

Connect

AUTUMN 2016

Your Council magazine

IT'S FESTIVAL SEASON

Great events around the shire this autumn

REACHING OUT

Council's Youth Services team delivers great new program

MOVIE TICKET OFFER

Buy three, get one free!

PROVIDING FOR FAMILIES

New child and family centre takes shape



Cardinia

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COVER PHOTO: Dance teacher Estelle Villalobos from Violeta Parra at the 2015 Pakenham Show.

Photo credit:
Rob Carew, Star News Group.

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For enquiries, contact the *Connect* editor on 1300 787 624 or comms@cardinia.vic.gov.au
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WELCOME



(L to R): Vice Chair of SIBA Victoria and Founder of Map4Life David Bruce, competition sponsor LJ Hooker Pakenham representative Sam Paynter, Heritage College, Officer student Kaeyah Mousaco and Mayor Cr Jodie Owen at the inaugural MapIT! School Challenge presentation to celebrate International GIS Day in November last year. Kaeyah won the mapping competition, which was run by Council and the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria (GTAV), and sponsored by smart mapping specialists Esri Australia.

As Mayor, one duty that fills me with great pride and enjoyment is presiding over the citizenship ceremonies that take place in Cardinia Shire throughout the year.

On 26 January this year, 64 Cardinia Shire residents became Australian citizens, including 10 children. They come to us from countries including India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Thailand, South Korea, England, Canada, Egypt and the Netherlands. Many are here to seek safer or more prosperous lives for themselves and their families, and with this in mind it is always wonderful to watch the happy faces of our newest citizens as they take their pledge.

Council supports people from culturally diverse backgrounds in a number of ways; you can read more about what we do on page 12.

Congratulations to our shire's 2016 Australia Day Award winners; they are all very worthy recipients who contribute greatly to our community. Turn to page 6 to get acquainted with our Citizen of the Year Ron Ingram. People like Ron who give their time to community initiatives will also be celebrated during National Volunteer Week (9–15 May).

I'd like to remind everyone to please observe the road rules around our school crossings, for the sake of our children as well as the people who help keep them safe.

Council employs 67 crossing supervisors across our shire, to help children and parents cross the road safely as they make their way to and from school. They work in all manner of weather conditions – one of many reasons why they deserve our thanks!

Now that the kids are back at school, please drive with great care around schools and park only in designated zones. During pick-up and drop-off times, slow down as you approach school crossing zones and don't exceed the speed limit (which is generally 40 kilometres per hour in these

zones). If you speed or fail to stop at a school crossing, there is a high chance you will be reported to the police and fined.

Council is busy preparing its draft budget for 2016–17 – we expect it will be ready for you to view on the 'Have your say' web page on Council's website around late-March.

In the meantime, keep up-to-date with major works happening around Cardinia Shire using Council's major projects interactive map at cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects – it's where you'll find information on project locations, funding, progress updates and how we have worked with the community to make each project happen.

As the interactive map will show you, there's so much going on around our shire – it's an exciting time!

Mayor Cr Jodie Owen



Paving the way

Council has delivered more than 2.6 kilometres of new footpaths around the shire as part of the 2015–16 Footpath Program. The 11 footpaths have been constructed in Avonsleigh, Beaconsfield, Bunyip, Cockatoo, Lang Lang, Koo Wee Rup and Pakenham.

Council funded all the works at a cost of \$770,000.



Enrol online for kinder

Enrol your child now to ensure you receive your placement offer for kindergarten in 2017.

Offers will be released in mid-July for four-year-old places and in mid-August for three-year-old places. Registrations close on 30 June 2016.

To enrol visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten; for enquiries call 1300 787 624.



Pet registration reminder

Pet owners will soon receive their annual pet registration notice in the mail. Registrations are due by 10 April 2016.

New pet owners are required by law to register dog and cats from the age of three months.

Registration fees help Council cover the cost of responding to animal management requests from the community. A registered pet is also more likely to be returned to its owner if lost.



Don't miss out these school holidays!

Council's next Teenage School Holiday Program from Tuesday 29 March to Friday 8 April has some exciting activities in store, including excursions to a comedy show and circus, an art day, an airbrush graffiti workshop and a day trip to Arthurs Seat.

For bookings visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth or My Place at 5–7 Main Street, Pakenham or call 1800 4 YOUTH.

Council acts to end FAMILY VIOLENCE

On any day, at any time, someone in Cardinia Shire experiences family violence.

This is not exclusive to our shire, but the shocking truth is that according to Crime Statistics 2015, Cardinia Shire has the second highest rate of reported incidence of family violence in the southern metropolitan region.

In response to this, Council is working with Family Life and the University of Melbourne to support the 'Together We Can' community initiative, which begins with a community convention in April.

Mayor Cr Jodie Owen said Council acknowledges the many services and activities that support and celebrate our community, "but we know work needs to be done urgently to address the reasons behind this disproportionately high rate of family violence.

"We are committed to working with all members of our community to add their voices and collective strength to the initiative."



"This event will help raise awareness of the causes of family violence, find local solutions and support changing behaviours," Cr Owen said.

Family Life General Manager of Services Allison Wainwright said the time to act is now, "Silence is acceptance, and words without some form of collective action don't change anything."

All community members are invited to attend the convention. Visit togetherwecan.org.au for more information and to join the conversation, or 'like' the 'Together We Can' Facebook page.

EVENT INFO

'Together We Can' Community Convention

- Thursday 28 and Friday 29 April
- Cardinia Cultural Centre, Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham
- cardinia.vic.gov.au/calendar



FIRM FOUNDATIONS for children in Officer

Works are in full swing on Cardinia Shire's newest child and family centre in Officer.

Council began constructing Arena Child and Family Centre in Curran Drive in early January. The project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

In February, Mayor Cr Jodie Owen and Daniel Mulino MP, representing the Minister for Children and Families, celebrated the pouring of the slab at the centre.

The new centre will open from January 2017 and will provide kindergarten services (including before- and after-kinder care), maternal and child health services and space for community programs and activities, such as community playgroups and local support services.

Cr Owen said the location of the centre, in the shire's fastest growing residential area, would cater for children growing up in Officer and surrounding areas.

