

# Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Spring 2021

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## SENIORS FESTIVAL

Join us for the Ageing Well Seniors Festival

## PLAY TIME

Check out our upgraded playgrounds

## IMAGINE CARDINIA

Presenting our community vision and key strategic documents

## ROADS UPDATE

Get the latest news on our Better Local Roads program



**Cardinia**



# Introducing our new Westernport Ward councillor

Cr Kaye Cameron is the newly elected councillor for Westernport Ward, filling the vacancy left by much respected former councillor Ray Brown.

Born in Koo Wee Rup and with a long family connection to Westernport Ward, Cr Cameron follows in the footsteps of her great, great grandfather JP Angus

Cameron in representing her local community.

"I've lived in the Cardinia Shire for almost my entire life and was the first female police officer to be stationed at Pakenham in the tiny Police Station on Main Street," Cr Cameron said.

Outlining her priorities for Council, Cr Cameron said her focus will be on supporting the growth of Westernport Ward, taking the community's views and needs into careful consideration.



## Beacon Hills Ward

**Cr Brett Owen (Mayor)**

0418 993 370 | [b.owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:b.owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## Ranges Ward

**Cr Jeff Springfield (Deputy Mayor)**

0427 383 810 | [j.springfield@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:j.springfield@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## Bunyip Ward

**Cr Graeme Moore**

0400 167 844 | [g.moore@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:g.moore@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## Central Ward

**Cr Collin Ross**

0402 420 398 | [c.ross@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:c.ross@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## Henty Ward

**Cr Carol Ryan**

0418 130 851 | [c.ryan@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:c.ryan@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## Officer Ward

**Cr Tammy Radford**

0439 580 797 | [t.radford@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:t.radford@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## Pakenham Hills Ward

**Cr Jack Kowarzik**

0439 620 809 | [j.kowarzik@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:j.kowarzik@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## Toomuc Ward

**Cr Stephanie Davies**

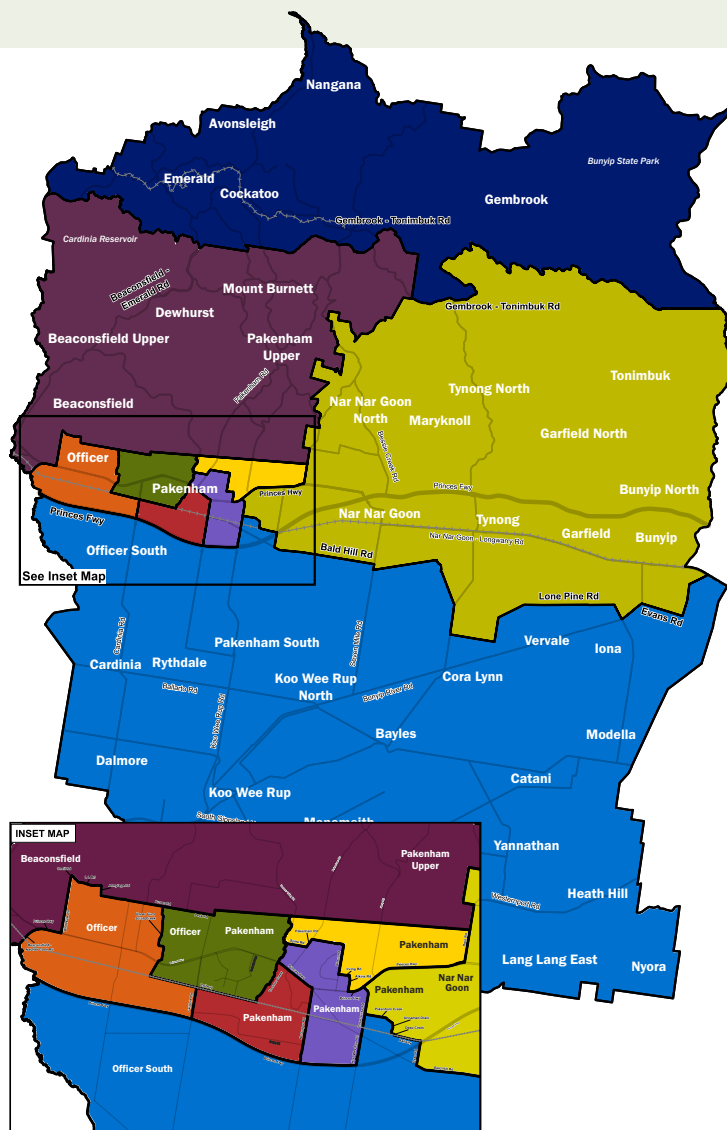
0439 444 810 | [s.davies@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.davies@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## Westernport Ward

**Cr Kaye Cameron**

0457 251 552 | [kaye.cameron@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:kaye.cameron@cardinia.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](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wards)

## On the cover

Poppy and Harper soak up the sunshine at Garfield Recreation Reserve.



## Connect e-news coming soon

Sign up for our new *Connect* e-newsletter!

Our e-news will feature all the latest Cardinia Shire Council news, events, initiatives and programs.

Subscribe to have *Connect* e-news delivered straight to your inbox:



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

# Mayor's message



Our 2021 Stan Henwood Award winner Helen Smith with Mayor Cr Brett Owen

Thank you to our community and the Imagine Cardinia People's Panel for input that helped develop our 4 key strategic documents – our *Council Plan 2021–25*, incorporating the *Community Vision 2040*, *Council Budget 2021–25*, *Financial Plan 2021–31* and *Revenue and Rating Plan 2021–25*.

These documents will guide our strategic direction over coming years and set us up to respond to long-term challenges and opportunities. Through these plans, we aim to build a shire that remains a great place to live, work and play well into the future. Read more in our special lift-out from page 9.

Congratulations to Helen Smith, from Upper Beaconsfield, who 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 Community Hall, Upper Beaconsfield

Community Centre (Building and Grounds complex), 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.

Thank you to Helen and all of our dedicated volunteers whose contributions continue to make a difference in our shire.

We have recently welcomed our new Westernport Ward Cr Kaye Cameron. I welcome Cr Cameron to the Cardinia Shire Council team. My fellow councillors and I all look forward to working together in the best interests of our community. You can read more about Cr Cameron on the facing page.

Finally, as my 2020–21 Mayoral term is coming to an end, I take this opportunity to thank the community, my fellow councillors and Council staff for your ongoing support over the past year. It has been another challenging and

uncertain year, but I'm proud of the strength and resilience of the Cardinia Shire community and the way in which we support and look out for one another. Please continue to take care of yourselves and each other.

