

Cockatoo Gembrook



August 2025

Issue: 59



Some of the residents at "Carinya Park" cottage.



The Angliss Hospital expansion is coming along wonderfully!

More beds, four operating theatres and allied health rooms are on their way to this much-loved local hospital.

Opening 2026, we're bringing world-class healthcare facilities close to home! Great to have joined Minister for Health Infrastructure, **Melissa Horne MP**, and **Jackson Taylor MP** to celebrate the topping out of this build (**Daniela De Martino MP** ,7th July, **Facebook**.)





*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 - AUGUST 2025

Saturday 2 August - 8:30am - 1:30pm

Cockatoo Community Complex, 77 Pakenham Rd

Shop local and support small businesses and community groups!



The Cockatoo community bus.

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



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.

The Fish & Chip shop in Gembrook has new owners.

Hi all,

Yes, the fish and chip shop has new owners. We are local, very excited to be more involved in the town, and committed to providing everyone with tasty food!

We want to thank Tammy for the time she put into training us. We wish her all the best with her new venture.

We will make some changes in time, but for now everything remains the same as far as menu, prices, phone number and opening hours.

Please pop in and say hi!, Shona, Darren and Lachy



St Lukes Church Cockatoo

All are Welcome to our

SUNDAY NIGHT

Service

EVERY SUNDAY

6pm-7pm

**7pm-7.30pm . Cuppa, cake, bikkies
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With Youth Pastor Luke Hotchkin van Neuren

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YOU'RE INVITED TO THE LAUNCH OF
THE BASE 8 EDRA AGM
4 AUGUST 2025



Time: 7pm – 9pm

Where: 7 – 17 McBride Street, Cockatoo
Meet The BASE Subcommittee & members (EDRA,
Hills Arts Alliance, Emerald & District Lions Club &
Hills Community Gardens)

RSVP by 1st Aug

Light refreshments provided



Lions Emerald and District

Lions Emerald and District proudly celebrated 50 years of service to the area, Sunday, July 6, 2025, at Paradise Valley Hotel in Clematis. Marking five decades of transformative service to Emerald and surrounding communities, this historic milestone honours the club's enduring legacy, its visionary founders, and the inauguration of its 50th president.

Founded in 1975 by charter members including current member Pieter Castricum, whose shared vision established a cornerstone of community service. Since that time, the Lions Emerald and District Club has become a reliable and valued component of help, support, and community service in the district.



Guided by the Lions Clubs International motto, 'We Serve', the club has touched countless lives through its unwavering commitment to service. Championing a wealth of impactful initiatives and community projects.

At the 50th anniversary celebration Lions members offered a huge thank you to outgoing President Ray Spencer for his dedication to Lions and hard work before sharing in a heartfelt welcome ceremony installing the club's 50th President Dave Jordan. Dave shared his plans to guide the club into its next chapter. 'It is an immense honour to serve as the 50th president of the Lions Emerald and District Club stepping into the role after Ray Spencer is daunting, yet I am inspired to lead our continued mission of making a lasting impact in our district communities, particularly as I reflect on Pieter Castricum's remarkable vision, commitment and club achievements.'

The Lions Emerald and District changeover, chaired by local MP Daniela De Martino, also included in the distinguished crowd current and past members, as well as representatives from Lions Clubs across Victoria.

A particular highlight of the event was a moving tribute to Pieter Castricum, whose pioneering spirit sparked a legacy of service. Peter's work supported a showcase of the club's contributions to the district during its fifty years of service. Of noteworthy interest in the overview were testimonials from community members who have benefited from its service and programs.

In his address, outgoing President, Mr. Ray Spencer told those gathered, 'We are incredibly proud to celebrate 50 years of service, a journey that began when a small group of community members, included our much-valued Charter member Pieter, decided to become actively involved in helping our community thrive. Pieter and other Charter members shared an extraordinary vision, and we expect over his fifty years of service Pieter has remained proud of the many wonderful outcomes. This milestone reflects the dedication of our members and the unwavering support of the Emerald and District communities to Lions.'



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Community Pharmacy Program

Daniela De Martino MP, Facebook.

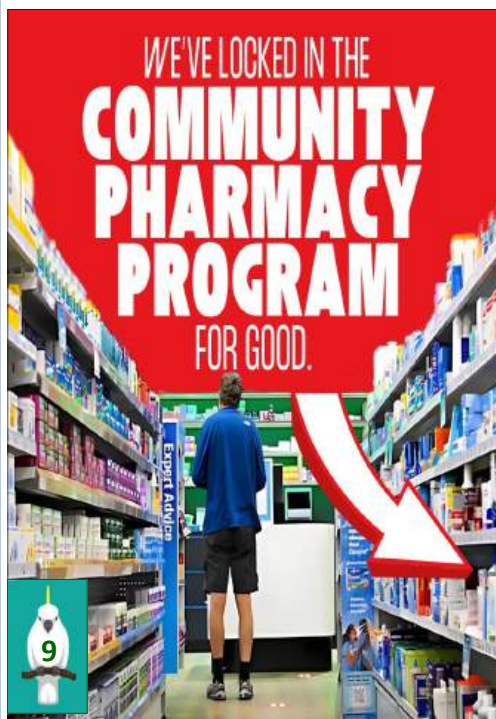
Our Victorian Government is continuing to support accessible, affordable healthcare in local communities by making the successful Community Pharmacist Pilot a permanent Program from 1 July 2025.

