



Plan now for your pets for the fire season.

- Have you included your pets, horses and livestock in your emergency plan?
- Are your pets identified with a collar and council registration tag as well as a microchip?
- Are your contact details current and correct in the microchip database and with council? --
- Have you prepared a pet emergency plan and disaster kit and placed it in a prominent place? Does it include food, water, bowls, leads, blankets or bedding, medication, relevant documentation and a travel cage where necessary?
- Have you identified where you will evacuate your pets to? Have you checked with your local council about evacuation options that include facilities for animals?
- Have you practiced an evacuation of your animals? Consider how long it took.



*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**
Saturday 1st November
8:30AM to 1:30PM

77 Pakenham Road, Cockatoo

Saddle up & gallop to the market
to kick off your Cup weekend!



GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

RE-APPOINTED

RE-APPOINTED

RE-APPOINTED

RE-APPOINTED

RE-APPOINTED



ADAM MITCHELL

A. Mitchell

**2026
MENS VET'S COACH**



Gembrook - Cockatoo Football Netball Club
2026 SENIOR & U17s NETBALL TRIALS

**WANT TO BE A
BROOKER?**



We're on the hunt for future Brookers for all grades!

10th & 13th November 2025

6pm - 8:30pm on both nights



Scan the QR code to register!

Celebrate what's great – Nominations closing soon for Australia Day Awards

Time is running out to nominate your local community members and events for Cardinia Shire Council's 2026 Australia Day Awards.

Nominations must be received by midnight Wednesday 5 November 2025.

Nominations can be made online in the following award categories: Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Community Event of the Year

Please read the **2026 Australia Day Award Nomination Guidelines** to confirm nominee eligibility before submitting your application.

Nominations can be submitted online through Council's **SmartyGrants** platform, **until midnight Wednesday 5 November 2025: www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/AusDayAwards2026**

Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik encouraged residents to celebrate Cardinia Shire's local legends by nominating them for an award.

"Each year, the Australia Day Awards honour the exceptional efforts of citizens and community events that have enriched community life here in Cardinia Shire.

"With nominations now open, this is your chance to recognise the outstanding contributions of individuals and community events that have made a significant impact on our community," Mayor Kowarzik said.

Dual recipients of the Cardinia Shire Australia Day Awards' 2025 Citizen of the Year Award, David and Julia Graham, reflected on receiving their award last year and encourage Cardinia Shire residents to nominate a local volunteer in this last week of nominations.

"It's been lovely to be recognized by the people we work with in the community and as a reward for helping those who are in need," David said.

"We'd encourage everyone in the community to nominate a local volunteer or group for an award. It's a great way to encourage them in the work they're doing and to encourage others who might be considering volunteering. There are so many things happening around the Shire that wouldn't happen if we didn't have volunteers and the awards help recognise the value of volunteering in the community."

For more information, visit **www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay**

**CHICKENS
FOR SALE**

0417 318 458

Cr David Nickell - October '25

Council's meeting on October 20th marked a significant milestone.

Following extensive community consultation over a number of months, council passed the following core strategic plans:

- Council Plan 2025-2029

- 2025-2035 Financial Plan

- 2025-2035 Asset Plan

These Strategic Plans are required to be updated following Council elections under the Local Government Act 2020.

In addition, Council also endorsed two further strategic plans

- Road Management Plan 2025-2029 (in accordance with the Road Management Act 2004)

- Liveability Plan Review 2025

This substantial review of Council's strategic direction has taken the better part of a year. I'd like to thank residents who participated in the Community Panel and refreshed the Council Vision – which in turn informs the Council Plan – and provided guidance on broad approaches to the contents of the Council Plan. Also residents and community groups who took the time to provide feedback on aspects of these important plans.

Discussion and debate around the above plans highlighted the diverse range of services that Council provides to ratepayers - and the very limited financial base off which Council can reliably fund delivery of those services. Compromises need to be made, of course, however I feel that on balance, positive outcomes for Hills residents have been achieved.

I continue to meet extensively with local community groups and residents, to work together on how we can continue to progress projects and build stronger communities across the Ward.

Please enjoy the improving weather - but remember to make some time to get those clean-ups around your properties done as summer approaches.

Regards, David



Cr David Nickell | Ranges Ward | Cardinia Shire Council

Phone: 0428 630 155 | Web: cardinia.vic.gov.au

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



Fire Danger Period

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) will soon declare the Fire Danger Period (FDP) for Cardinia Shire and fire restrictions will be enforced across the municipality.

Notices regarding Council's Fire Hazard Inspection Program will be sent out to properties identified as high fire risk according to the Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire (VFRR-B), reminding residents to prepare for fire hazards inspections.

Here are some steps you can take to ensure your property is best prepared ahead of the fire season.

Reduce and remove fuel load

All overgrown grass and weeds, fallen branches and dead vegetation on your block should be cleared away to avoid presenting a fire hazard.

For Rural or agricultural properties:

- Slash grass and weeds to less than 10cm to create a firebreak **at least** 10 metres wide along the external fence lines of larger rural and agricultural properties.
- Slash grass and weeds to less than 10cm to create a firebreak around sheds, houses, haystacks and other infrastructure.
- Consider fuel reduction options such as mulching, stock rotation, baling if appropriate and green-waste drop-off.

