

# Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Spring 2023

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## IT'S BUDGET TIME

See our priorities for the year ahead

## CARING FOR OUR ANIMALS

Keeping pets and wildlife safe

## NEWS SURVEY

How do you want to receive Council news?

## BE PREPARED

Tips on how to prepare for an emergency

  
**Cardinia**

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## **Shaping our shire**

Make sure to have your say on projects happening in our shire.

Head to Creating Cardinia to share your thoughts and feedback on initiatives that help shape our community!

You can also stay up-to-date with your favourite consultations by hitting the 'follow' button at the top of the project page.

Consultations now open or due to open soon:

- Gaming Policy Review
- Pepi's Land BMX Track Upgrade Phase 2
- Community Infrastructure Plan
- Toun-nun public art project
- Pakenham East Precinct Naming Project
- Help shape the way Council delivers news
- Playground upgrades
- Surveys for businesses

- and more!

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

## **Your Councillors**

### **Officer Ward**

**Cr Tammy Radford (Mayor)**

0439 580 797

[t.radford@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:t.radford@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

### **Pakenham Hills Ward**

**Cr Jack Kowarzik (Deputy Mayor)**

0439 620 809

[j.kowarzik@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:j.kowarzik@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

### **Ranges Ward**

**Cr Jeff Springfield**

0427 383 810

[j.springfield@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:j.springfield@cardinia.vic.gov.au)



## **Beacon Hills Ward**

**Cr Brett Owen**

0418 993 370

b.owen@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 130 810

c.ryan@cardinia.vic.gov.au

## **Toomuc Ward**

**Cr Stephanie Davies**

0439 444 810

s.davies@cardinia.vic.gov.au

## **Westernport Ward**

**Cr Kaye Cameron**

0457 251 552

kaye.cameron@cardinia.vic.gov.au

To find out which Ward you're in, visit

**[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/communitycompass](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/communitycompass)** and type your street address into the 'My Council services' tool.

## **On the cover**

In Cardinia Shire, we love our dogs! Garfield North resident Bec enjoyed a spring stroll at Pepi's Land in Emerald with her pooch. On pages 10 and 11 of this edition, read about how we can all protect pets and wildlife in the shire, and keep them safe and happy.

## **Look up bin days and more!**

Want to quickly find out which bin is being collected this week? Or perhaps you want to know which Ward you live in, or the town planning documents that apply to your area.

You'll find this info (plus other Council information on where you live) on Community Compass!

**Here's how to access this online tool:**

- 1. Scan the QR code**
- 2. Click the search icon at the top left of the screen**
- 3. Enter your address**



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## **Mayor's message**

Welcome to the spring edition of Connect Magazine. We hope you enjoy reading about what's happening across the shire and what you can get involved in over the next few months.

From major projects and initiatives, to pets, bandicoots and more, this edition is packed with things to add to your springtime agenda.

You're invited to take part in the Council News survey, which will help shape the way that Council news is delivered. You'll find the survey on page 14, and you can fold it so that page 13 becomes the reply-paid envelope – nifty!

As this is my last Connect Mayor's Message for 2023, I'd like to take a moment to say how honoured I am to have been your Mayor this past year.

Being Council's fourth female Mayor is one of my proudest achievements, and an experience I'll never forget.

One of my personal highlights has been performing citizenship ceremonies, as there is a great sense of pride and warmth in welcoming new residents to our community. Our data shows that an average of 3 families are moving into our community each day, which is very exciting.

I've had a busy year advocating on behalf of the Cardinia Shire community. This has included calling on all levels of government to work together to deliver better public transport, better mental health services, better access to jobs, better safer roads, better sport and recreation facilities, better community places and services, better outdoor spaces and better protection for our environment.

This year also allowed me the opportunity to visit both the Victorian and Australian Parliament, where I was able to meet with many of our local Members of Parliament and Ministers to discuss some of the key issues and opportunities for our community.

I have also loved connecting with our young people at meaningful events, such as the Drumbeat program at Officer Specialist School (pictured above) which is delivered by Council's Youth Services team. The team is committed to ensuring that young people with disability are engaged and included in Council's programs. You can visit Council's website for more information about the programs that Youth Services offer.

It's been a pleasure, Cardinia Shire, and I look forward to supporting you all as best I can next year and into the future.

Thank you for a wonderful year.

