

# UPPER BEACONSFIELD VILLAGE BELL

December 2023



Facilitor  
John Legione is  
welcomed by Captain  
Ian Pinney to the  
successful CFA  
bushfire exercise



*Merry Christmas*



# 100 years!

On 29 October 2023 St John's Anglican Church celebrated its one-hundred-year anniversary. The parish has been there for townsfolk journeying through life's joys, celebrations, disasters, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and for weekly worship.

The opening celebratory service included contributions by Rev Shannon Lee, Rosz Smith, Rev Roger Rich (in absentia), Rev Alan Baker, Tracey Kyle (CWA Woorinyan), Joan Medwin, Rev Elwyn Sparks (*below left*), Bishop Paul Barker and many others.

After the service there was a joyful get-together in the adjacent church hall.

Bishop Paul Barker joined Rev Shannon Lee to cut the delicious cake.

In attendance was Paul Reid (*right*), the architect of the new church.





## A cascade of poppies

Remembrance Day is always an important date on the UB calendar and we are honoured to be able to be part of the commemorative service. Our group of knitters this year, Rosz, Judie, Julie, Sue and Kath created hundreds of poppies to make our cenotaph cascade. Everyone agrees that their efforts were a lovely tribute to this important day.

Thank you to the RSL for allowing us to be part of your commemoration, and thank you to everyone who took the time to remember the importance of the day and clicked or commented on Facebook.

VICKI WATSON



**Upper Beaconsfield Community Bushfire Exercise (CBX) 2023** was well attended by many new residents to Upper Beaconsfield trying to orient themselves to understanding bushfire risk. For those who missed out, there are regular Fire Brigade open days and the Proverty Advice Visit Service (PAVS). Get in touch with the local brigade for details.







## Village Bell Issue No. 234 December 2023

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# Twisted weather

## Rainfall on St Georges Road

Rainfall in August was 95 mm down on last year and 34 mm below average.

September was 4 mm less than last year, and 39 mm under the average.

October rains were 66 mm below last year, however with a reversal of trend, 24 mm above average.

For the three months we received 222 mm of rain which was a considerable 166 mm below last year and 48 mm below the average.

Our local rainfall data shows a trend to dryness, however significant rain in October has for a little longer, extended our lush green surroundings. Was October an anomaly to the pattern? We shall have to wait and see. The odds are on the side of less rain. In the last Village Bell, I wrote of fires in Hawaii and Canada. Closer to home, we now have significant dryness and fire activity in Queensland and NSW. As our wind patterns tend to northerly, fuelling hotter and drier days, it would seem we will not be far away from a landscape that shifts from tones of green to brown.

We have had three unusually cooler and wetter summers, so a return to some sort of normal would seem inevitable. I imagine many of you may be awaiting some typical summer heat. But we may get more than we would like. Whilst a little late to the table, the BOM has finally declared an El Niño event. Additionally, the BOM's long-range forecast is influenced by a positive Indian Ocean Dipole and record warm

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	51.8
Sep	90.6	56.1	52.1
Oct	94.3	184.8	118.4
Nov	86.5	126.4	
Dec	80.4	80.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>947 mm</b>	<b>1061 mm</b>	

ocean temperatures. The very likely outlook for November to January is that rainfall will be below average, with maximum and minimum temperatures 2.5 times more likely than normal to be unusually high.

Like many other places around the world, as our climate continues to change, we will have to endure more heat and more dryness than we desire. Rains will come, but with lowered frequency and possibly more intensity. It's like the weather is slowly twisting towards a harshness that is now foreseeable, but not always desirable. There is no instantaneous off switch, only a long-term lever that is not yet pulled by the many. Save some water for the plants, stay mindful of the risks and for the extreme days, make sure you have a plan. It's time for me to move the hose.

ANDREW REWELL



*Thank you to all the Village Bell contributors,  
supporters and advertisers in 2023  
And best wishes for the festive season  
and the new year in 2024*





## Excitement is building for Carols in the Park



Plans are underway for the carols on Christmas Eve in Upper Beaconsfield, and we would still like to hear from any singers who can attend two or three rehearsals and attend the event on 24 December in the park at the rear of the Community Complex in Salisbury Road. Don't be shy, it is a lot of fun! Please contact [secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au](mailto:secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au) or message 0407 443 219

## Christmas Eve Santa run and carols



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

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

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

## Sponsors of the 2023 Carols in the Park

The Upper Beaconsfield Association is pleased to announce we recently secured local real estate business Kaye Charles as a sponsor for the 2023 Carols, to assist with the expenses involved in the event. Cardinia Council also provides funding via a grant. Without these sponsors we would not be able to run the event and we thank them for their support.



## Notification of the Upper Beaconsfield Association (UBA) Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 13 March 2024 at the Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex.

Election of committee and office bearers. All positions are open for election. Nomination forms are available from [secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au](mailto:secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au)

Nominations close on 10 March 2024.

The UBA is a longstanding local volunteer group with a vision to enhance our community.

The UBA presents the UB Christmas Carols, produces the Village Bell magazine and encompasses the

Village Festival, beautification, and

tracks'n'trails

groups. The UBA

represents our community to Cardinia Shire Council and embarks on activities such as the upgrade to Charing Cross.

To further enhance our community, the UBA needs greater community input and new representatives on the committee. So please come and join us, get involved and help return something to the community in which we live.

ANDREW REWELL



## Citizen of the Year 2024

The Upper Beaconsfield Association will be looking soon for nominations to the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year 2024. Full details will be made available in the March Village Bell, also promoted on the Upper Beaconsfield Association Facebook page, and emailed to residents.

### There will be three categories in 2024

Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and a new category – Community Group of the Year. This third award will highlight the important work that is done by our local groups and will give each group the chance to promote themselves and showcase what they have done.

The deadline for nominations will be 31 March 2024. Be prepared – start thinking about and collecting any information for your nominations as soon as possible.

Contact [secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au](mailto:secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au)

## 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)

## Thank you to our subscribers since the last Village Bell

Scott Allison; Don Borg; Tammy Brace; Decelis Family; Ulrich Hapke; Cathy Hermans; Marie Howard; Kerrin Jones; Ed Keon-Cohen; Pam & Neil McDonald; Paul; Sheean Family; Kate Thurkle



# The 2024 Village Festival

Next year's Village Festival is going to be bigger and better than ever before! Add it to your calendar now: Sunday 18 February from 9 am to 3 pm (Tower Run from 8 am).

The Festival Committee re-formed in 2022 after a long lockdown absence. Most committee members were new to the scene, so getting the whole festival up and running again was a major achievement. A reduction in funding in 2023 meant we had to seek new ways to generate income, mainly through company sponsorship.

In addition to the dedicated entertainment area in the Memorial Garden for the younger children (with Dreaming Space and Festive Tribe activities as well as face painting), and the nearby and ever-popular chair-o-plane, there are more activities next year for the older kids:

- Laser Tag on the tennis court (suitable for older kids)
- Test your bravery with a death-defying leap on the Ninja Jump
- Try and stay on your feet as long as possible on the Eliminator
- Scale the heights of the Climbing Wall

## Tower Run

The festival will kick off early at 8 am with the famous single 6.5 km Tower Run and double 13 km Tough Tower Run. The Tower Run has become an important calendar date for the running community and is indeed famous for its challenging route. Water will be provided on the course by volunteers, making use of reusable cups to help eliminate waste. We strongly encourage all participants to carry water as well, especially if it is a hot day. There are children's age group trophies (under 10s, 10–13, 14–16, 17–19) and open category trophies, for single and double (tough) laps. The core ethos of the festival's focus is on sustainability and the environment the trophies and finishers' medals have been redesigned to incorporate

reclaimed timber for the medallion and trophies, and natural fibres for the ribbon. Find The Tower Run entry form on our website at [ubvillagefest.org.au/fun-run](http://ubvillagefest.org.au/fun-run)

## Art & Photography exhibition

Returning in 2024 is the Art Show & Photography Exhibition in the main hall. Entries are invited from visual artists of any medium, in both Adult and Youth categories. A great opportunity for local artists to showcase their work, perhaps make a sale or even pick up one of the six People's Choice Award prizes! The entry fee is \$5 per item and entry forms are available on our website [ubvillagefest.org.au](http://ubvillagefest.org.au) under the 'Art and Photography Exhibition' tab and need to be submitted online prior to the exhibition.

## Can you help?

### Sponsors

Without the continued support of local businesses our community festival would not be possible. We are still on the lookout for more sponsors for 2024 to help keep costs down for the entertainment and kids' rides. Please get in touch if you would like to sponsor part of the festival, and in return we will promote your business on our website and at the festival site.

### Main stage acts

We are in the process of booking new performances and acts for the main stage: if you are a member of a music group, dance club, or amateur dramatics – please get in touch as we love to give local performers the chance to be on stage. Whilst you're watching the performances on stage, we will have a variety of food and snacks available to purchase from different cuisines near the stage and throughout the venue.

### Reusable cups for the Tower Run

Up The Hill Bakehouse has kindly been assisting us with the collection of reusable plastic cups. We still need more so if you have any you can donate please drop them off at the bakery.

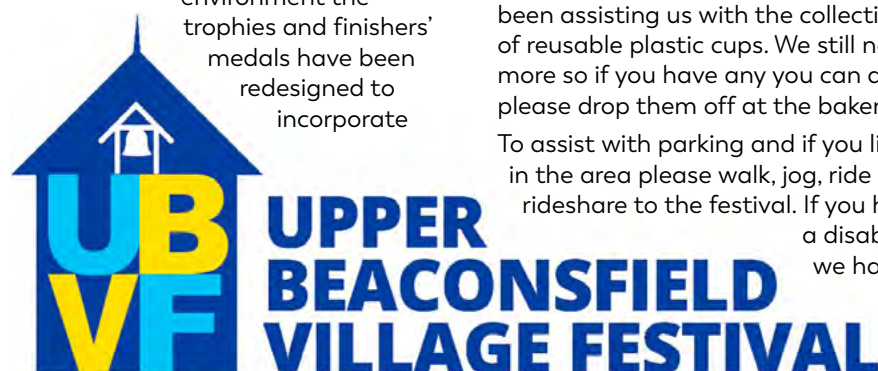
To assist with parking and if you live in the area please walk, jog, ride or rideshare to the festival. If you have a disability we have



limited disabled parking at the front of the community garden carpark, with a drop-off zone in the same spot. As before, this is a Target Zero Waste event, and as such water and beverages in plastic bottles will not be available to buy – please bring a refillable drink bottle with you. There will be two large water refill stations, clearly marked, with water bubblers as well as taps for refilling your bottles. Coffee, tea, and aluminium cans of drink will still be available to purchase.

