

Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Winter 2021



ACCESS KEYS

Check out our new accessibility guides

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS

Supporting our diverse communities

MAJOR PROJECTS AND ROADS

Get updates on projects across the shire

WASTE SERVICES

New force tackling kerbside waste

Vale Cr Ray Brown

Cardinia Shire councillor Ray Brown passed away on 16 April 2021.

Ray lived in the region since 1970 and dedicated himself as a shire councillor from 2016.

He held the role of Port Ward councillor (alongside Cr Graeme Moore) and most recently served as councillor for Westernport Ward.

Ray is acknowledged for his invaluable service, and his presence will be greatly missed.

Passionate about getting things done and providing for his communities,

Ray was instrumental in a number of projects, and recently oversaw the opening of the Lang Lang Community Recreation Reserve pavilion, the start of Council's *Strategic Sealed Roads* project in Koo Wee Rup, and works at Koo Wee Rup Recreation Reserve for a new netball pavilion and a new football and cricket pavilion. He advocated for, and successfully obtained, funding for the future upgrade of Koo Wee Rup Bowling Club Community Facility.

He was also heavily involved in a number of community and Council committees.



For his service to the community, Ray was awarded Cardinia Shire Citizen of the Year in 2011.

Thoughts are with his family, friends and community.



Beacon Hills Ward

Cr Brett Owen (Mayor)

0418 993 370 | b.owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Ranges Ward

Cr Jeff Springfield (Deputy Mayor)

0427 383 810 | j.springfield@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Bunyip Ward

Cr Graeme Moore

0400 167 844 | g.moore@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Central Ward

Cr Collin Ross

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



Henty Ward

Cr Carol Ryan

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



Officer Ward

Cr Tammy Radford

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



Pakenham Hills Ward

Cr Jack Kowarzik

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



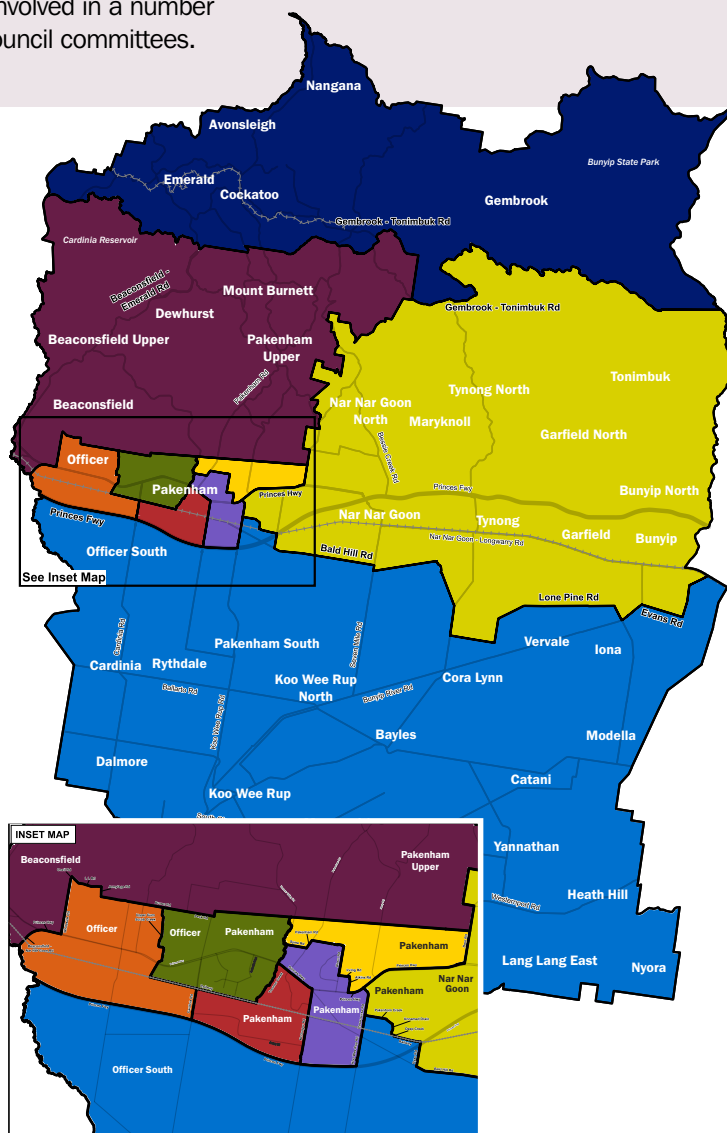
Toomuc Ward

Cr Stephanie Davies

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

Westernport Ward

Following the passing of Cr Ray Brown, the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has advised that a by-election will be held via a postal ballot to fill the vacancy on Cardinia Shire Council. The VEC has advised that a by-election will be held on 24 July 2021. More information: www.vec.vic.gov.au



To view a more detailed map, or to look up your ward or councillor online, visit: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wards

On the cover

Noel, Sheila and Julie from local environmental groups are among the shire's many volunteers. Read more on page 15.

