



UPPER BEACONSFIELD
VILLAGE
June 2024
BELL

Trees in Upper Beaconsfield

Upper Beaconsfield Association • upperbeaconsfield.org.au

Trees in Upper Beac

Upper Beaconsfield is home to a great diversity of trees. Village Bell readers sent in photographs of their favourites. Whether they be native or exotic species, they all form part of Upper Beaconsfield's unique character. Thanks you to the contributors, Robyn McIntosh (cover), Anne & Sukhbir Mehla, Peter Colliver, Craig Hilton, Helen Smith, Sue Simmons, Emma Vulin, Cameron & Marianne Rocke



by Marianne Rocke



by Cameron Rocke



by Anne Mehla

Above: Lichen covered trunk with tree ferns
Below: Fire-charred, gnarly old stringybark

Above: It's all a matter of perspective. Two views of the mountain grey gum at the RSL club

Eric Chaplin stepping down after 25 years

Anzac Day is the major day on our calendar, and Eric has been Master of Ceremonies since 1999. Crowds have been growing each year, with the 2024 ceremony having in the vicinity of 600 people attending. Eric has grown to love the microphone and likes to chatter away with the crowd and over the last several years has brought about a few changes such as relaying the history of battles and battlefields.

In a tearful goodbye at the 2024 Anzac Day service, Eric announced he was stepping down from the presidency after 25 years. He will remain a contributing member of the RSL and will ensure that whoever takes on the role of President will be appropriate for the job, or look out! See page 9..

Image of Eric Chaplin
by Capture the Wild Photography



by Helen Smith

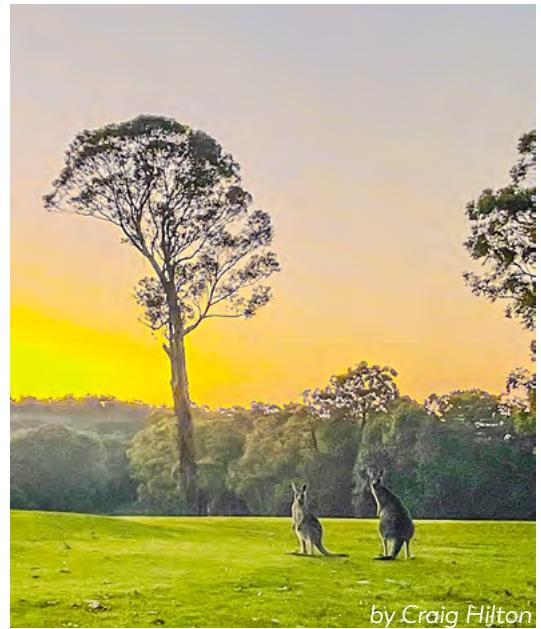


by Cameron Rocke



by Sukhbir Mehla

Above: Silhouette of a gum tree against the Aurora Australis display in mid-May.



by Craig Hilton

Above: Tall gum at the Golf Course



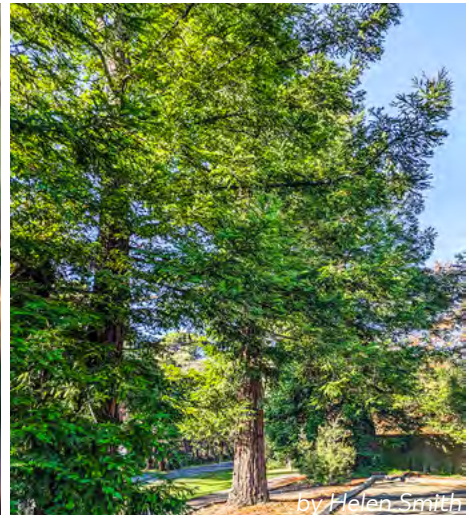
by Peter Colliver

Above: English & Australian trees; Below: Swamp gum at Sutherland Park



by Anne Mehla

Above left: Lichen decorate this trunk. Above right: These coastal redwoods were planted post the 1983 fires. Below: Autumn colours at Harris Park



by Helen Smith



by Sue Simmons



by Helen Smith



**Village Bell Issue No. 236
June 2024**

Editorial coordinators

Helen Smith tel 5944 3219, Marianne Roche

Editorial team Julie Born, Linda Burridge, Des Lavery, Caro Letts, Anne Mehla, Cheryl O’Gallagher

Layout Marianne Roche

Photo editor Cameron Roche

Printing and collating teams: Peter & Sue Simmons, Daryl Hopkins, Fergus O’Gallagher, Caroline Spencer, Frank Archer, Jenny Pritchard, Andrew Rewell, Carol Gibson

Next issue: September 2024

Send articles by 7 August 2024 to villagebell@upperbeaconsfield.org.au

The Village Bell is published by Upper Beaconsfield Association Inc., PO Box 86, Upper Beaconsfield VIC 3808. Incorporated 1987. Inc. No. A00127805 No material from this publication may be reproduced in any manner without the permission of the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit articles for length, language, readability and appropriate content. The Village Bell advises that the views or remarks expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the volunteer Village Bell editorial or production team. No service or endorsement is implied by the listing of advertisers, sponsors or contributors.

The Village Bell is a member of the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria www.cnav.org.au

Hot swimming

Rainfall on St Georges Road

Rain in February, historically our driest month, at 50 mm was a fraction above last year but 8.5 mm below average. For March, this year’s measly amount of 13 mm was 66 mm below last year and 51 mm less than average. April was wet with 142 mm, bettering last year by 36 mm and over the average by 64 mm.

Over the three-month period we received 28 mm less than the same time last year, but 4 mm above the average. It seems the big difference is in the pattern of rainfall, more so than the actual amount. Receiving less rain, and then at some point getting a deluge, has for some time been predicted by the BOM because of climate change.

Outside of our patch, the BOM’s data shows Australia’s average rainfall in the lead up to summer, the August to October period of 2023, was the nation’s driest three months ever recorded. September’s average rain across the country was only 4.8 mm, 70% below the 1961-1990 average.

Following the dry autumn, the BOM forecast that the summer months would continue to be drier than normal. This prediction was made in part, because the data met the BOM’s classification of a declarable El Niño event. The media hype machine went into overdrive and primed us for a summer of extreme heat, drier landscapes, and a deadly fire risk. The headlines screamed ‘Mega El Niño’ – certainly not a term that emanated from the BOM.

But the media’s attention soon turned to the reporting of intense rainfall and consequential flooding over large swathes of the east coast more northerly than us. So, what happened? How could the facts get in the way of a good story? Firstly, the fine print. The BOM stated that parts of the country such as the West would be more susceptible to El Niño at this time of year. Also, that over summer, an El Niño event is less impactful than it might

Month	45 yr av.	2023	2024
Jan	63.6	37.8	150.4
Feb	58.4	48.5	49.9
Mar	64.2	79.5	13.3
Apr	78.3	105.4	141.9
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	
Total	947 mm	936 mm	

be during cooler months. Secondly, this El Niño event was not overly intense or long. Not long after the El Niño declaration, the El Niño conditions started to abate. The current consensus is pointing us towards the possibility of yet another period of La Niña type conditions. If a La Niña emerges over the spring of this year, it would be the fourth such climatic event over the past five years. Having had three La Niña’s then an El Niño and then back to La Niña is a sequence never recorded. Over the past 114 years there has only been 20 La Niña events in total. A return to a La Niña may be on the cards, but the certainty of it reoccurring, is at this time, very low.

For our region, the BOM’s short term forecasting predicts a drier than normal May to July period. If so, April was an aberration to the current low rainfall pattern. We can only wait and see. Weather forecasting improves with technological enhancements, but at the same time is hindered by climate change induced climatic patterns that have not been previously observed. The harsh reality is that the warming continues unabated. The BOM states that global sea surface temperatures have been the warmest on record for each month between April 2023 and March 2024. The same goes for April 2024. Good news for swimming at the beach, but less so for most other aspects of life on earth.

ANDREW REWELL



Justice of the Peace Services
Robyn Hale JP
0419 304 499
Statutory Declarations, Document
Certifications, Affidavits
robyn@prideevents.com.au

Parking mad!

Ah, the frustration of not finding a car park exactly where you want it, and precisely when you want it. This reality has now come to Upper Beaconsfield.

Our shopping precinct has got busier. In part because there are more people that live here, but mainly because our retailers have more to offer. The result of this build it and they will come, is at times creating parking pressure. More staff and more customers need a place to park. There have been complaints to the UBA, but without more space, there is no grand solution.

Ideas like asking staff to park elsewhere only work if there is an elsewhere. Preventing long term stays have in part been addressed by new parking time limit signs. For those who park all day in the 15-minute zone, please move when

your time is up. For those who park right at the door of the shops, not in a designated park and blocking traffic, please consider changing your habit.

In the main, a busier retail zone means there are the odd times when some patience is needed. Our shopping precinct is a convenience offering, this means most visitations are short, so car park churn is generally high. The upside is that our shopping area is vibrant and successful, an outcome that benefits owners, employees, and customers alike. Overall, it is infrequent when there is no car park immediately available.

A more specific parking issue was raised at the Upper Beaconsfield Association AGM. Some voiced their concern about a lack of disability parking, particularly when accessing the clinic or the pharmacy. The UBA

through Cr Brett Owen received a response from Cardinia Shire Council on this issue.

The council pointed out that there is one disability car park on the service road (opposite the General Store's yard). Council



Enhancing our community

also described the availability of one disability car park behind the finance business building, and two disability spaces soon to be constructed behind the medical centre/pharmacy. So according to council, there are four disability car spaces. However, the idea of a disability car park is that it is accessible. Parking spaces tucked behind private buildings, down narrow lane ways, with an uphill egress slope may not be deemed accessible by those who need it.

We await a further response from Council, but I suspect there will not be a solution other than what they have already described. If you are impacted by the disability parking issue, please let the UBA know by sending a note to secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au.

Parking is not exactly where you want it and when you want it. But most of the time it is close, and we need the exercise.

ANDREW REWELL
UBA PRESIDENT

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 Aquaduct 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

Citizen of the Year

Due to a lack of nominations, this year's COY award will not go ahead.

HELEN SMITH, SECRETARY
UPPER BEACONSFIELD ASSOCIATION

Support your Village Bell

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

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

If you tag your payment with your name we can acknowledge you in the next Village Bell.

Do you live outside the local area? We can mail the Bell to you for \$15 per year. Thank you!



square.link/u/wDxSWhKF

Thank you to our subscribers since the last Village Bell

Frank Archer; Janet Bell; Andre Bokos; Yvonne Bottomley for Betty Cooke; Dorothy & Alex Burgess; Nancy & Matt Collins; Teresa & Randal Cooper; Justin Davey; Cathy Fischer; Bob Grant; Peter A Hill; C & F Huisman; G & D Jones; Helen & Graham Kneen; Kerry Laurie; Noel Ling; Carolyn MacDonald; JD & RJ Mason; Mary & Denis O'Brien; Cheryl & Fergus O'Gallagher; Jenny & John Patterson; Jürg Pfister; Andrew Rewell; A & S Sankey; Ysen Selimovski; Caroline Spencer; Robert Taylor; Peter & Trish Trewin; David Vinen

About town

Local horse riding trails

Recently a discussion about the need for a horse/walking trail along Beaconsfield-Emerald Road took place on a local Facebook group. Horse trail issues have come up many times over the years in Upper Beaconsfield. Interested residents should look up the Cardinia Shire Council website, as the council has strategies about equestrian trails. Type equestrian into the search box on the main page. This brings up a list of information and articles with links.

In 2023 Cardinia Council undertook a review of the 2014 equestrian strategy. Download this 89-page document from the council website. This also includes maps of the trails. For the 2023 review council requested feedback from shire residents. The survey form is still there to read. Council evaluated the feedback in March. The plan is to be finalised and adopted in July this year.

