

# UPPER BEACONSFIELD VILLAGE BELL

September 2023



*Dedicated ... to the community*





**The Community Centre celebrated their 40th anniversary on 22 July 2023**  
 Read more on page 20

## Citizens of the Year dinner



*A cross-section of some of the many people who served you locally during the challenging years of the pandemic. They were awarded joint Citizens of the Year 2023. Read more on page 5.*







Save the date!  
**Community  
Bushfire Exercise**  
Sunday, 29th October  
10 am – 1 pm  
see page 7



## What's happening at Charing Cross?

Charing Cross is the small public space park in the middle of Upper Beaconsfield. It is located on the corner of Beaconsfield-Emerald Road and Salisbury Road, directly opposite the shops. It has a rotunda, some trees and of course a ubiquitous toilet block. This small park always looked unremarkable and not particularly inviting. Time for a makeover. Time to imagine a beautiful space. A space that the community can visit and enjoy, and one that enhances the overall amenity of our township.

The UBA and Cardinia Shire Council have been engaged in a long conversation about what might be possible. There are of course the usual handbrakes that curb the imagination... financial barriers, design limitations and maintenance considerations. A modified plan was agreed and we are most thankful that Council has provided enough funding and oversight for the project to commence.



continues on page 6





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**Cardinia**

Cardinia Shire Council



COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

the voice of the community

**MEMBER 2023**

# A dry July, a predictor of the future?

## Rainfall on St Georges Road

In the last Village Bell, I reported three months of rain that exceeded both last year and the average. I also wrote of an impending change from La Niña to El Niño and global predictions of dryness and heat.

What has panned out in the northern hemisphere is a summer that sends a dire warning about the state of our planet. With the hottest July on record, drying land masses, and more people fleeing devastating fires, we should not ignore the underlying messages. The combination of a strong El Niño (associated with a coming period of lower than average expected rainfall) and unabated global warming may continue to rewrite the record books and confront many with climate related challenges never experienced before.

But for now, in our patch, our winter is not one of such extremes, but is becoming a little warmer and dryer than normal. May had 52 mm more rain than last year, which was 13 mm above average.

June reversed these gains with 49 mm less than last year, and 5 mm below average.

The downward trend became more evident in July with 34 mm less than average and 11 mm below last year. Overall, for the three months, we were 8 mm down on the same period last year and 26 mm lower than the average.

The BOM did predict a trend to dryer and warmer weather over the winter season. Thus far, the BOM’s call has been correct. Perhaps not markedly, but enough of a shift from normal for the tradies to be less encumbered by weather, for the ski season to be poor, for the early arrival of the blossoms, and for some pleasant days in the middle of winter. Interestingly, Europe’s record-breaking summer temperatures were preceded by a drier, warmer winter, where there was little snowfall across the Alps.

Is the northern hemisphere summer a predictor for us? Do our three previous cooler wetter La Niña summers set us up for one on the opposite extremes – hot and dry? There is of course no guaranteed answer, but the indicators are that we should take notice and avoid complacency. To prepare for the fire season, please seek out and action advice from the CFA and Cardinia Council.

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	98.9
Jun	80.3	123.6	75.0
Jul	78.6	56.4	44.9
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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>947 mm</b>	<b>1061 mm</b>	

We all now carry a dual responsibility for every coming summer. Normal preparedness, and what we should do personally to not upset our present climate. Not only has it traditionally fed us, but it has also maintained Upper Beaconsfield’s magnificent environment, and it is what our state’s infrastructure is designed for.

Unbelievably, significant parts of tropical Hawaii, and Arctic-bordering Canada were recently razed by bushfire! Surely now, we all must take notice. To turn our ‘heating climate’ tide, we must all make some contribution. About 46% of Australia’s emissions come from households – that is you and me. Where and if you can, move towards electric (hot water, heat pump, induction cooking, cars), go solar, improve insulation, burn less, and consume less. Some will be affronted by such talk, but the majority of us are probably already some way on a positive journey towards the above objectives.

Back to the BOM. They have not fully declared an El Niño – the likelihood of a hotter, and drier coming summer – but have signalled the advice is imminent. In conjunction with climate warming the term ‘double whammy’ comes to mind. The magnitude of consequence, no one knows, but for certain, it will be much more impactful than a dry July.

**ANDREW REWELL**

**Thank you to our subscribers since the last Village Bell**  
 Sandie Bliss; Sue & Peter Bradley; Nancy & Matt Collins; Raye Joiner; Josef Family; Gail Kelly; Tony Knight; Kral Family; B & B Mars; Jenny & Mike McCormick; Karen & Wayne McQuilten; Tim & Lee Moon; Kristina Moulding; O’Brien Family; M & D O’Brien; Osborne family; Trudie Paton; Jenny & John Patterson; Pinney Family; Peter Rose; Alison & Dan Ryan; V & M Steidle; Helen Stuart; Ron Van Vliet; David Vinen; Vicki & Paul Watson, D & L Wright

## Celebrating a century

Can you believe that St John's has been in Upper Beaconsfield for 100 years this



October? This is an amazing achievement and the history and stories that we have collected along the way are remarkable. We have a history of resilience in the face of huge setbacks like the Ash Wednesday Fires, and great joys as we have journeyed with you through baptisms, funerals, and weddings. We have hosted countless church fetes, Sunday school sessions, church services for the local primary school at Easter and Christmas, and even played host to the Country Women's Association CWA.

What is your connection to St John's? Have you attended services and celebrated events with us? Or have you never stepped foot in the doors but have driven past and admired the architecture? Or do you just occasionally drop things off at the op shop or even browse the aisles for bargains?

Whatever your connection, we would love to hear your stories. We are having an open day and celebration service. We will hear stories from the past and enjoy some amazing food as we share our stories of the people and events of the past 100 years.

If you are new to the area and want to see what we are about, or if you have been with us for a long time, please join us at St John's Church, 1 St Georges Road, Upper Beaconsfield on Sunday, 29 October. We will have kids' activities, stories, and food. The formal presentation and speeches will begin at 3 pm followed by more fun.

**REV. SHANNON LEE**

## Local retailers honoured

### 2023 Citizen of the Year Award

Each year the Upper Beaconsfield Association awards and presents the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year Award. Such recognition was normally afforded to an individual who lives in Upper Beaconsfield, and who had most benefitted our local community. These criteria (amongst others) were written into the rules and guidelines of the award. So, it brought some consternation on how to deal with a nomination for a group, and with some who are non-residents. But so deserved was this group, UBA rewrote the rules and broadened the guidelines.

For 2023 the COY was awarded to the Upper Beaconsfield retailers for their contribution to our community during the Covid lockdowns, and equally, for their contribution to the amenity, vibrancy, and culture of our town.

Lockdowns saw some businesses stay open; others mandated to close. Whilst able to trade with a captive customer base was opportunistic, the execution and delivery of products and services was far from being an exploitative profiteering exercise. Dealing with supply chain shortages, staffing issues, mask wearing, contamination risk, and increased customer demands, collectively created a stressful and challenging operating environment. The Upper Beaconsfield retailers rose to the challenge. We could get most of what we needed. We could leave home for vital social interaction. We were local people served by people we know by face and name. We were welcomed. There was order and calmness. The businesses worked tirelessly and made sure we got fed, watered, medicated



and vaccinated at an extraordinary rate, all right on our doorstep. Faced with the adversity of a pandemic, our retailers were resilient and tenacious in serving us and our community.

The businesses that were unable to trade endured a different challenge. With no income, and ongoing costs, they did what was needed to survive and reopen and to continue their service provision to Upper Beaconsfield.

The COY award was not limited to the lockdown era. Our retailers by nature are there to make a living. They do so by providing what we need when we need it. Our small town caters for food, beverages, produce, hardware, personal services, medical, pharmaceutical, financial, mechanical, postage and property transactions. What more could we want? Our retailers create our sense of town. They give us a convenient place to meet up and purchase that is so different to those in an urban environment. We are not just customers, we are friends. For passers-by, our shops offer a reason to stop and breathe our forest purified air. There are small towns where businesses close and the town feels threatened. Our place has a calm positive energy. We have a sense of place and a sense of identity that are all contributed to by our retail precinct.

The UBA hosted the COY awards ceremony at the Pine Grove Hotel. With over 60 people in attendance, and with great applause, we were grateful that Cr Brett Owen presented the awards. I am hopeful that the COY award will continue to grow in stature, recognising those who add value to others and our community. I ask that you take the time to congratulate and thank this year's winners when you next visit. I also ask that you consider nominating a candidate and join us at next year's COY award dinner. The more the merrier and the outcome is a healthier and happier community.

**ANDREW REWELL**  
*PRESIDENT, UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION*

## 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](https://square.link/u/wDxSWHkF)



# Charing Cross

*continued from page 3*

So, what's in the plan? The goal is to have a green space to visit and relax. To include an attractive garden that better characterises and showcases the centre of our township. The hard landscaping includes a curvy wheelchair friendly pathway, with structure further enhanced by mudstone walls. The rotunda has received a much needed spruce up, and new tables and seats will soon arrive. The garden will have three broad components, one a small conservation garden with a display of indigenous plants, native plants will generously populate larger garden beds, and rejuvenated grass areas.



*Restoring Charing Cross to a place where people like to gather. The photograph is showing an earlier rotunda and members of the Hopkins family (who built the first post office) in the early 1920s*



Whilst the overarching theme is to better define our town centre with a garden, we also seek to have Charing Cross represent the biodiversity of Upper Beaconsfield. As well as the flora, our intent is to tell the story of our fauna, particularly our birdlife. Our thinking is to add bird boxes to Charing Cross, and as a visual link, adding the same style boxes to several other parks areas in our precinct. This will provide more habitat for birds and start to build a tangible connection between other nature areas within our township.

The first acquisition of plants, for which we have sought a Council

grant, will be small. Planting will be carried out by the UBA Beautification Group and the Green Circle Nursery. To complete the entire planting stage, more plants will be purchased once further funding is found.

The enhancement of Charing Cross is one of the UBA's strategic projects that will create a value add to our community. If you would like to help or donate, please email the UBA secretary on [secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au](mailto:secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au)

**ANDREW REWELL**

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD  
GENERAL STORE  
EST 1927**

*We're local*

**Local people proudly servicing & supporting Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds.**

**OVER THE ROAD**



# Prepare for a dry summer

With a dry spring outlook, the CFA's Deputy Chief Officer has requested local brigades bring forward their annual pre-summer planning tasks by 4–6 weeks. So, instead of our members completing their pre-summer readiness in September/October, we will be performing these tasks in August/September.

This means it is time for you to gear up for the fire season by:

- Mowing and keeping grass short as it dries out
- Cleaning up excess green waste and fallen branches
- Moving wood piles and flammable materials away from buildings
- Keeping gutters clean and clear
- Checking water tank levels
- Downloading and setting up the Vic Emergency App (yell out if you need a hand)
- Refuelling and testing fire pumps to ensure they are working correctly

- Creating a fire plan for you, your family, and your pets

See the CFA website for more handy tips: [cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property)

## Burning off

When burning off, please ensure you do it safely. Take into consideration the weather and the local council bylaws with regards to open air burning. The permissible days for burning changed in 2022. For most properties (in the bushland and peri-urban zone) the permissible burn off days are Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. Those in areas zoned rural, can also include Monday to their list of permissible burn off days. Saturday and Wednesday are now days of no burning for any zone.

