

Connect

AUTUMN 2017

Your Council magazine

BLESS COLLECTIVE

Helping those
in need

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2017

Meet our local
champions

WHAT'S ON IN THE SHIRE

Event and activity
calendar to keep

YOUR COUNCILLORS



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CENTRAL WARD

PORT WARD

RANGES WARD

MORE INFO

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/councillors

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Connect is Cardinia Shire Council's community magazine. It is published four times each year and is distributed to more than 37,000 homes and businesses in the shire. It is also available on audio CD from local libraries. All images and other personal information collected for *Connect* will be stored securely, and be made available only in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2000 and in accordance with Council's Information Privacy Policy, a copy of which may be obtained from Council's website at cardinia.vic.gov.au/privacy

For enquiries, contact the *Connect* editor on 1300 787 624 or mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

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'Community Compass' online mapping and information tool
www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/communitycompass

WELCOME



Welcome to our autumn edition of Connect – the first edition of 2017.

I hope you all enjoyed the summer holiday period and found some time to relax in the company of family and friends.

It has certainly been a busy start to 2017 for Cardinia Shire Council as we:

- celebrated Australia Day by welcoming 97 new Australian Citizens (50 families);
- announced our Citizen, Senior Citizen, Young Citizen and Community Event of the Year winners; launched a new, user-friendly responsive website; and
- secured state and federal government funding to address community safety, improve health and wellbeing outcomes and provide new facilities.

Our Australia Day Citizenship Ceremony is always a highlight and this year we welcomed new citizens from 24 different

countries including Argentina, Canada, India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Zimbabwe. Our new citizens have chosen Cardinia Shire to build safer, healthier and more prosperous lives for themselves and their families, and it is always a privilege to be a part of their special day.

We had a truly remarkable list of nominees for our Australia Day Awards this year and I congratulate all for their tireless work in supporting their local communities. Unfortunately, we can only have one winner in each category. You can read more about them on pages 6 and 7.

Council's new website was launched in January and allows for the quick completion of a range of tasks including pet registration, applying for permits and payment of rates. A wide range of online forms also give residents more ways than ever before to transact online with Council.

Approximately 65 percent of visitors to Council's website access it via a mobile device and as a result, the new website has been designed to be both functional and visually appealing on these devices.

Please take the time to visit the new website and provide us with your feedback.

Looking ahead, Council is busily preparing its draft budget for 2017-18 – we expect it will be ready for you to view on our website shortly. We have also commenced work on preparing the Council Plan and our Liveability Health Plan, two important documents which set Council's priorities over the next four years.

We encourage you to provide your feedback during the consultation period to ensure the diverse views of our community are captured and considered. Again, keep an eye on the website for updates.

In the meantime, you can keep up to date on current capital works and major projects using the interactive map on the website.

Regards

Mayor Cr Brett Owen



Mayor Cr Brett Owen – RANGES WARD

☎ 0418 993 370

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EDUCATION FACILITIES FUNDING

Council welcomed the recent funding announcements for two local facilities through the Department of Education and Training (DET) Children's Facilities Capital Program.

Cardinia Shire Council's Child and Family Plan indicates that the greatest population increase in the next 7-10 years will be in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten aged children, resulting in increasing demand on kindergarten places.



GUM SCRUB CREEK SCHOOL RECEIVES FUNDING

The first sod was turned at the Gum Scrub Creek Primary School development site in February, with the construction of a fully integrated children's hub now underway.

The project has received \$13 million from the Victorian Government's DET Building School Fund and Council has contributed \$2.3 million plus the transfer of 0.4 ha of land for the integrated children's centre. Council was also successful in securing a grant through the DET's Children's Facilities Grant Program for a further \$1.2 million to contribute to the Integrated Children's Centre.

These services are vital to meeting the shire's growing demand for early education and care, with up to five new families moving into the shire each day.

The Gum Scrub Creek Child and Family Centre will be fully integrated in the early

years learning community centre. Combined with the Gum Scrub Creek Primary school, these facilities will cater for all children's early learning and development from birth.

The new centre will offer:

- three kindergarten rooms
- wrap-around kindergarten care from 6.30am-6.30pm
- three consult rooms from which Cardinia Shire Maternal and Child Health service will operate
- consultation rooms and a community room for specialised family support services and early intervention services.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2017, with kindergarten enrolment applications now open for Term 1, 2018.

PAKENHAM KINDERGARTEN

Pakenham Kindergarten has received \$350,000 toward a major upgrade.

Council has been working with the parent committee, educators and the Kinders Together Early Years Manager to improve the facilities at the centre to meet the changing needs of the community.

The improvements will include:

- improved access and facilities for people of all abilities, including those with mobility aids
- upgraded children's toilet and nappy change facilities
- an extended undercover outdoor area
- renovated office and meeting room and new storage and multi-use consulting suite.

The centre will be able to offer a range of additional services, including kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs, as well as extended hours.

The new consulting suite will be able to support additional services such as speech and occupational therapists, Koori cultural services (VACCA), early intervention services (ECIS), private intervention services, and social skills groups.

Work is scheduled to take place during school holidays to avoid disruption to the kindergarten program.

See page 20 for more information on kindergarten enrolments.



FUNDING RECEIVED FOR CARDINIA SHIRE RECREATION FACILITIES

Council has received \$4.07 million from the Victorian Government's Growing Suburbs Fund to support the development of three key recreation projects.

