

We respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, who are the Traditional Owners of the land on which the Emerald Village Association Inc. operates in Emerald, Eastern Dandenong Ranges. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Welcome to Emerald - For ANZAC Day 2023

From the President

The EVA currently has a number of significant issues and events that are included in this newsletter.

The EVA are waiting for the Shire's decision on the medical centre development on the Belgrave-Gembrook Rd. We intend to follow this up particularly with the design, traffic etc.

The Shire of Cardinia CEO, Carol Jeffs, will attend our next community committee meeting. Some of our concerns are the need to revise the 2009 Strategy for Emerald and the Shire's process for future planning and asset management.

The EVA has a representative on the Puffing Billy Stakeholders Consultative Committee. Our objective obviously is to represent the Emerald communities views. Plans to redevelop the Towns major playground in the park near the Puffing Billy Station are progressing.

The Shire which is responsible for this project has allocated \$60,000 to start the planning and commence the construction.

The EVA needs to urgently replace our photocopier which we use to print our newsletters. We have applied to the Bendigo Bank for a grant but we do need to identify EVA members (currently 160) who have an account with the Bendigo Bank.

Your support for the Bank will certainly help our cause. A survey has been sent out to EVA members re becoming Bendigo Bank customers.

At our recent meeting Paul Bianco from the Photography Club expressed concerns about the limited hours the Hills Hub is actually open. The community use of the Hills Hub needs more discussion and consideration.

Congratulations and thanks to Peter Maloney and the RSL team for the organisation of the ANZAC day event. The large numbers of people attending were indicative of the planning. Wasn't the display of the poppies really something!!

WHERE ARE WE IN EMERALD?

Last month featured the seating area on the right as you come over the railway crossing. This was a Rotary Project which many locals contributed funds to. Their names are on the actual tiles. One of these was Chis A'Vard who was the first correct answer.



This month a recent road closure caused by a fallen tree. What is the road? Hopefully it doesn't get cut up for firewood before the end of May.

Entries to: dickbartley08@gmail.com

Dick Bartley - President EVA

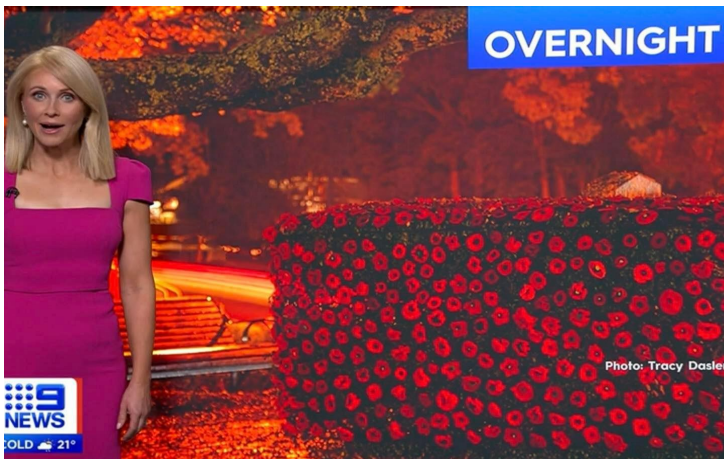
ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day is the culmination of many days of organising by members of the Emerald RSL.

Proceedings commenced on the Saturday prior when the RSL was invited to the Emerald Football & Netball Club to participate in the annual ANZAC Day footy & netball matches. Emerald had a convincing win over Seville this year.

ANZAC Day events included the Dawn Service, the veterans and community march and the Morning Service, followed by traditional two-up in the Club grounds. This year the theme adopted by the RSL was Vietnam and National Service back in 1965.

Starting two weeks prior with the “planting” of thousands of poppies all over our township, this year we even made the city news weather report.



The Dawn Service attracted people from all over Melbourne who joined in excess of 3000 local residents who came to pay their respects to those who fought for Australia. Puffing Billy saluted in the traditional fashion and the school and college students spoke well. Singer Mark Fenby was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for 13 years of service to the RSL and sang the famous Vietnam song, “I was only 19” at the Dawn Service.



