

Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Autumn 2024



AUSTRALIA DAY

Meet your 2024 winners

MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES

See what's happening across the shire

CELEBRATE CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Enjoy a range of events this season

BIN CALENDAR

Never miss another bin day

Engage with us

Visit Creating Cardinia to share your thoughts and feedback on Council projects and initiatives.

Consultations now open or due to open for feedback soon include:

- Community Engagement Policy
- Community Local Law 2024
- Ward Boundary Review
- Casey Cardinia Immunisation Service

- Pakenham East Suburb Naming
- Lang Lang Public Art

Also, get ready to have your say as we take Creating Cardinia 'on the move'!

We'll be heading out into the community to hear directly from you and share engagement opportunities.

Head to Creating Cardinia to find out more.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



Pakenham Hills Ward

Cr Jack Kowarzik (Mayor)

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



Bunyip Ward

Cr Graeme Moore (Deputy Mayor)

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



Officer Ward

Cr Tammy Radford

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



Ranges Ward

Cr Jeff Springfield

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



Beacon Hills Ward

Cr Brett Owen

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



Central Ward

Cr Collin Ross

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



Henty Ward

Cr Carol Ryan

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



Toomuc Ward

Cr Stephanie Davies

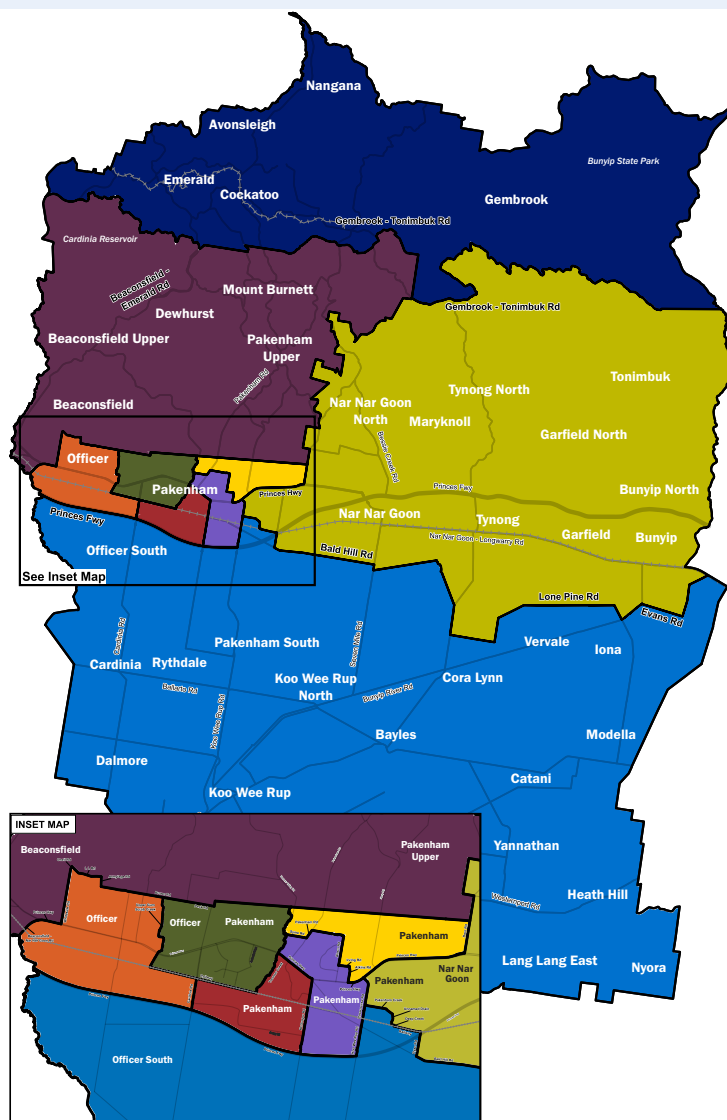
0439 444 810 | s.davies@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Westernport Ward

Cr Kaye Cameron

0457 251 552 | kaye.cameron@cardinia.vic.gov.au

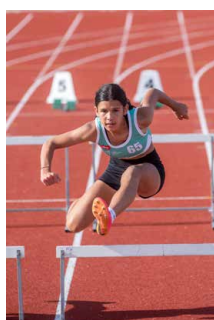


To find out which Ward you're in, visit

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/communitycompass and type your street address into the 'My Council services' tool.

