

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

VILLAGE BELL

March 2022



Upper Beaconsfield Association
www.upperbeaconsfield.org.au

B. M. Pritchard

*St. John's Church
Upper Beaconsfield.*

Certificate of appreciation awarded to the UBGP Practice



Over recent years, Drs Anshu and Puneet Malhotra, who opened the Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice, quickly became local champions. Covid brought them to prominence as they engineered their way through the vaccination roll-out. Early on, seeing queues of people became a very familiar sight as they waited for their job outside the practice on Saturdays. Later, we saw queues during the week too. As of writing, they have administered 6,406 vaccinations. To recognise their sterling effort, the UBA presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Anshu, Puneet and their staff, together with a hamper brimming with local gourmet provisions from the 'The Pantry' in Emerald. Now, it's hard to miss Anshu and Puneet as they walk between their practice and the local shops in their recognisable scrubs. Their commitment to caring for our community shows how quickly they became embedded and valued in Upper Beaconsfield. For those who have not been previously vaccinated, the NovaVax is now available. Just book online.

CAROLINE SPENCER

**Protect your own
backyard**

<https://upperbeaconsfield.org.au/storymap>



Discover how to protect biodiversity

Learn how to manage bushfire risk

Choose how to best care for your property

Joan Medwin: Seventy years dedicated service to CWA



On 17 December 2021 a fine celebration was held to mark this great occasion. Pam Mawson, Victorian State President of the Country Women's Association presented Joan Medwin with a framed certificate in front of Woorinyan branch colleagues (below) friends and family.



Joan's story

In 1951 as a young and reluctant 15-year-old, Joan Ella Board was marched off to her first Younger Set meeting for her introduction into CWA. Joan's mum was a very active member and wanted the same opportunities for Joan. This was the beginning of what has been an amazing dedication of time, energy and talents to the now 70 years of continued membership and service to CWA.

Within the first year of the

continued on page 5

Carols in the Park Christmas Eve 2021

See story on page 7



Cable-less sound mixing



Rainfall on St Georges Road

La Niña visa cancelled

Compared to the average, November's rain was up by 32 mm, December was down by 48 mm, and January was right on normal. Overall, 16 mm drier than average for the three months, and 44.5 mm drier than the same period last year.

For the 2021 year, we received 984 mm of rain, 157 mm less than 2020, but 37 mm above the average yearly rainfall for Beaconsfield Upper.

September, October, and November were exceptionally wet. Then, December saw the soggy ground quickly turn hard and dry. Many of you would have appreciated the finer weather, but the land became devoid of moisture. Whilst January rains were average, most days were hot and dry with only three rain events for the month. Much of the rain fell on the 27th and 28th. Hotter than average, less rain days, and more intense rain events, all fit the predicted climate change patterns.

Notable rains that are typical of a La Niña weather period have significantly impacted many other areas, but clearly bypassed Upper Beaconsfield during December and January. It appears that our La Niña visa was abruptly retracted at the end of November. I am not sure why and the rain minister has so far declined to comment. No rain visa, no rain. Consequently, we are watering the gardens, the tanks are near empty, and the driest month of February is yet to unfold. You could say – situation normal.

As I write this in early February, with no rain in the forecast, I thought I might explain what a Bureau of Meteorology rain forecast means.

If you listen to the nightly news, you might see a forecast for 20 mm of rain

Month	45 yr av.	2021	2022
Jan	63.6	106.3	64.0
Feb	58.4	19.0	
Mar	64.2	80.4	
Apr	78.3	63.3	
May	86.1	71.5	
Jun	80.3	90.0	
Jul	78.6	79.6	
Aug	85.7	55.1	
Sep	90.6	139.4	
Oct	94.3	129.4	
Nov	86.5	118.3	
Dec	80.4	32.0	
Total	947 mm	984 mm	

with a 90% chance of occurrence. For this same day, the BOM could state 90% chance of 10 to 20 mm of rain.

So depending on your source, you may assume 90% chance of 20 mm, or 90% chance of between 10 to 20 mm. But neither of these interpretations are really correct.

When the BOM states a 90% chance of 10 to 20 mm of rain, what they actually mean is this...

There is a 90% chance of at least 0.2 mm of rain. That is, a 90% chance it will rain a little.

The 10 to 20 mm parameter then means there is a medium chance (50%) of at least 10 mm of rain and only a low chance (25%) chance of at least 20 mm during the 24 hour period. There is not a 90% chance of a forthcoming 20 mm. It is possible, but not very likely.

Hence, we often do not get the amount of rain that we might expect from our reasonable interpretation of the common forecasts. Could the 90% chance of 20 mm be considered as misleading, or even deceptive? Perhaps. And, with no La Niña visa, where does this leave us... well not on common ground, but most likely on dry ground.

ANDREW REWELL

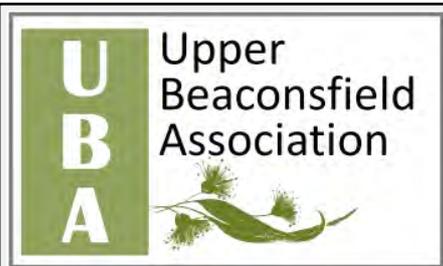
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Tag your payment with your name so we know who sent it. If you live outside the local area we can mail the Bell to you for \$15 per year. Thank you!

Thank you Frank Archer; Patricia Balson; Julie Born; Lesley Davidson; Hilary Day; Bronwyn Fitzgerald; Kim Fitzmaurice; Mike Hall; Stan Hamilton; Marie Howard; Harry Jensen; Scott Knoles; Des Lavery; Caro Letts; Anne Mehla; Cheryl & Fergus O'Gallagher; Dot Pockett; Porz family; Jenny Pritchard; Barbara Reid; Andrew Rewell; Cameron & Marianne Rocke; M & S Schweizer; Peter & Sue Simmons; R & B Sinclair; Helen Smith; Caroline Spencer; Bill Thomas; David Vinen



Village Bell Issue No. 227 March 2022

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Next issue: June 2022

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

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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community



Joan Medwin: 70 years CWA

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newly formed Younger Set at Officer, at aged 16, Joan was already showing her leadership qualities and was the president of the new branch. This gave her many opportunities, including travelling on the train to Eltham for her first group conference as delegate. In that era Officer belonged to Central Group, later Officer were transferred to Bayside Group then finally into West Gippsland Group. In 70 years of membership Joan has only ever belonged to two branches, these being Officer and Woorinyan. She was a busy member for 7 years whilst at Officer, enjoying branch activities and participating in as much as possible. After marrying and moving to Upper Beaconsfield Joan still travelled to Officer for meetings.

In talking with her new friends in the local area and gaining support and confidence, it was soon decided to form a new branch of Younger Set in the town of Upper Beaconsfield. Joan resigned from Officer and became a foundation member of this new branch and has now achieved 70 years of continued membership of CWA.

In 1966 when all Younger Setters became full CWA members the name Woorinyan was chosen for the branch and this means "happy meeting place".

The meetings were held at night in members' homes and late nights were almost guaranteed. The CWA name was often catch phrased to "Chin Waggars Association" and Joan was known for her late night or early morning home comings. Throughout the ensuing years Joan held the office of president, vice-president, flower secretary, branch secretary, and branch

catering convener many times over. In 1978 she was recognised by her peers and was awarded and presented with a CWA Life Membership. This is a place in time Joan is still very proud of.

Joan has participated in so many areas of CWA and has set an example for those around her. CWA has given Joan the opportunity to grow her talents in sewing, all facets of needle work and embroidery, crafts in general and cooking. She has entered many competitions at group and state level and has had much success, resulting in many prizes for her wonderful work. In one group exhibition, with many entries in the assorted sections, the certificates were piled up and resulted in 31 prizes. Joan has always enjoyed gaining knowledge from attending state conferences, whether as a delegate or as an observer.

The friendships and connections that Joan has formed over her membership time has been very precious. She greatly values the women she has met, the women she has helped and those who have helped her. Women in the city and women in the country know of CWA and all that women such as Joan represent.

They are the back bone of our community. This may be in the form of making "pamper packs" for drought affected farmers' wives, catering at the Royal Melbourne Show, bush fire relief efforts, the local Village Fair catering or



helping those with special needs. The list of support that members like Joan have given is endless. Most important is being a friend to whoever needs a friend, to be there for them no matter what. Despite Joan's growing years this has not stopped her CWA enthusiasm. There are always goodies being sent out from her home for others, this year hand knitted rugs and preserves are bringing joy and comfort to those less fortunate.

As Joan looks back and reflects on her time in CWA she is also looking to the future and she hopes younger women will join CWA, so they too may enjoy such a full and rewarding life.



Drive for new members

Upper Beaconsfield Country Women's Association welcomes new members to attend our friendly meetings and activities. We meet

on the fourth Friday of the month 1 pm, at St John's hall, corner St Georges Road and Emerald Beaconsfield Road.

For more information, please contact President Tracey Kyle 0407 810 271 or Secretary Barbara Reid 0403 577 720.



CWA supports local scouts

At their monthly meeting on 25 February the Woorinyan Branch of the CWA presented their donation of \$800 to 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group. The money was raised by making shortbread, Anzac biscuits and jams.

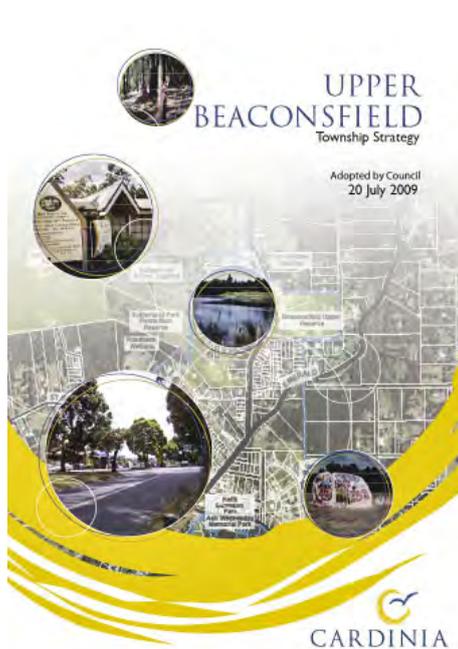
Reflections on three years as president



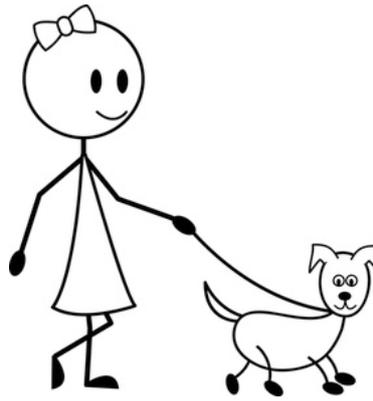
In February 2019, I became president of the Upper Beaconsfield Association (UBA). Prior to this, I co-chaired the UBA Resilience Committee with Eric Bumpstead. Eric invited me to join the UBA. He believed that sharing knowledge I had gained with my day job would benefit the UBA and the wider Beaconsfield Upper, Dewhurst and Guys Hill communities. My work focuses on anthropology and disaster/community resilience. Since the early 1990s, I have worked with community organisations and academia. I work at Monash University, and in the words of its namesake, Sir John Monash, "... equip yourself for life, not solely for your own benefit but for the benefit of the whole community." His wise words motivate me to link my work to our community.

Despite the past two years of Covid restrictions, the UBA has maintained its work and presence through zoom. So, what are the stand-out reflections for the last three years? There are many so I will cherry-pick my favourites.

