

Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Autumn 2023

AUSTRALIA DAY

Meet your 2023 winners!

PLANTS GALORE!

FREE plants and plant vouchers

MONEY MATTERS

Tips for your financial wellbeing

ALL ABOUT WASTE

The latest on our waste services


Cardinia

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FREE COVID RATs for residents

Council has partnered with the Victorian Government to give out **FREE Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)** to ensure that all residents in Cardinia Shire have access to safe COVID testing.

Residents are eligible to collect up to 2 packs of 5 RATs per person, and 2 packs per household member.

The RATs are available to collect from Council's Civic Centre, 20 Siding Avenue Officer during opening hours, while stocks last.

Before making the trip, visit our website to check whether stock is still available.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

On the cover

Whatever your interests, Cardinia Shire has many events to enjoy and meet new friends at! Queyea and Glynis enjoy a good catch up at the "Senior-tivity Day", which was supported by a Council festival and events grant. Read more about our grants on page 5, and more about the award-winning "Senior-tivity Day" on page 9.

Stay Connected!

Are you subscribed to our Connect e-newsletter? We're delivering the latest news and events straight to your inbox.

The Connect e-newsletter keeps you updated in between editions of Connect magazine. Subscribe now!

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connectsubscribe

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Mayor's message

Happy autumn, Cardinia Shire! I hope you enjoy this edition of *Connect*, which is full of good-news stories from all around our shire.

Recently, I was delighted to head out into my ward – Officer – and check out the progress of the new bridge over Gum Scrub Creek (pictured above). I know that residents have been calling for this bridge, and I'm so excited that we've delivered this new asset for the community.

We've highlighted some great projects and services in this edition, from updates on major works to upcoming events, and some lovely feel-good reads that are sure to make you smile.

Council is going green, and we're encouraging residents to take those steps with us! Throughout this edition you'll find ways to reduce emissions, save energy costs and protect our native wildlife.

I'm also pleased to be able to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our 2023 Australia Day award winners and nominees. On behalf of everyone in the shire, I'd like to thank them for their wonderful contributions. I'm honoured to be part of our diverse community with many dedicated, passionate and caring people. You can read all about this year's winners on pages 8 and 9 of this edition.

Lastly, if you have "paw-some" pets at home, did you know that Cardinia kitties must be kept on your property, and that pet registrations are due shortly? We have more info for owners of fur-babies on page 13.

So while you're taking in the crisp air and the crunch of fallen leaves underfoot, remember to enjoy everything that the beautiful Cardinia Shire great outdoors has to offer this season.

Cr Tammy Radford

Cardinia Shire Mayor

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/mayorandcouncillors

Council meetings

Council and Town Planning meetings are held monthly.

Check our website for the most up-to-date information:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

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

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/webcast

A win for cricketers

The Catani cricket nets have been upgraded and are now available for the community to use.

The upgrade includes a 4-lane enclosed cricket net and 4 synthetic wickets. The wickets feature a dividing wall and 2 retractable nets with rubber padding at the batter end.

Jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government's Community Cricket Program, the upgrades will support more participation opportunities and hopefully encourage new members to join the Catani Cricket Club.

Westernport Ward Councillor Kaye Cameron said the new cricket facility was exciting for Catani and for the wider sporting community.

“There has been a need for some time now for the facilities at the cricket ground to be refreshed, and I'm looking forward to seeing the community make good use of the new nets,” Cr Cameron said.

“Cricket is a fantastic sport, and I'm hoping these upgrades encourage more residents to get active and try their hand at cricket!”

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Get ready to play!

Three playground upgrades are underway in Pakenham and are expected to be finished in the next few months:

- Parman Avenue Reserve
- Creekwood Park
- The Parkway

Keep up to date on the progress of these parks by heading to Creating Cardinia and clicking the "follow" button at the top of the page.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/playgroundrenewals

Have a "wheel" good time

Grab your bike and helmet and head to the new BMX track at Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve on Stoney Creek Road!

Recently opened by Council, the park features:

- 2 starting platforms
- an asphalt pump track and upgrade of the existing dirt track
- resting and viewing platforms
- jumps and features suitable for all ages and skill levels.

