

## ***PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY CELEBRATES 125 YEARS WITH INAUGURAL COMMUNITY OPEN DAY ON SUNDAY 14 th***

Puffing Billy, Australia's most beloved heritage train and one of the world's best preserved steam railways, is celebrating its 125th anniversary with a special Community Open Day dedicated to the local community. Throughout the day, various local community groups will host a range of engaging activities for all attendees to enjoy. Originally launched on December 18, 1900, Puffing Billy is a treasured remnant of a more leisurely era. Built to carry goods and passengers through Victoria's mountain district, the historic railway was a vital lifeline for the region. The line, which ran between Upper Ferntree Gully and Gembrook, faced numerous challenges. By the early 1930s, it had become a financial burden for Victorian Railways, and following a major landslide in 1953, the decision was made to close the line in 1954. However, a series of farewell trips in 1955 sparked public interest and community efforts that eventually led to the line's revival. Tourist services resumed in 1962 between Belgrave and Menzies Creek, with extensions to Emerald in 1965, Lakeside in 1975, and finally Gembrook in 1998. Since its reopening, more than 11 million passengers have experienced the magic of Puffing Billy. The Inaugural Community Open Day celebrating Puffing Billy Railway's 125th anniversary will honour the rich history of the railway and its enduring impact on the local community.



*Scan here to  
learn more*



**Daniela**   
**De Martino**

**STATE LABOR MP FOR MONBULK**

 1635 Burwood Hwy, Belgrave, 3160

 [daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au)

 9754 5401   @danielademartinomp

**SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025**

# **COCKATOO CHRISTMAS TWILIGHT MARKET**



**3pm to 8pm**

**Alma Treloar Reserve, Pakenham Rd**

**\*Skip the Crowds \*Skip the Queues \*Buy Local**

## ***Cockatoo Community bus is back on the road***

We are pleased to finally announce that the Cockatoo Community Bus Committee, has received news that Cockatoo's Community Bus has been recognised by Roads Victoria ( part of the Vic Transport ) as a Community Bus. This has been a long protracted negotiation with transport Victoria, to move through the legislated requirements to register the bus.



The new committee is -

Chair - Dot Griffin, Secretary - Tina van Shilt, treasurer- Toni- Anne Licciardi.

Booking officer - Rachel Burgh.

Members - Marty Cattanaach, Sandy Allan & Collin Griffin.

Public meetings will be held every two months and the first meeting is at Cockatoo Scout Hall on Friday December the 5<sup>th</sup> at 7.30.

Phone bookings - 0493 646 318

As we progress, you will be able to do online bookings.

Preference is given to community groups.







Home of Eastern Dandenong Ranges Business & Tourism,  
Emerald & District Lions Club, Hills Arts Alliance & the  
Hills Community Gardens

**Come and say Hello & join in the BASE activities!**

**Mon Dec 8 Open to all local businesses & groups**

5.30pm to 9.30pm



The PAR-TEE starts at Griff's Place  
with Mini Golf, Arcade Games &  
Escape Rooms & at The BASE with  
Chieftains Burgers, drinks & Music  
\$27.50 plus drinks



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

**Sun Dec 14 Puffing Billy 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Day**

12pm to 2pm



The Train with 360 locals arrive at Cockatoo  
Station at 1.25pm to have fun in Cockatoo. The  
train departs at 2.10pm.

We'll have Santa and his sleigh, face painting  
from 12pm & the Cockatoo Station model and  
history on display.

**Open your cafes & shops and get involved. Let's make this a  
great street party for ALL!**

**Looking to Volunteer & love the Hills as much as we do?**



We are on the lookout for help with administration  
& Visitor Information. Flexible days & hours. Call  
Lynne on 0419 584 498 or call the BASE 5944 3536

## ***What's happening at The Community Hall and Over 50's centre***

Our Cockatoo Community Hall was built in 1981-2 and opened in 1982. Three months later our town went through the Ash Wednesday fires, and the hall was used as a relief centre with hundreds of CFA, emergency support and volunteers eating and sleeping in the hall. The comment was made by shire officers, at that time, that the hall had seen ten years of normal use in a matter of months.

The Catholic Church diocese raised and donated \$30,000.00, after Ash Wednesday, to build a purpose built building for the Cockatoo Seniors. This was almost solely built by Paul Allan, a local architect, who raised donations and personally built the hall. He was a member of the Cockatoo seniors at that time.

