

UPPER BEACONSFIELD

VILLAGE

June 2023

BELL





Eastern yellow robin



Grey butcherbird



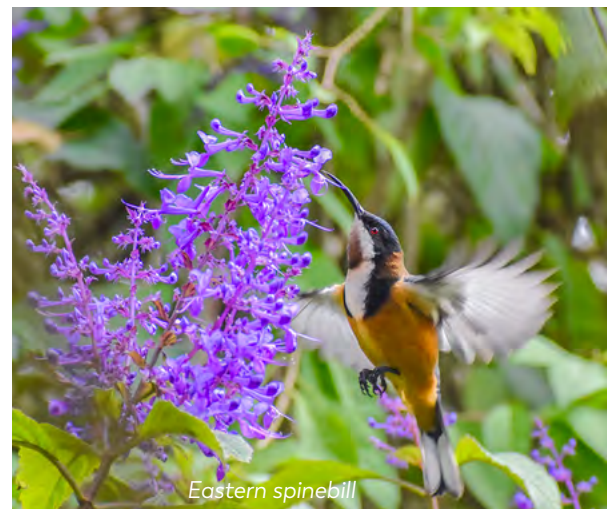
Superb fairy-wren



Grey fantail



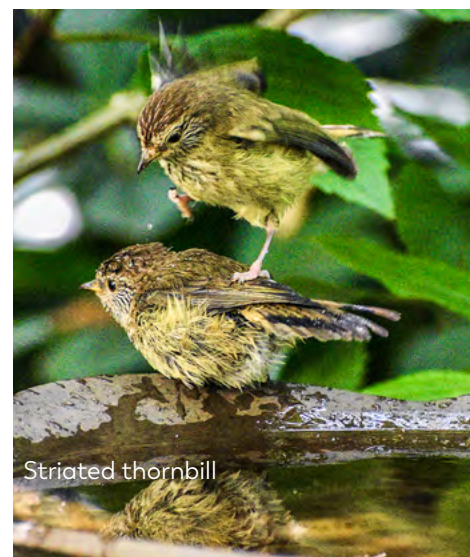
Golden whistler



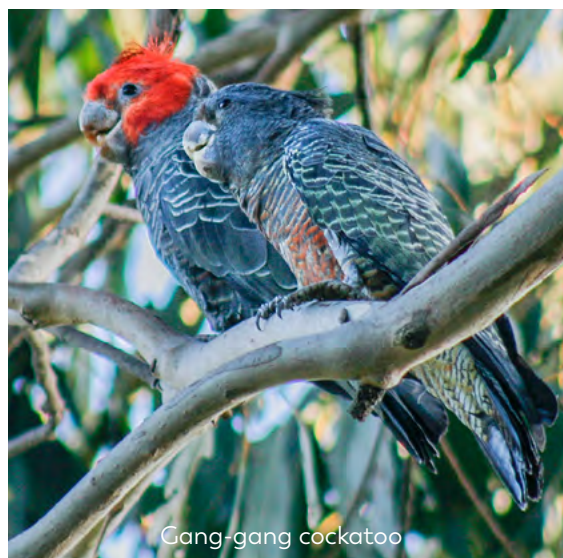
Eastern spinebill

Selected birds of Upper Beaconsfield

photographed by Anne Mehla (also cover), Michael Prowse, Cameron Rocke



Striated thornbill



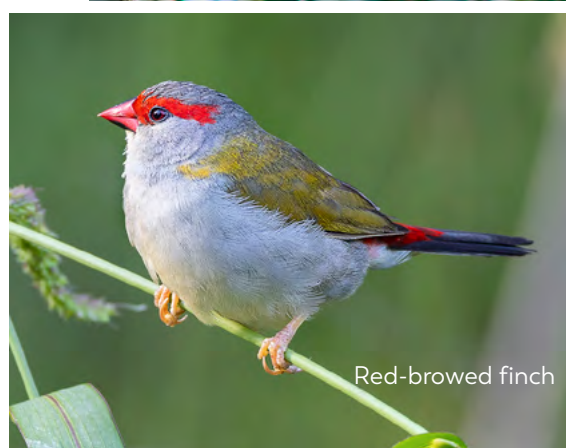
Gang-gang cockatoo



Rufous fantail



Red wattlebird



Red-browed finch



Common bronzewing

Hey Kids! win prizes by entering our colouring competition



The Upper Beaconsfield Association together with the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre are excited to announce a colouring competition for our local kids! The beautiful colouring has been selected as part of this edition's bird theme and designed to inspire our younger generation to learn about Australia's native birds and wildlife through visual art and creativity. A great little rainy-day activity! Entries will be proudly displayed at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre for all to see!



See pages 18-19.

Thank you to volunteers

During volunteer's week in May the SES Emerald Unit transformed Elephant Rock to celebrate Wear Orange Wednesday 'WOW Day'. Our Up the Hill Bakehouse sold orange cupcakes with proceeds going to the Emerald SES.



The Village Bell would like to thank all volunteers who serve the Upper Beaconsfield community. They are found in all organisations. Why don't you join in.

Do you know that the Village Bell is produced entirely by volunteers every three months? They write stories, take and edit photographs, edit the articles, and lay out the Bell. Then there are those who print the Bell, and those who collate the pages. Others distribute the magazine.

If you are not already involved in your community, why not volunteer?

"Being a volunteer has lots of benefits. It can bring meaning and purpose to your life, while increasing your self-esteem and wellbeing. Volunteering can also relieve stress, and alleviate symptoms of depression. As well as having a positive impact on your community, volunteering can improve your relationships."

healthdirect.gov.au/benefits-of-volunteering

Congratulations Marie!

The Mayor's Volunteer Reception and Stan Henwood Award Ceremony was held on Thursday 18 May at the Cardinia Cultural Centre. One of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre's valuable volunteers, Marie was recognised and celebrated for her incredible hard work and dedication of more than 19 years in supporting the Toy Library. Marie has worked tirelessly to ensure the Toy Library provides opportunities for families to borrow a variety of quality toys. Toy Library is a valuable service which allows members to borrow from hundreds of different toys and exposes children to a greater range of play experiences that contributes to a child's development. The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre is extremely privileged to have Marie as part of our team and would like to publicly thank and recognise Marie for her continuous support of



Toy Library. The passion Marie has for Toy Library ensures local families have access to this vital service and the difference Marie has made to so many families is priceless. Thank you, Marie, we truly appreciate all your hard work.



Village Bell Issue No. 232
June 2023

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Cardinia

Cardinia Shire Council



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

MEMBER 2023

The Upper Beaconsfield Green Initiatives Group presents

“COME & TALK TO AN EXPERT!”
Microplastics

with Dr Jackie Myers

Aquatic Ecotoxicologist, RMIT University

- what are microplastics?
- what are the environmental risks?
- what can we do about it?
- and much more



Join the free Zoom presentation, 28 June 2023, 7.30–9 pm

Register your interest with ubgig@upperbeaconsfield.org.au

and we’ll email you the Zoom link closer to the presentation date

Get your registration in early (places are limited)

We look forward to welcome you at UBIG’s inaugural presentation!

For further information contact us at ubgig@upperbeaconsfield.org.au

Rainfall on St Georges Road
From La to El, the change is coming

The dry that set in mid-December through January has been expunged.

February brought 44 mm more rain than last year, March about the same, and April gained 16 mm.

For the three months, we received 233 mm, which was 58 mm more than last year, and 32 mm above the average.

The last three years have been generally wetter than normal with a 1000 mm or more of annual rainfall. Wetter than usual summer periods aggrieved outdoor tradies, but nurtured the forests and gave our fires some relieve. A three year La Niña is not common. The cycle is now one of change.

We know that the long trend is to dryness. We know that the recent La Niña period is near its end. We know we must be due a long hot summer.

Several international weather organisations are predicting a strong global El Niño event. One that could be the hottest driest El Niño period on record.

The BOM is citing an increasing likelihood of El Niño, but is not yet aligned with those who predict that 2023 or 2024 may be the earths hottest year ever.

What is likely for us is declining rainfall

Month	45 yr av.	2022	2023
Jan	63.6	64.0	37.8
Feb	58.4	4.0	48.5
Mar	64.2	81.8	79.5
Apr	78.3	89.5	105.4
May	86.1	46.6	
Jun	80.3	123.6	
Jul	78.6	56.4	
Aug	85.7	147.3	
Sep	90.6	56.1	
Oct	94.3	184.8	
Nov	86.5	126.4	
Dec	80.4	80.0	
Total	947 mm	1061mm	

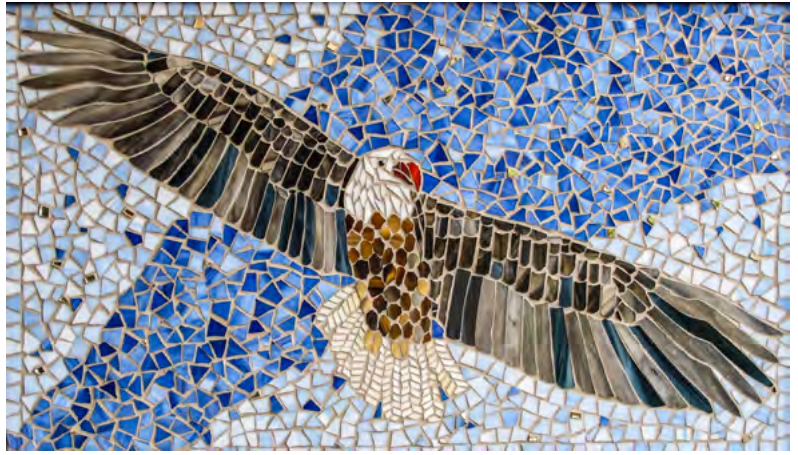
and warmer temperatures. Perhaps a return to normal, with risk of something much harsher. The shift may not be overt over winter, but by summer will be more pronounced, especially if La Niña intensifies. More frequent days of sunshine will be welcomed by many, but a heightened fire risk and more time watering the gardens will come with the package. With emissions continuing to climb, the climate continues to warm unabated. The cyclical shift from a long La to a strong El is an increasing possibility. Combined, these two trends are of concern to some who believe 1 + 1 may be greater than 2. Time will tell. Time to imagine a hot dry summer. Time to consider how you can lessen your emissions, and time to put in place what you need to be most prepared.

ANDREW REWELL

Village Festival Art Exhibition is back in 2024

We are very excited to announce that the Art Exhibition will be back next year.

We will be having an art (all mediums) and a photography section with both having an adult and children's section (under 16).



As previously there will be prizes award through a people's choice voting system.

We have a lot of artistic people in the area and we would love you all to support the exhibition, be involved and exhibit your artwork/photography.

It would be great if everyone could spread the word to any artists, or art groups that you are involved in, so that they know it is back. We need everyone's support to get this art exhibition running again.

If you have time to help, or provide input or ideas, that also would be appreciated. You can contact me on gailkelly2809@gmail.com

GAIL KELLY

GP clinic is expanding

Many of you will have noticed the scaffolding and building works happening behind the clinic. After many years of planning, discussions, disruptions due to Covid and unforeseen council requirements, we are finally extending the clinic!

More rooms and space are being added to our existing premises. We are so excited to see the framework up and be able to visualise the result. This will mean more services and more doctors for the community.

We appreciate your kindness and patience during this exciting time, and we will endeavour to make your visit as comfortable as possible, however due to building works there may be more noise than usual.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD GP PRACTICE



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 at the Post Office, by internet banking to Upper Beaconsfield Association Inc., Bendigo Bank, BSB 633-000 account number 162 580 112, or scan the QR code on the right to contribute online

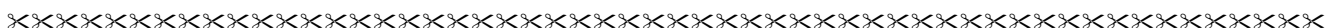
If you tag your payment with your name we can acknowledge you in the next Village Bell. Do you live outside the local area? We can mail the Bell to you for \$15 per year. Thank you!



square.link/u/wDxSWhKF

Thank you to our contributors since the last Village Bell

Nancy Boura; Rosemary Bryen; Alex & Dorothy Burgess; Melissa & Andrew Conn; Sally Gebert; Carol Gibson; Ros Harding; Cathy Hermans; Peter Hill; Christiaan Huijbregsen; G & D Jones; Ron Kerpen; Mary & Barry McCarthy; Ben Reeves; Gary Rose; Doug & Wendy Summons; Trish & Peter Trewin; Sean Vancuylenberg; Phil Wild



Name:

Environmental awareness survey success

Upper Beaconsfield Green Initiatives Group (UBGIG)

Many thanks from the Upper Beaconsfield Green Initiatives Group (UBGIG) for the environmental awareness surveys done by 69 participants at the Village Festival. The data collected is most informative and helpful in shaping the group's future direction.

UBGIG is pleased to announce the winners of the survey prize draw: worm farm kit – Patrick Keogh, shopping bags of green products – Matthew Lawlor and Chris Clarke. Thank you to Aldi and Woolworths (Beaconsfield) and Coles (Berwick) for their support in making these prizes possible.

As an outcome of the survey, please also refer to the article and invitation in this Village Bell to attend the inaugural UBGIG event on microplastics with expert Dr Jackie Myers (RMIT).

