

Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Summer 2023-24



MAYORAL ELECTION

Meet your new Mayor and Deputy Mayor

PULL-OUT WASTE GUIDE INSIDE

Ways to reduce, drop-off days and more

ENJOY A SPECTACULAR SUMMER

Great summer spots, programs and activities

BRAND NEW WEBSITES

Explore our great outdoors and major projects



Cardinia

Get 'red-y'
for all kerbside
rubbish bin lids to
change from dark green
to red this February!
Read more inside.

Engage with us

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

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

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

- Review and revision of the Local Law (Environment, Amenity and Asset Protection)
- Pakenham East Precinct Naming Project

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



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



Pakenham Hills Ward

Cr Jack Kowarzik (Mayor)
0439 620 809 | j.kowarzik@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Bunyip Ward

Cr Graeme Moore (Deputy Mayor)
0400 167 844 | g.moore@cardinia.vic.gov.au



Officer Ward

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



Ranges Ward

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



Beacon Hills Ward

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



Central Ward

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



Henty Ward

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



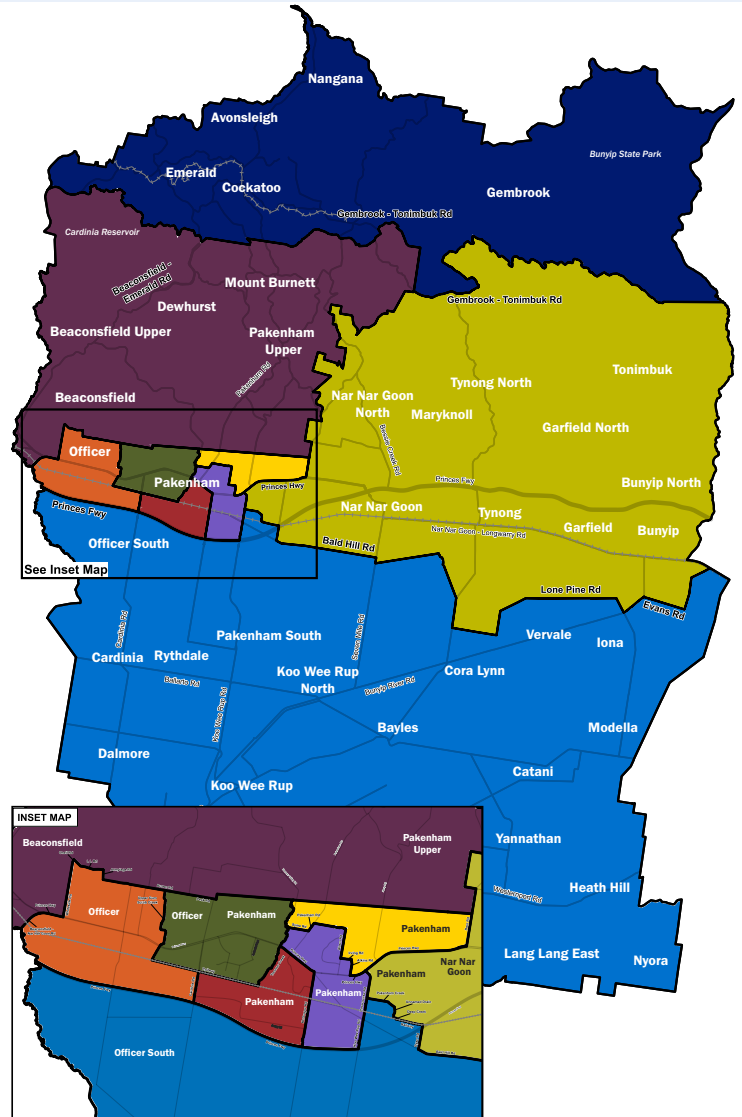
Toomuc Ward

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



Westernport Ward

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



To find out which Ward you're in, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/communitycompass and type your street address into the 'My Council services' tool.

On the cover

Pakenham resident, Margaret, shows off her red-lidded bin as Council is gearing up to swap all dark green kerbside bin lids to red. Head to page 8 of this edition to read more about what you need to do to get your new red lid.



Look up bin days and more!

Want to quickly find out which bin is being collected this week? Or perhaps you want to know which Ward you live in, or the town planning documents that apply to your area.

You'll find this info (plus other Council information on where you live) on Community Compass!