Note: If you are planning to cut paddocks for baling or silage, a fire break is still recommended to manage the fire risk until conditions are suitable for baling.

For Residential and commercial blocks:

- All grass on vacant properties is to be maintained to a maximum height of 10cm to reduce possible impact of fire.

Fuel reduced areas around houses and other buildings.

Dispose green waste

Green waste can be disposed for free at the Future Recycling Transfer Station (30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham), on select days in December:

- Saturday 6 December: 8am - 2pm
- Monday 8 to Friday 12 December: 7:30am - 3:30pm

Saturday 13 December: 8am - 2pm

Other ways to dispose of green waste include in your food and garden waste bin, booking in a hard waste collection or purchase a composting and garden mulching bin.

Burning off

When choosing to burn off fuel loads, a number of conditions may apply depending on your property. You can't burn off during the declared Fire Danger Period or on a Total Fire Ban day. In the lead up to the fire season, Council has completed its annual tree pruning and electrical clearance works across Pakenham, Beaconsfield and Emerald. These works help maintain a safe clearance zones around powerlines. Council's roadside slashing program will begin this month, targeting long grass along Council-managed roadsides to improve visibility and support fire prevention efforts.

To learn more about how you can prepare for the fire season, visit <https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/fireseason>



Door knocking campaign launches to help residents register their pets



From Friday 10 October, licensed Regi-Check ambassadors will be visiting households to educate pet owners on the importance and benefits of registering their pets.

Trained and licensed Regi-Check ambassadors, operating on behalf of Council, will be visiting selected households, from 10 October and throughout the month, reminding pet owners to register any new pets or re-register their pets. Regi-Check ambassadors will not ask residents for money or issue fines.

They will be wearing hi-vis vests, will carry official identification and will inform residents of their purpose for visiting. Signage will also be placed in areas where the door knocking is being carried out.

In Cardinia Shire all cats and dogs must be microchipped and registered with Council as soon as they are 3 months old.

Animal registration is a critical component of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. Having your pet registered with Council and ensuring they wear a registration tag with up-to-date contact details, allows us to easily and quickly reunite lost or roaming animals with their owners. Roaming pets pose a major threat to the wildlife in their local areas by disturbing natural habitats and potentially spreading diseases.

Pet registrations must be renewed by 10 April each year. Registration and payment can be made online, over the phone or in person at Council's Customer Service Centre.

Upon conclusion of Regi-Check's door knocking, all properties with animals identified will be followed up by Council's Compliance Officers.

Pet Registration FAQs

Is pet registration mandatory?

Yes, it is mandated by law under the Domestic Animals Act 1994, and failure to comply can result in substantial fines and even higher penalties if the animals are impounded.

What's the difference between microchipping and registration?

A microchip is a tiny computer chip containing an identification number that provides a permanent form of identification for your pet. Registration links a pet owners contact details to the microchip in Council's database.

What happens if a pet is not registered?

If a pet is found wandering, without a registration tag or out of date microchip information they may be taken to the Lost Dogs Home and pet owners may incur a fine.

Can residents receive a discount on registration?

Discounts are available for where memberships are held with eligible organisations and obedience training organisations. For a list of included organisations, visit <https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/petregistration>

Where do pet registration fees go?

Registration fees help support Council's pet management services including, the maintenance of off leash dog parks, collecting and returning lost pets, following up complaints about problem dogs and cats, investigation of dog attacks and cat trapping programs.

Learn more at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/petregistration

Market Dates for the rest of the year 2025

9am to 2pm 4th Sunday of the Month



23rd November

Save them to your calendar now

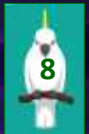
Cockatoo RSL presents

BINGO!

Mondays

at Gembrook RSL

49 Main St Gembrook.



Doors open 6.45 pm , \$3 per book (15 games per session, 2 Sessions). Raffles \$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.

COCKATOO OVER 50'S

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

November

3rd | Lunch \$10—Lasagna, Fruit and Birthday Cake

No Committee meeting this month

10th | Craft – Christmas Craft with Marg, Pyro Drawing with Marty | *BYO lunch*

17th | Guest Speaker: Graham Beale – Native Birds

24th | Outing to Cranbourne Botanical Gardens.

Bus \$8 Lunch at Officer Club

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

****Will be held at Cockatoo Sports Complex , Mountain Road, Cockatoo****
\$10 a session

Beginners Line Dancing with Kathy Smith

Thursdays 10am—11:30am

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

****Will be held at Cockatoo Sports Complex , Mountain Road, Cockatoo****

Chair Pilates with Jeanette

Fridays 10am—10:45am *Pakenham Upper Hall for November*

\$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 is on **November 12th** Dot will advise location





COCKATOO OVER 50'S



Hills High Tea

The Hills High Tea was held on 1st October as part of Senior's Month, proudly funded by Car-dinia Council. This free event brought together community members from Pakenham, Cockatoo, Emerald and Gembrook, along with council representatives, for an afternoon of connection and celebration. With 140 attendees who enjoyed a delicious high tea as well as demonstrations from the women of the Seik Community, and the lively Cockatoo and Gembrook line dancers.



Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

Neighbourhood Watch held there October monthly meeting at AWBEC Cockatoo.