Under the expanded program:

- Pharmacists will continue offering services to treat UTIs, skin conditions, the resupply of oral contraceptives, and the range of vaccines treatments first introduced through the pilot.
- Over the next two years, up to 22 health conditions and well-being services will be available through community pharmacies.
- Most consultations will remain free, to ensure services remain accessible.

These changes are part of our Government's ongoing commitment to strengthening primary care, reducing pressure on GPs, and improving health access across Victoria.

It means more support for our pharmacists, less waiting for patients, and better outcomes for everyone.



Gembrook Spuds

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

Gembrook has always been associated with Potatoes. In 1877, the Blackhouse Brothers were digging 5 tons of Potatoes to the acre. This was only 4 years after Settlement began in 1873. (Casey-Cardinia –links to our past: The year of the potato) Once Puffing Billy came to Gembrook, it made transportation of potatoes a lot easier. Despite the claims by those engaged in the Timber industry, potatoes played a part in the opening of the railway.

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

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

The main growers at this time were Messers- Byrcholl Bros., V.Carter, J. Deeble, J. Turnbull, J. Hamilton, J.Jones, J. Kelly, M.D Night, J. Monsergh, F. Onley, J.Quigley, E. Riepel, J.Tate, J.Twyford and son, J. Ure Senior and J. Ure Junior. The varieties being grown were, Carman No1, Manistee, Clark’s main crop, Snowflake and Up to date.

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

It was at this time, and into the early 40’s that many Italians came into the area. They were referred to as “Enemy Aliens”.In 1942, it was reported in The Healesville and Yarra Glen Guardian that in the Emerald district, which extended from Menzies Creek to Gembrook and included Monbulk, Cockatoo, Clematis and Macclesfield, that 122 Enemy Aliens, except for a dozen Albanians were Italian. 39 of the Enemy Aliens were growing potatoes. Those that were Naturalised were able to purchase lands, while others leased land to grow Potatoes. There was a lot of resentment towards the Italians during the war. Many Australians struggled watching the Italians becoming successful Potato Growers, while many of the locals were overseas fighting in the War. Others respected the Italians work ethic and admired their wives that worked alongside their husbands in the paddock.

Some of the Italians growing potatoes in that time were Savarino, Gallenti, Angelo and Phillip Falcone, Giuseppe Lamendola, Croce (Roger) Pantorno, Vincenzo Failla, Guiseppe Raciti, Filippo Pepi, Giuseppe Pavone, G. licciardi and Vincenzo Scacco. (Continued next page)



Gembrook Spuds (continued)

By Tina VS on the "Gembrook History" Facebook page.

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

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

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

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

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

Due to the money made in 1956, many farmers were able to update their equipment. They retired their horses and purchased tractors. Many farming techniques had to change. With the horses, the crops had to be planted across the paddocks. This made it easier for the horses to pull the implements. With Tractors, they had to plant up and down the paddocks. This made it easier to control the implements and reduced the risk of rolling tractors etc on the slopes. (Tina commented "I don't feel right taking all the credit . Julian Dyer and my dad Joe Pantorno helped greatly and Michelle Granieri provided many of the photos.)

To be continued next month.

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TERM 3 SCHEDULE

FRIDAYS

AUG 8TH

Murder Mystery

Get your investigator brain on. 7-9pm Cost: \$5

AUG 15TH

St Luke's Hang Out

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

AUG 22ND

Rollerama @ Scoresby

Rollerskating fun. 6.30-10pm Cost: \$15

AUG 29TH

Youth Take Over

Yr 10-12's planned activities. 7-9pm Cost: \$5

SEP 5TH

Movie Making Masterpieces

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

SEP 12TH

St Luke's Hang Out

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

St Lukes, 1 McBride st. Cockatoo. Driveway beside the creek.WWW.STLUKESATCOCKATOO.COM.AU/YOUTHYOUTH@STLUKESATCOCKATOO.COM.AU[STLUKESATCOCKATOOYOUTH](https://www.instagram.com/STLUKESATCOCKATOOYOUTH)

Cockatoo Over50's

At the Cockatoo Over 50's Centre

Alma Treloar Reserve Pakenham Rd. Cockatoo.

AUGUST

4th. A.G.M. 11.00am 12.30 HIGH TEA for members only.

11th Craft with Marg and Marty. Bring your own lunch

18th Guest Speaker Tracey on Hill's NILS. Free event

All community welcome 1.00pm

25th. Outing - lunch at Meat and Dumplings.

Meditation with Danny & Chris. - 0412468867.

Wednesdays \$10.00 a session

10.00 - 12.00

Podiatrist appointments-


Please phone Dot - 0400070197

Next appointment at Over 50's centre is September 17 th

Chair Pilates every Friday 10.00 - 10.45. with Jeanette. Feel free to walk in and join us. \$7.00 a week and an annual Associate membership \$6.00.



BEGINNERS LINE DANCING - Tuesday 10.00 - 11.30. with Kathy Smith as teacher. To join class ring Dot 0400 070 197 or send an SMS to the number. Feel free to walk in and join us. \$6.00 a week and annual Associate membership. \$6.00.