Other than upkeep, very little work has been done on the building since then. Our buildings are now close to 50 years old.

The Kindergarten has grown to such an extent, they now need to use the whole of the Bailey Rd Building with extended Kindergarten hours for our children.

This means the Community house has needed to find another building to run their classes from.

A look around our community showed that the best building would be our community hall.

It is in the centre of town, allows for good parking and is under utilized. Shire applied for grants to be able to do the works at the Bailey Rd Building and to the Community Hall.

The Community Hall and Over 50's centre will be closed till at least December, and probably a little longer, whilst renovations take place.

For the Over 50's we will have a updated and freshly painted building and our members are looking forward to that.

The renovated in and around the Main hall will house the market equipment and the hall will still be able to be used by community groups outside of Community house hours.

Whilst there is an inconvenience for the users of the hall, we are excited. Our building, that is showing signs of age, will be renovated and upgraded to allow for another fifty years of use by our community.

We are in what appears to be a Win Win situation, with Kindergarten hours and kinder facility improved, a Community house closer to town, with a upgraded Community hall and Over 50's centre and that the community will have access to its hall of evenings when the hall is used by community the most.

As the Over 50's, we were only notified of this move in the last month and shire has been open in what it is basically planning. Whilst we have had little input into the plans for the buildings they have bent over backwards, to accommodate all sessions we hold and the karate group, to relocate them whilst the renovations take place.

We will keep you up to date as we know more.



## ***Fire Danger Period commenced Monday 17 November 2025***

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) has declared the Fire Danger Period (FDP) for Cardinia Shire will begin Monday 17 November.

When the Fire Danger Period has been declared, fire restrictions come into force across the municipality. The CFA details all restrictions that apply, [on their website](#).

You need a permit to burn-off during the Fire Danger Period. You must also notify [Triple Zero Victoria](#) of your burn-off as contained in your permit. For information of your property zone and conditions that apply, please visit [Council's website](#).

Ahead of this period, residents are encouraged to clean up their properties of all overgrown grass and weeds, fallen branches and dead vegetation that may present a fire hazard.

Larger rural and agricultural properties must create a firebreak at least 10 metres wide along external fences by slashing grass and weeds to less than 10 centimetres.

Cardinia Shire residents can dispose of their green waste for free at the Future Recycling Transfer Station in Pakenham.

### **Future Recycling Transfer Station**

- Address: 30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham
  - Saturday 6 December: 8am - 2pm
  - Monday 8 to Friday 12 December: 7:30am - 3:30pm
- Saturday 13 December: 8am - 2pm

When travelling outside of Cardinia Shire, remember to stay safe by taking note of the fire danger period and restrictions that apply in your travel destination.

**Dog Off Leash area at  
Alma Treloar Reserve being used for  
overflow parking for the Twilight Market  
this Saturday 12noon-10pm**

## Cr David Nickell - November 2025

A busy month attending several fantastic community events in support of local volunteer groups around Ranges Ward, but this month I'd like to draw readers' attention to a couple of current (and important) opportunities to participate in shaping the future for your community...

### **Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy Review**

Cardinia is reviewing its Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy and your input is welcome.

Something that I am passionate about is getting the Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail completed and up to an acceptable standard – as our main pedestrian and bicycle link that joins our communities together. I've been working on this project since 1998, to hopefully create an asset for locals and visitors alike.

In addition to the Trail, as Hills residents, we're all too aware of many of the other shortcomings regarding the footpath network and the ability for pedestrians to safely get from their homes into town, or to their nearest busstop, etc.

Open for submissions now until Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. You can complete the survey, make a submission or drop some pins on the interactive map - please tell us about what you need regarding footpaths and bicycle paths and trails... [Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy Review](#) | [Creating Cardinia](#)

### **Differential Ratings Review Community Panel**

Council has also decided to run a Community Panel, to deliberate on a review of how Cardinia applies Differential Rates and make recommendations to Council. Community Panels are a great way to get a cross-section of people together from all walks of life, as well as the different parts of Cardinia, to work on a shared problem.

Earlier this year, I was not successful in a bid to amend the current Differential Rates, however the Councillors did agree there may be a need for further change to the current set-up – hence this formal process kicking off now.

I'm therefore really keen for interested people from Ranges Ward, including both 'townies' and farming families, to nominate for that Panel, grapple with the problem and help the Panel work-out a possible way forward that is a fairer way to raise the funds Council needs, to continue to deliver the range of services residents access.

