

Discover your passions

While many people are often defined by their jobs, it's the passions and volunteer work they pursue in their spare time that truly reveal who they are.

On Sunday 3 August, the Live Life Expo returns to the Cardinia Cultural Centre, proudly hosted by the Lakeside Residents Group.

This vibrant community event celebrates the diverse hobbies, lifestyles, and volunteer efforts that make Cardinia such a dynamic place to live. It brings together local businesses, community groups, charities, lifestyle organisations, and council services for a day filled with connection, discovery, and inspiration.

Visitors can meet and engage with enthusiastic locals involved in everything from cycling, quilting, to music, scouting, and beyond.

The expo runs from 10am to 3pm, with a \$5 entry fee. Don't miss out—showbags will be given to the first 100 attendees!



Lotti Kershaw - Officer City Soccer Club and Table Tennis Club attended the event last year.



Stefanie Sorrentino - Pakenham SES attended last year's event.



A few ECG Students joining Cardinia Shire Mayor, Cr Jack Kowarzik, Dr Lynette Buoy, CEO of Windermere, Eamon Hatley-Smith (ECG Pakenham Campus Principal), Russel Praetz (ECG Principal) and Dale Gemmell (CEO of CCG) for a photo.



Ribbon cutting (from left) Dale Gemmell (CEO of CCG), Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik, Dr Lynette Buoy, CEO of Windermere, Cher Spratt, Operations Manager of the Lime Box Cafe & Food Hub.

Official launch of ECG Secondary College at Toomah

Community College Gippsland (CCG) has officially launched a new senior campus for its independent school, ECG Secondary College, at the Toomah Community Centre in Pakenham. The milestone event was honoured with a Welcome to Country performed by Josh West from the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, paying respect to the Traditional Custodians of the land and recognising the significance of people, culture and connection in the educational journey.

ECG Secondary College (School No 2062) is an independent school, committed to supporting young people with alternative senior secondary education needs, through inclusive, practical and student-centred education. The new Toomah campus will accommodate senior students in Years 11 and 12, while ECG's existing Pakenham campus at 126 Princes Highway provides more space for Years 9 and 10.

"At ECG, we provide a welcoming environment where students can re-engage with their education, build confidence, social and life skills, and explore real pathways to further study or

meaningful employment," said Russel Praetz, Principal of ECG Secondary College. "Our approach is designed to meet students where they are, and support them to thrive."

Operating in Pakenham for more than a decade, ECG has supported senior secondary students through its applied learning approach. The new Toomah campus will allow more students to benefit from tailored education that promotes resilience, wellbeing and hands-on learning.

The relocation also brings the school into close proximity with two key community partners, Windermere Child and Family Services and the Lime Box Cafe & Food Hub, both co-located at the Toomah Community Centre. These organisations offer realworld learning and support experience for students and their families.

"Being co-located with community services like Windermere and the Lime Box Cafe gives our students access to real-world experiences that build both practical skills and personal growth," said Dale Gemmell, CEO of CCG. "This partnership model strengthens our commitment to social inclusion and ensures students are better

prepared for life beyond school."

Dr Lynette Buoy, CEO of Windermere, welcomed ECG's arrival to the centre:

"Windermere is excited to welcome ECG to the Toomah Community Centre in Pakenham. As a founding partner of Toomah, we've co-located with a number of organisations before and believe that ECG's work aligns well with our values and vision of a stronger, connected and supported community. We thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated being a part of ECG's launch event and look forward to sharing the space together."

The event was attended by Cardinia Shire Mayor Cr Jack Kowarzik, who welcomed the new campus to the thriving community, saying: "ECG's expansion and co-location with Windermere Child and Family Services and Limebox Cafe at Toomah Community Centre is a great outcome for students and our community."

"ECG is delivering high-quality education that not only meets our kids where they're at but also builds their confidence to pursue and transition to employment following their schooling," Mayor Kowarzik said.

"With more families choosing to live in Cardinia Shire every day, Council is working hard to foster and improve local access to quality education and employment opportunities for our local community. Supporting educational institutions like CCG to have a presence within our Shire is one way we're working together to support our diverse community, build connections, and boost opportunities for our local workforce."

This campus expansion reflects CCG's ongoing commitment to providing highquality, flexible, and inclusive education that transforms lives and strengthens communities.

By focusing on engagement, wellbeing, and practical learning, ECG is not only helping students finish school but also preparing them to step confidently into the future workforce and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Enrolments are now open, and ECG encourages students and families to explore this supportive, student-centred learning environment. For more information or to apply, visit <https://ecg.vic.edu.au/enrol-with-us/> or contact 03 5622 6000.