

# Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Autumn 2021

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## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

Meet our 2021 award winners

## IMAGINE CARDINIA

Help shape the future of our shire

## GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

Free online workshops

## OUR NEW COUNCIL

Get to know your ward councillor



**Cardinia**





## Australia Day award winners recognised

Congratulations to our Australia Day 2021 award winners and nominees.

### **Citizen of the Year Chris Rogers**

Chris has been a volunteer with the Pakenham SES unit for 36 years, going above and beyond to attend local emergencies and assist in other parts of Victoria and across Australia.

### **Senior Citizen of the Year Stan Hamilton**

Stan has always contributed to his local community. Recently this CFA volunteer was recognised for 60 years of service to the Upper Beaconsfield CFA Brigade.

### **Young Citizen of the Year Michael William Pearce**

Michael is a final year undergraduate majoring in physics at the University of Melbourne. Michael has contributed to the broader community through his volunteer engagements, driven by his passion for physics and the outdoors.

### **Community Event of the Year Kids Fun Run With Thomas**

The Kids Fun Run With Thomas is the signature fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Emerald and District and has raised more than \$671,250 for children's causes since 2002.

For a full list of nominees and more information about our winners:

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/  
AustraliaDay](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay)

## Nominations open for Stan Henwood Award

Nominations are now open for the 2021 Stan Henwood Award.

The award is open to anyone who has made a significant contribution to the Cardinia Shire community. It honours the late Stan Henwood OAM and his lifetime contribution to the Tynong

community and the broader Cardinia Shire community.

Nominations close at 5pm on Monday 5 April.

For more information, eligibility criteria and how to nominate:

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/  
stanhenwoodaward](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/stanhenwoodaward)

### On the cover

Kaitlyn proudly displays the rainbow flag to help raise awareness and encourage a sense of belonging among our LGBTIQ+ community. Story page 10.





# Mayor's message



From left: Citizen of the Year Chris Rogers, Senior Citizen of the Year Stan Hamilton, Mayor Cr Brett Owen, Young Citizen of the Year Michael William Pearce, and John Henderson representing the Community Event of the Year Kids Fun Run With Thomas.

## I was honoured to recognise our 2021 Australia Day award winners and nominees at our Australia Day awards reception.

I'm proud to be part of a community that has so many dedicated and selfless people who give of their time so generously to better the lives of others. Once again, this year's field of nominees was incredibly strong, and I thank them all for the wonderful contribution they make to our community.

The Imagine Cardinia consultation process is well underway and I thank everyone who has provided their input so far. Our People's Panel, which has representatives from across the community, has helped guide the development of our first *Community Vision*, the *Council Plan*, *Council Budget* and *Financial Plan*. The draft plans

are expected to be placed on public exhibition from 21 April to 18 May and considered by Council in June. See page 4 for details.

With the impact of COVID-19 still being felt across the shire, we're pleased to welcome members of our COVID-19 Community Recovery Committee who will help guide our work in this space. Learn more on page 5.

Council is committed to improving our local road network as part of our Better Local Roads Program (read more on page 7). Furthermore, we continue to advocate for further improvements to major roads in the shire and welcome any upgrades to improve the safety of our road network. Cardinia Shire Council is a member of RoadSafe South East, a road safety committee made up of representatives from councils in the south east region and key agencies, who work in partnership to raise awareness and improve road safety across the region. We look forward to continuing to work with the Victorian and Australian

governments, RoadSafe South East and our community to further improve the safety of our road network.

**Mayor Cr Brett Owen**

## Council and town planning meetings

A number of changes have been made to Council and Town Planning Committee meetings to reduce COVID-19 risk to the community and staff.

**Public attendance at meetings will depend on the latest advice from the Victorian Government. Check our website for the most up-to-date information.**



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/webcast](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/webcast)

# Helping shape the future of Cardinia Shire



Your input has been helping us develop the *Council Plan*, *Community Vision*, *Financial Plan*, and *Council Budget*.

The first Round of 'Imagine Cardinia' consultation received almost 1,300 community contributions throughout November and December and this information was presented to our People's Panel in February.

The People's Panel, a representative group of residents who helped guide the development of the plans, developed a survey to check their work and recommendations with the broader community.

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback throughout both of these processes. The draft plans are expected to be placed on public exhibition from 21 April to 18 May for the final round of community feedback before consideration by Council in June.

View drafts and provide feedback: [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/imaginecardinia](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/imaginecardinia)

If you have any feedback or questions regarding the development of these draft plans, please contact us on **1300 787 624** or [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## What you like about living in Cardinia Shire... Top 5



Rural feel / location



Parks and lakes



Social cohesion



Sports facilities



Shops and retail

## Your ideas to make Cardinia Shire better... Top 5



Maintain / more parks and green spaces



Maintain / upgrade roads



More sports / leisure facilities



Waste management



Safety

## How you told us...



Connect magazine



Mail-out



Online



Postcard



Schools



Focus groups

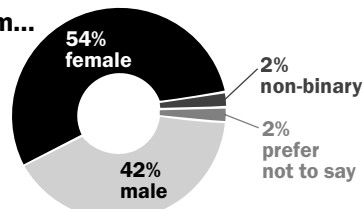
## Who we heard from...