Horse trail issues

Emerald Road comes under VicRoads jurisdiction. Emerald Road does not have a wide enough verge to construct a path along the section between each end of Stoney Creek Road. Property boundaries are quite close to the roadside. There are many steep banks, on both sides of the winding road, which would also make a path construction difficult and expensive.

The smaller roads around Upper Beaconsfield are under council management. Some of these are already designated as horse trails (see the maps) but are not very well maintained. Once smaller roads are sealed, people drive faster which then becomes dangerous for horse riders. More traffic now goes through Upper Beaconsfield to get to and from the new suburbs in Officer and Pakenham



and beyond. Some people moving into Upper Beaconsfield also think more roads should be sealed too.

Stoney Creek Road has a large verge on one side, with a good gravel path for horses and walkers from the town end. This finishes at the Stoney Creek Bridge. Riders can cross the bridge and find the ungravelled trail which continues to the end of the road. There is enough room for safe riding and walking. A local rider said that she used to be able to ride up from there to the Split Rock Road intersection. But since that road has been sealed, people drive along there too fast and it is no longer safe. Riders could ride along Stoney Creek Road from end to end, then turn around and come back again.

Charing Cross – a work in progress

On Sunday 5 May a group of UBA members conducted another working bee in Charing Cross. This was to weed and tidy up the new garden and to put

more plants in the indigenous section. Some attractive painted signs of some of the plants were placed near the various plants. Thanks to Cheryl and Fergus O’Gallagher for constructing and painting the signs.

The new plants which have been put in Charing Cross since last September are growing well, some better than others. The new plants set off the rocks, stepping stones and the new path nicely. Visitors should walk carefully in the area to allow the small plants to grow and place rubbish in the bin near the rotunda.

Please report any graffiti, or hygiene issues with the toilets to Cardinia Shire Council on 1300 787 624 or online at cardinia.vic.gov.au/report. There is nothing worse than finding dirty toilets or no paper there. These premises are used by many people including passing tradies, locals and tourists shopping and dining locally.

HELEN SMITH

How to live until you are 100 (according to Amy)

Project 10 recently featured Amy Crosbie in a lovely interview when she gave words of wisdom about life. “At 103, Amy Crosbie is as sharp as a tack, and she shared with us her words of wisdom, relationship advice plus some tips on what makes the perfect hug.”

Many years ago, Amy and her husband John Crosbie, principal at the



Beaconsfield Upper Primary School lived in the headmaster’s cottage on Stoney Creek Road. Amy supported her

husband as secretary and was very popular with the students. When they both retired they moved to the peninsula. The old cottage they lived in was later moved by the Wilson family to a property in Emerald Road. The Wilsons renovated and enlarged it into a larger family home on a block near the equestrian property.

This video can be viewed on YouTube (search by the title)

NEW BOOK RELEASE

“Hadley” by local author Kristie Pate

Every now and then you come across a book that captures imagination and ignites passion in multiple generations at the same time. *Hadley* written by Kristie Pate, a local author and early learning educator here at Upper Beaconsfield Kindergarten, is one such book! And what's more many of her furry, feathery and slippery characters are further brought to life by beautiful photographs included in the glossary, captured by Upper Beac's very own Anne Mehla.

Kristie has three young children, all who attend BUPS. Her eldest two shine in the sporting arena, but it is her youngest, daughter Indra, whose creative flare and unique artistic style, provided the inspiration for *Hadley*. One night in 2021 while putting Indra to bed Kristie's eyes lingered on a picture Indra had drawn of a somewhat curious, one-eyed owl. Kristie had always dreamt of writing a book, and at this very moment *Hadley's* important story unfolded in front of her.

Hadley is a story about a little barn owl who doesn't quite fit in. He lives a content life in his beautiful gum tree

until this precious home is threatened by humans planning to clear land to build their boathouse. *Hadley* is clever and brave and together with his new bush friends he fights to save his home – his beautiful tree. This wonderful story will appeal to the young and old but is a particularly important read for our younger generation. It includes many key messages about protecting our environment, along with the very special native animals who call it home, while also teaching empowerment, courage, determination, and the power of teamwork.

How lucky we are in Upper Beac to be surrounded by an environment similar to *Hadley's* home, and to have amazing talent like that of Kristie and Anne to remind us to appreciate and care for it.



Hadley is available now for purchase on Amazon and Booktopia.

LEAH TOMEK

Emma Vulin MP

Summer and the Upper Beaconsfield Village Festival seem so long ago now, but I do want to take a moment to thank the committee once again for their vision and hard work to bring this event to life. The buzz around the festival ground was one of genuine delight and my family and I had a terrific day.

It's a hard slog to commit and deliver on a minimal waste, environmentally and socially ethical event but I think everyone would agree it was a huge success and one to be proud of.

On a more reflective note, many of you will have heard that I was recently diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND). It's a degenerative illness that more than 2,300 Australians are living with. The speed with which MND affects people varies for every person and I am in the early stages.

I have recovered from a significant stroke in the past and have the fight in me to represent and continue being the voice for my wonderful community.

As you can appreciate this news has taken some time to process but the outpouring of support and kindness has certainly given myself, my family, and friends plenty of encouragement and I am humbled and sincerely grateful for that.

I love that this issue of the Village Bell is celebrating trees and my gosh, there are some absolute beauties in Upper Beaconsfield!

There is one though, that was in my backyard at Upper Beaconsfield. It's a bit wonky and not particularly pretty but teams with life. There are birds, the occasional possum, zillions of microbial organisms, and spiders and insects galore! I often used to find myself getting lost in its quirkiness and how it looked like it was about to fall over ... but didn't. It continues to weather the storms, losing a branch here and there, but it still stands strong as a custodian to the diversity it hosts.

EMMA VULIN
LABOR STATE MEMBER FOR PAKENHAM



Bonnets, respect and energy spent at BUPS



our students took centre stage in the annual Easter bonnet parade. From bunnies to spring flowers, each bonnet was a testament to the imagination and artistic flair of our young learners. Parents, teachers, and students alike came together to celebrate this festive occasion, showcasing the unity and joy that defines our school community.

Led by the dedicated Junior School councillors, our Anzac Day service was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by brave men and women for our country. It was inspiring to see our students take ownership of such an important event, demonstrating maturity and respect.

The spirit of friendly competition and healthy living was on full display during our cross-country event. Students, cheered on by enthusiastic supporters, navigated the course with determination and grit. Whether they were crossing the finish line first or pushing themselves to new personal bests, every participant contributed to the vibrant energy that filled the air that day. The support from parents and volunteers added an extra layer of encouragement, showcasing the strong bonds that exist within our school community.

At Beaconsfield Upper Primary School, we believe that community involvement is the cornerstone of a thriving educational environment.

These recent events are a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of our students, parents, teachers, and volunteers. It's through such collective efforts that we nurture not only academic excellence but also a sense of belonging and camaraderie that will stay with our students for years to come.

As we look forward to the rest of the term, let's carry forward this spirit of unity, collaboration, and celebration. Together, we make Beaconsfield Upper Primary School a place where every child can shine and grow.

ALEXANDRA GAWLEY

It's with great pleasure that we reflect on the wonderful events that have brought our community together in the past few weeks. From the vibrant Easter Bonnet parade, the Anzac Day service, and finally, the energetic cross-country event, Beaconsfield Upper Primary School has been buzzing with enthusiasm and community involvement.

The school grounds were adorned with colourful displays of creativity as

The Nursery will be closed for the winter from 15 June and will be back open again on 9 August. In the next issue of the Village Bell we will have interesting news of the future of the Green Circle Plant Nursery.



A puzzle for the family

Sudoku – easy

solution page 26

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

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

Eric Chaplin stepping down as RSL president

Eric Chaplin recently announced he was stepping down from the presidency after 25 years. He will remain a contributing member of the RSL and will ensure that whoever takes on the role of president will be appropriate for the job, or look out!

Eric joined the Upper Beaconsfield RSL on 11 December 1982. Amongst the

other things on his joining application, he was required to declare that he was not a communist and he pledged allegiance to the Queen and to the bylaws of the RSL.

Eric has been president since 1999, and prior to that he was vice president for many years. Eric was nominated by my father to take over the reins, as he was

deemed the one most likely to uphold the values of the Upper Beaconsfield RSL, and he has certainly done that.

Eric has been the driving force at our club. He has always been the first to volunteer to do anything. He has practically rebuilt the RSL Hall using his skills as a plumber to renovate the kitchen, the roof, the verandah, install air conditioning/heating, re-carpeted, re-linoleumed and arranged new curtains.

He has revitalised the association with the local school where he awards the Frank Conn Encouragement Awards annually. Eric also attends the Beaconsfield Anzac Day service and is very involved in that service.

Eric has been the major seller of Anzac tokens and poppies every year I have been involved. He has managed the monthly meetings and ensured the RSL ethos is promoted. He was awarded life membership of the Club in 2009 and in 2019 received the RSL's highest award, the meritorious medal, for his service to the club.

Very BIG shoes to fill.



Eric Chaplin and Simon Conn presenting the Anzac Day service during the 2020 pandemic

SIMON CONN

CWA Officer Woorinyan Branch

Create connections and make a difference for vulnerable women, children and families

If you think the Country Women's Association is a tea-and-scones group of women who sit around tables and chat, you're wrong!

We do make jam and scones, but we are a group of big-hearted, fun-loving, practical women who are the backbone of communities throughout Australia.

Think disaster recovery relief, health programs, care for newly arrived

immigrants and educational scholarships. We are women standing up, working with and taking on politicians. We are on advocacy boards such as Breast Screen Australia and advocate on social issues including domestic violence, food security, homelessness, agriculture and the environment.

At the end of the day, we serve up jam



The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.

care empower contribute

and scones to raise funds to support women, children and families.

We meet on the 1st Thursday of every month at 10 am at St John's Church in Upper Beaconsfield. All women are welcome to join us.

officerwoorinyan@gmail.com

CATHERINE OLDENBURGER
BRANCH SECRETARY

Storm clean-up continues

The kerbside storm debris removal program for storm-affected communities is continuing.

Storm debris collections by Council in partnership with Emergency Recovery Victoria have been underway in 543 roads in 19 townships across the shire since March, but Council is disappointed that ERV's on-the-ground support of the program has come to an end. Despite this, eligible Cardinia Shire residents can still register for ERV's removal of dangerous trees program. Eligibility criteria can be found on ERV's website.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik said 50% of the kerbside storm debris removal program has been completed to date, and that Council will continue until the clean-up is complete.

"Due to the large volume of debris that needs to be collected, we understand that the clean-up may be taking longer than expected. The community can be reassured that our teams are working hard to complete the clean-up program as soon possible. We sincerely thank our storm-affected communities for their understanding and patience as we

work through the list of locations.

"Community safety remains our number one priority, so works are being scheduled based on community safety and need, with the most urgent works being undertaken first."

Residents in eligible locations who have been unable to dispose of their storm waste via other means can continue to leave it on their nature strip for collection by Council crews.



Dog Tails: Molly and me

We have been lucky to have had three wonderful long-term dogs as part of our family over 40 years. Four years after we farewelled our much-loved spoodle, Manni, who we had until he was nearly 15, we decided it was time to get another dog. The other two dogs we had were a mini schnauzer and a labrador. We were not keen to get a puppy, but after many unsuccessful months of internet searching for a mature dog, both from rescue shelters and breeders, we started looking at puppies.

We found a breeder of labradors in Winchelsea/Whittlesea (I have always gotten them mixed up) and contacted him. Yes, he still had some puppies available, and yes we could come on the following Saturday to see them. So, on a hot summer's day last year we headed down the Geelong Road to Winchelsea. I said let's just put the exact address in our GPS when we get there. A big mistake! When we arrived, we entered the address, and our car told us we were 155 km and 2 hours from our destination. We had of course gone to the wrong town. I immediately rang the breeder and explained what we had done. He said he was ok to meet us in a couple of hours. When we finally arrived at Whittlesea (I just had to Google and see which town it was) there were two gorgeous puppies left. Both were black. Phil was keen to get the male one, and I didn't mind which one we got. The breeder took us to see the parents. The dad was the biggest black Labrador we had ever seen. He bounded over and put his paws on the top of the gate. The mum in contrast was a golden lab and was calmly walking over to see us. Phil immediately said, "I think we'll get the female!"