At Healesville Sanctuary in Victoria, sniffer dogs Kip the kelpie and Moss the labrador are helping track vulnerable platypuses by riding paddle boards with their handlers.

Nicknamed the “paddle pups,” the duo detects platypus scent in rivers, aiding scientists in locating the elusive species. With platypuses listed as vulnerable or endangered in parts of Australia, this innovative conservation method offers hope for better protection and research.

lazett



Sniffer Dogs on Paddle Boards Are Helping Scientists Track Vulnerable Platypuses in the Wild

HillsNews. Online at www.3781news.com

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



COCKATOO SUNDAY MUSIC SESSIONS

Presented by:

JOSE & FRIENDS & COCKATOO RSL

COCKATOO RSL
SUB BRANCH



3rd August



Edward Nass



Tim Hannan



Julia Michelle



OPEN MIC

10th August

17th August



Peter



Mark Gardner



Beyond the Sea

31st August



Mark and Co.



L'n'L



In Harmony

Cockatoo Community Childcare

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**Cockatoo Community Childcare
has opened up Kindergarten enrolments for 2026.**

- All inclusive weekly incursions/excursions
ie. mobile library, bush kinder, sports program
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programming
- Priority of access offered to funded kinder children and their siblings
- Convenience of kindergarten integrated into long daycare, beneficial
for working families
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credit

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🌐 <https://www.cockatoocommunitychildcare.com.au/>

✉ cockatoo.community.cc@kindergarten.vic.gov.au



Nominate a young person for Cardinia Shire's Good Choice Awards

Published: 7 July 2025

Nominations are now open for the Cardinia Shire Council's annual Good Choice Awards.

The Good Choice Awards recognise and celebrate young people aged 12-24 who demonstrate resilience, kindness, and strength in their decision-making throughout 2024.

This might include prioritising study, applying for a job, making informed choices about their health and safety, accessing support networks, prioritising life goals and aspirations, choosing to spend time with positive influences, and engaging in school or returning to study with confidence.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik is encouraging everyone to nominate a young person who has made some great choices this year.

"I'm always amazed by the drive and good decisions our young people show. It's awesome to have a chance to celebrate their bold moves towards achieving their dreams," said Mayor Kowarzik.

Nominations for the Good Choice Awards close on Monday, 4 August. Council will hold a celebratory event in September to recognise all the young people nominated for a Good Choice Award.

To nominate a young person, go to <https://forms.office.com/r/ywEBsdfmMN>

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

**No referral needed.
Just call 1300 033 224** ❤️





3 things you can do to keep your kids safe

1. Prepare them to travel independently in your neighbourhood

It's important to make sure your child is ready to walk to school, their friend's house or around your neighbourhood without you.

We have developed a fun and interactive e-learning journey, called [Safer in the Community](#) that you and your child can do together. Start today at [Neighbourhood Watch 4 Kids](#) or share with friends and family.

2. Set ground rules for your kids online activity

Have kids use their devices in a shared room and make sure they know to get your permission before using online chat rooms or messenger apps, posting or sending photos of themselves, giving out their surname, school or phone number or meeting up with someone they've only chatted with online. Turn off location info and caller ID on their devices and show them how to use the privacy settings on their social media accounts.

3. Teach them to shout loudly when a stranger calls

If your child is home alone and a stranger knocks on the door, tell them to yell loudly, "Mum, there's someone at the door!" Most burglars will knock first, to see if anyone is home and only break in if no one answers. A good way to see if your child is ready to be home alone is to start with a short test run of around 15 to 30 minutes and slowly build up to longer periods.



Australian Koala Foundation

This September, our organisation is preparing for 30 days of engaging and informative Koala-related activities to help spread awareness of our four decade-long battle to save the flora and fauna of the Australia bush.

Save the Koala Month is our annual worldwide event to share our work with children and adults who are passionate about educating themselves about Koalas and their habitat. We've been celebrating this event since 1989 to raise funds for our Foundation's important

work. AKF is one of the very charities that does not take government funding, enabling us to speak freely for the Koala.



Deborah Tabart OAM, Chair of the Australian Koala Foundation, says: "Save the Koala Month is all about helping Koalas in fun and friendly ways! Every little action big or small can make a big difference for our furry friends."

We are calling on all kids and adults to accept the mission at hand -
Become a Koala Guardian this September!

There are numerous ways that both Australians and supporters abroad can get involved in our Save the Koala Month festivities.

- Planting trees for Koala habitat via the AKF Plant a Tree Program.
- Support an adult or joey Koala through our Adopt a Koala Program
- Ordering a donation box for your school, workplace or local shop
- Hosting fundraisers such as a Koala Cake Stall, Koala Karaoke, Trivia Nights and more
- Sharing knowledge by educating others about Koala facts
- Joining the Koala Army to be a voice for change, writing to the Prime Minister or the Environmental Minister, urging them to support the future of our Koalas by enacting the Koala Protection Act.

The Australian Koala Foundation are counting down the days until September — it's time to stand up and fight for the future of the Australian bush.

Emerald Ladies Probus Club

After enjoying a fun filled get together for our Christmas in July lunch and our morning tea and a wander around the Old Cheese Factory in Berwick last month, we're looking forward to more outings and activities in August.

