

BEACONSFIELD BANNER

FREE

Triannual Publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association

Winter 2025 Edition

McKenna Drive Bridge

The new McKenna Drive bridge connecting Beaconsfield Avenue with Kenilworth Avenue was opened in March. The historic Railway House was saved, mostly intact, along with the Bunya Bunya pine tree (right).

See article on page 12.

Photo - Robert Cooper



Upcoming Public Events

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COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA

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MEMBER 2025

President's Report



Welcome to this Winter edition of the Beaconsfield Banner. The Banner is available on our BPA website and printed copies are available in the town at businesses.

A significant local issue we are dealing with is the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) at Station Street, Beaconsfield. During March, the Station Street Beaconsfield boom gates from the level crossing were dismantled as part of the level crossing removal. In addition, the new McKenna Drive bridge was opened. The new bridge connects Beaconsfield Avenue to Kenilworth Avenue permanently separating vehicles and trains (cover photo). Crews have begun packing up the work site including taking down site sheds and will move out of the area in the coming months. Landscaping and footpath widening is nearly complete with approximately 80 Australian native and indigenous trees and 75,000 plants and shrubs are to be planted in the project area. The southern station car park with 105 parking spaces has reopened to the public.

A community event was held on Saturday, 28 June in the Beaconsfield Station car park to celebrate the completion of major works for the project. The event included activities for kids, free food and coffee. Steam Rail Victoria provided free rides on a fully restored A2 Class Steam locomotive from Berwick Station to Pakenham East Station.

The future of the Railway House which is owned by the State Government is still undecided. Part of the rear of the House was removed to allow the building of the new bridge. The house and Bunya pine need to be retained for heritage purposes and would be a valuable community asset for Cardinia Shire. It was great to see the red letterbox being handed back to a sentimental Ian Cole a previous owner of the Railway House.

The Beaconsfield ANZAC Memorial Service was held on Sunday 20 April at the War Memorial site at Bonette Reserve. Despite being held during Easter and School holidays there was a good attendance in fine weather to remember service men and women who served in wars and conflicts and, in particular, those from Beaconsfield. There was a march along Woods Street prior to the Memorial Service. The

Memorial Service included the Memorial Address written by Penny Harris Jennings for Lieutenant Edgar Marsden, the reading of the Beaconsfield Soldiers' names and the Ode to the Fallen by Eric Chaplin OAM Upper Beaconsfield RSL, the Last Post, one minute's silence and the Rouse and laying of the Wreaths. Thanks to the many people involved in the service including Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cr Brett Owen, Beaconsfield Officer Scouts, Beaconsfield CFA including Juniors and Piper Simon Gibson.

The upgraded Bonette Reserve is looking good with new paving, seating, gardens, landscaping, underground power, new flag poles, parking and footpath upgrades. These works have greatly enhanced this Reserve for the use and enjoyment of the community.

Recently, Cardinia Shire Council installed various speed humps along Fieldstone Boulevard in Berwick Views to help the flow of traffic. Hopefully this will improve the safety of this road.

It was a pleasure to attend the Beaconsfield CFA Awards Night. It is always amazing to witness the number of fire brigade members receiving various service awards. On behalf of our community, we greatly appreciate all the work done by CFA volunteers.

APA has been conducting essential maintenance work on the T60 Longford to Dandenong Pipeline in Beaconsfield Park. The works involve excavation, pipeline repairs and site cleanup. The works are due to be completed soon.

Ann and I were honoured to receive the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) announced on the King's Birthday. We thank all for the congratulation wishes that we received and acknowledge the help and assistance that we receive from organisations we are involved in and particularly from Beaconsfield Progress Assoc members.

Our Meetings are now held on the third Tuesday of each alternate month commencing February 2025 but there are no meetings in January and December. Meetings commence at 7.30pm at the Beaconsfield Community Complex. All local residents, business owners and others keen to be kept informed on matters predominately related to Beaconsfield are welcome to attend the meetings.

Graeme Taylor, OAM
President - Beaconsfield Progress Association

Beacon Hills Ward Councillors' Report



Cr Brett Owen

Safety Upgrade for Fieldstone Boulevard

Council has completed road safety upgrades on Fieldstone Boulevard from Beaconsfield-Emerald Rd to Holm Park Rd.

This project was part of the Australian Government's 2024 – 2025 Black Spot Program and Council's Local Area Traffic Improvement program.

Works included:

- The installation of three new flat top road humps between Scenic Dr and Harbour St
- The installation of two pairs of asphalt speed cushions to the east of Timberside Dr, between Northview Ct and Gumview Ct
- Kerb and channel realignment work
- Minor concrete footpath work
- Lighting upgrades at 6 locations

In mid-2023, Council completed community consultation regarding the installation of local area traffic management devices/speed humps, otherwise referred to as speed humps.

This consultation was prompted by a review of road safety in the area, which identified significant risk due to the number of reported crashes, resident requests and the traffic and speed data.



replaced with energy efficient LED light fittings as part of a staged mercury vapour street light replacement program.



Approximately 400 existing 80-watt mercury vapour decorative streetlights are scheduled to be replaced over the next nine months by Ausnet's approved contractors.

The replacement of these fittings has been prioritised as the globes they use have been banned under the international Minamata convention due to the mercury they contain.

There are several benefits associated with the new LED fittings, which are approximately 80% more energy efficient, provide improved lighting quality and visibility, with efficient technology that directs more light towards the street, and have lower maintenance costs.

Council has worked to find new and similar alternative lights that match the original street lighting design, with enhanced functionality. The replacement light fittings are of a similar style to the existing lights.

Lights will be replaced in the following locations:

- Berwick Views and Bowman's Track Estates, Beaconsfield.
- Panorama Estate, Beaconsfield.
- Coach House Lane, Beaconsfield.