Our guest speaker was Katrina Herberts from Orange Door. Her presentation was informative and educational. Orange Door provide help and services for family experiencing family violence. Police wish to remind residents of the 9 o'clock rule. Lock up cars, garages and house doors. There were burglaries in Emerald, Cockatoo & Gembrook with access gained from unlocked doors. Community Safety Day was well attended. Police safe plate screws for car number plates was very popular.

Next meeting is at Emerald Police Station on Tuesday 11th November at 6.30pm.
ALL WELCOME



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.



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 prices will be capped for 24 hours - so there are no surprises when you arrive at the pump.
- Download the Service Victoria app, open Servo Saver, and check before you fill up.



TOPCAT DRIVEWAYS ASPHALT

ADD VALUE TO YOUR HOME

Telephone for friendly advice or to
arrange your **FREE** no obligation
quotation



0409 395 635



Daniel@topcatdriveways.com.au



www.topcatdriveways.com.au



Servicing South Eastern Suburbs & Dandenong Ranges



Cardinia Planning Scheme Review 2026

Cardinia Shire Council is reviewing the Cardinia Planning Scheme and is asking the community to share their thoughts on how the Cardinia Planning Scheme can be improved.

The Cardinia Planning Scheme is a legislative document that sets out the planning policies, objectives, strategies, and controls for use, development, protection, and conservation of land across the Shire.

Each local government area across Victoria has their own planning scheme. A planning scheme includes state, regional and local policies and maps that identify where planning zones, and overlays apply to land. These components direct how land can be used and developed, how buildings can be built, and when a planning permit is needed. The purpose of a planning scheme is to make sure land use and development align with the State Government's planning objectives and the community's vision for planning in Cardinia Shire.

All Victorian local Councils must regularly review their planning scheme in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987, and the findings must be reported to the Minister for Planning once the review is complete.

The Cardinia Planning Scheme Review will focus on:

- Responding to Victorian Government planning objectives.
- Responding to Victorian Government planning reforms.
- Identifying what's working well and what could be improved.
- Identifying drafting or mapping mistakes.
- Evaluating progress of recommendations of the last Planning Scheme Review.
- Assessing alignment with the goals of the Cardinia Shire Council Plan 2025.
- Responding to land use trends.
- Identifying whether any new policies are needed.
- Identifying any 'further strategic work' needed.

Preparing a plan to implement the Planning Scheme Review findings.

The Cardinia Planning Scheme Review 2026 will not involve changing zoning or overlays for specific properties and will be a high-level analysis of the Planning Scheme as a whole.

Council encourages the community to participate by completing an online survey available on the Creating Cardinia website. These surveys provide an opportunity for the community and other interested parties to voice their opinions.

During this initial phase of consultation Council is seeking feedback from anyone with experiences or ideas about the Cardinia Planning Scheme or the planning application process. This feedback will help shape the Draft Cardinia Planning Scheme Review 2026 report. The report will be shared with the community in early-mid 2026 for further community consultation.

This first phase of consultation on the Cardinia Planning Scheme Review 2026 closes on 10 December 2025. For more information and to share your feedback in a survey, please visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



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.

HillsNews. Online HillsNews.net

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.



CNAV

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA

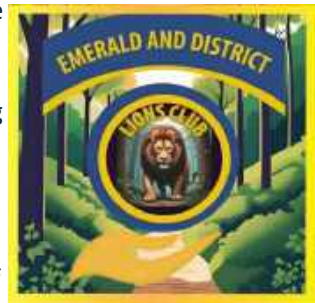
the voice of the community

MEMBER 2024

Emerald and District Lions Club Shines

September was a bustling and rewarding month for the Emerald and District Lions Club, filled with community engagement, new initiatives, and heartfelt tributes.

The month kicked off with a social evening featuring guest speaker Nadia Douglas, Community Strengthening Facilitator for Aboriginal Engagement at Cardinia Shire Council. Her presentation offered an enlightening and educational perspective on reconciliation and cultural differences, leaving attendees with a deeper understanding of these vital topics. The event also marked a milestone for the club, which welcomed five new members. Further details on the new members will be shared in the next news edition.



The Lions Club continues its steadfast support for the Fernlea Community House food bank, which now provides meals for approximately 300 people every fortnight. This initiative has significantly alleviated pressure on food banks at St. Luke's and Tecoma. The club expressed pride in its ongoing partnership with Fernlea Community House and is committed to supporting this vital program well into the future.

In Cockatoo, the Lions Club's efforts at the BASE have helped transform a once-abandoned building into a vibrant community hub. The space is now buzzing with activity, attracting interest from various community groups and clubs, and has been warmly embraced by the local community.

Later in the month, the club had the privilege of hosting Maria Millers, founder of the Woorilla Poetry Prize. Millers shared the fascinating history of the prize, which has garnered international attention since its inception in 1989, inspiring attendees with its legacy of creativity and community connection.

The club also paid tribute to Robert Bruce Kemp, whose generous bequest over 30 years ago continues to benefit the youth and broader Emerald and surrounding communities. Wisely invested, Kemp's donation remains a gift that keeps on giving, supporting countless initiatives over the decades.

The month concluded with the Lions Club proudly sponsoring the UN Sing for Unity Day, led by the Lyrebirds Choir at The Hub in Emerald. The event saw a magnificent turnout, with the community coming together to celebrate unity and lift spirits through the power of song.