35

Localities

1,291\*

Contributions, including:



77  
Language other than English

38  
Disability

21  
LGBTIQ+

18  
First Nation Australians

295 Under 18 year olds  
98 18-39 year olds  
395 40-64 year olds  
175 65+ year olds

\*Demographic data was available for 963 of the 1,291 contributions





From left: Living and Learning Pakenham Program Manager Karen Todd, Adventist Development and Relief Agency Victoria and Tasmania Director Rebecca Auriant, Follow Bless Collective Pastor Luke Williams, Gurdwara Siri Guru Nanak Darbar Officer volunteer Harpreet Singh, Salvation Army Pakenham Doorways Team Leader Amanda Fleming, Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Cr Brett Owen, and local artist Robert Matheson.

## Food donation drive

Cardinia Shire Council's Financial Vulnerability Action team has been hard at work during the COVID-19 pandemic partnering with local relief services to provide support.

One of their many initiatives is a food donation drive for a new open food pantry located at Living and Learning Pakenham. This partnership includes a number of key relief agencies including ADRA, Salvation Army, Follow Bless Collective, Siri Guru Nanak Darbar as well as Outlook Community Centre and the Men's Shed.

In true community style, the initiative draws on the talents of many. Council's Waste Team dropped off donation bins to Living and Learning Pakenham to be painted and decorated by younger members the Cardinia shire community with the help of local artist Robert Matheson. The pantry itself was designed and built by the Men's Shed.

Visit our comprehensive directory of support and relief services:

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/reliefandrecovery](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/reliefandrecovery)

## COVID-19 Community Recovery Committee

We're pleased to welcome members of our COVID-19 Community Recovery Committee who will work together towards addressing mental health and social isolation issues as well as employment and financial insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The community representatives are: Brijal Y. Parikh, Audrey Wong, Monique Lamour, Harpreet Singh Kandra, Anni Cockburn, Radmila Dyson, Cheryl Billing-Smith, Leticia Wilmot, Cory Sharp and Veenasa Bissessur.

With the impact of COVID-19 still being felt across Cardinia Shire, the COVID-19 Community Recovery Committee will support community wellbeing and advise on community needs and priorities. Chaired by Cr Tammy Radford, the committee held its first meeting on 19 January and will continue to meet regularly.



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/recoverycommittee](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/recoverycommittee)

## Help is at hand



Community feedback tells us residents are experiencing financial and mental health impacts as a result of COVID-19. Make sure to pick up one of our *Help is at hand* cards and get in touch with a range of support services from mental health and financial assistance to family violence support and material aid including clothing and groceries.

*Help is at hand* cards now available at Beaconsfield Neighbourhood Centre, Bunyip and District Community House, Cockatoo Community House, Lang Lang Community Centre, Living and Learning Pakenham, Outlook Community Centre, Upper Beaconsfield Community Complex, Emerald Hills Hub, Salvation Army, Bless Collective, Scope, EACH and Casey Cardinia libraries.

Visit our COVID-19 online help hub:  
[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

For the latest advice from the Victorian Government:  
[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au)



## Museum reopens

Emerald Museum has reopened to the public. As one of only a handful of the plantations and nurseries on the Victorian Heritage Register, make sure you add Nobelius Heritage Park and Emerald Museum to your 'rediscover Cardinia' list.

Emerald Museum, 5 Crichton Road, Emerald.  
[www.emeraldmuseum.org.au](http://www.emeraldmuseum.org.au)

For up-to-date information on Council services, visit:  
[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/servicechanges](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/servicechanges)



# Gardens for Wildlife giveaway

Meghan from the Cardinia Environment Coalition at the Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery at Deep Creek Reserve.

Learn how to create a wildlife-friendly garden at our free online workshops.

The 'Gardens for Wildlife' program shows residents how to create a garden that attracts wildlife and improves habitat. A number of free online workshops presented by Council and Sustainable Gardening Australia are continuing throughout March.

- **Beautiful butterflies and native bees – creating an insect friendly garden**  
Wednesday 10 March, 7.30–8.30pm.
- **Lovely lizards – creating a lizard, skink and gecko friendly garden**  
Tuesday 16 March, 7.30–8.30pm.

- **Furry friends – creating a native mammal friendly garden**  
Wednesday 24 March, 7.30–8.30pm.
- **Fabulous frogs – creating a frog pond**  
Tuesday 30 March, 7.30–8.30pm.

All Cardinia Shire residents who participate in a workshop can register for a \$20 plant voucher from Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery at Deep Creek Reserve.

Bookings required; workshop numbers and vouchers strictly limited.



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife)

## Education programs

Cardinia Shire schools and early learning centres are invited to participate in our free waste and environment programs.

**Ecolinc excursions:** to Deep Creek Reserve covering topics such as frogs, plants, and wetlands. Online sessions also available.

**EnviroCom incursions:** interactive session for early learning centres and primary schools addressing the impact of waste on the environment.

