

FREE

BEACONSFIELD



Quarterly publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association

www.beaconsfield.org.au

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SPRING 2020 EDITION BANNER



Oakley - Winner of the Pet Photo Competition (Fancy dress category)

Upcoming Local Events

Beaconsfield Progress Association Meetings – Beaconsfield Community Complex - 3rd Tuesday of each Month (meetings postponed until further notice)

Carols by the Creek – Sunday 20th December - to be advised

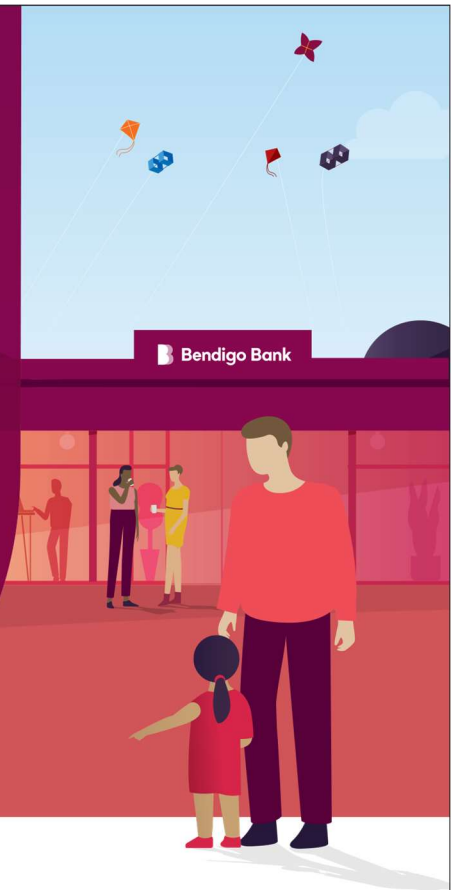
Australia Day Movie Night – Sunday 26th January 2021 – to be advised.

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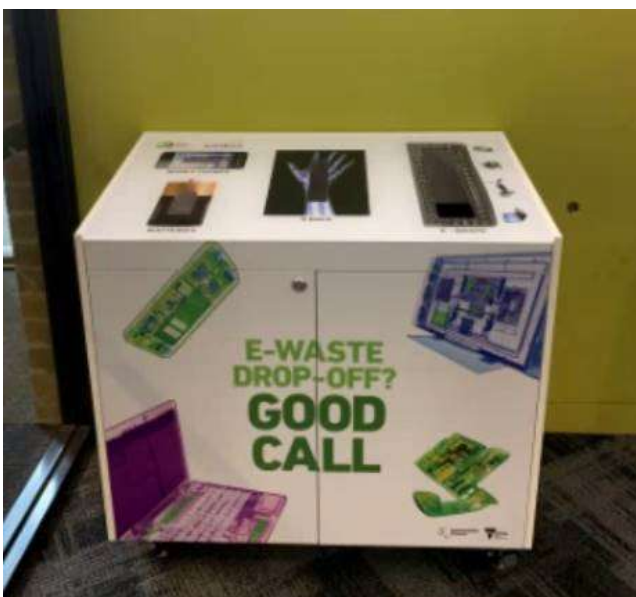
President's Report

Welcome to this edition of the Beaconsfield Banner. I trust that you are successfully navigating your way through these uncertain times with the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. With sporting clubs and other organisations in recess or operating on a very limited basis not all the usual articles are available.

In accordance with our previous commitment, we will continue to produce the Banner, hence this Spring Edition has been produced but with less content. Hopefully the Covid-19 situation will continue to improve and the Summer Edition of the Banner may be back to normal. The Banner is available on our BPA Website www.beaconsfield.org.au and printed copies are available from a number of local businesses including the Beaconsfield Post Office.

The Banner is prepared by Beaconsfield Progress Assoc. volunteers with the only cost being printing done externally plus a share of the administrative costs of operating the Association. We received a Grant of \$900 from Cardinia Shire Council to offset costs and the balance is paid from advertising in the Banner. If you would like to advertise in the Banner please email banner@beaconsfield.org.au.

I advise that Beaconsfield Home Timber & Hardware is the location for the e-waste recycling box. Organised by Cardinia Shire Council, you can leave old batteries, old phones, small electrical appliances (anything that has a battery, cord or plug). We thank Home Timber & Hardware Beaconsfield for being the collection point.



The new e-Waste Recycling Box

It is pleasing to see work continuing on the burnt-out shops on Old Princes Highway. Hopefully the reinstatement works continue to be done quickly so the area which is the entrance to Beaconsfield is reinvigorated. It is also pleasing to see that the works on creating 150 new car spaces at the Beaconsfield Railway Station have commenced.

Elections for Cardinia Shire Councillors will be held on 24 October by postal vote. Parts of Beaconsfield are in 3 different Council Wards, however Beaconsfield is predominately in the new Beacon Hills Ward. Each Ward is represented by 1 Councillor. Candidates can nominate to be a Councillor from Thursday 17 September. Voting is compulsory for residents aged 18 or over who must be registered on the State Electoral Roll. Due to Covid-19 our Association is unlikely to hold a Meet the Candidates Forum for this election.

Cardinia Shire Council Planning Scheme Amendment C238 concerning the Glismann Road Development Plan has been exhibited with explanatory Letter and Commonly Asked Questions/Answers. This information can be accessed from the Cardinia Shire Website. Interested parties can lodge written submissions by the nominated due date of 14 September. If you require more information check the Cardinia Shire Website or contact the Shire's Planning Department.

