

Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Winter 2024



UPDATES ON MAJOR WORKS

Read about some of our biggest projects

STAY WISE IN WINTER

Are you prepared for the colder months?

SPORTS REPORT

Check out shire-wide sports updates

CARDINIA SHIRE'S CREATURES

From pets to bats – read all about them!

Engage with us

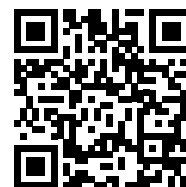
Head to Creating Cardinia to share your thoughts and feedback on Council projects and initiatives.

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

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

- Naming of Thewlis Integrated Child and Family Centre
- Renewal of Greenland Court Reserve

Want to have your say right away?
Scan this QR code to get started.



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

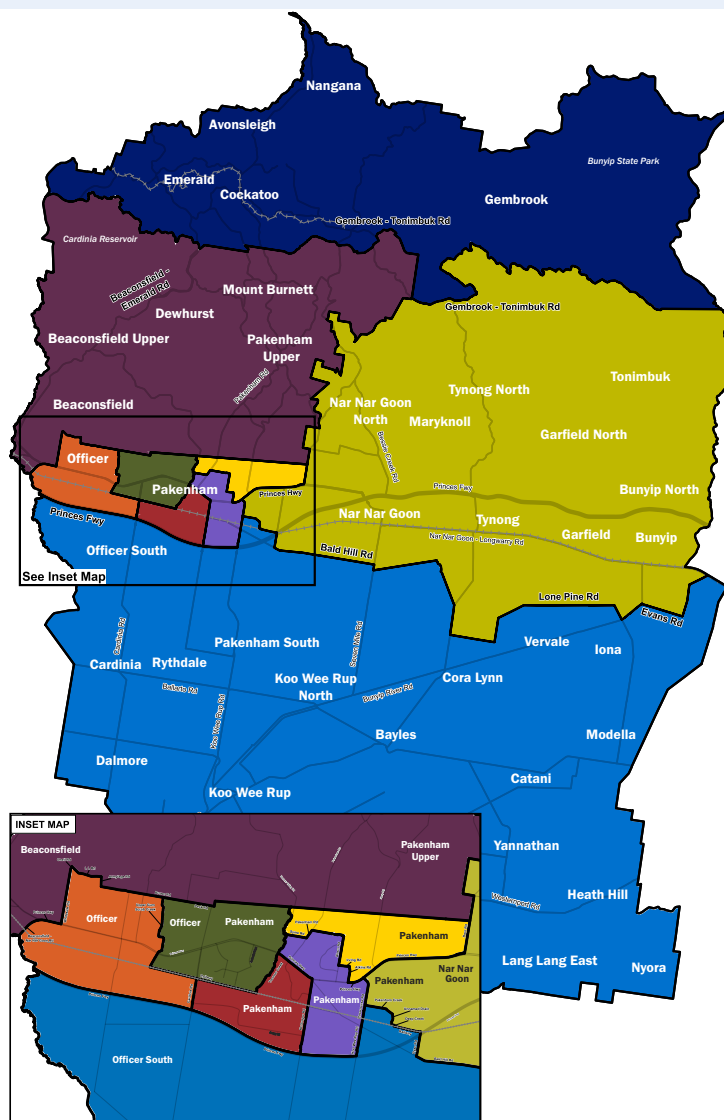
0439 444 810 | s.davies@cardinia.vic.gov.au



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

Maverick (front), Brett, Cameron and Erin from the Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club are excited that the club will soon get a brand-new clubroom. You can check out more about the club and this exciting project on page 15 of this edition.



Creating Cardinia on the move

Meet our Community Engagement team out in the shire as we take Creating Cardinia on the move!

Creating Cardinia on the move is a new series of community engagement pop-ups for residents to learn what Council projects are open for feedback and to have their say.

The sessions will be held at locations across the shire throughout the year.

Visit the Creating Cardinia engagement website to see when the team will be visiting a location near you.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



Mayor's Message

Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik with (front left) Sonya (District Manager, Cardinia District Girl Guides), guides Khloe, Katerina, Mia and Miley, Jan (Southern Regional Leader, Cardinia District Girl Guides) and (back left) Gavin (mural sponsor), Claire and Jackie (leaders).

The cooler months may be upon us, but there's certainly no shortage of exciting projects and activities happening across the shire.

It's been great to get out and about and connect with so many of you at local events, celebrations and Meet the Mayor sessions recently.

I have visited a number of locations across the shire since launching Meet the Mayor earlier this year, and have more sessions planned, so please be sure to say hello and have a chat to me when you see me out. It's a great opportunity to ask me a question, provide feedback or just say hello. Check our website for session details.