Survey results

The community overall indicated very high levels of concern for the environment with over half of respondents indicating extreme levels of concern; reducing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change were significant concerns. One third of respondents considered themselves to be extremely environmentally aware, but only 6% rated their knowledge in addressing issues at the highest level. Throughout the survey females tended to indicate higher levels of concern than males; this observation may need to be explored further to determine the direction of UBGIG. A highlight was the younger members of the community demonstrating a drive for change.

There were no surprises in that the costs involved in achieving energy efficiency proved to be ranked highly, both the most important and the biggest hurdle to participants. This may have resulted in the community's interest in accessing discounted energy efficient appliances (bulk buying), home energy audits and other expertise.

When considering the ranking of the six topic areas, there was a strong sentiment of wanting to see Upper Beaconsfield as green and relaxed, with sustainable lifestyle ranked overall as most important (from data ranked 1st). A comment from one participant captured the idea that if sustainable lifestyle is implemented, then all other topic areas are also addressed. Connection of trails (for

walking, jogging, bike, and horse riding) and improvement of trails were both popular ideas (71% and 61% respectively). Note the next meeting of the Tracks and Trails Project Group" is 19 June – enquiries to the Upper Beaconsfield Association.

Most participants were motivated to improve home energy efficiency; they ranked this as one of the most important priorities (from data ranked 1st, 2nd, and 3rd). It is encouraging that almost 50% of participants considered their premises to be extremely or very highly energy efficient; 55% having implemented solar and 75% with LED lighting. About half of the energy efficiency measures though, may be too costly for many, particularly for older homes requiring retrofitting.

Increasing renewable energy generation together with waste management and recycling and reducing plastics in the community tended to be in the top three priorities (depending on the data set considered), indicating a significant level of importance to participants in the survey.

With community renewable energy production, solar for both community buildings and businesses were considered very important. Some of the other community options such as a microgrid, received a significant amount of interest. All respondents wished to be able to recycle items currently not collected in kerbside collections and 85% wanted to see a reduction in plastic packaging.



While opportunities for participation was mostly a lower selected ranking, 60% of the public indicated an interest in workshops and hands-on opportunities. Reflected in the previous 3 topics was a need for more information and greater awareness, for example, disposing of old appliances and installing new ones, of what happens in the recycling process and more about hidden plastics. Further, other topics suggested included participation in community gardens, low smoke burning off and how to implement the Bushfire and Biodiversity tool (a valuable suggestion given that only 40% of respondents were aware of this tool).

Overall comments reflect a strong commitment to the environment generally and specifically in relation to Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds; The comments conveyed a sense of upholding environmental (wildlife) and community and amenity values and for UB to be upheld as an example of this. There was a strong desire for the community to be informed and involved in the environment.

A full presentation of data and analysis of each question can be viewed online at upperbeaconsfield.org.au/ubgig

New participants to UBGIG are always welcome; enquiries related to this, or other information can be directed to ubgig@upperbeaconsfield.org.au

JANINE DISSEGNA
(INTERIM CO-LEADER UBGIG)

Community garden group welcomes volunteers

Our small group of volunteers have been working hard in the garden planting our winter crops.

Thanks to Rosz for delivering us a trailer load of her beautiful horse poo full of worms and to Sally who willingly supplies us with stable manure whenever we need it. A huge thank you to Ian and Helen who arrived unannounced with lots of energy and a big trailer and have worked tirelessly for the last month clearing the "jungle" in the corner of the garden and pruning the fruit trees and

just doing whatever they can to help. Our plan for that corner of the garden



Community garden
continued from page 6

is to put a little path in, and to plant natives from the Green Circle Nursery so residents can wander through to see how lovely our native plants can be.

We had an informal demonstration from Max from the Pakenham community garden on composting which was attended by some interested residents, and we hope to implement some of Max's ideas to increase the quality of our compost. The meeting was at very short notice and if there is any interest I'm sure he would come back to inspire us to put our food scraps into composting rather than landfill.

Cath, the new chef at the Early Learning Centre, has embraced the garden and comes across daily to see if there is anything she can use in preparing the children's lunches and snacks. She also puts the food scraps into composting.

It has been really pleasing that although we only have a few volunteers we have met a growing number of people who wander in as they are passing to have a look and a chat which encourages us to keep going.

We don't have any set days for working at the garden as Sandra still works and we both have busy lives (like everybody else). We are happy for anybody with some spare time to come and do a bit of weeding or whatever needs doing. Hopefully we will see you soon.

Residents are welcome to pick some produce. I saw a sign on a community garden in Canberra that said it all: "Take what you need – leave some for others".

FROM CAROL, SANDRA AND SATBANI

Microplastics

What are they? What are the environmental risks?

"Come & talk to an expert" inaugural Zoom presentation

28 June 2023, 7.30–9 pm

The recent Upper Beaconsfield Green Initiatives Group survey results as discussed in this edition of the Village Bell indicated that most respondents wanted more information about hidden plastics, a reduction in plastic packaging and wanted that Upper Beaconsfield was plastic bag free.

UBGIG has engaged Dr Jackie Myers, an Aquatic Ecotoxicologist (RMIT University) with over 17 years' experience in this field, to talk with community members.

Jackie is a senior research fellow with the Aquatic Environmental Stress (AQUEST) research group at RMIT, investigating microplastics and litter, mainly focussed on the accumulation in waterways and aquatic life.

Aspects covered are:

- What is a microplastic and why are we using them?
- The risks to the environment and biodiversity
- Are they present in drinking water?
- Major sources of environmental contamination
- What could/should we be concerned about?
- What could/should we be doing about it?



Other areas for discussion may include citizen science regarding microplastics in waterways and answers to questions that you may have.

We look forward to you participating in this inaugural presentation in what is hoped to become a series of presentations on the topics you requested in the survey. Refer to the notice on page 4 in this edition of the Village Bell.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD GREEN INITIATIVES GROUP (UBGIG)

Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre is turning 40!

Just four months after the Ash Wednesday fires a group of residents held a meeting on 20 June 1983 to discuss the establishment of a community centre in Upper Beaconsfield to take over the provision of various services to the community. Initially the hall was used as a drop-in centre, and offered some classes.

The crèche building was opened in October 1985, followed by an extension containing the meeting room, toy library room, maternal and child health centre opening in May 1991.



Come and celebrate with us
Saturday 22 July 2023

More details to come

Upper Beaconsfield dog tails: Bella and Bidy



We have always had animals – cats, dogs, ducks, a lamb, rabbits and even a mouse, so when we lost our last three dogs all within one year of each

other, we were quite shattered. They all died of old age and had had a great life but it didn't make their loss any easier. I vowed and declared that there would be NO MORE DOGS! But persistence from our adult kids, grandkids and my husband saw me relenting after 12 months.

Gone are the days of going and seeing a litter and choosing which dog/s you want. You have to apply and then the pup/s is/are allocated to you! We were lucky and purchased two beautiful labradoodles, one cream and the other caramel – both female. We named the cream one Bella and the caramel one Bidy. They were flown down to us from Port Macquarie.

What a bad mistake that was having sisters! I liken the experience to having twins – the first year was hell! Trying to train them was a nightmare – they would listen to each other and not us! Never have we had such destructive or naughty pups. In the past our older dog would help curb puppy exuberance and teach the new one the ropes. This time we didn't have any older dogs.

We had decided to renovate and they helped. Whilst we were out they chewed window ledges, every watering system in the garden, plants, any hat or shoe left outside and even managed to escape from time to time. Luckily they were extremely affectionate, smart and were adored by all our grandchildren (and us of course). They learnt quickly and soon settled into life in Upper Beac.

They visited the kindergarten when they were 6 months old and were extremely quiet and well behaved. They were manhandled by twenty 4-year-olds and they loved each one. One

of our granddaughters has autism and tended to wander. Bella and Bidy stayed by her side whilst we were visiting and gently herded her back home if she tried to leave their property.

They love being with us and have travelled widely with us in our caravan. It does get a little crowded sometimes because although they have their own beds, on very cold mornings, they will land up on the bed with us. Like most spoilt dogs they don't believe that they are dogs. They believe that they are humans too. In fact they are the smartest dogs we've ever had. They want to go everywhere with us and hate being left behind. They seem to understand everything that is being said – especially the words walk, coffee time, get the ball, rabbits and cockies. They watch our every movement very intently so they know what we are doing and to ensure that

they are not missing out on a walk or a treat.

Bella is the most anxious to please of the two. She is obsessed with balls and needs the most attention. She needs constant reassurance that we love her whereas Bidy is more independent. If on the odd occasion they need to be disciplined, Bella looks at you in a pathetic manner but Bidy stares at you and if she could raise her front paw and give you 'the finger' she would! They get on extremely well with our old cat who is 18. He adores the dogs and Bella in particular spends hours grooming him. He snuggles up with the dogs even though he is not at all friendly with lots of other people or animals.



They love the water and readily jump into the pool and clamber up the ladder when they have finished. They love chasing balls and will spend hours retrieving them especially the ones near the back of the tennis courts which our youngest granddaughter insists have been put there specifically for them to find. They have a few canine friends who visit them regularly and they greet them generally in a very happy manner even sharing their breakfast and treats with them.

It has been a busy and somewhat chaotic nine years with the 'girls'. Would we change a minute of it? Not a bit. They have brought much love and joy into our lives again and have forced us to maintain our regular exercise routine. They have enriched our lives and have widened our circle of friends because we always meet and greet many like minded people walking their dogs too.

The joys of having a dog far outweighs any of the work involved in looking after them. They give unconditional love, expect little in return and are great for your mental and physical wellbeing.

We love our girls to bits.

BOB AND JUDY HILL



Home safety over winter

Looking back 12 months to last year's Village Bell report for the same time of year provides a sense of déjà vu! An uneventful fire season. That sums up the 2022/23 summer and fire season just gone.

If the predictions are correct though, there may be change on the horizon. Weather forecasters are predicting the strong possibility of an El Nino weather pattern developing in the latter half of 2023. The impacts of a El Nino weather pattern typically start in Australia around spring (September to November) before reaching their peak in summer (December to February). For the east coast of Australia, El Nino brings warmer and drier than normal conditions along with an increased bushfire risk. We will continue to monitor the situation for developments.

Whilst the bushfire risk has subsided over winter, we look towards home safety – particularly for homes with wood heaters and open fires. For those living on rural land with an abundance of wood, wood heaters remain a popular and viable source of heating. These devices can also be very hazardous if not used and maintained correctly.

Heaters – wood, gas or electric – become the responsibility of the

homeowner to ensure that the appliance is functioning both efficiently and safely. Gas heaters should be inspected at least every two years by a licenced gasfitter for carbon monoxide leakage. This is a deadly gas that you can't see or smell. Wood fire chimney flues and fire boxes should be cleaned out and inspected at least once a year. You would be surprised at the amount of creosote build-up inside a chimney flue and cap.

Creosote is a black, tar-like substance that forms inside your chimney and flue cap when the smoke doesn't entirely escape. Creosote builds up and can cause blockages restricting air flow and not allowing the wood in the fireplace to burn effectively. Creosote is highly flammable and can cause chimney fires, which may lead to house fires. What causes creosote?

- Slow burning wood (open the dampeners to try and heat up your fireplace so it burns a bit hotter)
- Wet or unseasoned wood (allow wood to dry out for at least 6-12 months before burning)
- Incomplete combustion (not enough oxygen). If the smoke can't escape the chimney, it creates the perfect environment for the build-up of creosote.

Q. Do all wood fires create creosote?

A. Yes but ultimately how much depends on the factors above.

Q. What can I do about removing the creosote?

A. Have your chimney flue and cap cleaned and inspected annually by a chimney sweep.

Q. I have already started using my wood fire. Is it too late to have the chimney cleaned?

A. Absolutely not! We recommend you get onto it sooner rather than later.

Turnouts

A quiet time with just 12 turnouts since the last publication

- 3 x smoke scare or odour of smoke
- 3 x motor vehicle accidents (2 with injuries)
- 3 x grass and scrub fires
- 1 x fuel spill
- 1 x provide medical assistance
- 1 x provide salvage support

Fuel reduction burns

There were plans to conduct a 9 ha fuel reduction burn in the Dallas Brooks Scout Camp in Upper Beaconsfield this autumn just gone, but the weather was *continued on page 10*



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ASSOCIATION INC.**

continued from page 9

unsuitable. Those plans will be reviewed over winter to see if there is any opportunity to conduct the burn during the coming spring months (pending winter rainfall) or alternatively, autumn 2024 in the traditional burning season.

Plans are also in place to perform candling in the reserve at the bottom of Fraser Ave. Approximately 40 trees have been identified as part of the program. Candling is a process where the bark of the tree is allowed to burn up into the canopy under controlled supervision. This in turn, will leave the tree void of excessive amounts of bark which in a bushfire scenario, can catch alight and cause spot fires and ember attack ahead of a fire front.

Property advice visiting service (PAVS)

Our brigade can offer a property advice service where we can visit your home and provide you with an assessment and information to help you plan and prepare for bushfire. Many residents living in high bushfire risk areas are unaware they live in an area of risk, have no bushfire survival plan, and do not know how to prepare their property. The service provides advice to help residents plan and prepare. As a result of the visit, residents should:

- Be more aware of their personal risk
- Be ready to leave when they need to be, and
- Be motivated to plan and prepare their property

If you would like to book a PAVS visit from members of our brigade, please email us with your contact details to

ubcfapavs@gmail.com or leave us a message on the brigade answering service on 5944 3303 and we will get in contact.