Deep Creek Development

With the Victorian Government's \$2.825 million grant and \$7.7 million from Council, phase two of the Deep Creek Development will see the 48-hectare area of Council greenfield land and the adjoining Pakenham Golf Course at the Deep Creek Reserve developed to include:

- a new sustainable environment complex, incorporating the new home for Cardinia Environment Coalition and Pakenham Golf Course clubhouse
- an all-abilities playground with sensory garden
- landscaping and car park
- demonstration wetland

Growth Corridor District Playgrounds

The Victorian Government's \$700,000 grant, combined with Council's contribution of \$200,000, will see upgrades to six of the playgrounds identified in the Cardinia Shire Playground Strategy. Council will work with local

communities to confirm the elements and upgrades that will occur. Works are expected to be completed by May 2018.



Emerald to Gembrook Multi-Use Trail

The Emerald to Cockatoo multi-use trail will be extended an additional 6.5km to Gembrook with \$545,000 provided by the Victorian Government and \$755,000 from Council. This funding is in addition to the \$1 million received from the Federal Government as an election commitment.

The extension will improve access to key community facilities, improve tourism and improve safety for users by separating the trail from the main roads.



Increased emergency services

Council has welcomed the recent Victorian Government announcement that emergency services in the region will be enhanced, including a funding commitment to help buy land for a new ambulance station in Pakenham.

The Victorian Government has committed to:

- increasing police numbers by almost 3,000 officers across the state over the next four years
- increasing ambulance services in the shire with \$1.1 million from the Growth Areas Infrastructure Contributions (GAIC) fund to purchase a site in Pakenham for a new purpose-built modern facility.

Skate Park for Holm Park Recreation Reserve

In 2017, Council received a \$500,000 grant from the Australian Government as part of an election commitment for the development of a skate park and car park sealing at Holm Park Reserve, Beaconsfield. Council is contributing a further \$350,000 to the project, which was identified as a high priority in the Skate and BMX Strategy adopted by Council in 2016.

Council will consult with the community on the design of the skate park, which will cost an estimated \$320,000. The remaining funds will go toward sealing approximately 8,500sqm of car park at the reserve.



(from left) Mayor Cr Brett Owen, Federal Member for Bass Brian Paynter, members of Cardinia Relay for Life and Federal Member for La Trobe Jason Wood

AUSTRALIA DAY 2017 AWARD WINNERS

Cardinia Shire Council's Australia Day 2017 award winners were announced and presented with their awards at the Australia Day 2017 awards and citizenship event at the Cardinia Cultural Centre in Pakenham.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Brett Owen congratulated the winners and nominees and thanked them all for their many contributions and ongoing commitment to the communities they love and serve.

"We live in the lucky country, and indeed this is true for Cardinia Shire. It takes people of all ages and backgrounds to bring the diverse wealth of knowledge, experience and enthusiasm that makes our community such a welcoming and wonderful place to live and work," Cr Owen said.

"Certainly, our Australia Day award nominees have all made invaluable contributions to our community. The Australia Day awards each year are

just one way we can all gather to recognise their efforts and thank them for their commitment."

Cr Owen also welcomed 97 new Australian citizens living in Cardinia Shire.

"Today, we also welcome our newest citizens. Thank you to each new citizen for choosing Cardinia Shire to be your home and for the contribution you will make, and have already made, to our community."

Families from across Cardinia Shire celebrated Australia Day at free events in Bunyip, Cockatoo, Koo Wee Rup, Pakenham and across the Cardinia Shire seasonal pools.

Community event of the year **CARDINIA RELAY FOR LIFE**

Since 2013, Relay for Life events in Cardinia Shire have raised more than \$315,000 toward the Cancer Council's research, prevention and support services. The event has continued to grow in support, engagement and funding year-on-year; with \$113,469 raised in 2016, which is more than \$30,000 higher than the previous year.

The funds are spent across Victoria and benefit the 300+ Cardinia Shire residents diagnosed with cancer each year. The event brings together passionate and dedicated volunteers, impacted families and community members for a day of shared support, entertainment and hope for a brighter future.



Citizen of the year

WAYNE COLLINS

Since establishing the Emerald Centre for Youth and Outreach (ECHO) more than 30 years ago, Wayne Collins has dedicated himself to improving the lives of others, through developing and delivering youth programs, effective disaster relief support services, and programs designed to strengthen family life.

Many of the programs Wayne has founded have been commended at a State and National level and used as a blueprint for rolling out similar programs more widely.

Wayne volunteers seven days per week and is a regular speaker at emergency planning and resilience forums. Even in retirement, Wayne continues to head up ECHO's Emergency Services Team.

Senior citizen of the year

MICHAEL ALLERY

For more than 30 years, Michael Allery has combined his trades knowledge and skills with his passion for helping others to significantly improve the lives, confidence, resilience and prospects of those impacted by disasters or disadvantage.

In both his paid employment and volunteer work, Michael helped youth obtain trade skills at Emerald Secondary College, promoted tourism, participated in U3A, and coordinated the Emerald Men's Shed for almost a decade.

Through his involvement in the Men's Shed, Michael has assisted many local groups including SES, RSL, Fernlea House, NHP Museum, as well as helping those who had lost everything in the Black Wednesday and Black Saturday bushfire disasters.



Young citizen of the year

EMILY BLOXIDGE

At just 16 years of age, Emily Bloxidge has already accomplished so much, from working toward a Duke of Edinburgh Award and winning an Australian Scout Medallion to being Ambassador for the Koo Wee Rup Scouts and being selected to dedicate a tree in the Koo Wee Rup Avenue of Honour.

An admirable work ethic is demonstrated in everything Emily sets her mind to. In addition to her studies and her commitment to scouts and her netball team, she begins each day at 4.30am to work in the online order department at Woolworths Pakenham before school.

Emily consistently expresses her true talent and passion for leading and inspiring others, exhibited in her roles as both a student representative on School Council and a leader and mentor in Scouts.