**Animals of Oz incursion:** backyard biodiversity session for early learning centres, linking native animals, plants and our suburban backyards.

For more info and to register your school:

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/educationprograms](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/educationprograms)

## Compost corner

Deep Creek Reserve has a new and improved compost corner to help visitors learn about food waste and the benefits of home composting.

The working display features several types of worm farms, compost systems and small garden beds to grow herbs. The area will be used for school and community education and will help the onsite cafe reduce their food waste.

Compost systems and worm farms are a great way to reduce the environmental impact of the food we throw away. Council offers rebates for compost bins, worm farms and other items.



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wasterebates](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wasterebates)

## Do the right thing

We're working hard to reduce waste going to landfill; correctly separating your waste really does make a difference.

Our new waste trucks have cameras with 360-degree views to improve safety and help reduce bin contamination. We can also accurately measure what is collected and how much, allowing us to target problem areas with education and bin inspections and help reduce bin contamination across the shire.



## Offsetting our carbon emissions

We're partnering with GreenFleet to offset 733 tonnes of our vehicle-related carbon emissions in 2020–21.

Purchasing accredited carbon offsets to offset our unavoidable fleet emissions is one of the steps we're taking towards our adopted zero carbon operational target. This supports GreenFleet in its work to restore biodiverse native forests around Australia, providing crucial habitat for endangered wildlife and helping to reduce the impacts of climate change.

To learn more about Council's environmental initiatives:

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/environment](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/environment)

Sign up to receive our bi-monthly *Down to Earth* e-newsletter for all the latest environmental news:

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/enewsletters](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/enewsletters)



# Better local roads



In partnership with the Australian Government, we're funding more than \$200 million in road improvement works over the next 8 years as part of our Better Local Roads program.

## Sealing the Hills project

The *Sealing the Hills* project will involve sealing 109 kilometres of unsealed roads in the Dandenong Ranges and surrounds over 8 years. The project has received \$150 million in funding from the Australian Government and will be delivered as a series of individual projects on 164 prioritised roads.

### Benefits:

- Connecting motorists with the existing sealed road network.
- Reducing dust and improving access for motorists and emergency vehicles.
- Reducing wear and tear and maintenance costs of unsealed roads.

- Improving comfort for road users and reducing environmental impacts.

### How are priority roads chosen?

Roads that were chosen:

- provided the best links between existing sealed road networks
- were in the highest traffic areas
- provided the greatest convenience and safety benefits for road-users
- provided long-term cost savings.

View the roads priority list:

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/hillsroadslist](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/hillsroadslist)

### What is a special charge scheme?

This project will be co-funded by property owners and the Australian Government

via a special charge scheme. Because of the Australian Government funding for this project, owners will get a much lower rate than has been required in the past.

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/specialchargeschemes](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/specialchargeschemes)

### Community consultation

Landowners in prioritised roads will receive information about their special charge scheme costs as part of the consultation process. Prior to any works starting, you'll receive a questionnaire and information detailing costs to assist you in deciding if you support road sealing in your street.

[www.creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sealingthehills](http://www.creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sealingthehills)

## Princes Highway intersection projects

Works are underway to upgrade the Glismann Road/Beaconsfield Avenue and Princes Highway intersection at Beaconsfield to a fully signalised intersection.

The intersection is the second project of a broader program to upgrade a number of priority intersections along the highway over the next three years. The first intersection to be upgraded at O'Neil Road is expected to be completed in June. The Glismann Road/Beaconsfield Avenue intersection is expected to be finished mid-2021.

The program is funded by Cardinia Shire Council's Better Local Roads – *Princes Highway intersection* project (\$17.8 million) and the Australian Government's Urban Congestion Fund (\$17.8 million).

## Strategic sealed roads project

We're investing \$25 million into the *Strategic sealed roads* project from 2019–22 to seal about 40 kilometres of local roads in 7 locations across the shire. This project will create strategic links to existing sealed roads in locations where they're needed most and will deliver the most benefit.

## Caring for our environment

- Better Local Roads program developed in line with our *Sustainable Environment Policy 2018–28*.
- Use of recycled materials.
- Biodiversity and cultural heritage studies.
- Planning work with arborists, environmental and indigenous groups.



Cr Ray Brown and Mayor Cr Brett Owen look forward to the progress of the Strategic sealed roads project.

Have your say about these and other infrastructure projects on the Creating Cardinia community engagement platform: [www.creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sealingthehills](http://www.creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sealingthehills)





Ryan has fun playing outdoors at kindergarten.

## Kindergarten registrations open

Registrations for 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten places for 2022 are now open.

Cardinia Shire Council operates a central kindergarten registration process on behalf of community kindergartens in the shire.

The Victorian Government partially funds four-year-old kindergarten programs for 15 hours per week and from January 2022 will also partially fund three-year-

old kindergarten programs for 5 hours per week.

Applications received before 5pm on 30 June 2021 will be included in first round offers. You can check and update your placement preferences, contact details and application information via the central registration portal.



