

BEACONSFIELD BANNER

FREE

Triannual Publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association

Summer 2024 Edition

Christmas Trees Have Sprouted

For the second year, volunteers have installed Christmas trees around Beaconsfield to brighten up the town for the coming Christmas season.

See more photos on page 21

Photo - Robert Cooper

Upcoming Public Events

Beaconsfield Progress Association meetings open to the public
at the Beaconsfield Community Centre - 3rd Tuesday of each month @7:30pm

Carols by the Creek - Bob Burgess Reserve
Sunday, 22nd December. Carols from 7:30pm

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MEMBER 2024

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 in the town at businesses including the

Beaconsfield Post Office and Beaconsfield Pharmacy.

A significant local issue we are dealing with is the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) and, in particular, the Level Crossing at Station Street. Work on the project continues at a fast rate and, at times, works are happening 24/7. In particular, works have continued on the road bridge overpass which is overwhelming in size and will significantly change the landscape. Works on the roundabout at Goff St/ Beaconsfield Ave continue and are nearly complete. Fortunately the old 'Railway House' has been mostly left intact apart from the section at the rear used as a sunroom. An Arborist inspected the Bunya Bunya pine and reported it was in good condition. Some members and also local residents recently attended the Local Community Reference Group to discuss concerns of local residents with the LXRP works. The meeting was arranged by Michael Galea MP and was also attended by Cr Brett Owen.

Engage Victoria has commenced a survey to name the Beaconsfield road bridge as it is a new road. BPA has been consulted and the nominations are Rushton Road, McKenna Drive, Nott Drive and Parklands Drive. The survey must be lodged by 15 December, 2024 and can be done online at www.engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-station-streets-beaconsfield-and-officer

For future place names, Cardinia Shire Council encourages locals to nominate individuals who have left a notable legacy within the community to be included in the Victorian Governments' Name a Place Campaign. This campaign spotlights local heroes for commemorating them when place naming new streets, parks, community facilities and buildings.

Melbourne Water have continued a slow drawdown of the Beaconsfield Reservoir. The drawdown will be over 3 years reducing the water level by 4.85M AHD. This will result in extended areas of wetlands to

enhance the ecology. This accords to the Melbourne Water Partial Upgrade Plan which is the supported position of the BPA. We look forward to future works hopefully to include amenities in the BNCR so that the reservoir and BNCR are a safe park which the public can access and enjoy in the future. However, responsibilities of BNCR stakeholders are unclear.

BPA recently received a Cardinia Shire Wellbeing / Support Grant of \$1,000 for our Operation Christmas Trees and Decorations at Beaconsfield. After last year's fabulous Christmas Trees Display, we intend to have Beaconsfield looking great this year with 11 trees at 4 locations. We are also engaging with the local community including Beaconsfield Primary School, Beaconsfield Tennis Club and co-opted members.

Works are nearly finished on the Jim Parkes Reserve upgrade and it is currently available for use. There was extensive consultation with the community to discuss the upgrade of most of the reserve and playground equipment. This reserve has always been popular with children particularly due to being close to Beaconsfield Primary School.

The works on Bonette Reserve are nearly complete and it is looking good now that the seating has been installed.

Carols by the Creek will be held at Bob Burgess Reserve on Sunday, 22 December. Organisers are hoping for fine weather and a good crowd for this family friendly event.

Our Incorporated Association held its Annual General Meeting on 15 October at the Beaconsfield Community Complex. All the Association Office Bearers' positions were declared vacant and were elected, as follows:

- President: Graeme Taylor
- Vice President: Colin Brewer
- Treasurer: Andrew Brewster
- Secretary: Ann Taylor

General committee members: Suzanne Brewer, Bronwyn McCormick and Robert Cooper

Thanks to everyone who will serve on our community association for the next year.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and have a great 2025.

Graeme Taylor, President, BPA, Inc.

Beacon Hills Ward Councillors' Report

Cardinia Shire's new council declared

Cardinia Shire Council is pleased to welcome our newly elected Councillors for the next council term 2024-2028.

The results of Cardinia Shire's local government elections were officially declared by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) today.



The Jim Parkes Reserve revitalisation is supported and funded by Council and the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

The upgrade provides additional opportunities for recreation, relaxation and play and bringing the community together.