It was a pleasure to attend the launch of the fantastic new mural at the Pakenham Girl Guides hall in Henry Street recently (pictured). The eye-catching artwork depicts the spirit of girl guiding and is something the Pakenham Girl Guides can be proud of.

We recently welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement of significant funding for essential infrastructure and road projects in our growth corridor as part of the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) fund.

This funding enables us to lock in further stages of the Pakenham Revitalisation Project and keep delivering on the community's vision for Pakenham – as a vibrant and exciting destination that's safe and accessible for everyone.

The funding will also support and complement existing Victorian Government projects being delivered in Pakenham. It will assist greatly in improving road and pedestrian access to key destinations in and around the town's Activity Centre, and enhancing the area's liveability for the local community.

We are also pleased that significant funding is going towards boosting bus services in Officer and its surrounds. Ensuring people can access affordable and reliable public transport is so important for helping our community members get to work, school and other places of study, to access healthcare and retail services, and to stay connected with friends and family. Read more about the funded projects on page 7.

In this edition of Connect, you'll find updates on a range of other exciting projects happening across the shire, including accessibility improvements for the Eastern Ranges Trail (page 8), playground improvements (page 9) and

the upgrades to the soccer cricket field at Bunyip Recreation Reserve (page 5).

There are also many exciting events and activities happening across the shire. Check out page 16 to see what's on.

Until next time,

Cr Jack Kowarzik
Mayor of Cardinia Shire

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

Pakenham Tennis Club scores a new pavilion



Henty Ward Councillor Carol Ryan and Christopher from Aligned Leisure check out the new pavilion at Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre.

Exciting times for the Pakenham Tennis Club as their new pavilion at the Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre has been officially opened.

Located at 11 Webster Way, Pakenham, the Regional Tennis Centre is the home of the Pakenham Tennis Club, which has served the local tennis community for more than 120 years.

Designed to cater to the needs of the club, now and into the future, the pavilion extension includes a kitchen, unisex toilet and a social space.

Henty Ward Councillor Carol Ryan was delighted that the tennis club now had a pavilion to call their own.

"The tennis club has been a part of the Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre since 2021, so it's wonderful that we've been able to provide them with this new place

within the tennis centre to call home," Cr Ryan said.

"We know that this new pavilion will be appreciated and well used by the club, and will hopefully attract more players from outside the municipality to train and compete in the shire."

This \$1 million extension project was fully funded by Council.

Other facilities at the Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre include 14 plexi-cushion and four synthetic grass fully-lit tennis courts, a multi-purpose function room, kiosk, bar and change rooms. The entire facility is wheelchair friendly and has accessible bathrooms.

Want to book a court? Head to Cardinia Leisure.

www.cardinaleisure.com.au

Pakenham Revitalisation: project update

Council is working towards the completion of detailed design for the initial stages of construction for the Pakenham Revitalisation Project.

Delays are being experienced due to complex design issues with drainage, services and footpath levels across Main Street. This has a flow-on impact with conflicting road closures across

interfacing Victorian Government projects.

Council is working to address traders' concerns, particularly regarding the busy Christmas period. Subsequently, set-up and preliminary works will now take place during September to December, with a focus on full construction commencing in January 2025.

The project is a long-term priority for Council that aims to reimagine the future look and feel of the heart of Pakenham.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/pakenhamrevitalisation

New name for booming suburb

Thanks to everyone who voted for their preferred suburb name for the Pakenham East suburb.

Your input is invaluable to us, and we are carefully reviewing all the feedback received, so stay tuned as we work through the results from the consultation.

If you'd like to read more about the 6 women whose names were considered as part of this consultation and the history they've made in the shire, visit Creating Cardinia.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Showing support

Thank you to our storm affected communities for the way in which you rallied together and supported each other during and following the February storm event.

Many local volunteers also dedicated their time to supporting the community, so a huge thank you to local SES volunteers, CFA, Victoria Police, and the Cockatoo and the Emerald Emergency Support Team.

If you need any further support or information regarding the February storm, visit our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/stormrecovery

Bunyip soccer cricket field officially open

Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore was joined by (from left) Jake, Liam and Stephen from Bunyip and District Strikers Soccer Club to check out the new soccer and cricket field at Bunyip Recreation Reserve.

Grab your sports gear and head to Bunyip Recreation Reserve to check out the soccer cricket field which is officially open.

Improvements to the redeveloped field include an upgraded sports field surface for safer play, new perimeter fencing and LUX LED lighting, synthetic covered cricket wicket located between the two pitches, and upgrades to 2 soccer fields, one for juniors and one for seniors.

Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore was pleased to see the upgrades completed.

"The community has been eagerly waiting for this upgrade for some time, and I'm thrilled that we've been able to deliver this project for soccer and cricket

fans, locally and from across the shire," Cr Moore said.

