

PRESIDENT'S REPORT- 15 March, 2022 Meeting

Welcome to tonight's Meeting on Zoom. We need to discuss the return to having Meetings at Beaconsfield Community Centre and hopefully, we can get members of the community to attend. I have not attended any Council Meetings since the last BPA Meeting. There was a General Council Meeting held on 21 February which we watched online. As it was the first Meeting for 2022, there were items on the Agenda affecting Beaconsfield including the Beaconsfield Reservoir and Open Air Fires Local Law 20. There was a Town Planning Meeting on 7 March with no specific matters affecting Beaconsfield.

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.

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 next Council Meeting.

4. The Autumn Edition of the Beaconsfield Banner was completed and distributed. Thanks to the members who are assisting in obtaining articles and advertisements for the Banner and to Bob Cooper for his work as Editor. There was less content in this Edition so we all need to use our contacts to ensure we continue to grow the Banner.

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.

6. At the February General Council Meeting, special mentions were made for the late Ruth Croft's contributions to Casey/Cardinia municipalities and, in particular her contributions to National Trust and local history, to Heather Arnold on her retirement from Casey Library for involvement in history matters for Casey/Cardinia and also to Beaconsfield Progress Assoc. for being nominated for an Australia Day Event of the Year for the Australia Day Drive-In Movie.

Graeme Taylor – President Beaconsfield Progress Assoc. Inc.