generated' fires were 'preventable'. (These figures do not include acts of arson).

Would it be a reasonable goal for our community to aim for a 'Towards Zero Human Induced Bushfires in Upper Beaconsfield'? Professionally, we are engaged with the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC) where we are aware that the Towards Zero approach has been very successful in helping reduce Australia's and Victoria's road toll over recent years. Let's use the same approach to complement the existing CFA and council's bushfire prevention strategies over the 2021/2022 fire season.

**FRANK ARCHER AND  
CAROLINE SPENCER**

Upper  
Beaconsfield

Towards



Human generated  
bushfires in Fire  
Danger Period



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**Saturday 9.00 am – 2 pm**

# And just like that, summer is here again....



It is wonderful to be getting some semblance of normality and structure back into our lives after a challenging couple of years dealing with the dreaded coronavirus.

It's become clear when driving around the area that there have been many properties change hands recently. To all our new residents, welcome to our beautiful part of the world!

Living in Upper Beaconsfield and the surrounding areas has many advantages but it is also not without risk. As beautiful as it is, Upper Beaconsfield remains one of the most at-risk localities from bushfire anywhere in Australia. History tragically tells us so!

Don't be lulled into a false sense of security with the recent wet spring. The warmer weather will still come. Remember, it only takes one bad fire day to make a bad summer!

To our new and settled residents alike, it is now the time to start your pre fire season preparation, if you haven't already. Whilst everyone's circumstances may vary subtly, these basic tips can help start you on your way:

- Clean up and prepare your property
- Remove and dispose of dead limbs, branches and leaves
- Remove woodpiles away from houses and other structures
- Keep the grass mowed short especially in unused paddocks
- Remove and clean loose leaves and litter from the gutters
- Check and maintain the fire pump. When was the last time you changed the fuel?
- Have a battery radio and torch (with spare batteries) on standby
- Stay informed – download the Vic Emergency App
- Like and follow our Brigade Facebook page for important news and updates
- Create a fire plan. What will you do on a bad day. What will be your trigger point to leave?

Three years ago, we held an enormously successful community bushfire exercise at the local primary school that was attended by about 400 residents. Some of the most important learnings to come from that day were a better understanding of fire behaviour and the

importance of making a fire plan.

Thankfully, we don't see lots of code red days in our fire season but that doesn't mean we shouldn't be prepared! What will you do on a bad fire day? What is your trigger to leave? Where will you go? What about your pets? What if there is smoke in the area? What if trees block the road? Is there another way out?

The recent wind storms in our area highlighted how vulnerable we can be in such extreme circumstances. Have a prepacked bag containing emergency and essential items stored in a convenient location. You need a plan A and a plan B. Most of all you need to BE PREPARED! Visit the CFA website for more information [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare)

## Fire restrictions

At the time of writing this article, the introduction date for the '2021/22 Fire Danger Period' was not yet known. The CFA, in consultation with other stakeholders, will decide and announce the date when appropriate. Any announcement will require a minimum



## Did you know bushfires kill from 200m away?

The flames of bushfires can reach temperatures of up to 1100°C. Long before the flames reach you, the wave of radiant heat can kill you from 200 metres away. Planning for bushfire is the only way to survive it.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to [vic.gov.au/knowfire](http://vic.gov.au/knowfire)



of two weeks notice to be given to residents. The brigade will announce the introduction date on our Facebook page and other local community pages.

As of 22 November, Cardinia Council has relaxed the open air burning bylaws to allow six days a week burning (no Sundays) thereby enabling shire residents more suitable opportunities to reduce their hazardous fuels in the lead up to the commencement of the fire restriction period, once declared.

Once the fire danger period commences, there will be no burning off permitted. As has been the case in previous years, Victoria Police will be automatically dispatched by 000 to illegal burn offs. We can't pick and choose cooler days inside the Fire Danger period to burn off just because we think it may be safe. The fire danger period is in place until revoked (usually around April/May depending on the season). We look forward to your cooperation and understanding again this season. For more information on warnings and restrictions visit <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions>



### Call outs since the last Bell?

Since the last publication we have attended 14 incidents consisting of: 3 motor vehicle accidents; 4 grass and scrub fires; 4 power pole/line incidents; 1 structure fire; 1 chimney fire; 1 explosion

### New tanker update

At the time of going to print, we still had not received our new replacement tanker. We have asked Santa for an early Christmas present and from what we have been able to ascertain, we are optimistically hopeful that he will oblige sometime during the month of December. Once it arrives our members will need to participate in a thorough induction program before we can put it into service hopefully around the end of December. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more news.