If you need assistance burning off safely, the fire brigade may be able to assist. An inspection is required to determine access and suitability. Most people offer a small donation to the brigade which helps us with ongoing operational costs. Contact us for further information.

## Fire danger period

There is no mention yet regarding the introduction date of the fire danger period. The outlook is for drier and warmer spring weather – earlier this season than in previous years.

Keep an eye on our socials for more news.

## PAVS

### (Property Advice Visiting Service)

The CFA offers a home visiting service through the local brigade. PAVS aims to reach residents living in high bushfire risk areas. This free service enables the delivery of fire safety information relevant to the resident's risk. It takes no more than an hour and we come to your property at a mutually convenient time. To book a PAVS visit, please email us at [ubcfapavs@gmail.com](mailto:ubcfapavs@gmail.com)

### Smoke alarm installation program (targeted audience)

Only working smoke alarms save lives! Did you know that trained CFA members can install a free 10-year lithium battery powered smoke alarm in homes for residents who cannot obtain, install, or maintain smoke alarms themselves. This service assists residents who may not be able to perform these duties themselves for a variety of reasons. A physical property inspection and assessment takes place first to ensure suitability. If you know someone living in our area you think could benefit from our assistance, please let us know at [ubcfapavs@gmail.com](mailto:ubcfapavs@gmail.com)

IAN PINNEY, CAPTAIN



# Community Bushfire Exercise

Save the date – Sunday 29th October 10 am–1 pm

The most important thing you and your family can do this summer is to stay safe.

To help you achieve this, the CFA is hosting a Community Bushfire Exercise (CBX) for the residents of Upper Beaconsfield and surrounding areas. The event is on Sunday 29 October from 10 am–1 pm at the Upper Beaconsfield Primary School Stadium (BUPS). This includes a free lunch for all attendees.

We know the day/date will not suit everyone, but we must take into consideration the availability of residents, CFA brigade members, facilitators and work around other events that are happening at that time. The event is too big to run on multiple occasions to accommodate everyone. We aim to provide you with pertinent information to assist you to plan and prepare for the upcoming fire season.

The CBX is an interactive information session where an

experienced bushfire education facilitator will guide you through a range of scenarios designed to assist you in your decision making. It does not matter if you have lived here for 1 week, 1 year or 20 years. There is something in this for everyone.

The event will be a multi-agency approach with presenters from Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, DEECA, Cardinia Council, the CFA and local brigade members. It will culminate with a free lunch and a chance to ask questions of all presenters.



There will also be a fire simulation table on display that can demonstrate fire behaviour and what to expect in the event of an incident occurring locally. We ran a similar event five years ago and had more than 300 residents attended. We expect similar numbers this time around. If you missed it last time, you don't want to miss it again.

# CFA annual dinner and awards

On Saturday 29 July our brigade held their annual dinner and awards night at the Cardinia Beaconhills Golf Links.

## Significant CFA service awards:

Eric Bumpstead

65-year medal life member

Stan Hamilton

65-year medal life member

Nancy Boura

45-year medal life member

Doug Summons

40-year medal life member

Mike Schimizzi

35-year medal

## Annual Brigade awards:

Officer of the year award – Ian Rees

Captain's award – Ben Reeves

Firefighter of the year award – Joe Dascoli

Congratulations to all recipients and a special mention to Eric Bumpstead, Stan Hamilton, and Nancy Boura with a combined 175 years of CFA service between them. What an outstanding effort!

## “Outstanding Contribution by a Female Firefighter”

Earlier this year, I nominated one of our longest serving members (Nancy Boura) for an award conducted by the WAFSA (Women and Firefighting Australasia) organisation. The award was “Outstanding Contribution by a Female Firefighter”. It encompasses all bodies of firefighting including volunteer and career (paid) firefighters from right around Australia and New Zealand. I am extremely proud to announce that not only was Nancy a short-listed finalist amongst 27 entries received in this category, but the selection committee chose her as a very worthy winner of the award.

This award highlights the appreciation, dedication and congratulations to a woman working in the fire and emergency services industry who has:

- Demonstrated consistent leadership
- Encouraged and supported the development of women
- Been an inspirational role model
- Given selflessly of themselves in support of their community, or
- Shown an unwavering dedication to our industry

Nancy was unable to make the journey to Brisbane for the awards ceremony so

the award will be presented in front of family and friends at a brigade meeting on a date yet to be determined.

Those who know Nancy, all agree that there can be no argument that she meets the criteria and is certainly a worthy recipient. Congratulations Nancy on a wonderful achievement. Thoroughly deserved.

Eric Bumpstead was also announced as a shortlisted finalist for the Champion of Change award category recognising his efforts in encouraging and introducing women into the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade to become operational firefighters in the late 1970s and early 1980s. We believe that Eric was ahead of his time in this area, and Eric's vision and determination has left a long-lasting legacy with us all at the fire brigade of which we are proud.

## Turnouts – local statistics

Looking back at previous brigade turnouts has highlighted some interesting facts. Electronic record keeping for the CFA only dates back 26 years to August 1997. If you live in Young Street, Upper Beaconsfield, you might be feeling a little lucky. The stats show that Young Street is one of only a few streets in our assignment area that we have never been called to for any type of incident (not just fire). There may have been an incident in Young Street prior to 1997, but we would be relying on sketchy memories. Another street with no turnouts is the recently developed John William Court opposite the end of Stoney Creek Road.

The most turnouts are to our busiest thoroughfare road – Beaconsfield-Emerald Road. It is the longest road in our area with the most properties and carries the most traffic (think motor vehicle accidents). Salisbury Road and Stoney Creek Road also featured high on the list for similar reasons.

From the data we can gain information such as the most frequent day of the week for an incident to occur or what time of the day they occur. The data varies, however, from year to year and considers all types of calls the fire brigade attends – not just fires – so it is hard to define trends. Since the change in council burn off laws to allow Sundays for burning in lieu of Saturday, there has been an increase in calls on a Sunday.

## Over the last 10 years

The brigade has consistently averaged 56 turnouts per year with 70% of those

calls being incidents occurring in our own response area. The other 30% being support calls for neighbouring brigade assistance. That averages out to only a little over one a week, but it does not always work out like that. We recently went 45 days without a call of any nature, then encountered four within the space of a week! The unofficial brigade record for duration without a turnout to an incident is 50 days which occurred 10 years ago in the period Oct–Dec 2013. Thankfully not all the calls are cause for despair though! Some are false alarms or do not warrant our intervention or services. Always better to err on the side of caution and have us attend than need us and not have us coming at all! We are only a phone call away (call 000 in an emergency). Please do not ring the fire station in the event of an emergency.

## Turnouts since June

- 4 x motor vehicle accidents
- 1 x structure fire (chimney flue)
- 1 x structure fire (dryer fire at Cardinia Park Hotel)

In a freakish set of circumstances, we were called to the Cardinia Park Hotel dryer fire at 3.07 am early one morning in mid-July to support the Beaconsfield Fire Brigade. On route to the fire from the other direction, the Beaconsfield Fire Brigade Pumper crew came across a serious single car accident (car vs tree) just near the Holm Park Reserve on Beaconsfield-Emerald Road which required their urgent attention. The incident had occurred in the moments before they came across it whilst on the way to the dryer fire at the Cardi Pub. A second appliance was dispatched from Upper Beaconsfield and resources were split between the two incidents. Thankfully, no serious injuries or major loss occurred because of either incident. What's that old saying? Nothing good ever happens after 3 am in the morning!

Follow our Facebook page to stay up to date with what is happening. Stay safe out there and please do not hesitate to contact the brigade if you need assistance.

IAN PINNEY, CAPTAIN





# Climate trends – and El Niño explained

El Niño and La Niña are the names given to climate drivers that influence the climate variability in Australia (particularly eastern Australia). They are part of a natural cycle known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and are associated with many months of warming (El Niño) or cooling (La Niña) of the waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean between South America and the east coast of Australia.

El Niño (which means little boy in Spanish) is the negative phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). It usually means warmer than average daytime temperatures along with reduced rainfall, possibility of drought, increased frost risk, reduced tropical cyclones to our north and an increase in fire danger in south-east Australia.

El Niño events tend to begin in autumn, mature during winter and spring, then begin to decay in summer with the event concluding in the autumn of the following year. The greatest impact normally occurs during the winter/spring period. Nine of the ten driest winter-spring periods on record for eastern Australia have occurred during El Niño recorded years. We also need to remember though, that not all El Niño

events are the same. Some are weaker than others and don't always have as much influence on each occasion they occur.

La Niña (which means little girl in Spanish) on the other hand is the opposite or positive phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). It is associated with cooler than average sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. La Niña conditions result in above average rainfall over eastern and northern Australia, like we experienced over the last 3 years in eastern Australia.

At the time of writing this article, despite other countries and credible weather advisory groups around the world doing so, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) had not yet officially declared the arrival of an El Niño weather cycle. This is more of a technicality in the way they measure and interpret their data rather than a belief of it not likely to occur. In fact, the BOM says it is more likely to occur than not.

### So, what does it all mean for us this summer?

In the event of an El Niño weather influence, south-eastern parts of

Australia can expect to face an increased likelihood of reduced rainfall and above average daytime temperatures throughout spring and summer. El Niño is associated with both an increase in individual extreme hot days and multi-day warm spells – thus potentially increasing the risk of bushfire particularly in the southeast of Australia. El Niño weather climates can also have a far reaching social and economic consequences affecting farming, food produce and increasing heat related illnesses particularly those that are vulnerable.

Can I do anything to prepare for an El Niño weather event? Not really. Those of us on tank water may wish to ensure that their water catchment is maximised over the spring and summer months.

Once thing is for sure, we should not be lulled into a false sense of security of not being prepared just because the last three summers have all been cooler wet (La Niña) events.

Source: ABC News, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

## A puzzle for the family

Sudoku – medium

solution page 32

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

Provided by [sudokuoftheday.com](http://sudokuoftheday.com) – get a new Sudoku every day

## Carols in the Park

# 24 December 2023

### Attention Musicians

Instrumentalists and singers are needed!



Young, old, and in between.

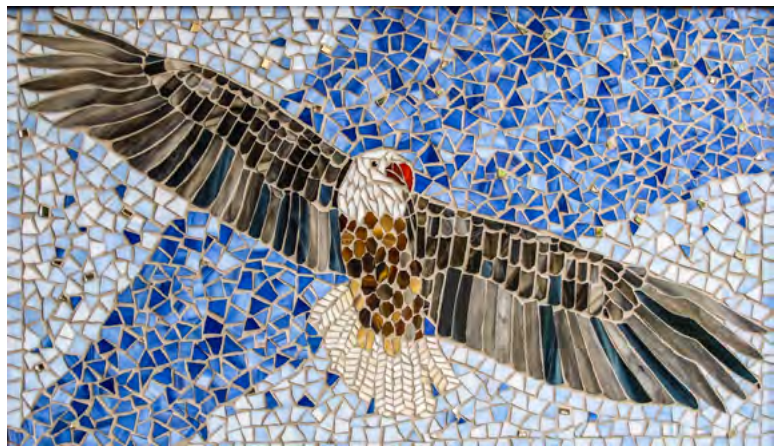
Please let us know if you are available to join the carols group on Christmas Eve.

Several rehearsals involved later this year.

