

# BEACONSFIELD BANNER

FREE

Triannual Publication of the Beaconsfield Progress Association

Summer 2025 Edition

## Carols by the Creek



**Bob Burgess Reserve**  
Princes Hwy Beaconsfield

**SUNDAY 21  
DECEMBER**  
CAROLS 7:30PM

**CHILDREN'S  
ACTIVITIES**  
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# President's Report



Welcome to this Summer edition of the Beaconsfield Banner. The Banner is available on our BPA website [www.beaconsfield.org.au](http://www.beaconsfield.org.au) and printed copies are available in the town at businesses

including the Beaconsfield Post Office and Beaconsfield Pharmacy. The Beaconsfield Progress Association (BPA) provides a link between the residents, businesses, and governing authorities predominately our local government Cardinia Shire Council.

Our achievements in 2025 reflect on the work done by our Committee, members and others co-opted. Thanks to Penny Harris Jennings for all the research work that she does for us especially this year on Beaconsfield WWII Soldiers. Congratulations to Penny for her book on the Salvation Army home at Pakenham which was recently released.

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 overpass. The house and Bunya tree 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 and the renovator of the Railway House.

A Remembrance Day service was held on 11 November at the Beaconsfield War Memorial site at Bonette Reserve. Those attending were gathered to remember all servicemen and women who served in all conflicts. We remember that at 11am on 11 November 1918 the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. Originally known as Armistice Day it was renamed Remembrance Day after WWII to commemorate those who were killed in both world wars. Today, the loss of lives from all wars is commemorated on Remembrance Day. We will remember them. Lest we forget.

The Beaconsfield *Carols by the Creek* will be held on Sunday 21 December at Bob Burgess Reserve. The carols are organised by Beaconsfield Baptist Church and the BPA and is a wonderful community event. Organisers are hoping for fine weather for the family friendly event.

A Grant of \$8,476 has been received from the Department of Veterans Affairs to enable plaques to be made for WWII Soldiers. Now that the Funds have been received, we are able to proceed with the making and installation of the plaques in early 2026.

A Grant of \$1,000 has been received from Cardinia Shire Council for Wellbeing/Support to enable Christmas trees and some decorations to be installed in Beaconsfield. This project will involve the local community and schools as in recent years.

APA Group 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 project works are currently on hold due to APA assessing the potential to relocate the stormwater drain. The drain runs from Beaconsfield/Emerald Road to Cardinia Creek. Once these works have been completed, the area that is used by the public will be larger and will be re-instated at least to what was there previously.

During 2025 BPA has produced the *Beaconsfield Banner* every four months. The *Beaconsfield Banner* is available in the printed format from outlets in the town as well as digitally on our website and mobile phones. Thanks to Robert Cooper for his work as Editor. Our Facebook page continues to be popular and gets many hits. To assist with our printing costs, our Association received a Grant of \$900 from Cardinia Shire Council.

Our Incorporated Association held its Annual General Meeting on 21 October. All Association office bearers positions were declared vacant and those elected, as follows

- President, Graeme Taylor
- Vice President, Colin Brewer
- Treasurer, Andrew Brewster
- Secretary, Ann Taylor
- Minute Secretary, Suzanne Brewer
- Banner Editor, Robert Cooper
- General Committee, Suzanne Brewer & Bronwyn McCormick

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

The statutory AGM was followed by a presentation from two Pakenham police officers. They spoke on general policing duties, local crime and actions residents should take to protect their property and their own personal safety.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# Beacon Hills Ward Councillors' Report



Mayor, Cr Brett Owen

## Level Crossing Removal Project complete



The LXRП Beaconsfield project has now come to completion with the last element of works being the new shared use path on Kenilworth Avenue which lifts the path above the 1 in 50-year flood levels and the

project has completed the planting of over 70,000 new plant species including trees, grasses, ground covers and climbers and aquatic plants.



Kenilworth Avenue

The ownership and future of the Station Masters House is still with the State Government for a decision on its future ownership. Council has completed a new Heritage Citation for the property after the small renovations that were carried out to the house due to the proximity to the new bridge. The Bunya Bunya Pine has had an arborist report completed showing it's in good health following all the works around it over the last 2 years.

LXRП intend to have the Station carpark fully open prior to Christmas and Council are carrying out some

traffic counts around the station precinct including several local streets to compare the traffic volumes and parking prior to the project starting and will use the data to inform if any other works or signage are required to assist with parking and motorists' behaviours.

The project has a 2-year defects and maintenance period into mid 2027 which includes all landscaping areas and Council will work closely with the LXRП project team to ensure a high quality and establishment of plants and trees is achieved which will give a positive completion to this project.

## Green waste drop off events

Take advantage of our FREE green waste drop-off event this December – the perfect way to freshen up your outdoor space and make the most of the warmer weather.

This event accepts residential amounts of green waste including garden prunings, tree branches and trunks (up to 30 centimetres wide and 1 metre long), weeds, grass clippings, leaves, and flowers.

### Event details

- **Dates:** Saturday 6 and Monday 8 to Saturday 13 December
- **Times:** Monday to Friday: 7:30am - 3.30pm and Saturdays: 8am – 2pm
- **Location:** Future Recycling Transfer Station, 30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham

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

Waste will only be accepted from residential vehicles and trailers; commercial business operators cannot use this service.

## Dob in a dumper

You might have noticed new anti-dumping signs installed on public place bins across the shire. These signs are designed to remind residents how to report illegal rubbish dumping to Council, helping Cardinia Shire council to take action and keep our public spaces clean.

If you see dumped rubbish in your neighbourhood, contact Council on 1300 787 624 or report it: Litter

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Councillors' Report

(Continued from page 5)

and illegally dumped rubbish - Cardinia Shire Council.