We can't wait to see you at the festival in 2024!

ODIE BARWICK





## About town

### Traffic and speeding

Our local shopping strip has been getting busier, with more people crossing Beaconsfield-Emerald Road to either walk to the local food outlets, visit Charing Cross, the native plant nursery, or to take a coffee to the playground in Salisbury Road. Some drivers push the speed limits when driving through. Even though the refuge area in the middle of the road helps, you must be careful. We need another survey of traffic speeds along the section from the Emerald Road/Salisbury Road intersection to the Stoney Creek Road intersection. Stoney Creek Road is bumper to bumper heading south in the afternoons after school from 3.30 to after 4 pm. Tradies are in a hurry to get home at that time. To avoid using the freeway drivers travel from Wellington Road, Boundary Road to Albers Road and then via Salisbury Road on to Pakenham.

Residents who live in St Georges Road, and other roads, have trouble exiting at times. Drivers should show respect towards other drivers and people crossing the roads. It is better to slow down and be a bit late, than to have an accident, or cause injury – or worse.

### Motorcycle fatality

A 37-year-old male motorcyclist has lost his life in Upper Beaconsfield. Driving south on the Beaconsfield-Emerald Road about 4.30 pm on Saturday 4 November, he veered off the road and crashed down an embankment just past the northern Stoney Creek Road intersection. He was not found until the next day, after being separated from the group he was riding with. Report from Eyewatch – Cardinia Police Service Area (Facebook).

### Dog attacks update

Since the September Village Bell, there have been more reports about dog attacks around the St Georges Road and Dallas Brooks Park area. Some

residents have resorted to getting a wild dog controller in to stop the attacks.

The number of killings and dog sightings is rising. Residents have notified Agriculture Victoria of about 30 stock losses (including sheep, goats, and alpacas) in the local area, but there could be more that were not reported. There may be several dogs involved.

See Agriculture Victoria for more information about wild dogs, <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/>.

Report any dog sighting or dog attack, giving as much information as possible, including photos. You can report by direct email, online submission, or by phoning 136 186.

### Nature strips

People seem confused as to what your responsibilities are as property owner, and what the Cardinia Council is responsible for. Nature strips are wider in the hills areas and carry more vegetation. The council has a 19-page policy document on nature strips, and you can search for 'nature strips' on the council web page. It states that residents and property owners are expected to maintain the nature strip abutting their property.

There are different rules for suburban and rural areas. As Upper Beaconsfield is in a high fire risk zone, the best policy is to reduce weeds and fallen litter to help keep your property safe.

HELEN SMITH

### Charing Cross

UBA volunteer working bees have meant the transformation of this small community park continues to progress.

If you cross the road from the shops, you will see a space that is now much more of a garden than a paddock.

The gazebo has had a spruce up, there is a new pathway, the picnic table is up, mulch is spread, and the planting has commenced.

Still a work in progress with more plants and design features to come.

A special thanks to all those who have responded and given their time to help, and to Graham from G & K Trees, for donating the mulch.

The resultant garden is a remarkable example of community spirit.

As the weather improves, grab a coffee and cake and take some time to relax in the charm of Charing Cross garden.

We look forward to seeing you there.

ANDREW REWELL



**UPPER BEACONSFIELD  
VILLAGE FESTIVAL**  
**Art/Photography Exhibition**  
**Sunday 18 February 2024**

Entries are invited from visual artists of any medium  
**Adults and Youth categories**

For further details and entry forms please  
contact Gail **0419 385 322** or  
email: **[gailkelly2809@gmail.com](mailto:gailkelly2809@gmail.com)**

Entry forms available at:  
**[ubvillagefest.org.au](http://ubvillagefest.org.au)**



# Gearing up for the fire season in Upper Beaconsfield



This year's fire season certainly poses a higher risk than what we have experienced for the last few summers due to the drier conditions and plentiful fuel loads. The current weather has been a mixed bag, but the long-range forecast is still for warmer and drier than average conditions throughout parts of Australia, and where we reside. It doesn't take much once it starts drying out with a bit of wind.

Many municipalities around the state have either announced or introduced fire restrictions already. For only the second time in history, East Gippsland Shire and Wellington Shires were the first municipalities in Victoria to introduce fire restrictions on 9 October. The last time this happened was 2019 and we all know what happened that summer! Usually, East Gippsland Shire is amongst the last in the state to commence fire restrictions. Normally grass cures and dries out from the northwest of our state through to the east.

With a sudden burst of warm weather around the start of October, we found ourselves supporting our colleagues at the large fires occurring around the Maffra, Briagalong and Loch Sport areas. CFA volunteers from all over Victoria were called in to assist and provide relief on 3-day deployments. It's what we do well in CFA. Support those in a time of need. When the chips are down, the troops rally. We do it because we know that when our time comes one day, they will do the same and be there for us.

## Upper Beaconsfield Ultralight deployment to Queensland

At the end of October our small Ultralight appliance was seconded by the CFA to be deployed to Queensland to assist with their firefighting operations. The Ultralight was part of a 6-vehicle CFA task force made up from appliances from other brigades across District 8. Volunteers from our brigade and other Cardinia Group brigades took turns in sending two personnel up to Qld for 5-day deployments (1 day travel + 3 days work + 1 day travel). The Ultralight worked the fires around the Toowoomba area. The appliance was due to be returned to us around the end of November. It is the best way to utilise resources for where they are needed. The Queensland fire season

usually peaks in spring before the onslaught of their wet season over summer.

## Fire season preparations and restrictions

It is anticipated that fire restrictions will be introduced in the Cardinia

municipality on Monday 18 December 2023, one week before Christmas. Keep an eye on our social media pages for any announcements or you can check yourself here; [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-danger-period-restrictions](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-danger-period-restrictions)

Fire restrictions are when the CFA restricts the use of fires in the community. This is to help prevent fires from starting. To find out what you can and can't do during the fire restrictions and on days of total fire bans, visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can)

## Property management for residents

All residents should be well into their summer property cleanup and preparations by now. Living in a fire prone area doesn't need to be stressful. Taking some simple precautions will help you prepare. Summer preparations should include but not necessarily be limited to:

- Cleaning gutters
- Moving wood piles and fuel away from houses or combustible structures
- Removal and disposal of fallen trees/branches
- Keeping grass to a short length
- Check and fill water tanks
- Check operation of fire pumps. Replace fuel
- Creating/updating your household fire plan where everyone knows what to do
- Does your plan include your pets or animals? What has changed since last year?
- Work out what you are going to do on days of high/extreme/catastrophic weather
- Have a portable radio available with spare batteries (in case of power failure)



- Download the Vic Emergency App and create a watch zone close to your home
- Like and follow our brigade Facebook page for up-to-date information

For more property preparation information see [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property)

## Burning off

If you require assistance with burning off a green waste pile, please get in contact with the brigade and we may be able to assist. An inspection will need to take place first to determine the suitability of the site regarding access. We usually ask for a small donation when engaging in this service. This task must be performed in accordance with council's open air burning policy, comply with prescribed burning days and property location. Residents (or the Fire Brigade) cannot burn off once the fire danger period has been declared under any circumstances.

For those not wishing to burn off, Cardinia Shire is offering a free green waste drop off event for residents at the Pakenham Transfer Station from Friday 1 Dec through Monday 4 Dec 2023 and in March 2024. Full details at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoffdays](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoffdays)

## Turnouts since the last Village Bell

Relatively quiet period. Just the 9 calls – 7 primary and 2 support calls comprising:

- Structure fires x 2
- Rescue x 1
- Washaway x 1
- Grass and scrub fires x 3
- East Gippsland deployment x 1
- Animal rescue x 1

We visited schools and kinders this last term, including the annual BUPs colour



run where we assist with providing some water for their important fundraising event.

### Community Bushfire Exercise (CBX)

On Sunday 29 October we hosted a CBX for the residents of Upper Beaconsfield and surrounding areas at the Beaconsfield Upper Primary School stadium. Around 220 residents attended and were provided tips and information to assist them with their planning this summer. The fire simulation table was a hit with attendees showing the effects of fire in our local terrain with a computer-generated topographic overlay. The day concluded with a BBQ lunch catered by the Narre Warren Fire Brigade catering team. We still have some showbags with some useful information left over from the day if you'd like one please get in touch with us at the fire brigade.

### What's a collar tank?

Did you know we have a collar tank at the brigade? A collar tank is a frameless self-supporting buoy wall tank used for water storage. Collar tanks are ideal for difficult to access areas where reticulated water may not be present. The 7,500-litre tank is housed on a purpose-built trailer along with a petrol driven electric key start portable pump to assist with filling or emptying water. The collar tank trailer and its contents

are a CFA District asset meaning that we can be asked to use it in a wide range of scenarios and not just close to home. The collar tank trailer can be towed behind our Ultralight or Bigfill appliance.

### Santa Run

On Christmas Eve we will once again be driving around the streets of Upper Beaconsfield and Guys Hill spreading Christmas cheer with Santa on board to hand out lollies to those who have been nice. Santa will finish his run and head to the park in Salisbury Road for a 7.45 pm arrival at the carols. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for full

details along with locations and times etc closer to the date.