"Sport is a huge part of the Bunyip community, and being able to provide better sport and recreation facilities make it much easier for us all to get involved and play a game or two."

The redevelopment was jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government, with Council contributing just over \$1 million and the Victorian Government Community Support Fund providing \$500,000.

Check out other major projects and works in Cardinia Shire on our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Make Homearth Reserve your next outing

Homearth Reserve in Pakenham has been transformed into a fantastic spot for families to enjoy.

Fire damage meant that the playground needed to close while play equipment was replaced.

Featuring new playground equipment, a shelter, seating and concrete pathways, this playground is now open for residents to enjoy.

Want to make a day of it? Homearth Reserve also has a half-size basketball court and a BMX track.

Check out this spot and many others by visiting our website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/outdoors

Skating season is open for Garfield Skate park

The skate park at Garfield Recreation Reserve is open and ready to welcome Cardinia Shire's skaters.

The upgrades undertaken as part of our capital works program have included new features such as an additional ledge and quarter pipe, as well as improvements to the skateable area.

The skate park surrounds have also had a makeover including new seating, shelter and landscaping.

Want to find out more about skate parks and other outdoor activities in Cardinia Shire? Visit to our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/outdoors

Cricket wicket reminder

As we head into winter, visitors to Council reserves are reminded that cricket wicket covers should not be removed from ovals.

The removal of cricket wicket covers not only damages the covers but also impacts the accessibility of the ovals for our winter sport tenants, disrupting their club training and game day activities.

If you'd like to book an oval, please reach out to us to secure your spot.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sportgroundbookings

Meet one of Cardinia Shire's smallest but mightiest creatures



Have you been lucky enough to spot a Chocolate Wattled Bat on your travels?

Known for its chocolate brown fur and its cute pug-like nose, the Chocolate Wattled Bat is a species of microbat found right here in Cardinia Shire.

Our shire is home to 9 different species of bats, mainly microbats, that feed on insects and can eat around 40% of their own body weight in bugs every night – nature's best pest controllers!

When the weather becomes cooler and there are less insects around, these microbats will hibernate to conserve energy.

You might find them roosting in old tree hollows, under the bark of eucalypt trees, and sometimes even in buildings.

So how can we care for these bats during winter?

- To avoid microbats using your roof as a cosy roost during winter, you could consider providing them with a safe and warm bat nesting box.
- Be a responsible pet owner and keep your pets on your property and away from any roosting bat.
- If you find a microbat snoozing this winter make sure to leave it sleeping to avoid it getting injured, or if you think it is in distress, please reach out to your local wildlife shelter for advice.
- Protect native trees and consider planting more to provide these bats with a nice natural habitat.

If you'd like some information on creating or improving your wildlife garden, head to our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/gardensforwildlife

Don't be a pesky parker

Did you know when parking your car that you're required to park in the direction that you're facing?

In Victoria, it's illegal to park against the flow of traffic, which means you should be parking facing the direction of traffic on your side on the road.

Parking rules are in place to keep pedestrians and motorists safe. For more information about safer parking in the shire, visit our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/parking

Canines in Cardinia Shire

We love our dogs in Cardinia Shire, which is why more than 13,500 dogs are registered with Council. Here are answers to some of our most frequently asked questions when it comes to pets.

What do I do if I want to report an issue with a dog?

Issues with dogs can mean many things, such as dogs attacking or rushing, dogs barking too much or barking through the night, or dangerous or possible restricted dog breeds. Report dog-related issues on our website. If your concern relates to a dog currently wandering or attacking, please report via 1300 787 624.

How do I register my pet?

Registering your pet is quick and easy, and you can do it online, or by using a form that can be posted, emailed or dropped off to us. The registration fee goes towards many pet-related services, such as building and maintaining off-leash dog areas, investigating animal complaints, and even making it easier to reunite you with your pet if they go missing.

What do I do if my pet is missing?

Keeping dogs on our properties protects the whole community – our pets, our environment, and each other, but sometimes they still manage to find their way out. If your dog (or cat) has gone missing, the first thing you should do is check online to see if they have been found. If this brings you no result, you can call us and we'll check your contact information is up to date on your animal's registration. Council's Compliance Officers rely on this information to return your animal to you if found. For useful links on how to look for your pet online, visit our website.

What do I do if I find a wandering dog?

If you find a wandering dog you must contact us, as it is a requirement under the Domestic Animals Act to hand over an animal to Council or a vet as soon as

possible. Often animals are microchipped so we can reunite the pet with their owner reasonably quickly.

Where can I take my dog off-leash?