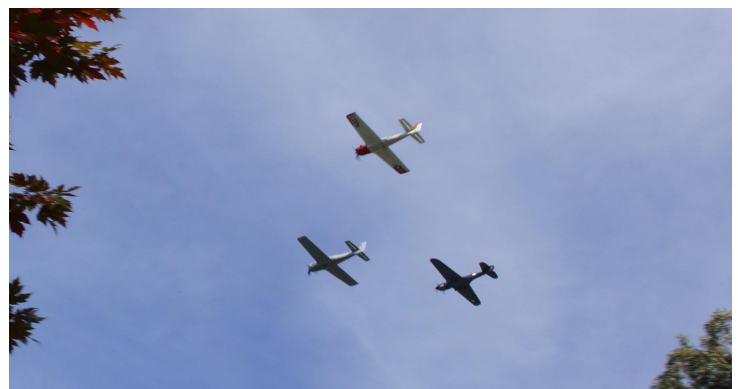
The March from the town centre was witnessed by thousands of residents who also participated in the community groups in the march.



The MC for the day was the RSL Vice President Kane Falconer who presented the keynote address about how the “Nashos” and Vietnam Veterans survived the war and how they were treated on their homecoming.



Vietnam Veterans (above) and planes -Trojans and Kitty Hawks - flew overhead in formation.



EVA Monthly Meeting

Plans and People - Snippets of News from EVA

Lots of interesting news and views were shared at this month's meeting, held Wednesday night, 26th April in the Hills Hub. Next month Carol Jeffs, Cardinia Council's CEO has been invited to the EVA meeting to come along to answer questions for us. If you would like to submit a question for her prior to the night, please Email us at: evasecretary3782@gmail.com. You are invited to come along and join us.

Other points we heard:

1 Our Councillor, Jeff Springfield reported on several matters: the Hills Hub Carpark is being repaired under warranty; the Emerald Tennis Club lights are being installed in June/July; the upgrade to the Pepi's Land BMX track is being designed and put out for construction tender; the Worrell Reserve Skatepark is having it's design finalised and the money has been received from the State Government; the Emerald Lake Precinct Plan Master Plan summary is being presented to Council in May; a report on objections to the proposed Belgrave-Gembrook Medical Centre is being presented to Council in May; Puffing Billy Park has money in next year's Budget allocated for design studies.

2. Nicole from ECHO Family, Youth and Community Services spoke of her organisation's upcoming survey. To help plan for Emerald's continued well being they need to know who we are as a Community, how we feel about living in Emerald and District and what we would like to see happen locally to improve our lives. To take place in the survey please visit <https://echo.org.au> or attend one of their sessions in Cockatoo or the Hills Hub.

3. Alan and Paul from the Hills Photographic Society spoke to us about their concerns for the Community to get the best use from the Hills Hub. Suggestions raised included employing a Placemaker; increasing the opening hours from 10am to 1pm as they currently are, having the Council install a Customer Service Unit; engaging a private firm to run a coffee shop during normal business hours in part of the Foyer. They are making a submission to the Council.

4. Discussion around the costs of facilitating the publication of the EVA Newsletter. Another photocopier needs to be obtained.

An interesting night!

Shelley Beardshaw - EVA Committee

Rockin' Blues at the RSL

The Emerald RSL has live music once 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.

On May 26th Blues returns to the "R" - Pitstop Alley.



Puffing Billy "RAIL TRAIL"

The Shire Of Cardinia has recently completed the next stage of the Rail Trail we hope eventually to Belgrave. The new section links Edenmont Rd, down behind the Paradise Valley Hotel to the railway crossing near the Clematis Book Exchange on the Belgrave Gembrook Rd. The Shire Of Yarra Ranges is responsible for the next section which I believe has been planned but is contingent on funding.



