

City of Cockburn | October 2026

Soundings

Whadjuk Nyungar Boodjar



Cockburn's coastline is home to remarkable wildlife, page 4.

New verge collection zones in 2027, page 11.

Your favourite community festivals are back, page 14.

The City of Cockburn acknowledges we are on the Boodjar (country) of the Whadjuk Nyungar people.

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On the cover

A performer at last year's Mosaic Festival.

Stay Connected



Photo: Jo Binkin Photography.



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Message from the Mayor

As we welcome October, we also welcome Kambarang, the season of birth and renewal in the Nyungar calendar.

This edition of Soundings highlights some of the many people and initiatives that make Cockburn such a special place to live. From dedicated volunteer Lisa, who helps protect our turtles (read more on page 5) to the local residents keeping active through our Heart Foundation walking groups (page 7) to local Nyungar artist Sharyn Egan (page 8), these stories showcase the passion and community spirit that thrives here.

You can also read about the importance of caring for our coastline and protecting the natural environments that make where we live unique (page 4). As Kambarang brings renewed life to our bushland and wetlands, it is a timely reminder that we all have a role to play in preserving these places for future generations.

This issue also celebrates local sporting success through our community grants program, provides updates on important City projects out for comment, and offers a preview of the exciting events and activities planned for the season ahead. Whether you are looking to get involved or learn something new or simply enjoy spending time in our community, there is something for everyone.

I hope you enjoy this edition and I look forward to seeing many of you out and about during this beautiful season of renewal.

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Elected Members



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Read more about your Elected Members:

www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/ElectedMembers

Who lives on our coast and how can you help to keep them safe?

From the dunes to the waters of the Coogee Maritime Trail, Cockburn's coastline is home to remarkable wildlife. These animals rely on healthy coastal habitats to thrive. Meet some of your coastal neighbours and discover how you can help protect them.

Above the coast



Osprey

Ospreys usually mate for life and build large nests from sticks, seaweed and surprising items including shoes! The City's nesting pole in Coogee has helped raise multiple chicks.

How to protect them

- Dispose of rubbish properly
- Keep your distance from nesting areas
- Report injured birds to wildlife carers.

In the dunes



Dugite

Dugites are daytime hunters that use coastal dunes to bask and hunt for mice and lizards.

How to protect them

- Remain calm and slowly back away if you see one
- Allow it to move away naturally
- Never attempt to handle or harm wildlife.

Offshore



Dolphin

Dolphins are highly social animals that rub bellies, stroke each other with their fins and swim side by side.

How to protect them

- Stay at least 50m away
- Never feed dolphins
- Don't attempt to swim with them.

On the beach



Fairy tern

Fairy terns make simple nests directly on the sand using shells, pebbles and seaweed. Fewer than 3,000 breeding pairs remain in Western Australia.

How to protect them

- Observe fenced nesting areas from a distance
- Keep dogs away from nesting sites
- Watch where you walk on the beach.

