

Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Winter 2023

STAN HENWOOD AWARD

Meet the 2023 Stan Henwood Award winner

SAVING OUR TREES

Ground-breaking technology

IT'S ALL HAPPENING!

Updates to major roads and projects

SMART WASTE

Ideas and initiatives to avoid landfill



Cardinia

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Let's beautify our community!

Get your thinking caps on for how you can enhance the shire's green spaces, as Council's Beautification Grant program will open on Monday 26 June 2023.

Community groups and individuals can apply for dollar-for-dollar grants of up to \$2,000 for landscape enhancement projects that help the community beautify their local public open spaces.

Applications close at 5pm Monday 24 July 2023.

For more information about project eligibility, timelines and how to apply, visit:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/beautification

On the cover

We're fortunate to have such a diverse community in Cardinia Shire, and we're committed to continuing to build a culture that welcomes and celebrates diversity. Gracing the front cover is the African Start & Dance Company, who wowed residents at Cardinia Shire's World Refugee Festival this June.

Have your say!

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

Check out our online community platform Creating Cardinia to find out about current consultations and how you can get involved.

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

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Officer Ward

Cr Tammy Radford (Mayor)

0439 580 797

t.radford@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Pakenham Hills Ward

Cr Jack Kowarzik (Deputy Mayor)

0439 620 809

j.kowarzik@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Ranges Ward

Cr Jeff Springfield

0427 383 810

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Beacon Hills Ward

Cr Brett Owen

0418 993 370

b.owen@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Bunyip Ward

Cr Graeme Moore

0400 167 844

g.moore@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Central Ward

Cr Collin Ross

0402 420 398

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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.

Mayor's message

Welcome to winter! Even though the air may be a little crisper and the mornings a little colder, winter will always be one of my favourite times of the year for so many reasons. It's always a great excuse to wrap up warm and spend some quality time with the ones we love.

I have been delighted to attend so many wonderful events and celebrations these past few months, and each one has reminded me of just how honoured I am to be your Mayor. From the pride celebration for IDAHOBIT, to the Reconciliation Week flag raising ceremonies on the lands of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, we have had so many reasons to come together as a community.

This May, I headed out with my fellow Councillors to check out the progress of the level crossing removal on Main Street in Pakenham (pictured). It was a great opportunity to get a better understanding of a project

that the community is very much looking forward to being completed.

In this edition of Connect magazine you'll find lots of exciting news and updates, including stories featuring our fantastic volunteers. On page 10 you'll also get to meet the brilliant Jeff Latter, our 2023 Stan Henwood Award winner!

If you're feeling crafty, page 14 has an exciting DIY for a winter hand scrub made from items you can find in your home, as well as lots of tips and tricks to make the most of our waste.

I know that winter can often strike with the "winter blues", but don't let that stop you from enjoying all that Cardinia Shire has to offer! Take a peek at page 6 and the back page of this edition for some exciting Winterfest offers and entertainment.

Stay warm and stay happy.

Until next time,

Cr Tammy Radford

Cardinia Shire Mayor

Council meetings

Council and Town Planning meetings are held monthly.

Check our website for the most up-to-date information:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

You can watch Council meetings live or catch up on previous meetings at:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/webcast

Expression of creativity

Come along to an exhibition featuring art created by people with disability!

Hosted by Council, the "Expression" exhibition is an opportunity for artists with disability to showcase their artistic skills and express themselves.

This May, we hosted workshops for people to create art for the "Expression" exhibition. The workshops were

facilitated by local art therapist Nazia Wasif. All Cardinia Shire residents with disability were also encouraged to submit their artwork.

Access and Advisory Committee member and Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen is pleased that more community members can get creative and be acknowledged for their artistic abilities.

“We have many talented artists with disability in our shire and "Expression" is a fantastic opportunity for them to showcase their work,” Cr Owen said.

“Make sure you support our local arts community and visit the exhibition, which is opening soon!”

"Expression" will run from Friday 4 August to Sunday 24 September 2023 at Cardinia Cultural Centre.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/for-artists

What's on?