- Nosh & Natter lunch at "Seasons at Cloudehill" in Olinda
 - Walk and morning tea at Lilydale Lake
 - Titanic - A Voyage Through Time; a stunning virtual reality experience
 - 1812 Theatre production of "Home, I'm Darling"
- The art of Annemieke Mein Exhibition at Box Hill Town Hall



We will again be running our own Emerald Ladies Probus Show in September when our members will display their creations. Our recent monthly craft sessions included a watercolour painting class enjoyed by our budding artists and an exquisite "Cut & Tuck" craft using paper to create bookmarks, cards and 3D shapes.

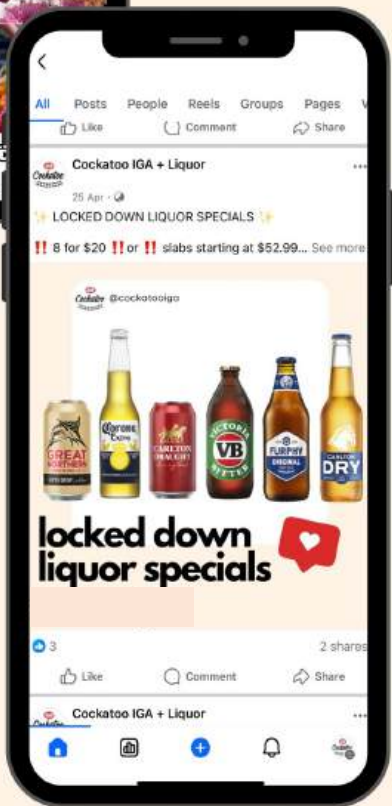
A recent guest speaker at our monthly meeting was Helen Comport who was awarded an OAM this year's King's Birthday honours for her involvement in Quilts of Valour, an organisation that creates and awards quilts to Veterans and immediate families of Defence Personnel and Veterans who have passed. Helen brought along some amazing quilts. If you are interested you can learn more about this wonderful organisation at quiltservalour.com.au



If you like the sound of our activities and are retired or semi-retired, why not come along to a meeting to find out more. We meet at 10:00am on the third Monday of each month at the Emerald RSL. This month our guest speaker will be Andrew Gardner from the Bendigo Bank with a presentation about online banking safety. You can find more information on our website by scanning the QR code or contact Michelle on 5968 4922.

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Help shape our roadmap to better local infrastructure with the draft Road Management Plan

Cardinia Shire Council is seeking feedback on the draft 2025-29 Road Management Plan, which is now available for review on Creating Cardinia.

The proposed Road Management Plan (RMP) outlines the standards and level of service provided in maintaining the roads, footpaths, bridges and shared paths that are managed by Council.

The plan outlines the requirements for Council to proactively and reactively inspect, service and manage Council-managed infrastructure assets, including how often inspections will occur and how quickly Council will respond to reports.

Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik is urging the community to have their say on the draft Road Management Plan to help inform its direction and overall implementation. "Council manages an expansive road network which extends over 1600kms from the flats through our growth corridor and up into the Hills. We know that there is a lot of work to be done on our local roads and infrastructure, and we are committed to making improvements to keep the community moving."

Under the Road Management Act 2004 and Road Management Act (General) Regulations 2016, each Council must review its Road Management Plan every 4 years following a local government election. The review ensures the RMP aligns with current legal standards and community needs.

The Road Management Plan sets maximum timeframes for repairs based on the severity of the issue and the classification of the road. While works are sometimes completed earlier for efficiency or asset preservation, Council must follow the RMP's timelines to ensure consistency and legal compliance.

"We want to hear from you to understand how we can best service our local infrastructure in your interest. Your feedback will be vital to help inform the final Road Management Plan." Mayor Kowarzik said.

Community consultation is now open and will close on **Tuesday 19 August 2025**. Council will then review the community feedback before finalising the plan for consideration at the October 2025 Council meeting.

To have your say on Council's proposed Road Management Plan, visit Council's Creating Cardinia website at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

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Power Up Your Savings with Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits

Published: 3 July 2025

Residents of Cardinia Shire can now take practical steps towards reducing household energy costs and environmental impacts with the help of free Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits.

These kits are developed in partnership with the Energy Innovation Cooperative and available through local Myli libraries, designed to help households assess and improve their energy and water efficiency. With tools like a Power-Mate energy meter, thermal imaging camera, and water flow measuring cup, residents can identify areas for improvement and make small changes with big savings.

The kits are available to borrow free of charge with an adult library membership through Myli's Library of Things program. They are ideal for anyone looking to make their home more comfortable, reduce utility bills, and lower emissions.

This initiative is part of Cardinia Shire Council's broader commitment to environmental sustainability, which includes resources like the [Home Energy Improvement Handbook](#) developed in partnership with Federation University.

To learn more or find your nearest participating library, visit: [Home Energy and Water Efficiency Kits - Cardinia Shire Council](#)



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Cardinia Shire.



Community feedback invited on key strategic documents. Published: 22 July 2025

Council is inviting feedback on the draft Council Plan 2025–29 and updated Liveability Plan 2017–29 as part of the final phase of community consultation in the development of these key documents.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzick said the Council Plan was Council's overarching strategic document that would drive Council's direction for the next four years and support Council to deliver on its commitment to the community.