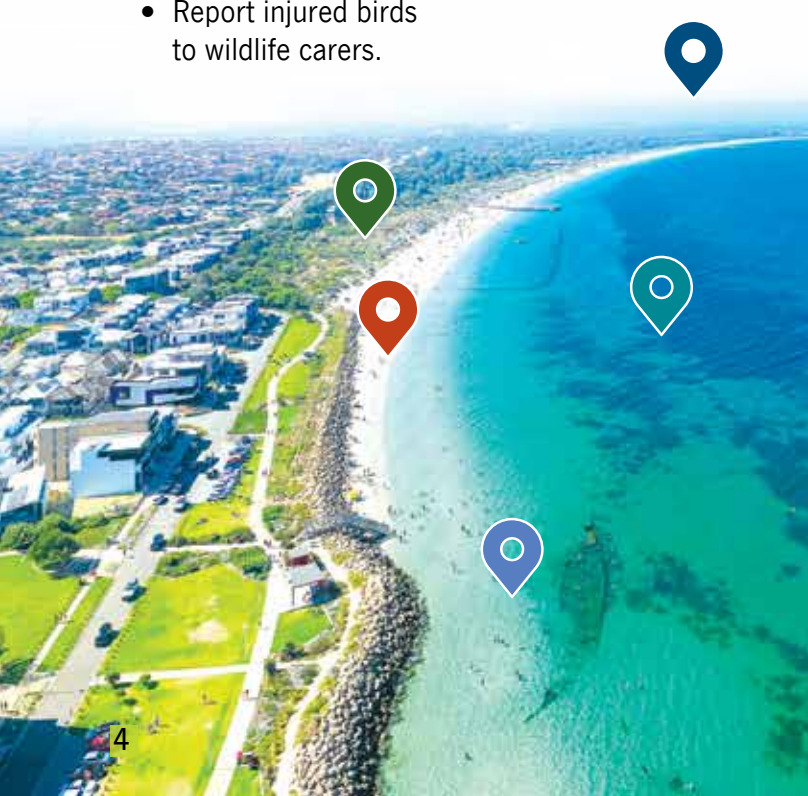
Around the Coogee Maritime Trail

Fanbelly Leatherjacket

With its distinctive fan-shaped belly flap and unusual courtship dances, the Fanbelly Leatherjacket is one of the Coogee Maritime Trail's most fascinating residents.

How to protect them

- Look, don't touch
- Maintain good snorkelling buoyancy
- Don't stand on reefs or marine habitats
- Never climb on the Omeo Shipwreck.



Turtle sighting sparks passion for wetlands

When local schoolchildren spotted a tiny turtle trying to cross a road near Perena Rocchi Reserve, turtle tracker Lisa Wackett knew something special was happening.

After carefully searching the area, the Yangebup resident located the nest the hatchling had emerged from. Recognising the hatchlings were at risk from nearby traffic, she monitored the situation and helped them safely avoid danger as they made their way to the water.

"It's one of the many reasons why I love tracking," Lisa said.

Lisa has lived in Yangebup for six years and says Cockburn's network of lakes and wetlands is one of the things she loves most about the area.

"I love that I can visit so many lakes within Cockburn, and they're all different in their own ways, with their own quirks," she said.

Although she has always enjoyed camping, nature and wildlife, it was our turtles that inspired her to become more involved in local conservation.

After moving to Yangebup and learning turtles lived in nearby lakes, Lisa made it her mission to spot one.

"After many laps around the lakes in hopes of finding turtles, I got chatting to a turtle tracker who explained the program to me," she said.

"I went home and submitted my interest to join online that night."

Now in her second year as a turtle tracker, Lisa helps protect nesting females as they leave the water to lay eggs, monitors turtle movements and assists during hatchling season.

Volunteers play an important role in protecting nests from predators and helping turtles safely navigate hazards such as busy roads during migration periods.

They generally observe and monitor wildlife from a distance, stepping in only when turtles face an immediate risk to their safety.

For Lisa, the experience has also deepened her connection to Cockburn's natural environment and made her more protective of the wetlands.

"I'm more aware of foxes, off-lead dogs and littering. I always carry a bag to pick up rubbish and encourage people to be mindful of wildlife and keep their dogs on leashes around the lakes."

The experience has inspired Lisa to consider helping establish a local friends group to bring like-minded residents together to advocate for wetlands and wildlife.

Her message for anyone considering volunteering is simple: "We are always happy to chat and share our knowledge and experiences. That's how I started. There are lots of ways you can help."

If you want to learn more about the turtle tracking program, visit: www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Turtles



Photo: Volunteer turtle tracker Lisa Wackett at Little Rush Lake, Yangebup.

Travel grants supporting young athletes

The City's Junior Sport Travel Assistance Grants are helping local young athletes chase their sporting dreams, with more than 130 grants awarded since the start of the 2025-26 financial year.

The program provides a fixed grant of \$400 to successful applicants travelling more than 100km from Cockburn to compete in sporting events, helping ease the financial pressure on families and supporting young people to represent their state, region or country.

Last financial year, 118 successful applicants received grants. Since the new financial year began on 1 July, a further 13 grants have already been awarded, with more applications currently being assessed.

For Harrison and Jonathon Budarick, the grants have enabled the brothers to compete at the Ice Hockey Australia National Championships in Newcastle, NSW.

Their parents, Trish and Aaron Budarick, said the travel assistance helped make their sons' participation possible by offsetting travel and accommodation costs.

"It was a tough, high-level competition, but both boys and their teams represented WA with pride," Trish said.

Harrison competed in the Under 15 DeFris team and Jonathon in the Under 13 Ginsberg team, with both bringing home bronze medals.

