

BEACONSFIELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC. ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2022

Welcome to this Annual General Meeting . During the year under Covid-19, we have continued to meet as a Committee to fulfill BPA work and had our Meetings on Zoom. However we now have our Meetings in person at the Beaconsfield Community Complex. Due to Covid-19 some Events have had to be modified this year and our achievements reflect on the work done by our Committee, Members and others co-opted. Our Beaconsfield Progress Association (BPA) provides the link between the local residents and businesses with governing authorities predominately our local government Cardinia Shire Council.

At BPA we continue to have a good working relationship with Council staff and my thanks go to Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Cr Brett Owen and Officer Ward Councillor Cr Tammy Radford for their Council representation particularly in Wards incorporating Beaconsfield.

The Beaconsfield Anzac Memorial Service was able to be held last April. Fortunately most Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted enabling the Service to proceed. A crowd of approximately 150 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 James Albert Witham a WW1 Serviceman. Thanks to everyone who participated in the service and those attending, especially returned servicemen and relatives of servicemen and servicewomen. Thanks to Cardinia Shire Council for a Grant to cover the costs of traffic management and other costs of the event. Thanks to Upper Beaconsfield RSL, Beaconsfield CFA, descendants and relatives of all service men and women, Salvation Army Recorder Ensemble, Casey Choir, Andrew Spiering (Piper), Beaconsfield Scouts and Matt the DJ Man(Sound) for making the service possible.

Our Association held a drive-in outdoor movie, The Dish, on Australia Day 2022. This was a family friendly event and we were successful in receiving a grant from Cardinia Shire Council to cover the costs. Much voluntary work was done on planning and on the day for this event. Unfortunately, the event was not supported as well as we hoped. Our Association was nominated for a Cardinia Shire Australia Day award for community events for the drive-in movie. Whilst our nomination was not successful, it was good to have recognition for holding this event and for BPA.

During the year there were a number of Strategic Planning matters affecting Beaconsfield including Woodland Grove Precinct. A Demolition Order was granted to the owner for the Old Post Office building located at 19/21 Woods Street damaged by fire. The original building was one of the oldest in Beaconsfield and had a heritage overlay. Our Association, National Trust and locals objected against the demolition. Some original items from the old building were required to be kept and incorporated into any new replacement building as the heritage overlay remains on the property. Planning applications often involve car parking spaces, building structures and siting. BPA is always keen to represent residents and businesses on planning, traffic and related issues.

The landscape in Beaconsfield is changing. The development of land at Princes Highway after the Old Princes Hwy merge before Tivendale Road for fast food outlets, service station and other stores is nearing completion. The Pink Hill Hotel is about to be opened. These new businesses will provide

Beaconsfield with more retail outlets and a multifunction Hotel. They will also provide employment opportunities for locals.

Cardinia Shire Council's Open Air Fires Local Law 20 changes were adopted at the Council Meeting held on 20 June, 2022. There were some changes to the existing policy. In particular, a new Urban and Township Zone was included which only allowed burn-offs at the discretion of Council after permits are applied for each burn-off. At that Meeting, it was adopted that properties north of Holm Park Road (nos. 41-123) be zoned as Bushland and Peri-Urban, and owners would be able to burn-off without a permit on four specific days of the week and with a permit on the other three days. This policy is subject to future review.

The Community Noticeboards outside Woolworths are being well utilised to inform on Community matters. The Noticeboard is regularly updated by BPA members.

Our Association has again been well represented in local history matters although some Events could not be held due to Covid-19. Beaconsfield BPA history interest group is a member of the Casey- Cardinia Local History Group and we regularly attended their meetings this year on Zoom. Early this year, Cr Brett Owen, historian Penny Harris Jennings and 2 BPA members attended City of Casey Offices to inspect the original Beaconsfield Avenue of Honour nameplates. The historic nameplates are in reasonably good condition and have never been displayed since being made in the late 1920's. Our Association and Berwick Pakenham Historical Society will be applying for a State/Federal Grant to restore and display them.

During the past year even during the Covid-19 period, BPA has continued to produce the Beaconsfield Banner quarterly. The Beaconsfield Banner is available in the printed form from outlets in the town including Beaconsfield Post Office as well as electronically on our website and mobile phones. Thanks to Bob Cooper for his wonderful work as Editor. The Beaconsfield Banner is increasing in content of articles and advertisements with some colour pages enhancing the publication. Our Facebook page continues to be popular and gets many hits.

The proposed refurbishment of the Beaconsfield Reservoir has been widely discussed in the past year but the future 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 released the Beaconsfield Dam Safety Upgrade Report on meeting current guidelines set by 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 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..

To assist with production costs of the Beaconsfield Banner, our Association has received Grants from Cardinia Shire Council of \$900 and from the Australian Government of \$3,027 for Regional and Local Newspapers Publisher Program.

Work is being undertaken to consider the community interest in power saving initiatives, renewable energy and planning for a more environmentally friendly future. Community Power Hubs are being established across Victoria to assist communities to facilitate and implement renewable energy projects. If you are interested in Solar, Home Energy Efficiency microgrids and being part of a local Power Hub, please email secretary@beaconsfield.com.au so that initial interest in Beaconsfield can be assessed.

The Victorian Government is removing dangerous and congested level crossings including Brunt Road and Station Street in Beaconsfield. The level crossings will be removed by building new road bridges over the Pakenham line. Site investigations have been carried out and consultations commenced prior to construction work with the projects expected to be completed by 2025.

The works for the upgrade of the Kath Roberts Reserve and playground equipment were completed and an official opening was held on 6 November. Our Association assisted with the design of an interpretation sign for the park. Speakers at the opening were Mayor Cr Brett Owen, Tien Kieu MP and Jason Wood MP. Two grandchildren of Kath Roberts attended as well as Cardinia Shire Councillors and BPA representatives.

Our Association is always keen to represent residents and businesses as a voice of the Community with State, Federal and Local Government. Our Association would like more people to contribute their aspirations for our Community and also for groups, clubs or organisations. Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Beaconsfield Community Complex . We often have guest speakers to discuss local issues.

GRAEME TAYLOR PRESIDENT BPA INC.