

September 2025

Issue: 60



Emerald's Telopea Gardens

open to the public with Open Gardens

Victoria, for one spring weekend only Telopea Gardens, a remarkable 10-acre garden set within a natural amphitheatre, will open to the public on 20 and 21 September as part of Open Gardens Victoria's spring program. This dynamic, ever-evolving garden showcases a wonderful mix of native and exotic plantings, elevated views, and rare botanical specimens—offering visitors a garden experience that's anything but ordinary. Located halfway between Emerald and Cockatoo in the scenic Dandenong Ranges, Telopea is more than a garden—it's a decades-long labour of love that began in 1978, when the property was little more than pine trees, wild blackberries, and a few prized proteas. Over time, the garden has been transformed into an expansive sanctuary of diversity, contrast, and discovery.

80 Beaconsfield-Emerald Road Emerald VIC 3782 OPEN: EXTRAS: TICKETS: **Saturday 20 September and Sunday 21 September** 10am - 4.30pm Plant sales of selected varieties grown on-site Tea and coffee Adults \$10, Students \$6, under 18 free Tickets at the gate or via Trybooking

*Scan here to
learn more*



Daniela 
De Martino

STATE LABOR MP FOR MONBULK

 1635 Burwood Hwy, Belgrave, 3160
 daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au
 9754 5401   @danielademartinomp



COCKATOO COUNTRY MARKET - FATHER'S DAY

Saturday 6 September - 8:30am - 1:30pm

Cockatoo Community Complex, 77 Pakenham Rd

Find the perfect local gift for Dad, Grandad or any top bloke in your world!



Congratulations to

THE Men's Vets who took out the Grand Final with a nail biting win over Belgrave!



The Cockatoo community bus.

The Cockatoo Community bus will be back in action in the not too distant future. The bus group has been incorporated and is in the process of being Accredited by Vic Roads. Once this is done the bus can be registered.

SING FOR UNITY

Sunday 21st September 2-4.30pm - The Hills Hub, Emerald

Featuring

The Lyrebirds Community Choir, Sweet Sassafras
Community Choir, Colour Notes Choir & TUNE-IN



Afternoon Tea Provided

FREE ENTRY - NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED



Proudly hosted by the Lyrebirds Community Choir



Sponsored by:



A worldwide musical movement for unity, peace and community. On UN International Day of Peace 2025, voices from every corner of the planet sing to send a powerful message: We are one world, one people and we stand together in unity and community.

Cockatoo Rural Fire Brigade(CFA)

22 August at 20:18 ·

Members of Cockatoo CFA and @emeraldfirebrigade are now trained and ready to respond to Triple Zero (000) calls as part of the new Fire Medical Response program.

This means when you call Triple Zero (000) in our area CFA and Ambulance Victoria paramedics will be dispatched simultaneously – which means an ambulance and a fire truck may arrive at your home.

We are proud to support this joint initiative between CFA and Ambulance Victoria to improve patient outcomes in medical emergencies like cardiac arrest



FIRE MEDICAL RESPONSE (FMR)



Our brigade is now trained to co-respond to medical emergencies with Ambulance Victoria to improve patient outcomes for our community.

Community members who call for an ambulance may receive both a fire truck and an ambulance.



Always call Triple Zero (000) in an emergency



Dig in and swap out: Trees for Weeds returns to Emerald this September

Unsure how to manage the weeds in your garden? Come along to the upcoming Trees for Weeds swap event in Emerald to learn more.

Cardinia Shire Council is excited to partner with the Friends of Emerald Lake Park to host a Trees for Weeds swap event on Saturday 6 September 2025.

Residents are encouraged to bring along small clippings of their weeds, and experts will be available to help identify weed species and provide management and treatment tips for your garden and property.

Residents will be able to trade in their weed clippings and take a collection of FREE native tube stock home with them.

Event details

Date: Saturday 6 September 2025

Time: 10am – 2pm

Location: Emerald Library, 400B Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald

Cardinia Shire residents are welcome to attend, and pre-registration is not required.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik encourages the community to come along to the upcoming Trees for Weeds event.

"Our Trees for Weeds events are always a great opportunity to roll up your sleeves, do something good for your garden, and help out the local environment at the same time."

"You'll not only walk away with practical tips for tackling weeds, but you'll be able to trade your clippings for a range of free indigenous plants, which you can take home and plant in your garden." Mayor Kowarzik said.

Please note that only small clippings of weeds will be accepted. Green waste cannot be dropped off and will not be accepted at this event.

For more information on the Weeds for Trees swap event or for tips on how to manage weeds, please visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/weeds

Supported by



Cardinia

Cardinia Shire Council



COCKATOO OVER 50'S

at the Cockatoo Over 50's Centre
Alma Treloar Reserve, Pakenham Rd, Cockatoo



September

1st | Lunch \$10—Spuds in Jackets, Fruit and Birthday Cake

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS COMMENCE.....

8th | Craft - Tangles with Marg, Wood Burning with Marty | *BYO lunch*

15th | Guest Speaker: Emerald Library Talking books | Open to the Community

22nd | Outing to Melbourne Museum. *Bus \$8 and Concession Entry \$10*

29th | Music - *to be advised*

Mondays 10:30am –2:30pm

\$2 a session and an Annual Full Membership of \$12. Toasted sandwiches available for purchase for \$6 unless otherwise specified.

Other Activities...

Meditation with Danny & Chris | 0412 468 867

Wednesdays 10am—12pm

\$10 a session

Beginners Line Dancing with Kathy Smith

Tuesday 10am—11:30am

\$6 a session and an Annual Associate Membership of \$6

**THIS MAY SOON CHANGE TO THURSDAYS*



Chair Pilates with Jeanette

Fridays 10am—10:45am

\$7 a session and an Annual Associate Membership of \$6



Feel free to walk in and join us for any of the above sessions

Please contact Dot on 0400 070 197 for further information

Podiatrist Appointments

Please phone Dot 0400 070 197

Next appointment at Over 50's Centre is on **September 17th**



COCKATOO OVER 50'S

My Aged Care and Care Finder Information Session

Date: Tuesday, 9 September 2025

Time: 1pm - 3.30pm

Location: Emerald Hills Hub, 402 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald (Next to Emerald Library)

Cost: Free (includes refreshments)

Bookings: Ageing Well team on 1300 787 624 or by email to mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

2025 Annual General Meeting

The 2025 AGM was held on 4th August and was well attended. Present was councillor David Nickell and representatives from Aging Well and the Cardinia shire. This was followed by a delicious High Tea, much enjoyed by all.



Meet Your Local Property Management Team at Ranges First National Real Estate



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9754 6111

Belgrave & Cockatoo



Owning a rental property is a big investment— let our experienced team ensure your property is performing at its best. With over 33 years of combined property management experience, our dedicated team at Ranges First national is here to make things easy. We take the stress out of managing your rental by handling every detail-tenant selection, routine inspections, maintenance, and everything in between-with care, professionalism, and a strong connection to our local community. Whether you're an experienced investor or just getting started, we treat your property as if it were our own. Our team prides itself on clear communication, prompt service, and delivering real results that protect and grow your investment over time. We're locals who know the area, the market, and what matters most when it comes to managing rental homes in the Dandenong Ranges and surrounds. So if you're ready for fresh, reliable approach to property management-reach out. We'd love to chat about how we can support you and your investment goals.

Daniela De Martino MP

17 August at 11:02 Facebook

It's been an honour to visit several of our CFA brigades across the Monbulk District over the past few weeks to acknowledge the tireless efforts of these great volunteers, along with officially opening the upgraded station at Cockatoo and handing over the keys to their new FCV.

Huge thanks to all CFA vols - ops and non-ops for everything they do for us all. Thanks always to the people supporting them at home so they can drop everything at a second's notice to help our community when we need them the most.



Cockatoo CFA would like to extend a big thank you to Cockatoo IGA for the opportunity to fundraise and for generously supplying all the food for our barbecue. We'd also like to give a big shout-out to our amazing community for your generosity and support.



Volunteer Training Workshop: Diversity and Inclusion

The next free community training session is coming up in September. Register now!

Date: Wednesday 10th September 2025

Time: 6.30pm - 9pm

Location: Council Chambers, Cardinia Shire Council Civic Centre, 20 Siding Ave, Officer

-In person attendance preferred however option to attend online is also available.