"We are committed to providing supportive and engaging facilities and services for the shire's youngest residents.

"This new centre will help deliver maternal and child health services and kindergarten places to the many new families living in, and moving into, Cardinia Shire. It will also become a great place for families with young children to develop supportive social networks," Cr Owen said.


"Council worked with community members, service providers, maternal and child health staff and early years' educators during the centre's design and planning phase to ensure it will offer services and features specific to the community's needs. It will have a very unique design both inside and out."

The outside of the centre will appear as a series of 'home' shapes, taking inspiration from the residential areas nearby and the importance of strong family foundations for children. Inside, the 'flow' of the building mirrors a child's development, moving from maternal child and health services to playgroups to kindergarten spaces.

'bestchance' has been appointed to deliver funded kindergarten at the centre, and in response to community feedback, before and after-kinder care will also be available. Enrolments for the kindergarten will be managed by Council's Central Enrolment Scheme.

Council has committed \$2.135 million to the project which is supported by an additional \$650,000 from the Victorian Government Department of Education and Training.

MORE INFO

 cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Above: Mayor Cr Jodie Owen and Daniel Mulino MP at the launch to celebrate the start of construction of Arena Child and Family Centre.
Photo courtesy of Star News Group.

Page 4: Family Life General Manager of Services Allison Wainwright (left) with Mayor Cr Jodie Owen.

Ron is one **HARD WORKER**

Cardinia Shire's Citizen of the Year, Ron Ingram, is surely a worthy recipient of this accolade – he was delivering a bed to a Vietnam veteran and then had a shift at the local opportunity shop before he could clear his day to talk to *Connect* about his award.

Ron has lived and worked in Koo Wee Rup for 55 years, having moved there as a teenager. He's been married to local school teacher Lynette for 46 years. Ron retired in 2013 but spends "at least part of every day" working for his community.

"Becoming citizen of the year was humbling. Of course I'm a bit chuffed, but I'm just one person – many more deserving people are out there doing what I do for our community. I hope my award inspires others to get involved," Ron said.

Ron's first community 'project' was a membership drive for Koo Wee Rup RSL Sub-Branch whose members had dwindled to just two in 2002.

"When Geoff Stokes asked me to help 'save' the sub-branch, I knew we needed a minimum of eight members before the state president would even consider allowing it to continue. So I drove round for half a day getting people to sign up, so we could plead our case."

The campaign was successful and KWR RSL now boasts a membership of 80, conducts school visits and supports local community groups, such as Scouts and sporting clubs. When the state president was invited to visit the branch several years later he was "blown away" by what those few founding members had achieved.



Council's 2016 Australia Day award winners (L to R): Pakenham Football Club representatives Angela and Paul Beswick Young Citizen of the Year Molly White, Citizen of the Year Ron Ingram, Senior Citizen of the Year Peter Maloney, Mayor Cr Jodie Owen, Lang Lang Rodeo representatives Stephen Kent and Cheryl Berry, and Community Service Award winner Bob Walker.

"It's all about keeping people busy! I'm a hands-on person. I don't want people to just sit around and talk about what needs to be done. Getting on with a project keeps them engaged."

Ron's passion for his community has also helped build the KWR war memorial and plant 50 oak trees to create an avenue of honour acknowledging 40 soldiers from WW1 by name. His next 'big project' is to build a military museum to house the thousands of pieces of memorabilia he has been privileged to collect on behalf of the community.

Australia Day honour role

Cardinia Shire Council's 2016 Australia Day Awards were announced by Mayor Cr Jodie Owen as part of Council's Australia Day citizenship event at Cardinia Cultural Centre.

Citizen of the Year:

Ronald Ingram

Senior Citizen of the Year:

Peter Maloney

Young Citizen of the Year:

Molly White

Community Organisation of the Year:

Pakenham Football Club

Community Event of the Year:

2015 Lang Lang Rodeo

Community Service Award:

Bob Walker



THANK YOU for your ideas!

Following the Big Budget Brainstorm community consultation last year, Council is continuing to look at your ideas to help shape works and projects for 2016–17 and beyond.

The top 10 ideas, as voted during the consultation period, were:

- support for drift triking in Cardinia Shire
- additional facilities for recreation reserves, particularly in Officer
- barbecues and rotunda in Alma Treloar Reserve, Cockatoo
- Pakenham ParkRun signage and drinking fountains along Toomuc Creek, Pakenham
- promotion of protecting the natural environment
- a footbridge over Princes Highway near Pakenham Consolidated School
- traffic management and dust suppressant in Rythdale
- better playgrounds.

During the consultation, the online forum generated 223 ideas, 3,860 votes and



140 comments, whilst the community and response forums attracted more than 100 residents.

Mayor Cr Jodie Owen said it was great to see many people taking part and putting forward their ideas.

“Thank you to everyone who took part in the sessions. Every idea we received was thought-provoking and demonstrated that one thing we all have in common is wanting to make Cardinia Shire an even better place.

“We are looking forward to consulting and informing everyone further about the campaign,” said Cr Owen.

MORE INFO

For highlights of the community forum held in December, visit youtube.com/CardiniaTV

Building SAFER ROADS

‘Black spot’ road projects are progressing well across our shire, with all scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Council was awarded almost \$1.5 million from the Australian Government’s 2015–16 national ‘black spot’ program to improve conditions and safety on six dangerous intersections in the shire.

Design and tendering has been completed for three of the six projects: realignments at the intersections of Caldermeade and Heads roads (Catani) and Dalmore and Manks roads (Dalmore), and traffic signal remodelling at Henry and McGregor roads intersection (Pakenham). Works will commence shortly.

Works have already begun to seal the shoulder and upgrade road signs at Rainy Hill Road (Cockatoo) and similar works are scheduled to start on McDonalds Track (Lang Lang) this month.

Design is also well underway for the street lighting upgrade at Army Road (Pakenham).

Mayor Cr Jodie Owen said Council was working to ensure Cardinia Shire roads are as safe as possible.

“All these intersections and roads have met ‘black spot’ criteria for safety improvements and to create better conditions for road users. Council welcomes the funding and looks forward to these works being completed as soon as possible.”