Expressions of interest to be on the Panel are currently open – please check the Creating Cardinia website here if you are interested... [Join a Community Panel to Inform the Review of Differential Rates](#) | [Creating Cardinia](#)

I hope you are feeling reasonably prepared for the approaching summer. Remember to update your plans and if you feel you need to, seek advice from the range of services and groups in your community who are happy to help you. Regards, David



Cr David Nickell | Ranges Ward | Cardinia Shire Council

Phone: 0428 630 155 | Web: [cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://cardinia.vic.gov.au)

PO Box 7 Pakenham 3810 | Customer Service: 1300 787 624



## ***Emerald Library - Toddler Christmas Craft Ages 1+***

Friday, Dec 12, 2025 from 11 am to 11:30 am.

Have fun making a Christmas craft with your toddler! **Event Details** - Come along with your toddler and have fun creating a wonderful Christmas craft. Enjoy as your toddler has fun making a 2025 Christmas craft, which you will cherish forever. Ages1+

**Tickets** - Tickets are required for each participating child. Contact the library or Google for tickets. Supervising adults do not require a ticket. Children must be actively supervised at all times during their library visit.





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MEDIUM COMBOS  
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Skin Needling

Chemical Peels

Lash Lift

Brow Lamination

Brow Shaping



## *Congratulations Jayden! Australian Scout Award*

Earlier this year Jayden achieved his Australian Scout Award (ASA). It's the peak award for the Scout level of his Scouting journey. He did a lot of work to achieve this over his four years as a Scout. On Thursday night he caught up with his old Scout group along with some of his current Venturer Scout members, for the group presentation of his badge.

Today, was the Scouts Victoria official ASA Ceremony for all youth members who have achieved this milestone. He was presented with an official certificate and a medallion.

When he was a Cub Scout he achieved his peak award, the Grey Wolf, during the covid lockdown era. Unfortunately that meant he missed out on his presentation with the Scout Group. Today made up for that.

As our group doesn't currently have enough youth members to run the Scouts, Jayden has been hosted initially by the Emerald Scout group and in more recent years the Gembrook Scout group along with the two Cockatoo Scout leaders.

He couldn't have achieved this without the support of his fellow Scouts and the Scout Leaders who were with him during this journey. He has since moved up into the Venturer Scout section and is being hosted by the Belgrave South Venturer group. He has formed some great friendships and is with a bigger, more independent group who are really supportive of each other.

Joining Scouts gives our young people the opportunity to achieve many important life skills, gain confidence, build resilience, spend time outdoors visiting many great places and also making awesome friends.

We would love to see our younger youth members follow in Jayden's footsteps as they grow and develop many life skills as they also work towards their peak awards.

Well done Jayden!



COCKATOO COMMUNITY

# Christmas CAROLS

Sunday  
14th  
December

**St. Luke's**

1 McBride St, Cockatoo

(parking available at the Bowls Club, Cockatoo Hall and Alma Treloar Reserve)

**4:30-6pm**

## FREE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Sumo, Jumping Castle, Popcorn,  
Basket Ball Comp, Face Painting,  
Fairy Floss!

Pony Rides, Sausage Sizzle, Coffee  
and Donuts at a small cost

**6pm**

## Community Carol Singing

Bring your  
friends and  
family!



**ALCOHOL FREE EVENT**

**Bendigo Bank**





## NEW OFFICE LOCATION

### 345 Belgrave-Gembrook Road, Emerald 3782

- ✓ Small Business Accounting and Tax support
- ✓ Tailored solutions
- ✓ Monthly Financial Reporting
- ✓ New Business Advice and Set Up
- ✓ GST & BAS
- ✓ Individual Tax Returns

By Appointment Only. Visit our website for available times.



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[cbwaccounting.com.au](http://cbwaccounting.com.au)



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**We offer:**

- Lawn mowing
- Garden maintenance
- Property clean ups (overgrown / unkept Gardens )
- Areas we cover  
Pakenham , pakenham upper ,officer,  
Gembrook, cockatoo, emerald ,  
Avonsleigh

**Dm for a free quote or message us on 0493126356 🌻🌻**





# EMERALD LIBRARY

**MONDAY**  
**8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**DECEMBER**  
**@ 4:00PM**

**AGES 4+**

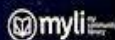
**BOOKINGS**  
**ESSENTIAL!**



**Santa's  
Lost  
Sleigh**



To Book Google EMERALD LIBRARY SANTA'S LOST SLEIGH



**The \$100 Power Saving Bonus  
is underway ⚡**

**Eligible concession card  
households can apply\***



**CHICKENS  
FOR SALE**

**0417 318 458**



9am to 2pm 4th Sunday of the Month



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 \$2 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.