With the respect of her peers and other leaders, Emily has been applauded for her outstanding contributions as a member of the local scouting community, with which she has been involved since 2008. Most recently, Emily joined the Koo Wee Rup Venturer Unit in 2016.

CHECK OUT COUNCIL'S NEW MOBILE FRIENDLY WEBSITE



Approximately
65%
of visitors to
Council's website
are using a
mobile device

Cardinia Shire Council has launched its new responsive website www.cardinia.vic.gov.au, with a major focus on the customer experience and an ever expanding range of opportunities to transact with Council online.

The website's dynamic design means that you can now easily access, navigate and engage with Council – anywhere, anytime, on any device.

There are now more opportunities to complete your business with Council online, from paying your rates, registering your pets, to applying for a planning permit or enrolling your child in kindergarten.

The new site is also compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG AA accessibility), which means it is accessible to people with impairments including visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive, language, learning, and neurological disabilities.

What's new?

- Dynamic and responsive website design means users can easily navigate and access information across the site no matter what size screen they are viewing.
- Task-oriented buttons and hyperlinks throughout the website help users to easily do what they need to do, such as initiating a phone call via a contact link or quickly accessing an online form via a form button.
- A 'Jump to' navigation window on each content page ensures speedy navigation to key information.
- Content is brief, accessible, and jargon-free for easy consumption.
- A growing list of online forms and payment options.



Remember to register your pets

Annual pet registrations are not far away. Make sure you do your furry friends a favour and register them by Monday 10 April.

Notices will start arriving in the mail from early March, outlining a number of payment options to help you pay on time. Concessions are available to relevant pension/concession cardholders.

Legally, every dog or cat over the age of three months must be registered with Council. Failure to register your pet with Council could result in a fine.

Having pets registered also means it is easier to find them if they get lost and reunite them with their families.

Register or renew your pet registration online at
www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/pets



Facilities for hire

A range of community facilities are available for hire for meetings, seminars, expos, festivals and sporting events, including:

- Cardinia Cultural Centre
- Community halls and meeting places
- Neighbourhood houses and community centres
- Sports grounds and sporting facilities
- Children's centre spaces
- Library meeting rooms
- Pakenham Hall
- My Place Youth Centre

For more information or to make a booking, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/communityfacilities

YOUR RECYCLING CALENDAR

Do you keep the hard copy of your recycling calendar? In the summer edition of Connect, the waste guide included a recycling calendar that you could tear off and keep on your fridge.

Simply search our online Community Compass to find which is your recycling week and which is the green waste week, then add the information next to the corresponding colour on your calendar.

For residents who have kept the previous year's calendar, note that the colours are the opposite to this year's calendar, so be sure to check you have filled in the correct week for each service.

Find Community Compass at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au



BOOK IT IN

What's on at your local library

All events are free and bookings are essential unless otherwise advised, visit at www.tinyurl.com/cclcevents or call the host library.

CRAZY CROCHET AND KNITTED TEA COSY COMPETITION

Emerald Library

Our tea cosy competition has been extended!

Entries must be submitted in person at Emerald Library by 6pm, Friday 2 June.

Get clickin' and hookin' for some great prizes – First, second and People's Choice awards to be won. Terms and Conditions apply – check www.cclc.vic.gov.au for details. Bookings not necessary.



Crafternoon at Pakenham Library



Thursdays commencing:
2 March, 1–3pm

Saturdays commencing:
4 March, 10.30am–12.30pm

Run weekly until 14 December 2017, Crafternoon sessions are fun, informal gatherings for skill-swapping and working on your creative projects in an inspiring environment. BYO materials and ideas for your craft project while enjoying a cuppa and chat. Drop in, no need to book.

Australian native foods harvest

Emerald Library –
Tuesday 21 March,
6.15–7.30pm

Julie Weatherhead from Peppermint Ridge Farm, Tynong North, is the passionate author of *Australian Native Food Harvest: A guide for the passionate cook and gardener*, which focuses on 31 native plants that have amazing health benefits and thrive in Victoria. Come along and learn all about them. Includes book sales and signing.



Book chat and Biggest Afternoon Tea fundraiser

Emerald Library – Friday 26 May, 2.30–3.30pm

Join the Emerald Library team as we 'snack, chat and give' at our Biggest Afternoon Tea fundraiser for the Cancer Council. Everyone is invited to enjoy a yummy snack, donate if you wish, and if you've read a great book lately, we'd love to hear about it! No need to book, all are welcome.



Casey–Cardinia Library Corporation branches are located in Cranbourne, Doveton, Emerald, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Narre Warren and Pakenham. The mobile library also visits these locations weekly: Beaconsfield, Bunyip, Cockatoo, Garfield, Gembrook, Koo Wee Rup, Lang Lang, Maryknoll, Tynong and Upper Beaconsfield.

For branch address details and the mobile library schedule visit www.cclc.vic.gov.au

On your bike!

Pakenham Library –
Saturday 4 March, 11am–3pm

Come along with your bike and get a free safety check and bicycle maintenance advice from 'Life of Bikes' and CSBUGS (Cardinia Shire Bicycle Users Group). Drop in, no need to book.

Holiday fun at your library

The School Holiday Program offers activities for all ages: story time, crafts, performers and more! Bookings must be made at www.tinyurl.com/cclchols or by contacting your local library. Bookings open 9am, Monday 27 March 2017.



Crime spree

Emerald Library –
Tuesday 4 April, 6–7.30pm

Nationally respected true-crime writers Vikki Petraitis and Robin Bowles shine the spotlight on some of Australia's highest profile murder mysteries, including some of Victoria's most shocking cases. In this presentation, Robin and Vikki will discuss some of their most infamous true-crime stories and give you the opportunity to get answers to those naggy questions that plague your mind.

