

UPPER BEACONSFIELD VILLAGE BELL

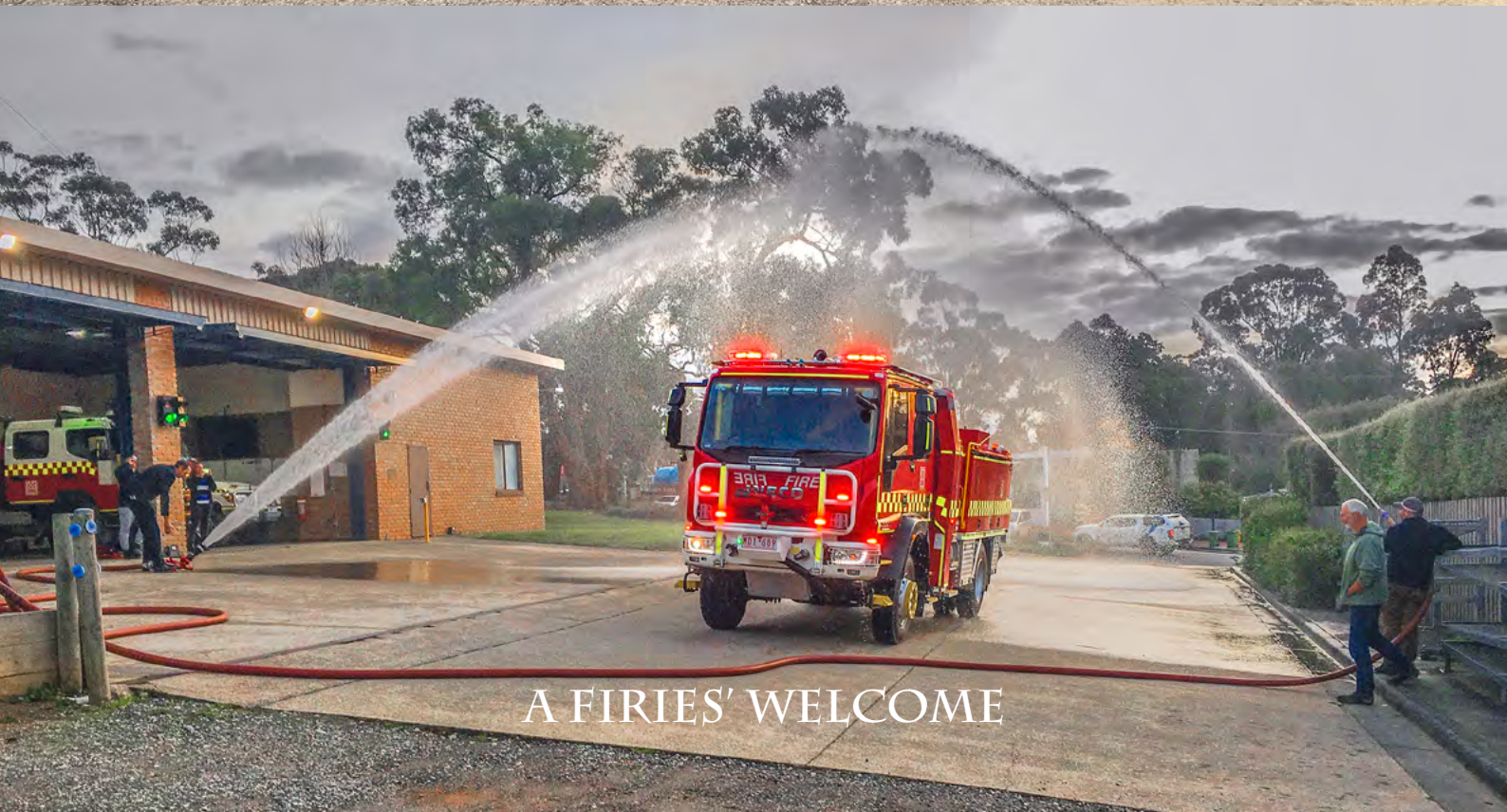
September 2022



WELCOME NEW TANKER



FAREWELL TO THE OLD



A FIRIES' WELCOME



photo: Alan McGavin



photo: Cameron Rocke

Spotted in Upper Beaconsfield



bird photos: Anne Mehla



photo: Jenny Pritchard

Your Community Nursery



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Community Open Day – 9 October 10 am–2 pm

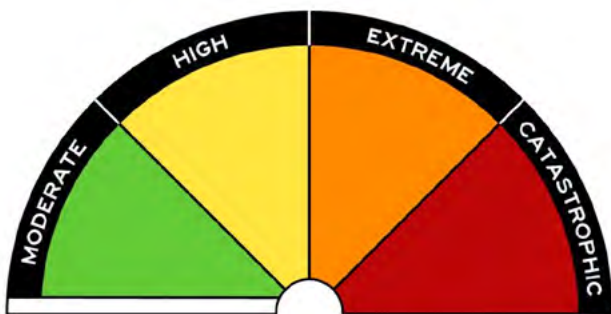


Save the date! The Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade is hosting an open day at the Fire Station, 30 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd, on Sunday 9 October. This is a chance for you to come and learn more about what the brigade does for the community and to help you prepare for the upcoming fire season. For new and established residents, this day is a must.

At 11 am there will be an informative discussion on bushfire preparation and what you need to do to stay safe. We will introduce the new AFDRS Fire Danger Rating System (below) and discuss the new local burn off laws along with exploring the Vic Emergency App. We will also launch the Upper Beaconsfield Story Map (below right). There will be handouts for residents and giveaways for the kids, and we will show off our new tanker and other appliances.



Fire Danger Ratings are changing ...



Category	Fire Behaviour Index Range	Final community messaging
NO RATING	0 - 11	No proactive community action required
MODERATE	12 - 23	Plan and prepare
HIGH	24 - 49	Be ready to act
EXTREME	50 - 99	Take action now to protect life and property
CATASTROPHIC	100+	For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

More information on page 10

STOP PRESS

Official launch of the Upper Beaconsfield Story Map at CFA Open Day – 9 October 2022

New to the area? Want to learn more about Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds? Need to navigate your decisions between bushfire preparation and protecting biodiversity? Come to the CFA Open Day to learn more about a new tool freely available online to help residents navigate their decisions and learn about available resources.



Protect your own backyard

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



Rainfall on St Georges Road

Soggy ground, but drier, then wetter?

In places, the ground feels sodden. But in a relative sense, the data tells us it has been drier than normal.

Rainfall for the three months of May, June and July totalled 227 mm. This was 14 mm less than the same period last year and 18 mm less than the long term average. May and July were the culprits, together being 48 mm less than last year. June helped restore some normality with 34 mm more than last year.

For the year to the end of July we have had 44 mm less than 2021, a whopping 243 mm less than 2000, and 44 mm less than the long-term average.

Despite this winter feeling wet and soggy, cold and long, for the year thus far, we are actually drier with less rain than normal.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) is stating that for much of the eastern mainland, there is high chance of above median rainfall during the August to October period. For the same period, the temperature is forecast to be above the median. The BOM's rain predictions are based on negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions that are likely to continue into late spring. A negative IOD event is associated with above

Month	45 yr av.	2021	2022
Jan	63.6	106.3	64.0
Feb	58.4	19.0	4.0
Mar	64.2	80.4	81.8
Apr	78.3	63.3	89.5
May	86.1	71.5	46.6
Jun	80.3	90.0	123.6
Jul	78.6	79.6	56.4
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	

average winter-spring rainfall for much of Australia. The BOM also sees around a 50% chance (double the normal likelihood) of La Niña forming later in 2022. La Niña events increase the chance of above average winter-spring rainfall across eastern Australia.

How this plays out is yet to be seen. In recent times, the very wet weather has bypassed us with the higher rainfalls falling well north of us. So, it is definitely drier to date, but possibly wetter, and probably warmer than normal to come. For certain, it will not be long until we will have to start preparing for a summer fire season.

ANDREW REWELL



0402 393 667

Support your Village Bell

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

You can pay \$5 at the Post Office, or pay by internet banking to Upper Beaconsfield Association Inc., Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000 account number 162 580 112.

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

Thank you Judy Appleton; Justin Davey; Doug & Brenda Field; Steve & Christa Fisher; R & S Francey; Mark Harris; R Hawke; F & J Josef; Scott Rodney Knol; B & B Mars; Joan & Barry Medwin; A & S Sankey; Bob Taylor; Linda & Marshall Tormey; Kate Williamson; Doug Wilson



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More secure now

As reported in the last issue of the Village Bell, our local supermarket owners Pramod and Anita Patel were given a nice surprise when locals organised a successful fundraiser to help pay for a better security door for their premises. The Foodworks Supermarket had been subjected to another break-in, which have taken place on a regular basis over the years.

Imagine their surprise when they found out about the fundraiser. Pramod admitted they became quite emotional when they heard about it.

Well, the security roller door is now installed! The roller door tucks in under the shop verandah. Pramod demonstrated how the remote-control electric door closes quietly and quickly to provide protection when they leave the premises.

They are very happy with the result and would like to say a massive thank you to organisers, the Pastras family and Kate Williamson. The Go Fund Me page was publicised on one of the local Facebook pages. Many thanks to all the local donors and the tradespeople who made this possible. Cardinia Garage Doors arranged a good deal for them, and the door was installed by local electrician White Light Electrics.

Pramod stated that an account of costs for the door will be supplied to the organisers. Any remaining funds will go towards improved lighting for the front of the building and the carpark. This will enhance the security of the whole area. The big benefit of all this effort will be the peace of mind for the Patel family.

HELEN SMITH



Empowering local energy supply

Across Victoria there are numerous townships that have, or are working towards, generating their own electricity supply. Healesville is on the way to becoming energy neutral, Daylesford has community power from windmills and Yackandandah has greener power from solar. Closer to home, Bunyip and Pakenham are both moving towards a localised energy solution. Could Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst and Guys Hill do the same?

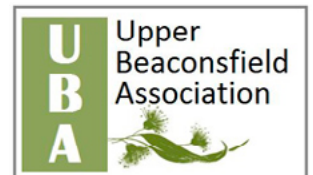
There is now a small group considering what options we might have. We have had some education from Jeff Barlow of the Healesville Community Renewable Energy Inc and a presentation on micro-grids from Amy Gregorovich from the Yarra Ranges Council.