Here's how to access this online tool:

1. Scan the QR code
2. Click the search icon at the top left of the screen
3. Enter your address



Meet your new Mayor and Deputy Mayor



Welcome Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik and Deputy Mayor Councillor Graeme Moore.

Congratulations to our newly elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2023–24! Pakenham Hills Ward Councillor Jack Kowarzik has been elected Mayor, and Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore has been elected Deputy Mayor.

Mayor Kowarzik said that it is a privilege to be Cardinia Shire's elected Mayor for the year ahead.

"Leadership in this job is about doing what's right for our community, which is why it's important that our council continues to work together to achieve the things that truly matter," Mayor Kowarzik said.

"I love our shire's diversity and I want to make Cardinia Shire better for residents now, and better still for the residents who will live here and make up our communities into the future."

Deputy Mayor Cr Graeme Moore said he is looking forward to taking on the role of Deputy Mayor and working alongside the new Mayor.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to be Deputy Mayor in the final year of this current council term, and to support my colleague and friend, Mayor Cr Kowarzik," Cr Moore said.

"This role is one that I take very seriously, and I will use this platform to better serve the Cardinia Shire community."

Outgoing Mayor Cr Tammy Radford congratulated Cardinia Shire's newest Mayor and extended her thanks to the community.

"I am extremely proud to have served as your Mayor in 2022-23, and I'm looking forward to working alongside my fellow councillors in the final term of this council to better connect our community and improve the lives of all citizens," Cr Radford said.

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

Council's festive season opening hours

Here are the opening hours for Council's customer support centre over the Christmas and New Year period for 2023-24:

Thurs 21 December 2023

Call centre: 8.30am–12 noon
Front counter: 9am–12 noon

Fri 22 December 2023

Call centre: 8.30am–5pm
Front counter: 9am–4.30pm

Mon 25 December 2023 to Mon 1 January 2024 - CLOSED

Reopening Tuesday 2 January 2024

Call centre: 8.30am–5pm
Front counter: 9am–4.30pm

While we're closed, you can lodge any service requests, payments or other transactions via the online forms and portals on our website (www.cardinia.vic.gov.au) or email mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au with your request. For emergencies call 1300 787 624 to speak with our after-hours service.



Slide into a new playground

Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen took his family down to Jim Parkes Reserve in Beaconsfield, which will receive an upgraded playground in 2024.

Get ready to play, as children and families will be able to enjoy 3 upgraded playgrounds across the shire in 2024!

Look out for upgrades to playgrounds at the following locations:

- Jim Parkes Reserve in Beaconsfield (expected completion September 2024)
- Village Green in Beaconsfield (expected completion June 2024)
- Waterford Rise Park in Pakenham (expected completion June 2024)

Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen encourages families to visit the new playgrounds once they're completed.

"It's great to see so many new and upgraded playgrounds popping up across the shire" Cr Owen said.

"My kids love playing outdoors, so I'm sure we'll be making some wonderful memories at these new playgrounds."

The playgrounds are being upgraded as part of Council's annual playground renewal program.

To keep up to date with these projects, head to the Creating Cardinia engagement website for the latest updates.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



Explore the outdoors this summer

Looking for parks, reserves and walking trails in Cardinia Shire?

Visit the new Cardinia Outdoors website where you can look up local parks, playgrounds, reserves, trails, sporting facilities, dog off-leash areas, BBQs, fishing spots, skate and BMX tracks, wildlife lookouts and more across the shire.

The site's search bar, map view, photos and 'parks near me' function make it easy to quickly find out what's close by, and access important information on the shire's parks, reserves and trails.

To find out more or to start planning your next day out, visit Cardinia Outdoors.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/outdoors



Cool off this summer



Westernport Ward Councillor Kaye Cameron met up with Chelsea from Aligned Leisure at a visit to Koo Wee Rup pool.

Take a break from the sizzling summer days at one of Cardinia Shire's outdoor pools!

Westernport Ward Councillor Kaye Cameron encourages residents to plan a trip to one of the refreshing outdoor pools across the shire.

"This summer is set to be a scorcher, so keep cool and have a splash at the outdoor pools at Garfield, Koo Wee Rup or Pakenham, or at the wading pool in the Emerald Lake Park Precinct," Cr Cameron said.

In a change to operating days across the entire opening season, the shire's outdoor

pools will open if the temperature reaches 26 degrees in the pool's location, as forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology at 4pm the day prior.