The Emerald and District Lions Club's dedication to fostering community spirit and supporting meaningful initiatives continues to make a lasting impact, with September serving as a testament to our ongoing commitment.

If you would like information on joining the Lions club Emerald and District please email emeraldionsclubvic@gmail.com



JOIN THE YOUTH GEMCO LEADERSHIP TEAM!

**GEMCO
LEADERS**

**SENIOR
YOUTH
GEMCO
LEADERS**

**YOUTH
COORDINATOR**

**Help shape the next
generation of
performers & leaders!**

APPLY OR ENQUIRE: youthgemco@gmail.com
www.gemcoplayers.org

Celebrating 45 years of community theatre - 1980-2025

CARLA
SKIN AND BEAUTY

0480673204

carlaskinandbeauty.com.au

Shop 1/74 Main Street
Gembrook

Empowering women of the
Hills through self care

Laser Hair Removal

Laser Facials

Ombre Brow Tattoo

Skin Needling

Chemical Peels

Lash Lift

Brow Lamination

Brow Shaping



HillsNews was commended in this years State awards

In this years Community Newspapers Association of Victoria Awards, HillsNews was a finalist (top 3) in the History Story Competition category and also singled out and commended in the Best Newspaper category.

Here's what they said.



Congratulations!

HillsNews was a finalist in the Best history story category of this year's awards.

The judge said of your entry:

Gembrook Spuds by Tina VS from the Gembrook History Facebook page (Hill News)

I will confess that I have a bias here, as I grew up on a potato farm at Cora Lynn, but this is a great history, written in a chatty style, mentions lots of local names and records an important part of Gembrook's economy and history which is now in decline or as Tina writes 'soon the potato growing industry of Gembrook will fade into history like the Gembrook timber industry before it'.

However just as interesting as the story is the fact that this was written originally for a Facebook page, which gives our history a whole new audience. Many people will never set foot in a museum or come to a Historical Society meeting, but are more than happy to comment on a photo or an article on a Facebook page, sometimes giving valuable information. Facebook is thus a potential source of stories for community newspapers.

This is a very good local story.

I will post the certificate to you in the next couple of days.

Although you weren't a winner in the best newspaper category, the judge singled HillsNews out with this comment:

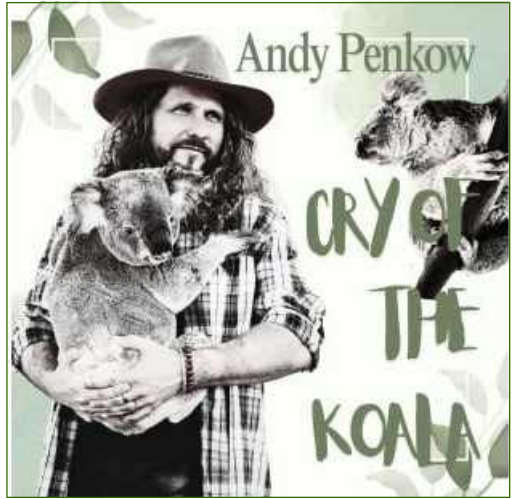
I will commend HillsNews, because they deliberately practice a policy of printing a small number of their publications in a small booklet size, with the entire publication available online. The publishers clearly explain to readers and contributors their parameters for saving the amount of paper they use - including such things as no white space, same font size throughout, and judicious use of information. They focus on online publication, with 3000+ readers and links to 18 facebook pages.

Cry of the Koala

"Andy Penkow Releases Stirring New Bush Ballad Cry of the Koala on Save the Koala Day"

"We are absolutely thrilled that Andy has written this beautiful song for the Koalas. His passion for wildlife and his unwavering support for the Australian Koala Foundation mean the world to us. *Cry of the Koala* is more than just a song—it's a powerful message about the plight of the Koala and the urgent need to protect their habitat. Andy's voice gives strength to the Koalas' cry, and we could not be more grateful."

The **Australian Koala Foundation** continues its vital work in long-term conservation and the effective management of wild Koalas across the country. Penkow's moving tribute serves as both a rallying cry and a celebration of one of Australia's most iconic species. *Cry of the Koala* is available now,



"EVERY STRAND OF FAKE SPIDERWEB STRETCHED ACROSS BUSHES IS A DEADLY TRAP FOR BIRDS SEARCHING FOR FOOD."

Next Year

SKIP THE FAKE WEBS—PROTECT WILDLIFE INSTEAD



REMEMBRANCE DAY

11-11



Cockatoo RSL (sub branch)

10.30am service

1 minute silence at 11am

Cuppa and morning tea following service

New Road Management Plan to support better local infrastructure

Cardinia Shire Council has endorsed the 2025–29 Road Management Plan at the October Council meeting, setting the statutory maintenance requirements for local roads, bridges and paths.

Council manages more than 1600km of roads and over 900km of paths across the shire. The Road Management Plan (RMP) outlines how often proactive and planned inspections will occur, how quickly Council will respond to reports, and the timeframes for repairs based on severity and asset classification.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik said the adopted plan will help guide Council's approach to managing local infrastructure over the next 4 years.