### Live powerlines

The recent wind storms that wreaked havoc across the south east brought down many trees and with them, a number of powerlines. It is vital for your own safety, and that of others, that residents always treat any powerline as live no matter what. Never attempt to move a powerline that is on the ground or dangling from a pole. Contact the local power authority and report the incident. In an emergency, if the powerline is arcing or there is a risk to life or property, call 000 immediately.

### New electric doors at the station

In October/November we removed our old manually operated bi-fold station doors and replaced them with new electric doors. This project, which was managed by the CFA, also saw the widening of the door aperture to remove a course of bricks on either side, effectively allowing us more room to manoeuvre our larger two tankers in and out of the station. The new electric door system is fitted with sensors and a traffic light system to prevent the

doors opening/closing should there be an obstruction in their path. The new doors will provide the brigade with a more efficient turn out procedure and improved station security when turning out to incidents. The doors were made available through a 2:1 Victorian Emergency Services Equipment Program grant.

### Let there be (more) light

Through the generosity of donations, we have recently been able to install LED light bars to all our appliances. The new light bars will aid our members when driving on rural roads at night time thereby improving safety.

### Farewell to members

Recently, we have had a few members move away from the area and relinquish their membership with the brigade. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Dustin Hesse, David Mylius and Bailey Pearce for their dedication and volunteer service over recent years. We wish them well in their new endeavours.

### New members welcome

If you are interested in joining the fire brigade, we always welcome new members. Even if you just want to come along to a training session to see what it's all about or perhaps have an informal chat with one of our brigade management team, that's ok too. We train Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings year-round. Contact the fire brigade on 5944 3303 or email [ian.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:ian.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au) for further information.

Please stay safe this summer and remember to stay alert and up to date with what is going on in your area.

*IAN PINNEY, CAPTAIN*

## The magical satin bowerbird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*)

The bird life in Upper Beac has been amazing this spring. I had been listening to our local lyrebird, practising his routines, getting ready for the busy season ahead. Among other calls, he was mimicking kookaburras, scrub wrens, satin bower birds, crimson rosellas, and blackbirds. I was impressed; hopefully his companions were too.

A couple of days later, Mike mentioned he'd been watching a satin bowerbird mimicking kookaburras, scrub wrens, lyrebirds, crimson rosellas and blackbirds. Turns out, I had it wrong. I had been listening to a bowerbird and had assumed it was the lyrebird. That was interesting, but it was clear something more was going on.

Over the next few days our resident bowerbirds, seven in total, all female, were in an uproar. Non-stop, incessant whirring and churring noises, querulous buzzing and whistling, and all those typical harsh grating bowerbird calls. Not to mention the mimicking!

By the end of the week, all became clear. Someone had built a bower! Located down the hill in the garden, close to a path, but surrounded by bushes with a clear space around the entrance, it is a perfect, though small bower. Only males build bowers. But we have never seen a male here. Or so we thought. What was going on?

A mature male bowerbird is a deep glossy blue-black colour. In fact, he is uniformly black but light diffracting off his feathers gives him an almost metallic blue sheen. He has beautiful violet eyes. By contrast the female is an olive grey green colour on top, her wings and tail are rufous brown and there is a brown scalloped pattern down her throat, breast, and flanks. She has striking blue eyes. Quite difficult to confuse with the male you would think. Except the immature male's colour scheme is very similar to the female's.

He starts to colour up at three or

four years and isn't fully coloured till he's about seven years old, when he reaches maturity. By contrast the female matures at two to three years. It seems at least one of our seven females is an immature male, just old enough now to think about starting a family. This bower is probably more a practice run. But once it was safely constructed the birds all settled down and once more life resumed its normal pace only occasionally interrupted by more raucous cries and quite a few 'kookaburra' calls from the direction of the bower.

There are eight different species of bowerbird endemic to Australia and another ten resident in Papua New Guinea. Two of these live in both countries. Most of the Australian residents live up north, from north eastern Queensland across the top to Western Australia. But the satin bowerbird can be found in the wetter forests and woodlands along the east coast of Australia from southern Queensland down to south-east Victoria. There is a small population in the wet tropics of Queensland centred roughly around Cooktown and south to Townsville. Bowerbirds belong to the same family as catbirds. They are the longest living passerines (birds with feet adapted for perching, including song birds), living to about ten years. The oldest recorded wild bird was 26 years old.

Bowers are built for courtship purposes. The breeding season starts in late August and finishes in January.

The male builds his bower as a display platform to attract females. The more mature the bird, the more complex the design and decoration of the bower. Satins like mostly bright blue objects. They'll also use yellow for contrast. If they're living near humans, they'll happily pilfer pegs off the line, biro tops, straws, and bottle tops. We put out a selection of things for him to

consider. A friend very kindly donated a bag of beautiful shiny blue beads in every imaginable shade, so he could choose the perfect colours. This made his day. In the wild they rely more on feathers, flowers, and snail shells. No one is sure why he prefers blue objects. Maybe he feels the colour accentuates his beautiful plumage, maybe he's just more familiar with this colour, almost certainly it reflects the female's colour preference. As they mature, they seem to prefer deeper and more striking blue display objects.