To check if your local pool is open on a particular day, visit the Cardinia Leisure website the night before your visit. You can also check the Cardinia Outdoor Pools Facebook page for daily updates.

Cardinia Leisure will be hosting various events and activities at the outdoor pools during summer.

www.cardinaleisure.com.au



More of a bookworm than a swimmer?

Visit Emerald or Pakenham libraries to escape the heat as you immerse yourself in a good book!

www.myli.org.au

Sports report

Bunyip soccer and cricket field new turf and lighting

You'll see more local soccer players, cricketers and spectators at the Bunyip Recreation Reserve, thanks to new turf and lighting due to be completed early next year. The grass will be lush and the grounds well-lit – so take a ball (or two) and make plans to visit the reserve in the new year.

New lighting at the Worrell Reserve tennis courts

Tennis will soon be played day and night at the Worrell Reserve tennis courts in Emerald, with new poles and LED lighting being installed to brighten up the courts.

Pakenham Regional Tennis Centre upgrade

Pakenham will be an even better place to play tennis thanks to upgrades to the centre, which will include a new pavilion with a kitchen, social space, accessible facilities and much more!

New cricket nets in Pakenham Upper

Current and aspiring cricketers can now practice on state-of-the-art nets at the Pakenham Upper Recreation Reserve, with fully enclosed fencing, a strong concrete base, and synthetic surfaces on all lanes.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

New community centre on the way



Deputy Mayor and Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore took a trip to the future location of the new Garfield North Community Centre.

Get ready Garfield North, as a brand-new community centre is coming your way!

After several rounds of community consultation, construction of the new Garfield North Community Centre is set to be completed in 2024.

Located at Cannibal Creek Reserve, the new multipurpose community facility will be available for new and existing community groups to meet, hold events and foster social connection.

The Garfield North community has advocated strongly for a new community

centre to support its recovery from the Bunyip Complex Fires of 2019.

Deputy Mayor and Bunyip Ward Councillor Graeme Moore believes the new centre will meet the needs of the local community.

“Garfield North residents have been asking for a community centre for some time, and I’m delighted that construction will be starting soon,” Cr Moore said.

“I’d like to express my thanks to everyone who took part in the community

consultation – it’ll be wonderful to see your ideas come to life.”

The new centre will have a social room, meeting room, storage room, kitchen, accessible amenities, a wide covered veranda, and new car parking.

The \$2.3 million project has been jointly funded by the Victorian Government’s Growing Suburbs Fund and Council’s Capital Works Program.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Pakenham Revitalisation: project update

Over the coming years, Pakenham will undergo a revitalisation and become a more vibrant destination for thousands of new residents and workers.

We’ve recently shared designs for the first stage of the revitalisation project.

View more detailed plans, check out FAQs, and stay up to date with each stage of the project on Council’s website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/pakenhamrevitalisation

We're building a better Cardinia



Central Ward Councillor Collin Ross (centre) met up with David (left) and Raymond (right) at the Council's operations centre to chat about the shire-wide roads projects.

Residents now have a new way to keep up to date with capital works projects happening across the shire.

The new Building a Better Cardinia website is a one-stop-shop for information on major projects including road works, infrastructure upgrades and open space developments being planned and completed across the shire.

Central Ward Councillor Collin Ross says that the new website will give residents a better picture of the exciting projects that are underway.

"The delivery of major projects and upgrade works can have a substantial

impact on our local community, so it's great to be providing more detailed information on what's happening on the new website," Cr Ross said.

"I encourage residents to visit the new website and learn more about what Council is doing in their local area."

Each project has its own page with progress updates, timelines and a gallery of images and videos.

Head to the Building a Better Cardinia website today to learn more about our major projects.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Paving the way to better local roads in the Hills

Cockatoo and Gembrook residents can now enjoy safer and more accessible roads, thanks to the completion of several road sealing projects.

Sealing works are now complete on:

- Glen Road, Station Street and Garden Street in Cockatoo
- Innes Road, Russell Road, Gembrook Road service lane and Blackwood Lane in Gembrook

Upgrading unsealed roads improves community safety, liveability and access to amenities and emergency services, while reducing dust, pollution and maintenance issues for the community.

To get updates on other road sealing projects, visit the Building a Better Cardinia website.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects

Summer roads

Road renewal and resurfacing

Drivers can look forward to safer and smoother journeys on local roads, thanks to renewal and resurfacing works.