The LED street lighting upgrade program started in 2022, with more than 1,200 mercury vapour lights replaced across the shire to date. The upgrade program is funded by Council and AusNet services.

For more information, please visit: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/bettercardinia

(Continued on page 6)

Street lighting upgrades for Beaconsfield

Decorative street light fittings in Beaconsfield will be

Councillors' Report

(Continued from page 5)

Proposed Road Discontinuance and Transfer of council land



Council is proposing to discontinue a section of unused road located at Trythall Street in Beaconsfield and transfer to DEECA at a nominal cost of \$1.

An application for Council to discontinue a 375m² section of unmade road and request to have this transferred to DEECA was received by DEECA the abutting landowner.

Council has determined that the 375m² section of Trythall Street will be sold to an abutting landowner, being the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for \$1, understanding the future benefit derived from its incorporation within the future Cardinia Creek Parklands project - www.engage.vic.gov.au/CardiniaCkParklands

The community can have their say on this proposal by making a written submission to council. For more information and to have your say about the proposed sale and transfer of land please check out council's website – www.creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/road-discontinuance-and-transfer-beaconsfield

Join 9pm Routine to Deter Theft



Cardinia Shire residents are encouraged to take proactive steps to secure their homes and vehicles as theft continues to be a pressing concern in the shire.

According to the Crime Statistics Agency Victoria,

the most common crime reported in Cardinia Shire is stealing from cars, often occurring right outside homes. Data from Victoria Police reveals that 57% of stolen vehicles were left unlocked or showed no signs of forced entry, highlighting that thieves typically look for easy targets.

In response to this alarming trend, Victoria Police have launched the 9PM Routine. This community initiative, supported by Cardinia Shire Council, aims to remind residents to secure their properties and prevent theft.

Thieves are opportunistic and look for easy targets. Residents can help deter thieves by locking away belongings, keeping items out of sight, and ensuring that all doors and windows are securely locked.

The 9 PM routine encourages the community to make it a habit to:

- Collect valuables from your car
- Lock your car
- Lock your home (doors and windows)
- Lock your garage
- Park in a secure and well-lit area

By making the 9PM routine a regular habit, residents can help protect their property and contribute to a safer community.

Community vigilance is crucial in maintaining safety in Cardinia Shire. Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activity. In case of an emergency, call 000. For non-urgent matters, contact Victoria Police at 131 444 or report your observations online. Additionally, anyone with information that could assist in resolving a crime is urged to make an anonymous report to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Together, we can work towards making Cardinia Shire a safer place to live for everyone. For more information on our community safety initiatives, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/communitysafety.

Youth News

Check out the Youth Services Winter 2025 newsletter! It's filled with information about programs and services for young people in Cardinia Shire.

This edition covers the Term 3 Youth Programs, highlights upcoming activities and events, showcases recent achievements from the Youth

Services team, and provides details on youth support services.

Read the newsletter here -

www.cardiniashirecouncil.cmail19.com/t/t-e-gtlhuhd-l-c/

Power Up Your Savings with Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits



Residents of Cardinia Shire can now take practical steps towards reducing household energy costs and environmental impacts with the help of free Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits.

These kits are developed in partnership with the

Energy Innovation Cooperative and available through local Myli libraries, designed to help households assess and improve their energy and water efficiency. With tools like a Power-Mate energy meter, thermal imaging camera, and water flow measuring cup, residents can identify areas for improvement and make small changes with big savings.

The kits are available to borrow free of charge with an adult library membership through Myli's Library of Things program. They are ideal for anyone looking to make their home more comfortable, reduce utility bills, and lower emissions.

This initiative is part of Cardinia Shire Council's broader commitment to environmental sustainability, which includes resources like the Home Energy Improvement Handbook developed in partnership with Federation University.

To learn more or find your nearest participating library, visit: [Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits - Cardinia Shire Council](#)



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Beaconsfield CFA



As the colder weather is upon us it would be an ideal time that we visit the need for a fire plan for the home

We hear a lot about bushfire plans. But a plan for the home if not in writing at least, discussed and agreed upon by all family members.

So what should you consider in your plan?

Are the smoke alarms in operating condition and batteries replaced annually?

Have you physically checked power points for any damage, and if you have a power board ensure it is not overloaded with appliances.

Have you had a discussion of exit strategies and meeting points in case of fire?

DO NOT leave lithium batteries on charge overnight on E-bikes or mobile phones.

Planning and preparation are the keys to dealing with a fire emergency.

On Friday 4th July the brigade held its annual awards night.

These are held to formally recognise outstanding service to the CFA and the broader community.

The following are father son combinations

Rhys Owen: National medal 2nd clasp 35 years diligent service

Glynn Owen: National Medal 15 years service

James Cain: National medal 25 years diligent service

Luke Cain: 15 years service to CFA

Phil Walton: National medal second clasp 35 years diligent service

Max Walton Briggs: 5 years service to CFA

Many more awards were presented and congratulations to all the recipients.



Beaconsfield Officer Scout Group

Try Scouting today and find out why each week almost half a million young people enjoy fun, friendship and outdoor adventure. They develop a sense of optimism and strong values as well as the leadership and teamwork skills that are more valuable today than ever before.

Contact: beaconsfieldscoutgroup@gmail.com

Joey Scouts 5 - 8 Years	Tuesdays 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm
Cub Scouts 8 - 11 Years	Tuesdays 6:45 pm – 8.15 pm
Scouts 11 - 15 years	Thursdays 7 pm – 9 pm
Venture Scouts 15 - 18 years	Mondays 7 pm – 9 pm
Cumoot Rovers 18 - 25 years	Mondays 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm



James and Luke Cain



Max and Phil Walton



Glynn and Rhys Owen

Beaconsfield Venturers

By Cate-Linne Fraser

Why You Should Join Beaconsfield Venturers

Looking for something fun, adventurous, and totally different to do on a Monday night?