An upgrade to the Kath Roberts Reserve and Playground Equipment is included in the Council's Capital 2020/21 Budget. If you have any suggestions, then you should complete an online survey on the Cardinia Shire Council Website.

At present, we are unable to have monthly public meetings however the Committee is holding monthly meetings on Zoom to attend to necessary business matters. When Covid-19 restrictions are lifted and we are able to have meetings, we will publicise this on our Website and Facebook.

Graeme Taylor

President

Beaconsfield Progress Association Inc.

Ranges Ward Councillors' Report



Cr Brett Owen

Council elections – October 2020

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has advised that local council elections will be held in Victoria by post in October 2020. Voters will receive a ballot pack in early October.

If you want to stand as a candidate, you can nominate from Thursday 17 September 2020.

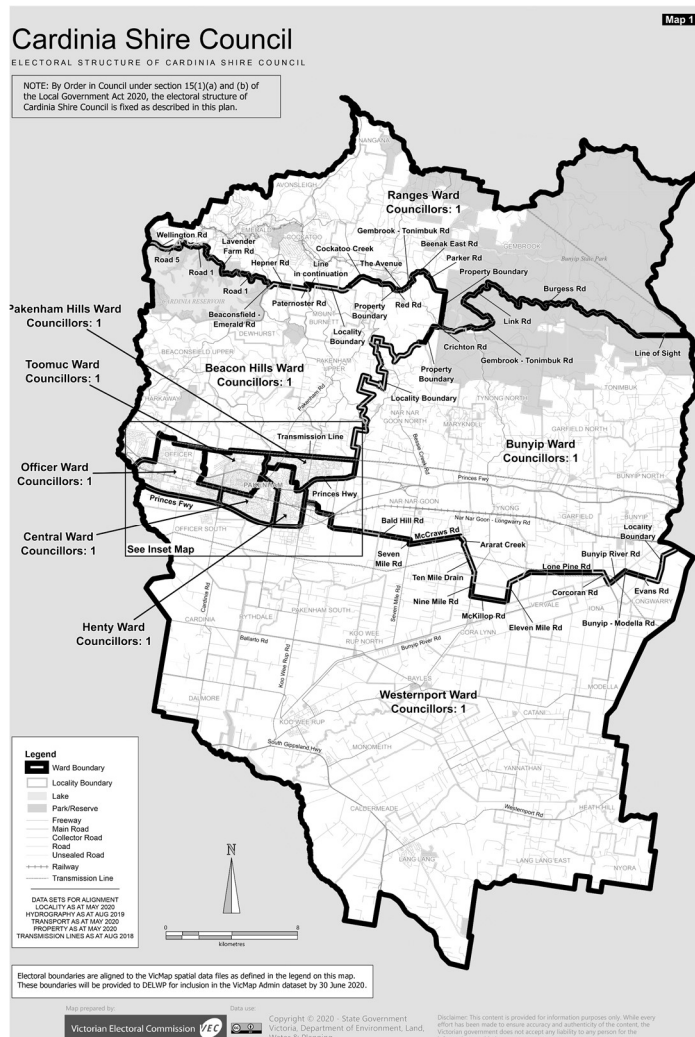
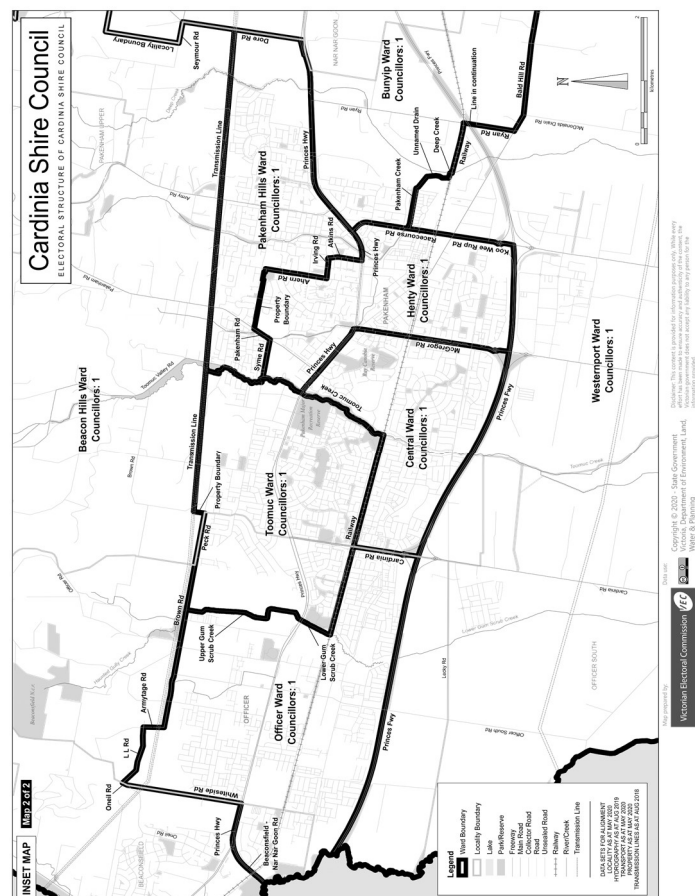
Following the introduction of the *Local Government Act 2020*, the electoral structure of Cardinia Shire Council changed. Voters will be voting according to the new structure, which will come into effect at the election.

The new structure has Cardinia Shire Council divided into nine single councillor wards. Voters will elect one councillor per ward.