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten)

## Business support

The Cardinia Business Facebook page provides invaluable information, support and resources to help businesses survive and thrive the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Follow us at [www.facebook.com/CardiniaBusiness](https://www.facebook.com/CardiniaBusiness)

Check out our free 'Buy Local' map business directory. Find local businesses, add your business or give a shout out to your favourite local businesses: [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/buylocal](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/buylocal)



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cardiniabusiness](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cardiniabusiness)



## In brief

### Write stuff to connect the community

The Hills Hub Pen Pal Project connected 190 people in the Hills community during the COVID-19 lockdowns. The project, which was funded by Council's COVID-19 Community Connection Grant program and the Emerald Village Association, matched an older person living in the Hills with a student from grades 3–6 at Emerald Primary School to write and exchange letters during lockdown. In December last year, 160 of the pen pals gathered over 3 COVIDSafe sessions at Hills Hub to meet for the first time.

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/hillshub](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/hillshub)

### Free immunisations

Immunisation helps protect against many diseases. Routine childhood immunisations are provided free of charge as part of the National Immunisation Program. Council hosts day and evening community immunisation sessions every month at Nar Nar Goon, Beaconsfield, Pakenham, Emerald and Gembrook.

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/immunisations](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/immunisations)

### Ageing Well out now

Check out the latest edition of Council's Ageing Well newsletter featuring information on strengthening social connections during COVID-19, becoming a community connector, support for carers and Pakenham's new dementia friendly cafe.

Copies are available at Cardinia Shire Council's Civic Centre in Officer, Cardinia Cultural Centre, neighbourhood houses and libraries and other locations across the shire, or read online at:

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ageingwell](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ageingwell)



# Play time

The new playground at Dick Jones Park, Lang Lang, gets the tick of approval from Coby.

## Adventure awaits at a number of newly upgraded playgrounds across the shire

Playground upgrade works have been completed at Dick Jones Park (Lang Lang) Devine Drive (Pakenham) Tantallon Boulevard Detention Basin Reserve (Beaconsfield) Nar Nar Goon Recreation Reserve and Officer Recreation Reserve.

As part of our community consultation process, local children

were invited to provide their feedback on playground design.

Coby, 10, said of Dick Jones Park: "This park is amazing; my favorite things are the swings and flying fox."

Emily, 11, said: "It's what we asked for, it's bright, really fun and creative."

Playgrounds being constructed or upgraded as part of our 2020–21 program include Redwood Road Reserve (Gembrook) Kath Roberts Reserve (Beaconsfield) and Keith Ewenson Park (Beaconsfield Upper).

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/parksandplaygrounds](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/parksandplaygrounds)



## New off-leash dog park for Pakenham

Cardinia Shire's first fully fenced off-leash dog park equipped with agility equipment is now open.

The new off-leash dog park at Don Jackson Reserve, between Ahern Road and Shetland Court (Pakenham), features a range of agility equipment, drinking fountains, rubbish bins, car parking, seating, pathways, natural shade and fencing. The reserve is also home to a district-level play space and cricket oval. The off-leash area, which is more than 6,000 square metres, is located in the northern section of the reserve. Owners are reminded to maintain effective control of their dogs at all times while using the park. Please report any incidents with dogs to Council's Compliance team on 1300 787 624.

The Don Jackson Off-leash Dog Park was supported by the Victorian Government through the Building Works package.

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dogparks](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dogparks)

## The key to improved access

Access keys are making 3 of our premier locations more accessible for community members.

The detailed accessibility guides have been introduced at Deep Creek all-abilities play space and eco centre, golf club and indigenous plant nursery, Cardinia Cultural Centre and Pakenham Library. The access keys have information about venues and events to help you understand what to expect to plan your outing or adventure.



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accesskeys](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accesskeys)

## Take a moment for mindfulness

Mindfulness signage is being installed in parks across the shire.

The signage aims to help increase awareness of mental health and wellbeing and provide quiet places in parks and open spaces to practice mindfulness. The signs provide simple steps to practice becoming mindful as well as mental health support service contact numbers.

To read more about what we're doing to promote liveability, health and wellbeing for our growing communities, visit:

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/healthandwellbeing](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/healthandwellbeing)



# An inclusive community for all



Kaitlyn and Council Youth Services Officer Miranda hope that IDAHOBIT Day is helping raise awareness and create a more inclusive community for all.

IDAHOBIT Day (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia) will be celebrated on 17 May. A number of events involving local secondary schools and the community will be held to raise awareness and share information about how we can support people who identify as LGBTIQ+.

Each year our Youth Services team and young people across the shire celebrate IDAHOBIT Day to encourage a sense of belonging and an inclusive community for all.



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth)

## New youth centre

Our new state-of-the-art youth centre is a step closer now Council has approved the planning permit for the \$6 million purpose-built facility at 43 James Street, Pakenham.

The facility will offer programs and services for young people aged 12–24, with dedicated training/classrooms, counselling rooms, a program/group room, shower and laundry facility, recording booth, computers with internet access, space to ‘hang out’ and a rooftop recreation space.



The current My Place youth centre in Main Street, Pakenham.

The new youth centre is expected to open early 2022. Council will this year consult with young people about naming the new facility.