Mayor's message



Mayor Cr Brett Owen (centre) with Cardinia Community Leadership Program graduates (from left) Laura Healey (2018), Brijal Parikh (2018), Alison Ryan (2017) and Mayur Meshram (2019-20).

It was with great sadness that we farewelled our fellow councillor Ray Brown in April.

Ray was an exceptional councillor and a true leader; someone who will always be remembered as an amazing advocate for his community.

I feel honoured and privileged to have known Ray and to witness his dedication to our community.

On behalf of my fellow councillors, Council staff and the community, I extend my deepest sympathies to Ray's family.

I recently caught up with a number of past graduates of our Cardinia Community Leadership Program.

The 2021 program is now underway and will provide participants with the opportunity to grow their leadership skills and networks. This program is a partnership between Council and Leadership Victoria and is a wonderful

opportunity for participants to develop their leadership capacity and community participation.

I look forward to witnessing the leadership journey of this year's participants and learning about their achievements over the coming months. Read more on page 15.

Thank you to everyone who has provided input as part of the *Imagine Cardinia* project. Your feedback and contributions have helped us develop our draft *Council Plan 2021-25* that includes the *Community Vision 2040*, proposed *Financial Plan 2021-31*, proposed *Council Budget 2021-25* and proposed *Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-25*. Council is expected to consider the draft plans at the June Council meeting. See page 4.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the shire's volunteers for the wonderful contribution they make to our community. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and

dedication and helping to make Cardinia Shire such a great place to call home.

Mayor Cr Brett Owen

Council meetings

Council meetings are once again open to the public but due to Victorian Government COVID-19 physical distancing requirements, only a limited number of seats are available in the public gallery.

To book your seat, please email your name and phone number to **council.meeting@cardinia.vic.gov.au** or phone us on **1300 787 624** no later than 12pm on the day of the meeting.

You can also watch meetings live or catch up on previous meetings at:



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/webcast



Cr Stephanie Davies, her daughter Celeste and Michael from the Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee check out the access key for Cardinia Cultural Centre.

New 'keys' for accessibility

Customised accessibility guides designed for people with disability in Cardinia Shire are now available online.

Toomuc Ward Cr Stephanie Davies, who is a member of the Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, said access keys had been created for Cardinia Cultural Centre, Deep Creek Reserve all-abilities play space and eco centre, and the Pakenham Library.

"Access keys include helpful information like the venue's accessible features, layout, available parking and distances from the car park to the door as well as potential sensory elements," Cr Davies said.

"Having this information on hand helps continue to build independence and inclusion for everyone in Cardinia Shire."

Access keys are great 'go to' resources for people with a disability as well as the broader community, including new parents and senior residents.

The Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee comprises representatives of the disability community, disability sector, Cr Davies and Cr Tammy Radford. The committee strives to make our shire welcoming, accessible and inclusive to all.

To learn more about the committee, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accessandinclusion



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accesskeys

Disability Action Plan

Council is developing a new *Disability Action Plan* and you're invited to provide input. The action plan will set out what we will do to help ensure Council's workplaces, services, programs and community are more accessible to people with disability.

We've held a number of online workshops and in person pop-up sessions throughout the shire. Have your say by completing the online survey until 7 June at:



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Have your say

Head to www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay to provide input into projects happening in our shire.

Don't forget! You can also stay up-to-date with your favorite consultations by hitting the 'follow' button at the top of the project page.

Read Connect online

Did you know that *Connect* is available online in pdf, large print and audio formats?



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connect



Imagine Cardinia

We're so grateful for everyone who provided input through our *Imagine Cardinia* project. Four key Council plans are very close to being finalised, and we're excited to continue to support the needs of our community and deliver on these plans.

- Draft *Council Plan 2021-25* that includes the *Community Vision 2040*
- Proposed *Council Budget 2021-25*
- Proposed *Financial Plan 2021-31*
- Proposed *Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-25*

Council is scheduled to consider the final draft plans at the June 2021 Council meeting.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/imaginecardinia



Supporting our community's recovery

Cr Tammy Radford caught up with Leanne from Follow Bless Collective, one of the community organisations to receive a COVID-19 grant from Council to provide food relief to the community.

We're continuing to support community members, groups, sporting clubs and businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through our COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Package.

Officer Ward Cr Tammy Radford, chairperson of the COVID-19 Community Recovery Committee, said supporting the community through the pandemic had been an exceptional challenge.

"While we certainly plan for emergencies, we could never have foreseen the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the world and our community," Cr Radford said.