He builds the bower on the ground, two parallel inwardly arched walls made of sticks, usually about 35 cm high, 45 cm long with a layer of sticks and twigs on the floor, 5–7.5 cm deep. He paints the walls with a mixture of chewed vegetable matter and saliva.

Throughout the year he maintains it meticulously, visiting daily, shifting his 'jewels' till he finds the perfect spot, adjusting twigs and repairing damage. Already he's had to deal with ferocious winds and rain, the uprooting of his favourite bush, and an inadvertent wombat trampling by. Fortunately, the damage has not been too bad as he has built it in a sheltered corner, and he seems largely unfazed by these setbacks. We'll leave the bush there for now as it still shelters the bower. We will replant soon perhaps with indigofera, some wahlenbergia and damperia for their purple-blue flowers.

We've seen at least three different females admiring his bower. It seems they like what they see. Courtship is highly complex. After a prospective partner arrives the males starts a ritualised display of exaggerated movements: he struts with his head held low, bowing and bobbing. He flattens his outstretched quivering wings and tail, all the while producing an astonishing array of mechanical sounding calls: wheezing, whirring, chirping, chattering, whistling, buzzing,

## Green Circle Plant Nursery



Now is your last chance to buy local indigenous native plants grown by local community volunteers before we close for summer holidays. The last days for the nursery are **Friday 10 and Saturday 11 December**.

The wildflowers have been lovely this year.

We also have other native plants such as the beautiful *Schoenia filifolia*



– Golden Everlasting, and *Rhodanthe chlorocephala rosea* – pink and white everlastings. See our display of these at the Post Office.

SUE SIMMONS

rattling and then there's the mimicry. He manages all this while holding some part of his treasure trove in his beak. Often he will offer this prize to her. If the female is impressed, she moves into the bower avenue and mating takes place.

Satin bowerbirds are polyandrous, meaning the male will mate with several females. (Other bowerbird species are monogamous). He remains at the bower, keeping it in good order, practising his dance moves while waiting for another female. The quality of the bower and his dancing performance are good indicators of how successful he will be. On the other hand, the female will visit several bowers before choosing her perfect mate. There may be several bowers in an area for her to contemplate. Males are not above stealing from their rivals or even vandalising an opposition bower.

After mating she heads off to build a nest. In this case the nest is about 20 metres away in a blueberry ash (*Elaeocarpus reticulatus*). Only the female is involved in nest building.



(Monogamous pairs share nest building and child raising duties). Her nest is a loose construction, shallow, saucer shaped, built of twigs and dry leaves in a tree about 10-15 metres above ground level. She lines it with leaves; these turn brown as they age and may help camouflage her eggs. Between one and three eggs are laid, one egg every second day. They hatch synchronously 21 days after the last egg is produced. The chicks are ready to leave the nest within only three weeks but remain with their mum for another couple of months, finally heading off on their own at the beginning of winter.

These birds are frugivorous, meaning

they eat mainly fruits and berries. I guess it's no surprise they enjoy eating the blue-coloured fruits of the blueberry ash (as do the currawongs), but we were astonished to see the nest there as well. They are not particularly fussy when it comes to food and will happily eat European fruits as well as the local fare. During the breeding season they supplement their diet with seeds and insects and in winter they will eat leaves.

We don't know if this has been a successful breeding season for our bowerbirds. Fingers crossed for them. But it has been a magical experience being able to observe, even a distance, how these stunning and intelligent birds behave and interact daily.

**CARO LETTS**  
**UPPER BEACONSFIELD**  
**CONSERVATION GROUP**

For more information, or if you would like to join the UBCCG, contact our secretary Fergus O'Gallagher at [fergusogallagher@bigpond.com](mailto:fergusogallagher@bigpond.com) or check out our Facebook page.