Catching up with ...

PHIL RUCK



3MDR station manager and broadcaster Phil Ruck was so pleased to be asked to be profiled in this *Connect* edition that he said he would “even iron his shirt for the photo”.

Phil has been station manager for the local radio station for four years, but his passion began long before then.

“My first taste of 3MDR was in late-2007 at the station’s annual Big Gig event, where I saw some fantastic local bands and met many of the presenters and volunteers,” he said.

Phil was soon encouraged to present his own show. He kicked off with a timeslot on Wednesdays at 4am, into which he was thrown after a six-hour training session that included just two hours of “being allowed to press a few buttons”. He now co-hosts ‘The Imaginary Friends’ show on Mondays from 6–9am.

Located in Emerald and broadcast 24/7 across Cardinia Shire, 3MDR is a

not-for-profit organisation (only three staff receive wages) funded by local business sponsorship, the occasional grant, and about 400 subscribers – a number which is growing thanks to Phil’s dedication to the cause.

“The station has gone from strength to strength, winning several national awards over the past five years: three Community Broadcasting Association Australia’s awards (‘2013 Contribution to Australian Music – Mountain of Sound Project’, ‘2014 Excellence in Community Participation’ and ‘2014 Excellence In Sports Programming’), plus the Sri Lankan Show has won the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcaster’s Council ‘Best Program’ three times since 2013,” Phil said.

All this from a grass-roots beginning – the station was established in response to the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983 by a few community members who saw it as a means to better inform the Dandenong Ranges communities during an emergency.

With 90 volunteer presenters, 3MDR airs more than 63 topical and musical shows each week, as varied as the presenters themselves.

The station allows people to learn skills in broadcasting including radio presentation and interviewing techniques, as well as develop technical skills in sound engineering and using recording and editing software.

Local musicians who don’t get airplay on commercial stations also get a chance to shine on 3MDR, which Phil said is great given the region is blessed with so much talent.

“3MDR has taken over my life, but I’m very fortunate to work here. It doesn’t really feel like work; a great crew of people walk through that door every day so it’s impossible not to enjoy it.”

MORE INFO



Tune into 3MDR at 97.1FM.
For more information or to subscribe to the station visit 3mdr.com



Photos courtesy of Star News Group

IT'S SHOWTIME!

The Pakenham and District Agricultural and Horticultural Show has been running for over 100 years, and continues to grow and change with our shire as more of our suburbs 'meet the country'.

Each year, the show continues to deliver the 'old favourites' as well as fresh new attractions.

Show president Geoff Young said this year's show boasts a diverse and exciting range of exhibitions and attractions.

Highlights this year include livestock such as goats and poultry, giant pumpkins, ferret racing, dog high-jump, paper plane/gumboot throwing, chainsaw sculptures, sheep shearing, cow milking demonstrations, a petting zoo and an iron man/woman competition.

"And be sure not to miss the vintage car display, Emerald and District Vintage Machinery, Cardinia Civic Band, Wally Wombat Trail, dance performances, Melbourne Meccano Club, Hornby Trains and skate workshops," Geoff said.

"I am particularly looking forward to seeing Pakenham Secondary College's exhibition

of 'Trugo', and as always, it will be fun to watch well-known Cardinia Shire identities cop a soaking in the dunking machine to support Beyond Blue," Geoff said.

"The show really has something for everyone – plenty of traditional attractions and so many new activities to see and get involved in."

EVENT INFO

Pakenham Show

Saturday 19 March, 9am–4.30pm

PB Ronald Reserve, Henry and John streets, Pakenham

pakenhamshow.com.au

Free entry

Council supports home-grown events

Our Festivals and Events Grants Program provides financial support and advice to not-for-profit and community groups running their own festivals or events, including the 2016 Pakenham Show.

The program supports local events that reflect local identity and interests. Events which have been supported by the program include local Australia Day celebrations and township Christmas carols.

MORE INFO

cardinia.vic.gov.au/grants



(L to R): Pakenham show committee members Graeme Vale, Val Vale, Geoff Young, Catherine Ritchie and Joanne Ritchie.

WHAT'S ON

at Cardinia Culture Centre

For bookings and event info visit
cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au or call 1300 887 624



Lah-Lah Sing It Loud!

Saturday 9 Apr, 10am

The brand new live musical extravaganza from Lah-Lah's Big Live Band. See the stars of ABC KIDS and CBeebies when they come to Cardinia Shire for the very first time!

Tickets: \$25.50; children 12 months and under free.

Mother's Day luncheon

Sunday 8 May, 12pm

The Vista Cafe is hosting its annual lunch for mothers and their families to celebrate this special day. Phone the cafe on 5945 0015 for event information and ticket pricing.



An intimate evening with David Hobson

Friday 20 May, 7.30pm

Australian tenor and composer David Hobson is one of Australia's best known operatic and recording artists. This show will showcase arias and songs from his diverse career, spanning the opera, musical theatre and contemporary genres.

Tickets: \$49; concession \$45.



Morning Matinee: Big, Blonde and Beautiful

Wednesday 8 Jun, 10am

Martine Pavey sings up a storm paying tribute to blondes from stage and screen including Mae West, Doris Day, Dolly Parton, Olivia Newton-John and Abba's Agnetha.

Tickets: \$18 (includes morning tea).

Morning Matinee: Lux Radio Theatre's 'Phantom of the Opera' radio play

Wednesday 11 May, 10am

Discover the pre-musical version of the classic play which has entranced audiences for over 100 years. This radio play is narrated by distinguished actors playing multiple roles and creating live sound effects.

Tickets: \$18
(includes
morning tea).



Cinema Fiasco: Houseboat of Horror

Saturday 14 May, 8pm

John-Michael Howson and Gavin Wood star in this not-so-classic Aussie movie from the 80s with live voiceovers and antics from the Cinema Fiasco team.

Tickets: \$16.50; concession \$15.



Picture to page scrapbooking show

Saturday 21–Sunday 22 May

Get creative and inspired with make-and-take projects, all day demonstrations and specialty traders all under the one roof. Kids can also get crafty in the supervised area for free.

Contact the venue for ticket pricing and information.