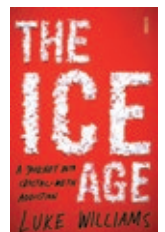


Meet Luke Williams

Author of *The Ice Age*
Age: a journey into crystal-meth addiction

Pakenham Library –
Thursday 27 April, 6.30–7.30pm

Hear first-hand about the author's investigation into the illicit drug known as 'Ice', its usage and prevalence in Australia and the western world, his addiction and ultimate recovery, and his writing journey that led to being a finalist in the Walkley Awards for Excellence in Journalism.



WHAT'S ON

at Cardinia Cultural Centre

For bookings and event info visit
cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au or call 1300 887 624

MORNING MATINEE

The Music of Burt Bacharach

Wednesday 8 April, 11am

Top cover singers backed by the San Jose Band bring to the stage over 20 great Burt Bacharach hits including *Walk On By*, *Say a Little Prayer*, *What the World Needs Now*, *Alfie* and *This Guy's in Love With You*.

Tickets: \$20 including morning tea



Lux radio play – Mystery of a Hansom Cab

Wednesday 11 May, 11am

Lux Radio Theatre recreates the days when radio was king with actors playing multiple roles, creating live sound effects and presenting the vintage soap commercials. This murder mystery whodunit, set in 19th century Melbourne, will have you on the edge of your seat.

Tickets: \$20

Petula, from Downtown to Hollywood

Wednesday 7 June, 11am

Petula Clark made her first appearance in the early '40s. Now in her 80s, she is still packing theatres and concert halls worldwide. Hilary Henshaw and Will Conyers pay tribute to one of the world's great leading ladies, singing the songs that made her famous.

Tickets: \$20



PERFORMANCE



Beatlemania On Tour



Beatlemania on Tour

Saturday 18 March, 8pm

Relive the heyday of one of the world's biggest bands at this live tribute show.

Tickets: \$59, children (13 and under) \$30, group (6+) \$54



Elvis an American trilogy

Sunday 2 April, 7.30pm

From the early rockabilly days to the iconic 1968 comeback special, an American Trilogy recreates the moves and songs of Elvis. Starring three of the world's leading Elvis tribute artists, Vic Trevino Jnr, Gino Monopoli and Steve Michaels.

Tickets: \$65

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

Finding Dory (movie)

Thursday 6 April, 10am

Everybody's favourite fish is back! An unforgettable journey that she probably won't remember!

Tickets: \$4, popcorn extra.



The Listies – 6D

Tuesday 12 April, 11am & 2pm

Matt Kelly and Richard Higgins are The Listies, a comedy duo quickly making a name for themselves as Australia's favourite live comedy act for kids.

Tickets: \$15, Family pass \$50 (Admit 4)



Trolls (movie)

Thursday 13 April, 10am

After the troll village is invaded, Poppy, the happiest troll ever born, and the curmudgeonly Branch set off on a journey to rescue her friends.

Tickets: \$4, popcorn extra.





John Paul Young – The Vanda & Young Songbook

Friday 28 April, 7.30pm

From the 1960s to the 1980s, JPY & The Allstar Band will take you through three decades of Aussie hits, along with John's own behind-the-scenes stories about the songs and their making.

Tickets: \$65

David Hobson in concert

Friday 12 May, 7.30pm

One of Australia's finest voices and entertainers, David Hobson is performing favourite songs of his musical career.

Tickets: \$49, concession \$45, group (6+) \$42.50



Coranderrk

Wednesday 16 May, 7.30pm

Coranderrk was a Government reserve set up in 1863 for Aboriginal people who had been dispossessed by the arrival of Europeans to the state of Victoria. The reserve was closed in 1924, with most residents removed to Lake Tyers Mission. This is the story of Coranderrk as told through actual court transcripts.

Tickets: \$45 Full, \$40 Concession, \$20 Students

The Leading Man – Ian Stenlake

Sunday 21 May, 7.30pm

Television and theatre star Ian Stenlake will perform songs from his musical theatre career including *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning (Oklahoma)*, *Hey There (The Pajama Game)*, *I Have Never Been in Love (Guys and Dolls)*, plus contemporary pieces.

Tickets: \$45 Full \$40 Concession



Kings of Country

Thursday 25 May, 7.30pm

Direct from Las Vegas, the Kings of Country pay tribute to some of country's biggest artists. Features Phillip Bauer as Johnny Cash, Michael Moore as Willie Nelson, and Ted Vigil as John Denver.

Tickets: \$55 Full, Concession \$49

Dracula

Saturday 27 May, 8pm

Bram Stoker's gothic horror story, *Dracula* comes to the stage in this critically-acclaimed production by Shake & Stir Theatre.

Tickets: \$38 Full, \$34 Concession, \$20 Student



You & I

2 June, 7.30pm

The original stars of *Beauty and the Beast*, Michael Cormick and Rachael Beck, with pianist David Cameron perform hits and highlights from musicals such as *Chess*, *The Phantom of Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *Blood Brothers* and *Chicago*.

Tickets: \$49, Concession \$45, Groups 6+ \$42



The Bootleg Beachboys

29 June

Direct from Dublin, the Bootleg Beach Boys perform classic hits including *Surfin'*, *Safari*, *Good Vibrations*, and *Fun Fun Fun*.

Tickets: \$65

BUY 3 GET ONE FREE

Readers who buy three tickets to see The Listies – 6D can get a fourth ticket free.

Readers will need to present this voucher when buying their tickets.

This offer is subject to availability and only applies when three tickets are purchased in one transaction.