### More volunteers needed

Our brigade is made up of 100% volunteers from the community. If you would like to join our team and contribute to the wonderful community we live in by becoming an operational firefighter or perhaps a member of the auxiliary, phone us on 5944 3303.

Stay safe this summer and don't hesitate to contact us should you need our assistance.

**IAN PINNEY, CAPTAIN**  
**UPPER BEACONSFIELD FIRE BRIGADE**



## Are you registered?

### Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification System

For newcomers to our town, the Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification System uses a commercial SMS service to send an SMS to all registered residents' mobile phone numbers and ring all registered landline numbers and deliver a computer-generated voice message. This is done automatically and simultaneously. Messages will appear on your mobile from 'U.B.InfoMsg'. To receive any information from the Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification System you must first be a registered user.

### Who manages the system?

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre manages the database of phone numbers and holds the money paid by residents on trust. The operation side of the system is coordinated by residents and volunteers who can send notifications should they be required. Some of these organisers are local CFA members, Fire Guard Group coordinators, and other responsible residents. Register your phone

number at the UB Community Centre at 5944 3484.

### What information will be provided?

Information sent out to residents will be advice in relation to fire danger periods, ensuring residents are aware of upcoming Extreme and Catastrophic Days, notification of community meetings relating to fire and any other messages that relate directly to the community. It is up to each resident to follow the progress of an incident and make their own decisions as to their course of action. It is NOT an early warning system. The Upper Beaconsfield SMS Notification System is very different from the government emergency systems. Any messages will be sent to you wherever you are, even if you are out of the local area.

### Government emergency information

1. **Vic Emergency:** <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>. Download the app onto your smart phone.

2. **Emergency alert:** <https://www.emergencyalert.gov.au/>. The national system will send messages to mobile phones within the geographical area determined by EMV and its agencies. If your phone, or your billing address, is outside the nominated area at the time of an incident you may not be sent a message by Emergency Alert.

### Leave Early policy

You cannot rely on any one information source. It is important to understand that bushfires can spread quickly threatening lives and property within minutes. The CFA is very clear that you may not be given warning of a fire and will never be told when to evacuate. Residents should have a fire plan well before a threat. You should not remain in the area in the expectation that you will receive a warning.

### What do I do in an emergency?

Call Triple Zero (000) to report an emergency. In the event of a fire monitor ABC radio 774 and Vic Emergency.

**ED KEON-COHEN – UPPER BEACONSFIELD**  
**SMS NOTIFICATION COORDINATOR**



# Towards ZERO human generated vegetation fires in the Fire Danger Period: A target for each of us!

Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds are in a high-risk bushfire zone. The media, social media and roadside signs highlight the day's Fire Danger Rating, advising us: how a bushfire may behave should one start in our area; on what actions we should take; and, encourage us all to plan and prepare.

But what causes vegetation fires? 'Climate change' you might confidently venture! Although climate change may influence the Fire Danger Rating and how bush fires may behave, of itself it does not generate the heat source needed to start the fire. A fire needs fuel and oxygen to get established, and may be influenced by temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, and topographical slope. However, these elements do not generate the heat source to 'ignite' the fire. So, what actually causes vegetation fires? Be ready for a couple of surprises!

## Government inquiry

In June 2017, the *Inquiry into fire season preparedness: final report* was published by the Parliament of Victoria, Legislative Council, Environment and Planning Committee. The inquiry had conducted hearings from witnesses and received submissions from across the state. Whilst recognising that lightning strikes and electrical infrastructure were common causes of bushfires, the report found that human activity caused 'at least 70% of bushfires, by either deliberate actions or through accident or negligence'. The Inquiry did not suggest that most human generated fires are related to arson or malicious human ignition. In many cases, these fires could have been prevented. The final report noted that 'to not

address this means we are not using all the resources available for future prevention of bushfires in Victoria'.

## Emergency planning in Cardinia Shire

Recently, one of the community representatives on the Cardinia Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) asked for further clarification on the causes of bushfires in Victoria. The CFA prepared an analysis *Causation of Vegetation Fires During the 2021–2022 Fire Danger Period (1 October 2021 to 1 April 2022)* from its Fire and Incident Reporting System (FIRS). We acknowledge permission from the chair of the MEMPC to include data from that report in this review. CFA attended 2022 vegetation fires across Victoria during this period. This represents approximately 84 responses per week during this period. This figure was slightly higher than for the same period in 2020–2021, but lower than that for the preceding 9 years.

Whilst the most common single cause of the vegetation fires was 'lightning' (17.7%), followed by ignition factor undetermined (13.1%), the bulk of the remainder (69.2%) were human generated. Note, this figure is similar to that found by the 2017 parliamentary inquiry. The common human generated vegetation fires during this period included: inadequate control and escapes from burn offs (28.8%); re-ignition of previous fires (11.1%); and vehicles and machinery (7.1%). A further 12.0% were regarded as suspicious, including one series of 11 fires, which were further investigated by CFA fire investigation officers and

Victoria Police. The remaining number represented multiple causes each of a small percentage. Although not analysed in the CFA report, most of these human generated fires would likely be considered 'preventable'.

So, how much did Cardinia Shire contribute to these figures? The CFA kindly conducted a follow-up analysis and examined 'inadequate control of open fire' as the cause of a CFA response in Cardinia. However, the time interval differed from the analysis above and thus the figures are not directly comparable. For each of the financial years over the past 4 years, the CFA response in Cardinia to this cause of incident (high wind, inadequate control of open fire, unattended) was as follows:

2019 – 8 responses;

2020 – 25 responses;

2021 – 28 responses;

2022 – 48 responses. Note, a

progressive increase each year. These figures suggest that Cardinia has a higher rate of CFA responses than the state average for this type of event.

The first CFA report provides another staggering insight. Within the 2021–2022 Fire Danger Period, there were **101 vegetation fires on Total Fire Ban days**. Of these, 35 were caused by lightning, whilst 12 were undetermined. However, 29 were caused by escaped burns; 12 were suspicious; 9 caused by machinery, vehicles; 3 caused by powerline infrastructure; and 1 caused by a discarded cigarette. So, we could regard 53% as preventable! Total Fire Ban days are aimed at preventing vegetation fires from starting!

Remember, the time frame for the first CFA report above was the Fire Danger Period – with 2022 vegetation fires across the state during this designated period, including some days of Total Fire Ban. This was despite the CFA imposed community restrictions relating to the use of fires – and we still experienced human generated vegetation fires!

In an unrelated report on a similar theme in a recent Ranges Trader Star Mail (10 October 2023, p5), in Tanya Steele's article *Campfire Caution Urged*, 'Over the 2022 extended Grand Final long weekend, more than 30 unattended or illegal campfires were detected (in the Yarra Ranges area), and authorised officers handed out nearly 30 fines to people caught



## Human generated vegetation fires in Fire Danger Period



committing campfire, vehicle or other public land offences.' Does this suggest we have an underlying behavioural issue regarding campfires in our community?

However, it does suggest that we need to revisit the statement from the 2017 parliamentary inquiry, 'to not actually take this (information) into account is not using all the resources that we can have and use and need to use for future prevention of bushfires in Victoria'.

### A safer approach

It is time to consider adapting the Safe System Approach used so successfully in road safety to reduce death and injuries on our roads over the past 30 years. Specifically, the concept of 'Towards Zero' appeals as it specifically targets unnecessary or preventable deaths and injuries. This could be adapted to a Bushfire Safety Model – Towards Zero preventable vegetation fires in Cardinia. We have the data, we know the risk mitigation strategies and have the resources, we are aware regulation is not totally effective, so we

each have to accept the responsibility to behave appropriately to move **'Towards Zero' preventable, human generated vegetation fires in Cardinia.** And the proposal is measurable! We each have a role to play! So, where do we start? The following provide authoritative, user friendly and accessible guides to aid us in our decision making to move Towards Zero!

- Burning off in Cardinia Shire at <https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/burningoff>
- Know the new Fire Danger Ratings and Can I or Can't I? at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions>
- Upper Beaconsfield Bushfire and Biodiversity Tool at [bit.ly/3CF69vd](https://bit.ly/3CF69vd)
- Bushfire Prepare On-line learning program and workshop at <https://bushfireprepare.online/>

We'll ask the CFA to undertake another study on the causes of vegetation fires in Cardinia Shire at the end of this year's Fire Danger Period.

If you'd like further information, please feel free to contact us through the editorial office of the Village Bell at [villagebell@upperbeaconsfield.org.au](mailto:villagebell@upperbeaconsfield.org.au)

**FRANK ARCHER AND CAROLINE SPENCER**



### Upper Beaconsfield Bushfire and Biodiversity Tool

Email: [upperbeacstorymap@gmail.com](mailto:upperbeacstorymap@gmail.com)

Website:  
[bit.ly/3CF69vd](https://bit.ly/3CF69vd)