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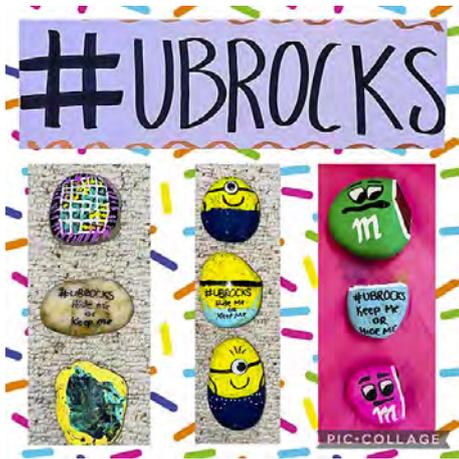
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- CONFECTIONARY**

## Rambling on

Despite all the restrictions, limitations and inconveniences of our second year of Covid life, one of the good things has been seeing so many people out and about on paths and in our forests. It has been wonderful to see family groups of different generations together on foot or bike. Sharing an activity is so important for



friends and families as it provides new experiences, conversations as well as companionship. Some creative people in our village community have been coming up with clever ideas to help give focus to a walk such as finding things like hidden 'Wallys', rocks or gnomes, or doing chalk pavement art, fairy trees, or plaster painting. Congratulations and thanks to those who thought up and acted on their ideas! It was something for us all to smile about, even for those without little people to keep entertained!

The spring gardens put on a sensational floral display with exotic plants like camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons providing solid splashes of colour. The forests were also very pretty but you need to look harder for our tiny native flowers. However, they will repay the effort! I thought that the *Pultenaea* (orange and brown 'pea' flowers) did exceptionally well this year, brightening up whole sections of the forest understorey.

Now that the weather has warmed

up, the echidnas have woken and are very busy seeking out ant nests. Even though you may not see them at work, keep an eye out for their 15 cm circular scrapings with several 'drill' holes where they poke their snouts in after the ants. It is quite on the cards that your garden has been investigated by one, even if you haven't been lucky enough to see it! (I think echidnas are the greatest; anything that eats biting ants has to be on the side of the angels!) Wombats are also busy, bulldozing gaps under fences and leaving their greenish, cuboid 'calling cards' in obvious places! I have never met my resident wombat but I always know when he has been through and also where he has 'been'! Another joy has been watching my resident kangaroo mob and seeing the joeys develop from pouch-only to looking out at and then getting out and exploring their world. We have so many blessings in Upper Beac! Keep looking out for them all over the next few months!

Rosz Smith

## The interconnectivity of things

We're all aware by now of the modern concept of the interconnectivity of things and how essential it is to our everyday lives. Our smartphone talks to our computer, lets retailers know where we are and what we bought last time; my partner's iPad can receive my personal phone calls, it knows what's happening in our fridge and updates a shopping list while keeping an eye on our security cameras, all through the modem on the wall, connected to the world through the web, so we can see the latest movies from Scandinavia, translated for us into English or Swahili.

And we know too, how things can go astray when one of those links is missing. If the internet goes down, a website or app crashes, the modem is on the blink, or your mobile goes missing. Can't show us your digital vaccination certificate? Sorry mate, you can't come in.

But this article is not about modern life. It is about natural life. The interconnectivity of things in nature is way more complex, intricate, unknown, and delicately balanced than the eWorld. When our wifi lifestyle is interrupted, after our initial frustration, usually a technician will come in to save the day, or maybe we have to buy a new piece of equipment. Unfortunately, this is not so in our essential world of nature.

The damage occurring to our natural world is often hidden, incremental and scarcely noticed, but to a few close observers. (For an example of how the re-introduction of a single species can have profound and unexpected flow-on effects, watch an extraordinary YouTube clip called "The wolves of Yellowstone".) This slow impact can make it seem that the damage is not serious or severe. But the knowledge of the decline in local and world biodiversity has been observed and documented for years, with increasing anxiety, alarm and urgency by environmentalists and scientists.

### • Insects

- o 41% of the world's species are declining, of which one third are threatened with extinction
- o One study in Germany found a 75% decrease in insect biomass
- o In Australia, more than half our insect species are yet to be identified
- o Our plants and animals rely on insects, either for pollination or as a food resource
- o When is the last time you saw a Bogong moth or a Christmas beetle?



### • Mammals

- o Australia has the highest mammal species extinction rate in the world and have lost 10% of our species since European settlement in 1788
- o Australia recorded the first species extinction in the world attributable to man-made climate change as the Bramble Key melomys' island home disappeared under water
- o In the last 30 years there has been a serious decline in mammal numbers across Australia, with 56 mammal species threatened with extinction
- BirdLife Australia submission to a government inquiry into "Australia's faunal extinction crisis"
 

*"But in many respects, Australia is a global anomaly. Australia is renowned worldwide for its unique and diverse flora and fauna. We are a wealthy nation with comparatively*

*good governance and a high degree of political stability. Yet Australia is one of the worst performers for preventing extinction. Most of the continent is remote from urban communities and intensive areas of human development, yet we have high rates of extinction, with many of these having occurred in remote areas."*

The Victorian Auditor-General's recent report Protecting Victoria's Biodiversity addressed the simple question – will the management of Victoria's biodiversity loss halt the decline of threatened species?

The answer was a resounding No, with a heavy criticism of the responsible government agencies.

