



# UPPER BEACONSFIELD VILLAGE BELL

March 2024



**Storm 8 January 2024:** Left: Stoney Creek flooding across Albers Road (image Pete Abrehart). Right: Water everywhere at Cardinia Beacons Hills Golf Links (image Helen Smith)





## What an impressive exhibition!

Everyone was pleased to see the Art Exhibition back at the Village Festival.

Our diverse local talent was on display, including the feature artist John Kral's amazing helmet art (above left) and Cameron Rocke's stunning photography (bottom left), as well as Tony Fraraccio's sculptures. Thanks, Gail Kelly (pictured above, see also page 11), for pulling this all together and congratulations to the winners in the people's poll. Winners were: (from top right) 1st Youth Art: Declan Rust 'Chasing the light'; 1st Adult Art: Ling Wang 'Pride'; 3rd Adult Art: Pamela Skelton 'Checking the specials'; 2nd Adult Art: 'I see you' by Claire Sunderland. Festival report see page 7.





**Upper  
Beaconsfield  
Association**

*Enhancing our community*

## Village Bell Issue No. 235 March 2024

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### Next issue: June 2024

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# More twisted weather

## Rainfall on Yackatoot Road

We must apologise for being responsible, and signaling in last Bell that this summer had the potential to be particularly hot and dry.

In November, the table shows our rainfall being below our local average. Were it not for a 40 mm rain event at the end of the month, our total would have been pitiful.

In December we had a further three large rain events that in total effectively doubled our average for the month.

Not to be outdone, 8 January gave us a 72 mm downpour in the early hours of the morning, flooding low lying areas and swelling Stoney Creek (see cover) and Cardinia Creek into raging torrents. Another 30 mm of follow-up that day saw these conditions only slowly abate. Another 31 mm rain event and some other smaller falls saw January's total at 231% of the 45-year average.

Most home gardeners would have also noted the overcast conditions over this period, thwarting the growth of the sun-loving plants and vegetables. However, livestock owners always relish green paddocks over summer.

Australia has had warmer sea surface temperatures than expected for this El Nino event, with some thanks to global warming – at present, we are unable to predict such unfolding effects. Warmer oceans allow more evaporation, and the warmer the air is above it (global warming), the more water vapour it can hold.

With these conditions, coupled with a cyclone further north, we should not be surprised to see the violent downpours from storms occurring nationwide. We often hear on weather reports that there is a chance of a thunderstorm. That is because storms are unpredictable, on whatever day, or in whatever three-month climate outlook period they occur.

Month	45 yr av.	2023	2024
Jan	63.6	37.8	146.0
Feb	58.4	48.5	
Mar	64.2	79.5	
Apr	78.3	105.4	
May	86.1	98.9	
Jun	80.3	75.0	
Jul	78.6	44.9	
Aug	85.7	51.8	
Sep	90.6	52.1	
Oct	94.3	118.4	
Nov	86.5	70.5	
Dec	80.4	156.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>947 mm</b>	<b>936 mm</b>	

Also, our typical westerly winds we can experience all year round, have contracted further southwards, with an effect called a 'positive' Southern Annular Mode. In such conditions, moist air from the tropics can more easily blow over us creating additional rainfall.

In summer, storm water drains away quickly, and since mid to late January, conditions have dried. We have also seen the harsher summer sunshine return. Your personal fire risk should be judged accordingly, especially if you live close to grasslands, which can dry out very quickly.

**CAMERON ROCKE**

## Upper Beaconsfield Peddlers Group

We are a small group of riders who meet every 3rd Sunday of the month for a social ride and a cuppa usually halfway. There are rides for all levels of fitness and experience. Usually there is a choice of rides starting from 30 km or for the more enthusiastic 50+ km.

Places we have ridden are – Dandenong Creek Trail, Lilydale to Warburton trail, Phillip Island, Wonthaggi trail, O'Shanessy Aqueduct Track Warburton, Capital City Trail, Mullum Mullum Trail Warrandyte, Djerring trail, Peninsula Link, East Link and many more. Give me a call to chat about joining us.

Contact Cathy on 0421 556 560 or [bolches@bigpond.com.au](mailto:bolches@bigpond.com.au)

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## It's time to nominate for Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year awards!

The Upper Beaconsfield Association presents Citizen of the Year (COY) awards annually. On the COY presentation night, individuals/ couples and community groups, are publicly recognised for their significant contributions to the progress and development of our local community, or the wider community in general.

In 2024 there will be three awards. The award categories have been widened to include groups this year. The nomination form outlines the award categories and eligibility criteria, and space is provided for you to give

evidence of the reasons you think a person or group deserves an award.

1. Citizen of the Year
2. Young Citizen of the Year
3. Community Group of the Year

The UBA will send out nomination forms to UBA members, community groups and residents via email, social media posts and some printed forms will be available as well. Nominations are due in no later than 31 March 2024.

For more information, please contact UBA by email to [secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au](mailto:secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au)



*Enhancing our community*

### Annual general meeting

**Wednesday 13 March**

**in the meeting room**

**Community Complex, 7.30 pm**

Are you new to the area, want to meet people, get involved with community projects? Community minded residents are invited to attend, find out what the UBA does, and help us with our events and activities. If you are a willing participant, like to volunteer, or have expertise in some areas to assist the work of the UBA committee, we would like to see you.

Upper Beaconsfield has a good reputation for community spirit. A lot has been achieved in beautifying the town, publication of the Village Bell, and promoting events in recent years. Don't take it for granted that someone else will do it.

Enquiries to Helen Smith secretary. [uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au](mailto:uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au)

## What's the difference?

### Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex or Community Centre?

The buildings and grounds at 10-12 Salisbury Road are located on a crown land reserve, and the committee of management operates under the Vic Government Department DEECA. People often get confused between the Community Centre and the Community Complex.

The main building with the hall, meeting room, crèche and offices is the "Community Complex", and the Community Centre Inc is the major tenant and has a licence to operate their activities on weekdays. Some parts of the building are multi-user, other parts are only for the use of the Community Centre. The Men's Shed is also on the reserve, in Halford Street, and Keith Ewenson Park, the west carpark and the old tennis court are part of the reserve as well.

Cr Brett Owen chaired a triennial meeting on 7 February to elect a new committee. Elected were Sue Simmons (chairperson), Helen Smith (secretary), Carol Gibson (treasurer),

with committee members Lee Swann (Community Centre delegate), Julie Born and Jenny Pritchard. Stepping down were Ros Allison (over 20 years' service) and Peter Simmons from the Men's Shed. We thank Ros and Peter for their valuable contributions over many years.

It is important that residents take responsibility for looking after our community facilities. Unfortunately, Cardinia Council does not own the land and they find it harder to source grants and funding to help with major maintenance. The hall, the oldest part of the building, is now 140 years old (1884). It is showing signs of deterioration and needs urgent action. The main task of the next committee will be to get more support from Cardinia Council and the Vic Government DEECA. A start has been made with an onsite inspection recently from council officers, and another onsite meeting is planned soon from DEECA.

**HELEN SMITH**

## 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

Doug Bail; Pat Balson; Odie Barwick; Ann and Ray Benson; Sandie Bliss; Julie and Phil Born; Tammy Brace; Linda Burrridge; Stuart & Annette Cordy; Lesley Davidson; Guido Dissegna; S & C Fisher; Bronwyn & Mike Fitzgerald; Carol Fletcher; Carol Gibson; Adrienne Griffin; Stan Hamilton; Mark Harris; Rosemary Hawke; Cathy Hermans; Jasmine Hewson & Dixon Robinson; Carl Hirst; Holden Family; C & F Huisman; Rachel Joiner; Gail Kelly; Ed Keon-Cohen; Angela Kogge; Des Lavery; Pascal Lotuglan; Allison Marshall; Brett McEvoy; Sue McGavin; Brett Owen; Helen Pickford; Dot Pockett; Jenny & Lawrie Pritchard; Judy & Michael Prowse; Alison Raftis; Brad Rainbow; Ramsay Family; Cameron & Marianne Rocke; Peter Rose; Sue & Peter Simmons; Rob and Bev Sinclair; Helen Smith; Pickle Family; Wendy Thomson; Daryl Timms; Linda Tormey

## About town

### Biggest power outage in Victoria's history

What a disruption to everyday life when the power goes down! The savage cold front that went through Victoria on Tuesday 13 February was a severe storm. The horizontal rain and wild wind thrashed trees and shrubs about, while branches, sticks, and leaves rained down on our roofs. Fortunately, it did not last long.

We are used to outages in Upper Beaconsfield, but this was over the top. The worst thing was the feeling of helplessness when you not only have no power, but no phone coverage as well. You cannot check the local Facebook pages to get the latest news. So, you do not know what is going on. Fortunately, the General Store had a generator, and the centre of town was the place to go to talk to people and find out.

The Village Festival organisers had a real headache. Could the community event go ahead? The week or so before the festival a small band of volunteers had picked up sticks and raked leaves, leaving the park and surrounds at the Community Complex looking at



its best. After the storm, the grounds were in a mess again with large fallen branches, leaves, and sticks. Thank you to all the volunteers who turned up again to clean up the venue, as well as packing up after the festival finished. Thanks Cardinia Council for removing the debris and mowing the park.

### Film crews in town

Upper Beaconsfield was the location for a Netflix series film set, when a crew with cameras, actors, and trucks landed in town in early January. It was a short segment filmed when a car drove into Moonshine Motors. An actor got out and went to get a bag of ice from the premises. It was only minutes of footage, but it took half a day to organise. The trucks comprised

a food truck and a wardrobe/makeup truck which ended up being parked in the CFA grounds. Traffic management people in fluoro vests stopped the passing traffic at Emerald Road during filming. Back in the early days of TV, Beacon Heights Autos (the garage before

Moonshine Motors) was used a film set for the Australian soap opera called Bellbird, with the Bellbird Motors sign covering the actual sign. Bellbird was broadcast by the ABC and was set in the small fictional Victorian rural township of the show's title. The series was broadcast in Australia in 1967–77.