Dick Bartley - President EVA

Rotary Club of Emerald & District

Our Vocational group were finally able to hold the "Pride of Workmanship" Awards night at the newly opened Puffing Billy Discovery Centre, on 28th March. Ian Ash co-ordinator and MC provided an overview of the reasons behind running such an event and how this was an opportunity for local businesses to show their appreciation to their valued staff. Along with the businesses, there were several local dignitaries including Emerald Rotary President Marcus Adams, Rotary District Governor (& Emerald Rotary member) Ken Miller, Cardinia Councillor Jeff Springfield and Peter Abbott CEO Puffing Billy Railway.



Emerald's Rotary President Marcus Adams formally welcomed everyone, and in addition to discussing many of the Rotary Club's recent activities spoke about the importance of these awards to recognise with gratitude and thanks those staff members who had made such a significant difference to business especially through 2 years of Covid-19 lockdowns to not only ensure local business survived, but that they are now thriving. Interestingly AutoPlus's employee Stuart Burgess put forward his manager and business owner Barney Hogan for recognition. Keynote speaker was Peter Abbott, Puffing Billy CEO who showed a video of enthusiastic volunteers and provided background information on the journey of the company.

The following day Emerald Rotary and event Chair John Henderson presented a cheque for **\$50,000 to Monash Children's Hospital for funds raised from the Kids Fun Run with Puffing Billy** event on Sunday 4th December 2022 at the Gembrook Railway Station.



Since the event commenced 21 years ago the Club has donated over \$700,000 to children's charities. Our fundraising relies heavily on sponsorship. We are grateful for the support from Toot Toot Toys, Emerald Mitre 10, Bicycle Superstore, That's Right Bookkeeping, Barry Plant Sales Emerald, Wholesome Food Company, Ferntree Gully Motors and Puffing Billy Railway. If there is a company who would like to support the next event to be held on Sunday 26th November, please contact the Club. The Monash Children's Hospital will again be the recipients of the funds raised.

Tuesday 4th April Rotary members joined the RYDA Road Safety Program to run the RYDA (Rotary Youth Driving Awareness course) at Emerald Secondary College. Over 100 students took part in sessions that ensured that they were aware of pavement hazards, understood stopping distances, viewing problems around larger vehicles plus analysing a real-life accident.

Gayle Barrot, our Community Group Chair ensured that we delivered bags of Easter Eggs to "The Glades" Care home for all the residents and this was done on 6th April.

Whilst we were "blessed" with arctic conditions for our Easter Market on 8th April our stall holders and attendees made the most of the day. We look forward to the May market on Saturday 13th May when 12 stall holders from the Lilydale Rotary market are scheduled to also attend. Want to book a stall? Contact emeraldrotarymarket@gmail.com or ring 0408 769 491.

Anzac Day saw President Marcus Adams lay a wreath at the Dawn and Morning Services and leading Club members in the March from the town centre to Anzac Place

Our 2nd Bubbles & Brushstrokes event in conjunction with Emerald Art Society on 2nd June was so popular that it has already sold out- so do not be surprised if we run another event later in the year – watch this space!

Cocktails on the Catwalk has been postponed however we do hope to be able to run this event in the not-too-distant future.

We would love you to join us at either an event or meeting (held every Tuesday 6.45pm for 7pm at The Paradise Hotel). To find out more please call 0408 769 491 or 0417 038 707.

Shalini Penny - Publicity

Emerald U3A

The U3A Eastern Metropolitan Network quarterly meeting was successfully held at the Hub on Monday, 17th April. Visiting committee members were rather envious of our facilities!

Our newest committee member Roy Bowyer is busy organising our Expo table for 20th May and we're looking forward to the Trivia Night. Sadly, our President Pat B won't be here to contribute to that effort, returning home too late by a few days.

Recently, and not for the first time, we've been trying to think of ways to bring more of the general community into the Hub in a way that would also keep the doors open for the full day, at least on weekdays. Your ideas would be welcome.