Dogs need to be kept on a leash at all times when off your property, except for in designated off-leash dog areas. This helps to keep everyone safe, including your dog. If your dog is reported to be off-leash in a non-designated off-leash dog area, you may be fined. There are plenty of off-leash areas to visit in the shire, for a full list head to our website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dogs

Big news for Upper Beaconsfield



Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen with (from left) Xavier, Jacob, Tyler, Beau and Patrick at Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve.

The Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve is set for a huge transformation with several great projects in the pipeline.

The reserve is set to get:

- Brand new LED floodlighting for the sports field, which will be more energy efficient and provide uniform lighting on the oval to support sport and community activities all year-round.
- A redeveloped pavilion which will be able to accommodate sporting clubs, scouts, and the wider community.
- A bespoke masterplan to guide the future development and use of the

reserve for the next 10 years, ensuring the reserve continues to meet the needs of the community.

Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen visited Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve to scope out the future locations of some of the works.

“It’s fantastic that the reserve has these great projects on the horizon to ensure it keeps being able to serve the community as best as possible and provide opportunities for all ages, abilities and genders,” Cr Owen said.

“I’m really looking forward to seeing the projects kick-off, and to see Upper

Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve become an even better destination for our community.”

These exciting projects will follow other recent works in Upper Beaconsfield, including the BMX track upgrade and restoration of the wetlands on Rosebank Lane.

To keep up to date with major projects in Cardinia Shire, visit our website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Funding win for local projects and bus services

Cardinia Shire has welcomed \$21.5 million in funding from the Victorian Government to support the delivery of essential infrastructure and road projects in the shire’s growth corridor.

Officer residents can also look forward to improved bus services in the area, with \$22.6 million also announced for the extension of bus services for routes 925 and 928.

The funding is being provided through the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution (GAIC) fund, which supports the delivery of essential infrastructure in Melbourne’s fastest growing suburbs in the 7 major growth area councils.

Council applied for GAIC funding last year and has been successful in securing funding for:

- Reconfiguration of Drake Place (\$8.4 million).
- Extension of John Street, Pakenham (\$4.3 million).
- McGregor Road duplication and Henty Road traffic lights (\$6 million).
- Princes Highway/Arena Parade intersection upgrade (\$2.8 million).



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects



Pepi's Land bike track is open for business

Ranges Ward Councillor Jeff Springfield checks out the upgraded bike track at Pepi's Land.

Grab your bike and head to Pepi's Land in Emerald as the upgraded bike track is now open.

As part of the upgrade works, the community can now enjoy:

- new track features,
- seating and;
- improved drainage.

The upgrades were officially celebrated with a BMX jam event, in partnership with YMCA Victoria.

Ranges Ward Councillor Jeff Springfield was delighted to join residents at the opening event.

"It was great to open the new track with a bang, and to be able to invite kids and families to test out this great new community asset," Cr Springfield said.

Council worked in collaboration with the local community, the primary and secondary school to achieve the final design.

"Pepi's Land is such a wonderful spot, and it's fantastic that we've been able to work with local schools to create something we can all be proud of."

If you'd like to plan a visit to one of the many bike tracks in Cardinia Shire, head to our website to find one near you.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/outdoors

Improved accessibility along the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail

The Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail has been upgraded to make it even more accessible thanks to collaborative works between Council teams and Parks Victoria.

Located between Gembrook and Clematis, the 15km tourist track has had multiple accessibility improvements, to enable better access for all abilities tricycles, bicycles, and parents with prams.

Ensuring accessibility is considered when undertaking a project is a priority for Council, which is why we're developing a Universal Design Policy, which will

provide a framework for helping products and services in the shire to be more accessible and inclusive for everyone.

If you'd like to learn more about how we're supporting access and inclusion, visit our website.



What's happening at Worrell Reserve?

Worrell Reserve in Emerald is gearing up for a number of exciting upgrades. Check below for a few key project updates.

Tennis Club lighting

The project to update the lighting at Worrell Reserve Tennis Club is officially complete, and residents can now enjoy upgraded LED lighting on courts 1 to 5.

Skate park and youth plaza

Site works have started ready for the construction of stage 1 of the skate park and youth plaza later in the year. The youth plaza and skate park will be a family friendly multi-use recreation space, supporting the significant boom in action sports, including skateboarding, BMX, scooter, and mountain bike riding.

If you'd like to keep up-to-date with works at Worrell Reserve, visit our website.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accessandinclusion



Toomuc Ward Councillor Stephanie Davies visited the upgraded playground at Waterford Rise Park in Pakenham.

Great upgraded places to play

Two more playground renewals have been completed and are ready for play.

Waterford Rise Park in Pakenham and Village Green in Beaconsfield are the latest playgrounds to get a makeover, thanks to Council's Playground Renewal Program.

