

Connect

YOUR COUNCIL MAGAZINE

Spring 2025

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Learn more about projects we'll be delivering in 2025-26

GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE

Stage 1 of Pakenham Revitalisation project launched

CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS

Check out what's planned for this year's Seniors Festival



Cardinia

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 projects by hitting the 'follow' button at the top of each project page.

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

- Draft Long Term Financial Plan
- O'Neil Road Recreation Reserve Masterplan review
- Draft Nar Nar Goon Township Strategy

Scan the QR code to view our current consultations and to provide your feedback.



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 Alanna Pomeroy (Deputy Mayor)

0436 353 194 | alanna.pomeroy@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Beacon Hills Ward



Cr Brett Owen

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

Central Ward



Cr Collin Ross

0428 598 491 | c.ross@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Henty Ward



Cr Liz Roberts

0428 436 326 | liz.roberts@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Officer Ward



Cr Samantha-Jane Potter

0429 077 510 | s.potter@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Ranges Ward



Cr David Nickell

0428 630 155 | david.nickell@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Toomuc Ward



Cr Casey Thomsen

0428 185 791 | casey.thomsen@cardinia.vic.gov.au

Westernport Ward

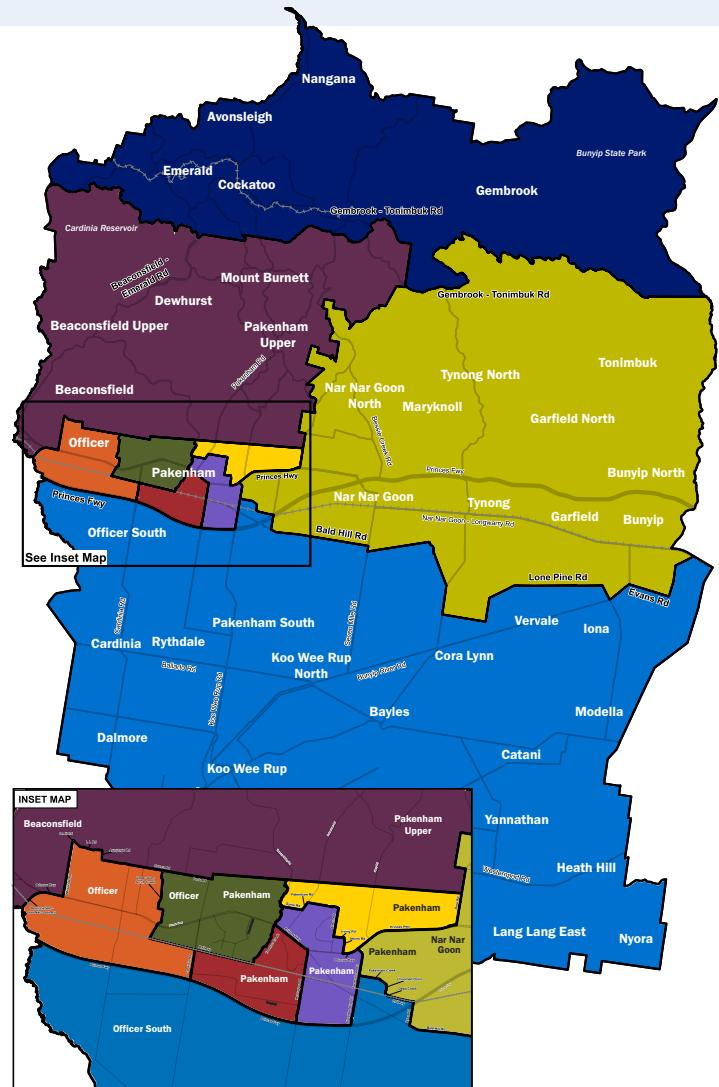


Cr Trudi Paton

0437 719 572 | trudi.paton@cardinia.vic.gov.au

On the cover

Diversity and inclusion were celebrated at the Cardinia Shire Fusion Festival at the Cardinia Cultural Centre in June in honour of World Refugee Week. This vibrant and free event attracted a large crowd eager to experience the rich tapestry of cultures within the shire, represented by various food and service stalls, dynamic performances, and insightful discussions. Learn more at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/multiculturalevents



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

G'day Cardinia Shire! It has been a busy time at Council, as we are around 9 months into our current term as Councillors, and are starting to see the result of lots of work behind the scenes, implementing some key community aspirations into policy.