It is clearly evident that we should do something. The burning of fossil fuels is damaging the planet. The cost of our electricity is skyrocketing. An increase in storms and fires has led to our electricity supply being frequently

interrupted. Under the current construct of power supply, we can only act as individuals by adding solar and batteries to our homes or businesses. What might be possible as a collective across our townships? We have more learning to do. The conundrum is where do we start, and what is the problem we are trying to solve?

We need your help. Greener power, cheaper power and more reliable power are separate desires but are not mutually exclusive. Which one of these is more important to you, what is your opinion? If you do have a view please email the UBA secretary on helen.r.smith@iinet.net.au with your thoughts. If you wish to have more of a say and contribute, you are welcome to attend our next meeting on Thursday **22 September** by contacting Janine Dissegna on green.energy@upperbeaconsfield.org.au

If we do nothing, nothing will change. We will remain at the mercy of self-interested electricity companies and



governments that have struggled to make any meaningful dent into the status quo. If we do something we can more quickly gain benefits from structures like micro-grids that enable the sharing of power between ourselves. Alternatively we may have community wide based solar panels, windmills and batteries. This is not an easy space to operate in, as it takes time and dedication to derive an outcome. Other Victorian towns are paving the way, showing that change is possible. Globally, this is a bottom up movement. How might we emulate those that have gone before us, how might we join the race? We need the will and a contribution from people who are willing to invest some time and knowledge that will benefit our communities.

ANDREW REWELL

Super new tanker for the brigade

We were beginning to think that this day would never arrive, but on Wednesday 22 June we finally took delivery of our new heavy tanker. Those in the vicinity of the fire station on that afternoon would not have missed its grand entrance with lights flashing and siren and air horn blaring.

The new 4.4C Heavy Tanker is the first of its type in our area. There will be more to come with other brigades in the coming months/years ahead. The appliance has been provided fully equipped and stowed with all the necessary items required to tackle the wide range of incidents and emergencies that we attend. The new



The new 4.4C Iveco Heavy Tanker

tanker replaces our 30-year-old 2.4D Hino Tanker 1 appliance which will now be retired from service and disposed of by the CFA.

The new \$400,000+ tanker has been wholly funded and supplied by the Victorian State Government and is owned and maintained by the CFA (as opposed to our other 3 appliances that are all owned by the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade).

Since taking delivery of the new appliance, our operational members have been busy putting the new truck through its paces and getting used

to all its functions and features. There has been lots to learn with the new appliance to ensure our members are trained up to enable them to use the appliance competently and safely.

The two biggest differences with the new tanker are the 4000 litre water carrying capacity (up from 2000 litres) and the automatic transmission (all our other appliances have manual transmissions).

The 4000 litres capacity provides a huge advantage over previous tankers. More water can be deployed in the early stages of a developing fire when this appliance is first on scene and it will not have to leave to fill up as often as other tankers. This is an enormous benefit to our local community.

The automatic transmission is a new concept when it comes to CFA tankers. Previously they had all been supplied with manual transmissions. Whilst it may sound like it is easier to drive, the new unit is 2000 kg heavier than

Technical specs:

Appliance type	4.4C Heavy Tanker (4000 litres water, 4 wheel drive, crew cabin)
Appliance callsign	Upper Beaconsfield Tanker 1
Cab chassis	Iveco Eurocargo 4x4 Crew Cabin
Transmission	Allison 3000 Series 5 speed full automatic
Braking	Engine exhaust brake, transmission hydraulic retarder
Engine	Turbocharged Intercooled 5.88lt 6-cylinder diesel c/w Ad Blue
Driveline	All wheel drive with selectable low range front centre, and rear diff locks
Crew capacity	5
Licence required	Medium rigid
Body construction	Bell Engineering, Sunshine North Victoria
Water capacity	4,000lt Polypropylene tank with 750 lt reserved for crew protection
Fire pump	GAAM MK300D 2 stage centrifugal delivering 1200 l/min @ 700kPa
Aux engine	Isuzu 4 cylinder water-cooled diesel
Safety	Heat protection curtains, crew protection water sprays, internal roll cage
Size	H = 3.13m, L = 8.10m, W = 2.5m
Weight	GVM = 15.0t, Operational weight = 14.40t





L to R – Jennifer Hall, Alan “Chippy” Dale, and Ian Rees

previous equivalents and requires the use of a 6 stage multi-function hydraulic brake retarder used in combination with the engine exhaust brake to assist with braking. The appliance is all-wheel drive has full off-road 4x4 capability with front, centre, and rear diff locks.

Annual dinner and awards night

After Covid put the brakes on the last two years, we finally got to host our annual dinner and awards night on Saturday 30 July at the Cardinia Park Hotel. The night provides an opportunity to recognise and reward members for their service and diligence to the brigade and the wider community over the preceding twelve months.



In a never to be repeated fashion, 1st lieutenant Andrew Lloyd awaited the new truck's arrival in a suit and tie

Award recipients

Firefighter of the year award – Jennifer Hall

Officer of the year award – Ian Rees

Captains award – Elizabeth Day

This year there were many CFA service awards awarded to members who have amassed a significant number of years continuous service to the organisation.

David Norbury – 55 years

Alan Dale – 50 years

Robbie Irving – 40 years

Wendy Thomson – 40 years

Judy Irwin – 40 years

Ray Allsop – 40 years

George Gibson – 20 years

Ian Rees – 15 years

Alan “Chippy” Dale was also recognised for his ongoing contribution to the brigade and awarded his brigade life membership on the night. Alan is a retired career firefighter who through his many years of experience has been instrumental in lifting the bar when it comes to training drills and “doing it right the first time”.

Recruiting now!

We have recently picked up two new recruits who have now finished their initial basic training and are able to attend emergency turnouts with the brigade. We are always on the lookout for more recruits, and we still need another 4–6 new members to help share the load.

Men, women, single, married, students, stay at home mums, people who work from home, shift workers, retirees. We aren't fussy. We have them all already. We just need more. What does it take

to be a firefighter? Time, commitment, and a willingness to further your learning.

The process starts off with potential members completing an expression of interest online at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers>. There is no commitment to become a member by completing an EOI online. It is just part of the process. After the initial EOI, we will get in touch and have a chat to discuss the next steps. If going ahead, the applicant will be required to continue with their online application and proceed to brigade membership.

Alternatively, pop into the fire station when we are there for training and have a chat. We train Sunday mornings 9.30 am–12 noon and/or Wednesday evenings 7 pm–9.30 pm year-round.

IAN PINNEY, CAPTAIN

UPPER BEACONSFIELD FIRE BRIGADE

30 BEACONSFIELD-EMERALD RD

UPPER BEACONSFIELD, 3808.

M: 0409 815 567

E: IAN.PINNEY@MEMBERS.CFA.VIC.GOV.AU

CWA

**Woorinyan Country
Women's Association
(Upper Beaconsfield)**



The Woorinyan branch of the CWA recently presented Jean Von Einem a certificate for her 10 years of dedicated service.

The CWA meets here in Upper Beaconsfield at St John's on the 4th Friday of the month at 1 pm.

TRACEY KYLE



Cardinia Council news Beacon Hills Ward



Upper Beaconsfield community, sport, and scout facility

The concept design for this future community facility is being finalised in consultation with the Upper Beaconsfield Reserve Committee. The project team is working on resolving and incorporating the comments received through the wider community consultation, which was held in June 2022. Thanks to those residents who provided their feedback.

Council is in the process of engaging a traffic consultant to assess and inform the traffic flow and carpark design for the project and the precinct.

In July, council applied for \$3.35M for the project under the State Government Growing Suburbs Fund. Council is advised that the result of the grant application will be announced in September.

Brand new Business Hub

As part of "What's on Cardinia," Council has launched a brand new online 'Find it' Business Hub to help you navigate your way around the shire. The web-based hub will be your one-stop site for all types of businesses and services,

such as travel and tourism, providing information on attractions, meals out, places to stay, shopping hot spots and more! Head to the Business Hub on the "What's on Cardinia" website and get some insider knowledge on all the best local businesses to visit. Are you a business owner? Make sure to list your business and put yourself on the map. It is free to create an online listing and you control the information locals see about your business. Help residents to find you and give people an opportunity to support local businesses by buying local.

www.whatsoncardinia.com.au/listings

Council's free green waste drop-off program

Cardinia Shire Council's free green waste drop-off program is continuing through to December 2022. Council's green waste drop-off events are a free service accepting residential amounts of green waste including flowers, garden prunings, grass clippings, leaves, tree branches, weeds, and trunks (up to 30 centimetres wide and 1 metre long).

Residents must present photo ID as proof of residence within Cardinia Shire to access the free service. Waste is

only accepted from residential vehicles and trailers; commercial business operators cannot use this service. The new dates announced include:

Lysterfield

Friday 14 to Monday 17 October 2022
Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre
840 Wellington Rd, Lysterfield

Friday 14 Oct: 8 am to 4 pm

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 Oct: 8 am to 12 noon

Monday 17 Oct: 8 am to 4 pm

Pakenham

Friday 2 to Monday 5 December 2022
Future Recycling Transfer Station
30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham

All days: 9 am to 4 pm

Do not forget that Future Recycling Pakenham also accepts electrical items (e-waste), batteries and scrap metal for free, any time of year.

For more information about Council's green waste drop-off events, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff or call Council's Customer Service Team on 1300 787 624.

Open-air fires local law adopted

Following extensive community and agency consultation, Cardinia Council has adopted a new open-air fire regulations which will come into effect on 1 July 2022.

The open-air fires law aims to provide adequate provision for fuel reduction and fire prevention while discouraging unnecessary smoke health hazards.

This new law will provide the

community with more opportunities to reduce bushfire risk through burning-off while ensuring public safety remains a key priority.

The new law reflects the community's feedback received during the consultation period. Council listened to the community and made several changes before the adoption of this new local law.

Council recognises that there is a wide range of opinions within our community concerning how this local law should best operate. Some residents would like the freedom to burn off any day whilst others wish for no burning off at all. It is our hope that this new local law will strike the balance between all the variety of views submitted to council.

The local law renews focus on:

- Smoke impacts on community
- Bushfire fuel reduction and property preparation
- Burning off timeframes
- Burning off in townships
- Environmental impacts

As part of the local law, the shire is divided into three zones with

appropriate open-air fire regulations, rather than the previous rules where regulations were based on zoning and land size.