Beaconsfield is divided into two wards – Beacon Hills and Officer wards. **(please see the ward maps to determine which ward you live in).**

For more information about enrolment, voting and candidates please visit the VEC website:

<https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/>



Beaconsfield Railway Station Car Park Upgrade

Construction of the additional 150 car parking spaces at the Beaconsfield Railway Station has commenced. Works will also include improved lighting and CCTV as well as new amenities to make cycling to the station easier, with a secure bike parkiteer and 16 additional bike hoops. This project is jointly funded by both the state and federal governments.

Latest updates to Council services

Current guidelines mean modifications to some Council services. For up-to-date info about Council facilities and services visit:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Council's customer service centre at Officer is temporarily closed, but you can still contact us by phone or email, or access a range of online services via our website.

COVID19 Online Help Hub

Council's COVID-19 Online Help Hub features a range of useful resources and information, and is supported by a dedicated team of staff who are on hand to help you find the information you need. More info:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/onlinehelphub

Local support services and connection

Local groups can provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic, including financial support, housing assistance and food services. To view the directory visit

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Community & Business support package

Council's support package assists community members, support groups, and businesses to cope with the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and includes:

- COVID-19 Online Help Hub
- Interest-free periods for rates
- Rates payment plans and rebates for eligible rate payers
- Business Concierge service
- Rent relief options for commercial tenants in Council properties

- Rebates for some business fees and charges

People experiencing financial hardship are strongly encouraged to contact Council. Details and more

info: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

'Connecting Cardinia' online: distancing, not disconnecting

Upload images and videos, share stories and ideas and stay connected at this time online at 'Connecting Cardinia'. Whether it's sharing teddy bears in windows, tips to stay active, or home schooling set ups, you can join in at:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connectingcardinia

Cr Brett Owen

Ph: 0418 993 370

Email: b.owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au

[facebook.com/Brett Owen - Ranges](https://facebook.com/BrettOwen-Ranges)



State Member

Brad Battin MP

It is not unusual to spend more time indoors during winter, however this year has certainly brought with it added challenges with the COVID-19 restrictions continuing to be part of our daily life.

The beautiful spaces in Beaconsfield will be very quiet, with limited opportunities for the community to be outside. As a result, many businesses will be feeling the effect of having to close their doors or change the way in which they deliver their service. I encourage the community to continue to support the local businesses that are still making coffees and meals through a delivery or pick up service. "Think Local, Shop Local", will help all of us to come out of the restrictions with a continued sense of hope within the community.

As we continue to support each other by being active contributors within the community, we will build on the foundation that makes Beaconsfield a great community. It is our strength through adversity that will shine through, underpinned by the care and respect we show each other. Beaconsfield is a great hub for employment and growth, with a dynamic and supportive community behind it. With Spring here, it is a chance to embrace the newness that comes with it and forge ahead with the new things we have learned during this period of restrictions.

Work has either been restricted for some of us or stopped completely, and for others, home schooling has become a new addition to home life, all these changes in our daily life can take a toll on some people in our community. If you know someone who may be doing it a bit tough right now, I encourage you to reach out and check on this person or family, or if you are personally struggling, it is ok to ask for help.

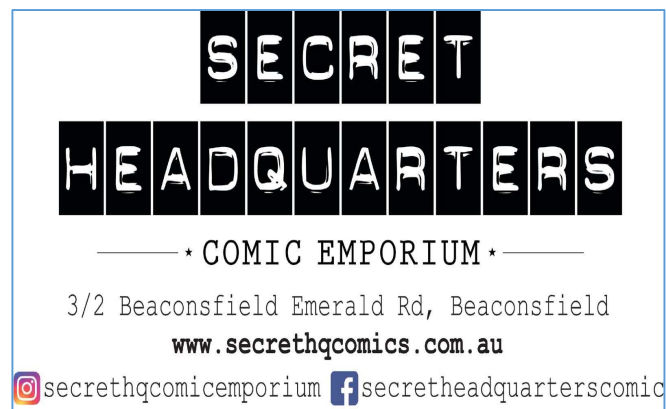
Services that are available to everyone include; Beyond Blue – 1300 224 636 or Lifeline is a 24/7 service – 13 11 14 with a TXT service available between 6am – midnight 0477 13 11 14.

My staff and I are always available to assist where we can if you have any concerns or queries. Please feel free to contact me on 5953 0216 or via email brad.battin@parliament.vic.gov.au

Please stay safe and continue to support all our local endeavours, as we navigate through this time together.

Brad Battin MP

Liberal State Member for Gembrook



Federal Member

Jason Wood MP

The Liberal Morrison Government and I have some very exciting plans for the great people of Beaconsfield.



Jason Wood MP at the announcement of Monash Stage 2 with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister Tudge

At the beginning of March, before this terrible pandemic set in, I met with Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Minister Alan Tudge to announce the

upgrade of the Beaconsfield interchange and the extension of O'Shea Rd.

La Trobe is one of the fastest growing electorates in the country and we need the infrastructure to match it.

That's why we have committed \$1.4 billion to the Monash Freeway Stage 2 works and for upgrading the Beaconsfield interchange. This will create local jobs when they are needed most. This improvement will directly impact the development of Minta City, opening up 10,000 new jobs in the IT and advanced manufacturing sector.

Many residents over the years have voiced their concerns about the lack of parking at Beaconsfield train station. That's why I have committed to upgrading the train station carpark, which I'm proud to say Stage 1 is now under construction, this will deliver an additional 150 much needed spaces.

Sporting facilities are also being attended to. We have already completed many sports facilities upgrades in Beaconsfield. Be it the protective nets for Beaconsfield Football Club members, the electronic scoreboard for the Beaconsfield Netball Club and the new grass at the Beaconhills Golf Links.