The major threats to biodiversity in Australia are well known – habitat loss and fragmentation, resource extraction (e.g. timber), invasive species (e.g. foxes, cats, deer, toads), changes in waterways and flow (e.g. the Murray-Darling basin), introduced diseases and pathogens (e.g. chitrid fungus), changes in fire regimes, increases in bushfire extent and severity, driven by the last and relative newcomer, climate change, destined to become the biggest threat of all.

From all the above it is obvious, the number and the level of threats are severe and the effort to halt or overcome them very challenging. Regrettably we cannot rely on government to do all the hard work; they do not have the commitment, and so will not provide adequate resources.

It would be understandable in face of the above if we threw up our hands in despair or decided to do nothing because it seems pointless. But don't despair. Fortunately, there are organisations like Australian Wildlife Conservancy, Bush Heritage and Trust for Nature setting aside large areas of land for conservation, aided by the likes of Australian Conservation Foundation, Landcare Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Environment Victoria and many more.

As I continue in my efforts to protect my local patch I'm often drawn to a few quotes I've heard over the years:

- The longest journey starts with a single step
- Think global; act local
- If not now, when? If not here, where? If not us, then who?

## Damage to our local environment

In the interconnectivity of Australian natural things, deer are a disrupter. Our environment is not equipped to handle them. They browse higher vegetation, prevent regeneration of the bush, kill mature trees by rubbing, destroy the middle-story refuge and nesting sites for many local birds, they wallow and create mud baths, destroy riverbanks and their cloven hooves cause impaction of the fragile soils, opening pathways and spreading weeds. These impacts threaten the survival of many local species, such as the lyrebird, yellow robin, platypus, freshwater crayfish, muttonwood and tree ferns.

The Cardinia Deer Management Coalition (CDMC), a local group of concerned citizens, was set up three years ago to address the biodiversity threats of feral deer. They damage our environment and change our waterways in ways we don't yet fully understand – and may not until it is too late. Our ecosystems are already under severe stress and will need all the resilience they can muster to face the challenge of global heating.

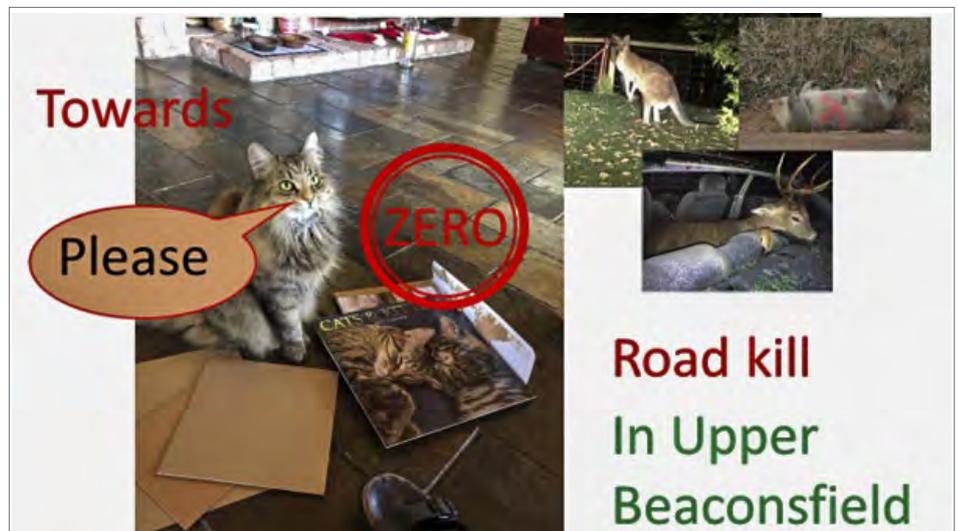
The presence of deer will only make this harder. As a local community environment group, we are prepared to meet the challenge of deer, but it's a big task, and we could do with your help.

Would you consider playing a role in the protection and recovery of our environment? This can be as simple as adding your name to the membership list of a local environment group; numbers count when dealing with government or applying for grants. Or donating to a local cause; finance is a major constraint to the ability of local groups to achieve results. Or perhaps lending your time to a group; whether helping in the field or working from home folding pamphlets or designing a webpage, all these things can be a significant help.

**MIKE HALL, PRESIDENT**

**CARDINIA DEER MANAGEMENT COALITION**

**INFO@CARDINIADEER.ORG.AU**



### An unnerving driving experience of the deer variety

A couple of months ago we had two unnerving experiences on the Beaconsfield-Emerald Road near Holm Park about a fortnight apart. These both occurred in the early evening after the winter dark had set in. On both occasions, the deer wasn't visible until the last second. On one such occasion we were grateful to an oncoming driver who flashed their headlights. On both occasions we

were fortunate enough to avoid a deer collision. We are aware of one other local resident who wasn't as lucky, resulting in extensive damage to their car – but fortunately no major human injuries. So maybe, as local citizens, we could adjust our behaviour and aim for "Zero Road Kill in Upper Beaconsfield? Slowing down at night would be a good start.