"Cardinia Shire has experienced remarkable growth over recent years, transforming from a once-regional community into a thriving growth corridor. As our population grows and our townships evolve, we're seeing more pedestrian activity and a greater need for safe, accessible infrastructure—especially for older residents and families."

"This plan represents a significant step forward in community safety. It rebalances our investment priorities to focus more on footpaths and pedestrian access, helping Council improve our overall safety performance." Mayor Kowarzik said.

"This growth has brought new challenges and expectations, and the updated plan ensures that we're responding to these pressures with a clear, consistent, and legally compliant approach. We know our community expects safe, reliable infrastructure, and this plan holds us accountable to deliver just that."

The timeframes set out in the plan represent the maximum periods within which Council must respond to and address defects. Timeframes can vary depending on road or asset classification, location, traffic volumes, risks to public safety, severity of the defect, contractor availability, and external factors such as weather conditions.

The timeframes outlined in the plan ensure Council maintains a consistent, legally compliant, and transparent approach to its infrastructure management.

"While we aim to complete maintenance works as quickly and efficiently as possible, we will always communicate the maximum timeframes outlined in the Road Management Plan to ensure we are being transparent and setting clear expectations of what's required of Council." Mayor Kowarzik said.

The review of the RMP was conducted in line with the Road Management Act 2004 and Road Management (General) Regulations 2016, which require Councils to review their plans every 4 years following a local government election. Community consultation was also completed as part of this review in mid-2025.

"The Road Management Plan is our roadmap for us to prioritise and respond to issues in a way that best serves our community, and I would like to thank all community members who provided feedback as part of the engagement process." Mayor Kowarzik said.

If you are experiencing an issue on a local road or path, please can find out how to report it by visiting www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/report

To learn more about the 2025-2029 Road Management Plan, see www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/rmp



Community Bank Dandenong Ranges

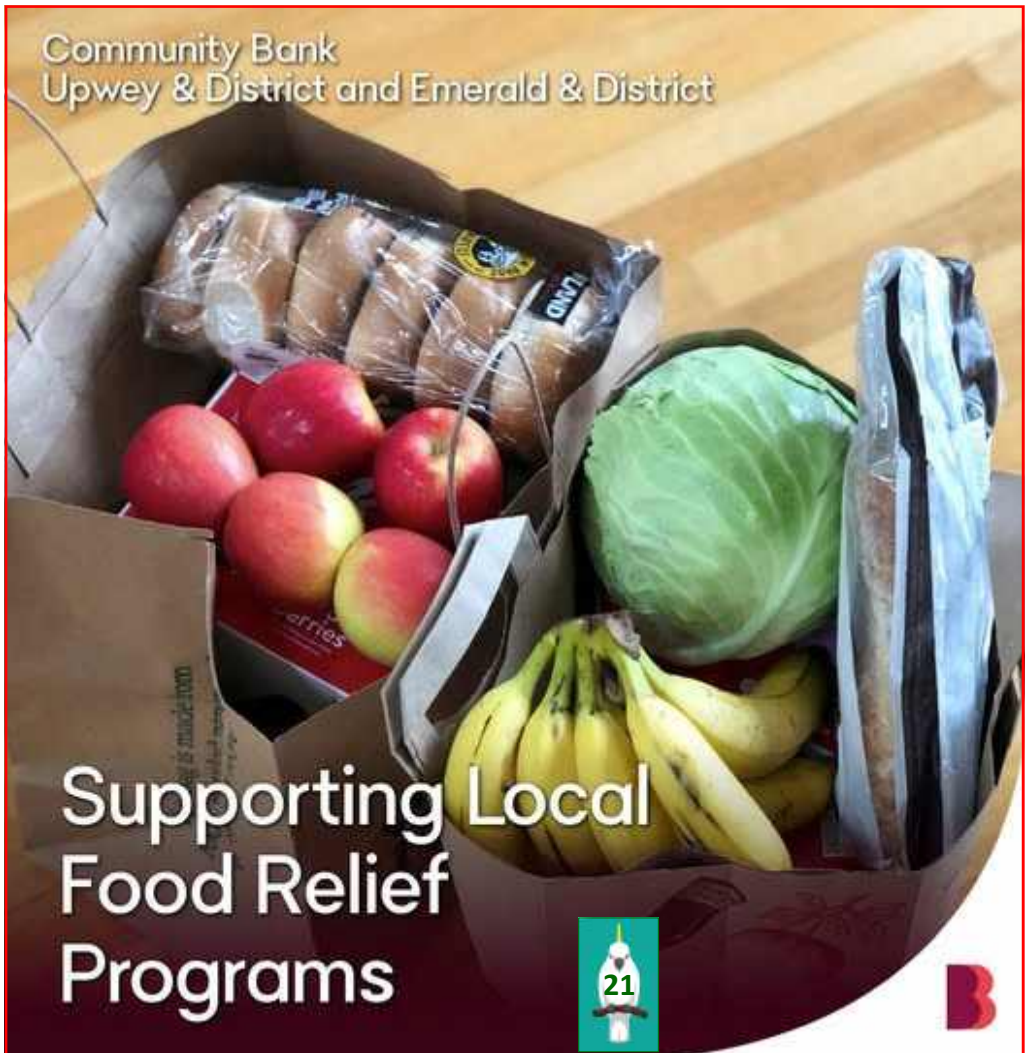
Supporting Local Food Relief

This month, Community Bank Upwey & District and Community Bank Emerald & District proudly provided a total of \$9,500 to support local organisations in continuing their vital charity food programs.