"As a Council, we've continued to deliver our essential services to our community throughout the pandemic as well as a range of extra supports to make sure we can really regroup as a community and come back stronger than before."

Council has implemented a 4-phase COVID-19 Relief and Recovery Package to support our community, including local businesses, relief providers and local agencies, sporting clubs and the local arts sector as well as rate relief.

In addition, the Community Recovery Committee (comprising local volunteers) planned a series of events to help build community connections.

COVID-19 support and relief

Need help? Find local support services:



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

Help is at hand

Pick up one of our *Help is at hand* cards and get in touch with a range of services. Available now at Cardinia Shire neighbourhood and community houses and Casey Cardinia Libraries.

Help for mental health

Feeling overwhelmed? Call HeadtoHelp on 1800 595 212 Monday to Friday, 8:30am–5pm. This is a free, Australian Government funded service.



www.headtohelp.org.au

Council COVID-19 recovery updates

Get the latest updates and learn how we are working towards a strong and united community.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/recoverycommittee

Small business mentoring

Get the support and advice you need with Cardinia Business small business mentoring. Designed for hospitality, manufacturing and construction businesses. Book your one-on-one online mentoring session with our Economic Development team today.



business@cardinia.vic.gov.au

COVID-19 testing

COVID-19 testing sites are located at Emerald, Koo Wee Rup and Pakenham.



www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/where-get-tested-covid-19

COVID-19 vaccines

For all the latest info on the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations, visit the Australian Government Department of Health



www.health.gov.au/covid-19-vaccines

Australian Government COVID-19 vaccine hotline: **1800 020 080**

People who are eligible for the vaccine can book an appointment by calling the COVID-19 hotline: **1800 675 398**.

Working for Victoria



Our Working for Victoria crew are joining us for 6 months as part of our COVID-19 recovery efforts. With the support of the Victorian Government, Council is employing more than 60 Working for Victoria workers across a number of areas and skill sets, including Gem and Vince who have joined our bushland maintenance team.

Visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au for all the latest Victorian Government COVID-19 information including current restrictions.

Supporting our diverse communities



Cr Jack Kowarzik (far right), Cr Tammy Radford (second left) and members of the CALD Advisory Group

Our recently appointed Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Advisory Group is hard at work to foster strong connections between the shire's diverse communities.

Chairperson of the CALD Advisory Group Cr Jack Kowarzik said the advisory group's role was to progress projects that align to Council's *Cultural Diversity Plan 2019–23*, discuss challenges and opportunities for residents from CALD backgrounds and to provide advice to Council on its policies, plans and services.

"The CALD Advisory Group works closely with Council to promote an inclusive shire where all residents feel valued, included,

respected and able to access the range of services, programs and facilities Council offers," Cr Kowarzik said.

"As a group, we seek to be a platform to mobilise and coordinate local community resources. We strive to represent the ideas and needs of culturally and linguistically diverse members of our community and work in partnership with Council to improve the wellbeing of our new and emerging communities."

Cr Kowarzik is joined on the CALD Advisory Group by Officer Ward Cr Tammy Radford and Central Ward Cr Collin Ross.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cald

Dementia-friendly cafe

The Forget-Me-Not dementia-friendly cafes in Pakenham and Koo Wee Rup bring together people living with dementia and their loved ones in a supportive and understanding environment.

The cafe program provides participants with a social outlet, with each session including entertainment, games and refreshments.

Limited numbers per session, so register your interest now at one of these centres.

Koo Weerup Regional Health:
5997 9792.

Outlook Community Centre:
5941 1535.



Elder abuse awareness

Tuesday 15 June is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Show your support by joining this free presentation by Seniors Rights Victoria:

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day community information session

15 June, 10–11:30am,
Outlook Community Centre
24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham
Bookings essential: 5940 4728
Morning tea provided.

Elder abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological, sexual or can involve mistreatment or neglect.

Council is committed to raising awareness of elder abuse, in line with our *Ageing Well Strategy 2019–25* and the Together We Can collective impact project.

If you or someone you know is experiencing elder abuse, contact one of the services below or for immediate danger call 000.

- Seniors Rights Victoria:
1300 368 821 or
www.seniorsrights.org.au
- Safe Steps: **1800 015 188** or
www.safesteps.org.au
- 1800 RESPECT: **1800 737 732** or
www.1800respect.org.au
- Cardinia Shire Council:
1300 787 624 or
www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/onlinehelphub



Better Local Roads

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Brett Owen inspects the progress of intersection works along Princes Highway, Beaconsfield, with the contractor's site foreman, Tim.

We're partnering with the Australian Government to deliver more than \$200 million in road improvement works over the next 8 years as part of our Better Local Roads program.

Princes Highway intersection projects

Works continue along Princes Highway, Beaconsfield, at 2 separate intersections: O'Neil Road and Glismann Road/ Beaconsfield Avenue. Both projects are scheduled for completion by June 2021.