**FRANK ARCHER AND CAROLINE SPENCER**

## Kelly Wilson – story teller

What an honour it was to have been asked to share my recent literary developments in the Village Bell. I am so fortunate to be part of our supportive community in Upper Beaconsfield.

After being a teacher at my beloved BUPS for 18 years, I decided to take some time away to test the waters as a writer. Simultaneously, I established my own business as an educational consultant. The launching of 'Wings for Grace' has provided assistance for families during Covid restrictions. As a result, my studio has been filled daily to bursting point, with little people experiencing the adventures of learning and creativity. Many have worked with me as a writer. If you haven't already, please check out my website and join our stories on Instagram. [www.wingsforgrace.com](http://www.wingsforgrace.com)

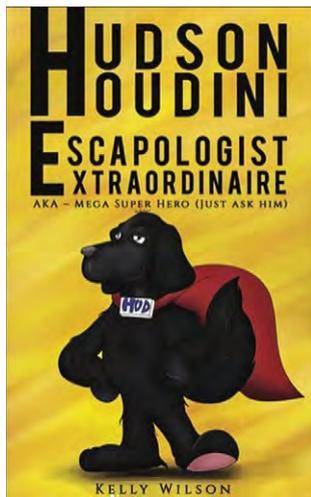
My journey as a writer has also been incredible. My dog Hudson is a much-loved character in Upper Beac. His life has certainly been filled with adventure and unimaginable survival. His character and love of life inspired me to write my first picture book series: 'Hudson Houdini Escapologist Extraordinaire'. It is due for release this Christmas. I aim to have my book launch and signing at BUPS.

My second picture story book is due for release in late 2022 by my Australian publisher. 'Lady Lulu' is

based on the true story of the unlikely friendship between my cat Lulu, a fox and a wombat. Night cameras on our property have captured evidence many times!

Both stories are packed with fun filled adventures and highlight friendship, compassion and valuing diversity. They have already proven popular with both adults and children.

My greatest aim however is to become an influential young adult novelist. My debut novel, 'Breathe Grace', is due for release in January 2022. Its launch and book signing will be held at the General Store. Currently I am working on my 2nd Young Adult novel, 'The shadows in my mind.' Both novels are thrillers, filled with uncertainty and intrigue. I deliberately chose content that would expose readers to current world topics; both novels address poverty, abuse, women's education, diversity, equality and mental health. Ultimately, I want to inspire young people to learn and be the voice of change.



*Breathe Grace* is set in outback Australia and Afghanistan. Grace is sent, against her will, to her grandma's remote estate where she stumbles on dark family secrets. She discovers she is closely connected to Afghanistan and the Taliban! Grace is thrown into a world of real danger and must decide whether to flee or stay and fight for the family



she currently detests.

*The shadows in my mind* is set in Melbourne and India. My young character Anya was adopted from India and brought to Australia by an Australian missionary family. She has lived with trauma amnesia ever since. When she learns that she has a twin sister who is still captive in child slavery in India, Anya must confront her past. A dangerous journey begins, back to the place where her life as a trafficked and abused child once was.

I do hope you take the opportunity to read my books. I thank you in advance for your support and welcome any inquiries. All my books will be sold locally, as well as worldwide. Further details will come as to where and when you can purchase.

KELLY WILSON

## St John's corner

And the rain comes tumbling down! Wet roads, soggy shoes, muddy floors, rampant weeds, more heating bills, wet-dog-smell, general discomfort ... or glorious flowering season, lush vegetable patches, deep ground moisture for the trees and crops and paddocks, flushed-out waterways, and clean fresh air.

Our lives are full of choices. We can in any circumstance choose to belabour ourselves and others with negatives or choose to look (and it can be hard!) for an alternate view. Everyday annoyances, stresses and discomforts can help us to grow up and deal with an imperfect world – this is 'spiritual muscle' so when bigger issues daunt us, we have some strength to draw

upon. The Creator God is very aware of all human problems – at Christmas we celebrate God as Jesus coming into the world to experience firsthand the human condition. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, self-control, fortitude, generosity, hospitality, encouragement, forgiveness, building each other up, are just some of the very positive life standards God encourages us to aspire towards. Focussing on and practising these will help us to deal with the rains and storms that life can deliver. And a bonus is we become nicer and better individuals!