**Cr Tammy Radford**

Cardinia Shire Mayor

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

**Did you know you can listen to this magazine, or read it in large print?**

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

## **Budget adopted for 2023-24**

Following an extensive consultation process with the community, Council's budget for this financial year has been endorsed.

Here are some of the key areas we're focusing on delivering for Cardinia Shire this year:

- **\$13.3m for recreation, leisure, and community facilities**
- **\$2.2m for drains and bridges**
- **\$3.4m for parks, open space, and streetscapes**
- **\$30.4m for property** (including construction and upgrades of buildings)
- **\$1.4m for footpaths and cycleways**
- **\$59m budgeted for all roads and intersection upgrade programs** (including road maintenance and fixing potholes)
- **\$4.1m for plant, equipment and lighting**

Delegate for the audit committee, Deputy Mayor and Pakenham Hills Ward Councillor Jack Kowarzik expressed his gratitude to everyone who took part in the budget consultation.

“Community members made 286 submissions during the budget development and consultation process, which took place from December 2022 to May 2023,” Cr Kowarzik said.

“This is an amazing response, and every piece of feedback was considered as part of the process. It’s a budget we can all be proud of, and I know that it will achieve many great outcomes for the shire.”

You can view the budget on Council’s website.

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

## **Making rate payments easier**

We’re making it easier for you to find the information you need to pay your rates. Keep reading for key dates, handy links, and much more!



You should by now have received your rate notice in the post or by email.

Want to get your rate notice electronically? Use your eNotice reference number on your rates notice and head to:

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

## **Instalment due dates**

- **1st instalment – 30 September 2023**
- **2nd instalment – 30 November 2023**
- **3rd instalment – 28 February 2024**
- **4th instalment – 31 May 2024**

If you choose to pay your rates in full, we suggest making this payment by 30 September 2023 in line with the first instalment date to avoid any late payment charges.

## **Having difficulty making payments?**

We know that it may be difficult to meet instalment deadlines. Because of this, Council offers a variety of payment plan options which can help with scheduling your rates payments.

If you would like to learn more about payment plans or financial hardship options, please visit:

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

## **Which way to pay suits you?**

### **MyCardinia**

Try our new way of paying rates, submitting applications, requesting services and more by using MyCardinia.

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

### **BPAY**

BPAY can be used through your online banking service. To pay via BPAY you will need the BPAY Biller Code and Reference Number found on your rate notice.

### **Flexipay (direct debit)**

Use our direct debit payment option to pay your rates in smaller amounts.

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

### **Phone**

You can pay over the phone using the Billpay Code and Reference number found on your rates notice. To make phone payments call **131 816**.

### **In Person**

You can pay in person at the Cardinia Shire Civic Centre – 20 Siding Avenue Officer, or at any Australia Post store with a copy of your rates notice.

## **For every \$100 of rates in the 2023-24 financial year, we'll deliver ...**

- **\$0.51** Youth Services
- **\$9.52** Swimming & Recreation
- **\$33.51** Roads & Footpaths
- **\$5.36** Planning Services
- **\$7.20** Parks & Gardens
- **\$2.07** Maternal & Child Health
- **\$2.71** Local Law Enforcement & Health Services
- **\$1.38** Library Services
- **\$10.36** Garbage & Waste Management
- **\$1.66** Emergency & Environmental Management
- **\$1.22** Economic & Community Development
- **\$1.52** Drainage
- **\$0.75** Community Support
- **\$21.29** Community Infrastructure
- **\$0.21** Children's Services
- **\$0.03** Car Parks
- **\$0.70** Bridges

**Want to learn more about your rates?**

## **MyCardinia is live!**

### **Introducing a new way for residents to transact online with Council – MyCardinia!**

Recently launched, the MyCardinia portal allows you to create a unique login then sign in to do a range of tasks online – whenever it suits you.

Toomuc Ward Councillor Stephanie Davies says the MyCardinia portal gives residents a quick and easy way to interact with Council.

“The MyCardinia portal is designed to make it easy and secure for our residents to make some of their most frequent Council payments and applications online, as well as track the status of their requests,” Cr Davies said.

“We know how full peoples’ lives are and we hope this great new portal allows them to ‘do business’ with

Council at a time and place that works for them – whether it's on the train on the way to work or sitting on the couch at home!"

**Some of the tasks you can do online using MyCardinia include:**

- registering your pets and paying registration renewal fees
- reporting an issue or requesting services, then tracking the progress of your request
- making rates payments and verifying your properties
- registering your pool
- submitting a report and consent application for siting variation and flooding
- paying a fine.

