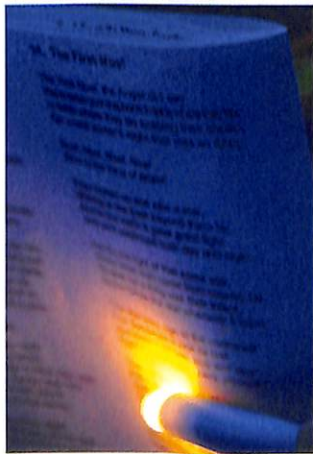


Beaconsfield Banner



Bi-Monthly publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association
Dec 2015



Welcome to

Carols by the Creek

**Bob Burgess Reserve
Sunday, 20th December
7.30pm**

Cardinalia

A wide shot of a large crowd of people sitting on the ground, similar to the image in the left column.

BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Graeme Taylor

This past year has seen many achievements reflecting on the work done by our committee, members and others co-opted. Our Progress Association provides the link between the local residents and businesses with governing authorities predominately our local government Cardinia Shire Council. At BPA we continue to have a good working relationship with Council staff and my thanks go to Ranges Ward Councillors, Cr Leticia Wilmot, Cr Brett Owen and Cr Tania Baxter.

A major achievement in the past year has been the successful completion of the Beaconsfield Avenue of Honour project. The new plaques were installed in Beaconsfield Park overlooking the poplar trees in Beaconsfield Berwick Road in recognition of the 65 local servicemen who served in World War 1, named on the original nameplates. The Booklet 'Beaconsfield Avenue of Honour Servicemen Remembered' has been published and is now available and an e-book copy will be available shortly on the BPA Website.

On 13th March 2015, there was an official opening of the Beaconsfield Avenue of Honour plaques and launching of the Booklet and related digital material. Attendees included three Parliamentarians, Mayors and some Councillors of Cardinia and Casey, RSL members including three neighbouring Presidents, many descendants of the 65 servicemen as well as members of the Community who made it a great day for Beaconsfield and a fitting

monument for local men who served in WWI.

Our Anzac Memorial Service was held on 19 April and was well attended even with bad weather forecast for the day. The feedback was that this Service conducted by the BPA was a service we could all be proud of and truly reflected on all servicemen and servicewomen who served for Australia.

The Beaconsfield Structure Plan C198 Amendment had another Panel Hearing and minor amendments proposed to be made before the Structure Plan is submitted to the Minister who will make a final decision on the Structure Plan. A Car Park Master Plan is currently being prepared for Beaconsfield. Marcelle Bell and Steve Hines, Strategic Planners at Cardinia Shire Council addressed meetings on these. In addition Cardinia Council is undertaking consultations titled 'Big budget brainstorms' to enable ratepayers to have involvement with visions for the Shire to consider when preparing for future budgets.

On the Sunday before Christmas, Carols by the Creek was presented by Beaconsfield Baptist Church and Our Association. The weather was great with increased crowds enjoying the carols. Our Association was nominated for Awards in the past year, as follows:
-Community organization of the year in the Australia Day Awards held by Cardinia Shire Council.

Our Booklet 'Beaconsfield Avenue of Honour Servicemen Remembered'

was nominated for a Victorian Community History Award 2015.

Whilst we were not successful, it was a privilege to receive the nominations. Congratulations to our Avenue of Honour and local History Researcher Penny Harris Jennings who won the Cardinia Shire Community Service Award.

We constantly review all planning applications lodged with Cardinia Shire Council and make submissions when appropriate, if we believe some aspects may not be for the betterment of our town. Often this relates to reduced parking, building structures and siting.

The Community Noticeboards outside Woolworths are being well utilised to inform on Community matters. We arranged a 'Meet the Candidates' public meeting for the State Election seat of Gembrook. The meeting was well attended.

We have received a Grant of \$10,000 from the Federal Government Veterans Affairs for digital display of servicemen, military history and life stories relating to service people from Beaconsfield.

BPA has applied for a Community Wellbeing Support Grant of up to \$2,000 from Cardinia Shire Council to enable a major upgrade of our Website.

The Beaconsfield Banner produced every second month distributed free in Beaconsfield 3807 postcode provides great reading. Thanks to the Boon family and the many others



involved in writing articles, proof reading, delivery etc.

Our Association is always keen to represent residents and businesses as a voice of the Community with State, Federal and Local Government. Our Association would like more people to contribute their aspirations for our Community and also for groups, clubs or organisations.

I wish everyone a joyful Christmas, a relaxing Christmas/New Year break and a wonderful 2016.

SINCERE APOLOGIES

It is with sincere apologies that I write this report. The production of the Beaconsfield Banner has not occurred recently due to a computer failure and irretrievable files. I thank those who have given their support, taken time to write reports, proof read and distribute, all which enable us to produce a free township newsletter.

I thank you for your patience and sincerely apologise to any business or residents who has been inconvenienced by not receiving the Beaconsfield Banner.

Have a safe and joyous Christmas and I look forward to producing the new look Beaconsfield Banner in 2016.

Margaret Boon
Beaconsfield Banner
Co-ordinator

Merry Christmas!