The 'TO-DO' list

For more events or to add a listing to the community calendar go to: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/events

Dig In Community Café

Held on the last Friday of every month,
31 March, 28 April & 26 May, 6–8pm

Dig In Community Cafe provides a great community meal and is open to everyone. Come for the food or volunteer in the kitchen at Emerald Community House, 356-8 Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald. Donations gladly accepted.
Contact: 5968 3881.



Marketplace Marchers Walking

Every Friday (except public holidays),
8–9am

Walk, talk and meet people in your neighbourhood as we walk laps inside the Pakenham Marketplace shopping centre, 50-54 John Street, Pakenham. Free event, suitable for all ages and ability levels. Contact: 5940 4728.

Lang Lang Rodeo

Monday 17 April, 10am–4pm
Lang Lang Showgrounds,
120 Westernport Road, Lang Lang

A family-friendly event with food, stalls and rides, including bull riding, barrel racing, team roping, and the Hughie Bourke memorial dog high jump.

Cost: \$25 adults, \$10 students (12-18 years), children under 12 years free.

Great Train Race – Puffing Billy

Sunday 30 April, 9.30am–1.30pm

Race Puffing Billy on the 13.5km route from Belgrave to Emerald Lake Park.

More info: www.greattrainrace.com.au

Art in the garden

Thursday 4 & Friday 5 May, 10am–4pm
40 Slattery Place, Pakenham

Art in the garden showcases the work of local artists, while you explore the whimsical garden, discover artists at work and take refreshments at the Mad Hatters Tea Party.

Cost: \$8 adult, \$6 concession, children free

AUTUMN MARKETS

Pick up fresh produce or handicrafts at your local market this autumn.

Cockatoo Country Market

First Saturday of the month, 1 Apr,
6 May, 3 Jun, 1 Jul, 8.30am–1.30pm

Community Hall, 77 Pakenham Road,
Cockatoo

Emerald Market

Third Sunday of the month, 16 Apr,
21 May, 18 Jun, 16 Jul, 9am–3pm

Emerald Community House,
356 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald



Gembrook Market

Fourth Sunday of the month, 26 Mar,
23 Apr, 28 May, 9am–2pm

Gembrook Community Centre,
4 Gembrook Road, Gembrook

Koowee Community Market

Second Sunday of the month, 9 Apr,
14 May, 11 Jun, 9 Jul, 9am–2.30pm

Cochranes Park, Rossiter Road,
Koo Wee Rup

Pakenham Community Market

Third Sunday of the month, 16 Apr,
21 May, 18 Jun, 16 Jul, 8am–1pm

Pakenham Football Club, Toomuc
Reserve, Princes Highway, Pakenham

ACTIVITIES AT OUTLOOK COMMUNITY CENTRE

Outlook Community Centre,
24 Toomuc Valley Rd, Pakenham.
Phone: 5940 4728 Email:
communitycentre@outlook.org.au

Book Club discussion group

First Wednesday of the month,
7–9pm

Discuss the plots, characters and ideas of selected books. Cost: \$5 per session. Bookings essential.

Card Games Social Group

Every Tuesday, 1–4pm
(except public holidays)

Enjoy informal, friendly and non-competitive card games including Bridge, 500, Canasta, Euchre, Solo and more. Cost \$3 per session. Bookings essential.

Gardening group

First Friday of the month,
10.30am–12pm

Join this group of gardeners to enjoy guest speakers, information sharing, problem solving, swapping cuttings and regular excursions. Cost: \$3 per session.

Over-50s women's friendship group

Every Tuesday, 10am–12pm
(except public holidays)

Join this group of ladies for friendship, fun and support. Enjoy coffee, a variety of activities, guest speakers and excursions. Cost: \$2 per session. Bookings essential.

Toomuc Valley Walking Group

Every Tuesday, 9.30–10.30am
(except public holidays)

A Heart Foundation walking group. Walkers of all levels welcome. Friendship and chats included, coffee afterwards optional.

BLESS COLLECTIVE

Gathered around the colourful soundshell in Bourke Park Pakenham every Tuesday evening from 6-9pm, a great community spirit has been building around local volunteers providing food, laundry and shower facilities for local people in need.



Known as the Bless Collective these services are provided by volunteers from three local organisations: Follow Church providing hot meals from their newly-established food van; Clean As Casper, a new locally-founded charity that provides a mobile shower van; and Orange Sky which has mobile laundry facilities.

Council's Community Planner Megan Gill said the services have been coming together in Bourke Park since June 2016. Since that time, Clean As Casper has added hairdressing services once a month, while Follow Church's food van is also visiting the park from 6-9pm on Thursdays.

The Bless Collective seeks to address an identified community need by providing some comfort and help to people who are financially vulnerable to get back on their feet.

It is a welcoming and friendly environment where community members of all ages and backgrounds come to grab a meal, enjoy a chat and use the laundry and shower facilities if they need to.

"Beyond offering a hot meal and essential services for people, this initiative also provides a welcoming place for people to find friendship and social interaction," said Megan.

"The strength and support people can find in each other is evident when you experience the upbeat conversations and laughter that now defines the culture down at Bourke Park two evenings a week."

This initiative has been supported by a range of organisations and local businesses including 4C's, Miles Mechanics, Benher Signs, Cuppa Time Café, TrueBlue Restorations Follow Baptist Church, Baptist Union of Victoria & the John Mac Foundation.

Council is always looking for other opportunities to increase the services on offer. To get involved call Council on 1300 787 624 or email mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au.

More volunteers are needed

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Bless Collective is invited to come along to an information session and training night held at the Salvation Army, Bald Hill Rd, Pakenham on Wednesday 29 March from 7-9pm. A second information evening will also be held on Wednesday 2 August. Register for the session either by emailing admin@followchurch.com.au or calling 0438 775 152.