-Light refreshments and nibbles provided.

Do you worry about saying the wrong thing? Do you want to be more inclusive of others but are not sure where to start? You're not alone. Many people want to create a more inclusive and respectful environment but feel uncertain about how to navigate sensitive topics.

This training is designed to give you the confidence, knowledge, and practical skills to foster inclusivity in your organisation and community. **To register for the workshop, please fill out the form at this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/Wnt4PTSzzJ>**

Sign up for a Victorian Seniors Card and enjoy free public transport during Seniors Festival

The much-anticipated Victorian Seniors Festival is just around the corner.

This state-wide event for older residents takes place every October across Victoria. This year, the theme of the festival is "Connect, Create, Celebrate." It invites older Victorians to come together, explore new interests, and celebrate their community.

To make the most of this vibrant festival, we encourage older residents to sign up for a Victorian Seniors Card. By becoming a cardholder, you can enjoy eight days of free public transport during the Seniors Festival from 5-12 October, making it easier to attend various events and connect with friends. The Victorian Seniors Card program is completely free, with no application fees or charges, ensuring that everyone can participate without financial burden. It is a fantastic opportunity to get involved and enjoy the many activities planned for the festival. Don't miss out on the chance to celebrate and connect. Sign up for your Victorian Seniors Card today, and stay tuned for more information about the Victorian Seniors Festival. For more information about the Victorian Seniors Card program, including eligibility criteria and application details, phone 1300 797 210 or visit www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/seniors-card





Calling All Local Businesses!

GEMCO Players Community Theatre is thrilled to be bringing Charlie and the Chocolate Factory to the stage this October — and we'd love your support to help make the magic happen!

We're currently seeking local businesses to come on board as sponsors. Whether it's financial support or donating a prize/service, your generosity will help bring this whimsical musical to life right here in Emerald.

In return, we're offering great promotional opportunities, including:
Your business name & logo in our printed programs, Exposure across our social media platforms, Logo on show posters & flyers, Acknowledgement before all 11 performances, Featured at our venue's Front of House display, Free double passes to enjoy the show!

Sponsorship starts from just \$100, and we're happy to tailor a package that works for your business.

Show runs 3–17 October 2025 GEMCO Players Theatre, 19 Kilvington Dr, Emerald
If you're interested please send me a DM **Grace Duggan Facebook 27 July**

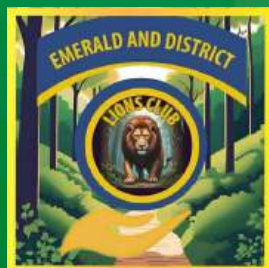
Kindness

is giving hope to those
who think they
are all alone in this world.



We Serve

Lead to Serve Serve to Lead



Make a Difference in Your Community!

Are you looking for a way to give back, meet new people, and make a real impact right here in Australia?

Lions Clubs Australia is a vibrant community of volunteers dedicated to strengthening local communities and supporting those in need, both locally and globally.



When you join Lions, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Make a tangible impact: Get hands-on with projects addressing genuine community needs, from supporting local families to environmental initiatives.
- Develop new skills: Enhance your leadership, teamwork, and organisational abilities through diverse service activities.
- Build lasting mateships: Connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for service and camaraderie.
- Join a global network: Connect with members worldwide as part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service club organisation.

Who are we looking for?

People from all walks of life! Whether you're a student, a professional, retired, or anything in between, if you have a desire to help others and contribute positively to your community, you'll find a welcoming home with Lions.

Scan the QR code or visit www.lions.org.au to find a club and become part of something special.



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE RIGHT TO WORK FROM HOME

As part of its plan to enshrine the right to work from home in law, the Allan Labor Government is encouraging Victorians to have their say at engage.vic.gov.au/wfh. Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Industrial Relations Jaclyn Symes today opened consultation to all Victorians ahead of legislation being introduced to the Parliament next year.

The consultation brings together workers and employers alike to ensure the proposed laws reflect the real-world experience of working from home: what's fair, what's practical, and what's already working. Under the proposed laws, if you can reasonably do your job from home, you will have the right to do so for at least two days a week, whether you work in the public sector or private sector. Consultation won't determine whether working from home should be a right – we already know it should be. This is about making sure the rules are appropriate. As part of the consultation, the Government will consider the types of businesses and the size of businesses that will be covered by the proposed law, as well as the definition of remote work, and who is able to do it. The Government is launching two consultation streams:

- Opening today is an online survey through Engage Victoria. Any employee or employer can participate in this survey. To have your say, visit engage.vic.gov.au/wfh.
- Roundtable discussions with industry will also be held from September 2025. Stakeholders, peak bodies and unions can register their interest for the roundtable consultations at engage.vic.gov.au/wfh. Survey data will reveal what Victorians think about working from home – including whether employees have ever been denied a request to work from home, and whether they still feel unable to ask for it in their workforce. Working from home works for families and it's good for the economy. It's popular. Flexible working arrangements are utilised by workers and businesses alike, with more than a third of Australian workers – including 60 per cent of professionals – regularly working from home. It saves families money. It saves Australians on average \$110 a week or \$5,308 every year. That's more money back in the pockets of hardworking Victorians at a time when every dollar makes a difference. Working from home gets more people working. It supports women with children, carers and people with a disability to work – and it's better for business with workforce participation 4.4 per cent higher than before the pandemic. It cuts congestion. Victorians are now spending less time commuting, saving more than three hours in their week on average. That's three fewer hours sitting in traffic and three more hours back in your life.

AIRPORT TAXI

Book 24 hrs prior or earlier to confirm your spot

0403 126 217



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Servicing South Eastern Suburbs & Dandenong Ranges



FREE

My Aged Care and Care Finder Session



My Aged Care

Learn about government subsidised aged care services to eligible seniors, including cleaning, shopping, some allied health and personal care.

Care finder program

Learn about this free service for people who need additional support accessing My Aged Care and other services in the community. This includes the application and assessment process.

If you or someone you know needs support to stay independent, this session will get you started.

This session will cover:

- How My Aged Care services can support you
- The registration and assessment process
- The role of an Aged Care Specialist Officer who can support you in person
- The Care finder service for people who have no one else to support them
- Opportunity to speak directly to an expert

Proudly presented in partnership with Department of Health, Disability & Ageing, Aged Care Specialists from Services Australia, Care Connect, Monash Health and Wintringham.



When: Tuesday, 9 September 2025, 1 - 3.30pm
Where: Emerald Hills Hub, 402 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald
Cost: Free (includes refreshments)
Bookings: Council's Ageing Well team on **1300 787 624** or
mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au

More information about Ageing Well: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/seniors



SAVE THE DATE!

GEMBROOK-COCKATOO
FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

PRESENTATION *Night*

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
Cardinia Cultural Centre
6PM ARRIVAL FOR 6:30PM START
FORMAL DRESS CODE

Join us as we celebrate the 2025
season of our Senior Men, Reserves,
Under 18s, Mens & Womens Veterans
& Senior Netball teams

**EARLY BIRD PRICE
TICKETS \$85**

Join us as we celebrate the 2025 season

Cardinia Cultural Centre

Saturday, 20th September

6pm arrival for a 6.30pm start
Early bird price of \$85 per person -
Includes a delicious two-course meal

Drinks at bar price

Dress code: Formal

Early Bird Tickets Now On Sale!

Tickets \$85 until the 31st of August, increasing to \$95 from the 1st of September



<https://www.trybooking.com/DENQY>

All tickets to be purchased by the 5th of September

**Victoria's new, free, virtual
women's Health Clinic is now
live.**

No referral needed.

Just call 1300 033 224 ❤️



NEW OFFICE LOCATION
345 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald 3782

- ✓ Small Business Accounting and Tax support
- ✓ Tailored solutions
- ✓ Monthly Financial Reporting
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- ✓ Individual Tax Returns

By Appointment Only. Visit our website for available times.



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**Want to become a
Neighbourhood Watch
Member?**
Scan the QR code to join



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other
Eastern Ranges



Emerald - Cockatoo - Gembrook - Macclesfield - Upper Beaconsfield - Menzies Creek

Provide your feedback on Council's plan for domestic animal management in the shire

With the community's input, Council has developed a draft Domestic Animal Management Plan and invites feedback.