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

"As one of Victoria's fastest growing municipalities, it's important that we plan for our future to ensure our Shire remains a great place to live, work and play. This draft Council Plan outlines our approach to respond to the Shire's rapid growth and challenges over the coming years, and will support us to deliver on our commitment to the community."

The draft Council Plan is underpinned by five strategic objectives: Thriving communities, Vibrant places, Adaptive environments, Prosperous economies
Responsible leaders

The strategic objectives have been informed by priorities identified by the Community Panel during the deliberative engagement process earlier this year. The panel reviewed and updated the Community Vision 2040 and identified a number of key focus areas that have helped to inform the strategic objectives.

A series of strategies and initiatives have been developed to achieve each of these strategic objectives, with strategic indicators to measure how they will be achieved by Council. The initiatives include tangible actions that will help Council meet community needs over the coming four years and beyond. Below are examples of initiatives under each of the strategic objectives: Develop and implement a Volunteers' Strategy to support volunteers and encourage volunteer participation. Plan and deliver accessible and inclusive recreation and community facilities. Develop a Towards Zero Emissions Plan to ensure progress towards zero emissions and carbon neutrality, and implement the plan. Conduct a comprehensive gap analysis of community and human services, education and skills, with recommendations to support advocacy and funding to attract service providers to operate in Cardinia Shire. Provide opportunities for meaningful, informed and representative community engagement to guide Council's decision-making.

You can view and provide feedback on the draft Council Plan 2025–29 and updated Liveability Plan 2017-29 on Council's Creating Cardinia website at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay
Consultation closes on 19 August.

GEM CRETE
CONCRETE AND EXCAVATIONS

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LOCATED IN GEMBROOK

**SHED AND HOUSE SLABS
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CONCRETE
EXCAVATIONS**



National Parks need targeted feral deer control not ad-hoc hunting



Victorian Protected Areas Council

Experienced park rangers and managers have described Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos' decision to allow more recreational deer hunting in East Gippsland national parks as an attack on the very values of these precious areas.

The Victorian Protected Areas Council, a professional body of former senior park staff, is encouraging the State Government to reconsider last Friday's announcement.

"Feral deer are a serious threat to our national parks and professional and targeted control programs are needed, not unplanned recreational hunting," Victorian Protected Areas Council President Felicity Brooke said.

This decision requires amending the National Parks Act 1975 but was announced last Friday by the Minister, despite it not being permitted under the current Greater Alps National Parks Management Plan, and without any apparent consultation with stakeholders, other than deer hunters.

It is also not recommended in the State Government's Eastern Victoria Deer Control Plan 2023-2028. It is further evidence that the Victorian Government refuses to acknowledge that feral deer are a serious pest in this State, threatening the environment, agriculture and road safety.

There is no evidence that recreational hunting controls feral deer populations. The National Feral Deer Action Plan states: *"Recreational hunting programs are not containing feral deer or reducing feral deer population growth and has been shown to have little impact on population growth."*

The Victorian Government is putting the interests of deer hunters above those of park visitors that come to Errinundra and Snowy River national parks to connect with nature, camp in peaceful bush campgrounds, fish, swim and paddle along wild rivers and walk in majestic forests. The last thing they want is to encounter other visitors with high powered firearms, camo gear and hear gun shots. Tensions between deer hunters and other visitors already occur in parks where deer hunting is allowed.

"There is ample opportunity for deer hunting in State Forests; people need a place to go where they can feel safe and enjoy nature without firearms," Ms Brooke said.

"Feral deer control is vital, but it needs to be carefully planned, managed and timed. The Sporting Shooters Association already provides experienced hunters to support Parks Victoria's deer control programs, working with professional controllers, which the Victorian Protected Areas Council supports.

"We encourage the Victorian Government to reconsider this decision and focus on properly funded and managed feral deer control in our national parks, while considering the enjoyment of parks by visitors."

Media Enquiries:

Felicity Brooke - VPAC President 0428 174 875



EMERALD
SECONDARY COLLEGE



SEAL Program Tours for 2026 Enrolments!

We're excited to offer SEAL program tours for families considering enrolment in 2026.

These tours are a great opportunity to learn more about the program and how it supports high-achieving students.

**Tours will run every Friday during Term 3 from
9:30–10:30am.**

<https://forms.office.com/r/cfdiLSjLhf>

Bookings are essential – secure your place via the link.

Pygama Party! Friday 29th August from 7pm till late.

To say goodbye to winter, we are having a pyjama party. This an evening to dress up nice and warm in Pj's, dressing gowns, slippers and be creative with your choice of outfit.

Note: this is a pyjama party NOT what you do or don't wear to bed party
Kitchen will be open for yummy food and snacks.



Each year the Cockatoo Over 50's members celebrate CHRISTMAS IN JULY and we again enjoyed a beautiful meal at the Rose Cottage Restaurant in Monbulk. Thirty members met and enjoyed a fun day.