Come check out Beaconsfield Venturers! We're a group of 15–18-year-olds who get together each week for a mix of adventure, creativity, leadership — and let's be honest, a lot of laughs.

We're all about the outdoors: hiking, camping, cycling, paddling

— you name it. Whether it's a weekend away in the bush or a night ride through Beaconsfield, there's always something happening to keep us active and challenged. And when the weather's too hot? We go bowling or find creative (and often ridiculous) ways to stay cool and have fun.



One of the best parts of Venturers is that we plan our own nights. Every term, we decide what we want to do — from cooking with native ingredients and building marshmallow catapults to dodgeball, sardines, Wii tournaments, and pancake art. It's our program, built by us, for us.

We also run joint nights with other sections of

Scouts, so we get to meet younger members and show them all the fun they have to look forward to when they link up. We're always welcoming new members — whether you're coming up from Scouts or just keen to try something new from the wider community.



We also take part in epic events like Anything Goes, Victorian Gathering, and Winter Gathering — massive weekends with hundreds of Venturers from all over the state, packed with games, music, activities, and new friendships.

And next January? Five of our youth members and a leader are heading to New Zealand for the Venture — an international camp that's going to be an unforgettable adventure.

Our unit is growing fast, and we're always keen to welcome new faces. If you're up for trying new things, meeting great people, and shaping your own experiences, Venturers might be exactly what you're looking for.

We meet every Monday night from 7–9 PM at the Beaconsfield/Officer Scout Hall — come down and see what it's all about!

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram @BeaconsfieldVenturers to keep up with our latest adventures!



ANZAC Memorial Service



The Beaconsfield Anzac Memorial Service was held on Sunday 20 April, 2025

The service is always held on the Sunday before Anzac Day and was first initiated by the late Tony Rushton 26 years ago.



attended the service. Piper Simon Gibson led the march up Woods Street to the War Memorial at Bonette Reserve and Compere and President of BPA Graeme Taylor welcomed everyone.



Even though it was Easter Sunday, and rain was forecast, over 100 people



Mayor Jack Kowazik welcomed everyone on behalf of the Cardinia Shire.

The Cranbourne Salvation Army Recorder Ensemble played the National Anthem and *God Save the King*, along with a special piece. Pastor Duncan from Beaconsfield Baptist church read the prayers and Suzanne Brewer read the Bible reading. Jane Coupe played and sang the song *The Last Anzac*. Cr Brett Owen read the names of local relatives of the servicemen and women.

Wreaths were laid by the RSL, Councillors, MPs, local groups, school children and members of the public.

The Memorial Address for John

William Dawson was written by historian Penny Harris Jennings and read by relative Andrew Brewster (see page 11). Eric Chaplin read the soldiers names and led the Last Post ceremony. Bugler Brad Iman played the Last Post and rouse and the local scouts raised the flags.

The service concluded with a delicious afternoon tea served at the Beaconsfield Kindergarten.

Thanks to everyone who attended and all the groups and individuals who contributed to the service.



John William Dawson ANZAC Memorial Address

Researched by Penny Harris Jennings. Read by Andrew Brewster.

The dedication today is soldier, John William Dawson, Service No VX34391, Australian Army WW2.

John William Dawson was born on a fine and bright day at St Andrews Private Hospital in Brighton Victoria, 10 April 1919 to parents Gregory and Louise Dawson.



His parents and sisters affectionately called him Jack. The Dawson family moved quite often in Jack's formative years as his father, Gregory, was a station master. Jack spent his school years in the western district towns of Berriwillock, Dunnstown, Garvoc and Derrinallum. In 1934 the family including Jack, then aged 15, moved to Welshpool, South Gippsland. In subsequent years the Dawsons came to Berwick Station and then Beaconsfield.

Jack residing at the Young Men's Christian

Association (YMCA) in Northcote enlisted 3 July 1940 at Royal Park Melbourne. He trained in both Mt Martha and Seymour before departing from Sydney for Singapore on 3 October 1941 with the rank Sapper in the 2/10th Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers. In February 1942 Jack was "wounded shell shocked" and on 26 February he was listed as a Prisoner of War. He had been captured by the Japanese and sent to work on the Thai Burma Railway. During the construction of the railway more than 16,000 prisoners died of sickness, malnutrition and exhaustion.

Jack worked in the poor conditions until he succumbed to dysentery 24 April 1943. Tragically several months after Jack's death his parents received an "All's well" postcard from Jack that he was in Japanese hands. His parents were relieved

because the last news they had received was the that he had been wounded just prior to the fall of Singapore.

Jack's death notification to his parents was not confirmed until 1945. In a Dandenong Journal newspaper article, the journalist wrote the following:

Death Of Beaconsfield Soldier In Thailand

THE SYMPATHY of Beaconsfield district residents goes out to Mr. and Mrs. G. Dawson, of the Beaconsfield railway station, in the sad news, just to hand, that their boy, Spr. Jack Dawson died back in 1943 while a P.O.W. in Thailand. Jack was a fine lad, who will be deeply mourned, not only by his parents and sisters (Beryl and Rena) but by a wide circle of friends who had learnt to appreciate his worth. In giving up his life for his country he only lived up to the traditions that were part of his make-up.

His parents finally placed their sad and poignant death notice on the 25 April 1945, exactly 80 years ago this ANZAC day.

"A tribute of love and affection to our dear son and brother John, and to his gallant comrades of 2/10th field Company, Royal Australia Engineers".