Brigade elections

In May we held our biennial brigade elections for the next 2-year term starting 1 July.

Captain:	Ian Pinney
1st Lieutenant:	Andrew Lloyd
2nd Lieutenant:	Ian Rees
3rd Lieutenant:	Clint Patzack
4th Lieutenant:	Joe Dascoli
Secretary:	Stefan Ziemer
Community Safety:	Jenny Hall
Treasurer:	Debbie Pinney
Training Officer:	Ian Rees
Comms Officer:	Harrison Pinney
OHS:	Adrian Kerr
Driving Facilitator:	Graham Matthews

We congratulate all newly elected members and take this opportunity to thank Bob Sanders and Emma Vulin for their service in the past years. Emma Vulin has served in various capacities on the brigade management team for the last eight years but now has her hands full with her political career. Thank you Emma and Bob.

Firestorm Commemorative Exhibition

From 20 April until 14 May, the brigade's Firestorm Ash Wednesday Commemorative Exhibition was on display at the Cardinia Cultural Centre gallery in Pakenham. Unfortunately, this period fell between Village Bell publications, and we were unable to let people know other than through our

social media pages such as Facebook and Instagram. Thank you to those who took the opportunity to attend the exhibition and provide supportive feedback of this important piece of our history.

New members needed

We had two new recruits join us recently which is great, but we are genuinely in need of more. Imagine if you called 000 for a fire truck and no one showed up. It has not happened yet, but we don't want it to either. Some residents talk about joining and giving back to the wonderful community they live in but that is where it ends. Many hands make light work. What are you waiting for?

We are particularly interested in talking with men and women of all ages who may work from home locally during the day and have flexibility that allows them to participate in attending emergencies that may occur from time to time. We can even accommodate individuals working from the station with free Wi-Fi access. Some of our members already do that now.

If you are genuinely interested in joining our team, the formalities start with the completion of an online EOI cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers

Alternatively, if you have any questions, you can email ian.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au

Don't forget to like and follow our brigade Facebook page to stay up to date with what's happening. Search Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade – CFA, or Instagram [cfa_upperbeaconsfield](https://www.instagram.com/cfa_upperbeaconsfield).

Stay safe.

CAPTAIN IAN PINNEY



Many activities at the Community Centre

The Community Centre was very excited to host two special activities over the April holidays. We had Circus Challenge roll into town with children learning some wonderful circus skills. We also hosted Vince from Aussie Wildlife Experiences. This was a morning of feathery, scaly and furry friends visiting us with the opportunity to hold or pat some great Aussie wildlife while learning some very interesting facts.

The Community Centre also worked in partnership with Kelly Wilson to host our first ever writing competition which saw the following people win in their age category. Primary section winners were Zara Clough, April Ruixi and Emily Moylan. Our secondary section winners were Imogen Green, Isabella Sumison, Harriet Byron and Jessica Barwick. The adult section winners were awarded to Natalie Mary and Emma O'Donnell. This competition was very well supported by the community. A big thank you to Kelly for all her help and support with the competition.

The Centre is busy again with lots of different programs being held in term 2 including Kelly Sports on a Wednesday which still has spots available.

For all bookings for enquiries about programs please call 5944 3484 or email programs@ubcc.org.au

LEE SWANN



**Upper Beaconsfield
Community Centre**

Weekly timetable Term 2

Mondays

11 am

Toy Library in the Community Room

6.30 pm

Circuit Training in the Hall

Tuesdays

10 am

Art and Craft in the Arts Annexe

9.30 am

Boomerang Bags
in the Community Room (fortnightly)

4 pm

Expanse Dance in the Hall

6.15 pm

Yoga in the Hall

Krystal Coaching – Mums'n'Bubs
classes day/evening

Wednesdays

9.30 am

Kelly Sports in the Hall

10 am

Playtime in the Community Room

6.30 pm

Circuit Training in the Hall

Thursdays

9.30 am

Pilates in the Hall

9.30 am

Sing'n'Grow in the Community Room

11 am

Silver Swans with Banksia Ballet

7 pm

Meditation in the Community Room

Fridays

11 am


Expanse Dance in the Hall

11.30 am

Art and Craft in the Community
Room

*For all enquiries or bookings
please call 5944 3484
or email programs@ubcc.org.au*

UBCC is Child Safe Organisation




**WE
ARE
BACK**

Book Club

Wednesday 7th of June
@ 1.30pm
UBCC Community Room

For program registration
please call 5944 3484
or email
programs@ubcc.org.au





Upper Beaconsfield Community Early Learning Centre

2023 is flying by and the Early Learning Centre is excited to share that we still have vacancies left for new families to join our small centre on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We offer full day sessions, or half-day sessions at a discounted rate. While we run a play-based learning program and offer long day care like most early education providers, we have a point of difference in our strong focus on community. Our two classrooms operate in a multi-age setting, our Kookaburras for ages 0–3 years, and Wombats for ages 3–5 years, which allows our children wider opportunities to learn from one another, build relationships, and take on leadership or nurturing roles.

We pride ourselves on the understanding that we care not only for our children, but for the whole family and feel

privileged to be an integral part of the Upper Beaconsfield Community, and each of our families' 'village'. We invite all families to give our director Aimee a call on 5944 3484, to schedule a tour.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



A puzzle for the family

Sudoku - medium

solution page 28

2				3	7	9		
	8				1			
9			2	6				8
				9	7			
	6	8			9	4		
		9		5				
5			4	2				3
		4				9		
8	3		1					4

Provided by sudokuoftheday.com – get a new Sudoku every day



Birds in Upper Beaconsfield

This issue of the Village Bell shines a focus on all things birds. Thank you to Anne Mehla, who initiated the bird theme, and contributed the photograph of the New Holland honeyeater on the cover, as well as some of the photos on pages 2 and 3. Anne also organised the colouring competition on page 19, and suggested some topics to explore. Thank you to Caro Letts and Mike Hall who wrote the following articles about bird watching, bird feeding, bird facts, planting gardens for birds, etc.

Thank you also to Michael Prowse, who shared his bird photographs with us, some of which are featured on page 2

and in the following pages. Other bird photos were taken by Mike Hall, Caro Letts, Cameron and Marianne Rocke.

Birdlife Australia is a not-for-profit organisation. Its mission is to save Australian birds, particularly threatened species by advocating for them and implementing practical programs to conserve their habitats. Discover more about birds and get involved by visiting their website: birdlife.org.au

Add the upcoming Aussie Bird Count, 16-22 October, to your calendar. Find out how to take part here: aussiebirdcount.org.au

Bird watching in the Cardinia Creek catchment

Sitting here, fingers shading the keyboard, ready to write some paragraphs on bird watching in the Cardinia Creek catchment, and wondering "Where do I start?"

Firstly, I am an amateur – not sure where I sit on the scale between casual interest to die-hard twitcher. As an indicator, I do keep a list of all the birds I see when I'm on holidays, and I do get excited when I see a species I've never encountered before. But I wouldn't fly across the continent to see a rare vagrant that has been blown off course and landed in Broome.

We have a native garden and back on to Critchley Parker Junior Reserve – a magic spot and we are truly lucky to live here. I hardly need to move to see an amazing selection of birds. Wherever there are large, connected patches of native vegetation locally, there will be lots of birds regularly moving through.

I won't claim this to be a comprehensive list of birding sites or species. But to be honest, the birdlife throughout the Upper Beaconsfield area is rewarding. Just look out for areas of high floral diversity. But to mention a few:

Guys Hill Reserve: End of Luke Place, park before the bridge (Melway 212 B2). A pleasant walk along the Cardinia Creek among manna and peppermint gums. *Birds to see – thornbill, treecreeper, king parrot, galah, sulphur crested cockatoo, crimson and eastern rosella, kookaburra, bell miner.*

Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve: Situated between Dickie and O'Neil Roads, a largely untouched fenced reserve with high floral diversity. You will need seek permission and an entry key from the Cardinia Environment Coalition for entry. *Birds to see – satin flycatcher, honeyeater, spinebill, superb blue fairywren.* Very few water birds though.

R J Chambers Reserve: Located on Bourkes Creek Road in Upper Pakenham (Melway 313 G8). *Birds to see – superb lyrebird, olive whistler, southern yellow robin, Horsefield's bronze cuckoo, fan-tailed cuckoo, yellow-faced and white-eared honeyeater.*

E A Owen Conservation Reserve: 200 Dickie Rd., (Melway 212 K8). *Birds to see – kookaburra, cuckoo, olive-backed oriole, eastern yellow robin, superb blue fairy wren, thornbill and white-browed scrubwren.*

Critchley Parker Junior Reserve: St Georges Rd, UB (north end) of Barnes Drive (south). Southern end is cooler, wetter and has the greater diversity of bird species. *Birds to see – rufous fantail, olive and golden whistler, yellow robin, superb lyrebird, Bassian thrush, rosellas, rainbow lorikeet.*

Brennan Avenue Reserve: End of Brennan Ave (Melway 210 A11), especially along the Cardinia Creek. *Birds to see – superb blue fairy wren, yellow robin, the usual rosella and cockatoo species, grey fantail.*

Cardinia Reservoir Park: Main entrance Duffy's Road, Narre Warren East (Melway 126 C11) or via Red Hill Road (Melway 210 G4). Try looking in the grassy woodland area of the southern boundary. *Birds to see – red-browed finch, eastern rosella, eastern spinebill, painted button-quail, musk duck, grebe.*

Hamilton Reserve: Berglund Rd, UB (Melway 211 H10), a small area, with high floral diversity. *Birds to see – treecreeper, fairywren, grey butcherbird, eastern spinebill, grey fantail.*

Dallas Brooks Scout Camp: End Harpfield Rd. UB (Melway 210 F10). *Birds to see – treecreeper, cuckoo, wrens, fantails, magpie, pied currawong, grey butcherbird, eastern and crimson rosella.*

Around the township and common throughout – *laughing kookaburra, spotted and striated pardalote, crimson and eastern rosella, magpie, pied currawong, common bronzewing, wedge-tailed eagle, black-faced cuckoo-shrike, welcome swallow, superb blue wren, eastern spinebill, grey fantail, red and little wattlebird, New Holland honeyeater, yellow-tailed black cockatoo, sulphur-crested cockatoo, gang gang, short-billed corella, brown thornbill, striated thornbill, grey butcherbird, white-throated and brown treecreeper.*

Other sites include **Salisbury Gully**, McBride Road (Melway 212 H1); **Sutherland Park**, Stoney Creek Road (Melway 210 J11); **Hillview Bushland Reserve**, Bathe Road (Melway 211 E7); **Valley Drive Wetlands / Harris Reserve** (Melway 210 K12); **Beaconhills Golf Links** (Melway 210 K7); **Cardinia Aqueduct Trail** (Melway 213 C8).

Happy birding!

MIKE HALL, UPPER BEACONSFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP



Create a bird friendly garden

Bird numbers worldwide are declining due to feral predators and loss of habitat. Upper Beac is no different. Do you see as many birds as you used to – numbers and species, especially the little birds?

As we replace precious bushland with neat suburban gardens full of non-Australian plants, we not only lose native bird diversity, but we also encourage non-native species such as black birds and Indian mynas. There is no simple solution, but we can help. Keeping cats indoors or building them a cat run is a great start, but we can also make our gardens more bird friendly in other ways. To encourage native birds, we need native, preferably local plants.

To see what native plants grow in Upper Beac, search Cardinia Council cardinia.vic.gov.au for

- Indigenous Plant Guide (plants listed by town)
- Cardinia Community Compass (type in your address for information about your property)

The CEC Nursery in Pakenham, and our local Green Circle Nursery supply a good variety of plants and advice. You can also find the Yarra Ranges Council Local Plant Directory online.

Birds need food, shelter, nesting sites and nesting material. They need protection from aerial predators and those on the ground. Large lawns with a couple of trees don't provide any of this. Diversity is the key. No one plant can meet the needs of every bird and designing a habitat garden takes a bit of thought. Drawing a mud-map will help you work out how many plants you might need and where to place them.

Shelter for birds

Shelter is all about layers and plant density – ground covers (grasses, ferns, low growing plant species – plus fallen branches, hollow logs, and rocks), small and large shrubs, small trees, and if possible, trees with a canopy. A close planted area of one to two metre shrubs will provide shelter from predators and the weather, a place to rest and perhaps to build a nest. Don't be afraid to prune natives lightly to keep them compact and dense.

Spiky plants such as hakea, bursaria, banksia, parrot pea, dillwynia, violet tree, and some acacia species add a layer of protection from bigger birds and predators. Creepers such as wonga vine and Australian clematis growing over shrubs or up trees create links

between lower storey and taller plants. They look great growing on walls, over arches or on pergolas, creating safe spaces and passageways for little birds. Plant in dense thickets, hedges or wedges using five or more plants of the same similar species. This provides more resources than planting several different individual species. Use garden beds or native grasses to break up unused lawn spaces: short flights between thickets or along corridors are much safer than one long flight to get across your garden. If possible, work in with your neighbours to create even longer corridors of protection between properties.

Food

Birds need a mix of plants that flower, seed, and fruit all year round. Visit your nursery often! You can see when plants are flowering and will always have something happening in the garden to provide food whatever the season. Different bird species require different food sources – nectar, fruit, berries, seeds, insects, and other invertebrates.