Council would like to thank everyone who had their say in the 2 rounds of community consultation – your feedback helped to shape the final design.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/skateandbmx

Sealing the Hills update

Council is disappointed to have received confirmation from the federal government that \$109 million of the \$150 million in funding previously going to the Sealing the Hills program has been withdrawn.

We will continue to work closely with the community to ensure the best outcomes possible, and we'll keep project stakeholders and our community informed about future updates, including on works currently underway.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sealingthehills

Grants up for grabs

Council has a range of grants on offer to support community projects, events and initiatives that boost the wellbeing of those who live and work in Cardinia Shire. Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen is pleased that Council is able to offer so many different grants to the community.

“Whether you're looking to organise a community festival or beautify an outdoor space, you may well be able to deliver your initiative with the help of a Council grant,” he said.

Arts and culture grants

Artists and arts groups can apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 for initiatives that expand and promote the arts in Cardinia Shire.

Applications open from March.

Community capital works grant These grants are available in 3 categories:

- Up to \$20,000 for upgrade works on community and recreational facilities that are managed by community groups on Council's behalf. Council coordinates all works.
- Dollar-for-dollar funding of up to \$35,000 to help community groups to upgrade public facilities on Council– owned or Crown land.
- Dollar-for dollar funding of up to \$20,000 available to community groups to purchase major equipment that is used to undertake approved maintenance activities at sporting grounds, outer grounds or large internal areas.

Applications are now open, and close 31 March.

Community wellbeing and support grants

These grants help establish new organisations, projects and services. Funding categories include:

- small change grants (up to \$1,000)
- volunteering grants (up to \$3,000)
- seeding grants (up to \$5,000)

Applications are now open, and close 31 March.

Festival and events grants

Grants up to \$10,000 are available to help stage not-for-profit, community-run festivals and events.

Applications are now open, and close 31 March.

Heritage grants Grants are available to help repair or conserve places and sites of heritage significance, including those that are part of a commercial or residential heritage precinct. Grants are funded dollar-for-dollar to a maximum of \$5000.

Applications open from May.

Weed control grants

These grants help fund weed control work on private property of high environmental or agricultural significance in Cardinia Shire. They're available to residents (up to \$350) and community groups (up to \$750).

Applications are now open and close 31 May.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/grants

Shape your community

We'd love you to have your say on projects happening in our shire!

Here are some projects you can have your say on this autumn via our community engagement website

"Creating Cardinia":

- The Open Space Strategy
- Garfield Reserve Skate Park concept design
- Active Cardinia Strategy
- Officer Urban Design Framework
- Stage 2 of the 23/24 annual Council budget.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Our mission is zero emissions

We're on track to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions by around 5,500 tonnes of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent) and dramatically reduce electricity costs this financial year!

Cardinia Shire Council is one of 51 Victorian councils to have slashed its energy bills and reduced emissions through the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), a joint renewable energy contract.

Toomuc Ward Councillor and delegate for South East Councils Climate Change Alliance (SECCCA), Councillor Stephanie Davies, was pleased that these savings will go towards helping our community.

“Partnering with VECO has already seen huge savings for Cardinia Shire, and these savings can now be directed to the critical community services that Council provides, such as roads and parks maintenance, which will benefit our residents,” she said.

“Renewable energy is essential to achieving our goal of net zero Council emissions by 2024, and the partnership with VECO is a great step towards this.”

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/veco

Lighting the way

The first stage of Council's street lighting upgrade has been completed!

Almost 850 mercury vapour street lights across the shire have been replaced with energy efficient LEDs as part of the upgrades.

Replacing these lights with new technology will save about \$64,000 each year in energy and maintenance costs.

The new LED lights perform better, last longer, generate less glare and are up to 86 per cent more efficient than the old lights.

Maintaining public lighting is just one way Council helps to make our community safer, as outlined in our Cardinia Safer Communities Strategy.

The lighting upgrade is being funded by Council, AusNet Services and the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program.

Caring for our critters

Three solar powered wildlife-sensitive lights have been installed along McGregor and Soldiers roads in Rythdale.

Using warm, amber-coloured lights with reduced blue-white light, this lighting has been found to encourage more natural sleeping, feeding, growth, behaviour and reproduction patterns in wildlife.

