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Quarterly Publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association

#### Summer 2023 Edition

# LXRP Works Underway

Construction of the new level crossing fly-over between Station Street and Kenilworth Avenue is well under way. Much of the train station parking has been closed during construction. Current piling works are working 24/7 through November and December digging 193 foundation piles. See article on page 17.

Photo - Robert Cooper

ARAPPETER PREPRIETERS.

## **Upcoming Public Events**

Beaconsfield Progress Association public meetings Beaconsfield Community Centre - 3rd Tuesday each month @ 7:30pm Carols by the Creek: Sunday, 17th December, 7:30pm Bob Burgess Reserve.

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# **President's Report**



Welcome to this summer edition of the Beaconsfield Banner. The Banner is available on our BPA website www. beaconsfield.org.au and printed copies are available at businesses in the

town including the Beaconsfield Post Office and Beaconsfield Pharmacy.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in October with the annual financial statements and election of office bearers for 2023-4. The President's Annual Report was presented, highlighted by the following items.

The most significant local issue we are dealing with in the past year is the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) and, in particular, the Level Crossing at Station Street, Beaconsfield. This Project identified the potential losses of the heritage Bunya Bunya tree as well as the heritage Railway House built circa 1888 located at 20 Beaconsfield Avenue. After community representations, the LXRP revised plans whereby the heritage significant parts of the Railway House and the Bunya Bunya tree will be saved. The LXRP has maintained their preferred option for a route diagonally south from Goff Street, Beaconsfield Avenue and Station Street intersection through the Railway House property (to be compulsorily acquired) with an overpass bridge across the railway line and Kenilworth Avenue and then joining a new roundabout at Kenilworth Avenue. A recent look at the worksite for the LXRP Station Street, Beaconsfield Project amazed me with the size of the building site with all the equipment, portable rooms for the workers, fencing, the noise affecting the neighbours and the loss of most of the railway station's carpark. It will certainly change Beaconsfield and be disruptive with construction taking two or more years. BPA arranged two Public Meetings with LXRP staff and I also attended a site meeting along with approx. 50 others to voice our concerns about the Project. The community action is being led by Fran Healy, a nearby resident, and she has involved Joe Toscano of Radio 3CR.

The Beaconsfield Anzac Memorial Service was held last April. A crowd of approximately 120 people attended at the Cenotaph to pay their respects to the service men and women. Prior to the service, there was a march from the Fire Station along Woods Street. The Memorial Address featured the McNaughton Bros. Thanks to everyone who participated in the service and those attending, especially returned servicemen and relatives of servicemen and servicewomen.

The landscape in Beaconsfield is changing. The development of land at Princes Hwy after the old Princes Hwy merge before Tivendale road for fast food outlets, service station and other stores continues and is still not completed. The Pink Hill hotel has opened. These new businesses will provide Beaconsfield with more retail outlets and a multifunction hotel. They will also provide employment opportunities for locals.

The proposed refurbishment of the Beaconsfield Reservoir has been widely discussed in the past year and the future accessibility of the Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve is not certain. The Beaconsfield Reservoir was constructed in 1918 to mostly provide a reliable water supply to the Mornington Peninsula. Water was fed from the Tarago Channel via an Aqueduct to Beaconsfield Reservoir. The water supply was disconnected in the early 1990's. Melbourne Water did a letterbox drop in April/ May and issued a Report on the Beaconsfield Dam Safety Upgrade Project. Melbourne Water have confirmed their position that the Partial Upgrade Option remains their preference and have started the Project by commencing the water level reduction to be carried out over a 3 year period. This Partial Upgrade Option was supported by our Association in all our submissions including to Melbourne Water and Cardinia Shire Council. It is noted that this Report only deals with dam safety. Public access issues will be separately addressed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

Further discussions and meetings have been held in the past year on the capital works proposed for the Beaconsfield War Memorial and Bonette Reserve. Draft Concept Plans and Landscape Plans have been displayed and an onsite Session held. There has also been an onsite Session held at Jim Parkes Reserve for Redevelopment Plans. These projects will beautify the Beaconsfield township.

In the past year, we sadly noted the passing of Gerald Treasure and David Brewster, both long time Beaconsfield Residents. Both contributed greatly to the community with Gerald a Life Member of Beaconsfield Football Club and David a Life Member of Beaconsfield CFA.

Our guest speaker for the recent AGM was Stephen Garth from the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater. He provided an informative talk about the endangered Helmeted Honeyeaters and also the work being done to protect them and ensure their increase in numbers at Yellingbow in Victoria. He spoke also of future plans to have a colony of birds returned to the Beaconsfield area near Cardinia Creek. We thank Stephen for his really interesting talk and thank you to everyone who came along to the meeting. We hope to keep everyone updated with the progress of the Helmeted Honeyeater.



The Beaconsfield Community is looking forward to Carols by the Creek on Sunday 17 December at Bob Burgess Reserve. This is being organised by Beaconsfield Baptist Church and BPA and will be a wonderful community event. We look forward to seeing everyone then.

We thank everyone for their support in 2023 and wish you a lovely Christmas with family and friends and best wishes for 2024.

Graeme Taylor President Beaconsfield Progress Association

# Beacon Hills Ward Councillors' Report



Cr Brett Owen

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



In February 2024, all kerbside rubbish bins in Cardinia Shire will transition to red lids over a 4-week period. The red lids will replace any existing dark green lids on these bins. This change is taking place because the Victorian Government is standardising household

waste and recycling services across the state, including lid colours. Under the new and improved system, lime green lids will be for food and garden waste, yellow lids for recycling, and red lids for general rubbish. Some community members already have a red-lidded rubbish bin. For those who don't, all they will need to do is leave their kerbside rubbish bin out until 6pm on their usual general rubbish bin collection days from Monday 5 February to Friday 1 March 2024, or until their bin lid is swapped for a red lid. Once their lid has been swapped, community members can place their kerbside rubbish bin out on bin collection days as normal. Old lids will be recycled and turned into new kerbside bins.

This project is supported by funding from the Victorian Government. For more information on the bin lid changes go to <u>www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/</u> redbinlids.