Competing against some of the nation's best young players was a rewarding experience that strengthened their skills, resilience and personal growth.

With a total annual budget of \$50,000, the Junior Sport Travel Assistance Grants are available year-round, giving eligible young athletes opportunities to access financial support when travelling to compete.

Successful applicants can receive one grant every 12 months, helping the City continue to support Cockburn's next generation of athletes as they pursue new opportunities and achieve their sporting goals. Visit the City's website to find out how to apply.



Photo: Ice hockey players Harrison and Jonathon Budarick.

Photo: Jo Binkin Photography.



Photo: Jo Binkin Photography.

Walking the walk: 11 years of steps and support

If you find yourself at Cockburn Gateway early on a Tuesday morning, you might spot a sea of people in bright green shirts walking past the shopfronts.

Some are chatting, others pushing the pace and getting their steps up, and a few are even pushing shopping trolleys for a little extra resistance training.

This is the Gateway Mall Walking Group in full stride and this year they're celebrating 11 years together.

City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett recently joined the group at a special event to celebrate this milestone and recognise the important role it plays supporting the health and wellbeing of residents.

Supported by the City and Cockburn Gateway since it began, the group has more than 50 registered members aged 50 years and over, with around 43 regular walkers.

Walking indoors means the group can meet whatever the weather and everyone is welcome to walk at a pace and distance that suits them.

The group is supported by nine dedicated volunteer leaders who help create a welcoming and inclusive environment for walkers of all abilities.

The Gateway group is one of six free Heart Foundation walking groups supported by the City. The groups provide opportunities for people of different ages and abilities to get active, meet others and enjoy the benefits of regular walking.

Join a walking group near you

- Coogee Cruisers: Thursdays, 8.30am, Coogee Beach
- Seaside Strollers (Mums & Bubs): Tuesdays, 8am, Coogee Beach Surf Life Saving Club
- South Beach Striders: Fridays, 8am, The Meeting Place, South Fremantle
- Phoenix Walkers: Wednesdays and Fridays, 7.45am, Phoenix Shopping Centre, Spearwood
- Strong Wulyan Cockburn: Wednesdays, 11.45am, Cockburn Integrated Health, Success
- Gateway Mall Walking Group: Tuesdays, 7.45am, Cockburn Gateway, Success.

Find a walking group near you visit:

www.heartfoundationwalking.org.au/Join-A-Group



Nyungar artist, weaver of beauty, dignity and humanity, is Quintessentially Cockburn

An aura of peace and calm exudes from Sharyn Egan, and it's powerful.

As she ambles across Dixon Reserve in Hamilton Hill with a gaggle of little dogs in tow, basking in the treat of a sunny winter's day, the artist reflects on her 69 years.

While admitting to feeling like she was merely surviving for much of her life, the thrill of thriving in her own existence has begun to provide overdue comfort in recent years.

Ensnared in a world of constant creativity – mostly painting, drawing, sculpture and weaving

– Sharyn is well respected and loved by the WA and Australian arts community, the Cockburn community and of course, family and friends near and far.

Her art can be seen in large public installations nationwide and here in Cockburn, or appreciated via intimate weaving workshops, but within all are the immediately recognisable common threads of beauty, dignity and humanity.

Sharyn's story is the 21st instalment in our Quintessentially Cockburn series, which features the inspiring and varied characters who comprise our eclectic and diverse community.



Photo: Sharyn Egan with City of Cockburn Mayor Logan Howlett with her artwork at Yandi Park, Cockburn Central.

Sharyn has lived in Cockburn for more than 33 years in Bibra Lake, Yangebup and Hamilton Hill and her relationship with this area is both complex and prosaic.

At Bibra Lake 66 years ago,
Sharyn and her baby sister
were taken from their parents
by government welfare
authorities raiding Aboriginal
family camps on its shores.

They are members of the Stolen Generations.

While Sharyn and her sister were held in the same mission, they were kept separate and not encouraged to have a sisterly relationship. An older sister was already there.

They never got to meet their mum again.

These life-altering experiences inform Sharyn's art, an outlet to reclaim her story and share her knowledge of Nyungar life, and those of other Aboriginal communities around Australia, through a consultative and therapeutic art practice.

To read more about Sharyn's story, and others in the Quintessentially Cockburn series, visit our website.