For more information and to log in or sign up to MyCardinia, visit Council's website.

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

# **We've been busy!**

Here's just some of the work Council did across the shire in the 2022-23 financial year.

- Maintained **1,632km** of roads
- Looked after **1,575** hectares of parks and reserves
- Registered **15,757** animals
- Issued **1,417** building permits
- Processed **2,644** kinder enrolments
- Collected **22,824** tonnes of garbage
- Collected **10,704** tonnes of recycling
- Maintained **859 km** of footpaths
- Conducted **15,745** Maternal and Child Health consultations
- Maintained **274** playgrounds

This information and more will soon be available in our 2022-23 Annual Report – available on our website this October.

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

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# **Apply for your free annual parking pass**

Annual parking passes at Emerald Lake Park are now FREE for all Cardinia Shire residents!

Residents can now apply online for an annual pass to park for free in any of the carparks in the Emerald Lake Precinct. A valid parking pass must be on display when you park.

Ranges Ward Councillor Jeff Springfield says the free annual passes will be popular with the many residents who love visiting the beautiful Emerald Lake Precinct.

“The pass allows residents to park for free at both Emerald Lake Park car parks; there’s one close to Puffing Billy and one beside the lake,” Cr Springfield said.

“So jump online to get your pass today, and enjoy a lovely day out in this stunning part of the world!”



To be eligible for the free annual parking pass, you must be a Cardinia Shire resident. Passes must be renewed every year.

To secure your annual parking pass, you can apply and pay online, visit our customer service centre (20 Siding Avenue, Officer) or call 1300 787 624.

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

## **Money Matters: knowledge is power!**

If you want to get better at managing your own money, then taking opportunities to learn tips and strategies can make all the difference.

This spring, why not make time to reach out to your local financial support services to see if you can learn any new ways of managing your finances?

**‘Cardinia Support’** is Council’s Community Services Directory, now available online.

**[www.cardiniasupport.com.au](http://www.cardiniasupport.com.au)**

This brand-new resource makes it easier for residents to search and find up-to-date information on health and social support services available locally, including service providers that can help you to make financial decisions.

Do you work for a community service, or are part of a community organisation? Share your knowledge! Head to the online portal and submit information on support and services that are available.

## **Need some extra support?**

‘You’re the Boss’, Salvation Army’s financial-skill-building program, can help swap financial uncertainty for financial confidence. The program is now also available in Dari and Pashto!

Give the friendly team from Salvation Army Pakenham a call today to find out about upcoming sessions on 5941 4906, or check out their website.

**[www.salvationarmy.org.au/youretheboss](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au/youretheboss)**

## **Don't be afraid to reach out**

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](mailto:fcs@secl.org.au), 9549 5288
- Casey Community Information and Support Services [fc@caseynorthciss.com.au](mailto:fc@caseynorthciss.com.au), 9705 6699

## **Futureproofing Farming in Cardinia Shire**

Young people from across Cardinia Shire will soon be invited to play a key role in shaping the future of our local food system.

Futureproofing Farming in Cardinia Shire is a project of the Cardinia Food Movement and aims to increase employment and education pathways for local young people into the agricultural and related sectors, with a focus on making our local food system more resilient.

**[www.cardiniafoodmovement.org](http://www.cardiniafoodmovement.org)**

The project has received funding through the VicHealth Local Government Partnership program and will be delivered over 3 years.

Head to our website to find out more about what we're doing to establish a healthy, delicious, sustainable and fair food system for all residents of Cardinia Shire.

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

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## **Mental Health Matters**

Take some time out of your busy schedule this October to focus on your mental wellbeing during Mental Health Month.

It's a great opportunity for you to prioritise your mental health, and take part in a series of events organised by community groups and service providers across the shire.

Connecting with your family, friends and wider community is one of the best things you can do to protect your mental health.

Henty Ward Councillor and mental health advocate Cr Carol Ryan encourages residents to take up as many Mental Health Month activities as they can.

“Whether you check in with those you care about, take a short daily walk to boost your mood, attend a library event, or challenge yourself to the Cardinia Fun Run and Walk – the smallest step can have a hugely positive impact on your mental health and the mental health of those around you,” Cr Ryan said.

Recognised all across Australia, Mental Health Month is marked annually every October.

Head to the What's On Cardinia community events website to check out all the events you can take part in during Mental Health Month.