The 9 successful candidates per ward are as follows:

- **Beacon Hills Ward: Brett Owen**
- **Bunyip Ward: Alanna Pomeroy**
- **Central Ward: Collin Ross**
- **Henty Ward: Liz Roberts**
- **Officer Ward: Samantha-Jane Potter**
- **Pakenham Hills Ward: Jack Kowarzik**
- **Ranges Ward: David Nickell**
- **Toomuc Ward: Casey Thomsen**
- **Westernport Ward: Trudi Paton**

To view the full results of the Cardinia Shire Council election please visit the Victorian Electoral Commission website: www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2024-local-council-elections/cardinia-shire-council/results

Revitalisation of Jim Parkes Reserve – Souter Street, Beaconsfield

Featuring a new playground, open space, gathering areas, landscaping and a new shelter, the reserve in Souter Street, Beaconsfield is now available for families to enjoy.



The upgraded park will be officially opened early next year. I encourage residents to check it out!

For more information on Jim Parkes Reserve, please visit - www.creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/jim-parkes-beaconsfield

Naming of the new road bridge - Station Street, Beaconsfield



The Station Street Beaconsfield Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) is a state project that is constructing a road

(Continued on page 6)

Councillors' Report

(Continued from page 5)

bridge over the level crossing between Kenilworth Avenue and Beaconsfield Avenue. The project is now undertaking community consultation, requesting feedback on the naming of the new road bridge.

The LXR project team has worked with Geographic Naming Victoria (GNV) and Beaconsfield Progress Association (BPA) to consult and gather eligible proposed names to consider for the Beaconsfield LXR Road naming consultation, as well as seeking the relevant family, consent an important requirement according to GNV's road naming rules.

LXR have received endorsed names by GNV and are compliant with the road naming rules as well as receiving relevant family consent as such have gone out to consultation with the community for feedback on Engage Victoria which has all the details.

Feedback closes on 15 December 2024 and I would encourage residents to provide feedback to the project at: www.engage.vic.gov.au/lxrp-station-streets-beaconsfield-and-officer

Inviting nominations for local heroes to be commemorated in future place naming in Cardinia Shire

Cardinia Shire locals are encouraged to call upon extraordinary individuals who have left a notable legacy within the community and nominate them in the Victorian Government's Name a Place Campaign.

Over the next three years, the Victorian Government seeks to name over 6,000 new places in the State with the names of people who helped make our communities thriving places.

The Name a Place Campaign spotlights local heroes by commemorating them when place naming new streets, parks, community facilities and buildings.

When considering a nomination, an application should include a short biography on the nominee, information on their connections to a certain area, why they are being nominated and documentation of support from the nominee's next of kin or family members.

Council encourages Cardinia locals to get behind the campaign and shine a light on many locals deserving

of recognition within the shire.

There are many notable individuals who have left meaningful legacies within our community, and these are the kinds of individuals who have helped make Cardinia Shire the vibrant place it is today. Through public nominations we can learn about these individuals and honour their contributions in future place naming opportunities.

Nominations made on behalf of Cardinia Shire community members will be collated by Geographic Names Victoria (GNV) and provided to Council to store in a name bank to be considered for future use within the municipality.

Nominations for the Name a Place Campaign are open until 16 December 2024.

To learn more about the Name a Place Campaign and submit a nomination please visit the Engage Victoria website at: www.engage.vic.gov.au/name-a-place

Council invites expressions of interest for local business exhibitors

We're putting a call out for Cardinia businesses to register their interest to exhibit at the upcoming Jobs and Skills Showcase.

The 2025 Jobs and Skills Showcase will be held on Wednesday 26 March at the Cardinia Cultural Centre and will provide an opportunity for local job seekers to connect with local businesses.

Attendees will gain free career advice and can take part in workshops designed to help enhance skills to support them as they enter the job market.

Exhibitors will have a platform to showcase their business offerings, promote their job vacancies and network with attendees.

This expression of interest to exhibit is open to all local businesses from a variety of industries who have current job vacancies or pathways available.

The cost to exhibit is \$30. To submit an expression of interest please visit Cardinia Business website. www.creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cardinia-business

Restoration works -Berwick Views Estate/ Coronel Wetlands Boardwalks

As part of council's Bridge Renewal Program, council have replaced sections of the existing timber boardwalk along the wetland area and upgraded the path near Fieldstone Boulevard and Beaconsfield-Emerald Road.



Works included:

- removal existing timber structure
- piling work
- installation of new structure with decking
- installation of bump rail along path.