## **Cardinia Shire Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy review**

Cardinia Shire Council is reviewing the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy to improve how residents walk, cycle, and move throughout the shire. This review of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy aims to create safer, more connected, and accessible paths and trails across the shire, ensuring a vibrant and active lifestyle for all.

The community is invited to participate in this review by sharing their experiences and ideas through an online survey and an interactive map highlighting areas for improvement or showcasing great places to walk or ride. Whether you are a regular walker, an avid cyclist, or a nature enthusiast, your insights will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our active transport network. Council is looking to understand which infrastructure works well, what needs improvement, and what new connections or upgrades residents would like to see.

The review will focus on shared paths and trails, both existing and proposed, facilitating informal walking and cycling for recreation and transport.

This initial ideas-gathering consultation will assist Council in developing a new draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy, which will be presented to the community for further feedback in early 2026.

The final strategy will serve as a guiding framework for Council's future planning and investment in walking and cycling infrastructure, ultimately enhancing connections and promoting a healthier lifestyle for all residents in Cardinia Shire.

Consultation on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy review is open until 7 December 2025. For more information on how to participate in the consultation or to learn more about the Bike and Pedestrian Strategy, please visit - [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)

## **Jingle all the way to our recycling drive and drop event**

Our Christmas drop-off event just got bigger and

better! This year we are expanding our usual cardboard drop-off event, accepting a wider range of those hard-to-recycle items that pile up over the festive season.

Drive through and drop off your e-waste, polystyrene, soft plastics, textiles, and excess cardboard — all for FREE!

All accepted items will be reused, repurposed or recycled.

### **Accepted items**

- **E-waste:** including electronics, devices, appliances & vapes
- **Polystyrene:** White polystyrene packaging and produce boxes
- **Soft plastics:** including plastic bags, bread bags, pasta and rice bags, chip packets, produce bags etc. Please bag all soft plastics together.
- **Clothing & textiles:** good quality or end of life textiles, including fabrics, bed linen & towels
- **Cardboard:** flattened and clean.

### **Event details**

- Date: Saturday 10 January and Sunday 11 January 2026,
- Time: 9am – 1pm
- Location: Council depot (18A Purton Road, Pakenham)

Cardinia Shire residents only. Residents must present photo ID as proof of residence within Cardinia Shire to access the free service. Residential volumes of accepted items allowed, no commercial vehicles.

You need to register for this event via [Trybooking](#)

## **Vale Gwen Neve**

I would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Gwen Neve.

Gwen loved Beaconsfield and Beaconsfield loved Gwen. Gwen was Beacy through and through.

Gwen's enthusiasm for life shone through everything she did, and her delightful, cheery presence could light up any room.

Gwen was an extraordinary member of our community. She was a dedicated member of the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre's Committee of





Management for over 3 decades, and a Life Member of the Beaconsfield Netball Club.

She was also the much loved cleaner at the Beaconsfield Primary School for 24 years, a school canteen helper and much-loved personality at the Beaconsfield Primary School. Beaconsfield Primary was fond to Gwen's heart.


To acknowledge Gwen's time at Beaconsfield Primary School, following her retirement the school installed the 'Gwen Neve Garden' which hosts the school Gazebo, is a fitting tribute to Gwen.

Today, Gwen's Garden and gazebo continues to be a place for students to catch up with friends, laugh and have fun.

Gwen will be greatly missed, but her legacy of friendship, fun, and community will live on in all of us.

### **Merry Christmas**

On behalf of Cardinia Shire Council, I would like to wish all residents a very Merry Christmas and a safe 2026. Take care.


## **Become an L2P Mentor — Help Young Drivers in Cardinia Shire**

Not all young people have access to a car or a supervising driver. The **TAC L2P Program** helps learners under 21 gain the **120 hours** they need for their licence — boosting safety, confidence, independence, and future opportunities.

Since 2010, **over 80 young people** have benefited from KRHS's L2P Program, and we want to keep the momentum going!

<b>We're looking for mentors who:</b>	<b>What we provide:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are <b>21+ with a full driver's licence</b>.</li> <li>• Can spare <b>2–3 hours per week</b>.</li> <li>• Want to <b>make a positive difference</b> in their community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A <b>car, fully insured and fuelled</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Full training and support</b>.</li> </ul>

**Ready to start? Contact Brian:** 03 5997 9687 | harlowb@krhs.net.au

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## **BPA President's Report**

*(Continued from page 4)*

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

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and have a great 2026.

Graeme Taylor, OAM  
President  
Beaconsfield Progress Association



# Beaconsfield CFA



Summer is upon us again and it is imperative to those on the rural fringe have a working fire plan.

A detailed plan with ALL members of the family familiar with its substance so if

threatened by fire you are able to act quickly and calmly to ensure everyone is safe.

Questions that you need to consider are as follows:

- Am I at risk from bush or grass fires?
- Do I know how fire behaves? Answers to this can be found online under CFA fire plan.

It is important to seriously decide whether you should stay or leave.

- If I stay, am I prepared to face radiant heat from the fire in defending my property?

Radiant heat is the number one killer in fires. It is the heat that will meet you if you venture outside when a fire burns through your property.

As a firefighter I have experienced that many times in my time, and I can assure you it is terrifying regardless of how often you have been exposed to this situation.

It is safer to leave early on a hot windy day.

Remember the following 40-10-40 rule:

Forty degrees, 10% humidity, and 40 km winds means you need to be elsewhere if you have a rural or urban rural property.

So preparation is your companion and decision based on possible outcomes will see you and your family enjoy the summer season.