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

## **Have you visited the free ‘Expression’ art exhibition yet?**

**‘Expression’** is an inspiring exhibition featuring artwork created by people with disability.

It’s open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 3pm at Cardinia Cultural Centre (40 Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham) until 24 September.

For more information visit

**[www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au](http://www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au)** or call

**1300 887 624.**

## **2023 Seniors Festival**

October is almost here, and that means celebrating our seniors!

The Victorian Seniors Festival is a major state-wide festival which takes place every October to bring seniors together, with an emphasis on fun and good times.

Three local events will be held in Cardinia Shire as part of the 2023 Seniors Festival:

- **Old Time Dance**
- **Live Show and Devonshire Tea**
- **Cardinia Shire's Largest Tai Chi Lesson**

Further details of local activities and events are included in the September edition of the Ageing Well newsletter.

For more information on events, head to the What's On Cardinia website, or call our friendly Customer Service team on 1300 787 624.

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

## **Read the latest Ageing Well newsletter**

The latest edition of Council's Ageing Well newsletter is out now! Read about the Seniors Festival, local events, and a range of exciting opportunities and services to help seniors to stay healthy and connected in Cardinia Shire.

## **Read the latest edition**

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

## **Pick up a copy**

Civic Centre, 20 Siding Avenue Officer.

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## **Creating a more sustainable shire**

Three much-loved community facilities have been given new sustainability upgrades!

The Beaconsfield Community Complex, Bunyip Hall and Koo Wee Rup Community Centre each received sustainability upgrades which will help reduce energy and water costs.

Thanks to a Council Community Capital Works grant, two 10 kilowatt solar energy systems have been installed at Bunyip Hall and Koo Wee Rup Community Centre, which are estimated to reduce energy costs for each building by \$2,000 per year.



The Beaconsfield Community Complex has received a new rainwater harvesting system, which will enable rainwater to be used for irrigation and toilet flushing.

During construction, Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen was invited to check out the progress of the rainwater harvesting system at the complex.

“It’s great to see more sustainable initiatives in the shire,” Cr Owen said.

“By 2024 our goal is to achieve net zero Council emissions, and each sustainability upgrade that we make is helping us to meet that target.”

Keep up to date with Council’s journey as we focus on delivering a more sustainable future for the community.

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

## **‘Majorly’ exciting upgrades**

**Get ready to enjoy newly upgraded facilities across the shire! Check out two of the latest completed projects.**

## **In Cockatoo...**

Better and brighter tennis courts are now open in Cockatoo at Alma Treloar Reserve, providing more opportunities for players to hone their skills day or night. The courts in Cockatoo now have two new safer, synthetic grass surfaces, new lighting and fencing, and wider accessible entry points. This project was jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government's 2021-22 Local Sports Facilities Fund – Community Facilities.

Want to keep up to date with more major projects in Cardinia Shire? Head to our website.

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

## **In Pakenham...**

Looking for a new playground to check out? The Parkway Reserve and Parman Reserve playgrounds in Pakenham have been upgraded as part of Council's 2022-23 Playground Renewal program! Both

playgrounds feature new playground equipment, footpaths, seating, rubbish bins and landscaping.

Visit our website for details of all the playgrounds you can enjoy in the shire.

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

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## **Delivering for local families**

Kurmboon Child and Family Centre is now open and delivering high quality kindergarten services to 3-and-4-year-old children and their families!

Located in Officer, the centre features 2 kindergarten program rooms, a community room, 3 consulting rooms, a public art piece, and more.

Mayor Councillor Tammy Radford recently opened the new centre with Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep Ingrid Stitt MLC, along with Member for Pakenham Emma Vulin MP.

“Kuramboon Child and Family Centre offers state-of-the-art spaces for the local community to access the early years and family services they need,” Mayor Radford said.

“Our data shows that an average of 3 families are moving into our community each day, so we need to keep advocating for more funding for critical infrastructure and family services to support our residents.”

This project was funded by the Victorian Government’s Children’s Facilities Capital Program Major Grants and Council via developer contributions.

Funding has also been announced for construction of a new integrated child and family centre – with an interim name of Thewlis Road Integrated Child and Family Centre – to be built in north west Pakenham to meet the needs of families in Cardinia Shire’s growth corridor.

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

# **Pakenham revitalisation**

Over the coming years, Pakenham will undergo a revitalisation and become a more vibrant destination for thousands of new residents and workers.