"Loved in life, missed in death, beautiful memories are all we have left"

Jack is forever immortalised here on our Beaconsfield War Memorial.

Rest in peace, Jack.

Lest We Forget.

Dawson, John William.

Service Number: VX34391 Australian Army.

Rank: Sapper.

Unit: 2/10 Field Company.

Date of Enlistment: 3 July 1940 at Royal Park Melbourne Victoria.

Locality on Enlistment: Northcote, Victoria.

Served:

Date of Discharge: N/A.

Medals Awarded: Star Medal 1939-1945, Pacific Star 1941-1945, War Medal 1939-1945, Defence Medal 1939-1945, Australia Service Medal 1939-1945.

Railway House & LXP Update By Fran Healy



In the Beaconsfield Banner 2022 Summer edition an article I wrote regarding the Victorian Government acquiring and demolishing the Railway House in Beaconsfield Ave said

“Imagine our town when we no longer see the red letterbox with number 20 on it and smile”

The intervening years saw us campaign hard with the community and eventually save the Railway House from demolition as the level crossing in Station St was removed and a road bridge constructed over the top.

The House has stayed empty and silent over the past two years as machines, workers, site offices etc. were busy all around it. Part of the rear of the house was removed to allow for the building of the bridge as site plans had to be altered but it has been carefully repaired and renovated.

The bunya tree has continued to stand tall, surveying the construction that was taking place all around it, kangaroos ventured timidly out at dusk to inspect progress as the train commuters searched for parking in nearby streets as car parking spaces were drastically reduced.

It has been a busy, noisy, tiring two years but I am happy to report that they have packed up and moved out as traffic now rolls across the bridge, the site offices are gone and the workers have moved their trucks and tools to other areas. The footpath again allows students to walk directly from the Beaconsfield Station to SFX and the extra car parking, with room left over, accommodates the commuters and nearby residents have their streets quiet and safe again.

Which brings me back to my initial comment about the red letterbox. I am so happy to report that on 21 May, at a small LXP event organised by Michael Galea (Member for South-Eastern Metro), that red letterbox was officially handed over to Ian Cole, who is the previous owner of the Railway House. It was his renovations and restoration that made the house the feature of Beaconsfield that it is today. He especially had a very special attachment to the red letterbox as it was a gift to him with much sentimental value and we can all agree that it looked very much at home there. However, a request that

Ian be given back the letterbox received a positive answer and while Ian had made quite sure the letterbox was well and truly safely embedded in the ground LXP workers used their expertise and machines to not only dig it up and help load it into Ian's trailer, but to follow him home and unload at the other end!

The day, while happy for Ian and his wife Yvonne, was also bittersweet. He asked if he could have a look inside the house and as the impressive front door swung open it revealed empty rooms, depressions in the carpets where family furniture had stood, dust on surfaces, gritty windows and an air of neglect. It looked unloved and sad. However, the bones of it, and Ian's craftsmanship and his fine attention to detail stood out. He quietly wandered around walking down memory lane regaling us all with stories of his renovations. Yvonne was the gardener but it is now overgrown and strewn with branches.

The future of the Railway House is still undecided. It is owned by the Government but would be a wonderful community asset for the Cardinia Council. It must retain its heritage standing and be appreciated and valued for all it has seen in Beaconsfield over the past 150 years. It is a touchstone for our township and a survivor. We do not want it to go to those who will not care for it, or would want to change it. We want it to be preserved for future generations.

Being there for the handover of the letterbox made me feel like we had come full circle. Our fight to save the Railway House and the bunya tree started with the symbol of the red letterbox, and we finish as it



makes its way back to the man who truly deserves it. It has done its job and the Railway House begins a new chapter going forward. We see the old and new together which is fitting.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS 10-12

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Authorised by M. Galea. L2, 55 St Andrews PL, East Melbourne VIC 3002.



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Australian Plants Sale

hosted by the

**Australian Plants Society
Cardinia Region Inc**

to be held on

**Saturday, 6th September 2025
9am to 3pm**

at

Akoonah Park

Cnr Cardinia St & Princes Hwy, Berwick

Local indigenous & Australia-wide plants (EFT & cash)
Second hand native flora and fauna books for sale
and raffle prizes will be available (cash only)

✉ apscardinia@gmail.com

www apsvic.org.au/aps-cardinia-region

f facebook.com/APSCardiniaRegion



Conservation at APS Cardinia Region

By Alex Smart OAM

In the early days of APS, and our group, the objectives were to find plants able to be propagated and cultivated. Members introduced showy Australian plants into private gardens and Bush gardens became popular. Few nurseries grew or sold Australian Plants so our early members started an annual plant sale on a member's property. The plant sales have continued resulting in thousands of plants being introduced to family homes and properties increasing biodiversity by attracting, possibly millions of birds and insects. Now numerous indigenous nurseries supply plants for private and public projects.

Members continue to concentrate their interests on Australian plants with the connections with birds recognised as inseparable.



(Photo: Clem Thompson)

Victoria's bird emblem, the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater *Lichenostomus melanops cassidix*, 'HeHo' for short, had occurred along the Cardinia Creek with the last positive sighting in 1981 after which they became extinct in the district

leaving the only remaining wild population, at that time, in the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve and a conservation breeding program based at Healesville Sanctuary, Zoos Victoria from 1989.

The Cardinia Creek is an important waterway flowing from what is now the Cardinia Reservoir descending to the flat lands below Beaconsfield then across the Koo Wee Rup swamp into Westernport Bay near Tooradin.

Late in 1867 Fredrick McCoy, then Director of the new National Museum of Natural History and Geology in Melbourne, collected both the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum at Bass River on Westernport. In 1971 both these creatures became fauna emblems for Victoria.