On the cover

We've been busy completing upgrades to several sporting facilities, including the brand-new athletics track at IYU Recreation Reserve in Pakenham, where Pakenham Little Athletics Club member, Felicity, is pictured conquering a hurdle. Learn more about this project, and some of our other major projects, on page 11 of this edition.



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



Mayor's Message

Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik congratulates Liz, the 2024 Cardinia Shire Citizen of the Year.

Happy autumn, everyone! Welcome to the first edition of Connect magazine for 2024, which is jam-packed with exciting news for the months ahead.

From local events that celebrate our culture, to the infrastructure shaping our community's future – this edition highlights the hard work happening across the shire, and our collective journey as we keep growing and thriving.

Recently, I was pleased to celebrate the fantastic achievements of the 2024 Australia Day award winners and nominees. It was a great opportunity to shine a spotlight on some of our most dedicated, passionate and caring community members. On behalf of Council and the wider community, I'd like to thank our winners and nominees for their invaluable contributions, and the way in which they help to make our community a better place. You can turn to pages 6 and 7 to read all about this year's winners.

We've highlighted some great projects in this edition, from the completion of major road works to shire-wide accessible upgrades, as well as exciting

projects such as Garfield skate park and Officer District Park. We're all about making Cardinia Shire an even better place to call home, so read on to find out more about these projects and more.

On the back page you'll also find a handy bin calendar that you can tear off and place on the fridge. Fill out the calendar with your bin collection days for the year ahead so that you'll never forget to put your bins out. If you need help finding your bin days, scan the QR code on the calendar.

This March marks 6 months into my term as Mayor, and it has been an absolute pleasure getting out and about and connecting with you. Our community brings so much life to our shire, and I look forward to the next opportunity to catch up with you all.

Keep smiling and enjoy the beautiful Cardinia Shire autumn.

Until next time,

Cr Jack Kowarzik
Mayor of Cardinia Shire

Meet the Mayor!

You can now meet the Mayor at locations across the shire.

Meet the Mayor is an opportunity for residents to speak directly to the Mayor and discuss matters that are important to the local community.

Head to the Mayor's Facebook page for details on Meet the Mayor sessions across Cardinia Shire.



www.facebook.com/CrJackKowarzik

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

Listen along

Did you know that you can listen to Connect or read a large print version?

We collaborate with Vision Australia on each edition to provide alternative versions of this magazine.

Jump online and check them out.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connect

Sealing the deal for Mt Lyall Road

Westernport Ward Councillor Kaye Cameron took a trip to Mt Lyall Road to check out the site of the future roadworks.

Long-awaited upgrade works will soon kick off in Heath Hill.

As part of the Better Local Roads, Strategic Sealed Roads program, we'll be sealing 6 kilometres of Mt Lyall Road from Westernport Road to the municipal boundary.

Works will include:

- road pavement construction
- kerb and channel construction
- drainage works, and
- signage, and line markings.

Westernport Ward Councillor Kaye Cameron is delighted to see that works will begin shortly.

"The works will aim to improve community safety and save money in the long-term by reducing road maintenance costs," Cr Cameron said.

"These upgrades have been much anticipated by the Westernport community, and I'm so pleased that they'll be kicking off soon."

The Mt Lyall Road upgrades are jointly funded by Council and the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure fund.

While completing the upgrades, it's our responsibility to look out for everyone – residents and nature alike. That's why we undertook ecological surveys using thermal-imaging drones and ground-penetrating radar along Mount Lyall Road to determine the presence of protected wildlife and tree roots. These surveys will help ensure wildlife and trees are safe during roadworks.

Keep up to date with the progress of these works by visiting our website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Pakenham Revitalisation: building a destination

The Pakenham Revitalisation project will reimagine the future look and feel of the heart of Pakenham.

Pakenham is going through a big transition, as it moves from a suburb on the fringe of Metropolitan Melbourne, to a destination for thousands of new residents and workers.