As part of Council's road renewal and resurfacing program, around \$6.2 million will be invested to upgrade 120 segments of roads across the shire this financial year.

Renewal and resurfacing works help to prolong the life of the roads and keep Cardinia Shire moving.

The works are underway across the shire

and are scheduled to be completed by mid-2024.

For the full list of roads under this program, head to our website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/renewalandresurfacing

Intersection upgrades

To improve road safety and transform local roads to cope with future development and growth, we're upgrading key intersections on the Princes Highway through Beaconsfield, Officer, and Pakenham.

We're pleased to announce that upgrade works on Bayview Road intersection in Officer are now complete.

The Tivendale Road intersection works are continuing in Officer, with construction expected to be completed in April 2024, conditions permitting.

Designs for future intersection projects are underway and are pending future funding.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/princeshighwayintersections





Ranges Ward Councillor Jeff Springfield took his empty drink containers to Cockatoo's new refund point.



Are you 'red-y' for your bin lid change?

In line with the new statewide system, in early 2024, all existing dark green rubbish bin lids in Cardinia Shire will be swapped for new red lids.

If your kerbside rubbish bin lid is dark green - just leave your bin out until 6pm on your usual general rubbish bin collection days from Monday 5 February to Friday 1 March 2024 until your bin lid is swapped for a red lid.

The change will help improve recycling, decrease contamination and reduce waste sent to landfill.



Scan the QR code to find out more.

Help your wallet by helping the environment

Community members can now cash in their eligible drink containers for a 10-cent refund at designated collection points in Cardinia Shire and across Victoria, as part of the Victorian Government's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS).

Ranges Ward Councillor Jeff Springfield is pleased to see many collection points in the shire, including the refund point at Cockatoo, with more to come.

"The community is set to benefit from reduced litter with the launch of the Container Deposit Scheme. I'm so pleased there will be a collection point in the hills," Cr Springfield said.

"It will encourage the community to increase their recycling efforts, and give local households, clubs and community groups the chance to earn some cash by recycling eligible cans, bottles and cartons."

Getting the 10-cent refund is easy! Drop off your empty containers that are in good condition - including drink bottles, glass beer bottles, drink cans, and small cartons - at one of the collection points.

Returned containers are then recycled into new products, saving them from going into landfill or becoming litter.

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) locations in Cardinia Shire

- Beaconsfield Upper
- Bunyip
- Cockatoo
- Emerald
- Garfield
- Lang Lang
- Nar Nar Goon
- Officer
- Pakenham
- and more to come!

www.cdsvic.org.au

Be mindful of lithium-ion batteries

Lithium-ion batteries are commonly found in items including phones, laptops and e-scooters. They can pose a fire risk if damaged, modified or not used correctly.

In the past 12 months, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria have responded to at least one significant lithium-ion battery-related fire each week, and fire services expect this trend to increase.

For ways to safely dispose of lithium-ion batteries and chargers, visit the CFA website.

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/batterysafety

Money Matters: managing your festive finances



Christmas is a time for generosity, but it's easy to face financial pressures over the festive period – statistics show that Australians spend over \$10 billion dollars on food alone at Christmas! Check out the finance tips below for a bit of extra help this season.

Christmas saving tips

Council works closely with Good Shepherd, which offers the following handy budget suggestions to help you and your household this Christmas.

- Set a gift-spending budget to avoid getting carried away.
- Try a 'Kris Kringle' if you have a large family or group of friends.
- Give the gift of your time, make something, or provide your skills instead of buying a gift.
- Avoid putting all your festive expenses on credit cards or 'buy now pay later' services, as you might get a shock when your bill statements arrive.

- Get in early to avoid last-minute purchases that may stretch your budget.
- Try planning a simpler meal or consider a buffet-style Christmas lunch where everyone brings a plate.

'Christmas Together'

This year, the Salvation Army, Follow Bless Collective, and Adventist Development & Relief Agency are partnering to deliver festive food packages and toy hampers for Cardinia Shire residents in need.

Supported by Council, the initiative will begin from Tuesday 14 to Friday 22 December.

If you'd like to donate goods contact Council's Community Support Facilitators on 1300 787 624.

Need a little extra help?

There are organisations across the shire offering extra support over the festive season, including Christmas meals. Head to Council's website for a list of these organisations.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/christmas

Drop off your Christmas cardboard!