Beacon Hills Ward councillor and Mayor Cr Brett Owen said a number of priority intersections along Princes Highway would be upgraded over the next 3 years as part of this project to cater for increasing traffic volumes.

"Council is committed to improving roads across the shire, and we have a number of exciting and innovative roads projects underway as part of our Better Local Roads program," Cr Owen said.

"We will continue to strive to improve the standards of our roads to increase safety and comfort for all road users."

Strategic sealed roads project

We're investing \$25 million in the Strategic sealed roads project between 2019-22 to seal about 40 kilometres of local roads in 7 locations across the

shire to connect existing sealed roads in locations where they're needed most.

The sealing of Boundary Drain Road and Main Drain Road, Koo Wee Rup, is now complete. Sealing of LL and Armytage roads, Officer, is scheduled to commence soon and we'll also be placing an interim seal on Brown Road.

Sealing the Hills project

This key project has received \$150 million in Australian Government funding and is co-funded by Council and landowners via a special charge scheme. Consultation with landowners in prioritised, special charge scheme roads has been completed for the first scheduled roads in Cockatoo and Emerald.

Consultation is now underway for the first scheduled special charge scheme roads in Gembrook and Upper Beaconsfield. The first roads to be sealed in this project are scheduled to start from late 2021 and will take approximately 6 months to complete. All 164 prioritised roads in the project are scheduled for completion over the next 8 years.

Around the shire

The Victorian Government is also undertaking a number of projects locally including:

- **Pakenham Level Crossing Removal Project**
 - Main Street level crossing removal
 - McGregor Road level crossing removal
 - Racecourse Road level crossing removal
 - Pakenham Station upgrade
 - Pakenham East Station
- **Gippsland Line Upgrade**
- **Racecourse Road duplication and McGregor Road interchange**
- **Koo Wee Rup Road duplication (Manks Road to freeway)**

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/roads

Fast facts

Unsealed road grading:

6,753 hours

Unsealed roads refurbished:

2,506,949 m2

Sealed road potholes patched:

1,412 m2

Underground drainage maintained:

134,167 m

*Data from July 2020 – March 2021

Check! Unsealed roads. Find out if your unsealed road is scheduled for maintenance works. The online checker tool shows Council works on unsealed roads coming up in the next 2 months. www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/roadworkschecker

Worrell Reserve's new look



Cr Jeff Springfield inspects the new look Worrell Reserve.

Worrell Reserve has undergone a major transformation in the past 2 years in a huge win for local sport.

Ranges Ward Cr Jeff Springfield said 2 major projects had been completed this year; a new pavilion funded by Council and new sports oval lighting, coach boxes and high ball catching net funded by Council and the Victorian Government's Sport and Recreation Victoria – Country Football and Netball Program.

"These latest works complement the oval upgrade undertaken by Council in 2019 that included oval resurfacing, drainage

and irrigation works, as well as cricket practice nets," Cr Springfield said.

"Local clubs and community members set to benefit from the improvements to this reserve include local schools, the Emerald Junior Football Club, Emerald Cricket Club, Emerald Community Gym as well as the wider community."

Council thanks the Worrell Reserve Community Asset Committee for its ongoing contribution and support.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/worrellreserve

In brief

Lang Lang recreation precinct

The Lang Lang Community Recreation Reserve and pavilion is open. The recreation and community precinct is a partnership between Council, the Australian Government and Our Community Company. The reserve features ovals for football and cricket, and netball courts. The pavilion is equipped with a multipurpose community space, universally accessible change rooms, a gym, kitchen and umpire facilities.

New pavilion for Officer

The new pavilion at Comely Banks Recreation Reserve has been officially opened.

It features unisex change room facilities and umpires' change facilities, fully accessible exterior/interior amenities, kiosk/canteen facilities, integrated community space, and an external covered area.

The pavilion will soon be complemented by 4 multisport rugby league fields and a multipurpose cricket practice facility. These works are expected to be completed in July 2021 and, following a maintenance

and establishment schedule, are expected to be open for use in July 2022.

The pavilion was funded by Cardinia Shire Council (\$4.088 million) and the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund (\$3.5 million).



Memorial Park

Nar Nar Goon RSL Memorial Park has undergone a number of improvements to honour the memories of locals who have served their country.

Council is proud to have supported this project by Nar Nar Goon RSL with \$65,000 in funding. The project included a new memorial featuring an upgraded plaque and 2 remembrance walls to display important information and plaques. There is also new paving, garden beds and bench seating and the flag has been relocated.

Bridges over Toomuc Creek



Central Ward Cr Collin Ross checks out the new bridge at the southern end of Toomuc Creek Linear Reserve, Pakenham.