As part of the Pakenham Revitalisation Project, we've received feedback from more than 500 people online and at our five community pop-up events and workshops.

We asked you what you want Pakenham to become, and what your hopes are for Pakenham's future as a destination.

From the data so far, it's clear that the Cardinia Shire community wants a safe and entertaining place they can visit during the day and night, and we look forward to working with you to make this happen!

Pakenham is going through a big transition, so come along for the journey and keep updated by visiting our website.

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

## Creating a day and night-time destination

In the coming months and into 2024, you'll start to see some exciting changes.

- September 2023: Council will engage a project partner to deliver Stage 1 works, a detailed plan will be shared with the community
- January 2024: Stage 1 (Part 1) Main Street Central works will take place
- September 2024: Stage 1 (Part 2) Main Street Gateway works will take place. You'll see:
  - New parallel parking bays
  - More space for streetscape improvements including wider pedestrian areas, new seating and street furniture.
  - Four on-street accessible parking bays will be located at the centre of Main Street.

An additional three public toilets will be delivered, bringing the number of toilets within a 500m radius of the town centre from 2 to 5.

## **Future engagement**

With remaining stages planned to be delivered across the next 10 years, we'll continue to work with our community to ensure we are building a Pakenham to be proud of.

For more information or enquiries please contact Council's Major Projects team on 1300 787 624 or [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

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## **Banding together for bandicoots**

Thanks to passionate young environmentalists at Koo Wee Rup Primary School, we're one step closer to safeguarding the future of the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot!

Since 2020, 500 indigenous plants have been planted on the schoolgrounds which now form a special habitat for local bandicoots.

Students undertook the plantings with the assistance of Westernport Biosphere Foundation and the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens, and funding from Council.

Throughout the journey, Koo Wee Rup Primary School students learned about conservation and the importance of looking out for endangered animals.

Westernport Ward Councillor Kaye Cameron loved the opportunity to be taken on a tour of the new bandicoot garden.

“Koo Wee Rup Primary School have done a fantastic job in creating this bandicoot haven. They should be very proud of their excellent efforts,” Cr Cameron said.

“The school have also generously allowed Council to set up future timelapse cameras to try and capture footage of the bandicoots as they begin to explore the space – we can’t wait to see them!”

Make sure you’re following us on social media for future bandicoot updates.

**[www.facebook.com/cardiniashirecouncil](https://www.facebook.com/cardiniashirecouncil)**



# Protecting our noseey neighbours

Watch out, there could be a bandicoot about! Here are some tips that you can try to create a safe environment for any Southern Brown Bandicoots that might visit your neighbourhood.

- Keep your cat inside and your dog on a leash. This not only helps protect bandicoots, but also other animals and people - as well as your pet.
- Plant low, dense native plants on your property. Mat-rushes, tussock-grasses, and grass-trees provide good nest spots for bandicoots.
- Tell us where you see them! Log a sighting on the iNaturalist app.

Learn more about what we can do to protect our curious friends on our website.

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

## **Hotel for bandicoots**

Do you want to contribute to local wildlife conservation?  
Why not try your hand at making a bandicoot shelter!

Having somewhere to hide is very important for bandicoots – they need places to sleep, raise young, and stay hidden if predators like cats and foxes are around.

**Want a small challenge?** Sections of terracotta pipe can be quite popular with bandicoots as a spot to snooze.

**Want a medium challenge?** You can plant a bandicoot garden. Bandicoots like to nest under big strappy plants, so grasses and low-growing grass trees are great.

**Want a big challenge?** You could build a bandicoot hide. Visit our website and check out the building instructions.

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

## **Nature in colour**

Want a fun way to learn more about Cardinia Shire's wildlife? Head to our website and download our FREE biodiversity colouring sheets.

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

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## **Love your pet, protect your pet!**

With thousands of dogs registered in Cardinia Shire, there's lots of love for our canine companions – but are you doing everything possible to keep your pets safe?

Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore and his dog, Lucy, met up with Jen from Council's Regulatory Services team and her pooches to brush-up on tips to help keep pets safe.

"I'm a proud pet-parent, and keeping my dog safe both at home and on walks is very important," said Cr Moore.

“Keeping pets under control protects the whole community – our pets, our environment, and each other.”

Please report any issues with dogs to Council, including; a dog attack, excessive barking, dogs wandering, or issues with dangerous or restricted breed dogs.

For more information, including locations of off-leash areas and how to report a nuisance dog, visit our website.