1. **Small nectar feeders** These busy little birds love tubular flowers such as correas and epacris as well as banksias, callistemon, and grevilleas. Avoid the big showy hybrid grevilleas: these attract the larger more aggressive honeyeaters such as wattle birds and noisy miners which are fiercely territorial and will drive other birds away. There are plenty of beautiful small grevilleas that will keep the little guys safer and well fed. Eastern spinebills, silvereyes, yellow-faced, New Holland, white-naped and black-chinned honeyeaters are just a few of the nectar feeders who call Upper Beac home.

2. **Seed eaters** include cockatoos, gang-gangs, corellas, king parrots, crimson and eastern rosellas, purple-crowned and



Yellow-tailed black-cockatoo feeding on *Hakea decurrens* (photograph Mike Hall)

rainbow lorikeets, red-browed finches and bronzing pigeons. Grasses such as common tussock-grass, kangaroo grass, wallaby grass, spear grass and mat rushes, as well as reeds and sedges form dense understoreys for food (seed heads) and nesting material (leaves), especially for the smaller birds. Native irises also fill this role. Wattle, hakea, banksia and sheoak are a great source of seeds, though the latter three require strong beaks and a lot of determination to extract the seeds from the nuts! But cockatoos, gang gangs and corellas love them. Placing grasses next to thick plantings of shrubs creates the optimum environment for these birds.

3. **Fruit eaters** include bowerbirds, silvereyes, currawongs, lorikeets, and parrots which are all common in Upper Beac. The best fruit



Silvereye (photograph by Michael Prowse)

bearers are rainforest or wet forest trees. While not indigenous to this area, some can be grown here successfully. They include lillypillies (beware these can escape into our bushland so are probably not a good choice for your garden), blueberry ashes, figs and vines. In Upper Beac native raspberry, prickly currant-bush, common apple-berry and muttonwood are popular among the fruit eaters. All these birds also eat a wide variety of other foods.

4. **Insectivores** Native insects need native plants. Grevillea, callistemon, banksia, hakea, kunzea, acacia, bursaria, tea tree, and paperbark all attract insects. Insects and invertebrates are vital for healthy plants. They have many roles, including pollination and pest control (for example, ladybirds feast on aphids). They are an important source of protein for many birds. Cockies for instance love digging out borers from old wattles with their

powerful beaks, while fantails, flycatchers and spinebills chase down mosses, dragonflies, midges, flies etc. Wattlebirds eat most of the spiders living under the eaves. Golden whistlers, treecreepers, sitellas and crested shrike-tits seek out insects and grubs under the leaves and bark and along the branches of the larger shrubs and trees. Many bird species such as spotted and striated pardalotes, and other small honeyeaters feed on the sugar rich secretions of lerps, often present in eucalypts and acacias.

5. **Mulch** Attracts insects (and small skinks) and so is an important part of the food chain. Not only that, it conditions soil, making your plants healthier, and helps soil retain water better, decreasing the need to water your garden over summer. Bassian thrush, bronzewings, lyrebirds, painted button-quail all love digging and foraging through leaf litter and mulch. Kookaburras and magpies keep a watchful eye over any garden activity involving digging, mulch, or splitting wood.

Nests for birds

Material Try not to be too tidy in the garden! Grasses, leaf litter, bark, moss, lichen, strips of plant fibre, twigs and small branches are very important sources of nesting material. Birds utilise all

sorts of bits and pieces for their nests. Wrens, for instance, weave intricate little cup nests out of long, dried leaves, and twigs, bound with spider webs and lined with wool, feathers and animal fur. Don't throw your dog's groomed fur away – hang it outside in a mesh net over spring! Birds will happily utilise it. Magpies create more of a basket structure from



Crimson rosella in birdbath (photograph by Michael Prowse)

bigger sticks and twigs lined with wool, hair, grass and even bits of plastic, string, and wire. If possible create quiet, bushy corners in the garden where birds can build their homes safely.

Nest sites Tree hollows are a limited and precious resource for 15% of our native bird species (and possums). These include parrots, cockatoos and lorikeets, ducks (yes, really!), treecreepers, owls, owl-nightjar, kingfishers, pardalotes, martins and woodswallows. Given it takes at least 80 years for a tree hollow to form and given we are still logging old growth forests, clearly these are a limited and precious resource. Nest boxes are certainly an option, and there is useful information on the internet. Other species have different requirements: some are ground nesters, others like a concealed spot in a prickly bush and some like to build a penthouse at the top of a tall tree.

Bird baths

Important for drinking, bathing, and cooling down on a hot day, bird baths come in all shapes and sizes. They can be located on the ground, on a pedestal or maybe hanging off a tree. Locate it in dappled shade to decrease algal growth and keep the water cool and near shrubs under trees for extra protection. If it's deep or smooth add a rock or branch so birds (or maybe a lizard or frog) can get themselves out. Set up a motion camera: you will be amazed at what comes in to drink and bathe. The ultimate bird bath is a pond or dam planted with sedges, reeds as well as bushes and trees. This creates a habitat for a whole new suite of birds – the water birds.

CARO LETTS

UB CONSERVATION GROUP

If you'd like to join UBCCG, please contact Fergus at fergusogallagher@bigpond.com



Willie-wagtail nest (photograph by Marianne Rocke)



Galahs (photograph by Michael Prowse)

Birds in Upper Beac – majestic “wedgies”

Wedge-tailed eagle (Aquila audax)

Hopefully, you have seen our resident pair of wedge-tailed eagles soaring the thermals over Upper Beaconsfield.

A magnificent bird, this eagle is Australia’s largest raptor. Weighing up to 5 kg and standing one metre tall, they have a wingspan up to 2.8 metres. Females are larger than males. As youngsters they are brown, but as they get older their plumage becomes darker. By 10 years they are dark brown, almost black, with white and bronze trim on their wings and neck. Their powerful legs are feathered down to their toes. Take off involves a jump and then up with characteristic slow powerful wingbeats. Once airborne we ground dwellers can identify them by their wedge-shaped tail and their fingered wings. Not always easy given they can be 2000 m above us!

So, what does it look like from up there? An eagle’s vision is far better than ours as they can visualise a larger range of colours, extending into both the infrared and ultraviolet bands. Like us, they have binocular vision, which gives

them great depth perception. Those dark piercing eyes can spot a rabbit from over three kilometres away and can see that rabbit in eight times more detail than we can. Their eyeballs can also squeeze and elongate, operating much like a zoom lens on a camera! While not as fast as falcons and hawks, this powerful hunter seldom misses its prey, striking with its enormous talons and killing instantly. They can take off with and carry prey weighing up to five kilos!

Diet

Interestingly, most of their diet is carrion; increasingly this is roadkill. Thoroughly adaptable, a large part of their diet is now introduced animals. Depending on local abundance, rabbits can make up to 70% of their food intake. Kangaroos, wallabies, sometimes lizards and occasionally other birds such as waterfowl are also on the menu. These eagles are smart and will work in pairs or groups, especially if hunting something large, such as a kangaroo. Once their prey is

caught, it is time to eat. Not surprisingly their meal is dealt with quickly and efficiently. That large, hooked beak is perfectly designed to tear through thick hides and even break bones.

They usually feed in pairs or threes, but up to 40 birds have been spotted at one carcass. Eagles may store leftovers on a branch near their nest.

Early in the 20th century people thought eagles killed large numbers of ewes and lambs. Later research showed that in fact they are mainly carrion feeders and were only taking lambs already deceased or in poor condition. Between the 1920s and up till the 1970s, bounties were paid for their destruction. Hundreds of thousands of birds were shot or poisoned. They are now protected in all states by the National Parks and Wildlife Act.

Habitat

Wedgies are found over much of Australia and in southern Papua New Guinea. They prefer wooded or rocky areas and open forests – somewhere

Upper Beac Birdsearch

Find these words in the grid

- FANTAIL
- MAGPIE
- LYREBIRD
- SPINEBILL
- COCKATOO
- LORIKEET
- KOOKABURRA
- HONEYEATER
- WHISTLER
- ROBIN
- WATTLEBIRD
- WREN
- SILVEREYE
- PEAHEN
- GREBE
- FINCH
- FALCON
- GALAH
- HERON
- BRONZEWING
- ROSELLA
- SWALLOW
- CURRAWONG
- KINGFISHER
- PARDALOTE

H	O	G	Y	F	P	R	A	J	V	M	W	X	K	U	Z	S	E	H	Y
I	B	N	Q	S	R	E	D	Y	A	O	H	Z	T	F	O	B	B	V	U
V	G	I	U	O	N	T	W	W	C	A	I	C	S	Y	X	E	E	Q	I
D	R	W	B	E	B	A	Z	M	U	L	S	E	E	X	Y	P	R	L	W
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X	D	O	S	S	K	N	U	J	W	O	R	O	N	M	K	T	A	E	N
Q	A	R	H	V	T	O	F	W	O	R	X	B	E	G	H	M	Q	M	D
A	L	B	C	Z	R	H	W	K	N	N	L	I	R	A	E	G	U	I	R
R	O	Y	N	O	C	L	A	F	G	J	S	N	W	G	A	D	G	P	I
R	T	Y	I	A	O	P	H	I	K	P	G	C	N	V	W	H	P	Y	B
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B	Z	T	E	X	Q	B	A	N	O	R	A	S	Z	S	S	X	L	F	R
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K	H	J	M	E	A	B	K	K	Z	R	F	A	N	T	A	I	L	A	L
O	I	E	H	H	I	A	Z	A	X	S	W	A	L	L	O	W	J	C	M
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P	Z	U	O	E	N	H	J	K	I	N	G	F	I	S	H	E	R	I	I



they can easily watch for a meal and hunt. They also live along the coast and in alpine areas; rarely do they venture into rainforests where vegetation is dense.

Territory

Territory size depends on many factors – the actual habitat the birds live in, the topography, the seasonal conditions (drought or not) and how much food is available. In general, their foraging range, centred on the nest, is about 20 km², up to 50 km² in arid areas. Males will vigorously defend the nest area for about a kilometre radius. There may be 3–12 pairs within a 100 km² area depending on the above factors. Within their territory, birds may have several nests. They choose and renovate the preferred nest for the new year. If left undisturbed they tend to use the same one year to year. If disturbed, they may abandon their nest.

Breeding and behaviour

Once the nest is chosen, territorial defence begins. These acrobatic aerial displays begin early in the breeding season, a couple of months before egg laying. One or both of the pair will circle up high, interspersing this with flight rolls and talon displays. Rarely do they resort to loop the loops or cartwheeling! Mostly they respect each other's

boundaries, and usually intruders accede to incumbents. Wedgies warn interlopers such as drones, model planes, hang gliders, gliders, even planes and helicopters. Pilots report birds attack by screeching, bills open and talons extended, repeatedly swooping from above, behind or in front and making actual contact.

Their courtship displays can be just as spectacular: the male dives down towards the female, pulling out just in time then zooming back up with partially folded wings. In mid-air she may turn on her back and present her claws to him! They then spiral upwards together screeching and calling. Less spectacularly they may just perch side by side grooming each other.

Wedgies are monogamous and mate for life – though they will find a new mate if they lose a partner.

Built with sticks and lined with leaves, their nests are large and impressive – up to two metres diameter, three metres deep, sometimes weighing more than 400 kg! A nest can be so large that little birds like finches will stow away on the underside of the nest, using their landlords for protection.

Where possible, they build their nest at the top of the tallest tree in the area. This gives them a commanding view of their territory. Failing that a power pole, cliff face, even just on the ground if necessary.

Breeding season starts in April and continues to September but is focused on July. Though eagles usually raise one chick, the female lays between one and three buff/white and blotched eggs, each the equivalent of about three chicken eggs.

Incubation takes 45 days. A fluffy white hatchling emerges and for the next 30 days the male goes hunting and the female cares for the babies, tearing their dinner into shreds and feeding them carefully. After that they can feed themselves off the nest floor, learning how to tear their food into edible pieces.

If food is scarce the bigger eaglet may kill and eat his sibling. This is rare. During this time, the parents will defend their young from intruders such as goannas. If threatened, the chicks will lie flat on the nest floor and can defend themselves. By 50 days they are nearly fully feathered and start to play in the nest, pouncing on sticks and debris. By three months they are ready to leave home but are not strong fliers. They remain with their parents

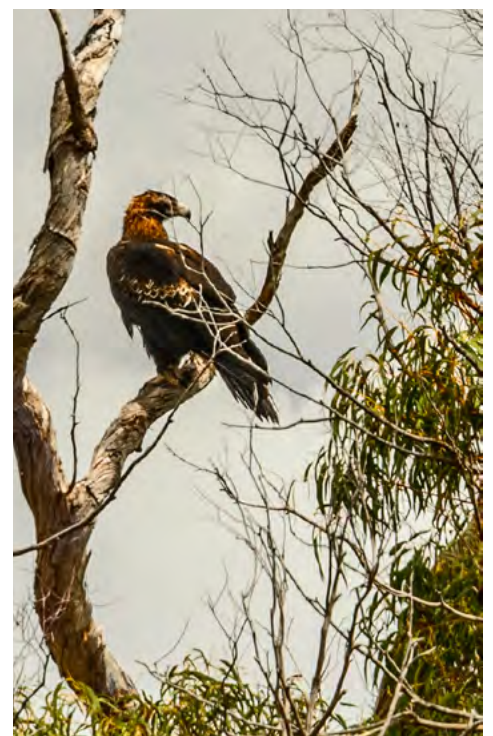
for four to six months, then disperse, feeding and fending for themselves, but avoiding adult territories. Most stay close to home, especially initially, but one study found eaglets 850 km from their original nest, a distance covered in eight months.