Visitors to Toomuc Creek Linear Reserve in Pakenham are enjoying improved access thanks to new bridges at the northern and southern ends of the reserve.

Central Ward Cr Collin Ross said the new bridges were proving popular with locals and visitors exploring the area.

“The new bridges at both the northern and southern ends of the creek are providing better access and greater safety for visitors to the area,” Cr Ross said.

“The bridges enhance what is already a highly valued destination for locals and visitors alike, and I have no doubt they’ll

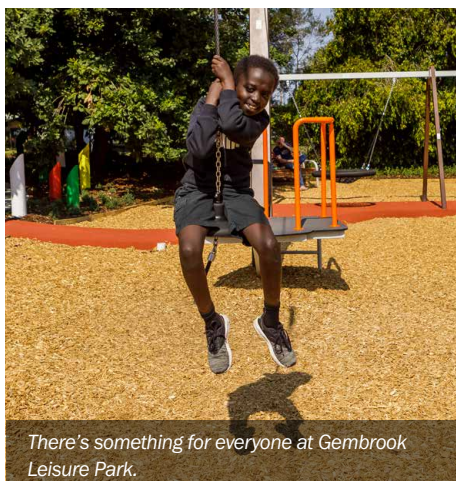
serve our community well now and into the future.”

The northern bridge connects the eastern side of the reserve with Rotary Park and the southern bridge provides better access from the end of Possum Place.

Discover Cardinia’s hidden gems

- Explore the gentle and meandering **Toomuc Creek Trail** in Pakenham. Take in the beautiful surrounds, stop by the wetlands and explore the dog park.
- **Eastone Reserve** is a popular spot for dog walking, with friendly wetland birds.
- With a swimming pool, bowling green, tennis court and skate park, there’s lots to do at **Cochrane Park, Koo Wee Rup**.
- **Gembrook Leisure Park** features a flying fox, giant climbing pyramid, trampoline and wheelchair friendly merry-go-round, as well as an active zone and skate park.
- With beautiful gardens and walking trails, the state significant **Nobelius Heritage Park** connects to Emerald Lake Park and the Eastern Dandenong Ranges rail trail. Emerald Museum is located within the park.

- The playground at **Alma Treloar Reserve** will test your skills with its spider web climbing frame and rope challenge. Add an insect-themed, four-way seesaw, swings and a super-fast spinner and your day is made.



There’s something for everyone at Gembrook Leisure Park.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/parksandenvironment



Love local – buy local

Looking for a bite to eat and a coffee to get you through the rest of your adventure? Or perhaps some retail therapy is more in order? Jump online to find what’s near you using the Buy Local Map

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/buylocal

Stay active this winter

The weather may have cooled down but there’s still plenty to do at our leisure facilities.

- **Cardinia Life:** swimming lessons, health club, and indoor courts for casual shooting and competition.
- **Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre:** Hot Shots Tennis Program, lessons, competitions and tournaments.
- **Officer Community Hub:** stadium and room hire.



www.cardinialeisure.com.au



Cr Carol Ryan joined young people, including Sargun and Tript, at My Place for a candle making activity.

A place where everyone is welcome

Young people can access a range of services, programs, events and activities at My Place youth centre in Pakenham.

Henty Ward Cr Carol Ryan said the centre was a fantastic resource for young people aged 12 to 24.

“Young people are always welcome to visit My Place youth centre for a chat, to use one of the computers or to get support from one of our friendly youth workers,” Cr Ryan said.

“In addition to specialised support services and education programs, the centre runs a range of term programs as well as fun activities; I recently had the pleasure of joining young people at the centre for a candle making activity.”

My Place youth centre, 5–7 Main Street, Pakenham, open Monday-Friday 9am–12pm by appointment or drop in between 1–5pm.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youthservices

We're excited to offer a range of activities for young people aged 12–17 years as part of our Teenage School Holiday Program from 28 June to 9 July. Most activities are free or low cost and are fully supervised. Places are limited. Find out more: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/tshp

Youth centre update

Construction of the new youth centre in Pakenham is expected to start soon.

The new centre will offer programs and services for young people aged 12–24, with dedicated training rooms, counselling rooms, a program/group room, recording booth, computers with internet access, and a roof top recreation space.

The centre will offer services and programs to support young people to build resilience, re-engage in education,

training and work opportunities, improve relationships, and will give them the ability to access specialist services in a timely manner.

The youth centre will be located in James Street, Pakenham, and is anticipated to open end of May 2022.

The project is being funded by the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund (\$3 million), the Australian Government's Community Health and Hospitals Program (\$1.5 million) and Council (\$1.5 million).

In brief

Calling young artists

We're looking for creative and artistically minded young people to work with an artist to create artwork for our new youth centre.