Merry Christmas from our station to our community.

Stay Safe.

## YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE, BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.

The best way to keep you and your loved ones safe this fire season, is to make sure you have a fire plan.



Go to [fireplanner.vic.gov.au](https://fireplanner.vic.gov.au) to create your personalised fire plan now.

### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





# Gwen & Audrey - Two Precious Ladies

By Ann Taylor

## Gwen Neve

We first met Gwen in 1990 when our first child started school at Beaconsfield Primary.

Gwen worked there as the cleaner, but she was so much more. She knew all the students and their parents and the teachers by name. She was friendly and very caring and was someone you could always talk to, and you knew she would look out for your children. She finally retired from the school after 24 years. In her memory the school has established the Gwen Neve Garden.

Gwen lived in the town and was known and loved by everyone. After she retired Gwen was still active and joined the Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre. She organised the mid-way group for ladies and in 2005 was nominated for a Victorian Seniors Achievers Award. As a finalist she and her family attended Government House for a ceremony where she was presented with an award and certificate. She was also nominated for the Cardinia Shire Stan Henwood Award.

Beaconsfield Progress Association has been organising for over 20 years the Beaconsfield Anzac Memorial Service at Bonette Reserve, Beaconsfield War Memorial on the Sunday before Anzac Day. Gwen and her capable team have helped serve a delicious afternoon tea and helped in many ways with the service. Gwen loved Beaconsfield and its heritage and wanted to see it preserved in the best way.

She has also been involved in other groups in the town including the Beaconsfield Netball Club where she has been awarded a life membership.

Gwen passed away on 1st November at age 94.

Farewell Gwen. She has been a great friend to so many.



Gwen Neve - 1931-2025

## Audrey Dodson

Audrey was a longtime resident of Officer. She was a dedicated primary school teacher and taught at many schools in the Cardinia Shire, including Pakenham Consolidated School and Beaconsfield Primary. While she was at Beaconsfield, she researched the information about the centenary of the school and helped organise the centenary celebrations in 1990. She wrote the book *Beaconsfield Primary School 1890-1990, the school and its district*.

She had a passion for local history and is best known for her work with Berwick Pakenham Historical

Society as Secretary. She loved researching and collecting local history and sharing her knowledge with visiting school groups. In 2022 she published the book *Pakenham Then and Now* which is a photographic record of Pakenham. It is full of wonderful old photographs with recent pictures beside them.

Audrey was Secretary for 37 years at BPHS and has left an amazing legacy.

Our community is so thankful for all she has contributed and her passions for teaching and local history.



Audrey Joan Dodson - 1932-2025

Audrey passed away on 21st August at age 93.

# Beaconsfield Hall

A group of local residents met in 1904 with the vision of building a public hall in Beaconsfield. A committee was formed for the management of the hall, which was to provide a gathering place for recreation and education. The agreed location was a prominent position on the Princes Highway opposite where the War Memorial now stands. The hall with

a free library would be most advantageous for the community and fundraising for the hall proceeded. The local builder James Adamson was the carpenter of choice and the construction of the building commenced. In July 1906 the Premier of

Victoria, Thomas Bent attended the

opening. He gave praise to the community for the enthusiasm of such an important public building to service all the residents' communal activities.

During the First World War there were many functions in support of the district soldiers, there were numerous occasions of fundraising and the hall was the venue to welcome home all that returned from war service in 1919.

The hall provided for the residents a multipurpose functional building which included a free library. Over the years there were many different uses including weddings, balls, bazaars, a place of worship and one of the rooms was used for a time as a baby health centre.

In the 1930's the hall had a cinematographic machine, which was a welcome entertainment. After 1937 the hall was sold to the "Crown", the reason given was that it allowed the committee to apply for government grants.

The Country Roads Board in the mid 1940's began its deliberation regarding the widening of the Princes Highway; the predicament of the hall position was continually discussed over the following years.



*Beaconsfield Hall, located approximately where Beaconsfield Pharmacy is today.*

Despite this, in 1957 the hall committee received a subsidy for extensions to the supper room. The robust discussion on relocation continued, in 1963 the Beaconsfield Progress Association continued the discourse during the March meeting, numerous committee members, councillors and concerned local residents debated the future possibilities for the building. A popular view during this time was the

possibility of moving the hall to the Recreation reserve. A motion was passed that a letter be sent to the Country Roads Board requesting the future planning regarding the highway and its impact concerning the hall.

Despite community protest the hall in

the 1970's was sold by tender to Mr H D Allen of Arthurs Creek. This unfortunately meant the hall was demolished instead of the original preferred choice of moving the hall to another location, as desired by the residents. The hall committee received a cash payment to build a new Beaconsfield Hall to better service the growing town.

Without a community venue the obvious need was recognised by the local council. The old Pakenham Library was subsequently moved to Beaconsfield next to the scout hall in Beaconsfield Avenue. This provided a necessary place for local groups, which included the BPA, Neighbourhood Centre classes, and a crèche.

A new hall was not built on the previous model, instead the new Beaconsfield Community Complex was built in O'Neil Road in 2004.

*Researched, written and compiled by Penny Harris Jennings*

This article was first published in the *Beaconsfield Banner* in Autumn 2018 and has recently been reprinted with permission in *Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria Newsletter*, Useful Knowledge, Issue 65 - Spring 2025.



# Beaconsfield Remembrance Day Service

The service was held on Tuesday 11th November at Bonette Reserve, Beaconsfield War Memorial.

*wars and conflicts is commemorated on Remembrance Day.*

Graeme Taylor, President of the BPA welcomed everyone who had gathered, and Cardinia Shire Councillor Brett Owen welcomed everyone on behalf of Cardinia Shire.