Jingle all the way to Council's FREE cardboard drop-off events to recycle your excess cardboard and wrapping paper this festive season.

Where: Future Recycling Transfer Station
30-32 Exchange Drive,
Pakenham

2023 dates:

Thursday 28 December, 8am-4pm
Friday 29 December, 8am-4pm
Saturday 30 December, 8am-2.30pm

2024 dates:

Thursday 4 January, 8am-4pm
Friday 5 January, 8am-4pm
Saturday 6 January, 8am-2.30pm

Head to our website for information on eligibility.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff

Have a low-waste holiday season!

With all the gift wrap, packaging and food we go through, it can be easy to create more waste than usual during the festive period.

We've wasted no time in coming up with a few tips to help you have a lower-impact holiday season.

- If you know exactly what you'd like Santa to bring you, create a 'wish-list' to avoid unwanted gifts that could end up in landfill.

- Where possible avoid glittery or foil wrapping paper as this can't be recycled. Instead, why not try wrapping gifts in recycled paper from last Christmas, newspapers, kraft paper, family art or even fabric or tea towels!
- Consider gifting an 'experience' or a gift voucher, such as a trip to the cinema or a restaurant visit.
- If you're looking to upgrade your decorations, ornaments or tree then skip the shops and consider second-hand. If you're feeling crafty, you could even make yourself some new Christmas decorations out of recycled materials, such as toilet rolls or plants and flowers from your garden.

- Help reduce food waste by only buying what you need and ask your guests to bring a container with them to take home excess food.

Want more ways to reduce your household waste? Head to Council's website.

**Did you know
that household
waste increases
up to 30%
over Christmas and
New Year?**

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/reducehouseholdwaste

Register for kindergarten at any time during the year!



Officer Ward Councillor Tammy Radford visited the children at Kurmboon Child and Family Centre to ask what they love most about kinder.

Cardinia Shire is home to almost 2,000 kinder-aged children, and we're delighted to be able to offer every one of them FREE community kindergarten.

Every year in June, parents are encouraged to register their 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds for up to 15 hours of free kindergarten.

Parents can use our online kindergarten portal at any time to register a child for kinder, but if you'd like your child to be included in first round offers for 2025, make sure you're quick when registrations open in June.

Officer Ward Councillor Tammy Radford visited Kurmboon Child

and Family Centre to ask the children why they enjoy going to kindergarten.

"I had such a great time interviewing some of our young residents about why they love kinder – the children even did some beautiful paintings during my visit," Cr Radford said.

"Kindergarten is such an important time for children, as they develop and learn so much in those first few years of their lives. If you have a 3- or 4-year-old not currently attending kinder, register them today."


Have a kinder-aged child that you'd like to register for 2024 kindergarten? Head to the online portal.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Here are some of the reasons kids love kinder!

- Making new friends
- Playing and learning
- Doing activities

To see artwork created by the Kurmboon kids during Cr Radford's visit, scan the QR code.



Caring for Cardinia Shire's kids

Have you engaged in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services since your little one was born?

10 free visits to a nurse are available for children from birth to 3 and a half years, optimising child health, wellbeing, safety, learning and development.

The service is confidential, and provides:

- parenting support and advice
- health and wellbeing information
- group programs
- additional services available for families experiencing early-parenting issues, including referral to numerous services and support groups.

To reach out to Council's Maternal and Child Health team or join a group program, call 5943 4250 or head to our website.



 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/mch

Get stuck into some great activities and programs this summer

Book in quick and join our Youth Services team at the popular Teenage School Holiday Program these school holidays.

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

- a trip to Gumbuya World
- tennis day at Pakenham Tennis Club
- games and pizza night
- digital photo scavenger hunt
- Harry Potter party
- CRICUT crafting
- cooking classes.

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

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

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youthservices

Nurturing local nature



Henty Ward Councillor Carol Ryan met up with Rob, Council's Natural Resources Planner, to check out the refreshed Henty Lily Pond.

In partnership with Pakenham Secondary College, Henty Lily Pond has been refreshed with 800 new indigenous local native plants.

Works undertaken at the pond and surrounding land also included the removal of high-threat weeds and mulching of the area, and the revegetation of 800 indigenous plants.

Transforming the pond has been an 18-month project in collaboration with Pakenham Secondary College, Western Port Landcare, South East Water and Council, with Council contributing \$6,500 towards the project.