There is a high attrition rate during this period: up to 2/3 of young eagles will die. Studies are not clear how long wedgies live, but their lifespan, once through the initial danger period, is around 20 years. In captivity they live to around 40 years of age. First breeding starts at 6–7 years.

Conservation status

Currently wedge-tailed eagles are not considered threatened on mainland Australia, though their status in Tasmania is considered critically endangered. This is due to old growth forest clearance and stock owners who illegally kill them by poisoning, shooting, or trapping. The Tasmanian Government has a recovery plan. Hopefully by identifying and protecting nests and educating landowners, eagle numbers may start to increase. On the mainland the main threats are indirect poisoning from baiting dingoes and rabbits, and pesticides. Some landowners still kill them directly despite their protected status. They are also increasingly dying on highways as they adapt to the ever-increasing amount of roadkill. Continued tree clearing, with subsequent loss of nesting sites, is also a problem, especially in more arid areas.

CARO LETTS



Colouring competition – entries close Friday 14 July

How to enter:

Submit your entry at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre.

Please remember to add your name, age and your parents contact details (on the back of the colouring page) so we can contact you if you win!

Prizes will be judged by age group:

- Under 5 years (7 winners drawn)
- 5–9 years (5 winners drawn)
- 10–12 years (4 winners drawn)

Terms:

One entry per child. There will be a

total of 16 prizes awarded based on creativity (refer age groups above).

Lots of young artists in your family? Need an extra copy?

A copy of the colouring page can be downloaded here: upperbeaconsfield.org.au

Winning entries:

Entries will be judged and winners notified by phone on Wednesday 19 July. Winning entries will also be announced on the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre Facebook page

facebook.com/ubcc.org.au

Big thank you to Hinkler for supplying the colouring sheet and prizes for our community competition! Hinkler is a global, independent publisher based in Melbourne. You can find their educational books, craft kits and storybooks in BIGW, Kmart, Australian Post, Woolworths and other retailers.

Fun and amazing bird facts

- Birds evolved from dinosaurs. Chickens and ostriches are Tyrannosaurus rex's closest living relatives.
- The first bird, complete with feathers – and teeth – was Archaeopteryx. It evolved during the Jurassic Period, 150 million years ago.
- Ducks can sleep with one eye open. They have a single-brain sleeping pattern: half their brain sleeps, the other remains active. Handy for keeping an eye out for predators.
- Wandering albatrosses can sleep while flying, but only for a few seconds.
- Kiwis are blind – they hunt by smell.
- But vision is the most important sense for most birds. Many, including parrots and songbirds, can see UV light. Migratory birds can perceive, perhaps 'see' magnetic fields. This helps them navigate. As does their ability to see very slow moving objects, such as the sun and constellations!
- Birds of prey's eyesight is extraordinary: eagles can spot prey from up to 3 km away, they have binocular vision and the ability to change the shape of their eyeball, using the muscles around the eye, giving them a 'zoom lens'.
- Owls can turn their heads nearly 360 degrees. But they can't actually move their eyes.
- Ostrich eyes are the largest of any land animal, five times bigger than a human's.
- Ostrich eggs are the largest bird egg. They weigh up to 2.5 kilograms, the equivalent of 24 chicken eggs. Despite the shell being only 2 mm thick, an adult person can stand on an egg and not break it. (Ostriches weigh up to 180 kg and sit on their eggs to incubate them, so they need to be strong).
- Hummingbirds can hover, fly backwards, sideways and even forwards, upside down! Forwards, they can achieve speeds of 48 kph. Most of these little birds weigh about three grams and make a good snack for snakes and raptors. So agility and speed is important for survival as well as feeding. Wing speed is between eight and 200 beats per second!
- Peregrine falcons are the fastest bird, diving down on prey at over 300 kph.
- Penguins can't fly at all, but they can jump 2.7 metres vertically out of the ocean, and up onto a rock shelf.
- Some birds can go into a state of torpor when it's cold or if food is limited. This means dropping body temperature and heart rate to decrease metabolism and conserve energy. An Australian night-jar can drop its body temperature from about 39C to 22C, achieving a decrease in metabolic rate of about 75%. Other birds known to utilise this technique include tawny frogmouths (pictured above), needletails and woodswallows.
- Cockatoos and parrots are left 'handed', using their left eye to focus and left foot to grasp things.
- Chickens make 200 different noises they use to communicate with each other.
- Many birds, such as bower birds and lyre birds can mimic all sorts of things: other birds, chain saws, horses, fire alarms etc.
- Magpies imitate human speech, as can cockies.
- They are not 'bird brains'! While their brain structure is different to ours, it is packed with neurons and highly organised, especially in areas dealing with higher level thinking. This means birds capable of conscious thought, self recognition and able to problem solve. A famous African grey parrot, Alex, has learnt 1000 words and can use them to communicate with his trainer as well as perform quite difficult tasks when asked.
- The smartest birds have the mental and emotional capacity of a three to five-year-old human. These include crows, ravens, magpies, cockatoos and parrots.

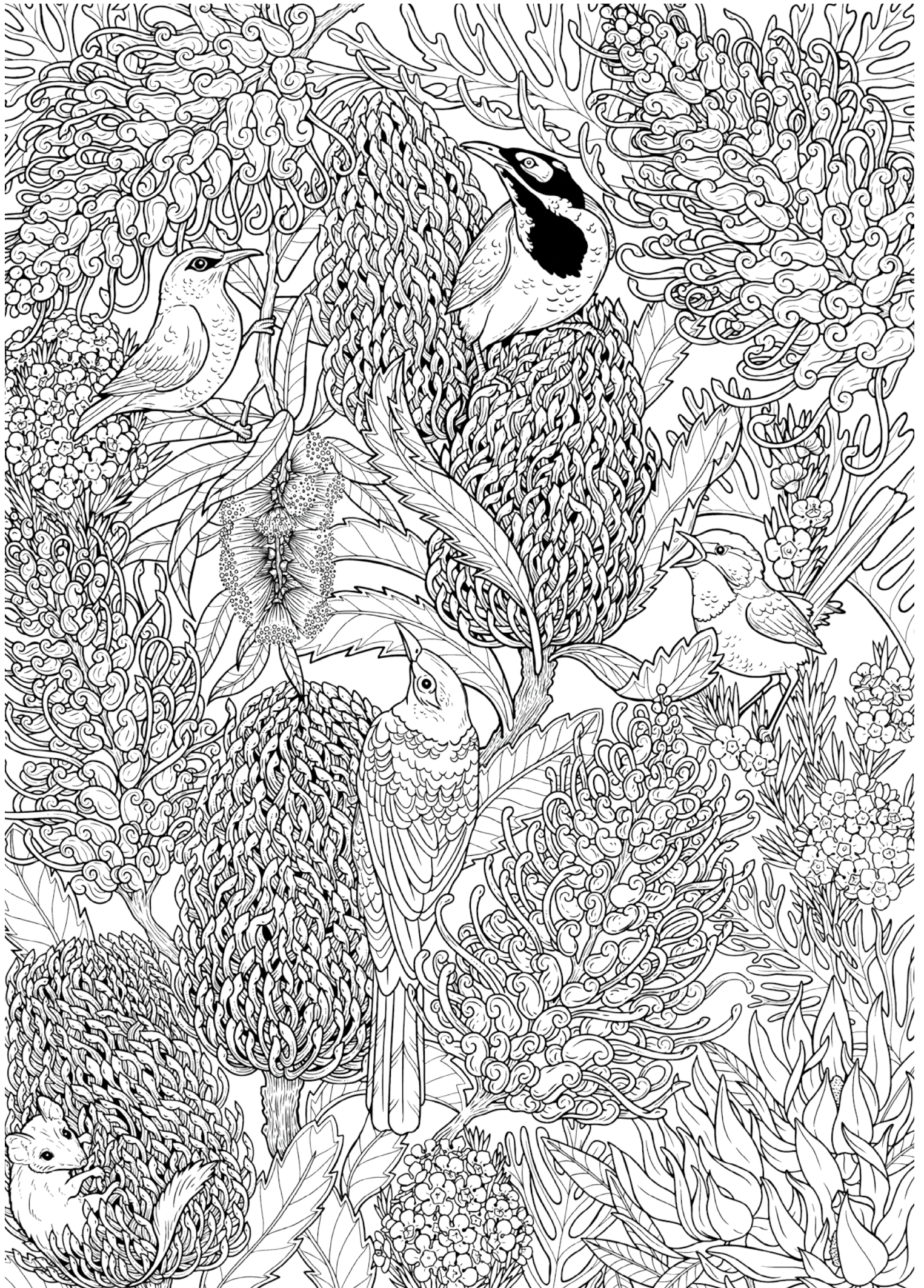


CARO LETTS

Name:

Age:

Please turn over for contact details



First Name

Surname

Age

Parents' Name

Contact Number

Upper Beaconsfield bird list

We asked our resident twitchers for a list of birds they had spotted over many years they have lived in Upper Beaconsfield. Here are the birds they have seen. Have you seen any birds locally that are not on this list yet? You can add yours to UBCG Facebook page, iNaturalist, Birdlife Australia App (during Aussie Backyard Bird Count bird week 16-22 October 2023), Atlas of Living Australia, or Victorian Biodiversity Atlas

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Black-cockatoo
Yellow-tailed | Firetail
Beautiful | Martin
Fairy |
| Boobook
Southern | Flycatcher
Satin | Miner
Bell |
| Bowerbird
Satin | Frogmouth
Tawny | Noisy |
| Bronze-cuckoo
Horsefield's
Shining | Galah | Mistletoebird |
| Bronzewing
Common | Goshawk
Brown | Needletail
White-throated |
| Butcherbird
Grey | Grebe
Australasian
Great crested | Oriole
Olive-backed |
| Button-quail
Painted | Heron
White-faced
White-necked | Owl
Barking
Powerful |
| Cockatoo
Gang-gang
Sulphur-crested | Honeyeater
Black-chinned
Brown-headed
Lewin's
New Holland
Scarlet
White-eared
White-naped
White-plumed
Yellow-faced | Pardalote
Spotted
Striated |
| Corella
Little | Ibis
White Australian
Straw-necked | King parrot
Australian |
| Cormorant
Little pied | Winter
Jacky | Pilotbird |
| Cuckoo
Fan-tailed | Kestrel
Nankeen | Pipit
Australasian (Richard's) |
| Cuckoo-shrike
Black-faced | Kingfisher
Sacred | Plover
Masked lapwing |
| Currawong
Pied | Kookaburra
Laughing | Rail
Buff-banded |
| Duck
Musk
Pacific black
Wood | Lorikeet
Musk
Rainbow | Raven
Australian |
| Eagle
Wedge-tailed | Lyrebird
Superb | Robin
Eastern yellow
Flame
Scarlet |
| Emu | Magpie
Australian | Rosella
Crimson
Eastern |
| Fairy-wren
Superb | Magpie-lark
Australian | Scrubwren
White-browed |
| Falcon
Brown
Peregrine | | Shelduck
Australian |
| Fantail
Grey
Rufous | | Shrike-thrush
Grey |
| Finch
Red-browed | | Shrike-tit
Eastern |
| | | Silvereye |
| | | Sittella
Varied |

Upper Beaconsfield birds continued

Sparrowhawk
Collared
Spinebill
Eastern
Swallow
Welcome
Swamphen
Purple
Swift
Fork-tailed
Thornbill
Brown
Striated

Thrush
Bassian
Trecreeper
Brown
White-throated
Wagtail
Willie
Wattlebird
Little
Red
Whistler
Golden
Olive
Rufous

Introduced species

Blackbird
Goldfinch
European
Myna
Common (Indian)
Pigeon
Feral
Sparrow
House
Turtle-dove
Spotted

Feeding native birds – yes or no?

It seems a great idea to feed birds. They get food and we get the pleasure of interacting with them. Sounds like a win-win. But there are compelling reasons to hold back. Birds are adapted to their environment and do not need any artificial feeding.

- Most birds eat seed, insects, fruit, nectar, or a combination of these, depending on the season. Feeding them the wrong food will cause health issues. As an example, many people feed magpies and kookaburras meat. The birds love it. But meat is low in calcium and high in phosphorus. This causes a mineral imbalance which will affect bone strength and growth, causing deformities and illness in young birds especially.
Bird digestive tracts do not cope with the excess fat, carbs and salt found in processed foods and bread. In damp conditions bread and seeds rot and become mouldy. A common environmental fungus is *Aspergillus*, which causes the fungal

disease aspergillosis. *Aspergillus* thrives on mouldy food. Birds ingest or breathe in the spores and the fungus gradually takes hold, damaging tissues in the respiratory tract and other organs. It is slow growing and fatal.