LIMITED TIME  
**OFFER**



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**cockatoodental.com.au**





## COCKATOO SUNDAY MUSIC SESSIONS

Presented by:

JOSE & FRIENDS & COCKATOO RSL



Some of the recent performers at Sunday Music Sessions.  
2pm-5pm every Sunday. Kitchen open. Best coffee in town.





GEMBROOK COMMUNITY

# Christmas CAROLS

Saturday  
13<sup>th</sup>  
December

Gembrook Community Centre

4 Gembrook Rd, Gembrook

4:30-6pm

## FREE FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Sumo, Jumping Castle, Popcorn,  
Face Painting, Fairy Floss!

Pony rides, sausage sizzle, Coffee and Donuts  
at a small cost

6pm

## Community Carol Singing

Bring your  
friends  
and family!



ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

17



# COCKATOO OVER 50'S

**\*\*Will be meeting at The Hub, Emerald whilst construction works are underway at The Over 50's Centre\*\***

## December

**1st** | Christmas Craft

**8th** | Guest Speaker Marcus CFA

*Open to the community*

**15th** | Christmas Lunch – Rose Cottage

**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

Will resume after the renovations to the Over 50s hall have been completed

**Beginners Line Dancing with Kathy Smith**

Will resume after the renovations to the Over 50s hall have been completed

**Chair Pilates with Jeanette**

Fridays 10am—10:45am \*Pakenham Upper Hall until the renovations to the Over 50s hall have been completed

\*

*\*\*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**

*To be advised*





# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are Desperately needing  
more volunteers.

Can YOU help us ?

Our centre is open on Sundays  
between 11.00 and 3.00

Our current volunteers work  
so hard to keep our centre  
open. The more volunteers we  
have the less commitment for  
everyone. Help keep our  
doors open. Send us an email  
to [volunteerawbec@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerawbec@gmail.com)







# Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

## Neighbourhood Watch

Our local Neighbourhood Watch held their November meeting at Emerald Police Station. Crime Prevention was the main topic. Keeping yourself and your property safe. Always lock your house, garage and cars at all times.

Security lighting and a good security system will benefit you. When out and about, be aware of your surroundings. Joining Neighbourhood Watch is free. It offers excellent security ideas. Meetings are held monthly.

Next Meeting is Wednesday 10th December at the Menzies Creek Hall. All welcome.

# WANTED



# ROAMING PERFORMERS TO PERFORM AT YAKKERBOO

PB Ronald Reserve Pakenham  
5pm - 9pm 14<sup>th</sup> February 2026

*Message* for more details  
or email [admin@yakkerboo.au](mailto:admin@yakkerboo.au)





## 3781 NEEDLEWORK PROJECT

Calling all needleworkers, who do any type of embroidery, in our 3781 community.

Would you like to be involved in a community project depicting the 3781 area?

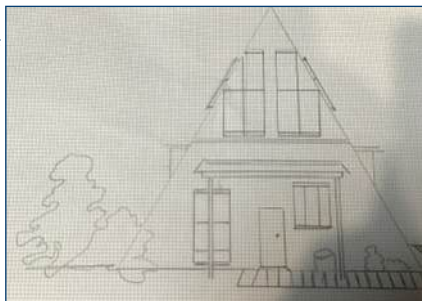
When finished the panels will be displayed in our Cockatoo Over 50's Centre.

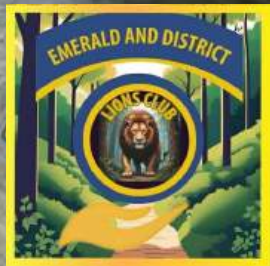
We have progressed from ideas, to drafted pieces and have seven needlework pieces out in the community.

We re-start in February 2026.

Come along and join with us. Pick your piece of work and join us for a sewing afternoon.

Enquiries phone Dot 0400070197





If you see  
someone without  
a smile, be kind  
and give them one  
of yours

A few small acts of kindness  
can make a difference to many  
**Kindness Matters**

Final Poker night for 2025 is this Saturday

Don't forget to come in for your favorite menu items before playing



Cockatoo RSL sub branch. At the top of the mainStreet.