- In the Urban and Township Zone, burning off only allowed with a permit.
- In the Bushland and Peri-Urban Zone and the Rural Zone, if criteria are met, a permit for burning off may not be required.

July has been declared a "no burn month" throughout the shire. This means burning-off is prohibited across the entire shire throughout the month.

This change aims to reduce hazardous smoke caused from burning wet material. This encourages an uptake of alternative methods of waste disposal during these wetter months and reduce smoke impacts over the school holiday period.

To view the new local law, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/adopted-open-air-fires-local-law

COUNCILLOR BRETT OWEN
BEACON HILLS WARD
CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

Conditions	Urban and Township Zone	Bushland and Peri-Urban Zone	Rural Zone
Days when fires are permitted. No burning off in July	Permit required	Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday	Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Number of fires permitted at any one time.	Subject to permit	2	2
Minimum distance required from the edge of the fire to any buildings.	Subject to permit	12 metres	12 metres
Minimum fire break size (an area clear of combustible materials around the fire).	Subject to permit	5 metres	5 metres
Maximum size of fire (the size of the amount of material).	Subject to permit	3 metres in any dimension	3 metres in any dimension

Recycle your waste – it's getting easier!

Australians produce 74 million tonnes of waste each year, yet only 60 per cent is recycled.

Soft plastics

Soft plastics are ruining our environment and are fatal for marine life. To recycle soft plastic bags, look for the REDcycle logo. RED Group is a Melbourne-based consulting and recycling organisation which has developed and implemented the REDcycle program, a recovery initiative for post-consumer soft plastic. The program is where manufacturers, retailers and consumers share recycling responsibility. They have teamed up with Coles, Woolworths, and some of Australia's popular brands to make it easy for you to keep your plastic



bags and soft plastic packaging out of landfill.

Every householder can collect soft plastics and dispose of them easily. When you are finished with food wrappers or bags, check the label. These include pasta packets, bread bags, lolly bags, chocolate wrappers, and frozen veg bags, etc. If showing the REDcycle logo, stuff the wrappers/film in another bag. Take them to the supermarket and place in the collection bins there. You can even stuff large plastic bags (clean) in as well or cut them up into smaller pieces. I recently noticed that a large potting mix bag had the REDcycle logo on it. Check <https://redcycle.net.au/what-to-redcycle/> for other soft plastics you can recycle even if they don't have a REDcycle logo printed on it.

Other product containers

Many product containers in Australia provide recycling details have information on their labels.

All Australian governments have endorsed the Australasian Recycle Label program to help make recycling easier. The label provides you with easy-



to-understand recycling information. It makes it easier to put packaging in the right bin, but it also removes confusion, saves time, and reduces the amount of waste going to landfill. You can find the label on the packaging of tens of thousands of products across Australia, including on many household brands.

These symbols identify the type of container – carton, can, glass, box, tray, etc – whether they can be recycled or not. In the above example, soft plastic wrap or film can be dropped off at the supermarket REDcycle bin. The lid cannot be recycled and should go in the bin.

More information <https://recyclingnearyou.com.au/ar/>

HELEN SMITH

About town

Salisbury House update

The new extension at Salisbury House Aged Care is nearly finished, with barricades and signs of construction gradually disappearing. Landscaping has been completed at the front of the building. The Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade recently toured the extension to acquaint themselves with the fire protection works and features.

It will be good to get the trade and construction vehicles off Salisbury Road as parking has been tight and traffic very busy for over two years. Salisbury Road is quite narrow and larger vehicles often park with two wheels on the nature strip. As no parking was available for the Salisbury House staff during the construction period the car parks opposite were often full. Hopefully the staff can be fully accommodated in the carpark under the new building.

Memorial garden spruce up

Cardinia Council has undertaken maintenance and beautification in the Ash Wednesday Memorial Garden recently. Council park staff removed old,

weedy, and dead shrubs and trimmed larger trees and shrubs back to open up the view of the garden. They also added smaller native plants in the garden and made a new path at the front of the garden. It looks more welcoming for residents and visitors from Salisbury House who like to visit the small park.

More power blackouts

Windy weather in August has triggered more blackouts. Thank you to the Community Centre for inviting residents to come to the centre to access their power for charging devices and internet access. As usual, residents living further out were without power for over 24 hours. Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice posted, "Despite power outage we are working as normal – thanks to our solar panels and battery". The General Store last week posted they were testing their new generator, "We've taken the leap and are installing a generator to allow us to keep on keeping on rain, hail (wind) or shine".

Parking at the station

A news release from Harriet Shing, Member for Eastern Victoria about Beaconsfield and Berwick Stations attracted interest recently. As I haven't travelled by train since the pandemic

I have not been aware of the changes going on there.

The Victorian Government has trialled new parking technology to tell passengers at Beaconsfield and Berwick stations what car parking spaces are available before they even leave home. Live car parking information is shared through the Smart Car Parking Trial app, providing real time information about where spaces are available. The technology includes computer analysis of live camera feeds and in-bay sensors to detect car park occupancy and usage.

Harriet said, "This trial has been making it easier for passengers to plan their journey when driving to catch the train from Beaconsfield and Berwick stations, giving them peace of mind that when they arrive, a car park will be available." A survey has been conducted to assess how users rated the new app.

Vale

In August we said farewell to long-time esteemed residents George Gibson and Barry Medwin.

HELEN SMITH

AFDRS – Australian Fire Danger Rating System

From 1 September 2022, Australia will adopt a new national Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS). The signs you have become accustomed to seeing with the 6 categories will be replaced with a simpler easy to read 4 category colour coded system.

The Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade will be discussing the introduction and changes to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System at their pre-summer Community Open Day being held on Sunday 9 October from 10 am at the Fire Station.

The AFDRS is being implemented consistently across Australia and will mean that wherever you are right across the country, you will be able to better understand the threat posed on any given day and make appropriate decisions to keep you and your family safe.

What is the Australian Fire Danger Rating System?

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) is redesigning the forecasting of fire danger in Australia. The AFDRS is a project of national significance being developed collaboratively by state, territory, and the Commonwealth governments. It aims to improve public safety and reduce the impacts of bushfires by:

- Improving the scientific accuracy behind fire danger predictions.
- Improving the way that fire danger is communicated.
- Providing government and industry with better decision-making tools.
- Reducing the costs associated with bushfire impacts.

The new fire danger ratings describe the potential level of danger should a bushfire start. They provide people with information so that they can take action to protect themselves and others from the potentially dangerous impacts of bushfires. They do not indicate the chance of a fire occurring. Ratings are calculated using a combination of weather forecasting and information about vegetation that could fuel a fire.

Will the new system be better?

Extensive social research was undertaken in order to understand weaknesses with the old system. Feedback has indicated that the old system was difficult to comprehend, had too many levels, and that



insufficient numbers of people acted on the advice. Based on the strength of the social research, there is a high degree of confidence that the new Fire danger ratings will be easier to comprehend. The new system uses fewer levels, intuitive colours, action-orientated messages in simple English. This will encourage greater community engagement, increasing the likelihood of people acting on fire danger rating information, and thus improve community safety.

A prototype of the AFDRS was developed by NSW Rural Fire Service and demonstrated improved fire danger forecasts over the old system, when applied to real-world fires. The new system will use finer-grained data, updated science and the latest fire behaviour prediction models over eight vegetation types. The AFDRS is being built to be continuously updatable as information and science improves.

Further reasons to change to the new AFDRS

The old fire danger ratings were based on science that is more than 60 years old, and was only designed for a limited number of vegetation types representing a third of the Australian continent. The new AFDRS will use the latest science, knowledge and data, as well as fire behaviour models for a wide range of vegetation types to build a better system to deliver more accurate information to Australians.

Used since the 1960s, the old CSIRO 'McArthur Fire Danger Index meter' was based on two fire behaviour models for all of Australia. The fire danger was communicated through Fire Danger Ratings (six to seven stages) based on two indices – the Forest Fire Index (FFI) and the Grass Fire Index (GFI).

The limitations of the old system included:

- Australia has diverse ecosystems, and these are not well represented by the two fire behaviour models (indexes) above.
- The old fire danger rating system did not properly account for current fuel state.
- The old system did not make use of the last 60 years of fire behaviour science.
- The old system had high sensitivity to changes in input values and was known to perform poorly particularly at the higher end of the ratings scale where most impact occurs.

Roll out of the new AFDRS

A comprehensive implementation project will occur with teams set up in each jurisdiction, and across many sectors including fire and land management, education, health, transport, agriculture and forestry, utilities (eg electricity, gas and water) and local government. This will include changes to legislation, policy, procedures, information systems, web pages and signage. Additionally, there will be the training of staff, contractors and volunteers, as well as public education and awareness campaigns. Road-side signs will be replaced and updated. The look and feel of the new signs will be consistent and easier to read right across Australia.

Further details can be obtained by visiting: <https://www.afac.com.au/initiative/afdrs>

Provide food for bees

Do you think of what plants you would like in your garden? Yes of course you do. But do you think of what wildlife would benefit from your choices? Probably not.

Unfortunately, the “modern garden” is becoming a big trend with its style of only few species of plants – with little thought of attracting birds, bees, or butterflies. One of our most important species of wildlife are bees, both native and introduced. This is not only for the honey we love to eat but mostly for their hard work in pollination of our agricultural industry and your backyard veggie patch.

Without these little hard workers this industry would collapse, and we would all go hungry. Did you know that bees need pollen just as much, if not more, as nectar. Pollen is protein and used by the nursery bees to make special food for the newborn bees. Without enough pollen collected and stored especially over the colder months the hive will collapse, as there would not be enough of the new generations to collect nectar. Bees are short lived, only

a few weeks, so to have a viable hive to survive, a constant supply of baby bees is needed to continue, and they need food made from pollen.