Cardinia Cultural Centre

Space Play: interactive installation

Saturday 24 June to Sunday 30 July

10am to 3pm (Tuesday – Sunday)

WERK IT: an acrobatic comedy

Friday 21 July

8pm

Peter Helliard:

Deconstructed Origami

Saturday 5 August

7pm

Melbourne Soul & Gospel Choir

Wednesday 9 August

10am morning tea and 11am show

Rock and Roll Sensation:

The Elvis & Buddy Holly Show

Saturday 26 August

7.30pm

50 Years On!

Queen Bohemian Rhapsody

Friday 8 September

7.30pm

www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au

Libraries

Plant and Produce Swap

Pakenham Library

10 to 11.30am on 1 July, 5 August and
2 September

Kids' Zone After School Fun

Pakenham Library

4 to 5pm on 20 July and 17 August

Emerald Community

Handcrafting group

Emerald Library

12.30 to 2.30pm on 1 July,
5 August and 2 September

Creative Kids

Emerald Library

4 to 5pm on 20 July and 17 August

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

Visit www.myli.org.au for event details and registration.

Capturing History

Next time you head up to Cockatoo, why not take some snaps of this fantastic new artwork?

Created by artist James Voller, "Negative Curl" is a moving artwork that features archival photographs of Cockatoo that are laser etched on to rolled anodised aluminum.

Located just outside the Ash Wednesday Bushfire Education Centre (AWBEC) on McBride Street in Cockatoo, the work references the loss of Cockatoo's photographic archives when the Ash Wednesday Bushfires destroyed the buildings in which they were housed.

The artwork was derived from objects stored in AWBEC, and was officially launched by Council on Wednesday 3 May.

February 2023 marked the 40th anniversary of Ash Wednesday, one of the most significant bushfire events in both Australia and Cardinia Shire's history.

“This artwork uses the latest technology to bring the past into the present,” said Ranges Ward Councillor Jeff Springfield.

“It's an important tribute to the Cockatoo community and is a creative piece of art that will resonate with so many residents.”

Cardinia Shire Council has a stunning range of art pieces across the Cardinia Shire Public Art Trail including sculptures, murals, mosaics, embroidery and more.

Plan your journey along the art trail.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/publicart

Meet the 2023 music residents!

Here at Council, we're passionate about supporting emerging artists, and each year we give 3 talented musicians the tools to enhance and launch their careers.

Through the tailored Music Residencies program, this year our music residents took part in a mentorship with

industry professional Dan Kelaart, where they recorded their own song in a professional studio, and showcased their abilities at local gigs.

Interested in finding out more? Keep your eyes on our Artist Portal for more details.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/for-artists

Winterfest is here!

Stay, explore and enjoy all things Cardinia Shire these winter school holidays.

Until 9 July, What's On Cardinia is showcasing the amazing products, services and deals from local businesses at this year's Winterfest!

Visit and explore local Cardinia Shire spots during Winterfest to take advantage of their incredible deals, entertainment and events that are close to home.

Deputy Mayor and Pakenham Hills Ward Councillor Jack Kowarzik was excited to get out into the shire and go to new places.

“Winterfest is a great opportunity to explore our local community, as there will be something for everyone to enjoy – so let's come together and and support local!” Cr Kowarzik said.

“Check out more details about Winterfest online, and on the back page of this magazine.”

www.whatsoncardinia.com.au/winterfest

Get involved this NAIDOC Week

Get to know and support our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events this NAIDOC Week.

NAIDOC Week is held in the first week of July each year to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year the theme of NAIDOC week is "For Our Elders" and celebrates Elders as cultural knowledge

holders who hold a prominent place in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

It's an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories, and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

Want to know what is happening near you this NAIDOC Week? Jump online!

www.naidoc.org.au

Learn more about the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of the lands of Cardinia Shire.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/aboriginalcommunity

Celebrating Cardinia Shire's diversity

The strength, resilience and determination of Cardinia Shire's refugees and asylum seekers was celebrated at this year's World Refugee Festival.

Council invited the community to a FREE special event in June at Cardinia Culture Centre to celebrate. Crowds enjoyed traditional Bollywood and African dancing, food stalls from diverse cuisines, and great family activities.

"Finding Freedom" was the theme of this year's World Refugee Festival, reminding us that freedom should not be an ask, it should be a way of life.

