

Digital versions of this Newsletter are available on the EVA [Website](#) and [Facebook](#) page.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to Shelley Beardshaw who was named Cardinia Citizen of the Year at a ceremony held at the Cardinia Offices on January 25th. Shelley has been active in our community leading two major community projects which involved students and local residents establishing regular contacts (Pen Pal letters) and creating learning opportunities and experiments in the Come Sit By Me program. She also initiated a “Young Mum’s Contact Group” at the Hills Hub. Shelley is a very worthy winner of this award.



Shelley Beardshaw

A major need identified in our town is to upgrade the playground in Kilvington Drive. Vanessa Kewish and the EVER team have undertaken some significant work on this project. At the EVA’s first community meeting for 2023 we will be looking at what are the possibilities and what needs to be done to achieve a much needed improved facility for our children.

WHERE ARE WE IN EMERALD?



November’s picture baffled everyone including regular walkers like Carl Stemp. The location was on the path around Lysterfield Lake.

This month a pair of legs! Where were they and for the major prize whose legs are they?

Entries to Dick Bartley: dickbartley08@gmail.com

Emerald Citizens of the Year 2002-2022

At last year’s award ceremony we took a photo of most of the previous winners. This photo will soon be in the lobby of the Hills Hub. Thanks to Paul Bianco for his help with the photography and Peter Maloney for the framing.



Dick Bartley - President EVA

PLANNING EMERALD'S FUTURE

Continued from the December edition

CEO of Puffing Billy Railways, Peter Abbott, attended the last meeting of the EVA Planning Committee and provided a great insight into the issues and opportunities that Puffing Billy Railway (PBR) is facing.

PBR is only operating at about 30% of the level it was operating at pre-covid. This reflects in both paid staff and volunteer shortages and the process of building up the capacity of PBR.

As part of PBR updated Strategic Plan – (available on the PBR Website [STRATEGIC PLAN 2022–2025 | Puffing Billy Railway](#)), the operations of the railway have changed as well as the focus on improved experiences for guests to the railway and the region. There is a deliberate move away from passenger numbers being a Key Performance Indicator, more towards longer stays and journeys.

With the opening of the new Lakeside Discovery Centre facility, the operational focus continues to switch to Lakeside for special events and also the opportunity to open the Gembrook end of the railway more often.

PBR welcomes the upgrade of facilities at Lakeside and the long-term plans by Cardinia Shire to redevelop Emerald Lake Precinct.

PBR is looking to provide increased services through Cockatoo and to Gembrook and include innovations such as a bicycle carriage so people can bring their bicycles including e-bikes and get on and off the train to explore places along the route.

Peter was keen to talk with the EVA about a vision for Emerald Station. With Emerald Station being heritage listed it's a great opportunity to highlight the history of the line.

PBR is keen to open up Emerald Station precinct to connect to the wider village and facilities. PBR are keen to work on a wider Emerald Village Plan working with Council, the EVA and other community groups, to ensure that the playground (which is on PBR

land but is maintained by the Council), connects to the station precinct and is presented as a real asset to the town. This would also include ensuring that the walking and cycling track from Clematis to Gembrook is much better linked through the precinct.

Peter also indicated that currently PBR is in the process of establishing a Stakeholder Consultative Committee and that EVA has been asked to provide a representative on the Committee, and that the PBR Board is being renewed with a recruitment program for new members underway.

As always, Peter welcomes queries and can be contacted via email – ceo@pbr.org.au

Trevor Budge - EVA Committee

ROCKIN AT THE "R"

The Emerald RSL has live music every month on a Friday night. All are welcome. Great music at a great price - \$20.

Starts 7.30. Drinks at bar prices. Orders taken for pizzas during the evening.