In 2014, the APS-Cardinia Region Committee invited Bob Anderson, long term President of Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc. to speak to our group. That did not happen because discussions evolved

into an idea to hold a public meeting to examine the feasibility of reintroducing HeHo's to the Cardinia Creek. A major concern was that if a catastrophic fire swept through the Yellingbo Reserve it could wipe out the only remaining wild population. On 15th April 2015, with assistance from Cardinia Shire, a public meeting was held at Beaconsfield. More than 100 people attended and their support for a trial reintroduction was unanimous.

The committee approached the Helmeted Honeyeater Recovery Team and arrangements were made for them to visit, and make a tentative assessment of the habitat. Ian Chisholm worked out a route and opened the Beaconsfield Conservation Reserve and Parks Victoria opened the Cardinia Creek Parkland and pointed out how wonderfully the habitat had recovered from the Ash Wednesday bushfires. Their response was encouraging and some of their members returned for a second tour after which we were told Cardinia Creek was their highest priority for a trial reintroduction. However, dealing with a critically endangered creature there were many hurdles still to be overcome.

The HeHo Recovery Team engaged independent environmental consultants to conduct a detailed habitat surveys which confirmed our opinions and nominated the best site for a trial reintroduction in a well vegetated and remote site on the Cardinia Creek. APS Cardinia Region members were delighted.

Between 2001 and 2012, releases of captive bred HeHo's were made in the Bunyip State Forest. After a decade of releases, birds failed to establish, yet the Recovery Team learned quite a lot. Meanwhile, another site at the O'Shannassy Catchment near East Warburton was identified as the most suitable site for a release. This site was selected based off a number of criteria, containing dense thickets of *Coprosma quadrifida* for HeHo nesting, limited deer disturbance/activity, excellent site security and was a former location of the Gippsland Yellow-tufted Honeyeater (*L. m. gippslandicus*). Geneticist partners on the program, at Monash University, suggested if Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters were still present, this would only further support the Helmeted Honeyeater Genetic Rescue Program by mixing genes to produce stronger HeHo's. By now a small population has become established of 40-50 birds. A second population in the

(Continued on page 26)



Phone 8768 4400

Neighbourhood Natter

A quick blink and we're already racing through July, but Term 2 was a long one with 11 weeks of activities keeping us busy and engaged. We can't decide if time is going slow or fast! Our staff are looking forward to recharging in the school holidays and returning with a spring in our steps.

Coming up at the Centre, we're excited to offer a Cheesemaking Workshop on Monday 11th August from 6.30pm – 8.00pm. For \$45 per person, you will learn through demonstration how to make Halloumi, Mozzarella, Paneer and Ricotta. Bookings are essential. There will be tastings! If this time doesn't suit you, please get in touch with us as future sessions may be arranged with popular demand.

It's also exciting to present a new Photography course that will run for 8 weeks in Term 3. The classes start on Tuesday the 29th of July and run from 7.00pm-9.00pm. The cost is \$240 with all notes included and provides a foundation in digital photography for beginners and people looking to improve their skills.

The BNC program has more details of these classes and our regular activities and workshops. The Term 3 edition is available on our website www.bncinc.org.au or drop in at Reception for a hard copy.



We were thrilled to be granted funds from Community Bank Beaconsfield District to keep pantry staples on the shelves of our free Community Food Pantry for another year.

This vital support is helping so many community members to make ends meet by topping up with essentials like rice, pasta, canned foods and cereals.

We encourage you to like and follow the Bank's social pages to see the good they do within our community: www.facebook.com/communitybankbeaconsfielddistrict

Things have been bustling in the welfare space since the last Banner issue. Our knitting group had a handover of some winter warmers for those in need back in April 2025. 185 items in total were included in the beautiful, individually crafted haul of large blankets, small rugs, beanies, slippers, scarves and gloves.

Our lovely Line Dancing tutor, Nathalie, facilitated a Biggest Morning Tea in May with both of our line dancing groups and raised an awesome \$3,000 to donate to the Cancer Council.



The event may not have been as successful without the generous contributions for raffle prizes from the following donors:

Woolworths,
AMCAL Pharmacy,
Dwyer Seafood,
The Gourmet Butcher,
Daisy Blossom Gift Shop,
Beaconsfield Travel Centre,
Beaconsfield Eye Care,
Coles,
Big 4 Holidays Park,
Priceline,
Robert Gordon,
Shanikas,
Pakenham Railway Hotel,
Southside Racing in Pakenham, and
Real Estate Agents Elite, and Peake, in Berwick.



We extend our gratitude and appreciation for the kindness of these local businesses and encourage

you to consider them if you have need of their services.

The awesome fundraising efforts for cancer research continued with Margaret from our Patchwork group who shaved her head at the Centre with the help of several family members and classmates for World's Greatest Shave which raises funds for blood cancer through the Leukaemia Foundation.



Margaret raised an impressive \$1,562. We are very proud of her and I'm sure you'll agree, she looks amazing!

We are so proud of our wonderful artists here at Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre and of course, our fabulous tutor Janine. The members of our painting classes put together some of their work and held an exhibition over the weekends in May at Secan Gallery, Akoonah Park.



The three highest public voted paintings from the exhibition were:

- First Place: Barbara Stocks with 'Holloway'
Second Place: Ros Godman with 'Penguins'
Third Place: Linda Austen with 'Whale's tail'



It was very sad to say goodbye to our gorgeous bookkeeper, Barbara, when she retired in May. After about 8 years of impeccable service, warmth and friendship, she will be greatly missed. We wish her so much joy as she explores Australia with all the time in the world to savour her adventures.



One chapter ends and the next begins: we are very pleased to introduce and welcome the lovely Beth Ellis to the role of bookkeeper.