**Mayor Cr Brett Owen**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Owen'.

## Council meetings

Council and Town Planning meetings are held monthly. 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/  
councilmeetings](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings)





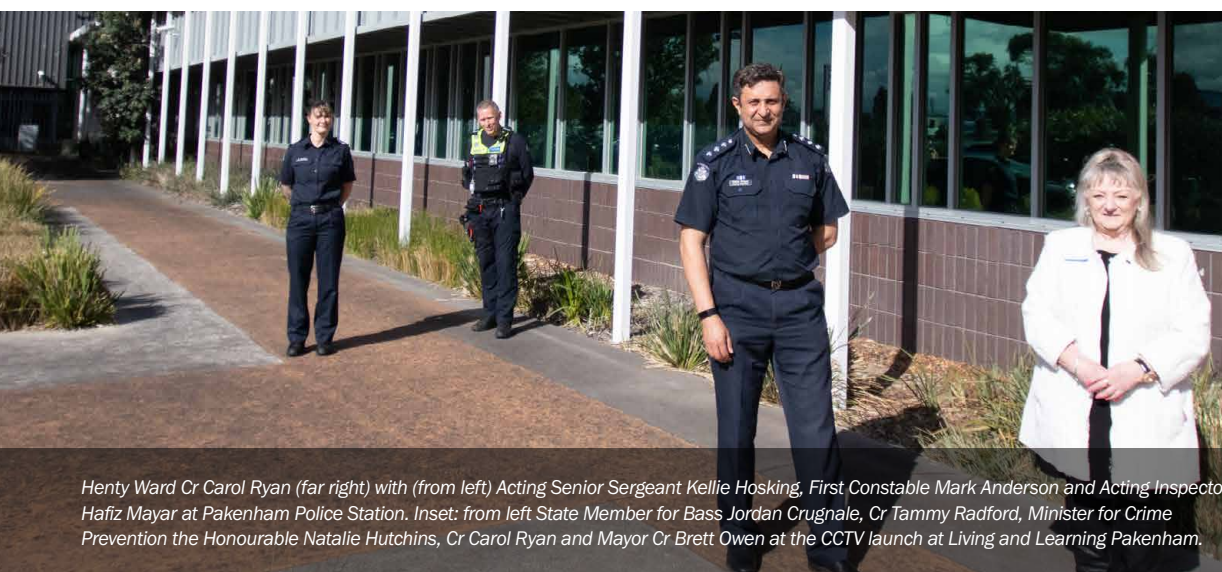
## Spring is in the air

Cardinia Shire is well known for its beautiful outdoor spaces. With the warmer weather around the corner, it's time to get out and about and enjoy all that our shire has to offer. Susan (right) and her children (from left) Grace, Tearii and Ellis enjoy a walk at Lakeside Lake, Pakenham.

Search our directories for our parks, playgrounds and recreations facilities:



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



Henty Ward Cr Carol Ryan (far right) with (from left) Acting Senior Sergeant Kellie Hosking, First Constable Mark Anderson and Acting Inspector Hafiz Mayar at Pakenham Police Station. Inset: from left State Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, Cr Tammy Radford, Minister for Crime Prevention the Honourable Natalie Hutchins, Cr Carol Ryan and Mayor Cr Brett Owen at the CCTV launch at Living and Learning Pakenham.



## Working towards a safer Cardinia Shire

Community safety is a key priority for Council as we continue to work with other agencies and organisations to build a safe and inclusive community.

Henty Ward Cr Carol Ryan, along with Officer Ward Cr Tammy Radford and Toomuc Ward Cr Stephanie Davies, are members of the Cardinia Safer Communities Partnership Committee which meets monthly, taking a 'whole of community' approach to creating a safer shire.

Cr Ryan said: "One of our most recent initiatives is the installation of CCTV at 4 locations across the shire to further boost safety and security for the community.

"Council successfully applied for a \$500,000 grant from the Victorian Government's Community Crime

Prevention Program to install and upgrade existing CCTV and install electronic access control systems at 10 sites across the shire. The new CCTV will be installed at Living and Learning Pakenham and Pakenham Library while existing CCTV at the Koo Wee Rup pool and Bourke Park in Pakenham will be upgraded. The CCTV will have a live video feed into Pakenham and Dandenong police stations."

The Safer Communities Partnership Committee comprises representatives from Council, Victoria Police, Victorian Government departments and agencies, and other key agencies and organisations.

### Have your say

Council is reviewing its *Liveability Plan 2017-29* and you're invited to provide input.

The *Liveability Plan 2017-29* is a long-term strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of our community.

This is the first 4-year review to ensure the goals and objectives of the plan continue to reflect the needs of our community.

Community feedback will be invited through online surveys, community workshops and public exhibition of the plan.