To retain as far as possible, the semi-rural character and atmosphere of Upper Beaconsfield and district, the UBA monitors and influences development. Council's most recent *Upper Beaconsfield Township Strategy*



(2009) states that residents have front gardens with low or permeable fences that allow views to gardens and surrounding landscapes. The recent emergence of solid high fences goes against that strategy. Committee Secretary Helen Smith wrote a convincing letter to that effect to Council, but so far, to no avail.



The proposed off-leash dog park for Upper Beaconsfield created much concern from local residents about dogs impacting and intimidating local wildlife, and the pets of adjacent houses. The UBA facilitated communications and discussions between the Upper Beaconsfield community and the Cardinia Shire Council, which led to the reversal of the Council proposal. This time, a successful outcome for residents and the UBA.

The annual Citizen of the Year honours local residents who have contributed significantly to our community. Each year the UBA calls for nominations, which allows residents to recognise people who have demonstrated one or more of the following outstanding characteristics: community service, leadership, inspiration to others, community spirit, fairness, charity, caring for others, participation in the completion of a community project. I have reported previously about the success of this program and how the UBA awards notable citizens.

Each year the UBA, hosts Carols in the Park. This reflects a social, cultural, and recreational service that the UBA organises for the community. A small dedicated team works diligently to organise the event. They apply for Council events' grants; arrange for musicians; set up the venue; and manage occupational health and safety issues. The organisers would like to thank the public for the zero-clean-up effort required after the most recent carols, and hope this is a positive trend going forward.

A UBA general meeting on the subject of the new Salisbury Road parking lines and realignment of the centre line of the road was well attended. Cardinia Shire road engineers came to the meeting to explain the rationale for the new road markings. Equally well attended was the UBA meeting

to discuss problems at the Beaconsfield-Emerald / Salisbury / St Georges roads cross intersection. A UB resident rallied to gain support for change, particularly for drivers turning out of St Georges Road in busy traffic times. When the residents raise concerns about these types of issues the UBA provides a forum for discussion and debate, and, if applicable, to find resolutions. The UBA works tirelessly to get resolutions, and as I have learnt, that can be longer than my term as president.

My reflections on my personal impact on the UBA include two personally special achievements that relate to fundraising and disaster/emergency relief.

The first, was a successful Australia Post Grant in collaboration with the Community Centre. The original intention of the grant was to connect community groups across Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst and Guys Hill. It aimed to bring community groups closer together to strengthen their capacity and resilience in the face of unexpected events. Covid provided that unexpected event! Sadly, it prevented this project from proceeding as originally intended. The Community Centre renegotiated how best to use the grant, which the Centre can use to pay for classes and courses that generate interest in the Community Centre, either existing classes or new ones. This is a win for the community, so keep an eye out for up-and-coming courses, or suggest something you would like. It might just interest others!

Second was the Safer Together Bushfire Mitigation Project in collaboration with a range of bushfire and environmental experts. The project began before my presidency with a working party tasked to develop the Metropolitan Bushfire Management Strategy in 2018. Frank Archer, a UBA committee member, not only contributed to this strategy, but developed important relationships that forged together a strong team with similar interests about bushfire mitigation, and protecting biodiversity. Following successful negotiations with Forest Fire Management, a unit within the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and with some UBA resilience committee members, the team successfully

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Community Complex goes solar!



Finally, after all the pandemic holdups over the last couple of years, installers completed the two PV solar systems on the roof of the Community Complex in January this year. This is a tremendous benefit to the community and will assist community groups and other users of the facility in becoming more sustainable and help to reduce carbon pollution in the environment.

Back in 2020, the Victorian Government launched the Solar on Public Buildings program, providing \$9.2 million to support volunteer committees of management of Crown land – while helping the government to meet emission targets.

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex Buildings & Grounds Committee (a DELWP committee) was successful in gaining a solar grant. The committee organised the grant application, supplied several years of power bills, meter reading data, and detailed information about the Complex and the users of the facilities.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning coordinated the whole project. All contractors were fully accredited by the Australian Clean Energy Council. DELWP organised the contracts, the analysis of power usage, and the audits of all the appliances used in various parts of the Complex, including the Men's Shed. Two solar systems were designed to meet the electricity needed to service the two areas of the facility, which has two meter boxes – one in the crèche and the other in the hall. The hall solar system services the hall areas, hall kitchen and the Men's Shed. The crèche solar system services the crèche, the offices, the meeting rooms, and toilet areas.

Government solar credit rebates also reduced the cost of the project. The solar systems will pay off their cost in just two to three years!

HELEN SMITH

Features of the Upper Beaconsfield Crèche PV system

- Solar array size: 9.96 kW, number of modules: 24, Module power: 415 W
- Approximate solar payback period: 2.28 years
- Approximate environmental impact: tonnes of CO² saved over lifetime: 370
- Equivalent trees planted: 1478

Features of the Upper Beaconsfield Hall PV system

- Solar array size: 6.64 kW, number of modules: 16, Module power: 415 W
- Approximate solar payback period: 3.04 years
- Approximate environmental impact tonnes of CO² saved over lifetime: 234
- Equivalent trees planted: 935

About town

Charing Cross

It was disappointing to learn about the outbreak of graffiti around the town recently. Posts on social media reported that vandals have targeted Charing Cross public toilets and the pony club. Observant residents and security cameras may have identified the vandals responsible. Hopefully, the vandalism will be cleaned up soon.

Tradesmen often stop at Charing Cross to buy lunch, as do visitors travelling through the town, residents, and people attending the mobile library that parks at Charing Cross every Tuesday. The public toilets in the middle of Upper Beaconsfield's commercial precinct are in frequent use.

Charing Cross was a popular place for people to meet safely during the pandemic and have a catchup in the rotunda or have a coffee and take-way food using the picnic tables. So, this place plays an important function for our local shops and businesses. It is well known where a town has good rest room facilities in the middle of town, businesses benefit. It is important that the facilities are clean and well maintained.

Report an issue

If you see the toilets are dirty, or you see graffiti, take photos on your camera and report the issue ASAP to Cardinia Council – https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/homepage/48/report_an_issue_to_council.

There is a QR code sign in the toilets, and you can use that to make a report on the spot, but it is bit clumsy to use as there are many questions to answer.

Carols in the Park

Beautiful weather, a happy crowd, and great music in the Keith Ewenson Park on Christmas Eve!

In early December, the opportunity to have outside gatherings was made possible when restrictions were lifted. Once the decision was made to run the community event, we contacted the sound team Australian Audio Visual (they were available!), Lionel Bailey and Damien Bennett contacted the singers

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Cover: Photo-artistic rendition of Betty Pritchard's copper embossing of the old St John's Church, by Cameron Rocke.

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negotiated a feasible project in 2020. Progress made has been reported regularly in the Village Bell.

A year of online collaboration took place between the steering group and other stakeholders: Cardinia Shire, the CFA, Melbourne and Monash Universities, and local conservation groups. We have completed the project successfully, on time, under budget and according to its ethical guidelines. DELWP accepted the final report and an impact evaluation will occur over the next two years.

The next phase is for us all to promote and use this local resource to help people make their own evidence-based decisions on their property i.e. balancing bushfire mitigation, and maintaining biodiversity. Please take a moment to access this extensive online tool, the stories within it and provide feedback via the feedback email. As soon as is possible, the steering group will organise a Covid-safe function to formally launch this online tool.

Last but not least, the small but dedicated UBA sub-committee publishes four issues of the Village

Bell each year. Its editorial team seeks articles of local relevance. The producers then review, design, print, collate and distribute each edition to residents and other interested persons. Over my three-year term, I have been in continual awe. Each quarter the team produces another quality publication that moves from strength to strength. Covid did not deter them! For two years, the Bell's dedicated team, worked remotely to keep our local community informed. In particular Marianne and Cameron Rocke took on a major proportion of the ten-person collation team's work on several occasions. The Bell enjoys membership of the Community Newspaper Association Vic, which hosts an annual conference. This year, Helen Smith attended virtually, and Marianne Rocke received the award for the Best History Article for her well-written and well-researched story detailing a traumatic part of local history, about a murder mystery relating to Fred and Annie Sheard in 1921 who resided on Quamby Road. You can read her murder mystery, 'In remembrance of Fred and Annie Sheard', in the June 2021 issue.

As retiring president, I have learnt much about our local community. Not only do we live in a beautiful area, but residents engage with many diverse interests, whether it be scout and conservation groups, or the tennis, riding, pony, cricket, and football and golf clubs, or the CFA, CWA, UB Church and UBA. It would be wonderful to revisit the intention of the Australia Post grant to connect these groups to strengthen connections and resilience across our area.

While I have retired as president, I will have a continuing role as vice president and I will continue to learn more about our community. As Sir John Monash advocated many years ago *Ancora Imparo* – I am still learning. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in our community. I express my thanks and admiration of the UBA Committee and its members for their support and for their collective contributions to our achievements over this time. I offer my continued support to the incoming president, Andrew Rewell and the UBA in general.

CAROLINE SPENCER

Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) update

As advised in the last Village Bell, the Cardinia Shire Council's MEMPC recently added, for the first time, two community representatives to its membership. I am one of these two community representatives.

Although I am not representing any local organisation, I intend to act as a conduit between the local community and the Shire. To this end I welcome any input from local residents and I will prepare a short article for each edition of the Village Bell on the MEMPC's activities. You can contact me through the editor of the Village Bell.

The MEMPC meets quarterly and reviews preparedness, response, recovery and resilience following recent major events in Cardinia and advises council on preparedness for future events. A community perspective is important for the MEMPC to achieve its roles.

At my first meeting in early December, it was very clear that council's emergency management staff are well informed, engaged and committed in their support of the community.

The last meeting of the MEMPC

included specific discussion on the following:

- 1 Neighbourhood Safer Places in Upper Beaconsfield, with the MEMPC recommending that council request a re-assessment of Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve for this purpose; and
- 2 Escaped burn-offs in the Cardinia Shire, resulting in the MEMPC deciding to request escape burn off data from CFA to aid its further discussions.

Now that the holiday season is behind us, we would expect these items to progress over the next few months.

Discussion also related to the community-led values-based bushfire risk mitigation project also known as the Upper Beaconsfield, Guys Hill and Dewhurst community Storymap program – refer to page 2 for more details. The MEMPC congratulated the UB community on this work and looks forward to the outcomes of this innovative community-led project. All residents are encouraged to view the valuable Storymap resource and consider using it in their personal

decision-making in caring for their properties. The community-led project steering committee seeks your input on your experiences in using this resource and your views on its value. Residents are strongly encouraged to provide feedback using the feedback facility at the end of the online Storymap resource.

Another item of concern to residents lead to discussion on communication issues due to power outages during and after major events like the extensive storms of late last year. The chair of the MEMPC advised that the Australian Government had committed \$37.1 million through the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) package to improve the resilience of Australia's telecommunications networks in bushfire and disaster-prone areas. Although this program has only just commenced, STAND sites should assist with this in the future.

I look forward to hearing from local residents across the Cardinia Shire.

FRANK ARCHER

Carols in the Park

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and musicians from two years ago, and a rehearsal took place.

Then the community groups and other individuals came together to help. Thanks go to Cardinia Shire Council, the carols instrumentalists and singers,

Upper Beaconsfield CFA, Upper Beaconsfield Association, and Men's Shed. Thanks to Julie Born for the lolly bags. Thank you also to those helpful residents who helped mow and tidy up the park.

It was the best carols ever! It was what the community needed after a long period of staying home and isolating during the pandemic.

The new playground and fence worked well for the children and repositioning of the marquee provided an excellent coverage of music across the site.

The sound team members had wireless tablets to talk to their sound equipment, so they could adjust the sound quality from all distances.