Installed as part of a trial, the 3000k solar lighting aims to enhance natural habitats and help boost numbers of local native wildlife, including wallabies, the Crescent Honeyeater, echidnas, Gould's wattle bat and the Australian Painted Lady Butterfly.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sustainability

Clean Up Australia Day can be any day!

Each year, residents rally together for Clean Up Australia Day, but did you know that you don't need to wait until March to take part?

Organise an event any time of the year and notify Council to have the litter collected and disposed of after your event.

Why not register your local park, reserve or walking track as a new "clean up" site? Once you register, you'll receive a free clean-up kit that includes bags and gloves for participants.

Central Ward Councillor and resource recovery advocate, Cr Collin Ross, encourages as many people as possible to get involved.

“Clean Up Australia Day is always a great community event to help look after our local environment – and it's wonderful that residents can register all year,” he said.

“So why not reach out to your friends and family, and head to Council's website for more info on how you can help Clean Up Australia this year.”

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cleanupausday

Storytime with a truck driver

One of our waste truck drivers, Ross, was excited to be invited to Pakenham Library to take part in the "Storytime with a Truck Driver" school holiday event.

More than 50 enthusiastic children and adults joined Ross and Council's resource recovery educators to read waste-themed stories, learn about what goes in their bins, and find out where their waste goes after it's picked up by the truck.

The children even got to sit in the cab of a rubbish truck!

Head to our website for more waste information and engaging environmental and sustainability resources for schools and early learning centres.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/educationprograms

Waste guide 2023

Our latest waste guide was posted out to households in February.

The waste guide includes lots of handy info, including:

- what you can and can't put in each bin
- information about the bookable hard waste service
- an A to Z guide of common household items and how to dispose of them
- free waste drop-off events.

If you didn't receive one, download an electronic copy using the QR code below, or call our friendly Customer Support team on 1300 787 624 to have one mailed out!



Reducing waste to landfill

Council is always looking at smarter ways to manage waste for our community. We're taking steps to help residents reduce the amount of waste Cardinia Shire sends to landfill in several ways, including exploring new technologies.

There are many things you can do at a household level as well. Use your garden bin for food waste, order a smaller landfill bin for a discounted rate, keep an eye out for our community workshops and events, and get money back when you improve your own resource recovery by buying a compost bin, worm farm, mulcher, reusable nappies, or sanitary and incontinence products.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/reducewaste

Free hard waste collections

Did you know you can book 2 FREE hard waste collections per year?

Please remember to make a booking BEFORE putting any waste out by visiting our website or calling our friendly Customer Support team on 1300 787 624.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/hardwaste

Australia Day – Award Winners Recognised

Cardinia Shire's annual Australia Day Awards recognise the achievements of citizens and local community groups making a positive difference in our community.

“I'm proud that Cardinia Shire has so many people who dedicate huge amounts of time and effort to important community causes,” said Mayor Tammy Radford.

“Volunteers are so important to our community and we appreciate all that you do.

Congratulations to this year's winners and nominees – thank you for your valuable contribution to the shire.”

For information on the 2023 Australia Day award winners and nominees, head to Council's website:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Citizen of the Year – Shelley Beardshaw

Shelley has a long history of volunteering and has given her time generously to many local schools and organisations over the years. She has improved the wellbeing of many children, new mothers, teachers and seniors through selflessly volunteering wherever she saw the need. Shelley has also stepped up into roles on various committees, including as secretary of the Emerald Village Association. Shelley has an amazing energy, an uplifting presence and a welcoming attitude.

Senior Citizen of the Year – Audrey Dodson

As a foundation member of the Berwick Pakenham Historical Society in 1961, Audrey is a strong advocate for making history accessible to all. Audrey pioneered historical walking tours in Pakenham for students and organised school visits to the historical society. Audrey is a generous volunteer, has considerable knowledge about the local area, and is an active campaigner for preserving local historical sites. She's also an excellent

event planner and author of the book *Pakenham Then and Now*.

Community Event of the Year – Cardinia Men's Shed "Senior-tivity Day"

The Cardinia Men's Shed plays a vital role in supporting older men to remain active and connected through a range of activities. The men's shed coordinated the successful "Senior-tivity Day" on 1 October last year to showcase local community groups and encourage more older residents to connect with each other. The event attracted hundreds of seniors, who enjoyed finding out about the many activities offered by local community groups, as well as eating the delicious food on offer! This great event has resulted in increased membership for local community groups and encouraged older people to re-engage in activities post-COVID.