So that is what we did, and we named her Molly. By the time we got back home, Phil had done eight hours of driving. Whittlesea is only an hour and a half from Upper Beac. Luckily, Molly slept on my lap the whole way home. That night we lined the laundry with newspaper and gave her some bedding and a ticking clock, but sleep

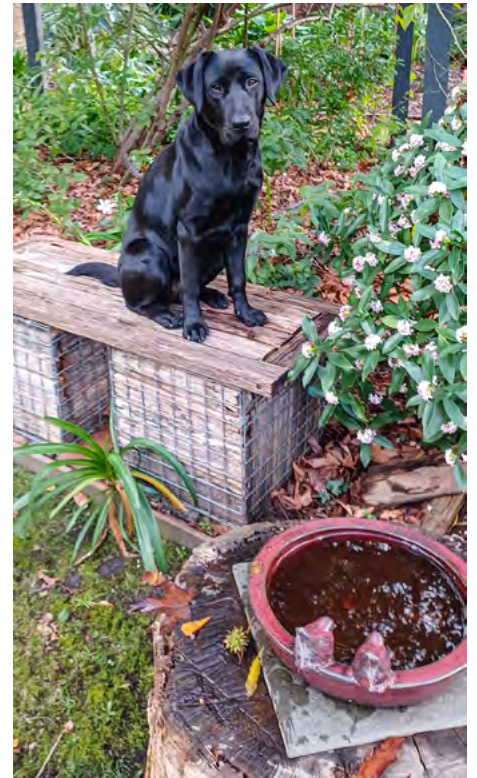
eluded the three of us. The second night started off in the same fashion. In the wee small hours Phil took Molly out to our man cave where they both fell asleep. The following day I bought a large dog crate which I placed in the corner of our bedroom. Molly has slept there happily ever since. Most nights, after a final walk outside, she puts herself to bed.



Getting her to walk on the lead has been our biggest challenge. The main problem is that she is a very excitable sticky nose and thinks everyone we walk near is there to see her. She also wants to play with other dogs that are usually very well behaved and walking beautifully with their owners. We started her with a choker chain, and with some stern words, eye contact and a pocket of doggy treats we seemed to be making progress. I then went overseas for seven weeks to visit our son, and when I returned Molly was fully grown and strong. I could no longer walk her, and this made me sad. I bought a halter to try, but she kept pulling that off with her paw.

One day when I was out walking alone a lady from a group of friends who I see walking a couple of mornings a week told me about the harness she had for her dog, who had also been hard to train. She said it had been a miracle. I decided to give a harness a go. The first morning I said to Phil that I won't even get as far as the front gate, but to my huge surprise and relief we walked for about 20 minutes. The harness has a handle on the back and both a chest ring and back ring to attach the lead to. The chest ring is great for stopping her pulling if we see another dog heading our way. It is also great for walking past the General Store where there are lots of interesting smells and often people at the outside tables on the weekends. I still have doggie treats in my pocket and make her sit and wait while other dogs walk past.

She is usually well behaved at home and if I am working in my front garden,



she stands calmly and watches both dogs and people walk past. I am grateful she does not bark at them. We also have an elderly cat and on cool sunny days they can usually be seen lying together asleep on our back deck. She loves chasing balls, but her favourite toys are plastic bottles. This is a Molly only game. She runs up and down our decking with the bottle in her mouth and then charges around the back yard in big circles throwing it up in the air, grabbing it and racing off again. We have now had to limit these to the strong bottles, such as laundry detergent and bulk sauce bottles. The others became too easy to destroy and eat as she got bigger.



I spend a lot of time working in my garden and it makes me happy every day to have Molly with me, even if she does try and help by digging the occasional hole. She is 18 months old now and still a work in progress. She is a lovely happy dog, and she gives us a lot of joy. It certainly does not take long for a new dog to become part of your family and work their way into your heart.

JULIE BORN



REAL LIFE MARTIAL ARTS

Beaconsfield Upper

Get in Touch:

0417 681 771

website: Reallifema.com.au

facebook.com/reallifema

Private Lessons in

- Self Defence
- Kickboxing & Boxing
- Personal Training



The housing crisis!

All native animals need somewhere safe to live, protected from predators and the weather. Many birds and other wildlife species build nests. Quite a few do not. So, what is the alternative?

Mostly it is a tree hollow. In Australia over 40% of native mammals, 28% of reptiles and 17% of our birds utilise hollows to nest in, shelter, feed and raise young. Bats, possums, gliders, owls, parrots, antechinus, ducks, rosellas, and kingfishers all use hollows. Several species that rely on tree hollows are already on the critically endangered list. These include Leadbeater's possum, swift parrots, superb parrots, powerful owls, greater gliders, Carnaby's cockatoo, yellow-bellied gliders, and the western ringtail possum. Some of these are still found here and nearby in the Yarra Ranges.

Each species has specific requirements with respect to tree species and surrounding habitat, the size and location (trunk or branch) of the hollow, entrance size and shape, and degree of insulation required.

Why are hollows so important?

Hollows are not easy to come by. They are found only in old trees, usually eucalypts. River red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), manna gum (*E viminalis*), mountain grey gum (*E cytellocarpa*), all in our area, and yellow box (*E melliodora*) are renowned for their hollow producing capabilities. Wattles, other native trees, and exotic plants rarely produce hollows.

It takes time for hollows to form. A small hollow suitable for our tiniest marsupials such as the eastern pygmy possum takes 120 to 150 years. Medium hollows, favoured by swift parrots and Victoria's faunal emblem the Leadbeater's possum can take 200 years (!) to form. And the large deep hollows required by bigger species such as masked owls and Upper Beac's yellow-tailed black cockatoo are found only in incredibly old and overmature



(dead, dying or deteriorating) trees. They form because of lightning strikes, wind damage and decay/consumption of internal wood by insects (usually termites), and fungi.

Large old trees will have the best hollows while younger trees are a vital source of future hollows.

Benefits of old trees

Apart from housing, old trees provide more food for animals than younger trees. Being bigger and often gnarlier, they provide more diverse habitats for insects, and produce larger quantities of nectar, seeds, flowers, and fruit. Even their fallen branches have a role. They provide hollow logs to shelter wildlife such as echidnas, quolls, and reptiles.

Mature trees store a lot more carbon than younger smaller trees and are therefore important in mitigating climate change.

If they are so important, why are hollows disappearing?

You already know the answer to this: logging, deforestation for urban development and agriculture, firewood collection and changed fire regimes. Australia's fire season is now starting earlier and lasting longer. They are more intense, doing more damage to

human assets and forests and trees, mature and immature. Not only are old trees disappearing fast, but they are not being replaced. In some areas there will be no hollows at all, in others the hollows will not suit the animals still hanging on, and elsewhere the remaining trees will no longer be in an area where animals can find food and water.

What can we do?

Nesting boxes are a help, but their use is limited on a large scale. So many boxes are needed. It is expensive and they need regular maintenance to be effective. But if you have a place for a box or two, that is great! There are plenty of DIY nesting box plans on the internet. Around here yellow-tailed black cockatoos, ringtail possums, rosellas, powerful owls, bats, kookaburras, gang gangs, sulphur-crested cockatoos are just some of the species needing homes.

But more than that we need to let our forests and bushland grow old, particularly those that provide crucial habitat for threatened species. Locally this includes the Yarra Ranges, further afield our eastern forests, southwest WA, northern and eastern Tasmania, and northern NSW/southeast Queensland. And that needs federal and state government leadership.

Think big

In the conservation movement there is a saying: think BIG, act local. State and federal governments are always dragging their heels. Sometimes we need to lead the way, and we can do this right here, right now. Every little bit helps. Locally, retain those trees which have hollows and protect the vegetation that supports them and is growing future hollow bearing trees – especially near watercourses. Retain fallen trees as they are a great habitat source. Natural regeneration can be encouraged by fencing remnant bushland or other areas you wish to rehabilitate. It is not just scrub; it is real estate.

And finally plant local native species that produce hollows. These species can grow very tall, some up to 100 metres. Find them in local indigenous and Landcare nurseries. These nurseries can give you advice on what works best, where. In Upper Beac there is the Green Circle Nursery and down the hill in Pakenham there is the CEC Indigenous Plant Nursery.

CARO LETTS
UPPER BEACONSFIELD
CONSERVATION GROUP



Putting the “Bell” to bed

Have you ever wondered how the Village Bell is published? The Bell is our community magazine, prepared by local volunteers for the community. Not surprisingly, articles are community based – from local groups such as the CFA and the Community Centre, news from our local MPs, sports clubs, events, happenings, people, and pets. Anyone is welcome to submit an article of interest to the community. It helps us all stay connected with all the many parts that keep Upper Beac the thriving community it is. But how does it all happen? How does the Bell appear in your letter box and our local shops?

History since 1978

The Bell was first published in July 1978, by a sub-committee of the Upper Beaconsfield Association. Back then the A4 pages were stapled together, top left-hand corner. The 500 copies were distributed to every home in Upper Beaconsfield, Dewhurst, and Guys Hill. Previously, irregular newsletters had been sent out to UBA members only. Production costs were subsidised by the \$2 membership fee to the UBA. That fee is now \$10, and the Bell subscription is \$5. Currently we print 1150, while online editions can be downloaded from upperbeaconsfield.org.au. We also have some vital advertising revenue to help cover costs.

Then as now there was a large production team of volunteers who edited, typed, proofread, did the layout, printed, collated, and stapled each edition. The number of editions annually has changed with time, from six to four times a year. But for a while after the Ash Wednesday fires it came out weekly so all residents could be informed of essential developments quickly and efficiently.

There were no computers or printers back in 1978. Instead, there was a dedicated group of typists and the trusty Gestetner, a cyclograph, the world's first duplicating machine. For the most part it resided in the back room at a volunteer's house.

The editor would hand the original copy, often hand-written and now full of editorial cross outs and alterations, to the typist. The typist had to decipher this and type out a neat mistake-free copy, ready for the Gestetner to hand crank out the thousands of required pages.

Anyone who could touch type on a manual typewriter and operate the

Gestetner was welcomed into the typing pool, usually doing two or three pages per edition. In 1988 the UBA purchased a new electric Canon typewriter, which made the typists' job easier and more efficient.

Mastheads were drawn by hand. There were very few photos until the late 1990s. Before digital printers and copiers, graphics and articles had to be cut and pasted to make a master copy and printed from there.

Next the Bell was collated. The general community would pitch in; the primary school, local clubs and associations all took turns to host the occasion, putting the pages in order and stapling them to make a newsletter. These were then folded, put into packs of 20 and taken to the post office for delivery.

Effective as the Gestetner was, it was labour intensive and time consuming. So, in 1994 the UBA applied for a community grant from the Shire of Pakenham. The goal was a Risograph Digital Printer, a machine that bridged the gap between a photocopier and a laser printer. It could print up to 130 pages a minute. No longer would each page need to be painstakingly printed by a manual turn of the Gestetner's handle.

The grant request was successful and with the help of a generous local, the new Riso was acquired. In January 1995 the first Bells rolled off the presses. The Riso faithfully printed thousands of copies until 2003 when sadly it irretrievably broke down. For the next four years it was printed commercially until a new Riso was purchased and continues to print copies of the Bell four times a year. With the new printer came a change in format. It was now printed on A3 paper, folded in half, and stapled in the middle to make the magazine you now have. Since December 2011 we get the colour pages printed commercially by a local printer.

In 1978 the editor got articles via snail mail, dropped off at his/her house, or articles were dropped off at the post office.