Then Gardening Australia recently featured a segment about the organic Blueberry Farm in Dewhurst. Both Sue and son Ed Keon-Cohen were interviewed, and the drone footage of Dewhurst showed the countryside at its prettiest. If you missed the show, you can see it on ABC iview.

HELEN SMITH

## Christmas Eve in the park

The Upper Beaconsfield Christmas Carols in the Park went on despite the threat of wet weather. The park looked picturesque with the lights and kids in

the playground, while people sat on their rugs and chairs and enjoyed the music. The visit from Santa on the fire truck is always a highlight. The

music was even better this year as an extra effort was made to increase the number of musicians and singers.

There were a few sprinkles later in the evening, but it cleared again. All hands were on deck for cleaning up the site and packed everything away for next year. It always amazes me how well this happens on the night.

### Many thanks go to:

- Cardinia Council and Kay Charles Real Estate who sponsored the event
- CFA and Santa on the CFA fire truck, Julie Born for organising the lolly bags
- Lionel Bailey and Odie Barwick for the organising the program
- The singers and instrumentalists
- Men's Shed for the food and refreshments
- UBA members and others who were able to help in cleaning up hazards and tidying the park beforehand, and afterwards. It looked magnificent

HELEN SMITH



# The most successful Village Festival ever

A local reporter asked, "Did you consider cancelling the festival after the storm and power outage?" I said, "It didn't even cross our minds." I don't think it is the Upper Beaconsfield way. We put a contingency plan in place if the power did not return, but there was no thought of cancelling. We knew what the community wanted, and we were right. The weather was perfect, and we had the biggest ever Tower Run crowd and a continuous stream of festival visitors all day.

The highly anticipated Tower Run had over 330 runners who were pounding down the footpath in front of the Community Complex well before anyone expected. It was an incredible effort.

Emma Vulin, the state member for Pakenham, rang the hall bell at 9 am to start the festival. It felt like it had been up and running for an hour for those who were there. It was a hive of activity with community groups and stall holders jostling to set up marquees and hovering over the CFA smoked pulled pork in front of the Art and Photography Exhibition.

When the festival was in full swing it was hard to know where to start. The Memorial Garden was "KidsFest" this year with colourful activities for kids, but there were quite a few adults enjoying Uptown Brown's vintage pinball machines and The Dreaming Space magic show. The silent disco, bubbles and face painting were also in hot demand, as was the climbing wall. Over near the community garden the Ninja Jump and Eliminator were challenging the kids to have a go at free falling. The market stalls had a busy and productive day with an impressive range on offer. The tennis court was set up with laser tag and kids' tennis and was super busy all day.

The stage line up started with the very colourful and amusing St Johns fashion parade followed by a diverse range of local musicians and singers and finishing with Uptown Brown and his creative one man show.

The Men's Shed were so busy this year with Kids woodworking they almost ran out of wood. Thanks to Noel Ling for his support of the festival committee and the other shed members selling amusement hand stamps.

Once again, the BUPS Enviro Warrior kids helped with Zero Waste ensuring bin waste was correctly separated so we can recycle or reuse materials. Our locally made

water stations supplied FREE water all day. The sustainability stars were Caiden Hawke and Callum McPhee from Venturers (below) who washed and recycled coffee cups throughout the busy morning and kept the vendors and caffeine lovers happy. This initiative alone saved an enormous amount of coffee cups going to landfill.



The festival could not happen without volunteers. This year our committee was able to recruit several locals to help set up and pack up. Thanks to Di Eibl, Deb McPhee, Kyla Davis and Dylan Treasure who all got out of bed super early to assist and a special thankyou to Cam McPhee who was there at sparrows and pack up lugging more weights than a lifetime at the gym. If anyone is interested in joining the committee or happy to help on the day, please contact us.

If you were not able to make it to the festival, please check our Facebook



and Instagram pages. There are videos to view and see what all the fuss was about. Please follow us so next year you will have all the information you need leading up to the festival.

At the end of the day the festival is all about the community, held in February to coincide with the remembrance of Ash Wednesday and to reflect on all that we have rebuilt in the last 40 years. The festival brings community groups together, and in many instances, enables people to make new connections, recruit new members, discuss interests, and catch up with old friends. That is why we hold the event, even without power if necessary. It brings people together to celebrate where we live.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

The UBVF is a subcommittee of the Upper Beaconsfield Association (UBA) who are integral in allowing the festival to take place. Thanks to the UB Men's Shed, UB CFA and Split Rock Rovers. Our appreciation to the Cardinia Shire Council who also partner us. Our sponsors this year were: Peake Real Estate, My Expert, SCS Group, Small Time Big Time, RMBL, First National Real Estate, Emma Vulin MP, Up The Hill Bakehouse, Wellington Village, Poolside, Brad Battin, Upper Beaconsfield Post Office, First Rate Plumbing, Health Barn and Casey Partners, La Roche Air, Executive Landscapes, Rivendell Conveyancing, Clifford Electrics, Jason Wood, and Van Steensel Timber.

Please support those who have supported us.

ROSEMARY HAWKE

## Don't fence me out

Whilst removal of deer from our environment is the desired outcome to stop damage to private property and our nature reserves, that can be difficult to achieve in some locations. It may be that the topography does not allow safe culling near other properties or financial cost of damage to a business, such as an orchard farmer, cannot be borne while deer reduction programs occur. Installation of appropriate fencing may be the best option for people in these types of situations and it is one of the options we mention to landowners when they contact us for advice. Government authorities like Parks Victoria also use exclusion fencing to protect endangered habitat, and the type of fence will differ based on what

type of animal is to be excluded – e.g. wild pigs, horses, deer.

In November 2023, two of our committee members attended a field day north of Melbourne that looked in detail at how electric fencing works and the different configurations that are possible to tailor the fence to the type of animals are to be kept inside or outside the fence. The day was organised by the Victorian Deer Control Community Network (VDCCN) and included speakers with expertise in exclusion fencing. In addition to the theory, examples of different types of traditional and electric fences were inspected at two separate locations on the day and the pros and cons of

each fence type were discussed.

A summary of the day was

documented by the VDCCN and includes photos of the different fence types, a bit of theory on how electric fences work most efficiently and a cost comparison. If you are considering whether a new fence is suitable for your situation, then you can view the summary at <https://vdccn.org.au>, search for 'deer exclusion fencing field day' to get an idea of some of the options available to you.

**DES LAVERY**

**CARDINIA DEER MANAGEMENT COALITION**  
[WWW.CARDINIADDER.ORG.AU](http://WWW.CARDINIADDER.ORG.AU)



## Rambling on

One of the memorable things about this summer has been the amazing explosion of eucalypt blossoms in the village, gardens and environs. There has not been such a display of colour and density of bloom for decades. The trees

have been positively shouting with colour (as well as humming with bees, and chattering with lorikeets). A lot of the grand old flowering gums of past years have been lost to age, dieback and vigorous over-pruning near powerlines. Now some of the 'new generation' are starting to come into their own, with the grafted/hybrid varieties showing an extraordinary

assortment of colours. In St Georges Road alone there are pink, cerise, orange, cream, red and crimson blooms.

Thank-you to the people who have planted flowering gums backing onto Harris Reserve where the joy can be shared with so many passers-by. Another great display was along



Emerald Road just past Bourkes Creek Road, where a whole farm frontage has been planted with them. Bear that in mind and check them out next January. It is not just the colours – the structure of the blossom itself is very

unusual. There are no actual petals, the colour belongs to the long pollen-tipped stamens which flare out like a tutu around the central waxy 'cup' and pistil. They break out of their little woody capsules like a chick from an egg!

I witnessed an interesting battle of the birds in Sutherland Park. Hearing a lot of twittering happening, I looked up to see two currawongs in one

tree and four smaller birds, appearing distressed, in another tree. One of the small birds flew to the first tree, a few branches below the currawongs. It then made its way up underneath them, and started to make pecking rushes at their bellies! After a few of these 'below the belt' attacks, the currawongs



departed. The smaller birds then clearly announced their triumph – and their species as bellbirds – with a series of resounding 'pings'! In over 40 years I have rarely heard or seen bellbirds in Upper Beac, although they inhabit Akoonah Park down 'the hill'. I was very glad to have seen this little interlude of avian life. I might've missed it if I had been ear-plugged into a phone or other device...

Happy rambling

**Rosz**



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# The world of microbats

Last winter I was in the woodshed collecting wood for the fire. Something caught my attention – two beady little eyes peering back at me. Closer investigation revealed three little bats. Not sure who was more taken aback, them or me, but I left them to it.

First up, microbats might be mysterious, but they are not the ominous sinister creatures we encounter in books and movies. In reality they are intelligent, gentle, furry little flying mammals – in fact, the only mammal that can truly fly. They like to hang out together in roosts during the day and fly around at night catching insects. They are not vampires. OK, there are three species of vampire bat, but that is three out of a total of 1,200 bats worldwide. Those bats live in Central and South America and do not actually go for your jugular vein, more likely to nibble your toes if you are napping outside in a hammock.

They are not blind and do not get tangled up in your hair! Microbats have quite good vision, but essentially they “see” with their ears, using echolocation to avoid obstacles (such as your head) and to catch insects for dinner. Long before humans invented radar, bats perfected echolocation: they emit ultrasonic (high-pitched) pulses of sound which bounce off solid objects. At cruising speed microbats emit about 10 pulses per second, but when insects are found, this goes up to about 100 pulses a second! We usually cannot hear microbats because the sound they emit is well outside our hearing range, except for the white-striped freetail bat. And you may hear this species because they are found in Upper Beaconsfield.