**125 years of Puffing Billy. Cockatoo Station 1920s.**





When to call VICSES on 132 500  
during a storm emergency



**Storm damage to roof**



**Tree damage to home**



**Tree blocking exit**



For more information visit:  
[ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au)

**FLOOD STORM  
EMERGENCY 132 500**

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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. HillsNews is Auspiced by Cockatoo RSL sub branch inc. Read online and see back issues at HillsNews.net or send an email to subscribe and help save a tree.

## Gembrook Community Group

Hello Gembrook! We're heading back to the past, and we need your help.

As you may be aware, the Puffing Billy 125th Anniversary Celebrations are taking place on the 13th & 14th Dec and we need your help to drag Gembrook back more than one hundred years - if only for a short while. For the celebrations, Puffing Billy will be running extra trains on that weekend - and they will be stopping in Gembrook for an hour each. Each town with a station along the way is going to represent a little feel of how life was 125 years ago...

If you're a part of a community group or organisation in the township, or if you're a history buffs with some pieces you can exhibit, gardeners or farmers with heirloom plants or old tools and farming machinery you'd like to show off, horseriders who want to dress up and ride into town, someone with an old craft or skill they can demonstrate - whatever it may be ... if you have an idea of how you can contribute to a great day in Gembrook celebrating our heritage (adults, kids, friendship groups, social and sporting groups alike) please let us know as soon as possible.

The Gembrook Community Group will help everyone co-ordinate the days and lend a hand where we can.

The current timetable (subject to change) looks like this:

Sat 13th Dec - Puffing Billy plan to run seven trains on Saturday for Puffing Billy. Trains will leave from Belgrave & Lakeside.

Sat 14th Dec - Community Day. There is a plan to run free trains stopping at all stations for the local communities.

Each train will stop in Gembrook for 1 hour.

So if you have an idea of how to take us back to the past, and want to get involved, please message us as soon as possible, and we will help put everyone together for what should be a super fun weekend celebrating the town we all love, and the train that people from all over the world have come to know.

Image from Gembrook Community Group  
Facebook page.



## *How rates are applied, Cardinia Shire Council*

# Have Your Say

## Help shape Cardinia Shire's rating system



Consultation closes 9 December  
[cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](https://cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)

Creating   
Cardinia

  
Cardinia

We're inviting community members to express their interest in joining a panel that will help shape how rates are applied across the shire.

A group of 30 residents will be independently selected to form a representative panel of ratepayers from different property categories. The panel's input will play a vital role in Council's review of its rating strategy

Expressions of interest are open until 5pm on 9 December. Applicants must be aged 18 years or older.

An independent facilitator will support the panel through the deliberative engagement process, which will involve two half-day sessions to be held on Sunday, 8 February and Sunday, 22 February 2026. For more information, or to register your interest, please visit <https://creating.cardinia.vic.gov.au/join-community-panel>.





# Ask R U OK?™ ANY DAY

Have a conversation using these 4 steps

1



How are you travelling?

You don't seem yourself lately – want to talk about it?

**Ask R U OK?**

2



I'm here to listen if you want to talk more.

Have you been feeling this way for a while?

**Listen**

3



What do you think is a first step that might help you?

Have you spoken to your doctor about this?

**Encourage action**

4



Just wanted to check in and see how you're doing?

Have things improved for you since our last chat?

**Check in**

Learn more at [ruok.org.au](http://ruok.org.au)



**The \$100 Power Saving Bonus  
is underway ⚡**

**Eligible concession card  
households can apply\***





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[www.gemcoplayers.org](http://www.gemcoplayers.org)

Celebrating 45 years of community theatre - 1980 - 2025



## Everyday Account

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Other fees may apply. Read the T&Cs & TMD on our website. Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Ltd. ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879

## Share your feedback on the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan

Cardinia Shire Council is seeking community feedback on the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan.

The draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan was developed using insights gathered during the first phase of community consultation held from 14 July to 4 August 2025.

This draft plan reflects the ideas and concerns shared by residents, particularly those utilizing onsite wastewater management systems, about the management of onsite wastewater in the Cardinia Shire community. It aims to mitigate risks to human health and the environment while ensuring sustainable wastewater management practices into the future.

Key features and actions outlined in the draft plan include:

- Improved assessment of risks associated with onsite wastewater systems.
- Enhanced management strategies to minimize potential discharges beyond property boundaries.