Jump online to learn more about how we celebrate and support our multicultural community.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/culturaldiversity

Committed to reconciliation

We're currently working on our brand-new Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which outlines Council's commitment to reconciliation and forging stronger connections with Traditional Owner groups, Aboriginal controlled organisations and the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Keep an eye out for the opportunity to have your say on the new plan soon.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/reconciliation

Protecting our trees

We're making ground-breaking strides in the sustainable roads space by using new technology to survey tree roots!

Acting like a submarine, ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology sends signals down into the earth to snap pics of what lies below the road (pictured right).

The GPR tech was first trialled along Dore Road, Nar Nar Goon, as part of environmental investigations for the Strategic Sealed Roads program.

With over 1000 trees surrounding Dore Road, GPR surveys have helped to work out the location and depth of tree roots, and whether the road can be adjusted during the sealing process to preserve more trees. 340 trees could have been removed, but now thanks to these surveys, 95% of these trees will be saved!

“Using this technology will help to conserve more of our native wildlife and vegetation, whilst also saving over \$300k in potential tree removal costs,” said Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore.

“I'm proud that Council is able to trial forward-thinking practices to reduce our environmental impact.”

For the innovative work along Dore Road, Council was recently awarded an Excellence Award from the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia.

To learn more about Council's sustainable road practices, head to the website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sustainableroads

Roads check-in

Works have been going on shire-wide in the roads space, and we'd like to give you a snapshot of what we've been up to. Check out more online.

Brunt meets Pioneer

Upgrade works have kicked off to duplicate Brunt Road and extend Pioneer Way to connect with Brunt Road. Works are expected to be completed by November 2023.

Dore Road is getting sealed

Works to seal the full 6km length of Dore Road, Nar Nar Goon, have begun and are expected to be completed by December 2023.

Walk a new path

As part of our 2022-23 footpath program, we've constructed 5 new footpaths across the shire, including in Tynong, Gembrook, Avonsleigh, Beaconsfield and Lang Lang.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/roads

Working together to make safety a priority

We work in partnership with a range of organisations including Victoria Police and Crime Stoppers as part of the Safer Communities Partnership.

The group meets every 2 months to work on effective responses to safety issues in the shire.

Council is now developing a Community Policy for the shire, which will guide the way we approach community safety to maximise impact.

We are now seeking feedback from you on the policy direction!

Sprinting towards new amenities

Great news for local track-stars! The new regional athletics track is almost complete at IYU Recreation Reserve in Pakenham.

Residents will soon be able to enjoy the new amenities once the grass infield and surrounding the track has grown.

Fully funded by Council, the athletics facility will feature:

- 400m running track with a 10 lane straight
- Facilities for long/triple jump, pole vault, high jump, javelin, shot put, hammer/discus and steeplechase.

“IYU is really shaping up to be a premier destination for sports in the shire, and I'm excited that residents will soon be able to use this incredible running track,” said Central Ward Councillor Collin Ross.

“We can't wait to officially welcome the Pakenham Little Athletics Club to the athletics track soon.”

Previous works at IYU Reserve included a new full-sized senior soccer field, a pavilion, an all-weather synthetic soccer pitch, a playground and a basketball half-court.

Love hearing about the major works planned for the shire? Visit Council's website for more.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Get your runners ready!

This winter is all about enjoying the great outdoors, as more exciting major projects to get you moving are coming to life across Cardinia Shire. Check out a few of these below.

Nar Nar Goon oval

Upgraded facilities and a new pitch – this oval has it all!

Nar Nar Goon Recreation Reserve

Open now

Cockatoo tennis courts

The new tennis courts are almost ready to serve the community.

2 McBride Street, Cockatoo

Expected to open in late August

Clematis extension of the East Dandenong Ranges Trail

Take your next walk alongside the iconic Puffing Billy Railway on this brand-new path.

Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Clematis

Open now

Spot a pothole? Please report it!

Winter is here, and this means we're more likely to get the extremely wet weather that makes potholes more likely.

When you report a pothole to us, it makes it easier for us get someone out there to fix it and prioritise the roads issues most important to you.

Not all local roads in the shire are Council roads, so head to our website for how to check who looks after which roads.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/potholes

Your latest refreshed playground

Get ready for maximum fun – the Creekwood Park playground on Oaklands Way, Pakenham, is officially open!