Wool Street Duo

Playing the hits of the
60's, 70's & 80's

BELL REAL ESTATE **Lauritos** Pizza • Pasta • Café
MITRE 10 **Cellarbrations** **YOUNG HENRYS** SERVE THE PEOPLE

APPEARING - Emerald RSL, 3 Memorial Ave. Emerald.
Friday Night - February 24th
7.30 pm till 10.30 pm. Mobile Contact - 0411 675 513. Admission - \$20.00

ROTARY CLUB OF EMERALD & DISTRICT

Happy New Year to you all. Our members took time out to enjoy the festive season, however not before we were involved in several Community activities. With assistance from partners and friends from other clubs, we held "The Kids Fun Run with Puffing Billy" at Gembrook Railway on Sunday 4th December. The annual fundraiser has raised over \$671,250 for Children's charities since it commenced in 2002. This year's event raised \$50,000 which will be donated to support cancer research at the Monash Children's Hospital. Due to its continual contribution to the Community and Children's charities, the event was recognised as the Community Event of the Year in January 2021 by Cardinia Shire at their Australia Day Awards.



The generous sponsors this year were Toot Toot Toys, Emerald Mitre 10, Bicycle Superstore, That's Right Bookkeeping, Barry Plant Emerald, Wholesome Food Company and Puffing Billy Railway – who without their support the event could not happen. The icing on the cake was our amazing fundraisers who raised over \$9,000. Byron (aged 4) was the top fundraiser and reached \$1,060 - an amazing effort.

On 10th December our Market was blessed with good weather and was well attended. It is encouraging that we are being approached by prospective stall holders wishing to join us when we return. Two days later, on 12th, President Marcus Adams and I attended the SES Awards evening and a few days later President Marcus presented the first Chris Adams' citizenship award at Gembrook Primary School. And with Tina McInerney, Marcus attended the local primary schools giving citizenship awards.

Planned activities for 2023: "Pride of Workmanship 2023". This is an opportunity for employers to recognise outstanding employees and will be held at the Puffing Billy Lakeside Centre on 28th March.



Applications close 10th February. For details contact Ian Ash email ianash@ombs.com.au phone 0412 399 001.

The 2023 Debutante Ball is scheduled for Saturday 10th June and will be held at Cathies Lane Receptions, Cathies Lane, Wantirna. Applications are now open and to find out more visit the Rotary website:

www.emeraldrotary.org.au Phone Lyn Beckwith 0419 324 409 or Shalini Penny 0417 038 707 Email: emeraldrotary3782@gmail.com

Applications are now being accepted for a "Rotary MacLeod Murphy Memorial Fund Scholarship" from students residing in Emerald and surrounding districts who are starting to study Medicine, Nursing Pharmacy, Medical Science or related fields. The scholarship is \$1000 per year per person. Written applications should be sent to: The Vocational Chair, Rotary Club of Emerald & District, PO Box 46, Emerald, VIC, 3782 by 27th April 2023. For more information contact Susi Wilson 0415 228 423. Email: etmoldemerald@gmail.com

As always, you are welcome to join us at either an event or meeting - held every Tuesday 6.45pm for 7pm at The Paradise Hotel to see what we do – Phone 0408 769 491.

Shalini Penny - Publicity

EMERALD U3A

Well, it's time to brush off the cobwebs and get active again! Our programme of courses started on 1st February, but it's not too late to join in even if a course you want is full you will go onto a waitlist and may be accepted later in the year depending on attendance levels.

We have another new weekly course on the horizon on a trial basis to begin with - Walking Football at Worrell Reserve! Look out for it on our website u3aemerald.org.au

Heather Bishop - U3A Publicity

EMERALD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION INC.

You may be wondering what we talked about this month? Here is our summary:

We welcomed Mike Spruhan from the Bendigo Bank who spoke to continued Bank sponsorship of the Newsletter and Ray Spencer from Lions who gave us some background on local Emergency Management Committees.

And in looking at our Business Plan for 2023, we see helping facilitate a renewal design for "Puffing Billy Town Playground" and Precinct as a high priority.

Refurbishment or replacement? Please look for the report elsewhere in this edition from Trevor Budge to give you some background.

And we need you to come along to our Community Meeting at the Hub on Wednesday, 22nd February at 7pm to tell us your views re. Emerald Village Playground - What do we want?