The project has been funded with \$3 million from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund, \$1.5 million from the Australian Government's Community Health and Hospitals Program, and \$1.5 million from Council.



## Support for our diverse communities

We support diversity in our vibrant and growing communities and recognise that it's a source of great strength and resilience.

We're committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and accessible community and have a number of policies and initiatives in place to support our diverse community. All residents should feel valued, included, respected and able to access the range of services, programs and facilities we offer.

Every March, we recognise and acknowledge our shire's vibrant diversity as part of Harmony Day and Cultural Diversity Week.

To learn more, visit:



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/culturaldiversity](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/culturaldiversity)

Living and Learning Pakenham offers a range of services and programs for our diverse communities, including a new Podcast Studio that will be available to community groups and members, like Chengkuach (pictured), to tell their story. Members of our diverse communities will be able to learn about local issues, events and information that is relevant to them and in a language they understand. Living and Learning Pakenham has an exciting new program to teach users the technical skills needed to record, upload and store audio files. More info: [www.livinglearning.org.au](http://www.livinglearning.org.au) or phone 5941 2389.



## Lighting upgrade

New lighting is being installed at Cockatoo Tennis Club. The upgrade includes four new 250-lux LED lights that will be installed on the two northern tennis courts, as well as new footings. The project is jointly funded by the Victorian Government's Local Sport Infrastructure 2020–21 Fund and Cardinia Shire Council.

Cockatoo Tennis Club, Alma Treloar Reserve, Cockatoo.

## New roof

Pakenham Bowls Club has a new roof and lighting over the bowling green, providing sun and wet weather protection as well as greater use of the bowling green. Council is proud to have provided funding support for this project, along with the Australian and Victorian governments and the Pakenham Bowls Club.

For more information about the club, visit: [www.pakenhambowlsclub.bowls.com.au](http://www.pakenhambowlsclub.bowls.com.au)



From left, Cardinia Shire Council Deputy Mayor Cr Jeff Springfield, Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing, Local Government Minister the Honourable Shaun Leane, Member for Bass Jordan Cruignale, and Cardinia Shire Council Officer Ward Cr Tammy Radford marked the beginning of the project's construction.

## New child and family centre

The Rix Road (Officer South) Integrated Child and Family Centre is on track to be completed by the end of the year and ready for kindergarten intake in 2022.

The new \$7.7 million facility in Campanella Avenue will be home to three kindergarten program rooms and an outdoor play space. There will also be five consulting rooms for allied health and

the shire's maternal and child health services as well as a community room, staff room, and on-site car parking. The project is funded by Council (\$4.2 million) and the Victorian Government (\$3.5 million).

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects)



From left: Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Cr Brett Owen, Cardinia Shire Council Deputy Mayor Cr Jeff Springfield, Dandenong Ranges Community Bank Group Chairman John Waters, Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing, and Member for La Trobe the Honourable Jason Wood MP with Jasmine.

## The Hills Hub brings community together

Designed to respond to the emerging needs of residents in Cockatoo, Emerald, Gembrook and surrounding townships, the Hills Hub project has delivered a beautiful, accessible and integrated space.

The Hills Hub brings together U3A Emerald, the Emerald Men's Shed, Hills She Shed, Puffing Billy Toy Library, Emerald Village Association and many other community groups and not-for-profit organisations under one roof, to improve access to a range of activities and

services, increase social participation and strengthen community connections.

Representatives from each of the funding bodies and the Hills Hub Advisory Group came together to celebrate its official opening. The project was funded by Council (\$6.024 million), Australian Government National Stronger Regions Fund (\$1.5 million), Victorian Government Growing Suburbs Fund (\$1.5 million) and the Dandenong Ranges Community Bank Group – Community Enterprise Foundation in partnership with the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Project Group (\$250,000).

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/hillshub](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/hillshub)

## Comely Banks progress

Construction of four rugby league fields with two cricket wickets and a multi-use practice facility at Comely Banks Recreation Reserve in Officer is underway. The next stage of the shire's newest community and sport hub will also include a playground, open spaces and onsite car parking. Works are due for completion mid-year and, after a maintenance schedule to establish the grounds, the facility is expected to be open for use in July 2022. Construction of civil works is funded by Council (\$6.8 million) with support from the Victorian Government Sport and Recreation Victoria (\$800,000).

Construction of the pavilion is nearing completion. It will feature unisex change room facilities, unisex umpires change facilities, fully accessible exterior/interior amenities, kiosk/canteen facilities, integrated community space, and external covered spectator areas. The pavilion project is jointly funded by Council (\$4.088 million) and the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund (\$3.5 million).

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/comelybanks](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/comelybanks)





Jack and his Hungarian Vizsla, Rix.

## Register your pet

Pet owners in Cardinia Shire are reminded that pet registration renewals are due by 10 April.

All dogs and cats must be registered with Council from the age of 3 months. Pets must be microchipped before they are registered and cats must be desexed. You will receive a discount on your registration if your dog is desexed.



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/pets](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/pets)

## Working together: safer communities

Local agencies are working together to improve community safety and create safer environments across the shire.