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



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



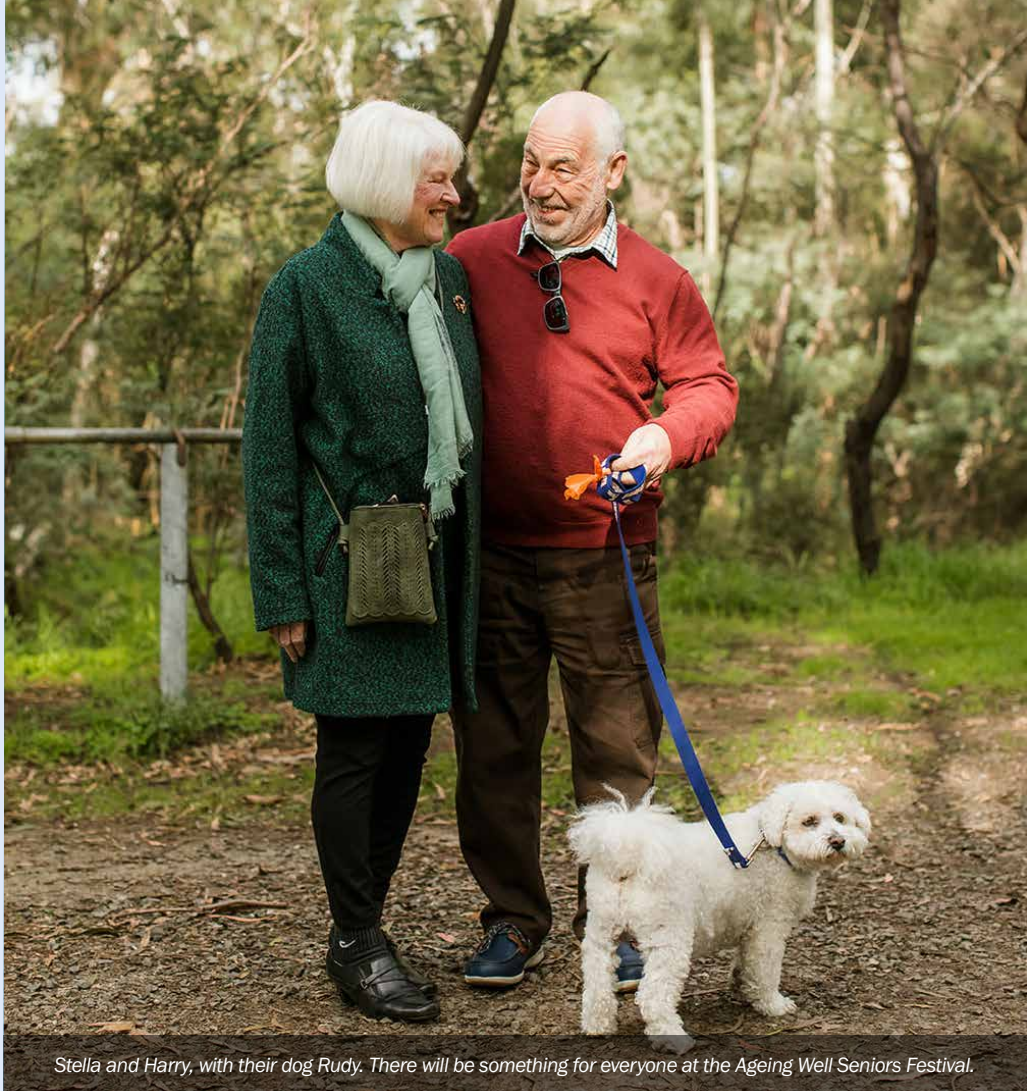
# Celebrate Seniors Festival

Join us for the Ageing Well Seniors Festival to be hosted by Cardinia Shire Council and Casey Cardinia Libraries on Thursday 28 October.

The free event to be held at Pakenham Library from 10am–4pm will feature special guest speakers, presentations and workshops, live music, and light refreshments. Whether you want to learn more about online safety, participate in a hands-on workshop or hear from our inspiring speakers, there is something for everyone.

Events are subject to change depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

Bookings and more info:  
[www.ccl.vic.gov.au/ageingwell](http://www.ccl.vic.gov.au/ageingwell)  
or 5940 6200



Stella and Harry, with their dog Rudy. There will be something for everyone at the Ageing Well Seniors Festival.



Bunyip Ward Cr Graeme Moore and member of the Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee Anne McCormick at the all-abilities play space at Deep Creek Reserve.

## Award for Deep Creek Reserve eco play space

Deep Creek Reserve's eco play space has been awarded the 2021 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects' Victoria Landscape Architecture Award for Play Spaces.

Bunyip Ward Cr Graeme Moore said the award was a huge win for the community.

"We're proud of our amazing outdoor space at Deep Creek Reserve. It's a place of environmental significance where people can play and learn," Cr Moore said.

"The all-abilities play space has been carefully designed to ensure that people of

all ages and abilities have many ways to learn, play, get active and enjoy sensory exploration.

Community members and key stakeholders were involved in the development of the project. The Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee provided input into the design of the play space to ensure it would be accessible and inclusive for all. View the customised accessibility guide for Deep Creek Reserve play space and eco centre at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accesskeys](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accesskeys)



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

## Building connections

The Ageing Well Community Connectors pilot program is building social connections for our senior residents.

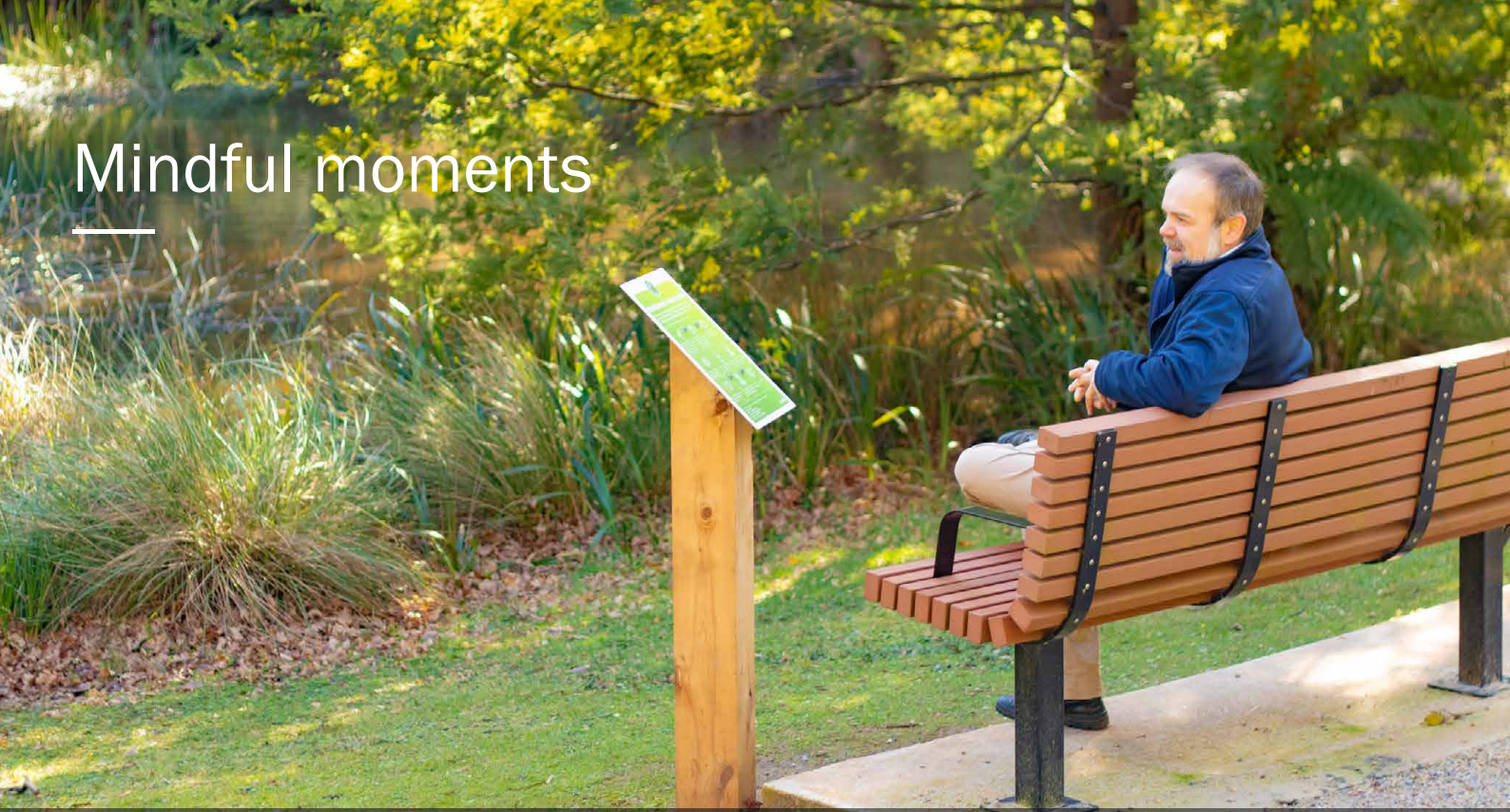
Community connectors are volunteers who have been trained to support fellow seniors who may be feeling lonely or isolated, or who have lost contact with their regular networks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Residents from Beaconsfield, Officer and Pakenham are eligible to participate in the first stage of the program and plans are underway to expand the program in 2022. Council is working with a local medical centre to refer people to the program and with local community centres for social opportunities.