# Councillors' Report

(Continued from page 5)

For general information about waste services in Cardinia Shire go to <u>www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/waste</u>

#### **Upgraded Playgrounds for Beaconsfield**



Children will be able to enjoy 2 upgraded playgrounds in Beaconsfield in 2024.

Look out for upgrades to the playgrounds at Jim Parkes and Village Green reserves in Beaconsfield.

Families will be able to create wonderful new memories at these new playgrounds, which will be upgraded as part of Council's annual playground renewal program.



To keep up to date with these projects, head to the Creating Cardinia engagement website for the latest updates. <u>www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay</u>

#### Station Street Beaconsfield Level Crossing Removal Project:



Station Street Beaconsfield has now commenced major construction, with piling works for the bridge commenced in the middle of November and earthworks commencing early in 2024, with structural elements of the bridge to commence mid to later 2024.

From November to mid-December the Pakenham Line has no trains running which will see some additional works around the site, including the closure of the underpass for separate works on the rail bridge by Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM).

Council is strongly advocating to LXRP for improvement in the following areas of the project being to keep community disruptions to a minimum and all residents, schools and other stakeholders constantly updated, the improved connectivity of all pathways, heritage property protection, close monitoring of all significant trees and the Cardinia Creek wetlands areas, carparking, urban design & visually amenity and crime prevention.

Council fully supports the community's request for a community reference group for the Beaconsfield removal project. Council will continue to advocate to the Level Crossing Removal Project group to implement a reference group.

#### Brunt Road Level Crossing Removal Project:

Construction of all major earthworks is close to completion and the structural bridge elements over the rail has commenced.

Council has completed the full extension of Pioneer Way and Brunt Road intersection upgrade including a new roundabout ready for the 2024 school year with new local schools opening for students.

LXRP are holding a free community Christmas event in Dodson Reserve on the 9th December with all residents encouraged to attend.

Connection for all traffic onto the new road bridge over the railway is due for 2024, with full construction and landscaping due to be completed 2025.

We encourage residents to sign up to the SMS service which provides updates on disruptions and closures in the area.

https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/level-crossingremoval-project/subscribe

#### Draft Equestrian Strategy launched for feedback

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

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

The Draft Equestrian Strategy 2023 – 2033 contains recommendations to:

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

The community can speak to Council staff and have their say on the new strategy at the following dropin sessions:

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

To view the Draft Equestrian Strategy or provide feedback visit <u>www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay</u>

#### **Container Deposit Scheme**

Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme is here! Receive a 10¢ refund for every eligible can, carton or bottle returned.

Foodworks in Upper Beaconsfield is an Over-the-Counter refund location.

The scheme will continue to grow, with more than 600 locations planned by August 2024 across Victoria.

Recently the Officer Reverse Vending Machine was delivered to Club Officer on Niki Place, Officer. There will be further locations launched across Cardinia over the next few months. Council is advocating for a future refund facility to be situated in Beaconsfield in the near future.

For more information on the scheme and for further refund locations, please visit Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme <u>www.cdsvic.org.au</u>



#### Christmas cardboard drop-off event

Cardinia Shire residents are invited to drop off their excess cardboard and wrapping paper at the FREE Christmas cardboard drop-off event.

Hosted by Cardinia Shire Council, all cardboard and wrapping paper dropped off will be recycled, providing a sustainable solution for excess cardboard during the festive season.

Held at Future Re cycling Transfer Station in Pakenham, the event accepts unlimited residential loads of Cardboard (clean and dry) and paper only.

The event will run Thursday 28 Dec to Saturday 30 Dec and Thursday 4 Jan to Saturday 6 Jan. For more information, please visit - <u>www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff</u>

#### **Merry Christmas**

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council, I would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and an enjoyable festive season. Take care.

Brett Owen Councillor Beacon Hills Ward Cardinia Shire Council



# Beaconsfield Primary School By Heidi Inglis

As we head into the last term of a school year, we start to think and talk about transitions. We have many cohorts at Beaconsfield Primary School that we support in transition – kinder kids to Prep, students within our school to a new year level and our grade 6 students into secondary school. We all know that change is inevitable, and it can impact us all differently.

We hope that people embrace it and see it as a time of celebration, as they have achieved to move on and ready for the next challenges. For some people, it comes more easily and they have the resilience to deal with it well. This is what we hope for all our students and families. As teachers, we have supported our students throughout the year to deal with challenges and worked with them on strategies to support their mental wellbeing.

Here are some suggestions to support your child through change:

Make sure that you are talking about their next stage in a positive way – how exciting, you are ready, this is a good thing, you can do this.

Be mindful of how much you talk about it – sometimes it might be too much.

Support your child to see what they can control. Some things are not in their control so there is no need to worry about it. They need to trust the process and they will be able to deal with the outcome.

Be mindful of how you as their parent are feeling about it as you are their role model. If you are nervous or anxious, this is contagious and your child might be 'catching' your emotions.

Take moments to check in with your child as to how they are feeling and see if they are able to state what they are wondering or concerned about. Answer their questions honestly and if you don't know what the answer is, try problem solving as to how you find out the solution – who could we ask?

This term, our grade 3 to 6 students have had the wonderful experience of camp. Our students have left their families to stay away from home to be with their friends, teachers and parent helpers to experience the excitement of new opportunities. For many of our students, they embrace the chance to try new things and be out of their comfort zone. What great mental wellbeing our young children display! Whilst some might be challenged with some of the experiences, our staff and parent helpers feel so privileged to be there to support them through it and be there to celebrate their success.



A student's take on their experience of camp... "At camp Coolamatong, the staff reminded us of the value of respect and gratitude, which was their theme. Most of the activities at camp involved teamwork, for example one of the activities, we had



to move some tyres using certain rules, and respect played into that as you needed to respect each other's opinions. My favourite activity at camp was the boat trip because we went to the beach and played games. Camp was a great experience, the bonding with friends, activities and the food made it the best". - Dom, Grade 6

Enjoy the summer.

Heidi Inglis Principal

> Beaconsfield PRIMARY SCHOOL 1890

# **Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region**

By Michael Galea, MP



#### Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve

Our community is so fortunate to have the best of both worlds – growth, infrastructure and convenient services, yet on our doorstep is the pristine Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve (Beaconsfield Reservoir).