The Emerald Village Association also continues to work towards developing a new Emerald Town Strategy. And we look at putting together an Annual Maintenance report to alert the Council to areas of need.

We also discussed asking the Cardinia Council to allow the Emerald Lake Park Advisory Committee to become a Consultative Committee.

We further decided to investigate giving some of the EVA allocated hours at the Hub to Community groups such as a Playgroup or Toy Library in order to help them grow and flourish.

Lastly it was agreed to run a second session of the successful "Come Sit By Me" project in 2023.

Certainly a meeting covering lots of topics close to Emeraldian's hearts.

Shelley Beardshaw - EVA Committee

EMERALD VILLAGE PLAYGROUND

(PUFFING BILLY PARK)

Invitation to Put Your Ideas Forward on the Future of the Emerald Village Playground.

This much loved and used public space is popular with locals and visitors. Many children use the play equipment and people of all ages gather at the park. The park is owned by Puffing Billy Railway with the land managed under licence by the Council. The park and playground facilities are ageing. Improvements and more and better

facilities are needed. The EVA is pleased that Cardinia Shire Council has allocated \$59,000 in their 2023/2024 budget for new playground equipment. The EVA is keen that Council hears from the community, particularly the children who use the equipment. The EVA is encouraging the community to put their ideas forward. *What facilities would you like to see in the playground?*



The Park forms part of a wider precinct which takes in the Emerald Railway Station and surrounds. The EVA supports the development of a concept plan for the whole area with local funding to assist. Puffing Billy's Strategic Plan also supports better linking the station area with the village centre. *How could the park and playground better link with the Emerald Station, be made safer and the presentation of the whole area improved?*

Here is a link to the PBR Conservation Plan.
[Puffing Billy Railway. Victoria Conservation Management Plan](#)

The EVA will be holding a community forum at 7.00pm on Wednesday 22 February at the Hills Hub to better understand the community needs. Look out for the community survey that the EVA is conducting to gather ideas on the planning and development of the area.

Emerald Village Association
Invite you to

A COMMUNITY MEETING
EMERALD VILLAGE PLAYGROUND(PUFFING BILLY PARK) -REFRESH OR RE-JIG?



COME ALONG
ADD YOUR IDEAS AND OPINIONS

Where? Hills Hub 400 Belgrave-Gembrook Rd, Emerald
When? 7pm on Wednesday 22nd February, 2023

CARDINIA COUNCIL NEWS

Hills Hub

The Connected Communities Team have enjoyed welcoming back all our user groups at the hub after a short break during the holiday period.

The hub continues to be open to the public Monday to Friday, 10am – 1pm.

We are excited to launch *Booking Cardinia*, our online booking request system. You can now check availability for spaces at our halls and hubs and send an instant booking request. For more details see the link below.

cardinia.vic.gov.au/bookingcardiniasite

Our Arts and Performance space will be hosting an amazing exhibition *Prism*. This exhibition is a showcase of Cardinia Shire's rainbow artists. Drawing upon the local LGBTQIA+ community, it brings together blackout poems, character art, photographic portraiture and more to create something unique to the shire. Exhibition on display from Monday 13 February to Friday 10 March 2023 on weekdays between 10am and 1pm.

Australia Day Awards

We were happy to announce the 2023 award winners at a special ceremony on Wednesday 25 January.

- Citizen of the year – Shelley Beardshaw (an Emerald Local)
- Senior citizen of the year – Audrey Dodson
- Young citizen of the year – Ace Simpson-Braden
- Community event of the year – Cardinia Men's Shed Senior-tivity Day

Congratulations to all our recipients!

Grant Opportunities

The following Council grant opportunities are now open:

- Capital Works Grants
- Wellbeing Support Grants and
- Festival and Event Grants.

These grants are designed for local community organisations to apply for support to provide services, infrastructure and celebrations to our diverse community. Grant applications close Friday 31 March. For more information visit -

cardinia.vic.gov.au/grants

“Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Workshop”.