Here are some of our indigenous native plants that provide food for bees. These plants are available from your local community-run nursery, Green Circle Plant Nursery:



Blackwood wattle (*Acacia melanoxylon*) – pollen winter, spring

Chocolate and vanilla lilies (*Arthropodium* spp) – pollen spring

Silver banksia (*Banksia marginata*) – pollen autumn, winter

Hairpin banksia (*Banksia spinulosa*) – pollen autumn, winter

Sweet bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*) – pollen and nectar, summer

Cut leaf daisy (*Brachyscome* spp) – pollen and nectar winter, spring, summer



Bottlebrush (*Callistemon* spp) – pollen and nectar, spring

Everlasting daisy (*Chrysocephalum* spp) – pollen and nectar, autumn, winter, spring

Correa (*Correa* spp) – pollen, autumn, winter, spring

Bitter peas (*Daviesia* spp) – pollen and nectar, spring

Flax lily (*Dianella* spp) – pollen, spring

Parrot peas (*Dillwynia* spp) – pollen and nectar, spring

Gum trees (*Eucalyptus* spp) – pollen and nectar, autumn to summer

SUE SIMMONS

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Rambling on

My first sighting of a satin bowerbird in my garden (St Georges Road area) was in June 2018. It was an exciting one-off. Who would have thought that only four years later these impressive



birds would have become resident up here, breeding up to a flock of 10-12 birds! The glossy blue-black male is seen less frequently. It takes seven years to achieve this plumage, which

is quite senior for a wild bird. The juveniles and females are fairly indistinguishable in their smart olive green/brown/speckle-breasted colours, but the boys do have a white beak. I saw one male in the process of fledging into his black satin with his wing and tail edges still olive green/brown. The juvenile males practice their courtship dances with the females – posturing, bowing, fanning the tail out, and offering an item held in the beak. The white leaves of a variegated holly bush seem to be a favourite choice. It is such a privilege to know that the black satin male is building a bower behind my shed. He has even raided the feed room for blue hay-binder and decorated his bower with lengths of this! The bower itself is currently two curved arches of dried

grass. It is tricky to balance watching its progress without being too intrusive and frightening him off!

Wombats have been amazingly active for several months. Look out for their fresh scratch-and-dropping ‘markers’ in the bush, on the nature strips, in gardens and paddocks. Fences are regularly tunnelled under which is making the confinement of small dogs and safety of chickens quite problematic for owners. It is probably a good plan to do regular ‘perimeter checks’ of your house and sheds as they can tunnel underneath in a night or so. It is said that sprinkling blood and bone fertiliser is a good deterrent and definitely easier to manage than heavy rocks and logs! Remember that wombats are nocturnal, so if seen in daylight they are probably ill with mange infestation and a prompt notification to wildlife carers for treatment is strongly recommended. If you don’t have a contact in your phone, put location/time details on the local Facebook pages.

Enjoy your spring rambling!

ROSZ SMITH

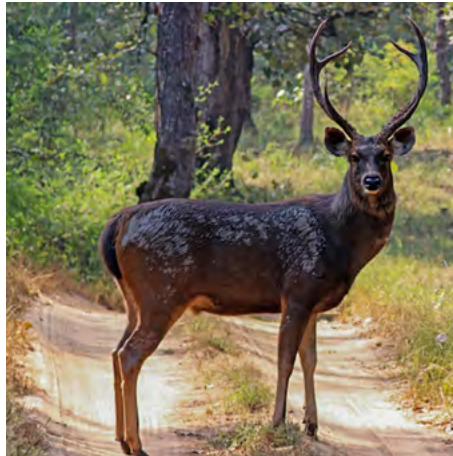
We won't eat our way out of this crisis

When was the last time you purchased a venison steak at the butchers? Venison sausage? Do you know where the nearest deer farm is?

From a high of 1500 deer farms in Australia the early 1990s, there are now just 100 remaining. Over 90% of the venison produced here is sold overseas. Venison makes up less than 1% of the meat sold in Australia for human consumption. The truth is that, here in Australia, deer meat is not very popular.

We are facing a deer crisis in Australia right now. In Victoria, deer are widely established with their numbers growing exponentially. Further north and west the numbers are fewer because they have not been there quite so long. However, the best habitat for most species of deer currently running wild in Australia is to the north. This means the problem is going to get much, much worse.

The environmental damage to the native Australian bush caused by deer is severe. They browse different species of plants at different heights than native animals, do not allow



regeneration of the bush to occur, kill mature trees and destroy waterways. Added to this is the damage to private property, even in built up areas, impact on agriculture (ask the local vineyard and citrus owners) and deer are a menace on our roads. They have no natural predator here.

It is clear we must do something about this problem if we want to preserve our unique Australian environment. Despite research for alternative solutions, shooting deer is the only



realistic solution to decreasing the deer population currently available. This produces an ethical dilemma which deer controllers are currently grappling with – the issue of waste. What do you do with the deer meat? Though the reasons remain unclear, there seems to be more concern to hunters regarding deer waste, than for other species. Goats, pigs, rabbits, camels, buffalo, and even native species such as kangaroos have been culled in the past, with only minor concerns regarding waste being raised.

So, what is the solution to the problem?

Firstly, how bad is the problem? Around 10% of the deer population will die of natural causes every year. This is a natural part of nature, and nature clears this up naturally. You might find some bones now and then, minimal else, usually with little smell. This is mainly through carrion feeders such as wedge-tailed eagles and ravens, flies and ants and natural bacterial breakdown. Foxes too, but are much less involved in the process than most people think.

But back to the issue of reducing waste – everyone wants to do this as best we can. However, there are two major hurdles. Firstly, the government regulations regarding the further disposal of deer meat by hunters are extremely restrictive. In many cases hunters cannot legally even give the meat away, let alone sell it, whether for human consumption or for pet food. Victoria has some of the strictest food handling regulations in the world.

And secondly, as mentioned above, there is not a big demand for deer meat. If there were, the market and subsequently farmers, would have moved to meet the demand. There would simply be more farms and more deer meat for sale, and we would not be exporting 90% of what we currently produce. Yes, it would be good if the regulations could be relaxed to make it easier for hunters to satisfy the current demand, and there certainly is some demand. Unfortunately, it will never be enough to drive deer numbers down.

Put simply, we will not be able to eat enough deer nor feed enough to our pets to solve the current problem – too many deer, not nearly enough

What happens to dead wildlife?

Every year a number of our native animals, both large and small, will die through misadventure, old age or disease. Mostly we never notice this; road kill being the obvious exception. Council takes care of these deceased animals. But for those in the bush, or even a paddock, it's out of sight, out of mind. We seldom see any evidence of deceased wildlife. Maybe the odd bone, sometimes there's an odour. But hardly ever a body. So what happens?

This question has become more relevant now we're faced with a rapidly increasing and ever more destructive deer population. Culling deer has become necessary to save agricultural land, bushland and even private gardens. However, culling leaves more bodies for disposal. Hunters take what they can, but there's always something left behind. For the most part, it's decomposition that does the job. This process can take from three days to three months depending on the season, temperature, moisture, number of insects and scavengers. Without decomposition the planet would be covered with dead plants and animal

bodies. It's a vital way to return nutrients to soil and is a necessary part of the natural life cycle.

In the warmer months things decay faster because bacteria are more efficient and there are more flies around. Blowflies love the smell of rotting matter. They lay eggs on the carcass and within a day there will be maggots crawling around. Later they emerge as a new generation of adult flies.

In Upper Beac, wedge-tail eagles, ravens and foxes play a significant scavenging role. They eat whatever is edible, including bones, and scatter remaining body parts around, exposing them to other decomposers.

With scavengers, bacteria and insects doing their thing, even in a cold Upper Beac winter, it takes only two to three weeks for a carcass to disappear, leaving just a few bones.

If you're interested, you can google some astonishing time lapse videos of deer carcasses disappearing before your eyes, thanks to voracious swarms of blowfly maggots!

CARO LETTS

demand. This means, if we want to save the environment, and protect our community, we need to move beyond the once-a-month fill-my-fridge type of hunting, to the purposeful culling of deer with the goal of significantly reducing numbers.

What can we do? Firstly, choose the right hunter. When you as a property owner first enter discussions with a hunter, make sure you state that your goal is to reduce the deer numbers. You want someone who will come regularly and be prepared to cull several deer at a time if possible.

If you have a lot of deer, perhaps put on a second hunter. Some local properties have up to four hunters coming regularly. To ensure safety, this does require good communication between you and the hunters.

For larger properties:

- Consider having a trench dug where carcasses can be buried
- Encourage the hunter to take as much meat as they can
- Contact council and ask why they can't offer more assistance to help

with this problem – they should. Council know deer are a problem and want landowners to do something about it. So why don't they get involved in the removal of carcasses? It's not as though you encouraged the deer onto your land; it is not your fault they are there

- Consider letting nature take its course. It is a part of the natural food cycle. Give it a try; make sure you and your neighbours are OK with it. There are currently many local properties doing this without concern to themselves or their neighbours.

The CDMC are already advocating with PrimeSafe, the responsible Victorian government agency, for a change in their overly restrictive deer meat handling regulations to something equally safe but which enables and encourages the increased use of deer meat. We hope this may lead to the formation of regional co-operatives between landowners, controllers and pet food manufacturers and others to utilise the deer meat more efficiently.

Based on the aerial surveys undertaken

during 2021 in the Cardinia catchment area, it is estimated that we need to cull 400 deer per year just to maintain the status quo in deer numbers. This represents about 8 deer being culled per week, every week of the year. We need to at least double or triple this if we, as a community, seek to reduce deer numbers in our landscape. This increases the imperative to find an acceptable and legal way of dealing with the carcasses. We are encouraged that the current implementation of the Victorian Government's Periurban Deer Control Plan and the enthusiastic formation of the Victorian Deer Control Community Network may help us find acceptable solutions to this crucial, real-time problem.

We invite your collective wisdom and assistance in addressing this conundrum. Contact us and let us know your thoughts.

For further information about the CDMC or the feral deer problem check out our website:

www.cardiniadeer.org.au or email us at info@cardiniadeer.org.au

Vegetation survey nearing the end

When I think of the obstacles that have blocked our path, I can hardly believe I am able to write this: our citizen science project, the Deer Vegetation Impact – Scat survey is nearly complete. A couple more transects, and we will have the 30 transects we wanted.

We have battled covid restrictions, rain, leeches, covid illnesses, bureaucracy and unsurveyable transects, but through it all the surveyors have carried

on. The CDMC are so grateful to have received the support of so many and with such good spirit. Thank you to you all who have contributed.

To top it off, Parks Vic, with the help of Deakin Uni environmental science students, will be continuing surveying on Parks Vic land into September. More transects, more data, better and more reliable results. A win, win. We help the students with access to ground-breaking research work; the students help us with valuable data.