St Johns is thrilled to be back in action after so many more lockdown months. We plan our Christmas services in the hope that more people will be able to celebrate indoors by then. As well as at

9.30 Christmas Day, there may even be a Christmas Eve service focussing on children and families, time to be decided. Maybe 5 or 6 pm before the community carols – whatever format carols will take this year.

### The Op Shop

The Friday team has done an amazing job tidying up and getting ready to open for several weeks before summer holidays. The Thursday team is in abeyance until restrictions ease a bit. We have been able to support mothers and children in need, and animal shelters with useful items.

Please note that we will not be able to take any donations over summer holidays.

ROSZ SMITH

## Community Centre news

As we move through the seasons and into what we hope will be a summer of fun, the Community Centre is delighted to be offering some festive activities, workshops and classes that can be attended on site once again. Keep your eye on our social media pages for more updates.

### A strong community spirit

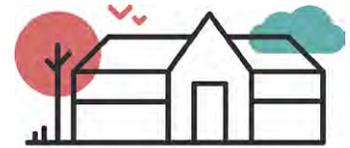
With lockdown through winter and part of spring, the energy within our community remained strong and on display by some enthusiastic little people, bringing colour and cheer to the village.

Our 'Strong Communities Stick Together' initiative was embraced, producing a sea of colourful stick people and creatures in the empty garden bed at the front of the Centre (photo on page 2). We utilised some donated balls of wool and leftover craft materials from our school holiday program to distribute packs for children to take home and assemble a 'stick figure' to install in our 'Stickland' garden bed.

We also ran a colouring competition in conjunction with the kind folk at

The General Store. Children collected their sheets and handed them back for display in the centre of town. The submissions highlighted a pool of talent. It was so great we couldn't decide on a winner and the amazing Steph and JD generously awarded all participants an ice-cream prize upon collection of their work. We thank them for their continued support and incredible community spirit.

Craft packs were also a hit through lockdown. We adopted some of our school holiday program activities and



### Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre

turned them into a take home kit to keep children entertained. Making worry dolls, spinny wheels, and pom poms. Each kit contained the required materials and an instruction sheet.

### Foodbank

Foodbank continues to be on offer and is replenished regularly. The foodbank is located outside in front of the Community Room on Salisbury Road. Please feel free to take what you need.

### Looking to a brighter year ahead

With summer coming we look forward to offering some enjoyable activities in the coming year. We wish everyone a safe and happy new year, enjoying quality time with family and friends. Keep an eye out for our term 1 program to be issued at the beginning of 2022.

JANELLE SALE

Contact the Centre to book - limited places.  
E. [bookings@ubcc.org.au](mailto:bookings@ubcc.org.au)  
P. 03 5944 3484

**CHRISTMAS SCIENCE**  
Date: Monday 13th December  
Time: 4pm - 5pm  
Age range: Prep - Grade 6  
Cost: To attend this workshop for free you simply need to pay the \$10 family UBCC membership.

Join Heather from Prime Sci for a Forensic Science investigation to solve the crime...  
**Ho-ho-who stole Santa's presents?**  
Learn about forensic science and solve this Christmas crime using fingerprints, hair analysis and chromatography.

Double vaccination required for parents who wish to enter the hall, however children can also be dropped off for the duration of the workshop. Contact the centre if you'd like more info.

PRIME Sci  
SWINBURNE  
Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre

## Melbourne Youth Chorale (MYC)

Lockdown is over! MYC enjoyed its first face-to-face rehearsal at Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre on 3 November and finished to the year with a casual picnic/performance/awards event at Akoonah Park on 27 November.

Other events that were lined up for the rest of the year have been cancelled or postponed to 2022. While this is disappointing, lockdown has provided other opportunities. Choristers continued their education with online rehearsals and also participated in MYC's inaugural Singathon. The Singathon raised around \$1800; and the choristers who participated progressed in ways that we did not think possible in lockdown!

We're really pleased to have been asked to perform in the Jack Rae Pavilion at Akoonah Park and appreciate the opportunity for choristers to share their work. It will be our first performance

since the end of 2019. The calendar is full for next year...but if our plans don't come off, we're ready to jump back into online learning if necessary!

We congratulate the winners of the Westfield Fountain Gate Local Heroes grant. Our own nomination was in the top six, the community voting round, but did not win. However, we heartily congratulate the three winners and wish them all the best in their projects.

With thanks to the Department of Education, MYC enjoyed a special online event around the Children's Week theme of 'Children have the right to choose their own friends and interact safely with others'. Guest presenter, Juliana Kay, led the choristers in an exploration of the theme which became lyrics. This special song will form part of MYC's repertoire in 2022.

We're making good progress on our brand new choir for children who live

with an intellectual disability.