These days it's all nicely computerised. Copy is emailed to the coordinators, usually as a word doc. They check which subbies are available and send the articles to them for editing and proof reading, again via email. Or they do the editing themselves. Once the copies are edited, they go to layout to be put into the magazine using the InDesign program. Submitted photographs are

edited in Photoshop to a publishable standard for both black and white and online colour editions – no small task. Photos, articles and ads are moved around until finally everything is in place and the Bell is ready for printing.

Today the printer is housed in the Men's Shed. Copy arrives to the Riso on a USB, and away it goes printing 1150 copies of the six black and white A3 pages required to make the inside pages of a 32-page Bell. The printed pages are then put in the paper jogger, which airs and aligns them for the second pass of the printing. Once the second side is printed, they are carefully put into boxes, one set of pages per box, and transported via trolley over to the hall supper room. There they are removed from the boxes and placed side by side in eight piles, along the collating tables. There are two rows. The colour pages comprise the first two piles. The black and white content pages come next. At this point it is very important they are in the correct order and the right way up!

Now the collating team gets to work. Starting at about 6 pm, three people on each side work their way down the piles, each person picking up a page per pile, finishing at the end of the table with one complete Bell. These are stacked in their now collated format. A different team then collects them, and carefully squares, staples, and folds each Bell. They are sorted into packs of 10 and then into various groups, some destined for the General Store and Supermarket, some to be distributed by members of the team around town, and some go to the Post Office to be put in PO boxes or delivered further out. At about 10 pm the Bell has finally been put to bed, and everyone goes home for a well-earned rest, ready to start again in a couple of months.

Thank you

This article is to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped write, edit, proofread, print, collate and distribute the Bell over the last 45 years. Scores of people have contributed to the Bell. Too many to list here.

Recently, long time volunteers Pam and Neil McDonald stepped down from the printing team.

And then there are the contributors. You only have to read your magazine to find out who they are! Maybe it could be you? Without you all there would be no Bell.

CARO LETTS

Auskick

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

Splash Basketball Club

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

Boomerang Bags

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

Cardinia Deer Management Coalition

info@cardiniadeer.org.au

Cardinia Shire

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

CFA

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

St John's Anglican Church

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

Conservation Group

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

Community Centre

Salisbury Road. 5944 3484

Community Garden

Community Centre, Salisbury Road. Carol 0407 500 525

Cricket Club

Clubrooms in igloo at oval, Stoney Creek Road. Junior, senior
and mixed teams. upperbeaconsfieldcricketclub@gmail.com

CWA

Meets at St John's church, 1 St Georges Road, 1st Thursday of
the month at 10 am. officerwoorinyan@gmail.com

Early Learning Centre

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

Beaconhills Golf Club

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

Green Circle Plant Nursery

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

Internet

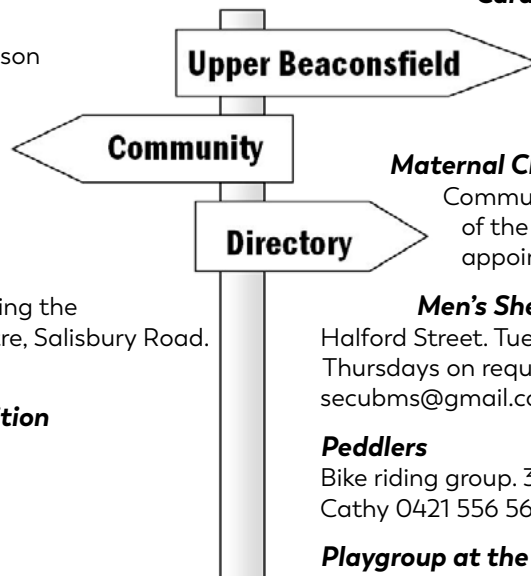
Free computer and internet access at the Community Centre,
Salisbury Road. Weekdays 9 am-2 pm. 5944 3484

Justice of the Peace services

Robyn Hale JP 0419 304 499

Kindergartens

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



Cardinia Mobile Library. Free public library

Charing Cross (opposite shops)
Tuesdays 10.45 am-1.30 pm
myli.org.au/locations/cardinia-mobile-
library/

Maternal Child and Health Service

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

Men's Shed

Halford Street. Tuesdays 9 am-noon & Wednesdays and
Thursdays on request.
secubms@gmail.com Mark 0419 304 197

Peddlers

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

Playgroup at the Community Centre

Fridays 9.15-11.15 am. 6 months to 5 years. Lee 5944 3484

Pony & Riding Club

Pony Club meet 3rd Sunday of the month at the rear of the
school oval. Contact: membershipubpc@gmail.com
facebook.com/upperbeaconponyclub
Riding Club is a HRCV club that meets on the 1st Sunday of
the month. Contact: ubrcenquiries@gmail.com
facebook.com/UpperBeaconsfieldRidingClub

Primary School

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

Scout Group

Meets in the igloo at the oval, Stoney Creek Road.
Joes (5-7) Mondays 5.30-6.30 pm
Cubs (8-11) Mondays 7-8.30 pm
Scouts (11-15) Tuesdays 7-9 pm
Venturers (15-18) Mondays 7.30-9.30 pm
Rovers (18-25) Mondays from 7.30 pm
Contact: info@1stupperbeaconsfield.com
facebook.com/1stupperbeaconsfield 0438 650 270 Steph

SMS fire alert system

c/o Community Centre, Salisbury Road. 5944 3484

Social Walking Group

Thursdays 9.30-10.30 am 0425 722 305 Janie

Tennis Club

Stoney Creek Road. Night tennis, midweek ladies and
weekend senior and junior teams
upperbeaconsfieldtc@gmail.com
Clubhouse phone (unattended) 5944 3071

Toy Library

Community Centre, Salisbury Road. Open by appointment
www.ubcc.org.au/toy-library 5944 3484

Upper Beaconsfield Association (UBA)

Secretary Helen Smith 5944 3219
secretary.uba@upperbeaconsfield.org.au

Village Bell

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

Wildlife rescue

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

Fire brigade news

Here we are again! Thankfully with another uneventful fire season behind us, we can snuggle back into the depths of cooler weather and get used to our heaters and wood fires.

We started off with a bang way back in October with some unseasonal warm weather that woke us up from hibernation, but after that it fizzled out and there were some patches of summer type weather every so often that continued to tease us for a few months.

Early autumn saw record below average rainfall across much of southeastern Australia (particularly Melbourne) resulting in the full gazetted Fire Danger Period being enforced until 1 May – the first time for some years. The effectiveness of an 8 ha fuel reduction burn conducted in the Dallas Brooks Scout Park in Upper Beaconsfield in late March showed just how dry the bush was at that point in time.

Now our attention moves towards home safety particularly for those with wood heaters and open fires. For many living on rural land with an abundance of natural supply and no connection to mains gas, wood heaters remain a popular and viable source of heating. These same devices can also be very hazardous if not used and maintained correctly.

With any heater comes the responsibility of the homeowner to ensure that the appliance is functioning both efficiently and safely. Gas heaters should be inspected at least every two years by a licenced gasfitter for carbon monoxide leakage. This is a deadly gas that you can't see or smell.

Wood fire chimney flues and fire boxes should be cleaned out and inspected at least once a year. You would be surprised at the amount of creosote build-up inside a chimney flue and cap. Creosote is a black, tar-like substance that forms inside your chimney and flue cap when the smoke does not entirely escape. Creosote builds up and can cause blockages restricting air flow and does not allow the wood in the fireplace to burn effectively. Creosote is highly flammable and can cause chimney fires, which may can lead to house fires. Do not risk it. Get your chimney or flue cleaned out!

When can you burn off?

Fire restrictions officially ended on 1 May. Cardinia Council open air fire regulations now come into effect. Many people are unaware of the days that the council has gazetted that you can burn off. It depends on the zoning of your residential address. Most residents will find themselves in the 'Bushland and Peri-Urban' zone. The permissible days for burning in

this zone are Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. Those on larger properties specifically zoned 'Rural' can burn off on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesday and Saturday are days of no burning for any zone unless you have a permit. In addition to the above, the entire month of July is a designated No burn month. This rule was introduced as part of the council open air burning off reforms in 2020. To check which zone your property is in go to cardinia.vic.gov.au/burningoff and click on the 'Check your open-air fire zone here' tab.

Brigade turnouts:

- 17 turnouts since the last publication*
- 2 x gas leaks (Emerald & Cockatoo)
 - 5 x false alarm (protected premises)
 - 3 x motor vehicle accidents (no injuries)
 - 1 x solar panel fire
 - 5 x grass & scrub fire
 - 1 x BBQ fire

We only had one illegal burn off in our primary response area during the declared Fire Danger Period between mid-December and 1 May. For that we thank all residents for your cooperation and compliance and allowing our volunteers to be not called out unnecessarily.



MICHAEL O'CONNOR & SON
INDUSTRIES P/L
INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL • DOMESTIC
CHIMNEY SWEEPS



**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY BY HAVING YOUR
CHIMNEY OR FLUE CLEANED THIS WINTER**

PLEASE CALL FOR A BOOKING

1300 651 631



"A clean chimney is a safer chimney,
safer for you and the environment too."

www.chimneysweeps.com.au

Sweeping Victoria!

MEMBER OF



**AUSTRALIAN
HOME HEATING
ASSOCIATION INC.**

Road blockages in wild weather

Late summer produced some wild weather with some intense storms, there was some flash flooding and several fallen trees that in some cases managed to bring powerlines down with them, blocking roads for extended periods. It raised an interesting question on one of the community Facebook pages at the time. What happens if wind or fire downs the trees and blocks the roads?

The people living northeast of the village, in particular St Georges Rd, Harpfield Rd, Knapton Ave, Fraser Ave and Brennan Ave, are all vulnerable to such circumstances with just one main road out. There are 170 residential properties in this area. That is potentially 510 residents (based on three per household – some properties will have more, some will have less) all potentially trying to evacuate via the same route. What could happen when they all get to the busy intersection at Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd? There are other dead-end roads in Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds with similar challenges. The point is you need to have a plan A and a plan B.

Not everyone will agree, but the CFA recommends your plan A should be to leave early (be it the night before or morning of) on days of high-risk, such as catastrophic fire danger rating. Then if a tree falls and blocks the road and your plan A is unachievable, you enact your plan B. Your plan B might be to stay and defend. Before you do that, ask yourself, are you prepared and set up for that? What happens when the



power fails, and you are on tank water? Do you have a generator? Do you have a working fire pump and adequate water supply. If not, you might find yourself coming back to your plan A again!

Fuel reduction burn

In late March we completed the long-awaited fuel reduction burn in the Dallas Brooks Scout Camp in Upper Beaconsfield. This 8 ha burn was many years in the planning and with several false starts due to unfavourable weather conditions. Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade was assisted by some of our neighbouring brigades on the day as well as several others from farther afield.

Catering was provided by the Narre Warren Fire Brigade catering team. Access was made via private property to the north of the park due to the wooden bridge in the centre of the scout park not having a load rating suitable for carrying our heavy tankers and other equipment across it. The overall burn exceeded our expectations achieving 95% coverage rate. This plot of land was strategically chosen to reduce fuel loads due to its geographic position in relation to the Upper Beaconsfield township. Further mosaic plots are planned for future years in this same area.

Bigfill appliance pump upgrade

Our Bigfill appliance has now gone away to Ballarat to be fitted with a new Isuzu diesel engine and Gaam water pump genset. The old equipment was stripped off and most of it sent to scrap metal. The pump upgrade will provide the brigade (and in turn the community) with a much more reliable and efficient appliance for many years to come. This project which

is brigade funded with the partial assistance of a community grant from the Bendigo Bank in Beaconsfield is due to be complete in August.

We need new members!

Due to some members moving away from Upper Beaconsfield, we genuinely in need of more members to become operational firefighters. Many residents talk about joining and giving back to the wonderful community they live in, but that is where it ends.