The footpath network in the wetlands area



previously consisted of timber boardwalks and concrete pathways, and to ensure community safety and access, it was important that the boardwalk was replaced and updated.

The works on the Rotunda and associated boardwalk abutting Sanctuary Way continue.

Jingle all the way to the FREE 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 Recycling Transfer Station in Pakenham, the event accepts unlimited residential loads of cardboard (clean and dry) and paper only.

Dates and times:

- Friday 27 Dec, 8am – 4pm
- Saturday 28 Dec, 8am – 2:30pm
- Monday 30 Dec, 8am – 4pm
- Thursday 9 Jan, 8am – 4pm
- Friday 10 Jan, 8am – 4pm
- Saturday 11 Jan, 8am – 2:30pm

Residents must present photo ID as proof of residence within Cardinia Shire to access the free service.

Residents can also take advantage of the free e-waste (any item that has a battery, cord or plug, and is at the end of its useful life) and battery disposal options available at this local transfer station all year round.

For more information, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff

Merry Christmas

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council, I would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a safe 2025. Take care.

Brett Owen
Councillor
Beacon Hills Ward
Cardinia Shire Council



Beaconsfield CFA



As we head into summer it is a timely reminder of the dangers that hot, dry and windy weather pose as a fire risk increases and how preparation is vital. If you have a fire plan now is the time to

review it. If you need assistance with preparing one please go to Plan and Prepare. You will find it at www.fireplanner.vic.gov.au

One of the most important parts, if you live in a high fire risk area, is to ensure you have at least the following items if you need to evacuate quickly;

- Drivers licence and passport
- Phone and charger
- Laptop and/or irreplaceable photos
- Pet transport box

Recently the fire danger ratings were updated as follows;

- Moderate - Plan and prepare
- High - Be ready to act
- Extreme - Take action now to protect life and property

- Catastrophic - For your survival leave bushfire areas

The brigade continues to be busy with call outs ranging from stolen cars dumped and burned, to a motor vehicle collision at the O'Shea and Princes Freeway area. Please take care here as the problem here appears to be the lack of attention particularly with RED arrows.

Finally on behalf of all our members have a safe and happy Christmas.

Tony Lukas



2 stolen cars set alight after being dumped in Manna Gum reserve Beaconsfield, mid October.

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Second Monday of the month
10am - 11:30am



Come and work on your family history journey alongside other passionate researchers!

Monday 9th December
Monday 13th January
Monday 10th February

 [visit: myli.au/events](http://myli.au/events)

Bookings appreciated



BEACONSFIELD BANNER

Would you be interested in being a part of the Beaconsfield Banner?

The Banner is a quarterly publication produced by volunteers.

If you're interested in being a regular contributor on any subject or current local news events, or a photographer, we'd like to hear from you.

Are you in High School or Uni and are interested in journalism?

Or if you'd be interested in organising in the background on our committee, please let us know.

Contact the Banner at banner@beaconsfield.org.au





BEACONSFIELD KINDERGARTEN



LEVEL CROSSING REMOVAL PROJECT

Beaconsfield Kindergarten O'Neil Rd was excited to partner with the Level Crossings Removal Project on their student artwork project.



These have been photographed and printed and a unique art display has been created around the construction area during the works at Beaconsfield station.

In total across all groups we have created 14 unique artworks that reflect the children's ideas about what is important to them. Through a process of observation, reflection and consultation some beautiful themes emerged.



This is another example of the Kindergarten's strong connection to our local community and we thank the Level Crossings Removal Project for the opportunity to be involved.

Caring for our country and each other, the importance of play, family, and friendship and experimenting with self-expression of ideas and emotions. The children are so proud of their collaborative artworks and are excited to be sharing them.



Discovering Art and Craft at Red Fox Pottery Studio

Gallery By Susi Fraser

Nestled in the heart of Berwick, Victoria, Red Fox Pottery Studio Gallery is more than just a space for handcrafted ceramics—it's a creative hub celebrating the artistry of clay. Founded to bring the joy of pottery to enthusiasts and collectors alike, this gallery showcases an impressive range of handcrafted items, from delicately carved mugs to statement vases, each exuding a unique charm thanks to its artisanal touch.



A Haven for Handmade Excellence

At Red Fox Pottery, every piece tells a story. The studio specialises in handmade pottery crafted from high-quality stoneware. Popular items include their carved handled mugs, known for their speckled stoneware finish and organic shapes, and a selection of seasonal ceramics that add warmth to any home. Each piece is dishwasher-safe and designed with practicality and beauty in mind, highlighting the delicate balance between form and function.