Cr. Owen read the Remembrance Day message.

*We are gathered here today to remember all servicemen and women and all those who served and in all conflicts.*

*Today on 11th November we remember that at 11am on 11th November 1918, the guns on the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. The Germans called for an armistice (suspension of fighting) in order to secure a peace settlement. They accepted the allied terms of unconditional surrender.*

*The 11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th month attained a special significance in the post war years. It became universally associated with the remembrance of those who had died in war.*

*Originally known as Armistice Day, it was renamed Remembrance Day after World War Two to commemorate those who were killed in both World Wars. Today the loss of lives from all*



Beaconsfield Primary School Captains: Mileah, Chloe, Jackson and Will.

*We will remember them Lest we forget.*

*We also remember the 80th Anniversary of the end of World War II which was commemorated on August 15, 2025. This date commemorates Japan's unconditional surrender on August 15 1945 which officially ended the war.*

*Gathered here on Bonette Reserve at Beaconsfield War Memorial we remember the Beaconsfield Service Men and Women who served in World War I and World War II and all those who served at all other times.*

Wreaths and flowers were laid by representatives. The Laurel wreath was first laid followed by Cardinia Shire Council. Then

the four captains from Beaconsfield Primary School, representatives from Beaconsfield CFA, BPA and Animals in War, also laid wreaths. Members of the public laid flowers and springs of Laurel.

The group then paused for one minute's silence to remember the fallen and all those who had served.



Flags were raised and everyone joined in singing the National Anthem.



# Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir in Parliament

The Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir Petition has been tabled in Parliament.

It will be of interest to hundreds of Beaconsfield residents who signed the Petition to Parliament, that the recent "Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir Petition to Parliament" has been handed to Brad Battin MP, to be tabled in Parliament. The Petition requested the Government to "Save Beaconsfield Reservoir and turn

Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve into a Public Park". It was officially handed to Brad Battin MP, Renee Heath MP and Wayne Farnham MP by our SBRAg committee after the deadline for the Spring Edition



of the Beaconsfield Banner, and this article gives closure to those who signed it and are interested in its progress. The petition has now been tabled in the Victorian Legislative Assembly. We await further news regarding its reception in Parliament. The point of the petition will be not be lost on those residents and their children, who still live locally, or have moved into rural areas of Beaconsfield, Upper Beaconsfield and Officer, and are aware of the catastrophic Ash Wednesday bush fires that occurred on February 16, 1983.

Our petition was supported by the broad community through the Pakenham Gazette, many local businesses, at market stalls, shows, or signing the petition outside supermarkets. The petition had been gathering signatures for approximately 2 years and was jointly supported in the local community by approximately 1,900 members of the Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir Action Group (SBRAg) on Facebook, and the 'Officer and District Community Association' (ODCA) membership.

It has been signed by an astounding 4,000 Victorians from all across the State, with the largest representation being in Cardinia Shire. Our SBRAg Committee decided that it was an appropriate time to hand it over to the Leader of the Opposition, Brad

Battin MP, who has been a long-term supporter of saving Beaconsfield Reservoir, so that the issue would get discussed in Parliament. Brad has been committed to saving the reservoir and its beautiful bushland as a public park for many years, so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. Despite the Pakenham electorate encompassing Beaconsfield Reservoir, Brad Battin MP is the member for Berwick, and it is the adjacent electorate, just a

couple of kilometres from the boundary of Beaconsfield Reservoir. He was the Member for Gembrook before electoral boundaries were changed at the last elections.

Our campaign objectives for the Petition to

Parliament were to obtain community awareness, consultation and transparent discussion on the future of Beaconsfield Reservoir's 525 Megalitres of water that had been left in the decommissioned Beaconsfield Reservoir since it was decommissioned in 1988. The Petition wished to draw to the attention of the Legislative Assembly:

- That the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water have kept the Beaconsfield Reservoir locked away from public access for decades, unbeknown to the majority of local residents. Although draining has currently paused, to the best of our knowledge they are still planning to drain most of the reservoir, demolish a substantial part of the dam wall, and continue keeping it locked up.
- The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly ask the Victorian State Government and Melbourne Water to undertake the following:
- The Beaconsfield Reservoir's current water level of 8.85 metres be maintained.
- The historic dam wall at current height be retained.
- The surrounding parkland be opened to public access.

*(Continued on page 21)*





## Make and Mingle

Friendship and craft group meets every Wednesday during school term at Beaconsfield Baptist

Church, 7 Desmond Court.

This term many people have been making Christmas gifts and presents and craft items to share with others.

St John of God hospital volunteers group visited to talk about the history of St John of God Hospital, the Wig Bank and the Oncology unit support. Make and Mingle supports these and also makes chemo caps.

Another day the group joined with Little Beacies playgroup which also meets at the church on Wednesday mornings. The children were able to sing some great songs with actions which everyone enjoyed and then they could explore Make and Mingle's knitted farm.

Make and Mingle finishes on 3rd December and resumes on 4 February 2026.



## 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](mailto: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

# Here to Help



## Michael Galea MP

Your State Labor Member for  
South Eastern Metropolitan Region



Level 2, 55 St Andrews Place East Melbourne VIC 3002 (temporary office)

michael.galea@parliament.vic.gov.au (03) 7501 8688

MichaelGaleaALP @MichaelGaleaMP

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





**BEACONSFIELD  
PHARMACY**

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW LOOK!

THE PHARMACY HAS RECENTLY TRANSITIONED TO TRADING AS  
"BEACONSFIELD PHARMACY" - A DECISION WE DID NOT MAKE LIGHTLY BUT  
ONE WE'VE MADE TO ENSURE WE ARE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY  
SERVE OUR WONDERFUL COMMUNITY TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES.