Henty Ward Councillor Carol Ryan is very passionate about the pond, and is delighted with the conservation works that have taken place.

"The lilypond is now an important habitat zone that will attract native animals and allow the indigenous plants to thrive," Cr Ryan said.

"Henty Lily Pond is also located a short distance from Toomuc Creek, a prominent biolink corridor, which enables landscape connectivity for a range of animals."

Council has adopted a Biolink Plan to protect and create biolink corridors, prioritise environment work and enhance biodiversity across the shire.

To view the Biolink Plan, or to check out the interactive biolink map, head to Council's website.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/biolink

Take home a home energy kit

Discover ways to make your home more energy efficient with a Home Energy & Water Efficiency Kit from your local Myli library.

The kits include:

- energy meters to monitor electricity consumption
- thermal imaging cameras to identify areas of heat loss or gain
- flow-measuring cups to calculate water use
- useful information and tips on home energy-saving practices.

Summer is a great time to measure changes between indoor and outdoor temperatures, so get down to your local Myli library and find out more about borrowing a kit.



 www.myli.au/libraryofthings

Hot tips for a cool summer

- Use your curtains, awnings, doors and windows to your advantage by keeping the sun out during the day and letting a breeze through at night.
- Make your home feel cooler by investing in a fan, or only cool the rooms you need by using vent covers to direct airflow.
- Water your garden in the morning to avoid the heat, and retain water in the soil by covering it with thick mulch.
- Choose drought-tolerant local native plants, like everlasting daisies.
- Hang a bird bath from a tree or attach one to a post, somewhere hard for cats to reach.
- Create a bee-bar for bugs by filling a dish with pebbles and topping it up with water.
- Refresh outdoor drinking water for wildlife regularly to keep creatures hydrated.

For more environment tips and tricks, subscribe to our Down To Earth e-newsletter.



 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/enewsletters

Grants in action



Mayor Jack Kowarzik (centre left) and his son, Ned (centre, dressed as a pumpkin) met up with Dave (left) from the Pakenham Hills Residents' Group and local children at the group's Halloween Event.

Get your applications ready, as the 2024-25 round of Festival and Events grants open from Monday 15 January.

Last financial year, Council awarded almost \$250,000 in grants to community groups as part of the Festival and Events Grants Program.

The Pakenham Hills Residents' Group used a festival and events grant to organise a Halloween event, a movie night, neighbourhood welcome day, and a Christmas carols celebration.

Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik headed down to the Pakenham Hills Residents' Group Halloween event with his family.

"My son and I had a spooktacular time at the event! I'd like to thank the Pakenham Hills Residents' Group for organising such a great day out. It's fantastic to see the festival and events grant funding put to such good use in the community," Cr Kowarzik said.

"I encourage community groups to apply for grant funding and try their hand at organising their own event."

Are you a member of a community group that would like to organise a festival or event? Head to Council's website to see if your group is eligible for a grant of up to \$10,000.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/feg

Celebrating good choices

Congratulations to everyone who received well-deserved recognition for making good choices at the 2023 Good Choice Awards event.

Almost 100 young people aged 12 to 24 from across the shire were celebrated for their resilience, kindness, and good decision making throughout 2023.

All young people nominated received a certificate to acknowledge their 2023 Good Choice Award!



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth

Grab yourself a grant

Council has a range of grants on offer to support community projects, events and initiatives that boost the wellbeing of those who live and work in Cardinia Shire. Jump online to find out more about each grant program and the eligibility requirements.

Arts and culture grants

Applications open from March for initiatives that expand and promote the arts in the shire.

Shire beautification grants

Applications are now open and close 31 March to help residents and community groups beautify their local open spaces.

Community capital works grants

Applications open from January and close 31 March for initiatives that support community groups and community facilities.

Festival and events grants

Applications open from January and close 31 March for grants to help stage not-for-profit, community-run festivals and events.

Heritage grants

Applications open from May, for initiatives to help repair or conserve places and sites of heritage significance.

Community wellbeing and support grants

Applications open from January and close 31 March for grants to support initiatives that improve residents' health and wellbeing, support opportunities for volunteering, and encourage sustainability.

Weed control grants

Applications are now open and close 31 May, or until funding allocation has run out. These grants support weed control work on private property of high environmental or agricultural significance.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/grants

Find the help you need with *Cardinia Support*



Visit the *Cardinia Support* website for information on a range of local support services.