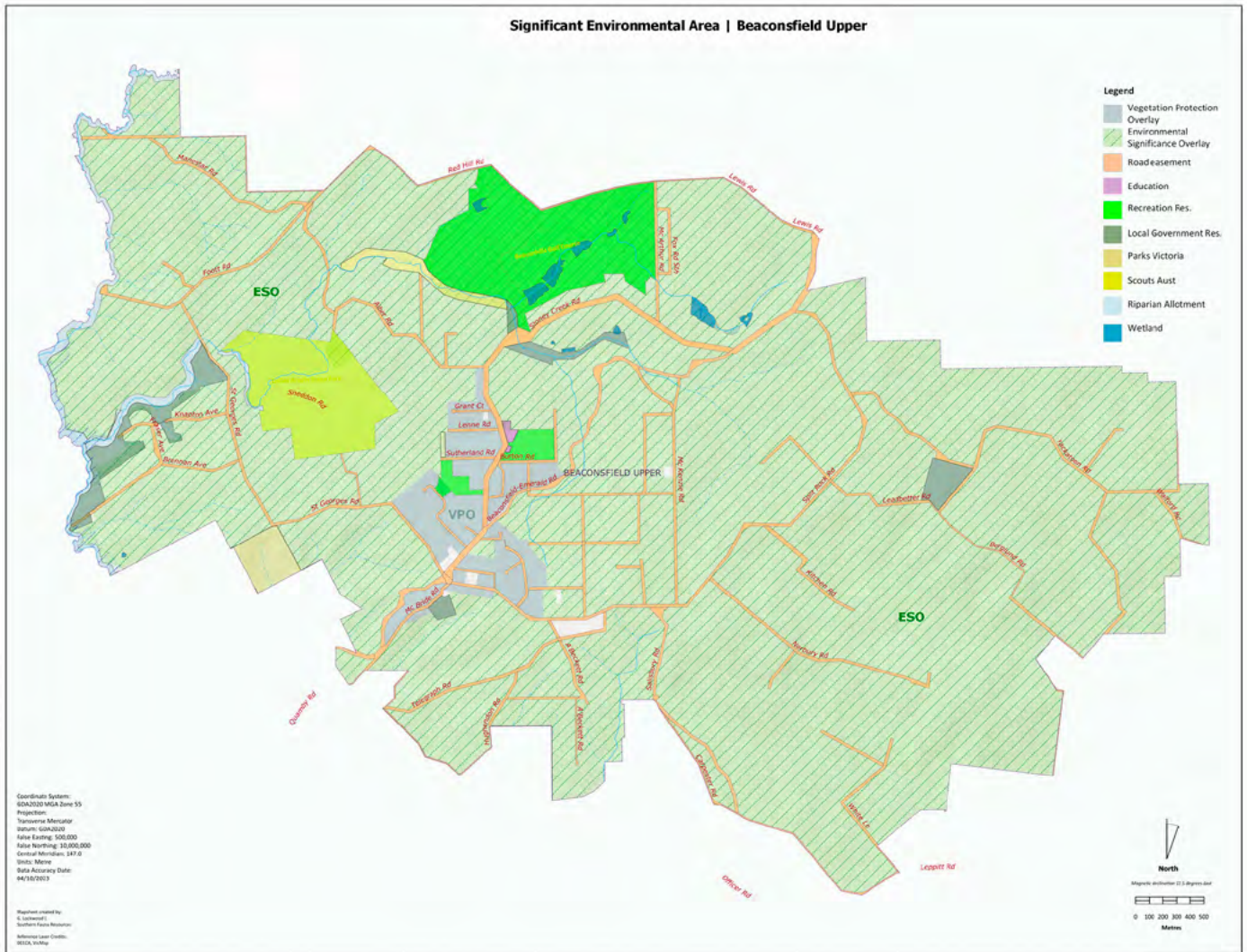
### Upper Beac roads

Find these words in the grid

HALFORD  
GRANT  
ARMSTRONG  
ST GEORGES  
SPLITROCK  
THOMSON  
BRENNAN  
CORRINGHAM  
ROSEBANK  
CRAIK  
LEWIS  
CANTERBURY  
MCARTHUR  
JOHN WILLIAM  
FOOTT  
TELEGRAPH  
A'BECKETT  
FUNNELL  
MANESTAR  
WALFORD  
HARRIS  
YOUNG  
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LEPPITT  
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# There's no place like home

## How the planning laws affect you

We all know Upper Beaconsfield is special, but did you know most of the township is of such high environmental value it's protected by specific planning laws?

Most properties in the township are covered by either an Environmental Significance Overlay or a Vegetation Protection Overlay under the Cardinia Planning Scheme. This is to protect the landscape and natural elements that define Upper Beaconsfield and make it such a desirable place to live.

The Environmental Significance Overlay is focussed on retaining the township's amazing biodiversity – the animals, birds, trees, and plants that occur here naturally. It ensures this biodiversity is protected as much as possible and that any development does not come at the expense of the property's environmental values.

The Vegetation Protection Overlay focusses on protecting native vegetation to ensure the natural habitat of animals and birds is

protected, as well as for amenity, land management and cultural purposes.

What this means is that you may need a permit to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation on your property.

The State Government has free online maps available to help you determine which overlays and zones apply to your property. Simply go to <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/> and put your address into the search bar. It will take you to a map of your property with the relevant zones and overlays listed. Each of the zones and overlays listed is a live link you can click on for information relevant to your property.

There is great advice on Cardinia Shire's website to help you make the most of living in this wonderful natural environment. This includes tips on how to create a garden that attracts wildlife, how best to control weeds and an excellent guide to local indigenous plants, including photographs and advice on growing conditions and what each plant is commonly used for. This

can be found at: [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/environment](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/environment)

See also Cardinia Community Compass at <https://cardinia.pozi.com/> including more recent satellite aerial views.

There is no place quite like Upper Beaconsfield. It's truly remarkable that just 10 minutes-drive from Melbourne's outer suburbs there exists a haven for wildlife where it's almost an everyday occurrence to see kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas, wombats, and a host of bird species. Upper Beaconsfield Conservation Group is dedicated to preserving our unique and fragile natural environment. To find out more, visit: [www.ubcg.org.au](http://www.ubcg.org.au)

We hope to have someone from Cardinia Shire Council at next year's Village Festival to answer your questions about zoning, overlays and more.

**UPPER BEACONSFIELD  
CONSERVATION GROUP**



# The fascinating world of native rats and mice

I have never met too many people who like rats or who are even prepared to tolerate them at all. That is why rat poisons sell so well. We associate them with disease (leptospirosis, salmonellosis, Lassa fever, and of course the plague), poor hygiene, squalor, even as harbingers of doom and death; they chew through wiring, harass our chickens and scuttle about in the roof when we are trying to sleep. They are beneath contempt; the name 'rat' is an insult used on people who lie, betray or double cross. Why would anyone want to write an article about rats?

The rats referred to above are black rats (*Rattus rattus*) and brown rats (*Rattus norvegicus*). They get most of the bad press. In Australia and many places worldwide, they are indeed invasive pests. In some small way though, we should admire them for their ability to survive and spread globally, adapting, and thriving around human habitation. They will eat nearly anything, they are fiercely competitive for resources and can breed like, well, rabbits. They probably arrived here with the First Fleet and have created havoc for the local fauna, primary industry, and us humans ever since. The World Conservation Union nominated the black rat as among 100 of the 'world's worst' invaders. So destructive were rats to the endemic and rare populations of Lord Howe Island birds, arthropods, and plants that the NSW government decided to eradicate all 200,000 of them. It took till 2022.

## Australian rats

Before black and brown rats arrived, Australia had its own native rats and mice. They arrived in two waves crossing the oceans from Asia and New

Guinea, before settling here.

The first to arrive six to eight million years ago were species from Tribe Hydromyini, the ancestors of our 'Old Endemic' rodents. These include rabbit-rats, rock rats, water rats, stick nest rats, mosaic-tailed rats, prehensile-tailed rats, and hopping mice. Their numbers have plummeted with the arrival of feral cats and foxes, and from habitat loss, but even today some of our native species are hanging on.

We have encountered spinifex hopping mice in the open-air communal kitchen at Newhaven, an Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) property along the Tanami Track. We helped trap, weigh, measure, sample, and health check stick nest rats at Mt Gibson, another AWC property in Western Australia. For the record they are both very cute and doing OK in their new cat free homes.

Around one million years ago the 'New Endemics' arrived. Also originally from Asia, they have evolved into seven distinct species of native rat. They have adapted well to all sorts of habitats from rainforest to desert. In Victoria, the most seen are the bush rat, *Rattus fuscipes*, and the swamp rat *Rattus lutreolus*. I recently discovered that the bush rat has taken up residence in my garden. And I am happy about that.

Native endemic rats have evolved here over millions of years, unlike their invasive cousins. Although they look similar, their behaviour is quite different. They have an integral role supporting our ecosystem, rather than destroying it. They eat plants and invertebrates. They pollinate local trees and flowers as they move around. AWC has found they coexist with other native species. Where bush rat numbers are healthy, their presence prevents black rats

from eating the eggs and young of ground dwelling birds and mammals. They are ecosystem engineers, digging tunnels and burrows to live in and feed along, while turning over the soil and 'mulching' it with the native grasses they are processing. And they are also a food source for other native animals and birds.

## How can you tell black rats from bush rats?

- Black rats have a very long tail in relation to their body length. Bush and swamp rat tails are shorter than their body length.
- Size, shape, and position of ears: black rat ears are large and round and stick out from the skull; if you folded them forward, they would cover the rat's eyes. Bush and swamp rat ears are smaller and lie flat on their skulls.
- Behaviour: black rats are brave and bold. If they are around, you will often see them scampering along paths and fence tops, scrabbling around your wall and ceiling cavities. They eat a wide range of foods which they are happy to scrounge from humans. Bush rats are shy and elusive. They are skittish, running quickly across open spaces, preferring the shelter of tall grasses and undergrowth. Their favourite food is native plant shoots, mat rushes (*Lomandra longifolia*), and even sword grass (*Gahnia sieberiana*) are a favourite here. And they really do not like to live too close to humans, let alone in their houses!

One way you cannot tell them apart is rat poison. This kills all rats, native or not, and the owls and raptors that feed on them. Please seek alternatives to using rat poisons!

CARO LETTIS

UPPER BEACONSFIELD  
CONSERVATION GROUP  
[WWW.UBCG.ORG.AU](http://WWW.UBCG.ORG.AU)

[Caro and husband Mike have spent time volunteering at Australian Wildlife Conservancy properties, see [www.australianwildlife.org](http://www.australianwildlife.org)]

## Bush rat *Rattus fuscipes*



Image: Russell Best, Creative Commons BY 2.5 AU, [biocache.ala.org.au](https://biocache.ala.org.au)



## Green Circle Plant Nursery – information for residents

GCPN, located in Halford Street Upper Beaconsfield will close for the summer break on Friday 8 December. We reopen again Friday 16 February 2024.

We are a community-run nursery run by volunteers. We grow and sell indigenous native plants to councils, schools, Melbourne Water Stream Side Projects, members of the public, and others.