We plan to start at the beginning of 2022. We're delighted to have received a VicHealth: Reimagining Health grant to cover start-up costs for this project and look forward to enabling choristers to reach their potential. Please spread the word about this choir and direct all enquiries to Kerry at [manager.myc@gmail.com](mailto:manager.myc@gmail.com)

MYC needs a board secretary! Our current secretary is a front-line health worker and needs to be fully committed to that role. Please contact Kerry if you think you could help.

Thanks for your support. MYC can only continue to operate on a 'pay what you can afford' basis with your support. Get in touch to find out how you can help.

KERRY ALEXANDER



MELBOURNE YOUTH CHORALE

# 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



The Scouts recently explored some of the tracks in the Dallas Brooks Scout Park

**Support our local Scout Group by buying a Christmas Tree**

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

## Think Local Support Local

As you read this, I hope the process of opening Victoria is well underway, where there is an opportunity for us to travel out into the community and share in the Think Local Support Local initiative.

Many of our local businesses, schools, sports clubs, and grounds have been closed for over 250 days, and we were unable to visit family and friends during this time. For many it has been a challenging time and I have taken heart in hearing how we as a community have rallied together and supported one another. We have called up our mates to check in on them, we have extended a hand to those in need, we have grown in strength as a community over this time and I urge you to continue this goodwill by leading with the initiative to Think Local, Support Local.

When we do venture out again to our local stores, please be mindful that

we all must comply with Covid safe practices; we must check in with the QR code or other means, wear a mask if required to do so, practise good hand hygiene and as always be respectful to one another. Most of us have a sense of familiarity within our community and know each other, we are friends, family or we are loyal customers and supportive of one another. There are many businesses who do not want to be in this position but must follow the Covid safe practices to open for business, please keep this in mind when visiting your local stores.

My wish as I write this is that we don't reflect on Covid past but on our hopes for the future. I hope that we all have the opportunity to enjoy our Christmas celebrations with family and friends in our homes, together. I wish you a safe summer season and hope that you have your fire safe plans ready and that we can all share in a very Merry



Christmas and a joyful New Year and stay safe during the summer season.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me on 5953 0216 or brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au

website: [www.bradbattin.com.au](http://www.bradbattin.com.au)

Social media: Twitter: @BradBattinMP, Facebook: BradBattinMP, Instagram: @bradbattinMP, Linked In: Brad-BattinMP and YouTube: Brad Battin

**BRAD BATTIN MP**  
MEMBER FOR GEMBROOK

# Welcome back to Golf



Our welcome back present to golfers was a beautiful spring. Members appreciate the perfect conditions while catching up with friends.

During Melbourne's six lockdowns, the club's Friday email newsletter 'Around the Traps' kept members up to date. It has been a source of weekly information and humour for more than ten years and while we could not meet in person we were connected.

We learnt when the new protective fence was installed on the 8th of the Hills and the renovation of the 14th green started. Photos of the course were published, and we could see how others were going at home. There were ingenious ways some of us managed to practise golf in the confines of our back yards, and other photos submitted for the bad hair competition.

And now the newsletter will once again include results as competition play resumed on 30 October. The final of the John Barker Winter Cup handicap pairs matchplay is scheduled to be played on 13 November and will be contested by Adrian Besley and Cameron Whiting versus Court Dore and Brian Andrews.

Junior Golf Clinics have also started up again, running until Saturday 18 December from 9.30-10.30 am. These clinics are open to all ages and abilities.

To find out more information or to register, please phone the Pro Shop or email proshop@beaconhillsgolf.com.au and speak to Dylan or Bryce.

- General enquiries: 5945 9210
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**MATT VAN DER KRAAN**  
CLUB MANAGER



# Hit-up from the courts



The tennis club has been dusted off after lockdown 6 and all junior/senior weekend competitions are back playing. Midweek ladies and our four nights of intra-club social competition should be back on court, too. It is great to see the courts in action again and fingers crossed we don't have to close again!

We had success in the very shortened men's winter competition with the singles/doubles team of Jono, Matt & Adam being award the premiership based on ladder position.

With the shutdown there are a number of club events that had to be delayed. Keep an eye on Facebook and email for details on the delayed 2021 junior and senior club championships, open day, working bees, and Christmas party (even if it's in February).

We are a friendly bunch, so please get in contact at upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com or www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldtennisclub if you're interested in playing night tennis, mid-week ladies, or junior and senior competitions.

Coaching is back, offering a full range of programs including: hot shots, group lessons, semi-private 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@ultimatetennismelbourne.com

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So as we reconnect with family and friends to celebrate the festive season, please look out for each other, support local businesses, show your appreciation and respect for retail and hospitality workers wherever you can, and make sure to take extra care on the roads.

**Wishing you all a joyous, restful and safe  
Christmas with your loved ones, and a happy  
and prosperous 2022.**



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