On O'Neil Road is the Beaconsfield Reservoir and Nature Conservation Reserve, a beautiful pristine reserve in the middle of the Casey Cardinia growth corridor.

The reserve is Crown land and the Cardinia Environment Coalition (CEC) is the Committee of Management of the reserve while Melbourne Water are the owners and managers of the dam.

Having been built in 1918 to distribute drinking water and never being open to the public has created what is now one of our most pristine nature reserves. Access to the site remains restricted and is managed by the CEC as a conservation reserve. It was decommissioned in 1988 when Cardinia Reservoir was connected.

In 2005, the state government gazetted the 172hectares surrounding the reservoir be set aside as the Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve (BNCR) to help conserve species of plants and animals that may be rare or endangered, contain critical habitat, or hold conservation significance. The BNCR includes a variety of vegetation listed as endangered, vulnerable, and depleted in Victoria's east. The reserve is regularly visited by school groups and ecologists who study the flora and fauna.

Melbourne Water has identified the Dam to have deficiencies associated with the stability of the dam wall and a lack of safety features to prevent internal erosion (piping) failure. There is now a risk that the dam wall could fail and housing estates in Officer could flood as a result. Melbourne Water has developed a risk mitigation project in response to keep Officer safe. They will be reducing the amount of water in the dam and reducing the height of the wall to stabilise it.

Melbourne Water has conducted much research over the past few years to determine the best way forward for the sustainability of the dam, the local ecology and residents. A slow drawdown of the water level is occurring and will take three years to reduce it from 98.85m AHD to 94.0m AHD. This will allow the vegetation around the edge of the reservoir to migrate with the changing waterline which will minimise the impact on the environment.

Recently there has been some confusing misinformation being made about the Reserve. This includes a claim that the reduction in water quantity will affect fire fighting capability.

The CFA have corrected this misinformation to say that approved fire fighting water pick up points are Cardinia Reservoir, Aura Vale or Lysterfield Lake. The CFA and Melbourne Water say that if additional water is required Beaconsfield Reservoir could still be used.

The Reserve will in time be able to cater for increased public access once appropriate infrastructure is created to ensure safe access.

For more on this and any other matter please contact me on 7501 8688 or <u>michael.galea@parliament.vic.gov.au</u>

I wish all readers a wonderful Christmas and safe and happy new year.

Michael Galea, MP



# **Beaconsfield CFA**



As we head into the summer it is a timely reminder to create or visit your fire plan. This is essential for those citizens living on the urban rural interface. Details of how to build a plan can be found on the CFA website.

The brigade continues to add strength in new recruits with some able to attend fires after completing their training and accreditation .

The brigade was recently able to purchase two additional breathing apparatus units from a generous donation of the Berwick Opportunity Shop. These will boost the number of members who will be able to wear them at structure fires.

Recently the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services requested assistance from the CFA with tankers and crew to assist in the large fires burning in the west of the state and as far north as Cairns.

This summer has the potential to be a difficult fire season and that means Beaconsfield and surrounding areas are at risk.

Remember on high fire danger days with extreme weather for example 40 10 40 (Temperature  $40^{\circ}$ , Humidity 10%, Wind 40 knots) ask yourself if it's safe to be here if your home is in a fire danger area. Also please leave early, not when hundreds of your neighbours decide to go at the last minute.

Finally, drive carefully if you are going on holidays. We are still attending far too many accidents .

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year .

Stay safe.

**Tony Lucas Beaconsfield CFA** 



#### Make and Mingle

Craft Fair

The 25th Make and Mingle Craft Fair was held on Saturday 11th November at Beaconsfield

Baptist Church. There was a great turn out as this was an opportunity for some wonderful Christmas shopping and for old friends to catch up.

The fair had beautiful handmade craft items like greeting cards, quilts, wooden toys, jewellery, rugs, knitted items and also some scrapbooking supplies. This special day provides a way for the group to

display their craft items made throughout the year.

Make and Mingle is a friendship and craft group which meets every Wednesday morning from 10am -12.00 at the church during school term. 4th term ends Wednesday 6th December and the group will resume in 2024 on Wednesday 7th February.

For more information contact makeandmingle@beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au





www.beaconsfield.org.au

**Beaconsfield Banner** 

# **Beaconsfield Scouts**



Kids connecting with the great outdoors? Mud, games, challenges, connecting with likeminded people from across Victoria? Well, this is what our cubs from Beaconsfield Officer Scout Group did these September school holidays up in Gilwell Park in Gembrook at the



2023 Cuboree!

The cubs (aged eight to eleven) embarked on a journey, a week away from Mum and Dad camping with over 4000 other cubs from all over

Victoria. For most of the cubs, this was the longest they had been apart from home to an environment which doesn't have the comfort of technology and a comfy bed. Despite this, these kids returned home changed individuals. This confidence in themselves of overcoming these emotional and physical challenges, will continue to help them to persevere through other challenges they may come into contact within their futures. The smiles on their faces got bigger as the days went on and many friendships were formed and strengthened as this communal experience continued.

The parents and leaders are incredibly proud of all of the cubs' efforts and perseverance throughout the week and for giving everything a go, even if it meant you got muddy or wet, every credit is due to getting out of your comfort zone; and for those who are old enough to be in the Scout section (aged eleven to fourteen) have the absolutely amazing opportunity to go to Jamboree in Queensland in 2025 for two weeks.



Scout ages range from 5yrs to 25 years so come along and join the fun. There is also an opportunity for adult volunteers or students needing practical experience to come and help out. Contact email for enquiries: <u>beaconsfieldscoutgroup@gmail.com</u>.

Scout Hall :- Officer Recreation Reserve, 20 Starling Road, Officer.



Joey Scouts 5 - 8 Years	Tuesdays 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm
Cub Scouts 8 - 11 Years	Tuesdays 7 pm – 8.30 pm
Scouts 11 - 15 years	Thursdays 7 pm – 9 pm
Venture Scouts 15 - 18 years	Mondays 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm
Rovers 18 - 25 years	Mondays 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm

# **Aqueduct Trail Walk**

by Diane Gow

Several members of the 'Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir Action Group' gathered last Friday, October 27th, to walk the first section of the Aqueduct Trail walk and consider how we can eventually link this section through to Dickie Road and then on to the second section of the Aqueduct Trail walk which goes through the Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve to Beaconsfield Reservoir, eventually to link up with Bowmans Track in O'Neil Rd. In the future if this has public access, the trail can link up all the way to the Cardinia Creek Track and beyond.