Many hands make light work. What are you waiting for? It doesn't matter what you do now or what you have done. Everyone brings something different. Our current members vocation list consists of retirees, trades people, business owners, paramedics, salespeople, engineers, students, farmers, legal workers, nurses, IT workers, stay at home parents and many more professions. Most of us have full time jobs, kids, hobbies, properties to manage – just like you. Do not use time as an excuse. Our current members make it work.

If you are genuinely interested in joining our team, the formalities start with the completion of an online EOI cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers-careers. Alternatively, if you have any questions, you can email ian.pinney@members.cfa.vic.gov.au

Please like and follow our brigade Facebook page to stay up to date with what is happening. Search Upper Beaconsfield Fire Brigade – CFA, or Instagram [cfa_upperbeaconsfield](https://www.instagram.com/cfa_upperbeaconsfield)
Stay safe

IAN PINNEY, CAPTAIN



Activities at the Community Centre



The Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre has been a hive of activity with classes resuming after the school holidays. The Centre offered a school holiday activity and welcomed the Mobile Museum for a dinosaur discovery morning. This interactive presentation and display were well received by all those who attended. The Centre also held its annual general

meeting in May, where we thanked outgoing president Erin McGavin for her tireless hard work and welcomed our incoming committee who will be supporting the Centre for the next 12 months.

Writers Festival

The Community Centre also held its annual Writers Festival where we

received outstanding entries for all categories.

A big thank you to Kelly Wilson who works in partnership with us to enable this competition to be offered to our community. We also thank the Cardinia Council who provided funding for this as part of the Festival and Events grants program.

The award ceremony was held on Thursday 9 May with the winners receiving a certificate and a book voucher which were presented by Kelly. All the winners and their families then enjoyed a celebratory afternoon tea and in-depth discussions about books. A big congratulations to all our winners.

Contact us: programs@ubcc.org.au
phone: 5944 3484 or online at: ubcc.org.au or facebook.com/ubcc.org.au

LEE SWANN
MANAGER UBCC



Wordsearch – Plants available from our Green Circle nursery

Find these words in the grid

- SWAMP GUM
- RUNNING POSTMAN
- HEATH WATTLE
- HOP BITTER PEA
- SILVER BANKSIA
- DROOPING CASSINIA
- KANGAROO GRASS
- GOLDEN SPRAY
- DUSTY MILLER
- BLACK SHEOAK
- COMMON FLAT PEA
- MUTTONWOOD
- KIDNEY WEED
- SWEET WATTLE
- WOOLLY TI TREE
- BLACKWOOD
- SNOWY DAISY BUSH
- MANNA GUM
- LONG LEAF BOX
- BIDGEE WIDGEE
- TALL BLUEBELL

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



Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

Police are out there to keep you safe. If you still choose to take risks while driving and break the road rules, chances are you will be caught.

TAC

VICTORIA
State
Government



Men's Shed report

The shed members have really geared up and have been quite active during this quarter. We have 30 members, with an average age of 79.

Since an extremely successful participation at the Village Festival in February, we have been involved in many projects within the shed as well as external activities.

- * We have held 2 sausage sizzles at Bunnings where we successfully seared and burnt well over 1100 snags to feed the starving shoppers. No medical callouts required.
- * We've split wood for a member of the public
- * Attended the Anzac Day service, and laid a wreath
- * Attended initial meetings of a new Shed cluster group for sheds in Cardinia Shire
- * Undertaken projects within the shed
- * Refurbished a bird feeder for the golf club
- * Refurbished a mirror and repaired a driving centre for the kinder
- * Made Easter hampers for Early Learning Centre for an Easter raffle
- * Created 10 sets of 4 classic mah-jong racks for Frankston U3A. This

was quite a complex task as each rack consists of 8 surfaces cut at different angles.

- * Continued utilising our 3D printer to make many useful gadgets and clips for both members and community requests
- * Produced a large metal turntable to hold a motorbike and sidecar
- * Dressed old recycled timber to be used for construction and benches
- * Sharpened tools/secateurs for community members
- * Produced car and engine parts on a metal lathe
- * Refurbished lathes and wiring on large metal working tools
- * Started initial training and creating of small items for CNC Router
- * Continued making hiking poles, and some very fancy walking sticks
- * Taken possession of a wood-splitter (donated to shed)

Our AGM was on 6 March and a new committee was elected for the 2024/25 year. All prior members except for the secretary stayed on committee. After 13 years on the committee, the secretary decided to call it a day and give someone else a go at this delightful task. Unfortunately no one volunteered

for this role, so the tasks will need to be split amongst members as needed. It would be nice to get someone to take on the task. If anyone wants to give it a go, don't be shy. You don't have to be especially skilful or a tradesman, just someone who enjoys a chat and a coffee.

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

The shed is open from 9 am–noon Tuesdays, 9 am–noon Wednesdays, and Thursdays on request. All finishing times are flexible so contact us if an extension of hours is desired.

Come along on Wednesdays and share a coffee and a biscuit with us. The shed is in Halford Street and you can park in the RSL car park.

Contact – 0414 443 735 or secubms@gmail.com facebook.com/upperbeaconsfieldmensshed/

NOEL LING



Rambling on – if trees could talk!

Several trees were gathered around in a hedge-tavern, drinking root beer and nibbling on humus.

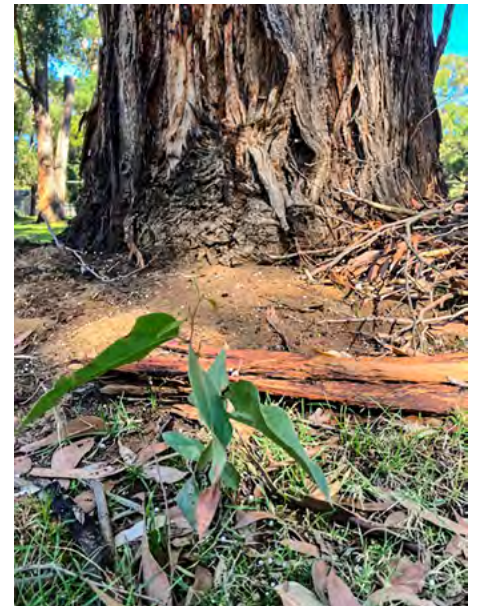
Said one of the Brennans, 'Did you hear about poor old George – keeled over the other day pulling down power lines and obstructing the road?' Old Messy responded, 'Yer! Way to go mate! Gotta be loud to get them humans to take any notice of us.' A Sugarloaf said, 'Yeah I know how you feel but that sort of loud puts their backs up big time. Then they start tuning chainsaws and looking at us with nasty eyes...' Old Messy responded, 'Drop a big branch on their heads that'll fix em!'

'Steady on!' said an A'Beckett, 'let's try to get more creative with our relations

with humans. Stirring them up isn't going to help any of us.' Old Messy muttered 'lotta softies' into his root beer as the conversation went on around him.

A Critchley Parker said, 'We need some ideas to help us let humans see trees as a positive in their lives. I am a peppermint, so I am going to try to let loose with an extra special pepperminty-eucalyptus perfume spray when a human comes near. Maybe catching them by the nostrils will help some of them stop and think 'wow!'

A Split Rock caught on to the idea. 'Hey yes! I have a family of squirrel gliders living with me. They are the cutest little fellas! I could ask if they could



LPG GAS DELIVERY
SWAP & GO GAS
WATER CARTAGE
FIREWOOD
KINDLING

UPPER BEACONSFIELD
GENERAL STORE
 EST 1885

We're local
 WE'RE BRINGING BACK OLD FASHIONED SERVICE & VALUE.
 SERVING THE COMMUNITY.
WWW.UBCGENERALSTORE.COM.AU
 (03) 5944 3310
 INFO@UBGENERALSTORE.COM.AU
 39-47 BEACONSFIELD-EMERALD ROAD
 UPPER BEACONSFIELD

BAKERY & COFFEE
ICE CREAM & SHAKES
PET & STOCKFEED
GARDEN SUPPLIES
LOLLIES & SNACKS

let humans see them occasionally.’ A Hamilton replied, ‘Whoa steer clear of me mate – I am full of owls, and they would love to know your little family more intimately!’ A Dallas Brooks chimed in with ‘Let’s all ask our birds to be especially twittery and active when humans are near – some of them may notice how beautiful they are.’ Old Messy grumbled ‘Silly humans can’t even hear birds any more what with earbuds and things. Cockatoos and magpies have the right idea with screeching or swooping. They might notice that.’

A Shop added ‘Poor old Messy – never happy unless grumbling! My idea is our flowers. We all bloom to some extent but some of us have it as a special gift, so we could try to turn on extra special flower seasons to help humans notice our beauty too.’

A High Street started to get the idea.

‘Yes, that’s right and how about our insulation from extreme heat and cold? If we attract people near us with lovely smells and flowers and birds and animals, some of them may notice how much cooler it is in the forest on a hot day, or how much less frosty on a cold one.’

A Young sapling chimed in, ‘Yes, yes, and what about just plain air quality?’ ‘Mind your Mannas sapling’ grumbled Old Messy ‘fancy interrupting like that.’ ‘No, it’s OK,’ reassured a Stoney Creek – ‘keep going sapling and explain yourself.’

Young continued, ‘Well it is one of the things we do best isn’t it? We help remove carbon dioxide and we give off fresh oxygen. So, when there are a lot of trees around the air is cleaner, fresher and purer and some humans like to stop and take deep breaths and really notice it.’ ‘Humph’ grumbled Old Messy,

‘didn’t have ideas like that in my day.’

‘But he’s right!’ chimed in a Quamby. ‘And we work for water too – groundwater filters through our roots and the soil we hold together, so that river water near us is clear and clean.’

Some of the quieter Salisburys started to get more interested in the discussion. ‘I like my wombat under my roots’ said one. ‘Yes’ agreed another, ‘and wallabies shelter under me in the daytime.’

‘Pack of sissies!’ said Old Messy. ‘What’s the point trying to tell humans anything? Soon as some dill lights a bushfire somewhere all the loud mouths yell for us all to go.’ ‘Yes, Messy,’ agreed a Knapton patiently, but the more we try to show them how necessary we really are, the more chance we have of influencing some of them to be on our side.’

Rosz

Time for chat with the neighbours?

Autumn in Victoria is my favourite time of the year, because the mild weather gives us many clear and calm days to enjoy the outdoors. Great for walks, picnics, gardening and golf! Unfortunately, it is also the rut season for deer and the thought of more little deer appearing just before Christmas means we need to keep chipping away at the deer numbers in our area to minimise the chance of car accidents and protect our farms, gardens and the native vegetation in our creeks and reserves.

Over the last five years, our local community group has focused on trying to inform and assist landowners that have noticed deer damage. This meant that properties actively trying to reduce deer numbers were spread randomly over the Cardinia Creek catchment area in the first few years. The experience of the controllers provided feedback that deer aren’t always conveniently waiting on these properties and that they move through a wider area and are usually seen on other properties nearby.

We therefore started to focus on engaging with a group of landowners along the same road, or cluster of roads, with the hope that they would be able to have controllers active on multiple properties at the same time. This aimed to increase the efficient use of their time and also increase the likelihood of removing deer on those visits. The key aim is to reduce numbers before they get replenished by new fawns.

By taking this approach in 2023,

and with the assistance of a paid facilitator funded by a grant from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), we were able to increase the number of active properties by 50%. The extra manpower meant we could hold more small community meetings, usually at a landowner’s house with neighbours, providing information on deer behaviour in our area and advice on options for preventing damage, as we have been doing since day one. We find it a good environment to discuss the issues affecting people on similar properties, including concerns some people have about deer control. If you would like to find out more details on how these meetings work, please get in touch with Glenn via info@cardiniadeer.org.au

DEECA have been a great support to us and the substantial grant we received last year has kept us busy working on the community group meetings, preparing for controller training seminars, community field trips and funds toward printed materials and some capital equipment. We have been a bit “quiet” in keeping our members and wider community abreast of what we have been doing via email or our website, so apologies if you wondered what we were up to. We are just about to set up a Facebook group and revamp our website so that we can be more effective in providing local updates on deer matters in a timely way. The changes should be in



place by the end of June, so keep an eye out for those.