Deakin Uni PhD candidate Matt LeFoe is collating the data and will be writing up a full report when the last results come in. This will give the CDMC, Parks Vic, Melbourne Water, and council the baseline data for the Cardinia Creek catchment to base further deer control works on and to be able to measure the success of these works in the future. For information about this survey, check out our website www.cardiniadeer.org.au

MIKE HALL, PRESIDENT CARDINIA DEER MANAGEMENT COALITION



Men's Shed

The third quarter of the year continues to consolidate our return to normal operations for the Shed, with it being nearly back to business as usual for us. While the pleasant weather we have enjoyed has taken on a distinctly colder edge, we have been keeping busy with our Tuesday workshop gatherings, weekly Wednesday meetings and regular fundraising events.

Shed activities – measure measure cut swear repeat

We have held sausage sizzles at Coles Berwick on a Saturday morning each month, and greatly appreciate the opportunity this provides us to meet so many lovely people in the community. This has become our main regular fundraising event and allows us to offer our services for many community activities.

Men's Shed members' activities in recent months have included but are not restricted to -

- Continued construction of hiking poles made from 80-year-old recycled timber. These are available for purchase at the Men's Shed,

General Store and National Trust in Berwick. A big thank you to these businesses who continue to support our sales.

- Repair of a sentimental and well-loved four drawer chest of drawers for a local resident. They were in a reasonably good condition but required extensive regluing of the drawer joints as furniture used regularly over many years can do.
- Restoration and sharpening of numerous chisels and plane blades for a local resident. Many of the items had achieved vintage status, and due to their quality were able to be restored to a condition suitable for many enjoyable years of woodworking to come.
- Design and construction of a Life Membership and Passed Members honour board. This has taken a longish time to get off the ground with many ideas being tossed around by the members. We are closing in on the final design and it will be a fitting expression of our appreciation for their efforts in the Shed, and the little gems of remembrance they have left along their way.



A big thank you to the Upper Beaconsfield Mens Shed for the wonderful service they provided by sharpening my husband's wood chisels and planes (some were very old - actually vintage).

The care, delivery and end result was outstanding. They went out of their way to be helpful.

We are so grateful to have a fantastic Men's shed close by.

Thanks guys!! Phillip & Marie

PS: Since getting the tools done I can't get my husband out of his shed. He loves them, even has them on display

Winter up north holiday time

Our regular head north for winter travellers, who have been chafing at the bit to get away, have finally been



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released. One of the more adventurous members has travelled to the Top End and is on the return leg in Qld; we have been receiving his regular travel diary emails about how good the weather is with a forced smile. Three other members are away at the same time but they generally have the sense to keep their good fortune to themselves. Another not so regular traveller has spent some quality time with family time in WA, and it is so important to do this as and when required. As one member has recently said, take advantage of travelling while you can as you never know what's around the corner.

Men's health

A cornerstone of the Men's Shed movement is the recognition and discussion of men's health. In our Shed we tend to take a casual approach to

this subject and only get our serious face on when it hits close to home with the members. This year has not been kind to us with some heart related events, the occasional stroke scare, two groin hernias (though not with the same member luckily), and a member passing to report. We haven't been spared Covid infections either with several members laid up in recent months with the bug. It was of such concern that we reintroduced a mask mandate along with our continued CovidSafe procedures before it became popular again. An entire meeting was taken up with an around the table discussion of What Ails Ya, that proved to be beneficial to the whole subject of men's health we so often take for granted.

Farewell Cornelius (Case) Vanderkruk - I'm not here for a long time just a good time



A Shed member since 2017, Case passed peacefully on 31 May after a long, adventurous and fulfilling life. He is interred with his wife at Harkaway Cemetery. RIP Case you are sadly missed.

New members are welcome!

We are always keen to hear from men who are seeking to expand their horizons and think that the Men's Shed movement might be just what they are looking for.

Our Shed is open from 9-4 Tuesday, 9-3 Wednesday, Thursday – on request.

Come along on Wednesday morning, where we have a meeting of all members, and share a coffee and biscuits and a bit of humour with us and find out about our activities. We don't bite!

Location is in Halford Street with parking in RSL carpark.

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

Web Site <https://sites.google.com/site/upperbeaconsfieldmensshed/>

Contact Ron Kerpen on 0417 053 056, or email secubms@gmail.com for more information.

*PETER SIMMONS
FOR NOEL LING PRESIDENT*



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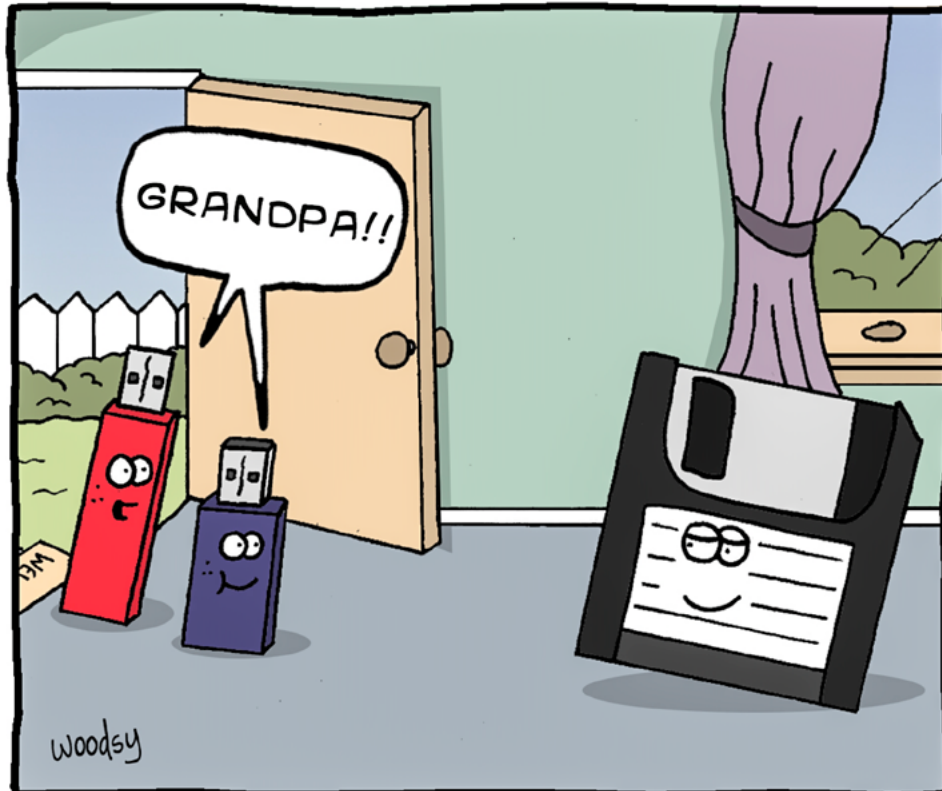
Upper Beaconsfield word search

Find the local places in the grid below

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COMMUNITY CENTRE
HARRIS RESERVE
JASONS
OVER THE ROAD
PINE GROVE
SALISBURY HOUSE
SPLIT ROCK
ST JOHNS CHURCH
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UBGP
UB KINDERS
WATER TOWER
UPPER BEACONSFIELD
UBTC
UBPC
UP THE HILL BAKERY

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insert brain here



by woodsy

submitted by Paul Woods

All about your eyes

Eyes are one of the most important organs of our body. Most of the activities we do involve our ability to see things clearly. It is very important to look after them. We have listed some of the common chronic eye conditions. The list is not exhaustive. The eye sits in a protective bony socket called the orbit. Six extraocular muscles in the orbit are attached to the eye. These muscles move the eye up and down, side to side, and rotate the eye. The extraocular muscles are attached to the white part of the eye called the sclera. This is a strong layer of tissue that covers nearly the entire surface of the eyeball. Common conditions include:

Cataracts

Cataracts cause the lens of the eye or its capsule to become hazy. Ageing normally causes cataracts to develop. Other reasons for developing cataract include trauma, inflammation, and diabetes. It can occur in children. Smoking and alcohol are other risk factors for developing cataracts. Exposure to radiation and some medications can cause cataracts as

well. Cataracts cause blurring and reduced vision. It increases glare, and difficulty in reading or recognising faces. It progresses slowly and surgery remains the only definite treatment.

Refractive errors

Refractive errors are abnormalities in the way light from a distant object is focused onto the back of the eye (retina). These conditions can be corrected by eyeglasses, contact lenses, or in some cases surgery.

- Presbyopia occurs as the lens becomes stiffer with age, with a consequent decrease in the range of focus.
- Myopia (short sightedness) is when vision is better for near objects than for far objects. The eyeball is longer than normal.
- Hypermetropia (long sightedness) is the condition where the eyeball is too short. Vision is better for far objects than for near ones. It can be corrected using a convex spectacle lens.

Glaucoma

Glaucoma occurs when the normal fluid

pressure inside the eyes slowly rises. Glaucoma is a group of diseases that can damage the eye's optic nerve because of the pressure on it and result in vision loss and blindness. It can occur in adults and in children (congenital glaucoma). It is one of the leading causes of blindness. The symptoms are blurred vision, halo around lights, pain in eyes, hazy eyes, and watery eyes (in children), vision loss, and red eyes. Treatment is either eye drops or surgery. With early treatment, you can often protect your eyes against serious vision loss.

Age related macular degeneration

Macular degeneration is defined as age related changes which occur without an obvious cause in the central part of the retina (macula) in people over the age of 50 years. It results in damaging sharp and central vision. It is most common cause of blindness in developed countries. It is divided into dry and wet ARMD. Ophthalmologists

continued on page 18



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continued from page 17

have a key role in treatment of this condition. Some evidence suggests that the rate of progression can be reduced by vitamin supplements and a balanced diet.

Diabetic retinopathy

Diabetes is one of the most common causes of blindness in people of working age. It is usually caused by uncontrolled long-standing diabetes. Diabetes can cause microaneurysms, hemorrhages,

oedema of retina or macula which can manifest as reduced vision. This can be a permanent damage if diabetes is not adequately controlled. Measures to reduce the progression and improve prognosis include good diabetic control, reducing cholesterol, controlling hypertension, and quitting smoking.

These are some of the conditions in a snap shot. To improve your eye health, it is important to get them checked regularly. It is also paramount to reduce the risk of underlying conditions by

eating healthy food, doing regular cardio exercises (which in turn reduce the risks of some of these chronic conditions), getting regular health checks for blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol.