The Aqueduct Trail is very well used but comes to a dead end, several hundred metres from Dickie Road. Local landowner Nathan Russo regularly meets walkers and cyclists crossing his property, inadvertently causing damage to fencing and the bush environment.

Friday was a beautiful sunny day and five ladies and three dogs enjoyed walking the trail spotting an echidna, hearing birdsong everywhere and trying to identify native trees and flowers with limited success! The trail follows the Aqueduct which is a fascinating part of the history of the Reservoir and of Cardinia Shire.

We plan to run another walk in the next month which will include inviting local councillors, landowners, walkers and hopefully the Council Planning Department. We'd like to investigate a proposed plan to link up the Aqueduct Trail and the



A. E. Owen reserve with a new path for two hundred metres to enable the two paths to link up.

This plan ultimately would avoid damage to the existing bush and trespassing on private land. It would create a longer walk from the existing trail and we ultimately hope that it will link to the Reservoir. We would also like to see signage that tells the story of the Reservoir and the Aqueduct Trail along the way for the benefit of all visitors. The signage would help to advise walkers of the stunning circular walk in the A. E. Owen Reserve which is currently unmarked. Very few people who have moved to Cardinia Shire are aware of the history of this area, and it would be exciting for them to read about it as they walk along these tracks.

Our group is seeking to improve local walks for the benefit of local residents and to promote access to the bush for all.

Diane Gow

Member, Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir Action Group committee



# **Beaconsfield History - Alice Henry**

By Penny Harris Jennings

On arrival in Melbourne from Scotland in the early 1850's, Charles Ferguson Henry married Margaret Walker and they had two, children Alice and Alfred. Charles Henry found work as an accountant with the importing firm Andrew and Walter Ferguson and resided in Richmond. In 1858, with the slump of trade due to the end of the gold boom, the importing firm closed, so Charles decided to try farming and purchased 150 acres in Beaconsfield under the scheme of time payment. This land was considered of poor quality and mostly uncleared.



1883 map showing property of Charles Ferguson Henry (bottom left), on which the Beaconsfield Station is located. Photo Courtesy of The State Library of Victoria.

Charles, Margaret and their two children Alice and Alfred lived in "a tiny timber cottage with bare earth floors, surrounded by magnificent eucalypts.

Extracts from Alice Henry; *The Power of Pen and Voice. The Life of an Australian-American Labour Reformer* by Dianne Kirkby.

"her [Alice] greatest joy in this period appears to have been the freedom she enjoyed of an outdoors life, the small pleasure of bringing cows in to be milked, or of tracking down the eggs carefully hidden by her mother's prized fowls. Her brother was a constant playmate during these years. They enjoyed a closeness that in later life can probably be traced to this time in the bush when they only had each other for company and Alice could enjoy the freedom her brother did. "No sex division, still less sex inferiority, obstructed itself on my mental picture", she later said. There were no neighbours close by and as a result of their isolation from other children, "the distinction between qualities and standing between boys and girls were literally unknown to me", she wrote: "I was a person". Alice was an active little person, interested in farming activities of those around her, the animal life of the Australian bush and the vegetation itself.

Alice retained a love for them all her life"

Three years later Charles gave up farming, leasing out the farm and returning to live in Richmond. He later sold the land to the Railways department and they subsequently built the Beaconsfield Railway Station.

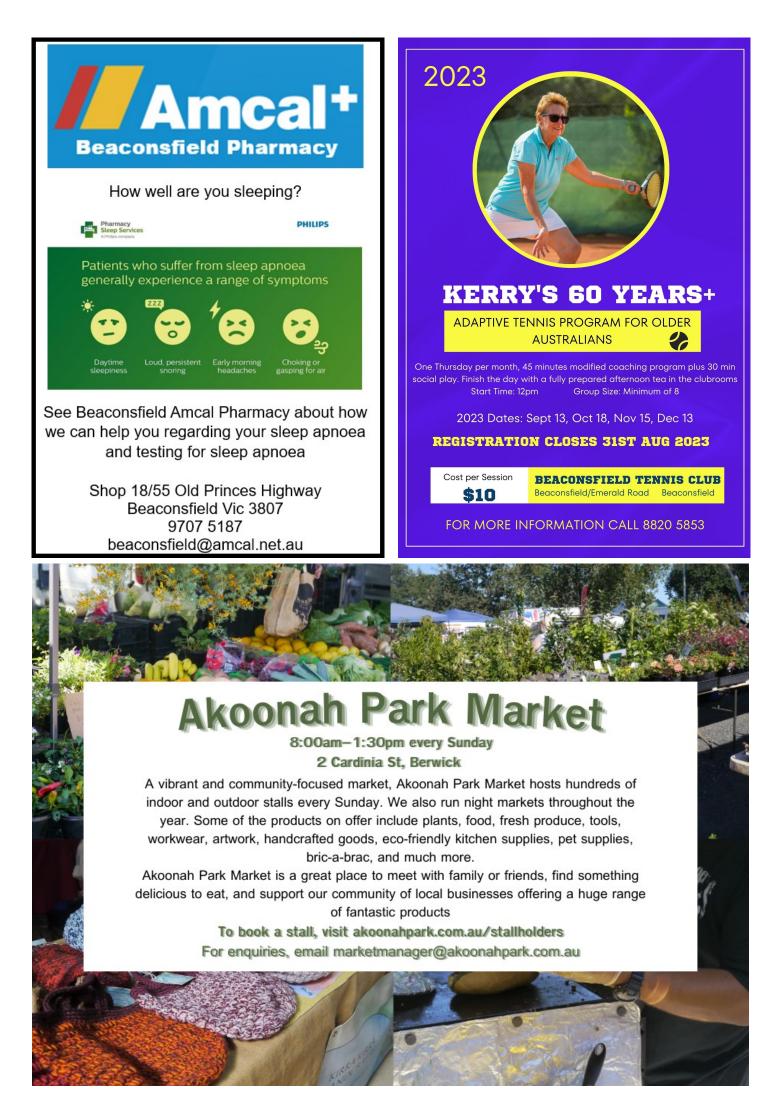
In 1874 Alice graduated with credit from Richard Hale Budd's Educational Institute. She wanted to teach but illness changed her vocation to journalism. She wrote for the Argus and Australasian newspapers.