We've progressed development on some of our biggest strategies, and I want to say thank you to everyone who has contributed to this process. Our new Council Plan, updated Liveability Plan, Asset Plan, and Long Term Financial Plan are at different stages of finalisation, but we look forward to considering these for formal endorsement soon.

We've also adopted our 2025–26 Budget and Capital Work Program. This budget is the first of the new Council term and strives to reflect the priorities identified through the development of the new Council Plan. We've worked hard to develop a budget that responds to community needs and ensures responsible management of Council resources. Read more on page 4.

Community engagement has also been undertaken on a number of other important projects and initiatives, so thank you to everyone who has provided their valuable feedback. To find out which consultations are currently open, or will open soon,

please see page 2 or head to our Creating Cardinia website.

I was really excited to launch the first stage of the Pakenham Revitalisation project, which is set to reimagine the town centre. Pakenham has changed dramatically over recent years, but the central area remains in need of a major uplift, so we're getting on with it, and we're planning for its growth now and into the future. The refreshed designs reflect our community's call for a place we can be proud of, a place that puts people first and supports a thriving night-time economy. Read more on page 7.

I'm also pleased to share that we've recently partnered with Yarra Ranges and Nillumbik Councils to create a new Visitor Economy Partnership. The partnership will not only strengthen ties with nearby councils, but it will also provide more access to funding opportunities and tourism support. We've endorsed a new Investment Attraction Plan that aims to boost economic growth in the Shire, and we've developed a range of tools and resources to support ongoing advocacy efforts and to empower the community to lead their own advocacy endeavours. You can learn more about these initiatives on page 13.

Finally, with my current 2024–25 Mayoral term coming to an end soon,

I'm approaching the end of two consecutive years as Mayor of Cardinia Shire. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the entire Cardinia Shire community, my fellow councillors and Council staff for your ongoing support during this time. I'm proud of all we've achieved together, and it has been an honour serving as your Mayor.

Cr Jack Kowarzik
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/meetings

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

→ www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/webcast

Sign up to Connect+

Sign up to Connect+, our monthly electronic newsletter, to receive the latest Council news direct to your inbox. Read about Council services, programs and projects as well as local events, activities and community engagement opportunities.

→ www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/connect

Budget at a glance

Over the coming Council term, Council plans to invest **\$251.1 million** in capital infrastructure, with **\$74.2 million** allocated for the 2025–26 Capital Works Program.

Thank you to our community members who provided feedback and helped shape our budget.

Below is a snapshot of just some of the initiatives in the 2025–26 budget.



Roads and drainage: \$42.36 million

Continued delivery of the Better Local Roads – Connect Cardinia and Sealing the Hills projects and roads associated with the Pakenham Revitalisation project.



Early years development and early childhood education and care: \$6.3 million

Continuation of quality, inclusive early years services that help families to improve social connectedness with the wider community.



Recreation, leisure and community facilities: \$2.7 million

Turf works at Holm Park Recreation Reserve, Beaconsfield, and design works for netball courts at Heatherbrae Recreation Reserve, Officer.



Compliance services and support during emergencies: \$6.4 million

Delivering activities to support animal management and the community during emergency events.



Building maintenance and improvements: \$8.9 million

The completion of the pavilions at Upper Beaconsfield and Cora Lynn recreation reserves, and the Garfield North Community Hub.

For every \$100 in revenue, we spend:



Shaping the future of our shire

Thank you to everyone who has provided feedback on the draft Council Plan 2025–29, updated Liveability Plan 2017–29 and draft 2025–35 Asset Plan as part of the final phase of community consultation in the development of these key documents.

We're now reviewing and considering feedback received before finalising the documents for consideration by Council later this year.

We will invite community feedback on our Long Term Financial Plan in September – please keep an eye on our Creating Cardinia website for details.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



Supporting our farmers

Cr Alanna Pomeroy with Ross at Sherwood Park Orchard.

We recognise the vital role agriculture plays in our local economy and community, and we're committed to providing our farmers with practical support, resources, and advocacy to help them thrive.

Bunyip Ward Councillor and Deputy Mayor Cr Alanna Pomeroy said agriculture was well established in the northern, eastern and southern regions of the shire.

"Agriculture is one of the main industries in the shire, contributing significantly to the local economy and employment," Cr Pomeroy said.

"We're fortunate that our agricultural industry has a number of key sectors, including vegetable growing, livestock farming and horticulture. Our farmers produce a range of high quality produce, including fruits, potatoes and around 90 per cent of Australia's fresh asparagus!"