Young Citizen of the Year – Ace Simpson-Braden

Cadet Flight Sergeant Ace Simpson-Braden is committed to making a real difference in his squadron and in his community. A cadet with the Australian Air Force Cadets program at the 403 Squadron Beaconsfield, Ace dedicates much of his spare time to training, coaching new cadets and encouraging them to gain confidence. Ace is also completing his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and has supported mental health initiatives like R U OK? Day and the Push Up Challenge. He is now preparing for his final course to become a Cadet Under Officer and has recently achieved his goal of flying solo.

"Money Matters": Boost your financial wellbeing

Want to feel more confident with your finances? Then you'll benefit from our "Money Matters" series in this and upcoming editions of *Connect*. The series will feature top tips and resources to help you make the most of every dollar.

Deputy Mayor and Pakenham Hills Ward Councillor Jack Kowarzik is a passionate advocate for creating more opportunities for residents to improve their financial knowledge.

“Improving your knowledge about personal finances and financial wellbeing go hand-in-hand, as once you've got a better understanding of how to best manage your finances, you'll start feeling more confident and have a greater sense of security,” he said.

“So keep an eye out in future editions of *Connect* magazine for more "Money Matters" features, like the one below.”

Reduce your bills this winter!

Improving your home's energy efficiency can save you money by reducing your heating costs. Here are some ways to make your home more energy efficient and reduce costs.

- Use a door snake to block draughts under doors. They'll stop the airflow and keep the chill away. Feeling creative? You can even make a door snake from an old bath towel! Tightly roll up the towel and secure both ends with ribbon or twine.
- Take a look at Council's Home Energy Improvement checklist for ideas on improving the energy efficiency of your home and reducing your energy bills.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/energyefficiency

- You may be eligible for a discount on your winter bills or rebates on utilities. Speak to your energy provider, or find out if you're eligible online.

www.service.vic.gov.au/services/savings-finder

If you're having financial difficulties, contact your local financial support services for free and confidential support.

- **South East Community Links**

fcs@secl.org.au, 9549 5288

- **Casey Community Information and Support Services**

fc@caseynorthciss.com.au, 9705 6699

Keen to try an online workshop? Salvation Army's "Be the Boss" program provides free financial tips to help you get on top of your money.

www.salvationarmy.org.au/betheboss

Cardinia Ageing Well

Counting down to retirement?

We look forward to retirement throughout our working life, but what will it really look like? Come to a free, fun and friendly evening workshop and start planning for a great retirement.

Outlook Community Centre, 24 Toomuc Valley Rd,
Pakenham

Tuesday 28 March OR Thursday 30 March, 6pm until
8pm

Bookings essential: 5940 4728

Ageing Well newsletter

Edition 14 of Council's Ageing Well newsletter is out now! It highlights a range of services and exciting opportunities for seniors to stay healthy and connected in Cardinia Shire.

Read the latest edition

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ageingwellnewsletter

Join the mailing list

Email us at **ageingwell@cardinia.vic.gov.au**

If you'd like to request a printed copy of the Ageing Well newsletter to be posted to you, email us at the address above or call our Customer Support team on 1300 787 624.

Community leaders: meet our latest graduates!

Congratulations to our newest Cardinia Community Leadership Program graduates!

Our 17 graduates join more than 60 previous participants in completing the 6-month course, which progresses their skills and knowledge as community leaders.

Over the course of the program, participants developed:

- a deeper understanding of themselves and the community
- skills on how to influence for positive outcomes
- an increased understanding of leadership styles and behaviours
- a comprehensive understanding of complex community issues
- the ability to communicate and build relationships with local government and community organisations.

Participants are encouraged to be active in their local community and empowered to take collaborative action on local projects, issues, and community-building opportunities.

Think the program might be for you? Applications are now open and close 4 June.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/communityleadership

Celebrate at the World Refugee Festival!

Council is hosting its first World Refugee Festival in June, to celebrate World Refugee Week.

Cardinia Shire is a Refugee Welcome Zone and is committed to welcoming refugees and migrants from refugee background into our community. More than 400 refugees have settled in Cardinia Shire in the last 10 years.