In celebration of International Women's Day, the Council is hosting a workshop for community groups and volunteers. This session will detail the

dynamics and details around ensuring your organisation is inclusive and welcoming for all. This workshop will be held on Wednesday 8 March 6pm – 8pm. For more details and to register for the workshop visit - cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteer

The Stan Henwood Award nominations now open. The award acknowledges individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the local community through volunteering. For more information or to nominate a local legend visit -

cardinia.vic.gov.au/stanhenwoodaward.

Nominations close Friday 3 March.

Hannah Milne - Shire Community Dev. Facilitator

EMERALD LADIES PROBUS CLUB

Are you a lady who's recently retired and looking for some social activity? Why not join Emerald Ladies Probus Club? Emerald Ladies Probus Club opens the door to new experiences and friendships to all retired or semi-retired ladies. You can hear wonderful guest speakers at our monthly meetings, and you'll have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities and outings held throughout the year. During the next couple of months we're visiting Mont De Lancey Homestead in Wandin, seeing performances at Bunjil Theatre in Narre Warren, and we're off to the movies. We'd love you to join us.



A Probus member was delighted with her lucky door prize at our Christmas lunch. Hamper kindly donated by Emerald Village Pharmacy.

Our meetings are held at the Emerald RSL on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 10am. Our club is non-fundraising and purely a social outlet to have fun with like-minded people.

Our next meeting is Monday 20 February when our guest speaker will be Sue Walters from Emerald Library. Sue will talk about the wide range of services on offer at our local library service and beyond. We welcome you to come along and meet our members, enjoy some morning tea, and listen to our guest speaker.

Enquiries : Linda McIvor

Email : ladiespce123@gmail.com

EMERALD JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB



EMERALD JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB **REGISTRATION DAY 2023**
SUNDAY 12TH FEB
10AM - 1PM
@ THE CLUBROOMS, WORRELL RESERVE EMERALD

Fielding:
U9, U10, U11, U13 Mixed
U15 & U17 Boys
U12, U14, U16 & U18 Girls

Come along to the club rooms and register to play with the BOMBERS in the 2023 season!

Meet the coaches, team managers and fellow players.

Have a kick and have all of your questions answered.

And don't worry if you're not able to make the day, simply scan our QR code and register on Play HQ. See you there!



Michelle Grace - EJFC Secretary

EMERALD RSL

CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE

The RSL is presenting Certificates of Service to those who wish to honour and remember those who have served for Australia. RSL member, Daryl Bristowe has initiated this program to help those who wish to have evidence of service of family members.

The presentation of certificates will be made by Jason Wood at the RSL on the Sunday after Anzac Day - 2pm 30th April 2023.

If you wish to obtain a certificate please make contact with the RSL at president@emeraldrsl.com.au.

EMERALD SCOUTS



Emerald Scout Group

Scouts Victoria
Emerald Scout Centre
21 Kilvington Drive
Emerald 3782

gl.1stemerald@scoutsvictoria.com.au
www.emeraldscouts.org.au



Centenary of Emerald Scouts 1923 to 2023

For the centenary we are looking for information on former members to update our youth member and adult member rolls.

Our information from about 1960 to 1990 is very sparse.

Were you a former member of Emerald Scouts or do you know of people that were?

If so, we would like to hear from you.

Please add your details to the form below or contact our Group Leader.

Jeff Latter
Group Leader

Emerald Scout Group

gl.1stemerald@scoutsvictoria.com.au

0419899446

EASTERN DANDENONG RANGES ASSOCIATION

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS FREE EXPO & TRIVIA NIGHT – SATURDAY 20TH MAY 2023 AT THE HILLS HUB, EMERALD

The Eastern Dandenong Ranges Association (EDRA) recognises the vital role & services our community groups provide in the local community and the limited opportunity available to showcase our groups and to help attract volunteers.

In support of our Community Groups & to build stronger connections between our local community networks, EDRA received a 2022-2023 Cardinia Council Festival & Event Grant to hold a Community Groups Expo and a Trivia Night during National Volunteer Week in May 2023.