3781
Needlework
REGISTER YOUR INTEREST!

To be involved in a Cockatoo community needlework project
*Cockatoo*Fielder*Nangana*Mt Burnett

Cockatoo Over 50's received a grant from Cardinia Shire and our Cockatoo Community Market to do a needlework project that depicts Cockatoo features, homes & community buildings. We are now heading into the community stage where locals can use their needlework prowess to do a section of panel No 1. Project is to start in September 2025
If you would like to be involved please either email to - 3781.needlework@gmail.com
or - fill in the below details and drop into the Brunch on McBride in the 3781 letterbox.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

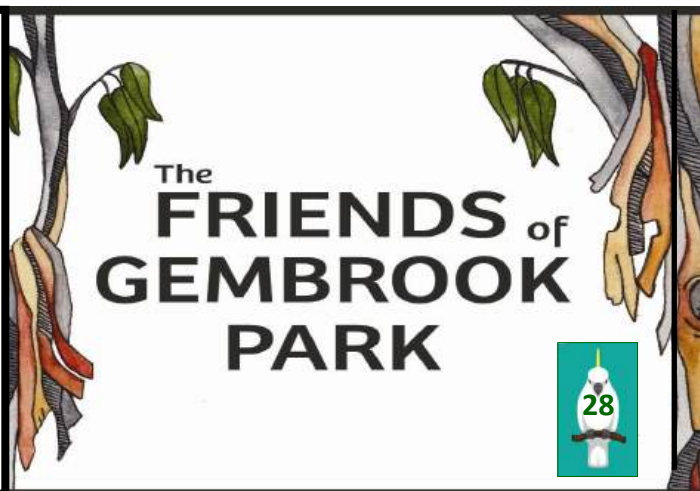
Escape Room + 1 \$38.25 per 4+: \$29.25
Activity person each

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

**'Friends of Gembrook
 Park'**

is a community based
 group of volunteers ded-
 icated to its conserva-
 tion whilst actively in-
 volved in its ongoing
 maintenance.

See our Facebook page
 for details.



Living at Home for Longer @ Emerald Library

Wednesday, August 6, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM (Australia (Melbourne) Time)

Emerald Library - Myli - My Community Library • Emerald VIC



- Find out how to maintain your independence and stay at home longer.
- Find out about government subsidies for support services.
- And much more!



'LIVING AT HOME FOR LONGER'

SEMINAR



**EMERALD
LIBRARY**

**WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 6,
@ 10 AM**



Calling all former footballers *and* netballers

Past Players Reunion



Round 17: Gembrook vs Wandin

Saturday 16th August

From 1:00 PM

Gembrook Sports Ground



Light refreshments



Club memorabilia on display



- Let's honour the past, cheer on the present, and celebrate our club's proud legacy!



Gembrook Craft Group



Wet felted Pods/Bowls/Hats Workshop

Come and learn how to wet felt a pod or a bowl or a hat to wear. Same technique for each.

Saturday 9th August, 10 - 2pm at Gembrook Craft Cottage, 3 Redwood Road, Gembrook. Cost \$40 . All materials supplied.

Please email gembrookcraftgroup@gmail.com for registration form and payment details.

Dyeing To Knit Workshop

Barbara and Ria will show how to dye a skein of yarn ready to knit, using commercial dyes. This will include overdyeing a coloured skein or ball of yarn. There will be an opportunity for participants to dye a small sample to take home.

Wednesday. 13th August, 10 - 12 pm at Gembrook Craft Cottage, 3 Redwood Road, Gembrook . Cost \$20. Limit 6 participants.

Please email gembrookcraftgroup@gmail.com for a registration form and payment details.



Help shape Council's next Onsite Wastewater Management Plan Published: 14 July 2025

Cardinia Shire Council is developing a new Onsite Wastewater Management Plan.

The Onsite Wastewater Management Plan helps to protect our health and environment by ensuring onsite wastewater management systems, including septic tanks, are correctly installed, managed and maintained.

To enhance the approach to wastewater management, Council is seeking community feedback to understand residents' experiences and priorities regarding wastewater management.

The Onsite Wastewater Management Plan, previously known as the Domestic Wastewater Management Plan, outlines how Council manages risks associated with wastewater from homes not connected to a municipal sewer system and: Assesses the risks to human health and the environment posed by onsite wastewater systems. This includes the risk to groundwater and surface water from existing and future systems, and the risk of existing systems that are, or could be discharging beyond the property boundaries . Identifies actions and timeframes to improve the management of these systems and minimise the risks. Manages non-compliance and what their enforcement approach is.

Wastewater includes greywater from baths, showers, sinks and kitchens, and blackwater from toilets, and encompasses residential, commercial and industrial properties that are not connected to the reticulated sewerage system commonly known as the sewerage mains. From 14 July to 4 August, Council will be engaging with residents to gather insights, ideas, and experiences that will help shape the new plan. Council wants to understand what obstacles may be present for residents who have access to the reticulated sewerage system but have not connected. During this phase of engagement, Council is specifically seeking feedback from residents currently using septic tank systems to understand more about their issues and experiences. This is an opportunity for community members to voice their thoughts on how Council manages the risks from wastewater across the shire.

This initial idea-gathering consultation will play a crucial role in shaping the draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan, which the community will have the chance to provide feedback on in late 2025. Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik encourages all community members to share their feedback to help shape the new plan.

"We want to hear from our community, especially residents who currently have septic tank systems on their property. Your ideas and experiences are invaluable in helping us develop an effective and sustainable onsite wastewater management strategy," said Mayor Kowarzik. "By working together, we can create a plan that not only meets regulatory standards and protects our local environment, but also reflects the needs of our community."