"We support farmers through a number of programs and initiatives, including networking, knowledge sharing and business support and we'll continue to work with our farming community to help ensure a strong and resilient future."

As part of the VicHealth Local Government Partnership, Council and local industry partners are working together to deliver the Futureproofing Farming project, which aims to connect local young people with jobs in the local agricultural and related sectors.

Council also recently hosted a series of Agri Connect events to connect farmers and provide valuable information, resources and support.

Pool safety reminder

With summer just around the corner, we're reminding residents with a pool or spa to check their safety barriers and ensure they are compliant.

Pool and spa safety barriers are necessary to help prevent accidental drownings and to create a safe environment for everyone, particularly children.

Anyone in the shire who owns or rents a property with a pool or spa that is capable of holding a depth of 300 millimetres (30 centimetres) or more, requires a

compliant fence or barrier around it. This includes around a temporary pool, such as an inflatable pool, that can hold 30 centimetres of water.

All pools or spas must be registered with Council and the safety fencing inspected every four years (from the date of their previous pool certificate of compliance), in line with Victorian Government legislation. Residents can arrange to have an inspection completed by an independent registered building or pool inspector, or arrange an inspection through Council.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/poolbarriers

Saving the environment one road upgrade at a time



More than 400 trees and over \$1 million of ratepayers' money has been saved due to the innovative design, construction strategy, investigations and survey practices used on two road sealing projects.

As part of the Better Local Roads, Strategic Sealed Roads program, we've sealed and upgraded the entire 6km length of Dore Road in Nar Nar Goon and 6km of Mt Lyall Road in Heath Hill from Westernport Road to the municipal boundary.

While the main objective of the program is to seal local roads and create strategic links, the program also focuses on using sustainable road construction methods to reduce environmental impacts and protect native vegetation and wildlife.

Council used ground penetrating radar technology on Dore Road and Mt Lyall Road as part of the initial environmental surveys to create a 3D model of the trees and their roots above and below ground. These surveys enabled us to better understand impacts and helped inform

the planning and design process for these projects.

By working differently and adjusting the designs and delivery for Dore Road and Mt Lyall Road, it's estimated that 95% of the identified trees were saved from removal across both projects. These changes helped establish a more sustainable approach and contributed to significant construction cost savings including vegetation offsets.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/sustainableroads

Final seal

Works are nearing completion on the final two catchments in Beaconsfield Upper and Emerald as part of the Sealing the Hills program.

- Beaconsfield Upper: Burton Road, Morris Road, and Young Street – expected completion by October.

- Emerald: Durban Road, Old Gembrook Road and Sheriff Road – expected completion by end of November.

Upgrading unsealed roads improves community safety and access to community facilities, while reducing dust, pollution and maintenance issues. Council continues to advocate to all levels of government for additional funding and support to seal more roads around the shire.



 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/bettercardinia

Paving the way

As part of the Better Local Roads, Strategic Sealed Roads program, we're working to seal the 5.3km length of Bessie Creek Road in Nar Nar Goon North across two stages.

Stage 1 works are now complete and included upgrades from Mt Irene Road to Halifax Road, including 2.2km of spray sealing and road pavement construction, additional widenings and 0.5m shoulders

in specific sections, minor drainage and culvert works, signage and line markings.

Rectification works on the land slips along sections of Bessie Creek Road are expected to be actioned by late 2025. Once completed, stage 2 sealing works are scheduled to start from February 2026 and will include upgrades from Halifax Road to the intersection with Gembrook Road.

This project highlights our commitment to sustainability and innovation, as it is one of the first projects where Council has

trialled the use of thermal imaging drones to help identify native fauna habitats along a road corridor. Conducting surveys at both day and night, Council uncovered the presence of protected Southern Greater Gliders and Yellow-Bellied Gliders in the trees along Bessie Creek Road.

These surveys enabled Council to adapt the design and construction to be more sustainable, minimise disruption, reduce environmental impact and protect and preserve local fauna, flora and ecosystems.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/bettercardinia

New child and family centre now open



From left: Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik, Cr Casey Thomsen, Robert Michael Young and Member for Pakenham Emma Vulin at the official opening of Boollam Child and Family Centre. Inset: Artist Robert Michael Young pictured with his artwork.

Boollam Child and Family Centre has officially opened its doors to support the shire's youngest residents.

The new space includes four kindergarten rooms offering up to 132 kindergarten places for 3 and 4-year-olds, and spaces for maternal and child health services and other services such as allied health. The program room can also be used for playgroups and other community programs when not in use by the kindergarten.