"Alice Henry went on to become a journalist and suffragist in Melbourne, where she witnessed the growth and upheavals of the Australian labour movement and subsequent experiments in state regulation of industrial relations. During her 28 years in America she became a prominent figure in the



Alice Henry, (image Wikimedia)

(Continued on page 21) 13



**Beaconsfield Banner** 



# **Andrew Devienne**

Director

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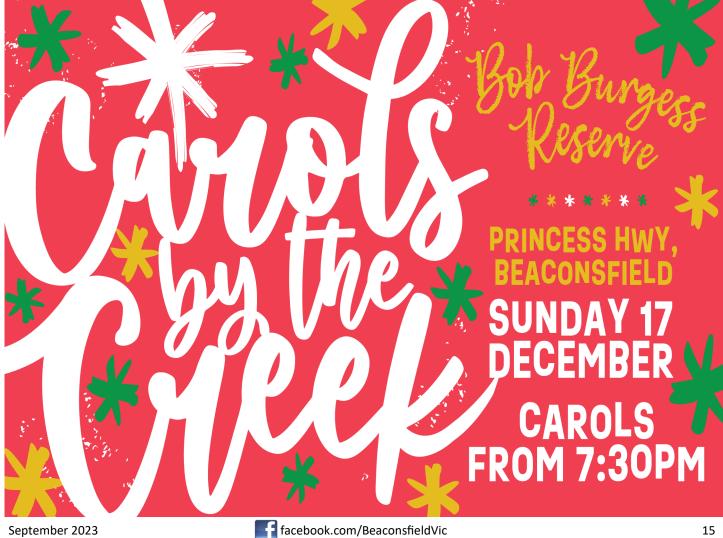


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# Stop kidding yourself. If you drink, don't drive.



Thinking about driving after a couple of drinks? Think again. If you blow .05 or over, you could face serious penalties, including fines, losing your licence, getting an interlock installed in your car and having to blow zero for three years.







# Michael Galea MP

## YOUR STATE LABOR MEMBER FOR **SOUTH EASTERN METROPOLITAN REGION** michael.galea@parliament.vic.gov.au (03) 7501 8688

Authorised by Michael Galea MP 141 Westall Road Clayton South Vic 3169

# 2023 Carols by the Creek

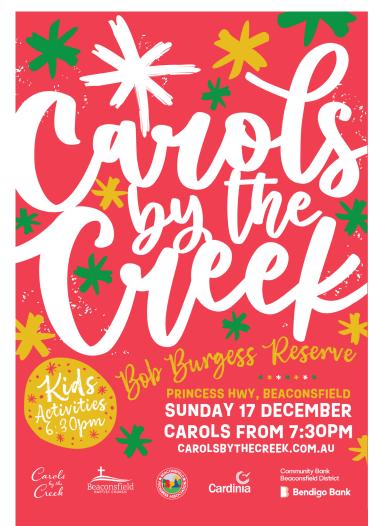
Beaconsfield's annual *Carols by the Creek* is back this year and will be held on Sunday 17th December at 7.30pm with kid's activities starting at 6.30pm. It will be held at Bob Burgess Reserve, located behind the shops and adjacent to Cardinia Creek. Parking is available across the road at Akoonah Park and you can safely cross at the pedestrian traffic lights.

Bring a picnic dinner and let's enjoy Christmas together as a community.

Come along for Christmas carols for the whole family, great music from the Beaconsfield Baptist Church Band, Daughters of the King, the Eleven 88 dancers and Chenuli Haththimuni.

Carols in Beaconsfield have always been popular with the community, and this will be the thirty-third year of the event organised by Beaconsfield Baptist Church and the Beaconsfield Progress Association. In December 1990 Carols by Candlelight was held at Bob Burgess reserve and since then has always been called *Carols by the Creek*.

Look forward to seeing you Sunday 17th December.





# **LXRP Station St Update**



Construction of the new level crossing fly-over between Station Street and Kenilworth Avenue is well under way. Much of the train station parking has been closed during construction.

Earlier this year, the site was established as crews carried out works to prepare for major construction including moving utilities on local roads, installing fencing and building temporary pavements for heavy machinery. Currently they are working 24/7 through November and December digging 193 foundation piles. Unfortunately this means 24/7 noise for the local residents.

The construction of the new bridge required the government to acquire and undertake works within one property on Beaconsfield Avenue, known as the Railway House. The State government have promised that most of the property and key historical elements will be retained, with the new bridge impacting only the extension at the rear of the house, and that the nearby Bunya Bunya Pine tree will also be retained. *(See photo on front cover)* 



## Phone 8768 4400 Neighbourhood Natter

Our Term 4 programs are in full swing until we close on December 15 for the Summer holidays, but newcomers are welcome at any time. The year has zipped by in a blink, and we hope that everyone in our community is feeling the joy and peace of the upcoming festive season.

The Christmas Raffle is our biggest fundraiser each year and we encourage the donation of prizes from our community as well as entries to ensure a successful raffle. Please bring any items that you can contribute to the Children's Room or reception to help us make up some additional prize hampers.



Your chance to win is only \$1 per ticket at Reception or bank transfers are welcome if you can't attend the Centre. Just get in touch to let us know how many tickets you would like.

At the time of writing this article, there were still a few places left for Sharon's Christmas Wreath

workshop on 7th December. For \$95, you will create your own unique, beautiful decoration to take home with lush Christmas foliage to use this year and learn the skills to repeat for years to come. The floral workshops are very popular, so even if this is not your flavour, keep an eye out for the exciting arrangements planned for next year.

We are delighted with the addition of a new European-style laundry in our Craft Room. McCormick Builders, a local business, were wonderful to work with on completing the project. We can now attend to the washing from our Children's Room onsite but also offer our community this facility for times that a few loads of washing need to be done. Contact reception if you need to utilise this service.