COMMUNITY GROUPS EXPO – 10AM TO 4PM, SAT 20TH MAY

The aim of the Expo is:

- to provide a platform for our local community groups, clubs & associations to exhibit, promote, create awareness & showcase their services & products to the public
- to provide an opportunity to attract new volunteers
- for the local community (general public) to see and learn more about the variety and types of groups & local volunteering opportunities available.

FREE TRIVIA NIGHT – 7PM TO 10PM, SAT 20TH MAY

The Trivia Night is open to all Community Groups that exhibit at the Expo.

The aim is to celebrate, reward & acknowledge the services our community groups provide in the local community, to enjoy each other's company, and to have lots of fun and laughs.

The Trivia night, including finger food/canape style dinner & prizes is free. You will only need to pay for your drinks.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Hills Hub can accommodate up to 25 groups to exhibit at the Expo and applications will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. The number of volunteers per group able to attend the Trivia Night will depend on the number of groups that exhibit at the Expo. Our aim is to accommodate as many groups as possible.

If your group would like to take part, please complete the online Expression of Interest by 24th March 2023.

<https://edrbt.wufoo.com/forms/community-groups-expo-trivia-night/>

For any additional information or queries please mail to ask@edra.com.au or call Lynne Trensky on 0491 471 990.

Lynne Trensky - EDRA

GEMCO PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE

The end of 2022 heralded the opening of our theatre again with our play writers' festival, 'Take Ten', and the highly successful "Come Back for Light Refreshments After the Service", which has won a Lyrebird Award. We begin our year with a rehearsed read and Shakespeare in the Park:

11 February – 'Heirs and Graces' - A rehearsed reading of a new musical play by Will Mithen. A comedy that looks at the issues of infertility. \$10/\$5 at the door.

Tickets are now available for 'Much Ado About Nothing' to be performed at the Gus Ryberg Amphitheatre in Emerald Lake Park from March 3 to 19. A Shakespearian Comedy of love and miscommunication. \$27/ \$24 online tickets.

19 February – Gemco Players Community Theatre AGM – 2-4pm, The Foyer, The Gem Community Arts Centre. All are welcome.



Some of the "Much Ado" cast

All details and link to tickets can be found on our website: www.gemcoplayers.org

Evie Housham - Gemco

HILLS PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY

HILLS PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Presents It's 2nd Annual
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
at
Cardinia HILLS HUB, EMERALD
20th March -14th April
2023
More Information at
www.hillsphtographicssociety.org.au
Kindly Sponsored By:
Community Bank
Cockatoo-Gembrook
Bendigo Bank
HILLS PHYSIOTHERAPY
first national REAL ESTATE
"Brunch" on a Bride
Emerald CUSTOM FRAMING

CARDINIA COMMUNITY GRANTS

Applications are now open for the following Cardinia Shire Council grant programs:

[Wellbeing Support Grant Program](#)

The Wellbeing Support Grants Program helps to establish new organisations, projects and services. It also funds initiatives that improve residents' health and wellbeing, support opportunities for volunteering, as well as those which help to build the capacity of community groups, projects and programs to be sustainable.

Wellbeing Support Grants Program funding categories are:

- **Seeding grants** of up to \$5,000 to support the cost of starting a new organisation, group, club, program, project or service.
- **Volunteering grants** of up to \$3,000 to help create volunteering programs, train volunteers or promote volunteering opportunities.
- **Small change grants** of up to \$1,000 to assist with a range of ad hoc costs that cannot be met through other funding sources, such as buying small items of equipment, website redevelopment, Christmas decorations and more.

Please contact me for further information.

Community Capital Works Grant Program

The Community Capital Works Grants Program assists community groups to improve community and recreational facilities, in order to support community networks and enhance community wellbeing.

The Community Capital Works Grant categories and criteria are:

Category 1

- Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for community and recreational facility upgrade works that fall into one of 4 priority areas.
- Council manage works on behalf of community groups.
- Community groups are not required to provide matched funding.