To participate in the conversation, share thoughts, and stay updated on upcoming engagement activities, visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay



1st Cockatoo Scout Group

75 Pakenham Road, Cockatoo, Vic 3781
PO Box 392, Cockatoo, Vic, 3781
1stcockatoo@gmail.com



Annual Reports and Presentations

You are invited to the 1st Cockatoo Scout Group Annual Reports and Presentations night (ARAP).

We would love to see you there as we share what the group has been doing, how we are developing and planning ahead.

As a valued supporter of our Scout Group, we welcome any reports or input that you may want to contribute with on the night. Please advise us of this when you RSVP.

Date: Wednesday 6th August 2025

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Allan Bailey Scout Hall, 75 Pakenham Road Cockatoo

RSVP: 1stcockatoo@gmail.com

RSVP date: 1st August 2025

Finger food as well as hot & cold drinks will be available.



CELEBRATE SCIENCE WEEK US!

**HARRY POTTER
SCIENCE!**

EMERALD LIBRARY **MONDAY 4TH AUGUST**
@ 4-5PM

AGES 5+
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL





HN33

Image Muzza Holmes .

GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



celebrating



Colin Bastow

100

GAMES

GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



celebrating



Joshua Tilly

100

GAMES

GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



celebrating



Benjamin Schultze

50

GAMES

GEMBROOK-COCKATOO FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



celebrating



Kayla South

50

GAMES

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE DANDENONG RANGES

MASS SCHEDULE

Sacred Heart Church, Gembrook:

95/93 Main St, Gembrook, VIC 3783

Sunday: 9 a.m.

4th Sunday: Anointing of the sick in the mass

St. Thomas More Church, Belgrave:

15-17 Terrys Avenue, Belgrave Victoria 3160

Monday to Sunday: 9 a.m.

1st Friday: Anointing of sick

St. Paul's Church, Monbulk:

59 Moores Road, Monbulk Victoria 3793

Sunday: 11 a.m.

4th Sunday: Anointing of the sick in the mass

St. Joseph's Church, Emerald:

Emerald - Monbulk Rd & Cornish Rd, Melbourne Victoria 3782

Saturday: 6 p.m. Vigil Mass

1st Saturday: Anointing of the sick in the mass



Professional excavation services

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Skin Needling

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Lash Lift

Brow Lamination

Brow Shaping



TUNE IN GROUP MUSIC

NEW - SATURDAY LESSONS!



***Currently offering Small Group Singing classes;
Teaching Kids and Teens to use their Voice as an Instrument***

- ☒ All Abilities Welcome!
- ☒ Real Musical Tuition = Real Results
- ☒ Low cost -\$20 per 1 hour session
- ☒ Building confidence, engaging body, mind and creativity through singing while developing social connections
- ☒ Wide variety of repertoire and education in various genres
- ☒ Performance opportunities
- ☒ Experienced and qualified vocal coach and choir leader with classical, contemporary and ESTILL Voice qualifications



Your teacher: Dalys Mithen



www.dalysmusic.com.au

www.facebook.com/tuneingroupmusic

**Emerald, VIC - Thursdays 5:30pm OR
Saturdays 3:00pm (separate classes)
during school terms**

***BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL!**

Sealing the way to better local roads in the Hills

Published: 14 July 2025

Works are now underway on Cardinia Shire Council's final Sealing the Hills catchments in Beaconsfield Upper and Emerald.

Sealing works are now underway on the Stoney Creek and Old Gembrook catchments, which include Burton Road, Morris Road, and Young Street in Beaconsfield Upper and Durban Road, Old Gembrook Road and Sherriff Road in Emerald.

The works are jointly funded by the Australian Government and via Special Charge Schemes, and will include:

- pavement construction
- kerb and channel construction
- drainage improvement works
- vehicle and pedestrian crossing upgrades
- nature strip improvements
- signage

line-marking



Sealing the Hills is a vital infrastructure program that has helped improve the connectivity of the existing road network, road safety and access, and provide a more efficient and comfortable journey for all road users and the residents and community within the Dandenong Ranges and its surrounds.

Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik is pleased to see sealing works start on these local roads, "We understand how important these sealing works are to the development of the existing townships in the Hills and improving community safety and access to community facilities and amenities."

"While there is still more to be done to improve local roads around the shire, as over 50% are currently unsealed, every road sealed or upgraded is a step in the right direction."

"Council is committed to improving our road network and we are continuing to advocate for infrastructure funding, finding alternative ways to seal local roads and building a better Cardinia for the future." Mayor Kowarzik said.

Construction is expected to be completed on the Stoney Creek catchment by October 2025, and works are expected to be completed on the Old Gembrook catchment by the end of November 2025, conditions permitting.

For more information on major projects being completed around the shire, please visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/bettercardinia



The Norris's saved \$5,772 last year on their home loan!*

All over Australia, homeowners are saving money with a free home loan health check.

How much could you save?

📍 Community Bank · Emerald & District 5968 8831



*Amount saved was annual payments reduction on an owner-occupier home loan when repayments dropped by \$481 a month from lower interest rate and loan restructure. Actual savings will depend on individual circumstances. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply and are subject to change. Credit provided by Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 Australian Credit Licence 237879, A1963171. OUT_42887698, 21/01/2025

Join the Term 3 Youth Program

Published: 14 July 2025

Young people aged 12 to 24 are invited to participate in Cardinia Shire Council's Term 3 Youth Program, which offers various activities to help young people develop friendships, skills, and confidence

The Youth Term Program runs from Monday, 21 July to Friday, 19 September, and supports young people to connect with peers in a safe and positive environment. Each term, the council's Youth Services team schedules a variety of engaging activities to help young people connect with like-minded peers of a similar age in a safe and supportive environment.