We have also got more exciting projects underway for Beaconsfield sports fans, including:

\$500,000 for changerooms and facility upgrades at the Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve. \$500,000 for the Upper Beaconsfield Cricket and Scout facility upgrade.

I want to reassure the people of Beaconsfield that despite this awful pandemic we have not given up on our promises to deliver for the people of La Trobe. Even though we may be locked inside, the Liberal Morrison Government is still getting on with the job of building a better community.

As your proud member for La Trobe if you need any support or advice, my office is still reachable via:

Phone : 03 9768 9164

Email: Jason.wood.mp@aph.gov.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/JasonWood.updates

Beaconsfield Rainfall Report

The rainfall in our neighbourhood matters more than you think – especially if you enjoy a lot of outdoor recreational activities, hobbies, maintain a garden at home or provide enough conversational material for family, friends and neighbours.

We have had a home rain gauge on our property and have records for Beaconsfield for 35 years and they have certainly provided material for unlimited weather conversations!

In the month of July 2020 we recorded 49mm. This contributed to a 3 month (May, June, July) tally of 182mm. Looking back twelve months the total for July 2019 was 73mm and the 3 month total (May, June, July 2019) was significantly higher recording 276mm.

2020 cumulative total for the 7 months is 722mm compared to 2019 total for the same period being only 390mm.

Interestingly at the time of writing this (9th August) we have passed the total yearly rainfall of 2019 of 752mm.

In our records of 35 years, 1985 -2020, the average means for 34 years is 792mm. The highest yearly total of 1211mm was recorded in 2011, a year of several notable floods in the Beaconsfield area.



Submitted by The Boon family.

Beaconsfield CFA



In these unprecedented, times the Beaconsfield Fire Brigade continues to operate following Covid-19 protocols to ensure we are able to respond to fire calls.

The brigade has attended 278 calls for the year 1/07/2019 to 30/06/2020.

This is down from 309 from the previous year and is Covid 19 related.

The brigade takes delivery of our new Forward Control Vehicle in October which is an auxiliary unit that is primarily used as a mobile support unit in major incidents such as bush fires or large structure fires.

The brigade would like to take this opportunity to thank local businesses and our generous community based supporters for their generous donations that have enabled the brigade to purchase and fit out this purpose built vehicle.

With the introduction of Fire Rescue Victoria the brigade continues to operate as a fully staffed and trained volunteer brigade providing a 24/7 service to our community and greater Victoria.

We have continued to meet and at times exceed our response time thus providing you, our community, with a first rate fire service.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind the community to stay safe and follow the instructions of the Chief Medical Officer so that we all may be able to return to a normal functioning community.

By Tony Lukas



Scouting in the Beaconsfield and Officer communities continues despite the challenges that we experience due to COVID-19.

Scouting has moved to a digital platform, with weekly or fortnightly ZOOM meetings, where our Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers get together to participate in activities, and catch up. Scouting provides an opportunity to continue and maintain social engagement outside of their remote learning environment.

This year our youth members have cooked, camped, visited art galleries, visited the observatory to learn about stars, built towers, watched movies, planned, programmed and prepared, achieved badgework, rehearsed for future theatre productions, built volcanoes, participated in scavenger hunts, shared stories, encouraged their pets to join in, laughed, talked, and remain connected.

Scouts Victoria, understanding that our world and environment has changed, is offering any youth (aged 5 to 25) SCOUTING FOR FREE until 31 March 2021.

Section Details:

Joeys	Tuesdays	5.30 pm to 6.30 pm
Cubs	Tuesdays	7.00 pm to 8.30 pm
Scouts	Thursdays	7.00 pm to 9.00 pm
Venturers	Mondays	7.00 pm to 9.00 pm

We look forward to being back together in 2021, after all, we all want to be outside exploring nature, having adventures, and having fun. Our face to face location is inside Officer Recreation Reserve (off Starling Road Officer). We invite all interested youth (and their families) to get involved, join us online, and try out Scouting.

Contact Leanne Fraser, Group Leader, via email (beaconsfieldscoutgroup@gmail.com) or text 0439 420 864 for more information about becoming part of the Beaconsfield Officer Scout Group.

By Leanne Fraser



Phone 8768 4400

Neighbourhood Natter

Well, who would have been able to predict the events of this year!? We're living through a time that will be featured in the history books of the future and hopefully you are finding the silver linings of being at home and keeping up a strong can-do attitude.

Although the Centre has spent many months unable to open for our usual programs, we are still connected with our community and hope that the challenges of these strange days are not too overwhelming. If you want someone to phone you for a chat or are in need of any help, please reach out!



The Cardinia Shire has issued us with some free face masks to distribute to those in need within our community. For details, contact us via email contactus@bncinc.org.au or text 0423 915 203.

Our Committee of Management President, Shoheli Sunjida, has also been busy sewing free masks for the needy and vulnerable members of our community. We commend her personal efforts to support the community.

Text Shoheli directly on 0450 233 674 if you're interested. She is also involved with several charity organisations organising food boxes for those in need, so please reach out to Shoheli for advice on how to receive this assistance.