Workshops for Every Skill Level

Beyond its gallery offerings, Red Fox Pottery thrives as a community space, hosting workshops and classes throughout the year. Whether you're a novice seeking to explore the basics of wheel throwing or an experienced potter looking to refine your skills, the studio provides a supportive and inspiring environment for creative growth. Participants often leave not just with newfound skills but also with pieces they've crafted themselves.

Unwind with Wednesday Clay Play

One of the studio's most popular events is "Wednesday Clay Play," a casual and fun session designed for people of all skill levels. Perfect for

midweek relaxation, this drop-in class invites participants to experiment with various techniques while enjoying the therapeutic nature of working with clay. Whether you're moulding your first bowl or refining a sculpture, this session is a great way to unwind and get creative.



Celebrating Artistic Diversity

Red Fox Pottery also collaborates with a variety of Australian artists, featuring their work in the gallery to celebrate the country's rich cultural and artistic diversity. This curated selection offers visitors the opportunity to explore and purchase unique artworks beyond ceramics, further enriching the creative experience.

Visit or Get Involved

The studio is located at 73 Intrepid Street, Berwick, and is open on select days for visitors to immerse themselves in the world of handmade artistry. For those looking to bring a touch of Red Fox into their lives, their online store also offers many of their creations.

Red Fox Pottery is not just a gallery; it's a space where art, education, and community come together. Whether you're a collector, a budding artist, or simply curious about pottery, this vibrant studio welcomes you to explore the world of ceramics with them.

For more information, visit their website:

www.redfoxpottery.com.au

Red Fox
Pottery
STUDIO & GALLERY

See ad on page 13

Carols by the Creek 2024 By Glynn Owen

Beaconsfield's annual Carols by the Creek is back this year and will be held on Sunday 22nd December at 7.30 pm with kid's activities starting at 6.30pm.

Held at Bob Burgess Reserve, this will be the thirty-fourth year the event has been organised by the Beaconsfield Baptist Church in conjunction with the Beaconsfield Progress Association. Parking is available across the road at the shopping centre car 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 local performer Chenuli Haththimuni.

Look forward to seeing you Sunday 22nd December.



Beaconsfield Dental wins FDI Sustainability Award

Congratulations to Dr Robert Panjkov on winning the FDI (World Dental Federation) individual sustainability award. Beaconsfield Dental had been at the forefront of environmental sustainability for over ten years.

Measures include :

- 144 solar panels capable of generating over 200 kWh of electricity on a good day. This equates to over 300,000 kWh generated in 20 years and a saving of over 350 tonnes of CO2.
- 17,000 litre water tank capacity for garden irrigation and toilet flush saving 100,000 litres of water per year.
- Indigenous and native garden including edibles
- 14 compost bins for food waste, shredded and scrap paper and garden clippings
- Water tanks painted with Victoria's floral and faunal emblems
- Tesla charger
- Solar hot water
- Rubbish collection by the staff and dentists of the surrounding area including Akoonah Park.

For a full explanation of Beaconsfield Dental's sustainability measures, go to www.beaconsfielddental.com.au

Beaconsfield Dental-Caring for the Community and the Environment.

- FDI (International Dental Federation) 2024 Individual Sustainability Award won by Dr Robert Panjkov
- Winner 2022 Casey Business Awards Sustainability Category.
- Finalist 2022 Premier's Sustainability Awards Sustainable Places and Destinations - Industry Leader
- Finalist 2019 Casey Cardinia Business Awards Health, Education and Well-being.
- Finalist 2018 Casey Cardinia Business Awards for Health, Education and Well-being.
- Winner 2018 Premier's Sustainability Awards Health Category.
- Finalist 2019 Melbourne Awards for Sustainability
- Finalist 2018 Melbourne Awards for Sustainability.
- Finalist 2016 Premier's Sustainability Awards
- Winner 2015, 2016, 2017 Casey Cardinia Business Awards for Sustainability and the Environment.





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- Cub Scouts – 8-11 years old – Tuesday 6.45-8.15pm
- Scouts – aged 11-15 years old – Thursday 7-9pm
- Venturer Scouts – 15-18 years old – Monday 7.30-9.30pm
- Cumoot Rover Unit – 18-25 years old – Monday 7.30-9.30pm

Contact: beaconsfieldscoutgroup@gmail.com



Beaconsfield Officer
Scout Group

Red Fox Pottery

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73 Intrepid St. Berwick
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Akoonah Park Market is a vibrant and community-focused market, which hosts over 350 indoor and outdoor stalls every Sunday from 8:00am–1:30pm.