DR PUNEET MALHOTRA

DR ANSHU MALHOTRA

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Beaconhills benefactor had a colourful past

Former Upper Beaconsfield resident Major Edward Tregoning played a crucial role in the early history of Beaconhills College.

In fact, his generous donation of \$60,000 (around \$212,000 in today's monetary terms), is probably a major reason why the college was able to

weather the financial challenges of its early years. His support of Beaconhills led to him being named as one of the college's house patrons in 1989.

This year, as Beaconhills College celebrates its 40th anniversary, the school has revealed new insights into this reportedly shy and reclusive man, courtesy of his niece Alison Nisselle.

Major Tregoning led a private life in his beloved property 'Ularring', on Salisbury Road in Upper Beaconsfield and was a member of the St John's congregation for 15 years.



spent research time with Melbourne's Major Crime Squad where she was told her 'naughty' uncle had a mate called Ronnie Biggs (of the Great Train Robbery fame).

Ms Nisselle said it was her uncle's choice to name his Upper Beaconsfield house 'Ularring'.

"He felt a strong emotional connection to Ernest Giles the explorer, who was Aunt Margery's great uncle, and my great-great uncle," she said. "He read the book, Australia Twice Traversed, and felt a strong kinship with the story of Giles being saved by an aboriginal guide, who led them to water at a critical moment. The indigenous name for the waterhole was 'Ularring'.

"It reminded him of the very close shave he had, being blown up during the Blitz."

Major Tregoning's house sheltered many local residents during the Ash Wednesday bushfires. As an engineer who had lived through the firestorms of the London Blitz, Major Tregoning had previously consulted the SES on how to best make the house bushfire safe. The property had deep water tanks, steel piping and a sprinkler system. Ms Nisselle proudly displays the old house sign on her wall of her own home.

While Major Tregoning passed away in 1995, Ms Nisselle believes that he would have been delighted by Beaconhills College's 40th anniversary.

"He would have been so chuffed – it would have mattered hugely to him," she said.

**BEACONHILLS COLLEGE MAGAZINE,
LUX LUCEAT, WINTER 2022 (EDITED)**

Until now the college possessed only two faded photographs of him, taken around the time of World War Two. Ms Nisselle recently found a third, a passport photo, taken before he moved to Australia in 1968.

She believes Major Tregoning's strict English public school upbringing may have been one motivation to support what he regarded as a school with a "gentler" approach. But Ms Nisselle said another possible reason was that he and his wife Margery had tried unsuccessfully for years to have children.

"He really missed having children. I used to take my two grandsons up to visit them in Upper Beaconsfield. Uncle Edward just loved them," Ms Nisselle said.

She remembers a man who also loved adventure and the adrenaline rush of defusing bombs during World War Two. One bomb actually blew up during the London Blitz as he was working on it, leaving him buried under a pile of rubble. His mates visited the scene days later to pay their respects, only to hear a voice calling out from below. They dug him out and, miraculously, he survived.

Ms Nisselle also recalls that her uncle had a mischievous twinkle in his eye and may have even had a few questionable friends. As a former successful screenwriter, Ms Nisselle



News from St John's

I am so excited to be looking towards spring. For me and my family spring means getting out of the house more, lots of hay fever meds and of course the start of ice cream season!

St John's Op Shop is near to being repaired after the water damage. We will let the community know when we plan to re-open, and we will be having a celebration to accompany it. For those of you who have been holding onto items to donate, we greatly appreciate it. When we can take donations again we will notify everyone on the various local Facebook pages.

Comedy night fundraiser

Talking about exciting news, if you have a look at the advertising included in the Village Bell you will find a notice for a comedy night. We are hosting this to help pay for some repairs to our roof, but also as a community fundraiser. If you can gather a bunch of people from your community group, then we will arrange to give that group a percentage of the proceeds! The more people you gather and bring, the more your group will raise! The notice does say kids are welcome however, it really is aimed at adults. It will be PG though. We will be hosting this in our hall, on 8 October and encourage you to book in asap to avoid disappointment as there are limited tickets. The comedians have been chosen from the Melbourne and Sydney international comedy festivals. I am excited to join with our community for a laugh and a good time!

REV. SHANNON LEE

Message from the op shop team

To all op shoppers! How wonderful it will be if we are back in action by the time of issue, after so long a hiatus! The flood repairs were all completed in July and the refit began in early August. Once this is complete, the daunting task of unpacking and replacing all the items currently piled on the floor or tumbled into boxes will need to be done. We hope to have a light, bright, well-set-up area for you to browse and rummage and find 'just the very things you never knew you needed!' Our Thursday and Friday volunteers are ready to resume their work and to enjoy seeing quality items find a new home.



We look forward to finding more ways to support our community, with items supplied to wildlife carers, mothers and children in need, and the CFA. We look forward to suggestions and ideas from our customers too! See you all soon, from St Johns Op Shop team.

ROSZ SMITH



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Roof Restoration**

Community grant for emergency messaging service

In late June I attended a ceremony at the Cardinia Park Hotel to receive a \$2500 Cardinia Park Hotel Community grant. These funds will be used by the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre to help cover the costs of administration and includes the monthly service fee for sending out alert messages when necessary.

It is great to see a local business supporting this important community service, which sends emergency messages to registered phone numbers if there is an emergency in the local area.

New residents who wish to register for the SMS emergency service can contact the Community Centre on 5944 3484. A small fee is required.

Many thanks to the Cardinia Park Hotel for their support.

ED KEON-COHEN



Community Centre news

Kate Vukovic is the new community development officer at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre.

Kate says, "I am enjoying being a part



of this team and community. We have been busy with our Foodbank and term programs. We are looking forward to providing school holiday activities coming up soon, along with some new programs in the near future."

"We would love your suggestions and ideas on what programs you would like to see at the Community Centre. Please email these suggestions through to me at programs@ubcc.org.au"

Festival update

Exciting news! The Village Festival has a new committee. There are some

familiar faces as well as some new ones on the committee. The aim of the committee is to work with local community groups to bring back the community connection of the festival. If you are a local community group that would like to be part of the Village Festival, please contact the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre on 5944 3484 or office@ubcc.org.au.

Early Learning Centre

Trivia night fundraiser

On Saturday 6 August, ELC held our first ever trivia night and major fundraising event. It was a successful evening, with lots of laughter and fun. We truly felt the community spirit and are grateful to all



Trivia night a great success

Boomerang Bags milestone

The 1000th Boomerang Bag made in Upper Beaconsfield is hot off the sewing machine and ironing board! Boomerang Bags have been made in Upper Beac since 2018 and were introduced to the community at the Village Festival in 2019. Boomerang Bags is a grassroots community driven movement aimed at changing consumer behaviour by shifting society's throwaway mentality. The idea came to Australia in 2013, via a

group in Burleigh Heads, with the goal of reducing the number of single use plastic bags that were going to landfill. Another aim was to make better use of over 10 million tonne of fabric that was being wasted each year. We are now one of more than 1100 communities worldwide who make and use their own bags.

Donated fabrics are crafted into reusable shopping bags by a team of local volunteers led by Anna Konecny,

working out of the Community Centre. Anna is driven by her desire to improve our environment by cutting the quantity of plastic waste. Each bag is adorned with an attractive woven badge stating that the item was 'handmade in Upper Beaconsfield' and each one is numbered. The original concept was to lend the bag to a shopper with a box that allowed the bag to be returned for reuse; hence the name 'boomerang'. Today, the bags are sold cheaply at local businesses and may be retained by the purchaser for future use. Money raised from sales has been donated to community members in need and to local groups such as Need for Feed and the Upper Beaconsfield Beautification Group.

If you are trying to achieve a more sustainable lifestyle or if you would like a useful, locally made gift, you may purchase your own Boomerang Bag at the Foodworks Supermarket, Up the Hill Bakery or the Community Centre.

The Boomerang Bags team meets every second Tuesday in the Community Centre. New volunteers are always welcome and sewing skills are not essential.

CHERYL O'GALLAGHER



continued from page 20

those who donated items for our prizes. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped raise funds towards new resources for our children. We hope to hold more events like this in the future and encourage people to attend so that we can connect with our wider community.

We've had lots of exciting changes here at the ELC, including opening both our classrooms. We now have specific programs catering to our 0 to 3 year-old Kookaburras and 3 to 5 year-old Wombats.

We are open from 7.30 am–5.30 pm and offer full or half day sessions. We are filling fast, and have limited available places left on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We invite you to give ELC director Aimee a call on 5944 3484 to book in a tour today.

LEE SWANN
UPPER BEACONSFIELD
COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER

10-12 SALISBURY RD, TEL: 5944 3484



Children learn about community and environment

The four-year-old children at Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten have been busy of late. Recently we visited our elderly friends at Salisbury House to sing them some songs and have them join in with us. The children loved their little outing and sharing smiles and voices with our community. We hope to build our new friendship over the months to come.

We love our outdoor area, and it keeps us very busy. We look after our worm farm and we have been planting bulbs, growing bushtucker and other veggies in our garden beds and watching our fruit trees grow.

We look forward to spring when we can get busy with the seeds again. We have working bees at both kindergartens planned at the end of August to start our sensory garden. If anyone has any plants or shrubs which would be suitable for any part of our

garden we will accept them gratefully. Recently we had pyjama days at four-year-old kinder and raised \$120 for local WISH wildlife rescue, after learning about our beautiful native wildlife for a few weeks and welcoming a wildlife carer who is one of our own parents. He brought in his pet galah which was a real treat.

We look forward to a visit from Lynton Allan the wildlife artist to Kinder to show us how he sketches and share an animal story with us.

All kinds of safety will be our focus soon, including people who help us stay safe. Hopefully we will have even more opportunities to engage with our local community.

JOANNE MERCER
EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER UPPER
BEACONSFIELD KINDERGARTEN
ENQUIRIES 5944 3822

1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group



As the year flies by, our Scout group are excelling in hosting, running and participating in challenges and events. We are thrilled to welcome many new members, who have joined us for a group camp, district camp, state camps and many section nights of fun and growth. Scouts are involved in the community and have been getting out and about to explore and join in community events. Many members have been completing personal challenges and are enjoying being back to some normality this year. New members are always welcome in any of our sections, and we are also looking for potential leaders and committee members to assist with running our group. These are rewarding roles with lots of opportunity to enjoy the company of other adult members within scouting.