New digs for lost dogs (and other pets)

The Animal Management Facility at the City's Operations Centre has recently undergone a major upgrade, creating safer, more comfortable and calmer spaces for animals, their owners and the people who care for them.

The dog area has been expanded with longer individual kennels, helping to create a calmer environment and reduce kennel aggression.

New external access doors also allow owners to collect their pets directly from their temporary accommodation and the space to speak with City Rangers if required.

Our feline friends haven't been forgotten, with new purpose-built cat condos providing a more comfortable environment for cats staying at the

facility. The upgraded design supports longer holding periods and includes separate bedding and litter areas, helping to reduce stress and allow for safer handling.

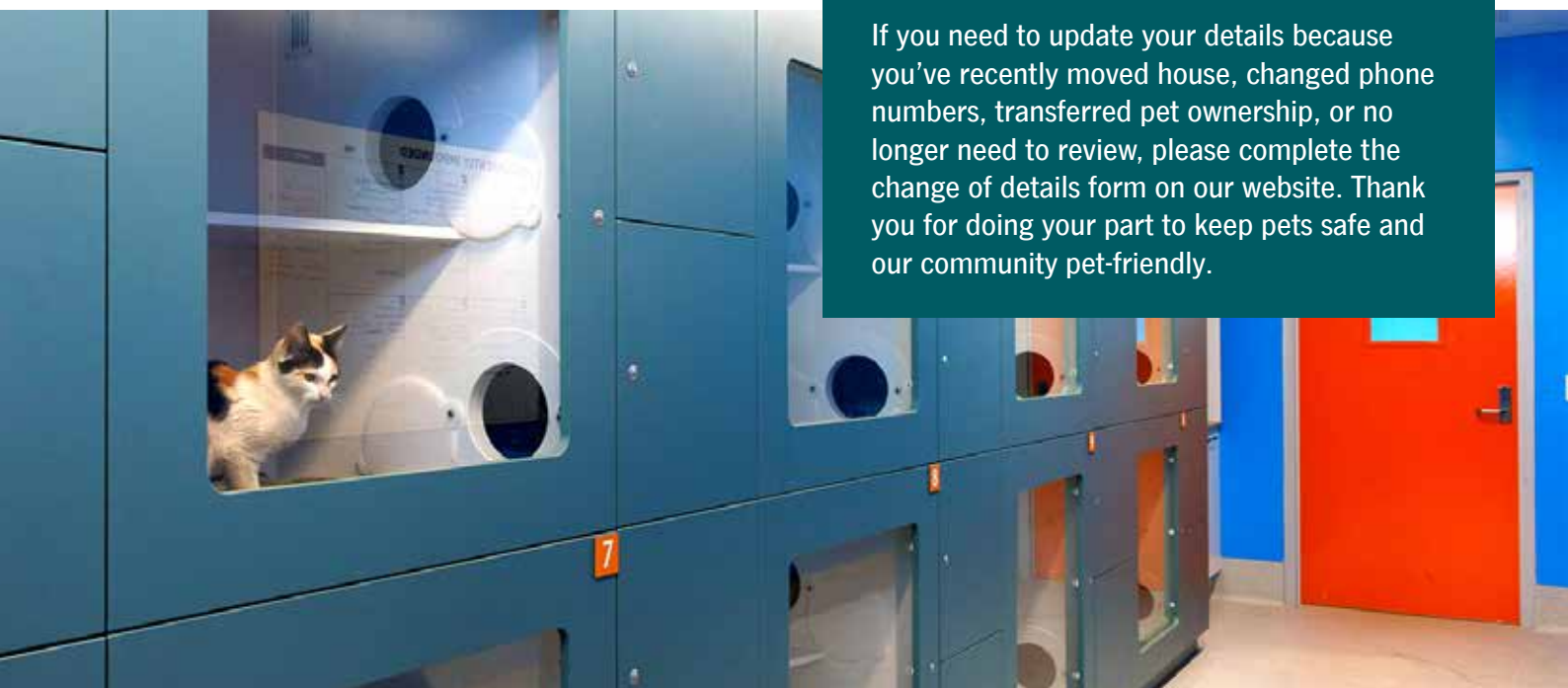
The City's Ranger Services reunite lost pets with their owners wherever possible and work closely with rescue organisations to rehome animals that remain unclaimed.

The upgrades are part of our commitment to animal welfare, community safety and providing quality services for residents and their pets.

