



Cardinia Shire Council Youth Services News!



Welcome to the Winter issue of our quarterly newsletter!

Here you will find lots of great information about programs and services available for Cardinia Shire's young people. Our list of subscribers is always growing, and we love sharing exciting stories and updates with you all.

What's on?

Open Day at My Place

Our youth services team, together with South East Community Links are hosting an Open Day at My Place on Thursday 29 June.

The free event will include stacks of activities such as games, crafts and henna tattoos! Food and drinks will also be provided.

Date: Thursday 29 June

Time: 11am – 3pm

Place: My Place Youth Facility – 5-7 Main St, Pakenham



To find out more about this free event, call us on 1800 496 884 or send us an [email](#).

Expression Art Exhibition

Calling for artworks! *Expression* is an opportunity for artists with disability to showcase their creative talent and express themselves in their own way.

Artworks may be accepted from a variety of mediums including, but not limited to, painting, sculpture, woodwork, digital art, poetry, quilting, photography, music, and more.

The exhibition will be held in the Gallery at Cardinia Cultural Centre from Friday 4 August to Sunday 24 September 2023.

Works must be submitted by Sunday 9 July 2023.

To submit art, download and complete [this form](#) and email it to arts@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Teenage school holiday program

We are excited to invite young people aged 12-17 to join us in a wide range of activities during the Winter school holidays!

Our free activities these holidays include cooking, gaming, candle making and a kokedama workshop!

Bookings can be made [online](#) or by contacting My Place on 1800 496 744 or [email](#).

[Book now](#)



Term 3 programs

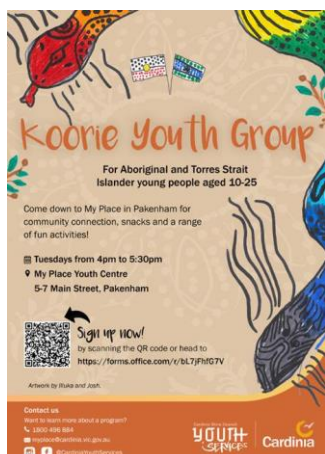
Our Term 3 programs kick off in July. We have a wide range of groups and programs available for young people aged 12-24.

[Follow us](#) on Instagram for up-to-date program information and announcements or visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youthprograms

[Youth Services](#)



What's new?



Koorie Youth Group

We are excited to offer a great new after school program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 12-24. The group meet on Tuesday afternoons at My Place to enjoy opportunities for connecting with culture, community, and a range of fun activities.



Catch Up renamed to Chill & Upskill

Our long running program for young people aged 17-24 year has a fresh new name – Chill & Upskill! We think this is a much better reflection of the group's purpose - to provide a fun, social opportunity to learn new life skills and meet new friends.



Cardinia Pride

Our Cardinia Pride group has been meeting online on a fortnightly basis for some time now, with a focus on exploring opportunities to advocate for local young people in the LGBTIQA+ community. We are to be expanding this program to offer an in-person group on the alternate fortnight to enjoy a range of fun and friendly social activities and connect with like-minded peers.



Hang Out

Kicking off in Term 3 we have a brand new after school program with a health and wellbeing focus. Hang out is a program for young people aged 12 to 17 years old to catch up, create friendships and enjoy diverse activities. Running Thursdays during the school term from 3.30pm to 5pm, teens can enjoy different activities each week such as cooking, yoga, mindfulness and more!

For more information on any of our groups or programs, call us on 1800 496 884 or send us an [email](#).

Recent Highlights

National Reconciliation Week

Council is committed towards Reconciliation and forging stronger connections with Traditional Owner groups and Cardinia Shire's wider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as outlined in Council's [Reconciliation Action Plan](#). As part of National Reconciliation Week, Council hosted several community events that were enjoyed by children, young people and their families.

On Friday 26 May, Cardinia Cultural Centre was lit up in purple lights in recognition of National Sorry Day. National Sorry Day has become a day of healing for people, families, and communities of the Stolen Generations since the National Apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008.

Council also hosted a Flag-Raising Ceremony on Monday 29 May to commemorate National Reconciliation Week. The event was attended by student representatives from local schools who enjoyed a range of activities such as a traditional smoking ceremony, native plant giveaways, giant games, rock painting, the raising of the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian flags, with speeches by the Bunurong Land Council and Cardinia Shire Mayor, Councillor Tammy Radford.

Council's Arts team have worked with local artist Alex Kerr to curate and deliver a Reconciliation themed exhibition at the Emerald Hills Hub which can be viewed from Monday 22 May to Friday 23 June.