This ongoing quarterly commitment, confirmed for the 2025/2026 financial year, makes a meaningful difference to those doing it tough in our community.

A huge thank you to the incredible teams at: **The Philanthropic Collective, Foothills Community Care - Community Meals, Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service Inc., The Food Store at St. Luke's**

Your work helps ensure that no one in our community goes without support when it's needed most. Our support is with thanks to our customers.



Revitalising Pakenham: Major centre upgrade now underway

Cardinia Shire Council has officially broken ground on Stage 1 of the Pakenham Revitalisation Project, marking the beginning of a transformative journey to reimagine the town centre. The Stage 1 Main Street Gateway precinct works will include streetscape upgrades near the Pakenham train station line through to the Main Street roundabout and into Drake Place.

Upgrades and changes will include: new road pavement, new, wider footpaths for improved pedestrian accessibility, enhanced lighting, pedestrian crossing upgrades, improved landscaping, updated parking for safety and compliance, new kerb and channel, street furniture, bins and seating, drainage improvements.

The ceremonial sod turn held on 24 October 2025 celebrated the start of construction on a project that will breathe new life into Pakenham's town centre.

Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik and CEO James Collins were joined by Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts, Harriet Shing, Member for Pakenham, Emma Vulin and Cardinia Shire councillors to officially turn the first sod along Main Street, Pakenham.

Mayor Kowarzik said the project reflects the community's vision for a more people-focused and welcoming town centre.

"This is a proud moment for Pakenham. Our community has long called for an uplift in the look and feel of Main Street, and today we take the first step toward delivering just that."

The Main Street Gateway upgrades are the critical first step of the Pakenham Revitalisation Project, which will set the scene of this multi-staged program of works.

"This revitalisation will create a safer, more accessible and vibrant space that encourages people to stay longer, shop local, and enjoy everything our town has to offer." Mayor Kowarzik said.

Stage 1 works will be phased to minimise disruption to traffic and trade, and construction on this precinct is expected to be completed by mid-2026, conditions permitting.

The revitalisation is part of a broader vision to support ongoing development in the precinct, including the new Pakenham Community Hospital, upgraded train station, and additional car parking.

The project is jointly funded by Cardinia Shire Council, Level Crossing Removal Project and the Victorian Government's Growth Areas Infrastructure Contribution fund.

"Stage 1 sets the tone for the broader multi-stage program that will reshape Pakenham's heart and soul. Together, we're working to build a better Pakenham that reflects who we are and where we're headed." Mayor Kowarzik said.

Henty Ward Councillor Liz Roberts is excited to see the project start to come to life.

"The revitalisation of Main Street will have a direct and positive impact on our residents, traders and visitors. It's a significant step toward building a more vibrant and connected Pakenham." Cr Roberts said.

To stay up to date and for more information on the Pakenham Revitalisation project, please visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/pakenham



Join us for



COCKATOO
DENTAL

Community Open Day



- Meet the team for an informal chat
- Explore our modern purpose built facility
- Facepainting and goodie bags for kids
- Nibbles and light refreshments

Saturday Nov 1, 2025
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Cockatoo Dental
32 McBride Street,
Cockatoo, VIC 3781



RSVP via **(03) 6164 3781**

info@cockatoodental.com.au

Council adopts key plans to deliver for the future

Cardinia Shire Council has formally adopted its suite of key strategic documents to guide Council's activities and decision making over the next four years, and beyond.

At the Council meeting on Monday 20 October, Council endorsed the:

- Council Plan 2025–29
- Updated Liveability Plan 2017–29
- Financial Plan 2025–35, and Asset Plan 2025–35.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik said the plans would enable Council to deliver on its commitment to the community and ensure the Shire remains a place that people are proud to call home.

"The Council Plan is our overarching strategic document that will help guide our direction and decision making for this Council term, outlining how we will continue to deliver on the Community Vision, work towards our key objectives, respond to challenges, and leverage opportunities," Mayor Kowarzik said.

"The Council Plan outlines our approach to respond to the Shire's rapid growth and challenges over the coming years, while preserving the unique character of our existing towns and natural landscapes to deliver on our commitment to the community."

The Council Plan is structured around five key objectives: Thriving communities, Vibrant places, Adaptive environments, Prosperous economies, Responsible leaders

These objectives have been informed by priorities identified by the Future Cardinia Community Panel during a deliberative engagement process. The panel reviewed and updated the Community Vision 2040 and identified key focus areas that have helped to inform the strategic objectives. Under each of these strategic objectives is a series of strategies and initiatives, and how we will achieve them and measure our success.

Mayor Kowarzik said community feedback had also helped to inform development of key strategic documents.

Updated Liveability Plan 2017–29

This has been our second, four-year review of the Liveability Plan 2017–29, which has been developed to provide a clear framework for public health planning in the shire. The plan recognises Council's role in coordinating local public health planning by bringing together a range of organisations, groups and our local community to work together to protect, improve and promote the health and wellbeing of our community.