Earlier this year, Cardinia Shire Council asked residents and pet owners for feedback on various topics relating to the management of domestic pets, to assist in the development of an updated Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP).

Based on the survey results received, the Draft DAMP for 2026-2029 has been developed and is now open for feedback.

Every Victorian Council is required to produce a DAMP that guides Council's animal management service by promoting animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats, and the protection of the environment.

To ensure the Draft DAMP reflects the need and expectations of our entire community, community members are invited to share their feedback by completing the **[Creating Cardinia short online survey](#)** or requesting a hardcopy via **mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au**.

This consultation opportunity will be opened until Tuesday 16 September.

To learn more, please visit **www.creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/help-shape-our-domestic-animal-management-plan**



“There’s an Emu doing laps of Station St Gembrook and the tracks”. (Candice M-Facebook 31/7/25)





COCKATOO SUNDAY MUSIC SESSIONS

Presented by:

JOSE & FRIENDS & COCKATOO RSL

COCKATOO RSL
SUB BRANCHES



7th September 2025



Leigh & Tom



Evan



Pete

14th September 2025



21st September 2025



Mark



Dave



Carol & Friends

28th September 2025



Mark



Hayley



In Harmony – Pat and Sue



THE
**Cardinia Civic
Concert Band**
Live with John Wood

*A Tribute to
Lyn Stephenson*



Sunday • 21st September • 2pm
Cardinia Cultural Centre, Pakenham

Get Your Tickets: <https://CARDINIA.sales.ticketsearch.com/.../salese.../152676>

Had a go at Barefoot Bowls?

Want a little more?

Cockatoo Bowls is running a 6 week

Social competition.

Thursdays from 6.00pm.

Starts September 11th.

New bowlers welcome.



Each 90 minute session stands alone,

So no need to commit to every week.