Cardinia Grand Art Exhibition

Friday 18 to Sunday 20 Mar

The largest art exhibition in the shire features over 23 categories of artworks from traditional through to contemporary, creative wood art, sculpture, street graffiti and more. More than \$20,000 in prize money will be awarded this year.

Tickets: \$7; \$2 for children under 16.



Morning Matinee: Cheek to Chic with Hilary Henshaw

Wednesday 6 Apr, 10am

This is one 'swellegant', elegant party you won't want to miss! Noel Coward and Cole Porter's witty words and musical gems sparkle with fresh interpretation thanks to the creative collaboration of Hilary Henshaw and special guest Peter Hurley.

Tickets: \$18 (includes morning tea).

Psychic Expo

**Sunday
17 Apr, 10am**

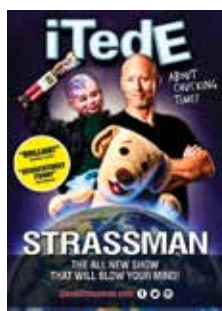
Come for the whole day and enjoy clairvoyants, spirit artists, palm and tarot readers, healing, jewellery and more.

Tickets: \$10; concession \$7, children 15 and under free.



Ventriloquist David Strassman's 'iTedE' show

**Tuesday 10
May, 7pm and
9pm shows**



Considered by many to be the best ventriloquist in the world, David Strassman makes a welcome return to Cardinia Shire with his brand new show iTedE.

Audience participation encouraged!

Tickets: \$59.90; concession \$54.90, groups of 10 people or more \$54.90.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY MOVIES

Tickets: \$4 (movie only) or \$9 for value combo (includes movie and popcorn).

Shaun the Sheep Movie

**Wednesday
30 Mar, 10am**



Jurassic World

**Friday
1 Apr, 1pm**



High School Musical

**Friday
8 Apr, 10am**



Buy three school holiday movie tickets, GET ONE FREE!

Purchase three tickets to one of the school holiday movies listed in this **Connect** edition to receive a fourth ticket to the same movie for free.

- The three tickets purchased must be for the same movie and purchased in the same transaction.
- This voucher must be presented at the Cardinia Cultural Centre's box office to claim the free ticket.

Offer valid until Saturday 9 April, 2016.

One coupon per person. Not valid for phone or website sales.





Sri Lankan family Dika Cooray (left) and husband Prashanka celebrated becoming Australian citizens on 26 January this year with their 18-month old daughter Ava.

Embracing diversity in Cardinia Shire

Our shire is a growing community and it is exciting to note that it is also growing in cultural diversity.

About 17 per cent of Cardinia Shire's population was born overseas (2011 ABS Census) and more than 150 different nationalities are represented in the shire.

Council supports our growing cultural diversity in a number of ways. From citizenship ceremonies to support for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community (CALD) network; from supporting the Cardinia Interfaith Network to helping celebrate Harmony Day.

Each year, Council hosts six citizenship ceremonies. In 2015, 400 people obtained their citizenship in Cardinia Shire and this year's Australia Day ceremony represented 20 nationalities.

Council's Diversity Officer Glenda George said it was no surprise Cardinia Shire's multicultural community was growing in line with general population growth.

"The shire attracts residents of all backgrounds because of its broad range of education options, open spaces and many recreational and sporting facilities."

"In recent years the majority of our migrants have arrived from the United Kingdom and New Zealand; however, we are now beginning seeing more families from Indian, Sri Lankan, Chinese, Filipino and South African backgrounds," Glenda said.

"Council's Cultural Diversity Plan 2015–19 documents our support for the CALD community.

"We facilitate the CALD Network of representatives from more than 25 organisations including government agencies, English language and education providers, family support services and local churches. The network shares information and partners on a range of projects in our shire," Glenda said.

"We also support the Cardinia Interfaith Network which is a forum for faith leaders to come together to explore commonalities, discuss social issues and provide opportunities for the broader community to gain better understanding of faith groups."



"It is fantastic to be involved in these networks and provide opportunities for people from different cultures and faiths to come together to share ideas, experiences and support our diverse community."

EVENT INFO

CALD Network Harmony Day event
Monday 21 March, 11am–1pm
Living Learning, 6B Henry Street,
Pakenham

Celebrate our cultural, linguistic and religious diversity with presentations, performances and food at this free event.

✉ admin@livinglearning.org.au

☎ 5941 2389

🌐 livinglearning.org.au

Building for THE FUTURE

Council has many major capital works projects in progress at any one time. To view an interactive map featuring project locations and information, visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Just some of the current projects you'll find on the map include:



Arena Child and Family Centre, Officer

Council funding: \$2.135 million

Victorian Government funding: \$650,000



Pepi's Land Master Plan, Emerald

Council funding: \$2.6 million as part of the 2015–16 and 2016–17 capital works programs.



Lang Lang Community and Recreation Precinct, Lang Lang

Council funding: About \$6.3 million between 2015–16 and 2019–20.



Pakenham Health Hub, Pakenham

Victorian Government funding:

\$6.2 million (\$5.2 million provided to Monash Health by the Department of Health and Human Services, and \$1 million provided to Cardinia Shire Council by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning).

Council's contribution:

Council is providing use of the land and existing building.



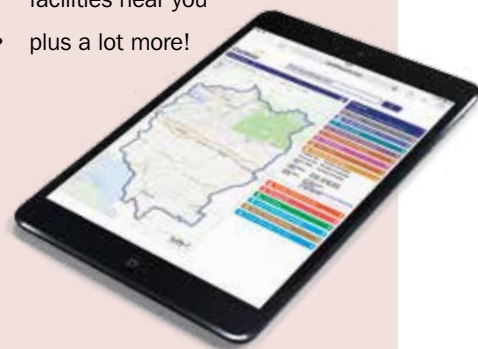
Cardinia Recreation Reserve pavilion extension and refurbishment

Council funding: \$700,000

COUNCIL'S
'COMMUNITY COMPASS'
ONLINE TOOL GIVES YOU
24-HOUR ACCESS
TO INFORMATION ON YOUR
PROPERTY AND NEARBY
FACILITIES AND SERVICES.

Visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/communitycompass to find out:

- which Ward you are located in and contact details for your Ward councillors
- waste and recycling collection days
- property details including land size, planning zone and overlays
- your burning-off zone and restrictions
- schools and childcare facilities near you
- plus a lot more!



Road and drainage works update

Visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/roads to find out where works are happening across the shire during the next two weeks.



CENTRAL WARD



Bald Hill Road no longer a hair-raiser

Pakenham's busy Bald Hill Road has been given a smooth makeover with a recently completed upgrade.

The bustling thoroughfare, used by thousands of vehicles a day passing through town on their way to industrial estates or as a connector to outlying towns south-east, has been reconstructed between Racecourse Road and Webster Way.

The road now has a new deep asphalt pavement and pedestrian island.

Central Ward councillors are pleased that the works will make Bald Hill Road a much safer place for the road's 10,000 daily users.

Cr Kate Lempriere thanked businesses, residents and commuters for their patience during the project works.

"We all now look forward to a much improved road surface and a better, smoother ride for all," Cr Lempriere said.

"The improvements will also benefit businesses in the area."

Cr George Blenkhorn said the previous road pavement will be recycled and put to good use in further construction works at IYU Recreation Reserve.

"Council is committed to recycling road material wherever possible and it is great that this road material will be reused."

The \$600,000 project was funded by the Australian Government's Roads to Recovery Program.

Office space a boost for business

A new office complex in central Pakenham will deliver improved services for residents and a timely boost for the business sector, according to Central Ward councillor Kate Lempriere.

The three-storey building will provide modern office accommodation and create jobs. Cr Lempriere said it was a vote of confidence in the local economy.

"This will be a high quality development in central Pakenham that will boost employment," she said.

Located on the corner of Henry and John streets, it will be built on a vacant site that was previously leased by Council to provide overflow car parking.

Cr Lempriere said Council had been mindful in its conditions of approval to ensure that car parking needs would continue to be met around Pakenham's shopping hub.



Top left: Cr Kate Lempriere, Cr George Blenkhorn and Mayor Cr Jodie Owen at the site of the Bald Hill Road works.

Above: Developers Wayne Spencer (left) and Michael Spencer with Cr Kate Lempriere at the site of the future office complex in Pakenham.

Page 15 top: Pakenham United Football Club players are looking forward to playing at IYU Recreation Reserve.

Page 15 bottom: Cr George Blenkhorn at the McGregor Road rail crossing.

Central Ward councillors



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Big score for state-of-the-art recreation reserve

The new soccer showpiece, IYU Recreation Reserve in Henry Road, Pakenham, will receive \$3.5 million from the Victorian Government's Interface Growth Fund, in addition to Council's contribution of \$2.35 million to date.

Mayor Cr Jodie Owen said the rapid growth of Pakenham, Officer and Beaconsfield had

prompted significant increases in demand for expanded recreation facilities.

"Already clubs have to create waiting lists for children wanting to play sport and Council recognises the value that recreational facilities play in encouraging healthy and active lifestyles.

"We welcome the Victorian Government's contribution on top of Council's commitment to further improving the options available for families and children wanting to play sport and enjoy other recreation activities in our growing community," Cr Owen said.

Rail crossing upgrade tops advocacy list

The long awaited and much needed upgrade of the McGregor Road rail crossing in Pakenham remains a top priority for Council in its advocacy on behalf of the local community.

Central Ward councillor George Blenkhorn said Council continued to press the need for this upgrade at every opportunity.

"Council has funded the road duplication from the Pakenham Bypass to the Princes Highway at a cost of \$8 million and the rail crossing upgrade is the only outstanding works to resolve the current congestion and improve road safety.

"Given the significance of McGregor Road as a link between the bypass and the highway, Council took the lead to ensure it acted to improve traffic flows and safety in the area.

"Unfortunately, this work won't have its fullest impact until the railway crossing is upgraded – the bottleneck created continues to create frustration and inconvenience in our community.

"This is not something Council can deliver alone and we continue to urge other levels of government to play their part in providing this vital piece of infrastructure for our fast-growing population."

Council has engaged VicTrack to complete detailed designs for the crossing upgrade, which is expected to cost about \$4 million.

Up to 17,000 vehicles are using McGregor Road each day and that number is expected to reach 32,000 in the next five years.



PORT WARD



A better bridge for Bunyip

The timber bridge at Bunyip-Modella Road will be replaced this year with a reinforced concrete structure.

Council is contributing \$694,000 to the project through its bridge replacement program, with the Australian Government providing a grant for the same amount.

The existing bridge crosses the Bunyip River at the south-western end of the township. The river is the major water course through Cardinia Shire, so the bridge is a key crossing point for both local residents and industry.

“The current timber bridge is reaching the end of its life and has a 10-tonne load limit,” Cr Graeme Moore said.

“The new structure will have a load limit of 136 tonnes, which will allow for much better transport connections for Bunyip’s important food supply industry.

“The new bridge will also require far less maintenance for Council,” Cr Moore said.

Cr David Young said the Bunyip food belt is one of the major food supply areas in south-east Australia.

“This region produces over 90 per cent of Australia’s asparagus, 70 per cent of Victoria’s herbs and is worth almost \$500 million to Victoria’s economy, so ensuring it has good transport links is crucial,” Cr Young said.

Roads in rehab

Two major roads in Port Ward have been reconstructed as part of Council’s annual Road Rehabilitation Program.

Railway Avenue in Bunyip between Hope Street and 38 Railway Avenue was fully reconstructed with an improved deep asphalt surface. Works were completed in December, with motorists now enjoying driving on a smooth road that also requires far less maintenance.

Thirteen Mile Road in Garfield was also fully reconstructed and widened late last year between Nar Nar Goon-Longwarry Road and Garfield Golf Club. The road’s intersection at Nar Nar Goon-Longwarry Road is now surfaced with a low-CO2 asphalt blend made up of recycled products including worn asphalt, toner and tyre rubber.

The improvements to Thirteen Mile Road will benefit the more than 1,000 motorists who use the road daily.