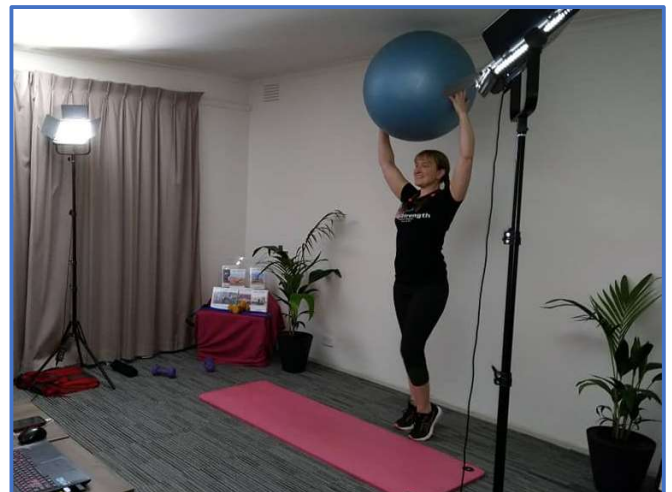


At the Centre, we had a little pocket of time in the middle of lockdowns to offer some simple programs within the restrictions. Our sewing, craft and patchwork groups were happy to get stitching together again and our painting classes were also back to brighten up the place. Even with the physical distancing, it was lovely to catch up in person for a little while.

Our amazing tutors have been adapting to the situation with online teaching programs and interest groups. Sharon's popular floral classes have found a digital platform:



Adriana has continued teaching Spanish online and Pauline is sharing tips and recipes in our Facebook cooking group page. Simone has set up a fabulous home studio and is successfully running her strength training classes remotely too:



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM is fast approaching. Set for **15th of October at 7pm**, we invite all members and welcome new faces to attend. If restrictions at the time prohibit a meeting at the Centre, we will hold the AGM online via Zoom or a hybrid meeting with both physical and online attendance. A link will be posted on our webpage and via social media if this occurs.

All positions on the Committee of Management are declared vacant at the AGM. The Centre needs volunteers with a strong community spirit and a small amount of time to give each month. We offer rebates on your course fees for participating because we are very aware of how busy everyone is and want to show how much we appreciate your time and skills.

To nominate yourself or someone else to join our Committee of Management for 2020/2021, contact the Centre for nomination forms and further details.

BNC Children's Room

Because childcare is considered an essential service, our Occasional Care and 3-Year-Old sessions have been able to continue throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Our Children's Room staff deserve high praise and many thanks for their commitment and service during this time. They are ensuring our littlest members continue to feel safe, engaged and "normal". Miss Anne has been offering remote 3YO kinder for those children not attending the Centre in person and we've loved the positive feedback and shared images from the families participating in this program.

Even with grim restrictions, there is still plenty of colour and flair in the Children's Room. Extra procedures are in place for everyone's protection, so please follow instructions from staff at all times.



We received loads of plastic bottle caps from our members earlier in the year to upcycle into this super cool mural:



We are now taking enrolments for next year's 3YO programs. Don't worry about completing the forms at the moment, but do contact us and we'll put your name down to hold a place for your child.

We're hoping that we will be able to resume with a little more normality next term. We won't print or post our Term 4 Program to save on costs a little, but keep an eye out online for a digital version. If you would like it emailed, please let us know by dropping us a line to contactus@bncinc.org.au.

Add us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates or check our webpage. Stay safe and well!

Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre
8 O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield
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EMAIL: secretary@beaconsfield.org.au



Beaconsfield Kindergarten

To say that kindergarten in 2020 has been a little different to usual would be an understatement! We are so proud of the resilience, adaptability and patience that all of our Beacy Kinder children and families have shown this year while we have navigated our way through onsite kinder, lockdowns and remote learning.

As I write this, we are in the middle of stage 4 lockdown. With kinder currently only available for children of permitted workers and vulnerable children, we have closed our Woods St service and are offering kinder for eligible children at our O'Neil Rd facility. We have a rotating roster of two staff onsite, while the remainder of our educators are at home supporting children with remote learning.

I'm so proud of the way our teachers and educators have stepped up to support the kinder children with their remote learning. Spending most of their time sitting at a computer or iPad has been a big shift from the way they usually spend their work days, but they have all done an amazing job! Some of the things Beaconsfield Kindergarten has implemented to support children while at home have included:

- a fortnightly program with activities that encompass the learning areas we usually cover at kinder, including movement, fine motor (manipulating smaller objects with the hands and fingers), sustainability, language and literacy, science, dramatic play and numeracy
- take home packs, with activities to complete and resources to use at home
- regular Zoom sessions, which have included things like the teacher reading a story, a sharing time for children and secret in a box
- activities posted on our communication app, Storypark, with families encouraged to share photos of their child's work, or of their child engaging in the activities
- individual goals for each child, based on areas that they were developing at kinder

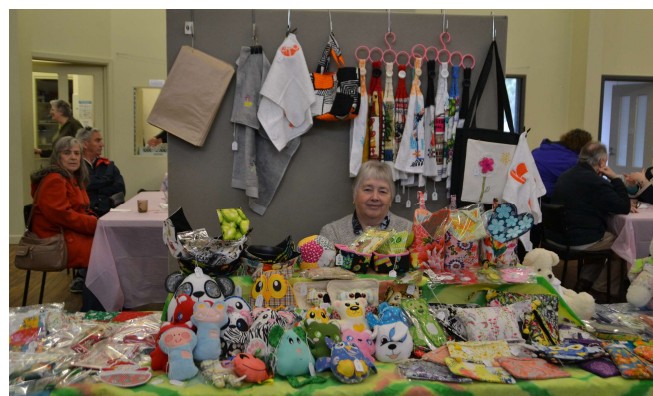
- recorded videos of our educators singing and moving to familiar songs, with children encouraged to join in as they watch
- reflections encompassing photos that have been posted by families completing the activities
- some events throughout the lockdown period to bring a bit of extra fun to lockdown and remote learning!