Need more information or to register,

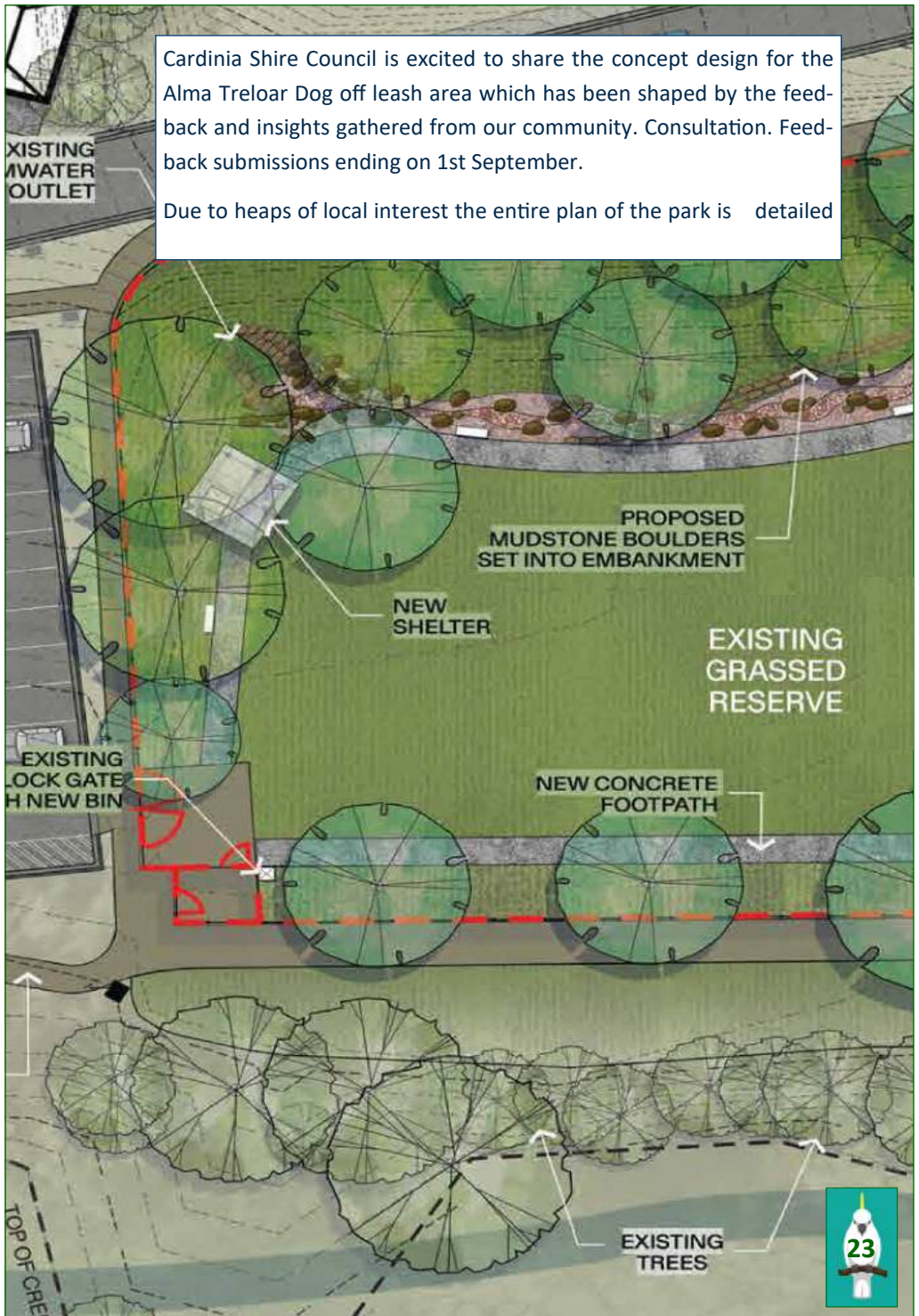
Contact the Club on 0439 151 006 or

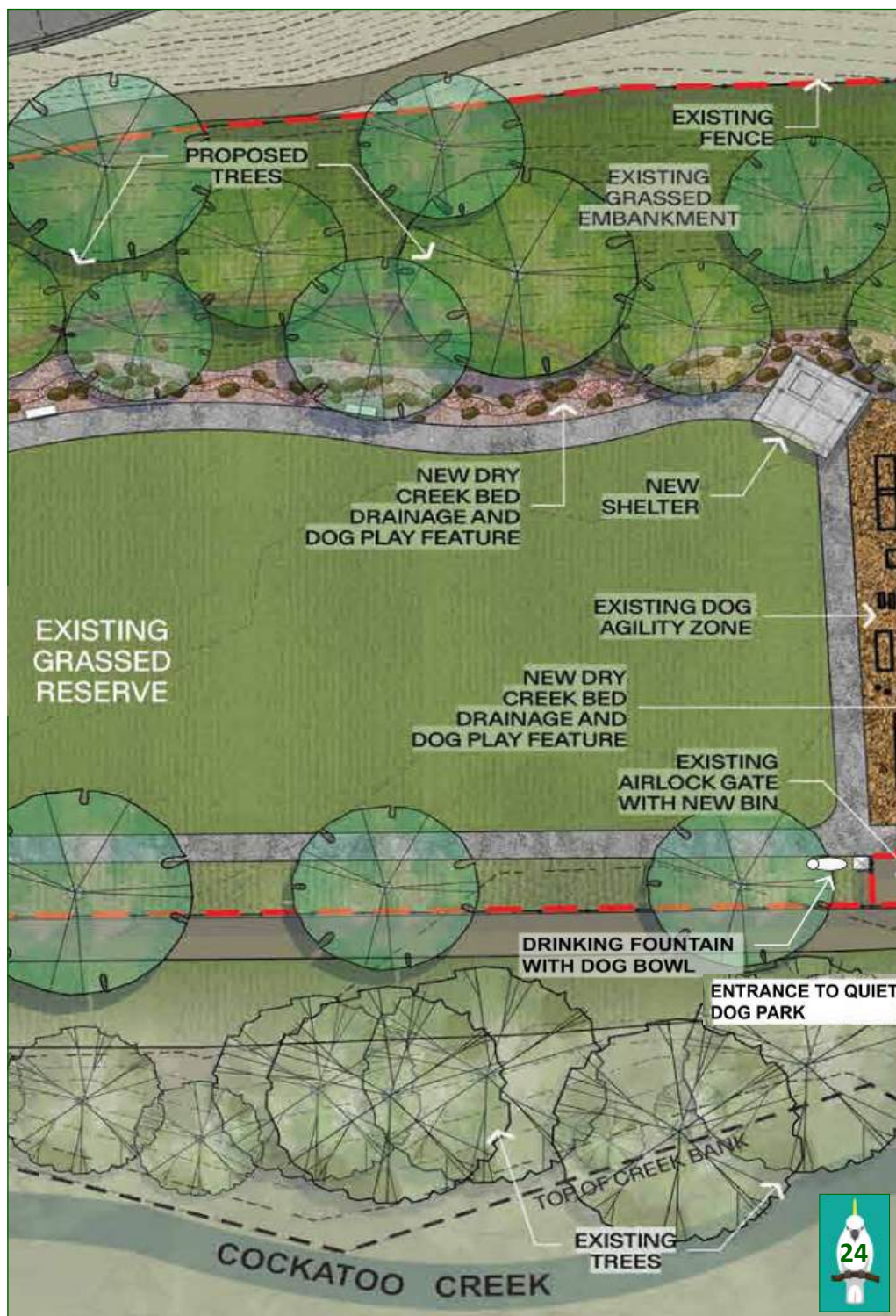
cockatoobowlsclub@outlook.com

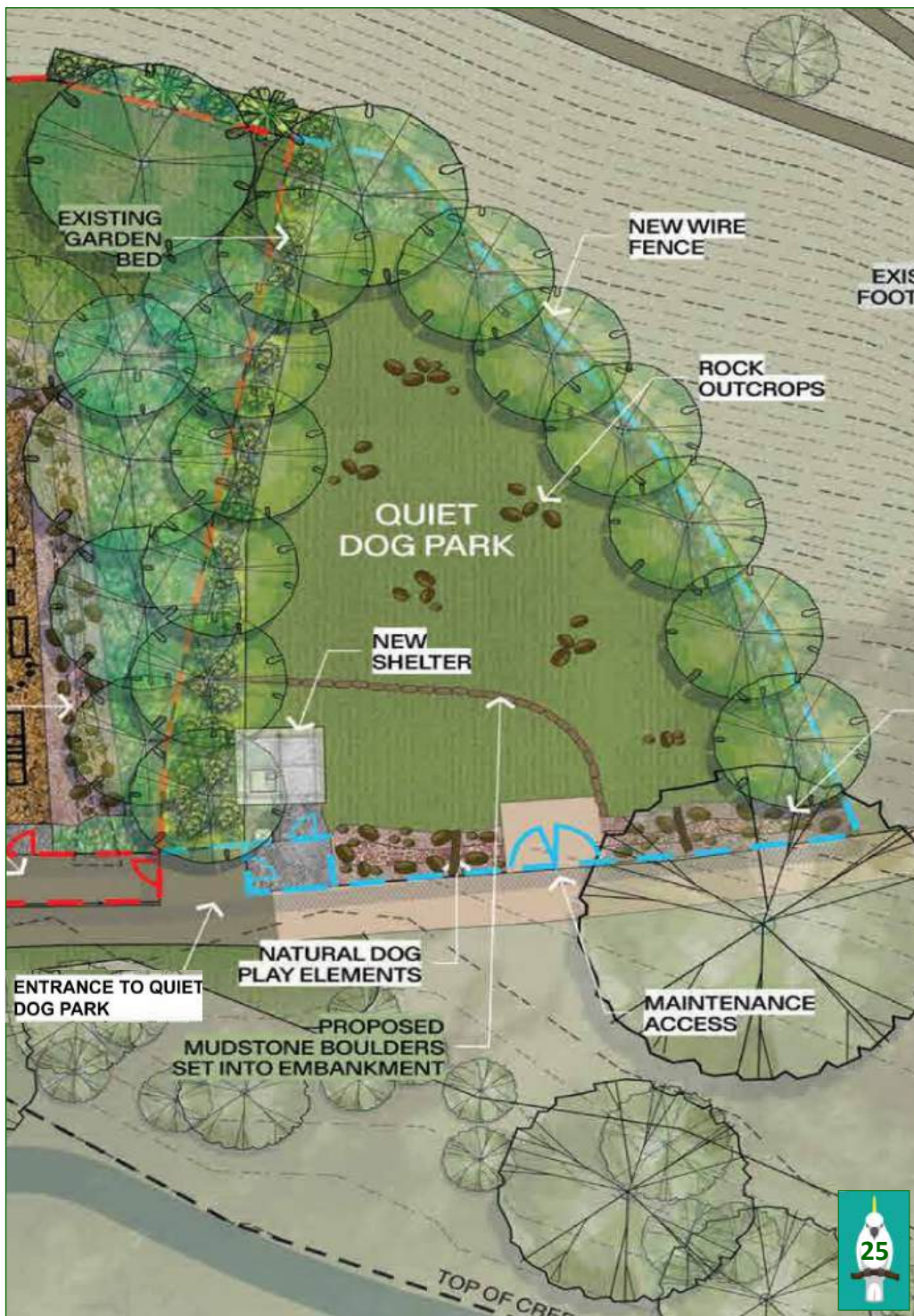
Alma Treloar reserve, Cockatoo.

Cardinia Shire Council is excited to share the concept design for the Alma Treloar Dog off leash area which has been shaped by the feedback and insights gathered from our community. Consultation. Feedback submissions ending on 1st September.

Due to heaps of local interest the entire plan of the park is detailed







3781 Needlework

We have started! Cockatoo community needlework project

Cockatoo Over 50's received a grant from Cardinia Shire and our Cockatoo Community Market to do a needlework project that depicts Cockatoo features, homes & community buildings.

We are now heading into the community stage where locals can use their needlework prowess to do a section of panel No 1. There are only 14 buildings available for this panel.

Our first piece has been booked and will commence in September.

To give you an idea of what we are doing here is our sample piece of AWBEC.



If you would like to be involved please either email to - 3781needlework@gmail.com
or - fill in the below details and drop into the Brunch on McBride in the 3781 letterbox.

Name.....
Email address
Phone number.....
Needlework skills.....



Market Dates for the rest of the year 2025

9am to 2pm 4th Sunday of the Month



28th September
26th October
23rd November

Save them to your calendar now

Cockatoo RSL presents

BINGO!

Mondays

at Gembrook RSL

49 Main St Gembrook.



Doors open 6.45 pm , \$3 per book (15 games per session, 2 Sessions). Raffles \$1 per ticket (all prizes donated). 7.30pm Eyes down First session (15 games) 8.30pm First session ends. 8.40pm short break and raffle draw. 8.45pm Eyes down Second session (15 games). 9.30pm Second session ends. Bar open.



Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

Eastern Ranges



**Emerald - Cockatoo - Gembrook - Macclesfield - Upper Beaconsfield
and Menzies Creek**

Another successful Neighbourhood watch meeting was held at the Gembrook R.S.L. On Tuesday 11 th August with Crime stopper representative Aiden Bloomfield.

Aiden talked about the new initiative, Crime Stoppers is running at the moment.

LEVEL UP AGAINST CAR THEFT

I was not aware that with new technology a thief does not even need to enter your home to be able to steal your car. Your keyless system radiates a pulse and technology has developed a system that picks up on this pulse. How do you beat that????

Ways to stop this access is by using a Faraday Bag, which stops the pulse being picked up . These are fairly inexpensive. You can have a kill switch - immobiliser, put on your car that stops thieves being able to start your car. There is a garage type remote that you switch as you leave the car and to start car you re hit the switch. Use an old fashioned steering wheel lock. All these items can protect your car and most thieves will not want to spend too much time trying to break in. So good deterrents. Put sensor lights around your home or garage as this deters thieves.

Remember most crimes need an opportunity, means to get what they want and a motive. Whilst you can't stop the motive (need) you can remove the means, leaving your house or garage door open, and having the opportunity by leaving your items on open display. Please consider joining Neighbourhood Watch Eastern Ranges as together we can help make our communities safer.

Next Neighbourhood watch meeting is Tuesday September 8 th at Upper Beaconsfield Community Centre 12 Salisbury Rd Upper Beaconsfield at 6.30

If you can't make the meeting you can join us via teams.