It's that time of year again!

Animal registration renewals are due by 31 October.

If you need to update your details because you've recently moved house, changed phone numbers, transferred pet ownership, or no longer need to review, please complete the change of details form on our website. Thank you for doing your part to keep pets safe and our community pet-friendly.



New Local Laws now in effect

The City of Cockburn has a number of Local Laws that help protect and enhance the safety, amenity and wellbeing of the community.

The following new Local Laws have now been gazetted and came into effect on 8 September 2026:

- City of Cockburn Health and Nuisances Local Law 2026
- City of Cockburn Fencing Local Law 2026
- City of Cockburn Parking Local Law 2026
- City of Cockburn Waste Amendment Local Law 2026
- City of Cockburn Keeping of Animals Local Law 2026.

See our website for the Local Laws documents.

New verge collection zones in 2027

If you know your usual verge collection schedule by heart, it's time to start fresh.

From January 2027, all Cockburn properties will move to a new verge collection zoning system.

As a result, collection dates will change. Residents should check the updated zone map before planning their verge collection.

As part of a 12-month trial, residential properties will also receive one green waste verge collection each year instead of two. Bulk waste collections will continue twice yearly.

Finding your collection information will remain easy. Residents will still be able to search for their property online, and the new zones and collection dates will be included in the 2027 Resource Recovery Calendar.

For the latest updates and to view the new map, visit: www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/VergeCollections2027

Top waste tip

Remember to put your bins out by 6am on the day of collection.

... or better yet, the night before.

Collections start early and you don't want to be missed.

Your guide to a cleaner, greener 2026

Whether you're planning a garden clean-up, decluttering the garage or simply making sure the right bin goes out each week, our 2026 Resource Recovery Calendar is here to help.

The calendar brings together everything residents need to know about waste, recycling and verge collections in one convenient place.

Inside you'll find:

- Bin collection information
- Verge collection dates
- Recycling and waste disposal guides, including options for tricky items such as batteries, chemicals and e-waste
- Services available in Cockburn including the Community Drop-Off Facility and Reuse Shop
- Practical tips to help reduce waste and recycle more effectively at home.

View the calendar online, visit:

www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Verge-Collections

If you prefer a hardcopy, you can pick up a printed calendar from the Cockburn administration centre or we can post one out to you.



Community engagement updates

What makes a great neighbourhood?

The City's annual Liveability Study is your chance to tell us. Conducted independently by Place Score, the study explores what our community values most and how we rate our neighbourhoods across key themes including appearance, welcome, activities, uniqueness, and care. Your feedback will help guide future planning and investment, ensuring we continue to create a community where people love to live. Feedback closes Sunday 25 October 2026.



Scan for more

Help us piece together Cockburn's future representation

As our community continues to grow and evolve, we're reviewing ward boundaries and councillor representation. Add your piece to the puzzle. Your feedback will play an important role in shaping the final recommendation to Council on ward boundaries. Submissions close Friday 30 October 2026.



Scan for more



Love Manning Park? Have your say.

Council is seeking feedback on proposed changes to Manning Park's trail network before making a final decision.

Discover what's proposed, explore the maps and tell us what's important to you.

Whether you walk, run, ride, volunteer or simply enjoy spending time in Manning Park, we want to hear from you. Feedback closes Wednesday 4 November 2026.



Scan for more

Councillor Corner

Councillor Phoebe Corke shares three of her favourite places in Cockburn (even though she loves many more).

I love swimming at the beach and walking in the woodlands (how lucky are we to have both!), but I've got to narrow it down so I'm going to pick three boardwalks – one from each ward. There's something special about boardwalks...

In the east ward I'm choosing Eco Park in Atwell – the boardwalk there is magical, particularly when we've had proper rain and the lake is full. When it's hot it feels a bit like you're walking in the bayou and anything might happen.

In the central ward, it's the Narma Kullarck floating boardwalk that goes out to the bird hide at Bibra (Walliabup) Lake. It's the perfect combination of woodland and wetland, it's incredibly beautiful and when you come out to the lake it's just perfect.

In the west, I'm cheating a little, because while it's a raised path it doesn't have any actual boards, and I'm picking the Henderson foreshore lookout. The views here are amazing and there's hardly ever anyone else there, so you can just sit quietly and drink it all in. It's great fun in a storm too!