Young people aged 17–24 years will have the opportunity to work with Melbourne artist Danielle Weber to create 2 canvases that will take pride of place in our new youth centre.

The artwork is to represent our community, our young people and their stories.

More info: 1800 496 884

Children's champions



Cr Graeme Moore and Cardinia Shire Council's Healthy Children's Facilitator Kate Beveridge, pictured with local primary school students, are 2 of the shire's Children's Ambassadors.

We're proud to have been the first Victorian Council to appoint Children's Ambassadors to champion the voice of children in our shire.

Bunyip Ward Cr Graeme Moore is one of more than 40 Cardinia Shire Council Children's Ambassadors first appointed in 2019 to listen to children's ideas and involve them in Council's activities.

"With almost 30% of the shire's population aged under 17 years, it's important to involve children in our activities. This gives children the respect they deserve and helps them feel connected and valued in their community," Cr Moore said.

"As Children's Ambassadors, we're committed to listening to what our children have to say, being a positive role

model and working hard to influence outcomes that benefit the shire's children."

Cardinia Shire Council is a Child Friendly City; an initiative started by UNICEF to recognise the community's youngest citizens.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/childfriendlycity



Kindergarten registrations closing soon

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

Families are reminded that any new registrations need to be received by 30 June to be considered for a first round offer for 3 and 4-year-old kindergarten in 2022.

Two new kindergartens are opening in 2022 in Timbertop and Rix Road (Campanella Avenue). These centres are now available on our kindergarten portal and families can choose places at these new facilities.

To register for a kindergarten place or update contact details for your child, go to Council's online kindergarten portal at:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

CEO for the day

Are you a Grade 6 student who has what it takes to be Cardinia Shire's CEO for the day? If the answer is yes, then we want to hear from you!

Applications are open for our 2021 CEO for the Day program and will close on Friday 25 June. The selected student will accompany Cardinia Shire Council's CEO Carol Jeffs on Friday 22 October to get an understanding of what it's like to be Council's CEO.

For details on how to apply, visit:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/childfriendlycity

New children and family centre

Construction has started on a new child and family centre in Officer.

The Timbertop Child and Family Centre (interim name) will feature 2 kindergarten program rooms, consulting rooms for maternal and child health nurses and allied health professionals, a community room, outdoor play areas and car parking.

The project is funded by Council and also received a \$1.6 million grant from the Victorian Government's Children's Facilities Capital Program Major Grants Program.



Our new waste trucks are helping to deliver a more efficient and sustainable service.

New force in tackling waste

There's an all-new force tackling kerbside waste in Cardinia Shire.

We're excited to introduce 16 new waste trucks that replace our previous fleet and help deliver a more efficient, sustainable and safer kerbside waste service for our growing community.

The new collection trucks are safer, smarter and more sustainable than

previous models. The trucks are fitted with advanced technology, including motion sensors, GPS tracking and features that can help spot contamination to prevent waste going to the wrong place.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/waste

Common recycling mistakes

Cardinia Shire residents are great recyclers with around 190 tonnes of recycling processed every week.

Help us ensure that all of that material is recoverable and reduce our reliance on landfill by keeping these items OUT of your recycling bin.

✗ Soft plastics: such as bread bags, food packets and wrappers. Take these to a REDcycle bin at participating supermarkets or place in your rubbish bin.

✗ Bagged recyclables: keep your recycling loose. Do not bag items as plastic bags cannot be opened or processed.

✗ Household waste: any waste that is not accepted in recycling or green waste bins belongs in your garbage bin.

✗ Clothing and textiles: donate your pre-loved clothing and bedding to charity stores or animal shelters, or recycle them at participating retailers.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/bins



Grace, Declan and Sarah are putting their food waste to good use.

Green waste solution

Are you using your green bin to its full potential?

The optional green bin is a great solution for all your food and garden waste. You can use it for fruit and vegetable scraps, leftovers including meat and dairy, garden clippings and weeds, as well as napkins and tissues, human and animal hair, paper plates, avocado and mango pips, lollies, fish and chip paper and oily pizza boxes.

Material collected is sent to Cleanaway South East Organics Facility for composting. Free compostable bags for your caddy are available by ordering online or visiting our customer service centre in Officer.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/greenbin

A number of waste events are coming up – see page 16 for details.



Our plant giveaway is keeping Meghan and the team busy at Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery at Deep Creek Reserve.

Plant giveaway

Help us create a greener Cardinia Shire by participating in the free native plant giveaway to celebrate the opening of Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery at Deep Creek Reserve.

We're giving away 2 free indigenous plants to the first 2,000 Cardinia Shire residents who take up the offer. The plants will be available at the nursery until 18 June, or while stocks last.