We donate the funds we raise to a

wide range of causes such as our local CFA, Upper Beaconsfield Hall, UB Beautification Group, St John's Church, wildlife shelters, Need for Feed, Bushfire Recovery Projects, Zoos Victoria, and Healesville Sanctuary's Australian Wildlife Health Centre. We have also donated plants to bushfire regeneration projects on public and private lands.



From all of us at Green Circle Plant Nursery we wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

**SUE SIMMONS**

## Tracks 'n' Trails walk of the month!



Enjoy a peaceful stroll along the quiet Sutherland trail located in the Sutherland Park Reserve. Be surrounded by lush greenery, wetlands, and bird calls. The track has recently been extended and cleared for your walking pleasure.

The track can be accessed at three points. The first is at the very end of Sutherland Road. Continue to the end of the road and the track is on left. The second is from Rosebank Lane, as you enter the reserve the track is on the left hand side, not too far in from the road. The final entry point is located behind the tennis courts off Stoney Creek Road. This entry is a little bit harder



to find but if you walk towards the bush with the tennis courts behind you and follow the edge of the bush and you should find the entry.

Happy walking!

**KATE THURKLE  
AND GUIDO DISSEGNA**

## Rambling on

We live in a rural zone, with large areas of indigenous forest, scrubland, creek beds, rocks and grassy hillsides. This can all add up to the presence in our lives of a variety of wee beasties with more or fewer legs than we appreciate. As human beings all our behaviour can follow a choice. We can choose to run screaming, to ignore, to kill, to live-and-let-live, to investigate and learn about nature, to find things ugly, or to look for the beautiful or fascinating aspects of other creatures. We can also choose a judicious mixture of all the above.

Where is all this leading? Well the other day after a lot of wind and rain, I found

an extraordinary beastie (right). She was splatted on the ground in a seeming moribund state after being blown out of her tree. She was so big and so gentle and so absolutely 'other' that I was fascinated and wanted to find out





more about her. Her latin name is *Tropidoderus Childrenii* – the children's stick insect. She is endemic to the eastern seaboard of Australia, lives in eucalypts and feeds only on gum leaves. She is totally harmless and relies for survival mainly on her superb camouflage. When her wings are folded under their covers she looks exactly like a leaf or two. Her lifespan is quite long (for a bug) 18 months, and spent entirely in her tree. From there her eggs drop to the ground and the insect life cycle begins again. The male of the species looks very different. He is brown and totally resembles a thin twig. I was very pleased that before I had photographed, identified and rehomed her, (she seemed to recover after being out of the wind and rain for a while) I had actually shown her to a couple of neighbouring children. Maybe her visit will help provoke interest rather than revulsion in them.

Once or twice whilst gardening I have found a dramatically coloured, iridescent blue/green bodied creature, with bright cherry-red legs and antennae, the size of a bull-ant, but not an ant. Investigation shows this to be the wingless burrowing, ground-dwelling blue ant wasp *Diamma bicolor*. Why on earth a sub-earth beastie

is blessed with so much colour is a mystery. Look her up on the internet and if ever you find one, let her burrow away again after admiring her, but don't touch as she is a wasp and has a sting.

Have you got any strange holes in your lawn or paddock, about 2-4 cm in diameter with the edges built up with round balls of clay? Then you are privileged to have burrowing crayfish. They are a group of very specialised, local species found in the Dandenong Ranges area. Look after them! Some sub-species are so localised to an area that they are endangered by loss of habitat. Some prefer muddy creek bank areas, others you will find on drier hillsides, relying on rain and underground dampness. (This pictured hole/mound is the largest I have found at home, and on a drier hillside). These crayfish are small (12 cm) and inedible (no meat) to humans, but birds and other predators love them. A couple



of times over the years I have found a leftover claw, only a few centimetres long but perfectly crayfish-shaped, cream and bright orange in colour.

Happy exploring in your garden, paddocks and our forests!

**Rosz Smith**

## Citizen of the Year dinner at Jason's Restaurant

On 26 October former COY awardees with friends and family met at Jason's Restaurant for a delicious dinner. Those attending were:

Standing: Ed Keon-Cohen, Andrew Ewenson, Marianne and Cameron Rocke, Neil McDonald, Jenny Pritchard,

Puneet Malhotra, Anne and John McCormick, Sergio Carlei, Prahmod and Krupesh Patel, Mary Carlei, Bob Taylor, Anita Patel, John Russell, Sally Randall, Bec Read, Ray Allsop, Sue and Peter Simmons, Anshu Malhotra, Lisa Sykes, Sue Keon-Cohen, Claudia, Kate Hutson,

Hannah, Naomi Sykes, Gail Kelly, Dillon Tait, Kevin, Graham Cockerell, Jo Keon-Cohen, Mark Knight

Sitting: Val Ewenson, Lawrie Pritchard, Marie Howard, Stan Hamilton, Norma Marshall, Pam McDonald, Tony Knight, Helen Smith, Wendy Thomson





# Deer related traffic injuries in Victoria and Cardinia

Multiple reports and authors advise that the number of deer in Victoria is increasing, including multiple studies undertaken here in Cardinia by the Cardinia Deer Management Coalition (CDMC) which provides a comprehensive overview on its web site at <https://www.cardiniadeer.org.au>. The CDMC vegetation survey adds to the mounting evidence of the impact of deer on the environment. And every second neighbour seems to have a sorry tale of deer destroying their citrus trees, vegie patch or de-heading their rose garden. However, it is more difficult to gain adequate information on deer related traffic injuries.

A team from The Alfred Hospital (2019) studied animal-related vehicle collisions in Victoria which resulted in injured persons attending a hospital emergency department over a 10-year period (2007–2016). Not surprisingly, in their study, kangaroos were the most common animal involved at 55% of

the 152 incidents over the 10 years. Unfortunately, their analysis did not include specific mention of deer related incidents. The authors suggested that animal related events were under-recognised, although increasing, and called for further studies.

Also, in Victoria, the Invasive Species Council (2022) provided a broad-based insight into the economic, social, and environmental costs of deer, which included deer related traffic incidents. The council's report identified that deer numbers are increasing in Victoria and that there were 87 deer related vehicle accidents in 2016, however, they did not report on human injuries. The council estimated that the number of deer-related vehicle accidents in Victoria would rise to approximately 220 per annum by 2030 – that is not far away!

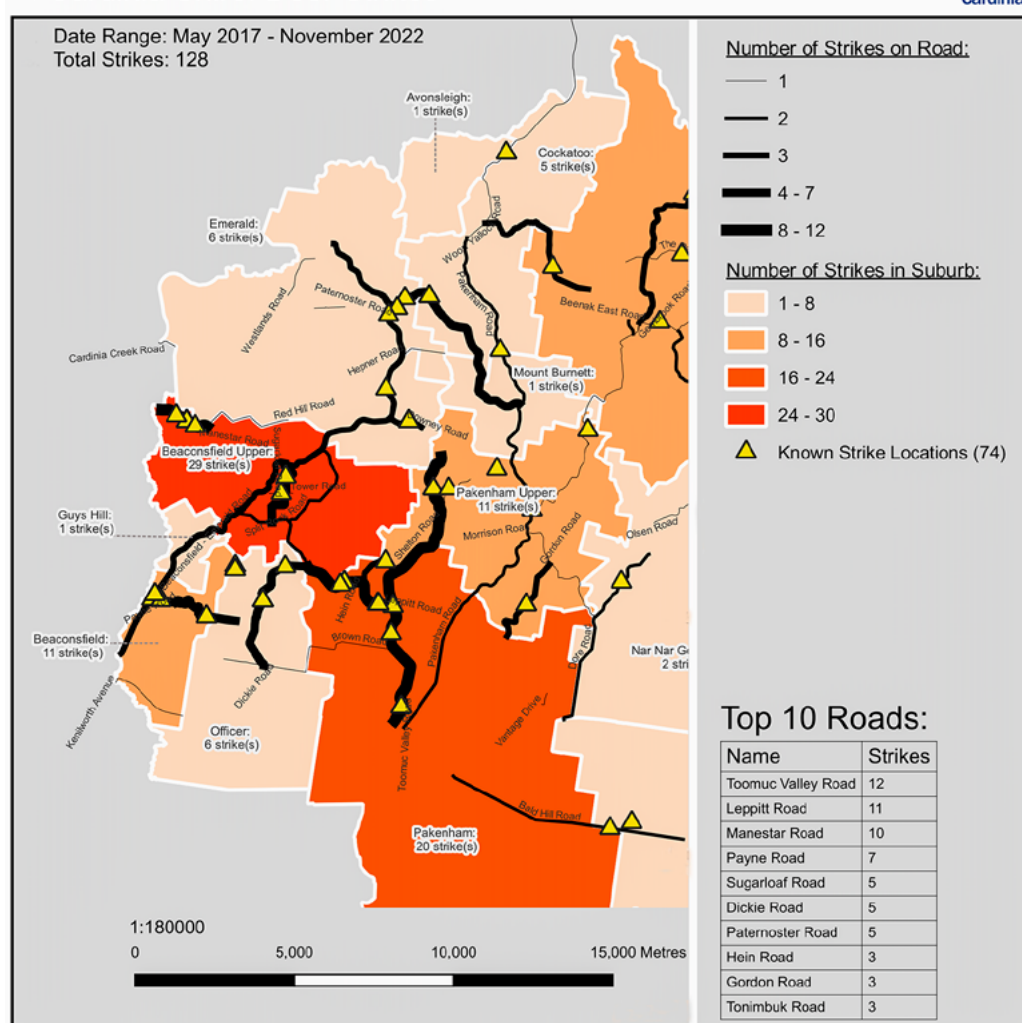
At the request of the CDMC, the Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC), through its data



analysts Associate Professor Jananeke Berecki and Dr Jane Hayman, identified that there were on average, 6 people per year over the 5-year period mid-2017 to mid-2022, who attended a Victorian hospital emergency department as a result of a deer related vehicle accident. Of these, approximately 50% were admitted to hospital for ongoing care. Based on the Invasive Species Council's Report, this number may double by 2030.