Register your interest  
Contact Helen Smith

[secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au](mailto:secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au)  
Upper Beaconsfield Association





## Village Festival art and photographic 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 awarded 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](mailto:gailkelly2809@gmail.com)

GAIL KELLY

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## Nancy Boura's CFA volunteering journey

Nancy Boura, 95 years young, reflected that if she hadn't been a volunteer with the Upper Beaconsfield CFA for the last 45 years and still on-going, her life would have been ... 'much more, ordinary, shall we say', 'less adventurous'.

Two months after emigrating from England to Australia in 1976, and landing in Upper Beaconsfield, Nancy saw an ad in the Pakenham Gazette. It called for volunteers to join the local fire brigade auxiliary. The auxiliary was responsible for catering for those on the fireground, raising money, organising the many functions the local brigade is involved in, just to name a few.

'I knew I wanted to get to know people, and the area, and do something useful in the community. I thought that sounded OK. For me volunteering was one of the things you did for the privilege of living in an area.'

'During WW II my father was a volunteer air-raid warden and was in charge of a part of our area, so to the idea of people doing some sort of volunteering – I didn't have to learn. It's just what you did. I wasn't old enough to do a lot then, except make up rosters for the crews that were going to be on duty each night.'

What I didn't know was that I was going to get completely involved with the CFA.' Soon after joining the auxiliary and meeting some people, who forgave Nancy for being a Pom, she started attending regular meetings. She observed over past, or even present activities like rag cutting and sausage sizzles, she was socialising and getting to know people she otherwise wouldn't see. 'Anyone joining would be made welcome and part of the community.'

'Captain Eric Bumpstead used to say it was, "family first, and then your job, and then fire brigade in that order of priority." Before you accept a role, you have to think to yourself, how much time do I have available.'

Soon after joining, Eric encouraged Nancy to do some radio work, a job that was becoming onerous for the firefighters in the field. That led to Nancy becoming Communications (Comms) Officer. A CFA transceiver was placed in her house, running continuously day and night. 'My family and I got used to it running in the background, and we always knew what was going on. When things got really busy I worked in the radio room, a small hut at the rear of the fire station when it was on Halford Street.'

'Our home phone (they were all landlines back then) was hooked up to the Fire Reporting Service (FRS).' To report a fire, you dialled 443 333. 'When a fire call came in the phone's rings were in a different sequence.' If a turnout was required the siren at the station was rung to alert all firefighters to come in and take the trucks out to the incident. Individual pagers have now replaced the siren.

'Comms could be busy during a large fire. Several FRS calls would come in and they all had to be answered. You had to turnout other brigades, and know which ones to turnout. You also had to contact ambulance, police, or respond to requests for catering, if calls from the fireground radios required them – and everything had to be logged.' When it became impossible for one person to juggle all these tasks Nancy's son Jon would help out. A centralised, professional government dispatch centre has replaced these tasks now, and now for an emergency you dial '000'.

'Also, back then, on work days when most of the men were out of the area, often the crew turning out would be only be Eric and Vic Greenaway, on one truck. After one such occasion, Nancy



called Eric saying, "This is no good, Eric, I think you will need to train some women." Eric said he had been thinking the same, and we took it from there.'

After some consternation from a few male members, Eric enrolled a group of women and personally trained them. Thus, 'Eric's Angels', Nancy being one such member, were created. Since then there has been no turning back for the introduction of women firefighters into the CFA across the whole of Victoria. 'We had some fun (people falling in the creek), and it helps to know the crew you are with, I think too,' said Nancy.

'Our first few turnouts were false alarms, but we learnt the discipline of dropping everything and reporting up to the station. You don't get sent out on a truck if you don't know what you're doing. You train to combat fire, work with your other team members in mind, and for instances, where sometimes things don't go to plan. Obviously,



*'Suitably dressed for the occasion, Nancy Boura adjusts the hose nozzle to get a wide spray of water for the fire'*

it's dangerous, but good training teaches you to do things with minimal instruction and have confidence in your officers. You're kept busy. When

the fire is out, and you get back, you feel quite pleased you managed alright. There are also opportunities to debrief afterwards.'

For young people, sixteen years plus, volunteering for the CFA has so much to offer. You learn to be a good communicator, exercise forethought, take on responsibilities, teamwork, judgement, routine and discipline through training, time management, and you learn a service ethos. All good qualities that will impress future employers, in any industry. Much of the theoretical training can be done at home online too.

'For my son Jon, it just followed on that when he was old enough he started going to training, and eventually it led to him, specifically in his case, to getting a career in fire prevention. I don't know whether he would have joined the brigade if I wasn't there. He and many

others haven't had any regrets joining at a young age. Also, having a family member in the fire brigade means you all will be much more prepared in the event of a bushfire. Even children at school are getting some form of fire tuition. Some adults can learn things from their children these days.'

'I think the fact that I didn't have young children to be responsible for at the time, meant I wasn't kept from doing some of the things I did with the CFA. Young people can have studies that take them away from the area for periods as well. Parents of teenage kids have them wanting transport to this and that. But if you have a spell away from it you will always be welcomed back some time later.'

Going back to this 'Bell's' front cover picturing Eric Bumpstead (left) 90, and Stan Hamilton 87, both being recognised for 65 years' service, and of course Nancy 95, for 45 years' service, you might not be mistaken in drawing a conclusion that volunteering may be the secret to a long and fulfilling life.

**CAMERON ROCKE**

## Brigade desperately in need of new active members



Over the last 12 months our CFA has attempted to recruit more operational members (people who are prepared to jump on a truck and hold a hose). Unfortunately, this campaign has not been successful. Some members of the community are surprised to learn that all our firefighters are volunteers. From the Captain to the recruit, we are all volunteers.

The fire station is unmanned unless we are at training or front up for a turnout to an emergency. We already have full time jobs, families, kids, sporting commitments, hobbies, mortgages, pets, and properties to look after. But we all still find time to volunteer to help the community in a time of need. We desperately need more people to train up and help share that load.

Not everyone can go to every turnout or every training session. Nor are they expected to! Just like our existing

members, you give what you can in between those other things that you are already doing to help others. Giving a little bit can sometimes mean a whole lot to someone who is potentially having the worst day of their life.

Imagine if you called 000 expecting a fire truck and one had to come from Beaconsfield or Emerald because we did not have anyone to turnout. Give it careful consideration. You are more suited than you think! You do not need any pre-existing experience. Please contact us if want to know more about what it takes to become a volunteer firefighter. Men and women over the age of 16 years are welcome to apply. It all starts with completing an EOI here at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers/volunteer-with-cfa)

**IAN PINNEY, CAPTAIN**



# ***Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators .... we haven't met yet!***

I've been thinking long and hard about how to introduce this article, but after much deliberation I've decided it's just easier to put it out there, so here goes...I want to talk about loneliness. I know, it's not something one wants to freely admit or discuss with others, but it's a topic of conversation right now thanks to a survey shining light on the importance of our social connections.

In August the findings of the inaugural State of the Nation report on loneliness were released, and they show that Australians are becoming increasingly lonely. You may think it's something that just affects the elderly, however young adults were found to be the loneliest, with one in four people 18-24 years old reported that they often, or always, feel lonely. Turns out, whether you live by yourself or, more surprisingly, in a house full of people, you are not immune.

Loneliness and isolation can be linked to chronic health conditions, and poor physical and mental health. Are you feeling lonely? If you are, the good news is that you're not alone! Our little piece of paradise is home to many groups and volunteers who would love to welcome new members. These groups may also appeal to Upper Beac newcomers, those who find themselves with some spare time or those simply wanting to try something new!

## **Boomerang Bags Sewing Group**

These super useful bags have been made in Upper Beaconsfield since 2018. It's a grassroots community driven movement aimed at changing our single-use, throwaway mentality. The group meets fortnightly during the school term to sew. New volunteers are always welcome and sewing skills



are not essential as you could assist with cutting, pinning, or ironing.

Meeting: Every second Tuesday 9.30–11.30 am

Location: Community Room at the Community Centre, Salisbury Road

Contact the Community Centre: 5944 3484

## **Poppy Making Group**

You may have seen the gorgeous poppies adorning the local cenotaph on Salisbury Road. The group formed in 2017 in preparation for the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI (in 2018). The group is currently working on the Remembrance Day poppy installation and there's still time to get involved. If you like to crochet or knit this group is for you!

Location: Fraser Avenue

Meetings: Monday 18 September 2 pm, Monday 23 October 2 pm

Contact: Victoria 0409 794 527

## **Men's Shed**

Open to men of all ages, the Men's Shed is a friendly and welcoming meeting place where men come together to share knowledge and learn skills. Location: Halford Street, with parking in the RSL carpark.

Meetings: Mondays, by request

Tuesdays 9 am–12 noon

Wednesdays 9 am–1 pm

Thursdays and Fridays, by request

Contact: Mark 0419 304 197

## **Country Women's Association of Victoria (CWA) Officer Woorinyan Branch**

Not just scones, jam, and cream! The association is involved in social issues, fund raising, making goods such as trauma dolls for children in hospital along with helping women, children, and families in need. New members are always welcome!

Meeting: 1st Thursday of the month, 10 am

Location: St John's Church

Contact:  
Tracey 0407 810 271



## **Social Walking Group**

Love to explore the outdoors and have a chin wag at the same time? The Upper Beac walking group walks every Thursday at 9.30 am. Starting locations and durations (generally 1 hour) differ depending on the weather and the walk chosen for the week.

Starting locations include Upper Beac, Berwick, Emerald and Pakenham.

Contact: Janie 0425 722 305

Find out more: [janietechthat.wixsite.com/onehourwalks](http://janietechthat.wixsite.com/onehourwalks)

## **Upper Beaconsfield Runners (UBR)**

UBR are a group of locals who simply love to run! All age groups from beginners to experienced runners are welcome to join, and plan, runs that explore our beautiful town, surrounding areas and beyond.

Runs: Every Friday morning starting at 6 am

Location: Starts at the BUPS carpark in front of the portico, 8 kms to the Tower and back

Contact: Join the Facebook group, search for "Upper Beaconsfield Runners"

## **Community Garden**

Relax and reduce stress, practice mindfulness, or simply enjoy the great outdoors in our local community garden. Located next to the Community Centre on Salisbury Road, the garden is accessible to all members of our local community. New volunteers are always welcome to help maintain this special shared space, you can pop in whenever it suits you or arrange to meet one of the team!

Location: Community Garden, Salisbury Road

Contact: Community Centre 5944 3484





### Green Circle Plant Nursery

Are you a green thumb? GCPN is a not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers and they would love an extra pair of hands! All funds raised from plant sales go back to the community to support a wide variety of local projects. Learn all aspects of nursery production including seed collecting and plant propagation whilst enjoying a chat.

Location: 1 Halford Street

Open Fridays 10 am–4 pm

Saturdays 10 am–1 pm

Contact: Sue 0407 304 061 or visit [greencircleplantnursery.net.au](http://greencircleplantnursery.net.au)

### Cardinia Shire Volunteering

There's a number of local organisations listed on the Cardinia Shire website who are currently seeking the assistance of volunteers. Go to [cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://cardinia.vic.gov.au) and search for "volunteering opportunities".

Do you have a local community group you'd like to share, or does your organisation need the assistance of volunteers? Connect with us, email [villagebell@upperbeaconsfield.org.au](mailto:villagebell@upperbeaconsfield.org.au)

ANNE MEHLA

## Vale Carmel McKenna

13 August 1934 – 16 July 2023

Carmel McKenna, former long-term resident of Upper Beaconsfield, recently passed away. She had "An extraordinary life well lived with great enthusiasm and devotion to her husband Des, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren".