The Creekwood Park renewal project saw exciting new playground equipment installed, creating a more accessible and fun space for residents to enjoy all year round.

Toomuc Ward Councillor Stephanie Davies was delighted that the playground is open for families to enjoy.

“This playground is a fantastic win for Toomuc Ward and the wider community,” Cr Davies said.

“I would like to thank everyone who had their say on the draft design of the playground – it looks incredible, and I know that it will bring local families lots of joy.”

This exciting project was jointly funded by Council and the Victorian Government's Living Local Suburban Grants Program, each contributing \$90,000 towards the renewal.

Can't wait to hear about the next playground to be completed? Head to our website to keep up with the latest news.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/playgroundrenewals

Nominate a local young person for a 2023 Good Choice Award!

Know a young person who has demonstrated resilience, kindness, and strength in their decision making throughout 2023? Then nominate them for a Cardinia Shire Good Choice Award!

The Good Choice Awards recognise the good choices local young people make and celebrate considered decision making. This might look like:

- **Prioritising study**
- **Applying for a job**
- **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.**

Each nominee will receive a certificate at a special award ceremony to acknowledge their 2023 Good Choices – this is a celebration, not a competition!

One young person from each ward within Cardinia Shire will be selected by the Ward Councillor to receive a \$20 gift card and certificate.

Nominations are open now and will close on Friday 25 August.

Further information and nomination forms can be found online.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth

Teenage School Holiday Program is here!

Our Youth Services team will be hosting a range of fun activities at My Place Youth Facility over the winter school holidays for young people aged 12 to 17.

Activities include:

- Creative Cooking
- Big Screen Gaming
- Kokedama workshops
- Art Attack
- Candle making
- PJs and Movie Madness.

Places are limited so make sure to be quick and book in via the Council website!

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/TSHP

Reminder for kinder regos

Did you miss the cut-off to register your child to attend kindergarten in 2024? Don't worry, residents can still register for a second-round offer!

Register your child for up to 15 hours of 3-year-old or 4-year-old kindergarten in Cardinia Shire using our online kindergarten portal.

Registrations can still be submitted after Friday 30 June for your child to be included in second and subsequent round offers for 2024.

Jump online for important registration dates.

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

A rewarding evening

Three cheers for this year's Stan Henwood Award winner, Jeffrey Latter!

With live music, dinner, and guest speakers, the 2023 Volunteer Reception Evening on 18 May was a beautiful event celebrating our wonderful volunteers and the 2023 Stan Henwood Award nominees.

The Stan Henwood Award recognises residents who have made outstanding, long-term volunteer contributions to the local community. It honours the memory of Tynong legend Stan Henwood.

Jeff Latter is a committed, consistent and courteous member of every organisation to which he belongs, and brings his broad knowledge and skills to everything he does. He has also contributed greatly to Scouts and has received a number of awards in recognition for his community work.

“We thank Jeff for his dedication and devotion to volunteering for our shire. His ongoing commitment and

achievements over the years makes him a deserving winner of the prestigious Stan Henwood Award,” said Mayor Councillor Tammy Radford.

“I would also like to thank all the volunteers who were nominated for this year's award. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we appreciate your efforts in creating a better and brighter Cardinia Shire.”

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/stanhenwood

Did you know?

When asked

"why do you volunteer?"

The main reason was

"helping the community!"

Book it with Booking Cardinia

Our new online booking request site, Booking Cardinia, is live and ready to help you secure a space for your next function.

There are a range of indoor and outdoor spaces that can be hired for one-off or recurring activities such as community meetings and events, playgroups, and health and fitness.

Once your booking request is submitted, you will be contacted within 3 business days.

Have some feedback for us? Head to our website using the QR code to share your thoughts or make a booking.



Our valued volunteers

We'd love to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of our volunteers!

A special shout out goes to our community asset committees, who manage facilities on behalf of Council.

Westernport Ward Councillor Kaye Cameron recently visited the Cardinia Public Hall Community Asset Committee who have dedicated their time to the hall for a number of years.

Although the committee has now disbanded, Cr Cameron wanted to acknowledge the committee for their tireless efforts by presenting them with certificates and letters of thanks.

“I was delighted to have the opportunity to spend time with the wonderful volunteers that took such exceptional care of Cardinia Hall, and preserved its rich history for all these years,” Cr Cameron said.