Beth comes to us with a strong financial background and decades of keeping the books for other community Neighbourhood Houses and has hit the ground running with us. She is fitting in beautifully and we're confident that she'll become as much a fixture as the rest of our gorgeous staff who can only leave us if they are retiring.

(Continued on page 20)

Neighbourhood Natter

(Continued from page 19)

Supported by



We're grateful to the Cardinia Shire Council for the installation of a new retractable wall in the community hall. It looks great, and with new chairs on order and carpark

resurfacing completed as well, the Council is greatly improving the quality of our facility. Weekend hall bookings can be organised by contacting the Council on 1300 787 624. If you are interested in using the hall during the week, contact Leanne in our office to discuss rates and availability.

CCTV cameras are now installed in the foyer, rear yard and the playground area of our Children's Room. This is part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of all members, children, staff and visitors to the centre. The cameras will be positioned to monitor general activity, especially after hours, and will not intrude on personal privacy. Footage will be used strictly for security and safety purposes, and access will be limited to authorised personnel only.

You can view our CCTV Privacy Notice at the bottom of the About Us tab of our website: www.bncinc.org.au. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

BNC Children's Room

Enrolments for permanent childcare places in 2026 are now being taken. We understand how tricky it can be to commit to a spot until later in the year when kindergarten preferences or other plans are more certain, so you can put your child's name down for a session and delay paying the \$20 non-refundable deposit until September. Getting in early is the best way to guarantee care on your preferred days.

A colorful flyer for Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre Inc. childcare. It features a blue background with yellow and green accents. At the top, it says "CHILDCARE" in large white letters, followed by "For children 18 months-5 years old". Below this, it lists the days and times: "RUNNING MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS 8.30AM-4.30PM". A central image shows a child playing in a sandbox. To the right, it says "We provide friendly, small Community Centre-based Occasional Care where your children are our priority. Permanent and Casual spots available." At the bottom, it states "ENROLMENTS OPEN MONDAY 21ST JULY FOR 2026 WITH A \$20 DEPOSIT." and includes contact information: "For more details or to book in-call 8768 4400 or visit us at 8 O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield, Vic." A small logo in the bottom left corner says "CCS approved provider" with a green checkmark.

We always have a little bit of movement in our Occasional Care enrolments throughout the year, and places are offered to those waiting. Contact us at any time to enquire about availability or be added to our wait lists for sessions that are currently full. Each group runs from 8.30am – 4.30pm but families are free to come and go at any time within the session to suit their own schedules. The fee in 2025 is \$91.20 per child over 18 months, and eligible families are entitled to the Child Care Subsidy (CCS) which will reduce out-of-pocket costs. The expected fee for each child per session in 2026 is \$94.80.

There are always fun, topical and colourful activities happening in our Children's Room and we invite visitors to come and see if our service will fit your family's needs. This year National Reconciliation Week was held from 27 May to 3 June. Our Occasional Care children engaged in thoughtful discussions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and the significance of reconciliation.



Playgroup on Tuesdays with Alicia is very popular and our 9.00am session is currently full. We have a wait list for starting a second group at 11.30am. Parents or carers stay with their children to participate in the activities that Alicia sets up. It's a great opportunity for your child to learn through play and socialising and an opportunity for you to meet other families from the community. We are currently brainstorming about some exciting new initiatives for next year with shorter, smaller group sessions focussed on selected educational growth areas such as art, music, motor skills and physical activities for younger children to do with their parents. If there's some facilitated activities that you would like to see offered for you and your child, we'd love to hear from you!

Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre
8-18 O'Neil Road, Beaconsfield
contactus@bncinc.org.au

Phone: 8768 4400 Web: www.bncinc.org.au

Member for South-East Metropolitan By Michael Galea MP



Michael Galea, MP

I am happy to report that the boom gates at Station Street, Beaconsfield, have been permanently removed. Since March, the level crossing has been removed, with traffic flowing across the new McKenna Drive bridge.

The dismantling of the boom gates is part of the final works on the project, alongside the planting of 80 Australian

native and indigenous trees and 75,000 plants. I want to thank everyone for their patience throughout this project.

In other news, the sod has been turned at Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve, marking the beginning of works to construct a new pavilion with upgraded facilities and modern amenities. The Council and the State Government are jointly funding this project, which will deliver modern, accessible facilities for the local community, sporting groups and scouts. I look forward to following its progress.

Among the various measures in the 2025-26 Victorian State Budget focused on providing cost-of-living support for families and households, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the Community Pharmacist Program.

After a successful pilot, I am glad to see the Government making the program permanent and further expanding the role of local pharmacists in delivering healthcare to the community. This initiative will deliver free consultations for 22 health conditions to local communities via participating pharmacists. Victoria is the only State to provide free consultations for these health services, including:

Acute nausea and vomiting, Acne, Asthma, Uncomplicated UTI, Atopic dermatitis, Smoking cessation, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Hypertension, Ear infections, Travel medicines, Shingles, Type 2 diabetes, Oral Contraceptive Pill resupply, Reflux, Psoriasis, and Smoking Cessation.

I believe this program is a real positive step, being able to go to a pharmacist for a free consultation will help locals receive the care they need without an additional cost or time barrier of setting up a GP appointment.

Community Notice Board

The Community Notice Board is located on the Woolworths supermarket south wall (facing Aldi). It is for the display of:

- **Local group or club events. (limited display time)**
- **Community events (limited display time)**
- **Lost and found pets. (limited display time)**

To display a notice please email to secretary@beaconsfield.org.au or mail to P.O. Box 217 Beaconsfield 3807.

This is a community noticeboard, not for advertising businesses. To advertise a business in the *Beaconsfield Banner* please contact:

banner@beaconsfield.org.au

Please note any notices placed on the outside of the cases or on the walls will be removed.