Category 2 (Detailed Application Stage)

- Grants of up to \$35,000 are available for community and recreational facility upgrade works that fall into one of 3 priority areas.
- Community groups manage the works with guidance from Council.
- Community groups must provide a matched funding amount based on their annual income.

Category 3

- Grants of up to \$20,000 are available to go towards major equipment purchases that fall into one of 3 priority areas.
- Equipment purchases are used to help maintain sporting grounds, outer grounds or large internal areas.
- Community groups must provide dollar-for-dollar matched funding.

Please contact the Connected Communities Team <mailto:atccwg@cardinia.vic.gov.au> or 1300 787 624

Applications for both grant programs close 5pm, Friday 31 March 2023.

To apply, visit

<https://cardinia.smartygrants.com.au/>

Kym Ockerby - Community Development Officer

WHAT'S NEW IN EMERALD?

A new feature in the newsletter is to introduce those people who have taken the big leap to set up business to make a difference in Emerald.

Emerald Wellness Pharmacy



New pharmacy for Emerald is part of the Emerald Medical Centre with a link to the Pathology business next door.

Emerald Hire



Hello! We are John and Michaela Mckenna,

We are a family owned and operated Arborist Company based in Emerald and the proud new owners of the well established Emerald Hire. We are thrilled to have this wonderful opportunity to run our businesses under the same roof in the beautiful community of Emerald. We are also excited to bring Dark Horse Timber and Milling Co. to the community with our showroom located at Emerald Hire.

We arrived from Liverpool, UK, 10 years ago and have called the hills our home for the last five years and wouldn't dream of being anywhere else. This supportive community has allowed us to grow our business and create lifelong relationships. When we spotted Emerald Hire for sale we were instantly excited and our minds began to run away with all the possibilities a space like that could offer the community. Our goal is to continue to run Emerald hire, create a home for Tree Range Arborists and Dark Horse Timer and Milling co, whilst listening to feedback from the community, developing the space and breathing a new lease of life into the building!

Supporting the community is a big focus for us and we like to ensure we hire staff locally and look after our local hills community above all else. Please feel free to pop in anytime and introduce yourself or take a look around at all the changes we are making.

Once again thank you for the opportunity to introduce ourselves, we are proud to become members of the Emerald Village Association and hope to support this organisation in the coming years.

John and Michaela Mckenna.

Little Gems Early Learning

Little Gems Early Learning is a family owned and operated centre, we work very hard to provide a home away from home for 'our' children. We love helping little ones grow and look forward to working with the many families who have already enrolled at our centre. Our environments are purpose built and designed to ensure the best possible outcomes for children. We expect to open our centre later this month.



Please feel free to email Theya or Liz at sayhi@littlegemslearning.com.au to secure your place at our beautiful facility.

Liz Falcone

Emerald Vet



Total rebuild of the Emerald Veterinary Clinic. Opening soon.

EMERALD TENNIS CLUB

As we commence a new year of tennis, following a successful year in 2022 with greater participation and increased court usage, we remain hopeful that trend will continue. Anticipating that Cardinia Council are able to deliver our lighting project at the earliest opportunity with minimal disruption to the club's activities. To date, it has been 17 months without lights; which has been difficult for our Night Convenor and players.

Saturday morning competition returns after the school holidays with 9 junior teams competing in the current summer season. With only 5 more games to be played before finals, it looks like a

number of teams are likely to play in the finals. Emerald Tennis Club can often host up to five home games on a Saturday morning, utilising all seven courts, so it is a busy morning with a lot of players, parents and spectators.

A new night season commences this week with 9 teams entered. We have another new young team joining the night ranks which is very heartening for the Club. Unfortunately, as we continue to wait for replacement lighting to 5 of our 7 courts, three of our night teams need to play their 'home' games at other club locations. Emerald Tennis Club is indebted to those clubs who have been willing to assist.

Last season we saw young guns Aiden and Oscar win their Thursday night Section 6, Men's Grand Final for a consecutive year, while Tuesday night Section 3 Men's Team were runners-up. The two midweek ladies teams made it to the finals with Wednesday Ladies coming runners-up.