The name 'Boollam' means butterfly and was chosen following consultation with Council's Place Naming

Committee, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Cardinia Shire community in late 2024.

Council commissioned two artists to create artworks inspired by the name Boollam. In the garden, artist Carla Gottgens has crafted a multi node installation that lights up at night. Inside, artwork by Robert Michael Young, a Gunnai, Waradjurie, Gunditjmara, Yorta Yorta and Bunurong man, depicts the journey of a butterfly.

Toomuc Ward Councillor Casey Thomsen said he was pleased to see children and families enjoying the new centre.

"This amazing new facility is a welcome addition to support young families in our growth corridor," Cr Thomsen said.

"It has been purpose-built to serve our community now and for many years to come. We're delighted that the new centre provides a place where our youngest residents can learn, grow and thrive in a supportive and welcoming environment."

This project was completed with State Government funding support through the Victorian School Building Authority's Building Blocks Capacity Grant Program, and from developer contributions.

Gateway to the future: a bold new chapter for Pakenham

The first stage of the Pakenham Revitalisation Project has been launched as part of a multi-stage transformation to reshape the town centre into a vibrant, inclusive, and economically thriving destination.

The first stage focuses on the Gateway precinct between Drake Place and the Henty Street roundabout. New design plans include:

- Wider footpaths and safer pedestrian access.
- Updated parking and improved lighting.
- High-quality street furniture and flexible event spaces.
- Enhanced landscaping and more street dining options.
- Staged construction to minimise disruption to traffic and trade.

Council has refined the project's design and sequencing to align with funding and evolving community needs. The revitalisation supports Pakenham's growth while preserving its unique character and aims to create a connected, future-ready town centre that benefits residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

Construction is expected to start later this year.

Visit our website for project updates.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/pakenham



ARTIST IMPRESSION



Enhancing our biodiversity

Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik and his son Franklin gave a helping hand at a community tree planting event at Bayles to celebrate National Tree Day. The planting event was organised by the SwampCare landcare community group, a collaboration between volunteer organisations, local government,

other government authorities and the Bunurong Land Council. A total of 3,000 native plants and grasses were planted to support Southern Brown Bandicoot habitat along the Yallock Creek. Planting events support Council's work in protecting and creating biolink corridors in the shire.

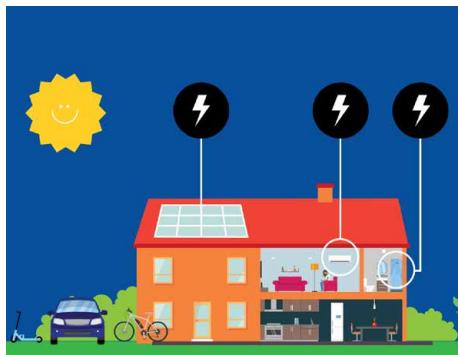
Take control of your energy

Spring is almost here – the perfect time to make the switch to solar and energy efficient products.

For many households, installing solar panels or energy efficient products is the first step towards an electric home, but did you know you can also upgrade your batteries, hot water systems and heating and cooling split systems? This upgrade can lead to significant savings, reducing your energy bills each year.

Solar Savers connects you with accredited suppliers of high-quality solar PV systems, batteries, and energy-efficient products. They'll help you assess your needs, provide information about rebates and interest free loans and find the right solution for your home.

Start the journey now to a more affordable, efficient, low-carbon home! Visit our website for more information about Solar Savers and how to register.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/solarsavers

Living with kangaroos

Our shire is home to the iconic Eastern Grey Kangaroo, a protected species under the Wildlife Act 1975. These native animals are a vital part of our environment and are often seen in local reserves and grasslands.

Council is working with the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) through the Kangaroo Land Manager Network to support consistent, and lawful management and community education.

Here are steps you can take to ensure your safety and protect kangaroos:

- Maintain a safe distance when encountering kangaroos.
- Keep pets on a lead to protect both your pet and wildlife.
- Do not attempt to feed wildlife.
- Slow down and maintain safe speeds while driving at dusk and dawn.

Landowners are responsible for managing kangaroos on private property. If kangaroos pose a risk or cause damage, contact DEECA on 136 186. Injured wildlife? Call Wildlife Victoria on (03) 8400 7300. For deceased kangaroos on public land, contact Council on 1300 787 624 for a safe and respectful removal.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au



Students discover nature at Cardinia Creek

Local students and Jason from Council's Environment and Heritage team enjoyed learning in the outdoors at Beaconsfield Flora and Fauna Reserve.