More info: 1300 787 624



# Mindful moments



Ranges Ward Cr Jeff Springfield takes a moment for mindfulness at Emerald Lake Park.

Have you seen our new mindfulness signage in parks and reserves across the shire?

Ranges Ward Cr Jeff Springfield said the new signage aimed to increase awareness of mental health and wellbeing.

“The new signage in local parks and open spaces aims to give visitors the opportunity and a quiet place to practice mindfulness,” Cr Springfield said.

“The signs provide simple steps to practice becoming mindful, as well as

contact details for mental health support services.”

Mindfulness signage has been installed at BJ Wallis Gardens (Pakenham), Eastone Reserve (Pakenham), Emerald Lake Park (Emerald), Hicks Reserve/ Timbertop (Officer), Lakeside (Pakenham) and PB Ronald Reserve in the library garden (Pakenham).



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

## What's On Cardinia

Are you looking for things to see and do? Check out our new What's On Cardinia online events calendar to discover what's happening across the shire.

Whether you're looking for free fun, wining and dining, live music, markets,

exhibitions, courses, experiences, tours, networking, fundraising or sporting events, you're sure to find it here.

It's free to list unlimited events. Check the website for guidelines and conditions.



[www.whatsoncardinia.com.au](http://www.whatsoncardinia.com.au)



## Our commitment to gender equality

Council has adopted a Gender Equality Leadership Commitment Statement, taking a strong stance towards promoting gender equality within our community and Council.

The statement outlines the vision that Council wants everyone who lives, works and spends time in Cardinia Shire – regardless of their gender identity – to be treated with respect and fairness, to feel and be safe, and to have equal access to opportunities.

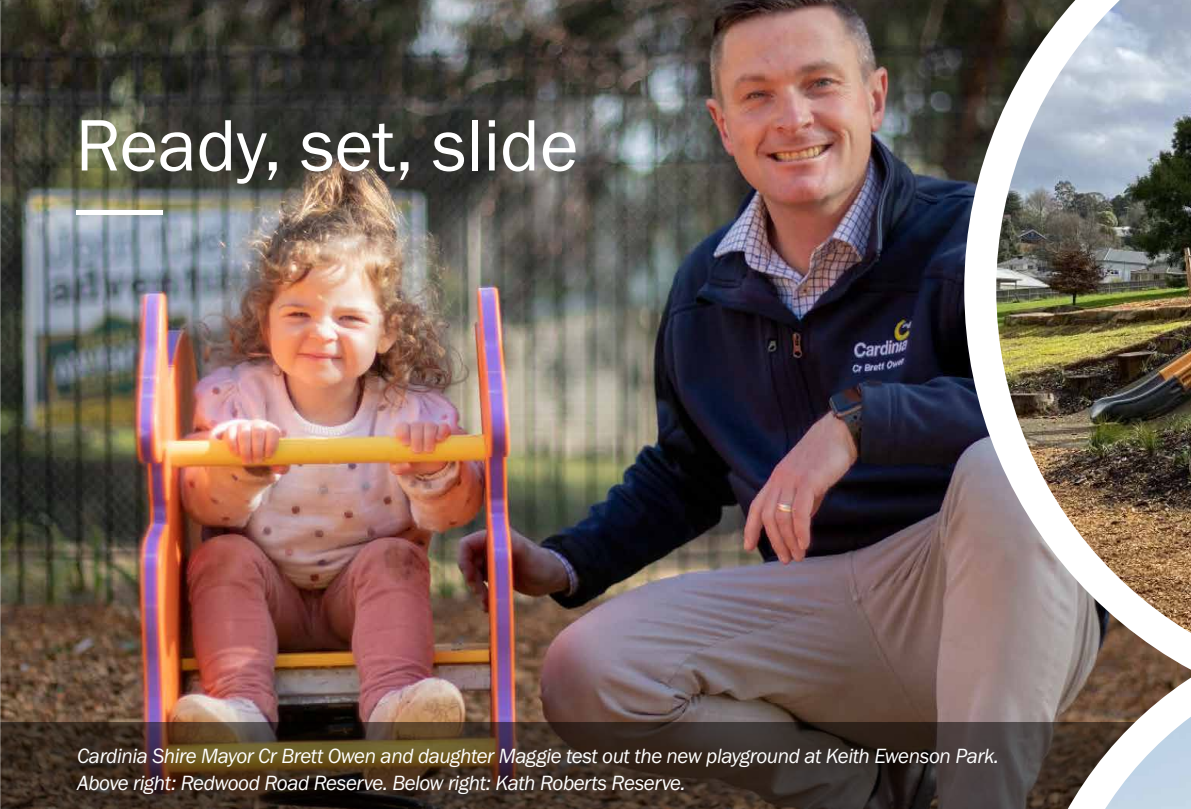
In line with the Victorian Government's Gender Equality Act 2020, we're also developing a Gender Equality Action Plan and have commenced undertaking gender impact assessments for any new policy, program or service that impacts our community.



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



# Ready, set, slide



Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Brett Owen and daughter Maggie test out the new playground at Keith Ewenson Park. Above right: Redwood Road Reserve. Below right: Kath Roberts Reserve.



## A world of adventure awaits at 3 newly upgraded playgrounds

We've worked closely with the community to create new play spaces at:

- **Kath Roberts Reserve, Beaconsfield.**
- **Keith Ewenson Park, Upper Beaconsfield**
- **Redwood Road Reserve, Gembrook**

Beacon Hills Ward councillor and Mayor Cr Brett Owen thanked community members who provided input into the design of the projects.

"We listened to what you told us and have created 3 exciting play spaces that cater for children of all ages," Mayor Owen said.

"As part of our playground renewal program, we're committed to

progressively updating our play spaces to ensure everyone has access to modern playgrounds that are safe, convenient and accessible and that promote healthy outdoor activity."

The Kath Roberts Reserve playground upgrade was jointly funded by Council, the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and the Victorian Government's Local Parks Program. The Keith Ewenson Park playground upgrade was jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government's Local Parks Program. Redwood Road Reserve playground was fully funded by Council.