Newly elected Member for Monbulk, Daniela De Martino visited the club in January. Daniela was very generous with her time familiarising herself with the club's issues, concerns and visions for the future. We look forward to Daniela's support and advocacy as we aim for growth and increased community access.

We have welcomed interstate and community members to the courts for social tennis, but as we don't have the online 'Book-a Court' facility, we attempt to facilitate all casual enquiries and access.

The Australian Open has highlighted the amazing skill, athleticism and endurance of the players and serves as an incentive to get out and attempt to hit the ball. Tennis is a great sport for maintaining better health, fitness, strength and agility, not to mention the social and psychological benefits. Emerald Tennis Club welcomes all enquiries, participation and new members.

Membership packages and contact details available at:

<https://play.tennis.com.au/emeraldTennisClub>

Coaching enquiries to Ian Paterson, at Intense Tennis. Details available on the club website.

Ros Trojan - Emerald Tennis Club

CARDINIA BUDGET - EVA SUBMISSION

Recently the Cardinia Council sent letters to various community groups requesting feedback to a survey to assist in shaping Council's draft 2023/24 budget.

While the feedback closed 16 December 2022 the Emerald Village Association Inc. has recently added its voice even though it hadn't received a request to comment.

EVA believes that Council intends some drastic budget cuts which is prudent given the escalating cost of labour, materials, and contract services.

Council nominated 18 service areas and its survey asked ratepayers to nominate their three highest priorities.

1. Roads, drains, bridges, and footpaths
2. Rubbish and recycling
3. Buildings and facilities
4. Sport, recreation, parks, and reserves
5. Supporting local businesses
6. Children and family services
7. Disability support
8. Aged services
9. Multicultural community support
10. Libraries
11. Arts and culture
12. Youth services
13. Compliance services
14. Planning services
15. Environment and climate change
16. Emergency management
17. Customer service
18. Community consultation and communications

We suggest that nominating only three priorities is flawed, poorly considered and not in the best interest of the community.

We consider that such a survey will distort the assessment process and will not be a good outcome for the community.

We request that Council should scorecard these services against its stated Objectives and the underpinning Strategies to achieve a smarter analysis. The Objectives being:

1. **A strong community**
2. **Spaces and places to live**
3. **Looking after the natural environment**
4. **Supporting our economy**
5. **Having good leaders**

EVA strongly urges Council to approach cost cutting and reducing services with considerable care.

Claude Cullino - EVA Committee

EMERALD ARTS SOCIETY

Upcoming Events in February/March 2023



Drawing and Watercolour 2 Day Workshop with It Hao Pheh, winner of Best Drawing and Best Watercolour Emerald Art Show 2022 (see above photo of It Hao Pheh's painting).

Saturday 18th and Saturday 25th February

Please contact Wendy for details 0408 553 325
eas.wendyl@gmail.com

Watercolour Classes with Antoinette Blyth - 4 classes in February/March

Tuesdays 14th, 21st, 28th February and 8th March
Members \$30 per class Non Members \$40 per class
Membership to Emerald Arts Society is \$35 per year.

If you are interested in attending please email
antoinetteblyth@bigpond.com

Wendy Lindrea - EAS Co-Ordinator

CARDINIA - COMMUNITY EVENTS GRANTS

Applications will open on Monday 30 January at 9am for the 2023/2024 Festival and Events grant round and close 5pm on Friday 31 March.

Festival and events grants support a comprehensive and diverse mix of festivals and events so that all members of the community have access to and may participate in activities that reflect and celebrate local identity, interests and diversity.

Funding up to \$10,000 is available. Allocations are for one financial year and not recurrent.

Please note if you have received funding in previous rounds, you will need to apply again as the money does not rollover each year.