To launch the exhibition, Council held an event at the Hills Hub on Tuesday 30 May. The event was attended by local school students and community members, and included a traditional smoking ceremony followed by a performance by Indigenous musician and performer Ash Dargan.

New Youth Hub update

Here are some recent photos of the building progress at the site of Council's new Youth Hub on James Street, Pakenham.

The purpose-built three storey building will have counselling rooms, a hangout space, computers and access to free WiFi, multimedia/recording studio, classrooms and a rooftop recreation space with a basketball ring and BBQ.



Organisations who will be co-locating with us at the new Youth Hub include:

- Cardinia Youth Services
- Headspace
- Oakwood School
- YSAS (Youth Support and Advocacy Service)
- CMY (Centre for Multicultural Youth)
- TaskForce Community Agency
- CVTG Employment
- Berry Street

It is anticipated that works will be completed and ready for us to move in early 2024 – we will continue to share updates as works continue.

In the meantime, it's business as usual for our Youth team and service providers based at My Place (5-7 Main St, Pakenham). We are really looking forward to all of the incredible opportunities that the new Youth Hub will provide.

Awards and recognition

Good Choice Awards

Our annual Good Choice Awards will be open for nominations soon - so watch this space and start thinking about who you might like to nominate!



The Good Choice Awards recognise and celebrate young people aged 12-25 who have demonstrated resilience, kindness, and strength in their decision making. Some examples include:

- Applying for a job or apprenticeship
- Making informed choices about their health and safety
- Accessing support networks even when it's difficult
- Prioritising themselves, life goals and aspirations
- Choosing to spend time with good people
- Engaging in school/returning to study with confidence



Nominated young people will be recognised at an invitation-only event held during Youth Fest in September.

Pride corner

Council's Youth Services team offer safe, inclusive, and fun programs for young people who identify as LGBTIQ+ and their friends and allies. Young people are welcomed as they are and encouraged to express themselves authentically.

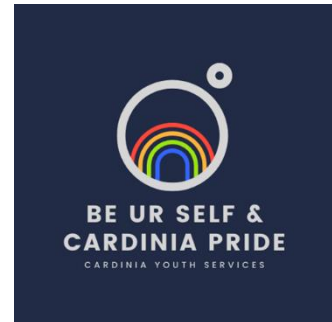
Be Ur Self and Cardinia Pride

Be Ur Self is a fun and welcoming social support group for young people aged 12-17 who meet weekly.

Cardinia Pride is a group for young people aged 18-24 who meet weekly, alternating on a fortnightly basis between in-person and online:

- In-person to enjoy a range of fun and friendly social activities and connect with like-minded peers
- Online to explore advocacy opportunities to bring about change and equality in the local community.

Call us on 1800 496 884 or [email](#) for more information.



Youth support service

Our team of youth workers offer a free confidential information, practical support and referral service that is flexible and accessible to all young people aged 12 – 24 years who live, work, study or have strong links to the Cardinia Shire.

Our team are on site Monday to Friday from 1pm to 5pm at [My Place Youth Centre](#) (5–7 Main Street, Pakenham).

Young people, parents and professionals/educators who work with young people are invited to call [18004YOUTH](#) or pop into the centre during these times.

Our team can help young people to:

- access social, life skills and support groups in the local area
- make referrals to specialised support services where needed, including drug and alcohol, Centrelink, legal matters, mental health, employment and training, and housing.



Our youth services officers are also available at My Place during opening hours to directly support young people with problems including:

- bullying
- family conflict/friendship issues
- life, school, or work stresses
- building resilience and coping with difficult situations
- sexuality/gender identity.

My Place Youth Centre has a variety of games, electronics, computers, and snacks available for young people seeking a fun, safe and inclusive space to hang out.

Resources/where to get help

[Youth Positive Pathways](#) is an excellent resource for young people in the City of Greater Dandenong, City of Casey and Cardinia Shire.

This [directory](#) has information about services available to young people in Cardinia Shire, as well as links to useful information.

If you'd like some help to find what you need, call us on [1800 496 884](tel:1800496884) and speak with someone from our Youth Services team.



[Youth Positive Pathways](#)



Follow us!

Cardinia Youth Services is now on [Instagram!](#) Follow us [@cardiniayouthservices](#).

Questions? Feedback?

We would love to hear from you! Send an email to myplace@cardinia.vic.gov.au visit [Council's website](#)

[in Share](#)

[Forward](#)



Cardinia Shire Council
20 Siding Ave
Officer VIC 3809

You have been subscribed to this email because you have signed up to our Youth Services ezine.
[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)