Heather Bishop - U3A Publicity

Cardinia Council News

Volunteer Training

Marketing for Community Groups – 23 May 2023, 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

Held online, this session will support community groups' marketing efforts. Tips and hints for effective ways to develop a marketing strategy will be provided. For more information or to register visit – [Cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteer](https://cardinia.vic.gov.au/volunteer)

Hannah Milne - Senior Liaison Officer - Cardinia.

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 there may still be positions available as this newsletter goes to press:-

<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

EMERALD CEMETERY

The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (GMCT) is planning to develop the Emerald Cemetery - southern site, located next to the existing Emerald Cemetery.



This new site will be a place of inclusion and remembrance, that nurtures community connections and will be a sanctuary where cultural and environmental values are respected, preserved and enhanced.

To hear more about these developments visit our stall at the **Emerald Market Sunday 21 May 2023 - 10AM - 3PM.**

To view the Emerald Cemetery - southern site masterplan and ask the design team any questions or visit:
<https://yoursay.gmct.com.au/emerald-cemetery-southern-site-master-plan>

Ebony Addinsall - Greater Melbourne Cemeteries Trust

GEMCO



THE GEM
COMMUNITY
ARTS CENTRE

OPEN STAGE 2023

Welcome one and all to Gemco's ongoing Open Stage Night. Hosted by Ted and Carol, our popular open stage has been running for many decades. Held in the cosy hall, you are welcome to perform anything you like or just come for the lovely entertainment.

Enjoy music, poetry, singing, monologues or anything you wish to show! Running the first Saturday of every month from 8pm. If you'd like to perform just turn up and register your interest when you arrive with Carol McCoy or Ted Horton.

Upcoming dates:

June 3rd

July 1st.



Tickets are now available but are limited to 60, so [reserve your space today.](#)

Prepare yourself to Audition for



The show will open in September. All the details are on our website, [click here to see](#)

Gemco Management

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

[Cardinia Community Leadership Program](#)

Submissions close June 4th 2023

[Heritage Grant 2023-24](#)

Submissions close May 26th 2023

[Weed Control Grant 2022-2023 \(Round 2\)](#)

Submissions close May 31st 2023

Kym Ockerby - Community Development Officer

ECHO Youth and Family Services – Hills Community Engagement Project

ECHO Youth and Family Services is an independent Christian charity who have been serving the community of the Eastern Dandenong Ranges for 40 years. ECHO provides support to children, youth, and families, through a range of programs, including facilitated playgroups, school chaplaincy, after-school programs, food aid, no interest loans, and therapeutic horsemanship.

Nicole Lane - CEO ECHO

What's New in Emerald

Coming soon on Main Road Emerald - with a Vietnamese flavour??????

ASIAN FUSION CUISINE



Editor's Note: I would love to receive submissions to this segment for future editions. evanews3782@gmail.com

EVA Planning Committee

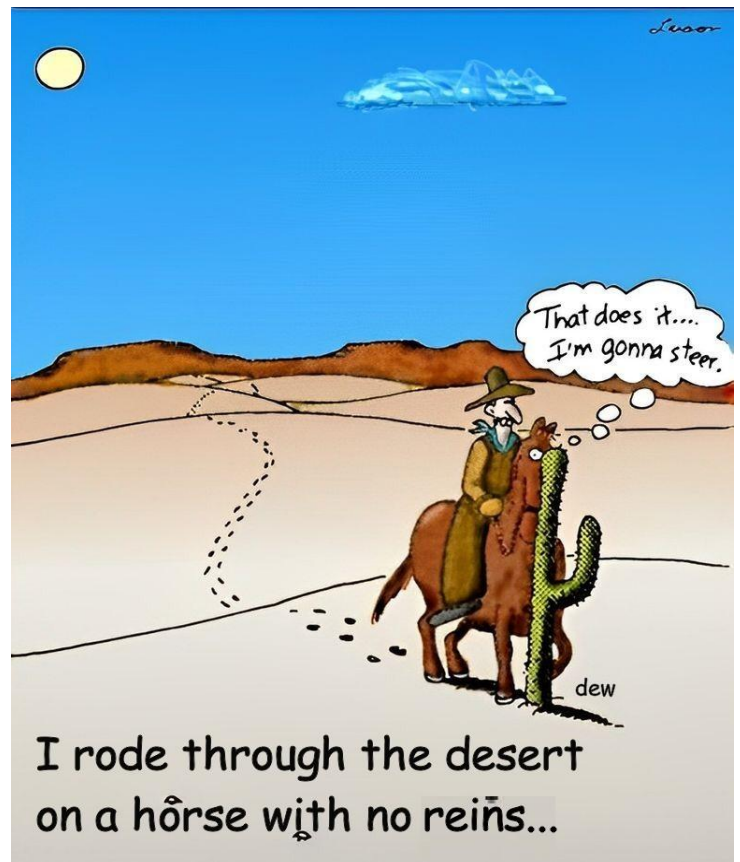
EVA is a member Puffing Billy Railway Stakeholder Consultative Committee