Pakenham's population is expected to grow rapidly over the next 20 years. To accommodate this growth, we're planning to expand and upgrade the centre of Pakenham in stages over the next decade to create an attractive, safe

and accessible environment for all and to attract more visitors to support local businesses.

We're working with our community to ensure we are building a vibrant and prosperous Pakenham that we're proud to call home.

Do you have a question about this project? Let us know! Visit the Pakenham Revitalisation page on Creating Cardinia, our engagement website, to submit your questions.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



Keeping Officer moving

Officer Ward Councillor Tammy Radford met up with Peter, Council's Senior Project Engineer, to check out the progress of the project earlier this year.

Upgrade works have been completed at the Bayview Road intersection in Officer to support development and growth in the area.

Works at this major intersection included:

- upgrading to fully signalised crossroad intersection
- a westbound bus priority lane
- construction of the new Bayview Road south leg connecting the intersection to Pioneer Way
- Bayview Road north leg road realignment
- dual right turn lanes into Bayview Road

- left turn slip lanes into Bayview Road
- cyclist and pedestrian facilities with dedicated bicycle lane signalisation
- path connections, and
- improved drainage and landscaping.

Until traffic signals can be switched on in April, traffic management will remain in place to ensure community safety.

Officer Ward Councillor Tammy Radford is excited to see vital road upgrades being delivered in Officer.

"Bayview Road is a crucial link in our road network, and these upgrades will

better connect residents whilst reducing congestion," Cr Radford said.

"There's no doubt that there's been a lot happening around Officer in the last year, so I'm pleased to see another project has been completed."

These works are being funded by Council and the Australian Government's Urban Congestion Fund.

Jump online to stay up-to-date on all major projects.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Roads wrap-up

We've been busy delivering road upgrades for our community, and we're working to provide timely updates on our Building a Better Cardinia website. Here's a glimpse of our recent works.

Brunt Road and Pioneer Way

Upgrade works have been completed along Brunt Road and Pioneer Way in Officer.

These works included duplicating Brunt Road from the entrance of Blue Gum Village to the railway crossing, and the Pioneer Way extension.

A new roundabout has also been installed at the Brunt Road, Pioneer Way and Edinburgh Drive intersection to support increasing traffic.

Tivendale Road

Remaining works are expected to be completed over the next few months

along Tivendale Road, which will see additional lanes and better access to the Princes Highway.

These works are part of the Princes Highway Intersections project and are expected to reduce congestion and improve travel time reliability.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Spot a pothole? Please report it

Winter is almost here, so this means more wet weather that's likely to result in potholes on our roads.

While we inspect our roads frequently, we appreciate when you report a pothole to us too, as it makes it easier for us get someone out there to fix it and prioritise maintaining the roads that are most important to you.

Not all roads in the shire are managed by Council – we frequently receive requests for service for roads managed by VicRoads, such as Princess Highway and Pakenham Road. You can head to our website to check who looks after which roads and how to report a road issue.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/potholes

Did you know?

In the 2023-24 Council budget,

\$59m has been budgeted for all roads and intersection upgrade programs, including road maintenance and fixing potholes.

Australia Day

Congratulations to the 2024 Australia Day award winners and nominees!

Australia Day awards were presented to this year's deserving winners at a special ceremony on Thursday 25 January.

Congratulations to:

- **Liz Roberts, Citizen of the Year**
- **Dr Mary Cole, Senior Citizen of the Year**
- **Ella Chawkley, Young Citizen of the Year**
- **Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre (AWBEC) for the 40th Commemoration of Ash Wednesday, Event of the Year**

"Volunteers are so important to our community, and our annual Australia Day Awards recognise the achievements of citizens and local community groups making a positive difference in our community," Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik said.

"I was delighted to be able to celebrate the triumphs of this year's deserving winners and nominees – thank you to you all, we appreciate everything that you do!"

For more information on the 2024 Australia Day award winners and nominees, head to Council's website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Citizen of the Year – Liz Roberts

Liz played a crucial role in reviving the Pakenham and District Toy Library, which had gone into hibernation during the pandemic. She led efforts to secure a new building, navigating legal and funding requirements. Liz's leadership revitalised the Toy Library locally, securing over \$18,000 in grants, including 42 scholarships for low-income, CALD, and Indigenous families. She also collected toys for children with additional needs. Liz's dedication transformed the toy library into a sustainable resource for Cardinia Shire families, establishing it as a vital and inclusive community asset.