The Safer Community Partnership Committee meets monthly, collaborating on local projects and initiatives and taking a 'whole of community' approach to creating a safer Cardinia. Council's overall *Safer Communities Strategy* focuses on crime prevention, as well as the prevention of family violence, improved mental health and wellbeing, drug and alcohol use, emergency management, and improving road, pedestrian and transport safety.

The strategy will be reviewed later this year, with the community encouraged to provide input and feedback.

### CCTV project update

Four sites across Pakenham and Koo Wee Rup will receive new or updated integrated CCTV systems over the coming months. Funding of \$500,000 was received from the Victorian Government for the CCTV project, to develop a Crime Prevention Policy, and improve electronic access to community facilities with electronic access to be provided at 8 sites in Pakenham, Emerald, Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang.

### Safer Communities Partnership Committee:

- Victoria Police
- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- Neighbourhood Watch Cardinia
- Cardinia Shire Council
- Windermere
- Kooweerup Regional Health Service
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Chisholm Institute
- Department of Education and Training
- Parks Victoria.

### More info:

- [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/safercardinia](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/safercardinia)
- **Cardinia Eyewatch:** [www.facebook.com/eyewatchcardinia/](https://www.facebook.com/eyewatchcardinia/)
- **Neighbourhood Watch Cardinia:** [www.facebook.com/nhwcardinia/](https://www.facebook.com/nhwcardinia/)

## Our commitment to community safety

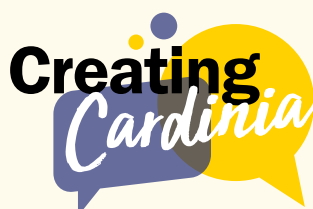
Council has reaffirmed its commitment to creating a safer community for everyone.

At its meeting on 15 February, Council committed to:

- Taking a strong stance against violence and anti-social behaviour.
- Advocating for increased policing resources.
- Advocating for funding for a range of youth engagement programs to be available in Cardinia Shire, such as the Victoria Police Embedded Youth Program, Cardinia Police Connections Program and other local agency programs.
- Considering appropriate initiatives to strengthen Council's response to community safety as part of our budget process.
- Affirming that every resident has the right to live in a safe community regardless of race, ethnicity, ability or sexuality.



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/safercardinia](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/safercardinia)



## Creating Cardinia

Check out our online engagement platform Creating Cardinia to find out about current consultations and how you can get

involved. You can also check in on the progress of projects for which consultation has already been undertaken.

[creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au)

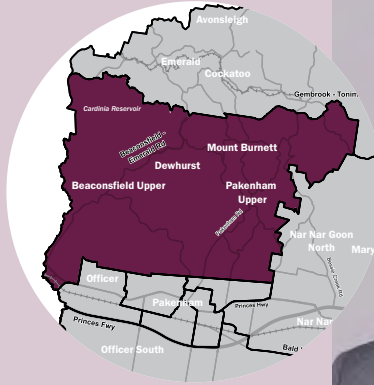


## Cr Brett Owen (Mayor) Beacon Hills Ward

0418 993 370

b.owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au

I'm proud to have been elected to represent Beacon Hills Ward and to serve as Mayor for 2020–21. I've lived in Cardinia Shire my entire life and am passionate about our community. As a serving police officer and a father of young children, I have an active interest in contributing to the community and ensuring that it is a great place to live and raise a family. My priorities include improving our local roads, community safety, access for all, support for environmental programs, improved recreational and playground facilities and funding for new paths.



## Cr Jeff Springfield (Deputy Mayor) Ranges Ward

0427 383 810

j.springfield@cardinia.vic.gov.au

I've been a councillor for Ranges Ward since 2016, proudly serving as Mayor in 2019–20 and Deputy Mayor in 2020–21. I'm pleased to see a number of major projects that will benefit local residents completed or underway; the Hills Hub was officially opened and will no doubt bring the community together for years to come, and the *Sealing the hills* project will improve more than 100 kilometres of roads in the hills. I have a strong interest in environmental preservation, the efficient delivery of Council services to our communities, waste and resource recovery, as well as the creation of jobs and industry in our outer suburbs.

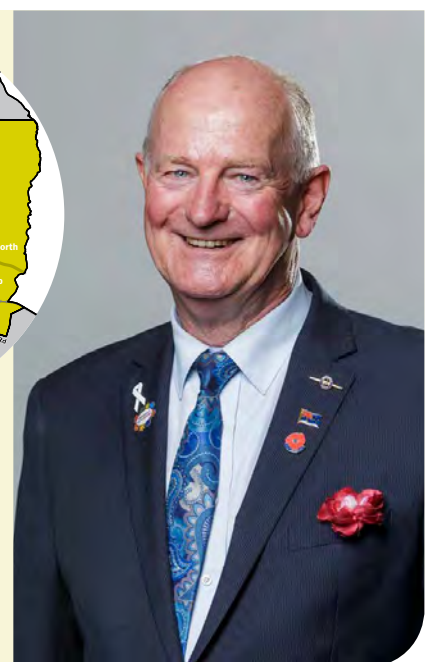
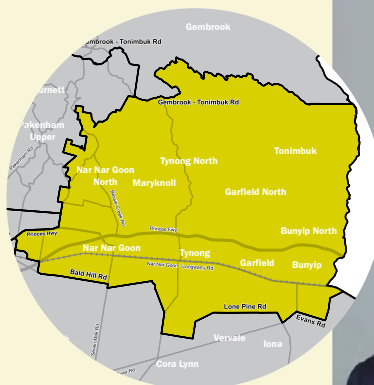