World Refugee Week is an opportunity for residents of all backgrounds to experience and savour the rich cultural diversity in our community and acknowledge and celebrate the incredible contributions refugees have made to their new home.

This FREE event will feature performers from a variety of cultural backgrounds so come along and enjoy the wonderful array of music, dance, food and children's activities on offer.

When: Sunday 25 June

Time: 10am until 3pm

Where: Cardinia Cultural Centre, 40 Lakeside
Boulevard, Pakenham

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/multiculturalevents

Welcome to new members of the Multicultural Advisory Group

We're proud to welcome the newest members of
Council's Multicultural Advisory Group!

The group meets every 2 months to connect, share
information and hear from our shire's multicultural
community, as well as provide input into Council's policy
and decision-making processes.

Our Multicultural Advisory Group strengthens community
partnerships and assists Council in continuing to build a
culture that welcomes and celebrates diversity.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/multicultural

Did you know?

As part of our commitment to accessibility, almost \$1 million has been contributed towards making Cardinia Shire more accessible for all.

These funds are thanks to our Access Upgrade Program, and have included projects such as upgrades to toilets, carparks, doorway widening, and wayfinding.

"Planty" of free trees!

Our annual FREE native plant giveaway is here!

We're partnering with the Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery to give away 5 free native plants to the first 320 Cardinia Shire households to take up the offer.

Plants are available from 9am to noon on Fridays at Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery, Deep Creek Reserve (62 Cameron Way, Pakenham) until Friday 30 June, or while stock lasts.

We're also inviting schools, kindergartens, community groups and owners of properties more than 4000 square metres to apply for a native plant voucher, which gives them \$50 towards native plants from the Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery.

There are only a limited number of vouchers, so get in quick! Applications open 9am on Monday 6 March, until stocks last. Apply for your voucher online at **www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/freeplants**

Proof of residency is required.

Voucher holders can choose from a selection of indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses as tube stock. Plants can be collected from the nursery once vouchers have been issued.

Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore encourages more residents to consider planting native plants on their properties.

“Native plants are important to preserve local biodiversity and encourage more native animals to visit our gardens,” he said.

“Head to the Cardinia Environment Coalition Nursery and snap up some wonderful native plants. Why not even make a day of it and enjoy a day out at Deep Creek Reserve?”

Wonderland for wildlife

Want some tips on creating the perfect hub for native wildlife in your very own garden? "Gardens for Wildlife" is a free program for Cardinia Shire residents, providing tips and information to help you to create a garden that attracts wildlife and improves its habitat. Head to Council's website to learn more.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife

Emerald Lake Park-*ing*

Planning on taking a trip to Emerald Lake Park? Did you know that annual parking passes are available for Cardinia Shire residents?

Parking passes cost \$10 for unlimited parking, and are available each year from 31 August for 12 months. New passes must be purchased each year.

To get a parking pass you can:

- apply and pay for it online at **www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ELPparking**
- buy one from our customer service centre at 20 Siding Avenue, Officer
- contact us on **1300 787 624** and pay over the phone.

Remember to display the pass on your vehicle's dashboard when you visit Emerald Lake Park.

Lend a hand with storm recovery

Calling all volunteers to lend a hand with the clean-up of the June 2021 storms!

This severe weather event caused considerable damage in some parts of our shire, and several of our residents are still in need of help with moving storm debris from their properties.

Working with a team of other generous residents, you would be rolling up your sleeves to help with tasks including clearing storm debris, splitting and stacking wood using an automatic wood splitter, and repairing fences.

Council has been working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Australia, Yarra Ranges Council and Treasuring Our Trees to continue to support local communities affected by the storms, with help from Victorian Government funding.

Volunteer days run from 9am until 3.30pm on weekdays and weekends and will continue until May.

For more information on volunteering, head to
www.habitatvic.org.au/volunteer

If you're a Cardinia Shire resident in need of information
or assistance with storm recovery, head to Council's
website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/stormrecovery

Winning ways to save water

As we inch closer to the rainy months, there are many ways you can help to reduce polluted stormwater from entering our creeks and rivers.