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

## **Here are 4 things to keep in mind if you have a dog at home:**

- All dogs must be kept contained to their owner’s property in Cardinia Shire. This means your yard must be enclosed with a fence high enough that your dog can’t jump over or get through
- Dogs must be kept on a leash when in a public place, except if in a designated off-leash dog area

- If your dog wanders off from your property, you may be given an official warning or a fine. If we're unable to reconnect you, wandering dogs may be taken to the pound
- If your dog rushes at or chases someone, you could be fined or taken to court, and we may have to declare your dog to be a 'menacing dog', meaning your pet may need to be muzzled when out in public.

## **Keeping your kitties happy**

Thanks to everyone who sent in their pawsome cat pics – we loved seeing so many safe and happy kitties in Cardinia Shire. Let us introduce you to a few of our new feline friends.

Cats in Cardinia Shire must be contained to their owner's property at all times; this helps to protect native wildlife and keep your fur babies safe.

Want some ideas for helping to keep your cat indoors or on your property? Head to our website.

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

**Brothers Bingo and Bongo** (below) love spending their day sleeping, playing and peeping at the birds from their cat tree. Owners Arabella and Ophelia say that the boys are very demanding of cuddle time!

**Pansy, Presley and Penny** (right) are very lucky to have their own 3-storey catio! Owner Viktoria says her cats can come and go as they please through the kitty flap, and can safely watch the birds from [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cats](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cats) the catio.

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## **Textiles drop-off event**

Do you have old textiles and fabrics such as clothes, bed linen and tablecloths that aren't in good enough condition to donate? Then give them a second life at our free drop-off event this spring!

Residents can drop off any unwanted textiles that would otherwise end up in landfill.

Central Ward Councillor and passionate waste advocate, Cr Collin Ross, encourages all residents to consider making use of the event.

“The drop-off event is a convenient way for residents to have a good clear-out of any unwanted textiles, and help avoid more waste heading to landfill,” Cr Ross said.

“This service isn’t offered in many places, so I would encourage residents to head down to the event with their pre-loved textiles.”

All textiles including clothing and household linen that are too damaged for donation will be accepted for specialised fibre-to-fabric recycling.

To register for the event and for more information about Council’s waste drop-off events, head to our website.

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

## **This October is Buy Nothing New Month, are you up for the challenge?**

Buy Nothing New Month is a global movement which challenges people to think when making new purchases; **“do I really need this?”**

Check out a few tips on how you can challenge yourself to buy nothing new this October.

For more ideas, head to the Buy Nothing New Month website.

**[www.buynothingnew.com.au](http://www.buynothingnew.com.au)**

- Host a clothing swap with friends
- Repair clothing or household items instead of buying new
- Join a local toy library or tool library
- Borrow from friends, family or neighbours
- Have a birthday or special event coming up?

Consider making or baking something, or regift something you already own.



## **Storytime with a truck driver!**

On 23 November at Emerald Library, one of our superstar truck drivers will be sharing a special story and teaching our young residents all about waste.

For more information and how to register, visit our website.

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

## **Time for a spring clean**

What better time to clear out the clutter than spring? Don't forget you're entitled to 2 FREE hard waste collections per year.

Already used your 2 free collections? You're welcome to book additional collections for a fee.

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

## **Drop off your green waste for FREE at our October drop-off event**

Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre, 840 Wellington Rd, Lysterfield Friday 13 to Monday 16 October

- Friday: 8am to 4pm
- Saturday and Sunday: 8am to 12noon
- Monday: 8am to 4pm

Residents must present photo ID as proof of residence within Cardinia Shire to access the free service.

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

Get 'red-y', we'll shortly be changing all remaining green-lidded rubbish bin lids to red, aligning with state and national standards.

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

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# **Shape how Council delivers its news to you!**

We're always looking for ways to improve Connect magazine – as well as our other Council news and communication channels – so that they meet your needs and expectations.

On the next page you'll find the 2023 Council news survey. We'd love your feedback on which communication methods work best for you, as well as what you like about our news channels and what you'd like to see change.

Simply fill out the survey, fold it on the dotted lines so that the reply-paid envelope is at the front, and mail back to us – easy!

**Prefer an online survey? Head to Creating Cardinia or scan the QR code.**



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

Stay tuned for the results of the survey in a future edition of Connect magazine, coming soon!