Clear guidelines and timelines for addressing non-compliance issues.

Residents are encouraged to review the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan and share their feedback. Feedback is essential to ensure the final plan truly meets the community's needs and aspirations.

Community feedback will play a crucial role in refining the draft and guiding its development to effectively manage and protect our local environment. Review the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan and share your thoughts before consultation closes on 18 December 2025.

For more information, visit [Onsite Wastewater Management Plan \(OWMP\) | Creating Cardinia](#)

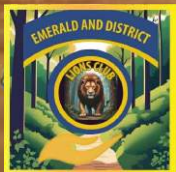
Today's Goals :

Wake up

Be awesome

Inspire someone

Smile, you rock !





# CHRISTMAS TREES

Tree  
**\$90.00**

Delivery to Cockatoo,  
Emerald, Gembrook &  
Upper Pakenham only

**\$10.00 per  
tree**

Pickup from Cockatoo  
Scout Hall Date TBC.



**Pre-Order & Pay Now**

**Just email [1stcockatoo@gmail.com](mailto:1stcockatoo@gmail.com) with your  
order & we will supply direct deposit details.**

**1st Cockatoo Scout Group**

75 Pakenham Road | Cockatoo | [1stcockatoo@gmail.com](mailto:1stcockatoo@gmail.com) |



We will have Christmas Trees available from the end of November. Approximately 7ft - cost \$90.00 pickup from the Scout Hall - delivery available to Cockatoo, Emerald, Gembrook & Upper Pakenham \$10.00 per tree.

Pre order & prepay please. You can place an order [1stcockatoo@gmail.com](mailto:1stcockatoo@gmail.com)

Thank you on behalf of **1st Cockatoo Scout Group.**

GEMBROOK - COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

# EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

## Under 17s Netball Team

The club are looking for  
Under 17s players to join  
in the Outer East  
competition!

The club is currently seeking  
Expressions of Interest for the  
following:

- Players
- Coach
- Team Manager



Please scan the QR code to register your interest  
or contact us via [secretary@gcfnc.com.au](mailto:secretary@gcfnc.com.au)



*Supported by*



# Cardinia

Cardinia Shire Council

## ***Cardinia Shire Council invites community to join global campaign to end gender-based violence***

From 25 November to 10 December, Cardinia Shire Council will participate in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

This global campaign calls for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Gender based violence is a serious issue in Victoria, with more than one in three women experiencing violence in their lifetime. The campaign reminds us that respect is the foundation of safe and equal communities.

"At Cardinia Shire Council, we are committed to ensuring that everyone who lives, works or visits, regardless of gender identity, is treated with fairness and has equal opportunities," says Cardinia Shire Council Mayor, Cr Jack Kowarzik.

"The 16 Days of Activism is a chance for us to unite and take meaningful action toward that vision. Violence against women is preventable, and by working together we can build a community where everyone feels safe, respected and equal."

Throughout the 16 days of Activism, the Cardinia Cultural Centre will glow orange as a powerful visual symbol of our united stand against gender-based violence, reinforcing the message of respect and equality.

Cardinia Shire Council is proud to join with the Together We Can Partnership, made up of sector experts, service providers and community leaders to deliver several events and activities during the 16 Days.

Community members are invited to participate in events and activities during the 16 Days, including:

### **White Ribbon Art Gallery Exhibition 2025 – Look Through My Eyes Into Domestic Violence**

- Dates: Wednesday, 19 November – Wednesday, 10 December 2025
- Times: 9:30am – 2:30pm, Monday – Friday, and 1:00pm – 4:00pm on Sundays, 23 November, 30 November and 7 December.
- Entry: FREE
- Venue: Hills Hub Arts Space, 400A Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald.