We're grateful for Cardinia Shire Council's contribution of half the cabinetry cost from a successful Community Capital Works Grant.

The Safe Seats Safe Kids program is unfortunately wrapping up at the end of this year. This has been an amazing free service for the community to have car seats checked and fitted correctly. Of the more than 16,000 child car restraints inspected across Victoria in 2022 under this program, 86% were incorrectly installed or used. It's gratifying to know that 191 members of our community took advantage of this free service in the last year to help keep their little ones safe.

The final sessions to be held at the Centre are December 1st and 15th and bookings can be organised through www.safeseatssafekids.com.au.

Our AGM was held in October, and although we farewelled a couple of the previous Committee

members due to their other personal commitments, we're pleased to welcome back many of our treasured returning members and greet some new members to our Committee of Management for 2023/2024:

President:	Noel Wyett
Vice President:	Tania Baxter
Secretary:	Katharine O'Carroll
Treasurer:	Sharyn Cronin

General Members:

Valerie Boumann, Maree Hynes, Gwen Neve, Miryam Prasetyo, Hassan Seifeldin, Monica Spiteri and Shoheli Sunjida.

These wonderful volunteers have put their hands up to govern the Centre and ensure we continue to meet our community's needs.

#### BNC Children's Room

We're very excited to see that our 2024 Occasional Care program is in great demand. All the long day sessions are full with waiting lists and just a few places remain available for the Monday afternoon session. If you think you may need Occasional Care next year, let us know so that you are on the list for when places become available. We can also offer casual or emergency placement if there is a vacancy in the session due to absence of a permanent place holder.

We have welcomed Saga to our team in the Children's Room. Saga is a very experienced,



diploma-qualified educator and you can see her gorgeous smiling face on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

A reminder that our Children's Room is available to hire on weekends for children's

parties. At just \$40 per hour, it can provide a great space to make your own and hold your special event. Contact the office for more details on 8768 4400.

Keep an eye out for our 2024 Term 1 Program. As well as the beloved repeating activities and classes, we are looking forward to offering some new programs. Here is a little sample: **Resilience: Break or Bounce.** A discovery path for you by Life Coach Geoff Edwards. How resilient are you? Put aside an hour in your week to focus on you, understand how you face adversity and come back stronger than ever.

Starts Tuesday 20th February 7.00pm – 8.00pm for 5 weeks. Cost \$75

#### Free Hearing Checks with Hearing Australia.

Healthy hearing is a big part of life. It keeps us connected to the people and life we love. Good hearing plays a significant role in helping people stay active, happy and involved in the world around them. A hearing check only takes a few minutes it's a quick and easy way to help identify if your hearing might not be as sharp as it used to be. Not everyone who is experiencing problems hearing may need a hearing aid. Free checks will be offered on Monday 18th March 1.00pm-3.00pm.

#### **Beginners Ballroom Dancing.**

Our current New Vogue, Ballroom & Latin Dancing class is very popular, and we wanted to offer a new class for absolute beginners to learn the basics and go at their own pace. Starts Thursday 8th February 7.30pm-8.30pm for 8 weeks. Cost \$112 per person.

Unfortunately, with the rising costs of the past several years no longer able to be absorbed, we will be increasing our annual membership fees next year. It is still a reasonable cost for a year of amenities at the Centre and the opportunity to attend any of our programs. Annual Family memberships will increase to \$15, Concessions to \$12 and Workshop memberships to \$4. Speak to us at reception if this cost would prohibit your inclusion in our programs.

We will do a letterbox drop of our term program during January to local homes. Hard copies are always available at Reception for every term and the digital version is available on our website <u>www.bncinc.org.au</u> as soon as it is ready. If you would like every edition emailed, please let us know by dropping a line to: <u>program@bncinc.org.au</u>.

Add us on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates. We welcome your enquiries and feedback.

#### Stay connected to your community!

Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre 8 O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield Phone: 8768 4400 Web: <u>www.bncinc.org.au</u>



#### Member for Berwick By Brad Battin MP

As we move forward into

live in. We do know

the summer festive season,

there are many things to be thankful for as part of the vibrant community that we

however, that amongst the

and environment landscape

wonderful thriving people



Brad Battin MP

of social organisations, clubs, schools and businesses there are people who will do it tough this season with the cost of living impacting some in our community.

During this time, is when the spirit of our community shines and we can connect with those who may feel a bit lonely and unsure of reaching out. I ask that we continue to look out for each other and check in as to whether our neighbours are ok and, in the lead up to Christmas that there are no empty seats at our festive tables.

As a follow up to the Beaconsfield Railway Crossing removal project, we have worked tirelessly with members of the community to ensure transparent and effective communication with government. Community members are now working on securing a Community Reference Group (CLG) and we have been informed that the government does not believe a CLG is warranted, scan the QR code to access my speech given in parliament on how I am addressing this issue.

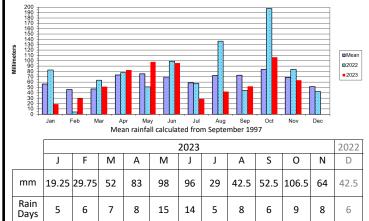
There have been many concerns raised to me about the deteriorating conditions of our roads, with the many potholes around our area in need of repair. Please take care and drive safe, as I continue to raise this issue with government.

If you would like to share your thoughts or any concerns with me, please feel free to contact me on 5953 0216 or brad.battin@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 LinkedIn: Brad-Battin YouTube: Brad Battin MP

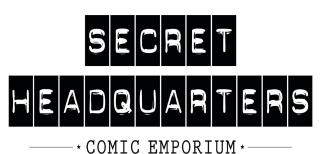


# **Beaconsfield Rainfall**









3/2 Beaconsfield Emerald Rd, Beaconsfield www.secrethqcomics.com.au

Secrethqcomicemporium Fsecretheadquarterscomic

# Alice Henry (Continued from page 13)

Women's Trade Union League and was committed to improving the political and economic rights of wage-earning women, using her powers of "pen and voice" as a writer and lecturer, although she herself struggled to retain economic selfsufficiency as a single woman".