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## **Tell us how you want to receive Council news and information**

**You can receive news and information from Council in a number of ways including:**

- **Our website ([www.cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au))**
- **Social media – Facebook – Instagram – LinkedIn**
- **E-newsletters**
- **Connect magazine**
- **Creating Cardinia, engagement platform**

We want to ensure that we are delivering Council news and information in a way that meets your needs and preferences. Please leave your feedback in the survey below.

**1. Please rank the types of news you want to receive from Council from 1 to 11, where 1 is most preferred:**

- Updates on Council services (e.g. kindergartens, maternal and child health, immunisations)
- Environment and sustainability initiatives
- Events (e.g. arts and culture activities, Cardinia Cultural Centre events, community events, festivals)
- Updates on major projects
- Updates on roads, footpaths, and other infrastructure works
- Feel-good stories (e.g. good work being done out in the community)

- Council places to visit (e.g. libraries, swimming pools, reserves, parks, playgrounds)
- Rates and Council budget
- Opportunities to have your say on Council projects
- Council meeting and/or planning decisions
- Waste and recycling

**2. Are there any topics not listed above that you would like to hear from us about?**

- Yes (please state): \_\_\_\_\_
- No

**3. Please rank the ways you like to receive Council news and information from 1 to 10, where 1 is most preferred:**

- Connect magazine
- Flyers/brochures

- Letters through the mail
- Council's website
- Social media
- Local newspapers
- Local radio
- Newspaper advertisements
- E-newsletters from Council
- Township newsletters

(e.g. Down To Earth newsletter, Aging Well newsletter)

#### **4. Do you read Connect magazine?**

- Yes, each edition
  - Yes, occasionally
  - No (if no, please tell us why):
-

**5. How often would you like to receive Connect magazine (which is currently distributed quarterly)?**

- Quarterly
- Twice yearly
- Not at all (if not, please tell us

why):\_\_\_\_\_

**6. Would you read Connect magazine in a digital format?**

- Yes
- No

**7. Are there any Council news updates or information that you like to see in Connect?**

- Yes (please state):

\_\_\_\_\_

- No



**8. Which social media platforms do you like seeing Council news and information on?**

- Facebook
- Instagram
- LinkedIn
- None of the above

(if none, please tell us why):

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**9. Are there any Council news updates or information you would like to see more of on social media platforms?**

- Yes (please state):

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- No

**10. What do you like about Council's website?  
([www.cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au))**

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**11. What do you think could be improved about Council's website?**

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**12. Is there anything you would like to be able to do on Council's website that you currently can't?**

- Yes (please state):

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- No

**13. Do you have any other feedback on Connect magazine, Council's social media, e-newsletters or Council's website?**

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**Please tell us:**

Your postcode:

---

With which gender you identify:

- Male
- Female

Prefer to self-describe \_\_\_\_\_

- Prefer not to say

Your age or age range:

---

**\*PRIVACY:**

We are collecting your feedback to inform the Readers Survey project. To see our complete Privacy Policy please see [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/privacy](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/privacy) Cardinia Shire Council privacy collection statement

Personal information collected by Council, its external service providers, or contractors, is used for municipal purposes as specified in the Local Government Act 2020. The personal information will be held securely and used solely by Council for these purposes and/or directly related purposes. Council may disclose this information to other organisations if required or permitted by legislation, and who are bound by substantially similar obligations. The applicant understands that the personal information provided is for the above purpose and that he or she may apply to Council for access to and/or amendment of the information. Requests for access and/or correction should be made to Council's Privacy Officer on 1300 787 624 or [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

MORE INFO: Survey closes 5pm, Friday 27 October 2023.

## **Ready Get Go: are you prepared for an emergency?**

Emergencies can come in many forms, such as bushfires and floods, and often happen when we least expect them. The better prepared we are before an emergency can help us to bounce back after.

When an emergency occurs, it can be hard to stay calm and remember the things that you need, so we've developed Ready Get Go bags along with emergency preparedness kits specially designed to help you prepare for emergencies before they happen.

The bags are lightweight and easy to use, and full of helpful resources, including an Emergency Plan template and a checklist of things you might need if you have to leave your home in a hurry during an emergency.

Developing your own emergency plan can help prepare and protect you, your family and your pets in emergency situations.

Council is proud to have worked with Officer Specialist School in putting together Ready Get Go bags with additional resources for vulnerable members of our community.

This project was partly funded by the Victorian Government Vulnerable Persons Grant.