Whilst I’ve highlighted our DEECA grant, we also have received grant monies over the years from Cardinia Council, Melbourne Water and the Federal Government. Their support is much appreciated and assists us to keep the ball rolling on helping residents and ultimately reducing the impact of deer in our area. Hopefully we will be able to secure another grant in the coming 1-2 years for another aerial survey to get a clearer picture on the change in deer numbers since our survey in 2021.

Finally, as part of our wider work in helping with other organisations with deer projects, we provide samples from culled deer to the Arthur Rylah Institute to assist with their research into deer populations in Victoria. They have recently held an online seminar titled “Oh deer! Is our environment a hog’s breakfast?” This includes information on deer population abundance and distribution. The institute has a YouTube channel called “ARI Seminars” where you can catch up viewing this and other interesting environmental seminars.

DES LAVERY
CARDINIA DEER MANAGEMENT COALITION

Local medical practice celebrates its fifth birthday

As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of Upper Beaconsfield General Practice, we reflect on the incredible journey we have embarked on since our doors first opened. Over the past five years, our clinic has grown from a small, hopeful venture into a trusted healthcare provider in the community. This milestone is not just a testament to our success but also to the unwavering support of our patients, the dedication of our staff, and the collective efforts of the community and everyone involved.

Five years ago, Upper Beaconsfield General Practice was founded by a husband-wife team with a mission to provide high-quality, accessible healthcare to all. What started as a practice with one full-time equivalent doctor has now expanded to a team of healthcare professionals, including nurses, allied health, and administrative staff. Our vision was simple yet profound: to create a clinic where every patient is treated as we would like ourselves or our relatives to be treated, ensuring they feel valued, heard, and cared for.

Our facilities have also grown, with the addition of state-of-the-art equipment and expanded services to better meet the needs of our patients. In response to the increasing demand for our services, we have built more rooms, allowing us to offer a wider range of services and accommodate more doctors. This expansion enables us to provide comprehensive care to a greater number of patients in our community.

Our clinic has received several accolades, such as accreditation twice and the Citizen of the Year 2023 award, recognising our commitment to excellence in healthcare. We have integrated advanced technology and innovative practices to enhance patient care, from electronic health records and electronic prescriptions to telemedicine services.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, our clinic played a crucial role in the community's health and safety by successfully administering Covid-19 vaccinations. Our team worked tirelessly to ensure that vaccines were

available and accessible to everyone, contributing significantly to the community's overall health and wellbeing.

The past five years have not been without challenges. From navigating the complexities of healthcare regulations to responding to the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic, our clinic has faced numerous obstacles. However, our resilience and adaptability have allowed us to overcome these challenges and emerge stronger.

As we look to the future, our commitment to our patients and community remains steadfast. We aim to introduce new services and processes to ensure a seamless and positive experience for our patients. The support from our community has been phenomenal, and it continues to inspire us to strive for excellence in every aspect of our practice.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Here's to many more years of serving the Upper Beaconsfield community with dedication and care.

UBGP TEAM



Navigate stress and find balance in everyday life

In today's fast-paced world, stress has become an unavoidable aspect of daily life for many. Whether it's deadlines at work, family responsibilities, or personal challenges, stress can creep into our lives in various forms. But what exactly is stress, and how can we effectively manage it to maintain our well-being?

Understanding stress involves recognising its triggers, manifestations, and effects on the body and mind. At its core, stress is the body's natural response to demands or pressures, whether they are physical, emotional, or psychological. When we encounter a stressor, our bodies release hormones like adrenaline and cortisol, priming us for a 'fight or flight' response. While this response is essential for survival in threatening situations, prolonged exposure to stress can take a toll on our overall health and quality of life.

Stressors can come in many forms, ranging from major life events like job loss or relationship issues to everyday hassles like traffic jams or financial worries. Physically, stress can manifest as headaches, muscle tension, or gastrointestinal problems. Emotionally,

it can lead to anxiety, irritability, or feelings of overwhelm. Recognising these signs is the first step in effectively managing stress. So how can we navigate stress and cultivate a greater sense of balance in our lives? Here are some strategies to consider:

1. **Identify stressors:** Take stock of what is causing stress in your life. Keeping a journal can help pinpoint patterns and triggers, allowing you to address them more effectively.
2. **Practice relaxation techniques:** Incorporate relaxation techniques such as deep breathing, progressive muscle relaxation, meditation, or yoga into your daily routine. These practices can help calm the mind and body, reducing the physiological effects of stress.
3. **Maintain a healthy lifestyle:** Prioritise regular exercise, nutritious meals, and adequate sleep to support your body's ability to cope with stress. Exercise releases endorphins, which are natural stress relievers, while a balanced diet and sufficient sleep contribute to overall resilience.

4. **Set boundaries:** Learn to say no to activities or commitments that contribute to your stress levels. Establishing boundaries are crucial for protecting your time and energy, allowing you to focus on what truly matters.
5. **Seek support:** Do not hesitate to reach out to friends, family for support and guidance during stressful times. Social connections can provide valuable emotional support, while therapy offers a safe space to explore and address underlying stressors.
6. **Practice mindfulness:** Stay present in the moment and cultivate awareness of your thoughts and feelings without judgment. Mindfulness practices, such as mindful breathing or body scans, can help reduce stress and promote emotional resilience by fostering a greater sense of inner calm and acceptance.
7. **Practise time management:** Break tasks into smaller, manageable steps and prioritise them based on urgency and importance. Setting

realistic deadlines and avoiding procrastination can help reduce feelings of overwhelm and keep stress levels in check.

8. **Engage in leisure activities:** Make time for activities that bring you joy and relaxation, whether it is reading a book, spending time outdoors, or pursuing a hobby. Engaging in leisure activities can provide a much-needed break from stressors and rejuvenate your mind and spirit.
9. **Cultivate gratitude:** Take time each day to reflect on the things you are grateful for, no matter how small. Cultivating a sense of gratitude can shift your focus away from stressors and towards the positive aspects of your life, fostering resilience and emotional well-being.
10. **Practise assertive communication:** Learn to express your needs, thoughts, and feelings assertively, while also respecting the perspectives of others. Effective communication can help reduce conflict and misunderstandings, alleviating sources of stress in your relationships.
11. **Set realistic expectations:** Avoid perfectionism and unrealistic

expectations of yourself and others. Recognise that it is okay to make mistakes and that not everything has to be perfect. Setting realistic expectations can help alleviate pressure and reduce stress levels.

12. **Seek professional help if needed:** If stress becomes overwhelming or begins to interfere with your daily functioning, do not hesitate to seek professional help from a therapist or counsellor or speak to your GP. They can provide additional support, guidance, and strategies tailored to your individual needs.

By incorporating these additional tips into your stress management toolkit, you can cultivate a greater sense of resilience, balance, and well-being in your life, even amidst life's inevitable challenges and stressors. Remember, managing stress is an ongoing journey, so be patient and compassionate with yourself as you navigate the ups and downs of life.

*DR KARUNYA YOGESWARAN
DR ANSSHU MALHOTRA
DR PUNEETT MALHOTRA*

UPPER BEACONSFIELD GENERAL PRACTICE

56 kg blister packs recycled

Over the last 18 months, customers of the Upper Beaconsfield Pharmacy have helped to divert 56 kg of blister packs from landfill. Thank you to the pharmacy for giving us store space to place a recycling box, and all other support for this pioneering project. Thank you to the Upper Beaconsfield Association, for sponsoring a box.

As blister packs are made of several layers, they are difficult to recycle. But two Australian recyclers have taken on the challenge and separate the materials. The recovered aluminium



is manufactured into thermal blocks that store renewable energy and the plastic material is used in building and construction projects.

Further funding is required to continue collecting your empty blister packs locally.

MARIANNE ROCKE



Upper Beaconsfield PHARMACY

Local, convenient and compassionate pharmacy care and advice

53 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd

Upper Beaconsfield

Phone 03 5944 3881

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

Opening hours:

Monday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Tuesday 8.30 am – 7 pm

Wednesday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Thursday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Friday 8.30 am – 6 pm

Saturday 9.00 am – 2 pm

Network power outages

It is time for your action on energy resilience! Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds have experienced two major storms with varying damage to the environment and private property over the past three years. The personal consequences on some residents have also been immense.

The latest storm event affecting us occurred on 13 February 2024. The Cardinia Shire’s Emergency Management team quickly and efficiently organised a range of services and supporting information for our community. The latest version 2024 Storm Recovery – Services and Assistance for Residents is available on the Cardinia Council website.

We commend one specific additional and encouraging initiative to the attention of all residents in Upper Beaconsfield and surrounding areas, namely the 2024 Network Outage Review. This review, currently underway, provides all residents with the opportunity to provide feedback, see below.

Victorian Government reviews The 2021 storms

The Victorian Government conducted an independent review in response to the June and October 2021 storms. Type the term Electricity Distribution

Network Resilience Review in the search box at energy.vic.gov.au. There are two documents: eight recommendations, and a full response covering community and network resilience.

The 2024 storms – review now underway

Learn about the structure and processes of the state government review of the 2024 storms, how to make submissions, or meet with a member of the Network Outages Review Team regarding your experiences of the 2024 storm. This review examines the response of Victoria’s network businesses to the 13 February storm event.

Go to energy.vic.gov.au, and type in the search box The 2024 Network Outage Review to see the terms of reference, what community consultations have already been undertaken and the timing of its initial (June 2024) and final (September 2024) reports, and how community members can make submissions either now or after the initial report.

At least four members of the Upper Beaconsfield community have individually met with a member of the review team, including the co-authors of this update. We are confident that this review is framed and is in the position to generate change to improve



our community-based energy resilience in Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds. We encourage you to collaborate with your community and to use this review as a vehicle for change.

Upper Beaconsfield overlooked?

Of major importance is our observation that Upper Beaconsfield and surrounds are overlooked in these two reviews, where the emphasis is on Emerald, Cockatoo and Gembrook. This is your opportunity to give our area the voice we collectively deserve. Please examine this 2024 Network Outage Review and prepare your response.

We are available for further contact through the Village Bell editor.

FRANK ARCHER AND CAROLINE SPENCER
RESIDENTS OF GUYS HILL

New office opens in Berwick

It is very exciting to be in our new office at Shop 2, 4/6 Wheelers Street in Berwick and we have taken great pleasure in meeting new faces and learning more about the many new organisations and groups in our community. It reinforces to me the importance of staying connected with

people, which enables the sharing of ideas and concerns that all work towards growing and strengthening our community.

The recent state government budget announcements have highlighted the many broken election promises for our electorate. We are paying new taxes, including a rent tax, health tax, school tax and an increase to the fire service levy. Our hospitals continue to be under pressure and there are delays on local projects and no money for new projects in the Berwick electorate.

Please go to my website for more information. I will continue to advocate for my community in parliament as your state member for the Berwick electorate.

There is still so much we can do as a community to support each other through the cost-of-living crisis by reaching out to those in need, supporting our local clubs, organisations, cafes, and restaurants. Our small businesses and volunteer organisations can remain a big part of who we are as we share in all that is good in our community.

Please feel free to drop by my office if you have any questions or comments to share, or you can contact me on 5953 0216 or via berwick@parliament.vic.gov.au. You can also follow me on social media via my website: www.bradbattin.com.au, Twitter: @BradBattinMP, Facebook: /BradBattinMP, Instagram: @bradbattinMP, Linked In: Brad-Battin and YouTube Brad Battin.