Mayor Jack Kowarzik (centre left) with the Australia Day award winners (clockwise) AWBEC representatives Vicki, Graham, Allan, Jonathan, Patsy and Leticia, Ella Chawkley, Mary Cole, and Liz Roberts.

Senior Citizen of the Year – Dr Mary Cole

Mary has dedicated her life to safeguarding the health of our soil through regenerative agriculture, including topsoil regeneration, biodiversity enhancement, and ecosystem services for climate resilience. As a farmer, she shares her 45 years of experience by volunteering to assist fellow farmers in reducing input costs, improving output quality, and nurturing their well-being. Mary's selfless teaching style prioritises the welfare of others, guiding farmers in regenerative agriculture techniques. Her generosity enriches society, making a positive community impact by advocating for sustainable and resilient farming practices in the face of climate change.



Young Citizen of the Year – Ella Chawkley

Ella is a committed Cockatoo community volunteer, supporting the Cockatoo Country Market since the age of 12 by taking on a variety of different roles, including minding stalls and completing her traffic management accreditation to help with traffic management at each monthly market. Ella has also volunteered at Emerald Glades aged care facility, and as the 2021 School Captain at Emerald Secondary College, she gained recognition for her artwork at the Monash Gallery of Art's TOPShots Exhibition. Ella embodies generosity and passion for her community.



Community Event of the Year – Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre (AWBEC) for the 40th Commemoration of Ash Wednesday

In February 2023, AWBEC in Cockatoo hosted the statewide 40th commemoration of Ash Wednesday, which welcomed more than 700 attendees, including State Government representatives, CFA leaders, and senior leaders from all Victorian emergency services. With over 3,200 online viewers through the CFA live stream, national news coverage, and features in metropolitan and local newspapers, the commemoration gained widespread attention. AWBEC's thoughtful planning ensured the event served not only as a statewide tribute but also a fitting local commemoration, marking the centre's significant role in preserving the memory of the Ash Wednesday tragedy.



Anzac Day in Cardinia Shire



Central Ward Councillor Collin Ross (centre) visited the Cenotaph in Pakenham with Rob Rasmussen (left) and John Kennett (right) from Pakenham RSL ahead of ANZAC Day.

This Anzac Day, take part in one of the commemorative community events happening across the shire.

This year marks 109 years since the Anzacs landed on Gallipoli, and the Cardinia Shire community is marking the day with a number of events.

Central Ward Councillor Collin Ross is looking forward to the opportunity to pay his respects at one of the Anzac Day services in the shire.

“These Anzac Day events aim to honour the spirit of courage and sacrifice that defines this significant day in our nation’s history,” Cr Ross said.

“I’d encourage residents to look for an Anzac Day event near them and take the opportunity to honour and remember our servicemen and women.”

For a list of Anzac Day events happening in Cardinia Shire, visit our website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/anzacday

Inform our Community Engagement Policy

You’re invited to have your say on the refresh of the Cardinia Shire Community Engagement Policy and supporting guidelines.

The policy provides guidance, structure and accountability in relation to Council’s community engagement practices.

We value engagement as a way to learn what is important to our community, including your values, concerns, ideas and aspirations. The policy also helps ensure that you can continue to help shape Council’s decision making and implementation process.

If you’d like to take part and provide your feedback, head to Creating Cardinia.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Ageing Well this autumn

Join in with some fantastic, free ageing well events that are coming up.

Ageing Well Expo: Lunch with Lehmo

Location: Cardinia Cultural Centre,
40 Lakeside Blvd, Pakenham

Date: Wednesday 8 May, 10am – 2pm

Cost: Free (ticketed event)

Bookings essential: Ph:1300 887 624
www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com

Care Finder: Understanding the My Aged Care system and how to access the Care Finder program

Location: Cardinia Civic Centre,
20 Siding Avenue, Officer

Date: Tuesday 12 March, 10am – 12pm

Cost: Free, bookings essential and refreshments provided.