Also, at the request of the CDMC, the Cardinia Shire's Emergency Management Unit, undertook a detailed examination of deer related vehicle accidents in the Cardinia Shire over the period May 2017 to November 2022 identifying 128 'Deer Strikes' (see figure 1, reproduced with permission), however, they were not able to identify

## Cardinia Shire: Deer Strikes



the number of people injured.

The three most common roads involved were Toomuc Valley Road (12 strikes), Leppitt Road (11 strikes), and Manestar Road (10 strikes). Although we have all seen deer on Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, the secondary roads are more dangerous.

You will all make your own conclusions from the above information. Although we personally may not see or hear of deer related road accidents, there are deer on our roads, they cause accidents and people get injured as a result. Consequently, all of us should adjust our driving behaviour accordingly.

However, primary prevention is more influential, thus we seek your support of the Cardinia Deer Management Coalition Inc and of its principles to help humanly reduce deer numbers in the Shire. The references mentioned above, and other related references, are available on the CDMC web site as noted above.

**FRANK ARCHER  
AND CAROLINE SPENCER**



## Dog tails: Buster

We've always been 'dog people' so it felt a bit strange when we moved into our new Upper Beac house to have a cat but no dog. Luckily, once we had made our yard secure, we were able to put our name down for a puppy that was part of a rescue litter at the RSPCA. He's a tricolour, border collie/kelpie/heeler cross with short hair and endless energy. The cat tolerates him.



Nearly all of our previous dogs have been 'tradie' dogs, who spent most of their time outside and were fed from a can. Buster sleeps inside and eats expensive dry food and fresh vegetables! Like his predecessors though, until recently, his role was to ride in the work truck, keep the plumber company on the job and make friends with the customers.

When he came to us, the first Covid lockdown was just beginning. We were allowed to leave the house to exercise outdoors, so we walked quite a lot. Buster loved it and this set up a regular daily habit that continues to this day. His favourite place to walk/run is Harris Reserve. The first thing he'll do is find a biggish stick, at least a metre long. He'll then trim it up and parade it around



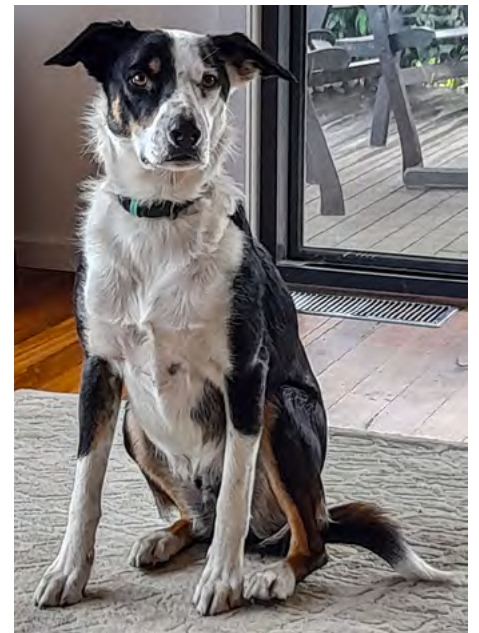
like a prize until something else grabs his attention, and then he'll dump it until next time.

The path that goes past our house and through the reserve became a popular walking circuit during Covid and Buster has come to know a lot of the walkers and their dogs. He's a friendly dog and many people know his name and stop to say hello. He really enjoys

the passersby especially the kids but there are dogs in just about every house in our street and sometimes it becomes a competition to see who can bark the loudest and put up the best defence of their boundary. Its harmless but can be a bit annoying. Our other regular walking circuit is through Sutherland Park. Like most dogs Buster loves to chase a ball and he knows that the tennis balls regularly escape from the courts and lie hidden in



the shrubs. He likes nothing better than sniffing them out and then chasing them until we humans get sick of the game.



On a fine day you might see Buster wearing his goggles and travelling in the sidecar of a motorbike. He'll be on his way to Acoonah Park in Beaconsfield where he'll meet up with some doggie pals for a run and sometimes a swim. It's a dog's life!

**LINDA BURRIDGE**

## A puzzle for the family

### Sudoku – medium

*solution page 26*

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

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



## Emma Vulin MP

It's hard to believe that end of year festivities are just around the corner.

Upper Beaconsfield Carols by Candlelight is one my personal highlights of the year and I'm looking forward to joining in the celebrations once again.

I'm sure as the weather warms up everyone will be undertaking their summer clean up and will be getting well prepared for the fire season.

At the start of November, the State Government introduced the 'Container Deposit Scheme'.

Cans, cartons, and bottles purchased from November 2023 can be returned for a 10c refund, which you can keep for yourself or donate to a charity or community organisation.

Locally, Foodworks in Upper Beaconsfield is a registered collection point for eligible containers.

All collection points can be searched at [cdsvic.org.au/](http://cdsvic.org.au/) locations and by August 2024 the network will grow to more than 600 refund points around the state.

This scheme is great for our environment, great for the circular economy and great for local charity groups. I hope that everyone will get behind this program.

As always, please contact my office if you have any issues relating to any state government matters. My office is located at Suite 3, 445 Princes Highway, Officer 3809 or you can contact me by email at [emma.vulin@parliament.gov.vic.au](mailto:emma.vulin@parliament.gov.vic.au) or phone my office on 03 9651 8254.

**EMMA VULIN MP**  
**STATE MEMBER FOR PAKENHAM**

## Brad Battin MP

As our wonderful summer season looms ahead, I would like to note that we are also in the midst of the Fire Danger Period. There have already been some early season fires in the northwest and east of the state which highlight the importance of being fire ready. Please contact your local CFA or go to the CFA website: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare) for up-to-date information on being fire ready.

It was the end of an era when Daniel Andrews resigned as the Premier of Victoria. However, this does not change how I serve my community. I will continue to listen to you and work with you to achieve the best outcomes for our community. There have been concerns raised by people regarding the worsening condition of our roads with the number of potholes in need of repair, and the matters with the Beaconsfield Reservoir are still being highlighted to the Government. These are important issues in our community and I will continue to take them to the government as your representative in parliament.

I am pleased to say that we are closer to being in an office in the Berwick electorate with the Department of Parliamentary Services signing off on an office space in Wheeler Street, Berwick. Please check my socials for updates on the timeline for this move in 2024. I look forward to welcoming you to the new office and will ensure that that our service to you remains available between now and then.

My staff and I continue to work from our temporary office in Narre Warren. If you have any questions or comments to share, please feel free to contact me on 5953 0216 or [brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au).

You can also follow me on social media via my website [www.bradbattin.com.au](http://www.bradbattin.com.au)

**BRAD BATTIN MP**  
**STATE MEMBER FOR BERWICK**

## St John's – celebrating 100 years of service

As I sit here eating my instant oats, I am struck with the notion that in a world where we have instant photos, streaming, text messages and even fast food, something that lasts over 100 years stands out and should be celebrated.

And that's what we did in October. Our beautiful community here at St John's celebrated 100 years of ministry and service. 100 years! How amazing is that!

It was an absolute privilege to talk to so many people who have journeyed through life's joys, celebrations, disasters, weddings, funerals, baptisms and worship at St John's. This is 100 years of giving hope and life. Not a flash in the pan or an instant change. But 100 years of constant faith in something bigger than ourselves.

As Christmas approaches, we are aware of how much pressure there is to have it all, and to have it all sorted NOW. To have the kids together, (even the grandkids), the presents done, the



*Dick and Barbara Nethercote (nee Hudson)  
were married at St John's in 1965*

food prepared, the house cleaned and holidays booked. But we know how much work goes on in the background. It is never instant.

We can't change that, but at St John's we can help with the things that will last ... really last. Come join us to find something that is lasting, life changing, strong and eternal. That means

something beyond the struggle of daily life. You may not feel religious, you may not feel connected, you may be new, part of the local history or even just passing through, but what we have to offer at St John's is something beyond instant flashing lights and shiny tinsel.

We long to bring hope into a world full of hopelessness, we want people to find something that truly lasts. It is what we have been doing here for the past 100 years – offering a truth that has stood the test of time.

On Christmas Eve at 5.30 pm and on Christmas morning at 9.30 am we will celebrate the real joy and hope that Christmas promises. Over 2000 years ago, the birth of one beautiful little baby changed the world by him becoming the saviour of all who let him. Faith is not instant, it grows and changes and matures, and perhaps this year, together, we can journey together into discovering what life really means.

**REV SHANNON LEE**



# Beacon Hills Ward

## Draft Equestrian Strategy launched for feedback

A review is being undertaken of the 2014 Equestrian Strategy. A new draft strategy has been released for consultation.

Horse riding is a popular activity in Cardinia Shire with approximately 1,000 equestrian club participants and more than 20 clubs operating, in addition to informal trail users.

The Draft Equestrian Strategy 2023–2033 contains recommendations to:

- plan, deliver and maintain equestrian trails and facilities where they are most needed
- increase equestrian participation through improved access to trails and facilities, and better information about equestrian clubs and services
- enhance the promotion of equestrian trails and facilities, and partnerships that support activations, events and infrastructure.

The community can speak to council staff and have their say on the new strategy at the following drop-in sessions:

- Monday 4 December, 5-6 pm, Hills Hub, Emerald
- Tuesday 12 December, 4-5 pm, Cardinia Civic Centre, Officer

To view the Draft Equestrian Strategy or provide feedback visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)

## Charing Cross

Council has recently completed the renewal of the Charing Cross. The project included the construction of new paths and garden beds. The Upper Beaconsfield Association and the Upper Beaconsfield Beautification group contributed to the project by planting and mulching in this public space in the centre of Upper Beaconsfield.

## Remembrance Day Service

On 11 November, I attended the Upper Beaconsfield Remembrance service. The 1500 cascading poppies draped over the Upper Beaconsfield cenotaph provided a moving tribute in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Thank you to the community members who contributed to this beautiful tribute and to the Upper Beaconsfield RSL who held the Remembrance Day event.