Delicious food and drinks, a huge variety of stalls, and live entertainment are just some of the reasons to support local at Akoonah Park Market this weekend!

Visit us at 2 Cardinia St, Berwick

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas





Andrew Devienne
Director

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✉ adevienne@synergyitservices.com.au
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- Di & Darren Sumner, Sellers, 8 Florence Terrace, Beaconsfield



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We welcome new members

To find out more information please contact Helen Kusters
Phone: 0412 170 300 Email: officerprobussecretary@gmail.com

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Make and Mingle

Make and Mingle meets every Wednesday 10am-12 noon during school term at Beaconsfield Baptist Church, 7 Desmond Court. We finish 4th term on 4th December 24 and return Wednesday 5th February 2025.

Each week we have craft and a cuppa and lots of time to chat. There are also many craft ideas shared with greeting cardmaking and quilting, patchwork, embroidery and knitting. Everyone is welcome.

We have been able to raise money with Doreen's beautiful beaded angels for the Oncology unit of St John Of God hospital in Berwick. Erica and Anne visited Make and Mingle to tell us of some of the work by volunteers in the unit. We also make Breast Cancer comfort cushion packs which go to the hospital. The group has been also knitting teddy bears for children in Casey hospital. Some girls have made special clothes for babies and toddlers which are sent to East Timor.

Your used postage stamps can help raise money for Missions. You may be receiving Christmas cards so please save the stamps from the envelopes. If you save the stamps, please leave them on the envelopes or with a big margin around them and drop off to Beaconsfield Baptist Church. The stamps are then trimmed and sorted and go to stamp dealers and the money raised helps support missions both in Australia and overseas.



You are very welcome to come along to Make and Mingle for a cuppa and a chat.

Contact:

makeandmingle@beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au



WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 10-12

MAKE & MINGLE

~ Friendship and Craft Group ~

Bring along your craft or just come for a cuppa and a chat. Make and Mingle meets every Wednesday morning during the school term.

Beaconsfield Baptist Church.
7 Desmond Court, Beaconsfield, VIC 3807.

ENQUIRIES:
makeandmingle@beaconsfieldbaptist.com.au



Phone 8768 4400

Neighbourhood Natter

Term 4 is well underway and as we think about decking the halls with holly and tinsel and finishing up the year with cheer, we're also busy planning next year's activities.

We're delighted to welcome Edward Nass to our team.

Edward is a professional musician and will share his love of music with our members by facilitating a

couple of new music groups.



The Guitar Strumming Group is a session for beginners who want to learn to play the guitar as a rhythm instrument and/or to play along with others in a group. For those who have never played before you will learn some basic chords and strumming patterns. For the more intermediate players, it will be an opportunity to learn and share ways to vary the playing of a song. You will need a guitar, tuner, music stand and a capo. Expressions of interest now being taken for Monday evenings and/or Wednesday afternoons.

Expressions of interest are also open for our newly restructured Singing Group. Basing our songs on covers from the 50s to the 70s chosen by the attendees, Edward will strum along and add some tunes to the words. This is a friendly, social group where fun and singing are priority. We would be looking at running sessions possibly on a Monday morning monthly but please still register your name

if this does not work and advise what times and days would be preferable. Please contact the office on 8768 4400 to register your details.

The funds we receive from Community Bank Beaconsfield District have been an amazing help to purchase pantry staples that keep our Free Community Pantry as a dependable source of food for those in need. This recent bulk order will be gone in just a week or two!



Community Bank

We encourage you to like and follow the Bank's page: www.facebook.com/communitybankbeaconsfielddistrict

On Monday 24th March, there will be a Gambling Harm Prevention Talk from 7.00pm-8.30pm. This free session will be facilitated by Better Health Network with the aim of providing tips for talking to young people about gaming and gambling, the various forms of gambling, the effects of gambling harm, the relationship between gaming and gambling and lastly, where to get help from.

Another free talk next year is Live at Home for Longer. You will be provided with advice, tips and insights on how to continue living in your own home well into your senior years. The seminar is tailored for those aged over 65 years who want to know how to access government-funded subsidies to help them live happily at home for longer. The seminar also provides advice on navigating the 'My Aged Care' system. Book your place for Wednesday 26th February 10.30am-12 noon.