Carmel and her husband Des lived in St Georges Road for 36 years, from 1970 to 2006.

Des took up the position of production supervisor at Nestle in Pakenham in 1960 and became factory manager in 1965. The factory grew from a tin shed building to a modern highly sophisticated food plant. Des and Carmel moved to St Georges Road, Upper Beaconsfield in 1970. They soon became known as "the family with all the kids". They raised their family of 11 children there.

The food bills must have been horrendous. At times during holidays, when all the children were home, they often had other children staying as well. Carmel stated on one occasion they purchased 28 packets of cornflakes. Carmel mentioned the most annoying thing was to hear continual bang of the back door as the kids kept coming in and out of their house.

Despite spending very busy lives, wherever they lived, both Des and Carmel dedicated their spare time in volunteering for good causes,



community groups, and sporting clubs, their children's education, and as active members of their church.

The McKenna family lost their home, Innisfree, in the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires, which was traumatic for them. But they believed that the house wasn't that important – when all the family survived. Des and Carmel then rebuilt their home. Later, when the children grew up and left home, Des and Carmel moved to Malmesbury in 2006, where once again they became involved in their new community in the same ways as before.

Des was awarded Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year in 1986. The Cardinia Shire Australia Day Citizen of the year in 1992. He received an Order of Australia award in the same year.

Des passed away in 2017.

Carmel eventually returned to live in a Pakenham aged care residence. Then in 2022 Carmel finally received her OAM for her community service over many years through a range of organisations.

Des once said, "It is in overcoming adversity together, your love and family ties become even stronger". At last count they have 28 grandchildren, and several great grandchildren. Son Michael McKenna recently commented, "Although our family has scattered all over now, we still feel that Upper Beac is our home, with so many happy memories and significant events".

HELEN SMITH



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# The problem with plastics

Upper Beaconsfield Green Initiatives Group organised Dr Jackie Myers, an aquatic toxicologist working with a RMIT research group studying microplastics (MPs) and litter accumulation in waterways, to host an interesting but sobering online session with a group of residents on 28 June.

Her area of study is in waterways and the food chains of animals in waterways and wetlands around Melbourne. It turns out microplastics are everywhere, but we cannot see a lot of it because some particles are so small. For example, shrimps ingest MPs, especially blue fibre particles. MPs impact biodiversity in a wide range of direct and indirect ways.

Plastics were invented in 1869 so have been used so extensively that MPs have built up in our environment for a long time. Plastic fragments are present in water, sediment, and dust.

Waterways and wetlands have become a place where MPs accumulate. The highest concentrations come from

## Uncomfortable facts

368 million metric tons of plastics are produced annually worldwide, with production expected to double by 2040

Only 9% of plastics ever produced have been recycled, and 12% have been incinerated.

79% of all plastics produced have accumulated in landfills or the environment.

industry, agriculture, and households. Most of the litter found in these places are derived from plastics: food wrappers, cigarette butts, plastic bottles, and bottle caps. MPs are most

highly concentrated in built up areas around cities.

## Microplastics in the environment never break down

What about humans? Are microplastics in drinking water? The answer was yes. And bottled water has the highest levels of microplastics! A reason not to buy any bottled water. Plastic pipes also break down as they age. Makes you think – what about tanks?

People need to become conscious consumers and examine how much plastic they use every day. We need to re-use, recycle, and refuse items. Much of our clothing is made from petroleum-based fibres nylon and polyester. So, it's best to stick to natural fibres. There are also microplastics in such things as toothpaste, makeup, and face washes. Vacuuming your house more than twice per week reduces the amount of microplastics in the air.

HELEN SMITH

# Bushfire Resilience Inc 2023 webinar series

Bushfire Resilience Inc. is an independent community-led organisation that is not associated with, and does not promote, the interests of any other organisation or community group. However, their list of sponsors and supporters include CFA, and Safer Together – a Victorian Government initiative, which among other things, creates programs to help Victorians mitigate disaster.

Their stated purpose is 'to facilitate the provision of information about bushfires to the community.' Primarily, they have produced a series of webinars on a wide range of matters pertinent to bushfire safety and preparation. Among their speakers are:

- Academics in universities across Australia, who are involved in

- bushfire and disaster research,
  - CSIRO experts
  - Speakers from disaster agencies
- On their user-friendly website,
- The 'Home' tab leads you to a chronological list of past, and forthcoming webinars to which you can subscribe
  - The 'Resource Hub' tab also leads you to the webinars, but also some 'bite sized' material on subjects like roofs, decks, pump systems, livestock and horses, and a multitude of other subjects
  - The 'Presenters' tab profiles the webinar speakers

You can subscribe to their up and coming free webinars, and enter raffles for firefighting equipment.

Your thorough bushfire preparation begins with – exploring and putting into action – the pointers from the Bushfire Resilience Inc website, the CFA website, and attending the Community Bushfire Exercise (CBX) on 29 October 2023 (see page 7).

With thanks to Caroline Spencer for her continued efforts in providing and promoting contemporary bushfire preparation information which helps strengthen our capacity particularly with extreme weather events.

CAMERON ROCKE

**BRI**  
BUSHFIRE RESILIENCE INC.

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# The enigmatic swamp wallaby – *Wallabia bicolor*

For the past few years, we've shared our garden with one of the local swamp wallabies. He often sleeps in a quiet bushy corner during the day, coming out to feed at night. We try not to disturb him and so far, this arrangement is working well.

## Appearance

Most wallabies are grey in colour with a short coat. Swamp wallabies have long coarse fur, dark brown or black on the back, with a light yellow to rufous orange chest for contrast. A distinguishing characteristic is the light-coloured cheek stripe which runs from lip to ear. Extremities are dark, often with a white tip on the tail.

Our "swampy" is getting on – his muzzle is quite grizzled. Average life span is about 15 years. They aren't large. Males stand up to 70 cm tall with a tail length to 69 cm. They can weigh up to 20 kg. Females are smaller. They have five fingers on their hands to help with eating and when they slowly move along on all fours. They have only four toes on their hind leg, having lost their big toe as they evolved to hop.

Swamp wallabies are also known as black wallabies, stinkers in Queensland, and black stinkers in NSW. This is due to their 'swampy' smell.

## Habitat

Swamp wallabies are found along eastern Australia from Cape York to SW Victoria. They prefer thick undergrowth in forests and woodlands and of course, swamps.

## Behaviour and feeding

Solitary by day, they often congregate with other swampies to feed at night. We have a fairly constant night population of six. They don't seem too territorial either as they are happy to feed near the other wallaby species and even the wombats that forage around our place after dark.

They are browsers (shrub eaters) rather than grazers (grass eaters) and are not too selective eating shrubs, pasture, and crops (native and exotic), and even some plants that are poisonous to other animals (including us), such as bracken, hemlock, and lantana. Even bark, fungi and algae are potentially on the menu. To cope with browsing they have developed a different tooth structure from other wallabies, with sharp premolars to help cut through shrubs and bushes.



## Reproduction

Swamp wallabies are ready to breed by the time they are 15 months old. Gestation (pregnancy) is only 33-38 days, and they usually have a single hairless pink baby weighing about one gram.

The astonishing thing about swamp wallabies is that they can be pregnant with their second baby before they give birth to the first one! How is this possible? Like other kangaroos and wallabies, they have two uteruses but unlike their relatives they can conceive a day or two before they give birth to the first baby.

This bit is a little technical and is named embryonic diapause. Essentially a swamp wallaby can ovulate (produce eggs) while she is still pregnant. Her pregnancy lasts a couple of days longer than her ovulation cycle so she can mate, conceive, and form a new embryo just before she gives birth to her full-term baby. It is a bit like a revolving door. She gives birth to baby one from one uterus. It makes its way from the uterus to a teat in her pouch and starts suckling. Baby two is lying dormant in the second uterus. After nine months baby one leaves the pouch. Baby two is now triggered to start developing. Baby one continues to suckle once leaving the pouch for another six months. After that it is fully independent, ready to start its own family in fact.

Baby two starts the entire process again suckling from a different teat. But just before baby two starts developing, mum ovulates, mates again

and baby three implants into the first uterus. She's never not pregnant!

But there's more! Like kangaroos, who can also have two babies at two different stages of development, (but not two different pregnancies at once), swamp wallabies can make two different formulations of milk, each tailored to the two babies' specific needs. While this sounds a bit daunting it also means from a conservation point of view swamp wallabies are not considered a threatened species, just because they are so extraordinary at reproducing.

## Threats

All the usual threats apply to these animals but principally habitat destruction. With this comes not only the loss of home, but more exposure to roads. Swamp wallabies, like wombats, don't understand cars. The interaction never goes well for them. Or the cars either. Domestic dogs and dingoes also prey on wallabies. Unfortunately, some farmers view them as pests.

## Taxonomy

Where does a swamp wallaby fit into the family tree? For many years they have been considered the last and only living member of the Wallabia genus, thought to have branched off the tree even before kangaroos, genus Macropus. But recently DNA studies have shown that part of its genome (the chromosomes that define us) is a relic of an ancient now extinct kangaroo. It can also hybridise with agile wallabies – *Macropus agilis*. So, although it doesn't behave like the more social kangaroo family, doesn't eat the same foods, has some different physical characteristics, and has a different reproductive style, it will be reclassified into the Macropus genus. The swamp wallaby remains a bit of an enigma.

CARO LETTS

UB CONSERVATION GROUP

If you'd like to join UBCCG, please contact Fergus at [fergusogallagher@bigpond.com](mailto:fergusogallagher@bigpond.com)



## Warning – animal attacks on the rise again!

There have been reports of animals being attacked in Upper Beaconsfield on the local Facebook pages. But there have been other attacks not reported on social media.

The first attacks occurred on two separate occasions in the last week of June and early July. Two adult sheep were killed, one adult goat died, and another young goat was missing, presumably dragged off by the dog (or dogs). Another sheep had wounds on her back legs but survived. This property was in St Georges Road.

Then in the last week or so of July, reports appeared on Facebook of alpacas being attacked in the Albers Road area. Four out of seven alpacas died on one property. The owners don't think they died of natural causes as they'd been chased around the property and spread out across 15 acres. They were found well apart, not usual for alpacas and were likely chased and killed or died of shock.

The owners believe a wild dog was seen in the area. Photos were taken of a dog that looked like a dingo with a mottled coat.

At the end of July another alpaca was reported dead on another property in Albers Road, but this one did not show signs of being attacked.

Dog attacks take place periodically, so residents need to look out for wandering dogs. All residents need to make sure they know exactly where their own dogs are, at all times. Fencing needs to be dog proof, to stop your own dog/s getting out, and to prevent

any wandering dogs gaining access to family pets. It is very distressing when people find their pets injured or dead from dog attacks.

These events took place at the same time there were reports of unexplained horse deaths in other areas around Melbourne.



### Horses – sudden deaths

On the 4 August 2023, Agriculture Victoria provided information to registered landowners that:

Agriculture Victoria has confirmed that recent sudden multiple horse deaths are not linked or the result of an infectious disease. The investigation involved a total of 17 horses that died on six separate properties where multiple deaths were reported. Sample testing and necropsies were conducted where possible on deceased animals and found nothing unusual or unexpected as contributing causes.

Separate diagnoses have been made including intestinal issues in one instance, while there is a possibility of toxic plants present in another. In some instances, it was not possible to determine a clear cause due to a lack of available suitable samples. Negative tests were returned for a wide variety of transmissible diseases such as Hendra virus and equine influenza.