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

### Pakenham

Future Recycling Transfer Station,  
30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham

Friday 1 – Monday 4 December 2023  
9 am – 4 pm



## 'Bushfire Prepare' online learning program

The Bushfire Prepare online program and website helps residents in high bushfire risk areas to prepare their property for the fire season. It aims to reduce the risk and impact of bushfires by engaging local private land holders in their own bushfire management.

Although it is designed for properties one to 10 hectares in size, it is a useful tool for anyone in a high bushfire risk area who is looking for tips on how to manage land and fuel loads to reduce their fire risk – not just on their own properties but across the shire.

The online program steps through planning scheme requirements and uses plain, simple language to explain when a permit may be required and how planning scheme exemptions might be applied. Cardinia Shire Council has partnered with the Victorian Government's Safer Together initiative to deliver the Bushfire Prepare program so it's ready for you to help prepare for the upcoming fire season. More information be found at <https://bushfireprepare.online/> websites.

In October at the Victorian Resilient Australia Awards, the Cardinia Shire Council project 'Bushfire Prepare' was one of 3 local government projects recognised.

The Resilient Australia Awards recognise and promote initiatives

*continued on page 20*





*continued from page 19*

that build resilience and inspire others to act – making communities safer, more connected and better prepared for natural hazards and emergencies. Run annually by EMV and NEMA, they are open to all Victorians, including individuals, not for profit organisations, businesses both large and small, local and state government, schools, education institutions, research bodies and emergency management agencies. Resilient Australia Awards | Emergency Management Victoria ([emv.vic.gov.au](http://emv.vic.gov.au))

### **'Get red-y' for new rubbish bin lids**

In February 2024, all kerbside rubbish bins in Cardinia Shire will transition to red lids over a 4-week period. The red lids will replace any existing dark green lids on these bins. This change is taking place because the Victorian Government is standardising household waste and recycling services across the state. Under the new and improved system, lime green lids will be for food and garden waste, yellow lids for recycling, and red lids for general rubbish. Some community members already have a red-lidded rubbish bin. For those who don't, all they will need to do is leave their kerbside rubbish

bin out until 6 pm on their usual general rubbish bin collection days from 5 February to 1 March 2024, or until their bin lid is swapped for a red lid. Once their lid has been swapped, bins can put out on collection days as normal. Old lids will be recycled and turned into new kerbside bins.

This project is supported by funding from the Victorian Government.

For more information on the bin lid changes go to [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/redbinlids](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/redbinlids).

For general information about waste services in Cardinia Shire go to [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/waste](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/waste)

### **Sealing the Hills Program update**

Cardinia Shire Council has received official confirmation that \$109 million of committed funding for the Sealing the Hills program has been discontinued and withdrawn by the federal government. We are deeply disappointed on behalf of the communities in the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding townships by this decision.

These sealing works were important for improving community safety and access to community facilities and amenities, while reducing dust, pollution, and maintenance issues.

Council has been able to secure \$41 million funding for selected road projects in the pipeline, including the Stoney Creek package in Upper Beaconsfield. This package includes Burton Road, Morris Road and Young Street.

Cardinia Shire Council is committed to working closely with the community to build better local roads and we will be keeping project stakeholders and our community informed as works progress. For more information and updates on the Sealing the Hills program, go to:

<https://creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/stoney-creek-package-upper-beaconsfield>

### **Container Deposit Scheme**

Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme is here! Receive a 10c refund for every eligible can, carton or bottle returned. Foodworks supermarket in Upper Beaconsfield is an Over-the-Counter refund location. For more information on the scheme and for further refund locations, please visit [cdsvic.org.au](http://cdsvic.org.au) On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council, I would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and an enjoyable festive season. Take care.

**COUNCILLOR BRETT OWEN**  
**BEACON HILLS WARD**



# UpperBeaconsfield

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**Saturday 9.00 am – 2 pm**



# Understanding breast cancer

## Causes, symptoms, and treatment options

Breast cancer is the most common cancer affecting Australian women. Australia has one of the best breast cancer survival rates in the world.

The key to overcoming breast cancer lies in early detection. Our article provides essential information about risk factors, self-examinations, and regular screenings. Knowledge is power, and understanding the signs and symptoms can make a significant difference in the prognosis.

Breast cancer is a complex and potentially life-threatening disease that affects both men and women, although it is more commonly diagnosed in women. It occurs when abnormal cells in the breast tissue begin to grow and divide uncontrollably, forming a tumour. Below is a snapshot of breast cancer in Australia in 2023 from the Breast Cancer Australia Network website:

- The risk of being diagnosed with breast cancer over a lifetime is 1 in 7 for women and 1 in 542 for men.
- Breast cancer will account for 28 per cent of all new cancers in Australian women.
- The chance of surviving at least five years has increased from 78 per cent in 1990-1994 to 92 per cent in 2014-2019.
- At the end of 2017, there were 242,083 women who were alive and had been diagnosed with breast cancer between 1982 and 2017.
- Approximately 80 per cent of new cases of breast cancer are in women aged 50 or above.
- It is estimated that 3255 women and 36 men will die from breast cancer.

## Causes and risk factors

Breast cancer is a combination of genetic, hormonal, and environmental factors. Known risk factors include:

- Age and gender: women are more susceptible to breast cancer, and the risk increases with age. Most cases occur in women over 50, but younger women are affected.
- Family history and genetics: individuals with a family history of breast cancer or specific genetic mutations, such as BRCA1 and BRCA2, have an increased risk.
- Hormonal factors: exposure to oestrogen over an extended period, whether through early menstruation, late menopause can contribute to the risk.

- Hormone replacement therapy (HRT): Long-term use of hormone replacement therapy after menopause has been associated with a higher risk of breast cancer.
- Personal history of breast cancer or certain non-cancerous diseases: individuals who have previously had breast cancer or certain non-cancerous diseases of the breast may be at a higher risk.
- Radiation exposure: exposure to chest radiation, especially at an early age, increases the risk of developing breast cancer.

## Symptoms

Detecting breast cancer early is crucial for successful treatment. Common symptoms include:

- Lump in the breast or underarm: The most common sign is a lump or thickening in the breast or underarm.
- Changes in breast size or shape: unexplained changes in the size or shape of the breast can be indicative of breast cancer.
- Changes in the skin: redness, dimpling, or puckering, may be a sign of an underlying issue.
- Nipple changes: changes in the nipple, such as inversion or discharge, can be a cause for concern.
- Pain: while breast cancer is not always painful, some people may experience discomfort or pain.

## Diagnosis

Early detection is pivotal for successful treatment outcomes. Regular screenings and self-examinations play crucial roles in identifying breast cancer at its initial stages. Common methods include:

- Mammograms & ultrasounds: X-ray & USG images of the breast will detect abnormalities, even before symptoms arise.
- Clinical breast exams: physicians conduct physical examinations to check for lumps or changes in the breast tissue.
- Self-exams: regular self-examinations help individuals become familiar with their breasts and detect any changes promptly. It is easy to do, and you can find teaching videos online.
- Biopsy: if abnormalities are detected, a biopsy will determine whether the tissue is cancerous.

## Treatment options

The treatment plan for breast cancer depends on the type, stage, and other individual factor Common options include:



- Surgery: removal of the tumour or the entire breast (mastectomy) may be necessary.
- Radiation therapy: high-energy rays target and destroy cancer cells.
- Chemotherapy: medications kill or slow the growth of cancer cells.
- Hormone therapy: hormone-receptor-positive breast cancers may be treated with medications that block hormone receptors or reduce oestrogen levels.
- Targeted therapy: drugs specifically target cancer cells, minimising damage to healthy cells.

Scientific advancements continue to shape breast cancer research and treatment include:

- Immunotherapy: stimulating the immune system to recognise and attack cancer cells.
- Genomic medicine: tailoring treatments based on the genetic makeup of the tumour.
- Early detection technologies: developing more accurate and less invasive screening methods.
- Precision medicine: customising treatment plans based on individual characteristics.

## Conclusion

Breast cancer is a formidable adversary, but advancements in research and medical technology have significantly improved outcomes for those diagnosed. Early detection, awareness, and ongoing research play pivotal roles in the fight against breast cancer. Regular screenings and a healthy lifestyle are essential components of breast cancer prevention, while a supportive network and open communication with healthcare professionals can guide individuals through diagnosis and treatment. With continued research and public awareness, the hope is to further enhance prevention, detection, and treatment strategies for this prevalent and impactful disease.

**DR ANSHU MALHOTRA**

**DR PUNEET MALHOTRA**

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## Community Centre

We had a very busy start to the new term here at Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre. A new program called Platypus Playtime started on a Tuesday and Wednesday morning in the Hall which has been very popular. The Centre has also been very busy restocking Foodbank which takes place daily. We were lucky to be the recipient of a generous grant from the Shire of Cardinia which has enabled us to provide an increased level of support to our community, along with the support of the Country Women's Association. We have started planning for 2024 and are excited to invite you to our Community Centre Open Day on

Tuesday  
23 January.  
This is a chance to renew your Centre membership and to collect your community calendar which has been created in partnership with Beaconsfield Upper Primary School. The children have done an incredible job creating this spectacular 2024 calendar. The theme of the calendar is the birds of Beaconsfield Upper. Have a look at the sneak peek right.

**KATE VUKOVIC, COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**



## Grandparents and special friends day

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Early Learning Centre is excited to share with the community that we have recently undergone our assessment and rating process with the Department of Education. We are proud to have maintained our Meeting Status and achieved Exceeding areas in 5 out of 7 of the Quality Areas. Our collaboration with our local community stood out to our assessor, and we encourage any other local groups who wish to work in partnership with the Early Learning Centre in 2024 to please reach out via email [elc@ubcc.org.au](mailto:elc@ubcc.org.au)

On 26 October the ELC invited our children's grandparents and special friends to join us for a morning tea. Our special friends got to enjoy a range of different activities that involved looking into the children's day to day experiences. There was lots of laughter and love to share! We look forward to celebrating our grandparents and special friends day again in 2024.