There are a lot of very cool aspects to bats, apart from being able to echolocate:

1. They eat lots, up to three-quarters of their body weight a night, or several hundred insects/hour. It takes a lot of energy to fly, and they are also extraordinarily acrobatic. Usually they catch insects in their mouths, but they can trap their prey in their wing membranes, flick it through to the tail membrane and then grab it with their mouth, while continuing to fly.
2. They eat about any critter smaller than them, including mosquitoes, beetles, midges, caterpillars, moths, and lots of other insects, including many pest species. During summer and autumn they really need to eat a lot and fatten up because come

winter their insect food source becomes scarcer.

3. Over winter many will go into a torpor to save energy. Their normal body temperature when flying around is about 40°C, with a heart rate of about 1,000 beats/minute! During torpor it can drop to 10°C and they need to have a suitable roosting spot, a tree hollow, cave, tunnel, culvert, a crack under some bark, even your woodshed or under the eaves of your house to rest and stay quiet.
4. Their wings are modified forearms, the hands, with very long fingers connected by thin membranes. The thumb sits along the leading edge of the wing. It usually has a big claw used for climbing, feeding, and fighting.
5. Their wings are highly efficient and effective: some species of microbats can fly hundreds of kilometres to special maternity caves.
6. Bat babies, called pups, are born in summer, usually just one, but some species have twins. They are born large compared to their poor mums – equivalent of a 20kg human baby! They suckle for one to two months and are then ready to fly and start looking for insects. They live a long time for such a little creature, up to 30 years, though usually less.
7. They are widespread, can be found in many environments, from forests to cities, tropics to deserts. There are about 70 different species of microbats in Australia, 16 of which can be found in Upper Beaconsfield.
8. The smallest Australian bat is the little forest bat (*Vespadelus vulturnus*), weighing in at three to six grams and measuring four centimetres from head to tail. The largest is the ghost bat (*Macroderma giga*) which weighs 150 grams. This cave dweller feeds on other bats, birds, frogs, reptiles, and small mammals.

## Bats and human health

While most bats are unlikely to harbour disease, two new diseases emerged in the mid-1990s. The first was Hendra virus, family Paramyxoviridae. This can be transmitted to humans by an intermediate host, in this case, a horse exposed to the urine of an infected flying fox. (There is now a



fully registered Hendra virus vaccine for horses, but for further information on this, talk to your vet!) To date there have been less than 10 reported cases in humans.

The second is Lyssa virus, a member of the Rhabdoviridae virus closely related to the rabies virus. It can be transmitted directly to humans by infected flying foxes or microbats through saliva or bites and scratches. So far there have only been three cases recorded in Australia, and there is an effective vaccine.

Bats are natural hosts to these viruses and have immunity to them. It is only when they get ‘stressed’ that they shed and transmit the virus.

So, what are these stresses? It is loss of habitat. As we encroach into wildlife territory for mining, agriculture, or housing, we destroy their homes and feeding areas. And that is a major stress! Other stresses include predators such as cats, rats, possums, and pythons further north. Noise and light pollution from our cities and roads also make it harder to hunt and find a peaceful place to roost. Polluted waterways from agricultural and urban runoff makes finding clean water for a drink more difficult.

As we encroach further into wildlife habitat, we come into closer proximity to bats and other animals and potentially their viruses for which we have no immunity. It is best not to handle bats. If you do find an injured bat, contact your local wildlife rescue group or wildlife vet: they are trained to handle bats and may be vaccinated against Lyssa virus.

There are a few things we can do to help our microbats: plant a variety of native plants to encourage insects, put up a bat box and try and cut down on insecticides.

If you would like to know more about these fascinating little animals, check out The Australasian Bat Society website on [www.ausbats.org.au/](http://www.ausbats.org.au/)

**CARO LETTIS**  
**UB CONSERVATION GROUP**

## Dog Tails: Chubbs

We adopted Chubbs the Chow Chow at the end of 2018. After seeing a post on the local Facebook page looking to rehome him, we decided he would be the perfect fit for our family. We were instantly in love when we met him and then so happy to be chosen as his new family.

Unfortunately, Chubbs is no longer with us after passing away in January aged 12. We were lucky enough to have five years with him and in that time he brought a lot of joy to us and many others that came upon him.

Chubbs wasn't like most dogs, he was definitely his own man. He did not play fetch, never sat if asked, would only move in the direction he wanted to go and liked to eat his food when no one was looking. He would relax most of his day away then snore and mumble in his sleep all night long. He started every day with a good ear scratch from one of us and then a patrol of the property.

Initially thinking Chubbs was an inside dog we soon changed our thoughts when he quickly settled in and displayed his love of chasing rabbits and protecting our property. One of his favourite places to relax was on

the grass near the driveway where he would appear so relaxed people were concerned he was no longer with us. When we drove in the gate he would jump up, race down to the paddock barking at the sheep to scare them away and let them know who was boss. Another favourite place was the front garden, watching passers-by and often appearing from behind a bush to scare little dogs.



Chubbs loved a walk but only a certain distance and always in a loop. You never took him for a quick walk, he required many long, slow stops and would only move on when he was ready to. It didn't take long to figure out his walking preferences especially when asked to turn around and head home. The kids would often call from the shops or a couple of houses away asking us to come pick him up. On finding them, Chubbs would be lying down spread flat out with no intention of moving any further. To tackle his walking quirks we would drive him to different places around town to mix up his adventures or take him in a beach trolley to conserve his energy for the best parts.

Thunderstorms and fireworks were terrifying for Chubbs. If he was home alone when these events occurred he grew super powers and would do anything to find company. From busting flyscreens, to destroying gardens and also squeezing through small holes in a fence to run. He also knew the morning routine of people heading off for the day and occasionally slipped out the gate when it was



just about closed and no one was looking. He didn't go far, often to see the neighbours for a pat and a mooch around before coming home. Kindly people would call us, attempt to put him back or he would score a post on Facebook always finding his way home. Big thanks to everyone for helping on these occasions.

Those who came across Chubbs loved him, smiled or were fascinated with him. He was often likened to a teddy bear or a lion with his cute face. To us he was mostly a gentle soul who loved people more than other dogs. In his last year he gained a little sister Mabel, the Bichoodle. Concerned how he would handle an excited puppy in his life we were soon at ease when his gentle nature shone through again and they quickly became great mates.

Thanks for the fun times Chubbsy, so many great memories.

**THE WILLIAMS FAMILY**



## Tracks and trails in Upper Beac!

We are fortunate to live in Upper Beaconsfield with its array of bushland, flora, and fauna. Many of us can sometimes take it for granted what we have in our area. One way to discover the beauty of Upper Beaconsfield is to take a walk, ride a bike or ride your horse through one of its many tracks and trails. Some are obvious while others may be hidden or overgrown and many are not connected to each other.

The Tracks and Trails group was established last year to look at these issues with the following objective:

create and connect. We hope to be able to create new tracks and trails and to connect as many as possible so that people, not only from Upper Beaconsfield, can enjoy a short or long walk or ride through the area.

We also intend to generate a list of the existing tracks and trails, with maps and directions of how to get to them and then also some details about the track themselves, such as the type of terrain, whether it is suitable for bikes and/or horses and the difficulty of the track.

Our long-term goal is to also join tracks and trails between towns, so that people can go from Beaconsfield to Emerald for example, safely and without the need to travel on roads as much as possible.

The group normally meets every two months, and we are looking for new members to join us to help us in our quest. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact us at the following email address: [trackstrails@gmail.com](mailto:trackstrails@gmail.com).

**GUIDO DISSEGNA**

## A very creative lady

Visitors to the Village Festival Art Exhibition enjoyed viewing the variety and high standard of entries in the show held at the local hall. The dynamo behind it all was popular local resident Gail Kelly. Speaking after the event after recovering from the hectic few days leading up to the festival, Gail told me what it takes to organise the event.

She started promoting the show five months beforehand. She had to start from scratch as there had been a couple of years the art exhibition did not take place due to covid, and last year the CFA put on the Ash Wednesday Firestorm Exhibition.

For five months prior, Gail contacted all the nearby local art associations to promote the exhibition. She also posted on local township Facebook pages in Upper Beaconsfield, and surrounding towns in the hills, as well as the busy nearby suburbs Berwick, Officer, Beaconsfield, Pakenham, and Narre Warren. These were not odd one-off posts but an advertising campaign. She said that the trouble is you do not know how many entries you will get and most only come in at the last minute.

This year there were more entries than previously, and they were of high standard and variety in the adults and children's categories. The feature artist John Kral had a



helmet display. There was also a good selection of photographs entered in the photographic exhibition held in the meeting room. Village Bell's photographer Cameron Rocke was the featured artist.

Some of Gail's own creative fantasy figures were displayed in the art exhibition. She said she took a class many years ago from a lady in Berwick making dolls, then broadened her

knowledge by taking online classes, and studied other textile artists' works online. Gail's designs are original. They are made of cloth, with wired arms, legs, and fingers, that are moveable so they can sit or stand. Their whimsical faces are coloured with pencils and markers. She sources her materials (fabric, laces, jewels, and feathers) from donated items and recycled clothing. These materials look good because they have a distressed look which suits her figures' characters.

Last year she was awarded a first and two second prizes at the Royal Melbourne Show in the cloth doll categories. These figures are not for children to play with. They are quite beautiful and strictly for show. Gail has an Instagram account called [@willowreaydesigns](#) and

she has sold her creations overseas. She commented, "It is so hard in doll making you need to be a pattern maker, costume designer, sewer, artist and hairdresser"! She also thought she would love to have been a costume designer. But her talent certainly shines in her fantasy figures.

HELEN SMITH

## Speed skating success

Hi! My name is Mack and I am a speed skater. This year, at the Inline Speed Skating Nationals, I came third in the 3000 m points race and second in the 3000 m race.

I also participated in the half marathon (21 km) and was placed within the top 10 in Australia for my age group.

It was really fun meeting up with my friends who came from all across Australia. I hadn't seen them since the 2023 National Championships.