PLEASE BE ASSURED IT IS STILL THE SAME FRIENDLY OWNERS & STAFF!

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PHONE: 03 9707 5187 EMAIL: [info@beaconsfieldpharmacy.com.au](mailto:info@beaconsfieldpharmacy.com.au)

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TUES/WED NIGHT SOCIAL - SUNDAY MORNING VETERANS  
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# JASON WOOD

**FEDERAL MEMBER FOR LA TROBE**



Authorised by Jason Wood MP, Liberal Party of Australia,  
Unit 3, 16 Langmore Ln, Berwick VIC 3806.

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# Member for Berwick

By Brad Battin MP



Brad Battin, MP

Where has this year gone? With summer quickly approaching, it's a great time to enjoy the warmer weather while keeping safety and community in mind. Longer days and sunny skies invite us outdoors to the beach, backyard BBQs, and local events, but it's also a season that calls for extra awareness and care.

Dry conditions mean taking extra precautions around BBQs and campfires and always check local fire restrictions. Around the water, whether at the pool, river, or beach, staying alert can help keep everyone safe. To prepare your property for summer, please use the following link:

[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/534/CFA-Your-Guide-to-Property-Preparation-V2.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/534/CFA-Your-Guide-to-Property-Preparation-V2.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y)

Remember, shopping locally for gifts helps support small businesses and offers a range of unique finds. All in all, this season is about relaxing, connecting with others, and looking out for each other.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May this season offer happiness, peace, and time well spent with loved ones. I hope 2026 is a positive year for all, filled with new opportunities.

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](mailto:berwick@parliament.vic.gov.au).

You can also follow me on social media via my website:

[www.bradbattin.com.au](http://www.bradbattin.com.au),

Twitter: @BradBattinMP,

Facebook: /BradBattinMP,

Instagram: @bradbattinMP,

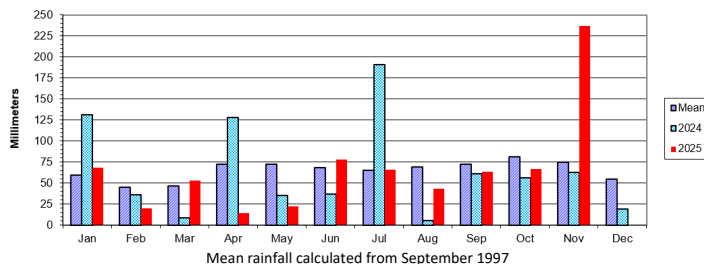
Linked In: Brad-Battin and

YouTube – Brad Battin.



facebook.com/BeaconsfieldVic

# Beaconsfield Rainfall



	2025											2024
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
mm	68	20	53	14	22.1	78	68.8	43.1	63.7	66.4	236.5	19
Rain Days	6	6	4	6	4	11	15	11	15	13	19	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](mailto:banner@beaconsfield.org.au)**



SECRET

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## Neighbourhood Natter

The year has zoomed by, and we are wrapping up the final term of 2025 along with our Christmas presents.

### Christmas Raffle

Tickets for our Christmas Raffle are now available for \$1 each. We are delighted with the incredible number of donations we've received to help make this a successful fundraising opportunity for our



Centre.

A heartfelt thank-you to our wonderful donors and to the amazing volunteers for putting together the hampers. Special thanks to these local businesses for their generous donations of vouchers:

- Frankies
- Daydreamers
- Middle Ground
- Robert Gordon Pottery

We now ask for support from our wonderful community to buy a ticket (or a few) for the chance to win. If you miss the raffle but would like to make a financial contribution to support our services, you

can offer a donation at any time during the year, and it will be gratefully received.

### Annual General Meeting

Our AGM, held in October, was a great success. We welcomed both new and returning members to our Committee of Management for 2025/2026:

- **President:** Noel Wyett
- **Vice President:** Maree Hynes
- **Treasurer:** Bronwyn Thomas
- **Secretary:** Katharine O'Carroll
- **General Members:** Julie Allison, Valerie Boumann, Richa Deo, Bronwyn McCormick, Miryam Prasetyo, Monica Spiteri & Louise Stirling.

We thank each of these amazing volunteers for dedicating their time and expertise to govern our Centre.

### Funding & Advocacy



We are currently advocating for the State Government to increase the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) hourly rate by 25% in the 2026 Victorian Budget.

The NHCP is the state government program that largely funds our operations. Funding is allocated based on hours of coordination and assists with employing a coordinator and related costs.

However, Neighbourhood Houses have faced rising costs, increasing community need and an erosion of core funding. Current funding no longer covers the true cost of employing a manager for the required funded hours - let alone other operational costs. Nearly half of all Houses in Victoria have recorded a loss for two years running.

Furthermore, 92% of the funded positions are filled by women, who are now under extreme pressure to cut corners or volunteer their time in the workplace. They are doing unpaid labour to cover the lack of funding for this essential community service. Without sustainable funding, our doors will eventually close. We hope that this important message is being received and acted upon by the relevant ministers in the Department of Families, Fairness & Housing (DFFH).

Managers of Neighbourhood Houses in the Cardinia Shire Council Cluster, along with other sector representatives, recently met at our Centre with the



Hon. Brad Battin MP to discuss the campaign. We trust that the Leader of the Opposition will support our budget submission and help ensure funding reflects the true value of our work.



To show your support, visit us (or your local Neighbourhood House) to sign a postcard supporting the campaign and to share what your Neighbourhood House means to you.