Member for Berwick

By Brad Battin MP



Brad Battin, MP

As winter rolls around, these colder months can provide the perfect opportunity to focus on one’s wellbeing. With illnesses like the flu being more prominent in these conditions it is important to look after yourself, check in on your neighbours and continue to

support local by stocking up on the healthy and heartwarming food from the local suppliers, stay active and stay warm.

Recently, the Big Freeze hit Parliament, supporting Labor Colleague Emma Vulin for a cause close to her heart: the fight against Motor Neuron Disease. The plunge was freezing to say the least, but worth every shiver to raise awareness, funds and support to more research to fight the Beast. I first became involved in the Big Freeze for Fight MND at Beaconsfield Football Club where our community comes together to raise much needed funds for this amazing organisation.

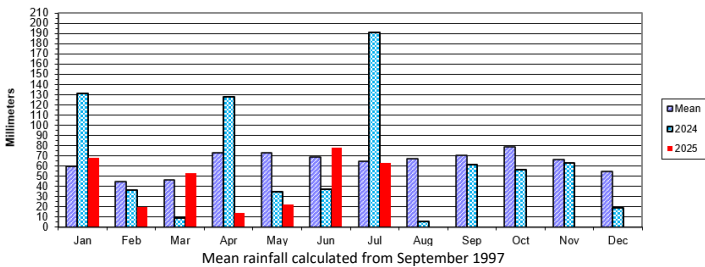
For some, winter can feel overwhelming, so it's essential to carve out time to rest and recharge. Doing so will help you stay at your best, both in your work and personal life, allowing you to fully embrace everything the season has to offer. Whether it's slowing down to focus on self-care, staying connected with loved ones, or simply allowing yourself a break from the usual hustle, these moments of rest will help you navigate the season with more ease and energy.

Should you have any questions or wish to share your feedback, please do not hesitate to visit my office, or contact via email at berwick@parliament.vic.gov.au.

You can also stay connected through my website at www.bradbattin.com.au and follow me on social media:

- Twitter (@BradBattinMP),
- Facebook (/BradBattinMP),
- Instagram (@bradbattinMP),
- LinkedIn (Brad-Battin),
- and YouTube (Brad Battin).

Beaconsfield Rainfall



	2025							2024				
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
mm	68	20	53	14	22.1	78	62.8	5.2	61	56	63	19
Rain Days	6	6	4	6	4	11	13	5	6	6	7	5

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

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS

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Find us now at stall 114 & 115, Shed A1
Akoonah Park Market - Sundays, 8am - 1:30pm

www.secretheadquarters.com.au

[secretheadquarterscomic](#) [secretheadquarterscomic](#)



Beaconsfield Football Club's season is now reaching the crucial period as our Men's teams aim to seal their finals spots especially looking to lock in the vital double chances. Our Seniors have struggled in the past month after being hit by a spate of injuries but still sit in fifth spot while the Reserves team are third and our talented U/19.5's team are second. Our Women's team have had a very competitive season in their division and are in fifth spot but outside finals contention.

A major highlight of our season so far was our Annual Past Players & Official gathering on 5th July which coincided with the popular Rik Crook Cup clash against rivals South Belgrave. The day saw a great turn out of "Beacy legends" including Rik and family , along with the Cashman Bros who provided plenty of entertainment in their presentations. Past Best & Fairest player & academic Professor Michael McKenna shared his amazing story of his footy & life journey which was so impressive.

The football club, along with our Junior club has staged a couple of major fundraisers to support great causes during the past couple of months –

Our Annual **LADIES DAY LUNCHEON** in May raised \$\$\$ vital funds to support Scleroderma Victoria while the **BIG FREEZE** event staged by our wonderful Junior club in June raised thousands of \$\$\$ for the fight against MND. Well done to all the organizers for your work in making these Events happen and be such a success.

Beaconsfield FC has been awarded three Eastern FNL Premier League finals which the club will host at Holm Park on the following dates – Sat 30th Aug – Qualifying Final; Sat 6th Sept - 2nd SemiFinal; Sat 13th Sept - Prelim Final. The club will be looking for vital assistance from our local community in ensuring we make these a successful event and show off our great facilities.

These finals will certainly give exposure to a wider

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

Beaconsfield FC - Division 1 Mens 2025 Fixture

Rd 15	26 July	Mooroolbark	Home
Rd 16	2 Aug.	Norwood	Home
Rd 17	9 Aug.	Bayswater	Away
Rd 18	16 Aug.	Park Orchards	Home

Beaconsfield FC - Division 2 Womens 2025 Fixture

Rd 12	19 July	Mooroolbark	Home
Rd 13	26 July	Kilsyth	Away
Rd 14	2 Aug.	Berwick	Away

You can keep up with all the Beacy footy news on our Facebook page and we would encourage you all to stay involved with your community club in 2025 whether its with the Juniors or Seniors.



Michael McKenna (Left) with Rik Crook and his cup on Past Players Day. Photo courtesy Pakenham Gazette.

“ Presented to Michael McKenna in recognition of your achievements, example and inspiration for all at Beaconsfield Football Club.

- Senior Best & Fairest 1978 at the age of 17, the youngest ever winner of that award.
- Our first VFL (AFL) graduate to achieve the 100 games milestone in 1985 in your career at Footscray & Richmond.
- Your connection to future generations of footballers at our football club.

”



New Lights

BTC is thrilled to announce the completion of new lighting installations across Courts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Thanks to partial funding from the state government, these upgraded lights will enhance evening play and improve the overall experience for players and spectators alike.