During the race week, we faced all kinds of weather ranging from pouring rain to scorching heat. The half marathon was tough but I gave it my all. After working hard, I won two medals and I was proud of my results and of myself for making it to the Nationals and for never giving up.

Thank you for reading about my speed skating adventure!

MACK KONECNY



# Upper Beaconsfield Hall is 140 years old

## A history of the hall from 1884 to the 1970s

The first mention of a public building, which might be used for church purposes and other meetings, was made when residents of Upper Beaconsfield met at Messrs Byrne and Vale's [auction] room in Melbourne on 18 August 1882. There they accepted an offer made by Mr Arthur Knight to devote an acre of land for the benefit of the district, and signed a contract.

A month later a committee (consisting of Professor George Britton Halford, Messrs George Frederick Brind, Edward Fitzhaley a'Beckett, George Buller, John Vale, William Henry Goff and William Elms) was elected to raise subscriptions and make the necessary arrangements for the erection of a building.

The money to build the hall had been raised by public subscriptions, concerts and bazaars, which raised about £950. The cost of building, furnishing and fitting up the hall was about £1150. A mortgage of £350 was taken out.

The available primary records do not reveal why the hall was not built on Knight's land (where St John's Church now stands), but on another block of land gifted by Thomas Jaques Martin.

Curiously, the new Assembly Hall was nearing completion when five members of the initial committee (Messrs Halford, Brind, a'Beckett, Goff and Elms), signed the contract for the land with Martin, on 3 April 1884.

The first recorded use of the hall was on Easter Sunday, 13 April 1884, when Rev Heiffor Hill preached a sermon to a crowded congregation of over 120. The following day a concert, and afterwards a ball was attended by 156 ladies and gentlemen. Professor Halford made the opening remarks, congratulating the assembled guests on the great acquisition of the new hall.

Later in the week, on 19 April, the first public meeting was called by the president of the Shire of Berwick to discuss a possible formation of a fourth riding or re-adjustment of ward boundaries.

### The building

The hall as first constructed had a supper room at the north end, where the present stage stands. It was divided off from the main room

by folding doors. A red drop curtain served as a back-cloth, and there was a small platform in one corner for musicians. The stage was portable, and was stored outside if a larger space was required. On the western side was a dressing room, which was later converted into a ladies' room. For a few years there was a bakehouse on the eastern side of the hall.

From the beginning there was a bell and belfry to call the faithful to worship, for guests to attend weddings and funerals, and to summon voluntary fire fighters. It rang on other occasions such as the end of the World Wars. The bell was rung by a long stick with a hook on the end, pushed up through a hole in the ceiling of the former supper room.

Regular concerts and other fundraising events were held, including an athletic sports meeting at Beaconsfield. Monies raised were used to pay back the mortgage.

Nearly three years after the hall opened, a local contractor, Mr Einsiedel, added a new wing on the eastern side of the hall to house a public library, but it would take considerable time for it to become operational.

During 1888, according to the newspapers of the day, some residents were complaining that the library had still not been opened, reputedly due to the lack of a librarian. One of the trustees, Mr Goff, commented that the trustees were busy with many other affairs, but that they were looking at forming a committee consisting of residents and trustees to work towards that objective. By 1899 the library was said to contain over a thousand books.

The hall was used as a second state school from 1889 to 1891. (See *Village Bell*, June 2017.)

### New trustees

According to the title certificate four new trustees, Rawson Parke Francis, Edgar William Walker, John Tyler, and William Henry Grant were appointed in 1904. Only WH Goff remained of the initial trustees.

Around this time a newspaper reported that the hall badly needed renovating, and an effort was made to repaint the hall before the regular influx of visitors over summer.

### Early 20th Century uses of the hall

A cashbook (1904 to 1942) details many of the activities carried out at the hall.

Many people came to the hall on horseback and in horse-drawn vehicles, and so a shed was built for the horses. In 1918, Alex Miller was paid £37 15s 6d to build a stable.

Both the Anglican (until 1923) and the Congregational Church held their religious services in the hall. Among the many users were a Men's Club, the Australian Women's National League, the Women's Institute, (later the County Women's Association), and a drama club. Election campaigning and elections were held at the hall, along with other public lectures and film nights. Local sports clubs held their meetings and social events there.

Residents hired the hall for different occasions: There were Mrs Drake's poultry demonstration, Miss Love's patriotic concert, Mr Cornwall's fancy dress ball, farewells to departing residents, etc.





Illustration by Tor Holth  
from Souvenir booklet marking the centenary of the  
Upper Beaconsfield Assembly Hall and State School

The first tennis courts were built by volunteers on the western side of the hall in about 1910.

### A playground

In 1928 Mrs Frances Pringle, the mother-in-law of storekeeper John Nathan, sold to the trustees some land, adjacent to the hall on the eastern side for use as a playground. The cost was £200, which was paid off in half-yearly instalments with added interest. The final payment was made on 1 Nov 1932.

### Other uses of the grounds

The first fire station, a shed obtained from Major Campbell of St Georges Road, was erected in the 1930s on the eastern side of the hall, facing Salisbury Road.

A caretakers' cottage was initially at the back of the hall, but was moved to where the Men's Shed now is when the space was required for a croquet lawn in 1926. The derelict cottage was burnt down by the Fire Brigade as an training exercise in 1993.

The caretakers' duties included the upkeep of the hall, the tennis and croquet courts. At social events he would help in the kitchen with catering, and keeping the log fire in the hall going if the night was chilly. It was not until 1978 that an electric heating was installed.

### Electric light

The original lighting of the hall was by kerosene lamps. In 1912 an American 'Colt' acetylene gas generator was installed in a shed near the caretaker's house, where it remained in use until the 1930s. Calcium carbide, supplied in 44 gallon drums (200 litres), was mixed with water giving off an odorous gas which burned with a brilliant white

light. The process created a white carbide waste, which the caretaker used to mark out the lines on the tennis courts. A similar process, in miniature, was widely used in lamps for bicycles, motor-cycles, cars and trucks before reliable electric lamps were developed.

In 1933 Mr Nathan put in an electric lighting plant for his store, which was on land east of the hall, and connected it to the hall as well. A newspaper cutting dated 3 June 1933 describes the 'switching on' of the system:

*"To inaugurate the installation of a new lighting scheme for the Assembly Hall, an evening entertainment was held, at which flag bridge and ping-pong tournaments were held. At a given time the old acetylene lights were turned off, and the electric lights were switched on by Mrs Harvey-Smith, wife of the Chairman of Trustees. The electric lighting is due to the enterprise of Mr Douglas Nathan, a resident of the district, who has installed a power plant in a building adjoining the Hall."*

### Trustees and management

In December 1934 the ownership of the hall was transferred from the individual trustees to 'The Beaconsfield Assembly Hall Trust'. This may have been done to relieve future committees of uncertainty, and would have given tangible security for obtaining funds.

In 1940 the land was 'sold' to the Shire of Berwick for five pounds, and on the same day transferred to the Crown. Other halls in the area were transferred to the Crown directly.

The transfer to Shire administration was possibly made to enable Council to contribute financially to the hall.

A Committee of Management was appointed for 12 months – they were David Norman McBride, John Winton

Richardson, John Eldred Royle, Thomas Fergus Black, David Hedrick Thomson, Winifred Mary Owen, and Erin Sigrid Knapton.

At every inspection by the Public Health Department a new list of non-compliant matters was issued, having the committee scrambling to find the funds, labour and materials to satisfy the department.

In 1933 the trustees were advised that a number of issues needed to be rectified, including increasing ventilation and adding further exit doors.

### Alterations and additions

When the library was no longer used by c1909, it was changed into a kitchen.

The present supper room (where the CWA now serves scones at Village Festivals) was erected in 1957 with a government grant of £750. The rest of the cost was raised by the community, largely by debentures taken up by local residents, many of whom did not redeem them.

For kitchen alterations in 1975 Council provided a grant of \$1,500 ... *"in the hope that it will further encourage the voluntary actions of those associated with the extension."*

At the same time the Committee of Management asked Council if they could supply labour through the unemployment relief scheme to help with maintenance of the hall, including painting inside and out, painting the roof, etc.

The scout group used the hall grounds for bottle collections from the mid-1970s,

MARIANNE ROCKE  
SOME INFORMATION SOURCED FROM  
CENTENARY BOOKLET 1884-1984

## An unpredictable summer

What a mixed bag of summer weather we have had – a mild summer, then right on cue the hot weather started, just when the kids went back to school. The predicted hotter, drier El Nino weather we were expecting didn't really eventuate (so far), sparing us a busy fire season both locally and further afield. In fact, many areas of the state endured excessive amounts of rainfall resulting in flooding.

The Upper Beaconsfield Fire Station was not immune from this! In early January, for the second time in four years, the fire station was inundated with heavy rain. This damaged the office and kitchen cupboards, walls, and carpets. Builders and plumbers have identified the cause of the flooding and plan to improve the storm water drainage behind the station. In the meantime, we have a few months of upheaval to endure.

### Fire danger period

We are still in the CFA's declared fire danger period. This is when the CFA restricts the use of fire in the community. It is illegal to burn off any

material during the declared fire danger period without a written permit from the relevant authority. Fire restrictions are currently scheduled to cease on 1 May, if they are not rescinded before that date. This will be determined by the authorities in conjunction with key stakeholders.

### Brigade turnouts

We ended 2023 with a flurry of calls in December to take our tally to 49 calls for the year. 2024 has started slowly so far with just a couple of calls. On average we attend one call a week, but it doesn't always work out like that.

We can go 4–6 weeks without a call and then receive 4 or 5 in the space of a few days.

10 turnouts since last publication:

- Car fire x 1
- Burnoff during fire danger period x 3
- False alarm x 3
- Gas leak x 1
- Tree fire x 1
- Toaster fire x 1

### Comings and goings

A few personnel departures took place

recently. In January we said goodbye to Ben who relocated to Omeo, Matt (12 months away) and Elizabeth (6 months away). In February it was Steve and Tracey's turn. Steve served as a lieutenant in the brigade management team and was also a training officer with the brigade. It's pleasing to know that they are all continuing their CFA journey elsewhere. We wish them all well and thank them for their service.