Request your own Ready Get Go bag emergency preparedness kit by emailing **[mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au)**

Head to Council's website to learn more about how to prepare for an emergency, including preparation advice for fires and floods, and electronic copies of resources found within the Ready Get Go Bags.

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

# **Thank you, Tonimbuk Hall!**

We wanted to say a huge thank you to the Tonimbuk Hall Committee who have kept the hall as the heart of the community following the 2019 bushfires.

From making wicking beds to building an outdoor pizza oven, the Tonimbuk Hall Committee is doing wonderful work to make our community stronger and more resilient.

Council was delighted to be able to provide the Tonimbuk Hall Committee with recovery support for activation and upgrades following the 2019 bushfires so that the hall could continue to function as an important community space.

This support included funding for new kitchen upgrades, which the committee regularly makes use of when bringing the community together to share good company and delicious meals.

To find out about events and programs running at Tonimbuk Hall or to hire out the space, email [tonimbukhall@gmail.com](mailto:tonimbukhall@gmail.com)

## **Get emergency ready**

**Take advantage of FREE sessions and resources this spring to help when preparing for an emergency.**

## **Community Safety Month Emergency Preparedness Pop Ups**

Council's Emergency Management team, together with the emergency services, will be conducting community pop-ups across the shire during the month of October. These sessions are a great opportunity ask your questions and the get the information you need to be prepared.

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



## **Bushfire Prepare e-learning**

Council has partnered with the Victorian Government's Safer Together initiative to deliver the Bushfire Prepare e-learning program, an interactive online program to help you prepare your property for a bushfire. The program aims to support residents in bushfire prone areas to help understand bushfire behaviour, develop bushfire plans and prepare properties to reduce bushfire risk. We also offer the opportunity for participants to take part in a practical workshop, where they can put their knowledge into practice.

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

## **Get Ready Get Techy**

Feel empowered to use technology more effectively before, during and after emergencies. One of our friendly emergency management officers will be happy to run this practical workshop with community groups across the shire. These hands-on sessions support people to download and set up useful apps that

enhance resilience and boost digital literacy for emergencies.

To book a session, email us with the subject heading:  
Get Ready Get Techy.

**mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au**

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## **What's on?**

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

### **Cardinia Cultural Centre**

#### **Hamlet: Prince of Skidmark**

Wednesday 20 September, 10am and 1pm

#### **Circus The Show**

Wednesday 27 September, 10am morning tea and 11am performance

## **The Beatles: 50 Years On!**

Saturday 21 October, 7.30pm

## **Anh Do: The Happiest Refugee Live!**

Wednesday 25 October, 7.30pm

## **Of People & Song, Melbourne Chamber Orchestra**

Saturday 18 November, 8pm

Following the success of the Winterfest program at CCC, the Centre is set to deliver an even bigger and brighter spring school holiday program! Featuring two family-focused shows on the main stage, two \$5 movie sessions and a FREE Upcycle Your Clothes workshop – the kids will have a fun-packed school holiday.

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

## **Libraries**

### **Toby the T-Rex: Real Dinosaurs**

Emerald Library

Monday 18 September, 10.30am

### **Celebrating Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Stories, Cultures and Languages**

Pakenham Library

Monday 25 September, 11am

### **Super Family Movie**

Emerald Library

Monday 25 September, 2.30pm

### **Thrifty Gardening in Cardinia with Millie Ross**

Pakenham Library

Saturday 14 October, 11.30am

## **An evening with psychic medium Ronda Robertson**

Pakenham Library

Friday 10 November, 6.30pm

All events are free, and bookings required unless otherwise stated.

Visit **[www.myli.org.au](http://www.myli.org.au)** for event details and registration.

## **Explore local flora and fauna on a guided walk!**

You're invited to celebrate the 'Citizen Science Biodiversity Blitz' by heading out on a 2-hour guided walk with Council's Environment team. Look out for treecreepers, eastern yellow robins, native orchids, and more!

**Corner Snell Rd and Barongarook Rd S, Maryknoll**  
**Saturday 23 September 9.30am**

For info about Council events:

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

For info on community and business events in our shire:

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

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/cardiniashirecouncil](http://www.facebook.com/cardiniashirecouncil)

**LinkedIn:** [www.linkedin.com/company/cardinia-shire-council](http://www.linkedin.com/company/cardinia-shire-council)

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/cardiniashirecouncil](http://www.instagram.com/cardiniashirecouncil)

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For more information about Connect:  
**[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connect](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connect)**