

PRESIDENT'S REPORT- 19 April, 2022 Meeting

Welcome to tonight's Meeting on Zoom. We propose to return to having Meetings at Beaconsfield Community Centre and hopefully, we can get members of the community to attend. I will review the documentation forwarded by Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre for the use of a room in time for us to possibly use the room for our next meeting.

I have not attended any Council Meetings since the last BPA Meeting. There were General Council Meetings held on 25 March (which we watched online) and on 11 April. There were items on the Agendas affecting Beaconsfield including the Beaconsfield Reservoir and Open Air Fires Local Law 20. There was a Town Planning Meeting on 4 April with no specific matters affecting Beaconsfield. Details of these Meetings will be provided by Councillors.

1. Beaconsfield Reservoir and Nature Conservation Reserve

The future of the Beaconsfield Reservoir and Nature Conservation Reserve is of interest to many in the community. Melbourne Water have recently released the Beaconsfield Dam Safety Upgrade Report on meeting current guidelines set by the Australian National Committee on Large Dams with strong emphasis on dam safety management principles. A comprehensive Report prepared by Council Officers was tabled at the February Shire Council Meeting. The Resolution passed by Council included commending Cardinia Environment Coalition for work done managing the BNCR and continuing to advocate their ongoing funding, assign the Park Manager Role to a State Government Agency, advocate for enhancements to recreational facilities for the community to experience and for DELWP to fund a long term Strategic Plan for the BNCR.

Melbourne Water held an online session early March presumably at the request of some residents in close proximity to the Beaconsfield Reservoir. Local Community Organisations including BPA were not invited to participate. Thanks to Cr. Brett Owen for forwarding the email trail and asking Melbourne Water that ourselves and Upper Beaconsfield Association be included in future sessions with the next one due to be held early May. It seems that the theme of the session was requesting Melbourne Water to keep the Dam Wall Height and water level unchanged or only minor reductions. If anyone is interested in these online sessions, please advise me.

2. Intersection of Old Princes Hwy and Desmond Court

There has been no response yet from the Dept of Transport in connection with the intersection of the Old Princes Hwy and Desmond Court on requests for further improvements for the Intersection.

3. Open Air Fires Local Law 20

Cardinia Shire Council's proposed Local Law 20 Open Air Fires Laws due to apply from 1 February, 2022 was tabled for discussion at the February Shire Council Meeting. There were a number of changes to the existing Policy. In particular, a new Urban and Township Zone was included which only allows burn-offs at the discretion of Council after permits are applied for each burn-off. This will affect many properties in Beaconsfield previously allowed to have burn-offs subject to certain conditions but without needing permits. Many Submissions were received from throughout the Shire and consideration of the matter was deferred until the Council Meeting held on 21 March. At that Meeting, it was proposed that properties north of Holm Park Road (nos. 41-123) be rezoned as Bushland and Peri-Urban able to burn off without a Permit 4 specific days of the week and with a Permit on the other 3 days. There will be further consultation with property owners before Councillors make a final decision in the next few months.

4. The Winter Edition of the Beaconsfield Banner is due to be produced by the end of May. Thanks to the members who are assisting in obtaining articles and advertisements for the Banner and to Bob Cooper for his work as Editor.

5. Our Beaconsfield Anzac Memorial Service will be held on Sunday 24 April at 2pm at the Cenotaph. A march from the Fire Station will commence at 1.50pm. The Event will be similar to the previous year concerning the service, march and use of Traffic Management. This Event will be discussed at tonight's Meeting. BPA has also received invites for the Anzac Day services for Officer Dawn Service and Upper Beaconsfield RSL Service.

6.Thanks to Colin Brewer for looking into getting another Notice Board at Woolworths per the Drawing which can be discussed tonight.

7.BPA has received an invite for persons to attend a Meeting at UBA on Thursday 28 April commencing at 7.30pm to hear about Community Renewal Energy. Guest Speaker will be Jeff Barlow, President of the Healesville CRE Scheme.

Graeme Taylor – President Beaconsfield Progress Assoc. Inc.