On the other side of the



  
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MEMBER OF



coin, we welcome Brooke, Brett and Andre to the brigade. Brooke started her CFA journey at Bunyip Fire Brigade and recently transferred. All three members will undergo basic training to obtain their General Fire Fighter qualification.

We need new members to come and join us. Our members are just like you! They are men and women from the local community who enjoy serving the community. Knowing that you are helping to protect your local community is a rewarding experience. You are more suited than you think! What are you waiting for?

Want to join us? It all starts with completing an EOI online. Scan the QR code (right) to take you to the CFA's volunteer information



page. Fill out your details and we will contact you for a chat.

### Vale Joseph Collins

Sadly, late last year, Joseph (Joe) Collins passed away suddenly at home. Joe was a long serving member of the Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade for well over 20 years and filled the role of president/chairperson for many years. Joe was a very handy fire fighter and great educator within the brigade. Our thoughts are with Joe's wife, children, and family.

### Fuel reduction burn

The brigade plans to conduct a controlled fuel reduction burn in the coming months in the northern section of the Dallas Brooks Scout Camp in Harpfield Road. This site has been prepared for 12 months, with limited opportunities to conduct the operation due to incompatible weather. When and if the green light is given, nearby and affected residents will be notified.

### New pump for Bigfill appliance

We are embarking on a major project to upgrade the water pump system on our Bigfill appliance. The appliance currently has an ageing PTO driven hydraulic pump coupled to an equally ageing and inefficient Fox Rosenbauer water pump that are both in need of upgrade.

The role of the Bigfill appliance is to move large volumes of water quickly. It is not a frontline attack vehicle. In recent years, the pump equipment on this appliance has become more unreliable and let us down occasionally.

Spare parts are becoming harder to source.

With the Fuso Canter 4x4 cab chassis component being only 10 years old and having a mere 20,000 kms on the odometer, the brigade made the decision to invest into a new pump that will serve the brigade and community for at least the next 10-15 years.

The new pump system will comprise of a stand-alone diesel driven Isuzu engine coupled up to a Gaam MK500 water pump to deliver 2300 lpm @ 700 kPa. It will include a 100 mm diameter hard suction hose for drafting

from creeks or dams along with a new pump control panel and 2 x 65 mm storz inlets/outlets. Some of the work will be conducted inhouse by brigade personnel whilst the refit of the new pump and equipment will be sublet to experienced CFA approved contractors. The work will take place through the quieter autumn/winter months of the year. The project will be entirely brigade funded. This will provide the brigade with a more reliable and efficient appliance and serve the community for many years to come.

## CFA questions and answers

Q. Why do we need so many fire trucks to deal with an alarm at Salisbury House?

A. Salisbury House is a "protected premise". It has high dependency residents and alarm calls are automatically linked to initiate a 5-truck response in the event of an alarm. This could be a smoke or sprinkler sensor, a water pressure sensor or someone ringing 000 with a genuine emergency. CFA pumpers are sent from Pakenham, Berwick, Beaconsfield, Emerald, and the Upper Beaconsfield brigade. Usually, our brigade members will be on scene first and decide whether the other appliances continue on or cancel pending the findings. Better to be safe than sorry!

Q. How come we see other brigades turn up to incidents elsewhere in Upper Beaconsfield?

A. Each CFA brigade has a pre-determined geographical assignment area. Upper Beaconsfield is surrounded by other CFA brigade boundaries: Berwick, Beaconsfield, Officer, Toomuc, Pakenham Upper, Cockatoo, Emerald, Narre Warren East, and Narre Warren North.

Depending on where the incident occurs and what type of incident it is, the appropriate surrounding brigades will be dispatched to support our area. This is to ensure that there is coverage from more than just the one brigade. If the event is in our specific response area, we are entitled to turn out all our appliances, or as many as we can provide people for. Supporting brigades may only send one of their

own appliances into a neighbouring assignment area unless requested otherwise. The same applies to Upper Beaconsfield. If we have to support a fire in Emerald's assignment area, we turn out one appliance (usually our Tanker 1). Our pager message tells us where the incident is, and we send the most appropriate appliance for the incident.

Each brigade's assignment area is split up into smaller allotments that are all linked to pre-determined response tables at ESTA. When someone rings 000 and provides a location and description of an incident, the primary response brigade is dispatched along with the relevant supporting brigades depending on the type and location of incident.

Q. Why do fire trucks travel with lights and sirens on, and not others?

A. This depends on the incident we are requested to attend. Where there is a risk to life or property (fire threatening or spreading, MVA with persons trapped, child stuck in car on a hot day), a code 1 response (lights and sirens) applies. Where there is no risk to life or property (washaway of debris from road, fire not threatening), a code 3 response (no lights or sirens) applies. The information to go code 1 or code 3 is provided to us on our pager before turning out to the incident. Depending on further information received, we may elect to upgrade to code 1 or downgrade to code 3 whilst enroute to the incident.

IAN PINNEY  
CAPTAIN UBCFA

## Kinder update

The 2024 Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten programs are up and running and the children are settling in nicely. It is wonderful to see them on their kinder journeys, learning and developing through structured play and socialisation. We are lucky to have exceptional teachers who pour their hearts and souls into nurturing our children every day. They are the ones who plant the seeds of curiosity, kindness and knowledge and we are privileged to have them guiding our children's earliest steps in their educational journey.

The Parent Advisory Group (PAG) have also been hard at work to support our children and local kindergarten communities. We had some luck with grants in 2023. Here's an update:

We successfully applied for a grant through the Woolworths Junior Landcare Grant Program. Our project aimed to plant an indigenous food and flower garden to attract birds and butterflies as well as incorporating First Nation teachings and strengthen our children's connection to Country.



The children enjoyed getting dirty – digging and planting – and we are pleased to report the plants have survived the summer break! A very big thank you to our teachers, Green Circle Nursery and Woolworths for their assistance and support.

The kindergartens were also successful with their application to the Stronger



Communities Grant Program 2023, allocated by the Hon. Jason Wood MP. We received a solid technology injection which included two interactive whiteboards, an iPad, a party speaker, two smaller speakers and a set of Bluetooth headphones. Again, thanks to our teachers, Hon. Jason Wood MP and his office for their generous support.

We are currently working on a project to upgrade the playground at the 3-year-old kindergarten on McBride Road, and this is where most of our fundraising efforts are being allocated. Projects like this require large amounts of money and effort to get going. We are looking at creating a sub-working group for the playground project so if you are interested in getting involved or joining the PAG in general, please reach out to Marie or Jen at [ubkinderpag@gmail.com](mailto:ubkinderpag@gmail.com).

**MARIE DASCOLI & JEN O'BRIEN**



**Upper Beaconsfield  
Community Centre**

## Classes ready to go for 2024

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre is back for 2024. We held an open day in January for people to come along and renew their centre memberships, collect their calendar, and enrol in their classes for Term 1. The day was supported by the Men's Shed who showed off their well-honed BBQ skills. The centre has a wide variety of programs on offer this year and we are keen to keep growing our offerings. We would love to hear any suggestions for programs from our community. Please email these to [programs@ubcc.org.au](mailto:programs@ubcc.org.au) or call the centre on 5944 3484.



Term programs can be collected outside the Community Centre, as well as in the Post Office, Chemist and GP Clinic.

The Community Centre is now registered for the Container Deposit Scheme so that community members able to recycle their bottles and cans and donate their money to the Community Centre. If you would like to donate, please use the code C2000009286.

We look forward to seeing you at the Community Centre in 2024

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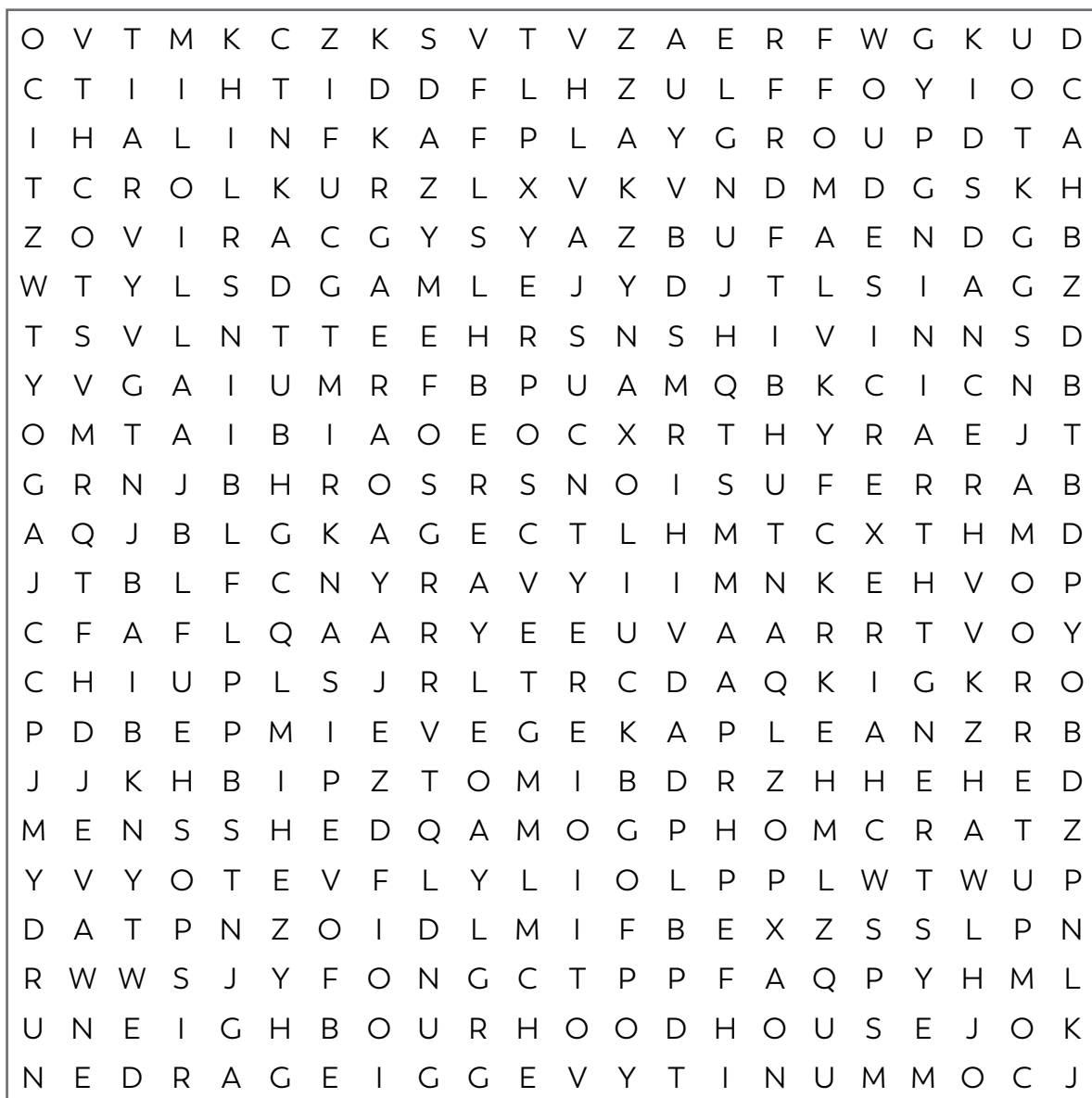
**GARDEN SUPPLIES**