She wrote two books; *The Trade Union Woman*, (1915), and *Women and the Labour Movement*, (1923). Alice wrote many articles and contributed to publications throughout the world. In 1937 she compiled a bibliography of Australian women writers.

Alice died in Malvern on 14 February 1943 and her remains are scattered at Fawkner cemetery. / Sat19 Jun 1943 / Page 4 / Women's World

She was so completley selfless that her personal life was absorbed in her work and service for women who toil, and this had become her very existence. Her old friends and fellow workers will always remember with deep gratitude her vigorous, stimulating mind, her enthusiasm and zeal, her personality and warm friendships.

## In Memoriam

We record with regret the passing on February 14 at the age of 85 of Miss Alice Henry, of Melbourne, Regretfully, writes Mde, Lorton Campbell, president of the Victorian Women's Citizens' Movement, we say "Vale" to an esteemed and faithful member.

Miss Henry matriculated before women were permitted to attend the University. She took up journalism and was on the staff of the "Argus" "Australasian," and the writing many articles on social and political subjects. From 1905 until 1933 she lived in U.S.A. and edited. "Life and Labor," the organ of the National Women's Trade Union League. She wrote two books, "The Trade Union Woman," and "Woman and the Labor Movement," both of which are acknowledged as standard works.

All movements of social and educational progress had her sympathy and support, and in their cause she used her talents unstintingly and well. "The Dawn" is proud to pay a tribute to a faithful supporter, and to the life and work of so fine an Australian feminist.





Our event season is now well and truly underway and we expect thousands of local community people and local businesses through the facility as they prepare for their Christmas break up functions. Food Trucks, DJ's and many more requests are being taken and of course we are happy to accommodate all types of reasonable requests.

The function room and bar facilities are also available and often bookings are being rejected due to the time of year and busy periods. If you're looking for somewhere to hold your next function, be it a work conference, seminar, team building or other event we are happy to host these as well as our popular birthdays, wedding anniversaries, engagements and more. Our function room can seat over 200 people or can be divided to ensure a more intimate setting. Catering can be organised for your event and we have options from BBQ foods through to sit down 2 or 3 course meals.

If you are looking for a cheaper option for your next function contact the Berwick Bowling Club on 9707 1524 or book through our website <u>www.berwickbowlingclub.com.au</u> At the Berwick Bowling Club we are continually seeing new members attend our Friday and Sunday morning, new bowler coaching sessions. People of all ages are welcome to pop down on either of these days and meet our friendly new member coordinators Cheryl & Geoff Dawson who do a fantastic job looking after our new members and teaching them the basics of Lawn Bowls.

Generally, after a session or two, our new bowlers tend to become quite committed in learning the game and being a more consistent bowler as the game of bowls is always much harder than people think. Like golf, bowls can be played competitively or socially, and the club has numerous options for people of the local community to gather and meet new people, have a game of bowls and enjoy spending time with partners or friends either in a competitive or social atmosphere.

The game attracts people from all walks of life including young, middle aged and elderly. Over recent years the development of "bowling arms" have been introduced to ensure that bowlers can continue to play the game, whereas previously not being able if injury or age has hampered their ability to put a bowl down.

Bowls is for everyone, it's inclusive, fun and it will entice you to improve, so call Cheryl or Geoff Dawson on 0400 720 789 and pop down to the club at Edwin Flack Reserve, Manuka Rd, Berwick at 10am on Fridays and Sundays.





The Beaconsfield Football Club wound up a successful 2023 season with a great presentation night event at the Pink Hill Hotel. The undoubted highlight of the night was the induction of our newest Life Member in Michael Fisher in recognition of his wonderful service to both our senior & junior clubs over the past 27 years. It was also great for his family to be in attendance for the presentation. Michael has also made a great contribution to the wider community through his involvement with the Netball Club & the local school association.

Our Thirds team (U/19.5) provided the on-field highlight in taking out the Division One premiership for our first flag in the Eastern FNL. Lots to look forward to from the talented footballers in this team so congratulations to all the players & coaching staff led by Peter Brough.

Best & Fairest in the four teams were as follows – Seniors – Brandon White; Reserves – Justin Markulija; Thirds – Marley Appleyard; Women – Sammie Wilkinson. The Garry Manning award for Best Club Person went to our president **Troy Robinson** for the fourth year in a row.

Our Junior Club has also enjoyed success with premiership wins by our U/16's, U/12 Gold Boys and U/12 Girls teams in a season where 10 of their teams made finals.

Preparations for a big 2024 footy season are well under way with a number of recruits signed up and pre-season training commencing on the 16th November. This will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays through to the week before Christmas.

Off field there was a pleasing response at our recent AGM with a number of new volunteers coming forward to join the committee and provide enthusiasm and support. The club's key office holders are as follows –

President – Troy Robinson; Vice Presidents – Mark Hornstra & Brent Mounter; Secretary – Andrea Cockayne; Treasurer – Nadine Bommert; Football Operations Manager – Paul Matson; Venue Manager – Terry Lock.

Junior Club President – Kym-Maree Ingram.

You can keep up with all the Beacy footy news on our Facebook page and we would encourage you all to get involved with your community club in 2024 whether it's with the Juniors or Seniors but it is great place to form life long connections and friendships.



Our 2023 Thirds premiership team.



Our newest Life Member, Michael Fisher, with daughter Ella, wife D'Arne & son Will, who have all been part of the local sporting community.



#### 2023/24 Committee

Introducing the Beaconsfield Tennis Club 2023/24 Committee

President: Bronwyn McCormick

Vice President: Kat Lazzaro

Secretary: Louise Stirling

Treasurer: Bronwyn McCormick

General Committee: Josh McCormick, Anja Potter, Maurie Potter, Adrian Walsh, Yolanda Agars, and Amy Wilson.

A big thank you goes to the outgoing President, Andrew McKenzie Smith, who held the position since 2012 and outgoing Secretary, Maurie Potter, who has kindly decided to remain on the general committee for 2024. Notable recent achievements by both these gentlemen include obtaining successful grants to upgrade courts 1&2 and maintaining the high standard facilities over the covid lockdowns in recent years. A lot of work happens behind the scenes in running a tennis club and their efforts can be congratulated. Thank you also to Jenny Ponter who also decided to not to continue in the General Committee. We will miss Jen and wish her all the best.