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

## Mental health initiative

We're proud to have been announced as a finalist in the Victorian Sport Awards for our Mental Health in Sports Clubs program under the Local Government Initiative of the Year category.

Our Mental Health in Sports Clubs program was established to help build the capacity of volunteers through a recognised and accredited mental health first aid course, in partnership

with Richmond Institute. The continued support and implementation of mental health ideas and strategies in sporting clubs are supported by Monash Health Healthy Sports Club Initiative.

Between October and December 2020, 24 people from 15 clubs across 8 different sporting codes in Cardinia Shire completed the mental health first aid course.



[www.vicsport.com.au](http://www.vicsport.com.au)

## Outdoor pools

Our outdoor pools will soon reopen for the summer season.

- **Garfield swimming pool**  
– Garfield Recreation Reserve, Beswick Street, Garfield
- **Koo Wee Rup swimming pool**  
– Cochrane Park, Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup
- **Pakenham swimming pool**  
– PB Ronald Reserve, Anderson Street, Pakenham
- **Emerald Lake Park wading pool**  
– Emerald Lake Park, Emerald Lake Road



[www.cardinialeisure.com.au](http://www.cardinialeisure.com.au)



# Supporting our community

## COVID-19

### Business support

Cardinia Business is here to help you navigate today's dynamic and challenging business environment.

Whether you need help with business support, COVIDSafe plans, grants information, or fast-tracking planning permits, our Cardinia Business Concierge is here to help.

**1300 787 624**

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

### Buy Local Map



Our Buy Local Map can help customers find you. Add your business today, it's quick and free.

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

### Local dining

Funded by Victorian Government outdoor dining grants, Council is supporting local hospitality businesses with a range of outdoor dining equipment including marquees, umbrellas and cafe barriers. We've also waived outdoor dining permit fees. Find local venues:

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

### Employment and training

Casey Cardinia job portal is a one-stop portal for employment in the Casey Cardinia region.

[www.caseycardiniajobs.com.au](http://www.caseycardiniajobs.com.au)

### Tourism

Claim your \$295 coupon to join the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse (ATDW) until 30 June 2022. ATDW listings provide an online presence at national, state, regional and destination levels through the key online tourism marketing platforms of [www.visitvictoria.com](http://www.visitvictoria.com) and [www.australia.com](http://www.australia.com)

Claim your \$295 coupon from Cardinia Business and get listed by emailing [business@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:business@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

### Community support

#### COVID-19 update

For the latest Victorian Government COVID-19 information including current restrictions, exposure sites, testing and vaccine sites:

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

#### Council services

Stay up-to-date with changes to Council services:

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

#### COVID-19 testing sites

Two COVID-19 testing sites are operating in Cardinia Shire: Pakenham IYU and Emerald. For more info, including opening hours and wait times, visit:

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

#### COVID-19 support and relief

Our online help hub has a range of information including local support services for food, mental health, financial counselling and housing.

Call 1300 787 624

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

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

#### Family violence support

COVID-19 and changing restrictions may impact you or your family but violence should never be tolerated. When it is safe to do so, contact Safe Steps, Victoria's 24/7 family violence response centre.

Call 1800 015 188 or visit:

[www.safesteps.org.au](http://www.safesteps.org.au)

#### COVID-19 vaccine info in your language

Monash Health and the new South East Public Health Unit have a website with local vaccine sites, wait times, vaccine eligibility, as well as frequently asked questions in a range of languages. Visit:

[www.sephu.org](http://www.sephu.org)

For assistance from the Translating and Interpreting Service call: 131 450.

#### COVID-19 vaccine centres

Vaccine centres operating in and near Cardinia Shire:

- James Bathe Community and Sports Hub, 67 Caversham Dr, Pakenham
- Cranbourne Turf Club, 50 Grant Street Cranbourne
- Sandown Racecourse, 591-659 Princes Hwy, Springvale
- St John of God Hospital, 75 Kangan Drive, Berwick

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



# Imagining Cardinia

## Council has adopted 4 key strategic documents to guide the future of our shire.

Starting in November 2020, we invited you to share your hopes and aspirations for the future of our shire.

We received more than **1,600 contributions** and formed the Imagine Cardinia People's Panel.

This feedback and input guided the development of our *Council Plan 2021–25* and informed the preparation of the draft financial documents for Council's consideration.

Without community input, these plans would not have reflected the aspirations of our community.

The consultation has supported the development of plans that are relevant and reflective of our community's vision; identifying issues, opportunities and strategies for a shared future for Cardinia Shire.

Thank you to our community and the Imagine Cardinia People's Panel for your valuable input.





**Our *Community Vision 2040* articulates the long-term aspirations of the community; what Cardinia Shire will be like in 2040. The vision has been prepared by the Imagine Cardinia People's Panel, a representative sample of the Cardinia Shire community.**

## Community vision statement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Bunurong, Boonwurrung and Wurundjeri people. We value their contributions past, present and future.

We are all valued for who we are. We are different, but we are together as a community.

We empower everyone to have a voice. We speak with the optimism and insight of our young people, the energy of our community members, and the wisdom and memory of our older citizens including those who came before us.

We support the people of Cardinia Shire to be strong, resilient, socially connected and physically and mentally well. We protect the vulnerable, who come from all walks of life in our community. We look out for each other.

We care for our country. We recognise the effects of climate change on our community, environment, and the planet. We take action by leading Victorian councils in the prevention of, and adaptation to, climate change.

We are sustainable in the way we live; we work close to home, we grow food and we make valuable contributions to the nation.

We strive to protect our community, family farms, industries, landscapes and biodiversity to ensure they are resilient.

Our population growth inside the urban growth boundary follows and serves the community that we are building and protecting. Growth will be managed at a speed that does not hinder our progress towards these community priorities.

We plan for the growth of our community through consultation with residents and have infrastructure in place to meet the needs of the community.

Creativity and expression are at the heart of what we do.

## Community vision priority areas:

Alongside the community vision, the People's Panel identified a series of community priorities that fall under the following themes:



### Support local jobs



### Strong, healthy and connected communities



### Plan for all modes of transport



### Protect natural assets



### Environmental sustainability, waste and protection of agricultural land



### Planning and infrastructure for community growth





The Council Plan is structured around 5 priorities that underpin Council's vision for the next 4 years.



## 1. Strong communities

**We empower our communities to be healthy, connected, and resilient**

We work together to support everyone to be healthy, active and connected. Individuals feel included, safe and are valued for who they are. We have zero tolerance for all forms of discrimination. Our community services and facilities meet the diverse needs of our communities.



## 2. Liveable places

**We support the creation of liveable spaces and places**

Cardinia Shire is a great place to live, work and play. How we plan and grow creates places that enhance our community's health and wellbeing and protects what we love.