We would like to thank the horse industry, private veterinarians, other experts, and horse owners for their assistance during this investigation. Private veterinarians must be the first point of contact as your horse's primary health advisor – they are the ones with specific knowledge about your individual situation and best placed to assist and where to find other assistance if required.

### Do you have a Property Identification Code?

You must have a PIC for the properties on which you graze or keep the following livestock: cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, alpaca, llamas, deer, horses, camels, more than 50 poultry (domesticated fowl, chickens, ducks, geese, turkey, guinea fowl, pigeons, quail, or pheasants), more than 10 emus or ostriches. It's important to be able to track outbreaks or communicate important information. A PIC enables Agriculture Victoria to contact horse owners if required.

Please register – it's free, and if you are registered, check your PIC details are up to date at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/>

*HELEN SMITH*

## Rambling on, winter and spring

The other day when I was driving along Emerald Road between here and there, I was slowed down for a few kms behind a rubbish truck. With time to look at the scenery, I spotted a little old original weatherboard farm cottage on the south side of the road hidden behind a screen of trees. I hadn't ever had the chance to notice it in the past 40 years!

No, this is not going to be a rant about driving always at footpace, but it seemed a good introduction to the concept of living life more slowly and 'in the moment' from time to time. At this time of year, late winter to early spring, there is just so much to look for and enjoy in our rural surrounds.

Wattle trees are explosions of colour

in the bush and gardens are so pretty with flowering shrubs, blossoms and bulbs. Native bush flowers are popping up here and there, tiny orchids, lilies, daisies, violets, everlastings, 'pea' flowers, and more.

Kangaroos are bulging with joeys (with all sorts of anatomically possible bits poking out of the pouches). Wombats are active, scraping under fences (to the great delight of escapist dogs and marauding foxes) and leaving their 'calling cards' just where you want to put a foot. Echidnas are waking up after their winter hibernation, scratching distinctive circular scrapes into ant's nests.

The male blue fairy wrens are in full plumage and the little flocks of hens

are twittering in the dense bushes and flitting through the garden like a drift of leaves. Most of the currawongs have headed back to the high country for the summer. The bower birds are back. There are at least two fully fledged satin males in the St Georges Road area. They stay resident all winter, but the flock of females and juveniles has returned from wherever they go to over the past several months.

So when you walk around the village and surrounding bushland, be adventurous now and then and unplug yourself from the virtual world in order to be blessed by 'being in the moment' and in the real world of growing, living things.

Happy rambling.

*ROSZ SMITH*



# Home energy and water efficiency kits



The home energy and water efficiency kit is designed to support and empower residents serviced by Myli libraries to reduce their impact on climate change. The kit will identify where you can improve the efficiency of your home, helping you save money, make your home more comfortable and reduce your carbon emissions.

Inside the kit you will find –

### Power-Mate lite

The power-mate lite shows how much electricity an appliance is using and what this is costing you.

### Thermal imaging camera

The thermal imaging camera shows where hot and cold areas are around your house. It highlights areas where draughts, water leaks and missing insulation might be present.

### Energy saving thermometer

The energy saving thermometer shows the appropriate operating temperature for heating, cooling, hot water service, fridge, and freezer. It will inform you if you need to adjust your settings.

### Water-flow measuring cup

The water flow measuring cup will tell you the flow of your shower and taps in litres per minute.



Instructions for each of the items are provided for additional support and reference.

Borrowers must have a valid Myli adult membership. The home energy and water efficiency kit is available for two-week loan, and may not be renewed. Holds can be placed and must be collected from Myli library branches at any of Cardinia Shire's libraries (Pakenham Library, Emerald Library or Cardinia Mobile Library). It must be returned to a Myli library branch and cannot be returned via the after-hours chute. A Myli team member will check the kit and contents to ensure all parts have been returned before it is removed from the patron's account. Replacement fees will be incurred for damaged or lost items.

# Local plant nursery opens for spring!

This year the Green Circle Plant Nursery closed over the latter part of winter. This was because some of our volunteers had holidays to visit family in different part of the country and overseas. Remaining volunteers have looked after watering the plants, pricking out seedlings and general nursery jobs, but the retail section was closed.

Why is it important to plant native plants, and in particular those plants that are indigenous to our local area? Indigenous plants are best adapted to our local conditions and will thrive better than plants from different parts of the country. For example, although people admire the more striking west Australian plants, they are not adapted

to our soils. Many of these plants do not survive here.

The last issue of the Village Bell focussed on the wide range of local bird species that we enjoy in Upper Beaconsfield. Planting a range of local native plants will encourage more birds into your garden. It will also provide food and shelter for all our indigenous reptiles, frogs, insects, and mammals including possums, echidnas, kangaroos, and bats etc. I only live on a small block but have a resident blue tongue lizard which shelters in my woodshed and comes out when the weather is warm. Fortunately, he/she is safe because I do not have a dog or cat which could inflict damage on the lizard.

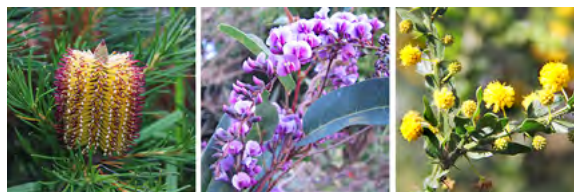
Some people not only plant native plants on their block but beautify their nature strips with a variety of shrubs. Sutherland Road has a couple of excellent examples of this, and these shrubs also provide excellent privacy. Planting a single species hedge of introduced plants does not provide much in the way of food or habitat for our native wildlife.

This year it will be important if you want native plants you get them early in the season, as a drier summer is forecast. Planting in early spring will give plants a chance to become established.

We look forward to seeing you!

HELEN SMITH

## Your Community Nursery



We have indigenous and native plants for your garden

<https://greencircleplantnursery.net.au/>  
[www.facebook.com/GreenCirclePlantNursery](https://www.facebook.com/GreenCirclePlantNursery)

1 Halford Street, Upper Beaconsfield  
Open Fridays 10 am – 4 pm Saturdays 10 am – 1 pm  
0407 304 061



## Who were the Leppitts?

John Leppitt was born around 1856 in the small village of Crickhowell in Wales, where aged twenty he married Sarah Ann Angel. Six of their nine children died in infancy, some in Wales, others in Australia.

In 1883, John, Sarah and two children boarded the *Hesperus* in Plymouth and sailed to Adelaide. On arrival, their names were published in the local newspaper, indicating that they were available for hire. John was listed as an ordinary labourer. The family stayed in South Australia until about 1886/87, when they came to Victoria.

John's obituary states that he worked on many railway tracks, including the Adelaide-Melbourne line, later near Lilydale, Bacchus Marsh and Happy Valley before settling in Dandenong in the mid-1890s. John Leppitt regularly

tendered for contracts of the Dandenong Shire Council, including fencing, cutting drains, laying pitchers and working on the improvement of Dandenong Creek. He also spent time in Queensland, and during the Western Australian goldrush, John went to Coolgardie and engaged in road making and dam construction.

It was while John was away in the west that a terrible accident claimed the life of their twelve-year-old



son Jack. Together with other boys Jack was playing cricket at Dandenong when he was hit by a ball. Jack fell to the ground and died before the doctor arrived. He was buried at Dandenong Cemetery.

A few years later, John Leppitt took his family to Cape Town, where he enlisted for the Boer War. Sarah and her sons travelled on to Wales. After visiting them, John returned to Africa and worked on the Gold Coast. At the end of 1904 the family returned to Victoria. For a short time they stayed in Dandenong, then, in 1905, John bought two hundred acres from Thomas Clement Fisher, who relocated to a large property on Split Rock Road.

Most of Leppitt's land is now along Bathe Road. The farmhouse was on the western side of White Lane. John Leppitt spent three years on the farm, then went to New South Wales where he became foreman on the Burrinjuck Dam, before he was transferred to Berembred, on weir construction work. By 1911 he had returned to his property in Upper Beaconsfield. Getting on in age, he sold one hundred acres to James Donaldson. He stayed in Upper Beaconsfield until his death in 1932. Sarah Leppitt died two years later.

After their deaths the property was sold to George Maxwell Beck. John and Sarah's grandson Jack was a teacher, and was headmaster of Trinity Grammar School in Kew for twenty years.

**MARIANNE ROCKE**

*Images courtesy Jim Leppitt*

# Dog tails: A Field of Berners

We have been asked to tell the story of our beautiful Bernese Mountain Dog Clancy and our previous Berners. Clancy is well known to some in the Upper Beaconsfield community – particularly the walkers and the bakery.

When our daughter was 8 years old we decided to get a family dog. At that time, the RSPCA in NSW was offering advice about which dog breeds best suit a family's circumstances. We lived on a one-and-a-half-acre property in Knapton Avenue at the time. They suggested four dog breeds, but when the kids saw the picture of a Bernese Mountain Dog puppy, the other breeds were left behind.

Over the years we have been lucky enough to own three Berners, each with a different lineage. Whilst they followed the standard characteristics of the breed, eg love of food, placid and good family pets, each of them was unique. They are known for the Bernese bump which is when they put their snout under your hand and flick it upwards to remind you that you are stationary and they are ready for a pat. They also like to put their feet on your feet to remind you of their presence and again that they would appreciate a pat. When you have a giant Berner paw on your foot, you know about it.



Heidi, our first Berner was extremely intelligent, loyal and always wanted



to be with one of her humans. If we were gardening, Heidi would lie next to us. If the kids were running around, so was she and it could be challenging to have a 46 kilo dog land on top of you. Her "puppy naughtiness" was to chew shoes and she had an uncanny knack of choosing the most expensive from any collection. Heidi lived to an almost unheard of age for a Berner of 13½ years.



Griffin, our second Berner, was purchased to keep Heidi company in her old age. However, Heidi gave him one sniff when he arrived and had little to do with him after that. They put up with each other and only became pals when Heidi wanted to get up to mischief. Griffin was an extremely handsome dog, loving and quiet. His "puppy bad" was to dig up and chew the poly pipe irrigation throughout the garden, some of which made it through his digestive system. It was really interesting to see him emerge from Heidi's shadow to be the top dog.

Unfortunately, Griffin only survived Heidi by a few years and he was taken at the age of seven by an aggressive throat cancer.



We thought about not getting another dog after the distressing loss of Griffin. However, we missed the love and companionship of a Berner and the gentle giant Clancy arrived a year later to help fill the void.

Clancy was bred in Gembrook with a local mum and a Hungarian dad. Unlike the other two, he did not suffer any distress when he was separated from his litter and mum – he fitted right in with us. Clancy's philosophy in life has always been to love all humans and other animals. The rabbits run rampant on our property while



Clancy sleeps. Clancy also assumes that everyone will want to be friends with him. However, if they don't, the gentle giant just moves on. Clancy also started out chewing shoes. However, when he realised it would get him in to trouble, he moved to just hiding them in one of his dug outs. Even now, we know he is miffed with us when a shoe goes missing overnight. Often we have no idea how we have disappointed him. People tell us what a gorgeous puppy Clancy is, but unfortunately he is a geriatric Berner even though he is not aware of it himself. He is over ten now and is getting close to his end date. We just try to enjoy every one of his last days.

The four Fields have truly loved and enjoyed the three beautiful big tricolour dogs who have shared their lives for over 26 years. They will always live on in our memories.