HELEN SMITH

Vale – Michael Stuart King Oliver (1939-2022)

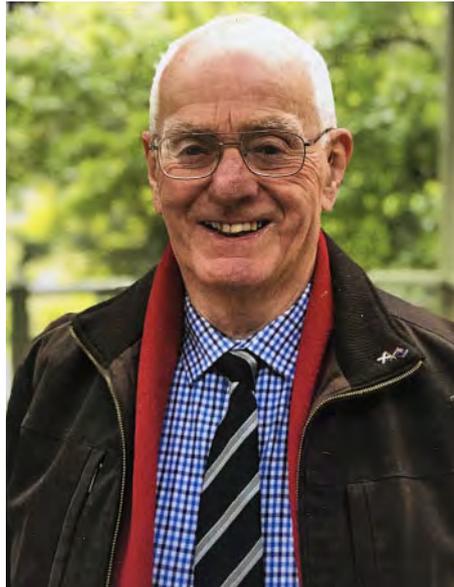
Michael Oliver (Mick) passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on a sunny afternoon on 4 January 2022 aged 82. He is survived by his wife, Siosi, his children Elizabeth and Jason, and their partners, and six grandchildren.

Michael was born a British subject in Shanghai, China on 30 November 1939. A tumultuous time in the world, post the Great Depression and the Second World War had started two months before. His father was a Scot from Dumbarton and made his way to Shanghai in the Scottish merchant navy. His mother was English born but had lived in Shanghai with her family from a young age. Her father owned an English newspaper. The threat of occupation led the family to move to Australia where they settled in Hawthorn, Melbourne. This is why the Olivers became avid Hawthorn Football Club fans.

The family had a holiday house at Rye on the Mornington Peninsula. Weekends were spent at the beach or on the water, fishing, and sailing. Years later, Michael would take his own children to Rye each Sunday for lunch with grandma and the love of Rye beach was handed down to them.

Michael did his fitting and turning apprenticeship with MacPhersons, and this led to a life-long love of metal, machine tooling, construction, and servicing. He worked in this field all his life, as a plant engineer and sales engineer working in sheetmetal fabrication, diemaking and precision tooling, working his way up to branch manager. Michael also part owned a boat hire and haulage business in Sandringham in the late 1960s. He became very good at fixing broken down engines. He also had a commercial real estate licence.

He met his wife Siosiana (Siosi) at Sorrento at a party in 1963. Siosi was the first Tongan to live in Melbourne.



She had come to Melbourne to do nursing at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Michael was smitten from the beginning. When Siosi finished her nursing certificate, then her communicable and infectious diseases certificate at Fairfield Hospital, and her midwifery certificate at Queen Victoria Hospital, she wanted to go back to work in Tonga to pass on her knowledge.

Michael saved up the airfare and flew to Tonga as the young couple could not bear to be apart. Siosi's family were charmed by this hardworking, kind man. The only culture clash that occurred was between Michael's attire and Tongan modesty. Siosi received a phone call while she was at work at Nuku'alofa Hospital. It was her brother, Moi, a dentist in town. He asked if she could speak to Michael about wearing more clothes in public. Michael had shocked all the town by wearing his speedos at the beach.

They would have loved a big wedding in Tonga, but the Australian Government would not recognise their wedding at that time, so they married at the Methodist Church, Canterbury, Melbourne on 22 May 1965. Mick's two

brothers were groomsmen and Siosi's two sisters were bridesmaids.

The move to Upper Beaconsfield was due to a heater hose blowing while he was out looking at blocks of land. The hose had blown outside the Pine Grove Hotel. Over a few quiet beers, Tommy Griffin, the publican, had convinced Michael to move to Upper Beaconsfield.

The Scottish genes were strong, and he never wanted to buy new when he could repair something for free. This led to keeping 'useful' or 'discarded' things and he ended up with three sheds with all sorts of items and tools. His close neighbours in Upper Beaconsfield included men who had an amazing array of practical skills in all sorts of trades. They could collectively solve any problem on a Sunday afternoon with the assistance of a few quiet beers.

In his later years, Michael was part of the Upper Beaconsfield Men's Shed and this comradeship and sharing of knowledge was important to him. One of his proudest moments was the building of the chook house for the local primary school.

Michael was a member of the Upper Beaconsfield Association. He was a parishioner of St John's Anglican church for 48 years and he was a member of the vestry in the 80s. In retirement, he volunteered at the church's Op Shop. This was a dream gig for Michael. He was great with customers but also great at finding things that might come in useful at home or were practically brand new so were a 'bargain'. Siosi finally called a stop to him helping.

Michael enjoyed books and reading, but only ever from the library or the Op Shop. He loved his extended family dearly. Most of all, he loved Siosi, his beautiful, clever wife whom he treated like a queen, his partner for 56 years of marriage. They made an unstoppable team.

ELIZABETH PLUNKETT (NEE OLIVER)

Keeping active at Men's Shed

The first months of the new year have welcomed changes to the Covid restrictions that hopefully will mean a rejuvenation of Shed activities, and a greater appreciation of the benefits of shared communications and ideas on a face-to-face basis. It is hard to chat over a coffee and cake and tell a decent joke on the phone or a Zoom connection!

Over the quarter, we have kept busy, with most members involved in an activity outside the Shed as well as attending meetings.

Outside activities

- Clark Rubber requested us to organise a "free" sausage sizzle to celebrate their 75th anniversary. Who knew that they had been going that long? We received a generous donation for setting this up.
- Men's Shed members and partners celebrated the end of the year with a special Christmas dinner at the Beaconhills Golf Club. A great meal was enjoyed, with 40 in attendance.
- An extremely successful sausage sizzle held at Bunnings. Over 700 snags in bread sold, or about 100 an hour. The boys worked hard!
- On Christmas eve, we helped set up the Carols by Candlelight at Upper Beaconsfield. Surprise, surprise, we also held a sausage sizzle at the event. It was one of the most successful carols and evenings held

for years. Perfect weather, perfect crowd, perfect music, and the snags were also pretty darned good.

You will note that our activities all seem to include food. I guess in 2022 we will need to take off some body condition.

During December, we were also recipients of a Federal Government funded volunteers grant, that we have used to purchase dust filters for the shed. These will remove the fine dust particles generated in our woodworking area. A safety need that has highlighted the respiratory ailments associated with the likes of Covid. These are being installed in the Shed during January.

Even though we had a 3-4 week break over summer, quite a few activities in the Shed took place – small tool repairs for various members of community; a member's caravan being repaired/improved; brackets being manufactured to install dust filters, as well as Wednesday talkfest meetings. Many members made use of our library.

Vale

On an extremely sad note, over the break we lost one of our long-serving, most respected members. Mick Oliver was a "young" 82. He was a gentleman, a man with a million ideas and solutions, and a raucous sense of humour. Many people associated with the primary school will remember Mick's pride and joy, the magnificent

chook pen (or hotel) that he organised, designed, and constructed with the pupils at the school.



Mick was also a lover of our Men's Shed brewed chocolate stout. Our sincere condolences go to Siosi and family.

During January, one of our members lost his wife of 59 years. Our deep sympathy also goes out to Billy for his sad loss.

New members needed!

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

Covid rules for distancing and full vaccinations apply for entry to the shed for members and visitors.

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

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldMensShed/>

Website - <https://sites.google.com/site/upperbeaconsfieldmensshed/>

NOEL LING

Beautification continues in Upper Beac

Jenny Pritchard and a group of volunteers completed the replanting in the garden beds outside the Community Complex in November. Local contractor Scott Lansbury of Direct Dingo Excavations did the heavy work. The first stage of removing the old plants was completed earlier last



year. The large shrubs which had been there for many years were removed as they had grown too large and looked scruffy.

Native frangipani trees and groundcover grevilleas were chosen as the new planting design, to enhance the front of the building, enable more light to enter the front rooms, and to open the up the entrance area. Walk past at night in the summer and you can smell the flowers, as the native frangipanis have the most beautiful perfume.

In early January, members of the beautification group held a working bee to tidy up the planting boxes at the shops.

HELEN SMITH



Inextricably linked

In September 2017 the City of Melbourne introduced the world's first "Mistletoe Makeover" to boost the ecology and biodiversity of the city urban forest.

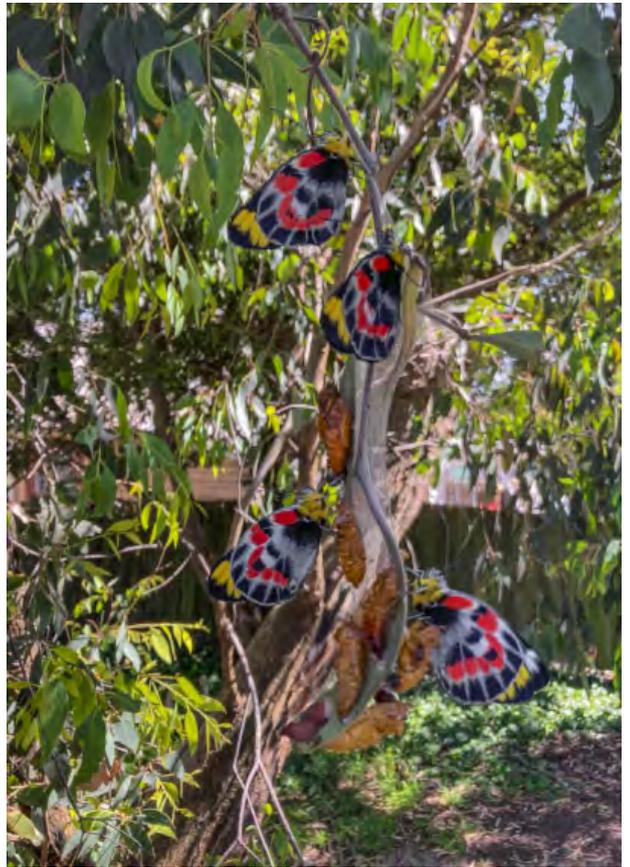
One of the lives that is inextricably linked to mistletoe is the lovely black, white, and red mistletoe bird, Australia's only member of a widespread tropical family of flowerpeckers, which feed almost exclusively on the fruits of mistletoe; it, in turn, is the basic disseminator of the plants within Australia.

Another life that is inextricably linked to mistletoe is the imperial white butterfly. Its caterpillar feeds entirely on mistletoe leaves, sometimes the flowers and stems. When the caterpillars are fully grown, they weave a communal web in which they pupate and from which emerge large white beautiful butterflies. The upper wing is white in the males, grey in the female, with a broad black border. The under wings are quite spectacular being black, red, yellow and white.

Although parasitic, mistletoes are not a problem in forested areas because of the number of host trees available. On cleared land few trees remain, this may cause heavier infestation on each tree,

which may result in the decline of the trees. In early January while out walking, I spotted pupates of the imperial white butterfly hanging in a eucalyptus tree, and some were just emerging from their cocoon.

Some weeks later I still see them flying high above the trees looking for blossoms to feed on. It has been noted by lepidopterists that the imperial white butterfly is intolerant of heat and will only fly when it is cool. Males are usually seen hill topping on a prominent hilltop in a breeding area during the mornings, where small groups can be seen slowly flying, waiting for newly emerged females to arrive. The males will disperse as soon as the midday heat arrives. The females are usually seen slowly flying about the host plants where they can be easily approached if the host plant is low growing. However, they are usually high canopy flyers and binoculars are then needed for



recognition. I hope they will not be another species that will be impacted by climate change.

SUE SIMMONS
UPPER BEACONSFIELD
CONSERVATION GROUP

Rambling on

Birdbaths and wildlife watering points ... who would have thought early in December that we would get so much pleasure from seeing these in use a few hot dry weeks later!