Cubs – Ages 7-11

Section meetings Monday 7-8.30 pm

Report by Harry

It's fun! Every now and then our Cub group go to different places. This term we have been to the SES, CFA and the Upper Beaconsfield General Store and Over the Road Restaurant for Masterchef. During sessions, we play games and earn badges. I am going on a leadership course soon and the next holidays we have a bike riding hike for three days with other units in our District at Phillip Island.

Scouts – Ages 11-14

Section meetings Tuesday 7-9 pm

Report by Alex

This term we have each been assigned a night to plan and run which gives us the chance to take the lead and hold a night based

on our interest. Last holidays we went on a State STEM Camp where we used radios to communicate and move around allocated bases and activities run by rovers and leaders. During our section nights we have been meeting with the other scout groups in our district to make new friends and complete lots of challenges. We



are open to the community and would love more youth to come and participate.

Venturers – Ages 14-18

Section meetings Tuesday 7.30-9.30 pm

Our Venturers have been welcoming lots of new members to the section. More members = more fun! At this level, members have more of a say and more responsibility for suggesting, initiating and running activities, with the help of their leaders. Term three has seen them rock climbing and abseiling, scavenger hunting around Upper Beaconsfield and attending camps with other units.

Split Rock Rover Crew Ages 18-26

Our crew is doing very well, with just under 20 members who come along regularly, and five new investitures in the past few months. This past year has been good for the crew, as they benefited from the member increase and have grown as a group. We all enjoy going to events like mudbash or surfmoot, so it's been great that they have been able to be run again. It's been fantastic to see scouting come back to normal after Covid!

The crew has enjoyed a variety of nights including some games nights, go-karting, bowling, mental health night, yoga night and many more. We have recently performed two fundraisers, one at the Emerald butchers and one at Pakenham Bunnings. Both were very successful, and we are in the process of organising more fundraisers for the future.

STEPHANIE DAVEY



Fire season ahead

They say winter is the time to get your summer body ready, and this applies to preparing your house for the fire season. Living in Beaconsfield Upper and surrounds is rewarding, you get to wake up to clean, clear and often brisk air at this time of the year. But we all know that summer approaches fast and with all this beauty we must ensure we are prepared for the fire season.

In 1983, Beaconsfield Upper witnessed firsthand the devastation of bush fires. In that year, as we did across the state in 2009 and 2019/20, we have learned that devastating fires can impact entire communities for many years.

We also learnt that a property that is prepared for the season had more chance to survive a wildfire than a property that is not. In Beaconsfield Upper you are a lucky community that has a strong and vibrant CFA who are always willing to offer advice on the best way to protect you and your family.

They are the men and women who will remain on the mountain to protect lives and property, and the more homes that are fire ready, the safer their jobs will be in reacting to a fire in the hills. The CFA has many resources to assist you

online, there are details on what you can do to prepare your property and fence line and ideas to be prepared on a high fire danger day. After I witnessed the devastation of Ash Wednesday and spoke to the families who lost everything in fires across the state since that day, the one message I continue to hear is – 'I wish I had a plan'. So, this spring, it is time to get into action and prepare your fire plan for the 2022/23 fire season.

Remember the plan is to protect your family, and make sure you have a plan to protect your memories, photos and other items you can't replace.

November election

As I write this, we are about 100 days from the first vote to be counted in the Victorian state election. The boundaries for the state election were redrawn and the State seat of Gembrook was abolished. The new seat of Berwick was formed, our old seat for those old enough to remember it 20 years ago. Beaconsfield Upper will be divided into two seats (Berwick and Pakenham). For those going into the Pakenham seat, it has been a privilege to serve you,



and those in the new seat of Berwick, I will be working hard to maintain your support to build stronger local communities.

If you would like to share your thoughts or any concerns with me, contact 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 and YouTube – Brad Battin.

BRAD BATTIN MP

LIBERAL STATE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Emma steps up for the Victorian state election

Local resident Emma Vulin is running for the new electorate of Pakenham.

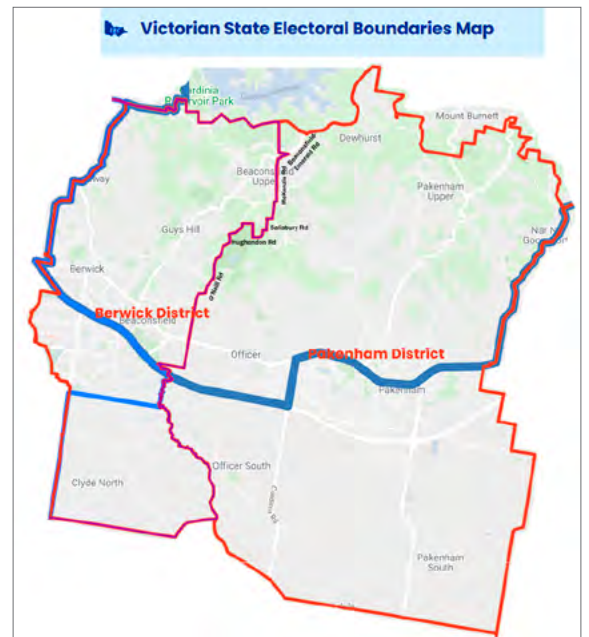


She joined the Upper Beaconsfield CFA back in 2014.

During this time, she held the positions of community safety coordinator, fourth, third and currently is the second lieutenant.

Some of you may have seen Emma around the community as she has been heavily involved in many CFA and Upper Beaconsfield community events over the years. She has assisted with Clean Up Australia Day, the Village Festival, brigade open days, to name a few. She thoroughly enjoys the time spent with the community and being involved as a fire-fighter, both locally and away on strike force operations. The CFA has taught her new skills and allowed her to give back to the community.

Aside from CFA, Emma is a mum of two young teens, works full-time as an electorate officer and



is a stroke survivor. These things have contributed to her wanting to run for the upcoming Victorian state election on 26 November. She is the Labor Party candidate for the Pakenham electorate which takes in the eastern part of Upper Beaconsfield and all of Dewhurst.

She wants to represent her community in the Victorian Parliament and ensure we continue to get the infrastructure improvements and services we deserve. See Emma's advertisement for contact details.

Upper Beaconsfield Riding Club

The riding club is pleased to confirm that we have survived Covid lockdowns and that the members are again enjoying regular monthly rallies in our beautiful club grounds.



Our rallies normally are a series of hour-long lessons by a professional instructor, followed by group lunch while the horses chill out in the yards. Currently the membership tends to prefer flatwork lessons – we are not a very 'jumpy' lot at present! However, we also enjoy lessons with those instructors who have imaginative ways of using poles-on-the-ground to help horse and rider focus on the task required.

We are very blessed to have contact with several instructors who are booked to take a rally or more per year, so that we benefit from various techniques and nuances of instruction.

Our AGM is late spring and we look forward to having some new energetic members on the committee to organise us over the next few years of rallies and even possibly to re-start an annual competition day again.

ROSZ SMITH

Upper Beaconsfield Horse and Pony Club

"Anything is possible when you have the right people to support you." (Misty Copeland)

It's always wonderful to wander between our pony club groups and hear just how encouraging our riders are to one another. Whether it's tackling cross country jumps, nailing a dressage movement or learning how to lead a pony correctly, our riders do boost each other's confidence.

Everyone is looking forward to the next rally on the beautiful grounds of the Tooradin Estate and, in November, participating in our show jumping day at the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre (see details on the next page). It's our major event for the year and we are looking forward to welcoming riders from far and wide. Our riders have continued to compete over the winter period and



should be congratulated for always having a go and representing our club with pride.

The competition at our own club is increasing as riders vie for the best presented title at each rally. It's clear that everyone is making a super effort and our guest judges do have a hard time deciding each month. However, congratulations go to the following riders over the past quarter:

- Best Presented May 2022 Rally – Sarah Laukhart
- Best Presented June 2022 Rally – Sienna McPherson
- Best Presented July 2002 Rally – Mackenzie Auhl





Rider Profile

Name:

Scarlett Ramsay (age 13)

Horse's Name:

Jurassic Park (aka Rex)

Horse's Breed:

Thoroughbred

Favourite PC activity:

Show jumping and cross country

2022 riding goal:

Compete B-grade show jumping

Show Jumping Day Tuesday 1 November 2022, Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre

WGZ State Qualifier – Skye Park Show
Jumping Series

Sponsored by Hairy Pony and
Horseland

PCAV A–F and Open Grades A–E

To enter contact:
eventsecretary.com.au/equestrian

Entry fee: \$60 entry / \$12 facility fee
(includes WGZ levy)

Like to join us? Come and try day
available! Upper Beaconsfield Horse
and Pony Club meets on the third
Sunday of the month. Families are

welcome to come and try what it's like
for a day. For enquires please email
Lauren.Wilson@memberssubpc@gmail.com You can also find us on
Facebook!

JESSICA MARRINER



Auskick

At the oval, Stoney Creek Road.
Friday 4.45-5.30 pm during AFL season

Splash Basketball Club

Boys, girls and mixed teams.
U8-U14 School stadium, Stoney Creek Road. Silke 0457 945 859
upperbeacsplash@gmail

Boomerang Bags

Sewing group. Meets fortnightly during the school term at the Community Centre, Salisbury Road. Tuesdays 9.30-11.30 am. 5944 3484

Cardinia Deer Management Coalition

info@cardiniadeer.org.au

Cardinia Shire

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

CFA

Beaconsfield-Emerald Road (opposite chemist)
Training Wednesdays 7-9 pm and Sundays 9.30-11.30 am
ian.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au 5944 3303

St John's Anglican Church

1 St Georges Road. Service Sundays 9.30 am. 5944 3862

Conservation Group

Conservation and plant identification for private properties.
fergusogallagher@bigpond.com

Community Centre

Salisbury Road. 5944 3484

Community Garden

Community Centre, Salisbury Road. Carol 0407 500 525

Cricket Club

Clubrooms in igloo at oval, Stoney Creek Road. Junior, senior and mixed teams. upperbeaconsfieldcricketclub@gmail.com
Kate (secretary) 0413 354 877

CWA

Meets at St John's church, 1 St Georges Road, 4th Friday of the month at 1 pm. Tracey (president) 0407 810 271

Early Learning Centre

Community Centre, Salisbury Road. Mon-Fri 7.30 am-5.30 pm. elc@ubcc.org.au 5944 3484