“Volunteers make our communities better, and it was great to have the opportunity to show our appreciation to the Cardinia Hall Committee.”

Being part of a community asset committee allows you to play a key role in managing and maintaining local facilities, giving community ownership. Learn more online!

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/communityassetcommittees

Money Matters: Don't get caught out

Council's Financial Wellbeing and Resilience Action team works closely with a range of services that support our community to understand their financial circumstances, gain the knowledge to improve their financial wellbeing, and make sure they don't get caught out financially.

Fraud and scams

Scammers are becoming smarter and more convincing, so here's a few things to be mindful of:

- Be alert when dealing with uninvited contacts; always consider that it may be a scam, even if they mention a well-known company.
- If a message or email comes from a friend and it seems unusual, contact your friend directly to check that it was really them that sent it.
- Don't open suspicious texts, pop-up windows or click on links or attachments in emails.
- Never send money or give credit card details, online account details or copies of personal documents to anyone you don't know or trust.
- Be careful when shopping online and beware of offers that seem too good to be true.

Subscribe for email alerts on the latest scams at

www.scamwatch.gov.au

If you suspect you have been scammed, contact your local financial support services or the National Debt Helpline on 1800 007 007 for free and confidential support.

Southeast Community Links

fcs@secl.org.au, 9549 5288

Casey North CISS

fc@caseynorthciss.com.au, 9705 6699

Buy now pay later services (BNPL)

BNPL products are not currently regulated like other forms of credit – and won't be until 2024. Although these products are often interest free, they do charge late fees if you miss a payment – it's easy to overspend and these late fees can add up!

Why not try an alternative to BNPL? Consider whether you are eligible for a No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) which can help with unexpected expenses, and you only pay back what you borrow, nothing more.

Good Shepherd

www.goodshep.org.au/nils

South East NILS

0427 895 596

nils@echo.org.au

South East Community Links

(03) 9546 5255

microfinance@secl.org.au

If you are having any difficulty with BNPL products, call the National Debt Helpline for advice.

Did you know? According to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), Australians lost over \$3 billion to scams in 2022.

Try something new this winter

Cardinia Shire residents are invited to combat the winter blues, make connections and have fun with a class or activity at Cardinia U3A.

University of the Third Age (U3A) is an international movement that encourages people to take part in lifelong learning for pleasure.

Cardinia U3A is based at the Pakenham Hall Complex on Henry Street, and their mission is to provide opportunities for seniors to learn, teach, share and to give mutual support to each other in a friendly and warm environment, regardless of ethnicity, religion or abilities.

You can try a range of programs:

- Sewing and embroidering
- Learning a new language
- Board games
- Brushing up on your computer skills
- Exploring the stars
- Discovering new walking spots

- And more!

“The activities provided by the Cardinia U3A are a great way to keep social during the winter months,” said Henty Ward Councillor Carol Ryan.

“So why not get out of the house and expand your knowledge by learning something new?”

Not local to Pakenham? There is also a U3A in Emerald!

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/u3a

Ageing Well newsletter

Edition 15 of Council's Ageing Well newsletter is out now! It highlights a range of services and exciting opportunities for seniors to stay healthy and connected in Cardinia Shire.

Read the latest edition

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ageingwellnewsletter

Join the mailing list

Email us at

ageingwell@cardinia.vic.gov.au

If you'd like to request a printed copy of the Ageing Well newsletter to be posted to you, email us at the address above or call our Customer Support team on 1300 787 624.

Enjoy Connect in large print or audio

Did you know you can read editions of Connect magazine in large print or listen to audio files?

With the help of Vision Australia, we upload large print and audio versions of each Connect magazine to our website.

Scan the QR code to try it out now!



Would you like a large print copy mailed to you? Email your address to mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connect

Seniors Festival: Save the date

We're getting ready to celebrate our Cardinia Shire seniors at the 2023 Seniors Festival throughout the month of October!

The Victorian Seniors Festival is a major state-wide festival for and involving seniors, with an emphasis on fun and good times that takes place every October right across Victoria. This year's theme is "Learn Love Live".

You can expect activities, entertainment and community gatherings to be shared by all – so make a note in your calendar!