The plain, cast-concrete, wide-lipped shallow birdbath seems to be the one the birds most appreciate, and they use it much more than the more aesthetically appealing blue glazed one. Before the wattle birds moved in and dive-bombed everyone else, there used to be flocks of small birds all evening, taking turns for a drink and splash. It is very pleasing to see this year that there are a few thornbills, spinebills, blue wrens, and scrub wrens making regular appearances and at present tolerated. But the small-bird behaviour is now much more wary and quickly in/out rather than sitting on the edge



gossiping as they did years ago.

The weather has been better later this summer, with many consistently cooler nights and mornings. It makes activity so much more comfortable! Seeing lots of people out on our footpaths walking, jogging; with dogs, pushers, kids on cycles; horse riders, is so much fun. How lucky are we to live in one of the few places in the world where you can still

see people horse-riding on roads and tracks! How lucky are we to be those horse-riders!

Which brings me to the concept of recreational roads.

Think of all the local gravel roads still used by people for all the above purposes, as well as the multi-use footpaths areas. Now think of what it will be like if all these roads are suburban sealed, but with no provision of multi-use footpath for the rest of us. Think of Split Rock Road, now unsafe even for residents to walk along without leaping for safety from speeding cars, and unthinkable for horses. We have a chance to lobby Cardinia Shire Council to design recreational needs into these roads or lose a major community amenity. Happy rambling!

ROSZ SMITH

photograph Tommy Guest

A wet spring leads to late fire restrictions



We have had a late start to fire restrictions this year with the official implementation coming into force on 10 January. It has been a very long time since fire restrictions were implemented in the month of January. The wet spring led to the decision to delay the introduction, taking into account the grass curing and fuel moisture readings across the CFA South East region. A steady spell of warm, sunny days has led to a significant change in the drying out of ground fuels and the odd (very odd) sprinkle of rain really hasn't done much to quell the fire risk at this point in time. We urge residents to continue to be vigilant and to do the right thing to keep everyone safe.

We often get calls regarding the lighting of a fire pit or a cooker outdoors. There are clear and precise guidelines around what you can and can't do during both the gazetted fire danger period and on days of total fire ban. We encourage all residents to familiarise themselves with these guidelines by visiting <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings/can-i-or-cant-i>

The current fire danger period is due to end on 1 May 2022 unless notified otherwise. Pending weather conditions in the

coming months, they may be rescinded earlier like they were last year, or they may even be extended if required. To monitor start/end dates by municipality please go to <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-danger-period-restrictions>

Emergency warnings

There are 3 levels of emergency warning issued by the authorities. The warnings are delivered in a number of ways including via radio and TV, online and on social media apps Twitter & Facebook. The single most important app that any resident with a smart phone can have living in our extremely fire prone area is the Vic Emergency app. If you don't have it download it now. It's not too late. When you receive

one of these warning or notifications, you need to take notice and stay informed until the incident has been deemed safe. Incidents can change status quickly in ever changing conditions.

CFA turnouts

The brigade has had 14 turnouts since the last Village Bell.

- 4 x Monitored alarm (Salisbury House)
- 7 x Grass and scrub fire
- 1 x Grass and scrub fire (support to Nar Nar Goon)
- 2 x Motor vehicle accidents with injuries

We would like to remind people to slow down on our roads and drive to the conditions. The posted speed limits are the maximum – not the minimum. Some of our windy and hilly roads are challenging to negotiate in changing weather conditions.

New tanker update

Slow progress I'm afraid. The appliance has found its way to our district maintenance office for a final QA and pre-delivery inspection but that's where it remains at this point. Unfortunately there are several outstanding warranty issues

 ADVICE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area ■ Access information and monitor conditions
 WATCH AND ACT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ An emergency is developing nearby ■ You need to take action now to protect yourself and others
 EMERGENCY WARNING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ You are in imminent danger and need to take action now ■ You will be impacted



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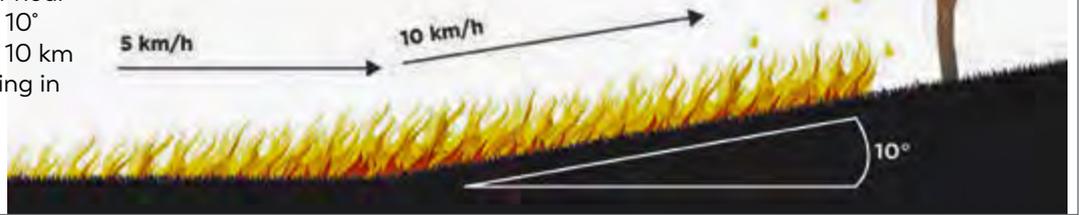
MEMBER OF



The effect of terrain on bushfires

A fire will burn faster uphill. This is because the flames can easily reach more unburnt fuel in front of the fire. Radiant heat pre-heats the fuel in front of the fire, making the fuel even more flammable. For every 10° slope, the fire doubles its speed. For example, if a fire is travelling at 5 km per hour along flat ground and it hits a 10° slope it will double in speed to 10 km per hour up the hill. By increasing in speed the fire also increases in intensity, becoming even hotter. The opposite

applies to a fire travelling downhill. The flames reach less fuel, and less radiant heat pre-heats the fuel in front of the fire. For every 10° of downhill slope, the fire will halve its speed.



that need to be addressed before the brigade can take possession and start training with it. I know it's been said before, but we really do hope to have much better news before the publication of the next Village Bell.

Commemorations

Historically, February is a sad month for reflection on the loss of life in major bushfires in our state.

Monday 7 February marked the 13-year anniversary since the tragic Black Saturday bushfires that ravaged Victoria and claimed the lives of 173 people.

Wednesday 16 February marked the 39th anniversary of the tragic Ash Wednesday bushfires that sadly claimed the lives of 21 people in Upper Beaconsfield including 12 fire fighters.

Across Victoria and South Australia over 100 fires raged and 75 lives were lost.

Each year on the morning of the Ash Wednesday anniversary, the brigade holds a small commemorative reflection service at the firefighter's memorial in Critchley Parker Jnr Reserve. The service allows us to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice that the 12 brave fire fighters from the Pantom Hill and Narre Warren Fire Brigades made on that fateful day. Later in the evening, the families of the deceased gather along with a number of fire brigade members from both brigades for their own private commemorative service. Even after 39 years, this anniversary can be quite traumatic amongst surviving family and community residents who lived through the significant event. Our thoughts are with all those who are affected by this event including a number of our own brigade members, many of whom are still with us today. There are plans in place to hold a large event for the significant 40th anniversary next year.

in our community is a very satisfying reward. What does it take? It takes time and commitment to become an operational fire fighter. After the initial join up process, there is a designated training plan for new members to complete first, to ensure you have the necessary skills and knowledge for turning out to fires and emergencies. The next recruit course will be held in June so there is plenty of time to get some brigade training under your belt between now and then. Brigade training is held on Sunday mornings from 9.30-11.30 and/or Wednesday evenings from 7-9.

If you are interested or would like to know more, please get in touch with the brigade via Facebook PM or leave a message on the fire station answering service on 5944 3303 with your details. Alternatively, you can email ian.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au and we will make contact.

Stay safe.

IAN PINNEY
CAPTAIN



30th anniversary of Ash Wednesday

Recruitment

Recently we ran a Facebook ad requesting expressions of interest for operational fire fighters. We are delighted to say that we received a few applications from that campaign and we are still actively encouraging community minded men and women of all ages to get in touch if you would like to join our great team. There are exciting times ahead at the brigade with the impending arrival of a brand-new tanker.

It doesn't matter what you have done in a previous life or what you do now. All members bring something different to the organisation. The ability of being able to contribute and help others

Rag collection pause

The Fire Brigade Auxiliary is pausing the collection of rags until we have worked through the backlog of donations.

Help your brigade by buying a bag of rags – \$3/kg.



Deer vs the Australian environment

The good news

We have been banging on in these pages for quite a while now trying to get across the seriousness of the issue feral deer are having on our unique Australian environment, farms, private properties and on our roads. It can be daunting to know the severity of the problem and that there has been such an underwhelming response to it over the years by successive governments. So, what is so good about that? Well, there is evidence there is a gradual awakening at council, state and federal level.

- The Federal Government has appointed a National Feral Deer Coordinator, Annelise Wiebkin. She is doing an awesome job pulling together the various interest groups, coordinating research, initiating local action plans, disseminating information and so much more across the country.
- The CDMC has initiated the creation of the Victorian Deer Control Community Network (VDCCN), with CDMC's very own Johannes Wenzel appointed as inaugural chair. The aim of the VDCCN is to enhance networking, sharing of data and ideas across the state and advocate for greater government involvement in controlling deer. The VDCCN already has 130 members and this number is rapidly rising.
- In Victoria, late last year the Invasive Species Council (ISC) appointed a first ever dedicated Deer Project Officer, Peter Jacobs, to manage the Stemming Deer Impacts Project. ISC has also donated part of Peter's time to act as CEO for the VDCCN.
- The Victorian Government has shifted its focus away from seeing the control of deer as an opportunity to "enhance the hunting experience" and is now moving towards a more

targeted, goal-oriented approach. We wait with bated breath to see if state government funding will match intent. The agricultural and environmental sectors will be watching this closely.

- Closer to home, in a significant shift, Melbourne Water recently changed the stated intent of their cull program from one of "managing" the deer population to "eradicating" deer from two of their local reservoirs, Cardinia and Silvan. Hopefully other agencies will follow this lead.
- Parks Victoria seized the opportunity after the Black Summer bushfires, to conduct an extensive aerial deer cull in the burnt-out areas, where canopy loss from the fires exposed the deer below. This was vital work, as the vegetation and its dependant wildlife, struggling to recover after the fires, would have been further devastated by the browsing deer picking off the emerging growth.

These are just some highlights of a growing focus and increased action in addressing the deer scourge.

The bad news

Most of the highlights from above are to do with research, education, and the development and coordination of strategies. All important, but what happens on the ground? The actual culling of deer is lagging. It is nowhere near keeping up with deer population growth. Deer are already a problem. Four years ago there was estimated to be a population of at least one million deer in Victoria. At probable reproduction rates and given the low numbers of deer culled annually, a number reduced even more due to Covid restrictions, this population is now probably closer to 2.5 million. We found in our aerial survey in July last year, there were around 1,600 deer in the Cardinia Creek catchment alone.



That places an awful lot of extra demand on our local environment, which is already severely fragmented, diminished by land clearing and now already heavily impacted by global heating.

So, what can we do? While we can't hope to have a great impact on the surrounding catchments and valleys, we can concentrate on doing our best locally. This is where the CDMC needs you. While deer may not be affecting your property (yet), we know they are having a huge impact on other local properties and the environment, stuff you may not see, but is most certainly there: wallows, changes to the creeks, thinning of the bush, devastation of orchards and vineyards, and road accidents. The time to act is now, and we need your help. We need many more property owners to play a role in overcoming this pest. Right now we are encouraging property owners to think about allowing deer culling to take place on their land. If you are not sure, but are interested in finding out more, contact us. We can have a chat, and if you wish, arrange an assessment of your property to see if culling would be safe for you and your neighbours, and if it is likely to be successful. If you are simply interested in finding out whether you have deer at all, CDMC own several camera traps, which we are happy to set up on your property for a few weeks. You might be surprised to see what happens in the dark.

**MIKE HALL, PRESIDENT,
CARDINIA DEER MANAGEMENT COALITION
INFO@CARDINIADEER.ORG.AU
WWW.CARDINIADEER.ORG.AU**

Victorian Government \$250 power saving bonus extended until 30 June

The Victorian Government is extending the popular \$250 Power Saving Bonus payment to support more vulnerable households doing it tough with energy bills.

Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing said that the extension would provide crucial financial support for eligible households who have yet to receive the payment. More than 350,000 Victorians have already accessed the one-off \$250 payment since it was launched

in February 2021, providing more than \$87.5 million to those who need it most.