**THE FIELD FAMILY**





# Celebrating 40 years!

The 40th anniversary of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre was held on Saturday 22 July. This was a wonderful trip down memory lane with an incredible history display with images and news articles showing many cherished memories, visits from dignitaries, and a few questionable child-safety practices which makes one wonder how anyone over the age of 30 is still alive! Not a tub of hand sanitiser was in sight but driving 20 kids in the back of a ute down Beaconsfield-Emerald Road was A-OK in 1983!

The kids of 2023 enjoyed face painting, temporary tattoos, wildlife demonstrations (wombat cuddles are the best!), sing and grow, and finished off the day with a crazy disco complete with conga line! Even the Teletubbies made an appearance!

The Early Learning Centre's creativity was on full display with a 40-year timeline inspired by The Very Hungry Caterpillar. This will be on permanent display in the Community Centre for any parents who may have missed it. While the centre was formed to help the town in the aftermath of the 1983 bushfire, after 40 years of business it has evolved immensely to become a central provider of essential support and services to over 100 local families through the various programs and the Early Learning Centre.

40-years operating in any capacity and industry is something to be immensely proud of, especially in the not-for-profit sector and overseen by a volunteer committee.

There is a huge list of people to thank

you for making the day a huge success. Jenny C, our hard-working secretary for spearheading today's event, assisted by Yvonne (pictured below) for sorting through many years of archives to put together the display that you see today. To the rest of the committee (and their families) – Steph, Jenny, Yvonne, Simone, Laura, and Kris. Thank you for stepping into your roles with willingness, enthusiasm, and vigour. Without committees, these integral services would cease to exist, so please continue to support the crew here and the other committees in Upper Beaconsfield.

To the team at UBCC who make us look good – Lee, Aimee, Kate, Zoe, Jacqui, Deanne, Josephine, Carly, Kath, Meagan, Tahlia, Judy, Lanah, Trish and especially Marie in the Toy Library. Thank you on behalf of the residents of Upper Beaconsfield for providing activities and events and to stimulate our kids. I know it isn't always easy, but our kids are so loved, and it feels at home here. This is a beautiful testament to the work you all do.

A special thanks to Josephine for coordinating the crew in decorating the Very Hungry Caterpillar timeline. Steph and I dumped her a huge cardboard pile of cutouts with a terrible sketch of the plan, and she and the ELC staff and kids created the timeline masterpiece.

To our local groups who support us:

- CWA (The treats were all delicious)
- Men's Shed (who sold out of sausages twice on the day!)
- Toy Library (Marie, you are an incredible human, thank you)

- Boomerang Bags (sad that I missed out on a Barbie bag!)
- Buildings and Grounds Committee (Helen, thank you for your ongoing support of the business)
- UBA

Although we have a lot of staff and volunteer support, without our generous sponsors, much of today would not have been possible:

- Steph Lipson Photography – official photographer
- Balloons – By Alexita
- Display Boards – Pride Events
- Emma Vulin MP – State Member for Pakenham
- Michael Galea MP – State Member for South-Eastern Metropolitan – Australian Labor Party
- Jason Wood MP – Federal Member for La Trobe
- Councillor Brett Owen (and gorgeous Maggie the shiny disco ball) for not just stealing the show, but for the ongoing commitment to Upper Beaconsfield.
- Brad Battin MP – State Member for Berwick – Australian Liberal Party

If you aren't a member of the Community Centre yet, please join up and help keep this essential service going. We have a lot of fun member events planned for the next 12 months, so join up to stay up to date.

**ERIN MCGAVIN,  
PRESIDENT, UBCC**



## Building a strong sense of community

On Saturday 22 July, in the heart of Upper Beaconsfield, we celebrated the 40-year anniversary of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre. The journey of the Community Centre started as a place where neighbours could gather to share laughter, support each other and be a place of learning and growth.

The Community Centre has thrived over the years. It has continued to build bridges and foster inclusivity. It provides a place to celebrate arts and culture, support local initiatives and social causes. It has been a hub for educational programs, nurturing the need for knowledge sharing, skill development and capturing early childhood development to programs for the young at heart.

Congratulations to all those who have contributed to this remarkable journey, and here's



Erin McGavin and Brett Battin MP

to many more years of enriching lives and building a stronger, more connected community together! After a recent break in at the General Store, the support shown by the community as it reached out to offer help, was a testament to how the community pulls together to help each other. The community were outstanding in their response; from making sure that they supported the store by keeping the register ticking over, to the heartfelt donation from a local person to assist with fixing the door. These two events embody the culture and spirit of the people of Upper Beaconsfield.

Congratulations once again to the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre and I wish the team at the General Store a wonderful year ahead.

**BRAD BATTIN MP BERWICK**

## A busy time around town

Importantly, I wanted to give you the heads up on the new Veterans Card – Victoria, the first of its kind and the most inclusive veteran card in Australia. Whether you've served a day or had a long career in the Defence Force, you're entitled to the Veterans Card – Victoria which includes:

- A \$100 discount on registration and renewal fees for one light motor vehicle (car, motorcycle, etc.)
- Free registration and registration renewals for one light trailer and one light caravan
- Free marine (boating) licences
- An exemption from holding a fishing licence (show your Veterans Card – Victoria as your fishing license)
- Free public transport on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day
- Access to veteran employment programs

Current and former serving ADF members can quickly and easily apply for the Victorian Government's new Veterans Card in the Service Victoria app in just a few minutes.

No complicated forms, no distinctions between different concessions, just a simple card for all Victorian veterans.

Be sure to tell your friends and family who might be eligible and if you need some help applying, just pop into my office and my team can do it for you.

It's been a busy time in the Upper Beaconsfield community calendar, and I have been pleased to participate in some of these significant events.

In the role of brigade member, I attended the 2023 Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade CFA service awards night. As always it was a terrific evening and I want to thank everyone involved in organising the event and congratulate

all the reward recipients. Well done!! Furthermore, I want to recognise and thank all the CFA members for their hard work and dedication, keeping our local community safe, year in, year out.

It was also an honour to be invited to join in the celebrations at the 40th anniversary of the Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre with my colleague Michael Galea MP – Member for South East Metro. I really enjoyed learning how integral the centre is and has been to village life for well over a generation by looking at all the displays and talking with many of you. A big shout out to the magnificent staff and volunteers who made this event a

reality and continue to support the community hub on a daily basis.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have any issues relating to state government matters. My office is at Suite 3, 445 Princes Highway, Officer 3809 or contact me by email at [emma.vulin@parliament.gov.vic.au](mailto:emma.vulin@parliament.gov.vic.au) or by phone on 9651 8254.

**EMMA VULIN MP PAKENHAM**



left to right: Lee Swann UBCC, Cr Brett Owen, Erin McGavin UBCC, Michael Galea MP South-East Metropolitan, Emma Vulin MP Pakenham



# New and improved medical clinic rooms now open

Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice is thrilled to announce the completion of extensive renovations at our medical clinic in Upper Beaconsfield. With the commitment to providing the highest quality healthcare services, we have expanded and upgraded our facilities to better serve our valued patients.

Our recently completed renovation project has added brand new, state-of-the-art medical clinic rooms to our facility. The expansion has allowed

us to accommodate a wider range of services, enabling us to offer comprehensive care under one roof.

Booking appointments with our medical professionals is very convenient. You can easily schedule your appointments through our user-friendly online booking platform or by contacting our friendly reception team. We are committed to provide timely and flexible appointments to accommodate your busy schedule.

Thank you to all our patients and community for your understanding during this time and the continued trust in our medical clinic. We look forward to welcoming you to our newly renovated rooms soon.

## Onsite pathology

UBGP now offers onsite pathology collection six days a week from 8.30 am – 12.30 pm Monday to Friday and 9 am – 12.30 on Saturdays.



# Safeguarding communities

## Vaccinations and the Upper Beaconsfield GP hub

In late 2019 the world was caught off-guard by the unprecedented outbreak of the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. This highly contagious virus quickly spread across the globe, leading to a pandemic that impacted every aspect of human life. In response, scientists and researchers raced against time to develop effective vaccines to combat the virus. The arrival of Covid-19 vaccines marked a turning point in

our battle against the pandemic, highlighting the critical importance of vaccination in safeguarding public health.



## The science behind Covid-19 vaccinations

Covid-19 vaccines were developed using cutting-edge scientific techniques, building upon decades of research in immunology and vaccine development. These vaccines work by teaching



# Upper Beaconsfield PHARMACY

*Local, convenient and compassionate pharmacy care and advice*

53 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd

Upper Beaconsfield

Phone 03 5944 3881

[facebook.com/Upperbpharmacy](https://facebook.com/Upperbpharmacy)

## Opening hours:

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

the immune system to recognise and respond to the spike protein found on the surface of the virus. When vaccinated, the body produces antibodies that neutralise the virus, providing immunity without causing the disease itself.

The mRNA vaccines, like Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, introduce a small piece of the virus's genetic material, allowing cells to produce a harmless spike protein that triggers an immune response. Viral vector vaccines, such as those from AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson, employ a modified virus to carry the spike protein's genetic code. Protein subunit vaccines, like Novavax, deliver a harmless piece of the spike protein directly.

### Preventing severe illness and death

One of the most significant benefits of Covid-19 vaccination is its role in preventing severe illness and death. Clinical trials and real-world data have consistently shown that vaccinated individuals are far less likely to develop severe Covid-19 symptoms that require hospitalisation. This not only reduces the burden on healthcare systems but also saves countless lives.

### Curbing transmission and achieving herd immunity

Covid-19 vaccination plays a crucial role in curbing the transmission of the virus. As more people get vaccinated, the overall transmission of the virus within communities decreases, leading to a

decline in the number of new cases. Additionally, widespread vaccination contributes to the concept of "herd immunity," where a significant portion of the population becomes immune, making it difficult for the virus to spread. This protects vulnerable populations who may not be able to receive the vaccine due to medical reasons.

### Easing strain on healthcare systems

The overwhelming surge of Covid-19 cases placed immense strain on healthcare systems worldwide. Hospitals were stretched to their limits, and healthcare professionals faced unprecedented challenges. Vaccination helps alleviate this strain by reducing the number of severe cases that require hospitalisation. This, in turn, allows healthcare providers to focus on other medical needs and resume regular healthcare services.

### Restarting economies and normalcy

The pandemic disrupted economies on a global scale, leading to widespread job losses and economic hardships. Vaccination is a crucial step toward restarting economies and restoring a sense of normalcy. As more individuals become vaccinated, it becomes safer to reopen businesses, schools, and public spaces. This, in turn, helps revive economic activity and improve overall quality of life.

### Mitigating variants and future outbreaks

The emergence of Covid-19 variants has highlighted the importance of widespread vaccination. Vaccines not only protect against the original strain but also contribute to reducing the spread of variants. The more the virus is allowed to replicate and spread, the greater the chances of new variants emerging. By achieving high vaccination rates, we can mitigate the risk of future outbreaks and ensure that the virus does not continue to evolve into more dangerous forms.

### The role of Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice as a vaccination hub

Amidst the global vaccination effort, local healthcare facilities have played a crucial role in administering vaccines to communities. The Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice has been designated as a Covid-19 vaccination hub, serving as a central location for residents of

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD**  
GP PRACTICE  
*Better care together*

# Community Covid-19 Vaccination Hub

**Weekdays: 9am - 5pm**  
**Saturdays: 9am - 2pm**

**FREE Vaccination**  
**ALL are welcome even**  
**without Medicare card**

**You can book online at [www.ubgp.com.au](http://www.ubgp.com.au)**  
**or Call us on 03 9044 0750**

**GET VACCINATED**

**This activity is supported by SEMPHN**



Cardinia Shire area to receive their doses. This local hub has streamlined the vaccination process, ensuring that eligible individuals have easy access to vaccines and contributing to the overall goal of achieving widespread immunity.