## Cr Graeme Moore Bunyip Ward

0400 167 844

g.moore@cardinia.vic.gov.au

It's been an honour to represent my community as a Cardinia Shire councillor for the past 10 years, including two terms as Mayor, and I'm proud to have been elected to represent Bunyip Ward for this term. I'm passionate about our vibrant community, our railway townships and our beautiful natural environment; let's continue to work together to make our ward, and our shire, an even better place to live. As always, I'm available to speak with, and listen to, our community on important local matters.

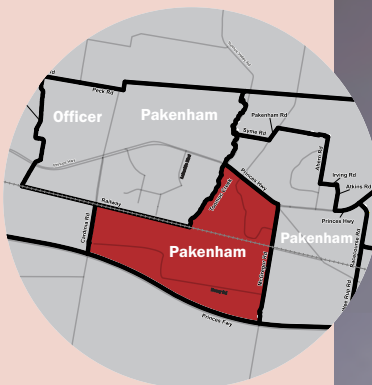




## Cr Collin Ross Central Ward

0402 420 398  
c.ross@cardinia.vic.gov.au

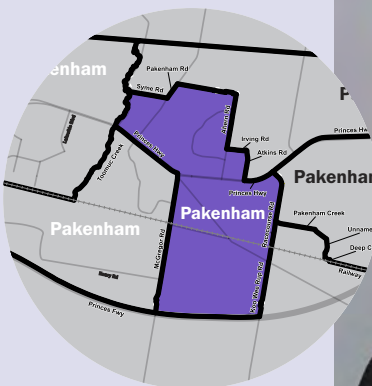
I am a family man with 4 children and a mortgage, and have lived and worked in Pakenham for more than 20 years. My main aim is to make rate increases affordable and meet the needs of the community. My priorities are affordable rates, community safety, support of the McGregor Road crossing rebuild, reducing debt, improving bus services, increasing employment, support services for youth and seniors, tough action on graffiti, maintaining parks and gardens, and improving internet and phone services. I am an independent vote on issues before Council and will keep the promises I make.



## Cr Carol Ryan Henty Ward

0418 130 851  
c.ryan@cardinia.vic.gov.au

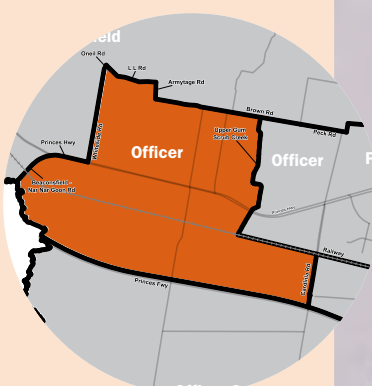
I've lived in Pakenham since 1979 and have 3 adult children. With a working background of more than 40 years in mental health, disability and aged care, social work and case management, I'm committed to advocating for more accessible services for mental health, drug and alcohol abuse and addressing the needs of our residents with a disability, our seniors and our youth. It's also important that we increase awareness and understanding of mental health issues in our community. Other priorities include advocating for a safer community, improving infrastructure, upgrading roads, footpaths and public transport options, keeping rates affordable, and encouraging new business.



## Cr Tammy Radford Officer Ward

0439 580 797  
t.radford@cardinia.vic.gov.au

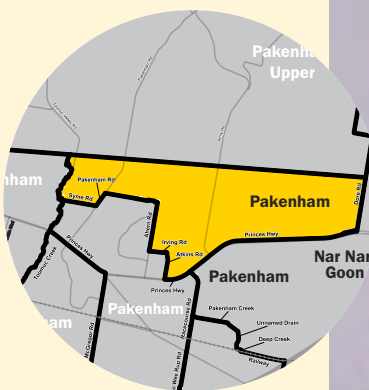
I'm passionate about building strong, well-connected communities that are diverse and inclusive. As the chair of the COVID-19 Community Recovery Committee, I look forward to working together to further support the community's recovery. I'm passionate about engaging with and consulting our community, as well as improvements to public transport services and road and footpath infrastructure. I look forward to the delivery of the Officer Town Centre precinct development and will work hard to support Officer Ward's growth with appropriate and timely delivery of infrastructure, while ensuring we protect and preserve its history.





0439 620 809  
j.kowarzik@cardinia.vic.gov.au

I'm a proud Pakenham resident and have been for more than 15 years. As a councillor, I look forward to listening to residents' needs and working together to make our shire as great as it can be. I'm passionate about community safety, financial literacy and support services, and protecting our local environment. I'm committed to working with the community and its leaders as part of the Together We Can Roundtable to help stop, prevent and end family violence in our shire. I've also been appointed chair of the CALD Advisory Group and look forward to working together in this space. Ensuring our community infrastructure is carefully planned and developed is another key priority.