You can access up-to-date information on local community services with the new *Cardinia Support* website.

Cardinia Support is an online directory, providing details on a wide range of local services including:

- financial counselling
- mental wellbeing
- alcohol and drug counselling
- housing and homelessness support
- food relief
- gambling help
- family violence support

- disability support
- parenting support.

The online directory is a one-stop shop for community services information, making it easier for you to search for the support you need and connect with local services that can help.

Local community services and organisations can list their programs and services for free and update listings to include current programs and initiatives.

Visit *Cardinia Support* to find out more.

 www.cardiniasupport.com.au

Let's fill the pantry

Make a donation to the community pantry and help those in need.

Located at the Skills and Wellbeing Centre on Henry Street, Pakenham, the pantry has food and other supplies that community members can choose to take home with them.


Supported by Cardinia Shire Council, Living & Learning Pakenham is asking residents to help them help others and keep the community pantry stocked with supplies for those in need.

Items accepted include:

- non-perishable foods (such as pasta, soup and long-life milk)
- toiletries (including babies' nappies)

Fresh produce, such as fruit and vegetables, will occasionally be available in the pantry.

Do you have a few spare items that could be donated? Reach out to Living & Learning Pakenham's Skills and Wellbeing Centre for more details.

 www.livinglearning.org.au

Dinner is served at new location!

The Follow Bless Collective community meal and Adventist Development and Relief Agency fresh produce bus has moved to its new home at Pakenham Hall, in the Pakenham Library complex at the corner of John and Henry streets.

Every Thursday from 5.45pm until 8pm, community members in need are invited to get a FREE hot meal, fresh produce and enjoy some good company.

The new location is only a short 7-minute walk away from its previous home at Bourke Park.

Supported by Council, Follow Bless Collective aims to strengthen the community by providing services, programs, support and love to those in need in the shire.

In partnership with Pakenham Library, Follow Bless Collective also host Free Food Fridays where community members can enjoy a FREE seasonal takeaway dish!

www.bless.org.au www.myli.org.au



Team up to help clean up!

Clean Up Australia Day is right around the corner, so mark Sunday 3 March in your calendar to participate in the nation's largest community-based environmental event.

There will be a range of spots throughout the shire that you can volunteer to clean, or you can register your own local park, reserve or walking track as a clean-up site via the Clean Up Australia Day website.

If you register a site, you'll receive a free 'clean-up kit' including bags and gloves. You can notify Council to collect and dispose of rubbish collected on the day.

Want to get a head start? You can register all year round! Simply register your 'clean up' site through the Clean Up Australia Day website and notify us to have the litter collected and disposed of after your event.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cleanupaustday

Have a CCC Christmas



Toomuc Ward Councillor Stephanie Davies (right) and her son Aaron (centre right), joined local artist, Natalia (left), and Ko (centre left) for an art workshop at CCC.

Get involved in festive family art activities this December at Cardinia Cultural Centre (CCC)!

In partnership with local artists, we're hosting workshops for kids to create crafts for a Christmas themed exhibition at the centre – or if you prefer, you can take your art home to show off to friends and family!

The '12 Doors of Christmas' exhibition will showcase artists' take on the famous 'Twelve Days of Christmas' poem, alongside art created at the workshops.

Toomuc Ward Cr Stephanie Davies regularly visits CCC with her family to take part in art workshops.

"They always organise such wonderful events, and I have no doubt that the Christmas-themed workshops will be fantastic," Cr Davies said.

"My kids are so excited to have their artwork featured in the Gallery, and I can't wait to visit CCC ahead of Christmas to see the full exhibition."

Would your little ones like to be a part of the exhibition or create some Christmas art? Head down to CCC for one of the workshops.

Cardinia Cultural Centre

10am to 12 noon every Tuesday and Thursday until 21 December.

The '12 Doors of Christmas' exhibition will be displayed in the Gallery at CCC until Thursday 21 December.

www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au

Congratulations, graduates!

Congratulations to the 17 new graduates of the 2023 Cardinia Community Leadership Program, which is fully funded by Council.

The program provided participants with an opportunity to grow their leadership skills and networks, and learn from a host of guest speakers, local leaders, and program alumni.

The 17 emerging leaders now join almost 100 previous program participants as part of the Cardinia Community Leadership Program alumni.

If you'd like to take on a new challenge and develop your skills, make sure you apply for the 2024 program.