As part of the works, both playgrounds have been upgraded to include new playground equipment, pathways, and seating.

Toomuc Ward Councillor Stephanie Davies was pleased to see the new upgraded playground, Waterford Rise Park, completed in her Ward.

"Waterford Rise Park is a quieter local gem, just 200m from the beautiful

Lakeside Lake and shopping area, it's now a wonderful space for families to spend time together outdoors," Cr Davies said.

Following 2 stages of community consultation, the playgrounds have been transformed to reflect this feedback.

"I'd like to thank everyone who had their say during the consultation phase for these 2 great playgrounds, and I hope you enjoy all that these new play spaces have to offer."

Check out these playgrounds and more by visiting our website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/outdoors

Book it with us

Secure a space for your next function with our online booking request site, Booking Cardinia.

Take the stress out of booking a venue for your next get together, and choose from over 20 indoor and outdoor spaces across the shire that can be hired for one-off or recurring activities such as community meetings and events, parties, cultural celebrations, health and fitness, and more.

Once your booking request is submitted, we'll be in touch.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/bookingcardinia

NAIDOC Week

Support Cardinia Shire's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities this NAIDOC Week. Held in the first week of July each year, NAIDOC WEEK is an opportunity to recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our First Nations art exhibition 'Dancing Between the Echoes' by Emmy Webbers, is a celebration of rich cultural heritage and contemporary expression. Check it out at Hills Hub, Emerald until Friday 12 July.

If you'd like to take part in an event or activity this NAIDOC Week, visit:

www.naidoc.org.au

To learn more about the traditional custodians of the lands of Cardinia Shire, the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, visit: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/aboriginalcommunity

2024 Fusion Festival

Celebrate our vibrant multicultural community at Fusion Festival: a **FREE** event for everyone in Cardinia Shire!

Cultural performances | speakers | food | children's and youth activities | and more!

Saturday 22 June, 11am to 4.30pm
Pakenham Hall, Pakenham

South Sudanese Community Support Group | Refugee Week | VICTORIA State Government | Cardinia

Standing up to elder abuse with art

Each year on 15 June, a spotlight is focussed on elder abuse through World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD).

Ahead of this year's WEAAD, Cardinia Shire's residents joined in the Warm Safe Home Project, an art project designed to create conversations about the right to a violence-free and fear-free home for all. If you'd like to visit this display – open until 14 June – head to Myli Pakenham library, corner of John and Henry Streets.

If you or someone you know is experiencing elder abuse, contact the Seniors Rights Victoria helpline on **1300 368 821**.

In case of emergency, call **000**.

New regional athletics facility at IYU now open!



Central Ward Councillor Collin Ross tests out the new athletics track at IYU Recreation Reserve.

Great news for athletes following the official opening of the new regional athletics facility at IYU Recreation Reserve on Henry Road in Pakenham.

Fully funded by Council, stage one of the project included development of a new 400m athletics running track with a 10-lane straight as well as facilities for long/triple jump, pole vault, high jump, javelin, shot put, hammer/discus, and steeplechase.

Central Ward Councillor Collin Ross said projects such as this were fundamental to ensuring Cardinia residents had access to a range of great sporting facilities in the shire.


"This track and field will serve the clubs here for a long time, will hopefully attract others to want to train and compete in the shire, and will mean that residents won't need to travel outside of the shire for their sport," Cr Ross said.

"I'd like to thank Athletics Victoria, Pakenham Little Athletics Club, Casey Cardinia Masters, and Casey Cardinia Athletics Club for their collaboration on the track – I hope it's a project for you to be proud of."

Alongside the works to the athletics track, a state-of-the-art drinking water fountain has also been installed at the reserve in partnership with South East Water.

The fountain is equipped with an accessible fountain arm and a dog bowl, as well as a sensor to measure how many plastic bottles have been saved from landfill due to re-filling.

For more information about this major sporting project, visit our website.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Building better roads and footpaths

More than 130 sections of local roads covering more than 35kms have been resurfaced across the shire as part of our 2023-24 Road Resurfacing Program.

The proactive works have been undertaken to help prevent damage to the road pavement, helping to prolong the life of the road.

New footpaths are also being constructed at a number of locations across the

shire as part of the 2023-24 Footpath Program, which focusses on building new paths to connect missing footpath links in established townships.

For a full list of road and footpath programs, visit our website.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Sealing of Dore Road underway

Work is underway to seal the full 6km length of Dore Road in Nar Nar Goon.

Dore Road is the first project where Council has used ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology to conduct environmental surveys and create a 3D model of the trees and their roots above and below ground.