Care Finder: My Aged Care and your application – a session with Care Finder staff

Location: Cardinia Civic Centre,
20 Siding Avenue, Officer

Date: Tuesday 19 March, 10am – 12pm

Cost: Free, bookings essential and refreshments provided.

To book a Care Finder information session contact Council’s Ageing Well team. **Ph:** 1300 787 624 **Email:** ageingwell@cardinia.vic.gov.au

A full list of care finder organisations can be found by visiting the My Aged Care website. www.myagedcare.gov.au/help-care-finder



Gear up for a multicultural autumn

Henty Ward Councillor Carol Ryan visited Pakenham Springs Children's Centre to chat with families at the supported playgroup.

Take the opportunity to support and celebrate our multicultural community this autumn.

Between March and June, there are a number of activities across the shire where you can experience different traditions, flavours, and performances, including:

- The 2024 Pakenham and District Agriculture and Horticulture Show, featuring multicultural performances
- Cardinia Shire Refugee Festival at Pakenham Hall
- Reconciliation Week flag raising at Hills Hub.

Henty Ward Councillor Carol Ryan joined the families of Pakenham Springs Children's Centre for an International Women's Day get-together.

"These events are an opportunity to recognise diversity and embrace inclusion, and I encourage everyone to participate in as many as possible," Cr Ryan said.

Regularly check the multicultural events page of our website for upcoming events, organised by both Council and the community, that you can participate in.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/multiculturalevents

"Residents should also keep an eye on What's On Cardinia for fantastic local events popping up all the time."

www.whatsoncardinia.com.au

Thank you to our neighbourhood houses!

Neighbourhood House week is celebrated in May each year, and we want to say a huge thank you to our neighbourhood houses for the wonderful work they do in making our community stronger and more connected.

Neighbourhood houses provide support, including children's services, cultural, social, health and wellbeing activities, training delivery, and even public internet access.

Scan the QR code below to watch some great videos about Cardinia Shire's neighbourhood houses.



To find your local neighbourhood house, head online.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/neighbourhoodhouses

Save the date for the 2024 Refugee Festival

Saturday 22 June,
11am – 3pm

Pakenham Hall,
Corner John and
Henry Street,
Pakenham

Experience a family day of culture, international cuisine and entertainment from around the world.



Bark around the park



Ranges Ward Councillor Jeff Springfield took Zeus for a run around at the dog off-leash area at Alma Treloar Reserve in Cockatoo.

Tails are wagging at the new dog off-leash area at Alma Treloar Reserve in Cockatoo, which is now officially open for residents to enjoy.

Stage 1 of the upgrade to the off-leash area is complete, and we'll be looking to engage with the community further for future stages.

Located on the corner of McBride Street and Pakenham Road, the off-leash area features:

- a range of agility equipment
- seating
- fencing
- plants and garden beds, including creekbank revegetation, and
- a path extending to the pump BMX track.

Drinking fountains are also scheduled to be installed after car park improvement works are completed next year.

Ranges Ward Councillor Jeff Springfield is excited to see the dog-friendly space delivered for the Cockatoo community.

"This is going to be a great spot for people with dogs. I encourage the community to get outside and explore this new space with their pooches," Cr Springfield said.

"I'd like to thank everyone who took part in the consultation, your feedback informed the final design, including flexible use of the space."

The off-leash area was also designed to support other community events such as markets and the circus.

For more information on dog parks in the shire, visit our website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dogparks

Reminder for pet parents: 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

Final design for skate park upgrades

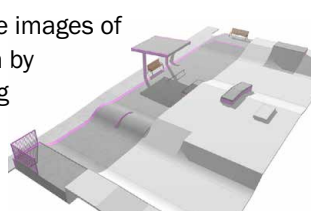
Great news for skaters with the final design unveiled for the Garfield Recreation Reserve skate park upgrade.

The much-anticipated upgrade will improve the skateable area, and will include new elements such as an additional ledge and quarter pipe.

Visitors to the reserve are also able to enjoy upgrades to the skate park surrounds, including new seating, shelter, and landscaping.

Construction of the upgrade is planned to start between March and April 2024 and will be part of our capital works program.