Special thanks to Cr. Brett Owen (Beacon Hills Ward), a long-time supporter of our Centre, who sent his own postcard directly to Ros Spence MP—we are grateful, as always, for his ongoing efforts to make our community shine and thrive.



We're thrilled that Cardinia Shire Council has formally backed our campaign at their October meeting where the following motion was carried:

*That Council:*

*1. Writes to Hon. Ros Spence, Minister for Carers and Volunteers, to express Council's support for Neighbourhood Houses Victoria's advocacy appeal to the State Government for more support for staff and the sector overall through the following, requesting:*

*a. funding for Neighbourhood Houses (Neighbourhood House Coordination Program) increases by 25% ensure our community is provided with essential support and connection,*

*b. an additional 25 houses receive ongoing funding who currently do not,*

*c. in principle support regarding the development of a fund for the establishment of 5 neighbourhood houses per year over 4 years in Growth Areas subject to Council's*

*review of its Neighbourhood House Policy.*

*2. Notes the importance of the eight Neighbourhood houses operating in Cardinia Shire to the social and community fabric of the Shire and thank the staff and volunteers who run them.*

*For: Cr Kowarzik, Cr Nickell, Cr Owen, Cr Paton, Cr Pomeroy, Cr Potter, Cr Roberts, Cr Ross and Cr Thomsen*

*Against: Nil.*

*Carried*

For more information about this important message, visit [www.nhvic.org.au/2026-campaign](http://www.nhvic.org.au/2026-campaign).

## Vale – Gwen Neve



We were deeply saddened when our dear friend and long-time BNC member, Gwen Neve, passed away on November 1st.

Gwen was an extraordinary member of our community and will be greatly missed. Her enthusiasm for life shone through in everything she did,

and her delightful, cheery presence could light up any room.

Gwen was a dedicated member of our Committee of Management for decades and was integral in the formation and development of our community centre. She was the heart and soul of our Midway Group (which she fondly called "Club"), and a constant source of warmth and laughter. From organising fun events for Midway and supporting Centre fundraisers, to savouring a glass of red at Wine Club and giving the best hugs anyone could ask for, Gwen's kindness, humour, and generous spirit touched everyone who knew her. We send our condolences to Gwen's family and share their grief from the passing of this incredible lady.

## Community Food Pantry

We are grateful to Fire Church, our regular Sunday venue hirers, for their significant, generous donation to help stock our Community Food Pantry. This free service has become a vital support for many

# Neighbourhood Natter

(Continued from page 19)

community members who rely on it to top up their pantry essentials. Those in need are welcome to help themselves anonymously.

Ongoing support from Woolworths Beaconsfield and the Community Bank Beaconsfield District is also essential in sustaining this initiative. We encourage you to like and follow the Bank's Facebook page to see the great work they do in our community: [facebook.com/communitybankbeaconsfelddistrict](https://facebook.com/communitybankbeaconsfelddistrict)

## Programs & Activities

The BNC program has details of all our classes and the regular activities and workshops. The Term 4 edition is available on our website [www.bncinc.org.au](http://www.bncinc.org.au) and as soon as it is finalised, we will upload Term 1. We distribute printed copies in our annual letterbox drop during January, but if your house misses out, you can visit reception for a hard copy.

## BNC Children's Room

Our Children's Room is always buzzing with fun, colourful, and creative activities! Families are welcome to visit and see if our services suit your needs.



## PLAYGROUP

Our Tuesday Playgroups with Alicia are very popular, running two sessions each week during school terms. Enrolments for 2026 are now open!

- 9:00am session – fills quickly
- 11:30am session – growing fast

A \$20 non-refundable deposit secures your spot for your preferred session next year. Parents and carers stay to participate in the activities Alicia sets up—a great opportunity for children to learn through play

and for adults to connect with other local families.

To book, or for more information, call us on 8768 4400 or email [contactus@bncinc.org.au](mailto:contactus@bncinc.org.au).

## OCCASIONAL CARE

Looking for flexible, nurturing childcare for your little one in 2026? Our affordable Occasional Care program offers families a safe, friendly, and stimulating environment where children can learn, play, and grow at their own pace. Each session is thoughtfully planned and run with small groups, allowing siblings to stay together and enjoy the familiarity and comfort of our long-term, caring staff.

Enrolments for permanent childcare places in 2026 are now being taken. Getting in early is the best way to secure care on your preferred days, but families are invited to contact us at any time during the year to discuss your needs and check availability. Come and see why so many local families love our welcoming, community-based Children's Room — where every child is valued, and every family belongs.

**2026 CHILD CARE**  
Session cost just \$94.80 with CCS rebates available if eligible.

**Tours Welcome Enquire Now**

**Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre Inc**

**Enrolments are now open for 2026 with a \$20 deposit.**

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Phone: 8768 4400 Web: [www.bncinc.org.au](http://www.bncinc.org.au)



# Member for South-East Metropolitan By Michael Galea MP



Michael Galea, MP

The Metro Tunnel and five new stations are open! You may have seen that over 70,000 people travelled on the metro tunnel on opening day. It's a truly historic moment for our city.

Passengers on the Pakenham line can now travel directly through the tunnel, with 240 extra weekly services running between

Westall and West Footscray during the day on weekdays and weekends. This is on top of the regular Pakenham line services through the City Loop.

From February 1st, the Big Switch will fully integrate the Metro Tunnel into the Cranbourne, Pakenham and Sunbury lines, adding thousands of services each

week and freeing up space in the Loop so more trains can run more often.

And the good news keeps coming - public transport is free on weekends until February 1st to celebrate the opening and help families enjoy summer before school goes back.

The Metro Tunnel will make it easier to reach more parts of the city, from workplaces to hospitals, schools, events and services. Locals will see more frequent services, shorter waits and faster trips.