Community Wellbeing Grants

Council offers a number of different grants throughout the year to assist local groups with projects and purchases that they would struggle to fund on their own.

Last year, Follow Church was among those who benefitted from a Community Wellbeing Support Grant, receiving \$5,000 toward the upgrade of their van.

This year's Community Wellbeing Support Grants program opens 9am Monday 20 March and closes 5pm Sunday 30 April.

MORE INFO

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/grants

CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL MAKES CLIMATE CHANGE PLEDGE

Earlier this year, Cardinia Shire Council took the TAKE2 pledge, joining the Victorian Government and other local governments, businesses, educational institutions and the community in making a commitment to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

Our shire has already experienced extreme drought, heat, rainfall and flooding due to climate change. These events and their impacts are set to increase in severity unless action is taken to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

Council's Aspirational Energy Transition Plan aims to have zero net emissions for Council operations and to see a reduction of at least 36 per cent in community emissions on a per capita basis by 2024.

The TAKE2 pledge continues our work in delivering environmentally sustainable programs. Already Council has implemented various initiatives to reduce its emissions as part of the delivery of the Aspirational Energy Transition Plan, including:

- Environmental upgrades of Council facilities including Cardinia Shire's main aquatic centre Cardinia Life, the Cardinia Cultural Centre and the Beaconsfield Community Complex.



- The upgrade of decorative street lights with energy saving globes.
- The installation of 245kW of solar electricity systems comprising of over 940 solar panels at 14 sites.
- The incorporation of a high level of sustainable design in new Council facilities.

Council will continue to implement actions to reduce its emissions and to support the community with emissions reductions. For more information about the TAKE2 Pledge or to view Council's Aspirational Energy Transition Plan, visit www.take2.vic.gov.au

NEW SERVICE SUPPORTS MORE EFFICIENT HOMES

Making the right choices during the initial design phase of a new build can make your home significantly more energy efficient in the long run.

To ensure Cardinia Shire residents have access to the best information, Council and the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance have received a \$330,000 Victorian Government grant to expand the New Home Energy Advisory Service. The initiative is being supported by Parklea who are hosting a sustainable design information centre in their land sales office at the Timbertop Estate in Officer.

The program provides new home buyers with design tips and information on engaging builders to achieve homes that use up to 60 percent less energy.

Council's Environment Officer Brett Munckton said this will in turn deliver

a lifetime of savings on energy bills and ensure homes are better placed to withstand more frequent incidence of heatwaves.

Brett said many of the ideas provided by the service could be implemented for free or for relatively low cost.

"One of the first steps to consider is the orientation of your home to achieve the best passive solar benefits. For example, by designing your house so that the main living areas face north, you capture the winter sun, reducing the need for heating and additional lighting," he said.

"Consider installing double-glazed windows, which only cost slightly more than single-glazed, and ensure external shading is provided for windows exposed to the summer sun. Draught sealing can also lead to big energy savings for minimal cost."

Brett said buyers may also refuse ducted heating or evaporative cooling systems as part of the build.

"These appliances add significantly to the cost of the build and can be expensive to



run. Instead, wait until you have lived in the house for a few months and then install only the number of energy-efficient reverse cycle split system units as you know you need," he said.

The sustainable design information centre is located at 9 Penshurst Crescent Officer within the Timbertop Estate land sales office. It is open from 11am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday and at other times by prior arrangement. For a detailed free consultation on housing design a prior booking is encouraged. For more information or to make a booking please contact Dan Pleiter from the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance on 9705 5662.



Big screen plans for local short film

For the past year a group of local teens, supported by members of Council's Youth Services team, have been working with professional actors, comedians and filmmakers on the production of a short film that looks at some of the issues faced by young people who identify as transgender or gender diverse.

The film is called Marcus and is a comedy drama set in a "day in the life" of a young transgender guy and his family. It is light hearted and fun but also has some serious messages about the way families and communities support (and sometimes not support) transgender or gender diverse young people.

Comedians Cal Wilson, Broden Kelly, Demi Lardner and Lori Bell feature in the film, while film and television production company Youthworx Media helped to train the aspiring local film makers, providing the camera and sound/lighting equipment on the day of filming and mentoring them on the day of shooting and during the editing process.

The film premier is planned locally for late April, after which it will be made available to schools and community groups, along with teaching notes. It will also be entered into local, national and international film festivals and eventually made available to anyone via the internet.

Cardinia Youth Services will be celebrating National Youth Week from 31 March to 9 April. Combined with the teenage school holiday program and Freeza events, it's going to be a great couple of weeks of fun and activities.

Major events held as part National Youth Week include the annual Skateboarding

Competition at Pakenham Skate Park on 1 April, youth events held as part of the PAVE community festival in Emerald on Sunday 2 April, a movie afternoon at the Cardinia Cultural Centre on Wednesday 5 April, and a National Youth Week party and Good Choice Awards at My Place Youth Centre on Friday 7 April.

There will also be heaps of activities on offer in the teenage school holiday program including an excursion to Luna Park, air-brushing and DJ workshops, Easter fun, laser skirmish and a massive bubble soccer match.

MORE INFO

[f /CardiniaYouthServices](#)

PRIDE MARCH

Members of Council's Youth Services joined by Cr Brett Owen, Cr Leticia Wilmot and Cr Michael Schilling have marched alongside 18 local young people as they took part in the annual Midsumma Pride March held on 29 January.

Now in its 22nd year, Pride March recognises and celebrates Victoria's

lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community, while remembering the road they have already travelled on the journey towards equality.

Council's Youth Services team supports over 50 young people who identify as same sex attracted or sex and gender diverse young people and councillors and council representatives were proud to march beside the young people to show their support.