**Conclusion**

Covid-19 vaccination combined with local vaccination hubs like the Upper Beaconsfield GP Practice provide powerful tools in our arsenal against the pandemic. This helps save lives, reduces severe illness, and helps us regain a sense of normalcy. By getting vaccinated and utilising community-based vaccination hubs, individuals contribute to the well-being of their communities and play a vital role in bringing an end to the global crisis. As we continue to navigate these challenging times, let us remember that vaccination is not only a personal choice but a collective responsibility that underscores our commitment to safeguarding public health and building a healthier future for all.

*DR ANSHU MALHOTRA  
DR PUNEET MALHOTRA*

# Introducing Dr Emily Rodrigo

We are delighted to welcome our new doctor at the clinic, Dr Emily Rodrigo. Dr Rodrigo is a GP Registrar, and currently in training as part of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Emily has an extensive experience in the public hospital system at Eastern Health, across many areas of medicine including paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, psychiatry, general medicine, surgery and emergency.

Dr Rodrigo is eager to provide compassionate and comprehensive care to our patients. She enjoys all areas of general practice, but has interests in paediatrics, women's health including subdermal contraceptive implant (Implanon) insertion, sexual health, and preventative medicine.

Outside of work, Emily is a keen football and netball player, and enjoys reading, cooking, and travelling.

Welcome to the community Emily!

Please join us in giving her a warm welcome. She is consulting at our practice now! Please book your appointment online or call the friendly reception team at the clinic.

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD GP PRACTICE  
9044 0750**



## Word search

### Upper Beac Roads

Find these words in the grid

- SUGARLOAF
- STONEY CREEK
- KNAPTON
- PAUL
- EMERALD
- BERGLUND
- FAIRHAZEL
- RED HILL
- ALBERS
- SALISBURY
- CARPENTER
- MCKENZIE
- NORBURY
- BURTON
- TOWER
- LEADBETTER
- FRASER
- MCBRIDE
- VALLEY
- HARPFIELD
- KITCHEN
- REED
- YACKATOON
- MORRIS

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

We were unable to include all the roads of Upper Beaconsfield in one grid. Watch out for more roads in the December issue.

## Impact of deer in Cardinia report

After more than a year in the making, the final report for the vegetation survey that the CDMC undertook with the help of volunteers and grant money provided by Melbourne Water is finally complete. *The Estimating deer densities and their impact on vegetation in the Cardinia Shire* report was authored by Deakin University researchers Lorenzo Galletta, Matthew LeFoe, Euan Ritchie, and our own Mike Hall.

For the survey we used a published methodology of collecting faecal pellet counts (deer poo) and an assessment of the amount that a plant had been eaten at 5 metre intervals over a 150-metre straight line 'transect'. Other agencies such as Parks Victoria have used this method and it enables the sharing of different survey data for analysis over a larger area of the landscape in Cardinia, Casey, and Yarra Ranges in coming years.

Our volunteers were able to complete just over 30 transects to feed into the data analysis. We hoped to complete more transects, but continual wet weather during the La Niña period of

2022 hampered our efforts. The aim was to perform a reliable survey at each site that could be repeated at a future date, so that results could be compared over time. The other aim was to try and identify deer densities from the data collected and cross check that with the helicopter and drone surveys completed in 2021. If a good correlation could be made between the two methods, then use of ground surveys in the future could be relied upon to give 'good' data assessment on deer numbers, rather than having to complete more expensive aerial surveys.

Alas, the report findings did not show a close correlation between the two methods. Whilst some areas in the landscape did show similarities, others did not. We planned to complete the two types of surveys to run close together, but unfortunately Covid delayed the ground survey by 7-10 months. Deer move around the landscape over the year, and we assume that this contributed to the disparity in the deer density comparisons in some areas.



Two key recommendations from the report suggest that future surveys aim to complete more transects so a finer level of detail across the landscape can be analysed, and that a focus on future surveys during the upcoming El Niño phase would provide valuable information about deer use of space and impacts across the different climatic conditions that can occur in the area. We might be looking to survey again in the next couple of years!

The full report will be made available on our website at [www.cardiniadeer.org.au](http://www.cardiniadeer.org.au) so you can read through the methodology, data analysis, findings and conclusions. Whilst the analysis is a bit technical, the bulk of the report is digestible, and we hope you get some value of reading it.

**DES LAVERY**

**CARDINIA DEER MANAGEMENT COALITION**

## Grow, Harvest, Eat – A Guide to Growing Food in Cockatoo

Published by Connecting Cockatoo Communities Inc, 2022

Strolling through the wonderful Cockatoo market recently, I saw the attractive cover of this publication. A quick look inside and I was hooked.

There are other books about growing and harvesting food. However, this magnificently produced cookbook is 'all about growing, harvesting and eating food in 3781 and cool climate regions in general'. As the authors note, 'the aim of this book is to provide the community in 3781 with a guide to support and encourage gardening and growing food, eating imaginatively, and supporting local food growers. Sustainable, economical, and empowering.' They achieve this aim admirably.

A brief introduction sets the scene for the reader including an orientation to Connecting Cockatoo Communities Inc, including a QR Code link. With great responsibility, the authors acknowledge the supporters, notably the major sponsor Vic Health.

True to its aim, the next few pages provide an informative and concise guide to climate and seasons for Cockatoo and surrounds; considers



productive gardens both indoors and outdoors; and, most informatively, included a unique and helpful guide informing this reader of 'soils, mulch and compost' particularly related to Cockatoo and surrounds.

This introductory section has done the hard work for local readers with its 'Cockatoo Planting Calendar' – answering questions I always ask but hard to find accurate local information.

The planting guide is a gem! All in the space of 17 beautifully set out and very readable pages.

Now, the even better bit – there are 35 of your favourite foods, and some you may have heard of but never tried. Concise information on fruit and vegies is presented over colourful pages – how to grow them healthily, and harvest and store them with confidence. There are ideas on healthy ways to eat and enjoy them, recipes for each fruit or vegetable, and how you can share them with family or friends.

The last few pages link you into local kindred souls from whom you can learn more or share your experiences. This cookbook should be on the cookbook shelf of all homes in Cockatoo and surrounds – and used from the garden to the table. Buy it, try it, and provide feedback to Connecting Cockatoo Communities Inc, through the link provided.

How do you access a copy? Copies are \$20 each. Purchase a copy locally, or at the monthly Cockatoo Market, or order on-line (postage an extra \$9.95). [cockatootownship.com.au](http://cockatootownship.com.au)

**FRANK ARCHER**



# Springtime in Beacon Hills Ward

## Guided walk along Cardinia Creek

In September Cardinia Shire Council staff are leading a guided walk along Cardinia Creek to celebrate the 'Citizen Science Biodiversity Blitz'. 'Citizen science' involves collecting records of nature observed in the environment with your smart phone or other device. You then share your observations with others through phone apps such as 'iNaturalist'. These community records can help scientists understand the



health of our natural biodiversity.

Participants on the walk will get to admire the tall manna gums in the Cardinia Creek woodland. You'll see animal tree hollows where possums and birds live and look at and smell the flowering wattles. You'll also get to taste some bush foods and learn about the micro bats that fly through the area at night. Numbers are limited so please register via the link below.

Date: Saturday 9 September 2023,  
Time: 9.30 am to 11.30 am

Meeting place: At the end of Luke Place where it meets Cardinia Creek, Guys Hill

Register: Go to [www.eventbrite.com.au](http://www.eventbrite.com.au) and search 'guys hill bioblitz'

Bring: Water and wear sturdy footwear – the track can be very wet and muddy.

## Seniors Festival events in October

The Victorian Seniors Festival is a major statewide event to celebrate the sensational seniors in our community. It takes place every year during October. This year the theme is 'Learn Love Live'. An exciting range of free or low-cost local events will be held across Cardinia Shire as part of the festival.

- 'Senior-tivity' expo. Find out about social opportunities for residents aged over 55 on Sat 23 September, 10 am – 3 pm, Cardinia Men's Shed (free event).
- 'Old time dance event' hosted by Pakenham Rotary, Sun 15 October, 1 – 5 pm, Pakenham Hall (free event). Bookings essential.
- 'It might as well be spring!' Live show and Devonshire tea, featuring the unforgettable music of Rodgers and Hammerstein Wed 18 October, 10 am – 12 noon, Cardinia Cultural Centre. Bookings essential.
- 'Tai chi for all'. Thurs 26 October, 11 am – 1 pm, Worrell Reserve, Emerald (free event, no bookings required).

For more information and to book events visit [www.whatsoncardinia.com.au](http://www.whatsoncardinia.com.au). Seniors card holders who'd like to catch some Seniors Festival events in the city or in other locations can



enjoy free public transport from 1 to 8 October.

## People with disability express their creativity

Come along to an exhibition featuring art created by people with disability. Hosted by Cardinia Shire Council, the 'Expression' exhibition is an opportunity for artists with disability to showcase their artistic skills and express themselves.

This May, council hosted workshops for people to create art for the 'Expression' exhibition. The workshops were facilitated by local art therapist Nazia Wasif. Cardinia Shire residents with disability were also encouraged



## Is your insurance up to date?

Whether you are a homeowner or renting, insurance is a way you can protect your assets/property from financial risks and losses in the event of a disaster. Insurance can help financially to repair or replace damaged items and assets.

We often think of large-scale natural events such as bushfires, floods and severe storms as reasons to be insured. However, insurance in cases such as housefires, a burst water pipe in the home and crime are just as important. As is ensuring that your insurance is updated each year!

### Things to consider

Have you made significant improvements of value to your home

or require additional cover for your contents? It is a good idea to review your insurance needs at least once every year. You can do this annually when your policy is due for renewal, or at any point throughout the year if your circumstances change. Keeping your policy up to date will help to ensure that any losses you may incur are covered.

### Read the fine print

Always make sure that you thoroughly read and understand the fine print of your insurance documents. They can be complicated and may seem overwhelming but will also help to ensure that your insurance coverage is adequate. Some people find engaging

an insurance broker who can go through the fine print in detail can be helpful.

### Being prepared

Whilst there is a good chance that you may not need to make an insurance claim, keeping your insurances up to date and accurate are a great way to be prepared in case of an unfortunate event or emergency. It is also good idea to review your emergency plan information at least once a year as well.

Visit the Cardinia Council website [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au) and search for help on emergency planning.

**STEWART MATULIS, COORDINATOR – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

to submit their artwork. We have many talented artists in our shire and 'Expression' is a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase their work. Make sure you support our local arts community and visit the exhibition, which opens soon! 'Expression' will run until Sunday 24 September 2023 at Cardinia Cultural Centre, Pakenham.

### Planning for the end of landfill

We need to put our household waste to better use to avoid landfill, so finding an alternative is so important! Melbourne's southeast urgently needs an alternative to landfill, as it is filling up fast and there are no plans for more to be built. Any household waste we can't recycle or recover ends up in landfill. There is currently no other solution for residual household waste.

Alongside recycling, and separating food and green waste for composting, advanced waste processing is a smarter solution for the residual household waste than burying it in the ground.