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival

Shelley shares her story

Cardinia Shire Citizen of the Year 2023 award winner Shelley Beardshaw and other passionate volunteers shared their stories with local school children at the Hills Hub in Emerald.

Over 50 year 3 and 4 students from Menzies Creek Primary School, their educators and helpers interviewed local volunteers for an intergenerational project, as part of the "Tell Me Your Story" program.

Volunteers gathered from all around the area, including Emerald U3A, Emerald Men's Shed, residents from Lifeview Emerald Glades, and other local community groups.

The "Tell Me Your Story" program is an extension of the "Come Sit by Me" program, which is funded through Cardinia Shire's Wellbeing Support Grant program. It's a wonderful way for seniors and children to connect in their local community.

Want to become a volunteer? Head to our website for opportunities across the shire.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteering

Embracing equity through new experiences

As part of Council's International Women's Day celebrations, an event was held at Living Learning Pakenham for women to come together to learn about embracing equity.

Samantha Richards, a local Aboriginal artist and one of the inspirational keynote speakers, delivered an engaging presentation on the rite of passage of young Aboriginal women, who in the past were presented with a possum skirt; a practice that had been lost for over 100 years.

Samantha brought her own traditional skirt to the event, which featured markings that represent both her Aboriginal and Australian identity.

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

If you'd like to learn about how we're supporting gender equality, head to our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/genderequality

Stand up for elder abuse

Every June, Cardinia Shire Council recognises World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by hosting a special community event.

This year, the afternoon tea event took place at Cardinia Cultural Centre, and featured a special guest speaker from Seniors Rights Victoria who spoke to residents about elder abuse, how to prevent it, and where to get support and assistance.

Cardinia Shire Council continues its commitment to eliminate elder abuse through the Together We Can initiative. Everyone can help stop, prevent and end

family violence in Cardinia Shire by reporting older people subjected to violence, coercion or abuse. Residents can help to create a safe community that values equality and respect.

If you or someone you know is experiencing elder abuse, contact the Seniors Rights Victoria helpline on 1300 368 821 for free and confidential help.

For more information about services for seniors in Cardinia Shire, head to our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/seniors

Top tips for a waste-wise winter

This winter, why not try a few new ways of managing your waste? We've pulled together our favourite tips and tricks for how you can reduce and reuse different items to make the most of your household waste before you recycle.

Avoid

The best way to reduce our waste is avoid creating it in the first place. We know this is easier said than done, so here are a few tips to help you get started.

- Carry your reusable coffee cup or water bottle when you go out to avoid buying single use cups and bottles.
- Look for fresh produce with little or no packaging, or consider shopping at a bulk food store for staples like flour, grains and cereals.
- Op shops can often be a treasure trove, and buying second-hand or donating your used goods is an excellent way to make a lasting impact and avoid perfectly good items from heading to landfill.

Want more ideas? Head to our website for more waste information and initiatives.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/reducewaste

Reduce

Reducing your waste doesn't have to be hard and even small changes each day can help reduce how much we send to landfill and help you save money.

Keen to challenge yourself? Why not try going Plastic Free this July!

Small steps like keeping a reusable shopping bag handy or even choosing to buy produce without plastic packaging – everything makes an impact!

Give it a try this July! **www.plasticfreejuly.org**

You could also try making your own products from common household materials to help you to reduce your waste using just a few ingredients in your cupboards.

DIY hand scrub:

1/2 cup of sugar (white or brown)

1/2 cup of rolled oats

1/3 cup of olive oil

tablespoons of honey

1/2 lemon (zest grated and juiced)

1 small jar

Combine the ingredients in a bowl, mix well and add to your small jar. To use, just wet your hands with warm water and gently massage a tablespoon of the scrub into your hands. Store for up to 2 months in the fridge. You could make your scrub vegan by leaving out the honey.

*Tip: This also makes a lovely homemade gift!

Non-toxic cleaning spray:

Half-fill a jar or bottle with orange or lemon peels, top up the jar with vinegar and leave in a dark cupboard to soak for a few hours. When ready, just add your mix to an old spray bottle and spray away!

*Tip: For bathroom cleaning and tough stains, place some bicarb soda in a bowl, add a few sprays of your homemade cleaner and make a scrubbing paste.