**I'm also pleased to update you on important reforms the Government has recently introduced to strengthen public safety.**

The Allan Labor Government's Adult Time for Violent Crime reforms will crack down on serious youth offending, including home invasions and assaults, by treating offenders over fourteen as adults for sentencing. This means tougher penalties and greater likelihood of jail time for the most violent crimes.

*(Continued on page 25)*

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## Beaconsfield Reservoir in Parliament (Continued from page 12)

- The reserve be turned into a public park, with facilities provided to enhance the accessibility and useability of the area.

Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir Action Group have tried to avoid a political path to resolve this impasse with Melbourne Water. Our SBRAAG Committee wished to consult with all political groups and represent all residents, regardless of political affiliation, because catastrophic bush fires such as the Ash Wednesday bushfires, the Black Saturday bushfires and the Bunyip State Forest bushfires, don't respect political boundaries. As locals, we know that another bush fire will inevitably be the consequence for all residents of the local communities, including Beaconsfield, unless decisive action to save the water in Beaconsfield Reservoir is undertaken!

Our primary objectives have remained to protect the local community, the environment and wildlife, and we have been open in wanting to have commonsense discussions to engage with the State Government's Ministers for Water and the Environment, and of course, Melbourne Water's

Beaconsfield Dam Project Team. Unfortunately, all of our attempts seem to end on deaf ears, because discussion and consultation are not considered an option by the government. Despite our sincere efforts to promote meaningful negotiation, the Ministers and Melbourne Water have the opinion that negotiations cannot go ahead! How bizarre!

We trust that there will be a renewed interest in discussing the future of Beaconsfield Reservoir and its importance as a very large 525 Megalitres of useable water for fire-fighting. In this period of Climate Change, it is vital to save this resource for all local residents of Beaconsfield Upper, Beaconsfield and Officer, and to ensure this crucial water supply remains. The local population need this water resource as a future public park where families can visit to enjoy the bushland and the reservoir, but also critically as a resource which can save lives, homes, the environment and wildlife by preventing future disasters on the scale of recent bush fires!

Harry Jensen - President,  
Save the Beaconsfield Reservoir Action Group



## Beaconsfield Netball Club End of Year Presentation Night

The Beaconsfield Netball Club wrapped up a fantastic 2025 season with a vibrant and heartfelt End of Year

Presentation Night, bringing together players, coaches, families, life members and supporters to celebrate achievements both on and off the court. Nearly 200 people in attendance!



*Under 13 team enjoying the evening.*

Held at Pink Hill, the evening was filled with laughter, proud moments, and well-deserved recognition. From our youngest juniors to our senior teams, every player was acknowledged for their dedication, growth, and sportsmanship throughout the year.



*A Grade award winners (above).  
B Grade award winners (Right).*

Our Club President Dean Ziesler shared reflections



on the season's successes

for 2025 and thanked our sponsors, club committee, volunteers, coaches, team managers, umpires, canteen team and all those that support our club.

Awards included Best and Fairest and Runners up for each team as voted by umpires and coach, Coaches

award and Player's Choice award.

We celebrated special recognition of players reaching 50 and 100 game milestones with Beaconsfield Netball Club, a special mention to **Suzie Bouchier** and **Danielle Sell** for both being awarded 100 games in 2025. Showing such commitment and loyalty.



*Peter Quinn (Left) and John Loane.*

The Best Club Person awards are one of the most important awards of the year. The Heather Studham, Best Club Spirit Award-Junior Best Club Person was awarded to **Peter Quinn** and the Clint Kenny Memorial Shield-Best Senior Club person awarded to **John loane**, both very worthy award winners, going above and beyond with exceptional dedication and commitment to our club - Congratulations!

Exciting times ahead for 2026, as South East Precinct Netball League (SEPNL) continues to grow and offer a home and away netball season, focussed on netball and allowing us to play netball with our home games at Holm Park Reserve in Beaconsfield for both junior and senior netballers on Saturdays. We are resurfacing our four netball courts at Holm Park over the summer, making a high-quality playing environment for our players.

A huge thank you to everyone who helps make our club a success —from the committee to the families who continue to support our players week in and week out.

As we close the chapter on 2025, we look forward to another year of strong club culture, teamwork, and netball excellence, not to mention some newly refreshed courts!

### **Go Beacy!**

By Katie Evans (Vice President)

Photos by Susanne Carlin





The Beaconsfield Football Club wound up a successful 2025 season with our Presentation Night event at Cardinia Cultural centre in Pakenham.

Three of our four teams made finals with our U/19.5 team winning the premiership under coach Peter Brough & our Seniors & Reserves losing first semi-finals. Our Women's team enjoyed more success this season, despite missing out on finals and had terrific player numbers.

**Lauren Hojnacki** won the EFNL Div. 2 league best & fairest, while **Leo Smith- Clark & Thando Gazi** were EFNL Div. 1 U/19.5's equal best & fairest as well as co-captaining our Thirds to a flag with Leo awarded best on ground medal in the grand final.

Best & Fairest in the four teams were as follows – Seniors – equal **Jake Aarts & Ali Zilji**; Reserves – **Jesse Morton**; Thirds – **Ali Kara**; Women – **Lauren Hojnacki**.

The Garry Manning award for Best Club Person went to our secretary **Andrea Cockayne**. The Alex Robson award went to captain **Damien Johnston** & the Judy Ruse award to **Courtney Williams**.