With more than 1,000 trees lining Dore Road, arborists estimated that more than 340 trees could have potentially been removed as part of sealing upgrade works using traditional surveying methods. But thanks to these GPR surveys, we have been able to save 95% of identified trees along Dore Road.

This project is being undertaken as part of Council's Strategic Sealed Roads Project, which is delivering 40 kilometres of new, sealed roads across the shire, and is jointly funded by the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund. Works include constructing the road pavement, kerb and channel, drainage works, signage, guard rails and line markings.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects



Children connecting with nature

Mayor and Pakenham Hills Ward Councillor Jack Kowarzik and (from left) Avacyn, Dane, Amber and Darcy from Hollins Child and Family Centre are excited that the centre has secured a grant to create a bush kindergarten experience.

Hollins Child and Family Centre is one of the latest kindergartens to secure a grant to create a bush kindergarten experience.

The centre received a \$6,000 grant as part of the Victorian Government's Bush Kinder Grants Program to support the centre to set up nature programs, giving the kindergarten children more opportunities to get outdoors.

Mayor and Ward Councillor for Pakenham Hills, Councillor Jack Kowarzik, was pleased to hear that Hollins Child and Family Centre was selected to be part of the program.

"Bush kinder is a fantastic opportunity for our kids to get out into nature, and I'm delighted for Hollins Child and Family Centre that they've secured one of these grants," Mayor Kowarzik said.

"Not only is bush kinder a way for children to explore, it's also a great opportunity for them to learn more about the environment around them, so I'd like to thank the Victorian Government for making this investment in Cardinia Shire."

If you're a kindergarten service in Cardinia Shire and you'd like to learn more about the Bush Kinder Grants Program, head to the Victorian Government's website.

www.vic.gov.au/bush-kindergartens

In Cardinia Shire, we're lucky to have over 29 wonderful kindergarten facilities within our central registration system. If you're a resident within the shire and would like to be considered for first-round 2025 kindergarten offers, please visit our website to register your child by Sunday 30 June.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kinder

Money Matters: Tax Help and Saver Plus

Get some help with your tax return



Did you know that you may be able to get help lodging your tax return through the Tax Help Program?

Tax Help is a network of community volunteers who provide a free and confidential service to help people complete their tax returns.

Volunteers are fully trained and accredited with support from the Australian Tax Office, and the program is suitable for people earning around \$60,000 or less a year with straightforward tax affairs.

If this sounds like something you could benefit from, contact Living and Learning Pakenham in late July to make an appointment.

Living Learning Pakenham, 5941 2389.

For other Tax Help programs near you, phone the Australian Taxation Office on 13 28 61 (select option 3, then option 2).

Need a little extra help? You may also be eligible to receive free tax assistance from Melbourne Law School students through The Melbourne Law School Tax Clinic. The National Tax Clinic program is

a government-funded initiative to help people who may not be able to afford professional advice and representation with their tax affairs.

This program is available to eligible individuals, small businesses, not-for-profit organisations, and charities.

For more information and to book an appointment, visit the Melbourne Law School Tax Clinic website.

<https://law.unimelb.edu.au/tax-clinic>

Saver Plus program



Saver Plus gives you the chance to take control of your finances and get a \$500 incentive to cover educational costs for your family.

Developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence, if you reach your savings goal each month for 10 months, then ANZ will match it up to \$500.

For down-to-earth money talk and eligibility criteria, visit the Savers Plus website, or give them a call on 1300 610 355.

www.saverplus.org.au

Energy improvements

We've been busy making energy upgrades around the shire. Check out some of our recent projects below.

Mercury Vapour Street Lighting Upgrade

Stage 2 of Council's street lighting upgrade is underway, which will see more than 600 mercury vapour streetlights across the shire replaced with energy efficient LEDs.

The new LED lights perform better, last longer, generate less glare and will save about \$64,000 each year in energy and maintenance costs.

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 and AusNet Services.

Energy resilience project

As part of the Victorian Government's Energy Resilience Solutions Program, back-up power systems are being installed in our Hills community, at these locations:

- Gembrook Community Centre
- Cockatoo Community Complex (with a connection to the Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre); and
- Worrell Reserve pavilion, Emerald.

The systems will provide back-up power for the community during prolonged power outages through solar panels, batteries, and generators.

The back-up power systems will benefit these community facilities every day, not just during an outage. The systems will limit the dependence of the buildings on the grid which will reduce energy costs and environmental impacts.

Energy efficiency handbook

We've partnered with Federation University to develop a Home Energy Improvement Handbook, which has ideas and tips on how to reduce household energy costs and improve internal thermal comfort. Visit our website to check out the handbook for yourself.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/energyhandbook

Looking after ourselves in winter

When the weather turns colder, it's important that we take a moment to consider whether we're being as energy and environmentally conscious as possible – especially when it comes to our homes.