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre has opened enrolments for 2024. We have availability in both our Kookaburras classroom (ages



0-3 years) excluding Tuesdays, and our Wombats classroom (ages 3-5 years). Our daily fee is \$130. Families who are eligible for the child care subsidy will receive a rebate on this cost.

Please give our director Aimee or assistant director Zoe a call on 5944 3484 to join our waitlist or to arrange a tour.



**UBC Early  
Learning Centre**





# Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) up and running

On 1 November 2023 Victoria launched the Container Deposit Scheme. CDS Vic provides a 10 cent refund for every eligible drink container returned at refund points across Victoria. Every bottle, can and carton you return helps divert valuable containers from landfill.

## What can be returned?

Most aluminium, glass, plastic and liquid paperboard (carton) drink containers between 150 ml and 3 litres are eligible. You can keep the lids on, they are recycled too. Look for the 10c mark on the drink container label. It is often located near the barcode.

## Refunds

There are multiple ways to receive your 10c refund. Depending on the location



you can receive cash or a voucher, or you can donate it to your favourite charity, organisation or community group.

If you return containers at the local Foodworks you are required to fill in a form to record the quantity and type of

containers you are returning. To claim your refund, download the CDS-Vic East app, sign up, and select if you'd like to receive your refund into your bank account, via paypal or who you'd like to donate it to. Cash refunds are not available at this collection point.



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2023!

## HOW TO MAKE A RETURN:

**STEP 1: COLLECT ELIGIBLE DRINK CONTAINERS**

Most aluminium, glass, plastic, steel and liquid paperboard (carton) drink containers between 150ml and 3L are eligible.

Look for the 10c mark on the back of the pack. Some drinks are not eligible, including plain milk containers, wine and spirit bottles.

**STEP 2: RETURN YOUR ELIGIBLE DRINK CONTAINERS**

Return eligible drink containers at the refund points:

- Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs)
- Over-The-Counter
- Pop Ups

**STEP 3: EARN A REFUND**

All eligible drink containers are worth a 10c refund that you can either keep, or donate to a community donation partner.



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## Nearby locations

### Over the Counter (OTC)

**Foodworks**, Upper Beaconsfield  
Mon-Sat 7.30 am–7 pm,  
Sun 8 am–6 pm

**SES Emerald**, 277-289 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald  
Mon 6 pm–9 pm,  
Wed 5 pm–9 pm,  
Thu 11 am–4 pm,  
Fri 5 pm–9 pm

**BP Pakenham** (Lakeside), Princes Hwy, Pakenham, BP Inbound and Outbound, Princes Freeway, Officer (all 24 hours)

### Reverse Vending Machine (RVM)

**Cockatoo IGA**, 15 Fairbridge Lane, Cockatoo  
Mon-Sun 9 am–5 pm

**Berwick Springs Hotel**, 288-296 Clyde Road, Berwick  
Mon-Sun 7 am–7 pm

### Depot

**Return-It Pakenham**, 100 Bald Hill Road, Pakenham  
Mon-Fri 8 am–5 pm  
Sat-Sun 8 am–4 pm

More information:  
<https://cdsvic.org.au/>  
[www.returnit.com.au/vic/return-it/](http://www.returnit.com.au/vic/return-it/)



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# News from the courts

We've had a busy and exciting few months at the tennis club, with another big season of finals, club championship play offs, capital works grants and most importantly, plenty of keen tennis players of all ages heading to the courts for the love of tennis!

In our junior's competition, the Section 2 Rubbers, Sections 6 and 8 Saturday teams all made it into the semi-finals last season and our Section 10 Sunday team made it through to the Grand Final. A very big congratulations to all the kids for their efforts throughout the season.

We were very excited to hear the news that we have been successful in our 2023-24 Community Capital Works Grant application through Cardinia Shire Council. This money will be used to upgrade to LED lights on the courts in the coming months. Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen!

In September, Karen and the team ran another wildly successful school holiday program with plenty of kids of all ages and abilities coming down to the courts for a hit. We also had a great turn out for our working bee in October,

resulting in a big tidy up of the courts and the gardens, with the club now looking in tip top shape for the warmer weather.

We are currently in the midst of junior and senior Club Championships, with plenty of kids and adults turning up to compete. The finals will be held at the Christmas party later in the year.

This season we are delighted to have added another junior team to the list, with the club now building to three junior teams on a Saturday and three junior teams on a Sunday. A particular congratulations and well done to those juniors who have joined the club and started their first season of tennis.

We also have a whopping five senior teams playing this season, with a mid-week ladies team going around again and four senior Saturday teams.

Our night tennis competition is also still going strong with competition running on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. We are always looking for new players and emergency fill ins. Please get in touch if you are keen to join our night tennis competition! With the weather getting better and better, now is the time to join in the fun.



The fabulous coaching team at UBTC are continuing to grow and offering a full range of programs for all abilities including Hot Shots, Group Lessons, Semi-Private Lessons, Private Lessons, Squad Coaching, Cardio Tennis, and School Holiday Programs. For anyone interested in coaching please contact Karen on 0403 454 554 or email Karen@ultimatetennismelbourne.com.

We also have a few big events coming up at the club, so be sure to get these dates in the diary!

- Our Christmas Party will take place on Saturday 2 December from 6 pm and will include the Junior and Senior Club Championship Finals.
- The social committee are hosting an 80s night social event at the club on 10 February – open to members and non-members – grab your 80s gear and come for a night of tennis, dancing and 80s throwbacks.
- We will be at the Village Festival on Sunday 18 February 2024 with plenty of fun activities and giveaways.
- Our open day is scheduled for Sunday 3 March – join us for a day of tennis and come see what it's all about.

Finally, it was a pleasure to see Matt Hendrie honoured as a life member earlier this year. Matt has been the senior tennis coordinator for the Waverley competition for the last 10 seasons, has served on the tennis committee for over 12 years, played in countless men's doubles finals (even boasting a few wins) and has also built, installed and fixed nearly everything at the tennis courts over the last few years (except for the garden which he's apparently not allowed to touch given a propensity to dig up pipes). Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to the club over the years Matt and congratulations on your well-deserved award.

If you are interested in playing tennis or joining the UBTC community the club offers a wide range of tennis activities to suit everyone! Please get in contact with any queries at [upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com](mailto:upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com) or via [www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldtennisclub](https://www.facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldtennisclub)

See you at the courts!

**EMMA TIBERI, UBTC**





# Upper Beaconsfield Horse and Pony Club

Hot on the heels of hosting a hugely successful show-jumping competition, the Pony Club has sprung into our next round of activities, starting with a September rally at Tooradin Estate.

Situated on an expansive 380 acre property in South Gippsland, the grounds are famous for housing multiple cross-country (XC) courses.

We were able to take full advantage of the facilities with riders receiving tuition in how to navigate a range of different jumps – and jump combinations – that they could expect to encounter in competition. The water jump was particularly popular, with some of the horses conquering it for the first time!

The ride-to-time activity was a great lesson in controlling paces across long

distances, which again is essential for XC where time penalties can apply.

Preparing for and building confidence to enter competitions was the focus of our October rally, with our first in-house combined training day. The event was designed to simulate competition conditions – from having to plait up your own horse, to learning a dressage test and a show jumping course.

Giving our younger riders the chance to experience what competing is like within a supportive environment is hugely beneficial, and we hope to make this an annual feature of the club calendar.

As we power towards the end of the year, our riders are excitedly preparing for a November weekend rally at the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre, before ending the year with our festive December get together.

If you've been thinking of joining Pony Club, now is the perfect time to take advantage of our 'come and try' days. Please contact our membership coordinator via email: [membershipsubpc@gmail.com](mailto:membershipsubpc@gmail.com), if you'd like to come along.

Congratulations to Chloe Westerveld for placing out and about: Overall champion, Cannibal Creek Pony Club Combined Training, Sixth Werribee Pony Club Horse Trials

JESSICA MARRINER



## Sudoku

solution from page 17

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



# Scouts

Well, what an amazing year it has been for the Upper Beaconsfield Scout group. We have had massive growth across all sections – up 40% from last year! Before we tell you about our final term, we want to thank all our leaders for their continuing efforts and dedication in providing great opportunities for each and every one of our youth members.

The Joeys have been attending lots of district events this term from Clip n'Climb to camping out at Gilwell Park

where activities included canoeing, swimming, paracord nights and so much more.

Our enthusiastic Cubs have had billy cart nights, bushwalking at Cardinia Reservoir and outdoor Olympics. Congratulations to Isaac Mills on achieving his Grey Wolf. Isaac invited Cubs and Leaders down to Fort Nepean for a hike that he planned himself. It was a great success.

The Scout section has grown a lot this year, not only in numbers but also in confidence.

This section of members has been doing activities such as building bridges for new members, CFA Bushfire awareness, water fights and recently an information night for AJ2025 which will be held in Maryborough, Queensland. Keep an eye out for upcoming fundraisers to help get our unit to Jamboree.

For our Venturers the term kicked off with a competitive cake decorating night, where they battled for decorative ingredients by trying to answer quiz questions the fastest with some fantastic and tasty results. The Venturers have also constructed their own mini golf course and created a tall structure to try and touch the roof of the hall – upskilling themselves in the use of construction elements. Last week the Venturers dressed up for a spooky movie night to celebrate Halloween. With some more outdoor nights coming up as the weather improves, the rest of Term 4 looks to be an exciting one.

This term the Rovers have a focus on fitness and the outdoors. We have had a cooking challenge, where we made our own parmas, and we have given bouldering a try. Coming up we will be going swimming, playing some games outside and refreshing our bushcraft knowledge.

Thank you to all our wonderful leaders and committee members for their time and effort throughout the year. We honestly could not have had this much growth if it wasn't for their hard work planning fun and adventurous activities.

**BONNIE INKSTER**





## Support Scouts Buy a Christmas tree



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