More than 500 local students recently took part in immersive environmental education excursions along Cardinia Creek, delivered by Gould League in partnership with Council. Funded by the Victorian Government's Peri-Urban Weed Management Partnership program, the excursions offered a hands-on learning experience at Beaconsfield Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Students from Years 1–8 explored the rich biodiversity of the area, investigated the impact of invasive weeds and learned how healthy waterways support native wildlife. Activities included weed identification, sensory nature walks, waterbug sampling, and biodiversity monitoring – bringing classroom concepts to life in the outdoors.

The program not only deepened students' understanding of local ecosystems and the impacts of weeds but also inspired them to become stewards of the environment.

Council is proud to support initiatives that connect young people with nature and promote long-term environmental awareness. Learn more at gould.org.au.

Our path to emissions reduction

Since 2014, we've been working towards a cleaner, more sustainable future through the Aspirational Energy Transition Plan 2014–24. This strategic plan focused on improving energy efficiency, investing in renewables, and reducing emissions across Council operations and the community.

Over the past decade, 93% of actions outlined in the plan were completed, thanks to strong collaboration, investment, and community support. Council reduced organisational emissions by 66%, from 9,064 tonnes CO₂-e in 2012 to 3,043 tonnes in 2023–24, through solar installations, green power purchasing, sustainable building design and local Victorian, nature-based offsets.

Key achievements include:

- 1.2 MW of solar installed across 57 Council sites, saving around \$200,000 annually.
- A 5-star NABERS energy rating and 6-star water rating for the Officer Civic Centre.
- Integration of environmentally sustainable design in new builds and major upgrades.

Community efforts also made a strong impact:

- 33.4% of homes now have solar, generating nearly 410 MWh.
- Council-led programs supported households and businesses to improve energy efficiency.
- Groups like Bunyip Renewables Action Group (BRAG) and Repower the Dandenongs drove local renewable energy initiatives.

Emissions per person dropped by 22%, reflecting increased awareness and action.

Looking ahead, Council will develop a Towards Zero Emissions Plan to build on this progress. The new plan will align with government policy, embrace emerging technologies, and expand the scope of emissions reduction to include supply chains and other indirect sources.

Together, we've laid the foundation for a cleaner, more resilient future. The next decade is about accelerating that progress towards zero emissions and increased regional self-sufficiency.





Young people lead the way

Cardinia Shire's Youth Action Committee with Cardinia Shire Youth Services team members Zoe (left) and Kelly (right).

Our Youth Action Committee is helping to make a positive difference in the community.

The committee collaborated with Follow Bless Collective to volunteer at the community meals, held on a Thursday evening. The committee helped to create a safe space for young people to engage in activities and games.

The group recently completed youth advocacy training with YACVic, in partnership with City of Casey's Youth Action Committee. The young people gained insight into strategies to overcome barriers, decision making, leadership and more.

The committee is currently developing their second project of the year, connecting through the generations. The young people discovered that there is a mutual interest and passion for developing relationships between the ageing community and younger generations. Throughout this project of connection, the group aims to bridge the gap and minimise stereotypes.

If you are a young person aged 15 to 24 years and would like to join the Youth Action Committee in 2026, please email myplace@cardinia.vic.gov.au



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/youth



Members of Council's advisory groups and Council leaders come together.

Working together

Members of Council's advisory groups and Council leaders recently came together to understand each other's work and to strengthen collaboration.

A representative from each group – the Multicultural Advisory Group, Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee, Cardinia Community Leadership Program and

Youth Action Committee – presented the objectives of their group, and Council leaders shared how we work and collaborate with other levels of government, industry and the community to deliver services shaped by local input.

You can learn more about our advisory committees and volunteering opportunities on Council's website.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteering

Celebrating collaboration and local learning

Education Centre Gippsland (ECG) has officially opened its new Senior Campus at Toomah Community Centre, Pakenham.

The new senior campus meets young people where they are and builds their confidence to pursue and transition to employment following their schooling. Co-located with Windermere Child and Family Services and Lime Box Café, the site for the new campus offers valuable opportunities for hands-on learning and real-world experience for Year 11 and 12 students.

Council was proud to partner with Community College Gippsland and others to secure the site and support our young people's education and transition to employment. The collaboration reflects our commitment to building strong connections within our community and creating local opportunities to learn, work and thrive in Cardinia Shire.