## 3. Thriving environments

**We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive**

We place a high value on our natural assets and biodiversity. We take action to help our natural assets and biodiversity thrive and build their resilience to climate change and natural hazards. We enhance green spaces and habitat links, support our communities to live sustainably, and champion sustainable development and waste management practices.



## 4. Prosperous economies

**We support our productive land and employment land to grow local industries**

Our rich supply of productive land, employment land, distance to markets, and education opportunities enhance Cardinia Shire as south east Melbourne's jobs capital. We work closely with farmers, businesses and industry to enhance our shire as a place to invest in the long-term, attract new industries, innovations, skill development and local job creation.



## 5. Responsible leaders

**We practise responsible leadership**

We practise good governance, meet recognised standards of excellence and ensure future generations benefit from our decisions. We are accountable and make informed and responsive decisions that balance our current and future community's needs.

You can read the entire list of strategies, initiatives and indicators that underpin each of the above priorities in the full Council Plan: [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/councilplan](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/councilplan)



# Regional athletics facility for Pakenham



Central Ward Cr Collin Ross and Bel from the Pakenham Little Athletics Club are looking forward to construction of the new athletics track at IYU Recreation Reserve.

A new regional athletics facility in Pakenham is one step closer with Council committing \$1.2 million in our 2021–22 budget to begin works.

The athletics facility at IYU Recreation Reserve will feature a 400-metre athletics track with a 10-lane straight, long/triple jump facilities as well as pole vault, high jump, javelin, shot put, hammer/discus and steeplechase facilities.

Central Ward Cr Collin Ross said civil works for the athletics track were expected to start in late 2021.

“This regional athletics facility is great news for Pakenham and the broader Cardinia Shire community,” Cr Ross said.


“Once complete, Pakenham Little Athletics Club will be relocated to the new facilities which will help accommodate the growing participation in athletics in our shire.”

Planning and design of a future pavilion for the site is also underway.

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

## Budget highlights 2021–22

- **\$50m** for roads, drains, footpaths, off-street car parks and other infrastructure
- **\$36m** to construct and upgrade buildings such as sporting pavilions
- **\$12m** for infrastructure works including recreation, leisure and community facilities and parks, open spaces and streetscapes
- **\$3.2m** for the Officer District Park master plan
- **\$4.2m** for the new youth centre
- **\$4.3m** for the Timbertop Early Learning Centre
- **\$4.1m** for the Rix Road Early Learning Centre
- **\$1.2m** for the IYU Recreation Reserve Athletics Facility.

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

## A budget for our community

Council has adopted 3 key strategic financial documents that enable us to deliver on the Council Plan while continuing to meet community needs:

- *Council Budget 2021–25*
- *Financial Plan 2021–31*
- *Revenue and Rating Plan 2021–25*

We've committed to delivering a significant capital works program of approximately \$98 million for 2021–22 and more than \$319 million earmarked for capital works between 2021–25.

We've also maintained a strong commitment to community services such as libraries, maternal and child health,

safe and inclusive communities, and youth services.

Council is proud to be able to deliver all of this while keeping to the Victorian Government's rate cap of 1.5%.

Our budget, financial plan and revenue and rating plan reflect our commitment to responsible financial management while continuing to deliver vital community services and infrastructure to our community.

These plans will ensure we continue to deliver the right services, facilities and infrastructure to our diverse community with its blend of ages, abilities and cultural backgrounds.



### Have your say

Head to [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay) to have your say on 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.





# Advocating for our community

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**We're committed to working with all levels of government to advocate for action on important local issues and to influence government priorities for the benefit of our community.**

## Grants

Council continues to actively seek grant funds from a variety of Victorian and Australian government funding programs. In 2020–21 Council applied for 45 grants; of these 29 were successful, securing \$9 million in funding for a range of projects.

## Roads

We continue to advocate for improvements to major roads in the shire, as well as for more transport options. While Council budgets for road improvements for Council-managed roads, we also continue to advocate to the Victorian Government to upgrade roads and fast track improvements to state-managed roads in the shire to improve the safety of our road network.

Projects we are advocating for include:

- Thompsons Road: establishment and duplication from Clyde Road to Koo Wee Rup Road to be the catalyst for up to 100,000 jobs.

- A1 Princes Highway: the missing connection between the Gippsland Highway and freeway, including 4 grade-separated interchanges along the highway from Nar Nar Goon to Longwarry.
- Lang Lang truck bypass: to divert sand trucks away from schools, pedestrian crossings and town centre activity.
- Upper Beaconsfield: Salisbury Road intersection upgrade and safety improvements.

## Working together

Council works with other groups of councils to facilitate investment in the broader region. We're part of a regional advocacy group that advocates for broader regional projects such as major road and transport infrastructure, including a south east airport to help alleviate congestion of traffic travelling to the city from the outer south east. The south east airport will result in thousands of new industries and jobs in the south east and ensure

Australia's food and manufacturing businesses remain globally competitive.

## Community wellbeing

Advocating for support services and infrastructure to improve community wellbeing is another key priority. Council is advocating for funding towards the redevelopment of Cardinia Life to meet the needs of our growing community, as well as the development of an integrated multicultural hub for our diverse community.

## What's next?

We will continue to advocate on behalf of our community to the Victorian and Australian governments to ensure our collective voice is heard and that action is taken on projects and issues that are important to our community.





# Safety first

Officer Ward Cr Tammy Radford, Milla, Beck and Flynn cross the road under the watchful eye of school crossing supervisor Glenn.

Road users and pedestrians are enjoying improved access and safety thanks to the construction of a new section of Pink Hill Boulevard at Officer.

Council fast tracked the project to ensure the road outside Orchard Park Primary School, Officer, was complete in time for the 2021 school year.

Officer Ward Cr Tammy Radford said works involved the construction of approximately 120 metres of dual carriageway road and an off-road cycle

path to connect the existing road on either side of the school. Works also involved construction of footpaths on both sides of Pink Hill Boulevard, car parking, school drop-off zone and a supervised school crossing with a raised platform.

“Pink Hill Boulevard is an important east-west collector road, so these improvements have been well received by local residents and the school community,” Cr Radford said.

“It’s great to see that the new road, school crossing and pedestrian and cyclist facilities have resulted in improved access and safety for school children, pedestrians and road users.”

The \$635,000 project was fully funded by Council.

## Housing and homelessness summit

More than 120 local community housing and homelessness workers came together during National Homelessness Week for the annual Casey Cardinia Housing and Homelessness Summit.

The summit is a partnership between Cardinia Shire Council and the City of Casey. Housing and homelessness are key priority areas for both councils, with each experiencing increases of more than 16% in homelessness statistics since 2011.