HillsNews. Online at www.3781news.com

Contributions for consideration for publication are welcome and must be submitted by the 20th of the month for the next issue, Emailed to 3781News@gmail.com or posted to 3781News, PO Box 3, Cockatoo, VIC 3781. Editor Brett Barker 2/5 McBride St, Cockatoo. 0421 219 899. 3781News is Auspiced by Cockatoo RSL sub branch inc. Read online and see back issues at 3781news.com or send an email to subscribe and help save a tree.

Gembrook Craft Group

Peace... silence? Calmness? No anxiety, frustration or stress ? How can we experience peace when we live in a noisy, fast paced busy world?

Well, we usually can do something about noise. Turn off the devices that produce noise.

But some of those other things are an internal response and can't be turned off with a switch or button or at will.

However, we can do something to soothe our inner anxieties or frustrations. That something is taking up a craft or activity of some kind.

One of our members recently had an experience out of her control.

She panicked when she realized her mobile wasn't working. She couldn't ring out. Her situation is difficult - some physical issues keep her mostly housebound, and no one checks on her regularly to see if she is ok. Hence her dependence on her mobile. Telstra (she was able to go to a Telstra shop - it was a Telstra problem, so they said) assured her the mobile would be working after an hour or two, but it wasn't. This is when her panic increased, and all sorts of negative thoughts shouted at her. 'It's all my fault! What if... happens? No one knows if I'm in trouble. etc. I still can't contact anyone ...'

However, another thought popped into her head - 'I'll do some spinning'. So, she sat down at her spinning wheel and started to spin - and that did the trick! After some time, she felt calm and realized that she was ok and would continue to be ok. She went to bed - phone still not working - but she slept and in the morning the mobile was operative!

The dictionary states that therapy is a treatment that helps someone feel better, grow stronger, etc. especially after an illness. We don't have to be ill though to benefit from something therapeutic. We can be stressed, frustrated, angry, frightened, ...

It was the time she spent spinning that enabled our member to take her mind off the mobile. Doing something she enjoyed calmed her mind, engaged her creativity and helped her to feel better.

For the Gembrook Craft Group, our craft includes knitting, crocheting, spinning, felting (needle, wet, and nuno), dyeing and sewing. We enjoy doing these things.

Physical activities - gardening, sport and playing a musical instrument - all these and many more, are therapeutic. Even just a few minutes spent knitting, spinning, gardening or walking can change our whole mindset.

Gembrook Craft Group can help you with craft – if you want to learn to knit, crochet, spin or felt, we can help you. Come and see us and enjoy others' company over a cuppa. Mondays or Thursdays, 10 - 2 pm. Bring your own craft and do it alongside us.

Our founding member says that everyone needs to do the craft that they love every day! It's good for us. And she ought to know! Gembrook Craft Group , 3 Redwood Road, Gembrook.





HN33

Image Muzza Holmes .



GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

 *celebrating* 
Alisha Fitzgerald

150
GAMES

GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

 *celebrating* 
Mark Gerencser

100
GAMES

GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

 *celebrating* 
Patrick Snoxell

50
GAMES

GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

 *celebrating* 
James Moran

50
GAMES

A NEW INITIATIVE IN THE FIGHT TO SAVE WILD KOALAS

22 August 2025



To coincide with September's, Save the Koala Month, the [Australian Koala Foundation](#) and [Wild Dog Books](#) announce the release, on 26 August, of *One Koala One Hundred Trees*, a picture book by debut author Leesa Allinson and award-winning illustration team Heather Potter and Mark Jackson.

One Koala, One Hundred Trees is a heart-warming story about one family's determination to create a safer environment for the Koalas living on their land. The story is interspersed with Koala facts and practical tips for readers wanting to build their own 'Koala corridor' to help protect one of Australia's most precious animals. Proceeds from the book will directly support the Australian Koala Foundation's [Koala Kiss Project](#).

The picture book can be pre-ordered now at any bookstore. On release, it will be available across Australia in bookstores, selected gift shops, and on the Australian Koala Foundation's [Save The Koala Online shop](#). A portion of each sale will go towards the Australian Koala Foundation's Koala Kiss Project.

The Koala Kiss Project aims to build an uninterrupted Koala conservation corridor from southern Victoria all the way to north Queensland by linking intact sections of Koala habitat separated by cleared land, called 'Kiss Points'.

Leesa Allinson is a physiotherapist-turned-author with a deep devotion to Koala conservation. Her passion is engaging young readers with imaginative stories and vibrant characters to support their global development.

Heather Potter and Mark Jackson are illustrators and frequent collaborators whose works have been featured in several exhibitions. They are the recipients of many awards, notably the CBCA Book of the Year Award and the Wilderness Society Environment Award for Children's Literature.

Quotes attributable to Australian Koala Foundation Chair Deborah Tabart OAM

"As I read this wonderful book and after nearly 40 years watching habitats go down I was so pleased that Leesa Allinson has been able to really show the complexity of Koala conservation."

"The Australian Koala Foundation is dedicated to existing habitats being protected and our slogan *No Tree No Me* is ever so important, but many people think that if Koalas go into hospital and get better that they will be safe."

"They can only be safe if they are returned to a safe forest or if people plant 100 trees or more. Quinlans, our Research Station, is a place where we can plant trees."

"I am confident this lovely story will encourage people to plant; not to mention essential for all those wanting to learn more about the *Koala Kiss Project*. Well done Leesa."



The FoodStore is OPEN!!

The Food Store is open on Mondays to welcome those in need. We open between 10am-1pm for you to come and collect some food. You will receive a friendly welcome and a warm smile, as well as access to the wide range of food available. There are no requirements other than being in need to access our services.



St Lukes Church Cockatoo

All are Welcome to our

SUNDAY NIGHT *Service*

EVERY SUNDAY

6pm-7pm

**7pm-7.30pm . Cuppa, cake, bikkies
and chat with locals.**

With Youth Pastor Luke Hetchkin van Neuren

**1 McBride St Cockatoo. Driveway beside
the creek opposite the Bowls club.**



Gembrook Spuds



By Tina VS on the “Gembrook History” Facebook page.

REPRINTED THIS MONTH DUE TO SOME ERRORS IN EDITING LAST MONTH. Oops.

Tina commented “I don’t feel right taking all the credit . Julian Dyer and my dad Joe Pantor-no helped greatly and Michelle Granieri provided many of the photos.)

Gembrook has always been associated with Potatoes.

In 1877, the Backhouse Brothers were digging 5 tons of Potatoes to the acre. This was only 4 years after Settlement began in 1873. (Casey-Cardinia –links to our past: The year of the potato)

Once Puffing Billy came to Gembrook, it made transportation of potatoes a lot easier. Despite the claims by those engaged in the Timber industry, potatoes played a part in the opening of the railway.

By 1922, no less than 200 acres of potatoes were being planted annually in Gembrook. The newly cleared land had left volcanic soil of great fertility.

In an article in The Australian, September 9th 1922, it states, “The quality of the Gembrook Potatoes cannot be excelled, and there is always a keen demand for them at top quotations. One of the local farmers forwarded a truck to Melbourne early in August, and received the following memorandum, from the selling Agent-“ The potatoes are equal to any arriving in Melbourne. Today we made as high as £7/10 a ton, which price being, we believe higher than was realized for potatoes from any other district”.

The main growers at this time were Messers- Byrcholl Bros., V.Carter, J. Deeble, J. Turnbull, J. Hamilton, J.Jones, J. Kelly, M.D Night, J. Monsergh, F. Onley, J.Quigley, E. Riepel, J.Tate, J.Twyford and son, J. Ure Senior and J. Ure Junior.

The varieties being grown were, Carman No1, Manistee, Clark’s main crop, Snowflake and Up to date.

The late 20’s and early 30’s saw Koo Wee Rup hit by floods. In 1934 they were hit hard. 11000- 12000 acres of potato crops were lost. This equated to 40000 to 50000 tons of Spuds. It was after the 1934 floods that Potato farming in Gembrook took off. Farmers were sick of dealing with floods and were attracted by the fertile soil, sloped paddocks and less chance of flooding, headed to the Hills.