BRAD BATTIN MP
LIBERAL STATE MEMBER FOR BERWICK





Council news

Upper Beaconsfield Rec Reserve

There are several projects in the pipeline for the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve. They include:

New LED floodlighting to be installed for the sports field. It will be more energy efficient and provide uniform lighting on the oval to support sport and community activities all year round. There is also a plan for the redevelopment of the pavilion (igloo) which will better enable it to accommodate sporting and equestrian clubs and the wider community. Lastly, a masterplan will be produced to guide the future development and use of the reserve for the next 10 years, ensuring that it continues to meet the needs of the community.



These exciting projects will follow other recent works in Upper Beaconsfield, including the BMX track upgrade and restoration of the wetlands on Rosebank Lane.

To keep up to date with major projects happening in Cardinia Shire, visit our website cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

February storm response – identified recovery priorities

Through resident feedback and data collected at the relief centres and throughout the recovery outreach program, Council identified the following areas as recovery priorities:

Clean up assistance from private properties

The removal of storm related debris is of the highest priority both within public spaces and on private property. Although a number of options have been made available for residents to dispose of debris, there are still some people who are unable to use any of these avenues. Exploration of other options is underway for these residents including linking them into existing

support programs (if eligible) and the development of a volunteer cleanup assistance program.

Communications resilience

Some community members expressed a feeling of disconnection associated with being cut off from the internet and mobile phone networks. As part of the recovery effort council will advocate for improved communication systems during an emergency and provide residents with information regarding alternate communication systems that can be used to be better prepared for when these events occur.

Energy Resilience

There is a role for Council to continue to advocate for the provision of power resilience infrastructure including power backup systems for significant community infrastructure. At a residential level providing community members with education and information on the installation and use of generators will be a focus to ensure residents feel confident and remain safe whilst utilising this equipment. Provision of information regarding solar and battery backup systems which may also be an option for some residents will also be explored as part of this work.

For more information regarding council's response to storm recovery, please visit council's website cardinia.vic.gov.au/stormrecovery

Path improvements

Council has recently undertaken path improvements across Upper Beaconsfield. These include within Harris Reserve and on Salisbury Road between Sugarloaf and Split Rock Roads. Also, following recent storm events, council have reinstated the Brennan's Creek Reserve path from Foott Road to St Georges Road.

Heritage Grant applications open

Applications for the Cardinia Shire Heritage Grants are now open to residents until Friday 7 June. The program provides funds to restore and conserve places of heritage value that are covered by a heritage overlay in the Cardinia Shire Planning Scheme. These can include private sites, as well as places that are open and accessible

to the public, including commercial premises and other significant sites.

For publicly accessible places, applicants can apply for up to 50 per cent of the project cost, up to the value of \$5,000. For private places, applicants can apply for 25% of project cost up to a maximum of \$2,500.

Gardens, trees and hedges identified as having heritage significance, and that are covered by a heritage overlay, are also eligible for applications.

To apply for a grant, or to check if your heritage site or tree is eligible, visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/heritagegrants

Cardinia Jobs & Skills Showcase

The second Cardinia Jobs and Skills Showcase aims to bridge the gap between jobseekers and local employers, providing the opportunity for job seekers to connect with local employers and providers about current vacancies and career pathways. The Showcase, in partnership with Local Jobs South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula, Star News Group and Chisholm Skills & Jobs Centre will take place on Thursday 20 June from 10 am-1 pm at the Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeview room. Workshops will run on the day where jobseekers will receive support with CV and cover letter writing and interview techniques. For more information visit: cardinia.vic.gov.au/events/event/1527/cardinia_jobs_and_skills_showcase

Kindergarten registration

Registrations for first round community kindergarten offers for next year will be closing soon. Parents are encouraged to register their 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds for up to 15 hours of free kindergarten per week. If you'd like your child to be included in first round resident offers for 2025, registrations must be submitted by Sunday 30 June. Please use the online portal to register your child – any registrations received after this date will be included in further round offers. Cardinia Shire families can now register their children for 3-year-old and 4-year-old community kindergarten via Council's online registration portal at any time. Council is proud to be able to provide this important educational service for families. cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

CR BRETT OWEN

News from the UB Recreation Reserve

New committee

Our AGM was postponed to March as it was originally scheduled on 13 February, the night of the storm which had most of the village without power for many days. We welcomed new members Sandra Cork from the Pony Club and Amanda Dean from the Riding Club replacing, with our thanks, the retiring Travis Delarue and Shane Rutherford, resulting in a full 10-member committee.

Igloo update

The Igloo replacement has passed through various stages in the last year, from a forecast \$9m to a \$12.2m single storey plan, back to a \$3.7m refurbishment, to a new double storey modular \$7.25m plan which has finally received the Vic Government approval of \$3.35m from its Growing Suburbs Fund. We also have a \$500,000 commitment of Federal funding from MP Jason Wood with Cardinia Shire providing the remainder, spread over

this and the next two budget years.

We visited modular sports buildings in Ringwood and felt those designs are suitable for our needs in the scaled down \$7.25m modular proposal with some minor adjustments. It is now eight years since these discussions to improve changing facilities, especially for girls' sports which are the poorest facilities in the shire!

The Shire has now called for tenders to design and build the modular complex based on the current scope plan which includes full changing rooms, social facilities and a community hall primarily suited for the use of the Scout Group. The prospective tenderers have been visiting the Igloo in recent days and the council expects to select a successful tenderer shortly.

Oval lighting

One light pole was taken down in 2022 by council as a safety risk and not replaced, so footy training was affected throughout 2023. The council has now surveyed the lighting at local ovals, and we are pleased we are now early in the queue for a new 100 Lux oval lighting system in the coming 2024/25 budget year.

Reserve master plan

We have just received notice

that a consultant for the long-awaited council funded master plan for the whole reserve has just been appointed and he is about to commence consultations with the user groups, the committee, and the wider community.

Parking at the oval

We demolished the school chicane to improve parking and traffic flow around the oval and have considered how traffic might operate during and after the construction of the new building as a permanent change.

Fire safety

We have yet to have a formal notice that the reserve oval cannot achieve a safer area status for fires, but we will continue the clearance of the weeds, blackberries, and broom on the bank between the oval and the equestrian areas to ensure the oval is as safe as practicable.

Our thanks go to the Cardinia Shire Council staff, especially the now departed Kristen Jackson and Cr Brett Owen who have been supportive in our desires and understand our frustrations in seeking new buildings, better lighting, and a master plan over these last eight years. Now that the State GSF finance approval is confirmed to match the allocated 2024/25 council funds for this coming budget year, we anticipate the master plan, new lighting and the demolition of the Igloo and the new building will finally start in the second half of 2024.

BOB TAYLOR AM
UPPER BEACONSFIELD
RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE



Asking many questions

If you could ask any question about God or faith what would you ask? And I mean anything. What would it be? Over the years people have asked questions like, "If God is real, how can you prove it? Why does God let people suffer? Why does God let bad things happen? Where is God when it hurts? What about other religions?"

What are your questions? I ask because we are starting a 4-week series at St John's on answers to questions like these and I was hoping that all of you reading this would ask your questions so that we can try to answer them for you. There is no question too hard, or tricky or taboo. Everyone is welcome to ask any question, and to come to

hear our answer to it. You can join in a discussion if you want and even stay for some lunch.

St John's is a Christian church that believes in the bible, and we are aware that 'Church' in its institutional form has had a much-varied reputation in the past. It has generously loved people through all of life's difficulties, and grievously hurt people. No matter your history, you are welcome to ask questions and discuss the answers with us. All are welcome to come.

So, if you have a burning question, and want an answer, then please e-mail me at shannon.m.lee@outlook.com. I will do my best to add your question

to the list. Stay tuned for updates on the

questions we will answer, and the dates. They will be posted on the community, and church Facebook pages, the Church front door and even at the Op Shop. Join us on a journey of discovery, as we try to wrestle with the difficult, challenging and potentially life changing questions that may be tickling your mind, or are wrestling in your heart. We just want to help, listen and wrestle with these questions together.

SHANNON LEE, VICAR, ST JOHN'S



Out and about with Scouts

Scouting is a fantastic way to learn lots of new skills and make a positive contribution to the community, whilst having a lot of fun at the same time. It's been an exciting start to the year for 1st Upper Beaconsfield Scout Group, with lots of adventure in term 1 and more to come in term 2. Our Joeys are busy with arts and crafts and learning their navigation skills in the local area. They'll be heading out to Clip 'n Climb this term and finishing the term with an overnight campout with the Cubs. The Cubs are getting out in the local community, with a visit to a local vet, participating in the Melbourne City Hike, and earning their heritage badge at the same time.

The Scouts continue their prepare for the upcoming Jamboree in January with

construction and campfire nights as well as attending the district talent show for Scouts in May and an end of term camp at Gilwell Park.

The Venturers are going swimming and attending the Mud Bash open day, whilst the Rovers are spending time on their outdoor skills and visiting the local police station.

Through these activities, our youth members make strong connections with the community and have the opportunity to connect with youth members from other groups and districts throughout their scouting journey. We also attend events like the Anzac Day commemoration, where we all gathered on 25 April at the war memorial in Upper



Beaconsfield with members of the local community to remember those who gave so much for us. Activities with community involvement, outdoor adventure, personal growth challenges and everything in between, there's so much to enjoy in scouting for all our youth members and volunteer leaders. If you'd like to find out more, contact us via facebook.com/1stupperbeaconsfield

**MEGAN,
TRAINEE CUB LEADER**



VICTORIA
State Government

VICTORIA POLICE

FREE session
Registrations essential

Victoria Police career information session

Join one of our monthly **free online information sessions** to learn more about a career with Victoria Police.

You will learn about the roles and responsibilities of a police officer, the recruitment process, training opportunities at the Victoria Police Academy, as well as salary and benefits.

SCAN TO REGISTER



MADE FOR MORE

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Riders gain certificates



Did you know that the Pony Club not only offers riders an internationally recognised training syllabus, but working through the certificate levels will contribute towards recognition of prior learning at TAFE? Our riders are working their way through the program and, in doing so, are learning an enormous amount about horse health, welfare and riding. In April we were pleased to host the West Gippsland Zone C-Certificate assessment day, where five of our members were tested on their knowledge both in-hand, and on the horse.

The rigour of the C-Certificate is impressive (it even includes an online exam), and we were proud that they all passed with flying colours. The club would like to extend our thanks to our fabulous instructors who coach our members each month, with a special mention to Kathy Kindler for her help preparing them for this assessment day.

No preparation was required to enjoy the fun of our annual Games Day in March. Both riders and horses had an absolute blast galloping and weaving through set courses. Congratulations to the Blue Team who were the overall winners on the day.

In other news, our new club kitchen has been installed and we think it's fabulous. The old kitchen was well past its use by date, so we thank parents, community members and local businesses who supported our fundraising efforts to bring it back to life. We couldn't have done it without you!

Finally, a huge congratulations to the following riders for placing at recent Pony Club events:

Maddie C.
E-Grade Reserve Champion (Mountain District Show Jumping); E-Grade Champion (Langwarrin Show Jumping); D-Grade, 4th (Dandenong Ranges Moomba Show Jumping); Grade 5, 4th (Monash Pony Club Combined Training)

Monique D.
Open D-Grade Champion (Hallam Valley Pony Club & Open Show Jumping Championships 2024)

Niamh O'L.
F-Grade Champion (Hallam Valley Pony Club Show jumping); Grade 5, 1st (Mini Mornington Supercross)

Ella and Hilary S.
various placings in the Pony Club and Fun rings (Bunyip Agriculture Show)

Is your child ready to ride?

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.

JESSICA MARRINER



Sudoku solution from page 8

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

News from the Courts

Things are certainly looking bright at Upper Beaconsfield Tennis Club with our LED light upgrade nearly complete. This has been thanks to a Community Capital Works Grant contribution through Cardinia Shire Council. The night tennis players are reaping the benefits of the new lights already, seeing a substantial difference on court. There are no excuses for dodgy line calls in the dark now, with all areas of the court as bright as bright can be. We are also looking to upgrade the lighting in the carpark, as part of this ongoing 'light up UBTC' work.