Households receiving payments through the Pensioner Concession, JobSeeker, Austudy, Abstudy or Youth Allowance programs, or who hold a Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card are eligible.

The payment is transferred electronically into bank accounts or provided via cheque on request, and typically takes about two weeks to arrive.

The \$250 Power Saving Bonus is part of a \$797 million household energy affordability package announced in November 2020. The payment is delivered through the Victorian Energy Compare website, which receives more than one million visitors each year.

To apply for the one-off \$250 Power Saving Bonus, go to www.compare.energy.vic.gov.au or, if you need assistance with your application, phone 1800 000 832.

Our first St John's Church

In the early years of settlement in Upper Beaconsfield, church services were held in private homes. In 1883 the South Bourke and Mornington Journal reported that Mrs Lawes, who lived in St Georges Road, near today's Scout Camp, had lent a room in her home for the purpose of holding Church of England services twice a month. When the Assembly Hall was completed in 1884, Church of England services and those of the Congregational denomination were held there. A pulpit and an organ were kept in the hall.

The only newspaper articles we find about the church in Upper Beaconsfield in those early years related to fundraising to augment the Church of England Services fund. A garden fête at Ttekceba resulted in a £20 profit. Our local correspondent, 'Todea Africana' wrote about a tea meeting and social evening a short time later, stating that there was a chronic impecuniosity of the Church in country districts. The local Church of England parish included Berwick, Cranbourne, Lyndhurst, Devon Meadows, Clyde North, Tooradin, as well as Upper Beaconsfield. The vicar would travel to serve each congregation by horse and buggy. The funds collected at the tea parties and fêtes would augment his small stipend, and hopefully cover the full upkeep of his horse. Travelling up and down the hill on a winter's night would not have been pleasant on our rough roads.

As the local population grew, the congregation felt that a building solely dedicated to religious services was desired. The block of land where the church stands today, had been presented to the inhabitants of Upper Beaconsfield by Arthur Knight, who was desirous that the community should have an area for a hall, a school or a church. Knight transferred the land to five trustees on 7 Dec 1883. As the Assembly Hall and the school were built in different locations, this land stayed vacant for over 35 years. In July 1904 Archdeacon Hindley and Canon Godby came to Upper Beaconsfield



for the purpose of selecting a church site. Their choice fell on Charing Cross. Nothing further about this first attempt to plan for a church is known.

Building a church

It was not until 2 May 1921 when 19 parishioners of the Upper Beaconsfield Church of England held a meeting and decided that a church should be erected. Church regulations required that the preliminary committee had to have six members, four men and two women. Five of the six members were St Georges Road residents, Mr William Joseph Clezy-Brown and his wife Alice Emily of 'Applecross', William John Harvey-Smith and his wife Marianne, of 'Woodside', next to the church land, Hans Glismann, of 'Laluma', and Salisbury Road resident Sydney Casey, of 'Windarra'.

It was decided to build the church on Knight's earlier donation of unimproved land. Soon, working bees were held to clear the area. Local resident Joseph Martin Reed, offered to survey the land for free. In June 1921 Mr Clezy-Brown tabled a sketch by diocesan

architects North and Williams, which was accepted, subject to approval by the diocesan registry. As long as the total building costs didn't exceed £1,000, the diocese offered to pay 25% towards it. The architects' specifications were discussed and savings were made wherever possible, including using church glass instead of stained glass for the windows. The estimated cost was £800. In October 1921 advertisements were placed in the Argus inviting tenders for the erection of the church. By March 1922 no suitable tenders had been received. During this critical planning period Sydney Casey resigned, and his replacement John Herbert Ashley, who lived at 'Kyogle', didn't serve long either. The vacancy was filled by Mrs Christine Elliot-Drake, who we have profiled in the Village Bell, March 2019. She was a tireless worker, growing flowers, keeping bees and fowls to supplement the church building fund. Having seen the church cupboard vandalised in the hall, she was keen that the congregation had a secure place to worship.

Correspondence in the public building file, viewed at the Public Record Office, shows that by May 1922, the committee was back to square one. The original plans proved to be too expensive to carry out, and the original architects were not willing to alter them. A new set of plans was required. By August new plans had been received, but the committee had yet to approve them. A letter to

BEACONSFIELD UPPER.
TENDERS are invited for the **ERECTION** of a **CHURCH** at Beaconsfield Upper.
 Plans and specifications may be seen at the **Diocesan Registry, Cathedral Buildings, Swanston street, Melbourne.**
Tenders Close Saturday, 26th November, and are to be forwarded to W. J. HARVEY SMITH, Hon. Secretary, Beaconsfield Upper.
The lowest, or any tender, will not necessarily be accepted.



Hans Glismann, one of the carpenters who built the church, with his family.
Photograph Harris/Jennings collection

the Public Health Department, dated 9 December 1922, explained that the committee had just signed a contract with Mr Roy Hayball to erect the church as per plans and specifications drawn up by Mr John Reginald C. Blanche, who had offered his services for free. Blanche was a young Preston architect in his late twenties. They hoped to commence building as soon as possible. The health department replied that they were not allowed to start building before the plans had been approved by them. It seems that Blanche had failed to submit the plans as arranged.

By 22 January 1923 approval was given to proceed, but due to Harvey-Smith being away on holiday he did not receive the letter before mid-February. In the wake of the influenza pandemic the health department insisted that public buildings had to be well ventilated. Building would have commenced soon after, but progress proved much slower than anticipated. Hans Glismann and Bill Johnson were contracted as carpenters. Ken Hudson, in his memories as a vestryman, recalled that on one occasion Roy Hayball returned from Melbourne unexpectedly, to find the churchwarden reading to the carpenters from the daily paper. After a few "well-chosen" words from Hayball, they swiftly returned to their work.

After a very dry start to autumn, in May and June down came the rain, impeding the building works, but by the end of June, the walls were at least up. With the building taking shape, the committee selected seating from the Caulfield Timber Company. In August,

Harvey-Smith reported that due to an operation he had not been able to visit the building site, but that the foreman assured him that the roof was now finished, and the all-important roof ventilators were due to be installed that night.

On 14 October Mr Harvey-Smith reported that the building neared completion, and would the health department please do the necessary to allow them to have the dedication ceremony go ahead on 28 October. It was decided to dedicate the new church to St John. Not having received a reply, he wrote again a week later, saying that they were anxious that no hitch should take place, now that they had advertised the opening. With two days to spare the department replied that they did not object the opening ceremony, but that they could only sign off the project once they had received the Shire engineer's report. Luckily this was completed four days before the big day. The following article was published in the Berwick County Times on 2 November 1923.

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND.
Upper Beaconsfield.**

On Sunday last the new Anglican Church was officially opened, and

dedicated by the Archbishop of Melbourne, Dr. Harrington Lees, in the presence of a large congregation, visitors coming from all the surrounding districts. After robing in the vestry, a procession headed by Mr. W. G. a'Beckett, M.A., L.L.M., carrying the Bishop's staff, followed by His Grace the Archbishop and the Rev. A. J. Cole, vicar, was received at the western entrance by Mr. W. J. Harvey-Smith, senior church warden, who presenting a petition signed by the Upper Beaconsfield church committee, requesting the Archbishop to open and dedicate the church, the requirements of the Diocese having been complied with, in providing specified church furniture, etc., this petition having been publicly read by Mr. Harvey-Smith. The Archbishop announced that he would be pleased to respond to the request of the petition and would dedicate the church. The Rev. Cole announced a hymn and while being sung by the congregation, the procession was again formed and entering the church, proceeded to the chancel: afterwards the Archbishop commenced a special and impressive service set for church consecration. Two beautiful stained-glass windows and carved altar,

Who was Roy Hayball?

Roy Hayball (1889-1958) was a member of the well-known Hayball family of Brighton. Hayball Bros. was one of the largest timber-merchants, builders and sawmill owners in Victoria, their timber yard and associated buildings in New Street, Brighton, covering an area of four acres. Many Brighton villas were built by them. Upon the death of his father, Robert Hayball, in 1920, Roy inherited his share in the business, and later bought his cousin's share.

Roy Hayball served in the First World War in France, and was awarded a military medal for showing great coolness and courage under most trying circumstances, when he was leading his men to repair the Hamel Cerisy road on 8 August 1918. A month later he suffered a severe gunshot wound to the thigh

at Tincourt, and was evacuated to England. His wife, Mabel, stayed at a guesthouse in Upper Beaconsfield after the end of the war, waiting for his return home at the end of May 1919. Two years later they bought 'Crail', where they lived, and 5 acres on A'Beckett Road. Later Roy also owned the land where the pharmacy and UB GP Clinic now stand.



There are various references to Roy Hayball playing cricket for Upper Beaconsfield, including captaining our cricket club. He advanced into district cricket, and during that time he was talent spotted by the Brighton Cricket Club, as a wicket keeper. We know that by 1927 he had returned to living in Brighton where he was now managing the family company, and played as wicket keeper in the Brighton firsts.

which had been given by Mrs. Drake in memory of the late Dr. Drake, were specially dedicated by the Archbishop, as were also other gifts, viz., font and communion service.

In the course of a most interesting address, the Archbishop congratulated the Upper Beaconsfield church authorities upon the beautiful church which they had erected, and of the artistic and complete appointments which he said were the best he had seen in any country district he had visited.

The musical part of the service was conducted by Mrs. Drake, organist, who was assisted by an augmented choir and rendered the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in new settings.

The Archbishop announced that as this was his first visit to Upper Beaconsfield, he would at the close of the service proceed to the western entrance to make personal acquaintance and shake hands with each member of the congregation, which act was greatly appreciated by residents and visitors alike.

The new church will henceforth be used for public worship, and it is hoped that a good response will be made to the call of the new bell.

Sadly, the architect, missed the dedication ceremony, when a severe migraine required him rest at Runnymede.

After the church was opened the preliminary committee dissolved and final payments were made to suppliers and builders. The project had been completed to the budgeted amount, and they were debt free, but it was noted in the minute book that Hayball made a loss on his contract, and it was decided to pay him for some expenses he incurred. Around the same time, Blanche was paid an honorarium, after he wrote a letter to the committee stating that he had fallen on hard financial times due to a failed relationship. He was paid 5 guineas.

In addition to Christine Drake's windows in memory of her late husband, who had died of tuberculosis, further memorials were placed in the church in later years. One for Mrs Laura Browne, who had been playing the organ for many years, and another for the Rev Alfred James Cole, who had been the vicar of the parish from 1903-1932. In 1959 Mr and Mrs Sutherland, Mr and Mrs Esdaile and Mrs Heather donated an electric carillon to be rung on Christmas Eve. For two guineas it would also be played at weddings.

On 9 Apr 1962 a Garden of Remembrance was approved and consecrated. A folder at the church contains the names of the people remembered there.

Upon the death of various parishioners stained glass windows were installed in their memory. They included a window for Mrs Myrtle Louise McMinn after her death in 1963; Major-General John Stewart Whitelaw who died in 1964; his six-year-old grandson Robert Stewart Whitelaw; and Major-General Basil Moorhouse Morris, who died in 1975. For the 50th anniversary of the church a window was installed to commemorate all who served during the history of this church.

Luckily the stain-glass windows were photographed just prior to the church burning down in the Ash Wednesday Fires. It was double lucky that the photographs were not consumed by the fires, because many others irreplaceably were all over Upper Beaconsfield. Thus replicas of the windows were able to be made for the new church, maintaining some form of continuity between the old and the new church.

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CONFECTIONARY

Why rat poison is killing owls

Nobody wants to hear rats scampering around in their roof cavity at 3 o'clock in the morning or meet them the next day in the chook shed. But before you reach for the rat poison there are a couple of things to consider. There are a few different types of rodenticide (a poison that kills rodents). The most used are the anticoagulants and we'll focus on these.