The BNC program has all the details of our regular activities and workshops that take place. We do our annual letterbox drop of the Term 1 Program and hope to attract some new neighbours who may not know about what goes on here. If you don't see a copy delivered to you in January, it's always available on our website www.bncinc.org.au or call past the Centre for a hard copy from reception.

We successfully held our Annual General Meeting in

October and celebrated another thriving year of the Centre's operations. It is with pleasure that we announce our 2024-2025 Committee of Management:

- Noel Wyett (President)
- Maree Hynes (Vice President)
- Sharyn Cronin (Treasurer)
- Katharine O'Carroll (Secretary)
- Valerie Boumann
- Miryam Prasetyo
- Monica Spiteri
- Louise Stirling
- Bronwyn Thomas

These special people who have volunteered their time and skills to help govern our organisation are greatly appreciated. It is an increasingly complex job to stay abreast of legislation and compliance to run a not-for-profit organisation like ours, so increasing gratitude and respect is due to our wonderful committee.

You can have a look under the Resources tab on our website if you'd like to view our Annual Report (www.bncinc.org.au/forms), or contact us if you would rather see a hard copy.

BNC Children's Room

The Children's Room has been a bustling hive of activity and we're so pleased to know that our 2025 Occasional Care enrolments are mostly full. You can still contact us at any time to enquire about the program and join the waiting list for your preferred session. You can also be on the list to be notified for casual/emergency placement that is offered on a first come, first served basis.



This dear little chap came visiting the playground and has been affectionately named Occa. Such interesting discussions with the children ensued and we hope Occa becomes a regular visitor.

As another year draws to its end, we thank our wonderful educators in the Children's Room for all they do for the children in their care. We're very proud of the program, and we have an amazing team

of skilled women doing an awesome job!

We're very excited to introduce our new Playgroup Facilitator for 2025, Alicia Alan. Alicia comes to us with a strong background in child development and a passion to share her knowledge and ideas to create an engaging playgroup. We welcome Alicia to the Children's Room team and look forward to her fresh, new program.



Playgroup enrolment for 2025 is open from Monday 25th November. Two sessions are available: Tuesdays 9.00am-11.00am or 11.30am-1.30pm. A non-refundable deposit of \$20 will secure your position in your preferred group. The deposit is deducted from your Term 1 fees. We continue to take enrolments throughout the year, although you may be required to join a waiting list if your ideal session is full. So jump in now!

For those of you who know Judith, our previous Playgroup facilitator, she is staying with the team and focussing on Occasional Care sessions. Thanks to Judith for contributing over 10 years to Playgroup and supporting so many young families as they connect and have fun.

We wish everyone a safe and happy festive season. Our office will be closed from Friday December 13th until Wednesday January 29th. Staff will be enjoying the Summer Holidays and only checking messages periodically during the break, but we will get back to you at the earliest opportunity.

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

[Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre](#)
8 O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield
Phone: 8768 4400 Web: www.bncinc.org.au

Beaconsfield Reservoir - Impending Loss of a Valuable and Essential Local Landmark

by Harry Jensen

More of the public needs to become aware of the serious bush fire risk and lack of community safety that will ultimately be created by Melbourne Water's decision to drain most of the water from the 106 year old historic Beaconsfield Reservoir. This reservoir is

situated inside Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve and lies between Beaconsfield, Officer and Upper Beaconsfield. With around 120,000 residents currently living in Cardinia Shire, and that number

set to steadily increase over the next few years, it is time that many more residents became concerned at what is happening out of the public's sight, and what safety issues could ultimately impact hundreds of local residents. Melbourne Water's decision to drain the water from the reservoir will pose an existential threat from a major bush fire to the local environment, native wildlife, and residents, especially the new housing estates being built North of the Princes Highway in Beaconsfield and Officer!

At least 440 Megalitres of precious and irreplaceable

water is being drained from Beaconsfield Reservoir in a controversial and unconsulted decision by Melbourne Water. There was no discussion between Melbourne Water and our communities, merely a lecture with a Power Point Presentation in 2018. That was followed a year later with six small group information sessions that Melbourne Water ran,

which confirmed Melbourne Water's preferred decision upon the local community. Any community based concerns were never discussed and the lectures were still only presented to just the townships of Upper Beaconsfield and Beaconsfield!