It was at this time, and into the early 40’s that many Italians came into the area. They were referred to as “Enemy Aliens”.

In 1942, it was reported in The Healesville and Yarra Glen Guardian that in the Emerald district, which extended from Menzies Creek to Gembrook and included Monbulk, Cockatoo, Clematis and Macclesfield, that 122 Enemy Aliens, except for a dozen Albanians were Italian. 39 of the Enemy Aliens were growing potatoes. Those that were Naturalized were able to purchase lands, while others leased land to grow Potatoes. There was a lot of resentment towards the Italians during the war. Many Australians struggled watching the Italians becoming successful Potato Growers, while many of the locals were overseas fighting in the War.

Gembrook Spuds (continued)



By Tina VS on the “Gembrook History” Facebook page.

Others respected the Italians work ethic and admired their wives that worked alongside their husbands in the paddock. Some of the Italians growing potatoes in that time were Savarino, Gallenti, Angelo and Phillip Falcone, Giuseppe Lamendola, Croce (Roger) Pantorno, Vincenzo Failla, Guiseppe Raciti, Filippo Pepi, Giuseppe Pavone, G. Iicciardi, Gaetano D’Angelo and Vincenzo Scacco.

Dry conditions in the early 50’s led to very hard times for the local farmers. Grub decimated many crops. Victoria had a potato shortage. It was referred to as the ‘Victorian Potato Famine’. Some weeks the Melbourne Markets didn’t have any potatoes delivered. Hospitals were considering serving the patients dehydrated potatoes. The issue wasn’t that there wasn’t any potatoes, it was that growers could get more money sending what potatoes they had to Sydney, or to sell them on the Black Market.

In 1954, Red Gem Packers began operations in the Big Shed in the old Puffing Billy Yard, selling washed Potatoes.

1956, saw some areas in Victoria have a dry early part of the year and then other areas were hit by severe floods. This affected the quantity and quality of Potatoes. The price of potatoes sky rocketed. People in Sydney were offering Rugby Tickets for potatoes, bags of potatoes were being stolen off slow moving trucks and out of paddocks. The humble Potato had become a Rich man’s Food.

This was the year that the Gembrook Potato farmer struck gold. One local farmer was so happy to finally be able to buy a new Suit. Two brothers who were growing together earned £42000 and could have purchased 21 houses.

In 1957, they couldn’t give their spuds away.

Due to the money made in 1956, many farmers were able to update their equipment. They retired their horses and purchased tractors. Many farming techniques had to change. With the horses, the crops had to be planted across the paddocks. This made it easier for the horses to pull the implements. With Tractors, they had to plant up and down the paddocks. This made it easier to control the implements and reduced the risk of rolling tractors etc on the slopes.

The first dams began to be built. In the past the farmers had relied on Gembrook’s adequate rainfall and Springs that ran close to the surface to water their crops. With the dams and new Sprinkler Systems they could control the watering. This was monumental in the control of Grub. Crop sizes began to increase.

In November 1961, Giuseppe Pavone took the Potato Producers Co-Operative to court. For many years the co-Operative had dictated the amount of potatoes that could be grown and dug and also set the prices paid. If you were a member of the Co-Operative you could only sell your Potatoes through them. There was some loop holes that allowed Interstate sales. Some families who farmed together were able to have some family members contracted to them and others not. But Sole farmers like Pavone did not have this freedom. Once contracted with the Co-Operative, it was for life.

Gembrook Spuds (Continued)



By Tina VS on the “Gembrook History” Facebook page.

There was no expiry date and no way to leave. Joe Pavone had had enough. He took them to court and won. This led to expiry dates being added to contracts. This also gave the growers more freedom.

In the early 60's the local farmers volunteered their time and machinery to plant a crop of potatoes on the land owned by the sports ground to help finance the build of the current sports ground.

The 1970's and 1980's were the biggest years of growing Spuds in Gembrook. Approximately 40 000 tonnes of Potatoes came out of Gembrook in 1971. There were over 30 potato growing families in the area.

In the June of 1970, the Dandenong Ranges Farmers Federation was formed under Julian Dyer and he became an Agent, selling Gembrook Potatoes interstate.

Gembrook Engineering opened in 1971 and we saw the first Hilder harvester in 1974. The Granieri Brothers packing shed also opened in 1974.

In 1987, things were to seriously begin to change for the Gembrook Potato growers when Dieldrin was detected in the soil. Dieldrin had been used by the farmers since 1965 to combat Wire worm. It was used under the advice provided by The State department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. This didn't affect growing Potatoes, it affected cattle. Cattle, was a secondary source of income for most growers.

Growing potatoes was to become more difficult in 1992 when PCN (Potato Cyst Nematodes) was detected in Gembrook. This resulted in Gembrook Potatoes being banned from Interstate markets. Prior to PCN being found, Gembrook sold more than 80% of its potatoes interstate for a premium price.

Farms could no longer support more than one generation. The younger generation, those under the age of 40 started to leave the farms to find other occupations. From 1984 to 1995, the amount of potatoes grown in Gembrook dropped by 48%. Many of the farmers still growing were heading towards Retirement. By 1995, there was only 12 families still farming in Gembrook.

Since 1995, the number of farmers and the amount of potatoes grown has continued to decline. Increased Government red tape, Supermarkets affecting price and broad acre farming has also had an impact on the Gembrook farmer and their decision to stay on the land.

In 2025, there were only 4 families still growing in Gembrook. They are Phil & Jess Falcone, John and Peter Granieri, Paul Volta and Paul and Tom Volta. In total, there was less than 100 acres of Potatoes planted this season.

Soon the potato growing industry of Gembrook will fade into history like the Gembrook timber industry before it.

PHOTOS of GEMBROOK SPUDS next month.



ST LUKE'S YOUTH

**ST. LUKE'S
YOUTH**

TERM 3 SCHEDULE

FRIDAYS

SEP 5TH

Movie Making Masterpieces

Channel your inner hollywood director. 7-9pm Cost: \$5



SEP 12TH

St Luke's Hang Out

Snacks, games, chats. 7-9pm Cost: \$5



St Lukes, 1 McBride st. Cockatoo. Driveway beside the creek.



WWW.STLUKESATCOCKATOO.COM.AU



YOUTH@STLUKESATCOCKATOO.COM.AU



[STLUKESATCOCKATOOYOUTH](https://www.instagram.com/STLUKESATCOCKATOOYOUTH)

**Want to become a
Neighbourhood Watch
Member?
Scan the QR code to join**



Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other
Eastern Ranges



Emerald - Cockatoo - Gembrook - Macclesfield - Upper Beaconsfield - Menzies Creek



Regular Open hours:
Monday - Thursday CLOSED
Friday 2pm - 9pm
Saturday 10am - 9pm
Sunday 11am - 6pm
Other times by arrangement
Check online for variations

**56-60 McBride
 Street, Cockatoo**
www.griffs.place
4210 0101

Arcade entry \$12.50 per person 4+: \$10 each
Free play on all available games (except prize machines)

Mini Golf \$12.50 per person 4+ \$10 each

Escape Room \$30 per person Group of 4: \$90
Approx. 1 hr game in 1 room. Max. 4 people per session

Arcade + Mini Golf \$22.50 per 4+: \$18 each

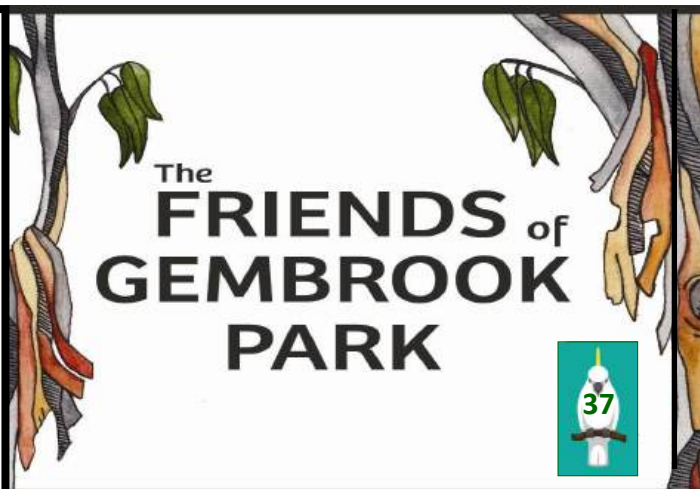
Escape Room + 1 \$38.25 per 4+: \$29.25
Activity person each

The works \$46.75 per person 4+ \$36.15 each

'Friends of Gembrook Park'

is a community based group of volunteers dedicated to its conservation whilst actively involved in its ongoing maintenance.