Financial Plan 2025–35

The Financial Plan is a 10-year financial roadmap that will enable Council to deliver on the new Council Plan, continue to deliver valued services and projects, and ensure that the organisation remains financially sustainable into the future. It outlines how Council will respond to its financial challenges and prepare for the future. In response to community feedback, the plan incorporates operational efficiencies aimed at keeping costs low while delivering high-value services and programs.

Asset Plan 2025–35

The Asset Plan outlines Council's strategic approach to managing more than \$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, more than 130 playgrounds and a range of other infrastructure and community buildings across the shire. The 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.

To view the documents, please visit

Cardinia Shire Council - Key plans 2025 | Cardinia Shire Council



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.



0480 316 906



cbwaccounting.com.au



Hello, Debbie and David here from Happy Dayz Mowing!

We are a family owned Business local to the area, approved by NDIS, Veteran Affairs & Work Cover and My Age Care. Working with children's check . Commonwealth home packages .

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 🍕🍷



You're invited to attend

NHW Eastern Ranges Meeting Emerald Police Station

Where:
Main Road
Emerald

Tuesday
11th
November
6.30 pm

All welcome!

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



Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other
Eastern Ranges



“Brunch”



We will be **closed**

on

Saturday the 1st of Nov

Sunday the 2nd of Nov

Monday the 3rd of Nov

Tuesday the 4th of Nov

Thanks for your understanding
Paul & Elise

We will be back on Wed the 5th at 7.00 am

Brunch on McBride ****Holiday Notice****

Brunch will be closed from Saturday the 1st of November until Wednesday the 5th of Nov while we take a short break to recharge our weary batteries.

If you need yummy food, coffee, breakfast, lunch or dinner in the meantime we recommend the following places for your gastronomic needs in our absence!

Chieftains Smokehouse, The Black Cockatoo Pizza Cafe, The Humble Grind @ Cockatoo IGA + Liquor

Term
Deposit.
**Watch
your
money
grow.**



Bendigo Bank
The better big bank

Consider if this product is right for you and read the T&Cs and TMD available on our website.
Issued by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879.



**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

**FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY 132 500**

LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCY CALL: 000

FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT!
**For all Victorians across the
state on weekends.**
**From the day the Metro Tunnel
opens in Dec until 1 Feb**
Trains. Buses. Trams.





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
9 holes		

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 Activity	\$38.25 per person	4+: \$29.25 each
-----------------------------	-----------------------	---------------------

The Works	\$46.75 per	4+: \$36.15 each
1 hr game in 1 Escape Room, Arcade and Mini Golf		



Gemco Players Community Theatre

Welcome one and all to Gemco's ongoing Open Stage Night. Hosted by Carol, our popular open stage has been running for many decades. Held in the cosy hall, you are welcome to perform anything you like or just come for the lovely entertainment.

Enjoy music, poetry, singing, monologues or anything you wish to show!. Running the first Sat of every month, now starting at 7pm!

Pay the door. \$5 for performers and \$8 for audience. The bar is open at very reasonable prices. Bring your own nibbles

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.

Ask R U OK?™ ANY DAY

31

Have a conversation using these 4 steps



How are you travelling?

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

Ask R U OK?



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

Have you been feeling this way for a while?

Listen



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

Have you spoken to your doctor about this?

Encourage action



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



Cardinia businesses invited to exhibit at 2026 Cardinia Jobs and Skills Showcase

Cardinia businesses are encouraged to register their interest to exhibit at the upcoming Jobs and Skills Showcase.

The 2026 Cardinia Jobs and Skills Showcase will be held on Wednesday 18 March at the Cardinia Cultural Centre (40 Lakeside Blvd, Pakenham) and will provide an opportunity for local businesses to connect with job seekers.

The annual expo offers a valuable platform for businesses to connect directly with local job seekers, promote employment and volunteer opportunities and support the development of future career and educational pathways in Cardinia Shire.

Exhibitor pricing starts at \$30 per table as part of an early bird offer, available until 28 November 2025. From 28 November onwards, standard pricing will apply at \$40 per table.

To express your interest in exhibiting: <https://forms.office.com/r/xTFmEtN7tb>



HAS YOUR ORGANIZATION TESTED ITS COMMUNITY- LED RECOVERY PLAN FOR LOCAL EMERGENCIES?

Following the success of our 2024 and 2025 Community Recovery Workshops, we are hosting a FREE Desktop Exercise for local community groups and businesses in Emerald & surrounding areas to test our local community led recovery plans.

Again facilitated by internationally renowned local disaster recovery and community resilience consultant Anne Leadbeater OAM (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Leadbeater), this desktop scenario exercise unpacks the first 3 weeks to 3 months after a serious local disaster.



We develop a more practical understanding of what comes next after the initial shock and disruption, what the formal recovery agencies will be doing and how our plans will inform and guide those decisions.

This exercise will provide a supportive environment to refine our community groups recovery plans, better connect with and understand what other local community groups will be doing, and collaborate to further develop local hills disaster recovery arrangements.

Date: Sat 15th November 2025

Time: 11am-4pm

Venue: Training Room Lakeside
Visitor Centre, Emerald Lake Park

Parking: onsite, \$8/day

Registrations close 7th

November:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/is-your-organisation-recovery-ready-tickets-1497810354089>



Proudly supported by

AusNet

**RECOVERY READY
COMMUNITIES INC.**





Real help. Right now.