Check out more images of the final design by visiting Creating Cardinia.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Need a rates payment plan?

We know that it may be difficult to meet rates 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 our website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/financialhardship



Major progress on major project

Toomuc Ward Councillor Stephanie Davies joined Tim, Director of Warrandale Industries, to take a peek at the progress of Officer District Park.



Earthworks are well underway on the exciting, new 10-hectare adventure and nature park, Officer District Park.

Located in Lansell Avenue in Officer, this new destination will provide opportunities for the local community to enjoy the outdoors, socialise, play, and connect.

The park will be delivered in stages, with exciting features planned to be delivered as part of the current stage 1 works:

- a multi-level playground with a variety of play zones and experiences including two 20m-long embankment slides
- dog off-leash area
- Cardinia Shire's first purpose-built Parkour Zone
- hillside lookout

- wetland area with landscaping
- fitness equipment including running stairs, exercise stations and a 1km loop track
- public toilets; and
- picnic facilities.

Subject to future funding, the next stages of construction may include a regional-level skate park, mountain boarding tracks and a cafe.

Toomuc Ward Councillor Stephanie Davies was excited to head down to the site to see how works are progressing.

"This will be a ground-breaking project for the shire, offering a range of exciting recreational opportunities – we can't wait to welcome people to this new destination," Cr Davies said.

"Officer District Park is not the final name for the park, so keep an eye on Creating Cardinia for your opportunity to take part in the naming of this great new space."



[www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/
officer-district-park](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/officer-district-park)

Council news survey: thanks for your feedback!

Thanks to everyone who had their say in the Council News and Information Survey – your feedback will help shape the way we deliver news to you. Here's what you told us:

- The 3 topics you want to hear more from us about are events, major project updates, and environment and sustainability initiatives.
- Your 3 most preferred ways to receive Council news are via Connect magazine, e-newsletters, and social media.
- Almost 70% of survey respondents said they would read Connect magazine in a digital format.
- Facebook is the preferred social media channel to hear from us.

Further consultation will take place to gauge changing community needs and preferences, so please have your say again in the future!

Sporting a new look

Highly anticipated upgrades at two sporting facilities in Pakenham have been completed.

Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre

Upgrades to the tennis centre have been completed and it's now ready to serve the community. The facility is wheelchair-friendly and offers 14 plexi-cushion and 4 synthetic grass tennis courts, all of which are fully lit, plus the brand-new extension fully funded by Council. Works included a kitchen, unisex and accessible bathroom facilities, and a social space.

IYU Athletics Track

The brand-new athletics track at IYU Reserve in Pakenham is now OPEN for public use! Fully funded by Council, the 400-metre running track with a 10 lane straight has been constructed as part of the new regional athletics facility at the reserve. Stage 2 of the project will include a sports pavilion with a proposed design currently underway.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Almost time to register for 2025 kinder



Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen visited Beaconsfield Kindergarten to catch up with Educational Leader, Jolene (left), and Abbey (centre left), Lexi (centre) and Millie (centre right).

June is right around the corner, which means that registrations for first round community kindergarten offers will be closing soon.

Parents are encouraged to register their 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds for up to 15 hours of free kindergarten.

Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen took a trip down to meet the children at Beaconsfield Kindergarten, where his daughter, Maggie, recently graduated.

"Kindergarten is an important time for our children, which is why we're proud to be able to offer free community kindergarten for Cardinia Shire's families," Cr Owen said.

"It's now free for Cardinia Shire families to register their children for 3-year-old and 4-year-old community kindergarten via Council's online registration portal at any time."

If you'd like your child to be included in first round resident offers for 2025, registrations must be submitted by Sunday 30 June.

Head to the online portal to register your child – any registrations received after this date will be included in further round offers.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Money Matters: Managing mortgage stress

With the jump in mortgage interest rates over the last year or so it's not surprising that many mortgage holders are feeling the financial strain.

If you're finding it tough to keep up with mortgage payments, then talk to your bank to discuss what can be done to ease the pressure – they have specialist teams to assist people experiencing difficulty.

If you're facing issues with debt, contact the National Debt Helpline on 1800 007 007, or for financial advice, call your local financial counselling services.