Cardinia Shire Council General Manager People and Culture, Waudi Tahche with White Ribbon Australia CEO, Libby Davies

COUNCIL RECEIVES WHITE RIBBON ACCREDITATION

Cardinia Shire Council has been named a White Ribbon accredited workplace, recognising the work the organisation has done in preventing and responding to violence against women in the workplace and in the community.

Chief Executive Officer, Garry McQuillan said the organisation has worked hard over the past 18 months to create a safer and more respectful workplace through education and training, enhanced resource allocation, improved workplace policies, and effective leadership.

"This internationally recognised accreditation acknowledges the initiatives we have put in place to educate staff about the many forms of family violence, how to seek assistance if they are either using violence or are the target of it, and how best to support someone in need," said Garry.

"I am proud of the efforts of staff to join the organisation in taking a stand, through their support of White Ribbon Day and other initiatives Council has instigated such as Together We Can."

Garry said a key ingredient in tackling the issue of violence in the community was always demonstrating respect for others, in our homes, workplaces and in the broader community.

Cardinia Shire has the second highest rate of reported family violence incidents in the Southern Metropolitan Region, with an average of four serious incidents occurring per day. Up to 77 per cent of these incidents are against women and nearly half of the time there are children involved.

You can show your support for the work of White Ribbon Australia by making a tax-deductible donation online at White Ribbon Australia.

If you, or someone you know, are experiencing violence, please contact 1800 RESPECT for advice and support. In an emergency, call the police on 000.

TOGETHER WE CAN

The "Stop Family Violence – Together We Can" community initiative, launched in April 2016, works towards stopping, preventing and ending family violence in Cardinia Shire.

Council has been working together with the community, Family Life and University of Melbourne on a range of initiatives and projects towards that goal, including creating a Guide for Workplaces and Business.

The guide is available at www.togetherwecan.org.au and all workplaces in the shire are encouraged to display it and encourage staff to follow the tips contained in it.

These tips include:

DON'T IGNORE – attitudes, behaviour, practices or policies in the workplace that are discriminatory.

SPEAK UP – challenge sexist, racist, homophobic remarks and jokes.

GET INFORMED – know the law, inform others, call the experts, build respect.

OFFER SUPPORT – check in with staff; protect their health and wellbeing.

The guide also contains a list of contact numbers for help and referral services.





CELEBRATE CULTURAL DIVERSITY ON HARMONY DAY

Be part of the rich cultural diversity that exists in our shire at the second annual Harmony Day celebrations held on 21 March at Living Learning Pakenham.

The free event runs from 11am to 1pm and includes displays and information booths, musical and dance performances including guitarists, an intercultural choir, traditional Chinese, Filipino, Spanish and African dancing, Japanese drumming and a Sikh martial arts display.

There are also activities suitable for all ages such as a children's corner, selfies in saris, turban tying, Maori weaving, totem pole painting, badge making and top to it off, there's lunch – and it's all free!

Harmony Day is part of Cultural Diversity Week (March 18-26), and is held every

year on 21 March to coincide with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

This local event is an initiative of the Cardinia CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) Network, which has been working in partnership with Council to create an event that brings the community together to celebrate its rich and diverse cultures. Cardinia Shire is home to over 150 nationalities.

Council's Cultural Diversity Facilitator, Glenda George, said last year's event was a great success with around 350 people coming along to enjoy the food, performances and activities.

"The message of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs', and the event encourages people to participate in their community, gain a better understanding of another culture or religion and enjoy the experience of coming together to promote a sense of belonging for all," said Glenda.

CELEBRATE NEIGHBOUR DAY

Do you know the people who live next door, in your street, in your neighbourhood? Neighbour Day, held annually on the last Sunday in March, is the perfect opportunity to get out and say hello.

Neighbour Day is all about encouraging people who live in the same neighbourhood to get to know each other with the aim of building stronger social connections and stronger communities.

The theme for this year's Neighbour Day, held on Sunday 26 March, is 'The Importance of Social Connection for the Elderly'.

It is the perfect time to say hello to those individuals or families you haven't met, particularly those who might have limited mobility or be socially isolated, or to say thanks to the neighbours you already call friends.

Residents might like to hold a barbecue, morning tea or get-together at a local park. You can also register your event at neighbourday.org and request a free resource e-kit with tips and ideas for organising a local event.

Building for THE FUTURE

Council has many major capital works projects in progress at any one time. To view an interactive map featuring project locations and information, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects



Recycled concrete saves costs and resources

Approximately 10,000 tonnes of old concrete footpath, kerb and channel, pit lids and pipes have been crushed and reused on unsealed roads across the shire as part of a \$140,000 recycling program.

The concrete was removed as part of Council's concrete renewal programs. It has been used to strengthen and provide

flood mitigation on certain unsealed roads within the shire.

By using recycled concrete, Council reduces the amount of waste going to landfills, as well as the costs to produce crushed rock from raw materials, providing both economic and environmental benefits.



Gravel footpath upgrades

As part of Council's asset renewal program, approximately eight kilometres of gravel footpaths were replenished with new crushed rock material that was lost due to weather conditions and general wear and tear.

Footpaths included in the \$90,000 program were located in Cockatoo, Beaconsfield, Beaconsfield Upper, Emerald, Gembrook, Koo Wee Rup and Maryknoll.

Council currently maintain approximately 45 kilometres of gravel footpaths across the shire.

Unsealed roads re-sheeting program

A unique blended crushed rock material, developed in partnership with a local quarry, has been used to replenish about 40 kilometres of unsealed roads this financial year, replacing material that has been lost due to weather and wear and tear.

Council maintains about 865 kilometres of unsealed roads across the shire which, if joined end to end, would stretch almost from Melbourne to Sydney.