0439 444 810  
s.davies@cardinia.vic.gov.au

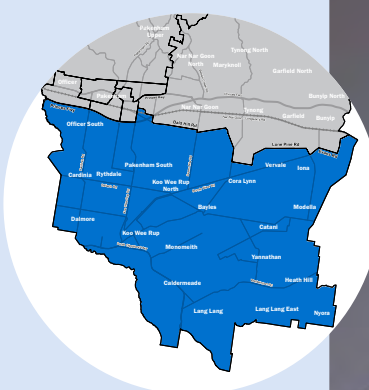
It is my privilege to be the elected councillor for Toomuc Ward and to represent this community.

I'm a mum of 3 children and work part-time as a civil engineer. I've lived in Pakenham since 2013 and love living here – we have amazing parks, shops, schools, cafes and restaurants, and recreation facilities in Toomuc Ward, and right across Cardinia. As a councillor, I'm keen to listen to the community and deliver in these areas; improved community wellbeing, smart infrastructure, planning and development. It's my role to represent local interests, help you connect with Council services, and raise feedback or concerns on your behalf.



0419 953 198  
r.brown@cardinia.vic.gov.au

I've lived in the region since 1970 and am proud to represent Westernport Ward. Our vibrant agricultural areas, including Koo Wee Rup, produce 90% of Australia's asparagus as well as a broad variety of vegetable crops and herbs. Our *Community Food Strategy 2018–26* provides a collective vision and action plan to guide our work in this area and I look forward to continuing to establish a healthy, delicious, sustainable and fair food system for all. I'm also passionate about maintaining our infrastructure and buildings, improving sporting facilities, supporting small business and advocating for improved public transport for our shire.





# What's on?

Here are just some of the amazing events and activities happening in our shire

## Casey Cardinia Libraries

### Employment and skills expo

Pakenham Library  
Tuesday 16 March, 10am–4pm

### Reclink Australia presents family sports games day

Emerald Library  
Wednesday 7 April, 3–4pm

### Meet local author Marian Matta

Emerald Library  
Saturday 17 April, 11am–12pm

### Australian native food plants Emerald Library

Saturday 8 May, 11am–12pm

### Decluttering and preparing your home for sale

Emerald Library  
Saturday 29 May, 11am–12pm

### Creative corner for grownups

Pakenham Library  
Mondays 2–3pm  
Ages: 17-plus

### Mindfulness sessions

Pakenham Library  
Tuesdays 6.30–7.30pm

### Libraries After Dark Series

Pakenham Library  
Fridays 6.30–8.30pm

All events are free and bookings essential unless otherwise stated.  
[www.cclc.vic.gov.au/online-events](http://www.cclc.vic.gov.au/online-events)

## Cardinia Cultural Centre

The Cardinia Cultural Centre is alive with creativity. Our gallery and cafe are open and our function spaces are ready for hire.

For events, exhibitions and the latest COVID-safe directions, visit:  
[www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au](http://www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au)

## Other events

### Teenage School Holiday Program

Fun and interactive activities for young people aged 12–17 years old will be held across the shire as part of our Teenage School Holiday Program. Activities are free or low cost and will be held from 6–16 April. Find out more:  
[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/tshp](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/tshp)

### Harry Potter Party

Young people aged 12–24 are invited to join in Harry Potter-inspired games and competitions as part of this popular event. Get in quick, places are limited.

When: Friday 30 April, 5–8pm

Where: The Point, corner Main Street and McGregor Road.

Free event. Bookings essential and opening soon, phone **1800 496 884** or email [myplace@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:myplace@cardinia.vic.gov.au) for more info.

### Celebrate Neighbour Day

Sunday 28 March.  
[www.neighbourday.org](http://www.neighbourday.org)

### Get mobile this March!

Students are being encouraged to walk, ride, scoot or skate to school during the month of March as part of Mobile March.

And for students who are unable to get to school in an active way, schools are encouraged to support children with activities such as laps of the oval or basketball court.

The most active school will win the Mobile March trophy and a visit from Cardinia Life's Street Team. Every school that registers will receive 20 family pool passes to be used at any of Council's pools.

[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/mobilemarch](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/mobilemarch)

### National Ride2School Day

Friday 19 March is another great opportunity for Cardinia Shire students and families to ride or walk to school, so grab your walking shoes and get active!

The information in this edition of *Connect* was correct at the time of print. For the most up-to-date information about Council services, events and programs, visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au)

### Cardinia Shire Council

Customer Service Centre  
20 Siding Avenue, Officer

### Postal address:

PO Box 7, Pakenham 3810

**Phone:** 1300 787 624


**Email:** [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

**Web:** [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au)

**TTY users:** 1300 677 then ask for 1300 787 624

**Speak and Listen users:** 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 787 624

**After-hours emergencies:** 1300 787 624

 **Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS)** 131 450 (ask for 1300 787 624)



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