The EVA is now a member of the newly formed Puffing Billy Railway Stakeholder Consultative Committee. PBR has formed this group as a reference group for PBR to share information, identify emerging issues and opportunities, and obtain valuable input and feedback from stakeholders on matters important to them and the local community.

It will officially commence after 1 July 2023 when the new PBR Act comes into force. A wide range of organisations and interest groups are represented on the Committee.

An informal meeting was held on 2nd May at which the role of the group, the commitment of the PBR Board for an open transparent process was emphasised and the short and long term plans of PBR were outlined. PBR is still constrained in its operating ambitions by staff and volunteer shortages and lack of trains. More details here re the PBR Stakeholder [Consultative Committee](#) together with the [PBR Strategy Plan](#)

Laugh a Little - or a LOT



Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association

Message from Peter Cook:

"I would just like to bring members' attention to the start of Victoria's **Container Deposit System** in November.

As a minimum there will be a reverse cycle vending machine installed somewhere in Emerald. When residents insert their cans and bottles into the machine they will have to nominate via their access card where each of their 10 cent refunds will go. They can nominate either themselves or a local community group. As a result I think local community groups should begin gearing up by asking their supporters to nominate that their refunds go to them.

It might also be that Emerald is eligible to set up a Collection Centre somewhere in Emerald. Groups should consider putting up their hands to do this as it could be a significant and worthwhile fundraiser into the future. It is 'Food for thought'."

Peter Cook - DRREA



Emerald CFA



Keep your burnoff safe and legal

For many people, burning-off vegetation is an effective way to prepare and maintain properties. Unfortunately each year CFA crews are called out to help people who lost control of their burn-off.

You need to check your council's website for local laws to ensure you're allowed to burn off. Your council may have regulations and certain days that you can burn.

To stay safe when burning off

- Check the weather conditions, postpone it is more than light winds as embers can spread easily and can start fires high in the bark of trees
- Leave three-metre fire break, free from flammable materials around the burn
- Have sufficient equipment and water to stop the fire spreading
- Never leave a burn-off unattended, stay the for the entire duration
- If your burn-off gets out of control, call '000' immediately

Remember to register your burn-off on 1800 668 511 or online

www.firepermits.vic.gov.au

BURN OFF RULES

This information varies depending where you live in Cardinia: - Urban/Township, Bushland/Peri Urban or Rural.

[Burn Off Information](#) is available here on the Cardinia website

EVA - Come Sit By Me

Project #2 starts in June

Last year the Cardinia Council funded the Emerald Village Association to run a community, intergenerational project that brought a lot of joy to all its participants, both younger and older. Hobbies and interests were explained and taught and the completion of the project celebrated. And it was a lot of fun for all involved.



We are pleased to announce that together with the Grade Threes at Emerald Primary School, another

Project will be run on just one day - Tuesday 6th of June, 2023, from 9am to 3.30pm.

We are looking for Volunteers to help us work with the children and their teachers as we complete a day's learning, sharing, chatting and celebrating!

Of course, we will need you to have a Working with Children's Check (if you don't have one, we can help you apply). Also, we will need you to join the Emerald Village Association for insurance purposes. There is no cost involved.