**LOLLIES & SNACKS**

# Wordsearch – Activities at the Community Complex

*Find these words in the grid*


ART AND CRAFT	PLAYGROUP	VILLAGE FESTIVAL	COMMUNITY VEGGIE GARDEN
YOGA	BOOK CLUB	BARRE FUSION	JUNGLE BODY MIK DANCE
MENS SHED	COMPUTER ROOM	KIDS DANCE	BOOMERANG BAGS
HALL HIRE	PILATES	TOY LIBRARY	CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS
CHAIR EXERCISE	PLAYGROUND	STRENGTH TRAINING	NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH		EARLY LEARNING CENTRE	



Our community nursery in Halford Street has reopened for the year 2024, on Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm at the moment, from the end of March we will also be open on Saturdays 10 am to 1 pm.  
Plants sell from \$1 to \$7 each while stocks last.

**SUE SIMMONS**

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# A great start to the year at BUPS

Here at Beaconsfield Upper Primary School, we are very excited to begin 2024. The teachers are thrilled to get back into another year of learning.

We hope that everyone managed to have a relaxing break and enjoyed spending time with their friends and family over the summer. To all the families who are returning for another year at BUPS, and to all our new families, especially our new Prep families, we would like to extend a very

warm welcome to our wonderful school. We have great things planned for the year ahead

Our first community event was held at the beginning of February. It was wonderful to see so many families attend the 'Welcome BBQ'. The students definitely enjoyed a sausage or two.

This year's Prep students have made an incredible start to school, surrounded by many great role models. Each child

has enjoyed developing a new and positive relationship with their Grade 5/6 buddy, knowing that they will always have a special friend to look out for them and help them to feel safe and secure at BUPS.

Here's to a big and exciting 2024 here at BUPS.

ALEX GAWLEY



## Welcome back at the ELC

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Early Learning Centre wishes to share some exciting news with the community. We have a new director, Deb, who comes to us with over 40 years of experience in children's services. Our current director, Aimee, will be going on maternity leave soon and we look forward to welcoming her back in late 2024.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the Upper Beaconsfield General Store, who offered their support in moving a literal truck worth of new resources to our centre for

the new year. It's great to have such strong community partnerships moving into 2024.

The Early Learning Centre was thrilled to work on a new project that was displayed at the Berwick Show in February. The children at the ELC were painting a sheep and a lamb to celebrate 175 years of 'Life on the Land'. This is a great community connection, and we can't wait to see the completed masterpieces.

The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre has vacancies on Monday



and Friday in our Kookaburras classroom (ages 0 – 3 years) and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in our Wombats classroom (3 – 5 years). Our daily fee is \$130. Families who are eligible for the childcare subsidy will receive a rebate back on this cost.

We're currently on the hunt for casual educators who have flexible availability in shifts ranging from 7.30 am–5.30 pm. If you're interested in hearing more about the role, please call or email our director Deb.

To join our waitlist or arrange a tour today please contact our director Deb on 5944 3484 or [elc@ubcc.org.au](mailto:elc@ubcc.org.au)



# Adolescent health

Adolescence, the transitional phase between childhood and adulthood, is marked by profound physical, emotional, and social changes. While this period is essential for personal growth and development, children face numerous challenges that can impact their well-being. In this article, we will explore the challenges faced by children during adolescence, shedding light on the complexities of this transformative phase.

**Identity formation:** Adolescence is a time of self-discovery and identity formation. Children grapple with questions of who they are and where they fit in society. The pressure to conform to societal expectations, peer influences, and evolving interests can create a sense of confusion and identity crisis.

**Peer pressure:** The influence of peers becomes increasingly significant during adolescence. Children may face pressure to conform to social norms, experiment with risky behaviours, or engage in activities that may compromise their well-being. Navigating these pressures while maintaining a sense of individuality can be a formidable challenge.

**Academic stress:** As academic expectations rise, adolescents often experience heightened stress and pressure to succeed. Balancing academic responsibilities, extracurricular activities, and social life can lead to anxiety, burnout, and a fear of failure, impacting both mental and physical health.

**Body image and self-esteem:** Physical changes during adolescence can significantly impact children's perceptions of their bodies. The media's portrayal of beauty standards, combined with societal expectations, can contribute to body image issues and low self-esteem. Children may grapple with accepting and embracing their changing bodies.

**Social media influence:** Social media exposes children to an unrealistic world of curated images and lifestyles. Constant comparison, cyberbullying, and the pressure to gain social approval online can negatively affect mental health, contributing to anxiety, depression, and feelings of inadequacy.

**Family dynamics:** Adolescence often strains family relationships as children seek autonomy and independence.

Communication breakdowns, conflicts over rules, and generational differences in values can lead to tension within the family unit, affecting the child's emotional well-being.

**Sexual and reproductive health:** Navigating the complexities of puberty, sexuality, and relationships poses challenges during adolescence. Lack of comprehensive sex education, societal taboos, and peer pressure can lead to risky behaviours, unintended pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections.

**Mental health issues:** Anxiety and depression increase during adolescence. Hormonal changes, academic stress, and societal expectations contribute to the vulnerability of children. Recognizing the signs of mental health struggles and accessing appropriate support is crucial.

## Addressing challenges:

- Encouraging open communication between parents, caregivers, and children fosters a supportive environment where challenges can



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<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8.30 am – 6 pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8.30 am – 6 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9.00 am – 2 pm</b>

be discussed. Actively listening to children's concerns helps build trust and understanding.

- Implementing comprehensive sex education and mental health awareness programs in schools equips children with the knowledge and skills to navigate these crucial aspects of adolescence.
- Promoting resilience through positive coping mechanisms, problem-solving skills, and stress management techniques empowers children to face challenges with confidence.
- Access to GPs, mental health professionals, counsellors, and support services is essential. Creating a stigma-free environment around seeking help encourages children to address their health and mental health concerns without fear or shame.

From a GP's perspective, adolescent health involves a multifaceted approach that encompasses physical, reproductive, mental, and social well-being. By providing holistic care, we contribute to the overall health and development of adolescents. Through regular check-ups, preventive healthcare, and open communication, GPs play a crucial role in guiding

adolescents towards a path of well-rounded health, ensuring they transition into adulthood with the knowledge and habits necessary for a lifetime of well-being.

Understanding the challenges faced by children during adolescence is essential for fostering a supportive and nurturing environment. By acknowledging the complexities of this transformative phase, parents, educators, and society at large can work collaboratively to equip children with the tools and resources needed to navigate the challenges of adolescence and emerge as resilient, confident individuals ready to embrace adulthood.

### New doctor at the local clinic

We are excited to announce that a UK trained doctor started at our practice recently. Dr Karunya is a general practice registrar, currently in training as part of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Dr Karunya studied medical school at the University of Liverpool in the United Kingdom and after two years of working there, moved to Australia. She gained experience in emergency medicine, paediatrics, and women's health before commencing GP training. Dr Karunya has a special interest in



antenatal care and women's health including subdermal contraceptive implant (Implanon) insertion and has attained her Diploma of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. She also has special interests in preventative medicine, and chronic disease management. In her free time, Dr Karunya enjoys spending time with her husband, tabby cat, and enjoys Pilates, kickboxing, and creative journaling.

**DR ANSHU MALHOTRA**  
**DR PUNEET MALHOTRA**  
**UPPER BEACONSFIELD GP PRACTICE**

## Cardinia Council news

### Australia Day Awards

Upper Beaconsfield featured in Cardinia Shire's Australia Day Awards. Congratulations to Graham Cockerell for being nominated for Citizen of the Year and to the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival which was nominated for the Event of the Year. It was great

to recognise the achievements of Upper Beaconsfield's residents and volunteers.

Upper Beaconsfield RSL President – Eric Chaplin has been honoured with a Member of the Order of Australia (OAM) announced as part of the Australia Day 2024 Honours List. The veterans and the broader community

### Free green waste drop-off for Cardinia Shire residents until Tuesday 30 April



Residents impacted by the recent storms can continue to drop-off their green waste for free, as well as other storm-related general waste.

Transfer stations will continue to accept residential amounts of green waste including tree branches and trunks (up to 30 centimetres wide and 1 metre long), weeds, grass clippings, leaves, and flowers. This also now

includes other storm-related waste such as building debris.