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

The Victorian Government's Savings Finder is making a real difference, helping people across the state access discounts, rebates, and even unclaimed money. With 98 savings and offers across energy, transport, health, education, and more, there's something for everyone. Just answer a few quick questions about your situation to see what you're eligible for.

[\\$100 Power Saving Bonus](#)

Free weekend transport for seniors

Free transport for kids under 18

[Free dental for public school students](#)

[Free zoo entry for kids under 16](#)

Fishing licences and digital concession cards for veterans and seniors

And more, including over \$200 million in unclaimed money waiting to be claimed!

Real help, right now, easing cost-of-living pressures for Victorian families



Join the 2026 Youth Action and Advisory Committee

Expressions of interest are now open for young people to join the 2026 Youth Action and Advisory Committee (YAAC).

Council is seeking enthusiastic young people aged 15-24 with a connection to the Cardinia Shire community to get involved and contribute to local decision-making.

The YAAC is a dynamic advisory committee where members will have the chance to make their voices heard and help ensure that the ideas and preferences of young people guide council objectives.

YAAC members will be asked to participate in the committee for a minimum period of 12 months with the opportunity to continue in the group following the initial 12-month commitment. Members will have the opportunity to:

- Meet fortnightly to exchange ideas and perspectives
- Shape and deliver a youth-led community project
- Represent the voices of young people on issues that matter to them
- Build valuable leadership and advocacy skills
- Be recognised and compensated for participating in quarterly consultation meetings

Increase their knowledge of local government processes

In addition, members will have the chance to celebrate their achievements with an end-of-year dinner with the Mayor, recognising their meaningful contributions to the shire.

"I'm really excited that we are strengthening our commitment to our younger residents with the Youth Action and Advisory Committee. Council does and should represent all residents, not just those of voting age, so it's a very positive step and one that builds on past efforts. I encourage all young people with a connection to Cardinia Shire to join us in shaping the future of our community," said Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik. "This is not just an opportunity to make a difference, it's also a chance to develop skills, meet new friends, and have a great time."

To register your interest in joining the 2026 YAAC, please complete the expression of interest form by 30 January 2026.

For more information and to apply, please visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/YAAC

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

**Eligible concession card
households can apply***



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 with your
order & we will supply direct deposit details.**



1st Cockatoo Scout Group

75 Pakenham Road | Cockatoo | 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 vb

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



Victoria Police Careers

Your future with Victoria Police is calling!


We're inviting you to an exclusive police Careers Info Session at the police headquarters! It's a rare chance to get an inside look into the fast-paced, challenging, and rewarding world of policing.

The details: Thursday 27 November, 5.30pm - 7pm

Victoria Police Centre (311 Spencer Street Docklands, VIC 3008)

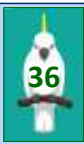
Don't forget to register your attendance and bring ID on the day. We look forward to seeing you there






DINOVEMBER


DINOSAUR SCAVENGER HUNT



PAKENHAM
LIBRARY



MONDAY
10 NOV -
THURSDAY
20 NOV





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 Hatchkin van Neuren

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





Major Road Maintenance

The Victorian Government is rolling out a major road maintenance blitz to rebuild, repair, and resurface roads right across Victoria, backed by a \$976 million investment, the largest single-year investment in road maintenance in the state's history.

As part of our Better Roads Blitz, crews will begin delivering hundreds of major maintenance projects between now and mid-2026 on roads, with 70 per cent of all the funding going towards our regional roads.

Over the next nine months, crews will complete thousands of projects on our network, ranging from road rehabilitation and resurfacing, patching pot-holes and maintaining bridges, installing traffic lights and signage.

The blitz will target the state's busiest travel and trade routes, helping to get millions of people and hundreds of thousands of tonnes of freight to and from their destination smoothly.

As well as repairing some of our busiest roads, crews will also mow, slash and spray tens of thousands of kilometres of roadsides, inspect and repair thousands of bridges and other structures. They'll also fix hundreds of sets of traffic lights and electronic signs, clean up graffiti and deliver other maintenance works as needed.

ROTARY KIDS FUN RUN

with **PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY**

30th November 2025 at Puffing Billy Station Gembrook

Children 3-12 years running to benefit other children.

Proudly supporting
**Rotary
CHILDREN'S
HEALTH
PROJECTS**

Treaties
for our state
& long to
each other

Train rides
on the day

Show bags &
certificates
for runners

**Registrations Open!!
Kids Running for Kids
Supporting the
Angliss Hospital Children's Ward**



<https://emeraldrotary.org.au/5395/Page/rotarykidsfunrunwithpuffingbilly>

**Get \$200 to help
your child play sport!**

Visit
getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers





Cockatoo RSL (sub branch)

Local Container Returning point.



**Trivia Night Satur-
day 15th. Novem-
ber 7pm Start.**



**Pool Comp Grand
Final for 2025 win-
ners. Friday 14th
7pm.**



**Poker Night.
7th November 7pm
Start.**



**UNO Comp
Sat. 8th November
7pm start.**



**Darts Grand Final for
2025 winners.
Sat. 22nd November.
7pm**



**Karaoke with Shelley
Friday 31st October.**



COCKATOO RSL SUNDAY MUSIC SESSIONS

FROM 2PM EVERY SUNDAY

FREE ADMISSION