Council has formed a company with other councils to deliver an advanced

waste processing alternative to landfill. Together we'll deliver a vital alternative that will transform how household waste is managed! We are



### Free green waste drop-off for Cardinia Shire residents

#### Pakenham

Future Recycling Transfer Station,  
30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham  
Friday 1 – Monday 4 September 2023  
9 am – 4 pm

#### Lysterfield

Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre,  
840 Wellington Road, Lysterfield  
Friday 13 – Monday 16 October 2023  
Friday and Monday 8 am – 4 pm  
Saturday/Sunday 8 am – 12 noon

currently evaluating tender proposals from industry candidates to explore new technologies, such as waste being transformed into electricity to power homes and businesses.

### FREE green waste drop-off events

Residents can prepare for the 2023–24 fire season with Council's green waste drop-off events this September and October. Council's green waste drop-off events are a free service accepting residential amounts of green waste including garden prunings, tree branches and small trunks, weeds, grass clippings, leaves, and flowers.

Residents must present photo ID as proof of residence within Cardinia Shire to access the free service. Waste will only be accepted from residential vehicles and trailers. Commercial operators cannot use this service.

For more information visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff)

CR BRETT OWEN

## Repairing and recycling at the Men's Shed

We have been quite active over the last quarter, as well as recruiting three new members. We have worked on small and larger projects both internally in the shed and around the community. These include:

- Refurbished old tables and stools that were destined to be destroyed, from Charing Cross, and installed then in Tommy Griffin Park in Grant Court
- Completed and installed stools and a storage bin at the Kinder
- Collected more tobacco poles from the Myrtleford area for projects
- Constructed walking aids (sticks) as well as hiking poles
- Built a "Boomerang Bag" holder for the Community Centre
- Resized and rebuilt chairs for a café
- Repaired bedside lamps for several community members
- Repaired and refurbished an old carpenter's cabinet for a resident
- Repaired miscellaneous items for residents in our metal working section and turned assorted items on our lathes requested by members and residents
- Sharpened tools for residents
- Various other small repairs for residents

We prefer to use recycled and discarded items for our various projects and jobs, but we always welcome donations of good quality timber that we can use.

We ran a sausage sizzle at Community Centre as part of their 40th anniversary function.

We have at least nine free spirits who have escaped the Upper Beaconsfield winter to warmer climates north and overseas. We thank them for reminding us of the conditions they are enduring!

### Looking for new members

Come along on Wednesday and share a coffee and a biscuit with us. We don't bite and the coffee is good. The Men's Shed is in Halford Street and you can park in the RSL car park. We are open from 9–4 Tuesday, Wednesday 9–3, and



Thursday on request.

Contact secretary 0414 443 735 or [secubms@gmail.com](mailto:secubms@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldmensshed/](http://www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldmensshed/)

NOEL LING



# Scouts are out and about

Well, what a year it has been already for our amazing group! We continue to keep growing and we can only assume that it is from our awesome term plans and word of mouth. Scouting is for our youth, but that does not stop the adults getting in on the fun. A few weeks into term 3 saw 16 youths, five adult helpers and five leaders make the journey up to Mt Baw Baw for the weekend. There were activities planned such as walks through bushland, snowman building and tobogganing, and you can bet there was much laughter and new friendships formed.

All our sections are brushing up on basic skills but also working on getting new badges. The Joeys and Cubs have been working on making their own board games, starting off with character building, navigation, followed by a disco to finish. These youth members are learning lots of valuable skills.

Scouts are levelling up on badges. With nights ranging from hiking to cooking, movies to rock climbing, the Scouts are on their way to earning

plenty of badges. In amongst the excitement of badges, they have also been participating in many district and group camps where they aim to gain valuable skills and continue to build lifelong friendships.

With our two older sections, we have seen many travel abroad for world adventures. The Split Rock Rovers had three members and one leader head over to Switzerland for Kander 100 (pictured below). Activities included mountain tubing, hiking Trümmelbach and Interlaken and tubing down the Aare River to Bern. These activities were just a handful of what they participated in, and we were not surprised to hear that they were walking, on average, 30,000 steps a day. Lastly, Venturers have seen one youth member head over to South Korea for World Scout Jamboree. We are yet to hear back from that member but the images on departure showed an eager and excited individual.

Do you want to join the fun and take your weekends to the next level? Memberships are available to ages five





and up, just head to our facebook page 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group and send us a message.

**BONNIE INKSTER**



## Op Shop report

The op shop teams would like to extend their gratitude to our customer base for:

- providing us with so much fun, challenge and hard work (!) sorting and shelving the extraordinary variety of donations received.
- enjoying browsing the extraordinary variety of items for which we find display space!
- exchanging greetings, chat, ideas, and suggestions with volunteers.
- purchasing from op shops to help reduce, re-use, recycle and ease the load on our planet.
- making it possible for the op shop to give back a proportion of the proceeds to community organisations. This also provides a huge sense of satisfaction to our very hardworking volunteers.

Your local op shop gives goods-in-kind to: mothers and children in need, wildlife carers, dog shelters, disability companion dog breeders, children's books to several service organisations to promote childhood literacy, children's clothes to missions to help children in slums in Africa, India, and Sri Lanka to attend school, rags to CFA and other services I have forgotten to list!



*Recently the op shop had a visit from scouts who had a community service night. We showed them how it worked, where the donations go, and how they are processed. They were also able to see where the money goes and why we do it. They even helped out with some cleaning and sorting. It was a very fun night and we had a ball.*

This year also we have been blessed to be able to provide some financial support to local organisations, with a percentage of monthly takings so far going to: Upper Beaconsfield CFA, W.I.S.H., Need for Feed and Anglicare (support for local victims of homelessness and domestic violence).

So, before you buy anything new, pop into the Op Shop on a Thursday or Friday morning to see if we can supply what you need for a fraction of the new cost.

Blessings to all.

**ST JOHNS OP SHOP  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY TEAMS**



# 100 days of school for BUPS preps

Here at BUPS, the prep students recently celebrated their 100 days of school. We can't believe we have 100 day old preps. Time flies when you're having fun! We had a great day, filled with lots of activities based around the number 100.

The 5/6 students were lucky enough to have an incursion featuring Tom from Coastal Nectar. He enriched our background knowledge during

our captivating reading sessions centred around the mentor text titled 'What if there were no bees?' The 5/6 students showcased their remarkable inquisitiveness. They posed thought provoking questions that left Tom astounded by their existing understanding of bees' significance in the ecosystem. It was wonderful to witness our children's deep appreciation for these essential pollinators.

This term our big community event is the whole school production, 'Brick to the Future'. All students have been practicing their dance numbers with the grade 6's busy rehearsing their lines. We are very excited to put on a whole school production featuring all students for the first time in since 2019.



ALEX GAWLEY



# Annual show jumping competition

In early August our pony clubbers and their families were up early and raring to go as they hosted their annual show jumping competition, with a record 140-plus riders entered across the day. Hosted at the fabulous Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre, it was a huge

undertaking managing two rings for pony club and open riders, and catering for the hungry hordes.

This year our event was geared towards raising funds for sorely needed club room upgrades and couldn't have occurred without the support of

our wonderful volunteers, amazing sponsors, hosts, course designer and of course, riders.



## Thank you to all our sponsors

**Principal sponsor:** Horseland Narre Warren

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## Results

Our local riders held their own against some extraordinary competition across the day. The speed and agility that some horse and rider combinations demonstrated was exhilarating – although quite a few came unstuck at the dreaded dazzle board!

What was particularly exciting for our club was seeing some of our new members either compete for the first





time or participate on new mounts. As always, the team spirit of our riders shone through, and it was lovely to see how exciting and encouraging they were towards each other. We learnt a lot and look forward to hosting the event next year!

**UBPC Champion and Reserve Champion placegetters**

- Pony Club A Grade Champion – Avril Charman
- Open E Grade Champion – Ella Murphy
- Pony Club E Grade Champion – Sienna McPherson
- Pony Club E Grade Reserve Champion – Chloe Westerveld
- Pony Club F Grade Champion – Niamh O’Loughlin

*JESSICA MARRINER,  
UPPER BEACONSFIELD  
HORSE AND PONY CLUB*



**Cardinia Beaconhills Golf Club**

We recently said farewell to Matt van der Kraan as manager but we are glad that he will remain a member of the club with more time for golf. Mark Lazenby has now stepped into the role of manager. Mark has strong local, interstate and overseas experience in all aspects of the golf industry and is a current member of the PGA. He finds Beaconhills beautiful and is looking forward to spreading the word.

Congratulations to the 2023 Frank Nightingale Trophy winner, Jarred Winter. The Nightingale is a singles handicap matchplay event named in honour of a former president of the club. In the final Jarred played Andrew Barcham. Both players came into the match in good form but Jarred had just six putts around the back nine to win two up. He is better acquainted with the Beaconhills greens than most

golfers as he works on the groundstaff.

Our new 'Pathway to golf' for beginner women golfers is growing in number. Two clinics are run on Tuesday mornings at 9 am and 10 am. The clinics cost \$20 each and clinic members have the option of joining the club as 'Pathway to golf' members. This gives them course access. There are also Junior clinics



held during the school term at 8.30 am and 9.30 am on Saturdays. Please check our website for more details or contact the pro shop.

Special mention must go to a remarkable achievement by a favourite local



member Ray Gwozdziwski (above). In July, Ray had a hole in one. Admittedly, it was on hole 11 after teeing off on 12 but it's still a hole in one – with a difficulty factor!

- Pro shop golf booking, clinics, lesson, equipment 5945 9230 proshop@beaconhills.com.au
- Bistro meals available on Friday evening. Bookings 5945 9210. \*No BYO due to licence

**MARY GRIFFIN, ADMINISTRATION  
CARDINIA BEACONHILLS GOLF LINKS**





# News from the court

With the winter junior tennis season now well underway, hopefully we have seen the last of the wet weather that has been hampering play this season. The five junior teams are all going strongly and are looking to be in the mix for playing finals.

We have four senior teams playing on Saturday afternoons this season which include some new players – several are parents of juniors which is great to see. Feel free to call in on a Saturday afternoon and cheer the Upper Beac teams on.

A big congratulations to the mid-week ladies from Section 2 – Jenny, Karen, Anna, and Sheena for winning their grand final! We have just the one mid-week ladies’ team and they are always very competitive. All the best with Section 1 this season!

Our amazing Club Coach Karen Webber from Ultimate Tennis continues to do great things with our juniors at the club. She is the main reason that our junior teams continue to grow, with many coaching students getting together to form new teams for the first time.

Karen is also starting to really cement herself at the elite coaching level and has recently been recognised with a sought-after coaching scholarship from Tennis Australia. If you haven’t had a lesson yet or feel like getting fit in winter with some fun cardio tennis, give Karen a call on 0403 454 554. More details can be found at: [www.ultimatetennismelbourne.com](http://www.ultimatetennismelbourne.com).

Recently, the tennis club has successfully applied for a Community Capital Works Grant from Cardinia Shire Council. This will assist with replacing the existing old court lights with LED lights. Switching to LED lights will significantly help to reduce our electricity costs as well as providing a better overall light – fixing the ongoing problem of different light bulbs giving off varying light intensity based on the age of the light bulb. The tennis club is grateful for the ongoing support from Cardinia Council and from Brad Battin and Jason Wood who provided letters of support as part of the submission.

We have also been spending time updating some of our gardens with



native plants. Thank you to the Green Circle Plant Nursery for their support with purchasing the plants. We are looking forward to seeing these plants develop over the coming seasons and contributing to the native wildlife within Sutherland Reserve.

**DARREN CORDY**

### Sudoku solution from page 9

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

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