Install a rainwater tank

Rainwater tanks collect stormwater runoff from roofs, reducing the amount that enters our waterways. When installed correctly and safely, they can even be used to flush toilets and water gardens, which helps reduce your water bills.

Raingardens

Raingardens are self-watering and low-maintenance gardens that capture rainwater and filter it using plants.

Create swales in your garden

A swale is a small channel that can help slow down and direct water into the soil.

For more green living tips, subscribe to Council's Down to Earth e-newsletter.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/downtoearth

It's pet registration time

All dogs and cats over the age of 3 months must be registered with Council before 10 April. If you register your pet before this age, and provide written proof of their date of birth, registration is free for the first year!

If you've registered your pet with us before, you'll get a renewal notice in the mail before your registration is due.

Your pet needs to be microchipped before it's registered. Cats also need to be desexed, and if your dog is desexed you'll pay a reduced fee.

Registration fees go towards off-leash dog areas, collecting and returning lost pets, following up complaints about problem dogs and cats, and investigating dog attacks.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/pets

Cats to stay home

All cats in Cardinia Shire must be confined to their own property at all times.

This helps to protect native wildlife, reduce the feral cat population, reduce the spread of disease and keep your furry friend safe.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cats

Reminder for pooch parents

Dogs must be kept on a leash in our shire when in a public place, except if in a designated dog off-leash area within our parks.

Head to our website to read all about our "paw-some" dog off-leash areas!

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dogs

A hub of activity coming for young people

Construction of the new youth facility at James Street in Pakenham is coming along nicely and is due to open in the second half of 2023!

"Cardinia Youth Hub" will have everything young people aged 12 to 25 need to have fun, make new friends, be supported and build resilience including:

- a "hang out" space
- a recording/multimedia room
- counselling rooms
- computers and free WiFi
- a shower and laundry facility.

There'll even be a rooftop recreation space with a basketball hoop!

Henty Ward Councillor Carol Ryan said it will be a fantastic asset for our young people.

"It's great to see the build progressing well," she said.

The services committed at this stage to co-locate at the Cardinia Youth Hub with Council's Youth Services team include:

- Oakwood School
- Headspace
- Youth Support and Advocacy Service
- CVTG
- South East Community Links
- TaskForce.

“In the meantime, I encourage young people to check out the great programs the current "My Place" youth centre is already offering to young people. "My Place" is open weekdays from 1pm until 5pm, and young people can access information and support, or join one of the many programs on offer.”

Cardinia Youth Hub is a project between Council, the Victorian Government and the Australian Government.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Tweens and teens, get involved!

Cardinia's awesome Youth Services team is dishing up the fun and support for young people this autumn!

Teenage school holiday program

The April School Holiday program is almost here! It offers low-cost or free activities and excursions for 12 to 17 year-olds. Places are limited so book early!

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/tshp

My Place Youth Centre (5-7 Main Street, Pakenham)
is open during school holidays from 1–5pm.

Other youth programs and groups

Chillout Fridays

"Chill out" and enjoy a range of activities. Ages: 10 to 12

Be Ur Self

An LGBTIQ+ program that offers a safe and inclusive place. Ages: 12 to 17

Switch

Make new friends and enjoy great activities. Ages: 12 to 17

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youthprograms

Connecting over a cuppa

Are you looking to connect with other local families?

Families are invited to connect with other families in their community while enjoying a delicious morning tea.

Morning tea events will be held for the rest of term 1 at Bridgewood Primary School in Officer. You'll also get the chance to find out about support services available – including Council's Maternal Child Health service – and meet kindergarten and primary school teachers from Bridgewood.

Council's Best Start Program is delivering the sessions in partnership with Bridgewood Primary School and their Integrated Early Years' Service.

For more info on the sessions contact Best Start Facilitator, Emma, on 1300 787 624.

Got kinder-aged kids? Time to register!

Did you know that community kindergarten is now free? Register your child for 3-year-old and 4-yearold kindergarten using our online kindergarten portal for up to 15 hours of free kinder in Cardinia Shire.

Registrations must be submitted by Friday 30 June for your child to be included in first round offers for 2024.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Australian Heritage Festival: save the date!

If you go down to Emerald Museum this April, you're sure of a big surprise ... with a range of events for the whole family as part of the 2023 Australian Heritage Festival!