Reuse

There are so many ways that we can reduce our impact on the environment by reusing our household waste.

Here are 3 nifty tricks that you can try to create a new life for the items that would normally end up in the bin.

- Reuse your old toothbrushes to clean those awkward spots like tile grout or the inside of water bottles.
- If you can't repair damaged clothing, repurpose old clothes as cleaning rags or dust cloths!
- Searching the house for a vase or candle holder? Try using a glass jar or bottle!

Recycle

Recycling is a great way to help the environment and make sure that less of our household waste ends up in landfill, but are you putting the right things in your bin? Check out our handy **A to Z waste and recycling guide** to make sure you know what can go in your kerbside recycling bin.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/atozwasteguide

Throughout the year, we also offer waste drop-off events! Events are always listed on our website, so keep checking back regularly for any new dates that may be added.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoffdays

Need some incentive to be a recycling legend? Our "Good Sort Program" is back and offers households sorting their waste correctly a chance to win a gift voucher worth \$20. Jump online to learn more!

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/goodsortprogram

We've bin busy!

You may have noticed some red-lidded rubbish bins around Cardinia Shire, as dark green lids will shortly be no more!

Since 2019, we've been gradually introducing red-lidded rubbish bins for every new bin delivered, repaired or replaced. This aligns our household bin colours with the Australian Standards and the Victorian Government's Recycling Victoria: A New Economy plan.

Using standard bin colours has been shown to reduce confusion, help people sort waste correctly and provide better environmental outcomes.

We're **wasting** no time in preparing a shire-wide change over for all the remaining dark green-lidded bins.

Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/waste

Future of waste

We need to be putting our household waste to better use and avoiding landfill, so finding an alternative is so important!

Melbourne's south east urgently needs an alternative to landfill, as it is filling up fast and there are no plans for more to be built. Any household waste we can't recycle or recover ends up in landfill – there is currently no other solution for residual household waste.

Alongside recycling, and separating food and green waste for composting, advanced waste processing is a smarter solution for the residual household waste than burying it in the ground.

Council has formed a company with other councils to deliver an advanced waste processing alternative to landfill. Together we'll deliver a vital alternative that will transform how household waste is managed!

Tender proposals from 3 industry candidates to explore new technologies, such as waste being transformed into

electricity to power homes and businesses, are currently being evaluated.

Learn more on our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ourwastefuture

Keeping Cardinia's kitties happy

All Cardinia Shire cats must always be contained to their owner's property; this helps to protect native wildlife and keep your fur babies safe. There are lots of ways to keep your indoor cat happy whilst also keeping them at home.

Meet Nala, the indoor cat belonging to Jessica, your Connect editor!

Name: Nala

Age: 4 ½

Breed: Domestic Shorthair tuxedo

“Nala has plenty of sunny spots that are high up where she can snooze the day away; she also has lots of cat trees to climb and scratch. She loves to practice her

natural hunting skills by bringing me her toys, and she always makes time to play! Soon I plan to look into options for enclosing some garden space for her to explore.”

How do you keep your indoor cat happy? We'd love to know! Email a pic of your indoor kitty living their best life (subject heading: To the Connect editor), and let us know what you do to keep them content and contained on your property.

mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cats

If your furry friend gets lost, let us know online:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/lostpet

What's on Cardinia proudly presents

Winterfest

Stay and explore a range of local events these winter school holidays at Winterfest!

Bring your friends and family along to enjoy and experience the best Cardinia Shire has to offer. To see more of what's on, scan the QR code below or visit:

www.whatsoncardinia.com.au



Bellevue Farmgate Cosy nights filled with homemade soups, house-made mulled ciders and mulled wine at Bellevue Farmgate!

Robert Gordon Take home a piece of creativity! Pick up a brush and paint your very own pot in the Robert Gordon workshop.

CCC Check out a totally FREE family flick this Winterfest at Cardinia Cultural Centre in Pakenham. There is something for movie-goers of all ages.

Puffing Billy Take a ride on one of Australia's most iconic trains! Puffing Billy is ready to welcome you on board for a dining experience this winter.

Mercure Hotel Treat yourself to an exclusive offer at Mercure Pakenham, and enjoy a discounted price on a King Deluxe room.

www.whatsoncardinia.com.au/winterfest

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