- **First generation anticoagulant rodenticides (FGARs)** include warfarin (eg Ratsak Double Strength) or coumatetralyl (eg Racumin).
- **Second generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs)** include brodifacoum (most Ratsak brands), bromadiolone and difenacoum (eg Talon, Mortein and others).

Check the labels to see what you're dealing with, FGAR or SGAR.

How do they work? Both these prevent blood from clotting by interfering with the activation of vitamin K. Vitamin K is essential to produce blood clotting factors in the liver. Once a lethal dose is ingested the animal will spontaneously bleed out internally, or from a wound or other trauma externally. Just about any species, mammal, marsupial, or bird can be affected.

SGARs, sometimes called 'single dose anticoagulants,' are the more potent of the two. A single dose may be lethal. First generation products act more slowly and break down faster. Several consecutive feeding days are needed for a lethal dose to be ingested. For either class death occurs five to ten days after a lethal dose has been taken.

Both FGARs and SGARs can act directly – an animal eats the poison, or indirectly – an animal eats another animal that ate the poison. To work, these products must be palatable enough to attract rodents to eat them. So, they come with a flavour or scent enhancer, often peanut butter. Most rats find this irresistible, but unfortunately so do our native animals. These include bandicoots, (who also like your chook shed), native bush rats, possums, and antechinus, as well as dogs and cats. There is growing evidence that reptiles, which are fairly resistant, and insects, which are unaffected, are also consuming these baits.

Because it takes a few days for an animal to die even after a lethal dose, they continue feeding and the toxin builds up. SGARs are not only more potent than FGARs, but the toxin takes longer to break down. By the time the target species (the rat in your roof) has died or is weakened, it has a load of

toxin in its system. The rat is now an easy meal for non target predators. Those susceptible to this secondary poisoning include anything that eats rodents, bandicoots, possums, reptiles, or insects: birds of prey (owls, eagles, falcons, hawks, etc), Tassie Devils, quolls and insectivorous birds. The list is increasing as more research is done.

In 2020/2021 eight powerful owls were reported dead around Melbourne in less than one year. This is a significantly high toll. Deakin University investigated. Toxicology screens were performed for heavy metals (low levels detected), agricultural chemicals (mostly below detection levels) and anticoagulant rodenticides (ARs). ARs were present in 83% of owls, often at toxic levels and in some cases lethal. Brodifacoum (Ratsak products) was present in all affected birds.

These birds are not scavengers. Their preferred meal is possum, or other tree dwelling marsupials. Rats are not often on their menu at all. It seems they were ingesting SGARs not via the target rodent species but via the unintended non-target possum. SGARs are turning up in unexpected places along the food chain. And a number of these at-risk animals are already on the threatened species list: southern brown bandicoot, eastern barred bandicoot, long nosed bandicoot, and the powerful owl are just a few.

Not all animals who ingest these toxins will die. But those who survive are less likely to be able hunt successfully, will be more vulnerable on our roads and more susceptible to other illnesses.

Upper Beaconsfield is home to some animals which you wouldn't necessarily associate with rodenticide poisoning. We have sugar gliders, antechinus, bush rats, brush tail and ringtail possums, insectivorous birds and raptors, including powerful owls. All of these could be affected.

SGARs are common and easy to buy from supermarkets and hardware stores in Australia. But they are restricted from general sale in the US, Canada, and the EU. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (responsible for the management and regulation of all agricultural and veterinary chemical products in Australia) is currently reconsidering which, if any, anticoagulant rodenticides will remain available to the public.

Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to your rat problem. If you choose to use an AR, FGARS are less likely to cause problems for our wildlife and



photograph Glenda Jephcott

pets. But, if possible, avoid these poisons completely. If you must use them, place them out of reach of non-target species.

There are treatments for cats and dogs which ingest anticoagulants. This involves vitamin K injections and ongoing tablets for at least six weeks and possibly a blood transfusion and long stay in the vet hospital. Treatment is not always successful. Our wildlife doesn't have this option at all. It seems (in my experience as a vet) that most owners are unaware there is rat bait around or are sure that their pet could not have accessed it. Placing these products out of reach of pets and wildlife is not easy.

There are other poisons available, eg., cholecalciferol (vitamin D3). It is not an anticoagulant but is a renal toxin. There is no antidote for this one. Different products are coming on the market which may be worth trying. These include Rats Naturals and Yates Natural.

Traps are an alternative. There are a variety of snap and electronic traps available. Non lethal traps (e.g. Elliott traps used for monitoring wildlife) will help you make sure it is actually a black rat you've caught; maybe you have a bush rat, bandicoot or an antechinus hanging out in the garden instead.

Try and make sure your house and sheds are as rodent proof as possible. Seal holes. Rodents don't need much of a gap to get inside. Make sure stock feed is kept in rodent proof containers. Keep your compost bin secure and your property as clean and tidy as possible.

There is information out there to help. Here are a couple of good sites:

<https://owlfriendly.org.au/rodent-control/>

https://www.landcaretas.org.au/rodent_control_and_the_high_risk_to_raptors

<https://www.actforbirds.org/ratpoison>

CARO LETTS

Act now with these introduced pest weeds!

It is now time to remove these local weeds and dispose of them properly, so they cannot spread where they are not wanted.

Agapanthus

These flower head seeds are maturing now, and once dry not only look untidy, but hundreds of black seeds will drop and spread in the vicinity. These plants are hard to remove when established. Don't let them spread into nature strips and bushland. Remove the seed heads now.



Ivy

Another pest hard to remove. When it climbs up trees, ivy becomes very vigorous.



It can take over a tree, which weakens, and eventually dies and falls over. Ivy is flowering this time of year and birds eat the little fruits, then land in other trees and spread the seeds in their droppings. Cut the ivy off at ground level and paint the fresh cut with poison to kill the plant.

Ragwort

Perennial plant with bright yellow with daisy-like heads in clusters at the ends of branches. Flowering now, they soon develop seeds that spread in the wind over neighbouring properties. Seeds are viable for many years. Get rid of ragwort when it is flowering, as one plant can spread thousands of seeds. Poisonous to livestock.



HELEN SMITH

Photos Helen Smith, Cardinia Shire Council

Rosz' home-made for UB

Aim is to raise funds for Upper Beaconsfield organisations (Need for Feed, wildlife services, and others as suggested) with home-made foods. Costs cover ingredients and a small mark-up for donation. Time and energy donated.

Menu:

- Yoghurt – per litre \$4 plain or flavoured or \$5 with honey
- Honey-toasted muesli 1.4 kg batch \$19
- Jams and marmalades in season average 450 g jar \$4-5
- Cakes, biscuits, slices \$8-10
- Bread – multiseed or fruitloaf per 900 g loaf \$6-8

Treats / family desserts:

- Ginger with Swiss chocolate
- Honey-toasted Macadamias (sweet/salty/spicy/crunchy!!)
- Icecreams, tofu.

Anything reasonable on request

Return/Reuse/Recycle: Costs are kept to a minimum by avoiding expensive packaging/labelling; clients are requested to return food containers for re-use.

"your fête stall on the phone!"
0427 476 316



UpperBeaconsfield PHARMACY

Local, convenient and compassionate pharmacy care and advice

53 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd

Upper Beaconsfield

Phone 03 5944 3881

www.ubpharmacy.com.au

facebook.com/Upperbpharmacy

Opening hours:

Monday	8.30 am – 6 pm
Tuesday	8.30 am – 7 pm
Wednesday	8.30 am – 6 pm
Thursday	8.30 am – 6 pm
Friday	8.30 am – 6 pm
Saturday	9.00 am – 2 pm

Early Learning Centre

We are very excited to be back and refreshed after our Christmas break! The children have settled in after their holidays and are reconnecting with their friends again.

We have some exciting topics to explore together this term! We are focussing on emotions in the first few weeks back and exploring what these feel/look like and how we can manage them.

We offer full and half days so please feel free to enquire.

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

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

ELLI HEATH, DIRECTOR



Melbourne Youth Chorale news

Melbourne Youth Chorale is looking forward to another amazing year. When we saw what the choristers achieved last year around the lockdown and online learning, we're really excited about the possibilities for this year!

We started the year with a casual picnic on Saturday 29 January and had our first rehearsal at Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre on Wednesday 2 February. The choristers were excited to be back again, producing beautiful music together and catching up with their friends.

The Flying Free Choir

We're so excited to have finally launched this choir for children with intellectual disability after 18 months of preparation and planning. Our lovely teacher, Monika Harris, is leading the choristers through music-based games and activities focused on communication and social development.

We have some fabulous plans lined up for term 1, including a performance at Temp Rubato on 19 March, courtesy of Piano Project (www.pianoproject.org.au); and our 35th Anniversary Concert on 2 April with The Velvetones as guests. Look out for details on our Facebook page!

Another huge development for 2022 is the launch of our MYChoir Program, a VIP program for our regular donors.

Please take a moment to have a look at the campaign at <https://gift-of-music.raisely.com/> We're looking for 50 special people to join the MYC Community, changing lives through the gift of music.

What's unique about MYC?

- Melbourne Youth Chorale is a children's choir based on the Kodaly method. But it's not just a children's choir: it's a complete music education program. But it's even more than that: it's a life-changing social community.
- MYC embraces children aged 6-20 of all backgrounds and abilities, particularly children from disadvantaged backgrounds who might not otherwise have access to quality music education. The program is run by a team of qualified and experienced teachers, organised by a volunteer board of management, and operated by a huge volunteer team.
- Every child deserves the gift of music, and so many children in Melbourne can't afford music lessons. MYC's comprehensive musicianship curriculum builds a child's music literacy systematically in three levels, bronze, silver and gold. A graduate from the gold level is equipped for VCE/University



music and a career path. We change lives, not just through the gift of music but through the value we place on a strong and positive social community.

- Rehearsals and musicianship tutorials are run on Wednesday after school at Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre. Performances are scattered throughout the term in various venues.
- MYC is a charity, operating on a 'donate what you can afford' basis. MYC relies on donations and sponsorships, and we warmly invite you to join our MYChoir Program!

We look forward to sharing 2022 with you!

Website:
www.melbourneyouthchorale.com.au
or contact Kerry at
manager.myc@gmail.com

KERRY, MANAGER MYC

Getting active at the Community Centre



Look out 2022! We are up and running and rolling with the punches! Louis Manis kicked off his boxing sessions offering the regular adult classes on Tuesday evenings, with the addition of some fun, confidence building sessions for the younger kids and teenagers on Thursdays after school. Check out the program for session times.

Summer fun

We wrapped up 2021 with some lifting of restrictions which allowed us to organise some festive workshops utilising our beautiful community hall.

Christmas wreath-making was a hit with an extra session to allow over 30 participants to get together for a creative activity over a glass of wine. The unique styles and ideas that were bought to this workshop were nothing



short of brilliant. It was lovely to see such an abundance of flair, colour, and texture on each individual piece. Kelli from The Petal Provedore guided the class to plan, assemble and complete a beautiful take home wreath. Carlei Estate kindly donated wines to complement the event.

For the younger ones, we were delighted to engage the amazing Heather once again from Prime Sci, Swinburne University. Heather held a Christmas science session where the children entered a crime scene to undertake a forensic investigation and solve the crime of who stole Santa's presents. The use of ink for fingerprinting, hair analysis under the microscope and chromatography all led the children to discover the culprit. Heather captivated the crowd with her infectious character and encouraging style. We are looking forward to inviting her back for a gooey, slime making workshop.