The nursery project has been 9 years in the making with Cardinia Shire Council,

Cardinia Environment Coalition, and Pakenham and District Golf Club working together to develop the nursery located in the 43-hectare Deep Creek Reserve.

Cardinia Shire residents must bring proof of address to the nursery to receive 2 free indigenous tube stock plants.

Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery is located at Deep Creek Reserve, 62 Cameron Way, Pakenham. It is open Fridays 9am–12pm.



www.cecinc.net.au/cec-nursery

A plan to develop wildlife corridors

Council has developed a draft *Biolink Plan* to help protect wildlife, increase vegetation in our shire, improve waterways and help set environmental priorities for the next decade.

The draft *Biolink Plan* uses the latest technology in wildlife species computer modelling and aerial vegetation mapping to identify the key wildlife areas and potential 'biolinks' across Cardinia Shire.

The draft plan shows where new wildlife corridors are needed across the shire and provides a long-term strategic direction for Council's future environmental works.

In April, Council sought community feedback on the draft *Biolink Plan* and will consider the community's views in the formation of the final plan.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/biolinkplan

YourGround

We're proud to be part of a state-wide project that will help plan and advocate for improvements to community safety.

The YourGround project has an interactive map that allows people to anonymously drop a pin, tell a story or share an experience about their feelings of safety at that location.

When collated and analysed, the data will provide insights into where and how we can make our shire's towns, parks and community spaces more accessible, more inclusive and more equitable.

The project is a collaborative effort between Monash University's XYX Lab, CrowdSpot and councils across Victoria.

With the implementation of Victoria's *Gender Equality Act 2020*, creating inclusive spaces for women and gender-diverse people is a priority state-wide. This project also aligns with Council's liveability priorities of safety for all in the community.

YourGround is open until 31 July 2021. To share your stories, visit:



www.yourground.org

Planning for the future

Connect reader survey

1. How do you find out about Council news?

- ☐ Connect ☐ Social media
☐ Website ☐ Local newspapers
☐ Other _____

2. How do you like to read Connect?

- ☐ Print ☐ Online

3. Connect is a quarterly publication. Would you like to receive it:

- ☐ Quarterly ☐ More regularly
☐ Less often

4. What would you like to see more of in Connect?

5. In which suburb/town do you live?

6. Your age?

- ☐ 14-17 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34
☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64
☐ 65-74 ☐ 75+

7. What language do you mostly speak at home?

- ☐ English
☐ Other (specify) _____

Privacy note: All responses are anonymous.
Further info: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/privacy

If you are returning the survey by mail,
please post it to: Cardinia Shire Council,
Reply Paid 7, Pakenham 3810.

More info or complete the survey online:
creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au

Council is committed to planning and managing the natural and built environment of our shire for present and future generations.

We've moved forward with key planning documents to help strategically plan for the future of Pakenham.

- **Pakenham South Employment Precinct Structure Plan** (Amendment C265) will provide opportunities for industries to operate in a defined employment hub, appropriately located away from sensitive residential areas. The PSP went on public exhibition for community consultation last year and an independent planning panel is now considering those submissions and will make recommendations to Council.
- **Pakenham Major Activity Centre** (Amendment C228) will enable Council to support industry, business and the local economy by providing more clarity for growth in the Pakenham Major Activity Centre. Council has adopted updated planning

documents and has now submitted Amendment C228 to the Minister for Planning for approval.

- **Pakenham East Precinct Structure Plan** (Amendment C234) has been approved by the Victorian Government. The PSP is a long-term strategic plan to guide urban development. It describes how land is expected to be developed, what natural assets must be protected, and how and where services are planned to support this development. The PSP will guide the development of a new residential community to the east of Pakenham, to be built on approximately 630 hectares.

Work also continues on township strategies for both Nar Nar Goon and Tynong to help ensure the existing character and values of these 2 towns is maintained. A background report in 2019 found that further investigation was needed to understand the key infrastructure and services of both townships in terms of current capacity and potential growth.

Funding boost for vital projects

Three important community projects will share in \$3.3 million in funding from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund.

Funding includes \$1.6 million for a community pavilion at Koo Wee Rup Bowling Club, \$1.5 million for a new family centre in Brunt Road, Officer, and \$180,000 for a new outdoor amphitheatre at Alma Treloar Reserve in Cockatoo.

Koo Wee Rup Bowling Club Community Facility

A new \$3.3 million bowls clubhouse and community room will be built at the Koo Wee Rup Bowling Club. This will improve facilities for bowlers, help keep our community active, and provide new rooms for everyone in the community to use.

Brunt Road Integrated Child and Family Centre

The new \$6.4 million Brunt Road Integrated Child and Family Centre will include a kindergarten, maternal child and health service, allied health consulting suites, and a community space for parenting support. It will greatly assist the increasing number of families in the fast-growing area of Officer.