See our Facebook page for details.



Local Seniors Festival events

**FREE and
low cost
events**

Enjoy more than 30 free or low cost events this October. Please note where bookings are required.

Outdoor park exercises

Date: **Thursdays during October**
Time: **10:30–11:30am**
Venue: **Barring-buluk Park, near Pakenham train station. Park along Flower Street, cross under the overhead trainline and meet at the exercise equipment area.**

Make the most of the shire's outdoor exercise equipment in parks with guidance from qualified fitness trainers.

Bookings: **not required**

Shared plates – shared stories

Date: **Saturday 4 October**
Time: **12–4pm**
Venue: **Gurdwara Siri Guru Nanak Darbar, 33 Officer Road, Officer**

Seniors from all backgrounds are invited to bring food to share with the community. Everyone welcome. Food can be prepared at the Gurdwara. Recipes can also be shared with participants.

Bookings:
Harpreet 0447 028 688

Men's spit roast and wellness day

Date: **Wednesday 8 October**
Time: **11am–2pm**
Venue: **Koo Wee Rup Men's Shed, 235 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup**

Join us at the Men's Shed for a fun day of meat and makeovers (barbers on site at this event). Enjoy a mouth-watering spit roast, wellness insights, and great conversation in a warm, welcoming space.

Bookings:
Ian (Lang Lang) **0458 875 777**,
George (Koo Wee Rup) **0403 030 027** or
Allie at Lang Lang Community Centre **5997 5704**.

Live artist demonstrations

Date: **Thursdays during October**
Time: **10:30am–12:30pm**
Venue: **Moy-Yan Neighbourhood House, 28 Beswick Street, Garfield**

Watch an artist in action and enjoy morning tea. A unique theme each week.

Thursday 2 October:
Australia – Trompe l'oeil.

Thursday 9 October:
America – Steampunk Engine, mixed media.

Thursday 16 October:
France – Portrait of Louis, fabric painting of balloon chair.

Thursday 23 October:
England – Dark Academia, clock making.

Bookings: **Jen 0428 372 686**

Community dance

Date: **Saturday 4 October**
Time: **7:30–11pm**
Venue: **Pakenham Hall, 6E Henry Street, Pakenham**

Join Pakenham Rotary for a community dance featuring a live four-piece band. Enjoy a mix of old-time, new vogue, line, and rock 'n' roll dancing. Bring your own supper and drinks. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Bookings: **Terry 0419 314 085**

Morning of melodies

Date: **Wednesday 8 October**
Time: **10am–12pm**
Venue: **Lifestyle Ridgelea, 65 Botanical Boulevard, Nar Nar Goon**

Join us for a morning of acoustic music from the 60s, 70s and 80s with our homeowner Ron. Includes morning tea.

Bookings: **Jackie 0475 211 139**

Thursday Lounge live entertainment

Date: **Thursday 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 October**
Time: **6pm until late**
Venue: **Brewing Bliss Cafe, Cardinia Cultural Centre, 40 Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham.**

Share a unique, relaxing evening of live entertainment at the Cardinia Cultural Centre's Brewing Bliss Cafe. Enjoy a different performance each week by Ebony Portelli, Sasha Rechichi, Stephanie Angelini, Michael Prizeman and Alejandro Aguanta.

Supper and drinks available from the cafe.

Bookings: **not required.**

**Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025**



**CONNECT
CREATE
CELEBRATE**

1–31 October



Local Seniors Festival events

All Together Choir singalong

Date: **Thursday 9 October**

Time: **12-1:30pm**

Venue: **Cardinia Cultural Centre,
40 Lakeside Boulevard,
Pakenham**

Come and enjoy listening to the passionate singing of this fun group. Remember to bring your enthusiasm!

Bookings: **not required**

Men's morning tea

Date: **Saturday 11 October**

Time: **10am-12pm**

Venue: **Fernlea Community House,
356 Belgrave Gembrook
Road, Emerald**

A special invitation to local men aged 60-plus. Enjoy morning tea over relaxed conversation and shared stories. Fun, friendly, insightful! Led by experienced group leaders.

Bookings:

**John 0431 844 833
or Ken 0419 574 865**

History of Koo Wee Rup swamp

Date: **Sunday 12 October**

1:30-2:30pm

Date: **Wednesday 15 October,
11am-12pm**

Venue: **Koo Wee Rup Swamp
Historical Society Museum,
325 Rossiter Road,
Koo Wee Rup.**

Explore the history of Koo Wee Rup Swamp's drainage, Victoria's largest reclamation project. Learn about settlers' lives, frequent floods, and Carlo Catani, the engineer behind the work.

Bookings: **Heather 0407 521 637**

Crafty crocheting at CCC!

Date: **9, 16 and 23 October**

Time: **10am-12pm**

Venue: **Cardinia Cultural Centre,
40 Lakeside Boulevard,
Pakenham**

Join our workshop to learn all the basics or bring your crochet and get making in a room of like-minded crafters. Materials provided.

Bookings:

**Cardinia Cultural Centre
1300 887 624**

Pakenham and surrounds community garage sale

Date: **Saturday 11 October**

Time: **8:30am-3pm**

Venue: **Cardinia Men's Shed, C/
Living and Learning Centre,
6B Henry Street, Pakenham**

Garage sales list and map available for collection from 8:30am on 11 October. Join the scavenger hunt to win a meat tray.

Bookings: **not required**

Register your garage sale

If you would like to have a garage sale, you need to register with the Men's Shed by 14 September.

Call David **0412 127 444**

or Roger **0414 749 904**

Digital basics for over 55s

Date: **Tuesday 14 October**

Time: **10am-12pm**

Venue: **Cockatoo Community
House, 23 Bailey Road,
Cockatoo**

Build confidence with your digital device. Join our free over 55s program and discover digital basics in a relaxed, supportive environment.

Bookings: **Robyn 5968 9031**

Qigong – move for health

Date: **Friday 10 October**

Time: **11am-12pm**

Venue: **Pakenham Library, corner
John and Henry streets,
Pakenham**

A starter's introduction to Qigong. Gentle practice calms the mind, soothes the nervous system, releases tension, reduces stress and promotes a profound sense of relaxation.

Bookings:

Pakenham Library 5940 6200

Community safety expos

Date: **Saturday 11 October**

Time: **1:30-4:30pm**

Venue: **Hills Hub, Emerald**

Date: **Saturday 18 October**

Time: **11am-2pm**

Venue: **Bunnings Warehouse,
Pakenham.**

For further details, please see the article on page 2.

**Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025**



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Local Seniors Festival events

Life in the Senior's Lane photography exhibition

Date: **Monday 13–27 October**
Time: **9am–3pm daily**
Venue: **Fernlea Community House,
356 Belgrave Gembrook
Road, Emerald**

Visit the beautifully refurbished Fernlea Community House for Paul Bianco's vibrant portrait exhibition, celebrating spirited seniors of Emerald and districts. Inspiring faces, lively stories. Refreshments provided.

Bookings: **not required**

* Also see Life in the Senior's Lane fireside chat and panel discussion on 19 October.

Bouquet of seniors day

Date: **Saturday 18 October**
Time: **11am–3pm**
Venue: **Pakenham Senior Citizens,
38 James Street,
Pakenham**

Celebrating our community's diversity like a bouquet of flowers! Including intercultural entertainment, cuisine and activities. Connect, share stories, and enjoy a vibrant, welcoming day for all.

Bookings: **Jagtar 0404 014 499**

Kirth Kiln historic talk and guided bushwalks

Date: **Tuesday 21 October**
Time: **10am–1pm**
Venue: **Kirth Kiln Regional Park,
Beenak Road, Gembrook**

We will kick-off with an informative historical talk about Kirth Kiln. Explore the amazing static displays and morning tea. Keen walkers are encouraged to come dressed ready for a guided bushwalk suitable for a range of ability levels.