Taking action against family violence

We're proud to once again join the global movement to end violence against women and girls through the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

This global initiative, led annually by UN Women and facilitated by Respect Victoria and Safe and Equal statewide, runs from 25 November to 10 December.

Through the theme "Respect Is" we are reminded that we all have a role to play in building a community where women are safe, equal and respected. Respect Victoria reminds us that respect is about building healthy, equal relationships and taking a stand against all forms of gender-based violence.

Through the Together We Can Partnership, we work closely with sector experts, service providers and community leaders to identify and deliver actions to reduce family violence through community solutions focussed on advocacy, raising awareness, education and outreach.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/familyviolence



Celebrating our seniors

More than 30 local events will be held throughout October to celebrate the Victorian Seniors Festival.

The month-long program is packed with free and low-cost activities across the shire, including art demonstrations, live entertainment, music, craft, sing-alongs, exhibitions, discussion and much more.

There's also a wide range of events and activities being held in the city and across the state.

This year's festival theme Connect, Create, Celebrate encourages everyone to get involved and have fun.

Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025

CONNECT
CREATE
CELEBRATE



To find out more and for a full listing of local events, please visit our website.



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

Focus on safety

October is Community Safety Month and a timely reminder that we all have a role to play in keeping our community safe.

A series of community events will be held throughout the month with representatives from Council and emergency services on hand to discuss community safety and emergency preparedness.

- **2 October**, 10:30am–12:30pm at the Upper Beaconsfield Shopping Precinct, 25 Beaconsfield-Emerald Road, Upper Beaconsfield
- **11 October**, 1:30–4:30pm, Hills Hub at 400A Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald (free coffee provided).
- **18 October**, 11am–2pm at Bunnings Warehouse, 855 Princes Highway, Pakenham (free coffee provided).



- **23 October**, 10:30am–12:30pm outside the IGA supermarket, 15 Fairbridge Lane, Cockatoo.
- **26 October**, 8am–1pm at Bunyip Community Market, Bunyip Recreation Reserve, Nar Nar Goon–Longwarry Road.
- **30 October**, 10:30am–12:30pm outside Degani café, 65 Station Street, Koo Wee Rup.

In addition, a Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) workshop will be held on 8 October from 11:30am–2:30pm at the Senior Citizens Centre, 135 McDonald's Track, Lang Lang.

You can pick up free anti-theft screws for your car registration plate at all events.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au

Spring clean your finances

There are many resources to support you with cost-of-living pressures.

The Victorian Government's Energy Assistance Program is a free phone service that can help you save money on your energy bills. If you have an eligible concession card, you can also apply for the \$100 Power Saving Bonus.

Call 1800 161 215 or visit www.energy.vic.gov.au/households

Find out if you're eligible for financial education and matched savings as part of the Saver Plus program. This financial education program will help you build your financial skills, develop savings habits and people eligible for the program can receive up to \$500 to assist with education costs.

For more information and to check if you're eligible, call 1300 610 355 or visit www.saverplus.org.au

Visit our Cardinia Support website for other financial wellbeing support services available in Cardinia Shire.



www.cardiniasupport.com.au



Breaking ground for new pavilion

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik, councillors Brett Owen and Collin Ross, Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts Harriet Shing MP, South Eastern Metropolitan Region MPs Michael Galea and Lee Tarlambis OAM, representatives of the Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and community members celebrate the turning of the first sod.

We've celebrated a key milestone for the Upper Beaconsfield Reserve pavilion project.

The first sod was turned with representatives from Council, the Victorian Government, Upper Beaconsfield Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and community members coming together to mark the occasion.

This highly anticipated project will include demolition of the existing pavilion and construction of a new community, sporting and Scouts facility.

Beacon Hills Ward Councillor Brett Owen said the new pavilion would serve as a hub for a variety of activities.

"This milestone represents a significant investment in the community, highlighting the commitment to enhancing local sports, scout gatherings, and community events," Cr Owen said.

"Promising to be much more than just a building, the facility will provide the community with enhanced amenities as well as opportunities to connect."

Visit our website for project updates.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/majorprojects



Dive into summer

Following a highly successful outdoor pool season last year, we're introducing a few changes to make the most of the warmer months.

Our outdoor pools at Pakenham, Garfield and Koo Wee Rup will open from 1 December until 31 March 2026 (temperature dependent) and the wading pool at Emerald Lake Park will be open from 1 December until 15 March.

The opening hours during school terms have also been extended for Pakenham, Garfield, and Koo Wee Rup in response to community feedback.

Last season, the temperature trigger for opening was lowered from 26 degrees to 25 degrees, and this will also apply to the 2025-26 season.