Of course, a huge thank you is also needed for the families who have worked with us and supported their children in their learning and development this year. At times like these, the strength of a community really comes out, and our kinder community has shone!

Below are examples of some of the activities children have been encouraged to complete at home during remote learning.

Nicole (Centre Manager)

Make and Mingle



MAKE AND MINGLE is a friendship and craft group that meets at Beaconsfield Baptist Church. However due to Covid-19, the group has been unable to meet since mid- March. Everyone is still doing craft at home and keeping in touch with each other by phone calls and cards.

As always some of our knitters have been making items to donate and support others, including beanies and scarves which have been donated to the Bless Collective Food Van which supports those in need.

The Make and Mingle Craft Fair is usually a popular day out for the Beaconsfield and surrounding communities. However, this year we apologise, but we have had to cancel the Fair due to Covid-19 restrictions. We are hoping that we may be able to go ahead with the Fair in 2021.

Keep well and stay safe and best wishes to the Beaconsfield Community from Make and Mingle.

Beacy Forum Fun

Spoonville has come to Beaconsfield.

Spoonville was an idea initiated in the UK to help the community, especially little ones, in dealing with mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic. Communities worldwide have embraced this wonderful idea by creating little spoon villages within public sections of town.

There are rules to abide by to ensure you are following the lockdown restrictions:

1. Place your spoony person during your lockdown daily exercise
2. Make sure bits don't blow off your spoony person as we don't want to litter
3. Spoony people aren't keen on dogs so please keep your dogs away – it scares them
4. People are free to come and see the spoony people but please don't touch
5. Make sure spoony people can take the rain – nail varnish is good for our faces
6. Legs and arms can be sticks from the garden.

Spoonville can be found in the Panorama Estate in front of the dam on Tantallon Blvd and at First Grammer on O'Neil Road.

ISO Window Competition



It's amazing what you see out of your own window. Beaconsfield Neighbourhood forum page ran an ISO Window competition where residents took pictures of what was outside their window or members of the household daydreaming out of their windows visualising better things. Almost 60 photos were received of differing images and creations. A big thank you to the sponsors, In Beauty, Cardinia Park Hotel, Dermico Injectables, Le Belle Allure, Hidden Valley Skin and Beauty, Kindred Hearts and Pawsome Pooch Treats who made this possible. Also thank you to the

Thirsty Camel team in Beaconsfield who helped distribute the prizes during the lockdown.

Pet Photo Competition



Who doesn't like a pet competition? Over 150 photos were submitted into the Beaconsfield Pet Photo competition that ran through June. A big thank you goes to Chris and Sue from the Beaconsfield Berwick Pet Resort, Leanne from Pet 'N' the Dog, and Hazel from the Ridge Grooming Co who all agreed to be the judges.



Thank you also needs to go to Angels in the Clouds, Beaconsfield/Officer Vets, Pet 'N' the dog, Ridge Grooming Co, Beaconsfield Berwick Pet Resort, Sweet Sugar Treats, Helping Jessy Animal Myotherapy, Sudzone in Berwick and Dr Jacquai Ley from Veterinarian Behavioral Services Australia, who all donated wonderful prizes to the winners.

What's Next

Watch out for 'Beautify Beacy Bins' competition in September. Get the kids imagination working to transform the basic green waste bin into a magnificent art sculpture or create your own bin family in your court.



It's certainly been a year like no other for our community, and like so many other clubs and institutions we have had to go without our Winter rituals.

Back in March we had just successfully completed our first practice match and were full of optimism, no doubt like most footy clubs at that time of the year.

The first lock down put a stop to training but our new coaching panel kept up the energy & enthusiasm as we still had hopes for a resumption of the season. We managed some more training sessions mid-year but the second lockdown put an end to all local footy for 2020.

This is the first year since 1947, when Beaconsfield FC resumed after the Second World War, that our town hasn't competed on the football field but we now look forward to getting back into action in 2021. Our full coaching panel headed by Senior coach Mick Fogarty, has been reappointed for next year and we have had wonderful support from a number of local businesses who have pledged their commitment through our 20/21 COVID Club. Any local businesses who would like to also be involved with the vibrant local football community can contact our Sponsorship Manager, Scott Hilton on **0455 963 179** or email sponsorhip@beaconsfieldfc.com

Beaconsfield FC had experienced some joy in 2020 with 3 of our Beaconsfield players making their debut in the AFL.

In March **Samantha Johnson** made her debut in the AFLW for St Kilda. Sammie had been part of our 2017 Women's premiership team and was our club & league Best and Fairest in that season.



Samantha Johnson

In the first week of July **Jake Aarts** made his long-awaited debut for Richmond and has since consolidated his spot with some tenacious performances. Jake is very much a local product, having attended Beacy State School & playing all his junior footy with Beacy starting out in the U/9's before making his senior debut for the club at the age of 16. He played five seasons at Beaconsfield Seniors, interspersed with TAC & VFL commitments where he most recently has played with Richmond's VFL team. Jake is certainly testament to the value of perseverance.



Jake Aarts

Our most recent graduate is **Cody Weightman**, who debuted for the Western Bulldogs a week after Jake, and certainly made a big impression, goaling with his

first spectacular kick and getting lots of media attention after this effort. Cody also played all his junior footy at Beaconsfield Junior Footy Club starting out in the U/9's.

He progressed to the U/19's premiership team in 2018 where he won the Best on ground medal in the grand final as well as playing consistent football in the TAC competition with Dandenong Stingrays.