- Infectious disease can also be a problem when large numbers of birds feed together in a concentrated area. A diseased bird then has more opportunity to pass an infection on to all the others it is feeding with. Avian influenza and chlamydia are examples of this.
- Birds become dependent on our 'supplementary' feeding: it becomes their primary food source. They can lose the ability to find food for themselves, especially youngsters who may never learn how to forage or hunt for their natural food properly. What happens when we go on holiday, or sell the house?
- The artificially increased number of birds in close proximity can cause



- stress and aggression as everyone tries to get their share. In the wild, birds spread out and go about their foraging much more peacefully.
- Not only that, but because they are spending more time in one place feeding, there are increased opportunities for predators such as cats and foxes to strike.
- And it can change the balance of native birds. Some birds are better adapted at co-existing with humans than others. For instance, rainbow lorikeet numbers in Australia have exploded as has their range. But this means the shy scaly-breasted lorikeet numbers have decreased in urban areas.
- Finally, artificial feeding can increase the numbers of non-native birds, and rats and mice living at your place. Rodents also dine and thrive on the extra food. And this means their breeding opportunities and therefore numbers increase.

So, instead of feeding our feathered friends at the back door, grab the binoculars, go for a walk, and watch them do their thing in their own environment.

CARO LETTS



Vale George Moir (1929–2023) of ‘Barkala’

George Stephenson Moir passed away in his sleep on 8 March 2023. He had just turned 94 years old. He lived a full and active life, never missing the chance to care for and support others. He grew up in Ivanhoe, and studied chemical engineering at Melbourne University.

George and his wife Judy Moir moved to Upper Beaconsfield in 1977 after raising their family in Beaumaris.

For the duration of his time in our village, George was well known for recording the rainfall figures that were published for many years in the Village Bell. Judy and George were also involved in printing the Village Bell, housing the old gestetner printing machine, with its noise, and ink scattering habits, in a spare bedroom.

In 1995 Judy and George were awarded Citizens of the Year of Upper Beaconsfield, for their contribution to our community.

After Judy's death in 2002, George lived alone at Barkala. In August 2018 he left Upper Beaconsfield to be nearer to his family.

History of Barkala

Barkala was part of Arthur Knight's selection, allotment 66 in the Parish of Pakenham, which covered the land on the left hand side of St Georges Road, including the land between Emerald Road and McBride Road. A few lots were sold off early, but the main subdivision was completed in 1895, probably by the Commercial Bank. They had acquired the land through a defaulted mortgage. The dire economic situation during the 1890s meant that there was little interest in buying property, so these lots sold slowly.

Lot 9, a 15-acre property, (now 15 Beaconsfield-Emerald Road), was sold on 14 September 1912 to James Ramage and James Joseph Ahern, both employees of the Shire of Pakenham. Ramage was Clerk of Works for many years and Ahern the Shire Secretary, then taking on



some of Ramage's duties after Ramage's retirement. The property was rated for a net annual value (NAV) of £10 in the first year, and £16 the following year.

The 1914 rates were paid by Emily Josephine Martin, the wife of Frederick Charles Martin. His brother, George Wilson Martin, had substantial landholdings in Upper Beaconsfield. The transfer into Frederick's name was only registered on 29 August 1917, but it is likely that the Martins built their house, named 'Alston', before that date. At least two other properties belonging to Frederick

Martin carried the name 'Alston'. It was a peculiar custom for people to name their holiday house the same as their Melbourne residence. The Martins paid rates for this property for about nine years, and when it was sold in December 1924, the Argus newspaper reported that 'Alston' had been sold on behalf of Frederick Martin to Mr Collie.

On 23 February 1925 the title was transferred to Asprey James Collie, an electrical engineer. Not much is known about the Collies, but they never registered their address as Upper Beaconsfield, so it can be assumed that they used 'Alston' as a weekend residence.

By 1928 Mabel Lilian Mortagne was residing on the property, but Mr Collie still paid the rates until 1931. From August 1932, Ms Mortagne was the registered owner.

She was married to a French woolbuyer in 1893, but they divorced in 1902. It was not until 1931 that Mabel realised that she had been stripped of her

Australian nationality, common for women marrying foreigners. As she was then planning a trip to England via Canada, she needed to apply for naturalisation, which was granted.

According to the Berwick Shire rate book, Helena Barnes, wife of Reginald Barnes, of Albury, was paying rates from 10 October 1933. A caveat on the title was lodged on 16 November 1933, but the property was not formally transferred to her until 23 September 1938. Between 1934 and 1949 the Barnes' address was listed as 'Alston' in the rate book and on electoral rolls. Reginald Barnes was now retired, and Helena's occupation was home duties.

On 21 November 1949 'Alston' was sold to William Howard Hull, electrical engineer, and his wife Dorothy Emma, who came from Caulfield – reportedly for a price of £3,000. By 1950 the Hulls had changed the name of the property to 'Barkala'.

It was common during those days to find a nice-sounding Aboriginal name for a property, and lists appeared in newspapers. The Adelaide Advertiser published such a list on 19 November 1954, and 'barkala' was listed with the meaning 'shade made by bush'. The Argus on 4 September 1946 gave the explanation as 'bush shades'.

William Hull died in 1955. Their daughter Dorothy Faye married John David Morrison, who together with his mother and brother owned a property in Albers Road, later owned by the Vassies and the Timmins'. Dorothy Hull stayed at Barkala until her death in 1963, then her daughter sold the property to James and Mary Elizabeth Leishman in 1964 for £4,600.

The Leishmans appear to have made alterations to the property by adding a veranda around the perimeter of the original house, and called it Hillhead Lodge. The annual value was increased

to £156. James Leishman was also an engineer, born in Scotland, who migrated with his family to Australia when he was eight years old.

According to George Moir, the property was leased to someone during the last few years of the Leishman's ownership. George and his wife Judy bought it in May 1977. They reverted the property's name back to 'Barkala'.



MARIANNE ROCKE

Manage your lung health



Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is an umbrella term for group of progressive conditions that cause narrowing of the bronchial tubes in the lung where air is trapped and causes difficulty in breathing. Due to its chronic nature, this condition is usually permanent or irreversible. According to WHO data, COPD is the 3rd leading causes of death worldwide and 7th leading cause of poor health worldwide. These include:

- Chronic bronchitis
- Bronchiectasis
- Emphysema
- Some cases of chronic asthma

COPD is a common condition affecting both men and women. According to Lung Foundation Australia, around 1 in 7 Australians aged 40 and over have some form of COPD. There are substantial number of people who are undiagnosed. Indigenous Australians are 2.5 times more likely to have COPD than non-indigenous Australians.

Causes of COPD

Several processes cause the airways to narrow and lead to COPD. There may be destruction of parts of the

lung, mucus blocking the airways, and inflammation and swelling of the airway lining.

1. Smoking is the biggest cause of COPD, from active smoking or passive exposure to secondhand smoke. Even vaping coats lungs with potentially harmful chemicals and causes inflammatory response.
2. Air pollution. Indoor and outdoor pollution due to biomass fuel or wood burning used for cooking or heating.
3. Severe asthma in childhood, prematurity, and recurrent childhood infections, plus adult asthma sufferers as well.
4. Inherited deficiency of alpha 1 antitrypsin enzyme.
5. Occupational exposure to chemicals like coal dust and cadmium. The risk is significantly increased with people who are smoking.

Symptoms of COPD

The first symptoms of COPD appear very slowly, and people often mistake it for signs of ageing and lack of fitness or asthma. Initial symptoms may be being short of breath or coughing with

or without phlegm in the morning. The symptoms may be intermittent and not present every day.

As the condition progresses, it can start to impact activities of daily living like gardening, hanging out washing or carrying groceries. Common symptoms are breathlessness/difficulty breathing, chronic cough (sometimes with phlegm), feeling tired, more frequent chest infections, and taking longer to recover from cold or infections.

Diagnosis of COPD

Early diagnosis and management of COPD helps in reducing progression of the disease, improving quality of life, and preventing hospital admissions. Your GP may request following investigations:

- Lung function test to confirm the diagnosis of COPD. It checks how well the lungs are working.
- Chest Xray
- CT scan of chest
- Blood test to check for other conditions, genetic enzyme deficiency.

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UpperBeaconsfield PHARMACY

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Thursday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Friday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Saturday 9.00 am – 2 pm

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Management of COPD

COPD is not curable but early diagnosis and management is imperative in slowing the progression of the condition, improve how you feel and preventing flare ups.

Quitting smoking or vaping is the most important intervention for people who smoke as it prevents further injury to lungs. It is important to have a QUIT plan. Support is available with QITLINE, your GP and other support groups. There are different options like counselling, pharmacotherapy, nicotine replacement therapy and other adjuncts like hypnotherapy.

To manage COPD, eat a healthy and nutritious diet, stay within healthy weight range and be physically active. Get enough rest and good quality of sleep. Relaxation techniques help in breathing and reduce stress.

Stay up to date with influenza, pneumonia, and Covid 19 vaccinations to prevent severe infections and flare up of COPD.

Being part of support groups helps you connect with people with similar condition and discuss experiences to help manage better.

Pulmonary rehabilitation is an exercise and education program designed to teach skills for exercising safely, manage breathlessness and stay well. Trained health professionals deliver it.

Medical management

Pharmacological treatment helps in managing the symptoms of COPD. Inhalers help in opening your airways or relaxing your muscles around the airways to make breathing easier. There are relievers which help in quick relief of symptoms. Preventers help in long term control of symptoms and flare ups. It is important to check your inhaler technique with a trained professional or sometimes using a spacer device to help improve the delivery of medications to the lungs.

Oxygen therapy may be needed for severe breathlessness and low oxygen levels. Surgery may improve symptoms in severe COPD.

Respiratory infections often cause flare ups. Management of infections may require oral antibiotics and sometimes oral steroids. Sometimes patients who have a severe flare up may need hospital admissions for IV antibiotics and more support.

COPD affects people world-wide and has significant impact on the quality of life. World Health Organisation states that smoking cessation is essential for primary prevention of COPD and for disease management. It is essential to be up to date with your vaccinations to prevent flare ups, use the correct inhalers, and use techniques to improve wellbeing and reduce worsening of symptoms. Please speak to your GP if you need more information.

DR ANSHU MALHOTRA
DR PUNEET MALHOTRA
UPPER BEACONSFIELD GP PRACTICE
9044 0750

Vehicle accidents involving animals

During a recent holiday in central USA, driving through multiple states between Oklahoma and Georgia, we were advised a couple of times to

watch out for deer on the roads. We saw on average one per week near or on the road. There seemed to be plenty around and, on checking the number, there are 35-36 million of them!



Deer warning sign, New Jersey, USA
Famartin, CC BY-SA 4.0 <creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

Out of interest I checked vehicle accident figures tallied by the US insurance industry for the 2021-22 year and the quoted figures were between 1.5-2.1 million vehicle accidents with animals, for a cost of US\$10 billion and the death of 440 people. Two thirds of those accidents involved deer, so that equates to 1-1.4 million vehicle accidents per year with deer, with an average accident repair cost of approx. US\$5,500! It made me wonder what the numbers are for us.

I went looking for insurance industry figures but was only able to find pieces of the whole picture. AAMI data indicates that of nearly 10,000 vehicle accidents with animals Australia wide for the 2021-22 year, 152 or 1.6% were with deer. The animals involved in order were kangaroo, wallaby, 'other', wombat, dog, deer, cow, emu and fox. Kangaroo and wallabies totalled 87% of



accidents which isn't surprising as they effectively sit in the similar environmental niche that white tailed deer do in the US. Night, dawn and dusk were the highest times of day for animal accidents, and monthly numbers were highest between June and August, probably because of shorter days. Based on AAMI's market share of vehicle insurance, we could roughly estimate that the number of deer related accidents would be between 500-1000 Australia wide per year.

In June 2022 the Invasive Species Council engaged Frontier Economics to compile a report on the impact of deer. The report is called "Counting the doe: an analysis of the economic, social & environmental cost of feral deer in Victoria". The report identified and where possible, evaluated the economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts on society of failing to manage feral deer to an ecologically sustainably level. Vehicle accidents with deer form one part of the report.

The report looked at the RACV data for 2015 in Victoria and found of more than 75,000 claims, 1 in 14 were accidents involving animals. The ratios were similar to the AAMI figures (above) with 82% involving kangaroos and 1.2% involving deer (87 out of 5443). Estimates of an increase in deer numbers suggests between 145 and 345 deer related accidents per year in Victoria by 2050. The higher value would equate to a cost of between \$580 m and \$820 m over the next 30 years.

According to ATAP (Australian Transport Assessment and Planning), the cost of vehicle repair for feral deer-related accidents was significantly larger than for a kangaroo due to its size – \$30,000 compared with \$2,000 to \$4,000. These estimates include both the human cost (e.g. injuries) and the financial cost of crashes, including costs to repair the damaged vehicle, of time associated with any resulting

delays, costs of injuries to drivers and passengers and costs to families and friends of victims of accidents associated with caring.

It is useful to collate local data so we can have a better understanding of the impact in our own backyard. One source is from our local wildlife rescue group that records animal collision data (not just deer) in the Upper Beaconsfield and Pakenham Upper valleys.

Their project is contributing data to the Atlas of Living Australia. Search for their website using “Wildlife Road Tolls – Upper Beaconsfield Wildlife Watch”. Since mid 2019 there have been 19 vehicle accidents with deer verified and recorded in our area. The real figure could be higher, because people aren’t aware of the group’s activities, or the animal is not fatally injured and thus there isn’t evidence of the crash for volunteers to note.