Families can look forward to:

- a catered teddy bears' picnic featuring yummy treats and a visit from a teddy bear from the early 1900s – don't forget your picnic rug!
- a professionally guided historical walk through Nobelius Heritage Park
- a showcase of fascinating artefacts from the museum including gold discoveries from the 1880s and sporting memorabilia
- ... and so much more!

In Victoria, the Festival is comprised of events from across the state organised by organisations including National Trust properties, local historical societies,

community museums, local councils and Traditional Owner groups.

“For more than 40 years the Australian Heritage Festival has been the largest community-driven celebration of heritage in the country. This year, we're proud to be hosting one of its events at Emerald Museum,” said Ranges Ward Councillor Jeff Springfield.

“The theme for this year's festival is "Shared Stories", and Cardinia Shire certainly has some wonderful stories to tell!”

Emerald Museum

Wednesday 19 April

Teddy bears' picnic 10:30am until 11:30am

Guided walk 1pm until 2pm

For all the latest details and to register for your teddy bears' picnic, head to the Emerald Museum website.

www.emeraldmuseum.org.au

Business brekkies are back for 2023!

Calling all local businesses! The first Cardinia Business Networking Breakfast for the year is coming your way this March.

Taking place on Thursday 23 March at the Cardinia Cultural Centre in Pakenham, the event will focus on the various ways that businesses can save money on their energy bills and move towards more environmentally sustainable practices.

Hosted by Council, the breakfast will include a range of speakers including a Sustainable Australia Fund representative, as well as local business operators who have successfully implemented energy-saving initiatives.

Tickets are \$28.

To book, go to **www.trybooking.com/CFNXT**

Snap a winner

Get your cameras or phones ready to snap a photo in our wonderful shire and be in the running to win a \$500 gift card, as part of the "What's On Cardinia" 2023 photo competition!

From the stunning hills to the fertile farmland, plus our townships, people, and our unique flora and fauna – there's no shortage of inspiration in Cardinia Shire.

Entries close 5pm, Thursday 4 May.

Explore our beautiful region

When planning your next day trip, why not venture out into your very own shire?

Head to the "What's On Cardinia" website for lots of fun suggestions, including:

- nature experiences
- food and farm
- arts and culture
- sport and recreation.

www.whatsoncardinia.com.au

What's on?

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

Libraries

Little Green Thumbs Club

Pakenham Library

2pm on 9 March and 11 May

English Conversation Group

Pakenham Library

12 noon every Friday during the school term

Baby Rhyme Time

Emerald Library

11.15am every Monday during the school term

All events are free and bookings essential unless otherwise stated. www.myli.org.au/cardinia

Cardinia Cultural Centre

Grand WaZoo – Kings of Soul

Wednesday 15 March

10am morning tea and 11am show

Multicultural Comedy Gala

Friday 17 March

8pm

Swan Lake – The Victorian State Ballet

Wednesday 12 April

10am morning tea and 11am show

Stephen K Amos: Before and Laughter

Friday 14 April

7.30pm

DIESEL – Greatest Hits Alone with Blues Tour

Thursday 27 April

7.30pm

Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow

Thursday 4 May

8pm

Get Rhythm – A Tribute to Johnny Cash & June Carter

Saturday 13 May

7.30pm

Amber Lawrence – Living for The Highlights

Wednesday 10 May

10am morning tea and 11am show

Tim Freedman

Saturday 20 May

8pm

Cardinian Embroidery

Come and see the Cardinian Embroidery at its new permanent home in Cardinia Cultural Centre! With contributions from more than 2,000 people, this artwork

holds a special place in the artistic history of Cardinia Shire.

www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au

Council's free green waste drop-off events are back!

Pakenham

Friday 24 to Monday 27 March 2023

Future Recycling Transfer Station, 30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham

All days: 9am to 4pm

Lysterfield

Friday 19 to Monday 22 May 2023

Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre, 840 Wellington Rd, Lysterfield

Friday: 8am to 4pm

Saturday and Sunday: 8am to 12 noon

Monday: 8am to 4pm

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff

For info about Council events:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/events

For info on community and business events in our shire:

www.whatsoncardinia.com.au

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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(ask for 1300 787 624)

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For more information about Connect:
www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connect