Term program

Our term program is continually evolving. Please get in touch if you're interested in something specific and we will do our best to offer it to the entire community. On the other hand, if you would like to take a class and share your talent we would love to hear from you. Grab a copy of our latest program from the

UBCC, the General Store, the Bakery, Post Office or Foodworks. Or check our social media pages for current offerings.

Foodbank

We continue to order and replenish foodbank supplies to offer the community. The foodbank is located outside, in front of the Community Room on Salisbury Road. Please feel free to take what you need. As well as the food supplies we are stocking up on some knitted items for the approaching cooler months.

Neighbour Day

Neighbour Day is on Sunday, 27 March.

Keep a look out for our community initiative – more information to come soon.

Phone 5944 3484, www.ubcc.org.au

JANELLE SALE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Upper Beaconsfield – Facts and Figures

Albers Road was named after Claus Albers who was born in Germany c1844. He migrated to Victoria in 1864. He selected land in Upper Beac from the Crown in 1877 and died at his property in 1892 aged only 47 from epidemic influenza.

Beaconhills Golf Club was formed in 1947.

The 838 bus makes 3 trips each weekday to and from Emerald, through Upper Beac and then on

to Beaconsfield and Berwick train stations and Fountain Gate (see timetable <https://ptv.vic.gov.au/route/view/1015>)

Over the 2020/21 year the money spent at our Foodworks supermarket had the following breakdown: Surprisingly (to me) 28.10%, the largest amount, was spent on cigarettes and tobacco and the smallest, 2.49% was on fruit and vegetables. Alcohol was 24.7% with wine being the most

purchased. General grocery items were 21% and confectionery 8%. Fresh and flavoured milk was 7%, followed by frozen food at 3.52% and dairy 3.16%.

Our primary school has 360 students at the beginning of term 1 and 59 preps started school this year.

The path running through Harris Reserve (which runs from Salisbury Road to John William Court) is named Charles Wilson Walk. Dr Charles Wilson was a very respected and much liked GP and local historian who lived in Upper Beac.

JULIE BORN

St John's corner

It has been a strange year already. Don't you think? It feels like we don't know if we are coming or going. The sheer number of people catching Covid is overwhelming, and it can seem like we should just throw our hands in the

air. A year ago, those numbers would have been terrifying, and to me, they still are. So, as I look into our future, with vaccines, RATs, boosters, masks, and social distancing a normal part of our life now, it is good to ask the question, where will it all end? Where is the hope for the future? What do we do now?

At St John's we don't have all the answers, but we do have hope. Not the sort of hope that



says, I hope our team wins, or I hope it won't rain. I mean, hope, a sure and certain hope in Jesus. A hope that says, I anticipate what comes next. Not just wish for it. Being a Christian means that we have hope in something outside of ourselves. It means we hang onto and grip, rest and find peace in, the sure and certain future that Jesus won for us at Easter. If that sort of hope appeals to you, if you want to be sure what happens next, or you have questions about Easter, and what it all means, then can I encourage you to join us as part of our upcoming Easter celebrations. In a world full of uncertainty, of changing landscapes and rules, Easter provides for us a wonderful certainty and stability for our heart and soul. We all need a little of that now, I think.

REV. SHANNON LEE

St Johns Anglican Church Beaconsfield Upper



Shrove Tuesday 1st day of LENT
Pancake morning tea 1st March

Ash Wednesday 2nd March

Palm Sunday 10th April

Maundy Thursday 14th April

Good Friday 15th April

EASTER 17th April

All services will be held at 9:30am at St Johns. 1 St Georges Rd Beaconsfield Upper. Call Rev. Shan on 0410619796

Brad Battin

The new year has begun, and we have already experienced extreme weather conditions, taken the chance to catch up with family and friends, seen our children return to school for face-to-face learning, and our community has shared in the ability to 'Think Local,

Support Local'. I hope everyone has stayed safe during this time and continue to look after one another as we go about each day.

As part of this new year, I look forward to the chance to strengthen the amazing community relationships I have in the Gembrook electorate and engage with new community

groups, sporting clubs, businesses, and schools in the new Berwick electorate. Most of you will know that the state electorate boundaries have changed, and I will be standing as the Liberal candidate for the new seat of Berwick. I will continue to work for my community as the current Member of Parliament for Gembrook and represent you in parliament as always. My passion and drive will continue to focus on my community which has now grown to include the new seat of Berwick. I am

enthusiastic to bring the message of 'Think Local, Support Local' to more people and encourage everyone to contribute to our local providers, clubs, retail shops and volunteer groups.

It is great to see our sporting clubs shine again with the enthusiasm of competitive play and social gatherings as per current government covid guidelines. I enjoy watching training and attending the games of all our sporting clubs and sharing in social time with clubs, groups, and schools.

I have also been made aware by a local constituent that a bus route that stops through Upper Beaconsfield is needed for the community. I would be interested on hearing your feedback on this issue and any other items you would like to share with me, by contacting me on 5953 0216 or brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au.

You can also follow me on social media via my website:

www.bradbattin.com.au

Twitter: @BradBattinMP

Facebook: BradBattinMP

Instagram: @bradbattinMP

Linked In: Brad-BattinMP

YouTube: Brad Battin

**BRAD BATTIN MP
MEMBER FOR GEMBROOK**

Victorian State Electoral Boundaries Map

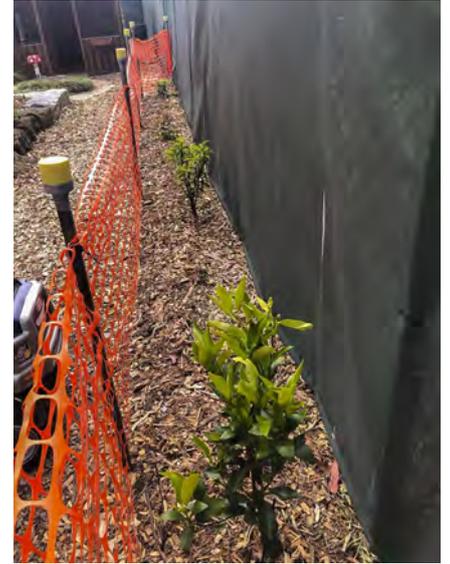


Fruit trees for Kinders

The Upper Beaconsfield Kindergartens were successful in applying for a grant through the Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant Program last year.

The grant aims to inspire children with hands-on projects focusing on sustainable food production. The PreKinder team worked with Travis from The Landscape People who planted five fruit trees in the sensory garden. The trees planted were a dwarf nectarine, strawberry guava, dwarf peach, dwarf mandarin and a pineapple guava. Also planted between each fruit tree are midyim berries.

These trees will allow the children who attend the kindergarten to not only see the trees grow but be responsible for watering them and then using the produce in cooking activities. A big thank you to Woolworths and Travis for making this project possible and increasing further learning opportunities for the children who attend the kindergarten.



LEE

UPPER BEACONSFIELD KINDERGARTENS

Council news

Upper Beaconsfield BMX track

The upgrade to the Upper Beaconsfield BMX track is progressing. The new park will feature:

- two key starting platforms accessed from the car park
- an asphalt pump track designed to connect with the existing dirt track
- resting and viewing platforms
- berms, roller, step down/up double roller, and rollable hipped tabletop.

Thanks to our young people who participated in the community consultation to design the upgraded park.

Stan Henwood Award

Cardinia Shire's 2021 Stan Award winner was Upper Beaconsfield's very own Helen Smith.

Nominations are now open for the 2022 Stan Henwood Award. The award is open to anyone who has made a significant contribution to the Cardinia Shire community. It honours the late Stan Henwood OAM and his lifetime contribution to Tynong and the broader Cardinia Shire. Nominations close at 5 pm on Monday 28 March.

https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/news/article/844/stan_henwood_award_nominations_now_open

Green bins – Now more than grass clippings

Green bins aren't just for garden clippings. You can also put leftovers (including meat), oily pizza box bases, human and animal hair, napkins and tissues, fish and chip paper, avocado and mango pips, lollies, popsicle sticks and bird feathers in your green bin.

Don't have a green bin? Order one today!

Did you know every FOGO (food organics and garden organics) bin comes with a free kitchen caddy to transport your scraps to your bin?

Have your say

Check out our online community platform Creating Cardinia to find out about current consultations and how you can get involved. You can also check in on a project or opt to stay up-to-date with your favourite consultations by hitting the 'follow' button at the top of the project page. www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Free business workshop

Covid-19, storms and bushfires have impacted many businesses. Our free recovery workshops provide businesses with tools to plan for the future and reset for new opportunities, as well as tips for making business improvements. 16 March, 10 am–2 pm, Hills Hub. RSVP essential: recovery@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Storm recovery support

Support is available for residents impacted by the 2021 storms. You can access clean-up programs, financial counselling, mental health support and more. Call the Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline, 1800 560 760 or contact Council's recovery team on recovery@cardinia.vic.gov.au or 1300 787 624.

Better local roads – Armstrong Road

Armstrong Road in Upper Beaconsfield is being sealed as part of Cardinia Shire Council's Better Local Roads – Sealing the Hills program.

This program will seal almost 110 kilometres of unsealed roads across more than 160 prioritised roads throughout the Cardinia Shire over the next 8 years.

The works at Armstrong Road include pavement construction, kerb channel construction (where appropriate), construction of traffic calming devices (where appropriate), drainage works, signage, and line-marking.

The Better Local Roads - Sealing the Hills program is funded with \$150 million from the Australian Government's Sealing Roads in the Dandenong Ranges and surrounds program and co-funded by Cardinia Shire Council in partnership with landowners via a Special Charge Scheme.

The works are expected to be completed early to mid-2022, conditions permitting.

For more information, phone Cardinia Shire Council on 1300 787 624, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/betterlocalroads or email mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au.

CR BRETT OWEN



Contact Cr Brett Owen

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

Phone
0418 993 370

Facebook
Councillor Brett Owen - Beacon Hills Ward, Cardinia Shire

1st Upper Beaconsfield Scouts

2022 is set to be a year of adventure, fun and exploring the great outdoors. Already we have had four members from our scout section, one venturer and four leaders attend VicJam along with 6000 (yes, you read correctly!) youth from around Victoria. VicJam replaced Jamboree, which is held in different location in Australia every three years. This year it was held in individual states due to border restrictions. Covid couldn't stop the fun this time! VicJam was an 11-day event based in Elmore, with Scouts travelling



around Victoria, from Mornington Peninsula, Melbourne City, Bendigo, Echuca and everywhere in between to participate in water adventures, amazing race, bike hikes, overnight expeditions and theme parks. With a focus on independence, it really was a once in a lifetime opportunity. On-site activities also included rock climbing, nightly entertainment and a live link up with an International Space Station.

Following on from this amazing experience, we are looking forward to our district camp in April, which will be with other groups and include activities such as a town visit, 4-wheel driving and camping in the great outdoors. Each section also has their own plans for camping fun and outdoor adventure.

Term 1 sees the Cubs and Scouts going for bike rides, water nights, zombie hunts using our compass skills, first aid

skills and lots of games.

1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group is a friendly, active and fun group to be part of. We meet at the Igloo, next to Beaconsfield Upper Primary School. New members are welcome in all sections:



Cubs 8-11 years
Monday 7.00-8.30 pm

Scouts 11-14 years
Tuesday 7.00-9.00 pm

Venturers 15-17 years
Monday 7.30-9.30 pm

Rovers 18-25 years
Tuesday from 7.30 pm

For more information, please email leader@1stupperbeaconsfield.com, call Andrew on 0418 334 140 or simply come along to try a night.