McDonalds Track in Lang Lang will also be reconstructed in the coming months between Westernport Road and the former railway line. The road provides access to at least three major sand quarries, with the loaded trucks using McDonalds Track to get to the South Gippsland Highway.

Council successfully secured funding for works on all three roads from the Australian Government’s Roads to Recovery Program.



Port Ward councillors



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How our Ron shone!

Councillors David Young and Graeme Moore are both very proud that Cardinia Shire's 2016 Citizen of the Year, Ron Ingram, hails from the Port Ward township of Koo Wee Rup.

Cr Young said Ron is "one of those quiet individuals who always lets his deeds speak for him."

"As a young man he excelled on the sporting field in both cricket and football. Later on in life, he ran the local newsagency with his wife Lyn."

"As a returned serviceman, Ron revitalised Koo Wee Rup RSL which saw membership increase from two to over 80. The RSL is now an integral part of the Koo Wee Rup community thanks to Ron. He has also been instrumental in planting the Koo Wee Rup Avenue of Honour, redeveloping the town's cenotaph and organising local Anzac and Remembrance day services," Cr Young said.

"In all stages of life, Ron he has always proudly represented and contributed to the Koo Wee Rup community."

Cr Graeme Moore said Ron is a quiet achiever with a humble and approachable attitude to all he does.



"He is a fantastic mentor to local business operators, and is always happy to give advice to people looking to set up a business."

"Ron visits local schools to share his considerable knowledge of Australia's military history and to encourage students to pay their respects at Koo Wee Rup's very popular and successful Anzac Day service. He is also the main driver behind the Koo Wee Rup Military Museum, which I am sure will be a real asset to this area for many years to come," Cr Moore said.

To read more about Ron Ingram, turn to page 6.



Sporting pavilion to get some love

Council is extending and partly refurbishing the pavilion at Cardinia Recreation Reserve.

Council is funding the works through its 2015–16 Capital Works Program, at a cost of about \$700,000.

Improvements to the pavilion will include new change rooms and amenities, accessible change space, a new kitchen and canteen area, referees' rooms, accessibility to improvements and more storage space.

Cr Graeme Moore said Council worked closely with the recreation reserve's committee of management.

"Cardinia Cricket Club and Pakenham United Soccer Club are the reserve's main user groups, and both gave valuable input into the design, which was fantastic."

"Works are expected to be complete for the start of 2016–17 cricket season," Cr Moore said.

Page 16 top: Councillors David Young (left) and Graeme Moore in front of the existing Bunyip-Modella Road bridge, which is being replaced soon.

Page 16 bottom: Councillors Graeme Moore (left) and David Young check out the reconstructed section of Thirteen Mile Road in Garfield.

Above left (L to R): Cr David Young, Cardinia Recreation Reserve committee of management member Ian Ridgway and Cr Graeme Moore. Ian has devoted hundreds of hours to helping keep the reserve in top shape.

RANGES WARD



Please stick to the paths at Emerald Lake Park

Visitors to Emerald Lake Park (ELP) are being urged to keep to the reserve's dedicated paths to help protect the park's natural beauty.

People veering off paths are compacting the ground which is causing erosion, damaging new plants in revegetated areas and stopping newly-planted indigenous trees from thriving.

Cr Leticia Wilmot said the Friends of Emerald Lake Park group and Council have worked together for the past four years to revegetate the park with native species and remove invasive tree species as part of the ELP Vegetation Management Project.

"Council and the 'Friends' group devote a lot of time and energy to ensuring the park stays in good shape for its many visitors.

Ranges Ward councillors



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Designs on Officer town centre

Council has released a draft framework to guide the growth and development of the Officer town centre.

Cr Brett Owen said the framework "provides interesting and important information about how Officer will develop into the future."

The draft framework includes land use requirements, details about buildings and parks, and information about trees, signs, and walking and cycling paths.

"Officer town centre promises to grow into a vibrant, attractive and sustainable centre in the coming years – it will be exciting to see it take shape," Cr Owen said.

To view the draft Officer Town Centre Urban Design Framework visit the 'Planning and building' section of Council's website. For more information contact Council's Growth Area Planning team on 1300 787 624.



A top sporting Arena

Council is now constructing a sports pavilion at Heatherbrae Recreation Reserve in Officer. The building will include change rooms, amenities, storage and social space, and is expected to be completed in time for the 2016–17 cricket season.

The reserve, established in 2014, is located in Arena Parade and can be clearly seen as you head west along the Princes Highway through Officer. It features two football/cricket ovals with flood lights, as well as two netball courts, two cricket nets, a half-court basketball court and a tennis hit-up wall.



Cr Leticia Wilmot said “more and more families are moving into this growth corridor, so it is good that Council is on the front foot in terms of providing excellent sporting facilities in the area.”

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning’s 2015–16 Interface Growth Fund gave \$2 million in funding

towards the \$2.767 million pavilion project, with Council contributing the rest of the funds.

MORE INFO

 cardinia.vic.gov.au/major_projects

Building a stronger Cockatoo

An exciting new initiative will bring together the Cockatoo community, identifying local needs and exploring the means to achieve them.

Council is supporting the ‘Cockatoo: Shaping Our Future’ project which is being driven by the local community and led by a steering committee of local residents.

More than 70 community members attended a forum in February at the Cockatoo Community Complex to get the conversation started and provide input. Council’s Community Strengthening Team is collating and prioritising the views expressed at the forum; these will be reported back to the community around mid-March via Facebook, email and the Cockatoo Township Committee.

Ranges Ward councillors Brett Owen, Leticia Wilmot and Tania Baxter are encouraging the community to get behind the project so everyone in Cockatoo can benefit.



“We look forward to seeing community members working collectively to achieve some excellent outcomes,” Cr Owen said.

“The process will help build stronger relationships between community organisations, service providers and residents,” Cr Wilmot said.

Cr Baxter said collective impact frameworks around the world have been successful in mobilising different groups to work together to meet common goals, increase understanding and achieve positive change.

“History shows that when community leaders, citizens, government, business operators and organisations collectively work together to secure good outcomes, great things can happen!”

For more information or to get involved contact the steering committee by emailing cockatoosof@gmail.com or via the ‘Cockatoo: Shaping Our Future’ Facebook page.