The reduced temperature trigger, along with the warm summer weather, resulted in record attendances at our outdoor pools last summer, with visitor numbers up by more than 73 per cent on the previous year and total days open increasing by more than double.

Aligned Leisure will deliver another fun filled outdoor pool season for the community to make the most of our seasonal pools.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/pools

Calling school crossing supervisors

School crossing supervisors play an important role in helping children and adults cross the road safely during busy school drop-off and pick-up times.

We're fortunate to have more than 100 school crossing supervisors in the shire who supervise 88 crossings, and we're looking for more to join our dedicated team.

School crossing supervisors usually work two shifts per school day, morning and afternoon, each lasting 45 minutes to one hour, depending on the crossing location.

So, if you enjoy interacting with children and families and want to make a positive contribution to the local community, head to our website to find out more.



www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/schoolcrossings

School Crossing Supervisor Jeanene helps to keep pedestrians safe.



New partnership to boost regional tourism

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik (centre) pictured with Yarra Ranges Mayor Cr Jim Child (left) and Nillumbik Mayor John Dumesq at one of the many tourist destinations across the region.

We've partnered with Yarra Ranges and Nillumbik councils to create a new Visitor Economy Partnership, spreading tourism funding and initiatives across the outer east.

The partnership will strengthen ties with nearby councils, provide greater opportunities to access State and Federal funding and increased tourism support for the wider region.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik said the partnership was great news for the region.

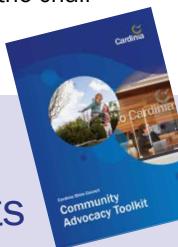
"This partnership has been a long time coming and we're delighted to be

working with the shires of Yarra Ranges and Nillumbik to support and grow the tourism industry across the region," Mayor Kowarzik said.

"By working together, we will be better placed to support tourism operators across the region, attract greater investment and showcase our beautiful region as a popular tourist destination."

The Visitor Economy Partnership, also known as Tourism East, includes an independent chair, representatives from each council, industry representatives, skill-based positions and an advisory committee.

The partnership and its legal structure have been co-designed by representatives from each Council, along with the State Government and the chair of Yarra Ranges Tourism.



Strengthening advocacy efforts

We've developed a range of tools and resources to support Council's ongoing advocacy efforts and to empower the community to lead their own advocacy endeavours.

We've launched our first Advocacy Guidelines and Framework to guide advocacy efforts into the future, as well as a Community Advocacy Toolkit to support the community to drive their own advocacy.

The Advocacy Guidelines and Framework will enable Council to clearly identify, prioritise and drive advocacy activities to deliver the best outcomes for the community.

The Community Advocacy Toolkit is a valuable resource to support and empower residents and community groups to advocate for issues that are important to them. The toolkit includes a number of resources, such as checklists and templates, to help the community advocate effectively and ensure their voices are heard.

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Plan to boost investment and jobs

A new Investment Attraction Plan for Cardinia Shire aims to boost economic growth, create local jobs, foster innovation and enhance liveability.

The plan outlines Council's economic investment aspirations for the next 15 years and includes a range of initiatives that will help Cardinia Shire strengthen its identity as a place to invest. The plan aims to encourage the expansion of existing businesses within the shire, as well as attract new businesses to the region.

Cardinia Shire boasts a number of unique features that will help us attract investment, including state significant industrial land, proximity to productive agricultural land and development opportunities.

The report, developed in partnership with economic and demographic consultant REMPLAN, identifies that economic growth in Cardinia Shire is driven by private sector investment, which promotes business expansion and local employment opportunities. It also identifies that the Federal and State governments have a role to play in progressing economic development through policy frameworks, funding and initiatives.

View the plan on our website.



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

Cardinia Shire Council is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and accessible community

Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee member Doug is prioritising accessibility at his Pakenham business.



Access Keys

Helping our community to feel comfortable and confident before visiting our facilities.

Access keys are available to help individuals know what to expect before visiting a community facility for the first time. Available at four locations including the Cardinia Cultural Centre. PDF and large print documents can be downloaded on Council's website.

Power Up Program

Dedicated power outlets to recharge mobility aids available across the shire.

If you use an electronic mobility chair or scooter, you can recharge them at our community Power Up sites. A list of locations can be found on Council's website. Businesses are also encouraged to join the program.

Good access. Good business

Supporting local businesses to prioritise accessibility.