Cardinia Shire Council believes everyone deserves access to affordable housing and has developed a 7-year *Social and Affordable Housing Strategy* that outlines how we’ll work with local agencies to increase access to diverse, high quality, sustainable and affordable housing. We’ve also signed up to the Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Charter.



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

## Music tour coming to Cardinia

A music event for young people is coming to Cardinia Shire.

*The Push: all ages tour* to be held at Cardinia Cultural Centre on 19 September will feature headline acts Alice Ivy and MLBRN.

The event is fully supervised and is a drug, alcohol and smoke-free event. Events are subject to change depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

For tickets and more info:



[www.thepush.com.au](http://www.thepush.com.au)

### In brief

#### My Story, My Place

Cardinia Shire Council and the City of Casey are partnering to present My Story, My Place – a spoken word, poetry and storytelling event to celebrate young people.

The event is a celebration of young people aged 12–25 years, giving them the opportunity to share their stories.

The event is expected to be held on Thursday 25 November at Bunjil Place, Narre Warren. Events are subject to change depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

More info: **1800 496 884**.

#### Storm recovery newsletter

Residents affected by the June 2021 storms are encouraged to sign up to receive Council’s storm recovery newsletter. Printed copies can be requested by emailing [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au) or phoning **1300 787 624**. For more information or to register to receive the newsletter:

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





Pakenham Hills Ward Cr Jack Kowarzik, Acting Senior Sergeant Rachel Marshall and Detective Senior Sergeant Paul Holland are committed to working with and for the community to prevent family violence.

## Together We Can make a difference

We're working hard to raise awareness, respond to and prevent family violence in Cardinia Shire.

Pakenham Hills Ward Cr Jack Kowarzik is a member of the Together We Can round table, along with Cr Carol Ryan, Cr Tammy Radford and leaders representing Victoria Police, community members and other key services and organisations.

"Together We Can is a whole-of-community approach committed to taking action to help stop, prevent and end family violence in Cardinia Shire to create safer and more peaceful communities," Cr Kowarzik said.

"We all have a role to play in achieving this vision. We encourage the entire community to build healthier and respectful relationships with one another and to work together to improve men's understanding of what constitutes family violence and how we can stand up, speak out and seek support when needed."

As part of Council's commitment, we're also undergoing the White Ribbon reaccreditation process and have adopted a Gender Equality Leadership Commitment Statement (see page 6).



[www.togetherwecan.org.au](http://www.togetherwecan.org.au)

## Have your say

Cardinia Shire Council's proposed *Open Air Fires Local Law* is now on public exhibition.

The local law will be on public exhibition until Friday 17 September and details the proposed local regulations for open air fires – commonly known as 'burning off' – outside of the fire danger period.

Following community feedback, Cardinia Shire Council has proposed a new local law – *Local Law 20 – Open Air Fires*.

This new law will provide the community with more opportunities to reduce bushfire risk through burning off while ensuring public safety and amenity remains a key priority.

The proposed local law will make it easier and safer for residents to reduce fire fuel hazards on their properties while managing impacts to amenity.

To view the proposed *Open Air Fires Local Law*, visit:



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

## Be prepared for summer



Prepare your property ahead of the summer season by:

- cutting grass and removing fallen branches within 30 metres of buildings
- removing leaves and twigs from gutters
- cutting back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- writing down and practising your fire action plan
- ensuring your home and contents insurance is adequate.

If you plan on burning off, you must do this before the fire danger period which is set by the CFA each year. A permit may be required.



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



# Free plant vouchers



Meghan is part of the team at the Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery.

Cardinia Shire schools, kindergartens, community groups and residents with properties larger than 4,000 square metres are invited to apply for a free plant voucher worth \$100 for indigenous plants.

Voucher numbers are strictly limited and will be provided on a first-in first-served basis from 7 September. Plant vouchers can be redeemed at the Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery,

62 Cameron Way, Pakenham. The nursery is open Fridays 9am–12pm.



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



## Switch on savings

A new 75kW solar energy system installed at Council's civic centre in Officer will reduce our environmental impact and save up to \$20,000 a year in energy costs.

The system design includes approximately 200 solar panels on both the main civic centre roof and the neighbouring building that houses mechanical equipment for the civic centre. Many panels include innovative technology that helps minimise the impacts of shading.

This initiative is in line with actions in our *Aspirational Energy Transition Plan 2014–24* regarding ongoing improvement of the environmental performance of Council buildings.



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

## Reducing our emissions

We're proud to be one of 46 Victorian councils to sign on to the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), the largest ever emissions reduction project by local government in Australia.

We'll begin to transition most of our buildings and facilities, including streetlights, to the renewable energy procurement project from 1 July 2022, at the end of our current energy contract.

The project, led by the City of Darebin, supports our commitment to reducing the impacts of climate change. Through VECO, participating councils will be provided with 100% renewable energy. Once all councils are on board, 45% of Victorian council electricity will be sourced from wind energy, reducing a combined total of greenhouse emissions by 260,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e every year – equivalent to powering 48,000 homes or taking 90,000 cars off the road annually.



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





Declan, Sarah and Grace place their recyclables in the correct bin.

## National Recycling Week

National Recycling Week from November 8 to 14 is a great reminder to reuse and recycle to help minimise our impact on the environment and our reliance on natural resources.

**Sorting your waste correctly helps us recycle more, so please remember to:**

- Place recycling in the bin loose (no bags).
- Keep soft plastics (wrappers and packaging) out of your recycling bin. Take them to a Redcycle bin at

participating supermarkets or place in your rubbish bin.

- Remove lids from containers. Large lids such as metal jam jar lids or plastic vegemite lids can go in the recycling bin loose. Small lids such as bottle caps and milk bottle tops go in the rubbish bin.
- Don't place polystyrene, food waste, e-waste or clothing in your recycling bin.

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

## Hard waste collections

Are you planning a spring clean or do you have old household items that can't be repaired, sold or donated?

Cardinia Shire residents can book up to 2 free hard waste collections per year. Bookings can be made online or over the phone.

**Please remember:**

- Make a booking BEFORE putting your waste out to help keep our streets tidy and safe.
- Check our website or call us to make sure your items are accepted.



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

## Green waste drop off

Dispose of your garden prunings, leaves, grass clippings, weeds, tree branches and small tree trunks at our upcoming green waste drop off events.

**When:** Friday 22 to Monday 25 October, 9am–4pm

**Where:** Future Recycling Transfer Station, 30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham.

**When:** Friday 12 to Monday 15 November, Friday and Monday 7am–4pm, Saturday and Sunday 8am–12pm.

**Where:** Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre, 840 Wellington Road, Lysterfield.

Green waste is composted and used for Victorian farms and gardens. You'll be asked to provide photo ID as proof of residence to access this free service.