Above: Ranges ward councillors and ‘Cockatoo: Shaping Our Future’ project committee members show their support for the project. (From L to R): Cr Brett Owen, Cr Leticia Wilmot, Ian Robins, Colin Wales, Tamsin Hadfield, Sue Wales, Cr Tania Baxter, Daniel de Graff and Council’s Community Strengthening Facilitator Abiola Ajetomobi.

Page 18 bottom: Ranges Ward councillors and Officer Progress Association representatives are pleased that the town centre’s draft framework is now ready. (From L to R): Annette Aldersea, Geoff Griffiths, Lorraine Petrovich, Michael Petrovich, Cr Leticia Wilmot, Cr Brett Owen, Rob Porter, Carol Porter, Trevor Turner and Barbara Morrison.

BOOK IT IN

What's on at your local library

Events are free unless advised. Book at tinyurl.com/cclcevents or phone 5990 0100 (bookings are not required unless stated).

Celebrate Cultural Diversity Week with Tantra Acoustic

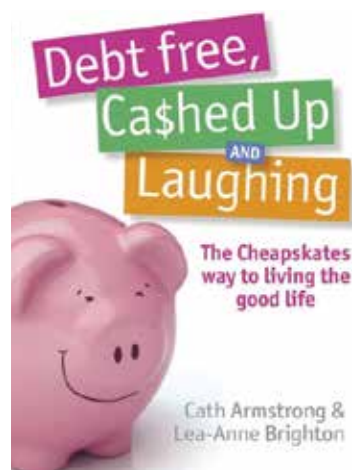
Saturday 19 Mar, 2–3pm
at Hampton Park Library

Don't miss this fresh, young and vibrant Sri Lankan band performing live.

Bargain book sale

Saturday 19 Mar, 9.30am–12.30pm
at Doveton Library

Snap up an armful of treasures at the Friends of Doveton Library Inc's bargain book sale. Items for sale range from 5c to \$5.



Saturday 30 Apr, 1–3.30pm
at Pakenham Library

Australia's 'queen of thrift' Cath Armstrong, creator of the popular website cheapskates.com.au, shares some clever tips and tricks to save thousands of dollars while still living well and having fun!

Meet the author: Ali MC

Tuesday 12 Apr, 6.15–7.15pm
at Emerald Library

Ali MC is a Melbourne-based musician, writer and photographer who has travelled in more than 30 countries. His book *The Eyeball End* documents his global travels through the Third World. Beaten and shot at along the way, Ali has had some truly amazing experiences. This session incorporates music, spoken word, discussion and audience participation.



Perfect CWA baking with Carol Clay

Friday 15 Apr, 2–3pm
at Emerald Library

Learn how to make perfect scones and sponge cakes.



Food without fuss for kids

Saturday 14 May, 1.30–3.30pm
at Pakenham Library

Leah Henzen, a psychologist who specialises in eating disorders and weight management, shares how to take the stress out of feeding your toddler, child or adolescent.



Casey Cardinia Heritage Festival

Sunday 15 May, 10am–4pm
at Officer Public Hall,
Tivendale Road, Officer

Discover the rich history of the Casey Cardinia region via displays and artefacts from local heritage and historical groups – you may even find answers to questions about your family's history or township!

Cancer Council fundraiser and book chat



Friday 27 May, 2.30–3.30pm
at Emerald Library

Join the Emerald Library team as we 'snack, chat and give' at this Cancer Council fundraiser. Everyone is invited to enjoy a yummy snack, donate if you wish, and chat about books and favourite authors. If you've read something great, bring it along!

Library school holiday program

Free fun for kids from
Tuesday 29 March to Friday 8 April

For more information pick up a brochure from your local branch or visit cclc.vic.gov.au

All Casey–Cardinia library branches will be closed on these public holidays:

Good Friday to Easter Monday (Friday 25 to Monday 28 March)

Anzac Day (Monday 25 April)

Queen's Birthday (Monday 13 June)

Casey–Cardinia Library Corporation branches are located in Cranbourne, Doveton, Emerald, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Narre Warren and Pakenham. The mobile library also visits these locations weekly: Beaconsfield, Bunyip, Cockatoo, Garfield, Gembrook, Koo Wee Rup, Lang Lang, Maryknoll, Tynong and Upper Beaconsfield.

For branch address details and the mobile library schedule visit cclc.vic.gov.au



Exciting times ahead!

Council's new Youth Services van has hit the streets to deliver its new youth outreach service.

The service has been revamped to deliver a range of support, recreation, development and life-skills programs from schools, community houses and halls across Cardinia Shire.

Council's Youth Services Team Leader Emma Firth said the new van and outreach service was a great step for Council's Youth Services team.

"We are really excited about this new model of outreach and the opportunity it provides

to respond to individual community and youth needs and offer so many programs to young people across the shire.

"Keep an eye out for our eye-catching van too – you can't miss it!" Emma said.

Council's Youth Services team now tailors programs and activities to the needs of young people in different areas.

"We know that the needs of young people in Koo Wee Rup are very different to those of young people in the hills and we can now tailor the service to what young people in the differing townships want or need. The program now includes everything from cooking and photography classes to physical exercise sessions and social catch-ups," Emma said.

"Transport to and from our rural after school programs is also now provided from a neighbouring town. This means even more young people can access our programs.

"We want to be able to reach out to young people and parents of young people in all areas of the shire, and particularly those who find it difficult to access our youth facility, My Place, in Pakenham," she said.

MORE INFO

☎ 5941 2389

📍 cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth



Youth survey results

Although 22 per cent of young people in Cardinia Shire reported 'no issues' in the past 12 months, many of our teens and young adults are feeling 'stressed'.

Council's 2015 Youth Forum Survey collected responses to 10 questions from more than 2,300 young people aged 12 to 24 who live in or have strong connections to the shire.

Survey results show the top issues facing young people in Cardinia Shire were school or work-related

stress, general stress, being unhappy, anxiety and body image.

Young people identified the most important things in their life as friends, family, feeling happy, being healthy, and being successful.

Council's Youth Services Coordinator Emma Carter said Council is committed to listening to young people, their families and community partners to continually improve and develop local services for young people.