Townships included in the \$900,000 re-sheeting program were: Avonsleigh, Beaconsfield Upper, Catani, Clematis, Cockatoo, Emerald, Gembrook, Koo Wee Rup, Koo Wee Rup North, Monomeith, Nar Nar Goon, Officer, Officer South, Pakenham, Pakenham South, Tynong North, Yannathan.



Free household chemical collections

Get rid of unwanted household chemicals by dropping them off at the free Detox Your Home mobile collection and help reduce the risk of poisoning, environmental pollution and bushfire hazards.

Not only are these chemicals diverted from landfill, but once collected they are also recycled wherever possible.

Accepted items include certain fuels, glues, gardening products, rat poison, paint stripper and pool chemicals. A full list of items that will and will not be accepted can be found on Sustainability Victoria's website.

The collection will be held on Saturday, 29 April from 8am to 4pm.

The site address in Pakenham will be provided upon registration.

Another nearby Detox your Home mobile collection will be held in Dandenong on 17 June.

To attend either event register online with Sustainability Victoria or call them on 1300 363 744.


Mobile collections do not accept paint. Household paint is accepted all year round at Detox Your Home permanent sites.

Our nearest site:

Hampton Park Resource Recovery Precinct,
274 Hallam Road, Hampton Park 3976
Phone: 9799 6277

Detox your Home is a free service for all Victorian householders. It is administered by Sustainability Victoria in partnership with local councils and funded by the Victorian landfill levy.

MORE INFO

 www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/detoxyourhome

Bunyip-Modella bridge renewal

Construction is well underway on the Bunyip-Modella Road bridge replacement in Bunyip, which will see the crossing point significantly strengthened to cater for the needs of local residents and industry.

The existing timber bridge, which has a 10-tonne load limit, is being replaced with a contemporary reinforced concrete structure that has a 136-tonne load limit.

Project Engineer Stewart Pike said the new bridge would provide much better transport connections for Bunyip's food supply industry.

The existing bridge crosses the Bunyip River at the south-western end of the township. The river is the major water

course through Cardinia Shire, so the bridge is a key crossing point for both local residents and businesses.

The \$1.388 million project is jointly funded by Council and the Australian Government Bridges Renewal Programme of \$694,000 each.

Work started on the new bridge in January 2017 and the project is scheduled to be completed in March. As the contractors are using the old bridge as a working platform, it will be demolished in stages as the works progress.

A detour route has been set up around the work site until work is completed.



McGregor Road signals make crossing safer

While school children were enjoying their summer break, Council got busy in January converting the supervised school crossing on McGregor Road in Pakenham to pedestrian operated traffic signals.

Project Engineer Kurt Pitts said improving the existing crossing was a high priority given it was heavily used by people accessing the nearby Heritage Springs Shopping Centre and Pakenham Springs Primary School.

"The high volume and speed of traffic using the road meant that there were ongoing safety issues. Upgrading the existing crossing with pedestrian operated signals was an effective way to address those concerns with only minimal works required," said Kurt.

The work, which included power reticulation and connection, pouring foundations and installing signals and lighting, was completed over the January school holidays to ensure minimal impact on the existing school crossing. The final step will be completed by Ausnet Services who are responsible for connecting the power to activate the signals.

McGregor Road carries over 16,000 vehicles per day and these new signals will greatly improve safety for all crossing this busy road.





Immunisations

Cardinia Shire families can benefit from Council's free adult and infant immunisation service under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

Immunisation is a simple, safe and effective way of protecting children and adults against many diseases. The risks associated with these diseases are greater than the very small risks associated with immunisation.

Immunisation sessions are held monthly at seven locations in Cardinia Shire with both day and evening sessions available. No appointment is necessary for infant immunisation sessions.

For locations and sessions times, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/immunisation. For questions and bookings, contact Council's Environmental Health Team on 1300 787 624 or email health@cardinia.vic.gov.au

No Jab, No Play laws

Under Victorian Government No Jab, No Play laws, all children enrolling at an early childhood education facility or care service must present an immunisation status certificate. The certificate or statement is available from the Australia Immunisations Register or will be mailed to you after your child receives their final immunisation boosters at four years of age.

MORE INFO

For more information and to download the 2017 Immunisation schedule, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/immunisation

EARLY YEARS INFORMATION SESSIONS

Information sessions regarding locally available early years services are being held to help families make informed choices.

The sessions cover topics such as the difference between kindergarten in a community kindergarten and long day care centre and why is it important to go to a maternal and child health appointment.

Sessions will also inform families about access to key universal services such as

the maternal and child health service and kindergarten registration. Families will also receive information about the proven educational, health and wellbeing benefits of these services for children and families.

Visit the events calendar at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/events for session times and locations. For more information, call the Child and Family team on 1300 787 624.

KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

Attending kindergarten is a great way for children to develop their self-confidence as well as their cognitive and physical skills through creative play, art, dance, games and interacting with other children and adults.

Kindergartens across Cardinia Shire offer pre-kindergarten programs as well as funded kindergarten sessions that children can attend the year before they start

primary school. The days and times of sessions vary between kindergartens and families will need to contact their preferred service directly to ask about its program, days, times, fees and subsidies available.

Council manages the central enrolment for community kindergartens.

MORE INFO

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

COUNCIL AND TOWN PLANNING MEETINGS

Community members are welcome to attend General Council and Town Planning meetings held monthly in the Council Chambers, Civic Centre, 20 Siding Ave, Officer at 7pm.

Council meetings

Third Monday of every month:

- Monday 24 April
- Monday 15 May
- Monday 19 June

Town Planning Committee meetings

First Monday of every month:

- Monday 3 April
- Monday 1 May
- Monday 5 June

Meeting agendas and more information available at

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/meetings