#### Pakenham

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

Monday to Friday: 8 am – 3.30 pm  
Saturday: 8 am – 2 pm

#### Lysterfield

Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre  
840 Wellington Rd, Lysterfield

Monday to Friday: 8 am – 3.30 pm  
Saturday and Sunday: 8 am – 11.30 am

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

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

of Cardinia Shire have been

the fortunate beneficiaries of Eric's dedicated community service over many decades, and we congratulate Eric on this deserved recognition.

### Clean Up Australia Day

The community is encouraged to participate in this year's Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday 3 March.

Clean Up Australia Day is the nation's largest community-based event for collecting litter to reduce its impact on our environment. Community members, schools and businesses can participate in a pre-registered clean-up site on the Clean Up Australia website.

Once volunteers register, they will receive a free clean-up kit through Clean Up Australia including bags, gloves and more! Cardinia Shire Council will help collect and dispose of the rubbish collected on the day. With the new Container Deposit Scheme, volunteers can be rewarded with a



*continued on page 22*

continued from page 21

10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton, or bottle when they collect and return to any refund collection point. 10-cent refund options include cash, vouchers, donations, or electronic payment for items.

The event is a great way to connect with the community and make a positive impact on our local environment. If volunteers cannot organise a site on Clean Up Australia Day, they can organise a Clean Up for any day of the year. It is as simple as registering a 'clean up' site and notifying Council to have the litter collected and disposed of after their event. To find the nearest drop off locations for the Container Deposit Scheme refund point, go to [www.cdsvic.org.au/locations](http://www.cdsvic.org.au/locations) To register for Clean Up Australia Day and for more information, go to [www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustaliaday.org.au)

### Understanding the My Aged Care system and Care Finder program

Do you need support as an older person? Come to the free sessions on Care Finder, a free service that helps you connect with My Aged Care and

other community services. Council is hosting two free sessions this March about Care Finder, a free service for vulnerable older people who need support.

Care Finder can help you understand and interact with My Aged Care, access aged care, and find other supporting services in the community. You can get the support you need to live well, be independent, and feel safe. Don't miss this opportunity!

- Dates 12 March and 19 March 2024
- Location: Cardinia Shire Council Civic Centre, 20 Siding Avenue, Officer
- Time: 10 am – 12 noon. Free event

### Nominations open

Nominations for Cardinia Shire's Stan Henwood Award 2024 are now open. Community members are encouraged to submit a nomination to recognise a local legend who has dedicated their time and efforts to improving and enriching the Cardinia Shire community. Nominations can be submitted online at <https://cardinia.smartygrants.com.au/Stan2024> until Sunday 10 March 2024.

This longstanding community award is a special way to acknowledge and

celebrate volunteers in Cardinia Shire, particularly those who have committed significant time and energy over many years to our community. If you know of someone who is tireless in their volunteering pursuits and helps make Cardinia Shire the place to be, please submit a nomination, so that their efforts and contributions can be recognised in 2024.

The award winner will be announced and celebrated at Council's National Volunteer Week reception in May 2024. For more information about the Stan Henwood Award, including eligibility criteria and how to nominate, visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/StanHenwoodAward](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/StanHenwoodAward) or call the Cardinia Shire Council Connected Communities team on 1300 787 624.

For more information about volunteering, visit Council's website at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteering](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteering) or call the Customer Service team on 1300 787 624.

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



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## MADE FOR MORE

## New members welcome at the Men's Shed

Our 30+ shed members have enjoyed a four week break over Christmas, although quite a few of us still turned up to continue with our activities.

We have been working on many small and some larger projects which include:

- Running a sausage sizzle and assisting with setup at Carols in the Park
- Doing metal lathe work on various request items
- Constructing caravan wheel brackets
- Making awards for the 2024 Tower Run at the Village Festival
- Producing bird nesting boxes and other items for the UBA Festival stall
- Producing "Kid Construct" kits for money boxes, toolboxes, serviette trays and toy trucks as a hands-on activity for the Village Festival
- Testing and training members on our new 3D printer and CNC Router
- Running fundraising sausage sizzles at the Community Centre and Bunnings
- Preparing for free Pancakes in the Park for Shrove Tuesday
- Continuing our ongoing projects of

making hiking poles and walking sticks and sharpening tools for residents

Our AGM is on 6 March and we are hoping to attract new members, especially those who can assist the committee in running and organising the group. No special skills or abilities are needed – just people who enjoy a chat and a coffee. Many hands make light work!

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

The Shed is open from 9–noon on Tuesdays, 9–noon on Wednesdays and on Thursdays by request. Finish times can be flexible.

All are welcome to join us for morning tea on Wednesdays to share coffee and a biscuit (and occasionally cake if there's a birthday). The Shed is in Halford Street, parking in the RSL carpark.

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

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

## Congratulations Eric

Eric Chaplin, former resident of Upper Beaconsfield, was awarded an OAM in the January Australia Day honours. He with his wife Pam lived in Upper Beaconsfield for 40 years, before moving to Berwick in recent years.

The Chaplins, who lived on Manestar Road, lived through the traumatic Ash Wednesday disaster. This experience led Eric becoming more involved with the local community as there was need for everyone to pull together and support those who had lost their homes.

He joined many organisations and supported worthy causes over the years. Amongst his achievements were 25 years as president of the Upper Beaconsfield RSL sub-branch. He has conducted the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies at the local cenotaph longer than he has been president. Eric served in the Army in the late fifties. Once leaving the military he resumed his trade as a plumber.

He joined the Upper Beaconsfield Rotary Club which started up after Ash Wednesday bushfire (later disbanded), then joined the Berwick Lions Club. He was area organiser of the Red Shield Appeal in Upper Beaconsfield for many years. In 2002 the Upper Beaconsfield Association awarded Eric the Upper Beaconsfield Citizen of the Year.

## Emma Vulin MP

I hope everyone has had a happy start to the new year and been fortunate enough to be able to spend some quality time with their loved ones and friends. I've certainly enjoyed the opportunity to take a few days out with the kids for a mini break to catch up with family and friends for a bbq or two.

As I write this in early February, it's great to see our young people back to school for 2024. To celebrate, every Prep student attending a Victorian government school will have received a bag full of books, educational items, and information to help them and their families get off to a great start. To help our littlest Victorians start on their formal learning path, the State Government is proud to continue building on the Best Start, Best Life reforms, which are the most significant changes to Victoria's early childhood sector in a generation.

What this means is that all children in

Victoria who are 3 and 4 years old can access free Kinder at both standalone (sessional) kindergartens and long day care (childcare) participating centres. Families will save up to \$2,500 per child each year. It also means that more than 28,000 Victorians will be able to return to work if they choose, most of whom – 26,000 – are women.

Kinder Kits are also back again for 2024 and are available for every eligible child enrolled in a three-year-old kindergarten. These are great activity boxes filled with books, educational toys and activities made especially for three-year-olds to enjoy at home.

Happy days indeed!

**EMMA VULIN**  
**MP FOR PAKENHAM**





# Drug driving? The consequences will blow your mind.

Police are conducting drug tests across Victoria, which helps to keep our roads safe. Being caught with illicit drugs in your system could result in a minimum fine of \$577 and possible licence suspension. Drug driving? Chances are you will be caught. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.





## Wishing for something better

If you were to have three wishes what you wish for? Would it be unlimited money? Super powers? Be able to talk to animals? I find the idea a fascinating one and it may be something that from time to time you may have pondered yourself. My 8-year-old has considered this question and has decided that he wants to be able to mind control people! I'm glad this is not possible, otherwise he would have chocolate ice cream for breakfast every day!

The idea of being able to wish or hope for something better is not a new one. If you know the stories of what Jesus encountered, he was able in the depths of people's darkest moments to bring hope, and healing. He brought to people who needed it, something that our world is crying out for: companionship and understanding.

If you follow his story, you will see meeting the deepest need of those he met. He healed the blind, touched the hand of the desperate and gave real hope. He was there for those who were 'fine' but needed answers about life, eternity, forgiveness, and hope answered. He reimaged the role of women, and education and even children's rights. He stood for the poor, the widow and even the powerful. What he brought to people was not a simple three step wish, but an answer to why. Why are we here? What's the point and what's it all about. In my eyes that seems like a better option.

Everyone is welcome at St John's Church to come and sort out the answers to these questions any Sunday at 9.30 am.

**REV SHANNON LEE**

### St John's Op Shop

How wonderful to be blessed with a couple of teams of such enthusiastic, energetic and inspirational volunteers! People who have not just the energy to lift, sort, display, shelve, tidy and clean the stock, but also bring new ideas for passing on excess and unsaleable items to a variety of other agencies. They all have



such a blast working and laughing so hard.

Throughout 2023 your local op shop provided items for mother and baby charities and animal and pet rescue shelters, clothing for slum children in Sri Lanka to enable

them to attend school, formal wear for underprivileged children to attend graduation ceremonies, books to BUPs and toys and books to childcare and playgroup services. We have provided some practical 'reduce/re-use/recycle' experiences to primary children and Scouts and established relationships with other welfare agencies which can request assistance or refer clients to us if required.

The teams also requested that the op shop be enabled to start providing financial assistance to some local organisations which they selected and then were endorsed by parish council. The op shop is proud to announce that during 2023 nearly \$4000 in donations was distributed between the Upper Beac CFA, W.I.S.H., Need for Feed, Pakenham Riding for the Disabled and Pakenham WAYSS (support for homeless and victims of domestic violence).

Thank you to all our regular and casual customers who are enabling this to happen, and to the people who donate to their local op shop. We couldn't do it without you! We very much love the people who donate clean items in good repair and in bags and boxes that are easy to lift.

One of the funny things I notice is that when someone comes in looking for a specific item which we do not have at the time, within a fortnight it may arrive. So if you are not in a hurry, it is worth popping back a couple of times as you also never know what we may

have that you never knew was exactly what you wanted.