#### **Juniors Tournaments**



Congratulations to the finalists in the junior graded singles tournament held at Beaconsfield Tennis Club on Saturday 4th November 2023

A grade: Zac Di Bartolomeo def Jermaine D'Souza 8-3





B-C grade: Amsana Sasikaran def Darrell Tuano 6-2

**D grade:** Callum Chisholm def Siddhanth Thiyagara 6-4



Congratulations to OTC pupil and Beacy TC junior player, Noah Keltie (left), who dominated the October regional event to steer his team to first place (representing Central Gippsland).

Noah's singles results were... 6/0 6/1 against Goulburn 6/1 6/2 against Loddon 4/6 6/3 10/8 against East Gippsland in the final

#### Halloween at Beaconsfield Tennis Club

Lots of little ghosts, monsters, witches, and dinosaurs turned up to the club for trick and

treating, fun games and some Mummy and Daddy wrapping. Thank you to all our volunteers and the





well-behaved children who were searching for lollies.

#### **Interclub Competition**

#### Midweek Women's Comp

For the ladies, our club participates in the Dandenong and District Tennis Association competition on both Tuesday and Wednesday mornings commencing at 9:30. Contact Anja Potter 0437 074 287

#### Junior competition

For both girls and boys up to the age of 18, our club participates in the Berwick and District Tennis Association on both Saturday and Sunday mornings commencing at 8:00am. Contact Brad Meates 0405 428 208

#### **Senior competition**

Our club participates in the WDTA on Saturday afternoons and is open to all ladies and gentlemen. Contact Adrian Walsh 0425 747 615

#### **Social Competition**

#### Monday/Wed night mixed Comp

Beaconsfield and Officer have two social competitions in collaboration with each other. Wednesday night social is for all abilities for all ages. It's a great night out for those who like a game of tennis but don't take it very seriously. For the more experienced serious player, Beaconsfield/Officer have a Monday night advanced hitters' competition. The format is Rubbers with teams of two. Price per night for both Monday and Wednesday night competitions: Members \$5 and Non members \$10. Contact Maurie on 0437 759 793 for Wednesday night social and contact Josh McCormick on 0458 869 252 for Advanced Hitters.

#### **Casual Men's Thurs night**

For a very casual men only hit, Thursday night is for you. Contact Gavin Baxter 0418 107 363

All night competitions commence at 7:30pm.

#### **Veterans Day Social**

For a Sunday morning social hit, come down to the courts at around 8:00 am for a social hit and free coffee from the canteen. Contact Les Donaldson 0409 435 121

#### **Casual Court Hire**

\$15 per court (per hour)

Book a court is now available through our website: <u>www.beaconsfieldtennisclubinc.com</u>

Go to Court hire and follow the links. The synthetic grass courts are available for hire only when not in use. Competitions and coaching take precedence.

#### Main Contact Details:

All General Queries Ph: (03) 88205853

Facebook: Beaconsfield Tennis Club Community

Mail: P.O. Box 132, Beaconsfield, VICTORIA, 3807

Website: www.beaconsfieldtennisclubinc.com

Coach: Ossie's Tennis Coaching Ph: 0413594633 Email: <u>ossie30@bigpondnet.au</u>



<u>Editors note</u>: Currently the BTC is the only charity in Beaconsfield listed under Victoria's new 10¢ Container Deposit Scheme recycling program (see page 7). It's a great opportunity to recycle your old drink containers and make some money for the Beaconsfield Tennis Club.

# Your Representatives

#### FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

MEMBER FOR LA TROBE Jason Wood MP Unit 3/16 Langmore Lane **BERWICK Vic 3806** 9768 9164 Jason.Wood.MP@aph.gov.au



#### STATE GOVERNMENT

Legislative Assembly (Lower House)

MEMBER FOR BERWICK Brad Battin MP Berwick office address is still to be determined 5953 0216 Brad.Battin@parliament.vic.gov.au



#### Legislative Council (Upper House)

MEMBER FOR SOUTH-EASTERN METRO Ann-Marie Hermans MP Parliament House, Spring Street EAST MELBOURNE, Vic 3002 6951 8911 Ann-Marie.Hermans@parliment.vic.gov.au

MEMBER FOR SOUTH-EASTERN METRO Michael Galea MP 141 Westall Road CLAYTON SOUTH, Vic 3169 7501 8688 Michael.Galea@parliament.vic.gov.au



MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA Harriet Shing MP 216 Commercial Road MORWELL, Vic 3840 5134 8000 Harriet.Shing@parliament.vic.gov.au

#### **CARDINIA SHIRE**

Beacon Hills Ward Cr. Brett Owen B.Owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Officer Ward Cr. Tammy Radford T.Radford@cardinia.vic.gov.au



## **Editor's Note**

With each edition of the Beaconsfield Banner we attempt to capture some of the special things going on in our small town.

A sincere thank you to everyone involved in capturing these special moments by taking the time to prepare and submit articles and photographs.

Perhaps it goes without saying but all of us at the BPA have a passion and love for our great town. If you feel the same way, you can get involved by:

- Attending our monthly public BPA meetings •
- Submitting an article (any subject welcome)
- Advertising in the Beaconsfield Banner

We are very lucky to have so many great businesses in Beaconsfield. There is no clearer illustration of community spirit, than the businesses who advertise in the Banner. More than ever, our local businesses need your support. Please get behind them.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Beaconsfield Banner.

- Editor

## 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. Please send photos as attachments.

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

# Advertising

The Beaconsfield Banner is published quarterly. Pricing per edition for advertising in the Beaconsfield Banner is as follows:

	B&W	Colour
½ page advertisement	\$100	\$150
¼ page advertisement	\$50	\$80
Business card advertisement	\$30	\$50

All advertising enquiries please email to: banner@beaconsfield.org.au.

Advertisements can be submitted by email as Adobe PDF, JPG, PNG, or Microsoft Word document.

#### Next Deadline

The deadline for contributing to the next edition of the Beaconsfield Banner for articles and advertising is

#### 15th February, 2024.

#### Disclaimer

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