We deeply appreciate the patience and understanding of our members during the recent 10-day club closure required for the installation as well as the additional court closures due to maintenance. Your support has been invaluable as we work to improve our facilities.

The next step in this exciting upgrade is to integrate the lights with the 'Book a Court' system. This feature has been made possible through generous sponsorship from Bendigo Bank, who have contributed over \$12,000. Their support enables seamless convenience for court bookings and lighting management, and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment to our community.

Thank you once again to all our members and supporters for being part of this journey. Stay tuned for more updates and enjoy the brighter courts!



Congratulations—Mid Week Ladies

Congratulations to our WDTA Thursday section 1



mid-week ladies competition achieving runners up for the season. Fantastic effort by Emma Osborne, Marita Sigg, Melinda Motta, Sarah Reid and Gill Burrridge (not pictured).

Sip and Hit

The recent Sip and Hit fundraiser was a resounding success, bringing together over 30 enthusiastic attendees for an unforgettable day of great music, craft beers, wines, and friendly competition on the tennis court. Guests were treated to an incredible performance by the talented Jade Monea and her band, while local vendors—Unwined, 3806 Brewery, the Central Hotel, and Bellevue Farm Gate—provided a selection of exceptional drinks to sip and savour. The energy and generosity of everyone involved helped raise over \$800, making the event not just a fantastic social gathering but also a meaningful contribution to its cause. A huge thank you to all who joined in, supported, and made the day so special!



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 Paul Osborne 0413 594 633

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

BEACONSFIELD TENNIS CLUB

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)
Booking 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
Coaching: Email: ossie30@bigpond.net.au
Mobile: 0413 594 633



3BBR

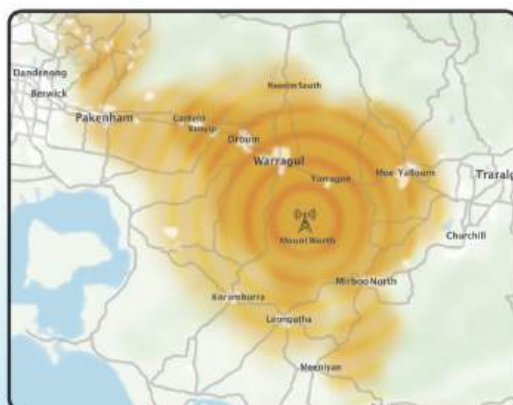
WEST GIPPSLAND COMMUNITY RADIO

103.1FM

3bbrfm.org.au

3BBR-FM broadcasts a variety of music, local news and interviews to Baw Baw Shire in the West Gippsland region of Victoria, Australia on 103.1 FM and streaming online.

West Gippsland Community Radio Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers to serve its local community. We offer opportunities for people to learn radio production and public speaking skills in a supportive environment.



LISTEN LIVE



LISTEN AGAIN

Conservation at APS *(Continued from page 17)*

wild was a massive step to avoid the extinction of the HeHo.

There were more reasons for delays until finally APS Cardinia Region was advised that a release could be made in autumn 2025 subject to the availability of sufficient captive bred birds.

Early in May, 21 captive bred HeHo's were released in part of their former territory to create, if successful, a 3rd population in a natural habitat. Ian Chisholm and I were privileged to be invited to attend the release. HeHo's are quite social and when released they grouped together before finding they could forage for their natural foods. Zoos Victoria's Helmeted Honeyeater Field Officer, Dr Nick Bradsworth, is managing this release, monitoring the birds and providing supplementary food.



(Photo: Nick Bradsworth)



(Photo: Clem Thompson)

indigenous plant nursery enabling many locals to revegetate local properties.

Bruce Quin, Senior Ornithologist at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) who has worked with HeHo's for more than 30 years.

Zoos Victoria's Karina Cartwright for leading the conservation

breeding program of HeHo's at Healesville Sanctuary, along with wildlife field ecologists Dr Dan Harley, and more recently Dr Nick Bradsworth taking major roles.

It may take some years before this trial reintroduction could be considered successful. Spring will determine if released birds can pair off, nest and successfully breed. That would be a huge reward to many people involved

over so many years. And for these very special birds after more than 160 years of their habitat being plundered, will they have the resilience to re-establish in their former territory?

- Alex Smart OAM

See ad on page 16

Cardinia Mobile Library

The Cardinia Mobile Library is the busiest in Victoria with more than 55,000 visits every year.

The service provides more than books and DVDs, it is a mobile meeting place where people from small communities can gather, share news and make connections.

A brand new state-of-the art, mobile library trailer arrived in 2019, with funding from the Victorian State Government and Cardinia Shire Council.

Go to www.myli.org.au/locations/cardinia-mobile-library/ for more information.

You can visit the Cardinia Mobile Library in Beaconsfield on **Wednesdays at the Beaconsfield Community Complex from 12 Noon to 6pm.**



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

Shop 2, 4-6 Wheeler Street

BERWICK, Vic. 3806

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@parliament.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. 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 bimonthly 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 tri-annually. 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 November, 2025.

Disclaimer

The claims of advertisers in the *Banner* are not endorsed by the BPA and opinions expressed are those of the author, not the publisher. Whilst every care has been taken in preparing this newsletter there may be something that has been overlooked or printed incorrectly. Please contact us if articles or advertisements do not appear as you intended.

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Staying connected:

 **/bradbattinmp**

 **/BradBattinMP**

 **Brad Battin**

 **berwick@parliament.vic.gov.au**

 **bradbattin.com.au**

 **5953 0216**

 **PO Box 704, Berwick 3806**

BRAD BATTIN MP

LIBERAL STATE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Authorised by Brad Battin MP Shop 2, 4-6 Wheelers Street Berwick VIC 3806

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Ph: 03 9707 5055 MIGHTY HELPFUL MITRE 10