Learn more: [\*\*White Ribbon Art Gallery Exhibition 2025 – Cardinia Cultural Centre\*\*](#)





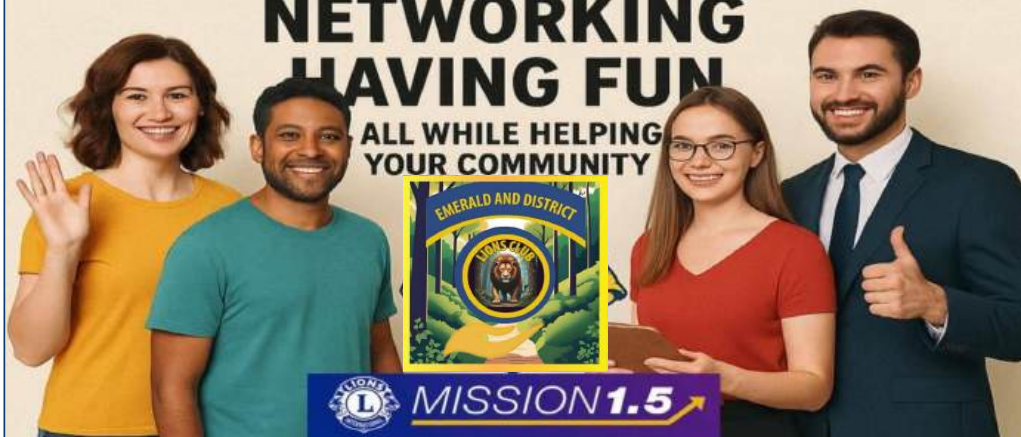
# WANTED!!!

SERVICE MINDED MEN AND WOMEN

INTERESTED IN

**VOLUNTEERRING  
LEADING PROJECTS  
NETWORKING  
HAVING FUN**

ALL WHILE HELPING  
YOUR COMMUNITY



Cardinia Shire

# Carols

by Candlelight

Saturday 6 December from 4:30pm

Toomuc Recreation Reserve, Pakenham



  
Cardinia

## ***Cardinia Shire Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy review***

Cardinia Shire Council is reviewing the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy to improve how residents walk, cycle, and move throughout the shire.

This review of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy aims to create safer, more connected, and accessible paths and trails across the shire, ensuring a vibrant and active lifestyle for all.

The community is invited to participate in this review by sharing their experiences and ideas through an online survey and an interactive map highlighting areas for improvement or showcasing great places to walk or ride. Whether you are a regular walker, an avid cyclist, or a nature enthusiast, your insights will play a crucial role in shaping the future of our active transport network. Council is looking to understand which infrastructure works well, what needs improvement, and what new connections or upgrades residents would like to see.

Cardinia Shire Mayor, Councillor Jack Kowarzik, encourages the community to share their experiences and suggestions to help shape how we walk and ride through the shire.

"We want to hear from our community about what matters most to them when walking and riding in the shire. Your feedback will help us prioritise and shape the expansion of our active transport networks throughout the area," said Mayor Kowarzik. "By working together, we can enhance the liveability of Cardinia Shire by improving recreational opportunities for active transport. I encourage everyone to share their experiences and suggestions as we strive to create a vibrant community where walking and riding are enjoyable for all."

The review will focus on shared paths and trails, both existing and proposed, facilitating informal walking and cycling for recreation and transport.

The review builds on the foundations laid in the original Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy developed in 2007 and updated in 2017. The 2017 Strategy successfully outlined a preferred network, identified regional trails, and established minimum infrastructure standards. However, as our community continues to grow with evolving community needs, a fresh review is essential to ensure that the strategy remains relevant and inclusive.

This initial ideas-gathering consultation will assist Council in developing a new draft Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy, which will be presented to the community for further feedback in early 2026.

The final strategy will serve as a guiding framework for Council's future planning and investment in walking and cycling infrastructure, ultimately enhancing connections and promoting a healthier lifestyle for all residents in Cardinia Shire.

Consultation on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy review is open until 7 December 2025. For more information on how to participate in the consultation or to learn more about the Bike and Pedestrian Strategy, please visit [cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](https://cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)



## ***Council seeks community input on upgrades to outdoor spaces in Pakenham***

Cardinia Shire Council is planning improvements to three outdoor spaces in Pakenham, making them more enjoyable, accessible and suited to the needs of our growing community.

Council is planning exciting upgrades to some of our popular outdoor spaces including:

- **Outdoor exercise stations along Heritage Springs Linear Reserve:** There are currently six outdoor exercise equipment stations dotted along the shared path, between Primary Springs Primary School and Winneke Way.
- **The Flying Fox at Toomuc Creek Linear Reserve:** Toomuc Creek Linear Reserve runs along Toomuc Creek between Princes Highway and Princes Freeway. A concrete shared path runs along both sides of the creek. The flying fox for renewal is located near the intersection of Growler Street and Victory Drive.