Cody Weightman

Congratulations to **Sammie, Jake & Cody** who will now feature in our AFL/VFL graduates display alongside the likes of Barry Allan and Michael McKenna who were the early trailblazers for talented local footballers from our area making it to the big time.

You can keep up with all club news on our Beaconsfield Football Club Facebook page.

Not every Hero wears a cape...

Way back in 1918, people fought the Spanish Flu, which killed as many people then as World Wars 1 and 2.

No vaccines to protect them against the flu infection, control of flu was limited to familiar interventions: Isolation of the sick, and quarantining too,

Banning public gatherings; handwashing, to name a few.

But looking at the photos from last century you ask, "What's the common link we share?"

The wearing of the mask!

For every maskless "Karen" that you see upon TV

The message they send loud and clear is "You don't matter to me!"

"You can't tell me what to do; 'cause you are not the boss!"

"I don't know you; I don't care!" "You're an acceptable loss!"

For every hoax conspirator, who hasn't got a clue I remind myself, mask wearing correlates to high I.Q. If you think it's an evil plan to dress you in surgical gear,

I suggest that you rethink your life and lay off full strength beer.

Whilst scientists have yet to find an answer for Corona

The wearing of a mask tells me a lot about its owner.

It tells me, whilst you may not be a nurse or a physician,

you understand the basics of community transmission.

That little 3 ply face mask is a symbol that you care Not just for friends and family but for people everywhere.

It may be inconvenient, but when push comes to shove,

A face mask in Victoria's symbolic of our love!

As we look back on those photographs, observing with rare clarity

The only way to beat this thing is to stand in solidarity.

With our doctors, nurses, ambos; our scientists and polities;

Avoid the selfish "Karens" and conspiracy follies.

You are the hero we all need, it's not too much to ask.

Not every hero wears a cape – but they all wear a mask!

And if you think one person cannot change the world – STOP THAT!

Just remember late last year when one guy ate a bat!

A poem by Gary Methven.

Will the Helmeted Honeyeater Ever Return to the Cardinia Creek?



Helmeted Honeyeater (photo by Harry Jensen)

The Helmeted Honeyeater was selected as the bird emblem for Victoria because it only occurs in Victoria. At the time of settlement they were found at the Bass River on Westernport, up the Cardinia Creek, across the Koo Wee Rup swamps, through Berwick, Guys Hill, Upper Beaconsfield and into the Yarra Ranges.

Regrettably now they are critically endangered and just one wild population remains at the Yellingbo Nature Reserve where more than 200 birds live and breed. The last recorded sighting in our area was at Upper Beaconsfield in 1980 (Woinarski and Wykes: Monash Zoology 1980). Following another visit in 1982 Wykes assumed they were extinct.

The Federal Government constituted a 'Helmeted Honeyeater Recovery Team' chaired by a scientist from DWELP and with members being an ornithologist, a botanist, a scientist from Zoos Victoria and representatives from Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater (Yellingbo) and now one from Cardinia Shire.

For many years Zoos Victoria has run a captive breeding program at Healesville which enables birds to be released in selected places each spring.

In April 2015 a local Australian Plants Society Group called a public meeting in Beaconsfield, with help from Cardinia Council, to consider a trial reintroduction along the Cardinia Creek. More than 100 people attended and the question of a trial reintroduction was referred to the Recovery Team.

Following that referral some members of the Recovery Team made two Inspection visits hosted by local enthusiasts and supported by local Parks Victoria staff. Visits were made to the following sites.

- Cardinia Crk Parklands and upstream towards Guys Hill
- Guys Hill Reserve
- Brennans Reserve along Cardinia Crk and Stony Crk,
- Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve

At the time their response was quite positive and supportive of a trial reintroduction. Our expectation was that the Recovery Team would nominate actions required to improve the habitat, if required, to enhance the possible success of a trial reintroduction.

More than two years ago the Recovery Team advised that Ecology Australia had been commissioned to evaluate. That report, completed last year, nominated Guys Hill as the most suitable site in our area for a trial release.

Still after more than 5 years we have not received any instructions on what preparations we could make to prepare for a trial reintroduction. Therefore we have not been able to carry out any revegetation or apply for grants.

Meanwhile there is at least one positive. Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and the City of Casey continue to work revegetating former farmland in the Cardinia Creek Parklands. At present a \$4 million project to improve hydrology and create wetlands on Grasmere Crk which is an important tributary of Cardinia Crk within those Parklands. Improvement of that environment is guaranteed.

The latest setback is associated with Covid-19 shutdowns. It is reported that Zoos Victoria income has been reduced to the extent they are not able to contribute to any new ventures.

At the time of the Public Meeting I was 77, now I am 82. Will there be a trial reintroduction in my lifetime? I live in hope.

By Alex Smart

Heathcote, Harold

"Horrie" Sidney



"Horrie" Heathcote – photo courtesy of the Heathcote family

This year is the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War Two.

On 3 September 1939 Prime Minister Robert Menzies announced that Australia would be entering the war.

Beaconsfield at that time was a small rural district with a township surrounded by farming, primarily dairy, and fruit growing.

Residents would journey into the township to collect their mail, shop for supplies and to transport their children to attend school.

Locals could gather and socialise at the two hotels and on occasion there would be celebrations and gatherings at the local public hall.

Not long after the announcement of the war the local men and women began to enlist. Farewells were held at the hall, large gatherings wishing the "boys" well. They would also be given parting gifts such as a wristlet watch and a parcel of home comforts.

The Beaconsfield Patriotic Committee arranged social gatherings with dancing to raise funds in support of the local "diggers".