Come along and join us for an information session at the Hills Hub on Tuesday 16th of May and we will answer all your questions.

More information can be obtained by emailing Shelley at shelleybeardshaw@bigpond.com or phoning 0427 465 972.

Shelley Beardshaw - EVA Committee

Emerald Regional Beekeeping Group

With increasing members each month, the group meetings are getting quite busy and exciting. It's fantastic to get to know so many bee enthusiasts.

We have been comparing different types of hives, learning about beekeeping from friends in South Africa, and keeping up to date with where the honey harvest is for different members. Swarm collections were not busy over this summer, and some experienced their hives swarming!



This is indicative of the trials and tribulations of beekeeping, and the importance of regular inspections and studying the pollen and nectar availability locally.

There are some European wasps getting about now, so we suggest Emerald locals look for opportunities to track and eradicate wasps now to prevent them nesting and building up numbers for next season. Now we are all packing our bees down for winter.

Our group has a bee book library to borrow from, and bee equipment for hire for members. We have had some lucky winners of door prizes each month! We welcome new members anytime. It's a great supportive group for new and experienced beekeepers.

We are also welcoming expressions of interest from junior beekeepers - there is possibly a new opportunity in the wings. Come along to a meeting to see if it's for you. Second Tuesday evening of the month, 7:30PM at the Emerald Hub. You can sign up on the night.

Bronwyn Koll (on behalf of the ERBK group).

Message from our Community Bank

2024 CALENDAR IMAGES WANTED

Community Bank Upwey, Belgrave and Cockatoo are producing a calendar for their customers and shareholders and invite you to submit up to two photos for consideration.

Theme: "We are searching for new photographs that provide glimpses into lives past, long-ago events, and forgotten places within the Dandenong Ranges."

EMAIL:
CALENDAR@DRCBG.COM.AU
FOR SUBMISSION FORM



Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Upwey, Belgrave & Cockatoo - Gembrook
Agencies • Emerald & Marysville

Emerald Ladies Probus Club

Eleven Emerald Ladies Probus members were proud and honoured to participate in this year's ANZAC Day march from the town centre to the

RSL. Our participation in the march is an important part of our annual club program.

Our club is open to retired, or semi-retired ladies, who are interested in joining for friendly social activity.

Each month we present interesting guest speakers at our meetings and the opportunity to take part in many activities and outings. There's also a welcoming morning tea and plenty to chat about. We are a non-fundraising social club where you can have fun with like-minded people.



Meetings are held at the Emerald RSL on the third Monday of each month (except December) at 10am. Our next meeting is on Monday 15 May when we'll be celebrating the 35th birthday of our club.

If you're a retired, or semi-retired, lady and would like to hear about our club's successful 35 years journey, we welcome you to come along to our meeting, enjoy some morning tea and consider joining our friendly club.

Enquires: Linda McIvor

Email: ladiespce123@gmail.com

Emerald Football Netball Club - flying high!!

The Bombers are off to a flyer in the 2023 season. On top of the ladder winning all three games to date.

The Anzac Day match against Seville was co-hosted with the Emerald RSL. A service was held prior to the match and the Donovan Joynt

medallion for the most courageous player was won by Emerald co-Captain, Jake Pedder.



Games coming up are:-

20th May - Healesville (home)

27th May - Yarra Glen (home)

3rd June - Belgrave (away)

Emerald Village Newsagency

Another big shout out thank you to the owner of the Emerald Newsagency, Carl Mardirian, for assisting in the printing of this Newsletter.

In April the EVA photocopier at the Hills Hub took its last breath. Carl stepped up to the plate and offered to print for us at less than the cost price.

Thanks Carl for your community spirit, that goes unnoticed behind the scenes.

Cardinia Shire Council

The EVA acknowledges the financial support of the Cardinia Shire Council in making the publication of this Newsletter possible.



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EMERALDVILLAGENEWS.COM.AU](http://EMERALDVILLAGENEWS.COM.AU)**