**Possum Place playground:** This playground is part of the Heritage Springs Linear Park (at western end) accessible from Sundew Crescent, Possum Place and Winneke Way, Pakenham. It has basic play equipment: slides, swings (including toddler swing), and a climbing frame. It is a few metres walk to the Flying Fox along Toomuc Reserve. Upgrades are pending future budget approval.

Community members are encouraged to share how they currently use the facilities and suggest improvements they'd like to see. Feedback gathered during the consultation will inform the design process and ensure the renewed assets meet the needs of the growing community.

Provide feedback by completing the [Creating Cardinia short online survey](#) or requesting a hardcopy via [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au).

This consultation opportunity will be opened until Monday 22 December 2025.



**Top Win Tennis Academy**  
**Give Tennis A Try For Free**  
**At Cockatoo Tennis Club**  
**0404 352 049**  
**topwintennisacademy.com**



## ***Expressions of interest open for food trading permits at four premier parks in Cardinia Shire***

Cardinia Shire Council is now accepting expressions of interest from mobile coffee and ice cream businesses interested in operating at specified parks within the shire.

The four locations where permits are up for grabs are Emerald Lake Park, Deep Creek Reserve, Lakeside's Dragon Park and PB Ronald Reserve.

Exclusive site-specific roadside trading permits are available at PB Ronald Reserve and Emerald Lake Park, one each for a coffee truck and an ice cream truck. Exclusive site-specific roadside trading permits are also available at Deep Creek Reserve for coffee only and Lakeside's Dragon Park for an ice cream truck only.

Successful applicants will be granted permission to operate in designated areas within one specified park for from 1 December 2025 to 1 February 2026 with trading permitted 7 days a week and mandatory weekend operation.

Businesses that secure a permit will be able to serve park visitors from a prime location in the dedicated food truck area, bringing delightful treats and refreshments to those enjoying the natural surroundings. Business operators will be required to apply for a Roadside Trading Permit.

All interested businesses are encouraged to apply and contribute to enhancing the visitor experience at some of Cardinia Shire's most loved parks.

Expressions of interest close on Thursday, 20 November, at 5pm.

For more information on eligibility criteria or to submit your application, please see [cardinia.smartygrants.com.au](http://cardinia.smartygrants.com.au)

- What does the new Support at Home program mean for you?
- Find out how to maintain your independence and stay at home longer.
- Find out about government subsidies for support services.



**'LIVING AT HOME FOR LONGER'**

**SEMINAR**



**EMERALD  
LIBRARY**

**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 3,  
@ 10 AM**



## ***Pay less at the bowser!***

Servo Saver has been launched in the Service Victoria app - a simple way to check real-time fuel prices before you fill up.

- ✔ See prices from 1,200+ retailers statewide.
- ✔ Save up to \$333 a year by choosing the best deal near you or along your route.
- ✔ Under the next phase of our Fair Fuel Plan, fuel



## ***Fire season is coming***

### ***Create or update your written bushfire survival plan now!***

Having a written bushfire plan will help you make decisions more quickly and confidently during an emergency.

Facing the threat of a bushfire can be a highly stressful experience, and having written procedures in place can help you act with more focus. Knowing that you have a plan in place may help reduce anxiety during bushfire season.

For businesses, a fire plan will help minimize damage to your property, protect your employees and clients and make it easier to get back to business faster. It can also play an important role in ensuring your business remains compliant with all relevant regulations.

You should familiarize your staff and clients with the bushfire plan each fire season to help reduce the anxiety and uncertainty that people may feel.

Tips for looking after your people during bushfire season include:

- Involving as many people as possible in the creation of your bushfire plan.
- Being aware of people's personal needs when creating the plan.

Practice your bushfire survival plan so that people know what to do.





# 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 Fletcher van Neuren*

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







## ***Cockatoo RSL (sub branch)***

### ***Local Container Returning point.***



**The club will close**

**Sunday 21st Dec and re-open Fri 16th Jan.**

**\* Christmas lunch free for everyone is still on Christmas day.**

**\* Music for Dec. 7th open Mic.**

**\* Music for December 14th, Edwards birthday, various performers, \$10 entry to cover a drink and some food.**

**\* Music for Dec. 21st Open Mic.**

**\* Bingo at Gembrook RSL finishes with last day 15th Dec and will resume 2nd Feb.**

**\* Next BBQ at IGA will be Saturday 13th December.**



**COCKATOO RSL SUNDAY MUSIC SESSIONS**

**FROM 2PM EVERY SUNDAY**

**FREE ADMISSION**