"The survey results will help Council plan services and programs, and advocate for the needs of our young people as well as help other youth service providers and local schools in the area to do the same."

The 'TO-DO' list



Hunt for Easter eggs

Bring the kids to Council's annual Easter treasure hunt at Emerald Lake Park – it's free! When you arrive, head to the park's cafe, model railway, environment centre or Lakeside Station to collect an activity sheet.

Sunday 27 March, 11am–3pm; Emerald Lake Park, Emerald Lake Road, Emerald



Find a local job or employee

Casey Cardinia Jobs (caseycardiniajobs.com.au) is a great, free resource if you live locally and want to work locally; local businesses looking for new staff can also post job vacancies at no cost. The service is provided by the City of Casey and Cardinia Shire Council.



Walk with a group

Take a stroll in air-conditioned comfort with the **'Marketplace Marchers'**. Meets every Friday (except public holidays) at 8am at Muffin Break in Pakenham Central Marketplace, 50–54 John Street, Pakenham. Cost: free.

Prefer to walk outdoors? Then join the **Toomuc Valley walking group** for a free, fun and social way to boost your wellbeing. Meets every Tuesday at 9.30am at Outlook Community Centre, 24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham. Cost: free.

For enquiries about both groups contact Alison Ryan at Outlook Community Centre on 5940 4728 or communitycentre@outlookvic.org.au

Detox your home

Need to dispose of unwanted household chemicals? Drop them off at the next Detox Your Home collection in Pakenham on Saturday 30 April, 8am–4pm – the location will be given to you upon registering. To register for the collection and to find out what items you can and cannot recycle visit sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxmobile or call 1800 353 233.



Pay your respects on Anzac Day

Lest we forget. For details of events on Monday 25 April, visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/calendar or check your local newspaper.



Support local footy

Enjoy the first Beaconsfield Beer, Wine, Cheese and Craft Twilight Festival, presented by Beaconsfield Football Club. More than 50 stalls featuring local beer, wine and cheese tastings, craft items and food.

Friday 18 March, 5–8.30pm; Holm Park Recreation Reserve, 100 Beaconsfield–Emerald Road, Beaconsfield.

For enquiries contact club secretary Denise McGowan on 0414 304 831 or secretary@beaconsfieldfc.com



Be part of National Youth Week

From Friday 8 to Sunday 17 April. Free local events for young people during this week will kick off with the state heats of the South Eastern League (SEL) Skate and BMX Comp on Saturday 9 April, 12–4pm at PB Ronald Reserve, Pakenham. This will be followed by the Projection Festival at 5.30pm at the same location. Other projection festivals will be held during the week in Upper Beaconsfield, Bunyip, Emerald and Lang Lang, with the week finishing off with the Yakkerboo Festival parade. For details visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/calendar or 'like' the Cardinia Youth Services Facebook page.



Enjoy the festival season

Autumn is chock full of festivals in Cardinia Shire!

Pakenham and District Agricultural and Horticultural Show

Saturday 19 March, PB Ronald Reserve, Henry Street, Pakenham

For info visit pakenhamshow.org.au

Bunyip and District Agricultural Show

Saturday 2 April, 10am–2pm;
Bunyip Recreation Reserve,
Nar Nar Goon–Longwarry Road, Bunyip

For info visit bunyipshow.org.au

Yakkerboo Festival

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 April,
at various locations around Pakenham.

For info visit facebook.com/yakkerboo.pakenham or yakkerboo.org.au

PAVE Festival and Funfest

Sunday 10 to Sunday 17 April,
at various locations around Emerald.

For info visit pave.org.au or facebook.com/PAVEFestival



Offload your e-waste

Recycle unwanted battery-operated or plug-in electronic items at Council's free drop-off events. Whitegoods not accepted – these should be left out at your next hard waste collection.

Saturday 7 May, 9am–1pm;
Council depot, Purton Road, Pakenham

Saturday 28 May, 9am–1pm;
Gemco Players Community Theatre,
19 Kilvington Drive, Emerald



Pick your best business

Do you know an inspirational business operating in the Casey Cardinia region? They why not nominate them for the People's Choice Award as part of the 2016 Casey Cardinia Business Awards. Nominations close 13 May 2016 with the winner to be announced at the gala dinner on Friday 16 September. To vote visit caseycardinia.com.au

Craft up your life

At the Officer Owls Country Women's Association social and craft night, activities include cards, board games, chatting or working on your own craft project – the choice is yours! Held on the fourth Thursday of the month. Cost: gold coin donation.

Thursday 26 May, 6.30–9pm; Officer Public Hall, 9 Tivendale Road, Officer.

For enquiries contact Karen Lewis on 0431 096 147 or officerowlscwa@gmail.com



COUNCIL MEETINGS (to consider general matters)

Monday 21 March, 7pm; Gembrook Community Centre, Gembrook–Pakenham Road, Gembrook
Monday 18 April and Monday 16 May, 7pm; Council chambers, 20 Siding Avenue, Officer

TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (to consider town planning matters)

Monday 4 April, Monday 2 May and Monday 6 June, 7pm; Council chambers, 20 Siding Avenue, Officer

These meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend.

For more events visit

**cardinia.
vic.gov.au/
calendar**

Celebrate Neighbour Day!

Sunday 27
MARCH
2016

Help build a stronger and more connected community in your neighbourhood! Join in the activities for this year's Neighbour Day, which encourages people who live in the same neighbourhood to make contact and stay in touch.

This annual celebration of community is the perfect time to say hello to a person or family who live next door, across the street or down the road from you – or to say 'thanks' to the neighbours you already call friends for being there for you! Here are some ideas on how you might connect with a neighbour:

- Cut out and fill in the slip below and drop it into a neighbour's letterbox
- Invite a neighbour over for a 'get-to-know-you' chat and cuppa
- Organise a barbecue or games afternoon for people in your street
- Download a free Neighbour Day e-kit for more ideas.

For more info visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/health

To register for your free Neighbour Day e-kit visit neighbourday.org

Hello, I live in your neighbourhood and would like to introduce myself!

Name/s:

Address:

Contact details:

Message:

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