Planning your visit made easier

The City has partnered with an inclusive venue accessibility platform so you can explore our community facilities before you arrive, taking away the guesswork and promoting inclusivity.

Six City locations are now available on Cérge – Cockburn ARC, Bibra Lake Regional Playground, Cockburn Youth Centre, and all three Cockburn Libraries: Success, Spearwood and Coolbellup.

Using interactive virtual tours and detailed accessibility information, Cérge helps you become familiar with a venue from the comfort of home.

You can explore entrances, parking, toilets, sensory features and other amenities, reducing uncertainty and making first visits more comfortable, particularly for people with disability, neurodivergence or anxiety.

With more than 70 per cent of disabilities being invisible, providing accessible information before a visit can make a real difference in helping people feel welcome and confident using our facilities.

Find Cérge on the venue webpages and plan your next visit with confidence.



Councillor Corner

Councillor Carol Reeve-Fowkes discusses her involvement in the City's Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Committee and Local Emergency Management Committee.

These committees work throughout the year, preparing to keep us all as safe as possible in bushfire emergencies, storms or other unexpected events.

Do you have a family safety evacuation plan ready in case of bushfire? In recent memory we have had devastating fires in Banjup and surrounding suburbs, so preparing your own plan, for your family and your pets, is essential.

Can you leave your home with very little warning if evacuations occur at 3am? What do you need with you? Do you have a "grab and go" bag? We hear warnings about low rainfall this winter increasing the bushfire danger. This reminds us to trim trees around our homes, clearing fire breaks and ensuring your property is as safe from bushfire as possible. Prevention now might make all the difference.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to all the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, to Sea Search and Rescue and the State Emergency Services. They volunteer so much of their time for our safety and security. Stay safe by being prepared.



What's on in Cockburn

Get ready to laugh, dance and sing! Your favourite community festivals are back and we can't wait to see you there. Mark your calendar or visit our website for more information: www.cockburn.wa.gov.au/Events



Free

Teddy Bears Picnic

Wednesday 14 October 2026, 9.30am-1pm
Manning Park, Hamilton Hill. Free.



Free

Investigating Corruption and True Crime with Lionel Faull

Thursday 29 October 2026, 6-7pm
Spearwood Library. Book online. Free.



Ticketed

Side Splitter Comedy Festival

23-24 and 30-31 October 2026
Memorial Hall, Hamilton Hill. Ticketed, price and time vary. Book online. sidesplitter.com.au



Free

Mosaic Festival

Saturday 7 November 2026, 3-8pm
Treeby Oval, Treeby. Free.



Free

Cockburn Rotary Spring Fair and Youth Festival

Sunday 25 October 2026, 11am-8pm
Manning Park, Hamilton Hill. Free.



Free

Pride and Progress Ball: Under the Sea

Saturday 21 November 2026, 6-9pm
Cockburn Youth Centre. Suitable for ages 15-24. Free.



Ticketed

Seniors Soiree: Dine and Dance

Saturday 28 November 2026, 6-10pm
Dalmatinac Club, Spearwood. \$20, book online.



Free

Santa Storytime

Monday 21 December 2026, 10.30am-12pm
Coolbellup Library. Drop-in. Free.



Free

Everybody Dance!

Saturday 5 December 2026, 6-9pm
Cockburn Youth Centre. Free.



Free

Australia Day Coogee Beach Festival

Tuesday 26 January 2027, 8am-midday
Coogee Beach Reserve, Coogee. Free.



Free

Christmas On the Green

Sunday 13 December 2026, 3-8pm
Lakelands Reserve, South Lake. Free.



Free

Cockburn ARC Open Arvo

Friday 29 January 2027, 3-6pm
Cockburn ARC. Free.

Hours of operation over the festive season

Waste collection times

Bins will not be collected on Friday 25 December 2026 or Friday 1 January 2027. During these two weeks, Friday's bins will be collected on Saturday.

Rangers and CoSafe

Rangers will continue to operate from 7.30am-6pm every day besides Christmas Day. CoSafe will continue operating 24/7.



Henderson Waste Recovery Park

Friday 25 December 2026 (Christmas Day) Closed
Friday 1 January 2027 (New Years Day) Closed
Open all other days during the festive season.