Alma Treloar Reserve

The \$360,000 improvement project at Alma Treloar Reserve includes a new amphitheatre and stage (with shade sail), new picnic settings, shelters, barbecue areas, seats, and landscaping. These new facilities form part of stage 2 of the ongoing implementation of the Alma Treloar Master Plan.



Jenny, Noel, Sheila and Julie generously volunteer their time with a number of environmental groups. Sheila is involved with Friends of Emerald Lake Park and Jenny, Julie and Noel with Johns Hill Landcare group. They are all involved in seed collecting in Emerald and have undertaken planting, conservation and beautification works at Hogan Park, Emerald (pictured) with the support of a Cardinia Shire Council grant.

Making a difference

Did you know that volunteers in Cardinia Shire dedicated more than 56,400 hours of their time in 2019–20?

That equates to more than 2,300 days, 335 weeks, 77 months, or 6 years!

These selfless community members are part of 94 volunteer groups that undertake a range of voluntary activities across the shire – everything from managing community halls and undertaking environmental works to assisting sporting clubs and supporting seniors.

Volunteers make a world of difference to those they assist through their volunteering efforts, to their local communities and the wider Cardinia Shire community.

The wonderful work of our volunteers helps to make our shire a more inclusive, welcoming and supportive community.

Search our volunteers directory for volunteering opportunities in the shire.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteers

Leading the way

The 2021 Cardinia Community Leadership Program is underway. Delivered through a partnership between Cardinia Shire Council and Leadership Victoria, the program helps develop the leadership capacity and community participation of some of our community's emerging leaders. The free program provides up to 20 participants with an opportunity to grow their leadership skills and networks, and learn from a host of guest speakers, local leaders, and program alumni. The 8-month course, which runs from May to December, is designed to prepare participants for success in their community leadership roles.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/leadershipprogram

Volunteering award winner announced

Helen Smith, from Upper Beaconsfield, is our 2021 Stan Henwood Award winner!


Helen is a highly valued community member, having served on numerous committees over the past 40 years, including the Upper Beaconsfield Association, Upper Beaconsfield Festival

Committee and the Village Bell committee. She also received the Upper Beaconsfield Association's 1994 Citizen of the Year award along with her late husband, Barry.

Council's Stan Henwood Award, presented at the annual Mayor's Volunteer Reception in May,

recognises achievements in community service and volunteering.

Read more about Helen's achievements and the award:

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/stanhenwood

What's on?

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

Casey Cardinia Libraries

Libraries After Dark

Pakenham Library
Fridays 6:30–8:30pm

Mental health support

Pakenham Library
Thursdays during the school term,
12:30–3pm Ages 18+

Strength training for seniors

Pakenham Library
Thursdays 3–24 June, 10–10:30am

The wonderful world of salvias

Emerald Library
Saturday 12 June, 11am–12pm

Crafty mums

Emerald Library
Every second Tuesday starting 15 June,
6:30–8pm

An evening with Ronda Robertson – psychic medium

Pakenham Library
Friday 18 June, 7–8pm

Heal Country! YA book group

Emerald Library
Wednesday 7 July, 4–5pm

All things reusable workshop

Emerald Library
Saturday 10 July, 10:30–11:30am

Country gardens

Emerald Library
Saturday 24 July, 11am–12pm

Discover the observatory in the Hills

Emerald Library
Wednesday 18 August, 6:30–8pm

Introduction to tarot

Pakenham Library
Friday 20 August, 6:30–8pm

All events are free and bookings
essential unless otherwise stated.

www.cclc.vic.gov.au

Cardinia Cultural Centre

To Lulu With Love

16 June, 10am

Art Show Pakenham

29 May to 6 June, 10am–3pm
Held over 2 weekends, see the award
winners and best in show for 2021.

Taste of Tamworth

21 July, 10am



Lux Radio: Gone with the Wind

18 August, 10am

For show information, pricing and
tickets come and see us at the Box
Office, phone **1300 887 624** visit
www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au
Performances can be subject to
change without notice, please
check the website for up-to-date
performance listings.

Waste events

Composting for beginners

Discover how composting, worm farms
and digesters can help you reduce your
household waste.

In-person sessions at Pakenham,
Emerald and Koo Wee Rup in June.

All things reusable

Workshop for those starting their zero
waste journey or looking to reduce waste
at home. In-person and online sessions
available in July.

Zero waste cooking workshops

Learn about the impacts of food waste
and gain valuable tips and tricks for
effective meal planning and proper food
storage. In-person and online sessions
available in August.

More info and bookings:
[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/
wasteworkshops](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wasteworkshops)

For event details and to learn about other events happening in our shire, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/events

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

Cardinia Shire Council

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20 Siding Avenue, Officer

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PO Box 7, Pakenham 3810

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Email: mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Web: 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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