Bookings:
Marlene 0429 814 410

Falls and injury prevention series

Date: **Wednesday 15, 22 and
29 October**
Time: **1–2:30pm**
Venue: **Cardinia Life,
4 Olympic Way, Pakenham**

For residents aged 55-plus who want to stay active, independent, and reduce their risk of falls. Presentations by Monash Health experts.

15 October – Introduction to falls and injury prevention. Physical, home safety, foot and eye care.

22 October – Eat well as we age. The importance of good nutrition and dietary guidelines.

29 October – Balance and strength. Improve balance, strength, and be active. Includes exercise tips, national guidelines and local programs.

Bookings: **Abu 5945 2888**
Website: **bit.ly/4owMIQv**

Life in the Senior's Lane fireside chat and panel discussion

Date: **Sunday 19 October**
Time: **2–4pm**
Venue: **Fernlea Community House,
356 Belgrave Gembrook
Road, Emerald**

Join us to hear from our local Emerald and district seniors as they participate in an informative, fun filled fireside chat and panel discussion. Includes afternoon tea.

Bookings: **Kerry 5968 3895**
(Option 5) or email
fch@fernlea.com.au

Casey-Cardinia heritage day

Date: **Saturday 18 October**
Time: **10am–2pm**
Venue: **Nar Nar Goon Soldiers
Memorial Hall, Spencer
Street, Nar Nar Goon**

Discover Cardinia Shire's rich history and explore stories that shaped this beautiful region.

Bookings: **not required**

Floral Magic in Lang Lang

Date: **Monday 20 October**
Time: **2–3pm**
Venue: **Lang Lang Community
Centre, 7 Westport
Road, Lang Lang**

Join Ali, your friendly local florist, for a hands-on floral arranging workshop where creativity blooms. Bring your own medium-sized vase and get ready to design something beautiful. Afternoon tea provided.

Bookings: **Allie 5997 5704**

Grandparents and caregivers playground

Date: **Tuesday 21 October**
Time: **10am–1pm**
Venue: **Deep Creek Reserve,
Cameron Way, Pakenham**

Join a joyful day of intergenerational bonding. Fun activities including painting, nature walks and more. Kids can explore the life size garbage truck. Free barbecue. All carers welcome.

Bookings: **not required**



**Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2025**



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1–31 October



Local Seniors Festival events

Dementia-friendly games days

Date: **Tuesday 21 October**
Time: **10:30am-1pm**
Venue: **Outlook Community Centre, 24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham**

Bookings: **Taryn 5940 4728**
Website: **bit.ly/412tWAX**

Date: **Tuesday 28 October**
Time: **10:30am-1pm**
Venue: **Hewitt Eco House Community Room, 215 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup**

Bookings: **Naomi 5997 9655**

For people living with dementia, their loved ones and carers. Join us for fun-filled, inclusive activities. Build your social connections by sharing lunch, laughter, and prizes.



Sip and See live performance: Anything You Can Do

Date: **Wednesday 22 October**
Time: **10am-12pm**
Venue: **Cardinia Cultural Centre, 40 Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham**

Cost: **\$15 per person**

Devonshire tea: **10am**
Live show: **11am**

Enjoy a performance by the vibrant Pony Cam theatre company and local community members aged 55-plus who explore the challenges of generational stereotypes. Don't miss this dynamic, thought-provoking show.

Bookings: **1300 887 624**

Bush bites – truffle delights!

Date: **Thursday 30 October**
Time: **10-11:30am**
Venue: **Cardinia U3A, (located at the Pakenham Library), 6E Henry Street, Pakenham**

Join us at U3A for Auntie Sammy's fascinating talk on indigenous bush foods and get hands-on making delicious truffles with native ingredients. It's an event you won't want to miss!

Bookings: **Heather 5941 4164**

Gembrook Park guided walk and tree planting

Date: **Thursday 23 October**
Time: **10-11:30am**
Venue: **Corner Gembrook and Redwood roads, Gembrook**

Hosted by Friends of Gembrook Park. Enjoy tree planting, a gentle guided bushwalk, birdwatching, and forest wonders including a 300-year-old Mountain Ash. Learn about the group's volunteer work. Refreshments provided.

Bookings: **Merle 0407 011 344**

Victorian
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1-31 October



Victorian
Seniors
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2025



**CONNECT
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1-31 October



Building better, smarter, together - Have your say on Cardinia Shire's draft Asset Plan

Cardinia Shire Council is inviting the community to have their say on the draft 2025-2035 Asset Plan.

The draft Asset Plan outlines Council's strategic approach to managing over **\$2.7 billion** in infrastructure assets including:

- 847km of sealed local roads
- 822km of unsealed local and rural roads
- More than 900km of footpath and shared use paths
- Over 295 bridges
- Over 300 community buildings including halls, libraries, child and family centres
- Over 1,000 km of stormwater pipes and 37,000 drainage pits
- More than 130 playgrounds
- More than 150 tennis and netball courts and over 40 sporting grounds

Street furniture

Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik is encouraging the community to have their say on the draft Asset Plan to help inform its direction and overall implementation over the next decade.

"Cardinia Shire is growing rapidly, and our infrastructure must grow with it. With our population expected to reach over 160,000 people by 2035, this Asset Plan outlines how we plan to manage our infrastructure to meet the needs of our community now and into the future."

"As a growth area, the shire faces the dual challenge of expanding infrastructure while renewing ageing assets. Balancing these priorities is complex, especially as Council often relies on developer contributions and external government support to fund new community infrastructure." Mayor Kowarzik said.

The draft Asset Plan has utilised technology and data to help prioritise maintenance, renewal, and upgrade scheduling, as well as identify the shire's infrastructure and funding gaps to help guide Council's future advocacy efforts.

"Aligning with the Council Plan 2025–2029, Community Vision 2040, and the long-term financial plan, the draft plan has been developed through a deliberative engagement process and has been shaped by initial feedback provided by community panel members and volunteers as part of the wider Council Plan consultation process.

Community consultation is now open and will close **on Tuesday 9 September 2025 at 5pm**. Council will then review the community feedback before finalising the plan for consideration at the October 2025 Council meeting.

"We want to hear from you to understand how we can better manage and upgrade our local infrastructure. Your feedback will help shape the work we do over the next decade, so this is your chance to have your say." Mayor Kowarzik said.

To review Council's proposed Asset Plan and to provide feedback, visit Council's Creating Cardinia website at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



Emerald Ladies Probud Club

During August we enjoyed a variety of interesting outings including* Brunch at Seasons at Cloudehill* Walk and Morning Tea at Lilydale Lake, including playing a short game of Boules. *1812 Theatre Performance of 'Home, I'm Darling' *The Art of Annemieke Meine exhibition at Box Hill Town Hall *Titanic-A Voyage Through Time. A stunning VR experience.



None of our group had experienced virtual reality before and despite some apprehension we were in for a real treat! Fitted out with headsets and with some of us clasping hands for safety we ventured on to the high seas in the Titanic. We were all 'on a high' when we returned to the real world. We would do it all again - Probud fun at its best!

We have lots of interesting and fun things to do in September including a lunch at Kurunga Native Nursery; a walk at FTG; our monthly craft morning and more. Our meeting on the 15th September will be yearly Craft Show, showcasing our own members wonderful creations.

If you like the sound of our activities and are retired or semi-retired, why not come along to a meeting to find out more. We meet at 10:00am on the third Monday of each month at the Emerald RSL. You can find more information on our website by scanning the QR code or contact Michelle on 5968 4922.

THIEVES!

If you have received one of these bouquets in the past 2 days, just know they were stolen from my flowerstand and I hope you appreciate these flowers

23/08/25, 10am.





Cockatoo RSL (sub branch)

Local Container Returning point.



RockN Roll Night
Saturday 25th
October



Pool Comp.
Friday 19th Sept.
7pm start. 16 only.



Poker Night.
Friday 12th Sept.
7pm Start.



UNO Comp
Sat 13th Sept. 7pm
start.



Darts Comp.
Sat. 27th Septem-
ber



Karaoke with Shelley
Friday 5th September



COCKATOO RSL
SUB BRANCH



COCKATOO RSL SUNDAY MUSIC SESSIONS

FROM 2PM EVERY SUNDAY

FREE ADMISSION