In the last few months we've also seen our Club Championship play offs. A very big congratulations to all our competitors and well done to our winners. Here are the results:

- Men's seniors –
Winner: Sam; Runner Up: Jono
- Women's seniors –
Winner: Leanne; Runner Up: Caitlin
- Men's doubles –
Winners: Sam & Evan; Runners Up: Cal & Kieron (No women's doubles played)
- Junior Boys –
Winner: Callum; Runner Up: Milo
- Junior Girls –
Winner: Mathilda; Runner Up: Avril
- Mixed B Grade Juniors –
Winner: Indi; Runner Up: Kate

The summer 23/24 competitions finished up in March and we had all six junior teams make it through to the finals, with our Section 8 team, our Section 10 team and our Section 18 team winning the Grand Final. We also had our Open Rubbers B Special 1

(Seniors) team score a win in their Grand Final. A very big congratulations to all our players.

For the second year in a row, one of our players was awarded the Barry Palmer Achievement Award. This award goes to the player with the highest statistics across the season. "Well done" to Alex who received this award!

Finally, a very big congratulations to our Section 16 team, who were awarded the Bill Kucks Perpetual Shield at the end of last season. This is awarded to the best performing doubles section team during the home-and-away season.

In other news, have you noticed some well dressed UBTC players around town? In the last few months, we've seen the launch of our fabulous new uniform – working with a new provider, we have an online store open at selected times throughout the year, so if you want to join the 'best dressed' list and pick up some UBTC merch, please get in touch!

The 2024 Winter season of junior and senior tennis as well as mid-week ladies has kicked off – this season we have teams playing in both the Berwick District and Waverley District – best of luck to all players.

Our night tennis competition is also still going strong with competition running on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. We are always looking for new players and emergency fill ins.



Please get in touch if you are keen to join our night tennis competition! It's never too cold to play tennis!

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

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

See you at the courts!

EMMA TIBERI



From top: Section 1 – Rubbers Runners Up; Section 8; Section 10; Section 18 – all Premiers



Cardinia Beaconhills Golf Club



The weather has been very kind for golf over the past few months and the course is still in fantastic condition. Autumn is a magical time of year in Upper Beac and the golf club is no different – some of the colours are breath taking.

In the last edition of the Village Bell, we reported our Club Championships were underway. We would like to congratulate Aaron Le Dan and Laura Griffin (both pictured below) who are our Men's and Women's Club Champions respectively. This was the first for Aaron and the 10th for Laura which is a remarkable achievement. Our B Grade Champions were Lester Gimenez and Libby Michel with Dean Whitaker taking out the Men's C Grade

and Nathan Cluckie the Men's D Grade. Joe Marsiglio took out is maiden veterans' championship and Ryder Milnes the Junior Champion.

The Club Championships is followed by the BJ Balcombe Matchplay. Brian Meneilly was successful in defeating Noel Pye in the final of A Grade with Jarred Winter winning B Grade and Alan McMahon the C Grade winner.

Our women members have also completed the Dawn Shaw Matchplay competition with Michelle Desaulniers defeating Jenny Chandler in the final.

Our 9 hole twilight competition held on Wednesdays during daylight saving

has also concluded.

Anthony Presutto was the overall season winner, with Craig Perkins having the best average gross score, and Mark Griffin the least average putts.

The pennant seasons have been run and won. Our men's and women's teams performed very well this season and both were unlucky to miss the finals by half a point. Laura Griffin earned The Pennant Medal for winning all of her matches.

We were sad to see Mary Griffin leave our administration staff in April and thank her for amazing contribution to the club and wish her the best in retirement.

For any further information about the club or to book a round of golf, please call the pro shop on 5945 9230 or the office on 5945 9210. The clubhouse is also available for functions so please call the numbers above if you are looking at holding an event.

**MARK LAZENBY, GENERAL MANAGER
CARDINIA BEACONHILLS GOLF LINKS**



Upper Beaconsfield Community Hall



Family functions,
club fundraisers

Bookings please
leave a message

5944 3219

VILLAGE BELL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



KOONKIE WOORUN

Angora Stud (est. 1974)

Angora does and kids available early January
Mohair sales to handspinnners

Hilary Day

5944 3321 or 0417 038 935

hmday@ozemail.com.au

Petrucelli Art Classes



Adult art classes in oil
and pastel painting

Monday mornings
10 am until 1 pm

102 Stoney Creek Rd
Upper Beaconsfield
0417 530 190

VILLAGE BELL BUSINESS DIRECTORY



TREE & STUMP REMOVAL

- Trees lopped
- Stumps ground out

Grant Andrewartha

0411 331 573

LA ROCHE AIR

AIR CONDITIONING & MECHANICAL SERVICES PTY LTD

Air Conditioning, Mechanical Services,
General Plumbing, Water Renewals,
Heating & Ventilation, Maintenance,
Repairs, Split Systems, C.F.C. Accredited

Paul La Roche 0417 356 135

larocheair@bigpond.com.au
Licence No. 29118



Family Pies
Beef or chicken & vegetable
Family Quiche Lorraine or Vegetable
Heat and serve

Phone 0411 044 745

Open Mon-Fri 6 am-5 pm, Sat 7 am-1 pm

Blitzing Backyards

- Ride-on & hand mowing
- Garden maintenance
- Rubbish removal
- Trimming
- Handyman service

BERT MOSTERD

0402 472 996



Office Locations:

Pakenham
Narre Warren
Drouin
Yarra Junction

Phone: 5941 5166

Email: reception@andrewslegalgroup.com.au

Renovate by resurfacing

We specialise in kitchen and bathroom
resurfacing makeovers.
Resurfacing is around 1/3 the cost of
traditional renovations.

- Full kitchens
- Bench tops
- Full bathrooms
- Bath tubs
- Shower bases
- Flooring
- Repair and resurface driveways
- All outdoor paved areas
- Permanently restore dirty, stained and
mouldy grout lines

facebook.com/sustainablemakeovers

Call Rick on 0407 097 525



EXECUTIVE LANDSCAPES

Design & Construct

Brick, Stone & Cobblestone Paving
Rock & Water Features
Bobcat & Tipper Hire

0403 322 409

executivelandscapes.com.au



Rivendell

CONVEYANCING PTY LTD

ANN BENTLEY

Shop 2,
31-33 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd
Upper Beaconsfield

Phone: 5944 3566 Fax: 5944 3571

info@rivendellconveyancing.com.au

CLIFFORD ELECTRICS PTY LTD

Industrial • Commercial • Domestic

ABN 70 073 425 386 REC 2631

9087 9339 or 0419 567 243

leigh@cliffordelectrics.com.au

Thank you to Village Bell advertisers who service and support our community
Affordable rates – villagebell@upperbeaconsfield.org.au



**ARE YOU AN ENTREPRENEUR?
WE CAN HELP YOU BUILD A
SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS!**



Casey Partners Accountants
specialise in business advice.

Call us on
03 9707 2788



Website: www.caseypartners.com.au
Email: admin@caseypartners.com.au

**We're your
reliable,
local
partner for
all your real
estate
needs.**

Amanda Charles
0400 347 968
(03) 9707 0111



www.kayecharles.com.au



**We're celebrating
20 years at the heart
of local property.**



If you're thinking of buying, selling or leasing, get in touch with your local property specialists, Jo or Kristen today.



Jo Leaf
0468 903 718



Kristen Turner
0410 615 228

We're proud sponsors of the 2024 Upper Beaconsfield Tower Run!

PeakeRE.com.au



Reverse mortgages.

If you own your own home and are looking to borrow money in retirement, a **Reverse Mortgage (or home equity release)** could be a perfect option to consider.

A Reverse Mortgage allows you to borrow money using the equity in your home as security, for things like home renovations, travel and medical expenses.

Depending on your age and the lender policy, you can take the amount you borrow as a regular income stream, lump sum, line of credit, or a combination of these.

To find out more, speak to our Home Loans team today.

Call 1300 693 973
myexpert.com.au



Available to assist

ADVERTISEMENT



Emma Vulin MP

State Member for Pakenham



Michael Galea MP

State Member for South-Eastern Metropolitan

📍 Suite 3, 445 Princes Highway, Officer Victoria 3809
✉ emma.vulin@parliament.vic.gov.au
☎ 03 9651 8254

📍 141 Westall Road, Clayton South Victoria 3169
✉ michael.galea@parliament.vic.gov.au
☎ 03 7501 8688

Authorised by E. Vulin, Suite 3, 445 Princes Highway, Officer VIC 3809.

SAGE ACCOUNTING

Mark A. Sage FCPA
Business Consultant
Registered Tax agent



49 Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, Beaconsfield Upper Vic 3808
Mob: 0400 865 595 Email: mark@sageaccounting.com.au



📷 /bradbattinmp 📺 Brad Battin
📘 /BradBattinMP 🌐 bradbattin.com.au
✉ brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au
☎ 5953 0216 📬 PO Box 704 Berwick VIC 3806

BRAD BATTIN MP

LIBERAL STATE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Authorised by Brad Battin MP PO Box 704 Berwick VIC 3806



AMOS

AUTO ELECTRICAL & AIR CONDITIONING

Ph: 0466 555 771 | Email: amosauto@hotmail.com | Web: www.amosautoelectrical.com

We strive to provide high quality clinical care using our knowledge, skills and passion. We put patients at the heart of everything we do and provide optimum personalised care that makes a difference to the patient's experience at our clinic.

You can now see an Osteopath, Podiatrist, Dietician, and Exercise Physiologist at our clinic. We also do cosmetic skin injections and dermal fillers.

Comprehensive Cardiac services available on site including Holter, ECHO and ABPM.



UPPER BEACONSFIELD GP PRACTICE

Better care together

- Family Medicine
- Chronic Disease Management
- Pathology Services
- Skin Check
- Diabetic Clinic
- Emergency Care
- Child and Women's Health
- Men's Health
- IUDs and Sub Dermal Implants
- Minor Surgical Procedures
- Hepatitis B and C Treatment
- Smoking Cessation
- Ear Syringing
- Immunisations
- Travel Clinic
- Iron Infusion
- Pre-Employment Check
- Commercial Licence Medical

Opening hours:

Mon, Wed-Fri 8 am - 5 pm
Tues 8 am - 6 pm
Sat 9 am - 2 pm



Proudly AGPAL Accredited
Our commitment to your safety and care

Dr Puneet Malhotra
MRCPG (UK, 2010), FRACGP, DFRSH, DRCOG, PG Dip HCL
GP Principal

Dr Anshu Malhotra
MRCPG (UK, 2008), FRACGP, DFRSH, DRCOG
GP Principal

Like us on Facebook

www.ubgp.com.au
reception@ubgp.com.au

Ph : (03) 9044 0750
Fax : (03) 9111 8502

51 Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd
Upper Beaconsfield, Vic 3808



The Norris's saved \$5,772 last year on their home loan!*

All over Australia, homeowners are saving money with a free home loan health check.

How much could you save?

Community Bank • Beaconsfield District

Bendigo Bank

*Amount saved was annual payments reduction on an owner-occupier home loan when repayments dropped by \$481 a month from lower interest rate and loan restructure. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply and are subject to change. Credit provided by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879. A1963171 OUT_36018758, 17/03/2024



AVONSLEIGH VETERINARY CLINIC

441 Belgrave-Gembrook Road Avonsleigh Vic 3782

For appointments call: Tel: 5968 3957 (24 hours)

Dr. J. Hamilton and Associates



BLUE HILLS
LANDSCAPE & EXCAVATION

LANDSCAPE DESIGN
CONSTRUCTION
RETAINING WALLS

DECKING
PAVING
ROCK WORK

EXCAVATION
CONCRETE
PERGOLAS

0411 633 774

SERVICING 5TH EAST
MELB & SURROUNDS

www.bluehillslandscape.com.au

BLUE HILLS LANDSCAPE & EXCAVATION