Our 'Good access. Good business.' guide provides practical tips and support for local businesses to understand why accessibility is important for people with disability, their responsibilities, and how good access can benefit both the customer and the business.

Our communication boards are a tool that use images, symbols and illustrations to help people express themselves. Users gesture or point at images to communicate with others. Download a copy of the guide and communication board from Council's website.

2025–26 Disability Access Upgrade Program

Improving access across facilities in Cardinia.

We've recently completed accessible bathroom upgrades at Lilypond House Community Centre in Pakenham, installing an accessible toilet and male and female ambulant toilets. Upgrades at Mountain Road Recreation Reserve in Cockatoo have included the installation of accessible carparks and pathway access to the pavilion and athletics ground.

These upgrades have been supported by our Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

To learn more about the initiatives listed above, please visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accessandinclusion or www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/cardiniabusiness



Drive and drop event nets **12 tonnes** of recycling

Thanks to our community, almost 12 tonnes of material collected at our first ever Recycling Drive and Drop event has been reused or recycled.

Residents dropped off their unwanted e-waste, polystyrene, soft plastics, textiles and cardboard, with 418 cars

and one bike driving through – averaging one vehicle every 90 seconds.

A massive thank you to everyone who attended. Your overwhelming support has allowed us to lock in dates for the next one.

Block out your calendars for Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 January 2026. We'll share more details closer to the date.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff

Green waste drop-off event



Do you need motivation to clean up your yard in preparation for the warmer months? Drop-off your green waste for free at our October green waste drop-off event.

Event details

Friday 3 October, 7am–3:30pm

Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 October, 8–11:30am

Monday 6 October, 7am–3:30pm

Location: Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre, 840 Wellington Road, Lysterfield.

These events are a free service accepting residential amounts of green waste including garden prunings, tree branches and trunks (up to 30 centimetres wide and one metre long), weeds, grass clippings, leaves and flowers.

People must present photo ID as proof of residence within Cardinia Shire to access the free service.

Waste will only be accepted from residential vehicles and trailers; commercial business operators cannot use this service.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff

Book your FREE hard waste collections



Spring clean and clear out any unwanted bulky household items with your two free hard waste collections.

Some of your items can even be recycled through this service. Over the past year, the hard waste collection service has resulted in:

- 2,700 tyres recycled
- 8,500 mattresses recycled
- 5 tonnes of green waste recovered and reprocessed
- 130 tonnes e-waste kept out of landfill

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

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

You're welcome to book additional collections for a fee.

 www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/hardwaste

What's on?

Cardinia Cultural Centre

The Thursday Lounge

Enjoy live entertainment every Thursday at Cardinia Cultural Centre's Brewing Bliss cafe. Nibbles and drinks available from the cafe.

Thursdays 6–8pm.

First Australians: Freedom For Our Lifetime

First Nations documentary screening with local focus. Free event.

Wednesday 1 October, 6pm.

Euphoric

Featuring a spectacular lineup of burlesque, drag, comedy, dance and more, with a best dressed competition. Saturday 18 October, 7:30–10:30pm.



Anything You Can Do

Sip and See, and evening show by and for the community during the Seniors Festival. Wednesday 22 October, 10am–12pm and 6–7pm

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

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

Cardinia Shire Council

Customer Service Centre
20 Siding Avenue, Officer

Postal address:

PO Box 7 Pakenham 3810

Phone: **1300 787 624**

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)

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

Stickybeak

A hilarious multi-character comedy about the neighbours you know and love to hate. Saturday 29 November, 7pm.

This is 'pay what you can' ticketed show.

Subscribe to Cardinia Cultural Centre's What's On monthly newsletter or follow the social media pages for the latest shows, exhibitions and workshops.

www.cardiniaculturalcentre.com.au

Libraries

Saturday board game club

Pakenham Library

Saturday 11 November

10:30am–3:30pm

Children under 14 must be supervised.

English conversation group

Pakenham Library

Fridays during school terms, 12–1:30pm

Steam club

Emerald Library

Second Thursday of the month during school terms, 4–5pm



Book chat

Emerald Library

Second Wednesday of the month, 10–11am

Creative haven (all ages)

Emerald Library

Tuesday, October 7 and 21, November 18 at 6pm

Saturday, October 4, November 1 at 12:30pm

Movie mornings

Emerald Library

Fourth Wednesday of the month, 10am

Visit: myli.au/cardiniaevents

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.

 www.facebook.com/cardiniashirecouncil

 www.linkedin.com/company/cardinia-shire-council

 www.instagram.com/cardiniashirecouncil

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