Cockburn Libraries - Coolbellup, Spearwood and Success

Friday 18 December 2026	Closes 1pm
Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve)	Closes 5pm
Friday 25 December (Christmas Day)	Closed
Saturday 26 December (Boxing Day)	Closed
Thursday 31 December (New Years' Eve)	Closes 5pm
Friday 1 January 2027 (New Years Day)	Closed

An after hours return facility is located at all Cockburn Libraries.

Cockburn Seniors Centre

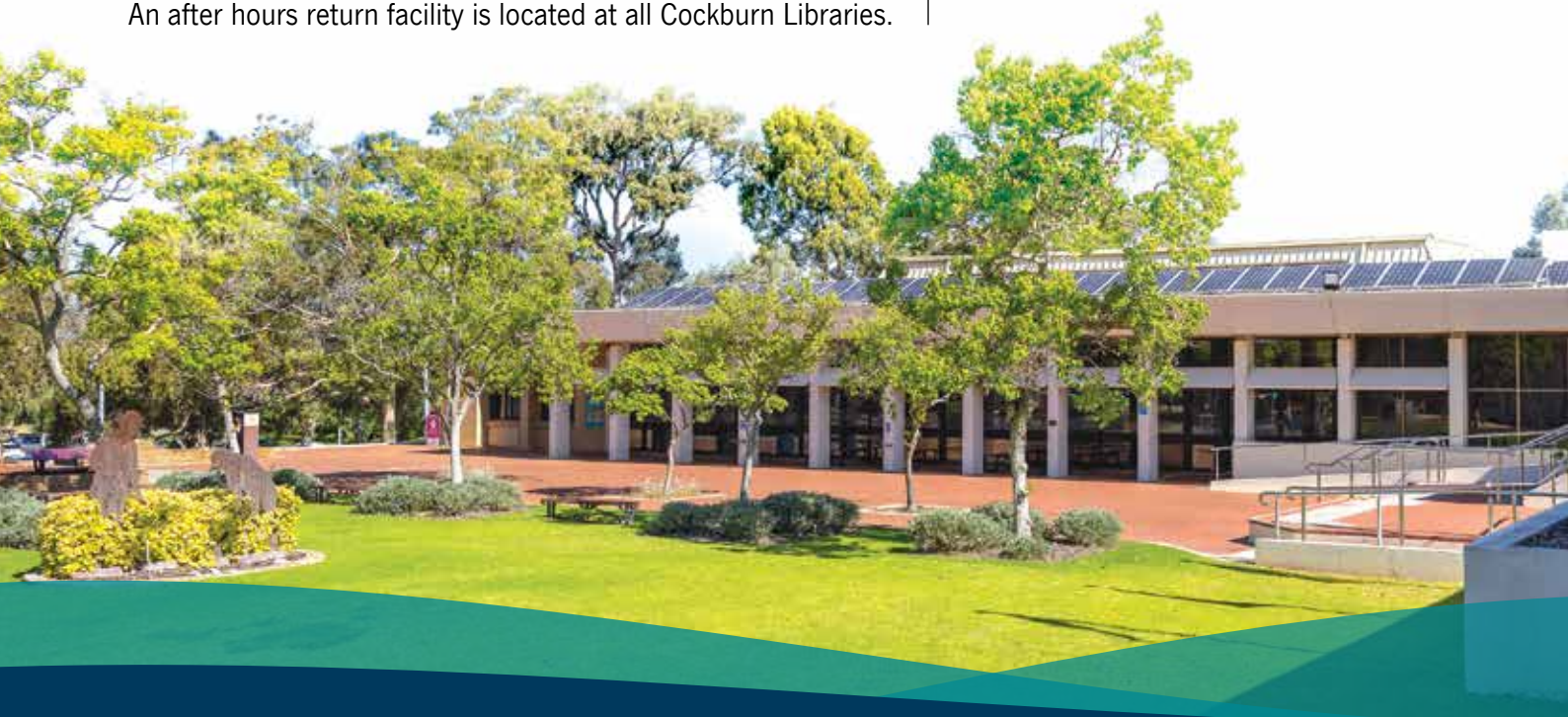
The Centre is closed on Wednesday 23 December 2026, reopening on Monday 4 January 2027.

Cockburn Youth Centre

Closed on Friday 25 December 2026, reopening on Monday 4 January 2027.

Cockburn Volunteer Centre

Closed on Wednesday 23 December 2026, reopening on Monday 4 January 2027.



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