Officer, which is the most relevant township that could be affected by this highly improbable flood event from the reservoir, was never approached and never received the lecture, despite being just a small distance down the Princes Hwy

from the other two townships. Officer is by all accounts the most likely area where this "Flood" as claimed by Melbourne Water would cross the highway, following the path of the Gum Scrub Creek. The residents in Upper Beaconsfield and Beaconsfield were never going to be affected by this claimed flood event, because either they live at



a higher elevation than the reservoir, or their properties are on the other side of hills which bar any water flowing from the reservoir.

The impending loss of the water from Beaconsfield Reservoir will have a

detrimental outcome in another wildfire situation, like the 1983 Ash Wednesday Fire which left a disastrous aftermath. That fire, headed along Cardinia Creek towards Beaconsfield, destroying many homes, properties and bushland, and we

(Continued on page 25)

Oh, Christmas Tree

Photos by Bronwyn McCormick



Merry

Christmas



Member for Berwick

By Brad Battin MP



Brad Battin, MP

As we head into the Christmas and New Year season, where life can be fast paced, I hope you have the time to take a moment and reflect on family, friends and our beautiful community. I appreciate the time to reflect, as it provides

me the opportunity to be thankful of the life I have with my family. This helps me to see the work I can continue to do and contribute to in my role as your member of parliament for the Berwick electorate.

We continue to achieve so much together and, on this occasion, I would like to thank everyone who has supported Sarah's Hope brain cancer fundraiser to raise much needed funds into brain cancer research. At the time of writing this article, Sarah is weeks away from completing the Point to Pinnacle challenge. We have so far raised \$34 928 and hope to meet our goal of \$45 000 which will fund a post graduate student for 12 months. Head to my website for details on how to donate.

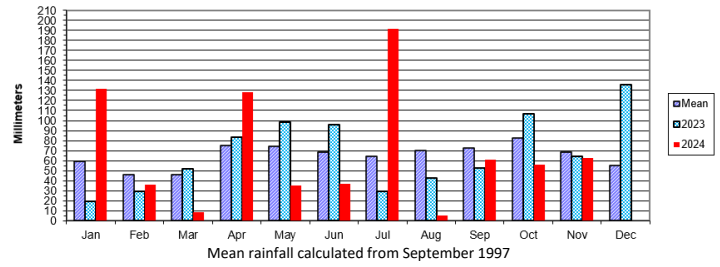
The current cost of living has affected a lot of people in our community, with many feeling the pinch of rising prices on everything from groceries to fuel. Small businesses have been forced to adapt, often at significant expense, and some have had to make tough decisions just to keep their doors open. Yet, community members have shown remarkable support, choosing to shop local.

This is a good time to remind everyone to be ready for the fire season with an up to date Fire Plan in place and to check in on those who may need a hand over the holiday season.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, may this time be filled with joy, love and special time spent with family and friends.

Please feel free to drop by my office if you have any questions or comments to share, or you can contact me on 5953 0216 or via berwick@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, Linked In: Brad-Battin and YouTube – Brad Battin.

Beaconsfield Rainfall



	2024												2023
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
mm	131.5	36	9	128.1	27	37	191.2	5.2	61	56	63	136.5	
Rain Days	8	4	3	11	3	4	16	5	6	6	7	10	



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The Beaconsfield Football Club wound up a successful 2024 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 Troy Robinson in recognition of his outstanding service to Beaconsfield FC. Troy is now the club's longest serving president, along with his amazing commitment to the club's female footballer's program as both a coach & advocate.

Our Senior team made it through to a Preliminary Final and still have lots of growth with their youthful team.

Marley Appleyard provide the individual highlight in winning the league Best & Fairest in the U/19.5 competition.



Best & Fairest in the four teams were as follows –

Seniors – Devon Smith;
Reserves – Josh Orgill;

Thirds – Marley Appleyard; Women – Madison Blackburn.

The Garry Manning award for Best Club Person went to long serving committee member & trainer Hughie Matthews. The Alex Robson award went to captain Damien Johnston, and the Judy Ruse award to Courtney Williams. Jason Budge became just the 20th member of our "200 Club" when he played his 200th games in August.

Preparations for a big 2025 footy season are well under way with a number of recruits signed up, including the return of former Beacy player Jake Aarts who brings a fantastic football resume including his 42 AFL games with Richmond, along with best & fairest at Richmond's VFL team as well as



Jason Budge running out in his 200th club game.

