

# A second college campus

Community College Gippsland (CCG) has announced the opening of a second campus in Pakenham at the Toomah Community Centre.

The Toomah campus will accommodate the senior students of CCG's independent school ECG Secondary College (ECG).

ECG has operated a senior campus for years 11 and 12 students in Pakenham for over a decade.

By relocating the Year 11 and 12 to the larger facilities at Toomah, it allows ECG to accommodate additional senior students.

The existing campus at 126 Princes Highway will then be freed up to commence delivery to year 9 and 10 students during term 2 of 2025.

"We are committed to providing an inclusive and supportive learning environment that empowers young people with the skills and confidence to thrive," said CEO of CCG, Dale Gemmell.

"This expansion to the Toomah Community Centre strengthens our ability to offer high-quality, student-centred education that aligns with our vision to positively change lives and enhance social inclusion through the transformative power of education."

The curriculum at ECG promotes resilience, confidence, health, wellbeing and practical life skills.

For years 11 and 12, ECG continues to offer strong connections to the four pillars of applied learning through experiential learning opportunities.

The middle school program for years 9 and 10 will provide project-based learning aligned with the Victorian Curriculum, ensuring a dynamic and interactive educational experience.

ECG will also co-locate with the Windermere Child and Family Services and the Lime Box Cafe & Food Hub at the Toomah Community Centre.

Windermere is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of children and young people, while the Lime Box Cafe & Food Hub provides youth training and employment opportunities in food and catering.



From left: Cardinia Shire Council's Coordinator - Connected Communities, Nat Noonan, Council Property Officer, Erin Moore, CEO of Community College Gippsland, Dale Gemmell, Cardinia Shire Mayor, Jack Kowarzik, ECG Secondary College Principal, Russel Praetz, Pakenham Campus Principal, Eamon Hatley-Smith, Limebox Cafe and Food Hub Owner-Operator, Cher Spratt and Windermere Child and Family Services CEO, Dr Lynette Buoy. (Supplied)

"The opportunity to work alongside Windermere and Lime Box Cafe will enhance the educational experience for our students," said Principal of ECG, Russel Praetz.

"By being located next to these community services, our students will gain valuable, real-world skills that will support their future career and personal growth."

CCG worked with Cardinia Shire Council to secure a new campus.

"By equipping the next generation of workers and business owners with the skills they need,

CCG is not only enhancing the quality of local education but also improving the opportunities for our local workforce," Mayor Jack Kowarzik said.

"Council's part in this collaboration underscores our commitment to improving liveability within Cardinia Shire and the campus will have a positive impact on our local economy, ensuring a brighter future for all residents of Cardinia Shire,"

This strategic location aligns well with CCG's vision of promoting social inclusion and transforming lives through education.

Through these services, our students will gain valuable, lifelong skills for employment and support.

ECG looks forward to connecting with and further strengthening relationships within the Cardinia Shire community.

With enrolments now open, ECG is encouraging students and families to explore this opportunity.

To learn more or to apply, visit: [ecg.vic.edu.au/enrol-with-us/](http://ecg.vic.edu.au/enrol-with-us/) or contact 03 5622 6000 or [info@ecg.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@ecg.vic.gov.au).

## Wood pledges \$2.2m for Bunyip upgrade

Federal La Trobe MP Jason Wood announced that a Coalition Government will commit \$2.25 million towards major upgrades at Bunyip Recreation Reserve, ensuring the facility can continue to support local sporting clubs and the broader community.

The oval hosts 330 players training and competing each week and the current facilities are struggling to meet demand.

Mr Wood said the investment will deliver a much-needed oval upgrade, modern LED lighting, and brand-new social rooms—providing a safe, sustainable, and inclusive space for local athletes, supporters, and community groups.

"This investment will transform Bunyip Recreation Reserve into a first-class facility for players, families, and the broader community," Mr Wood said.

"Upgrading the oval, installing LED lighting, and building new social rooms will ensure the reserve can continue to be a sporting hub for



Jason Wood MP with members of Bunyip Football Club. (Supplied)

years to come."

This upgrade plans to deliver a new playing surface and improved drainage system to prevent flooding and maintain a high-quality field year-round. It will replace outdated halogen lights to improve safety, cut energy costs by 50%, and provide a more environmentally friendly solution.

There would be the construction of new social rooms to replace the existing, ageing clubhouse built in 1976.

This \$2.25 million commitment is dependent on the Coalition forming Government in the upcoming 2025 election to be held no later than May this year.



Jason Wood MP with Cardinia Storm Hockey Club. (Supplied)

## Hockey election promise

In another pledge for the upcoming federal election, La Trobe MP Jason Wood has promised \$237,500 for the Cardinia Storm Hockey Club.

The funding would go to lighting and facilities at the club's ground.

"This investment into our growing local sporting community ensures there will be a safe, modern and enjoyable space for both boys and girls to focus on their health and fitness while also growing their skill-sets with the guidance and support from coaches," read a post on Wood's facebook page.

If the Coalition successfully takes office in the next election, this funding will address court lighting, canteen facilities, spectator shelter, coaches boxes and spectator seating.

The pledge is determined on whether the Coalition forms government.

The next federal election is expected in May.

## Beaconhills student tackles constitution

From Tuesday to Thursday 25-27 March, Alexia Davitt from Beaconhills College will be among 120 Year 11 and 12 students from around Australia attending the 30th National Schools Constitutional Convention (NSCC), being held at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra.

The program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education (DOE), coordinated by National Curriculum Services (NCS) and supported by the education departments from all states and territories.

The topic for the 2025 Convention is, 'Revisiting Sections 51ii and 90 to Reimagine Australia's Fiscal Federalism.'

This topic will provide students with the opportunity to examine Sections 51ii and 90 of the Australian Constitution and the fiscal relations between the Commonwealth and the states.

A range of stimulus speakers will discuss the

issues with students for them to debate with all delegates. Emeritus Professor Clement Macintyre from the University of South Australia will facilitate the Convention.

Outcomes from the Convention will be incorporated into a Communique that will be presented to the President of the Senate, Senator The Hon Sue Lines, for tabling in Parliament and recorded in Hansard.

As a national delegate Alexia Davitt will travel with 24 other students from their state.

Other elements of the program will include the Prime Minister's Welcome Reception at Parliament House, a meeting with Governor-General Sam Mostyn AC at Government House, and an official dinner at the National Press Club.

Beaconhills College student Alexia Davitt. (Supplied)