Preparations for 2026 footy season are well under way with plenty of promising youngsters graduating to our senior squad and lots of changes to our coaching group. A well known local in **Scott Kerr** takes over as senior coach, with **Darren Hamilton** as his assistant. Both have previously been involved at Beaconsfield FC as well as the Super rules club. The Development coaching role is being finalised, while **Mark Winterton** is U/19.5's coach with **Matt Coventry** as his assistant. **Glen Davies** continues as Women's coach after an impressive debut season in charge.

A big thank you to **Mick Fogarty** and his coaching staff as Mick steps down after the past six seasons where he had such a positive influence on our playing group.

**Pre-season training commences on the 18th 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.

The key officeholders are as follows – President – to be advised; Vice President – **Emma Fergusson**; Joint Secretaries – **Kym Maree Ingram & Amber Dumesny**; Treasurer – **Leon Heinze**; Venue Manager – **Hugh Matthews**; Football Operations – **Matt Coventry**.

A very big thank you to outgoing president **Troy Robinson**, and secretary **Andrea Cockayne** for their magnificent service & contribution to our football club at both senior & junior levels.

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 2026 whether its with the Juniors or Seniors but it is a great place to form life long connections and friendships.



*Above - The Thirds premiership team with coaching staff at the Presentation night*



*Above - 2025 Best & Fairest winners – Ali Kara (U/19.5); Jesse Morton (Reserves); Lauren Hojnacki (Women's); Jake Aarts & Ali Zilji (Seniors).*





## Beaconsfield Tennis Club Announces New Committee and Celebrates Achievements

The Beaconsfield Tennis Club is thrilled to introduce the newly elected Committee of Management for the 2025/26 season. Leading the club are **Bronwyn McCormick** as President, **Kat Lazzaro** as Vice President, **Louise Stirling** as Secretary, **Joshua McCormick** as Treasurer, and **Amy Wilson** as Assistant Treasurer. The General Committee members are **Anja Potter**, **Maurie Potter**, **Adrian Walsh**, and **Carmen Bailey**.

The club extends heartfelt thanks to the outgoing committee for their dedication and hard work over the past year. Their efforts have significantly contributed to the club's success and growth. The club also appreciates everyone who attended the AGM and showed their support.



In a remarkable achievement, **Coach Tyler** has been named Tennis Coaches Australia's Rookie of the Year, recognising the top young coach under 25. This prestigious honour reflects Tyler's unwavering dedication to his students, the Beaconsfield Tennis Club, and Ossie's Tennis Coaching over the past five

years. Tyler's passion, professionalism, and tireless work ethic have earned the admiration of his peers across the coaching community.

The club also celebrates the success of its teams and players. Congratulations to all the teams that made it to the grand finals for the winter season 2025, including ROS Gold Premiers, Runners Up Rubbers 4, Runners Up Section 7, and Premiers Section 14 Gold.



ROS Gold Premiers



Runners up Rubbers 4





*Runners up Section 7*



*Premiers Section 14 Gold*

Additionally, the winners of the club championship held on October 4th, 2025, are as follows:

- Ladies singles: Gabby Gelderbloem def Emma Osborne
- Mens singles: Craig Sankey def Mark Gelderbloem
- Girls singles: Gabby Gelderbloem def Kayla Mahesan
- Boys singles: Will Gelderbloem def Eoin Wylie
- B grade singles: Kayden Thapa def Mason Thapa
- Senior doubles winners: Thomas McCormick & Aaryan Bhojani

A special thank you goes to Paul from Ossie's Tennis Coaching for expertly managing the event, and to **Louise Stirling, Bron McCormick**, and junior volunteer **Michaela Whyllie** for running a fantastic BBQ together. Their teamwork and energy were the heart of the day. The club also appreciates all the volunteers who helped with the cleanup, ensuring everything ran smoothly and the club looked its best. Trophies will be presented at the end-of-year celebrations.

Finally, congratulations to the B3 WDTA Saturday Afternoon Premiers! The team, consisting of **Shaya Hennessy, Aaryan Bhojani**, and **Emilia Klarica**, emerged victorious. All three WDTA Beaconsfield Tennis Club teams made it to the finals, but B3 came out on top.

### **Contact Information:**

General Queries: (03) 882-05853

Email: [info@beaconsfieldtennisclubinc.com](mailto:info@beaconsfieldtennisclubinc.com)

Facebook: Beaconsfield Tennis Club Community

Mail: P.O. Box 132, Beaconsfield, VICTORIA, 3807

Coach: Ossie's Tennis Coaching

Phone: 0413594633

Email: [ossie30@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ossie30@bigpond.net.au)



## **Member for South-East Metropolitan**

*(Continued from page 21)*

We're also increasing the maximum sentence for adults who recruit children into violent gang activity. Those who involve a child in serious offences like aggravated home invasion will face life in prison. This is what the community has called for -and we're delivering it. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their own home.

In addition, those who harm or threaten retail, fast food, hospitality or transport workers will now face penalties of up to five years' jail. These reforms protect customer-facing workers and ensure they can do their jobs safely.

The Allan Labor Government remains committed to strengthening laws and keeping Victorians safe at work, at home and in the community



# Your Representatives

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

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## STATE GOVERNMENT

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## CARDINIA SHIRE

Beacon Hills Ward

Mayor, Cr. Brett Owen

[B.Owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:B.Owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



Officer Ward

Cr. Samantha-Jane Potter

[S.Potter@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto: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.

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](mailto:banner@beaconsfield.org.au)

### Articles Welcome

Articles can be emailed to the editor at [banner@beaconsfield.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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, 2026.**

### Disclaimer

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# Police know the back roads too.

Police can be anywhere at anytime, even on the back roads. They're out there to keep you safe. So if you still choose to take risks while driving and break the road rules, chances are you will be caught.  
**Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.**





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