Keeping your home in check

- Do you have a wood heater? Buying the right wood heater, using it correctly and maintaining it well can reduce wood smoke pollution. If you are affected by smoke from a wood heater, in the first instance it's a good idea to chat your neighbour as they may not be aware of the problem.
- Do you use a septic system? A well cared for system is a safe and effective way to treat and dispose of household wastewater in areas where sewerage is not available.
- Do you have a pest-proof home? To help control rodents, don't leave out exposed food, seal gaps, keep your garden well maintained, keep

firewood, compost, trees and vines away from the outside walls of your property and use traps and chemical baits.

For further assistance removing rats or mice, we recommend you use a licensed pest controller. For more information and tips on wood smoke and septic systems, visit the Environment Protection authority website.

www.epa.vic.gov.au

Maximising your energy efficiency

- Do you have a draughty home? Try using draught tape on windows or place a 'door snake' in front of your doors to keep your home more comfortable.

- Do you need new appliances? When replacing or upgrading appliances, choose ones with high energy star ratings, as these consume less energy and have lower operational costs.
- Do you want to keep your home toasty but efficient? Try keeping your heating between 18–21 degrees, as this 'sweet-spot' will save the most energy.

If you'd like to learn more about home energy efficiency, head to our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/energyefficiency

You can borrow home energy and water efficiency kits from the library.

www.myli.au/libraryofthings



Huge news for Officer Town Centre

Officer Ward Councillor Tammy Radford looks to the future of Officer Town Centre.

Planning for the new Officer Town Centre is progressing thanks to an important milestone being officially ticked off.

Cardinia Shire Council's Urban Design Framework (UDF) was adopted earlier this year, and sets out a series of urban design objectives, guidelines, and requirements that will guide the future development of Officer Town Centre.

The ambition for the town centre is to create a diverse and vibrant space that accommodates multiple uses, including retail, community facilities, and higher density residential options such as town houses and apartment-style living.

Officer Ward Councillor Tammy Radford said that she's delighted that development for the town centre has been streamlined by the endorsement of the UDF.

"Having the Urban Design Framework in place is very exciting, and we're looking forward to welcoming more residents and businesses to this vibrant and progressive suburb," Cr Radford said.

As the UDF is officially endorsed, this means that the landowners of more than 130 parcels of land in Officer Town Centre have a streamlined process for future development.

"Although the document is a huge step in progressing the town centre, Council is unable to make any planning decisions on behalf of landowners. However, Council officers are available to support and assist landowners as development progresses."

If you'd like to check out the adopted Urban Design Framework, including detailed concept designs for the town centre, visit [Creating Cardinia](https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay).



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Book your FREE hard waste collections

We know it's wintertime, but why not use the colder months as an opportunity to clean up and get ahead of the spring clean rush? You could make use of one – or both – of your 2 annual free hard waste collections and clear out any unwanted bulky household items that you've been meaning to retire.

Before you decide to put something out for hard rubbish, consider whether the item could be repurposed or donated. Please remember to make a booking BEFORE putting any waste out.

Hard waste piles must not be larger than 2 cubic metres (2m x 1m x 1m) for a single booking, or 4 cubic metres (4m x 1m x 1m) for a double booking.

Two hard waste collections not enough? You're welcome to book additional collections for a fee.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/hardwaste

Keep e-waste out of your bins

While cleaning your home and disposing of rubbish, it's important to remember the dangers of disposing of waste incorrectly and that flammable liquids, e-waste, and batteries DO NOT belong in your household bins.

It may seem harmless to throw these items in the bin, however the consequences of disposing of them incorrectly can be devastating.

For information on how to dispose of household items correctly, visit our website and remember, small acts make a big impact!



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/atoz

2024 Cardinia Jobs and Skills Showcase



Looking for a job or want to branch out into a new career? Head to Cardinia Cultural Centre (CCC) later this month for the Cardinia Jobs and Skills Showcase.

On Thursday 20 June, job seekers from across Cardinia Shire are invited to attend the showcase to connect with local employers about current vacancies and career pathways.

Council is proud to be working in partnership with Local Jobs - South Eastern Melbourne and Peninsula, Star News Group and Chisholm Skills and Jobs Centre to host the showcase event in the shire.

Event-goers can also look forward to free workshops on interview techniques, skills development and job search strategies, amongst other great workshop opportunities.

Entry to the showcase is free but bookings are essential.

If you're a business owner, why not head down early to the CCC for the Breakfast and Breakthroughs Business Breakfast?

From 7am, you'll enjoy a delicious breakfast while hearing from keynote speakers, including Workforce Australia, and get valuable advice on how to diversify your talent pool and elevate your recruitment game.