Festival and events aim to:

- increase the vibrancy and cohesiveness of a community
- meet the diverse and changing interests of a community
- positively promote the host community
- provide an opportunity for fun and enjoyment
- recognise and profile local artists and/or community members who make a substantial contribution to their community
- provide opportunities for skill development through organisation and/or participation
- lead to economic benefits for local businesses and increased employment
- lead to the development of partnerships between community groups, local businesses, government and other agencies.

Key dates:

Grant opens: Monday 30 January

Grant closes: Friday 31 March

Assessment of applications: April to May 20

Recommendations considered by Council: June 2

Applicants notified: July 2023

To apply for a festival and events grant, please follow these steps

1. Check the eligibility criteria to ensure your organisation is able to apply
2. Read the grant guidelines and assessment criteria so you know what our selection panel is looking for in your application
3. Speak to the Festival and Events Officer prior to submitting an application or if you require assistance. Contact 1300 787 624 or email

events@cardinia.vic.gov.au 4. Submit your application on [Smartygrants:https://cardinia.smartygrants.com.au](https://cardinia.smartygrants.com.au)

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me?

Bec Whiteman - Festival and Events Officer

HILLS DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM

Celebrating the success of the Hills Disaster Recovery Program

Cardinia Shire Council would like to acknowledge the achievements of the Hills Disaster Recovery Program in assisting community members impacted by the June 2021 storms.

The Hills Disaster Recovery Program was created through a partnership led by Taskforce at Cockatoo Community House and supported by the Emerald and Cockatoo Emergency Support Team and Cardinia Shire Council.

The program not only focused on recovery, but also emergency preparedness. The program included events such as generator safety demonstrations, chainsaw operation certified courses, music therapy for families, planning sessions for when the power goes down and information sessions about how to stay informed using emergency apps. Around 200 emergency 'grab and go' bags were also distributed to vulnerable residents in the community which included checklists and information on what to take with them when preparing to leave due to an emergency.

As a result of the program many local organisations have now seen the benefit from a number of these sessions and have committed to continuing the training and education sessions into the future.

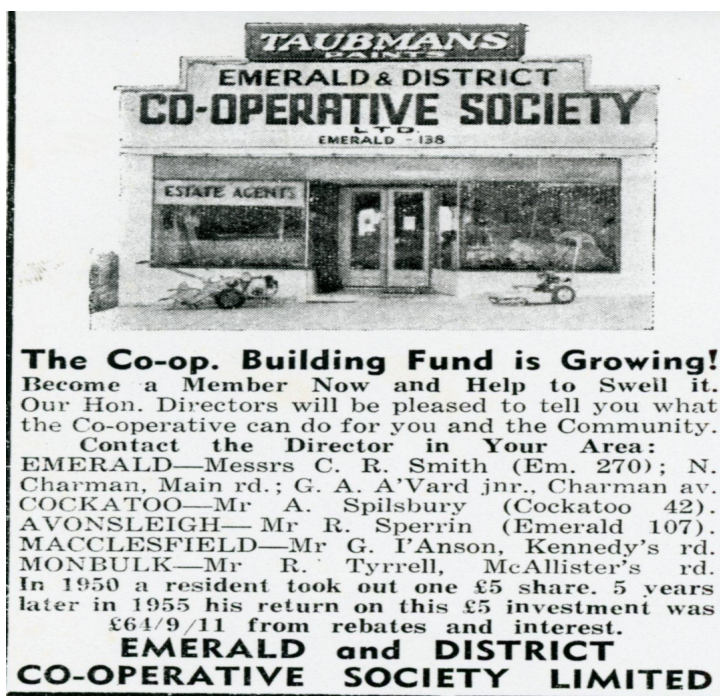
Cardinia Shire Council's Community Recovery Team is available for storm recovery support until June 2023. For more information go to www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/stormrecovery

You can contact one of the Recovery Officers by emailing recovery@cardinia.vic.gov.au or calling 1300 787 624.

This program was funded by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing of Victoria (DFFH) under their Targeted Storm Recovery Funding Initiative.

Claudia Tivendale - Cardinia Communications Officer

PICS FROM THE PAST



CARDINIA SHIRE COUNCIL

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