Applications open Monday 26 February and close at 5pm Sunday 7 April.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/leadershipprogram

Great spaces for hire in the shire

Did you know that our shire has a range of great spaces available for hire?

Have your next community group meeting at one of our halls, host a low-impact exercise group, or even have that special birthday at one of the many community facilities – there's a space for every event.

Here are some of the locations that are available for hire.



Cardinia Cultural Centre

If you're looking for something special for your next event, why not consider booking a space at Cardinia Cultural Centre? Spaces are available for meetings and conferences, weddings, and even performances in the 356-seat theatre.



Hills Hub

Surrounded by the lush greenery of the Eastern Dandenong Ranges, the Hills Hub has various rooms and spaces for hire including a hall space, training rooms, and an arts and performance space.



Emerald Lake Precinct

Enjoy your next picnic or birthday party while catching a glimpse of Puffing Billy or paddling on the lake when you book a space at the boatshed shelter or bandstand.



James Bathe community rooms

With 3 adaptable spaces that can open up to become one large function room, the rooms at James Bathe Recreation Reserve in Pakenham are perfect for training sessions, workshops or parties – and you can make use of the commercial style kitchen too!

For the full list of spaces, head to Council's website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/spacesforhire



Parks and reserves

We have many parks where you can ride, learn, play and party. Plan your next gathering, see where you can walk your furry friends, host a BBQ and much more in one of our many parks and reserves.

For more information visit the Cardinia Outdoors website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/outdoors

Tried Booking Cardinia yet?

Make the most of the sunshine this summer and use 'Booking Cardinia' to request a space for your next function.

Council's online booking request site lists indoor and outdoor spaces that

can be hired for one-off or recurring activities, including:

- community halls
- meeting rooms
- parks.

Bookings can be made for parties and regular activities such as community meetings, playgroups and fitness classes.

To secure your next function spot, head to the Booking Cardinia website.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/bookingcardinia

Be bushfire ready this summer

The sunshine might be a welcome sight this summer, but intensifying heat increases the risk of bushfires.

Use the tips below to help you prepare ahead of time:

- Cut grass and remove fallen branches within 30 metres of any buildings
- Remove leaves and twigs from gutters
- Cut back trees and shrubs overhanging buildings
- Ensure your home and contents insurance is adequate
- Have a written bushfire plan that is readily available in the event of an emergency. Don't forget to include any pets in your plan!

Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/bushfires

What's on?

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

Cardinia Cultural Centre



Rewind 80's Mixtape Tour

See the year out with a spandex filled dance party with your friends and family!
Saturday 2 December 2023
7.30pm

Ross Wilson and The Peaceniks: Now Listen! We're Steppin' Out "50 Years of Hits Tour"

Twice inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame, Wilson's live performances are legendary.
Friday 9 February 2024
8pm

Mia Sorella Trio

Enjoy the much-anticipated season return of the Sip and See program.
Wednesday 14 February 2024
10am morning tea and 11am performance

Subscribe to CCC What's On monthly newsletters to get special announcements straight to your inbox, and follow the CCC social media pages for the latest shows, exhibitions and workshops.

www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au

Libraries



Christmas Craft Table

Pakenham Library
Tuesday 12 to Friday 15 December, during opening hours

Sparkly Christmas Crafting for ages 4+

Emerald Library
Thursday 14 December, 4pm

Christmas Storytime

Pakenham Library
Thursday 14 December, 11am

Schools Out Scavenger Hunt for all ages

Emerald Library
1 to 31 January

Teddy Bears' Picnic

Pakenham Library
Tuesday 23 January, 11am

All events are free unless otherwise stated, and bookings may be required.

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

Unwrap Cardinia

You're invited to 'Unwrap Cardinia' and support the local economy this December!

What's on Cardinia is jam-packed with all you need this Christmas, including festive events, local offers and 'shopopportunities'.

Scan the QR code and head to What's On Cardinia.



For info about Council events: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/events

For info on community and business events in our shire: www.whatsoncardinia.com.au

The information in this edition of *Connect* was correct at the time of print.

For the most up-to-date information about Council services,

events and programs, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Cardinia Shire Council

Customer Service Centre
20 Siding Avenue, Officer

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PO Box 7 Pakenham 3810

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Email: mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Web: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

TTY users: 1300 677 then ask for 1300 787 624

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

After-hours emergencies: 1300 787 624

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



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For more information about *Connect*: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connect