**South East Community Links,
03 9549 5288**

Casey North CISS, 03 9705 6699

Protecting nature's gem

One of the shire's rarest native plants has been recognised as endangered and awarded the highest protective status in Australia.

The Emerald Star Bush, also known as *Asterolasia asteriscophora* subsp. *Albiflora*, has been listed by the Federal Environment Department as 'Critically Endangered' under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

This important listing acknowledges the rarity of the Emerald Star Bush, and

the likelihood that without protective conservation actions the species may become extinct.

Since 2010 Council has worked with the Emerald community and Yarra Ranges Council to learn more about this special plant, and thanks to advocacy efforts for the protection and conservation of the species, more than 80 sites have been identified supporting more than 9,000 plants.

Council will keep working with partners to support further conservation efforts,

including raising awareness of the plant and future revegetation efforts.

Want to learn about native plants local to you? Check our Indigenous Plant Guide.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/indigenousplantguide

Have we missed you?



In line with the new statewide system, we've been busy standardising household bin lid colours across the shire.

If your dark green kerbside rubbish bin lid hasn't been swapped to a red lid yet, please call 1300 787 624 or email mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au and we'll organise to swap this over for you.

The change will help make it easier to identify what items go in each

bin, improving household recycling, decreasing bin contamination, and reducing waste sent to landfill.

Whether you're visiting friends and family, travelling, or re-locating – your waste and recycling bins should be the same throughout Victoria!



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/redbinlids

If in doubt, check it out



Always wondering which items should go in which bin? Landfill is the last place we want to send waste, so make sure to **refer to our handy 'A to Z' waste guide to ensure you're sorting your waste correctly.**

The guide includes a list of common household and garden items, and how you can recycle or safely dispose of them.

Access the guide by scanning the QR code!

Did you know?

In the 2022–23 financial year we disposed of **22,771 tonnes of general waste**, recovered **10,704 tonnes of recyclables**, and sent **10,501 tonnes of food and garden waste** for reprocessing.

Council's free drop-off events are back!

Make use of the first drop-off events for 2024 by getting rid of green waste and unwanted household chemicals. Check the details below for drop-off dates and jump online for information on eligibility.

Green waste drop-off



Location: Future Recycling Transfer Station, 30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham
Dates: 8 to 13 April, and 3 to 8 June
Time: Monday to Friday 7.30am – 4pm, and Saturday 8am – 2.30pm

Detox your home (register online)



Location: Council Depot, 18 Purton Road, Pakenham
Date: Saturday 20 April
Time: 9am – 2pm

Save the date for our 'swap' event

Swap children's clothes and toys for new treasures at our 'swap' event this April!

This event is a great way to keep perfectly good items out of landfill, and give new clothes and toys a second home.

Location: Beaconsfield Community Complex, 8 O'Neil Rd, Beaconsfield

Date: Sunday 7 April

Time: 10 - 11.30am

Do you have children's clothes and pre-loved toys to swap? Items must be in a good condition and suitable for children aged 3 to 8 years to be eligible to swap.

Head to our website for more details on the event.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wasteworkshops



Keep your May free for Heritage Fest

Get down to Emerald Lake Precinct this May and enjoy a range of events for the 2024 Australian Heritage Festival!

- ‘Digi-day’ where you can bring in a sentimental object to be professionally digitised
- a guided walking tour through the historical Nobelius Heritage Park
- fun children’s activities
- and a showcase of fascinating artefacts from the museum including

gold discoveries from the 1880s and sporting memorabilia.

In Victoria, the festival is the largest community-driven celebration of heritage.

Last year, the museum organised a Teddy Bears’ picnic, which went down paw-sitively great with residents, and they can’t wait to welcome people back this year for more wonderful events.

For more information, head to the Emerald Museum website.

www.emeraldmuseum.org.au/events

Book in quick for the next TSHP

Get stuck into some great activities these school holidays and join our Youth Services team for the popular Teenage School Holiday Program (TSHP).

Young people aged 12 to 17 can enjoy a range of activities, including:

- professional comic workshop
- creative cooking
- basketball & pickle ball

Places are limited so be quick and book on our website.