The DeerScan app we have referred to previously for recording deer sightings and property damage, also includes an option to record vehicle accidents under the ‘deer damage’ section. Please note any accidents in the app so that we can build up a picture in our local environment.

To date we don’t have useful statistics on numbers of people injured and requiring medical treatment from deer-related accidents. This data is tied into the medical and hospital systems and will need further research. We do know that there has only been one recorded death (in NSW) from an accident with deer in Australia. With winter months approaching, and thus increased risk during this period, take care out there on the roads.

DES LAVERY

INFO@CARDINIADDEER.ORG.AU

Brad Battin MP: celebrating community

I was fortunate to see the Fire Storm display, which was a project undertaken by the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade. The display was a commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of Ash Wednesday, sharing never before seen photos and remnants from the aftermath of the ‘firestorm.’ It was a moving and reflective exhibition and I thank Captain Ian Pinney and his team for putting this incredible exhibition together. It was great to catch up with many familiar faces from the time of the fires, including Frank and Eva Sansom, who owned the Pine Grove Hotel. It was pleasing to see that the exhibition also went on to be displayed

at the Cardinia Cultural Centre. The Upper Beaconsfield community is a true representation of what happens when a community works together. I had the honour of being able to hand out medals at the recent Village Festival held in February. There was a great turn out of people who ran in the tower run event and supported the festival in other ways, with booths and fun activities for the community. The local tennis club had a ‘come and play’ day – well attended by those who wished to give tennis a go in a supportive environment.

Anzac Day at Pine Grove was a special event for the community held in honour

of our veterans. Thank you to the organisers and the many volunteers who put in much time and passion to run these events, which help to build and strengthen our community. I am thankful to be a part of it. As I write this article, we still do not have an office in the Berwick electorate due to the Parliament of Victoria failing on a few occasions with possible sites. You can keep up to date on our social media, and there will continue to be some mobile office dates where you can meet me for a chat and support.

BRAD BATTIN MP, BERWICK

Council report – Cr Brett Owen

Neighbourhood House Week

Neighbourhood House Week took place in May. This year’s theme was ‘Locals connecting locals’ and it was a good time to visit your local neighbourhood house and discover the range of activities available. We are fortunate to have eight neighbourhood houses in Cardinia Shire, including our local Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre.

Other community centres in Cardinia include Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre, Cockatoo Community House,

Emerald Community House, Lang Lang Community Centre, Living Learning Pakenham, Moy-Yan Neighbourhood House (formerly Bunyip and District Community House), and Outlook Community Centre.

Neighbourhood houses are the heart of our communities. They bring people together to connect, learn and contribute to their local community through social, educational, recreational and support activities.

We would like to thank all our

neighbourhood houses for all the splendid work they do in our community!

To find out more visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodhouses.

2023 Cardinia Community Leadership Program

Applications are now open for the 2023 Cardinia Community Leadership Program.

This fully funded program provides participants with an opportunity

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to build or enhance their leadership skills and networks, and learn from a host of guest speakers, local leaders, and program alumni. This program covers topics to help participants build their capacity as leaders within their local neighbourhoods, groups, or organisations.

If you are someone who guides, motivates, and inspires others, keeps a team together and united in working towards a common goal, or aspires to do this in the future, then this program is for you. We encourage residents to apply for this incredible opportunity.

The course runs from July to December 2023 and is designed to prepare participants for success in their community leadership roles.

The program encompasses learning through a diverse range of methods, so that participants can learn more about themselves, others, and their community in their pursuit to lead more effectively.

There are 22 places available in the 2023 program. To be eligible, applicants must be:

- a Cardinia Shire Council resident
- 18 years or over
- already involved in the local community
- able to attend all program sessions

Applications close at 5 pm, Sunday 4 June. Applicants should review the information available on the Cardinia Council website, including the FAQs, to ensure they are eligible and able to commit to the program requirements.

For more information and to apply, visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/leadershipprogram



**Free green waste drop-off
for Cardinia Shire residents**
Pakenham
Future Recycling Transfer Station,
30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham
Friday 21 – Monday 24 July 2023
9 am – 4 pm

Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Pavilion project

Cardinia Council has been continuing to work with the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and user groups to progress new community facilities at the reserve. The council has allocated funding for the project in the draft budget which is now on public exhibition.

Green waste drop off

Throughout the year, council holds free green waste drop off days for Cardinia Shire residents. The next drop offs are in May and July. Green waste can be dropped off by residential vehicles and trailers only. Commercial business operators cannot use the service. You need to bring Photo ID that shows your home address in Cardinia Shire.

The green waste is shredded and taken to a composting facility. It is then broken down and turned into high-quality soil conditioner to help grow food and gardens in Victoria. For more information, please search for waste drop-off days on the council website.

CR BRETT OWEN

Rambling on

Why bother with winter walking?
Brrrrr! Cold! Wet! Muddy!

Let's re-think that. Winter walking ... exhilarating fresh air sparkling in the nose like champagne ... getting the blood circulating and feeling cosy despite the temperature ... watching the sleeping trees and shrubs come to life with growing leaf and flower buds ... catching a glimpse of the birds that only visit UB from the high country during winter, such as Scarlet Robins ... having a reason to dig out and use that expensive wet weather gear ... walking off all those extra hot chocolates.

There are lots of walks where you need not slop through any mud at all (or not much). An easy village circuit is Stoney Creek Road to Sutherland Road and then through the reserve to Paul Grove and back to the village. A longer walk goes down St Georges Road to Critchley Parker Reserve past the Ash Wednesday Memorial to the gate on the right leading to the top of High Street then down all the way to Beaconsfield-Emerald Road. Fifty metres to the left is Barnes Drive and



there you are at the bottom of the Critchley Parker Reserve again with a real 'aerobic hill' waiting for you to tackle!

Other options include along Stoney Creek Road, around the oval and reserve tracks; or up Salisbury Road to Split Rock Road, to McKenzie Road to the water tower and down the other

side and back along Sugarloaf Road and around Harris Reserve – that's a good long one! Another long one is down McBride Road to Quamby Road to the bottom then left back up Telegraph Road or right and through Guys Hill to High Street or Barnes Drive. And, for really blowing the cobwebs away, walk along the Cardinia Reservoir wall in the wind and watch the waves lapping the shores, then into the forest for the circuit walk of the reservoir park back to the carparks. One of my favourites is not a circuit walk, but it is really lovely. Walk down Brennan Avenue to the reserve, then down to the creek-side track to the ford and back. That stretch of forest is really special!

The aqueduct trails are another great spot. The eastward one can be turned into a loop by going up through the forest path to Bathe Road to Thewlis Road then return from the far end of the aqueduct. A bonus here is that you get to see wildflowers as they come out over June to September – all sorts of tiny lilies, orchids, pea-flowers and wattles to brighten up the grey/green forest. Happy winter walking!

ROSZ SMITH

Prepare yourselves for emergencies

Village Bell readers are encouraged to review the online updated Emergency Management Plans on the Cardinia Council website. These comprehensive plans provide guidelines for community members and complement both the Upper Beaconsfield Bushfire and Biodiversity Tool and Cardinia Shire's online program Bushfire Prepare.

Together, these valuable community guides help inform residents on how to make their own decisions in preparing themselves and their properties for a range of potential emergencies. Please make your neighbours aware of these plans.

The updated plans cover:

- Dam safety
- Emergency animal welfare
- Emergency management
- Fire management
- Flood and storm emergencies
- Heat health plan

Further sub-plans are currently under review, notably the relief and recovery plan, and will be released later this year.

Cardinia Shire's Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) meets quarterly with meetings alternating between being online and on-site at the Cardinia

Shire offices in Officer. The MEMPC membership draws on a wide cross section of emergency management agencies at the state and shire levels and includes two community members. High attendance rates of members and robust, constructive, informed, and forward-thinking discussions characterise the operations of the MEMPC. Over a series of meetings last year, the MEMPC reviewed several emergency management plans which have now been approved and released publicly.

Four other notable topics on the MEMPC's agenda are: a review of human generated fires in the designated fire season; observations relating to the CFA's Community Fireguard Program; provision of psychological first aid and mental health first aid programs for community groups within the shire; a range of training exercises across the shire; and, considering a new person-centric emergency preparedness resource which has a focus on diversity.

The next meeting of the MEMPC

will take place in early June. If you would like further information or would like to submit an item for the next agenda please email me at francis.archer@monash.edu

FRANK ARCHER



Upper Beaconsfield Bushfire and Biodiversity Tool

Email: upperbeacstorymap@gmail.com

Website:
bit.ly/3CF69vd



Emma Vulin MP: our bushland environment

Is it just me or have the last few months flown by? School holidays and Easter have been a welcome break for many, and the autumn weather was close to perfect, particularly up here in our hills.

One of my favourite things about Upper Beaconsfield is being able to enjoy the bushland environment and still be so close 'to town'! The pandemic has only highlighted the importance of our state's parks and green open spaces, and the upgrades needed to ensure they remain safe places for people to visit. There is such a rich diversity of flora and fauna and some beautiful natural spaces at your doorstep, not least the Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve.

There have been questions about the future of the Reserve. Many of you in the immediate vicinity of the reserve will have received the Melbourne Water April community bulletin. This outlines the planned actions to improve the environmental values of the Reserve including ecological

impact assessments, establishment of enhanced wetland zones, seed collection, targeted and seasonal fauna surveys, a fire plan, intensive deer control, woody weed control and several other measures to minimise risk to indigenous flora and fauna and bolster biodiversity. Keep a look out for the regular updates on the works to the dam wall and a gradual lowering of the water level.

The reserve will continue to be managed by the Cardinia Environment Coalition (CEC), a volunteer group who do a terrific job. I am pleased to be able to work with the CEC and Melbourne Water to keep up to date on the works and actions.

If you missed the Melbourne Water bulletin, and would like further information about the works, please head to melbournewater.com.au/services/projects/beaconsfield-dam-safety-upgrade-project or contact my office.

The community of Upper Beaconsfield

is very special. Through tough times and fun times, the community spirit always shines through. The turn out for this year's annual Anzac Day service is testament to this. I've been attending the Anzac Day service for many years now, some of them as a CFA volunteer, some as a local but this year, I was proud to be able to lay a wreath as your new Member of Parliament and was honoured to plant the cross of the Unknown Warrior. It was a heartfelt service – thank you Eric Chaplin – and a beautiful day for acknowledging and reflecting on those who have served in our defence forces, those serving today and their family and friends for their love and unwavering support. Lest We Forget.

Also, don't forget to apply for your \$250 power saving bonus at compare.energy.vic.gov.au or contact my office for assistance.

EMMA VULIN MP, PAKENHAM
EMMA.VULIN@PARLIAMENT.VIC.GOV.AU
9651 82 54

Men's Shed report

This quarter we have worked on small and larger projects for ourselves and the community. Quite a few small metal-work jobs were completed. Some members have grown vegetables and distributed them, some have brewed a special Shed beer which, of course, we had to taste test. Those who attended the Village Festival in February may remember the trophies and medallion awarded to the runners. The Shed made all of them out of recycled materials. Remember the free pancakes in the park? That was us. We have continued selling hiking poles, and they are going well. They can be purchased at the General Store. We also continue to sizzle up a few snags and sell them at Bunnings and Coles.

At the owner's request, we have been cleaning out a home shed that belonged to a local identity. We don't think he ever threw anything out.



There were some very interesting items there. We have also been moving on unwanted equipment – sometimes free – sometimes unbelievably cheap.

We had a request to construct a bin and some seats for the Kinder. We could have thrown a couple of planks together and nailed up the pieces, or we could challenge ourselves – which we did. With the bin we decided to join it up using the long-forgotten art of finger jointing. For the seats, a member donated some seats that he had made 40 years ago. They were cleaned,

sanded, cut to size, and painted. Recycling at its best!



This is what our shed is about – grabbing small and large challenges, learning how to do things and sharing a joke and a coffee. You don't have to be a gifted tradesman or artisan, just someone who enjoys a chat and a challenge. You could surprise your partner by making a unique gift.

All men are welcome (it is a Men's Shed), and if you want to try before you join, just call in for a coffee (Wednesday 10-noon). We are looking for new members. The Shed is open from 9-4 Tuesdays, 9-3 Wednesdays, Thursdays on request. Come up on Wednesday morning, when 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). We are in Halford Street; parking in RSL carpark. We observe Covid rules that apply.

Contact secretary 0414 443 735, or secubms@gmail.com for more info.

facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldMensShed/

NOEL LING

Treasures from St John's Op Shop

The fun thing about op shop work is never knowing what is going to turn up in donated goods and also never knowing from day to day what shoppers are looking for. "Variety is the spice of life" is never more apt!

Donated goods – our little shop can only accept items that will fit on a shelf. Large furniture and toys should go elsewhere. We are also unable to sell second-hand electrical items (those that have a power plug) due to the



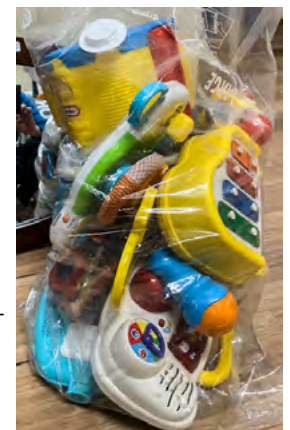
legal Test'n'Tag requirement – a cost too high for us (though brand new boxed items are OK). Ditto large baby furniture and car seats – laws prohibit the re-sale of most used ones.