Beaconhills Golf Club

85 Stoney Creek Road. info@beaconhillsgolf.com.au
5945 9210

Green Circle Plant Nursery

Halford Street. Open Fridays 10 am-4 pm and Saturdays 10 am-1 pm. greencircleplantnursery@outlook.com
0407 304 061

Internet

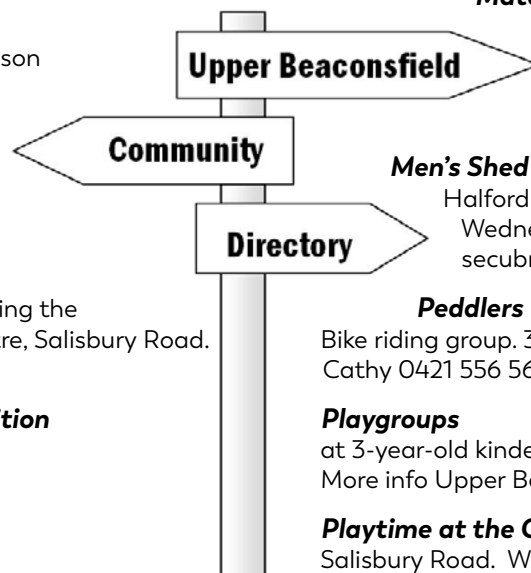
Free computer and internet access at the Community Centre, Salisbury Road. Weekdays 9 am-3 pm. 5944 3484

Kindergartens

4-year-old, 36 Stoney Creek Road. 5944 3822
3-year-old, 3 McBride Road. 5944 4488
upperbeaconsfield.kin@vic.gov.au

Cardinia Mobile Library. Free public library

Charing Cross (opposite shops) Tuesdays 10.45 am-1.30 pm
www.cclc.vic.gov.au



Maternal Child and Health Service

Community Centre, Salisbury Road.
2nd, 4th & 5th Thursday of the month.
Phone central admin for appointment.
5943 4250

Men's Shed

Halford Street. Tuesdays 9 am-4 pm & Wednesdays 9 am-3 pm.
secubms@gmail.com Mark 0419 304 197

Peddlers

Bike riding group. 3rd Sunday of the month. 8.30 am
Cathy 0421 556 560

Playgroups

at 3-year-old kinder, 3 McBride Road. Fridays 9.30-11 am.
More info Upper Beaconsfield Playgroup on Facebook.

Playtime at the Community Centre

Salisbury Road. Wednesdays 10 am-12 noon. 5944 3484

Pony & Riding Club

Pony Club meet 3rd Sunday of the month at the back of the oval. Contact: membershipubpc@gmail.com
Riding Club meets 1st Sunday of the month.
Contact: ubrcenquiries@gmail.com

Primary School

Stoney Creek Road www.bups@vic.gov.au 5944 3591

Scout Group

Meets in the igloo at the oval, Stoney Creek Road.
Cubs (7-11) Mondays 7-8.30 pm
Scouts (11-15) Tuesdays 7-9 pm
Venturers (15-18) Mondays 7.30-9.30 pm
Rovers (18-25) Thursdays from 7.30 pm
info@1stupperbeaconsfield.com 0418 334 140

SMS fire alert system

c/o Community Centre, Salisbury Road. 5944 3484

Social Walking Group

Thursdays 9.30-10.30 am Janie 0425 722 305

Tennis Club

Stoney Creek Road. Night tennis, midweek ladies and weekend senior and junior teams
upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com

Toy Library

Community Centre, Salisbury Road.
Open Thursdays, 12-2 pm. 5944 3484

Upper Beaconsfield Association (UBA)

Secretary Helen Smith
5944 3219 helen.r.smith@iinet.net.au

Village Beautification Group

Jenny 5944 3763

Village Bell

Community newspaper. Editorial coordinator Helen Smith
5944 3219. villagebell@upperbeaconsfield.org.au

Wildlife rescue

Locky's Legacy Wildlife Shelter 0431 635 858
WISH Sarah 0402 393 667

News from the courts

Everything is 'ace' at the Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club! Our junior, senior, mid-week ladies, night competitions and UBTC coaching are all in 'full-swing'. Firstly, a quick thank you to our 2021-2022 tennis committee. Your hard work volunteering helps make UBTC such an amazing club!

Juniors

It's been good to see more tennis being played with fewer Covid-related disruptions this winter season. Our five teams are all doing well. All teams are in the top 4 on the ladder with only a few matches to go, so are all in contention for making it to finals. Well done to our junior players!

Our junior teams now range from the lower Sunday morning beginners all the way through to the very top level in BDTA Juniors, the 'Osborne Shield'. The way that our players continue to show a high level of sportsmanship is also a credit to our lovely tennis community and of course, our amazing coaching team. Special mentions go to our two players Mathilda Bellgrove and Claudia Eibl, who have been selected to represent the BDTA association in the summer season in their age groups.

We thank all our team managers, especially the two new Sunday morning team managers Emma and Catherine. Thank you so much for your time spent organising and supporting those younger players! They are the future of our club!

Seniors

With only a couple of matches left, both our men's team and mixed team are sitting just outside the top of the ladder. 'Racquets-crossed' for a strong finish home so they can sneak into a top 3 spot! If you are walking past the tennis club on a Saturday afternoon, be sure to cheer our senior teams on.

Mid-week ladies

Congratulations to our mid-week ladies' section 2 team for making the grand final! Unfortunately, they were defeated by Keysborough on the day, however, what an amazing effort to make the final. Good luck with your current new season.

Night competition

Are you aware that UBTC offers four nights of in-house tennis competition? They are always looking for new players to join! If interested in playing, please

get in contact. Please note, if you are an Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club member who can't commit to a particular night but would like the option to be called upon to fill in occasionally, please let us know! You'll be sure to get a hit.



Coaching

The UBTC coaching team offer a full range of programs for all abilities including Hot Shots, group lessons, semi-private lessons, private lessons, squad coaching, Cardio Tennis, and school holiday programs. For anyone interested please contact Karen on 0403 454 554 or email Karen@ultimatetennismelbourne.com

If you are interested in playing tennis or joining the UBTC community, the club offers a wide range of tennis activities to suit everyone! Contact us by email at upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com.

Tennis club phone 5944 3071. Facebook – upperbeaconsfieldtennisclub.

What do you call the girl standing in the middle of the tennis court? Annette!

Tennis anyone? Come join Annette at UBTC!

DI EIBL AND CAITY BUTLER

UPPER BEACONSFIELD TENNIS CLUB

End of an era at Beaconhills

Andrew Conn has retired as the barman and caterer at Beaconhills and in July pulled his last beer as licensee. Beaconhills' own "Coxie lookalike" has been the face behind the bar for well over twenty years but has been a part of the golf club far longer and he has a lifetime history with Upper Beaconsfield.

Andrew's interest in pubs can be traced back to 1967 and Upper Beaconsfield Primary School when a new student sat down beside him. Mark Griffin's father Tommy had just bought the "pre-1983 Ash Wednesday" version of the Pine Grove Hotel. Andrew soon learnt that a counter lunch was far superior to a stale paper bag sandwich. When the lunch bell rang, the two boys would walk down the centre of Stoney Creek Road to the pub to eat their steak, chips, and egg, cooked by Mrs Giles on the big, old, wood-fired range. Andrew and Mark took to golf and by the time they reached high school, were already keen Beaconhills junior members playing regular competition golf. In those days, Upper Beac students travelled by bus on the unmade back

road to Pakenham High. Surviving that unruly trip and the daily eruption of an apple fight was valuable experience for Andy's future career. It was also handy to observe the technique the bus driver used to evict his older brother Simon Conn and mate Pete Kenny. Tommy Griffin leased the pub for a time and publican Noel Southorn taught Andrew how to pull beers. His personality suited him for the role of barman. He is hospitable and generous, has an excellent memory, a dry sense of humour and the ability to listen. He gained more experience in Sydney in the Paramatta Leagues Club and the Castle Hill RSL. After Ash Wednesday Andrew returned



to Victoria as assistant manager to Geoff Brooks at Beaconhills Golf Club. He and Melinda McGhee married in 1985 and by 1989 he was working as licensee of the Austral Hotel in Korumburra. He moved back to Upper Beaconsfield as the manager of Montuna golf club before winning the bar and catering contract at Beaconhills in the early 90s. A 'lefty' with a single figure golf handicap, Andrew has combined his work with his passion for the game and won many prestigious events. You can find his name on various Beaconhills honour boards, and he has been a stalwart of A Grade Pennant



teams, winning multiple flags.

Over the years dozens of locals have been employed in the bar and kitchen and for many it was their first job. Important members of his most recent team included Nat Auhl, Vikki Price, Alex, Barb, Brooke and Robin plus chef Matt. Golf club members and regulars will remember chefs Amanda, Sue Livesay and a stalwart for many years Geoff Meade: "Geoff the Chef." Over the years there are names that stand out such as Liam Donavon, Britt Kenny, Jeanette Jolley and Helen Kneen but there are many more. Andrew remains good friends with everyone who worked for him. He and his team have catered for a multitude of weddings. Brides have arrived by all makes of vintage and classic cars, in horse and carriage and even by a helicopter that tumbled

all the white chairs. Dances, pro ams, fund raisers, Mothers Days, New Year's eves, tribute bands, birthday and engagement and hen's parties. The dance floor has had to be polished and repolished. And then as well as special events the golfers were always catered for after they completed their rounds. There have been regular bistros Wednesdays and Fridays, Sunday arvos on the deck with live music. Covid lockdowns threw in different challenges and the business for a time transformed like so many into providing take away meals.

Andrew made it look like a golfer's dream job, but you can't underestimate the behind-the-scenes work, the planning and ordering and purchasing and rostering – and the sheer volume of hours he spent on his feet serving the

public behind the bar – backing up for an early morning opening after an after midnight closing and all performed with good humour. It's not that Andrew will be free to play more golf – he'll now be able to play golf more freely.

To Andrew, thank you and best wishes for this next stage of life to you and your family from all your many friends at Beaconsfields.

And Andrew's replacement? Congratulations to Beaconsfields' resident professionals Dylan Higgins and Bryce Bell for rising to the challenge. The pro shop and the bar and kitchen are now running under the one banner.

MATT VAN DER KRAAN

CLUB MANAGER

CARDINIA BEACONHILLS GOLF LINKS

PHONE: 5945 9210

VILLAGE BELL BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall



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leave a message
5944 3219

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