This term's program includes: **Sports-Fest:** An after-school sports program for ages 12 to 17. **Young Parents Group:** A fun and supportive social group for young parents and their children up to 24 years. **Amplify Committee:** A fortnightly catch-up where young people aged 15 to 24 get involved in planning and hosting local drug, alcohol, and smoke-free events for young people. **Creative Cooking Class:** This class is perfect for 12 to 17-year-olds to help improve their cooking skills and learn to prepare a delicious dish each week.

Friday Fun: Youth aged 12-17 are invited to chill with the Youth Team every Friday afternoon for awesome games, activities, and free food.

All activities are supervised and adhere to a strict drug, alcohol, vape, and smoking-free policy to ensure a safe space for all participants. Limited spots are available for each program, so we encourage early booking to avoid disappointment.

For more information or to book your spot, visit cardinia.vic.gov.au/youthprograms

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Cardinia

Cardinia Shire Council



Dress to impress

ROCK

Rock and Roll nights at Cockatoo RSL

With DJ John. Sat 30th August, Sat 25th October

ROLL



Top Win Tennis Academy
Give Tennis A Try For Free
At Cockatoo Tennis Club
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topwintennisacademy.com



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CARE**

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OUTBACK ARBORISTS

FREE QUOTES!

Lithium-ion Battery Safety Awareness



Many preventable house fires occur in Cardinia Shire every year and lithium-ion battery failure as a cause, is becoming more common. Lithium-ion batteries are a type of rechargeable battery which are available in different sizes. Most laptops, mobile phones, e-bikes, e-scooters, power banks and power tools contain them. Risks and injuries from product - Lithium-ion batteries can be highly flammable, can be very difficult to extinguish and may reignite. The ACCC saw a 92% increase in reported lithium-ion battery incidents including swelling, overheating and fires in 2022 compared to 2020. If a lithium-ion battery is not correctly manufactured, handled, stored, charged or disposed of, it can catch fire, explode or vent toxic gas. Things to look for when buying - There isn't a mandatory safety standard for lithium-ion batteries or products containing them. Ensure you buy products that contain lithium-ion batteries from a reputable supplier and always follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.



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 🌻🌺



0448 170 026



AUGUST IS DENTAL MONTH

Book your pet in for
a dental in August
to receive 15% off
the dental fee*



CALL US ON 5926-5028

Local farmers



Cardinia Shire Council is inviting farming community to join them for a social catch-up and information session.

Come along and hear from soil health expert Dr. Mary Cole and Marshall Scott from NEX Business Farming and Wellness.

Chat with representatives from AgVic and Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF).
Enjoy refreshments and dinner. No cost or registration required.

For more information, please email a.groves@cardinia.vic.gov.au or call 5945 3690.

Date

Venue Wednesday 13 August - Doors opening at 6pm. Dinner and guest presentations from 6:30pm
Venue: Cora Lynn Recreation Reserve, Corner Nine Mile Road and Bunyip River Road, Cora Lynn (access is off Bunyip River Road) (Walter Berger Facebook)

Cockatoo and District Bowls Club



Cockatoo and District Bowls Club is a local, member driven club in Cockatoo. The Club is committed to providing a healthy, family friendly environment for local residents to enjoy playing Lawn Bowls.

There are several ways you can become involved with this great game. We partner with u3a Emerald to run a Social Bowls afternoon on Mondays. For the family we have Barefoot Bowls on Friday evenings during Daylight Savings. Thursday afternoon for Social and Pennant practice, coaching available.

For those keen on playing competitively we enter teams in both Saturday and Tuesday competitions, organised by Bowls Victoria. Pennant season begins mid October and ends mid February, with a months break over Christmas.

Looking for a venue for a Birthday, Fundraising event or Christmas party? We have a Function room (capacity 70), kitchen and a staffed Licensed Bar with the added attraction of a Bowls green and Club Members to show your guests the basics of the game.

At Cockatoo Bowls we pride ourselves on the open and friendly atmosphere created by our members, and encourage anyone with an interest in Bowls to contact the Club. cockatoobowlsclub@outlook.com 0439 151 006 Robert Whimpey.



Market Dates for the rest of the year 2025

9am to 2pm 4th Sunday of the Month



24th August
28th September
26th October
23rd November

Save them to your calendar now

Cockatoo RSL presents

BINGO!

Mondays

at Gembrook RSL

49 Main St Gembrook.



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



Cockatoo RSL (sub branch)

Local Container Returning point.



RockN Roll Night
Saturday 30
August



Pool Comp.
Sat 16th August 7pm
start. 16 only.



Poker Night.
Sat. 9th August
7pm Start.



UNO Comp
Friday 8th August
7pm start.



Darts Comp.
Friday 22nd August



Karaoke with Shelley
Sat.2nd August.



COCKATOO RSL SUNDAY MUSIC SESSIONS

FROM 2PM EVERY SUNDAY

FREE ADMISSION