Naturally, all items should be clean and in good repair: if your suitcase zip is broken, please use your hard rubbish service for its disposal!

What sells best?

It depends on the day but we can turn over clothes, shoes, jewellery, hats, handbags and luggage, kitchenware and small sports, camping and outdoor accessories (not tents). Also popular are craft items – (search out all your spare left-over wool-balls for us: we have ladies hunting for them), stationery, giftware, ornaments, books, DVD and CDs, party and picnic ware, wall art, jigsaws, board games, dolls and toys. Staff – our hardworking teams carry in, sort out, tidy up, price, shelve up, tidy up, re-stock, discard, and did I mention tidy up? We all enjoy the sense of purpose, the community interaction and the camaraderie we get from op shop work. The reduce/reuse/recycle philosophy is strong with us all.

We are glad to be able to give in-kind assistance to other organisations like wildlife carers and lost-pet homes, mother-and-child charities and overseas children's missions. We are also thrilled to be now in a position to be giving a proportion of our income to local organisations, as well as supporting the upkeep of St John's.



We are looking forward to seeing you!

**ST JOHN'S OP SHOP
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY TEAMS**

Tall or small, we all play basketball!

Splash Basketball Club

Hi, my name is Zak and I play for Splash. I have played for three seasons now and I have just started under 14s. We train at B.U.P.S stadium once a week and during those sessions we do the following – passing, shooting, rebounding, dribbling and always have a friendly game at the end. Along my journey I have made friends with everybody on my team, it is a lot of fun getting to meet new people. I felt a little nervous during my first game but I felt amazing afterwards.

If you are looking to join a basketball team I would definitely recommend Splash. We are currently playing winter season, which runs in Terms 2 and 3. Games are held at two stadiums, one

in Pakenham and one in Officer, but you generally play the majority of games at one stadium. If you want to find out more about the club search Splash Basketball Club Upper Beaconsfield or go to upperbeacsplash.com.au. If you want to ask a coach in person just drive up to Over the Road and find JD and have a chat to him, my amazing coach!

ZAK MEHLA, 12 YEARS OLD



Ready2Ride – pony club’s new program

Upper Beaconsfield Horse and Pony Club



Is your child begging you to join Pony Club? Do you feel it's time for them to start formal lessons? If so, we have the perfect solution with Pony Club Victoria's new program, Ready2Ride.

Aimed at younger children starting out, it's the perfect way for new riders to build confidence in a fun and supportive way. And, as it's only a half-day session, it's particularly good for

little ones who may find a whole day exhausting.

We love seeing members grow and develop their skills and we're looking forward to welcoming a new generation of riders into our club through this program. If you would like to know more, please contact us through our Facebook page, or email our membership officer memberships@subpc@gmail.com.

One rider who we've enjoyed seeing flourish over the years is Avril Charman. Avril recently placed in the PCV State Horse Trials Championship at Balnarring in Grade 1, riding Hebrides. She also qualified on a second horse, Annabella, finishing the event with one of only three clear show jumping rounds. This was a huge achievement in itself and we wish her the very best for the remainder of the year. She's certainly a great role model for our younger riders.

We of course thank and congratulate all our members for getting out and about and representing the club with pride. Riding is a tough sport and competitions add another element of education for both horses and riders. It takes dedication and

commitment – especially when the weather is far from perfect!

The heavens certainly opened at the April rally, and it was impressive that everyone who could come, did so - despite the drenching rain. Perhaps it was the delicious lunch served by the canteen that kept everyone going (the homemade curry was amazing) but we are hoping for kinder conditions in the future.

Don't forget

Our club offers Come and Try days and has vacancies in all levels. So, if you are curious about our club, please feel free to come along and experience what we have to offer. Email memberships@subpc@gmail.com for details.

JESSICA MARRINER



Sudoku solution from page 12

2	4	1	5	8	3	6	7	9
3	8	6	9	4	7	1	5	2
9	7	5	2	1	6	4	3	8
4	5	3	6	9	8	7	2	1
7	6	8	3	2	1	9	4	5
1	2	9	7	5	4	3	8	6
5	9	7	4	6	2	8	1	3
6	1	4	8	3	5	2	9	7
8	3	2	1	7	9	5	6	4

Riding for enjoyment

How blessed are we to be living in Upper Beaconsfield where we are zoned 'rural' and enjoy so many rural things within 10 km of busy suburbia! One of the wonderful things about our village is that people can still ride horses along roads and tracks – surely one of the few places in the world where this can still be enjoyed. The human being was designed to travel through the world at foot-pace, not ripping past it at 100 kph. Footpace enables you to 'be' in the moment, to absorb the sights, smells, sounds, temperature, light and shade patterns, to see the tracks and



movements of wildlife and to hear the birds and insects. Horseback riding enables this as the horse is the one watching where his feet go.

Love of horses is either 'in your blood' or it is not. Ditto love of dogs, cricket, gardening, bicycling or musicianship. Different talents for different things create a community. Accepting that other people have talents and joys not shared by ourselves, is part of being in a family and in a community. Making space to enable people to be outdoors and active is part of being a community. Not all of us use the oval,

but we are glad to support its existence for those who do. Not all of us ride bicycles up Guys Hill, but we are glad to give way to (and cheer on in our minds) those heroes who do. Not all of us love gardening, but we are glad to look at the gardens and parklands of those who do. And not all of us ride horses on our roads and tracks, but seeing this is another activity that gives a lot of pleasure to many. So when you see people out on their horses, slow down, 'be' in the moment, smile to yourself and take pleasure in it.



ROSZ SMITH

Scouts – adventures and challenges

1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout group

2023 has seen many new members join the 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group. Many enthusiastic young people and parents have walked into the 'Igloo' for the first time, a little nervous, as is natural with any new activity ... and they have left with excitement for future sessions and an understanding of what 'scouting' is all about.

Beginning scouting is different to any other pastime or hobby. If you start a sport, you know what to expect. If you learn an instrument, you have a clear goal, but scouting isn't so clear-cut! It is common for us to be asked "what do you do?" It is a fair question! Yes, we go camping and go on awesome adventures. Yes, we go rock climbing, abseiling, and canoeing. But we also play games, learn knots, build and conquer obstacles, have fun alongside peers whom we might not otherwise meet, go on city adventures, host cooking competitions with scouts from all over Cardinia ... the truth is, the sky is the limit! Literally! Yes, you can even learn to fly a plane! If a youth member wants to make it happen, we find a way. It may involve goal setting, planning and budgeting, but that's life, right?

Here is what our sections have been up to. The Joeys and Cub Scouts had a big term investing seven new youth members and two new leaders.

The Scout section has been working on their planning skills, so they have been running their own section nights which could involve anything from paper plane making, music, to a relay cooking night.

They recently participated in a district camp that saw 30 scouts from Cardinia head out to the Avalon Airshow and, boy, did they have a blast! This term we will be heading into the city with the district scouts and doing an 'amazing race' style camp.

Over the past month the Rovers have been very busy building their new race buggy 'Another Bad Decision'. They took it to Bagshot Bash at the end of April and competed against other units where they came second overall!

This term the program has a creative focus with lots of surprise nights planned as well as trivia, tennis, and card games!

As a group we are finding that all sections are enjoying getting together, whether it be for our participation in the Upper Beaconsfield Anzac service or camps. The group recently went to Gilwell Park where they worked on bushwalking skills, campfire cooking, archery and even did a high ropes



course. We are certain there were many tired youth members afterwards, but guess what? We have another group camp planned in July and we are going to the SNOW!

If you have a goal and don't know how to get there ... consider joining Scouts. Both youth and adults can find membership, growth and fun within scouting. If your youth is interested, get in touch. If you are interested, jump up and down and send us a message on our Facebook page! Adult support and new leaders are always welcome too. All sections of our group meet at the Igloo, Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve: Joeys (6-8 years) – Monday 6.30 to 7.30 pm, Cubs (8-11 years) – Monday 6.30 to 8 pm, Scouts (11-15 years) – Tuesday 7 to 9 pm, Venturers (15-18 years) – Monday 7.30 to 9.30 pm and Rovers (18-25 years) – Tuesday 7.30 to 9.30 pm.

If you have not already liked our Facebook page, please jump on over and have a look at all the amazing things our group has been doing! facebook.com/1stupperbeaconsfield

BONNIE BEARD

Upper Beac Cricket Club

David Harris (UBCC Coach 2023) has been re-appointed for the forthcoming season following a quite successful season in 2022/23.



The club is welcoming back some past players who are returning to resume their Maroon experience. A number of up and coming young cricketers will make a big difference to the depth of our top teams. Expansion and improvement will be the theme of all teams at all levels. We look forward to a large group of volunteers accepting the challenge to share the load in organising cricket for their youngsters and families.

ROB HANSEN

Right: Rob Hansen, President, Casey Cardinia Cricket Association (CCCA) presenting Zack Westerveld his trophy for the best batting in the CCCA U12s



News from the court

After a great summer season, the weather has once again played havoc with the early rounds of the winter season. We had a very successful summer season with four out of five teams making it into the semi-finals and three (sections 3, 8, and 11) out of four teams taking part in the grand finals. With section 3 rubbers (Hayden and Callum) going on to win the grand final! Congratulations to all players and a massive thankyou to all the parents who were up early on Saturday and Sunday mornings to support the teams and players throughout the season.

We had a very special award for one of our junior members as part of the winter season. The BDTA presented Hunter with the Barry Palmer Award for the boy with the best win/loss performance in the winter season. This is the best performance record among all players and sections in the whole of BDTA juniors. Well done Hunter!

During the Easter break UBTC was, as

right: Tennis ladies in 1914

always, very well represented at the Yarrowonga Tennis Tournament. This is a huge event with over 1000 entries. This year the singles events had to be cancelled as we experienced a big storm during the day. With rivers running through campsites, damaged tents and gazebos and hail still on the ground hours later, it was quite an experience! Despite the weather, everyone had a great time and represented the club with much enthusiasm.

Tennis in Upper Beac has a very long history.

There are records of tennis events in Upper Beac from the 1890s and we are very lucky to have minutes from tennis



club meetings from over 100 years ago. We also have tracked past winners in interclub competitions from the early days of the club when it was located behind the hall and also after the move to the current location.

Unsurprisingly, long time UBTC families like Jackson, Durkin, McCormick, and Bellgrove dominated that list. We have paper versions of club championship draws and player lists from teams in the 90s and 2000s. However, with the move to digital records some of these historical items are not being kept or are being lost when people upgrade to new devices.

We have established UBTCarchive@gmail.com as a central location for anything UBTC related to be collected and stored. If you have any photos,

articles, cuttings, or anything else of interest, could please send them the above email address. If you have only hard copies but would like to contribute them, please let us know (upperbeaconsfieldTC@gmail.com) and we will find a way to make sure that they are added to the archives. Through these efforts, hopefully, someone 100 years from now will continue to be able to track the club's history.

NICHOLAS GAMBLE



Major events at Cardinia Beaconhills



It has been busy at Cardinia Beaconhills Golf Links with several major events run and won. Craig Perkins is now back-to-back club champion winning this year's event by two shots over Brian Meneilly after 72 holes. Suzanne van Strien took out the women's club championship defeating a fast-finishing Laura Griffin by two shots. Winners of the other grades were B Grade – Zelan Timmins and Sharon Lowden, C Grade – Kev Wells, and D Grade – Adrian Dearden.



Club Champions: Craig Perkins and Suzanne van Strien

The BJ Balcombe Matchplay has also been completed with Andrew Harris our A grade champion, Ivan Furyk B grade and Travis Edwards C grade.

Heather Hamilton has recently won the Dawn Shaw Matchplay defeating Sharon Lowden in the final.

Our men's and women's pennant teams also represented the club in division 1 of the Golf Peninsula Victoria district. It was the first time women's pennant had been held on a Sunday (normally a weekday) after a big push by the club led by Jenny Chandler to move women's pennant to a Sunday to give all women

the opportunity to participate. Cardinia Beaconhills was the first club to host men's and women's pennant together and we were very proud to do so. Our women's team went through the season undefeated however fell at the final hurdle losing the final 4/3 to Mornington at Rosebud Country Club. Our men's team narrowly missed the finals.

We have introduced a new membership category to encourage greater participation by women in golf. We have called it "Pathway to Golf" and it is an extension to the women's beginner clinics that are held on a

Tuesday morning. We have made it affordable, and it has proven very popular. To find our more information, please contact our pro shop on 5945 9230.

Cardinia Beaconhills inducted three new life members in February. John Makarucha, Ros Harding, and Alex McKay were all voted in as life members in recognition of their contributions to the club over the years. Without members such as John, Ros, and Alex, we would not be the club we are

today.

The club has undertaken some capital works projects with a renovation of the kitchen now completed. Shortly we will be renovating the men's toilets on the outside of the clubhouse which is long overdue.

- Pro Shop golf bookings, clinics, lessons, equipment 5945 9230 proshop@beaconhillsgolf.com.au
- Bistro meals available on Friday evening. Bookings 5945 9210. *No BYO due to licence

MATT VAN DER KRAAN, CLUB MANAGER,
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