Dromana in the MPNFL 1st Division. It's great to have Jake and his family back at Beacy.

Mick Fogarty continues as Senior coach, John Stevens takes on the Development team (after being asst coach of the Thirds), with Peter Brough continuing as Thirds coach. Glen Davies takes over as Women's coach after being John Blackburn's assistant in 2024.

Pre-season training commences on the 19th November and will continue on Tuesdays & Thursdays through to the week before Christmas.

Off field there was excellent attendance 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 President – Hugh Matthews; Secretary – Andrea Cockayne; Treasurer – Leon Heinze; Venue Mgr – Terry Lock.

Sponsorship is a crucial ingredient in operating our football club and a great way for local business to get involved & also gain exposure to a large local community organisation. For more information, please contact our Sponsorship Manager, Scott Hilton on 0455 963 179.

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 2025 whether it's with the Juniors or Seniors but it is a great place to form life long connections and friendships.



Club Championships

Congratulations to our 2024 Club Champions. Boys singles champion, Finn Meates def Zach Wilson. Girls singles champion, Lizzy def Anna Bhojani. Ladies singles champion, Emma Osborne def Kat Lazzaro. Junior graded singles finalists Jett Dunn def Avreen Gill. Men's club championship final: Luke Sankey def Craig Sankey. Senior doubles finalists: Luke & Craig Sankey def Adrian Walsh & Matthew Hassall. Well done! Thank you to Paul and Tyler from Ossie's Tennis Coaching at Beaconsfield for assisting our committee in running this event. Special thankyou to NeuroEd Educational Consultancy for your sponsorship of the junior event. Trophies will be presented to all winners at the end of year Christmas breakup.



Coaching Award Finalists

Congratulations to Paul Osborne on winning the 2024 TCA Club Coach of the year. The 2024 Tennis Coach Awards was held at the Royal South Yarra Tennis Club on the 8th of September. Several committee, coaching and family members attended hoping to see Paul Osborne and Tyler Robinson win the Coach of the year and Rookie of the year respectively. Sadly, Tyler missed out but made it to the top three finalists. It was pleasing to see Paul win the prestigious award for 2024.



Halloween at the club

It was wonderful to have trick or treaters call into the club to retrieve some lollies and play some games. Here is a sample of the wonderful effort the kids went to.



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.

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

Women's Social

Casual hit with other women from Beaconsfield Tennis Club. Members are free. Non-members \$5. Monday mornings commencing at 9:30. Contact Anja Potter 0437 074 287

Casual Court Hire

\$15 per court (per hour)

Book a court is now available through our website: www.beaconsfieldtennisclubinc.com

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: ossie30@bigpondnet.au



Loss of a valuable

landmark *(Continued from page 20)*

urgently need to retain a substantial local water supply to extinguish it using CFA helicopters. Haunting memories of that bush fire are still vividly remembered with a great deal of fear and trepidation by local residents that experienced that wildfire. If Melbourne Water is allowed to drain Beaconsfield Reservoir, then all properties and houses between Salisbury Rd and Princes Hwy in Beaconsfield and Officer will have to rely on CFA helicopters flying many more kilometres further afield to Cardinia Reservoir, filling up with water, and then flying the long distance back to houses below Beaconsfield Reservoir! It is amazing that the State Government hasn't taken the time to consider the enormous consequences of Melbourne Water's decision!

Melbourne Water has downplayed the concern over losing Beaconsfield Reservoir, telling the community that some water will remain in the reservoir and if required, more water will be available at Cardinia Reservoir. However Cardinia Reservoir is Melbourne's South East drinking water, so what happens if a helicopter accidentally plunges into the reservoir with all of its surfactants and fire suppressants that CFA helicopters carry onboard? These chemicals will surely contaminate Cardinia Reservoir's drinking water.

That's a major catastrophe waiting to happen!

Attached are photos of what the Beaconsfield Reservoir used to look like and how it is beginning to look now that Melbourne Water and DEECA have started to drain Beaconsfield Reservoir's water!

Harry Jensen
President,
Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir Action Group

Your Representatives

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

MEMBER FOR LA TROBE

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CARDINIA SHIRE

Beacon Hills Ward

Cr. Brett Owen

B.Owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Officer Ward

Cr. Samantha-Jane Potter

S.Potter@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 March, 2025.

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Merry Christmas!

Wishing you & your loved ones a very merry Christmas and Happy 2025!

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