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

## Keep our shire clean

Have you noticed an area in your local community that needs a clean-up? Why not help clean up Cardinia Shire by organising an event with your neighbours, school or community group.

Register your clean up event with Clean Up Australia Day at any time of year and receive free resources to get you started, including bags and gloves. More info: [www.cleanup.org.au/create-a-clean-up](http://www.cleanup.org.au/create-a-clean-up)

Council can also help remove collected litter afterwards, email [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 787 624.





# Better local roads

*The upgraded O'Neil Road and Princes Highway intersection at Beaconsfield.*

**In partnership with the Australian Government we're delivering more than \$200 million in road improvement works over 8 years.**

## **Princes Highway intersections project**

Works have been completed and traffic lights switched on at 2 separate Princes Highway intersections at Beaconsfield: O'Neil Road intersection and the Glismann Road/Beaconsfield Avenue intersection.

The Glismann Road/Beaconsfield Avenue intersection has been upgraded to a fully signalised intersection with improved street lighting. The O'Neil Road intersection has also been upgraded to be a fully signalised t-intersection and a roundabout has been constructed at Pink Hill Boulevard.

These intersections are the first of several Princes Highway intersections to be upgraded over the next 3 years with funding from Council (\$18.3 million) and the Australian Government's Urban Congestion Fund (\$17.8 million). The Princes Highway intersection at Station Street and Tivendale Road, Officer, is the next intersection to be upgraded with work scheduled to start in late 2021.

## **Strategic sealed roads project**

Council has invested \$25 million to seal about 40 kilometres of unsealed roads in 7 locations across the shire to improve connections to the existing road network and improve safety.

The sealing of Boundary Drain Road and Main Drain Road, Koo Wee Rup, is complete, providing 7.3 kms of newly sealed road along Boundary Drain Road from Station Street to Denhams Road and along Main Drain Road from Denhams Road to Ballarto Road.

These roads have also been fitted with high-performance LED solar lighting at intersections and traffic Islands (to improve safety and environmental sustainability) and experimental solar-operated raised pavement markers.

The sealing of McGregor Road, Pakenham, is scheduled next with construction due to start in early 2022.

## **Sealing the Hills project**

This project involves sealing 109 kms of unsealed roads in the Dandenong Ranges and surrounds over 8 years and is being delivered as a series of individual projects on 164 prioritised roads. The project has received \$150 million in Australian Government funding and is co-funded by Council and landowners via a special charge scheme.

The first roads in Cockatoo and Emerald are scheduled for construction in spring this year pending the successful establishment of the individual special charge schemes.



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



*The upgraded Princes Highway and Glismann Road/Beaconsfield Avenue intersection.*



*Boundary Drain Road, Koo Wee Rup.*



# Pavilion works progress



Toomuc Ward Cr Stephanie Davies at Toomuc Recreation Reserve.  
Inset: Federal Member for La Trobe the Honourable Jason Wood, Cr Davies and Mayor Cr Brett Owen.

Works to redevelop the north and south pavilions and refurbish the little athletics facility at Toomuc Recreation Reserve in Pakenham are well underway.

Toomuc Ward Cr Stephanie Davies said the \$6.3 million project involved upgrading the pavilions and installing portable facilities for baseball.

“These upgrades will cater to the growing needs of sporting groups and enhance accessibility for the large number of families who use the reserve,” Cr Davies said.

“This is an exciting project and another example of what can be achieved when all levels of government work together.”

Refurbishment and redevelopment works include universally accessible change rooms and amenities for players and umpires, as well as improvements to existing facilities such as canteens, social spaces and spectator areas.

The Australian Government contributed \$4.75 million towards the project, Cardinia Shire Council \$1.5 million and the Victorian Government \$50,000.



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



From left: Cr Jeff Springfield, Andrew from the Cockatoo Tennis Club, State Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing, Mayor Cr Brett Owen and Cr Collin Ross.

## Tennis club served new lights

Four new LED lights have been installed at Cockatoo Tennis Club.

The four 250-lux LED lights have been installed on the 2 northern tennis courts at the club. The upgrades also included new footings.

The lighting upgrades are a joint initiative of the Victorian Government and Cardinia Shire Council. The Victorian Government funded \$66,000 as part of the Local Sports Infrastructure 2020–21 Fund and Cardinia Shire Council contributed just over \$31,000.

The Cockatoo Tennis Club is located at Alma Treloar Reserve in Cockatoo.

## Netball court upgrade

The netballs courts at Toomuc Recreation Reserve will be upgraded to a competition-level acrylic surface with a concrete base.

The new courts will provide a more even playing surface and improved drainage. It’s anticipated the resurfacing works will take place after the current season.

The Toomuc Reserve netball courts are located in Pakenham’s main sporting precinct alongside Cardinia Life, and the Toomuc Recreation Reserve football and cricket oval.



# What's on?

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

## Casey Cardinia Libraries

### Girls night in the kitchen

Pakenham Library  
Friday 10 September, 8 October,  
12 November, 7–8:30pm

### The thrifty household

Pakenham Library  
Friday 17 September, 7–8pm

### Art series with Robert Matheson

Pakenham Library  
Friday 24 September, 22 October,  
26 November, 6:30–8:30pm

### Gardening for spaces big and small

Pakenham Library  
Saturday 9 October, 11am–12pm

### Chinese Medicine – health and wellness tips for spring

Emerald Library  
Saturday 9 October, 1–2pm

### Poet Rob Wallis in conversation with Maria Millers

Emerald Library  
Saturday 16 October, 1–2pm

### Pete the Permie – permaculture gardens

Pakenham Library  
Saturday 16 October, 1:30–2:30pm

### Beginning Family History

Emerald Library  
Thursday 21 October, 2–3pm

### Ageing Well Seniors Festival

Pakenham Library  
Thursday 28 October, 10am–4pm

### Kombucha and kefir

Emerald Library  
Saturday 20 November, 1–2pm

### Tiny houses with Elle Paton and Ric Butler

Emerald Library  
Saturday 27 November, 11am–12:30pm

### Discovery garden sessions

Pakenham Library  
Every Thursday, 4–5pm

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

## Cardinia Cultural Centre

### School holiday movies

Wednesday 22 and 29 September

### Victorian State Ballet

Friday 24 September  
and Saturday 25 September

### David Scheel

Wednesday 13 October



### Judy Garland

Wednesday 3 November

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

To learn about other events happening in our shire, visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/events)

Events featured in this edition of *Connect* are subject to change depending on COVID-19 restrictions. Council events are run in line with our COVIDSafe Plan and numbers may be limited.

Photos in this edition of *Connect* were taken in line with COVID-19 restrictions at the time.

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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