The business breakfast is a ticketed event for \$30 including breakfast.

Head to our website to learn more about the events and secure your tickets.

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

Check out the Business Hub

Find places to eat, stay, shop, and play in Cardinia Shire with our handy Business Hub!

Search for businesses, wedding venues, musicians, accountants and more. The Business Hub helps you discover the huge range of local retailers and services that are just around the corner.

Head to the Business Hub on the What's on Cardinia website to find the local

businesses you're looking for.

Are you a business owner? Make sure to list your business and put yourself on the map. It's free to create an online listing and you control the information locals see about your business.

Help residents to find you and give people an opportunity to support local businesses.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/businesshub

Cardinia Business

Subscribe to the Cardinia Business e-newsletter

Looking for a way to learn new information and helpful tips to boost your business? Subscribe to our Cardinia Business e-newsletter today.

Hitting inboxes every month, the e-newsletter includes valuable insights, strategies, details on events and workshops, and tips to enhance your business.

Tailor-made for businesses in the shire, you'll read all about the latest business trends in your industry and learn about great new opportunities.

So if you're looking to stay ahead in your industry, head to our website to subscribe or check out past editions of the e-newsletter.

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



Bowled over!

Westernport Ward Councillor Kaye Cameron (front centre) caught up with (from left) Acacia, Cameron, Jodie, Charles, Tim (President), Brett, Maverick, Daniel and Erin from the Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club.

Exciting news for bowls enthusiasts with a new clubroom on the cards for the Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club.

The proposed existing clubroom facility will be replaced with a new modular building that features:

- a social room and lounge area
- 3 community meeting rooms
- a bistro area with a kitchen and bar servery
- 2 change room areas and toilet facilities
- a storage area and a first aid room
- covered spectator area and car parking.

Westernport Ward Councillor Kaye Cameron visited the Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club in anticipation of their new clubroom.

“I’m so pleased that the Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club will be getting the brand-new clubroom that they’ve been looking forward to for some time,” Cr Cameron said.

‘I’m sure it’ll be an excellent space for them to socialise, share a bite to eat before a game, and be able to call home.’

Jointly funded by Council, the Victorian Government and the Australian Government, the project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Want to try your hand at bowls? Reach out to the Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club for more information.

www.kooweerupbowlsclub.com

Construction underway for new kinder

Construction has kicked off for Thewlis Integrated Child and Family Centre, Pakenham, with the new centre expected to welcome families from early next year.

This new centre will include 3 kindergarten program rooms, a community room that can be used as

an extra kinder room, 3 consult rooms for Maternal and Child Health and other allied health professionals, an outdoor play space, and more.

This project is being jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government Building Blocks Grant.

Thewlis Road Integrated Child and Family Centre is an interim name, so look out for an opportunity to have your say on a new name soon.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

A Bee Buzzing in Springtime

Cardinia Shire Council is now the proud owner of ‘A Bee Buzzing in Springtime’ by Alex Litsoudis, an artist who created this detailed piece of art as part of Council’s ‘Expression’ exhibition at Cardinia Cultural Centre last year.

Chosen by the Mayor at the time, Councillor Tammy Radford, ‘A Bee Buzzing in Springtime’ is a bright and intricate artwork. Council welcomed Alex at the Civic Centre to see where his art is permanently on display.

Council is committed to increasing the representation of disability in the arts space and promoting art made by people with disability. We champion inclusion within Council-run arts events, including celebrating disability and diversity, such as the ‘Expression’ exhibition.

Learn more about what we’re doing to support community members with disability on our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accessandinclusion



What's on?

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

Cardinia Cultural Centre



Bollywood Extravaganza

Wednesday 19 June
10am morning tea and 11am performance

The Klinge Brothers: Ghosts of Texas

Friday 28 June
7.30pm

Arj Barker: The Mind Field

Saturday 13 July
8pm



The Tap Pack

Thursday 12 September
7.30pm

Winterfest at CCC

Back by popular demand, Cardinia Cultural Centre (CCC) will once again host Winterfest, a series of events for children and families to experience these school holidays.

You'll be able to enjoy free films, daily arts workshops, immersive exhibitions, and much more!

Keep an eye on the CCC webpage for more details.

www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au



Following on from the Winterfest program, the centre is set to deliver an even bigger and brighter spring school holiday program! Featuring two family-focussed 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

Get more from What's on Cardinia

What's on Cardinia is an easy way to find a full list of events happening in your community.

From free events and markets, to food and musicals, there are so many great things to see and do in the shire.

Set up alerts, subscribe, and even save your favourite events.

Are you a business owner? Submit your events and increase your profile – it's free!

www.whatsoncardinia.com.au

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



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

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

After-hours emergencies: 1300 787 624



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



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