STEPH DAVEY

Split Rock Rover Crew

This year is sure going to be a busy one, jam packed with heaps of camps and events that the rovers are lucky to be able to go to! The crew started off the year with surfmoot, an annual camp down at the beach with other crews from Victoria. Coming up in our program we have heaps of fun nights and events including Anything Goes,

4wd trip, laser tag night and a few weekends planned where we get to race our crew buggy against other crews. If any of this sounds interesting to you and you are between the ages of 17½ and 25½ we meet at the Upper Beac hall every Tuesday at 7.30 pm or message us at splitrockrc@gmail.com if you want to know more about us!

Christmas at the cricket club

Fun was the key word when Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club families gathered to celebrate the Christmas break. A jumping castle, a Mums versus the rest cricket match and heaps of festivity highlighted a successful event. At 7.30pm the gathering was entertained by the arrival of Santa who was chauffeured by the local Fire Truck which delighted the mass of children.

Local MLA Brad Battin addressed the gathering and emphasised the value of sport for young people. He claimed 95% of young people in youth detention had never played sport. "As a society we should spend much more on building sports facilities than creating jails," he concluded.

Thanks to the junior coordinators Gerard McKee and Nick Payne as well as their team of volunteers who made the evening a success. The climax came

Santa arrived, complete with his bag of goodies.

Some successes for the Maroons

Despite Covid and barriers to playing unencumbered cricket, Upper Beaconsfield has been able to maintain a degree of success in what it has achieved in a Covid struck cricket season.

Individual success has been enjoyed by several players. Taylor Joyce clubbed a devastating 121 not out against Pakenham Upper prior to Christmas while U16 Josh Trembath also struck a resounding 132 against Lang Lang in F grade. A.J. Claxton debuted for our firsts, though still an U16, and managed to pick up three wickets in his first District cricket experience.

The district team defeated Cranbourne Meadows in the Kookaburra Cup

first round and faced Cardinia in the quarter finals on 19 January.

Our junior cricketers have ticked off milestones too. Katie Langevelde has enjoyed a dream run with the bat having already compiled 100 runs and taken 9 wickets. The U14 Girls are undefeated and looking positive as the finals approach after Christmas. Our U14 Maroon teams is currently sitting third after 6 rounds.

The second round of team photos is about to be organized. Families can purchase individual photos or team photos by accessing the club website (upperbeaconsfieldcricketclub.com) and clicking on the store to select your record of your child's cricket journey.



ROB HANSEN

Upper Beaconsfield Horse and Pony Club

“Make your comebacks stronger than your setbacks” (Unknown)

Like many in our community, our young riders were raring to get back into a normal routine following Covid-19 disruptions throughout 2021. It was delightful to see everyone at the November and December rallies having fun, reconnecting with friends, and enjoying the pure pleasure that is riding.

The grounds of Tooradin Estate

provided an idyllic backdrop for our January 2022 rally. The historic homestead – owned by industry legend Sally Francis OAM (who was recently announced as one of the 2021 Pony Club Australian Alumni of the Year) – sits on 380 acres of horsey-heaven. It features a huge cross-country course, numerous dressage arenas and one refreshing dam, which provided irresistible for some riders following a hot day in the saddle!



Under the watchful eye of our guest instructors, our riders honed their dressage skills including trying to nail a harder-than-you-think movement “riding the centre line and halting”. It was heartening to see everyone having a go over a challenging, but fun, cross-country course. While some riders were content to walk and trot over little logs, and others bounded over some impressive looking jumps, what made us smile on the sidelines was seeing the true spirit of our club in action. That is, our riders supporting each other whatever their level.

This year we welcome Michelle De Bonde Westerveld as our new district commissioner (DC), and thank outgoing DC, Lisa Sykes, for her wonderful contribution to the club. There are some exciting new initiatives happening this year – including the introduction of a new uniform. We’re sure our club will continue to thrive under Michelle’s leadership.

Like to join us?

Upper Beaconsfield Horse and Pony Club meets on the third



Rider profile

Adele Marriner (age 12)

Horse’s name: Chai Latte

Horse’s breed: stock horse x paint

Favourite PC activity: jumping

2022 riding goal: become more confident riding Chai (our new horse and I’m still getting to know her).



Competition results

Congratulations to Chloe Westerveld for winning Overall Champion at the Pearcedale Pony Club Show Jumping Day and to Sienna McPherson for coming second in the Two-Phase section. Awesome job!



Sunday of the month. For membership enquires please email Lauren Wilson via email: memberships@subpc@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook!

JESSICA MARRINER

New green and bunker at Cardinia Beaconhills Golf



We are pleased to see a new green and bunker now enhance the picturesque 14th hole of the Beaconhills Hills course. It opened well in time for the club championships. Congratulations to Derek and the groundstaff team on a job well done.

Recent successes

Adrian Besley and Cam Whiting claimed the Summer Cup title after defeating Paul Claughton and Andrew Parker on the 19th hole. This makes Adrian and Cam the reigning Winter and Summer Cup Champions – a fine effort.

Andrew Conn was the winner of The Grand Masters Championship scoring gross 151 nett 141 over two rounds. His nett was equal best, Les Fielder winning on countback. Andy's cup winning form followed his teaming once again with Laura Griffin to win the Mixed Foursomes Championships with a gross score of 78. John and Jean Wheatley returned the equal best nett score with 68 and won on a count back.

The Cardinia Beaconhills vs Berwick Montuna Golf Club Challenge has been completed. Beaconhills defeated Montuna 35.5 to 34.7, but it wasn't enough as there was a 3-point deficit to overcome. A great day was had by all.

A long-standing tradition was continued with Women's Opening Day celebrating the opening of the season. Jenny Chandler had played the best golf over the summer break and was presented with the Betty Forster Memorial Plate by Nancy Cockram. In the play-off for the 2021 Honour Brooch in A Grade Sharon Lowden defeated Kerri Greig, and in B Grade Rosalie Leake defeated Liz Wong. Karenne Gregory joined the winners' circle in a big way, winning a district



event Mornington Ladies Classic – the C Grade aggregate with scores 36 and 37 points. Doing Beacy proud!

Chris Bridge was presented with a January Monthly Medal after a great score of -11 which cost him 4 shots off his handicap.

We have a pair of January hole in ones to report – congratulations to Peter Hamilton who holed out during a recent Sunday competition. Billy Atkin holed out on a Monday adding to the enjoyment of a social round with his family.

Vale

We are sad to report the passing of Jim Harper and Jim Parker. The flag was lowered for each of them in turn in respect for their passing. They were both popular long standing club members and their presence continues

to be missed by their many golf club friends.

Pro Shop news

To find our more information about golf clinics or lessons please phone the Pro Shop or email proshop@beaconhillsgolf.com.au and speak to Dylan or Bryce at the pro shop on 5945 9230

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MATT VAN DER KRAAN
CLUB MANAGER

Improvements planned at the Recreation Reserve

Our AGM was held on 9 February 2022. User group membership changes during the year saw Shane Rutherford replace Caro Lloyd as the pony member and Luke Williams replace Kyle Gibbs as the cricket member. Ben Reeves replaced Andrea Cochrane as a community member. We have a complete committee of ten for a second year in a row.

Our main issue this year will be planning new buildings to replace the Rec Reserve Igloo to cater for sporting groups and Scouts. This will provide changing rooms and toilets compliant for girls' sports and address the aging steel hall used by Scouts which has almost reached its life span after 38 years.

A year ago, the committee decided

that our preferred option is an entirely new building replacing the current Igloo to meet AFL, Cricket Victoria, Scout, council, and community needs, to be built in the same location. Council estimated the cost at \$5m, thus will need state, commonwealth, and council funding.

We approved a scope of the new building in March and sent our final

detailed ideas to Cardinia Council at our September meeting thanks to Justin Davey's IT skills modifying the concept design proposals. However, since September little progress has been made as the council staff member responsible for drafting the plans resigned and a new position for a design contractor was recently advertised. Cr Brett Owen supports us in implementing this project requiring detailed plans which attract state and federal election funding, hence the urgent priority for having complete, shovel ready plans.

The construction of the new separate public toilet to replace the existing one using federal government money is near to a handover. The building arrived in October but the supply of doors from WA was delayed by Covid restrictions. The old toilet block has been demolished, with the area around yet to be dressed.

Cardinia Council has proposed to fund an upgrade of the BMX track and prepared plans and has undertaken community feedback over the summer, and we formalised our approval at the AGM.

The sealing of the gravel part of Burton Road, Morris Road and Young Street as proposed by the council for the next

financial year has our approval, as we were asked to provide feedback as parts of these roads adjoin the Reserve. Naturelinks completed the clearing of the thick undergrowth on the bank above the equestrian area to assist the Upper Beaconsfield Association (UBA) in its desire for the oval to be the "UB Neighbourhood Safer Place". We have commissioned them to return each six months to maintain the clearance. The UBA has now taken an interest in the design of the new building and has in the last week sent suggestions to the Rec Reserve and the council on elements of its construction.

The long proposed two walking track connections down to the equestrian area along the Burton Road and school fences have been cut thanks to Andrew Ewenson. The tracks are topped with gravel so dog walkers, joggers and amblers can easily access the equestrian area from one end of the oval track or top carpark and return by the other end. A walking track around the perimeter of the riding area is under consideration and we have already cleared that pathway adjacent to the oval outfall drain and identified dangerous trees there that need pruning.

The cricket and football clubs

purchased a new wicket cover prior to last football season and its future storage will be considered in our new building plans. Our oval lights are now operational but still assessed as a poor standard by a council survey which may mean a new project.

This last year was challenging with Covid forcing us into many Zoom meetings and curtailing our presence at working bees and on some projects. However, I particularly thank office bearers vice-president Andrew Ewenson, treasurer Ian Norbury and secretary Rosz Smith who have assisted me to try to keep things moving to enable us to seek and provide better cricket, football, and scout youth facilities, especially for girls, to bring them up to the standard we see in most of our surrounding communities.

Thanks also to Cardinia Shire staff, especially Kristen Jackson, and Cr Brett Owen, who have been supportive in understanding our desires and frustrations over four years of seeking new facilities that we hope can be started in 2022.

**BOB TAYLOR AM, PRESIDENT
UPPER BEACONSFIELD
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A great innings for Bob!

The term legend is thrown about a lot today but how to define somebody's

status isn't simple. Having participated in cricket as a sport for 53 years as well as performing ongoing service over that time surely demands community plaudits.

Robert Waddell Taylor AM and ASM has achieved nearly everything from the time that he was a junior at Trinity Presbyterian Camberwell in the 1960s. He has played for nine clubs including stints in the UK as well as Western Australia.

From an administrative perspective he's filled roles from club scorer to president and secretary and even had a long-term career as a club archivist lovingly caring for the club's precious records at Upper Beaconsfield Cricket Club. Bob – endearingly known as Chairman Bob during his 15-year reign as president of the West Gippsland Cricket Association, has done it all and has left an indelible mark. Today he still manages to score for his local club at Upper Beaconsfield.

Robert Taylor can certainly be regarded as a pillar of the cricket community and warrants being proudly recognised by Cricket Victoria for more than fifty years' service to the sport he loves.

ROB HANSEN



Back on court at the tennis club

What a couple of weeks it has been in the Australian tennis world! What a fantastic time to get down to the courts and see if you can be the next Ash Barty or Dylan Alcott.

It has been fantastic to see the courts back in use with competition tennis now running again. The senior competition, played in the Waverley & District Association is half way through the season, with our A reserve mixed team well placed in the top four whilst our two A1 men's teams are fighting for a finals position. Our junior teams playing in the BDTA competition are also over half-way through the summer season with three of our teams currently sitting within the top four. It is great to see that our section 15 doubles team, who are playing in their first

season, are currently placed on top of the ladder. Good luck to all our teams for the remainder of the season and to those teams that make it through to the finals.

Our postponed Christmas party is just around the corner with our senior club championship finals being held on the night. Come down and see some great tennis being played! 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.

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