Did you know that the Youth Services team also hosts a variety of youth programs from My Place youth centre?

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youthservices

Feeling the pride

International Day Against LGBTQIA+ Discrimination, known as IDAHOBIT, is celebrated annually across the globe.

We’re working hard to make Cardinia Shire a more inclusive and welcoming space, and we’re a proud ally to our LGBTQIA+ community. Learn more about what we’re doing by heading to our website: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/lgbtiq

This February, we took to the streets of St Kilda alongside our passionate

community members for Midsumma Pride March, a parade of pride. Midsumma Pride March is held one week before Victoria’s Pride and is an opportunity to celebrate solidarity in gender and sexuality diversity.

Want to head to an event this IDAHOBIT? Make sure to check What’s On Cardinia for any local events that may be popping up near you.

www.whatsoncardinia.com.au





Creating greater access

Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore (centre) caught up with (left to right) Graeme, Malcolm, Lex and Gwen for a game of bowls at Garfield Bowling Club, and checked out the accessible facility upgrades.

Upgrade works have been completed at 3 locations as part of Council's Access Upgrade Program.

The works included:

- Accessible car park at the Beaconsfield Officer Scout Hall.
- Accessible bathroom upgrade and automated door at the Koo Wee Rup outdoor pool.
- Accessible toilet and upgrade to the female toilet at the Garfield Bowls Club.

Deputy Mayor and Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore visited Garfield Bowls Club to check out the upgrades and enjoy a game with the members.

"These upgrades will help to create better accessibility at these much-loved locations for both residents and visitors alike," Cr Moore said.

As part of the program, upgrades at Garfield Bowls Club included a new unisex accessible toilet, and upgrades to the existing toilets and change room facility.



"Participating fully in all aspects of life is everyone's right, which is why we're proud to deliver upgrades through the Access Upgrade Program, which provides liveable spaces and reduces barriers to participation within the community."



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

Have you registered your outdoor pool or spa?

If a property you own in Cardinia Shire has a pool or spa – or temporary pool or spa that will be up for 3 or more days – that can hold a depth of 300mm of water, you must register it with us.

Once registered, you'll get a letter advising when your pool/spa and its barrier needs to be inspected and approved by a registered building/pool inspector, and a pool barrier certificate of compliance (Form 23) be lodged with us. After this first inspection, you'll need

to get your pool/spa inspected every 4 years, and lodge the Form 23 with us each time.

A building permit is required for the installation of a pool barrier surrounding a pool or spa.

Learn more about your obligation to keep your pool/spa safe online.



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





Bin Calendar

Scan the QR code for help with finding your bin days, then mark them up on this handy calendar.

January					February				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5				1	2
8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31			26	27	28	29	

March					April				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1	1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	29	30			

May					June				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31					

July					August				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5				1	2
8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31			26	27	28	29	30

September					October				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4
9	10	11	12	13	7	8	9	10	11
16	17	18	19	20	14	15	16	17	18
23	24	25	26	27	21	22	23	24	25
30					28	29	30	31	

November					December				
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29	30	31			

What's on?

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

Cardinia Cultural Centre



Beauty and the Beast: Classical Ballet

Wednesday 10 April, 10am

Melbourne International Comedy Festival

Tuesday 21 May, 8pm



Get Rhythm: The Johnny Cash and June Carter show

Saturday 11 May, 7.30pm

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cc

Libraries



Harmony Week Yoga with Kerry McGregor

Emerald Library

Wednesday 20 March, 10am

Permaculture Week event with Pete the Permie

Pakenham Library

Saturday 23 March, 2pm

An evening with Caroline Pope – Animal Communicator

Pakenham Library

Friday 10 May, 7pm

Visit www.myli.org.au for more events and event details, including booking and registration.

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

Acknowledgement of Country

Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges the Bunurong and Wurundjeri peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands of Cardinia Shire, and acknowledges and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

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

Web: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

TTY users: 1300 677 then ask for 1300 787 624

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

After-hours emergencies: 1300 787 624

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



www.facebook.com/cardiniashirecouncil



www.linkedin.com/company/cardinia-shire-council



www.instagram.com/cardiniashirecouncil

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