Our shop is open on Thursdays, 9 am–2 pm and Fridays, 9 am–1 pm. Happy op shopping from

**THE THURSDAY AND  
FRIDAY TEAMS**



## New office around the corner



I am pleased to share news of our move from our temporary office in Narre Warren to the new Berwick electorate office at 4/6-Wheeler St, Berwick which will be open from 20 March 2024. Please check my socials for related updates. I look forward to welcoming you to the new office and will ensure between now and then our service to you remains available.

If you had the chance to attend the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival on Sunday 18 February, you would no doubt agree that it was a fabulous event. I am sure you will join me in expressing a huge thank you to the Upper Beaconsfield Festival Committee with a shout out to Odie who liaises with my team to ensure our involvement in the event is coordinated smoothly.

This event highlights for me the importance of community and recognition of how we can work together to showcase important issues within society. I am amazed at the variety of talent and commitment within our community, and it wouldn't be a Tower Run if we didn't have the competitors, so a massive thank you to those who braved the run.

Please be mindful of the social isolation that grips some people; old and young which has grown after the last few years. Some people may need a little encouragement to get out and meet people. If you know of people in your local street or area who are struggling to get back into the community make sure you reach out and see if you can assist. If not, contact the council to see if any of their services can help or offer advice. Connected communities are stronger communities.

My staff and I are still available to you from our temporary office, so if you have any questions or comments to share, please feel free to contact me on 5953 0216 or via [berwick@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:berwick@parliament.vic.gov.au). You can also follow me on social media via my website: [www.bradbattin.com.au](http://www.bradbattin.com.au), Twitter: @BradBattinMP, Facebook: /BradBattinMP, Instagram: @bradbattinMP, Linked In: Brad-Battin and YouTube – Brad Battin.

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

## Out and about with Scouts

Scouting for all sections is back in full swing for 2024! We have all had a well-earned break and are ready to see what the year has in store. Our wonderful volunteer leaders have planned some amazing programs with and for the youth members.

There are plenty of camps booked in, as well as fundraisers and community outings. This term you will find us out and about a lot, attending the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival and making the most of the daylight hours.

The Scouts have already been fundraising at a few Bunnings so that they can attend the Jamboree in 2025. Venturers had a massive camp already having attended Venture 24 in January and preparing for "Anything Goes".

Our Rovers have also done some fundraising and assisted with the Venture 24 expedition "Wrench It". Joeys and Cubs are easing back into things with lots of craft and outdoor adventure skills. There are

term planners showing what we have in store for term 1. It is going to be awesome.

If these activities are something you are interested in, feel free to contact our Facebook page and have a chat with our wonderful leaders. We are always looking for leaders as well as new youth members. Find our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/1stupperbeaconsfield](https://www.facebook.com/1stupperbeaconsfield)



**BONNIE INKSTER**

**1ST UPPER BEACONSFIELD SCOUT GROUP**



### Term 1 schedule

#### Joey Scouts

- 4 March – Mystery dinner
- 11 March – no joeys – Labour day
- 18 March – Scavenger hunt
- 25 March – Easter craft night

#### Cub Scouts

- 4 March – (Clean up Australia day) – Meet at Igloo
- 11 March – no cubs – Labour Day
- 18 March – Ships ahoy (raft building) – Local dam
- 25 March – The Great Cub Bake-off (Easter theme) – Igloo



#### Scouts

- 5 March – Swimming
- 12 March – Scout Olympics
- 19 March – Mystery Box Night
- 26 March – Science Experiments

#### Spilt Rock Rover Unit

- 5 March – First Aid Night
- 12 March – Mt Cannibal Hike Night
- 19 March – Venturer Joint Night

## Women getting into golf

There have traditionally been barriers to women taking up golf, but the Beaconsfields Golf Club program "Pathway to Golf" led by Jenny Chandler, is proving successful in smoothing the way. It is now the fastest growing area of the club. Beginner clinics for women are being run on Tuesdays at 9 am and 10 am and Thursdays at 10 am. The classes

are only \$20 per session, payable to the coach on the day. Women attending these clinics then have the option to pay \$150 to join a Pathway to Golf membership which gives them support while they learn the game and access to the golf course to practice what they learn. If you are interested in trying golf in a safe and supportive environment, then joining one of our clinics is the



perfect start. You don't need clubs as equipment is provided.

The first Board event decided for the year was the Dennis Crowley Summer Cup. This matchplay pairs event was won by Russell D'Arcy and Jack Hurst against Darren Richmond and Dean Whitaker. The score was 2 up with 1 hole left to play.

The Club Championships are currently underway and they will be followed by the Balcombe Matchplay Championships. The golf course is in stunning condition this year, so we would love to see you come and play the course and experience what we have to offer right on your doorstep.

For any further information on membership, booking a social game or anything else please call the pro shop on 5945 9230 or the office on 5945 2910.

**MARK LAZENBY**  
**GENERAL MANAGER**



Four of our current Pathway to Golf Members

# Hobby horses and awards

This past quarter has been jam-packed for our pony club members with numerous camps and competitions held.

Good old-fashioned fun featured at our weekend away at the Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre late last year, in conjunction with Bunyip Pony Club. After arriving on Saturday afternoon for a trail ride through the beautiful grounds, our campers enjoyed a delicious dinner followed by a presentation on horse biomechanics thanks to Kuda Equestrian.

Breaking into groups, riders were then tasked with designing their own hobby horse to participate in relay races around a show jumping course. It was hilarious to watch from the sidelines, and we discovered there's some talented hobby horse riders in the group.

Day two of camp was more structured with lessons in cross country, show jumping, dressage, and ride-to-time. These experiences are the stuff memories are made of, and we know our members are already looking forward to attending our next camp in the future.

We are always very proud of how enthusiastic, engaged, and talented our members are and so it was with delight that the following 2023 awards were presented at our December rally:



## Ready-to-Ride Participation Medals:

Ella S., Hilary S., Addison M.

## Jake & Tawny Memorial Award

Brianna W., Ella M.

## Kelly Family Instructors Award

Niamh O'L., Adele M., Ella M.,  
Maddie S., Sarah L., Avril C.

## Trewin Family Junior Award

Imogen S., Scarlett R.

## Jenny Magee 'Best Presented' Award

Niamh O'L., Adele M.

## Junior Encouragement Award

Jake D.

## Intermediate Encouragement Award

Ella M., Amber C., Saffron A.

## Woff Family Achievement Award

Sienna McP., Chloe W., Avril C.

## Linda Brodie Award

Sarah L.

## Most Improved Member Award

Taylor T., Brianna W., Stella M.

## Ready2Ride Participation Medals

Ella S., Hilary S., Addison M.

## Pony Club's Ready2Ride

Pony Club's Ready2Ride program is designed for young riders (3-10 years of age) and we're proud to be able to offer this as part of our club. If you think your child is ready to join a structured learning program, please contact us for more information and to book a come and try session.

We're a fun, friendly and inclusive riding club offering children a great environment to learn. In recognition

that a full meet can be tiring for littlies, this level of membership offers:

- Half-day rallies (with two lessons from qualified coaches)
- Structured learning program focused on PCV - E Certificate requirements
- Discounted membership fees
- Public liability and 24/7 accident insurance.



Finally, a huge congratulations to the following riders for placing out and about:

- Maddie C. – Champion E Grade – Pearcedale PC Show Jumping
- Sienna McP. – Fourth Grade 5 – Tooradin Horse Trials
- Chloe W. – Reserve Champion Grade 4 (on Star) and Sixth Grade 3 (on Lola) – Tooradin Horse Trials.

UPPER BEACONSFIELD  
HORSE AND PONY CLUB



## News from the courts

Are you feeling inspired by the excitement of the Australian Open? Come and join your local Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club! Whether you're a beginner eager to pick up a racquet for the first time, or a seasoned player looking for a new challenge, UBTC offers a diverse range of options to suit every skill level. Please get in contact with any queries you may have: [upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com](mailto:upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com).

Here are a few upcoming events around the club. Be sure to mark these dates in your diary.

\* UBTC Open Day, Sunday 3 March,

11 am to 1 pm – Join us for a day of tennis and come see what it's all about.

- \* 2023 senior club championship finals (postponed due to wet weather) from 1 pm onwards on Sunday 3 March. – Do you miss watching the Australia Open? Come along and watch some great tennis, right here in Upper Beaconsfield.
- \* UBTC working bee, Sunday 21 April, 10 am to 12 pm – We hope to see lots of members in attendance lending a hand.

Great news, UBTC now has a social committee! The committee recently organised and hosted a highly successful 80s social night, which was open to both members and non-members. It was a fantastic event enjoyed by all who attended. Keep an eye on our socials for our next upcoming social night and be sure to mark it in your diary.

After a summer break, our weekend competitions, featuring both junior BDTA and senior WDTA, are back in full swing. Good luck for the remainder of the season—let's finish strong!

Our mid-week ladies have kicked off their new DDTA 2024

autumn season and are competing in the Tuesday competition. We wish them the best of luck for the season ahead.

Our intra-club night competition remains strong, running Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights. We're constantly welcoming new players and seeking emergency fill-ins. If you're keen to join, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The fabulous coaching team at UBTC is continuing to grow and offers a full range of programs for all abilities, including Hot Shots, group lessons, semi-private lessons, private lessons, squad coaching, Cardio Tennis, and school holiday programs. For anyone interested, please contact club coach Karen on 0403 454 554 or email [Karen@ultimatetennismelbourne.com](mailto:Karen@ultimatetennismelbourne.com).

If you haven't already, please feel free to follow our Facebook page at [facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldTennisClub](https://facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldTennisClub) and our Instagram page @upperbeaconsfieldtc to stay updated with all things UBTC-related.

See you at the courts!

CAITY BUTLER



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## VILLAGE BELL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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