Beaconsfield Farewells Six More Boys

BEACONSFIELD DISTRICT residents turned out in full force last Saturday to do honor to six more local boys who have joined the fighting forces. The guests of honor were Jim Adamson, Don Witham, Bill Curtis, Cecil Robson, and Harold Heathcote (all AIF), and Bill Adamson (RAAF). Flying Officer Bailey and Cr. D. N. McBride eulogised the lads for coming to their country's aid in its hour of need, and Cr. McBride, on behalf of the district, made a presentation to each of the lads and wished them the best of luck. Later the old Diggers made a presentation of a fountain pen to Miss Nixon, secretary of the local Patriotic Fund in this and the last war, in appreciation of the grand work she is carrying out so enthusiastically and unselfishly. It was a capital night, such as only Beaconsfield can stage.

By late 1942 the impact of the war had begun to take its toll on the small community. Thomas Perkin who operated the only grocery store closed his business due to a shortage of supplies. This did not discourage the young men from enlisting because that same month six more "local boys" were farewelled.

In 1938 Harold "Horrie" Heathcote, age 16, was a prefect in his final year at Dandenong High School and living with his parents Frederick and Annie Heathcote at "Eyril Park" Clyde Road, Beaconsfield.

School completed, Horrie was employed with the State Electricity Commission and then the State Savings Bank of Victoria. He enlisted with the Citizen Military Forces in December 1938, walking out of school and down the Princes Highway to the Dandenong Drill Hall to sign up.

Horrie then joined the Australian Imperial Force in July 1942, serving in Queensland, protecting the Air Force Base on the Cape York Peninsula and on Thursday Island. During leave in June 1945, Horrie came back to Beaconsfield and married Rena Florence Emma Dawson in Christ Church, Berwick. Their reception was held in the Beaconsfield Hotel which was run by Horrie's parents (Annie & Fred Heathcote).

After a brief honeymoon, Horrie returned to military duty, joining the 1st Australian POW Contact and Inquiry work in Manila and the Division on Okinawa Island, he then flew with them to the 27th American Infantry Division on Okinawa Island. He then flew with them to mainland Japan on 7 September 1945, as a part of the occupation force.



BEACONSFIELD BRIDE IN CLASSICAL WHITE

WHEN Miss Rena F. E. Dawson, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Dawson, Railway Station, of Beaconsfield, was married to Sgt. Harold S. Heathcote, A.I.F., at Christ Church, Berwick, on June 30th, friends had the church tastefully decorated for the pretty afternoon ceremony, the bride being a popular member of the church choir. Rev. W. P. Daunt was the celebrant and while the register was being signed his daughter, Miss G. Daunt, delightfully rendered "Where're You Walk." Mr. J. Warne officiated at the organ.

The dainty bride, who was given away by her father, wore a classical frock of white crepe, the front being embossed with lace, with buttons down to the waist at the back. The yoke was of georgette and the high neckline was finished off sweetly with a small collar. An exquisite veil of limerick lace was worn and from the white ivory prayer book which the bride carried, depended a trail of gardenias.

Attending her as bridesmaids she had her sister, Beryl, and Miss Dawn Heathcote, sister of the groom. Both looked lovely in pink crepe frocks made on similar lines to the brides, but with matching lace yokes. Their hats of pink crepe were trimmed with blue flowers and they carried pastel toned bouquets.

The uniformed bridegroom, who is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Heathcote, of the Central Hotel, Beaconsfield, was supported by Sgt. Pilot Sydney W. Kane as best man and L.A.C. R. Salows, as groomsman.

After the ceremony 70 guests gathered at the Central Hotel, Beaconsfield for the reception. Centre of many admiring glances was the attractively decorated bridal table with its 3-tier wedding cake, made by the groom's mother. The guests were received by the parents of the bride and groom.

The groom's gift to the bride was an eternity ring set with diamonds, and from the bride the groom received a leather travelling case. The bride's sister received ear-rings and an artificial orchid and the groom's sister a pearl necklace.

When the happy couple departed for their honeymoon the bride was wearing a smart suit of powder blue, with black coat and accessories.



Harold & Rena Heathcote wedding day photo – photo courtesy of the Heathcote family



Horrie with Peter Cosgrove & Bruce Ruxton

Horrie was involved in Legacy and Secretary of the 52nd Battalion Reunion Group for over 50 years. In 1999, General Peter Cosgrove and Bruce Ruxton presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his service to the RSL.

On Remembrance Day 2018, Horrie represented his regiment as a dignitary at the unveiling of the Gippsland Regiment Bridge at Prospect Drive, Narre Warren. Sadly, the following year in June, Horrie died; he was described as a respected, loving and treasured husband, father and pop.

Researched and written by Penny Harris Jennings with updates from Elizabeth Heathcote 2020.

Arriving back in Sydney on 28 November of 1945, Horrie was discharged on 2 January 1946.

After the war Horrie returned to his position at the State Bank of Victoria and became a State Bank Manager, initially living in Dandenong and later Berwick.



Correspondence

All correspondence to P.O. Box 217, Beaconsfield Vic 3807 or email banner@beaconsfield.org.au

Articles Welcome

Articles can be emailed to the editor at banner@beaconsfield.org.au

All articles must contain the contributor's name and contact details for verification purposes.

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½ page advertisement	\$100	\$150
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Next Issue of the Banner

The deadline for contributing to the Winter Edition of the Beaconsfield Banner for articles and advertising is 15th November 2020.

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It's a long road ahead, but we can recover, and we will recover.

www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

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